



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXI Number 3

May-June 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 May 27, 2017

Rae Charlton and Friends

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of KNPS

Looking back on our accomplishments including the establishment of the Native Plant Arboretum and the Landscaping with Native Plants Book

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Arthur Church

Wild Mushroom Gathering in North Idaho

Meeting at 9:45 as usual followed by a field trip to Trestle Creek in the afternoon

March Program Summary

Inspiring Conservation

Presented by: Bonnie Jakubos and Kristin Fletcher
Summarized by Rae Charlton

Our presenters were Bonnie Jakubos, currently a teacher at Forrest Bird Charter School in Sandpoint, and Kristin Fletcher, Educational Director of the Sawtooth Botanical Garden in Ketchum. Naturally gifted educators and longtime friends, they addressed the role of inspiration in conservation. And they utilized willing volunteers from the audience to reinforce several key points!

They began by asking why we had come to the program, listing the reasons as people suggested them. The list included curiosity, a desire to learn, concern for the environment, and values we share. Next came a chart showing the results of a recent survey on climate change, showing that 1/3 of respondents shared the value of protecting the environment. Twenty-six per cent were indifferent, 20 % subscribed to religious beliefs that put humans above nature, and the remainder subscribed to on-

going expansion with resultant depletion of resources, etc. Reading such statistics can lead to different emotions, fear and hope. Fear is not sustainable, but fortunately hope is, and it is a powerful motivator as well. So the question becomes how to inspire hope, and how to instill inspiration.



The next focus was interpretation, which is part education, part inspiration, and part entertainment. The vital importance of introducing people to nature was pioneered by the National Park Service, through interpretative talks (e.g., “ranger talks”). The Park Service recognized that interpretation led to understanding, which led to appreciation and ultimately to protection. They realized that information must be relevant to users. This led to an emphasis on engaging and stimulating signage which at its best, creates a story. The “magic of a story” connects a tangible object that you experience with your senses to its intangible meaning. Intangibles inspire us. We can all share what we know, and we know more than we realize. The goal is telling an interesting, memorable story. To demonstrate this point, our presenters coerced President Ken Thacker to take part in a short puppet show on what is most important in the

(Continued on page 2)

April Program Summary

Comparison of the Human Use of Plants in Idaho to those in Eastern Panama

Presented by: Bill Harp

Summarized by: Shawna Parry

One of the best ways to understand our own ecological and cultural geography is to look at the characteristics of a very different ecology and culture, says Bill Harp, a fifth-generation Idahoan who has worked for many years as an anthropologist in both North Idaho and Panama. The plant communities of the inland northwest are very different from the tropical ecosystems of the Darien region of eastern Panama, one of the last great wild natural areas of the Americas; yet, cultures in both areas need plants for similar reasons.

The Embera culture of the Darien still live a relatively intact traditional subsistence existence of gathering, fishing, gardening, and hunting with many things in common with pre-historic cultures in the Inland Northwest. This includes the concepts of spirits, cosmology, and the importance of plants and animals in their spiritual beliefs, as well as the use of plants for food, fuel, shelter, transportation, tools, dyes, clothing, and medicine.

Before agriculture, people lived in small groups that survived by hunting, fishing, and gathering. Before the major religions developed, they believed that all aspects of the natural environment are imbued with spirits and that plants are closely associated with these spirits. This belief ensured that folks respected the forces of nature. Personal experiences and visions were universally important to religious beliefs or cosmology. The Embera people today continue to live in small groups living by hunting, fishing, gathering, plus using sustainable agriculture. Satellite photos showing Embera villages near modern day communities clearly show the difference between Embera peoples' sustainable agriculture techniques and the "developed" world's techniques. A subsistence culture knows to take and use only what is necessary for survival; the very same sustainable beliefs used by the indigenous people of North Idaho.

Some interesting biodiversity comparisons:

Tree diversity: 400+ tree species per square mile in Darien vs 12-16 tree species per square mile in Idaho.

Ants: 551 known ant species in Panama vs 50 in Idaho.

Fish: a single pond in Brazil can sustain a greater variety of fish than is found in all of Europe's rivers.

Fish: the number of species of fish in the Amazon exceeds the number found in the entire Atlantic Ocean.

Seasons: the Darien has a wet season and a dry season with year round temperatures ranging from 70 to 95 degrees in contrast to the Inland Northwest's four seasons with extreme temperature variations.



(Continued from page 1) March Program Summary

sagebrush ecosystem (the hare and badger had different opinions, the sage grouse knew that it took everything, since all of life is linked together).

“In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.” (Baba Dhoum)



Committee Reports

Arboretum News

Thank you to all the people who came out on April 30 to help clean up the arboretum and spread pine needles as a forest floor mulch. There were branches that had blown out of the large trees by the heavy winds that we had this winter. The paths all got raked and are looking good. Most everything is coming up as it fills in the understory. The trillium are in full bloom and the kitten tails are blooming. The Oregon grape is not far behind.

