

One Step at a Time

Newsletter of the Mountaineers Naturalist Group
June 2017

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Photos from our May naturalist hikes

Whiskey Dick Mountain – May 6



a) Barrel cactus, b) hooker's balsamroot, c) on top, d) the feel of the place.

May 13 – Black Canyon



a) Amazing field of shooting stars b) snow in May and we were prepared



c) glorious Black canyon.

In the Garden – What's happening in our Native plant garden?

This past month has seen major changes in our garden. Every day it seems new plants are in bloom and as they inevitably pass through their blooming cycle. June is a good month, given our warmer weather, to go down to the garden for a picnic, learn a few plants (many are labelled) and enjoy the shady parts.

Especially of note are the two alpine areas (which should not be stepped on). Many small seedlings are coming in here and we are eager to see what kind of regeneration we get. This past month (May 20-21) we had the stewardship activity for the Intro class down at the garden. This activity was designed to help students use plant keys and magnifying loupes to identify plants, at least to the family level. Students worked in groups and had some exercises. It is always gratifying to see how plant id skills are developed through a combination of observation, learning terminology and plant anatomy and discussing what the keys are actually telling you to look for (ie what does a fused petal look like). There was also a weeding piece to this and we had many eager helpers weeding the slopes so many smaller trees, previously inundated, are now visible. The garden is largely maintained as a natural space and so we don't do active pruning, deadheading and the like. However, it is maintained and this requires a good amount of weeding and watering. We do have work parties to do this and anyone interested in helping out on a regular basis in the garden (sorely needed) should contact Sandy Bowman s.bowman7@icloud.com.

June Field Trips for Mountaineers' Naturalists

Our Introduction to the Natural World Class has started (first class was April 10) and many of us are involved leading class field trips around town. Since this is the largest class we've had in my memory (90) we offered 11 field trips for the first round (astounding!). We have also offered 11 birding-oriented field trips in May (many thanks to study group members who helped out). There was also a stewardship weekend at the native species garden May 20-21, where class students had practice using keys to identify flowering plants to the family level. We have planned our class field trips to the Wenatchee Mountains area for June 17 (Iron Bear) and the weekend of June 24-25 (Teaway area). Given the heavy snow in the mountains this spring there is a possibility that the Teaway trips will have to be farther east (like Iron Bear, Tronsen Ridge or near Blewitt Pass). Once again we are asking for help with leading and co-leading these trips. A request will come out soon, but if you know you are interested please contact Bruce Barcklow bbarcklow@gmail.com.

JUNE FIELD TRIPS – NOTE: Registration opens 2 weeks before hikes to a) avoid high cancellation rates b) discourage people from signing up on trips that appear full long in advance and c) giving you a heads up so you can sign up early and get on trips you want to do.

June 14, Stewart and Gordie lead a trip to Easton Ridge with a mix of eastside and westside flowers, The heavy snows in the mountains this year have made this annual 'pilgrimage' later than usual. The trip has been popular in the past and registration opens June 1.

June 27 – Kachess Ridge. Stewart will lead this trip. Kachess ridge is right next to Easton ridge, but is higher and offers different flowers as well as fine views of Mt. Rainier from the beacon on the ridge top. Registration opens June 12

June 28 – Tronsen ridge – In the east Wenatchee Mountains Tronsen ridge has wonderful views and wildflowers including the rare Wenatchee valerian and Wenatchee mountain lomatium, plus lots of Tweedy's lewisia and Columbia clematis. Gordie and Stewart are leading.

JUNE Naturalist Youth Program trips:

The “Nats” are exploring options for youth programming. This summer, we’ll be leading Mountaineers’ summer campers, aged 6-10, around Magnuson Park on 2 dates. We’ll highlight ecosystems, wetlands, native plants, birds, and edible plants. There will be about 12 campers in each group, and we will be accompanied by camp counselors on a 30-60 minute walk.

We will be meeting at the Program Center at 10:00 on June 15th to plan our walking route. Please feel free to join us if you’d like to help create the curriculum. Sign up here so we know who to expect: <https://www.mountaineers.org/explore/activities/urban-adventure-mountaineers-seattle-program-center-12>

We’ll be leading the campers on June 29th and July 20th, starting at 10:00 and going to early afternoon, giving 2-3 tours, most likely. Please let me know if you’d like to lead or co-lead a group on one or both of those dates. pedergraham@gmail.com

Finally, our Youth Committee (so far, Stewart, Peg, Gordie, and me) would love to have your help if you are interested, have ideas, want to join us, etc.

Danielle Graham

JULY TRIPS

As mountain areas open up we are adding July trips there. We have trips planned to Mount Townsend, Melakwa Lake and Mineral Gulch, Ira Spring Trail and Clayton Beach in July.

