



Kinnikinnick Journal

Volume XXV Number 4

September-October 2021

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

www.nativeplantsociety.org

Upcoming Programs & Events

Our Sept program will be presented live on Zoom and recorded for later viewing on the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society's YouTube Channel. When viewed live, there will be opportunities for Q&A. Members will be notified about how to register for the Zoom programs via email. Presentation will be preceded from 9:00 to 9:45 by a coffee klatch and friendly conversation on zoom. Our October program will hopefully be held in person starting at 9:45 at the East Bonner County Library.

Saturday September 18 at 10 am

Amy Anderson

**Executive Director, Selkirk Conservation Alliance
Regional threats to water quality and SCA's
Work to protect it.**

Amy Anderson is the new Executive Director of the Selkirk Conservation Alliance located in Priest River. Amy was raised on a small working farm in SE Iowa, but came west to study at University of Idaho, graduating in 2008. She has lived and worked in the Pacific Northwest for the past 23 years. Prior to joining SCA, she was the Environmental Programs Director for the Kootenai Environmental Alliance.

The Selkirk Conservation Alliance works to engage the public in southern Selkirk resource and land management issues through science, education, and economic diversity. In this presentation Amy Anderson will cover the basic threats to regional surface and groundwater quality in the Priest Lake basin.

Saturday, October 16 at 9:45 am

Joey Hulbert, PHD

**Forest Health Watch Program Director
Washington State University**

**Western Red Cedar dieback and community
Science in the Pacific Northwest**

Dr. Joey Hulbert is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Washington State University. He has a background in forest health and is available to answer questions about tree health issues. Joey is the Founder and Director of the Forest Health Watch program, an initiative to make tree science accessible and provide opportunities to make meaningful contributions to accelerate research.

Western redcedar is a culturally, ecologically and economically important tree to western North America, but recent increases in dieback have raised concern about its vulnerability to hotter and dryer climates. Attend this presentation to learn about a community science approach to address the urgent need for information and ensure western redcedar remains on the landscape for future generations.

In Search of the Rare *Botrychium hesperium*, Western Moonwort

by Preston Andrews

Thursday, July 22nd began early for me, driving from Sandpoint at 4:30 am to pick up Paul Sieracki, KNPS member and Selkirk Conservation Alliance board member, in Priest River. From there we drove north for over two hours, west of Priest Lake, along Forest Service roads, and over two mountain passes to meet four botanists: 1) Ben Legler from the Univ. Idaho, Stillinger Herbarium, and an expert on moonwort's, 2) Harpo Faust, who during her M.S. research at Univ. Idaho recorded the first observation of *Botrychium hesperium* in Idaho, 3) Moose, Harpo's field assistant, and her dog Leroy, and 4) Jennifer Costich-Thompson, from Idaho Panhandle National Forests, and the organizer of this search party.

Harpo's discovery of *B. hesperium**, the western moonwort, occurred while traversing decommissioned Forest Service Road 1013 (aka Bog Creek Road), which runs in a northeasterly direction between the trailhead to Upper Priest River Falls (aka American Falls) and Blue Joe Creek to the east. The roadbed is less than two miles from the Canadian border, paralleling above Malcom Creek on the northern flank of Continental Mountain. The reason for our search for *B. hesperium* is that the U.S. Border Patrol is going to improve this road for border surveillance and will be brushing and grading it for both summer and winter vehicular use. According to NatureServe EXPLORER, *B. hesperium*'s current conservation status varies from Apparently Secure (S4) in British Columbia, Vulnerable (S3) in Montana, Imperiled (S2) in Washington, Critically Imperiled (S1) in Oregon and Wyoming, to No Status Rank (SNR) in Idaho.

This decommissioned roadbed alternated between thickets of alder and more open sections covered with a mix of herbaceous plants, and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) seedlings growing in a thin bed of moss over mineral soil. Our travel through this terrain was slow, especially in the alder thickets, where we incurred jabs, scratches, and

Continued on page 3

President's Message

by Shawna Parry

Community: “a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.” From Google’s English dictionary.

KNPS is definitely a community. We all share “common attitudes” about the value of using native plants in landscaping; “interests” in educating the community on the importance of native plants for the health of the environment; and we share “goals” like building the KNPS cabin in the Arb to be used as a headquarters & storage space, and creating an Education Committee for community outreach.

