



Native Plant Conservation Campaign

Native Plant Conservation Year in Review 2019

May 1, 2020

Strengthening the U.S. Native Plant Conservation Community

- NPCC welcomed three new [Affiliate organizations](#). The 55 NPCC Affiliates now represent more than 350,000 advocates for native plant science and conservation in the United States
- We worked on PlantAgents task force to develop national online database of locally adapted native plant species for gardeners, landscape architects, and land managers
- Held a national conference call for native plant conservation leaders (see report on call below)
- [Affiliate Leaders Discussion Forum on Facebook](#) We are seeking a volunteer to help moderate this Forum. Please [contact us if you are interested](#).
- PLEASE [LIKE THE NPCC ON FACEBOOK](#) and ASK YOUR MEMBERS TO DO SO AS WELL



Advocacy for Native Plant Science and Conservation

- Coauthored a [letter in the journal Science](#) “Fund Plant Conservation to Solve Biodiversity Crisis” with the Plant Conservation Alliance Non-Federal Cooperators Committee, Center for Plant Conservation, Botanic Gardens Conservation International United States, NatureServe and The Garden Club of America. The letter calls attention to the pervasive neglect of plants in conservation funding and programs and recommends that that practice end. Over 90 businesses, scientific societies, faith and other organizations have signed on in support of greater plant funding.
 - NPCC Director Roberson visited Capitol Hill with representatives of Maryland, Virginia and California NPSs and other groups to educate lawmakers (e.g. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), left) about the [Botany Bill](#).
 - NPCC contributed [testimony](#) for the House hearing on the Botany Bill in July
- Helped organize a national [sign on letter](#) to two House committees in support of the Botany Bill. The letter was signed by nearly 2000 individuals from all 50 states.
- Supporting two bipartisan pro-native plant bills (i) the [Monarch and Pollinator Highway Act](#) (S. 2918) and (ii) the [Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act](#) (S. 3150). There are now [three bills on Capitol Hill](#) promoting greater use of locally adapted native plants on federal lands and along roadsides.



- [North Carolina](#) joined New Jersey in encouraging their Department of Transportation to prioritize native plants in their roadside management
- NPCC signed onto numerous coalition letters opposing attacks on federal science and on conservation laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. We also signed letters asking the [Natural Resources Conservation Service to prioritize native plants](#) in their conservation programs, in support of the Restore America's Wildlife Act, [the Scientific Integrity Act](#) and the [Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act](#). Read about our coalition advocacy [in the NPCC News](#) Archive.
- New organizations, including the American Public Gardens Association, signed the [Equal Protection for Plants Statement](#) calling to equal protection for plants and animals under the federal Endangered Species Act.



Bumper Stickers and Buttons (see above) available! [Contact us](#) for details.

Education and Outreach – Fighting Plant “Invisibility” (formerly plant blindness)

- Director Emily Roberson gave presentations at scientific conferences and to native plant societies
 - NOTE: If you would like to schedule a meeting or presentation, [please contact us](#).
- Worked with our partner the [Endangered Species Coalition](#), a national network of several hundred conservation groups to promote native plant conservation on Earth Day, Endangered Species Day, World Biodiversity Day and other events
- Distributed more than 70 news items and alerts about plant science and conservation through [NPCC News](#). **Ask your family, friends and colleagues to [sign up](#)!**
- Increased the number of likes for [NPCC Facebook page](#) by over 70%. Please remind your members to LIKE or FOLLOW the [NPCC Facebook page](#).
- Online voter registration and [Get Out The Vote for plants, wildlife and science](#) Action Center in cooperation with the Endangered Species Coalition.
- Affiliates can [download a PDF](#) of our brochures *Save Plants, Save the Planet*, *Save Ourselves* or our [Native Plant Ecosystem Services Infographic](#) to print and distribute at your venues and events. You can also [request pre-printed copies](#) from NPCC.
- Added tools to the NPCC [Speak Out for Plants](#) web page to help advocates more easily to communicate with elected officials and the media about the “Botany Bill” other native plant conservation issues.
- Added a new [Ecosystem Services/Nature Based Solutions section](#) to the NPCC webpage. The section presents information on how native plants can help fight the climate and extinction crises through Nature Based Solutions. It offers [tools](#) to assist in advocacy



for the conservation and restoration of native plant communities to help solve environmental problems at the local, regional and national level.

