



July 2018

# Naturalists

EXPLORE. LEARN. CONSERVE.

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## In the Native Plant Garden

Oh Summer! Spring plants have largely come and gone and now the garden is aglow with summer bloomers, including boykinia, buckwheat, ocean spray, mock orange, columbine, cooley's hedge nettle, various asters and fleabane daisies, shrubby cinquefoil, foamflower and harebell. On a hot day the garden offers shade and solace that there is a natural world out there. Try it, you'll like it



Alpine daisy, fleabane and shrubby cinquefoil, nestled around cactus



Columbine and mock orange



Mountain boykinia

 [Facebook](#)

 [Flickr](#)



# June Hikes

EASTON RIDGE – JUNE 2



Top of the ridge to you!



Polypoid fern

KACHESS RIDGE – JUNE 9



Chocolate lily



Looking up at the steep way to go





Brill of the hill



5 minutes ago it was snowing



Shocking pink cliff penstemon



Wenatchee lomatium



Dancing paintbrush

### IRON BEAR – JUNE 10

This trip featured weather diversity, including, sun, rain, cold wind, warm calm, broken clouds, squalls, hail and snow. At the top the snow, for about 5 minutes, was ‘falling’ up, blowing up from the valley below. Clothing changes were frequent, but spirits remained high.

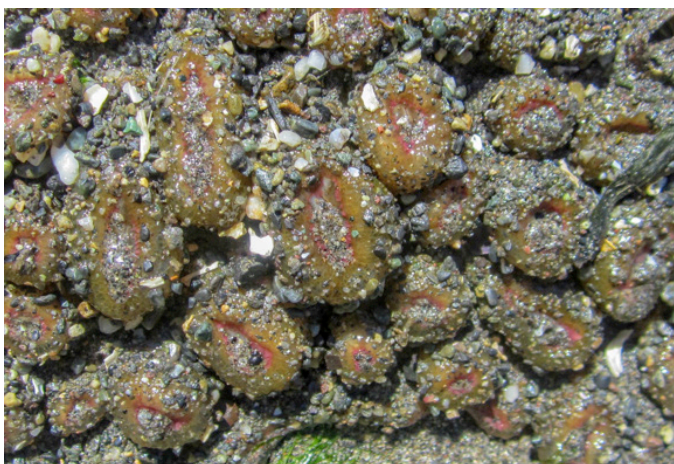


**CLAYTON BEACH – JUNE 16**

Stewart Hougen led a trip during a -3 tide.



On the beach



Anemones



Chiton

# SPECIAL ACTIVITY WEEKEND



**NOTE: HIKING WEEKEND AT MT. BAKER WITH STAY AT MT. BAKER LODGE AUGUST 10-12**

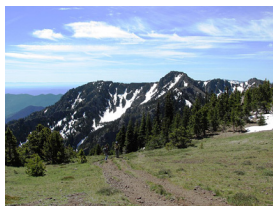
This is to give you a heads up that we will be offering (at least) 3 hikes on consecutive days in the Mt. Baker area, which we suggest you sign up for and ALSO sign up to stay at the Mt. Baker lodge for all or part of the weekend. There is also a stargazing event on Friday night led by Rich Lawrence at the lodge (no signup for that necessary). You can sign up to stay at the lodge online and pay in advance. I think it is \$80 for both nights per person and includes dinners and breakfasts. Lodge digs are communal but civilized and the food is generally healthy and plentiful. The photography group is also planning to stay the weekend and has events available. This is a great opportunity to share our love of the outdoors together and develop an enhanced sense of connection.

[Reserve Your Bed](#)

## 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.

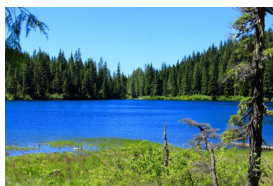


### Mount Townsend

**JULY 6 - CAROLYN APPLETON**

Eastmost of the high Olympics Mt. Townsend features wildflowers in three life zones and incredible views from the top. Join Carolyn Appleton on this Olympics gem.

[Register Here](#)



### Talapus Lake, Mason Lake, Ira Spring Loop

**JULY 4 - GORDIE SWARTZMAN & DONNA HAHN**

Combining two classic alpine lakes wilderness hikes in one fell swoop and adding a less traveled link between them we will visit 4 or 5 alpine lakes, and amble along the side of Bandera mountain. Join Donna Hahn and Gordie on this loop hike.

[Register Here](#)



### Naches Peak Loop

**JULY 21 - DEE ANN KLINE**

See it early before the crowds descend. This is led by the Olympia group.

[Register Here](#)

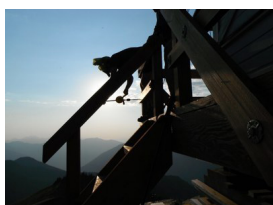


### Minam Lake

**JUNE 21-23 - LINDA MOORE**

Linda plans her trips well and always delivers a wild experience.

