

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

www.umt.edu/mnps/

Montana Native Plant Society 2002 and 2003 Small Grants Program

Trillium ovatum in western Montana—implications for conservation

by Tarn Ream

Those of you who walk along the forested streams and seeps of western Montana in the spring are likely to encounter the white-flowering herbaceous perennial *Trillium ovatum*. *Trillium*, a name that refers to three leaves and three petals, has many common names including Wake-robin, because it blooms early in the spring, and Bethroot (Birthroot), in reference to traditional medicinal use of the rhizome by Native Americans for childbirth. There are many species of *Trillium* in North America, but only Western Trillium, *Trillium ovatum* (*ovatum* describes its egg-shaped leaves), occurs in Montana.

Trilliums mature slowly and live a long time. One plant was aged at more than 72 years! Their life starts with a two-year germination cycle—the first year a root grows, the second year a cotyledon sprouts. For several years the plant has only one leaf, then graduates to a three-leaf nonreproductive stage. It takes at least 19 years before *Trillium* reaches its three-leaf reproductive (flowering) stage in Montana! Plants do not reproduce clonally—recruitment of offspring is exclusively dependent upon sexual reproduction.

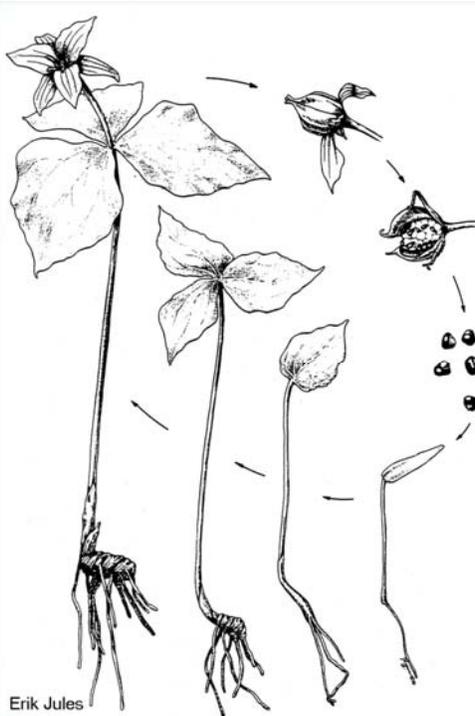
Insects play important roles in the life of *Trillium*. Plants are self-incompatible, and cross-pollination by insects is necessary for seed production. *Trillium* flowers do not produce nectar, although several in-

sects, such as beetles and bees, forage for their pollen. Seed dispersal is also dependent on insects—each seed bears a conspicuous, yellow food-body, called an elaiosome, which is attractive to ants and yellow

jackets. The insects transport seeds to their nests where they eat the oily food-body and discard the seeds.

Western *Trillium* is sensitive to disturbance, particularly in the harsh, dry conditions of Montana, where it grows at the eastern edge of its range. Removal of rhizomes, the medicinal portion of the plant, for commercial use is often skewed toward the less common large, reproductive-age plants. There is concern that market-driven, unsustainable harvest of native medicinal plant species, such as *Trillium ovatum*, could decimate populations in a very short time. I began a research project in the spring of 2001 to provide documentation in order to help in conservation of what Klaus Lack-schewitz referred to as “perhaps the most elegant spring wildflower in our area.”

Conservation of populations requires an understanding of the dynamic aspects of the population in its environment. Demographic monitoring can be used to assess if populations are maintaining themselves under current conditions. The demographic structure of a population—



The life cycle of *Trillium ovatum*

(Continued on page 7)

**Above the Trees—MNPS 2004
Annual Meeting on the Beartooth
Plateau, July 9-11**
You still have time to register. See page 7 for details and send your registration in today.



President's Platform

Betty Kuropat



Montana is a big place with relatively few people and a relatively large flora. It's summer and time for Montanans and their guests to get out and enjoy, learn about, and preserve our wealth of native plants. Many of us in MNPS will be doing just that at the Annual Meeting near Red Lodge about the time this letter is published. Montana has over 2400 plant species. About 350 are considered "rare" or "sensitive"; 31 of

them are on the state noxious weed list. Threats at both ends of the spectrum beg for our attention. Many of the "rare" species are simply rare and won't persist with threats from loss of habitat, weed invasion, harvesting, or damage. Others aren't so rare, but are very sensitive to disturbance (either they need it or they can't tolerate it). Weeds are a threat to both rare and common native species because they can domi-

nate the areas where they thrive and eliminate native plants there. So, as you enjoy Montana's flora this summer, remember to do a little bit to preserve habitat for rare or sensitive plants. Enjoy them in the field and forego collecting. And, do something to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.

I'm looking forward to seeing you *Above the Trees* near Red Lodge on July 9–11.

Betty can be reached at 2688 Witty Ln. Columbia Falls, MT 59912 406-892-0129 e-mail: kuropat@bigsky.net

Lewis's Plant Collections

I knew that the four plant specimens collected by Meriwether Lewis that were on display at the Montana Historical Society would be a very cool thing; what I didn't expect was the strong emotional reaction that accompanied my first viewing of the specimens. The plants on display include three that were collected in Montana in 1806: bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*), blanket flower (*Gaillardia aristata*) and Lewis's mockorange (*Philadelphus lewisii*). Beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*), collected in Idaho, is also displayed.

The plant specimens are on loan from the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The Lewis specimens are temporarily housed in a fiber optically lit, closed-circulation case specifically built to protect the specimens while they are in Montana. I was told that packing and shipping arrangements for the specimens were tightly controlled and the plants arrived safely in Helena, with every security measure except armed guards employed to guarantee their safety. It is amazing to think that nearly 200 years after their collection, they are coming home for a short while.

