



# Kinnikinnick Journal

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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

*Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, programs will be presented live on Zoom and recorded for later viewing on the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society's YouTube Channel. When viewed live, there will be opportunities for Q&A. Members will be notified about how to register for the Zoom programs via email. We will not meet at Sandpoint Community Hall.*

### Friday January 22 at 10 am

*Christy Cleaver, USFS Plant Pathologist*

#### **Whitebark pine: Current status and threats that led to proposed protections under the Endangered Species Act**

Whitebark pine was recently proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The normally long-lived, stress-tolerant pine is declining throughout most of its range due to the introduced disease white pine blister rust, mountain pine beetle, fire, and climate change. Restoration efforts are ongoing and include a National Whitebark Pine Restoration Plan. Learn how you can help protect whitebark pines

Christy Cleaver is a Plant Pathologist with the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Health Protection staff, which monitors forest diseases and insects, conducts forest health evaluations, and provides management guidance, training, and conservation education. Christy received B.S. degrees in Forest Biology and Natural Resource Management and an M.S. in Ecology, with an emphasis in Forest Pathology, from Colorado State University.

### Saturday February 27 at 10 am

*Derek Antonelli, Idaho Native Plant Society, Calypso Chapter.*

#### **Ferns of North Idaho**

Ferns are a fascinating and diverse group of plants, in many ways similar to the flowering plants we are so familiar with, but with some striking differences. Northern Idaho, with its higher levels of precipitation, has the highest diversity of ferns in the state. Derek will cover the natural history of this group of plants and describe anatomical features that make the group special and easier to identify.

Derek Antonelli, retired U.S. Air Force, is president of the Calypso Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) serving the Coeur d'Alene area. He leads the North Idaho Rare Plant Working Group for INPS. He is an amateur botanist who has been studying and collecting plants for 40 years.

## November Program Summary

*Summarized by Cindy Hayes*

The Selkirk range is ecologically distinct, hosting an assemblage of boreal, coastal, Rocky Mountain and Columbia Basin flora. The climate in the area is unique, dry summers and cold wet winters due to the maritime influences. Ice Age events created the Kootenai Valley Floor which is home to diverse flora. The flora of Priest River and Pend Oreille Watersheds were included in the botanical study. Harpo explored 5 vegetation types in the Selkirks: forest, grassland, wetland, open rock, and disturbed (roadside, timber harvest).

The Stillinger Endowment funded Harpo Faust's graduate research at the University of Idaho. Harpo's work included a checklist, obtained from botanical collections dating from the late 1800s to early 1900s, of flora attached to specific geological regions in the Selkirks. The targeted area overlapped Bonner and Boundary counties and stretched over 886 square miles. Harpo spent 104 days collecting specimens from 633 collection sites. Her research identified 739 native species, 99 non-native, and 5 plants not previously collected. These rare plants may be tied to unique vegetation ex. peat lands.

Harpo dealt with the logistics of setting up the program. getting permission from private, state and national forest land owners. gaining access to roadless areas, and planning for field conditions (mosquitoes, weather, trail surfaces, bears, backpacking). She hired botanical artists who provided detailed illustrations of some flora. She also hired a few botanists to help collect and field press specimens from the field. Later Harpo would freeze/thaw, sort, identify, label, mount, barcode, image, and file the species into collections for the Idaho State Repository.

The list of verified species from her study will be used by conservation and land managers, botanists and recreation users. Having a baseline species list will help determine if popular areas are negatively impacted by recreation and development. It is also helpful to check on plants that have disappeared since the 1900s. This new baseline will be helpful to map future changes in plant diversity 20 years from now.

## President's Message

*Submitted by Ken Thacker*

The phrase “may you live in interesting times” sounds like a blessing but is actually a curse. The year 2020 was without a doubt an ‘interesting’ time. We had the pandemic, record numbers of hurricanes and wildfires, ever more polarized politics and social unrest. And KNPS did not escape. We started a terrible year by losing a beloved long-time member, Steve Lockwood in January. Then, as the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic developed in January and February, we had no idea what was coming...and then in March we found out. We cancelled everything that meant gathering face to face: programs, fundraisers, and most meetings. In the Arboretum, we had several large trees come down in a March windstorm and the museum took back their historic cabin. Yes, it was an interesting year.

