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## Dates to remember

**June 21-24, 2013:**  
INPS & American Penstemon Society Annual Meeting, Boise

**August 30, 2013:**  
Deadline for entries in this year's INPS photo contest. See p.4 for information.

**Oct. 23-24, 2013:**  
26th Idaho Rare Plant Conference in Boise. See p.4 for information and call for presentations.



IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

May 2013  
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Articles contributed to Sage Notes reflect the views of the authors and are not an official position of the Idaho Native Plant Society.



## Roosevelt Elementary School's Outdoor Classroom: A 2012 Education, Research & Inventory Success Story

By Holly Beck, Pahove Chapter, BLM Botanist

Roosevelt Elementary School thanks the Idaho Native Plant Society for its support of an outdoor classroom. The outdoor classroom is in the front of this newly remodeled 100 year old public school in the east end of Boise. Parents, students, teachers and neighbors spent many summer evenings creating a space for outdoor education and appreciation of Idaho's native plants. Lawn was removed and a low berm was created to define the classroom space. A meandering path flanked by native plants was built to lead students from the school into the classroom. Boulders were staggered around the perimeter to provide seating and perching spots for students.

Our native plants showed rapid growth and the students enjoyed bee-watching at the flowering asters. Students had requested plants that are hosts to pollinators and we fulfilled that by planting species such as tufted evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*), coyote mint (*Monardella odoratissima*), aromatic aster (*Aster oblongifolia/Symphotrichum oblongifolium*), cut leaf daisy or dwarf mountain fleabane (*Erigeron compositus*), and penstemons (*Penstemon fruticosus*, *P. strictus* and *P. eatonii*). Plants that play a role in Idaho history or have ethnobotanical significance were also planted to supplement the curriculum. These included syringa (*Philadelphus lewisii*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), and Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*).

Ongoing projects associated with the outdoor classroom include a partnership with Boise State University and the first grade class to create metal plant labels that feature pollinators. The Boise School District's Dehryl Dennis Vocational Technical School is collaborating with us to create metal Idaho animal silhouettes and a classroom sign in the shape of a bighorn sheep ram. The Boise District BLM is creating a geology reference collection that will be placed in the garden.

We appreciate the help from the Idaho Native Plant Society that made it possible for us to have a diverse collection of native plants in our outdoor classroom. The students and staff will have years of enjoyment from their new garden.

Holly Beck had several roles in the project: she is the garden coordinator for the parent teacher association at the school, she is the parent of 3rd and 4th grade students, and she is a botanist with the Bureau of Land Management.

Photo: Who knew there were so many types of leaf hairs? A student takes a closer look in the outdoor classroom. Photo by M. J. Byrne, BLM Boise District

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## IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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[www.idahonativeplants.org](http://www.idahonativeplants.org)

### INPS BOARD MEMBERS

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Janet Bala (Sawabi)

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Jody Hull (Pahove)  
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## *Greetings from the President*

Dear Idaho Native Plant Society Members,

What an exciting time of year! The temperatures are warming, new leaves are appearing on the trees and new growth, buds and some flowers are appearing on many plants. Soon we will be able to wander the wild areas of Idaho and see our favorite native plants in bloom.

We are all looking forward to those chapter-sponsored field trips and also to the INPS annual meeting on June 21-23 in Boise. The annual meeting will provide an opportunity to see many of our native Idaho penstemons, including some endemic and rare ones. Having the expertise of the members of the American Penstemon Society is a real benefit for us this year. I'm sure that we will also see many other native plants on our field trips during the conference. Don't forget to register for the conference as soon as possible. The links to the registration form can be found on the home page of the INPS website, [www.idahonativeplants.org](http://www.idahonativeplants.org), and of the American Penstemon Society website: [www.apsdev.org](http://www.apsdev.org).

In 2014 the Eriogonum Society will hold its annual meeting in Idaho. Both the INPS board and the Eriogonum Society board have approved the concept of holding a joint meeting. Much work needs to be done to assure that such a meeting will benefit both societies, but we are optimistic that the details can be worked out. This will again provide a rare opportunity for INPS members.

Shortly you will all receive a ballot for the election of NPS president and secretary. There are also bylaw changes approved by the INPS board that require membership approval. Please return your ballot as quickly as possible. The election results will be announced at the annual meeting.

We have many ongoing issues involving native plants in Idaho. Conservation of our native flora is very important to us. If you are aware of projects that may harm native plant populations or improve conditions for our native plants, please let the board know. We will have our conservation committee review the projects and provide guidance to the board on any action we should take.

Thanks to you all for your support of INPS. I hope to see many of you at our annual meeting in Boise. The very best to you all!

*Lamar Orton*  
INPS President

## *A message from the Editor*

Once again I want to extend my apologies to the members and subscribers to Sage Notes for the delays we've been experiencing in getting Sage Notes out. I am continuing to have back problems that limit my ability to spend long hours at the computer at the same time my contract work has increased. I am also starting graduate school in the fall at BSU, so my time will be even more limited. I have told the Board that I have to resign as editor and this is my last issue. This has been an interesting but challenging couple of years, but I am happy to have been able to make a contribution to INPS and its mission.

I have submitted recommendations for changes at the last few board meetings and we will be discussing the future of Sage Notes during the annual board and membership meetings. The board is also working on a membership survey get broader input about where you would like to see INPS go in the future with regards to publications and a number of other issues.

If you have an interest in being part of the Sage Notes Committee, or even taking over as editor, please let the board know as soon as possible. Thanks for the opportunity to serve INPS and for all the work of the Sage Notes contributors and reviewers!

*Jane Rohling*

# INPS State News

## Idaho Native Plant Society/American Penstemon Society Meeting, June 21-24

**By Dr. Stephen Love, 2013 Annual Meeting Chair, Sawabi Chapter**

I hope you are all making your plans to come to Idaho and scout out some penstemons with us in June. We are certainly excited to host y'all. Meeting plans are coming together well.

There is still a little too much snow to get up in the hills and check the field trip sites. We hope to get on with our final scouting trips shortly. We have had adequate winter moisture to give us the potential for a great wildflower show. If Mother Nature gives us a little spring moisture to carry us to our meeting date, we should be treated to a memorable display. (*Note: This article was written in April. There probably are no field trip sites blocked by snow now!*)

Registration is open for the joint annual meeting of the Idaho Native Plant Society and the American Penstemon Society and we have quite a number of people who already have signed up. You can get registration information on both organizations' websites: [www.idahonativeplants.org](http://www.idahonativeplants.org), or [www.apsdev.org](http://www.apsdev.org). Call or email me (slope at uidaho dot edu) if you have questions about meeting arrangements or accommodations.

Pulling off one of these meetings is never trouble-free, and this year is no exception. I need to inform you of one change to our plans. We arranged with the Owyhee Plaza Hotel to be the center of activities. Representatives of the hotel called us recently and informed us that they are selling the building and converting the guest rooms to condominiums. So, as of May, the hotel will no longer accept reservations for lodging. They will, however, maintain their meeting room services and we will still have all of our meetings and presentations at the Owyhee Plaza. What will be missing is your opportunity to stay in the guest rooms at this interesting, historical old building.

### So, here's the scoop on what to do...

Make room reservations at another nearby motel. We have provided a list of possibilities in the registration materials posted on the web sites. We have made arrangements for the Safari Inn (one block away from the Owyhee Plaza) to serve as our main guest lodging facility. The toll-free reservation number is 1-800-541-6556. The rates are comparable or slightly less than those quoted by the Owyhee Plaza. I often stay at the Safari Inn when I am on business in Boise and have found it to be a nice place. If you already have reservations at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel, they have agreed to transfer those reservations to the Safari Inn. Hopefully, you have been informed of this change. Again, contact me if you have questions.

