

SAGE NOTES

IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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APR 11 1985

PAHOVE
NEW JOURNAL
COMMERCIAL GARDEN

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 1987

INPS CELEBRATES ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

by Carol Prentice

Members realizing that our Native Plant Society is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year have asked me do an article describing its formation, growth and highlights through the years. Why me, well I was around for its inception, and happened to be its first president. It doesn't seem like ten years have gone by since we started the Society, but we've all met a lot of fine people through the years who are concerned about our native flora and have shared their talents to build a professional organization.

THE BEGINNING

The idea of forming a native plant society took roots, as all good ideas should, on a warm, sunny spring day in 1977. I was travelling with Dr. Pat Packard, Botany Professor at the College of Idaho, on a field trip to Leslie Gulch, a fascinating place in Oregon near the Idaho border. Our conversation included research that had been done on interesting endemic plants of the area, its botanical secrets and the need to do more field work. Perhaps there would be enough interest among local botany students, graduates and others to organize a group for this purpose. Maybe we need to start a native plant society. Actually, I think Dr. Packard had this in mind for some time. As we jounced along dirt roads through sagebrush country, we talked of needs and goals for such a group.

In August of that year, a small group met in the Herbarium at the C. of I. to organize our new society. It was called the Pahove Society, Pahove being the Indian word for sagebrush, with which we were so familiar. We decided that field trips should be the primary activity of the group, but winters would be oriented to educational and research work. We elected a board of directors: Bob Steele as Chairman of the Board, me as President, Billie Ann Farley as Vice President, Sarah Richards as Secretary and Denise Smithers as Treasurer.

Our first big event was a field trip lead by Bob Steele to an area in Adams County to examine a dis-

junct population of *Ceanothus prostratus*. I remember how excited I was going with a group of botanically and field oriented people to actually see for myself the only known population of a plant in Idaho.

At our first regular meeting, Paul Hanna presented a program on bighorn sheep and their relationship to pristine plant populations. In December, Dr. Packard gave a program on possible reasons for the number of endemic plant species in the Owyhee Uplift, which includes the Leslie Gulch area. It was a fascinating talk, that kindled many interests. If you missed it, you'll have to wait until she publishes her book on the botanical aspects of the Owyhee uplift.

Charter members numbered about 36, of which a third are still active members.

GROWTH OF PAHOVE

The following summer brought monthly field trips, well attended, educational and always exciting for me. In the fall of 1978, the group voted to change the Society's name to the Idaho Native Plant Society. A new charter and bylaws would set up the organizational structure for a state wide native plant society. Pahove was to be its first chapter.

The College of Idaho Harold M. Tucker Herbarium was Pahove's home for the first several years. Typical meetings included a technical session with dissecting scopes and keys, to study a plant family or group of species. Then we had a short business meeting followed by a slide show and talk. In May of 1979, Vol. 1 of PAHOVE, Bulletin for Idaho Native Plant Society was published. Its editorial staff included Jim Grimes, who is now working on his Ph. D. at the University of Texas. The first and last of an annual technical publication, its 27 pages described Pahove activities during the past year. This is indeed a collector's item. In September of 1981, Joe Duft revived Sage Notes, our once-in-a-while newsletter, and produced it on a regular basis.

As the organization grew with more and more Boise and other Idaho members, the demand for activities in other locations became apparent. Meetings were alternated between Boise and Caldwell, and by October of



1983, the permanent address of INPS was changed to our present Boise address.

RECOGNITION

Our list of presidents over the years include Billie Ann Farley, Joe Duft, Jay Smithman, Dick Lingelfelter, Linda Smithman and Roger Rosentreter. Our list of achievements is long, including support to the Harold M. Tucker Herbarium including a herbarium case; numerous community schools classes; native plant surveys of Bruneau Dunes State Park, Ponderosa State Park and the Halls Gulch Nature Trail; native plant exchanges; Boise tree tours; and Idaho Sensitive Plant Workshops in cooperation with the USF&WS. We enjoy close affiliations with the Idaho Botanical Garden, the Nature Conservancy and the Idaho Fish and Game Wildlife Interpretive Center. During the past year, Pahove members have strongly supported the Squaw Butte Restoration Project.

Our achievements are the result of many talented people, professional and non-professional. Let us not forget Agnes Miller who does beautiful native plant drawings, Jerry Cross who builds great plant presses, Willy Gluch who watched over our treasury for years, Maxine Duft who typed all those newsletters, Jon Trail who protects *Astragalus mulfordiae* on his private property, and Royce Williams who designed our sagebrush logo.

Our membership is now about 100. Thanks to all who have made Pahove a great organization for all of us.



