



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XVI Number 3

May/June 2013

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, May 25

Erick Walker, District Ranger of the Sandpoint Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest
"Lightning Creek Watershed - A Treasured Landscape"

Saturday, June 22

Ken Thacker, local business owner and former Bureau of Land Management representative
"Noxious Weeds—More Than Just Plants Out of Place"

Committee Reports

Arboretum News



Spring has sprung in the Arboretum. The trillium were in full bloom when sixteen members and gardeners

turned out on April 9 to rake paths, trim roses, pick up limbs and spread out the pine needles that the city dumps for us to use. They make very good mulch and keep the dandelions down. Everyone enjoyed a potluck lunch afterwards and socializing after the work was done. From now on there will always be something in bloom, so come often and see what has blossomed out.
Sylvia Chatburn

Conservation Committee

Conservation Committee meets as needed, generally over lunch at Tango Cafe. Please let Molly O'Reilly know if you want to be on the notification list. yachthalo at yahoo dot com or 610-6642. The committee is the organization's voice for native plants and their habitats on public lands in Bonner and Boundary Counties.
Molly O'Reilly

Landscaping Committee

The Landscaping Committee is doing very well. Its members met in March and decided to proceed with its program of maintenance at Mickinnick Trailhead, our first workday being May 1. All other workdays are the first Wednesday of each month, 9AM until noon, earlier on hot days. We are planning a day with the Sheriff's Inmate Labor force and will let you know that date and time.

The Landscaping Consultants have jobs in June and September and are anxious to help two member households, one in July and the other in August. These consultations are a fun way to get landscaping advice from non-professional yet very knowledgeable members of your organization. Contact Eileen: eatkiss1@frontier.com
Eileen Atkinson



Past Programs

March 23, 2013

Derek Antonelli, Master Naturalist, "Plants of Hager Lake—A Rare North Idaho Peatland"



Derek provided details on a citizen science project at Hager Lake, a valley peatland of high biodiversity approximately five miles south of Nordman. The lake is about five acres in size and

was created by retreating glaciers. It contains a one-acre floating moss mat and is surrounded by lily pads, sedges, rose spirea and lodge pole pine. The peatland creates specialized plants due to slow decomposition and lack of oxygen. There has been considerable human impact on the lake over the years but the current owners have established a conservation easement on the property. It is one of the best studied peatlands in northern Idaho, beginning with a doctoral thesis with field work in 1952 followed by a joint study in 1992 by the US Forest Service and Idaho Fish and Game. The Master Naturalists project was undertaken by 25 volunteers completing 62 field days in the summer of 2012. The group found 320 different species of plants, 16 plant species rare to Idaho, and some vegetation changes compared to previous studies. In spite of the changes, Hager Lake is doing well and still supports specialized plant species. The biggest threats on the horizon are disruption of water levels and invasion of non-native plants.

April 27, 2013

John Hastings, Sandpoint educator and business owner, "Students as Citizen Scientists: It's Just the Beginning"

Named *Idaho Environmental Educator of the Year for 2012*, John gave a wide-ranging presentation on projects undertaken by students in the Natural



Resources Management cluster of Professional/ Technical Education at Sandpoint High School. John stressed the quality and importance of technical education in Sandpoint as a means of preparing students for either postsecondary education or the work force. Some of the major projects the students have participated in recently are the Pack River delta restoration, Habitat Evaluation Procedures, Yellowstone pronghorn habitat improvement, Multi-Species Baseline Initiative, Dover Bay riparian buffer zone, Water Festival, and native plant demonstration garden at the Bonner County administration building. The projects are done in partnership with government agencies or non-profit organizations. Students in the program are tracked for three years after graduation and a very high percentage go on to school or successfully enter the work force. John indicated that community support is essential to the success of public education in Sandpoint and thanked the group for its assistance.

