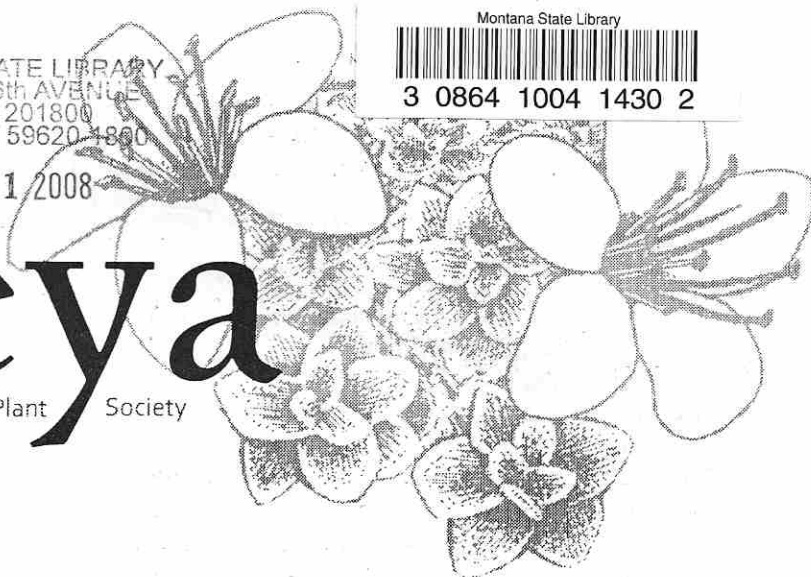




APR 11 2008

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society



Zen & the Art of Seed Marketing By Susan Winslow

Success is often a measure of desperation, inspiration, and in the seed business, lots of perspiration. In the early 1980's, two fresh-faced college graduates, Rick and Claire Dunne, were searching for farmland in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming with a goal to raise native plants for seed production. At the time, their sole source of income was from the sale of wildland-collected seed to Claire's former employer, Native Plants Incorporated in Salt Lake City, Utah. After several frustrating years, and a huge capital investment in 40 acres, a house, equipment, and farm labor, the agony of a looming bankruptcy forced them to venture into the risky arena of seed marketing. The business that began as an epiphany with a bedroom phone jack and a card table was incorporated in 1989 as Wind River Seed. As seed production techniques improved and seed sales sprouted, the partners continued traversing thousands of miles across the West in search of sizeable populations to collect seed from bluegrama, Sandberg bluegrass, needle and thread, globemallow, penstemon, geranium, rabbitbrush, sagebrush, winterfat, and many other native species. This required repeat site visits to monitor phenological development, presence of undesirable species, potential hybridization of related species, meteorological conditions, biological pests, and constant vigilance to avoid losing the patch to the "flashlight" competition. In 1997, they purchased Absaroka Farm in response to the increased demand for large quantities of native seed.

Armed with past farming experiences and an acquired skill to collect and market seed, they fine-tuned a set of personal selection criteria to help gauge whether a species might be commercially viable. This means answering a number of questions. Does the species have a tall enough stature for mechanical seed harvest? Does it have enough of a determinate blooming characteristic to get a timely seed crop? Does it compete against weeds and tolerate specific herbicide applications? Does it host disease or insect pests. Does it shatter seed or is it conducive to traditional harvest methods? Does processing bulk material yield an adequate quantity of viable seed?



Rick and Claire Dunne

Rick and Claire were told it takes 10 to 11 years to get a new species product on the market. A very early lesson taught them to start small. It is very risky to attempt to produce seed of an unproven species with direct-seeding in a field situation because of seed dormancy issues, germination temperature and moisture requirements, seedling growth and seed development, irrigation timing and frequency, supplemental nutrition, pests and weather conditions, manual labor force, equipment operation, and so forth.

They generally start mid-winter by sowing seed into a few hundred small containers and placing them in a refrigerator or cooler to evaluate seed dormancy. In the spring the pots are out-planted after danger of a killing

**Annual Meeting Registration Deadline is
June 15
Details & registration form inside**

continued on page 9

Dispatches from the Montana Plant Conservation Conference

By Linh Hoang, Peter Lesica and Kathy Lloyd

The following is a review of the Fifth Montana Plant Conservation Conference held in Bozeman, February 27-28.

The Montana Native Plant Society is grateful to all presenters and to Tara Carolin, Susan Rinehart and Nora Taylor for organizing the symposia. More than 80 people attended this conference.

Day 1 The first day was given to symposia aimed at providing new ideas and useful information to those interested in natural resource management and natural areas stewardship. The morning symposium focused on different methods for monitoring changes in plant populations and communities. Jen Asebrook demonstrated the utility of measuring canopy cover for monitoring native plant reclamation projects in Glacier National Park. Dave Hanna explained the advantages of using frequency of indicator species and gave an example from The Nature Conservancy's Pine Butte Preserve. Peter Lesica provided examples of the information obtained from demographic monitoring. Jeff Mosley told us how he uses on-the-ground photography to monitor range conditions, and Rick Lawrence talked to the audience about the monitoring capabilities of remote sensing. The afternoon session was devoted to restoration. Stuart Jennings stressed soil characteristics, and Monica Pokorny addressed the importance of restoring forb diversity for restoring grasslands. Tim Griffiths and Rich Prodders shared their experiences in riparian restoration; Tim stressed hydrology and stream morphology, and Rich told us about his favorite restoration species for the Silver Bow Creek Superfund restoration. Larry Holzworth and Matt Horning finished the session by addressing the complexity of whether to use local provenance or readily available cultivars for restoration projects.

