

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

MONTANA PLANTS TRAVEL ABROAD

.....without a passport!

By Peter Lesica

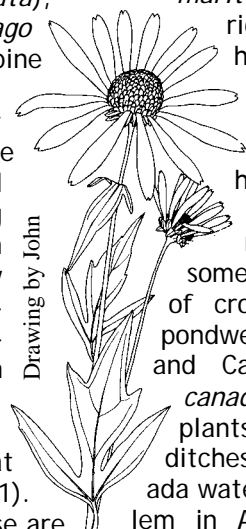
Most of us are adversely affected by the introduction of weedy exotic plants; even if it's just the hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) in our lawns or the Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) seedlings in our flower beds. Weeds are a lot more than just a nuisance to farmers fighting whitetop (*Cardaria* spp) or ranchers struggling with leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*). It's gotten to the point that some of our plant communities look more like Europe than North America. What few of us realize is that weedy plant introduction is a two-way street; many of our native plants have been introduced into Europe or Asia and are causing havoc over there!

More than 150 species of plants endemic to North America have become naturalized in Europe, more than from any other continent (Weber 1997). Eight species of Mon-

tana natives are serious weeds of natural areas on other continents (Daehler 1998), including tall cone-flower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), Washington lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*) and plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) has escaped cultivation and is spreading rapidly in many Southern Hemisphere countries. Thirty-nine species of native Montana plants are common agricultural weeds introduced on other continents, and many are considered serious threats to agriculture in at least one country (Table 1). More than one-fourth of these are in the Aster Family, and nearly half are aquatic or wetland plants.

Five species of Montana natives

are listed among the world's worst agricultural weeds (Holm et al. 1997). Horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*) is a weed of crops from wheat to bananas throughout temperate and tropical regions of the world. Both small spikerush (*Eleocharis acicularis*) and seaside bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*) are serious weeds of rice in much of Asia. They have become pervasive pests in countries such as Japan where broad-leaved plants are now controlled with herbicides. Seaside bulrush is reported to infest 80% of rice fields in South Korea, sometimes causing complete loss of crop yield. Floating-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*) and Canada waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*) are both aquatic plants that block canals and ditches in western Europe. Canada waterweed is a significant problem in Australia, where it infests 5,000 miles of ditches. Canals must be cleaned by hand up to six times each



(Continued on page 5)

ANNUAL MEETING

Special Guests

By Dennis Nicholls

BULL RIVER - At our camp on Bull River this summer there will be a community campfire, and we'll gather round it each night for friendly chat and storytelling. We'll be privileged to have Roland and Jane Cheek of Columbia Falls as our special guests Friday night, the 13th. For more than 20 years Roland and Jane outfitted in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. They retired and sold the business several years ago, but their experiences have led to the publication of several books about bears and

elk and the challenges of building an outfitting business from scratch in the heart of one of America's wildest places, The Bob. They will bring with them copies of their most recent book, *Chocolate Legs*, as well as their earlier works, for purchase.

It would be terrific to hear about some of the more extraordinary hikes you have been on, so come prepared to tell your own tales by firelight. We'll all share in the laughs and frights of pursuing native plants and animals across Montana's spectacular landscape.

It will be a real treat to have our guest of honor on Saturday night, Jack Nisbet of Spokane, Washington. He has visited our area several times to give presentations on David Thompson, and he is an excellent speaker.

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President's Platform

Wayne Phillips



OUR OWN WEBSITE

On the web at www.umt.edu/mnps/ is the Montana Native Plant Society's own website. Check it out! Our website is beautiful and very informative. Truly something to be proud of. A big THANKS! to Marilyn Marler (marler@selway.umt.edu) for getting us into the cyberworld! Marilyn is asking for photos from around the state to further show off Montana's floral beauty on the website. Send your photos to her at 1750 S 8th St W., Missoula, MT 59801.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

Our Society has become more active in conservation issues in the last few years, supporting the control of commercial wildcrafting of *Echinacea* and certain other native medicinal herbs, urging restraint in the breaking of native prairie for cropping, etc. Given the diversity of opinion of our membership, how active of a role in conservation issues do you think is appropriate? Do we need guidelines or procedures to ensure that the opinions expressed in writing by the Board, Board members, or the Conservation Committee, truly reflect the majority opinion of the Society membership? The Board would like to hear from the membership about their comfort zone in conservation activism. Please express your opinion to your Board representative and discuss it openly in chapter meetings and Board meetings in the next few months as the Board attempts to as-

sess this role of the Society.

COMMERCIAL WILDCRAFTING OF NATIVE SPECIES

More of our Montana native species are showing up as commercial products. The latest one to come to our attention is pressed plants as framed art. Beargrass leaves are in demand worldwide in the florist industry, and are heavily collected in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. After *Echinacea*, which of our Montana native plant species will be targeted for mass collecting by the multi-million dollar international herb industry? Oregon grape (*Berberis/Mahonia* species)?, fern-leaved desert-parsley (*Lomatium dissectum*)?, arrow-leaved balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)? Our Society is dedicated to preserving and conserving native plants and plant communities. What can we do as a Society to insure viable populations of our native species and plant communities in the face of mass commercial collecting (see Betty's comments on page 3)? Our vigilance and active concern in these matters, I believe, will be important challenges, with the long-term future of our native species and native habitats hanging in the balance. Many of us have found that growing native plant species from seed is quite practical and a lot of fun. Accumulating information on successful germination and cultivation methods for our natives, and making this information readily available to the general pub-

lic and commercial plant industry, could help take the pressure off of collecting our wild native populations (see "*Growing Echinacea*" on our website). The guidelines for collecting native plants on page 2-3 of our "*Source Guide for Native Plants of Montana*" provide excellent advice for plant collecting for any purpose. Because of the potential volume of plant material collected in commercial harvest, I wonder if these guidelines go far enough. It is my personal opinion that the only "ethical" commercial harvest of our native plant species is from cultivation. For that reason, I will not purchase "wildcrafted" herbs of our native species.

THANKS

Serving the last four years as your President has been an honor and privilege. Recent knee and back surgery will keep me from attending the annual meeting in Bull River, which I greatly regret. Vice President Betty Kuropat will preside over the meeting in my absence. The Board of Directors of the Montana Native Plant Society is the most dedicated and competent group of volunteers that I have ever been privileged to associate with. Although I will miss seeing you all at this meeting, I look forward to the next opportunity to study Montana's native flora with you and all of my friends from MNPS. These comments are my last words to you as President. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you.

