



# Kinnikinnick Journal

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May-June 2022

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / PO Box 1092 Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

[www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

*The May program will be presented both in person and on Zoom. In-person attendance will be in the large meeting room at the East Bonner County Library's main branch, located at 1407 Cedar Street in Sandpoint. Program will begin at 10:00 am, both in-person and on Zoom. For in-person attendees, refreshments will be available beginning at 9:30 am. Programs are co-sponsored by the East Bonner County Library District and Sandpoint Parks & Recreation, and are open to the public.*

*For those wishing to view the program on Zoom, advanced registration will be required, with details given through KNPS Google Groups email, KNPS Facebook page, and in local online and print media sources. Programs will be recorded for later viewing on the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society's YouTube Channel.*

*The June meeting will be held at the Arboretum! Please see information below!!*

*COVID-19 protocols for in-person attendance: Please attend only if you are fully vaccinated and feeling well. Masks are optional.*

**Saturday May 21**

**Dr Gerould Wilhelm**

***Director of Research, Conservation Research Institute  
Floristic Quality Assessment of Terrestrial Landscapes***

A critical question in evaluating landscapes, is the health of the vegetation it supports. Some landscapes bear insufficient remnants of soil, vegetation, and associated organisms such that any significant change in their stewardship would render them irreplaceably destroyed. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires federal land managers to evaluate the degree to which any proposed action taking place on federal lands may cause damage that is "irreversible or irretrievable." Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) is a tool used to assess an area's ecological integrity based on its plant species composition. FQA can also aid in setting conservation priorities, and in monitoring site management or restoration efforts.

**Saturday, June 18**

**Annual Meeting of members of KNPS &  
Arboretum Plant ID at Lakeview Park**

This is our annual meeting to elect new and returning Board of Directors for the coming fiscal year, and to hear Board and committee reports. It will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, next to our new cabin in the Arboretum. To find the cabin see map on page 2. Come at 9:30 for coffee and treats. The program will follow the annual meeting and be a brief presentation by the Arboretum Leadership Team along with a focused workshop to identify and map the native plants in the Arboretum. The plant identification exercise will begin immediately after the program. Bring water and your lunch, and, after helping ID plants in the Arboretum, join us for dessert.

## Plant Foods of Past Pend Oreille Valley Peoples

Submitted by Rae Charlton

Our speaker was Dr. Molly Carney, an environmental archaeologist and postdoctoral fellow with Washington State University and the Washington Research Foundation. She described her field as "paleoethnobotany". Her main research focuses on the plants and soils of the past and how people practiced sustainable agriculture. She has been working in collaboration with the Kalispel Tribe for over eight years, researching issues such as food security, restoration ecology, and cultural heritage. She noted that "Kalispel" means "Camas people".



Ethnobotany is the study of how people of a particular culture and region make use of indigenous (native) plants. Plants supplied food, fuel, shelter, weapons, and cordage. Indigenous people depended upon native plants returning year after year. Their practice of sustainable agriculture included using fire to manipulate the landscape. To learn more about past practices she works with the charred remains of plants, and seeds. They are put under the microscope and studied. These remains are found at sites dating back 4,000-5,000 years (the oldest is 8,000 years old). Among the plant foods integral to past diets were camas (an edible bulb common throughout the region), nodding onion, huckleberries, chokecherries, hawthorn, pine nuts and kinnikinnick.

Camas was a major staple. Camas harvest was also a social time, a get together where camas was cooked in "earth ovens." The ovens were holes dug in the ground, with rocks lining the bottom, followed by layers of fresh green branches, (cedar or alder, for flavoring), packets of camas wrapped in skunk cabbage, more branches, and sometimes lichen ("black moss"). The camas took 48-72 hours to prepare. Native people insured their supply of camas through careful stewardship of the growing sites, knowing that camas takes 4-5 years to go to seed, and that bulbs must be dug with care. Indigenous people have been growing and eating camas for 3,500 years.

The audience of fifty-five people, including many non-members who came out of interest in the topic, had many questions for Dr. Carney and clearly were in no hurry to leave!