I am getting excited for the meeting and to see all of my old friends (meaning friends I have known a while, not gray-haired geezers; but maybe the difference is indistinguishable). See you in June.



*Continued on p.4*

**Sage Notes**, the newsletter of the Idaho Native Plant Society, is published in February, May, September, and December.

**Current and recent past issues** of *Sage Notes* are posted in full color online at [www.idahonativeplants.org/news/Newsletters.aspx](http://www.idahonativeplants.org/news/Newsletters.aspx) along with a searchable index of 2006–2010 issues. We are scanning and uploading older issues as time allows.

**Submissions:** Members and non-members may submit material for publication. Relevant articles, essays, poetry, news and announcements, photographs and artwork are welcome. Authors, artists, and photographers retain copyright to their work and are credited in *Sage Notes*. Send all submissions electronically to the editor at the link below.

**Submission guidelines** are posted on the INPS web site: [www.idahonativeplants.org/news/Newsletters.aspx](http://www.idahonativeplants.org/news/Newsletters.aspx). Please provide a phone number and/or email address with your submission. Submission deadlines are January 8, April 1, August 1, and November 1.

**Advertising:** Advertisements help reach environmentally-minded, native-plant-loving customers and help support INPS. Prices: 1/8 page = \$5, 1/4 page = \$8, 1/2 page = \$15. Submit ads to the editor electronically (JPEG, TIFF, PSD, or PDF files).

**Send payment to:**  
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**Sage Notes editor:**  
Jane Rohling, [sage-editor@idahonativeplants.org](mailto:sage-editor@idahonativeplants.org)  
Phone: (208) 938-3529

Dwarf penstemon (*Penstemon pumilus*) in Birch Creek Valley, Idaho. Photo: Michael Mancuso

2013 Meeting Coordinator  
Stephen Love  
slope at uidaho.edu  
1-208-397-4181



Penstemon photo with creative effects.  
Photo: Jane Rohling



Penstemon and bumblebee pollinator, Idaho Botanical Garden, Boise.  
Photo: Jane Rohling

### REMINDER: 2013 INPS Photo Contest

It's SUMMER and all of us plant lovers know what that means. Tender shoots and leaves have emerged, plants are flowering. Balsamroot is blooming in my native plant garden. So it is time to get out into the field and take some wonderful photos of those plants that we all love!

The photo contest rules and entry form can be found on the Idaho Native Plant Society website at [www.idahonativeplants.org](http://www.idahonativeplants.org), under Quick Links on the right side of the home page. Please only send photos of Idaho native plants, habitats or plant-pollinator interactions. The deadline for entries is August 30, 2013.

Thank you for taking your time to submit photo contributions. Questions concerning the rules or entry form can be sent to: [inps-photo@idahonativeplants.org](mailto:inps-photo@idahonativeplants.org).

### 26th Idaho Rare Plant Conference: Save the date Oct. 23 & 24, 2013

#### **By Beth Colket, Pahove Chapter**

The 26th Idaho Rare Plant Conference will be held October 23 and 24, 2013, in Boise. The conference is sponsored by the Pahove Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) and is held every two years in Boise. It is a gathering of professional and lay botanists, native plant devotees, and wildflower enthusiasts from across Idaho. It is always a great chance to meet with friends and colleagues and to learn the latest on rare plants of Idaho.

One full day of the meeting will be devoted to:

- discussing the updated INPS Rare Plant List Methods recently approved by the INPS Board, and which will require ratification by 2013 Rare Plant Conference attendees;
- summarizing the INPS Rare Plant List and rankings for species evaluated by the regional Rare Plant Working Groups (RPWGs); and
- presentations on issues relevant to rare plant conservation (see Call for Presentations).

The other day will be devoted to a field trip to a local area. The location is yet to be determined.

There will also be a Southwest Idaho Rare Plant Working Group (SWID RPWG) meeting prior to the conference, on October 22. Other RPWGs may also choose to meet on this day.

The conference is a great chance to meet others with similar interests. Many of the attendees and speakers are government employees, academicians, or private consultants, while some are members of the general public. Attendees will have ample time for networking and discussions at the Tuesday evening social, Wednesday dinner, and meals and breaks throughout the two days of conference activities.

Current and archived Rare Plant Lists, and the methods approved in 2013 for creating the lists, are on the INPS website: [www.idahonativeplants.org/rpc/RarePlantList.aspx](http://www.idahonativeplants.org/rpc/RarePlantList.aspx)

### Rare Plant Conference call for presentations

For the 2013 Rare Plant Conference, we are requesting presentations from anyone who has information to share on issues relevant to rare plant conservation. The three options include 20-minute presentations, 10-minute "To the Point" presentations, and posters. Student papers and posters are especially encouraged. Abstracts and associated information must be submitted by September 20, 2013 to Beth Colket, [beth.colket at powereng dot com](mailto:beth.colket@powereng.com). Authors will be notified about the selection of their presentation by September 27, 2013.

For those interested in presenting during the "To the Point" session (10 minute presentations), you need only submit your name, contact information, presentation title, and a brief presentation description (2-3 sentences). The "To the Point" presentations are good opportunities to update colleagues on interesting observations that could lead to future research or projects you are

initiating, have in progress, or for which preliminary results exist.

To present a 20-minute presentation or a poster presentation, please fill out the Call for Presentations form on the INPS website, [www.idahonativeplants.org/rpc/Conference.aspx](http://www.idahonativeplants.org/rpc/Conference.aspx). The form can also be e-mailed upon request. These longer presentations are ideal for more extensive research that is publishable.

## Obituary for Dr. A. Scott Earle

**By Mike Mancuso, Pahove Chapter**

Dr. Arthur Scott Earle, plastic and reconstructive surgeon, medical historian, author, wildflower enthusiast, and photographer, passed away peacefully at home in Boise, Idaho on November 27, 2012. He had fought a courageous seven year battle with multiple myeloma.

Scott was born in Lexington, Massachusetts on December 13, 1924 to Mildred Scott and Arthur Hinkley Earle. He attended the progressive Arnold School in Pembroke, MA before enrolling in Harvard College in 1942. In February of 1943, Scott enlisted in the United States Army's newly-formed 10th Mountain Division, an elite division of mountaineering ski troops. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and was sent to the Philippines with the 81st Infantry Division. Immediately following Japan's surrender, he landed in northern Japan as part of the American occupation forces. He spent nine months there before returning to Harvard and graduating cum laude with an AB in Biology in 1948. Scott was accepted to Harvard Medical School in 1949. Following his graduation in 1953, he did his internship and residency in general surgery at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston.

In 1959, Scott accepted a position at the Sun Valley Hospital in Sun Valley, Idaho, a mountain setting he loved dearly. The move allowed him to raise his family in an idyllic setting, participate in the outdoor activities that he cherished, and establish a much needed surgical practice across a wide portion of rural Idaho. He loved driving to remote corners of the state to help people, often when their lives lay in the balance. His passion for providing medical help to others in need became the dominant theme of his career.

In 1970, Scott returned to residency at University Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio to become a plastic and reconstructive surgeon. Later, as Director of Plastic Surgery at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, he helped pioneer micro-surgical and limb salvage techniques. Along with associate, Dr. Catherine Vlastou, he built a vibrant practice in an area of the city with a high rate of industrial accidents.

