

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

www.umt.edu/mnps/

focus on

VALLEY NURSERY

cold hardy natives from the Helena Valley

by Patrick Plantenberg & Kathy Lloyd

Clayton Berg is a slightly built 74-year-old with lots of experience and the opinions to go with it. An entomologist with a minor in botany and horticulture from South Dakota State University in Brookings, Clayton has always been interested in trees; whether fishing along Montana rivers or out collecting plants, trees always catch his attention.

Clayton Berg, the "Plants Man," has had Valley Nursery since the 1960's when he bought an alfalfa field and started to grow plants in the area that is now his nursery. Valley Nursery, 10-acres in the Helena Valley, boasts the largest collection of cold hardy plants for the northern U.S., and grows and propagates native plants from the northern U.S. as well as introduced plants from all across Canada, northern Europe, and northern Asia. Valley Nursery has over 80 native woody plant collections that have survived the Helena Valley climate for years and can be propagated for sale (see the plant list on page 7).

Clayton is a grower—and not, as he makes clear, just a peddler—who specializes in plant evaluation, test-

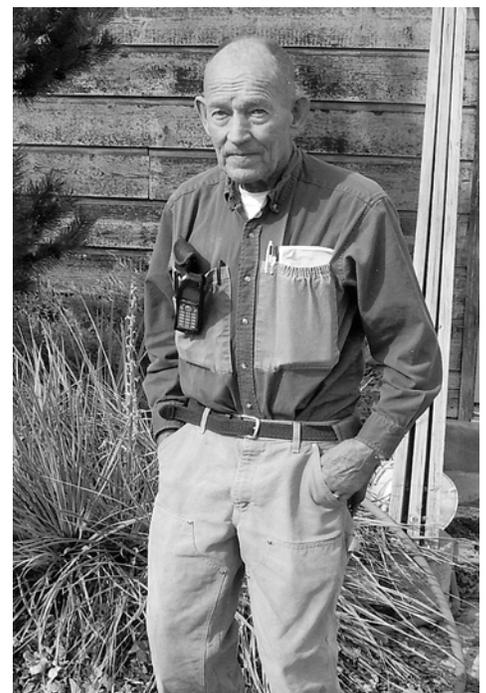
ing, and breeding. He acquires information by growing the plants. Clayton depends on open pollination, chance seedlings, and cross-pollination. As he says, "Darwin was for real. The seed source or cutting source is important." Over the years he has found some plants from the Belt Mountains to be harder than plants from the Continental Divide.

Valley Nursery sells native and introduced plants propagated from Clayton's collections to Sunrise Nursery in Billings, and they ship plants to both coasts and Canada. Clayton has many named varieties and has two patented selections of juniper. His 'winter blue' juniper is probably a *J. horizontalis* X *J. scopulorum* cross, collected right in his nursery. His 'blue creeper' juniper was collected between Helena and Glacier Park. Some large nurseries are growing Valley Nursery plant collections, including Monrovia Nursery in California, Bailey Nursery in Minnesota, and Douglas Nursery in Canby, Oregon. Clayton has had the opportunity to buy his own plants back for retail sale at the nursery, which ensures the plants' hardiness in the Montana climate. But Valley Nursery has had limited plant sales to MNPS members and Montana nurseries. Clayton

would like to make the information he has learned available so people make better choices when buying plant materials and would like to reach more of the local market in Montana. As the demand and market for native plants increases, Valley Nursery will be able to grow even more natives adapted to our climate. Clayton and his assistant for 15 years, Sharon Teigen, will gladly propagate any of their native woody plant collections for sale.

With Clayton everything is an educational endeavor. He worked for the Forest Service in the 50's as a smoke jumper and for a while at the Rocky Mountain Lab in Corvallis. Clayton was also a city-county sanitarian in

(Continued on page 7)



Clayton Berg, the Plants Man of Valley Nursery. photo: Patrick Plantenberg



President's Platform

Susan Winslow



April showers led to some very nice May flowers in our area. Especially showy shrubs were American plum, golden currant, red osier dogwood, chokecherry, and woods rose. The silver buffaloberry was so early and nondescript that the fruit appeared as if by magic. A hard frost then proceeded to nip many of these beauties, and the anticipation of a good apple crop simply bruised and turned brown. Many of the early herbaceous standbys such as Hood's phlox, biscuitroot, star lily, and milkvetch drew earnest eyes down for a close inspection of these charming specimens. I saw a stunning yellow display of either *Physaria* or *Lesquerella* (distinguishable only by mature fruit) while traveling through the harsh conditions of the Pryor Mountain Wildhorse Range. The Montana state flower, bitterroot, appeared locally

in places previously unknown to me—I find this plant incredible in its ability to remain dormant for so many years and then suddenly, under favorable conditions, the stored energy reserves vigorously engage and the result is a blinding pink patchwork on the uplands. Of course many native plants compete valiantly for their existence against seriously invasive weed species and it is so disheartening to witness the struggle. The control of weeds is a necessary evil pursued by each of us in our own fashion.

The annual meeting, A Floral Banquet, is fast approaching so I encourage everyone to attend the event being held at Wall Creek in the Madison Valley. One of the highlights of the summer meeting is Pat Plantenberg's report on the election results and I'm anxious to learn who will be

elected into office. There is still time to cast ballots, so please get your vote out. This will be the first for me as president of the Society and I have a tad bit of trepidation as the time draws near. I've learned in my short tenure that the Board and general membership are forgiving, supportive, and very patient—thankfully. Thanks in advance to the dedicated folks of the Clark Fork Chapter for a fun and educational weekend.

Also in order are big kudos to all the energetic state-wide organizers and participants of the 55 scheduled activities listed in the guide to summer field trips. At the time of printing, more than 60% have been completed and probably thousands of plants catalogued along the trail. Anyway, take time to come to the meeting, and have a great summer!

