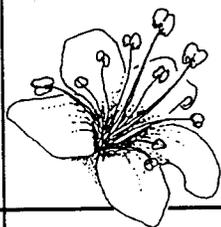


Kelseya uniflora



Kelseya

Vol 9, No 2

WINTER 1996

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

IN MEMORIAM:

Klaus Heinrich Lackschewitz

1911-1995

— Jerry de Santo

Klaus Lackschewitz, who died August 10, 1995, was a unique Montana botanist. He came to the state in 1960 when his wife Gertrud secured a teaching position at the University of Montana. In 1965, Reuben Diettert, then chairman of the Botany Department, hired Klaus as a horticulturist.

Although he had begun his exploration of Montana's mountains in 1960, Klaus was greatly stimulated by his affiliation with the university and his association with the botany faculty. He especially remembers LeRoy Harvey and the late Sherman Preece.

Klaus began a systematic exploration of the Bitterroot Mountains' flora in 1966. "I could now pursue my two major passions," he wrote, "investigating and collecting native plants in their natural habitats to further our knowledge about them, and weaving their austere beauty into our garden design."

This "investigating and collecting," ending in 1994, resulted in over 12,000 plant specimens now deposited in the herbaria of the University of Montana, the New York Botanical Garden, the University of Colorado and elsewhere.

Klaus was born in 1911 in the Russian province of Livonia (which became Latvia in 1918), and was introduced to the world of nature by his forester father. He later studied ornithology and botany at the gymnasium. At the Institutum Herderianum, a German college in Riga, he continued his studies in the natural sciences until forced by the economic and political pressures of the time to abandon an academic career. He attended an agricultural college for two years, then managed and leased a Latvian farm until 1939.

At the outbreak of World War II, Klaus and thousands of other Baltic Germans were "re-settled" to Poland and drafted into the German army. In 1945, after five years on

the Russian front, he was wounded and taken prisoner. Released in 1947, he wandered around West Germany working odd jobs. He emigrated to New York in 1952.

Through the unsettled times of his youth and the terrible hardships of the war years, Klaus never lost his appreciation of nature. He studied plants and watched birds wherever he was. Although he enthusiastically transferred his attention to the species of the New World, he never forgot his heritage. He visited Europe many times up to 1994, and he often spoke of the forests and moors of his homeland.

In Montana, Klaus concentrated on the flora of the Bitterroot Mountains. He also collected extensively in the Anaconda-Pintlers, on the Beartooth Plateau, along the Front Range of the Rockies and in the Sapphire Mountains. In his later years, he visited the Gravelly Range and collected many specimens from the high tundra there.

Klaus's indefatigable collecting and perceptive field work have led to the naming of three new species for him: *Agoseris lackschewitzii*, *Erigeron lackschewitzii*, and *Lesquerella klausii*. In 1991, the US Forest Service published his **Vascular Plants of West-Central Montana - Identification Guidebook**, an invaluable reference focussing on the flora of the Bitterroot River drainage.

Klaus is known not only for his scientific achievements. His knowledge of gardening with native plants is unsurpassed, and has been passed along to the many people who visited his home in the Rattlesnake Valley of Missoula. His generosity and kindness to those who wished to learn from him are well-remembered.

Klaus Lackschewitz was a gentleman of an older tradition who will be sorely missed.

Several other MNPS members have written reminiscences of how Klaus and his love of plants affected them - and their gardens. See Page 5.

From the President

This newsletter contains a special tribute to Klaus Lackschewitz for his many contributions to the study of Montana flora. He was an inspiration to us all.

Fall Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met in late October to discuss MNPS affairs. Thanks to all the Board members for traveling to Helena twice a year to plan and organize the business of MNPS. One farflung member, Al Joyes of Westby, has over 500 miles to travel. Now that's dedication! We welcomed these new Board members: Ken Sinay, Valley of Flowers Chapter president; Kathy Lloyd, Kelsey Chapter president; Tulli Kerstetter, appointed MNPS vice-president to replace Janet Johnson. Thanks to Bonnie Heidel for serving the past three years as Kelsey Chapter president.

Membership

Madeline Mazurski, our faithful record-keeper, reported that we had a total of 391 members as of October '95. That's a net increase of only eight members from last year. I attribute the small increase to not having a new chapter form this past year. Still, we always need to grow a little, so don't forget to send someone new an MNPS notecard!

Membership in MNPS runs from March 1 through the end of the following February. This issue contains a renewal form and convenient return envelope. Please return it promptly. Last June we had to send over 150 renewal reminders. Please help us keep those expenses down by sending your membership dues in no later than mid-March.

Chapter Activities

Winter brings us indoors on the dark evenings to watch colorful slide shows and listen to informative and entertaining speakers. But that's not all we do. Chapters such as Flathead have created native plant programs to use in the nearby schools to educate students about the local flora. They had displays at the county fair this past summer and recently helped petition to have *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's catchfly) added to the Federal list of threatened plants.

