

Douglasia

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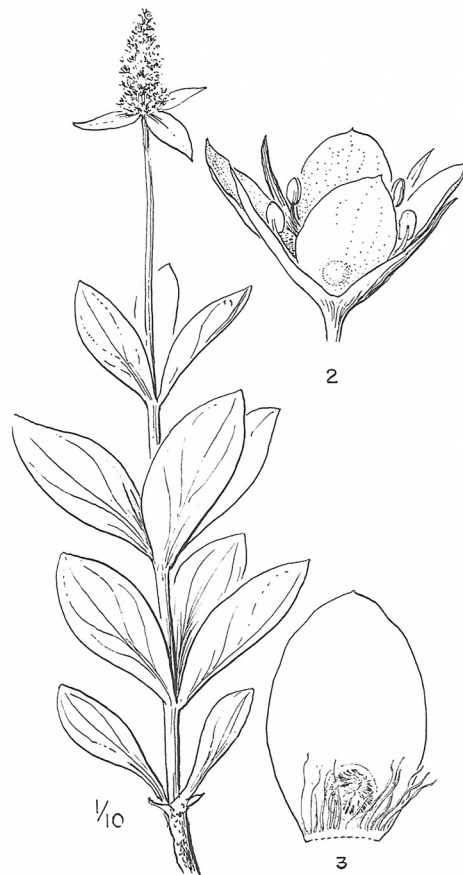
Journal of the
WASHINGTON
NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY

*To promote the appreciation
and conservation of Washington's
native plants and their habitats
through study, education,
and advocacy.*

Collecting in a Prairie and Fen
Page 2

Feral Herbivores
Page 5

WNPS 2011 Calendar
Page 12



Frasera fastigiata

Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish

Information for Contributors

Members and others are invited to submit material for publication in *Douglasia*. Articles, book reviews, poetry, photography or illustrations are welcome. All materials submitted should relate to the study of Washington's native plants. Acceptance will be based on space and appropriateness, and materials are subject to copyediting (substantive editing with author's permission). Contributors are reminded that the *Douglasia* audience ranges from professional botanist to the interested enthusiast. For more information about how to contribute, see http://www.wnps.org/publications/douglasia/douglasia_contributors.html.

Email submissions to: cspurgeon@msn.com

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December 1	Spring	March 1
March 1	Summer	May 1
June 1	Fall	August 1
September 1	Winter	November 1

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A Note About This Issue

I really enjoy the opportunity to review the articles for each issue of *Douglasia*. They cover a wide variety of subjects, and are often thought provoking and inspiring. This issue is no exception. Start out with Conservation Committee chair John Browne, Jr.'s Letter to the Governor regarding the way less than carefully aimed budget cuts can affect programs that are critical to the protection of our native flora. You can move on to an enlightening article by Jane Wentworth and Katrina Strathmann about the damage that feral animals can do to native habitats and some strategies that are being considered to remedy the problem. We also have in this issue a great native plant destination for you to explore. David Giblin takes us to Anatone Butte in southeastern Washington where he discovered beautiful views and a diverse display of colorful wildflowers. We would love to include more destination articles, so if you have a favorite wildflower destination that is easily accessible and that you think would be interesting for WNPS members to know about please consider contributing. If you have questions you can contact me, or go the website (find the address in the column immediately to the left of this one).

This issue also includes an announcement of the 2011 photo contest. Consider submitting your photos, and be sure to order your WNPS 2011 calendar so you can enjoy the photos submitted by the 2010 winners!

Cynthia Spurgeon
Managing Editor

Front Cover: The illustration of *Frasera fastigiata* by Jeanne R. Janish was reprinted from *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* by C. Leo Hitchcock and Arthur Cronquist. See page 8 for an article by David Giblin on Anatone Butte.

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Thoughts on Conservation

by John Browne, Jr.
Conservation Committee Chair



A Response to Governor Gregoire's Natural Resources 2010 Policy Brief

Dear Governor,

The budget considerations of our state are on many minds these days and they affect the ways we have historically considered the various functions and priorities of state agencies. As I looked into the ways that state government has chosen to deal with funding cutbacks, one particular approach for establishing a framework for interaction seemed initially inappropriate and, when examined further, struck me as being demeaning as well.

The prospect of being “served” as a “customer” of state services, for me, has a fairly limited range of applications. As a broad policy approach it creates gray areas.

In the agencies most dependent upon state funding and representing the largest expenditures, the customer base (or clientele) is either anonymous, under some restraints, and/or acted upon through a local agency, e.g., a school district, court systems, etc. The relative anonymity of highway usage is considered a blessing in most cases, and one generally prefers not to become a “customer” of the Washington State Patrol.

Smaller, more specialized agencies will generally have less fat in their budgets than the larger ones. So trying to balance budgets by across the board cuts unfairly targets those whose line items are, generally, more specific than the budgets of Education, WSDOT, and “human services.” State agencies in the aggregate are like the human body that stores its fat in more or less specific localities when storage is required.

There is at least one agency that is always counted on to produce money for general and specific purposes—the Department of Natural Resources. Nonetheless it is subject to cost-cutting measures in times of budget constraints. While this may seem a fair process, I'd expect that there would be considerations about allowing this agency a bit more leeway in its operational costs, since it IS a net revenue-producer.

There are additional aspects of budget reductions to consider, such as the value-added benefits to state operations that matching funds (from various sources) provide and a volunteer base that expands the abilities

of some agencies. When a savings to state budgets of an amount equivalent to a full-time employee (or two) results in the loss (because of a loss of matching funds) of additional employees, then is the state actually losing more than is saved? If one figures in the service, as a volunteer coordinator, that one employee may be providing, then loss of that position may result in the loss of an equivalent of many employees' labors, not the kind of savings that one may wish to pursue.

The Natural Heritage Program, which locates and maps a dynamic data-base of the uncommon, sensitive, threatened and endangered species in the state, is apparently being both cut back and reorganized in a way that would require much of its funding to be supplied by “clients.” While this may appear logical on paper, the actual effect would be the loss of the ability of the agency—an integral part of DNR and supplier of critical data to that agency and others—to maintain their active mapping services, which depend on both Federal matching funds and the very considerable efforts of knowledgeable volunteers.

I suppose a fair analogy might be a person who needs surgery being forced to depend upon examinations and x-rays that were done five or six years prior to the operation. The situation in the body changes over time and our ecological information is just as dynamic. Of course, the same solution exists for our natural heritage as that presented by the classic example of one's teeth: ignore them and they will go away.

I understand that our legislature makes decisions that affect program funding and that sometimes there may be prejudicial considerations of particular agency activities, and efforts to “punish” certain agencies (or programs) for their perceived detrimental effects upon particular situations. So be it, but members of the legislature are servants of the body politic—not the other way around.

I would prefer to consider myself a citizen, not a customer, of the State. Citizens share responsibility for their actions, and consider outcomes beyond their individual needs. The “customer is always right.”



