

# Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume X Number 5

Nov / Dec 2007

Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society / Sandpoint, Idaho

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## Program Schedule

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Presentations sponsored by  
Native Plant Society and Sandpoint Parks and Recreation

### **November Program**

**Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 9:45 am**

**LOCATION: Community Hall (Log Building)**

**First Avenue - across from County Courthouse, Sandpoint**

**“Signs, Trails, Trials and Tales: Adventures with the Landscape Committee”** will be our last public presentation for 2007. This is a wonderful program, worthy of bringing us together during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. And we are so very *grateful* for the dedication, hard work, and stellar accomplishments of the folks who comprise our Landscape Committee. Come and celebrate what they have accomplished, learn how they have done it, and take away tips and inspiration for your own landscaping visions and challenges.

### **December Potluck**

**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 11:00 am**

It is time for our traditional Kinnikinnick Chapter finger-food potluck to celebrate the holidays. Please join your native plant friends for another gathering at Gretchen Hellar’s home, 401 St. Clair at the corner of Michigan in Sandpoint. No need to RSVP but if you have questions please call Carol at 265-9204 or Gretchen at 263-6893.

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## Events

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**Chapter Board:** meets the third Friday of the month at 9:00 am in the Rude Girls Room at the Sandpoint library. Open to all members.

**Arboretum Committee:** Please contact Sylvia Chatburn at 263-2175 if you would like to join the arboretum team.

**Conservation Committee:** Members are actively advocating for native plants and their habitats. Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evening of the month. For more information contact Carol Jenkins at 265-9204.

**Landscape Committee:** Activities are to begin again next spring. Contact Eileen Atkisson at 263-3835.

These committees and their activities are open to all members.

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## Fall Presentations

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Photo by Marilyn George



In September, **Dr. Sam Cushman** from the Rocky Mountain Research Station, presented “Plants, Fire, and Climate Change.” Dr. Cushman reviewed worldwide climate data and discussed implications for our region. In this century we expect to see weather that is warmer, wetter, with less snow pack and earlier snowmelt. We will see longer, drier summers and the earlier springs will lead to bigger fires. Plant and animal species will change distribution in response to climate change. Dr. Cushman gave us a view of what North Idaho might look like in the future.

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**Kinnikinnick Chapter of the INPS**

206 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave PMB 162

Sandpoint, ID 83864-1424

[www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org)

**Kinnikinnick Journals are also published on our website!**

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## Committee Reports

### Arboretum Committee

After 8 seasons of hard work by our dedicated gardeners, the arboretum is still changing. The rest of the old lawn grass has been removed from the front entrance to make a new path that separates the riparian habitat from the dry rock habitat. New habitat signs make a stroll through the arboretum more interesting. Native ground covers, grasses and flowers have been spreading and filling in bare spots. Pine needles and chipped stumps have been used for ground cover in several areas where we have removed the old grass and want to replicate the forest floor. We lost the tops from a couple of mature pine trees and had a dying birch cut down. Everything has settled in so that it is able to handle the drier conditions that we have had this summer.

Our paid coordinator position was shared this season by Rochelle Chatburn and Linda Kirchmann. They did a great job of talking to visitors, showing them around, answering questions and doing various jobs.

On October 14, twelve members descended on the arboretum to tidy it up, drain and pick up hoses, bring alder benches inside, make a bench out of a hewn log that was left over from the cabin, and enjoy a potluck lunch. A big thank you to all of them. Our work at the arboretum has ended for the season. Mother nature can take over.

The **Conservation Committee** welcomes new member Gale Corsini. Gale attended the Forest Service draft planning meetings and brings her enthusiasm to our Chapter. The committee continues monitoring projects of the Sandpoint and Priest Lake Ranger Districts of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, and the Priest Lake State Forest. Several members of our committee attended the recent Bonner County public planning meeting with particular interest in supporting vegetative buffers of native plants at our waterways. We took a field trip to the Dover Bay development to view management of wetlands and

shoreline. We are in the process of clarifying our goals for 2008. We encourage members of our chapter to attend any of our meetings and always welcome your input. Please call Carol Jenkins, 265-9204 for information.

The **Hospitality Committee** extends many thanks to Marilyn George for setting up the coffee and Mary Jo Haag's goodies at September's meeting. October was provided by Linda Kirchman and Jackie Earle. Thanks to Nancy Rodgers for signing up for November and in December we have the potluck to enjoy. If you would like to volunteer please contact Linda Kirchmann at 255-5727.

The **Landscape Committee** will present the November 24 meeting program, "Signs, Trails, Trials and Tales: Adventures with the Landscape Committee". Don Childress will narrate the PowerPoint presentation and committee members will be on hand to answer questions. The Mickinnick Trailhead will have been mulched and put to bed on November 7. Read your newsletter and watch your emails for landscape activities in the spring. For more information contact Eileen Atkisson at 263-3835.

