

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

www.umt.edu/mnps/

UM NATIVE PLANT GARDENERS HONORED

By Kelly Chadwick

On Thursday, April 28th, approximately 100 friends and family honored six members of the Montana Native Plant Society with a beautifully catered surprise party hosted by the Division of Biological Sciences and the Clark Fork Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society.

Sharing a common vision and working as a team, Sheila Morrison, Jean Parker, Jean Pfeiffer, Lois Puckett, Chin Won Reinhardt, and Peter Stickney were recognized as outstanding volunteers for their total 96 years caring for the Montana Native Plant Garden on The University of Montana campus.

Surrounding the Natural Sciences Building, a native plant garden was established in 1967 as a collaborative effort of faculty and students from the Department of Botany. The purposes of the garden were to educate students and the public about the

wealth of garden-worthy plants that grow wild in the surrounding mountains and valleys and to learn about these plants' growth habits in an edu-

cational setting. Klaus Lackschewitz, late curator of the botany greenhouse, developed and cared for the

(Continued on page 7)



Erick Greene and Marilyn Marler present awards to Jean Pfeiffer, Jean Parker, Chin Won Reinhardt, Lois Puckett, Sheila Morrison and Peter Stickney. Photo: Kelly Chadwick

Landscaping with Native Grasses

by Mark Majerus

Grasses can bring a simplistic style and texture to a landscape design. The wide variety of native grasses provide endless opportunities for adding color and providing a diversity of sizes and shapes, while offering lower water and nutrient input than the standard turf and ornamental grasses. There are commercially available native grasses that can be used for ground cover, manicured turf, individual accent/specimen plants, tall borders or backdrops, and for prairie or meadow restoration.

The present drought and related water shortages has increased the interest in alternatives to Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and other high maintenance

landscaping plants. In exchange for plants with low moisture, low nutrient, and reduced maintenance requirements, some of the aesthetics, lushness, and softness may be sacrificed. Native drought tolerant grasses that were developed for coal strip-mine reclamation and highway roadside revegetation have been successfully used as turf or ground cover. Rhizomatous cool-season grasses such as 'Critana' thickspike wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*, origin Hill County, MT), 'Sodar' streambank wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*), and 'Rosana' western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*, origin Rosebud County, MT) have lower moisture and nutrient requirements and withstand trampling well, but do not cut cleanly and have a coarser

(Continued on page 7)



President's Platform

Out-going President Betty Kuropat



Between (and during) the rains, I know it's summer. Western Montana is so green and clean, except for the lodgepole pine pollen that leaves a yellow ring around the puddles, spots everywhere, and makes some people sneeze. Flowers are blooming. This time of year is always a botanical tug-of-war for me as I do my Forest Service fieldwork and my personal walks, hikes, and bike rides. I love to look at and try to identify the plants I encounter and watch them develop throughout the summer. Every spring I try to relearn the language of botany. Plant-watching. Then there are weeds. I try not to obsess, but they get in the way of my plant-watching. Do I spend my outdoor time attacking weeds or do I try to ignore them so I can enjoy the natives? I do a little of both. It requires vigilance. Maintaining a balance; tug-of-war.

By the time you get this issue of *Kelseyia* the annual meeting, near Antelope, will be a recent memory. This year's meeting is bittersweet for me because it is my last as your president. I welcome Susan to the Board of Directors and am glad to

hand her the responsibility. I have truly enjoyed working on Society business with the board and membership for the past four years. I feel a loss about leaving this role. Maybe I'll have more time to garden and otherwise enjoy the plants.

Every year at the membership meeting, I ask your board members to summarize the past year's accomplishments and goals for the coming year, for the chapters and committees they represent. It's not my idea; it's directed by a list of meetings topics developed by the board. But, I like it. The various committees and chapters were busy this year, as usual. Their reports are in this issue. The state board took on a few projects and, hopefully, supported the chapters and committees with theirs. The big one for the state is our decision to get liability insurance for our activities. Along with that, we included some safety guidelines in the field trip booklet and asked field trip leaders to have participants sign a liability waiver. We will also be considering an addition to our bylaws that indemnifies board members from personal liabil-

ity for Society obligations. The board doesn't consider this a shining achievement, but a necessary responsibility given our growing membership and activities. Accomplishments more closely tied to Society goals are our contributions to a variety of chapter projects, the Small Grant program, the Montana Audubon lobbyist, Friends of the Herbarium (University of Montana Herbarium), and our many publications. Most of the publications are available on our website. If you want to see how Montana Audubon used our contribution for the legislative session this year, follow the "bill summary" link on their website: http://www.mtaudubon.org/html/take_action_montana_legislature.htm.

You all have accomplished good things for native plants and stewardship during the last four years. I am proud to have represented you. I have met many of you and made a lot of friends. I hope to keep those friendships and make more. I plan to keep conserving, learning, and teaching others about Montana's native plant communities. Thank you.

Welcome to our new President, Susan Winslow!

Susan can be reached at P.O. Box 502, Bridger, MT 59014 406-668-9112 e-mail: susan213@msn.com

WELCOME new members!

The Montana Native Plant Society extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Artemisia Chapter: John & Catherine Campbell, Thaddeus Charles Jones, Larry & Joy Schanz; **Clark Fork Chapter:** Diane Hafeman, Molly Galusha, Ralph & Betty Thisted; **Flathead Chapter:** Valerie Kurtzhalts, Marianne Madler, Betty & Lawrence Visocan; **Kelsey Chapter:** Brenda Grasmick, Sundi West, Ann Davidson Zimmerman; **Valley of Flowers Chapter:** Steve Cook.

Your participation and support are important to us! Please contact your chapter representative with any ideas or suggestions you may have. You will find them listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Rabbits and Lichen, Oh My!

Did you know that Beatrix Potter, the writer and original illustrator of the Peter Rabbit books was the first person to unravel the mystery of the lichens? True. However, scientists at the time did not take seriously her idea that lichens were an association of two types of well-known organisms. Even her meticulous drawings based on microscope studies failed to convince the male-chauvinistic scientific community of nineteenth-century England that this was so. Discouraged from continuing to pursue a career in botany, Ms. Potter returned to writing children's books, and the rest, as we say, is history. The field of botany lost a fine scientist, but literature gained a wonderful writer.

