



Kinnikinnick Journal

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March-April 2023

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

www.nativeplantsociety.org

Upcoming Programs

The March and April programs will be available to both in-person and Zoom audiences. In-person attendance will be in the large meeting room 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 free and open to the public. For those wishing to view the March program on Zoom, please register in advance at <http://bit.ly/3IKiTCi>. Watch for email announcements about these programs.

Saturday, March 18

Liz Johnson-Gebhardt, Executive Director and
Community Non-Profit Rep

Priest Community Forest Connection and Panhandle Forest Collaborative: Working In and For Our Forestlands

Join Liz as she tells us about collaborative efforts within these two organizations. Both represent various stakeholder groups with diverse interests and viewpoints. Still, they work together to build consensus to help sustain our forests and communities.

Saturday April 15

Kara Carleton, Coordinator,
Idaho Master Gardener Program

The Little Things that Run the World: Creating Plant Communities and Habitat for Northern Native Bees

January Program Summary

Summarized by Preston Andrews

Gail Bolin, former KNPS President and current Chair of the Landscape Committee, talked about the Monarch Butterfly Waystation that she, along with Zabrina Ruggles (Farm Lab Manager), established at the Young Living Essential Oils farm in Naples, Idaho. First, we learned about the life cycle of the western monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) and the plight it faces from habitat loss in both its wintering grounds along the California coast and its breeding range in the inland Pacific Northwest. Next, we learned just how important the nectar sources are along the western monarch's migration routes, and especially the crucial role native milkweeds (*Asclepias speciosa* and *A. incarnata*) play as sites for egg laying and larval feeding.



Photo: Tom Koerner/USFWS

Then Gail walked us through what a Monarch Waystation is and how it was designed and planted at the Young Living farm in 2021 and 2022. The garden now contains 41 species, including 760 milkweed plants, for a total of over 2,000 plants. Plans are in place to add several landscape features in the future, including benches, water features, flagstone paths, arbors, garden art, and a gazebo.

Although just established, Young Living's Monarch Waystation has attracted many species of butterflies and bees, and hopefully western monarch butterflies in the future. While this garden is nearly a third of an acre, it's possible for any of us to establish our own Monarch Waystation in a sunny location of at least 100 sq. ft. planted with at least 10 milkweed plants and other plants that provide nectar from spring to frost. In a small garden space, we can not only help support monarch butterflies, but all of our native pollinators. For more information, see <https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>.

President's Message

Shawna Parry
IS IT SPRING YET?

Presidents' Day dawned sunny and windless. What a relief from the incessantly gray days of this winter and what a grand harbinger of spring to come! On that beautiful day, Sherry Ennis and I skied together and marveled at the natural beauty of our chosen home with mountains, lakes, rivers and creeks, all of which require native plants to be healthy. KNPS is privileged to have a voice to help preserve the area's native plants and the environment, and I am personally proud to be a part of the KNPS mission.

With the mission in mind, our KNPS committees have been busy planning

- the opening of the Arboretum
- organizing the native plant sale
- participating in Farmin-Stidwell's STREAM event
- planning for the annual Tree Tours for LPOSD students and for Tree Cookies Tuesdays
- working with the city to bring Arbor Day activities to the community
- keeping abreast of conservation issues pertaining to native plants
- planning field trips
- looking into making Sandpoint a Bee City
- and more!



Please join us in any or all activities – there are never too many volunteers! If conservation is a particular concern of yours, please reach out to Preston or Shawna.

Thank you for being a part of the KNPS family. Your participation in outreach to the community is invaluable.

February Program

Summarized by Preston Andrews

Dr. James Peek, KNPS member and retired Professor of Wildlife Biology from Univ. of Idaho, gave us an exciting adventure story about his many years studying the effects of grazing by ungulates in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. He began by introducing us to the inspired wisdom of Idaho Senator Frank Church, who sponsored the 1964 Wilderness Act and was instrumental in establishing the River of No Return Wilderness in 1980. He also talked about Aldo Leopold's argument that wilderness should not only be for preservation, but also as a living laboratory where humans and wildlife co-exist.

