



# Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XX Number 4

September--October 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, September 24, 2016**

*Jim Ekins*

*Area Water Educator, UI Extension*

**Research Topics in Native Plants**

**Saturday, October 22, 2016**

*Diane Stutzman*

*Botanist, BLM*

**Native Plants of the Palouse**

**Saturday, November 26, 2016**

*Bill Love*

*Inland Forest Management*

**History of the Humbird Mill and Spread of White Pine  
Blister Rust in North Idaho**

## May Program Summary

### *BLM Botany in Northern Idaho*

As a cross-country skier, I was glad to discover that Gamlin Lake may some day be available for Nordic skiing. This, however, will occur only with my, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts, input to Environmental Assessment programs at our local (Coeur d'Alene) BLM Office.



LeAnn Abell

Such was the message delivered to KNPS members and the general public by LeAnn Abell at our May program. We are the voice for some of the little things when it comes to input to the federal government agencies regarding land uses, LeAnn informed the audience. It was also a message she shared with me in conversation prior to her presentation. Public input is necessary if we want public land to be used as best fits our local interests.

Abell spoke of three different projects in her presentation "BLM Botany in Northern Idaho": Blackwell Island Native Plant Garden, Windy Bay Boater Park, and Gamlin Lake. A botanist for BLM, Abell provides input to projects at these and other locations from her offices in both Coeur d'Alene and Cottonwood.

One of the goals for the Native Plant Pollinator Garden at Blackwell Island Recreation Area concerned educating youth in helping to carry information to the public. Students at Lake City High School, CDA, grew seeds in their classroom and, along with volunteers from the community, planted several native plant species including blanket flower, Idaho fescue, and yarrow in the garden. Despite being planted at the beginning of last year's unusually hot summer, the plants are doing well. Students not only cared for the plants, but learned about Horticulture by taking notes and making observations. They were also given freedom in designing how the plants were dispersed in the available spaces. Organizations assisting in this project included the Calypso Native Plant Society of Coeur d'Alene and the Kootenai County Master Gardeners.

Abell also discussed the discovery of rough fescue at the Windy Bay Boater Park, as the result of timber salvage projects that took place after the 1996 ice storm. The Windy Bay Vegetation Management Plan also welcomes public support.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1) **May Program Summary**

Of local interest to many who have hiked its trails, Abell showed pictures of Gamlin Lake. Many species of rare aquatic native plants including bristly sedge and bulb bearing water hemlock are located within the 400 acres encompassing this recreation area. Some of this property's management responsibilities were deeded to BLM from the Nature Conservancy.

Of most importance to members concerned with public lands usage was the opportunity to sign up for information on public comment concerning these three specific locations. Individuals wishing to become involved can also find links by visiting the BLM website and following links to planning and Idaho BLM, seeking specific locations of interest. One can also contact LeAnn or the CDA BLM office for more information.

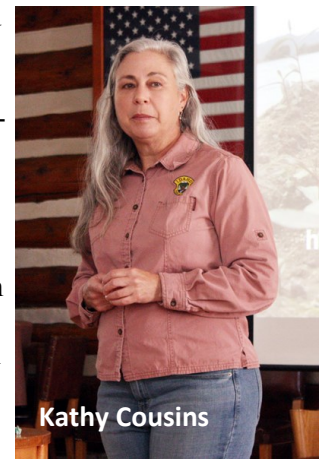
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## **June Program Summary**

### **The Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project, One Year Later**

Our June 25 program was presented by Kathy Cousins, Idaho Fish and Game. She reminded us that the project purpose was mitigation for loss due to the construction, operation, and inundation caused by Albeni Falls Dam. The plan is to protect areas vulnerable to erosion, vegetate them, and create habitat for wildlife. She noted that about 10-12 acres of delta habitat has been lost due to the operation of the Albeni Falls Dam. The invasive Reed Canary Grass is a big problem, and fighting it a particular goal. That a delta can be successfully restored was demonstrated by the success of the Pack River Delta demonstration project.