Throughout his career, Scott remained dedicated to teaching and humanitarian work. As a professor at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, he was known for his inspirational teaching style. During the 1980s and 1990s, he traveled on teaching and medical missions to the Arizona Navajo Indian reservation, Peru, Guatemala, Greece, and Armenia.

Scott authored numerous books and articles on various subjects. His *Surgery in America* detailed the advancement of surgery in our country's history. His *Yerevan Journal* recalled his medical mission to Armenia following a 1988 earthquake. Most recently, Scott co-authored *Lewis and Clark Green World: The Expedition and its Plants* and *Idaho Mountain Wildflowers: A Photographic Compendium*. These books combined three of his great loves: mountains, botany and photography.

Following retirement in 1992, Scott and his wife, Barbara, returned to Idaho where he divided his time between Boise and Sun Valley. Despite a diagnosis of painful degenerative cancer in 2006, Scott remained active. Until the spring of 2012, he continued to take long hikes in the mountains, stopping occasionally to photograph and catalog the mountain flowers he loved. Anyone who joined him on his wildflower walking tours can attest to his breadth of knowledge and desire to share his expertise.

The Earle family requests that any donations in his memory be made to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation ([www.themmr.org](http://www.themmr.org)) or to Boise's St. Luke's Hospice.



Michael Mancuso discusses a wildflower with Dr. Earle.



Dr. Earle engrossed in his passions for wildflowers and photography during a field trip in Owyhee County, 2009. Photo: Michael Mancuso

# Intermountain Native Plant Summit VII

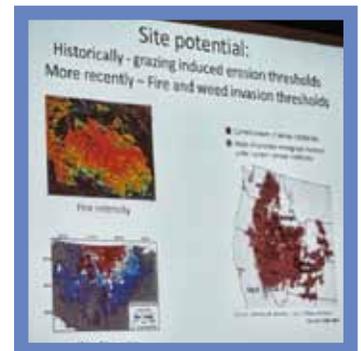
**By Caroline Morris, Pahove Chapter**

Several INPS members from Pahove Chapter, as well as Dr. Steve Love (and perhaps INPS members from other chapters) attended the free, open to the public, Intermountain Native Plant Summit VII (Summit), held March 26-27, 2013 at Boise State University (BSU). Summit sponsors were the BSU Department of Biological Sciences and USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Some speakers were recruited from staff working for ARS, U. S. Forest Service, NRCS, and INL; others represented universities including Brigham Young University, Utah State University as well as schools in Nevada, California and Oregon. Still others represented state environmental /resource agencies or groups as well as industry seed companies.

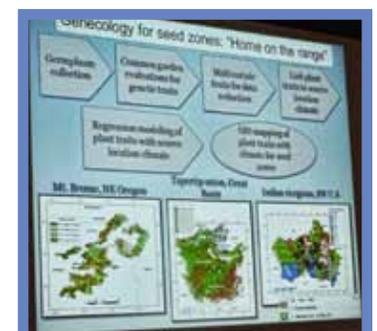
Topics included functional restoration, sagebrush: an intermountain icon, seed transfer issues, native plants and plant materials, restoration in the anthropogenic (i.e., human-centered) world, seeds and seedlings, and habitat. Different talks balanced practical versus theoretical approaches. The fascinating presentation on biological controls of cheatgrass by weed-suppressing bacteria saddened most of the audience when we learned that this bacterial control is likely still years from commercial release.

The Summit's organization was superb and efficient; speakers were top-notch for both their knowledge and presentation skills, and many handouts clarified speakers' talks. Most of us met new friends among the room full of about 150 plant aficionados, mainly from Idaho, Utah, Nevada and Oregon. A poster session featured several elaborate, beautifully-prepared topical presentations.

This Summit is an annual early spring event. If you missed it this year, we encourage you to find time to attend it in 2014. This is a terrific educational resource and fine use of our tax dollars.



These photos are just a small sampling of the diverse topics presented at the Intermountain Native Plant Summit.  
*Photos by Jane Rohling*



**•Seed zones link "local" genetic variation with source climates for apparent adaptation**

- Presumed fit with other plant and animal species
- Promotes restoration with diverse plant populations needed for evolution with climate change
- Some species easier to establish than others
- Not traditional, infrastructure lacking

**•Selection and breeding can provide wide adaption but the gene pool is also narrowed.**

- Seed production and establishment can be enhanced especially for difficult to grow species
- Uncertain interactions with local ecotypes, other species
- Perhaps the only workable approach so far

USDA United States Department of Agriculture  
National Reforestation, Nurseries, and Genetic Resources Program

## Coeur d'Alene Nursery: Growing Tomorrow's Forests Today

**Draft**

The Forest Stewardship Act (FSA) requires that nurseries used for reforestation be able to provide seedlings that are genetically diverse and adapted to local conditions. This is a challenge because many of the trees that are used for reforestation are not native to the area and may not be well adapted to local conditions.

Native tree seedlings are more likely to survive and grow in local conditions than non-native seedlings. This is because native trees have evolved over time to be adapted to the local climate and soil conditions. Native trees also have a better chance of being accepted by local wildlife and insects.

Native tree seedlings are also more likely to be genetically diverse. This is because native trees have been growing in the area for a long time and have had a chance to evolve and adapt to local conditions. Native trees also have a better chance of being genetically diverse because they have been exposed to a wider range of environmental conditions over time.

Native tree seedlings are also more likely to be genetically diverse. This is because native trees have been growing in the area for a long time and have had a chance to evolve and adapt to local conditions. Native trees also have a better chance of being genetically diverse because they have been exposed to a wider range of environmental conditions over time.

### Seeds of Success

**SEEDS OF SUCCESS**

**Seeds of Success (SOS)** was established in 2001 by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Millennium Seed Bank (MSB). It is now an ongoing program with many partners that collect, conserve, and develop native plant materials for restoration in the United States. SOS and the NPGS are working to collect and conserve more than 8000 new native plant species.

## Domestication of Native Plants and Commercialization of Products for Landscaping Applications

Dr. Stephen Love, University of Idaho, Aberdeen R & E Center, Aberdeen, ID (alove@uidaho.edu)  
Rich Drick, Conservation Seeding and Restoration, Inc. Kimberly, ID (rich@csr-inc.com)

**Evaluation**  
Evaluation consists of an establishment phase and a field evaluation phase. The objective is to identify plants with superior horticultural traits.

**Establishment** Involves seed germination, seedling production, intermediate greenhouse transplanting, and field establishment. This process ultimately places plants into field selection conditions but also helps determine which plants (species) can tolerate greenhouse production practices.

**Field Evaluation** Begins in earnest the second summer and includes assessment of foliage and flower aesthetics, disease percent, hardiness, vigor, health, and resistance to pests.

**Selection**  
Plant selection is the core of the domestication process. It consists of negative selection pressure (discarding inferior plants), harvesting seed from superior plants, and regenerative improvement in the form of a mass selection procedure (generally 2 to 3 improvement cycles). The objectives are to concentrate genes for superior plant performance and to sufficiently narrow the genetic base of accessions to create an acceptably homogeneous product.

**Increase**  
Once superior accessions of native plants have been identified and established, they are planted under annual selection in breeder seed blocks on the UE's Aberdeen R & E Center. Establishment in breeder blocks is also used as an additional selection/increase step.

