



February 2018

# Naturalists

EXPLORE. LEARN. CONSERVE.

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## In the Native Plant Garden

Fall color is pretty much gone, nothing is blooming, BUT the flowers in summer are there in the buds of winter. Go out and see the buds in our garden. Read the labels and IMAGINE.

## January hikes

### January 13 – Vashon Island Birding Trip

Stuart Hougen let a birding trip to Vashon Island that was one not to be missed. Fun in the sun (in winter no less)!

Photos by Gary Brill:



(continued on next page)

 [Facebook](#)

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Pigeon guillemot



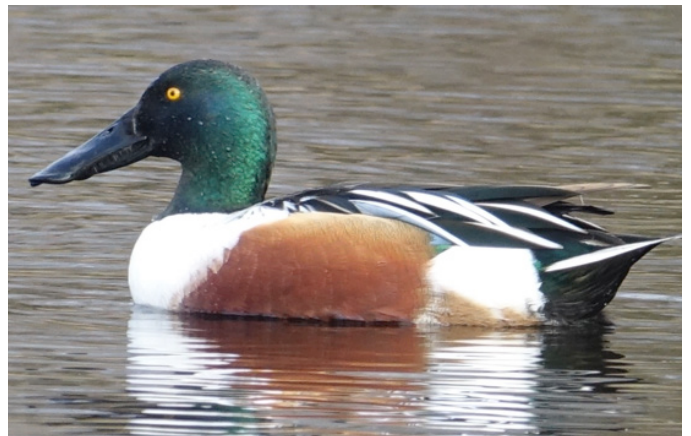
White winged scoters on the wing

## January 20 – Freshwater duck workshop – Vicki King and Sue Yates field trip at Union Bay Natural Area

Photos by Donna Hahn:



Hooded merganser



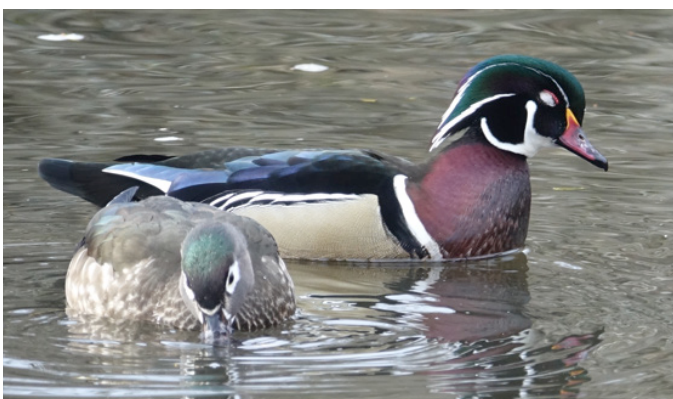
Northern shoveler



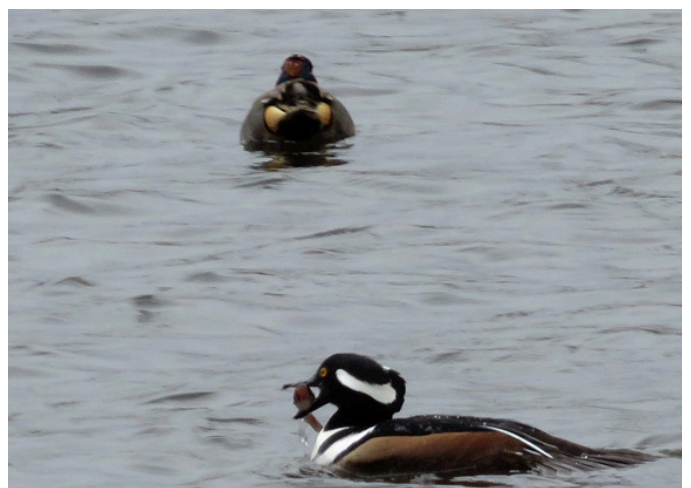
Bufflehead



Northern pintail



Wood ducks showing inner eye membrane (3rd eyelid).