[Register Here](#)



### Green Mountain

**JULY 26 - STEWART HOUGEN & GORDIE SWARTZMAN**

From trail start to the lookout on top Green mountain is wild and wonderful. Views of Glacier peak begin soon and last throughout as the panorama widens. The trail switchbacks through swaths of wildflowers and the top has alpine flowers.

[Register Here](#)



### Summerland

**AUGUST 2 - GORDIE SWARTZMAN**

A more strenuous hike to a lovely subalpine meadow through woods and flowers and along streams. Then, we will likely head up into what looks like the moon, toward (but probably not to) panhandle gap and alpine flowers galore. Good chance for goat and bear sightings.

[Register Here](#)



### Deception Pass State Park Trails

**AUGUST 4- ANITA ELDER**

We'll take a leisurely walk along the Lighthouse Point Trail. After lunch, we'll then head to Rosario Point Trail for more photo ops.

[Register Here](#)



## Upcoming Hikes

(Continued)

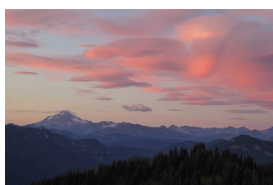


### Ebey's Landing

**AUGUST 5, 2018**

We will first walk along the bluff trail (heading north), before descending on the beach and walking back (south) along that trail, taking photos as we go.

[Register Here](#)



### Scorpion Mountain

**AUGUST 8 - STEWART HOUGEN & GORDIE SWARTZMAN**

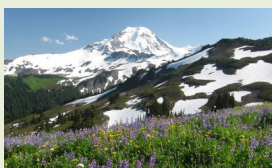
A longish hike north of US 2 with unusual wildflowers, good views and noble fir. Led by Stewart and Gordie

[Register Here](#)

## MOUNT BAKER AREA HIKES

Do them all and stay at the lodge

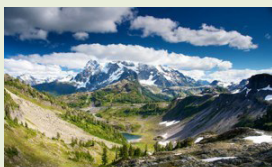
[Reserve Your Bed](#)



### SKYLINE DIVIDE – AUGUST 10

Switchback through forest to the divide and roam through views and wildflower meadows as far as the eye can see.

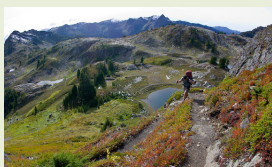
[Register Here](#)



### CHAIN LAKES LOOP MT. BAKER – AUGUST 11

Close to the Mt. Baker lodge this hike traverses several enticing lakes with wildflower meadows, views and scree. Can be done as a loop or as a shorter hike. Starts high and stays high.

[Register Here](#)



### YELLOW ASTER BUTTE – AUGUST 12

Full of flowers all the way up, with tarns, meadows and views.

[Register Here](#)



## Odds & Ends

### Introduction to the Natural World class 2018

by Gordie Swartzman

We are now just over half way into the class. Many thanks to all the volunteers from our group who have helped with lectures, field trips, greeting and setting up, and audiovisual. Thanks as well to the many students who have come (yea flocked) to sign up and participate this year and over the years. I have been involved with the class for over 8 years, in various capacities and I am grateful for all the positive energy engendered with this course. I am also grateful for the help offered by various members over the years. We have a multi-talented group who share a passion for nature and a love for the out of doors. I can think of no better basis for connection between us.

In some ways the course is the life blood for the naturalist group because it provides us with new members to sustain our activities as well as new skills that allow us to both stay current and provide a variety of activity options. This year, for example, Grace Winer and Tom Bancroft, both who were in the class last year, stepped in and have given us benefit of their skills, Grace as a geologist (she gave the last class Geology lecture and I've heard so much positive feedback about it) and Tom, who has become a trip leader, has lectured in the class, written articles for the newsletter and coordinated the field trips for the class this year. Danielle Graham, who took the course two years ago, has stepped in as co-chair of the Nats and has spearheaded children's activities, become a nats leader, lectured in the class and took a major role in running the class. What gifts!

The course also serves as outreach for our group, bringing it to the attention of new members of the mountaineers and well as friends of study group members. Not surprisingly, the bulk of our class membership comes by word of mouth from nats and from mountaineer's staff. Too, I've run into many past class students, who, even if they did not graduate, speak glowingly of their class experience and share their follow-up nature focus with me.

Despite its success, the class is run by a very small fraction of our the Nats. We've always tried to diversify our leadership, and I want all to know that if you stepped up and decided to become more active, as a trip leader, organizer, gardener (in the native plant garden), writer, poster of photos and events on our Facebook page, or frequent trip participant, you would help expand the horizons of our group.

