

One Step at a Time

Newsletter of the Mountaineers Naturalist Group
October 2015

NATURALIST GROUP OFFICERS

Chair – Gordie Swartzman

Introduction to Natural World Coordinator – Jeff Nystuen

Study Group Leadership – Bruce Barcklow and Kay English

Seminar Series Coordinator - Rose O'Donnell

Advocacy – Gary Brill

Native Plant Garden – Rob Stevens and Sandy Bowman

Hiking and Leadership mentoring Coordination – Stewart Hougen, Carolyn Appleton, Ming Rutan,
Lola Kemp and Gary Brill

Workshops – Stewart Hougen

Treasurer – Monya Noelke

Secretary – Paul Shema

September hike of the month

Our first study group hike of the month was to Barclay Lake. This hike will (unless the times should alter) be on the last Saturday of the month. Look for it after logging in by clicking on the study group 'course'. Although the hike posts a limit of 12 we will accommodate any number, so sign up anyways if it is full. This hike is for study group members only.

There were 10 on this hike, and the hike did not disappoint. We advanced about half a mile in almost 2 hours, being absorbed in identifying mosses, lichens, liverworts and mushrooms. Edible mushrooms were found and collected including zeller's and admirable bolete, the orange milk lactarius, honey mushrooms (*armillaria mellea*) and lion's mane mushrooms. There were still lots of hikers on the trail, but no matter to us – we were in identifiers heaven!



Who cares about lunch when there are mushrooms to identify? Stewart with his brain book. The little guy is Kaveh Swartzman who was also into mushrooms.



The face of Mt. Baring from Barclay Lake



hypogymnia or tube lichen with apothecia



honey mushrooms (*armillaria mellea*) on wood (name the moss)

IN THE GARDEN

Flowers currently blooming in the garden

alpine aster

sulphur buckwheat



cooley's hedge nettle



tweedy's lewisia

Richardson's penstemon

shrubby cinquefoil

pearly everlasting

oregon sunshine
wandering aster
kinnickinick

UPCOMING HIKES AND EVENTS

Hike of the Month – Tonga Ridge and Mt. Sawyer. Saturday October 31 (halloween hike, costumes optional). Sign up through the study group accessible through My Courses on your profile on the Mountaineers web page. If the weather is good this hike offers great views of Mt. Daniel and Hinman as well as Glacier Peak and the North Cascades, plus mushrooms and a rolling ridge. If weather is bad we will go somewhere else like Wilderness Rim on Cougar Mountain. Sign up even if the hike is full. We will accommodate.

Work party Saturday 10/17, at the Species Garden starting at 1:00 until 5:00. We have some things to plant, lots of weeds to pull and some chips to spread. Bring your work gloves and spirit. See what is blooming, learn a few plants and get that feel good sense of having helped.

2015-2016 Naturalists Lecture Series, Seattle Program Center

Nov. 11, 2015 (Wed) – Thor Hanson, conservation biologist, will read from his well-received new book "The Triumph of Seeds," describing how seeds not only became dominant in the plant world, but shaped human history as well.

Find out more about Thor on his website:

<http://www.thorhanson.net/>

Jan. 13, 2016 (Wed) – Paul Hessburg, USFS forest ecologist, will focus on how our forests have evolved without fire, and what they *should* look like.

Feb. 11, 2016 (Thurs) The geology of Mount Rainier, by Mike Harrell, scientific instructional designer at the UW's Earth and Space Sciences department.

Mar 10, 2016 (Thurs) – Carolyn Shores of the UW's Predator Ecology Lab focuses her research on predator/prey relationships, particularly the impact of returning wolf packs

on coyotes and their prey.

Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society\November 2015
Program

Mountain Goats in Olympic National Park:

Some Inconvenient Truths

With Richard Olson

Olympic National Park is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the management of introduced mountain goats. A draft EIS, expected to be released soon, will identify a preferred management alternative; public comment will be accepted. WNPS Olympic Peninsula Chapter member, Rich Olson, will review the history of this contentious issue. He will summarize previous research including the potentially irreversible effects of goats on plants and soils, discuss the challenges and limitations of various population management techniques, and provide an opportunity for audience members to ask questions about the biology and public policy aspects of managing unwanted but charismatic non-native species.

Rich retired in 2006 after a 34-year career with the National Park Service, all at Olympic National Park. He held positions in aviation and fire management, forestry, and natural resources management. During the Elwha Dam removal project, he did extensive research and planning for the associated habitat restoration. He was intimately involved in field research on the Park's non-native mountain goats and was the leader of the high-risk aerial capture and translocation program.