Most chapters have a business portion of their monthly meetings to brainstorm and organize these sorts of activities. Please get involved if you care about native plants.

Money Matters

The Board discussed and drafted a budget for the upcoming year. Annual-meeting fundraising continues to increase our assets. We have joined the Friends of the University of Montana Herbarium for two years and hope to contribute to some aspect of their work. We joined with the native plant societies of Oregon and Washington in contributing towards publication of *Plant Hunters of the Pacific Northwest*. Board member Peter Lesica is the Montana regional editor for this project.

At our next Board meeting, we will continue to seek out projects to fund as well as determine a minimum balance for our treasury. A final budget will be published in the Spring KELSEYA.

Committees

The Landscape/Revegetation Committee is continuing work on the *Plant Source Guide* and hopes to have an update in the near future.

The Small Grants Committee will choose a recipient for the \$500 grant by March 15. Look for an announcement in the Spring newsletter.

The Education Committee encourages all chapters to follow the Flathead Chapter's example by creating their own native plant education program and giving presentations in the schools.

Conservation Committee chair Peter Lesica has written an article in this issue outlining conservation accomplishments by MNPS chapters and individuals.

Recently we learned that the BLM botanist position in the state office will no longer exist. Don Heinze, who recently retired, will not be replaced. This is very disappointing news, and we hope to increase our input into decisions affecting the multitude of native plants that occur on BLM land.

Howellia for Valentine's Day!

Looking for a special treat for your native plant valentine? We are excited to hear about Water Howellia Chocolates. See the notice elsewhere in this issue to find out how you can get some. We thank Mary Gray (Aunty Shrew Ltd) for her efforts to contribute to Water Howellia conservation. Yum!

1996 Annual Meeting Plans

Organization of the 1996 MNPS annual meeting is moving along well, thanks to all the time devoted by Flathead Chapter members. There will be much to see and do at the Three Forks Campground near Glacier Park next June. A preliminary registration form is included as a pullout in this issue.

ANOTHER LOSS...

On November 1, 1995, Mark Bjorlie, the secretary of the Clark Fork Chapter, died in an automobile accident near Townsend. Mark studied botany as an undergraduate in Minnesota and came west in 1984 to do graduate work in mycology in the Botany Department at the University of Montana. Before completing his graduate work, Mark chose to take a job with Montana Rail Link to help support his growing family. He held a number of positions, most recently manager of the injury prevention/claims department.

Although he worked for the railroad, Mark never lost his involvement in botany. He joined the Montana Native Plant Society when it first began in 1987 and attended most of the annual meetings regardless of where they were held. He faithfully attended chapter meetings and was elected chapter secretary in 1993. Mark worked with John Pierce on the John Toole Park prairie restoration and then continued similar work on the Teller Wildlife Refuge outside of Hamilton.

Mark loved the mountains and spent a good deal of time hiking with his family and sharing his interest in field botany. Members of the Clark Fork Chapter will miss Mark's never-failing cheerful enthusiasm.

**WATER
HOWELLIAS**

Fine Chocolates

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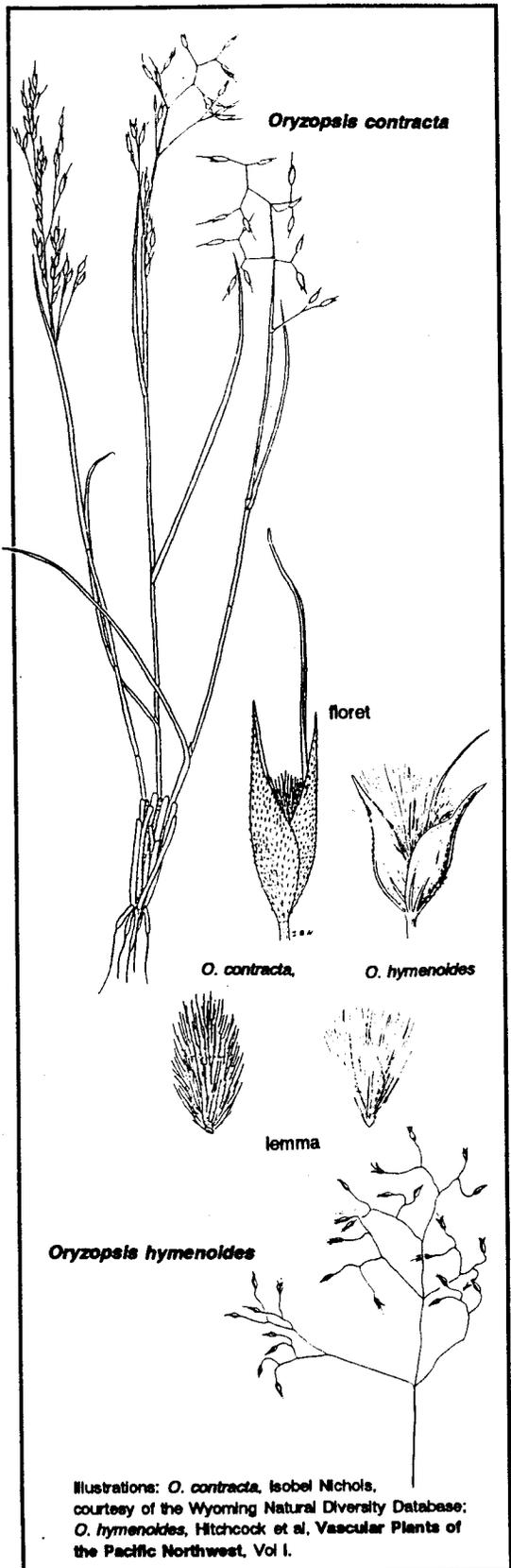
Cost is \$7.00 for a 5.5 oz box;
S&H, add: 1-2 boxes, \$2.00; 3-4 boxes, \$2.65;
5-6 boxes, \$3.12; 7-8 boxes, \$3.56; 9-10, \$3.88

