
Program Schedule

September Program

Saturday, Sept 23 9:45a.m.

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

"Writing Natural Resources into Fiction"

Clair F. Button

This promises to be a most delightful program! Mr. Clair F Button, retired BLM wildlife biologist and botanist and author of the two books *Cow Cookies* and *Quicksand Plot* will entertain us with humor as well as knowledge gained from years in the field. A resident of Eastern Oregon, he spends his time exploring western landscapes, writing, and collecting rocks. Of his books he writes "This series pokes a bit of fun at the BLM, modern society and just about everybody. At the same time my goal is to give you action and mystery, not just set in a western landscape, but with the environment right at the core of the mystery."

October Program

Saturday, October 28, 2006 at 9:45 a.m.

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

"Watershed Restoration"

Jill Cobb

This is our opportunity to learn about the latest approaches to watershed restoration from decommissioning roads to planting native shrubs. Jill Cobb, hydrologist with the Priest Lake Ranger District, will discuss the effectiveness of various erosion control techniques as well as specific projects underway in the Priest Lake District.

Summer Events

May Program: Story of the Native Plant Arboretum

Our last gathering in the Community Hall was in May when Sylvia Chatburn gathered archives and original members together and brought to light the origins of the Arboretum. With photographs and the reminiscing of those involved we were

presented a rich and dedicated story of the creation and continuation of the Native Plant Arboretum.

INPS Annual Meeting

The 2006 INPS Annual Meeting was held at Farragut State Park. Friday night started the weekend with a visit from Errin Baer, the parks interpretive speaker. She presented a history of the park to the group as they were gathered around the campfire. Saturday morning brought the opportunity of several varied field trips. One led by Nina Eckberg, Kootenai County Weed Specialist, another led by LeAnn Abell, a BLM botanist, and an all day hike led by Bob Lee on the Tweete/Scout trail. Another historical talk was given by Sarah Walker about Mr. Leiberg, an early botanist who lived at Buttonhook Bay. The Calypso chapter provided a plant list and contests to find the most plants listed and identify any new additions. One of the morning groups added a staggering 42 plants to the list.

After a short annual meeting the participants gathered for Dr. Fred Rabe's discussion on Rocky Mountain Lake Ecology. Members came from as far way as Pocatello & Idaho Falls and almost 45 people attended the evening meal and presentation. Everyone has given positive feedback and enjoyed the activities, so start planning for next year as the date has already been chosen. The next INPS annual meeting is going to be held June 15-17, 2007 at the Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve. Imagine the amazing and interesting plants and lichen to be found.

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

Spring and Summer Survival

The **Landscape Committee** and all of our projects have survived the seasons with our persistence and the pleasure of beautiful, healthy landscapes. The ongoing struggle with quackgrass at Mickinnick Trailhead has been rewarded with lush growth, beautiful flowers, surprise native grass volunteers and lots of praise from hikers and mountain bikers. We will finish our work season on Wednesday mornings, October 4 and November 1, and we welcome all weeders and mulchers.

Mark Taylor, Idaho Fish and Game Manager of the Discovery Center coordinated a successful work day on June 1. With a huge crew of IDFG employees, sports clubs volunteers, our landscapers and Master Gardeners it was weeding and mulching on a large scale. The fish pond, surrounded by our landscape, was completed and an Open House on August 8 was attended by Mike and Phil Franklin who graciously represented us at the party.

We have helped create the Healing Garden, and will continue to represent Kinnikinnick on the Garden Committee as soon as we put Mickinnick to bed. One of the last projects of the year is to tidy up the Idaho fescue and Oregon grape surrounding the Tolerance Sculpture at the Court House. You can still help us this season or plan to join us next spring. We make a lot of fun around our work.

Eileen Atkisson, Chair

The **Hospitality Committee** would like to give many thanks to our future treat suppliers: The September volunteer is still TBA. But thanks go out to Nancy Rodgers and Carol Jenkins for October and thank you to Rae Charlton and Sylvia Chatburn for November. If anyone is interested in bringing treats to one of our Monthly Member Meetings, please contact Linda Kirchmann at 208-255-5727.

Linda Kirchmann, Chair

The Big Little World of Lichen

Photos by Marilyn George



It may be that the only real bark you see on a 25 foot spotted section of alder is the first six inches around the base of the tree. Those mottled off whites and grays running up the tree and those twined threads of browns and yellow-greens that hang like hair off the branches are lichen. It is estimated that there are some 14,000 species of lichen worldwide and that they are the dominate species on 8% of the earth's surface, but do we see them? Toby Spribille (pictured below at left of photo) does. This noted lichenologist, again displayed both his knowledge and his relaxed, affable instructional style. Saturday, August 5, Toby gave a small but enthusiastic group of Kinnikinnick Chapter members an eye and ear full as we ambled up and down the Mickinnick trail, stopping frequently to examine the diversity of lichens on downed logs and snags, trunks of trees and on rocks.

On this field trip participants identified over 50 species; one specimen catalogued is mostly a coastal species, *Hypogymnia inactiva* (common name: Inactive Tube Lichen), uncommon in Idaho. Any one tree can have 25 and more species; any rock face can host a large, varied population. Lichens give us a chance to immerse ourselves in the strange and the extraordinary minutes from our back door. **Jim DuBuisson, Conservation Committee Chair**



Message from the President

Phil Hough

With summer's end milfoil, and the controversy surrounding it, has fully blossomed. Some people have asked why the Native Plant Society has not taken a stance directly opposing the county's plan for managing the Eurasian Water Milfoil problem. Concern about Milfoil, as well as the passions and apprehensions surrounding the county's use of chemicals, is running high. I think it will be helpful to our members to explain the Native Plant Society's role in conservation advocacy, as well as our board's position(s) on the milfoil matter.

