



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXIII Number 3

May - June 2019

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

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 May 25, 2019

Kristina Boyd and Michael Lucid

From Bees to Bears, a Home Improvement project for our Wild Neighbors

Kristina and Michael will talk about the Idaho Department of Fish & Game habitat improvement project on the Boundary-Smith Creek Wildlife Management Area. The area is near Bonner's Ferry and much of the work is focusing on improving habitat for two rare bumblebee species.

Saturday June 22, 2019

John Harbuck and Ken Thacker

North Idaho Tree and Shrub Identification

We will have a field trip to John's 40 acre property on Colburn Culver and talk about tree and shrub identification of the plants found there. Time TBD and bring a sack lunch.

April Program Summary

Summarized by Rae Charlton

Our presenter, Jason Smith, is a designer and consultant specializing in cold temperate climate agroforestry systems. The title of his presentation was "Introduction to Permaculture, or, Strategies for a Positive Future for Humanity." He has a background in physics, but wanted to understand the "core of nature", which led him to permaculture. Jason is currently living and working in the Bonners Ferry area but has traveled all over the world learning more about his chosen subject. To say he is passionate about it is an understatement!

Bill Mollison is credited with founding the concept of permaculture. It stresses seeing patterns of harmony in nature. Sets of patterns are known as fractals. Once we know how to look, we see all kinds of patterns in the natural world, such as the dendritic ones created by rivers. We are deeply connected to nature, although we seem to have lost touch with it. Permaculture is a big picture construct, seeing systems, "becoming comfortable with infinity". At its core is identifying patterns necessary to having a sustainable future. It is "an ethics based design science", centered upon three core tenets: earth care, people care, and fair share. These three areas are further broken down into twelve principles, such as catch and store energy, produce no waste, observe and interact, obtain a yield, and use and value diversity. An energy balance, input and output, is key to sustainability. Indigenous peoples kept civilization going for thousands of years by living in tune with the seasons and caring for the earth. Current agricultural practice includes over dependence on annual plants and pesticides.

Although we are destabilizing our environment, there is hope for the future. We can regenerate ecosystems. There are demonstration projects around the world developing new constructs. Land management is only one aspect of permaculture, others in-

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Glacier Lily

2019 KNPS Native Plant Sale

Saturday, June 15 - 9 am - 1 pm

Lakeview Park

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 15 this year for the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society's annual plant sale at the Native Plant Arboretum in Lakeview Park in Sandpoint. This event is co-sponsored by the Sandpoint Parks & Recreation Dept. The sale has been moved back 2 weeks from where it has been in the past to improve the availability of plants in smaller sizes. We will again be offering wide selection of native trees, shrubs and perennials that are perfectly suited to our local climate grown by Cedar Mountain Perennials. In addition to the plants, we will have a variety of hand-crafted items such as planters, trugs, gnome doors, and notecards. 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 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

If you can help with any of these volunteer positions, please sign up at one of the Saturday Programs, or contact Bob Wilson (botanybob@frontier.com, 208-683-2387).



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clude tools and technology, culture, and the built environment. Goals include setting up evolutionary processes, optimizing geomorphology (e.g., how water will be caught and stored), and making energy efficient. Aquaculture is critical, since growing plants in water is very efficient (as the Kootenai people knew). “Design equals the beneficial assembly of components in their proper relationships”.

Lightly managed “forest gardens” are another reason for hope. Their key element is trees of various sizes (woodland, fruit, nuts) and the focus is succession. Crops are included, and diversity, which helps with resilience. In N. Idaho, Boundary Community Hospital is developing a forest garden. There is a regional Inland NW Permaculture Guild, which has conferences (“convergences”). Jason feels that N. Idaho has a great climate for permaculture, and encouraged everyone present to learn more about it. It is a decentralized movement, you can become a teacher after 72 hours of instruction (we received the first hour!).

Many thanks to Jason (who is a member of KNPS) for his fascinating introduction to this vital and complex subject.



2019 Earth Day

Once again the 2019 Earth Day gave us an opportunity to network with like minded people. With tree cookies and cuttings of local native conifers, visitors could test their tree identification skills. Children who came to our booth got their passports stamped after answering some questions about native plants!

Thanks to Gail Bolin, Jan Geren, Cindy Hayes and Ken Thacker for representing KNPS!



Committee Reports

Arboretum Committee

The annual spring cleanup is scheduled for Sunday May 5, from 10:00 to noon, followed by a potluck lunch. Tree tours for third graders from area schools will take place the last week of May. And we are always happy to welcome new gardeners! Newcomers will be mentored by “regulars”, as well as by our Coordinator for the summer. Anyone interested can email arboretum@nativeplantsociety.org or, drop by on a weekday morning between 9:00 and noon and chat with the Coordinator. The Arboretum is a lovely place to spend a few gardening hours each week, come join us!

