

HELSEYA

Montana Native Plant Society Sprouts

BY KATHY AHLENSLAGER

As of November 19, 1987 the Montana Native Plant Society is an incorporated non-profit organization. Thank you, Cary Lund, for your work on this. Our incorporation allowed us to open a bank account and finally cash the checks of 120 paid members. Meanwhile, state officers and Cary are continuing work on the by-laws.

The purposes of our society as written in the Articles of Incorporation are:

The preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants

and plant communities of Montana and the education of the public to the values of the native flora and its habitat.

To be a non-profit corporation organized under the Montana Non-profit Corporation Act.

To be organized exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corre-

Continued on Page 2

And the winner is...

BY KATHY AHLENSLAGER

Voters for the newsletter mascot had 16 nominations to choose between.

Kelseya came out on top, followed by *Balsamorhiza*.

Thanks to all those who took the time to write nominations and to vote. Several mascots were nominated by more than one person.

Here are the mascots nominated and their nominators

Aquilegia jonesii - Larry & Leita Dickman, Augusta and Jan Nixon, Bozeman.

Balsamorhiza - Ellen Seeley & Tom Pittenger, West Glacier.

Calypso bulbosa - James Taplin, Bozeman

Camassia - Seeley & Pittenger.

Carex - Sara Toubman, Helena

Cirsium - Charles Tiernan, Missoula

Dodecatheon pauciflorum - Gwen McBride, Monarch and Sue Trull, Missoula



Kelseya uniflora

Hierochloe - Seeley & Pittenger

Kelseya - Greg Fraser, Ronan and Peter Lesica, Missoula.

Lewisia - Greg Fraser, Ronan

and Roger Rosentretter, Boise.

Linnaea borealis - Gwen McBride, Monarch and Margaret Scoles, Biddle.

(Continued on Page 4)

Quiz

A. How many species of native and naturalized vascular plants are known to occur in Montana?

B. Many plants found in the state have been introduced from Europe & Asia. Some have become serious pests. What plant native to Montana has become a serious problem in Europe?

Answers on Page 8.

Calendar

All events are open to the public. We hope you can share rides.

JAN. 30, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Federation of Alberta Naturalists. "Earth and All Its Riches: Maintaining the Cornucopia". Fees paid at the door. Capri Centre, 3310 Gaetz Av., Red Deer, Alberta T4N 3X9.

FEB. 2, Tuesday, Bozeman. Montana Power Meeting Room, E. Griffith Street. Business meeting begins a 7 p.m. election of officers. At 7:30 p.m. a panel including Shelly Bruce and Dick Pohl will discuss "Landscaping and Gardening with Native Plants."

FEB. 17, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Missoula. University of Montana Herbarium, Botany Room 303. Identification of Common Montana Plant Families. Using slides and pressed plants, Kathy Ahlenslager will lead a discussion of what to look for in identifying plants.

FEB. 5-6, Denver. Conference "Landscaping with Wildflowers and Native Plants" sponsored by Denver Botanical Gardens and The National Wildflower Research Center. Brown Palace Hotel. Fee \$85. For information call (303) 575-3751.

FEB. 11, Thursday, Missoula. MNPS meeting, 7:30 pm in UM Botany Rm. 307. "Winter Botanizing, or What Plant is that in the Ice and Snow?" by Peter F. Stickney of the Intermountain Research Station. Refreshments provided. BE thinking

of nominations of chapter officers.

FEB. 13, Saturday, Missoula. 1-4 p.m. MNPS Field trip (weather permitting): Hellgate Canyon walk lead by Peter F. Stickney. "Winter Habit Plant Identification." Meet at 12:45 pm at UM Center Bookstore on campus. You'll need winter field dress, hand lens or low-powered magnifier, clippers, and if you possess it, *Winter Field Key to the Native Shrubs of Montana*.

MARCH 10, Thursday Missoula. MNPS meeting, 7:30 pm, in the UM Botany Room 307. John Pierce will discuss "Spring Flora."

MARCH 14, Monday, Bozeman. MNPS Southwest Montana Chapter meeting at the Museum of the Rockies, Kagy & S. 7th. 7:30 pm. Joint meeting with Sacajawea Audubon Society. Steve Shelly will present a program about rare and endangered plants in Montana and the function of the Montana Natural Heritage Program.

