Kinnikinnick Journal

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

Upcoming Programs & Events

The January 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 http://bit.ly/3Q8uw9M.

Saturday January 21

Gail Bolin, KNPS member and past-President

Creating a Monarch Butterfly Waystation in North Idaho

Join Gail as she tells us of the plight of the monarch butterfly, the reasons for creating a Monarch Waystation garden as a refuge for monarchs to sustain their migration for successive generations, and how it was accomplished at the Young Living Essential Oils farm in Naples, Idaho

Photo credit: Zabrina Ruggles

Saturday February 18

Dr. James Peek,

retired University of Idaho Professor of Wildlife Biology

A Wildlife Biologist's Adventures in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness

Watch for the email announcement for more details of this program.

November Program Summary

Summarized by Preston Andrews

Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, the new Park Planning and Development Manager for the City of Sandpoint, presented the November 19th program. She spent considerable time explaining her personal and professional background in landscape architecture before she came to Sandpoint. She took us on a journey into the planning, design, and construction of a variety of unique public park projects, and a reflection on their ripples of impact. Example projects included a commemorative "Blue Star" garden and Alaska's first public "Health and Healing Park." Rehabilitating complex sites after traumatic situations, including an earthquake-damaged town center, flood-damaged trail corridors, and failed pedestrian bridges has earned her the reputation as a "crisis project manager."

Then she took us on a tour of the public-private partnership model for Sandpoint's Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, especially her current project managing the design/build renovations at Travers Park. These improvements will include a multi-use, indoor court sports complex, a gateway/plaza/trailhead, skate park expansion, and bike skills facilities.

Throughout her presentation she emphasized her guiding principle of inclusivity – making sure that her landscape designs encourage the participation of all people no matter their abilities. A future project in Sandpoint is the redesign/development plan for Lakeview Park, where KNPS's North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum is located.

Photo credit: Jill Wilson

Photo credit: Jill Wilson

Photo credit Jill Wilson

President's Message

Shawna Parry

THE FUTURE DESIGN OF LAKEVIEW PARK

The KNPS featured speaker at the November meeting was Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Parks Planning & Development Manager at the City of Sandpoint. She gave us an overview of her background and how she plans to use her horticulture & landscape architecture degree here in Sandpoint. One of her goals is to have the parks more inclusive to a wider range of people with differing abilities. A noble goal for sure. How this applies to the Arboretum is to be discovered.

Lakeview Park is in her sights to create a design/development plan in 2023-24. There are also upgrades coming to the Waste Water Treatment plant adjacent to the Arboretum. Members of the KNPS board and Arboretum leadership team will be meeting with Maeve on later in January to discuss how we can be part of the planning process. If you are interested in participating in the planning stage, please let the board know.

It is important that KNPS has a voice in park planning & decisions, especially in Lakeview Park.
(For more details on Maeve's presentation, see the November Program Summary in this issue.)

Whitebark Pine Listed as Threatened by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

By Preston Andrews

On December 14, 2022, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced the listing of whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (see https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2022-12/whitebark-pine-receives-esa-protection-threatened-species). The FWS concluded that whitebark pine is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout its range, which includes higher elevations in the Selkirk and Cabinet Mountains of north Idaho.


Photo credit: Richard Sniezko, US Forest Service

Whitebark pine is a slow-growing, long-lived conifer, with some trees documented at 500 to over 1,000 years old, living in high-elevation, windy, cold habitats. Whitebark pine is considered a keystone and foundation species, as it helps stabilize soils, regulate runoff, and slows snowmelt in its steep mountainous terrain. Because its wingless seeds are not readily dispersed, it is dependent on the Clark's nutcracker for seed dispersal, which also serve as the main food source for this bird. Other wildlife, such as grizzly bears and squirrels also eat the seeds.

White pine blister rust, a non-native fungal pathogen, is the primary threat to whitebark pine. Other threats include mountain pine beetles, altered wildfire patterns, and climate change. As a result of these threats, scientists estimate that as of 2016, just over half of all standing whitebark pine trees were dead. In the intervening six years, likely even more have succumbed.

Its listing as Threatened means that restoration efforts can proceed by boosting research efforts to conserve the species, especially in combatting white pine blister rust. According to FWS, "protections for whitebark pine also make it illegal to remove, possess, or damage the tree on federal lands…." For more information on the restoration plan, visit the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation at https://whitebarkfound.org/whitebark-pine-listed-threatened/.

