



CALYPSO CHAPTER  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

## *Calypso Companion*

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Editor:

President: Derek Antonelli antonelli8@frontier.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Karen Williams karenjwilliams@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Janet Benoit e-mail: jebenoit@sisna.com

mail: P.O. Box 331, Careywood, ID 83809

phone: (208) 683-2407

The Calypso Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society meets on the first Wednesday of March, April, May and October. The Chapter schedules field trips during the Spring, Summer, and Fall. The Calypso Chapter of the INPS was founded in 1991. We continue our efforts in promoting interest in native plants and native plant communities, collecting and sharing information on all phases of botany concerning this flora. Membership is open to all interested in the native plant community.

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### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is **Wednesday, May 22, 2013**, at 7:00 p.m. at the **Idaho Fish and Game Building** at 2885 W Kathleen, Coeur d'Alene, directly across from US Forest Service Nursery on the west end of Kathleen near Atlas Road

### **Agenda**

Agenda for the meeting:

Call to order

Agenda additions or corrections

Approval of minutes as submitted in the Calypso Companion

Treasurer's report/membership status

Presentation by President Derek Antonelli on members of the Rose Family.

**DUES ARE DUE. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID FOR 2013 YET, YOU ARE IN ARREARS AS OF APRIL 1.**

## **COME AND BRING A FRIEND!!**

### **Meeting Notes of April 3, 2013**

President Derek Antonelli opened the 7 PM meeting held at the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game. He introduced Jill Roche of Mother Nature Landscape Design who gave an excellent program about bee keeping and the importance of honey bees as pollinators in our environment. Many in the audience were surprised to learn honey bees are a non native species which had been introduced to North America. Honey bees are non aggressive and because of their complex social lifestyle are the most productive pollinator of flowers, fruits, and vegetables. The introduction of toxic pesticides, insecticides and the loss of habitat have substantially reduced the honey bee population since the 1980's. Jill provided much information about "to bee or not to bee a bee keeper" for interested individuals. Stress reduction, being close to nature, honey, and having many furry friends were some of the reasons she gave for becoming a bee keeper.

Following Jill's bee presentation Derek showed slides from the lily family with identification tips and characteristics such as their having six petals. Some of the lily family include, blue camas, glacier lily, wild onion, yellow bells, trillium, fairy bells, and bear grass.

Field trips for the upcoming season were discussed with April 14th chosen as the date for a Tubb's Hill wildflower hike. Karen Williams would contact the Asbell's to determine a good date for the Q'emilin field trip and potluck to follow at the home of Laura and Bill Asbell. Shepherds Lake will be the site for a field trip on June 8th. Other possible locations for summer trips include the St. Joe River region.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Williams, Secretary

Field trip report:

April 14; Amid the sharing of hats and snuggling up of winter coats and armed with a Tubb's Hill plant list ten hardy souls braved a chill wind in search of grass widows, glacier lilies and other early spring bloomers. Part of the morning's fun was the sharing of knowledge such as the edible nature of many plants like miner's lettuce between members and newcomers alike.



Kinnikinnick



Ball-Head Waterleaf



Can you name this plant???

### **Other Meetings of interest**

**North Idaho Mycological Association** -- Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month in March, April, May, June, September, October and November. Visit their website for details.

**Spokane Chapter Washington Native Plant Society** --meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the SIERR Building, 850 E. Spokane Falls Blvd, Ste. 100, in Spokane. They also often meet for dinner before the meetings at 5:30 pm at the Bangkok Thai, 1003 E. Trent. This is about a block from the SIERR building. They don't meet in the summer, June through August, and in December.

### **Featured Plant for May, 2013: Silverweed - *Potentilla anserina*-Rose Family**

**General:** Low, usually hairy perennial, with long strawberry-like runners.

**Leaves:** In a basal cluster, long-stalked, pinnately compound, 4" – 8" long with 11-25 coarsely sharp-toothed, oblong leaflets, interspersed with smaller leaflets green or hairy above, silky-woolly and silvery beneath.

**Flowers:** Solitary, bright yellow and saucer-shaped on a long leafless stalk with 5 broad petals, 5 smaller sepals and 5 bractlets;

Blooms May to August.

**Fruits:** Corky ridged 1/16" long seed-like achenes in dense clusters covered by the calyx.

**Habitat:** Moist alkaline meadows and stream banks. Often common at low to mid elevations on dry plateaus and in arid basins.

**Notes:** The genus name *Potentilla* Latin for 'quite powerful' refers to its use as a medicinal herb. The tea, sweetened with honey, was taken to relieve sore throats and tea made with milk was used to treat diarrhea and dysentery. The leaves were also boiled to make mouthwash for soothing and healing sore gums and toothaches and to make ointment for treating skin problems. These plants are rich in tannin, which is very astringent.

The plant is also known as 'Indian sweet potato' and the edible roots have a pleasant slightly bitter taste. The flavor of these long, starchy rootstocks has been likened to that of parsnip, sweet potatoes or chestnuts. They are usually roasted, boiled or fried and then served as a hot vegetable or added to soups and stews. Silverweed roots were

sometimes eaten raw, but they can be slightly bitter. They were said to taste best in the cold months, so they were usually collected in autumn or spring. Some roots were usually dried and stored for winter.