- The [Native Plants in the News Page](#) presents native plant science and conservation ideas and news from around the world.
- Native Plant Laws Project. We are collecting information on local and state laws encouraging or requiring the use of local native plants in public spaces, along roadsides, or in landscaping. We will develop an online Native Plant Law Toolkit to help local advocates promote such laws in their area. Please [send us information about native plant laws in your area.](#)

NOTE: NPCC offers technical support and referrals to experts for Affiliates developing comments on federal policies and actions. Please [contact us to request assistance.](#)

NPCC 2019 Affiliate Highlights

(Contributed by member organizations)

Scott Black, [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#) – [Monarch and Pollinator Highway Act \(MPH Act\)](#)

- Xerces has worked with federal highway administration to develop [Best Management Practices \(BMPs\)](#) for planting local native plants along roadsides to support pollinators
- These BMPs were the basis for the [bipartisan MPH Act](#)
- The MPH Act would provide funds to assist state Departments of Transportation and Indian Tribes create pollinator-friendly roadsides with native plants
- There are 17 million acres of roadsides in U.S.
- If passed, MPH Act grants could be used for:
 - The planting and seeding of native, locally appropriate grasses, wildflowers, and [milkweed](#);



- Mowing strategies that promote early successional vegetation and limit disturbance during periods of highest use by target pollinator species;
- Implementation of an integrated vegetation management approach to

address weed and pest issues;

- Removing nonnative grasses from planting and seeding mixes except for use as nurse or cover crops; or
- Any other pollinator-friendly practices the Secretary of Transportation determines will be eligible.

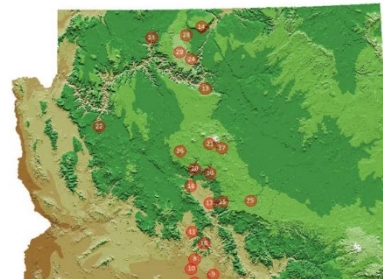
Arizona Native Plant Society

Doug Ripley jdougripley@gmail.com

- The AZNPS currently has approximately 500 members. Although we have about a 20 percent turnover in membership each year, the total membership number has remained fairly constant for many years. We added one new chapter in 2019 (Upper Gila) which covers Graham and Greenlee Counties in eastern Arizona, for a total of eight chapters
- Completed a beautiful update of website which is now in service and provides much more information in a very professional format
- One major new feature is an online native plant finder for gardeners and others.
- Plant Atlas Project: The Society continued to support this statewide partnership between the Arizona Native Plant Society, Grand Canyon Trust, Desert Botanical Garden, Northern Arizona University, Museum of Northern Arizona, and the U.S. Forest Service to document the diversity and distribution of Arizona's flora, particularly in areas that have not been previously mapped.
- Plant Taxonomy Workshops: The Society continued to offer plant identification classes in cooperation with the University of Arizona Herbarium. In 2019, several workshops were offered for the Grass and Aster families.
- State Sponsored Field Trips: Offered two multi day field trips to the Sonoran Desert and Chiricahua Mountains.
- Habitat Restoration and Invasive Species Control Efforts: Through the Society's Conservation Committee continued several major restoration projects in the Ironwood Forest National Monument (Waterman Mountains), and in the Phoenix area (Maricopa County). We also continued invasive species monitoring and eradication projects in several severely impacted area of the state.
- **Current Issues:**
 - a. Shortage of Leadership: We continue to have a very difficult time recruiting individuals to assume leadership positions at both the chapter and state levels.
 - b. Strategies for effective interaction with local and state officials. Arizona is an extremely conservative state with most local and state politicians holding pronounced anti-environmental views. Finding an effective way to communicate to those politicians our concerns for native plant conservation has been a real challenge.

PAPAZ Flora Project

Please click on one of the areas below on the map to see more details about this area, or you can click on the link directly in the listed locations.



