



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XIII Number 3

May / Jun 2010

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / Sandpoint, Idaho

Program Schedule

Presentations sponsored by
KNPS and Sandpoint Parks and Recreation
Community Hall, First Ave, Sandpoint
(across from County Courthouse)

May Program

Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 9:45 a.m.

"Habitat Restoration and Wildlife Corridor Conservation: Exploring the work of The Nature Conservancy in North Idaho"

Justin Petty, The Nature Conservancy

June Program

Saturday, June 26, at 9:45 a.m.

Milfoil Management in Lake Pend Oreille - a Wide Angle Perspective,"

Jenifer Ekstrom, Executive Director, Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeepers



Blue Flax by Marilyn George

Native Plant Sale!!

Saturday, May 15, 2009 9 a.m. to Noon

Panhandle Special Needs Building
1424 N. Boyer Ave, Sandpoint

Native plants can be hard to get; don't miss out! Mark your calendar now.

25 varieties of native plants, 400 plants to choose from! Also hand-crafted wood trellises, note cards, bookmarks, original art, refreshments.

All proceeds benefit KNPS and Panhandle Special Needs



Committee Reports

The Arboretum Committee always looks forward to April, which is the time when the arboretum begins to come to life. Gold Thread was the first to bloom, followed closely by **Kittentails** and Trillium. Prairie Smoke and Yellow Violets are also beginning to bloom. Twinberry Honeysuckle and Kinnikinnick are the two shrubs that bloom early, with Oregon Grape not far behind. All of the deciduous trees and shrubs are leafing out. From now until things frost in October there will be something in bloom.

On Wednesday, April 28, 16 hearty souls braved the rain and cold to clean up the arboretum in preparation for Arbor Day on Friday. Being wet and cold, they were all glad to huddle inside the cabin for hot coffee and tea and a nice potluck lunch. Many thanks to all those folks.

Starting the first week in May, the gardeners will begin their regular work schedule. On most weekdays, there will be someone working each morning between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. We are looking for a new coordinator for this season. This is a paid position. The past couple of years it has been a two-person job share, which means each person works two or three mornings per week. The main functions of the coordinator are to greet the people who come through the arboretum, to assist the gardeners in whatever tasks they need help with and to keep things tidy and looking good. If you are interested, please call Sylvia at 263-2175 or email sylvia@televar.com.

The Conservation Committee will meet for the last time in May before its summer break. Meetings pick up again in September. The committee is moving forward on issues as diverse as an in-town wetland, harvests in the Priest Lake State Forest, the proposed native pollinator garden at the new Sandpoint Ranger Station and two exciting conservation-oriented field trips.

Want to learn more? Please call or email Molly O'Reilly, committee chair, at 255-7336 or yachthalo@yahoo.com.

The **Field Trip Committee** asks that you **note this correction:** The Early Wildflower Walk with Joyce Pence has been **rescheduled for May 19** at 9 a.m. Meet at the Bonner Mall parking lot to carpool, and dress for changing weather. Arrive early (**we leave at 9!**) Bring snacks and water, native plant field guides, hand lens etc.

Jim Dubuisson and Marilyn McIntyre have checked out some possible summer field trip locations and are planning a fall mushroom trip. Please inform us of any places you may have in mind, and we will be happy to consider them. Call Marilyn at 290-7176 or email Jim Dubuisson at jimdubuisson@gmail.com with suggestions and questions.

From the **Landscape Committee:** We need clients for our superior, non-professional landscaping consultations. We have a truly fine group of your fellow members who have already worked with the Morgans on Trout Creek Road and will be working with the Southworths of Sagle in early June. We consult once a month and have time in July, August and September. Please contact me or President Don Childress.

Fourteen people, all very knowledgeable, attended the April 14 Mickinnick Orientation for Kinnikinnick and Master Gardener members. What was to be a one-hour, informational meeting turned into a full-blown workday, with most attendees weeding and pruning for three to four hours. The official opening day, May 5, was another success. Quack grass, beware!

