

## **2005 Annual Report Kinnikinnick Chapter, INPS**

In 2005 the Chapter was active and growing. Membership increased from 143 to 148. Several 2004 members did not renew, and there was a nice influx of new members to replace and augment them. At November's annual meeting, the outgoing president presented 40 certificates of appreciation to active members who contributed to the year's successes.

Monthly presentations moved from the library to Sandpoint Community Hall. Sandpoint Parks and Recreation Dept. became a co-presenter. The visible, expanded location, plus excellent speakers and publicity assured outstanding attendance. Programs in 2005 were: January, Chris Schnepf on "Special Forest Products;" February, Dr. Dan Barney on "Huckleberries;" March, Dianna Ellis on "An Overview of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge;" April, Archie George on "Conservation Easements and Hager Lake;" May, Rich Old addressing "Plant Identification;" June, Scott Daily on "Habitat Restoration and Landscaping with Native Plants." The fall lineup included: September, Ranotta McNair on "Insights in Forest Management Planning;" October, Barbara St. Dennis on "Native Herbs;" and the year's final speaker was in November -- Phil Hough on "A Journey into the Scotchman Peaks."

At each meeting a "Plant of the Month" was presented. They included Great Sundew (*Drosera angelica*), Paper or White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*), Goldthread (*Coptis trifolia*), Arrow-leaved Balsamoroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Great Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), Lungwort or Lung Lichen (*Lobaria pulmonaria*), Wapato Potato (*Sagittaria latifolia*)

The chapter's outstanding "Kinnikinnick Journal" team produced five colorful, informative issues that encouraged attendance at future events and reviewed those already held. Emails and postcards to members in the interim reminded them of imminent happenings. The Chapter Website continues an up-to-date resource for members and others interested in native plants of our locale. [www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org)

Ramping up organizationally for an employee was a major board focus early in the year. The Chapter applied for, and received, its own Non-profit Tax Exempt [501(c)(3)] status. That protected the State board from liability when the Arboretum Coordinator was hired.

The new position of Arboretum Coordinator initiated a flurry of chapter fundraising to pay the wages. Proceeds from twig-bench making classes, bake sales, travel presentations, refurbishing "the bears" for the Community Assistance League auction, the second annual Wine Tasting with Pend Oreille Pasta and other efforts covered costs.

### **2005 IN THE ARBORETUM**

We took a major step forward at the Arboretum. We hired a coordinator, Susan Yeager. She was a real asset to the volunteers. Being there everyday she made sure that everything was watered, weeds were getting pulled, neighbors were advised of things that

were being done, and she greeted the public when they came through. Her artistic talents were put to use in pruning dense areas, sketching blooming natives and drawing habitat maps.

The Arboretum is an ever-changing work in progress. Fifteen volunteer gardeners spent the season planting, weeding, pruning and watering (logging over 700 hours). The wetland habitat is staying wet and sedges are growing nicely. Mosses are being introduced to the Moist Forest Habitat. Non-native grasses and native roses were taking over the Dry Rock Habitat, so it has been pruned severely and some shrubs removed to make room for the smaller native plants. More native grasses were planted in the Young Forest Habitat and another section has been prepared for planting in the spring. The huckleberries in the Sub-alpine Habitat actually produced berries this year. The Meadow, the Dry Forest and the Wild Medicinal Garden are coming along nicely. New pathways leading in and out from the wall were defined and edged with rock.

Our focus this season was establishing more wildflowers in the wall and the Young Forest. Indian Blanket Flower, Blue Flax and Mountain Asters put on a show most of the season. We had several trilliums blooming this year in the moist forest. Unfortunately we lost our only mature Lodgepole Pine this year. The two young ones that we planted several years ago are doing nicely. We transplanted several shrubs from the Dry Rock area to other areas in the arboretum. Many of the young trees have been pruned to create a more park-like appearance.

During Arbor Day ceremonies we honored our founder, Lois Wythe, with a nice plaque placed on a large rock donated by Idaho Stone and set at the edge of the Medicinal gardens that she developed.

Sylvia Chatburn,  
Arboretum Manager

## **2005 Conservation Report: Looking Back and Forward**

In 2005 we continued to monitor the state lands around Priest Lake. These efforts included botanizing and general field trips to evaluate potentially sensitive plant habitat and proposed timber sales. During one of these visits we discovered a population of the rare (in Idaho) clubmoss *Lycopodium dendroideum*. Members of the committee continued attending US Forest Service Master Plan revision meetings and monitoring specific forest service projects, providing comments where needed. We also continued to monitor BLM projects including the revision of their Resource Management plan. These activities will all continue in the coming year.