Day 2 On the second day, participants discussed implementing an Important Plant Areas (IPA) program for Montana. We hope land managers will use the Important Plant Areas list to help them make sound management decisions, and that the list will elevate plants and plant communities in management discussions. An IPA list will also be helpful to advocacy groups and individuals concerned with the status of plants and plant communities. Such a list would probably be housed at the Montana Natural Heritage Program or with the MNPS. Peter Lesica presented an overview of the European model and discussed IPAs based on the presence of rare plants. Karen Shelly

discussed IPAs based on vegetation communities. Two expert panels were formed to work on the details of each type of IPA and to establish the criteria with which to assess areas nominated for IPA status. If you are interested in an Important Plant Area program for Montana, contact Peter Lesica or Karen Shelly.

Later that morning and into the afternoon, the group worked on a threats assessment for Montana's species of concern. A system was developed to rank threats based on severity, scope, and immediacy (SSI) of threats to rare plants. For each rare plant the SSI was rated high, medium, low, or insignificant for each known threat (e.g. development, herbicide spraying, or hydrologic changes, etc.). These SSI ratings were used to develop and assign relative threat level categories for each rare plant.

The group developed three categories:

Category 1 – Highly Threatened

Category 2 – Threatened

Category 3 – Insignificant Threats Levels or No Known Threats.

Conference attendees examined category rankings, and reviewed each rare plant to

1 -- add new information not collected from the 2006 conference,

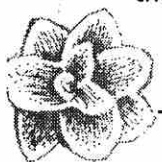
2 -- confirm their currently assigned category, and

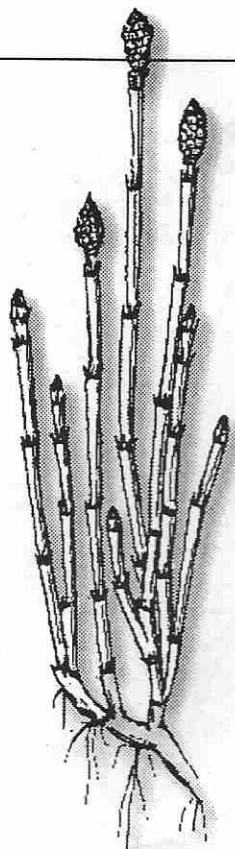
3 -- discuss re-assignment of category level based on new or different information provided by the conference attendees. A few rare plants had insufficient or conflicting information. These plants were not ranked in a category but were grouped into a "holding" list until new information becomes available. Based on the conference contributions, the working group will update the rankings and incorporate the threats assessment as part of the Natural Heritage Rare Plants Species of Concern list. This assessment will be updated again at the next Rare Plant Conference in 2010. Look for an updated assessment on the Montana Natural Heritage web site.

Welcome to the first issue produced by our new editorial team.

Jackie Cohen is now in charge of gathering all information in the form of articles, notices, calendar items and reminders. Lisa Hensley has updated the newsletter's look, and takes care of getting all the pieces in the right spots. Jackie has extensive experience as a reporter, editor, and freelance writer. Lisa designs web and print projects, in both her day job and as a freelancer. Comments?

Suggestions? Please contact Jackie at jcohen@bigsky.net or 273-3104.





Equisetum variegatum

Project Budburst

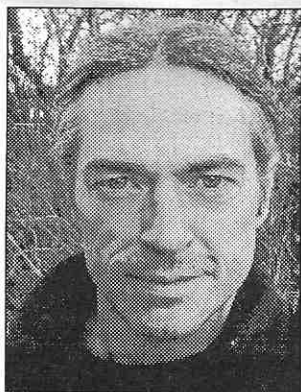
Using your favorite local trail or nearby park, you can join the national effort to document how wildflowers and trees are responding to climate change.

A new nationwide initiative enables volunteers to track climate change by observing the timing of flowers and foliage.

Project Budburst, operated by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and a team of partners that includes The University of Montana, allows students, gardeners and other citizen scientists in every state to enter their observations into an online database, giving researchers a detailed picture of our warming climate.

The project, which started Feb. 18, will operate year-round so that early- and late-blooming species in different parts of the country can be monitored throughout their life cycles. Project Budburst builds on a pilot program carried out last spring, when several thousand participants recorded the timing of the leafing and flowering of hundreds of plant species in 26 states.

