



# Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXI Number 2

March-April 2017

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 25, 2017**

***Bonnie Jakubos and Kristin Fletchcher  
Inspiring Conservation***

**Saturday, April 29, 2017**

***Bill Harp***

**Comparison of the human use of plants by prehistoric people in Idaho to a present-day subsistence culture in eastern Panama**

**Saturday, May 27, 2017**

***Rae Charlton and Friends***

**Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of KNPS**

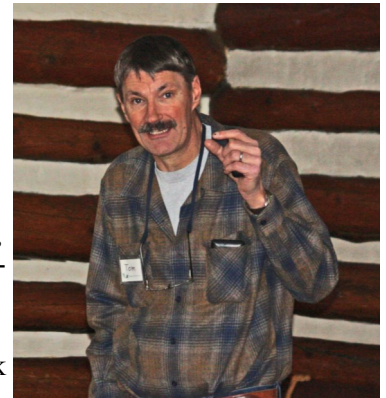
## January Program Summary

**What is Killing the Trees: Drought and Recent  
Insect Activity in Idaho**

*by Tom Eckberg*

*Summarized by David Stroud*

“Don’t let your landscape go to bed thirsty,” was a piece of borrowed advice that Tom Eckberg shared with us at the January program. We may have fewer bark beetles this year due to heavy autumn rains, snowfall, and a briefer January thaw.



“Cold enough to kill a bark beetle,” was a local expression that Tom countered with data from his position as Forest Health Specialist for the Idaho Department of Lands. Apparently we only ‘think’ it’s cold enough, when it has to be exceedingly cold for an extended period, often at times other than the dead of winter, to have a negative effect on well protected and physiologically

prepared insects. He gave us the not so recent example of January 1954 at Marias Pass, Montana. It was 70 below zero for a week. That’s what it takes to kill a bark beetle.

The usual suspects for killing trees include the beetle, itself, but additional conditions including drought, wind storms, scorched trees, and the availability of slash. Tom listed ten different types of beetles, one of which has numerous varieties of beetles that destroy the various species of trees that live around us. Summarized: bugs plus suitable climate and drought favor bark beetle outbreaks and associated tree mortality.

Bark beetles mass attack trees (attack in large numbers over a short period of time) carrying a symbiotic fungus that eventually plugs the tree’s water transport system. Depending on the beetle species, they fly in spring or summer to find a host. They burrow into the bark, creating tunnels and living off the phloem or inner bark of the tree.

One strong piece of advice in treating beetles in Douglas-fir is not to chase the red trees (trees with red foliage) as they are already dead. Instead, look for evidence of beetle attack on trees adjacent to red trees. However, this article cannot adequately describe the precautions one must take to prevent bark beetle infestations. There are different considerations for each pest and host. The variables are many. The best way to ascertain how to care for plantations and forestland is to contact Tom Eckberg through the Coeur d’Alene Idaho Department of Lands office at 208-769-1525.

## ***From the President***

*by Ken Thacker*

As I write this in late February, it looks like the Winter of 2017 is finally starting to let go. Water is flowing where there has been only ice for months, goldfinches have joined the winter birds at the feeder, the sun is actually giving out some warmth and the geese are becoming amorous. All of these, are reminders of how lucky we are to live here and have so much of the natural world so close-by and available to us.

I'm still very much in the learning phase about all the stuff that makes KNPS what it is. I recently learned about a couple of committees that I didn't know existed, even though I was used to seeing the results of their work. First there is Jackie Earle who heads the Hospitality Committee. She makes sure we have coffee and all those wonderful deserts at our Saturday Program meetings and that the Community Hall gets straightened up afterward. Of course, making all of this happen is more than a one-person job and nearly all of us pitch in to some degree, but Jackie makes sure it all gets done. The other "group" is the Lois Wythe Grants Committee that Janice DeBaun takes care of. I knew that we gave out scholarships because I know people who have gotten them, but I never really considered that someone has-to make it happen. Thank You Janice!! KNPS is very much about "Just Do It!" Everywhere I see people routinely working under the radar just doing what needs to be done. We also have the occasional volunteer projects that come along. Right after I joined KNPS I signed up to help with gathering willows for the Clark Fork Delta project and that taught me a lot about what this group is made of. It was a cold, windy late November day that I'm sure no one who was there has forgotten about. Our job was to tie cut willow branches into bundles and load them onto trucks. To do this we had to crawl around on frozen ground and ice, and work with bare fingers to wrap and tie twine around the bundles of branches. I remember thinking "this is like it would be if they added Team Roping to the Winter Olympics". Everyone just went to work and got it done, hours before the Fish and Game people had expected. Of course, it's easier to work hard when the alternative is death from hypothermia, but the group displayed real grit on that day.

