

# The Native Plant Press

*The Newsletter of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS*

***This is the Summer newsletter for June, July, and August. In September, the Chapter Meeting is held Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 PM (note time change) at the Mountaineers Headquarters***

Vol 18, No 5, Summer 2017

**Chapter Meeting Thursday, June 1 7:30 PM  
Mountaineers Headquarters \***

## **Program: Revising the "Flora of the Pacific Northwest"-What Did We Learn and What's Next**

*By David Giblin*

The "Flora of the Pacific Northwest" is the authoritative field identification manual for the region's vascular plants. First published in 1973, under the leadership of C. Leo Hitchcock and Arthur Cronquist, this widely-used resource has become out of date due to the discovery of new species, the arrival of new weeds, and advances over the past 40 years in the classification and taxonomy of vascular plants in



general. At the time of its publication, users of the Flora could arrive at a currently accepted name for nearly all taxa with in the region, using the keys provided. Now users of the 1973 Flora can achieve similar results for only 47% of the region's taxa. The revised "Flora" is due for publication in winter/spring 2018. David will walk us through the important findings of the project as well as what is on the horizon for the Herbarium as this project draws to a close.

David Giblin manages the University of Washington Herbarium, which is the botanical research collection of the Burke Museum. He earned his Ph.D. in Biology at the University of Missouri and also holds an M.S. in Forest Science from the University of Washington. His research focuses on the floristics of PNW vascular plants. In addition to studying the vascular plant flora of the Pacific Northwest, he is an editor for the Flora of North America project, interim Editor for *Douglasia*, oversees the Plants of Washington Image Gallery, and collaborates on the producing wildflower identification apps and field guides.

## September Program: Fungi- The Original Network

*By Kim Traverse*

It is beginning to seem that beyond the individual interactions between different fungi and different plants, there are also interconnections across many levels of taxa with fungi providing the network. This looks like a form of cooperation and probably information processing too. Maybe the World Wide Web has been around longer



than we thought! Almost all life on Earth depends ultimately on Plants, but there is strong evidence that plants only "crawled" out of the oceans with the help of fungi. Most of what is going on is happening at a scale too small for direct observation by humans and we have normed the small range that we can notice.

Differences in scale have profound effects on how everything behaves and our intuition can lead us astray when we consider the microscopic universe that fungi inhabit. Plus, new discoveries are not always merely additive- sometimes they suggest we reevaluate much of what we were sure of. For instance; the very concept of an individual organism is being assailed by new evidence from genetic sequencing and population ecology. If a tablespoon of soil can contain eight miles of fungi hyphae, what is all that stuff up too?

Kim Traverse has been President of The Puget Sound Mycological Society for the past 3 years. He has been paying attention to and eating wild mushrooms for 45 years but native plants are his first love. Kim is a self-taught naturalist, his early love of nature was inspired by his grandmother, who showed him his first wildflowers and birds.

Most of his field experience was garnered volunteering for and serving on the boards of the

Michigan Nature Association and The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy which he helped found. He strongly believes that in addition to the specific missions of organizations like PSMS, WNPS, Audubon, and The Mountaineers, their most important role is getting people connected to the natural world.

*Program produced by Shelley Evans and Sharon Baker*

## **Up and Coming Programs**

**BBG** indicates **Bellevue Botanical Garden**.

**CUH** indicates the **Center for Urban Horticulture**.

**MTR** indicates **Mountaineers Headquarters**.

**BBG** June 13, 2017 Nancy Kartes, manager, Bellevue Botanical Garden will discuss "Coming of Age: Bellevue Botanical Garden at 25" plus give a tour of future project sites.

**MTR** September 7, 2017 Kim Traverse "Fungi; The Original Network."

**BBG** October 10, 2017 To be announced.

**MTR** November, 11 2017 Janneke Hille Ris Lambers "Climate Change Impacts on PNW Plant Communities."

**MTR** December 7, 2017 T. Abe Lloyd "Coast Salish Ethnobotany and Lessons for Food System Resiliency."

## **Native Plant Identification Workshop**

*By Nelson Salisbury, Chapter Botanist*  
(Offered only at Westside Meetings)

A free plant identification workshop is offered before each Westside Chapter meeting at 6:00 PM. While the workshop is oriented primarily toward beginners, anyone who wants to work on improving keying skills or their familiarity with the northwest flora is welcome. Feel free to bring samples of unknown plants in for identification. We will have plenty of material and tools if you come empty-handed.

## Meeting Locations

To be sure you don't miss a meeting, watch the Native Plant Press closely to find out when and where we are meeting each month. In addition, we will have meeting dates and locations listed on our website.