Common attitudes created the *Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle* resource book which have been selling rapidly this year. The first printing by KNPS was in 2011 and since then 2,000 copies have been sold or gifted, and another printing of 500 will soon be ordered. Maybe the community is beginning to understand the value of native plants!

Bonnie Jakobus is gathering momentum with interested KNPS members to create an Education Committee with a 5-year plan for specific goals to include young & old in fun, new learning activities. By the spring they will have new opportunities for the Sandpoint community to engage with native plants.

The Arboretum cabin dedication & picnic was great. See story on page 5. So nice to gather outside with friends whom we haven’t seen in quite a while. The event was captured as front page news with a photo in the Bonner Bee. Cara Johnson, the amazing Arb coordinator, spoke beautifully about community and how working together & listening to each other “makes a community strong. That’s how we make a refined, resilient, connected community with processes like this. It’s important doing things like this for the good of others, for the good of the group, that a gift like this was more than just the finished results. It is those volunteers (longtime & new) to whom the cabin is being dedicated – their work, their dedication and their love for the arboretum.”

Ken Thacker spoke glowingly of all the companies, individuals, and KNPS volunteers. He thanked them for their donations of materials, time and expertise which made the cabin a reality. Most of these people are not members of KNPS but are definitely members of the Sandpoint community.

And so, we head into fall which begins on September 22 just after our general meeting with speaker on Saturday, September 18, presented on zoom. The meeting begins at 10:00 am preceded by a coffee clatch. **Note:** this is the 3rd Sat, not the usual 4th Sat due to the Library schedule. It is hoped we can hold our October meeting in person, stay tuned!

Third Grade Tree Tours

By Judy Lyding

The Third Grade Tree Tours in the Arboretum were held May 25, 26 and 27. Because of Covid concerns, each group of about 6 students with teachers and volunteers were assigned to a single Docent who showed them 10 trees and demonstrated how they could be identified by their bark, needles and cones (or leaves). The Docents also introduced them to "Tree Cookies". Large posters at each tree location and a box of tree boughs and cones helped to reinforce the information. About 150 students took the tour from 4 schools. There was a major windstorm over the weekend before the tour, and a very large limb from a mature Ponderosa pine fell down. The paths were filled with the fallen pine and a large amount of tree debris. Fortunately, KNPS members John Harbuck and George Gehrig showed up with chain saws on Monday morning. They cleared the pathways so we could have the Tree Tours on Tuesday! Students got to see the interesting residua of the fallen limb, including tree rings showing double centers. Many thanks to all the volunteer Docents: Preston Andrews, Rae Charlton, Mary Toland, Carl Hanson, Gail Bolin, Irv Jenkins, Susan Bates-Harbuck, Cindy Hayes, Sue Gervais, Ann Torpie and Judy Lyding!



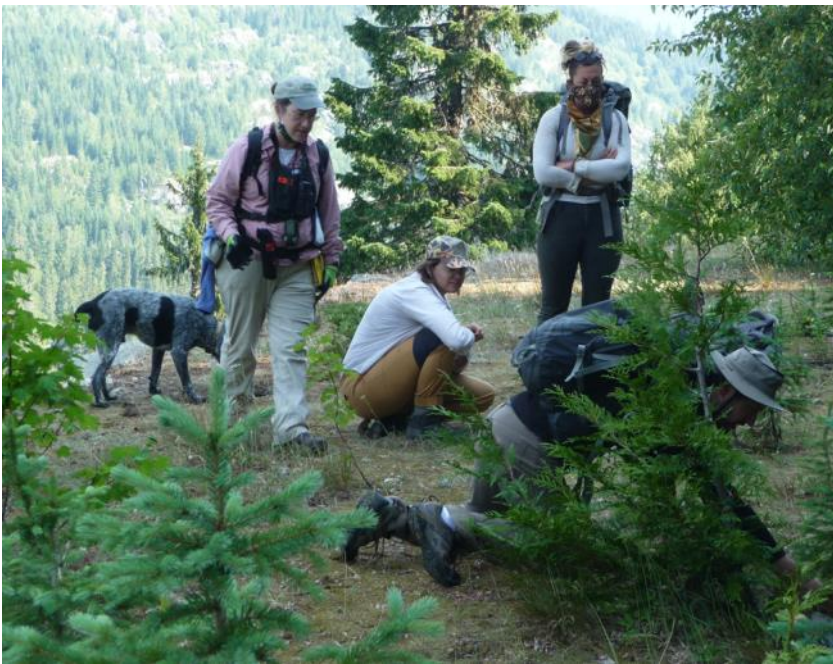
(Continued from page 1)

