

INPS White Pine Chapter Spring 2008 Newsletter

What's New!

Co-President Nancy Miller has been working on creating a Web page for our Chapter, which will provide access to activities, notices, online resources, plant lists, and more. You will also be able to print out a form to renew your membership, and contact officers. The newsletter will be posted there, beginning with this one. Older issues will be loaded as soon as they are Web ready.

We are always happy to welcome new officers to participate in Chapter planning. Please join us in welcoming Pat Hine, who has volunteered to serve as our new Secretary, and Maggie Ely, who will serve as our Publicity agent. Thank you both!

Upcoming Events for Spring/Summer

Thursday, April 10, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Neill Public Library, Pullman, Chapter Presentation: "The Ecological Role of Natives in the Garden" and "Creating a Native Garden Esthetic," presented by Tim Eaton, owner of Prairie Bloom Nursery, joint program with the Palouse Prairie Foundation

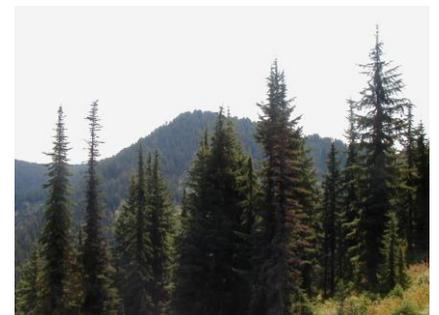
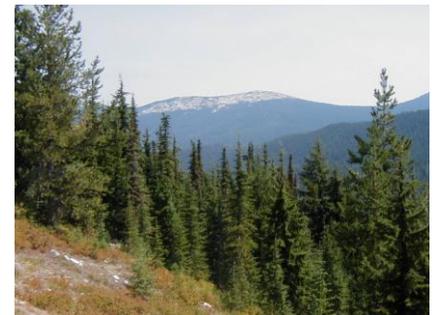
Tim has owned/managed Prairie Bloom Nursery for over 10 years, and through his extensive experience and knowledge will talk about the role natives play in gardens of the Palouse, and offer tips on how to create a native garden. Neill Public Library is located at 210 N. Grand Avenue in Pullman, WA. The meeting will be held in the Edith Hecht Reading Room. Attendees should enter through the door on the east side of the building, near the parking lot. **Contact:** Nancy Miller, nmiller@moscow.com, 882-2877.

Thursday, April 24, 2008, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m., UI SUB: Rare Plant Symposium, joint program with the UI Department of Rangeland Ecology and Stillinger Herbarium. Several speakers representing various agencies from around the Northwest, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife, will address issues regarding monitoring approaches and strategies of rare plants. Topics include livestock management, conservation strategies and monitoring approaches and data analysis, with a particular emphasis to *Silene spaldingii*. For more information, contact Chris Shafer at (509) 280-7134.

Saturday, April 26, 2008: Chapter Field Trip to the Grande Ronde River, led by Nancy Miller and Dr. Bill Rember

Join Nancy and Bill for a day discovering the wildflowers and geology of the Grande Ronde. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Forest Service Research Station on Hwy 95 just south of Hwy 8 to carpool. We'll stop briefly at Field Springs and at one of the pull-offs along Rattlesnake Grade to see what early spring flowers are blooming. At the bottom of the grade we will check out the riparian vegetation along the stream as well as the geologic features of the canyon. We will then proceed towards Troy along the Grande Ronde River. Because of the lower elevation, we should see a different selection of flowers blooming. If the road conditions are good, we will travel from Troy to Flora, Oregon to see flowers blooming near Flora, then to the Mima Mounds located on the road to Enterprise (Hwy 3). We will then return via Hwy 3 along the rim of the Grande Ronde and back up Rattlesnake Grade after re-crossing the river. If the road from Troy to Flora is not in good condition to travel, we will return along the Grande Ronde. This will be an all day trip so please bring snacks, lunch and beverages. Binoculars will come in handy for seeing birds and possibly elk on the grassland hills of the canyon. Please bring walkie-talkies if you have them so we can communicate between cars. It could be cold at the higher elevations and warm at the lower elevations so come prepared for variable weather. **Contact:** Nancy Miller, nmiller@moscow.com, 882-2877

