

## **2006 Annual Report Kinnikinnick Chapter, INPS**

*Submitted by Phil Hough, 2006 President*

In 2006, the Kinnikinnick Chapter continued to be very active, productive and successful. Our activities are all dependant upon the efforts of many volunteers. From an outstanding series of public presentations, forums, workshops and field trips, to the always popular “arbor day”, to our landscaping projects, our newsletter, our conservation efforts and our community showcase – the arboretum – all of our projects depend on planning, communication, presentation and hard work, sometimes shoveling dirt and other times shuffling paper. We would not be able to enjoy and celebrate these successes without the efforts of many, many people. We must give credit to the many dedicated to the many members who volunteer so much of their time and effort to make the chapter successful.

The INPS annual meeting was held in June at nearby Farragut State Park, we had the opportunity to spend time with many Native Plant Society members from around Idaho and showcase some of what makes our region so special.

### **Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2006 Kinnikinnick Chapter**

#### **Officers:**

President	Phil Hough
Vice-President	Rae Charlton
Secretary	Annette Fraser-Runnalls
Treasurer	Marilyn George

#### **Board:**

Ken Haag  
 Molly O'Reilly  
 Nancy Rodgers  
 Sylvia M. Chatburn  
 Ann Wimberley (part year - resigned in March)  
 Carol Jenkins (part year - appointed to fill above vacancy)

#### **Committee Chairs:**

Arboretum	Sylvia M. Chatburn
Conservation	Jim Dubuisson
Education	Doug and Mary Toland
Field Trip	Joyce Pence and Cheryl Stern
Historian	Parisse Whitley resigned in September Nancy Rodgers appointed in October
Hospitality	Linda Kirchmann
Landscape	Eileen Atkisson
Membership	Rae Charlton
Newsletter	Tom Dillin (resigned in May) Adrienne Lilly (Appointed in June)

Nominating	Don Childress
Programs	Carol Jenkins
Publicity	Nancy Rodgers
Post Cards/Email	Gary Rogers
Webmaster	Wendy Aeschliman
Founder	Lois Wythe

### **Membership Report 2006**

At the beginning of 2006 we had 138 members (48 Households representing 2 members each, 2 Patrons, 1 Life, 19 Seniors, 20 Individual memberships).

At the end of 2006 we had 144 members (49 Households representing 2 members each, 2 Patrons, 1 Life, 23 Seniors, 20 Individual memberships).

### **Website Report 2006**

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)

### **Plant of the Month 2006**

Parisse Whitley and Adrienne Lilly presented an outstanding line up of “Plants of the Month”

Jan-06	Crustose Tree Lichen	Phylctas argena	Adrienne
Feb-06	Cow Parsnip	Heracleum lanatum	Parise
Mar-06	Wolf Lichen	Letharia vulpina	Adrienne
May-06	Pasqueflower	Anemone patens L.	Parise
Oct-06	Mountain Maple	Acer glabrum	Adrienne
Nov-06	Twisted Stalk	Streptopus species	Adrienne

### **Arboretum Report 2006**

After eight seasons the arboretum is really taking shape with the tender loving care of our wonderful team of volunteer gardeners. There were fifteen of them this year. All of the foundation plants are doing very well. Our focus again this year was to get more of the low growing flowering plants established. The ones that we planted in past years bloomed well to add a lot of color and interest. Our one and only mature lodgepole pine had to be cut down this year. It had reached the end of its life span. We planted two young lodgepole pines several years ago as part of the Arbor Day Ceremony so the species is still represented. This year we planted three black cottonwood trees, a species that was missing. Unfortunately vandals cut down five of our young trees on the east end (two young birch – one of which is

trying to come back, two larch which will have to be replaced, and one mountain ash, which will come back).

Arlis Harvey and Margie Gibson have been working really hard keeping the dandelions out of the moist forest and encouraging mosses and lichens to cover the bare ground and dead logs. The logs are developing very nice colonies of lichens and mosses. The mosses on the ground are doing well in areas where they remain undisturbed.