Eurasian Milfoil (we'll call it milfoil, for short) is a horribly invasive weed. It chokes out all other aquatic life and can "kill" shallow lakes. Humans spread it by carrying it between waterways on boats and other equipment. The tiniest fragment can create an entire new colony. Now that it has a firm foothold here, battling it will be a perennial task.

Our chapter recognized the milfoil problem some time ago and has urged the Idaho Department of Lands as well as the US Forest Service to make preventative actions a **requirement** for issuing permits to marina and other special use permit holders. (See our website for letters on the Dover Marina Application 12/15/04 and the Hills Resort and Priest Lake Marina 12/20/04.)

Last spring, we supported state funding to fight milfoil, although we were not advocating any specific plans for control or eradication. No matter what options are used in this fight - money will be necessary. So will education. In April, the Native Plant Society sponsored a workshop to bring information to the debate that would surely follow the approval of state funds. In conjunction with the Water Life Discovery Center, we applied for, and have received, a grant for educational signage to help people understand the problem and be part of the solution.

For a noxious weed as aggressive as milfoil, there are no "good" alternatives once it is firmly rooted. Doing nothing assures that the problem will get worse. Every control measure, even those touted as "natural", have potential pitfalls. If there were a "magic bullet" or easy solution it's doubtful that these problems, or any controversy, would exist. Sorting out the best solution is not a simple, or easy task.

Beyond education, the Native Plant Society's conservation policy requires that our conservation actions be "science based" and "positive in tone" and are achieved through collaboration and consensus. (See our website for our complete mission statement and conservation policy.)

Our conservation committee makes recommendations to the board, which scrutinize the proposed action for compliance with our society's policies. We have no paid staff – we are not an organization that can simply direct staff to work on a project requested by our members. As an all-volunteer group, we can only pursue actions which our volunteers have the time and interest to pursue. The power of the Native Plant Society can be harnessed by those members willing to put in the time and effort as part of our conservation committee.

Conservation action thus requires collaboration, consensus, science and a motivated volunteer.

Among our members, as well as the community at large, there is no clear consensus on how best to handle the milfoil problem. Most members have serious concerns about chemicals and are certainly skeptical about relying only on a chemical based solution. However, some members feel that chemical application is warranted as part of an integrated approach on the belief that the alternative solutions are not sufficient and that doing nothing is the worst alternative of all. The science behind various "alternative" measures is not conclusive. Nor is the science truly clear on the use of chemicals. Much of the public debate about milfoil has substituted emotions for facts. The debate played out, by both "sides" of the chemical question, in the newspapers and in various meetings has frequently been dialogue designed to persuade others, omitting or obscuring some "facts".

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Categories of membership are: Individual \$25 per year; Household \$30 per year; Student/ Senior \$20 per year; Patron \$75*, Life \$1000* **Patron and Life members may affiliate with additional chapters of INPS.*

Send payment to: Kinnikinnick Chapter INPS, PMB 162, 206 N. 4th Ave., Sandpoint, ID 83864.

Questions? Contact Membership Chair Rae Charlton, at 255-7666 or membership@nativeplantsociety.org

Message from the President...

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Many serious questions persist about the efficacy, and safety, of both chemical and alternative treatment options. And, many so-called “experts” on both sides have vested interests in the solution. The result has been contradictory “evidence” leaving in question the “true science” as well as the actual extent of the problem.

Controversy itself does not itself preclude us from comments or actions, but controversy does make consensus difficult to achieve and it raises the level of scrutiny focused on the science and facts upon which such actions are based. We have not had the expertise, or volunteers willing to take on the task of sifting through all the information to become experts, needed to comment directly opposing or supporting the county’s spraying program.

Despite this, many of our members have valid concerns that the county’s program is a strategy too quickly adopted without sufficient safeguards. While we are not prepared to condemn chemicals completely, we certainly have not endorsed the county’s chemical dependant plan. *We share concerns that not enough effort has been made to find a truly integrated strategy to fight milfoil.*

We don’t have all the answers to this problem, but we do have some questions, some serious questions regarding the options the county has pursued. And we have asked the county for clarification of their long-range plans and to address a strategy of an integrated program. We recently sent a letter the Bonner County Weed

Board and await their response. It is posted on our website, www.nativeplantsociety.org. We will also post their response once received.

Bonner County needs to use today's funding windfall carefully, as part of a multi-year plan that moves away from chemicals. We will participate in assuring they do that. Our letter is only the first step in our effort to ensure that milfoil control happens, and has minimal impacts on other aquatic life and people. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please feel free to contact me.

We welcome all members who would like to work on any conservation issue to come to the conservation committee meetings, bring your ideas and energy, and get involved. Whether it is the arboretum, a community landscape project, or a conservation concern, we can only do as much as our volunteers are willing to take on!

Phil Hough

Quote of the Month

“Compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind”.

- Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, physician, musician, Nobel laureate (1875-1965)

Lichen Workshop photos by Marilyn George