Susan can be reached at P.O. Box 502, Bridger, MT 59014 406-668-9112 e-mail: susan213@msn.com

MNPS ELECTIONS - NOT MATCHED and STARTING TO LAG

The MNPS Election Committee provides this election update for our members on the two coasts of Montana who still want to vote before the polls close. The Maka Flora Chapter voter percentage is behind last year's winning number, making this the year for another chapter to win the \$100 prize for casting the largest percentage of votes. Of course, Maka Flora members who haven't voted can still vote. If they threw their paper ballots away, they can obtain ballots on the MNPS website and rally at the end. Just log on to the website at www.umt.edu/mnps/ and find the link to the 2006 election ballot. Please fill out the ballot and e-mail it to the MNPS Electoral College in Townsend at pplantenberg@mt.gov.

We do have one write-in candidate. More are expected as the Election Committee starts to count absentee ballots received from other states.

Other organizations have not responded to our election challenge.

Obviously, they can't compete.

Election results will be announced and the \$100 will be awarded at the MNPS Annual Meeting, July 14-16, 2006, at the Wall Creek Wildlife Management Area in the Gravelly Mountains. Keep the ballots coming!

Patrick Plantenberg

WELCOME new members!

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

Artemisia Chapter: Mary Lou & Claude Mayes; **Calypso Chapter:** Kirsten Boyle, Kari Miller, Judith Waring; **Clark Fork Chapter:** Lisa Carter, Tom Deveny, Betsy Griffing, Pelah Hoty; **Kelsey Chapter:** Amy Bulter, Sharon Teigen; **Valley of Flowers:** Leslie Eddington, Lynette Kemp, Marianne Klein, Theresa Schrum; **Eastern Montana:** Walter Fertig, Vinita Shea.

Your participation and support are important to us! Please contact your chapter representative with any ideas or suggestions you may have.

Montana Audubon Releases Wetlands Report: Stream Development Puts Montana Waters At Risk

Adapted from Montana Audubon's Magpie Muse, Spring 2006

Montana's streams and wetlands are increasingly being filled and lost to development, without the kind of mitigation and restoration required by the Clean Water Act, according to a report released last fall by Montana Audubon.

The Audubon study, *Impacts of the 404 Permit Program on Wetlands and Waterways in Montana and Recommendations for Program Improvement*, looked at all of the stream- and wetland-filling permits issued by the Corps of Engineers in Montana from 1990-2002. The Corps approved 99.8% of requests to fill or develop wetlands, authorized degradation of almost 180 miles of streams and rivers, and authorized filling almost 900 acres of wetlands, and more. The full report is available at Montana Audubon or: www.mtaudubon.org

Spread a Little Bit of Love

In the mid-70s while attending Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) in Kalispell, I became interested in botany while most of my friends pursued forestry. They were more drawn to how to harvest old-growth climax forests and replace them with fast-growing seral species for a quick return on the investment. Some of my friends scorned me for the tendency to fall to my knees to more closely examine a flower while they eyed centuries-old giants and calculated the board footage.

One fellow, I remember, challenged me as to whether I was really learning anything. "Okay," he spat, "what's the Latin for glacier lily?" I suspect it was the only wildflower for which he knew the Latin name, and he must have thought it was a toughie, judging by the smirk on his face.

But when I promptly and confidently replied, "*Erythronium grandiflorum*," he walked away, perhaps convince I knew what I was doing, perhaps not, but it didn't matter. I was in love and my heart had been opened to a whole new world.

My love for Montana's native flora was fostered by Dr. Michael Britton, a professor at FVCC I came to admire and respect more than just about any other person who had ever influenced my life. He was the one who taught me the scientific name for glacier lily, and a great deal more. Though I didn't see him much after leaving FVCC to take a job with the Forest Service that he helped arrange, I have never forgotten him and the marvelous teacher and role model he was for me. Every time I see a glacier lily it conjures up his painstaking instruction in the conservation and ecology of native plants. "You know," he once said, "glacier lilies are edible, the whole plant, from the thick, juicy bulbs to the brilliant yellow petals."

Erythronium grandiflorum was the first Montana plant I ever put in my mouth, and since those field trip

days in the spring of '76 when I feasted on them up at Lone Pine State Park, I rather imagine I have consumed thousands of these delectable delicacies. As with most plants, they are best when young and fresh. Go ahead and pick a plant right alongside the trail and begin with the succulent stem, then the leaves, and lastly the flower. It can be a hilarious sight watching a friend with a glacier lily stuck between their lips, and then see it disappear amid grunts of pleasure.

Though the bulbs are most delicious, by leaving them in the ground the plant will grow again. And while eating them in the woods is the most fun, they can be carefully packed away and added to a salad at home for extra special flavor and color.

Glacier lilies are a spring wildflower, but they can be found over the course of several months as the snowline recedes upslope. Fortunately, they grow from valley floors as low as the lower Clark Fork Valley at 2,200 feet to subalpine terrain approaching 8,000 feet. Because of this broad ecological latitude, *Erythronium grandiflorum* is among the most prolific spring plants in Montana.

Thirty years ago I learned many of these plant facts from a man who unselfishly shared his love for Montana's native wildflowers. Nowadays, as I wander the mountains on glorious spring days, or simply look at pictures of glacier lilies in my favorite flower books (like Shannon Kimball and Pete Lesica's *Wildflowers of Glacier National Park*, or Wayne Phillips' *Northern Rocky Mountain Wildflowers*), I gratefully recall Dr. Michael Britton's enthusiasm. It was contagious.

If you suffer from a contagious love for native plants, thank the one who infected you, then spread it around. We could all stand to share a little bit of love, even for small beauties like the glacier lily.

Dennis Nicholls

Glacier Lily illustrated by Debbie McNiel

Is the *Kelseya* dying?