Myrna Garside has been keeping the sub-alpine habitat weed free and growing. The huckleberries actually had fruit this year and the kitten toes are spreading nicely. The bear grass that we transplanted to the area last season is doing well.

Bill Lamson constructed a very nice path at the edge of the sub-alpine habitat leads to an alder bench under the birches. Bill has worked hard keeping all the dirt paths in good condition and the wetland habitat weed free and watered.

Mary Jo Haag and Linda Kirchmann have been digging natives from their forested areas to fill in the empty areas of the wall. These are very shaded areas so the options are limited. The established sunny areas put on a spectacular show of flowers this year.

Bill Brill has done a fantastic job of removing old lawn grasses from the sunny areas next to the wall and in the aspen grove. Some of these were planted with ground cover natives, others covered with wood chips and the rest prepped for planting blue wild rye grass seed in the spring. Some plugs have already been planted under one of the aspens.

Joyce Pense and Konrad Dahlstrom have worked hard all summer to clean up the dry rock habitat at the entrance to the arboretum and museum. Some of the very dense roses have been cut to the ground with the plan to keep them confined to a much smaller area. Thimble berry has been trying to take over as well.

Rae Charlton has taken over the supervision of the interior rain forest habitat. Deep soaking and careful pruning has kept the area looking good. Some more sword fern have been added. The oak fern, bead ruby and meadowrue are spreading very well. Transplants have been taken to the wall to help fill in some of the bare spots.

Sylvia Chatburn has been keeping the weeds and tree seedlings out of the meadow habitat. It is the one area that is really wild looking. The pearly everlasting made a big showing this year. The grasses are reseeding and filling in quite nicely. The bear grass that was started from seed in that area has all been transplanted to other habitats and the wall. It seems to be doing quite well, even at this low elevation.

Gretchen Hellar has been keeping the berm tidy and growing. The kinnikinnick is really establishing itself and fanning out. The Oregon grape and mountain lover have added a little more dimension and texture to the berm.

Bruce Vogelsinger has been turning all the weeds and soft prunings into some very fine compost. He has also been preparing more area in the young forest habitat to be seeded to Idaho fescue in the spring. The blue flax, Indian blanket flower and asters were very showy

this summer. The larches in the area are getting tall fast, so they are being pruned up from the bottom.

Sherry Metz, with the expert advise of Lois Wythe, has been keeping the wild medicinals in check. The colts foot, roses, and wild strawberries would like to take over. There is always something in bloom. An alder twig trellis and white columbine have been added to the area.

Valle Novak spent some time trimming roses by the water wheel and in other areas to keep them looking good and out of the paths.

Our paid coordinator, Rochelle Chatburn, did a fantastic job of keeping everything running smoothly, greeting visitors, pulling weeds and pruning along the gravel paths and assisting the gardeners with extra watering during the week. She was a hard worker, always on time, cheerful and friendly. She was a real asset to the operation of the arboretum this past season.

Ken Haag brought in a load of horse manure to spread in the areas of the wall where the soil was really poor. He has been very helpful with any problems that we have had such as a broken drinking fountain, broken sign and other little things that needed fixed.

Jim Stern did a great job of refinishing the sign at the entrance to the arboretum and making the sign that now hangs from the museum sign on Ella Street.

The neighbors across the street, Tom and Nancy Wehrley, came and helped prune out dead branches from the mature trees. They hauled all the prunings away for us.

Linda Kirchmann did a great job of taking notes at our committee meetings. Myrna Garside served as assistant manager and filled in nicely when the manager, Sylvia Chatburn was not available.

All of the gardeners take pride in watching things grow and knowing that they are the reason why. It is such a thrill to have visitors stop and tell us how much they enjoy walking through the area. The museum appreciates the arboretum for giving visitors something to enjoy while they wait for the doors to open.

The bench classes continue to raise funds for the arboretum and be a rewarding way for participants to learn about working with Alder – and they actually walk away with a bench to sit down upon. Others did their part to raise arboretum funds by tipping their glasses and sipping some fine wines at Pend Oreille Pasta.