Kinnikinnick members work the first Wednesday of each month for the season, that is, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1 and October 6, from 9 a.m. to noon, earlier on warmer days. If you join the group, be certain that Eileen Atkisson gets your email address so that she can contact you about time changes and weather. Master Gardeners may also work 3rd Wednesdays. Join them as well or, once you've got the necessary information, go for a quiet time on your own. Eileen Atkisson, eatkiss1@verizon.net



Message from the President

Don Childress

It is beginning to feel like spring around Sandpoint. The days are getting warm enough to enjoy outside projects again. If you have native plants in your landscape that need shaping or pruning and didn't get it done last fall, it is not too late to do so now. I've got some red osier dogwood plants and nootka roses that I didn't get pruned during steelhead season; maybe I'll do it this afternoon, if I don't go for a bike ride.

This is also a busy time of year for your KNPS, with lots of projects in the works. We have just finished with Earth Day (thank you, Carol, for heading our display) and Arbor Day. Nancy Fontaine and her small committee worked very hard to organize a magnificent event.

Our native plant sale is coming up on May 15, and we are starting our summer field trips this month. The landscape group also has Mickinnick trail clean-ups and landscape consultations. The conservation committee, under the leadership of Molly O'Reilly, has several interesting projects on the docket this summer. If you have wanted to become more involved with KNPS, volunteering in one of these activities is a great way to meet some very nice and interesting people; they will become friends.

KNPS has a display in the library for the month of May. Be sure to check it out when you are there.

2010 INPS State Annual Meeting

The 2010 INPS state annual meeting is June 11-13, 2010. White Pine chapter is hosting this year at Heyburn State Park. This event will attract INPS members from around the state. Field trips will be led by Pan Brunfeld, to McCroskey Park and Big Creek on the St. Joe, and by Bill Rember to a fossil site at his place in Clarkia. For further information please contact Nancy Miller, (208) 882-2871, or Janet Campbell, (208) 882-6409.

Honorariums

NPS is very grateful for donations in honor of special people or occasions, including but not limited to graduation, birthdays, anniversaries, volunteers, people who provide consistent support and encouragement—whomever or whatever you want to honor! We will acknowledge donors in the newsletter. Contribution amounts are confidential. Send donations to Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 1092, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864.

Online Kinnikinnick Journal

A number of our members have inquired about the possibility of receiving our newsletter exclusively over the Internet to save paper and reduce the volume of mail in their box. Present and back issues of the Kinnikinnick Journal are available online at www.nativeplantsociety.org

Our newsletters are published in January, March, May, September and November and are posted by the second week of the publishing month. If you would prefer to use the online source and discontinue receiving the paper copy, send an email to wendyaes@gotsky.com with the subject line "Paperless Journal – Your Name."

Visit us online at www.NativePlantSociety.org

Plants of the Month are now online!



Notes from the March and April Programs

March Program Recap



On March 27, Art Zack, USFS Ecologist, presented slides and stories about "Native Plants and Fire in the Northern Rocky Mountains," focusing, in part on the great burn of 1910.

Photos by Marilyn George

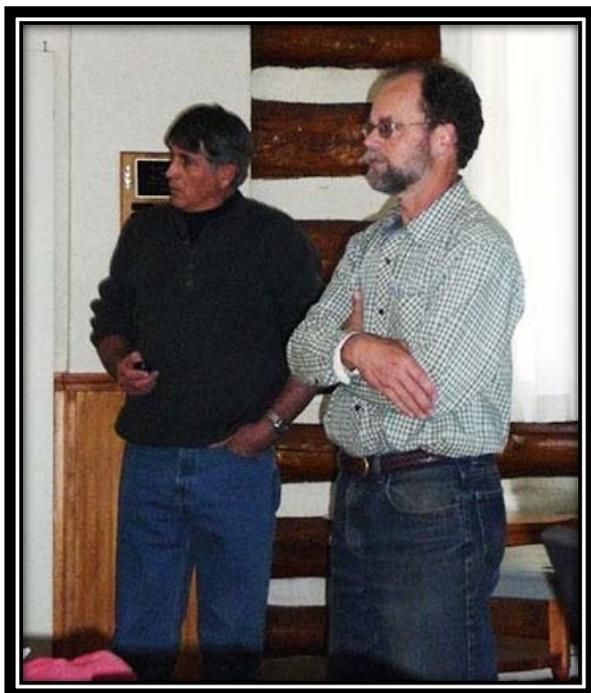


April Program Recap

On April 24, Bob Wilson and Rich del Carlo talked about the programs of the Sandpoint Tree Committee, focusing on the benefits of the *Community Forest Program*. Gail Lyster delighted the audience with her tree-inspired musings.

Below: Rich, Bob and Gail.