## President's Message

Shawna Parry

The End of the 2021-22 Fiscal Year for KNPS

As the US population tries to climb out of the pandemic isolation this year, KNPS has done the same. Zoom technology allowed us to see familiar faces while enjoying interesting presentations; but being able to meet monthly at the library has been wonderful, what a thrill to connect with old and new KNPS friends and have in-person presentations along with coffee/tea & treats! The message of the importance of native plants continues to be heard.

Highlights of 2021-22:

**To start the year off right, after a lapse of one year due to covid, we held our annual native plant sale.** We were treated to a lovely selection of native plants from Cedar Mountain Perennials as well as seeds from Snake River Seeds. Lots of regulars returned to purchase plants. Thanks to Bob for organizing and all of our wonderful volunteers!

**Then in August we dedicated our new cabin.** The decision by the Museum to utilize the structure for display space necessitated the construction of a new home for KNPS at the Arboretum. Many thanks to so many members and volunteers, Ken Thacker, Mark Stockwell, George Gehrig, Kirby McKee, Craig Johnson, Bob Blair, John Harbuck, Laird Parry and Ann Torpie for their efforts

**The excellent monthly presentations** have kept us engaged with the native plant world. Many new people have joined the presentations which helps spread the good word about native plants.

The **Holiday Party** at the Sandpoint Senior Center enticed many people to enjoy each other's company and delicious food. Hopefully this next holiday season will see more of us at the party.

The fun, educational **library display** about Arbor Day & KNPS plus the City of Sandpoint sponsored **Arbor Day in May** at Lakeview Park has kept native plants in view of the community. For the Arbor Day celebration, **Cindy** created a **treasure hunt** for kids to identify different trees in the Arboretum with the help of the Lorax. Creative lady!

**Tree Tours** have been a tradition at the Arboretum, and this year is no exception. **Judy Lyding** and **KNPS members** engaged and escorted 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students through the Arboretum. At the end of the school year students are ready to be out of the classroom and become budding naturalists.

**The Bonner County City Nature Challenge** made front page news in the Bonner County Daily Bee thanks to **George**. It's a new project ripe for expansion.

The **Education Committee** under **Bonnie's** guidance is getting organized and looking forward to new educational projects.

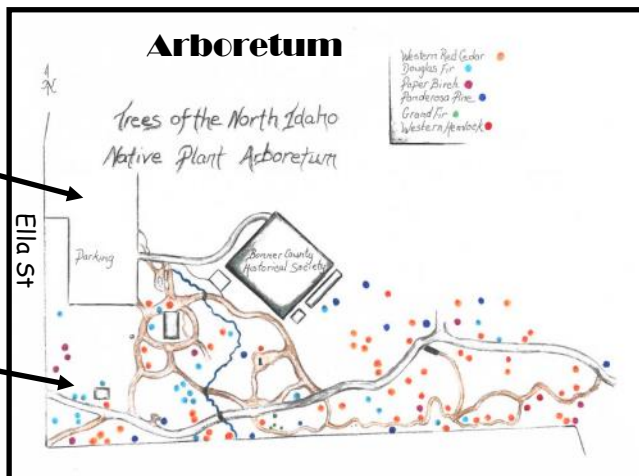
During the summer months, **Cara**, **ALT** [Arboretum Leadership Team] and many **members** used [and will use] the new KNPS cabin as headquarters to keep the Arboretum spiffy. What a treasure to have the cabin. Again, a huge thank you to the cabin crew.

The **final meeting** of the fiscal year on **June 18<sup>th</sup>** will take place **at the Arboretum** adjacent to our cabin (see map). We'll have coffee/tea with treats as usual, committee reports, elections, then ALT will guide us in identifying all the plants in the Arb - a needed inventory to determine what is there, what is missing, what is in the wrong place, what is needed. Bring your own lunch - dessert will be provided.

**Cindy Hayes** has been a member of the KNPS Board for 6 consecutive years which means she has to step down [at least for a while] according to our by-laws. We will definitely miss her, her contributions, her creative bent, and forward-thinking ideas. But she has agreed to continue collaborating with Robin to publish the Plant Notes. Thank you, thank you, Cindy!

Parking is available in the lot next to the Arb and the Bonner County Historical Museum on Ella St. and on Ella St.

