



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 26, 2015

Dr Greg Gordon

Asst. Professor Environmental Studies, Gonzaga U.

When Money Grew on Trees: How Industrial Capitalism Transformed the Ecology of Western Forests

Saturday, Oct 24, 2015

Bob Wilson

Co-Owner Cedar Mountain Perennials

Native Plant Propagation—Unlocking Nature's Secrets

May Program Summary

On Saturday, May 23, 2015, Phil Hough, Executive Director of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW), provided an update on the organization's efforts to attain wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks area. FSPW recently celebrated its 10 year anniversary and now has 5300 supporters and over 2000 Facebook friends. The group continues to have an active summer and winter hike series, and over the last few years has expanded its efforts to include stewardship and educational programs. The stewardship programs have engaged volunteers in both summer and winter activities, and many of these programs are supported through partnership agreements that FSPW has made with both the U.S. Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). Last summer saw the completion of a multi-year project to construct 3 miles of new trail going up Star Peak, and the group has done work on several other trails within the proposed wilderness to clear brush and improve trail tread. The group has also been actively engaged with the

Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation on projects in the Lightning Creek area that include conducting weed surveys and white bark pine restoration. For several winters, FSPW assisted IDFG with collecting data as part of a rare forest carnivore study. Most recently, FSPW has been conducting educational programs aimed at engaging youth, which have included a series of community kid's hikes and a winter tracks program that got students from several local schools out in the woods to spend a day setting up wildlife cameras and learning about wildlife and habitats. Other educational programs have included naturalist led classes for both kids and adults, and a continuing focus on educating hikers about mountain goats.

Another milestone this past year was the opening of an office in Libby, MT in conjunction with the Montana Wilderness Association in order to further advocacy efforts in Lincoln County, MT. FSPW has been sponsoring a series of community prosperity forums in Lincoln County and is encouraged by new county commissioners who seem to be more open to the idea of wilderness.

Recent developments have included the release of the long-awaited forest plan in January, which included strong support for wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks area. Since then, FSPW has received a number of key endorse-

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Committee Reports

Arboretum News

The Arboretum is doing well in spite of the hot weather. The gardeners have done a great job of keeping the weeds down. We have been using pine needles as a mulch for weed control and moisture retention.

We are in the process of preparing some more of the Aspen Grove for planting in September. We are trying to get more plants that bloom to add color. The asters are putting on a pretty show right now.

Linda Kirchmann, our paid coordinator, has done a fantastic job of keeping all the areas looking good. Bill Lamson has been re-working the paths so they are more defined. Bruce Vogelsinger has been making some really good compost. The other gardeners that have been working hard are Joyce Pence, Konrad Dahlstrom, Ken and Mary Jo Haag, Mary Toland, Rae Charlton, Jackie Earl, Cheryl McKee and Theresa Reese. We added a new gardener, Sue Gervais. She is a neighbor of the Arboretum and enjoys walking through it with her dog. Submitted by Sylvia Chatburn

Conservation Committee

The Boulder-White Clouds was declared a Wilderness this summer. Yea!! In addition to being outstanding for all of Idaho and close to home, that action clears the way for the Idaho delegation to propose Wilderness status for the Scotchman Peaks. Stay tuned; the Friends and we hope this will move forward in a timely way.

This hot and dry summer, wildland fires have distressed us all. It makes it hard to remember that our forests evolved with fire. The ones this summer are larger and fiercer than many historically; we will be watching recovery. Jim Dubuisson attended a recent conference initiated by WSU for fire managers and stakeholders. Jim reported that, "All recognized this as a fire prone environment and that planting and landscaping should be done with this in mind. All recognized the immediate need after a fire for stream and slope stabilization."

A number of KNPS members worked with IFG restoring the Clark Fork Delta early this summer. A recent article in the Spokesman made it clear this is both an outstanding and historically large effort to regain ground lost to operating a dam.

At the suggestion of the Conservation Committee, the KNPS board voted to affiliate with the Native Plant Conservation Campaign. The Native Plant Conservation Campaign (NPCC) is a national network of **affiliate native plant societies, botanical gardens, and other plant conservation organizations**. They collaborate to exchange information and create a strong national voice to advocate for native plant species and community conservation. The Conservation Committee gathers occasionally to hear from experts, discuss important topics, etc. If you'd like to join us, please email Molly at conservation@nativeplantsociety.org.

Landscape Committee

The landscaping committee completed four different landscaping projects this year. Our first was an evaluation and plant identification at Southside School. There is a nature trail on the east side of the school complete with a wonderful shelter. We needed the shelter for protection from an afternoon rain/sleet storm. Our second evaluation was on a new construction off of Sagle road. The property already has some nice vegetation and only needs weed removal, tree thinning and some additional shrubs and ground cover plants. For our third consultation we examined at large property along Route 2 east of Dover. There we determined that the site could be enhanced with additional shrubs, ground cover and trees. The owner plans to enhance the entry driveway and the areas around the buildings. Our fourth and last evaluation of the season was a property along Lakeshore Drive that has an existing cottage that will have additional construction in the very near future. It has a steep bank leading to the lake that requires soil stabilization and plantings to enhance the bank. Additional plantings along the border of the neighboring property and some ground cover on a rock wall will complete the project.

