



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XVI Number 4

Sep/Oct 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, Sep 28

Ed Robinson, Area Manager of the Idaho Department of Lands Pend Oreille Supervisory Area Office

*"From Main Street
to Mountain Top"*

This meeting will be the final opportunity to order KNPS t-shirts and sweat shirts. Stock up now for cooler weather ahead or for gifts.

Saturday, Oct 26

Nan C. Vance, PhD, former research plant physiologist at the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station

*"Flowers of the Intermountain West
and their Insect Visitors"*

For Your Calendars

GET READY! SET! GO!

Fall **FUN-DRAISING** is ready and set to go.

Now it's time for you to get ready and set to help make our next two events the best yet.

Mark your calendar and start inviting all your friends to join us. The more the merrier and the more we'll add to our treasury.

Thursday, October 10

11 am to 9 pm

Dine Out for A Cause

@ Little Olive Restaurant

Serving wonderful fresh, home-made, Greek inspired dishes. Located at 124 S. 2nd Ave (across from the LiteHouse Bleu Cheese Factory Store.) 25% of all food tickets for the entire day will be donated to KNPS. There will be brochures and an information table to spread the word about our great organization.

Tuesday, November 19

5 pm to 8 pm

Sip and Shop

@ Pend d'Oreille Winery

The winery will donate up to a case of their Bistro Rouge to be sold by the glass. All proceeds from the sale of the Bistro Rouge will be donated to KNPS. There will also be a silent auction. It will be a perfect evening to enjoy friends and think about holiday wine and gifts.

If you have the opportunity, please thank The Little Olive and Pend d'Oreille Winery for generously providing these opportunities for KNPS.

Questions? Call Cheryl McKee 208 265 4191



Committee Reports

Arboretum News

Twelve gardeners and one coordinator have kept the arboretum looking good all summer. Our coordinator this year was Randin Miller, a forestry student from the high school. He did a good job for us, but after two months, he was offered a full time job working for his dad so we lost him.

We have two new areas that we plan to plant to flowers in September. We are working to keep the weeds out of those areas before we plant.

Ken Haag has been putting together a plan for a kiosk at the edge of the Riparian Habitat in front of the cabin. We are planning to get that erected this fall. He also installed an irrigation system for the Interior Rain Forest which has made watering that area much more efficient.

In the first part of October we will be putting the arboretum to bed for the winter.

Sylvia Chatburn

Conservation Committee

Conservation Committee members spent their summers outside, with many assisting the Forest Service and Friends of Scotchman Peak Wilderness with the weed surveys and white bark pine surveys for the Treasured Landscape project in the Lightning Creek Watershed. The National Forest Foundation (NFF) has named Lightning Creek drainage as one of 14 "Treasured Landscapes" across the nation. Through this program, the NFF is bringing together community participation to support the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF) in restoration, recreational access and educational efforts over the next several years.

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society joined other community partners to supply volunteers for two exciting restoration stewardship projects this summer coordinated by the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Volunteers went through intensive training in weed identification and survey techniques as well as botanical training for high alpine and wetland rare plant identification and White bark Pine survey techniques. Information gathered will be used for planning weed control and monitoring as well as White bark Pine restoration activities, which will continue for the next several years.

Submitted by Molly O'Reilly and Phil Hough



L to R
Kate Walker, Jim
Dubuisson, Jennifer Costich
Thompson, Richard Merkle,
Kristen Nowicki, Phil Hough



Committee Reports

Landscaping Committee

Mickinnick Trailhead landscaping is healthy and lush. We did some remediation on our Kinnikinnick. St John's Wort showed up for the first time and we noted its presence on the trail as well. We'll close down in October. We'll need some extra people on our maintenance crew next spring.

Our three landscaping consultations were very successful and great fun. In May, we went to Molly O'Reilly's and Steve Lockwood's new home. With berries, fruit trees and raised vegetable gardens already in place, they gave us the rest of their space to go native. They also gave us a map and we proceeded to walk and talk. By noon, the map was full with the combined knowledge of hosts and consultants. We already look forward to a future visit.

In July, a big group went far out to Lexie de Fremery's. Original landscaping existed and she wanted to bring in more native plants to that area. She already had lots of nearby natives so that she had a good start on her project.

August brought us to Vicky Johnson's for a revisit. Although she had completed a large part of her original plan, she had lots of questions. We all enjoyed complimenting her on the amount and quality of her plants.

All four hosts thanked us copiously and we have three requests right now for next season.

