



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXIII Number 5

November-December 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 November 23, 2019

Molly McCahon

**Preserving the Water Resources of the Lake
Pend Oreille Watershed**

Various programs and organizations work to preserve our precious water resources, including the Lakes Commission, SEEP (Storm water Erosion & Education Program), Panhandle BAG (Basin Advisory Group), and the Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper. Learn about the efforts of these programs to keep our watershed clean and flowing.

Molly is the Executive Director of our regional Lakes Commission (formally Pend Oreille Basin Commission) and a member of Panhandle SEEP. Earlier she was Coordinator for Bonner Soil & Water Conservation District's Lake*A*Syst program. Molly also is a contributor to the KNPS's *Landscaping with Native Plants*.



Western Larch—Image Jill Wilson

September Program Summary

Summarized by Cindy Hayes

We broke with tradition and held September's KNPS meeting at the new U of I extension center facilities on north Boyer near the fairgrounds. Around 50 people braved the snow flurries and arctic winds to attend. At the end of the presentations the audience sampled 5 different varieties of apples, some which will be pressed into apple cider and distributed to Yokes and Winter Ridge for the holidays.

The KNPS September general meeting was a triple hitter. The first speaker, Jennifer Jensen- University of Idaho Extension, spoke of new native plant gardens and greenhouse established summer of 2019. It is located behind a fenced area on the grounds of the U of I organic orchard. Preston Andrews, professor of horticulture specializing in fruit crops, followed with an academic look at the botany and history of heirloom apples. Kyle Nagy, supervisor for the U of I Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center, gave an overview of U of I's mission as one of the few research centers studying heirloom apples and using certified organic methods. He spent half his presentation fielding questions from the interested audience.

Funding for the trial native plant garden was granted by Idaho State Department of Agriculture - ISDA, to be reviewed at the end of 3 years. Presently U of I measures the growth of the native plants twice a year. Jennifer, with another Master Gardener- Beth Goodnight, tried out various landscape designs before drafting the present plan. Once completed, it will have two display gardens landscaped with native plants common in Bonner County. The surrounding plantings will host a variety of native plants found throughout western United States and stand a good chance of thriving in northern Idaho. Dr. Steve Love's Aberdeen Research and Education Center experimented with native plants in southern Idaho. The U of I is piggybacking on the Aberdeen research model but will focus on plants able to thrive in northern Idaho. Dr. Love was instrumental in helping choose plants to try in Bonner County. There were 37 plant types identi-

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President's Message

Submitted by Ken Thacker

We've welcomed about 25 new memberships to KNPS in the last 2 years and with the household memberships this is something over 30 people. As the Board President, I am speaking for all of our membership in welcoming each of you to our community and thank you for becoming one of us.

Continued membership growth is more than just good for us, it's essential. Most obviously, memberships provide a significant portion of our funding that keeps the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum open, funds our Lois Wythe grants for landscaping projects, provide monthly educational programs for the Sandpoint community, keeps us reprinting our Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle book and more.

But membership growth is about more than just the money. We welcome new members to bring both ideas and personal energy to our group. We have a 'mature' membership and tend to attract people that have learned a thing or two over a few years. I encourage each of you to look at our mission on the webpage. This has remained mostly unchanged for over 20 years, but we look forward to the addition of new ideas that can help achieve it in this ever-changing world. We recognize that we may need to adjust what we have done and possibly develop totally new ways of accomplishing the mission and new members are fertile ground for this.

Finally, KNPS is almost totally volunteer driven and I hope you consider getting more involved at some point. Of course, most newer folks want to 'ease in' with any new involvement, but if you are wondering what the opportunities could be, the KNPS website also lists the current officers and committee chairs at the "About KNPS" icon. As you will see, there is an opportunity for almost everyone. I assure you that none of the "jobs" we have require more than a few hours per month, or a year, of your time. If any of these strike your fancy and you feel you have something to contribute, get in-touch with me and I can connect you with the right person. A good place to get your feet wet, sometimes literally, is the arboretum (aka "the Arb"). Even if you're not necessarily a hands-on garden person and just want to spend more time outdoors with good people, they can always use another hand during the summer growing season.

One more reference to the webpage: at the "Committees" icon look for the Conservation Committee. Here you will see the Purpose Statement and a long list of the committee involvements over the years. While the list of projects is somewhat daunting, remember that it has been accomplished over almost 20 years. The long-time chair of the committee, Molly O'Reilly is stepping down and she and Steve will host a gathering on November 14th from 4-5:30 to discuss the future of the committee. I encourage everyone to consider attending and to contact Phil Hough at nowhere man97@hotmail.com, with any questions. This committee is where we take the "to advocate the conservation of this rich natural heritage [of native plants] for future generations" part of our mission statement seriously.