Hooded merganser with fish and green wing teal in background. Took him 5 minutes to get it down (photo by Grace Winer)

## February Field Trips

Sign up online under *Explore, Find Activities and check exploring nature.*

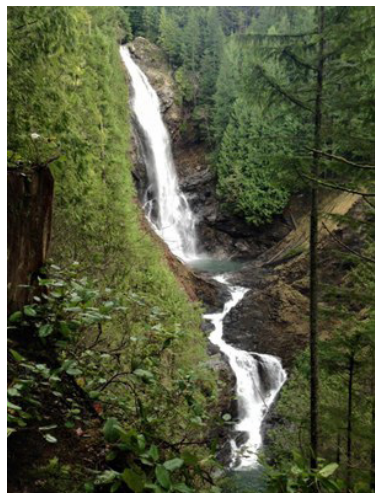


### **Mercer Island Mercerdale Hillside jaunt**

**JANUARY 28 – DANIELLE GRAHAM**

If current weather predictions hold it should rain a lot. However, if Danielle does not cancel, this is a great time to get to know our co-leader. Watch how she makes a rainy day feel sunny.

[Register Here](#)

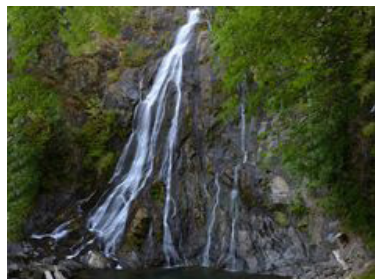


### **Wallace Falls waterfall, river and moss/lichen hike**

**FEBRUARY 10 – GORDIE SWARTZMAN AND STEWART HOUGEN**

We will enjoy winter hiking among the natural world that is resplendent this time of year: namely water and mosses. This extremely popular trail is much less crowded in winter and affords views of the Wallace river, bird life, waterfalls and a wild feel from the hanging mosses and big trees. Pray for rain!

[Register Here](#)



### **Hood Canal Waterfalls hike**

**FEBRUARY 17 – DEE ANN KLINE**

Waterfalls are at their prime. Be prepared to be awed. This hike takes us to 4 waterfalls along Hood Canal. We will start at Falls View in Quilcene ( 1.5 miles/300 ft); proceed to Steam Donkey Trail at Quilcene State Park (3.5 miles/400 feet); and Murhut Falls in Brinnen (1.6 mile/250 ft). We will also view Rocky Brook Falls ( 200 ft off the road).

[Register Here](#)



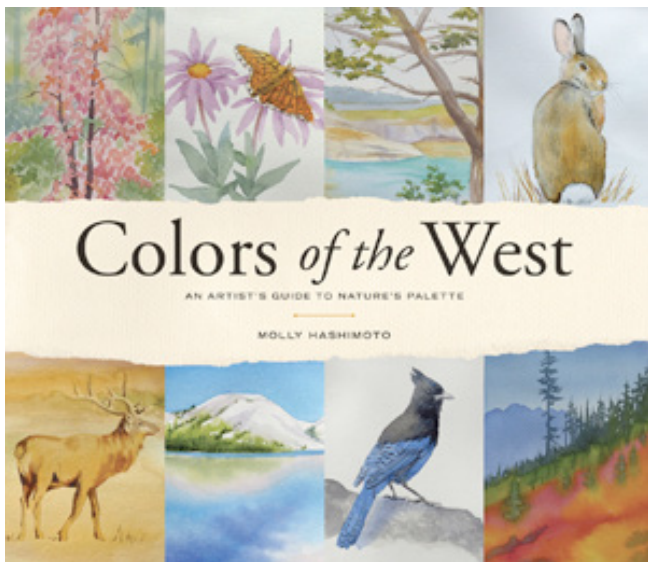
### **Headsup – March Moss ID Hikes: Twin Falls and Lower Big Quilcene**

**MARCH 3 AND MARCH 17 – GARY BRILL**

Save the dates; they will be listed soon.

