



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XIII Number 4

Sep/ Oct 2010

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)

Upcoming Programs

September 25, 9:45 a.m.

*“Beneficial Natural Enemies of Plant-
Feeding Insects”*

Edward John Bechinski, Professor of Entomology,
University of Idaho

Saturday, October 23, 9:45 a.m.

“Urban/Community Forestry”

David Stephenson –Urban Interface/Planning
Program Manager, Idaho Department of Lands

Saturday, November 27, 9:45 a.m.

*“Results of Summer Botanical Surveys
and Monitoring”*

Jennifer Costich-Thompson, Botanist Idaho
Panhandle National Forest

Saturday, December 11, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Annual Holiday Potluck at Gretchen
Heller’s*

Saturday, January 22, 9:45 a.m.

“Master Forest Stewards Program”

Chris Schnepf, University of Idaho Extension Office
in Coeur D’Alene

CALENDAR

September 11: Bake sale at Farmer’s Market
September 16: Wine tasting
September 25: KNPS general meeting
October 12: Conservation committee meeting

October 23: KNPS general meeting
November 3: Home horticulture workshop
November 27: KNPS general meeting
December 11: Annual Potluck
January 22: KNPS general meeting

BAKE SALE SEPTEMBER 11

The July bake sale was a success with all the baked
goodies selling out. The next bake sale will be
September 11. Bring your goodies to the Sandpoint
Farmer’s Market at Farmin Park by 9 a.m.

WINE TASTING SEPTEMBER 16

A wine tasting will be held at Pend Oreille Pasta on
the 16th of September. Tickets are \$15 per person.
For tickets, call Dennis Rieger at 208-610-8362.

BONNER COUNTY FAIR

Thanks for outstanding membership
participation at the Fair this year! Marilyn
McIntyre and Irv Jenkins helped set up our
display. Phil Franklin, Natalie Larson, Jim
Stern, Mary Toland, Molly O’Reilly, Annette
Fraser Runnalls, Jean Maryborn, Caspar Reitz,
Joyce Pence, Rae Charlton, Mary Jo and Ken
Haag, Cheryl and Kirby McKee, Pat Stevens,
Bill Lamson, Gale Corsini, Janice DeBaun, Kate
Johnson, and Irv Jenkins all greeted folks at
our booth. The box for questions/comments
was a success with 17 submissions.
Questions included “Can we grow
huckleberries in our yard,” “Is there a native
rush in Bonner County?” and a request for
landscaping advice using native plants.



Committee Reports

Arboretum Committee: The arboretum has been blooming all summer. Some things have not reacted well to the cold night temperatures, but others have loved it and were trying to take over. Most of the gardeners have been thinning things out and transplanting them to other areas. Overall it is doing very well. The hawkweed has been a real issue this year.

After 10 years, the compost bins and the footbridges had to be removed and replaced with new ones. Thanks to Ken Haag and Jim Stern, this project was completed quite easily. Pressure treated material was purchased for the compost bins. Ken Earle donated and planed cedar 2x4s for the bridges and some of the support structure on the compost bins. Tom Timoskevich donated and cut the logs for the footbridges. The donation of time and materials has been greatly appreciated.

The new color garden area has been worked up and planted with buckwheat. It will be tilled again so that the green material will provide nutrients to the soil over the winter. We will be ordering plants for planting next spring.

Our coordinator this year is Theresa Reese. She has been waging war on the hawkweed and clover when she is not working with the gardeners or greeting visitors to the arboretum. Theresa always has a warm smile and positive attitude. We will have her assistance until the middle of September.

On a related note: [Museum Landscaping Project](#) *The Museum has gone native!* That's right. The arboretum served as inspiration for the Bonner County Historical Society to redo its planting area all in natives. Many of the plants used were bought at our May native plant sale. Others came from Bob Wilson's native plant nursery and from individuals who shared from their gardens.

Under the direction of KNPS members Nancy Fontaine and Janice DeBaun, with help from the Bonner County Work in Lieu of Detention Program

for the hard digging, the project is doing well in its first summer. Many of the plants have temporary identification tags, but most of you will recognize them as among the most popular natives to grow.

Next year the group hopes to add rock features as well as more permanent signage. Plants include updating the water wheel and anchor areas.

The Historical Society gives special thanks to everyone who volunteers at the arboretum for the advice and good wishes on this project.

