



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XV Number 3

May / Jun 2012

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)

Special Presentation, Tues May 16th, 6pm

A special slide show presentation
by **Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker**,
"Hiking the Triple Crown"

to benefit the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society and Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Join us as we take the audience on an armchair journey along America's three premier long distance trails: The Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail and Continental Divide Trail.

Saturday, May 26th

John W. Schwandt, PhD, Forest Pathologist,
USFS Northern Region,
"Whitebark Pine: A Pine in Peril"

Saturday, June 23rd

Lauren Gonsalves, Owner of Living Legacy Seeds,
"Plants and People: Co-Evolution and Genetic Diversity"

Calendar of Events

Wine Tasting Social

If you have been waiting for it all year or if you have not had the chance to attend the KNPS Wine Tasting Social, now is the time to mark your calendar, purchase tickets and join us for a fun and delicious way to get better acquainted with other members of KNPS. The spring social will be held on Saturday, June 16 at 6:00 pm, at the Pend Oreille Pasta and Wine Market. Those who attended last year enjoyed a

variety of wonderful wines, delicious appetizers and a warm and sunny evening on the deck with friends.

Tickets are \$15.00 and are on sale now. Contact a board member or Cheryl McKee at KNPS meetings or by phone at 208-265-4191. Hurry to guarantee your spot for this fun evening as tickets are limited.

Come Celebrate Arbor Day

On Saturday June 2, 2012, from 9am-1pm. The 14th Annual Sandpoint Arbor Day Ceremony and Arboretum Open House will be at the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum at Lakeview Park, next to the museum at Ella and Lakeview. This event is sponsored by the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Sandpoint Parks and Recreation and Sandpoint Tree Committee. Activities include Arbor Day Ceremony, free Native Plant Seedlings, Kids Booth, Native Plant Sale, Bake Goods, Homemade Craft and Yard Art Sale and Habitat Tours! To donate items for the Bake Sale, please call Cheryl McKee at 265-4191. For more information, or to volunteer at Arbor Day call Mary Toland at 265-2674.

Renewal Reminder

If you have not already done so, we look forward to receiving your membership renewal. The number on the label of the mailing envelope is the calendar year of your paid up membership. This means that, as of **April 15, 2012** we have not received your renewal for 2012. Without a renewal, this will be your last newsletter. Please make your check payable to KNPS and mail to P.O. Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864.

Membership Categories

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



Committee Reports

Arboretum



On Sunday, April 22, a beautifully warm day, 16 people spent the morning cleaning up the debris that accumulated over the winter. The paths were raked, planted areas cleared of extra pine needles, some of the compost materials that the city piled in the young forest were moved and spread. The hard work is much appreciated. Everyone enjoyed a nice potluck lunch.



The gardeners will start their regular work schedule the first week in May, weather permitting. Dandelions are already making their presence known. Kittenails, Utah Honeysuckle, Trillium and Red Twinflower were in full bloom. From now until October, there will be something in bloom. Visit often and enjoy the many flowers that bloom through the season.

Conservation

For the fifth year, in June the KNPS will join a Forest Service botanic team in monitoring a population of sensitive orchids. The date will be set after we see how the snow is melting, etc. It is a full day's excursion, in Forest Service vehicles leaving from the Sandpoint Ranger Station. We will be searching for small plants on steep hillsides. Dress for the weather and bring lunch and water. We know it is hard to predict whether you can join us when the date isn't announced, but please let me know if you are interested and I'll keep you posted. (It's fun!)

The Forest planning process is again moving forward in both the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and the adjacent Kootenai National Forest. As the only voice in this area focused on native plants, we take a great interest in the outcome. KNPS recently submitted extensive comments which you can find on the KNPS website. For the comments we especially thank Phil Hough for his research and for his many hours of attending forest planning meetings over the last decade on our behalf. Molly O'Reilly -- yachthalo at yahoo dot com.

Landscape

Landscape activities abound. Mickinnick Trailhead has its regular weed work on 1st Wednesdays: June 6, July 4, August 1, September 5, and October 3. Our announced start time is 9AM but some of us are out at 7AM on hot summer days. Once you know the area, you can come when convenient although you'll enjoy our company, a fun group that works well together. We will plan extra days when necessary so get on the email list to be informed.