**Breeder seed** is used to establish foundation seed blocks in preparation for commercial production. Commercial quantities of seed are produced in foundation blocks at a seed facility owned and operated by Conservation Seeding & Restoration, Inc. in Filer, Idaho.

**Marketing**  
In 2011, the University of Idaho formed a partnership with Conservation Seeding and Restoration, Inc. (CSR) to market products developed through the native plant domestication project. CSR spun off a subsidiary company called Native Roots to escape the landscape-related elements of their business. Thirty-three potential native plant landscape products have been transferred to CSR. Launch of the Native Roots product line is anticipated for during 2014 with the release of the first 10 native plant species.

**10 Species Scheduled for 2014 Native Roots Product Launch**

- Artemisia tridentata
- Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus
- Corethrosporum bicolor
- Corethrosporum parryi
- Corethrosporum purpureum
- Corethrosporum villosum

**Introduction**  
In 2005, in response to a need for a larger industry, wild plants of western country landscape plants, researchers at the University of Idaho's Aberdeen R & E Center initiated a native plant domestication project. Five programmatic steps are employed to prepare plants for customer use, including plant collection, evaluation, selection, increase, and marketing. These steps are intended to place superior forms of native plants in the hands of retailers, landscapers, and consumers. Provided here is a summary and description of inherent to accepted plants and future plants resulting in native plant domestication.

**Plant Collection**  
To ensure availability for research, a broad definition of terms, specifically regarding plants originating within the Intermountain West, was adopted for this project. Accession of native plants are collected through personal acquisition or in exchange with and purchases from other collectors. Native species are usually acquired as small samples of seed, but occasionally collections have been made as stem or root cuttings.

To date, 2374 accessions of native plants, representing over 800 species, have been imported (collected or purchased) for evaluation and selection. Collections made early in the project history were concentrated within personal forbs and grasses, particularly the Tree Shrub Area within the species Panamint Cholla, Englemann's Silvercholla, Archaean Parrot, Oenothera, and Yucca. In subsequent years, collector activities have been expanded to include additional grasses and shrubs, and a few tree species.

**Flow of Native Resources Through the US Native Plant Domestication Project**

Year of Collection	Number of Accessions/Species at Eight Institution Sites	Accessions	Species
2005-2006	2,174	940	140
2007-2008	2,011	915	130
2009-2010	1,000	400	60
2011-2012	500	200	30
2013-2014	100	50	10
2015-2016	100	50	10

InPS members may recognize some of the Stephen Love's (Sawabi Chapter) work on Domestication of Native Plants in the poster at left.

## ERIG needs YOU!

Want to help INPS support more great projects?

The Education, Research, and Inventory Grant (ERIG) program relies on funding from various sources such as Rare Plant Conferences, workshops, and private donations.

If you, your business, or your employer would like to make a donation to INPS to help fund these worthwhile ERIG projects, send your tax deductible donations to:

ERIG Program, INPS  
P.O. Box 9451  
Boise, Idaho 83707

Checks should be made out to INPS. Please be sure to specify that your donation is to be used for ERIG projects.

Thank you for your help!

Janet Bala  
ERIG Committee Chair  
[balajane@isu.edu](mailto:balajane@isu.edu)

### Interested in applying for an ERIG grant in 2014?

Details and an application form are available at <http://www.idahonativeplants.org/erig/Erig.aspx>. A list of past ERIG recipients is also posted.

## Roosevelt Elementary School's Outdoor Classroom

Continued from p.1



Roosevelt Elementary School was awarded an Education, Research, and Inventory Grant (ERIG) of \$340 in 2012.

Photos by M.J. Byrne, BLM Boise District

**Generous donations through the link on the ERIG web page allowed INPS to award more project grants in 2013. Many thanks to all who contributed!**



*Fuzzy-tongue penstemon (P. eriantherus) in Hells Canyon.*



Photo: Jane Rohling



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# Idaho Mountain Wildflowers: A Photographic Compendium (Third Edition)

*Book review by Michael Mancuso, Pahove Chapter*

Building upon the first two editions, the 2012 publication of *Idaho Mountain Wildflowers: A Photographic Compendium—Third Edition* by Dr. A. Scott Earle and Jane Lundin includes beautiful images and lively descriptive accounts for nearly 500 Idaho wildflowers—roughly 15% of the state's flora. The book's diversity includes showy, widespread favorites such as arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*) and western or Brown's peony (*Paeonia brownii*); ground-hugging beauties such as alpine bitterroot (*Lewisia pygmaea*) and bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*); and several species found in Idaho and nowhere else in the world, such as Douglass' spring-parsley (*Cymopterus douglassii*) and Stanley Creek draba (*Draba trichocarpa*). True to its title, most species in the book are at home in the mountains, but quite a few extend to valley or foothill elevations. The third edition covers more plants than the previous two, including several additions from northern Idaho.

Plants are grouped by plant family, not the system of flower color used in many other wildflower books. This taxonomic approach may make plant identification a bit slower for folks just beginning to learn the wildflowers and unfamiliar with the aster, pea, mustard, and other plant families. But anyone graduated past the novice stage will appreciate the arrangement of related species grouped together. The book includes representatives from 51 plant families, with the aster family coming in first place with photos and accounts for 90 species.

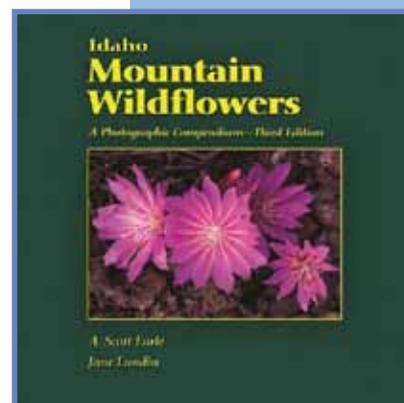
Diversity within several of Idaho's largest plant genera is highlighted by the side-by-side coverage of multiple related species. For example, the book displays 10 species of buttercup (*Ranunculus* spp.), 10 species of penstemon (*Penstemon* spp.), and 9 species of wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.). The majority of species accounts include rangewide distribution and habitat information. They may also relay information about the plant's name, history, medicinal properties, or other fun facts. It will not fit in your pocket, but the softcover book is compact (8.5 x 8.5 inches) and light enough (under 2 pounds) to have in your daypack, making it a handy companion to help you identify and learn about that unknown plant along the trail.

Dr. Earle passed away at the age of 87, just a few months after the book's publication (see his obituary on page 5). He lived an accomplished life, and the enjoyment people receive using *Idaho Mountain Wildflowers* will be one part of his legacy. Co-author Jane Lundin met Scott in Sun Valley in the 1990s, and over the years they logged thousands of hours together botanizing and photographing Idaho's wildflowers. Jane told me they especially enjoyed poking around seemingly barren rocky areas looking for tiny botanical treasures found growing in high, harsh conditions. One of their favorite places was a long, steep jumble of rocks leading to a pass above a small secluded lake in the Smoky Mountains. Gentians (*Gentian* sp.) and shooting stars (*Dodecatheon* sp.) surrounded the lake and rock-fringe (*Epilobium obcordatum*) thrived in the rockslide zone. *Idaho Mountain Wildflowers: A Photographic Compendium* is the reward we get to enjoy from Scott's and Jane's labor of love seeking common and elusive Idaho wildflowers.

The book, priced at \$19.95, can be purchased directly from Barbara Earle at (208) 344-0079, or her e-mail: [larkspur11@cablone.net](mailto:larkspur11@cablone.net). Copies are also available from Farcountry Press: (800) 821-3874 or [www.Farcountrypress.com](http://www.Farcountrypress.com). Other options include Iconoclast Books in Ketchum and [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).