I thank the twelve volunteers for their outstanding service.

Eileen Atkisson





Past Programs

May 25

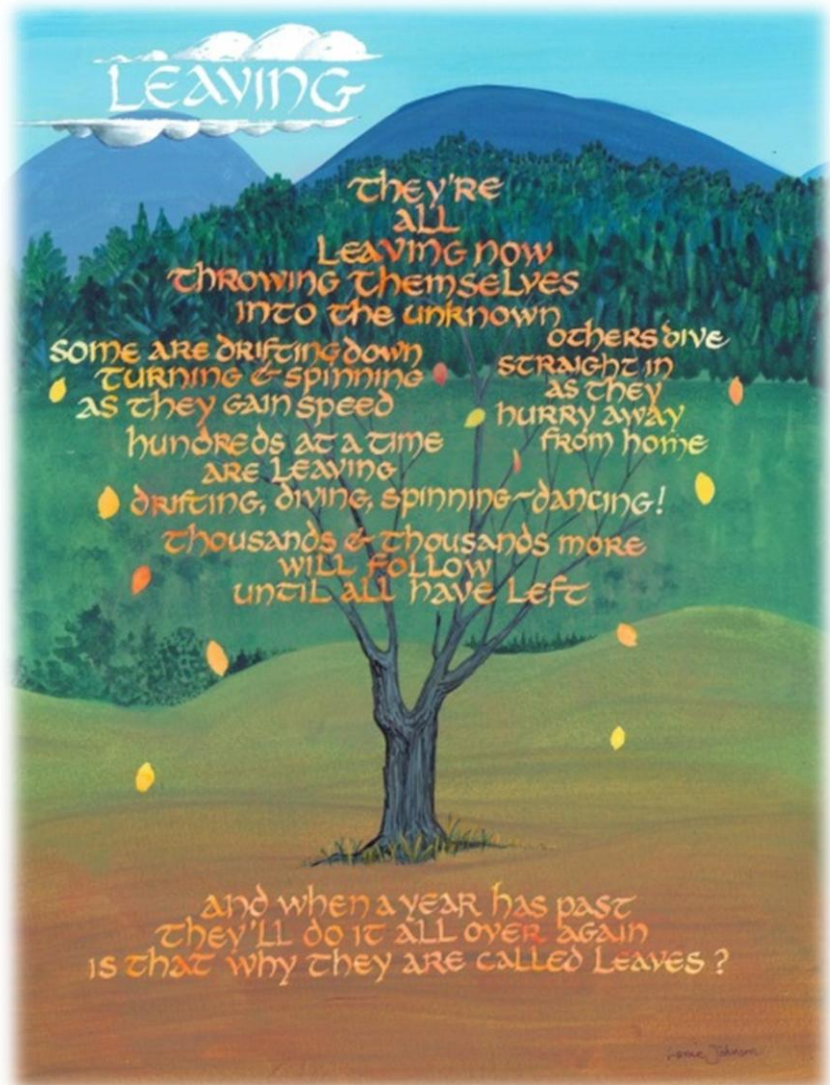
District Ranger **Erick Walker** of the Sandpoint Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, presented an overview of the Treasured Landscapes initiative, why the Lightning Creek watershed was chosen to participate, and outlined the plan for the project. Erick explained that the National Forest Foundation, the non-profit partner of the USFS that was chartered by Congress in 1991, will lead the Treasured Landscapes effort. The goal is to leverage public and private resources to accelerate restoration and strengthen the public's connection to our national forests. There are 14 sites nationally and Lightning Creek is the only one in Idaho. Lightning Creek was selected in a competitive process because it is an iconic landscape, has a history of flooding, implementation of the 2008 watershed restoration plan is already underway, community collaboration exists and there is a high potential for public involvement. The plan for 2013-2014 includes prescribed burns, white bark pine planting, decommissioning roads, trail construction, native and rare plant surveys, noxious weed surveys and treatment, snowmobile warming hut, riparian vegetation planting and large woody debris installation. KNPS is among the community partner organizations for the project. The USFS has scheduled training sessions to build a corps of volunteers to help with the Treasured Landscapes initiative and beyond.

June 22

Ken Thacker, former BLM representative, spoke on "Noxious Weeds—More Than Just Plants Out of Place." A weed was defined as a plant, usually of vigorous growth, that is not valued where it is growing. Noxious weeds are designated by states and require control by law. There are 64 species named in Idaho as noxious weeds. Ken described various types of weed control (cultural,

mechanical, biological, and chemical) and recommended integrated weed management using the best combination of available controls. His take-home message was noxious weed infestations need to be taken seriously and managed. There are many alternatives available and chemical control is part of the solution.

