



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XV Number 2

Mar / Apr 2012

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc. / PO Box 1092 Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

www.nativeplantsociety.org

Upcoming Programs

Presentations sponsored by
Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society and Sandpoint Parks and
Recreation

Community Hall, First Ave, Sandpoint
(Across from County Courthouse)

Saturday, March 24 9:45 am

Kent Wellner and David Cobb,
Idaho Panhandle National Forests:

*“Draft Forest Management Plans for the
Idaho Panhandle and
Kootenai National Forests”*

Saturday, April 28 9:45 am

Theresa (Terrie) Jain,

Research Forester at the Rocky Mt Research Station:

*“Priest Lake Experimental Forest
History and Purpose”*

Saturday, May 26 9:45 am

John W. Schwandt, PhD,

Forest Pathologist, USFS Northern Region:

“Whitebark Pine: A Pine in Peril”

Additional Programs:

April 22 Earth Day Charter HS, 1--4pm, KNPS Booth

*May 15 6pm, Community Hall, Phil Hough and Deb
Hunsicker on “Hiking the Triple Crown”*

Calendar of Events

Arbor Day and Arboretum Open House 2012

This year, KNPS has the opportunity to collaborate with Sandpoint's Tree Committee in creating a joint celebration set for **June 2, 2012** at Lakeview Park. It will occur Saturday morning (6/2) and include the official Arbor Day ceremony, tree tours, a native plant sale, a bake sale and other family activities. Mark your calendars and think about volunteering.

Renewal Reminder

If you have not already done so, we look forward to receiving your membership renewal. The number on the label of the mailing envelope is the calendar year of your paid up membership. In case you have already discarded the envelope, an 11 at the beginning of this article means that, as of February 29, 2012 we have not received your renewal for 2012. Please make your check payable to KNPS and mail to P.O. Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864.

Membership Categories

○ Patron	\$100
○ Sustaining	\$50
○ Sponsor (commercial)	\$50
○ Household	\$25
○ Individual	\$20
○ Student	\$15
○ Senior (Over 65)	\$15

**** Plant Identification Course ****

An 8-week course in plant identification will be offered by the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society in conjunction with the Idaho Master Naturalists this spring. The course will emphasize family-level recognition and will introduce students to many common species found in our area. Students will learn how to interpret flower and fruit structures, and become familiar with features by which plants are grouped. Both classroom and field instruction will be included. The course fee is \$50 and includes a binder, hand lens, the textbook *Botany in a Day*. If you can provide your own good quality, 10X or better, hand lens, course cost is \$35. The course will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 9:00 PM at the Waterlife Discovery Center on Lakeshore Drive beginning May 3 through June 21. Enrollment is limited to 20 students. Call 683-2387 for information or registration.

Instructors:

Derek Antonelli, Master Naturalist Program
Coordinator in northern Idaho; President INPS Calypso Chapter
Jill Blake - Owner, Mother Nature Landscape Design;
former USFS Botanist
Bob Wilson - Owner, Cedar Mountain Perennials;
KNPS Board Member



Committee Reports

Arboretum Committee

The Arboretum Committee met on Tuesday, Feb. 28 to start planning for the coming season. Our project for this year will be to enhance the Ella Street entrance to the Arboretum. A new path will be established and the old lawn grass and weeds will all be removed so that more color can be added to the area. Plans are under way to install a drip irrigation system in the wall. **Arboretum cleanup day** will be **April 22**, 10 to noon, followed by a potluck lunch. **June 2** has been designated as **Arboretum Open House Day**. We will be conducting tours, selling native plants and other native plant related items. Look for more details in the next newsletter. The next **committee meeting** will be **March 28** at 1:00 in the library. Anyone interested in working at the arboretum is welcome to attend the meeting.

Sylvia Chatburn

Landscape Committee

WANTED

Landscape Committee Members

- We do maintenance work on the Mickinnick Trailhead.
- We do landscape consultations for community projects. We are currently working on the Panhandle Animal Shelter plan.
- We do landscape consultations for Kinnikinnick members.
- We do not meet monthly but on an as-needed basis.
- We want you to join us on any or all of these activities.
- We want you to ask us for help on your public or private landscaping needs.

Eileen Atkisson 263-3835 eatkiss1@frontier.com

Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee gathered for lunch at Tango Cafe on March 2, to discuss issues involving native plants and anticipate excursions to look at them for interested KNPS members when the snow is gone. Watch for details in coming newsletters. We will be in the woods looking at interesting plant life! The Forest Service has released its new draft plan, with three alternatives, and comments are due in early April. KNPS, thanks especially to Phil Hough, has been actively involved for several years and is pleased that this process

is moving toward completion. Science, practice and information have outdated the 1987 plan. We reviewed the three proposed scenarios, discussed potential comments on it from KNPS and will present our recommendations at the March 16 KNPS board meeting. If you are interested, please plan to attend or let me know so I can send you the draft.

The Conservation Committee meets occasionally, emails much more frequently, and monitors proposed plans and projects on public lands that affect native plants and their habitats. If you want to know about our next convening, please email me:

yachthalo-at-yahoo.com

Molly O'Reilly

Past Programs

January 28:

Eric Grace, Executive Director of the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy

Eric's presentation included an overview of the challenges and opportunities of working to protect private lands through conservation easements and the general



status of such protection in our region.

February 25:

Phil Hough, Executive Director of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

Phil provided a progress report on the current stewardship efforts including a winter Wolverine Study, and also provided information on opportunities to help support wilderness during the forest planning process.



