

**Idaho Native Plant Society
White Pine Chapter
Winter 2008/2009 Newsletter**



Pinus monticola
Western White Pine

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

INPS/White Pine Chapter
P.O. Box 8481
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Image © 2004, Ben Legler

Idaho Native Plant Society Membership Dues Changes

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 12/07, 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	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	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 Streatfeild	882-7143	palousalass@gmail.com
Landscaping & Restoration Plant Lists:	Juanita Lichthardt	882-4803	juanital@clearwire.net

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What's New!

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).

!!!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.

Message from the Co-Presidents

On a chilly evening last October, a number of White Pine members and friends gathered for a very successful "planning party", to harvest ideas for activities for 2009. The excitement that this meeting generated is evident in this issue of the chapter newsletter, where you will find a stimulating schedule of presentations, from learning about the biological significance of Lochsa River roadless areas, the role of insects as pollinators of native forbs, collecting and growing native plants, the Palouse geology, to an opportunity for hands-on work with regional orchid species at the WSU herbarium. Early spring field trips will include a visit to the warmer climate of the Salmon River canyon, and to property maintained by the Pomona Grange for a look at early bloomers, and as a chapter "service" activity to help develop a species list there. Thanks to all who have so generously offered to share their knowledge and enthusiasm!

Upcoming Events for Spring/Summer 2009

Thursday, January 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m., CNR 108, UI: Chapter Presentation, "A Geographical Tour of the Roadless Areas of the Lochsa River Drainage of Northern Idaho," by Fred Rabe, UI Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences Dr. Rabe will present a geographical tour of the roadless areas in the Lochsa River drainage of Northern Idaho. A description of each roadless area will include the natural history of selected plants and animals there. The diversity and productivity of these lands will be demonstrated by a carnivore conservation model and biomonitoring. **Contact:** Janet Campbell, 882-6409, jnacampbell@roadrunner.com.

Thursday, February 5, 2009, 7:00 p.m., 1912 Center, 3rd & Adams, Moscow: Chapter Presentation, "Biological Diversity of Native Bees in Palouse Prairie," by Tim Hatten, joint program with the Palouse Prairie Foundation. Flowering plants rely on birds, bats and insects for seed dispersal and pollination services. Of the pollinators, insects, especially bees, are important because they pollinate the majority of all flowering plants. However, we know very little about the bee fauna of Palouse Prairie and considerably less about the specific plant-pollinator interactions that sustain it. A descriptive study involving USDA, University of Idaho and private sector researchers is ongoing to begin answering questions pertaining to this very important subject. Tim Hatten will present preliminary results from a three year study that is describing the bee community found in five prairie remnants. **Contact:** Nancy Miller, nmiller@moscow.com, 882-2877

February 11/12, Idaho Rare Plant Conference, Boise. See the State INPS website or Sage Notes for full information.

Saturday, March 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m., WSU Herbarium, Heald G9: Workshop "Twayblades and Fairy Slippers and Ladies' Tresses...Oh my! An Introduction to the Orchids of northern Idaho," with James Riser, PhD candidate in Plant Biology at Washington State University. Join us for an introduction to one of the most popular plant families, the orchids. With various native species blooming from spring to fall, orchids can provide the observant a botanical surprise most of the year. We'll begin with a general overview of the orchid family and then focus on orchids commonly found in our area of northern Idaho/eastern Washington. Specific emphasis will be placed on the diverse orchid assemblage of nearby Moscow Mountain. Additionally, James will provide a key to the orchids of northern

In Memoriam

We are all saddened by the loss of Al Stage earlier this year. Al served as president of this chapter for multiple terms, participating in numerous State INPS board activities and acting as a primary organizer of a very successful annual State INPS meeting. His dedication kept the chapter together during this period. Because of his extensive knowledge about the forests of Idaho and his many contacts with foresters, botanists, and ecologists, he was able to organize numerous and varied educational field trips and engage speakers on many subjects. He and Marjory have been members since the early days of the chapter, and his dry humor, his knowledge, experience and willingness to take on a task whether it be planning a meeting or hiking a mountain trail is sorely missed. The chapter is grateful for the donations which have been made to the chapter in his memory and there will be discussions of how best to use these funds. If you wish to make a contribution, please mail it to INPS White Pine Chapter, c/o Nancy Sprague, P.O. Box 4841, Moscow, ID 83843.

2008 also saw the passing of long-time participant and member, Liz Hall. Condolences have been sent to William Hall from the Chapter.

And most recently, Rosemary Skiles passed away in California. She and her husband, Robert, were original members of INPS White Pine Chapter.



Piperia orchids flowering on the Millers' property near Viola, photos by Nancy Miller.