Scott Earle with longspur lupine (*Lupinus arbustus*) on one of his botanical forays in the Owyhee Mountains of Idaho, 2009. Photo: Michael Mancuso



# Creating the Forb Seedling Identification Guide for the Inland Northwest

By Pamela Pavek, Conservation Agronomist, NRCS Pullman Plant Materials Center, White Pine Chapter

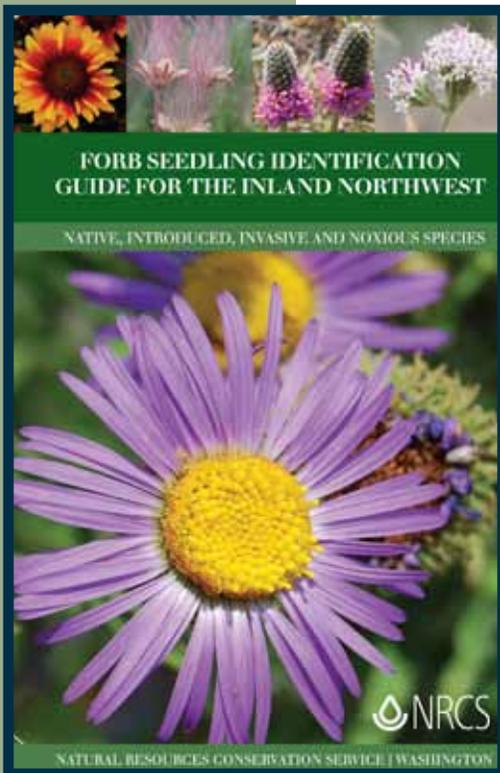
Conservation agencies in the Inland Northwest, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Conservation Districts, state fish and game departments, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are actively promoting plantings to create or enhance habitat for pollinators and other wildlife species. Habitat creation and enhancement typically involves planting more flowering shrubs and forbs in order to increase the availability of food, which is in the form of pollen and nectar for pollinators, and seed and fruit for wildlife. Shrubs are often transplanted as seedlings due to the difficult techniques required for seed germination and their slow growth. Forbs are often planted by seed because the method is more economical than transplanting and requires less initial work.

Troubles may arise from planting forbs with seed. Disturbance to the weed seed bank during seed bed preparation causes a flush of weeds, and differentiating the weed seedlings from the forb seedlings can be difficult. An NRCS field staff member proclaimed how much easier it would be to determine the success of new plantings if we had an identification guide for forb seedlings and the idea for this guide was born.

I asked Brenda Erhardt and Trish Heekin of the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District, and Rich Old of XID Services if they would co-author this guide because of their extraordinary knowledge of local plants. I also asked Jennifer Van Eps, Visual Information Specialist with Washington NRCS in Spokane, if she would be willing to use her graphic design skills to assemble our technical information into a professional-looking document. All agreed to participate and the result was a truly collaborative effort.

We started this guide by first assembling two lists of possible species: a list of weeds, which included invasive and noxious species, and a list of native and introduced species used in conservation plantings. Trish Heekin also requested we include native species that are often mistaken as weeds, such as wavy-leaf thistle (*Cirsium undulatum*). The lists of possible species were circulated among conservationists throughout the Inland Northwest region, and they voted for the species they thought were the most important. We knew we could not include all of the species due to printing costs, so we set a limit of about 150 species. The weeds list was pared down from 135 to 64 species, and the native and introduced species list was pared down from 118 species to 95. We grouped species within the same genus and similar morphological characteristics on the same page to save room for other species.

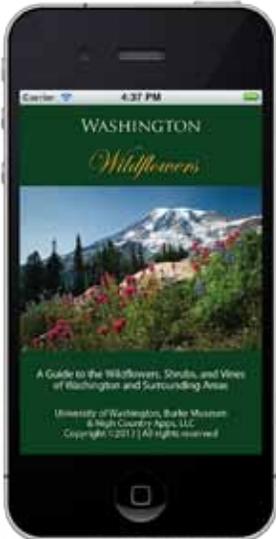
Once we had the final list of species, we started searching for seedling photos. I had seedling photos from plants I was growing for research and demonstration purposes, and Brenda Erhardt had photos from working with Jacie Jensen at Thorn Creek Native Seed Farm. For the remaining species, I first looked for seed to grow in the greenhouse. I acquired seed from the USDA Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) that manages national germplasm collections. GRIN does not maintain all the species I needed, so I turned to the Bugwood Images Database System, developed by the University of Georgia. Rich Old happened to be the photographer of many of the photos I wanted on the Bugwood site and he generously provided higher-resolution images. I also utilized the Bugwood site and Rich Old's collection for



photos of the plants' mature forms and distinguishing characteristics. Additional photos came from Ben Legler at the University of Washington Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, and from collections belonging to Brenda, Trish and me. Jennifer Van Eps was instrumental in finding the remaining photos from Matt Lavin at the University of Montana.

The next steps included determining and defining the categories for describing plant characteristics, writing plant descriptions, sending everything to Jennifer, and numerous rounds of edits. The expertise of Brenda, Trish, Rich, and other plant enthusiasts such as Dave Skinner ensured we produced a technically sound document.

The guide serves as a condensed reference to many of the common weeds and wildflowers in the Inland Northwest region, in addition to being useful for certifying new conservation plantings. Hard copies are, unfortunately, in short supply due to the lack of federal funding. An electronic copy is available for download from this site: <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/pubs/wapmcpu11331.pdf>.



### **New Washington Wildflowers app for Apple, Android, and Kindle mobile devices**

The University of Washington Herbarium at the Burke Museum, the authors of Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest and High Country Apps have partnered to produce the new Washington Wildflowers wildflower identification app for iOS and Android mobile devices. The app provides images, species descriptions, range maps, bloom period, and technical descriptions for more than 850 common wildflowers, shrubs, and vines that occur in Washington and adjacent areas of British Columbia, Idaho, and Oregon. For more information go to <http://www.washington.edu/news/2013/04/10/burke-museum-herbarium-launches-new-wildflower-app/>

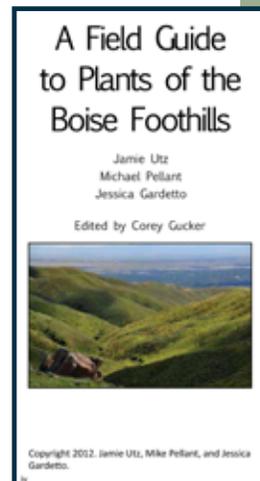
### **Field Guide to Plants of the Boise Foothills**

The Healthy Hills Initiative with support from a host of local, state and federal agencies and institutions, published a new field guide to plants of the Boise Foothills. Initial funding only covered a small number of printed copies, but the good news is you can download the publication in PDF form at <http://www.healthyhills.org/images/Others/BoiseFoothillsPlantGuide.pdf>

This is a very well organized publication with excellent information and photographs and it would be a great book to have in print or on your smart phone or tablet for easy use in the field. Unlike other guides to the plants of the Boise Foothills, this book contains native, non-native, and invasive species. Check it out!



Sample pages from the new Forb Seedling Identification Guide demonstrate the book's value.



