

One Step at a Time

Newsletter of the Mountaineers Naturalist Group
July 2016

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Photos from our June naturalist hikes



Tronsen Ridge view of Mt. Stuart, sulfur penstemon, Gordon's Ivesia, bitterroot, and tall buckwheat.



Butterfly workshop field trip with David Droppers and Maureen Traxler. Swallowtail and blue butterflies. Umptanum falls.



Alpine smelowskia and alpine wallflower on Mt. Townsend.

In the Garden

The monthly garden list for flowers is back. I have starred flowers that are in particularly beautiful bloom (my opinion) or that I've never seen before in the field (or never heard of before). If you are sitting with your honey with moments to spare and are in a mood for romance, I suggest you visit the species garden. The alpine section, which Rob put in last fall, is in particularly splendid bloom. It's not as good as a hike, but you will avoid the traffic going in and out of town.

The list: columbia columbine, *large boykinia, *Richardson's penstemon, douglas spirea (hardhack), pearly everlasting, fireweed, showy fleabane, oregon sunshine, ocean spray, osier dogwood, cooley's hedge nettle, yellow monkey flower, *stream orchid (See these now!), henderson's checker mallow, snowberry, *meadow arnica, *halfshrub rockmat, cascade penstemon, *foamflower, coast strawberry, siberian miner's lettuce, bleeding heart, wood sorrel, yarrow, *skyrocket, northern (small flowered) anemone, *mountain monardella (blew me and the bees away), yellow penstemon, golden fleabane.



Alpine garden and stream orchid in our species garden

July Field Trips for Mountaineers' Naturalists

With the onset of the summer, the continued rainy periods and the periods of warmth the flower season in the mountains is shaping up to be spectacular. While there are few hikes listed for July at the time of this newsletter I suggest you check the listings frequently because hikes are likely to fill up fast. One listing on the books is given below:

Day Hike - Crystal Peak (Mount Rainier)

Exploring Nature Trip

This is a Naturalists hike and the pace will be moderate, but will have a

Difficulty: Strenuous

Tue, Jul 19, 2016

No Prerequisites

another hike to be listed soon will be to Klahanie Ridge in the Olympics, a strenuous flower-ganza.

Audubon Society Field Trips

Saturday, July 2, 2016 – Limit 11

South Cle Elum Ridge

Leader: Lee Barnes (206-310-0552, day of trip only)

6:00 AM, uncovered Tibbetts Lot (1675 Newport Way NW), across from Issaquah P&R

South Cle Elum Ridge includes numerous habitats and the largest breeding bird diversity for Washington. Over 100 bird species were confirmed or possible breeders in this section. We'll search wetlands around Cle Elum for swallows, warblers, and Wood Ducks. Check the feeders in town for Rufous, Black-chinned and Calliope Hummingbirds, as well as Cassin's and House Finches. Then we'll proceed up along Taneum Creek to the forests above I-90. Everything from Veeries and Canyon Wrens to Williamson's Sapsuckers and Evening Grosbeaks have been observed on this leg of the journey. Finally a great view of the Cle Elum Valley and North Cascades from the high point of our trip. The high country part of the trip depends on the snow conditions and may have to be abandoned if snow-covered roads are encountered. Bring lunch. We'll return between 5-6 PM. Scopes and cameras welcome. The wildflower bloom should be starting. Carpool cost \$45 shared equally by passengers. Bring Forest Service Trailhead Pass or National Parks Pass, if you have one.

Sunday, July 10, 2016 – Limit 11

Camano Island

Leader: Jean Trent (206-251-1191, day of trip only)

6:30 AM, Green Lake (Ravenna) Park and Ride

We will spend the day exploring Camano Island's shoreline and saltwater marshes for seabirds, shorebirds, and the riparian and wooded areas for passerines and raptors. Specific areas include Livingston Bay and Iverson Spit. Short distances walking. Bring comfortable shoes, lunch and liquids. We will aim to head back to Seattle by 3 PM. Carpool cost \$38 shared by riders.

