



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 2, 2014**, 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

Call to order

Agenda additions or corrections

Minutes approval

Treasurer/membership report

Old Business

Field trips and activities

New business

Presentation: Clark Fork Delta Restoration Project Update

The Clark Fork Delta Restoration Project is scheduled to get underway this year. The Bonneville Power Administration has drafted an Environmental Assessment. The BPA is addressing the comments to the EA. That process should be completed by the end of June and the project should be funded.

The construction will begin this winter after the lake level is drawn down. The presentation will address the reasons for the project, the construction activities that are planned, and the efforts to vegetate project area after the construction is complete.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!!

Meeting Notes from March 12, 2014

President Derek Antonelli opened the 7 pm meeting. He announced the State INPS dues are now due.

Old business: The North Idaho Rare Plant Working group meeting was canceled due to the government shutdown. The State Rare Plant Conference was held February 26-27 in Boise. Also the Clark Fork Delta Restoration work would begin the first of June.

New business: the joint field trip with the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society will take place May 17. Meet at 8:30 am at Hayden Walmart. It is advised to bring mosquito repellent for this location. The Coeur d'Alene Parks Dept. will be celebrating Idaho Parks Day at McEuen Park July 12, 4:00 to dusk. They would like our INPS chapter to participate with the information booth and possibly leading wildflower hikes. Let Derek know if you are interested. Derek also invited members to take part in a water plants identification day at his family lake cabin on Hayden Lake TBA in late July or August.

Field Trips: The Pulaski trail near Wallace, Idaho was suggested as a possible field trip site for June as well as the Post Falls Qu'emiln Trail and Granite Lake to be decided at the next meeting.

Program: "Rare Plant Ranking Process" by Derek Antonelli. In order to consolidate and simplify the many rare plant ranking and category systems the Idaho Native Plant Society in coordination with the Idaho Rare Plant Working Group is now using the NatureServe system. After collecting data on a plant species the information is run through the NatureServe calculator which is a

standardized state ranking effort. After consideration of population numbers, size, threats and health of those plant populations the calculator generates a G (global) or S (state) ranking for the species. A ranking of S1= critically impaired and S5=secure. Idaho considers S1 through S3 to be in the rare plant category. As an example for the group Derek then used the ranking process for a determination of grassleaf mudplantain, (*Heteranthera dubia*). Globally this plant was ranked G5 with no known occurrence in Idaho. The plant was presented at the Rare Plant Conference having been located at the north Idaho location of MacArthur Lake. The new Idaho ranking was determined to be an S1 and this information was submitted to NatureServe by the RPWG. Thanks Derek for an interesting presentation!

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Williams, Secretary

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 April:

Bog cranberry, (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*), Heath Family*.

General: Creeping, vine-like, evergreen shrub, with slender stems finely hairy to smooth, brown to black. The species is widely scattered at low to subalpine elevations in peat bogs on sphagnum moss hummocks.

Flowers: Deep pink, 4 petaled and sharply bent backwards. The stamens protrude and are often solitary or 2-3 each nodding on a slender stem.

Leaves: Small, leathery and sharp pointed, edges rolled under. Grey- waxy below and dark green above.

Fruits: Pale pink to dark red juicy berries: small but appearing oversized on the plant.

Notes: Closely related to our commercial cranberry. The name 'cranberry' may be a corruption of 'craneberry' because the flower stalk resembles the head and neck of a crane.



Native peoples sometimes dried cranberries for use in pemmican, soups, sauces and stews. Some tribes stored boiled cranberries mixed with oil and later whipped this with snow to make a dessert. Freezing makes cranberries sweeter so they were traditionally harvested after the first heavy frost. Because they remain on the bush all year they are regarded as a survival food. These low growing berries are hard to pick so were sometimes combed from the bush with a fish back bone or wooden comb.

Cranberry juice has long been used for urinary tract infections. The juice contains arbutin, which prevents bacteria from adhering to the bladder and urinary tract. The juice causes the urine to become quite acidic, inhibiting bacterial growth. Cranberries were also taken to relieve nausea, to relieve cramps and childbirth and to quiet hysteria and convulsions. Crushed cranberries were used as a poultice on wounds, including poison arrow wounds.

The juice has been used to produce red dyes. Hunters look for the plants because grouse like to feed on the berries.

*Bog cranberry has been rated an S3 by the Rare Plant Working Group and submitted to Natureserve.