



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XV Number 1

Jan / Feb 2012

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / Sandpoint, Idaho

Upcoming Programs

Presentations sponsored by
Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society and Sandpoint Parks
and Recreation
Community Hall, First Ave, Sandpoint
(Across from County Courthouse)

Saturday, January 28, 9:45 am

Eric Grace, Executive Director of the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy, *"Preserving Native Habitats through Private Land Conservation Easements"*

Saturday, Feb 25, 9:45 am

Phil Hough, Executive Director of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, *"An Update on Wilderness Opportunities for the Scotchman Peaks"*

Saturday, March 24, 9:45 am

VERY TENTATIVE

Chris Dixon, U of I Environmental Science Program, *"Revitalization of the Stateline Wetlands"*

Calendar of Events

June 22-24: The 2012 annual meeting of the Idaho Native Plant Society will be hosted by the Calypso Chapter and held at the Clark Fork Drift Yard, east of Sandpoint. The focus will be on the restoration and protection of natural habitats. The December 2011 edition of *Sage Notes* (www.idahonativeplants.org) has a very nice article about the meeting and planned events. For more information you may contact Derek Antonelli: antonelli8@frontier.com.

***** **Reminder** *****

Remember to notify Bob Wilson if you change your email/ mailing address or phone number!
bontanybob@frontier.com

Lois Wythe Grant 2012

The Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant for 2012 has been awarded to the *Panhandle Animal Shelter*. The funds will be the impetus for the Shelter to begin its landscaping project. As their application stated "it is imperative we plant natives on our property in order to achieve our goal of providing a welcoming, soothing and happy experience." The funds will facilitate what is to be the beginning of a number of areas which will highlight native plants and will provide an educational site for this high traffic area. At present the shelter has very limited landscaping and much of what was attempted did not survive.

They presented a detailed site map and a budget for the initial plantings; including costs for plants, soil, signage and a watering system. In addition efforts are being made to obtain funding from other sources to complete the overall landscaping plan. Best wishes to them as they encourage the use and appreciation of native plants in our community. Their report to KNPS on the outcome of this project will be made prior to the end of the year.

Janice Debaun

It's Time to Renew!!

Memberships expire at the end of the year. Your continuing support helps make possible the development and maintenance of the Native Plant Arboretum, the Lois Wythe Grant, a booth at the county fair, and monthly programs at the Community Center. This year, KNPS produced a stunning new book, "Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle." KNPS continues to be a strong voice for native plant conservation in the region. Please help us by supporting these many fine efforts by renewing your membership.

Membership Categories

- Patron \$100
- Sustaining \$50
- Sponsor (commercial) \$50
- Household \$25
- Individual \$20
- Student \$15
- Senior (Over 65) \$15



Committee Reports

Arboretum

The Arboretum Committee is taking a much needed rest from arboretum duty. In February we will start meeting as a group and planning our projects for the coming season. Actual work will not start until May. There are several areas that need to be developed, so if anyone is interested in developing a new area, please let Sylvia know. You can email her at smchatburn@gmail.com or phone her at 263-2175.

Conservation

Your Conservation Committee will gather in March to start lining up summer activities; briefings, field excursions, etc. All KNPS members are welcome. If you want to be on the list for notice of the meeting, please let Molly know: walkgarden at gmail.com or 208-610-6642.

Landscape

Last year, the Landscape Committee was much busier than expected. Members participated in three private consultations, each more challenging than the previous one. The first was in Sandpoint at the home of Jeff Kuhns and Becky Mills. Next, we climbed to Schweitzer for an alpine approach to the Aeschlimans' condo, and finally we found Vicky Johnson's huge, nearly bare parallelogram at Laclede. All recipients are progressing rapidly and we had great fun together, especially over the lunch wrap-ups. The Riegers presented the successful growth of their plot north of Dufort Road, which has gained since last year, and we celebrated again.

Requests for public work surprised us. Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Trail asked for help on a seriously difficult hardscape. Some of it had already washed into the lake. Director Mandy Evans of the Panhandle Animal Shelter gave us free rein on all of its plots. Bob Wilson, Gail Bolin and other members have already designed landscapes and proposed budgets for preliminary work at the shelter. Some money is available, so we need the spring and volunteers to begin planting at both sites.