From Sue Habeck via her father, Jim Habeck

MONTU Awarded National Science Foundation Grant

by Peter Lesica & Elizabeth Crone

Reprinted from the Friends of the University of Montana Herbarium Newsletter, Spring 2005

Bioinformatics. It's a word that not many of us know or use, and yet it was the promise of Montana bioinformatics that won MONTU over one-third of a million dollars from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Last spring Lila Fishman, the new director of MONTU and professor in the Division of Biological Sciences, Elizabeth Crone, professor in the College of Forestry and Peter Lesica wrote a proposal to review the determinations and update taxonomic nomenclature of all 72,000 MONTU Montana collections and then digitize the label information to form the basis for an interactive on-line database available to anyone with internet access. Photographs and county dot maps for each species will also be available as part of this database. In December Lila was informed that MONTU had been awarded a competitive grant by NSF's Biological Research Collections Panel. The Montana Flora On-line Project is projected to take three years beginning this spring.

Museums have taken on a new importance because they are the primary source of information on the earth's biological diversity. They contain a huge amount of data that is not easy to access unless you are at that particular museum. Yet this knowledge is urgently needed to help protect and manage biodiversity now. These data provide the baseline for the next generation of biodiversity studies and conservation activities. Enter bioinformatics. Bioinformatics refers to the tools and techniques for sorting, handling and communicating large amounts of biological data in the age of computers and the internet. Many major western herbaria can already be accessed via the internet. These include the University of Idaho, Oregon State University, University of California at Davis, University of

Colorado and University of Wyoming. A recent meeting of representatives from scientific societies and agencies as well as museums recognized the need to bring in new technologies to expand access to collections. They proposed creating a "Legacy Infrastructure Network for Natural Environments" to coordinate museums in every state, and increased funding for modernizing collection facilities, updating determinations and expanding electronic access. The UM Herbarium is now on the forefront of this movement.

Accessioning MONTU's collections information is important at this time in order to make it more readily available to the research community. Two ambitious North America plant systematics projects are currently underway: The Flora of North America Project (FNA) and the Biota of North America Program (BNA). Both projects are working towards cataloguing the diversity of plants in North America. Montana plant distribution information is inadequate in both of these projects. BNA relies on county distribution data from Booth and Wright's 1959 flora and Dorn's 1984 manual. Neither of these represent the UM Herbarium collections. As a result, many BNA distribution maps underrepresent species' occurrences in the western part of the state. In Volume 23 of the Flora of North America, the genus *Kobresia* is not shown to occur in Montana even

though three species are represented among MONTU's collections. This omission might not have occurred if the monographer had easy access to label data housed at the UM Herbarium. The flora of western Montana has not been studied intensively for many decades. However, undescribed species have often been discovered among MONTU collections when they have been examined by experts. At least 12 new taxa have been described from MONTU collections in the past 20 years. A systematic examination of the Montana collections is likely to bring other novelties to light and promote a more thorough understanding of the flora of the Northern Rocky Mountains.

It is envisioned that the Montana Flora On-line Project will employ Peter Lesica as part-time curatorial specialist, four part-time undergraduates, a part-time graduate student and a part-time computer specialist for three years. The grant also provides money to purchase three new computers, a slide scanner, microscope and a laser printer. In addition to creating an on-line database of Montana's vascular plants, the project will also conduct workshops for agencies, school teachers and Native American land managers to introduce the database and demonstrate its use.

...MONTU is heading into the 21st Century. Stay tuned, we'll be digital before you know it.



The Montana Flora On-line Project

Erigeron parryi is one of the 72,000 Montana plant specimens housed at the UM Herbarium awaiting digital processing. Digital access to label data will allow on-line searches for species' occurrence and location.

PUBLICATIONS

Available from MNPS

The third edition of the *Source Guide for Native Plants of Montana* is now available. The cost is \$6.00. Send a check made out to MNPS to: MNPS Publications, 1270 Lower Sweet Grass Road, Big Timber, Montana 59011. The cost will cover postage. The guide lists 55 sources for over 500 species of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses. This edition has e-mail and website addresses for many sources and a handy common name index. The guide is a must for home landscapers, native plant gardeners and those involved in restoration projects. The *Source Guide* will include an insert with recent updates for each source. Contact information for several new sources is included but their plants are not listed. If you already purchased a Guide, you can find the update on the website or send a SASE to MNPS Publications (see address above).

Available free from MNPS Publications: MNPS membership brochures, *Plant Collection Guidelines for Teachers* brochures, and *Echinacea Cultivation Information*. Also available are additional copies of *Plants Collected in Montana During the Lewis & Clark Expedition*.

Landscaping with Native Plants in South-central Montana

The Valley of Flowers Chapter is pleased to announce we have completed our version of landscaping with native plants. We altered some of the text from the Kelsey Chapter's version, completely revised the plant tables (adding several new plants), and included a section on wetland species. There are revised and updated sections on recommended reading and websites, plus added listings for local nurseries and native gardens in the Bozeman, Livingston and Big Timber areas. Several brochures and handouts are also included in a back-pocket page. We will soon have it on the website. Bound copies with a color cover page can be purchased by sending \$6.50 payable to Valley of Flowers Chapter to: Denise Montgomery, 173 North Sweet Grass Ave., Bozeman, MT 59718.

Linda Iverson

"UltraLight **Wildflower** Guide to the Central **Montana** Rocky Mountains" 665 photos

333 species, Only 1.5 oz, Waterproof, 3" x 5"

\$21.95 Postpaid
Diamond Springs Press
8085 Diamond Springs Dr.
Helena, MT 59602-9312

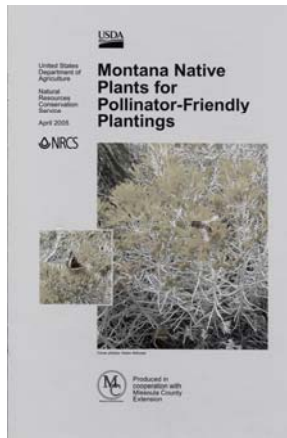
Please send a SASE to the address above to receive any of these publications.

Available from the Flathead Chapter: a packet of information about gardening with Flathead Valley native plants. The packet can be mailed to you for \$3.50. Contact Tara Carolin at P.O. Box 382, West Glacier, MT 59936, call 406-888-7919 or e-mail Tara at: vance.tara@centurytel.net

Available from the Kelsey Chapter: a packet of information on landscaping with natives in the Helena area. The packet will be mailed to you for \$3.50. Contact Kathy at 449-6586 or e-mail: drakekath@direcway.com to order.