Meeting location next to our new cabin



## KNPS Volunteers Contribute to City Nature Challenge Bioblitz

By Patricia Ericsson and Preston Andrews

This spring KNPS volunteers participated in the City Nature Challenge in Bonner County (CNC:BC). The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an international bioblitz project started in 2016 as a competition between San Francisco and Los Angeles, but it has grown to encompass sites from Bonner County to Zimbabwe. This year it involved over 65,000 participants making more than 1.5 million observations. Participants typically make observations with smart phones using the iNaturalist app and upload them to the iNaturalist website.

During this year's four-day event, KNPS volunteers made 34% of Bonner County's total observations. KNPS members Paul Sieracki (with 198 observations) and Susan Bates-Harbuck (with 123) led the Bonner County observers. Bob Wilson of KNPS and Derek Antonelli of the Idaho Native Plant Society each contributed their expertise to confirm over 400 identifications in addition to making observations.

According to the CNC's website, observations made during CNC have been used in hundreds of scientific publications. Locally, the CNC data can be used in a variety of ways including identifying new, rare, or invasive species. Local organizations, both public and private, can use the data to make more informed management decisions.

With a 43% increase in the number of Bonner County observers and a 29% increase in observations from 2021 to 2022, CNC:BC looks forward to even more robust participation during the 2023 event. For more information about the CNC and Bonner County participation see <https://citynaturechallenge.org/>.



# Reminder

## Dues are Due!

The KNPS membership year now begins on July 1st, which means it's time to pay dues. Our rates haven't changed, and you can pay via Square on the website or mail a check to PO Box 1092, Sandpoint. Dues are our main source of income, and we'll be working on the annual budget in July. By paying on time you help your Board plan effectively. Thank you!

P.S. If you joined or renewed in 2022, you're good, no additional payment is required. If you have a question about your current standing, both Shawna and I have current membership rosters. Contact Rae at [rae.charlton@icloud.com](mailto:rae.charlton@icloud.com) or Shawna at [shawna.parry@gmail.com](mailto:shawna.parry@gmail.com)

Submitted by Rae Charlton

## Arboretum Tree Tours

The 2022 Arboretum Tree Tours will be in the last week in May on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday May 24, 25 and 26. I want to thank all of the KNPS members who have signed up to be Docents. We will have training sessions during the week before the Tours. These are extremely valuable for Docents who are new to the Tours. Docents will be escorting third grade students through the arboretum, showing them 10 native trees and tree rings. The focus is to learn to identify the trees by characteristic features of each trees' bark, needles and cones. Students will also learn to count needles and find other distinguishing features from samples of branches, cones and bark. It's usually a lively week at the Arboretum! We will share pictures of this years tree tours in the next issue of the newsletter.



Judy Lyding



## Arbor Day

Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Sandpoint City Forester, along with the City's Tree Committee, spearheaded the May 7th Sandpoint Arbor Day Celebration at Lakeview Park. Bob Wilson, a KNPS member, and the Chair of the City Tree Committee and Bonnie Jakubos were the other members of the core group that pulled together the most ambitious Arbor Day observance yet seen in Sandpoint. The group soon grew to include several local organizations, including Idaho Department of Lands, Spokane Conservation District, Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District, Bonner County Historical Society, POAC, and Kaniksu Land Trust.

May 7th was chosen to coincide with the annual Historical Society plant sale. Although soggy weather put a damper on attendance, families participated in several fun activities, including a painted handprint tree mural to be displayed at City Hall. The KNPS booth had the most activities, thanks to the Cindy Hayes' creativity and hard work. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped at the booth. This is an event that is likely to grow in the future, so stay tuned!



# Save the Date!

## 2022 KNPS Native Plant Sale

Our annual plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 4 this year. We again will be offering a wide selection of native plants, including many to support our native pollinators, plants that help conserve water, and some that the deer are not fond of. Dennis Rieger will be welding up several ant sculptures for us to sell, and Mark Stockwell is making some nest boxes for our native bees. Cindy Hayes is heading up the bake sale and if you are interested in making something for that, please contact Cindy at [cmhayes63@gmail.com](mailto:cmhayes63@gmail.com).

