

Washington Native Plant Society – Northeast Chapter Field Trips 2011

You may come as a guest but be sure to contact the leader. A membership is appreciated.

There's no better way to learn about and appreciate our rich local flora than to get together with some like-minded enthusiasts in the field. We invite the public to join us as chapter members guide us through some of our favorite locales for wildflower viewing and exploration of prime examples of native plant communities. Bring plenty of water, some goodies to munch on, your hand lens, comfortable walking shoes, and, if you are feeling subversive, maybe even a pair of binoculars and a bird book. A small voluntary donation (\$5 per person, suggested) from participants to help support our [botany research scholarship program](#) will be appreciated.

Upcoming Field Trips

Spring is about to arrive,

To the meadows and dunes we will drive;

Field trips are a delight

For young sprouts and old growth alike.



May 1: Juniper Dunes Wilderness Area (northeast of Tri-Cities). Co-sponsored with the Columbia Basin Chapter. Full day 3-4 mile hike through sand, portions will be strenuous. This is a great opportunity to see many sand loving plants not commonly found near Spokane. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sunscreen. Led by Diane Stutzman and Bob Fortman. Meet to carpool in the McDonald's parking lot off I-90 Exit 272 just south of freeway (westbound turn left off the exit ramp and cross the freeway. The McDonald's parking lot will be on your right, across from the Petro Truck Stop). Arrive no later than 6:45 AM and plan on a 2 1/2 hr drive. From Spokane take I-90 East to Ritzville. Take 395 South to the Lind exit. Take the Lind exit east (away from Lind) and get on State route 21 South to Kahlotus. From Kahlotus, take the Pasco - Kalotus highway south to Snake River Rd. Turn right (west on the Snake River Rd.), then left on East Blackman Ridge Rd., then left on Joy Road. Joy Road dead ends at the parking area for Juniper Dunes Wilderness. For more information contact [Diane](#).

May 7: Deep Creek Canyon (in Riverside State Park). This fairly leisurely trip on occasionally rocky trails will provide many opportunities for casual and serious flower photographers to practice their skills. Wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots and bring water, lunch and your camera. Led by Rich Leon. Meet at 9:00 AM at the 5 mile Rosauers parking lot on W. Francis Avenue. For more information contact [Rich](#).

May 8: Mothers Day in Dishman Hills. Bring Mom out to see the flowers and ferns in Dishman Hills Natural Area. A surprisingly diverse urban treasure with wetlands, fern and moss shrouded ravines, upland ponderosa pine forests, and ancient geological features. Meet at Camp Caro at 10:00 am for a 2-3 hr. walk led by Mary Water. For more information contact Sylvia at (509) 379-5881.

May 15: BLM Native Restoration Sites. This trip will tour various field restoration projects that use a high percentage of native plant materials, and visit several reference sites. There will be multiple short, easy to moderate hikes. Wear boots suitable for hiking on rock, and dress for either rain or sun. Bring lunch, water, a hat, binoculars (for birds), camera, and plant ID field guide. Led by BLM Botanist Jason Lowe. Meet at Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Headquarters at 10:00 am. Plan for about a 2 hour drive from Spokane. Take Highway 2 west to Creston, WA (1 hr, 6 min). Go through Creston and turn left on Swanson Lakes Road (look for the

grain silos). Drive approx. 10.5 miles south until you see the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area sign. Turn left and proceed to the barn. For more information call Jason Lowe, Bureau of Land Management, at cell: (509) 990-8039.

May 21: Iller Creek Conservation Area. An impressive local hike through an amazingly diverse assemblage of native plants that encompasses semiarid ponderosa pine forest, a riparian corridor, and wetter forests including hemlock, grand fir and Pacific yew. Plan on about 5 hours of hiking on trails and old roads with some steep stretches. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, bring water and a lunch. Led by Sylvia Eberspecher. Group will meet at the Redeemer Lutheran Church parking lot (3606 South Schafer Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99206) at 10:00 AM. [Map to Redeemer Lutheran Church](#). Please park at the Redeemer Lutheran Church parking lot and carpool from there, as parking is limited at the trailhead. For more information contact Sylvia at (509) 379-5881.

