



# Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXIV Number 1

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Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / PO Box 1092 Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

[www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

**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 January 25, 2020**

***Preston Andrews, Phil Hough and Ken Thacker***

### **Native Plant Conservation and KNPS**

One of our missions at KNPS is “to advocate for the conservation of this rich natural [native plant] heritage for future generations.” This program will include a brief presentation and discussion of native plant conservation in our changing world, as climate and competition from invasive species increasingly impact our native plant ecosystems. We especially want to devote time to discussing how KNPS, through the leadership of the Conservation Committee, can be actively involved in native plant conservation issues in our area.

Preston Andrews is the current Program Coordinator and member of the Board of KNPS. He is an Emeritus Professor of Horticulture from Washington State University, where his research focused on sustainability and the environmental physiology of woody plants.

Ken Thacker is the current Board President of the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society. He has lived, worked and played in the wild parts of the northern Rocky Mountain region for nearly 50 years.

Phil Hough is a past president of KNPS and a former co-chair of their Conservation Committee. Phil is one of the founders and current Executive Director of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

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## November Program Summary

*Summarized by Rae Charlton*

Molly McCahon spoke about preserving the water resources of the Lake Pend Oreille Watershed. Molly is the Executive Director of our regional Lakes Commission (formally Pend Oreille Basin Commission) and a member of Panhandle SEEP (Storm Water Erosion and Education Program) and the Panhandle Basin Advisory Group. Earlier she was Coordinator for Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District’s Lake\*A\*Syst program.



Bonner County’s surface is 9 % water, we have more water than any other county in Idaho. Lakes and rivers pose management challenges, such as caring for wetlands, and dealing with aquatic invasive species. A huge concern is non-point source pollution (i.e., not coming from a pipe), which is hard to track. Point source pollution is regulated. Non-point sources include run-off from scraped off surfaces in new developments and channel pollutants (sediment, nutrients, petroleum products, hazardous waste). Idaho’s DEQ is the agency which regulates water quality standards. It will fund efforts or assist in reducing non-point sources.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 has had a huge impact. An example is the excellent work of Lake Assist to educate waterfront landowners why vegetative buffers of native plants are the best choice for the continuing health of our lakes and rivers. Although the program is not funded at present, there is helpful information on their website, [lakeassist.org](http://lakeassist.org).

*(Continued on page 3)*

## President's Message

*Submitted by Ken Thacker*

Happy New Year Everyone,

The cabin in the Arboretum has quite a history. It was originally built sometime before 1885 on a homestead close to where present day Shingle Mill Road is. In 1981, the Bonner County Historical Society found out that it was about to be destroyed, so they moved it to Lakeview Park. While it remains the property of the Historical Society, the Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society (that's us) took it over in 1998 to use as tool storage. We have been taking care of it ever since. Unfortunately, the cedar shakes on the roof, now nearly 40 years old, are brittle and have gaps. We are proposing to replace the roof.

David Hutchens, who is a lifelong carpenter and historical structure advocate, has offered to help with the re-roofing project. David is now our newest KNPS member and has also offered to give a class on making the hand split cedar shakes like the ones on the cabin. David constructed and installed the cabin's window frames and windows when we took over occupancy. KNPS, the Bonner County Historic Society and the City of Sandpoint are working together to organize the shingle splitting class and roof replacement. We are presently discussing the class, considering making or buying the shakes, and the removal and replacement of the roof. We are also looking at the possibility of a metal roof.

To keep costs down, volunteers are needed for as much of the work as possible. This would include the somewhat separate tasks (opportunities?) of 1) learning how to make hand split shakes this spring or early summer, 2) producing them through the summer, and 3) roof removal and replacement in late summer and fall. We need to know how much interest KNPS members would have in volunteering for any portion of the project. We don't need commitments yet. We are also looking for some of the froes and wood mallets (the traditional tools used to make shakes) to borrow for the shingle splitting class. My email is: [idahoweedguy@yahoo.com](mailto:idahoweedguy@yahoo.com) or call me at 208-597-5469 if you are interested in any part of the project.