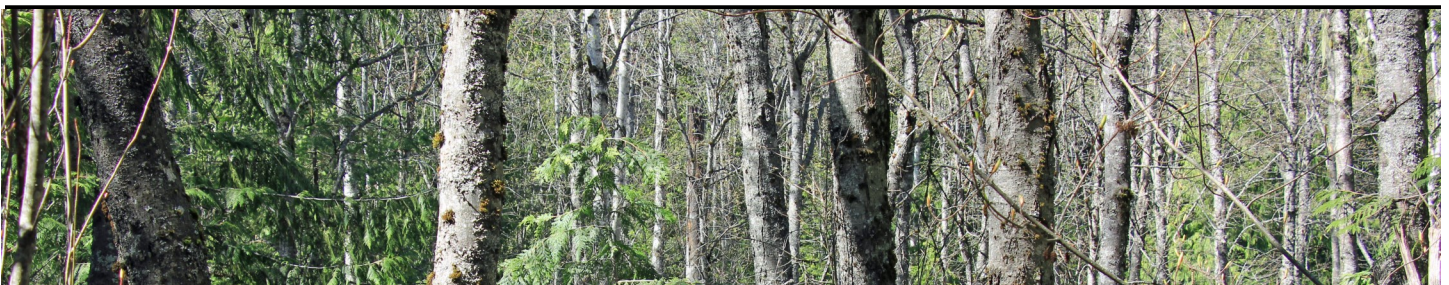
Probably the most widely felt impact to KNPS has been our loss of community. We had no gatherings at the Community Hall, fundraisers and most committees did not meet. Thank goodness for Zoom, but it is no substitute for seeing people face-to-face. The good news is that we have lost no KNPS members to COVID and no one has tested positive for the virus, as far as we know.

The Board continued meeting: both online and socially distanced in members’ backyards and living rooms. For the first time in several years, we met every month through the summer and through all the craziness, the Boards creativity has shone brightly. Some examples are:

- creating “Plant Notes” for distribution to local media and organizations
- using Zoom for meetings and programs (thank you Preston!)
- conducting a fundraiser at Idaho Pour Authority that didn’t require our presence
- found a new fundraising opportunity at Winter Ridge
- began developing alternatives for our new cabin in the Arboretum
- searching for grant opportunities to fund the cabin
- amending the by-laws to simplify our record keeping.

In 2021 the KNPS Board membership will look different. Three members are leaving and two new joining, and there will be changes to key leadership positions. Shawna Parry has stepped up to take over the presidency and Preston Andrews will have the dual responsibilities of Vice President and Programs Chair. Jan Geren and I are ending six-year terms on the board. Judy Lyding is also leaving but will continue with both the Grant Committee and organizing the annual Tree Tours for 3rd graders at the Arboretum

Over the last 4 years, I have been proud to take credit for being the President of this well-respected organization. Since we are a volunteer driven organization, I first want to thank all current, former, and future Board members for giving more of themselves for the success of KNPS. And then there are so many others who work quietly under the radar to get things done, THANK YOU for what you do!





## Dr. Marian Fuller's Legacy to Plant Science in North Idaho

By Preston Andrews and Carol Jenkins

On a warm, sunny September 4th, Carol and Preston waited patiently with Dr. Marian Fuller and her sister, Adele Williams, for the young botanist, Harpo Faust, who was to meet us at Marian's house in the woods above Bottle Bay. We were a little impatient because Harpo was running late, and then later still, on her last day of collecting plants in the Selkirk Mountains. But Marian enjoyed reminiscing while we waited. She told us about her most famous graduate student, Dr. Vicki Funk, and how she (Dr. Funk) got lost while out plant collecting, and Marian had to send students out to find her in the swamps. This was back when Dr. Fuller was a botany professor at Murray State University (1967-2000) in southwestern Kentucky and the curator of the herbarium that she founded there in the late 1960s. To establish the herbarium, Dr. Fuller combined her own specimens with a number of smaller plant collections that had accumulated at Murray State since it's founding in 1922.

Her graduate student, Vicki Funk, already a Murray State alum, finished her M.S. degree under Dr. Fuller's mentoring before going on to Ohio State University for her Ph.D. Later, Dr. Funk became Senior Research Botanist and Curator at the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution and a world expert on the taxonomy and biogeography of the sunflower family (i.e. Compositae, now Asteraceae). Dr. Fuller was an early mentor to Vicki Funk, who was recently honored with prestigious scientific awards (Asa Gray Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Plant Taxonomists in 2018 and the Linnean Medal from The Linnean Society in 2019). Sadly, Dr. Funk passed away in October 2019, at the age of 71.

When Harpo arrived, after chasing rare plants in Upper Priest Lake, we were eager for her to meet Marian. Two enthusiastic plant collectors, though separated in age by decades, eagerly shared plant talk. Harpo showed Marian how specimen records are now recorded on a smart phone app, instead of by hand in a field notebook. Marian showed Harpo her botanical art prints, produced by stippling technique, which hung on her walls, representing some of the many specimens that she had collected in and around North Idaho. Some of the prints were of plants that Harpo had seen that very day.

