Welcome to Spring and to the new look of Native Plants Journal. I hope you enjoy it.

Last fall, most of the editors and others associated with the journal were able to meet in Riggins, Idaho, for a day-and-a-half session. The weather was glorious and the fall colors impressive for Idaho. We discussed many aspects of the journal, where we are heading, the nuts and bolts of delivering a quality publication, the roles for authors and editors, future topics to feature, and adding a directory of native plant nurseries and seed producers as a third issue every other year. I was personally delighted by how quickly comradery developed and the progress made in our brief gathering. It was also very nice to finally put faces with all of the names. Understanding the importance of genetics in any native plant work and realizing the paucity of information available, we plan to dedicate an upcoming issue to this topic. If you have any research or field observations dealing with genetics that could be published in that issue, please contact me soon.

This issue has focus on our friends in Hawai‘i and their work on propagating native plants and protecting native ecosystems. I think you’ll agree with me that many of their techniques have utility for us mainlanders. And although the situation sometimes seems dire, I find extreme optimism in the dedicated efforts of these folks. As an editor, this was certainly the most difficult issue to proof. Candace Akins, editor at the University of Idaho Press, and I spent hours going through our Hawaiian dictionary, dictionaries of place names, web sites, and other sources in an attempt to be faithful to and respectful of Hawaiian language and culture. I now know more about ‘okina (a glottal stop), off-glides, and macrons than I ever dreamed possible.

Looking ahead to the next issue, expect more protocols, a tantalizing article on sex within the Salicaceae, our first entry from Alaska, planting tools, and prairie remnants in Virginia.

As always, thank you for subscribing. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to subscribe.

R Kasten Dumroese