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**Saturday February 22, 2020**

***Jennifer Costich Thompson***

Priest River Forest Reserve: Then and Now

The Priest River Forest Reserve, Idaho's first federal forest reserve, was established in February 1897. What followed was the extensive evaluation and publication of the Reserve's characteristics and resources by John Leiberg in his 1899 report, "The Priest River Forest Reserve." Jennifer's presentation will provide both historical context and comparison of Leiberg's work to current forest conditions. For those who have read Jack Nisbet's book or attended his KNPS presentation, "The Dreamer and the Doctor", this presentation will provide more details about Leiberg's local work on the Priest River Forest Reserve.

Jennifer Costich-Thompson was born and raised in rural northern Idaho and has Forestry and Range degrees from the University of Montana. She has worked as a forester and team leader in northern Idaho for nearly twenty years, and has served as the Idaho Panhandle National Forests' North Zone Botanist for the last ten years.



## Committee Reports

### Arboretum Committee

For the big event unfolding in the Arb, be sure to read the “President’s Message.”

Collin Beggs, who has generously volunteered to design and build our new arbor, hopes to have it “ready to raise” in early February, weather permitting. In March, we traditionally have the first planning meeting for Arb volunteer gardeners. We need more gardeners! If you enjoy working with plants and being outdoors in the summer, please check us out. We have a small band of regulars who love to share their knowledge by mentoring newcomers, plus a Coordinator on site every weekday morning who is eager to help. And did I mention that it’s fun? And a great way to learn more about native plants? If interested, please contact Mary Jo at [maryjohaag@gmail.com](mailto:maryjohaag@gmail.com).

### Conservation Committee

Hope your new year started off with joy and hope, and that it includes a resolve to help contribute to the conservation of native plants and their habitat! As you will recall. Your participation will help the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society build a robust conservation effort. We hope you can come to the first conservation committee meeting of 2020 to learn more and see how you can help.

**Details:**

**When:** Thurs Jan 9, 4pm – 5:30pm

**Where:** Longshot Café, Boyer/Hwy 2

**Who:** open to all interested

No need to RSVP, but if you are interested and have any ideas and can’t make it, send me a note.

(September Program Summary Continued from page 1)

The Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District, one of 52 districts in the state, holds classes for realtors about various requirements, such as regulations on septic systems, and what permits are needed.

The Storm Water Erosion and Education Program (SEEP) has classes designed for building professionals, basically “anyone who moves dirt for a living.” They can earn storm water erosion certification. Sediment is a pollutant, coming from sources such as piles of dredged material and tire tracks, creating problems such as increased turbidity which gradually fills in bays. Vegetation is the best erosion control, but mulch, straw wattles and silt fences also help.

The Panhandle Basin Advisory Group includes five northern Idaho counties, and decides on projects to receive annual EPA grants, such as streambank stabilization. The Lakes Commission is an advisory board to the state, representing the interests of its communities, and works with state resource agencies. It is non-partisan, meets quarterly, and deals with relevant issues such as fisheries and dam operations. It publishes maps, offers bull trout education, and holds the annual Water Festival for area fifth graders. It is currently focused on lake level issues.

Because the federal government controls all dams on the Columbia River, lake levels are managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. In 1964, the Columbia River Treaty with Canada was enacted, to prevent catastrophic flood risk and generate power. It is now being renegotiated. Another big project is the Columbia River System Operations EIS, which proposes using additional water from the upper Columbia and would lower our lake by three feet in summer.

People interested in volunteering can call Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District or DEQ.



# KNPS Christmas Party



## Member Profile: Robin Campbell

Submitted by Cindy Hayes

I'm excited to be a part of KNPS and honored to become a new member of the board. My interest in native plants got off the ground, so to speak, when I was in college looking for a few science credits to complete my degree. I took plant taxonomy, and liked it so much, I then took advanced plant taxonomy. Obviously this was a long time ago, and it was in the Intermountain West. For many years that interest expressed itself from time to time on nature hikes where I probably made myself obnoxious calling out species along the trail, but I wasn't really adding to my knowledge and gradually much of it slipped away.

I moved to Sandpoint from the Portland, OR area in 2001 to take a job with Coldwater Creek as an advertising writer for their website. That lasted two-and-a-half years. I didn't want to leave Sandpoint, so I purchased a downtown retail store. I loved retail, but it didn't leave much room for hiking, gardening or pursuing native plants.

