



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XVII Number 2

Mar/Apr 2014

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

www.nativeplantsociety.org

Upcoming Programs

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, March 22

Kathleen St. Clair-McGee, Founder and Board
President of American Heritage
Wildlife Foundation, Inc.

Native Flora & Fauna – A Perfect Match

Saturday, April 26

Jim Ekins, University of Idaho
Extension Water Educator

Plants and Clean Water: Raingardens and Protecting Aquifer and Surface Waters

Saturday, May 24

Megan Taylor, Ph.D. student at
Washington State University

Bees, Pollination, and Pesticides: What's the Story

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 Scholarship, a booth at the county fair, and monthly programs at the Community Center. The KNPS continues to be a strong voice for plant conservation in the region.

Please help us by supporting these many fine efforts.

Membership Categories

Patron \$100

Sustaining \$50

Sponsor (commercial) \$50*

Household \$25

Individual \$20

Student \$15

Senior \$15

**non-voting*

You can renew by mail by sending a check to PO Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864; or at any of the general meetings. **PayPal** is accepted now on our website!

Announcements

2014 Idaho Master Naturalist Course

The Pend Oreille Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalists is looking for new members interested in actively working towards the stewardship of Idaho's natural environment. Conservation Education and Citizen Science Training classes will be offered from **April 8 through May 20, 2014**, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and some Saturdays at the Waterlife Discovery Center, 2100 Lakeshore Dr., Sagle, (the old Sandpoint Fish Hatchery). See details at www.idahomasternaturalist.org click on the Sandpoint link in the left hand column. The class schedule and application will be found there. The deadline for application is April 1, 2014. Contact us at Idaho Master Naturalists, Pend Oreille Chapter, PO Box 1062, Sandpoint, ID 83864 or imn.sandpoint@gmail.com



Announcements, Cont'd

Lois Wythe Grant

Lake Pend Oreille High School is the recipient of the Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant for 2014. Students under the supervision of teacher Jan Wasserburger will be landscaping the flower beds in Hickory Park with native plants. This project is intended to benefit the community around Hickory Park and all the park-goers.

Their core working group includes 15 students, a representative of the City of Sandpoint Parks and Recreation Department, and Bob Wilson and Gail Bolin as advisors for plant selection and appropriate planting techniques.

The project will be completed in June and includes the maintenance of the beds throughout the summer months. As a follow-up, students will survey members of the community surrounding the park to determine their satisfaction with the project.

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

The Forest Service has extended the objection process for its Forest Plan. They expect to complete their review of the final land management plans for the Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai National Forests and issue written responses to all objections by the end of March. Since KNPS has participated in the process and indicated interest in some of the objections, we may be part of this final process, if it amounts to more than paperwork. We look forward to our National Forest being managed under the new plan.

The Idaho Panhandle National forest has begun the environmental assessment process for certain specific projects related to the Lightning Creek

Treasured Landscapes program. We will continue to assist this summer with ongoing weed surveys and habitat restoration efforts and engage in comments on the future projects being analyzed. Are you interested in getting out and being part of the summer surveys and restorations? If so, please contact Phil Hough or me, Molly O'Reilly, Conservation Chair: 208 610-6642

Landscape Committee

Currently looking for a committee chair... contact President Rae Charlton if interested!

Past Programs

Photos and Recaps by Lexie de Fremery

January 25, 2014:

Lodgepole Pine Ecology and Silviculture



Chris Schnepf is bullish on Lodgepole Pine! Chris, Area Extension Educator in Forestry, University of Idaho, gave a power point presentation on Lodgepole Pine, known in the western United States, Canada, Yukon, and Alaska as *Pinus contorta* var.

latifolia. Lodgepole Pine is the only conifer with two needles to a bundle. It is thin barked, developing an alligator-skin bark as it ages. Unlike other pines, Lodgepole develops inter-nodal branches which belie its age. Lodgepole Pine can live up to 400 years, though 120-240 years is typical. The largest Idaho Lodgepole



Past Programs, cont'd

Pine stands in Valley County and is 156 feet high with a 42" diameter. Chris noted that Lodgepole Pine is used today for posts, poles, furniture, logs, and lumber. Though scorned by some as a weed tree, it is now worth more as a lumber tree than White Pine! Chris emphasized how proper management, i.e., two well-timed pre-commercial thinnings at 15 feet, can enhance Lodgepole Pine stands.

