



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXII Number 2

March-April 2018

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, March 24, 2018

Sean Jeronimo

*PhD Candidate University of Washington
School of Environment and Forest Sciences*

Plant Communication

Plants appear individualistic but actually respond to their neighbors and interact with one another. Research suggests many plants communicate and at least one tree species exhibits what may be considered a concept of family. This program explores scientific findings about ways that plants interact with one another competitively and cooperatively.

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Bertie Weddell

University of Washington Dept of Horticulture

Effects of climate change on native and introduced plants

As the Earth warms, the reproduction, survival, and distribution of plants is affected. Different species respond differently to these changes, resulting in new plant assemblages. Native and introduced species are likely to differ in how they react to the changing climate. Bertie Weddell, will discuss current projections of how these changes will affect native ecosystems in our region.

chens which grow higher up in trees), so transplanting them doesn't work. They were once distributed throughout the northern tier of states, but have been decimated by several factors: increased human activity (e.g., snowmobiles), increased predation, changes in habitat, and climate change. Caribou migrate seasonally, for food sources, making it hard to study them. They are easily spooked, and will quickly disappear into inaccessible areas, which makes photographing and/or tagging them harder. It is an international herd, which means working with Canada in efforts to protect them. Different laws in the two countries slows the process.

The SCA is now trying maternal pens, based on the success of the "Darkwoods Project" in British Columbia. Each pen, surrounded by electric fence, is twenty acres in size. The pregnant cows are fed arboreal lichens and pelleted feed. The lichen are collected by volunteers, helped by a grant from Patagonia.

February Program Summary

Presented by Cheryl Moody

Summarized by Rae Charlton

Cheryl Moody, Executive Director of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance (SCA), based in Priest River, spoke about the efforts of their non-profit organization to support the critically endangered mountain caribou. She briefly summarized the group's history: this year is their 30th anniversary, they have about 100 members, and their mission is "to engage the public in southern Selkirk resource and land management issues through cooperation, scientific inquiry, education, and economic diversification."

They stand for the "conservation and protection of the crucial and sensitive natural resources of the Selkirk mountains", which includes projects such as monitoring the water quality of Priest Lake. They work for clean water, clean air, biodiversity (e.g., wildlife), and ecotourism. The Selkirk area encompasses 1.75 million acres.

A current focus is trying to maintain the last caribou in the continental US, a herd which was down to eleven when counted a year ago. The Selkirk Mountain Caribou are different from those in Alaska (e.g., bigger feet, eat li-



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From the President

By Ken Thacker

In the fall of 2011, Bonnie and I were town-shopping around the region. We were looking for a new home with wild natural places and people who appreciated them. When someone suggested we look at Sandpoint, we had to look at a map to see where it was. On our first excursion here, we went to an event at Evans Brothers Coffee, sponsored by FSPW and ICL called Wild About Wilderness. When we got there and saw all those wilderness supporters we were pretty sure we had found what we were looking for. It's now over six years later and we are absolutely sure that we made the right choice.

I've spent a lot of time in and around the Scotchmans, helping to build and maintain the trails I like to hike. I've also dealt with a lot of weeds there I didn't like. It takes active management to maintain wilderness characteristics and it takes a community of supporters advocating for its preservation to get Congress to designate it as Wilderness.

In 2006, our Native Plant Society was one of the first to endorse Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks with the *resolution* below. These words still ring true today.

The Kinnikinnick chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society recognizes the need to protect contiguous and intact ecosystems, retaining their natural state, in order to ensure the continued health and survival of native flora. Therefore, we encourage and support local, state and federal representatives to act in favor of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Designating the Scotchman Peaks as wilderness protects the natural beauty, the unique qualities and the biodiversity of this special place, offering safe harbor for many rare and endangered species and their habitats.

As we all know, wilderness provides a safe harbor for all the native flora and fauna that belong there. It also provides a refuge for us to escape to when we want to get away from our noisy modern world. Congressional designation will assure protection of these values and provide permanent access for traditional Idaho uses like hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, camping, trapping, and berry picking.

In May, Bonner County voters will have a chance to do our part to preserve the Scotchman Peaks! The Bonner County Commissioners have decided to put a non-binding advisory question to voters during the primary election May 15, 2018. This vote will be open to all registered voters in Bonner County.

