



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XIX Number 1

Jan/Feb 2015

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, January 24, 2015

Gail Bolin

Landscaping for Birds, Bees and Butterflies

Saturday, February 28, 2015

Jack Nisbet

Survivors: Tracing the Story of Native Plants in our Region. (Co-sponsored by Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and Pend Oreille Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalists Program)



President's Message

Happy New Year to us all! Before reviewing some of the “big events” of 2014, I want to acknowledge the splendid work of Wendy Aeschliman, who created and has maintained our website for the past 10+ years. She is one of those quietly efficient, modest, good-humored people with whom KNPS is blessed. THANK YOU, WENDY! And thanks as well to Dennis Rieger, who has stepped up to the challenge of updating our site. He has worked hard to make it accessible and appealing—if you haven’t looked recently, I recommend you check it out (nativeplantsociety.org).

The smooth transition to our “new” website counts as a major accomplishment of the past year. Another is our very successful Arbor Day, which we celebrated Saturday, June 7. For the first time, we partnered with the Bonner County Historical Society, which was to our mutual benefit. The event was held on a “First Free Saturday” at the museum, so we may have picked up some new native plant shoppers! A third is the informational kiosk at the entrance to the Arboretum, built by Ken Haag. We’ve been talking about it for literally years so it is a BIG DEAL to have it installed. Our Arboretum is a continuing source of pride for KNPS, benefitting from Sylvia Chatburn’s inspired leadership and a cadre of faithful volunteers.

And parties, how could I not mention them? Our First Annual Summer Barbeque, at the Waterlife Discovery Center, was a rousing success. Kudos to Gail Bolin for dreaming it up and seeing it through, and John and Val Albi for terrific food presentation and management. Although the Sip ‘n Shop at the Pend Oreille Winery in mid-October was technically a fund-raiser, that wining and dining certainly felt like a party! If the winery continues to hold them, we’d like to do it again...

KNPS is successful because of the loyalty, dedication, and mutual support of our members. It is an honor to serve as President of such a wonderful group. The year ahead looks promising, with a big continuing project in the Clark Fork Delta Restoration Project, and some new ideas for fund-raisers. Not to mention the exciting programs Gail has in store...see you in 2015!

Rae

Committee Reports

Arboretum News

No Report til spring! Contact Sylvia at smchatburn@gmail.com, if you are interested.

Conservation Committee

As 2014 wraps up, the Conservation Committee is delighted that the Forest Service seems very close to a final Forest Plan! We hope to be working on Plan implementation in 2015, ensuring that native plants are represented in the process.

As many are aware from recent publicity, the Forest Service is scoping prescribed burning as a tool in its efforts to improve habitat for and survival of Whitebark Pine, the very important alpine tree species of our area. This is part of the Treasured Landscapes project in the Lightening Creek Drainage, that has seen very positive involvement by KNPS. The Conservation Committee is preparing a draft letter for KNPS Board approval in January. Whitebark Pine was the topic of a KNPS presentation and an important local, alpine species that we have watched with concern for some time.

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

Landscape Committee

The Landscaping crew is shoveling snow and just can't find any plants in the white stuff! Contact Dennis Rieger at knpsorg@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more about this committee!

Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant

The Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant for 2015 has been awarded to a group of volunteers continuing work on the riparian buffer zone along the shoreline of the Dover City Park. The group headed by Diane Brockway will be replacing native plants and updating signage in the planting areas. The group promises ongoing maintenance of the area.

In addition to the funding provided by our grant volunteers and neighbors will be contributing other funds to cover the cost of the project. The area is easily viewed by visitors to the walking trails and the playground surrounding Dover City Beach.

This is an area in which which members of KNPS have been active in the past.

KNPS Website

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society web site has a new look! Wendy Aeschliman has been the webmaster for over 10 years and has produced a wonderful web site for KNPS. She has moved and so now Dennis Rieger has taken over the responsibility of maintaining the web site. As part of the change the web site has been redesigned with a new look and a different "feel". He welcomes input on the new site, email him at knpsorg@gmail.com with your ideas and comments. To see the new site, point your browser to nativeplantsociety.org.

