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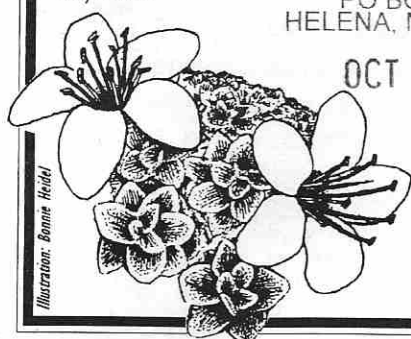
Fall 2007  
Volume 21 No. 1

OCT 01 2007

# Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

[www.umt.edu/mnps/](http://www.umt.edu/mnps/)



## Blackfoot Native Plants Nursery

### Montana plants grown in Missoula County's Potomac Valley

by Karen Shelly

What began as a fascination for plants has become a "growing" passion and a second career for Kathy Settevendemie. She started the Blackfoot Native Plants Nursery in 2001 when she moved south to Montana, "retiring" after a 20-year teaching career in Alaska. Upon arrival at their Potomac Valley property near the Blackfoot River, Kathy and her husband, Michael, started combating weeds that were overtaking their native woodlands. As the knapweed and smooth brome came under control, native plants re-emerged on their place and Kathy's interest in the recovering vegetation expanded. The idea of a nursery to use in the restoration of their property, and as a business venture, sprouted. The nursery has doubled in size every year since its establishment and currently maintains an inventory of over 10,000 plants. Kathy's personal hydraulic engineer, Michael, is facilitating next year's nursery expansion that will include moving to an area of their property with increased growing space, gravity fed watering systems, and a demonstration garden. Although Blackfoot Native Plants Nursery is a wholesale business, Kathy will sell and deliver plants to native enthusiasts in the vicinity who order in quantity, and her plants are for sale in the spring at the Missoula Farmer's Market.

Kathy grows 100 species of Mon-

tana native grasses, shrubs, and wildflowers from hand-collected seeds and cuttings. All of the plants are currently grown outdoors in a beautiful ponderosa pine woodland setting in nursery beds. No plants are dug from the wild. Seeds are collected throughout the growing season, as they ripen. Many seedlings grow very slowly at first and most are not large enough for sale the first spring after germination—they take a few years to become large enough to sell—so the current sale inventory lists around 75 species. Only containerized plants that are extremely hardy

are offered.

Since starting the nursery, Kathy has created her own curriculum for learning to grow Montana plants—by reading, talking to other plant people, learning plant names, habitats, experimenting with nursery management methods, and taking thousands of photos. Additionally, she volunteers at the native plant garden at the University of Montana gleaning the knowledge of the other volunteers. The learning curve is steep, she says, but with the help of so many people it continues to be fun. "The Montana Native Plant Society has continued to be a wonderful source of information for me. Their field trips, herbarium nights, and publications have been invaluable. There are incredible people in this organization who have generously shared their knowledge."

Still an educator, she shares with customers her observations of several native species grown in a landscape setting. "Things really change with cultivation," she says. "Plants that normally grow up to a foot tall in their natural habitats often grow several feet tall and flower for an extended period." Species strongly exhibiting this behavior include sticky geranium (*Geranium viscosissimum*), scarlet gilia (*Gilia aggregata*), scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*) and clarkia (*Clarkia pulchella*). She relates this and much more information to prospective native gardeners

(Continued on page 5)

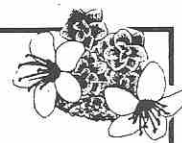


Kathy Settevendemie at Blackfoot Native Plants Nursery.



## President's Platform

Dave Hanna



Here it is, my inaugural column as MNPS president and I feel like I missed the last two months of summer. They were consumed by nearby wildfires, which will be burning until we finally get some meaningful rain or snow. While much of eastern Montana had above average rainfall earlier this summer, it's been very hot and dry here where I live in the north-central part of the state. Native rangelands here dried up earlier than anytime I can remember over the past 15 years, and even the spotted knapweed seemed to struggle. But, it was a good reminder of how interconnected things are. I got to see where the air I breathe comes from, the prairie got some extra nutrients in the form of charred pine needles and ash from the mountains, and another chapter was written in the ever shifting pattern of vegetation and habitats we and the rest of

the 2-, 4-, 6-, and many-leggeds depend on.

It seems like big fires are becoming a pretty regular part of our summers here in Montana, so I'm glad to have made it to the MNPS annual meeting last June on Georgetown Lake. The field trip I did that weekend was one of the few times I made it to the alpine this summer before the smoke and management responsibility keep me closer to home. That weekend was also the last time I saw the full moon, which for me was shrouded in smoke in July and August. Thanks to the Kelsey Chapter for putting on a great weekend!

The fall board meeting is October 20, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. at the Lewis & Clark Library in Helena. If you have any ideas to bring up with the board, visit with your chapter representative before the meeting or come to the meeting yourself! And

don't forget to make plans to attend next summer's annual meeting in Hyalite Canyon outside of Bozeman from June 27–29.

But for now, fall has arrived, bringing something of a respite from the heat and smoke. Trees and shrubs are turning color, and our late summer wildflowers are beginning to wane. Drought or not, there's still plenty of natives in bloom if you look a little, from the asters, goldenrods, and gayfeather, to the still big and bright common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) along many roadsides. Plus, some species are getting ready for next summer already! For many native plants, the moisture we'll receive this fall will determine how much they will flower and produce seed next year. As for me, I'm hoping to get a chance to see the next full moon, but I wouldn't mind missing it if we got a snowstorm instead.

