Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXIII Number 2 March - April 2019

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

Upcoming Programs & Events

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 March 23, 2019

Debbie Lee

Becoming Animal in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

From 2010-2014, Debbie Lee conducted 50 oral history interviews with people who had traveled or worked in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness of Idaho and Montana. Based on these and recordings of interviews of Nez Perce elders, Lee will talk about how the connection between animal stories and how oral narrative is vital to a wilderness ethic.

Debbie Lee is a Regents Professor of English at Washington State University and author/editor of eight scholarly books, most recently The Land Speaks: New Voices at the Intersection of Oral and Environmental History (Oxford University Press, 2017.

Saturday April 27, 2019

Jason Smith

Permaculture and the Ecologies of a Positive Future

Jason Smith will provide an introductory view into the ecology-based agricultural models described by the systems-arranging design science called permaculture. He will outline the origins and fundamental structures of the permaculture movement and articulate the positive solutions it offers to the global challenges we face in the future with climate and social changes. The program will highlight the most common and relevant applications of permaculture in the Idaho Panhandle.

Mr. Smith is a designer and consultant specializing in cold temperate agroforestry systems. Operating in the northern Rockies international edge, he is a local representative of the worldwide permaculture movement. Jason lives off the grid in Boundary County.

January Program Summary

Summarized by Cindy Hayes

The title of the KNPS January Program was Nevada and Great Basin Plant Diversity. Our guest speaker, Steve Anderson, lives in Sagle and is retired from the U.S. Forest Service. He graduated from the University of Idaho with a BA in wildlife-fisheries resources and then spent 2 years in Kenya working for the Peace Corps. He then accepted a position in the Forest Service. During his time with the Forest Service, Steve worked as a technician and wildlife biologist in Idaho, Montana, Nevada and California. While in Nevada he also taught at Great Basin Community College for a short time and coauthored the field guide "Ruby Mountain Flora."

The Great Basin is the dry and mountainous region located between the Sierra Nevada and the Wasatch Mountains in Nevada. It contains most of the South Snake mountains. These isolated pockets of mountainous terrain, surrounded by sagebrush oceans, helped foster the great diversity of species that evolved in the region. There are 3900 plant varieties identified in Nevada. Among the 50 states, Nevada ranks 11th in species diversity. Idaho ranks 25th. Nevada ranks 6th in the nation for endemic species – unique and rare species.

Bring your binoculars and seek out the diverse wildlife that abounds within Great Basin. Nevada has the highest diversity of mammals in the Southwest. There are many specialized habitats that range from Mojave desert (500 ft.) to mountain ranges (13,000 ft.). They include isolated springs, riparian, dunes, wetlands, forests, to alpine ecosystems.

In the higher elevations (9,000 ft.), you might spot a bighorn sheep in the summer or a small hamster-like pika. The lower elevation slopes might be populated with yel-

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President's Message

By Ken Thacker

Since we have had several unusual purchases over the last few years, the Board feels that we should reassure everyone that we are not living beyond our means. Below is a summary of the 2018 financial transactions and account balances. Over the last couple of years, we have purchased a laptop computer, replaced our ancient laser printer and purchased the new signs for the Arboretum. Another expense we are planning is to replace our Power Point projector. Several of our program presenters have been concerned about the poor color reproduction of our old machine over the last few months. Along with this, the City has agreed to upgrade to a larger screen in the Community Hall to accommodate our upgraded projector. Please contact me with any questions.

2018 Income Highlights:

- **Membership - $2715**
- **Baxter's Fundraiser - $742**
- **IPA Fundraiser - $519**
- **Holiday Cards - $395**
- **Notecards - $906 (this includes Steve Lockwood's significant purchase for "thank you" cards during his campaign for county commissioner)**
- **Arbor Day - $1,072**

2018 Expense Highlights:

- **Landscape Book printing 500 copies - $6,883 (income from book sales will eventually cover this expense)**
- **Arboretum Employee - $2,723**
- **Arboretum Signage - $1,774 ($1,161 was also spent in 2017)**
- **Lois Wythe Grant - $900 (3 grant recipients this year where we normally have one)**
- **Programs - $950 (Jack Nisbet charges an honorarium and he gave two programs)**
- **Liability Insurance - $236**
- **Bookkeeping Services - $457**

Checking Account Balances:

- **$4,489.36 Dec 31, 2012**
- **$8,308.59 Dec 31, 2017**
- **$5,212.81 Dec 31, 2018**

Vanguard Investment Fund Balances:

Both of these funds were created when long-time members left portions of their estates to KNPS. The Arboretum Fund was created with funds designated specifically for the Arboretum.

