



# Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XX Number 2

March-April 2016

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / PO Box 1092 Sandpoint, Idaho 83864 [www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://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, March 26, 2016**

**Ken Thacker  
Owner/Operator The Weed Guy LLC  
Identification and Uses of Grasses  
Of North Idaho**

**Saturday, April 23, 2016**

**Chris Schnepf  
Professor, Area Extension Educator  
Forestry  
Landscaping for Fire Prevention**

## January Program Summary

### *Rare Plant Conservation in North Idaho*

Derek Antonelli, President of the Calypso chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society (Coeur d'Alene), presented the January, 2016 KNPS program: "Rare Plant Conservation in North Idaho". He explained the process used to determine which plant species are rare in Idaho, how measurements and rankings are produced, and presented a photo gallery of twelve plant species rare in North Idaho.

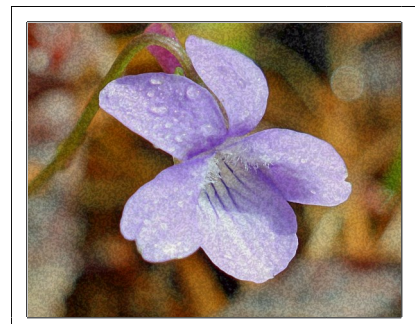
Derek is the lead organizer of the N. Idaho Rare Plant Working Group, which gathers and reviews information for presentation at the biennial Rare Plant Conference in Boise. (There is also a S. Idaho Working Group). Usually the conference considers around sixty plants, and there are currently 462 rare plants, statewide. The Idaho Native Plant Society sponsors the meeting, and state and federal agencies (e.g., BLM, Idaho Fish and Game) are involved in the process. They use a tool provided by NatureServe, an Excel-based calculator, to rank each species reviewed (based on factors such as range extent, area occupied, number of occurrences, population size,

*(Continued on page 3)*

A friendly reminder: our membership year runs Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, so it is time to renew! Rates are listed below, and a handy form to accompany your check is available on our website ([nativeplantsociety.org](http://nativeplantsociety.org)), which also provides a link to PayPal. All payments are used to benefit on-going activities of KNPS, such as the Arboretum (Coordinator in the summer, plants, tools, signs etc.). If it is comfortable, please consider renewing at a higher category, or making a donation.

Checks should be mailed to KNPS, PO Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864. Thanks!!

Membership Rates	
Individual	\$20 per year
Household**	\$25 per year
Student/Senior(65+)	\$15 per year
Sustaining**	\$50 per year
Patron**	\$100 per year
Sponsor	\$50 per year
**These memberships are entitled to two votes	



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## Committee Reports

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### Arboretum News

The Arboretum Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 6 in the museum conference room at 1:00pm. We will be discussing our goals for this coming season. The clean up day is tentatively set for the last Sunday in April.

We are looking for a new coordinator for this season. This is a paid position. It is 3 hours in the mornings, 9:00 to noon, five days per week. The salary will be 10 - 12 dollars per hour, depending on experience and ability to stay on task. If you are interested, please contact Mary Jo Haag via email ([kwhmjh@gmail.com](mailto:kwhmjh@gmail.com)) for more information. This is a good way to learn about native plants. If anyone is interested in helping at the Arboretum, they can email me at [smchatburn@gmail.com](mailto:smchatburn@gmail.com)

### Conservation Committee

No report this month. Want to learn more about this committee? Contact Molly; [conservation@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:conservation@nativeplantsociety.org) or 208-610-6642

### Landscape Committee

The Landscape Committee is off duty until spring. If anyone is interested in having their property evaluated or wish to serve on the committee, check out the KNPS website [nativeplantsociety.org/landscape](http://nativeplantsociety.org/landscape) for additional information .

### Grant Committee

No report this month. Anyone who has questions or needs more information may contact Janice DeBaun at [grant@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:grant@nativeplantsociety.org).



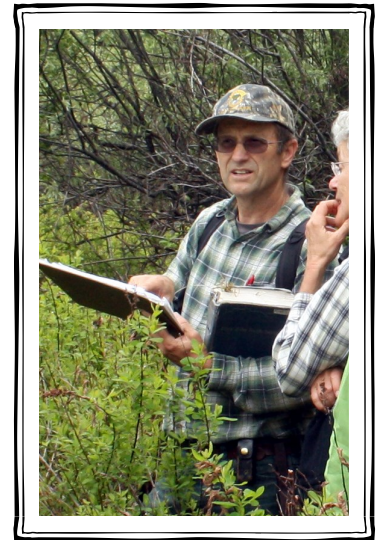


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number of occurrences with good viability, and threats).

The Bureau of Land Management and the U S Forest Service maintain lists of sensitive plants, by regions. North Idaho has more than half of the plants listed, and Bonner County has more rare plants than any other county in the state (!)

An enthusiastic audience of fifty had many questions for Derek, including how to get involved in the process. He suggested participating in a Rare Plant Working Group (they meet several times a year), signing up to help do research, and taking photos of plants in their habitats. There is a report form on the IFWIS website (Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System).