May 22: Hog Canyon Native Plant Walk. Explore this lovely shrub-steppe scabland terrain with mima mounds and rock in part, adjoining a shrubby pine forest around secluded large pond with aspens and short palisades and a wide variety of plant life and wildlife. Enjoy the spectacular vistas with truncated loess hills created by the Missoula floods. Expect a gorgeous display of scabland wildflowers, highlighted by outcrops covered with bitter root. About 2 to 3 mile hike with on moderate uphill portion, and opportunities for more adventurous hikers to scramble down to the Hog Canyon Falls. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring some snacks and water, and don't forget your camera. Carpoolers meet at 8:45 AM in the Brown's Addition Rosauer's parking lot for a caravan, look for a small white Ford truck with a dark gray canopy. For those who will be driving on their own: I-90 west to exit 254 Fishtrap. At stop sign, left over freeway. Left on Lake Valley Loop (0.9 miles). Over railroad tracks (0.5 miles) and through BLM entry gate by orange sign. Parking by kiosk on the left (1.2 miles). Group will arrive and meet at 10:00 am. This trip will be led by Michael Bryarly and Michelle LeVar. For more information contact Michelle at (509) 951-9225/9226.

June 4: Liberty Lake Park. This shaded environment features cedar trees, ferns, shade loving wildflowers, and possibly some interesting mushrooms. Pack enough water, lunch and snacks for a half day adventure. Wear sturdy hiking footwear and dress for some shady conditions. Led by John McCormick. Meet at 10:00 am at the public park past the boat launch on the south end of Liberty Lake. For more information contact [Darcy Varona](#) or [James Earl](#).

June 5: Twin Lakes. Led by Diane Stutzman. For more information contact [Darcy Varona](#) or [James Earl](#).

June 12: Pend Oreille County Park. This trip will be led by Mike Bryarly. For more information contact [Darcy Varona](#) or [James Earl](#).

June 19: Fathers Day in Deep Creek Canyon in Riverside State Park. Learn to take better plant, flower and scenery pictures with Dad's new point-and-shoot camera. There will be plenty of things to photograph including wildflowers and scenic views. Many wildflowers will be blooming that were not blooming on the May 7th trip. Hiking will be mostly on trails with some rocky areas. Wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots and bring water, lunch and your camera. Led by Rich Leon. Meet at 9:00 AM at the 5 mile Rosauers parking lot on W. Francis Avenue. For more information contact [Rich](#).

July 9: Little Pend Oreille Native Wildlife Refuge. Led by Joe Cannon. For more information contact [Darcy Varona](#) or [James Earl](#).

July 16: Salmo Research Natural Area/Camping at Noisy Creek Campground. Led by Lawton Fox. For more information contact [Darcy Varona](#) or [James Earl](#).

July 30 - 31: Wallowas Overnight Camping Trip. Led by Robin O'Quinn. For more information contact [Darcy Varona](#) or [James Earl](#).

September 17: Fabulous Fernwood Fossil Foray. Once again we are privileged to visit and collect at Dr. Bill Rember's spectacular fossil beds near Fernwood, Idaho. In the afternoon we will also take a trip to the deep shady loveliness of Hobo Creek Cedar Grove Botanical area. Bring a lunch, water, an old jack knife or sheath knife with a

heavy-duty blade, and newspapers and packaging tape for wrapping any “keeper” fossil specimens. This is an all day trip. Led by Dr. Bill Rember. Meet at American West Bank, 9019 E. Appleway at 7:45 AM to carpool. For more information contact [Darcy Varona](#) or [James Earl](#).

September 24: Mt. Spokane Fall Color and Mushrooms. Field trip to Mt. Spokane State Park to search for early fall mushrooms and enjoy the fall colors. Wear sturdy hiking boots. Bring water, your lunch and a camera. Led by Rich Leon. Meet at the north end of the Yokes parking lot in Mead at 10:00 AM. For more information contact [Rich](#).

October 1: Liberty Lake Park. A leisurely autumn opportunity to search for fall mushrooms, and hone nature photography skills under Rich Leon’s expert guidance. To whet your appetite check out Rich’s mushroom photos on his [Facebook](#) page. Wear sturdy hiking boots. Bring water, your lunch and a camera. Hike should last three to four hours. Meet at the trailhead near the campground at 10:00 AM. For more information contact [Rich](#).

October 15: Mt. Spokane Fall Color and Mushrooms. Field trip to Mt. Spokane State Park to search for later cool weather fall mushrooms and enjoy the fall colors. Wear sturdy hiking boots. Bring water, your lunch and a camera. Led by Rich Leon. Meet at the north end of the Yokes parking lot in Mead at 10:00 AM. For more information contact [Rich](#).