Naw, not this quarterly. The *Kelseya* is a vibrant and informative journal/newsletter about native plants in Montana. I'm asking if your patch of *Kelseya uniflora* is a vibrant population.

Sykes Ridge is the eastern escarpment of the trap door uplift of East Pryor Mountain. One ascends Sykes Ridge on a rough four-wheel drive tract, all the while peering down over 1,500 feet of limestone cliffs into the canyon of the Bighorn River. At 6,200 feet elevation one comes to intriguing, mossy, green mounds adhering to the limestone, resembling green mold growing on graying cheese. For over three miles, as the road parallels the cliff edge, these mounds of *Kelseya uniflora* seem to be everywhere. In April, as the snow melts back, those who make the trek are treated to the mounds having turned rosy-pink with the tiniest of blossoms.

Over the past three springs there have been few blossoms and many of the *Kelseya uniflora* cushions have turned from mossy, gray-green to brown, then black, and finally loose the foliage to reveal a skeleton of gnarled branches of the toughest wood. These cushion plants, which have endured untold years of weather cycles, are now dying back.

In a belt transect 20 by 60 feet there were 39 *Kelseya uniflora* cushions. Three were totally dead, 35 had dead branches, and only one was all green. There was no evidence of disease. Sykes Ridge is miles down wind from any source of air pollution such as coal-fired generation plants. But the Pryors have been experiencing serve drought.

We are in the process of documenting this die-back. We have photos of *Kelseya uniflora* taken in 1972, which we are comparing with photos taken this spring. The difference is obvious. There is also some die-back of rock mat, *Petrophyton caespitosum*, but it is not as severe as with *Kelseya uniflora*.

Is this die-back of *Kelseya uniflora* happening elsewhere in Montana and

(Continued on page 4)

Available from MNPS

The third edition of the *Source Guide for Native Plants of Montana* is still available. The cost is \$6.00. Send a check made out to MNPS to: MNPS Publications, 1270 Lower Sweet Grass Road, Big Timber, MT 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.

Woad Warriors Strike Again

The first dyer's woad pull on May 23rd was a tremendous success! A group of 20-some volunteers and staff gathered at the base of Missoula's Mt. Sentinel in the early evening, and after discussing the history and biology of dyer's woad in Montana, and a crash course in identification for the 10 or so folks who had never attended the pull before, we headed up the hill.

We combed the lower half of the mountain, looking carefully for dastardly woads amongst the balsamroot, bunchgrasses, spring chickweed, penstemons of various hues, paintbrushes, and lupines.

The good news: we found only about 210 plants! Last year at this time we found close to 1,000. In case we missed some (and we always do the first time around), we are repeating the event on June 6 and June 20—persistence pays off!

Monica Pokorny, president of the Valley of Flowers Chapter who also serves as the statewide woad task force coordinator, was there to keep us on task—thanks Monica! And thanks to Kelly Chadwick and Peter Lesica, co-vice presidents of the Clark Fork Chapter, who do this pull every single year (for the past 15 years). GO, Woad Warriors! Join us next time!

Marilyn Marler

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 334 North Many Lakes Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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@hughes.net. to order.

Available from the Valley of Flowers Chapter: a booklet of information on landscaping with natives in the Bozeman, Livingston, and Big Timber areas. The booklet will be mailed to you for \$6.50. Contact Denise Montgomery at 586-0156 or e-mail: nmontgomery@montanadsl.net to order.

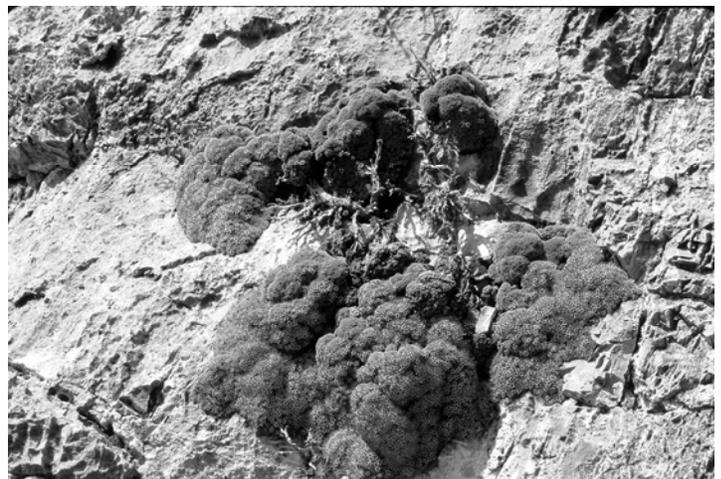
Visit the MNPS website at www.umt.edu/mnps to download in pdf format *Weeds Listed as Noxious by Montana Counties*, a list of weeds that are targeted by each county; *Guidelines for Selecting Horticultural Plant Material for Montana*, voluntary guidelines by MNPS and the Montana Nursery and Landscape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

...*Kelseya uniflora* (Continued from page 3)

Wyoming? This summer while you are enjoying clambering over limestone ridges, take note of the kelseya. Is it healthy, or is it also dying back?

Send me a brief note explaining what you have observed. Is the kelseya population healthy or not? Estimate what percent of the cushions have dead branches and the percent of cushions that are totally dead. Has the precipitation in the vicinity been scanty or closer to normal? Any such information will be appreciated. Please send your information to: Clayton McCracken, chmc9@bresnan.net, or mail to 3227 Country Club Circle, Billings, MT 59102.

Clayton McCracken



Kelseya uniflora mats on a limestone cliff. Photo: Drake Barton

Can Botanists Be Bought? Professor Joseph W. Blankinship: "Professional Witness"

While researching the early years of University of Montana's Professor of Biology, Dr. Morton J. Elrod, I came across some interesting information about another early-day Professor of Botany from Montana State University, Dr. Joseph W. Blankinship. Both of these professors were active field biologists during the turn of the 20th Century. They knew one another, and both knew of biology field work the other was engaged in.