**A portion of net profits are donated to MNPS to support
research and habitat protection**



CONTRACTED RICEGRASS IN MONTANA

- Bonnie Heidel



Walter Fertig, botanist at the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, produced a story of taxonomic intrigue in the pages of a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) status survey report on contracted ricegrass [*Oryzopsis contracta* (Johnson) Shechter; C2; G3] in 1993 which produced the first record of contracted Ricegrass in Montana.. This species was previously known from only twelve locations in Wyoming and Colorado.

Walt quickly recognized the shortcoming in the common name - "contracted ricegrass" - a name which describes the species only in its early phenological stages. Later in its development, the mature expanded panicle superficially resembles the common species of indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*).

Wyoming field surveys in 1993 documented 23 new populations of contracted ricegrass. Walt went on to review herbarium material at the University of Wyoming - Laramie (RM, WYAC) and elsewhere, discovering over 30 specimens previously misidentified as *O. hymenoides* which he annotated to *O. contracta*, including a Montana specimen representing the first known record from our state.

Contracted ricegrass (*O. contracta*) is intermediate in many features between *Oryzopsis hymenoides* ($2n=48$) and *Oryzopsis micrantha* ($2n=22$), and is hypothesized to have evolved from a fortuitous hybrid between these two species (Shechter and Johnson 1968). While it is presumed to have reproductive barriers to prevent further back-crossing with either parent species, it is sympatric in many rugged settings with *Oryzopsis hymenoides* (Fertig 1994).

There are now roughly 100 known records of contracted ricegrass in Wyoming, spanning much of the state. Threats to the species from surface disturbance have been found to be less severe than originally suspected. This new information provided the basis for recommending that it be dropped from Category 2 status to Category 3C by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Fertig 1994), and reranked as G3.

The taxonomic tip-off from Walt alerted me to the 1921 collection of contracted ricegrass from "Beaverhead National Forest" in Montana. Many such US Forest Service (USFS) collections in RM that came from Montana had been deposited as duplicates, so I checked with Peter Stickney, curator at the Intermountain Research Station Herbarium in Missoula (MRC) about duplicates. He reported that they not only had a duplicate specimen, but that its label included the name of the Sheep Creek Ranger Station, from which he was able to pinpoint it in the Tendoy Mountains of Beaverhead County.

Using Wyoming information, I was able to document five new locations for it north of the Tendoy Mountains as part of 1995 field surveys for sensitive species on BLM lands in that area of Beaverhead County. They included well-botanized areas where it is presumed to have been overlooked, and disturbed roadside right-of-ways, usually sympatric with *O. hymenoides*. Contracted ricegrass is *not* recommended for designation as sensitive by the BLM or USFS. It has been ranked "SU" in Montana, and put on the "watch list" maintained by Montana Natural Heritage Program.

Key features that distinguish the two species are the lengths of the awns and the lemma hairs. They also have different panicle branching

- continued on Page 6

MEETINGS

Thursday, January 11, Clark Fork Chapter: 7:30 pm, Room 307, Botany Building, UM Campus, Missoula. Jerry DeSanto will show slides and discuss the "Distribution of Alpine Plants in the Rocky Mountains of Canada and the US." Jerry is author of the book, *Bitterroot*, and currently lives in the Waterton/Glacier area.

Wednesday, January 17, Flathead Chapter: 7 pm, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Bldg, Meridian Road, Kalispell. Sam Culotta and Tara Luna will present a slide show, "Plants of Ecuador." Business meeting at 5:30 - come help us plan the MNPS annual meeting!

