



# Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXII Number 4

Sept—Oct 2018

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, September 22, 2018**

*Marilyn McIntyre*

**The Moist Montane and Climate Change**

**40 years of phenological observations in North Idaho**

Marilyn will discuss and share pictures from her many years of observing with words and sketches the changes in plant and animal cycles and how these are influenced by variations in climate in the moist montane forest of the Northern Rockies habitat region.

**Saturday, October 27, 2018**

*Jack Nisbet*

***The Leibergs on Lake Pend Oreille 1885-1907***

John Leiberg was a late-coming pioneer to North Idaho with a keen interest in native plants; his wife Carrie was an accredited physician who opened a doctor's office in Hope to treat local families. Join us for a slide presentation that follows the Leiberg adventures around Lake Pend Oreille and beyond.

Jack Nisbet is the author of several collections of stories that explore the human and natural history of the Northwest.

## June Program Summary

*Presented by John Phillips*

*Summarized by Cindy Hayes*

At the June 23, 2018 KNPS general meeting, John Phillips, NASA astronaut, shared a slide show titled Earth Observation from the International Space Station, of “weird and beautiful” photos from his 6 month stay in 2005.

John's thirst for exploration drew him to the NASA astronaut program in 1996. He had previously served in the Navy as a pilot, logging more than 4500 flight hours and 250 carrier landings. He received a BS degree in mathematics from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1972; a MS degree in aeronautical systems from University of West Florida in 1974; and a MS and Ph.D. in geophysics and space physics from UCLA in 1984 and 1987, respectively. After receiving his Doctorate in 1987 he worked for Los Alamos National laboratory (LANL) for 9 years performing



research on the sun and the space environment. He has authored 156 scientific papers dealing with the plasma environments of the sun, Earth, other planets, comets and spacecraft. He served as a Navy reservist from 1982 to 2002 retiring with the rank of Captain.

John began his astronaut candidate training in 1996. He has held various jobs in the Astronaut Office including systems engineering and CAPCOM for the International Space Station (ISS) and as a robotics specialist, supporting operations on missions. He logged more than 203 days in space during three flights and flew as Flight Engineer on three different space craft types: shuttle, Soyuz and ISS.

It took 15 years to complete the ISS. STS- 100 Endeavour was John's first space flight mission in the Spring of 2001 (April 19 to May 1). During the 12-day, 187 orbit mission he and the crew delivered and installed a robotic arm which involved two space walks. John's third mission was in 2009 (March 15 to 28) on the STS-119 Discovery. During the 13

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Committee Reports

### Arboretum

Once again the sun blessed our celebration of Arbor Day on Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is also the annual Open House for the Arboretum. This year's event included the dedication of new interpretive signs, thanks to the vision, design skills, and tenacity of last summer's Coordinator, Mary Fraser. Still to come is a sign honoring our founder, Lois Wythe, which will adorn the kiosk. A traditional part of the Open House is hosting third grade classes from area schools for tree tours, spread out over three weekday mornings. Thanks to the excellent leadership of Judy Lyding, and her cadre of tree docents, it was a very successful event (see story in this issue).

Work at the Arb focused on large tasks such as cleaning paths, reviving old beds, pruning, revitalizing the berm, watering, and trying to keep up with the weeding. Our very hard-working Coordinator was Autumn Lear, who demonstrated welcome initiative in many areas. Also deserving of special mention is longtime volunteer Ken Haag, frequently on hand to work on and/or explain the complex, vital watering system he designed. In addition to the "old guard" of volunteers, bless 'em, we welcomed newcomers Susan Van Vooren, Cindy Hayes, Judy Lyding, Susan Bates-Harbuck, Jacquelynn Henney, and Shirley Holt. Shirley's willingness to faithfully show up to tackle the perennial weeds along the wall was especially appreciated. The Arb Management Team (MaryJo Haag, Sue Gervais, Mary Fraser and Rae Charlton) thanks them one and all!