The Middle Fork of the Salmon country is shrub-steppe habitat made up of dry, steep canyons, accessed by flying into isolated landing strips or by pack train over long trails. When the wilderness was established, there were a number of in-holdings where fenced areas excluded mule deer, elk and bighorn sheep from grazing. These "exclosures" offered the perfect research design to test the effects of grazing on native plant communities.

Jim compared native vegetation inside these exclosures with identical sites outside them 30-40 years after they were fenced. Some of the plants Jim compared for plant growth and nutrient content were the forbs, bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) and lesser spikemoss (*Selaginella densa*), and the shrubs big and three-tip sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* and *A. tripartita*), rabbitbush (*Ericameria bloomeri*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), littleleaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*). He also monitored growth of mallow ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*) after the 2000 wildfire. What he found was that early grazing, drought, and fire suppression resulted in more shrub growth inside the exclosures, but later to reductions in shrubs and increases in forbs. Now, the Middle Fork of the Salmon country is approaching its original vegetation community. These trends will likely become more pronounced by restored fire regimes, elk grazing pressures, and a warming climate.

Arboretum History

By Patty Ericsson

I ended my first history article with the teaser “What site (other than Lakeview Park) was considered for the location of the Arboretum?” In my research about the Arboretum, I learned there were two additional sites considered—not just one! So where were the possible sites?

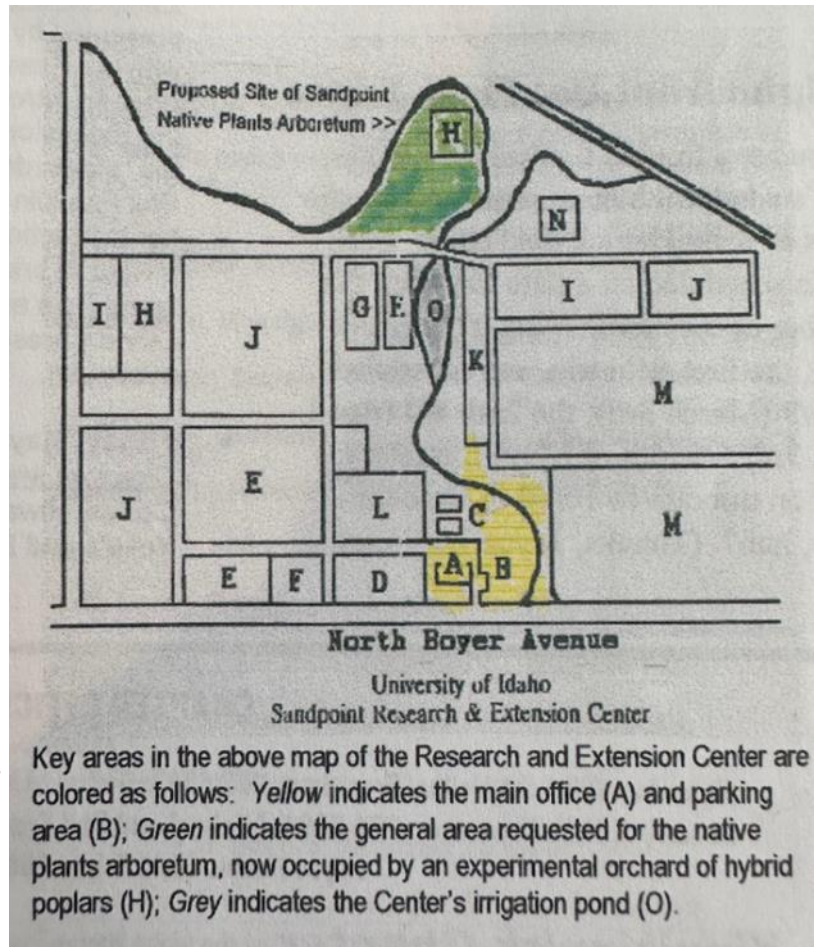
One was on the University of Idaho property on North Boyer. In the March 1998 Kinnikinnick Journal, Lois Wythe reported that a letter had been sent to the University of Idaho requesting permission to locate the Arboretum there. The article included a photo in which the proposed site was highlighted in green.

