



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XIV Number 5

Nov / Dec 2011

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / Sandpoint, Idaho

Program Schedule



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

Upcoming Programs

Saturday, November, 26 9:45 am

*“Project GLORIA: Global Observation
Research Initiative in Alpine Environments”*

Lindsey Bengtson, Biological Science Technician
USGS Glacier National Park

Also: KNPS Conservation Committee Report: “Purpose
and Activities of the Conservation Committee”
by Molly O’Reilly

Saturday, December 10 11am- 2pm

Holiday Potluck at Gretchen Heller’s House!!

Saturday, January, 28 9:45 am

*“Preserving Native Habitats through
Private Land Conservation Easements”*

Eric Grace, Executive Director of the
Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy

Saturday, February, 25 9:45 am

*“Plants and People: Co-Evolution and
Genetic Diversity.”*

Lauren Gonsalves, Owner of Living Legacy Seeds

Lois Wythe Grant 2012

November 30, 2011 is the deadline to apply for the Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant. There is still plenty of time for you to encourage others to submit a project for consideration. All projects that promote the appreciation and use of native plants are eligible. The recipient of the \$200 grant will be announced in December. This is one of KNPS’s ways of expressing our thanks for all that Lois did for us and our community. Application forms are available on our website. For information call Janice DeBaun 263-8970.

It’s Time to Renew!!

Remember, memberships expire at the end of the year. Your continued 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. This year the KNPS has produced a stunning new book, “Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle.” KNPS continues to be a strong voice for plant conservation in the region. Please help us by supporting these many fine efforts by renewing your membership. You may mail your check (payable to KNPS) to Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, PO Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864, or renew at the November 26, meeting.

Membership Categories

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



Committee Reports

Arboretum News

On October 9, a very nice fall day, 13 members of the Arboretum committee closed the arboretum for the season. Dry areas were watered, especially those under the big trees that do not get much benefit from the first fall rains. A few shrubs along the paths and trees that were interfering with the growth of other shrubs were pruned. Paths were raked; debris picked up and hauled away. The alder benches were all taken into the cabin for the winter and the water lines in the wall were blown out. After all the hard work, everyone enjoyed a nice potluck lunch outside in front of the cabin. The committee will take a rest now until after the first of the year. Planning for next season will begin sometime in late February or early March. If anyone is interested in joining this dedicated group of people, please contact Sylvia at smchatburn@gmail.com. Working at the arboretum is a good way to get to know the native plants of this area.

Sylvia Chatburn

Conservation Committee

Last meeting we were delighted to have as a special guest, Brad Smith from Idaho Conservation League. One of the projects he's working on is protecting native habitat that is necessary for the woodland caribou. Other issues discussed included; the Forest Service and their long awaited Forest Management Plan, BLM, and the middle school wetland. Join us for interesting conversations and working for positive change that benefit native plants. We meet the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm. The Nov meeting will be at Jim Dubisson's house - come join us. Please call Jim at 263-8241 for more information.

Past Programs

September Program



Susan Drumheller and Jan Griffitts provided an excellent history of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail project, and then discussed its current status. The phrase "Sharing a Shoreline--

Connecting Communities" was explained, with the aid of a large map. Important fund-raising is slated for the future, and everyone interested was invited to join Friends of Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail now--support is needed and welcome!

October Program

Nathan Robertson, Native Plant Horticulturist at the



Coeur d'Alene Forest Service Nursery provided an overview of how the nursery supplies native plants for various projects for the forest service and other agencies. They grow and produce container stock, bare root seedlings and seeds as needed for projects ranging from timber stand

improvement to rehabilitation of burned areas, to restoring roads, riparian areas and mine tailing sites throughout the region. The nursery is a leader in developing rust resistant strains of Whitebark Pine and produces seedlings for use in re-establishing this species which is at great peril.

Articles by Phil Hough and Photos by Marilyn George

Tidbits

Nominations for the Board have been made - they are:

Gail Bolin
Rae Charlton
Don Childress
Konrad Dahlstrom
Cheryl McKee
Lorrie Stockwell
Mary Toland
Bob Wilson

Fund Raising

The October bake sale at the Sandpoint Farmer's Market brought in \$310.

Dennis Rieger



Message from the President

by Don Childress

When I hear people comment on why they like living in Sandpoint, one of the most common reasons is they like the four seasons. This season has certainly been exemplary for the fall foliage. Now, bring on the snow!

As you all know, the KNPS Landscape Book is now in the bookstores. As a (minor) participant, I am very proud to have been a part of the process, and the result. I thought it might be interesting for you to hear a little of the “back office” workings of the editors and contributors. The leaders of the group were Carol Jenkins and Sylvia Chatburn; however, it was a collaborative effort involving all of the contributors.