The following question will appear on the ballots for the Republican, Democratic and all other parties. Unaffiliated voters will have access to a special non-partisan ballot.

Do you favor Senator Jim Risch's proposal for congressional designation of a 13,960 acre Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area in Bonner County?

Although non-binding, the results could have a huge impact on the chances for legislation to be introduced in Congress. Bonner County voters now have a very important opportunity to demonstrate the broad community support the Scotchmans have earned over the decades.

Mark your calendars for May 15 and please join me in voting "In Favor" of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness! This could be one of the most significant votes any of us ever participate in. Not only will the results be close to home, they will make a difference for generations to come. While we will never change the minds of the most fervent opponents of Wilderness designation, every one of us can talk with friends and neighbors who may be undecided or less well-informed. It is time for all of us to be energizing our inner activist and PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!

More information at www.voteformscotchmanpeaks.org

Absentee Balloting

You can request an absentee ballot from the Bonner County Elections Office to vote on this important issue before Election Day. The Elections Office is located at 1500 Hwy 2, Ste 124, in Sandpoint. The last day to request an absentee ballot is May 4. You can also find your polling place online to vote in person on May 15.

Visit idahovotes.gov for more information.

Early Voting

In addition to mail-absentee ballots, voters can visit the Elections Office at 1500 Hwy 2, Ste 124, in Sandpoint to fill out an in-person absentee ballot. Voters can vote in-person between April 30 and May 11.



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Feeding the cows requires 150-300 lbs. of dried arboreal lichens per year (they must be *Alectoria*, *Bryoria*, and *Usnea*). *Alectoria* are often found on firs, and *Bryoria* are common on larch. *Usnea* is often found on trees growing in prime huckleberry patches (e.g., cedar and hemlock).

On public lands, a permit from the Forest Service is required, and there are rules, such as only taking twenty-five percent of lichens in a ten foot area. Gloves are required (no human scent). Cheryl has adapted extendable rakes with special combs to pull lichens off tree trunks and branches: they are tenacious! They must be cleaned of debris, and stored—large mesh bags work well. Lichens are an integral part of Pacific NW ecosystems, helping to purify the air, providing forage, nesting material, and shelter.

People interested in learning more, and/or participating in group events, can check the SCA Facebook page, as well as their website (scawild.org).

January Program Summary

Summary by Cindy Hayes

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society program speaker for January was Jack Nesbit. For a fast moving hour he led the 90 + audience participants on a journey through the Inland Northwest in search of Biscuitroots (*Lomatium*- genus).

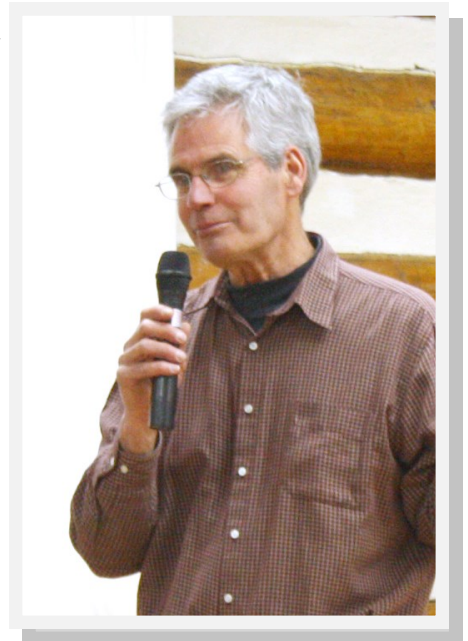
In early Spring when the snow blanket rolls back, a perennial herb species known by the genus *Lomatium* sends up shoots. In the following months many early Native Americans in the Northwest would begin to harvest the starchy roots as a staple food source. The umbrella shaped flowers (umbels) come in an assortment of colors; yellow, white, brown and purple. Most species are a few inches off the ground and can provide a large flowing carpet of color on the plateau landscape.