WELCOME TO A NEW NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The first meeting of the Montana Native Plant Society was held on August 29, 1987 at Bonner Park in Missoula with about 40 people in attendance. Kathy Ahlenslager is the new president. Membership in the MNPS is \$8.00 per year. Mailing address: Montana Native Plant Society, University of Montana Botany Department, Missoula, MT 59802. Good luck from the INPS.

FROM THE EDITOR

The age of high tech has reached our newsletter production. Desktop publishing, clipart, scanning and laser printing are becoming popular in the publishing world. This issue has been designed using the Ventura Publisher on an IBM compatible. Since it is a first effort at using a very sophisticated software program, its full publishing capabilities have not yet been implemented.

Our newsletter staff has undergone several changes during the past year, which has produced some discontinuity in bi-monthly publication. We hope to get back on schedule with a professional looking newsletter. Future volumes of Sage Notes will be numbered starting in January of each year instead of the Pahove Year (October to September).

Thanks to all those who have kept Sage Notes going during the past years.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Nov. 19: Meeting at 7:30 pm in Room 218, Science Education Bldg., Boise State University. The program is on the History of Big Game Winter Range Revegetation in southern Idaho by Bob Ferguson. Bob will be discussing a 19 year INT-Idaho Fish and Game cooperative study of wildlife habitat improvement and his recent observations of numerous early revegetation projects. See notes on contributors.

Dec. 5: Herbarium Day - Museum Day, College of Idaho, Boone Science Center, Harold M. Tucker Herbarium. Check with Carol Prentice (362-9029) or Bill Clark (375-8605) for details.

Dec. 11: Christmas Pot Luck/Plant Exchange - hosted by Mike and Carol Prentice, 5134 S. Morrow Street, Boise, 7:00 pm. Bring one food item and your own drinks and table service. Also, bring a plant for the plant exchange. Directions: Drive South on Five Mile past Amity, turn west on Highlander, and left on S. Morrow. If this doesn't work call 362-9029.



Jan. 21: Meeting at 7:30 pm in Room 218, Science Education Bldg., Boise State University. Mr. Lealand Tiegs of Nampa will discuss his native plants seed business and experiences he has had in growing native plants.

Jan. 9: Museum Day - Museum of Natural History, College of Idaho. Contact Bill Clark (375-8605) for details.

Feb. 7: Idaho Rare Plant Meeting. Contact Bob Parenti (342-4880) for details.

OTHER EVENTS

Nov. 17-19: Land Classification Based on Vegetation - Applications for Resource Management, University Inn, Best Western, Moscow, Idaho.

Nov. 21: Walkin' Jim Stoltz, folk singer, will be playing at The Nook coffee shop in Hyde Park on 13th Street at 7:30 p.m. Walkin' Jim has hiked the Continental Divide trail from Canada to Mexico a number of times to see the country and enjoy nature. Jim writes songs inspired by his travels and experiences.

His appearance in Boise is sponsored by the Idaho Conservation League. Admission is \$5.00 at the door. Please come and join

LIVE
in concert

other Pahoveites for this evening of music.

Nov. 22: A Wild A Fair, Boise YWCA, 720 West Washington, 2-5 p.m. A unique sale to benefit a master plan for the creation of an Idaho Heritage Trust in conjunction with the Idaho Centennial. This fund would provide stable, long-term funding for the preservation of Idaho's natural resources and historical and cultural heritage. See October Meeting Minutes below.

Jan. 13-16: Restoring the Earth. A National Conference on Natural Resource Restoration and Environmental Planning, University of California, Berkeley. Topics will include temperate hardwood and coniferous forest restoration, mined land stabilization and revegetation, wetland restoration, wildlife restoration, and atmospheric restoration.

For additional information on these events, come to the next meeting or contact Nancy Shaw (334-1457).

PAHOVE ACTIVITY REPORTS

by Ann Debolt

POTLUCK AT PARENTI'S: Good food and beautiful fall views were enjoyed by Pahoveites potluck-

ing at Bob and Rhoda's for the September meeting. Volunteer needs for the Tree Tour and Fall Foliage Festival and newsletter coordination were discussed. Joe Duft has agreed to format Sage Notes. Several recent publications were shared including



Shrubs of the Great Basin by H. Mozingo and Seeds of Wildland Plants by J. and C. Young.

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES: We discussed upcoming events such as the Tree Tour and Fall Foliage Festival that was held on Saturday October 17th this year.

Other events mentioned were the monthly Herbarium Days that are held at the C of I the first Saturday of each month and a Squaw Butte rehab day on October 24th (folks who couldn't make this trip missed out on Mary Dudley's scrumptious apple pie, not to mention some nice views from the lookout).