The group met regularly for nearly two years. We all chose the native plants to be included after considerable discussion as to its merits in the landscape. Certainly not all native plants are useful or appropriate for a landscape situation. We also all shared in the writing of the *Plant Description, Habitat and Landscape Uses* portion of the book. Then everyone looked at the effort and edited each other’s work. This model was used for all sections of the book. The photographs were chosen by consensus. Thank you Marilyn George, the photographer for most of the plants, and to Eileen Atkisson who made sure the work was literate.

Were there agreements on everything? Not in the least, but a majority opinion usually prevailed. Not everyone had equal strengths and those with specific talents would rise in certain phases of the project. After the material was essentially completed there was considerable format editing of the whole. While we all contributed, it was Sylvia and Carol who carried the ball here, and they also kept the group’s energy high throughout the process. A round of applause goes to all those who contributed to this noteworthy project and a special thank you to Carol and Sylvia for their expertise and many hours of contribution.

The Book is a HUGE Success!

Carol Jenkins

Thank you, members of KNPS, for starting our book sales off by purchasing 100 books during our members-only presale! We are in the process of distributing 75 complimentary books. We have retail outlets in Bonners Ferry, Kootenai, Ponderay, Sandpoint and Coeur d’Alene (see our website for details). Several KNPS members attended and enjoyed the book launch at Vanderford’s on October 22. During the first week of retail sales, three stores sold out and placed a re-order! In addition to the recent press releases, on November 15, a couple of us will be on Gary Lirette’s show on radio 1400 at about 12:10 pm to publicize the book. This book would not have been possible without the support of our membership, and we are delighted with the response to the project.

Below: Marilyn McIntyre, Sylvia Chatburn, Carol Jenkins, and Marilyn George were honored to sign books at our Vanderford’s book launch. Photo by Phil Hough.



KNPS Business Sponsor

Cedar Mountain Perennials

Specializing in native plants for inland NW gardens

www.cedarmountainperennials.com

Email: botanybob@frontier.com 208-683-2387

Postal & Website Addresses for the

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

PO Box 1092 Sandpoint, ID 83864

www.nativeplantsociety.org



Member Profile:

Say Hello to Jim Stern

Article and Photo by Joanna Fuchs



As Jim Stern petted "Tibby," a loudly purring black lap cat, he related how he and his wife, Cheryl recently had new fence installed to dissuade wandering moose, which they were afraid would fall into the pool and drown. Nevertheless, a black bear found its way onto their deck, and, blessedly, managed to find its way out again, despite the fence.

Jim was born in Palo Alto, California, and lived in California 52 years, except for two years in Southern France, courtesy of his dad's job for United Airlines. He was a competitive swimmer in high school, where he met Cheryl, and also in college, and was a High School All American and a Small College All American. Jim and Cheryl have two children, Joshua, who works in the movie business and Kristin, who runs a swimming school.

Jim attended USC, where he "didn't like the large classes and impersonal nature of the campus," and transferred to Occidental College, graduating in 1970, majoring in Political Science. He went on to law school at the University of California's Hastings Law School. "Six months was long enough to decide I didn't want to be an attorney," he says. After leaving Hastings, he married Cheryl, and they honeymooned in Europe for nine weeks. Jim worked in Mountain View, California, as a property manager for one year, and then "We piled into our VW bus without any planned destination," he says, "drove through Portland and Seattle, and finally ended up in Sun Valley, Idaho, where we worked and were ski bums."

After six months of Sun Valley, Jim returned to school to get a Master's degree in Public Administrations from Cal State Chico, which led him to a 28-year career as an urban planner with the City of Santa Maria, California. At this point, Tibby gave Jim a whap on the nose, indicating "too much talking, not enough petting." A gentle lecture followed.

You could get the impression that Jim was born too late, as he laments the move to "high tech everything." "With my kids, I ask for a phone book, a cookbook, a map...they don't have any of those things; they use the Internet." The Sterns have "fired the cable TV company." They use the Internet rarely, with dialup access. "I'm averse to technological improvements," Jim says. "Life should be simple."

Jim retired from urban planning early, had friends in Sandpoint, and moved here nine years ago. The Sterns became involved with Monday hikers, which led to the Native Plant Society, through Sylvia Chatburn and Molly O'Reilly. "Molly twisted our arms to manage Arbor Day, which we did for two years," Jim says. He and Cheryl are also active with Friends of Scotchman Peaks. As most members know, Jim builds the beautiful trellises for the Native Plant Sale each year, and benches, too. "Arlis Harvey introduced me to the craft of trellis and bench building," he says.

The Sterns have a little garden, where they grow raspberries, green beans and other veggies. "We try to eat them before the deer do," says Jim. Their lot also has Kinnikinnick, red-osier dogwood, aspen and Ponderosa pine. They also own 13 acres off Camp Bay Road, and they spend a lot of time there caring for the forest.