KNPS HOLIDAY PARTY

By Sherry Ennis

The KNPS Holiday party, held at the Sandpoint Senior Center on December 3, was a festive event with nearly 40 members attending. Several Santas, a reindeer and an elf in a chimney were spotted. Rae Charlton and Mary Toland entertained us with Christmas carols on the honky-tonk piano. Apart from the socializing, the other main event was the potluck lunch. There's no question about it, KNPS members are good cooks! The annual event was a great kick-off to what I hope was a grand holiday season for all!

Plant Notes From the Arboretum

Quaking Aspen

By Robin Campbell and Cindy Hayes

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) grows in groves throughout the cooler climates in North America. Groves are characterized by a number of stems rising from the same root system, sharing the same DNA. One Utah grove has nearly 50,000 stems, weighs 6,000 tons and covers 100 acres. It is believed to be the largest living thing on Earth. While what appears to be a single tree may live only 50 or 60 years, new stems can keep a grove going for tens of thousands of years.

Flat, heart-shaped leaves with finely toothed margins extend alternately from branches on long, thin petioles (stalks) allowing them to flutter in the slightest breeze. This is the origin of the common names Quaking or Trembling Aspen.

Individual trees can grow to 90 feet in height. The bark is gray-white with horizontal black markings and knots. While the bark resembles Paper Birch, it does not peel. Quaking Aspen is deciduous, shedding its golden yellow leaves each fall. Unlike most deciduous trees, the bark has a layer that uses photosynthesis during the winter, producing sugars for energy.

This perennially green bark layer attracts deer, moose and elk during hard winters as a food source. Vertical black marks on Quaking Aspen trees are the scars from wild herbivores seeking nutrients.

Quaking Aspen flowers appear as catkins in spring usually before the leaves. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. The female catkins produce tiny seeds covered in fluffy cotton-like fibers. The seeds burst free when mature and are dispersed by wind.

In the wild, Quaking Aspen serves as a food source and shelter for many creatures. Nuthatches and owls nest in old trunks. Beaver girdle and cut trees for their dams. Ruffed grouse depend on Quaking Aspen for food and nest sites. Buds, bark, twigs and fallen leaves serve as food for a variety of wildlife.

Mankind also has many uses for Aspen varieties. Because the wood is relatively hard and does not splinter, it is ideal for playground equipment, popsicle sticks and tongue depressors. It is also used in furniture, particle board and paper. Light in weight relative to its strength, Aspen is favored for shipping crates and pallets.

Because of its unique underground root system, Quaking Aspen survives wildfires and regenerates quickly providing a canopy for native conifers and other species to re-establish. In the fall, the trees in a Quaking Aspen grove all turn color at the same time creating a breathtaking display of brilliant yellow patches against dark green, conifer covered mountainsides.

In the garden, this member of the willow family seeks moisture and should be planted away from drain fields, septic systems and water lines. Quaking Aspen is fast-growing and can be aggressive. It is best planted in moist soil as windbreaks and for visual screening. It tolerates part shade, but does require at least four hours a day of full sun. The fluttery leaf movement and fall color add visual interest.

There is a Quaking Aspen grove in the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum. Open to the public, parking for the Arboretum is at 611 S. Ella Ave. in Sandpoint, ID. The tree is described and pictured on page 52 of the KNPS publication, Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle, available at local bookstores and the Bonner County History Museum.

Native Plant Notes are created by the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society. To learn more about KNPS and the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum, visit www.nativeplantsociety.org.

History Notes

KNPS Journal: a 25-year tradition!

"If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree. "
— Michael Crichton

By Patty Ericsson

One of the bonuses of taking on the KNPS Historian position is enjoying trips down memory lane via the Newsletter/ Journal archives. The first KNPS newsletter had no title, was typed and reproduced on a Xerox machine in the home of Phil and Michael (Audrey) Franklin. Phil and Michael continued to produce the newsletter until late 2004.

Many reading this article may recall the very first days of the organization; others of us may have a deeper appreciation for KNPS once we know more about its genesis. So here's a tidbit from my first journey down memory lane taken from the very first KNPS newsletter.

On April 12, 1997, more than 60 people responded to an invitation to find out more about native plants and investigate the possibility of forming a native plant society in Sandpoint. The meeting was facilitated by Lois Wythe and included a questionnaire to determine attendee interests.

This first meeting resulted in the formation of a steering committee that met on April 24. This quick turnaround (just 12 days!) was celebrated by Lois Wythe who commented, "Together, we've proved once again that a grass roots group CAN get something going where there is interest and a need…and get it going without a lot of red tape and delay!"