Photos from our Grandmother Mountain trip August 2007





Local Native Plant Sales:

Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute: Saturdays, May 17 & 31, June 14 & 28 at their Learning Nursery on their Rodeo Drive Campus (www.pcei.org)

UI Arboretum: Saturday, June 7 at the Rotary Ice Rink, Latah County Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m. - noon (www.uidaho.edu/arboretum/).



Field trip at Jensen's property on Paradise Ridge, June 2007



Geum sp. blooming at Jensen's property on Paradise Ridge, June 2007

Local and Regional Organizations:

Palouse Prairie Foundation
www.palouseprairie.org

Palouse Audubon Society
www.palouseaudubon.org

Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute www.pcei.org

Friends of the Clearwater
www.friendsoftheclearwater.org

Website of interest:

Tools for Plant Identification updated website: utc.usu.edu/keys/default.html



Upcoming events continued:

Friday, June 20 – Sunday, June 22, 2008: INPS Annual Meeting, Sam Owen Campground, Lake Pen Oreille Please refer to the INPS website or Sage Notes for more information as it becomes available. Contact is Phil Hough.

Saturday, June 28, 2008: Chapter Field Trip to Elk River Falls led by Pam Brunfeld, Director of the UI Stillinger Herbarium We hope to find numerous orchids, including the phantom orchid, *Cephalanthera austini*. Bring water, lunch, binoculars. Meet at Eastside Marketplace parking lot (south end) at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Return around 3:00 p.m. **Contact:** Janet Campbell, jnacampbell@roadrunner.com, 882-6409.

Other activities under discussion for summer include:

Mid May: Field trip to view what's blooming at Nancy Miller's property, Turnbull Nature Preserve, Steptoe Butte or Kamiak Butte.

Late May: WNPS field trip to the Columbia River.

Late May/early June: Overnight field trip to the Salmon River to see MacFarlane's 4 o'clock.

Early June: "Scouting" field trip to Feather Creek Trail, near Bovill, to investigate the trail and see what native plants are there. *If you are interested in participating in this trip, or are familiar with the trail and would like to lead a hike, please contact Janet Campbell by phone at 882-6409 or by email at jnacampbell@roadrunner.com.*

Please send us your suggestions (by email, phone or regular mail) for meetings, workshops or field trips for 2008 and beyond. If you would be interested in presenting or leading an activity, please let us know that too. Thank you!



Some online resources promoting native plant landscaping for our region are:

(1) **Characteristics and Uses of Native Palouse Forbs in Landscaping**, by David Skinner, Paul Warnick, Bill French and Mary Fauci, at www.wsu.edu/pmc_nrcs/Docs/Forbs_for_Landscaping.pdf

(2) **More Palouse Forbs for Landscaping**, by David Skinner, Paul Warnick, Bill French and Mary Fauci, at www.wsu.edu/pmc_nrcs/Docs/More_Forbs_for_Landscaping.pdf

(3) **"Native Plants of Northern Idaho for Landscaping and Restoration"** prepared by the White Pine Chapter is available on the INPS website at www.idahonativeplants.org/guides/NorthIdahoGuide.aspx

(4) **Landscaping with Native Plants of the Intermountain Region**, a BLM technical paper, at www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/publications/technical_bulletins/tr_1730-3.html

(5) **Native Plants for Aquatic Gardens and Aquariums: A guide for using plants native to the Northwestern U.S. in decorative ponds and aquariums**, at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/o603004.html

(6) WNPS has plant lists for various locations listed by county on their state website at www.wnps.org/plant_lists?exploring_native_plants.html.