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For Your Calendars

June 8, Saturday, 9 to 1

Arbor Day Native Plant Sale

On Saturday June 8th, the Sandpoint Arbor Day ceremony & Arboretum open house will take place at **Lakeview Park** on the corner of Ella and Ontario. This year will mark the 15th annual commemoration of Arbor Day and honoring of Sandpoint as a Tree City USA. The event is co-sponsored by the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, the City of Sandpoint, and the Sandpoint Tree Committee.

The day will include an Arbor Day ceremony at 9:00 AM followed by a native plants sale, tree ring education, bake sale, free native plant seedlings, and tours. Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society members will be selling homemade baked goods. For gardeners who want to Grow Native, Cedar Mountain Perennials will have a wide selection of native plants for sale.

The event takes place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Lakeview Park, next to the Bonner County Historical Museum at 611 South Ella Avenue and is open to the public, free of charge.

June 8th, Saturday, 9 to 1, Arboretum

Arbor Day Bake Sale

Donations of baked goods appreciated!

June 19th, Wednesday, 6 pm

Wine Social at Pend Oreille Pasta

Limited # of tickets @ \$20.00

**ENJOY TASTING NEW WINES?
ENJOY SAMPLING YUMMY APPETIZERS?
ENJOY SOCIALIZING?
TIME TO GET YOUR WINE SOCIAL
TICKETS!**

Everyone is invited to attend as well as to invite friends to the 2013 KNPS Wine Tasting Social. This year's social will be held on Wednesday, June 19th at 6:00 pm. Last year we enjoyed a variety of wonderful wines, delicious appetizers, good conversations and a warm and sunny evening on the deck at the Pend Oreille Pasta and Wine Market. Please plan to join us for another fun evening this year. Tickets are \$20.00 and on sale now. Tickets will not be available at the door but will be available at the May 25th meeting or by contacting Cheryl McKee at 208-265-4191

June 27, Thursday

Field Trip to the Coeur d'Alene Nursery

A field trip to the Forest Service Nursery in Coeur d'Alene has been planned for Thursday, June 27th. We will be car pooling from the New Song Bible Church in Sagle; meet at 8:45 and leave promptly at 9:a.m. Please park your car at the south side of the parking lot as their church bible school is going on at that time. Our tour will start at 10 a.m. and will be approximately 1-1/2 hours. After the tour you will be on your own to "lunch out in Coeur d'Alene" or to go straight home to Sandpoint. The decision will be up to the driver of each car---so plan accordingly! Please call or email me if you are going and if you would be willing to drive. It would be nice to have an approximate number and know we have enough drivers! ----Jackie Earle, 208-265-0166, earle.jackie@gmail.com (that's 2 "e"s in Jackie)

October TBD

Dine Out for a Cause

All day @ Little Olive Restaurant
% of proceeds to KNPS

November 19, Tuesday, 6pm

Sip and Shop at Pend d'Oreille Winery
*Silent Auction &
\$3.00 Bistro Rouge w/ proceeds to KNPS*

More info and/or tickets: Cheryl McKee
208-265-4191



President's Message

Gail Bolin

It's so nice to look outside and see *green* instead of *white* on the landscape! Though I enjoy winter and its beauty, I truly am glad that spring has arrived!

I've been busy representing KNPS and our *Grow Native* program in a variety of venues. In March Carol Jenkins, Bob Wilson and I traveled to Coeur d'Alene to participate in Idaho Conservation League's after hours presentation; "Love our Lake" for the unveiling of the new Lake*A*Syst manual for Lake Coeur d'Alene. This event gave us a chance to display our book to a new audience and offer information for lakeside landscaping. In April, I gave a presentation in Hope, hosted by the American Heritage Wildlife Foundation – "Native Plants & Why Should We Care?" Then another Lakeside Gardening presentation at the Ponderay Garden Center in conjunction with Waterkeepers and the Lake Pend Oreille Lake*A*Syst program. I also gave a repeat of the January KNPS presentation "Landscaping for Birds, Bees & Butterflies at the Sandpoint Library and I will be doing it again for the Hope Garden Club on Wednesday, June 12. Remember to *Grow Native* and share your love and appreciation for our local flora with everyone!!