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## February Program Summary

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Bonner County is nine percent water. That's partly what draws people here. When they arrive, with money, without money, they want to live on the lake or some body of water. And then they want a view of that body of water. Herein lies a problem. Looking at that water means cutting down trees and bushes, making an access route to the boat dock, and (sometimes) having a nice green lawn between one's patio deck and the boat which provides access to that water.

Law provides that communities have a population of over 10,000 before watershed management becomes regulated. Fortunately for us, the Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District provides us with Molly McCahon, the Lake Assist expert.

Molly shared her task of helping keep our water quality high at the February Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society program. Co sponsored by the Sandpoint Parks and Recreation Department at the Community Center, approximately 30 members and guests were enlightened as to how to reduce non-point source pollution in our watersheds.



Molly talked about the difficulties of controlling the various pollutants, which roll downhill into our streams and lakes. Agriculture, industrial and urban sources create various contaminants which can lessen the quality of water around us. Her degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Idaho enables her to suggest means for cities, residents, developers and community organizations to abate the flow of pollution into our lake.

Discussing the contrast between improper management practices and the desire to have as much water go back into the ground with as much permeable space as possible, she informed us of ways to decrease the amount of impermeable surfaces that lie between us and the water. Molly helped us to understand how the use of native plants, parking lot swales, and curb cuts can be used to recycle water before it goes back into streams. Pictures of stream bank restoration projects in both Bonner and Kootenai County were shared. She shared that natural restoration processes, in addition to bioengineering and stream bank stabilization systems, may occur when large trees fall into rivers as they divert water toward the natural stream flow.

One of Molly's recommendations was the Native Plant Landscape book provided by our organization. She was one of several KNPS members who helped write that book. Local nurseries for purchasing native plants were suggested, including Cedar Mountain Perennials of Athol as her first stop.

For more information on stream bank restoration projects, Molly can be contacted via [lakeassist.org](http://lakeassist.org).

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## **Member Profile: Mary Jo Haag**

We small town Wisconsinites were pretty intimidated by the big city of Chicago. We dared go there as reluctant explorers, tiptoeing and with dilated pupils. We'd heard over and over again - the south side was the baddest part of town and if you go down there you'd better just beware of some guy named Leroy. We imagined Chicago's diverse neighborhoods – hillside mansions with butlers and chauffeurs that drove long black Cadillacs, or ghettos where teenagers peddled drugs, while bosses circled in long black Cadillacs. One wrong turn off the Dan Ryan Expressway and you'd find yourself in a neighborhood where you definitely wouldn't fit in. We knew that city dwellers were far more street smart than us, they had to be to survive there, so we pondered them with a curious awe. After sharing a brief lunch and marveling at her background story, I realized, from both my child and adult eyes, how much I was intrigued by Mary Jo Haag's life.



Mary Jo grew up in a Catholic family in the Chicago suburb of Wheaton. She probably wouldn't consider herself a street smart city dweller but it's pretty obvious her peripheral vision's been pretty acute throughout her life. Starting a family in a huge city in the turbulent 60's must have required a keen awareness of both obstacles and opportunities. Obviously, she guided Ken and their children well since they've all written success stories.

Mary Jo and Ken's story has been going strong for 60 years. They met and married after high school and started their family while Ken attended college at the Illinois Institute of Technology studying electrical engineering. Although the Tech's neighborhood is now well regarded, in the late 1950's and 60's their neighborhood was a bit sketchier. Their first home was an apartment located on the IIT campus in a Mies van der Rohe building directly across the street from a house of ... well let's just say it did a steady business and might have been owned by a guy named Leroy! Shortly thereafter they moved to Winfield, Illinois, where they lived for 37 years. Mary Jo's organizational skills must have been legendary at that time, imagine raising a large family while simultaneously assisting Ken as he gained his degree and started his career teaching at the Tech and working for Bell Labs.

After their six children finished school and left home, Mary Jo took a couple deep breaths before taking on new challenges. She worked as a legal secretary and travel agent before opening her own travel agency. The career allowed her several years travelling on her own or on vacations with Ken. Her adventures took her to exotic islands and an African photo safari. She and Ken once explored Wyoming's Wind River Range on horseback. The couple also fell in love with snow skiing and the wide blue mountain skies of the west. It was while gazing off at the snow ghost-speckled slopes of Schweitzer they imagined reinventing themselves as rural residents of the valley below them. The couple moved to Sandpoint in 1999 and purchased acreage bordering the Selle Valley where their dogs could run and they'd ride their own horses.

These days Mary Jo and Ken are active with animal causes and they both enjoy their horses and dogs. They host their extending family during frequent visits and Mary Jo volunteers for Friends of the Library, the Community Action League, and of course KNPS. For a number of years she's worked untiringly as assistant manager at the arboretum, a community asset where she urges all of us to share some volunteer time. She and Ken have also been hardworking KNPS meeting hosts. Additionally, she enjoys spending time with book club discussions and playing bridge with her friends. She and Ken also stay young snow shoeing, horseback riding and maintaining their property.





 Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society  
**Replant Your Refund Day**

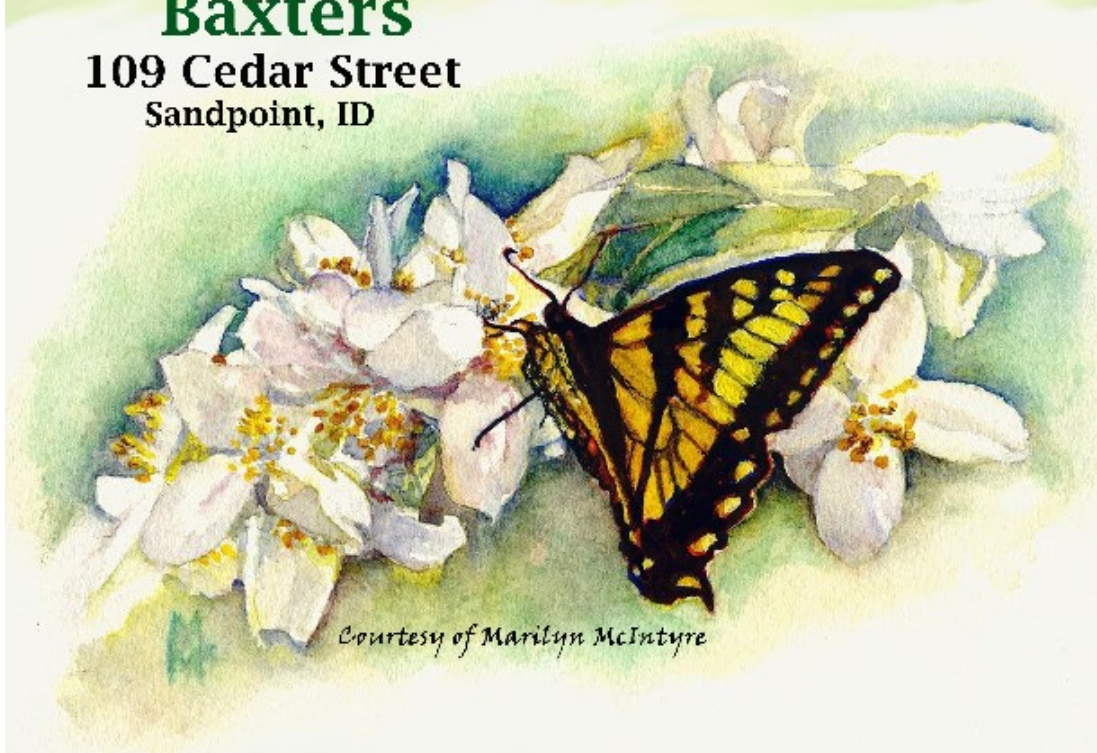
Wednesday, March 30, 2016

11:00 am - 8:00 pm

*A fundraising event at*

**Baxters**

**109 Cedar Street  
Sandpoint, ID**



*Courtesy of Marilyn McIntyre*

**Raffle:**

***Sailboat Sojourn on Lake Pend Oreille  
includes a catered picnic lunch***

More information: 208-597-5469

**CEDAR MOUNTAIN PERENNIALS**



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## A Voice From the Moist Montane

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### TREES AND NESTS

*"Every tree calls for special admiration. I have been making many sketches and regret that I cannot draw every needle."*

*John Muir in his journals.*

When on a ski outing the morning following an overnight windstorm accompanied by warming temperatures, I found a nest under a grove of cedar trees. This started me thinking about trees and the role they play in my life and in the lives of all the other creatures in our greater watershed community.

The list I made of all of the effects, good and not so good, is much too long to print here; but suffice it to say that trees, among many other things, support bio-diversity and help keep the whole ecosystem in balance. They hold and nourish the soil. They provide hotels for lichen, bird and insect reproduction and dens for small and large mammals. They act as carbon sinks and help



to slow the destruction of the ozone layer. Trees supply materials for human construction and yet can fall on the houses, barns and fences that are built from trees. They fall on people and animals and they play volleyball with balls of wildfire. Oh yes, they supply the paper on which I painted the nest and that made the book, "A Field Guide to Nests", where I learned that this nest was once the home of such a powerful little nest builder, the Townsend's Warbler. It needed that tree.

In the recent Paris Climate Agreement, Article 5 we read that "Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases...*including forests*" and specifically advocates conservation and sustainable management of forests as global carbon stocks. Learning how to manage our forests in a balanced and sustainable manner is becoming critical. As John W. Fitzpatrick of the Cornell Bird Labs recently wrote, "... all of us must now identify how we will respond to this unprecedented call to action. Whether and how we do so may constitute the defining character of human society over the rest of this century." Teaching the children of our community to love, understand and protect trees is exactly what we as an organization are doing with the Arboretum teaching tours, and the Conservation Committee's involvement.

Oh yes, above all, trees are beautiful.

*" Trees are guardians of the earth and we are the guardians of trees."*

*-Kim Stafford*

*Story and Art by Marilyn McIntyre*

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