Photos by Wendy Aeschliman





Earth Day

April 22 brought a huge crowd to the Sandpoint Earth Day celebration. We had 50 brochures and membership forms available, and they were all taken. There was interest in our plant sale and plant list. Thanks to Marilyn George and Irv and Carol Jenkins for setting up the display and greeting visitors to our table.

Arbor Day: April 30



Photos by Marilyn George

Sweet Spring

When the gloomy gray sky turns to clear azure blue,
And the snow disappears from the ground,
When the birds start to sing, and our moods start to lift,
Then we know Spring is coming around.
When the first flower bulbs poke their heads toward the sun,
Golden daffodils, hyacinths, too;
When the brown grass turns green, and the wildflowers bloom,
Then sweet Spring makes its showy debut.
Once again we awake from cold winter's pale dream,
As our minds and our bodies revive;
We rejoice and delight in spring's colorful sight;
Each new spring makes us glad we're alive!

By Joanna Fuchs



Member Profile: *Say Hello to Wendy Aeschliman*

Article and Photo by Joanna Fuchs



In her large, comfortable home that seems to spring from the surrounding forest, with wood walkways into the huge conifers (including a spectacular Western Hemlock), Wendy Aeschliman stroked her adorable white dog, Andy as she talked by a big window with a view of Shepherd Lake. The house sits on 10 acres with 15 additional acres “managed as sustainable forest under the forest stewardship program.” The parcel had been “inappropriately logged,” and is now “managed for diversity of plants and trees,” she says. Wendy, our KNPS newsletter designer and Web site creator/manager, has a potpourri of interests and talents. Born in Indiana, she was an art history major at Lawrence College in Wisconsin. She got her graduate degree in education from Harvard University, and then later added an associate degree in nursing from the University of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Wendy taught sixth grade in Evanston, Illinois, where she met her husband, Dan.

Her fondness for art shows in the beautiful stained glass work she has done in her home—a lamp, kitchen cabinet doors (ducks and cattails) and now she is working on two simple-pattern stained glass windows that she intends to exchange with the owner of her former home in Albuquerque. During her time in Albuquerque, she worked as a school nurse, an EMT, ski patroller, and an environmental educator. Her biggest project in Albuquerque, however—the biggest project of her life—was to found and serve as the executive director of a now nationally recognized organization called Talking Talons Youth Leadership, a youth development organization primarily funded through the years by the NM State Department of Health. “It has a proven record of changing kids for the better,” she says. The schools would release kids to participate in the program on school grounds. “Some of the kids weren’t doing well in school, but not all,” Wendy says. Several techniques for helping the kids included allowing them to handle non-releasable animals, such as small birds of prey, bats, and snakes; teaching them public speaking; and emphasizing respect for the environment. “The kids had a mission - civic and environmental responsibility - and that improved their self esteem,” she says.

For Talking Talons, Wendy networked with schools, wrote grants, and did a great deal of public speaking, including radio interviews and TV appearances. Although she is a marvelous, animated conversationalist, her work with Talons and the massive public interaction it required led to “burnout” and a tendency to be a bit reclusive now, with a preference for peace, quiet and space. “For years I was the public face of Talking Talons,” she says. “Talking Talons forced me into a public lifestyle I would not have chosen,” she adds, but her love for the kids and her passionate desire to help them overcame her reluctance. “In Albuquerque, we were workaholics,” she says. “We really needed a lifestyle change.” After working to grow Talking Talons big enough so she could “afford to replace myself,” she and Dan took a look at North Idaho at the suggestion of Dan’s aunt. Avid skiers, they were impressed, and they bought the property where they built the house in which they now live, a house they designed. “Here we enjoy a different lifestyle where we aren’t working all the time,” she says. Here, they love the skiing, mountain biking and the wildlife. Here, Wendy even has time to indulge her love of photography, and “playing with Photoshop.”

Wendy has a fenced organic garden, where she grows “lots of greens,” but she cannot grow much directly in the ground because of gophers, so she uses old oak wine barrels and raised beds. “The gophers don’t climb up the barrels, but in the winter, “they tunnel through the snow to the top and eat my serviceberry bushes.” Wendy and Dan have been members of KNPS for more than ten years. They are also active in the Prime Timers ski club and Rock Creek Alliance. Of KNPS, she says she likes the people (“so unique!”), and the organization (“so cohesive!”). “I like the mission,” she says, “and they stay on task. I think people should respect the land.”