In addition we commented on the evaluation of roadless areas in Bonner County as part of the state's roadless petition process. The conservation committee, with Neil and Ann Wimberley as our "point people", "adopted" the Bee Top roadless area. All of our comment letters can be found on our chapter's website: [www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org).

To further our educational and outreach goals several speakers made presentations to our committee including Diane Williams (Tri States Water Quality Council), Mark Sprengel (Selkirk

Conservation Alliance) and Scott Daily (Southern Purcell Restoration). We arranged for several field trips including habitat typing with Chris Schnepf and forest service trips to look at specific projects as well as general forest practices and restoration efforts. Using a grant from the Idaho Native Plant Society, we hosted a workshop and field trip with Lichenologist Toby Spribille to study the role of “Lichens in Forest Ecology.”

A number of our committee became very involved in the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, providing a focus on native plants in the effort to protect that area as wilderness. The conservation committee’s efforts resulted in the board passing a resolution of support for the creation of a Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

We set up a “Yahoo Discussion Group” and built a display board to assist in our educational efforts. With money donated by Arlis Harvey we purchased a GPS unit to assist in our field studies. In general we forged closer collaborative relationships with several other conservation organization including: the Idaho Conservation League, the Selkirk Conservation Alliance, the Cabinet Resource Group and the Montana Wilderness Association. Sharing perspectives and information with these groups has been useful in commenting on land management projects.

At year’s end we elected officers for the coming year and are proud to present:

Chair - Jim Dubuisson, Vice Chair - Carol Jenkins, Scribe - Adrienne Lilly

Estimate Total “In Kind” Hours spent by Conservation Committee: 1250 hours

The INPS provides the only voice advocating the protection of native plants and their habitats in Idaho. We look forward to continuing our conservation efforts in 2006 and hope that the membership will share with us their interests and concerns and take advantage of the educational opportunities that our committee and chapter can provide.

Phil Hough  
2005 Conservation Chair

## **Education Committee 2005**

Arbor Day was a major success and again expanded in scope. Students responded well to the poetry “contest” and poems of winners were read. Tree seedlings were given away. Well trained docents presented the qualities of native trees in the Arboretum and a range of displays and demonstrations educated students further.

The Chapter had a booth at the Bonner County fair that was well received. The theme of the year, “Wheels and Squeals” was difficult to convert positively to a native plant display. Decorated imaginatively by Parise Whitley, it was well received by all, especially children.

## **Field Trips 2005**

This summer about 210 members were able to take advantage of the educational benefits and fresh-air camaraderie of seven varied outings:

3/26     Birding

4/30 Mushrooming  
5/28 Weed identification  
6/25 Moss gardening  
7/23 Wet forest habitat  
8/20 Lichens  
9/24 Forest ecology

Chapter members also participated in field trips with nearby Native Plant chapters and welcomed them to ours.

## **Landscape Committee 2005**

The Landscape Committee toiled many volunteer hours working on Mickinnick Trailhead, Discovery Center and the Healing Garden. Active members Eileen Atkisson, Linda Drayton, Mike Franklin and Ann Wimberly were joined by Don Childress and Phil Franklin, Master Gardeners and many other chapter and community members as they created Mickinnick Trailhead and then maintained it along with Waterlife Discovery Center, the Healing Garden and Tolerance sculpture.

The creation of the Trailhead was a big opportunity for the committee members and a real feather in Kinnikinnick's cap. At the request of the Mickinnick Trail Committee, members planned the hardscaping and landscaping of the City of Sandpoint property and, with city money, machinery and crew and much help from chapter members and Master Gardeners, shaped and enhanced the soil, planted native trees, shrubs perennials and grasses, laid irrigation and mulched the area of the new berm and those areas surrounding the toilet and parking lot. In September, The City of Sandpoint presented an award of appreciation to the Chapter for the committee's substantial trailhead work.

Although the City considers this trailhead a park, its maintenance is a job for volunteers organized by the Mickinnick and Landscape committees. Throughout the summer and fall, members monitored the efficient irrigation system and found it contributing to the life of the stock (very little loss) and to that of the quack-type grass that took several long and hard fall days removing. At the end of the season, Landscape Committee members decided that they must expand the list of volunteers to maintain the trailhead and designated the first Wednesday of every month a Kinnikinnick work morning, leaving the third week for the Mickinnick Committee.

The Discovery Center, planted with natives donated by Kinnikinnick members and Master Gardeners the previous fall, required much work. As the committee members, aided by some spouses and neighbors, weeded, they assessed the condition of the plants around the pond while working simultaneously on the Mickinnick Trailhead. The successes of the trailhead pointed up most of the failures at the pond site. Lack of an irrigation system resulted in long periods of dryness in the spring and early summer. By the time volunteers put in a system, many of the donated plants were dead. Nursery stock at the trailhead thrived, especially with systematic watering.

