

## PROMOTING APRIL AS NATIONAL NATIVE PLANT MONTH

GCA is striving to get all 50 states to submit and secure legislative Native Plant Proclamations, designating April as the annual Native Plant Month across the country.

Educational programs to expand awareness of the need to protect native plants and promote their increased use by landscapers and home gardeners is a priority conservation goal for GCA. As we know, native plants provide essential food for bees, butterflies, birds, other pollinators and wildlife. A significant number of North American native species, including insects, caterpillars, birds, and other animals, are at risk of extinction because they cannot survive without access to native plants. GCA publishes a [Position Paper](#) which outlines the specific actions our clubs can undertake to advance Native Plant Protection.

Proclamations promoting the importance of active stewardship of native plants is an important first step in guiding local, state, and federal agencies to monitor and conserve rare plants, restore native habitat, expand the native tree canopy and remove non-native invasive plants on public lands. Washington citizens need more information about active stewardship of natives to prevent habitat loss, curtail the use of invasive species, mitigate climate change and limit pesticide use.

In 2023, GCA asked the Seattle and Tacoma Garden Clubs to submit a Proclamation to Jay Inslee requesting that the month of April becomes Native Plant Month. Fortunately for Washington State, Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) has submitted the Proclamation annually for nearly two decades, successfully securing the Governor's signature. Over the years WNPS has taken the program from a week-long event to the full month of April. This was no small task. Thanks to WNPS, our job of promoting the annual recognition of April as Native Plant Month in Washington State has been easy.



To continue as listed supporters of the April Native Plant Month, WNPS requests that the Seattle and Tacoma Garden Clubs take an active role in their work by visiting the WNPS website, attending classes and field trips, participating in their photo contests and enjoying a great selection of online events. Even better would be to become a member. They publish a lovely quarterly magazine, *Douglasia*, and offer many events through their chapters. WNPS has 12 chapters throughout the state allowing you to find information that applies directly to your regions of interest. Don't forget spread the word to your friends; education and action are the keys to success!

Please visit the beautiful WNPS website (start with the history page) and get involved! You will be delighted with the offerings! <https://www.wnps.org/>



We were very grateful to have GCA acknowledged as supporters on the WNPS poster.  
Contact Barbie Snapp with further questions: [araby1957@aol.com](mailto:araby1957@aol.com)

Happy Spring Planting!

Barbie Snapp

With assistance from Gail Sklar, President of WNPS and Shelley Rolfe