Thanks to Bob and Jill, Sylvia, Gail, Vicky, Eileen and Nancy for all their help. Submitted by Dennis Rieger.

JUNE PROGRAM SUMMARY

On Saturday, June 27, 2015, Katherine Cousins updated us on the Clark Fork Delta Restoration Project (CFDRP). Katherine is the Mitigation Staff Biologist in the Wildlife Bureau of Idaho Fish and Game. She noted the tremendous contribution from her colleague, Kate Walker, the participation of the various agencies, the support of organizations such as KNPS, Idaho Conservation League and the Master Naturalists, and the help from many volunteers. The Clark Fork mitigation settlement with Avista involves 27 stakeholders!

Stakeholders not involved in the planning include the many species whose habitat is threatened by erosion loss of 12-15 acres per year since the Albeni Falls dam was built. The mitigation project directly addresses the dam and began with phase 1, accessed from Highway 200. The mild 2014-2015 winter proved to be the biggest challenge, as planning execution depended on ground remaining frozen. Instead, spring broke in February 2015, which made crossings soft.

As a result, 1,837 pounds of hydro seeding were applied onto only 40 acres instead of the 80 acres originally planned. The overage will help mitigate drought, the other major challenge. The last plant was put into the ground on June 18. Reed Canary Grass was burned and spot sprayed. The nearly 100,000 plantings if still green in 2016 will be living testimony to the project's success. It is hoped that the Kalispell Tribe can do some planting of traditional native plants. The integrity of the delta holds spiritual value for the tribes.

Preliminary numbers of plantings from phase 1 are staggering. For instance, on the 1/4-mile long SW peninsula, 19,000 native woody plants comprised of 27 species were planted. In the fall, the vegetation team will inventory and assess plantings. Other monitoring, such as multi-species baseline surveys and soil sampling will be done. In conjunction with terrestrial screening, LiDAR photography will track erosion and seedling establishment.

The CFDRP is a long-term project. Phase 1, area 3 sections and banks of area 7 need completion. To implement Phase 2, as Katherine will recommend, will require up to \$7 million in funding. For more information, see the website, www.clarkforkdelta.org.



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ments. On March 26th, the Bonner County Commissioners passed a resolution in support of wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks that specifically asked the Idaho congressional delegation to take action. The chamber of commerce has also added a letter of support, and recent editorials in support of wilderness designation have appeared in the Missoulian, the Spokesman Review, and the Bonner County Daily Bee. Most recently Phil, along with Brad Smith of the Idaho Conservation League and Kate McAlister from the Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce, traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the Scotchman Peaks. While there, they met with the entire Idaho and Montana congressional delegations and/or their staff, and were particularly encouraged by the positive response they received from Idaho Senator Jim Risch. The Senator made some very encouraging remarks regarding the Scotchman Peaks at the close of a committee hearing on the Boulder White Clouds, which Phil and Brad attended. Phil returned from Washington feeling very encouraged and upbeat about the prospects for wilderness designation. FSPW has a busy summer planned. In addition to continuing to press forward towards a wilderness proposal, the group has a full slate of summer hikes and will also be out in the field every Friday throughout the summer. These field days will include a variety of projects, including kid's hikes, trail work, and educational programs. One key project this summer is that the group will commence work on re-doing the first 1/2 mile of the Scotchman Peak Trail in order to make this section less steep.

Member Profile: Marilyn McIntyre

Article and Photo by Mark Stockwell

Marilyn McIntyre had just returned from her time-honored annual women's gathering when we met for coffee one morning earlier this summer. Somehow, I envisioned a pow wow of tribal matriarchs gathered annually, in beaded splendor, to keep peace among nations and maintain the fragile balance between womankind and the natural world....or, maybe, just a group of old friends drinking and laughing around a campfire, swapping jokes about how many men it takes to screw in lightbulbs. Regardless of their motivations, the bonds that keep Marilyn and her artistic comrades returning each year says a lot about her philosophy of life and commitment to friends.

Marilyn is descended from proud, Scottish ancestry, and she's traced her lineage from both nobility and peasants who immigrated to Canada in 1830. Her grandfather joined an Oregon Trail cattle drive to Fort Laramie and later sought gold near Deadwood, SD, before arriving in Pasadena in 1900. Marilyn's unique perception of the world started early. She spent a "free range childhood" exploring the San Gabriel and Sierra Nevada mountains on foot and horseback. Her love of nature was encouraged by her dad who supported the family as a horse trainer/rancher/orchardist while Marilyn was raised in Southern California. Her love of art began early,

as her mother, an excellent violinist, taught her a love of music even before she was born.

