



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXI Number 1

January-February 2017

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 27, 2017

***Tom Eckberg
Forest Health Specialist
Idaho Department of Lands***

What is Killing the Trees?

Saturday, February 25, 2017

***Phil Hough
Executive Director
Friends of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Update***

Saturday, March 25, 2017

***Bonnie Jakubos and Kristin Fletchcher
Wild Gardens: Interpreting Nature's Heart***

November Program Summary

**White Pine Blister Rust—
A Historical Perspective**

Presented by Bill Love

Submitted by David Stroud

While fishing along the creeks of the Montana high country in the late '70's, I often found delicious little green berries. I tried to pick enough that my wife would feel inspired to make jam out of them. To no avail, as they were so tiny it took too much effort. Someone told me they were gooseberries.



Little did I know I had stumbled into the alternate host for White Pine Blister Rust, a ribes plant.

Western white pine was once the predominant conifer species in northern Idaho. A century or so ago, western larch and western white pine comprised nearly 60% of

forest conifer species in this area. Then in 1900, white pine blister rust made its way to New England via Europe to eastern white pine forests and thence to a stretch of land 7 miles north of Priest River by 1927. Introduction of the disease has resulted in reducing western white pine to just a fraction of its initial numbers here in Idaho.

Foresters and scientists initially tried to eliminate blister rust by eradicating native Ribes species which serve as the alternate host by hand grubbing and spraying before realizing these methods were ineffective and resorting to silvicultural strategies. The most successful method to date has been the development of blister rust resistant western white pine seedlings.

The history of white pine blister rust, its origin, its treatment and some fabulous stories of the strength of not only the industry that harvested white pine, but the value of the BRC (Blister Rust Crews) during the depression era was brought to us by forester Bill Love. The November program White Pine Blister Rust – A Historical Perspective helped enlighten KNPS members and numerous guests on a major item of local history.

Bill has observed blister rust even this decade in trees in his Selle Valley acreage. His recommendations to help in controlling this still prevalent fungus is to plant resistant stock, thin and prune the trees to retain vigorous growth and to foster an environment which is less suitable for Blister Rust Infection. Purchase White Pine as seedlings from the University of Idaho and plant them intermixed with Larch if creating a mixed forest.

Committee Reports

Arboretum News

The gardeners are taking a well deserved time out until February when we will start planning and setting goals for next season. For more information about the Arboretum contact: Sylvia at arboretum@nativeplantsociety.org

Conservation Committee

In December 2016, Senator Jim Risch introduced the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act 2016 to designate approximately 13,900 acres in Idaho as Wilderness! While many things still need to happen before this bill passes Congress and gets signed into law, this was an important first step.

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society endorsed this proposal in 2005 and has supported it ever since. Members of the conservation committee have been engaged with this issue since the Idaho Panhandle National Forest began revising their land management plans in 2003.

In announcing this action, Senator Risch indicated that he intends to re-introduce the bill in 2017. Please thank the Senator for his vision and leadership! You can read more about the bill and how to submit comments on it at this link:

<http://bit.ly/2i1ynai>

The Conservation Committee meeting with local staff of the Idaho Conservation League in November was productive and enlightening. We share many values and our work overlaps. The meeting set us up to work as a team to track important policies and projects on our public lands.

A Situation Assessment has been completed for Project 7B which summarizes the perspectives of a variety of county leaders on land use planning and policy. The study revealed a consensus on retaining the rural areas of our county and protecting waterways and water quality. KNPS has partnered in this study. We have a substantial history of participating in land use planning as a voice for native plants. Check the Project 7B website for the Bonner County Situation Assessment. Project7b.org

All KNPS members are welcome to participate in the Conservation Committee. Please let Molly know if you plan to attend by contacting her at conservation@nativeplantsociety.org

Landscape Committee

The Landscape Committee is looking for projects for 2017. If you need help with your home landscape or know someone who does, just contact Dennis at 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

The 2017 Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant has been awarded to the Forrest Bird Charter School for a native plant garden at the school's location. Their proposed plan indicates our funds will be used primarily for the purchase of native plants. They will include plants that Native Americans used for food, medicinal and other purposes.

Arrangements have been made for donations of landscape rocks, labor and equipment. Additional funding for fencing, signage and other enhancements will be pursued from such groups as the Community Assistance League, the Idaho Native Plant Society and the Home Depot Community Impact Grants Program.

