

Idaho Native Plant Society

White Pine Chapter



Pinus monticola
Western White Pine

Winter
2006
Newsletter

***From the President:
Research Natural Areas in Idaho — what's missing?***

One of the important missions of the Idaho Native Plant Society is “to advocate conservation of this rich natural heritage for future generations.” Facilitating the establishment of Research Natural Areas has been a long-standing means to accomplish this part of our mission. Several of the founders of the White Pine Chapter—Chuck Wellner, Fred Johnson and Fred Rabe--were major contributors. They were instrumental in convening a workshop in Boise to develop a plan. That workshop, attended by at least 50 people, was the start of a major push to create a comprehensive system of reserves, which at that time numbered 20. This number included Tepee Creek Research Natural Area near where the 2004 Idaho Native Plant Society annual meeting was held. That area, set aside in 1935, was the first Research Natural Area in Idaho. The following two paragraphs introduced their report: “Research Natural Area Needs in Idaho: Report of the Natural Areas Workshop of April, 1974.”

“Research Natural Areas are an essential element of any regional land use plan. These are tracts on which natural features are preserved in as nearly an undisturbed state as possible for research and educational purposes. Natural Areas serve: as control or baseline areas for comparison with those influenced by man; as educational or research areas for ecological and environmental studies; and to protect gene pools for typical as well as rare and endangered organisms (Federal Committee on Research Natural Areas, 1968). In this way, as field laboratories, baseline control areas and genetic reservoirs, they serve the scientist, resource manager, educators and society at large.

“However, a random accumulation of pieces of natural landscapes into some type of reserved status will not provide the representative system of Research Natural Areas needed. The desired system must include within reserved status the necessary array of terrestrial and freshwater organisms, and this requires a plan. Questions which should be answered during development of such a plan include the following: What types of natural research areas will be needed to provide answers to ecological, environmental and land management questions? Which ecosystems need representation, how many of each and where?”

Their efforts were successful in large part because of the systematic basis for defining needs. As a result of the process initiated at that workshop, we have a well-designed framework underlying the selection of new RNAs. By 1980, however, only three new RNAs had been fully established, although 68 areas had been proposed. Now, a 2001 summary puts the number of fully established RNAs in Idaho at 106 with another seven still in the proposed category. Unfortunately, some of the proposed areas have been “proposed” for over 25 years!

In recent years, much of this early momentum has been lost. I hope that the White Pine Chapter can provide renewed appreciation of the need for RNAs. As part of this effort, we have planned a meeting program focusing on Research Natural Areas. Kris Hazelbaker of the Nez Perce National Forest will review the status of RNAs in the current planning process on her forest, so reserve March 2, 2006 for this presentation. We will meet in the College of Natural Resources at 7:00 p.m. in room 108, and look forward to seeing you there!

Al Stage, January 2006

White Pine Chapter 2006 Forthcoming Events:

Wednesday, February 8, 2006. Chapter Meeting: Presentation

7:00 p.m. College of Natural Resources Bldg, UI, Room 108

Landscaping with Native Plants, presented by Kathy Hutton, Manager, Plants of the Wild, Tekoa, WA

The nursery has just celebrated its 25th anniversary of growing native plants for restoration and landscape projects. One of the most important things needed to make a successful native landscape is knowledge of the plants. Kathy will share her knowledge of native plants and you will be able to use this knowledge as part of the key to making a great native landscape or garden. Regional guides of plants for landscaping are available from INPS and BLM (see "Other Items of Interest" later in this newsletter for URLs). Contact: Paul Warnick, warnick@moscow.com, 208-892-8058

Thursday, March 2, 2006 (tentative). Chapter Meeting: Presentation

7:00 p.m. College of Natural Resources Bldg, UI, Room 108

Research Natural Areas, presented by Kris Hazelbaker of the Nez Perce Forest, US Forest Service

Kris will review the status of RNA's in the current planning process on the Nez Perce Forest. See the President's message at the beginning of the newsletter for details. Contact: Al Stage, astage@moscow.com, 208-882-7492

Thursday, April 13, 2006. Chapter Meeting: Workshop

Time and location tba.

Grass Identification, led by Juanita Lichthardt, Past President of our Chapter, Juanita is a botany educator and consultant.

