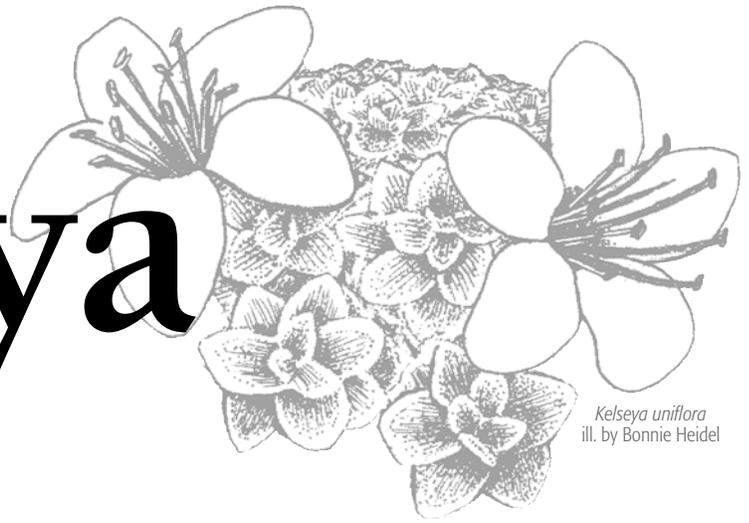


Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society



Kelseya uniflora
ill. by Bonnie Heidel

Focus on Genetics 2016 Plant Conservation Conference

By Peter Lesica, Clark Fork Chapter

The Montana Native Plant Society, along with the U.S. Forest Service, the University of Montana Division of Biological Sciences, the Montana Natural Heritage Program and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, hosted the Ninth Montana Plant Conservation Conference at the University of Montana in mid-February. More than 100 people attended, about half being MNPS members.

The first day was dedicated to learning about population genetics and how new molecular-based methods can help inform plant conservation. The three talks in the morning were conceptual in nature. Fred Allendorf from UM provided a refresher course on population genetics that helped provide a context for later talks. Loreen Allphin from Brigham Young University followed Fred, focusing on the importance of genetic variation to rare plant conservation and how using molecular markers can inform these efforts. Matt Lavin from MSU ended the morning by explaining the concept of monophyly and how it and the use of molecular markers have shaped plant taxonomy over the past several decades.

During that afternoon we heard several specific examples of how molecular-based genetic methods are used in plant conservation. Mary Frances Mahalovich, a Forest Service geneticist, talked about ongoing efforts to restore whitebark pine populations. Valerie Hipkins, another Forest Service geneticist, went from big plants to little plants with her talk on the current state of moonwort (*Botrychium*) taxonomy. Steve Shelly, a Forest Service botanist, was up next with a story of using a combination of isozyme markers and morphology to determine the true identity of what used to be called yellow spring beauty (*Claytonia lanceolata* var. *flava*). Peter Lesica then explained how

*new molecular-based
methods can help inform
plant conservation*

Approved: Two More Important Plant Areas for Montana

By Peter Lesica, Clark Fork Chapter

MONTANA NOW HAS TWO NEW IMPORTANT PLANT AREAS (IPAs), approved during the February Plant Conservation Conference, bringing the total number of state IPAs to nine. Both locales are in the southwest part of our state — one is above treeline and the other in a valley bottom. Descriptions of the new new IPAs, as well as of the previously approved sites, can be found on the Montana Native Plant Society website (http://www.mtnativeplants.org/Important_Plant_Areas).

The Dutchman Wetlands IPA is a large (4,500 acres) wetland complex at the



Man-made pond along Lost Creek in Dutchman Wetlands IPA, with open water and cattail marsh (foreground) and willow shrubland (background). The Anaconda smelter stack is visible in the distance. Photo courtesy of Herrera Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Chapter Events

Calypso Chapter

Info: Catherine Cain at 498-6198, nativeplants@montana.com.

The Chapter is hosting the Annual Membership Meeting in June, in conjunction with the American Penstemon Society. See inserts this issue for information and to register. See also info on page 5.

Clark Fork Chapter

Info: Anne Garde at 721-7627, anniegarde@yahoo.com.

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. Native Bugs on Native Flowers.

The Chapter is partnering with the Missoula Insectarium to host the first of these educational gatherings. If you have digital photos of an in-focus insect on an in-focus flower that you'd like to show, please email lesica.peter@gmail.com. Plant and insect experts will be on hand to identify unknowns. Montana Natural History Center, 120 Hickory (*note time and venue*).

Thursday, May 12, 6:30 p.m. Spring Potluck & Plant Label Sticker Party.

Come socialize and help us prepare the plastic plant labels for our upcoming plant sale. We'll hope to enjoy a warm spring evening in the Pineview Park Pavilion near Rattlesnake School, and view the spring flora along Rattlesnake Creek. Bring your nimble fingers and a dish to share, plus your own plate and utensils. No alcohol please. Info: Peter at 728-8740 or Clare at 728-0189.

Sunday, May 15, 7:00 a.m. Not the *Douglasia* You Know.

Join plant enthusiast Michael Wharton on this trip to see *Douglasia conservatorum* at its only known location – in the world – on Bloom Peak. *D. conservatorum* was identified as a unique species in 2010. We'll hope to catch the blooming of this pink-flowered, alpine beauty at just the right time and view the characteristics that make this *Douglasia* different. Bloom Peak is on the border with Idaho at the northern end of the Bitterroot Mountain Range, near Trout Creek. One can gain most of the elevation of this trip in a vehicle, and the hike from the Forest Service road to the summit (5,791 feet) is less than a mile. Be prepared for cool and windy conditions. Expect to return to Missoula around 7:00 p.m. To minimize impact on this fragile plant community, this trip is limited to 12 participants. Info and to RSVP: Clare at 728-0189, clare.beelman@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 22, 9:00 a.m. Short Grass Prairie to the Foothills: Ranching & Native Plant Conservation.

Join Clare Beelman and Jenny Tollefson, stewardship manager for Five Valleys Land Trust, on a tour of the 3,700-acre Peterson Angus Ranch in the foothills of the John Long Mountains, south of Drummond. This ranch became a FVLT conservation easement in 2010 and offers some of the healthiest native short grass prairie in the Upper Clark Fork watershed. We'll discuss the history of the ranch and the ongoing

relationship between ranching practices and conservation of native plants and their habitats. Hiking will be moderate. Expect to return to Missoula around 5:00 p.m. Meet at the east side of the Milltown truck stop parking lot to carpool from Missoula. Info: Clare at 728-0189, clare.beelman@gmail.com, or go to facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter/events for a map and details.

Thursday, June 2, 6:30 p.m. Plant Labeling. Help us stick labels in the hundreds of pots of different plants we have prepared for sale. Light refreshments provided. 2 September Dr., Lincoln Hills, in the Upper Rattlesnake. Info: Clare at 728-0189, clare.beelman@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 4, 8:00 a.m.-noon. Annual Sheila Morrison Native Plant Sale. Many species of Montana native plants will be for sale this one day at the Clark Fork River Market in Missoula. Our tables will be at the eastern end (toward the Holiday Inn) of this busy market. Come early for the best selection of native plants to add to your landscape! See facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter/events for map and details.

