



Kinnikinnick Journal

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May-June 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, May 26, 2018

Bill Rember

University of Idaho

Director Tertiary Research Center

Paleobotany and Geology of the Clarkia area, Idaho

Geologic setting and relationship of ancient Lake Clarkia to the Columbia river basalt. Fossils of more than 100 species of trees, insects and fish have been found that were formed about 15 million years ago. The fossils tell us much about the ancient climate there. Some DNA has been collected and sequenced from samples.

Saturday, June 23, 2018

John Phillips

Astronaut Photography from the International Space Station

Effects of climate change on native and introduced plants

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station have been photographing the earth with hand held cameras for over 16 years. John Phillips has served on the ISS three different times. He will describe the ISS orbit, characteristics and limitations of astronaut photography and share a sampling of his own greatest hits.

ample of facilitation is a “nursery” log that nurtures other organisms, or a large plant providing a wind break to protect fragile plants. The third type of interaction is mutualism where a symbiotic relationship develops where both plants benefit from the relationship.

There are many mechanisms for plant interactions. In a small area the mechanism of root grafting, or the communal root systems of some species, allows for the exchange of water, nutrients and other resources by fusing plants’ phloem and xylem. Mycorrhizae, a fungus that grows in association with plant roots is a mutualistic exchange. The fungus incorporates itself into the plant’s root tissue and facilitates the uptake of nutrients and water for the plant. Mycorrhizae can associate with many types of trees and form networks over a large area. Some mycorrhizae show a preference for specific plants and will donate 3 times the resources to the “kin” instead of strangers.

March Program Summary

Presented by Sean Jeronimo

Summarized by Rae Charlton

Sean Jeronimo, a Doctoral student at Washington State University, chose the intriguing title of Plant Social Interactions for his talk, with the subtitle of The Hubbub of a Quiet Forest. Most of what goes on in forest ecosystems is invisible, but Sean provided a lens for us to see inside the fascinating world both above and below the forest floor.

A healthy ecosystem finds a balance between the plants’ need for food and water. Plant communities have a social structure which can adapt faster than an individual to changes in their environment. Sean outlined 3 types of interactions within and between plants, and further explained the mechanisms of how they interact.

In a forest setting, when plants compete for limited resources of water, sun, and space; oftentimes, there are winners and losers. But when plants help each other out, they help facilitate survival. An ex-



(Continued on page 3)

From the President

By Ken Thacker

Here we are, another Spring is upon us and the glacier lilies are blooming. This column is about field trips or more accurately, their absence. Since I joined KNPS about 4 or 5 years ago, we've had only a couple of field trips and I think we should have 2 or 3 each year. After all, where ARE the native plants, anyway?

Within the past few weeks, several potential opportunities have come along that can help us get the field trip ball rolling again. The first outing has already been scheduled: On June 17, we will be joining Kaniksu Land Trust for a "Plant Walk at Pine Street Woods." We will be meeting at the Selkirk School on west Pine Street at 9 AM and car pool to the PSW where we will spend the morning identifying plant species before having lunch and calling it a day. Pine Street Woods is a 160 acre parcel adjacent to the Syringa or "Sherwood Forest" area near the west end of Pine Street. The land trust is in the process of purchasing the land and is planning to make it available for public open space. They have asked us to make a plant list for the property and June 17th will be the beginning.

Other potential trips include another Kaniksu Land Trust Bioblitz on June 8 and 9, plant fossil digging and seed gathering for improving pollinator habitat. We are looking for more ideas of places to go and people to help organize a trip or two. Please email or give me a call at 597-5469 if you have ideas and/or think this is a good idea and want to help.

Doc Fuller and Her Dream

By Carol Jenkins

I met Marion Fuller PhD through the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society back when she was still able to drive. Marion is a Professor Emeritus, Murray State University, Kentucky, who spent summers for nearly 60 years botanizing in Bonner and Boundary Counties. Her goal was to retire to the area and to complete her herbarium and gift it to the University of Idaho. I was impressed by her knowledge and when I first saw her herbarium, quite overwhelmed.

