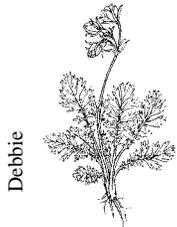


Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

www.umt.edu/mnps/



Bad Land II: 2005 Annual Meeting of the Montana Native Plant Society

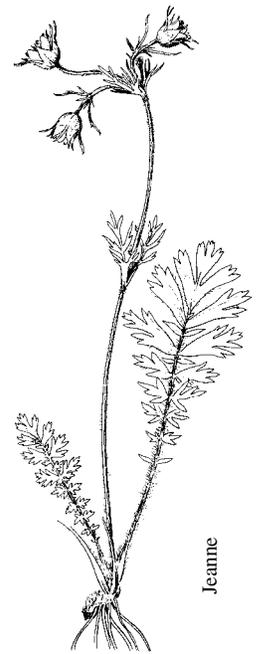
The Maka Flora Chapter will host the 2005 annual meeting of the Montana Native Plant Society in the Big Muddy Valley, the weekend of June 17-19. The theme is *Bad Land II* and will focus on the diverse prairie and wetland ecosystems of northeastern Montana. The meeting is open to the public, and will be held at the old Richardson's Coulee Ranch, west of Antelope, Montana. Saturday field trips will include the Comertown and Coteau Prairie Potholes, Medicine Lake Sandhills, Richardson Coulee/Hedges Grove, Eagle Creek, and Saskatchewan's Coteau Prairie and archeological sites. Award-winning Saskatchewan author Candace Savage will address the group Saturday night, sharing insight from her latest book, *Prairie: A Natural History* (see page 4). Other activities will include a plant identification contest, silent auction and raffle, book sales, and stargazing by telescope. The setting will be rustic, with tent, tipi, and RV camping on site, and other accommodations in Plentywood (10 miles). Meals will include a potluck dinner on Friday night, two continental breakfasts, and a catered meal on Saturday night. To avoid paper waste please consider bringing your own reusable table service. Registration is available on our website: www.umt.edu/mnps or by using the enclosed

registration form (save money by registering before June 1). For additional information contact Doug Smith at 406-483-5431, dsmith@co.sheridan.mt.us or Beth Madden at 406-789-2266, stipa@nemontel.net. Please remember no pets are allowed.

After the meeting, participants can further explore northeastern Montana by visiting local attractions such as historic Fort Union and the new Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, Canada's Grasslands National Park, Medicine Lake and Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuges, the Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center, or the dinosaur field stations in Fort Peck and Malta.

Don't miss the fun! Make your plans now to visit the spectacular landscapes offered in northeastern Montana.

Beth Madden



Geum triflorum
(prairie smoke)

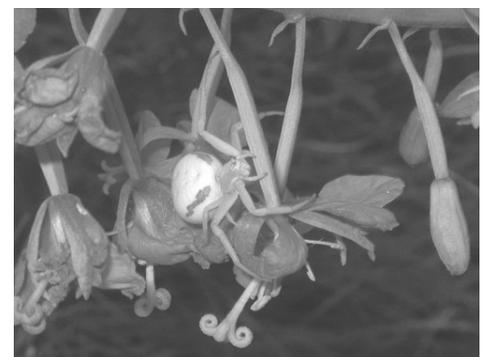
Pollinators and Predators

By Peter Lesica

We are attracted to flowers because of their beauty; their color and form enchant or intrigue us. However, other animals are attracted to flowers not for aesthetic reasons but for matters of life and

death. We all know that flowers have evolved to attract insects that carry pollen between individuals and allow plants to produce seeds without inbreeding. Pollinators such as bees and butterflies are most noticeable. Then there are the insects that eat the flowers. Pull apart a seed head or developing fruit from most plants, and you're likely to find a beetle, fly or moth larvae feeding and growing. Sometimes the same

(Continued on page 6)



Crab spider trying to look inconspicuous.



President's Platform

Betty Kuropat



Did I see a greenish tinge on the cottonwoods near Helena last weekend? Maybe not, I was inside all day with your Board of Directors conducting society business. Maybe I was blinded by the beautiful sunny afternoon as I headed home to the Flathead. Sure looked like green buds on those trees! Several board members couldn't wait to get done with the meeting to start vacations to points south where plants really are green and blooming. I hope they take lots of pictures to show at our chapter meetings next winter when the snow is deep and the nights are dark. Meanwhile, I hope to find some spring snow for a little more skiing. Then, bring on the flowers!

Here are some highlights from the March 5 Board of Directors meeting. We continue to move into the electronic age! This year we are offering an electronic ballot option as well as the enclosed paper ballot. More details about the election can be found on page 6.

The Small Grants Committee reviewed 17 proposals and recommended one for funding (see page 5). Congratulations to Vicky Lawrence of Libby Revitalization, Inc. for the Flower Creek Native Plant Demonstration and Riparian Restoration Project. Thank you to everyone who submitted proposals and I'm sorry we can't fund them all. Thank you to

the Small Grants Committee for reviewing all the fine proposals.

The budget. Yes, we always discuss the budget. We are on a trend of spending more than we bring in. We have some reserve funds and the projects we approved for funding are worthwhile and aligned with society goals. For the past few years the board has leaned toward spending money on doing good things rather than just accruing money. However, with ever increasing operating costs and several projects that have become standard for us, we anticipate spending \$3000-\$4000 more than we take in this year. We have about \$22,000 in various accounts, about half of that in a CD. Take a look at the 2004 final and 2005 proposed budget summary insert if you are interested in more detail. We talked about some ideas for fund-raising projects, and if you have ideas, please share them with your representative or any member of the board.