Idaho and surrounding area. There will be herbarium sheets to look at and we can practice keying orchid species. We'll meet in the Owenby Herbarium (<http://www.wsu.edu/~wsherb>), at WSU. The herbarium is located on the ground floor of the Heald Building in room G9 (<http://www.campusmap.wsu.edu/building-list/academics/heald-eastlick.html>). **Contact:** Nancy Miller, nmiller@moscow.com, 882-2887.

Thursday, April 9, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Neill Library, Pullman: Presentation, co-sponsored with the Palouse Prairie Foundation, "Geology of the Palouse," by Kirsten Peters of WSU.

Thursday, April 16, 2009: Collection and Evaluation of Native Plants," presentation by Stephen Love, WSU Extension, Aberdeen, joint program with the Palouse Prairie Foundation. More information will be available later. **Contact:** Nancy Miller, nmiller@moscow.com, 882-2887.

End April/early May, Field Trip: Salmon River Canyon, led by Pam Brunsfeld and Bill Rember. More information will be available later.

End April/early 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). More information will be available later.

Early June, Field Trip (possible weekend): Coastal disjuncts along the Selway led by Pam Brunsfeld and Fred Johnson. More information will be available later.

June 26-27, INPS Annual Meeting: See information on the State INPS website or in Sage Notes (February 2009 edition).

Other possible events for late 2009 include:

Early June, Field Trip: Fields Spring grassland/forest.

June field trip to the Zumwalt Prairie.

Early July, Field Trip: Coolwater Lookout.

Early July, Field Trip: Bald Butte Prairie Remnants.

Mid-June, Field Trip: Umatillas, Smoothing Iron Ridge, Round Prairie (*Silene spaldingii*).

July Field Trip: China Point spruce fir bogs/ferns, east of Grangeville, synthyris; Pilot Knob Parklands, Newsome Bog, McComas Meadows (*Carex buxbauxia*).

Presentation on *Castilleja* spp. by David Tank, Director of UI Stillinger Herbarium.

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!

Idaho Rare Plant Conference, Wednesday/Thursday February 11/12 2009, Idaho Power Headquarters, Boise. Agenda and conference details can be found at www.idahonativeplants.org:80/rpc/Conference.aspx. The keynote speaker at the banquet on Wednesday night is Del Wiens of the University of Utah (retired) who has studied plants in many parts of the world.. The INPS Board of Director's Meeting is scheduled for the late afternoon on Tuesday, February 10, followed by a social get-together for those coming in from out of town. Also scheduled is a *Polygonaceae* keying workshop on Thursday night at BSU.

INPS Annual Meeting, Harriman State Park, Buffalo Campground near the Idaho/Wyoming/ Montana states' borders, Saturday/Sunday, June 26-27 2009. 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. More information will be available in an upcoming issue of *Sage Notes* and on the State INPS website.

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.

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.

Other resources:

Commonly Found Wildflowers in Garfield County, Washington by G Paul Miller is published in cooperation with the Pomeroy Ranger District and the Southeast Washington Resource Advisory Committee. This new booklet would be especially helpful to those just getting started with wildflower identification in this area. Although reflecting plants found in Garfield Co, Washington, many can be found in other regional counties. It covers 48 of the more common wildflowers. The descriptions are helpful in identification and the photographs are excellent. Although it is available free of charge from USFS Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District, 71 West Main Street, Pomeroy Washington 99347, or phone 509-843-1891, both Nancy Miller and the Forest Service Research Station (David Hall) have copies to distribute.

The **Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest** is now available. This book is an illustrated guide to all 164 species, subspecies, and varieties of *Carex* that occur in Oregon and Washington. It contains identification keys, descriptions, color photographs, and distribution maps for each species, along with information about sedge ecology, habitat, and management. It can be ordered by going to <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/press/e-f/FieldGuideSedges.html> and then clicking on "Secure online ordering form."



Pyrocoma sp. found along Four Mile Road, Viola, photo by Nancy Miller



Gentian in bloom, Fish Creek Meadow Campground, 10/18 (5000'), photo by Nancy Miller



Calochortus sp., photo by Gary Queener

A SUMMER FULL OF EXPLORATION

THANK YOU, Bill Rember, Nancy Miller, and Pam Brunsfeld for sharing your expertise and leading these fun informative trips.

On April 26, Dr. Bill Rember and Nancy Miller led a field trip to the Grande Ronde River for a day of discovery of wildflowers and local geology. We stopped briefly at Field Springs State Park where there was still considerable snow (and no flowers) and at one of the pull-offs along Rattlesnake Grade to see the profusion of early spring flowers. We were especially glad to have Pam Brunsfeld along to help with plant identification. At the bottom of the grade we checked out the riparian vegetation along the stream as well as the geologic features of the



canyon. We then proceeded towards Troy, OR along the Grande Ronde River, where a different selection of flowers was blooming. After a brief lunch stop, we travelled up the Troy-Flora grade for more botanizing.



