



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XIV Number 4

Sep / Oct 2011

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / Sandpoint, Idaho

Program Schedule

Presentations sponsored by
Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society and
Sandpoint Parks and Recreation
Community Hall, First Ave, Sandpoint
(Across from County Courthouse)

Fall Programs

Saturday, September 24 9:45 am

Susan Drumheller and **Jan Griffiths** - from the
Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail:
*"Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail: Sharing a
Shoreline, Connecting Communities"*

Saturday, October 22 9:45 am

Nathan Robertson - Native Plants Horticulturist,
Coeur d'Alene Forest Service Nursery:
*"The Historic and Current Role of the Coeur
d'Alene Forest Service Nursery"*

Saturday, November 26 9:45 am

Lindsey Bengtson - Biological Science Technician
USGS Glacier National Park:
*"Project GLORIA: Global Observation
Research Initiative in Alpine
Environments"*

Saturday, December 10 11am- 2pm

Holiday Potluck at Gretchen Heller's House!!

Lois Wythe Grant 2012

Application forms are now available at our website for those interested in applying for the Lois Wythe Native Plant Grant which will provide assistance for a project that promotes native plants.

The grant recognizes Lois as founder of our organization and developer of the Native Plant Arboretum in Lakeview Park. Please share this opportunity with others and/or consider applying yourself. This grant of \$200 is open to individuals, classes and organizations who propose a project that furthers native plant awareness. The deadline for applications is November 30, 2011. Applications will be judged for originality, effectiveness, planning, budgeting, and community involvement. The project must be fully underway by the end of 2012 at which time a progress report outlining the accomplishments must be submitted to KNPS. Any questions or requests for application forms can be directed to Janice DeBaun at 263-8970.

Tidbits

The **July Bake Sale** at the Sandpoint Farmer's Market brought in \$260. Fall's bake sale will be Oct 1st.



"Kudos to Will Valentine, Carol Jenkins, and Brian Cole (summer intern, Bonner County Planning Department) for weeding and spreading mulch at the Native Plant Demonstration Garden behind the county building!"

Attention All: If you change your email address please remember to inform Bob Wilson of your new one so that you don't miss out on announcements and upcoming events! botanybob@frontier.com



Remembering Arlis... by Rae Charlton

Photo by Joanna Fuchs



It began with a bench. New to Sandpoint, and recently widowed, I found solace in wandering the paths of the Arboretum. I especially loved the rustic, handmade benches, and wondered if I could buy one in memory of my husband. One day I met Lois, and she told me that I could order one and the money would be donated to the Arboretum. What great news! I ordered one. Arlis called when it was ready, and said she'd get it to the courthouse parking lot. I was impressed when an amazingly dirty car rolled up, with my bench lashed on top. I was even more impressed when a spry, diminutive woman climbed out and introduced herself. Being a city girl, and not mechanically gifted, I was thinking: "Good heavens! She harvested the trees, handcrafted the bench, and secured it on top of

the car—she's a pioneer woman!" (Later I would learn that she had built two houses, and be overwhelmed all over again). It was the beginning of a wonderful friendship with a remarkable woman.

I joined KNPS and gravitated to the Arboretum. Arlis was one of the original volunteers there, and a tireless worker. She quietly shared her amazing knowledge of native plants, sometimes bringing "starts" from home. Her handmade arbors, trellises, and benches bring lightness and beauty to their surroundings. At some point, those of us who worked on Arlis' day began meeting at the Pine St. Bakery for breakfast. She was always armed with a supply of new jokes, which she delivered with masterful style and a twinkle in her eye. The group got so large we had to move out onto the porch! And I doubt that Arlis ever realized that she was the magnet, the core of it all.

When her health began to fail, she worried about keeping up her habitat. A solution arrived in the person of Mary Toland, who asked if she could work under Arlis' direction and soak up as much knowledge about native plants as possible. I'd look over and see Arlis sitting on an over-turned bucket, pointing out where to tuck in new plants, or water, or weed...The arrangement brought her pleasure and peace of mind.