Tuesday, January 30, Clark Fork Herbarium Night: 7:30 pm, Room 303, Botany Building on the UM Campus, Missoula. This is a work night: we'll be cleaning the tops of cabinets, replacing cabinet seals, organizing plant press materials etc. Please call Peter Lesica at 728-8740 if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, February 7, Valley of Flowers Chapter: 7 pm, Emerson Cultural Center Library, 2nd Floor, 111 S Grand, Bozeman. Robyn Klein, herbalist and past president of this chapter, will discuss "Medicinal Plants of Montana."

Thursday, February 8, Clark Fork Chapter: 7:30 pm, Room 307, Botany Bldg, UM Campus, Missoula. Kevin Murray will present a slide show on "Mosses and Other Plants Underfoot in the North American Arctic." Kevin teaches and does research in the UM Division of Biological Sciences.

Wednesday, February 21, Flathead Chapter: 7 pm, Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg, Meridian Road, Kalispell. Amy O'Herren will be talking about exciting new developments in private land conservation with the Montana Land Reliance. Business meeting at 5:30 -- everyone is welcome.

Tuesday, February 27, Herbarium Night, Clark Fork Chapter: 7:30 pm, Room 303, Botany Building on the UM Campus. Diane Pavcek and Roberta Walsh of the Division of Biological Sciences will introduce us to "Some Orchids of Montana." Bring a hand lens if you have one.

Wednesday, March 6, Valley of Flowers Chapter: 6:30-9:30 pm (*note time change*), Emerson Cultural Center Library, 2nd Floor, 111 S Grand, Bozeman. Shelly Engler, Linda Iverson, and Dick Pohl, three professionals in the field of landscaping, will offer a forum on "Landscaping with Native Plants." Employed as a landscape architect with Cashman's Nursery, Shelly will present "Natural Landscaping for the Urban Environment." Linda, a freelance landscape designer based in Big Timber and President of MNPS, will discuss "Natural Landscaping and Rehabilitation for the Rural Environment." Dick is professor of landscape design at MSU and will discuss "Low Water Use Landscaping with Natives."

Thursday, March 14, Clark Fork Chapter: 7:30 pm, Room 307, Botany Bldg, UM Campus. Anna Sala will present a slide show

on the "Flora of the Pyrenees." The Pyrenees mountain range lies just north of the plain where all the rain falls! Anna is a native of Spain and currently is a professor in the UM Division of Biological Sciences.

Wednesday, March 20, Flathead Chapter: 7 pm, Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bldg, Meridian Road, Kalispell. Dr. Jeanette Oliver will give a slide show on "Lichens: Their Characteristics and Practical Uses." Business meeting at 5:30 -- everyone is welcome.

Tuesday, March 26, Herbarium Night, Clark Fork Chapter: 7:30 pm, Room 303, Botany Building on the UM Campus. Peter Stickney, retired ecologist of the U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Research Station will enlighten us on "Wintergreens and Evergreens of the Northern Rocky Mountains." Bring a hand lens if you have one.

Wednesday, April 3, Valley of Flowers Chapter: 7 pm, Emerson Cultural Center Library, 2nd Floor, 111 S Grand, Bozeman. The subject will be, "Showy Wildflowers of the Northern Rockies and Plains." More information in the Spring *KELSEYA*.

Tuesday, April 30, Herbarium Night, Clark Fork Chapter: 7:30 pm, Room 303, Botany Building on the UM Campus. Rush over to hear Peter Lesica talk about "The Juncus Among Us." Bring a hand lens if you have one.

Kelsey Chapter - A great winter program is being organized but has yet to be scheduled at the time the newsletter went to press. Kelsey folks -- watch for an announcement in the mail.



FIELD TRIPS

WINTER PLANT IDENTIFICATION
SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Learn to recognize Montana's native flora without the helpful clues of flowers or - usually - foliage. Enhance your enjoyment of being outdoors in the winter. Join Jan Nixon at Museum of the Rockies for a brief introductory session at 1 pm, then we'll head out (car pool) for a hands-on ramble around the winter landscape, returning around 4 pm. Winter plant keys will be available. There is a small fee for this trip, and group size is limited to 22. Call 994-6618 in Bozeman for reservations.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

MNPS ANNUAL SEASON-ENDER CANOE TRIP

On September 30, 1995, members of the Flathead and Clark Fork Chapters enjoyed floating the Flathead River from Dixon to Perma on our annual canoe trip. The weather didn't look promising early in the morning, so we were happy that the day turned out warm, calm, and simply gray instead of rainy.

With Peter Lesica's able assistance (and with our trusty copies of "Dorn"), we recorded 20 species still in bloom on this last day of September. These included: *Physostegia parviflora* (obedience plant or false dragonhead, Mint family), *Helenium autumnale* (sneezeweed, Aster family), *Myosotis laxa* (forget-me-not, Borage family), *Epilobium watsonii* (Willow weed, Evening Primrose family), and three different *Polygonums*.