About three years ago I met David Tank, Associate Professor & Director, Stillinger Herbarium, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow. I asked if he would be interested in receiving Marion's herbarium. I was so grateful for David's enthusiasm, kept his contact information, and shared his interest with Marion.

Last August Marion was ready to pass on her herbarium. She had collected 3-4,000 plants. About ¼ were mounted, identified, and stored in four 6 foot tall wood cabinets she built to house her collection and additional plants overflowed into several large boxes. About ¾ of the collection was dried, pressed, identified at least to family and place collected. In addition she had a bag of more than 500 mosses, not all of which had been identified. She hoped to donate her cabinets, books, and misc. items. Finally, she had created twenty-two 8 1/2 x 11" botanical art prints by stippling technique which are framed in her home and are quite lovely. She made a copy of each to donate to the university. And of course, there were her leather bound field books where every plant was identified as to its location and other relevant data. Plus, which really surprised David, she had a master list of every plant collected.

Marion was unable to box the collection so I cheerfully volunteered, thinking I could wrap the project up quickly. Well, I did not understand the process and was soon overwhelmed. Each mounted specimen had to be wrapped in two pieces of newsprint and carefully, gently placed in the box. And there were so many of them! I engaged my husband to help, and we spent 28 hours completing the process. We heard many wonderful stories about Marion's career and life. We learned that the dust and pollen limited the time we could spend there each day. We realized that participating in someone's life's work was really special.

Our goal was to have it ready for David to pick up before the snows fell, and we did. It was February before David could come. Marion lived in a sea of boxes for months. Her home is on Gold Hill Circle off Bottle Bay Rd. David tried to get the rental van up Gold Hill Circle from each end and couldn't make it. So we packed everything into my car and Marion's sister's truck and made many trips back and forth to the van on Bottle Bay until it was packed full.

I expected Marion to have some mixed emotions about watching her life's work depart, but she was thrilled and so grateful. David told me that the collection exceeded any expectations he had. And Irv and I were honored to be able to assist Marion in realizing her dream and obtaining closure on years of passionate work.



(Continued from page 1) March Program Summary

To add to the mix there are mycoheterotrophic plants. These plants do not produce chlorophyll. Indian pipes are mycoheterotrophic, meaning they get their nutrients from an outside source; in this case a fungus. The relationship between the Indian pipes and the fungi becomes more complicated because the fungus is a mycorrhizal. Mycorrhizal fungi are fungi that live symbiotically with plants and their roots. The Indian pipes take advantage of the symbiosis between mycorrhizal fungi and the tree by parasitizing the fungus. These relationships appear to be very host and species specific.

Stress signals can be communicated between plants. For example, if a plant has been given an abundance of phosphorous it can take what it needs and then share with other plants through the mycorrhizal network. Plants can send chemical signals to warn of danger. If there is an invasion of beetles in a stand of conifers, the trees rev up their resin production to provide an antiseptic wound covering. In some cases plants can signal for help by emitting volatile organic compounds that can attract the beetle's natural predators like the wasp.

One type of environmental modification is changing soil composition. Cedar produces calcium oxalate to make an environment which benefits its own species. Planting beans encourages nitrogen fixation in the soil from their nodules. Other environmental modifications include physical support between vines and other plants or branch-to-branch contact to reduce wind damage. Deep rooted taproot plants help shallow rooted plants tap into water buried deeper (hydraulic redistribution).

If there is a fire, wind storm, or heavy logging, plants can bounce back quicker if there's a super organism ecosystem intact to help with resource sharing. If the forest floor has been disturbed, the remaining "Mother" or older trees anchor the ecosystem providing more connections to nurture the regeneration of younger or damaged trees. Biodiversity with its highly intertwined parts may also help plants adapt to climate changes.

In closing I will quote our speaker: "Managing forests for multiple objectives in the long term will require treating forests as communities inhabited by plants with highly developed social structures."

