

KNPS 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2020 Annual Report – Treasurer Submitted by Shawna Parry

What an unusual year! The Covid-19 Pandemic threw us all for a loop. As Preston reports, KNPS had two meetings in-person at the beginning of the year until all was shut down by the pandemic, but Preston rallied to the challenge and created many virtual programs through Zoom. Preston also maintains a KNPS presence on Facebook.

Lots of discussion on repairing the old cabin roof, but the Bonner County Museum has asked to repurpose the cabin from a storage/office for KNPS to a museum artifact. With that in mind, a committee was formed to research how to build a new cabin for KNPS on a spot near the S. Ella entrance with Ken Thacker & Mark Stockwell in the lead.

The KNPS picnic at the WaterLife Discovery Center, September 6th, with appropriate distancing for Covid, was a success. So nice to see everyone. No BBQ; everyone brought own meal. The Holiday party was cancelled.

Robin Campbell & Cindy Hayes have been writing Plant Note articles for the Bonner Bee.

The membership accepted the proposal to change the fiscal year to July 1 – June 30 to better follow our program year & memberships.

In addition to the Liability policy through Western Community Insurance Co for \$236 for 5/8/20 – 5/8/21, the board decided to purchase Directors & Officers insurance from Great American Insurance Group for \$569 for 2/1/20 – 2/1/21.

Retiring board members at end of 2020 are Ken Thacker [Pres], Jan Geren [V-Pres] & Judy Lyding [she will continue to be grant chair].

New board for 2021 through June 2022 [due to change in fiscal year] are Shawna Parry [Pres & Treasurer], Preston Andrews [V-Pres & Programs], Carol Jenkins [Secretary], Cindy Hayes [Fundraising & Plant Notes], Robin Campbell [Plant Notes], Sherry Ennis [Director], Mark Stockwell [Director], Rae Charlton [Arb Rep].

Harpo Faust received the \$300 Lois Wythe grant in 2020.

2020 ended with \$7,120.22 in checking and \$13,790.59 in Vanguard [\$8,238.18 in General Fund; \$5,552.41 in Arb Fund]. Landscape Books brought in \$1,900.81 over the year.

2020 Annual Report - Programs Submitted by Preston Andrews

We had five programs for our fourth Saturday monthly meetings, with four cancelled because of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The January and February meetings were

offered in-person at Sandpoint Community Hall, with the March and April meetings cancelled even though speakers had been arranged for them. The May and June meetings were not even scheduled. The September, October and November programs were offered virtually, via Zoom. The meetings included a wide range of speakers and topics, including:

- Preston Andrews, Ken Thacker and Phil Hough: *Native Plant Conservation and KNPS* (January 25th)
- Jennifer Costich-Thompson: *Priest River Forest Reserve: Then & Now* (February 22nd)
- Derek Antonelli: *Ferns of North Idaho* (March 28th CANCELLED)
- Laura Wolf: *Mountain Goats: Living on the Edge* (April 25th CANCELLED; September 26th via Zoom in collaboration Britta Mireley of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness)
- Chris Schnepf: *Ecology and Silviculture of Subalpine Fir* (October 24th via Zoom)
- Harpo Faust: *A Vascular Flora of the Selkirk Mountains of Bonner and Boundary Counties* (November 28th via Zoom)

No field trips were offered in 2020. Virtual programs via Zoom are planned for the Spring 2021 meetings.

2020 Annual Report – Arboretum

Submitted by Rae Charlton for the Arboretum Leadership Team

What a year! A huge windstorm/blizzard on March 13 took out a number of conifers AND Arlis's trellis in the Moist Forest habitat. That habitat suffered the loss of several trees and is now more open, less shady. The city cut down and removed the trees, gardeners helped clear debris, and we soldiered on. The Covid lockdown affected KNPS and the Arb, of course: no plant sale, no tree tours, no volunteer meetings. But the new idea of work parties was a hit, as socially distanced gardeners worked together on a habitat or area, one morning a month. Special thanks to Mary Toland and Cindy Hayes for their faithful service. And kudos to our outstanding Coordinator, Cara Johnson.

Cara had noticed that the handmade arbor in the Meditation Grove was about to collapse (after an amazing 20 year run) and that it was a liability. We talked about how we might replace it. And then Cara talked to her friend Collin Beggs, a local designer/builder of timberframe structures, who offered to design and build it, as a gift to the community. All the Arb team had to do was remove the old arbor and install concrete foundations for the six posts of the new one. The installation ceremony for Collin's beautiful arbor, on July 22, was the highlight of the summer and frontpage news in the Daily Bee.

Thanks to the design talent and hard work of Ann Torpie, the third Interpretative Sign was installed. It features colorful artwork by members Marilyn MacIntyre and Marilyn George, and focuses on "Why Native Plants Matter."

The other Big Issue was the historic cabin, which we'd been using for tool storage and as an informal headquarters for the Coordinator and volunteer gardeners. Early in the year we worked on ideas for fixing its leaky roof, and settled on having a workshop on splitting cedar shakes by hand, which would then become the new roof. Covid shut down that plan. Then, the museum, which owns the cabin, decided to use it as display space. So, the KNPS Board and the

Arboretum Leadership Team put together a cabin committee, to make the critical decisions about a new cabin. Parks and Rec Director Kim Woodruff came out to meet with the committee and walk the property. He included representatives from the Lions Club and the museum in the walkabout. And he proposed that all the entities sharing the space in Lakeview Park (the museum, the Lions Club, and the Arb) come together to plan for the highest and best use of our shared space. He noted that the three anchoring institutions, and the neighbors, form a “unique neighborhood, a special community.” Everyone welcomed this idea, and we look forward to developing shared activities, such as programs for children.

Our “Putting the Arb to Bed for the Winter” workday (Sept. 27) focused on cleaning out the cabin. Tools, plant labels, tree cookies and more were whisked off for storage in myriad garages. The heavy desk, which had belonged to KNPS founder Lois Wythe, resisted our efforts to re-patriate it, and the museum staff kindly let us over-winter it. Spring 2021 will be exciting!

2020 Annual Report Submitted by Cindy Hayes

During the pandemic the KNPS has expanded its use of various media sources to keep the KNPS membership informed. Most will be archived on the KNPS website thanks to Jill Wilson, Dennis Rieger and the KNPS Board. Even though we haven't been able to congregate, board members (Preston, Rae and Cindy) continued writing monthly summaries of programs shown on Zoom/YouTube for the KNPS newsletter.

Since the pandemic started, members of the board (Robin, Cindy) initiated a series of articles called "Notes from the Arboretum" highlighting native plants. Since August of 2020 the articles were published periodically in Sunday's Daily Bee and Bonner County Historical Museum newsletter.

We have also reserved a display case at Library from May-July to display plans for the new cabin, the June plant sale and what else's is happening.