Our landscape consultants are looking for customers. Once a month, we'll help member(s) that want help on planning and planting with natives on home property. We can work with one household a month, May through September. This group can also take in members who want to learn and/or teach. This is another fun committee.

We're engaged in two other projects, big and exciting. One is the recovery of the Waterlife Discovery Center landscape and the other is the landscaping of the Panhandle Animal Shelter. Email me at eatkiss1@frontier.com



President's Message

Gail Bolin

I love watching plants grow! One of my favorite things to do this time of the year is to take my first cup of coffee on a walkabout around the yard to see what has popped through the ground or what shrubs and trees have new buds or leaves. Isn't spring just wonderful?

Treasured Landscapes is a program sponsored by the National Forest Foundation and works in conjunction with the US Forest Service to care for and restore our National Forests. NFF's conservation campaign work takes place on keystone sites; which have been carefully selected based on conservation need and values. I'm happy to share with you that the Lighting Creek/Cabinet Mountains Region in the Sandpoint Ranger District has been selected as a Treasured Landscape, and is the only one in the Forest Service's Northern Region. \$600,000 has been earmarked to make improvements. Sandpoint District Ranger Erik Walker will be coming up with a plan and will be looking for volunteers from the community. Stay tuned for details as they become available.

Outreach and education is an important component of our mission, and I would like to share with you an opportunity in getting the word out about native plants and their importance in the landscape. *The Garden Zealot* is a new gardening publication that is being circulated in the Inland Northwest. KNPS has been invited to contribute articles regarding native plants. This free publication comes out around the first of each month and can be found at local garden centers. I am volunteering to coordinate the articles, but I need your help! Send me your stories and pictures of native landscaping projects; ones that have worked and ones that haven't worked out so well. This is an educational forum and I'm sure the community will benefit from everyone's experience. The May edition should be out soon - be sure to look for KNPS's articles and the Native Plant of the Month. The deadline for June's publication is May 15. Send me your stories at wgbolin@hotmail.com.

2012 Idaho Native Plant Society Annual Meeting

From: Derek Antonelli
President, Calypso Chapter
Idaho Native Plant Society

I would like to extend an invitation to the members of the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society to attend the 2012 Idaho Native Plant Society Annual Meeting being held at the Clark Fork Drift Yard from June 22 to June 24. Meeting announcement describing the activities at the event and a registration form for those who are interested in attending can be downloaded at www.idahonativeplants.org.

I understand your Society has a presentation scheduled for the morning of June 23. Fortunately, we have several half-day activities scheduled on Saturday that will allow your members to attend your meeting in the morning and still participate in some of our activities in the afternoon. Hope to see you there!

For questions please call 208-762-2575, or Email me at Antonelli8@frontier.com.



Past Programs

Photos by Marilyn George

March Program

Kent Wellner (below) and **David Cobb**, Idaho



Panhandle National Forests, went through the goals of forest planning as well as the process of how the current draft forest plans have been put together. They examined the challenges to creating the plans,

how the public was involved, and what the potential impacts as well as limitations will be. The forest plan is essentially a “zoning” exercise with specific land management units mapped and management prescription for their use developed to include desired outcomes, goals, objectives,



April Program

“Priest Lake Experimental Forest (PREF): Its History and Purpose” was the topic for the April 28th program presented by Theresa (Terrie) Jain (at right), Research Forester at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, and Dr. Russ Graham. Forestry pioneers Gifford Pinchot and Raphael Zon recognized the need for better forest management and proposed that areas should be set aside for



studying the ecology of various tree species. The PREF was one of the first research stations to initiate the study of white pine blister rust in 1923. Other research at the station include

the effects of fire, habitat types, watershed and hydrology, seed zones, forecasting tree growth, coarse woody debris, soils, and silviculture.