Earth Day Celebration at Farmin Park

By Cindy Hayes

On April 22nd we celebrated 2018 Earth Day at Farmin Park. Mother Earth was in attendance encouraging people to become active in preserving the earth. Many children sported face paintings of animals. Jean Gerth representing "350" Sandpoint was one of the chief organizers and Kate McAlister (Chamber of Commerce) was the M.C. Shelby Rognstad, mayor of Sandpoint, was the first speaker. CANSS (Citizens Against Newport Silicon Smelter) handed out information pamphlets and circulated petitions. Scotchman's Peak, Waterkeepers, KNPS and a dozen other organizations had booths. After the Raging Grannies (<http://raginggrannies.net/>) performed their parodies of familiar songs, it was decided Sandpoint needed to organize their own chapter and Ellen Weissman (Senior Center Director) standing nearby was tapped to organize it. There were hands-on activities for children and adults. One booth demonstrated washing oil covered feathers and how birds die from hyperthermia because oil covered feathers lose their ability to insulate.

Many people stopped by the KNPS tent and picked up KNPS brochures. Ken Thacker brought a special puppet friend named Douglas Fir, nicknamed Red for short. We had Dr. Suess's "The Lorax Who Speaks For The Trees" on display with educational posters/handouts on the many uses for trees. Shawna Parry and Cindy Hayes created the posters. Thanks to Gail and Jimmy Bolin, Ken Thacker, Jan Geren, Lexi de Fremery, and Cindy Hayes for manning the booth from 11:30- 3:00. Gail provided the photo for this article.



2018 KNPS Summer BBQ and Potluck

When: Sunday, August 26

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Waterlife Discovery Center (old fish hatchery) on Lakeshore Drive

Directions: From Hwy 95, south of the Long Bridge, go west on Lakeshore Drive 1.5 miles – it's on the right (south side).

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: Gail Bolin at wgbolin@hotmail.com or 208-627-3292

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Committee Reports

Arboretum

The Arboretum committee will go into high gear on May 6th, cleaning up the Arboretum for the coming season. We are blessed with a number of new volunteers, which should make the job easier! On Saturday June 2nd, everyone is invited to the Arboretum Celebration and Native Plant Sale, from 9:00-1:00. The highlight will be the dedication of our new interpretive signs. Many thanks to Mary Fraser for having the idea, securing Board approval, and seeing the project through to completion. The signs will encourage visitors to look around and learn more about native plants, while experiencing a very special place. To learn more about the Arboretum Committee send a message to arboretum@nativeplantsociety.com

Conservation Committee

Assisting the vote for Scotchman Peaks effort has occupied several members of the Conservation Committee. This is an issue where your vote on May 15 will matter!

Members of KNPS are following the Forest Service's proposed Plan of Operations submitted by Pend Oreille Silica Inc. to conduct an exploratory drilling project in the Monarch Mountains above Lake Pend Oreille, and the Bureau of Land Management's Gamlin Lake Vegetation Treatment Project.

With the Gamlin Lakes planning process, it is clear that Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society initial input has helped shape the thinking of the BLM. We will continue to stay involved.

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

Landscape Committee

The landscaping crew started out early this year with a consultation for the DayBreak Center. KNPS awarded one of the Lois Wythe grants to the DayBreak Center and Mark Stockwell is working to use those funds to improve and beautify the landscaping at the center. We have a full compliment of landscaping consultations for 2018 and are looking forward to working with the homeowners to improve their property. To learn more about the Landscape Committee send a message to Dennis landscape@nativeplantsociety.com

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!

On the **May 15** primary ballot in Bonner County there will be a non-binding "Advisory Vote" about the Scotchman Peaks. Although not legally binding, this vote will have a huge impact. Senator Risch has indicated that he will honor the vote. Your voice matters; your VOTE matters!

This vote will be open to all registered voters in Bonner County. The following will appear **as the last question** on the Republican, Democratic and Non-Partisan ballots.