In 2014-15, the project began with area 3, the most challenging site, and 40 acres in size. An access road was created by raising the ground up, along the shoreline, which helped protect 17,000 linear feet. In all, 51,000 willows were planted, embedded in rock. The re-vegetation effort, led by Kate Walker, was to begin in April, 2015. But Spring arrived in February, which caused huge problems, e.g., the soil was too soft to support the weight of vehicles. They had to change plans. The soil was full of cobbles, and they needed to stretch it, but couldn't get the soil they needed, to do so. Twenty different species of grass seed were hydroseeded. Then came a very hot June, and drought, which slowed germination. Meanwhile, the weed team was tackling the Reed Canary grass and Flowering Rush, both invasive species native to Eurasia. Seventy-five people, including high school students, worked as volunteers. The lake level never reached its targeted full pool.



Fast forward to May, 2016: lots of lupines, yarrows, and grasses, plus evidence that the soil is being held in place. Cryptobiotic crusts were forming. The area fronting the lake needed the most protection, and they had to add larger rocks to protect the shoreline. There are photos on the project website which afford opportunities for comparison, year by year. It will take two full years to learn the survival rate of the plants (the planting year was year 0, this is year 1). They will also measure the diversity and density of vegetation. The next goal, phase 2, will be protection for White Island and Derr Island. Kathy finished by noting that the monitoring thus far shows that we're going in the right direction.

## **KNPS Fall Fundraiser - Save the Date!**

**Pend D'Oreille Winery - Sip and Shop**

**Thursday, October 27 from 4 - 7 pm**

**Raffle & 10% of all winery proceeds donated to KNPS**

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## Committee Reports

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### Arboretum News

Vicky Johnson, our paid coordinator, did a great job of keeping the gardens watered this summer. She worked diligently on some of our neglected areas. Our gardeners are adding more color to their areas. We planted native grasses, donated by Diane Green of Greentree Naturals, in the wall along the chain link fence. Nancy Reiger joined our group of gardeners this summer and has been working on the section of the Dry Rock Habitat that is east of the walkway. We want to showcase the Sumac that is blooming this year and the Highbush Cranberry that we planted last year. A fellow new to the area, Donald Kass, just started to help out last week. He is working on the other half of the Dry Rock Habitat. The wind storm this summer blew a lot of branches out of the trees, but; over all the arboretum is looking very good. People who are walking through, comment on how nice it looks.

The beautiful mural painted by Marilyn McIntyre was installed on the back of the kiosk under plexiglass in June. Every time I look at it I see something that I missed before. It is a wonderful piece of art and we are very fortunate to have such talent in our group. For more information about the Arboretum contact Sylvia at [arboretum@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:arboretum@nativeplantsociety.org)

### Conservation Committee

The KNPS Board voted to partner with Project 7B in a Situation Assessment of Opinion in Bonner County on land use and planning. Your society recognizes that the ways in which our county grows and develops affects habitat for, and well being of, native plants and has been involved in these issues for many years. The final report from this study should be ready and available in October. We will have a better idea then of potential next steps.

KNPS always focuses on native plants in its conservation activities and takes a positive role. Project 7B is a newly formed nonpartisan, nonprofit with a twofold mission: 1. To educate citizens about, encourage citizen involvement in, and convene constructive public dialogue around land use planning in Bonner County, Idaho, so as to support land use planning based on locally shared values and aspirations. 2. To facilitate land use and planning collaboration among governmental agencies, elected officials, non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and citizens of Bonner County. For information on the Conservation Committee or Project 7B, Contact Molly O'Reilly [conservation@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:conservation@nativeplantsociety.org).

### Landscape Committee

The landscape committee completed four consultations in 2016. There were two consultations on established landscapes where the owners were interested in enhancing their existing plantings. The other two were for new homes where we helped the owners with ideas that they could use to enhance their landscape with native plants. Thanks to the volunteers Nancy, Sylvia, Gail, Vicky, Eileen, Jill, Bob and Don for their knowledge and vision which has made our landscaping consultations so successful.

I am currently looking for projects for 2017. If you need help with your home landscape or know someone who does just contact me at [landscape@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:landscape@nativeplantsociety.org) so I can put you on the schedule for 2017. You need to be a member of KNPS to take advantage of this free (just feed us lunch) service.