Sunday, June 12, 7:00 a.m. Not the *Lewisia* You Know. Enjoy a hike through an open-forested canyon with a diverse understory in the Bitterroot Mountains to view the only known population of Wallowa lewisia (*Lewisia columbiana* var. *wallowensis*) in Montana. *W. lewisia* is primarily found on the Columbia plateau in Idaho and Oregon. The hike will follow an established trail with a gentle elevation gain. To reach the lewisias, one will need to ford a creek or cross on a stable, fallen tree. The creek is approximately 20 feet wide. To carpool from Missoula, meet at the south end of the Walmart parking lot (on S. Brooks St.). Info: Clare at 728-1089, clare.beelman@gmail.com, or go to facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter/events for a map and details.



Wayne Phillips guided a hike last June from Roger's Pass to Lewis & Clark Pass and down Alice Creek. Photo by Clare Beelman



Photo ops abounded on last year's Rogers Pass trip.
Photo by Clare Beelman

Saturday, July 9, 9:00 a.m. Water Howellia & Friends. Join MNPS and Mark Schiltz, western manager for the Montana Land Reliance, on a walk through portions of a 738-acre MLR conservation easement property south of Condon. This easement contains a diversity of plants, including water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*). Water howellia is a species of concern in Montana with a range limited to depressional wetlands in the Swan River drainage. Bring waders or expect to get wet to view this small and uncommon plant up close. The ponds that contain *Howellia* are located north of the Swan River (although there are reported to be some south of the river as well). The hike will be mostly off trail, but the property is very level unless we hike to the Swan River, which is a drop of about 100 feet. Expect to return to Missoula by 6:00 p.m. This trip is limited to 20 MNPS members; reserve your spot soon! Info and to RSVP: Clare at 728-0189, clare.beelman@gmail.com.

Eastern At-Large

Info: Jennifer Lyman at 656-7869, jencylyman@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 18, 8:15 a.m. North Fork of Dupuyer Creek. Dave Shea leads this three-mile ramble through prairie and foothills to find wildflowers and learn about local wildlife and geology. The hike will take place on the Boone and Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch. Meet at the Chateau Information Center, near the Old Trail Museum. Co-sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Association. Info: Dave at 466-2161.

Saturday, July 9, 9:00 a.m. Ear Mountain & Yeager Flats. Join Dave Shea on this trip through limber pine savannah, narrow-leaved cottonwood groves, sagebrush, Douglas-fir/Englemann spruce forest and a bit of the 2000 Ear Mountain fire to end in a vast, high-elevation native fescue prairie. Moderately difficult, five-miles round trip. Meet at the Chateau Information Center parking lot, north end of town on Hwy. 89, then drive up the Teton River to the Ear Mountain Trailhead. Co-sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Association. Info: Dave Shea at 466-2161.

Flathead Chapter

Info: Tara Carolin at 260-7533, montara96@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. "Plants of Inland and Coastal Wet Belts." Rachel Potter, founder of Glacier National Park's Native Plant Nursery and Revegetation Program, will share pictures and stories from kayak and canoe trips to British Columbia's Bowron Lakes Provincial Park and southeast Alaska's Tongass National Forest. Her program will be part travelogue and part plants. North Valley Community Hall, 235 Nucleus, Columbia Falls.

Wednesday, May 18, 5:30 p.m. Native Plant Selection, Planting and Care. The Center for Native Plants in Whitefish will host a free workshop on various planting techniques, soil preparation, and plant selection and placement at its open air nursery. Learn how to plant a root-bound aspen tree, prepare soil for planting, about invasive grasses and how to eradicate them, and select the right plant for the right location. There will be ample opportunity for hands-on practice and group discussion. Center for Native Plants is Flathead Valley's only retail native plant nursery. Info: www.centerfornativeplants.com.

Tuesdays, May ONLY, 10:00 a.m. Bigfork Wild Mile Corridor Wildflower Walks. Join Anne Morley and Neal Brown for these gentle, two-hour spring birding and wildflower identification strolls. We wander two miles along the Old Swan River Road. Meet in front of Showthyme Restaurant in Bigfork. Info: Anne at 886-2242 or Neal at 837-5018.

Saturday, May 28, 9:00 a.m. Johnson Mountain Terraces. This one- to two-mile, easy hike follows an old road to a series of moist, mossy rock terraces with a variety of montane, grassland and diminutive plants. It is considered a special botanical area on Flathead National Forest. Meet at the rest area by the soccer fields across from Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish. Plan to be back around 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. Bring your favorite plant ID book, lunch, water, and dress for the weather. Info: Betty at 892-0129.

Date TBD. Native Plant Garden Tour. Join native plant gardener Teresa Geyer Stump for a tour of the Flathead Valley Community College and Museum at Central School Native Plant Gardens. Look for dates in the MNPS Field Trip Guide, coming soon. The tour is wheelchair accessible. Info: Teresa at 471-3786, acacia78@bresnan.net.

Thursday, June 9, 10:00 a.m. Sprunger-Whitney Nature Trail. Naturalist and botanist Anne Morley will guide this walk to identify plants, birds, trees and wildlife. The two-mile loop trail meanders through a low elevation, old-growth forest with interpretive and plant identification signs along the route. Bring water, lunch and appropriate clothing for the weather. For more information go to: www.wildswan.org. Meet at the trailhead off Hwy. 83, approximately 7 miles south of Swan Lake. Turn right at the Point Pleasant and Sprunger-Whitney Nature Trail signs (1/2 mile south of mile marker 64). Info: Anne at 886-2242.

continued on page 4



President's Platform

On a recent trip to the Caribbean, I was fascinated and awed by the diversity of unfamiliar flora and reminded again of the importance of local native plant species in creating a sense of place.

Montana's native plant communities create a singular sense of place and reflect our climate and ecosystems. Learning about our native plant species and the habitats they live in is a step toward promoting and preserving these important resources. I encourage you to take the opportunity to participate in MNPS activities, and to observe and identify the native plants that make Montana such a unique and beautiful place.

— Kathy Settevendemie

Tuesdays, starting mid-June. Volunteer at the **Glacier National Park Nursery**. Help with seeding, transplanting, weeding and cleaning, or work on a particular research or experimental project. Bring a sack lunch, your favorite work gloves and clothes that can get dirty. Drop in and work an hour or stay the entire day. Meet at the GNP Native Plant Nursery. Info: Sonja Hartmann at 888-7835.

Tuesday, July 19, 10:00 a.m. **Glacier National Park Weed Blitz.** Join fellow citizens in removing invasive plants from priority sites in Glacier National Park. Park biologist Dawn LaFleur will train participants on identification and effective hand-pulling techniques for targeted weed species. Meet at the West Glacier Community Building; we'll expect to finish around 4:00 p.m. The morning will be in the classroom, and in the field during the afternoon. Lunch provided; space is limited. Info and to sign up: Dawn, dawn_lafleur@nps.gov.

Kelsey Chapter

Info: Kathy Lloyd at 449-6586, drakekath01@gmail.com.

