



# Kinnikinnick Journal

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September—October 2020

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / PO Box 1092 Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

[www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

*Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, programs will be recorded and made available online. When viewed live, there will be opportunities for Q&A. If you are unable to view the live presentations, they will be made available online after. Members will be notified about how to register for the programs via email at [knps\\_org@googlegroups.com](mailto:knps_org@googlegroups.com). Unfortunately, we will not be able to physically meet at Sandpoint Community Hall.*

### Saturday September 26 at 10 am

*Laura Wolf, Wildlife Biologist*

Idaho Fish and Game

Mountain goats are unique and iconic animals of the alpine environments of the Rocky Mountains. These shaggy white beasts can balance on ledges and withstand harsh winter conditions, but are threatened by human disturbance and climate change. Learn how mountain goats create an interesting social structure living on the cliffs of our highest mountains

Laura has worked with Idaho Department of Fish and Game for 13 years. Based out of Coeur d'Alene, she focuses primarily on big game species such as deer, elk, moose, wolves, and mountain lions, but is most excited when she gets to work with mountain goats.

### Saturday October 24 at 10 am

*Chris Schnepf, Professor and Extension Forester*

University of Idaho

Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) is found throughout the western United States. While most commonly associated with high-elevation forests, it has an adaptive advantage anywhere it gets cold. Subalpine fir is a beautiful, unique tree that many Idahoans cherish, in part, because of the places it tends to grow – in high elevation forests where we love to recreate.

Chris received his B.S. in Forestry and Environmental Studies from Iowa State University, and an M.S. in Forest and Range Management and an M.A. in Adult and Continuing Education, both from Washington State University

## January Program Summary

*Summarized by Rae Charlton*

Native Plant Conservation and KNPS

The January program was presented by three KNPS members: Preston Andrews, Ken Thacker and Phil Hough. Preston led off with the global perspective, Ken continued with what's happening in North Idaho, and Phil talked about the history and on-going efforts of the KNPS Conservation committee.

Preston noted that conservation of native plants is part of our mission. He pointed out details in charts showing global assessments on biodiversity and an inventory of plants collected by Kew Gardens (London). There are estimated to be 391,000 vascular plant species known to science. Of those, 20-33% are at risk of extinction. A local example is Whitebark Pine, listed as vulnerable, this species has experienced a short term decline of over 50%. Its main threats come from wildfire and fire suppression, white pine blister rust, mountain pine beetle, and climate change. Factors threatening global biodiversity include climate change, pollution, invasive species, land use, fire and fuels exploitation. Locally, conservation efforts are being advanced by several organizations, Friends of Scotchman Peaks, Kaniksu Land Trust, and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation initiative. Preston urged us to learn more about local vulnerable plants such as the clustered lady's slipper.

Ken noted that the greatest threats to native plants in North Idaho are climate change, invasive plants (non native), and urban sprawl. Weeds outcompete native plants through their greater reproductive success. We have facilitated their spread by providing the disturbed ground they favor. Loss of habitat is critical for native plants. Some forest management practices, such as timber harvest and the burning of slash piles, opens up areas for weeds to establish. Alternative methods, such as winter operations on

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Message

*Submitted by Ken Thacker*

It has become a tradition that the Board take a hiatus from meetings in August and occasionally both July and August, but not this year. The good news is that we had three delightful meetings in Board members back yards and the bad news is that we always had something significant to talk about. In any case, thank you Cindy and Jan for your hospitality and we will probably continue doing this as long as the weather holds.

Speaking of things to talk about: In the May/June newsletter I talked about our plan to replace the roof on the cabin at the Arboretum. Then, in keeping with the chaos of 2020, the museum threw us a curve when they decided that they wanted their cabin back to use as display space. Clearly this is the highest and best use of the historic structure and we have been lucky that they let us use it for about 20 years. We have now shifted our focus from buying a roof to buying a whole new structure for our Arboretum office and storage space. As part of that, we are working with the Museum, Lions Club and Parks and Rec to develop a coordinated long-range plan for our corner of Lakeview Park. Rae will have more to say about this in the Arboretum News section.