Wayne can be reached at 2601 Third Ave. North, Great Falls, MT 59401 (406) 453-0648 e-mail: mtwayne@juno.com

MEMBERS...

Wayne Our President, Wayne Phillips, is recovering from spinal surgery at his home in Great Falls. We all know Wayne as a tireless and active ambassador for Montana's flora and can only imagine how hard it must be for him to slow down. A program of physical therapy has been initiated and Wayne's spirits are good. Wayne would welcome your calls and visits at the above address.

Jerry Long time MNPS member and author of *Bitterroot*, Jerry DeSanto is recovering from a long illness. His companion, Karen Feather, reports that Jerry is now in the Montana Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls. He would welcome your visits and letters. He can be reached at P.O. Box 250, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 or by calling 892-3256. For more information contact Karen at 387-4266.

Welcome to all new and renewing members of MNPS!

Wildcrafting in Montana

SB 197 was passed by the Montana legislature this year and was effective immediately when the Governor signed it into law on April 20. This bill requires wildcrafters (anyone who collects plants or plant parts for commercial purposes) to have written permission from the landowner where the plants are collected. The intent of the bill is to help provide protection for our native plant communities by requiring wildcrafters and buyers to be accountable for wildcrafted plants and to encourage stewardship of our wild plant communities without eliminating opportunities for wildcrafting. Members of MNPS can help educate wildcrafters, consumers, and landowners about this law. We can also help enforce it by asking wholesalers and retailers to insure they buy only from wildcrafters who have proper bills of sale and that they also document their purchases from wildcrafters. If we know of wildcrafters who are "poaching" plants without permission, we can notify the landowner and/or any law enforcement agency. The full text of the law is on the web at: [http://laws.leg.state.mt.us:8000/laws01/plsql/law0203w\\$.startup](http://laws.leg.state.mt.us:8000/laws01/plsql/law0203w$.startup). Type in "SB", "197", and click "find".

This bill was written by the Task Force on Wild Medicinal Plants that was established during the last session when the state placed a moratorium on collecting certain medicinal plants, including *Echinacea*. The Task Force is chaired by MNPS member Robyn Klein.

Betty Kuropat

Volunteer Opportunity in Yellowstone

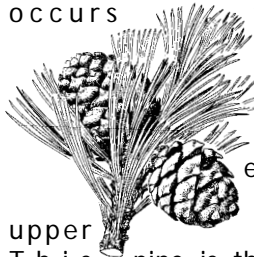
Volunteers are needed to help with detection and eradication of non-native plants in the Park. Weed pulls in several locations around Mammoth Hot Springs, including the Osprey Falls trail, are scheduled throughout the summer. Free entrance to the park and camping at Mammoth are provided, as well as tools for the projects. If you would

like to join this group or would like to volunteer other times during the summer, please contact Linda Wallace at 994-0422 or by e-mail to pika@bigsky.net

Montana's Whitebark Pine Needs Help!

Whitebark pine, *Pinus albicaulis*, occurs throughout Montana's Rocky Mountains. We see it nearly all the time at elevations above 6000 feet to upper timberline. This pine is the keystone food base for Clark's nutcrackers, red squirrels, and bears. The whitebark pine populations and the forest ecosystems they form, are in danger of being lost due to two major influences: (1) whitebark pine, as with all other five-needled pines, are being killed by an introduced blister rust that has spread into all parts of whitebark pine's range in Montana. (2) whitebark pine is being threatened by other competing conifers as a result of many decades of fire suppression. Historically, periodic wildfires kept spruce and subalpine fir from replacing whitebark pine.

Help is on the way. A newly formed, Montana-based organization, The Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation (WPEF) has as its goal the promotion of whitebark pine's welfare; to do what's necessary to restore this species' ecosystem. The WPEF currently represents a diversity of resource managers, scientists and botanists who have been working to gather information on whitebark pine ecosystems and the problems they face, and to seek solutions to restore this pine to a healthy status. WPEF is designing and implementing educational outreach programs targeting Montanans and others interested in participating in the restoration of whitebark pine ecosystems. Montana Native Plant Society members are ideal individuals to help WPEF. Members of this foundation are kept up-



to-date through the foundation's newsletter, *Nutcracker Notes*, distributed several times a year. WPEF also sponsors annual meetings that include field trips to whitebark pine forests. More information about the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation can be obtained by consulting its website: www.whitebarkfound.org or by writing WPEF at PO Box 16775, Missoula, MT 59808. In addition, e-mail inquiries may be made to Bob Keane: rkeane@fs.fed.us

Dr. Jim Habeck

Voting Records Available

How did your legislators vote on key conservation issues during the 2001 Montana Legislature? If you are interested in finding out, you can receive the 2001 Voting Record compiled by Montana Audubon for the session. The voting record contains votes on numerous conservation measures, including SB 197 which requires permits for commercial collectors of native plants.

Send your request for a voting record by e-mail to: jellis@audubon.org or drop a postcard to Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624.

Rare Montana Plants Need Sponsors

The Center for Plant Conservation maintains a collection of over 570 of America's imperiled native plants in one of the largest living collections of rare plants in the world. Live material from the collection is provided to land managers to assist their efforts to recover imperiled plants in wild settings. The National Collection is maintained through the support of people and groups that sponsor individual plant species. The Center reports that two plants from Montana, *Arabis fecunda* and *Astragalus barrii* are in need of sponsorship. For information call 314-577-9450 or e-mail: cpc@mobot.org or visit: www.mobot.org/CPC

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WEED PROGRAM MAY BE AUDITED

Montana Audubon is spearheading efforts to request that the state's Legislative Audit Committee conduct a performance audit on the weed control program on school trust land. The state has approximately 5.2 million acres of school trust land. The 2001 *Montana Weed Management Plan*, adopted by the Weed Management Task Force, estimates that 9% of these lands are infested with noxious weeds, covering approximately 459,000 acres. The state has no systematic, comprehensive program to measure the effectiveness or compliance of weed control being carried out on these lands.

In support of the audit, Audubon collected 105 out of 150 Montana Legislators' signatures on a petition circulated at the Montana Legislature. Additionally, the Montana Weed Control Association and Montana Native Plant Society submitted letters in support of the review. The Legislative Audit Committee will make its decision on whether to do the audit at its June 25 - 26 meeting.

