

MNPS Board Meeting
Lewis and Clark Library, Helena, MT
March 2, 2013

Attendees: Dave Hanna, Judy Hutchins, Linda Lyon, Kathy Lloyd, Jennifer Hintz, Bob Person, Cathie Jean, Joanne Jennings, Anne Garde, Karen Shelly, and Rachel Potter

President's Report – Dave Hanna

Dave welcomed everyone and asked for additions to the agenda. None were added.

Vice President's Report – Karen Shelly

Karen has been receiving requests for information from the website. Most of the inquiries deal with membership, school projects, and landscaping. Karen attended a meeting with federal, state, and Canadian agencies about America's Great Outdoors Initiative that addresses weeds on landscapes in the Crown of the Continent. She represented MNPS and the Board approved of Karen's participation. In the future MNPS may want to prioritize areas itwe thinks should be kept weed-free. Lone Pine State Park has an AmeriCorps volunteer who may contact the Flathead Chapter about putting together a native plant display.

Secretary's Report – Kathy L. for Patrick Plantenberg

Kathy asked for updates to the address list. We determined that Dave Shea doesn't use email, but got a physical address for him. The minutes from the Fall 2012past meeting were approved as corrected. The conference call option for Board meetings was discussed. Kathy L. reported on Patrick's discussion with Westech. We can use their conference room and call arrangement. It looks like the cost is .04 cents per minute per line or \$14.40/line for a six hour call from 10am to 4pm. It was decided to start holding our Board meetings at the Westech office from now on, if possible, to get familiar with the system. Kathy L. will check with Westech about holding our Ffall 2013 meeting there. Dave reported on a cell phone option that would probably cost about \$400 and works best for smaller groups.

Treasurer's Report – Dave for Madeline Mazurski

Jenny is in Australia and Madeline is filling in. Dave went over the 2012 Budget Summary and the proposed 2013 Budget Summary. Dave noted that 2012 was in the red because of the outlay for the Manual of Montana Vascular Plants. That money is now starting to come back in. For 2013, Dave reported that we have received the first royalty report from BRIT (through 1/31/13). 711 books have sold and our net royalty is about \$14,000. Dave said the first printing might run out by 2015. The proposed income for Flora of Montana (~~shoudl this~~ should be changed on the budget sheets to Manual of Montana Vascular Plants) book sales on the 2013 proposed budget was raised from \$1,000 to \$15,000 as a result. Board expenses on the 2013 proposed budget was raised from \$200 to

\$300 to accommodate possible conference calling charges. Other budget-related discussions included a report from Rachel about the Montana Plant Hunters project that Peter reported on at the last meeting. She is now helping Peter and they are thinking of self-publishing. The Bboard will need a more concrete proposal including how long it will be, how many images, money requested from the Bboard, etc. It will be discussed at the Ffall Bboard meeting. Dave reported that of December, 2012, we had assets amounting to \$34,000, down \$8,000 from the previous year because of costs associated with the *Manual of Montana Vascular Plants*. The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the budget. Judy moved and the Bboard approved the above mentioned changes to the Flora of Montana entry and the Board Expenses entry.

Membership Committee Report – Cathie Jean

Cathie discussed the newsletter and membership (see Cathie's attached email regarding membership and newsletter expenses). MNPS had 637 members (not counting exchanges) as of 12/31/12. Cathie and Rachel suggested adding a line item in the budget for dispersal of membership dues to the chapters. It was also suggested that Living Lightly members receive only digital versions of the *Kelsey*, or that we charge more if paper copies are requested. Their dues don't cover the cost of the newsletter. No decision was reached on this topic. Dave presented a map of Montana he had put together that displays the chapter county affiliations and the at-large areas. It will be posted on the website. Cathie suggested that chapter presidents and at-large representatives look over the membership list for the at-large members to see if they are in the right place. Bob suggested that an article in the Ffall newsletter could ask people to check their affiliation to be sure it is correct, or the membership renewal card could ask. Cathie volunteered to do an article about chapter affiliation and another one acknowledging life-time members.

