



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXIII Number 4

September - October 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 September 28, 2019*

Kyle Nagy and Jennifer Jensen, University of Idaho

**Native Plant Research and the Heritage Apples at UI's
Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center**

Jennifer will talk about UI's native plant trial, and after a brief botanical perspective and history of apples, Kyle will talk about the heritage apples at SOAC. Tasting of the fall crop is anticipated.

Kyle Nagy is the Superintendent and Orchard Operations Manager at the University of Idaho's Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center. Jennifer Jensen is University of Idaho's Extension Educator for Bonner County focusing on horticulture, small farms and food systems.

ATTENTION*: Program will take place at UI's Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center, 10881 North Boyer Road (Entry gate is 100 yards north of Schweitzer Mountain Road.)

Saturday Oct 26, 2019

Diane Stutzman, Desert Jewels Nursery

Plants and Plant Communities of the Channeled Scablands

Take a trip into the little known world of the interior Columbia Basin. From the highway, the scablands look bleak and empty, but they are full of life. Regional Native Americans consider the wheat fields to be a desert, and the scablands to be the breadbasket. Come and find out why.

Diane Stutzman is the owner of Desert Jewel Nursery in Spokane, which specializes in drought-adapted plants and native plants and succulents from the West and Midwest. She teaches classes in low-water landscape design and is a former BLM Botanist/Regional Data Coordinator in northeastern Washington.

May Program Summary

Summarized by Rae Charlton

Our May program was presented by Michael Lucid, Wildlife Diversity Biologist with Idaho Fish and Game, and Kristina Boyd, Citizen Science Coordinator, also with IDFG. Their presentation focused on efforts to help animals and plants adapt to climate change by restoring habitat in the Boundary-Smith Creek Wildlife Management Area (250 forested acres, north of Bonner's Ferry, up to the Canadian border). Their target species include two bumblebees (the Western and Suckley's Cuckoo), the Pale Jumping Slug, two amphibians (the Western Toad and the Northern Leopard Frog), and Grizzly Bears. Waterfowl management is also a prime goal. The project is a partnership between IDFG and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative.

A main objective is to improve the landscape's climate resiliency for species with the greatest conservation need. We know that we'll continue to have wetter winters and hotter summers, which threaten the ponds essential to resident amphibians. To help, ephemeral ponds are being constructed. Another threat to native amphibians are bullfrogs, an invasive species now heading north. Native bumblebees, adapted to cool weather and particular forage plants, are being challenged by non-native bees. Ways to help our bumblebees include creating shade (for cooler temperatures) and increasing the amount and availability of forage.

As Kristina explained, there are many ways volunteers can help. Monarch butterfly populations are in decline, and reasons for it include agricultural monocultures, coastal logging, and severe weather.

(Continued on page 3)

President's Message

Submitted by Ken Thacker

Fall begins on the Autumnal Equinox, which is between September 21st and 24th in the Northern Hemisphere. However, here in North Idaho it begins much closer to Labor Day than to the equinox and I, for one, like it that way. Another uniqueness is that the September/October KNPS Newsletter 'input due date' seems like the real start of our year. So Happy New Year everyone!

I wish to welcome all the 20+ new KNPS members who have joined our community over the past year and thank you for becoming one of us. If you have any questions about who or what KNPS is about, I encourage you to look at our webpage and the answer will probably be there somewhere. The webpage is also really a map of the volunteer opportunities we have, in case you want to become more involved at some point. I assure you that none of the "jobs" we have require more than a few hours a month (or a year) of your time. If any of these strike your fancy, please email me at ida-howeedguy@yahoo.com and I can connect you to the right person. Of special interest, whether you are a hands-on garden person or not and just want to spend more time outdoors with good people, the Arboretum can always use another hand during the summer.

As all past KNPS presidents know, filling important volunteer positions as they come open is a critical part of the Presidents duties. It seems like there is always at least one position that needs filling and right now the most critical is the Lois Wythe Grant Committee Chair. The KNPS grant honoring our founder Lois Wythe recognizes projects that promote the use and appreciation of native plants. Each grant can be up to \$300.00. Janice DeBaun successfully chaired the committee for many years and announced her 'retirement' last Spring. The need to find her replacement has risen to the top because the committee's activity peaks in the fall to meet the scheduling for awarding the grants in time for spring planting. Janice has provided an excellent binder of information about the committee's procedures so her replacement wouldn't have to reinvent anything. So, if anyone is interested in becoming more involved with KNPS, here is a great opportunity.

