



April 2019

# Naturalists

ONE STEP AT A TIME

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## In the Native Plant Garden

The native plant garden is now enjoying much needed care and rejuvenation thanks to the Washington Native Plant Society local chapter, who are providing leadership in the garden in terms of care, planting and a vision of the garden. With leadership from George Macomber. The garden is benefitting from their experience in native plant care and propagation. The first work party, in early March brought out pruners to shrubs, weeders to the walks and new seeds to the margins. They were careful about moving into dormant beds and will increase their gardening activity as plants reveal themselves and area growth defines the bio-scape.

The Native Plant Society is having occasional work parties and we are encouraged to participate. It is an opportunity to learn more about native plant habitats and care. This is an area they are quite experienced. Their hand is already showing in the careful pruning, cleaning and clearing and many of our plantings will benefit. Check out the garden. It is just by the climbing rocks on the north end of the Seattle clubhouse.



April April, if you're able  
 Bring us May upon our table  
 Full of flowers, burning bright  
 In the forests, day and night  
 And follow with June  
 and July  
 Marching up to meet the sky  
 News of views both great  
 and small  
 And hikes echoing down  
 the halls  
 Of life!

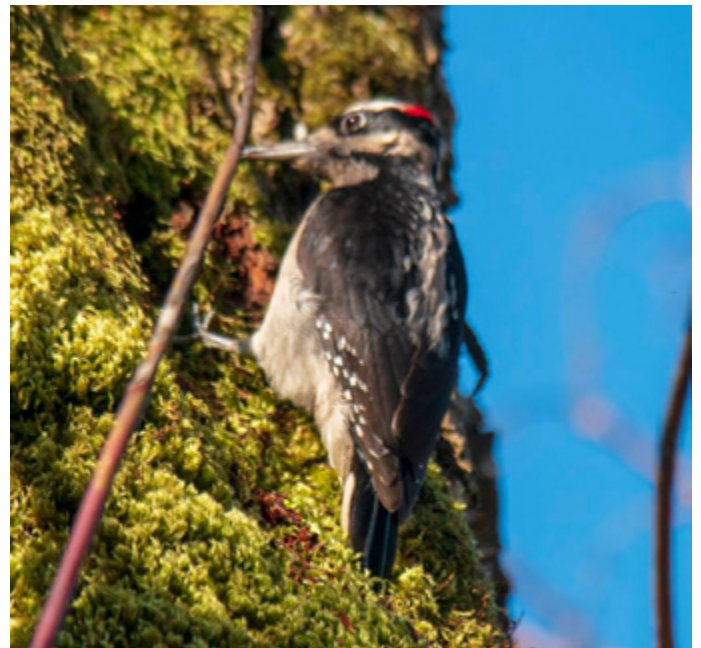
# March Naturalist Hikes

**MARCH 2: HANSVILLE GREENWAY AND FOULWEATHER BLUFF (GREAT WEATHER!) – GORDIE SWARTZMAN**

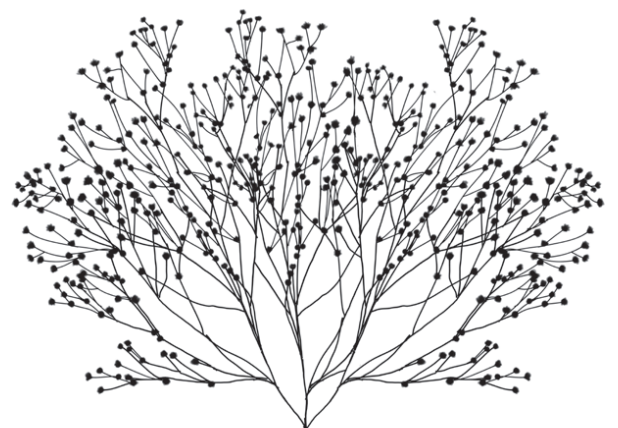
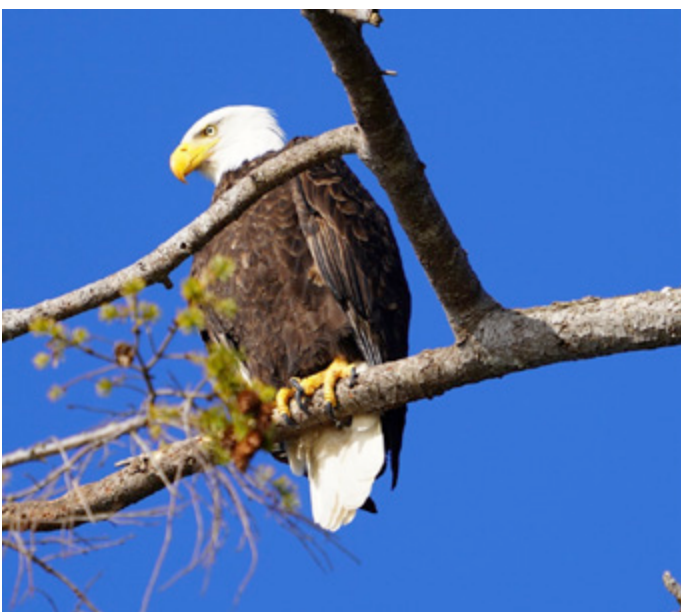
**MARCH 3: NISQUALLY FLATS – ANITA ELDER**