This year's **A Wild A Fair** is on November 22 from 2-5 pm at the YWCA. It will be a silent auction like last year. Fifty percent of the profits will go to the sponsoring groups, the remainder to the Idaho Heritage Trust, a fund to provide long-term monies for the preservation of Idaho's natural resources. Pahove members are welcome to donate goods, dinners or field trips. Roger has donation forms. We will need volunteers to help with the booth that day.

The chairman of our phone tree resigned and Wilma volunteered to be the new one. People signed up to be phone tree captains. We also need an updated phone list.

Forest Service Challenge Grants were discussed. Native Plant Society members are being urged to submit grant applications one year in advance.

Mike Pellant of the BLM State Office presented an informative discussion of their Greenstripping program.



IDAHO NATURAL AREAS

by Bob Moseley

Oneida Narrows

The Oneida Narrows is a gorge cut by the Bear River between the Portneuf and Bear River ranges in Franklin County of southeast Idaho. Limestone cliffs with numerous caves tower above the river. During a brief visit in June, 1985, pairs of both golden eagles

and prairie falcons were seen soaring over the canyon. The interesting botanical feature of the Narrows is the area's woody flora and associated woodland vegetation.

All three species of maple native to Idaho occur here: interior box-elder (*Acer negundo* var. *interius*), Rocky Mountain maple (*A. glabrum* var. *glabrum*), and big-tooth maple (*A. grandidentatum*). The gallery forest bordering the Bear River contains the three maples plus understory shrubs such as Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), and lemonade sumac (*Rhus trilobata*). Several types of woodlands occur on the canyonsides. Dense stands of bigtooth maple occupy concavities on the slope while it and Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) codominate on spur ridges. Where the soil is very shallow, mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius* var. *ledifolius*) woodlands occur with an understory of bluebunch wheatgrass.

An interesting member of the herbaceous flora is Watson's prickly phlox (*Leptodactylon watsonii*). A robust plant with big flowers, Watson's prickly phlox trails down cliff faces anchored only in vertical cracks.

The deciduous woodlands found in Oneida Narrows are unique for Idaho, being reminiscent of vegetation farther south. Cliffs have prevented livestock from entering slopes on the east side of the canyon, leaving the terrestrial vegetation in an essentially pristine state. The box-elder gallery forest also appears in excellent ecological condition, although water levels of the Bear River are controlled by a dam upstream from the Narrows and, therefore, does not represent truly natural conditions.

Due to these attributes, the Idaho Natural Areas Coordinating Committee and The Nature Conservancy recommended to the BLM in 1985, that approximately 600 acres of Oneida Narrows be designated a Research Natural Area. The Pocatello Resource Area of the Idaho Falls BLM District agrees and has placed our proposal in the



preferred alternative of their upcoming Resource Management Plan. Oneida Narrows is located approximately two miles north of State highway 36, 11 miles northeast of Preston. A well-maintained dirt road runs through the area along the Bear River.

WANTED: IDAHO NATIVES

STARHILL FOREST ARBORETUM DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT PROJECT

by Guy Sternberg

Starhill Forest is a 20 acre private research and demonstration facility established in 1976 near Petersburg, Illinois. During the past decade, we have successfully planted approximately 600 different taxa of woody plants, with emphasis upon American native material and wild forms or natural varieties of selected exotics.

Due to the reputation of this region as a humid zone with adequate rainfall (35" annually), automatic irrigation and drought tolerant plant selection are generally considered to be burdens affecting southern California and the Intermountain West, and both practices are largely ignored here. However, we are finding that small scale weather anomalies are critical factors in determining the survival and vigor of plants in central Illinois. Our portion of the State is often bypassed by weather fronts of Canadian origin (passing to the north) as well as those of Gulf origin (passing to the south), leaving

the so-called "Prairie Peninsula" of Central Illinois parched and inimical to woody plants during the summer. This trend has caused significant drought and heat-stress induced mortality to low maintenance plantings during 10 of the past 12 years.

We want to develop methods to deal with this problem, and pass this knowledge

along to the local communities. We have further decided that because a large commitment to irrigation can be an expensive, wasteful, and sometimes impractical solution, we should concentrate upon mulching, weed control, site design, and particularly upon the locally untested opportunities available through selection of western American trees and shrubs.

We are hoping to acquire small trial lots of seeds and seedlings of western trees and shrubs. Those species and ecotypes showing potential will be planted in demonstration areas and locally promoted for further use. Nurserymen, horticulturists, landscape architects, and others in this area have virtually no first hand knowledge of these species compared to many INPS members. Any suggestions, or any plant materials with documented provenance data, would be very much appreciated.

