



# Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXIV Number 4

November-December 2020

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 recorded and made available online. When viewed live, there will be opportunities for Q&A. If you are unable to view the live presentations, they will be made available online after. Members will be notified about how to register for the programs via email at [knps\\_org@googlegroups.com](mailto:knps_org@googlegroups.com). Unfortunately, we will not be able to physically meet at Sandpoint Community Hall.*

**Saturday November 28 at 10 am**

*Harpo Faust, University of Idaho*

### **A Vascular Flora of the Selkirk Mountains of Benner and Boundary Counties**

The Selkirk range is ecologically distinct, hosting an assemblage of boreal, coastal, Rocky Mountain and Columbia Basin floristic influences, with a rich geologic and glacial history that make for a diverse botanical flora. Before 2019, no comprehensive inventory of the vascular flora of the Selkirks had been conducted. During the past two summers, more than 4,000 unique vascular plants were collected over the 886 square mile study area. The study resulted in many interesting finds, including state and county collection records, and an updated inventory of nearly 95 plant families.

Harpo Faust is currently a M.S. student at the University of Idaho where she works in the Stillinger Herbarium on campus in Moscow. She received her undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz and worked as a seasonal botanist before starting her graduate degree. Harpo is passionate about rare plants and hopes to continue to work as a botanist after she finishes her degree this winter.



*By Marilyn McIntyre*

## September Program Summary

*Summarized by Preston Andrews*

Laura Wolf has been a wildlife biologist with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for 13 years. Based out of Coeur d'Alene, she works primarily with big game species, but the large mammal that most excites her are mountain goats. As her favorite wildlife species, she was the lead biologist for the recent statewide Mountain Goat Management Plan for Idaho. Laura's Zoom presentation, Mountain Goats: Living on the Edge, also included a contribution from Britta Mireley, the Deputy Executive Director of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, who talked about the FSPW's Goat Ambassador Program.

Laura referred to mountain goats as "beasts the color of winter," unique because they reside in the steepest, rockiest alpine habitats of western North America. This helps to protect them from large predators, like wolves and mountain lions. They are able to stick to slick, steep rock and ice because their hoofs have a rough texture and their toes can spread apart to catch on surface irregularities. Mountain goats don't fully mature until age four, and aren't fully grown until then. In their alpine home, they forage on lichens, grass, shrubs and trees.

They have a unique social hierarchy, with nanny groups led by the biggest and oldest nannies. Billy goats, except for kids, are excluded from the dominant nanny groups except when they are in rut. They also have a personal bubble that extends about 6 feet from their heads, and don't like other goats inside that bubble, except for nursing kids. Mountain goats practice posturing to deter other goats from entering their personal space, like showing their horns or standing sideways to look bigger, but will rarely jab with their horns.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Message

*Submitted by Ken Thacker*

As you probably already know, KNPS is also having an election, but thankfully, it's for much lower stakes than the others. You've probably already received a packet of information on the voting process and then a ballot, either via email or through USPS. The voting is more complicated this year because of our virtual meetings and the fact that we are voting on both new Board members and a proposed by-law amendment. If you haven't received the election information, please email me at: [president@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:president@nativeplantsociety.org). In a nutshell, the amendment to the by-laws is intended to make life easier for the Board and especially our Treasurer by changing our accounting, budget cycles and memberships to a fiscal year. There is also a small change in the Arboretum section to better reflect the current situation. For most of you, only the change in the membership cycle will have effects that you will notice. For 2021, membership dues won't be payable until July first if the amendment passes (Happy New Year!). However, please feel free to donate whatever you want to support our expenditures in the interim.

A little about the by-laws: unless you have been on the Board lately, you probably have no idea what the by-laws are about. You can remedy that by looking at the copy we sent showing the proposed changes. When you look at them, you will see that they pretty much just spell how we operate. The by-laws we are amending took effect in 2010, as a part of the establishment of our nonprofit status when we separated from the Idaho State Native Plant Society. Also note that the by-laws specify that a quorum of voters must vote for the election to be valid, so as we have heard so often lately "please vote."