Barn Owl

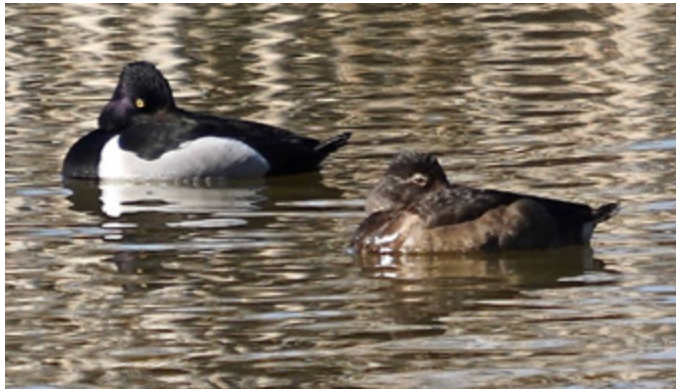


Hairy Woodpecker



## March Hikes (Continued)

### MARCH 11: SAMISH AND SKAGIT FLATS – TOM BANCROFT



Ring necked duck



Snow geese en masse

## Upcoming Hikes

Sign up online under *Explore*, *Find Activities* and check *exploring nature* (or click the register buttons below).

The mountain hiking season is nigh upon us, and we nats have many offerings to enjoy.

[Activity Listings - Click for Full List](#)



### Wallace Falls

APRIL 5 - GARY BRILL

Moss hike - not yet listed, so keep an eye on the website.



### Wolf Creek Nature Trail (Discovery Park)

APRIL 13 - ANITA ELDER

Youth-oriented nature walk and activities for youth (limit of one parent per family).



### Deception Pass State Park

APRIL 17 - STEWART HOUGEN

Fabulous birding, long vistas, and early wildflowers in this marine wonderland. We will visit Rosario Beach, hike the island in the middle of deception pass, and choose a third hike depending on conditions. A taste of spring on the west side with marine birds still around.



### Table Rocks (OR)

APRIL 18-19 - LINDA MOORE

Photo / naturalist-oriented hikes to premier NW spring wildflower areas. See many unique, beautiful, rare and endemic wildflowers.



### Table Rocks (OR)

APRIL 20-22 - LINDA MOORE

Photo / naturalist-oriented hikes to spectacular spring wildflowers in premier NW serpentine areas. See many unique, beautiful, rare and endemic wildflowers.

## Upcoming Hikes (Continued)



### Catherine Creek

**APRIL 20-22 - GORDIE SWARTZMAN**

We will visit at least 3 splendid flower locations in the Columbia Gorge, including Catherine Creek, Coyote Wall and Dalles Mt. Ranch. Wildflowers should amaze, views abound and birding is also above average. Hikes will be in the 4-7 mile range.



### Frenchman Coulee

**APRIL 27 - ANITA ELDER**

Combination photography & naturalist slow paced hike to view, identify & photograph wildflowers, rocks, scenery and a waterfall.

