

2015 Annual Report Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

Highlights of the year included the purchase (finally!) of a portable sound system which is used to good effect at all our general meetings.

The Program of the Year was provided by Jack Nesbit, on Native Plant Survivors, which brought in a record crowd of 120! He is a knowledgeable, entertaining speaker whom we'd love to include in our programming every other year (due to the honorarium, which is often cost-shared with other groups, e.g., FSPW).

Our historical record (annual notebooks, newsletters, clippings, photos, et al) was reviewed by three members and winnowed down to two boxes. These important files are now being maintained by MaryJo Haag. The rich history will be useful as we celebrate our 20th year in 2017!

KNPS broke onto the national scene in several ways, one of which is explained in the Conservation committee report. Another was the article on our Arboretum, written by Rae Charlton and Molly O'Reilly, for the North American Native Plant Society quarterly publication, "Blazing Star" (they solicited it, and were so pleased they want another article next year!).

The "Replant Your Tax Refund" fundraiser at Baxter's restaurant on April 15 was such a success we plan to do it again in 2016.

In June, Marilyn McIntyre and J. D. Pratt invited members to visit their home in the "moist montane". They provided a wonderful tour of their home and locale, including the geology of the area, AND a delicious lunch, outdoors! It was very special and much appreciated, as is Marilyn's article and drawing in each newsletter.

In July, our Treasurer moved away (can he DO that?) leaving a big job unfilled. Since no one stepped forward to take it on, the President took it over as a temporary assignment. We hired Rivers End Bookkeeping to handle the account keeping, including all the tax and insurance work. This meant switching over to a new format for all our financial reports, QuickBooks. It has taken some adjustment, but is working out well. Our financial position is sound. Our December, 2014 ending balance (cash on hand) was \$7,575. Our December, 2015 ending balance was \$7,275. The Board monitors all expenditures closely and tries to create an annual budget which reasonably predicts how income and expenses will balance out. Everyone is pleased by the continuing success and sales of our Landscaping Book, now in its third printing.

In short, it was another good year!

Rae Charlton, President

Website:

Developed by Wendy Aeschliman and maintained by Dennis Rieger, it averaged 126 viewings per day, with a maximum of 424 visits in a single day. During 2015 there were over 46,000 unique visits. The data shows that the most popular pages were the home page and arboretum page, followed by the calendar, activities, board committee chairs, plant resources, membership, Lois Wythe grant, and conservation.

Arboretum:

Sylvia Chatburn, Manager, reports that the Arboretum did very well, in spite of the hot weather during the summer. The gardeners worked hard to keep the weeds down, and appreciated having a good supply of pine needles for mulching.

Linda Kirchmann, our paid Coordinator, did a fantastic job. Bill Lamson has re-worked and better defined the paths. Bruce Vogelsinger continues to make outstanding compost. Other steadfast gardeners: Joyce Pence, Konrad Dahlstrom, Ken and Mary Jo Haag, Mary Toland, Rae Charlton, Cheryl McKee, Jackie Earle, and Theresa Reese. Neighbor and new gardener Sue Gervais is much appreciated.

We prepared more of the Aspen Grove for planting, and in September added more flowering plants in the area. The goal is to have color in all seasons. The asters are resplendent. We also added more flowering plants to the area next to the walkway entered from Ella.

We suffered some vandalism in the fall, part of the drip irrigation system was pulled up. Stumps we used as hardscaping were knocked over and broken. Rocks were rearranged and signs knocked down. The police have been alerted, and we may have to take action next year.

November windstorms created a large spring cleanup job, but fortunately no real damage was done.

Lois Wythe Grant Committee:

Chairman Janice DeBaun reports that after mailing application forms to towns, schools, libraries and senior citizen centers in Bonner County, and doing news releases, three applications were received. Southside School was selected. The committee will meet to discuss an earlier deadline for applications and draft a simple form for grant winners to complete, outlining how funds were spent. They have asked the Board, when discussing the next annual budget, to consider increasing the amount of the grant—perhaps there could be two winners in a year.

Conservation:

Committee chair Molly O'Reilly reports that a highlight of 2015 was the formation of the national group Native Plant Conservation Campaign. According to their website they are a network of Affiliate native plant societies and other native plant conservation organizations throughout the United States. Their mission is to promote the conservation of native plants and their habitats through collaboration, education, and advocacy.

After research by, and with encouragement from the Conservation Committee, the KNPS Board unanimously decided to align with this group and be listed as an affiliate on their website. The Board also endorsed the NPCC's campaign to improve the status of native plants in the Endangered Species Act, and urging that federal agencies hire more botanists.

Members of the Conservation Committee continued working with the USFS and FSPW on the Treasured Landscape in the Lightning Creek drainage, and volunteered with the massive and important Clark Fork Delta restoration plantings.

Landscape:

Committee chair Dennis Rieger reports that four different landscaping projects were completed in 2015. The 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, which offered protection from a sudden rain/sleet storm. The second evaluation was on a new construction site off Sagle Road. The property already had some nice vegetation and only needed weed removal, tree thinning, and some additional shrubs and ground cover plants. For the third consultation they looked at a large property along Route 2, east of Dover. They decided the site could be enhanced with additional shrubs, ground cover and trees. The owner plans to improve the entry driveway and the areas around the buildings. The final evaluation was a property along Lakeshore Drive with a cottage slated for 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 landscaping.

Dennis thanks Bob and Jill, Sylvia, Gail, Vicky, Eileen and Nancy for all their help.