

**MNPS Board Meeting
Lewis and Clark Library, Helena, MT
February 28, 2009**

Attendees: Susan Winslow, Dave Hanna, Karen Shelly, Cathie Jean, Kathy Settevendemie, Peter Lesica, Joanne Jennings, Wayne Phillips, Jen Hintz, Marlene Renwyck, Caroline Kurtz, Linda Lyon, Kathy Lloyd

President's Report- Dave Hanna

Dave welcomed everyone. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2009 from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Annual Meeting. The 2010 annual meeting will be hosted by the Calypso Chapter at Birch Creek.

Past President's Report- Susan Winslow

Susan reported that a new book by Mark Majerus called *Forage and Reclamation Grasses* will be out soon. Mark is looking for places to distribute the book.

Secretary's Report-Kathy Lloyd for Patrick Plantenberg

Kathy circulated the address list for updates. Patrick had updated the 2008 Fall Board Meeting minutes and they were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report-Marlene Renwyck

Marlene passed out the final 2008 Budget Summary. We paid \$500 to set up the website with the new server. We will pay \$29 per month for website fees, but haven't been billed yet. We ended the year in the black. The Board accepted the 2008 Budget Summary.

The Proposed Budget Summary for 2009 was handed out and discussed. Changes were made to the proposed budget for the Flathead area project (from \$250 to \$450 for the request from Terry Divoky for the Glacier Discovery Square Garden); removed the \$750 open chapter project; and raised the PowerPoint projector from \$400 to \$800.

Membership Committee Report-Peter Lesica

Peter said that Mamie, our membership chair, resigned and that he has been taking care of membership. The database is up to date. Peter had several ideas about the position. One idea was to again combine the Treasurer and membership position and pay a small salary. Marlene said she is willing to take on both duties, but is concerned about the longterm outlay of funds for the Society. Cathie Jean indicated that she is interested in the membership position if someone else can be found to head the Small Grant Committee. Stability is important. Peter said he is willing to continue doing membership duties until the

annual meeting, by which time Cathie Jean will know if she is able to take it on. Linda Lyon expressed an interest in the Small Grant Committee, and if that works out, Cathie would be able to take on membership. A question was asked about the chapter portion of the lifetime member fee. \$50 goes to the chapter and \$250 goes to the state. Peter said that membership renewal cards go out in mid-January and a reminder card in late March. If a member doesn't respond with a dues payment after 3 cards are sent, they will be dropped from membership. After discussion about how to handle new members it was decided that when a new member joins and they provide an e-mail address, they will be sent an electronic copy of the last *Kelseya* and a form letter acknowledging their membership. Caroline will add a statement to the newsletter membership form saying that "You will be acknowledged by e-mail and will receive the next issue of the *Kelseya*" or something like that. Wording on the newsletter form will be changed so it is for new members and not for renewing members. Bob Person will also put the above statement on the web membership form.

Newsletter Report-Caroline Kurtz

The Board welcomed Caroline as our new editor. Lisa Hensley of Bluefish Media will continue to partner with Caroline and will do the layout for the *Kelseya*. March 10 is the deadline for the next newsletter. Caroline has several ideas for the newsletter and is excited to be involved. Peter discussed the electronic newsletter survey that was on the membership renewal card. It was about 50-50 between those who wanted a paper newsletter and those who wanted an electronic version. Caroline will include a blurb in the *Kelseya* about a PDF version of the newsletter being available – check it out – give feedback, etc. The PDF will be posted after people receive their hard copy newsletter in the mail. Lifetime members do not receive renewal cards so somehow need to be included in any other surveys. The issue will be discussed at the annual meeting. The problem of maintaining a current e-mail list was raised with no good solution.

Webmaster's Report-Dave Hanna for Bob Person

Bob was unable to attend, but Dave reported that all seems to be functioning well. The site looks good and the board was very happy with Bob's responsiveness. Chapters need to send their calendar items directly to Bob at the same time they send them to Caroline.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Nominations-Susan Winslow

The elections will be for President; Treasurer, and Western Representative at-Large. Dave agreed to run for President. Marlene agreed to run as Treasurer. The committee will ask Judy to run again as Western Representative at-Large. Marlene will send a short bio to Caroline and Pat to be included on the ballot.

Awards-Peter Lesica and Wayne Phillips

Peter reported that the committee has made a decision.

Poems and Songs of the Plant World-Wayne Phillips

Wayne reported that the committee will be doing some of the entertainment at the annual meeting. They will rehearse on a hike to the Lochsa River on May 8-10 while looking for Pacific dogwood.

2009 Annual Meeting Update-Jen Hintz for the Flathead Chapter

The meeting will be at Glacier Bible Camp in Hungry Horse near Glacier National Park. The meeting will be July 17-19. Jen passed out copies of the draft registration form. Field trips are falling into place. There are several options for lodging that are outlined on the registration form. Registration will be \$30 with lodging and meals extra. Liability insurance is required and will be basically the same policy as last year. T-shirts and water bottles will be for sale. A silent auction is planned with all proceeds going to the state. Anyone with items to donate for the auction should contact Betty Kuropat. Books, mostly by local authors, will also be available for sale.