KNPS MEMBERS HOLIDAY POTLUCK

WHO: All KNPS Members

WHAT: Holiday potluck - bring a favorite dish to share

WHEN: Saturday, December 7 from 11:00-2:00 PM

WHERE: Monarch Rd. Community Center (previously the Sagle Senior Center) 650 Monarch Rd., Sagle (A donation jar will be available to help with the rental fee.)

WHY: The annual potluck is a wonderful way to kick-off the holiday season. This casual gathering allows members to share in food, conversation, and friendship. It is also a great way for our new and old members to become acquainted.

COME JOIN US FOR SOME HOLIDAY CHEER!



Committee Reports

Arboretum Committee

Last month we were excited to announce the new arbor to be designed and built by the Collin Beggs timber frame crew, replacing the 20+ year-old structure whose footings were rotting. To recap, the Clematis and Lonicera were dug up & potted for possible future replanting, and the old structure was torn down and removed. Several work parties later, an intrepid team accomplished the following: remove rotten cedar posts, dig a few new four-foot-deep holes, construct framing for concrete footings, procure Sonotubes and twenty-two 60-pound bags of concrete, rent concrete mixer, and pour six new dyed concrete footings. Phew! Team members were: Ken Haag (many hours of measuring, building and more measuring), Cara Johnson, Molly Errett and daughter Willow Errett, Jeff Dunwoody, Karl Hanson, Ken Thacker, Ann and Scott Torpie and Sue Gervais.

Collin Beggs and crew expect to construct the new Arbor in early winter. We shall announce a grand unveiling and celebration of this wonderful and generous gift to the City of Sandpoint, the residents of Bonner County, and all the visitors who come to enjoy the Arboretum, sometime this spring. Stay tuned!

The annual Fall Cleanup on October 6 was rather poorly attended; only six people attended. It was a beautiful day, but right after the huge wind storms so all of our time was spent clearing the paths of branches. We shall endeavor to be better, in the future, at promoting and reminding members about this important—and fun!—Work Party Potluck. Thank you Mary Jo & Ken Haag, Joyce Pence, Konrad Dahlstrom, and Ken Thacker (Editor's note: and Ann Torpie who wrote this).

The cabin roof has had holes in it for some time, and discussions are underway about how to address this concern. You may know that the cabin is the property of the Bonner County Museum and it sits on City of Sandpoint property, so several stakeholders are involved in this endeavor. We have plans, not yet firm, to complete the reconstruction in early spring.

Even though the Arboretum and its gardening chores are put to bed for the winter, your Arboretum Leadership Team continues to work during this down time with researching, coordinating and planning! If you are interested in working at the arboretum on a regular basis or just to do a single project, email Sue at arboretum@nativeplantsociety.com



Conservation Committee

Molly O'Reilly has recently announced that she is stepping down as Conservation Committee Chair after many years. She plans to continue to contribute to the committee's efforts and will host a meeting/get together at her place so that those who are interested in Native Plant Conservation can get together and craft a vision and plan for the future. Here are the details:

What: Planning Meeting

When: Thursday Nov 14 at 4pm

Time: 4pm to 5:30pm

Place: Molly O'Reilly's House, 413 St Clair St, Sandpoint

Showing up does not mean you are committed to anything beyond some brainstorming and testing the waters to see what the committee might be able to do. All Native Plant Society members who are interested in conservation are welcome. If you have questions contact Phil Hough at nowhere man97@hotmail.com.

(September Program Summary Continued from page 1)

fied. The following is a partial list of suggested native plants to incorporate in landscape design: 5 types of penstemons, 3 types of buckwheat, 3 types of alumroot, Columbine, Delphinium, 4 types daisy/sunflower, 2 mallow, 2 primrose, 3 grasses and 6 miscellaneous. Unfortunately deer resistant was not a selection criteria, but native plants needing minimal watering was emphasized.

“The apple is a promiscuous plant” was Dr. Preston Andrews’ opening remark. There are hundreds of apple varieties offering genetic diversity spanning 19 centuries. The lineage of the domestic apple (*malus x domestica*) was out crossed with the wild apple in Kazakhstan. As early as 370 BCE Theophastras grafted the first known root stock. The native apples of eastern and central North America were crabapple varieties. The Pacific crabapple was eaten by Native American tribes. The icon Johnny Appleseed traveled throughout the colonial territories distributing thousands of apple seeds to propagate future generations of apples.

The apple is a member of the Rose family and called a pome fruit. Apples differ from other pome fruits (quince, pear, serviceberry). When you eat the fleshy portion of an apple, you are eating the cortex of the plant. In other pome fruit you eat the ripened ovary. In an apple the core is the ovary. Apples don’t hybridize with other pome fruit.