APRIL 14, Thursday, Missoula. MNPS meeting at 7:30 pm in the Univ. of Montana Botany 307. Roxa French will command us to "Weed it and Reap".

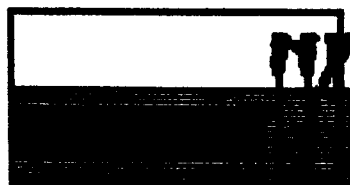
APRIL 30-MAY 1, Saturday and Sunday, Bozeman. All-membership meeting and field trip. Watch for details in the April newsletter.

Plant Society Sprouts

(Continued from Page 1)

sponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

To engage, to the extent not inconsistent with the purposes set forth in other activities not prohibited by law.



Utricularia

A mouthful, but not for us.

By SUE TRULL

Of the 16 genera of carnivorous plants found in the world, only three are found in Montana. One of these, the genus *Utricularia*, is represented here by three species, *U. vulgaris*, *U. minor*, and *U. intermedia*, all of which are aquatic.

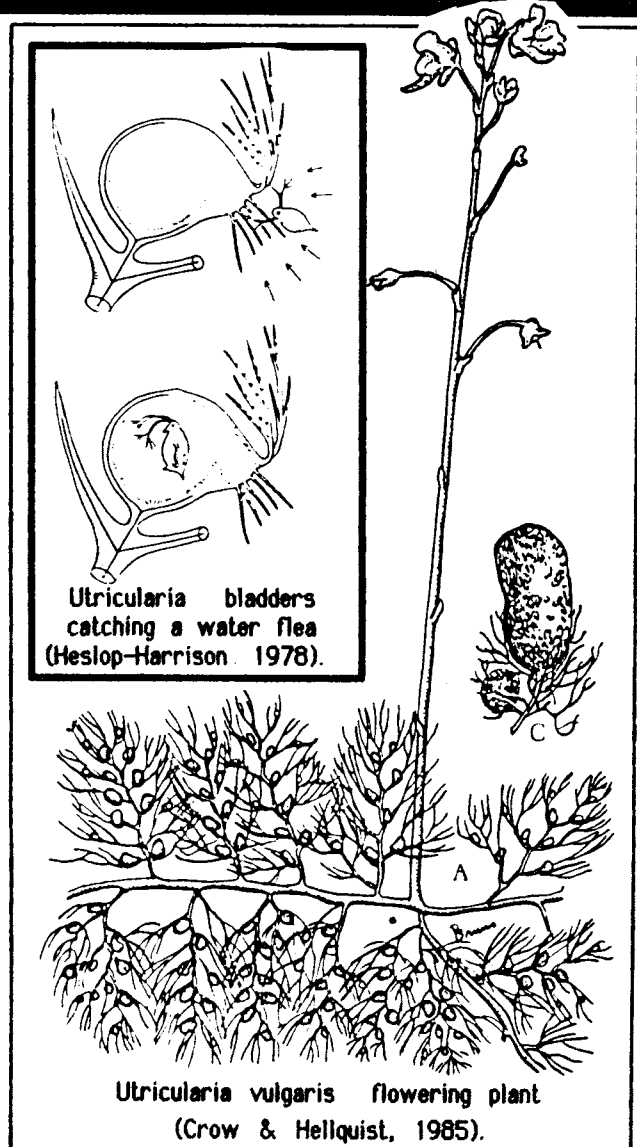
These plants possess small hydraulic traps, or bladders, hence the common name, bladderwort.

The bladderworts are floating, rootless plants which are found mostly in quiet water: ponds, bays, bogs, sloughs, slow-moving streams. *U. vulgaris*, the common or greater bladderwort, is broadly distributed in Montana, and may be very abundant at a given site. *U. minor*, the lesser bladderwort, is occasionally found with *U. vulgaris* but is smaller and recorded only in Sweetgrass and Flathead Counties (Dorn, *Vascular Plants of Montana* 1984).

U. intermedia, the mountain bladderwort, is rarest of the three in our state, known only from two locations: one in Glacier National Park, one in the Swan Valley (Lesica, personal communication.)

The bladderworts are perennial herbs with amazing capabilities for vegetative reproduction. They overwinter as turions, densely packed leaf clusters which are resistant to drying and freezing. In the spring, these turions elongate into a single or branched stolon.