The Genus is difficult to identify and has great genetic diversity. Different species of *Lomatium* have evolved over thousands of years and have developed unique chemical components. Several species including *Lomatium cous*, *L. geyeri*, and *L. macrocar* are sometimes known as Biscuitroots for their starchy edible roots. Within a family or region you find different recipes passed down from generations combining different *Lomatium* roots for unique flavor and nutritional profiles. Biscuitroots are easier to digest than the Camas root, another staple food source. The Biscuitroot is in the same family as parsley and carrots. The early explorers learned to rely on the expertise of Native American women to dig out roots so the deadly hemlock wasn't mistaken for one of the Biscuitroots. Another caution was to pick shoots when tender and edible and avoid older shoots that could be poisonous.

In 1805 the explorers, Lewis and Clark, acquired a taste for the flat cakes the Native American women pounded out from the small roots. The species *Lomatium cous* was Lewis's phonetic spelling of the Nez Perce word for that particular plant. Biscuitroots were a valuable trading commodity between early explorers, fur traders, and Native American settlements throughout portions of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Most species of *Lomatium* are found in a limited range, existing nowhere else.

A few decades later a Scottish botanist, David Douglas, explored and catalogued hundreds of new plants along the Columbia River Basin. One of the species was named Oregon pine which was later renamed Douglas Fir in his honor.

In 1868 a Swedish botanical explorer, John Leiberger, settled in CD'A. Twenty years later he and his wife (a doctor and surgeon) built a ranch near present day Farragut Park in Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho Territory. He supplied specimens of



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Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

The Bonner County Natural Resource Policy (formerly called a “Plan”) was adopted by the county on February 20th. Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society has followed the development and adoption of this “policy” with concern. It pays quick homage to the value of our natural resources, but mainly for their extractive values. Thus, it offers no protections for, nor appreciation of, the value of our native plants on public or private lands. The conservation committee will continue to follow and monitor implementation of this document. We invite you to share your observations, thoughts, and any concerns with us as we watch and see how Bonner County uses this policy.

Scotchman Peaks

The Conservation Committee has proudly supported Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks for many years. In fact, some of the people working diligently on this issue are part of our committee. The essence of Wilderness designation is leaving an area undisturbed by the hand of man to the greatest extent that is possible. Thus, we are letting native ecosystems flourish and evolve naturally, providing protection for natural habitats, rare species and large tracts of land where the interactions are natural. Weeds flourish in disturbed areas. While they are not unknown in Wilderness, they are much more likely to be manageable. We urge you to join us in voting in favor of the Scotchman Peaks on May 15th!

To learn more about the Conservation Committee contact Molly at conservation-at-nativeplantsociety.org.

Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant

This is a banner year for the Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant because of the quality of the applications received. This is the first year that more than one grant has been awarded. The additional \$300 grants have been given to the East Bonner County Library and the Sandpoint Senior Center's Day Break Center. They join the Clark Fork High School's Monarch Butterfly Restoration Project as winners for 2018.

The East Bonner County Library plans to use its funds to assist with a well-thought out landscaping plan as part of the addition to the library. It is estimated that 20,000 annual visitors will be see their native plant garden.

The Sandpoint Senior Center's Day Break Center will be landscaping their building with native plants to be enjoyed by seniors and their families. They are receiving advice from the KNPS Landscape committee.

Congratulations to all three!

Anyone who has questions or needs more information about the Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant may contact Janice DeBaun at grant@nativeplantsociety.org.

SAVE THE DATE

KNPS Baxters Fundraiser

May 2 2018

Baxters and The Back Door.

The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner with a percentage of that day's profits being donated to our organization. Along with a tasty meal, you will also have an opportunity to purchase tickets for our terrific raffle items! This is a major fundraiser for KNPS, so please join us and encourage others, as well.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Part-Time Seasonal Arboretum Coordinator Needed

June 4-August 31, 2018

If you're a "people person" who loves plants and working outside, this paid position could be right for you. For complete details, including a job description and application. For more information go to: <http://www.nativeplantsociety.org/arboretum>

2018 Spring Home Horticulture Classes Offered by the Bonner County Gardeners Association

Ponderay Event Center from 6-8. There's a \$10 charge for each 2 hour Wednesday evening class. Seating is limited so preregistration for each BCGA Home Hort class is recommended. Go to: <http://bcgardeners.org/calendar/> to register.

March 14: Bee Keeping with the A-Z Hive System, with Andy Kennaly. Explore a method of beekeeping from Slovenia. Learn more about bees and bee keeping.

