



Kinnikinnick Journal

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

www.nativeplantsociety.org

Upcoming Programs

Programs are available in-person at the East Bonner County Library's main branch in Sandpoint and by Zoom. The program begins at 10:00 a.m., with coffee, tea and treats available at 9:30. 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 May program on Zoom, please register in advance at <https://bit.ly/BeesMay20>

Saturday, May 20

Kara Carleton, Coordinator,
Idaho Master Gardener Program

Little Things that Run the World: Native Beekeeping for Increased Pollination in your Garden and Orchard

Northern Idaho is home to around 600 native bees! Learn what is known about who they are, how they live, and how to be a native beekeeper. Three known docile species can be raised to boost pollination in landscapes, gardens, and orchards. Learn why many nests or houses for sale in stores aren't healthy for native bees and how to create successful habitats and plant communities to help them thrive. You will see what a year looks like while keeping different native bees at the same time. A great class for kids and we may even be able to hatch out a few docile, friendly and safe native bees.

Saturday, June 17

KNPS Arboretum: Past, Present, and Our Vision for its Future

The city will begin a major re-design of Lakeview Park next year that may impact our cherished Arboretum. We will need to create a planning document outlining our vision for it. This program will provide an opportunity for us to have a voice in how the Arboretum fits into the Park's future. Join us to contribute your ideas for how you'd like our nearly 25-year-old Arboretum to look and function in the future.

This is also our annual membership meeting, when we elect new Directors to the Board, hear the President's report, and what we've accomplished in Education, Conservation, and Landscaping/Restoration over the past year.

Lois Wythe Grant History

By Patty Ericsson

Have you ever wondered how your KNPS membership dues and money from other fund-raising projects are used? Part of the answer to that question is the Lois Wythe Grant. The grant was first awarded in 2009, and since then KNPS has awarded 16 grants totaling \$5,500. Grant support has increased from an initial award of \$150 in 2009 to project support up to \$500 starting in 2022.

Before the first Grant was awarded, Lois Wythe wrote a thank you to Grant Committee Chair, Janice DeBaun, expressing her delight at the institution of this award, "I am still glowing with pride at this wonderful tribute. Nothing could have pleased me more!"

The Grant Committee reviews applications in March and often has difficult decisions on which applicant should be supported. Projects funded by the Grant illustrate wide-ranging interest in the Grant's goal of promoting "awareness and appreciation of our native plants." Some of the first grants went to individuals seeking to learn more about native plants, but since then many grants have been awarded to school groups. More recently, Grants have been awarded to a graduate student doing floristic research in the Selkirks and to a local team creating and publishing a native plant focused coloring and activity book.



Western Moonwort - *Botrychium hesperium* found in a Grant-supported floristic survey.

President's Message

Whew it's Spring!

As we head into May, Mother Nature is finally bringing us enough heat to allow Spring to blossom. I see new shoots of growth on our honeysuckle, new buds in the trees, Trillium erupting in the Arboretum, and voles looking for tasty roots [they are the bane of my poor garden - even two cats can't keep them away!]. While Spring is becoming a reality, KNPS is moving ahead with many plans.



The big KNPS Native Plant Sale will take place on Saturday June 3rd, 9-1:00 at the Arboretum. A work party date to make the Arb presentable will be on Sunday May 28th beginning at 9:00 am. More information within this newsletter.

KNPS sent a letter regarding the proposed Kaniksu Over-snow Vehicle Travel Plan. The native plant concern was specifically whitebark pine, which was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act on December 14, 2022. The KNPS letter encouraged forbidding OSV travel in all whitebark pine habitat in the area covered by the Travel Plan.

Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Parks Planning & Development Manager for the city of Sandpoint, was a speaker at our November 2022 meeting. She described parks in other areas of the US that she developed thus giving us a glimpse of the values she sees in creating parks. Here in Sandpoint, she is tasked with major redesigns of the city parks, like Travers Park, and other large areas, such as downtown Sand Creek/City Beach. The Travers Park work begins soon, and she has some specific ideas on how KNPS can help. You will hear more about this later.