The plant can fragment, with many pieces able to develop into new plants, and new plants can grow from single leaflets of the turion as well. Thus, a small piece adhering to a wandering duck's foot could easily repopulate an entire pond. Although flowering in Montana species of *Utricularia* is irregular, yellow sweet pea-like blossoms may be seen supported above the water surface.



Small crustaceans, insect larvae, algae, and sometimes the vascular plant, *Wolffia* (water meal), are captured by *Utricularia* plants when these prey contact trigger hairs extending from the bladders. The traps open and water rushes in, carrying along the organisms which are then slowly digested and nutrients absorbed to supplement the nutrition of these carnivorous/herbivorous plants.

This animal-catching prowess (a single plant may have hundreds of bladders) gives *Utricularia* some economic value. It has been suggested for biological control of mosquito larvae and schistosomiasis-causing flukes.

The Winner Is...

(Continued from Page 1)

Potentilla fruticosa - Willis Heron, Missoula and Blaine Mooers, Culbertson.

Rosa - Seeley & Pittenger.

Salix - Nancy Thormahlen, Ronan.

Typha - Peter Pederson, Great Falls.

Wyethia - Seeley & Pittenger.

Both Greg Fraser and Peter Lesica will receive a "grand prize" of a free one-year membership in the society. The following is from Peter's nomination:

By choosing *kelseya* to represent the Montana Native Plant Society, we not only have a uniquely Montana species as our mascot, but we honor a person whose interest in botany is inspirational.

Kelseya uniflora (Watson) Rydberg is an intricately branched, mat-forming, partially evergreen shrub in the rose family (Rosaceae). It has small, reddish purple flowers which are produced very early in the spring. *Kelseya* is most often found growing from cracks in limestone cliffs where it forms mats which cover the cliff faces like patches of thick green tapestry.

Kelseya is locally common in the mountains east of the Continental Divide from the Little Belt Mountains near Great Falls and the Front Range west of Augusta south to the Centennial Mountains and the Beartooth Mountains on the southern border of the state. It is currently known from Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Meagher and Teton counties in Montana.

It also occurs in four counties in northwestern Wyoming and two counties in south-central Idaho. *Kelseya* is a monotypic genus which means that this one species is so unique that it must be placed by itself in a separate group.

Almost all species of plants in our state are in genera which are more widely distributed elsewhere, but *Kelseya* is found mainly in Montana.

The genus *Kelseya* was named in honor of Francis Duncan Kelsey who first discovered this plant along the Missouri River northeast of Helena in 1888. He was one of Montana's first resident botanists.

The Editor's Notes

I want to thank all my contributors to this 2nd edition of the MNPS Newsletter, now known as *KELSEYA*. Those who authored articles are so credited. The following fed in the many tidbits and scheduling: Kathy Ahlenslager, Mona Frangos, Lisa Schaasberger, Peter Lesica, Jan Nixon, Jean Parker, Sue Reel, Keith Shaw, and Peter Stickney. Others have provided a backlog of material. That's the way to get started!

DEADLINE: The deadline for our spring issue is March 31. We will be making up a new state-wide mailing list at the end of March which will include only paid-up members.

Membership information is included on page 8. We would like to share events, whether planned or impromptu, so please send us a note on its occurrence.

Send us an article you'd like to see published, your own or from another source. Mail should be addressed to MNPS, Dept. of Botany, University of Montana, Missoula MT 59812.

Resources galore for native plant enthusiasts

Many different organizations are involved in the fight to save this country's rare and endangered native plants. The following is a partial list of some of the national organizations. For more information on their programs, write to the addresses listed below.

National Wildflower Research Center. 2600 FM 973 North, Austin TX 78725. Conducts basic research on native and naturalized plants and their cultivation.

Garden Club of America. 598 Madison Ave., New York NY 10022. They strive to educate members and the public through a variety of programs.

Environmental Defense Fund. 1616 P St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Working at state and federal levels to secure enactment of plant protection laws and their effective implementation.



What is this thing called 'Weed'?

By Carol J. Morris

What is a weed? A plant, of course, but how does a "weed" differ from a plant?

Is weed to brat as plant is to child? Actually, a weed is many things to its viewers.

To a gardener, it's any plant growing where it isn't wanted.

To a rancher, it's any plant toxic to range animals or pesky to crops.

To a crafter, it's any plant that will look pretty in a dried arrangement.

To a bee, there may be no weeds, for even spotted knapweed makes delicious honey.