Carol (co-author of this article) had met Dr. Fuller through KNPS back when she was still able to get out into the woods to collect specimens. While a professor at Murray State, Marian had spent many summers botanizing in North Idaho, which she came to love and eventually retired here. A few years ago, after Carol met Dr. David Tank, Director of the Stillinger Herbarium at the University of Idaho in Moscow, she thought she could help Marian donate her specimen collection to the UI. On a snowy February day in 2018, Carol and her husband Irv helped transfer over 100,000 of Marian's specimens, along with her field notebooks and master list of every specimen she had ever collected to David Tank's rental van at the bottom of Gold Hill Circle. Marian was thrilled and grateful that her life's work could be placed in safe hands at the Stillinger Herbarium. (For a full account of this transfer read the article, "Doc Fuller and Her Dream," in the May-June 2018 issue of Kinnikinnick Journal.)

During Harpo Faust's presentation on her two-year botanical study of the flora of the Selkirk Mountains in Bonner and Boundary Counties on Nov. 28, 2020 (see article by Cindy Hayes in this issue), Harpo noted the importance of Dr. Fuller's collection: "Most of her (Marian's) specimens are from the southern extent of the [Selkirk] range, or the lowlands.... We love her collection, and I've been utilizing them within the area.... They are an amazing resource to guide us in the collection here."

From Vicki Funk to Harpo Faust, Dr. Fuller, through her life's work, has been an inspiration and mentor to budding botanists over her many decades of botanizing.



## Our New Home is "In the Bag!"

*Submitted by Robin Campbell*

In case you haven't heard, this summer the Historical Museum informed the KNPS board that they wanted to take over use of the cabin located in the arboretum for display purposes. Yikes! We need a new cabin home by June 1, 2021, to store our tools, garden supplies and official KNPS stuff.

The board is working with the Museum and the City to clear the way for a new cabin on the arboretum grounds, and you can help. KNPS has been awarded a Bags of Change grant from Winter Ridge Natural Foods. We will be featured as one of three non-profits to receive donations from January through June, 2021. Here's your part:

- Shop at Winter Ridge, located behind Dubs at the intersection of Hwy 2 and N. Boyer.
- Bring your own grocery shopping bag.
- At checkout, you will be asked if you want to donate your bag credit (if they don't ask you, ask them).
- Say "yes," and you will be issued a wooden token.
- In the front of the store is a little shelf with three, one-gallon glass jars. Each one represents a different non-profit. KNPS will be one of them for the first six months of 2021.
- Put your token in the KNPS jar. Voila, you've gotten us 10-cents closer to our goal for each token you add to the jar.
- Share this information with everyone you know who shops at Winter Ridge.

If you don't shop at Winter Ridge, but would like to contribute to this building fund, you can make donations at [www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org).

Thank you for your participation in KNPS. We hope you are enjoying our ZOOM (until further notice) presentations on the fourth Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Missed a meeting? You can access past presentations on our website.

## Whitebark Pine in Peril

*By Phil Hough*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has proposed that whitebark pine be listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. Whitebark Pine are a high elevation species found across the western US and Canada. In our area they are found on high mountain slopes and are an important part of our area's natural resource heritage.

They provide critical food and shelter for many species, including the endangered Grizzly Bear and Clark's nutcracker. Whitebark Pine are important to healthy watershed functioning. Their umbrella-like growth shades snow, creating a natural snow bank that lingers into summer. This snow retention helps to ensure a steady release of water in late spring and early summer, reducing the severity of impacts from fast snowmelt and associated flooding.

Whitebark pine are very well adapted and hardy. As resilient as they are, whitebark pines are rapidly vanishing due to white pine blister rust fungus, an introduced disease that has wiped out up to 90% of the pines in many northern forests. Climate change is exacerbating droughts, wildfires and bark beetle outbreaks. These all weaken and kill whitebark pine and alter their range. Fire suppression has also led to habitat loss as subalpine fir encroach. In many places healthy whitebark pine populations have been replaced with stands of white skeletons surrounded by fir and other



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## Report from the Arb

Everything is under a blanket of snow or slush right now, as one would expect in mid-winter. That doesn't keep visitors away, however, as evidenced by the numerous footprints, human and animal, found throughout!

With Covid preventing the Arboretum Leadership Team from meeting in person, there is not much fodder for this report. Ken Thacker's final President's Message outlines much of where we are in the New Cabin HQ project, with which we are all involved. The one other ongoing project is a rehabilitation of our wooden plant identification signs, the bottoms of which have rotted away from being in the ground for many years.

The Cabin Committee has been working to find a cabin design that we can afford, will meet our needs and have the features we want. They are now seeking estimates from local pre-built cabin suppliers and contractors.

And, with our volunteers enjoying a seasonal respite from hands-on activities, I offer instead some recent photos from our beautiful woodland. In this almost black-and-white world, the shrubs and trees in our arboretum take center stage.