When he first arrived at Missoula in 1897 Professor Elrod taught both botany and zoology; he is well known as the founder of UM's Flathead Lake Biological Station in 1899, and was active in starting Glacier Park's first Naturalist Guide Program. Professor Blankinship was more narrowly focused in the plant sciences. One of the most historically important publications dealing with Montana botany was written by Blankinship, *A century of botanical exploration in Montana, 1805-1905: collectors, herbaria and bibliography*. This was published in the first issue of the "Montana Agricultural College Science Studies Series: Botany," November 1904.

I discovered that in the spring of 1908, Morton Elrod's name had been deleted from the faculty list of professors elected for rehire for the fall term of 1908. He had been fired by the Montana Board of Education! Further research led me to discover that his dismissal was related to his having given courtroom testimony about cropland damage caused by the Washoe Copper Smelter fumes. Deer Lodge Valley farmers and ranchers had sued the copper company, based in Butte, for losses they suffered from the poisonous, toxic fumes that drifted over their fields and

pastures. Morton Elrod had visited and examined the impacted areas during the summers of 1905 and 1906, and photographed the damage. I don't know exactly what Elrod's testimony was, but it was enough to anger the copper company, who managed to get Elrod dismissed from his job at UM.

Dr. Donald MacMillan, a University of Montana history graduate student and student of K. Ross Toole, wrote a 400-page PhD dissertation on this smelter fume court case. And it is on page 154 of this thesis that Dr. Blankinship's name surfaces. He had been recruited by the Anaconda Copper Company to testify in this court case. His "assignment" was to rebut the evidence provided by other scientists hired by the farmers, including Elrod, that the smelter gas fumigations had, and were, causing lethal damage to crop and native range plants, and injury to farm animals. And he gladly did so. Dr. MacMillan wrote, quoting State Attorney General George Wickersham from a 1911 letter, "One of the most pathetic representatives of academia and professionalism to testify in the Bliss case was a puffed-up, self-important professor from the Agricultural College of Bozeman. Professor Joseph Blankinship testified for the Amalgamated. Thereafter he became 'a well-known professional witness' appearing constantly for

various smelter companies whenever they were sued for damage resulting from fume emissions. Professor Blankinship conceived of himself as a scientist ahead of his time. He had discovered the disease responsible for the damage to vegetation in the Deer Lodge Valley: The 'drying up disease' he termed it." And that was his testimony!

Admittedly all plant biologists aren't perfect, never have and never will be, but Professor Blankinship seemed to have erred on the side of extreme imperfection. There was no tenure system in place on Montana campuses, and Elrod was placed on the hit list for removal for his actions, along with a UM Professor of Chemistry who also researched the fume problems. However, in the summer of 1908 a massive out-pouring of support for Morton Elrod was generated by alumni and campus students who presented signed petitions to Governor Norris and UM President Duniway for Elrod's reinstatement. It worked! Elrod remained on the job, but the records I've examined don't show that Elrod ever spoke publicly again about the toxic smelter fumes. So really, the copper company won, since truth was silenced. I have no information on how Professor Blankinship's reputation survived into the future. Perhaps some newsletter readers can fill me in.

Jim Habeck



What's a tree to do?

Interactions between nutcrackers, squirrels, and bird-dispersed pines

This article is reprinted with permission of the author from Castilleja Vol. 25, No. 1.

Seed dispersal strategies are an important facet of the natural histories of plants. Most plants benefit from seed dispersal by having their seeds moved from the immediate vicinity of the parent plant, thereby reducing the chances of seed predation and competition with their siblings, among other benefits. Limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) is among the 20 pine species that rely on birds, namely Clark's nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*), to disperse their seeds. Unlike most pines, bird-dispersed pines lack the wings on the seeds that slow their descent to the ground allowing them to be dispersed by wind. If you watch a group of nutcrackers in the fall, you will see them using their bills to shred the tough cone scales or reaching between open cone scales of limber pine to remove the seeds. During the fall an individual nutcracker will bury up to an estimated 98,000 seeds a year! Nutcrackers rely on these seeds throughout the winter and spring and into early summer as a resource for themselves and their offspring. However, many buried seeds are not retrieved by nutcrackers and some may germinate into new trees before beginning the cycle anew.

The interaction between nutcrackers and limber pine is an example of mutualism. Both nutcrackers and the trees benefit from the interaction. Trees provide nutcrackers with a nutritious food while the nutcrackers disperse the seeds. But there are costs. Many of the seeds are eaten, and in some years no cones are produced. Hence the interaction is very dynamic. Nutcrackers, however, are not the only animals that eat the seeds of limber pine. In fact, the most important seed predator of limber pine is likely the pine squirrel (*Tamiasciurus* spp.), which is common to many of the coniferous areas throughout the Rockies and Sierra Nevada. Like nutcrackers, squirrels remove large numbers of seeds each



2.

year from limber pine and other conifers. Unlike nutcrackers, however, squirrels are a seed predator, not a seed disperser—the pines do not benefit from having their cones harvested by squirrels. Because squirrels do not provide a benefit like nutcrackers, this creates a conflict of interest where both nutcrackers and squirrels coexist with these conifers.

Trees that minimize cone harvest by pine squirrels while maximizing seed harvest by nutcrackers will produce the most seedlings. These trees have a reproductive advantage and therefore come to represent more and more of future generations. This is simply how natural selection causes populations to evolve over time. One of the most important functions of conifer cones is to protect seeds, so what you might expect is where pine squirrels occur, seeds are well defended by larger cones. Where pine squirrels are absent, such well-defended seeds are not necessary. Thus, in regions where pines squirrels are absent we expect trees that invest less in seed defenses should be more attractive to nutcrackers and have more of their seeds dispersed. Over time, these trees that are producing more seeds and allocating less to defenses should increase in the population. I have measured tree preferences of both pine squirrels and nutcrackers, which is a way to measure natural selection exerted by these animals, and not surprisingly, they strongly prefer to forage on trees with less-defended cones.

