

One Step at a Time

Newsletter of the Mountaineers Naturalist Group
September 2016

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Photos from our August naturalist hikes



Green Mt group, candystick (*Allotropia virgata*) and alaska cedar



King's crown (*Rhodiola integrifolia*) Mt. Baker and Valerian from Skyline Divide



Elephanthead (*Pedicularis groenlandica*) and naturalists on Chain Lakes trail Mt. Baker.



Monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) columbine and bistort on Yellow Aster Butte

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

Most of the garden flowers are in fruit or seed

Most of the exceptions are in the alpine garden where penstemon, several species of alpine daisies and a resplendent skyrocket (scarlet gilia) are still aflame. There are the expected pearly everlasting, asters and yarrow as well as the second coming of siberian miner's lettuce. Fall rains may bring some surprise rebloomings. The alpine plants are showing remarkable resilience and longevity in their blooming, which shows what they can do when nurtured, watered and are free from the cold nights, high winds and strong insolation of the high country. We also have a new bat box (see below).



Bat box and alpine garden near the clubhouse

The littlest naturalist. *Homo sapiens* sighting near aboretum.

September Field Trips for Mountaineers' Naturalists

The flowers are finishing up their glory in the mountains, the first threads of rain are beginning to filter in and we turn our attentions to the glories of fall and winter including the return of abundant waterfowl, mosses, lichens and mushrooms, fall color and geology.

Here are some offerings for the next month (explanations are also included), which are listed under Activities, Exploring Nature:

Day Hike - Melakwa Lake

Exploring Nature Trip

We will go as far as the Denny Creek Crossing to examine the Snoqualmie batholith

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Sat, Sep 10, 2016

No Prerequisites

**** This hike actually will focus on geology and late stream and seep flowers (where there is water there may still be flowers) along Denny Creek. It is listed as Melakwa Lake because that is the only appropriate hike that includes this. There will also be stops along the drive for roadside geology education. ****

Day Hike - Little Si

Exploring Nature Trip

Little Si has views, rocks, late flowers and accessibility. This is our naturalist hike of

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Sat, Sep 17, 2016

No Prerequisites, Leader's Permission Required

***** This hike is our September Hike of the Month. If you are in the study group you can assume you have been given permission and can sign up straightaway. Do not worry if the hike is full. We will accommodate everyone *****

Day Hike - Esmeralda Basin & Fortune Creek Pass

Exploring Nature Trip

We will actually go to Ingalls Lake for fall color of larch and for geology

Difficulty: Moderate

Sat, Oct 1, 2016

***** As stated in the description, this hike will be to Ingall's Lake. It is described this way because there is another, youth hike, to Ingalls Lake on the same day and the website does not allow multiple hikes. We will look at larch above and around the lake and with luck may also see mountain goats. The hike also features great views of Mt. Stuart. *****

This fall we will also have a couple of workshops, one on mosses on November 9, with a field trip on November 12, and one on lichens December 7, with a field trip on December 10. Look for these to be listed soon as Naturalis courses. We have decided to make our hikes of the month the next to last Saturday in each month, because, as noted by Kathy Buck last year, the last weekend often coincided with Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Here are the tentative hikes for the next months?
October 22 – Barclay Lake with a focus on Mushrooms, mosses and lichens
November 19 – Hansville Reach and Point No Point with a focus on seabirds, conifers, and pond creatures
December 17 – Twin Falls with a focus on water, mosses and lichens

2016-2017 Naturalists Lecture Series Seattle Program Center, 7pm

Here is preview of our fall-winter lecture series, which has been recently finalized. Mark your calendars and enjoy the shows!

Wed., Nov. 9, 2016

Elizabeth Petras, Natural Resources Specialist from NOAA Fisheries, will share the latest information on **Puget Sound's endangered orcas**: new insights into where they go, what they eat, how they're doing, and how we can help.

