



February 2020

Naturalists

ONE STEP AT A TIME

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In the Native Plant Garden



Labels galore in the alpine garden area

No flowers to show, but flowers in waiting and lots of labels. If you want a real challenge, try identifying plants by stems only, or stems and leaves. The garden is now a joint project with the Washington Native Plant Society.

A visit there will provide peeks of birds, lot of examples of our native trees and shrubs labeled for easy identification. It is an oasis in an exposed, parking-lot-like part of Magnuson park. On your next visit to the Mountaineers club take a moment to visit the garden and connect with the natural world and memories of your hikes through it.

There will be occasional work parties through the winter. Working alongside native plant society members is an opportunity for us to learn more about native plant habitats and care. Those of you that are interested in participating can e-mail George Macomber (georgems@98115.net). He will put you on the mailing list for work parties.

Check out the garden. It is just by the climbing rocks on the north end of the Seattle clubhouse. No watering needed right now! The garden is a spot of pseudo nature in the midst of a concrete accretion. It is a sign of promises to come as its flowering precedes most natural blooming times.



Shiny Oregon grape – Berberis Aquifolia

January Naturalist Hikes

JANUARY 11 – HANSVILLE GREENWAY AND PT. NO POINT

JANUARY 18 – NISQUALLY WILDLIFE REFUGE



Foulweather Bluff



Red tailed hawk looking good (or is it well)



Sea Lion guarding point no point



Pintails

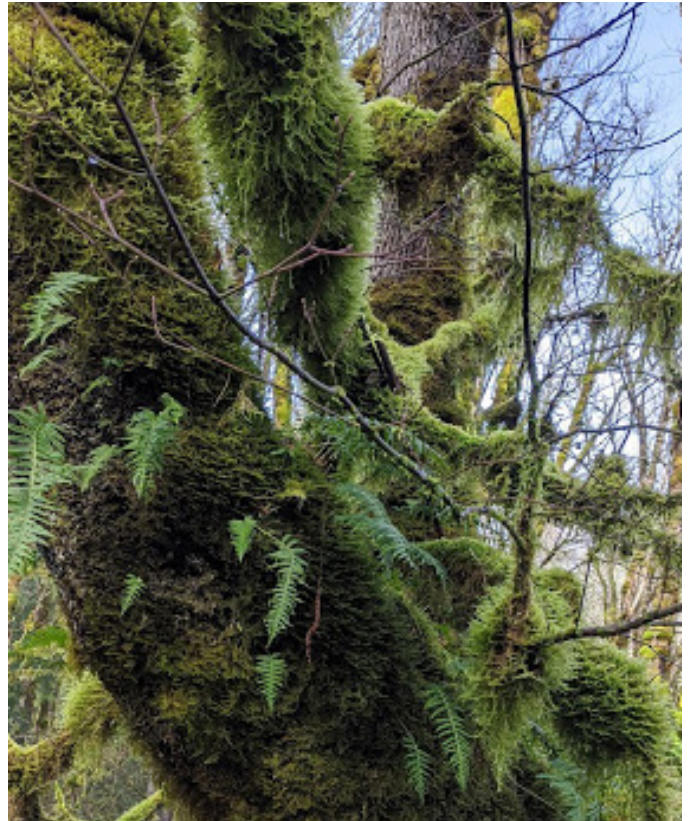


January Hikes (Continued)

**JANUARY 27 – GATHERING MOSSES FOR
MOSS WORKSHOP**



Curly hypnum



The woods are lovely, dark and deep

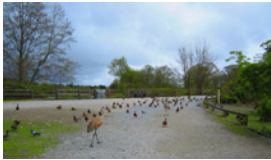


Upcoming Hikes

Sign up online under *Explore, Find Activities* and check exploring nature (or *Activity Listings* button below).

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

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



Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary

FEBRUARY 2 – LINDA MOORE AND ANITA ELDER

George Reifel wildlife preserve. Linda plans and leads wonderful trips. The preserve is great for winter ducks, snow geese and trumpeter swans, and has had recent sightings of goshawk, saw whet owl, peregrine falcon and sandhill cranes.