If you look at limber pine cones from mountain ranges in the Great Basin where squirrels have been absent for 10,000 or more years, and

Figure 1. Limber pine cone from the Rocky Mountains/Sierra Nevada, where pine squirrels are present. Figure 2. Limber pine cone from the Great Basin, where pine squirrels are absent.

Photos: Adam Siepielski



1.

compare these cones to limber pine from throughout the Rockies or Sierra Nevada where squirrels are present, you will notice they are very different (see above). Cones in the Great Basin are much smaller, with thinner cone scales, than cones in the Rockies or in the Sierra Nevada, but even though the cones are smaller they have twice as many seeds. This makes sense when we consider the preferences of squirrels (as seed predators) and nutcrackers (as seed dispersers), and is a wonderful example of how natural selection influences conifer cone structure.

These patterns are also replicated in another related bird-dispersed pine, whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), which occurs throughout the Rockies and Sierra Nevada, and further supports the hypothesis that these pines are evolving in response to the balance of natural selection exerted between nutcrackers and pine squirrels.

This work highlights the importance of taking a broad perspective on how organisms interact in nature. It also emphasizes why protection of numerous areas is important, because interactions between organisms do not occur in the same way in every location, and this diversity of interaction is as important to conservation as are the species themselves.

Adam Siepielski

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Cold Hardy Trees and Shrubs Available at Valley Nursery

TREES

Abies lasiocarpa	Subalpine fir
Acer glabrum	Rocky Mountain maple
Acer negundo	Boxelder
Betula papyrifera	Paper birch
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Green ash
Juniperus scopulorum	Rocky Mountain juniper
Larix occidentalis	Western larch
Picea engelmannii	Engelmann spruce
Picea glauca	White spruce
Pinus albicaulis	Whitebark pine
Pinus contorta	Lodgepole pine
Pinus flexilis	Limber pine
Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa pine
Populus acuminata	Lanceleaf cottonwood
Populus angustifolia	Narrowleaf cottonwood
Populus deltoides	Plains cottonwood
Populus tremuloides	Quaking aspen
Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood
Prunus americana	American plum
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas-fir
Quercus macrocarpa	Bur oak
Salix amygdaloides	Peachleaf willow
Sorbus scopulina	Mountain ash
Sorbus sitchensis	Sitka mountain ash
Ulmus Americana	American elm

SHRUBS

Alnus incana	Mountain alder
Amelanchier alnifolia	Western serviceberry
Amorpha canescens	Lead plant
Arctostaphylos uva ursi	Kinnikinnick
Artemisia cana	Silver sage
Artemisia frigida	Fringed sagewort
Artemisia tridentata	Big sagebrush
Berberis (Mahonia) repens	Oregon-grape
Betula glandulosa	Bog birch
Cercocarpus ledifolius	Curl-leaf mountain mahogany

Cercocarpus montanus	Birch-leaf mountain mahogany
Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Common rabbitbrush
Clematis columbiana	Columbia clematis
Clematis ligusticifolia	Western virgins-bower
Cornus stolonifera	Red osier dogwood
Crataegus columbiana	Columbia hawthorn
Crataegus douglasii	Black hawthorn
Elaeagnus commutata	Silverberry
Juniperus communis	Common juniper
Juniperus horizontalis	Creeping juniper
Leptodactylon pungens	Prickly phlox
Lonicera involucrata	Twin-berry honeysuckle
Philadelphus lewisii	Mockorange
Physocarpus malvaceus	Mallow ninebark
Potentilla fruticosa	Shrubby cinquefoil
Prunus pennsylvanica	Pin cherry
Prunus pumila	Sand cherry
Prunus virginiana	Common chokecherry
Rhus glabra	Smooth sumac
Rhus trilobata	Skunkbush sumac
Ribes aureum	Golden currant
Ribes cereum	Wax (squaw) currant
Rosa woodsii	Wood's rose
Rubus parviflorus	Thimbleberry
Rubus idaeus	Red raspberry
Salix arctica	Arctic willow
Salix exigua	Sandbar willow
Sambucus cerulea	Blue elderberry
Sambucus racemosa	Red elderberry
Shepherdia argentea	Thorny buffaloberry
Shepherdia canadensis	Russet buffaloberry
Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry
Symphoricarpos occidentalis	Western snowberry
Viburnum lentago	Nannyberry
Viburnum opulus (trilobum)	Highbush cranberry
Vitis riparia	Riverbank grape
Yucca glauca	Yucca

...Valley Nursery (Continued from page 1)

Helena. During his tenure he was able to get the sewage out of Helena streams, an accomplishment of which he is proud. He is an avid reader, but does not claim to be self-taught when it comes to plant propagation. "That would be too restrictive," Clayton says. Clayton has had the opportunity to associate with many experts in plant growing (Porter, Skinner, Dropmore, Kerr, Sutherland, Simonette, Cummings, Holliday, Moran), and is a keeper of their plant materials.

Clayton and Sharon took part in the Native Plant Landscaping Exhibition co-sponsored by the Kelsey Chapter in April, and generously donated native plants to sell as a chapter fundraiser. Many thanks!

Above is a list of the native woody plant collections in stock at Valley Nursery. For more information and to order plants for fall 2006 or spring 2007 delivery, contact Clayton or Sharon at Valley Nursery, 4303 Frontage Road, P.O. Box 4845, Helena, MT 59604 or call 458-3992.

