

March Program

"An Overview of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge"

Dianna Ellis (pictured), Manager of the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, Bonners Ferry, spoke to the Native Plant Society in March. The Refuge is part of the national web of 545 national refuges that began in 1903 at Pelican Island, Florida. *Protection, preservation and restoration of wildlife* are the goals of the Refuge. Comprising 2774 acres, 832 acres are wetlands, plus there is acreage devoted to forest and cropland as well as riparian (Kootenai River) and upland areas.



There are 300 species of wildlife of which 223 are birds. The rest are mammals among which are otter, black bear, moose and cougar. The Refuge produces food for wildlife such as winter wheat, barley, millet, basin wild rye, fescue, to name a few. The birds of the Refuge number some 35,000 ducks, about 5,000 Canada Geese, 1,000 swans and two pairs of eagles! Bird watchers can do an auto or walking tour to see the bird habitat. In the early evening owls can be heard in the Refuge. There is also an interpretive center for visitors. A *Friends of the Refuge* group is being formed --for those interested call Dianna at the Refuge.

April Program

"Conservation Easements and Hager Lake"



Archie George told of his experiences in setting up a conservation easement for his 60 acre property near Priest Lake. This piece of land contains Hager Lake, a five-acre body of water

filling a hole in gravel beds left by retreating glaciers some 11,000 years ago. The lake is surrounded by a low-elevation peat bog and contains several species of plants not common in the State of Idaho. Archie and his wife Mary purchased the land in 1999, and donated a conservation easement to the Nature Conservancy, which protected the property from development by prohibiting subdivision construction of more than one modest home and activities near wetlands. After the meeting chapter members were invited to join Archie on a visit to his property.

Program Schedule

LOCATION: Community Hall (Log Building)
First Avenue - across from County
Courthouse, Sandpoint

MAY PROGRAM

Saturday, May 28, 9:45 a.m.

"Plant Identification"

Field Trip Following

Rich Old

JUNE PROGRAM

Saturday, June 25, 9:45 a.m.

"Habitat Restoration and
Landscaping with Native Plants"

Scott Daily

Plants of the Month

May **Yarrow** *Achillea millefolium*

June **Great Mullein**

Verbascum thapsus

Other Events

Conservation Committee: Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Molly O'Reilly's, 6pm at 401 Euclid Street in Sandpoint. For more information or an agenda please contact Phil Hough at 255-2780.

Landscape Committee: Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at Wigleys, 315 Church Street, Sandpoint. Contact Eileen Atkisson at 263-3855.

Arboretum Committee: Contact Sylvia Chatburn: 263-2175.

Postal & Website Addresses for the

Kinnikinnick Chapter of the INPS

206 N. 4th Ave PMB 162
Sandpoint, ID 83864 -1424

www.nativeplantsociety.org

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR EVEN
MORE on CHAPTER ACTIVITIES,
ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS, and
EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION!

Committee Reports

Arboretum Committee

The Arboretum Committee has hired a Coordinator, Susan Yeager, for 5 days per week during the months May through September for 3 hrs in the mornings starting May 10. Susan's enthusiasm and gardening skills will be an asset to the chapter.

The Arboretum officially opened with the Arbor Day activities. Volunteers worked on April 27 to clean-up the debris from the winter winds. There are 16 volunteer gardeners who are working mornings Sunday through Friday. They will be planting some more flowering plants in the wall and in the young forest. Mosses are being encouraged to grow in the moist forest habitat. Toward the end of April the trillium, kitten tails, colt's foot and violets were some of the things that were adding color to the landscape. The Oregon grape, service berry and chokecherry are some that bloom in early May. They will be followed by wild roses, syringa, snowberry, spirea and penstemon. The Arboretum is always changing. Come by often to see what is in bloom!

Conservation Corner

The **Conservation Committee** has been very active these last couple months participating in field trips to view forest service projects in the Priest Lake area and on South Grouse Mountain in the Sandpoint ranger district. We also visited the BLM "two tales" project east of Bonner's Ferry and have attended a BLM open house to review upcoming fuels reduction projects. In April, Mark Sprengel from the Selkirk Conservation Alliance presented information at our monthly meeting on areas of common concern in the Priest Lake area.

For an agenda and directions call Phil Hough at 255-2780 or e-mail: info@nativeplantsociety.org.

If you're interested in issues or information relating to native plants or their habitat please join our discussion group at our yahoo "home": http://groups.yahoo.com/group/conservation_KCINPS/

We hope to set up another conservation committee field trip to view general forest practices sometime in late May or June. If you'd like to attend please check the "Yahoo" discussion group for details.