Birch Bay & Semiahmoo

FEBRUARY 3 – LINDA MOORE

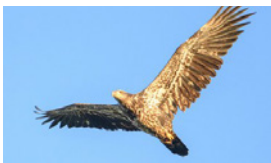
Join Linda Moore for freshwater and marine ducks close to the Canadian border at Birch Bay and Semiahmoo spit. Many fine birds are found there including loons, long tailed ducks, goldeneye, scoters plus shorebirds like oystercatchers and yellowlegs.



Padilla Bay

FEBRUARY 8 – SHELLEY WILLIAMS

Join Shelley Williams along the coast up north at Padilla Bay. Walk along the beach and see a collection of ducks.



Port Angeles & North Olympic Coast

FEBRUARY 9 – TOM BANCROFT

Join Tom Bancroft for a tour of major birding hot spots along the south coast of the Straits of Juan de Fuca. If they are there Tom finds them.



Cougar Mountain Loop

FEBRUARY 9 – LARA LINDE

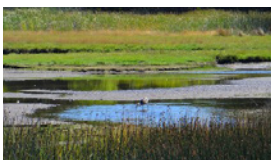
Join Lara Linde on a walk along the trails of Cougar Mountain, seeing large trees, mosses, lichens and forest feeding flocks.



West Whidbey Island

FEBRUARY 13 – STEWART HOUGEN

Join Stewart Hougen on a birding and geology trip with beach walking near Double Bluff (geology site) and nearshore birding opportunities, visiting a birding hotspot at Deer Lagoon.



Edmonds Marsh

FEBRUARY 14 – GORDIE SWARTZMAN

We will bird Edmonds including Edmonds Marsh, the jetty south of the Ferry Terminal and the beach north of it. Many fine seabirds are seen in this area and morning viewing is generally good.

Naturalists Fall-Winter Lecture Series

SEATTLE PROGRAM CENTER, 7 PM

Free to Naturalist Study Group members, public welcome – donation

FEBRUARY 12, 2020 (WED) | PATTI HAPPE

Relocation of Mountain Goats From Olympic National Park

Patti Happe, Wildlife Branch Chief, Olympic National Park, will speak about the relocation of mountain goats from Olympic National Park to the North Cascades. This project is an effort to remove the goats from the Olympics, where they are not native, and reestablish goats in the Cascades, where they once roamed. She previously spoke to The Mountaineers about reestablishment of fisher populations in Olympic National Park (a successful program that has since been expanded to the Cascades).

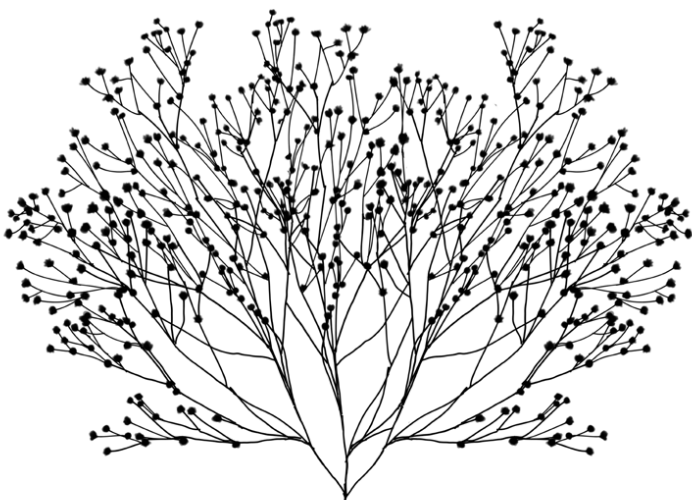
MARCH 11, 2020 (WED) | DAVID GIBLIN

Burke Museum Web Resources and Apps



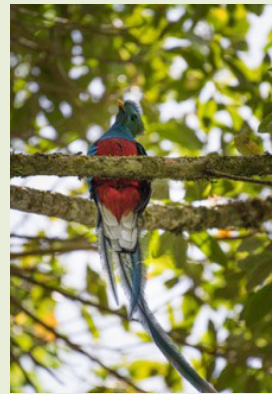
David Giblin, Collections Manager, University of Washington Herbarium, Burke Museum, will give a talk on the various web resources and apps that are available through the