We are still looking for a new Arboretum Manager. 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

Conservation Committee members recently participated in a workshop to learn the specifics of bio-controls for St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). This attractive, fast spreading, invasive weed has been established in Idaho for more than a century. A beetle that specifically attacks it (a bio-control) has held populations south of our area in check for many decades. Although the beetles decimated Panhandle populations of St. John's wort for some time, they no longer hold the weed in check. The cause of the failure is a mystery being researched. Meantime, a new beetle release is being planned in conjunction with Treasured Landscape weed control in the Lightning Creek drainage. The release will have a monitoring component, both before and after.

Another conservation issue that surfaced at the last KNPS board meeting is the Bonner County Draft Natural Resources Plan. If adopted, it would become a component of the county's comprehensive plan. That means it would guide relations with public land managers and what activities are advocated and approved by the county. Please check it out! Go to Project7b.org, and in the right hand column, you will find a link to the plan on the County's website. (This is simpler than locating it yourself on the county website.)

Interested in learning more? Contact Molly conservation-at-nativeplantsociety.org.

Landscape Committee

Under the watchful eye of a Canada goose nesting on the roof of the Dover City Hall the intrepid members of the KNPS landscape committee braved the misty weather on their first landscape consultation of the year. We were contacted by Michele, the city clerk at Dover City Hall, to help with some new planting in the front of the building and additional ideas for plantings and maintenance along the river area near the city hall. I am looking forward to getting back there later this summer to see what has been done to the area.

We still have space for one or two more consultations this summer so contact Dennis at knpsorg@gmail.com if you are interested in a landscape consultation this year.

Thanks Marilyn!!!!

At the April general program KNPS paid tribute to Marilyn George for all her years of volunteer work. Molly handed her a certificate for a KNPS lifetime membership and gift certificate to Cedar Mountain Perennials. She also was presented with a 24" octagonal planter that can hold 3 gallon size pots. It was crafted out of cedar by Bob Blair. In the picture Marilyn is receiving an original painting by Marilyn McIntyre. ***Thank you Marilyn George!***



**Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society
2017 Arbor Day Native Plant Sale
Saturday June 3, 2017
9 am to 1 pm**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 3 this year for the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society's annual native plant sale at the Native Plant Arboretum in Lakeview Park in Sandpoint. This event is co-sponsored by the Sandpoint Parks & Recreation Dept. and the Sandpoint Tree Committee. Activities take place from 9 am to 1 pm. This is also the day Sandpoint celebrates Arbor Day so we will be having a short ceremony by the Sandpoint Tree Committee, a presentation by the Mayor, and a newly planted tree in the park. This will be the 21st year as a Tree City USA for Sandpoint. Immediately following the presentation, the sale will begin with a wide variety of native trees, shrubs and perennials from Cedar Mountain Perennials and Greentree Naturals, as well as bluebird houses, trugs, and other items. There will also be a delicious assortment of baked goods freshly made by our dedicated volunteers. If you would like to do some baking for the sale, contact Jan Geren (jjgeren@gmail.com, 263-7279)

Volunteers Needed:

Speaking of volunteers, we will need some help with this event.

Set-up help from 7:30 - 9:00: Set up tents, canopies, tables, move plants to sale area

Talliers, 2 per shift - 2 shifts: 9:00-11:00 & 11:00-1:00 - Total up purchases

Cashiers, 1 per shift - 2 shifts: 9:00-11:00 & 11:00-1:00 - Take money for purchases

Take-down - 1:00-2:00: Take down canopies & tents, put everything away, clean up area

We are also looking for 1 more pop-up canopy and several additional folding tables, either 6' or 8'. These may get wet so they need to be suitable for outdoor use.

If you can help with any of these items or volunteering, please contact Bob Wilson (botanybob@frontier.com, 683-2387).

While you are there, be sure to stop in the Bonner County History Museum to see their new exhibit "Once upon a time in Bonner County" which is opening that day. It is the first Saturday of the month which means it is a Free Day - no admission charged.

2017 KNPS Summer BBQ & Potluck

When: Sunday, August 27, 2017

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Waterlife Discovery Center (old fish hatchery)

Directions: From Hwy 95, just south of the Long Bridge, go west on Lakeshore Drive 1.5 miles - it's on the right.

What to Bring: A dish to share: appetizer, salad, veggie or dessert, lawn chairs and your favorite beverage (wine and beer are okay). KNPS will furnish the BBQ main course, napkins, plates & flatware.

Happy Hour: 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Dinner: Starts at 5:00 pm

Please RSVP to Gail Bolin at wgbolin@hotmail.com or 208-627-3292



Member Profile: Sylvia Chatburn

By Mary Jo Haag

The North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum has been managed by Sylvia Chatburn since she was appointed to the position in 2000 by President, Phil Franklin. She succeeded Lois Wythe, Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society founder as the Arboretum Manager. After 18 years, Sylvia feels it's time to retire, do some more traveling, and tend to her large home and property.

