



Kinnikinnick Journal

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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, Sept 22

"Stateline Wetlands" Project

Chris Dixon, UI Environmental Science Professor

Saturday, Oct 27

Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Executive Director
"Priest Community Forest Connection"

Liz will talk about their organization and its programs.

Calendar of Events

Bake Sale

KNPS Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, September 29, at the Farmer's Market in Sandpoint. To volunteer to help at the booth, or to bring baked goods contact Vicky Johnson. 255-1908. Email. vickysnowbird@gmail.com

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

Conservation Committee members participated in the summer walking tour of the Forest Service's proposed Schweitzer fuels reduction project in the Sand Creek drainage, below the ski resort. Led by Forest Service personnel, the tour answered many questions. The proposed project has been substantially scaled back and there are no

concerns. KNPS very much appreciates its constructive working relationship with the Forest Service locally.

Thursday, October 4, at noon, the Conservation Committee will gather at Tango Cafe for a lunch time briefing by Shannon Williamson of Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeepers. Her organization has been monitoring water quality in the lake all summer and is pushing to have weevils used for control of Eurasian Water Milfoil. Their efforts may include litigation. Committee members will also discuss other topics of conservation interest. If you have questions, please contact Molly; conservation-at-nativeplantsociety.org; all society members are welcome.

Molly O'Reilly

Landscape Committee

Landscape Committee members ventured rurally to Dufort Road to the recently constructed home of Angela Rast and David Stroud for their first landscape consultation of the year. The Rast-Stroud property presented a 'clean slate' for the committee, in conjunction with the owners, to present landscape ideas for each section of the yard. Barbequed chicken was prepared while the committee drew up a landscape plan based upon notes and sketches taken during the consultation. A great lunch was then served.

In July the committee took on a different challenge at the Sevenich family home on Euclid in Sandpoint. The home had previously been landscaped and areas were in need of revision around a newly constructed artist's studio using native plants. The design included islands of flora surrounded by curved paths. They also needed planting suggestions to disassociate the yard from the street. A delightful lunch was then enjoyed by all.

Landscape committee consultations are available to any Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society members who would like landscape ideas. The committee welcomes the participation of any member interested in native plant landscaping. Prior knowledge is not necessary. The consultations are a learning experience for all.

Don Childress



Past Programs



May 26 John W. Schwandt, PhD, Forest Pathologist, USFS Northern Region, "*Whitebark Pine: A Pine in Peril*". Dr Schwandt covered the history and current status of Whitebark Pine, a candidate for Threatened and Endangered Species Status.

He reviewed the role that this tree plays as a keystone species and how it interacts in a dynamic process with Clark's Nutcrackers, Grizzly Bears, Pine bark Beetle and Blister rust as an important element of the subalpine environment. We got insights into how each of these species interacts and the changes that have occurred over the decades and in the face of climate change as well as the efforts to mitigate environmental distress from these changes.

June 23 Don Childress "*Landscaping with Native Plants*". Our scheduled speaker, Lauren Gonsalves, encountered transportation problems and Don filled in at the last minute with a great overview of Landscaping with Native Plants. Originally developed as a 2 hour class for the Master Gardiners, Don was able to "prune" back the slides and details to a condensed version, offering great practical tips and a comprehensive review of options from small plants to tall trees.

Arbor Day Celebration 2012

For the first time, KNPS and the Sandpoint Tree Committee partnered in planning the annual Arbor Day Celebration at the Arboretum in Lakeview Park. June 2nd was a rainy day (that's becoming a tradition) but community members braved the elements. Mayor Ogilvie read the Arbor

Day Proclamation and received the Tree City USA flag on behalf of the City of Sandpoint. Cedar Mountain Perennials had dozens of lovely plants for sale, KNPS members had baked goods and art for sale, Arboretum gardeners provided habitat tours, Plants of the Wild donated seedlings for distribution and Doug Toland and Ken Haag utilized tree cookies to offer information on everything from disease to weather and "all things about trees".

The week following the celebration, arboretum gardeners, Irv Jenkins and Gail Lyster provided tree tours for about 150 students from local schools. All in all, it was a fine experiment in doing something a new way. And it may just be the model for next year, as well! Let's offer heartfelt thanks to all of the KNPS volunteers and Tree Committee members who made this celebration possible.





President's Message

Gail Bolin

KNPS kicked off the summer with the celebration of Arbor Day and a Native Plant Sale in the Arboretum. The rain didn't dampen folk's enthusiasm for native plants. It was a banner day! The second edition of the book, "Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle" is now available in local book stores. A big *Thanks* goes out to the "Book Club" for all their hard work! The added pages of the second edition are now available on our web site www.nativeplantsociety.org for downloading and printing.

