

RARE

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Washington Rare Plant Care & Conservation University of Washington Botanic Gardens
3501 NE 41st Street, Box 354115, Seattle, WA 98195-4115 USA 206 616-0780
<http://depts.washington.edu/rarecare> rarecare@u.washington.edu

PLANT

R E S S

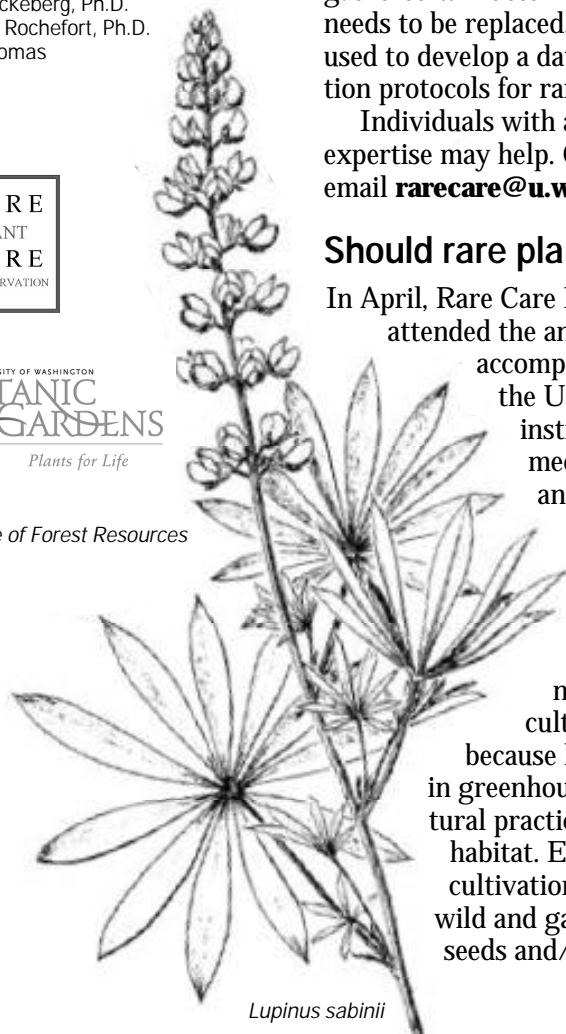


Rare Care staff
Sarah Reichard, Ph.D.,
Director
Wendy Gible, Program Manager
Ellen Kuhlmann,
Seeds of Success Project
Manager
Jennifer Youngman,
Program Assistant

Science Advisory Board
Peter Dunwiddie, Ph.D.
John Gamon
Russell Holmes
Art Kruckeberg, Ph.D.
Regina Rochefort, Ph.D.
Ted Thomas




College of Forest Resources




Lupinus sabinii

Five-year strategic plan sets course for growth

Rare Care is undergoing its five-year strategic planning and wants input from volunteers on the draft plan. The updated strategic plan is a road map for determining where to concentrate efforts and resources. It will also help focus fundraising activities to support the core programs—rare plant monitoring, seed collection for long-term storage in the Miller Seed Vault, research and outreach. The Science Advisory Board reviewed a draft of the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan in June. The plan will be presented to volunteers during the annual **debriefing and recognition event October 21** to solicit feedback. Save the date! 


Germination trials begin

Germination trials will be conducted on seeds accessioned into the Miller Seed Vault this year in order to document seed viability when they enter the seed vault and assess the rate of deterioration. Data gathered will determine when a collection needs to be replaced. Data will also be used to develop a database on propagation protocols for rare plants.

Individuals with any level of botanical expertise may help. Call **206 616-0780** or email rarecare@u.washington.edu. 

Rare Care reinitiates training in eastern Washington

Rare Care will conduct rare plant monitoring and seed collecting training in eastern Washington this fall/winter. The date and location will depend on Interest. So let us hear from you, and feel free to pass along names of other potential participants.

This will promote more monitoring and seed collecting in eastern Washington than is feasible with a Puget Sound-weighted volunteer force. Rare Care is also exploring ways to stay more connected to volunteers who already serve from eastern Washington. 

Should rare plants be sold commercially?

In April, Rare Care Director Sarah Reichard and Program Manager Wendy Gible attended the annual meeting of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC). CPC accomplishes its mission—to conserve and restore rare native plants of the United States—through collective efforts of its 34 participating institutions. Conservation officers of these institutions attended the meeting to learn what others are working on, to share knowledge and ideas, and to discuss upcoming projects and events.

