

**Idaho Native Plant Society
White Pine Chapter
Spring/Summer 2009
Newsletter**



Pinus monticola
Western White Pine

Photo: William B. Hall,
UI Professor Emeritus of Geology

INPS/White Pine Chapter
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Image © 2004, Ben Legler



Idaho Native Plant Society Membership Dues Changes

(included here from the Winter 2009 newsletter)

In its September meeting, the Idaho Native Plant Society (INPS) Board of Directors voted to increase membership dues (which hadn't been changed in over 6 years), and added a new category. Patron dues have been increased to \$100+, and the new category, Sustaining, begins at \$35. All other categories have been increased by \$2.00. Dues are used to cover both State and Chapter expenses that include publications and mailing costs, speakers' fees and expenses, meeting costs, and other activities. Memberships may be renewed for up to 3 years at a time if that is more convenient.

For your convenience, a membership form is attached to this newsletter. Please select the category applicable to your level of support, complete the form, and return it to the White Pine Chapter in order to be included in our mailing and email lists. Please include a check made payable to INPS White Pine Chapter. Thank you!

If you are a renewing member, please check the membership expiration date on the right-hand side of your mailing label to ensure that it is correct (e.g. if your label says "07", your membership expired in December 2007). If you do not think the information is correct, please contact Nancy Sprague at nrsprague@verizon.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.

The current slate of White Pine Chapter officers consists of the following:

Officers:

Co-Presidents:	Janet Campbell Nancy Miller	882-6409 882-2877	jnacampbell@roadrunner.com nmiller@moscow.com
Vice President:	David Pierce	882-3148	doctor_david@verizon.net
Secretary:	Pat Hine	883-1471	patricia.hine@gmail.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 Streetfield	882-7143	palousalass@gmail.com
Landscaping & Restoration Plant Lists:	Juanita Lichhardt	882-4803	juanital@clearwire.net

INPS White Pine Chapter Spring/Summer 2009 Newsletter

Message from the Co-Presidents

For native plant enthusiasts, spring can be a time of getting reacquainted with long-time friends of the botanical type. We've all experienced the delight that comes when spotting a favorite plant for the first time in the season (and for some of us, this is accompanied by a scramble to recollect its name from our memory files). The White Pine chapter board has arranged some great field trips in the coming weeks and on into the summer, and these outings should be an opportunity to see those floral faces we haven't seen in quite a while, especially welcome after a rather chilly early spring.

Please also take advantage of several upcoming plant sales sponsored by local groups, as listed in this newsletter; the offerings include many native plants as well as horticultural varieties. Steven Love's upcoming May presentation on gardening with native plants should be especially inspiring and timely.

!!!IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!! Our Chapter will be hosting the State Annual Meeting in 2010. If you are interested in serving on a Planning Committee, please contact a Chapter Board member.

Upcoming Events for Spring/Summer 2009

Early-Mid May, Field Trip: Pomona Grange Park, led by Dave Skinner, Nancy Miller, Sonja Lewis and Terry Gray (several field trips are planned through September to develop a species list of succession blooms). A small group will visit Pomona Grange Park on a weekday to expand the species list started last summer. If you are interested in participating let Nancy Miller (nmiller@moscow.com, 882-2877), or Dave Skinner (joabohna@aol.com, 208-874-3205) know.

Wednesday, May 13, 5:15 p.m., Chapter Evening Field Trip to Paradise Ridge, in conjunction with the Palouse Prairie Foundation, led by Trish Heekin. Meet at Eastside Marketplace, South parking lot, to carpool to Paradise Ridge.

Monday or Tuesday, May 18 or 19, Chapter Monthly Meeting in collaboration with Palouse Prairie Foundation, "Bringing Native Plants Home" presentation by Dr. Stephen Love, UI Research Professor at the Aberdeen Research & Extension Center. In 2005, the University of Idaho, led by Dr. Stephen Love, initiated a project to domesticate native plants specifically to meet the needs of the landscape industry. The goals of this project are to: 1) identify suitable native plants, 2) evaluate them for adaptation, hardiness, and horticultural value, 3) select superior individuals from populations, and 4) make available propagation material to interested nurseries and businesses. The selection strategy and progress will be discussed, along with a report on plant materials that have shown good landscape potential. **Please note: This presentation had to be rescheduled. Please check your email, contact an officer, or visit the Chapter Website at www.whitepineinps.org closer to the dates to be for updated information on the day, time and location of this talk!**

Wednesday, May 27, 5:15 p.m., Chapter Evening Field Trip to Paradise Ridge, in conjunction with the Palouse Prairie Foundation, led by Trish Heekin. Meet at Eastside Marketplace, South parking lot, to carpool to Paradise Ridge.

Saturday, June 6, Chapter Field Trip to find Clearwater Coastal Disjuncts, led by Pam Brunsfeld. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Eastside Marketplace, Moscow, South parking lot. This will be an all day field trip along first the Clearwater and then either the Selway River. We may see dogwoods if they are still in bloom. The primary focus will be on the Clearwater coastal disjuncts. Bring food for lunch and snacks, water, binoculars, field guides, etc. **Contact Nancy Miller, nmiller@moscow.com,**



In Memoriam

Earlier this year, on March 9, the Chapter lost another long-time member and contributor, Merrill Conitz. We are again all saddened by this loss, which follows that of Al Stage, Liz Hall and Rosemary Skiles in 2008. Merrill was an active member of our chapter along with his wife, Mary. He served in several capacities, including President in 1999 and publicity chairperson for several years, and was always willing to take on other tasks. In addition, he and Mary treated us to their travelogue based on their stays in Africa.