## **Programs Report 2006**

Our series of speakers and field trips continued to be popular, fun and educational – we enjoyed Bill Love's perspectives on the timber industry, Jerry Pavia took us on a personal tour of many gardens through his photography, Chris Buchler brought us Blue Birds and we ventured out of doors into the field to see many different native plant habits.

In April we combined efforts with others in the community to sponsor a special workshop to raise knowledge and awareness about Eurasian Watermilfoil and the threats this invasive plant poses to our aquatic native habitats.

In May, we took a walk through the ages of the arboretum. More than a mere stroll down memory lane we were able to watch the arboretum literally grow over the years and learn more about its inception and its ongoing inspiration.

In September, author Clair Button introduced us to "Writing Natural Resources into Fiction". October's presentation was an overview of "Watershed Restoration" with an emphasis on local forest service projects, by forest service hydrologist, Jill Cobb. Dr. Nancy Gilliam presented the Model Forest Policy Program's "*Landowner's Guide to Sustainable Forestry*" in November. And we enjoyed our annual holiday potluck social event at Gretchen Heller's in December.

### **Conservation Report 2006**

The INPS provides the only voice advocating the protection of native plants and their habitats in Idaho.

Conservation Committee Officers for 2006

Chair – Jim Dubuisson

Vice Chair – Carol Jenkins

Scribe - Adrienne Lilly

In April we combined efforts with others in the community to sponsor a workshop and raise knowledge and awareness about Eurasian Watermilfoil and the threats this invasive plant poses to our aquatic native habitats. We successfully applied for, and received, a grant to continue our milfoil education efforts with signage at the waterlife discovery center. In December, Phil Hough was appointed by the County Commissioners to serve on the recently formed "Bonner County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force", set up to make recommendations to the county regarding the treatment of Milfoil.

Other Conservation Committee activities included:

- Toby Spribille returned to take us on another visit to the wonderful world of lichens.
- We continued to monitor the state lands around Priest Lake.
- 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.

- In addition we commented on the evaluation of roadless areas in Bonner County as part of the state's roadless petition process.
- We commented on Bonner County's proposed revisions to Land Use Codes.
- The conservation committee, with Neil and Ann Wimberley as our "point people", continued our "adopted" stewardship of the Bee Top roadless area.
- A number of our committee continue to be very involved in the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. The Conservation Committee forwarded a resolution of support for Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans, which was adopted by the chapter board and INPS.

All of our comment letters can be found on our chapter's website:

[www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org).

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

Upcoming Conservation Committee Officers for 2007

Chair – Carol Jenkins,

Vice Chair – Molly O'Reilly

Scribe - Adrienne Lilly

Estimate Total "In Kind" Hours spent by Conservation Committee: 1400 hours

We look forward to continuing our conservation efforts in 2007 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.

Submitted by Phil Hough for the Conservation Committee

## **Education Committee 2006**

Arbor Day was a major success and again expanded in scope. Over 200 students from area schools participated in tree tours, offered by Arboretum docents. Docents presented the qualities of native trees in the Arboretum and a range of displays and demonstrations educated students further. Six school classrooms submitted poetry with a tree theme. Poems were displayed for participants to enjoy and several were read during the Arbor Day Ceremony. Many chapter members donated their time and talents to make this event such a success.

## **Field Trips 2006**

March 25	Denton Slough For Waterfowl Birding
May 6	Hannah Flats - Old Growth Forest

May 20	Native Plant Landscaping (cancelled)
May 27	Arboretum
June 10	Spar Creek, Wildflowers & Wet Habitat
July 15	Shepherd Lake, I. D. Flowers/ Native Plants (cancelled)
August 26	Huckleberry Picking In Wildflowers (cancelled)

## **Landscape Committee Report – 2006**

The Landscape Committee had another lively year, primarily at the Mickinnick Trailhead where we committed every first Wednesday morning from April through October. Members and volunteers spent most of their efforts on maintenance by weeding (quack grass is still our major foe), mowing, and repairing irrigation lines. We covered the beds with bark and chips by early October and the ground was too frozen to manage by the last scheduled workday in November. Master Gardeners partnered with us on first and third Wednesdays and together we produced a landscape that drew many compliments by the trail's hikers.