Visit the MNPS website at www.umt.edu/mnps to download in pdf format *Weeds Listed as Noxious by Montana Counties*, a list of weeds that are targeted by each county; *Guidelines for Selecting Horticultural Plant Material for Montana*, voluntary guidelines by MNPS and the Montana Nursery and Landscape Association; and *Lewis & Clark Plants Collected Elsewhere That Occur in Montana*, an inclusive list of Lewis & Clark plants found in the state.

Pollinator Brochure Released



Montana Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with Missoula County Extension, has published a brochure entitled

Montana Native Plants for Pollinator-Friendly Plantings. Pollinators, such as insects, hummingbirds, and some bats, are critical components in human food production and their habitat serves many other important conservation functions as well. The brochure presents options for vegetative plantings that provide pollinators with a continuously blooming nectar supply throughout the growing season as well as roosting habitat and a succulent feeding substrate for insect larvae. Contact your local NRCS Service Center or Helen Atthowe at Missoula County Extension for more information.

Peter Husby, NRCS-MT Biologist

Wildflowers of Montana

by Donald Anthony Schiemann
published by Mountain Press, 2005

Do we need another wildflower field guide for Montana? We have Wayne Phillips' two volumes of Rocky Mountain wildflowers, Dee Strickler's three volumes and Craighead's *Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers*, to name a few. And now, to add to the collection, we have a new guide by Donald Schiemann, *Wildflowers of Montana*. Well, can you ever have too many plant guides?

Schiemann, a retired professor of microbiology at MSU, spent many years traveling around Montana studying natural history and photographing wildflowers. The book features more than 350 species and includes quite a few exotic plants you are unfortunately likely to encounter, as well as Montana natives.

Schiemann mentions five distinct vegetation zones: the plains, foothills, montane, subalpine and alpine and includes photographic plant images from each of the five zones. The book covers Montana from the eastern plains to the western mountains, and from the sagebrush steppe to alpine cushion plant communities, and has representative species from

(Continued on page 5)

...Book Review (Continued from page 4)

each area of the state. Every plant entry has a description of the plant and general range and habitat information. Exotic plants are mentioned somewhere in the text to separate them from Montana natives, so read carefully. The captions under the images include common names as well as when and where the photo was taken. This information may be useful if you are planning a trip to coincide with a particular plant's blooming period. The book has sections devoted to shrubs and wildflowers, but you will have to consult one of your other books to find grasses or trees.

It seems to be common practice today to arrange wildflower books by flower color, which can be helpful for those unfamiliar with the region's flora, or frustrating if you are unsure what color to call your flower. However, Schiemann chose another layout for his book. In the wildflower section of the book he grouped them alphabetically according to the common name of the family and then alphabetical by genus/species. This may or may not prove to be useful to you. Occasionally we found it difficult, at first, to know what common family name a plant was listed under. Where to find Asteraceae? Under Sunflower family, of course. Apiaceae? Parsley family. The shrub section is organized alphabetically by genus/species. It is generous enough to show lots of our common shrubs but not so big as to make it difficult to flip through the pictures looking for a particular plant.

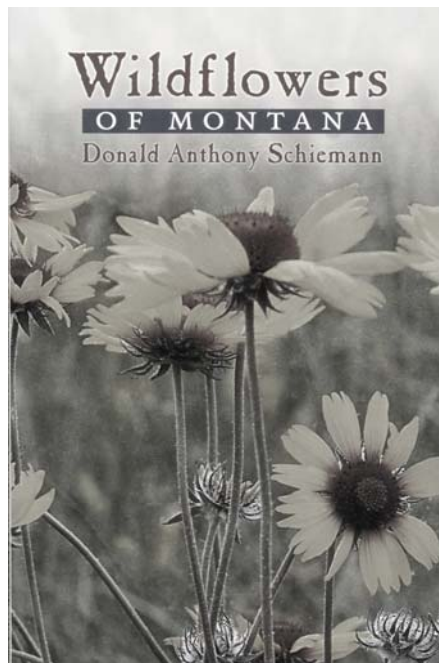
You won't find a lot of the most current nomenclature (after all, who do you follow?). Fireweed is still *Epilobium*, *Potentilla fruticosa* is still just that, but synonyms for some plants are listed, which is helpful for those of us trying to keep track.

A word about the images. Like many field guides, this is a book as much about the pictures as about the text. If you're someone who finds some of the modern field guides to be over saturated with color you may find this more to your liking as the colors seem more muted. The photography is good and certainly shows Schiemann's love of his subject. We

think the images need more pop and could have benefited from sharpening before going to press, but the overall presentation is very nice and the book covers a broad range of Montana habitats not usually found in one volume.

This book is worth adding to your collection; after all, who can't use another book covering Montana's wildflowers?

Drake Barton and Kathy Lloyd



Weeding Opportunity in the Flathead Valley

Brett Thuma could use help weeding his native plant restoration projects. One is in the parking lot of Harry Horn Park (adjacent to Wayfarer's State Park in Bigfork). The other is along Highway 35 across from Sliter's Ace Hardware in Bigfork. Please contact him at 837-1239 (hm), 837-4604 (wk), or by e-mail at: bretttd@digisys.net to arrange a time. Brett is also attempting to organize some weed pulling (especially spotted knapweed) along the Swan River Nature Trail. The moist conditions we've experienced lately make this an ideal time for pulling! Please contact him at the above phone numbers or e-mail to arrange a time.

Krause Basin Interpretive Trail

Swan View Coalition and the Swan Lake Ranger District announce the opening of a new way to enjoy native plants and plant communities in the Flathead: the Krause Basin Interpretive Trail. The quarter-mile loop trail is located along the eastern rim of the Flathead Valley. The trail is being constructed and maintained by Swan View Coalition, a local conservation group, through a volunteer agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. It has a compacted gravel surface suitable for baby strollers and wheelchairs, a unique feature that provides an opportunity for people with limited mobility.

The trail has 12 numbered stations with interpretive information provided via a trail guide brochure available at the trailhead, the Swan Lake Ranger District, or the Flathead Forest Supervisor's office. The trail loops through an old stand of western hemlock forest and a regenerating clearcut logged in the 1960s. The trail guide provides information on how forests recycle themselves and provide benefits to humans from medicine to lumber.