**Bonus:** Sign up and make a weekend of this field trip by camping in Vantage at Wanapum State Park. The hike is on Saturday, April 27. On Sunday, April 28, you have the option to sign up for a wind turbine tour from Wild Horse Wind Facility that also includes a wildflower orientation, then a wildflower walk. You only need to RSVP. More details with times (morning and afternoon session) at <https://www.pse.com/pages/tours-and-recreation/wild-horse#Tours>



### Snow Mountain Ranch

**APRIL 22 - SHELLEY WILLIAMS AND STEWART HOUGEN**

Not listed yet. More info to come.



### Whiskey Dick

**MAY 5 - STEWART HOUGEN**

Save the date. More info to come.



### Westbert Trail

**MAY 5 - GORDIE SWARTZMAN**

A loop trail with enough elevation gain and aspect change to provide a variety of east-side habitats we will bird watch, enjoy flower identification, and take in the views at the top.



### North Fork Sauk River

**MAY 11 - GARY BRILL**

Moss hike not yet listed. More info to come.



### Black Canyon / Umptanum Ridge

**MAY 18 - GORDIE SWARTZMAN**

This trip provides views, birds, geology and wildflowers as we amble up Umptanum Ridge via Black Canyon.

## Save The Date: Naturalist & Photo Weekend at Baker Lodge

We are planning a big hiking weekend on Mt. Baker August 9-11. This will involve three or more fabulous hikes and a stay at the Mt. Baker Lodge. Save the date and

make reservations at the lodge when the listing opens. Keep posted!

# Central Puget Sound Chapter/Washington Native Plant Society Program

## The Alpine Flowers of Mount Rainier

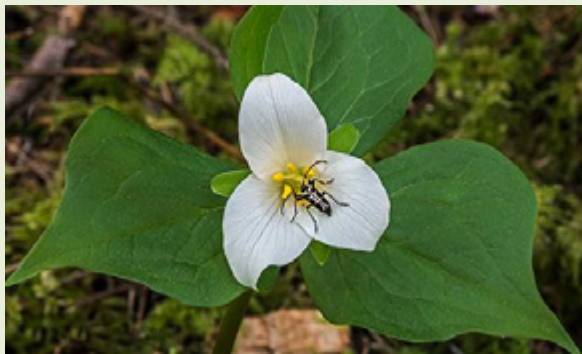
APRIL 9, 2019 (WED) | DONOVAN TRACY

Bellevue Botanical Garden, Aaron Education Center

Refreshments, Public Invited, Admission is free.

Donations are appreciated!

Doors open at 6:00 PM for the Native Plant Identification Workshop



Wild flower enthusiast and photographer, Donovan Tracy will discuss the amazing flowers found in the alpine zones of Mount Rainier. Donovan is a volunteer at the UW Herbarium, co-author of *Alpine Flowers of Mount Rainier* and developer of the website *Flowers of Rainier*, [www.flowersofrainier.com](http://www.flowersofrainier.com) featuring over 250 species and 10 wildflower hikes.

## Save the date for this special talk:

MOUNTAINEERS PROGRAM CENTER, 7700 SAND POINT WAY N.E, 7 PM

Free to Naturalists Study Group members. \$5 cash donation for all others.



MAY 4, 2019 (SATURDAY) | ANDY MACKINNON

## Fungal Endophytes: An Astonishing Relationship

Presented by:

Central Puget Sound Chapter of WNPS, Mountaineers Naturalist Program, Puget Sound Mycological Society

Fungal endophytes are fungi which live inside plants. Certainly fungi live on plants, and are important symbionts on roots of almost all vascular plants. But it turns out that most vascular plants examined have fungi living happily inside them. The diversity of these fungal endophytes is extraordinary. So, what are these endophytes doing inside these plants? How does this relationship benefit, the fungi? How does it benefit the plants? Join Andy MacKinnon in this exploration of an astonishing relationship featuring two of his favourite Kingdoms – plants and fungi.