The Committee did not devote as much expanded time to Discovery Center this year as last but, with Manager Taylor's co-sponsorship, we spent five hours with 35 volunteers weeding, planting, mulching and adding irrigation lines. Fish and Game ended the day with a barbecue and social.

Arbor Day provided the annual opportunity for the committee members to bag and distribute over 800 tree and shrub seedlings for community members.

As usual, the year's work ended with the Franklin's winterization of the landscape around the Tolerance Sculpture at the Court House.

Number of volunteers: 40

Number of volunteer hours: 700

Submitted by: Eileen Atkisson  
Landscape Committee Chair

## **Hospitality Report 2006**

Here's a list of the treat bringers for 2006:

Jan - Rae Charlton

Feb - Mary Jo Haag & Marilyn George

Mar - Eileen Atkisson

Apr - Joyce Pence

May - Linda Kirchmann

Sept - Mary Jo Haag & Margie Gibson

Oct - Nancy Rodgers & Carol Jenkins

Nov - Rae Charlton & Sylvia Chatburn

Plus special thanks to Jackie Earle for her help with the Hospitality Committee and to Adrienne Lilly for a wonderful tea jar and tea.

We had two great bake sales this year also. I don't know if we want to include those that volunteered at the booth but here is a list.

### Newsletter Committee Report 2006

The chapter's outstanding "Kinnikinnick Journal" team – Tom Dillin/Adrienne Lilly, Wendy Aeschliman, Marilyn George, Myrna Garside, Rae Charlton, and Margareta Larson 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. There are many contributors who graciously met deadlines and offered suggestions. We had a change in the team mid-year and everyone went the extra mile to help make it a smooth transition. This is truly a team effort and thank you to all who assist us.

### Treasurer's Report 2006

	GENERAL	ARBORETUM	TOTAL
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$5,019.68	\$1,997.27	\$7,016.95
CASH RECEIPTS			
Membership dues	\$2,455.00		
Donations			
Personal	\$322.50	\$535.00	
Reprints-Donation Jar / Box	\$86.30	\$14.00	
Notes, Bookmarks, etc.	\$540.45		
Calendars	\$631.00		
Mugs	\$50.00		
Fundraisers			
Bench Making Classes		\$870.00	
Bake Sales		\$405.70	
Wine Tasting	\$256.00		
Bench Sales		\$750.00	
Grants			
City	\$150.00		
INPS	\$365.00		
Milfoil Education	\$387.50		
Refunds – Gov / Verizon	\$19.20	\$7.10	
TOTALS	\$5,262.95	\$2,581.80	\$7,844.75
CASH DISBURSEMENTS			
INPS Dues	\$1,005.00		
Printing – Newsletter	\$705.08		
Notes, Calendars, etc.	\$138.04		
Postage	\$331.94		

Program Speakers	\$100.00		
Hospitality	\$43.32		
Historian			
Arbor Day	\$128.49		
Travel Expenses	\$264.26		
Website & Domain Name	\$117.35		
Miscellaneous items	\$35.00	\$155.31	
Insurance	\$233.00		
State Sales Tax	\$70.76		
Plants			
Utilities – Avista		\$149.45	
Water – City of Sandpoint		\$78.95	
Verizon		\$250.21	
Employee		\$281.37	
Salary			
Insurance – State		\$1,056.48	
Fed Withholdings		\$300.00	
State Withholdings		\$241.12	
Fed Unemployment		\$25.58	
Sayers Taxworks		\$19.20	
Committees		\$150.00	
Conservation			
Field Trips	\$350.00		
TOTALS	\$3,522.24	\$2,707.67	\$6,229.91
ENDING BALANCE	\$6,759.39	\$1,871.40	\$8,630.79

Marilyn George  
Treasurer