

# KNPS 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-22 Annual Report - President

Submitted by Shawna Parry

As the US population tries to climb out of the pandemic isolation this year, KNPS has done the same. Zoom technology allowed us to see familiar faces while enjoying interesting presentations, but being able to meet monthly at the library has been wonderful - what a thrill to connect with old & new KNPS friends and have in-person presentations along with coffee/tea & treats! The message of the importance of native plants continues to be heard.

**To start the year off right, the Native Plant Sale** at the beginning of June. Lots of regulars were purchasing plants thanks to **Jill & Bob** from Cedar Mountain Perennials and all our **volunteers**.

**The excellent monthly presentations** kept us engaged with the native plant world. Many new people from the Sandpoint area and beyond have joined the presentations which helps spread the good word about native plants.

The **Holiday Party** at the Sandpoint Senior Center enticed many people to enjoy each other's company and delicious food. Hopefully this next holiday season will see more of us at the party.

The fun, educational **library display** about Arbor Day and the City of Sandpoint sponsored **Arbor Day in May** at Lakeview Park kept native plants in view of the community. For the Arbor Day celebration, **Cindy** created a **treasure hunt** for kids to identify different trees in the Arboretum with the help of the Lorax. Creative lady!

**Tree Tours** have been a tradition at the Arboretum, and this year was no exception. **Judy Lyding** and KNPS **members** engaged and escorted 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students through the Arboretum. At the end of the school year students are ready to be out of the classroom and become budding naturalists.

**The Bonner County City Nature Challenge** made front page news in the Bonner County Daily Bee thanks to **George**. It's a new project ripe for expansion.

The **Education Committee** under **Bonnie's** guidance is getting organized and looking forward to new educational projects.

During the summer months, **Cara**, **ALT** [Arboretum Leadership Team] and many **members** used [and will use] the new KNPS cabin as headquarters to keep the Arboretum spiffy. A huge thank you to the cabin crew. And what a treasure to have Cara work at the Arboretum these last four years.

The **Annual Meeting** of the fiscal year on **June 18<sup>th</sup>** took place **at the Library**. We had coffee/tea with treats as usual, committee reports, elections, then ALT guided us in identifying all the

plants in the Arb - a needed inventory to determine what is there, what is missing, what is in the wrong place, what is needed. We brought our own lunch - dessert was provided. 26 members were present.

**Cindy Hayes** has been a member of the KNPS Board for 6 consecutive years which means she had to step down [at least for a while] according to our by-laws. We will definitely miss her, her contributions, her creative bent, and forward-thinking ideas. But she has agreed to continue collaborating with Robin to publish the Plant Notes. Thank you, thank you, Cindy!

Unanimously elected board members for 2022-23 are Shawna Parry [Pres & Treasurer], Preston Andrews [V-Pres & Programs], Carol Jenkins [Secretary], Robin Campbell [Publicity & Plant Notes], Sherry Ennis [Events & Fund Raisers], Mark Stockwell [Director], George Gehrig [Director], Rae Charlton [Arb Rep]. 26 KNPS members were present at the meeting.

### **2021-22 Annual Report - Programs Submitted by Preston Andrews**

After cancelling our March-June 2020 meetings because of COVID-19 restrictions, we moved to a virtual Zoom format for programs for the September-November 2020 programs. We continued using Zoom-only programs in 2021, which included the following speakers and topics:

- Cristy Cleaver - *Whitebark pine: current status and threats that led to proposed protections under the Endangered Species Act* (January 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Derek Antonelli - *Ferns of North Idaho* (February 27<sup>th</sup>) Derek led fern-focused plant walks for KNPS in June 2021 in the Lost Lake and Mineral Point areas.
- Katie Cox and Regan Plumb - *Kaniksu Land Trust: Education and Conservation* (March 27<sup>th</sup>)
- George Gehrig and Preston Andrews - *City Nature Challenge 2021: Bonner County* (April 24<sup>th</sup>)
- Steve Holt - *Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper: Keeping our lake swimmable, fishable, and drinkable for future generations!* (May 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Amy Anderson - *Selkirk Conservation Alliance: Regional threats to water quality and SCA's work to protect it* (September 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Joey Hulbert - *Western Redcedar Dieback and Community Science in the Pacific Northwest* (October 16<sup>th</sup>)
- Phil Hough - *Scotchman Peaks Update* (November 20<sup>th</sup>)