1. Dragon Mountains
2. Tortolita Mountains
3. Cienega Creek
4. Lower Bear Canyon
5. Salero Ranch
6. Saddle Mountain
7. North Mountain Preserve
8. Cave Creek Regional Park
9. McDowell Sonoran Preserve
10. Sonoran Preserve
11. Agua Fria National Monument
12. North Gila Mountains
13. Upper Basin
14. Vermilion Cliffs
15. West Clear Creek
16. Granite Creek

Arizona Sonora Desert Museum

Mark Fleming mfleming@desertmuseum.org

- The ASDM is a living museum within Saguaro National Monument interpreting the plants, animals and people of the area

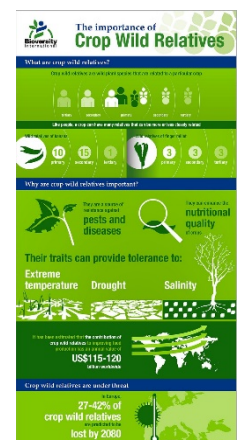
- Their ex situ collection cares for some 40,000 plants (not counting the grasses in our grassland exhibit), representing 1300 species (including varieties). Including plants that occur naturally on the grounds, a visitor can see 1400 kinds of plants at ASDM. It is divided into gardens representing various Sonoran desert habitat types, including Sky Islands, desert grasslands, hummingbird, butterfly, and agave gardens, mountain woodland
- Work to get urban populations to visit this natural setting, including large numbers of international visitors



- Docents are their greatest resource
- The Museum features a strong ethnobotany program including projects such as native American foods and [the Ancient Salt Trails and Oases](#) project.
- ASDM does research on invasives and fights invasives in natural areas, for example through [Save Our Saguaros](#) which educates the public about invasive Buffelgrass and organizes “Buffelgrass Pulls” to eradicate plant pests
- They are participating in a project to collect, cultivate and protect imperiled cacti
- Last two years have collected acorns from rare oaks of AZ in tree conservation [project funded by American Public Gardens Association and U.S. Forest Service](#). This is part of a larger southwest oak conservation project led by Huntington gardens.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International United States Abby Meyer abby.meyer@bgci.org

- BGCI-US connects conservation groups, best practices, and information with botanic gardens and conservation partners to secure threatened plants in North America and around the world. We utilize BGCI’s global network to increase the impact of conservation efforts by more than 1000 North American botanic gardens and ensure that the world’s plant diversity is valued, secure and supporting all life.
- They have formed an [Ecological Restoration Alliance](#) which shares best practices and has produced a [Species Recovery Manual](#)
- They maintain the [Plant Search](#) and [Garden Search](#) databases. Plant search is database of plants in cultivation around the world.
- They help implement the [Global Strategy for Plant Conservation](#) through these databases.
- This year BGCI US is preparing the progress report for GSPC implementation and is participating in the development of new plant conservation targets for the next decade of the GSPC.
- They also help develop and implement the parallel [North American Strategy For Plant Conservation](#), which also will be renewed with new targets this year
- BGCI US participated in the [2019 conference and report on crop wild relatives](#). They contributed an article entitled, “Botanic Gardens Are Important Contributors to Crop Wild Relative Preservation”



- Abby Meyer coauthored the January 2020 letter to *Science* [Fund Plant Conservation to Solve the Biodiversity Crisis](#) (see above)

Colorado Native Plant Society

Denise Wilson deniseclairewilson@gmail.com

- CoNPS has 1200 members in five chapters, most on the Front Range on east side of the Rockies.
- They participate in the phenology project - [the Budburst project](#) - which brings together community scientists and specialists to collect observations of the timing of plant life cycle events, to document the impacts of climate change on plants and the natural world.
- CoNPS have [certified 21 native plants gardens in past year](#)
- They have performed three plant inventories in open space and natural areas in 2019
- They held [20 botanical workshops](#) in 2019 with about 300 participants
- CoNPS held their 5th annual [landscaping conference](#) this year. They have earned \$35,000 through these conferences, and with those funds, they are starting a grant program for demonstration gardens
- A 5 year strategic plan has been developed
- Pollinator garden installed in neglected part natural area by Loveland chapter
- CoNPS Marketing and Events Coordinator gave a [live 3 minute radio interview](#)
- We ran a Native Plant Sale with 250 customers at which \$15,000 worth of plants were sold. We are moving from on-line pre-ordering to on-site sales locations due to logistical problems in the past.
- Developed a 5-year Strategic Plan which will shortly be on the website to guide State and Chapter efforts.
- Seeds of Stewardship Program with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, aimed at non-traditional high school students to introduce them to native plants and growing them from seed and vegetative material.