The WNPS Conservation Committee is soliciting proposals for Conservation Grants of up to \$500 that further the goals of conservation of Washington native plants. Through its grant process, the committee's goal is to support or enhance on-the-ground conservation or restoration projects. Deadline is January 15th, 2011 for applications. For more information on how to apply:

http://www.wnps.org/conservation/conservation_grant.html

Collecting Trip to a Prairie and Fen in the Southeastern Cascades of Washington

by Mike Marsh, WNPS State Conservation Committee

Peterson Prairie, South Prairie, and the South Prairie Bog were the focus of a field trip during Botany Washington 2001 led by Art Kruckeberg. Nine years later, a group led by David Giblin, Collections Manager at the UW Herbarium, Burke Museum (WTU), made a collecting trip to these same sites, located in the southeastern portion of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. They lie about 12 miles southwest of Trout Lake on a mostly forested plateau at about 3,000 ft elevation. The area is part of the 32,000 acre Ice Caves Allotment, a grazing lease managed by the Mt. Adams Ranger District. The area is botanically interesting with dry and wet meadow, fen, and lake habitats. About 250 species or unique genera from these areas are named in four existing species lists and in the records of WTU and Washington State University herbaria. Over 18 sedge species were reported prior to our trip.

In 2007, the United States Forest Service (USFS) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) as required under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), to plan future management of the grazing allotment. Guidelines issued under the Clinton forest plan of 1995 were followed. The Gifford Pinchot Task Force and other conservation groups, including WNPS, met with Forest

Service personnel at Trout Lake in 2007 as part of this process. The consensus at that meeting was that the USFS preferred alternative, while an improvement over current management, did not offer enough protection to animal and plant species or to the physical environment on the allotment.

Plant species of concern in the meadows include pale blue-eyed grass, (*Sisyrinchium sarmentosum*) and rosy owl clover, (*Orthocarpus*

bracteosus). According to a Botanical Report prepared as part of an Environmental Assessment done in 2007, the Ice Caves Allotment contains three of the five known populations of *Sisyrinchium sarmentosum* worldwide (the other two are in the Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon) that appear to be large enough to be self-sustaining. We visited the locations of two of these three populations, Peterson Prairie and South Prairie. We did not get to the third location Cave Creek, which is maintained as wildlife habitat for native animals, including beaver.

I have been interested for some time in helping to protect the habitat of *Sisyrinchium* in a reserve such as those in the Research Natural Area system of the USFS. Many questions, both as to what would be the best way to secure these plants from extinction, and what administrative and political procedures we need to follow to accomplish the mission, remain. This field trip was one step in learning more about the area, and about pale blue-eyed grass.

David Giblin, Ann and Fred Weinmann, and Mike Marsh met at the Peterson Campground, 6 miles west of Trout Lake on the afternoon of August 11, 2010. The campground is located in late seral silver fir forest, with a rocky dry creek bottom labeled "Lost Creek Ditch" running through it. The camp hostess heralded us on our arrival, cogitating carefully on where she would put us, and cautioning us to maintain a speed of less than 10 mph in the campground so as not to raise too much dust. We asked her where Peterson Prairie was located, and she replied that "there is no prairie here, only forest." She became a prominent part of our experience at Peterson Campground, appearing periodically with more advice and cautions, and labeling us as a troublesome bunch.

We collected 29 plants at Peterson Prairie (located about 300 yards west of the campground) that afternoon, finding both pale blue-eyed grass, which had already opened its seed capsules, and rosy owl clover, which still had a few late blooms on its inflorescence. The meadow was rather dry by this date, but contained shallow swales that gave it diverse habitat. It was dominated by bentgrass (*Agrostis*) species and other grasses, sedges and forbs.

On Thursday, August 12th, we visited South Prairie and walked the southeastern half of the meadow. This part of South Prairie is quite wet except along the edges, with a carpet of water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) in standing water in the central area, and six or seven other sedges and rushes on slightly higher ground. Leathery grape fern (*Botrychium multifidum*) was an interesting find here, and small forbs were abundant in shallow depressions that probably form vernal pools in the spring. A wild mint was



Sisyrinchium sarmentosum, flower and fruit. PHOTO: MIKE MARSH



Ann Weinmann, Fred Weinmann and David Giblin collecting on South Prairie Bog. PHOTO: MIKE MARSH

so abundant that the air was fragrant with its smell. Their leaves made a very nice mint tea that evening. We did not find *Sisyrinchium sarmentosum*, which is reported from this prairie. We made 20 collections there in the morning, and pressed them after lunch, then moved to South Prairie Bog, a quarter mile down the road.

There is a slight flow of water around the margins and to the center of South Prairie Bog. There are concentric rings of wetland and aquatic vegetation including willow (*Salix*



Extreme botany—Fred Weinmann collects *Scirpus*. PHOTO: MIKE MARSH

spp.), grasses such as manna grass (*Glyceria* sp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), and sedges (*Carex* spp.). Bog cranberry, (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*), sphagnum, (*Sphagnum* sp.) and great sundew (*Drosera anglica*) were common. Stands of cottongrass (*Eriophorum* sp.) were somewhat circumscribed. Near the shallow edge of open water, stands of bogbean, (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) extended branches with three leaflets above the surface.

It was here that I observed a fine example of extreme botany. Fred saw and desired a specimen of swaying bulrush

(*Schoenoplectus subterminalis*) upright and just beyond most of the bogbean. He waded in to thigh depth, then gave a lunge toward his quarry and grabbed it, but found himself chest-deep in the water. Emerging, Fred had his specimen, and when he opened his pack he found that nothing important had gotten wet.

We walked around the central pond in the bog, examining small islands where we found bog blueberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) with its small, tasty, blue berries, and shore pines (*Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*). We returned to Peterson Prairie briefly before returning to camp. That evening Ann and Fred invited me to walk around the campground road, as we had done the previous evening, and a remarkable thing happened: our campground hostess spoke to us. We went over, and she began by asking us what we were here for, and then asked if we



Vaccinium uliginosum, flower and fruit. PHOTO: MIKE MARSH

knew different native wildflowers. She is from the redwood coast of California, and she had a plant book for that area, so Fred pointed out the plants that were common to that area and this one, to her satisfaction and ours.

Ann and Fred left us Friday morning, and David and I returned to South Prairie, where we explored farther west along the north margin of South Prairie. We found drier sites resembling the Peterson Prairie flora more closely, with low bunchgrasses (*Festuca* sp.), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), and wild strawberries (*Fragaria* sp.). In these habitats we found *Botrychium multifidum* again, and at last, *Sisyrinchium sarmentosum*. Apparently, the species likes meadow with low cover on the shallow slopes of local depressions, the pale blue-eyed grass still had closed, filled seed capsules. There were the remains of a flower on one plant. Our visit to South Prairie was capped nicely by a view of 30-40 elk trotting through open timber on the other side of the prairie.

We returned to the eastern end of the prairie and went down to the edge of a small lake across the road from it so that David could float a specimen of lesser bladderwort (*Utricularia minor*) onto a previously moistened herbarium sheet—a method of mounting that I had not seen previously (photo). Altogether we made 81



David Giblin making a wet mount specimen of *Utricularia minor*. PHOTO: MIKE MARSH



South Prairie, the drier western end. PHOTO: MIKE MARSH

collections during the trip.

Our collections added several species to the currently available records for the area. These include species that frequently occur in areas which harbor rare species including for example, leathery grape fern (*Botrychium multifidum*), bur-reed (*Sparganium* spp.), cotton grass (*Eriophorum* spp.) and a high diversity of sedges (*Carex* spp.). Existing records of rare species in the area, combined with our collections and our general impressions of the unusual botanical features of the fen and bog convinced us that these sites warrant serious consideration for establishment of a Research Natural Area by the Forest Service.

We thank the University of Washington Herbarium of the Burke Museum for support and use of facilities. I thank David Giblin for fitting this trip into his busy summer schedule, and Fred and Ann Weinmann for adding their expertise and warm good humor to the trip.