To a naturalist, then, what is a weed? Perhaps it is any introduced spe-

cies that is rapid spreading and invasive. It either crowds out native plants or creates unhealthy soil or water conditions so our wild flora and fauna cannot flourish. Therefore, in a pristine environment where foreign plants have not yet found their way, there should be no weeds - only plants native to the area.

In summary, "plants", like the human race, are made up of all kinds of specimens - the good, the bad, and the ugly. The immigrant renegades and thieves of the plant world are called weeds. They are akin to the starling and English sparrow of the bird world. Your comments? Let us have your definition of "plant" vs. "weed".



Around the nation

DR. W.E. BOOTH. Dr. W. E. Booth retired Professor of Botany at Montana State University, Bozeman, and principle author of the Flora of Montana, Part 1 (1950) and Part 2 (1966), died on Aug. 14, 1987 at Yuma, Arizona.

DR. F.J. HERMANN. Dr. F. J. Hermann career taxonomist with the USDA, specialist on Carex (a sedge) and Legumes, and an authority on forbs, sedges, and reeds of the Rocky Mountain region, died this fall in Colorado.

KELSEYA, newsletter of the MNPS, plans to profile these men in future issues.

WILDFLOWERS.... Setting off to see nature's colors in the family car may soon involve less of an excursion than it used to. But a new federal law taking effect this month requires that 25 cents of every \$100 spent landscaping federal highways be used to plant native wildflowers. Fortunately, highway officials in a majority of states - Texas and Michigan are prime examples - have had experience over the last decade working with garden clubs that have donated wildflower seeds and plants. Their track-record should make the new job easier. They will doubtless get plenty of extra encouragement from motorists who prefer looking at bluebonnets and daisies rather than grass as they cruise the nation's highways. (Christian Science Monitor, Sept. 29, 1987.)



Around the state

HELENA MEETING: A Society meeting was held in Helena on Oct. 29, 1987, attended by some 25 persons, including seven out-of-towners. Our president, Kathy Ahlenslager had everyone introduce themselves. Discussed were ideas for the newsletter, the need for a guide to wildflower areas, and the status of our articles of incorporation. Steve Shelly, botanist for the Natural Heritage Program in Helena, presented slides on rare plants of Montana. The meeting adjourned with thoughts already drifting toward the next field season.

MISSOULA MEETINGS: Montana Native Plant Society has met three times. At one session the formation of a chapter for this area was discussed.

Nov. 12: A travelog-type program "Interesting Plants of the Pryor Mountains" was presented by Peter Lesica. For many of the 25 attending it was an introduction to a fascinating area of Montana which is the northernmost range of Great Basin flora.

Nov. 16: Sixteen people attended a University of Montana Herbarium open house. Kathy Ahlenslager gave Klaus Lackschewitz's written history of the herbarium and a demonstration of plant preparation techniques. Pete Stickney brought pressed plant specimens to illustrate various ways of making plant collections. A bouquet of flowers (figurative) goes to Jean Parker, Willis Heron, Mona Frangos, Alice Austin and Jean Pfeiffer for their work as volunteers in the herbarium! Call Kathy (243-4743), if you would like to volunteer.

Dec. 10: "Need a hobby that can be enjoyed in brief spurts?" That can be wildflower photography, so says Dr. Roger Munro, a Missoula neurologist.

He gave us a pleasant and elucidative evening of slides and prints from his efforts. Hint: to soften bright sun & deep shadow, use a white umbrella! This meeting brought together 32 people, a child, a dog, and folks from Augusta.

BOZEMAN MEETINGS: Two organizational meetings have been held in Bozeman where the Southwest Montana Chapter of MNPS is forming.

This group will encompass a large area, so don't call it "the Bozeman" group! Direct inquiries to MNPS, P.O. Box 992, Bozeman MT 59771-0992. There Jan Nixon (586-6532) and Shelly Bruce (587-3400) are contacts.

The Southwest Montana Chapter is scheduling 2 meetings and are proposing several field trips such as half-day visits to Kirk Hill Nature Area and Headwaters State Park. Further afield would be Centennial Valley, Pine Creek Falls (Upper Yellowstone drainage), and an eastern Montana "drylands" trip possibly to Pryor Mountains. Another possibility is a visit to the alpine Beartooth Plateau. Sessions on identifying plants for non-professionals are planned.