Busy Landscapers *The Hard Stuff*

The Landscape Committee has put most of its efforts into the hardscape of the Mickinnick trailhead. Steve Klatt helped us coordinate our work with the City of Sandpoint, pointed us in the right direction for materials and our equipment operator Leao, and left his print with the rocks surrounding the forest art at the entrance. Eileen Atkisson, Don Childress, Mike and Phil Franklin, Ann and Suzanne Wimberly and Stewart shaped the three areas with shovels, rakes and lots of muscle. Please drive into the parking lot to admire their work. Linda Drayton, Mike and Eileen traveled to Plants of the Wild to purchase most of the planting stock and, with generous offerings from Scott Daily, the committee members have everything ready for THE BIG PLANTING DAY ON THURSDAY, MAY 19 AT 9:30. We ask you to join us for the easier and fun task of getting 180 plants happily into our hardscape. We need about 25 people. Master Gardeners will also be helping. Please be at the parking lot at 9:30 with shovels and trowels, water and snacks, vim and vigor and a smile.

The Other Stuff

Don Banning, volunteer with The Discovery Center, will coordinate the creation of an irrigation system around the pond to help us keep alive the plants we put in last fall. The Healing Garden, which has helped us hold onto the natives on the Sand Creek shoreline, will host a **Garden Extravaganza Fundraiser** on June 4. Everyone is welcome to attend the party and to the silent and live auctions of arts, crafts and garden items. If you have an artistic or garden auction item, contact Eileen Atkisson, or Kally Thurman at 264-5856.

Message from the President

Molly O'Reilly

Happy Springtime Everyone!

It's an amazing feeling to be president of such a busy, active chapter with so many people contributing time and talent. The Landscape Committee is shaping and planting the Mickinnick Trailhead. The Conservation Committee is touring, listening and effectively representing our native plant habitats. Field trips are wonderful and in full swing. Programs, in the Sandpoint Community Hall, are diverse and well attended. The Arboretum, staffed by its many loyal gardeners, is bursting into spring with a new coordinator. Arbor Day activities expanded this year to include a student poetry contest. The Chapter is fundraising vigorously to underwrite that new Arboretum Coordinator. If you are one of the many active members making all this possible – cheers! If you've been contemplating contributing more, it is fun and we hope to get to know you better.

A Walk with the Franklins



On a recent walk through the forest that the Franklins call “home” we covered a lot of ground. A study of the great diversity of trees and other native plants on their property became a parallel trip through the life of the Kinnikinnick Chapter. Phil and Mike Franklin, with a passion for native plants, have proven very good stewards of both their land and our organization.

In a nearby clearing, the Franklins are nurturing seedlings destined to become the next succession of tall trees. Clearly they take the long-range view of what their effort will yield. Growing plants for future generations is part of their personal vision. Both Phil and Mike were part of the original group called together by Lois. Phil focused on finding an arboretum site, while Mike worked as one of the original arboretum gardeners. Almost simultaneously they launched the newsletter, applying their communications skills and backgrounds to help the chapter grow. They would spend the next 7 years nurturing this project into its present state, only recently relinquishing those reins.

We talk of the phenomenal success of the arboretum and the chapter, of how fast and large it has grown, beyond all original

expectations. The Franklins commitment to providing a healthy environment has given their trees and our chapter unique opportunities. As the Franklins studied their land they learned about plants native to North Idaho. Knowledge they eagerly share. They have set the standard high for all that follow.

The dreams and dedication of a small number of people can have a significant impact. Phil and Mike have left a large legacy – a Heritage Forest on their property and a special heritage for our arboretum and our chapter.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Categories of membership are: Individual, \$25; Senior/Student, \$18; and Household, \$30. Send payment to: Kinnikinnick Chapter INPS, PMB 162, 206 N. 4th Ave., Sandpoint, ID 83864. Questions? Rae Charlton, Membership, 255-7666. Thanks!

ALDER BENCHES AND CLASSES

Our resident bench artist, Arlis Harvey, and Sylvia Chatburn have been busy teaching how to make alder benches similar to those Arlis has made for the Arboretum. There are two classes per session and the charge is \$150.00. Material for the benches is provided. All proceeds from these classes go to the Arboretum. There are three openings in the June classes: Saturdays, June 4 and 11. Call Arlis at 263-9470.

BENCH FOR SALE



This beautiful bench was designed and built by Arlis Harvey, Linda Kirchmann and Margareta Larson is looking for a home in your garden! The

price is \$250.00. All proceeds go to the Kinnikinnick Arboretum. Call Arlis at 263-9470.

KINNIKINICK CHAPTER BAKE SALES!

Come enjoy yummy bake sale goodies and coffee. All proceeds support our chapter. Two Bake Sales are planned this year.

When: 5/21/2005 (Saturday) & 6/18/2005 (Saturday)

Where: Sandpoint Farmer's Market

Time: 9am to 1pm. If you would like to donate bake sale goodies, volunteer to help at the bake sale, or need additional information...please contact Linda Kirchmann at 255-5727.

MUSHROOM FORAY



Thirty-seven eager mushroomers showed up at Round Lake State Park on a warm, sunny day to hear Dr. Lori Carris "show and tell" about mushrooms. As she spoke about mushrooms, the group moved along the forest paths learning the mysteries of identifying morels, false morels and other types found in the Panhandle. Other plants of interest were skunk cabbage and lady slippers.