Maka Flora Chapter

Info: Libby Knotts at 774-3778, rek@middrivers.com.

The Chapter is hosting the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting. We have made a down payment to hold the dates of June 23-25, 2017 at the Eastern Montana Bible Camp, located in the badlands between the towns of Lambert and Glendive. The camp has great facilities at a reasonable price and we should be able to come up with a variety of field trips.

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Info: Gretchen Rupp at 586-8363, beesgrmt@gmail.com.

Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. "Penstemons of Montana." Matt Lavin will introduce us to our common penstemons, and perhaps rarer ones as well. There will be teaching specimens to give us hands-on interaction with the plants, and Montana penstemon photos courtesy of Mike Garverich. This will be an excellent way to prepare for the MNPS Annual Membership Meeting in June, which is being held in conjunction with the American Penstemon



Crossing Deep Creek in the Absarokas to explore a recently burned forest during the 2014 Annual Meeting. Photo by Gretchen Rupp

Society this year. Room 108, Plant Bioscience Bldg., west side of South 11th Ave., MSU Campus. Info: Matt Lavin, 599-9749, matt_lavin@msn.com.

Saturday, April 23, 9:00 a.m. **Clean Up Bozeman Day (Earth Day).** We'll continue our highly-successful battle against spotted knapweed and other invasives on the Kagy Boulevard road cut and one other close-by spot. Afterwards, we'll move to the Pollinator Garden in Langohr Park for its spring cleanup. Meet at the road cut, just east of Kagy & S. Church. Bring a digger and gloves. Info: Joanne Jennings at 586-9585.

Friday, May 13. 1:00 p.m. **Spring Garden Work-up.** Help MSU plant and pollinator investigators get their research/teaching garden in order with weeding, planting and other garden-maintenance activities. This garden was supported by a grant from MNPS last year. If you can, bring planting tools and watering cans with your name on them. Meet at MSU Horticultural Farm (turn west off of S. 19th onto Garfield, take left off Garfield near white sign for MSU Hort Farm). Info and RSVP: Michelle Flennikan, michelleflennikan@gmail.com.

Western At-Large

Info: Jon Reny at 334-0459, jreny@kvis.net.

MNPS News

Native Plants Matter!

The Montana Native Plant Society Calypso Chapter invites you to the Annual Membership Meeting, June 24-26/27, held this year in concert with the American Penstemon Society. Come spend the weekend in southwest Montana's valley and mountain landscapes at the peak of native plant flowering and long summer days. Field trips will explore mountain meadows, rocky canyons, exposed mountain slopes and restored riparian environments. The meeting will be based at Fairmont Hot Springs, a venue with three pools and extensive grounds located in a gorgeous rural setting south of Anaconda.

In addition to the already scheduled field trips listed on the insert, two Sunday field trips have been added: A trip to Dutchman Wetland, a recently approved Important Plant Area, led by Peter Lesica and Sue Wall; and a visit to the Peterson Property (Five Valleys Land Trust), led by Jenny Tollefson. A Monday field trip, led by penstemon-authority Noel Holmgren, will be an exciting option as well. You can find more information and register for the meeting via the MNPS website at www.mtnativeplants.org, or at www.facebook.com/events/1587378998218828, or directly via <https://www.elbowspace.com/secure/20151129131831898748>.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1. Annual Membership Meeting registration is now open;
2. The block rate for rooms at Fairmont Hot Springs ends May 25;
3. Meal registration ends June 15; you can still register for the meeting up through June 24 without meals (dining room available).

By-Law Update

Submitted by Patrick Plantenberg, MNPS Secretary

At the February 27, 2016 meeting, the Montana Native Plant Society Board recommended the following minor by-law revisions:

In Article V, Section 3, the phrase "Annual Meeting" be changed to "Annual Membership Meeting"

In Article X, Section 2, the phrase "The _____ Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society" be changed to "The Montana Native Plant Society _____ Chapter"

These revisions will be voted on at the Annual Membership Meeting at Fairmont Hot Springs on June 25 at 7:00 p.m. You can find the complete by-laws on the MNPS website at <http://www.mtnativeplants.org/fileaccess/getfile/268.pdf>.

Board Candidates Announced for 2016

Submitted by Patrick Plantenberg, MNPS Secretary

Karen Shelly (Clark Fork Chapter) is stepping down as Vice President after serving many terms for MNPS. Thank you Karen for your past dedication! Fortunately, **Gretchen Rupp** (Valley of Flowers Chapter) has agreed to run for the position. Gretchen vaguely remembers the initial statewide MNPS meeting that took place at MSU during an April snowstorm. Gretchen has degrees in biology and civil engineering, and has worked as an environmental engineer in Montana since 1984. She has been on staff at MSU-Bozeman since 1994 as an extension specialist, instructor, graduate adviser and research administrator. With respect to native plants, she considers herself a pushy amateur. Her priority for MNPS is member recruitment, specifically attracting the participation of younger people to the VoF Chapter.

Patrick Plantenberg also has decided to retire from his job as Secretary of MNPS. Patrick has been Secretary for who knows how long. Fortunately, **Rachel Potter** (Flathead Chapter) has agreed to run for this position. Rachel received her botany degree from UM and began working for Glacier National Park 40 years ago, primarily in Resource Management, including the native plant restoration program. She and her husband now volunteer as backcountry rangers in Glacier and live in Columbia Falls when not off on some adventure. A founding MNPS member, Rachel has found her involvement to be fun and rewarding, and is pleased to step up her activity in the state organization.

Jennifer Lyman (Eastern At-Large), professor of Environmental Science and Studies at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, happily has agreed to run again for Eastern Representative-at-Large. Jennifer has a B.A. from Wellesley College, and a M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of California-Riverside. She studies plant ecology issues on local and global scales — specifically on islands in the Yellowstone River and in Kazakhstan, Central Asia — and is particularly interested in what plant species are rare in each place and why.

The MNPS Board encourages members to consider running for statewide or local Chapter offices, and is open to people holding co-chair positions as well. If you are interested in participating on the statewide Board, or know someone who is, you may write in your name, your co-chair team names or the name of your nominee on the election ballot in the "write-in candidate" location.

Don't forget, MNPS members can submit ballots to the MNPS Electoral College via e-mail. Go to the MNPS website at www.mtnativeplants.org and look for the link to 2016 Elections. E-mail your vote to m2andp2@mt.net. If you prefer snail mail, fill out and mail the enclosed official ballot today. Results will be announced at the MNPS Annual Membership Meeting, June 25, 2016 at Fairmont Hot Springs.



2016 Small Grant Awards

Two Mission-Focused Projects Selected

By Betty Kuropat, Small Grants Committee

The Montana Native Plant Society is delighted to award 2016 grant funding to two projects that promote our mission of native plant conservation and education. This year the Small Grants Committee evaluated eight proposals for a variety of garden, education and research projects. This is fewer than we have received in the last couple of years. However, it was still challenging and interesting for the committee to select which ones to fund; we wish we could support them all!