It is important for the state of Montana to have an effective weed control program on school trust lands. When Montana became a state, the federal government granted it "school trust land." Today, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) directly manages approximately 5.2 million acres of school trust land, scattered across the state, with approximately 660,000 acres managed as forest land, 450,000 acres managed for cropland, and 4.1 million acres managed as rangeland. Oversight of these lands is controlled by

the State Land Board, which consists of the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Auditor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General. The lands are managed with the following guidance (77-1-202 MCA): "...the guiding principle is that these lands and funds are held in trust for the support of education and for the attainment of other worthy objects helpful to the well-being of the people of this state as provided in the Enabling Act. The Board shall administer this trust to secure the largest measure of legitimate and reasonable advantage to the state."

The audit would:

- Assess what information the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation keeps track of for individual parcels, and what DNRC knows about the weed control plans for individual parcels of land.
- Examine the administration of the weed control program on all types of school trust lands, including forest land, rangeland, and crop land. Currently DNRC has two components to its weed control program: a \$35,000 to \$40,000 appropriation from the state of Montana for weed management projects, and a requirement that lessees manage weeds on leased or licensed property.
- Conduct an actual on-the-ground audit of tracks of school trust land to determine the effectiveness of DNRC's on-the-ground weed control program.
- Assess how the weed control program on school trust lands measures up to other weed control programs and how it could be made more effective.

We are requesting that the Mon-

tana Legislative Audit Committee report its findings and conclusions regarding the weed control program on school trust lands to the 2003 Montana Legislature.

Janet Ellis

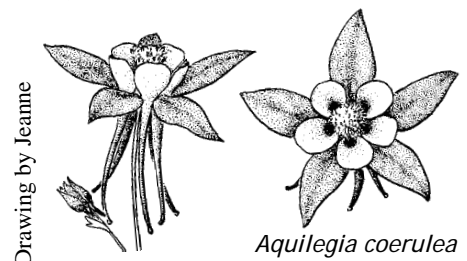
NATIVE SUCCESS STORIES

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is dedicated to educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value and natural beauty of native plants. One of the most popular exhibits is a book of pictures that depicts native landscape success stories from across North America. The Center needs native landscape slides and photos. They want to know: How has landscaping with native plants added to the beauty and cut cost and maintenance in the area you maintain? Send your images to: 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin, TX 78722 or e-mail: ogren@wildflower.org for information. Please include your address so the Center can communicate with you.

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Columbine Help Request

Justen Whittall is researching the evolution of pollination syndromes in North American columbines. He needs wild collected seeds from multiple populations of every species of columbine (24) from throughout North America (mostly west of the Rockies). Native Plant Society members can help by: 1. Collecting and sending wild seed from 5-10 individuals of any *Aquilegia* species in your area along with location and contact information. 2. Forwarding known columbine localities (and flowering dates) to: Justen Whittall (805) 893-7814; whittall@lifesci.ucsb.edu



Aquilegia coerulea



Centaurea diffusa

...Weeds (Continued from page 1)

year in the Netherlands.

Examination of Table 1 suggests that it is Montana's widespread and weedy natives that become problems elsewhere. Montana has several species of penstemons that prefer disturbed habitats and occur only in our region. None of these narrowly distributed species have become naturalized in Europe, although several have been introduced for horticultural purposes. Boxelder (*Acer negundo*) is North America's most widespread maple and the only one to become naturalized in Europe. Northern bedstraw (*Galium boreale*) is introduced in Finland, and small cleavers (*G. trifidum*) is common in Japan; however, common cleavers (*G. aparine*), our most common species, is a serious problem throughout much of Europe and Asia. Our native goldenrods provide another example. Tall goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*) is common in many habitats throughout Montana, while grass-leaved goldenrod (*S. graminifolia*) is found only along our major rivers in the eastern part of the state. Both were introduced to Europe 150 years ago for horticultural purposes, but only tall goldenrod has spread rapidly (Weber 1998).

So there you have it- some of our good natives have run amok in foreign lands. It's sad but true. Weed invasions are a world-wide phenomenon. Few regional floras don't contribute weeds, and even fewer are impervious to invasion. So next time you travel abroad look for these ugly Americans; they're everywhere.

Literature Cited:

Daehler, C.C. 1998. The taxonomic distribution of invasive angiosperm plants: ecological insights and comparison to agricultural weeds. *Biological Conservation* 84: 167-180.

Holm et al. 1979. A geographical atlas of world weeds. John Wiley & Sons, New York.

Holm et al. 1997. World weeds: natural histories and distribution. John Wiley & Sons, New York.

Weber, E.F. 1997. The alien flora of Europe: a taxonomic and biogeographic review. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 8: 565-572.

Weber, E.F. 1998. The dynamics of plant invasions: a case study of three exotic goldenrod species (*Solidago* L.) in Europe. *Journal of Biogeography* 25: 147-154.

Table 1. Common (C), principal (P) and serious (S) weeds of agriculture native to Montana and introduced onto other continents; taken from Holm et al. (1979).

Ambrosia artemisiifolia	C,P	Guatemala, Japan, Australia
Ambrosia psilostachya	P	Australia
Androsace filiformis	C	Soviet Union
Anemone patens	C	Australia
Bacopa rotundifolia	C	Japan
Bidens frondosa	C	Iran, Japan, Portugal
Bidens tripartita	C	Europe, Japan
Chenopodium rubrum	C	Europe
Conyza canadensis	C	Europe, Asia, Hawaii
Eleocharis acicularis	S,P	Asia, Australia
Erigeron annuus	C,P	Asia
Erigeron philadelphicus	C	Japan
Erysimum cheiranthoides	C	Europe
Erysimum repandrum	C	Argentina
Galium aparine	P,S	Asia
Galium boreale	C	Finland
Galium trifidum	C	Japan
Geranium carolinianum	C	Japan
Heliotropium curassavicum	C	India, Iran
Heracleum spondylium	C	Europe
Hippuris vulgaris	C	Iran
Lappula echinata	C	Africa, Soviet Union
Matricaria matricioides	C	Europe
Panicum capillare	S	India
Phalaris arundinacea	P,S	Africa, Asia, New Zealand
Potamogeton natans	C,P	Europe Africa
Potamogeton nodosus	C	Africa
Potamogeton pectinatus	S,P	Africa
Purshia tridentata	P	Ghana
Ranunculus flammula	C	Germany
Rubus parviflorus	C	Australia
Scirpus maritimus	P,S	Africa, Asia, Europe
Sitanion hystrix	C	Australia
Solanum rostratum	C	Australia, Africa
Solidago gigantea	C	Japan
Veronica americana	C	Japan
Veronica peregrina	C	Europe, Japan
Xanthium strumarium	C,P	Europe, Asia, Africa
Zannichellia palustris	C	Portugal

...Guests (Continued from page 1)

Thompson is generally believed to have been the first white man in the lower Clark Fork Valley. Lewis and Clark never saw the Cabinets, but Thompson and his men explored this country extensively. Jack has authored a book entitled *Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson Across Western North America*. There will be opportunity to purchase his book as well as others at the book table in camp.