We will learn some basics to help us identify grasses in preparation for a field trip in July. If you have difficulty differentiating between Idaho Fescue and Bluebunch Wheatgrass, or think that Beargrass is a Graminoid, this workshop is for you! Contact: Sonja Lewis, sal.e.forth@turbonet.com, 208-883-2638

Date tba (mid May) 2006. Chapter Field Trip

Lewis & Clark, Kamiah area, led by Fred Johnson

Leave at 8:00 a.m. promptly from Eastside Marketplace

Fred Johnson will take us on a trip of discovery to locate plants that were identified by the Corps when they passed through this area 200 years ago. Our first stop will be Arrow Junction where Potlatch Creek joins the Clearwater River, and where the Corps picked up the Type collection of our state flower. Then we will have several stops along the Clearwater en route to the Kamiah area. This will be a long day trip. Bring lunch, water, field guide and binoculars. Contact: Al Stage, astage@moscow.com, 208-882-7492

Date tba (mid to late June) 2006. Chapter Field Trip

Lewis & Clark, Smith Ridge, led by Fred Johnson

Leave at 8:00 a.m. promptly from Eastside Marketplace

We will continue our trip of discovery to locate plants along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Our first stop will be a break at the Big Eddy Rest Area on the Clearwater River. The first plant stop will be part way up the Greer Grade opposite where the Corps went up Lolo Creek and picked up several species. This will be a long day trip, returning well after 5:00 p.m. Bring lunch, water, field guide, and binoculars. Contact: Al Stage, astage@moscow.com, 208-882-7492

Saturday, July 8, 2006. Chapter Field Trip

Grass Identification, led by Juanita Lichthardt

Location: tba

This field trip will build on April's workshop, where we will be given the opportunity of using our newly acquired knowledge and skills to do field identification of grasses. Time and other planning details will be sent closer to the date. Contact: Sonja Lewis, sal.e.forth@turbonet.com, 208-883-2638

SAVE THIS WEEKEND -- JUNE 23-25, 2006!

**INPS State Meeting and Campout
Farragut State Park, Lake Pend Oreille
Larch Campground, Buttonhook group campsite**

This year, the State Meeting is being organized by the Calypso Chapter. Details will be available on the INPS Web Site closer to the date (www.idahonativeplants.org).

Other activities under discussion include:

Presentations:

- Fire Ecology
- Soils of northern Idaho

Field Trips:

- Paradise Ridge in Peak Bloom to see Palouse prairie natives, with Jacie and Wayne Jensen (April/May)
- Viola to visit controlled burn locations while contemplating how ecosystems recover from wildfire (May/June)

Details of these events will be sent out if they are confirmed.



Cathedral Cedar Grove, a Proposed Moscow Mountain State Park

For the past 10 years, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has leased the 295.6 acres on Moscow Mountain that supports the Cathedral Cedar Grove. However, their lease expires at the end of this year, and TNC has notified the state that they will not pursue its renewal because it does not fit with their current strategy in this region. A campaign to ask Governor Kempthorne to purchase the land and incorporate it into the State Park system, therefore preserving it for future generations, is under way. The Latah County Commissioners and City of Troy have expressed support for the proposal to convert the grove into a low impact/maintenance park to be known as Moscow Mountain State Park. The land has been given a preliminary appraisal of \$1.3 million based on changes in the price of logs since the 1992 value of \$650,000 made by the Idaho Department of Lands. Contact Mark Solomon (msolomon@moscow.com) for more information.



Thanks!

On behalf of all the participants, the Board thanks the leaders and organizers who contributed their valuable time and expertise last year for all our events, including:

In February, **Merrill and Mary Conitz** addressed an engaged audience with a wonderful visual experience of the Plants and Shrubs of East Africa through a slide show and commentary, which helped brighten the dull dark days of winter!

In March, members of both our Chapter and the Palouse Prairie Foundation had a fun session preparing plant specimens at the Stillinger Herbarium. Thanks to **Pam Brunsfeld** and all her staff for their patience and for sharing their expertise!

April was a busy month for group activities. We and Palouse Prairie Foundation members were treated to a colorful delight when **Amy Pocewitz**, a PhD candidate in Natural Resources, captivated a large audience with a presentation of her research on butterflies on the Palouse.

Dr. Linda Hardesty gave a well-received presentation on her research, and that of several others, on the invasive Reed Canary Grass. She described various control methods including combining defoliation and shading to test hypotheses about the plant's physiology and basic ecology. In summary, Reed Canary Grass has so far proved resistant to many adverse conditions. Linda included many laypersons' observations in her discussion. We look forward to a future talk on research results – both in limiting productivity and in achieving mortality. Linda also touched on the study of DNA of herbarium specimens and current populations in determining the nativity of various populations.