DE

Feral Herbivores Threaten Native Plants and Ecosystems

by Jane Wentworth, WNPS State Vice-President,
and Katrina Strathmann, WNPS State Secretary

It is widely known that invasive species have one of the greatest impacts on native plants and their habitats. In fact, one of the priority conservation issues of WNPS is invasive plants and their impacts. Less widely recognized, however, are the extensive and troubling impacts of feral animals. In this article, we present two examples in Washington that illustrate the impacts of feral animals on our native ecosystems and native plant species.

Feral animals, including pigs, burros, horses, goats, rabbits, and possums, have been widely acknowledged to cause severe environmental damage in other parts of the world (Bradshaw et al 2007, Challies 1975, Drake and Pratt 2001, Fitzgerald and Gibb 2001, Hanley and Brady 1977, Sanchez 1974). Feral animals are organisms that have escaped domestication and have been naturalized to a wild state. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) warns that, "The introduction of feral animals or plants to their non-native regions, like any introduced species, can disrupt ecosystems and may, in some cases, contribute to extinction of indigenous species."

In a recent study on the impacts of deer and sheep on vegetation, Gonzales and Arcese (2008) found that herbivory had reduced bulb masses, flowering, and number of stems of native plant species. These effects were greater than the effects of competition from invasive plant species. The authors concluded that reducing herbivore impacts will be required to successfully restore endangered oak meadows in the Canadian Gulf islands.

Sheep in the San Juan Islands

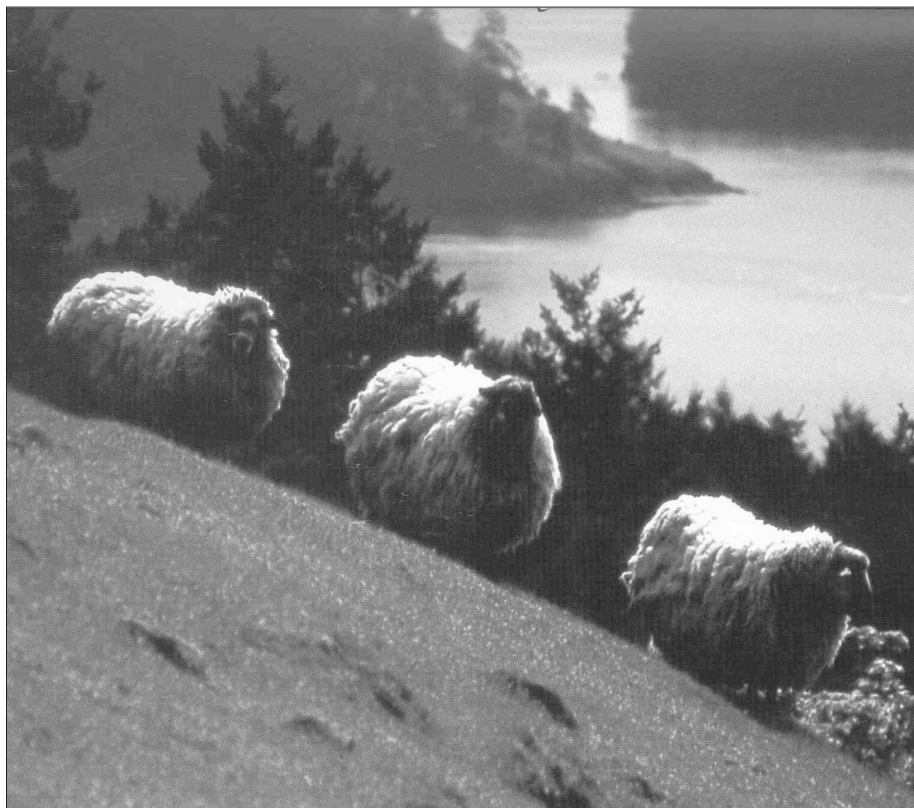
Those who have spent any time botanizing in the San Juan Islands have seen the exceptional

displays of wildflowers in the spring. In fact, Yellow Island is managed by The Nature Conservancy specifically for its wildflowers.

But not all islands in this archipelago are floristically rich at present. On Stuart Island, there is an obvious lack of diversity of understory vegetation, no tree and shrub seedlings, and very few herbaceous species flowering except in places that are inaccessible to herbivores.

Deer occur on most of the islands, occasionally swimming from one to another, and are known to browse the native flora in addition to plants in cultivated areas. Yet floral diversity appears to remain in balance on most islands. The difference on Stuart Island is that two species of feral sheep are wreaking havoc on the native vegetation.

The mouflon (*Ovis aries orientalis* group) is a subspecies group of the wild sheep *Ovis aries*. It is thought to be one of the two ancestors for all modern domestic sheep breeds. Since the 1980s, mouflon have been successfully introduced into game ranches in North America for the purpose of hunting. Mouflon have also been introduced into Hawaii as game animals, where they cause serious damage to native plant species and are more difficult to control than other alien ungulates. Mouflon were introduced to Spieden Island in the San Juan Islands of Puget Sound. It is suspected that mouflon were also



Feral sheep (*Ovis aries*). PHOTO: PETER FROMM



Feral horses (*Equus caballus*) on the Yakama Reservation. PHOTO COURTESY OF YAKAMA NATION WILDLIFE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

deliberately introduced on Stuart Island, with some animals swimming over from Speiden as another likely scenario. In addition, at least one or two pair of Suffolk, or “woolly,” sheep were reportedly released from their domesticated enclosure many years ago for the purpose of game hunting on Stuart Island.

Neither species has been hunted with the intensity that was predicted at the time of introduction. Populations are estimated to now be well over 100 animals on approximately 2.9 square miles of island. Heavy herbivory is visible due to both sheep species. In addition, the reduced forage available for deer has increased grazing pressure by both deer and sheep on a number of typically less palatable species like salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) and Oregon grape (*Berberis* sp.).

What can be done to protect the native plant communities on Stuart Island? Conversations among a small group of concerned residents have begun, and ideas on the management and removal of both sheep species are being brainstormed. Community organizing is a first step.

Not everyone is in favor of eradication. Arguments by some of the local residents in favor of the sheep include “They don’t bother me,” “They’ve been here longer than I have,” “The sheep help with fire prevention because they eat all the grass that would dry out in the summer anyway,” and “Sheep are a part of the charm of this pastoral scene.”

Education can be a powerful and persuasive tool. As more local residents (and tourist/visitors) are made aware

of the impacts these animals have on the health and regeneration of the forests of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), and western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) and on the open meadows, balds, and groves of Garry oaks (*Quercus garryana*), there is hope for support and participation.

Horses on the Yakama Reservation

On the east slope of the Cascades in central Washington lies the 1.4 million acre Yakama Reservation. The Reservation is composed of a broad range of shrub-steppe and coniferous forest habitats. It is also home to a large population of wild, or

feral, horses (*Equus caballus*).

Wild horses eat primarily grasses. In areas where herd density is high, native bunchgrasses such as bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) have been completely removed and horses eat remaining vegetation, including native forbs and sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). In locations where heavy grazing was followed by fire, little vegetation remains except cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). Fences that were built on the Reservation to manage livestock, as well as exclosures that were established specifically to monitor grazed and ungrazed vegetation, tell a visual story about the impacts of wild horses on plant communities. In areas where horses have been excluded native bunchgrasses are abundant; where horses are allowed grazing access, bunchgrasses are largely removed. The horses also cause soil erosion along creeks and around springs, which creates a cascade of impacts along riparian areas. The impacts of wild horses and wild burros on soil erosion, vegetation, and stream channels are widely known in other parts of the world (Butler 2006, Hanley and Brady 1977).

