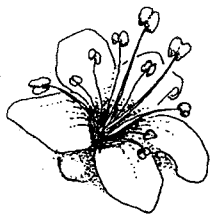


Kelseya uniflora



Kelseya

Vol 7, No 3

SPRING 1994

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE - *Planting a Prairie Garden*

- Linda Iverson

Native plant enthusiasts living in the drier regions of our state might consider a departure from traditional landscaping in their gardening endeavors. By using plants that grow together in the natural landscape, a plant community is created, one adapted to the growing conditions found in a specific area.

The lower elevation sagebrush and grassland communities found in much of Montana grow in open plains, valleys and river breaks. Soil conditions can vary greatly. The plants thrive in difficult places, even tolerating relentless winds. Rather than working to improve the soil by continually adding fertilizers and water for unadapted species, why not set aside a sunny corner for a little piece of the prairie.

Plant Selection

For starters, study an area or two nearest your location. Attend a MNPS field trip nearby. Identify the common plants. These are likely to be easiest to obtain, either as seed or plants. Avoid commercial mixes unless formulated for your area; many contain plants which are not specifically adapted, or can actually become weeds. Enlist the help of seed dealers, nursery people, and native gardeners nearby (our MNPS **Gardeners' Guide** will be out in the summer newsletter). MNPS has several informative handouts available; two useful ones are the **Native Plant Source Guide** and **Guidelines for Collecting Native Plants**. Government agencies such as Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service can also assist with identification and selection.

The prairie community is an interactive group of grasses, forbs and shrubs. "Forb" is a general term for any non-woody plant that isn't a grass or grass-like plant. At the end of the article is a list of some common domesticated members of each plant category. Growing grass and forbs from seed is usually the most economical way to start the prairie. Many possible seed combi-

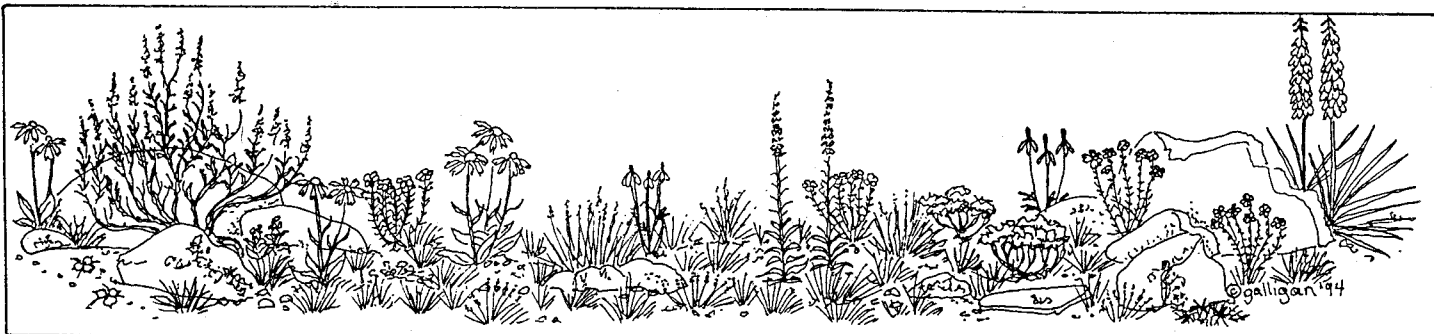
nations exist; however the proportion of various ingredients must be correct. Seed dealers will help you decide this. A mix containing 60% grasses and 40% forbs provides a good balance. Bunch-type grasses are preferred to rhizomatous ones, because they leave space for the forbs to grow. Even some bunchgrasses can be aggressive. For example, slender wheatgrass, *Agropyron tachycaulum*, is vigorous (to begin with) and competes with the slower grasses, yet provides necessary cover. Sheep fescue (*Festuca ovina*), on the other hand, is slow as a seedling but very persistent and almost sod-forming once established. Both are important components but need to be used in smaller proportion to other grasses. Some mixes use annuals to help fill in the gaps and add color the first year; unfortunately most of these annuals are not native and usually do not persist.