### List of 2017 Meeting Locations

**Jun 1 Mountaineers Headquarters**

**Jun 13 Bellevue Botanical Garden**

Sep 7 Mountaineers Headquarters

Oct 10 Bellevue Botanical Garden

Nov 2 Mountaineers Headquarters

Dec 7 Mountaineers Headquarters

## Change in West Side Meeting Times

We've had requests to change the start time of our programs on the west side from 7:30pm to 7pm. At the Feb 2 meeting we discussed this with the attendees, who voted to change the time to 7pm. **This change will not go into effect until our first fall meeting on September 7.**

## **Board Reports**

### **Message from the Co-Chair**

*By Chrys Bertolotto*

Recently, I had the privilege of exploring a small slice of the Quil Ceda estuary, a largely intact emergent estuary on the south edge of the Tulalip reservation. The patchwork pattern of native plants created a beautiful landscape of whispering and bending plants. Of all the habitats, this is the one that can sooth me regardless of the commotion unfolding in my life. Growing up on a barrier island in New Jersey, Quil Ceda estuary brought me back to all the hours I spent attuned to the symphony and ballet of marsh sedges, rushes and grasses undulating in the wind, while watching the sunset over the bay. Every one of my senses was alive and demanding my attention.

We often talk about how important native plants and their habitats are for wildlife, water quality filtration, soil stabilization, carbon sequestration and riparian shade, insects fall and so much more. But, we can't forget how important these places are for our health, happiness and peace of mind. I hope that each of us takes time during the months ahead to enjoy the living landscapes all around us.

Happy Summer! Perhaps I'll see you on a field trip this summer.

## **Slate of Officers July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018:**

The CPS Board approved the Slate of Officers for member election. They include:

Chapter Chairs: Chrys Bertolotto

Vice Chair: Vacant

Treasurer: Kris Morse

Secretary: Sharon Baker

The election will take place prior to David Giblin's presentation on June 1 on the Revision of Hitchcock and Cronquist at the Mountaineers. If you are interested in a vacant board position, such as the Vice Chair, please contact me for more information: Chrys Sacco Bertolotto:

[Sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com](mailto:Sitka.periwinkle@gmail.com) or 206 588-1247.

## **WNPS-CPS Spring Native Plant Sale Recap**

*By Rick Thompson*

Well, it's over, but don't fret, our next sale (after a five year absence) will be at Magnuson Park, on October 7.

The weather for the Spring Sale this past weekend was cool and cloudy but the rain held off until long after the end of a very successful sales event. If you didn't get there early, the most popular plants were gone early in the day.

I want to take a moment to recognize our volunteers starting with those who helped close the sales site and transport the unsold plants to the Magnuson Park nursery. Our sales floor experts deserve special kudos since they helped our customers find the plants they wanted. The cashiers used those fancy swipe devices with little error. Did you know that an army of volunteers placed over 7,000 of those brightly colored price sticks, as well as our informational pot sticks in each plant pot? I would be remiss if I didn't recognize those volunteers as well as the set up day volunteers, the nursery volunteers and the sales day volunteers, and special thanks to all of you who filled multiple roles on multiple days.

I am especially thankful for having the opportunity to work with a dedicated group of volunteers on the Plant Sale Committee. Thank you to Yen, Jan, Rita, Tom, Steve and Melinda. Thank you all for making this sale as special as it was.



## Field Trip

Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-29)

Join the Audubon Society at Wenas Creek (between Ellensburg and Yakima) for a long weekend studying and appreciating our natural surroundings. There will be botany field trips as well as birding opportunities. For more details, check out <http://www.wenasaudubon.org/>. Hope to see you there!

## Conservation News

### Sword Fern Die-Off Fact Sheet

*By Paul Shannon*

Sword ferns are dead and dying in Seward Park's old-growth forest. An affected quarter acre was observed in 2014; it has now spread radially (as if caused by a pathogen) to cover more than ten acres. Additional sites have been reported, with varying levels of confidence (from "certain" to "ambiguous") from other forests in and beyond Seattle. We fear that the die-off may be an early sign of a Pacific Northwest regional phenomenon.

An unfunded ad hoc research group, including representatives from the UW, WSU, and Seattle Parks has conducted field and laboratory studies. We have not yet been able to identify a cause. We propose six criteria by which to identify a dieoff site, which apply best to understory dominated by sword ferns (criteria #3). For understory sites which have (or had) mixed species, the density of dead crowns will be proportionately lower. In all sites, to be strong candidates, almost all ferns will be dead – a concentration not known (to us) to occur naturally.