Horses are believed to have moved into the Northwest shortly after the arrival of Spaniards on the American continent. Horses, known as *kusi* in the Yakama language, quickly became an important part of Yakama culture. Feral horses were caught, tamed, and used for transport by the tribes and bands that now comprise the Yakama until the automobile became common. After that time, smaller numbers of horses were captured and sold for meat. In

recent years, the market for horses has crashed and very few horses are removed from the Reservation.

Meanwhile, herd numbers continue to grow. Horse population growth rates have been estimated elsewhere at 20%. On the Reservation, aerial census estimates of the population were approximately 3,500 individuals in 2004. In 2010, aerial surveys provided estimates of approximately 13,000 individuals. Even with the margin of error inherent in the aerial census method, the numbers are staggering.

The feral horses are causing extraordinary damage to the shrub-steppe ecosystem on the Reservation, from removing the native bunchgrass component of plant communities, to increasing stream channel erosion through trampling in sensitive riparian areas. As with the sheep on Stuart Island, the removal of native bunchgrasses by horses increases grazing pressure on a wide variety of plant species by deer and domestic cattle. Due to these impacts, the Yakama are concerned about the impacts on traditional foods, such as deer, salmon and roots.

What can be done? A wild horse management plan was recently developed for the Reservation, which calls for a reduction in the number of animals to fewer than 1,000 individuals. The Yakama are currently seeking funding and partners to assist them in reducing the horse population and subsequent native plant restoration to improve degraded habitats. Because restoration areas are at risk of being heavily grazed by horse herds, this work must wait until herds are removed. The Yakama are also building partnerships with other organizations that have similar concerns.

Addressing the problem of horse overpopulation while recognizing the cultural value of horses requires consideration, patience, and good communication with the community. As resources and support grow for addressing this complex problem, the Yakama hope to protect all of their resources and heritage for future generations.

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Feral horse enclosure showing bunchgrass removal outside (left) and inside (right) the fenced area. PHOTO COURTESY OF YAKAMA NATION WILDLIFE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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JD

Wildflower Destinations to Know and Go: Anatone Butte, Asotin County

by David Giblin, University of Washington Herbarium, Burke Museum

I am always interested in finding places around Washington State that have the combination of easy access and colorful displays of our native flora. Paradise at Mt. Rainier, Hurricane Ridge at Olympic National Park, and Table Mountain east of Ellensburg are all excellent examples. I found another such site this spring while doing field work in southeastern Washington, and the location is called Anatone Butte.

Anatone Butte is located approximately 10 miles southwest of the town of Anatone, which itself is south of Clarkston along State Highway 129 in Asotin County. The route out to Anatone Butte is a rather straightforward combination of mostly flat county and U.S. Forest Service roads. The latter part of the drive is unpaved, but the condition of the road is so good that any regular passenger vehicle is fine (I was in a mini-van).

I was in this area in early June this past year (a wetter, colder spring than average), which is probably the best time to visit considering how hot and dry the area becomes in summer. The vegetation on the way out to Anatone Butte is open ponderosa pine forest interspersed with somewhat wet meadows. These meadows were where I saw clustered green gentian (*Frasera fastigiata*) for the first time. In Washington this species is found only in the southeast corner of the state, though it ranges further east to Idaho and south through Oregon to California. The plants stand three to four feet tall and are capped with dense inflorescences of deep blue flowers—truly remarkable.

Just to the north of Anatone Butte is Big Butte, which, when I was there, was a sea of yellow due to the largest display of slender-fruited lomatium (*Lomatium bicolor* var. *leptocarpum*) that I have ever seen. Of almost equal intensity were the splashes of blue provided by two-lobe larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallianum*). Arriving at Anatone Butte one is first struck by the exquisite view south over the canyon formed by the Grande Ronde River where the snow-capped peaks of the Wallowa Mountains dominate the horizon.

The flora in and around Anatone Butte, as well as the



Lomatium bicolor var. *leptocarpum* (slender-fruited lomatium), *Delphinium nuttallianum* (two lobe larkspur), and *Phlox speciosa* (showy phlox) in meadow near Anatone Butte. PHOTO: D. GIBLIN

road leading further west along the ridge, is as colorful as it is diverse—the yellows of *Balsamorhiza serrata* (toothed balsamroot), the whites of *Allium fibrillum* (fringed onion) and *Zigadenus paniculatus* (panicked death camas), the blues of *Camassia quamash* (small camas), the reds of *Ipomopsis aggregata* (scarlet Gilia) and the pinks of *Phlox speciosa* (showy phlox) and *Trifolium macrocephalum* (bighead clover). I was even fortunate enough to see *Paeonia brownii* (Brown's peony).

There were easily an additional 80–100 species that were flowering along the route that I took—too many to list here. The road tracks a ridgeline for several miles, so there are plenty of opportunities to stop and explore the south-facing slopes or wander through the numerous meadows along the north side of the road. The intrepid can take a loop that circles back to the town of Asotin, or patch together a series of Forest Service and county roads for about 40 miles that lead to the town of Pomeroy along State Highway 12, east of Walla Walla. Otherwise, one can easily retrace their route back to Anatone. Which ever route is taken, visitors should consult a detailed map of the area for directions (e.g., DeLorme Gazetteer).

Anatone Butte is a truly spectacular destination for anyone interested in wildflowers and exceptional views of the Pacific Northwest landscape. If you are not from the southeastern part of Washington, expect to see a number of unfamiliar species because many elements of the flora there do not occur anywhere else in Washington. Enjoy!



Annual WNPS Backpack Trip: Kettle Crest Trail North, Colville National Forest July 9-11, 2010

by Jim Riley, South Sound Chapter

With: Don Knoke, Stu Knoke, Jim Duemmel, Julia Bent, Jim Prichard, Mary Prichard, Mark Turner and my dog Quila

Friday, July 9:

At the appointed time of 9:30, the group donned packs and we headed up the trail. Our trip turned north on the Kettle Crest Trail from Sherman Pass to wherever we could find water and a place to camp. None of us had been here before, and the write-up for this hike, with all the details about water and camp spots, was resting comfortably on my desk back home so we could only guess what we would find around the next bend. We hadn't gone far before I



Break along the trail. PHOTO: JIM RILEY

took a sip from my water container and found out that it was empty. Somehow the water I mixed up this morning had leaked out. Fortunately, Mark had some extra water in his truck, so we were able to fill up my bag.

The rest of the group was waiting for us when we caught up with them and we all continued up the hill together. We slowly made our way up the trail, checking off the plants we spotted along the way. Our plant list was derived from the WNPS Douglasia Occasional Paper, *Plant Life of Washington State: Big Beaver Valley and the Kettle Range*, Volume Three 1988. (Available from WNPS; see: <http://www.wnps.org/publications/o-p.html>)

Much to our relief and pleasure the trail was a gentle grade with lots of switchbacks right off the bat. Once we reached about 6000 feet in elevation the trail leveled off with minor ups and downs and headed north around Columbia Mountain.