Liability insurance. Yep. We decided to buy a policy that would cover us for all events, including the annual meeting. We haven't decided which policy and how much coverage, but we authorized the "insurance committee" to spend up to \$1000 per year on the premium. This doesn't mean you should call your attorney and line up for law suits for sprained ankles or lost

glasses. We will supplement our coverage by asking all field trip participants to sign a liability waiver recognizing the risks of hiking and botanizing, "I accept that use of a technical flora and hand lens to identify plants in the wild could cause back strain."

The Mansfield Library is compiling a history of Montana and MNPS is a part of that. I've mentioned this before, but it's worth a reminder. All of our bylaws, policies, minutes, and other society business are now archived there.

Our website has been remodeled. Take a look at <http://www.umt.edu/mnps/>. Check out the landscaping and gardening information and the new Montana Lewis and Clark plant abstracts. Notice the banner with donated artwork from Nancy Seiler Anderson of the Clark Fork Chapter. Look at what's happening with your chapter. Enjoy.

It is with regret that the board accepted Dennis Nicholls' resignation. Dennis served as Western Representative and is a past-editor of *Kelsey* (see page 10 for Dennis' farewell).

Don't forget to send in your registration form (enclosed) for the annual meeting June 17-19. Maka Flora Chapter has some great field trips and programs planned for us on the eastern Montana (and North Dakota and Saskatchewan) prairie. I hope to see you at Bad Land II!

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

WELCOME new members!

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

Artemisia Chapter: Nora & Wayne Taylor; **Calypso Chapter:** Andrea Day; **Clark Fork Chapter:** Rebecca Ames, Bill Burnett, Charles Luke Phinney, Rebecca Shoemaker, Alex & Anna Taft, Bob Wiesner; **Flathead Chapter:** Rod McIver; **Kelsey Chapter:** Andy & Betsy Baur, E.R. Berg, Meghan Trainer Fitch, Mary & Steve Johnson, Marie McAlear; **Maka Flora Chapter:** Louise Montigny; **Valley of Flowers Chapter:** Elizabeth Crowe, Stuart & Karin Jennings, Tim Seipel, Bruce Selyem; **Western:** Ernest Hartley, Erich Pfalzer, Steve Slocomb; **Eastern:** Kitty Knaphus, Jennifer Muscha.

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.

Memberships Due

Your membership in MNPS expired the end of February. If you have not yet renewed please send your membership in today. Montana's native plants are counting on you!

The annual **Field Trip Booklet** will be out by May 1. Please submit entries to the editors by the April 10 deadline.

Orchid Seed Longevity

My wife Claire and I live on a 2-acre plot in the Flathead Valley that was at one time a rather dense lodgepole pine forest, with a few Douglas-firs and western larch trees thrown in. The area was logged, perhaps 50-100 years ago as indicated by the presence of a few large rotting larch stumps. An old logging road crosses our property, which I partly mow to give access to my vegetable garden at the back. I connect two garden hoses to water the vegetables and the hose connection rests on the old logging road. We let about two thirds of our lot go wild, except for removing many beetle-killed lodgepoles.

A few years ago a power company truck drove onto the old road to repair the power line along the back of our property and, of course, ran over the hose, causing a small leak at the connection. Being a procrastinator, I



let it go for a few years until another power company truck caused a big leak.

The year after the leak began, up popped a beautiful little white orchid! (ladies' tresses, *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*). The next year a couple more appeared and the following year another half dozen showed up. Ladies' tresses usually require moist or perpetually wet earth in order to thrive. After I fixed the big leak, the ground dried up and so did my little white orchids.

So, how long had those tiny orchid seeds lain in the normally dry, sandy soil waiting patiently for a couple of wet, rainy years to come along so they could germinate, grow, bloom and produce more tiny seeds? More than twenty years to my certain knowledge. Could they have been there many millennia dating back to the final receding of Lake Missoula? Could they have been there many hundreds of years since the last rainy

weather cycle, whenever that was? Perhaps the most logical scenario is that they were deposited there in mud from the tires of logging trucks or horse-drawn wagons about 100 years ago or so. A damp drainage channel near by could easily have been the original source of the seed or the logging machinery could have carried them for many miles. I am a little saddened, because I will never know the answers to these intriguing questions.

We also have a couple of *Trillium ovatum* that showed up 20 years after we moved here, just off the edge of our lawn, where they enjoy the occasional overwatering of the lawn.

Now I am sorely tempted to begin watering that old logging road regularly. There's no telling how many dormant wildflower seeds would germinate and produce beautiful blooms. It probably wouldn't be the silliest thing I've ever done, but what would the power company employees think? Surely they wouldn't understand...a service truck stuck in deep mud on an old, unused road in flat terrain in the middle of a drought! I might get sued or have to go without power, but it might be worth it.

Dee Strickler

Prunus pensylvanica at the Lewis and Clark Herbarium H. Wayne Phillips

Editors' note: Due to space constraints it was not possible to publish the entire text of this article. Watch for the summer 2005 issue for a continuation.

While doing research for my book, *Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* I became aware of some problems with the identification of several specimens in the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. In August of 2003 I examined the specimens at the Academy and determined that PH-LC 180 should be *Prunus pensylvanica* (rather than *P. virginiana*).