One of our great friends, Kathy Cousins, has recently announced that she has accepted a Fish Biologist position with the Army Corps of Engineers in Seattle. While she is not a KNPS member, Kathy has been a significant part of our community since joining the Idaho Fish and Game in 2004. During her tenure here, Kathy and has been the driving force behind both the Pack River Delta and Clark Fork River Delta wildlife restoration projects. She has provided us with community programs and guided tours of the project sites, and we have provided her with many hours of volunteer effort. Kathy has expressed her gratitude for the support and guidance we have given her and expects that funding, construction, planting and weed control work will continue on the Deltas for many years to come.

Arboretum School Tours

Submitted by Judy Lyding

The rapt attention, the OOHs of delight, the gasps that western red cedars could grow to 1000 years old and the clang of the bell saying time to rotate to the next tree station. These were some of the sounds heard at our annual Arboretum Tree Tours, held this year May 28, 29 and 30. We hosted about 140 third graders with their teachers and guides. They learned to identify 10 of our native trees by their bark, needles and cones. They learned what "tree cookies" could tell about the growing conditions and ages of the trees. Many thanks to the volunteers: Preston Andrews, Susan Angel, Alicia Barnes, Gail Bolin, Robin Campbell, Rae Charlton, Barbara Denny, Jane Fritz, Jan Geren, Mary Jo Haag, Cindy Hayes, Irv Jenkins, Judy Lyding, Gail Lyster, Ken Thacker, Mary Toland and Ann Torpie.



(May Program Summary Continued from page 1)

Growing milkweed and restoring habitat to its original makeup would help them AND the bees, which require a diversity of plants. Bumblebee surveys are done once a month. Collecting wildflower seed, and taking it to a “seed depot” such as East Bonner County Library, can be a family project (a collection manual is available online and in print). Educate people to never use neonicotinoids, pesticides which persist in the soil, enter every part of a plant (even nectar) and are harmful for bumblebees. The Xerces Society has excellent information on the subject. Other ways to help bumblebees include making nest boxes, and leaving a wild area in your yard (a place for them to feed and rest).

More at www.idfg.idaho.gov/bees2bears and Facebook @beestobears.

June Program Summary

Submitted by Rae Charlton

Program chair Ken Thacker had an intriguing new idea for our June meeting: how about a field trip somewhere in the local area? And when John Harbuck and Susan Bates-Harbuck volunteered their 35 acre property in the Selle valley for the event the planning began. The Board pondered a number of questions, such as should we do all our usual publicity? How big a crowd could we handle, and how many cars? Should we meet at the Community Hall at the usual time, to get everyone organized? How about group leaders, once we all got there? What if it rained?



All these questions were resolved and the weather was perfect. The field trip went beautifully. Over forty people showed up, including some folks who saw the publicity and thought it would be a good way to begin learning about native plants! Many thanks to group leaders Gail Bolin, Derek Antonelli, Ken Thacker and Bonnie Jakobus, and the Harbucks. They provided reference materials, extra walking sticks, and an amazing depth of personal knowledge. The crowd easily divided up into four units, and headed off in various directions. A fascinating variety of native plants were discovered and discussed, in areas ranging from the vegetable garden to the orchard to the surrounding forest.

A number of happy attendees suggested that such a field trip should become an annual event.



Committee Reports

Arboretum Committee

When interviewing candidates for the summer Arboretum Coordinator position we always hope to hire someone with drive and initiative, although it's hard to draft questions that reveal those useful qualities. This year we were very fortunate to find such a person, Cara Johnson, who has done an excellent job in not only keeping the Arboretum well cared for but also pointing out areas that need attention. One such is the grove of young larches near the cabin. The Leadership Team decided that expert opinions were needed. Forester Bill Love and our own Bob Wilson assessed the larches, and decided that thinning was in order. The healthiest specimens remain, and are receiving more water and sunlight.

The major project of the year has been the renovation of the Meditation Grove arbor. Cara noted its deteriorating condition, and asked the Leadership Team to evaluate the structure. We noted that some logs forming the roof had fallen in, some of the uprights had rotted where they met the ground, and it was truly rickety. But we all loved having the structure, which was festooned with clematis and honeysuckle. Cara conferred with a friend, Collin Beggs, who builds timber-frame homes. She mentioned our plight, and he came to the Arboretum to look at the arbor. He volunteered to design and build a new, sturdier one! The attached photo shows the volunteers who gathered to prune back plants and pull down the old structure: Cindy Hayes, in front, and in the back row, Ken Haag, Sue Gervais, Cara, Mary Jo Haag, and Ken Thacker. Molly Errett, who volunteered this summer and was part of the crew, took the photo. The arbor was pulled down and dismantled in less than two hours. The next step will be meeting with Collin about creating the concrete footings. Actual construction should happen in early to mid-October. His website (collinbeggs.com) showcases his passion for hand-crafted custom design. We can't thank him enough for this generous donation!