(photos by Nancy Miller)

At the top of this grade, we took Hwy. 3 toward Enterprise to visit the Mima Mounds where Bill explained the theories relating to their formation and where we saw some emerging Brown's Peonies (*Paeonia brownie*).

On May 31, a small group set out to scout the Feather Creek Trail near Bovill for native plants. There was still snow on the trail which led us to miss the cut off, which added an extra mile or two to the 5-mile loop. Still, it was a rewarding day of discovery along the trail where we spotted several morels and orchid species.

On June 28, Pam Brunsfeld led an orchid-seeking field trip to Elk River Creek. A series of three separate falls which drop a total of 300 feet into a deeply dissected basalt gorge are easily viewed from the three-mile network of trails. The basalt columns that edge the spectacular lower falls are especially impressive and were flanked by *Clarkia pulchella*. There is an abundance of mycorrhizal fungi in this coniferous forests, which supports achlorophyllous orchid growth. Three members of the genus *Corallorhiza* grow here: *C. maculata* (spotted coral root), *C. mertensiana* (Merten's coral root) and *C. trifida* (early coral root). The roots of these plants are actually hard masses of rhizomes associated with a fungus that assists in absorbing nutrients from the humus-rich soil. Stems of *C. maculata* tend to grow in masses of colonies, a striking sight under the shade of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). An exciting find for the group was the phantom orchid, *Cephalanthera austiniiae* (formerly *Eburophyton austinae*), which was breath-taking in the white simplicity of its stems and racemes, although it was not fully opened yet. A host of other flowering plants were also blooming at this time, and Pam shared her extensive knowledge with a most appreciative



(Pam talking about *Veratrum* sp., photo by Nancy Miller)

group, including the cancer research that is ongoing with a species of *Veratrum* in which

she is involved, and a tip on how to make Christmas tree ornaments from *Tragopogon sp.* (salsify). Our trip concluded with an ice cream treat at the local Elk River general store.

On August 23, Dr. Bill Rember invited us to his property near Clarkia to look at fossils. Bill's property has extensive fossil beds on his property and he allowed us free access to excavate the rocks to see what we could find. Every chip from the beds exposed something from the past, and we all got to bring home our best samples. Here's a sample of one:



Most everyone in the group opted to conclude the trip with a hike in the nearby cool Hobo Cedar Forest, where we were able to identify many of the ferns and other plant materials along the route.

Our annual potluck was held on September 20 at the White Pine Campground along Hwy. 95 north of Potlatch. Although a cold, wet and windy day had been forecasted, it turned out to be very mild and calm. We feasted on dishes that were brought by participants to share, and enjoyed a 3-mile loop hike that we shared with some mushroom hunters.

We also heartily thank Peggy Chevalier for leading a highly informative grass identification workshop in late June that was very popular with the local plant enthusiasts.

Did you know that the City of Moscow gives out awards for promoting water-efficient landscaping on the Palouse? It's called the "Wisescape Award," and you can learn more about it at this URL: <http://www.moscow.id.us/pw/WaterConservation/Wisescape.asp>

A Washington willow key has been developed by George Wooten of Conservation Northwest Associates, 226 West Second Street, Twisp, WA 98856, phone (509) 997-6010. It is also available online at this URL:

<http://www.okanogan1.com/botany/flora/wooten-salix-current.pdf>.

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

Local Native Plant Sales:

UI Arboretum: Saturday, May 30, 2009 at the Rotary Ice Rink, Latah County Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m. - noon (www.uidaho.edu/arboretum/).

Also, check the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute Web site at www.pcei.org in early 2009 for information on their plant sales.

A tip sent to us by Wendy McClure, Landscape Architect faculty at the UI:

A few years ago National Wildlife ran an article, "Going Native Without Making the Neighbors Restless", by NWF's Backyard Habitat Program Manager David Mizejewski. To avoid conflicts with neighbors who might not appreciate the natural look of your landscape his suggestions included:

*Create a mulched or mown border to frame your natural landscaping.

*Add benches, paths, sculptures or lanterns to "humanize" your yard and to make it look less wild.

*Start small and gradually expand naturalistic plantings so it's less of a shock to your neighbors.

*Choose native plants that feed and shelter wildlife and that also have ornamental qualities such as flowers, colorful fruits or interesting foliage or bark.

*Talk to neighbors about your plans before you start. *Check local ordinances or homeowner's association bylaws to make sure your landscape plan isn't going to be in violation. If it is, proactively push to change habitat-unfriendly laws.