Congratulations to the following recipients:

Andrea Pipp is a Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) Botanist and a certified Field Lichenologist. She is heading a moss and lichen inventory on the Milton Ranch in Musselshell County, which has no documented mosses or lichens even though there are 423 moss and 1,074 lichen species known from elsewhere in Montana. Andrea has recruited lichenologists and bryologists from Montana and other northwest states to help with the project. They will spend several days this summer surveying, identifying and documenting their findings. The project will provide data and photos to the MTNHP database, specimens to the Herbarium at the University of Montana, and information for a lichen and moss field guide for the Milton Ranch. MNPS funds will be used to cover travel costs for the survey team.

Milton Ranch is a working family cattle ranch with a history and mission of stewardship. They are striving to return the ranch to a functioning native ecosystem, including native grasses and other plants, wildlife and healthy soils, based on an understanding of the geology.

The Montana Natural History Center (MNHC) plans to create a native plant garden adjacent to the Clark Fork Riverfront Trail and the MNHC office in Missoula. MNHC will partner with Willard Alternative High School teachers and students to design and implement the garden, focusing on nature-based play for children. Willard students will learn about the importance of nature-based play and how to use native plant landscaping to encourage creative play spaces as they plan and install the garden. This garden also will serve as a demonstration to encourage the use of native plants in landscaping. The garden will be accessible to the public, especially Clark Fork Riverfront Trail users. MNHC also anticipates the garden will be used by the more than 3,500 people who participate in their programs annually. MNPS funds will help purchase necessary materials, including plants, boulders and appropriate substrate. Lisa Bickell, MNHC Education Director, and Stephanie Potts, Youth Program Coordinator, are the project managers.

Congratulations to these recipients. We are happy that so many researchers, gardeners and organizations are interested in promoting native plant conservation.

If you'd like to know more about how fun and satisfying it is to review Small Grants proposals, join us at the Annual Membership Meeting in June, or contact committee chair Betty Kuropat at bkuropat@centurytel.net. We welcome new committee members!

Coming in Summer — Reports from 2015 Small Grant recipients

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Montana Native Plant Society welcomes the following new members:

Calypso Chapter

Larry Schussler, Karen Brower, Jessica Kalanik and Suzanne McDougal

Clark Fork Chapter

Margie Dougherty-Goodburn, Sara Anderson, Jenny & Jim Mercer, Cindy Romo, Courtney Jaynes, Barbara Riggs, Michelle Long, Sheil Fauth, Sasha Victor and Kathryn Downie.

Also new lifetime business members Kathleen Settevendemie (Blackfoot Native Plants) and Jennie Meinershagen (Landscape Architecture Studio).

Flathead Chapter

New lifetime member Asta Bowen

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Carol Lee-Roark, Meghan Fenoglio and Loren Franklin

Western-At-Large

Carole Murphy and

new lifetime members

Karen & Mark Sheets

Erratum:

Please note the membership renewal postcard has an error in the amount for the "Living Lightly" membership level.

The membership fee for "Living Lightly" is \$15.00.

he and collaborators at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service used genetic analysis to help design a conservation strategy for the federally-listed Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*). UM's Gordon Luikart showed us how genomic analysis of environmental DNA (e.g., stream water) is being used to detect invasive aquatic plants. Finally, UM's Lila Fishman told us how she and her students used molecular markers to determine that hybrid larch are uncommon in an area of the Bitterroot Range where they were thought to be dominant.

The second day of the conference consisted of two workshops. Sue Wall of Herrera Consulting and Jessie Salix of the U.S. Forest Service gave short presentations on two new Important Plant Area (IPA) nominations: Dutchman Wetlands and Italian Peaks (see related article). The IPA committee, composed of agency representatives and knowledgeable botanists, approved both nominations. This was followed by a presentation of Montana Natural Heritage Program protocols by Andrea Pipp and Bryce Maxell, and a discussion of the MTNHP list of more than 400 plant species with "status under review." 🌸



Italian Peaks survey crew. Photo by Dorothy Wallace-Senft

southern end of the Deerlodge Valley, six miles northeast of Anaconda. Most of the IPA was part of a cattle ranch until it was purchased by Atlantic-Richfield Company (ARCO) to mitigate for riparian and wetland loss due to mining operations in the Butte-Anaconda area. Three creeks cross the IPA, giving rise to a mosaic of springs, fens, ponds, wet meadows, marshes and saline meadows. Sue Wall, a botanist with Herrera Environmental Consulting, led a group of botanists, including Jane Horton, Peter Lesica and Scott Mincemoyer, in 2014 and again in 2015 to survey the area. A total of 135 vascular plant species were recorded over the two years, including six species considered rare in Montana. Four of these are confined to calcareous meadows. This is only the second confirmed location for northern bladderwort (*Utricularia ochroleuca*), a small carnivorous plant of shallow fen pools. The ARCO portion of the area will be open to the public in the future. There will be a field trip to the new IPA on June 26, during the MNPS Annual Membership Meeting.



Townsendia condensata.
Photo by David Hanna



Marsh marigold Photo by Peter Lesica

The Italian Peaks IPA occurs in the extreme southwest corner of the state, adjacent to the Idaho border, a little more than 20 miles southwest of the town of Lima. The IPA is 9,400 to nearly 11,000 feet in elevation in what is usually considered part of the Beaverhead Range. In July of 2015, Jessie Salix, Dorothy Wallace-Senft and Samuel Larkin of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, along with Andrea Pipp of the Montana Natural Heritage Program, Dave Hanna and Peter Lesica, backpacked into the area and spent an afternoon and the following morning conducting a plant inventory. They documented more than 100 species of vascular plants, including nine species considered rare in Montana. Nearly all of these are peripherally rare, being more common south of the state. However, the yellow-flowered marsh marigold is known only from the Beaverhead Range in Montana, and in the Lemhi and Lost River ranges in adjacent Idaho. The soils of the area are stony and derived from limestone. The area with its exceptional assemblage of rare plants is on Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and is closed to motorized use but, unfortunately, vehicle trespass is common. We hope that the MNPS designation will help bring protection to the area. 🌸



The Geology of Wildflowers

By Beth Pratt-Bergstrom, National Wildlife Federation

[The following is adapted with permission from the original article, which appeared in the Summer 2009 issue of *Yellowstone Discovery*.]

We appreciate wildflowers for their handsomeness; we should also appreciate them as chroniclers of time and place. Beyond their aesthetic value, wildflowers tell us a fascinating story, acting as interpreters of the natural world they inhabit. A population of flowers can reveal ancient tales of the landscape, dating back millions of years, and provide us with lessons in geology, climate, wildlife biology, fire history and other scientific information.

[Yellowstone National Park is a case in point.] Yellowstone’s varied terrain gives birth to a diverse array of wildflowers. Thermal features raise heat-loving children; alpine tundra [is the parent of small,] hardy offspring. As wildlife evolve and adapt in concert with their landscape, so, too, do wildflowers. You would no more expect to observe a sky pilot in a foothill meadow than you would a bison grazing at the top of a 12,000-foot peak. A rose by any other name might smell as sweet, but an evening primrose transported from a dry, open site to a shaded, boggy meadow would not live long enough to transmit its fragrant scent.