- Anne Garde

CALENDAR COORDINATOR

Tulli Kerstetter, MNPS vice president, is now serving as coordinator for all meeting and field trip notices, field trip reports, and chapter activity writeups. Please send them typed or on disk (see back page for specs) no later than March 1 for inclusion in the Spring issue of the newsletter: *KELSEYA*, Attn: Tulli Kerstetter, P O Box 6444, Bozeman MT 59771-6444.

...remembrances of klaus...

Living next door to Klaus would be frustrating for one determined to keep up with the Joneses; there would be no keeping up with the garden of that particular Jones. Every week, from March's cold crocus to November's snowy asters, his border looked as if it had been planned for that particular week. He chose 'noble' plants - those that knew their place.

For us, with no pretense of keeping up, living next door to the Lackschewitzes has been a personal and a gardener's delight. Our garden has profited from his example, his freely given advice, his generous gifts of seedlings and dividings, and his gentle admonishments.

Thanks to Klaus, our garden has lovely corners of plants with Latin names and homely ones: of *Sanguinaria*, *Pulmonaria* and *Hepatica*, of bloodroot, lungwort and liverwort.

Our garden is weedy by any standard, but very weedy when compared to his. Still, Klaus could find things in our weed patch to complete his marvelous weekly cut-flower arrangements, and could even find a virtue in our weeds. He collected them; we (he said) had the most interesting weeds.

In the late summer of 1994 as he grew thinner and weaker, he expressed a wish to get out of the heat, dust and dryness of that very hot, dusty and dry August. He thought if we could get above 6800 feet, we would find the weather and the vegetation pleasant. Walking was now out of the question for him who had botanized the mountains of Western Montana on foot. Stark Mountain at 7349 was his suggestion, and the four of us - Gertrud, Klaus, Chin Won and I - set out.

The start was inauspicious; the road hot and dry, the road bank covered with dusty knapweed. But the top of the mountain - undoubtedly the part above 6800' - was green and cool as Klaus had predicted. Stark Mountain's lookout had the additional advantage of being under the care of Virginia Vincent. She seemed to know each of the soaring birds personally, and to know the exact location of every plant on the ridge, and she shared Klaus's delight in them. After a picnic lunch and a shady nap, Klaus collected and labeled seeds of the plants on Stark's and Virginia's mountain.

I think it was Klaus's last trip above 6800 feet. I remember the trip and Klaus fondly whenever I am in the corner of our garden in which grow the seedlings from that lovely day.

- Howard Reinhardt

I first met Klaus in the early 60s. Having just acquired a house in Missoula, I was perusing the local nurseries for garden plants, finding mostly the usual petunias and marigolds (the nurseries are much more sophisticated now). Imagine my surprise and delight to finally walk into a nursery filled with

unusual European plants presided over by an elegant, soft-spoken German gentleman.

After a few purchases, several visits and conversations, Klaus asked if he could visit my garden to better understand my plant needs. They he invited us to visit his garden and meet Gertrude. He had developed an exquisite rock garden on a small lot near the University. After establishing which plants I needed, he proceeded to give them to me, rather than selling them to me. He said he was uncomfortable in a commercial role and he preferred to share plants.

I've been very fortunate to be able to accompany Klaus and his group on several collecting trips in the alpine areas of Montana, including the Bitterroots, Anaconda Pintlers, Crazies, Absarokas, Tobacco Roots - and several times to the Bob Marshall. In the early days we backpacked, but later got smart and arranged drop camps with horses, which enabled Klaus to take in more plant presses.

So I have many wonderful memories of tagging along on the scree after Klaus as he collected alpine plants, and sitting around the campfire at night listening to reminiscences of Klaus's youth in the old country.

We miss him greatly.

- Jean Pfeiffer

• • •

Klaus not only tended his own garden lovingly, but he enjoyed giving away cuttings and seedlings to friends for their gardens. From time to time he made the rounds to see how his flower children were faring.

Puttering around my garden some fine June day, I might look and there would be Klaus

groping his way down a steep, overgrown path our horse had carved out of the bank, with some plants neatly transplanted in pots for me. Maybe they were some anemones which had done exceptionally well in his garden - maybe a bit too well - or some special color of fall aster, or some deep purple aconite he had transplanted from the wild in the northern Bitterroots, or even some European pasque flower or hepatica seedlings. After presenting these offerings to me with greatest gallantry we set off on an extended *Garten Gang*, or garden review, discussing not only flowers, manure, mulching, and deer and their depredations, but also how sweet the meadows smelled in his childhood in the Baltic States and of how much the reminiscences my grandmother had told me of her childhood in Gdansk and Zoppot reminded him of his own early world.