General Fund:

- $5000.00 September 25, 2012 (approximate date account was opened)
- $7,262.16 December 31, 2017
- **$7,077.98** December 31, 2018 (this reduction was due to stock market fluctuations)

Arboretum Fund:

- $5,835.00 September 25, 2012 (approximate date account was opened)
- $8,474.00 December 31, 2017
- **$4,770.45** December 31, 2018 ($3,500 was moved to checking for Arboretum signage)

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low bellied marmots, or Rocky Mountain elk. While on the sagebrush desert floor you might spy a jackrabbit, pygmy rabbit, goshawk or sage grouse.

In 1986 The Great Basin National Park was established. The Great Basin National Park protects 77,000 acres carved out of the Great Basin. It is located near the Utah border. It contains a wide assortment of ecological zones. Wheeler Peak is the highest point in the Great Basin National Park, soaring 13,000 feet up from the sagebrush valley floor. Ten different types of conifers are represented on its mid elevation slopes.

The National Park is especially noted for its groves of ancient bristlecone pines. Bristlecone pines grow in isolated groves just below tree line. They thrive where conditions are harsh, in cold temperatures, short growing season and high winds. Bristlecone pines in these high-elevation environments grow very slowly and are twisted. This slow growth makes their wood very dense and resistant to insects, fungi, rot and erosion.

The oldest known tree (a bristlecone pine) grew at the tree line near Wheeler Peak in the National Park. The locals called it Prometheus. With permission from the U.S. Forest Service personnel, it was cut down in 1964 for research purposes. The tree contained 4,862 rings making it one of the oldest living trees at the time. The data collected added to the knowledge of carbon dating, and other climate data. Bristlecone pines are now protected on federal land. Another bristlecone pine from the same area was discovered in 2012 to be 5,065 years.

Invasive species, mining, agriculture practices, fires and urban growth threaten the destruction of some native plant and animal habitat in the Great Basin. In the 1800s wagon trains and their livestock changed the sagebrush community. Sagebrush is an important browsing plant for livestock and many native wildlife species. Today 70% of the Great Basin continues as grazing land and 45% of the sagebrush ecosystem is within the Great Basin. Overgrazing remains a concern. Fencing off areas to renew riparian areas is one technique employed to restore native plants. Not renewing land allotments for grazing is another policy.

Sagebrush and native grasses are being significantly reduced due to a variety of reasons. The non-native invasive cheatgrass, *Bromus tectorum*, has established a stranglehold in the area. Cheatgrass is a prolific seed producer and germinates early in the Fall. By June, Cheatgrass has dried out supporting flammable conditions. Native grasses create less of a fire danger. They germinate later and still retain most of their moisture in the drier June and July months, but they are being choked out by the cheatgrass. Sagebrush doesn't produce seeds until the Fall. So if sagebrush plants are destroyed during a summer fire there are no seeds to sprout and many areas are thus impacted.

In conclusion, mining exploration must meet certain criteria before the company can drill. A survey of local flora (i.e. *Lathyrus grimesii*) and fauna (i.e. goshawk) is mapped out to see future environmental impacts. Financial feasibility data is analyzed and if the project isn't feasible, the government may purchase the mineral rights on the unpatented mining claims. The two largest landholders in Nevada are BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and the military.

Save the Date!