Site Preparation

Start with an area of modest size (1000-2000 sq ft), so as not to get discouraged. This is large enough to give you an opportunity to learn the interaction of the plants you select. The single most important step that insures success is preparation. Native grasses and forbs are slower to establish than long-cultivated species; weed competition must be kept to a minimum.

Usually a year's lead time is needed to complete a good weed eradication cycle. Remove existing sod, or in the case of a larger area turn sod under. Best to follow with shallow tilling or disking each time a new weed crop emerges. Most will be annuals, but perennial weed rhizomes that are exposed to sun and frost die too. Water between tilling to germinate the weed seeds. If you don't want to wait a year, shallow till and water once or twice in the spring, then again right before you seed. The final seed bed should be firm and free of large soil clods.

- continued on Page 3



Common sagebrush Blanketflower Prairie Prairie coneflower Yucca
Penstemon coneflower Rabbitbrush Blue flax
Sego lily Bluebunch Rough Blue flax
wheatgrass blazing star

From the President

Greetings from Big Timber! the longer days and milder temperatures of spring certainly bring on a wave of gardening fever and excitement at the sight of early blooming natives. I feel fortunate to live where I can observe native plants right out my back door. The illustrations in this issue represent just a few of the emerging wonders found throughout the state this month. The artist, Ellen Galligan, lives in Big Timber and has generously donated her work. She also illustrated the lead article on prairie vegetation. Thanks, Ellen!



Winter Board Meeting Report

Several hardy board members drove through snow and ice to Bozeman in late February for our meeting. Unfortunately some had to turn back! Much of our discussion focused on the inner workings of the Society: the newsletter, budget and membership.

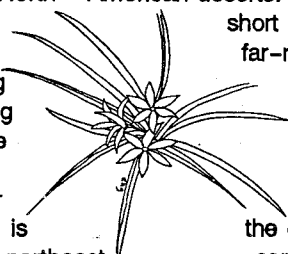
The ballot in this issue has the names and brief biographies of the officers running. Even though we only have one person for each position, please take the time to send your ballot in. The budget for '94 is included - and it's *balanced!* Our bylaws require membership approval of the budget, another reason to send in your ballot. (Thanks!) And thanks to the nominees for their interest in MNPS.

We've decided to mail reminders in July to those who've not yet renewed their membership, rather than waiting til late fall (we hate to lose anybody). We'll also mail welcome/acknowledgments to new members to let them know about chapter contacts, meetings etc.

Our newsletter editor, Jan Nixon, could use the help of an assistant, preferably in the Bozeman area. We are currently looking for someone with an IBM-compatible computer to: type in copy, proofread, help with labeling etc. Let us know if you're interested. Thanks to all of you who're submitting your information on disk - it really saves time!

Chapter Activities

Chapter programs held this winter covered many interesting topics ranging from native plants of Africa and Australia to poisonous plants and North American deserts. I'm glad to hear that we're not running short of topics, rather they're getting more far-reaching. Many chapters are wrapping up their indoor season - for many the most exciting. Attend a field trip in a new area this year and expand your horizons.



Especially exciting is the emergence of a new chapter in the far northeast corner of the state. Terry Wamsley, the nominee for eastern representative-at-large, is organizing a chapter in the Plentywood area, with the help of Doug Smith of Dagmar.

Rare Plant Poster

We're working steadily on a poster in cooperation with the Forest Service and possibly a few other agencies and organizations, depicting rare plants in Montana. Bonnie Heidel of the Montana Natural Heritage Program is spearheading a small review committee who are making decisions as to content and layout. We are choosing five rare plants that have special significance (out of over 200) to appear in photographs. We hope

to have a completed project before the year is out [see *Heritage Corner* in the summer KELSEYA for additional info].

State Committee Updates

The *Native Plant Gardens and Gardeners* appear in the Summer KELSEYA. We just too many other inserts to include it in this. The response was good and we hope it result in a useful information exchange. new *Guide* gives public and private around the state which feature (at in part) native plantings. If you wait until July, send a SASE to Potter at 2145 Witty Columbia Falls MT 59912. send you a DRAFT version.

The Summer KELSEYA will contain an article on conservation ideas around the state.

