



Koma Kulshan Chapter WNPS Newsletter

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Another excellent way to keep up to date virtually is by joining the WNPS-Koma email list. You'll get announcements and some discussion about native plant issues. To subscribe, send an email to:

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Weeds of the Pacific Northwest by Mark Turner

Published in February, 2024, *Weeds of the Pacific Northwest* (Timber Press) will help you identify, control, and eradicate the more than 300 species of common weeds found in our region. The book contains hundreds of photographs and detailed species descriptions. Mark Turner and his co-author, Sami Gray, discuss how to eat them, dig them up, smother them, and, when necessary, spray them with herbicide.

Spring (April, May, June) 2024

Chair's Corner by Eric Worden

Did you hear the story about how I invented iNaturalist? Well, tongue in cheek, of course. But I really did create something similar to iNaturalist -- called CollectiveGarden -- in the late 2000's, around the same time that some Berkeley students created the beginnings of iNaturalist. The Wayback Machine at archive.org still hosts a few pages of CollectiveGarden, which I nostalgically visit now and then.

2010 was before I had discovered native plants, and so CollectiveGarden was more oriented to horticulture and home gardening. Of course, 2010 was also before AI and before ubiquitous GPS apps. So on CollectiveGarden people had to identify plants the old fashioned way, and geolocation was only as precise as the nearest town or city. "Observations" were called "Plantings".

iNaturalist's "About" page says in 2011 "iNaturalist began expanding the site through numerous collaborations. In 2014 iNaturalist became an initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and a joint initiative with National Geographic Society in 2017". It now has 13 full-time staff and many thousands of users.

Meanwhile, around 2016 CollectiveGarden disappeared from the internet: a failed experiment. At that time I didn't even yet know that iNaturalist existed, but it already had amassed more than a million observations, and was growing exponentially.

Why did iNaturalist flourish while CollectiveGarden failed? After all, gardeners far outnumber biology nerds, and they spend uncountable billions of dollars on garden products and services. I think the key reason is that CollectiveGarden was backed by just me, a single introvert, while iNaturalist was always a collaboration.

I learned my lesson, and eventually landed here at WNPS, a wholly collaborative and thriving enterprise. I am the Chair aka President of our chapter but you can hardly say that I'm running the chapter, any more than the queen runs the hive. We have many volunteer worker bees making all this honey: the newsletter, the field trips, presentations, educational events, and more. I can easily count 28 people who have contributed their efforts in the past year, and almost all of them contributed several hours. Thanks to all of you. "Society" is the "S" in WNPS and it feels great.

Native Plant Walks (cont'd on p2)

Join our informal walks and get familiar with plants native to Whatcom County. Sponsored by the Koma Kulshan Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS), these introductory plant identification walks last about two hours and feature an easy pace. All walks are free and no registration is required, and all ages and experience levels are welcome. Your guides will introduce common plants and algae native to our area. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes that may get wet. For more information contact Allan Richardson at 360-305-5270 or asrichardson5@gmail.com.

April 16, Tuesday, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm: Native Plants at the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve
Enjoy an early evening walk investigating native plants in a wild area just outside the city. We will explore a portion of this area of mature forest and wetlands, and learn about the plants, their names, and uses in native Salish traditions. The walk will be led by anthropologist Allan Richardson, co-

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Plant Walks (cont'd from p1)

author of Nooksack Place Names. Meet at the trailhead on Lake Louise Road. Directions: From I-5 in Bellingham, drive 3.5 miles east on Lakeway Dr to the Geneva neighborhood, turn right on Austin St (which becomes Lake Louise Rd), trailhead will be on the left in 1.5 miles.

April 21, Sunday, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Native Plants on the Lower Padden Creek Trail

Stroll through the shady Padden Creek trail in Fairhaven. Your guide, Eric Worden, will help you learn to identify common trees and shrubs, and also to learn their unique plant "personalities" and how they interact in this dynamic urban green space. Meet at Fairhaven Village Green.