UM researchers Carol Brewer and Paul Alaback are collaborators on the project, along with the Chicago Botanic Garden and UCAR. The project also is supported by the National Science Foundation and Windows to the Universe, a UCAR-based Web site that will host the project online as part of its citizen science efforts. **Contact Paul Alaback (palaback@gmail.com) or visit www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst.**



President's Platform

The days are getting longer, and some are warmer, letting us know that spring is on the way. Near my house some grasses are greening on warm slopes; and I'm looking forward to the arrival of our first spring wildflowers, which should be out by the time you receive this newsletter. Here's to spring!

It has been a busy winter for MNPS, with lots of chapter activities, the 2008 Montana Plant Conservation Conference, and the winter board of directors meeting. At the board meeting we welcomed two new board members – Landscape Committee chair Kathy Settevendemie and newsletter editors Jackie Cohen and Lisa Hensley (whose first Kelseya you are holding now). Thanks again to their predecessors – Linda Iverson, Kathy Lloyd and

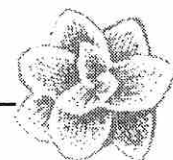
Drake Barton – for all your service to the MNPS over the years. More changes are coming for the board as two other long-time board members will also soon be stepping down – Treasurer Madeline Mazurski and Membership Chair Marijka Wessner. We are working on finding successors for these two positions so if you have any ideas or interest, please let me know.

The Small Grants Committee received numerous outstanding proposals this year, and recommended one for funding (see article on page 9). Congratulations to Jennifer Palladini for her project researching the indirect effects of leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) on the pollination, persistence and evolution of native plants in Montana.

It's now time for the annual MNPS elections, which are more civil (and shorter) than the U.S. presidential campaigns. See the ballot in this issue, and don't forget to vote.

With spring and summer on the way there are lots of activities coming up with the MNPS. Watch for the field trip brochure which will be out in early May, and make plans participate in our great outings. The Valley of Flowers chapter is also working hard on putting on our Annual Meeting this year in Hyalite Canyon outside of Bozeman, June 27-29. It will be a great weekend, so make sure to send in the registration form included in this newsletter. I hope to see you there.

~ Dave Hanna



Membership Chair Needed

by Marijka Haverhals

Over the past four years I have enjoyed being the Montana Native Plant Society Membership Chair. The membership for the society has remained strong at around 500 to 600 members. However, I have decided that it is time for me to step down from the position this June and allow someone new to take over this very important job.

The membership position for the Montana Native Plant Society is responsible for a variety of duties. The MNPS mailbox located in downtown Missoula needs to be checked periodically throughout the year. The majority of membership renewals and new members are updated in the Microsoft Access database in January through April after the renewal notices are sent out at the beginning of the year. Reports and checks are mailed to the MNPS Treasurer. Labels for the newsletter are also generated in Microsoft Access and sent directly to the Printery four times a year. In addition, there are specific requests from chapters for labels and membership lists. These requests are all easily generated by the Access program. For anyone interested in this position, you will need to have access to a computer and printer as well as an understanding of Microsoft Access to update the membership database.

If you are interested in taking over the membership position, please contact me at marijkaanne@gmail.com or (406) 327-7856. I will be glad to answer any questions you have and also show you in more detail what this position entails.



Celastrus scandens

Watch for the MNPS Summer Field Trips Guide, in your mailbox by May 1st

As you plan your summer holidays in Montana, be sure to consult the field guide. You'll experience enlightening walks and hikes with knowledgeable guides all over the state. The deadline to submit field trip contributions is April 10.

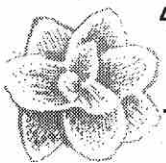
Bridger PMC Field Day

The USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center in Bridger, Montana, is hosting a field day on June 18. The event is in cooperation with the Montana and Wyoming Associations of Conservation Districts and is scheduled from 10:00 to 1:00. The activities include tours of studies and evaluation areas, seed processing and plant propagation facilities, seed production fields, plant demonstration areas, and equipment display. A barbeque lunch is provided immediately after the tour. RSVP is no later than June 11, so contact **Roger Hybner** at roger.hybner@mt.usda.gov or 406.662.3579.

from the Landscape/Revegetation/Publications Committee

- The Source Guide for Native Plants of Montana is currently being revised. If you know of a supplier of native plant seed or native plants in your area that is new or may not be listed in the current Source Guide, please send us your information by April 1.
- Photographers and gardeners, we are looking for photos of native plant gardens or landscapes to use on the MNPS website as examples of what can be done with native plants. If you have photos that you would be willing to share, please send them in .jpg format.
- The committee is looking for people interested in participating on the committee. If you would like to join us, please contact us.

All information for the Landscape/Reveg/Publications Committee may be sent to committee chair **Kathy Settevendemie** at P.O. Box 761 Bonner, MT 59823 or kathy@blackfootnativeplants.com



Cast Your Votes!

By Patrick Plantenberg

As your native plant landscaped yard starts to blossom this spring, please don't let the National Election hype discourage you and keep you from voting for the 2008 MNPS officers. These elections are pure fun, not contaminated by campaign fundraising scandals, and your neighbor's Kentucky bluegrass, dandelion, and noxious weed landscaped yard won't be filled with obnoxious MNPS election posters.