Our wonderfully dedicated hospitality hosts, Mary Jo and Ken Haag will step down after the September meeting. They have done a fantastic job in making sure we have coffee, tea and treats at our general meetings. Mary and Doug Toland have volunteered to take on these duties for the next year.

KNPS will host a bake sale at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, September 29. So, KNPS bakers get ready! Vicky Johnson will be coordinating the event. She can be reached at 255.1908.
Email: vickysnowbird@gmail.com.

As a reminder, our next general meeting will be Saturday, September, 22. Chris Dixon from the Environmental Science Program at the University of Idaho will talk about the restoration of a degraded, weed infested wetland and how it has blossomed into a wildlife park. See you there!

Plant ID Class by Bob Wilson

This spring twenty eager students gathered at the Waterlife Discovery Center to begin an in-depth 8-week course in plant identification. The course was offered jointly by the KNPS and Idaho Master Naturalists to their memberships. It was taught by three instructors familiar with the local flora -- Derek Antonelli, coordinator of the Pend Oreille chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalists, Jill Roche, a landscape designer and former USFS Botanist, and Bob Wilson, co-owner of Cedar Mountain Perennials.

The objective of the course was to go beyond learning the names of individual plants and begin to recognize family groupings. To do so required everyone to look at flowers in great detail and with a new perspective. Fresh flowers and preserved herbarium specimens were brought in each week for examination. Participants quickly mastered their new hand lenses and learned to differentiate stamens, pistils, and carpels. They were challenged each week with new families and vocabulary. Over twenty of our most common and diverse families were covered.



A field trip was scheduled for the final week to the new Pend Oreille Bay trail where we saw several members of the pine, honeysuckle, mustard, and grass families. A special treat was finding our native *Viburnum* -- the American cranberrybush in bloom. Overall, the course was very successful in providing the participants a few more identification tools and a better understanding of plant identification.



All Roads Lead to the Fair!

By Carol Jenkins

Once again KNPS members turned out to participate in our booth at the Bonner County Fair. Thanks to Sylvia Chatburn, Gail Bolin, Lorrie Stockwell, Molly O'Reilly, Vicky Johnson, Rae Charlton, Nancy and Dennis Reiger, Jackie Earle, Janice DeBaun, Mary Toland, Bob Wilson, Carol and Irv Jenkins, and Don Childress for sharing our passion for native plants with those stopping by with interest and questions. Special thanks to Bob Wilson for his blooming natives. This year we gladly shared our booth with the Master Naturalists which proved a good fit.

Pictured L to R: Carol Jenkins, Don Childress, Gail Bolin, Irv Jenkins



Member Profile, continued from page 6

Germany at the largest US base in Europe. Ramstein Air Base was where the remains of military and civilian personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan were transferred to prior to Dover Air Force Base for preparation. Hundreds were processed through. Theresa says this job was the most honorable she ever did. "The families will never know the care and respect the airmen at Ramstein provided for the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and civilians." The next stop was Texas, where she happily retired in 2009.

Knowing that she'd like to be near her parents, she returned to N. Idaho. And one day she saw our ad in the paper--the rest is history! She's grateful for the job, and has enjoyed working with volunteers, meeting interesting people, and learning new things every day. Always hungry for continuing education, she's loved learning more about native plants and how to use them in the landscape. (She also works for Bob and Jill Wilson at Cedar Mountain Perennials, which affords additional learning opportunities). "Leisure time" activities include working in the soup kitchen at her church, working in her flower garden, reading, and walking. The travel bug hasn't hit yet as she has packed enough bags for five lifetimes, but who knows?

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

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**Specializing in Native Plants
for Inland Northwest Gardens**

www.cedarmountainperennials.com

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Earth Wise

Native Plant Landscaping and Consulting

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The View from the Moist Montane by Marilyn McIntyre

Dew on the brambles delicately worn At sunrise; one clear drop on every thorn. -Buson

The 2' leader growth on the conifers describes the wet, lush summer we are having in the mountains of the "way North" Idaho Panhandle. The smokey haze in the mornings tells of the fires that surround us, but our fuel moistures remain high and the moisture on the ground and shrubs is helping to foster growth on all levels. The Robins, Grouse, Sparrows and Cedar Waxwings are finishing off the Huckleberries and Serviceberries while the Western Mountain Ash berries are still ripening. The gray jays and Steller's jays continue to prefer dry dog food to all else. Our family of 3 Rufous Hummingbirds will soon depart for their wintering grounds in southern Mexico and I can't help but wonder what they will encounter on the way: drought, smoke, fires, heat? The old Red Osier Dogwood by the front porch has lots of porcelain berries and at the same time is making fresh blossoms on the next branch over. And in a real demonstration of adaptation and cooperation, the small forest of ghostly Indian-pipe (see drawing at right) down in "cottonwood hollow" gets its nutrients from the roots of the surrounding red cedars and cottonwoods with the help of mycorrhizal fungi and is able to skip photosynthesis altogether.