Fall Clean up, aka Putting the Arboretum to Bed, will be held Sunday, Oct. 7, 10-1, with our usual potluck. We welcome all who'd like to share the satisfying task of readying the Arb for winter (and next year). This time we have a special need for someone with a chain saw, please. See you there...

### Grant Committee

Will the 2019 recipients of the Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant be even more inspiring than those who won in 2018? Just as a reminder—Clark Fork High School, East Bonner County Library, and the Daybreak Center came out on top this year.

As in the past, the KNPS grant honoring our founder Lois Wythe recognizes projects that promote the use and appreciation of native plants. Each grant can be up to \$300.00. Consideration is given to all applications and is not limited only to landscaping projects.

Deadline for applications is November 30th. Updated forms will be available on our website shortly.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### ***Fall Cleanup At the Arboretum***

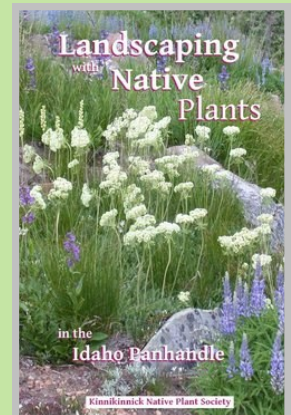
**OCT 7  
10 TIL 1**

**Potluck to follow**

## **Landscaping With Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle**

*By Carol Jenkins*

Our wonderful book came out in 2011. So far we have printed 1,479 copies. We are ready for another printing of 500. The book sells steadily in Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene. The book is part of our outreach/education. All profits remain with the stores that sell them. One of these stores suggested we add a flier or bookmark with sources of native plants listed on it as her customers often ask where they can purchase native plants.



Excerpted with permission from:

**ERIG Recipient Report**

**Lucky Peak Nursery Pollinator Garden**

Kay Beall, Pahove Chapter

Sage Notes Vol. 40 (2) June 2018



Pollinators are essential to life on earth. Over 85 percent of the world’s flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world’s crop species, depend on pollinators. Butterflies/moths and bees are critical members of the pollinator group, and many species have suffered major declines in recent years. The iconic Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) has become a symbol of the movement to protect pollinators and their habitat. Populations are declining due to loss of habitat and their primary food source (in Idaho, primarily showy milkweed *Asclepias speciosa*), degradation of overwintering sites, and climate change. Idaho is one of the destinations for northern spring/summer migration from California, providing summer breeding areas and the starting point for southern migration in the fall. Bee populations, including native bees, are declining because of habitat loss and fragmentation, disease and predation, and climate change. Most of Idaho’s native bees are solitary bees, but also include the social bumblebee. The western bumblebee (*Bombus occidentalis*), once widespread from Alaska to California and east to the Great Plain states, is currently under review by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for listing under the Endangered Species Act (USFWS 2016).

(Continued from page 1)

**June Program Summary**

day, 202 orbit mission, the crew delivered and installed the final two solar array wing panels on the ISS. His second mission (ISS Expedition 11 ) was his longest one of 6 months from April 15 to October 10, 2005. During his time on the ISS he served as NASA Science Officer and Flight Engineer. In addition to maintenance of the Space Station he performed a spacewalk in a Russian spacesuit totaling 5 hours. He noted there were different “looks” between the Russian and American sides of the space station; different life support systems, different reentry procedures, even different fire extinguishers. He also had more leisure time to take photos.

John started his slide show with the iconic photo of the “Blue Marble” in space taken 50 years ago during the Apollo mission. With today’s technology, astronauts can zoom in 110 times closer and with better resolution. Each pixel is about 6 meters ( 20 feet) square and the field of view is 21 kilometers (13 miles). He’s learned the knack of how to reduce blur in a picture he is tracking while hurling through space. He shared a series of photos he took while in orbit over Idaho. In under a minute he photographed four Lakes: Priest, Pend Oreille, Coeur d’alene and Flathead as he passed over.