One topic discussed was commercial sale of rare native plants. Although this is already happening in many parts of the country, it is important to establish criteria and guidelines stating how and when it is appropriate to use rare native plants for horticultural purposes. Of particular concern are potential negative impacts to the gene pool of wild populations. Rare plants cultivated for horticulture will inevitably undergo artificial selection, because horticulturalists will selectively propagate plants that readily grow in greenhouse and garden environments. However, genes favored by horticultural practices are not likely to be the same ones favored in the species' natural habitat. Even if explicit selection is not done, those plants that survive in cultivation may not be suited for the wild. If interbreeding occurs between wild and garden populations, the natural population may be "swamped" by seeds and/or pollen from garden populations,

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Question: What does a dedicated volunteer look like?
For answer, see page 2.

This is what a dedicated volunteer looks like.



At left, Pam Goodman helps a future conservationist prepare a flower for viewing through a microscope May 6. Rare Care hosts *Celebrating Wildflowers* annually in collaboration with Woodland Park Zoo to excite children and adults about plant conservation.

Rain? What rain? At right, volunteers tackle navigation training exercises during a wet day in April. This is the second year The Mountaineers provided customized training in the use of map, compass



and GPS to better prepare Rare Care volunteers to locate and map rare plant populations.

Jim Fairchild organized the training and recruited 6 other Mountaineers to preserve a ratio of one instructor for every 2 or 3 Rare Care participants.

Thank you, donors

The following donors provided plants, framed prints and gift certificates for volunteers at last year's end-of-season event. All are open for business for the 2006 season.

Christianson's Nursery & Greenhouse

15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon
www.christiansonnursery.com

E.B. Dunn Gardens

Seattle (by reservation only)
www.dunn gardens.org

Lakewold Gardens

12317 Gravelly Lake Drive SW
Lakewood — www.lakewold.org

Madrona Nursery

Seattle (open by appointment)
206 323-8325

Museum Quality Framing

3717 NE 45th Street, Seattle
(Laurelhurst) — 206 525-1703

Nothing But Northwest Natives

Woodland (open by appointment)
www.nothingbutnw natives.com

Piriformis

1051 N 35th Street, Seattle
www.piriformis.com

PowellsWood

430 South Dash Pt Rd, Federal Way — www.powellswood.org

Steamboat Island Nursery

8424 Steamboat Isl Rd, Olympia
www.olywa.net/steamboat

Swanson's Nursery

9701 15th Ave NW, Seattle
www.swansonnursery.com

Tadpole Haven Native Plants

Woodinville (open by appointment)
425 788-6100

Kuhlmann takes lead on *Seeds of Success*

"People have been collecting seeds for thousands of years," says Ellen Kuhlmann. "It is a deeply personal activity, requiring physical effort, attention, precise timing, and knowledge."

Ms. Kuhlmann joined Rare Care's staff as *Seeds of Success* Project Manager in January, bringing over 15 years of experience as a field botanist and researcher for the U.S. Forest Service. *Seeds of Success*, the U.S. arm of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Millennium Seed-bank Project, coordinates native seed collection for stabilization, rehabilitation and restoration of U.S. lands.

Ms. Kuhlmann already has collected seed from *Viola trinervata* in Douglas County and *Lomatium quintuplex* in Kittitas County. Now she's collecting seed from *Arenaria franklinii* and *Cymopterus terebinthina* in Grant County. "As each *Seeds of Success* collection aims to be useful in conservation efforts for the next 200 years," she explains, "we can always use extra hearts and hands to collect the large amounts of seed required—10,000 to 20,000 seeds per species!"

To participate in this historic project, contact Ms. Kuhlmann at **360 647-7871** or ekuhlman@u.washington.edu. 🌱

Should rare plants be sold commercially?

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reducing the genetic fitness of wild populations.

On the other hand, there are compelling reasons for allowing commercial sale of rare plants. For some species, remnant populations are small and separated by urbanized areas, preventing interbreeding of the populations. In such cases, the presence of plants in managed gardens between isolated populations may provide a "gene flow corridor," thus reducing harmful effects of inbreeding. Horticultural use of rare plants may also bring tangible benefits to rare plant conservation, such as opportunities for public education and the ability to raise needed

money for conservation projects. Clearly, this is a very complex issue, and CPC board members are developing criteria to determine when retail sale of rare plants may be appropriate. 🌱

Reichard receives national award

Sarah Reichard will receive the 2006 American Public Garden Association's Professional Citation Award June 30 for making significant achievements in public horticulture and for showing "great skills, innovation, and potential."

Dr. Reichard also received the Exemplary Faculty Teaching Award at the UW College of Forest Resources annual recognition event in May. 🌱

Rare Care is grateful for generous support provided by the Miller Charitable Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Bullitt Foundation, the Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, The Mountaineers Foundation, private organizations and individual donors.