Swan View Coalition volunteers invested some 400 person-hours developing the trail, including several workdays donated by the Montana Conservation Corps. The work was supervised by Swan Lake Ranger District and the trail guide brochure was a collaborative effort involving Swan View Coalition volunteers and Flathead National Forest staff, including experts in botany and public education.

To access the trail take Foothill Road to the Strawberry Lake Road (#5390) turnoff, then drive 2.8 miles to the trailhead parking lot. For more information contact Swan View Coalition Chair Keith Hammer (755-1379) or Swan Lake District Ranger Steve Brady (837-7500).

Shannon Kimball

Enjoy Montana's native plants and plant communities any way you can—hike, draw, photograph, or read the Kelsey!

Knapweed Crash!

by Carol Flaherty, MSU News Service

In past years, Jim Story only needed a short trip to collect data on spotted knapweed. As a Western Agricultural Research Center entomologist who rears and studies insects introduced to feed on spotted knapweed, the open land within a few miles of the Corvallis center has been like an extended lab with plenty of knapweed to examine. No more.

Spotted knapweed populations crashed near Corvallis in 2004. Adding to the good news is the fact that biocontrol agents also seem to have wiped out the small but threatening nucleus of diffuse knapweed in the East Helena area, says Story.

Story has been documenting substantial reductions of spotted knapweed density at biocontrol agent release sites for the past few years, but the population crash at other knapweed sites caught him by surprise.

"All unmanaged lands in this area were infested 10 years ago, but those same sites don't have much knapweed today," he said. "We're seeing up to 95 percent reductions." Story believes the knapweed population crash is due to several factors. The primary cause is the heavy attack by introduced root boring insects that now occur in high numbers in the area. But, drought is probably also playing a role. "Spotted knapweed is usually very drought tolerant, but the plants may become vulnerable to drought stress when they are infested with the root boring insects," says Story. "And the fact that we're not seeing a lot of replacement by younger knapweed plants I think is due to the significant reduction in seed production by the seed head insects we introduced many years ago. We have studies ongoing to identify the causes."

He adds that it was "pretty amazing" to not find spotted knapweed infestations within four to five miles of Corvallis in 2004, but there still is plenty of work to do.

"Biocontrol is proving to be extremely effective at managing knap-

weed in some areas," Story says. "The next challenge will be to restore these previously-infested sites to communities of desirable plant species, because the knapweed is being replaced by cheat grass at most sites."

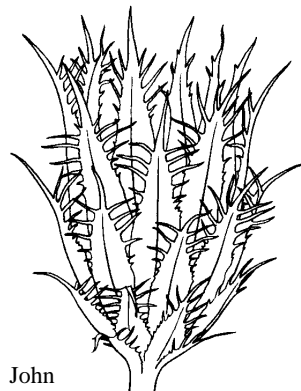
Story's favorite six-legged weed eater, the root boring weevil called *Cyphocleonus achates*, doesn't fly so it needs help to get to new sites within any reasonable time frame. Each year, Story and his assistants rear about 30,000 of the weevils and arrange for their distribution to knapweed infestations throughout the region.

First identified near Missoula in the 1920s, spotted knapweed originated in Eastern Europe but now is in every county in Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming and in a majority of counties in California, Nevada and Utah. It is blamed for \$11 million in forage lost to Montana landowners each year due to its replacement of more desirable plant species on rangeland.

The crash of the diffuse knapweed population in the East Helena area is due to a seed head weevil introduced by Story and USDA-APHIS personnel in the early 1990's. This insect, which severely defoliates the plant, is causing similar declines of diffuse knapweed in Washington and Oregon.

Story coordinates his work with various federal agencies, including USDA APHIS, the Extension Service, BIA, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, private landowners and county weed supervisors. For more information on the knapweed biocontrol effort, contact your local MSU County Extension agent or Jim Story at (406) 961-3025.

This story is available on the MSU Web at:
<http://www.montana.edu/commserv/>



Some good weed news for a change!
Centaurea diffusa (diffuse knapweed) crashed near East Helena in 2004.

John

Center for Invasive Plant Management

Reprinted from *Plant Materials Today*, Vol. 12 #2

The Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) was founded in 2000 and is located at Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman. CIPM is a regional program that cooperates with researchers, educators, and land managers to promote ecologically-based management of invasive plants in the western United States. It provides valuable services through educational outreach, restoration research, grant funding, and dissemination of web-based and written materials. The Bridger Plant Materials Center (PMC) teamed up with CIPM and MSU in the fall of 2004, to coordinate the development of a new study, "The Effect of Five Pre-Emergent Herbicides on the Emergence and Establishment of Seven Native Wildflowers." The goal is twofold: 1. to gain a better understanding of the effects of pre-emergent herbicides on the establishment of native wildflowers; and 2. to provide herbicide recommendations for control of undesirable broadleaf species in plantings of native wildflowers. The initial testing is currently being performed at MSU's Plant Growth Center, with hopes of follow-up field tests to be conducted at the Bridger PMC, and at a variety of sites in Montana. For more information on CIPM, visit their website at <http://www.weedcenter.org>.

Susan R. Winslow, PMC Agronomist

Regional Events

Ecology at Multiple Scales

The IX INTECOL International Congress of Ecology, jointly held with the 90th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) is scheduled in Montreal, Canada, on August 7-12, 2005. Visit <http://www.intecol.net/> for information.

Changing Natural Landscapes: Ecological and Human Dimensions

The 32nd Annual Natural Areas Conference is scheduled for September 21-24, 2005, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Conference registration information is available by e-mailing: cgps@unl.edu

...Gardeners (Continued from page 1)

garden until his retirement in 1976, but by 1989 it was beginning to decline.

That year Jean Parker and Jean Pfeifer took the initiative to renew and maintain this valuable resource. They forged a cooperative agreement between Facilities Services, the Division of Biological Sciences, and the Montana Native Plant Society to save these gardens for posterity. They organized a core group of volunteers, each of whom takes care of a particular habitat.

One day a week during each of the past 16 growing seasons, these volunteers have moved rocks, improved the soil, raised plants from seed, planted, weeded, watered, labeled, pruned, and cared for the native gardens. During the winter they design and plan existing and new areas, as well as educational projects such as a brochure and informational display. Over the years they have recruited, mentored, and supported a series of additional garden volunteers for the project. One day a year they enlist students at the Volunteer Fair to assist with large garden projects.

