

Loasa - *The Newsletter*

Nov. 2006 – Summer Recap



Mentzelia laevicaulis – near Boise, August, 2006
This is our most common representative of the family Loasaceae locally.

A message from the Prez:
Dear Loasa Members,
This time of the year finds us planting and seeding native plants, in the hopes that these plants will lead to a more beautiful landscape, along with aiding the environment in which we live. All of this takes work, dedication and a lot of research. Many of us joined the Idaho Native Plant Society to learn about native plants and how to take care of them. In my case I learned about native plants, but didn't learn a thing about the INPS.

In the past month, it became very obvious that the INPS, like the plants that it represents, takes a lot of work and dedication on behalf of its membership, along with good communications among and between members. So along with learning about native plants, learn about your society and what you can do to make it grow and become more viable. I encourage all Loasa members to participate not only at the local level, but also to get involved at all levels. The INPS and its objective, are a very worth while pursuit. So lets all lend a hand.

As always,
Kelvin (The President)

Calendar

Nov 16th, 2006 Monthly Meeting – Southern Deserts – Lamar Orton
Room 258 of the Taylor Building at CSI 7-9 pm

Dec 21st, 2006 Monthly Meeting – Christmas Party – Kelvin Jones
Contact Kelvin for more info

Jan 18th, 2006 Monthly Meeting – Poisonous Plants – Dylan Levy-Boyd
Room 258 of the Taylor Building at CSI 7-9 pm

Pillar Falls Canoe Trip

The canoe trip to Pillar Falls is one of Southern Idaho's great little adventures. On a fine fall morning the trip to the falls really shines. It was really great of Kelvin to make a flotilla of high-zoot really nice canoes available for our use. The photographs are courtesy of Dylan Levy-Boyd.



The docks are a good place to start.



The Perrine Bridge from the river



The Hall's demonstrate proper technique



Kelvin has to boat alone!

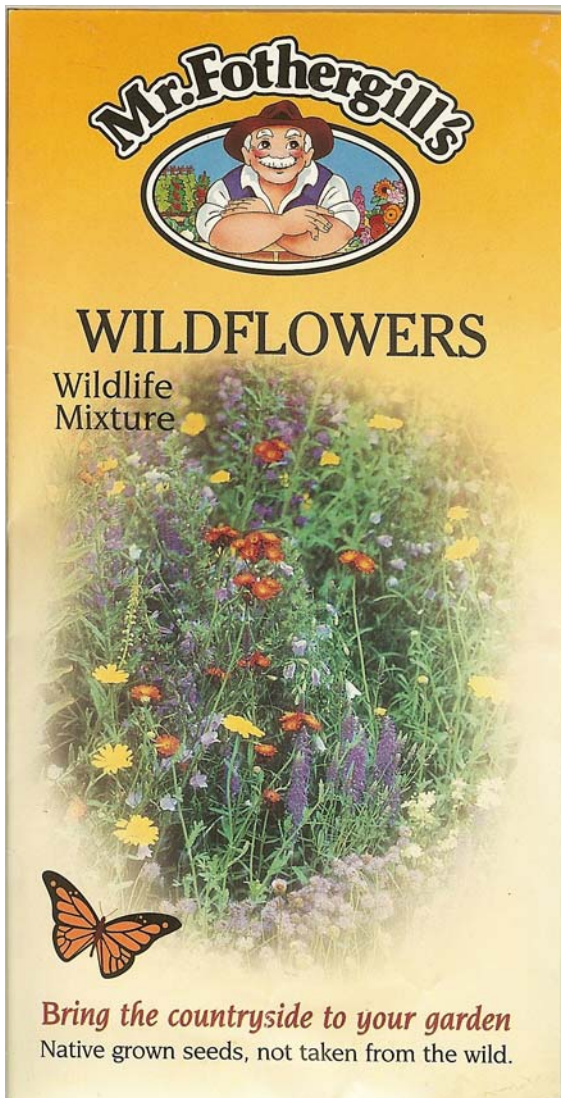
2007 Annual Meeting

The 2007 Idaho Native Plant Society Annual Meeting is going to be at Craters of the Moon National Monument, June 15, 16, & 17th!! Make plans to attend!!!

Great plants (like at left), great company, and great fun!!



Mr. Fothergill's Wild Flower Seed Mix



The following is provided as a cautionary tale: wild flower does not equal native flower. We all know Mr. Fothergill: newsletter editor, native plant aficionado, bird watcher, and insect enthusiast. But is there another side to Mr. Fothergill? What is the deal with this seed packet? Every flower in this seed packet is a listed noxious weed somewhere in the United States. Mr. Fothergill (of the seed packet) is in the U.K., but the seed packet clearly shows a Monarch (a North American butterfly) – is this product destined for U.S. (and Canadian) soil? Is this a terrorist plot to undermine our homeland botanic security? Interestingly, this is labeled the “Wildlife Mixture”, but it is anything but useful to wildlife; just like the “Clear Skies Initiative” was anything but beneficial to air quality. Instead of planning a pre-emptive strike, perhaps we should ask how can we educate people so that their gardening does not negatively impact the Idaho we love.

All joking aside, many people want plants in their landscape that will grow like weeds, and that is precisely what they get. Many of the plants on the state noxious plant list started their careers as horticultural specimens (e.g. Purple Loosestrife), and we haven't managed to introduce every nasty

and invasive plant to our fair state. This seed packet is a good start, and I am sure that even nastier plants are out there in seed packets just waiting....

You Too Can Be Famous

Mingle with jetsetters and party until dawn. Loasa is currently in need of an editor for 2007 contact Kelvin to volunteer.

The Second Cotterels Field Trip

As good as the first trip was who would have expected the second trip to be better? It was. The photo essay below will give a taste of what was missed:



An impromptu lecture on snowfield ecology and effects on plant life get interesting...



We saw Arctiid moth caterpillars on Lupine and a pair of tiger beetles (*Cicindela purpurea*).

This was a full day spent in the quiet company of *Pediocactus* and Junipers. With the children along we found all kinds of wonderful plants that we wouldn't have found otherwise. The day was full and passed much too quickly. Hard to believe a place this cool is this close to town!

Mount Harrison Field Trips

This year we had three extremely poorly attended field trips up to Mount Harrison. Mount Harrison is cool and groovy with plants and more! I suggest you go up there often. The photographs below are early July high on the mountain.



Columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*)



California Tortoiseshell on snow bank

The 2006 INPS State Meeting at Farragut State Park

Two Loasa members made it to the INPS State meeting. It was great! The lake was really cold which made for great swimming! The disc golf courses (3!!) were challenging and fun! The food and company were extremely pleasant and the botany was awesome!



Lilium columbianum, yes this tiger lily is native to Idaho!



Bald-hip Rose, *Rosa gymnocarpa*. There were several species of roses in bloom, each with their own fragrance. We saw several exciting plants.

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