



CALYPSO CHAPTER
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Calypso Companion

May 2016 Vol. 24.7

Newsletter yearly subscription: Free to Members

Editor:

President: Derek Antonelli- antonelli8@frontier.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary; Karen Williams- karenjwilliams@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Janet Benoit- 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.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is **Wednesday May 4, 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: next volunteer work day, 9 am, May 13, 2016

New business

Possibility for a roadside milkweed project. Butterflies love milkweed!

Program: Clark Fork Restoration Project Update by Derek Antonelli

Upcoming Events:

Blackwell Island Native Plant and Pollinator Garden – Friday May 13, 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.

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).

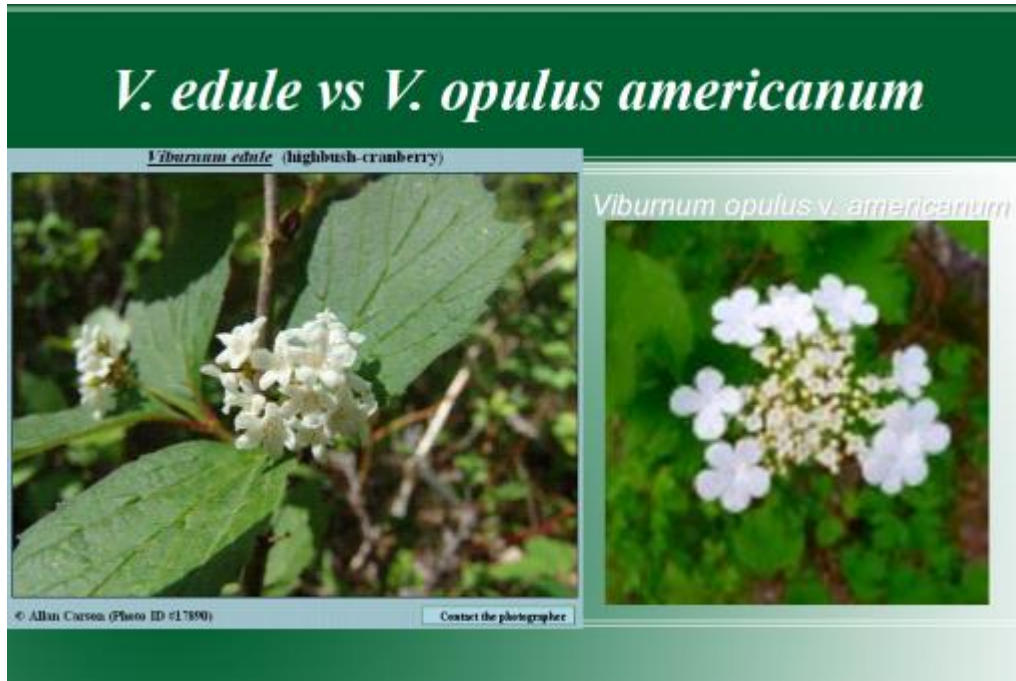
Calypso Chapter meeting, Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 pm, Idaho Fish and Game office, 2885 W Kathleen Ave, Coeur d'Alene. Presentation topic: Growing Native Plants by Bob Wilson from Cedar Mountain Perennials in Athol

Calypso Chapter Meeting Notes of April 6, 2016

President Derek Antonelli opened the meeting at 7:15 pm at the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game Office at W 2885 Kathleen. Minutes of the past meeting were approved. Treasurer Jane Benoit gave the club balance at \$1,503.98. Derek noted the next meeting program will focus on the Clark Fork restoration Project. The October program will be presented by Bob Wilson of Cedar Mt. Perennials. Blue Creek will be the Field trip coming up on April 16. There is a BLM Blackwell Island Pollinator Garden cleanup work day April 22. The CDA Urban forestry Committee will be hosting a table at the Earth Day Event at the CDA Library and would like volunteers from our group to help staff the table. An update to this is the decision to add an extra exhibit table for our club display. May 14 will be a field trip to the Wildlife Habitat Nursery in Princeton and then travel to the Teko, WA Native Plant Nursery. Karen will invite the White Pine chapter to join us. The Annual Meeting will be held in Grangeville and sign up is available on line. Summer field trips were

discussed with Karen reviewed the Featured Plant, ‘Witches Hair’, and noted how addictive learning about Lichens can become! possibilities including Stevens and Revett Lakes.

Dave Noble presented the native “Highbush Cranberry”, *Viburnum edule*, recently moved to the *Adoxacea* family. He noted that the local



nurseries are mostly selling the bitterer tasting European *Viburnum opulus* which can grow to over 15 feet. The native variety may

grow to only 8 feet. Common names include mooseberry, crampbark and squashberry as moose love it for browse, a stewed concoction can cure stomach cramps and the flat seeds resemble squash seeds. There is one native *opulus* variety, *americana*. The native *edule* species contains all fertile flowers whereas the European imposter and the native *americana* have an infertile flower peripheral ring. For more information refer to the spring 2016 issue of “Douglasia”.



Blue Elderberry Sambucus caerulea

The group was then presented “the Honeysuckle Family” by Derek Antonelli. Family characteristics include an inferior ovary, with flower parts attached

above, small green sepals, united 5 lobed petals, five stamens, and opposite leaves. A few examples are a common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), edible Utah honeysuckle (*L. utahensis*), orange honeysuckle (*L. ciliosa*), and black twinberry (*Lonicera involucrate*). Some plant fruits may cause nausea. The trailing perennial twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*)

also in the Honeysuckle Family makes an excellent native groundcover. Blue elderberry (*Sambucus caerulea*), will make a good pie. Take 4 cups of berries, 1 Cup of sugar and thicken with tapioca. Do not eat the berries raw.

Red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) is not edible.



- *Symphoricarpos albus*

Featured Plant for May WILD BERGAMOT *Monarda fistulosa*

Family Laminaceae: Mint Family



General: Perennial, 30-70 cm tall, with creeping rhizomes and solitary flowering stems, finely hairy and having a strong pleasant odor

Leaves: Opposite, short-stalked and widely spaced along the stem. They may be lance-shaped to oval with sharply toothed edges.

Flowers: Bright mauve in a showy cluster at the end of the stem. The corollas are tubular and open into 2 unequal lips, the upper lip long and narrow forming a hood over 2 stamens. The lower lip is 3-lobed.

Fruits: 4 small

nutlets.**Habitat:** May be scattered and infrequent or locally common. It prefers dry, open forests, clearings and disturbed soils.



Notes: This species is used to flavor food such as Earl Grey tea, and is a favorite of butterflies. The name 'wild bergamot' comes from its similarity to an essential oil extracted from oranges. (Citrus Bergamia). A great addition to any native garden! Karen Williams