Dave can be reached at P.O. Box 842, Choteau, MT 59422 406-466-3661 e-mail: pteryxia@3rivers.net

## Reminder for Creating Native Landscapes

Now is the time to consider improving conservation measures in your home landscape. The maintenance of introduced plant material requires considerable time, water, fossil fuel, and fertilizer, while at the same time lowers air and water quality. Many native plants have evolved under low-input environments; they are beautiful, enhance wildlife habitat, and support native pollinators. Anyone interested in developing an environmentally-friendly landscape can learn more in a step-by-step color guide entitled, *Creating Native Landscapes in the Northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains*. The goal of the booklet is to provide an overview of native landscaping principles and practices through the concept of Xeriscape™—the wise use of water through water-efficient landscaping. It is intended to help homeowners with comprehensive coverage of planning, landscape design, site preparation, plant selection and care, and maintenance. Copies may be obtained through the Montana Natural Resources and Conservation Service's Public Affairs Staff: phone 406-587-6971; write to Federal Building--Room 443, 10 East Babcock Street, Bozeman, MT 59715; e-mail MT-nrcs-publications@one.usda.gov; or visit the web at <http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/ecs/plants/xeriscp/index/html>.

Susan R. Winslow, PMC Agronomist  
Reprinted from *Plant Materials Today*, July 2007

## WELCOME new members!

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

**Artemisia Chapter:** Jack Exley & Cathie Osmun; **Clark Fork Chapter:** Carolyn Abbott, Dave Blakely, Henry & Cynthia Kanner, Donna Mendelson, Jim & Cindy Romo, Candace Shaeffer & Doug Smith, Tamara Williams; **Flathead Chapter:** Natasha Westphal; **Valley of Flowers:** Suzanne Christopher, Louis Fox, Deborah Frederick, Seth Quall; **Eastern at-large:** Vicki Lynne.

Your participation and support are important to us! Please contact your chapter representative with any ideas or suggestions you may have. They are listed on the back page of this newsletter. Thanks for supporting Montana's native plants!

## Betty Kuropat Honored with Outstanding Service Award

Betty Kuropat, a Flathead Chapter member, was presented with the Outstanding Service Award during the annual meeting at Georgetown Lake for nine years of service to the Montana Native Plant Society.

It all began at the 1998 annual meeting in Seeley Lake when Betty joined the Board of Directors as its Vice President. When the 2001 annual meeting at Bull River rolled around, Betty assumed the office of President. After the 2005 annual meeting in the Big Muddy Valley, Betty's name was still showing up under the Board of Directors, listed as the Past President.

Nine years is a long time to serve our organization, but checking the number of times her name has shown up on the back of the *Kelseya* shows just how long nine years really are. Thirteen issues of the *Kelseya* listed Betty as the VP; twenty issues listed Betty as the President; and seven issues listed Betty as the Past President. Betty's name has appeared on 40 *Kelseya* issues. Yikes!!

All the time Betty was active with

the state organization she was also a core member of the local Flathead Chapter. Betty led fieldtrip hikes to many places in our valley, some of which many of us would not have visited without her direction.

Betty's commitment to her community was elaborated during the award ceremony, using as one example how she helped mitigate differences between loggers and environmentalists while serving on the Flathead Forestry Project, which involved numerous meetings and some demonstration projects on private and forest lands over several years. It was hoped that some common ground might emerge, and much did because of Betty's participation. Many times she was able to show how positions overlapped, and except for a few radical members, a general agreement often evolved from each side understanding the other's point of view. As a result, what had been a bitter controversy was greatly mitigated. All of Betty's time and work was strictly on a volunteer basis, and the result has been a much more harmonious community.

In her service as an employee of the Forest Service, Betty has worked in botany, wildlife, operations, and

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as a silviculturist. In all of these positions she has had a positive influence on native vegetation, including one of my favorite plants, Western larch. One of Betty's admirable qualities is her ability to learn the facts of a situation and then quietly and calmly work to resolve the problem.

Terry Divoky, Mary Sloan, Gary Sloan



Betty received a painting by Nancy Seiler in recognition of service to the Society.



Peter Stickney is honored at the annual meeting at Georgetown Lake.

## Peter Stickney Presented a Special Achievement Award

Peter Stickney was presented with a Special Achievement Award from the Society at the annual meeting for his many contributions to the understanding, conservation, and appreciation of Montana's native flora. A resident of Montana for approximately 50 years, Peter has contributed immensely to our understanding of Montana native plants in innumerable ways, including through his studies of post-fire vegetation succession in northern Rocky Mountain forests, and from his collecting efforts that have resulted in thousands of specimens deposited in regional herbaria. Peter's distinguished career as an ecologist with the USFS research station in Missoula, as well as his enthusiasm for collecting and understanding the state's flora, has resulted in a vast knowledge unmatched by few others in

the state. Whether "bird-dogging" one of his favorite plants in the Ericaceae, tackling the distribution of rough fescue, or working on some other botanical mystery, I'm confident a day does not go by without plants figuring into Peter's thoughts. As a result, probably everyone in the Society has benefited from Peter's knowledge in one fashion or another, many members perhaps not even realizing that the tidbit of information they just learned from a fellow member originally came from research or a botanical observation made directly by Peter. I know much of my own botanical and ecological understanding and knowledge are directly attributable to Peter and the countless hours we have spent interacting in the herbarium. Thank you Peter, on behalf of the entire Native Plant Society, for your willingness to share your knowledge and appreciation of Montana's flora.