As always, we are looking for several people to volunteer to help with this event. For you early birds, we could use a couple more hands helping with the set-up starting at 7:30 am. Shawna has lined up the cashiers we need, but we are still looking for a couple of talliers who can total up people's purchases before they get to the cashier. I have a 9 am – 11 am and a 11 am – 1 pm shifts available.

In addition to hands-on help, if you have a 10'x10' pop-up canopy, let me know. Also useful are small carts or wagons that people can use to haul their treasures to the cashier. If you have any low-profile boxes sitting around the people can use to carry plants, please bring those as well.

If you can help out with any of this, please let me know,

*Submitted by Bob Wilson*

[botanybob@frontier.com](mailto:botanybob@frontier.com)



## Arboretum News

Thank you to all who helped with the first Spring Clean-up of the Arboretum! It was a beautiful day and wonderful to connect after a long Winter. We have a 2nd Spring clean-up scheduled for May 29th (10 –12) to get the arboretum looking great for all the big events approaching.

On June 4th, KNPS will be hosting the annual Native Plant Sale AND the Museum will be unveiling its new exhibit in the homesteaders cabin (the 100 year old cabin we used as our storage area)! The cabin is looking great! A new roof, chinking and foundation protection have given it new life. The plant sale will start at 9 am and we will have a lovely selection of native plants for you to select from, provided by Cedar Mountain Perennials! Opening ceremony for the homesteaders exhibit will be at 11 am. Our 'Wild Medicinals' gardens will be showcased as a part of the homestead exhibit, providing examples of early pioneer botanical medicine knowledge, including some Idaho native plants. Local herbalists will be on site to answer questions and lead mini tours.

Another treat on June 4 will be the dedication of a plaque honoring our founder, Lois Wythe. Many thanks to multi-talented ARB leadership team member Ann Torpie, who designed the plaque and took charge of its installation on the kiosk. Thanks also to Lois's grandson, Joshua Ramey-Renk who provided the funds for this long-needed recognition.

Our big goal for this summer is to inventory the native plants in the Arboretum. Ken Thacker is working on creating an accurate map on which to locate what we find. KNPS members are invited to help with this vital project as part of the program on June 18, following our Annual Membership meeting also held at the Arboretum. We will divide up into small teams to survey areas, each lead by a person with strong plant identification skills. Watch for more details on this event as planning progresses..

Flowers are now popping all around the arboretum. Remember, we can always use more helping hands, so please send people our way who'd like to be involved. Any amount of volunteering helps and we are deeply appreciative. Watch for the monthly work parties and picnics too!



## Landscape Committee News

Members of the KNPS Landscape Committee met with students at the Lake Pend Oreille High School in late April to offer suggestions for native plants suitable for a rain garden that they're constructing in a corner of the school's parking lot to absorb runoff.

The KNPS Landscape Committee provides landscape consultations for members during the summer months. For more information or to request a consultation email: [landscape@nativeplantsociety.org](mailto:landscape@nativeplantsociety.org)

Gail Bolin & Jason Smith - co-chairs

### KNPS Hike

June 21

### Wyman Wildlife Management Game Refuge

Submitted by John Harbuck.

Our first hike for 2022 will be on June 21 at the Wyman Wildlife Habitat Game Refuge and perhaps adjoining Forest Service Bond Lake property just north of MacArthur Lake. The Wyman game refuge has a nice assortment of trails in a variety of forested habitats along Dodge Creek. The Forest Service land is mostly sand hills that were lightly logged some years ago and now have some younger open stands coming back under the older trees. The trails are pretty easy without much elevation change.

The Wyman Wildlife Management Game Refuge was established as a conservation trust in 1993 dedicated to preserving the Les and Vi Wyman property to preserve its forest land and wildlife habitat. The property borders McArthur Lake.

Parking is limited at the refuge so we will be carpooling. Please meet at the Samuels Store at the south end of the lot at 10 am. Samuels store is located at: 486260 Highway 95. For more information please contact John Harbuck at [jwharbuck@huges.net](mailto:jwharbuck@huges.net) or 263-9894





## **Member Profile: Mary Jo and Ken Haag**

For many members of KNPS, the roles played in the organization by Ken and Mary Jo Haag are relatively unknown. However, this dynamic pair has been important in the history of KNPS and the Arboretum.