Program Summary

Pollinators, Predators, and Plant Grazers: The Role of Insects in Home Gardens

November's program featured Stephen Augustine, a local beekeeper, discussing hymenoptera, or stinging insects. With the aid of colorful slides, he showcased native and non-native bees and other insects, encouraging audience members in their gardens to apply a strategy of friendly non-interference with such insects at a minimum and, even better, to create a habitat that enhances their survival. Healthy gardens depend upon the balance among the various trophic levels in the food chain; Stephen playfully re-named his presentation "Wolves, Police, Flower Fairies, Deer, and Farmers," assigning these roles to the players we see in our gardens. The equilibrium is fragile and vulnerable to human activities; perhaps to us the most glaring imbalance is the decline of pollinators. Stephen remarked that honeybees, which are on the decline, are responsible for more crop pollination than are the native bees, but they can actually displace our natives. They also are crop specific, unlike the natives which do a better job of covering diverse plants. Native plants, of course, encourage native bees and other wildlife and vice versa.



Stephen gave several examples of how plants and pollinators have evolved to accommodate their survival needs. For instance, some flowers when full of nectar issue a negative charge which attracts certain bees with a positive charge. In South Africa, to reduce competition from other plants, the Orpheum plant unlocks its pollen only when the female carpenter bee beats her wings at exactly the right frequency. Evolution also has resulted in some hymenoptera becoming carnivorous.

Questions arose on providing habitat, and Stephen offered information on how to build and place nesting blocks to encourage hymenoptera populations. Ground nesters prefer loose, well-drained soil, sunny location, and level and sloped ground, but planters work too. Diverse flowering plants, including native plants, water sources, and a natural garden with snags and leaf litter will encourage hymenoptera.

It's Time to Renew!

Memberships expire at the end of the year. Your continuing support helps make possible the development and maintenance of the Native Plant Arboretum, the Lois Wythe Scholarship, Arbor Day participation, and monthly programs at the Community Center. The KNPS continues to be a strong voice for plant conservation in the region. Please help us by supporting these many fine efforts.

Membership Categories

<i>Patron</i>	\$100
<i>Sustaining</i>	\$50
<i>Sponsor (commercial)*</i>	\$50
<i>Household</i>	\$25
<i>Individual</i>	\$20
<i>Student</i>	\$15
<i>Senior</i>	\$15

**non-voting membership*

Renew By:

Mail - send a check to PO Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864

Online using PayPal at www.nativeplantsociety.org/membershippaypal.htm

Or in person at any of the general meetings

Member Profile: Kate Walker

Article and Photo by Mark Stockwell

Most of us fanaticize about finding a career in which we're paid for doing what we love. Currently working with the Idaho Fish and Game, Kate Walker is grateful to be working as a botanist on a highly valuable wetlands restoration project in the Clark Fork River Delta. "What could be better" than working with plants to improve wildlife habitat in such a beautiful area?

Kate grew up in the central New York town of Fayetteville, where her parents taught at a nearby university. She considers herself a 'road less traveled' sort of gal, frequently following her own unique and varied interests. Her roads usually lead to the wilderness.

Kate has always been artistic and after high school she followed that creative bent to obtain a BA in Art from SUNY Buffalo State. Her inspirations always came while communing with nature, so she spent much of her college years hiking and backpacking in the Adirondacks. After college she worked seasonally for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the BLM, and the U.S. Forest Service before returning to school to pursue a second degree in Natural Resource Management.

Travel has been the common denominator for most of Kate's career. She's worked on projects from Alaska to New Mexico, and from the Appalachians to the Sierras. Her expertise is in biological monitoring, usually working as a botanist for various federal and state agencies. Her resume is as varied as the locales she's explored; monitoring piping plovers in Rhode Island, teaching environmental education as a river ranger in New Mexico, observing loggerhead turtles in Virginia, monitoring rare plants and sensitive species in the Mount Charleston NRA in Nevada, maintaining canoe portage trails in Alaska, and conducting non-native plant surveys in the Green Mountains of Vermont.