Link

<https://www.mountaineers.org/about/branches-committees/seattle-branch/committees/seattle-naturalists-committee/course-templates/naturalist-lecture-series/naturalist-lecture-series-2016>



Wed., Jan. 11, 2017

Remember hearing how the Big One will leave everything west of I-5 toast? Maybe not. Nick Zentner, senior lecturer in geology at Central Washington University, reviews the tracks of previous **great earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest** to separate fact from fiction regarding tsunami and ground-shaking potential.

Thurs., Feb. 9, 2017

It's too wet, it's too cold, it's too hot, it's too dry, and we blame it all on **global warming**. Climatologists have a more informed view. Nick Bond, state climatologist and UW research scientist and associate professor, explains why.

Thurs., March 9, 2017

Janneke Hille Ris Lambers, UW biology professor, tells us about **Meadowwatch**, a citizen-science program that is monitoring the link between climate and wildflower reproduction at Mount Rainier National Park.

Seattle Audubon Society Field Trips - September

Saturday, September 10, 2016 – Limit 8

Discovery Park

Leaders: Jordan Gunn (phone day of trip only 206-450-6924) and Louis Kreemer

6:30 AM, Discovery Park South Parking Lot (reached from W Emerson St)

Discovery Park is an ideal place to [view](#) resident and migratory birds. We'll explore meadows, mixed forests and saltwater. September is a great time for seeing migratory birds moving through. We should see some summer species of birds ready to leave, as well as winter residents returning, including scoters, alcids, gulls, sparrows and maybe raptors. Parasitic Jaeger and Common Tern are occasionally observed here this time of year. There will be about a three hundred foot elevation gain. Scopes will be useful for scanning the saltwater off of West Point; leaders will have them. Bring binoculars, water, snacks and scopes if you're willing to carry. Dress in layers as the weather may be windy or rainy. Over by noon.

Friday, September 16, 2016 – Limit 11 in 3 cars

Whidbey Island

Leader: Brian H. Bell (phone day of trip only 206-619-0379)

6:20 AM (prompt) - NE 145th St. P&R (also called N. Jackson Park P&R)

September can be good for southbound shorebirds, as well as passerines and raptors and possibly loons, grebes and alcids. Plan on a full day as we hit the best spots on Whidbey, starting at the south end of the island and working our way north. We will carpool in three cars and plan on catching the 7:00 AM ferry from Mukilteo. Bring lunch, fluids, and scope if you have one. Dress for the weather. Drivers will need a Discover Pass. Carpool cost is \$50.00 + ferry fee, shared equally by riders.

Saturday, September 17, 2016 – Limit 11 in 3 cars

Grays Harbor Area - Fall Migrating Shorebirds

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

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 \$75.00 per car, shared by riders.

Friday, September 23, 2016 – Limit 12

Luther Burbank Park, Mercer Island, WA

Leader: Judith Roan (phone day of trip only 206-265-2661)

9:00 AM, North End Parking Lot of the Park

We will see lots of feeding activity at the park's pea patch that includes American Goldfinch, White-crowned Sparrows, Golden-crowned Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Anna's Hummingbirds. Down at the wetlands, we hope to find Bald Eagles, Great-blue Heron, and grebes out on Lake Washington. This easy walk through the park will take about three hours. Be mindful of the weather. If it has been raining, the trails will be muddy.

Saturday, September 24, 2016 - Limit 11 in 3 cars

Ellensburg and vicinity for birds and early fall colors (maybe)

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

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

Fall migrants should be starting to return, including shorebirds and raptors. Summer residents like bluebirds may still be found; resident birds such as Golden Eagle, Great Horned Owl, and Gray Partridge are possible. Fall colors like vine maple and aspen will be a bonus. Scopes and cameras welcome. Bring lunch; we'll return between 5:00-6:00 PM. Carpool cost: \$50 shared equally by riders.