If you can, come early on Friday so you're present for Roland and Jane Cheek by the campfire. We'll begin registering people around 6:00 p.m. Registration will continue Saturday morning prior to striking out on our field trips. The evening program with Jack Nisbet will begin at 8:00 p.m.

2002 NATIVE PLANT-WEED CALENDAR UPDATE

Thanks to the hard work of many MNPS members, the 2002 native plant-weed calendar is on schedule. We are working with the Noxious Weed Education and Awareness Campaign and Carla Hoopes reports that we are on track and looking good. All the images have been scanned and text and page lay-out is underway. The first proofs will be distributed to those MNPS members who expressed interest and the calendar will be sent to the printer by the first of August. If you want to help, contact Kathy at 449-6586; DrakeKath@aol.com

A sad farewell to a friend of MNPS

We at MNPS were saddened to learn that Bonnie Heidel, long time member, advocate for Montana's native species and botanist for the Montana Natural Heritage Program, has accepted a job with the Natural Heritage Program in Wyoming and is leaving us. Following are best wishes and fond remembrances from us to you, Bonnie!

I remember Bonnie as a dedicated botanist with infinite energy; a tireless worker who put in a lot of extra hours to do a quality job. On the sensitive plant monitoring studies on the Lewis and Clark National Forest, Bonnie was innovative in re-designing the studies to yield more specific information on changes in individual plants over time. No one that I know is more conscientious and committed to performing reputable work that would stand up to peer review. I also remember Bonnie as a friend with a subtle sense of humor that keeps you guessing and smiling. Bonnie is a fine botanical artist. Her self-styled Christmas cards are so unique! A few years ago Bonnie was working with me on the sensitive plant species, northern rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera repens*), which occurs in Montana only in the Little Belt Mountains and one site in Glacier N.P. Bonnie's Christmas card that year was a fine line drawing of this small forest plant, with the greeting "Merry Christmas and have a Goodyera!" I will miss Bonnie and hope she comes to see us often. Have a Goodyera, Bonnie!

Wayne Phillips

I remember Bonnie as a sweet person who takes time to find the right words to express herself, who found time in her busy schedule to send me a blessing card after my twins were born, who helped me draft a letter encouraging Montana coal mines to plant *Echinacea* on reclamation, who brought me Thai herbal teas for tasting, and who seemed always glad to see me and whom I was always glad to see. I will miss you, Bonnie!

Lih-An Yang

For many years I have had the pleasure of working with Bonnie on numerous projects involving rare plant conservation and natural areas protection on the nine National Forests in Montana. We also worked together on projects for the National Grasslands in North Dakota, where she was previously the botanist for that state's Natural Heritage Inventory. Many innovative rare plant monitoring and habitat restoration studies (for *Howellia aquatilis* and *Penstemon lemhiensis*, to name just two examples), inventories for numerous Forest Service sensitive plant species, development of plant conservation databases and field guides, and publication of educational materials (such as the Montana rare plant poster) are just a few of the endeavors that Bonnie was instrumental in moving forward during her tenure at the Montana Natural Heritage Program. The highly successful Montana Plant Conservation Conferences also depended greatly on Bonnie's energy and extensive network of botanical colleagues in the state. Of

course, I will always fondly remember many days of crawling through the sagebrush in Beaverhead County with Bonnie and our southwest Montana colleagues, searching for illusive *Penstemon lemhiensis* seedlings, as we sought to understand the interesting population dynamics of this species. On behalf of the Forest Service botany team in Montana, I would like to thank Bonnie for her critical, lasting contributions towards plant conservation in the state -- her energy, sense of humor, technical ex-

cellence, and dedication represent an uncommon combination of talents that will be greatly missed. Best wishes to you, Bonnie!

Steve Shelly

What a loss to the Heritage Program in Montana! She has always been the person I called when I needed information on rare, sensitive, or threatened plants in Montana. I don't know what we would have done without her when we started working on weed management areas and needed information on native species. Her expertise, great work ethic, and knowledge will certainly be missed in Montana. I wish her the best and appreciate everything she has done for Montana.

Celestine Duncan

One of the more interesting parts of our newsletter to me has been "Big Sky Sketches," which is something Bonnie came up with while I was newsletter editor. The first sketch she sent for that feature was on a small fleabane. I used just a bit too much literary license with that piece in the name of humor and kind of butchered it. And I guess it wasn't that funny to anyone else. But Bonnie was gracious - though understandably a little miffed - when that article came out in the newsletter with my extras added in. She didn't stop sending "sketches" of Big Sky plants, however, and it grew into one of the more enjoyable features in the newsletter. Bonnie has always impressed me with her knowledge and the precision of her explanations about plants. I will miss her contributions to *Kelsey*. All the best to you

Bonnie, and wherever you lay your head at night, don't let the bed bugs bite, ... nor the fleas!

Dennis Nicholls

Bonnie has been a tremendous information resource, champion of little-known plants (e.g., mosses) and good friend. Before I met Bonnie, when she was in North Dakota, she provided me with information on ferns in North Dakota that allowed me to collect mosses there and establish several new state records. Not only

(Continued on page 10)



Drawings by Bobbi

Mimulus ringens

Bonnie discovered this plant along the Missouri River last summer; a state record for Montana.

Big Sky Sketches

By Helen Smith

Champion Tree Program

Montana's BIG Ones!

Americans tend to be in awe of big things. While some people place high value on things like big cars, houses, and boats, there are those of us who get more of a thrill from things found in the natural world. I, for instance, revel in the sight of large birds, mountains, glaciers, or lakes. American Forests celebrates large trees. American Forests claims to be the oldest national, nonprofit citizen conservation organization in the United States. It was founded in 1875 and the quest to identify and preserve our nation's largest trees began in 1940. The outcome of those efforts is the National Register of Big Trees, which is updated annually. More information on American Forests can be found at: <http://www.americanforests.org>

Trees are nominated based on species, height, circumference, and crown spread. There are specific rules for measurement methods and each tree is given points accordingly. For some people, the search for large trees is a passion - they spend their vacations in pursuit of national champions. For others, it's pure luck to stumble upon a giant tree.