Andy MacKinnon is a forest ecologist who lives in Metchosin British Columbia Canada. Since December 2014 he's also served as a Councillor in Metchosin, and in spring 2017 he was the Green Party candidate in the riding of Esquimalt - Metchosin. Until his retirement in 2015, he worked for the BC Forest Service for three decades, mostly on BC's coast, where he was responsible for ecosystem classification and mapping and a program of forest ecology research focused on old growth structure and composition, effects of climate change, and BC's native plants and fungi. Andy has also been involved in defining and implementing ecosystem-based management in Haida Gwaii and the Great Bear Rainforest. He has co-taught rainforest ecology field courses in Bamfield and Tofino (for the University of Victoria) and Haida Gwaii (for UBC). Andy is co-author of six best-selling books about plants of western North America. He's an Adjunct Professor at Simon Fraser University, and a Professional Forester and Professional Biologist in BC. Andy was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science degree by Simon Fraser University in 2013. He's President of the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society, and enjoys drinking good whisky and playing mandolin.

## Other Events & Courses



Course in Species Identification on Saddle Mountain on the Hanford Preserve by Mark Darroch

Here are links about Mark's upcoming course in May, offered through Wild Society:

- Info page: [wildsociety.org/hanfordreach](http://wildsociety.org/hanfordreach)
- Registration page: <https://www.wildsociety.org/programs/2019-hanford-reach-registration/>
- FB event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2558413137521967/>

Gary Brill says of Mark:

This seminar is taught by Mark Darrach, who holds a PHD in Geology and a Masters in Botany. Mark is a private consultant and associate research botanist with the Burke Museum Herbarium. His experience includes eight years as the Lead Botanist for the Umatilla District of the US Forest Service, and he is the author of the Lomatium genus for the new Flora of the Pacific Northwest, published by the U of W Press. He is also co-author of the Lomatium treatment in Flora of North America. He is a fascinating and enthusiast leader, and a visit to the Saddle Mountains of the Hanford Reach National Monument will be a unique and educational experience. The Saddle Mountain unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument is generally closed to the public and is the original heart of the monument. Hence, this experience will be unique. [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Hanford\\_Reach/Saddle\\_Mountain.html](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Hanford_Reach/Saddle_Mountain.html)

## Eastside Audubon Fundraiser



## Washington Native Plant Society Study Weekend

**MAY 17-19 BAYS BOGS AND BALDS**

Online study weekend registration opens January 12, 10am. To register by mail, please contact the WNPS office ([wnps@wnps.org](mailto:wnps@wnps.org); 206-527-3210) to receive a printed registration packet.

More Info - <https://www.wnps.org/events/395>



## Odds & Ends

### Naturalist facebook group:



The Facebook Group is a group of Mountaineers who have a passion for the natural world and want to learn more about it.

It is called The Mountaineers Naturalist Group. It is open to Mountaineers Members who are affiliated with the Naturalist Program, either as a current or past student of the Intro to the Natural World course or as a member of the Naturalist Study Group. It provides a place for

members to share photos of their hikes and trips, as well as to help with identification of species.

People can search for it on Facebook and ask to join. If they are a current member of The Mountaineers and affiliated with the Naturalist Program, they will be added.

The group is open only to Mountaineers Members as it helps us build camaraderie among our members. (There are many other Facebook groups open to all such as the Washington Native Plant Society and Western Washington Birders.)

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## Poetry

### THE BROOK

By Alfred Tennyson

I come from haunts of coot and hern,  
I make a sudden sally  
And sparkle out among the fern,  
To bicker down a valley.

By thirty hills I hurry down,  
Or slip between the ridges,  
By twenty thorpes, a little town,  
And half a hundred bridges.

Till last by Philip's farm I flow  
To join the brimming river,  
For men may come and men may go,  
But I go on for ever.

I chatter over stony ways,  
In little sharps and trebles,  
I bubble into eddying bays,  
I babble on the pebbles.

With many a curve my banks I fret  
By many a field and fallow,  
And many a fairy foreland set  
With willow-weed and mallow.

I chatter, chatter, as I flow  
To join the brimming river,  
For men may come and men may go,  
But I go on for ever.

I wind about, and in and out,  
With here a blossom sailing,  
And here and there a lusty trout,  
And here and there a grayling,

And here and there a foamy flake  
Upon me, as I travel  
With many a silvery waterbreak  
Above the golden gravel,

And draw them all along, and flow  
To join the brimming river  
For men may come and men may go,  
But I go on for ever.