A label, in Pursh's hand, on the sheet with this specimen reads, "Prunus A Cherry found near the beaver bents on the Missouri-Augst: 10th 1806." According to the information on the label, it was Lewis who most likely collected this specimen since he passed the "beaverbends" (Lewis's term) when he

camped near the "white earth river" on August 10, 1806. Lewis and Clark's "white earth river" is the present Little Muddy River near Williston, N.D., which the Expedition had named on April 21, 1805, and not the present day White Earth River, which is over 50 air miles to the east, and was not named by the explorers. The "beaver bends" are the bends of the Missouri River, where they found beaver abundantly, between the Yellowstone River and the "white earth river" as described by Lewis on August 8, 1806.

On August 11, Lewis was shot in "my left thye about an inch below my hip joint" by Cruzatte, who apparently mistook Lewis for an elk. On August 12 Lewis's party caught up with Clark. Lewis then wrote his last journal entry, "as wrighting in my present situation is extremely painfull to me I shall desist until I recover and leave to my frind Capt. C. the continuation of our journal. However I must notice a singular Cherry which is found on the Missouri in the bottom lands about the beaverbends and

some little distance below the white earth river." Lewis's journal then continued with a detailed botanical description of a "new" species of cherry that Lewis contrasted with the more familiar chokecherry. Lewis's last journal entry is thus a description of one more "new" plant species, showing his dedication to the science of botany.

During my visit to ANS, Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler and I examined PH-LC 180, and compared it with specimens of *Prunus pensylvanica* and *P. virginiana* from the general herbarium. We found that PH-LC 180 consisted of several leaves and a short section of stem material. Two of the leaves were fully intact, and have the long, tapering (acuminate) leaf tips that are characteristic of *P. pensylvanica*. In contrast, the leaves of *P. virginiana* are much more abruptly acute at the tip. In addition, the bud scales of the specimen are uniform in color, lacking the two-toned coloration characteristic of *P. virginiana* bud scales.

See page 9 for a trip opportunity.

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).

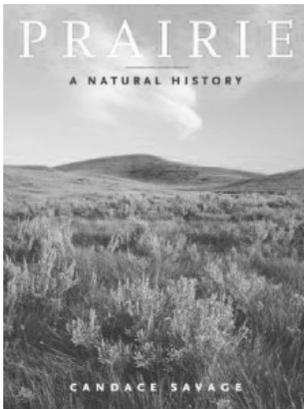
Available free from MNPS Publications: MNPS membership brochures, *Plant Collection Guidelines for Teachers* brochures, and *Echinacea Cultivation Information*. Also available are additional copies of *Plants Collected in Montana During the Lewis & Clark Expedition*.

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

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

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

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



Prairie Author to Address 2005 MNPS Annual Meeting

Award-winning Saskatchewan author Candace Savage will address the MNPS membership at the 2005 annual meeting on June 18, highlighting her latest book *Prairie: A Natural History*. Book sales and signing by the author will follow, with a portion of profits donated to MNPS.

Candace Savage is the author of many widely acclaimed natural history books, including *Bird Brains*, *Eagles of North America*, *Aurora*, and *Mother Nature*. Her work has been honored by the American and Canadian Library Associations, Children's Literature Roundtable, National Magazine Awards, and the Canadian Science Writers' Association. In 1994 she was inducted to the Honor Roll of the Rachel Carson Institute in Pitts-

burgh. She has spent her life in the northern Great Plains and has residences in both Saskatoon and Eastend.

Prairie: A Natural History (2004 Greystone Books) is a celebration of the beauty and diversity of North America's immense central grasslands. Thorough, detailed, and scientifically up-to-date, *Prairie: A Natural History* provides a comprehensive, non-technical guide to the biology and ecology of the Great Plains grasslands. Spectacular full-color photographs and elegant black and white line drawings illustrate the beauty and diversity of this now threatened ecosystem. Plan on picking up a copy at the annual meeting.

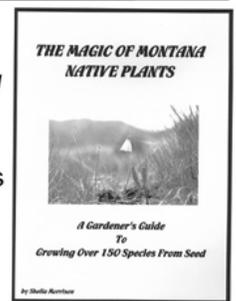
Beth Madden

GET INVOLVED IN THE SMALL GRANT COMMITTEE

If you would like to become more involved in the Montana Native Plant Society, there are many avenues for you to try. Why not volunteer to participate on the Small Grant Committee? You can help with getting information out, help choose worthy recipients, or try your hand at committee chair. If you are interested, please contact Cathie Jean, Small Grant Committee chair at cjean@imt.net

SPRING PLANTING TIME IS HERE!

Help is at your fingertips with this guide to growing your own native plants.



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Small Grant Winner Announced

Congratulations to this year's recipient of the MNPS small grant award. The successful award goes to Vicky Lawrence, volunteer with Libby Revitalization, Inc. in Libby, Montana. Vicky's small grant project will use native plants to help restore a section of Flower Creek in Libby. Vicky plans to use this as a demonstration project to educate the public about the use of native plants in landscaping and restoration. She has already recruited 20 scouts and 20 advanced biology students from Libby High School to help with the planting. With help from the MNPS, Vicky will purchase plants, weed mat, cedar mulch and soil for the project.