Also in April, **Paul Warnick** led a large group of people through the UI Arboretum, describing the different plantings and answering numerous questions. We looked at the native plantings in the xeriscape garden and the original White Pine Chapter plots. We also saw the newest native wildflowers, including camas plants salvaged from the Highway 95 widening project this spring, and the site for the Palouse Prairie restoration project. The Arboretum was displaying welcome signs of spring, with Forsythia, Flowering Cherry and Viburnum species in bloom.

In May, we joined with Palouse Audubon for two events: a talk on the formation of Palouse landscapes, presented by **Kas Dumroese**, and a field trip to Steptoe Butte.

As part of the Conference of Northwest Herbaria that was hosted by the UI Stillinger Herbarium in June, **Dr. Richard Naskali** gave a talk on "Botanical Art: Eternalizing the Ephemeral" and **Dr. Steve Brunsfeld** spoke on "The Disjunct Ecosystems of Idaho: Museums or Overnight Sensation."

Also in June, **Dr. Fred Johnson** led a large group on a field trip along Skyline Drive in McCroskey State park with its spectacular views of the Palouse hills and park peaks. Fred provided us with many details about the trees and flowers in each habitat type, the geology and history of the park, and the dedication of the man who presented this wonderful resource to the State of Idaho.

Thanks also to **Juanita Lichthardt** and **Fred Johnson** for leading a group in August 2005 to the Hobo Cedar Grove Botanical Area near Clarkia, which is being proposed for expansion to the south (53 acres) and to the southeast (399 acres). We were able to identify several species of ferns, as well as visit the Hobo Splash Dam and the historic remnants of the old lumber camp.

The year culminated with the Annual Picnic and Meeting at Laird Park in October. After a delicious potluck lunch, we took care of some Chapter business, and then had a chance to chat and hike.

Thank you everyone!

Other Forthcoming Events

Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, February 14 & 15, 2006

Event: 22nd Annual Idaho Rare Plant Conference

Meet: Idaho Power Corporate Headquarters, 13th & Idaho, Boise, ID

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and review new information on rare plant species in Idaho. For details, see

<http://www.idahonativeplants.org/rpc/Conference.aspx>

Wednesday-Thursday, March 29-30, 2006, Pasco, WA

2006 Tri-State Rangeland Management Short Course

Rangelands for the Future: Creating rangeland ecosystems for the next century. If

interested, contact Linda H. Hardesty, 509-335-6632, lhardest@wsu.edu. Details will be available after Feb. 1 at <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/newsevents/index.htm>

.....

Other Items of Interest:

University of Idaho Stillinger Herbarium staff have brought some lovely prints of Herbarium plant specimens to our chapter meetings in the past. The prints are being sold as a fundraising project and are very reasonably priced. They make nice wall hangings and would make excellent gifts. To purchase either matted prints or matted prints with glass frames, visit the UI Stillinger Herbarium home page (<http://www.sci.uidaho.edu/biosci/herbarium/>) for contact info.

Please continue to contribute Native Plants landscaping information.

Several years ago the White Pine Chapter put out a guide: "***Plants of Northern Idaho for Landscaping and Restoration.***" This was done largely due to the efforts of **Juanita Lichthardt**. The guide has been made available through the state organization at <http://www.idahonativeplants.org/guides/NorthIdahoGuide.aspx>. Because of a recent upsurge of interest in cultivating natives, our knowledge of their qualities and propagation is expanding rapidly. We are definitely interested as an organization in collecting and organizing your information on landscaping uses of Idaho native plants such as wildlife uses, persistence, bad behavior, or diseases. This information should be sent to Juanita at jjl@moscow.com to be considered for inclusion in future editions of the native plant guide or on our future website.

WNPS has plant lists for various locations listed by county on their state website. Although Whitman only has Kamiak Butte listed and Spokane County has 5 or 6 locations, some western counties have many listings. Some of these would certainly be worth printing off as reference if you were planning a trip to a specific location in Washington. http://www.wnps.org/plant_lists/exploring_native_plants.html.

The BLM technical paper, ***Landscaping with Native Plants of the Intermountain Region***, is available at <http://www.id.blm.gov/publications/TR1730-3/index.htm>.

Palouse Prairie Foundation: see web site www.palouseprairie.org for field trips and meeting notices.