snagged packs. Besides mostly looking at the ground for moonworts, we had to be attentive to the fact that we were traveling through the Selkirk grizzly bear recovery zone, with limited visibility in all directions.

Before reaching Harpo's *B. hesperium* GPS location and near Spread Creek, we discovered another moonwort, *Botrychium neolunaria* (common moonwort of the Northern Hemisphere). Although widespread in northern North America, it had never before been identified in north Idaho. When we got to the *B. hesperium* location, we found a number of small, shriveled specimens. Our hot, dry summer has been hard on these diminutive moonworts. We found several other small populations of *B. hesperium* in new locations and marked both the found locations and likely habitats with flagging and marking paint in hopes that the road contractor can avoid these locations or minimize impact during their roadwork. The *B. hesperium* we found appeared to prefer the outer, convex parts of the roadbed, as well as between the untracked wheel treads, but still in close proximity to a water source. Typically, we found *B. hesperium* in association with *Fragaria* (strawberry), *Achillea* (yarrow), and *Antennaria* (pussytoes).

All in all, moonworts are fascinating, yet easily overlooked little plants that should be protected from the road-grader's blade in the Selkirk Mountains of north Idaho.

**Botrychium hesperium* and other moonworts, also called grape ferns (*Botrychium* is derived from Greek botyrs, meaning a "bunch of grapes") are members of the Adder's-tongue Family (Ophioglossaceae). They are referred to as moonworts because of their half-moon shaped leaflets. *Botrychium* spp. are not true ferns because their sporangia (spore sacs) are not borne on leaves, but in grape-like clusters on a naked stalk. They also require mycorrhizal fungi to colonize their roots, thereby providing them with access to extra water and nutrients, which would be insufficient if only derived by their own roots. Mystical powers have been attributed to moonworts in ancient lore, such as loosening horseshoes when riding through them and becoming invisible from their spores.



The botany team examining moonworts on the abandoned roadbed (from left to right): Jennifer Costich-Thompson, Harpo Faust, and Moose looking on, as Ben Legler examines a moonwort (above). Dried up specimen of *Botrychium hesperium* (right) .



A Place of Our Own

By Ken Thacker

In June of 2020 I met with Heather Upton, Museum Executive Director and Ruth Wimberly, Board president. They gave me the news that they had decided to use their/our historic cabin for museum display space. They had owned the cabin since 1981, when it was relocated to the park, but KNPS had almost exclusive use of it for over 20 years. We all agreed that this would be the best use for the wonderful old structure. KNPS had been planning to replace the roof later that summer and I suspect that had forced them to decide on something they had been considering before we spent a lot of money on a roof.

The question of how to replace the lost space was discussed by the KNPS Board and we decided that building our own structure was our best option. This had become possible after Dave Bertus offered to provide us with architectural drawings and Steve Johnson decided to be our Registered Contractor, both at no cost.

The permitting process was complex since we were building within the City of Sandpoint, on City Property and on a lease to the Bonner County Historical Society. Mark Stockwell took the lead on the permitting and once we had waded through that process, we asked for volunteers to help with the construction. Our crew was committed, enthusiastic, experienced and equipped with tools. With Steve Johnson acting as foreman, the work crew was made up of Mark Stockwell, George Gehrig, Kirby McKee, Craig Johnson (Cara's Dad), Bob Blair, John Harbuck, Laird Parry, Ann Torpie and myself. The ideal crew size was four or five onsite any given day and everyone worked around their personal schedules. Bob Blair also created a one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted wooden door in his spare time. Soon after the construction began, it became clear that my role was primarily to schedule the work, move materials and stay out of the way.

Sandpoint Building Supply gave us a good deal on the materials that kept us well within the budget decided upon by the Board. Construction began on May 13th and continued two or three days a week, four or five hours most days over 13 days. The basic structure done by June 23. Shawna Parry and Ann Torpie made sure we never wanted for coffee, snacks or lunches.

