



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XII Number 3

May / Jun 2009

Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society / Sandpoint, Idaho

Be Sure to Attend our Native Plant Sale!!

Saturday May 16 Nine to Noon

Details on Page 5

Upcoming Program Schedule

Presentations sponsored by

Native Plant Society and Sandpoint Parks and Recreation

Location unless otherwise specified: Community Hall, First Ave, Sandpoint (across from County Courthouse)

Special May Program

Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 5:45 p.m.

"Rethinking Fire and Forest Health"

George Wuerthner is a famed ecologist, photographer, and writer who has published 34 books including *North Idaho Lake Country*, *Idaho Mountain Ranges*, and *Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*. He studied wildlife biology and botany at U. of Montana, and did graduate work at Montana State University (Range Science), U. of California Santa Cruz (Science Communication), and U. of Oregon (Geography). Specializing in public lands issues, Wuerthner has visited every national forest in the West, all of the national parks, preserves and major wildlife refuges in Alaska, plus 180 national park units, and more than 381 wilderness areas across the country.

May Program... and Field Trip!!

Saturday, May 23, 9:45 a.m.

Please vote at this meeting, or by absentee ballot prior to this meeting, on separation from INPS.

"How to Photograph and Sketch Native Plants" Jerry Pavia and Tim Cady have illustrated numerous magazine articles and books. Jerry has 113 books to his credit and Tim's first, *Northern Idaho Impressions*, came out in January. Marilyn McIntyre, artist and nature journalist, who formerly worked for the Idaho Department of Lands, lives in the riparian habitat along Grouse Creek. Discover how to document experiences in wild nature through drawing and painting and how to use a "nature journal" to study the local flora and fauna in their various habitats. After the presentation there will be a field trip to the Arboretum, where Marilyn George will demonstrate plant photography techniques and Marilyn McIntyre will illustrate sketching of native plants. Bring your camera and sketch pad.

June 20 Program (Rescheduled from June 27)

Saturday, June 20, 2009, 9:45 a.m.

Don Childress, NPS Member

"Landscaping with Native Plants: A Practical Example"

September Program

Saturday, September 26, 9:45 a.m.

Art Zack, Idaho Dept. of Forestry

"How Wildfires, Historical and Present, Have Shaped Our North Idaho Forests"

Other Events

May 6: Mickinnick Trail maintenance starts. Need help May through October. (Pg 4 – Landscape Comm.)

May 12 & June 10: Native Plant Landscape Consultations (Pg 4 – Landscape Comm.)

May 16, Saturday, 9-12 noon: First Annual Native Plant Sale. See ad on Pg 5.

June 6, Saturday, 9-1: National Trails Day on lawn of Pend Oreille Winery, with Pend Oreille Bay Trail Walk at 1 p.m.

June 6, Saturday, 11-5: Dover Home and Garden Show. Visit our booth.

June 26-28: Annual State Meeting and Campout.



2009 Field Trips

Kinnikinnick Chapter Field Trips:

May 2, Saturday, 9 a.m. Denton Road with Joyce Pence, between Hope and Clark Fork. *Native Plant Appreciation Week.* Carpool leaves from Bonner County Courthouse parking lot across 1st from Community Hall.

May 8, Friday, 9 a.m. Cancelled....Flowers late, roads in poor shape.

May 23, Saturday, 12:30 p.m. N. Idaho Native Plant Arboretum, Lakeview Park, Sandpoint. 1/2 day (after NPS meeting at Community Hall).

May 29, Friday, 10 a.m. Mickinnick Trail. Meet at trailhead.

June 6, Saturday, 1 p.m. Pend Oreille Bay Trail. *National Trails Day.* Meet at trailhead.

June 13, 9 a.m. Mineral Point with Jennifer Costich-Thompson, FS botanist. Leave 9 a.m. from carpool location at Sagle Conoco/Travel America, north end.

Join a carpool whenever possible, as parking at our destinations can be limited. Carpools will LEAVE at stated times; please be early. Dress for the weather and conditions. Bring: water, snacks/lunch, native plant field guides, hand lens, etc. If weather is truly awful we may reschedule. The chapter email list will be used for this, or I will call those who let me know they plan to come. Be sure we have your updated email. If you would like a telephone call, please let me know.

Molly O'Reilly (255-7336) & Marilyn McIntyre

Calypso Chapter Field Trips Welcome Us:

Sunday, June 14, 9:30 a.m. Marie Creek. Meet at Walgreens in Coeur d'Alene to carpool.

Sunday, July 12, 8:30 a.m. Mt. Spokane State Park. Meet at Walgreens in Coeur d'Alene at 8:30 a.m. or the Mt. Spokane Christian Center at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 22, 7:00 a.m. Roman Nose Lake. Meet at Walgreens to carpool or meet at the lake at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you Kiwanis!