Photos by Marilyn George

Should you wish your newsletters electronically via email to save paper and mailing costs please send your email address to botanybob@frontier.com. Also, all members should notify Bob with any changes to email.



President's Message

Gail Bolin

As I begin my first year as president of KNPS, I'm excited about the numerous activities and events planned for 2012—Earth Day, the county fair, a display at the library, celebration of Arbor Day with an open house at the Arboretum featuring a plant sale, bake sale, kids' booth and tree tours. Additionally, a 2nd edition of the Landscape book is underway, a plant identification class is forming, nurseries are being contacted regarding their native plant inventory, new plantings at the Arboretum are being designed, the landscape committee is working on several public projects, the forest plan is being studied, and the year has just begun. KNPS is truly an amazing group of people! Can we do more? Yes we can. We can expand our current outreach and educational programs, advocate for native plants in school yards and public parks, we can give presentations about the many benefits of native plants to schools and community groups. So, if you find yourself without anything fun or interesting to occupy your time, volunteer for the new Outreach and Education Committee and help spread the word – GROW NATIVE! (wgbolin@hotmail.com).

The “The Wind’s Whetstone”

Story and Artwork by Marilyn McIntyre

Through jagged cedars whips the winter blast Honed on the craggy ledges as it passed.

Haiku by Basho



As March comes in like the proverbial lion, the winter continues to cycle from *Arctic Blast* to *Pineapple Express*. At our elevation of 3,200', in a southwesterly running drainage we have 5' of snow on the ground which will probably deepen by a foot or two by the time our current storm subsides. NOAA weather radio says that they are experiencing 59 mph wind gusts on the lake, but it is quietly snowing heavily here. It's a great time to practice being an amateur *phenologist*.

Phenology is the study of recurring natural

phenomena such as migrations, blossom formation and life-cycles and how they are affected by the climate, daylight hours and seasons. Though this falls into the category of things I might study if I were to go back to college someday, my friend Geri who teaches ecology at Sierra College says that by recording each year's phenological occurrences in sketches and writing I am doing just that. I have learned from reading the Audubon Field Guide to the Weather that the Idaho Panhandle is on the bottom end of a “marginally tornado prone area” which extends up through Canada and reaches its maximum in April and May; the only such area west of the divide. Some of you may remember the black funnel cloud that hit the Sandpoint Arts and Crafts Fair at City Beach in August around 25 years ago. I suspect that by the time April is over, my phenological observations will have really picked up speed and the moist Montane will be very moist indeed. For the time being the native plants are laying low but it won't be long before I can watch them doing their seasonal dances of bud-growth and blossom formation and the ultimate ripening of those big, sweet, purple berries.



Member Profile: *Say Hello to Gail Bolin*

Article by Rae Charlton

Photo by Marilyn George

Our President, **Gail Bolin**, admits to two passions: native plants and educating people about their impact on the environment. And she is acting on both by serving as President of KNPS and Idaho Master Naturalists for 2012! There must be a story behind such dedication...

Gail grew up on a 160 acre dairy farm in Missouri. Her parents were ahead of their time, conservationists who respected and loved the land. Her dad knew that soil must be nurtured to be productive, and enjoyed teaching this philosophy to others. Her mom taught her gardening, the properties of herbs, and how to harvest and use native plants. She is grateful to them for these sustaining gifts.

When an older brother returned from the Navy with stories of places he'd been, Gail decided she wanted to see a bit of the world. She attended Business College in Springfield, MO, and became a travel agent. Her career spanned 30 years, affording a great variety of travel experiences. The most memorable trip occurred in 1972. She was the youngest of 15 travel agents on a "familiarization" trip into East Berlin. Their bus had to go through the Wall, stopping at Checkpoint Charlie. She remembers armed guards, up in turrets, reminiscent of prisons...Their passports were confiscated by a guard who came aboard. On the western side of the Wall, there were black wreaths marking failed escape attempts. W. Berlin was a modern city, while E. Berlin felt dirty and downtrodden. "It was like day and night."



During those years, she met and married Jimmy. They were living near Boulder, CO, and thinking about moving to a small, outdoorsy town when a visit to Jimmy's cousin in Sandpoint decided the matter. They moved here in 2001. And Gail was ready for a new career. She attended North Idaho College, majoring in Environmental Science, and then transferred to the University of Idaho where she earned her Master's Degree in 2010. The degree is a relatively new, interdisciplinary one, examining how nature works and how humans interact with it. She laughs over taking all the natural resource "ologies", e.g., ecology, biology, geology. Water resources became her main focus.

In graduate school, Gail needed a water-linked project for her Master's thesis. She was steered to KNPS and Carol Jenkins. The timing was right for a native plant riparian buffer demonstration garden, and there was a site on the Pend Oreille River, in Dover. It took several years to complete the planting on the 200 foot strip west of the Dover city hall. Last year Gail took the Idaho Master Naturalist training course. She likes that it is "science based", and that it recognizes that plants are basic to everything else, e.g., wildlife. It is a citizen volunteer organization, working to protect Idaho's natural environment, under the auspices of Idaho Fish and Game.

In the important personal details department, Gail has a son, a daughter, three stepsons, and eight grandchildren, spread over MO, KS, and CA. She also has a large, lovable dog who is "family". Now an independent consultant, she is putting her passions to work in designing, restoring, and/or evaluating native plant landscapes. A long road--congratulations are in order!

Note: All interviews are reviewed and approved by interviewees prior to publication.

Business Sponsors

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Specializing in native plants for inland NW gardens
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