



CALYPSO CHAPTER
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Calypso Companion

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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.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is **Wednesday, April 6, 2016**, 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. **DUES ARE DUE for 2016.**

Agenda

Business meeting

Minutes from last meeting

Treasurer's report

Old business

Blackwell Island Native Plant and Pollinator Garden

New business

Possibility for a roadside milkweed project. Butterflies love milkweed!

Program: Highbush Cranberry by Dave Noble. Honeysuckle Family by Derek Antonelli.

Upcoming Events:

North Idaho Rare Plant Working Group, Tuesday, April 5, 9:30 am, BLM office, 3815 N Schreiber Way (just off Kathleen Ave), Coeur d'Alene.

Calypso Chapter meeting, Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 pm, Idaho Fish and Game office, 2885 W Kathleen Ave, Coeur d'Alene. Presentation topics: Highbush Cranberry by Dave Noble. Honeysuckle Family by Derek Antonelli.

Blue Creek hike, Saturday, April 16. Meet at upper Cherry Hill parking lot (just off I-90 15th Street exit) at 10:00 am to carpool. Bring water and sack lunch.

Blackwell Island Native Plant and Pollinator Garden -Friday, April 22 (Earth Day), meeting at 9 am for 2-4 hours of weeding/general clean-up. Anyone who is interested and could contribute 1 to possibly 4 hours can call LeAnn at [208-769-5036](tel:208-769-5036) or email her at labell@blm.gov. The next potential date I'm is Friday, May 13, 9 am, same basic details.

Arbor Day Celebration/Tubbs Hill hike. McEuen Park Pavilion, Saturday, April 30, 10:00 am. City of Coeur d'Alene will be planting trees and Calypso Chapter will be leading hikes around Tubbs Hill in celebration of Arbor Day. Come plant a tree and take a hike. Free lunch. Hikes start at 10:00 and 12:30.

Calypso Chapter meeting, Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 pm, Idaho Fish and Game office, 2885 W Kathleen Ave, Coeur d'Alene. Presentation topic: Update on Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project.

Tour of Wildlife Habitat Nursery/Plants of the Wild, Saturday, May 14. Meet behind Walgreens at US 95 and Best Ave to carpool at 8:30 am. Bring lunch and water.

2016 INPS Annual Meeting, "Refugia to Ridgetop", Grangeville area, Friday, June 10, thru Monday (optional), June 13. Details on INPS website (idahonativeplants.org).

Calypso Chapter meeting, Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 pm, Idaho Fish and Game office, 2885 W Kathleen Ave, Coeur d'Alene. Presentation topic: Growing Native Plants by Bob Wilson from Cedar Mountain Perennials in Athol

Meeting Notes March 2, 2016

President Derek Antonelli opened the 7 pm meeting at the office of the ID Dept. of Fish and Game. The group began with planning spring and Summer Field trips. See above.

Karen briefly discussed the Featured Plant for March –*Letharia Vulpina* –noting it's characteristics and poisonous attributes.

Derek gave a presentation on the rare plant ranking process in Idaho. He is the lead of the North Idaho Rare Plant working Group which will meet April 5, 2016 in CDA. This is an independent group formed by the INPS with participants from various state and federal agencies. The later State Conference will be held in Boise. He gave the group an overview of the ranking process of plant populations. The Natureserve tool is an Excel based plant ranking program and simplifies action needed to protect these plants locally and globally. Results of the ranking will be available to the public. Derek also will make available his discussion of the process



to any interested persons. Anyone can contribute rare plant information using forms available via the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System (IFWIS) website or participate in the Rare Plant Working Group. Individuals may also sign up to help out on rare plant surveys. Several examples of rare plants with photos and plant information were also enjoyed by the group.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30. KW

Featured Plant for April, 2016: More Lichens- Witch's Hair-*Alectoria sarmentosa*.



General: Large, hanging hair lichen, up to 15-30 cm long, pale green, intricately branched and dull, pale green but pliant and lacking a central cord. The branches terminate in minute black tips.

Habitat: Humid forest, especially on conifers; common; mountains to subalpine; Alaska to Idaho.

Reproduction: Saucer shaped fruiting bodies called apothecia which are produced by its algae fungal partner.

Notes: The genus name *Alectoria* means

Alectoria sarmentosa 'unmarried' and refers to the relative

absence of fruiting bodies in many of these lichens. Common witch's hair however is often fertile. Look for tiny brown saucers scattered among the branches. The species name '*sarmentosa*' is Latin for 'twiggy'. Angel hair (*Ramalina thrausta*) is similar but its branches are more delicate and terminate in minute, green hooks (use a hand lens to see them). It is listed as a rare North Idaho lichen. Bring a hand lens and plant guide to the next meeting and we will look at some lichen specimens. Karen Williams