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



KNPS at Earth Day

This year, KNPS again hosted a booth at Earth Day. It was a fun day with many people stopping by our booth asking about native plants and looking at our book. Kudos to all the volunteers who helped – Marilyn George, Carol Jenkins, Cheryl & Kirby McKee, Mary & Doug Toland and Bob Wilson who also supplied the beautiful native plants to decorate the table! *Gail Bolin*





Member Profile: *Say Hello to Bob Wilson*

Article by Rae Charlton

Photo by Jill Wilson



A visitor to Bob and Jill Wilson's Cedar Mountain Perennials, in Athol, is quickly alerted to the fact that there's more afoot here than native plants. It's that yellow "Caution" sign, warning of "sled dogs crossing"--there are 88 dog feet (20 sled dogs, 2 pets)! The Wilsons have twenty acres, plenty of room for dogs, humans, and greenhouses full of beautifully tended native plants to be sold to fortunate gardeners.

Asked about when he became interested in plants, Bob laughed and handed over a photo of himself as a toddler, sitting contentedly in a flower garden. (He confided that he was probably pulling the petals off the flowers). By the time he was in third grade, his parents realized that he was seriously interested in plants. They let him choose one seed packet, for the family garden in Rochester, MN. He chose "Heavenly Blue" morning glory seeds, his dad built a trellis for them, and he was hooked. When Bob was twelve, his family moved to Eugene, OR where he lived through high school. He attended Oregon State University, in Corvallis, getting degrees in Horticulture and Botany. Although he "had no idea what he'd do with the degrees", he loved the greenhouse atmosphere, and helping things grow.

After college, he joined the Peace Corps, and put his training to work on St. Kitts, in the Caribbean. The government nationalized sugar cane production, because it needed a reliable source. But it also wanted to have food crops grown locally, so they wouldn't have to import food. Bob helped with growing peanuts, but spent most of his time on pest management (trying to undo the harm of long-term pesticide spraying). That experience got him interested in Entomology. He earned a Master's Degree in it at the University of California at Berkeley. And, he met Jill, who was studying Forest Entomology. They moved to Flagstaff, AZ, where Jill worked for the Forest Service and Bob served as the Horticulturist at the Arboretum at Flagstaff, a privately owned botanic garden. He taught classes about the native plants of the Colorado plateau, as well as propagating them. Noting that there was no convenient source for native plants, he started a wholesale nursery.

In 2000, Jill accepted a promotion with the Forest Service, in Coeur d'Alene. They happily moved to N. Idaho. Bob heard about an opening for a Horticulturist in the Extension Division of the U. of Idaho, based in Sandpoint. He survived a grueling application process which involved being interviewed by a panel of ten people and got the job. Then the challenge was to find a house with room for seven or eight dogs.

Seven or eight dogs? That requires a diversion from this chronology! The adventure with dogs began with a Samoyed, who hiked with the Wilsons. Then, they discovered skijoring (wearing cross-country skis, being pulled by one or two dogs). After entering a couple races Bob was hooked. The problem became that one dog was not enough for two skijorers. Bob became interested in Alaskan huskies because they "live to run". He got his first one from a friend in Fairbanks, AK. Their kennel includes Siberian huskies, Alaskan huskies and Samoyeds. And some of them have been known to climb over the six foot high fence, or burrow under it.

To return to the work scene: in 2000, Bob became the "Extension Educator", responsible for four northern counties. He coordinated the annual Master Gardener classes (Fields Cobb was an instructor). He also worked with nursery growers and provided an annual workshop for them. His focus was always on integrated pest management. In 2007, when the tenure process didn't work out, he decided to go in a new direction. Cedar Mountain, visible from their home, provided the name for his fledgling native plant nursery. Bob enjoys face-to-face selling, meeting buyers in the Farmer's Markets (Hayden, Saturday mornings; Sandpoint, Wednesday afternoons) as well as through Six Rivers Co-op. He's excited about selling plants at the Arboretum Open House on June 2nd.

Bob currently serves as KNPS Treasurer, also handling Membership matters. He is on the Sandpoint Tree committee. His knowledge, experience, and consistent good humor benefit all of us in many ways-- thank you, Bob!

Note: All interviews are reviewed and approved by interviewees prior to publication.