Saturday, July 16 2016 – Limit 7 (2 cars)

Hurricane Ridge and Port Angeles

Leader: Jean Olson (360-220-5735, day of trip only)

6:00 AM, Green Lake (Ravenna) Park and Ride

Come celebrate the National Park Service's 100th Birthday by visiting Hurricane Ridge. The high Olympics offer beautiful wildflowers in summer, alpine birds, and mammals. We will bird the high country looking for Horned Lark, Townsend's Solitaire, American Pipit, Sooty Grouse and whatever else we can find. We will also bird some of the lowland forest around the Park. There will be some hiking, so bring sturdy shoes or hiking boots and appropriate clothing. Also, bring lunch, water and a backpack for the hiking portion. Cost is \$50 shared equally by the riders, plus the ferry. We will also need 1 National Park Pass. Trip will be over in early evening.

Sunday, July 17, 2016 – Limit 8

Montlake Fill (Union Bay Natural Area)

Leaders: Evan Houston and Jen Kunitsugu (206-327-5352, day of trip only)

7:00 AM, Center for Urban Horticulture east parking lot by the Douglas building and greenhouse – exact location (type into Google Maps) is here: 47.6581, -122.2887

This trip to an urban oasis is for birders of all skill levels. We will focus on using not only sight but also sound to identify and observe as many bird species as possible; should be at least 40! At this time of the year, the Fill offers a variety of breeding birds and cute fledglings including swallows and native sparrows, early migrants such as a shorebird or two, and often a nice surprise as well. Expect to walk up to 3 leisurely paced miles on level but muddy ground. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Please note that facilities will likely not be available on-site, but you can first stop by the QFC at nearby University Village. Scopes welcome if you're willing to tote it (leaders will have them). Over by 11:00am.

Saturday, July 23, 2016 – Limit 11 in 3 cars

Grays Harbor Area - Early Migrating Shorebirds

Leader: Tim Boyer (206-730-6925, day of trip only)

6:00 AM, Green Lake (Ravenna) Park and Ride

We'll concentrate on the shorebirds we find on the northern side of Grays Harbor spending the day at multiple locations in Ocean Shores. This will allow for a more leisurely approach and we'll spend some extra time at each location. During low tides in the morning we'll be on the outer beaches and North Jetty. During the afternoon at high tide, we'll go inland to search for roosting shorebirds and hope to find an early fall rarity. Scopes will be helpful. Dress in layers for the weather and bring lunch, snacks and fluids. Drivers will need a Discover Pass. We'll be back around 6:30 PM. Carpool cost \$75 shared by riders.

Friday, July 29, 2016 – Limit 8

Lincoln Park (West Seattle)

Leader: Jen McKeirnan

7:30 AM, south parking lot, located at Fautleroy Way SW & SW Cloverdale St.

Lincoln Park was recently described as one of Seattle's premier urban birding sites! Due to its varied habitats, it hosts a diverse group of bird species, with sections of old growth forest, meadow, rocky and sandy shorelines. Bring binoculars, and a scope if you own one. Restrooms will be available. Over by 10 AM.

Introduction to the Natural World Class

The class is now nearing completion! Thanks to all who have taught, facilitated operations or helped with field trip leadership. Several of you study group members have attended. You in the study group are all welcome to attend *free of charge*, though we ask you to sit in the back (its close enough to see). Several have asked how to access the class web page (to get the dates), since it is not available under find courses. We've added a hot link (underlined and in blue) on the study group webpage. Go to My Courses under your name after you login. Click on Study Group and the webpage should come up. The link is in the paragraph about the course (you may have to scroll down or click Read More) to get to it. We've generally not had study group members on the field trips, since we try to keep the numbers down on each trip and we do have 60 people in the class this year. If you want to go on the field trips you can do it as a co-leader in some cases. This means you need to help out. Contact Bruce Barcklow if you are interested. Another option is to ask Bruce if there are any reconnaissance trips for the field trips (where we go out to check things out before a trip). It may be possible to get into these trips. Again Bruce is the contact person.

The final field trips for the class to Mt. Rainer destinations will begin the weekend on July 23-24.

Volunteers from the study group to lead or co-lead are always welcome. Let Bruce Barcklow or me know if you are interested.

Earth Justice – (Bringing issues to your attention)

This from Gary Brill:

This looks like a bad, precedent setting bill whose main goal is to open up logging in the National Forests.