At the end of 2018, after 15 wonderful years in my store, I retired. Top of my list was landscaping the rocky, hilly area around my house. Shawna Parry, our treasurer, is one of my neighbors. She reminded me about KNPS and even offered to give me her appointment that summer with the landscape committee. I'll be planting and pulling weeds for the next umpteen years as I regenerate my hillside with appropriate natives.

I grew up in a Sandpoint-sized town southwest of Portland in an alternative family. My father was an organic filbert farmer in the late 1960s. I earned a bachelor's degree in English Literature in 1970 and a Master's degree in Journalism in 1983, which launched a career as an advertising copywriter. Between degrees, I was married to a plant ecologist turned high school science teacher in a very beautiful, rural part of Oregon on the McKenzie River. After leaving the "river" I vowed that I would eventually find another wild and scenic place to live. Sandpoint is not quite as wild, but it is just as scenic, and I love it.

Since moving here, my two sisters and my mother have joined me. My 93 year-young mother enjoys "assisted living" in my home with me and the youngest of my sisters. I have one son who lives with his wife in Portland, along with my wonderful 4 year-old grandson, Austin.

I'm very much looking forward to getting to know all of you at programs, on field trips, and working on causes to champion and preserve our unique habitat and its specialized flora.

*Robin Campbell*



**Happy New Year!!!!**

**Don't forget it's time to renew your**

**KNPS Membership!**

**Membership form in this newsletter or**

**Renew online at:**

**<http://nativeplantsociety.org/membership>**







## A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest



### Patchy Freezing Fog

*Illustration and words by Marilyn McIntyre*

Patchy Freezing Fog...the three most dreaded words to us who depend on solar input for our power. NOAA has been calling for it a lot lately. It is the shortest day of the year and the snow falling day after day guarantees us a real first day of winter coming in right on time. On those rare late afternoons when the sun does show itself in the alpenglow on the clouds, the day is done amidst a beautiful sunset color range in the whole spectrum, especially red. Red trees, red snow, red clouds and red mountains; fading to pink, fading to purple.

I am happy to report that, thanks to the huge atmospheric river coming out of the Northeastern Pacific, the moisture in this recent snow has been high and now that it has turned from snow to rain, from north to south we might have a chance to see the creeks rise once again. A recent NOAA map of moisture levels in the whole country colors the northern Rockies and the western Washington areas as Much Below Average. So I am very happy to see this rain saturating the snow and hopefully getting through the frost heaves to the ground and not just running off.

But, being soaked in day after dark day has gotten me to thinking about a place under the fog and frost where the trees are carrying on a bright conversation with one another in the "wood wide web", either directly, by intertwining their roots, or indirectly, by growing fungal networks around the roots that serve as a sort of extended nervous system connecting separate trees. According to Robert Macfarlane, if this weren't remarkable enough, these arboreal mutualities are even more complex — trees appear able to distinguish their own roots from those of other species and even of their own relatives and they speak a sophisticated silent language, communicating complex information via smell, taste, and electrical impulses. So, while things on the surface can be down right depressing, there is more going on under our feet than we can even imagine. And, of course, it is all part of the seasonal cycles that maintain life on this planet.

"Next time you walk through a forest, look down; A city lies under you". Anna Tsing

## Board of Directors 2019

Ken Thacker, President, Programs  
 Jan Geren, Vice President  
 Carol Jenkins, Secretary  
 Shawna Parry, Treasurer  
 Julie Kallemeyn, Publicity  
 Cindy Hayes, Board Member  
 Judy Lyding, Board Member  
 Robin Campbell, Board Member  
 Ann Torpie, Arboretum

### Additional Committee Chairs and Positions

Mary Jo Haag, Sue Gervais, Rae Charlton,  
 Rae Charlton, Arboretum  
 Dennis Rieger, Landscape  
 Vacant, Conservation  
 Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Grant  
 Mary Jo Haag, Historian  
 Nancy Rieger, Hospitality  
 Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee  
 Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor  
 Ann Torpie, Printer  
 Preston Andrews, Programs  
 Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, List serve



Working on the new arbor in the Arboretum  
 Photo credit: Ann Torpie

### Join KNPS for 2019

## **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 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### *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).