Scott Mincemoyer



## 2008 Small Grants Program

The Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) announces the twelfth annual small grant competition for projects or studies that support the small grant program objectives: 1). To stimulate research, conservation, and educational activities that help foster an appreciation of Montana's native plants and plant communities, and 2). To promote native plant conservation through a better understanding of Montana's native flora and vegetation and the factors affecting their survival.

The grant competition is open to residents of Montana and all members of the MNPS. The deadline for proposals is January 31, 2008. Project or study proposals must pertain to native plants of Montana. All proposals that meet the minimum criteria will be considered, however proposals are sought that generate data or public support for conservation of native plants in the wild. The winter issue of *Kelseya* will include a grant application and complete proposal details. For more information contact committee chair Cathie Jean at: [cathie\\_jean@hughes.net](mailto:cathie_jean@hughes.net).

Cathie Jean

## Home on the Range Small Grant Report

In 2006 a \$1,000 grant was awarded to Home on the Range in Billings. Home on the Range is a renovated building that serves as main offices for the Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC) and Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC). WORC represents a regional network of seven western non-profit 'grass roots' organizations that help citizens find the right balance between the environment and economic growth. NPRC, a Montana-based organization, was founded on the principle that stewardship of Montana's land and water is vital to the state's future.

In August, Home on the Range became one of only 40 buildings in the U.S. to qualify for the highest rating (Platinum) by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The building was renovated into a model of energy efficiency, passive solar design, and recycled building materials.

The building site is approximately ten city lots and includes a small permeable parking lot that incorporates a 'GravelPave' grid system under a recycled glass surface. The landscaping consists of demonstration gardens and experimental seedings. The MNPS grant helped to create a 1,000

square foot native garden 'Jewels on the Plains' that has 12 species of native shrubs, 30 species of forbs, and eight species of grasses. The plants were chosen for their adaptability to the site and its clay soil. Drip irrigation was supplied for the first season to establish the plants, but will be used sparingly in the coming years.

Volunteers played a large role in planting the gardens and several local nurseries donated plant materials as well.

Home on the Range also received seed from the Natural Resource Conservation Service to plant grass areas that will require less water than conventional lawn species. Native cultivars were used in most of the areas. Other gardens display waterwise ornamental and native plants, and a long strip of native shrub plantings for birds and butterflies borders the parking area. A rainwater swale will be home to native water-loving plants. Overall there are more than 700 plants. Brochures, maps, and signs will be available to help educate the public about the advantages of this type of urban landscaping.

MNPS members are encouraged to visit and tour the building and gardens located at 220 South 27<sup>th</sup> Street in Billings. The NPRC phone number is 248-1154. NPRC and WORC thank you for the generous donation.

Linda Iverson, Designer  
Home on the Range Gardens

## Myths Concerning Native Grass Varieties

### 1. Varieties of native grass are too aggressive and do not perform well in mixtures.

Certain species are aggressive on specific sites and can become dominant. For example, 'Rodan' western wheatgrass, planted as part of a mixture, may dominate a clayey site after several years. However, it is the strong adaptation of the species to that site that may be undesirable and not the performance of the variety Rodan. Switchgrass, especially the lowland types, can become overly competitive on some wet sites. This is generally more of a species/site issue rather than a seed source issue. Seeding a balanced mixture of species suited to the site is a good start. Species dynamics over time is highly correlated to environmental conditions and management schemes.

### 2. Varieties of native grass will not produce seed because they are too competitive and will remain vegetative.

This misunderstanding probably got started years ago when more southern (Nebraska, Kansas) varieties of warm-season

grasses were being used in the Dakotas and Minnesota because of the unavailability of more northern sources. These southern sources were late maturing, often remained vegetative, and did not produce seed, especially during dry conditions. Northern source varieties and Natural Germplasms are now available. These northern sources are early maturing and produce excellent seed crops.

### 3. Varieties of native grass are Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

I am not aware of any native grass varieties that are GMOs. Although the extent of selection varies, all of the native grass releases being produced at the Bismarck PMC originate from natural populations. New releases are more genetically diverse than previously and are no longer called varieties. Native grasses are now generally being released as Natural Germplasms. Itasca Natural Germplasm little bluestem is a regional collection with 72 different sources (site collections) of parent material comprising its genetic background. Bad River Ecotype blue grama originates from native seed harvest and has had no intentional selection or purposeful genetic manipulation.

Dwight Tober, North Dakota Plant Materials Specialist  
Reprinted from *Plant Materials Today*, July 2007