The MNPS Nominations Committee is proud to announce that Karen Shelly of the Clark Fork Chapter in Missoula has agreed to run for vice president, even though she fears she won't have time to serve as President if Dave Hanna dies. The MNPS Board has assured her that the Board would step in to help her in that case, so she acquiesced. Karen has served as vice president for the past year. She is a graduate student in Geography at the University of Montana. She is a teaching assistant for Cartography and Physical Geography and a co-instructor for Biogeography. Prior to her move to Montana in 2005, she was the State Natural Areas Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Incumbent secretary, Patrick Plantenberg of the Kelsey Chapter and resident of Townsend, the site of the State of Montana Arbor Day Celebration in 2008, has agreed to run again and serve another two years if elected. Patrick has been secretary of MNPS for several terms. He still patiently waits for a contested election. Besides being the election committee chairperson, he works as a reclamation specialist for the State of Montana, does landscaping on the side and is an edible wild plant enthusiast. He is also active in civic organizations in Townsend.

The recycled secretary and past president of the MNPS and past president of the Great Falls non-chapter of the MNPS, H. Wayne Phillips of Great Falls, has agreed to run for Eastern Representative-at-large. Wayne is a retired forest service ecologist and has been spending time teaching and writing about the flora of the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains. He has taught botany and wildflower classes at the Yellowstone Institute, Glacier Institute, University of Great Falls, and MSU-Northern. He has written three field guide books: "Central Rocky Mountain Wildflowers," "Northern Rocky Mountain Wildflowers," and "The Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition." A member of the MNPS since 1987, Wayne has presented numerous programs, led field trips, recited poems, and sung songs for the Montana Chapters of MNPS. Wayne also is responsible for the plant

identification contests at the annual meetings. He is also the co-chairperson of the new ad hoc committee in the MNPS called Poems and Songs of the Plant World. Watch for entertainment from the new ad hoc committee to be presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting south of Bozeman.

For the past five years, the MNPS Board of Directors has offered \$100 to the Chapter with the largest percentage of voters. The Maka Flora Chapter in northeastern Montana has won the prize every year. The MNPS Board of Directors has decided to subsidize the Chapter again and award the \$100 prize to the MNPS Chapter with the largest percentage of votes. Can Maka Flora remain undefeated? Or will they be beaten like the Patriots?

Don't forget this will be the fourth year MNPS members can submit ballots to the MNPS Electoral College via e-mail. This is undoubtedly part of the reason the US Postal Service is raising stamp prices again. Please log on to the MNPS website at www.umt.edu/mnps/ and find the link to the 2008 election ballot. Please fill out the ballot and e-mail it to the MNPS Electoral College in Townsend at mzandpz@mt.net.

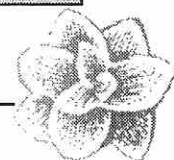
If you prefer snail mail and the election analysis resulting from review of the hard copy ballots, fill out and mail the enclosed official ballot today and help your local Chapter defeat Maka Flora in 2008. Results will be announced and the \$100 will be awarded at the MNPS Annual Meeting, June 27-29, 2008 at the Annual Meeting south of Bozeman.

The MNPS Electoral College would like to thank MNPS members for their election support over the last few years.

Annual Meeting Silent Auction Donations Needed

Pictures and plants, books and baubles, tapestries and trips, music and made-in-Montana products can raise hundreds of dollars for MNPS at the annual silent auction. Members wishing to donate to the silent auction at the 2008 annual meeting should contact Marlene with their donations. Thank you in advance.

Please call 222-5998 or email alpenglw@imt.net



Journey to Montana's Fossil Forest

2008 MNPS Annual Meeting:

Valley of Flowers Chapter

June 27, 28, and 29

Hyalite Youth Camp, south of Bozeman



photo: Gretchen Rupp

You may be surprised to learn that the forests that once flourished during the Tertiary Period in south central Montana were filled with magnificent redwood (*Sequoia magnifica*), amethyst pine (*Pityoxylon amethystinum*) and other long gone species. The Valley of Flowers Chapter invites you to step back in time for our annual meeting to be

held at the scenic and comfortable Hyalite Youth Camp just a short drive from Bozeman, Montana. Cabins, tent and trailer space accommodations will be available; motel accommodations available in Bozeman. Friday evening's potluck meal will be followed by a fascinating presentation by earth scientist Jim Wilbur. He has studied the Gallatin Petrified Forest and will take us back in time to visit its remarkable relics. A delicious catered dinner will be available on Saturday evening. We have an exciting array of trips planned. Several start only minutes away from camp, while another is a short drive into the nearby drainage of Cottonwood Creek. Two trips head into the Gallatin River canyon, one visits some of the best foothill flowers in the area, the other travels further south to the fossil forests! **Pets are not allowed at the camp or on field trips.** Alternate camping requires advance reservations.

SATURDAY FULL DAY TRIPS

Petrified Forest above Specimen Creek: A 1.5-hour drive from camp. From the trailhead it's a short hike of 3 miles on a glorious ridge to view the ancient trees. If there is enough interest we can have an additional trip up the Daley Creek Trail to view another portion of the petrified forest.