During Spring 2022 hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings were held on the third Saturday of the month at the East Bonner County Library in Sandpoint, which included the following speakers and topics:

- Preston Andrews - *A Simple Invention that Transformed Botany and Changed the World* (January 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Ed Robinson and Sandy Compton - *Plein Air Painting: An Intimate Way to Enjoy Wildland Beauty* (February 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Erik Budsberg, Kristy Snyder and Seth McCullough (remote speakers) - *The Palouse Prairie Restoration Project* (March 19<sup>th</sup>)

- Molly Carney - *Plant Foods of Past Pend Oreille Valley Peoples* (April 16<sup>th</sup>)
- Gerould Wilhelm (remote speaker) - *Floristic Quality Assessment of Terrestrial Landscapes* (May 21<sup>st</sup>)

With the return of in-person meetings, they were moved from 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays at Sandpoint Community Hall to 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays at the Library. This change was made because the Community Hall wasn't available and the meeting room at the Library was only available on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays for KNPS use. The Library offers fast WiFi and other audio/visual technologies to effectively deliver hybrid meetings. However, there were some complications in running the hybrid in-person/virtual meetings, especially for the February and May meetings. The May program was terminated because of WiFi interruptions at the speaker's location. Speakers at remote locations should be well versed in Zoom and digital technologies, and a backup program should be planned should the speaker be unable to present.

### **2021-22 Annual Report – Events & Fundraisers**

#### **Submitted by Cindy Hayes**

- October 2021 - Dig In and help us Grow Idaho - sponsored by Port Authority, a fundraiser for KNPS - 3 baskets raffled, IPA donated portion of their sales
- Holiday potluck- Dec 2021- held at Sandpoint Senior Center.
- March-April 2022 - 6-week Library Display celebrating the 150th anniversary for Arbor Day.
- May 2022 - Arbor Day community celebration at Lakeview Park - KNPS had a booth with the theme to find the Lorax hiding in the Arboretum, samples of 4 trees and display board on trees.

### **2021-22 Annual Report – Publicity**

#### **Submitted by Robin Campbell**

- "Plant Notes from the Arboretum" 20 articles archived on KNPS website and circulated to various publications to help educate public on native plants.
- "World Headquarters" cabin/shed dedicated for official use in August with a picnic at Lakeview Park. Picnic organized by Gail Bolin.

### **2021-22 Annual Report - Conservation**

#### **Submitted by Preston Andrews**

Despite the KNPS Conservation Committee being without a Chair or members since 2019, we provided comments for the following conservation issues during 2021-22:

- Support for the proposed listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of Whitebark Pine as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. (January 21, 2021)
- Support letter for the grant request to U.S. Park Service by the Friends of the Sand Creek Basin to study the feasibility of establishing a natural preserve in the Sand Creek Basin within Sandpoint city limits. (February 25, 2022) – Grant was awarded

- Comments on development plans for the Joslyn Property in Priest River that incorporate native plants, preserve wetland habitat, and provide shoreline stabilization with living vegetation. (May 30, 2022)

The Board of Directors will endeavor to reinstate the Conservation Committee by identifying a Chair for the committee.

**2021-22 Annual Report – Education  
Submitted by Bonnie Jakubos**

Committee members: Bonnie Jakubos (chair), Preston Andrews, Gail Bolin, Sherry Ennis, Cindy Hayes

The Education Committee was formed in August 2021. Our first task was to brainstorm and prioritize expansion and enhancement of our present educational activities. We then looked at which activities/projects could be accomplished in the next five years. Inexpensive projects requiring the fewest volunteers would be tackled early in the five-year period, and those needing fundraising/grants or organizing a large cadre of volunteers would be at least 2 years out.