2013 Annual Meeting Report – Kathy Lloyd

Kathy reported on Kelsey Chapter's planning efforts. The meeting is set for July 5-7, 2013, at Camp Rotary in the Little Belt Mountains. Expenses so far include \$1,200 for camp rental, \$364 for insurance, \$600 estimated food, beer, wine, and \$200 miscellaneous. Registration will be \$30 for adults and \$5 for children. Kelsey Chapter was interested into providing scholarships for college students to attend the meeting, in an effort to increase attendance by young people. It was later discussed to add a reduced registration fee for college students, rather than try to manage applications for scholarships. That fee will be \$10. Cabins may be rented for \$5/night/person, camping is free. The Saturday night banquet will be \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. The silent auction, T-shirt, and field trip committees are at work. There will be kids activities offered for ½ day on Saturday. An addition to the usual agenda is an agrostology (-grass) class taught by Dr. Matt Lavin on Friday from 1:00 to 5:00. Kathy asked if any authors were planning to bring books to sell. The Cchapter would like to know ahead of time. There was some discussion regarding the paper copies of the annual meeting planning notebooks. It had previously been decided to digitize the

relevant materials. Some Bboard members felt it a good idea to keep paper copies as well, as an insurance policy. Dave will review past minutes to see what the previous discussions and decisions were. We will revisit this topic at the Ffall Bboard meeting.

Newsletter Editor Report – Dave Hanna for Caroline Kurtz

Articles are due by March 10 for the spring *Kelseya*. The Bboard is pleased with the quality of the newsletter. It was suggested to have an article in the future about the educational materials and teaching trunks that are available for use.

Webmaster's Report – Bob Person

Bob reported that he and Peter have finished scanning old issues of the *Kelseya* and there is now a complete archive on our website. Bob has been thinking about a selection of high-quality articles from the newsletter that could be put together in a pamphlet or something similar. Bob will discuss the topic with Peter. Flathead Chapter will send Bob a list of useful websites we can link to. The University of Montana has a complete set of *Kelseya* newsletters.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Nominations

The offices of President, Treasurer, and Western Representative At-large are up for election. Dave reported that Kathy Settevendemie will run for President, Jenny will run for reelection as Treasurer, and Jon Reny will run for Western Representative At-large.

Awards

Peter and Kathy L. are on the awards committee. Kathy reported that decisions have been made and things are moving along.

Standing Committee Reports

Small Grants Committee – Linda Lyon

Linda reported that the committee met by conference call. There were eight proposals this year. The committee was in agreement about the top three proposals. Linda passed out a list of the proposals, with abstracts for the two that were recommended for funding. Those include a proposal for weed control and native plant recovery projects on Waterworks Hill, and a bryophyte study. Both would be funded at \$1,000. Kathy L. moved to accept the small grants committee recommendation to fund those two projects at \$1,000 each. The motion passed. Linda will send out acceptance and rejection letters via email only from now on. Linda also passed out a list of award recipients since 2010 that states if the newsletter article has been submitted.

Conservation Committee – Dave Hanna for Peter Lesica

Dave passed out a copy of the letter that was sent to Senators Tester and Baucus and Representative Daines regarding funding for the BLM's plant conservation program and native plant materials program. He also passed out a letter to the USDA Agricultural Research Service regarding its practice of introducing non-native species to plant communities in the western U.S. Other regional plant societies may sign the letter or may write their own letters. The Plant Conservation Conference is scheduled for 2014. It was noted that by rotation the meeting would be in Bozeman. If Valley of Flowers Chapter feels they have enough to do with planning the annual meeting for that year, other arrangements can be made for the conference.

——Landscape/Revegetation/Publications – Dave Hanna for Kathy Settevendemie

New MNPS brochures will be ready soon. Kathy S. is thinking about a brochure on bird-friendly native gardens, done in conjunction with Audubon, that would sell for a small price at bird stores, nurseries, and on the web. The Board should think about marketing and distribution. We will need to see what is already available. Anne will relay the conversation to Kathy S.

Areas-At-large

Eastern-At-large – Dave Hanna for Dave Shea

Dave H. reported that Dave Shea has hikes planned for the Rocky Mountain Front and the western edge of Glacier. An Audubon gathering called Wings Across the Big Sky is scheduled for June 7-9 in Lewistown. Wayne Phillips will be there to represent MNPS.