A final note: a small committee has begun the process of establishing a new cabin for us at the Arboretum. We are at the very beginning and about all that is settled is where the new cabin will go and its approximate size. Looking ahead, we see the City's permitting process and deciding on whether to build our own structure or to buy one, prebuilt by one of the local shed builders. To accomplish these, we could use the help of a local builder and/or someone who can draw up our plans, so if anyone has these skills or knows someone who does, please get in touch with me. Happy Holidays everyone.

*(Continued from page 1) September Program summary*

In north Idaho, mountain goats are native to the Selkirk and Cabinet Mountains, and the Mallard-Larkin Wilderness, but the herd on Bernard Peak east of Bayview was introduced in the 1960s. Laura conducted a mountain goat survey by helicopter this past February. The population in the Selkirks has increased to 57, but only 11 goats were seen in the Idaho Cabinets, with a few more migrating into Idaho from Montana in the summer.

Mountain goats are under threat from climate change. Hotter summers will cause heat stress because there will be fewer snow patches for cooling off and forage plants will dry out sooner. Mountain goats are also disturbed by aircraft and motorized, off-road and over-snow vehicles.

Like other wild animals, mountain goats generally stay away from people, but they can become habituated to us if they are presented with salt from our urine or sweat on our skin or packs. Then we can get within their personal bubble, which can be very dangerous because their horns can cause severe injury or death. Britta told us that they really like salt! After an injury from a mountain goat on Scotchman Peak in 2015, the FSPW instituted a Trail Ambassador program, in partnership with Panhandle National Forest and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. This volunteer program aims to keep mountain goats wild, hikers safe, and trails open, by having Trail Ambassadors on the Scotchman Peak Trail on summer weekends and holidays, educating hikers about proper mountain goat etiquette.



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## October Program Summary

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Submitted by Rae Charlton

The KNPS program on Oct. 24 was presented by Chris Schnepf, via Zoom. It is now available on the KNPS YouTube Channel. Many thanks to program chair Preston Andrews for creating a way for us to continue “meeting” and learning!

Chris is a professor and N. Idaho Extension Educator in Forestry for the University of Idaho. He has graduate degrees in Forestry as well as Adult Continuing Education. He received the Society of American Foresters National Award for Technology Transfer in 2019.

Subalpine Fir, sometimes called White Fir or Alpine Fir, is found throughout the western U.S. It favors higher elevations (above 4,000 feet) but is also found in frosty pockets at lower elevations. It is the smallest western true fir (45-100'), and not particularly long-lived. Identifying features include a spire-shaped crown, needles less than one inch long, massed on the upper side of the twigs, and cupped, blunt buds, and smooth, gray bark. Its cones, massed at the top of the tree, are purple-blue, barrel-shaped, and point up. The scales on the cones flake off and the seeds are distributed by wind. The foliage is dense. It is often found growing near Englemann Spruce. It is deservedly popular for Christmas trees, being tall with a “small footprint” and very long-lasting. It is grown as a woody ornamental, but requires chilling for bud break.

Tending to grow where the snow is deepest, stands can be manipulated to increase the size and duration of snowpack, important for water retention. It is one of the least fire resistant western conifers. It grows relatively slowly, but is capable of one to two feet annually. It can grow by layering. Subalpine fir provides good seed crops every three years, and is well-suited to regeneration through partial cutting. It is rarely planted in reforestation projects.

Threats to its survival include root diseases, Indian paint fungus, and defoliating insects. If the whole tree turns red, the fir engraver is the culprit. It is the primary host for the western balsam bark beetle. The invasive non-native balsam wooly adelgid (BWA) only hits true firs. Its attack results in stunted terminal growth (“gouting”) and will also show as white bole infestations.

It is a beautiful tree that many people cherish, in part because of where it grows, in high elevation forests where we love to recreate.

### ***ARE YOU THERE?***

#### **KNPS is alive but missing our time together with you**

- ◆ The Arboretum continues to be kept tidy & open for the public.
- ◆ General meetings are produced on Zoom with interesting speakers.
- ◆ A committee is formed to purchase & install a KNPS “cabin” in the Arb since the Museum needs to use their cabin [our past office & storage space].