Burke Museum Image Collection and affiliated resources and the many ways amateur naturalists might be able to benefit from these resources

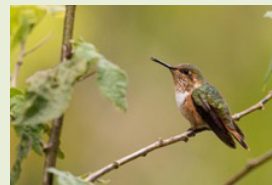


Bird and Hike the Cloud Forests of Western Panama

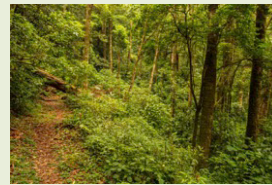
APRIL 15-26, 2020 | THOMAS BANCROFT



Join Thomas Bancroft, a professional ornithologist and naturalist, on an exciting 11-day trip through the cloud forests of Western Panama. The trip is part of the Global Adventures program at the Mountaineers. We should see or hear more than 100 bird species, maybe even 150, and three species of monkeys. Numerous orchids will be blooming, and the epiphyte community is dynamic. The trip will be in late April, a time of transition from the dry season to the wet. The drifting clouds should be marvelous and the forest lush. We likely will experience a few tropical showers.



A local naturalist will take early morning and late afternoon hikes through the forests of the Cordillera de Talamanca. Eight nights will be at a stunning lodge high in the mountains and three in a cabin on a coffee plantation near Volcan. Daily hikes will be 4-6 miles on well-maintained trails with elevation gains of



under 1,000 feet. An optional, more strenuous hike will take us to the top of a volcanic cinder cone covered in lush vegetation and higher elevation species. Around Volcan, we will use vehicles to search natural habitats as well as a shade coffee plantation.

The adventure starts and ends in the airport in David, Panama, where we will meet after our connecting flight from Panama City. This is a naturalist-oriented trip, and the pace will be slow with a focus on finding birds, wildlife, and natural things. The leader will share information on the ecology and geology of the area, and local naturalists will add much about what we see. More information is available at

<https://www.mountaineers.org/activities/activities/global-adventure-bird-and-hike-the-cloud-forests-of-western-panama>

Seattle Youth Clubs at the Mountaineers

The Youth Clubs are building a schedule for the spring and summer. They are hoping that some volunteers from the Naturalist Group would be interested in working with them to bring some learning about the natural world to their effort. They have three age groups: Pioneers (aged 7-9 with parents), Explores (aged 10-13 with parents), and MAC (aged 14 -18).

Tentatively, they are planning a Stewardship Weekend for April 4 & 5 for the Pioneers group and would love to include nature-based lessons and hands on activity that might help children connect with the natural world and begin to learn about it.

If interested please contact Tailor Dolgin, Youth Field Coordinator at the Mountaineers, tailord@mountaineers.org – 206-521-6046

Central Puget Sound Chapter/Washington Native Plant Society Program

Chelsea and Beyond: Looking at Pacific Northwest Plants in Great Britain

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020, 7:00PM, DAVID DOUGLAS

Seattle Program Center, Goodman C, 7700 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle

Refreshments, Public Invited, Admission is free. Donations are appreciated!

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

Many Pacific Northwest plants found a welcome reception in British horticulture when Archibald Menzies, David Douglas, and other plant collectors started transporting them “across the pond.” Sarah will share observations of Northwest species seen during visits to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and travels in England, Scotland, and Wales.

Some of our native plants have become beloved garden subjects in Great Britain—selected and hybridized into numerous cultivars. Some have become invasive, while many of our locally problematic invasives are treasured natives in the hedgerows and fields of the British



countryside. Vanquish any February doldrums with pictures and tales of flowers, gardens, and scones.

Sarah Gage, M.S., M.F.A., past president of WNPS (1995-96), managed the University of Washington Herbarium for thirteen years (1988–2001), co-authoring A Centenary Survey of Plant Life in Washington State, and participating in the International Kuril Island Project (1995–2000). From 2005 to 2019 she worked on biodiversity conservation and salmon recovery at the Recreation and Conservation Office in Olympia. She serves on several WNPS committees: Communications Committee, Editorial Board for Douglasia, Financial Advisory Committee, and Fundraising Committee. She has curated the Botanical Rambles blog for WNPS since the blog began in 2012.