PRINT SALE: Friends of Larry & Sue Thompson have arranged a limited edition printing of two of Larry's outstanding watercolor paintings - "End of Summer" and "Butterflies on Owl Clover". The sale is a fund-raiser to help defray Thompson's recent medical expenses. It's also an opportunity for Montanans to celebrate a first-rate, home-grown talent.

"End of Summer" is a portrait of drying sunflower heads in muted tones. The edition of 250 prints is offered at \$100 each.

"Butterflies on Owl Clover" is brilliantly colored of Montana flora & fauna. A smaller print it retails at \$50. For more information contact Pam Smith (443-4848) or Karen Zackheim (449-6366) both in Helena. These prints have been available since before Christmas, so hurry.



Announcements

KEEP APRIL 30th OPEN. The Southwest Montana Chapter will host an all-membership meeting Saturday April 30, with a field trip on May 1. Now that we have a native plant society, what do we want out of it?

This meeting is an opportunity for interested people across the state to meet face to face sharing ideas. How about at least one special speaker to address the group? Contact Kathy Ahlenslager with suggestions for a person or topics for the agenda.

Jan Nixon (586-6532) welcomes volunteers for the planning committee. The April newsletter will carry details. If you are interested in car-pooling, Kathy can supply you with the names of other members in your area.

THANKS JAN! Jan Nixon of Bozeman created a 6X3-foot free-standing display for publicizing our group. She brought the three-panelled exhibit to the Montana Wilderness Association conference in Helena in December. Kathy Ahlenslager took it to the Nurseryman's Association gathering in Missoula in early January. If you want to display it, call Kathy.

Jan has offered to coordinate field trips throughout the state. Contact her (586-6532) with your ideas as early as possible.

Down Home project grows up

GROWING ORGANIZATION: More and more we will be seeing the work of Missoula's Down Home Project. Their subsidiary, Garden City Seeds, is doubling their operation of producing seed for sale (vegetables, herbs, and some flowers for northern climes) and preserving the genetic diversity of seed.

One of Down Home's projects is the Missoula Community Greenhouse and Gardens based on Phillips St. where the garden supply store is located. Great plans are shaping up for MCG&G: they leased a plot along the south bank of the Clark Fork River at the Orange St. bridge to

Wish List: A riverside corridor from the Kim William's Area to McCormick Park planted to existing and introduced native species.

commence a "greenhouse without walls" and public botanical garden. They would like to see a riverside corridor from the Kim William's Area to McCormick Park planted to existing and introduced native species.

Already the MCG&G is working with the Missoula City Council, the mayor and the Missoula Redevelopment Agency.

Sounds interesting and beneficial to the populace, so if you need more current info. about this group contact Down Home Project, a Center for Self-Reliant Living, Inc., 625Phillips St., Missoula MT 59802 (Ph. 406-728-4549). They need volunteers, and offer 1 or 2 apprenticeships and internships.

HELSEYA

**Montana Native Plant Society
Botany Department
University of Montana
Missoula MT 59812**



SOCIETY BOARD

President: Kathy Ahlenslager, Missoula, 542-0522
Vice President: Shelly Bruce, Bozeman, 587-3400
Secretary: Keith Shaw, Fairfield, 467-2268
Treasurer: John Pierce, Missoula, 542-2640
Newsletter Editor: Virginia Vincent, Missoula, 543-8078

Answers to Quiz

A. Robert Dorn's 1984 Vascular Plants of Montana lists 2344 species. In the past 4 years 33 species previously unknown in the state have been discovered, bringing the total to 2377.
B. Canada waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*; Hydrocharitaceae) is native to much of the western and central Canada and U.S. During the first half of the 19th Century, canals were constructed throughout southern England to transport goods. These canals outcompeted the railways for business. Canada waterweed was first reported in England in 1836. By 1870 most canals had become hopelessly clogged with this plant, and industrial business passed to the railroads. Canada waterweed has the two sexes on different plants, i.e. dioecious. Males of this plant were never introduced. Apparently, female plants accomplished this feat vegetatively.

**The Montana
Native Plant
Society**

University of Montana
Botany Department
Missoula MT 59812

Membership categories:

- \$8 Individual
- \$25 Business/Corporation
- \$100 Lifetime

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

Amount enclosed _____

All contributions to the Montana Native Plant society, a non-profit organization, are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to the Montana Native Plant Society.

Will you help with Membership;
 Newsletter; Publicity; Speakers;
 Field trips; Other _____