# New INPS Rare Plant List Methods

*By Beth Colket*

The Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) Rare Plant List is a compilation of the plant species that INPS considers to be rare or of conservation concern in Idaho. For more than 20 years, INPS sponsored the annual Rare Plant Conference (RPC) to review the INPS Rare Plant List. Participants added or removed species from the list, or modified the conservation rank based on information exchanged in a group consensus process that included professional botanists and other plant enthusiasts from across Idaho and adjoining states. The process and associated results benefit greatly from the shared knowledge and perspectives of many people. Results of the RPC are viewed as a valuable source of information on Idaho's rare plant species by federal and state agencies responsible for their management and conservation.

After the 2011 Rare Plant Conference, a group of Idaho botanists formed the INPS Rare Plant List Steering Committee. The formation of the committee was approved by the INPS Board of Directors and participation was solicited from across the state. The purpose of this group was to develop objectives and to review methods for the INPS Rare Plant List to make it relevant, useful, and efficient. In summary, these objectives were for INPS to:

- have a single rank for Idaho to decrease confusion. This will make it easier for federal agencies in determining their own sensitive species lists, which do provide legal protection for those plant species;
- work with the Idaho Natural Heritage Program (IDNHP) to create NatureServe ranks so that they are developed faster and so that INPS can collaboratively contribute and have some ownership in the rank that we as INPS accept;
- collaborate more closely with IDNHP and share the responsibility and workload of ranking Idaho's species;
- retain independence from IDNHP by maintaining its own list of rare plants;
- keep the work of the INPS to a minimum (assuming that realistically we won't get the commitment from botanists to compile information and rank species); and
- create a more transparent and repeatable method.

The IDNHP, which is part of the NatureServe Network, has the responsibility for assigning and updating NatureServe ranks. In 2009, NatureServe published the NatureServe Rank Calculator, which the IDNHP now uses for ranking species, while also incorporating information from the RPC. Due to limited resources, the IDNHP is only able to assign or update conservation ranks to a few of Idaho's high priority plant species using the NatureServe Rank Calculator. The NatureServe Rank system is supported by many federal agencies as a primary source of rare plant conservation ranks.

On December 6, 2012, the nine INPS Rare Plant List Steering Committee members in attendance unanimously decided to make the following recommendation to the INPS Board:

1. INPS will no longer implement its own rare plant ranking system.
2. INPS, instead, will maintain a list of rare plants; and rank plants using the NatureServe Rank Calculator via Rare Plant Working Groups.

Beth Corbin and Anne Halford introduced the idea of INPS adopting Rare Plant Working Groups (RPWGs), which they both participated in when they worked at prior botanical positions in California. They both said that these RPWGs were one of the most beneficial parts of the California Native Plant Society, and all the meeting participants agreed that it would be a useful addition to INPS.

On January 23, 2013, the INPS Board of Directors approved the recommendations of the INPS Rare Plant List Steering Committee, with the caveat that the Board's decision would require final approval by attendees of the 2013 Rare Plant Conference (October 23-24, 2013).

Initially, the INPS Rare Plant List Steering Committee recommended that there simply be a list of species designated as rare, but the Board is requesting that there be a discussion of whether there should be a separate "Review" category.

The new INPS Rare Plant List methods are described in more detail at the Rare Plant Lists link on the INPS website [www.idahonativeplants.org/rpc/RarePlantList.aspx](http://www.idahonativeplants.org/rpc/RarePlantList.aspx).

### Rare Plant Working Groups (RPWGs)

Rare Plant Working Groups (RPWGs) for Northern Idaho, Southwest Idaho, and Southeast Idaho are in the process of being developed. These RPWGs are to be used for communicating via listserv (currently under development) as needed throughout the year, and at meetings determined by each RPWG. RPWGs provide a forum for sharing information about Idaho's rare plants, coordinating botanical expertise and resources, and communicating relevant conservation information. This format allows for more efficient review and discussion of species by botanists attending the RPC. It also retains INPS' independence and open communication forum and provides professional review of NatureServe ranks.

Please contact Beth Colket ([beth.colket@powereng.com](mailto:beth.colket@powereng.com)) if you are interested in joining a regional RPWG or have general questions. Three RPWGs are proposed.

### Southwest Idaho RPWG

The Southwest Idaho RPWG met on February 7, 2013 in Boise for its pilot meeting, which was attended by 23 people representing at least nine agencies, organizations, and companies. The discussion topics included the new INPS Rare Plant List and NatureServe Rank Calculator, geographic subdivisions of RPWGs in Idaho, archival responsibilities, RPWGs in California, and 2013 Rare Plant Conference scheduling. Fourteen plants were reviewed during this pilot meeting and recommended changes are noted:

- *Abronia elliptica*: S1, add to INPS list
- *Agastache cusickii*: S2, retain on INPS list
- *Andraea heinemannii*: S1, retain on INPS list
- *Astragalus vexilliflexus* var. *vexilliflexus*: S1, retain on INPS list
- *Catapyrenium congestum* (*Heteroplacidium congestum*): S2S3, retain on INPS list (change name to *Heteroplacidium*?)
- *Eriogonum novonudum*: S1, add to INPS list
- *Hymenoxys cooperi*: S1, retain on INPS list
- *Lepidium integrifolium*: S1, retain on INPS list
- *Lepidium paysonii*: S1, retain on INPS list
- *Physaria obdeltata* (*Lesquerella obdeltata*): S2, retain on INPS list
- *Polemonium elusum*: S1 (would also be a G1 since it's an Idaho endemic), add to INPS list
- *Potentilla plattensis*: S1, add to INPS list
- *Sanicula graveolens*: S2, retain on INPS list



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Continued on p. 18

# INPS Chapter News

## INPS CHAPTERS

### CALYPSO CHAPTER

821 W. Mustang Ave.  
Hayden, ID 83835

President: Derek Antonelli  
Vice President: Vacant  
Secretary: Karen Williams  
Treasurer: Janet Benoit  
Newsletter: Vacant

### LOASA CHAPTER

340 E 520 N.  
Shoshone, ID 83352

President: Kelvin Jones  
Vice President: LaMar Orton  
Secretary/Treasurer:  
Lois Rohay

### PAHOVE CHAPTER

P.O. Box 9451  
Boise, ID 83707  
[Pahove.chapter@gmail.com](mailto:Pahove.chapter@gmail.com)

President: Karie Pappani  
Vice Pres.: Elaine Walker  
Secretary: Vacant  
Treasurer: Caroline Morris  
Venue Coord.: Susan Ziebarth  
Conservation: Justin Fulkerson  
Members at Large:  
Cyndi Coulter, Karen Colson, &  
Jody Hull

### SAWABI CHAPTER

5901 Country Club Drive  
Pocatello, ID 83204

President: Bob McCoy  
Vice Pres.: Dick Anderson &  
LaRue Gregersen  
Secretary: Barbara Nicholls  
Treasurer: Grant Thomas  
Chapter News: Ardys Holte  
Web site: Catalina Steckbauer  
Conservation/Education:  
Janet Bala  
Members-at-large: Janet Bala,  
Pauline Havens, Ardys & Karl  
Holte, Linda Johnson, Chris  
McCoy, Mel Nicholls, & Shirley  
Rodgers.

## CALYPSO CHAPTER

**When:** Meetings are the first Wednesdays of March, April, May and October at 7:00 p.m. Field trips are during the spring and fall and we do not meet from November to February.

**Where:** Conference room of Idaho Department Fish and Game, 2885 W. Kathleen Ave., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

**Contact:** Derek Antonelli, [antonelli8 at frontier dot com](mailto:antonelli8@frontierdot.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 2013: Coal Creek hike.** Details to follow by email

## LOASA CHAPTER

All INPS members and the public are welcome to attend chapter events.