Ideas to kick around at the Meeting include starting up an Adopt-A-Rare-Plant program and a scholarship native plant research. Put your thinking



Guide will have one! will This gardens least can't Rachel Ln, She'll



also happen-



Annual fund for caps on!

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting is fast approaching with many preparations underway. I am greatly impressed with the Artemisia Chapter's drive and enthusiasm, starring Don Heinze as their fearless leader. They continue to meet each month throughout the year and have an active field trip agenda besides. Be prepared for an outdoor experience in a strikingly different setting this year. We may return to an indoor meeting next year, supplemented by a Society field trip later in the summer. This will depend on the hosting chapter - although you never know, maybe we'll continue this outdoor format. Let us know your thoughts.

There will be general and committee meetings as always. Bring comments and suggestions. Looking forward to June.

- Linda Iverson

Ellen's illustrations are, clockwise from top left: stemless daisy (*Townsendia hookeri*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon conjugens*), windflower (*Anemone occidentalis*), pasqueflower (*Anemone nuttallii*), and sand lily (*Leucocrinum montanum*).

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER'S A-to-Z LIST OF THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT AT HORSESHOE BEND

So okay, this list is only A-to-Y...but the Artemisia brainstormers offer you some tips on things to bring to the Annual Meeting, for your comfort, learning pleasure, and all-around enjoyment of your adventure in the Pryor Desert:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Air mattress | First aid kit |
| Animal ID book | Fishing gear |
| Binoculars | Food & beverages |
| Bird ID book | Hand lens |
| Boat, bicycle etc | Hiking boots |
| Camera & film | Hot weather gear |
| Camping gear | Mosquito repellent |
| Clipboard & pencil | Plant ID books |
| Cold weather gear | Rainy weather gear |
| Cooking/eating gear | Sunscreen, sunhat |
| Drinking water | Swimsuit |
| Firewood | Your friends |

GILIA MINUTIFLORA: A NEW PLANT FOR MONTANA

— Judy Hoy

A steady succession of rains last spring produced a dazzling display of wildflowers and native grasses on our 50-acre area of dryland sagebrush wildlife habitat. Most surprising of these was a native annual with small lavender blossoms, *Gilia minutiflora* (small-flowered gilia), which began blooming in July. I discovered it on July 20 on a hillside north of Willoughby Creek, five miles southeast of Stevensville, Montana, in the Bitterroot Valley.

The slope where the gilia grows is steep and faces south, on the rare occasions when it rains (in a "normal" year), most of the moisture runs off so conditions there combine to make a mini-desert, complete with *Opuntia fragilis* (prickly-pear cactus). Native grasses grew tall this year and with no livestock grazing for over ten

years, have nearly reclaimed their habitat from spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) which grows so profusely here when dryland is overgrazed. *Agropyron spicatum* (bluebunch wheatgrass), *Oryzopsis hymenoides* (Indian ricegrass), *Stipa comata* (needle and thread), *Sporobolus cryptandrus* (sand dropseed), and *Poa sandbergii* (Sandberg's bluegrass) have reseeded nicely, but spaces show up as bare ground from a distance. In actuality, "empty" areas between

grasses are filled with small annuals and some small perennials.

A neighbor's casual comment about lack of vegetation in a particular "bare" area of the hillside straight north of our house prompted me to inspect the plants in that spot, and resulted in my exciting discovery of *G. minutiflora*, the first report of this plant for Montana. It has previously been found in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. Our site

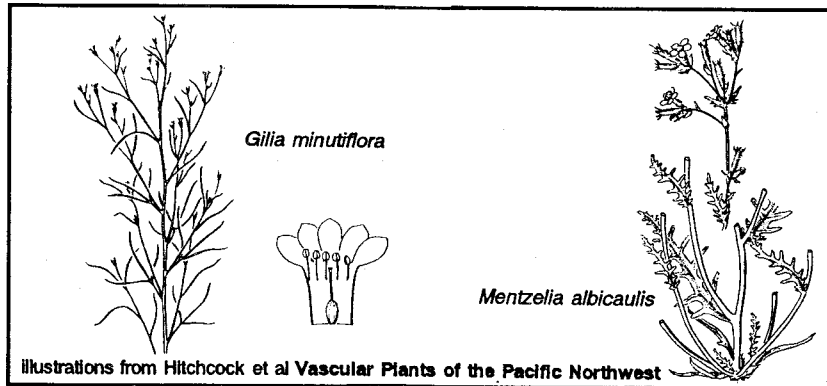
here in the Bitterroot Valley is the eastern-most known occurrence for this species.