Arlis and I enjoyed long lunches at the old Blue Moon. Gradually I learned more about her, enjoying stories about her special communion with animals (horses, dogs, and a crow). She talked about her basic philosophy of treating everyone with respect, giving each person a chance to give his or her best. She lived her philosophy, utilizing it in her teaching career, her work on the Youth Accountability Board, and in everyday life. Arlis was a natural teacher. She was also a mediator, an instigator of positive change. She was, indeed, a Woman of Wisdom, an Elder in the truest sense.

In her final days Arlis especially missed being at the Arb. Mary arranged a kind of "conference call," via cell phone. Each of us took a turn, walking our habitat and describing how it looked. We had time to tell her how much we missed her, and to say goodbye.

"Some people come into our lives and then quietly go. Others stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never the same." - Author unknown



Message from the President

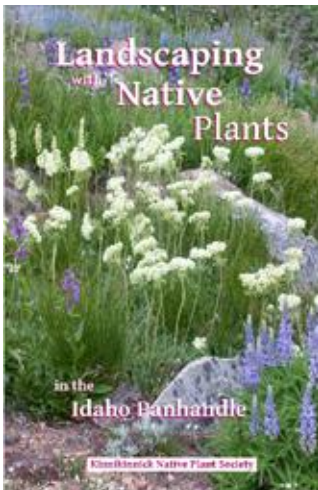
by Don Childress

Since our last newsletter, we have lost two of our most dedicated members – Lois Wythe and Arlis Harvey. Both of these women were inspired by nature. Arlis A. Harvey died peacefully on June 15, 2011, at the home she and longtime friend, Marilyn George, built and shared for 40 years. She was 84 years old. With her lifetime devotion to teaching, sharing, guiding and sculpting lives as well as her skill in crafting wonderful works of art from wood, Arlis sets a high standard for the rest of us to follow. Arlis was an 11-year volunteer at the Native Plant Arboretum.

Lois Wythe passed away July 21, 2011, just short of her 90th birthday. Her interest in growing things led to the founding of the Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society, later to become the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society. A tribute to Arlis written by her dear friend, Rae Charlton appears in this issue of the newsletter, and a feature article about Lois will appear in the Nov/Dec newsletter.

Summer is drawing to an end and fall (read: steelhead season) is nearly upon us, and I hope everyone has enjoyed a fun and productive summer break. Though, many KNPS members have not let up on their volunteer activities... Carol, Sylvia and the Native Plant Landscape book committee have continued their work and will be reaping the fruit at our September 24 general meeting when the book will have its public debut and be for sale to KNPS members. Sylvia Chatburn and the arboretum crew have been busy all summer, their efforts can be appreciated by a visit to the regionally acclaimed arboretum (see article in recent Northwest Travel magazine). Carol, Marilyn McIntyre and crew put together a beautiful and informative booth for the fair that was staffed by many of our dedicated members. If you were not able to participate, there will always be another opportunity next year. Phil Hough has put together another good line-up of programs for the fall so I look forward to seeing you all at the September general meeting.

KNPS Landscaping Book Pre-sale



As this newsletter goes to press, so does our much awaited book, *Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle*. Two years in the making, it will be available at cost to "members only" at the general meetings on September 24 and October 22. Following the October meeting the books will only be available at area retail shops. This is the best time to get your copy and extras for gifts. Authored by 12 of your friends, with magnificent photos from Marilyn George, other KNPS members, and area professional photographers, this book will amaze you with user friendly information and fresh ideas about landscaping with native plants. The folks who have worked so hard on this book are very excited to bring it to you. Enjoy!

Carol Jenkins

Business Sponsor

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Committee Reports

Arboretum News

We have 12 gardeners who have been working very hard this summer to keep the arboretum looking good. It has been more difficult than usual, because for most of the summer we did not have the automatic sprinkler system working. When the new power lines were put in underground, the lines for the automatic system got cut. They were finally repaired toward the end of August.

Our coordinator, Theresa, as well as the gardeners spent a lot of time pulling hoses and watering the dry spots to keep the Moist Forest and the Interior Rain Forest looking good. Ken mulched the new color garden with wood chips to keep the moisture in so that the new plants would not dry out. All of the plants that were newly planted and transplanted had to be watered by hand.