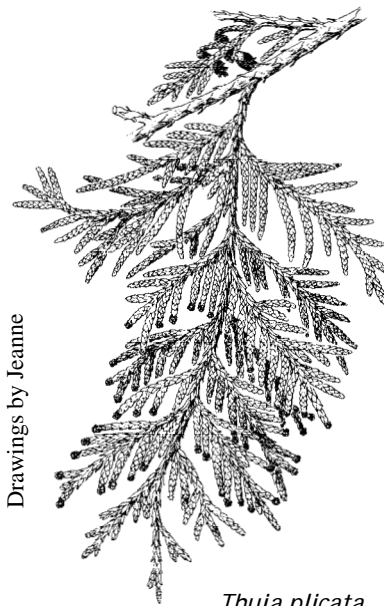
Speaking of pure luck, my former co-worker Micha Krebs and I hold the honor of 'finding' Montana's largest western larch (*Larix occidentalis*), which also happens to be a national co-champion. "Our" tree is located near Seeley Lake and is close to a well-used road. I'm certain that many people over the years have marveled at its immense size - it just happens that Micha and I were the

ones to nominate it. I can tell you that these giants are truly awe-inspiring; to stand at the base of such a large, living thing is very humbling. It makes me realize that humans are no more than a mere speck of dust in this universe, yet our actions can have such lasting impacts on our world. I guess you could say that it helps me keep my perspective. I find myself contemplating the events that occurred during this tree's estimated 1000-year lifespan. Oh, the stories it could tell!

As the coordinator for the state of Montana, I am responsible for processing nominations, updating the state list annually, and notifying American Forests of potential national champions. I have been given several suggestions on how our program could be changed. Some feel that we should have 2 lists. One list would be for trees found in city parks, along boulevards, etc. that probably benefit from fertilizer and additional watering. The second list would be made up of trees found in places such as National Forests or State Parks that are subjected to the whims of nature. Another change I'd like to make is to have trained verifiers throughout the state who can help me verify species and measurements. I envision collaborating with people from organizations such as the Montana Tree Farm Program (which sponsors the Champion Tree Program) and the Montana Native Plant Society.

One of the Montana state co-champion western red cedars (*Thuja*

plicata) is found along the Ross Creek Trail near where many of you will be attending the Native Plant Society's annual meeting (July 13-15, 2001). If you choose to go with Erich Pfalzer on the Ross Creek Cedars hike, you will likely get the opportunity to see this huge red cedar, in addition to many other magnificent specimens. This co-champion is listed as 362 inches in circumference (that's nearly 10 feet across) and 178 feet

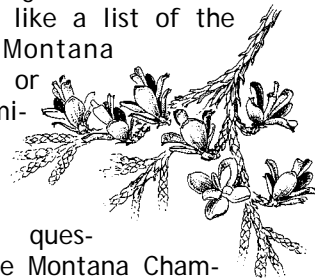


Drawings by Jeanne

Thuja plicata

tall!! It is described as being about ¼ mile past the South Fork junction on the main Ross Creek Trail (south side of trail). A note to those of you going on this hike: I don't have a picture of this tree for my records and would really appreciate one if you find the champion! Another website that may be of interest to some of you is: <http://www.libby.org/RossCreek/>

If you'd like a list of the current Montana champions or need a nomination form, or if you have any other questions on the Montana Champion Tree Program, please contact Helen Smith at 406-329-4707 or e-mail: hsmith04@fs.fed.us



CALENDAR

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER

Thursday, August 16, 7 a.m.

Meteetse Spires botanical hike led by BLM employees. Meet at the BLM office at 5001 Southgate Drive near Billings Boulevard exit at 7 a.m. for directions. Moderate to steep hiking, so bring day packs, lunch, water and camera. Call Hal Vosen at 232-2608 or David Jaynes (BLM) at 896-5241.

BEARTOOTH MOUNTAIN

Jean Radonski 855-4500

CALYPSO CHAPTER

Mid-July to August

Self guided trip to the Gravelly Mountains. This area is south of Ennis. Several loops can be made to access the subalpine meadows. Fields of *Polygonum bistortoides*, *Hymenoxys grandiflora* and *Wyethia* are abundant. Rare pink *Agoseris lack-schewitzii* and *Thalictrum alpinum* can be found. To obtain a map, plant lists and more information contact Kevin Suzuki, Madison Ranger District Office at 682-4253 or e-mail: ksuzuki@fs.fed.us

Late July to August

Self guided trips to Goat Flat and Windy Ridge RNA areas in the Anaconda-Pintlar Mountains. Both areas can be accessed by the Storm Lake Road west of Anaconda. Goat Flat is home to many rare plants including *Saussurea weberi*. From Storm Lake one takes a 2 mile walk up hill through coniferous forests and by limestone cliffs where rare sword ferns can be found. Goat Flat is a proposed Research Natural Area. Windy Ridge Research Natural Area is a rough fescue grassland. Tiny moonworts: *Botrychium crenulatum*, *B. lunaria*, *B. minganense* and *B. paradoxum* can be found in the shade of tall grasses. Lichens including spectacular *Thamnotia subuliformis* grow on the rocky ridgeline. Windy Ridge is a ten minute hike up a steep jeep trail from the parking area. For

more information or plant lists contact Kathy Sweet at Philipsburg Ranger District at 859-3211 or e-mail: ksweet@fs.fed.us

CLARK FORK CHAPTER

Saturday, August 4, 9:30 a.m.

Mary's Frog Pond and Beyond with Steve Shelly (542-0620) and Darlene Lavelle (721-9361). See the rare floating fen, sundew and swamp laurel. Meet at the SW end of Wal-Mart parking lot in Missoula. Bring a lunch and shoes to get wet.

Saturday, August 25, 10:00 a.m.

Return of our annual canoe trip: the lower Flathead River with Peter Lesica. We'll be looking at riparian areas and little gravel bar treasures. Meet at the Moises grocery store for a 6-hour float. Bring lunch and water. If you don't have a canoe or need information call Kelly at 258-5439.

Saturday, September 22, 9 a.m.

Paleobotany near Lincoln with Charles Miller (543-8710). Come see maple mountain mahogany and conifer remains. Meet at the NW corner of Eastgate Center parking lot opposite Ace Hardware in Missoula. It's a 1.5 hour drive. Bring a small shovel, rock hammer or pick and lunch.

Thursday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.

Join forest ecologist Steve Arno to learn about "Aboriginal Use of Pines in Montana and Lapland." Rm L13 in the Gallagher Business Building on the UM Campus.

FLATHEAD CHAPTER

Saturday, July 7, 9:00 a.m.

Mollman Lakes. Wildflowers, water and wilderness everywhere! This Mission Mountains Wilderness hike is a steady climb along Mollman Creek to Mollman Pass at 6900 ft. elevation. The hike is co-sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Assn. and reservations are required. This is a

strenuous, 9-mile round-trip hike with group size limited to 10 people. Reserve by calling trip leader Sam Culotta by July 1, at 837-4298.