It’s difficult to pick out features on the landscape 1000 miles away if there’s little contrast in color. John once tried to locate the Wall of China, but between the poor air quality and low contrasting color, the Wall was camouflaged. There were many occasions, however, when his pictures were stunning: underwater structures in the Bahamas, Sierra Desert impact crater in Chad, the 60 mile crater in Canada, Viedma Glacier in southern South America, Horn of Africa, Suez Canal, South Georgia on Antarctica, vortex of Hurricane Rita, Aurora Borealis in Tasmania, source of the Columbia River and other waterways, cities and their main roadways, mountain ranges, coastlines, and islands, etc. Many ISS photos are available on the NASA website (<https://eol.jsc.nasa.gov>) .

Each orbit lasts 91 minutes with the Space Station remaining mostly in perpetual twilight. The Space Station orbits within a 51.6 degree inclination. The launch is normally due east and the farthest northern latitude in the orbit is London and the southernmost latitude is Falkland Islands. However, on the horizon you can take pictures of the North Pole and Antarctic at 62 degrees. There are only two places that support a launch pad for manned space travel; Cosmodrome in Baikonur in Russia and Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral in Florida. There are three other locations for launching unmanned space vehicles with payloads.

When John retired from NASA in 2011, he and his wife Laura and their 2 children moved to Sandpoint to enjoy all that Sandpoint has to offer. After the conclusion of his presentation, John answered numerous questions from the 100+ attendees.



## 2018 KNPS Native Plant Sale

By Bob Wilson

I realize that our Arbor Day festivities are a somewhat distant memory now but I wanted to take this opportunity to relive the event and thank all of those who were involved and helped make it a wonderful occasion. The event was put on with the support of the Sandpoint Parks & Recreation Dept. and the Bonner County History Museum.

Many people chipped in to help in many ways. A few weeks before the sale I was joined by Mary Fraser in the studio of KRFY for their morning radio show hosted by Julie Kallemeyn and Phil Hough. We had a thoroughly enjoyable time promoting not only the plant sale, but The Arboretum and KNPS as well.

Eager KNPS members gathered early Saturday morning to set up the sale area. Thanks to Gail Bolin, Sylvia Chatburn, Molly O'Reilly, Steve Lockwood, Dennis & Nancy Rieger, Ken Thacker and Cindy Hayes for pitching in. Canopies were provided by Sylvia and Ken Thacker. Most of the tables were generously loaned to us from the Bonner County History Museum. And before I forget, thanks to Rae Charlton for picking up the key on Friday so we could get the tables out of the shed.



We started the event with the unveiling of new interpretive signs at The Arboretum. We can all thank Mary Fraser and the Arboretum Committee for this classy addition to the gardens.



Then it was off to the plant sale where a wide variety of native perennials and shrubs were offered by Cedar Mountain Perennials. We were also joined again this year by Diane Green of Greentree Naturals who brought some larger native shrubs and grasses. In addition to the plants, we had an array of crafts including some fine woodworking in the form of planters and gnome doors that were made and donated by Bob Hayes. We also had some welded ant sculptures that were very unique.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**FALL FUNDRAISER**  
**Idaho Pour Authority**  
**Oct 24**  
**5 til 8 pm**  
**Raffle**  
**“Host Beer”:**  
**Boise Brewing Co.**



No plant sale would be complete without a wide selection of scrumptious goodies and coffee at our bake sale. Thanks to Jan Geren for organizing this.



Thanks to Sylvia, Molly, Gail and Jill Wilson for sharing their plant knowledge with the shoppers and helping them find the best choices for their landscapes. Also, thanks to our cashiers - Pat Ramsey and Marilyn George, our Square credit card operators Julie Kallemeyn and Margaret Petersen, and our talliers Marilyn McIntyre, Lexie de Fremery and Judy Lyding. My apologies to anyone who I may have left out; I know there are people that contributed in ways that I am not aware of. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this the most successful plant sale so far.