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

Please join us/me in voting "**In Favor**" of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, let's keep this special place just the way it is now!

More information at www.voteformscotchmanpeaks.org



Member Profile: Ron Mamajek and Denise Zembryki

By Cindy Hayes

Ron Mamajek and Denise Zembryki moved to N Idaho in summer 2010 to a house Denise had only seen from photos and Ron had visited once while touring with the inspector, before closing the deal. “We made the offer for our Sagle home via phone and fax while on a ski trip in Stowe, Vermont.” Ron had retired (from work, not life!) in late 2007. However, at the time, Denise was still working, and both their respective residences (in SE Pennsylvania) had been listed with a real estate agent. So when the offer was accepted for the Sagle home, they faced having 3 homes and hoping to sell their 2 PA residences when the housing market was looking a bit depressing. It was an interesting time.

“We knew that we wanted to retire someplace out West as we had been taking most of our ski/backpack/hiking/fishing vacations in Utah, Colorado, Montana, Oregon and Washington for a number of years. We met with real estate agents while on some of these trips, to check out what it might be like to actually LIVE in the nearby town, and not just pass through as tourists. Ron first read about Schweitzer in a ski magazine while waiting to see his dentist, so we planned our next ski trip in N Idaho checking out the mountain and the town, as well as visit Whitefish and the Big Mountain. Sandpoint just seemed like it checked a lot of the boxes.”



Denise was born/raised and educated in western NY while Ron got his start in a town in western PA (New Castle, about 50 miles N of Pittsburgh). They both migrated to SE Pennsylvania for jobs. Denise spent almost a decade at the University of Pennsylvania working in basic research, ending up at a big pharma company (14 years as a research scientist, then about a decade overseeing global clinical trials in oncology) before she called it quits. Ron started as an analytical chemist at a J&J and ended up staying there through various positions for almost 36 years!

“We first met at a white water canoeing course (Denise as an assistant instructor!) with the Appalachian Mt Club. Eventually the AMC was the “place” we actually ended up together, although most of our time paddling was done in solo canoes. We saved most of our tandem canoeing time for wilderness trips in Canada. Sometimes it is best for relationships to spend time apart!” Denise first encountered Idaho while solo canoeing the Middle Fork of the Salmon on a private trip (with a group of friends from the East). She returned to the Salmon about 4 years later with a group of fellow AMCs, this time sharing her canoe with Ron: “It was a treat having that extra muscle power in the boat!”

“We sold our solo whitewater canoes before we moved to Idaho, but kept our tandems, which we still use while doing water sampling for the Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeepers (Denise just manages to keep the canoe behaving on the lake while Ron is doing the actual sampling). We acquired a couple of touring kayaks which we don’t use as often as we would like, but have helped as “safety boaters” with the Long Bridge Swim held every August.” Another water activity Ron enjoys is fly fishing, mostly on rivers in Montana. Ron creates and ties flies and serves on the Board of Trout Unlimited which often involves teaching fly fishing courses for Clark Fork students, Boy Scouts or veterans.

While Ron finds his calm center fly fishing, Denise finds hers with Yoga. They both occasionally hike with Monday Hikers. Love of the outdoors also led them to Friends of Scotchman Peak Wilderness where they have put their muscles into trail work and weed surveys. When the FSPW was collaborating with the ID Fish and Game on the Winter Carnivore Project, Ron helped setting up game cameras (as well as helping nail dead beaver parts to the trees, not exactly what he had in mind as a retiree activity). They also help stuff envelopes and have conducted trail use surveys for the Kaniksu Land Trust. When the Clark Fork Delta Restoration Project asked for volunteers, Denise and Ron helped gather wild grass seeds, cut willow wands and plant plugs.

During ski season they both telemark ski at Schweitzer (“Ron is much better, but I do more turns!”) and Denise also gets her Nordic miles in every season at the mountain. When ski season is over they find plenty to keep them busy. Denise is a board member for our Bonner County History Museum. She also volunteers with the Youth Accountability Board and is a CAL member. Sometimes she even manages to complete her CAL volunteer shift without buying something from Bizarre Bazaar!