If you will be in our area, please make arrangements to visit and share ideas! Otherwise, we may be reached at the following address: Starhill Forest, Route 1 Box 272, Petersburg, Illinois 62675.

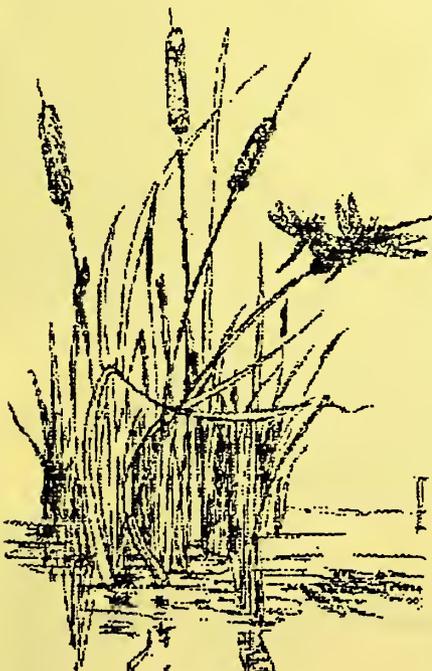
ENDANGERED WILDFLOWERS - 1988 CALENDAR

Sixteen color photographs of threatened or endangered American wildflowers are featured in the 1988 calendar. A discussion of the plant and its status accompanies each photograph. The calendar is 8.5 by 23 inches when open. Order it from the American Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 0105, Mount Vernon, VA 22121. The price is \$6.95.

Merry Christmas

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Anne Herndon, Boise, Idaho and Harry Menser, Sandpoint, Idaho



CLASSIFIED ADS

Space is available for your personal or commercial advertising. Ads of a botanical nature should be submitted with payment to our INPS address or directly to the newsletter editor. Per issue rates are: Personal ads (up to 30 words) are \$2.00; Commercial advertisements - 1/8 page is \$5.00, 1/4 page is \$8.00, 1/2 page is \$15.00 and full page is \$25.00.

YOUR AD HERE**NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS**

Ann Debolt is a botanist for the Boise District, Bureau of Land Management. She is also our Society's secretary.

Bob Ferguson, the November meeting speaker, is a retired Forest Service researcher who worked with others at the Intermountain Research Station's Boise Lab to conduct some of the early studies of bitterbrush reestablishment. He later moved to the Shrub Lab in Provo, Utah, where he studied reclamation of oilshale spoils and coal mine overburden.

Bob Meseley, who regularly contributes articles on Idaho natural areas and other topics, is a botanist with the Nature Conservancy. He works out of Moscow and Ketchum, as he covers the state of Idaho.

Carol Prentice is a graduate botanist who has worked for the Idaho Fish and Game and is currently studying the propagation of *Allium asseae*.

Nancy Shaw is a U.S. Forest Service botanist at the Intermountain Research Station in Boise. She is currently assigned to the riparian/stream ecosystems research project.

Guy Sternberg is a landscape architect/horticulturist at the Starhill Forest Arboretum in Illinois.

ABOUT OUR SOCIETY

OFFICERS: President - Roger Rosentreter (334-1927), Vice President - Mary McGowen (336-6811), Secretary - Ann Debolt (334-9291), Treasurer - Gerald Wood (336-8749), BoardChr - Carol Prentice (362-9029).
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Dotty Douglas, Pat Packard, Bob Parenti, and Bob Steele.
LAY REPRESENTATIVES Mary Clark and Freda Younger.
NEWSLETTER STAFF: Newsletter Editor - Nancy Shaw, Technical Editor - Bob Steele, and Publishing Editor - Joe Duft.

MEMBERSHIP in the Society is open to all interested in our native flora. Dues are still only \$6.00 per year on an anniversary month basis, that is, from the time you join. Contributions to our Society, a non-profit organization, are tax deductible. Send dues and all correspondence to I.N.P.S., Box 9451, Boise, ID 83704.

SAGE NOTES is published bi-monthly by the Idaho Native Plant Society, incorporated since 1977 under the laws of the State of Idaho. A red dot beside your due date on the mailing label indicates that your membership has expired. You will receive only two newsletters after this date.

MATERIALS FOR PUBLICATION: Members and others are invited to submit material for publication in Sage Notes. Text should be in typed form or if possible on 5 1/4 inch floppy discs for an IBM computer in Wordstar, Wordperfect, Multimate or ascii file format. Illustrations and even high contrast photos may be reduced and incorporated into the newsletter. Provide a phone number in case the editors have questions on your materials. Send these to our regular INPS address or directly to the newsletter editor. **Due date for material for the next newsletter is December 20, 1987.**

IDAHO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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