Lakeview Park is on her list to redesign sometime in 2024-25, and she wants KNPS to develop a strategic plan for the Arboretum. At the June meeting, we plan to break into small groups to hear all ideas you may have to add to the long-term picture of KNPS.

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

KNPS PLANT SALE

This year's annual plant sale is coming up soon! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 3, from 9 am – 1 pm. Things are going to look different this year as we are collaborating with the City of Sandpoint, who will be celebrating Arbor Day adjacent to our set-up. The Bonner County Historical Museum is again having a First Free Saturday, where no admission is charged, thanks to the generosity of one of their supporters. And if anyone enjoys a good rummage sale, the Angels Over Sandpoint is holding a rummage sale fundraiser in the Lion's Club building. There's lots going on, something for everyone.

Sandpoint will be celebrating Arbor Day starting at 10 am with a variety of activities and information about planting and growing trees. There will be an official proclamation from the Mayor (or a designee), a short presentation from Bill Love about Arbor Day, and a ceremonial tree planting. Bonnie Jakubos has put together a treasure hunt for the kids that will take them around the Arboretum to learn more about trees. A landscape professional will be on hand to help people with landscape planning and tree selection.

Our sale will feature native plants that are locally grown by Cedar Mountain Perennials. Native plants benefit the environment by providing food and habitat for birds, butterflies, bees, and a number of other pollinators. They are also resource-conserving in that they require less water, less fertilizer and fewer soil amendments than many traditional landscape plants. In addition to the plants, there will be an assortment of hand-crafted garden art items. New this year, the Bonner County Gardeners Association will have a display table with information on promoting butterflies in the garden. They hope to have milkweed seed for people to plant in their own yards. Sherry Ennis is coordinating the bake sale, where a variety of sweets and beverages will be available for donations.

All in all, it should be a very full and busy day. I expect this will attract many more people than any one event alone. I am looking forward to it, and I hope you are as well. Bob Wilson

Arboretum Leadership Team Report—May

The Arboretum Leadership Team wants to thank our amazing Coordinator, Cara Johnson, for her years of outstanding service to the maintenance and enhancement of our dear Arb. Her initiative, work ethic, ease in public speaking, and other gifts provided exceptional leadership for volunteers at the Arb. We also want to thank her parents for contributing many hours of work last summer. Cara has a new job, and will not be returning this summer. So, the job's been posted and we will be interviewing applicants in a few weeks.

“Oh frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!” Winter is over, we welcome May. ***The annual Spring Cleanup will be Sunday, May 28, 10-12.*** Noonish we'll gather for lunch, so bring a brown bag lunch if you're able to stay. Coffee will be provided. We want to have the Arb looking its best for our Native Plant Sale, which this year will be combined with the city's Arbor Day celebration. ***Save the date: Saturday, JUNE 3, 9-1 (for our event, Arbor Day goes longer).***

This will be an especially busy summer at the Arb. As always, we need volunteer gardeners during the summer to maintain the habitats and keep the place looking its best. ***This year we'll have Work Party Wednesdays on the second Wednesday of June, July and August. On those days we'll work as a team to tackle whatever most needs attention. As with the Cleanup Day, we'll work from 10-12, and share the picnic table for lunch (please bring a brown bag lunch if you can stay).*** A full description of volunteer opportunities can be found at our website, nativeplantsociety.org.



Our annual Tree Tours for area school children will be held on the mornings of Wednesday, May 31; Thursday, June 1; and Friday, June 2 (hours vary). This year the event will include new features, and helpers can be small group tour guides, scavenger hunt overseers, or helpers with an art activity. Contact Bonnie Jacobus (208-597-5206) for more information or to sign up.

For the first time, three workshops for adults will be offered, open to the public. All programs will be held from 11 to noon, and participants will meet at our shed, near the asphalt walking path at the Ella Street entrance. June 24 will be “Composting Basics;” July 29 will be “Making Hypertufa Plant Containers;” and Aug. 5 will be “Propagating Moss.” For children, “Tree Cookie Tuesdays” return, from 9:00 to noon, July 11, 18, and 25.