**With the change to a fiscal year, your 2021 membership is not due until July 1st, but if you would like to donate a small amount to tide us over until then, we wouldn't refuse the income!**

Send check to KNPS, PO Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864  
or

Join via our website: [nativeplantsociety.org](http://nativeplantsociety.org)

### ***Raise a Glass to Raise the Roof - IPA October Fundraiser***

***Submitted by Jan Ceren***

A big thank you to Idaho Pour Authority and the many participants during our two week raffle fundraiser. We raised over \$350 for our new cabin headquarters at the Arboretum. The three enticing raffle baskets were full to the brim, all from donations. A special thanks, also, to Winter Ridge for their beautiful basket. Another successful community effort. Cheers!





# Happy Holidays to you from all of us!



Ken Thacker



Jan Garen



Rae Charlton



Carol Jenkins



Judy Lyding



Cindy Hayes



Your KNPS Board!



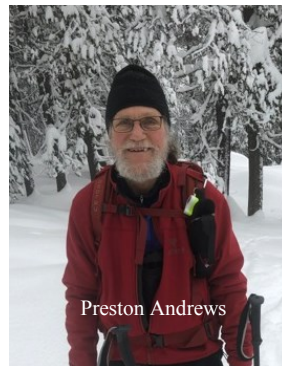
Sherry Ennis



Margaret Peterson



Mark Stockwell



Preston Andrews



Robin Campbell



Shawna Parry



## Report from the Arb

The Arboretum Leadership Team has narrowed down a possible location for our new Arb headquarters and are in the beginning stages of designing a structure. Once we've narrowed down the design and footprint it's on to applying for permits, making a materials list, and recruiting a builder or builders to construct it. A prefab shed is still in the running if we find one that fits our needs.

There was a nice turnout for the annual Fall Clean Up Work Party held on a beautiful day, September 27th. These photos were taken when work had wrapped up and each of us enjoyed our brown bag lunches in a wide circle in front of the just-emptied log cabin, the circle being so wide not everyone in attendance is shown. Thank you to all the helpers—we couldn't do it without you!



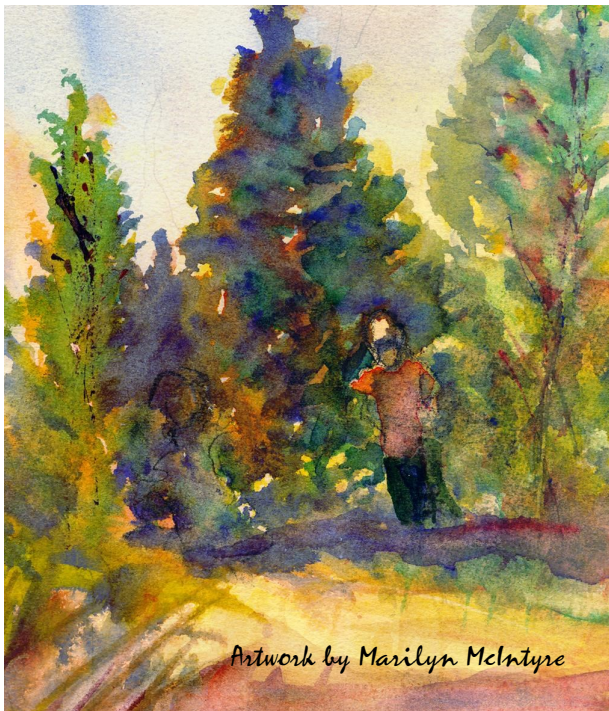


## **Board of Directors 2020**

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  
Rae Charlton, Arboretum

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

Mary Jo Haag, Sue Gervais, Rae Charlton,  
Ann Torpie, Cara Johnson, Arboretum  
Dennis Rieger, Landscape  
Susan Bates-Harbuck, Conservation  
Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Grant  
Mary Jo Haag, Historian  
Becky Eames, Hospitality  
Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee  
Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor  
Ann Torpie, Printer  
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](http://nativeplantsociety.org).