## 20th Anniversary Celebration at Georgetown ...fieldtrip reports

### Windy Ridge RNA

Our fieldtrip included a quest for rare moonworts, as well as the opportunity to view some near pristine rough fescue (*Festuca scabrella*) grasslands that are protected in the Windy Ridge Research Natural Area (RNA). The RNA was established by the Forest Service in 1996, and is 235 acres in size. Our group of 15 hikers enjoyed a leisurely climb up to the ridge—we definitely moved at “plant speed,” so there was ample time to identify and photograph species along the way. On the hike up we also discussed the role of fire in maintaining these montane grasslands. Lack of fire for several decades, where it likely occurred historically every ten years or so, is allowing trees to encroach in some parts of the grasslands. Along the way we viewed nice populations of stemless goldenweed (*Haplopappus acaulis*), Cusick’s Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja cusickii*), and a small group of bitterroots (*Lewisia rediviva*) clinging to a rock outcrop—the latter still in full bloom at this higher elevation (7,000’). Some *Heucheras* also attracted a lot of interest, and we keyed out several species known in Montana. The moonwort search took some diligence, as it was a bit early for them, and they occur in the “understory” of the grassland—so careful searching on hands and knees was needed to find them. But finally, after some concerted crawling “transects,” we were able to locate a few individuals of both rare species that occur in the RNA—peculiar moonwort (*Botrychium paradoxum*) and scalloped moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum*). Some of them were so small that it required a hand lens to even see the plants! We eventually added approximately 25 species to the plant list for the RNA. Our enjoyable trip was accented even further by the fine views of the Anaconda-Pintlar range, and western Montana, from the top of the ridge.

Steve Shelly

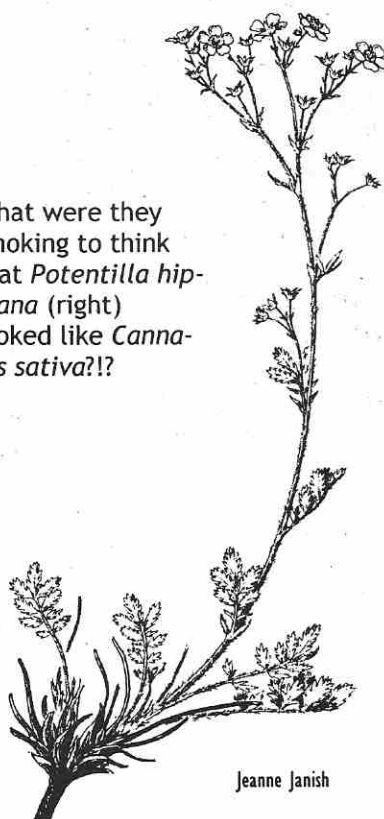


### West Fork Buttes Botanical Area

A group of a dozen or so intrepid MNPS members followed the notorious Peter Lesica on a hike up the montane grasslands of the West Fork Buttes Botanical Area during the annual meeting in late June. Not to be outdone by the “other” fieldtrip expeditions, Peter’s followers identified over 106 species of wildflowers and grasses. Of special interest were large colonies of *Orthocarpus tenuifolius* (thin-leaved owl’s clover) and *Lewisia rediviva* (bitterroot.) Multiple species of *Astragalus*, *Eriogonum*, *Erigeron*, and *Phacelia* tested the keying abilities of the ardent plant enthusiasts in the group. Rumor has it that one of the plants identified by the group, *Potentilla hippiana*, was misidentified during the 60’s (the hippie era) as *Cannabis sativa*. No such misidentifications occurred under Lesica’s leadership.

Kathy Settevendemie

What were they smoking to think that *Potentilla hippiana* (right) looked like *Cannabis sativa*!?



Jeanne Janish

...*Blackfoot Natives* (Continued from page 1) as she sells her plants at the Missoula Farmer’s Market. “So much of what we do at the market dealing with customers is education. Landscaping with low maintenance and water-conserving native plants has become increasingly popular, but many people don’t know very much about them, so we spend a lot of time exposing people to native plant options.” Another way Kathy expands her mission of native plant education is through her nursery’s colorful web site located at <http://www.blackfootnativeplants.com>. It categorizes plants that will tolerate xeric conditions, are deer resistant, and are bird or butterfly friendly.

Blackfoot Nursery plants recommended as easy to grow are sages (*Artemisia* spp.), fescues (*Festuca* spp.), blanket flower (*Gaillardia aristata*), Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), and blue flax (*Linum lewisii*). More challenging are species with seeds that are difficult to collect or have multiple or unknown stratification cycles. *Clematis*, *Polemonium*, and *Pedicularis* species are some fastidious examples. Species sold at Blackfoot that are not often found in a nursery setting include arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), pasqueflower (*Anemone patens*), clarkia, shaggy fleabane (*Erigeron compositus*), puccoon (*Lithospermum ruderale*) and balchip rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*).

Kathy summarizes two issues currently relating to native plants: weeds and water. The work of all native plant promoters to educate people about exotic weeds and the damage they cause native systems is necessary and ongoing. Water conservation also needs to become a fundamental Montana responsibility as population grows and climates warm. No doubt Kathy, with her enthusiasm for native plants and mission of education, will do her part to contribute to our community and environment in regard to both of these serious concerns.

For a list of native plants available at Blackfoot Native Plants Nursery, visit the MNPS web site: [www.umn.edu/mnps](http://www.umn.edu/mnps)

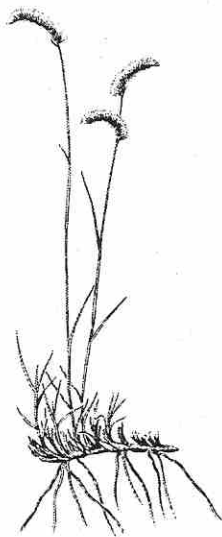
# Poems, Songs, and Stories of the Plant World

The first official meeting of the new MNPS committee "The Poems, Songs, and Stories of the Plant World" committee was held overlooking Georgetown Lake and the Pintlar Range, and was attended by Terry Divoky, Gary & Mary Sloan, Mary Alice Chester, Bob & Toni Person, Sandy Sheppard, Pat Clelland, Sheila Bjornlie, Harry Spilman, Malcolm Thompson, Sheila & Aidan Thompson, and Frank B. Linderman. Wayne Phillips and Anne Garde are serving as temporary co-chairs of the committee.