The last six months has been challenging for all of us in multiple ways. The Board has been trying to figure out how KNPS can weather the storm of adapting to the new normal which may not be normal for long and is anyone's guess how long. We realize that cancelling everything cannot continue indefinitely if we want KNPS to remain a functioning organization. We also are dealing with a membership that is nearly all high risk. Programs are a huge challenge and we all owe Preston Andrews a big 'thank you' for looking at ways to move forward. The September and October programs we will be entirely online with a Zoom presentation and this may be how we do it for a while. We are watching the CDC and PHD guidelines and at some point, we will be doing a hybrid live and Zoomed program. COVID-19 has forced us out of our comfort zones by making us work with new technology that we probably should have been figuring out anyway.

And now... a KUDOS!

We also owe Robin Campbell and Cindy Hayes a thank you for making "Plant Notes" a reality. If you have missed them, they are compact articles about native plants and native habitats in our area. So far, they have been in the Bee, the Reader and the Museum newsletter and this list is growing. The Notes fit nicely with our mission and they significantly raise our visibility in the community. They stepped up with the idea and then made it happen. Actions like this are the lifeblood of all volunteer groups like KNPS and without these we risk growing stale and withering on the vine.

### Lois Wythe Grant

KNPS has awarded the 2020 Lois Wythe Grant to Harpo Grant. She is a Masters student in Botany at the University of Idaho in Moscow. She is doing a 2 year floristic treatment of the Selkirk Mountains of Idaho, ranging from the Canadian border to Sandpoint. She is collecting and documenting the vascular flora of the region. She plans to use the Lois Wythe Grant money to help fund the creation of beautiful scientific illustrations of notable plant species. We look forward to hearing about her project and seeing her illustrations at a KNPS meeting in the next year.



*Artwork by Marilyn McIntyre*

(February Program Summary Continued from page 1)

snow, and horse logging, could improve the situation. Leaving small piles for habitat and burning slash in smaller piles would be “lighter on the land”. Roads and trails move weed seeds. Off-road vehicle use creates weed habitat, kills native plants and damages soils. Native plant advocacy is needed in many areas, including education, conservation easements, supporting wilderness designations, and public purchase of selected lands.

Phil has been on the Conservation committee since 2003. KNPS is the only voice for native plants locally, and we advocate, educate, and build consensus. New members welcome! He noted: “Conservation is a state of harmony between man and the land” (Aldo Leopold). Our arboretum provides an exceptional opportunity to educate the public about native plants and habitats. The committee is involved in forest planning efforts and projects, advocating for protecting native plants in roadless areas, and wilderness. They have conducted field surveys, such as monitoring populations of clustered lady’s slipper in designated areas. KNPS was the first to sound the alarm about Eurasian milfoil. We’ve been involved with white pine habitat reforestation, treasured landscape projects, weed identification training, whitebark pine restoration surveys, planting at the Pack River and Clark Fork Deltas, and more. For many years Molly O’Reilly chaired the committee, but she has retired from the post she held so capably. KNPS owes a debt of gratitude to this dedicated group for all their work over the years (comment by note-taker)!

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### Member Profile: Cara Johnson

*Submitted by Cindy Hayes*

Sandpoint is my home town. My grandparents originally moved here from Spokane and later my father followed them. My mother comes from West Virginia. She found her way to Sandpoint also and met my dad here. They have a pretty cute love story. I was raised out on Gold Creek Rd until I was 7. Then we moved into “town”. After graduating high school, I promptly left to go see the world. I moved to Anchorage, Alaska and spent the next 10 years there skiing, mountaineering, farming, exploring and learning. Anchorage is a vibrant, international city in a remote, wilderness outpost with a unique caliber of people. It was so fun! I also had the good fortune to travel to some villages outside of the road system and experience the incredible abundance of the land and a refreshing pace of living. I studied printmaking & drawing at the university in Anchorage and herbal medicine through distance education programs. The birth of my son, Silas, brought me back to Sandpoint to be closer to family.

I’ve always had a fascination with plants. I LOVE their forms and patterns of growth. I’ve studied medicinal uses of plants ever since my uncle brought my mom a spiral notebook written by Tieraona Low Dog called Gifts of the Earth when I was a teen. It was the first time I’d seen a text of herbal medicine knowledge. I pored over it for years and eventually pursued formal Herbal Education through Dorene Peterson of Australasian College of Herbal Medicine and Kathryn Sharp of White Sage Landing. I also completed a Permaculture Design Cert in Winlaw, B.C.