FIELD TRIPS (May, June, July and August)

*** Sat. afternoon, 5/28**

Weeds with Rich Old at Waterlife Discovery Center - after meeting

*** Sat. afternoon, 6/25**

Shade gardening talk & mosses video rerun at Lois Wythe's

*** Sat, 7/23 EARLY start**

Wet forest habitat up Spar Creek to Little Spar Lake - Randy Beacham

*** Sat, 8/13**

Roman Nose annual outing with Calypso and Spokane chapters

***ARBOR DAY* CELEBRATED ON APRIL 29TH**



Lakeview Park was a veritable beehive of activity Friday, April 29th as the Kinnikinnick Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society sponsored its yearly Arbor Day celebration at the Arboretum. In the cool shade of the hundred year old trees and under brilliant blue skies, swarms of nearly one hundred and thirty area school children with parents and teachers in toe were escorted around the park by students from Sandpoint High School's forestry classes.

The visitors were told facts and stories about 10 of our resident conifers and the B.C. Jones

Cabin and the wild medicinal garden. Coring and fire ecology demonstrations were put on by members of the Priest Lake Ranger Station. Fields Cobb discussed global warming and the importance of trees in our lives and in the health of our planet. Pat VanVolkinburg instructed groups on the benefits of worm composting, and Doug Toland serviced up a great batch of "tree cookies," one of which was well aged and highly distinguished. The children and adults were delighted. Molly O'Reilly, president of the Kinnikinnick Chapter, introduced Mayor Ray Miller who read the City's Arbor Day proclamation, followed by Bill Love of the Idaho Department of Lands who gave the City of Sandpoint the Tree City USA award for the ninth year.



New this year, the Chapter held an Arbor Day poster contest and a poetry writing exercise emphasizing this year's national Arbor Day theme, "*Trees are Terrific and Energy-wise.*" Katya Greimes of the Sandpoint Waldorf School created the winning poster and was presented an award of twenty-five dollars. Select poems from students of Sagle and Kootenai elementary schools were read during the noon time program. The remaining poems and posters, along with pictures and stories from the Selkirk School were displayed. The pride and joy of the poets and artist and their friends added to the pleasure of everyone in attendance.

Approximately 1,000 native seedlings, donated by Mike Fortney and the Clifty View Nursery, were given to teachers and other adults with the hope that the seedlings will grow strong and healthy. The Arbor Day celebration culminated with a special ceremony dedicating the wild medicinal garden to Lois Wythe, the founder of the Arboretum. It was a truly special moment seeing Lois (continued on page 6)

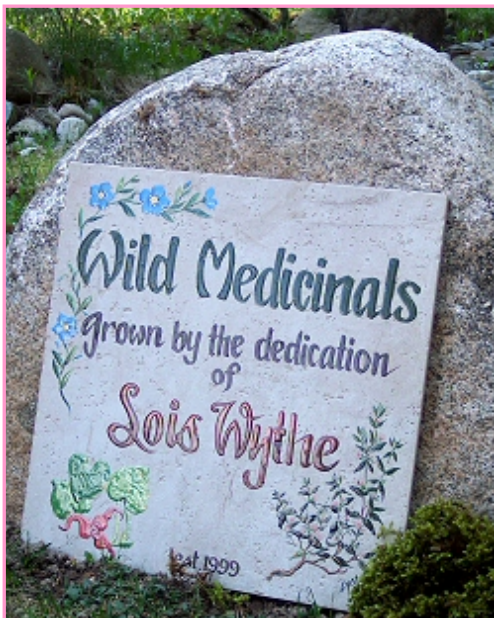


(Continued from page 5) surrounded by children and friends as her long time efforts were acknowledged. Following the ceremony, a Pacific Yew was planted in the Arboretum.

We would like to thank all those who helped make the event a success: **Tree Docents:** Linda Kirchmann, Mary Jo Haag, Adrienne Lilly, Gail Lyster, Jeff Rich, Mary Toland, Rae Charlton, Pat Ramsey and Myrna Garside. **Arboretum Gardeners:** Sylvia Chatburn, Myrna Garside, Rae Charlton, Michael Franklin, Margie

Gibson, Arlis Harvey, Mary Jo Haag, Gretchen Hellar, Phil Hough, Linda Kirchman, Bill Lamson, Sherry Metz, Dorothy Modafferi, Patti Rechner, Jeff Rich, Bruce Vogelsinger, Parise Whitley, Bill and Sharon Brill and Lois Wythe. **Education Committee:** Jim and Cheryl Stern with assistance from Sylvia Chatburn, Phil and Michael Franklin, Mary and Doug Toland, and Marilyn George. **Teachers:** Kim Ball, Kathy Hall, Fiona MacNeill, Julie Keaton, Kim Van Horne, Ruthie Stevens, Judi Lundak, and Mike McNelley. **Publicist and Photographer:** Nancy Hahn Rodgers and Margareta Larson.

We would also like to express our appreciation to those in our community who helped the Chapter put on a



successful Arbor Day. These people and businesses include: Mike Fortney and the Clifty View Nursery for providing the seedlings, Bud Lang and his Sandpoint High School forestry classes for



preparing the seedlings and providing tour guides during Arbor Day, Idaho Stone and Supply for providing and placing the stone on which Lois Wythe's tile will be placed.