Native Plant Sale Success

The Clark Fork Chapter held its annual native plant sale at the Missoula Farmer's Market on May 20th. We offered over 1,100 plants of about 60 species, including perennial favorites (pun intended!) such as *Lewisia rediviva*, *Antennaria rosea*, *Oenothera flava*, and *Penstemon wilcoxii*, along with some novelties like *Lonicera ciliata*, *Townsendia spathulata*, and *Castilleja miniata*. We received an enthusiastic welcome from the public and sold out of most items, making over \$1,700 for the chapter. A new event this year was the pre-sale labeling, wine, and dessert party. Members gathered to order and label every specimen. This effort proved to be a great time saver and suggested that there should be a members-only plant sale before the big day. Thanks to everyone for their help, especially Ginny DeNeve and Barbara Hixon for three months of plant care, Sheila Morrison for being the propagator extraordinaire, Peter Lesica for plants and knowledge, and Marilyn Marler for affording us greenhouse space.

CALENDAR

Please remember to leave pets at home during MNPS field trips.

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER

For a schedule of Artemisia Chapter events or to get your questions answered, please call Dwayne at 248-3171.

CALYPSO CHAPTER

Call Sheila Thompson at 846-1855 or Debbie Mueller at 782-6651 for times and details.

Thursday, July 13, 6:00 p.m.

“Cabbage Gulch Walk.” Meet at the Rocker Conoco truck stop at 6:00 p.m. The drive is about a half-hour west of Butte. The old logging road is on a north-facing shrubby slope; easy walking. This is an area that suffered devegetation from smelting contamination during the active mining days. The recovery is surprising and lovely. For info call Kriss Douglass 782-9060, or Debbie Mueller 782-6651.

Saturday, July 29, 8:00 a.m.

Harold Johns, retired Extension Agent, will lead a trip to the “Lookout on Red Mountain and Beyond.” Meet at the intersection of Continental Drive and the Old Pipestone Highway just south of Butte. The hike is easy to moderate, on a well-defined trail and not too far. We’ll traverse from the upper montane zone into sub-alpine. We should see lots of flowers and incredible views. For information call Harold Johns at 782-8680. Plan for at least half a day; bring water and food!

CLARK FORK CHAPTER

Saturday, August 19, 9:00 a.m.

“Five Valleys Land Trust/Native Plant Society Primm’s Meadow Trip.” Primm’s Meadows is 112 acres of ancient, well-spaced ponderosa pine forest, which is now protected as a result of the signing of a conservation easement between Plum Creek Timber Company and Five Valleys Land Trust. Come enjoy a day at Primm’s Meadows among the 500 years old pines, learning the ecology and history of the area. There is a one-mile walk to the meadows. Bring lunch and water, along with weather-appropriate gear, field glasses, field guides, etc. We will meet and carpool from the NE corner of the Bonner Town Pump parking lot. Call Grant for more details at 549-0755 or Kelly at 258-5439.

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

“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 the smokejumper base) at 9:30 a.m. with a return time around 4:00 p.m. Bring a lunch to eat at the Beaver Ridge lookout with fantastic views of the Bitterroot Crest. You must make a reservation with Bob (329-4846) before August 24th, because this field trip has a maximum of 12 people. Call Bob if you have any other questions. If you get a voice mail be sure to leave a detailed message complete with your phone number.

EASTERN MONTANA

For more information about Eastern Montana events call Wayne Phillips at 453-0648.

Sunday-Tuesday, July 9-11

“Alpine Wildflowers of the Beartooth Plateau” with botanist John Campbell. This seminar is offered by the Yellowstone Institute and involves a fee. For additional information visit: www.yellowstoneassociation.org or call 307-344-2294 to register.

Saturday-Monday, July 22-24

“Alpine Ecology in the Beartooths” with mammologist and tracker Jim Halfpenny. This seminar is offered by the Yellowstone Institute and involves a fee. For additional information visit: www.yellowstoneassociation.org or call 307-344-2294 to register.

Saturday-Monday, August 19-21

“Wild Edible Plants and Medicinal Herbs” with herbalist Robyn Klein. This seminar is offered by the Yellowstone Institute and involves a fee. For additional information visit: www.yellowstoneassociation.org or call 307-344-2294 to register.

Friday-Sunday, September 1-3

“Whitebark Pine, Nutcrackers, Bears and Squirrels: the Story of a Keystone Species” with Sabine Mellman-Brown. This seminar is offered by the Yellowstone Institute and involves a fee. For additional information visit: www.yellowstoneassociation.org or call 307-344-2294 to register.

FLATHEAD CHAPTER

The Flathead Chapter is sponsoring a wildflower art and photo contest this summer. All of the field trips are good oppor-

tunities to photograph or illustrate plants, or get ideas for the contest. Entries are due by July 31. For more information about the contest, call Linh Hoang at 270-7533 or 758-5331, or check the Flathead Chapter events on the MNPS website.

All trips are free and open to the public. Please contact the leader if sign-up is requested. Bring food, water, raingear, and a hand lens if you have one. Please leave your dogs at home.

Every Tuesday, June 13—August 29

“Volunteer opportunity at the Glacier National Park Nursery.” 9:00-4:30 p.m. (come and leave as you choose). Help with seeding, transplanting, weeding, and cleaning. Those who are interested may also help with data management, or work on a particular research project. Bring a 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. RSVP appreciated.

Saturday, July 8

“Weed pull at a Rare Plant Site in the Swan Valley (*Grindelia howellii* - gumweed).” Help pull weeds within and around rare plant exclosures near Holland Lake. Bring lunch, potluck item to share, and gloves. Meet at Swan Lake Ranger Station in Bigfork to carpool at 8:30 a.m. or at Holland Lake Picnic Area at 10:00 a.m. Contact Linh Hoang for details (270-7533 or 758-5331).

Wednesday, July 12, 6:00 p.m.

“Trail of the Cedars in Glacier National Park.” Tara Carolin, Glacier National Park ecologist, will lead an easy 1 to 2 mile walk through one of the oldest forest stands in the park, a moist cedar-devil’s club forest along Avalanche Creek. Meet at the West Glacier Post Office at 6:00 p.m. and we will carpool to the trailhead. Contact Tara Carolin at 888-7919 for details.