Sunday, September 25, 2016 – Limit 9 in 3 cars

Noble Knob Hike

Leaders: Dave Swayne, Sam Woods (phone day of trip only 206-305-5918), and Scott Ramos

6:30 AM - Green Lake (Ravenna) Park and Ride OR 7:00 AM - Renton [Transit Center](#) (655 S 2nd St) – please specify which location you will meet at when registering

We will hike to the old Noble Knob fire lookout, located in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest southeast of Enumclaw. The hike is moderate, with a distance of about 5 miles roundtrip and an elevation gain of 1000 feet. We will focus on raptors and other montane migrants – and a Northern Pygmy Owl is always a possibility. Dress in layers for the weather, wear sturdy hiking shoes, and bring a daypack, lunch, and plenty of fluids. Return late afternoon or early evening. Drivers need a NW Forest Pass or Federal Lands Pass. Carpool cost is \$50.00 per car, shared equally by riders.

Washington Native Plant Society
Sept. 1, 2016 Program

Whither WNPS...

Clay Antieau

In its 40th year as Washington's strongest voice for promoting the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats, what does the future of WNPS look like?? Like many non-profit environmental organizations, the relevance and effectiveness of WNPS is being challenged on numerous fronts. In this presentation, WNPS President, Clay Antieau, will share his views on the strengths and weaknesses that characterize WNPS--as well as the opportunities and threats that lie beyond. Come prepared to share your thoughts about the future of WNPS!

Clay Antieau M.S., Ph.C. is a Horticulturist, Botanist, and Environmental Scientist who enthusiastically combines these disciplines to offer unique abilities and perspectives in project work and environmental education. Clay currently works for Seattle Public Utilities as an environmental permit specialist. He's a Fellow and current President of the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS), a Past President of WNPS, a Past President of the Northwest Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration, and a former Director of the Washington Trails Association.

Special note: As you may be aware, one of the founders and major supporters of WNPS, Dr. Art Kruckeberg, died on May 25th. **At 7:15, before our speaker,** we will spend some time remembering Dr. Kruckeberg.

David Hutchinson, a WNPS member and proprietor of **Flora and Fauna Books** will have his usual amazing collection of natural history books available for sale before our meeting, including some of Dr. Krukeberg's titles.

Thursday, Sept 1, 7:15pm,

UW Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St, Seattle

(Doors Open at 6:00 PM for the Native Plant Identification Workshop; Program begins at 7:30 PM.) For details, see wnps.org

Refreshments, Public Invited, Admission is free.

Odds and ends

Environmental Issues:

A link to an article about our rights to walk beaches, even when posted, if we stay below high tide maximum: <http://daily.jstor.org/can-anyone-own-the-beach/>

From The Garden by Andrew Marvel

How well the skillful gard'ner drew
Of flow'rs and herbs this dial new,
Where from above the milder sun
Does through a fragrant zodiac run;
And as it works, th' industrious bee
Computes its time as well as we.
How could such sweet and wholesome hours
Be reckon'd but with herbs and flow'rs!

Haiku by Basho

In the twilight rain
these brilliant-hued hibiscus . . .
A lovely sunset

A bee
staggers out
of the peony.

Spring:
A hill without a name
Veiled in morning mist.

The beginning of autumn:
Sea and emerald paddy
Both the same green.

The winds of autumn
Blow: yet still green
The chestnut husks.

A flash of lightning:
Into the gloom
Goes the heron's cry.

Last month's Challenge flowers from Gordie Swartzman and Stewart Hougen



1. Found in Berkeley Park on July 24 by Gordie Swartzman – it is *Tauschia stricklandii* (thanks to Kay English)

2. Found on the trail to Melakwa Lake by Stewart Hougen -Lynn Scram suggests it might be a beech fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*)

Now for this month's challenges here are:



1. Fern on chain lakes trail by Gordie Swartzman



2. found on Green Mt. Trail by Stewart Hougen
3. bonus – found on Green Mt. Trail by Gordie Swartzman
4. Found by Danielle Graham

Pictures



Bagley Lakes trail, Butterwort on Bagley Lakes trail and Indian pipe near Excelsion creek campground, by Kay English



Castilleja parviflora- albida on Skyline Divide by Kay English



Spotted saxifrage on Easton Ridge by Mary Lin



**Camas and spring gold desert parsley in Deception Pass by Patricia Strand
Glacier lilies by Danielle Graham**