(Continued on page 6)

2018 ARBORETUM CELEBRATION AND NATIVE PLANT SALE

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society
 Saturday, June 2 - 9 am - 1 pm
 Lakeview Park

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 2 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. We will kick things off at 9:00 AM by the unveiling several new interpretive signs that have been installed in the Arboretum. The plant sale will commence immediately following the presentation. We plan to offer a wide selection of native trees, shrubs and perennials that are perfectly suited to our local climate and are grown by Cedar Mountain Perennials and Greentree Naturals. In addition to the plants, we will have a variety of hand-crafted items such as planters, trugs, and note-cards. 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, 208-263-7279).



Volunteers Needed:

- **Set-up** 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

If you can help with any of these volunteer positions, 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 latest exhibits. It is the first Saturday of the month which means it is a Free Day - no admission charged.

(Continued from page 5) Member Profile cont'd

“We have knocked off a small number from our bucket list items.” A few years ago, Ron spent 2 weeks in Kamchatka, Russia for (what else?) fly-fishing. In 2016, we both joined up with a “Nature Conservancy” group on a cruise from Bergen, Norway to Reykjavik, Iceland which focused on the topic of climate change.” Denise recently enjoyed a classical music cruise on the Danube River. “We are flying back to Alaska this summer for another adventure on an expedition (ie *really* small) cruise ship in the SE where every day we kayak to glaciers, hike in the rainforest or go breathless watching whales breach. “We keep finding new places we want to visit, so the list never seems to shrink, only grow longer.”

“We first learned about KNPS by attending a Saturday morning meeting, the programs are always so informative.” A bigger influence early on, especially for Denise, was trailing behind Sylvia Chatburn with the Monday Hikers, asking her to identify every wildflower along the trail (and of course, she could!) and then going back home to read about them but *still* not remembering the name on the following week’s hike. Sylvia’s patience in replying was boundless!

“Our volunteering time with KNPS has mostly been helping with the Spring Cleanup at the Arboretum (Denise likes doing battle lopping the wild rose bush) or attacking the giant dandelions. We would like to contribute more, it is just finding the space in our schedules to fit in another activity!?”

A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest

Spring Melt

*“Following a path takes more than footsteps.” Hsieh Ling-yun
Story and Art by Marilyn McIntyre*

Especially in spring in the Moist Montane, where I find myself walking along the edge of the rapidly melting snow to search for snowbank mushrooms, there are lots of traps to look for now, with small saplings emerging from the melting snow leaving deep pits in which to step. It takes constant eye shifting from looking for small orange crinkled fungus to holes where one might take a dive.

Watching the snow melt has been as interesting as watching it fall. As it fell, so it melts in layers and circles outward from the trees, where the branches prevented it from building up close to the bole. Of course these small dark breaks in the snow brought warmth to the ground, as the days grew warmer and longer. Then the mid-spring heat wave hit and now, at April's end, the signs of true spring are unfurling. As my friend says, “there is more color by the day and the effect is dramatic and noisy: humming, chirping, creaking, singing, winging, opening, popping, gushing, blinding!”



I must note that I have never seen such a fruitful crop of pussies on the Willows, and Alder and Birch catkins, which are very long and colorful, ripening in the sun and feeding so many birds. The red leaf buds are forming on the emerging huckleberries, so if the pussy willows are any indication, we can polish our picking gear.

I read in the U of Idaho magazine that they are offering an inter-disciplinary course in Environmental Literature and Writing. Students attend a “Semester in the Wild” at the Taylor Ranch in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness where they write. Imagine, a major in Contemplating Nature! I wish you all the opportunity to do just that, now that spring has arrived, and in the spirit of Earth Day, I suggest we all contemplate how to rid plastic packing from our lives and those in the Ocean.



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Membership Rates

January 1st through December 31st

___ Individual	\$25.00
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Trillium ovatum.....photo by Jill Wilson.