THANK YOU, Todd Ott, Gary Lentz and Jacie and Wayne Jensen, for the fascinating presentations you gave us this Winter. We thought we'd share what we learned with our members who could not attend....read on.

January.....A bit of botanical knowledge can be a great asset when it comes to outdoor survival skills, as we learned during a presentation by Todd Ott, a UI graduate student in Forest Resources by Janet Campbell

Todd began his talk with a description of the "survival hierarchy": shelter, water, fire, and food, along with the axiom, "Keep your outside dry and your inside wet," in order to prevent hypothermia and dehydration. His presentation emphasized techniques for making cordage, shelter, and fire. (The topic of edible native plants was not the focus this time.) He demonstrated how to make cordage using the fiber of *Apocynum androsaemifolium* (dogbane), and we were able to attempt this ourselves. Other excellent sources of fiber are basswood (*Tilia*) and mulberry. Todd had erected a small shelter in the classroom, using noble fir branches as a dense thatch, and told us that in a survival situation, one can pull up spruce roots from under the duff to use as lashing (as much as 20 feet is possible). His fire-making expertise was very evident, as he demonstrated how to create the tools needed for making a friction fire by either a bow drill or a hand drill. The proper selection of tree species for the various tools can determine one's success. For example, in our area Western redcedar is a good choice for a fireboard, and its inner bark makes good tender. Effective tender can also be gathered from the dried flower heads of *Holodiscus discolor* (ocean spray), the outer bark of *Betula papyrifera* (paper birch), which burns even when wet, and cattail down mixed with grasses. For the grand finale, attendees bundled up and moved outside, where Todd used a bow drill to produce flames (created in a safe location!).

Upcoming events for other INPS Chapter activities are listed on the Idaho Native Plant Society website (www.idahonativeplants.org). Please check this and Sage Notes for all the available listings and information.

Our February Presentation, in conjunction with the Palouse Prairie Foundation, was "Trifles Will Not Stop Me": Gary Lentz's portrayal of the life of David Douglas by Janet Campbell

We were most fortunate to have a colorful presentation on the life of botanist and explorer David Douglas, portrayed in period dress by park ranger Gary Lentz in February and entitled "Trifles Will Not Stop Me". Gary began by describing Douglas' youth in Scotland, where his interest in the natural world began. As a young man he was sponsored by the Royal Horticultural Society to collect plants and seeds in America from 1825 to 1827. On two expeditions to the west coast, in the areas of Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, and up the Columbia River and its tributaries, he collected over 200 species of plants, including lupines, phlox, penstemon, sunflowers, *Clarkia*, Californian poppy, *Mimulus*, flowering currant, rose of Sharon (*Hypericum*), *Gaillardia* and *Mahonia*. Besides the Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Douglas found numerous species of pine that were at that time unknown in Europe. He also wrote his observations on the animal life, noting the large numbers of the bird that became known as the California condor.



Gary described a life of living off the land, and Douglas' preference to sleeping in the open rather than a tent, a trait that baffled native tribes with whom he became friendly. He was quite a marksman with a rifle, and his technique for collecting the large cones of sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) by shooting them out of the upper branches of trees resulted in a close call with less friendly tribes. The "trifles" that he proclaimed would not stop him in his tenacious quest for botanical specimens ranged from mosquitoes to grizzly bears and a marauding skunk, the latter shot at close range in a tent at night. Not so trifling was the loss of a plant collection, maps, scientific instruments and a journal when his canoe overturned in New Caledonia.

For those of us who were less familiar with Douglas' biography, it came as a personal shock to hear Gary relate the tragic and untimely death of this explorer at the age of 35, in Hawaii. His body was found in a pit trap used to capture wild bulls, perhaps the victim of foul play and robbery.

After the presentation, Gary shared his fascinating collection of materials and supplies reproduced from those that Douglas would have used. We are very appreciative of Gary for bringing Douglas to life for an hour or so on this winter evening with such great knowledge and humor, and to the Palouse Prairie Foundation for co-sponsoring the event.