Our first disappointment came at the first spring (watering trough) that we came to. It was completely dry! This was not a good omen for the day. Not too long after this we came across another spring that had running water. Although just a trickle, we considered it enough to fill the water jugs. At about two and half miles we came to a large fire ring and what seemed to be a possible campsite. However, it did not have enough level ground or room for seven tents. A little farther on we paused in a stand of lodgepole pine to take a break and contemplate our next move. None of us liked this as a place to camp, so Jim Prichard volunteered to hike on ahead for a ways to see what he might find. A few minutes later he came back to say there was a good camp spot a short distance up the trail and with good water on the way. With this bit of good news we loaded up our packs and marched on.

Although still in a stand of small lodgepole pine, there were lots of flat and clear places to set up all of our tents. We quickly went about locating our home sites for the night.

After supper a few of us decided to explore the area. We camped in the saddle just south of Jungle Hill and walked over to the eastern edge where a few outcrops provided a view of the land east of us. Wandering around we came back to the trail and headed north on it thinking we might climb to the top of Jungle Hill. We soon changed our mind due to lack of energy and doubts of any opening that would provide a viewpoint.

Back in camp we built a fire and reviewed our checklists of plants. We managed to observe 124 species of plants on our first day. This included eight species we added to the list. Flowers of note included the yellow columbine (*Aquilegia*

flavescens), false-mermaid (*Floerkea proserpinacoides*) and Utah honeysuckle (*Lonicera utahensis*).

Saturday, July 10:

After everyone put together lunches and water, we all (except Jim Duemmel who wanted to hike up to the top of Columbia Mountain) headed north on the trail to see what we could find. The trail curves around the north side of Jungle Hill and then makes a serious descent down through nine switchbacks to the saddle between the hill and Wapaloosie Mountain. We took a long pause at the saddle which was also the junction with the Sherman Trail.

With more switchbacks and a little steeper trail we made our way up the mountain on the other side. Finally near the top we came upon a very wet meadow/bog with a piped spring at the upper end. Here we added the small white violet (*Viola macloskeyi*) to the plant list.

After a refreshing break with shade and cool water we continued on up the hill and soon were crossing open hillsides of bunch grass (*Festuca* sp.) and sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.).

By the time we made it to Wapaloosie Mountain it was noon. After lunch and a group picture we departed the



On the trail. PHOTO: JIM RILEY



Group picture. Left to right: Stu Knoke, Mary Prichard, Julia Bent, Jim Riley, Jim Prichard, Mark Turner with Quila and Don Knoke. PHOTO: JIM RILEY

summit of the mountain.

Stu, Julia and Mark decided to go on to Scar Mountain and the rest of us headed for camp. We paused again at the spring and Don wandered around taking a few more flower pictures. I was very impressed by the presence of the chocolate chip lichen (*Solorina crocea*) along the north side of Jungle Hill. The uphill side of practically the entire trail was covered with it. (Available from WNPS at <http://www.wnps.org/publications/0-p.html>)

In the meantime, Stu, Julia and Mark bushwhacked their way down the western flank of Wapaloosie Mountain until they reencountered the trail trending ever northward. At a knoll less than half a mile north, they came to a fork in the trail, with the main trail heading west toward Timber Ridge and the old, abandoned trail continuing north. They proceeded north, despite the less than ideal state of the "trail" at this point. After descending a short ravine, within a few hundred yards they were able to rejoin the main trail coming up from Timber Ridge. They continued north toward Scar Mountain, keeping on the trail, which unfortunately never afforded a good view or obvious path to the top of the mountain.

After another half mile or so of travel, they elected to return to camp. As they crossed the distinctive terrain of open sage hills interspersed with stands of conifers south of Wapaloosie, a thunderstorm moved in from the northeast, briefly soaking them. Fortunately the storm was short, if intense, and they had dried out by the time they reached "home."

Back at camp the clouds grew thick enough to bring a light sprinkle of moisture. The rain ended almost as soon as it began and not long afterward Stu, Julia and Mark

came into camp.

Jim Duemmel made it to the top of Columbia Mountain and saw about the same plants as the rest of us with the exception of the deer paintbrush (*Castilleja cervina*) that he saw along the trail.

This evening, with little else to explore, we all decided to head back home.

Sunday, July 11:

Early Sunday morning I could barely hear voices as Jim and Mary got ready and left camp. I ate breakfast and loaded my pack to head south. Before I was out of sight of camp I saw Jim Duemmel coming along the trail and waited for him to catch up. He pointed out the deer paintbrush as we went by. It was right below the trail and in plain view. Somehow we all had missed it.

At the junction of the Columbia Mountain Trail we caught up with Jim and Mary as they had just come down from going up to the top. They went on ahead of us and with a steady pace Jim Duemmel and I were soon back at the trailhead. Don, Mark, Stu and Julia straggled out after us, the latter two taking the time to ascend the side trail to Columbia Mountain while Don and Mark lingered at the main trail taking photographs. Once again, this turned out to be another great trip.

Watch *Douglasia* for an invitation to join us next year for a trip into the Blue Mountains. We are planning a trip up Panjab Creek and down the Rattlesnake Trail. I would be very happy to receive any information about this area anyone can provide, such as things to see, the best time of year for flowers, places to camp, and water sources. Contact Jim Riley at dalife@juno.com.



Washington Native Plant Society Research and Inventory Committee Procedures for Grant Proposals

*by Pam Camp, Plant Inventory and Research
Committee Chair*

The yearly budget of the Research and Inventory Committee is disbursed to proposals that foster the aims of the Washington Native Plant Society, i.e., “projects that extend our knowledge of the biology of native species or that inventory the flora of an understudied area, which help to conserve native plants.” **Special consideration will be given to proposals investigating the oak, or shrub-steppe ecosystems or invasive species.** Another priority is to support research efforts of graduate students and to help develop the careers of botanists with interests in native plants.

To receive full consideration, proposals should be submitted by January 15 of each year. Members of the Research and Inventory Committee will review the proposal and a decision will be made after the first round of awards. Proposals should request no more than \$1000 to \$1500 except in unusual circumstances. In general, half of an award is paid when the proposal is funded and the second half is paid when the project has been completed and a final report has been submitted.

Proposals should be about 4-8 pages in length and include the following information:

Introduction: Objectives and significance of the proposed research

Methods: Brief description of study areas, species, techniques, data collection and analysis

Timetable: In general, research and reports should be completed with 2 years

Budget: Personnel, equipment, and supply costs

Products: What will result from the proposed research? We expect, at minimum, a project report and a brief account for publication in *Douglasia*, the journal of the Society.

Curriculum vitae of all project personnel.

Proposal will be rated by members of the Research and Inventory Committee based on: (1) appropriateness of the project to the aims of WNPS, (2) adequacy of proposed methods to the project’s aims, (3) researcher’s experience in the types of research proposed, and (4) importance of the research in relation to the funds requested.

Submit an electronic copy to:

Pamela Camp, Chair
pacamp@nwi.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 15, 2011

WNPS 2011 Native Plant Photo Calendar Now Available

Enjoy the beauty of Washington's wildflowers throughout 2011 with our Native Plants of Washington Calendar. Our 2011 Calendar offers 13 months of terrific photos and a whole new year of floral splendor. WNPS members have helped us produce an outstanding calendar of images. Ellen Kuhlmann prepared thought-provoking information to accompany featured photos of the month.

This year's calendar also includes smaller inset photos and dates of interest to those who are botanically inclined. Photos featured for this calendar produced by the Society were selected from 75 images that were submitted by WNPS members.

Support the conservation work of the Society and its efforts to educate others about the value of native plants.