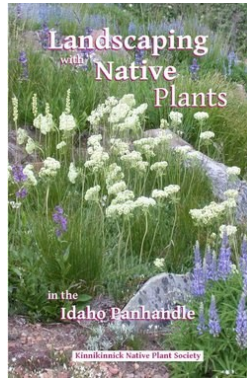
It is expected that 40-50 students, teachers and parents will be participating in the preparation and planting and that 400-500 people will benefit from their efforts. Their long-term goal is that by 2020 at least 10 percent of the student body will demonstrate an appreciation of native plants and stewardship through their school projects or career choices.



2016 Landscape Book Recap

By Carol Jenkins

In 2011 KNPS outreach and education included the development, writing, editing and printing of 479 copies of the book Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle. Twelve volunteers devoted two years to the project. Plant photos were provided by KNPS members.



2012 brought a second edition and a run of 500 copies. These sold out in 2014, so another 500 copies were printed.

At present there are nine retail locations in ID from Moscow to Bonner's Ferry. All profits from the book remain with the stores that sell them. After the reprinting of the second edition, the Director of the Bonner County Planning Department purchased an additional 5 copies to keep available for clients to refer to while planning their building projects. To date, 1,224 books have been sold or given to schools, libraries, colleges, agencies and organizations dealing with land use, nurseries, and county planning departments.

2016 XMAS Party and Potluck



KNPS: A Look Back by Gail Bolin

Last month, KNPS was invited to make a presentation to the Leadership Sandpoint Group which is a program coordinated by the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce. At their December meeting, the group's focus was on local non-profits and how they benefit the community. Okay, so they want to know about us and what we do; that sounds doable. During the gathering of information, it became apparent that we have done a lot! This coming year marks our 20th anniversary; what a great time to reflect!

Since our formation in 1997, we have worked with other organizations to promote the value of native plants within our community. We worked with the City of Sandpoint Parks and Recreation and the Bonner County Historical Society to establish the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum in Lakeview Park in 1998, our flagship project. For years, we have co-sponsored the annual Arbor Day Celebration with the City of Sandpoint at the Arboretum. We also work with local schools in hosting field trips for students to the arboretum to learn about our region's native plant species.

During the update of Bonner County's land use code in 2007 – 2008 we participated in the public process and made recommendations of plant species suitable for waterfront buffers. This was the impetus to the publication of our book, *Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle*, published in 2011. The book is an educational outreach tool and we do not receive any profit from it. We have donated about 70 books to libraries, schools, state and federal agencies and non profits. We sell it to the book stores at cost allowing them to make a small profit. The book is currently available in bookstores from Bonner's Ferry to Moscow with 1,224 out in the public's hands.

We have worked with the U S Forest Service to conduct surveys of rare plants, weeds and White Bark Pine on public lands. We worked with Idaho Fish & Game in the restoration of the Pack River Delta and the Clark Fork Delta. We have also worked with various organizations on native plant projects in our community, such as Mickinnick Trail Head, Bonner County Administration Building, Dover City Beach riparian demonstration garden, Kootenai Elementary School, Water-life Discovery Center demonstration garden and the pollinator garden at the Forest Service Building. We have also collaborated with other non-profits such as Idaho Master Naturalists-Pend Oreille Chapter, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and the Idaho MythWeavers to cover the cost of speakers for our monthly meetings—held in cooperation with Sandpoint Parks and Recreation at the Sandpoint Community Hall.

Remembering Lois Wythe Founder of KNPS

By Rae Charlton

This year, KNPS celebrates its 20th anniversary. It seems only fitting that we honor our founder, and some of our early pioneers. Longtime members knew these folks, but many never had the pleasure and we have a proud history worthy of celebration!

Lois Wythe was a local herbalist, Master Gardener, and born teacher. She was also a visionary. In early 1997 she posted a small notice in several places around Sandpoint. The headline read “Interested in the Native Plants of North Idaho?” People who wanted to learn more were invited to a meeting on April 12th. To her surprise and delight, more than sixty enthusiastic people showed up. Lois facilitated the meeting, which included circulating a comprehensive questionnaire to determine the interests of each individual present. She also suggested a steering committee be formed, to evaluate the responses and plan for a second meeting. This newsletter you are reading is a result of that committee’s first meeting, and their belief that effective communication is key to building an effective organization. To that end, monthly meetings with speakers were scheduled, and field trips planned.

Part of Lois’ dream was to create a native plant arboretum. “Maybe a greater awareness of our fast disappearing native treasures will help save what is left of our natural world”, she noted. She also hoped to educate people about native plants, and how they might be used in gardens. The choice of an area in Lakeview Park, adjacent to the Bonner County History Museum, worked out well. Our May meeting will focus on the development of the Arboretum, just in time for Arbor Day!