In the spring, the dandelions loved the cold, wet weather!! We are still digging them out. We kept them from reseeding by picking the flowers and buds off as soon as they appeared. Hawkweed is still trying to grow, but Theresa has been keeping it in check by digging it out.

Unfortunately we lost two of our large sumac trees and our devil's club due to the early cold snap last fall. New sumac are coming up from the root, so weather permitting, we should have replacements next spring.

Conservation Committee

After a delightful summer vacation, the Conservation Committee will again be meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, (September - May) at 6:30pm at Molly's house. We will pick up issues involving the Forest Service, BLM and the middle school wetland. Join us for interesting conversations and working for positive change that benefit native habitats, forests and plants in our area. Want to learn more? Email conservation@nativeplantsociety.org or call Molly at 255-7336 or Jim at 263-4182.

Molly O'Reilly 255-7336

Past Programs

May Program



Dick Kramer spoke about his 3 decade career and how the role of science and

conservation has evolved in land management decisions. Dick noted the change in the role of science in Forest Service management as specialists in various fields of natural science became integrated in a team approach to analysis and decision making. As special fields of science came to be part of an integrated and interdisciplinary process, the concept of ecosystem management took root and the emphasis has shifted from resource extraction to forest health which incorporates production in a more sustainable manner.

June Program

Tom Woolf – ISDA Aquatic Plant Botanist, “Aquatic Plants and Why You Should Care”. Tom gave an overview of the abundant diversity

of natural aquatic plants that thrive locally and the valuable role they play in



maintaining the health of our lakes and rivers. Tom also demonstrated the threat which invasive species pose to the ecological functioning of the lake, to plant and fish habitat, as well as potential problems impacting water quality, infrastructure and our economy.

Phil Hough



Dover Gets Signage – Go Check it Out!

An interpretative sign and individual plant markers are now in place at the native plant demonstration site just west of the Dover City Hall. "Kudos" to Sylvia Chatburn for crafting the wooden stakes.

Photo by Molly McCahon



High Country Field Trip



On August 6th Bob Wilson led a small, enthusiastic group on a remarkable field trip to the high country along the ridge trail north from the Lunch Peak Lookout. The native flowering

plants were in full bloom and the vistas of both the Scotchman's Peak Wilderness to the East and the Selkirk Mountains to the west were sublime. We saw 39 identifiable plants (thanks to Bob). The rocky ledge Penstemon grew down the rock scree slopes like a purple stream interspersed with alpine lady ferns. Beneath the big bleached whitebark pine snags left behind by the deadly Lunch Peak Burn in the 1960s and still dancing in the wind across the ridges after 50 years, we saw bright Yellow Columbine, Sitka Valerian, Showy Fleabane and shrubs like Black Elderberry, Fool's Huckleberry, Red Osier Dogwood, White-flowered Rhododendron, Yellow Monkey Flowers and oh, so many more. Our thanks to Bob for making this trip so enjoyable and informative!

Garden Art & Community Service Project

The class, taught by Sharon Gunter, was designed to introduce students to plants, especially native plants. The first class was held in the Arboretum at Lakeview Park. Theresa gave the group a tour of the different beds and habitats. After the tour, they spent time studying and drawing the different plants. Later, students took a tree identifying test, and pressed leaves and bark into clay to make prints of what they saw. The rest of the classes



day of class the students made a lot of plant name markers. Clay was rolled out kind of thick, and then letters were pressed into the clay to spell the name of the plants. These will be used to mark the plants in the south bed outside the Bonner County Administration Bldg.

Thanks to Brian, the summer intern at Bonner County Planning and Development, who helped in deciding which plants needed markers.