We opened our first meeting with a recitation of the poem *Grass* by Mabel Duggan from *The Grasses and Pastures of South Africa*, edited by D. Meredith.

I have written of Dawn, of the  
moon, and the trees;  
Of people, and  
flowers, and  
the song of  
the bees.  
But over  
these things  
my mind would  
pass,  
And come to  
rest among  
the grass.

Grass so hum-  
ble, that all  
things tread  
Its tender  
blades. Grass--the bread,  
The staff of life; a constant  
need



of man and beast--a power in-  
deed.

Grass, so vagrant--does anything  
stray  
With such gallant courage? The  
hardest way  
Is coaxed and beguiled by the  
wayward grace  
Of the constant friend of every  
space.

God in His wisdom gave many  
friends  
To grace our way, as along it  
wends.  
But the grandeur of many, my  
mind would pass,  
And come to rest among the  
grass.

It took a second reading before we could move on to sing Walkin' Jim Stoltz's song *If I Were a Tree*; *White Coral Bells* (as a round); *I'm Looking Over a Four Leaved Clover*; *Tumbling Tumble Weeds*; *Red River Valley*; *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning* (and perhaps others). Next was a recitation of Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem *Iversnaid* ("This darksome burn... What would the world be, once bereft of wet and wildness? Let them be left, O, Let them be left, wildness and wet; Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet!").

We next began a list of sources of material for our committee and concluded by dancing a waltz, while singing *Home on the Range*.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting new committee, please contact Wayne or Anne.

Wayne Phillips

## Plant ID Contest a Winner

The 13th annual plant ID contest was held at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Georgetown Lake June 29-July 1. Twenty-one people participated in the brain-stimulating contest in three team categories: Chapter, Independent, and Family. First place winners received a book prize. And the winners were: Family Teams: First Place, Andrea and Kelsey Pipp; Second Place, Margaret, Sheila, and Aidan Thompson. Independent Teams: First Place, Eve Wills; Second Place, Ginger Norman and Jane Joshu; Third Place, Daisy Garverich. Chapter Teams: First Place, Kelsey Chapter (Bob Person and Phil Johnson); Second Place, Valley of Flowers Chapter (Marlene Renwyck); Third Place, Flathead Chapter (Dee Blank); Fourth Place, Clark Fork Chapter (Anne Garde); Fifth Place, Calypso Chapter (Karen Porter).

Plants in the contest were: blunt-leaved sandwort (*Arenaria lateriflora*), northern green bog orchid (*Habenaria hyperborea*), Geyer's willow (*Salix geyeriana*), blue camas (*Camassia quamash*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), large-leaved avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), dwarf huckleberry (*Vaccinium cespitosum*), elk sedge (*Carex geyeri*), slender cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*), long-stalked clover (*Trifolium longipes*), and lesser wintergreen (*Pyrola minor*). The short, gray willow that was featured in the plant demo as wolf willow (*Salix wolfii*) has since been determined by Scott Mincemoyer to be short-fruited willow (*Salix brachycarpa*).

Thanks to Harry Spilman, Peter Lesica, Scott Mincemoyer, John Pierce, and Kelly Chadwick for helping with the demonstration and contest this year, and to everyone who participated by looking at the demonstration and/or entering the contest.

H. Wayne Phillips



## Small Grant Committee News

Please welcome Betty Kuropat and Leslie Eddington to the MNPS small grant committee! Both Betty and Leslie joined Drake and I on Sunday morning at the 2007 annual meeting at Georgetown Lake. Betty has been a member (and chair) of the committee before and shared several good ideas.

On my agenda was asking committee members if anyone would take over as chair. I have been chair for several years and if I could find a replacement, I could be more active in the Valley of Flowers Chapter, which at this time does not have a Chapter President or someone who will take charge of the 2008 annual meeting! An alternative to a permanent replacement would be someone to chair the 2008 small grant program so I could help the chapter with the annual meeting. By the way, I would gladly remain on the committee.

If you have interest—but wonder if it might be too much—we discussed several ways that the chair might delegate some of the responsibilities. For example, the chair should always be the primary MNPS board member and should always be the point of contact for payments and communication between the small grant recipient and the treasurer, but committee members could help in the following ways: 1). Update and distribute the small grant announcement (e-mail to chapter presidents; send update to web master; increase distribution to colleges and universities); marketing. 2). Prepare the spring and fall newsletter announcements. 3). Organize abstracts into table form for distribution to committee and board members. 4). Project tracking.

So, if you're interested in being chair (even if for one year) and/or you are willing to take on additional activities, please let me know.

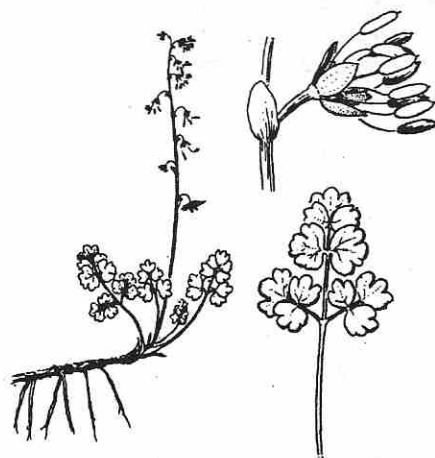
Another subject we discussed was the need to evaluate the success of the small grant program, e.g. has it made a difference? What are the successes and failures? To help answer these questions, I will be contacting

past small grant recipients to ask them about their project. I'll need to assemble some questions. For example, Is the garden still planted in natives? Is the educational trunk still in distribution? If you have some ideas, please let me know. My goal is to get this done and report back to the board this fall or winter. The results could also lead to an interesting article for the *Kelsey*.

