



Kinnikinnick Journal

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Sept/Oct 2014

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

Upcoming Programs

Presentations Sponsored by
Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society
and Sandpoint Parks and Recreation
Community Hall, First Ave, Sandpoint
(Across from County Courthouse)

All meetings begin at 9:45 and are held at the Community Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Saturday, September 27

Thomas Woolf, Aquatic Program Manager, Idaho
State Department of Agriculture
An Introduction to Aquatic Plants

Saturday, October 25

Molly O'Reilly
In-Town Landscaping with Native Plants



Presidents Message

Rae Charlton

The first annual KNPS Summer Barbeque, at the Waterlife Discovery Center,

was a huge success! Kudos to Gail Bolin, for coming up with the idea and organizing the event, and to John and Valerie Albi for taking care of purchasing and serving up the entrée (ably assisted by Don Childress). Everyone was so busy enjoying the event (and the location) that no one snapped photos—we'll remedy that next year. The party had a rather inauspicious beginning: I arrived early, as part of the set-up crew, and parked my car in the shade. And then I watched a young man carefully hanging up his wet laundry, all around the gazebo where John would be cooking the hamburgers! I went over and asked if he realized that about 50 people would be gathering here soon, for a picnic, and that he'd probably been invited? And he said "yes", Gail had invited him (as one of the Techs at the Center) but he'd just forgotten. By then more members of the set-up crew had arrived and it was clear that the laundry would HAVE to be moved! Then we turned our attention to the huge RV taking up much of the parking lot, parked illegally...he eventually moved along. After that, it was smooth sailing!

While handing out kudos, I want to include Ken Haag. For much of the past year, he has worked on the design for an information kiosk to be installed at the Arboretum. With help from Sylvia, and everyone on the Arboretum committee, a design was approved. (In fact, we marched over and decided just where it should go!). And this summer Ken built it, mostly by himself. It includes a handsome map of the Arb, plus space for the Museum and/or the Lions Club to use (e.g., advertising events). Arlis would have been so pleased! Do go and check it out.

See you at the September meeting, if not before!

Committee Reports

Arboretum News



The Arboretum was a busy place this summer. The wind storms knocked the top out of one of our big Ponderosas and broke branches out of other trees. There was a lot of cleanup to do. The new areas that we planted last fall are doing well and have been blooming.

The kiosk that Ken Haag designed and installed is a focal point at the entrance. It is a nice addition to the Arboretum.

A big thanks to the gardeners who have been keeping things looking good all summer. Bill Lamson reworked several of the paths. Bruce Vogslinger has been making good compost for next year and using pine needles to keep down the weeds in the young forest area. Mary Jo Haag has been keeping the weeds down in the wall. Konrad Dshlstrom and Joyce Pence have been redoing the Riparian Habitat. Cheryl McKee has been getting the Dry Rock Habitat under control. Mary Toland has the Moist Forest Habitat looking good. Rae Charlton keeps the Interior Rain Forest well watered and the oakfern where it is supposed to be. Jackie Earl is keeping the shade garden growing and filling in. Our coordinator, Gina Graham has been a big help to the gardeners.

We can always use extra help in the Arboretum. There are several areas that we need to dig grass out of so that we can plant it to native plants. If you would like to help, whether it be a once a week commitment or a special project, let Sylvia know. Submitted by Sylvia Chatburn. Photo courtesy Marilyn George

Conservation Committee

Conservation committee members were active outdoors this summer! From weed surveys for Treasured Landscapes, White Bark Pine surveying to seed gathering for the Clark Fork Delta restoration effort and more, this was a time to move our efforts outdoors and enjoy the plants we love.

Forest Plan update: final approval has been set back with a personnel change at the Regional top in the USFS. We will stay tuned for this document that will guide our local decision makers.

If you are interested in learning more about the Conservation Committee, please let Molly know. conservation@nativeplants.org. Submitted by Molly O'Reilly Photo by Kate Walker.



Landscape Committee



The Landscape Committee has performed three consultations so far this summer. The first was Carol Robinson's new home. A little rainy weather did not dampen the spirits of the committee as we helped her with some landscaping ideas for her new home. Our second consultation was for Marian Cox. She had us help her with reducing her weeding and maintenance efforts so she could enjoy more time at her lake property. The third consultation was for Norman Fargo. His castle is situated at high elevation and he needed help with weed identification. He has many native plants and only thinning and weeding will be necessary to complete his landscape efforts. The last consultation of the summer will be at Southside School in September. Submitted by Dennis Rieger. Photo by Dennis Rieger.