Tuesday, July 10, 7:00 p.m.

Trail of the Cedars evening stroll. Spend 1-2 hours on this easy 1-mile walk through a beautiful old-growth cedar/hemlock forest in Glacier Park. Meet at 7:00 p.m. in front of the old ranger residence near the entrance to Avalanche Campground. Call Jen Asebrook at 863-9630 (h) or 888-7818 (w) for more information.

Saturday, July 21, 9:00 a.m.

Lucifer Lake. Perched in a subalpine basin at the southern end of the Mission Mountains, Lucifer Lake sparkles above spectacular waterfalls of the Mission Creek drainage. A tribal recreation permit is needed for this trip within the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness. This is a strenuous 6-mile round-trip hike, with group size limited. Jointly sponsored with Montana Wilderness Association (MWA). Reserve your place by calling trip leader Sam Culotta by July 16, at 837-4298.

Saturday, July 28

Terrace Lake. This strenuous, 9-mile round-trip hike is within the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness. We'll climb a steep ridge then descent 1000 feet to the north fork of South Crow Creek. The last mile ascends gently past Terrace Falls into a steep-walled cirque surrounding Terrace Lake. A tribal recreation permit is needed for this trip. This hike is limited to 10 people and is jointly sponsored with MWA. Reserve by calling Sam Culotta by July 22 at 837-4298.

GREAT FALLS AREA

June 20- August 16

The traveling exhibit "Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" will be on display at the Great Falls Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. A reception for the creators, Fay E. Ben-

ton and Steve Schaller, will be held on the evening of June 21 at the Interpretive Center.

KELSEY CHAPTER

Kathy Lloyd 449-6586

MAKA FLORA CHAPTER

Sunday, July 22, 1:00 p.m.

Lambert Woody Draws. Meet in Sidney at the McDonald's parking lot at 1:00 p.m. A moderate hike of the area near the Bible Camp. For information call Doug at 765-3411.

Sunday, August 12

Grasslands evaluation to be coordinated with Mike Radenberg of Medicine Lake Refuge in support of a North American Waterfowl Production grant project. Time and location to be announced or contact Mike at Refuge Headquarters.

VALLEY OF FLOWERS

Saturday, July 28, 7:00 a.m.

Beartooth Butte botanical walk led by Jerry Moore. Meet at MSU-B lot at 7:00 a.m. for directions. Regroup at Red Lodge Ranger Station at 8:30 a.m. with Beartooth folks. Easy walking trail, but bring lunch, water, camera and sunscreen. Call Jerry Moore at 628-7867 or Hal Vosen at 232-2608.

Saturday, August 11, 9:00 a.m.

Wetlands trip to the Madison. We will check out willows, sedges and the rest with Peter Husby. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the AgBioscience parking lot in Bozeman to carpool. Call Peter at 587-0490 for information.

WESTERN MONTANA

Friday, Saturday, July 6-7

Kelly Kindscher and Wilbert Fish will teach "Native Plants and the Blackfeet People". Kelly has a Ph.D in plant ecology at the University of Kansas, is a consultant for PrarieLand Ecological Services and is the au-

thor of *Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie* and *Medicinal Wild Plants of the Prairie*, both ethnobotanical guides. Wilbur is a native Blackfeet instructor in Blackfeet herbology and early Indian health practices at the Blackfeet Community College and is director of the horticulture greenhouse project there. Contact the Glacier Institute, (406) 755-1211, or glacinst@digisys.net for more information.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Plant Materials Center Trip

Only a few showed up for the tour of the Bridger Plant Materials Center, but the weather was cooperative. BPMC manager Mark Majerus and Agronomist Susan Winslow led the tour. At the greenhouse we saw sweetgrass, thornless woods rose, silverberry, Douglas-fir and Rocky Mountain juniper in pots. We saw the Rocky Mountain juniper and ponderosa pine plantations grown for seed production, plots of grasses, forbs and shrubs grown for seed increase of selected cultivars. The BPMC is helping Yellowstone and Glacier Parks collect native plants for revegetation projects. They have also worked with the Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District developing acid/heavy metal-tolerant cultivars since 1995. They have a saline seep demonstration area where they are testing various plants in conjunction with other areas in Montana and Wyoming. They have been testing plants for ability to grow in arid rangeland and mining reclamation areas since 1980. We saw the 8-year old planting of bur oak which is Montana's only native oak tree, found in the vicinity of Alzada, Montana and adjacent Crook County, Wyoming. We also saw the new plantings of 113 different legumes from Mongolia, collected by the tour guides in 1998. Like all of us, the BPMC has a constant battle with weeds and the deer like to sample everything they grow.

The BPMC is a great asset in developing improved native plants and

seeds and sold 13 million dollars worth of seed in 2000. The \$13m represents the commercial value of all certified seed sold that originated from the cultivars produced at BPMC. All BPMC foundation seed is distributed free to the Montana & Wyoming Seed Growers Associations at MSU & UWY and then allocated, for a pre-set amount per lb, to qualified seed growers. The proceeds go directly into the University coffers to fund graduate and doctoral research and development projects on seed production-related issues.

If you have changed your e-mail, phone or address contact Hal at LKV@mcn.net or 406-232-2688.

Hal Vosen

Kelsey Chapter Reports

The Kelsey and Clark Fork Chapters teamed up with Montana Wilderness Association for a hike to Lewis & Clark Pass. Along with interesting history and excerpts from the Journals, we saw many flowering plants, including Parry's townsendia, slimpod shooting star, glacier lily, cous, fern-leaved desert parsley, paintbrushes, green gentian (Kelly's favorite), and Klaus' bladderpod in full glorious bloom. The hike is fairly short and the view is magnificent. The plants were many and the company was great—the stuff good field trips are made of.

Kelsey Chapter sponsored a driving tour to Hogback this spring and found a spectacular display of bitterroots blooming in a field right along the road. It was a beautiful sight and a reminder of why this small plant rates its status as Montana's floral emblem.

Drake Barton



Frasera speciosa

Also called green gentian, giant frasera or monument plant.

The roots are sometimes used as a bitter tonic by herbalists.