The garden now includes ten representative Montana habitats with over 300 species and comprises a unique educational resource for the university and the community. The Montana Native Plant Garden is used by University of Montana Rocky Mountain Flora and Dendrology classes. In addition, grade school, high school, and

Elderhostel classes, as well as the general public, have visited the gardens. People from around the country continue to use this garden to study and observe plants they might not otherwise have access to. The six volunteers give formal tours upon request, and graciously give impromptu tours to interested passers-by when they are working in the garden.

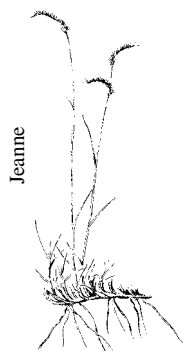
These dedicated individuals have cooperatively volunteered countless hours to the native gardens. Because of the commitment and passion to these gardens the University of Montana is a more attractive and educational environment.

At the reception, Erick Greene, acting dean of the Division of Biological Sciences, joined Marilyn Marler to publicly thank Sheila, Jean, Jean, Lois, Chin Won, and Peter, and gave each individual a framed photograph of a unique native plant of special interest.

Thanks to Montana photographers Drake Barton, Peter Lesica, Maria Mantas, and Wayne Phillips, who graciously donated these beautiful, autographed photographs.

Thanks also to Nancy Bernius for organizing the catering, Alice Oaken for an outstanding flower arrangement, Gertrud Lackschewitz and Joe Elliott for their speeches and old photos of the gardens, and Dana D'Andraia, Alice Oaken, Marilyn Marler, and Gertrud Lackschewitz. Special thanks to Erick Greene for all his time, enthusiasm, effort, and support in making this long-deserved event happen.

...Grasses (Continued from page 1)



Bouteloua gracilis
or blue grama

texture than does Kentucky bluegrass. But for cover, site stabilization, and competition with weeds, they are hard to beat. Warm-season grasses are generally adapted to the plains and prairie region of eastern Montana, but have survived in the foothills and mountain valleys. 'Bad River' (NW South Dakota) and 'Birdseye' (Hot Springs County, WY) blue grama, and 'Bismarck', 'Tatanka' and 'Cody' buffalograss all have a very short stature, good drought tolerance, and require very little manicuring. However, they are late to green up in the spring and early to brown up in the fall. The strong tillering of blue grama and the

stolons of buffalograss allow these grasses to form a tight sod in relatively short order, but the resulting sod can eventually be contaminated with other more aggressive perennial grasses. Careful preparation can help prevent this invasion, but a mixed stand often occurs. Spring and early summer mowing, allowing the warm season grass to flower later in the summer, is one management option for these grasses.

Native grass stature can range in height from just a few inches to well over six-feet tall, offering a wide variety of options for backdrops, borders, screens and accent situations. Most accent/specimen grasses are bunchgrasses, planted in individual clumps and often maintained using weed barrier and bark/rock mulch. The six-foot plus stature of 'Trailhead' basin wildrye (*Leymus*

cinereus, origin Musselshell County, MT) serves as an excellent ornamental backdrop, screen, border, or wildlife cover. Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) offers not only a moderately tall stature, but also an abundance of seed for game birds, as well as songbirds. One of the most attractive grasses is little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), having blue-green foliage in the summer, turning a vibrant burnt-red in the fall. Grasses that have attractive mature foliage and inflorescences include 'Rimrock' Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*, origin Yellowstone County, MT), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), blue grama, and sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*). The silhouettes of grass inflorescences add a unique style and beauty to rock gardens and flowerbeds.

Seed is commercially available for many native grass species used for ground cover, turf, or prairie restoration. However mature, containerized plants are of limited supply in the nursery/landscaping industry (beware of plant materials originating from Winter Hardiness Zones other than Zones 3 to 5). See the *Source Guide for Native Plants of Montana* to find sources for native grass plants and seed (ordering information on page 4).

Native grasses offer a practical alternative to high maintenance turf and landscaping plants, providing a variety of texture, color, and intricacy with the added bonus of lower water, nutrient, and maintenance requirements. All this information is summarized in the publication *Creating Native Landscapes in the Northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains*, a booklet describing xeriscaping principles using native plants.

CALENDAR

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER

For a schedule of Artemisia Chapter events or to get your questions answered, please call Leslie at 445-9178.

Saturday, July 30

"To the Pryors, a place of Awe and Wonder." Explore the history of the Pryors as related to Lewis and Clark and the early days of fur trapping as well as plant communities from the Bighorn Basin desert to subalpine meadows with leader Clayton McCracken. From Billings depart at 8:00 a.m. from Rocky Mountain College parking lot at 1500 Rimrock Road next to the Billings Studio Theater. From Bridger depart at 9:10 a.m. across from the Post Office. Plan to stay in the Pryors until dark. Bring water and lunch plus a snack for dinner. Past Bridger we will be on gravel roads. Four-wheel drive is not necessary, but high clearance is desired. We will stop at points of interest for discussion and will take short hikes to look at various plant communities; nothing strenuous. This trip is co-sponsored by the Artemisia Chapter, Montana Native Plant Society and the Yellowstone Basin Group Sierra Club. Please indicate by Monday 25 July if you plan to participate. Contact person is: Clayton McCracken at 406-252-2807 or chmc9@bresnan.net

Saturday, August 13

Botanize in the Beartooth Mountains along Line Creek Plateau with Dr. Jennifer Lyman (Professor of Environmental Sciences at Rocky Mountain College). The terrain is moderate to strenuous with mostly off-trail hiking at elevations near 10,000 feet. Depart from Billings at 8:00 a.m., carpooling from the Rocky Mountain College parking lot at 1500 Rimrock Road next to the Billings Studio Theater. Depart from Red Lodge at 9:15 a.m., carpooling from the Beartooth Ranger Station on the south end of town. Bring water, lunch, and be prepared for the elements. Contact Leslie Marty at (406) 445-9178 for more information.

CALYPSO CHAPTER

Call Sheila Thompson at 846-1855 for times and details.

Wednesday, July 13, 6:00 p.m.