March 21: How to Prune Garden Shrubs and Trees, with Gail Blasingame. Gail will demonstrate methods of keeping shrubs and trees looking attractive and healthy through pruning.

March 28: Wind and Storm Safety, taught by Michael Richardson of Skywalker Tree Service. Learn to reduce the danger of falling trees and other hazards from our frequent wind storms, as well as protecting property from fire.

April 4: Growing Dahlias, with Paul Krusche. Dahlias, the royalty of the garden--so many varieties, colors and sizes. Learn the secrets to growing great dahlias in our climate.

April 11: Native Plants, with Derek Antonelli. Learn about local native plants. Also, Native Plant Edibles with a Historical Perspective, instructed by Kevin Lyons, Cultural Resources Management of the Kalispel Tribe.

April 18: Basic Irrigation Systems for Gardening, taught by Sean Mitzel. Students of this class will explore different principles regarding water and irrigation design. We will also look at a few techniques for setting up effective, easy to build and maintain, inexpensive irrigation systems.

April 25: Planting Trees and Shrubs Successfully, with John Hastings of All Seasons Garden and Floral. John will discuss planting shrubs and trees under a variety of conditions, such as slopes and difficult areas and how to insure healthy, long lived plants.

May 2: Growing and Using Herbs, taught by Monica Mitzel. Learn how to use common weeds, bushes and trees for medicinal and edible purposes. This class will include recipes for infused oil, salves, vinegars, food and drinks.

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North Idaho mosses to the New York Botanical Garden and received recognition for his work through their publications. In 1893 he explored from Spokane to Mt. Steward comparing umbels from low to high elevations. He also visited Native American tribes in Southeast Oregon to survey and record plants. During the plant survey trip to Oregon he found the Biscuitroot was disappearing due to overgrazing. In 1897 he was transferred to the US Geological Survey and while stationed in the Bitterroot reserve wrote a description of the topography, trees and mapped locations in an area previously undocumented.



Member Profile: Eileen Atkisson

By Cindy Hayes

Eileen Atkisson was born in San Francisco, 1941, and lived in the Inner Sunset where she played in vacant sand lots, in most of Golden Gate Park and on many of the trails of the greater Bay Area. There were native plants everywhere. Fortunately, her mother taught her and her four siblings the names of the flowering natives wherever they went.

Thirteen years of Catholic schools and seven of Brownies and Girl Scouts introduced Eileen to the values of volunteerism. Following high school, she went UC Berkeley, majoring in Comparative Literature. Botany 10 was the closest she came to the biological sciences and remembers the lab that taught beer making but nothing about angiosperms and gymnosperms.

Eileen received her teaching degree, K-8, from CAL and a job with San Francisco Unified. It was then that she pursued the sciences, creating curricula for Outdoor Education and Service Learning. For several years at Clarendon Elementary, Friday afternoons were spent with extracurricular activities. Eileen created Outdoor Education and wandered the neighborhood of Mount Sutro and Sutro Forest with her students. They searched for mosses, lichens, fungi, and, finally, angiosperms and gymnosperms. Adolph Sutro and San Francisco children had planted Eucalyptus trees in the area between Twin Peaks and UC San Francisco and that "Forest" has since been replanted with native trees and plants more suitable to the Bay Area.

These years were among her favorites.

Moving on to Middle School, Eileen participated in the District's newly created Service Learning curriculum. As the curriculum expanded, it hooked into programs especially designed to return several properties to their native states. The Presidio was huge and required much work. Eileen and her students were delighted to be out of school and so involved. They also did restoration work on the bay and ocean beaches.

Then, in 1997, came the golden umbrella for hundreds of SF employees and Eileen decided the time was right. She married Larry Blakey who found work opportunities in the CEDU Program in Sandpoint and she worked for another year in the SF schools. But who would ever leave San Francisco for a small north Idaho town? Most of you know why.

