

# Idaho Native Plant Society

## 2012 Annual Meeting

**Hosted by:** Calypso Chapter, Idaho Native Plant Society, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

**Dates:** Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 22, 23, and 24, 2012

**Location:** Idaho Department of Fish and Game Access Site, Clark Fork Drift Yard where the Clark Fork River meets Lake Pend Oreille between the cities of Clark Fork and Hope, east of Sandpoint on Highway 200.

**Theme:** The focus of the gathering will be the restoration and protection of natural habitats. In particular, we will be looking at the efforts to restore the natural function of river deltas on Lake Pend Oreille that were damaged or destroyed with the construction of the Albeni Falls Dam on the Pend Oreille River. We will also look at the efforts to protect the spectacular area in the Cabinet Mountains north of Clark Fork by establishing the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area.

**Cost:** The event will cost \$10 per adult participant to defray the cost of the event. The meal on Saturday evening will cost \$10 per meal.

### Schedule of Events

#### Friday, June 22

**8:00 am to 12:00 noon – Camp Set-Up.** The Calypso Chapter will be setting up the camp during the morning of June 22. We will be putting out signs to mark the location of the camp. We will be bringing in drinking water, picnic tables, extra portable toilets, trash containers, etc. Please bring a supply of drinking water if you have the capability.

**8:00 am to evening – Arrival.** You are welcome to arrive at anytime on Friday. You can even arrive before Friday if you like, but remember that the camp site is a

primitive site. There will be no drinking water or tables prior to Friday. The location of the site will not be marked until Friday.

**8:00 am to 6:00 pm – Informal Activities.** You can explore the surrounding wetlands. We will attempt to have hip waders available for your use during these explorations. Guides will help you interpret what you are seeing. You can kayak, canoe, boat, fish, or swim on your own within the Clark Fork River Delta. You can catch up with old friends and make new friends within the Society at the group camp site.

**2:00 pm to evening – Check-In.** Please let us know you have arrived. Official check-in will start at 2:00 pm. At that time you can verify your payment of \$10 per adult participant for the registration fee and \$10 per meal for Saturday evening. You will be asked to confirm your participation in Saturday's events. You will be able to get the scoop on all the official and unofficial activities planned for the weekend.

**6:00 pm until gone – “Rock Soup” Potluck.** Any one who wishes to participate in the potluck should bring a can of soup or an ingredient that will go into soup. We will dump all of the contents of all of the cans into a big pot and heat the whole concoction up. Once it is hot we will begin serving. This restores the original meaning to the term pot “luck”.

**7:00 pm until late – Campfire.** Following the potluck there will be the traditional gathering of friends around the campfire. In keeping with our theme, Phil Hough from the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness will provide an informal update on that organization's efforts to protect the Scotchman Peaks area and to have it officially designated a federal wilderness.

## **Saturday, June 23**

**8:00 am to 12:00 noon – Tour of Pack River Delta Restoration.** You will be shuttled by boat to one or more of the newly constructed islands. You will have an opportunity to observe first hand what worked and what didn't work during

the restoration effort. You can look at the native plant plantings accomplished by over 100 volunteers.

**8:00 am to 12:00 noon – Hike Morris Creek.** The Morris Creek hike is a beautiful walk into the Scotchman Peaks roadless area of about two miles one-way along the creek with a modest gain in elevation. The vegetation found along the trail is a good representation of native plants found in the moist northern Idaho western hemlock/western red cedar forests. I hiked this trail this September and counted over 100 different species of plants. The return leg will be back down the same trail so you will have an opportunity to see anything you might have missed on the way up. Group size is limited to 15 people so get your registration form in early to reserve your spot.

**12:00 noon to 1:00 pm – Lunch.** Everyone will be responsible for their own lunch.

**1:00 pm to 5:00 pm – Tour of Pack River Delta Restoration.** See 8:00 am listing above.

**1:00 pm to 5:00 pm – Hike Morris Creek.** See 8:00 am listing above.

**8:00 am to 5:00 pm – Scotchman Peak Hike.** An alternate activity for Saturday is an all-day hike to the top of Scotchman Peak I. This is a very rigorous hike. It is only four miles one-way but very steep. There is a 3,700-foot gain in elevation. If you can make the summit, the view is spectacular. Group size is limited to 15 people so get your registration form in early to reserve your spot.

**6:00 pm to 7:30 pm – Dinner meal.** We will meet at the Clark Fork Senior Center for dinner served up by the Senior Center staff. The meal will consist of fried chicken mashed potatoes, vegetable salad, and apple pie for dessert. A vegetarian meal will be available on request. The cost of the meal is \$10 per person. Your reservation needs to be received by June 1.

**7:30 pm to 9:00 pm – Annual Meeting/Presentation.** The Idaho Native Plant Society annual meeting will be held at the Clark Fork Senior Center. The meeting will start by addressing the business of the Idaho Native Plant Society. Following the formal business portion of the meeting, Kathy Cousins of the Idaho

Department of Fish and Game will give a presentation. She will describe the efforts to restore the Pack River Delta (that we toured earlier in the day). The Pack River drains a portion of the Selkirk Mountains and flows into the north end of Lake Pend Oreille. The construction of the Albeni Falls Dam on the Pend Oreille River that flows out of Lake Pend Oreille raises the level of the lake during the summer and inundates the wetlands of the Pack River Delta. As a result, the wetlands drown leaving only mud flats during the winter when the lake level is drawn down. The project Kathy managed constructed eight islands in the delta and installed a series of structures to help trap sediments moved down the Pack River. The islands were planted with nearly 50 species of native woody and herbaceous plants. Kathy will describe how the lessons learned from the Pack River Delta Restoration Project will be applied to restoration efforts of the much larger Clark Fork River Delta.

## **Sunday, June 24**

**8:00 am to 9:30 am – INPS Board Meeting.** A board meeting will be held for state INPS board members. The meeting will be held at the Clark Fork Senior Center.

**8:00 am to 2:00 pm – Caravan to Ross Creek Cedar Grove.** The Ross Creek Cedar Grove is a magnificent grove of giant western red cedars located about 45 miles from our camp site on the eastern margin of the Scotchman Peaks area in Montana. We will arrange a caravan if there are enough people interested in see this site. We will provide maps to the site so you can visit the site on your own schedule.

## **Camp Site**

Idaho Department of Fish and Game has established a camp site near the Clark Fork Drift Yard that is available to the public free of charge. The site is on a side channel of the Clark Fork River. It is a primitive camp ground that will enable our group to all camp together in a single area as a cohesive unit. The camp ground does not have a water source so the Calypso Chapter will bring in water for the use of our group. We will bring in a number of picnic tables and supplement the

toilet at the site with additional portable toilets. As a group we will need to tend to our own garbage; Calypso Chapter will bring in garbage cans for our use. Obviously, there are no RV hook-ups or electricity at the site. Alternate camping is available in the area at both private and public developed facilities. You can request information on these facilities on the registration form. The Clark Fork Drift Yard site has a very nice boat ramp and a large gravel parking area for parking boat trailer and other vehicles. The Clark Fork River Delta is an excellent area for kayaks, canoes, and small boats. Larger boats can easily access the main lake from the boat launch.

## **Contact Information**

Derek Antonelli can be contacted at [antonelli8@frontier.com](mailto:antonelli8@frontier.com) or (208) 762-2575. Alternate contact is Karen Williams, (208) 667-8790. Please complete and submit registration forms as soon as possible. Make checks payable to INPS Calypso Chapter. Mail to: INPS Calypso Chapter, c/o Derek Antonelli, 821 W Mustang Ave, Hayden, ID 83835.