The meeting room at the U of I Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center is large enough to accommodate over 50 people. The facility also boasts dormitory space to house 35 people and cottages where interns or researchers stay. The commercial kitchen is the envy of chefs.

The U of I USDA certified organic apple orchard has 68 varieties of apples from 12 countries of origin. Different heirloom apples grown at the organic orchard, trace their origins from the 1600s to more modern times. The earliest American Apple variety called Roxbury Russet was a cider apple dating from 1649. Cider predated beer for payment to servants. It often replaced drinking water contaminated by poor sanitation practices. Kyle Nagy, supervises the harvesting of apples from August 4 (Duchess of Oldenburg) through late October (Pippin). Although Duchess of Oldenburg is not a commercial variety because of its short shelf life, it became popular in early 19th century America.

Because of their organic designation, no chemicals are allowed to control rodents in the orchards. For vole control owls and hawks are encouraged to patrol and hardcloth (24”) tall protects trees from being girdled by voles.

The morning session ended with bowls of sliced heirloom apples being passed around. We sampled MonArk – origin 1960s; Egremont Russet -1872; Pink Sparkle – 1980; Fireside – 1943; Mother – 1844.

(Continued from page 3) Committee Reports

Landscape Committee

The Landscaping Committee completed one last task in August. We went to the Pine Street Woods site and helped them decide on how to stabilize a berm that is in place that acts as a sound barrier for nearby houses. Initially, a grass seed mixture will be used and next year we will work on adding plants and shrubs that will improve the looks of the site and further help in the stabilization process.

We are finished for the season and are looking for possible projects for 2020. To learn more about the landscape committee contact: landscape@nativeplantsociety.org



October Program Summary

Summarized by Cindy Hayes

Diane Stutzman is a retired Botanist having worked in the Scablands for the Bureau of Land Management for many years. She presently owns Desert Jewels Nursery located in Spokane which specializes in drought resistant native plants and succulents found in the West and Northwest. Her topic for this presentation was the Shrub Steppe and Channeled Scablands in Lincoln and Spokane Counties, Washington.

The aftermath of flooding from Ice Age dams, created many ecosystems across Washington's Columbia Basin. The Scablands cover 24,000 square miles in Washington. The Shrub-Steppe portion is an endangered ecosystem. An estimated 12% of a functional shrub-steppe ecosystem remains in Washington. Over 60% of original shrub-steppe habitats have been converted to other uses.

The amount of rainfall in the Scablands varies from 8-12 inches and helps define unique pockets of microhabitats. Most of the soil is rocky and thin, yet a wide diversity of plants have adapted to its rugged climate. From the highway it looks empty, but the Native Americans considered it the Bread Basket of the area.

In Spring and early Summer the area comes alive with blooming plants and pollinators. During April through May, the Native Americans in the area would dig for various Biscuitroot plants which were a food staple in their culture. Camas is another root crop growing along streams and seasonally moist areas. You can find serviceberry trees, chokeberry, golden currant bushes and woods roses in moist swales. But careful where you step! You want to avoid stepping on Pacific gopher snakes, western skink or a nighthawk that might be camouflaged.

Even the dry rocky areas with less than 12" of rain have their wildflowers in the Spring. You might find a "Ming Tree" - thymeleaf buckwheat, which can be live to 100 years under the right conditions. Other plants that thrive on very little are snow buckwheat, shaggy fleabane, and arrowleaf balsam root. The bitterbrush shrub has a great fragrance and the Oregon sunshine flower is a butterfly magnet.

By late summer very little blooms but you might spy hummingbirds hovering over cutleaf penstemon, honey bees around rabbitbrush or a checkerspot butterfly on its host plant wavy-leaf thistle. Tufted wild buckwheat and its relatives are highly drought tolerant and are important honey plants for native bees and butterflies. Butterflies over the years have diversified and prefer certain host plants, so protecting varied ecosystems is important.

Some of these drought resistant plants can be grown from seed and used in landscaping. Sulphur-flower buckwheat and others can be used for environmental enhancement, erosion control and foundation plantings around homes. Plants withstand sun, heat, drought, and wind, making them ideal for dry sunny slopes. The showy flowers and seed heads, and compact growth habit make this plant a good choice for rock gardens.



Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant Application 2019-2020

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society is offering a grant of up to \$300 for a Bonner County group, class or individual to complete a project which is designed to promote the awareness of native plants. The grant recognizes Lois Wythe as the founder of the organization and developer of the Native Plant Arboretum in Lakeview Park. An application form and more details are available on the KNPS website under the "About KNPS" icon. Questions may be directed to Judy Lyding at grant@nativeplantsociety.org





Member Profile: Jason Smith

Submitted by Cindy Hayes

Jason Smith's lineage is of a solid northern European distribution, and he represents the westward expansion of the past several generations of his bloodline. He began this life in a bustling urban metropolis in the Midwest.