Buy one for yourself and some for those on your gift list. Calendars may be purchased at chapter meetings this fall and winter, or you may buy online with a credit card, or send in the order form below. If you want to buy online



The cover features Michael Hobbs' photo of the exquisite seedheads of western pasque flower (*Anemone occidentalis*).

go to www.wnps.org and look for the Calendar link under "What's New."

Each calendar is just \$10.00, plus \$2.00 for shipping (one flat rate of \$2.00 shipping even for multiple calendar orders). So buy one for yourself and some for family and friends.

WNPS Photo Calendar Order Form

Please send me the **2011 WNPS Photo Calendar**

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Shipping costs \$2.00

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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

MAIL ORDER FORM TO:

Washington Native Plant Society
6310 NE 74th St., Ste. 215E
Seattle, WA 98115
(Expect delivery within 2 weeks)

A Look at Washington's Rare Plants: Suksdorf's desert parsley (*Lomatium suksdorfii*)

Washington State Sensitive Species

This is tenth in a series by Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation featuring native rare plants monitored by Rare Care.

by Jeanette Burkhardt, Rare Care Volunteer

Since I live just uphill from storied botanist Wilhelm Suksdorf's hometown and work in the Klickitat River canyon, Suksdorf's desert parsley was a natural choice for my first Rare Care monitoring assignment. *Lomatium suksdorfii* is endemic to Klickitat County, and I had already developed a deep admiration for the perseverance and ruggedness of local lomatiums, thriving in various conditions along the Columbia Gorge. Knowing their importance as a spring food and medicine plant to the Native Americans of the area only added to its mystique.

I was assisted by veteran rare plant monitor Paul Slichter on monitoring outings in late May and early June, 2009. The descent along the narrow, rutted road to the Klickitat Wildlife Area took us through fields of introduced grasses, planted as forage for upland game birds and cattle. The grasses, pens and a nearby corral were visual reminders of



Flowers of *Lomatium suksdorfii*. PHOTO: PAUL SLICHTER



Habitat of *Lomatium suksdorfii*. PHOTO: PAUL SLICHTER

some of the threats this species faces from cattle grazing, introduced species, and recreation.

L. suksdorfii is a stout, glabrous perennial growing from a taproot to 20-80 inches tall, though most plants we found didn't grow much over 30 inches. It prefers dry, moderate to steep, semi-open to open slopes with thin soils and abundant exposed rock between 350 and 3500 feet elevation. Our site was an undulating mix of open ponderosa pine and white oak forest and exposed, fractured basaltic scree slopes, falling away to the Klickitat River. This is rattlesnake country, as I was reminded by a telltale rattle when I stepped too close to a drowsy snake coiled under the overhang of a rock. Though not yet June, this southwest-facing slope was already desiccated by sun and hot winds, the grasses under the open canopy of the oaks beginning to dry out.

Trying to locate the populations based on the 20-year-old descriptions meant traversing relatively steep, grassy slopes in dry oak groves speckled with ookow (*Dichelostemma congestum*), or rocky and exposed shoulders where a profusion of senescent Columbia lilies (*L. columbianum*) dotted the arid hillsides. Though in the last confirmed sightings peak bloom had been significantly later in the season, during our first foray many plants were already past peak and were setting seed—a response to a changing climate, or just an anomaly of this year's weather patterns?



Plant of *Lomatium suksdorfii*. PHOTO: PAUL SLICHTER

We eventually found our *Lomatium* higher up than the old descriptions indicated, an off-cant scramble upslope and a few crossings over the steep and narrow folds of seasonal drainages, some harboring sedges under their canopies. Though found only in isolated habitats, Suksdorf's desert parsley appeared to be very prolific where we found it—even spreading into the semi-shade of oak woodland edges, crisscrossed by deer trails. The plants seemed to congregate in zones of springtime runoff on otherwise dry slopes, thrusting narrow leaflets upward in defiance of drought and heat. Though not fragile, the plants do look almost airy. Other rugged beauties in *L. suksdorfii*'s community: cryptantha (*Cryptantha* sp.), spent balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza* sp.), Douglas' dustymaiden (*Chaenactis douglasii*), waving bunchgrasses (*Festuca* sp.) and an occasional outburst of violet mariposa lilies (*Calochortus* sp.). *L. suksdorfii*'s preferences confine it to isolated habitats, where it has adapted to a fairly



Lomatium suksdorfii. PHOTO: STEVEN CLARK

unforgiving, if specific environment—a slight change in aspect, soil profile, drainage or vegetative cover, and the plants disappear.

Bumping up the dusty road out of the canyon as shadows grew, we saw the silhouette of several deer standing on a windswept knoll above us—denizens, like Suksdorf's desert parsley, of this harsh and lovely corner of Washington.

Learn more about Rare Care's efforts to conserve Washington's rare plants at <http://depts.washington.edu/rarecare/>. To inquire about volunteering or to receive our semi-annual print newsletter, e-mail rarecare@uw.edu or call 206-616-0780.



2011 WNPS Photo Contest

Deadline: January 20, 2011

The Washington Native Plant Society is looking for your great photos of Washington wildflowers and native plant landscapes! Help us show the beauty of native plants and share information about their ecology and value in our WNPS Photo Calendar. Each year we have been able to offer a stunning calendar thanks to the terrific photographers in WNPS. Our annual native plant calendar is something of which we can all be proud.

Please send in up to five of your best photos. Even if you have submitted your photos before, please don't hesitate to send us some of your other great photos. The photo contest is open to all WNPS members. Both amateur and professional photographers may enter.

Details and contest rules can be found on our website at www.wnps.org under What's New.

Questions? Contact: Catherine Hovanic at wnps@wnps.org

The Otis Douglas Hyde Horticulture Herbarium at the University of Washington Botanic Gardens

by Katie Murphy, Hyde Herbarium Collections Manager, and Sarah Reichard, Professor and Curator

The mission of the Hyde Herbarium is to collect and make available to the public plant specimens that are relevant to the urban environment. These specimens include ornamental species and cultivars, weeds, and native plants. Our top priority is to collect specimens from every plant in the Washington Park Arboretum (WPA) collection, the crown jewel of the University of Washington Botanic Gardens (UWBG) and a national treasure. We intend to collect all plants in the WPA, flower, fruit and, when appropriate, winter bud. These voucher specimens serve as a historical record for all plants in the Arboretum, and assist in verifying the taxonomy of living plants in our collection. (Vouchering is collecting, documenting and preserving plant material to be kept as a record and reference.) We now have over 20,300 accessioned plants in our herbarium.

Our dedicated volunteers assist with collecting specimens from UWBG and we also collect from many other public and private gardens in the Puget Sound region to strengthen our collection. Highly skilled volunteers also assist in all aspects of herbarium work including mounting specimens, organizing our collections and entering records into our database. We add approximately 1,200 new sheets every year. These new collections reflect the wide variety of plants that can be grown in Western Washington's urban environments, plants that are proven landscape favorites and those that are new introductions to horticulture.

Faculty and graduate student research specimens over the last 25 years are also housed in our collection. Preserving vouchers of research adds to the validity of the scientific studies. Our special collection of plants from Chile reflects the graduate work of Sarah Reichard, now curator of the Hyde Herbarium. Specimens from plantsman Dan Hinkley's graduate work on the genus *Acer* are also found in our holdings. Other research vouchers include cultivars of ivy invading the region and the contents of "wildflower" seed mixes.