Conservation Committee: In early June, members of the conservation committee and KNPS board joined Forest Service botanists Jennifer Costich-Thompson and Richard Merkle (plus their summer crew), monitoring several populations of sensitive orchids. This is the third year of this monitoring sequence to determine whether populations are thriving, stressed or holding. After a wet spring, the little plants looked good, but many seed heads had been browsed off. We get inordinate pleasure trashing through brush on steep hillsides hollering counts to the person with the tally sheet. As always, a picnic lunch tastes extra good after a hard morning's work. Please let Molly know if you want to be on the list for next year's monitoring. Terrain is steep and you need to keep the location secret.

KNPS Conservation Committee will hold its first fall meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 6:30 p.m. at 401 Euclid Ave., Sandpoint. Several important items, including Bonner County roadway weed spraying, the middle school wetland and a proposed BLM land exchange (N. Idaho lands would be traded to a timber company for Boise Foothills lands) are on the agenda already for discussion and strategy. New people are always welcome; no background needed! Call Molly 255-7336.

November & December conservation meetings will be on the second Tuesday of the month.

Committee Reports Continued on Pg 3



Message from the President

Don Childress

Summer is almost over and steelhead season, I mean fall, is nearly here. I hope everyone had many bountiful experiences this summer and that at least part of it was spent with family and good friends in the pursuit of recreation.

The most exciting news from KNPS this summer is that the hard work of the Native Plant Landscape Book group was rewarded with a \$5,000 grant from the Inland Northwest Community Foundation to begin the printing process. The Native Plant Landscape book is an outgrowth of the native plant list that was constructed a couple of years ago by some KNPS volunteers. The book was a vision of Carol Jenkins and began with the help of several contributing volunteers led by Sylvia Chatburn, the major editor, and Marilyn George, the photographic editor. Those contributing many hours of time and considerable expertise include Ken Haag, Bob Wilson, Dennis Rieger, Molly McCahon, Marilyn McIntyre, Molly O'Reilly, Joyce Pence and Don Childress. The Native Plant Landscape book is intended to bridge the gap between a native plant identification guide and a book that lists those plants suitable for the North Idaho landscape. The volume has the suitable plants listed, described and where they are best used in the landscape, as well as a color photograph of the plant. Congratulations to those who worked so diligently on this worthy project.

Also on the good news theme, KNPS has passed the 150 membership mark for the first time. Congratulations to you all. You belong to a very special organization.

Our very able newsletter coordinator (editor), Joanna Fuchs is stepping back to pursue other interests and we are in need of a replacement for her. If any one has an interest in contributing in that capacity please call me and we will discuss the position.

Committee Reports, continued...

Landscape Committee

Mickinnick Trailhead had a pleasant and successful season. Check out its glory before we close it up on October 6. After two landscaping consultations with members, our consultants are creating the native planting at the Roundabout.

Scholarship Committee

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society will again be offering the Lois Wythe Native Plant Scholarship to someone taking the master gardener class in 2011. The scholarship honors our founder and the creator of the Arboretum and also encourages an interest in native plants.

If you or someone you know may be planning to take the master gardener class, consider applying for this grant. Financial need is not a qualification. It is awarded to someone who expresses a genuine interest in native plants--either by adding them to a personal garden, promoting their use in the community or working with them in the arboretum or on the Mickinnick trailhead. The only qualifications for consideration are acceptance into the master gardener class and agreeing to contribute 10 hours of the required volunteer efforts to a native plant related activity.

Application forms are included with the paperwork provided at the Extension Office for the master gardener class and will be available on our web site later this year. For questions, please call Janice DeBaun at 263-8970.



Plant Sale

The second annual plant sale is over and planning for the 2011 sale is in progress. Plants have been ordered and we are awaiting the recovering of the PSNI greenhouse prior to re-potting the plants.

Photos by Marilyn George





Good news: Our board member and artist, Marilyn McIntyre, has offered to paint a backdrop for our booth next year, one that we can use annually!

More good news: Bonner County's booth theme was "Go Wild-Grow Native." It featured photos of native plants, pots of native plants from Plants for All Seasons, and native seed packets for distribution. The booth won Best of Show and the Blue Award. Congratulations Bonner County!

WEEDING IN THE DEMO GARDEN

Thanks to Irv and Carol Jenkins for spring and summer weeding at the Bonner County Native Plant Demonstration Garden!

GRANTS FOR OUR BOOK

KNPS has gratefully received grants from the Inland Northwest Community Foundation Equinox Fund and the Idaho Native Plant Society ERIG Fund to support the publication of our native plant landscaping book.

MASTER GARDENER'S WORKSHOP

"Landscaping with Native Plants" will be a topic of the Bonner County Master Gardeners Association's 2010 Fall Home Horticulture workshop series on Nov. 3. For more information call the Extension Office, 263-8511.