The epic story of Yellowstone’s wildflowers begins not with a tiny, germinating seed, but with the gigantic shifting of Earth’s crust over the eons. To discover their geologic ancestors, to determine why the delicate alpine forget-me-not thrives on the slopes of Mt. Washburn, or why Ross’ bentgrass lives near thermal sites on the Firehole River, one must journey back [more than] 80 million years to the Cretaceous era.

As Don Despain, author of “Yellowstone Vegetation,” states, “Present vegetation is the result of past climatic forces.” His book accordingly divides Yellowstone into five geologic-climatic provinces, characterized by the bedrock, soil type and microclimate of each area.

[Some] 90 million years ago, a visitor to Yellowstone would have gazed upon ocean waters and coastal swamps, felt the humid breeze, and observed palm and fig trees growing on low hills. Approximately 80 million years ago [began] a major geologic event that significantly altered Yellowstone’s topography — the Laramie

orogeny (from the Greek, meaning “mountain generating.”) Through a series of geologic pulses over the next 30 million years, the Rocky Mountains slowly climbed out of the sea. The coast of the Pacific Ocean retreated to the Oregon-Idaho border, and since no mountains existed between the coast and Yellowstone at that time, the park retained a maritime climate.

When the Cascade Range emerged at the edge of the Miocene and Pliocene Epochs and limited the transfer of ocean moisture to the area, tropical species vanished, coniferous forests appeared, and Yellowstone’s climate assumed characteristics similar to modern day: cool-temperate to subarctic. With freezing temperatures possible every month of the year and snow [and melting snowpack] accounting for a large portion of the [park’s moisture], the growing season for most of Yellowstone is brief — June through August. As a result, the park’s wildflowers experience a botanical spring fever, knowing the days of plentiful sunshine and water are in short supply. Even before winter has fully retreated, the impatient marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*) emerges from hibernation, seeking sunshine by extending its blue-tinted buds through the melting snowbanks and

A population of flowers can reveal ancient tales of the landscape, dating back millions of years, and provide us with lessons in geology, climate, wildlife biology, fire history and other scientific information.



Alpine forget-me-nots



Bitterroot

YNP Photo, JR Douglass

YNP Photo, RG Johnson

blossoming into showy white flowers within 48 hours. Montana's state flower, bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*) also appears anxious for spring. As the snow recedes, the fleshy leaves sprout excitedly from the ground, followed shortly by delicate rose-pink flowers.

Along with geologic uplift, a series of volcanic events built Yellowstone's foundation with two primary material [types]: rhyolitic and andesitic. Most of the younger rhyolite bedrock in the central part of the park formed between two million and 76,000 years ago, while the segments of andesite bedrock in the rest of Yellowstone cooled and hardened much earlier — 70 to 80 million years ago.

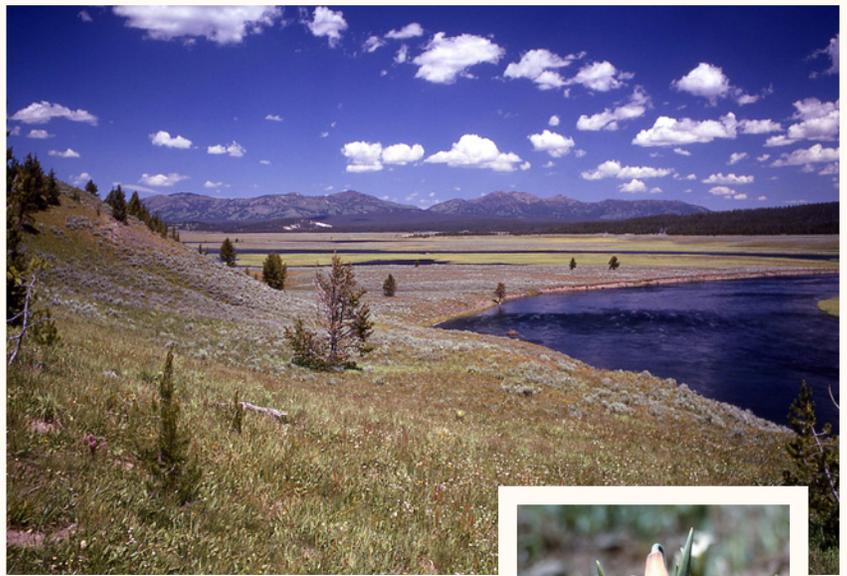
As Despain notes, "Soils that developed on the two distinct rock types differ in mineral nutrient content and water-holding capacity, both factors of primary importance to plants." Andesitic soils, because of the higher content of calcium, magnesium and iron, and enhanced moisture-retaining capabilities, provide better growing conditions for vegetation."

In Yellowstone, a very general rule of thumb is: if you are standing in a large, open meadow filled with wildflowers, it's a safe bet the andesitic bedrock beneath your feet may have formed when dinosaurs walked the earth. A continuously forested area, on the other hand, usually indicates a rhyolitic base with thin, nutrient-poor soils. As with any rule, exceptions do occur. The exceptions to the bedrock-soil relationship result from another geologic force: glaciation.

Imagine an ancient wind riding across the smooth surfaces of the ice caps and glaciers covering the Yellowstone landscape. Underneath the vast weight of the ice and glaciers, rock has been crushed into a soft, light soil called loess. Water running beneath the ice transports the soil into riverbeds, where, once dry, the loess meets the wind and travels above its creators to rest near or far from its place of birth.

Loess may help boost nutrient and water content in rhyolite-based soils and create more favorable growing conditions for plants in areas where rhyolitic bedrock exists. Similarly, although Hayden and Pelican Valleys are located on rhyolitic plateaus, sediments from an extended Yellowstone Lake during glacial periods have boosted soil conditions and produced an environment more favorable to plants and wildflowers. Today, a visitor watching the wind ring the silent blossoms of yellow bells in Hayden Valley is benefitting from the patient handiwork of glaciers during the last ice age.

Perhaps the geologic force most unique to Yellowstone in shaping wildflower habitat is geothermal activity. The steaming spray of geysers or the boiling water of hot springs don't appear readily hospitable to plant life. In addition to the high temperatures (an average of 199 degrees F), the waters of the thermal features can be extremely acidic or alkaline. Yet geothermal activity in



Hayden Valley, Yellowstone River and Yellow bells



Yellowstone has created mini-habitats and microclimates that enable a selection of species, some more typically found in tropical or temperate environments, to exist and even thrive.

Thermal features act as natural heating systems, above and below ground, for plants, shielding them against winter's severe temperatures and accelerating the melting of the surrounding snow cover. Additionally, substances dissolved from the water flowing from thermal activity can impact plant communities by creating soils rich in alkali or other substances. Protection from winter's chill and enhanced nutrients come at a price, however, as inhabitants of thermal communities must always be vigilant. Rapidly changing conditions in geothermal areas can quickly destroy any residents.