If the course is the lifeblood of our group the activities and workshops are the heart of it and outreach is our voice. It is one thing to get new members and another to sustain them. Sustenance requires feeding, with a healthy and diverse set of hikes, with workshop opportunities, and with speakers who add to our knowledge base and inspire us. As leader of the naturalist group I have aspired to encourage others to grow, with their outdoor knowledge, with finding like minded buddies for nature study, with activities for children and families, with exploration of complementary skills such as use of apps and web pages, photography, sketching in nature, and as aides in research. I think we have, through our intro class, the quality and number of our trips, and our workshops and lectures, laid the basis for a healthy, sustainable organization. Our challenge is to keep our members involved and growing through providing opportunities for this growth..

### 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.)

### Mystery Flower



## Poetry

### SUMMER HAIBUN

*Aimee Nezhukumatathil*

To everything, there is a season of parrots. Instead of feathers, we searched the sky for meteors on our last night. Salamanders use the stars to find their way home. Who knew they could see that far, fix the tiny beads of their eyes on distant arrangements of lights so as to return to wet and wild nests? Our heads tilt up and up and we are careful to never look at each other. You were born on a day of peaches splitting from so much rain and the slick smell of fresh tar and asphalt pushed over a cracked parking lot. You were strong enough—even as a baby—to clutch a fistful of thistle and the sun himself was proud to light up your teeth when they first swelled and pushed up from your gums. And this is how I will always remember you when we are covered up again: by the pale mica flecks on your shoulders. Some thrown there from your own smile. Some from my own teeth. There are not enough jam jars to can this summer sky at night. I want to spread those little meteors on a hunk of still-warm bread this winter. Any trace left on the knife will make a kitchen sink like that evening air the cool night before star showers: so sticky so warm so full of light.

### THREE DEER ONE COYOTE RUNNING IN THE SNOW

*Gary Snyder*

First three deer bounding  
and then coyote streaks right after  
tail flat out

I stand dumb a while two seconds  
blankly black-and-white of trees and snow

Coyote's back!  
good coat, fluffy tail,  
sees me: quickly gone.

Later:  
I walk through where they ran  
to study how that news all got put down.

### MID-AUGUST AT SOURDOUGH MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

*Gary Snyder*

Down valley a smoke haze  
Three days heat, after five days rain  
Pitch glows on the fir-cones Across rocks and meadows  
Swarms of new flies.

I cannot remember things I once read  
A few friends, but they are in cities.  
Drinking cold snow-water from a tin cup  
Looking down for miles  
Through high still air.

### ON WHAT PLANET

*By Kenneth Rexroth*

Uniformly over the whole countryside  
The warm air flows imperceptibly seaward;  
The autumn haze drifts in deep bands  
Over the pale water;  
White egrets stand in the blue marshes;  
Tamalpais, Diablo, St. Helena  
Float in the air.  
Climbing on the cliffs of Hunter's Hill  
We look out over fifty miles of sinuous  
Interpenetration of mountains and sea.

Leading up a twisted chimney,  
Just as my eyes rise to the level  
Of a small cave, two white owls  
Fly out, silent, close to my face.  
They hover, confused in the sunlight,  
And disappear into the recesses of the cliff.

All day I have been watching a new climber,  
A young girl with ash blonde hair  
And gentle confident eyes.  
She climbs slowly, precisely,  
With unwasted grace.

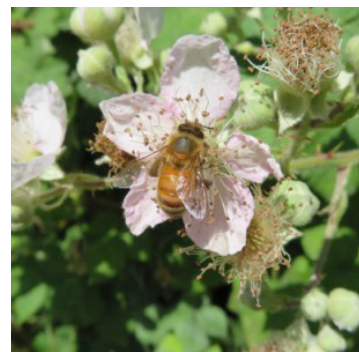
While I am coiling the ropes,  
Watching the spectacular sunset,  
She turns to me and says, quietly,  
"It must be very beautiful, the sunset,  
On Saturn, with the rings and all the moons."

### THE BUMBLE BEE

*Grace Sherwood Winer*

I've been distracted by a bee,  
This bee that's come to live with me.

I built a house to tempt a wren,  
But now this big bee's moved right in.  
She stuffed the entryway with moss,  
I guess to show the wren who's boss.  
And now throughout the daylight hours,  
She visits all my garden flowers.  
'Til loaded down with pollen gold,  
All her little legs can hold.  
Then back into her cozy nest,  
Living here is just the best!  
When will I see my  
displaced wren?  
Perhaps when spring  
comes 'round again.





# Photographs

THE EYE OF BETSY BERTIAUX



Tiger Lily



Lyell's mariposa lily



Taper tip onion



Spotted coralroot orchid





Wild poppies in rural Portugal by Anita Elder

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