**When:** Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month

**Where:** Taylor Building, Room 258, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls

**Contact:** Kelvin Jones, (208) 886-7051

## PAHOVE CHAPTER

**When:** Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month from September–April, 6:30 p.m. *Dates and topics in Sage Notes are tentative. More current information will be sent to members via postcard & email & posted the INPS website: <http://www.idahonativeplants.org/inps/chapter.aspx?ChapterId=4>*

**Where:** Meetings are usually held at the MK Nature Center Auditorium.

**Contact:** For more information about Pahove Chapter activities visit the website: [www.idahonativeplants.org](http://www.idahonativeplants.org) or email Karie Pappani at [pahove.chapter.president at gmail dot com](mailto:pahove.chapter.president@gmail.com)

## SEASON NOTES

Our chapter's fun-filled program season has drawn to a close. Our last presentation was in April by Peggy Faith of Native and Xeric Gardening. A big THANK YOU goes out to all of our presenters this past season. We wrapped up the spring with our Annual Native Plant Sale April 27th and 28th at the MKNC. A big THANK YOU goes out to Susan

Ziebarth for managing the plant sale activities and also to all of the folks willing to volunteer their time to help with the plant sale. Happy Planting!

We look forward to seeing you when meetings resume in September.

## SAWABI CHAPTER

**Meetings:** We welcome the public to our chapter's informative programs.

**When:** First Monday of each month, October through March, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Pond Student Union Building, Room 308, ISU Campus, Pocatello.

**Contact:** 208-241-5851, email [desertflwrs@gmail.com](mailto:desertflwrs@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS - FIELD TRIPS

Members and friends of Sawabi Chapter are looking forward to our favorite months of the year, May through September, prime field trip season.

Each month we try to schedule two short Monday evening field trips to areas within a half hour of Pocatello and two Saturday or full weekend trips at greater distances.

Anyone interested, member or not, is encouraged to join these outings to learn about our native flora.

At our chapter's annual meeting April 1, attendees voiced their opinions on which areas they would like to visit. A tentative schedule will be posted on the INPS website.

For more information on each of these, contact Sawabi president Bob McCoy, 208-241-5851, or the person listed as the trip leader. We also advertise trip details in the Idaho State Journal.

## RECENT EVENTS

October through March, Sawabi chapter holds a first-Monday-evening-of-the-month meeting in the Idaho State University Student Union, 3rd floor meeting rooms.

In October we heard a talk by Robert Pitman about drought tolerant plants and trees. Bob McCoy discussed in November's meeting the relative merits of on-line computer keys, specifically those created by Bruce Barnes for each of the

northwest states as well as a combination key covering all of them. Sawabi Chapter has made arrangements to sell these keys at a reduced rate to INPS members. For more information, contact Bob McCoy at 208-241-5851. A Holiday Potluck party was held at Karl and Ardys Holte's home in December.

In January, Ray Laible treated the group to a travelogue of photos from the trip he and wife Kathy Korba enjoyed from Glacier Park to British Columbia. One amusing photo was of two bear cubs toppling his tripod after he had hastily grabbed his camera and retreated to his truck. (See photos of the mischievous bears on p.17.)

In February, Rick Williams, Curator of the Ray J. Davis Herbarium, spoke of recent improvements and photo projects in the herbarium, followed by a tour of the facility. The March meeting is traditionally a photo share event, in which various Sawabi members showed pictures from field trips and excursions during 2012.

April 1 was Sawabi chapter's annual meeting and election of officers. Sawabi officers elected for the 2013-2014 year are: President, Bob McCoy; Co-Vice Presidents, Dick Anderson and LaRue Gregersen; Secretary, Barbara Nicholls; Treasurer, Grant Thomas.

## UPPER SNAKE CHAPTER

**When:** Meetings are usually held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Field Trips are scheduled in the spring and summer.

**Where:** Idaho Fish & Game office, Idaho Falls

**Contact:** Sue Braastad, [braastads at yahoo dot com](mailto:braastads@yahoo.com)

## WHITE PINE CHAPTER

**Meetings:** During the spring and fall, meetings are held once a month. Field trips occur regularly whenever the weather allows. Please check the chapter website for events which may be scheduled or finalized after this issue is printed: [www.whitepineinps.org](http://www.whitepineinps.org) or email the chapter officers at [whitepine.chapter@gmail.com](mailto:whitepine.chapter@gmail.com).

**Contact:** Pat Fuerst at [epfuerst at frontier dot com](mailto:epfuerst@frontier.com) or White Pine Chapter, PO Box 8481, Moscow, ID 83843.

## RECENT EVENTS

**January 24, 2013: "Fire Ecology: Past, Present and Future," a presentation by INPS member Dr. Penny Morgan.** Fire has always been an integral component of the natural world. With changes in land use and more people living in areas of high fire potential and wildland/urban interface, the pattern in the United States is changing towards a longer fire season and a greater number of fires. INPS member Dr. Penny Morgan of the University of Idaho Wildland Fire Program presented a program on Fire Ecology for White Pine Chapter. According to Dr. Morgan, effective fire management means balancing the ecological need for fire with the need to protect people and property. Effective fire management includes managing/reducing fuels build-up, fire suppression or prescribed burning, fire education and planning for the occurrence of fires. Fire ecology also assesses the needs of dry forests (ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir), cold forests (subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and whitebark pine), and moist forests (grand fir, western larch, western white pine, and western red cedar).

Residents can help by learning how to increase fire resistance, enable easier control and access, and plan fire-resilient landscapes to reduce the effects of potential fires.

The ongoing changes in fire patterns and intensity bring new challenges for

## INPS CHAPTERS

### UPPER SNAKE CHAPTER

President: Allen Perkins  
Vice President: Sue Braastad  
Secretary: Alan Crockett  
Treasurer: Dave Godfrey  
Members-at-large: Mark & Donna Whitman

### WHITE PINE CHAPTER

[whitepine.chapter@gmail.com](mailto:whitepine.chapter@gmail.com)

President: Sonja Lewis  
Vice President: Susan Rounds  
Secretary: Pat Fuerst  
Treasurer: Elisabeth Brackney  
Member-at-large: Pamela Scheinost Pavek  
Past President: James Riser  
Landscaping & Restoration  
Plants: Juanita Lichthardt  
Publicity Chair: VACANT  
Web: Nancy Miller, Patricia Hine  
[www.whitepineinps.org](http://www.whitepineinps.org)

### WOOD RIVER CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3093  
Hailey, ID 83333  
President: Carol Blackburn  
Vice President: VACANT  
Secretary: VACANT  
Treasurer: VACANT



Dr. Penny Morgan presented an informative program on Fire Ecology for the White Pine Chapter. Photos: Nancy Miller



# INPS Chapter News



Cranberry blossom and fruit at Hager Lake. Flower photo: Derek Antonelli, fruit photo: Marilyn George



Slide from Mike Mancuso's program on Idaho endemics. Photo: Sonja Lewis

balancing needs of humans and nature. Education about available strategies, and planning and action to mediate the effects of fire are all key elements. For more information, contact a U.S. Forest Service or BLM office, the College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho, or access internet sites such as Firewise.org

*Submitted by Susan Rounds, White Pine Chapter Vice-president*

**February 12, 2013: “Hager Pond Ecology Study,” a presentation by Derek Antonelli of the Idaho Master Naturalist Program.** As the last ice age ended, a North Idaho glacier left a final remnant: a large block of ice trapped between gravel moraines. This “glacial kettle” resulted in a deep pool of water called Hager Lake (or Hager Pond), which is unexpectedly deep, 29 feet just off the floating peat moss mat.