Winter Lecture Series

Winter seems a long ways away, but we already have this coming year's lecture series set up. Here is the schedule (Mark you calendars if you do that kind of thing).

Nov. 8: Joe Sweeney on Seabirds of Puget Sound — what birds you will see, when and where to see them. This is a lighter version of a lecture he gave this year for Audubon.

Jan. 10: Jon Riedel, Geologist at North Cascades National Park, on the Status of Glaciers in

Washington's National Parks, a report on his glacier studies over the past 20 years.

Feb. 14: Dave Nunnallee on Butterflies and Buckwheats — which butterflies use these plants and why.

March 14: Clay Antieau on What's the Matter with Worms — turns out our favorite soil engineers have a dark side.

Request for leaders for class trip to Wenatchee Mountains (Teanaway)

We've scheduled field trips for June 17 (Iron Bear) and June 24-25 to Teanaway area for the class. We are requesting volunteers from the study group to co-lead some of these trips. There may be multiple destination and (due to high water and road closures) we may need other destinations besides the usual Esmerelda, and Bean Creek. This is a chance to both see a lovely area, hone your identification skills and share what you are learning in the study group.

Washington Native Plant Society

Central Puget Sound Chapter

Washington Native Plant Society
June 1, 2017

Mountaineer Program Center at Magnuson Park

“Revising the ‘Flora of the Pacific Northwest’-What did we Learn and What’s Next” by David Giblin



The “Flora of the Pacific Northwest” is the authoritative field identification manual for the region’s vascular plants. First published in 1973, under the leadership of C. Leo Hitchcock and Arthur Cronquist, this widely-used resource has become out of date due to the discovery of new species, the arrival of new weeds, and advances over the past 40 years in the classification and taxonomy of vascular plants in general. At the time of its publication, users of the Flora could arrive at a currently accepted

name for nearly all taxa within the region, using the keys provided. Now users of the 1973 Flora can achieve similar results for only 47% of the region's taxa. The revised "Flora" is due for publication in winter/spring 2018. David will walk us through the important findings of the project as well as what is on the horizon for the Herbarium as this project draws to a close.

David Giblin manages the University of Washington Herbarium, which is the botanical research collection of the Burke Museum. He earned his Ph.D. in Biology at the University of Missouri and also holds an M.S. in Forest Science from the University of Washington. His research focuses on the floristics of PNW vascular plants. In addition to studying the vascular plant flora of the Pacific Northwest, he is an editor for the Flora of North America project, interim Editor for *Douglasia*, oversees the Plants of Washington Image Gallery, and collaborates on the producing wildflower identification apps and field guides.

Doors open at 6:00 PM for the Native Plant Identification Workshop; Program begins at 7:30 PM.

Refreshments, Public Invited, Admission is Free

Upcoming Programs:

June 13th: Bellevue Botanic Garden; Nancy Kartes; "Coming of Age: Bellevue Botanic Garden at 25" plus a tour of the Urban Meadow Project

September 7th: The Mountaineers Program Center; Kim Traverse; "Fungi: the Original Network"

October 10th: Bellevue Botanic Garden; Program to Be Announced

November 2nd: The Mountaineers Program Center; Janneke Hille Ris Lambers; "Climate Change Impacts on Pacific Northwest Plant Communities"

Audubon Society Field trips:

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/GetInvolved/GoBirding/FieldTrips/LatestFieldTrips.aspx>

Odds and Ends

At Tower Peak by Gary Snyder

Every tan rolling meadow will turn into housing
Freeways are clogged all day
Academies packed with scholars writing papers
City people lean and dark
This land most real
As its western-tending golden slopes
And bird-entangled central valley swamps
Sea-lion, urchin coasts
Southerly salmon-probes

Into the aromatic almost-Mexican hills
Along a range of granite peaks
The names forgotten,
An eastward running river that ends out in desert
The chipping ground-squirrels in the tumbled blocks
The gloss of glacier ghost on slab
Where we wake refreshed from ten hours sleep
After a long day's walking
Packing burdens to the snow
Wake to the same old world of no names,
No things, new as ever, rock and water,
Cool dawn birdcalls, high jet contrails.
A day or two or million, breathing
A few steps back from what goes down
In the current realm.
A kind of ice age, spreading, filling valleys
Shaving soils, paving fields, you can walk in it
Live in it, drive through it then
It melts away
For whatever sprouts
After the age of
Frozen hearts. Flesh-carved rock

And gusts on the summit,
Smoke from forest fires is white,
The haze above the distant valley like a dusk.
It's just one world, this spine of rock and streams
And snow, and the wash of gravels, silts
Sands, bunchgrasses, saltbrush, bee-fields,
Twenty million human people, downstream, here below.

from *No Nature* by Gary Snyder. Copyright© 1992 by Gary Snyder. [Online Source](#)

The Way It Is by William Stafford

There's a thread you follow. It goes among
things that change. But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.