Cathie Jean

## Species of Concern Found at Georgetown Lake

Alpine meadowrue (*Thalictrum alpinum*), a S2 Species of Concern in Montana, is known from the Georgetown Lake area and was one of the species that was searched for on several of the hikes at the annual meeting. A substantial population was discovered, by John Pierce, on the shoreline of Georgetown Lake within the Camp Watanopa boundaries. These plants were found in a wetland and were fruiting at the time of discovery. The ground was nearly a carpet of these small plants, estimated at well over 2,000 individuals. This is certainly one of the largest populations of alpine meadowrue in Montana, if not the largest.



Jeanne Janish

Alpine meadowrue (*Thalictrum alpinum*).

## Available from MNPS

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 1270 Lower Sweet Grass Road, Big Timber, MT 59011 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 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](http://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.

# CALENDAR

## ARTEMISIA CHAPTER

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

## CALYPSO CHAPTER

For information about events call Sheila Thompson at 846-1855.

**Sunday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.**

The "MNPS Holiday Potluck" will be in Butte with a "Name That Plant" ice-breaker. The location will be announced in October. Please call Catherine Cain at 406-498-6198 or e-mail [ecotour@montana.com](mailto:ecotour@montana.com) for details.

## CLARK FORK CHAPTER

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

Designating and protecting natural areas is helping to conserve plants and animals throughout the United States. Natural areas specialist Karen Shelly will give us examples from her work: "Protecting Our Flora and Fauna: Examples from Missouri's Natural Areas Program." Rm L14 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

**Thursday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.**

Southeast Asia has become a vacation destination, but there's a lot more there than just great food and beautiful beaches. Jedediah Brodie did his Ph.D. dissertation work there and will show us the "Carnivores, Rotting-Flesh Mimics and Other Crazy Plants of Southeast Asia." Rm L14 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

**Thursday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.**

Our annual Christmas potluck will be held at the home of Mike Young, 529 Evan Kelly in the Lower Rattlesnake. Take Duncan Drive (Greenough Dr.) north over the first hill; 1 block past Alvina turn right and go to the cul-de-sac. Bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share. Alcoholic beverages are okay! Steve Arno will be there to talk about the new 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of his book, *Northwest Trees*. He will have copies for sale (\$19 with \$5 going to MNPS). A perfect Christmas gift. Don't forget to bring a few of your favorite slides or digital pictures. Call Mike if you have questions (721-7615).

**Monday, January 14, 7:30 p.m.**

Everyone likes butterflies, and they are completely dependent on plants for food as caterpillars, and nectar as adults. Steve Kohler, the foremost expert on Montana's butterflies, will give a presentation on "Montana's Butterflies and their Plants." Rm L14 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus. This will be a joint meeting with Montana Audubon (note different day).

## EASTERN MONTANA

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

## FLATHEAD CHAPTER

Flathead Chapter meetings and programs are on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning in October. Business or working meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and programs begin at 7:00 p.m. We meet at the Flathead County Library in Kalispell in the downstairs meeting room. Everyone is welcome to the business and working meetings. Call Jen Asebrook at 863-9630 for information about programs.

**Wednesday, October 3, 5:30 p.m.** We'll have a potluck and organizing meeting for the upcoming year. Bring your ideas for projects the chapter should work on and programs you'd like to have. The following are meeting dates, programs are to be announced: November 7, December 5 (Christmas Potluck), January 2, February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7.

## KELSEY CHAPTER

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

**Wednesday, October 3, 9:30 a.m.-11:00**

"Xeriscaping with Patrick Plantenberg." Sponsored by the Whitehall Garden Club. Contact Norman DeNeal 723-6656 for directions and location and Patrick at 266-5265 for program details. No charge.

## MAKA FLORA CHAPTER

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

## VALLEY OF FLOWERS

Meetings are held in the Agbioscience building on the Montana State University campus on South 11th. Enter from the north parking lot for the 7 o'clock meeting in room 108.

**Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.**

Rich Stout, MSU Associate Professor, will guide us to Yellowstone National Park speaking about "What's New with Yellowstone Geothermal Plants?" Rich has spent a lot of research time viewing and growing "hot" plants.

**Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.**

Julie Kleine, Fish, Wildlife and Parks interpreter from Headwaters State Park, will present a program on "Useful Flax: from Fire Starter to Fabric to Food." Julie will take us back to mummies wrapped in flax and fast-forward to useful products for today.

## WESTERN MONTANA

For details about activities in western Montana, call Judy Hutchins, 847-2717.

## Invasive Species in Natural Areas—A Conference on Impacts and Management

This is a conference at the interface between applied research and management of invasive species in natural areas. During two days, university and agency researchers will meet with land managers of the Rocky Mountain States to discuss possibilities and problems specific to the management of invasive species in natural areas. The conference is scheduled for the 13-14 February 2008 in Missoula, Montana. So please mark your calendars. We also plan to discuss the formation of a Rocky Mountain EPPC (Exotic Pest Plant Council) with participants.