Gary is passionate about mosses and has worked hard to be able to explain how to distinguish them. He is also a fine photographer of small things and this is an

opportunity to learn some of his methods.



## Colors of the West: Watercolor Sketching with Molly Hashimoto

APRIL 6 WITH A FOLLOW UP FIELD TRIP APRIL 8

Limit of 25 people. For study group members only! Molly is awesome! This is not limited to artists; drawing and sketching is a key to observing.

Learn techniques for painting the natural world of the west. You'll sample easy lightweight materials to bring outdoors, as well as try studio methods for subjects like mountain meadows, conifers, red rock formations and much more. All techniques are featured in Molly's book, *Colors of the West: An Artist's Guide to Nature's Palette*, published by Mountaineers Books.

All supplies are included, but feel free to bring your own if you have them.

**Lecture: April 6, 7-9pm at The Mountaineers**

**Field Trip, April 8,** time and destination to be determined, but we will stay local and in a spot that is easy and quick to reach. (Not a hike)

Limit of 25 participants. Opens for registration to members of the Naturalist Study Group (badge holders) on January 31. \$15 for Mountaineer members, \$25 for non-members. For questions, email Danielle Graham at [pedergraham@gmail.com](mailto:pedergraham@gmail.com)

## Odds and Ends Help Needed in Native Plant Garden

Sandy Bowman could use some help with weeding and caretaking in the Native Plant Garden. If this interests you, please contact her at [s.bowman7@icloud.com](mailto:s.bowman7@icloud.com). Please copy Danielle as well at [pedergraham@gmail.com](mailto:pedergraham@gmail.com) and if there is enough interest, we can organize some work parties.

## Help Needed at Gear Grab FEBRUARY 12

Several times a year the mountaineers have a gear grab where people sell used gear and people come to learn about the mountaineers. Groups set up booths, including the Nats. We have some nice posters, a plant ID contest (with prizes). Gordie will be there and has often been alone. I'd love to have company. If you are interested/willing to be there let me know at [g.swartzman@gmail.com](mailto:g.swartzman@gmail.com). There are even some gear bargains (I got a day pack last time).



Mystery plant for last month. It was identified as alpine collomia by Gary Brill. He will receive his prize in Oslo.

# 2017-18 Naturalists Lecture Series. All are at Seattle Program Center, 7 pm



**WED., FEB. 14, 2018**

Cascade Room

## **BUCKWHEATS AND THE BUTTERFLIES THEY HOST**

David Nunnallee is co-author with David James of the authoritative guide, "Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies." He will focus on the relationship between Washington's perennial buckwheats, which are mandatory larval host plants for many of our smaller butterflies: the blues, hairstreaks and coppers.

Entry is FREE for members of the Naturalist Study Group. All others \$5 at the door.

[Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies | OSU Press](#)

**MORE INFO**

**WED., MARCH 14, 2018**

Clay Antieau on What's the Matter with Worms: our favorite soil engineers have a dark side.

All lectures are 7 p.m. at the Seattle Program Center.