BOOK REVIEWS

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWERS

by H. Wayne Phillips

Published by Globe Pequot Press, this guide features more than 300 flowering plant species to help you identify and appreciate the varied flora of the Northern Rockies region, including seven national parks in the United States and Canada. This field guide covers a lot of ground—from northwestern Montana, northern Idaho, and northeastern Washington up to southeastern British Columbia and southwestern Alberta. Whether your forays take you into dense forests, rugged canyons, or alpine tundra, you'll find the most common native flowers of the region presented here with color photos and detailed descriptions. Arranged by flower color and fully indexed, *Northern Rocky Mountain Wildflowers* makes identification and cross-referencing easier. Each description includes common and scientific names, a general description, blooming season, habitat/range, and comments. The plant comments are packed with information on the edible, medicinal and Native American uses. Lewis and Clark buffs will appreciate the reference to the Journals for plants that they "discovered" during the Expedition of 1804-1806. Author Wayne Phillips introduces the guide with a discussion of habitats and ecology for the region and a primer on plant characteristics complete with black and white illustrations. Designed to withstand the rigors of the field, the guide has an extra-durable, water-resistant cover, laminated pages, and an almost indestructible binding. A ruler printed on the back cover makes the book a handy tool as well as a sturdy reference. Wayne's book will be ready for purchase at the annual meeting at Bull River, and part of the proceeds will be donated to MNPS. If you want to order instead, send a check for \$24.95 to Wayne Phillips (address on page 2). The book will be mailed to you with no additional charge for shipping/

handling.

FIELD GUIDE TO MONTANA'S WETLAND VASCULAR PLANTS

by Peter Lesica and Peter Husby

Have you ever come across an interesting looking plant while strolling through your favorite wetland? You don't recognize it and you want to key it out. Maybe it is too early for fruits, maybe it's not even flowering yet. You know from past experience that keying out a plant in vegetative form when you don't know the family, let alone the genus, can be a grim prospect at best.

Well, help has arrived. Peter and Peter's *Field Guide to Montana's Wetland Vascular Plants* uses non-technical language and the great illustrations of Jeanne Janish and John Rumely to guide you through the maze of plants that occur in Montana's wetlands. The keys are simple, relying mainly on vegetative characteristics. Plants are divided into groups such as aquatic, woody, ferns, monocots, dicots, etc. The book is designed to take you to genus and then you use a regional flora to arrive at species and verify your determination. It does have a key to the *Carex* and *Juncus* wetland species, including some not found in other floras.

This book should prove an extremely useful tool for those not especially familiar with wetland plants or the use of more technical keys, and will be a good resource for the more experienced or professional botanist who occasionally gets stumped.

Published by the Montana Wetlands Trust, and free of charge, the book is available from Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Attn. Wetlands Program, 1520 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59602; 406-444-66652; Isaul@state.mt.us. It can also be downloaded from: <http://nris.state.mt.us/wis/MWICedit.html>

The Field Guide will also be available in limited quantities at the annual meeting in Bull River. Be sure to pick up your copy.

Editors

...Bonnie (Continued from page 6)

is Bonnie a dedicated botanist she is a tough athlete and competitor. One day several winters ago (its getting to be quite a few years now!), Steve Cooper, Bonnie and I went cross-country skiing at Stemple Pass. Steve and I both had the marvels of technology, waxless skis, and Bonnie had wood skis that needed a wax that changed every few minutes because of weird snow conditions. Steve and I glided around the track as fast as we could but Bonnie kept up even though her skis each must have weighed about 10 pounds. Bonnie's toughness is a trait that she does not openly exhibit. Montana's loss is Wyoming's gain. That rather backward state can use all the help it can get, but then again Montana is not in any better condition. The brain drain from the Martzian, retro, politically bankrupt Montana has taken on personal relevance with Bonnie's leaving.

Joe Elliott

I have Bonnie to thank, or blame, for tricking me into being president of the Kelsey Chapter for way too long now. She caught me in a moment of weakness and painted such a glowing picture of MNPS that I said yes. I will miss having someone to bounce ideas off of, someone to get the chapter involved in big projects like the Flora of Mount Helena collection, and someone to make sure I don't say something too dumb and embarrass myself or the Chapter. Stay in touch Bonnie! You are still a life member of MNPS.

Kathy Lloyd

Several years ago, Bonnie conceived the Flora of Mount Helena project. I was involved from the beginning and it soon became apparent that it was a bigger project than we first anticipated. Through that process I took what was a passionate interest in native plants and turned it into a study of plant taxonomy. I've been learning ever since. Thanks for that Bonnie, for the good times we shared and for all you've done for Montana's native flora.

Drake Barton

MNPS Chapters & the Areas They Serve:

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

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP: See I, II, III, IV below
 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 included in the winter issue of *Kelsey*. Please renew your membership before the summer issue of *Kelsey* 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

DATE _____

NAME (please print) _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ NEW MEMBERSHIP _____ RENEWAL _____

<p>STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP WITH CHAPTER AFFILIATION</p> <p>___ \$18 I. Individual</p> <p>___ \$22 II. Family</p> <p>___ \$35 III. Business/Organization</p> <p>___ \$300 IV. Lifetime Membership (one-Membership)</p>	<p>MEMBER-AT-LARGE (no chapter affiliation) or LIVING LIGHTLY (with chapter affiliation)</p> <p>___ \$12 I. Individual</p> <p>___ \$18 II. Family</p> <p>___ \$30 III. Business/Organization</p> <p>time payment) ___ \$300 IV. Lifetime</p>
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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 may be made to the general operating 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 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. If you send clippings, please note the source, volume/issue, and date. All meeting and field trip notices, field trip reports, articles or announcements should be mailed to *Kelseya* Editors, 314 Travis Creek Rd., Clancy, MT 59634. All items should be typed and if possible 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.

Changes of address, inquires about membership in MNPS 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: Autumn— September 10;
Winter— December 10; Spring— March 10; Summer— June 10.

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

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Montana Native Plant Society

Kelseya Editors
314 Travis Creek Rd.
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2001: A Plant Odyssey

MNPS Annual Meeting July 13-15, 2001

by Dennis Nicholls

BULL RIVER - Rain, blessed rain! We've had a lot in the Cabinet Mountains in the first half of June, and thank goodness. The winter and early spring drought did not bode well for wildflowers, the forests and stream flows, but the situation - though not great - is better than it was around Memorial Day.

Hopefully, this is good news for the upcoming Montana Native Plant Society's Annual Meeting in the Bull River Valley near Noxon. Scheduled for July 13-15, these typical June showers should give way to sunshine and warmer days by then. Many of you have already pre-registered for this great event, and we look forward to hearing from more of you. If you're still waffling about coming because of distance, we hope you'll reconsider. It is a long ways from there (wherever you are) to here, but we're confident you'll be glad you made the trip.