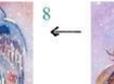
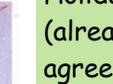
An eagle scout and long-time outdoorsman, he began leading others on backpacking treks to the north shore of Lake Superior as a teenager. Originally studying engineering at conventional job factory colleges on the west coast, he eventually obtained a science degree in physics & mathematics and an arts degree in philosophy which form the basis of his entrepreneurial activities. Moving inland to the rocky mountains, he has transitioned from public & private science education to organic farming, and commercial wild crafting. In early 2018 he combined these practices, as a professional consultant and designer, in the fields of sustainable land planning and regenerative agro-ecology.



Representing the permaculture movement, he has traveled and worked internationally. His work has been recognized by sponsorships to attend global conferences, magazine prize involvements, regional guild board membership, certifications & local community outreach projects. Having lived fiercely off grid, he now brings the principles of mountain homesteading to the urban sphere. He has developed the Northern Rockies Permaculture Research Institute in the population center of the northern most political boundary of Idaho as it intersects with Canada, Washington and Montana.

Come on up to Bonner's Ferry for a class or two in 2020! His work focuses on not only on individual homestead design, but strategies for restoration of our broad-acre ecosystems and the retrofitting of community-scale human industry to fit the context of the 21st century industrial revolution. While a craftsman class citizen, his ambition is unbound. He is quite the Renaissance man.

Holiday Greeting Card Order Form

Name _____	_____				Phone # _____	_____																	
	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9						
	10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18						
	19		20		21		22		23		24		25		26		27		28		29		30

Write in the number desired beside the image. \$ 2 each or 10 for \$ 15 Total Cost \$ _____

KNPS Holiday Cards

Some members have expressed an interest in purchasing Holiday Cards again this year. Because it is late (already!) to start on this project, the Marilyn's have agreed to have most of the past images and a few new ones available on the same cardstock as in the past. The cards will be sold on a pre-order basis at the previous rate of \$2 each or 10 for \$15. The order form is also available on the website nativeplantsociety.org. Orders can be emailed to Marilyn George at iluv2photo@gmail.com. Give your name and phone number (in case she has questions), along with the image number and quantity for each design you are ordering. Payment will be due when you receive your order at the November 23rd meeting or by arranging a pick-up with Marilyn George. Marilyn's number is 208-263-9470.



A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest



Life on the Cusp

Illustration and words by Marilyn McIntyre

Everybody, plant and animal alike, who live in the Moist Montane is adapted to life on the “cusp”; i.e. in rapid transition from the easterly to the westerly and from the northerly to the southerly flows of the storm track. While at the time the changes can seem drastic, they serve to keep everybody alive and on their feet. The constant is the change in landscape from summer to winter, inevitably bringing gold and cold into our lives. A single frost lined Red osier dogwood leaf is hanging outside my window as I write, and its color is so dark and richly lined with red, yellow and white that it gives me the realization that flexibility in Nature is critical to life. We are also on the cusp of two “Biomes”, the Temperate Forest and the Taiga. A biome is larger than a habitat and can consist of many habitats within its range of characteristics. Here on the near 49th parallel we have one foot in the Northern Boreal forest (Taiga) and the other in the Moist Montane forest (Temperate Forest) which results in a mixed evergreen forest and deciduous under story with some pretty interesting eruptions of birds like the snowy owls and redpolls.

In the last few days we have definitely gone from warm and a bit wet to cold and dry, but there is no snow on the ground to create a sub-nivean zone of protection and to keep it from freezing. The colors on the slopes of the mountains are losing their intense gold as the winds and snows take the needles down to the “yellow brick road”.

Now we await the snows, hoping that they contain a lot more water moisture than they did this past winter, which honestly seems like yesterday. The Stellar Jays, Canada Gray Jays, Hairy Woodpeckers and Chickadees are home for the winter now and so are we. The creek is up ever so little and the beavers seem to be thriving in the eddies.

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.

— Albert Camus



Board of Directors 2019

Ken Thacker, President, Programs
 Jan Geren, Vice President
 Carol Robinson, Secretary
 Shawna Parry, Treasurer
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 Cindy Hayes, Board Member
 Judy Lyding, Board Member
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Additional Committee Chairs and Positions

Mary Jo Haag, Sue Gervais, Rae Charlton,
 Ann Torpie, 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
 Ken Thacker, 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 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*

Membership Information

(make check payable to Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society or KNPS)

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