I steal by lawns and grassy plots,  
I slide by hazel covers;  
I move the sweet forget-me-nots  
That grow for happy lovers.

I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance,  
Among my skimming swallows;  
I make the netted sunbeam dance  
Against my sandy shallows.

I murmur under moon and stars  
In brambly wildernesses;  
I linger by my shingly bars;  
I loiter round my cresses;

And out again I curve and flow  
To join the brimming river,  
For men may come and men may go,  
But I go on for ever.

### A LIGHT EXISTS IN SPRING

By Emily Dickinson

A Light exists in Spring  
Not present on the Year  
At any other period --  
When March is scarcely here

A Color stands abroad  
On Solitary Fields  
That Science cannot overtake  
But Human Nature feels.

It waits upon the Lawn,  
It shows the furthest Tree  
Upon the furthest Slope you know  
It almost speaks to you.

*(Continued on next page)*

Then as Horizons step  
Or Noons report away  
Without the Formula of sound  
It passes and we stay --

A quality of loss  
Affecting our Content  
As Trade had suddenly encroached  
Upon a Sacrament.

"If you look for the truth outside yourself,  
It gets farther and farther away.  
Today walking alone, I meet it everywhere I step.  
It is the same as me, yet I am not it.  
Only if you understand it in this way  
Will you merge with the way things are."  
- Tung-Shan

"With beauty before me, may I walk  
With beauty behind me, may I walk  
With beauty above me, may I walk  
With beauty below me, may I walk  
With beauty all around me, may I walk  
Wandering on the trail of beauty, may I walk"  
- Navajo: Walking Meditation

"Still round the corner there may wait  
A new road or a secret gate,  
And though I've often passed them by,  
A day will come at last when I  
Shall take the hidden paths that run  
West of the Moon, East of the Sun."  
- J. R. R. Tolkien

### VARIATION ON A THEME

W. S. Merwin

(W.S. Merwin died recently at age 91. Here is a paean!)

Thank you my life long afternoon  
late in this spring that has no age  
my window above the river  
for the woman you led me to  
when it was time at last the words  
coming to me out of mid-air  
that carried me through the clear day  
and come even now to find me  
for old friends and echoes of them  
those mistakes only I could make  
homesickness that guides the plovers  
from somewhere they had loved before  
they knew they loved it to somewhere  
they had loved before they saw it  
thank you good body hand and eye  
and the places and moments known  
only to me revisiting  
once more complete just as they are  
and the morning stars I have seen  
and the dogs who are guiding me

### SONNET 98

by William Shakespeare

From you have I been absent in the spring,  
When proud-pied April dress'd in all his trim  
Hath put a spirit of youth in every thing,  
That heavy Saturn laugh'd and leap'd with him.  
Yet nor the lays of birds nor the sweet smell  
Of different flowers in odour and in hue  
Could make me any summer's story tell,  
Or from their proud lap pluck them where they grew;  
Nor did I wonder at the lily's white,  
Nor praise the deep vermilion in the rose;  
They were but sweet, but figures of delight,  
Drawn after you, you pattern of all those.  
Yet seem'd it winter still, and, you away,  
As with your shadow I with these did play

## Introduction to the Natural World Course Begins in April

Tell your friends about this course. The course is filling pretty fast (it is almost full). Tell them to register now to preserve a place in the course. And remember, study group members can attend the course lectures for free.

<https://www.mountaineers.org/locations-lodges/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-naturalists-committee/course-templates/introduction-to-the-natural-world-course/introduction-to-the-natural-world-course-seattle-2019>



We are looking for field trip leaders and co-leaders for the Introduction to the Natural World course. We are happy to pair less experienced volunteers with more experienced leaders. Please contact Danielle Graham at [pedergraham@gmail.com](mailto:pedergraham@gmail.com) to volunteer or get more information.





Bewicks wrens by Anita Elder

## Seattle Naturalists Committee Officers and Subcommittee Chairs

Committee Chair	Gordie Swartzman	<a href="mailto:g.swartzman@gmail.com">g.swartzman@gmail.com</a>
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Study Group Coordinator	Stewart Hougen	<a href="mailto:sehouden@comcast.net">sehouden@comcast.net</a>
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