Spanish Creek Foothills: A 1-hour drive from camp. The trail meanders through open forest and sagebrush grasslands between the Lee Metcalf Wilderness area and Ted Turner's Flying D Ranch. Expect a stunning array of wildflowers and great views with

minimal elevation gain.

Lichens on South Cottonwood Creek: A 20-minute drive from camp with a local expert to explore the micro world of lichens. The trail follows the creek upstream into beautiful Cottonwood Canyon through meadows and forest. Elevation gain is minimal.

Blackmore Mountain Trail in the Hyalite Canyon: Destination is high country flora with option to climb Blackmore if time allows. A beautiful cirque (mountain basin) sits below the peak.

History Rock Trail: A 10-minute drive from camp, the trail takes us through forested vegetation lower down, stupendous flowers and views at Fox Creek Meadow with moderate elevation gain.

Davis Creek Trail: A 10-minute drive from camp, this trail explores diverse flora in a variety of habitats including an old clearcut, wet gorge, lodgepole and white bark pine forest. Elevation gain is considerable.

Schedule of Activities

Friday, June 27

- 3:00-6:00 Arrive, Settle in and Register
- 5:00-6:00 Social Hour; Field Trip sign-up
- 6:00-7:30 Potluck dinner (bring a dish)
- 6:30-8:00 Board of Directors Meeting
- 8:00-9:00 Speaker, Jim Wilbur

Saturday, June 28

- 6:30-8:30 Breakfast (provided by VOF)
- 9:00-4:30 Field Trips: bring your lunch
- 4:00-6:00 14th Annual Plant Id Contest
- 6:00-7:00 Catered Banquet (optional)
- 7:00-8:00 Membership Meeting
- 8:00-8:30 Silent Auction Prizes Awarded;
Plant ID Contest Winners announced
- 8:30 Digital pictures from field trips

Sunday, June 29

- 7:00-9:00 Breakfast (provided by VOF)
- 8:30-9:30 Committee Meetings
- 10:30 Break Camp; Cleanup; Farewells
- 11:00- Leave for Day Field Trips

SATURDAY HALF DAY TRIPS

Medicinal Plants: Hike from camp with an herbalist to identify the medicinal plants in the area.

Grotto Falls and Hyalite Creek Trail: Moist spruce-pine forest atop Absaroka Volcanic rock. Grotto Falls is a wide and magnificent waterfall accessed by an easy, forested, wheelchair accessible gravel path with the surrounding mountains towering above. Elevation gain is minimal and length of trail is 2.5 miles round trip. Optional full-day.

SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS

Westscape Nursery: Visit the local native nursery featured in our Spring 2007 Kelseya newsletter. Bring a lunch and talk native landscaping.

Peet's Hill: Take a close look at the amazingly diverse flora within an island of native prairie in the heart of Bozeman. Bring your lunch and enjoy the view at the top, or hike to the new library and restaurants on Main Street.

Kirk Hill: Self-guided loop trail just a short drive from camp, near the mouth of Hyalite Canyon

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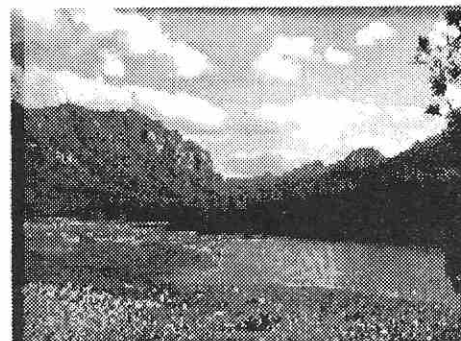


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2008 Annual Meeting Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of people

	Cost Before 6/15	Cost After 6/15
Registration (includes 2 breakfasts, camping/cabin)	\$30.00/adult	\$35/adult
Children (ages 4-11), under 3 years-old are free	\$9.00/child	\$10/child
Saturday ONLY (no meals and no camping/cabin)	\$15.00/person	\$15.00/person
ADULT Saturday night banquet dinner	\$15.00/adult	Not available after 6/15
CHILD Saturday night banquet dinner	7.00/child	Not available after 6/15

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Pre-registration and Saturday night banquet dinner reservation due by **June 15, 2008**. *No refunds after June 15th*
 Check here if you are interested in attending the Saturday field trip to the petrified forests. We are surveying registrants to see if there is need for a second trip.

Send payment and this registration form to: **Valley of Flowers Chapter, PO Box 6444, Bozeman, MT 59771**

Make checks payable to: Montana Native Plant Society

I (we) agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) and its board of directors and members against claims of liability, damages, and injury that may arise out of, or be included to my (our) participation in MNPS activities at Hyalite Youth Camp on June 27-29, 2008. **Signature** _____

Hyalite Youth Camp is at 6,699 feet on the Hyalite Reservoir. First-come-first-taken cabins and tipis are rustic and dorm style. Beds are wood-framed bunks with NO mattress. Bring sleeping pad, sleeping bag, pillow, towel and soap. There is plenty of tent camping space with an indoor shower/bath house. Leave hairdryers home. No cell phone reception; emergency telephone only. Electricity supplied by solar batteries and a generator. If you would prefer, **Bozeman accommodations** include plenty of motels and B&Bs. Check Yellow Pages or Internet. Hyalite Youth Camp is about 17 miles south of Bozeman, a scenic 30-minute drive. No pets allowed.