Hailing from Illinois, Ken and Mary Jo settled in the Chicago area after they married. Ken was an Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology and later worked at Bell Laboratories. During this time, he served on the school board, the library board and the village board. Mary Jo was President of the Winfield Jr. Women's Club and the Winfield School Parents' Club and helped organize a local library district. She also did stints in various attorney offices, and, eventually, owned and operated a local travel agency. If this wasn't enough, they were in the midst of raising six children! Now, that took energy!

Taking a well-deserved retirement in 1999, they came to Sandpoint because of its hiking, skiing, boating, and Mary Joe's first love, horses. Shortly after their arrival, Mary Jo attended Lois Wythe's gardening classes. Ken and Mary Jo had a new piece of property north of town and wanted to understand the trees and plants that were on it. Lois talked about the arboretum opening in Lakeview Park and the need for volunteers. One thing led to another, and Mary Jo became involved in the Arboretum cleanup, and Ken decided to join in the fun. Soon, they were attending meetings of what was then the Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society.

Ken became active in the Chapter's transition to becoming an independent group and, subsequently, served on the Board for five years as Treasurer and Bylaws Committee Chair. In the Arboretum, he installed a drip water system in the wall and Interior rain forest, repaired benches and dry stream bridges, designed and built the kiosk, and planned and planted the color garden.

Mary Joe was in charge of the plantings on the south wall separating the Arb from the city sewage treatment facilities next door. She served as Membership Chair of KNPS for a number of years and as Assistant Manager of the Arboretum, for which she "got to" write letters for such things as plant orders, "problem neighbors", etc. She recalls the decision to hire a paid volunteer coordinator in 2010. Advertisements were placed in Sandpoint Online and through the Labor Department, and every applicant was personally interviewed. A coordinator was hired every year.

Both remember the freezing cold Arbor Days with freezing cold students trying to pay attention to (freezing cold) guides. In the end the Arbor Day recognition was moved to June and a plant sale was added. Mary Jo says, "The past 20 years of the Arboretum was the best thing that Ken and I could have done for the town, the environment, and our beliefs." The members of KNPS could agree more.

Thank you, Mary Jo and Ken.



## **Board of Directors 2022**

Shawna Parry, President  
Preston Andrews, Vice President  
Carol Jenkins, Secretary  
Shawna Parry, Treasurer  
Cindy Hayes, Event Chair  
Robin Campbell, Publicity  
John Harbuck, Field Trips  
Sherry Ennis, Board Member  
Mark Stockwell, Board Member

Rae Charlton, Arboretum & Membership

### **Additional Committee Chairs and Positions**

Sue Gervais, Rae Charlton, Cara Johnson,  
Ann Torpie, Mary Jo Haag, Ken Thacker, Arboretum  
Bonnie Jakubos, Education  
Gail Bolin, Jason Smith, Landscape  
Vacant, Conservation  
Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Grant  
Vacant, Historian  
Isabel Hollriegel, Vicky Johnson, Hospitality  
Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee  
Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor  
Preston Andrews, Programs  
Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, Listserve

## **Upcoming Events:**

May 21: KNPS Program (library)  
May 29: 2nd Arboretum clean up  
June 4: KNPS Plant Sale  
June 18: KNPS Annual Meeting (arboretum) and  
first arboretum inventory  
June 21: Field Trip (Wyman Wildlife Habitat Area)



## **Join KNPS**

### **Membership Rates**

July 1st through June 30th

— Individual	\$25.00
— Household**	\$30.00
— Student/Senior (65+)	\$20.00
— Sustaining**	\$50.00
— Patron**	\$100.00
— Sponsor	\$50.00

*\*\*These memberships are entitled to two votes  
KNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*

### **Membership Information**

(make check payable to KNPS or  
Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



### **Mail to:**

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society  
PO Box 1092  
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

### **OR**

Payment by credit card is available on our  
Website: [nativeplantsociety.org](http://nativeplantsociety.org).