Plant field guides say it grows in sandy areas, but here it is growing in fine-grained loam of volcanic origin. It is related to the showy beauty, *Gilia aggregata* (scarlet gilia), which is fairly common in the

Bitterroot Valley.

In addition to *G. minutiflora*, I discovered three other new plants for Ravalli County on our land in 1993. One is an introduced grass, *Setaria lutescens* (yellow foxtail), and two are native plants: *Mentzelia albicaulis* (whitestem blazing star) and *Astragalus microcystis* (least bladder milkvetch). This site is the southern-most known occurrence for *A. microcystis*.

— Judy Hoy, with her husband Bob, runs the Bitterroot Wildlife Rehabilitation Center near Stevensville MT



GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE, cont from Pg 1: Planting

Seeding the grasses and forbs first allows for better weed control. Broadcasting is easiest in small areas and allows for drift planting of separate species. When calculating seeding rate translate #/acre to #/1000sqft and get to know what pure live seed means! The rates vary depending on the plant composition (here again your seed dealer will recommend the rate). Follow the seeding rate religiously, using a scale and measuring the area into blocks. Overseeding results in a jungle where aggressive species quickly dominate. Spring planting is best if winters are dry, windy and open, however seeds that have dormancy requirements will not show up until the next year unless they are pre-treated. It's interesting to note that perennial plant root growth comprises two to three times the biomass of the same plant's above-ground vegetation the first year. Most plants will only reach 2-3" in height; you have to look closely to see them!

Frequent light sprinkling the first season will increase germination and seedling growth if weather conditions do not cooperate. Subsequent years it is best to leave watering to nature.

Care and Continuation

Follow up maintenance is another key to success. The first three years are the crucial period. Obviously you can never get all the weeds, especially the perennial ones. Mowing is a great weed control tool. The first year as weeds tower over the fragile

seedlings and before the annual weeds set seed, mow them off to 6 inches and remove the debris. Spot mow so as not to lose the flower display of the annuals. Unfortunately a typical lawnmower won't do because you cannot set the blade high enough. Heavy duty weed eaters, brush cutters or sickle mowers are best, available at most rental shops. Mowing will weaken perennial and biennial weeds especially during flowering. In cases of severe perennial weed infestation, hand pulling or spot treatment with non-residual herbicides is sometimes necessary. Do not let them gain a root hold. The second and third years spot mowing may be needed along with hand weeding. Bare areas may need reseeding or plant shrubs, potted forbs or rocks in them. Flowering should occur the second year. By the end of the third year the natives will begin to get the upper hand.

Plant shrubs once the weeds are under control. They will need water until established. Young shrubs grow bigger so leave plenty of space. Yucca, sagebrush and junipers provide nice contrast in winter. Plant Trilobe Sumac for bird cover, best in background as it gets large when ungrazed. Watch the progression and relax — so often we strive for strict perfection in our gardens when the plants are pleading for some chaos.

Mowing in the years to follow is needed to remove the thatch that will build up. The best time for this is late winter. Mow at least 6in height and remove the dried plant materials. Wildscapes will become otherwise self sufficient needing no supplemental water or fertilizers.

— Continued on Page 6

MEETINGS

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, CLARK FORK CHAPTER SPRING POTLUCK: 6:30 pm at the Bonner Park pavilion near Evans & Hilda in Missoula. Bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share. After supper we will visit the native plant gardens at the Botany Building on the UM campus.

MONDAY, JULY 11, ARTEMISIA CHAPTER: 7 pm at the Bair Science Bldg, Rocky Mountain College, Billings. Speaker will be Hank McNeel, weed specialist with the Bureau of Land Management, discussing "Pretty Flowers That Are Weeds."

FRIDAY, JULY 29, SLIDE PRESENTATION: "Medicinal Plants of Western Montana" At the Bookworks bookstore in Whitefish. Author/herbalist Gregory L Tilford will show slides and discuss medicinal plant species in the Northern Rockies bioregion.