The chart at the right shows approximate distances from some major cities to the Bull River camp.

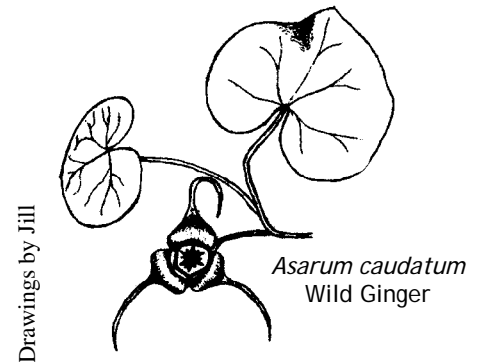
Because of our abundant moisture, this part of western Montana boasts some of the most luxuriant plant life and densest forests in the Rockies. That's what we want to show off for you July 13-15. From mosses and lichens to giant cedar and hemlock, you'll be introduced to a stunning array of native plants. A terrific array of field trips is lined up for Saturday. Here's a brief description of each:

1 and 2 **Ross Creek Cedars** - Distance to the trailhead from camp is 14 miles of easy driving. The hike itself is more of a stroll through one of the most impressive ancient cedar groves anywhere. Massive trunks 30 feet in circumference tower high into the sky, shading ferns and devil's club, calypso orchids and wild ginger on the forest floor. The trail is handicapped accessible. Erich Pfalzer, the hike leader, has worked on the Kootenai for years and has come to know the local native flora extremely well.

3 and 4 **Snake Creek Gorge** - Participants in this half day hike will drive only a mile or two from camp to a parking spot for a walk into this stunning gorge. It'll be relatively easy walking, though there is no trail. The main goal of this hike will be to see a rare endemic moss, a species of *Grimmia*. Other interesting plants occur in the deep, rocky canyon of Snake Creek Gorge as well. Erich Pfalzer will also lead this half day jaunt. (At the time this issue of *Kelsey* went to press we don't have an alternate leader for these two field trips. Erich will take a group into Snake Creek Gorge in the morning and then a group to Ross Creek in the afternoon. If we get another leader, we'll offer these same two hikes in reverse order to help meet the demand).

5 **Berray Mountain Lookout** - Sadly, Wayne Phillips will be unable to lead this hike or even to join us at Bull River because of recent back surgery, so the leaders for this excursion will be Dennis Nicholls possibly accompanied by Forest Fire Lookouts historian Gary Weber of Priest River, Idaho. The trailhead is about 10 miles from camp, but the dirt road access gains quite a bit of elevation so that the 2-1/2 miles to the lookout is only of moderate difficulty (with a few steep pitches thrown in for good measure). Once at the lookout, the ridge top offers some interesting botanizing and unparalleled views of both the East and West Cabinets.

5 **South Fork Wetlands** - John Pierce is ready to paddle into the maze of willow-lined channels that make up the South Fork Wetlands complex. This field trip will include both walking and canoeing in a setting that offers great views of the highest peaks in the Cabinets. Distance from camp is less than 10 miles.



Kalispell	130
Missoula	150
Bozeman	350
Helena	250
Great Falls	315

6 **Berray Mountain South Face** - Because we don't have a leader for this field trip, it may be scratched.

7 **Cliff Lake** and 9 **St. Paul Peak** - These field trips have one drawback: the travel time and distance to the trailhead. The Chicago Peak Road offers the easiest access into the Cabinet Mountains' high country anywhere, but from our camp it is 35 miles to the trailhead. The final five miles of the road is rutted and strewn with boulders. Sturdy, high clearance 4WD vehicles will be needed to get there; it is possible that a local outfitter will provide transportation for a small charge. Regardless of how we get there, once on the trail, it's an easy walk to Cliff Lake among some of the most beautiful subalpine terrain in western Montana. Peter Stickney will lead the way and examine the vibrant native wildflowers that should be near full bloom. The climb to the top of St. Paul Peak will be more arduous, but Dan Leavell, Kootenai N.F. botanist/ecologist, will make this hike one to remember with his expertise on native plants. Rare *Botrychium* can be found on St. Paul's alpine flanks. These two hikes are limited to eight people each.

10 **Dad Peak** - Jon Reny is an MNPS member from Libby who has studied the plants and forests of the Kootenai for more than 20 years. He'll lead a party to the site of the old lookout on Dad Peak, examining forest habitats along the way. From on top, the views of the central Cabinets will amaze you. Distance to the trailhead is about five miles.

11 **St. Paul Lake** - For over four miles, this trail winds through dark old growth forest before reaching this superb lake tucked into the rocks and trees at the base of St. Paul Peak. The real goal of the hike will be the wet rocky ledges above the lake and the awesome variety of wildflowers that call this subalpine basin home. Maria Mantas once worked in these mountains and wanted to get back into the Cabinet Wilderness, so she'll lead this hearty bunch into the backcountry. Distance to the trailhead is about three miles.

12 **North Fork of the East Fork Bull River** - This hike has its beginning in Devils Club Creek, and the narrow trail traverses a steep hillside heavily timbered with giant trees. But the real show will be at ground level as you encounter a staggering array of plant life in a wide variety of habitats. From stream-side rainforest to a 1994-era wildfire, from lush avalanche chutes to beargrass-carpeted meadows, this hike will explore it all, and Pete Lesica will be on hand to help with identification of native plants. Distance to the trailhead is about four miles.

Though the spring rains (or snows) typical of western Montana are usually done by mid-July, it will be wise to have rain gear with you for the weekend. Also be prepared for mosquitoes. Keep in mind, as well, that our camp and all of the hikes are in grizzly country, so special precautions need to be taken with food and garbage. Please remember that pets are not allowed on Montana Native Plant Society field trips.

Our camp at the historic ranger station will be rustic, but those who prefer more modern accommodations can find them within 15 miles. Reservations should be made early, as the limited rooms and spaces fill up fast in the summer.

Two field trip options for Sunday are being offered. For those who'll travel home on Highway 2, Jon Reny and Pete Lesica will lead an excursion to Kootenai Falls around 11:00 in the morning. This is where the movie *River Wild* was filmed several years ago. The falls are about 35 miles from camp. Another side trip will be available for those traveling Highway 200. Dennis Nicholls and a forester from the Cabinet Ranger District at Trout Creek will lead anyone interested in truly big trees up Whitepine Creek to measure one of the few remaining giants in western Montana (see Big Sky Sketches in this issue of *Kelsey*). Instruction will be offered on how to measure potential state champion trees. We'll locate a rare monarch in the creek bottom and discover if it qualifies for the state list of champion trees.