After giving some advice, he asked if I would let him have some primulas I had blooming which had such nice faded, old-fashioned colors like those his mother grew in her garden. Then, his keen blue eyes narrowing, he smiled half sheepishly and looking intently at my bed of snapdragons he espied some weed and said, "My, what an interesting and contented weed is this?"

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Botanist, My Friend

You come to visit me out of the snow,
some promise I had almost forgotten
and nudge me toward spring,
like the white teeth of daffodils
I trick into blooming now, late in January.
Bulbs that I kiss for luck
and go on hoping.

You come out of other, colder winters
and countries still frozen in war.
These interminable Montana winters,
your voice is full of wild birds
and your eyes gather the names
of flowers you discover every summer
high in the mountains, alone,
and after the thaw.

-Beth Ferris

January 25, 1978

used by permission

...remembrances of klaus...continued from Page 5:

He did not really approve of annuals, although finally he did let himself be persuaded to allow a few brilliant red geraniums or even some petunias, as "every garden needs some strong red color." With that he made a formal half bow, turned and plunged back up the overgrown path and drove off to visit other gardens.

I hope that even without his active supervision his flower children will continue to thrive.

- Susanne L Bessac

[To close this reminiscence, here are excerpts from autobiographical notes prepared by Klaus after he knew his health was deteriorating. These were published on the Botanical Electronic News network by Toby Spribille, and were forwarded to KELSEYA by the Lewis and Clark National Forest - our thanks to them. In the notes, Klaus details his early life in Latvia and the difficult times during and after World War II. In 1952 he was able to emigrate from West Germany, and settled originally in New Jersey, where we pick up his narrative:]

...I turned my old hobby, gardening, into a livelihood. I worked in greenhouses and with landscaping companies, learning about American plants and gardens (and the English language). I specialized in foundation plantings and rock gardens. Although I was impressed by the richness of the flora of the East Coast I never felt quite at home in it.

When my wife obtained a position at the University of Montana in 1960 I was happy to move west to Missoula, Montana. I was immediately taken by the beautiful open landscapes and mountains, and drawn to investigate the native flora, especially of the alpine regions. Friends like Frank Rose, who had been gathering native plants for commercial purposes, introduced me to their favorite collecting places. Tor Fageraas, at that time head

gardener of the University campus and an experienced mountain climber, accompanied me on many a field trip in canyons up the Bitterroots to collect high elevation plants for the University herbarium. I also became much interested in the use of native plants for horticultural purposes and established a rock garden at my house. Since 1965 the Botany Department of the University [employed me] as superintendent of greenhouses, and subsequently gave me a working place in the herbarium. I could now pursue my two major passions: investigating and collecting native plants in their natural habitats to further our knowledge about them, and weaving their austere beauty into our garden design....

The major fruit of my observations is contained in my guidebook **Vascular Plants of West-Central Montana**, 1991 and 1993. In order to facilitate plant identification by the lay user the material is organized by habitat ("which plant am I likely to find here?") and by frequency of occurrence. The description also takes into account the surrounding plant associations.

In 1966 I had the opportunity to realize our plan for a Native Plant Garden around the University's Botany Building. Chairman Sherman Preece shared my enthusiasm, secured the means and personally helped to collect the plant material. He mobilized the faculty and graduate students for the actual groundwork of laying out and planting the garden. Work study students were found to pluck the weeds, and for a time new plants were added every year. Several years ago the Native Plant Society took the garden into their responsibility. Volunteer workers have graciously contributed their time and effort to maintain the plantings. Thanks to this ongoing labor of love the garden has been improved as a teaching tool and a display of the beauty of our native flora.

-KHL

CONTRACTED RICEGRASS...continued from Page 3

patterns, in terms of pedicel length and angle that can be used in the field (see illustration and following chart).

	Awn length (mm)	Lemma hair length
<i>Oryzopsis contracta</i>	7.9 ± 0.8	Equal or less than lemma
<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	4.8 ± 0.8	Longer than lemma

Montana botanists who document the plant are requested to send in survey forms or collection label information, along with any status observations, to: Bonnie Heidel, Montana Natural Heritage Program, 1515 E 6th Ave, Helena MT 59620.

References

- Fertig, W. 1994. Status report on *Oryzopsis contracta*, a USFWS Category 2 candidate species, Unpublished report to Bureau of Land Management. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie. 41 pp plus appendices.
- Shechter, Y. and B. L. Johnson. 1968. The probable origin of *Oryzopsis contracta*. Amer. J. Bot. 55(5):611-618.

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SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR 7th AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS, 2/20-24/96

The seventh American Forest Congress is scheduled for the third week in February in Washington, DC. MNPS members with an interest in forest issues are eligible to apply for a partial scholarship to cover the registration cost (\$275) and banquet fee (\$50) for the Congress.