1. At least 400 square feet in extent.
2. Approximately symmetrical in shape (a circle or a square).
3. Understory previously dominated by sword ferns (few or no Oregon grape, salal or shrubs).
4. Now has 25-40 dead crowns approximately evenly distributed across the 400 sq. ft area.
5. Very few (<5) or no surviving ferns.
6. The affected area grows larger with each passing year.

Using these criteria, we have identified two unambiguous sites: Seward Park and a private forest near Suquamish on the Kitsap Peninsula.

An additional candidate site is being monitored for possible inclusion: A 400 sq. ft. second growth hillside in Mercer Island's Upper Luther Burbank Park. This site meets all criteria except #6, which will be resolved by further monitoring.

Smaller (200-300 sq. ft.) candidate sites are found at two Seattle parks, Cheasty Mountain View and Dead Horse Canyon.

Four prominent fern biologists confirm the novelty and the gravity of the die-off based upon our textual, photographic, and video evidence:

Dr. Robbin Moran, Curator of Ferns &  
Lycophytes at the New York Botanical Garden,

Dr. David Barrington, Professor of Plant Biology,  
University of Vermont, (Polystichum genus expert)

Dr. Alan Smith, research botanist emeritus at  
the UC Berkeley Herbarium

Dr. David Wagner of the Northwest Botanical Institute.

Seward Park's die-off is further complicated by the possibly related, and partly understood "regeneration problem": no new plants, neither natives nor weeds, have taken root in the die-off areas.

Their statements, our lab and field reports, and discussions are found at:

<http://sewardparkswordferndieoff.blogspot.com>.

Paul Shannon can be reached at: 206-658-3789 or email to [pshannon@systemsbiology.org](mailto:pshannon@systemsbiology.org).

## Eastside Branch News

*By Sid Gupta*

### **Upcoming Program:**

#### ***Gardening with Native Plants***

Date: Monday, June 5th at 7:00pm

Location: Sammamish Library, 825 228th Ave SE,  
Sammamish, WA 98075

Join us at the Sammamish Library on Monday,  
June 5, for Marcia Rivers Smith's presentation of  
***Gardening with Native Plants***. The

presentation will start at 7:00, and at 8:00 we will take a walk down through the Native Plant Garden in Sammamish's Lower Commons Park for some hands-on discussion. This event is a great primer for those new to natives of the Pacific Northwest - be sure to invite anyone you know who's still on the fence about giving our natives a try!

Marcia Rivers Smith has been a Native Plant Steward for 20 years and served on the WNPS Central Puget Sound Chapter Board for several years. Her volunteer focus has been educating others about gardening with native plants, but she has also led plant identification walks. She and her husband have lived on 5 acres in Preston for over 25 years, where they have used native plants to reduce the use of water and chemicals in their landscaping as well as to attract wildlife.

### **Upcoming Program: *Coming of Age:* Bellevue Botanical Garden at 25**

Date: Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00pm

Location: Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue, Education Center, Room C

Nancy Kartes will share her unique perspective in a look back at the vision, planning, and collaboration that contributed to Bellevue Botanical Garden's phenomenal success. She will provide a glimpse into plans for future development that will position the Garden well for the next 25 years. Her presentation will be followed by a short tour of future project sites, and the newly opened Urban

Meadow, which incorporates native plants and pollinator attractants. Please dress for the weather!

Nancy Kartes discovered the joys of public gardens through student internships while earning a bachelor's degree in Ornamental Horticulture at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. After graduation, Nancy joined the development staff of the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawaii, where she was later promoted to assistant director.

Returning to the Mainland, she was hired by the City of Bellevue's Parks & Community Services Department in Washington State to transform the dreams of local community organizers into a flourishing botanical garden. Under her leadership, the Bellevue Botanical Garden has grown from a 36-acre property to 53-acres with curated living collections managed in partnership with nine horticultural organizations. In addition to collections — enjoyed by over 200,000 visitors annually — the Garden has a thriving garden shop and espresso bar and hosts community building events year-round. Nancy manages the partnership with the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, a nonprofit that provides educational programming, hosts events and raises funds on behalf of the Garden.

**Eastside Work Party:  
*Bellevue Botanical Garden***

We will once again be joining forces with the East Lake Washington District Garden Club to work in the native plant area of the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Our work parties help steward and diversify the native areas of the Garden and also allow us to gain greater exposure by tapping into the Garden's large audience. Additionally our partnership

provides us with free meeting space, which allows the WNPS to host free educational events on the Eastside.

Bring water and your favorite tools and come help us out from **10:00 AM - 12:00 PM** on **Friday, May 26**.