On April 17, Sylvia Chatburn and Carol Jenkins presented a program to Kiwanis about our chapter, programs and activities, and our wonderful Arboretum. It was delightful to speak to another dedicated service organization.

Wildflowers and Wildfires of the Continental Divide Trail

Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker's presentation and Q&A on their hike on the northern CDT last summer included photos showing fire effects and regeneration, plus gorgeous landscape, wildflower, and wildlife scenes. Attendees got info on trail life and a look at one of their two-man tents, set up at the back of the hall, plus other gear they brought. With nearly 70 people attending, this presentation was a joint fundraiser for FSPW and the Native Plant Society.



Message from the President

Carol Jenkins

In April our board adopted a series of motions regarding the question of whether or not our chapter should continue to affiliate with the Idaho Native Plant Society. The board unanimously voted to place this question before our membership at our May 23rd meeting for approval. If approved, the separation would be effective as of January 1, 2010. Those members who will not be at the May 23rd meeting are invited to submit an absentee ballot. These will be available at Chapter events during late April and May. They are also available as a download from our website.

The board has taken these actions because we believe that our local organization and INPS are no longer a “good fit” for each other. We increasingly find ourselves operating with objectives, goals, resources and constraints which are different from INPS. We believe, and should our chapter members approve, both INPS and our local organization will become stronger by being able to focus our independent human and financial resources on achieving our own primary objectives. It is our intent locally that we would, through these actions, be able to both reduce dues and increase program support. We have the utmost admiration for what we see as the core mission of INPS and the many dedicated volunteers who work towards fulfilling that mission. We do not believe that our continued affiliation supports that mission or our own. Our hope is that by initiating this process now, we may all work together so that the transition unfolds in a smooth manner.

For the ballot question, information on absentee ballots and the complete text of the board motions on separation, please visit our website at: www.NativePlantSociety.org Please feel free to contact me or any member of your board if you have any questions or concerns.

Notes from the March and February Programs

March: Pack River Delta Restoration Project



Kathy Cousins and Derrick Antonelli spoke about the history of the delta and what is being done to restore a healthy plant community. The Pack River is a functioning river, with no dams and a historically complex wetland habitat containing varied wildlife. It carries a sediment load of 2,040 tons yearly into Lake Pend Oreille. When the Albeni Falls Dam was constructed, lake levels were kept artificially high for several months in the summer. The force and energy of the Pack River and rough wave action from Lake Pend Oreille, combined with high water levels, produced soil loss and destroyed native vegetation on the islands. Kathy described the various innovative engineered structures installed to re-establish the historical islands above current high water levels, and the planned revegetation with grass seeds, 1200 stock plants, 1360 one gallon plants, 1000 ten cubic inch plugs, and nearly 17,000 herbaceous plants. Many of our

members enthusiastically volunteered to assist with these plantings.

Photo by Marilyn George.

Continued on Pg 4

Notes from the March and February Programs, Cont'd



February: John Sudgen of the Tristate Council on Water Quality presented “Ageing of Lakes through Eutrophication,” focusing on the Lake Pend Oreille riparian areas. “Eutrophication,” a geologic process speeded up by human inhabitation, describes an abundant accumulation of nutrients that supports a dense growth of algae and other organisms, which deplete the shallow waters of oxygen in summer. Lake Pend Oreille’s 1100 miles of shoreline make eutrophication a real threat to our lake. Riparian buffer areas prevent erosion by filtering pollutants to slow the process. Buffer size varies, with agricultural areas needing 80 feet, while studies have shown that a 40 foot barrier is adequate for logging operations. John explained the Lake A’Syst program, which gives information to lake front homeowners concerning their specific buffer zone.

Photo by Wendy Aeschliman

Committee Reports

Arboretum Committee

At our April 1 meeting at the museum, the Arboretum Committee assembled the rest of our plant label signs and discussed plans for Arbor Day. The Arboretum will get its spring cleaning on April 22, after which the committee and helpers will enjoy a potluck lunch. The gardeners go on duty once a week beginning May 4. Our paid coordinators from last year, Rochelle Chatburn and Chris McIntosh, will come on board the middle of June. You should be able to find a gardener on duty every week day morning between 9:00 a.m. and noon. Come by, say "hi" and see what is in bloom!

Landscape Committee

We open the Mickinnick Trailhead on Wednesday, May 6, with a good core group, and then continue on these first Wednesdays: June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, and October 7. There are two special sessions to keep ahead of the quack grass: the third Wednesdays, May 20 and June 3. We need help! Sign up by e-mail or phone (see below) to stay informed of details.