Our collection provides a vital study resource for



Figure 1: The Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium is immediately off the lobby in Merrill Hall and very accessible to the public. The LEED certified building is made with sustainable building materials and is flooded with natural light. PHOTO COURTESY OF OTIS DOUGLAS HYDE HERBARIUM

University of Washington students in landscape architecture, restoration ecology, and environmental horticulture who need a solid foundation in plant identification skills and landscape plant recognition.



Figure 2: Collections Manager Katie Murphy works on identification of *Cryptomeria* sp. PHOTO COURTESY OF OTIS DOUGLAS HYDE HERBARIUM

Otis Douglas Hyde Horticultural Herbarium

Curator: Dr. Sarah Reichard

Collections Manager: Katie Murphy

Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium

University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Center for Urban Horticulture

Merrill Hall, Room 110

3501 NE 41st Street

Seattle, WA 98105

Founded in 1985 by a generous gift from Charles H. and Otis Douglas Hyde

Index Herbariorum abbreviation: WTUH

Focusing on horticulturally significant plants, our collections consist of approximately 20,300 accessioned vascular and non-vascular plant specimens. Mosses, ferns and their allies, gymnosperms, and angiosperms are represented in our collection.

Our special collections include: Washington Park Arboretum voucher specimens, Plants of the Union Bay Natural Area, Weeds of Washington, Washington State Noxious Weeds Board specimens, Landscape Plant Recognition class study collection, Chilean collection.

We also have many specimens that reflect the research of faculty and students in the College of the Environment, School of Forest Resources.

Geographic Focus: Most of our collections have come from Washington State, but we trade specimens with other botanic gardens and arboreta across the country.

The Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium is open to the public 20 hours a week.

Monday 1pm to 8pm

Tuesday 9am to 2pm

Wednesday 9am to 1pm

Closed Thursday

Friday 9am to 1pm

Hours are subject to change with each academic quarter, please check our website for more details.

Our web address is: <http://depts.washington.edu/hydeherb/index.shtml>

We have a very active and supportive group of over 20 volunteers.

Contact information: Katie Murphy, Herbarium Collections Manager, by phone (206) 685-2589 or by email at hydeherb@uw.edu

When students can line up sheets from 20 different taxa next to each other and recognize key features of certain plant families or genera, they are able to grasp important taxonomic features and concepts.

The Hyde Herbarium also provides a free plant ID service to researchers, nurserymen, and members of the public who are welcome to bring plant samples to the herbarium for identification. The collections manager gathers all available information about the plant including overall size and shape, location in sun or shade, water requirements, bloom time, and any other unique traits such as fragrance or unique fall color. We then investigate the identity of the plant using all available resources. Because there is no comprehensive flora or taxonomic key for cultivated varieties of North America, our collection

specimens play a critical role in plant identification.

In addition to our regular hours, and in conjunction with the WSU Master Gardeners and UWBG's Miller Horticultural Library, we are open Monday evenings from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm for public clinics. The public is encouraged to bring in samples for identification, ask questions about plant disease and cultivation, and peruse the collections in the herbarium.

History

Brian Mulligan, longtime WPA director, began collecting voucher specimens in the early 1960s. In the late 1960s, a "unit" of the Arboretum Foundation was established for this purpose. This unit, now the Herbarium Committee, took on the challenge of collecting and processing the



Figure 3: Our main collections contain hundreds of horticultural specimens and cultivars. PHOTO COURTESY OF OTIS DOUGLAS HYDE HERBARIUM

specimens. When hundreds of voucher specimens had been collected, the need for an established herbarium and curator to protect and catalogue the growing collection was recognized by the University. In 1983, a generous gift from Charles H. and Otis Douglas Hyde was given to the University of Washington to establish such a place. The Hyde Herbarium opened in 1985, downstairs in Merrill Hall at the newly established Center for Urban Horticulture. Dr. Clem Hamilton was appointed curator and the collections grew even faster.

In 2001, a fire destroyed the old Merrill Hall. Fortunately the herbarium suffered minimal damage. The new Merrill Hall was completed in late 2004 and is a LEED certified green building, with the collection right off the lobby and very accessible to the public. Temperature and humidity control provide ideal storage conditions for the collection. Dr. Sarah Reichard is curator, and the collections manager is a graduate student research assistant, a position currently held by Katie Murphy. The Herbarium Committee is still active, with some members who have contributed their time for up to 40 years. Our volunteer team has grown along with our collections, making the Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium a dynamic hub of activity.

Many institutions are recognizing the ecological importance of cultivated landscape plants. The United States Department of Agriculture's National Arboretum, in Washington, DC, has requested our assistance to collect cultivated plants of Washington to augment their herbarium holdings. They, along with the Missouri Botanic Garden, intend to create a Cultivated Flora of North America and the Hyde Herbarium will be the contact for the Northwest region. In addition to their funding,



Figure 4: Herbarium Committee Members Lily Takatsuka, Jean Gillespie and Pat Danford collecting a specimen of *Albizia julibrissin* from the Washington Park Arboretum. PHOTO COURTESY OF OTIS DOUGLAS HYDE HERBARIUM

we receive support from state funds, the Arboretum Foundation, and donations from the public.

By working closely with other UWBG staff we are integrating our records into BG Base, a botanical garden database used by premier institutions around the country. This will greatly enhance our information sharing and access between different departments within UWBG and, ultimately, the public.

80

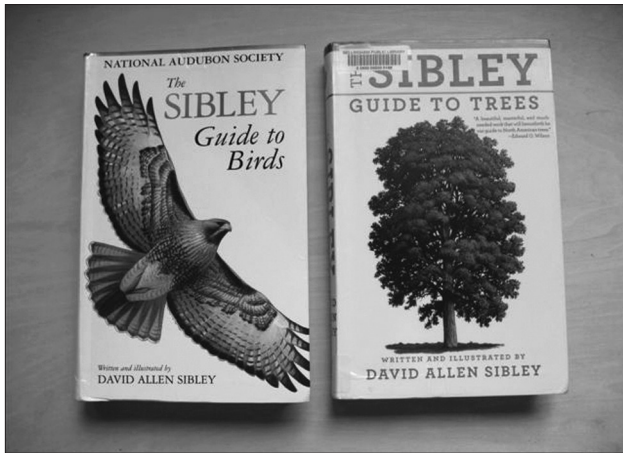


The Sibley Guide to Trees

by David Allen Sibley
 Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 2009
 Hardcover, 464 pages, \$39.95

Reviewed by Jim Duemmel, Koma Kulshan Chapter

In 2000 David Sibley authored and illustrated *The Sibley Guide to Birds* to wide acclaim. Now he has followed that achievement with an excellent guide to trees. The two books are similar in size and heft and in their internal structure. Botanists familiar with the bird guide will recognize the kinship of the books.



The illustrations are outstanding. They feature not just the leaves but also, for many species, the bark, twigs, flowers, fruit, fall color, and overall appearance of the tree. Frequently there is more than one leaf illustration, but several showing possible variations in shape or views of both the under and upper sides. Variability within a species is a theme in this guide, a clear reminder of the bird guide.

Species are grouped by families, an approach that makes a lot of biological sense but does not necessarily help with identification. Trees with similar leaves are often widely separated in the book. (*Acer negundo* has the common name ashleaf maple for very good reason.) You identify a tree by leafing through the pages looking for a match. There are no keys!

The text is short and to the point, frequently with interesting background information. Introductory paragraphs describing families and genera are very informative. The introduction is a well written survey of material relevant to tree identification but also to plants

in general. It is definitely worth reading. The mystifying terminology that botany is noted for is almost completely absent. The book describes 668 species and covers most of temperate North America north of Mexico.