This year the Small Grant Committee received 17 excellent proposals. These proposals offered many unique ideas and included projects for monitoring, restoration, and scientific research as well as school gardens and interpretive signs for native plant conservation. Each was worthy of funding. Thank you for doing such a good job. Following is a list of proposals submitted:

RESEARCH

- ♦ Native Plant Diversity and Resistance to Invasives in Sagebrush Grasslands
- ♦ Lone Pine State Park Grassland Monitoring Project
- ♦ Long-term Vegetation Change in Forests of the Swan Valley, Montana
- ♦ Comprehensive Herbicide Application Database and Report

- ♦ Assessment of Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi-based Biofertilizer
- ♦ The Role of Small Mammals in Determining the Abundance of Grassland Forbs: Granivores and the Population Dynamics of *Lithospermum ruderale* and *Lupinus sericeus*
- ♦ Clonal Recruitment of *Populus angustifolia* along the Yellowstone River: Extent and Requirements
- ♦ Ackley Lake State Park Research Project: Development, Reintroduction and Study of Native Flora
- ♦ *Coptis occidentalis* Population Dynamics in a Disturbed Western Montana Forest

EDUCATION

- ♦ Urban Native Plant Demonstration Projects
- ♦ So We Can Grow in the Snow: Clark Fork School Greenhouse Vision
- ♦ Three Public Announcements that Promote the Protection of Montana's Native Plants
- ♦ The Native Hill Project
- ♦ Native Plants at Sussex School
- ♦ Waterworks Hill—Promoting Stewardship Through Education
- ♦ Restoration and Sustainability at Target Range School
- ♦ Flower Creek Native Plant Demonstration and Riparian Restoration Project

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's competition. We hope to hear from you again in future year grant programs.

Cathie Jean

Small Grant Report

A community partnership: native plant gardening & education

The Missoula Flagship Program provides meaningful community-oriented activities for elementary and middle school students after school. The theory is that most high risk behaviors in kids tend to take place after school when kids' schedules lack structure. In 2004, the Flagship Program at C.S. Porter School received a grant from the MNPS in support of environmental education through native plant gardening.

The Flagship Program and the University of Montana weed management program have a school-community partnership for restoration gardening at Fort Missoula. Over forty volunteers from various backgrounds donated hundreds of hours alongside Flagship kids and Missoula County Weed District and UM staff all under the supervision of greenhouse consultant Jay Estus (Montana Greenhouses). The Missoula Chamber of Commerce

and the Missoula School District were two main sources of volunteers, and we thank them.

Since the completion of our beautiful greenhouse in April 2004, we use it almost constantly for native plant education. We have christened the greenhouse and surrounding grounds "Fort Missoula Conservation Nursery" to reflect what goes on there. Our grant from the MNPS paid for general greenhouse supplies including potting soil, plant labels and pots. Two or three days a week kids work alongside University interns and other volunteers to grow blanket flowers, pussy toes, bee balm, bunch grasses, and much more. Students have planted their natives at restoration sites around Missoula, including the base of the M trail on Mt. Sentinel, the Fort Missoula Native Prairie, and a pocket park near the new Good Food Store. The kids chose the name "R.O.O.T.S." for this program (Recognizing Our Own Town's Seeds). They learn about native plants, noxious weeds, and gardening, while getting quality time

with role models and mentors who volunteer to supervise them. The kids see that their efforts to beautify Missoula make a difference, and this helps them to feel more connected to their community. Students participate year round in this project and love it.

This semester about 25 students work in the greenhouse each week after school. A current project is helping to care for seedlings that belong to the Clark Fork Chapter of the MNPS, which will be sold at the Farmer's Market on May 14th as a chapter fundraiser. Soon we will transition to outdoor projects to plant the greenhouse crop, and in late summer we will collect wildflower seeds and continue maintenance at various garden sites.

The public is invited to tour the Fort Missoula Conservation Nursery and purchase native plants from the Flagship kids on Thursday April 28th from 3-6 p.m. For directions to the greenhouse, log onto prairiekeepers.dbs.umt.edu.

Lisa Beczkiewicz and Marilyn Marler

...pollinators (Continued from page 1)
insect does both pollination and seed predation. Probably the most famous example of this comes from the yucca. The female yucca moth gathers pollen and places it on the stigma of a yucca flower. The moth then lays an egg in the ovary of the same flower, and the developing larvae feed on the developing seeds (my taxonomy professor used to quip that this was the first known case of a pistil-packing mama).

There are other animals frequenting flowers that are not pollinators or seedeaters. Most of us have reached to examine an inflorescence and been surprised by the presence of a bright white or yellow spider camouflaged among the flowers. Most often in our area these flower spiders

flowers with the dead bee and only 25% of the time on flowers with the spider, but they landed 75-95% of the time on those without the dead bee or spider. Dukas's study clearly demonstrated that the presence of a spider can deter pollinators. We might expect that fewer pollinators mean lower seed production, but his study did not directly address how plants are affected by their arachnid guests.

Nearly thirty years ago Svata Louda, then a student at San Diego State University, devised a field study that did assess how and how much spiders affected seed output. She studied goldenbush (*Haplopappus venetus* = *Isocoma menziesii*), a shrub similar to our rabbitbrush. At least 11 species of insects feed on

"This was the first known case of a pistil-packing mama."

are crab spiders, so-called because they hold their legs in a way that resembles a crab. Spiders benefit from waiting on inflorescences because

the flowers attract insects, but there is a less obvious advantage to frequenting flowers. Spiders are usually thought of as feeding solely on insects; however, crab spiders have been observed feeding on pollen and nectar. Researchers in Virginia found that mature male crab spiders do not capture prey but instead feed on nectar while looking for a receptive female. Males that had nectar available to them lived 25% longer. So male spiders sip nectar, and the females prey on both pollinators and seed predators. It's obvious that pollinators have a positive effect, and seed predators a negative effect on the plant. So what is the overall effect on the plant?