May 2, Thursday, 6:00 pm to dusk: Hidden Forest Foray

Explore the plants of the Sehome Hill Arboretum, a "secret" natural area in the heart of Bellingham with guidebook author and former Arboretum board member Mark Turner. Sehome Hill was logged in the early 20th century and is now developing a mature second-growth forest. We'll look at trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and a vine or two. Learn what's native and what's not. Meet in the parking area at the top of Arboretum Drive (off Bill McDonald Parkway).

May 5, Sunday, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm: Spring Plant Walk at Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve

Visit this gem of a county park, preserved through efforts of the Whatcom Land Trust. The forest floor at Point Whitehorn is carpeted with small wild flowers in the spring. Join Annie Prevost, Bob Lemon, and Pam Borso for a walk and learn about the flowers, shrubs and trees of this forest on the edge of the sea. The walk will take us to the beach. At this time you may choose to linger on the beach or return to the cars. Meet at the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve Park. Directions: take the Grandview Road exit on I-5. Head west on Grandview to the end, turn left (south) on Koehn Rd. and you will soon see the parking lot on the left.

May 11, Saturday, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm: Native Plants at Birch Bay State Park

Join Pam Borso and Lyle Anderson for a beginning plant walk in the rich, diverse plant community at the Birch Bay State Park. The walk will go from the beach through the uplands along a forested trail to the Terrell Creek estuary. Meet at the BP Heron Center by the beach in Birch Bay State Park (Discover Pass required).

May 12, Sunday, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm: Native Forest on the Otto Preserve, Lummi Island

Explore the native plants in the forest understory of the beautiful Otto Preserve, land protected and stewarded by the Lummi Island Heritage Trust. Alika Herreshoff will introduce common native trees, shrubs, and flowers, as well as identifying non-native and invasive plants. The walk will take us through varying aspects of the forest and along the edges of a rich wetland ecosystem. Meet at the Otto Preserve, 3560 Sunrise Rd, Lummi Island. Take the Lummi Island Ferry from Gooseberry Point. Parking is limited, please consider carpooling!

Field Trips (Cont'd on p3)

April 27, Saturday, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Chuckanut Bay Shoreline Exploration

The north end of Chuckanut Bay has steep south-facing slopes, a marsh behind a gravelly beach ridge, mature second growth forest, and oak tree meadows. This is also an important location in the traditions of the Nooksack Indians and other Coast Salish peoples, as documented in *Nooksack Place Names* (Allan Richardson) and by five archaeological sites. We will first explore the beach ridge and marsh, then slopes above the mud flats at low tide. Chocolate lily (*Fritillaria affinis*) and mountain larkspur (*Delphinium menzeisii*) should be in full bloom. A full plant list is available on the WNPS state website. Contact Allan Richardson at 360-305-5270 or asrichardson5@gmail.com.

May 4, Saturday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm: Rocky Balds of Vedder Mountain

We'll meet at 9:00AM at SE corner of the Sunset Square parking lot (near Taco Bell) to carpool. From there we will drive to Backcountry Horsemen parking lot on Reese Hill Rd. The moderately strenuous 2.2 mile round trip trail gains 1000' of elevation to an overlook at 1634'. We will pay particularly close attention to the rocky bald habitats near the summit where we can expect to find camas and an uncommon species of sea blush. No size limit. Contact trip leader Abe Lloyd if you have questions (arcadianabe [at] yahoo [dot] com).

May 18, Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm: Baker River Wildflowers and Pollinators

Dense forest limits flowering plant abundance in much of the North Cascade lowlands, but there are lowland areas with abundant flowers and, of course, their associated pollinators. River and lake margins provide habitats where sunlight penetrates far enough into riparian areas to create healthy flowering plant communities. This will be a relatively easy hike of about 2+ miles on mostly level terrain along the river. please arrange your own carpools as you think appropriate. It can be up to a two-hour drive to the trailhead, depending on how many stops you need to make along the way. The trip is limited to 12 people, so please register with Jim Davis at jimdavispc [at] comcast [dot] net.