KNPS Arbor Day Plant Sale 2014

Bob Wilson

This year another successful plant sale was held at the Arboretum on June 7. We had a great turnout and the weather couldn't have been better. A wide variety of native plants were provided by Cedar Mountain Perennials. In addition, baked goods and coffee were available and several birdhouses from the Idaho Master Naturalists were sold. Joining us this year was the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness with a display booth showcasing their efforts to preserve the area as a federal wilderness.



The day kicked off with an Arbor Day Ceremony presented by the Sandpoint Tree Committee and a Proclamation of Arbor Day by Mayor Carrie Logan. The City planted a tree in the park near Ontario Street in honor of the day.

This year, the Bonner County Historical Society partnered with KNPS and coordinated their efforts with ours in order to attract more people. The Museum offered free admission as part of their First Free Saturday program and reported very good turnout. By partnering with BCHS we also helped promote each other's activities on this day.

The day was very rewarding for all who participated and the event continues to grow as more organizations join in the activities.

Past Programs

Contributed by Mark Stockwell and Lexie De Fremery Photos by Marilyn George



On May 24, 2014, Megan Taylor delivered a fascinating presentation entitled “Bees, Pollination & Pesticides.” Megan’s PhD research focused on honeybees. She stressed that most of the research completed on pollinators has been done with honeybees and bumblebees and has been funded by agribusiness. The emphasis thus far has been on crop pollination where an estimated \$20 billion is spent annually. Plant pollination by flies, butterflies, moths, birds, bats and other insects has been studied very little. Honeybees and many other bees are “generalists”, meaning they pollinate a variety of flowers, and can pick up a wide variety of toxins (pesticides, fungicides, etc.) Other species of bees are specialist, pollinating only one or very few plant varieties.

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Megan discussed problems associated with a new variety of pesticides entitled neonicotinoids that have gained wide spread use in recent years. Neonicotinoids are very toxic to bees and have been associated with mass honeybee and bumblebee die offs. Bees have fewer detoxification enzymes than other insects so they are very susceptible to pesticide and fungicides. Often, exposure to these various chemicals has a synergistic effect leading to even more hazards to bees.

On Saturday, June 28, 2014, Katherine Cousins gave an excellent presentation on the proposed Clark Fork Delta Restoration Project (CFDRP), referring also to the completed Pack River Delta Restoration project. Katherine is the Mitigation Staff Biologist in the Wildlife Bureau of Idaho Fish and Game.

As a consequence of the implementation of the Albeni Falls dam downstream and the Cabinet Gorge dam upstream, the Clark Fork River has suffered erosion, losses of vegetation and habitat, and a weakened ability to function as a delta. To mitigate, the CFDRP is intended to protect vulnerable areas and improve riparian and wetland habitats, thereby restoring the characteristics and ecosystem abilities of the delta.

Though Katherine spoke of many challenges, the project nevertheless is going forward. The first phase will take place in 2014-2015 and is directed at the northern areas that are accessed by Hwy. 200. Many players will participate, including Avista, Bonneville Power Administration, IDF&G, the federal agencies BLM, Army Corps of Engineers, National Resources Conservation Service, and Fish & Wildlife Service, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Master Naturalists, Idaho Conservation League, Ducks Unlimited, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, and many citizen volunteers. The website, www.clarkforkdelta.org, contains information on how to volunteer.

As an example of the staggering extent of this project in all its facets, Katherine spoke to the unimaginable number of plants that will be planted. It is safe to say that most of the audience was stunned by Katherine's presentation and the scope of the project.



*People from a planet without flowers
would think we must be mad with joy
the whole time to have such things
about us.*

~ Iris Murdoch



A Voice From the Moist Montane

Story and Picture by Marilyn McIntyre



On a lovely Saturday morning in late July a group of us met with fellow KNPS member and IDFG botanist for the Clark Fork Delta restoration project, Kate Walker, at the Gold Creek Wildlife Management Area. Our mission: to collect Sedge seed for future planting on the restored islands in the Delta.

We had a pleasant walk into a dry meadow where we picked lots of seed from Hood's Sedge (*Carex hoodii*). From there we went down to a low, wet marshland where we found and collected a water loving Big-Leaf Sedge (*Carex amplifolia*) while being steadily flown over by a small yellow, black masked, white crowned bird who turned out to be a male Common Yellowthroat; a type of Warbler that lives only in this low wetland habitat. He was obviously agitated by this invasion of big creatures into his nesting area.