Be sure to dress for the weather - a sturdy pair of boots is recommended. Part of the large grassy area around the Shorts House is in the process of being removed and will be replaced with the Urban Meadow Garden. The May 26th work party will involve planting this meadow. The ribbon cutting for this new garden area will occur on June 10 as part of the BBG's 25th anniversary festivities!

To RSVP, please contact Janka Hobbs: [urtica@frontier.com](mailto:urtica@frontier.com).

If you have any questions about the Eastside Branch and its activities and opportunities, contact Sid Gupta: [siidd@gmail.com](mailto:siidd@gmail.com).

## Volunteers

### CPS Volunteer Opportunities April-June 2017

#### **Bellevue Botanical Garden 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (Bellevue)**

Saturday, June 10 12:00pm - 4:00pm  
Bellevue Botanical Garden - 12001 Main St,  
Bellevue, WA 98005

Please contact Franja Bryant for details at [franjabryant@hotmail.com](mailto:franjabryant@hotmail.com) AFTER May 30.

#### **Education Committee Outreach**

##### ***Ongoing***

The Education Committee has occasional needs for volunteers to help with:

- Visits to school classrooms
- Rebuilding WNPS curriculum kits for teachers. (If you have teaching experience, your help would be especially welcome.)
- Speakers on native plants to Garden Clubs, School assemblies, and High School environmental clubs or horticulture classes.

If you have an interest in helping with any of these contact CPS' Education Chair, Franja Bryant: [franjabryant@hotmail.com](mailto:franjabryant@hotmail.com)

#### **Nursery**

Monthly Work Party (Seattle - Magnuson Park)  
First Monday of every month (May 1st, June 5th),

10:00am - 2:00pm

The Nursery is located at the North end of Magnuson Community Garden.

[Click here](#) for directions.

Learn about our native plants and work to propagate for future planting. We work rain or shine. Volunteers should dress for the weather and bring a snack and water. We will supply gloves and tools. The nursery is north of the Brig next to the fence.

To sign up or get directions, contact George Macomber: [georgems@98115.net](mailto:georgems@98115.net) or 206-526-7983 or Tom Johnson: 206-525-3176.

## **Other Work Parties**

### **Urban forest restoration at Lincoln Park in West Seattle**

#### ***Ongoing***

Twice monthly, on the first Saturday and third Sunday from 9:00am - 12:00pm

(Sun, April 16; Sat, May 6; Sun, May 21; Sat, June 3; Sun, June 18)

8011 Fautleroy Way SW

Meet near the kiosk in the north parking lot  
(Fautleroy Way SW and SW Rose St)

Lincoln Park, on the shores of Puget Sound, is a 135 acre park with 80 acres of mature, but invaded forest. The Friends of Lincoln Park have been working, as a part of the



Green Seattle Partnership, since 2005 to restore balance in our forest by removing invasive plants and planting natives. We have made very good progress, but we need your help to continue our work and maintain areas we've already placed in restoration. Lincoln has excellent native plant (and bird) diversity, so it's a great opportunity not only to contribute to the health of our community, but also to improve your plant ID skills. Check out our blog at [friendsoflincolnpark.blogspot.com](http://friendsoflincolnpark.blogspot.com).

Contact: Sharon Baker [sabaker41@gmail.com](mailto:sabaker41@gmail.com) or 206-464-1068

### **Bellevue Botanical Garden Work Party (Bellevue)**

Friday, May 26 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Bellevue Botanical Garden - 12001 Main Street,  
Bellevue

### **CPS/WNPS State Office in Seattle - Magnuson Park**

#### ***Ongoing***

WNPS Office at Magnuson Park, 6310 NE 74th  
Street, Suite 215E, Seattle, 98115

The WNPS office in Magnuson Park is always looking for volunteers to provide valuable, "behind-the-scenes" assistance. Tasks range from a one-shot project to a larger, more complex one. You can work solo or with a group, and every task is tailored to your interest and availability. We also try to make it fun and social. As a result, new friendships have already begun.

Contact Elizabeth Gage at the WNPS office:

[info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org) or

206-527-3210

## Plant of the Month: *Rosa nutkana* Nootka Rose

By Janka Hobbs

Nootka rose is the largest and most widespread of the three *Rosa* species native to Western Washington (the other two being *R. gymnocarpa* and *R. pisocarpa*).



*R. gymnocarpa* (bald hip rose) is the most shade tolerant of the three, and has fine straight prickles on its stems, when it has thorns at all. *R. pisocarpa* (swamp or cluster rose) has both the fine prickles, and paired, straight "rose thorns." *R. nutkana* has the straight "rose thorns" without the fine prickles-except when it also has the fine prickles.