In Celebration of the Fall Season



Submitted by **Lanie Johnson**
Kinnikinnick Member



From the Moist Montane

Story and Artwork by Marilyn McIntyre



It's a jungle out there...

so I shouldn't have been surprised to see a Douglas squirrel run down a Western Red Cedar by the pond, through an opening to a spruce, steal a robin hatchling from the nest and carry it back up the cedar.

By that time the robin parents and my dogs had sprung into action but to no avail. That cute little red squirrel is not a vegan, and neither was the carnivorous yellow jacket that attacked the bumblebee in the Red Osier dogwood. I have been amazed at the sheer volume of bees, wasps, hornets, butterflies, moths and birds this summer.

Is it all due to the voluptuous flowering and fruiting of all of the native plants, the periodic hot spells interspersed with rain or the fact that the thermometer never dipped below 0° F this past winter? All I know for sure is that my freezer is full of berries that will taste great this winter even if it gets really cold.

And, in the arena of gratitude, we are free from the smoke that engulfs much of the North American Continent and the wildfire that is ripping through Idaho mountains further south. Oh yes, and the floods in Las Vegas....

Well, now I know it is a jungle out there! Before closing this story I decided to take a short walk with my dogs and moments into the walk I was nailed in the eyelid by a yellow jacket and have it swelling now.

Business Sponsor

CEDAR MOUNTAIN PERENNIALS

Specializing in Native Perennials for Inland Northwest Gardens

Visit us at:

- The Kootenai County Farmers Market in Hayden
- The Sandpoint Farmers Market in Farmin Park
- The Nursery by Appointment

7875 E. Highway 54, Athol (208) 683-2387
www.cedarmountainperennials.com





Photo: Marilyn George

Article: Rae Charlton



Member Profile:
Cheryl McKee
Fund-raiser Extraordinaire

When I notified Cheryl that she was the next “Profile”, she said that she’d try to come up with some “interesting bits” for the interview, which was scheduled right after our shift at the Arboretum. Around 11:00 a.m., we were standing outside the log cabin when she suddenly cried “Look! There’s a kitten in there!” And out of the darkness came a small Tiger kitten that made a beeline for Cheryl and curled up in her arms. We figured it had been trapped inside for at least three days, so water and food were the first priority. Then Cheryl went door-to-door in the neighborhood but had no success finding the owner. After great debate, she decided to take it to her vet, who would make sure it was ok, and find it a good home. Relieved, she drove to Yoke’s. Loading groceries into her car, she heard a frog, but couldn’t find it. As she was driving across the Long Bridge the frog suddenly threw itself against the windshield, trying to get out. It kept repeating that performance until she could stop the car and usher it out. What was that about “interesting bits”?

Cheryl was born in Pocatello but her family soon moved to the Willamette valley (her great, great grandparents were Oregon pioneers who arrived by wagon train). Then they moved to Spokane, where she finished high school. College years were in Bellingham, at Western Washington University, where she met and married fellow student Kirby. She majored in Speech Pathology and Education. After college they lived in New York briefly, where she taught, then returned to Spokane.

She worked in Speech Therapy for four years, but then stayed home for fifteen years, raising their two sons. Wanting to return to teaching, she earned her Master’s in Education (Supervision, Curriculum, and Instruction) at Gonzaga. She went on to teach for twenty years (mainly second grade) in the Cheney school system.

When it came time to consider retirement, Sandpoint was a natural choice. Her Dad, after doing great research on lakes, had decided to build a family cabin here, back in 1973. Many happy weekends and summer vacations had been spent in it. In 2002, Cheryl and Kirby bought a 600 sq. ft. log cabin nearby, with a gorgeous lake view. The downsizing wasn’t too bad, she said, but the lack of closets was trying! So eventually they did a major remodel, adding a second floor with bedroom and bath, and closets.

Cheryl joined KNPS about five years ago, wanting to learn about native flora and to begin connecting with the community. She’d always been a fund-raiser in other organizations and was relieved NOT to have to do that, she confided. But natural talent and organizational skills will out, and she’s done a masterful job of just that—think, for example, of our handsome t-shirts.

She is also a Master Naturalist, part of the first class. A life-long learner, passionate about the causes she believes in and willing to work for them, and a great reader, Cheryl is way more than just “interesting”!