The answer seems to be that it is different for each situation. Recently Reuven Dukas, a student at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, attempted to answer this question with a series of experiments using artificial flowers much like hummingbird feeders. He placed a dead honeybee or a frozen spider on some artificial flowers but not others and compared how often honeybees visited them. Bees never landed on

the inflorescence of goldenbush, while two bees and a wasp are the common pollinators. Spiders on the inflorescences of goldenbush had good and bad effects by reducing both pollination and seed predation. However, in her study the reduction in seedeaters more than compensated for the loss of pollinators because inflorescences with spiders produced more viable seeds than those that were unoccupied. Nevertheless, Louda admits that her results could have been reversed had the spiders arrived earlier and deterred more pollinators while allowing late-hatching seed predators to lay their eggs unimpeded. Although goldenbush inflorescences with spiders produced more seeds, we don't know if this translated into a larger population of shrubs.

The plant inflorescence is the scene of complex interactions among the different insects and spiders. But it's far more than a neutral stage because these animals affect and are affected by the plant. Research to date suggests that there are no generalizations in such complex systems. Spiders may or may not enhance the performance of their host plants. Most likely it depends on what plant you're looking at and which year you're looking at it. One thing is sure; it makes a fascinating story.

MNPS ELECTIONS Move into the Electronic Age

Just when you thought it was safe to put your head up again, it's **Election Time!** The MNPS Board of Directors has again decided to award a \$100 prize to the MNPS chapter with the largest percentage of votes. This year will be the first time that MNPS members can vote electronically (much to the chagrin of the U.S. Postal Service). The MNPS board hopes this will result in an even higher level of voter participation. Please log onto the MNPS website at www.umn.edu/mnps/ and find the link to the 2005 election ballot. Please fill out the ballot and e-mail it to the Townsend MNPS Electoral College at pplantenberg@mt.gov.

If you do not want to vote electronically, please fill out the enclosed official ballot today. Results will be announced and the \$100 will be awarded at the MNPS annual meeting on June 18. This year it will be hard to beat the Maka Flora Chapter that has won the contest the last two years and are organizing the annual meeting.

The MNPS Election Committee is proud to announce that Susan Winslow has decided to run for President. Susan has been a member of MNPS since 1988, served on the Small Grants Committee for approximately 10 years and is presently Vice-president of the Artemisia Chapter.

Madeline Mazurski has agreed to try and continue her reign as Treasurer. See the enclosed budget insert for a sample of Madeline's careful work. Madeline has degrees in landscape architecture and botany, and her own design firm in Missoula, Montana Native Landscapes.

Erich Pflizer has been nominated to be the Western Representative-at-large. Erich lives in Trout Creek and works for the Cabinet Ranger District of the Kootenai National Forest as a biological technician, conducting rare plant surveys, old growth inventories and restoration.

So check out electronic voting or use the enclosed ballot to support this fine slate of candidates.

Patrick Plantenberg

Large parts of Montana have been experiencing very mild winter weather this year; some have attributed it to El Niño, while others claim the warm, dry winter is part of a pattern of climate change related to global warming.

As is generally known, spring ephemerals, many being herbaceous perennials, are ready to break dormancy after a period of cold treatment, about 30 days or so of freezing temperatures. In western Montana such cold conditioning was achieved before the end of 2004. Typically the winter weather remains frigid until March or later, and the spring flora remains dormant until soil warmth arrives.

However, this winter, during the third week of January, a team of biologists led by Wayne Tree encountered flowering early buttercups, *Ranunculus glaberrimus*, in Ravalli County, south of Missoula. Wayne contacted me about this phenological event to assess its uniqueness. I checked 100 years of early buttercup collections preserved in UM's herbarium. Among 65 specimens stored, I found no collections of flowering buttercups dated for January or February of any past year represented. And only a few for the month of March.

I was nearly certain that the flowering buttercups discovered on January 23, 2005 established a new phenological record, and I spread the word of this rare event.

As it turns out, other published sources revealed that the record-setting warmth back in 1934 triggered early January flowerings among an assortment of native plant species occurring in western Montana, including the early buttercup. In an issue of the University of Montana student newspaper, the *Kaimin*, dated February 20, 1934, it was reported that the University's botany faculty had begun compiling a list of spring flowers that they had noticed blooming before the first of February of that year.

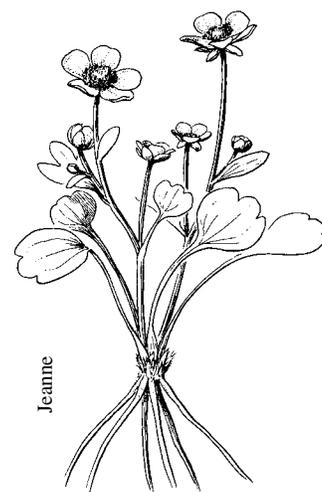
In addition to buttercups, mountain pink, wallflower, fleabane, *Cogswellia (Lomatium)* and several others had been observed in a flowering condition during January 1934. One would need to backtrack through the climatic records to describe the temperatures occurring during that winter, but some of us recall the entire decade of the 1930's being warmer and drier in the western U.S. than average, including the winters. Plant and animal life, their behaviors and abundances, may be good indicators of environmental conditions; particularly the occurrences of extremes, such as we are currently experiencing this winter.

A key short coming of the 1934 botany faculty, as I see it in retrospect, was that no one bothered to make specimen collections of the early flowering species, at least

not the buttercups, and place them in the herbarium for permanent storage. Their intentions, however, make good scientific sense; the *Kaimin* article says, "The purpose is to keep a record of the unusually early appearance of spring flowers this year to compare with data of future years."