Val and John Albi, lately of Kinnikinnick, suggested that Eileen join CAL. POAC and the Native Plant Society. Soon after, Eileen was President and Pat Ramsey was the VP of the native plant group. Eileen worked many Arbor Day presentations, taking pleasurable drives with Mary Jo Haag to pick up free seedlings from Clifty View, to package them with John Hastings' science classes and to bravely distribute them on too many cold April days at the Arboretum. When Lois Wythe proclaimed that we needed a Landscape Committee, Eileen accepted the responsibility, forming the still existing group now headed by Dennis Rieger. They've served members, had fun, and are still eating some of the best lunches in Bonner County.

Eileen Atkisson, with Larry Blakey, has made a lovely home garden, with more than half native plants. And like the Arboretum gardeners, she'll probably be in Kinnikinnick forever.



KNPS SUPPORTS THE LIBRARY

KNPS will be donating a silent auction basket towards "A Novel Night: the Sequel", a Rotary event benefiting the Library Teen Room furnishings. Our basket at last year's event was a top fundraiser. A special thanks to Sylvia Eisele for once again creating our entry and the many members who assisted through their donations.

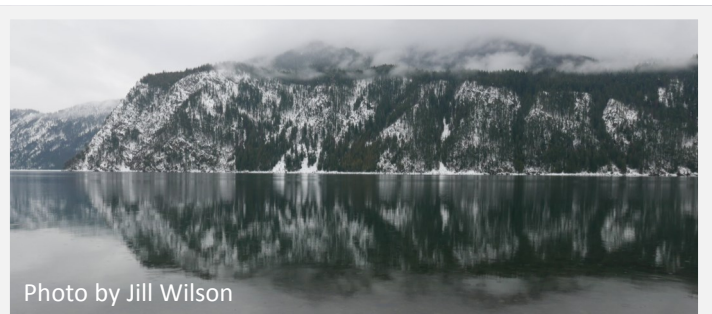


Photo by Jill Wilson

A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest

Is February the New January?

Story and Art by Marilyn McIntyre

When I found myself whining into my coffee cup this morning about the cold Northeasterly wind blowing the 6' of snow into a smooth carpet, I knew it was time to stop envying my friends in Migration Mode and keep sight of the intrinsic beauty in our snow and tree covered mountains. And the fact that we had two full Super moons in one month, with a total lunar eclipse on January 31st was remarkable. January was so temperate, going from 9°F on the 2nd to the upper 20°s and 30°s and staying there for the rest of the month. Now in February, we are experiencing the coldest temperatures of the winter season and we probably broke the record with -7°F on the 22nd of February.

Icicles have formed on the Spruce, reflecting a brief moment of afternoon sun and the evening sunsets are often spectacular with alpenglow brightening the otherwise blue snow to a warm pink. Now I find myself thinking like a chickadee or squirrel would: snow is insulating and in the heat of summer will still be providing us with water. The Ruffed Grouse loves the deeper snow that gives her more access to buds, catkins and insects. Snow covered ice nearly spanning the creek gives lots of 4-legged neighbors the ability to cross more easily. So what exactly am I complaining about? Just because February is pretending to be January it really can't be, because the longer days are a dead giveaway. Down in the subnivean, where the winter snow pack meets the earth and it is a pleasant 32°F, a whole universe is welcoming more light.





Board of Directors 2018

- Ken Thacker, President, Programs
- Jan Geren, Vice President
- Carol Robinson, Secretary
- Shawna Parry, Treasurer
- Julie Kallemeyn, Publicity
- Cindy Hayes, Board Member
- Steve Lockwood, Board Member
- Carol Jenkins, Board Member

Additional Committee Chairs and Positions

- Mary Jo Haag, Sue Gervais, Mary Fraser,
RaeCharlton, 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

Membership Rates

January 1st through December 31st

___ Individual	\$25.00
___ Household**	\$30.00
___ Student/Senior (65+)	\$20.00
___ Sustaining**	\$50.00
___ Patron**	\$100.00
___ Sponsor	\$50.00

***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 _____

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Mail to:

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society
PO Box1092
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

OR

Payment by credit card is available on our website,
nativeplantsociety.org.



First signs of spring in the inland NW.....photo by Jill Wilson.

Please note: A small increase [\$5] in KNPS membership dues was deemed a practical [and hopefully affordable] move for the 2018 year by the Board. Membership dues in other non-profit organizations in the area are in alignment with this increase. Let us know if this is difficult for you. **The KNPS Board**