Have a wonderful summer, and we hope to see you at the Arboretum!
Submitted by Rae Charlton

Landscape Committee Report

Spring is coming, and the KNPS Landscape Committee would like to remind members about our services. We will do a landscape consultation that includes a site assessment and plant recommendations along with a rough sketch. There's no fee for this service. However, the committee requests that you provide lunch for them.

For questions or to schedule an appointment email:

landscape@nativeplantsociety.org

Submitted by Gail Bolin



Plant Notes From the Arboretum

Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)

By Robin Campbell and Cindy Hayes

It's a rare, delicious treat to find a tiny, red wild strawberry that hasn't already been snatched up by a rabbit or nibbled by a passing chipmunk. Common throughout most of the United States and southern Canada, Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) is a fast-spreading ground cover under ideal growing conditions, but it's not picky. It thrives along roadsides, in pastures and meadows, riverbanks and lake shores. It spreads on open hillsides, well-drained woodlands and moves into clearings and open disturbed sites.

A member of the Rose family, this native perennial blooms as early as April into July. Blossoms feature five pure white petals surrounding a yellow center of multiple pistils and stamens. A single flower appears at the end of a stem among clusters of green trifoliate leaves (three leaflets radiating from a center stalk). Together they are up to 3 inches wide; individually the leaflets are ovoid with toothed edges, about one inch long. The tooth at the tip of the leaflet is smaller than those on either side. This distinguishes it from the Woodland Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*).



Tiny fruits appear in mid-late summer. They look like miniature versions of the strawberries you find in the supermarket. In fact, *Fragaria virginiana*, chosen for its flavor, was originally crossed with *Fragaria chiloensis*, a South American native chosen for its size, to create the cultivated strawberry with its many hybrid variations that we have today.

In a garden setting, Wild Strawberry prefers full to part sun and some moisture. A cool season plant, it can go dormant during the hottest part of the summer. It fruits best with extra watering during the early growing season. Wild Strawberry forms dense mats of clonal plants from 4-7 inches high that will tolerate light traffic. In the fall the leaves provide lovely seasonal color, turning dark red.

Plants spread primarily by stolons, or runners. Usually reddish in color these runners spread up to several feet from established plants. Where their tips touch the ground, they root and produce a new crown of leaves. Plant it where it has room to spread, otherwise it could become invasive.

Seventy-five species of moths, butterflies, bees and other insects are supported by the pollen and nectar of Wild Strawberry. The berries and foliage are browsed by wild mammals and birds, but plants recover quickly, and they are much less susceptible to the diseases affecting cultivated strawberries.

Wild Strawberry plants are astringent, antiseptic and diuretic. The Cherokee treated kidney and bladder issues with it, as well as jaundice and scurvy. It is high in Vitamin C. Okanagan-Colville tribes dried the leaves and used the powder to disinfect open sores. A tea can be made of the leaves, and berries, if you can find them, are perfect for jam or drying.

Look for Wild Strawberry blooming this spring in the Larch Grove in the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum. Open to the public, parking for the Arboretum is at 611 S. Ella Ave., Sandpoint, ID, or on the street.

Wild Strawberry is found on page 227 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.

Arboretum Inventory

As many of you already know, a group of us spent a day (or 2 or 3) last June identifying and mapping the plants in the Arboretum. This had not been done before and it was intended to provide us with a snapshot of what we have 20 years after the Arboretum was created. We now have pdfs with species lists and maps for each of the seven inventory areas, as well as a comprehensive species list for the Arboretum. We also developed a reasonably accurate map. While we went into this planning to learn what plants we have in the Arboretum, we learned much more. We learned that:

