



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, October 3, 2012**, 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

Old Business

Annual meeting report

New Business

Field Trip Reports

Possible field trip to the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture for the “David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work” exhibition

Presentation

Derek Antonelli will have a slide presentation on wind pollinated plants. It covers wind pollination in general and then covers three specific families (birch, maple, and willow) common in our area.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!!

Meeting Notes for May 2, 2012

President Derek Antonelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the office of the Idaho Dept of Fish and Game. The first order of business was the first session of the Hager Lake monitoring project to be held May 18-19. Derek gave a presentation of the newsletter featured plant, purple meadowrue. A distinction of the plant is it's three leaf lobes as opposed to the multiple lobes of the western meadowrue. Denton slough would be a possible opportunity to view this Idaho rare plant at the upcoming annual meeting which will be held near the area.

Next the group was shown specimens from the horsetail family, **Equisetaceae** which Derek had pressed and scanned. There are eighteen horsetail species in all fifty states and ten are present in Idaho.

Common Scouring- Rush, *Equisetum hyemale*, unbranched evergreen perennial, with stiff, hollow, jointed stems.



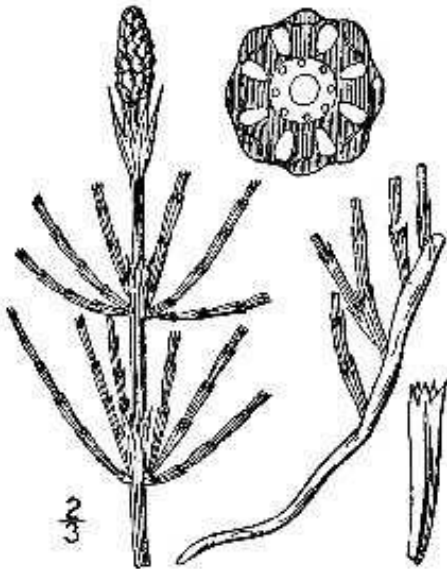
Smooth Horsetail, *Equisetum laevigatum*, usually an annual with longer than wider sheaths and only a single dark band at the tip.



Water or Swamp Horsetail, *Equisetum fluviatile*, has stems with large central cavities, (over 2/3 of the diameter) and 9-25 vertical ridges.



Marsh Horsetail, *Equisetum palustre*, has stems with small cavities (less than 1/3 of the diameter) and 5 to 10 ridges. Both water and swamp horsetail grow in shallow water.



Woodland Horsetail, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, is a small frilly plant with whorls of branched branches.



Field Horsetail, *Equisetum arvense*, is perennial dimorphic herb. The fertile plants are brownish and stout while the sterile ones are green, with bottlebrush like whorled branches.



Horsetails contain thiamonase an enzyme that destroys vitamin B₁ which has caused deaths in livestock but many wild animals eat large quantities of this plant. Cooking destroys the enzyme but people with high blood pressure are warned against using horsetails.

The group decided on July 21 for the Marie Creek field trip. The August field trip to Steven's Lake was later change to Sept 1st. The group was to meet at 9 am at the Appleway Walgreens for the Dishman Hills field trip and 7:30 am at Walmart for the June 9, field trip to Morris and Regal Creek. Derek asked members to check the work list online to volunteer for helping out with the upcoming annual meeting June 22-24.

Meeting adjourned.

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 Tuesday of each month at Manito Gardens. They don't meet in the summer, June through August, and in December.

Featured Plant:

By: Karen Williams





Featured Plant: Old Man's Whisker's; Prairie Smoke, *Geum Triflorum*.

FAMILY- Rosacea A perennial herb, reddish, softly hairy with 10-30 cm stems, often forming clumps, from stout, branching rhizomes covered with old leaf bases.

Leaves: Mainly basal, fern-like, pinnately divided into many crowded, toothed or lobed leaflets, 5-20 cm long; one pair of small stem leaves.

Flowers: Purplish to dusty pink, urn-shaped, about 2 cm across, nodding, hairy; in loose clusters of 3(cymes); May to July

Fruits: 3 mm long achenes tipped with 2-4 long, feathery, bronze to purplish, bristles (styles), forming erect fluffy tufts.

Habitat: dry to moist, open sites, often on gravelly sites ; plains to subalpine; BC and Alberta to New Mexico.

The Okanagan prepared an infusion from the plant used as a women's love potion. The Nlaka'pmx boiled the roots to make a drink and to make a decoction which they used as a body wash in sweathouses.

The species name *triflorum* refers to the flowers which are usually in clusters of three. When there are many plants growing together, the color and texture of the feathery styles on the fruits suggest a haze of low-lying smoke.

Meriweather Lewis collected this plant on June 12, 1806 on the Weippe Prairie.