Small Grants Committee-Cathie Jean

Cathie reported that last year's winner, Jennifer Palladini, will be submitting her article to the *Kel-seya*. Five committee members reviewed 4 small grant proposals for this year. The committee recommended a proposal from Tracy Dougher and Casey Delphia called Backyard Conservation: evaluation of Montana native perennials for water savings and pollinator attraction. Kathy L. moved to accept the committee's recommendation. Peter seconded the motion, which passed. This was Jon Reny's last year on the committee. Cathie will write a thank you with Dave's signature and will send a MNPS hat as thanks. Drake Barton will be submitting an article to the *Kel-seya* about this year's grant winner.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee-Peter Lesica

The threats database will be maintained by the Montana Natural Heritage Program. A threats spreadsheet will be posted on the MNPS website and will be updated after the biennial plant conservation conferences. The Important Plant Areas Based on Rare Plants Committee has met. A letter will be sent to various agency people to ask for their involvement. The nomination form for IPA is about done. The next Plant Conservation Conference will be in Missoula in 2010. Peter is looking for suggestions for conference topics. So far soils and genetics have been proposed as topics. The Conservation Committee meeting at the annual

meeting will firm up plans. Karen said that IPA based on communities committee will wait to see what Peter's committee comes up with. Peter and Kathy L. discussed the Russian olive petition that has been approved for listing as a Category 1 noxious weed by the noxious weed review committee pending a rework of the noxious weed categories. Once that is done it will be forwarded to the Director of the Dept. of Ag. for approval.

Landscape/Revegetation/Publications- Kathy Settevendemie

Kathy indicated she is working on a Source Guide update as an electronic list. She has a spreadsheet that has not been checked for accuracy. Kathy has been doing this work alone and is looking for committee members to help. Marlene volunteered to call nurseries in the Livingston area, Kathy L. in the Helena area, Linda Lyon in the Beaverhead County area, and Cathie Jean also expressed interest. Kathy S. will send a list of who to contact and what questions to ask.

Areas-at-Large

Eastern Montana-Wayne Phillips

Wayne is planning a field trip for this summer, probably June 19-20, to Bill Milton's ranch near Roundup. The group will camp there and then hike.

Western Montana-Judy Hutchins

Judy sent a note hoping that Peter will do a field trip in northwestern Montana for this summer.

Chapter Reports

Artemisia Chapter- Susan Winslow

Susan reported that the letter sent to chapter members about participation was mailed and Dave did a follow-up e-mail. Very few responses were received and no one volunteered to take on a leadership position. After discussion Kathy L. moved and Cathie J. seconded to disband the chapter and transfer their funds to the state. The motion passed. Karen and Pat will draft by-law language about disbanding a chapter that no longer meets the requirements of a chapter. The proposed by-law changes will be presented at the annual meeting.

Calypso Chapter-Linda Lyon

Linda said that Catherine Cain is recovering from a serious injury and is doing much better. The chapter is alternating the meeting location between Butte and Dillon. They have a landscaping and heirloom gardening workshop planned for

April in Divide. They are scheduling field trips and are working on a calendar to sell at the 2010 annual meeting.

Clark Fork Chapter-Peter Lesica

The chapter is planning to have the annual native plant sale again this year. They are planning a garden tour in the Bitterroot this summer. Kelly Chadwick is putting together lots of field trips and they have had successful herbarium nights. They had a joint program with Audubon that drew in additional people. The Chapter spent \$1,800 to do a study on sheep grazing and the impacts on natives, and donated \$500 to the university to buy seed to use on Mt. Sentinel.

Flathead Chapter-Jen Hintz

The Chapter had a mix up about our 501C3 status, but Marlene thinks it is fixed. We are not allowed to endorse candidates or ballot measures. Terry Divoky's request for funding for the Glacier Discovery Square Garden was discussed. The board was concerned about the lack of a clear maintenance plan and site preparation in terms of Kentucky bluegrass competition. The board approved the request with the caveat that a written maintenance plan is submitted. The plan should be submitted to Kathy S. and the Landscaping Committee for approval. Peter suggested that the chapter could agree to maintain the garden until the building owners or someone else agrees to assume the responsibility. This led to a discussion about the Small Grant and Landscaping Committees posting talking points and examples of good maintenance plans on our website. Jen also discussed the budget item for the PowerPoint projector that the chapter will share with the state. It was decided that the amount budgeted had to be increased in order to get a projector that will work for us. The Flathead Chapter requested a check from the Treasurer for annual meeting expenses. Marlene agreed to send a check for \$5,000 once she receives a list of expected expenses from Tara Carolyn.

Kelsey Chapter-Kathy Lloyd

Kathy reported that the chapter had a successful program on pine beetles that drew over 90 people, and another program on pollinators. A program on butterflies is set for March. They are planning Wildflower Week activities on Mount Helena. Kathy is hopeful that some activities, including a weed pull, will be scheduled for the spring and summer, but is having trouble finding people to lead and commit to hikes and events.

Maka Flora-Becky Kellevig

No report.

Valley of Flowers-Joanne Jennings

The Chapter had a program on the Tobacco Root Mountains and will have one on mushrooms next. In April they will do weed work on Kagy Blvd. The amount of knapweed has dramatically decreased. They are planning summer field trips.

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