May 22, Wednesday, 9:15 am to about 1:00 pm: Goose Rock at Deception Pass

Goose Rock is the highest point on Whidbey Island at about 480 feet. Starting from the parking area at the east end of North Beach, we'll hike under the bridge, through the forest, and up to the bald at the top to see a great diversity of wildflowers and other native bald/meadow plants. There are fantastic island views from the top. On the way down, I hope we'll find Pacific rhododendron, *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, in bloom. There is no plant list for Goose Rock yet - please come and help build one. I visited this area two years ago and have a preliminary list I can share. Bring a lunch to eat along the way. This is an easy to moderate hike, about 2-3 miles and ~500 feet elevation gain with some steep and/or slippery sections. It is in Deception Pass State Park and you will need a Discover Pass to park. It's about 50 minutes to drive from Bellingham to the trailhead, where we'll meet at 9:15 am. Please contact Katie Mitchell, katie.henken[at]gmail.com to register.

June 1, Saturday: Garden Tour

Seven unique and beautiful private Whatcom gardens will open to the public, each owned and cultivated by amateur botanists and native plant enthusiasts, all being members of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS). Distinctive among gardens, these will all showcase the

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Chapter Meetings

Meetings may be in-person or via Zoom, which is noted in each meeting announcement below. To register for Zoom meetings, go to the state events website (<http://wnps.org/events>) and scroll down to find the appropriate Koma Kulshan event among other Zoom events associated with WNPS. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. In-person meetings are in the Sustainable Living Center education room at the ReStore (2309 Meridian St.). The entrance is off the back alley and the SLC is upstairs.

April 17: Bees and Pollinators Through the Macro Lens (in person)

Many people are unaware of the fascinating diversity of bees and other pollinators around the world. For example, in the state of Washington alone there are upwards of 700 species of native bees. To the naked eye, many of these organisms look like nothing more than a mundane house fly. Through the macro lens, however, a vastly different world is revealed. In this presentation, Aidan Hersh will showcase the beautiful bees and pollinators of Washington and beyond. Aidan Hersh is a macro photographer and native bee enthusiast living in Bellingham. He serves on the board of the Washington Native Bee Society and the steering committee of the Washington Bee Atlas. He hopes that his photography will spark interest in the too often forgotten yet vitally important world of bees and pollinators. His photos can be found on Instagram @photo.by.aidan.

May 15: Incorporating Native Plants in Your Garden (in person)

Do you have to go whole hog and ditch your old garden favorites when you “go native?” Not necessarily. Tuck native perennials and shrubs into your existing garden and begin experiencing the benefits of gardening with native plants without wiping the slate clean first. Learn how to choose appropriate native (and near-native) plants for your environment. See examples of native plants incorporated into an existing garden and new garden areas planted mostly with natives. Mark Turner specializes in photographing botanical subjects for books and magazines in a wide range of environments, especially Pacific Northwest gardens and wild lands. He is the photographer of three books from Timber Press, the award-winning *Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest*, *Trees and Shrubs of the Pacific Northwest*, and the new *Weeds of the Pacific Northwest*, published in February 2024. He’s a long-time member of WNPS, former Koma Kulshan chapter chair and current state board member.

June 12: 6 – 9 pm: Summer Kickoff Potluck

2582 N Shore Rd. Abe Lloyd and Katrina Poppe would like to welcome you again to their home for an outdoor potluck to celebrate the beginning of summer. Dinner will begin around 6:30 pm. Bring a dish and a drink to share, as well as a lawn blanket or chair if needed.