Meals and Food

Valley of Flowers members will provide snacks for Friday Social Hour. Please bring a dish to share at the potluck dinner Friday. Hot dishes will be prepared by VoF members. Beer & wine provided! After the great hiking on Saturday be ready for your appetite to be satiated with a catered dinner provided by Call Steve Catering. This **optional dinner** includes local organic green salad, tomato and chevre tarts and your choice of roasted chicken pasta salad with carrot, celery, and fennel aioli, or a spinach and mushroom strudel napoleon with roasted onions, zucchini and beets; all topped off with a chocolate fudge brownie, ice tea and lemonade. Steve supports our local organic farmers and ranchers so this meal will be extra delicious! **Mail registration by June 15th to insure your place at the table.** Breakfasts will be self serve and will include bagels, cream cheese, hard boiled eggs, granola, yogurt, milk (cow & soy), fruit, coffee and teas. Dishes and eating utensils are provided by the camp. Please remember to bring your favourite mug for beer and coffee.

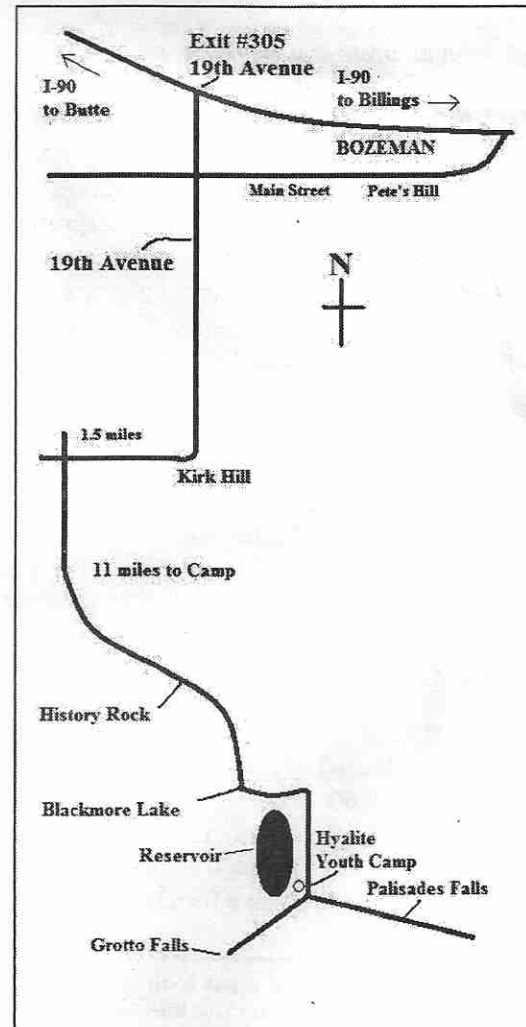
Field Trips

Sign up starts on Friday evening and is on a first-come-first serve basis. Please use the check off on the registration list regarding trips to the petrified forests. Some trips are subject to a maximum number of participants and may change depending on weather/trail conditions. Daypacks should contain lunch and appropriate clothing, including raingear. Please, **NO PETS** on field trips.

Driving Directions to Hyalite Youth Camp

From I-90 take the 19th Ave Exit #305 and head south for 9 miles. 19th Ave will curve sharply to the West and shortly after is the left-hand turn on Hyalite Canyon Road (look for brown forest service sign). Follow the canyon about 10 miles to the reservoir. Continue over the dam where the road becomes unpaved and winds around the reservoir lake. The Hyalite Youth Camp is just past Hood Creek Campground and marked with a brown forest service sign at mile marker 11.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Gretchen at beesgr@imt.net; 406/586-8363



Wind River, continued

frost has passed and a variety of cultural applications are scrutinized, with seed harvest and final processing rounding out the investigation. Only when no links are badly broken in the production chain will they dedicate more acres to growing seed of a given species. Every year is different and there are no cookbook recipes or magic bullets when it comes to getting a seed crop in the barn. Seed growers need to be absolutely self-sufficient because there are very few teachers in the vast wilderness of native plant production. Rick and Claire strongly believe that agriculture's traditional concept of an economic impact threshold does not apply whatsoever to native seed production because the increasing costs associated with weed control are too high to endure in established, long-term stands of native species. It is much cheaper to remove undesirable plants from a production field than it is to separate weed seed during processing. Their customers simply cannot abide unacceptable levels of weeds in native seed that will be planted on projects where the vegetation is monitored on federal and state land, or privately-held mined land.

In the summer of 2007, after nearly 30 years of blood, sweat, and tears, Rick and Claire sold the business to an enterprising employee, Russ Holzhäuser. He put in seven years of sweat equity to learn details of the trade and is presently making a number of minor changes, but intends to uphold the long-standing integrity of quality products and sound advice.

