



Kinnikinnick Journal

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

www.nativeplantsociety.org

Upcoming Programs & Events

The November program will be available to both in-person and Zoom audiences. In-person attendance will be in the large meeting room B at the East Bonner County Library's main branch, located at 1407 Cedar Street in Sandpoint. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. for both in-person and Zoom. Coffee, tea and treats will be available beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the library. Programs are co-sponsored by the East Bonner County Library District and Sandpoint Parks & Recreation, and are open to the public. For those wishing to view the program on Zoom, please register in advance at <https://bit.ly/3q5bDLA>.

Saturday November 19

Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, ASLA,

City of Sandpoint Park Planning and Development Manager

More than Just a Park –

From Trails that Heal to Swings that Unite

Maeve Nevins-Lavtar will take us on a journey into the planning, design and construction of a variety of unique public park projects from her past, present, and future and a reflection on their impact. Examples will range from Alaska's first public "Health and Healing Park" to memorial mountain tops, "labyrinth" trails, and will conclude with a deep dive into Sandpoint's Parks, Recreation and Open Space public-private partnership model for success. Gain insight into successful project implementation strategies that can be replicated at any scale.



Saturday December 3

Holiday Party

Sandpoint Senior Center (11am-2pm) (see page 4)



September Program Summary

The speakers for the September 17th program were Brad Smith and Jennifer Ekstrom from the Idaho Conservation League (ICL). They talked about ICL's North Idaho Lakes Conservation Program, a new initiative for the conservation organization that is essential to maintaining the pristine waters of Lake Pend Oreille, Priest Lake, Lake Coeur d'Alene, and other water bodies in our region.

Jennifer explained how ICL has now assumed responsibility for water quality monitoring from the Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper, who collected and analyzed water quality samples from Lake Pend Oreille, the Pend Oreille River, and adjacent sloughs for 10 years. These data are valuable to see impacts of development in our watershed and as valuable information for Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality. This program depends solely on the commitment of dedicated volunteer "citizen scientists" to go out each month from May through September to collect and transport water samples for analysis.

She also talked about threats from over-development that are occurring and how ICL is working to address conservation concerns in the Coolin Wetlands near Priest Lake and bull trout habitat at the mouth of Trestle Creek, along with sewer and wastewater treatment. They are also involved in advocating for mining reforms that protect the water quality of the Kootenai River and the Lake Coeur d'Alene basin.

October Program Summary

The speakers for the October 15th program were KNPS members Judy Lyding, Cindy Hayes, Patty Ericsson, Mary Toland, and Bonnie Jakobus. They talked about the many ways that KNPS provides outreach to children and their families in Bonner County. Judy talked about the long-running third-grade tree tours that take place at our Arboretum at Lakeview Park in Sandpoint each May. Students from area schools come to learn about our native trees, examine "tree cookies," and experience the restorative feeling of tree hugs.

Cindy talked about several activities, including the 150th Arbor

Day Celebration, Tree Cookie Tuesdays, and the KNPS information table at the Sandpoint Farmers Market. Tree Cookie Tuesdays is a drop-in activity at the Arboretum. On each Tuesday during July children solved a mystery to learn about native trees, solitary bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. After they solve the mystery, the kids get to put a stamp on small "tree cookies" and then enjoy an edible cookie as a prize. This activity was highly popular, with some children coming back each week to participate.

Patty Ericsson and Mary Toland talked about the *Busy Buzzy Bombas Bee* coloring book project funded by this year's Lois Wythe Grant. They talked about the importance of incorporating storytelling and rhyme to enhance the artwork by Hannah Combs. For more information about the coloring book, see the article in this issue.

Bonnie Jakobus was the final speaker who talked about future outreach efforts that build upon the many activities that are already provided by KNPS volunteers. Some of these include self-guided activities for families at the Arboretum, web-based activities, and elementary education about native plants and their habitats.