Jim likes to cook. Favorite dishes include shrimp curry, Swedish pancakes and apple pie. He was a recreational pilot, flying single-engine planes and gliders. He likes both sail and power boating. He and Cheryl snowshoe and cross-country ski during winter. The Sterns have been to Australia several times to visit a friend who is a large animal vet. "We like to go on calls with him," says Jim. They have been to Hawaii several times, and dream of returning to Europe and also to visit New England to see the fall colors. "I'd also like a six-month voyage to the South Pacific, a stack of airline tickets, and two residences—one with year-round warm weather for winter," he says.



The View from the Moist Montaine

Story and Artwork by Marilyn McIntyre



With the cool moist air the lichens are perking up with their bright green winter colors. I have completed a new painting of the wolf lichen on an old weathered stump from the Humbird days. I am looking forward to learning about the GLORIA project in Glacier at the November meeting. They have over 400 lichens listed on their website. As for the old stump left by the Humbird Company when they logged the big western red cedars and western larch from this wet drainage, all of their leftovers such as bunk houses and railroad trestles have been reclaimed by the native plants and microorganisms. In the past 30 years I have witnessed the last remaining log structures become lost in their own decay and layered over by the yearly leaf

and needle drop from the trees and brush and ground covers.

As Don Childress remarked at the October meeting, we are having a glorious fall. It is so bright from the leaves of the maples and dogwoods and larch, as if the sun is out on even the cloudiest of days. Our first hard frost this morning gives me pause to notice that it is later than most years at this 3200' elevation. Looking ahead to what winter might be like is a bit like slowly nosing uphill on a roller coaster, anticipating that moment when you will break over the top and plunge downward; we always prepare for the deepest snow, coolest temperatures and the longest breakup. One thing we know for sure is that the native plants are prepared to have a perfect winter. And, as for what we will do for entertainment: Read the new *Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle* and spend time gazing at the nearly unrivaled natural beauty around us, structured and limned by the native plants, the mountains and the light. Have a wonderful winter.

Marilyn McIntyre 10/28/11

KNPS Calendars

The 2012 KNPS Calendar features plants from the book the society produced, *Landscaping with Native Plants in the ID Panhandle*. Under Sources of Native Plants on our website, www.nativeplantsociety.org is a list of nurseries that carry the plants shown in the 2012 calendar. The standard size 8.5"x11" sells for \$8 for the first one and \$7 for each additional calendar. The small 4.25"x5.5" magnetic calendar is \$5. You can order ahead by calling Marilyn George at 263-9470 or mail an order to the chapter address at PO Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864. Be sure to add \$2 for S&H for the first calendar and \$1 for each additional. There are no charges for postage if you pick it up or purchase your calendars at the Nov meeting, at the Dec holiday gathering or arrange with Marilyn to meet for delivery.





Lines to Lois

by Sherry Metz

ALL IS WELL when I remember my dearest friend, mentor and sister *Lois Wythe*. Lois who never used a PC, lived 2 worlds (89 today years and many yesteryears), who never *traveled* but from the business world into the World of nature and the joys of the good earth itself, who treasured time with friends and grew them like her gardens, who found solace in the *simple things*.

I met her as a new arrival in the late 70s and saw her make an immediate impact upon our small and unique community in North Idaho. She inspired love of community through service, but still found time to “plant” a place called the Peaceable Kingdom filled with herbs, gardens, fruit trees and other growing things. She then proceeded to offer dozens of classes teaching us about using, preserving and creating beautiful lasting items with what she grew. She would show us how to make things once cherished in the past and bring them into our homes of today. Upon entering her learning room, I could find my personal peace and calm—aromas of another place, a solace of another time. A couple of hours in her class and the mind-fog would dissipate into a good dose of clarity. Just a few of her subjects were aromatherapy, medicinal herbs for alternative medicine, wreaths for the year around, juicing fruits, drying every kind of plant life including weeds, tales of Wickens and Unicorns, bird feeding, tussie mussies (term from the early 1400s for small, round bouquets of herbs and flowers), and lavender wands.



Her love of books was awesome! At every meeting there would be a pile of hard backs with beautiful covers heaped in the middle of the table. One could not resist paging through and finding unlimited resources for just about anything. Once she gifted me the “Book of Psalms” in the most exquisite of ancient artwork. But the best book she could have ever given me was my “book of blank pages”... “Fill them in yourself,” she said. “It is your turn to mentor, tell stories, even a thought a day would be a memory kept. You have met more travelers than I along your way, and I am interested in all that you have done.” I said I didn’t know how to organize it, or what I should name it, “keep it simple” she said, “how about your *book of WORDS?*”

When forming the Arboretum, I was her understudy for the Medicinal Herb area, and as her health deteriorated I was asked to take over there. I found a really great assistant, Linda Kirchmann, who met Lois through her mother (another follower of Lois). Linda worked incredibly hard there. Eventually, she also helped Lois at the Peaceable Kingdom. They had a mutual love of mysteries involving herbs such as the Cadfael TV series, and became close friends. She is dedicated to keeping things the way Lois wished, and my heart is now at peace knowing that Linda will keep the Peaceable Kingdom in good order. We can talk to Lois when we are there, and tell her *ALL IS WELL*.