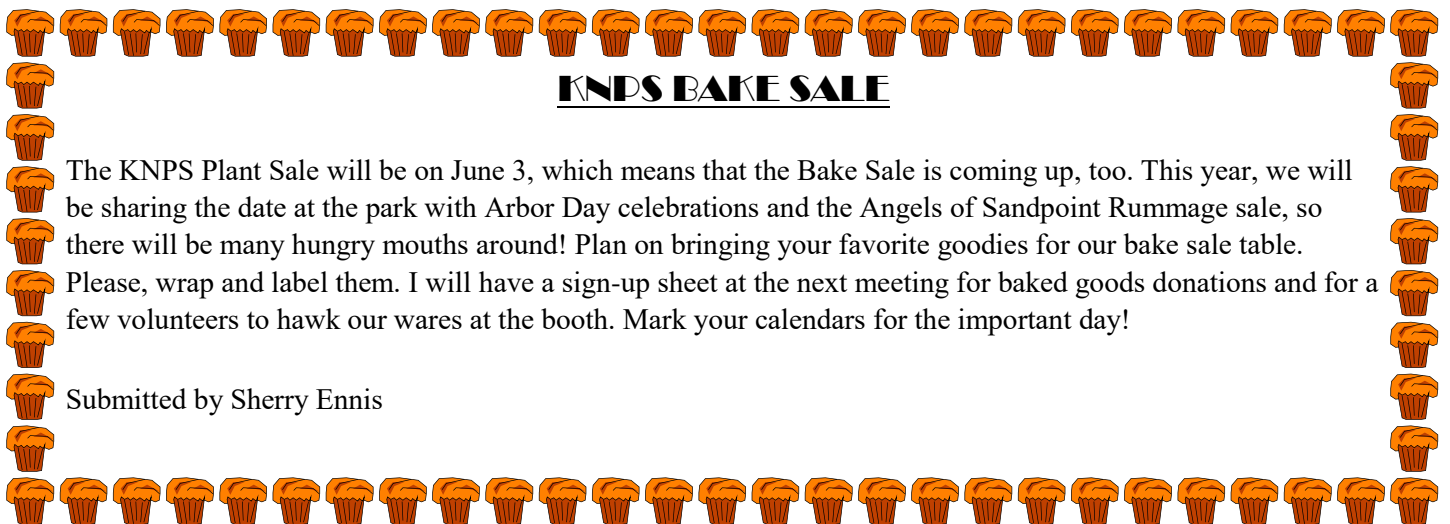
- many of the plants put there 20 years ago have not survived, while others have been very successful.
- there is no point in putting identification stakes for individual species that are mixed with a lot of other plants.
- the Rock Wall along the southern fence line has a LOT of plant species.
- the local squirrels are “helping” us decide which species we have.
- I, personally, learned that there are a lot of KNPS members who really know their plant species.

A summary, we identified 180 species of plants. Most are native to North Idaho, but there were also several non-native invaders. We also have some non-native plants in the Medicinal garden that was started by Lois Wyeth. Among the most common native species are: Birchleaf spirea, Common yarrow, the two Oregon grapes, Starry false Solomon’s seal, fireweed, Kinnikinnick (of course), Mountain hollyhock, Mountain lover, strawberries, Ocean spray, Pearly everlasting, Red osier dogwood, Saskatoon serviceberry and Snowberry. I see this as a list of those species that are most likely to be successful if used for landscaping in the immediate Sandpoint area.



The non-native group includes several landscaping plants that have come to the Arboretum from the surrounding neighborhood and several tree seedlings planted by the squirrels. We have a few very invasive species. So, what do we do with this information? We now have bragging rights as to the number of species we have that can be used in advertising, grant applications and for education. Knowing what we have would be one of the first steps if we should decide to develop a long-range plan for the arboretum. Finally, this list also tells us what we don’t have, and what we can work toward in making our arboretum an even more complete representation of the plants of North Idaho. Plants that I would like to see added include Red alder, Pacific yew and the native hawkweeds. Anyone who wants a copy of the any of the data results can get one by email. Just ask.

Submitted by Ken Thacker



KNPS BAKE SALE

The KNPS Plant Sale will be on June 3, which means that the Bake Sale is coming up, too. This year, we will be sharing the date at the park with Arbor Day celebrations and the Angels of Sandpoint Rummage sale, so there will be many hungry mouths around! Plan on bringing your favorite goodies for our bake sale table. Please, wrap and label them. I will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for baked goods donations and for a few volunteers to hawk our wares at the booth. Mark your calendars for the important day!