**MORE INFO**



Photos by Anita Elder

## WA Native Plant Society Program

### Witness Tree: What the life of a single, 110-year-old oak tells us about climate change

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 7:00PM, LYNDA MAPES

Mountaineers Program Center, Seattle, Goodman Room

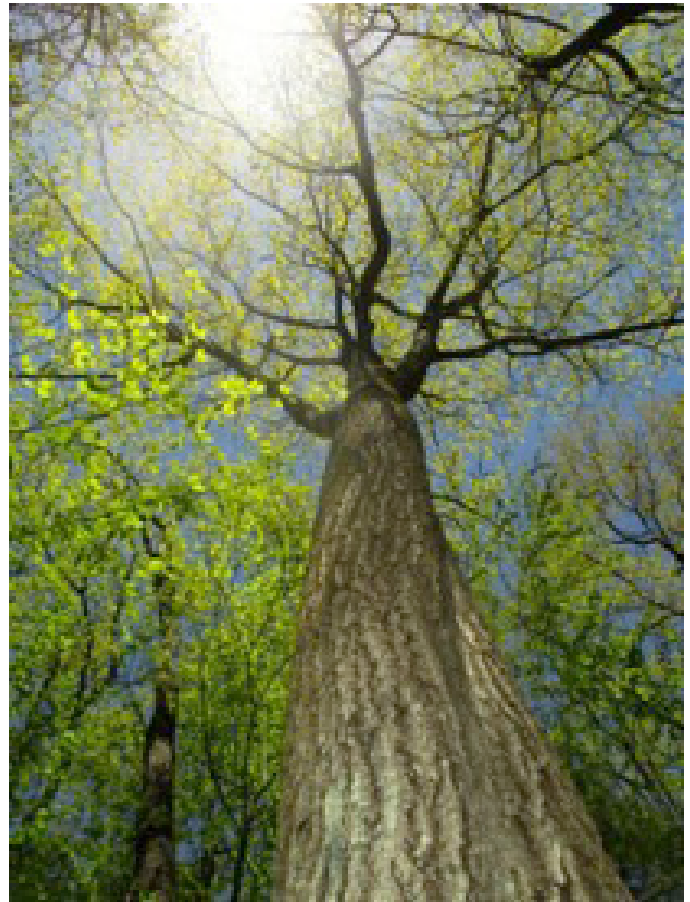
Doors open at 6:00 PM for the Native Plant Identification Workshop

Program begins at 7:00 PM.

Lynda is a newspaper reporter (Seattle Times) and author, an explorer and reveler in the natural world, native plants and species of every sort. She is driven to go deep, look long, stay awhile. Her photos and journalism and books are the result of a lifelong fascination with the natural world and our connection to it. She works from all five senses — and especially, the critical sixth: a sense of wonder.

In 2014-5 Lynda was a Bullard Fellow in Forest Research, living at the Harvard Forest to explore the human and natural history of a single 100-year old oak tree. The result was her recently published book, *WitnessTree*. To quote a recent review: “Lynda V. Mapes adopts a narrower lens but is equally ambitious in *Witness Tree*, which gets at sweeping ideas by looking at one century-old oak tree in Massachusetts. Among many other subjects—forest

regeneration, acorn production, pollen records—Mapes has plenty to say about our early spring(s). ‘Climate change, the trees, streams, and puddles, and birds, bugs, and frogs, attest, is not a matter of opinion or belief,’ she writes. ‘It is an observable fact.’” – New York Times Book Review



### Upcoming Programs

- 2-1-18 Lynda Mapes “Witness Tree: What the life of a single, 110-year old oak, tells us about climate change” (Mountaineers Program Center)
- 2-13-18 Stewart Hougén “Learn to Identify the Common Mosses and Liverworts of Western Washington”  
**PROGRAM FULL**
- Bellevue Botanical Garden/Redmond Watershed (workshop 2/13/18 & field trip 2/17/18) (limit 40 participants for workshop, 30 for field trip, requires registration)
- 3-1-18 Mike Marsh on Kittitas County vegetation studies (Mountaineers Program Center)
- 4-5-18 Daniel Matthews “Early Days of Natural History in the Northwest” (Mountaineers Program Center)
- 4-10-18 Jon Bakker “The Prairies of Western Washington”  
Bellevue Botanical Garden, Aaron Education Center
- 5-3-18 Frederica Bowcutt “The Tanoak: An Environmental History of a Pacific Coast Hardwood”  
Mountaineers, Cascade Room
- 6-12-18 Eric Mader “Native Plants and their Pollinators”  
Bellevue Botanical Garden, Aaron Education Center

## Poetry

### Emmonsail's Heath In Winter

*John Clare*

I love to see the old heath's withered brake  
Mingle its crimped leaves with furze and ling,  
While the old heron from the lonely lake  
Starts slow and flaps its melancholy wing,  
An oddling crow in idle motion swing  
On the half-rotten ash-tree's topmost twig,  
Beside whose trunk the gypsy makes his bed.  
Up flies the bouncing woodcock from the brig  
Where a black quagmire quakes beneath the tread;  
The fieldfares chatter in the whistling thorn  
And for the hawk round fields and closen rove,  
And coy bumarrels, twenty in a drove,  
Flit down the hedgerows in the frozen plain  
And hang on little twigs and start again.