There is some evidence that *R. nutkana* and *R. pisocarpa* can hybridize, which would explain some of the variability. If you see a "wild rose" with substantial curved thorns, it is probably a member of one of the several species of introduced naturalized roses in our area.

*R. nutkana* is a plant of forest edges and cleared spaces. Its fragrant pink blossoms would endear it to gardeners if it weren't quite so rampant. Roses tendency to form thickets make them a good erosion control and restoration plant, as well as refuge and nesting habitat for small birds and mammals. Many species of wildlife eat rose hips. Ungulates and humans eat the new shoots in the spring. Nootka rose is a host plant for mourning cloak butterflies, and leaf-cutter bees are especially fond of the leaves.

Nootka rose hips are very high in vitamin C, and the seeds are reported to be a good source of vitamin E. The catch is that the seeds are surrounded by hairs that irritate the digestive tract. So eat the rind, or make it into tea or jam, or grind and eat the seeds, but be sure to clean or strain the hairs out first. The petals are edible, and make a pretty addition to salads, but remove the bitter white base first. Parts of the plant can be boiled to make an eyewash and the leaves can be chewed into a poultice to relieve bee stings.

If you have room for a nootka rose (they can reach ten feet tall with fertilizer and irrigation, but are usually closer to six feet) the plant can be started from seed, or more easily from runners. And if you are planting a restoration project, check the thorns on your planting stock. I've seen *R. rugosa* labeled as *nutkana* more than once.

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## WNPS and CPS Contact Information

### The WNPS Office Welcomes visitors:

Monday – Thursday – 9:00am to 4:30 pm daily

Friday – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, appointment only. Please call ahead to confirm availability, especially if traveling a distance.

### Office Contacts

Denise Mahnke, WNPS Business Manager, [wnps@wnps.org](mailto:wnps@wnps.org)  
Elizabeth Gage, WNPS Office & Volunteer Coordinator,  
[info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org) Phone: (206)527-6310

Full WNPS Staff Information is available online:

[http://www.wnps.org/contact\\_wnps.htm](http://www.wnps.org/contact_wnps.htm).

### Membership, Dues and Questions

#### Membership Rates in 2016 Individual

Membership \$35

Family Membership \$45

Club or Organization Membership \$65

Budget Membership \$20

Student \$20 (name of institution \_\_\_\_\_)

This is the address members should use for correspondence regarding membership, dues payments, etc.

Washington Native Plant Society

6310 NE 74th ST, Suite 215E

Seattle, WA 98115 206-527-3210

[info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org)

## Email Lists

**The State WNPS List** is a state-wide list for announcements, news and discussion relevant to native plants and the WNPS.

To join, go to:

[https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WNPS\\_DiscussionGroup/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/WNPS_DiscussionGroup/info) and hit the "Join" button, or send an email to [wnps\\_discussiongroup-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:wnps_discussiongroup-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com). It only takes a couple of minutes!

The new group will be "restricted" in that admission to the group must be granted, but messages will be unmoderated. Once you are a member, you will be able to set your personal preferences for receiving messages (e.g., individual messages as they are posted or a daily digest). You will also be able to unsubscribe yourself if and when you desire.

## Social Media Resources

**Web page:** Central Puget Sound Chapter  
<http://www.wnps.org/cps/index3.html>

**CPS Facebook page:** Washington Native Plant Society, Central Puget Sound Chapter  
<https://www.facebook.com/wnps.centralpugetsound/>. For submissions to Facebook page, contact:  
Ted Couillard at [jtheo25@gmail.com](mailto:jtheo25@gmail.com) and cc to Jan Bird at [birdandcat@aol.com](mailto:birdandcat@aol.com).

**Meetup page:** Washington Native Plant Society, Central Puget Sound Chapter  
<https://www.meetup.com/Washington-Native-Plant-Society/>

## **Electronic Newsletter Option**

Many of you have chosen to receive your Native Plant Press electronically, and we thank you! This will save printing and postage expenses that can better go to our Chapter programs and activities. If you did not receive an e-mail about this option and would like to get the electronic version of the newsletter, please send your request to the CPS Staff Person at [info@wnps.org](mailto:info@wnps.org).

## **Newsletter Submission**

The deadline for the newsletter is the first Thursday of the preceding month, exactly one month before the meeting.

Send submissions to the editor: Rick Bergman

Email: [rickbergman@comcast.net](mailto:rickbergman@comcast.net)

Phone 206-372-9816

Digital photos must be high-resolution or will NOT be accepted.