For those of us who have an interest in the plant collections of the Lewis and Clark expedition and have studied Volume 12 of Gary Moulton's *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, it was wonderful to see

the specimens first hand and trace our understanding of them through the annotations on the sheets. Beginning with notes by Frederick Pursh and continuing through the latest determinations by Reveal and Schuyler, the journey made by the plants themselves is fascinating. That we still have them as a touchstone to American history and botanical science is inspiring. The *Lewisia rediviva* specimen is the lectotype for the species and the type for the genus. It was named by Frederick Pursh to honor Meriwether Lewis.



Lewis's collection of *Philadelphus lewisii*

The other three specimens are also type specimens and it is remarkable to look at the plants that Lewis held in his hands and know those very individuals were the basis for our nam-

ing and understanding of the species today. The Lewis's mockorange, bitterroot and beargrass specimens are well preserved. The blanket flower specimen is in worse shape. It's surprising that the four specimens are extant at all, given their history. They traveled with Lewis all the way from Idaho and Montana, down the Missouri River to St. Louis. They then made their way to Philadelphia where they passed through several hands. They are among a group of specimens that were believed lost until they were uncovered, damaged by beetles, at the American Philosophical Society in 1896—90 years after collection.

If you are in Helena this summer, don't miss the exhibit called *Montana Botanical*. The exhibit will be in place through August and also features a variety of artworks about or from plants. On display is an original copy of Pursh's 1814 *Flora Americae Septentrionalis* or *Flora of North America*. The book belongs to Wayne Phillips who generously allowed the Historical Society to feature it as part of the exhibit. Pursh was the first to publish information about the expedition's plant discoveries and the book contains original hand-colored drawings of some Montana plant species. The grand opening on June 10 included a presentation by Dr. John Taylor about the plants of Lewis and Clark, and Wayne Phillips, in costume, signed copies of his latest book, *Plants of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*.

CONSERVATION

Bridger Plant Materials Center Announces New Conservation Plant Releases

The PMC has added three more species to its list of released germplasm and cultivars, bringing the conservation plant arsenal to 26. In the third quarter of 2004, two forbs and a grass became officially available to the commercial seed industry via the Foundation Seed Programs at Montana State University in Bozeman and the University of Wyoming in Powell.

Great Northern Germplasm western yarrow—*Achillea millefolium* var. *occidentalis*

This is a Selected Class release of western yarrow. It is the first release of this species to the commercial seed industry. Great Northern Germplasm is a native, perennial forb of the Aster Family adapted to droughty conditions on gravelly loam and thin or sandy soils. The original collection site is in Flathead County, Montana, near Glacier National Park. This selection will be utilized primarily in seed mixtures to add species' diversity on rangeland, mineland, and roadside revegetation projects. Western yarrow is one of the most widely recognized and adaptable wildflowers in North America.

Stillwater Germplasm prairie coneflower—*Ratibida columnifera*

This is a Selected Class release of prairie coneflower. It is the first release of this species to the commercial seed industry. Stillwater Germplasm is a native, perennial, forb of the Aster Family adapted to dry, open spaces with loam, sandy loam, or clayey loam soils. This release is comprised of five superior performing accessions bulked from seed originally collected in Stillwater and Carbon counties, Montana. This drought-tolerant native wildflower selection will be utilized primarily in seed mixtures to add species' diversity on a multitude of revegetation projects and for enhancing wildlife habitat.

Spirit Germplasm sweetgrass—*Hierochloa odorata*

This is a Selected Class release of sweetgrass. It is the Bridger PMC's first release of vegetative plant material. Spirit Germplasm is a native, cool-season grass that inhabits moist environments of riparian and wetland areas. This selection of sweetgrass originated in the Sweetgrass Hills in Toole County, not far from Whitlash, Montana. Spirit Germplasm has a sweet vanilla fragrance and will be primarily used as a culturally significant plant in Native American spiritual and religious ceremonies. The vegetative propagules may also have utility in the stabilization and restoration of riparian and wetland ecosystems.

Moonwort (*Botrychium*) Workshop Scheduled

A *Botrychium* workshop with special emphasis on the ESA candidate, slender moonwort (*Botrychium lineare*) will be held July 14-15 at Mountain Village Resort in Stanley, Idaho. Call 800-843-5475 for reservations, or visit: <http://www.mountainvillage.com/>. The workshop is free, although enrollment is limited to the first 35 people. The instructors are Dr. Donald Farrar of Iowa State University and Dr. Cindy Johnson-Groh of Gustavus Adolphus College.



The workshop will include sessions on ecology, molecular genetics, hands-on identification, and a discussion about conservation strategies. A field trip is also planned. The workshop is co-hosted by the Sawtooth National Forest and the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office.

Underground Phytoterrorism

Invasive noxious weeds, such as species of *Centaurea* (Asteraceae) establish monocultures in new settings by displacing the native vegetation. It is widely thought that the absence of "natural enemies" represents an ecological vacuum (Keane and Crowley 2002). But species in the *Centaurea* genus also come with an effective arsenal.

The European spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa* Lam.) releases catechin; an allelopathic agent in levels that are more than double those found in habitats that do not have *C. maculosa*. In a past September issue of *Science*, researchers at Colorado State University show that (-)-catechin inhibits growth of a number of mature North American plants by altering gene expression, resulting in extensive root death. Bais et al. observed that when field soil was supplemented with "invasive" levels of (-)-catechin, the germination and growth of two native grasses were dramatically reduced compared with more resistant European grasses given the same treatment. Catechin

exposure at the cellular level revealed a wave of cell death, starting at the root tip and proceeding through the central elongation zone toward the stele.