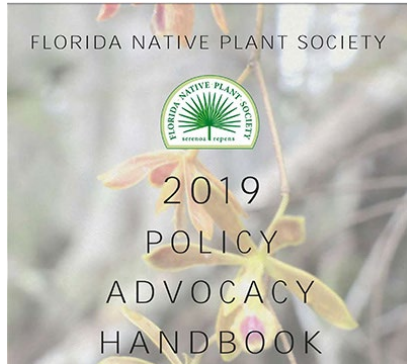


Florida Native Plant Society

Juliet Rynear executivedirector@fnps.org

- FNPS had a “really great year” in 2019; they have 37 chapters
- They fund [three grant programs](#): conservation, landscaping and research
- For the first time, [FNPS is a landowner](#) having worked with a land trust to conserve the largest existing population of a critically endangered plant: *Warea amplexifolia* (clasping warea) within the imperiled Longleaf Pine ecosystem
- Their [Torreya Keepers Program](#) seeks to protect the federally endangered Florida *Torreya* the most imperiled conifer in north America. Its habitat is extremely restricted and it is under attack from disease. FNPS is working with Atlanta Botanic Garden to survey and conserve the species.
- They are working to hire a PT staff member to do conservation on private lands

- Working to conserve two state and federally listed endangered mints. The species had been neglected.
- Their Restoration Program rescues plants from areas to be destroyed for development and places them on nearby public lands and also works with the Association of Florida Nurseries to collect seed before development projects are implemented.



- FNPS produced a Policy and Advocacy Handbook to help FNPS members lobby elected officials to protect, conserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. The Handbook includes information on how to contact legislators from meetings to e mail, provides examples of call scripts, letters, talking points, taking legislators on field trips and much more!

- FNPS is planning, in cooperation with the NPCC, a southeastern regional native plant forum in Jacksonville FL on May 15 as part of the FL NPS annual meeting. The Virginia, Kentucky, Colorado,

Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi Native Plant Societies are expected to participate. We hope this event will be a model for similar collaborative ventures in other regions.

Florida Wildflower Foundation

Lisa Roberts lroberts@flawildflowers.org

- FWF was established in 2001 to use the proceeds of the Florida License Plate Program
- The license plate program was developed by the FL Federation of Garden Clubs and FL Department of Transportation and adopted by the state legislature ([click here for the statute language](#)). It has raised \$4.2 million so far.
- The funds must be used for conservation, research, education as mandated by statute
- FWF provided grants to 500 schools and communities for wildflower gardens; they also have developed numerous native plant curricula
- In 2019, FWF education and outreach programs reached 15,000 students and 250,000 people overall
- FWF works with counties to write roadside management plans to reduce mowing and encourage the native seed bank.
- 700 miles of roadside native plants have been planted since 2012.
- They are conducting weed control experiments
- 150 organizations benefited from the Florida Wildflower Foundation's Education, Planting or Research programs during the 2018–19 fiscal year



Georgia Native Plant Society

Melanie Bass Pollard Melanie.BassPollard@gnps.org

- NPCC advisor Doug Tallamy is the keynote speaker at the GNPS [Symposium](#) in Macon
- The [GNPS Facebook page](#) has greatly increased in popularity
- The GNPS President's [blog](#) has focused on Using Georgia Native Plants since 2010
- GNPS [Native Plant Habitat Certification program](#) encourages landowners to garden with GA natives

Idaho Native Plant Society

Stephen Love slove@uidaho.edu

- INPS has 400 members in 6 chapters.
- They emphasize education more than advocacy.
- Their [rare plant conference](#) evaluates status and trend of ID rare plants. There are about 50 species on the ID rare list.
- INPS is working to designate ID fescue as state grass.
- Working with ID Department of Transportation toward better roadside management for native plants and pollinators.
- INPS gave [grants](#) for six education and conservation projects in 2019.