Photos by Sharon Gunter



KNPS at the Fair Our booth at the Bonner County Fair was made really special this year with the addition of a magnificent banner painted by KNPS Board member and artist Marilyn McIntyre. Inspired by Marilyn George's photo of syringa and western tiger swallowtail appearing in our 2011 KNPS calendar (August); Marilyn captured the essence of our



joy in caring about native plants. If you missed the fair, look for this beautiful banner at our general meeting in September. Thanks to the following who put the smiling face on native

plants by staffing the booth: Vicky Johnson, Molly O'Reilly, Lorrie Stockwell, Deb Hunsicker, Rae Charlton, Pat Stevens, Denise Dombrowski, Don Childress, Gail Bolin, Mary Jo Haag, Mary Toland, Irv Jenkins, and Joyce Pence who did two shifts! Bob Wilson brought in the blooming native plants which attracted many positive comments and questions. Bonner County had another great year with a booth focusing on watershed protection and native plants, giving away native grass and flower seeds.

Carol Jenkins



Member Profile:

Say Hello to Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker

Article and Photo by Joanna Fuchs

Realizing their dream of getting “away from phones, cars and people,” Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker left San Francisco in 2002, where Phil was in catering management for the Hyatt Hotel chain, and found their hideaway on a two-acre property sheltered by giant cedars, hemlocks and a now-huge grand fir they planted on arrival. “We wanted an area with outdoor activities—hiking, kayaking, skiing, snowshoeing,” says Deb. They completed their new household by adopting two shelter cats, “Ace” and “Mooch.”

The property includes such native plants as thimbleberry, wild rose and Oregon Grape, along with a raised vegetable bed, growing carrots, snap peas, green beans and tomatoes. “I love carrots!” says Deb, whose hiking nickname is “Walking Carrot,” for her favorite trail snack.



They met in 1994 when Deb wrote Phil “a fan letter” about his extensive hiking, and he invited her to hike awhile with him. Immediate rapport and common interests cemented a relationship that has been full of outdoor adventure. “Outdoor adventure” doesn’t begin to describe the lives of these “Triple Crowners” who have hiked The Big Three: the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail and the Continental Divide, as well as paddling 2000 miles down the Yukon River, trekking in South America and camping out in Hawaii’s Volcanic National Park. Future plans include hiking the 900-mile Idaho Centennial Trail and the 800-mile Arizona Trail.

Discovering NPS at a “Noxious Weed Awareness Day,” Phil did odd jobs helping out at the Arboretum, has been a member of the Conservation Committee since nearly its inception, was vice-president of the NPS Board, served as President of NPS, and currently is in charge of programs for NPS. He holds a half-time, paid position as executive director of Friends of Scotchman’s Peak Wilderness and also serves as volunteer Chairman of the Board. He is vice president of the newly formed Idaho Trails Association.

Deb works full time from home, telecommuting to her job with a small environmental consulting group in Oakland. “I rewrite environmental laws and regulations in plain English, so companies can understand and comply,” she says. She also offers environmental audits—reviews of their operations to make sure they are in compliance. Using the Internet so much causes electronic glitches, and “Phil always fixes my problems,” she says. “He comes to the rescue to keep things running and humming.”

Phil’s catering connection led to an interest in cooking. “I would hang around the kitchen with the chef and sous chef and taste the sauces and ask ‘How did you do that?’” he says. A maverick cook, Phil says he never does the same dish twice and enjoys tweaking recipes to his personal taste. “I look at recipes as a suggestion,” he says. Ask him about his Russian Carrot Pie and his Lamb Tangine! Deb sticks to basics, such as lentil soup and tuna noodle casserole. Deb, who enjoys knitting and basket making, is a member of the Fiber Arts Guild. She has taken classes in drawing and pottery and enjoys black and white photography. “I really love Art Walk,” she says, referring to the annual event in Sandpoint.

In music, Deb prefers contemporary rock, while Phil will “listen to just about anything.” Phil reads nonfiction on conservation and is currently engrossed in a biography of Benjamin Franklin. Deb is particularly fond of a book called *The Wolverine Way*. Phil’s favorite movies are *Harold and Maude* and *Dr. Strangelove*. Deb likes *Fierce Creatures* with John Cleese. Together, Phil and Deb possess a wide range of interests, adventures and talents that make them one of the most intriguing couples in our organization.