President's Message

Shawna Parry

MOTHER NATURE & US

In October Laird & I were driving up Hwy 50 in the Sierra Nevada through the forest fire aftermath on our way to Lake Tahoe. Blackened trees & destroyed buildings showed how fiercely the fire roared and how devastating & scary it must have been for all the fauna & flora in the area. I must say, though, that I also felt assured that Mother Nature will take care of the recovery – in her own time. Remember how quickly Mount St. Helens showed life after her 1980 volcanic eruption? Even the seemingly barren Pumice Plain is recovering with the prairie lupine being the first plant to reappear [earthobservatory.nasa.gov].



But, we as sentient beings must do what we can to “do no harm” to the environment. KNPS continues to inform people about using native plants in personal landscapes, in riparian areas on water fronts, in city & county planning, in recovery areas after fires, in fire safe practices before fires, etc.

All these areas have had KNPS input at some point in time: by voicing opinions on local planning; by creating & publishing the Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle book; by developing & maintaining the Arboretum; by providing the opportunity to purchase native plants at the plant sale; by delivering informative monthly programs.

Many hours from many people have contributed to the Mission over the years. What we need now are a few more people to help divide up the tasks and help more people “do no harm.” The more people, the smaller the task for each person. Here are our present needs. Any of these tasks can be divided into smaller parts with more people.

Conservation: keeping us informed of planning & decisions by local government.

Arboretum: helping to maintain the Arb [she's pretty well put to bed for the winter now].

Membership: receiving, responding to, & encouraging membership.

Bookkeeping: receiving/depositing funds, writing checks, keeping track of budget.

The paid CPA completes all the financial reports & gov't forms.

Mother Nature will take care of herself over time, but we are the sentient beings trying to “do no harm” to the environment now and trying to show others how to do the same.

A very worthy cause!

Convince a friend to be part of this important mission with you. Call Shawna 208-290-8433.



Shopping at Yoke's?

An eScrip card will send a small portion of your purchases to KNPS. It is a way for Yoke's to give back to our community.

How to obtain a card:

At Yoke's customer service ask for an eScrip card.

Fill out the form with your information.

At the bottom of the list, **add Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society 500827113 & select** by adding a check mark.

Customer service will hand you a card for your use.

Registration will be confirmed by email.

How to use:

Hand the card to the Yoke's employee as you are checking out.

That's it! eScrip automatically sends funds to KNPS in two months.



Plant Notes From the Arboretum

By Robin Campbell and Cindy Hayes

While late spring brings flat, plate-sized clusters of creamy white flowers to the native Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus caerulea*, formerly *nigra*), fall is all about pendulous clusters of dark blue berries. Wildlife love this rapidly growing, multi-stemmed shrub or small tree which ranges from 6-24 feet tall. A stand-out in wildlife gardens, its flowers attract pollinators, butterflies and hummingbirds. Blue Elderberry provides food, cover, perch and nesting sites for many species of birds. It is also a popular browse food for black bear, mule deer and elk. In the spring, new leaves may be strongly scented and less tasty, but they sweeten and become more palatable by fall.



Photo credit: Native Plants PNW
Photo credit: Native Plants PNW

A good choice for habitat restoration, Blue Elderberry is tough, easy to grow, and can handle a variety of soil moisture levels, including dry sites once established. It is useful in stemming erosion, stabilizing streambanks and riparian areas below 9,800 ft.

Named for a Greek stringed instrument (sambuca) supposedly made from elder wood, Blue Elderberry has many uses. Native Americans blew glowing embers into flames through the hollow stems, hence the common name “elder” from the Anglo-Saxon “Eller” meaning “fire-kindling.” Twigs and lower branches were used to fashion pegs, spindles, flutes, elk whistles, pipes for smoking, and blowguns. The berries produce black or purple dye and stems can be used to make an orange or yellow dye. The species name, *caerulea*, refers to the fruit's dark blue color.



Photo credit: Native Plants PNW

The plentiful berries are at their best after they've been sweetened by a hard frost. They are gathered from the wild mainly for wine, jellies, jams and syrup. The dark blue berries are often covered with a white/silver bloom or glaucescence. It rubs off easily, though it is safe to eat with the berries when cooked. Eating elderberries raw can cause mild nausea due to the active alkaloids, hydrocyanic acid and sambucine. These alkaloids degrade with heat, so elderberries should always be cooked before consumption. Rich in vitamin C, Blue Elderberry syrup is a strong immune booster.