Community At Its Best

Many good things happened in Sandpoint during 2012; one of the best was initiating the revitalization project of the Hickory Street Park flower beds. What started as a potentially large problem turned into a fantastic collaboration between Lake Pend Oreille High School (LPOHS), Sandpoint Parks and Rec., the Native Plant Society, H.S. Park neighbors and community volunteers. In 2004 there was a large lot filled with weeds and trash between Larch and Hickory, near Boyer Street. To many it was an eyesore, to others, an opportunity. In coordination with the city of Sandpoint, LPOHS students worked with a landscape designer to include all pertinent aspects. Two students attended numerous City meetings, and through hard work and tenacity a beautiful park was created.

Over the years, Jan Wasserburger's Plant Science classes have maintained the flower beds during the school year. Park enthusiasts particularly enjoyed spring time when a variety of bulbs brought much needed color to winter weary eyes. With no summer maintenance program, limited availability of water, and an aggressive invasion of grass and weeds, the beds began to look worn. When Kami Omodt, from the City of Sandpoint, contacted Jan in September 2012, a project starting point was mandated: clean up the flower beds or they would be removed because the City did not have the manpower to nurture them. Emails began flying. The summit meeting in the fall included Gail Bolin and Bob Wilson from Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Richard Kuhnel from The Park Cottages, Austin Hull (landscape foreman City of Sandpoint), Kami Omodt and JanWasserburger. Several conferences unveiled a central theme: student involvement during the school year would be augmented with community and neighborhood volunteers during the summer. The project evolved to accommodate the needs and talents of all participants. The landscaping crew for the City removed and replaced the soil in three beds, purchased bulbs for fall planting, and will install the new center bed. Kami Omodt met with the students and kept everyone on track and began to design an area patrons could walk through. Jan and her students planted bulbs, and created scale drawings of the beds. Gail and Bob worked tirelessly with LPOHS students on plant layout and created a final native plant list for three of the four beds. Like all of Sandpoint, everyone involved is anxiously awaiting planting time. The revitalization of the flower beds at Hickory Street Park is the kind of project that brings people together and allows all those who access the park to enjoy this team effort.

For more information, or to volunteer to help with the maintenance during the summer, please contact Gail at 208-627-3292, or Jan Wasserburger at 208-263-6121.



Earth Day Festival

KNPS had a display at the 2013 Earth Day Festival at the Forrest Bird Charter School on Saturday, April 20.

Pictured: Doug Toland

Photo by Gail Bolin



From the Moist Montane

Story and Artwork by Marilyn McIntyre



As a naturalist of sorts and journal keeper, I have made it my business to notice the transitions from season to season and have come to the conclusion that there are really 8 seasons* in a way in North Idaho. We are now in the midst of “sprinter” at this mountainous elevation, while you in the valley are enjoying spring. As I write this in late April, the Trilliums aren’t even up yet, but I am picturing them in May when this will be in print. The pussy willows have been opening since early April and the serviceberries are starting to show hope for some leaves. The Red-osier Dogwood is glowing coral red against the remaining snow, rivaling the glow orange color of the Robin and Varied Thrush males. The birds are all building lovely nests around the edges of the forest

and clearings. We could name our place *Junco Junction* except for the large flocks of Pine Siskins, Red Polls, a Varied Thrush pair, the White crowned Sparrow and a female Cassin’s Finch. The winter residents are all here too: Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Stellar and Gray Jays, Red Breasted Nuthatches and the Song Sparrow. The wonderful thing about spring is that it is so exciting when all of that pent-up creative energy begins flowing out of the subnivean into the light of day.