Bonnie Heidel

Reprinted from *Castilleja*, Wyoming Native Plant Society, Vol. 23 No. 1
References available from the Editors

Botany 2004 Alpine Diversity: Adapted to the Peaks

The annual meeting of four professional societies: the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, the American Fern Society, the American Society of Plant Taxonomists and the Botanical Society of America will be held from July 31—August 5 in Snowbird, Utah. A full slate of symposia, papers, lectures, field trips, an educational outreach forum and workshops is scheduled. An anticipated 900 participants will present over 700 scientific contributions. Visit www.botanyconference.org for a full description and registration information.

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*.

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

Available from the Flathead Chapter: *Native Plant Gardening and Landscaping References and Recommended Species for Native Plant Gardening in the Flathead*. The packet can be mailed to you for \$2.50. Contact Tara Carolin at P.O. Box 382, West Glacier, MT 59936, call 406-888-7919 or e-mail: Tara_Carolin@nps.gov

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: drakekath64@msn.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.

FOH Newsletters Online

Ever wonder what an herbarium does and what it provides? The Friends of the University of Montana Herbarium newsletters are now available online. Thanks to Marilyn Marler for making this information available to the public. Visit: www.umt.edu/herbarium and follow the links to view FOH newsletters from the last four years. Who knows? You may decide to become a member!

New Publication

The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) has just released its latest book *Ex Situ Plant Conservation: Supporting Species Survival in the Wild*. The book is the first to address integrated plant conservation strategies and to examine the scientific, technical, and strategic basis of the ex situ approach. It covers the role, value and limits of ex situ conservation as well as updating best management practices for the field. The book can be ordered from CPC's website: <http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/publications.html>

While you are visiting CPC's website, find out about other plant conservation efforts throughout the country.

Wyoming Species of Concern—know your neighbors

The fall 2003 Wyoming Plant and Animal Species of Concern list is now posted at: www.uwyo.edu/wndd/. It presents state and global ranks, county distribution, public land distribution, and cross-references to all Threatened, Endangered and sensitive federal status species (including BLM, FS Region 2 and Region 4). It also presents a new "Wyoming Contribution" rank that reflects the relative contribution of Wyoming populations of a species to the rangewide persistence of that species. There are 473 species recognized as Wyoming state plant species of concern.

Reprinted from *Castilleja*, Wyoming Native Plant Society, Vol. 22, No. 4

MNPS Website

Don't forget to check out our website. It is updated on a regular basis and includes great information about available publications, Lewis & Clark material, landscaping with native plants, the annual meeting, chapter calendars and events and more. Many thanks to our webmaster Marilyn Marler for establishing and maintaining our website.

Visit: www.umt.edu/mnps

WELCOME new members!

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

Douglas Alexander, Nanette & Allen Ault, Lynn Bacon, Lyn Baldwin, Anne Binninger, Pam Blicher, Mary Angela Collins, Janet Colvin, Maureen Driscoll, Front Porch Real Estate, Jennifer Geiger, Peter Hofer, Mansfield Library, Tara Martin, Karen Mott, W. Leonard & Jessica Moyer, Virginia Norman, Barbara Paschke, Patricia Murphy Pierson, Cathy Ream, Kim Reid, Jennifer & Roman Schoener, Kathleen Settevendemie, Dan Spuhler, Renee Taaffe, Melinda Vennard, and Marc Weber.

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.

"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

New Botanist at the Natural Heritage Program

After 12 years as a Missoula resident, including a seven-month absence to hike the Appalachian Trail and take a break from the Forest Service, I finally decided to skip town and accept the Program Botanist position at the Montana Natural Heritage Program in Helena. As many of you know, the Natural Heritage Program tracks rare plants, animals and vegetation communities across the state. I come to this position after 8 years of employment at the Forest Service's Fire Sciences Lab as a botanist on fire effects studies and landscape-scale vegetation mapping projects, and short stints with the BLM in Idaho and the Montana Riparian and Wetland Research Project formerly at the University of Montana. At the Heritage Program this summer, where there is enough work to keep an entire staff of botanists busy, I will be crossing the state looking for new populations of rare plants and trying to relocate populations that haven't been surveyed in many years. Some of these plants,

such as *Phacelia scopulina* are only known from historic collections. In this instance, the famous botanist P.A. Rydberg collected the plant in Silver Bow County in 1895 and it has not been collected since. Projects this year will take me to BLM lands on the Billings, Butte and Miles City districts, northwest Montana to survey for *Silene spaldingii* (a federal T&E species) and central-Montana mountain ranges to survey for a state endemic, *Cirsium longistylum*. Lots of the data we maintain is collected by federal and state biologists, private contractors and botanical enthusiasts across the state. To learn more about the Montana Natural Heritage Program and the plant spe-



Scott Mincemoyer, Heritage Botanist

cies we track, visit our website at nhp.nris.state.mt.us where there is detailed information and photographs of many of these species. You can also download a hard copy of *Plant Species of Concern* for the state along with a data form to report any sightings of these species. If you have questions about "rare" plants you encounter this summer, call Peter Lesica at home! If you would like information about the botany program at the Montana Natural Heritage Program, I can be reached at smincemoyer@state.mt.us or at 406-444-2817.

As for Helena life so far, it's not too bad...less traffic to deal with, great recreational opportunities, though a little too quiet downtown! So don't be surprised if I turn up in Missoula on a regular basis. After all, does anyone really leave Missoula? I look forward to seeing many of you as I travel across the state this summer and at the Annual Meeting in July. If you're passing through Helena stop and say hello. We're located in the Montana State Library east of the State Capitol.