The chapter is grateful for the donations which have been made to the chapter in Merrill's memory and there will be discussions of how best to use these funds



Local Native Plant Sales:

The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute will hold Spring plant sales at their Learning Nursery, 1040 Rodeo Drive, Moscow, on the following Saturdays: May 9, May 16 and May 23, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Visit www.pcei.org for additional information.

Moscow Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, Latah County Fairgrounds, Saturday May 9 between 8:00 a.m. and noon. Some native plants will be available. Visit the Website at www.gardencentral.org/idgar denclubs/moscow/ for more information.

The UI Arboretum will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 30, at the Rotary Ice Rink, Latah County Fairgrounds, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Visit www.uidaho.edu/arboretum for more information.



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.friendsofclearwater.org**

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, June 26-28, INPS Annual Meeting:

Harriman State Park, Buffalo Group Campground, Island Park, near the Idaho/Montana/Wyoming corner. Field trip possibilities are trails, TNC preserve, Henry's Fork; also optional float trip down Big Springs (the headwaters of the Henry's Fork) on the 28th. For more information, visit the State INPS website (<http://www.idahonativeplants.org/news/sagenotespring2009.pdf>) or check in Sage Notes (February 2009 edition).

Saturday, July 25, Chapter Field Trip to Smoothing Iron Ridge, Asotin Co., Washington, led by Janice Hill.

Meet at Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, 1221 South Main St., Moscow at 8:15 a.m. Drive to Asotin and meet L-C valley participants at Chief Looking Glass Park in Asotin (Hwy 129 at entrance to Asotin and just past the substation) between 9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. See Google for Asotin Washington map. From the Research Station in Moscow and Chief Looking Glass Park in Asotin we will carpool, traveling Asotin Creek Rd to Smoothing Iron Ridge where we will hope to see mid-summer blooming forbs. This is a steppe vegetation area (*Agropyron spicatum* –*Festuca idahoensis*), used by elk for winter grazing and spring calving. Endemics include *Aster jessicae*, *Silene spaldingii*, several *Calochortus* species, among others. It will be an opportunity to see forbs we do not often seen on field trips. Bring water, snacks. We should be back in Asotin by early afternoon. Restrooms should be open at the park in Asotin. Contact: Nancy Miller, nmiller@moscow.com, 882-2877.

In addition to the above listed events, we are in the process of organizing an early-mid July field trip to Bald Butte Prairie Remnant. Details of this field trip are forthcoming.

Please send us your suggestions (by email, phone or regular mail) for meetings, workshops or field trips for 2009 and beyond. If you would be interested in presenting or leading an activity, please let us know that too. Thank you!

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.



Besseya rubra in bloom in a field near Tolo Lake outside of Grangeville

We would like to thank our Winter presenters for their talks and workshops: Tim Hatten, James Riser and Fred Rabe. We greatly appreciate your enthusiasm and support. Thank you!

Unfortunately, our field trip to Lapwai under the leadership of Elisabeth Brackney originally scheduled for March 26 was cancelled due to bad weather conditions and the shortage of blooming plants. We will reschedule it for next spring.

Also, many participants experienced a wonderful and informative field trip to the Salmon River Canyon with geologist Dr. Bill Rember and botanist Pam Brunsfeld on Saturday, April 25. We visited Tolo Lake just outside Grangeville where many fossil mammoth and bison bones have been found, followed by a survey of a field of botanical beauty just beyond the lake. We visited the magical limestone caves along the Salmon River which most participants were able to experience, despite the steep and tactical climb and the abundant poison oak. There were many Spring flowers in bloom to admire and enjoy. We benefitted also from the knowledge of Mike Hays of the Nez Perce National Forest. Our next stop was at the time zone bridge, which is a location to find *Penstemon tryphyllus* (although it was not in bloom for our visit) and soapstone rock. On our return, we stopped along the highway to visit a site where *Mirabilis macfarlaneii* can be found, but sadly none were showing yet. We then took the hair-pinned old road from White Bird town to the summit in order to search for and collect plant fossils. Finally, the hardiest among us braved 50 mile per hr. winds and sub-zero temperatures to view the lava tubes near the top of White Bird hill. Thanks, Bill and Pam. Here are a couple of momento group photos:



We also want to thank Pam Brunsfeld and Dave Tank for inviting INPS members to the UI Stillinger Herbarium May Day preview of the new space in the UI College of Natural Resources building, Room 22. It was great to get a tour of the new location, learn the history of the facility, and visit with the staff.

Links to online resources that are of interest to our region, such as guides for native plant landscaping, can be found on this Chapter's Web site at www.whitepineinps.org. You can also find the photographs that you see in this newsletter (and others) illustrated in their full glorious color. The INPS White Pine Chapter Website is updated frequently, providing online access to activities, notices, online resources, plant lists, and more. The URL is www.whitepineinps.org. Please send your suggestions for inclusions or changes to Nancy Miller (nmiller@moscow.com).