FIELD TRIPS

Please note: the spring and summer field trip schedule is included as a separate "pullout" section in this issue. Additional copies of the field trip list may be obtained from chapters, representatives-at-large, or by sending a SASE to MNPS, P O Box 992, Bozeman MT 59771-0992. Please post your extras where others can learn about our schedule: campus locations, public libraries, chambers of commerce, bulletin boards.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

JEWEL BASIN MUSHROOM MADNESS

In yet another mushroom-oriented field trip, Flathead Chapter members gathered last October 9 for a 'shroom hunt centered in the Jewel Basin/Echo Lake area, and turned up some interesting and unusual fungi.

Besides such regulars as *Hygrophorus russula*, large and abundant white-and-pink-stain mushrooms that are so tasteless that nobody bothered to cook them up, and the very tasty shrimp *russula*, *Russula xerampelina*, we also found lots of *Tricholoma pardinum*, a large white fleshy mushroom with black spots on the cap that is unfortunately rather poisonous.

Another common find was tan-colored *Hebeloma crustuliniforme*, much easier remembered by its unpleasant radish-like odor and its common name, Poison Pie. Much more memorable was the purple cortinarioid, *Cortinarius albviolaceus*, that a couple of folks found. This mushroom is unusual not only for its color, but for the fact that it is edible (although not very good), since most members of the *Cortinarius* genus are considered either inedible or poisonous. In the same family, we found members of the Dermocybe group which can be used to dye wool, and we also found lots of LBMs (little brown mushrooms) with fibrillose caps and umbos (nipples) on the cap. Not a single one of these was keyed out to species, but since they were in the *Inocybe* genus, they were assumed to be very poisonous.

As far as the edibles went, we turned up five species of *Suillus*: *S. cavipes*, *S. granulatus*, *S. grevillii*, *S. lakeii*, *S. sibiricus*, and some hybrids thereof. All our local *Suillus* are edible, but *S. sibiricus*, with the skinny stem, is not much fun to eat (*Fusco-*

boletinus ochraceoroseus, which is very bitter, has a strip of red flesh just under the cap and fruits in summer).

A few fortunates found *Dentinum repandum*, the sweet-tooth mushroom, which I consider as delicious as a chanterelle, and *Clavariadelphus truncatus*, *C. pistillaris*, and *C. ligula*, all safe and tasty "finger fungi" that favor moss beds. To my surprise, nobody brought in any shaggy-manes, although Neal Brown and I did notice several growing by the highway as we hurried to the hunt.

Another common find was *Armillaria mellea*, a common root parasite that has been the focus of great taxonomic (naming) tribulation, and is a delicious edible. A small percentage of people are subject to gastrointestinal upset after eating it, so its controversial nature extends to the area of its edibility as well.

During the naming frenzy after the hunt, I identified mushrooms by groups rather than individuals, and I noticed afterwards that I had identified a mixed group of *Clitocybe* and *Lyophyllum* as *Clitocybe dilatata*, a poisonous species. A woman at the foray claimed to have eaten these fungi for several years with no ill effect.

I noticed this same fungus at the October meeting of the North American Mycological Association had been identified as *Lyophyllum decipitoides*.

These related species are the focus of much taxonomic debate. *Lyophyllum decastes* is considered a species "group" which includes fungi also identified as *L. connatum*, with a white cap, and *L. loricatum*, a dark-capped variety. Other than their caespitose (clumping) habit, they are similar to *L. montanum*, a species found in the spring near snowbanks.

Both the *Lyophyllum* and *Clitocybe* species mentioned may have lobed margins on the cap, adnate to decurrent gills, and white spores. At the microscopic level these spores vary markedly in shape, but this demonstrates how similar these two fungi can appear, and how difficult it is to differentiate them based on field characteristics alone. The woman at the Foray who claimed to have regularly eaten *C. dilatata* was, I hope, referring to a member of the edible *Lyophyllum decastes* group, or perhaps to the similar *Pleurotus elongatipes*, which grows on buried wood and has pronounced water spots on the cap.