Western-At-large – Judy Hutchins

Judy will organize one more hike with Peter that will be a jointly sponsored event with MWA. They will hike to Black Mountain on July 13.

Chapter Reports

Calypso Chapter – Linda Lyon

Linda reported on the activities they have planned, including a hike to Vipond Park with the Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest, a botany blitz, and a native plant landscaping class put together by Catherine Cain. Spring hikes are being planned. The Chapter will submit a proposal to the Board for the botany blitz that Jessie Salix is organizing, focusing on penstemons.

Clark Fork Chapter – Anne Garde

Anne reported that monthly meetings and herbarium nights have been successful. Field trips and a garden tour are being planned for the spring/summer.

Flathead Chapter – Jennifer Hintz

Jennifer reported on their activities and programs. A program on the MPG Ranch by Mel Waggy was a hit. They also had programs on whitebark pine, Shannon Kimball's wildflower app., and Jen Asebrook presented on digital resources. The 2015 annual meeting will be in the Swan Valley.

Kelsey Chapter – Kathy Lloyd

Kathy reported on their activities and programs. There was a December Holiday Potluck; January was Dave H. on the RM Front; February Matt Lavin presented on Plant Nomenclature. The [C](#)chapter helped fund a native plant garden at Carroll College, and funded one bryophyte illustration for the *Flora of North America*. The [C](#)chapter is focusing on annual meeting planning.

Maka Flora – Dave for Libby Knots

The Chapter is planning hikes and wants to concentrate on documenting more native plants and [Species of Concern](#) in eastern Montana.

Valley of Flowers – Joanne Jennings

Recent programs include: October Stuart Jennings on mine reclamation plants; November Yellowstone flora apps; December potluck; January Peter Biogeography of MT. The [C](#)chapter is planning the 2014 annual meeting. Luccock Park south of Livingston has been proposed, but sounds expensive and the contract was unclear. The [C](#)chapter will get clarification on costs and search for other available sites. Everyone is encouraged to send site suggestions to the [C](#)chapter.

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March 2013 MNPS Membership Report by Cathie Jean

As of December 31, 2012 we have 683 members including 46 exchange members. Currently 39% of our member households have asked for the newsletter electronically.

I have updated the annual membership table, using the best available data, to show annual membership. I searched past board meeting notes and used totals from the fall date whenever possible. I wasn't certain for all the years, but for the most part, it looked like membership totals did not include exchange members so I updated the past 4 years to show the total without exchange. I choose the membership total closest to the end of the calendar year. We average about 50 exchange members per year.

Table 1. Annual membership in the Montana Native Plant Society updated in January 2013 to show membership since 1997.

Date Total members

(no exchange)

1997 - Pre (-)

1997 - July 442

1998 July 449

1999 Nov 6 368

2000 Oct 28 365

2001 Oct 27 426

2002 Nov 2 442

2003 Nov 1 419

2004 Oct 16 617

2005 Oct 29 537

2006 Sept 14 756

2007 Oct 19 768

2008 793

2009 Sept 1 646

2010 June 613

2011 Dec 26 612

2012 Dec 31 637

March 2013 MNPS Newsletter cost summary

Breakdown of Kelsey production costs - 2012

1. Caroline Kurtz \$250/issue
2. Bluefish Media (layout) \$250/issue
3. Printery Cost # of households Total printed
 - winter \$838.94 363
 - spring \$844.80 361
 - summer \$401.84 307
 - fall \$563.21 326 435

* I suspect that the winter and spring costs include other printing.

Breakdown of Kelsey printing and mailing costs - fall 2012 example

435 copies \$321.85

Bag, sort, insert, tab fold \$80.00

Postage \$85.36

Postage out of country \$6.00

Packets mailed \$70.00

Total= \$563.21

Cost per publishing fall 2012 issue

Total cost \$1063.21 / 435 = \$2.44 per issue

USPS vs. digital distribution in 2012

Mail Email

Winter 363 184

Spring 361 208

Summer 307 246

Fall 326 212

Figure 1 caption: Distribution of membership revenue. Total membership income in 2012 = \$10,528 (includes donations).