Saturday, August 5

“Lake Mountain.” Hike to the top of Lake Mountain, in the Whitefish range, for a plethora of alpine splendor, including whitebark pine and subalpine larch. This is a strenuous 3-mile (approx.) hike with over 1500’ elevation gain. Meet at the Dire Wolf Pub on East Lakeshore Road in Whitefish at 8:00 a.m. or at the trailhead at 10:00 a.m. Contact Rebecca Durham at 249-6352 for details, directions to trailhead, and to sign up.

(Continued on page 9)

...Calendar (Continued from page 8)

KELSEY CHAPTER

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

Tuesday, July 18, 7:00 p.m.

"Bompart Hill" hike. Please call Prickly Pear Land Trust at 406-442-0490 for information.

Saturday, July 29, 8:00-12 a.m.

"Wild Edible Plants Workshop." Meet at the Covenant United Methodist Church at 2330 Broadway in Helena for the third of our edible plant hikes on wild berries. Call Patrick at 266-5265 for details.

Tuesday, August 15, 7:00 p.m.

"North Hills" hike. Please call Prickly Pear Land Trust at 406-442-0490 for information.

Saturday, August 19, 5:00-8 p.m.

"Wild Edible Plants Workshop." Meet at the Covenant United Methodist Church at 2330 Broadway in Helena for the grand finale wild plant potluck. Bring your own table service and a wild plant dish to share. Call Patrick at 266-5265 for details.

Friday, September 15, 6:00 p.m.

"Annual Potluck Planning Session" at Kathy and Drake's. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. We will begin discussion of the 2007 Annual Meeting. Call 449-6586 for details and directions.

Tuesday, September 19, 5:30 p.m.

"Hobbes Hill Trail" hike. Please call Prickly Pear Land Trust at 406-442-0490 for information.

MAKA FLORA CHAPTER

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

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

All Maka Flora members and guests meet at the West Side Cenex in Wolf Point at 10:00 a.m. We will caravan and carpool about 10 miles south of the Missouri. The hike is in a public land area that includes the Hell Creek geological formation. This field trip will be similar to the June field trip – be prepared for a rigorous hike. For more information call Rebecca Kallevig at 488-5455; e-mail: homestead@midrivers.com

August

To be scheduled in arrangement with Maka Flora members. We will canoe the Yellowstone from Intake to Savage. Most attendees will camp at Intake the night before the event. We will begin the float

early in the morning and be on the river about 10 hours. To participate call Rebecca Kallevig at 488-5455; e-mail: homestead@midrivers.com

Saturday, September 16, 12:00

All Maka Flora members and guests meet at the Comertown Park at noon. We will explore the geography, flora, and fauna of the prairie potholes in the Comertown area. The hiking is easy to moderate. We will have a potluck picnic at the park after the hike. For more information call Rebecca Kallevig at 488-5455; e-mail: homestead@midrivers.com

VALLEY OF FLOWERS

For more information contact Monica Pokorny at 763-4109.

Thursday nights, May 25 - end of August, 7:00 p.m.

"Wildflower walks at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park." Tom Forwood, the Naturalist at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park, will hold wildflower walks at the park focusing on different trails weekly to try to cover the changing seasons of the flowers in the park. The park is over 3000 acres with many different ecosystems represented allowing for a wide variety of flora. Meet in the main parking area in the campground. For more information, contact TJFish-ing@bigfoot.com or call (406) 287-3541.

Friday, July 7 and Saturday, July 8

"Emerson's Garden and Home Tour" of five Gallatin Valley gardens, including urban, rural, and three "architecturally significant homes." This year's gardens include an herb knot garden, a rose garden, xeriscape, and native plantings. Contact Ellen Ortiz at Beall Park Art Center for more information, 586-3970.

Saturday-Monday, July 22-24

"Medicinal Plants of the Mountains," Battleridge Campground, Gallatin National Forest (option of receiving MSU 1 cr. PS 280-02) with instructor Robyn Klein. Fees are in the process of being set. Enthusiasm for medicinal plants is contagious in this complimentary study of the medicinal mountain flora of Montana. Explore the uses of valerian, sweetroot, Angelica, self heal, and dozens more species during the best month in Montana. Expect minimal hiking of up to 2 miles a day and group camping. For details, contact Robyn Klein at robyn@montana.edu

WESTERN MONTANA

For information about activities in western Montana, call Erich Pfalzer at

406-827-4078.

Saturday, July 1

"Making Wild Herbal Medicines" with Barbara St. Dennis. This course is offered by the Glacier Institute and involves a fee. For a full course description visit www.glacierinstitute.org or call 406-755-1211 to register.

Friday-Saturday, July 7-8

"Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" with author Wayne Phillips. This course is offered by the Glacier Institute and involves a fee. For a full course description visit www.glacierinstitute.org or call 406-755-1211 to register.

Sunday, July 30

"Wildflowers Wanderings at Logan Pass" with Janet Paul Bones. This course is offered by the Glacier Institute and involves a fee. For a full course description visit www.glacierinstitute.org or call 406-755-1211 to register.

Tuesday, August 1

"Noxious Weeds: Invaders in our Woods." This course is offered by the Glacier Institute and involves a fee. For a full course description visit www.glacierinstitute.org or call 406-755-1211 to register.

Wednesday-Thursday, August 2-3

"Native Plant Landscapes: Collection, Cultivation, and Creation" with Joyce Lapp. This course is offered by the Glacier Institute and involves a fee. For a full course description visit www.glacierinstitute.org or call 406-755-1211 to register.

Thursday, August 31

"Edible and Practical Plants: Berries, Bark, Roots, and Shoots" with the Glacier Institute staff. This course is offered by the Glacier Institute and involves a fee. For a full course description visit www.glacierinstitute.org or call 406-755-1211 to register.

