

## **Al Joyes Receives the MNPS Outstanding Service Award** ***by the Awards Committee***

*from Kelseya, Fall 2005*

Al Joyes was awarded the MNPS Outstanding Service Award for 2005 at the annual meeting this past June. Al was instrumental in organizing the Maka Flora Chapter of the MNPS eleven years ago in 1994. He led his chapter in putting on the much-celebrated MNPS annual meeting at Makoshika State Park in 1997. Appropriately, he was presented with his award at the annual meeting in another corner of northeast Montana, Richardson's Coulee near Antelope, Montana.

After founding and organizing the Maka Flora Chapter in 1994, for nine years he organized local meetings and field trips and represented his chapter at state board meetings 500 miles away in Helena! He damaged his car and killed Sheridan County's only squirrel in the process.

Al is passionate about conserving the prairie and wetlands of northeastern Montana. He and his brother Dennis donated a conservation easement on 280 acres of their property to permanently protect it. They have also implemented progressive grassland and cropland management on the other portions of the property they manage with their father, Arnold. A great advocate of conservation, Al has organized and participated in many tours that highlight the importance of the surrounding area and management practices that benefit wildlife and the native flora of Sheridan County.

In addition to his devotion to botany, Al has been very active in social issues in his community. He obtained grants for and administered low-income housing projects in Westby, Plentywood, and rural Sheridan County (as if Plentywood and Westby were urban). He has been active in the Westby Development Corporation, a group dedicated to revitalizing the local economy. Al is active in

the Sheridan County Stockgrower's Association and sits on the Sheridan County Conservation District Advisory Board. Al is a native Montanan who grew up on a farm near the small town of Westby in the northeast corner of the state. He lives on his family's farm with his wife Paula and two-year-old son Anson.

After much ribbing and story telling by Peter Lesica and Brian Martin, Al was presented with a beautiful drawing study of several native plants by Missoula artist and MNPS member Nancy Seiler.

We thank Al for his all his work over the years in support of the Montana Native Plant Society and its mission to preserve, conserve and study the native plants and plant communities of Montana.