Few can appreciate the physical demands and "hard core" dedication Kate's field work can require. She's slogged knee deep in mud and been bitten by critters, blistered by the sun and stuck by cacti. How many of us have carried a shotgun to work for Grizzly protection in the Alaskan wilderness! So, you might imagine she'd spend her down time swinging in a hammock – not so. Her hobbies include hiking, skiing, kayaking and exploring. Ultimately, she claims she'd like more time for art again, and dreams of becoming an organic farmer when she grows up! But first, some more exploration is on her agenda - perhaps climbing Kilimanjaro in the next few years!

Kate met her husband, Erick, in Nevada while they both worked for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Their first date included a "casual climb" up Mt. Whitney! After a few professional moves as a couple within the Forest Service, Kate followed Erick to our area after he was transferred here three years ago. Her first job in North Idaho was as a native plant botanist for the Forest Service Coeur d' Alene Nursery. She is now working for the Idaho Fish and Game and feels blessed to be a part of the greater Sandpoint community. Kate's personality and background are a natural fit for our KNPS group.



Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society Members Help with Cutting & Bundling Willow Poles for the Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project

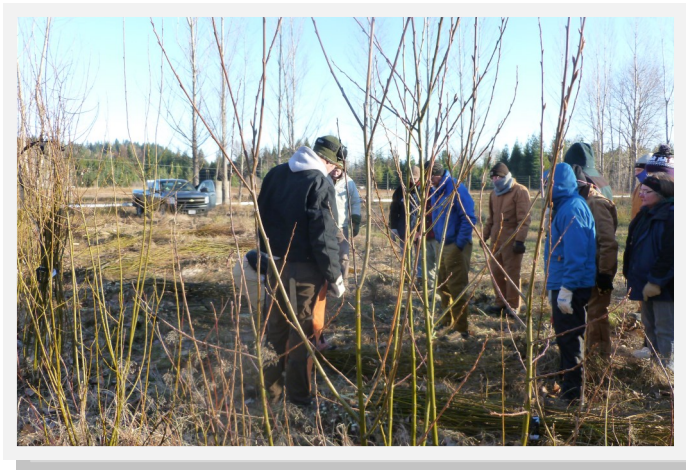
Gail Bolin

On a frigid November morning, 26 hardy souls from numerous local organizations showed up at the Kootenai-Ponderay Sewage District's Willow Nursery to cut, bundle and haul 10,000 willow poles to the Clark Fork Delta.

Due to the operation of dams since the mid 1950s, extensive erosion has occurred, resulting in the loss of approximately 5 to 8 feet of soil a year. The restoration project is being coordinated by Idaho Department of Fish & Game Biologist, Kathy Cousins, and involves a multitude of partners.



The goal of the restoration project is to prevent further erosion while improving and expanding key riparian and wetland habitats and to restore ecological function in the Clark Fork River Delta. More information can be found at: <http://clarkforkdelta.org>



Christmas Potluck!



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A Voice From the Moist Montane

Story and Picture by Marilyn McIntyre

All of the trees and other plants in the immediate forest appear to be slumbering under their heavy mantle of new snow, but I know that life in the subnivean, where the snow meets the ground, is as busy as ever. The arctic blasts with their sub-zero temperatures are somewhat mitigated by the white blanket of snow, where there are abundant tracks of snowshoe hares, weasels, martins and fishers, coyotes and wolves, squirrels, mice and moose; in short, all of my winter neighbors. The family of chickadees, the Steller's and Gray Jays and the always-searching Ravens are here too. Down at the ground level



the kinnikinnick and twinflower leaves are still green and will remain so until the warm spring air comes to melt the snow again. Of course the most abundant tracks are those of my skis and the 2 dogs who accompany me on every journey out the back door no matter how short or how long.

I hope that winter gives us all time to contemplate the true importance of plants in the planetary scheme of things. To give you a possible starting point I offer a quote from Robert Michael Pyle, an entomologist and writer, from his book, *The Tangled Bank*:

“...every place is a product of its plants, as are its people. Our bodies - like those of all animals - perish in the absence of plants' exhalations or their tissues, our minds revel in the intrigue of their lives and forms, and our spirits need their good green ministry wherever we go. At the end of the day, even a zoologist must admit: plants are the bee's knees.”