- Larry Evans

THIRD ANNUAL PURPLE LOOSESTRIPE PULL

Under threatening skies last August 14, a good-sized group met at the Allentown Restaurant, south of Ronan, and gathered around Sam Manno of the Craighead Institute. "Sam, Sam the Reptile Man," as he is known on public radio, had brought along spotted frogs, leopard frogs, a tiger salamander and a long-toed salamander. Sam informed us that the leopard frog is rapidly disappearing from many of its traditional habitats.

After a quick lesson on leopard frog identification, we traveled to our designated pothole, which was "adopted" by the Flathead Chapter of the Audubon Society three years ago. For the past two years, the Flathead Chapter of MNPS has pitched in on the pull. We say: "REDUCE THE STRIFE IN YOUR LIFE!!"

And pull we did! As those threatening clouds proceeded to deliver on their threat, we all worked our way through the cattails, locating and pulling or digging the vile purple loosestrife. An hour and a half later we were still being rained upon, but "what, we worry?" The pull was declared a success, and we rewarded ourselves with lunch, lemonade and gourmet desserts.

As an added reward, Rachel Sykes led us to a nearby pothole where the beetle *Galerucella californiensis* has been introduced.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS, continued:

This particular beetle, in both the larval and adult stages, prefers purple loosestrife as its primary food source. Rachel showed us where they had been released and the damage they had inflicted on the test plot...at which time the clouds dissipated, and the sun did shine.

A special thanks to Rachel, to Sam, and to Bill West of the National Bison Range, with an extra special THANK YOU to the Loosestrife Pullers of 1993...a very good year! - Neal Brown

[Ed note: The summer issue of KEYSEYA will feature a Loosestrife Update, discussing biological controls such as the beetle mentioned above, testing results on loosestrife cultivars believed sterile, and other recent developments. Stay tuned!]

UNDERPASS PARK WORKDAY

Several community members and a few MNPSers worked March 26 on a revegetation and maintenance project in Livingston.

Underpass Park, which slopes above B Street between Park Street and the railroad underpass, was planted in 1989, with junipers and a few aspens, plus forbs and grasses. The weed competition during the first years was fierce, resulting in high maintenance. Perseverance paid off and now the natives are well established. The display of blue flax (*Linum lewisii*) and northern sweetvetch (*Hedysarum boreale*) in June and July nearly stops traffic.

This year we added seeds of Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*) and Dotted Gayfeather (*Liatrus punctata*) to extend the blooming time. Other work included trash cleanup and cutting down old seed stalks. Andy Stolzenberg ran the weedeater. Jan Nixon was rewarded for her efforts when she found a tattered dollar bill! We hope to continue helping the city care for this native plant oasis. - L I

NATIONAL WILDFLOWER WEEK: CELEBRATING WILDFLOWERS! MAY 23-29, 1994

During the week of May 23-29, and throughout the summer, the National Forests in the Northern Region of the USDA Forest Service will be participating in a nationwide celebration of wildflowers on public lands. This year, "Celebrating Wildflowers" is a collaborative program sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and numerous partners, including the Montana and Idaho Native Plant Societies.

This national program, which was initiated by the Forest Service in 1992, strives to:

- * promote the importance of conservation and management of native plants and their habitats.
- * increase public support and appreciation of wildflowers.

Wildflower Week will kick off numerous activities scheduled for this spring and summer on the nation's public lands. Most of the National Forests in the Northern Region have activities planned. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Forest Service office nearest you, or Steve Shelly at the USFS Northern Region office in Missoula, (406) 329-3041.

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST: Wildflower photos are already on display at the Forest headquarters in Hamilton, Montana. The Forest will provide wildflower blooming updates every couple of weeks in the Bitterroot National Forest recreation report. On Saturday, May 21, Linda Pietarinen, botanist for the Bitterroot National Forest, will lead a wildflower walk near Stevensville; contact Linda (363-7172) at the National Forest office in Hamilton for final details.