One wildflower influenced by the park's thermal activity is the Yellowstone sand verbena (*Abronia ammophila*), a flower



Yellowstone sand verbena



found nowhere else on Earth. The plant's dainty, creamy to greenish-yellow blossoms decorate the shores of Yellowstone Lake from mid-June to early September — an unusually long blooming period in the park. Botanists know little about the plant's biology (such as how it pollinates or how long the seeds survive), but as its name suggests, this exceptional wildflower prefers sandy soils.

Another wildflower endemic to Yellowstone, Ross' bentgrass (*Agrostis rossiae*), braves winter's chill with the help of its thermal home and blooms in purple-hued spikelets as early as January. For the species to thrive, thermal activity must create natural greenhouse conditions with an average of 100 degrees F within an inch of the surface under the



Ross' bentgrass

plant. The geothermal heat, which provides an advantage in winter, becomes a liability in the summer months, and most plants have dried out and died by July. The bentgrass also has the assistance of another of Yellowstone's famous features — its mega fauna (large animals) — that assist with seed dispersal. Visitors can look for Ross' bentgrass while exploring the geyser basins near the Firehole River or Shoshone Lake.

The yellow monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) has developed an interesting adaptation for life near hot springs. In thermal areas, the plant changes costume from winter to summer, donning the practical dress necessary for each seasonal role. During the winter, the stems assume a short stature and sprout leaves that remain close to the pocket of warm air near the ground. Once spring



Yellow monkeyflower



Firehole River

and summer arrive, the monkeyflower transforms itself into a confident character and produces an abundance of "grinning" yellow blossoms. As its genus name *Mimulus* is derived from the Latin term for actor, its role-changing adaptations seem especially appropriate.

Yellowstone's landscape is not static. As one of the largest active hotspots on Earth, its geologic underpinnings continuously transform the region in the form of earthquakes, volcanoes, geothermal activity and other processes. Robert Smith and Lee Siegel, in the book "Windows into the Earth," characterize the greater Yellowstone area as a "geocosystem" to demonstrate the dependence of flora and fauna on the underlying geology. Geologic change — whether gradually over millions of years or abruptly in hours or days — continuously alters Yellowstone's ecological systems. Natural processes, such as fire and drought, along with environmental threats, such as climate change, pollution and exotic species encroachment, can cause still further disruptions.

Whatever the resulting change, wildflowers will continue to provide nature's laughter in Yellowstone. Even if the much-debated "super volcano" erupts, wildflowers eventually will adapt to the new landscape, rising like small phoenixes from the ashes, and with a fascinating geologic story to tell their admirers of the future.

For proof of the tenacity of plant life, one can travel about 200 miles southwest of Yellowstone to Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. Craters of the Moon inhabits the same hotspot track as Yellowstone and as such has been termed the park's "geologic prelude." The monument resembles a moonscape; its craggy terrain is filled with almost every variety of basaltic lava from volcanic activity that ended only 2,000 years before present day. Yet among the moisture-deprived and windswept lava fields, and despite poor soil conditions and temperatures exceeding 150 degrees F, stalwart wildflowers like the bitterroot and monkey flower still brighten the landscape with their colorful smiles.

YNP Photo, Rosalie LaRue

YNP Photo, Jennifer Whipple

YNP Photo, JW Stockert

MNPS Chapters and the Areas They Serve

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. Alternatively, you may choose to be a member At-Large. 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.

Moving? Please notify us promptly of address changes at mtnativeplantmembership@gmail.com.

Your mailing label tells you the following:

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

AT-LARGE AFFILIATION: EAL=Eastern At-Large; WAL=Western At-Large

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

Use this form to join MNPS only if you are a first-time member!

To renew a membership, please wait for your yellow renewal card in the mail.

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 Kelsey 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) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____ Chapter Affiliation (optional) _____

Delivery preference _____ paper by USPS* _____ digital by email

You will receive membership acknowledgment by email, as well as a pdf of the most recent Kelsey. Future newsletter issues will arrive according to your preference indicated above.

** Canadian subscribers asking for paper copy of the newsletter, please add \$4.00 to cover mailing costs*

***Additional donations may be specified for a particular project or the general fund*

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE at www.mtnativeplants.org

or mail application to:
Montana Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 8783
Missoula, MT 59807-8783

Membership Level	Dues with affiliation*	I am paying for _____ years	Donation**	Total amount enclosed
Individual	\$20			
Family	\$25			
Business/Organization	\$40			
Living Lightly	\$15			
Lifetime (one-time payment)	\$300 per household	-----		



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), and sent electronically to: carokurtz@gmail.com or mailed to *Kelsey* Editor, 645 Beverly Avenue, Missoula, MT, 59801.

Changes of address and inquiries about membership should be sent to MNPS Membership, 398 Jeffers Road, Ennis, MT 59729. 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; Field Trip Guide–April 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 or email: carokurtz@gmail.com. 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.mtnativeplants.org
or contact our webmaster Bob Person at: thepersons@mcn.net**

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Montana Native Plant Society

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OFFICIAL 2016 MNPS ELECTION BALLOT

If you would rather e-mail your ballot to the MNPS Electoral College in Townsend, please logon to the MNPS website at www.mtnativeplants.org and look for the link to “2016 Elections!!” where there will be a link to the ballot. Please vote for the candidate of your choice, a write-in candidate, or yourself. Please indicate your Chapter affiliation or if you are a Western- or Eastern-at-Large member. Election results will be announced at the Annual Membership Meeting on June 25, 2016 at Fairmont Hot Springs.

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

GRETCHEN RUPP

Write-in candidate

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

RACHEL POTTER

Write-in candidate

CANDIDATE FOR EASTERN REPRESENTATIVE-AT-LARGE

JENNIFER LYMAN

Write-in candidate

CHAPTER AFFILIATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Calypso	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelsey	<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern-at-Large
<input type="checkbox"/> Clark Fork	<input type="checkbox"/> Maka Flora	<input type="checkbox"/> Western-at-Large
<input type="checkbox"/> Flathead	<input type="checkbox"/> Valley of Flowers	

NUMBER OF PAID MEMBERS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD _____