"The Badger Mine," led by Grant Mitman and Paul Sawyer. We will examine the florascape of a "butt dump" where dump trucks heaped their contents, leaving a rugged, uneven dumpscape that has been pioneered by a very hardy flora. Paul Sawyer will show us some of his experimental plots on site and Grant Mitman

will show us a rare copper moss and other bryophytes. Meet at the Montana Tech Library parking lot at 6:00 p.m. For more information, call Debbie at 782-6651.

CLARK FORK CHAPTER

Saturday, July 2, 9:00 a.m.

"Sun River Orchid Search." Join us to see the highest concentration of orchid species in Montana. Meet at the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station in Augusta at 9:00 a.m. We will carpool from there on a loop drive to Sun Canyon, Wagner Basin Research Natural Area, Beaver Creek and back to Augusta via Willow Creek. There will be two hikes, the first of 2 miles/hours, and the second of perhaps 4 miles/hours, both on relatively gentle terrain. However, the second hike requires a stream crossing and some bushwhacking through an unstable landslide area. There is a good alternative for those who want to skip the second hike, and stay in rich orchid areas near the road, but the reward for bushwhacking is a chance to see *Cypripedium passerinum*. Expect a long but rewarding day. We could reasonably find a dozen orchid species, including *Amerorchis rotundifolia*, *Cypripedium parviflorum*, *C. montanum*, *C. passerinum*, *Epipactis*, etc. For questions, call Wayne Phillips at 453-0648 or e-mail: mtwayne@juno.com.

Saturday, July 9, 9:00 a.m.

"Five Valleys Land Trust/Native Plant Society Volunteer Day." Prune and cage riparian restoration plants along a creek near Ovando on one of Five Valleys conservation easements. The three-hour work session will be followed by a tour of native grasslands and/or the 1988 Blackfoot burn. Meet at the northwest corner of Eastgate Shopping Center in Missoula. Bring water. Lunch is provided. Call Grant for more details at 327-6796.

Saturday, September 10, 9:30 a.m.

"Whitebark Pine Field Trip." Are you interested in high mountain ecosystems and the plight of whitebark pine? Bob Keane, a research ecologist with the Forest Service, will give a full-day tour of the latest in whitebark pine restoration techniques on Beaver Ridge in the Clearwater National Forest just outside of Powell, Idaho. All interested should meet at the Missoula Fire Lab (5775 Hwy 10 west near the smokejumper base) at 9:30 a.m. with a return time around 4 p.m. Bring a lunch to eat at the Beaver Ridge lookout with fantastic views of the Bitterroot Crest. You must make a reservation with Bob Keane (329-4846) before Aug. 30,

because this field trip has a maximum of 12 people. Call Bob if you have any questions and if you get voice mail be sure to leave a detailed message complete with your phone number.

Thursday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.

Bob Keane, U.S. Forest Service Fire Ecologist, is recently returned from a year in north-central Australia. Come and learn how fire regime affects the plants, wildlife and people in this vast country when Bob tells us about "The Fire Ecology and Management of Tropical Savanna of the Northern Territory, Australia." Rm. L09 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

Thursday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.

Are wildflowers just the pretty faces of our grasslands? Monica Pokorny, researcher with MSU's Center for Invasive Plant Management, doesn't think so. Monica will tell us about her research on "Wildflowers of Southwest Montana Grasslands: A diverse display that resists weeds." Rm. L09 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

EASTERN MONTANA

For more information about Eastern Montana events call Connie Jacobs at 622-5266.

FLATHEAD CHAPTER

Our meetings have moved to the Mountain View Mennonite Church. To reach the church, follow Highway 35 east from Kalispell past Woody's (Highway 206 jct.) Just past Woody's, turn left on the Lake Blaine Road and continue for one mile. Turn right on the Creston Hatchery Road and go another mile. The Mennonite Church is on the right at the junction of Creston Hatchery Road and Mennonite Church Road.

Saturday, July 16

"Mount Aeneas in the Jewel Basin Recreation Area." Join Flathead National Forest botanist Linh Davis for a moderate hike up Mount Aeneas. Walk through subalpine forest and then above the trees to meadows and interesting rocky ridgelines. Meet at the Echo Lake Café at 8:00 a.m. if you would like to meet Linh for breakfast before hiking. Otherwise meet at the café at 10:00 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead. Contact Linh at 270-7533 for details and to sign up.

Saturday, August 13, 9:00 a.m.

"Tour of Grouse Springs Nursery." Join nursery owner Caroline Kruckeberg Clemans for a tour through the Grouse Springs Nursery from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00

a.m. Look at a variety of plants, including natives, used for landscaping and restoration. Of particular interest are plants from the Pacific Northwest that thrive along Flathead Lake and are at the eastern extent of their range. Meet at the nursery located at 5853 Highway 35 (east side of Flathead Lake) just south of Finley Point and just north of Polson. The nursery is 5.8 miles north of the junction of Highways 93 and 35. Contact Caroline at 887-2696 for details and to sign up.

KELSEY CHAPTER

For more information about Kelsey Chapter programs and events, call Kathy at 449-6586.

MAKA FLORA CHAPTER

For information about the Maka Flora Chapter or events call Rebecca Kallevig at 488-5455.

Saturday, July 23, 10:00 a.m.

“Three Buttes.” An easy to moderate hike exploring the area on and around these historic buttes. The group will help complete a cultural inventory for nomination of this site for the National Register of Historic Places. Meet at the CQ Bar, next to the city park in Lambert at 10 a.m.

Saturday, August 20, 10:00 a.m.

“Brush Lake.” This walk is co-sponsored with the Montana Wilderness Association. An easy 3-mile hike to explore land recently purchased by FWP for a state park at Brush Lake. Bring a swimsuit, towel, and snorkel (optional) if you wish to explore the “reef” mineral deposits unique to this lake, a sack lunch and water. Group size will be limited to 20, and pre-registration is required by August 15th. Contact Doug Smith at 765-3411 (day) or 483-5431 (eve). Meet at CJ’s Country Store in Dagmar at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 17, 12:00

“Fort Peck Sand Arroyo Badlands.” An easy to moderate hike through 1-2 miles of rugged badlands terrain. Meet at the new Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center at 12 noon (come early to tour the center).

VALLEY OF FLOWERS

Contact Monica at 763-4109 if you need additional information.

Tuesday, July 12, 6:00 p.m.