The second site was the fish hatchery on Lakeshore Drive that now houses the Wildlife Discovery Center. Neither of these sites materialized.

On December 2, 1998, a Bonner County Bee article by Valle Novak explained, “Two earlier possibilities—which led to great hopes—lost out to out-of-town bureaucracies which oversaw the local sites.” Those looking to establish the arboretum then realized that Lakeview Park was the ideal location.

In the same article, Valle Novak described a “Christmas gift to the community”, announcing that the Sandpoint City Council voted unanimously to give KNPS the “go-ahead to create a native plant arboretum at Lakeview Park.” After this vote, KNPS members present at the Council meeting “broke into applause.”

The go-ahead was given on a Wednesday evening, and by Thursday morning, the Arboretum Committee met to plan their winter “homework”, including mapping and labeling existing trees and creating a tentative landscape plan, which could include a native medicinal plant garden, native grasses, an alpine rock garden, and a garden of tall native shrubs to “obscure the view of the sewer plant.” Plans were also made to seek out grants and donations to develop the site.



Save the Date!

The 2023 KNPS Native Plant Sale will be on June 3!

Stay tuned for more details!



Plant Notes From the Arboretum

American Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus var americanum*)

By Robin Campbell and Cindy Hayes

A graceful, deciduous shrub, American cranberry is one of 20 species of *Viburnum* native to North America and of 150-175 species worldwide, mostly in the Northern Hemisphere. Due to their showy blooms and fall color, both native and hybrid viburnums are popular in landscaping, including the spectacular Snowball Bush.

American Cranberry adapts to many soil types, but it does like a bit of moisture. It is commonly found in wetlands and moist open woods, in part shade to full sun. Many stems arch outward to create a pleasantly rounded shape from five to twelve feet high and equally as wide. If needed, it can be pruned after flowering.



Clusters of creamy white flowers appear in late spring to early summer. The blooms, which don't all open at once, consist of saucer-sized cymes bearing two kinds of flowers. Around the outside edge are large, sterile florets while tiny fertile florets with extended yellowish anthers fill the center. The two different sizes and colors create a lacy appearance.



Flowers are followed in late summer and early fall by clusters of small, red berries (drupes), each with one flattened seed. While they are edible right off the bush, when immature they can cause stomach upset and vomiting. Their flavor resembles the Thanksgiving cranberry, though the two plants are in different botanical families. Native tribes and early settlers harvested American cranberry after a frost and boiled them with apples to make tasty jams and jellies.

The leaves of American cranberry resemble wrinkled maple leaves usually two-five inches long and arranged oppositely along the stem. They are dark green, three-lobed, three-veined and coarsely toothed. An attractive foliage during the summer they are outstanding in the fall, turning yellowish-red to reddish purple.

The dense growth pattern of American Cranberry creates natural cover for small animals and gamebirds, and nesting sites for songbirds. Pollinated by insects, it is the larval host for the spring azure butterfly. The berries are occasional food for most wildlife and birds, making it a wonderful choice in a wildlife garden, either as a specimen plant, hedge or screen.

The European *Viburnum opulus* is the national symbol of Ukraine and is often featured in Ukrainian embroidery. It is found in folklore tales depicting the birth of the universe and its berries symbolize blood and family roots. Unlike our American variety, the European version is not used for food as it tends to be bitter.

Native tribes dried mashed berries in cakes for winter use; a good source of vitamin C. The common name "Cramp Bark" refers to teas and tinctures made from the bark to relieve stomach and menstrual cramps.

A lovely American cranberry bush grows on the left as you enter from the parking lot of the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum, 611 S Ella St. in Sandpoint. Pictures and a description are found on page 71 of *Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle*, a KNPS publication available at local bookstores and the Bonner County History Museum.

Member Profile

John Hastings

The KNPS Board is lucky to have John Hastings as its newest member. John and his wife, Nancy, after meeting while working at Glacier, moved from Minnesota to North Idaho in 1996 for its “warm, tropical environment.” Soon after, they started their family, daughter, Logan, and son, Noah. They have never regretted that move. As John says, “I can not imagine a more beautiful natural environment to live in. We love everything about it.”