The annual Arboretum Cleanup will be Sunday, Oct. 6, from 10:00 to noon, followed immediately by our traditional potluck. Everyone who'd like to help put the Arboretum to bed for the winter is invited. Many thanks to all the volunteers who share in keeping up our native plant showcase. If you are interested in working at the arboretum on a regular basis or just to do a single project, email Sue at arboretum@nativeplantsociety.com

Conservation Committee

It's time for new leadership at the "Conservation Committee" says retiring chair Molly O'Reilly, after 18 years at the post. Since inception in 2001, the committee has initiated action on noxious weeds, toured planned projects on federal and state lands, impacted how our public agencies approach conservation and cooperated with other organization. It is the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society's voice for protecting native plants in our area. Interest is high in conservation among KNPS members and the new chair and committee will carve out areas they find interesting and effective. To learn more, contact Ken Thacker, president at idahoweedguy@yahoo.com

Landscape Committee

The Landscaping Committee completed one last task in August. We went to the Pine Street Woods site and helped them decide on how to stabilize a berm that is in place that acts as a sound barrier for nearby houses. Initially, a grass seed mixture will be used and next year we will work on adding plants and shrubs that will improve the looks of the site and further help in the stabilization process.

We are finished for the season and are looking for possible projects for 2020. To learn more about the landscape committee contact: landscape@nativeplantsociety.org

2019 KNPS Plant Sale

Submitted by Bob Wilson

Our annual plant sale was held on June 15 this year and we couldn't have asked for nicer weather. Sunny skies and hardly a breeze made for a great day. And thanks to all of the hard work and planning, we got through the day with no hitches and no surprises. Thanks to Kim Woodruff at the City of Sandpoint Parks & Rec. Dept. for clearing the administrative hurdles and to Olivia Luther at the Bonner County History Museum for their cooperation and again making their tables available for the event.

As always it takes a group effort to bring this all together and I would like to thank everyone involved. First to the KNPS Board for their support and careful thought through the event planning process; to Rae Charlton for picking up the key from the museum so we can get the tables; and to the set-up crew who arrived promptly at 7 am and had everything set up a half hour early – Dennis & Nancy Rieger, Irv & Carol Jenkins, Molly O'Reilly & Steve Lockwood, and Ruth Ungerer. Canopies were provided by Sylvia Chatburn, Gail Bolin and Ken Thacker. Ken also put up signage directing people to the sale. Thanks to you all.

Expert assistance was rendered in the sale area by Jill Wilson, Gail Bolin and Molly O'Reilly. Jan Geren again organized the bake sale and we were graced with an abundance of delicious goodies. Cindy Hayes took charge of the garden art where we again featured the fine craftsmanship of Bob Blair who made gnome doors, planters and hods. Dennis Rieger assembled several railroad tie ants and Cindy completed the entomological display with hand-painted ladybug rocks.

The checkout process proceeded seamlessly with Shawna Parry in charge of the cashiering assisted by Marilyn George. We also had Marilyn McIntyre, Rae Charlton, Laura Forsberg and Jane Fritz tallying the purchases.

At the end, it seemed like everyone just pitched in to take down the canopies, put away the tables and everything was packed up in short order. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day. I hope to do it again next year.

KNPS Potluck

Waterlife Discovery Center

Once again we held our annual KNPS Potluck at the Idaho Fish and Game's Waterlife Discovery Center. The Waterlife Discovery Center is a habitat education and interpretive area on the shores of the Pend Oreille River near Sandpoint, Idaho. Thanks to Gail Bolin for organizing yet another wonderful potluck and thanks to everyone who came for their delectable offerings! We counted about 45 attendees!



Member Profile: Pat Stevens

Pat Stevens was born and raised in Spokane, moved to Southern California and spent approximately 35 years raising her family there. One year after visiting her family in Spokane, her husband Ewell, who was raised in Southern California, suggested they retire somewhere in the area. Pat remarked “but it snows up there” and he replied, “I will put tennis rackets on my feet and walk across it”.