The Wind River Seed website is www.windriverseed.com. They can be reached by calling 307.568.3361

Small Grant Award

By Cathie Jean, MNPS Small Grant Committee Chair

The MNPS is pleased to announce the recipient of this year's small grant award for research, study, and appreciation of Montana's native plants.

This year the small grant program received fifteen proposals covering a range of themes from education/ interpretation; native plant garden and reclamation projects to research and inventory studies. It is rewarding to know that so many of you across Montana are working on native plant conservation projects. Congratulations and thank you for sending your proposals!

This year the recipient of the \$1,000 small grant award goes to Jennifer Palladini, doctoral student at the University of Montana who is researching the indirect effects of leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) on the pollination, persistence, and evolution of native plants in Montana. Invasive plants with large flowering displays can indirectly affect native plants through interactions with shared pollinators. Jennifer's studies will monitor pollinator visitation and determine fruit and seed production rates to find out if changes in seed production have effects at the population level.

Applications for small grant awards are accepted all year until January 31. Application instructions available at www.umt.edu/mnps/.

Publications & Guides

Free from MNPS Publications:

- MNPS membership brochures
 - Plant Collection Guidelines for Teachers brochures
 - Echinacea Cultivation Information
 - Plants Collected in Montana During the Lewis & Clark Expedition.
- Please send a SASE to 1270 Lower Sweet Grass Road, Big Timber, MT 59011 to request any of these publications.

From the Flathead Chapter:

Gardening with Flathead Valley native plants (packet). Cost: \$3.50. Contact Tara Carolin at 334 North Many Lakes Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

From the Kelsey Chapter:

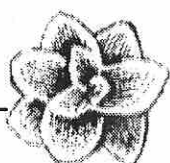
Landscaping with natives in the Helena area (packet). Cost: \$3.50. Contact Kathy at 449-6586 or e-mail: drakekath@hughes.net to order.

From the Valley of Flowers Chapter:

Landscaping with natives in the Bozeman, Livingston, and Big Timber areas (booklet). Cost: \$6.50. Contact Denise Montgomery at 586-0156 or e-mail: nmontgomery@montanadsl.net to order.

Available online:

Guidelines for Selecting Horticultural Plant Material for Montana (voluntary guidelines by MNPS and the Montana Nursery and Landscape Association)
Lewis & Clark Plants Collected Elsewhere That Occur in Montana, an inclusive list of Lewis & Clark plants found in the state. Visit the MNPS website at www.umt.edu/mnps to download in pdf format.



EVENTS CALENDAR

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

Artemisia chapter

Bridger PMC Field Day--June 18.

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Hosted by the USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center in Bridger, Montana, in cooperation with the MT and WY Associations of Conservation Districts. The activities include tours of studies and evaluation areas, seed processing and plant propagation facilities, seed production fields, plant demonstration areas, and equipment display. BBQ lunch provided. RSVP is no later than June 11, to Roger Hybner at roger.hybner@mt.usda.gov or 406.662.3579. For more Artemisia Chapter events or information, please call Leslie at 445-9178.

Calypso chapter

Techniques in Biological Illustration--March 8

9:00 a.m. - noon Professor Grant Mitman will be teaching at Montana Tech in rm 102 Bio/Chem Bldg. Bring a 0.1mm or 0.5mm drawing pen (available at office supply stores) and something to draw. A photo, picture or a real object will do, but keep it simple. Grant will supply the paper.

Landscaping with Natives--April 12

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., lunch provided

RSVP to Catherine Cain by April 5

Presented in conjunction with the Big Hole Watershed Weed Committee. Speakers include Pat Plantenberg, native plant expert, with information on using native plants in landscaping; and Bill Allen, professional landscaper, with information on establishing and maintaining native landscapes. Held at the Divide Grange Hall. Take the Divide exit off I-15, head west on Hwy 43 one mile. Turn left at the Post Office. The Grange Hall is the block building. Contact Catherine Cain at 498-6198 or ecotour@montana.com for more info.

Clark Fork Chapter

Wildflower Refresher--April 10

7:30 a.m. Can you remember the names of those wildflowers? You haven't seen them for nearly a year. Get an early-season refresher when Clark Fork Chapter photographers show slides of Western Montana's forest wildflowers. Rm L14, Gallagher Business Bldg, UM Campus.

Revisiting *Dicentra uniflora*--April 12

10:00 a.m. Join Forest Service ecologist Mike Young and University plant specialist Kelly Chadwick in search of Steer's head in bloom. Moderately strenuous 8-mile roundtrip hike on a good trail. Meet at the Rattlesnake Recreational Trailhead. Bring water and a lunch. Sturdy boots and rain gear are recommended. Questions? Call Kelly at 258-5439

Wildflower Hike on Mt. Sentinel #1--April 24

6:30 p.m. Come join Paul Alaback as he shows what flowers and leaves appear first on Mt Sentinel this year. We will be hiking up the Evans Street Trail to the fire road to see as many as 130 different species of plants. We may do the whole loop, which goes up to the forest patch within 500' of the summit. We will be documenting the progress of spring as part of a long-term study on effects of weather on plant Phenology. Meet on campus, around the picnic area next to the Forest Service research lab on Beckwith Avenue at 6:30. Call Paul at 728-4696 for more details.