John attended the University of Minnesota, Duluth for his B.S. degree and graduate school at U of M, Minneapolis. He admits to being easily bored so has had a diverse career experience. He has been in the ski industry, real estate, and horse business but mainly in the field of education. John has recently retired from teaching dual credit plant and soil science for the University of Idaho and Advanced Placement environmental science. Recently, he has been involved with coral reef restoration projects and has taken students to Belize and the Dominican Republic to work with NGOs in reef nurseries and mangrove reforestation efforts. There is a group heading to the Dominican Republic in June, 2023. Additionally, John has involved students in projects such as the restoration of the Pack River and Clark Fork Deltas, the native plant demonstration gardens at the Bonner County Building, and the native pollinator gardens at Round Lake State Park and on the Sandpoint High School campus. A highlight of his career was being named Environmental Educator of the Year for the State of Idaho in 2015.



John has been an active volunteer with the Idaho Conservation League, Friends of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He currently serves as chairman for the City of Sandpoint Planning and Zoning Commission.

As an owner, along with Nancy, of All Seasons Garden and Floral, John has been a four-time presenter at KNPS meetings; edible landscaping and converting lawns to landscapes have been among his topics. He has used the Native Plant Arboretum on many occasions to teach plant ID to his Forestry classes.

Although John has fulfilled most of his bucket list, he would still like to climb Chimney Rock. Also, as music has been a part of his life, he would love to have a reunion concert with his bandmates from his college days. With his apparent energy, it seems more than possible that he will accomplish both! Welcome to the KNPS Board, John.

Submitted by Sherry Ennis

Conservation Report

By Preston Andrews

Even though KNPS is still looking for volunteers to serve on our Conservation Committee, several KNPS members stepped up to address two current conservation issues in Bonner County.

In January, we provided an extensive comment letter to the USFS’s Sandpoint Ranger District on the proposed “forest management activities” in the Chloride Gold Project located southeast of Lake Pend Oreille. Specifically, we addressed the need and methods to protect a rare clustered lady’s slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) population, whose status is Vulnerable (S3) according to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). Only six populations of this rare orchid have been documented in the Idaho Panhandle, according to IDFG’s database. Several former members of KNPS’s Conservation Committee surveyed the clustered lady’s slipper population in the Chloride Gold Project area many years ago, but its current status is unknown to us. In our comment letter, we also urged the USFS to use every effort to protect the whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) in the project area, which was recently listed as a threatened species under the En-

(Continued on page 6)

Winter Fundraiser

By Sherry Ennis

The KNPS Winter Fundraiser was held at the IPA on Feb. 16. Although attendance was somewhat sparse, \$380.00 was raised to help update signage at the Arboretum. The raffle included four baskets, donated by Winter Ridge, Preston Andrews and Patty Ericsson, and KNPS. The KNPS baskets included, among other items purchased with member donations, gift certificates to All Seasons Garden and Floral and Cedar Mountain Perennials, switch plates crafted by John Harbuck, a membership in KNPS, a landscape consultation by Gail Bolin, and a KNPS native plant book. A big thanks goes to ticket sellers Ken Thacker, John Hastings, Jan Geren, and Robin Campbell, to the IPA, and to all who helped make the event a success!



(Continued from page 5)

dangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). (See Jan-Feb 2023 *Kinnikinnick Journal* for an article on the listing of whitebark pine, which KNPS provided a support letter for in 2021.)

In February, working with Jennifer Ekstrom at Idaho Conservation League, we provided a letter to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) requesting that they revoke Class I wetlands in Bonner and Boundary Counties from their nationwide permitting process. In a report from IDFG, Class I wetlands “represent examples of plant communities in near pristine condition and often provide habitat for high concentrations of state rare plant or animal species, Impacts to [these] sites should be avoided as [they] are not mitigable and alteration...will result in significant degradation.” While our letter requested revocation of the nationwide permitting process



Clustered lady's slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*)
Photo by Maria Mantas, Flathead National Forest

from all 13 Class I wetlands in Bonner and Boundary Counties, our specific concern is with the privately owned Coolin-Chase Lake Complex at the south end of Priest Lake. The Coolin Wetland portion of the complex is a rare peatland bog, with about 80 feet of peat lying underneath it, and where several native plants (*Dryopteris cristata*, *Lycopodiella inundata* and *Lycopodium dendroidium*) are listed as “imperiled” by the Idaho Natural Heritage Program. Our specific concern is a fill permit issued by USACE for one of the lots that Bonner County created through a waiver of Bonner County subdivision requirements. We await a reply from USACE to our request.