## **Member Profile: Sue Gervais**

*By Cindy Hayes*

Sue had the opportunity to relocate to beautiful Sandpoint, ID with Seattle based skiwear company, Serac, in 1983. She was lucky that employment drew her to Sandpoint, a rarity in that depressed economic time.

Growing up in Seattle with family ties to the surrounding forests and water gave her a great appreciation of all things green. Weekends at her paternal Grandmother's homestead on south Puget Sound were spent Huckleberry picking and clam digging. Also going to Vashon Island for annual family clam bakes and Thanksgivings with her Mothers side of the family.

Her mother and her sisters were all seamstresses, her mother taking in sewing for clients. Having grown up choosing fabrics and patterns that her mother would turn into new school clothes gave her a lifelong love of fabric and color which led to her career in pattern making and design, after completing a two year degree in Custom Apparel and Design from Seattle Central Community College. In all, she worked for ten years in that field in Seattle and Sandpoint. Her fabric inspired youth has also led her to various interests such as quilting and a renewed passion for weaving.



She met her husband Phil through mutual friends at the Festival at Sandpoint in 1984, and married in 1986. They have two children, Claire and Tyler. She volunteered many hours in their classrooms, through Washington Elementary and the Middle School. Eventually that lead to seven years working in the Middle School library, retiring in 2014.

They are currently in the process of building a new home in Dover, having lived in south Sandpoint the past 32 years. Time to downsize and simplify.

Gardening has been a passion throughout her life. Nurturing, observing growth and being outside getting dirt under her fingernails is her idea of fun! They live near the Arboretum, so after walking their dogs through the park on a regular basis, it seemed like a natural place to volunteer. Her goals this summer in the Arboretum - with the help of Autumn Lear, our Volunteer Coordinator, have been to open up sight lines, beautify the main entrances, and weed, weed, weed!

## **ARBORETUM TOURS FOR KIDS**

By Judy Lyding

The Arboretum was the site for the annual Native Tree Identification Tours for third grade students on May 29 and May 31. Three schools participated - Washington School, Farmin Stidwell School and Northside School. About 125 students walked a 6 station circuit through the Arboretum with 10 minutes per station. They got hands on experience identifying 10 native trees by their bark, cones and needles, as well as important practical information about each tree. A final station on "tree cookies" demonstrated tree rings and what they tell about the life of a tree. Many thanks to our KNPS volunteers whose enthusiasm helped to make it such a valuable learning experience. Thank you Sylvia Chatburn, Sue Gervais, Ken Thacker, Cindy Hayes, Jan Geren, Susan Bates-Harbuck, Ann Torpie, Judy Heraper, Mary Jo Haag, Ken Haag, Carl Hanson and Judy Lyding.





## May Program Summary

*Presented by William Rember  
Summarized by Rae Charlton*

The May program, “Paleobotany and Geology of the Clarkia Area”, was presented by William Rember, affiliate professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Idaho, and director of U of I’s Tertiary Research Center. Rember has been unearthing fossils at the Miocene site for forty-four years and is still going strong. Sixteen million years ago, at Clarkia, Columbia River basalt flowed up through huge fissures in the earth. Thanks to a steep-sided valley, a deep lake was formed, and an amazingly diverse array of life-forms were preserved as fossils in the underwater sediment. Slides documented recognizable leaves and cones from trees, leaves from shrubs, insects, pollen grains, and fish. Even the stomata in leaves showed up in the fossilized record. As Rember studied the specimens he realized that many familiar trees were easily identified by their leaves, but there were others he didn’t know existed, including one that now grows only in China. One reason researchers are fascinated with the site is that they can study effects of a warmer climate, with high carbon dioxide levels, useful as we grapple with climate change.