Here are a number of items that caught my eye as I searched through the book.

In the introduction Sibley defines a species as “a distinguishable population of individuals that share a high level of genetic similarity.” That is the only definition of “species” I have ever seen that makes no reference to reproductive isolation. His definition equally well applies to “genus” and “family.”

The treatment of the firs needs further work. A newcomer to the Pacific Northwest would have trouble separating our native firs using these descriptions. The author rightly notes that cone bearing limbs have rather different foliage from other limbs. In his illustrations he concentrates on the cone bearing limbs, precisely those we seldom get to examine closely. Some vital identification clues are not described. For example, there is no mention of the fact that on the Pacific silver fir (*Abies amabilis*) the needles on top of accessible twigs usually point toward the tip of the twig and effectively hide the twig from view. Also Sibley describes the underside of the silver fir needles as “pale with many whitish bands.” On any individual needle I see only two. I’m not sure whether he refers to a single needle or the overall effect of the underside of a branch.

There is no mention of our newly defined juniper species, the seaside juniper (*Juniperus maritima*) easily found around the Salish Sea, in the Olympic Mountains and in the balds along the eastern shore of Ross Lake (assuming the Ross Lake trees are examples of the new species).

Sibley mentions white pine blister rust as it relates to limber and whitebark pines (*P. flexilis* and *P. alabicaulis*) while noting it can attack any five-needle pine. I thought the species most threatened by the rust is the Western white pine (*Pinus monticola*).

Don’t expect much help with the willows from this book. Hooker’s and Scouler’s willows (*Salix hookeri* and *S. scouleri*), which often reach tree status, are not even mentioned. (Many of us who have struggled with willows will sympathize with this decision to go light on the willows.) However, his introductory discussion of the genus *Salix* is well done.

Sibley’s description of maples starts with the statement that “all maples have palmately compound leaves.” That is

simply wrong, as his illustrations amply demonstrate. His treatment of the ashleaf maple, with *pinnately* compound leaves, is accurate. He correctly notes that Douglas maple (he emphasizes the common name Rocky Mountain maple) occasionally has compound leaves.

I did not know that the dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) was widely enough planted that it would merit inclusion in a guide such as this. The text includes natives, escaped introduced trees and widely cultivated trees.

The exotic tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) was common in the south end of Columbus, Ohio, where I grew up. The tree was prolific, growing in vacant lots, any waste place, even cracks in the pavement. Because of the odor of its leaves we kids knew it as the “stink tree.” To my surprise that name shows up in Sibley’s guide as an alternate common name for this tree. For all these many years I have assumed that was just an informal though appropriate moniker bestowed by botanically untutored neighborhood kids. I never expected to see it in print. I wonder where he found that name.

So, what is this book, a field guide, a reference or a coffee-table book? For me its size, heft and coverage of the whole continent eliminate it as a convenient field guide. I would place it somewhere between a reference and a coffee-table book. There is a wealth of well presented information here that qualifies it as a valuable reference. It lacks the usual glossiness of a coffee-table book but amply makes up for that in its readability and practicality. The textual comments are informative and the illustrations are beautifully done so that it is really enjoyable to pick up the book and just leaf through it. Producing this book so soon after his many bird books is an immense achievement. It calls out to all birders to expand their natural history interests and pay attention to what those birds are sitting in and what they are eating.



WNPS Chapters Support 2010 Research, Education and Conservation Grants

The WNPS State Board of Directors wishes to thank the many chapters and their boards of directors who stepped up to the plate to provide financial assistance in 2010 for WNPS Research, Education and Conservation Grants. While not all chapters could do so at this time, some chapters were able to tap into their own limited budgets to enable the continuation of funding in 2010 for WNPS grants to others which support good research, education and conservation efforts related to Washington’s native plants. Grants awarded this year will be supported by funds from the following chapters: Central Puget Sound, Columbia Basin, Koma Kulshan, Olympic Peninsula, Salal, Central Wahington, Okanogan, Wenatchee Valley, and South Sound in addition to funds from the WNPS state account. Like most budgets of agencies and organizations nationwide, we needed to do a little belt-tightening and we are most grateful for the support of our chapters and WNPS members who so generously help us year after year.

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(Donations received 1/1/2010 – 9/28/2010)

We gratefully acknowledge contributions to the Washington Native Plant Society from the following supporters. Your generous donations make our programs possible and keep our voice strong on behalf of Washington's native plants and their habitats.

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Plant Lists Available Online

Before you set out on your next hike, check out the “Native Plant Lists” link at the WNPS web site www.wnps.org. Here you’ll find plant lists from more than 500 sites throughout the state, compiled by some of the most respected names in Washington botany. Updates will be done once a year and members are invited to contribute their own lists. If you have suggestions about the plants lists or would like to contribute a plant list, please contact Don Knoke at donknoke@live.com.

WNPS On-Line Store

Don’t forget about the WNPS On-Line Store where you can purchase our wildflower poster, WNPS Occasional Papers and seasonal sets of note cards for spring, summer, fall and winter. Proceeds support the Washington Native Plant Society.

Go to the WNPS homepage at www.wnps.org and click on the Online Store.

WNPS Apparel Available through Cafe Press. T-shirts, sweatshirts, and totebags with the WNPS logo are for sale, also. The link to Café Press is on the WNPS Online Store page.

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Want to get involved with discussions about native plants and related issues with other WNPS members? The WNPS list serve offers announcements, news, and discussion relevant to native plants and the WNPS membership.

How to sign up: Email wnps@wnps.org and ask Catherine Hovanic to be added to the list. You must be a current WNPS member. Catherine will forward your request to our list provider who will add you to the list and email you with instructions for posting and unsubscribing.



Membership in WNPS entitles you to:

- A subscription to *Douglasia*
- Special price on Occasional Papers, studies of native plants
- A chapter newsletter with local news and information
- Field trips to see wildflowers and unusual plant communities
- Classes by expert botanists
- Annual study weekends
- Conservation and restoration activities
- The fellowship of plant lovers from all over the State of Washington

WNPS State Board of Directors: Meeting.

For information on agenda and location contact the WNPS office.

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Table of Contents

Thoughts on Conservation, <i>John Browne, Jr.</i>	1
Collecting Trip to a Prairie and Fen in the Southeastern Cascades of Washington, <i>Mike Marsh</i>	2
Feral Herbivores Threaten Native Plants and Ecosystems, <i>Jane Wentworth, Katrina Strathmann</i>	5
Wildflower Destinations to Know and Go: Anatone Butte, Asotin County, <i>David Giblin</i>	8
Annual WNPS Backpack Trip: Kettle Crest Trail North, Colville National Forest, July 9-11, 2010, <i>Jim Riley</i>	9
Washington Native Plant Society Research and Inventory Committee Procedures for Grant Proposals.	11
WNPS 2011 Native Plant Photo Calendar Now Available	12
A Look at Washington's Rare Plants: Suksdorf's desert parsley (<i>Lomatium suksdorfii</i>), <i>Jeanette Burkhardt</i>	13
2011 WNPS Photo Contest	14
The Otis Hyde Horticultural Herbarium at the University of Washington Botanic Gardens, <i>Katie Murphy, Sarah Reichard</i>	15
Book Review: <i>The Sibley Guide to Trees</i> , <i>Jim Duemmel</i>	18