This is the presently preferred site for our new Cabin HQ. As one enters the Arboretum on the asphalt path off Ella St, it's about 30' in to the east. Way off in the center of this photo is the Lions Club building.



(Continued from page 4)

intrusive species.

During the Treasured Landscapes program from 2013 to 2017, the Kinnikinnick Native Plant society worked with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, along with other partners, to provide educational support and volunteers for restoration efforts. This included botanical surveys, habitat assessment, surveys of both diseased as well as seed cone bearing white bark pine trees, direct seed sowing and seedling planting.

A listing of “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act will assist with efforts like these to help restore white-bark pine and their habitat. A listing will focus attention and funding, provide a stronger basis for planning and implementing projects and for making regulatory decisions that will benefit whitebark pine.

You can help protect this keystone species and make it easier to pursue efforts to restore whitebark pine. The USFWS is accepting public comments on the proposed listing until February 1. Your input will be considered as they make a final decision. Greater consideration is given for unique, individual comments. Go to the link below to submit your comments online. Consider the information above as well as more details found at [americanforests.org](https://www.americanforests.org)

<https://www.americanforests.org/action-alerts/action-alert-protect-whitebark-pines-from-extinction/>



## Member Profile: Sherri Ennis

I had an uneventful and pleasant upbringing in the small town of Wilbur, Washington. Upon graduation from high school, I went to the University of Washington, and left with a degree in Latin American Studies (extremely impractical but very interesting). I then set out to fulfill a dream I had had since the ninth grade, to join the Peace Corps. I spent two years in El Salvador as the administrator of a nutrition clinic, the purpose of which was to move children in various stages of malnutrition to a healthier state and give them a better chance of survival. At that time, one in five children died of malnutrition before the age of five. It was quite an eye-opener for a 23-year-old.

Upon my return, after a nine-month sojourn in South America, I did a short stint as a cocktail waitress on Mt. Spokane, where I met a cute ski instructor from Schweitzer. In short order, we headed to California, got Masters degrees (mine in Linguistics), got married, and, eventually, ended up in Portland, where I taught English as a Second Language at Lewis & Clark College for 25 years. Retirement gave us the opportunity to get out of the rain, and we returned to Sandpoint in 2005.



Over the years I have volunteered in many capacities: as a Big Sister, for more political campaigns than I can count, in various organizations, and, most recently, as President of the Community Assistance League in Sandpoint. I have been fortunate to have traveled extensively, mainly in countries where I couldn't drink the water. I've backpacked in Patagonia, camped in the Azores, Portugal and New Zealand; spent 9 months leading Overseas Study groups in Ecuador and East Africa; and been on several far more luxurious OAT tours. If we ever get out of our current lockdown, I have plans for more travel!

My interest in native plants was instilled by my mother and aunt when I was young and spending summers at Hayden Lake. They were constantly identifying wildflowers on our walks in the woods; I was rolling my eyes in the background. Much to my chagrin, a wildflower identification book became a necessary item in my backpack during the backpacking years. Plant identification has been added to my list of interests along with reading, cooking, hiking, skiing and various crafty pursuits. I was led to KNPS by Jan Geren and then discovered that I know many of its members. I have not yet participated in any KNPS projects but am pleased to be a new member of the Board. I'm also embarrassed to say that I have no native plants in my garden but am happy for the ones in my woods!



### **Board of Directors 2020**

- Shawna Parry, President
- Preston Andrews, Vice President, Programs
- Carol Jenkins, Secretary
- Shawna Parry, Treasurer
- Julie Kallemeyn, Publicity
- Cindy Hayes, Event Chair
- Robin Campbell, Membership Chair
- Sherri Ennis, Board Member
- Mark Stockwell, Board Member
- Rae Charlton, Arboretum

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

- Sue Gervais, Rae Charlton,
- Ann Torpie, Ken Thacker, Arboretum
- Dennis Rieger, Landscape
- Susan Bates-Harbutck, Conservation
- Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Grant
- Mary Jo Haag, Historian
- Becky Eames, Hospitality
- Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee
- Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor
- Julie Kallemeyn, Publicity
- Preston Andrews, Programs
- Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, List serve

#### **Join KNPS for 2021**

### **Membership Rates**

July 1st through June 30th

___ 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  
KNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*

#### **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.

### **2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP**

1-year dues for 1 ½-year membership

**It's a grand deal!**

With the change to a fiscal year (July 1 – June 30), the first six months of 2021 are somewhat of an orphan period for dues.

The Board decided that those who pay dues before July 1st will automatically be credited through June 30, 2022.

To help the budget through the first six months, consider bumping your membership to a higher dollar category.

**A year's payment for a year-and-a-half membership.**

**Not a bad deal!**