A large group of non-professional-member-consultants-in-training will survey the Fuchs’ place on May 12. They will learn and practice landscaping skills, offering verbal suggestions for design and appropriate plants. That advice will go into a written document for the family. Volunteers will visit the Nordling’s on the morning of June 10. We invite you to learn and practice with us. Phone or e-mail for details. Eileen Atkisson, 263-3835, eatkiss1@verizon.net.



Native Plant Sale!!

Saturday, May 16, 2009 9 to Noon

**Panhandle Special Needs Building
1424 N. Boyer Ave, Sandpoint**

Native plants can be hard to get; don't miss out! Mark your calendar for this half-day-only sale.

25+ varieties of native plants, 300+ plants to choose from! Trellises, note cards, bookmarks, baked goodies, bedding plants and herbs too.

All proceeds benefit KCINPS and Panhandle Special Needs

Contact Dennis Rieger 263-5947 or e-mail kk5db@hotmail.com if you can help.

Queens Cup photo by Marilyn George

NPS board members use their circle-cutting skills to make "Grow Native" buttons, featuring the stunning native plant photos of Marilyn George. The buttons are on sale at NPS meetings and events. Pictured below L to R: Dennis Rieger, Ken Haag, Nancy Fontaine, and Carol Jenkins.



Photos by Marilyn George

Membership Renewal Reminder

If there is a shiny flower sticker on the front page of your newsletter, as of April 20 we have not received your renewal for 2009. Only 2009 members are eligible to vote on the

separation question that is discussed in this newsletter and, if we don't hear from you, this will be your last newsletter.

Membership rates (which include membership in the Idaho Native Plant Society) are: Patron - \$100; Sustaining - \$45; Household - \$30; Individual - \$25; Student - \$20; and Senior - \$20.

Member Profile

The purpose of the member profile is to get to know each other, share common interests, and perhaps make new friends, so... *Say Hello to Fields Cobb!*



Photo by Joanna Fuchs
Traces of a charming southern drawl reveal the Virginia roots of forestry expert and ardent conservationist Fields Cobb, Jr., PhD. Born

February 16, 1932, and called "Sonny" as a boy, Fields explored the nearby historic sites of Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown and hunted and fished in the Cottonmouth-infested swamps near his home in Dendron, Virginia. "There was an old wife's tale that the poisonous Cottonmouth snake would not bite under water because it would drown," he says. "It's not true, but it saved me a lot of anxiety."

His B.S., Master's and PhD degrees from North Carolina State, Yale (where he met his wife, Octavia, or "Tavie"), and Pennsylvania State Universities, in forestry and plant pathology, prepared him for a professorship (Emeritus, 1993) at U.C. Berkeley, where one of his proudest accomplishments was a pivotal role in the establishment of a Department of Ethnic Studies. In addition to teaching classes on forest pathology and other environmental subjects, Fields has consulted with local, state and federal agencies on tree pathology, has reviewed Forest Service Environmental Impact Reports, and has consulted as an expert in litigations involving trees that caused bodily injury or property damage.

Fields worked with a variety of graduate students and visiting scientists at Berkeley to expand the depth and breadth of research in certain important diseases of

forest conifers to produce more effective control and eradication and to improve general ecosystem management. He has published over 200 papers, articles, book chapters and abstracts.

The Cobb's daughter, Cynthia (who lives in Snohomish, Washington) and two sons, Dave and Steve (who live in Idaho), have degrees in environmental sciences, forestry and wildlife biology, respectively. In 1993, the Cobbs followed their children to the Northwest and settled in Sagle, Idaho. Fields became a Master Gardener in 1994 and then taught classes, locally, in plant disease. He was active in the NPS Conservation Committee and the Arboretum. He is active in ten conservation societies and reads mostly conservation journals.

Fields wished he had traveled more, and says that one of his fondest memories is of a two-month vacation and business trip to Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. He loves southern cooking ("sweet potatoes in anything") as well as Mexican and Italian food. Favorite local restaurants include Jalapeno's, Ivano's and The Hydra. He enjoys classical, country and "oldies" music, likes classic movies, such as "Gone With The Wind" and "Dr. Zhivago," and watches nature programs on PBS, Discovery, National Geographic and Animal Planet channels. Two of his favorite shows are The Dog Whisperer ("Cesar has amazing insight into both animals and people," he says) and The Amazing Race, because it "shows me countries I haven't seen."

The Cobb's seven-acre site on Lakeshore Drive includes a large, deerproof, vegetable garden and a variety of native conifers and deciduous trees, as well as native plants, such as serviceberry.