This opportunity is available from the Montana Environmentalists' Fund, which is administered by the Flathead Economic Policy Center in Kalispell. The fund cannot pay for travel or lodging expenses. Ten scholarships are available, and applications will be considered in the order in which they are received, with preference going to qualifying Montana residents.

If you qualify and are interested, you should contact the Policy Center without delay, to obtain details and a scholarship application. Contact them at: Flathead Economic Policy Center, 15 Depot Park, Kalispell MT 59901; call 406-756-8548; FAX 406-752-5739.

SURFING THE NET...FOR PLANT NEWS

If you've been bitten by the Internet bug, you'll want to check out a couple of home pages on World Wide Web.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program is part of the *Natural Heritage Network*. Access it by:

<http://nrfs.msl.mt.gov/mtnhp/nhp-dir.htm>

You can obtain info on vascular plant or animal species of special concern; state distribution maps of species and plant

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MNPS CONSERVATION EFFORTS MOVE FORWARD

- Peter Lesica, Conservation Chair

The Montana Native Plant Society is an organization dedicated to studying the native flora and educating the public on its values. Many members also feel strongly that conservation should be a primary goal of MNPS. As a result, MNPS has had a Conservation Committee since its beginning nearly ten years ago.

Although few people would think of MNPS as a conservation organization, we have undertaken numerous small conservation actions as well as a few of more wide-ranging significance. In this brief note I hope to summarize past conservation activities as an introduction to future goals.

The Montana Native Plant Society, through letters from the president, has commented on many national issues. MNPS has been a strong supporter of reauthorization of the Federal Endangered Species Act. We commented on proposed rule changes connected to the National Forest Management Act that would weaken the Forest Service's Sensitive Species Program, and on the most recent (1993) US Fish and Wildlife Service list of Category 2 plant species for Montana.

MNPS has expressed strong support for the Bureau of Land Management's Botany Program and the US Forest Service's Botany and Research Natural Areas programs. State presidents have sent letters regarding protection of native plants and vegetation on public lands at Lonesome Lake in central Montana, Storm Lake near Anaconda, and in the Beartooth Mountains. Numerous articles related to conservation have been published in *KELSEYA*, the statewide newsletter.

In 1991-92 the Conservation Committee composed draft guidelines for collecting plants and seeds from the wild. Comments on the draft taken at the 1992 annual meeting were incorporated into a second draft. This draft went to the Board of Directors who made final changes and approved the guidelines in 1993. These guidelines have been distributed throughout the state and will hopefully prevent overcollecting and foster an appreciation of our flora.

The majority of conservation activity has occurred at the chapter level. The Clark Fork Chapter sent out fact sheets on the forest practices bills before the 1991 legislature. Groups of Clark Fork members commented on the harvest of Pacific yew on public lands and on a draft of the Lolo National Forest weed management plan. For the past five years members of the Clark Fork Chapter have pulled dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) on a hill above the University and have managed to control this pernicious plant without herbicide.

The Flathead Chapter has sponsored petitions to have both howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*) and Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The former was successful, and howellia was listed as threatened in 1994. Flathead Chapter members have testified in favor of protecting a spruce swamp forest, and worked to help Glacier National Park protect a population of white lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium montanum*). Each year chapter members team up with the Audubon Society to pull purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) on Ninepipes Wildlife Refuge.

In 1991 members of the Kelsey Chapter helped the Audubon Council to draft a bill prohibiting the commercial sale of noxious weeds in the state and another prohibiting commercial trafficking in rare native plants. The former bill became law and prohibits the sale of species such as purple loosestrife for garden ornamentals.

The Kelsey Chapter also helped prepare the establishment record for the proposed Cabin Creek Research Natural Area on Lewis and Clark National Forest. The chapter president wrote a

letter commenting on the degradation of Lost Trail Bog in the Bitterroot Mountains.

The Valley of Flowers Chapter has pulled knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) in the Kirk Hill nature area for many years and has controlled this vicious adversary without resorting to herbicide. This effort has been so successful that last year's "pullout" crew found almost no knapweed - even in the rosette stage - and was able to turn their attentions to other exotic species present on the nature area. With funding provided by the City of Bozeman, the chapter undertook the revegetation of the Kagy Hill road cut. The chapter has contributed both funds and trail-crew hours to the Peet's Hill Trail on the east edge of Bozeman. VoF members and townspeople in Livingston have worked for several years on a revegetation/native planting project on the banks of an underpass in downtown Livingston.

Many issues may best be handled at the chapter level. Chapters should continue to comment on and be active in local conservation issues as they have done in the past. The size of the state and the distances that separate us prevent the state conservation committee from being as active as many might like, but we hope to work hard on one or two issues of statewide concern every year. At the 1995 annual meeting the Conservation Committee agreed address curtailing the loss of native prairie and other vegetation by educating the public and working with (i.e., advising as well as cajoling and nagging) federal and state agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly SCS), the Forest Service, and the Montana Department of Transportation that routinely are accomplices to planting non-native plants. This effort will begin in earnest in 1996.