Contact Marijka Wessner, Weed Education Coordinator, Missoula County Weed District at (406) 258-4219, or e-mail: [weedwoman@missoulaeduplace.org](mailto:weedwoman@missoulaeduplace.org) for conference details.

## Shrublands: Wildlands and Wildlife Habitats

The 15<sup>th</sup> Wildland Shrub Symposium is scheduled for June 17-19, 2008, in Bozeman, Montana. Visit <http://eu.montana.edu/shrublands> for symposium information. This symposium will offer the opportunity to present research related to wildland shrubs and will focus on the importance of shrubs to wildlife habitat.

## 2008 Montana Plant Conservation Conference

is scheduled for February 27-28 in Bozeman. Set these dates aside and make plans now to attend. The conference is hosted by the Montana Native Plant Society and the Montana Natural Heritage Program, and will include symposia on restoration and monitoring; updating of the threats ranking for Montana Species of Concern; and developing protocols for identifying Important Plant Areas. All MNPS members are welcome. Stay tuned for the exact location and agenda.

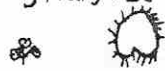


# Young Botanists Attend the Annual Meeting

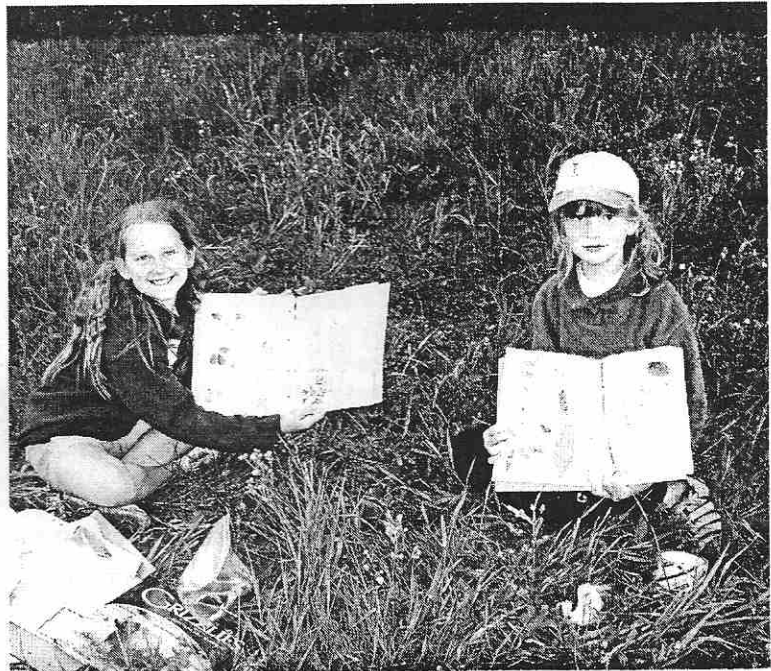
About five children and a few moms joined Andrea Pipp in exploring the Plant Kingdom. Using paper, ribbons, cardboard, markers, and crayons each child put together and decorated a plant book press. We then explored the meadow, forest, and lakeshore habitats around camp. Using scissors and tape each child clipped a part of a plant, such as, one leaf or flower. We examined the shapes, textures, and colors of leaves, petals, stamens, pistils, cones, and more. The older kids wrote a description of each plant part, such as the plant part's name, texture, or color, and the plant's name. By lunchtime we had observed a large diversity of plant species; leaf types, shapes, and textures; petal and sepal colors; flower types; and more. It was neat to show others our books and show them all that we had observed. Below are letters written by the kids to share their experience.

Andrea Pipp

I liked going on the fieldtrip. We collected plants. I liked making new friends. We went on the plant test. I had fun. by Margaret Thompson



Margaret Thompson, age 7



Kelsey Pipp & Margaret Thompson with their plant book presses.

Aidan:

I liked the fire. I liked going on the walk and finding all the brick. I liked listening to Wayne Phillips sing by the fire. Kind-of.

Aidan Thompson, age 5 (dictated to his Mom.)

It was great seeing how these young folks enjoyed learning about plants. Kelsey and Margaret were so excited about filling in their plant book presses that they worked until dusk. They could identify all their pressed collections from just plant fragments. Future botanists in the making!

Editors, age unknown

What I did at the Plant Meeting.

I went on a hike and we pressed plants in our plant book. We played baseball with a stick and pinecones. We also played flower bingo.

from Kelsey Pipp

Kelsey Pipp, age 8

# MNPS Summer Fieldtrip Reports

## ...a good time was had by all

### Big Snowies/Matador Ranch

The Montana Native Plant Society Big Snowies/Matador Ranch field tour was successfully completed on the weekend of July 6-8 with 14 plant enthusiasts attending from Missoula, Bozeman, Great Falls, and Monarch.

We camped together Friday and Saturday night at Crystal Lake Campground in the Big Snowies. Saturday was an 8-mile botanical loop hike, gaining 2,200 vertical feet from Crystal Lake to the alpine tundra on top of the mountains to the Ice Cave and then on to West Peak, Grandview Point, and back down to the lake. Many plants were identified along the way, including Western coralroot (*Corallorhiza mertensiana*), rock willow (*Salix vestita*), and alpine avens (*Dryas octopetala*).