Scientists have created charts stratifying the levels and makeup of deposits, including many verifiable layers of volcanic ash from Cascade volcanoes and the Yellowstone Hot Spot. After each volcanic eruption more land would be built up around the edges of the lake and plants which thrived in swampy conditions would predominate. As leaves fell in the lake, nothing attacked them and they drifted to the bottom. The weather regime was stable, the ash flows were absorbed, and trees rebounded.

Many in the appreciative audience clustered around the speaker afterwards, to see the specimens he’d brought and watch him open up large chunks of sediment to observe what was preserved inside. He welcomes individuals and small groups to come and explore the fossils—a field trip, perhaps?

### **PINE STREET WOODS BOTANY SURVEY**

*By Ken Thacker*

On June 17<sup>th</sup> about 15 of us spent about 3 hours at Pine Street Woods with Regan Plumb identifying plants. If you haven’t heard, PSW is 160 acres of woods and meadow that the Kaniksu Land Trust is working to purchase and designate as public open space. The land has been managed for timber harvest and livestock grazing for a very long time and shows some wear and tear due to its use. We found a total of 95 species of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses, 71 of which are native. It’s likely that some species were missed, so there will be more opportunities for additional plant inventory later.

We broke up into 3 groups to cover different areas and each group identified as many plant species as possible. Jill Wilson did the arduous task of compiling final list and went the extra mile to research scientific names and native/introduced/noxious status of each. Thank You Jill!



### **Arboretum School Tours**



## A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest

### An Alder Flower? Really?

Story and Art by Marilyn McIntyre

Hiking around a few days ago, I saw red flowers hanging from a tree into a sunny meadow, where my eyes saw them as ripe pin cherries. Closer inspection showed a Red Alder tree with many such “flowers” on its hanging branches. Knowing that Alder flowers are catkins, and these were definitely not catkins, I turned to KNPS’ “Botany” Bob Wilson of Cedar Mountain Perennials for help. Upon seeing my photos he started on a research trail that led him to the fungus *Taphrina occidentalis*. Known as Alder Cone Gall, it is related to the peach leaf curl fungus. What look like petals are actually cone scales that have grown enormous



and turned red. I had also sent the pictures to my friend Geri who teaches ecology at Sierra College and, after looking at my photos and registering this never before seen image, she found specimens the very next day while on a hike in a mass of green foliage right beside the trail she takes quite often. The amazing human brain makes us visual thinkers. The back third of our brain is a large optical focusing center and we can acquire and develop superb visual images, extracting an amazing amount of information from them. So keep your eyes open and your brain-screen on when you are walking in wild areas. After all, Wild Nature is going to be abundant with her images whether someone is there or not.

We have been living in smoke and haze for a long time this summer, with Beijing quality air taking over every now and then. Suddenly, following 57 days without rain, we received ½". As the temperatures dropped significantly, the air cleared. The birds are once again here to eat the thick crops of mountain ash and red osier dogwood berries before they migrate to more southerly climes. Unusually, the Yellow Rumped (Myrtle's) warblers have been hanging around for days and our one solitary female Black Chinned hummingbird was spotted last night sipping from the fuchsia flowers.

Good News: we have found monofilament bird crash prevention screens and much to our relief, our many windows are no longer murdering birds. After a while we stopped being aware of the screens at all.



## **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  
Judy Lyding, Board Member  
Carol Jenkins, Board Member

### **Additional Committee Chairs and Positions**

Mary Jo Haag, Sue Gervais, Mary Fraser,  
Rae Charlton, Arboretum  
Dennis Rieger, Landscape  
Molly O'Reilly, Conservation  
Janice DeBaun, Lois Wythe Grant  
Mary Jo Haag, Historian  
Jackie Earle, Hospitality  
Margaret Petersen, Printer  
Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee  
Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor  
Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, List serve

## **Membership Rates**

January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

___ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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*Newsletter Options:*

Electronic Copy \_\_\_ Paper copy \_\_\_



*Mail to:*

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society  
PO Box 1092  
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

**OR**

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



Ninebark.....photo by Jill Wilson.