Gary

[CALL NOW! Stop a harmful logging bill before July 15](#)

Call the toll free number 1-855-712-7845, which will connect you to the Capitol switchboard and ask to be connected to your Senator Cantwell. You will then be connected to her office, where you can leave a message with the front desk.

A harmful logging bill that threatens our federal forest land is expected to be finalized soon.

[Call Senator Cantwell and urge her to stop this draft bill from moving forward!](#)

Dear Gary,

[Will you stand with us to protect our federal forest land and natural heritage for future generations by opposing this legislative proposal?](#)

The Senate is going on summer recess in two weeks, so we don't have much time to ask Senator Cantwell to oppose a damaging forest bill that is being considered by her committee.

[Call Senator Cantwell today and urge her to stop this bill.](#)

Senator Cantwell is the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which is considering a draft bill called the Wildfire Budgeting, Response, and Forest Management Act. Just last week the committee held a hearing on this bill and is expected to finalize it in the coming weeks.

Not only does the draft proposal wholly fail to fix the Forest Service's budget problems due to the growing costs of fighting wildfires, it contains a number of poison-pill anti-environmental provisions that would authorize harmful logging activities across our entire federal forest land system.

The draft bill threatens to undermine essential safeguards that help protect sensitive roadless and old-growth forest areas, while also reducing public participation and analysis that is vital to the vetting of potentially damaging forest activities.

The proposal also includes a provision that could perpetuate harmful old-growth logging on Alaska's Tongass National Forest, one of our nation's crown jewels, by attempting to delay indefinitely a much-needed plan to transition the Tongass out of old-growth logging and toward a more economically and environmentally sustainable future.

[Make your voice heard: Call Senator Cantwell today to urge her to reject this harmful forest bill and instead work toward a clean fix to the Forest Service's fire budget—one that doesn't include poison-pill provisions that promote ill-conceived logging by weakening critical environmental safeguards.](#)

Odds and ends

Nature

BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Re
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Leads by the hand her little child to bed,
a
t
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d
By promises of others in their stead,
o
So Nature deals with us, and takes away
n
Ceads us to rest so gently, that we go
o
n
t
e
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t
How far the unknown transcends the what we know.

324 by Emily Dickinson

Dome keep the Sabbath going to Church—
e
t
a
i
Iome keep the Sabbath in Surplice—
s
And instead of tolling the Bell, for Church,
Our little Sexton—sings.

God preaches, a noted Clergyman—
And the sermon is never long,
So instead of getting to Heaven, at last—
I'm going, all along.

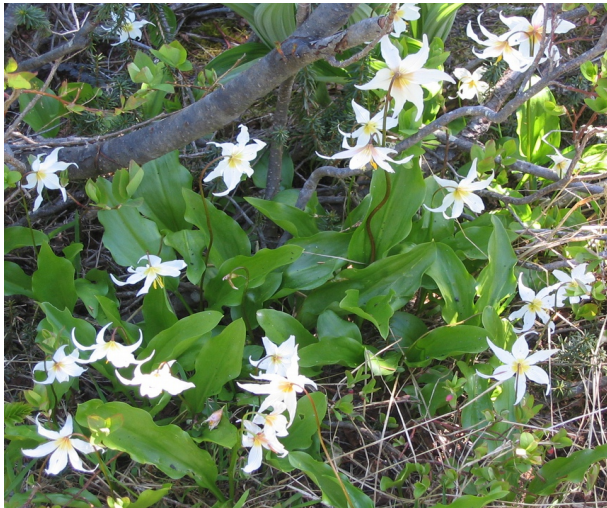


Challenge flowers from Gary Brill (“It’s rare until proven common”)

1. found of top of Mt. Townsend in Olympics (6200') and also at 4500' in a well trained meadow in Olympics
2. Found on Iron Bear near Blewit Pass on Teanaway Ridge.

If you know these flowers let me know. You may get a prize (or maybe not).

Pictures galore



Avalanche lilies at picture lake by Lorabeth Lawson. Mystery plants from Kathy Buck on Hurricane Hill near Hurricane Ridge, Olympics.



Surprise Lake hike images from Lisa Ni



Damselfly from Karen Johnston (pictures of butterfly field trip above also by Karen)