Upon completion of the basic construction, we were ready to install the electrical service. Cara Johnson also knew an electrician, John Elsa, who was interested in helping. In turn, John had connections with Avista, Stoneway Electric Supply and Three Amigos Plumbing. Running electricity to the cabin with a buried cable was an adventure that included using a "bore" to tunnel under and hand digging to tunnel around tree roots. Unfortunately, this portion of the project also included a "nick" of a natural gas line with a trencher that caused a gas leak that required using John's connection with Avista to get repaired at no cost. Getting the electricity to the structure and installing the wiring was free.

The cabin was mostly funded from an account left to KNPS in the estate of Arlis Harvey, a founding member of KNPS who passed away 2011. The White Pine chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society also donated \$500 toward our costs and The Bonner County Historical Society helped us in many ways with our logistics and permitting. Through the entire process our construction labor has been donated by our members and through the connections we have within the community. It truly has been a community effort and now KNPS has a place that is all ours for the first time.



Committee Reports

Arboretum

It's September already, and so much has been accomplished at the Arboretum. You are surely aware of the major push this past year of planning and constructing our new "cabin." Kudos again to all involved!

This summer, Cara delegated her troops (volunteer gardeners) to tackle various projects throughout the arboretum. Stroll by "the wall," our south border with the sewage treatment plant, and you'll see the results of many hours of difficult labor removing years of accumulated duff, and deeply rooted weeds. She also identified areas for improvement for when we hosted our work parties every first Tuesday of the month. This has been a new and successful way to see noticeable results.

Next year, we will be asking for help with plant identification in our various habitats. We are seeking volunteers to use their sleuthing skills--no weeding or tending required! Many of the habitats need new plants and we need a complete inventory to identify both what is there and what may be missing. This would entail approximately 10 to 12 hours next spring and early summer, and new volunteers can be paired with a partner to help with identification. Are you interested in learning to better identify our native plants? Follow us here for how and when to sign up! Meanwhile note our last event for the arb for this season:

PUTTING the ARBORETUM to BED for the WINTER

October 3rd, 10:00 - 12:00

Bring your garden gloves & picnic lunch. The cabin holds all the needed tools now!

Stay for dessert.

Landscape

The landscaping committee performed two consultations this year. The first was for Tom Sather. Nancy, Jason Smith, and I traveled to his property for a wonderful morning with Tom. He was the winner of the FSPW raffle which included several gift certificates, a copy of our landscaping book, and a landscape consultation. Tom, his wife, and his family have property on Bull Lake in Montana that has been in the family for over 100 years. Recently an old cabin on the property was removed and a new home was built. He did extensive landscaping which included removing a diseased stand of trees and replanting of that area with new trees. We gave him lots of ideas about shrubs and ground cover that would enhance the work he had already performed. It was a great trip and I want to thank Jason again for making the trip up to Bull Lake to help us.

Our second consultation was for Jean Gerth. In addition to Nancy and me, Vicky Johnson helped us with her expertise. Jean was looking for some ideas about enhancing some existing landscaping as well as some additional trees and shrubs to fill in some empty spaces. We came up with a plan that should be of help in her efforts to make the space more to her liking.

KNPS Picnic and Cabin Dedication

On August 29 around 50 KNPS members gathered outside for our annual potluck picnic at the Arboretum for fellowship and to dedicate the new cabin! The dedication even made the Bonner Daily Bee! Here are some images captured by Cindy Hayes of the gathering.



Member Profile

George Gehrig

I was born in Ecuador, where I lived until I was three. When my father accepted a position with the federal government, my family moved to a Washington, D.C. suburb. A truly idyllic childhood was interrupted by my father's death. Following that tragedy, my mother moved us back to her home state of Louisiana. My entire new K-12 school was smaller than my single grade back in D.C.! Despite the lack of resources in a rural school district, I was appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy. One year in, a routine eye exam determined that I would need to wear glasses to correct my vision to 20/20. This meant that I would be unable to fly, so I resigned my commission and returned home.