While the Committee controlled most of the soil enhancement at the trailhead, we ended up with lots of quack grass that had been in the original berm soil. At the Center, there were all kinds of non-natives, especially invasive equisetum and tansy, in the hardscape provided for our plants. The deer, of course, had wonderful meals at both sites but they browsed to death many Center plants through the fall and spring. Fish and Game still has considerable funds for plants and the Landscape Committee members will consider whether or not to replenish the deer resistant species with nursery stock.

At the Healing Garden, members did a big cleanup in October and celebrated by planting red-osier dogwood. Otherwise, we are in a holding pattern there. Eileen Atkisson, the chair, has spent long hours with the Healing Garden Committee to reassure the garden's vitality as well as the presence of native plants at Sand Creek's shoreline. She and several Kinnikinnick artists contributed to the Art and Garden Party auction fundraiser to reduce the Garden's debt to the Hospital.

Mike and Phil Franklin finished the season by putting to bed the landscaping around the Tolerance sculpture at the Sandpoint Court House.

Total Hours: 1,200

Eileen Atkisson, Chair  
Landscape Committee

In 2005 the Chapter transitioned to new bylaws that changed the structure of the board. An excellent nominating committee filled all slots and assured that board members were prepared to serve as officers in 2005.

## 2005 Treasurer's Report

|                         | GENERAL    | ARBORETUM  | TOTAL      |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE       | \$3,696.41 | \$2,166.84 | \$5,863.25 |
| CASH RECEIPTS           |            |            |            |
| Membership dues         | \$2,212.00 |            |            |
| Donations               |            |            |            |
| Personal                | \$290.00   | \$966.00   |            |
| Reprints-Donation Jar / |            |            |            |
| Box                     | \$100.75   | \$16.00    |            |
| Notes, Bookmarks,       |            |            |            |
| Mugs,etc                | \$283.53   | \$132.77   |            |
| Calendars               | \$641.50   |            |            |
| Mugs                    | \$135.00   |            |            |
| Fundraisers             |            |            |            |
| Bench Making Classes    |            | \$1,700.00 |            |
| Bake Sales              |            | \$429.95   |            |
| Bear                    |            | \$600.00   |            |
| Wine Tasting            | \$309.00   |            |            |
| Hough Presentation      |            | \$164.00   |            |

|                                |            |            |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| O'Reilly/Lockwood Presentation |            | \$173.80   |            |
| Grants                         | \$490.00   |            |            |
| Fair Booth / Albi              | \$200.00   |            |            |
| INCOME TOTALS                  | \$4,661.78 | \$4,182.52 | \$8,844.30 |
| CASH DISBURSEMENTS             |            |            |            |
| INPS Dues                      | \$987.75   |            |            |
| Printing – Newsletter          | \$521.89   |            |            |
| Notes, Calendars, etc.         | \$87.76    |            |            |
| Postage                        | \$346.70   |            |            |
| Program Speakers               | \$92.00    |            |            |
| Hospitality                    | \$42.67    |            |            |
| Historian                      | \$38.23    |            |            |
| Arbor Day                      | \$117.41   |            |            |
| Bonner Cty Fair                | \$100.00   |            |            |
| Website & Domain Name          | \$5.00     | \$5.00     |            |
| Miscellaneous items            | \$382.62   | \$433.05   |            |
| Insurance                      | \$129.50   | \$129.50   |            |
| State Sales Tax                | \$12.04    | \$24.34    |            |
| Plants                         |            | \$157.49   |            |
| Utilities – Avista             |            | \$75.88    |            |
| Water – City of Sandpoint      |            | \$270.63   |            |
| Verizon                        |            | \$259.16   |            |
| Employee                       |            |            |            |
| Salary                         |            | \$2,216.40 |            |
| Insurance – State              |            | \$300.00   |            |
| Fed Withholdings               |            | \$301.12   |            |
| State Withholdings             |            | \$29.52    |            |
| Fed Unemployment               |            |            |            |
| Sayers Taxworks                |            | \$150.00   |            |
| Committees                     |            |            |            |
| Conservation                   | \$134.94   |            |            |
| Field Trips                    | \$340.00   |            |            |
| EXPENSE TOTALS                 | \$3,338.51 | \$4,352.09 | \$7,690.60 |
| CHAPTER TOTAL                  | \$5,019.68 | \$1,997.27 | \$7,016.95 |

Marilyn George  
Treasurer

Submitted by  
Molly O'Reilly, 2005 President