Scott Mincemoyer

MNPS VOTER TURNOUT BEHIND 2003 LEVEL

The Townsend Electoral College has reported that 2004 Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) election ballots, as of June 10, lag behind 2003 record numbers. Since 2001, the MNPS Board of Directors has offered a \$100 prize to the chapter with the largest percentage of voters. As a result, the number of voters increased from 33 in 2001 to 83 in 2002 to 139 in 2003. The number of ballots received and counted to date totals 116. The Election Committee asks voters to please send in their ballots before the Annual General Membership Meeting on July 9 in Red Lodge and show support for the MNPS officers.

With 80% of precincts reporting, the small chapters (Calypso, Maka Flora, and Artemisia) dominate the race for the \$100 prize. All of the large chapters (Kelsey, Clark Fork, Flathead, and Valley of Flowers) have lower voter turnouts than in 2003.

The Kelsey Chapter leads the pack in total votes with 28 votes, followed by the Clark Fork Chapter with 21 votes. The Flathead Chapter has 19 votes and the Valley of Flowers Chapter has 13. Small chapter voter turnout exceeds 2003 levels. The Calypso Chapter leads the small chapters with 12 votes, followed by last year's winner, the Maka Flora Chapter, with 11 votes and the Annual Meeting host, Artemisia Chapter with 10 votes. The winner of the \$100 prize could be determined by just one vote by a small chapter member!

Voters from east of the Divide lead 64-52 over western voters. Come on western voters!

The Election Committee conducted exit poll interviews to determine why voter turnout is down. One voter, *Rosa floribunda*, a non-native Montana resident said, "Why should members vote? MNPS has such good candidates and uncontested races." Another voter, who wanted to remain anonymous, frowned when asked by the Election Committee, "But what

about the \$100?" The voter finally replied, "\$100 just isn't worth as much as it was 3 years ago." The Townsend Electoral College concluded that voters are sick of politics after the local, state and federal primary elections that just concluded. The Election Committee is confident that this article will stimulate a surge of ballots before the Annual Meeting.

Get out and vote! See you at the polls.

Patrick Plantenberg

Editors Note: MNPS Secretary candidate, Patrick Planenberg (whoever that is), submitted this article. The article was submitted as a PSA (public service announcement) from the Secretary of MNPS accompanied by his photo asking MNPS members to vote. This is similar to what the Secretary of State did during the Montana gubernatorial race. The Editors refused to publish the photo and bring scandal to the MNPS elections. Nice try Patrick!



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY CHAPTER REPORTS

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER

Over the last year the Artemisia Chapter has primarily focused on hosting the 2004 Annual Meeting. Most of our meetings this winter centered on planning and organizing the Annual Meeting—quite a task as all the chapters know! We did manage to treat ourselves to 3 presentations: The effects of tamarisk and Russian olive in eastern Montana by Peter Lesica; the botanical photography of Alice and Robert Hamilton by Duane Bondy; and the Beartooth District Travel Plan by the Montana Wilderness Association. We received a \$1000 chapter project grant from MNPS to continue our work creating a native plant display garden at Zoo-Montana. The garden is shaping up nicely with help from many wonderful volunteers and ZooMontana. This spring large landscape rocks, an irrigation system, and a pathway were installed. In May we held our 2nd annual native plant sale at ZooMontana and raised approximately \$250. These funds will be used for native plant display garden projects.

Leslie Marty

CLARK FORK CHAPTER

Native Plant Sale

On this sunny Saturday at the Missoula Farmer's Market, we offered over 42 species of native plants, ranging from *Agastache urticifolia* to *Townsendia montana*, plus seeds for 10 species. As usual, a crowd was waiting for the opening bell. However, the usual late-morning lull never happened, and people were still buying plants when the closing bell rang. Among the plants offered were pairs of four year old *Shepherdia argentea* donated by Calvin Duke, which brought in \$180.

Many other members grew or helped to grow plants: Dana D'Andraea, Peter Stickney, Madeline Mazurski, Elizabeth Crone, Kelly Chadwick, William Schlegel, Mike Young and Sheila Morrison. Total receipts were a record \$1611.31, and after adjusting for expenses incurred, our net was \$1401.56.

Sheila Morrison

Woad Warriors

The Clark Fork Chapter has adopted the dyer's woad control project on Mt. Sentinel as a local stewardship project. For the past 10 or so years, our members have gathered at the base of the M trail, and hiked across hundreds of acres of prairie looking for the dastardly plants. Dyer's woad, *Isatis tinctoria*, is classified as a new invader in the state of Montana since there are very few infestations across the state. In fact, if you find a new infestation of dyer's woad, you can receive a \$50 bounty from the Montana Department of Agriculture. Mt. Sentinel is a woad hot spot, and we try hard to get all the plants each year, or at least the blooming ones so we can prevent this invader from spreading.

Twelve of us, 4 University of Montana staff, 2 staff from the Center for Invasive Plant Management in Bozeman, and 6 volunteers, gathered on Tuesday, May 28th to do battle with dyer's woad. We found about 600 plants in various stages of growth. We congregated again on Tuesday, June 8th, this time with a force of fifteen woad hunters, composed of 6 staff and 9 volunteers. We found about 150 plants this time around. The University of Montana pays the CF Chapter \$10 per volunteer person hour for this service, and this year we earned \$350 for the chapter while performing an important community service. And the birding, wildflowers and company weren't bad either.