### Grant Committee

To update those new to our organization, the grant committee selects the annual recipient of the Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant. The grant is given in honor of our founder Lois Wythe. It provides funds for projects that promote the appreciation of native plants in Bonner County. The 2016 grant funds were awarded to Southside School.

New committee members are always welcome. The time commitment is small—only several meetings in the fall and early winter. The tasks are as follows: the review and updating of the application form and the list of groups who receive direct mail notice of the grant and the review of the applications and the selection of the grant winner.

If you have suggestions of individuals, groups or classes that may be interested in the grant to be awarded for 2017, call Janice DeBaun, 263-8970. Even better, if you would like to join us in this worthwhile project as a committee member, let her know.

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## ARBOR DAY - June 4, 2016

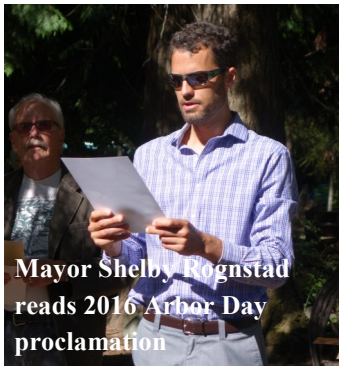
By Rae Charlton

A happy buzz of anticipation preceded Arbor Day this year. KNPS members knew that Marilyn McIntyre had spent much of the cold winter designing and painting a mural for the back of the kiosk in the Arboretum. At four feet by six feet, it was no small undertaking! Marilyn began by deciding which native plants to include, and then expanded to include the lake and a number of animals, some partially hidden, to entice children to carefully peruse the entire painting. Her hope was that children, especially, would be challenged to look more closely, at nature as well as her creation. Entitled "Our Wondrous Watershed", the mural was dedicated on a beautifully sunny Saturday, after Mayor Shelby Rognstad's official proclamation. An appreciative crowd was on hand for the celebration. Special thanks to Ken Haag for his careful work in installing the mural, with help from Dennis Rieger.



Marilyn McIntyre stands beside her mural

As always, the healthy and beautiful plants sold by Bob and Jill Wilson of Cedar Mountain Perennials were the special draw for many regulars. KNPS picked up several new members during the event. It was a successful fund-raiser and Open House for the Arboretum



Mayor Shelby Rognstad reads 2016 Arbor Day proclamation



Steven Drinkard, Bob Wilson and Shelby Rognstad, with Tree City USA Banner

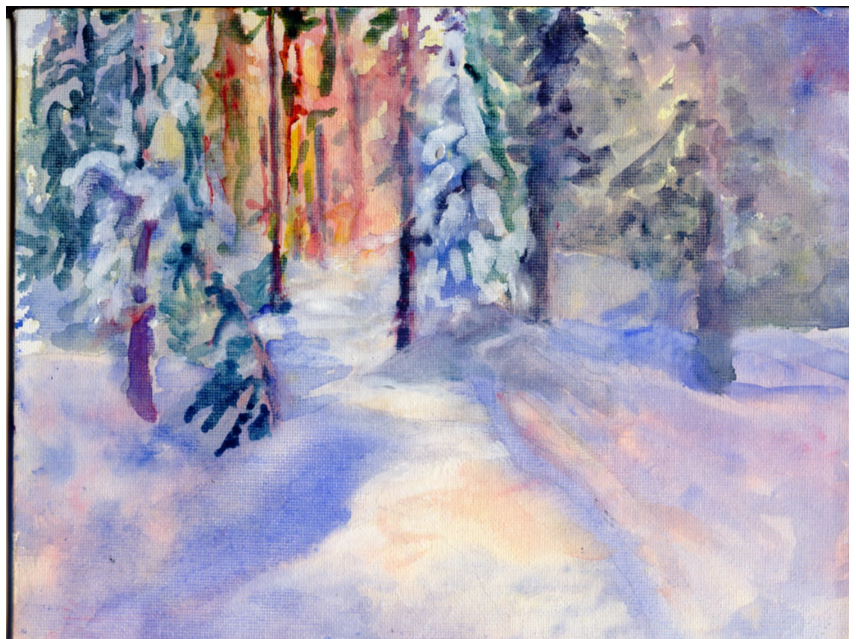


Bob Wilson helps volunteers prepare for the annual KNPS Plant Sale

## Holiday Card Committee

After a positive start last season, the Holiday Card Committee is preparing its tentative display of choices for the upcoming season. Interested members will be able to choose from winter scenes and seasonally appropriate native plants, provided by Marilyn and Marilyn. Members will be allowed to order in advance. Hopefully, we will have a full selection available at fall programs.