The northern portion of the fen was previously drained for a pasture and hay field. This caused the water level to drop in the lake and surrounding fen and reduced seasonal flooding. A log weir, completed in 1996, stabilized the water levels in the southern half of the fen. Other changes in the near vicinity include logging, road building and home construction. Water levels and the effects of other human activity continue to be monitored at the lake.

The area was surveyed in 1952, 1992, and again in 2012 to assess vegetative populations and change. The 2012 survey (60 years after the initial study) found 10 of 16 rare plants originally identified still present. Two more rare plants were located during the recent survey.

In supporting study of their property and their own careful monitoring, the owners of the lake (INPS members Archie and Mary George) demonstrate a commitment to the ongoing health of a rare bog/peat habitat, hidden amongst the pines.

Derek provided the full list of plant species from the various surveys. The Hager Plant List Tables Species List is posted on the White Pine website at <http://www.whit-epineinps.org/WPCheck.html>. (Hager Plant List Tables Species List)

*Submitted by Susan Rounds, White Pine Chapter Vice-president*

**March 21, 2013: “Only in Idaho—a tour of plant species found in Idaho and nowhere else in the world” a presentation by Michael Mancuso.** INPS member and rare plant ecologist Michael Mancuso began his presentation by raffling a huge parsnip from his garden. Then meeting attendees were treated to his stunning photos of plants unique to Idaho and to stories about their beautiful, often harsh locales. Forty-four of the approximately 70 endemic species were highlighted.

A map showed that Idaho's endemics are not equally distributed. North Idaho's Panhandle has only one endemic, north-central Idaho has nine, west-central Idaho has 12, southwest Idaho has seven, southeast Idaho has eight, while east-central Idaho has a whopping 33.

To the north, Mike showed us St. Maries' starwort (*Pseudostellaria oxyphylla*). The endemics of north-central Idaho included one described just last year: Brunsfeld's biscuitroot (*Lomatium brunsfeldianum*), named in honor of the late Dr. Steven Brunsfeld, University of Idaho plant systematist. Six endemics of the most populous genus in the world, milkvetch (*Astragalus*), were also shown.

Many Idaho endemics occur in rocky habitats, including unstable scree slopes. One of these is a small, but surprisingly showy member of the parsley family (*Apiaceae*)—Douglass' wavewing (*Cymopterus douglassii*)—found in the Mt. Borah area up to 11,000' elevation. Its name honors Dr. Douglass Henderson, from whom many Idaho field botanists first learned their craft—including Mancuso himself.

*Submitted by Sonja Lewis, White Pine Chapter President*

## WOOD RIVER CHAPTER

**Contact:** Carol Blackburn at [blackburncrl at yahoo dot com](mailto:blackburncrl@yahoo.com) for information on activities and gatherings.

### A Tale of Two Bad Bears

Ray Laible treated the Sawabi Chapter to a slide show from a trip he and wife Kathy Korba took from Glacier Park north into British Columbia. While photographing some grizzly bears, a couple of curious cubs decided to have a little fun with Ray and his fancy equipment. They toppled his tripod after he had hastily grabbed his camera and retreated to his truck.

Ray says the photo of the cub with the tripod "is not one of the best bear pictures from my trip but I was more interested in maintaining a safe distance than a sharp focus. The tripod made it through the play session just fine. One cub did walk off with my hat and played tug-a-war with his sibling, but the hat came out ok except for a strong stench of salmon."

*Photos: Ray Laible*



Retired farmer Bob Clyde shares some ecologically sensitive weed control techniques during a June 2011 tour of the old farmland near Moscow he is restoring to native Palouse Prairie grasses and wildflowers. Photo: Patrick Adams



## INPS Acts takes a stand to Protect Palouse Grasslands threatened by highway project near Moscow

On March 25, INPS sent formal comments and recommendations to the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), to protect Idaho's largest remnant of nearly-pristine Palouse grassland from weed encroachment in upcoming highway construction. The danger would occur if ITD selects Alternative E-2 in the U.S. US 95 Thorncreek to Moscow Project. The remnant is a 30-acre regional landmark, and there are additional small remnants, all in excellent condition. The remnants lie within the 0.6 mile distance that weed scientists Larry Lass (INPS) and Tim Prather, University of Idaho, have shown to be an explicit danger zone for weed establishment in road construction. Rare plant ecologist Juanita Lichthardt (INPS) states in her report to ITD, "Direct effects to a remnant complex translate into the 'taking' of the entire remnant because of their small size and imminent threat from weeds."

Rare species include Palouse milkvetch (*Astragalus arrectus*)—G2G4, broad-fruit mariposa lily (*Calochortus nitidus*)—G3/S3, Palouse thistle (*Cirsium brevifolium*)—G3/S2, and Palouse goldenweed (*Haplopappus liatrifolius*)—G2/S2. Although Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*)—G2S1, is found 10 miles away, none have been located in the ITD project area. (Note: See a feature article by Brenda Erhardt on restoration efforts in the Palouse Prairie in the February 2012 issue of Sage Notes.)

Submitted by Sonja Lewis, White Pine Chapter

## Rare Plant List Methods

Continued from p.13

- *Telesonix heucheriformis*: S1, retain on INPS List

The next meeting of the Southwest Idaho RPWG will be on October 22, 2013 immediately prior to the Rare Plant Conference. Please contact Beth Corbin, [ecorbin at blm dot gov](mailto:ecorbin@blm.gov) or Anna Halford, [ahalford at blm dot gov](mailto:ahalford@blm.gov), if you are interested in participating in the Southwest Idaho RPWG.

### Northern Idaho RPWG

The Northern Idaho RPWG met on March 7, 2013 in Coeur d'Alene for its pilot meeting, which was attended by 13 people representing several different agencies, organizations, and companies. The discussion topics primarily focused on the new INPS Rare Plant List and NatureServe Rank Calculator, archival responsibilities, coordination between RPWGs, and reaching out to other botanists who would be interested in the Northern Idaho RPWG.

Four plants were reviewed during this pilot meeting and recommended ranks are noted:

- *Carex leptalea*: S3
- *Heteranthera dubia*: S1?
- *Pyrrocoma scaberula*: S1
- *Rhynchospira alba*: S3

The next meeting for the Northern Idaho RPWG was April 7, 2013 in Moscow, Idaho. If you are interested in participating in the Northern Idaho RPWG, please contact Derek Antonelli, [antonelli8 at frontier.com](mailto:antonelli8@frontier.com), or LeAnn Abell, [labell at blm.gov](mailto:labell@blm.gov), .

### Southeast Idaho RPWG

The Southeast Idaho RPWG is still under development. Please contact Rose Lehman ([rlehman at fs.fed.us](mailto:rlehman@fs.fed.us)) if you are interested in organizing or participating in the Southeast Idaho RPWG.



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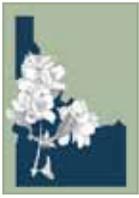
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*White-lined Sphinx  
Hummingbird Moth  
(Hyles lineata)*

This beautiful moth is a near perfect pollinator for the shrubby penstemon's long tubular flowers. Its size, extremely long proboscis, and habit of hovering over flowers while gathering nectar make it easy to mistake this moth for a hummingbird at first glance.

*Photo: Jane Rohling*