Marilyn Marler

CALYPSO CHAPTER

Over twenty people attended the German Gulch field trip held on Thursday evening, June 3rd. The first chapter field trip of the year was delightful, the weather phenomenal, and the bugs minimal. The smell of chokecherry blossoms permeated the air, and the field trippers were fearless while descending the steep embankment and crossing the high, narrow bridge over beautiful Silver Bow Creek. More than 25 plant species were spotted and most were identified. The only down side to the trip was the pervasive abundance

of spotted knapweed. The chapter is hoping to plant a pilot plot in the area with native shrubs, forbs, and grasses and surround it with an enclosure to prevent grazing. If the pilot plot proves to be successful in deterring knapweed spread, then a more aggressive effort can be undertaken. We'll be looking for volunteers for that project if the funding comes through.

Monday evening, June 7th, is the date set for the second field trip of the season. We'll be looking for calypso orchids along Harding Way and travel towards Cactus Junction, stopping en route to identify native shrubs. Paul Sawyer will be the trip leader.

A new business in Butte, The Copper Hawk, located on north Main Street, sells *Good Migrations* brand coffee. A 12 oz. foil bag is only \$7.95. That's a great price for coffee that is shade grown (which provides habitat for songbirds,) certified organic, and fair trade certified. Because the bag is sealed, the coffee is fresh and delicious.

Debbie Mueller

FLATHEAD CHAPTER

Changes were made to the structure of Flathead Chapter business meetings this year. Our objective was to make the time more productive by focusing on a native plant-related project or important issue. The changes have worked quite well, and our first project, a native plant landscaping packet, was completed in early spring.

The native plant landscaping packet provides specific guidelines and advice for gardeners interested in growing native plants suited to our region. The packet is similar to the guide developed by the Kelsey Chapter, and has been very popular with gardeners in our area. Please contact Tara Williams (vance.tara@centurytel.net) if you are interested in receiving the packet, or check the MNPS website for ordering information.

Also of note, several Flathead Chapter members assembled a trav-

(Continued on page 7)

...Chapters (Continued from page 6)

eling display of beautiful, framed native plant photographs. The display has been featured at libraries, restaurants and other popular gathering spots, showcasing the splendor of native plants and highlighting MNPS. Please contact Rachel Potter (jrpotter@digisys.net) for more information on the display.

Our programs were very well attended this year, and we are looking forward to a wide variety of summer field trips!

Shannon Kimball

KELSEY CHAPTER

Kelsey Chapter has had a busy and successful last year. Membership and interest are growing. We had four great programs over the winter with presenters Phil Johnson, Lyn Baldwin, Greg Kudray and Nancy Breuninger. The Flora of Mount Helena database was posted on the Lewis and Clark Library website (www.lewisandclarklibrary.org) and there continues to be demand for our native plant landscaping packet. It is really heartening to see the interest in growing Montana native plants.

We have field trips scheduled this spring with Andy Kukolax and Wayne Phillips, and a canoe trip with Andrea and Michael Pipp. A botanical class with Tom Elpel is scheduled for late June and promises to be a great experience. Thanks to Jim Greene and Martha Vogel for making the arrangements.

Kathy Martin did a fine job representing the chapter on the planning committee for the annual National Wildflower Week event for Helena fourth graders held on Mount Helena every May. Thanks to all chapter members who led hikes and helped in other ways.

Our 2nd year presenting articles on Montana Lewis and Clark plants in the Helena Independent Record is underway and is generating positive comments. Thanks to Carole Mackin, Kathy Martin, Mary Johnson, Andrea Pipp, Spencer Shropshire, Laura Alvey and Kathy Lloyd for contributing articles and to Drake Barton for providing the photos.

Kathy Lloyd

...Trillium (Continued from page 1)

the distribution of individuals in each age class (juvenile, nonreproductive, and reproductive)—can give clues to the status of a population. Western Trillium populations that I am studying are considered “regressive”—meaning they have a low percentage of reproductive plants that tend to be older and very few juvenile plants. Demographic structures such as these generally describe a declining population. It is difficult to determine the decline of a population in a short-term study, but if these data support the argument, then harvest of reproductive plants could have a large impact on the reproductive rate of *Trillium* in western Montana.

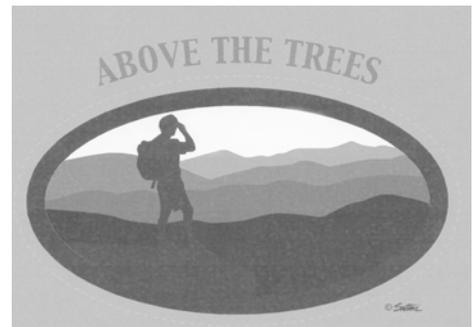
Survival of any given population depends on its vital rates (plant fecundity, seedling recruitment, and survival) and mortality rates, and data describing these rates will provide critical information for conservation planning and sustainable use of this species.

I would like to thank the Montana Native Plant Society for the support of this project through the Small Grants Program in 2002 and 2003.

Tarn Ream is an Interdisciplinary Studies graduate student at the University of Montana. She is studying Trillium and hopes that her work helps the development of management strategies for conservation of this fascinating plant.



Since 1996 the Kelsey Chapter, together with the Helena National Forest and other partners, has celebrated National Wildflower Week with hikes and events for Helena-area fourth grade students on Mount Helena. Here, interested students learn about soils and how they interact with plants.