David Stroud



## **Member Profile: Cindy Hayes**

“Giving a blind man imagination is giving him his vision back.” - **Michael Soto**

By Mark Stockwell

Do you remember the scene in the *Miracle Worker* where as a child Helen Keller searched frantically to find her teacher at their first meeting? That scene made an impact on a kid. I remember closing my eyes and sticking my fingers in my ears attempting to mimic life without those senses. As hard as I tried I couldn't *get it*, my imagination wasn't that inventive. Did the deaf hear the constant hum I heard, or was their silence even quieter? Did the blind see the spray of sparks I stared at when covering my eyes, or was theirs a blackness even darker?

Cindy Hayes doesn't credit the movie for guiding her career choice, but she watched that scene as a child and it must have made an impression on her too. She eventually mentored and taught visually impaired children for over 30 years. She's too humble to recall her career as a noble endeavor, but by anyone's eyes it was certainly a very meaningful way to make a living. It's easy to imagine her students inspired by the miracles she trailed in her wake.

Cindy grew up as a Midwestern kid. Her dad was a missile engineer and her mom was a homemaker who later taught nursing. Cindy was active in school and sports and was a competitive swimmer in high school. She went on to college at Oklahoma State University to study elementary education and followed her Bachelor's degree with a Master's in school counseling. After finishing school she taught science and art to upper elementary kids for a time in Tulsa. From there, she moved to Alabama and then Florida where she became a certified teacher for the visually impaired. Her career took her to Louisiana for a few years where her son was born and her husband and she lived among some colorful Cajuns. She enjoyed canoeing in the bayou, eating incredible gumbo, and loving the annual tradition of schools closing during Mardi Gras. “Those locals liked to party,” she recalls.



Cindy and her family followed friends from Louisiana to Sandpoint in 1987. She was originally hired by the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind for a part time position as teacher for the visually impaired. This job eventually became a full time position. She worked as Region I Outreach Teacher for the visually impaired for 24 years until her retirement. Cindy worked with kids and their families teaching life skills and adapting print material into Braille or teaching screen reader technology. We sighted folks seldom think about the daily complications faced by the blind. Important things, like learning how to pay in cash – “Is that a \$5 or a \$20 I'm passing?” And seemingly trivial tasks like feeling confident when dressing – “Are the clothes I'm wearing matching or clashing?” Cindy's counseling skills were very helpful when teaching these challenging tasks. In her later years she coordinated outings and various functions for the students. Just imagine the satisfaction of watching young kids at summer camp, who'd never viewed a horse, ride one for the first time. How rewarding it must have been watching their winter worlds expand, ice skating, inner tubing or cross country skiing for the first time.

These days Cindy and her partner, Bob Blair, are retired and welcome birds and butterflies to their property by caring for the dozens of legacy plants inherited from their home's previous owners. While attending Master Gardener classes, she and Bob met many wise and hardworking gardening friends who were enthusiastic to share their expertise. Cindy is now the President of the Bonner County Gardeners Association. She is also active in the Monday Hikers and Friends of the Library, and enjoys fiber arts, reading, playing the piano and Contra Dancing. She's a recently published author of *Aunt Emily's Diaries*, a compilation of her great-great-great aunt's late 19<sup>th</sup> century journals. As an active member of KNPS, Cindy is a current board member.