Ken Haag, Janice DeBaun, Nancy Fontaine, Jim Stern and the Eiseles kept the Mickinnick Trailhead as a native plant showcase. All of our members who planted and maintained the Waterlife Discovery Center were relieved and pleased that the Master Naturalists have claimed that beautiful area. We will hear about their work soon. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Eileen Atkisson: 263-3835. Email: eatkiss1@frontier.com

Past Programs

November Program



Lindsey Bengston, a USGS Biological Science Technician from Glacier National Park, walked us through her work on the Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments, aka GLORIA project. Glacier National Park is the first North American site in this global effort to explore the correlation between climatic change, vegetation assemblages and biodiversity spatially. Looking closely at four specific locations in the park the researcher team conducts an in-depth quantitative and qualitative analysis looking to address 4 questions: species richness and composition, movement of species (upward), frequency of species and endemic response. Long-term goals include establishing more years of data, gaining a better understanding of natural variability as well as identifying indicator species to track responses to climate change.

Glacier National Park implemented GLORIA in 2003, conducted the first re-survey in 2009, and has expanded protocol to better understand annual variability. Initial results show changes in species composition and abundance throughout the summit areas. Studying "functional traits" of plant species as well as their taxonomy assists in developing a better regional and global understanding.

See Page 4 to find out what surprising guests showed up at our December Holiday Potluck!



President's Message

Don Childress

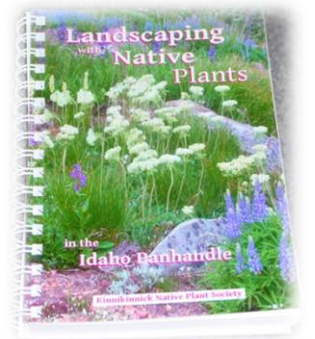
This being my last missive for this column, I must thank all the hardworking KNPS members who have contributed to the success of our past two years. Your board and committee members are a dedicated group in the crusade to protect and keep native plant issues alive and in the public consciousness, as you all are. To name those contributors would be redundant as you can read about them in this and past issues of the Kinnikinnick Journal. I have enjoyed my tenure as president more than I ever thought possible. It has been a privilege to evaluate and help assimilate the many great ideas that are proposed by the board and committee leaders. My own minimal role has given me the feeling that I have been a part of something important.

In November, the following KNPS members were elected to serve on the board – Gail Bolin, Konrad Dahlstrom, Cheryl Mckee and myself. Gail and Cheryl are new board members; Konrad has returned from a short hiatus and I will be continuing my board membership. With new contributors and experienced hands, our organization will be well represented this year. I thank you all for the opportunity of serving as president of KNPS for the past two years.

OUR BOOK IS MOVING!

After about three weeks of retail sales, we realized we'd need to reprint and did! To date 376 copies of Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle have been purchased or donated. Thank you KNPS members for your support of this exciting educational outreach!

Carol Jenkins



Editor's Note

As many of you know, I'm stepping down as the editor of the *Kinnikinnick Journal* as of this issue. I've enjoyed a great year as editor, and I just want to say thanks to all of you superb writers and photographers. Your skills and timely submission of materials certainly made my job easy! Also, a big thanks to Wendy Aeschliman, who will continue her role as *gifted formatter* – she makes it all fit, and to Marilyn George who besides being *proofreader extraordinaire*, prints and mails the newsletter. Rae Charlton will be writing the *Member Profile*, and Jill Wilson will take over as editor, beginning with the Mar/Apr 2012 issue. Thank you all!

Gail Bolin

Virtual Repository

The Ray J. Davis Herbarium located on the campus of Idaho State University has been an active participant in the Consortium of Intermountain Herbaria, and more recently in the Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria. Both groups are actively involved in digitizing herbarium collections of their respective geographic areas and making the data and images available online: (www.intermountainbiota.org , www.pnwherbaria.org)

Business Sponsors:

Cedar Mountain Perennials

Specializing in native plants
for inland northwest gardens

www.cedarmountainperennials.com

Email: botanybob@frontier.com

Earth Wise

Native Plant Landscaping and Consulting

Gail Bolin

Email: wgbolin@hotmail.com

Ph: (208) 627-3292



Guess Who Came to Dinner!
December's Holiday Potluck at Gretchen Heller's House
(Thanks, Gretchen!)



Marilyn George notes:

“Above are photos of a moose and her babies. One baby is beside the mother and all you can make of it is its legs! But that was the best shot of the mother. (Count the legs in the photo at right!) The other young one was in a different part of the yard. It was funny, because at first, mother was in the yard by herself while the 2 young ones were roaming up and down the street. Then one climbed over the fence from the alley while the other young one went around the front of the house and entered the yard from the east side of Gretchen's house. I took the photos from outside the fence on the N side of her house. Unfortunately I had taken my camera to the car just before they showed up in Gretchen's yard so I couldn't take them from inside the house which had a better view of them.”