The native plants I brought home from the Arbor Day Plant Sale at the Arboretum have done exceptionally well in spite of the 3" of snow and 30° F they received shortly after being planted in early June. (Our newly adopted dog from the shelter did remove one in her successful attack on a pocket gopher...Ah, trade-offs!) Thanks to Bob and Jill Wilson at Cedar Mountain Perennials for providing us with such healthy and strong specimens.

I am finding the KNPS book "Landscaping with Native Plants" to be a wonderful tool for educating our friends and neighbors about the value of native plants. Our dentist in Bonners Ferry is in the process of landscaping his office and was very excited about the book we gave him. In fact his whole office staff is interested too. In my mind, that is exactly what educating the community is about: giving more people the awareness of, and ability to participate in, maintaining the rich habitat and native bio-diversity that exists here. Meanwhile, back at our place, the "hack it back" phase of landscaping with native plants is in full swing.

PS When you are at the library, read the Wickbass article "A Love Letter to the Larch" in Orion Magazine, Sept-Oct issue.



Member Profile: *Say Hello to Theresa Reese* Article by Rae Charlton Photo by Marilyn George



This year marks the third summer Theresa has served as Arboretum Coordinator. She was enthusiastically welcomed back by all of us who garden there. Five days a week, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, she anchors the Arb. On any given morning, you might see her weeding, hauling hoses and sprinklers, raking paths, pruning, talking with gardeners, asking children on bikes to please stay on the paths, and/or answering questions from visitors. Some questions lead to informal tours, e.g., about using native plants in home landscapes. People often want to know the names of plants. Theresa reports that more than one person has spotted the luxuriant berries on the Oregon Grape and asked if they were huckleberries!

We are especially fortunate to have her back this year, because when she's been in a place for three years, it feels like it's time to move along...This comes from growing up in a military family. Theresa was born in Biloxi, Mississippi. Ten days later, she was in a box on the front seat of the car, as the family headed to Otis Air Force base in Massachusetts, by way of the Southwest and Canada! Her parents had met in the Marines (her mom's parents served in the Army during WWI and her uncles served in WWII,

including a jump onto Normandy Beach on D-Day) and some years later her Dad transferred to the Air Force. Her parents loved to travel. She remembers that a two week leave began at midnight, so that's when they left home, seeing much of the US and Canada. When her Dad retired from the AF in 1967, they decided to move to N. Idaho (both parents had spent time in the area). They moved to Coeur d'Alene, then to acreage outside of the town of Rose Lake. When her Dad was hired by the state, they moved to Boise. Theresa graduated from Bishop Kelly High School there.

It had always been understood that when she turned eighteen, she'd be independent and free to go. She and her sister moved to San Diego for the summer. Realizing that the G.I. Bill would be a great help with school expenses, she joined the Air Force. She worked with the security police for four years, but really wanted to be in the medical field. Tours and assignments took her to Guam and Korea (where she visited an aunt and uncle). Meanwhile, her parents moved to Sagle. So when Theresa got out of the Air Force she came back here. Next came a move to Spokane, where she joined an Army Reserve unit and became a medic. They paid for training to become a L.P.N., and eventually she earned her R.N. degree. She moved to Portland, working in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Emmanuel Hospital. She loved the work there, and found she could talk openly with dying children and help them (and their parents) face what was happening. Several years later she took a commission and went on active duty and was stationed in Virginia. During the Gulf War, she was in Saudi Arabia, working as a nurse in a field hospital. Daytime temperatures could reach 130 degrees, with 80-90% humidity, which took a heavy toll on personnel. She was relieved when her three years were up.

After an enjoyable break from the military in Wyoming and South Dakota working in Pediatrics, Theresa returned to the Air Force (age 40) to boost her retirement, and wound up living in a small town in N. Dakota (pop. 70) near Grand Forks Air Force Base. Because she wanted more schooling, she applied for the Pediatric Practitioner course, but then the Nurse Corps was cut by half. So she cross-trained, joined the Force Support Squadron and led the Combat Support Flight, which required learning many new jobs, supervising hundreds and being responsible for multimillion dollar budgets and facilities. By 2001, she was in Alaska, and after 9/11, "everything changed." She was deployed to Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Qatar, and Afghanistan (where she was an embedded trainer with the Afghan National Army training them in logistics). She also spent two years in

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