“The Orchids of Kirk Hill.” The Kirk Hill nature area south of Bozeman is home to at least five species of ground-dwelling orchids, as well as a wealth of other plants in open grasslands, moist aspen thickets, and Douglas-fir forest. Join Jan Nixon for an easy ramble around

Kirk Hill trails while we search for these blooming beauties. Meet at 6 p.m. at the parking area for the “MSU Foothills Natural Area – Kirk Hill” at the big curve on S 19th Road. Bring water and bug repellent, and dress for the weather. No dogs, please. The walk will wrap up at dusk. This trip is offered through the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, and there is a small fee for participants. Call 406-994-6618 to register. Handouts and plant lists will be provided.

Saturday, July 16, 8:00 a.m.

A pleasant hike into the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area, with magnificent views and glorious displays of wildflowers. The trail will take hikers up to the Windy Pass cabin and along the open plateau, with a return along the same trail. Reservations are required. Call Anne Banks after July 4 and before July 14 at 587-7629, or e-mail: anban@bresnan.net.

Saturday, August 6

“Wildflower Photography in the Bridger Mountains above Fairy Lake, north of Bozeman in the Gallatin National Forest.” A moderate 6-mile hike to botanize and discuss wildflower photography with professional photographer Bruce Selyem. The hike has magnificent views and there should be a glorious display of wildflowers. Bring your cameras! Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the MSU AgBioscience parking lot, north side of building, on 11th St. Bozeman for carpooling, or 9:15 a.m. at the Bridger Crest Trailhead. Contact Beth MacFawn, 587-5211, bethmacfawn@hotmail.com or Bruce Selyem, bruce@wildflower-photos.com for additional information.

Saturday, August 20, 1:00 p.m.

A trip to the Crazy Mountain Museum in Big Timber to see the Lewis and Clark plantings and some of the original collection. A free exhibition called “For Barter and Trade: Native Plants and the Corps of Discovery.” We will meet with a representative of Blake Nursery for native plant viewing. In Bozeman, meet at the parking lot for the AgBioscience Building off 11th Street on the MSU campus at 1:00 p.m. to car pool. The museum can be found off Cemetery Road, Exit 367 from Interstate 90. For more information call Joanne Jennings at 586-9585

WESTERN MONTANA

For information about activities in Western Montana, call Erich Pfalzer at 406-827-4078.

Friday, Saturday, July 8-9

“Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition” with Wayne Phillips of the Glacier Institute. A fee is required. Call 406-755-1211 for registration information.

Wednesday, July 13, 6:00 p.m.

“Trail of the Cedars in Glacier National Park.” Tara Carolin, Glacier National Park ecologist, will lead an easy 1 to 2 mile walk through one of the oldest forest stands in the park, a moist cedar-devil’s club forest along Avalanche Creek. Meet at the West Glacier Post Office at 6:00 p.m. and we will carpool to the trailhead. Contact Tara Carolin at 888-7919 for details.

Saturday, July 23, 7:00 a.m.

Explore subalpine park habitat on the Montana/Idaho border with Peter Lesica in a quest for rare and interesting species unique to this habitat. This should be a moderately easy hike including open ridges and steep slopes. Bring lunch, sunscreen and plenty of water. A 4-wheel drive vehicle is recommended. Meet at Nin’s Local Store in Trout Creek at 7:00 a.m. For more information contact Erich Pfalzer at 406-827-4078 or e-mail: erich_pfalzer@yahoo.com

Sunday, July 24

“Wildflower Wanderings at Logan Pass” with Janet Paul Bones of the Glacier Institute. A fee is required. Call 406-755-1211 for registration information.

Tuesday, August 2

“Noxious Weeds: Invaders in our Woods” is a free workshop offered by the Glacier Institute. Call 406-755-1211 for registration information.

Wednesday, Thursday, August 3-4

“Native Plant Landscapes: Collection, Cultivation and Creation” with Joyce Lapp, Sara Dedekam and Sonja Hartman of the Glacier Institute. A fee is required. Call 406-755-1211 for registration information.

Friday-Sunday, August 5-7

“Flora of Glacier National Park: Plant Identification Demystified” with Peter Lesica of the Glacier Institute. A fee is required. Call 406-755-1211 for registration information.

Saturday-Sunday, September 17-18

“Fall Mushroom Foray” with Larry Evans of the Glacier Institute. A fee is required. Call 406-755-1211 for registration information.

Clark Fork Chapter Woad Warriors

We had a productive dyer's woad-pulling season here in Missoula. Each spring, for more than 12 years, the Clark Fork Chapter hosts two community events to seek out and pull the new invader (*Isatis tinctoria*) from the slopes of Mt. Sentinel above the UM campus. This year the pulls were held May 23rd and again on June 7th and we had lovely weather for both!

UM staff, and state dyer's woad coordinator and Valley of Flowers Chapter president Monica Pokorny, met with 15 volunteers from the community at the M trail. After an introduction to the issue and a lesson in woad identification, our team of Woad Warriors combed the grassy hillside for the offending yellow invaders. Mule deer and spotted towhees watched our progress, and we had fabulous displays of penstemon, paintbrush and other local favorites. The first night we found over 1200 plants, and the second night we found only 200. I will return to the site in a few weeks with another group of volunteers to mop up any late bloomers. We are working to involve the City Parks Department in this project for future years since the woad occurs on both city and UM property.

There are only five dyer's woad infestations in the entire state of Montana, and Missoula is blessed with one of them. UM and the Clark Fork Chapter work in cooperation with Missoula County Weed District and Monica to keep on top of this infestation.

The annual event also serves as a fundraiser for our chapter, with the county paying \$10 per person-hour donated to the project, up to a maximum of \$400 each year. This year we hit the maximum amount, due to outstanding community participation! We had three staff members and 16 volunteers at each event.

