



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XVI Number 2

Mar /Apr 2013

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

Upcoming Programs

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

Derek Antonelli, Master Naturalist –
*“Plants of Hager Lake – A Rare
North Idaho Peatland”*

Saturday, April 27

**John Hastings – “Students as Citizen Scientists:
It's Just the Beginning”**

Committee Reports

Conservation Committee

Conservation Committee meets as needed, generally over lunch at Tango Cafe. Please let Molly O'Reilly know if you want to be on the notification list. For more information: yachthalo@yahoo.com or 610-6642. The committee is the organization's voice for native plants and their habitats on public lands in Bonner and Boundary Counties.

Landscape Committee

The Landscape Committee will hold planning meetings on Thursday, March 21. In order to get as much information as possible, there will be a 9AM meeting and a noon lunch meeting. Choose your most convenient time. The 9AM will be at Panhandle State Bank, 3rd floor, northwest corner. Bring a drink upstairs from Tango if you like. The noon meeting will be at Hydra Restaurant, 115 Lake St. An hour should suffice for each. I will email a reminder to

everyone on my lists. If you are new, curious or interested, please call me at 263-3835 or email me at eatkiss1@frontier.com. We welcome all.

Upcoming Events

Saturday April 20: KNPS will host a booth at the Sandpoint Earth Day.

Saturday June 8: Arbor Day Celebration in the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum. Native Plants, baked goods and unique native plant art will be available to purchase; proceeds to support the arboretum. Stay tuned for more details.

Announcements

The Pend Oreille Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalist Program is seeking individuals who are interested in carrying out their mission to develop a group of well-informed volunteers to actively work toward stewardship of Idaho's natural environment. The classes will take place for approximately 6 weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning April 9, 2013. They will focus on local natural history, and will include such topics as ecological concepts, native plants, fish, birds, insects, mammals, geology and forest and wetland ecology. If you would like to be considered for the Pend Oreille Master Naturalist Chapter training program, please contact the chapter at imn.sandpoint@gmail.com or Idaho Master Naturalist Program, P.O. Box 1062, Sandpoint, ID 83864. The application deadline is March 20.

KNPS Business Sponsor

Cedar Mountain Perennials
**Specializing in Native Plants for Inland
Northwest Gardens**
www.cedarmountainperennials.com
email: botanybob@frontier.com



President's Message

Gail Bolin

It's the last day of February and the snow is gradually melting and I'm hoping for an early spring! Winter has given us time to rest and plan for the upcoming season's programs and activities. We have some great speakers and presentations coming up that will further our own knowledge while expanding community interest and perhaps our membership. We are gradually entering into the world of technology that will provide us a wider range of community contact and exposure. You can now follow us on Facebook. We have accomplished a lot and have much to look forward to in this new season. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (wgbolin@hotmail.com) or call 208-627-3292

Past Programs

January 26, 2013

Gail Bolin, President of KNPS, "Landscaping for Birds, Bees, and Butterflies"

Due mainly to human activities (pesticide use, habitat loss, etc.), populations of birds, bees and butterflies are all in decline. Gail discussed ways to attract all three to urban and rural landscapes. Our local fauna have co-evolved with the native plants in our area, thus making native plants the best choice for landscaping. Some of the advantages of native plants include deep root systems for finding water and nutrients, and thriving without the use of fertilizers and pesticides. In addition to planting a variety of native plants for food and shelter, shunning the use of pesticides, providing water, and providing good habitat (brush piles, leaf litter, rock piles, and dead wood) are ways to attract birds, bees and butterflies.

February 23, 2013

John Reuter, executive director of Conservation Voters for Idaho, "Politics and (Native) Plants"



John indicated that if politics is defined as the art of the possible, his job is to expand what is possible. He achieves this goal by bringing Idahoans together

around issues that are important to their shared values to present a unified conservation message to legislators. Idaho is defined by two key resources: its people and its landscape. How do we organize the first to allow us to both preserve and sustainably use the second? John provided a number of examples of issues his organization is guiding through the legislative process. He suggested that citizens should communicate with their legislators to share informed opinions and offer thanks when support is offered. A lively question and answer session on effective lobbying followed John's remarks.

Membership Renewal

If you have not already done so, please send in your membership renewal for 2013. Your support helps us maintain the Native Plant Arboretum, fund the Lois Wythe Grant, provide educational programs for the public and schools, promote our activities at Earth Day, Arbor Day, and the Bonner County Fair, and continue to be a strong voice in the community for native plant conservation. If you are unsure if you have renewed, please contact Bob Wilson (683-2387, botanybob@frontier.com).

Electronic Newsletter - As a measure to cut printing and postage costs, we are offering the newsletter in an electronic format for those interested in receiving it. If you would like to switch from a printed newsletter to a copy in your email, please send a note to botanybob@frontier.com.



From the Moist Montane

Story and Artwork by Marilyn McIntyre



I encountered a group of Pine Grosbeaks eating Western Red Cedar seeds when I skied home from a journey up creek a few days ago, and the Redpolls were circling the drainage, undulating in flocks from one Red Cedar to the next. The presence of the Western Red Cedar is a great attraction for these Finch family seedeaters that come down from the Boreal Forest in the winter to find food. Soon the bird migrations will start in earnest and I will be kept busy doing nothing but watch them in the trees outside of my upstairs studio window. It is too early to see any pollinating insects but soon you may be considering what to use on your yards and gardens to control unwanted “pests”. The Xerces Society For Invertebrate Conservation in Portland, Oregon has published studies about what is killing the bees, and it appears that neonicotinoids in pesticides are a likely culprit.