Submitted by Sherry Ennis

Lois Wythe Grant Report 2023

The Lois Wythe Grant began in 2009 as a tribute to Lois Wythe's leadership of KNPS. The grant is given to a group, class or individual to carry out a project in Bonner County designed to promote awareness and appreciation of our native plants. The grant application is sent out in the fall to public and educational facilities throughout Bonner County. This year, in addition to mailed applications, articles appeared in the Bonner Bee, the Reader and the COOP Newsletter. KNPS member, Patty Ericsson, was interviewed on KRFY about last year's grant, given for the Busy Buzzy Bombus Bee coloring book. Another KRFY broadcast featured members of the grant Committee.



Three grant applications were received; two were felt to need more specific articulation. The winning application was submitted by the Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT) for an ambitious project called "Re-Wilding the Playground." This project will create more natural areas in three local elementary school playgrounds: Kootenai, Farmin-Stidwell and Washington schools. KLT has already received a grant for the professional design of these "re-wilded" areas. KLT has chosen to start with Kootenai Elementary since it is the least complicated project with a cost of \$40,000.

The Lois Wythe Grant Committee and Gail Bolin of the KNPS Landscaping Committee met with a KLT representative and discussed how the grant could contribute to the use of native plants in the project. It was suggested that the grant could help to provide native plants or the grant amount of \$500 toward plant identification signs. The grant committee and Gail Bolin will visit the site in June to assess what is currently growing on the site and to make final decisions on how the Lois Wythe Grant money would be spent. The money will not be distributed unless KLT reaches its funding goals to complete the project at Kootenai Elementary.

Submitted by Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Committee Chair

Northern Rocky Mountain Biodiversity Challenge (NRMBC)

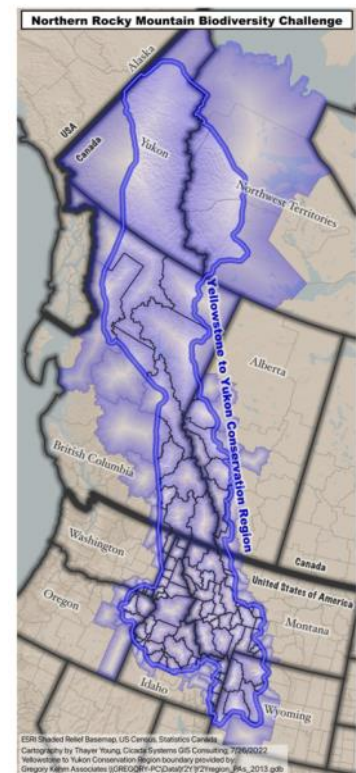
The Northern Rocky Mountain Biodiversity Challenge (NRMBC) is a free, tri-annual, crowd-sourced, four day collaboration known as a bioblitz. It is modelled after the largest bioblitz, the once yearly, springtime, international City Nature Challenge (CNC). It is an eco-regional competition, comprised of 106 individual projects in jurisdictions that intersect in whole, or in part, with the Yellowstone to Yukon ecoregion.

The Bioblitz dates are:

- Friday April 28 -Monday May 1, 2023 (CNC NRMBC)
- Thursday June 8 - Sunday June 11, 2023 (Summer NRMBC)

For more information, please go to the CNC NRMBC project page: bit.ly/3ThOn7Z. The About section has lots of information, and links to the Summer and Fall NRMBCs.

If you have questions, please send them to George Gehrig: georgehrg@gmail.com.



The Curious Lifestyles of Plants

Wild Ginger, *Asarum caudatum*

By Jill Wilson

This plant provides a good example of why we should not believe everything we read on Wikipedia among other sources!!! The pollination biology within the genus *Asarum* has been of interest to botanists for years. It has been speculated, written, and published that plants within the genus *Asarum* were pollinated by flies. The problem, which was pointed out as early as 1940 by Donald Peattie, was that there were no studies to support the assertion! In fact, the few published accounts from Europe could find little evidence that wild ginger plants there were pollinated by flies!