Indiana Native Plant Society

Ellen Jacquart ellenjacquart@gmail.com

- Membership increased to 1,102, over a 30% increase since 2015
- Held [largest native plant sale ever](#), with gross proceeds of over \$14,000
- Gave out \$5,500 in [grants](#) to biodiversity projects focused protecting, restoring, or researching native plants in Indiana
- Awarded 14 Letha's Fund grants totaling \$6,640 which allowed 1,025 students to go on field trips to natural areas across the state.
 - Published our first book, [Wake Up, Woods](#), a beautifully illustrated book about our native spring wildflowers, which is now in its second printing and was selected as Indiana's title in the National Book Festival by the Library of Congress.
 - Provided resources on [landscaping with native plants](#) to Indiana gardeners
- With other environmental groups, worked toward the passage of the [Terrestrial Invasive Plant Rule](#) which makes 44 highly invasive plants illegal to sell in Indiana as of April 18, 2020.



Institute for Applied Ecology

Stacy Moore stacy@appliedeco.org

- [Sustainability in Prisons Project:](#)

- IAE learned that prisons need quality work programs for adults in custody, and IAE knew that the BLM needed native plant materials for restoration projects. This program joined the two needs
- Started with one prison in 2014 and grew 20,000 sagebrush seedlings
- By 2019, IAE was working with 10 prisons in NV, CA, OR, ID, and WY growing over 400,000 sagebrush and 8,000 bitterbrush seedlings
- BLM collects seed from areas to be restored in fall; inmates care for plants all summer and sometimes plant sagebrush the following fall. Inmates may or may not be paid for their work
- IAE staff and volunteers also visit prisons to educate inmates about native plants
- This project can offer people a chance to do and learn something positive for the first time in their lives
- National Audubon magazine will feature prisons program in their Spring edition
- The program plans to expand into CA desert tortoise habitat, and to grow plants for imperiled butterflies
- In 2020, IAE expects to produce 500,000 plants
- Learn more about how to develop a prison native plant program in the [IAE Handbook on the Project](#)
- IAE also created the [Native Seed Network](#) which connects seed buyers with seed growers and holds conferences to bring the groups together
- They offer an [Invasive Species Cookbook](#) (cook 'em 'till they are cooked!) and hold an annual Invasive Species Cookoff



Kentucky Native Plant Society

Tara Littlefield Tara.Littlefield@ky.gov

- No chapters yet, but 2019 was a good year: The Society has 300 members and has become more active.
- KNPS had first native seed exchange last fall. We had about 40 in attendance. Rules included: seeds had to be native and labeled with location and date if wild collected. A lot of interest in native plant gardens and restoring small areas on small farms Collaborating with KY chapters of NPCC Affiliate Wild Ones on these projects
- KNPS held first [KY botanists Big Year](#) using I naturalist (similar events are held in [Wisconsin](#) and [Illinois](#)). Overall, approximately 75 participants. They found new occurrences of several rare plants.
- Planning to restart their stewardship certification program that has been on hold since 2017. It was a 6 class program of full days. 1) botany 101 2) natural communities of KY 3) invasive species/threats to natural communities 4) native plant gardening 5) native plant management 6)

native plant management, ending with a ceremony. In the past, graduated close to 100 over 6 years.



- They hold an annual [Wildflower Weekend](#) in a KY natural area with wildflower hikes and speakers covering “wildflowers, rare plants, ferns, woody plants, bryophytes, plant identification 101, and more”
- They offer [three student grants](#)
- KNPS [conservation activities](#) include weed removal from habitat of federally endangered Running Buffalo Clover

- In 2019, KNPS hosted [five field trips](#). The trips take people to places where there are also volunteer conservation opportunities such as invasive removal
- They hold [workshops and symposia](#) on plant identification and taxonomy
- They are revamping their website to make it more compatible with mobile devices

Laukahi Plant Conservation Network (Hawaii)

Emily Grave coordinator@laukahi.org.

- Laukahi is a network 27 Hawaii plant conservation organizations.
- They have listed 500 plants as species of concern, more than 30% of the flora.
- They operate under a five year [Hawaii Strategy for Plant Conservation](#) following the model of the [Global Strategy for Plant Conservation](#). The Hawaii strategy will be updated with the GSPC and the North American SPC in 2020
- Hawaiian [plant conservation challenges](#) are enormous. They include a fungus that is spreading throughout islands attacking Ohia, a keystone tree species. In response, Laukahi has trained community scientists to [collect seed of Ohia trees from each island](#) for restoration of island endemic varieties of Ohia. They are collecting seed even from populations endemic to specific volcanos. They have established tree seed banks on each island, spurring emergence of more seed banks on islands.
- They have collected 22 million seeds in more than 1000 seed collections by 530 community scientists



Minnesota Native Plant Society

Scott Milburn scott.milburn@mnnps.org

- MnNPS is in its 39th year
- It has 400 members
- It hosts [monthly programs, an annual symposium and field trips](#)
- MnNPS works to ensure protection of MN state-listed rare species. This includes ensuring that the state list is evaluated every three years.