BAXTERS/BACK DOOR KNPS FUNDRAISER

APRIL 3, 2019

Please support this year's KNPS fundraiser held on April 3 at Baxters on Cedar/The Back Door. Baxters generously donates a portion of the day's profits to KNPS. Baxters on Cedar hours are 11 AM - 9 PM and The Back Door opens at 3 PM. The annual RAFFLE begins at 11 am, with tickets drawn at 8 PM. Raffle items are a Lake Pend Oreille cruise for two, vegetable hod basket filled with treasures, and a native plants certificate package. Tickets are sold for $1, 6 for $5. Please encourage friends, families, and neighbors to join this fun Wednesday event.

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

Before going into this issue's submission for the Conservation Committee we wanted to take a moment to recognize Molly O'Reilly, our hardworking Conservation Committee Chair person. Molly is currently recovering from open heart surgery to repair one of her heart valves in Tucson, Arizona. She is recovering well and is expected to be able to leave the hospital on March 8! If you would like to contact Molly you can still reach her at her regular email.

In lieu of our regular Conservation Committee Report, Phil Hough submitted the following article to provide us with an update on recent conservation legislation.

In late February, congress passed The Natural Resources Management Act (2019). This bill would protect nearly 2.5 million acres of public land and 676 miles of rivers throughout the US. ***And, it would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)!***

This is the largest package of lands bill in over a decade. With about 100 different pieces of legislation included, there's something in it for almost everyone; including some stuff that's not so great. That's the art of compromise. It's also why congressional representatives found enough good in it that they came together with strong bi-partisan support for its final passage. The Senate vote was 92-8. In the House the vote was 363-62.

As of this writing, the bill is on the president's desk, where he's expected to sign it. By the time you read this we will know if he vetoes it, signs the bill, or simply let's it pass into law without his signature.

The impact of any action is sure to make the news. Here's why.

This bill will protect places across the country. All are highly valued for conservation, recreation or historical reasons. Iconic places like the northern gateway of Yellowstone, Utah's red rock country, California's Death Valley and the Methow Valley in Washington, will all have expanded protections. This did not happen in a back room. These actions are because of tireless local supporters who championed new or expanded wild and scenic river designations, wilderness areas, national parks or monuments or mineral withdrawals. Around the country, media reports will focus on those areas of most interest to the local or regional community.

Those news reports will also talk about the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The LWCF has wide support but has been, in recent years, a political pawn. Its mere existence has never been a sure thing. This bill will fix that. Why is this important??

The LWCF was established by Congress in 1964 to support protection, conservation and recreation on federal lands and waters including national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges and recreation areas. The LCWF also funds voluntary conservation easements on private land and provides grants to state and tribal governments to for better recreation access, acquiring and / or improving public parks and other outdoor sites. This program uses zero taxpayer dollars. Funding comes from the earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing. ***Grants have funded projects in every county in the country.***

The LWCF supports the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund which provides funds to states and territories to work with private landowners, conservation organizations, and other partners to protect and conserve the habitat of threatened and endangered species.

Through the Forest Legacy Program, the LWCF provides grants for state partners to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands while maintaining private ownership and working forests.

The LWCF Coalition reports that: "the outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities contribute more than $887 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 7.6 million jobs."

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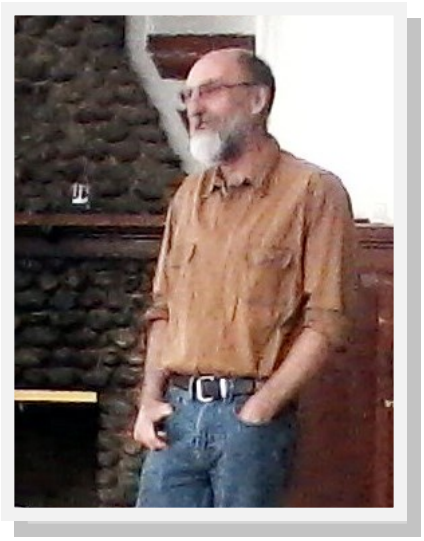
February Program Summary

Summary by Cindy Hayes



The KNPS February 2019 Program was titled "Selkirk Grizzly Bear Project". Our speaker, Don Gay, spoke to approximately 80 people gathered in the Community Hall for the Saturday meeting.