A major role of any herbarium is not just to store dry, pressed plants, useful in identifying unknown specimens, but to establish records of geographic locations and dates of collection when plants are in flowering or fruiting condition. The January, 2005 flowering buttercups are pretty special, but as I now know, not unheard of.

Jim Habeck



Ranunculus glaberrimus (early buttercup)

Are Spring Flowers Blooming Earlier in Montana? Two Concepts Presented

We are regularly bombarded with news about global warming. It is clear that the world's glaciers are melting, including those in Glacier National Park and on the Beartooth Plateau. It is not as clear what the effects on Earth's plants and animals may be, either currently or in the future. If certain plant species bloom earlier, this could affect their pollinators and relationships with other species in their community.

Climate change is not unique to the current time period—known changes have occurred throughout Earth's history. Plant phenology is the study of periodic events such as bud opening, flowering, pollination and seed set in the life history of the plant as influenced by its environment. Since temperature is important in phenol-

ogy, gardeners, botanical personnel and others around the world have compiled spring flowering dates in various locations, and a pattern of earlier blooming in the spring is emerging, especially in Europe. We know that spring flowering dates from one year to the next may fluctuate wildly, so long-term monitoring, especially by many observers, becomes valuable. Day (night) length during any one season does not change from year to year, so earlier flowering dates are usually considered to be related to temperature.

How valuable are old records from gardens, personal notebooks and herbaria? These records are vital in establishing a historical base on which current data can build. It takes

many years and many observations by many people to establish reliable trends in phenology. The site www.plantwatch.ca has an example of the form that is used to collect standardized information that can go into their accumulating database. It could be easily adapted for Montana.

If members of the Montana Native Plant Society are interested in becoming involved in observations for a phenological network, please contact me at eversman@montana.edu. If a substantial number of volunteers are interested in such a project, we could get started on some records this very year!

Sharon Eversman

Editors' note: To view the complete text of this article, visit our website at www.umt.edu/mnps.

CALENDAR

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER

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

CALYPSO CHAPTER

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

Monday, April 11, 6:00 p.m.

"Wildflowers of Death Valley." Sheila Thompson will present pictures from her trip to Death Valley to view the spectacular bloom. Room 115 Montana Tech Chemistry/Biology Bldg. in Butte.

CLARK FORK CHAPTER

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

Shrubs are some of our most famous wildflowers and some of the best ornaments, too. Tune up your identification skills with Clark Fork Chapter photographers for a refresher on "Montana's Woody Plants." Rm L09 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

Wednesday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.

"Waterworks Hill Wildflower Loop." Hold onto your hats for this wind-swept ridge walk. Enjoy a spring hike with Annie Garde and Peter Lesica to see showy plants living in a harsh environment. Missoula phlox should be at its best. Meet at the Waterworks trailhead on Greenough Drive just north of Vine Street. Call Kelly at 258-5439 with questions.

Thursday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

"Our Annual Spring Potluck" will be held at the home of Mike Young and Dyan Mazurana, 529 Evan Kelly Rd. Go north on Duncan Drive; it's at the end of the cul-de-sac on the 3rd street on the right after the top of the hill. Bring your own utensils and a dish to share. We can poke around in Mike's native garden and check out what's going on along Rattlesnake Creek. Bring a native garden plant or two to exchange with others.

Saturday, May 14, 9:00 - 12:00 a.m.

"Annual Native Plant Society Plant Sale" at the Missoula Farmers' Market. We will be selling over 30 species of natives including our state flower the bitterroot. Come early for the best selection.

Tuesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.

"Dyer's Woad Weed Pull #1." Come help control weeds and raise money for the Clark Fork Chapter. The chapter is paid \$10.00 an hour per person, up to a total of \$400.00. Fourteen years ago the dyer's woad infestation was 7000 plants and now we rarely find more than 400; we are controlling the infestation without chemi-

cals! The pull takes about two hours. Come enjoy the view and beautiful grasslands. Meet at the Mount Sentinel trailhead. Wear sturdy shoes and bring rain gear. Call Marilyn for more information at 243-6642.

Thursday, June 2, 6:00 p.m.

"Rattlesnake Wildflower Walk." Enjoy an early evening walk with Forest Service Region One botanist Steve Shelly as he acquaints you with the wildflowers of the lower Rattlesnake Recreation Area. Meet at the main Rattlesnake trailhead. Call Steve at 542-0620 for more information.

Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.

"Dyer's Woad Weed Pull #2." Meet at the Mount Sentinel trailhead (see above). Contact Marilyn at 243-6642 for more information.

Tuesday, June 21, 6:30 p.m.

"John Toole Park Weed Pull." Help John Pierce and other volunteers continue to restore the native grasslands of the old Missoula Valley. Bring a tool for weeding and meet just north of the Waterwise Garden and east of the Missoulia, near Kim Williams Trail in John Toole Park. Call John at 542-2640 for more information.

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

"Native Plant Garden Tour." Visit some of Missoula's finest native plant gardens and meet the gardeners who created them! Meet at the Waterwise Garden east of the Missoulia offices to pick up your map with directions and a description of each garden in the tour.

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

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

passerinum, *Epipactis*, etc. For questions, call Wayne Phillips at 453-0648 or e-mail: mtwayne@juno.com.

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

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

EASTERN MONTANA

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

FLATHEAD CHAPTER

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

Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

"Mushrooms!!" A slide show by Dale Johnson at the Mennonite Church (see above). A general meeting is at 5:30 (everyone invited), and the program starts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21, 5:30 p.m.