Field Trips/Work Parties (cont'd from p2)

beauty and practical advantages of plants that grow natively in the Pacific Northwest. In our region’s relatively short horticultural history, our local native plants remain yet undiscovered wonders to most gardeners. Volunteers will be available to answer your questions, and learning materials will be available to help you bring native plant gardening to your home. This will be a free event, with suggested donation. Volunteers will be needed to help our garden hosts on tour day! Please contact Eric Worden eric@ericworden.seattle.wa.us for more information. Check our website wnpskoma.org for more details in coming weeks.

June 22, Saturday, 8:00 am to 5 or 6:00 pm: Yellow Aster Butte Trail

An early season outing to a very popular trail. We will study, identify, and enjoy the plants on the lower elevation part of the trail without the late summer crowds. There is lush growth in the open avalanche area close to the trailhead, then much of interest as we gain elevation in the forest. We might get into a bit of the meadows, if the snow pack allows. There is a new plant list for this trail on the WNPS state website. Meet to carpool at the southeast corner of Sunset Square Safeway parking lot for an 8:00 AM departure. Limited to 12 persons in Mt. Baker Wilderness. Contact Allan Richardson at 360-305-5270 or asrichardson5@gmail.com to sign up.

June 23, Sunday, 9:00 am to 4-ish pm: Marine Algae, and Ecology of Pt. Whitehorn.

Celebrate the lowest tide of the year at Whatcom Co.'s best naturalist beach. We will approach the Point from the Birch Bay side, about 3 miles of beach walking, return total. An algae list is provided, and bring whatever field guide you may own and like. Bob Lemon ([lemprev \[at\] alphahunt \[dot\] com](mailto:lemprev[at]alphahunt[dot]com)) will lead up to 10 interested participants.

June 27, Thursday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm: Heather Meadows Wildflowers and Bumble Bees

Volunteers from the WNPS Koma Kulshan Chapter monitored wild flower phenology (when plants bloom) and bumble bee foraging from spring snow melt to first snowfall for five years in Heather Meadows. This hike will visit some of the areas that were monitored to see subalpine wild flowers at their peak and learn about how native plants and bumble bees interact to assure pollination and the profusion of wildflowers at Heather Meadows. This will be about a three mile hike with about 300 ft elevation gain. Trip limit: 12 people. Register with Jim Davis at [jimdavispc \[at\] comcast \[dot\] net](mailto:jimdavispc[at]comcast[dot]net).

June 28, Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm: Sauk Mountain Flora and Vistas

The trail begins and ends in high mountain meadows offering wildflowers and spectacular vistas the entire length. We will hike through 26 gentle switchbacks in the first 1.5 miles in steep terrain and if we go all the way up to the site that once hosted a fire lookout at 5,500 ft elevation, removed by the Forest Service in the 1980s, it will be about 2.1 miles. There we (hopefully) can enjoy a 360-degree panorama of the North Cascades, where on a clear day you can see Mt. Rainier to the south, Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands to the west and the rugged Cascade peaks stretching to the east including Glacier Peak and Mount Baker. We expect an outstanding show of wildflowers that includes paintbrush, phlox, tiger lilies, aster, columbine, lupine, and many others. This trail (roundtrip 4.2 miles and 1,200 feet elevation change) is very popular and the reason for the weekday trip. Trip limit: 10 people. Led by Fritz Ulrich ([fritz365 \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:fritz365[at]gmail[dot]com)). Plant list: tinyurl.com/42rffvxf

Koma Kulshan Board

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If you would like to join WNPS

Please return the membership application form to:
Washington Native Plant Society
6310 NE 74th St., Suite 215E
Seattle, WA 98115

Please make checks payable to WNPS
(outside US add \$5 to dues)

or join online at <https://www.wnps.org>



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Membership Category:

\$20 Budget (Senior/Student)
\$40 Individual
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The Koma Kulshan chapter of WNPS is dedicated to the preservation and study of native plants and vegetation of Washington State and the education of the public to the values of native flora and its habitat.

WNPS -- Koma Kulshan Chapter
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