THE MNPS ELECTORAL COLLEGE THANKS YOU

MNPS Annual Balance Statement as of 12/31/2015

<u>Year</u>	<u>CDs</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>Net Gain/Loss</u>
2015	n/a	\$18,770.70	\$20,842.02	\$39,612.72	\$21,734.63	(\$26,898.58)	(\$5,163.95)
2014	n/a	\$18,765.55	\$32,408.02	\$51,173.57	\$28,025.84	(\$34,261.59)	(\$6,235.75)
2013	n/a	\$18,759.02	\$24,782.59	\$43,541.61	\$34,679.92	(\$13,391.48)	\$21,288.44
2012	n/a	\$18,746.10	\$15,767.06	\$34,513.16	\$35,293.27	(\$42,239.19)	(\$6,945.92)
2011	n/a	\$33,647.55	\$7,640.20	\$41,287.75	\$17,127.48	(\$17,547.35)	(\$419.87)
2010	n/a	\$33,550.71	\$8,361.70	\$41,912.41	\$17,816.41	(\$18,414.32)	(\$597.91)
2009	\$20,146.52	\$13,197.62	\$4,886.07	\$38,230.21	\$22,337.87	(\$14,250.28)	\$8,087.59
2008	\$20,000.00	\$4,695.49	\$9,178.00	\$33,873.49	\$18,288.96	(\$18,110.16)	\$178.80
2007	\$16,172.00	\$4,186.00	\$16,498.00	\$36,856.00	\$17,835.00	(\$13,149.00)	\$4,686.00
2006	\$15,605.00	\$3,679.00	\$5,544.00	\$24,828.00	\$17,677.00	(\$11,297.00)	\$6,380.00
2005	\$10,605.00	\$3,806.00	\$3,338.00	\$17,749.00	\$11,111.00	(\$9,609.00)	\$1,502.00
2004	\$10,400.00	\$3,663.00	\$7,986.00	\$22,049.00	\$12,429.00	(\$15,487.00)	(\$3,058.00)
2003	\$10,319.00	\$6,125.00	\$4,125.00	\$20,569.00	\$12,744.00	(\$12,791.00)	(\$47.00)
2002	\$10,000.00	\$4,138.00	\$6,269.00	\$20,407.00	\$12,382.00	(\$11,353.00)	\$1,029.00
2001	\$10,000.00	\$11,564.00	\$301.00	\$21,865.00	\$9,170.00	(\$8,686.00)	\$484.00
2000	\$10,000.00	\$11,244.00	\$307.00	\$21,551.00	\$7,816.00	(\$6,410.00)	\$1,406.00
1999	\$10,000.00	\$8,865.00	\$891.00	\$19,756.00	\$9,039.00	(\$4,762.00)	\$4,277.00
1998				\$14,576.00	\$11,978.00	(\$10,912.00)	\$1,066.00
1997	\$4,050.00	\$10,600.00	\$1,300.00	\$15,950.00	\$6,019.00	(\$6,948.00)	(\$929.00)
1996	\$2,500.00	\$9,272.00	\$411.00	\$12,183.00	\$6,147.00	(\$4,746.00)	\$1,401.00
1995	\$3,000.00	\$6,320.00	\$277.00	\$9,597.00	\$6,172.00	(\$6,037.00)	\$135.00

Prepared by: J. Tollefson and S. Kimball, MNPS Co-Treasurers

MNPS 2016 BUDGET SUMMARY

Prepared by: J. Tollefson and S. Kimball, MNPS Co-Treasurers

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES</u>						
Membership	\$6,350.00	\$0.00	(\$300.00)	\$0.00	\$6,050.00	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$6,100.00)	\$0.00	(\$6,100.00)	\$0.00
Operating Budget	\$100.00	\$0.00	(\$3,050.00)	\$0.00	(\$2,950.00)	\$0.00
Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$600.00)	\$0.00		
Committees	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	\$0.00		
Board Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	\$0.00		
Interest Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Website	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$350.00)	\$0.00		
Donations	\$100.00	\$0.00	(\$100.00)	\$0.00		
Publications	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$900.00)	\$0.00		
Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$100.00)	\$0.00		
At-Large Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$300.00)	\$0.00		
GOE TOTALS	\$6,450.00	\$0.00	(\$9,450.00)	\$0.00	(\$3,000.00)	\$0.00
<u>SPECIAL PROJECTS</u>						
Marketing	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$3,800.00)	\$0.00		
Small Grants Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$5,800.00)	\$0.00		
UM Herbarium Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	\$0.00		
MT Audubon Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Chapter Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	\$0.00		
Annual Meeting 2016	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	\$0.00		
Merchandise Sales (annual mtg)	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Merchandise Sales (other)	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Plant Conservation Conference	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	(\$1,500.00)	\$0.00		
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	\$6,850.00	\$0.00	(\$17,100.00)	\$0.00	(\$10,250.00)	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$13,300.00	\$0.00	(\$26,550.00)	\$0.00	(\$13,250.00)	\$0.00



Montana Native Plant Society
American Penstemon Society
Joint Annual Meeting
Native Plants Matter

June 24-26, 2016 Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

The Calypso Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society invites you to spend the weekend in southwest Montana's valley and mountain landscapes at the peak of native plant flowering and long summer days. Field trips will explore mountain meadows, rocky canyons, exposed mountain slopes, and restored riparian environments. Fairmont Hot Springs, with three pools, extensive grounds, and a gorgeous rural setting is perfect for families. **We will use the Cutthroat and Meadowlark Rooms on the north side of the complex, including the Outdoor Pavilion. Plan to park there – follow conference signs around to Shirley Way and turn in.**

Registration

Fairmont Hot Springs Resort is located 12 miles west of Butte on I-90. Take Exit 211, head west 4 miles, follow conference signs around to Shirley Way.

Conference Registration: Friday, Noon till 8:00 PM in the meeting rooms.

Hotel Registration: On the south side of the building.

Lodging

Lodging for the conference is based at Fairmont Hot Springs. **Attendees must make their own room reservations** by calling 406-797-3241, or online at www.fairmontmontana.com/. Ask for (or choose) "Book Now", then choose "Groups"; our GROUP ID = 14384, PASSWORD = 37003400. **Fairmont has a strict "no pets" policy.**

Fairmont block-room registration closes June 15, 2016.

Additionally, there are many nearby area motels in Anaconda, Deer Lodge and Butte.

RV and Camping Options – For fees and reservations, call or see web sites. No dogs, no fire arms

Fairmont RV Park (walking distance from Fairmont H. S. but not affiliated). Includes restroom/showers, gas/diesel, dump/water stations. RV sites (133), Cabins (3), Teepees (3), Tent spaces (13). Information: www.fairmontrvresort.com; 406-797-3505.

Lost Creek State Park (approx. 12 miles from Fairmont Hot Springs). For user fees and reservations: www.stateparks.mt.gov/lost-creek.

2 Bar Lazy H RV Park – Rocker (12 miles from Fairmont Hot Springs). Off exit 122 at Rocker on I-90, 2 miles west of Butte. Information: www.2barlazyhrv.com; 406-782-5464.

Butte KOA (15 miles from Fairmont Hot Springs). Information: www.koa.com/campgrounds.butte; 406-782-8080, or 800/562-8089.

Primitive Camping: Hard Shell Campers and Tents. Dispersed camping is available on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Check with Forest Supervisor's Office at 406-683-3900 (Dillon); or Butte Ranger District at 406-494-2147, or Calypso Chapter member Kelly Upright at 406-723-4416, whereskellyupright@yahoo.com.

Meals and Social Hour – please, no "BYOB"

All prepaid meals will be in the meeting rooms – **you will need to show your registration badge**. Preordered sack lunches for Saturday +/- Sunday (on registration form) can be picked up the morning of the trip. The Social Hour, open to all, will be in the Pavilion, 5:00-6:00 PM Friday

Friday Workshops: 3:00-4:30 PM in the Pavilion

1 – Native Seed Propagation, offered by Bryce Christaens of Native Ideals Seed Farm

2 – Grass ID, offered by RT Hawke. Bring a hand lens if possible.