### Winter Solitude

*Matsuo Basho/ Translated by Robert Hass*

Winter solitude – in a world of one color the sound of wind.

### Blue Winter

*Robert Francis*

Winter uses all the blues there are.  
One shade of blue for water, one for ice,  
Another blue for shadows over snow.  
The clear or cloudy sky uses blue twice-  
Both different blues. And hills row after row  
Are colored blue according to how far.  
You know the bluejay's double-blur device  
Shows best when there are no green leaves to show.  
And Sirius is a winter bluegreen star.

### One Flower

*Jack Kerouac, 1922 - 1969*

One flower  
on the cliffside  
Nodding at the canyon.

### Woods In Winter

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

When winter winds are piercing chill,  
And through the hawthorn blows the gale,  
With solemn feet I tread the hill,  
That overbrows the lonely vale.

O'er the bare upland, and away  
Through the long reach of desert woods,  
The embracing sunbeams chastely play,  
And gladden these deep solitudes.

Where, twisted round the barren oak,  
The summer vine in beauty clung,  
And summer winds the stillness broke,  
The crystal icicle is hung.

Where, from their frozen urns, mute springs  
Pour out the river's gradual tide,  
Shrilly the skater's iron rings,  
And voices fill the woodland side.

Alas! how changed from the fair scene,  
When birds sang out their mellow lay,  
And winds were soft, and woods were green,  
And the song ceased not with the day!

But still wild music is abroad,  
Pale, desert woods! within your crowd;  
And gathering winds, in hoarse accord,  
Amid the vocal reeds pipe loud.

Chill airs and wintry winds! my ear  
Has grown familiar with your song;  
I hear it in the opening year,  
I listen, and it cheers me long.

