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## Next Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 4, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Life Care Center, 500 Aqua Drive, Coeur d'Alene. (just West of Hwy. 95 and South of Prairie Ave.) Please do not park in the doctor's parking area. Come prepared to discuss Calypso field trips and dates for next year. The program will be Volume 3 of the Mors Korchanski video series we have been viewing.

## Minutes of the May meeting

President Bob Lee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Minutes were approved as written in the Calypso Companion. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business: INPS State Annual meeting final details were discussed. Possible field trip leaders to contact, also were discussed. The meeting program consisted of members looking over the pressed wildflower collection of Sharon Mather's grandmother, from Rathdrum, Idaho, circa 1906. Sharon currently resides in Pioneer, California. The Rathdrum Historical Society had apparently not expressed an interest in taking the collection for their Museum. Sharon claimed her mother was 20 years old in 1906. The 1893 book *How To Know the Wildflowers* by Mrs. William Starr Dana, Charles Scribner's Publishers, New York, was somewhat helpful. Among the species we looked at *Delphinium*(Larkspur), *Phlox*, *Alum Root*(*Heuchera*), *Spring Beauty*(*Claytonia virginica*). Pres. Bob Lee still has the collection for the Chapter if anyone would like to borrow it. The Calypso Chapter also has the late mycologist Kit Scates-Barnhart's pressed wildflower collection from North Idaho, viewed at a previous meeting.

## Field Trip Report

### Field Trips

**Tweete/Scout Trail** exploratory hike: 8:00 a.m., Saturday, May 13, 2006. Bob Lee and Phil Hruskoc attempted this walk on May 13th, but took a wrong turning so had to get more information. Roland Craft met a ranger at the trailhead on May 20. They rode a 4-wheeler along the trail to mark it. Roland also wrote out the directions in case the ribbons were removed. Bob and Phil successfully hiked the trail on May 27. They compiled a species list for the state meeting participants. The Tweet/Scout Trail hike was a success at the state meeting. It was the most difficult due to its length. The Calypso Chapter could contemplate making this a regular field trip in 2007.

**Q'melin Trails**, 1:00 p.m., Sunday, May 21, 2006. About 9 attended, the weather was almost ideal. Two Kinnickinnick INPS Chapter members attended and three Eastern Washington Chapter WNPS members. Somewhat dry conditions were in existence, especially near the wet site where we always find Watercress. We met at the Asbell's for a potluck afterwards.

**Gamlin Lake**, near Sagle, Idaho, Saturday, June 3, 2006. A few members attended. Newest member Penny Gideon helped with bird identification. One was the Song Sparrow. This was the 2nd visit to Gamlin Lake by the Chapter, the first time was in August, a couple of years ago under extremely dry conditions. This time the hike was a success, plenty of moisture, and plenty of fungi also. Some highlights: Spotted Coralroot, Large-leaved Avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), Pinedrops, Devil's Club, Wild Hyacinth, Sweet Cicely, Trail Plant, Skunk Cabbage, Sarsapilla, Stinging nettle, Hooker's Fairybell, Sword Fern, Foam Flower. A very easy, and short walk to consider for next year.

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was June 23-25 at Farragut State Park. Calypso Chapter was lead chapter working with Kinnickinnick and White Pine Chapters to put on this event. There were 22 people who camped at the campground. Forty-three people were there for the evening meal and talk on Saturday.

People came to the meeting from as far away as Pocatello and Idaho Falls.

The important thing to note is that the 2007 annual meeting is going to be held next June 15-17 at Craters of the Moon. By planning ahead we are hoping to increase attendance. Maybe people can schedule their vacations or trips around the annual meeting. This should be a very interesting venue.

**Mt. Spokane State Park**, Spokane, Washington, Saturday, July 15, 2006. The group met at the Spokane Christian Center on the NW corner of Argonne and Bigelow Gulch Road. The hike was to Mt. Kit Carson, about 4 miles round trip. Then the group went to the top of Mt. Spokane to look around.