"Spring Creek Cemetery Walk." Visit an old cemetery in the West Valley where a rare remnant patch of native grassland still exists. See what the Flathead Valley floor looked like 200 years ago before cultivation and development. Jen Asebrook, botanist for Glacier National Park, will lead this walk through the headstones. We will meet at the north end of the Flathead Valley Community College parking lot at 5:30 and carpool from there. Call Jen at 863-9630 for details. This field trip is in lieu of the regular May meeting.

KELSEY CHAPTER

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

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.

"Hands-on Carices mini-class." Drake Barton and Scott Mincemoyer will lead us

through the terminology and features associated with Carices. Carroll College biology bldg. (call Drake at 449-6586 for specifics). Bring a copy of Dorn's *Vascular Plants of Montana*, if you have one.

Thursday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

"Primitive Skills Using Local Montana Plants." Rocky Mountain botanist and naturalist Kevin Taylor will share his experiences using Montana plants for primitive skills such as friction fire making, basketry, rope making, painting, shelter building, collecting and processing edibles and medicinals, and more. The presentation will involve a slide show and some of the materials and examples of Kevin's work. Lewis and Clark Library large meeting room.

Thursday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.

"Hands-on Carices mini-class." Drake Barton and Scott Mincemoyer will lead us in keying out some *Carex* specimens, using the knowledge developed last week. Carroll College biology bldg. (call Drake at 449-6586 for specifics). Bring a copy of Dorn's *Vascular Plants of Montana*, if you have one.

Tuesday, April 19

"Mount Helena Wildflower Slide Show" by Drake Barton. Call 449-6586 for place and time. Brush up for spring!

Thursday, May 5, 6:00 p.m.

"Mount Helena spring wildflower walk" with Drake Barton. Here's a chance to learn some of our common plants. Meet at the Mount Helena trailhead.

Tuesday, May 24

The Kelsey Chapter, the Helena National Forest and the Montana Discovery Foundation are once again inviting fourth grade classes to take part in "Celebrating Wildflowers—National Wildflower Week." In recognition of National Wildflower Week a hike up Mount Helena will be conducted for the fourth graders on Tuesday, May 24. The hike will provide an outdoor educational experience for students through wildflower identification and several activity stations. Those wishing to take part as a hike leader for this event are asked to contact Kathy Martin at 443-1712 or katbrim@peoplepc.com for additional information.

Saturday, June 11, 10:00 a.m.

"Potluck picnic and wildflower hike along the Little Blackfoot River near Elliston." We will take a casual stroll to view the season's wildflower offerings and then have a potluck picnic. Bring something to share and your own table service. Meet

for carpooling at the west end of the Lundy Center in Helena at 10 a.m. Call Mary Johnson at 442-4676 for details.

Sunday, June 26

"Bitterroot hike." We will observe bitterroot near Austin on BLM land. Call Bea Vogel at 442-1514 for details.

MAKA FLORA CHAPTER

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

Friday-Sunday, June 17-19

"Bad Land II Annual Meeting of MNPS." Richardson's Coulee, near Antelope. Assorted field trips on Saturday. See the enclosed registration form or log onto the website: www.umt.edu/mnps.

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

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

VALLEY OF FLOWERS

The Valley of Flowers Chapter is in the process of planning spring and summer field trips. In addition to the events listed below, we are planning several more field trips. Please check the MNPS website, field trip booklet due out May 1, or contact Monica at 763-4109 if you need updated information.

Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.

Wayne Phillips will present "*Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*," a one-hour slide lecture that combines history with botany at The Museum of the Rockies. Wayne takes the audience from St. Louis to Fort Clatsop along the Lewis and Clark Trail, traveling through six geographic eco-regions. With stunning photography he shows the characteristic landscape and plants encountered by Lewis and Clark, while discussing the related observations of the explorers in their journals. The presenter dresses in authentic period costume and shows herbarium specimens and dried berries and roots used as trade items. The presentation will emphasize the plants encountered in the Rocky Mountains and Missouri High Plains and concludes with a suspenseful story of dangers faced by the explorers.

Sunday, May 29, 9:00 a.m.

"Grassy Mountain Wildflower Walk" with the Montana Wilderness Association. An easy to moderate hike of 4 miles led by Norm Weeden and Tad Weaver

through stunning rock gardens of cushion plants, such as forget-me-not, phlox, *Townsendia*, and biscuit root. On the return, we'll hike over rolling hills of balsamroot and through meadows of spring beauty, pasque flower, bluebells and larkspur. Reservations are required by May 22. Call 406-582-1014, or nweeden@bresnan.net.

June 3 – July 22

"Designing with Natives." The Emerson @ Beall Park in Bozeman invites the community to an exhibit "*Western Wildflowers*," photographs by Bruce Selyem on display in the lobby. See page 10.

Thursday, June 16, 7:00 p.m.

Beth MacFawn, owner of Beth MacFawn Landscape Design will be giving a PowerPoint presentation *Designing with Natives*. See page 10 for details.

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

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

WESTERN MONTANA

For information about activities in Western Montana, call our Western Montana Representative-elect Erich Pfalzer at 406-827-4018.

Join Wayne Phillips in a Search for *Prunus pensylvanica*

Lewis's "beaver bends" of the Missouri above Williston, ND, are now inundated by Lake Sakakawea, however coulees in the area may still harbor pin cherry or bird cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*) near where Lewis made his collection (see article on page 3). Wayne will be searching for pin cherry in this area after the annual meeting on July 19, and welcomes any other Lewis & Clark botany enthusiasts who would like to join him.