So how did this come to be? Botanists long noted that the blooms of wild ginger are born under the canopy of the plants' leaves close to the ground. Moreover, the flower color of many wild ginger species including our own, is dark maroon. Botanists noted this is consistent with plants that are pollinated by flies. Two types of flies were hypothesized, carrion flies and fungus gnats. Some felt that the color of the flowers mimicked the color of decaying flesh. Others felt that the color mimicked the color of some mushrooms. Both camps noted that the flowers were born close to the ground, thus in the same area where one would find either.

In 1982 Karen Lu studied several populations of *Asarum caudatum* in northern California. Her study included several treatments, some flowers were bagged (to prevent cross pollination), in some the stamens were removed (to prevent self-fertilization), and some were left as is (controls). She also studied floral phenology. She found that the bagged flowers had the same fruit set and seed production rates as controls. The emasculated flowers (stamens removed) had very poor fruit set and seed production in comparison to controls. A few flies were observed, and a few eggs were found in flowers, but the rates were very low. Plants did not have detectable odors. She did note within *Asarum caudatum* that there is a period prior to maturation and release of pollen within the flowers that cross pollination could occur if there were insects present to do so.



Similar studies conducted on other species of *Asarum* found similar results. So, the theory of fly pollination has been largely disproven, but if you read about the species on Wikipedia and other published sources you will still find it reported that the species is fly pollinated! But now YOU know!

One other interesting and curious feature found associated with *Asarum* species and with *Asarum caudatum* is that these plants rely on ants for longer distance dispersal. This is known as myrmecochory. *Asarum caudatum*, like other ginger species, spreads vegetatively and that is like the predominant form of local dispersal. In addition, though, the seeds have a fleshy appendage referred to as an elaiosome. The elaiosome is high in lipids, amino acids and other nutrients prized by ants that take them to their nests. After the elaiosome is consumed the seeds

may be discarded outside the nest. So, while insects are not important in pollination within wild ginger, they are important in longer distance dispersal!

The Education Committee

*Spring has sprung and now it's clear,
the Ed Committee needs your help
so PLEASE volunteer!*

The Education Committee, consisting of Preston Andrews, Pam Duquette, John Hastings, Cindy Hayes, and Bonnie Jakubos, has been busy. We have added some school outreach and included more hands-on activities during spring Tree Tours, not to mention Arbor Day participation and our summer programs. Our main message for education this year is the idea that we live in a special place with a unique, fascinating plant community.

That message was displayed at the KNPS booth at the Farmin-Stidwell Elementary School STREAM event in March (see photos). Many thanks to Ron Mamajek and Denise Zembryki for their work setting up the booth and helping kids learn to identify local conifers. Another big thank you goes to All Seasons Garden and Floral, who donated 30 of the KNPS coloring books as giveaways for the event.