Above the Trees Annual Meeting Update

There are approximately 80 people currently registered for the MNPS 2004 Annual Meeting, *Above the Trees*. The meeting will be held at the Timbercrest Girl Scout Camp, near Red Lodge, on July 9-11. It is not too late to register, so keep those forms coming! Information on the Annual Meeting and the registration form is posted on the MNPS website: www.umt.edu/mnps, or see the Spring 2004 issue of *Kelsey*. Participating on field trips only is an option for a fee of \$5 per day. To take advantage of this opportunity you need to arrive at the Timbercrest Girl Scout Camp ½ hour prior to trip departure time (9:00 a.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday) to sign up for a field trip that has an available space. If you are attending the entire meeting, field trip sign up sheets and descriptions will be available when you arrive. There will be trips offered for all ages and abilities and the spectacular flora of the Beartooth Plateau will be featured.

Above the Trees includes the general membership meeting, during which election results will be announced, and a potluck dinner on Friday night (bring a dish to share), a variety of Saturday and Sunday field trips, the annual plant ID contest, a Mediterranean banquet, a “fashion” show, a silent auction, committee meetings, and much more. Ecologist Jeanne Chambers will be our Saturday evening speaker. She will present a program and photos about plant establishment on the Beartooth Plateau. Don’t miss the fun and a chance to visit with old friends and make new ones! Send in your registration form now!

Leslie Marty

CALENDAR

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER

Leslie Marty 445-9178

CALYPSO CHAPTER

Catherine Cain 267-3362

CLARK FORK CHAPTER

Saturday, September 18, 9:30 a.m.

Are you interested in the 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 Smokejumper base) at 9:30 a.m. with a return time around 4 p.m. Bring a lunch to eat near the lookout on Beaver Ridge with fantastic views of the Bitterroot Crest. You must make a reservation with Bob Keane (329-4846) between August 20th and September 10 because this field trip has a maximum of 12 people. Call Bob if you have any other questions.

Thursday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.

Mary Louise Polzin, UM graduate student in the College of Forestry & Conservation, has been studying the Yellowstone River above Livingston for several years. She will tell us about her recent genetic studies and "Restoration of Cottonwood along the Yellowstone River: Can Vegetative Reproduction Help?" Rm L09 Gallagher Business Bldg. UM Campus.

EASTERN MONTANA

For more information about Eastern Montana events call Jennifer Walker at 538-9054.

July 4, August 1, 14, 15

Fay and Steve Schaller will lead hikes on "Lewis and Clark Pass" on the dates listed above. For info call them at 264-5465.

Saturday, October 9

"Hike to Devil's Glen" led by Fay Schaller. This is a moderate to strenuous all-day hike co-sponsored by Montana Wilderness Association. For more information or to make a reservation call Fay at 264-5465.

FLATHEAD CHAPTER

All Flathead Chapter meetings are at the Montana Logging Association Building,

2224 Highway 35, east of Kalispell, across and just east of Hooper's Nursery. The conference room door is at the back of the building. Call Rachel Potter (892-2446) for more information. All field trips are open to the public. Bring food, water, raingear, and a hand lens if you have one. Please leave your dogs home.

Every Tuesday in May and June

"Bigfork Wild Mile Corridor Wildflower and Bird Walk." 10:00 a.m. to noon. Join Anne Morley of the Native Plant Society and Neal Brown of the Flathead Audubon Society for a gentle morning of wildflower and bird identification. This is an easy 2-mile hike along the Old Swan River Road. Meet in front of Showthyme! Restaurant in downtown Bigfork. Contact Neal at 837-5018 or neal-patt@cyberport.net for details.

Every Tuesday, starting June 1st

"Volunteer opportunity at the Glacier National Park Nursery" from 9:00 to 4:30 p.m. (come and leave as you choose). Help out with spring activities such as seeding, transplanting, weeding and cleaning. Those who are interested may also help with data management, or work on a particular research or experimental project. Bring a sack lunch, your favorite work gloves, and clothes that can tolerate dirt. Meet at the Native Plant Nursery at Glacier National Park. Contact Joyce Lapp at 888-7817 for details.

Saturday, July 17, 8:00 a.m.

"Preston Park Meadows in Glacier National Park." Botanist Mel Waggy will lead a moderately strenuous all-day hike of 8-9 miles roundtrip to view subalpine meadows abloom with wildflowers and surrounded by whitebark pine and alpine larch near the Continental Divide. The trip will be limited to 6 participants, so call Mel at 257-9051 to reserve your spot. The group will be meeting at 8:00 in the morning near the entrance to the Canadian Visitor Center in West Glacier and will carpool from there to the trailhead.

Saturday, August 7, 10:30 a.m.

"Water Howellia in the Swan Valley." Join us for a visit to some howellia ponds—one pond has a nature trail where a howellia interpretive sign was installed last fall and another pond was fenced to protect it from cattle trampling. We'll also visit a small grassland that has some interesting and sensitive plant species—Howell's gumweed (*Grindelia howellia*),

as well as some challenging management concerns—mud bogging and weeds. We can finish the day with a short hike to Holland Falls to enjoy a view of the Swan Valley and the refreshing mist and mosses under the waterfall. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Holland Lake Campground picnic/parking area. Holland Lake Campground is on the Holland Lake Road (Forest Service Road 44), 3 miles east of the Swan Highway 83. From Missoula, take Hwy 200 to Clearwater Jct., turn north on Swan Highway 83, go through Seeley Lake, then about 18 miles to the turnoff to Holland Lake on the right. From Bigfork, go south on Hwy 83 about 45 miles to the turnoff on the left. For information and to sign up, call Betty Kuropat at 892-0129 or Linh Davis at 758-5331. For information on carpooling from Missoula, call Kelly at 258-5439. Pack a lunch.