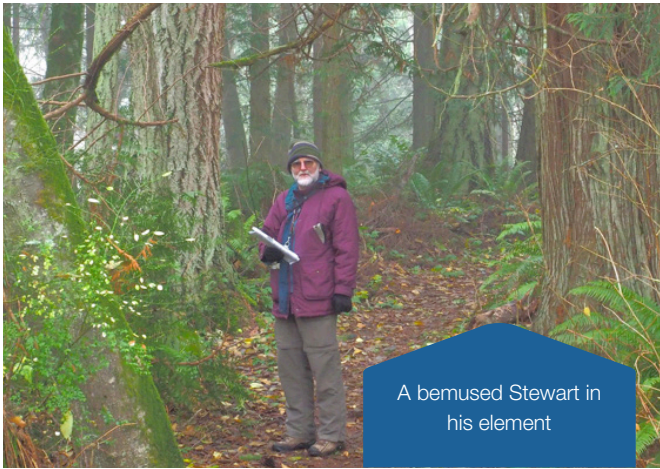


Golden crowned  
sparrow by Grace Winer

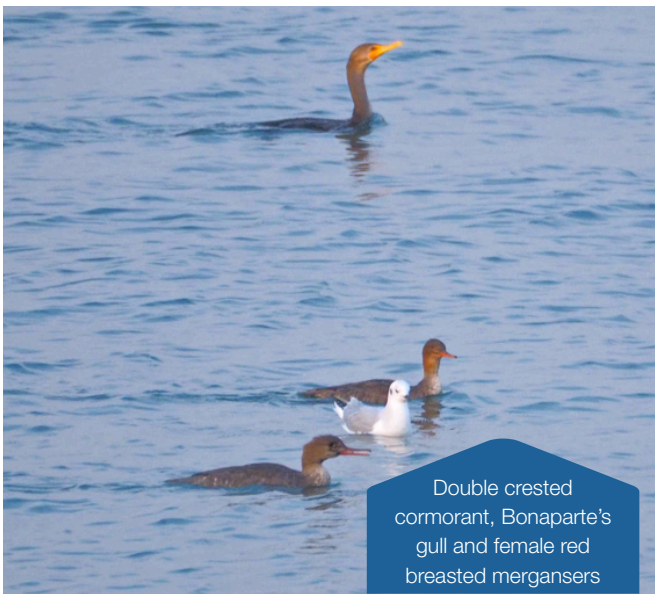


# Photographs

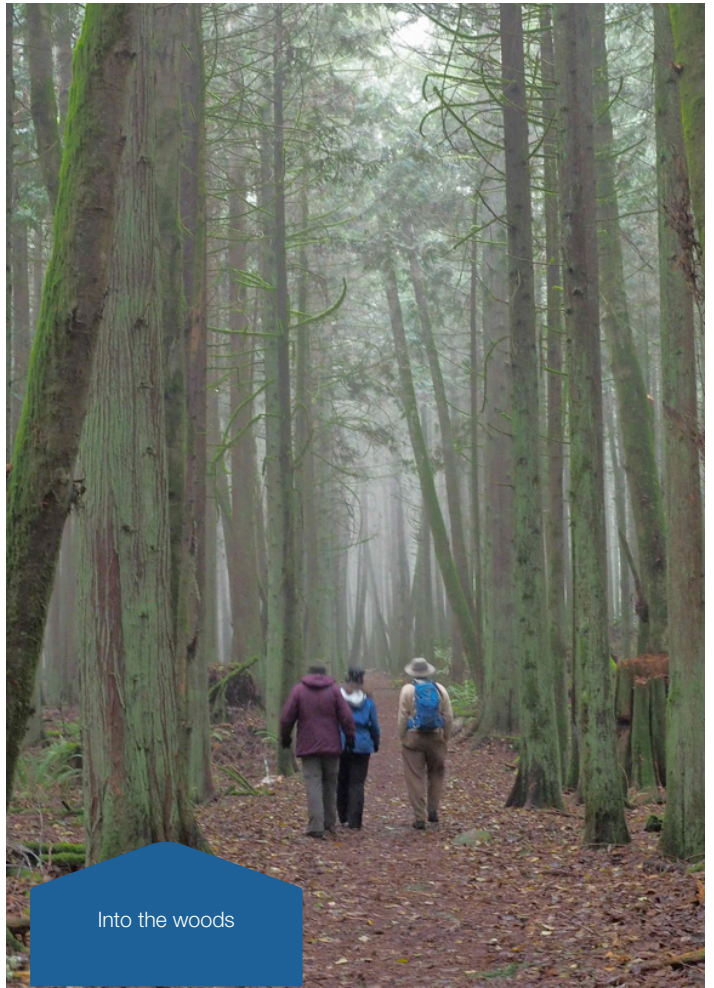
By Photos by Gary Brill from December Hansville Reach Hike



A bemused Stewart in his element



Double crested cormorant, Bonaparte's gull and female red breasted mergansers



Into the woods



MYSTERY PLANT FOR THIS MONTH – PRIZE OFFERED!





## Seattle Naturalists Committee Officers and Subcommittee Chairs

Committee Chair	Gordie Swartzman	<a href="mailto:g.swartzman@gmail.com">g.swartzman@gmail.com</a>
Committee Co-Chair	Danielle Graham	<a href="mailto:pedergraham@gmail.com">pedergraham@gmail.com</a>
Study Group Coordinator	Stewart Hougen	<a href="mailto:sehougen@comcast.net">sehougen@comcast.net</a>
Native Plant Garden Co-Chair	Rob Stevens	<a href="mailto:dlibfrom@yahoo.com">dlibfrom@yahoo.com</a>
Native Plant Garden Co-Chair	Sandy Bowman	<a href="mailto:bowman@seanet.com">bowman@seanet.com</a>
Website Page	Maggie Willson	<a href="mailto:maggienum@yahoo.com">maggienum@yahoo.com</a>

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](mailto:g.swartzman@gmail.com)).