Speaking of grit. We have recently learned that two of our longest serving volunteers have decided to back away from their jobs. Sylvia Chatburn has asked us to find a replacement for her as Arboretum Manager after about 19 years (19 years!). And, Marilyn George would like to be relieved of part of her printing duties after "oh, maybe 15 years" of taking care of it. Sylvia is the only Manager of the Arboretum that we've had...ever. Marilyn took over printing when it was just 'newsletter printing' and it has grown to also include printing cards, Arboretum brochures, membership forms and whatever else comes along. For all these years, these two have made sure that some of the most important functions of KNPS have gotten done, so each of us should be letting them know how much we appreciate what they've done for us. Sylvia has agreed to work at the Arboretum through the coming Summer, so finding her replacement soon would allow for on-the-job training so that 19 years of wisdom can be passed on. Marilyn is willing to continue printing the Note Cards and Christmas cards, but wants to find someone else to take care of the rest. Now, we begin the task of figuring out how we replace the irreplaceable. So, if anyone is interested in becoming more involved with KNPS, here are a couple of opportunities. Of necessity, we are open to considering a range of solutions to getting these two important jobs done, including splitting up responsibilities, forming committees, job sharing or whatever. Let's talk. My number is 597-5469.

---

---

## Committee Reports

---

### Arboretum News

The position of Arboretum Manager is open for anyone who might be interested. It is a volunteer position, for one morning a week, starting at the end of April and running through September. The duties include doing arboretum tours, running the arboretum committee meetings, being on hand to answer questions that the gardeners may have, and giving guidance to the paid Coordinator. Good people skills are a plus. For more information contact: Sylvia at arboretum@nativeplantsociety.org

### Conservation Committee

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has spent a decade of building near-unanimous support for Wilderness protection for the Idaho portion in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest that has been managed as wilderness since the 1980's. Now a noisy minority in Bonner County is campaigning to derail this effort. Many of the same people objected to protecting Clagstone Meadows, another important native plant habitat.

KNPS is a staunch supporter of Scotchman Peaks wilderness designation as a means to protect many important native plants, including the increasingly scarce alpine tree species, White Bark Pine. Please let our elected officials know that you support this wilderness proposal by signing the petition for Bonner County residents: <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/help-us-show-that-bonner-county-supports-wilderness/>

If you have already signed the petition, please either send a letter to the editor (same one to the Daily Bee and the Reader) or let our county commissioners know your support. Info on the Commissioners can be found at <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/you-can-help/contactelecteds/>

All KNPS members are welcome to participate in the Conservation Committee. Please let Molly know if you are interested by contacting her at [conservation@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:conservation@nativeplantsociety.org)

### Landscape Committee

The Landscape Committee is still 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](mailto:landscape@nativeplantsociety.org) so I can put you on the schedule for 2017.

---

## February Program Summary

### Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Update

*By Phil Hough*

*Summarized by David Stroud*

So, I'm a mountain bike rider. One of the many things I do outside. I came to Sandpoint years before I came here and purchased a bandana, part of my "gear", from a local sport shop. It bore the logo and map for the Friends of Scotchman Peak Wilderness. Back in New Mexico, my friends criticized my spending money to support an organization that would prohibit mechanized travel in the forests, home to mountain bike enthusiasts.

I have since been witness to the reason for wilderness designation, including several presentations by Phil Hough, executive director of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. The February program of KNPS featured a new perspective from this accomplished wilderness advocate: why wilderness.

Phil's father was instrumental in exposing him to nature through various hikes and river trips. So significant, in fact, that Phil was drawn to continue exploring national parks, major hiking trails, and riv-



(Continued on page 4)



***(Continued from page 3) February Program Summary***

ers of immense proportions. This is one of the major reasons for Phil and his associates to pursue wilderness designation for Scotchman Peaks: having something for the youth of the world to appreciate in future centuries.