Sunday we headed for the The Nature Conservancy's Matador Ranch, stopping to look at wood lilies (*Lilium philadelphicum*) and mariposa lilies (*Calochortus gunnisonii*) in the Big Snow foothills. Winding our way between the Moccasin and Judith mountains, crossing the Missouri Breaks to the base of the Little Rockies, we met Linda Poole who took us on a walk across a bit of the prairie to an overlook. Prairie wildflowers and grasses were abundant, and we especially enjoyed seeing silver-leaved scurfpea (*Pedimelum argophyllum*). Linda gave us a great presentation about the philosophy of TNC's Matador Ranch and its grass bank management under livestock grazing. From the Matador Ranch we dispersed back to home with memories of a fun-packed weekend.

We missed having you and other Eastern Montana folks on this tour, and hope to see you on the next one. Please let me know if you have any ideas on how we can best serve your Eastern Montana needs in the Montana Native Plant Society. Call me anytime at 406-453-0648.

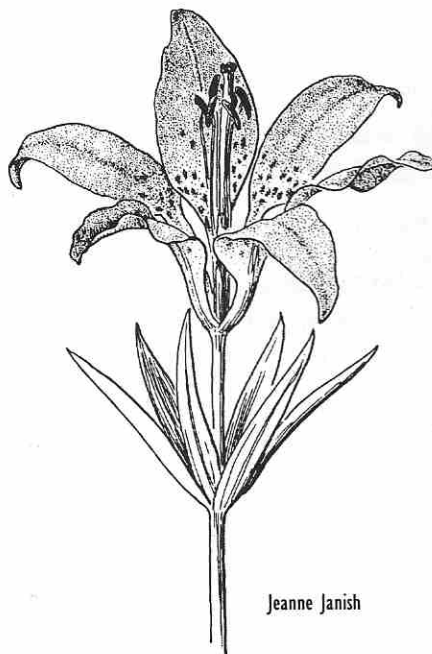
H. Wayne Phillips

### Camp Creek Offers Bitterroot & Moose

June 23<sup>rd</sup> turned out to be the perfect day for the scheduled Calypso outing led by Steve and Bridget Parker. They led a field trip to Camp Creek in the Highland Mountains south of Butte. It was too late to view any cow elk bedding down with their calves; the cows had moved to a higher elevation by this date. But the timing was perfect for the bitterroot display! Not only were the bitterroots prolific, but the hillside that was blanketed with them was adjacent to the road—no hiking required for this flower-op!

Many other forbs were spotted on the outing and the group was also treated to a species identification by Mike Garverich, Calypso Chapter's "botanical geologist." Mike pointed out several specimens of the threatened *Penstemon lemhiensis* (Lemhi beardtongue). The outing was unmarred by forest fire smoke, which beset the area later in the summer, and the added bonus for the day was a moose sighting. Thanks to Steve, Bridget, Mike, and Harold Johns, too, for spotting the moose.

Debbie Mueller



Jeanne Janish

Wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*).

### Indian Meadows Research Natural Area

A group of 11 MNPS members enjoyed a spectacular trip to Indian Meadows Research Natural Area (RNA) on Saturday, August 4. We were lucky enough to be out on a somewhat cooler day, and the prevailing winds were oriented just right so that we weren't hiking in thick smoke from the surrounding wildfires. This RNA, located on the Lincoln Ranger District of the Helena National Forest, permanently protects 949 acres of biologically diverse habitats, including coniferous forests, grasslands, and several types of wetlands. During the fieldtrip, eight vascular plants were added to the list for the RNA, bringing the total number of species observed there to 234. This botanical richness reflects the wide range of habitats, and the location of the area in a transition zone between the moister forests of northwest Montana and the drier habitats to the south and east. The highlight of the trip was a foray on the floating mat in one of the two fens in the RNA. These types of fens are very uncommon in Montana, and at this site three rare plants have been documented: *Drosera linearis* (linear-leaved sundew), *Carex livida* (pale sedge), and *Scirpus subterminalis* (water bulrush). The sundew is one of the rarest plants in Montana, with only four populations known (two in the Indian Meadows RNA, and two in the Bob Marshall Wilderness), and we observed hundreds of plants on the mucky surface of the mat. Most exciting, though, was simply the experience of walking on the floating mat itself—which is not unlike the sensation of being on a trampoline! Some of the group remarked how it even made them feel a bit dizzy. And five MNPSers were first-time "fen mat walkers!" The Indian Meadows RNA is definitely an area that warrants additional field exploration during future MNPS trips, especially since a large portion of the area has burned in recent wildfires and the ongoing ecological changes are very dynamic.

Steve Shelly and Scott Mincemoyer



## 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!

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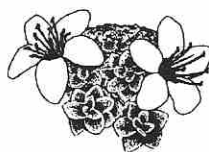
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If you wish to be affiliated with a chapter, list it here \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues	Price with chapter affiliation	Price no chapter affiliation
Individual	\$20	\$15
Family	\$25	\$20
Business/Organization	\$40	\$35
Living Lightly	\$15	\$15
Lifetime (one-time payment)	\$300	

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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 *Kelsey*, the quarterly newsletter of MNPS. We welcome your articles, field trip reports, book reviews, or anything that relates to native plants or the Society. 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 *Kelsey* Editors, 503 State St., Helena, MT 59601.

Changes of address, inquiries 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 *Kelsey* for friends or family, call the Newsletter Editors, write to the above address, or e-mail: drakekath@hughes.net

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### Montana Native Plant Society

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