Lodgepole Pine is considered very hardy and can grow and survive in frost pockets and dry sites. It has the widest range of tolerance of any North American conifer; due to its hardiness it is commercially planted extensively throughout the world. Because of its diverse genetic variability, it has potential for genetic improvement. Lodgepole Pine produces seed much earlier than larch or cedar. Its serotinous cones have adapted to fire and solar heat by maintaining long viability. Chris noted that locally, though, the cones are not serotinous and do open up in the fall. Unlike Grand Fir or Doug Fir, Lodgepole Pine is suited to natural regeneration.

Lodgepole Pine is prone to assaults by the Mountain Pine Beetle, an insect known for killing whole areas of Lodgepole Pine, which tend to grow densely and uniformly in age and size. These factors set up the stands for fire devastation. Other Lodgepole Pine pests are the pine engraver beetle and the pine needle sheath miner.

Though resistant to root disease, Lodgepole Pine can develop stem decays, i.e., red ray rot and red ring rot. Needle fungi can cause dead needle fall which is replaced by new needles. But the top question foresters get is about western gall rust; it causes tree or limb breakage but does not kill the tree. In southern Idaho, Lodgepole Pine is seen with witches' brooms from dwarf mistletoe infestation.

Chris concluded that Lodgepole Pine provides basic forest values such as water quality, wildlife habitat, mushroom habitat, and the general value of being loved for the places in which it grows.

February 22, 2014:

Grouse Creek Stream Bank and Habitat Restoration Project 2012

Photo by Lexie de Fremery

Greg Becker, District Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sandpoint, Idaho, gave a power point presentation describing the details of a project designed to improve and enhance



habitat for bull trout in Grouse Creek. The area of the creek to be restored – a large, sweeping curve -- is on property owned by

the Northside Christian Fellowship Church. Because bull trout inhabit Grouse Creek and are protected, this section of the creek has been on the radar of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Greg explained that NRCS projects usually are limited to stabilizing streams as they are; because of the participation of USFWS, this project was more comprehensive. USFWS contracted with River Design Group for the project design. Greg noted the impressive contributions of the many volunteers from the church.

Early photos showed the instability of the bank and the erosion of the church property. The first step started in August when the bull trout were not running, was to construct a temporary channel to re-direct the section of Grouse Creek to be restored. On that section, a concrete block berm was then built and covered with roots, toe rock was laid, and logs were crisscrossed and then buried with round rock and natural material. To prepare for the planting of 3,000 willows, a trench providing year-round water was created. Twelve willows per linear foot were planted; two layers of biodegradable coconut fiber were laid for protection. The willows came from the NRCS nursery at the Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District.



Past Programs, cont'd

Greg estimated a 90 percent survival rate for the willows and noted that beyond the obvious benefit of enhancing the stream bank, the willows also provide shade for the creek and break up high velocity water flows. Movement of bull trout during the project was monitored. Following the removal of the temporary channel, the project has been and will continue to be monitored by NRCS. A post-project photo showed consistent pruning, presumably by deer.

Greg explained programs available to individuals on a cost-share basis with NRCS. They include Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for agricultural producers; Farm and Ranch Protection Program (FRPP) for agricultural and forest management remedies; Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for those with agricultural or forest operations; Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) in which altered wetlands are returned to original function; and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) for properties needing to exclude grazing along streams.

Western Hemlock Outside my Kitchen Window...

Wendy Aeschliman





From the Moist Montane

Story and Artwork by Marilyn McIntyre



Some scientists report that the jet stream has lost its way and its meandering movements are unpredictable and lingering. Combine that with the fact that there is very low sun spot activity causing persistent cold, and you have deep winter in early March, finally bringing our snowfall totals just over 5 feet. The snow pack is dry and we will need spring rains to give it some hydrological integrity, even if we are one of the wettest counties in Idaho.