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to confront only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.....” Henry David Thoreau. Phil used other naturalists’ quotations in an uplifting presentation designed to help the audience understand that people, through history, had found something special in being able to escape the rigors of life.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks offers more than just a dedication to creating a wilderness area in the Idaho Panhandle. Education outreach, stewardship programs, hiking opportunities, and wildlife studies compliment the list of benefits extended to the public.

But we all know this, having listened to Phil speak about FSPW’s programs, not only in our own circle, but throughout the community and region.

What we may not know is that their success over the last 12 years has resulted in one bill before the US Senate proclaiming wilderness designation for our local treasure. We may also be unaware of the fact that this needs to happen again, in the current session. **Contact your Elected Officials** is a section on the Friends’ web page that will enable you to do just that, in more than one way. Email early, email often was Phil’s suggestion.

Unlike my mountain bike buddies, other opponents to wilderness, are misinformed. Yeah, we may not be able to mountain bike up to Star Peak, but we can’t do that anyway because it’s too steep. Many of the negatives people perceive about wilderness designation are often originated in fear. Fishing and hunting are still available and the land is not going to “change hands”. It will continue to be managed by the Forest Service, as it has for decades. In truth, the only ‘change’ Phil addressed would be how the White Bark Pine restoration process continues. People who backpack in rather than their being transported by helicopter will gather seeds.

The public is only losing access to one half of one percent of the Idaho Panhandle forestland. That’s not too big a loss. What we are hoping to gain in return is that peace of mind which Benton MacKay reflects in his statement, “To walk, to see, to really see what you see.”

Help the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Write your elected officials. Your grandchildren will thank you. Why not wilderness?

**Baskets for the Sandpoint Library!**

**“A Novel Night”**

The Sandpoint Library and the Rotary Club of Sandpoint will be conducting a Non-profit/Community Group fundraiser for the Library. Each participating group will be donating a basket that will be auctioned off at “A Novel Night”, a fundraiser dinner, on May 6. The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society will be participating. Bob Blair is making a vegetable hod for our basket and we are looking for members to donate items. Donations can be brought to the March 25th meeting. For more information contact Jan Geren at (208) 263-7279



## **Phil and Mike**

*By Mary Jo Haag*

Phil and Mike (Audrey) Franklin were early members of the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society. Their interest in native plants and friendship with Lois Wythe prompted them to become involved in the inception of the early chapter in the late 90's. They were active in finding a location for the KNPS Arboretum in Lakeview Park in 1999. Phil and Mike were also involved in developing the signage describing the habitats now seen in the Arboretum. Phil, then President of KNPS was responsible for Sylvia Chatburn becoming the Arboretum Manager. Sylvia is retiring this year after 18 years in that position.



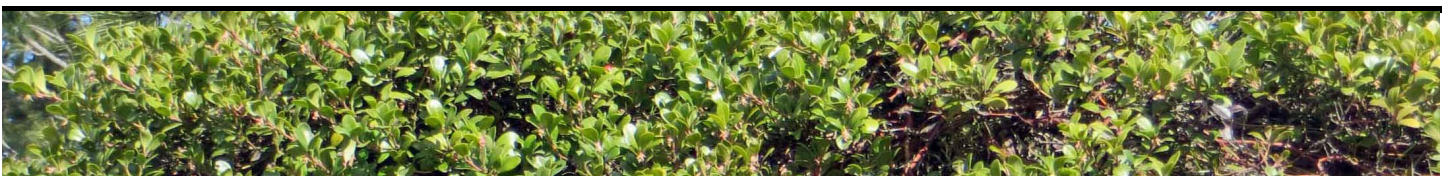
Phil who could have been the original “adman” owned an advertising agency in Southern California. Using those talents he developed the original Kinnikinnick Journal. He wrote, photographed, edited and produced a truly unique product.