After threatening to become a professional student (I have so many interests), I obtained a Master's Degree. Then, marriage and children nudged me, reluctantly, into the workforce. After a 25 year career in academic medicine at a Louisiana medical school, I pulled the plug and retired two and a half years ago, finally escaping to the Pacific Northwest mountains, where I had often vacationed and where my soul belongs.

I moved to Sandpoint a year ago and immediately sought to join environmental and conservation related organizations. One of the first I joined was the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society. My current passion for exploring the relationship between native plants and insects was inspired by Dr. Doug Tallamy. That passion led me to collaborate with Preston Andrews and to form the City Nature Challenge: Bonner County, which took place from April 30 through May 3, 2021.

Going forward, I'd love to continue volunteering and finding ways to promote collaboration between organizations. Currently, I'm trying to encourage other North Idaho counties to create their own City Nature Challenges, and I'm in the initial stages of collaborating with City Nature Challenge sites in Canada and transboundary organizations. For those who don't know of and are interested in Dr. Doug Tallamy, several references have been included.

<https://www.humansandnature.org/doug-tallamy>

<https://www.amazon.com/Living-Landscape-Designing-Beauty-Biodiversity/dp/1604694084>

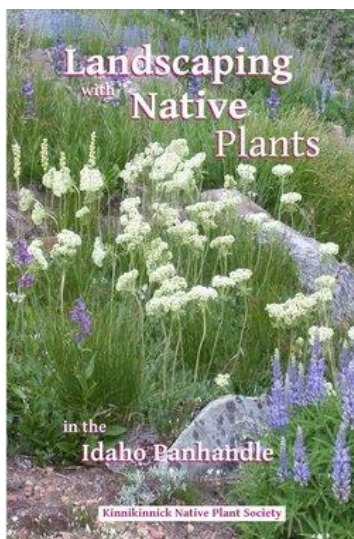
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/meet-ecologist-who-wants-unleash-wild-backyard-180974372/>

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/environment/2020/02/07/yard-sustainability-native-plants>



Landscape Book Selling Briskly!!

The KNPS book "Landscaping with Native Plants in the Idaho Panhandle" is still a "best seller!" We are ready for a reorder bringing the ten-year total to 2,500 books! This year we have added two new retailers, Winter Ridge and Aster Garden Design Center, to those from Bonners Ferry to Moscow. The book has been a great outreach in support of our mission. Way to go KNPS!



Donations Needed!

KNPS Fall Fundraiser at the IPA!

For our KNPS fall fundraiser we will be raffling off baskets at the Idaho Pour Authority. We are looking for donations to fill three baskets. We currently have one filled basket and one partially filled basket. The baskets will be on display at the IPA from Oct. 21—27. IPA staff will be selling tickets during Oct. 21-27 or you can purchase online at nativeplantsociety.org. KNPS will also receive a percentage from certain drinks during this period. IPA hours are noon—9 pm.

The drawing will take place on October 27 with live music and tap takeover.

To make a donation for one of the baskets please contact Cindy Hayes at cmhayes63@gmail.com, 208-263-1104.

Board of Directors 2021-22

Shawna Parry, President
Preston Andrews, Vice President
Carol Jenkins, Secretary
Shawna Parry, Treasurer
Cindy Hayes, Event Chair
Robin Campbell, Membership Chair
Sherry Ennis, Board Member
Mark Stockwell, Board Member
Rae Charlton, Arboretum

Additional Committee Chairs and Positions

Sue Gervais, Rae Charlton, Cara Johnson,
Ann Torpie, Mary Jo Haag, Arboretum
Dennis Rieger, Landscape
Susan Bates-Harbeck, Conservation
Judy Lyding, Lois Wythe Grant
Mary Jo Haag, Historian
Becky Eames, Hospitality
Jill Wilson, Marilyn George, Newsletter Committee
Jill Wilson, Newsletter Editor
Julie Kallemeyn, Publicity
Preston Andrews, Programs
Dennis Rieger, Website Administrator, Listserve

Upcoming Events:

September 18: KNPS Program (see page 1)
October 3: Put the Arboretum to Bed (see page 5)
October 16: KNPS Program (see page 1)
October 27: KNPS Fundraiser at the IPA (see page 6)
December 4: KNPS Holiday Party (more next issue)



Join KNPS for 2021-22

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 Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society or KNPS)

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.