Photos by Marilyn George



The View from the Moist Montane

It is quite frosty most of the time at 3200' these days, with more fog climbing up from the valley than we typically have. Apparently, another winter merry-go-round



of *Arctic Blast* revolving with *Pineapple Express* lies ahead. Saying that brings me precipitously close to predicting the weather, a foolish thing to do. The tracks in the occasional fresh snow are indicative of a fair population of snowshoe hares and most of the animals that depend on them for food. We have a lovely ruffed grouse still looking for leftover berries and seeds on the still visible red osier dogwoods and

service berries, with the snowberries growing along the face of the beaver dam becoming easier to get at when the snow deepens.

I share with you a wonderful paragraph from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Project Feeder Watch report for 2010-2011, written by Susan Newman:

“Scientific studies suggest that landscaping your yard isn’t just for the birds. Naturally landscaped yards make you and your neighbors happier. In addition, natively landscaped yards increase the diversity of bird species found in the area, and higher bird diversity is connected to happier neighborhoods.”

Out here in the natural landscape, the birds are flocking from Spruce to Larch. Chickadees, Nuthatches, Jays, an occasional Pine Grosbeak on vacation from Montana and some redpolls are down from up-north. “Harriet” woodpecker and “Flashy” flicker remind us that there are individual birds too. With the comparatively low snow pack and warm temperatures all of the flora and fauna appear unstressed, including my husband who is watching his woodshed empty slowly.

Happy New Year from our happy neighborhood to yours!

Marilyn McIntyre and Friends



Member Profile: *Say Hello to Dennis Rieger*

Article by Rae Charlton

Photo by Marilyn George



A lushly produced English gardening magazine *Gardens Illustrated* has a regular feature entitled "Nosey Parker," in which the chosen guest answers a standard set of questions. I decided to modify it a bit for Dennis...

Q: What brought you to Sandpoint?

A: Drought, and the fact that we had a sailboat.

Q: Hmmn...would you elaborate on that?

A: We had planned on retiring in New Mexico, but the severe drought and a lack of usable lakes made us rethink. Inveterate travelers, we'd been to Sandpoint on several road trips. On a trip in 2000, we stopped by to see friends, Wendy and Dan Aeschliman, and ended up buying property. We started building our house in 2005, and five years later, it was done! It took that long because we designed it to fit our needs and the site, finally deciding on a log home.

Q: What happened before you came to Sandpoint?

A: I grew up in Ariel, a village in SW Washington, where my Dad worked for Pacific Power and Light. Then I went to college at Washington State University, received a degree in Electrical Engineering, and found a job in Maryland at Westinghouse. After a few years, I tried work as an independent carpenter. The next move was to Allentown, PA, because there was a racing bicycle track there. I did 4 years of bicycle road racing before moving on to touring, a more sedate form of bicycle travel. While in PA I worked for Bell Labs. In my spare time I was Commodore of the Windward Sailing Club, where I met Nancy. We both moved to New Mexico when I transferred to Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque, where I worked for 15 years. I commuted to work daily on my bicycle. I also belonged to the Sandia Mt. Wildlife & Conservation Assoc., which was involved in trail clearing and conservation activities in northern New Mexico.

Q: What are your favorite activities?

A: I'm a crazed bicyclist, have been since 1970. This year alone, I've ridden 2,800 miles, including 2 major trips (the Netherlands for 3 weeks, "Ride Idaho" for 1 week). Other sports I enjoy are kayaking, sailing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. At home I enjoy woodworking, metalworking, reading, and amateur radio. Nancy and I love to travel—we just take off. We took our bicycles to New Zealand and bicycle-toured for three weeks, without reservations—it always works out. In the Netherlands we assembled our bikes at the airport and rode out, relying on maps and GPS.

Q: How did you get interested in the Native Plant Society?

A: Wendy introduced us to the NPS and we found the meetings interesting and informative. Nancy loves to putter around outdoors and we prefer to use native plants in our landscaping. Perfect match! Someone contacted Nancy about becoming a board member, she declined, but suggested I might be interested and thus my 4 years on the board. I served 3 years as secretary and led the plant sale effort for 3 years.

Q: Tell me a bit about your family.

A: I have two daughters who live in Bellevue, WA, and two stepsons, one living in New Mexico and one in Southern CA. I have three grandsons ranging in age from 2 to 22.

Q: Who would you most like to have dinner with (past or present)?

A: The Dalai Lama--I'm really enjoying listening to an audio book by him on my new Kindle.