

2018 Annual Report – Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society

We had several significant stories in 2018. By far the most expensive was our decision to continue moving forward with several state-of-the-art interpretive signs at the Arboretum. The need for the project was recognized by Mary Fraser in 2017 and we began with design almost immediately and completed installation in 2018. These are a significant upgrade for the Arboretum that should last for many years.

Another bright spot was funding for a tripling of our normal Lois Wyeth grants. The Grant Committee always completes their selection work a year ahead of the expenditures, so the 2018 budget paid for three grants to three very competitive grant requests received at the end of 2017.

Meanwhile back at the Arboretum, the multiyear saga of working to replace Sylvia Chatburn as Arboretum Manager seems to have come to an end. A group of four Arboretum stalwarts had stepped up as a “temporary” management team, but in 2018 it became apparent that we will probably continue with the team. This will end the frustrating search for a single person to replace Sylvia who had successfully filled the position for nearly twenty years. After all, there is only one Sylvia.

Landscaping committee: Submitted by Dennis Rieger

The landscaping committee has finished their consultations for 2018. We completed three landscape consultations this year and everyone appreciated our efforts. If you would like to see the results of one of our consultations, stop by the Daybreak Center at 820 Main St. in Sandpoint and look at the landscaping work that was completed by Mark Stockwell and his crew. We already have several interested parties for a 2019 consultation. Thanks to Nancy, Gail, Bob, Jill, Sylvia, Vicky, Don, and Eileen for all their help.

Web site: Submitted by Dennis Rieger

Our web site had 64,129 visits in 2018 for an average of 175 per day. The top pages were the home page, calendar, arboretum, and membership. We get occasional inquiries and comments from folks who are not local but have found our site and have found it useful. The web site is a great resource and is working well.

Native Plant Grant 2019: Submitted by Janice DeBaun

In the Fall of 2018, the grant committee selected the fifth-grade classes at Washington Elementary School to receive the Lois Wythe Grant for 2019. Their project revolves around the use of portable microscopes to study native plants and their habitat. Students will keep journals and develop a brochure about native plants in our area. Kaleb Darrin and Jewel Shea, fifth grade teachers, will direct the project.

North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum - Submitted by Rae Charlton

Arbor Day traditionally kicks off the Arboretum's season. This year, thanks to the vision, dedication and design sense of Mary Fraser (last summer's Arboretum Coordinator) handsome interpretive signs were installed and dedicated. Another traditional event is tree tours by 3rd graders in area schools. Kudos to Judy Lyding for organizing docents and class visits. Stalwart volunteers got an early jump on dandelions and worked to maintain habitats. Coordinator Autumn Lear and Arb Leadership Team member Sue Gervais spent many hours pruning overgrown shrubs, deadheading or pulling weeds, and enhancing paths. These efforts created a more open and inviting showcase for native plants. Special thanks to Ken Haag for all his support, and especially for creating and maintaining the watering system. Not counting tree tours or committee meetings, we recorded 350 volunteer hours for summer 2018.

Conservation Committee – Submitted by Molly O’Reilly

As we slip into 2019, the Conservation Committee looks back on an eventful year representing the wellbeing of native plants in the Idaho Panhandle. We support the creation of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and encouraged our members to vote in the May advisory election on this topic. The opposition’s scare tactics were successful in convincing a majority of voters to have doubts, and congressional action on a wilderness proposal is off the table for now. We continue to see the value in a formal wilderness designation.

We encouraged the Bonner County Commission not to adopt the proposed Natural Resource Policy (which is generally an extractive/privatizing one) and were disappointed when they approved it.

The proposed silicon metal smelter in the Newport WA area was not well documented but appeared to have a high potential for pollution levels that would be detrimental to our native plant habitats. Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society submitted a letter that expressed our concerns and requested a thorough review. A copy is on the website. We commented on a BLM project at Gamlin Lake. We also had a representative on the planning committee of the Hughes Meadow restoration project.

Wildfires are one way that we’re locally experiencing the warming climate. This will undoubtedly be a focus for us going forward.

Programs

We had our usual presentation of nine programs in 2018. Over the last year, we routinely had around 50 to 60 people in attendance, with our widely recognized presenters drawing as many as 90. The highest attendance last year was for the two Jack Nisbet programs, which also required us to spend more for the year to cover his honoraria. Jack may be expensive, but he is well worth it. The other ‘big name’ presenter was our local astronaut, John Phillips.

End-of-Year Highlights Submitted by Shawna Parry, Treasurer

Income:

- Membership - \$2715
- Baxter's Fundraiser - \$742
- IPA Fundraiser - \$519
- Holiday Cards - \$395
- Notecards - \$906 (includes Steve Lockwood's significant purchases for 'thank you' cards during his campaign for county commissioner)
- Arbor Day – \$1,072

Expenses:

- Landscape Book printing 500 copies - \$6,883 (income from book sales will eventually cover this expense)
- Arboretum Employee - \$2,723
- Arboretum Signage - \$1,774 (\$1,161 was also spent in 2017)
- Lois Wythe Grant - \$900 (3 grant recipients)
- Programs - \$950 (Two programs with Jack Nisbet)
- Liability Insurance - \$236
- Bookkeeping Services - \$457

Checking account balances:

- \$8,308.59 Dec 31, 2017
- **\$5,212.81** Dec 31, 2018

Vanguard Investment Fund balances:

General Fund:

- \$7,262.16 Dec 31, 2017
- **\$7,077.98** Dec 31, 2018

Arboretum Fund:

- \$8,474.99 Dec 31, 2017
- **\$4,770.45** Dec 31, 2018 (\$3,500 withdrawn for Arboretum signage)

Annual Report submitted by Ken Thacker, President