Saturday-Sunday, September 16-17

"Fall Mushroom Foray" with Larry Evans. This course is offered by the Glacier Institute and involves a fee. For a full course description visit www.glacierinstitute.org or call 406-755-1211 to register.

Annual Meeting Field Trips

Alpine and subalpine environments support some of the most spectacular wildflower displays in Montana. The flowering season is compressed into just a few weeks—everything blooms at once. In addition, the rugged topography can provide different habitats with very different assemblages of wildflowers over short distances. You can see a lot above timberline, both on the horizon and at your feet. Join members of the Clark Fork Chapter for this year's annual meeting in the Gravelly Range, and come on one of the following hikes. Sign-up for Saturday field trips is limited to 16 people per trip (more for the bike trip) and will be on a first-come basis.

Saturday Field Trips

Big Horn Mtn. is one of the higher peaks in the Gravellys with spectacular limestone cliffs on most sides. Expect to see lush alpine grasslands, wet meadows, and moist cliffs. The whole hike will be above treeline. It will be about five miles (round trip) cross-country. Peter Lesica has done a fair amount of hiking above treeline in southwest Montana and knows most of the flowers.

Black Butte at 10,545 feet is the highest peak in the Gravellys and the most unusual because it's volcanic rather than sedimentary. Hikers should see numerous alpine species. The four to five mile round trip with an elevation gain of 1,300 feet will have several steep ascents, although nothing technical. Dave Hanna frequently botanizes in the alpine and climbs steep slopes just for fun.

Black Butte Park. There are different wildflowers in the spruce-fir islands than in the alpine grasslands. See them all on this stroll at the base of Black Butte. Probably one or two miles with only a few hundred feet of elevation gain. Wayne Phillips teaches botany courses for the Yellowstone Institute and knows lots of stories about the plants.

Cave Mountain is a large ridge up to 9,800 feet in elevation and has been designated a Research Natural Area by the U.S. Forest Service. It is one of the few areas of the Gravellys where there has been no livestock grazing in the past 30 years. Expect

to see lush high-elevation grasslands as well as alpine cushion plant communities. It will be a two-mile hike (one way) on an old mining road with an elevation gain of about 1,000 feet. Kevin Suzuki is a long-time MNPS member and has worked in resource management for the Madison District of Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest for 20 years.

Gravelly Ridge Road Bicycle Trip. Mountain bike along the crest of the Gravelly Range from Black Butte Guard Station to above Fault Lake, stopping along the way for various wildflower displays. It will be 10 miles (one way) on a decent secondary road. Steve Shelly is a botanist for the U.S. Forest Service. Diane Hafeman has organized and led bicycle trips for Bike Centennial.

Monument Hill is one of the highest points on the main Gravelly Ridge with great views of surrounding areas. See alpine wildflowers of the drier grasslands on the way up and moist grasslands on the way back in a north-facing basin. A two-mile round trip with 800-foot elevation gain. Then drive back over Monument Ridge and Clover Meadows. Steve Cooper conducted a vegetation study of this area, and Drake Barton has to know his plants because he's always photographing them.

Sunday Field Trips

If you're going west on Sunday morning, Piedmont Swamp is just off I-90 near Whitehall. If you're going back toward Bozeman or east, you may want to visit Beartrap Canyon.

Beartrap Canyon is one of only a few low-elevation designated wilderness areas in Montana. Check out the wildflowers of sagebrush grasslands and mountain mahogany woodlands on the steep canyon slopes. Matt Lavin is curator of the herbarium at Montana State University.

Piedmont Swamp is a spectacular alkaline wetland along the Jefferson River just east of Whitehall. Several species of rare plants occur here including the federally listed orchid, *Spiranthes diluvialis* and our annual paintbrush, *Castilleja exilis*. Pete Husby is biologist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and author of a book on identifying wetland plants.

Peter Lesica

Silver Bow Creek Restoration

The evening of May 18th Rich Proddgers led a trip to see results of restoration of Silver Bow Creek. Not more than 10 years ago the creek ran through 100 years of accumulated mine waste material. We looked at the most recent stretch of newly cleaned, meandering creek and floodplain, and two upstream sections. Contaminated material has been removed and replaced with clean soil beginning at the area near Montana Street where smelting first occurred over 100 years ago. Rich has planted willows and other riparian species at the streambank and a variety of grasses, forbs, and shrubs in the flood plain. The success is staggering, but Rich pointed out several kinds of 'failures' which can be used as learning measures for the downstream clean-up. Rabbitsfoot locoweed, longleaf phlox, deer trefoil, rabbitbrush, and sagebrush are all doing well. Along the streambank water birch now grows along with Booth's and Geyer's willows.

The experimental areas where plantings have occurred are adjacent to 'natural' vegetation on the upper benches. The vegetation is different but the transitions look natural. Rich has done an amazing job and seems to still be enjoying the project!

Kriss Snyder Douglass

Webmaster Needed!

The Montana Native Plant Society needs a new webmaster. Marilyn Marler has generously donated her time and talents for too many years, and leaves as legacy an attractive and well established website. We are looking for someone who has an interest in taking over website duties or, failing that best of all possible worlds, we are looking for ideas, such as cooperating with another organization's webmaster, or volunteers that are non-members. The website is an important public face for the Society and is frequently visited by members and non-members.

If you have an idea or would like to volunteer, contact President Susan Winslow at susan213@msn.com or call 406-668-9112.

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:

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 "2/06" your membership expired February 28, 2006. 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

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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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Living Lightly	\$12	\$12
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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, 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 items should be typed, saved in Microsoft Word or rich text format (rtf) for a PC, and sent electronically to: drakekath@hughes.net or mailed to *Kelseya* Editors, 314 Travis Creek Rd., Clancy, MT 59634.

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@hughes.net

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Kelseya Editors
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