Don is a retired U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist. He spent time working in the Kootenai, Deschutes, Fremont, and Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests. He also served in Africa with the Peace Corps and completed international work with the Forest Service in Mali, Madagascar and Gabon. Don lives in Naples, Idaho.

The Selkirk Grizzly Bear Project has been gathering grizzly bear hair from collection sites in the Selkirk Mountains since 2015. DNA analysis of the hair provides information on grizzly bear reproduction and gene flow with surrounding recovery areas. This information is used by researchers to determine the minimum number of grizzly bears in the U.S. portion of the Selkirk Recovery area and if that number is approaching bear recovery goals.

There are 6 grizzly bear recovery sites targeted to monitor recovery rate. They are located in the Northern Cascades, Yellowstone area, Glacier National Park, Bitterroots, and Selkirk/Cabinets – Yaak site which extends into Canada. In March and April grizzly bears begin emerging from their dens. They have lost 30% of their body weight while hibernating. Bears are omnivores so plant food makes up the majority of their diet. To regain the lost weight they begin dining on dead meat, fish, digging for ground squirrels and eating insects, grasses and herbs. Starting in June the males begin courting the females for the next month. The females will produce 1-3 cubs about every 3 years. Starting in July and for the next few months, all the grizzly bears begin a feeding frenzy of berries, plants, insects, roots, fish, seeds to store up fat reserves in preparation for winter hibernation.

Don works in the field with both human and/or hound partners. When traveling in grizzly territory his first line of defense is watching his hound's behavior and carrying bear spray. After thousands of hours in the field he's only seen 2 grizzly bears and has yet to feel threatened by any grizzly. At different locations he may hike 4-10 miles through easy or difficult terrain to set up/ monitor the barbed wire bear corrals or rubbing posts. A lure made of cow blood and fish guts helps lure grizzly bears to the corral area. Every month or so corrals may be torn down and relocated somewhere else along the grizzly's travel trail to increase chances of snaring hair samples. The hair that is caught on the barbed wire is collected and labeled. Trail cameras may also be installed to capture bear activity and other wildlife (cougar, moose, wolf, badger etc.) at the site. This information is shared with other agency programs.

Trapping bears with foot snares is another way to monitor grizzly bear activity. A collar with a battery life of 2 years is attached to a sedated bear. A satellite signal /GPS locator monitors its location. Once the battery dies, the collar sensors remotely release and the collar drops off. In remote areas airplanes can help locate grizzly bears from the air.

The hair, that is collected on the trail or snagged on the barb wire, is analyzed for type of bear species and DNA. The adult grizzly bear hair is silver tipped. In a 2015 DNA study, they found 6 Selkirk area cubs were sired by a male visiting from the Cabinets area.

*(**Continued from page 4)***

By permanently authorizing the LWCF, we are securing protections for iconic landscapes, native plant habitat, healthy working forests, recreational access and jobs for our communities.

For more about how the LWCF has impacted each county:

http://projects.invw.org/data/lwcf/grants-id.html

For more details on Natural Resources Management Act (2019):

https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/47/text

Member Profile: Preston Andrews

Submitted by Cindy Hayes

I was born in Hollywood, but since I was never "discovered," I moved to the beach where I surfed and later tried college as an engineering major. I got my draft notice in 1966, but fortunately my family had a boat, and my father and I had volunteered for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. So with that experience, I enlisted in the Coast Guard. I served on a cutter and air station in California and in Okinawa. After being discharged in 1970, I traveled some and after encounters with *Lophophora williamsii* in the Arizona desert became passionate about plants. I worked as a landscaper in California, and had my own landscape maintenance business for a while. I was also a passionate rock climber and mountaineer, climbing throughout western North America, in New Zealand, and the Italian Dolomites. During this period I finished my B.S. degree in Fruit Science at California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo and then studied for M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in horticulture at Washington State University. There I researched winter hardiness "deep supercooling" in peach and cherry trees, in which some parts of these plants don't freeze until very low temperatures (also occurs in *Rhododendron*, *Cornus*, *Abies*, *Picea* and *Larix*). Because of this research and my love for mountains, I dreamed of getting a research job studying alpine plants, but had to settle for agricultural plants since that's where the jobs and grant money were. I worked as a research scientist for Campbell Soup Company in Davis, California and at Massey University in New Zealand, until I was hired in 1990 by WSU as their pomologist. In my career at WSU, I taught classes and studied sustainable farming systems, the nutritional quality of fruits, and how plants protect themselves from stresses imposed on them by environmental extremes.