Marilyn Marler

The Clark Fork Chapter Strikes it Rich: 2005 Plant Sale

On May 14, 2005, the Clark Fork Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society held its annual plant sale at the Missoula Farmer's Market, which marked a milestone for the chapter. We offered more than 1,400 pots of over 45 species of plants and made \$2038, all of which were new records for the event. Beyond the many interested and ardent gardeners of the Missoula Valley who rewarded us with their enthusiasm on sale day, many others made this occasion a success. Sheila Morrison, the retired *grande dame* of the sale over the years, still served as the primary propagator and keeper of knowledge. Caras Nursery and Marchie's Nursery helped out with timely donations of much-needed pots for our growing seedlings. Marilyn Marler generously gave us access to her magnificent Fort Missoula greenhouse and to greenhouse helpers—some interns and many school children—that kept the plants well-watered and growing from mid-March onward. Many others helped as cashiers or assisted in set up: David Schmetterling, Archie McMillan, Pat Gray, Beth Judy, Ginny DeNeve, Lori Parr Campbell, and Kathy Settevendemie. Others served as repositories of knowledge—Peter Lesica, Jean Pfeiffer, and Peter Stickney—or experts in the persuasion of reluctant customers—Kelly Chadwick. Madeline Mazurski took the leftovers to use on grade school projects, and sellers in adjacent spaces tolerated the crowds that swarmed around us. Finally, Dana D'Andraia and Michael Young served as sale coordinators this year, and look forward to a repeat performance next year (especially Dana, who is moving to New York!).

Mike Young

Kelsey Chapter Report

Kelsey Chapter has been busy this spring. Two hands-on classes on Carices, presided over by Drake Barton, were well attended and very informative. Kevin Taylor's program on primitive skills and Montana native plants had an overflow crowd of enthusiasts anxious to learn about fire making, shelters, medicinals and food uses for native plants. Several hikes and outings proceeded on schedule despite the weather, the lateness and coldness of the season, and the fickleness of blooming dates! Thanks to all our hike leaders and all those who attended. Kathy Martin represented the Kelsey Chapter as part of a cooperative group that hosts an annual event on Mount Helena in honor of National Wildflower Week. Hundreds of fourth grade students had an opportunity to learn about native plants, noxious weeds, pollination

and Lewis and Clark plants. Thanks to all the Kelsey Chapter volunteers who helped with student activities.

Our packet of information on landscaping with native plants is still in demand. Pat Plantenberg recently distributed over 50 packets at the 68th annual Montana Federation of Garden Clubs convention in Helena. And finally, we are once again publishing a series of articles on Montana Lewis and Clark plants in the Helena Independent Record. Watch for the series to begin in mid-July. We hope to see you out enjoying Montana's native flora.

Kathy Lloyd

Flathead Chapter Report

After an enjoyable season of fall and winter programs, the Flathead Chapter is ready to shift its focus to outdoor activities. It's been a rainy start, but so far attendance has been surprisingly good! Our May field trip

to Spring Creek Cemetery (led by Jen Asebrook) was popular, although the flower show wasn't as brilliant as some year's. There are many more opportunities to learn about native plants in and around the Flathead Valley. Check out our list of upcoming activities in this issue of the *Kelsey*.

Late this spring the finishing touches were added to our latest production: a list of native gardens and restoration projects around the Flathead Valley. This one-page document summarizes the success stories of a handful of people who decided to plant natives in their gardens or used them to landscape larger areas. Contact information is included so those interested can learn more and visit these special sites. Call or e-mail Tara Carolin (755-9412 or vance.tara@centurytel.net) for information.

MNPS Chapters & the Areas They Serve:

- ARTEMISIA CHAPTER - Yellowstone and Carbon Counties; southeastern/south-central Montana
- CALYPSO CHAPTER - Beaverhead, Madison, Deer Lodge and Silver Bow Counties; southwestern Montana
- CLARK FORK CHAPTER - Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell and Ravalli Counties
- FLATHEAD CHAPTER - Flathead and Lake Counties plus Glacier National Park
- KELSEY CHAPTER - Lewis & Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater Counties
- MAKA FLORA CHAPTER - Richland, Roosevelt, McCone, Sheridan and Daniels Counties
- VALLEY OF FLOWERS CHAPTER - Gallatin, Park and Sweet Grass Counties plus Yellowstone National Park

All MNPS chapters welcome members from areas other than those indicated. We've listed counties just to give you some idea of what part of the state is served by each chapter. Watch for meeting announcements in your local newspaper. Ten paid members are required for a chapter to be eligible for acceptance in MNPS.

Your mailing label tells you the following:

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CHAPTER AFFILIATION: ART= Artemisia; CAL=Calypso; CF=Clark Fork; F=Flathead; K=Kelsey; MF= Maka Flora; VOF=Valley of Flowers

DATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: If your label reads "2/99" your membership expired February 28, 1999. Use this form to renew your membership TODAY! Please drop us a note if any information on your label is incorrect. Please notify us promptly of address changes.

Membership in Montana Native Plant Society is on a calendar-year basis, March 1 through the end of February of the following year. New-member applications processed before the end of October each year will expire the following February; those processed after November 1 will expire in February of the year after. Membership renewal notices are mailed to each member in January. Please renew your membership before the summer issue of *Kelseya* so your name is not dropped from our mailing list. Your continued support is crucial to the conservation of native plants in Montana. THANK YOU!

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Name (please print) _____ E-mail _____

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Membership Dues	Price with chapter affiliation	Price no chapter affiliation
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Montana Native Plant Society

The Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation chartered for the purpose of preserving, conserving and studying the native plants and plant communities of Montana, and educating the public about the value of our native flora. Contributions to MNPS are tax deductible, and may be designated for a specific project or chapter, for the Small Grants fund, or the general operating fund.

Your yearly membership fee includes a subscription to *Kelseya*, the quarterly newsletter of MNPS. We welcome your articles, field trip reports, meeting notices, book reviews or anything that relates to native plants or the Society. Please include a line or two of "bio" information with each article. Drawings should be in black ink or a good quality photocopy. All submissions should be mailed to *Kelseya* Editors, 314 Travis Creek Rd., Clancy, MT 59634. All items should be typed and put on a 3.5" disk and saved in Microsoft Word or rich text format (rtf.) for a PC. Please include a hard copy with your disk. They can also be sent electronically in the same format as above to: drakekath@direcway.com

Changes of address, inquires about membership and general correspondence should be sent to MNPS Membership, P.O. Box 8783, Missoula, MT 59807-8783.

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 native plants or the interests of MNPS members.

The deadline for each issue is: Fall— September 10; Winter— December 10; Spring— March 10; Summer— June 10. Please send web items to our webmaster concurrent with these dates.

If you want extra copies of *Kelseya* for friends or family, call the Newsletter Editors, write to the above address or e-mail: drakekath@direcway.com

Visit our website at: www.umt.edu/mnps/ or contact our webmaster Marilyn Marler at: marler@bigsky.net

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