
Program Schedule

September Program

Saturday, September 22nd, 2007 at 9:45 a.m.

LOCATION: Community Hall (Log Building)

First Avenue - across from County Courthouse, Sandpoint

“Plants, Fire, and Climate Change” will pack the Community Hall in September. **Sam Cushman**, research landscape ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, wowed the audience at the October, 2006 Wild Idaho North conference sponsored by ICL. His information on ecosystems and climate change was so powerful we knew we needed him to speak to our membership.

After receiving his BS in ecology from Evergreen State College, he went on to conduct research in the Russian Far East on forest fire and logging as drivers of landscape change, receiving his MS from Western Washington University. He earned his PhD at the University of Massachusetts by researching relationships between wildlife populations and habitat at multiple spatial scales. Since 2003 he has been working for the US Forest service on a variety of topics including climate change, forest ecosystem dynamics, wildlife habitat, population monitoring and adaptive management.

October Program

Saturday, October 27th, 2007 at 9:45 a.m.

LOCATION: Community Hall (Log Building)

First Avenue - across from County Courthouse, Sandpoint

“Rare Plants of the BLM’s Cottonwood Field Office”

LeAnn Abell, Botanist for BLM

LeAnn is a favorite of our members who have an interest in rare plants and field work, and she has served as a valuable resource to NPS members. An Idaho native and lover of the outdoors, LeAnn has worked with the BLM in Coeur d’Alene since 1992 and on the Cottonwood project since 1999. Because the 2008 Idaho Native Plant Society Annual Meeting will be held in North Idaho, LeAnn thought this discussion of rare plants in North Idaho would be particularly timely and interesting to our Chapter.

Activities

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 2nd Tuesday evening of the month. For more information contact Carol Jenkins at 265-9204.

Landscape Committee: Oct 3 and Nov 7 (weather permitting) for weed & mulching with the landscapers. Contact Eileen Atkisson with any inquiries at 263-3835.

These committees and their activities are open to all members.

FIELD TRIP

Sun. September 16, 2007: A Fall mushrooms field trip will be led by Larry Evans, noted Montana mycologist and botanist. Renowned for his knowledge of our area's many mushroom varieties and his wit in describing them, this trip promises to be a delight. Please go to www.fungaljungal.org for more information about Larry. Dress for the weather and walking in the woods; bring lunch and water. Co-sponsored by the Kinnikinnick Chapter and Friends of Scotchman Peaks, the trip heads out from the Scotchman Coffee House, 108 E. 4th (Highway 200) in Clark Fork at 9am. Sandpointers who want to carpool will gather at the Bonner Mall parking lot, the Cinema end, at 8am. Please contact Ann and Neil Wimberley to reserve a spot by calling 264-5379. You can also call 255-7336 to confirm you are coming.

Kinnikinnick Chapter of the INPS

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Sandpoint, ID 83864-1424

www.nativeplantsociety.org

Kinnikinnick Journals are also published on our website!



Committee Reports

SEE THE NEW HABITAT SIGNS AT THE ARBORETUM

Sylvia Chatburn, **Arboretum Committee** Chairwoman, installed the final habitat sign at a celebration on Friday, August 10. The ceremony was held to showcase the beautiful signs and to thank the many folks who made this dream a reality. Phil Hough, President of the Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society, welcomed the assembled guests and shared the vision and mission of our chapter. Lois Wythe, a founder of the Kinnikinnick Chapter, shared the history of the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum, recognizing the tremendous contributions of folks from rural areas as well as Sandpoint, in cooperation with the city and Bonner County Historical Museum, to establish the arboretum in Lakeview Park. Sylvia Chatburn recognized the large group of folks who donate their time and talent on an ongoing basis to continue the healthy growth and progress of the Arboretum as well as those who made this project possible. Specifically, the Idaho Community Foundation, through a grant, donated \$500 which purchased the metal signs and plywood backing. Nancy Low donated wood for the frames made by Sylvia. Arlis Harvey donated, cut and peeled gorgeous, cedar logs for the sign posts. Ken Haag did the heavy lifting and digging for all the post holes. The smiles and laughter of the volunteers spoke of their pride and excitement over this joint venture.



Local residents Richard and Donna Hutter (pictured at left) represented ICF. Richard is on the ICF board and presented information about the foundation and encouraged membership, which is

\$25 and supports worthy endeavors in Idaho. Donna is on the grant committee and helps determine grant recipients. It was an honor to have them share their enthusiasm for our project.

Sandpoint Mayor, Ray Miller, spoke to the group, expressing appreciation for the Arboretum and for the dedicated work of our volunteers. Janet



Benoit, President of the statewide Idaho Native Plant Society (pictured at left with Sylvia Chatburn), praised the accomplishments of our active chapter and advocated for the appreciation and protection of our native plants.

With cameras clicking and folks applauding, Sylvia assembled and installed the final sign. Come out to see the ten new habitat signs at the Arboretum. Three additional signs, still to be



placed at the Mickinick Trail, Lake Pend Oreille Trail, and WaterLife Discovery Center, all highlight the native plant landscaping

installed and maintained by our Landscape Committee. And, stay tuned! Sylvia and her crew have plans for future signage next year!

If you have ever been curious about the **Conservation Committee** meetings, this September's meeting is the one to attend! Phil Hough, committee member and chapter president, spent three days climbing, crawling, and sliding over the vastly changed landscape of the Lightening Creek drainage after last November's devastating flooding. Phil has fantastic photos of the road damage and dramatic changes to the drainage system. He will have up-to-date information from the Forest Service and thoughts about the future of the area. We will meet Tuesday, September 11, 6:30 pm, at Molly's house on Euclid. Guests and new members are heartily welcomed.