The seeds are dispersed by birds and other animals that eat the fruit. Blue Elderberry seeds have a hard seed coat, long embryo dormancy and may remain viable for up to 16 years.

In the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum, Blue Elderberry grows near the Medicinal Garden. Open to the public, parking for the Arboretum is at 611 S. Ella Ave. or on the street.



Arboretum News

The Fall Clean-up, also known as “Putting the Arb to bed for the winter,” was Oct. 26. Two main activities were planned: finishing the editing of overgrown shrubs at the museum (museum staff requested help from KNPS), and installing a stunning Moon Gate as a portal into the Moist Forest habitat. It replaces Arlis’s trellis, which was destroyed in a windstorm.

The Moon Gate is a donation by talented craftsperson Kass Larson, a friend and neighbor of Ken Thacker. Back in September, the Arboretum Leadership Team had met Kass at the Arb, to learn about the design of the proposed steel structure, and enthusiastically endorsed the idea. Kass then built it in his workshop, and it was a BIG project! He had to design a special conveyance to transport it to the Arb. There was great anticipatory excitement about the installation.

Oct. 26 arrived, with driving rain and temperatures in the low 40’s. Undaunted, a small intrepid group applied their Pulaski’s and created the parallel trenches necessary to bury and secure the base. It was affixed in place and looked stunning! Kass and his parents, who’d stood in the rain watching the whole process, posed for a photo.



Then hard reality intruded. The installation team realized that the Moon Gate was simply not secure enough to withstand a teenager wanting to climb it, that it would be a liability. So it was taken down, and Ken and Kass went off to confer with the city. Turns out we need a building permit, design approval by a structural engineer, and approval on site of its secure installation. It will be on a “public trail,” in a city park, so all this makes sense. And we WILL get there!

Many thanks to the workers (Paul Sieracki, Ken Thacker, Jim Peek, and Bonnie Jacobus, along with Kass) and to our intrepid pruners, (Sue Gervais, Robin Campbell, Cara Johnson, Val Burgess, and Shawna Parry). The museum was so grateful for all the work performed that they made a handsome donation to KNPS. It was all in a good day, despite the weather.

Submitted by Rae Charlton

Landscape Committee News

In late September, the landscape committee provided a consultation to one of our own, Vicky Johnson. We surveyed the property, identified existing plants, offered ideas for new plants, and made recommendations for moving existing plants. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by Vicky.

The KNPS Landscape Committee provides landscape consultations for members during the summer months. For more information or to request a consultation, email: landscape@nativeplantsociety.org



Gail Bolin & Jason Smith - co-chairs

KNPS Holiday Party

Before we know it the holiday season will be upon us, and what better way than the KNPS holly, jolly, holiday party to kick off the season!

The date is December 3rd. The venue is the Sandpoint Senior Center at 820 Main St. and the event will last from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Wear those Santa hats or reindeer antlers and bring your best potluck dish. Come and mingle with your KNPS friends and get the holiday spirit going!



Education Committee Report

Calling all volunteers! Maybe you would like to be more involved with KNPS but are unable to do physical labor or make a long-term commitment. Well, here is your opportunity: whether you have interest in being on the Education Committee or would be willing to volunteer for specific events and projects, we have a job for you. We are going to need artists, writers, editors, designers, teachers, people with computer skills, thinkers, tour leaders, and booth/table sitters.

Here are some of the education and outreach priorities for 2023:

- Assessing ongoing education and outreach efforts, those introduced in 2022, and proposed endeavors for 2023. Finalizing the main messages about native plants that KNPS wants the public to understand, as well as how those messages could be presented to the public.
- Working with LPOSD elementary teachers to augment their science curriculum. It turns out that Grades 1-5 have lessons that include plants and ecosystems, so it is a great opportunity to include our native plants and habitats.
- Coordinating school field trips to the Arboretum, including the annual Tree Tours.
- Field trips and ongoing education for KNPS members and the public to identify and learn about our native plants. Summer family activities in the Arboretum

Curious? Email Bonnie Jakubos at idahocritters56@gmail.com or text/call 208-597-5206.