Issues like these illustrate the importance of an active Conservation Committee. If you are interested in collaborating on future conservation issues, please contact our President, Shawna Parry.

The Curious Lifestyles of Plants

Ghost Pipe, *Monotropa uniflora*

By Jill Wilson

Monotropa uniflora, commonly known as ghost pipe, ghost plant or Indian pipe, is a member of the Ericaceae (heath) family. In this intriguing species, plants consist of a perennial subterranean root mass and short-lived floral stems which are 4 to 8 inches tall, white to pinkish in color, and bear the species unique white blooms. The nodding flowers bear 5 sepals and 5 petals. Leaves are reduced to scales. The common name ghost pipe or Indian pipe refers to the shape of the flowers, which resemble the bowl of pipe. Bloom time is variable, even within the same geographic area, and may occur any time from late spring to early fall. Plants are typically found in shady moist locations.



Monotropa uniflora belongs to a group of plants known as myco-heterotrophs. These are plants that obtain their carbon resources from obligate mycorrhizal associates. Mycorrhizae provide plants with water and minerals. Plants provide mycorrhizae with sugars that are the product of photosynthesis. Myco-heterotrophs take advantage of this relationship. The plant does not photosynthesize and does not provide the fungus with any resources. Instead, the plant robs the fungus of water, nutrients and carbohydrates. Growth of mycorrhizal mycelia is stimulated in the presence of *Monotropa* seedlings. Seeds of *Monotropa* germinate but will only develop beyond the first stage of growth if the new plant is colonized by one of the ectomycorrhizal species of fungi that serve as its hosts. *Monotropa uniflora* is associated with fungi in the Russulaceae family. *Monotropa uniflora* vegetative shoot development (blooming) does not occur until two years after seed germination! Shoots exist to flower and set seed and then die.



The species occurs in several disparate regions: north America, Europe, Himalayas, Japan, and central and south America. These geographically distinct populations are also genetically distinct. The scientific name *Monotropa* means one turn in Greek, referring to the pedicels that nod, while *uniflora* means one flower. The species was described by Carl Linnaeus in 1753. It was the favorite flower of poet Emily Dickenson.

The most common pollinators this species are members of the *Bombus* genus Bumblebees. The second most common pollinator are members of the syrphid family, which are flies, the larvae of whom are typically predators while the adults are pollinators. While a percentage of the flowers will develop seed without, most require cross pollination to develop.

Find this species growing in deep shaded conifer forests growing at lower elevations in our area.

Editor's Note

I would like to welcome Sherry Ennis to the Newsletter team. Sherry has been working hard on our Board of Directors in various capacities and has been preparing our Member Profile for the Newsletter. She has graciously volunteered to help out with the newsletter in a new capacity in charge of editing member submissions. So we will have 2 people now involved with editing our newsletter. She will also be doing the call out for articles and images for each issue. I will continue to be working on the newsletter doing the overall layout and publication. For those of you who submit articles etc to our newsletter look for messages from Sherry in the future requesting input. When you see Sherry next, please thank her for taking on this new role with the newsletter. I am very thankful to have her assistance!!!

Jill Wilson, ed.

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 Vacant, Secretary
 Shawna Parry, Treasurer
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 Robin Campbell, Publicity
 John Harbuck, Field Trips
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 Gail Bolin, Jason Smith, Landscape
 Vacant, Conservation
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 Patty Ericsson, Historian, mailchimp
 Isabel Hollriegel, Vicky Johnson, Hospitality
 Jill Wilson, Sherry Ennis, Newsletter
 Preston Andrews, Programs
 Vacant, Website Administrator

Upcoming Events:

- March 18: March Program
- April 15: April Program
- June 3: KNPS Plant Sale



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

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