“If plants could be credited with reasoning powers, we would marvel at the imaginative ways they bribe or ensnare other creatures to carry out their wishes” says Jane Goodall in her recent article on trees in Smithsonian Magazine. I am certainly a witness to the part the birds play in that scenario. Hopefully the pictured Clark’s Nutcracker is up on the higher ridges eating white bark pine seeds.

* The 8 seasons I call: spring, sprummer, summer, sunfall, fall, falter, winter and sprinter.

Electronic Newsletter

As a measure to cut printing and postage costs, we are offering the newsletter in an electronic format for those interested in receiving it. If you would like to switch from a printed newsletter to a copy in your email, please send a note to botanybob@frontier.com.

T-SHIRTS (See photo on Page 6)

*Join the FUN-draising!
Last chance to order until September
Look good while you support KNPS*

The first-ever KNPS shirt design was unveiled at the February general meeting. Marilyn McIntyre adapted our logo to create a perfect design for the shirts. Response to these beautiful Grow Native shirts and sweatshirts was wonderful. If you missed that meeting, you still have time to be one of the first to purchase a Grow Native shirt or sweatshirt. Short sleeve and long sleeve tees, crew and hooded sweatshirts are available in Adult sizes S-XXL. Prices range from **\$16.00-32.00**. Youth short sleeve tees are available in sizes XS-XL and are **\$16.00**. Contact Cheryl McKee at (208) 265-4191 before Friday May 10th and your order will be ready for pickup at the May 25th general meeting.



Member Profile: Say Hello to Rae Charleton

Photo by Marilyn George



As a city dweller for most of her life, you might wonder how Rae made the transition from Seattle to Sandpoint so easily. Fortunate with cultural activities such as theater, music, and all that a local university has to offer, she kept herself extremely busy and fulfilled. Single for approximately 20 years, with a successful career and beautiful home in the historic Seattle area of Capitol Hill, she'd spend her limited free time volunteering, gardening and reading. Her life was great. Then it got much, much better when she met the "love of her life", Ken.

They often traveled to Sandpoint together visiting Rae's sister Betty who discovered our beautiful area a few years earlier. Ken dreamt of a rural life similar to his childhood so he and Rae purchased acreage near Westmond and moved here from Seattle in 2002. Their time together was the best of their lives; however, Ken passed away far too early in 2003. Rae threw herself into creating a large garden, enjoying sharing her "country place" with visiting friends.

Rae was born in Seattle and credits her parents with instilling in her a lifelong interest in reading and education. Her dad was a man of endless interests and her mom was a strong liberal influence who remained a progressive thinker throughout her 97 years. There was never a question whether Rae and Betty would continue their studies after high school – in their house education was a way of life.

Rae studied English in college and later earned a Master's Degree in library science because she knew the field would "never be boring." While working in libraries, she met hundreds of fascinating people from all walks of life. Her 30 year career spanned card catalogs and micro film technology to the luxury of modern computers. Seattle public library was the first in the U. S. to offer internet access to the public. Rae went on to be the administrator of two libraries in Seattle, simultaneously! She has always felt that our libraries are the cultural life blood of our communities.

Special influences in Rae's life include Lois Wythe and Arlis Harvey. Lois introduced her to the local KNPS chapter, and Arlis inspired her with her easy humor and endless skills. Rae is a hard working leader in KNPS, acting as vice president twice and chairing the membership committee for years. She is an active board member and a long standing gardener at the arboretum.

Rae is currently settling into her new "city life" in Sandpoint. She typically takes two vacations each year and considers traveling another fascinating way to quench her curiosity. She is amazingly active. In addition to her commitment to KNPS, she was on the Healing Garden committee for years. She has been influential in promoting Sandpoint as a walking town and has helped organize and promote the use of crossing flags throughout town. Rae's favorite activities remain reading, gardening, traveling and volunteering. She must feel her schedule has an opening because she intends to revive an old skill, playing piano.