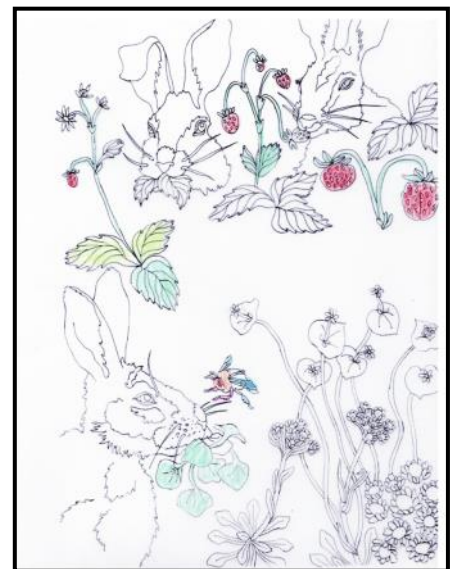
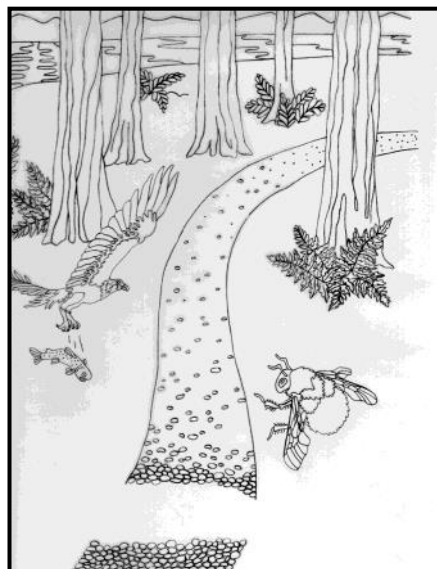
Lois Wythe Grant Update

In early 2022, a three-person team consisting of Mary Toland, Hannah Combs, and Patty Ericsson were awarded the Lois Wythe Grant to produce a coloring, story, and activity book. Their grant application highlighted the importance of learning about nature in early childhood and emphasized the value of storytelling and illustrations.

“Busy Buzzy Bombus Bee: Can You Color What I See?” is a 16-page coloring book illustrating and narrating Bombus Bee’s accidental visit to the KNPS Arboretum. In addition to coloring pages, it includes activity pages with a maze, word search, and more. The target audience for the book is K-3, although the beauty of the illustrations may encourage coloring enthusiasts of all ages to dig out their crayons.

The Coloring Book Team, Hannah Combs, Mary Toland, and Patty Ericsson, presented a “sneak peak” of the book at the Oct. 15 KNPS meeting. They are hoping to have the book published in early 2023. It will be sold at local bookstores and other venues.

Submitted by Patty Erichson



Illustrations by Hannah Combs

Board of Directors 2022

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 Shawna Parry, Treasurer
 Sherry Ennis, Event Chair
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 Bonnie Jakubos, Education
 Gail Bolin, Jason Smith, Landscape
 Vacant, Conservation
 Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Grant
 Vacant, Historian
 Isabel Hollriegel, Vicky Johnson, Hospitality
 Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor
 Preston Andrews, Programs
 Vacant, Website Administrator

Upcoming Events:

- November 19: November Program
- December 3: Holiday Party



Photo credit: Shawna Parry

Join or Renew KNPS

Membership Rates

July 1st through June 30th

___ Individual	\$25.00
___ Household**	\$30.00
___ Student/Senior (65+)	\$20.00
___ Sustaining**	\$50.00
___ Patron**	\$100.00
___ Sponsor	\$50.00

***These memberships are entitled to two votes
 KNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.*

Membership Information

(make check payable to KNPS or
 Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society)

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____



Mail to:

Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society
 PO Box 1092
 Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

OR

Payment by credit card is available on our
 Website: nativeplantsociety.org.