Friday Excursion. Karen Brower invites those interested to tour her gardens between 10:00 AM and Noon on Friday before the conference. Karen has extensive native and “same niche” plant species including many penstemons. She lives east of Butte, east side of Homestake Pass on I-90; use Pipestone Exit. Call to attend: 406-490-8872.

Field Trips

Trips will go to classic and new locales. Saturday trips will run 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM to allow time for family fun at Fairmont. ALL TRIPS DEPART FROM AND RETURN TO PARKING AREA BESIDE PAVILION ON SHIRLEY WAY, NORTH SIDE OF BUILDING COMPLEX. Sunday trips will depart at 9:00 AM to start you homeward. Be sure to have a LUNCH, plenty of water, appropriate footwear and clothing for changeable mountain/prairie weather, sun hat, sun screen, dark glasses, camera, binoculars, hand lens. Camera buffs will be able to pool their pics for the evening Trip Photo Review.

Saturday Field Trips

Vipond Park. Leaders Jessie Salix/Catherine Cain. A driving and walking trip to a spectacular subalpine meadow. Green Gentian will be abundant. Easy. No limit

Highland Mountains Foothills. Leader: Mike Garverich. A driving trip with numerous stops to examine penstemon species and other native plants. Route traverses the northern foothills of the Highland Mountains including the soon-to-be reopened Highlands Gold Mine. Easy. Limit 30

Mount Fleecer. Leaders: Kriss Douglass and RT Hawke. An unhurried uphill hike, traversing open, vegetated subalpine mountain slopes on terrain undisturbed since perhaps the last glacial ice retreat. Moderate. Limit 25

Mount Haggin Wildlife Management Area. Leader: Peter Lesica. Wide, rolling and watered meadows with adjacent stands of Lodgepole pine fill this gorgeous area, home to moose, elk, and black bear. Moderate. Limit 20

Silver Bow Creek Restoration – Evolution of a Superfund Site. Leaders: Joe Griffin, Robert Pal, Matt Lavin. Learn about the geologic and biologic setting and history of mining on the Butte Hill, “Richest Hill on Earth”, and examine sections of the ongoing restoration of a creek and a landscape. Prepare for wet walking conditions. Easy. Limit 35

Sunday Field Trips (still being developed)

Durant Canyon. Leader: Rich Prodgers.

Lost Creek. Leader: Krystal Weilage

Sugarloaf Mountain. Leader: RT Hawke

Monday Field Trip

Fairmont to Chief Joseph Pass to Salmon, Idaho (130 miles); participants can leave the group anywhere along the way. Leader: Noel Holmgren

Other Activities

Wayne Phillips’ Plant ID Contest, a Silent Auction, and T-shirts and other merchandise for sale.

AGENDA

Friday, June 24

Noon - 8:00 Registration + Field Trip Sign-up + Silent Auction

3:00 -- 4:30 Workshops in Pavilion

4:00 -- 5:00 MNPS Board Meeting

APS Board Meeting

5:00 -- 6:00 Social Hour in Pavillon

6:00 -- 9:00 Dinner, Announcements + speaker

Saturday, June 25

7:00– 8:00 Breakfast + pick up sack lunch (if preordered with registration)

8:30 – 3:30 Field Trips (bring a lunch)

8:30 – 3:30 Children’s program

4:00 – 6:00 Plant ID Contest; download field trip pics; Silent Auction

6:00 – 7:00 Dinner

7:00 – 9:00 General Membership Meeting, Silent Auction, picture show

Sunday, June 26

7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 Committee meetings (MNPS)

9:00 Field trips depart; general departure

Montana Native Plant Society - American Penstemon Society

NATIVE PLANTS MATTER

June 24-26 2016 Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, Montana

Registration form can also be printed and mailed with a check payable to MNPS to
Linda Lyon, 1527 Eliason LN, Dillon, MT 59725 Questions? 406-683-2878

NOTE: Registration for Conference meals closes Wednesday, June 15th, 2016. Conference registration continues through Friday, June 24th, 2016 without meals (hotel dining room available). All meal costs include 18% gratuity.

Annual Meeting Registration Fees

Adult - Registration	Penstemon Society or MNPS members	\$25.00	0	
Adult - Registration	Non-members	\$30.00	0	
Child - Registration	17 and under	\$0.00	0	

Friday Conference Events

Friday Seed Propagation Workshop	3 - 4:30PM	\$10.00	0	
Friday Grass ID Workshop	3 - 4:30PM (limited to 16)	\$10.00	0	

Friday Meals

Adult - Meal	Dinner - Taco Bar	\$18.00	0	
Children 5-12 - Meal	Dinner - Taco Bar	\$14.50	0	
Children Under 4- Meal	Dinner - Taco Bar	\$0.00	0	

Saturday Conference Events

Kids' Program - Parents to provide sack lunch. See sack lunches below.	Saturday 8:30AM - 3:30PM	\$0.00	0	
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Saturday Meals

Adult - Meal	Breakfast - Buffet	\$12.50	0	
Children 5-12 - Meal	Breakfast - Buffet	\$10.00	0	
Children Under 4 - Meal	Breakfast - Buffet	\$0.00	0	
Adult - Sack Lunch	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	\$15.00	0	
Children 5-12 - Sack Lunch	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	\$12.00	0	
Children Under 4 - Sack Lunch	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	\$0.00	0	
Adult - Sack Lunch Vegetarian	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	\$15.00	0	
Children - Sack Lunch Vegetarian	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	\$12.00	0	
Children Under 4 - Sack Lunch Vegetarian	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	\$0.00	0	
Adult - Meal	Dinner - Buffet Traditional Lasagna	\$22.50	0	
Children 5-12 - Meal	Dinner - Buffet Traditional Lasagna	\$18.00	0	
Children 4 and Under - Meal	Dinner - Buffet Traditional Lasagna	\$0.00	0	
Adult - Meal Vegetarian	Dinner - Buffet Vegetarian Lasagna	\$22.50	0	
Children 5-12 - Vegetarian	Dinner - Buffet Vegetarian Lasagna	\$18.00	0	
Children 4 and Under - Vegetarian	Dinner - Buffet Vegetarian Lasagna	\$0.00	0	

Sunday Meals

Adult - Meal	Breakfast - Buffet	\$12.50	0	
Children 5-12 - Meal	Breakfast - Buffet	\$10.00	0	
Children 4 and Under - Meal	Breakfast - Buffet	\$0.00	0	
Adult - Sack Lunch	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	\$15.00	0	

Children 5-12 - Sack Lunch	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	<input type="text" value="\$12.00"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>
Children 4 and Under - Sack Lunch	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>
Adult - Sack Lunch Vegetarian	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	<input type="text" value="\$15.00"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>
Children - Sack Lunch Vegetarian	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	<input type="text" value="\$12.00"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>
Children 4 and Under - Sack Lunch Vegetarian	Lunch - Wraps, Chips, Candy Bar and Water	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text"/>

Donations

Optional Contribution to APS

Optional Contribution to MNPS

Total

Grand Total:

Personal Information

E-Mail

First Name:* * Required Field

Last Name:*

Address:*

City:*

State:*

Zip Code:*

Phone:*

Credit/Debit Card or PAYPAL