**Roman Nose Lakes**, 25 miles from Naples, Idaho, Saturday, August 12, 2006. Three persons attended, one from WNPS Northeast Chapter, Dave Noble, and two from Calypso Chapter, INPS. The trip was delayed for one hour just outside of Naples as a road block was set up in the aftermath of a deadly car crash with a motorhome. The group arrived at 9 p.m. Friday night, August 11th, to set up camp, in the dark by flashlight. As a cool rainy weekend was forecast, only four other persons were encountered while at Roman Nose, the entire weekend! Saturday's field trip was productive until the clouds rolled in, lightning and thunder were heard. Over half way through the hike, they took shelter for lunch and waited maybe a half hour for the rains and hail to quit(which they did). Another half hour into the last leg of the hike, the clouds again rolled in with thunder and hail--which caused the party to hurry back to camp. The sun came out about an hour after the hikers returned with clear blue sky. A second hike was decided on for Sunday. Highlights this year: Witch's Butter (*Tremella mesenterica*) an edible Jelly Fungus every where on ends of decaying logs. Also, Trainwreck Fungus, (*Lentinus lepideus*) on dead logs from the 1967 Sundance Fire, above our camp site. Shrubby Penstemon (*Penstemon fruticosus*), Cotton Grass, Huckleberry(not many berries left at this late time), Bog St. Johnswort, Mt. Aster, White flowered Rhododendron, Whitebark Pine, Sub Alpine Larch, SubAlpine Fir, Heather, Beargrass.

### **Devil's Club**

Devil's Club (*Oplopanax horridum*) belongs to the Ginseng Family. This plant gets its unsavory reputation from its stout, club-shaped woody stems (3-9' tall) plagued with stiff, sharp spines up to 3/4" long. Its genus name *Oplopanax* is from the Greek hoplon (weapon) and Panax, the name of a related large-leaved genus.

Devil's Club is an erect to sprawling deciduous shrub, stems thick, crooked, almost unbranched but often entangled. The wood has a distinct sweetish odor. The alternate leaves are palmately shaped like those of the maple-leaf with 7-9 sharply pointed and heavily toothed lobes, on long stalks. These huge leaves are often over 12" broad. There are many spines on the veins and leaf stalks. The flowers are small and whitish, with 5 sepals and petals; in dense pyramidal clusters up to 10" long at the ends of the stems. The fruit is bright red, flattened shiny berries in large, showy pyramidal clusters that are not edible.

Devil's club is widespread and common at low to subalpine elevations in moist shady forests, especially in wet but well-drained seepage sites and along streams. In very wet areas it forms a major component of undergrowth on a wide range of sites. In the mottled shadows of cedar swamps, Devil's Club grows abundantly wherever the ground is black soft and damp. The large, exotic leaves spread like green platters to catch the filtered sun's rays.

The spines of this plant readily break off, and a wound soon festers if the spine stays embedded in the skin. This member of the ginseng family is very handsome, however, and it is gaining acceptance as a garden ornamental. Propagation is slow, whether from seeds, cuttings or layering.

American Indians and herbalists value devil's club for its medicinal properties. It is used for many ailments, such as stomach ulcers, thyroid conditions, syphilis and diabetes, and as an emetic, cough syrup and laxative. Various parts of the plant were ground into powders for external poultices for arthritis and rheumatism, or fresh pieces were laid on open wounds.

The stems of this exceedingly disagreeable plant form a serious obstacle when encountered while threading a tangled thicket, for the wounds made by them are very painful. Such painfully difficult thickets appealed to the imagination of the American Indians. Many of their favorite folk-tales record how the fleeing hero,

when in distress, throws behind him some prickly object, which, by his magic, becomes changed into an impassable tangle of Devil's Club in which the pursuing enemy becomes entangled and sadly torn. Next to the hellebore this was undoubtedly the Coast Indians' most valued medicine. A bit of its bark tied to the hemlock root halibut hook was believed to insure a large catch. Amulets of Devil's Club wood worn by the shamans enabled them to accomplish extraordinary feats in the overcoming of supernatural beings. Houses or booths constructed entirely of Devil's Club were sometimes prepared for a shaman of recognized power, that he might escape every form of ceremonial pollution and prepare himself for some important work.

A decoction of the bark is a violent emetic, and to vomit was, by the natives, considered the quickest means of obtaining strength and purity. This medicine, therefore, together with hot sea water was administered to all the members of war parties, as well as to hunters about to start on any difficult expedition.

References available on request.