They knew they wanted to live on the water and looked for property with a dock. On a visit later they found the property they wanted. They bought it and rented it out for three years until they were able to retire.

After living on the Pend Oreille River for 20 years, Ewell could no longer take care of the property and boat so they decided to move to Westwood Village. He passed away 10 years ago and Pat has continued to live there. Pat has a son, Mark, who lives in Houston, a daughter, Gail, (her knitting guru) and another son, Jim, who has passed away.

Pat has grand children, great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Pat retired in 1986 from a Jaguar dealership as the accountant/office manager and was especially proud of winning a national proficiency award for the year of 1984. As number one in the nation and Canada the award included a Caribbean cruise, a cash bonus, TV and other prizes. Pat was also proud to have been named a Woman of Wisdom for the year 2013.

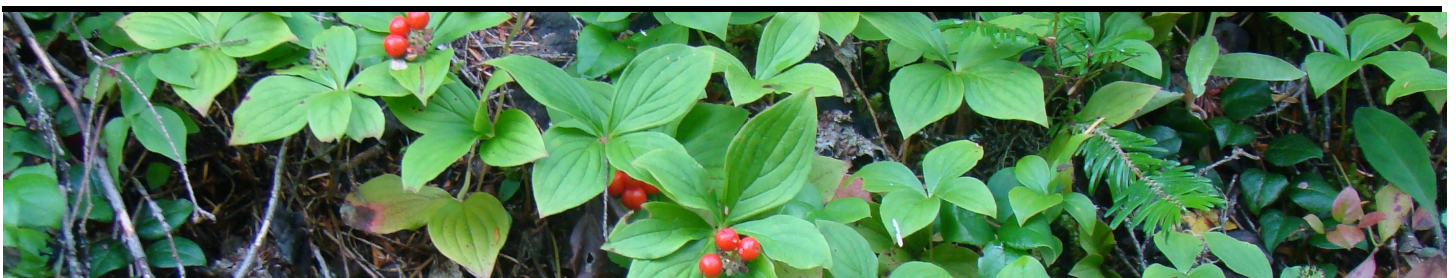
Pat joined the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society shortly after they were organized, and served as their second treasurer and remained in that position for 4 years. The main reason Pat joined KNPS was for the field trips.

When she volunteered to be field trip chairman, she planned one every month from March through October. One year, when planning the October field trip to Marilyn George’s property, she was thinking “What are we going to find in October”. But that was the year that there must have been 100 varieties of mushrooms, and Marilyn’s property was full of them! It turned out to be the best field trip of the year.

Pat is a familiar face at KNPS Saturday meetings, often seen working on a knitting project. In addition to her knitting, she enjoys reading, hiking, and bike riding. Besides being a long time member of KNPS, Pat belongs to Monday Hikers, CAL and Friends of the Library, which she helped start 30 years ago.

Closing quote from Pat: “I love this community and can’t imagine living anywhere else.”

Submitted by Cindy Hayes – KNPS Board member





A Voice From the Moist Montane Forest



Mountain Meadows

The word for this summer in the Moist Montane is “extravagant” and it stands in stark contrast to last summer’s smoky, dry and hot days. The bear grass festival was outrageous, with the entire forest floor covered in white “ice cream cone” blossoms. Now as I write at the end of August they remain as tall stems and large seed pods, arising from the evergreen mother plants. Next the huckleberries came on fast and furious with huge clusters of black and purple berries attracting birds, bears, small mammals, dogs and humans to eat their fill. The serviceberries followed suit and the Mountain Ash, both Western and Sitka, were led to a weeping stance by the weight of the orange and red berries. The pre-migration birds are eating them now, having devoured the red osier dogwood fruit in the early summer. The weather brought enough moisture to keep everything green and dust free and the meadows reminiscent of all mountain meadows in the summer.

Is there anything sweeter than a walk across a mountain meadow on an early summer morning with the sound of the creek up ahead drawing you closer to the shade as the sun gets higher? I am pretty sure that is how all of the other forest users feel too.

Soon the fall will be draping us in gold and all of the larders will be full, the creek will rise and the marshes refill. Please join me in caring for our amazing Idaho forests and waters in this, one of the last native riparian areas in the country.

Thanks, Marilyn McIntyre



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, Rae Charlton,
 Ann Torpie, Arboretum
 Dennis Rieger, Landscape
 Molly O'Reilly, Conservation
 Vacant, 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

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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Arboretum school tours. Photo Credit: Judy Lyding