Palouse Audubon Society: see web site www.palouseaudubon.org for an up-to-date listing of field trips and meeting notices. Contacts for information and field trips are through the Co-Presidents Charles Swift, charless@moscow.com and Terry Gray, clgtlg@genesee-id.com

Meeting notices for other INPS chapters are listed if we receive email or regular mailings. The Idaho Native Plant Society web site lists contacts for these chapters if you are interested. Please also check *Sage Notes* for possible listings.

Forthcoming events at the Kinnikinnick Chapter:

2/25/2006 9:45 a.m. (Saturday) at Community Hall, Sandpoint. Jerry Pavia, whose gardening and nature photography has been regularly published in major magazines, will speak on Plants through the Seasons and through the Lens.

3/25/2006 Jennifer Durbin Identifying our local birds using both audio and visual identification clues.



Western White Pine illustrations © Br. Alfred Brousseau,
Saint Mary's College of California

Membership in INPS White Pine Chapter is open to all who wish to join. If you are a member, please check the membership expiration date on your mailing label to ensure that it is correct. Membership dues may be sent to the address listed on the form on the inside back cover or given to **Nancy Sprague** at a meeting. Alternatively, you may pay your dues to the State organization using the form in *Sage Notes*. You need only pay once - either the chapter or the State organization. The receiving treasurer will ensure that the other organization receives its share of the dues. (Currently the State organization receives 75% and the local chapter 25%.) In past years it has proved more effective and timely to pay the dues to the chapter so that chapter records can be updated quickly for newsletters, etc. If you do not think the information is correct on your address label, please contact Nancy Sprague at nrsprague@verizon.net.

Membership Renewal/Request

Dues for 2006:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

New: ____ Renewal: ____ Change of address? ____

Email address _____

	√	
Individual		\$15.00 ____
Household		\$20.00 ____
Student		\$ 8.00 ____
Senior Citizen		\$ 8.00 ____
Patron		\$35.00 ____

Please complete the above form and send with check payable to
INPS/White Pine Chapter

to **INPS/White Pine Chapter**
P.O. Box 8481
Moscow, ID 83843.

----- Thank you -----

Email notifications: If you wish to receive periodic email notifications and last minute program or trip information, please send your email address to Nancy Miller at nmiller@moscow.com for addition to the list. These email notifications can save us considerable postage and/or time spent making phone calls. A second email list is used for discussion of items of chapter interest, forwarded messages from other chapters, as well as meeting notices and special announcements. This list is hosted on UI's list serve. Again, contact Nancy Miller if you wish to be on this second mailing list – or if you wish to move from one list to the other.

Election of officers for 2006. Please take the time to vote for or against the candidates below, and return your ballot to INPS/White Pine Chapter, P.O. Box 8481, Moscow, ID 83843. Thank you!

	For	Against
Candidate for President--Al Stage	___	___
Candidate for Vice President--Mamie Smith	___	___
Candidate for Secretary--Sonja Lewis	___	___
Candidate for Treasurer--Nancy Sprague	___	___

Mamie Smith is a Master's candidate at the UI in Environmental Science. She grew up in North Carolina where she was an avid Sunday afternoon hiker and amateur naturalist since childhood. She received her B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina where she did a project on wetland vegetation. Since moving to Moscow in summer 2004, she has enjoyed getting to know the western landscape and learning more about Idaho's native plants. As Vice President, she looks forward to helping facilitate fun informative meetings of the White Pine INPS.

The current slate of officers consists of the following:

Officers:

President	Al Stage	astage@moscow.com *	882-7492
Vice President	Paul Warnick	warnick@moscow.com	892-8058
Secretary	Sonja Lewis	sal.e.forth@turbonet.com	883-2638
Treasurer	Nancy Sprague	nrsprague@verizon.net	882-8142

Committees

Publicity:	Merrill Conitz	mconitz@turbonet.com	883-9799
Email contact:	Nancy Miller	nmiller@moscow.com	882-2877
Newsletter:	Rosemary Streatfeild	streatf@moscow.com	882-7143
Landscaping & Restoration Plant Lists:	Juanita Lichthardt	jjl@moscow.com	882-4803

If you are interested in serving as an officer or on a committee yourself, please contact Sonja Lewis (contact info above). We would especially welcome **nominations for President and Publicity Chair** as Al and Merrill have both extended their terms. Please complete the election ballot on the inside back cover.