Saturday, September 18

"Wildflower Wildcard." Join The Nature Conservancy botanist Maria Mantas for a hike somewhere in the beautiful mountains of the Flathead to enjoy some fall foliage and find out what the late bloomers are in our valley. Maria's hikes always promise to be adventurous and great fodder for post-trip storytelling. The exact meeting time and place are yet to be determined. Call Maria at 862-3044 later in the summer for details and to sign up.

KELSEY CHAPTER

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

Saturday, July 17, 10 a.m.

"Kelsey Chapter Canoe Trip," led by Michael and Andrea Pipp. Meet at the trailhead for the Clearwater Canoe Trail at 10 a.m. The river trip is about 8 miles long with a 1-2 mile hike back to the vehicles. Call Andrea or Michael for more details and directions at 495-0409.

Thursday, August 12, 8:30 a.m.

"Crow Creek Falls," southwest of Townsend with Andy Kukolax. This is a moderate, 6-mile hike to visit the jewel waterfall of the Elkhorn Range. There are lots of ups and downs along the mostly shady, meandering trail. Here's a chance to see a few unusual plants and birds in a wetter than average ecosystem. We will also see the recent cleanup results of a particularly messy mining operation adjacent to these falls. Co-sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Association. Call Andy at 458-

9220 to make a reservation and get details.

MAKA FLORA CHAPTER

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

Saturday, August 7, 10:00 a.m.

"Snake Butte." We will tour the prairie badlands north of Bainville. This is an easy to moderate hike. Meet at the Welcome Stop gas station, Highway 2 at Bainville at 10 a.m. For more information contact Beth Madden (789-2266), Doug Smith (765-3411), or Becky Kallevig (488-5455).

VALLEY OF FLOWERS

For additional information call Joanne Jennings at 586-9585.

Sunday, June 27, 11:00 a.m.—2:00

Robyn Klein will help us explore the "Medicinal Properties of Plants Growing in the Bear Trap," near Bozeman. Meet at the parking lot right at the trailhead. Bring lunch, water, hat and sunglasses. Children and pets really aren't appropriate for this field trip and would require extra supervision and care. For more directions call Robyn at 585-9134.

Saturday, July 17, 8:00 a.m.

"A Windy Pass Field Trip" in association with the Montana Wilderness Association. Meet at the MSU Fieldhouse parking lot (SW corner) at 11th and Kagy in Bozeman at 8:00 a.m. for a 6-mile round-trip hike. For reservations call Anne Banks at 587-7629 after July 1st.

Saturday, July 24, 8:30 a.m.

Susan Hellier will lead a trip to "Beehive Basin" to see high elevation flowers. Meet in the Agbioscience parking lot in Bozeman at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring a lunch and water. Call Joanne Jennings at 586-9585 for additional information.

Saturday, August 21, 8:30 a.m.

"Middle Cottonwood Revisited." Join Matt Lavin and Pete Husby for a day long hike along Middle Cottonwood on the west side of the Bridgers near Bozeman. We'll revisit the riparian canyon vegetation and continue to open slopes below Saddle Peak, and check out the rare *Trautvetteria*, discovered about a mile up the trail two years ago. Bring a lunch. Meet at the parking lot north of the Bio-

Science Building on MSU campus. Contact Joanne Jennings at 586-9585 for details.

WESTERN MONTANA

Call Dennis Nicholls at 295-4768 for additional details.

Wednesday, July 14

"Noxious Weeds: Invaders in our Woods." A free class at the Glacier Institute. Call 755-1211 to register.

Saturday, July 17, 10:00 a.m.

"Wilderness Ethics" field trip to Blossom Lakes with Kari Dameron. Meet at the Town Pump on the west side of Thompson Falls to carpool to the trailhead on Thompson Pass. Bring a lunch and water for this all-day field trip. Call 406-827-3533 or e-mail: shillstrom@fs.fed.us for more information.

Saturday—Sunday, July 17, 18

"Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" with Wayne Phillips. Sponsored by the Glacier Institute. Call 755-1211 to register.

Saturday, July 24

"Wildflower Wanderings at Logan Pass" with Janet Paul Bones. Sponsored by the Glacier Institute. Call 755-1211 to register.

July 28—30

"Collection, Cultivation & Creation of Native Plant Landscapes" with Joyce Lapp and Sara Dedekam. Sponsored by the Glacier Institute. Call 755-1211 to register.

Thursday, July 29, 6:00 p.m.

Join Jan Nixon for an easy ramble around the meadows and streamsides above Hyalite Reservoir. Meet at 6 p.m. in front of the Museum of the Rockies to carpool. The emphasis will be on identification of trees and shrubs. If you'd like a little "pre-trip brushup" on the tree species we'll be seeing, plan to arrive by 5:30 to walk through a self-testing display that will be set up. No pets please. Dress for the weather; unless it is raining hard, we'll proceed. Bring water, snacks, and bug repellent plus (optional) binoculars, hand lens & notebook. Handouts will be provided on which you may take notes. The group will return to the Museum after dark. There is a \$5 per person fee for Museum members and \$10 for non-members. Call the Museum's Education

Dept. at 994-6618 to sign up. Fallback date (in case of heavy rain on July 29) will be the following evening, Friday, July 30th.

Saturday, August 7, 9:30 a.m.

"August Wildflowers" with Peter Lesica. We will explore Rock Creek Meadows and Rock Lake. Meet at the north end of the Noxon Bridge on Highway 200 to carpool up Rock Creek to the trailhead. Bring a lunch and water for this all-day field trip. Call 406-827-3533 or e-mail: shillstrom@fs.fed.us for more information about the field trip.

August 12—14

"Flora of Glacier National Park: Advanced Botany" with Peter Lesica. Sponsored by the Glacier Institute. Call 755-1211 to register.