**Activities to date:**

- Arbor Day library display
- Planning and participating in City of Sandpoint Arbor Day celebration
- Annual 3<sup>rd</sup> grade tree tours
- Participation in iNaturalist workshop
- Began working with Board to develop Big Idea/consistent messages for KNPS

**Near future:**

- June-July 2022 – Create brochure on landowner actions to maintain Lake Pend Oreille water quality
- July 2022 - Tree Cookie Tuesdays family activities in Arboretum
- July 15, 2022 – Board “workshop” to finish Big Idea/consistent messages
- August 2022 – Contact and meet early elementary teachers for development of online curriculum and activities

**2021-22 Annual Report – Treasurer  
Submitted by Shawna Parry**

	<u>Columbia Bank Checking</u>	<u>Vanguard Arb #6560</u>	<u>Vanguard Gen #9213</u>
July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	\$6,540.96	\$3,237.94	\$9,387.19

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022      \$6,987.64      \$3,008.32      \$4,161.06

KNPS's **Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle** brought in \$3,845 for the year.

Carol Jenkins keeps the stores full of the books. Since its release in 2011, 1,979 copies were printed. In October of 2021 another 500 copies were ordered for a cost of \$6,466. Over 150 of this new order have been placed with 8 book stores in Bonner County; 1 in Bonners Ferry; 2 in Coeur d'Alene; and 1 in Moscow.

The Liability policy through Western Community Insurance Co was \$299 for 5/8/22– 5/8/23. The Directors & Officers insurance from Great American Insurance Group was \$602 for 2/1/22– 2/1/23.

Lois Wythe grant in 2022 was increased to \$500 and was awarded to the ALT for use at the Arboretum. Judy Lyding is chairperson.

### **2021-22 Annual Report – Membership Submitted by Shawna Parry**

June 30, 2022 there were 98 members

### **2021-22 Annual Report – Arboretum Submitted by Rae Charlton for the Arboretum Leadership Team**

The Arboretum Leadership Team is happy to report that the 2021-22 year included three major accomplishments: KNPS has a volunteer built, handsome new cabin as its headquarters; a plaque honoring Lois Wythe has been installed on the kiosk; and the basic work of creating an inventory of native plants in each habitat has been completed. Each of these achievements deserves a bit more elaboration.

The building of the cabin was detailed in last year's report. But in August 2021, we held the annual BBQ in the arboretum, officially dedicating the cabin and honoring all the people who helped make it happen. Great kindness and support from the community made it an uplifting experience (special kudos to Cara's family for their contributions). The dedication even made the front page of the Bonner Daily Bee!

An expanded Arbor Day celebration, sponsored by the city and local organizations such as KNPS and the Bonner County Historical Society was held on May 7 at Lakeview Park. Our booth was especially attractive and educational due mainly to the hard work of Cindy Hayes. Relentless rain impacted attendance, but families who came appreciated the activities for children, including the traditional tree planting. The Arb team was proud to unveil the plaque honoring Lois, made possible by a special gift from Lois' grandson, Joshua Ramey-Renk. Special thanks to our creative and talented Ann Torpie, who designed and personally installed this well-deserved tribute.

Something new: a field trip to the Arb, to verify the plants in each habitat, thereby creating an inventory! That was the program for the June general meeting. Attendees divided up into small groups, each with a leader and a scribe. Leaders had information about what plants were there 20 years ago (!) and a map showing the boundaries of each habitat. They also had iNaturalist on their phones. Ken Thacker put many hours into measuring the Arb, and he and Bonnie created a richly detailed map we can use for future planning. The plant I.D.'s were often challenging, but it added up to a worthwhile learning experience, and created a basic tool which will be well utilized moving forward. Many thanks to all who helped in this massive effort!