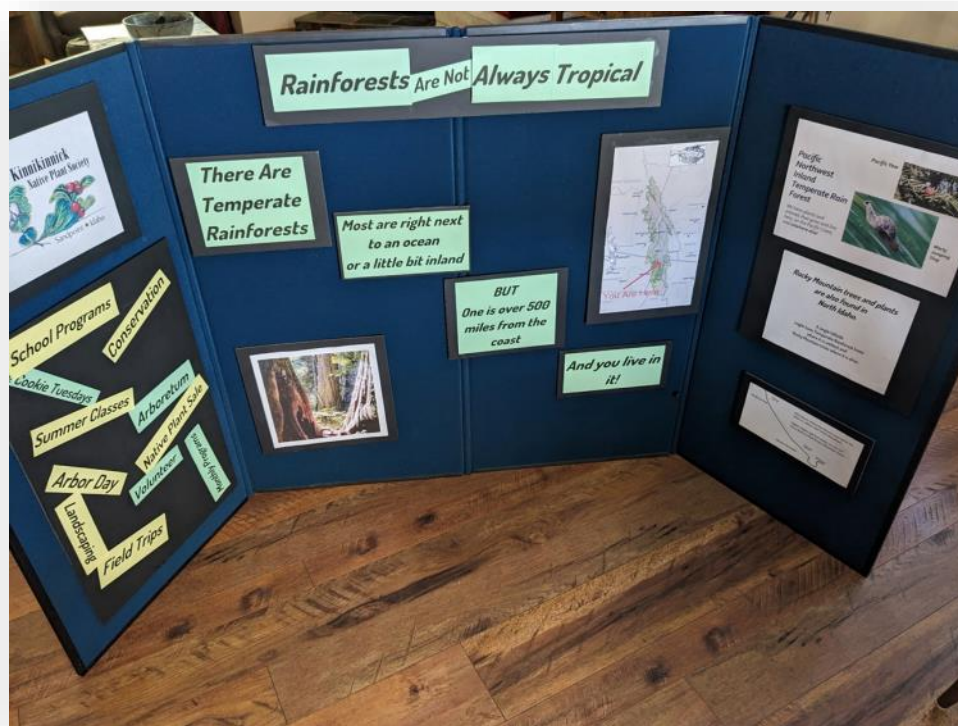
We are taking that message to Southside Elementary in May, where students will be collecting data about the natural plant communities on their nature trail. Programs like this will help teachers meet state standards while their students enjoy the activities. We would also like to communicate that message with adults – if you have ideas, let us know.

Third grade Tree Tours at the Arboretum are on May 31, June 1, and June 2. We are experimenting with some interactive additions – students will be measuring trees, participating in a scavenger hunt, and an art project. It will be fun, **but we really need more volunteers.** There are a variety of ways to volunteer: as a small group (5-6 students) tour guide; overseeing the scavenger hunt and a game; or helping students with the art activity. There are two 2- hour shifts each day. **If interested, contact Bonnie Jakubos at 208-597-5206 or idahocritters56@gmail.com .**

The Arbor Day celebration is June 3 from 10 am to 2 pm. Since that is also the date for our Native Plant Sale, you could buy your plants and then saunter over to the KNPS Arbor Day tent to help for an hour or two. If interested, contact Bonnie Jakubos at 208-597-5206 or idahocritters56@gmail.com .

There will be more volunteer opportunities this summer, including Tree Cookie Tuesdays on July 11, July 18, and July 25. Stay tuned!

Submitted by Bonnie Jakubos



Board of Directors 2023

Shawna Parry, President
 Preston Andrews, Vice President
 Rae Charlton, 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
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Sue Gervais, Rae Charlton, Cara Johnson,
 Ann Torpie, Mary Jo Haag, Ken Thacker, Arboretum
 Bonnie Jakubos, Education
 Gail Bolin, Jason Smith, Landscape
 Vacant, Conservation
 Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Grant
 Patty Ericsson, Historian, mailchimp
 Isabel Hollriegel, Vicky Johnson, Hospitality
 Jill Wilson, Sherry Ennis, Newsletter
 Preston Andrews, Programs
 Vacant, Website Administrator

Upcoming Events:

- May 20: May Program (page 1)
- May 28: Arboretum Cleanup (page 3)
- May 31: Tree Tours (page 3)
- June 1: Tree Tours (page 3)
- June 2: Tree Tours (page 3)
- June 3: KNPS Plant Sale, Bake Sale and Arbor Day (pages 2, 5, 6)
- June 14: Work party wed at the arb (page 3)
- June 17: June Program (page 1)
- June 24: Adult workshop, composting basics (page 3)
- July 11: Tree cookie Tuesday (page 3)
- July 12: Work party Wed. at the arb (page 3)
- July 18: Tree cookie Tuesday (page 3)
- July 25: Tree cookie Tuesday (page 3)
- July 29: Adult workshop, making hypertufa containers (page 3)
- August 5: Adult workshop, propagating moss (page 3)
- August 9: Work party Wed. at the arb (page 3)

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.