Rae Charlton, for the Arboretum Leadership Team

Conservation Committee

The Native Plant Conservation Campaign (NPCC), of which Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society is a member, is emphasizing the importance of native plant communities, sharing native plant conservation news around the country and nudging the federal government to increase protections for native plant populations at risk.

An excerpt from one recent NPCC article documenting a new approach to our natural ecosystems that's starting to catch on worldwide:

Nature Based Solutions is a relatively new term meaning the use of natural ecosystems – and Ecosystem Services they produce - to address climate change, natural disasters and other threats to people and the planet. As climate change and other threats accelerate, the world community increasingly is embracing the conservation and restoration of native ecosystems as vital to an effective response.

In particular, forest restoration to absorb greenhouse gases is expanding all over the world. Mangroves, salt marshes, floodplains and other coastal and interior wetlands are being conserved and restored to absorb floodwaters, reduce erosion and buffer hurricanes and severe storms. Native plant communities are being conserved and restored in watersheds around many urban areas to provide cheap, reliable water purification services.

The NPCC encourages all advocates for native plants and science to register to vote, and vote.

The NPCC is also nudging the federal government to:

Fund science employees in our federal agencies, especially botanists.

Retain and strengthen the Endangered Species Act so plants at risk get protection more similar to those of animals.

Adopt stronger rules to promote the preferential use of native plants in US Department of Agriculture conservation standards and practices.

Having a national voice for native plants (even this tiny one) is a positive for the plant communities we seek to enjoy, encourage and protect.

Landscape Committee

Spring is here and the landscape committee is looking forward to more consultations this year. We have several consultations lined up, so if you are interested contact Dennis at landscape@nativeplantsociety.org for more information.



Member Profile: Ann Torpie

Submitted by Cindy Hayes

It was a dark and stormy night ...

... when I was born in February in Boston. I spent my first 3 decades in New England, with a few international adventures: junior year in Paris, 2 years with the Peace Corps in Thailand (where Scott & I met as volunteers; he as engineer building water systems while I taught English), and a 2-year contract with DEQ in Saipan, Mariana Islands (near Guam) for Scott. At the end of Scott's DEQ contract, we landed in Spokane in the early 90s with our then 2- & 4-year-old daughters. In 2000 we built a cabin in Swan Shores (off Gypsy Bay) in Sagle. A move to Olympia in 2010 forced us, sadly, to sell it. While on the West Coast we explored places where we'd retire someday, eventually choosing to come "home" to Sandpoint. We LOVE living in town and biking or walking for provisions and for fun!



Every single place we've lived has had either a blank slate of a yard (3) or has been new construction (4). Good thing my 100% Lithuanian DNA has endowed me with huge hands; affectionately referred to as 'potato diggers' in my family! They are not elegant but they are strong and useful; attributes I value over beauty in most things. After having experienced a couple of typical suburban every-square-inch-manicured lots, I've come to my senses and am keen to have as natural an environmental setting as Scott will tolerate. While we have a kousa dogwood, lilacs, hydrangeas, blueberries, lavender and other ornamentals, I'm happy to report they dwell among ocean sprays, syringas, red osier dogwoods, Rocky Mountain junipers, maples, river birches, ninebark, currants, gooseberries, elderberries, serviceberries and chokecherries.



The KNPS Landscape Committee gifted me with a consultation when our new home here was just about finished (summer 2017) and helped me create a landscape that will survive the herds of deer and more solitary moose who frequent Chuck Slough in our backyard. No fence for us; we can share with the wildlife. A small price to pay for enjoying their beauty and presence in our little piece of paradise. That said, applications of deer repellent until these new plantings get more established may help ensure both the plants' ultimate survival as well as future hors d'oeuvres for these browsers. At least that's the plan.

A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest

By Marilyn McIntyre



Woodpeckers and trees go together like flowers and bees. The spring insects are emerging on the heels of the snowmelt and I found a bumblebee over laden with pollen enclosed in a closed crocus bloom. Upon finding a fully red needled Western White Pine with its bark stripped by a Pileated woodpecker and, ascertaining the culprit to be Western Pine Beetle, supposedly only found in Ponderosa Pines, I know things are out of hand. The large Grand Firs are dead on the top, indicative of the fir engraver, or Scolytus beetle. All of the spruce trees have White Pine weevils resulting in dying terminal leaders and multiple tops. So the 5 woodpecker species we see everyday: Pileated, Hairy, Downy, red napped sapsucker, and common red-shafted flicker are gorging on their favorite little treats. Woodpeckers take 75% of their food in meat and the rest in plant foods such as seeds and berries.

So, while it is hard to witness the trees dying, it is amazing to see so many beautiful woodpeckers drumming their way around the edges of our forest clearing, where the results of last summer's drought can be seen in the weakened and bug attacked trees. Have a Beautiful spring.





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 Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, List serve



Grass Widow, image by Jill Wilson

Happy New Year!!!

Join KNPS for 2019!

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*

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