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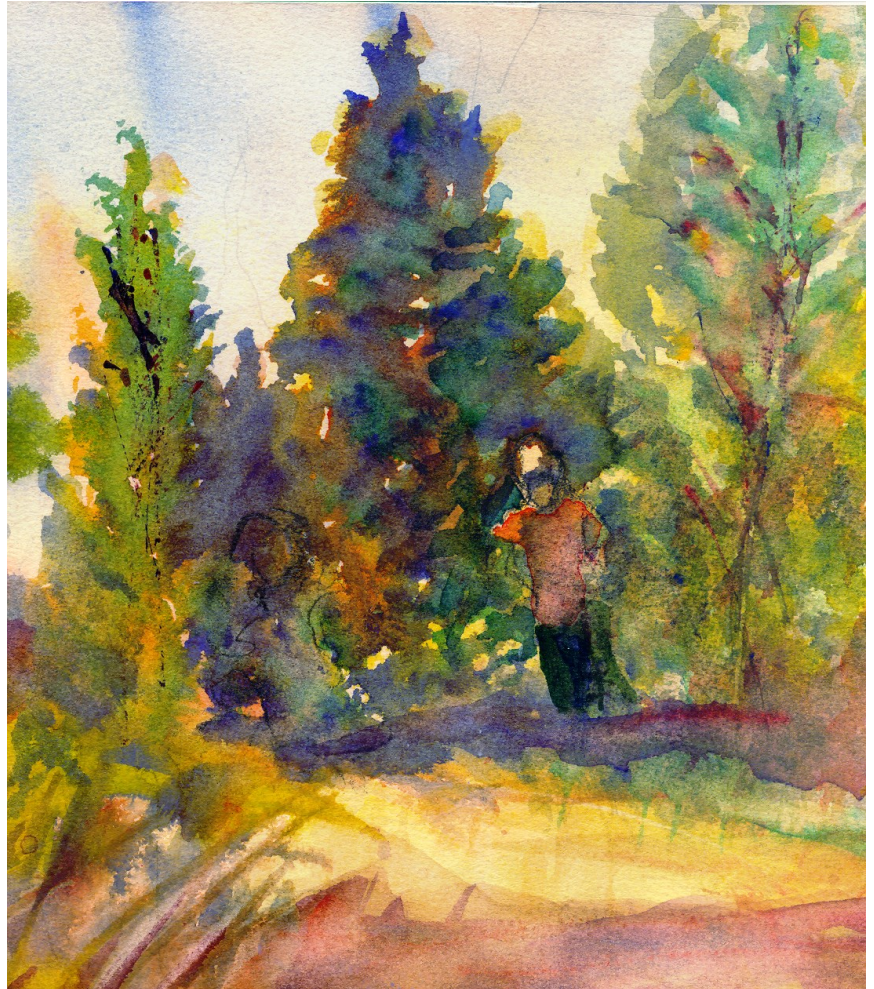
## ***A Voice From the Moist Montane***

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### ***Sights and Sounds of Summer***

*Story and Art by Marilyn McIntyre*

Acknowledging that this has been a glorious summer, I took an early morning walk out to the beaver ponds behind the cabin to see how they compare with last years heart-breaking dry conditions. Everything about this summer is in strong contrast to one year ago. As the bright sunlight breaks through the canopy to spread across the terrain and into the nooks and crannies of the forest, the air is cool, clear and fresh. The chickadees, nuthatches and golden crowned kinglets are singing, reminding me that there is nothing ordinary about one single day in the Moist Montane forest. And a large, fresh moose track reminds me to gather my senses and pay attention. The beaver pond has water.



A steady stream of birds flows around our brushy clearing, eating insects, ash and dogwood berries and worms. Robins, Swainson's and Varied Thrushes, Flickers, Pine Siskins, a Gray Catbird and a MacGilliverary's Warbler are close while the "schmocks" of Ravens and calls of woodpeckers come from afar. A Pygmy owl sits on the top spire of a grand fir sapling and talks to whoever is interested in listening; over and over, that one sound. After a while even I lose interest and it flies off.

I am amazed that a quiet summer day can be so magical when I look and listen to the sights and sounds around me. The dappled sunlight on the lichen littered path, the patches of bright sun in a dark forest, the birds singing, and the creek making its rocky way down to the river like a Broadway musical dancer switching from ballet to rock and roll, splitting itself between last December's straightened sections and the meander oxbows. With the Autumn Equinox arriving in less than a month, the maples are turning red to point the way.

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