

**WNPS Native Plant Stewardship Training in Pierce County:
Classes to be held Jan. 25 through Apr. 5, 2006**

*** * * DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: * * *
Friday, January 13, 2006**

Funding for the implementation of the Pierce County Native Plant Salvage Program in 2005 and 2006 includes provision of a Native Plant Stewardship Training as developed by the Washington Native Plant Society. Volunteers are invited to apply by Friday, January 13th, 2006 to participate in this FREE training.

Candidates that we seek:

- You like to volunteer in the outdoor community and you want to learn about native plants and the habitats in which they grow.
- You are interested in educating others about native plants and the benefits of conserving natural habitats
- You have experience as a volunteer and a commitment towards community restoration of native plant habitats.
- You can lead or participate in a project that restores and/or protects natural habitat in Pierce County.
- You are willing to become a member of WNPS, if selected for training.
- You can attend at least 9 of 11 day-long Wednesday classes offered in Tacoma starting, January 25th, 2006 and continuing through April 5th, 2006; plus at least two of three all-day field trips to be held on Saturdays on 3/4/06, 3/18/06, and 4/1/06 (the last outing will also serve as a graduation celebration).
- In return for satisfactory completion of the training, you can commit to volunteer at least 100 hours of your time within one year towards leadership or participation in urban habitat restoration and native plant education happening in Pierce County.

Pierce County's 2006 WNPS Native Plant Stewardship program will offer 100 hours of in-class training and field trips to selected individuals. The program includes a wide range of topics useful for volunteers restoring and protecting native plants and natural areas in the lowland Puget Sound habitats of Pierce County, and elsewhere.

Participants will learn to identify plants growing in this region and to understand the natural plant communities that existed before development. Emphasis will be given to practical stewardship of open space and the native plant habitats remaining in our urban and rural areas.

Specific topics presented include Western Washington ecosystems, plant identification, plant biology and morphology, plant salvaging, landscaping with natives, site restoration, invasive plant species, rare plants, ethno-botany, and wildlife habitat. Classroom and field training will be provided by a wide and interesting array of presenters.

The eleven-week lecture series will include three Saturday field trips. Wednesday lectures will be conducted at the Tacoma Nature Center (1919 South Tyler Street) from January 25th to April 5th from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Saturday field trips are scheduled for March 4th, March 18th, and April 1st to provide a variety of winter to spring habitat and plant ID opportunities.

In return for the training, program participants agree to provide a minimum of 100 hours of outreach, service and education towards a project of their choice. A portion of this time goes to the Native Plant Salvage program another portion to the South Sound Chapter of WNPS, and the rest to a qualifying program that the participant creates or with which they collaborate.

For more information or an application, contact Anna Thurston, the Native Plant Stewardship program facilitator in Pierce County at (253) 566-3342, or by e-mail: anna_thurston@ssstewardship.org. For similar stewardship program details being offered in King and Snohomish counties you can also visit the WNPS central office website at www.wnps.org. To receive additional Native Plant Stewardship Applications please call 253-566-3342 and leave your name, address, and phone number.

2006 WNPS Native Plant Stewardship Training Application

(Pierce County ONLY)

DEADLINE: Friday, January 13, 2006

Name (Please print or type): _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone (_____) _____ Evening telephone (_____) _____
[please circle best number and list the best time to call]

E-mail address: _____

Instructions: Please complete each of the following questions within two paragraphs. Please provide either type written or legibly written responses.

1. Why do you want to participate in the Native Plant Stewardship Program and what are you most interested in learning from the program?

2. Briefly describe past or current volunteer activities in which you have participated (include approximately how long you volunteered for each project or organization). Please provide one reference with a current phone number whom we can call upon to ask about your volunteer experiences.

Reference: Name _____ Phone () _____

3. Projects completed by participants in the Native Plant Stewardship program typically involve habitat restoration (urban, suburban or rural) and may emphasize objectives such as resource conservation, education, water quality enhancements, wildlife habitat enhancement, plant salvaging and propagation. Please describe the types of project activities that interest you, including specific projects with which you would like to volunteer or lead.
4. What experience do you have working with native plants in Washington or elsewhere? If so, please indicate whether or not you have in the past, or are currently working or volunteering in a plant-related field such as botany, landscaping or environmental restoration.

5. Please describe any exposure you may have had studying plants, including formal and informal botanical, horticultural or related education.
6. What reference books (if any) have you used to study or learn about native plants in western Washington? (please list no more than 7)
7. How would you rate your ability to identify native plants? Approximately how many native plant species in western Washington can you currently identify accurately by sight and by botanical name?
8. Please describe your familiarity with non-native plants, such as weeds (invasive or non-invasive), and commonly used plants in the landscape trade.
9. Are there native plants growing near where you live? Please list some of your favorites.
10. What other training, skills or experience do you have that might help you as a volunteer in the Native Plant Stewardship program?
11. Do you live in an urban (____) suburban (____) or a rural (____) area?
(Other _____); please check one.

12. The stewardship training program will meet on Wednesdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm from January 25th to April 5th. There will also be three all-day Saturday field trips on March 4th, March 18th, and April 1st. In return for the training, you agree to complete at least 80 hours of volunteer service towards habitat restoration and at least 10 hours each of volunteer service for both the WNPS and the Native Plant Salvage program in Pierce County by June 1, 2007 (for a total of 100 volunteer hours). Please explain how will you be able to dedicate time towards satisfactory completion of this year-long commitment?

13. To help us understand your availability as a volunteer, please check one of the following to identify your current employment status: Full time (___) Part-time (___) Retired (___) Home maker (___) Seeking employment(___) Other(_____)

14. How did you hear about this program? ()Tj/TT1 1 Tf1.7964 0 Td()TjET9t 0 5F meet on