A little history of the Arboretum. Sylvia took gardening classes from Lois Wythe. When it came time to find a location for the new Arboretum a selection committee was formed comprised of Lois Wythe, Phil and Mike Franklin and Sylvia. They looked at several locations and decided the area in Lakeview Park would make a good site. A contract between KNPS and the City of Sandpoint designated a corner of the Park for the Arboretum. Betsy Hammet, biologist with the Forest Service, and Lois developed the Arboretum plan that included the basic layout and the habitat concept. Sylvia and other KNPS members specified the contents of the habitats, laid out paths and ordered plants. The Arboretum has over 50 mature conifers that were identified by Fields Cobb, a retired Forest Service biologist. The overall impression is one of visiting the mountains and meadows of north Idaho. All the habitats have been successful due to the hard work of the volunteers each being responsible for a specific area. Sylvia has been the guiding light throughout the years and there is always something in bloom April through October. Visitors to the Arboretum love to stroll the paths and often thank volunteers for their time spent working there. Every Spring the Arboretum plans an Arbor Day celebration welcoming the official start of Summer with a plant sale and tree tours for school groups.



Sylvia, a local girl, grew up on a dairy farm in Sagle. She attended local schools and graduated from Sandpoint High School. She has a real love for animals and, as a girl, helped out with the cows. She was given the care of three heifers and taught them to lead into the barn. One heifer did not want to be led so Sylvia put her arms around the heifer's neck and led her that way. A few years later her brother was trying to get this same heifer now a cow into the barn and she didn't cooperate. Then he remembered Sylvia's method and brought her in with his arms around her neck... great story.

After high school, she went off to the University of Idaho where she met her husband Conrad Chatburn. They married and moved to North Carolina and Sylvia attended Wake Forest University. Sylvia and Conrad went on to raise a family of three children. Conrad was an electrical engineer and his career required some traveling. At one time, their family spent some time living in Spain.

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Sylvia returned to Sandpoint, living in Sagle three miles from the dairy farm where she grew up. This time living in a home designed by her husband with two sons and grandchildren in the vicinity. She enjoys a busy life besides the Arboretum. She is a Monday hiker, a camper, does many crafts, and tends a large garden.

A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest

From Soap to Nuts Story and Art by Marilyn McIntyre



Earlier in the winter, when there was still 4' of snow on the ground (apua), I came across some branches sticking out that I didn't recognize. I went from honeysuckle to pin cherry to Russet Buffalo Berry, the ultimate winner. Also known as Soopolalie, or Soapberry, this is the plant that makes the soapy looking suds in the creek and was used by the Native Americans to make "ice cream". Now that the snow is gone along the creek bank I can find the mother bush and a few more scattered along the bank top, only a few feet of brushy, tree covered ground from my walking trail. Thus they were not noticed for many years. According to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Russet Buffalo Berry plants are of special value to the native bees. And they are nitrogen fixing too. What a plant! They can be found in *Landscaping with Native Plants* in the Idaho Panhandle on Page 75, and in the Arboretum in the Dry Montane habitat. I can attest to the fact that they grow in the Moist Montane too.

Nuts you say? Just yesterday while I was walking around the edges of the melted snow (pukak) I found a passel of what looked like walnuts on the ground, but turned out to be *Gyromitra Montana* (gigas), aka Snowbank or Walnut mushrooms, the only variety of false Morels that is edible and choice. They like cold and snowy winters that are long and come out just after the snow melts. The old timers called them calves brains and have been collecting them since pioneer days. Being very careful not to include the poisonous variety *Gyromitra esculenta* (also called calves brains in some online sites), which can grow amongst them and exudes a neuro toxin related to saran gas, we enjoyed them as we would Morels: lightly breaded and sautéed in olive oil to a light golden brown.



Following a very moist winter and spring, and once the soil warms, this will be the perfect place to search for real Morels. And then King Boletes and Birch lichenium and ...

As I have said before, please:

NEVER EAT MUSHROOMS THAT YOU AREN'T COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH.

It is raining again, bringing those mushroom spores to the brink of emergence when the sun shines.



Board of Directors 2017

- Ken Thacker, President**
- Jan Geren, Vice President**
- Carol Robinson, Secretary**
- Lexie deFremery, Treasurer**
- Donald Kass, Programs**
- Shawna Parry, Publicity**
- Cindy Hayes, Board Member**
- Steve Lockwood, 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, List serve**

Don't Forget! In this Issue

Upcoming KNPS Events!

Program and Meeting: May 27

9:45 am Community Center

Arbor Day and Plant Sale: June 3

9:00 am Lakeview Park

Program and Meeting: June 24

9:45 am Community Center

KNPS Barbecue: August 27

4:00 pm Waterlife Discovery Park

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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PO Box 1092

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**Please note: Payment by credit card is available
on our website, nativeplantsociety.org.**