Annual Montana Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 14, 9:00 - 12:00 a.m. at the Missoula Farmers' Market



Debbie

Come early for the best selection!

Rep Rap

Dennis Nicholls, Outgoing Western Representative

A month ago I could not help canvassing rocky outcrops along the lower Clark Fork Valley in search of buttercups. I did not want to be too obvious for fear someone would ridicule me for expecting wildflowers in February, but who among us could have helped themselves? A record dry February with no snow, starry nights and warm, sunny days definitely had me thinking spring. Heck, I was pulling the first ticks of the season off me by the middle of the month!

The unusually dry and snow-free winter has officials fearing an active wildfire season, probably all over the state. But here in the far west end it is amazing how dry the lower elevations on south- and west-facing slopes have already become. On the one hand, however, that could be good. The forests of western Montana evolved with frequent fire and many thousands of acres are in need of a good burn. Landscapes dominated by lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), for instance, depend on fire for reproduction. Numerous forbs are fire-dependent, such as one of my favorite summer flowers, fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*).

The problem is that with such effective fire suppression for the past 80 years, the Forest Service rightly fears catastrophic infernos that could damage private property as well as rejuvenate forested habitats. Fuels are at dangerously high levels in many forest types, especially where Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and grand fir (*Abies grandis*) are abundant. They are both prone to root diseases and bark beetle infestations and huge areas of dead trees are everywhere in the Cabinet Mountains and elsewhere in this region. It will be a tricky year if spring rains do not materialize any better than the usual winter snows.

As of the March board meeting in Helena, I have stepped down as Western Representative on the MNPS Board of Directors. Some personal matters are requiring a great deal of my time and energy and I felt it was in the best interest of the society

that someone take my place. Erich Pflazer of Trout Creek has been coaxed by Pete Lesica to throw his hat into the ring, and Erich has expressed interest in doing so. He is an excellent botanist and works as a forestry technician on the Cabinet Ranger District of the Kootenai National Forest. He will be a wonderful asset to the society (look for Erich's name on the enclosed ballot).

I have found in MNPS many wonderful people I think of as good friends. I love the camaraderie of fellow native plant lovers and I hope to see you on a field trip, at the annual meeting or simply out wandering in the mountains somewhere. I am grateful for the friendships I have come to enjoy over the years. A lot of you mean a great deal to me. Thank you.

Flathead Chapter Report

The Flathead Chapter has been working on assembling a list of local native gardens that the public can visit. The idea came up after Marilyn Marler, our wonderful state Webmaster, indicated she was hoping to make garden information available on our website. We decided to produce two versions of the native plant garden list. A "short list" with locations and brief garden descriptions will be incorporated into our landscaping packet. A longer, more detailed description of each garden will be available on the website. Both lists are works in progress at this time, but the short list is almost finished.

Our programs have been moderately attended. We seem to be drawing fewer people to our new meeting site (the Mennonite Church in Creston), which is further from Whitefish and Kalispell, but still very easy to get to. So if you're a Flathead member, please make the effort to see the last couple of programs this season! It's good to show our support for speakers who work hard to bring our chapter these wonderful seminars. Thanks, all Flathead members, for your continued support!

Shannon Kimball

Events at Beall Park

The Emerson @ Beall Park in Bozeman invites the community to an exhibit titled *Western Wildflowers*, photographs by Bruce Selyem on display in the lobby from June 3 - July 22. Over seventy-five flowers are depicted with the combined sensitivity of an artist and avid outdoorsman and will include plant identification and location. Visit with Bruce Selyem about his ideas and techniques at his opening reception, Friday, June 3rd, from 7-9 p.m. The wildflower exhibit is held in conjunction with The Emerson's annual Garden Tour fundraiser held on Saturday, June 25th, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Beall Park. This year's garden tour will feature selected gardens with an eye for natives.

Beth MacFawn, a member of the Montana Native Plant Society and owner of Beth MacFawn Landscape Design, will be giving a PowerPoint presentation *Designing with Natives* on Thursday, June 16th, at 7 p.m. The event is free and the public is invited. Her presentation will cover defining native plants, the purpose of planting natives, and starting your own native landscape. She will share inspiring examples of landscape designs utilizing natives. Beth is a graduate of Montana State University (1995) with a bachelor of science in horticulture, with a landscape design emphasis. As a landscape designer she creates a sense of place in harmony with the existing environment while encouraging native plants, from trees to lawns.

Beall Park Art Center is located at 409 North Bozeman, in Bozeman. For further information please contact Ellen Ornitz, 586-3970.

Lewis and Clark Visitor Training

April 26-27: Doubletree Hotel in Missoula

May 3-4: Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls

If you are interested in attending, please contact Ken Wilk at Kenneth.S.Wilk@usace.army.mil or 785-453-2338. Advance registration is preferred to ensure adequate space and materials.

MNPS Chapters & the Areas They Serve:

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

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

Your mailing label tells you the following:

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

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

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

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Name (please print) _____ E-mail _____

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If you wish to be affiliated with a chapter (see above), list it here _____

Membership Dues	Price with chapter affiliation	Price no chapter affiliation
Individual	\$18	\$12
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Business/Organization	\$35	\$30
Living Lightly	\$12	\$12
Lifetime (one-time payment)	\$300	

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 P.O. Box 8783
 Missoula, MT 59807-8783



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Montana Native Plant Society

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

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

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

Advertising space is available in each issue at \$5/column inch. Ads must be camera-ready and must meet the guidelines set by the Board of Directors for suitable subject matter; that is, be related in some way to native plants or the interests of MNPS members.

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

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

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

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