- MnNPS pushing for the consideration of climate change when determining the imperilment of a given species.

Montana Native Plant Society

Peter Lesica lesica.peter@gmail.com

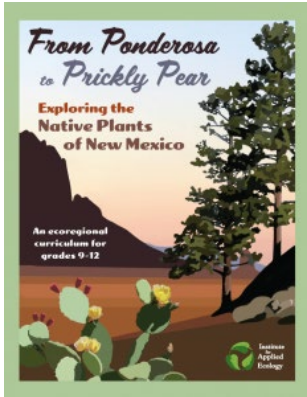
- MNPS [commented](#) on three federal land management plans in 2019
- They hold a [conservation conference](#) every two years. The theme of the 2020 conference is monitoring plants, plant communities and pollinators for climate change impacts. The conference also will update the MNPS threats assessment for Natural Heritage Program species of concern (SOC) list, providing new information on distribution and threats and suggestions for imperilment rank changes
- MNPS sent letters to their House members asking them to cosponsor the botany bill
- Signed 86 group [letter to Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) asking for prioritization of native plants in restoration
- The 2019 [Annual Meeting](#) was hosted by the Montana Native Plant Society Kelsey Chapter and The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan (Canada) in Saskatchewan. This was MNPS first international meeting and they hope for a future joint meeting in Montana.
- MNPS awarded [three grants](#), including for a demonstration garden, invasives control, huckleberry monitoring, meadow inventory.
- They are working to monitor OHV impacts to rare plants on public lands.
- MNPS is investigating working with the Heritage Program to develop a state rare plant conservation strategy like [New Mexico](#) and [Colorado](#) and to increase monitoring of known occurrences of rare plants
- Annual conservation conference also considers [Important Plant Area nominations](#) (submitted to MNPS via online form).

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Tom Stewart tstewart@cybermesa.com

- [Awarded small grants](#) to five regional herbaria and thirteen organizations. Also gave a cash award to high school “teacher of the year” for work with teenagers in cleanup of a neglected natural area in Santa Fe.
- Chapters tabled at Earth Day, National Gardens Day and other festivals, at a state park, two national wildlife refuges, a beekeepers conference, an ornithological conference, and a pueblo tribal environmental fair.

- One chapter partnered with science and art teachers at an elementary school to help students learn about native plants, to add native plants to their school garden, and to produce native plant art and collaborated on a mural celebrating pollinators, native plants, and addressing the issue of climate change, and giving away 400 native plants to folks attending the dedication event.
 - NPSNM annual state conference with roughly 200 attendees featured presentations and field trips on our diverse flora and the relationships that native Americans have had with it.
 - NPSNM [commented](#) on the Trump administration “Waters of the United States” proposal to weaken protections for small streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act. The rule will exclude from federal protection the majority of water sources in New Mexico.
- Sent letter in support of projects promoting fire resiliency on national forests and commented on three draft national forest management plans, recommended locations for rare plant community conservation. Review all NPSNM comment letters [here](#)
- NPSNM Met with two NM U.S. House representatives and local staffers to promote the “Botany Bill” H.R.1572, and NPSNM initiated contact with a third who is running for the Senate. A new NM House member become Botany Bill cosponsor. NPS NM is working on meetings, town halls and opportunities to speak with House members about supporting the bill
- Developing a program to give [Build Your Backyard Refuge](#) workshops for pollinators and other wildlife. These workshops are extremely popular.
- They have found that starting a Facebook group is more effective for them than simply having a Facebook page. It promotes more engagement



Pennsylvania Native Plant Society Sarah Chamberlain sjchamberlain8@gmail.com

- Added two new chapters in 2019
- They hold a [Native plant festival](#) and sale each May
- [Annual conference](#) in fall
- New [small grants program](#) for demonstration gardens and outreach and research
- [PNPS Facebook forum](#) has more than 6000 members