Most recently, in March, Jacie Jensen described the Lessons Learned by JenCrops in Palouse Prairie Restoration and Seed Increase Efforts by Nancy Miller.



Whether you want to add a few Palouse Prairie natives to a corner of your garden, restore a meadow to Palouse native forbs, or just hike or drive through a remnant area, you have to be excited and encouraged by the work being done by

Jacie and Wayne Jensen in propagating Palouse Prairie native plants. White Pine Chapter was fortunate to have the Jensen's give a presentation on the progress they are making, the problems faced and what the near future holds.

On their Paradise Ridge remnant they have collected seeds of Palouse Prairie forbs to continue their seed production operation. They continue to improve the acreage by removing invasives such as bachelor's button, yellow star thistle, mustard, silver cinquefoil and hound's tongue. This is usually done by scouting, walking abreast across the field to locate the invasive plants, then either hand pulling or hand spraying individual plants. Each species may need to be treated differently so that each year, hopefully, there will be fewer of each kind. The invasive which they are specifically targeting this year is tall oat grass.

The Jensens are now several years into the growing of certified seed of numerous Palouse Prairie forbs and have learned a lot in the process – making some mistakes, inventing some new uses for old machinery, recovering from some severe weather which damaged the growing area and the forbs already planted, farming out some of their growing operation to local companies such as Plants of the Wild, and learning which are the beneficial insects and how to encourage them, and developing harvesting methods for each species grown.

Among the species on the property which are either being grown or under consideration are blanket flower, *Sidalcea oregana*, goldenrod, tall cinquefoil, western hawkweed (Hairy Albert) with its beautiful foliage, slender cinquefoil, prairie smoke, *Aster*, Oregon sunshine, lupine (silky and velvet), Little sunflower, sticky geranium, *Frasera Albicaulis* (shining frasera), Wyeth buckwheat (one butterfly depends on this one), Lewis flax (not certified yet); nine-leaf *Lomatium*, *Heuchera cylindrica* and sugarbowl *Clematis*, prairie *Gentian*, paintbrush (two varieties), and wild phlox.

This year Jacie and Wayne will be selling Palouse Prairie in a flat again at both Fiddler's Ridge and Prairie Bloom. The number of plants will increase to 25 from last year's 18 and will include Oregon sunshine and western hawkweed as additional species. A few such as blanket flower will also be available as single plants.

It was good to see WSU students from one of Linda Hardesty's classes in attendance as some of these students will hopefully be the buyers of the future for restoration projects.



The current slate of White Pine Chapter officers consists of the following:			
Officers:			
Co-Presidents:	Janet Campbell	882-6409	jnacampbell@roadrunner.com
	Nancy Miller	882-2877	nmiller@moscow.com
Vice President:	David Pierce	882-3148	doctor_david@verizon.net
Secretary:	Pat Hine	883-1471	phine@moscow.com
Treasurer:	Nancy Sprague	882-8142	nrsprague@verizon.net
Committees:			
Publicity:	Maggie Ely	882-3464	mpely@lmi.net
Email contact:	Nancy Miller	882-2877	nmiller@moscow.com
Newsletter:	Rosemary Streatfeild	882-2314	rstreatfeild@roadrunner.com
Landscaping & Restoration Plant Lists:	Juanita Lichthardt	882-4803	juanital@clearwire.net



Email notifications: If you wish to receive periodic email notifications and last minute program or trip information, please send your email address to Nancy Miller at nmiller@moscow.com for addition to the list. These email notifications can save us considerable postage and/or time spent making phone calls. A second email list is used for discussion of items of chapter interest, forwarded messages from other chapters, as well as meeting notices and special announcements. This list is hosted on UI's list serve. Again, contact Nancy Miller if you wish to be on this second mailing list – or if you wish to move from one list to the other.