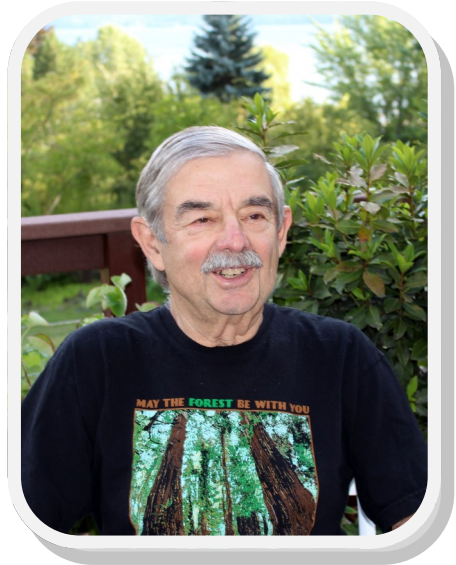
Helping Kathy Cousins, IDFG biologist, and Kate, to restore critical bird nesting habitat and prevent further erosion in the Clark Fork Delta is an important citizen science endeavor we can all participate in. And it is fun too, so I encourage you to join Kate Walker and fellow plant and bird lovers on one of these collecting trips.

As I write, the porcelain white berries of the Red Osier Dogwood and a few shriveled huckleberries join the Mountain Ash in providing food for the soon to migrate birds. The dogbanes are yellow leaved, our first harbingers of fall. Where will the little Yellowthroat and his family go for the winter? As true snowbirds, they will be down in California and Mexico.

Member Profile: John Albi

Article and Photo by Mark Stockwell

You'd probably have a hard time believing the soft spoken sommelier we've admired at our annual wine tasting events started his post college career occasionally encountering a hostile knife, tire iron or swinging chain. We all start somewhere, right?! John Albi's start began in the southern California town of Watts where his dad, a LA cop who later started a successful security systems company, kept him busy installing security alarms throughout high school and college. John was quite athletic, playing football and running track in high school - he even boxed in college. He had a passion for fast cars in those years, so after graduating high school he built and raced sports cars - "specials" as they were called at that time. Although the road racing lifestyle was thrilling the prospects for making a living at it were limited, so when John met his real love, Valerie, his car was steered in different directions – marriage and college.



John studied finance at Cal Poly in Pomona, earning a business degree which was followed up graduate work in accounting at U.C.L.A. He worked for International Harvester in its credit management department before taking jobs at Xerox and Hughes Aircraft. It was with IH that John discovered an unexpected skill. It seems a quiet, sentimental guy can be very successful repossessing expensive heavy equipment! Sure he faced an occasional improvised weapon, but generally it proved hard to say no to a nice guy with a sympathetic nature. John had a great success rate, once even recovering 100 garbage trucks from one delinquent client, but he knew being a high end repo man was just a start. Most of his successful business career was spent as a Cost Accounting Manager at high tech companies, so his profession veered back to finance and culminated as a senior financial consultant for Pacific Gas and Electric in the 1990's. At PG&E he instituted cost reporting standards for each of the power plants.

John and Valerie often traveled from the S.F. Bay Area to Sandpoint to fish in the summer and ski in the winter. They shared goals of being closer to nature and starting a small business. Valerie had a successful background in the specialty food industry and John had a long time interest in wine, so they decided to tap a niche market by starting Pend Oreille Pasta. They intended to run their store for just a few years, blinked, and discovered that 15 years had passed. Although they loved the business they'd created, the long hours restricted their time for other interests, so they sold it a little over a year ago. Now they have more time with hobbies and keeping up with their two daughters, a son and their families.

John still loves food and wine but now has more time for gardening and photography. He is currently working on the Clark Fork Delta Restoration Project providing before and after photos to document the delta improvement process. In addition, John is on the board with the local Master Naturalist group and volunteers with the Fish and Game Department's Cabinet Gorge Kokanee Salmon Hatchery. He recently helped collect Kokanee eggs from Granite Creek and nurtured the hatchlings before releasing them by tanker truck near Garfield Bay and Trestle Creek. He's a proud father!

John has been active with our KNPS for several years. He was the group's second president and currently sits on the board of directors and serves as vice president.

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