Following that meeting, the first issue of what eventually became the KNPS Journal was published. The motivation for the first newsletter was explained: "This newsletter you are now reading is a result of that committee's first meeting and their belief that effective communication is a key to keeping together this group of enthusiastic native plant aficionados [sic] and building an effective organization for the longer term."

Kudos to KNPS for continuing to believe in effective communication and keeping the newsletter as a vital part of its outreach. Stay tuned for more KNPS history in the next Journal including the answer to this trivia question: "What site (other than Lakeview Park) was considered for the location of the Arboretum?

Kinnikinnick Journal

Winter Fundraiser

February 16!

The KNPS Winter Fundraiser will be held at the IPA on February 16. Mark your calendars, tell your friends. It's time to make some moola for our organization!

Details at a later date.

The Curious Lifestyles of Plants

Aphyllon uniflorum, One Flowered Broomrape

By Jill Wilson

Next spring take a closer look among the leaves of plants such as mountain alumroot, wormleaf sedum among others and see if you can find the tiny cream to purple snapdragon shaped flowers of the one flowered broomrape, *Aphyllon uniflorum*. This species is the first that I will feature in a new column about plants of our area with unique lifestyles. In this case this species parasitizes the roots other native plants.

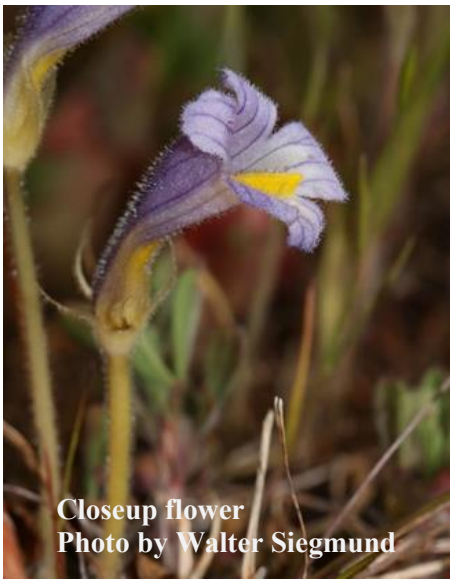

Photo by Jill Wilson

Aphyllon are in the family Orobanchaceae, most species are either holo or hemiparasitic. Aphyllon was formerly in the genus Orobanche, the older latin name for this species was Orobanche uniflora. Subsequent taxonomic work separated this species out of Orobanche to the genus Aphyllon (aphyllae meaning leafless in latin). Leaves in this group, no longer needed to produce chlorophyll, are reduced to scales.


Plant and host root
Photo by Al Schneider

Plants in this genus are root parasites. Instead of normal roots they have specially developed rootlike structures called haustoria that penetrate the roots to their hosts to take in water and nutrients. Their seeds will only germinate in the presence of certain chemical stimuli produced by the host's roots known as strigolactones. These compounds otherwise promote symbiotic relations between plants and soil microbes such as mycorrhizae.

The species is found across the US though there are limited populations in some states. Plants are one to four inches in height, all that is visible above ground are the pedicel and flower. They are reported as annuals in several sources though there is some controversy over this, others report the species to be a monocarpic perennial, which is a plant that may live several years until it blooms and dies after producing seed, thus they only bloom once.


Closeup flower
Photo by Walter Siegmund

We don't know the impact of this parasite upon their host, though there are other members within this family that parasitize crops and can have a huge impact on them. Fortunately none of the hosts of this species in our state are rare or endangered and they do have a lovely little bloom that is worth finding.

Board of Directors 2023

Shawna Parry, President
Preston Andrews, Vice President
Vacant, Secretary
Shawna Parry, Treasurer
Sherry Ennis, Event Chair
Robin Campbell, Publicity
John Harbuck, Field Trips
George Gehrig, Board Member
John Hastings, Board Member
Rae Charlton, Arboretum & Membership

Additional Committee Chairs and Positions

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Ann Torpie, Mary Jo Haag, Ken Thacker, Arboretum
Bonnie Jakubos, Education
Gail Bolin, Jason Smith, Landscape
Vacant, Conservation
Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Grant
Patty Ericcson, Historian
Isabel Hollriegel, Vicky Johnson, Hospitality
Jill Wilson, Sherry Ennis, Newsletter
Preston Andrews, Programs
Vacant, Website Administrator
Patty Ericcson, mailchimp

Upcoming Events:

- January 21: January Program
- February 16: Winter Fundraiser
- February 18: February Program

Photo credit: Jill Wilson

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)

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