## Fall Presentations, cont'd

Photo by Marilyn George



In October, **LeAnn Abell**, the botanist for the BLM Coeur d'Alene District, took us on a tour of the 25 rare plant species of the 144,000 acre Cottonwood Project. We started in the canyon grasslands, moved to the forested uplands,

and finished in the riparian wetlands. LeAnn distinguished between the endangered and threatened plants, and answered many questions from the audience. She also overviewed BLM monitoring of these plant populations and discussed weed control and other disturbances to these rare plant communities.

*Message from the President**Phil Hough**Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans - Preserving Native Plants*

Many of you already know that a number of Native Plant Society members have been actively involved with the effort to designate the Scotchman Peaks as wilderness. Our chapter, and the Idaho Native Plant Society, have endorsed wilderness for this special area. (See below). For those of us closely engaged with the issue of wilderness designation, the benefit that wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks would bring for native plants seems obvious. This is a good opportunity to showcase the need and benefit to a wider audience.

The national Wilderness Preservation System was envisioned to include habitat types from all ecosystems. In 1964 the wilderness act immediately protected some of the most cherished and imperiled habitats. The initial focus was *permanent* protection for forest reserves, which had been protected *administratively* by the forest service. Frequently they were remnants from areas largely lost to logging and road construction. In the 1970s the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management conducted surveys identifying roadless areas and evaluating their potential as wilderness. Those roadless areas that held habitat not yet represented (and which were also politically palatable) became "proposed wilderness" areas. The Scotchmans is one of these areas. Many other roadless areas are also worthy of wilderness designation because they contain habitats still not well represented in the wilderness preservation system. But an act of congress is required to add any of these areas as designated wilderness.

In the Scotchmans, the Northern Rockies ecosystem converges with the Southern end of the boreal forest, and the easternmost reach of the Pacific Maritime, creating disjunctive plant populations, fascinating microclimates, and an incredible diversity of flora and fauna. Western Hemlock and Red Cedar are found in many parts of the Scotchmans, and are habitats not well represented in the wilderness system. Perhaps most significantly, the Scotchmans contain some of the farthest reaches of interior rain forest; in our regions none of these are protected as wilderness. In fact, in the five northern counties of the Idaho Panhandle, which contain a stunning variety of native plant habitats, there are zero acres of designated wilderness! In Western Montana less than 4% of the Kootenai Forest is designated as wilderness, an extremely small percentage compared the national average - nearly 18% of all national forest lands are designated as wilderness. A Scotchman Peaks wilderness will help fill many of these overlooked botanical needs.

But congress needs to act. Elected officials tend to act only when they believe a clear majority of their constituents support them. Because the plants can't speak for themselves, we need to be their voice and speak up. We must make it clear to our community leaders that native plants are important and add our voices to the chorus calling for Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans! Website: [www.ScotchmanPeaks.org](http://www.ScotchmanPeaks.org)

In the Idaho and Montana portions of the US Forest Service Region 1, there are 162 species of rare and sensitive plants found only in roadless areas, which have the potential to become, but are not yet part of, the National Wilderness Preservation System.

**Resolution Supporting the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area**

The Kinnikinnick chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society recognizes the need to protect contiguous and intact ecosystems, retaining their natural state, in order to ensure the continued health and survival of native flora. Therefore we encourage and support local, state and federal representatives to act in favor of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Designating the Scotchman Peaks as wilderness protects the natural beauty, the unique qualities and the biodiversity of this special place, offering safe harbor for many rare and endangered species and their habitats.



**Membership Renewals Accepted Now**

Your membership makes all our wonderful activities possible, so please renew (or join!) now and submit your dues for 2008 by December 31st of this year. Don't procrastinate because you don't want to risk missing out on the newsletter. If you have any questions please contact Rae Charlton at 255-7666.

**Categories of membership:** Individual \$25; Household \$30; Student/ Senior \$20; Patron \$75\*, Life \$1000\* \*Patron and Life members may affiliate with additional chapters of INPS. **Send payment to:** Kinnikinnick Chapter INPS, PMB 162, 206 N. 4th Ave., Sandpoint, ID 83864. Thanks!

*Ann Wood*



Our long time member, Ann Wood, lost her battle with pancreatic cancer on Oct.1 at her summer home on Lake Pend Oreille. She was an enthusiastic supporter of the Native Plant Society both here and in Houston. She loved the outdoors, nature and the lake. We will miss her blithe spirit.

**Calendar Season**

2008 Calendar



Don't miss out on ordering a calendar. The photos are wonderfully presented in a monthly display. You can order ahead by calling Marilyn George at 263-9470. They will also be available at our general meetings. The cost is only \$7.

**Mushroom Field Trip**

On September 16, mycologist Larry Evans led a group of 15 people on a mushroom field trip cosponsored by the Kinnikinnick chapter of the Native Plant Society and the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Participants came from as far as Spokane. The event began with Larry's slide show and presentation on mushrooms at the Scotchman Peaks Coffee House in Clark Fork. Because the fall rains had not cooperated in appearing before that date, the Ross Creek Cedars was the site of the hunt. Despite the drought, an amazing 31 varieties of mushrooms were found and keyed out by the group. Similar field trips next spring and fall sound like a good plan.

The accompanying photos by Neil Wimberley show Larry Evans keying mushrooms in the field and a *Boletus mirabilis*.