Unfortunately, products approved for homeowner use in gardens and on lawns and ornamental trees have manufacturer-recommended application rates up to 120 times the rates approved for agricultural crops” and make no mention of the risks to bees and adult butterflies. Download the report at:

www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/

Uncounted numbers of plants exist only because of insects, and the insects, in turn, depend for their lives on the plants. Without this worldwide conspiracy, almost all life’s blood flow would come to a standstill!

-Walter Linsenmaier Insects of the World

Lightning Creek Restoration

Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences

Don Childress

On February 27, the National Forest Foundation held an information sharing and idea gathering session at the 2nd Street Pizza, delicious lunch included, concerning the Treasured Landscape designation for Lightning Creek. Lightning Creek is one of only 14 forests in the nation to be selected, and the only one in Idaho. Lightning Creek was chosen because of the value placed on recreation in our area, the large degree of local participation and because they could add to the project already begun by the U.S.F.S. Due to its wet climate, geological history and high-octane logging during the latter half of the 20th century; Lightning Creek is highly susceptible to landslides, avalanches and high-energy runoff events. This scouring action of large-scale flooding, the most recent in November, 1996, when the stream flow increased from 12 cubic feet per second (cfs) to a record 18,700 cfs in the course of a few days, moved huge amounts of sediment and debris downstream, causing extensive damage to road and trail systems and to the stream bed. The result of this scouring action is to sweep away streamside vegetation and naturally-occurring woody debris from the stream channel. An interruption of this scouring cycle through restoration of woody debris and planting stream bank and gravel bar vegetation will help the creek to withstand future high water events.

The restoration effort will begin at the top of the drainage and will include prescribed burns to create suitable regeneration habitat for white pine along with the direct replanting of seedlings. Increased white bark pine populations will support snow retention and reduce the likelihood of fast snowmelt runoff and associated flood events downstream. Some roadbeds and trails will be decommissioned and re-routed to reduce erosion. Willows and cottonwoods will be planted on denuded gravel bars along with native plants on stream banks. A plant survey will be organized prior to restoration to assess native plants and the presence on noxious weeds. Woody debris will be anchored in the lower stream to further the mitigation of flood events and to support fish habitat. Actual restoration is slated to start in 2014, with the project to be completed in 2017. The National Forest Foundation will host another information meeting and progress report in the fall of 2013.



Member Profile: *Say Hello to Mary Toland*

Article by Rae Charlton

Photo by Marilyn George



Lucky are the kindergartners who get to have Mary as their teacher! I desperately wanted to be one of them as I watched her in action at Southside School. “Mrs. T”, as the children call her, brings joy and a natural gift for teaching to the classroom. On occasion, she even becomes a pied piper... music has been part of her life since childhood. She grew up in Yakima, WA, spending lots of time outdoors and with her two grandmas (who introduced her to gardening). Joining Camp Fire girls led to membership in a singing group which performed around town and stayed together for ten years. And, she played the flute in her high school marching band, which was invited to perform in the Rose Bowl parade.

After college at W.S.U. (graduating in Speech Therapy and Elementary Education), she earned a Master’s of Education with a specialty in Deaf Education at the University of Washington. She and her husband moved to Juneau, AK. The pipeline was going in, the state funded education well, and it was a great time to be teaching there. Mary taught special education (K-12) for 25 years. She loved raising her children close to nature, where they went outside rain or shine (and Juneau is a “rainforest, even worse than Seattle” she reports). Her last 3 years teaching there included partnering with a teacher who took her class for a whole day’s immersion in the forest (plants, animal tracks, etc.). This experience led Mary to incorporate nature education into as many aspects of teaching as possible.

She met Doug in 1987, when they both served on a school curriculum committee. Doug had originally travelled to Alaska in 1967, as the “sherpa “ for a Smithsonian expedition to Green Monster Mountain. It was a “life-changer”. After college he eventually returned to Alaska and bought the mountain, where he hunts world famous crystals of epidote and quartz. After Mary retired they decided to move closer to her parents (and sister), in Spokane. A long road trip checking out possibilities ended up in Sandpoint. Their home in the country includes space for Mary’s weaving and basket-making, and kitchen space for canning and freezing produce from the large garden. Her health regimen includes yoga, walking three miles a day (at a fast clip), plus daily swims in the lake in the summer. And when she “feels courageous” she accompanies Doug to his mountain, where they are dropped in by helicopter.

But the pull of teaching remains strong. She substitutes regularly and administers state-required reading tests in area schools twice a year. She and Doug both volunteer regularly at several schools. And a few years ago they spent two years in Russia (Moscow) where she worked as a learning resource teacher. They “found” KNPS through knowing Lois, and by attending a hiking lecture given by Phil and Deb. She has served on the Board, and was chair of Arbor Day for three years. She and Doug are currently the Hospitality committee. Mary especially loves the Arboretum, and feels blessed to have had Arlis as her mentor.

Join the FUN-draising! *Look good while you support KNPS*



The first-ever KNPS shirt design was unveiled at the February general meeting. Marilyn McIntyre adapted our logo to create a perfect design for the shirts. Response to these beautiful **Grow Native** shirts and sweatshirts was wonderful. If you missed that meeting, you still have time to be one of the first to purchase a Grow Native shirt or sweatshirt. Short sleeve and long sleeve tees, crew and hooded sweatshirts are available in Adult sizes S-XXL. Prices range from \$16.00-32.00. Youth short sleeve tees are available in sizes XS-XL and are \$16.00. Contact Cheryl McKee at (208) 265-4191 before Wednesday, March 15th and your order will be ready for pickup at the March general meeting.