- Carol Jenkins, chair

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Message from the President

Phil Hough

Adaptation..... It's easy to think of native plants and their habitats as static, as something in a fixed, unchanging state. Our forests, our flowers will remain the same, and that conservation means keeping them in their current state. Of course, a study of ecology and botany reveals that plants are marvelously adept at adaptation. The sheer variety of plant species bespeaks the marvelous ways in which they find and exploit a niche. And as niches change, so to do the native plants which occupy them. Sometimes these changes evolve slowly and give rise to the large number of species variation in any family of flowers. The 30,000 species of orchid that have each found their own place on this planet are testimony to site-specific adaptation. Here in north Idaho we have our share of orchids, and we have a wide range of other plant communities. Many habitats and plants call our region home. We are at the crossroads of several ecosystems, reaping the rewards of biodiversity. Here, the maritime influence encounters the southern reaches of the boreal forest and overlaps with the northern Rockies. We celebrate such diversity! But, our overlapping ecosystems mean we could see change come more suddenly than in other regions.



Photo: Survival through Adaptation – This Grand Fir was turned over by last fall's floods so that the bottom of its needles faced up, but its roots and stem remained intact. This year's new growth adapted and faces the new "up" position.

Habitats are susceptible to very dramatic change, while species adaptation takes time to catch up. We are witnessing dramatic changes right now. Floods last November altered the stream channels, riparian zones, flood plains and surrounding soils of many local creeks. Lightning Creek, for example, received 18 inches of rain in a 4-day period raising the flow of that stream to **3 times** its previously recorded high! Many changes occurred throughout this watershed. Streams re-chanelized, old growth trees on the banks gave way to widened flood plains, boulders and river rock piled up

amongst those trees still standing. All these actions altered plant habitats and created new niches. In Sagle, water soaked soils and winds toppled dozens of old growth trees along the Mineral Point Trail, opening large patches of shaded forest to sunlight. The under story will change. Prolonged drought, low snow pack levels, and a hot, dry spring have brought stand replacing fires across Idaho and much of the west on a large scale. Some forests in their "climax" state will give way to the first order of succession. And, closer to home, on Lake Pend Oreille, Eurasian Watermilfoil, an aggressive weed, has muscled out native aquatic plants from 4,000 acres of the lake's littoral zone. Regardless of the type or cause, change is a dynamic part of our region's habitats.

These dramatic events have always been with us. But now, climate change holds the potential to increase the number, duration and scope of changes. Individual plants and communities will adapt, or perish. Some are survivors. Others are doomed to extinction on a local, regional or even global level. Still other plants that may have lived marginal existences will take advantage of new opportunities and thrive. Hopefully, as a society we will undertake serious enough *adaptations* ourselves that we can stem the most severe consequences of climate change. But, we must also remember that "destruction" is our pejorative view. One plant's destruction is another's opportunity. "Change" is all that nature knows. Plants don't care if that change is linked to global warming or if it's "natural" (much less whether the change is a "normal" occurrence or at the extreme end of a cycle.) Unfortunately, exotic, invasive species are often at the vanguard of dramatic changes, taking advantage of conditions newly adverse to native plants. We must allow the native landscape to adapt to changing conditions without added pressure from exotic species. And, along with the plants we, too, must adapt. We must lessen our own impact on the landscape. And we should remember that "damage" is nature's way of creating opportunity. We need to conserve, not just existing conditions, but conserve the opportunities for native plants to adapt by keeping them as free as possible from new invasive species. After all, like death and taxes, change is inevitable.

Committee Reports, continued

The **Hospitality Committee** would like to thank Carol Jenkins & Marilyn George for June's treats, and Mary Jo Haag who will be bringing treats in September. Summer's Saturday Bake Sales were both very successful! Approximately \$400 was raised for the benefit of the Arboretum. Thanks to those who brought goodies, bought goodies & helped out at the table.

- Linda Kirchmann, chair

The November 7 program of the **Landscape Committee** will be *Signs, Trails, Trials and Tales, Adventures with the Landscape Committee*.

- Eileen Atkisson, chair

Summer Presentation

"Native Plants and Butterflies"

Carol Mack, WSU Agriculture Extension Office Coordinator and June speaker, opened up doors for a lot of us to the wonderful world of these beautiful insects!

-- How they keep the tongue coiled up when not eating.....



-- How they "smell and feel" the taste of the "right" flower and plants for them to eat.....

-- Do you remember how she told us about the "pile of feces" - how they get the protein from there?

Every time I saw the butterflies on the pile after this introduction it made me happy for them to get their so much needed food.

-- Did you know that Monarchs stop to rest on the same bushes or trees year after year. If a long-used stopping place has been destroyed, hundreds of the butterflies will swarm around where it used to be. Amazingly this happens even if none of them has ever made the trip before. (source: Golden junior guide Butterflies and Moths)

-- Butterflies fly during the daylight; it's the moths that fly at night or in dim light.

-- Butterfly colors are usually bright and when they rest on a flower the wings are held straight up.

As a child I used to try to get the butterfly to land on my finger and it happened at times when I put it close to the flower where it was sitting resting - what a magic experience to happen. Most of the times though they flew away, because I was stressing them when they were getting their nectar from the flowers.

This summer I've seen a lot of Tiger Swallowtail around here, maybe because the summer was hot or maybe because my eyes were more eager to spot them -- Doesn't matter, they are absolutely beautiful and a delight to see "dancing through the air". I'm already looking forward to early summer next year when we can get out on a "butterfly field trip". Hopefully we can coordinate this with Carol Mack, and this would be a treat.

- Margareta Larson

Quote of the Month

"Let us a little permit Nature to take her own way; she better understands her own affairs than we." - Michel De Montaigne



Founder Lois Wythe speaks at the Arboretum.

Photo by Carol Jenkins