Wildflower hike on Mt. Sentinel #2--May 8

6:30 p.m. Paul Alaback will lead us up the Evans Street Trail where we should see Indian paintbrush and Prairie larkspur in bloom along with many other interesting species. Meet on campus, around the picnic area next to the Forest Service research lab on Beckwith Avenue at 6:30. Call Paul at 728-4696 for more details.

Eastern Montana

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

Flathead chapter

Monthly chapter meetings and programs at the Meeting Room at Kalispell County Library, 247 1st Avenue East in Kalispell. The Meeting Room is in the basement of the library. At 5:30 pm, everyone is welcome to the business and working meetings.

Plant Families Workshop--April 2

7:00 p.m. Our second annual event, focusing on six different plant families. This year we will cover the orchid, heath, pink, buttercup, saxifrage, and figwort families.

Native Plant Art Workshop--May 7

7:00 p.m. Hosted by artist Karin Connelly.

Native Garden Tour--June 4

In place of a meeting, Bill McClaren will lead a field trip to a new native plant garden at the Central School Museum. Meet at the Central School Museum at 5:30pm. Please contact Jen Asebrook at 863-9630 with questions.

Kelsey chapter

My Life on the Range--March 11

7:00 p.m. Jack Taylor, MSU professor emeritus, will present a summary history of range management in Montana. The event will be held at the large meeting room in the Lewis and Clark Library, and is free to the public.

Ntl Wildflower Week art contest--March

26. Help judge art work by local students in

honor of Wildflower Week. The judging will be all day at the Helena National Forest Service Supervisor's office, across from the airport.

Landscaping with Natives--April 12

see entry in Calypso chapter events.

Don't Fence Me In trail run--May 10

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sponsored by Prickly Pear Land Trust. Volunteers needed for the Kelsey Chapter information table at the event in Anchor Park. Contact Martha Vogt at 495-9270, or Mary Johnson at 442-4676.

Mt. Helena Wildflower Weed preview--May 19

5:30 p.m. Come see what is blooming on Mount Helena in preparation for the hikes on May 20th. Call Kathy Martin at 443-1712 for more info.

Mt. Helena Wildflower Wk kids' hikes--May 20

Morning and afternoon hikes. If you would like to help with either or both sessions, or need additional information, please call Kathy Martin at 443-1712.

Maka flora chapter

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

Little Missouri Grasslands--April 27

10:00 a.m. Explore the great geology, native grasses, flora and fauna of the Little Missouri Grasslands in North Dakota. Meet at the Sather Dam campground. Maka flora members plan to camp at Sather Dam on April 26. From Sidney, go 2 miles south on Hwy 16, then left on Hwy 23 for 20 miles. Follow the signs to Sather Dam.

Valley of flowers

The Valley of Flowers chapter meets in room 108 of the Agbioscience building at 7:00 pm. Park in the lot to the North of the building with entrance at the bend of the L on the north side.

Gardening with Pollinators--April 8

7:00 p.m. Presented by David Baumbauer, Manager of the Plant Growth Center and well acquainted with bees.

Clean Up Bozeman Day--April 26

9:00 a.m. Meet on Kagy Boulevard to once again clean the weeds in the large cut. Bring gloves, digging tools, water and lots of energy. Free barbeque at Bogert Park at noon for workers.

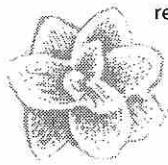
A Visit to Westscape Nursery--May 24

10:00 a.m. They grow lots of natives and we will have a chance to hear about their plants. See westscape@yahoo.com for directions to 110 Progressive Drive.

Don't miss the MNPS Annual Meeting--June 27, 28 & 29

Western Montana

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



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

YEAR YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: Memberships expire in February of the year listed on your mailing label.

Use this form to renew your membership TODAY! Please drop us a note if any information on your label is incorrect. **Please notify us promptly of address changes.**

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

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Name (please print) _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

☐

New Membership

☐

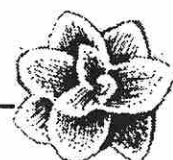
Renewal

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

Membership Level	Dues w/affiliation	Dues w/o affiliation
Individual	\$20	\$15
Family	\$25	\$20
Business/Organization	\$40	\$35
Living Lightly	\$15	\$15
Lifetime (one-time pymt)	\$300 per household	-----

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

Canadian subscribers please add \$4.00 to cover mailing costs. Additional donations may be specified for a particular project or the general fund.



About 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 review, 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: jcohen@bigsky.net or mailed to Kelsey Editor, 10350 Lakewood Place, Lolo, MT 59847.

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 Editor, write to the above address, or email: jcohen@bigsky.net.

No part of this publication may be reprinted without the consent of MNPS. Reprint requests should be directed to the Newsletter Editor.

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

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Moving? Please let us know! MNPS Membership, P.O. Box 8783, Missoula, MT 59807-8783

Montana Native Plant Society

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