Monday, August 16, 8:30 a.m.

"Family Explorations" at Rock Creek Meadows with Mindy Ferrell. Meet at the Rock Creek Road junction with Highway 200, 2 miles east of Noxon at 8:30 a.m. for an all-day field trip to Rock Creek Meadows and beyond. Co-sponsored by Montana Wilderness Association. Call 406-827-4341 for details, and call by August 11 to reserve a spot.

Saturday, September 25, 7:00 p.m.

"Shoot the Bull"—the annual season finale for Bull River Outdoors with special guest Pat Williams. Meet at the Bull River Historic Ranger Station. Join us for this casual campfire storytelling session beneath the stars. Come dressed for a chilly evening and bring snacks and beverages to share. Hot drinks will be provided. Call 406-827-3533 or e-mail: shillstrom@fs.fed.us for more information about the program.

September 25—26

"Fall Mushroom Foray" with Larry Evans. Sponsored by the Glacier Institute. Call 755-1211 to register.



Hericium abietis or pom pom du blanc

Asters Retreat to Eurasia

by Robert Dorn

The genus *Aster* in a broad sense has been a catchall genus. It has long been known that there are as many as six different base chromosome numbers in the group ranging from $x = 4$ to $x = 13$. This is usually a good indication that we are dealing with significantly dissimilar elements. In 1994, Guy Nesom attempted to reclassify the genus into a number of smaller genera based mainly on morphology and cytology. In the same year, Chunsheng Xiang and John Semple presented results of a molecular study at a conference at Kew that partly supported Nesom's classification. They concluded that *Eucephalus*, *Ionactis*, and *Oreostemma* should be recognized as genera and that *Symphotrichum* could be included in *Aster* or recognized as a separate genus. A later study by Noyes and Rieseberg added more data, and they concluded that the distinction of Eurasian and North American *Aster* supports Nesom's hypothesis that *Aster* in a strict sense is restricted to Eurasia and is not closely related to the North American genera. This prompted Semple and Xiang with several other authors to largely embrace Nesom's earlier classification by now recognizing at the generic level *Eurybia* and *Symphotrichum*.

If we look at Wyoming's species in this complex, it is fairly easy to recognize most of these segregated genera. The genus *Eucephalus*, which was recognized as a genus in 1841, contains the species with chaffy (non-herbaceous) involucre bracts. *Eurybia* has the species with large, broad leaves largely confined to the stem (no basal tuft). *Ionactis*, recognized in 1897, has small crowded leaves with solitary heads on nearly naked peduncles. *Oreostemma*, recognized in 1896, has very narrow leaves in a basal tuft and solitary heads, and is mostly alpine or subalpine. *Almutaster* usually has rhizomes, narrow leaves, is glandular above, and grows mostly in alkaline areas. *Symphotrichum* is the largest group representing what most people recognize as a typical *Aster*. Our two species

with inconspicuous or no rays fall into this group although these have sometimes been placed in their own genus, *Brachyactis*. The overall result is to take a large diverse genus and remove the conspicuously different species or small groups of species and treat all the remaining species in *Symphotrichum* rather than *Aster*. When broken down in this manner, it seems to be a more clear arrangement than dumping everything into the same group. A name shorter than *Symphotrichum* would have been nice, however.



Aster alpigenus = *Oreostemma alpigenum* or, *alpine aster*

References:

Nesom, G. 1994. Review of the taxonomy of *Aster* sensu lato (Asteraceae: Astereae), emphasizing the new world species. *Phytologia* 77:141-297.

Noyes, R.D. & L.H. Rieseberg. 1999. ITS sequence data support a single origin for North American Astereae (Asteraceae) and reflect deep geographic divisions in *Aster* s.l. *Amer. J. Bot.* 86: 398-412.

Semple, J.C. et al. 2001. Chromosome number determinations in fam. Compositae, tribe Astereae. VI. Western North American taxa and comments on generic treatments of North American asters. *Rhodora* 103: 202-218.

Xiang, C. & J.C. Semple. 1996. Molecular systematic study of *Aster* sensu lato and related genera (Asteraceae: Astereae) based on chloroplast DNA restriction site analyses and mainly North American taxa. Pp. 393-423, in D.J.N. Hind & H.J. Beentje (eds.), *Compositae: systematics*. Proc. Intern.

Reprinted from *Castilleja*, Wyoming Native Plant Society, Vol. 22 No. 2

Some of our old friends—

They're still the same plant; they just have a new name.

Aster ascendens = *Symphotrichum ascendens*

Aster foliaceus = *Symphotrichum foliaceum*

We may see a variety of this species on the Beartooth Plateau in July.

Aster hesperius = *Symphotrichum lanceolatum*

Can be found in eastern Montana.

Aster alpigenus = *Oreostemma alpigenum*

We may see this on the Beartooth Plateau during the Annual Meeting.

Aster conspicuus = *Eurybia conspicua*

This large-leaved species is common in forested areas after a burn.

Aster engelmannii = *Eucephalus engelmannii*

Has dry involucre bracts.

Aster laevis = *Symphotrichum laevis*

Found mainly in southwestern Montana.

The bottom line:

Learn about Montana's native flora in any manner that works for you—common names, old or new scientific names. The name is less important than taking the time to really observe the form, features and habitat of a particular species.

Name that Botanist!

Tired of the boring and over-used "name that plant" contest so often seen in plant-related publications? How about "name that botanist?" Try your luck with this picture of a MNPS member.



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.

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

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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!

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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: drakekath64@msn.com

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

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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: drakekath64@msn.com

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