Patty Ericsson and I met in Pullman in 2004 and bought our home in Sandpoint in 2011 while we were still professors at WSU. I was a professor of horticulture, specializing in fruit crops (apples, cherries, berries) and Patty was the director of writing programs. We came to Sandpoint after considering several other locations for retirement, including Hood River, Oregon and Port Townsend, Washington. Sandpoint won out for several reasons including mountains, forests, a beautiful lake, proximity to an international airport (Patty's children and grandkids live far away on several continents), and a vibrant community with many volunteer opportunities.

My son, Gavin, born in 1992, graduated from Evergreen State College in Olympia, and now works in the wine industry in Spokane. Patty and I are involved in a number of volunteer activities, with Patty's focus on the arts and social justice and mine in plants, citizen science, and environmental issues. We play to our individual strengths and share them with each other. We both love to be on the water, either in kayaks or sailboat. We both love the snow, either on skis or snowshoes. We both love to hike, but I'm more ambitious in that regard. I don't normally think of "bucket lists", except being at peace within myself, and in harmony with others and the earth. I would still like to climb the rest of the Cascade volcanoes. (I've climbed two-thirds of them.) And if I have the opportunity, I dream of a long sailing adventure, like to Hawaii or New Zealand.

I've been a member of KNPS for just a year now and want to continue sharing my knowledge of plants with others. Plants have been my life work and always will be.

Arboretum Committee Announcement

For those Arboretum volunteers and those interested in volunteering, the 2019 Planning Meeting for the Arboretum will be held Wednesday, March 13 at 1:00 at the Bonner County Historical Museum in Lakeview Park. There will be information about the Arboretum for newcomers and weather permitting a walk through the Arb.

A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest

By Marilyn McIntyre

The winter Bear Cub tumbled over the garden fence on a 6° F day in early February with a cold northerly wind blowing. Once upright again, he scampered across the crusty snow to the bird seed feeder where he ate voraciously .

He was pretty scraggly and undernourished but following a meal or two of seeds and some freezer burned huckleberries he began to perk up and seemed to enjoy watching the dogs flounder in the snow as he looked down from a tall tree. Then one day he left when the crust warmed, probably returning to his mother in a den.

That was in 2007. Had it been this year there would be no crust because of the deep Moisture free snow. Here in the not so Moist Montane we have 107" of powder and persistently cold temperatures, but no wandering bear cubs and a long time before we see the ground again.

Board of Directors 2019

Ken Thacker, President, Programs
Jan Geren, Vice President
Carol Robinson, Secretary
Shawna Parry, Treasurer
Julie Kallemeyn, Publicity
Cindy Hayes, Board Member
Judy Lyding, Board Member
Carol Jenkins, Board Member

Additional Committee Chairs and Positions

Mary Jo Haag, Sue Gervais, Mary Fraser,
Rae Charlton, Ann Torpie, Arboretum
Dennis Rieger, Landscape
Molly O'Reilly, Conservation
Janice DeBaun, Lois Wythe Grant
Mary Jo Haag, Historian
Nancy Rieger, Hospitality
Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee
Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor
Margaret Petersen, Shawna Parry, Printer
Ken Thacker, Preston Andrews, Program
Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, List serve

Green Bay, image by Jill Wilson

Happy New Year!!!

Join KNPS for 2019!

Membership Rates

January 1st through December 31st

———	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*
Membership dues and additional
Donations may be tax deductible

Membership Information

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

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