Working for a Native Plant Society is a dream come true. I love the natural world and I’m so thankful to be a part of such a special cause and a truly amazing group of people! I’m passionate about fostering connections between people and plants to promote a sense of trust, fascination and value of the natural world. I love to share approachable ideas for empowering people to incorporate medicinal plants into their lives and learn to value the importance of plant species. My current goals are to cultivate medicinal and native plants and teach others to do so, in order to establish knowledge, protection and presence of these species in our region. Pollinators are my main focus for these efforts lately. I’m looking at helping Sandpoint become a “Bee City” and I’d like to begin beekeeping!



## Committee Reports

### Arboretum Committee

The highlight of the summer was the official dedication of the beautiful new arbor designed and built by Collin Beggs Timberframing. He and his crew were on hand at noon on July 22, along with the mayor, Kim Woodruff of Parks and Rec, editors from both local papers, Board members and the Arb Leadership Team. KNPS should be very proud of this lasting gift to the community. Special thanks to Cara Johnson, our summer Coordinator, for bringing this need to Collin's attention, and to Ann Torpie for designing the plaque honoring Collin.



Another big project was the creation and installation of our third interpretive sign. Kudos to Ann Torpie, whose graphic design skills, vision, and determination saw the project through. The sign, which explains why native plants are important, includes paintings by Marilyn McIntyre and photos by Marilyn George. It is located behind the cabin, on the path to the left of the interior rain forest habitat.

The cabin, which belongs to the museum, is the main news item: please see the President's Message. The Arboretum Leadership Team is working away at finding storage for the tools, hoses, lawn mowers, Arlis's benches, etc. that have been housed there. We are thankful for the very long loan of what became our headquarters.

The Arb's corner of Lakeview Park includes two neighbors: the museum and the Lions Club. For the first time, we are working together to create activities for children. The first event will be held outside, on Halloween night, from 4-7 pm. It will be a Halloween Haunted Forest, with scary entertainment for older children and art projects for younger ones. Volunteers are needed, please email [arboretum@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:arboretum@nativeplantsociety.org) if you'd like to help. We are excited about the new collaborative era just beginning...

We are grateful to Cara for her dedication, initiative, and skill in keeping the Arb looking its best all summer. Fall clean-up will be Sunday, Sept. 27, 10-12, followed by our traditional potluck. We will be putting the Arb to bed for the winter AND clearing out the cabin. So, please come, but be forewarned, you may be taking extra stuff home!



## Board of Directors 2020

Ken Thacker, President, Programs  
Jan Geren, Vice President  
Carol Jenkins, Secretary  
Shawna Parry, Treasurer  
Julie Kallemeyn, Publicity  
Cindy Hayes, Board Member  
Judy Lyding, Board Member  
Robin Campbell, Board Member  
Ann Torpie, Arboretum

### Additional Committee Chairs and Positions

Mary Jo Haag, Sue Gervais, Rae Charlton,  
Rae Charlton, Arboretum  
Dennis Rieger, Landscape  
Vacant, Conservation  
Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Grant  
Mary Jo Haag, Historian  
Nancy Rieger, Hospitality  
Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee  
Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor  
Ann Torpie, Printer  
Preston Andrews, Programs  
Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, List serve

### Join KNPS for 2020

## **Membership Rates**

January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

___ Individual	\$25.00
___ Household**	\$30.00
___ Student/Senior (65+)	\$20.00
___ Sustaining**	\$50.00
___ Patron**	\$100.00
___ Sponsor	\$50.00

*\*\*These memberships are entitled to two votes*

*Membership dues and additional  
Donations may be tax deductible*

## **Membership Information**

(make check payable to Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society or KNPS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### *Newsletter Options:*

Electronic Copy \_\_\_ Paper copy \_\_\_



### *Mail to:*

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society  
PO Box 1092  
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

OR

Payment by credit card is available on our website,  
[nativeplantsociety.org](http://nativeplantsociety.org).



*Huckleberry  
Artwork by Marilyn Monroe*