State MNPS will continue to comment on national issues such as the Endangered Species Act and other federal environmental legislation. Members with other ideas for conservation projects should contact the Conservation Committee, especially if they are accompanied by a willingness to donate some time and effort. Send your comments and ideas to Peter Lesica, 929 Locust, Missoula MT 59802.

INTERNET ACCESS...cont from previous page:

communities of special concern; a database summary; and various reports. There are clickable maps for species lists by county and for Western Regional Heritage publications.

A recent issue of *Plant Conservation*, the newsletter of the Center for Plant Conservation at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St Louis MO, announces that they now also have a World Wide Web home page. Their home page also provides easy access to databases such as the Germplasm Resources Information Network, the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, the homepage of the Missouri Botanical Garden, and home pages of several other participating institutions. Other access is planned for the near future. Access them as:

<http://www.mobot.org/CPC>

The Center also has a new e-mail address for general queries and correspondence: cpc@mobot.mobot.org.

Check these out and let us know how you like them and what your experiences have been. We'd welcome receiving other internet addresses for plant-related into so we can pass them along to our membership. Seems like this would also be an ideal way to publicize wildflower "hotspots" during peak spring and summer bloomtime.

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Montana Native Plant Society is a 501-C-3 (not-for-profit) corporation chartered for the purpose of learning more about plants native to our state and their habitats, and of sharing that knowledge. Contributions to MNPS are tax deductible, and may be designated for a specific project or chapter, or may be made to the general fund.

Your yearly membership fee includes a subscription to KELSEYA, the newsletter of MNPS, published quarterly. We welcome your articles, clippings, field trip reports, meeting notices, book reviews - almost anything, in fact, that relates to our native plants or the Society. **Please include a line or two of "bio" information with each article.** Drawings should be in black ink or good-quality photocopy. If you send clippings, please note the source, volume/issue and date.

All meeting and field trip notices, field trip reports or announcements should be mailed to KELSEYA, Attn: Calendar, P O Box 6444, Bozeman MT 59771; articles should be sent to Terry Wamsley, P O Box 1304, Harlem MT 59526. All items should be typed or on disk - prefer 3.5" - in WordPerfect 4.2 or better, or in a generic ASCII file.

Changes of address and inquiries about membership in MNPS should be sent to MNPS, Attn: Membership, P O Box 8783, Missoula MT 59807-8783. General correspondence should also be sent to the Missoula address.

Advertising space is available in each issue at \$5/column inch. Ads must be camera-ready, and must meet the guidelines set by the Board of Directors for suitable subject matter: that is, be related in some way to plants or the interests of MNPS members.

Deadline for the **SPRING issue is MARCH 1**; please include meeting/field trip notices through mid-July '96. The Spring issue of KELSEYA will be mailed the last week of March.

**IF YOU MOVE, PLEASE SEND US YOUR
 CHANGE OF ADDRESS**



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1996 ANNUAL MEETING TAKING SHAPE

Plans for the 1996 Annual Meeting, to be hosted this year by Flathead Chapter, are rapidly coming together. Set for June 28-29-30, the theme this year is **On the Great Divide**. There is an early-registration pullout included in this issue, with more details.

On Saturday there will be both half day and full day field trips and workshops, to enable everyone to indulge a variety of interests: *Prairie Pothole Exploration* with Peter Lesica; *GNP Native Nursery and Revegetation Projects* with Joyce Lapp; *Geology and Wildflowers* with Phyllis Snow; *Elk Calf Mountain: Rare Onions and Views*, with Wayne Phillips; *Giefer Fire Regrowth and Renewal* with Steve Wirt; *Sedge Identification Workshop*, Peter Lesica; *Photography*, Maria Mantas; *Plant Key Use*, John Pierce; *Papermaking*, Kathy Fenner; *Native Plant Use by Salish/Kootenai*, Gene Beaverhead and David Durgeloh; and *Botanical Drawing and*

Journal Writing, Anne Morley.

Sunday field trips will explore fens and *Howellia* ponds in the northern Swan Valley (Steve Shelly); explore a prairie fen near Browning (Peter Lesica); and short local trips will be offered by Flathead Chapter members.

Instead of a Silent Auction (a major fundraising source for MNPS), this year there will be a raffle with a limited number of quality items. And there will also be a large number of books on sale. Children are encouraged to attend. Call Rachel Potter (892-2664) to arrange child care. Please leave pets at home. If you **MUST** bring them, the campground requests pets be leashed at all times and cleaned up after.

Mark this date on your calendar now...and send in your preregistration as soon as possible.