Thank You from Timberlake HS

We got two nice letters from the Timberlake High School horticulture class, thanking Sylvia Chatburn for guiding them through the Arboretum and thanking Don Childress and Bob Wilson for their presentations during the year. Both letters gave details on how the students are applying the knowledge they received - using the Arboretum trip in final exam presentations focused on using native plants in landscaping designs created for simulated clients, and using what they learned from Don and Bob to design and implement landscape improvements to the Timberlake HS campus.

Photos from Spring Programs

Photos by Marilyn George

(Jenifer Ekstrom (Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeepers) on L, and Justin Petty (The Nature Conservancy, on R.)





Member Profile:

Say Hello to Ken Haag

Article and Photo by Joanna Fuchs



KNPS treasurer Ken Haag sat in his airy "screen room" for this interview, when his big, black shelter dog, "Scruff," nudged the door and sprawled on the floor between us. In addition to building this getaway on his eight-acre property, Ken, with no construction training, also built a barn for his two horses, a shed for hay, an extension on the house for his tractor, a huge utility building (housing his shop, pontoon boat, truck and horse trailer), a set of Adirondack chairs, and more. "My dad built things, and I watched," he says.

Born and raised in the Chicago area, Ken and wife Mary Jo, married for 54 years, have six children. It was Mary Jo, starting with KNPS in 1999 by volunteering at the Arboretum, who brought Ken's attention to the organization. Ken helped write new by-laws, which created a formal board, of which he was a member. He was then asked to run for Vice President and later for Treasurer. After an electrical engineering degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology, Ken went straight to teaching there, as a professor, for 25 years. He then went to work for Bell Labs, designing communication circuits for telephone offices. "I needed to find out if I knew what I was talking about," he says.

How did they land in Idaho? A Chicago neighbor encouraged them to take a look at North Idaho. Coeur d'Alene was "too open," so they came toward Sandpoint, crossed the Long Bridge, stayed at Schweitzer, and fell in love. "It was like *The Sound of Music*," he says. "The hills were green...the trees..."

The Haags have trouble growing food on their shady property, studded with huge conifers—"Asparagus does well," says Ken), but they have many native plants. "Mary Jo knows the names," said Ken, so Mary Jo, a travel agent, acted as native plant "tour guide," pointing out Dewberry, Mahonia Aquifolia, Douglas Spirea, Ocean Spray, Snowberry, Buffalo Berry, Woods and Nootka roses, Beargrass, Bunchberry, Twinflower, Aster, Pussy Toes, Solomon Seal, Mountain Lover, and more. The trees include Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, Hemlock, Lodgepole Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Mountain Ash, Birch, and Aspen.

Wildlife? Ken told of an encounter with a Black Bear that was going after the bird feeder. "I had been told to make myself as big as I could, so I did," he said, demonstrating, "and the bear went away, but came back, so I had to do it again." Ken and Mary Jo pointed toward the pasture, saying that "a doe sometimes leaves her fawn in there for the horses to babysit."

Ken likes to cook—pizza, spaghetti carbonara, fettucine Alfredo, and a special kind of bread, "that I ate too much of and now make only for family visits." Music? He likes golden oldies of the 50s and 60s and some classical. The Haags don't watch much TV, but like "The Closer." Ken listens on radio to "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell," which makes fun of the news, and "Car Talk," both on NPR. "I like to figure out what's wrong with the car before they do," he says. He reluctantly admitted his favorite movie is *Shane*. ("It's corny," he says, laughing) For their 50th anniversary, the Haags went to Jackson Hole for a raft ride and saw the cabins used in the movie. In the summer the Haags like to go out on their pontoon boat with family. In winter, they ski. "In spring, I repair winter damage," he says.

Ken does heavy maintenance at the Arboretum and also works on the Mickinnick Trailhead, weeding, mulching, trimming, "especially the roses, which get out of control." He is also a member of the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, which works mostly on the milfoil problem. Before he retired and moved to Sandpoint, he served nine years on a School Board, six years on a Library Board and four years on a Village Board before he retired and moved to Sandpoint 11 years ago. Ken indulges his creative side by welding old horseshoes together for novel uses—at the mail box, to support a bench, and more. He showed his wood carvings—the heads of a pony and of Scruff, which looked just like him! His favorite vacation was an African safari. Asked if he had any dreams left as yet unfulfilled, he said he was "satisfied with what I've done and accomplished. Where I'm at right now is as much as someone could hope for."