May mountaineer trips east of the Cascades by Gary Brill

(see attached pdf)

SOME APPS (FREE)

Merlin bird app by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

Our students in the Intro course have asked about apps. As we know apps require a pad or smartphone platform, but have the advantage of using the features of these devices to aid in identification. One app that has jumped on this kind of ability is Merlin. Merlin, developed by birders is designed especially for beginning birders. It can be used to browse birds, their calls, basic information, and range, as a key, where information about the birds is entered (e.g. size, shape, color, habitat, region) to reduce the options, or by answering 5 simple questions about the bird, which helps set options from the key and narrow the field. Finally, merlin has a photo-id option which uses photos taken by the user to identify the bird. As far as I know this is the only app that tries to do this, and I've not tried it. But it is intriguing. It also can be used offline, and has download capabilities for a subset of the database (by region), which cuts down on storage space. I suggest that people download Merlin and try it, in part because it may be that apps do not work for everyone. Both the size of the device or screen visibility issues can limit usability. Its best to learn this with a free device. But, the payoff is, you can carry your guide in your pocket or field bag and not have the weight of field guides. It is a temptation difficult to avoid.

Washington Wildflower Search

This app, developed by Richard Sullivan, a retired software engineer is available on both Apple and Android devices and is FREE. In a sense, this app (or series of apps) is amazing, since they are a public service in an age when people have to pay for the most basic commodities (water and air even). They are based on a website and its underlying database, called wildflower search that can help beginners identify plants they are viewing, and not only wildflowers. The app includes ferns, trees, ferns, mosses and even lichens. It has a key for selecting by type of plant, region, color, symmetry and petal number, foliage form and month and there is one for each state and a few Canadian provinces (as well as one for Mt. Rainier and ones for other hot flower areas). It does have a large data base to download (wifi needed for this) and can be used totally offline. It provides some useful ancillary information on each species including a plot of probability of encountering the flowers by season and altitude, and a map of distribution as well as locations where the plant was collected. Furthermore, it appears to list possible candidates in order of relative abundance, which tends to pus the more likely options to the top of the list of candidates. This method of identification is based on the principal that looking at fewer things enhance the chance of a success. Using keys like this we learn to be judicious in our choice of options and NOT to choose an option when it is unclear. There are some down sides to this app. I've mentioned the size of the database. Then the pictures shown are not particularly good and only a single snap is provided (Unlike other apps such as Turner's which give several views at different magnification and sometimes different life stages). There is a link to other websites, but this requires data connection. Finally I have observed somewhat spotty coverage of flowers, with some common plants not included. This may change in updates. A BIG plus for this app is its being free, and its allowing you to download a version for a region where you plant to hike outside of Washington, where you will likely be more of a beginner than you are here.

Wildflower Identification Website. Search for wildflowers by location, color, shape and time. [Click here for Instructions.](#) [Login](#)

About this site Scientific names Common names Image Authors Plant List Checker

Free Wildflower Apps

Apps are now available for most states and some [Canadian provinces](#). These Apps use the WildflowerSearch database. The Apps are self contained and do not use the internet. A few Apps are more than 100Meg in size and require WiFi for [installation](#). Here are the Links to the store.

<p>Android</p> <p>Alabama Alberta Arizona Arkansas British Columbia California (Central) California (North) California (South) California, Marin County Connecticut Delaware Florida Georgia Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Mount Rainier National Park Nebraska</p>	<p>iPhone/iPad</p> <p>Alabama Alberta Arizona Arkansas British Columbia California (Central) California (North) California (South) Connecticut (New England) Delaware Florida Georgia Glacier/Waterton National Parks Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine (New England) Maryland Massachusetts (New England) Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Mount Rainier National Park Nebraska</p>
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By Wildflower Search

Open iTunes to buy and download apps.



[View in iTunes](#)

This app is designed for both iPhone and iPad

Free

Category: Education
 Updated: Feb 01, 2017
 Version: 5.2
 Size: 353 MB
 Language: English
 Seller: Wildflower Search
 © Wildflower Search
 Rated 4+

Compatibility: Requires iOS 9.3 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

Customer Ratings

Description

The App, which operates without an internet connection, includes over 3,300 species of plants found in the Washington State area. Overall, roughly 2,000 are "Wildflowers", 240 are shrubs, 130 are trees, 20 are vines, 1 cactus, 120 are aquatic plants, 420 are grasses and sedges, 90 are ferns, 230 are lichen, 160 are moss and 60

[Washington Wildflower Search Support](#)

What's New in Version 5.2

Updated.

Screenshots