The trees are the resident representatives of the flora now in the Moist Montane forest. Tracks in the snow tell stories of all of the creatures, great and small, who live under, in and amongst the trees. Fluffed up little black birds, the Water Ouzels, spend time bobbing along the cracks in creek ice and occasionally going in for a dip. The trees arch over everything, providing protection and food for the wild things while the jet stream and sunspots fight it out for domination. And every time I even think of whining about the weather, I think of my friends on the other side of the Rocky Mountains and feel very fortunate indeed.

Business Sponsor

CEDAR MOUNTAIN PERENNIALS

Specializing in Native Perennials for Inland Northwest Gardens

Visit us at:

- The Kootenai County Farmers Market in Hayden
- The Sandpoint Farmers Market in Farmin Park
- The Nursery by Appointment

7875 E. Highway 54, Athol (208) 683-2387
www.cedarmountainperennials.com





Article by: Mark Stockton

Photo by Bob Wilson



Member Profile: *Jill Wilson*

Growing up the daughter of two Nematologists working at UC Davis, it's a small wonder Jill found her career path under the bark and leaves of plants and trees. The influence of her dad and especially her mom inspired in her a confidence that a young woman could succeed in a non-traditional scientific field. While some of her peers shrieked at the sight of things that crept and crawled, Jill shimmied up for a closer look. Family vacations were spent exploring and camping in national parks and forests.

Jill followed up an undergraduate degree in forestry with a PhD in entomology from UC Berkeley. It was there, during a parking lot volleyball game, she met a man with similar interest and goals, Bob Wilson. After finishing school Jill and Bob moved to Hermiston, Oregon for two years before settling in Flagstaff, Arizona where they spent the next 12 years. Bob worked at the Arboretum at Flagstaff, while Jill worked as an entomologist for the Forest Service, overseeing federal and tribal lands within the state of Arizona. She worked closely with land managers to help them understand the effects bark beetles, moths and other insects

had on their forests, and implementing management techniques to prevent or reduce the damage they may cause. Jill witnessed firsthand how climate change has increased insect populations causing massive forest die offs.

Jill's travels occasionally brought her to the Pacific Northwest, where she dreamt of relocating to areas such as Bend or Missoula. She eventually accepted a supervising entomologist's position with the Northern Region in Coeur d'Alene. Her fast paced career continued and Jill eventually tired of the increased travel and bureaucracy. In addition to the demands of her career, Jill shared significant time caring for her parents, whose time pursuing other interests was far too limited after retirement when her father developed Parkinson's disease. She and Bob decided that following their dreams required a course correction. Their ultimate dream was to own and operate their own nursery, so in 2005 they purchased property outside of Athol, Idaho and within a couple years they opened Cedar Mountain Perennials. Their nursery specializes in offering a wide selection of native perennial plants and wildflowers grown from seed in their own greenhouses. Their plants have been selected to be ideally suited for the climate, soils and moisture regimes found here in the Inland Northwest. Jill and Bob hope to slowly grow the nursery business but not let it take too much time from their hobbies. While living in Flagstaff they became avid Nordic skiers and eventually got into skijoring with dogs. By the mid-2000s that interest evolved to running a team and now their kennel consists of 23 dogs. The word "hobby" doesn't adequately describe their mushing lifestyle - imagine being soccer parents with 23 kids! Although they race only during the winter, mushing is a year-long endeavor. Jill typically enters mid-range events (15 to 20 miles) utilizing 6-dog teams while Bob skijors. The race season takes them throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The writing skills Jill honed during her career come in handy with her volunteer efforts. She currently works as editor of the KNPS newsletter and, at one time edited two additional newsletters for regional dog associations. Many KNPS members likely know Jill and Bob through their generous contributions to the annual native plant sale. We're fortunate that they share their busy schedules volunteering with our group.