Rhode Island Wild Plant Society

Dick Fisher richard.fisher2@cox.net

- 460 members
- They offer native plant walks and talks and other botanizing programs
- Propagate RI native plants in two greenhouses and sell in three spring sales. These Plant sales generate most of their income
- The Rhody Native™ program aims to preserve the biodiversity of Rhode Island's native plant communities, wildlife, and pollinators by facilitating the state's capacity to produce genetically native plants.
- RI rare plant monitoring program is run in conjunction with the Native Plant Trust and RI Natural History Survey. They have found that they are simply monitoring pls as they go extinct. So now RIWPS trying to propagate two rare species. The goal is to conserve all of RI imperiled species at in least seed banks, but preferably in the wild.



Virginia Native Plant Society

Nancy Vehrs nvehrs1@yahoo.com

- 1800 members in 11 chapters, which do most of the work, plant sales, lectures, invasive plant pulls
- Have adopted the non profit support and membership management database NEON to allow member renewals online. Florida NPS uses this too.
- Every March, VNPS holds a symposium. This year's topic is climate change. It has grown in popularity.
- They also hold an annual conference each fall which drew 550 participants in 2019 for field trips and workshops, lectures etc.
- Annual fundraiser with the theme "Plant Virginia Natives". VNPS has produced native plant guides for garden and landscape plantings tailored to for VA ecoregions. They raised over \$30,000 in 2019 to expand these guides into new areas.
- Work very closely with Natural Heritage Program. VNPS is trying to help fund the program by working with state elected officials.
- Three research grants each year at \$5000 each

Washington Native Plant Society

Van Bobbitt van.bobbitt@gmail.com

- Celebrated 43rd anniversary
- 2000 members in twelve chapters, where much of the work takes place

- They are working on a strategic plan using focus groups and a Survey of BOD which found a need for more advocacy and greater emphasis on educating the next generation



- Expect strategic plan to be finalized in April
- Wasahington will expand is Native Plant Appreciation Week to a [Native Plant Appreciation Month](#) in April 2020
- To make the month as effective as possible WNPS has produced a [Native Plant Appreciation Month Event and Activity Guide](#)
- The [WNPS Stewardship Program](#) uses local experts to train volunteers to do restoration work following WNPS curricula. In exchange for their training, stewards make return volunteer service hours at least equal to the

training hours. Volunteer efforts may include habitat restoration, as well as environmental education, and institutional support for WNPS and other conservation organizations.

Wild Ones Natural Landscapers

Rita Ulrich ritaulrich2345@comcast.net

- Wild Ones' mission is to educate people across the country about the importance of native plants and natural practices [in landscaping] to reduce the effects of climate change and support pollinators, beneficial insects, and the environment.
- 60 + chapters in 18 states
- Couple of rough years
- Now technology issues
- How to best put local expertise to use if needed – would welcome conversation about partnering with each other on local level.
- Wild Ones works with many native plant societies, including MN and KY.
- Each chapter gives “state of chapter report” at end of year.

NPCC Priorities for 2020

(if you have comments or suggestions, Please [contact us](#))

- Continue to help native plant groups to meet and exchange ideas and information via conference calls, online discussion groups, web meetings, etc.
- Continue collaboration with Endangered Species Coalition to encourage our communities to vote and otherwise participate in democracy.
- Work to strengthen and build support for the [Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration and Promotion Act, Scientific Integrity Act \(aka “Botany Bill”\)](#)
- Create toolkit to help advocates develop and promote pro- native plant local and state laws (e.g. [Florida model ordinance](#); [New Jersey’s roadside law](#))
- Expand and improve tools on [Speak Out For Plants](#) page to help members more easily and effectively to advocate for native plants
- Defend conservation laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act
- Provide in person and online presentations on plant conservation, ecosystem services, equal protection for plants, and Nature Based Solutions
- Defend federal botany and other science programs
- Continue to expand collaborations with national scientific, environmental, wilderness and wildlife conservation organizations to urge them to incorporate native plants into their advocacy and outreach

Requests to Affiliates

- IF YOU ARE PREPARING COMMENTS ON FEDERAL ACTIONS SUCH AS WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES OR ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REGULATIONS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW SO I CAN SHARE SO THAT OTHER AFFILIATES CAN COPY