Washington Native Plant Society

**Thursday, November 5th, 2015, 7:30pm, **
UW Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St, Seattle

(Doors Open at 6:30 PM for the Native Plant Identification Workshop; Program begins at 7:30 PM.)

Audubon Lecture:

Thursday October 15. Burke Museum, Burke Room 7 PM

Joseph K. Gaydos on The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest

Joseph is Chief Scientist for the SeaDoc Society. He is a licensed wildlife veterinarian and has been studying the fish and wildlife of the Salish Sea. He is talking about his latest book, of the same name as

the talk. The talk description suggests that the talk will combine a scientist's inquiring mind with beautiful photographs and fascinating stories.

Florian Schulz presents *The Wild Edge*

Thursday, October 29, 2015 | 7:30 pm | 220 Kane Hall, University of Washington

From Baja California's lagoons to the kelp forests off the Channel Islands, through the inlets of the Salish Sea, and into the Arctic waters where polar bears swim, the west coast of North America boasts a remarkable mosaic of landscapes, habitats and creatures where land meets sea.

Join acclaimed conservation photographer **Florian Schulz** on an epic journey, as he presents images and stories from his new book ***The Wild Edge:***

Freedom to Roam the Pacific Coast. Along the way, you'll see gray whales, manta rays, flocks of sea birds, spirit bears and so much more. Enjoy the beauty, and see how this remarkable ecosystem is connected from the depths of the ocean to the tops of ancient trees. *This event is co-sponsored by the College of the Environment and Washington SeaGrant.*

TICKETS: \$15 general | \$12 Mountaineers Members | Free for Students

Volunteers Needed (help!)

Writers – we need additional writers to compose articles for the magazine on the speakers, to do write ups on hikes, and to help with the newsletter.

Leadership – if you are interested in leading but don't know where to start contact mentorship leaders (see above).

Species Garden help – Rob and Sandy need people to weed at weeding parties, also to help plant and develop the garden into a habitat themed site. Contact Rob.

Lecture series assistant – Rose needs someone to learn the ins and outs of running the lecture series with an eye to eventually taking a turn at it. Get to choose your favorite speakers.

Help with the newsletter – I'd like to expand the newsletter to include advocacy information, ideas for new projects and workshops, and to include lots of articles on hikes and trips naturalistic.

Website or app of the month

Mushroom apps – There are several mushrooms apps available and they are improving (or some are). An interesting review is provided by mycologist Dianna Smith

<http://mycology.wsu.edu/mushroom/documents/Mushroomapps.pdf>. There is one guide ID mushroom browser I've never seen but it is put together by or with Brian Luther who is an amazing mushroom identifier who belongs to the Puget Sound mycological society, but it is not well-received by Dianna. Still, I am encouraged that we can have an app tailored to our area.

I have two mushroom apps- Roger Phillips mushrooms and the Audubon mushroom app. They both cost less than \$10 and are available for both ipad, iphone and Android phones and pads. Since I am not that proficient at identifying mushrooms that are not common or edible. I've tried them both in the field with mixed results. They both have lots of species but for distinguishing boletes, I am often left scratching my head. They have attribute-related search engines, which allow you to find mushrooms by habitat (like on wood, in woods etc), stalk and gill (or non-gill) characteristics. I find that my greatest success comes when I collect a bunch of mushrooms on a Sunday and then take them down to Urban Horticulture on Monday between 4 and 6:30 to find out what I have. This is quite useful to me when I'm unsure about edibility and is a good way to learn, since you can see lots of stuff others bring in, especially the stuff the experts and minions salivate over (like the two large matsutakes we brought in last week, that I've never even seen before in the field). The Audubon app has a more user friendly interface and has been upgraded the most often since I got it. Roger Phillips includes many more species and includes European species as well, a plus if you are going mushrooming over there (though how many of us would go THERE to mushroom). Mushrooms species are quite similar between here and Europe and there is much overlap. I met a Ukranian mushroom hunter this past week who commented that the species are the same. Of course, I often wonder if he had any clue what he was actually harvesting outside of whether it was edible. Oh, and by the way Dianna rates both these apps highly.

Odds and Ends

I recently read in the Seattle Audubon Society newsletter about the death of Idie Ulsh this past June. Those of us who attended the Introduction to the Natural World course will remember Idie's talk about butterflies, where everyone was blown away by her encyclopedic knowledge of butterflies, including their host plants, as well as her ability to get through 3 hours worth of material in less than an hour (for a 20 minute talk). I also experienced her talking about bird's nest where again I was blown away with how much she had learned about grouping birds by nest types and how many pictures of bird's nests she included. Idie was at her best in small groups where she could fascinate as well as inspire us to learn birds by sound (at bird fest she ran classes like this). I am saddened to think that her immense energy has been lost.