Mike was a glamorous, talented, colorful woman and artist who was responsible for developing the format for Arbor Day docents. At that time, the tree celebration was held on the national Arbor Day at the end of April. Mike filled individual baskets with cones and boughs of native, coniferous trees of the Northwest for use by the docents in their presentations. Each docent had the students examine needles and cones to show the characteristics of the trees during tree tours. Mike also made birch bark nametags with the name of each docent written by hand in her exquisite calligraphy. Many of the current Arboretum volunteers still have these name tags.

Phil and Mike met in the L.A. area where they were active in local theater. Photos of that time show a very handsome Phil. Mike appears in a photo in front of a 6 foot surf board in a white swimsuit looking like a “pinup”. They both loved Mexico and were united in marriage in San Miguel Allende in December 1950, where they lived a while. Returning to Southern California, their lives revolved around their large blended family.

They retired in 1987, moved to Sandpoint in 1994, and became active in the community where their talents were greatly appreciated. In 2008, Mike was named a Woman of Wisdom to the delight of her many friends.

Together Phil and Mike moved to Luther Park for their later retirement. Phil passed away in January 2017 and Mike is currently at Life Care.





---

## A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest

---

### Winter Rainbows Story and Art by Marilyn McIntyre



It is pretty typical of me this time of year to be looking for color any place I can find it. Well, a few days ago I was treated to a color show that threatened to knock me off of the color charts. The first sun had broken through the cloud cover enough to light the peaks on fire and create a *rare* winter morning rainbow, letting us know of the approaching moisture laden storm from across the Selkirks to the west. Not to under report the importance of the birds' colors or the chartreuse wolf lichens and red osier dogwood stems, but that rainbow was as good as it gets: red, orange, yellow, green, indigo, violet. It certainly reminded me to soak in every bit of the beauty that Wild Nature offers, even on the shortest, coldest, least sunny mornings. There is always something to surprise me.

At 3200' we have received a total of 120" of powder snow, which has settled to around 3' or 4' on the ground since the temperate warmed up for a few days and brought rain, as the rainbow predicted. It is now a "slow melt" which is saving us from flooding and ice jams on the creek. The beaver dam is also holding well. Numerous birds flock through, but our little mixed flock of winter residents remains. 5 Chickadees, 2 Juncos, 1 Varied Thrush, 1 Song Sparrow, 3 or more Steller Jays, 2 Gray Jays and an occasional golden crowned kinglet. They sit in the afternoon sun on the red osier dogwood bringing color once again.

---



### Board of Directors 2016

- Ken Thacker, President, Programs
- Jan Geren, Vice President
- Carol Robinson, Secretary
- Lexie deFremery, Treasurer
- David Stroud, Publicity
- Cindy Hayes, Board Member
- Steve Lockwood, Board Member
- Shawna Perry, 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
- Jackie Earle, Hospitality
- Marilyn George, Printer/ Photographer
- Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee
- Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor
- Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, Listserve



Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

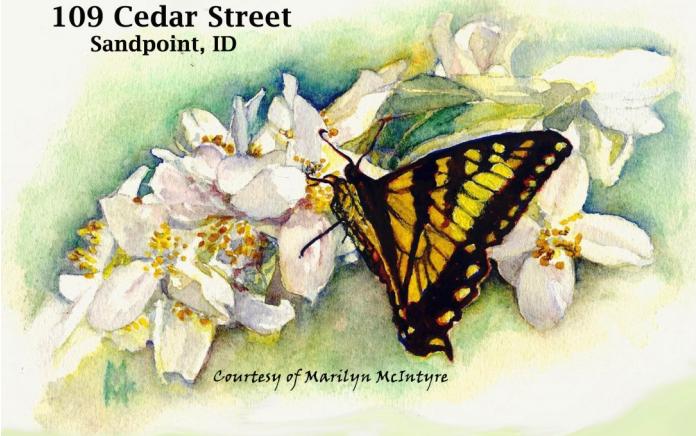
## Replant Your Refund Day

Wednesday, April 5, 2017  
11:00 am - 8:00 pm

A fundraising event at

**Baxters**

109 Cedar Street  
Sandpoint, ID



*Courtesy of Marilyn McIntyre*

## Raffle Prizes

For more information, call 208-597-5206

### 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:

Electronic Copy

Paper Copy



Mail to:

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society  
PO Box 1092  
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

Please note: Payment by credit card is available  
on our website, [nativeplantsociety.org](http://nativeplantsociety.org).