Upcoming Programs:

2-12-20 KEVIN ZOBRIST | CURRENT FOREST AND TREE HEALTH ISSUES IN WESTERN WASHINGTON
Bellevue Botanical Garden, Aaron Education Center

3-5-20 PETER DUNWIDDIE | SAN JUAN ISLAND SURVEY

The Mountaineers, Goodman C

4-2-20 WALTER FERTIG | STALKING THE WILY YETI PHLOX: ADVENTURES IN RARE PLANT HUNTING IN WASHINGTON

The Mountaineers, Goodman C

4-14-20 DONOVAN TRACY | EXPANDING OUR INTEREST IN NATIVE PLANTS THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Bellevue Botanical Garden, Aaron Education Center

5-7-20 PROGRAM TO BE DETERMINED

Center for Urban Horticulture

6-23-20 RAY IZUMI | SNOQUALMIE SEEPS”

Bellevue Botanical Garden, Aaron Education Center

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.)

Poetry

MOTHER EARTH: HER WHALES

By Gary Snyder

An owl winks in the shadows
A lizard lifts on tiptoe, breathing hard
Young male sparrow stretches up his neck,
big head, watching—

The grasses are working in the sun. Turn it green.
Turn it sweet. That we may eat.
Grow our meat.

Brazil says "sovereign use of Natural Resources"
Thirty thousand kinds of unknown plants.
The living actual people of the jungle
sold and tortured—
And a robot in a suit who peddles a delusion
called "Brazil"
can speak for them?

The whales turn and glisten, plunge
and sound and rise again,
Hanging over subtly darkening deeps
Flowing like breathing planets

in the sparkling whorls of
living light—

And Japan quibbles for words on
what kinds of whales they can kill?
A once-great Buddhist nation
dribbles methyl mercury
like gonorrhoea in the sea.

Pere David's Deer, the Elaphure,
Lived in the tule marshes of the Yellow River
Two thousand years ago—and lost its home to rice—
The forests of Lo-yang were logged and all the silt &
Sand flowed down, and gone, by 1200 AD—
Wild Geese hatched out in Siberia
head south over basins of the Yang, the Huang,
what we call "China"
On flyways they have used a million years.
Ah China, where are the tigers, the wild boars, the
monkeys, like the snows of yesteryear
Gone in a mist, a flash, and the dry hard ground
Is parking space for fifty thousand trucks.
Is man most precious of all things?
—then let us love him, and his brothers, all those
Fading living beings—

North America, Turtle Island, taken by invaders
who wage war around the world.
May ants, may abalone, otters, wolves and elk
Rise! and pull away their giving
from the robot nations.

Solidarity. The People.
Standing Tree People!
Flying Bird People!
Swimming Sea People!

Four-legged, two-legged people!
How can the head-heavy power-hungry politic scientist
Government two-world Capitalist-Imperialist
Third-world Communist paper-shuffling male
non-farmer jet-set bureaucrats
Speak for the green of the leaf? Speak for the soil?
(Ah Margaret Mead . . . do you sometimes dream of
Samoa?)

The robots argue how to parcel out our Mother Earth
To last a little longer
like vultures flapping
Belching, gurgling,
near a dying doe.
"In yonder field a slain knight lies—
We'll fly to him and eat his eyes
with a down
derry derry derry down down."

An Owl winks in the shadow
A lizard lifts on tiptoe
breathing hard

Odds & Ends (Continued)

The whales turn and glisten
plunge and
Sound, and rise again
Flowing like breathing planets
In the sparkling whorls
Of living light.

TO THE OREGON ROBIN

by John Burroughs

O varied thrush! O robin strange!
Behold my mute surprise.
Thy form and flight I long have known,
But not this new disguise.

I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD

By William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

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.



To remind us that the sun does shine in Seattle in Winter and that there is beauty in the commonplace. Photo by Grace Winer

Seattle Naturalists Committee Officers and Subcommittee Chairs

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We welcome comments, ideas, information to share, original short articles, and photos. If you have information you'd like to have appear in the newsletter, please send it to Gordie (g.swartzman@gmail.com).