Lois had an abiding love for the natural world. She said “my father gave me an incredible gift: the gift of one-ness with everything in nature, and the feeling that I was at home in the world.”

As mentioned, she loved teaching. At KNPS monthly meetings she would bring the “plant of the month”, along with handouts providing botanical information. She held classes at her herb studio (at Unicorn Farm) on topics such as drying flowers, herbs (I remember a session on Lavender), making wreathes or hat bands of plant materials, planting by the moon, and many others. Classes included tea and goodies, handouts to take home, and the comfort of being around a long table in a room with books floor to ceiling. She also wrote and printed up a seasonal “Lines from Lois”, which included plant lore, poems, observations, and letters from kindred spirits around the world. She also taught “hands on” gardening classes.

Lois also was involved in starting the Pend Oreille Arts Council. Noticing some small farmers struggling to make ends meet, and believing in buying local (especially organic produce), she started the Sandpoint Farmers Market. She found a spot where area Quakers could meet regularly. Unsurprisingly, she was designated a “Woman of Wisdom” for her many contributions.

Many of us have “Lois stories”. Soon after moving here, I signed up for a series of gardening classes at a local nursery. After the first one, the instructor announced that the next class would be taught by Lois Wythe, who unfortunately was in the hospital at the moment, having suffered a stroke. However, he said, she told him “she’d be there, even if she had to be in a wheelchair.” Which she was. What a tough, resilient, knowledgeable woman, I thought. Then, weeks later, I was wandering in the Arboretum when she happened to be working in her area next to the cabin. I asked about the hand-made benches, and she provided information about Arlis. And then she talked about the Native Plant Society and invited me to the next general meeting. And, as they say, the rest is history....



A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest

A Voice from the Snowy Montane Forest Story and Art by Marilyn McIntyre



I have been wracking my brain for any subject besides Snow and there are none. Everything is covered by snow now and the plants under it are providing food and shelter to many creatures. The stillness and white are broken by the foraging of our resident Ruffed Grouse and the pair of Juncos who sit on the steps and catch the last rays of any available sunshine. The bushy tailed Wood Rat that harvested our late kale and cabbage and dried it on the front porch is quite settled in under the cabin. This makes me very glad that we installed a good vapor barrier. If you have ever smelled a “packrat” you will know why.

The only form of transportation is skiing or snow shoeing and with the car parked downhill and out of sight, I can almost imagine myself living in a real wilderness. There are no lights visible at night and the silence is broken only by the chainsaws running all day. Mountain Coyotes sing at night but we no longer hear or see sign of the Calder Mountain wolf pack, which has reportedly been heavily trapped or shot in these last few winter seasons.

Tracks abound and it is a real challenge to name them accurately in the deep powder. Snowshoe hares are easy to spot and the deer, elk and moose, all attracted to the slash piles created on a nearby logging operation, leave tracks all around the edges. My two Alaskan Huskies are of course everywhere which increases the difficulty. Apparently our visiting cougar has moved on and the ungulates feel more secure.



Alaskan Iñupiaq language words for snow:

- apua : snow on the ground.
- nutagaq: freshly fallen unpacked snow.
- silliq: crusty and hard windblown snow
- pukak: granular snow, best for melting into drinking water.
- qanataag: ice or snow cornice.



We have them all!

I applaud those befriending the Sunnyside Cedar Forest for turning their lights on the importance of conserving irreplaceable biodiversity and habitat on our lake.



Board of Directors 2016

- Rae Charlton, President**
- Jan Geren, Vice President**
- Ken Thacker, Program Chairperson**
- Lexie deFremery, Treasurer**
- David Stroud, Publicity**
- Cindy Hayes, Board Member**
- Steve Lockwood, Board Member**
- Carol Robinson, Board Member**
- Sylvia Chatburn, Arboretum**

Additional Committee Chairs and Positions

- Sylvia Chatburn, Arboretum**
- Dennis Rieger, Landscape**
- Molly O'Reilly, Conservation**
- Janice DeBaun, Lois Wythe Grant**
- Mary Jo Haag, Historian**
- Marilyn George, Printer/ Photographer**
- Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee**
- Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor**
- Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, Listserve**



Membership Rates

January 1st through December 31st
(Please check appropriate box)

- 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

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:

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Mail to:

**Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society
PO Box 1092
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864**