After graduating from high school, Marilyn worked her way through college in the 1960s. Periodically in those years, she'd explored the world backpacking in Central America and Belize, and ski bumming in Utah. In 1971, marches against the Vietnam War were peaking, *Bridge Over Troubled Water* topped the charts, two towering buildings named the World Trade Center were completed in New York, and Marilyn graduated with a BA in fine arts from Hayward State University. She taught developmentally disabled children in Oakland for 2 years before moving to Switzerland to train horses and teach riding lessons at a castle near Fribourg and study art in Bern. In 1976, she returned to California and began teaching Farm and Garden skills at the John Woolman School, a Quaker boarding school in Nevada City.

In 1980, Marilyn traveled north with a tree planting crew, ending up in Bonners Ferry and staying with old Bay Area friends. Soon afterward she purchased "her place", a remote and idyllic property nestled between Grouse and Strawberry Creeks, northeast of Sandpoint. From 1982 through 1986, while building her cabin, she worked for the US Forest Service completing timber stand inventories, mostly in northwest Montana. In 1987, she began working for the Idaho Dept. of Lands in timber and fire management. During her career she served on incident management teams in Idaho and Montana as a Resource Unit Leader. The firestorms here in 1991 and in Montana in 2000 stand out in her memory - bounding from fire to fire working 16 hour shifts while attempting to sleep bedded in knapweed fields to the drone of generators on 80° days.

Creativity is like a muscle needing exercise and Marilyn stays well-toned. Painting, sculpting, gardening, music, writing and creative philosophy seem more a lifestyle than hobbies for her. A talented and true artist, she's not really concerned if her work hangs on a wall in the Louvre or a door on a fridge. Her satisfaction seems to come from her acts of expression, as much as the products - methods to live life in the moment and find contentment. Currently, she is happily married to JD and living her dream as an artist, gardener, and "lover of wild nature." With her energetic association with KNPS, Marilyn currently writes and illustrates *A Voice From the Moist Montane*, a column in our newsletter. She's also designed our organization's logo and produces artwork and greeting cards for fundraising sales. Additionally, she participates in the Friends of Scotchman Peaks annual Plein Air Paint out.



A Voice From the Moist Montane

Story and Picture by Marilyn McIntyre

As I walk around in what was once the Moist Montane Forest, it is with a lump in my throat. The Western Red Cedars have been performing their typical fall needle shed since early August, and many have turned red-orange on over half of their foliage. The pines and hemlocks are dropping their needles from the center out. It is easy to see which groups of trees and shrubs still have their roots in the underground streams, from which we also get our water, and those that don't. We are keeping a watered green perimeter around the cabin, but outside of that it is extremely dry. Even the beaver ponds out back are dry as a bone. It is clear from looking at all of the native plants, that nature has a way of adapting rapidly to drought. The huckleberries are red leaved and shriveled and the red osier dogwood is turning red as if it were late fall. Cottonwoods, aspens and maples are all turning prematurely yellow. Ferns are also all turning early.

When I spoke with other KNPS members at the BBQ on Sunday the 4 most commonly used words were: smoke, dry, fires and water. Grouse Creek is so low that those who live along its shores are praying for a good, recharging rain - soon. As retired wildland fire fighters, we are trying to plan ahead enough to have made some fundamental decisions about such basics as will we leave or stay? If we leave, what will we take? We always carry tools in the car and don't leave home at the same time anymore. We are also staying in touch with the Bonner County emergency services to get announcements via email or text. As with all of you, staying indoors out of the smoke as much as possible is another goal, but it gets difficult when the gardens need watering and critters need care.

Kudos to the Master Naturalists like Gail and Jimmy Bolin and Cheryl and Kirby McKee for the transformation they have brought about at the Waterlife Discovery Center, supported all of the way by Derek Antonelli of Idaho Fish and Game and Idaho Native Plant Society Calypso Chapter. Since we share many members in common it was particularly nice to have our BBQ there.



Holiday Day Card Committee

Holiday season greeting cards will be available this year for members who may be interested. Winter scenes and native plants, provided by Marilyn and Marilyn, have been selected by the Holiday Card Committee. Cards will be available for viewing at the Sept. general membership program. Members will be allowed to order in advance at that time, or may order online by contacting Marilyn George at iluv2photo@gmail.com. Cards will cost \$2.00 each or 10/\$15. Please feel free to order them in sets.

David Stroud



Second Annual KNPS Barbeque

Another grand end-of-summer picnic was enjoyed by around forty members, who gathered at the Waterlife Discovery Center on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 23. Special thanks to Gail Bolin, for once again spearheading the effort and reserving the space. Jan Geren helped organize efforts, including set up and clean up. And Phil Hough, our chef, gladly took on the task of grill master, on his birthday!



A special treat for all of us was touring the greatly improved site, both indoors and out, in large part due to the vision and hard work of Cheryl and Kirby McKee (who are also Master Naturalists). The main building has been transformed into an inviting, educational space, with fascinating historical detail (even a cabin!). Marilyn McIntyre contributed a Naturalist's Log Book that is a stunning work of art. Many thanks to all the good folks who contributed to a delightful event

