

Plant society to visit Aberdeen center

BLACKFOOT — The Sah-Wah-Be Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society will take a field trip to the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center Monday.

The center has provided plant solutions applicable to the diverse landscapes of the Intermountain west for more than 60 years. The center has released more than 40 improved conservation plants, including varieties of fourwing saltbush, bottlebrush squirreltail, Baltic rush, Lewis flax, penstemon and basin wild rye. The center also has provided technical leadership for fighting noxious weeds, rehabilitating after wildfire, developing windbreaks, propagating native shrubs and improving range lands, pastures and riparian and wetland areas.

Chris Hoag, wetland plant ecologist and Loren

St. John, range specialist, will give a tour of the research center and greenhouse. They will give a presentation of what research is done at the center, and how and where native plant communities are being restored. President Jenae Dixon said the greenhouse is not too active this time of year but it will still be fun to get to know the resource better.

People interested in going to the center are to meet at 3:15 p.m., at the Bison Latifron near the Idaho Museum of Natural History parking lot at Idaho State University in Pocatello. Call 239-0742 or 232-0908, as a head count is needed for hand-outs from the center.

Following the tour those wishing may join the Sah-Wah-Be Chapter at a Mexican restaurant in Aberdeen at a no-host dinner.