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST: The Beartooth Ranger District in Red Lodge, though not scheduling activities during the formal "Celebrating Wildflower Week," will be lending support and expertise to the MNPS annual meeting in the Pryor Desert, June 10-12. They will also be featuring Alma Snell at the Pryor Mountain Youth Practicum, presenting information on "Native American Plants and Roots." The plants and their uses will be demonstrated 11am-noon on Tuesday, July 12, at the Youth Practicum camp, located at the headwaters of Crooked Creek. Follow signs on the road to Big Ice Cave. Further info available from Kim Reid, 446-2103.

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST: Wildflower-related programs are scheduled for the Bozeman Public Library Meeting Room, 220 E Lamme, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, May 25 and 26, 7-8:30 pm. A Saturday walk, co-sponsored by the Valley of the Flowers Chapter of MNPS, heads to a local "wildflower hot-spot." Wildflower drawing and coloring contests are underway in Bozeman and Livingston public schools, with winners to be displayed during Wildflower Week. Additional details will be in the Bozeman Chronicle, or call Jane Ruchman at Gallatin Forest headquarters, 587-6966.

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST: A wildflower photo display is planned for the National Forest office in Helena. Wildflower walks will be conducted in the Elkhorn and Big Belt mountains as well (dates and times not available at press time). A wildflower walk is planned for May 25 at 7 pm on Mount Helena, co-sponsored by the Helena National Forest and the Montana Natural Heritage Program. Contact Jean Lavell, Townsend Ranger District (266-3425), or Bonnie Heidel, botanist for the Montana Natural Heritage Program in Helena (444-3009), for final details.

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST: A wildflower walk is scheduled May 28, near Troy, MT. Contact Leslie Ferguson, Three Rivers Ranger Station (295-4132), for further information and final details. The Forest headquarters in Libby is also planning wildflower walks, and a brochure of Kootenai wildflower photographs is to be published by May 10; contact Jean Spooner at the National Forest office in Libby (293-6211) for final details.

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST: A wildflower walk is scheduled at Giant Springs near Great Falls on May 25 at 6:30 pm. This will be followed by a slide presentation on "Botany of the Lewis & Clark Expedition" at 7:30 pm, at the Fish, Wildlife and Parks headquarters at Giant Springs, in cooperation with the Portage Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Association. The guide and speaker will be Wayne Phillips, ecologist for the Lewis & Clark National Forest, who may be contacted at the Forest headquarters in Great Falls (791-7743).

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CELEBRATING WILDFLOWERS, continued from Page Five:

In **Missoula**, tours of the wildflower gardens at the University of Montana will be available, led by members of the Clark Fork chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society. Contact Sheila Morrison (721-1398) or Steve Shelly (329-3041) in Missoula for additional information.

For activities planned in the **IDAHO PANHANDLE FORESTS**, contact Mark Mousseaux, botanist at the

Idaho Panhandle NF office in Coeur d'Alene, at 208-765-7417. Idaho's **CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST** and the **Bureau of Land Management** are co-sponsoring Wildflower Week activities. Contact Michelle Craig at the Pierce Ranger District office of the Clearwater NF (208-935-2513), for information.

ENJOY THE '94 WILDFLOWER SEASON!

- Steve Shelly

GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE, continued from Page One:

The following species do well in dryland gardens:

GRASSES

Koeleria pyramidata - prairie junegrass
Agropyron spicatum - bluebunch wheatgrass
Festuca ovina - sheep fescue
Agropyrum trachycaulum - slender wheatgrass
Bouteloua curtipendula - sideoats grama
Bouteloua gracilis - blue grama
Stipa viridula - green needlegrass
Oryzopsis hymenoides - indian ricegrass

FORBS

Gaillardia aristata - indian blanketflower
Linum lewisii - blue flax
Ratibida columnaris - prairie coneflower
Penstemon species - penstemon, beardtongue
Liatrus punctata - gayfeather
Hedysarum boreale - northern sweetvetch
Lupinus species - lupines

SHRUBS

Artemisia tridentata - big sagebrush
Chrysothamnus species - rabbitbrush
Juniperus horizontalis - prostrate juniper
Juniper scopulorum - Rocky Mountain juniper
Ribes cereum - wax currant
Rhus trilobata - trilobe sumac; skunkbush sumac
Yucca glauca - Great Plains yucca



Planting

Seeding grasses and forbs first allows for better weed control. Broadcasting is easiest in small areas and allows for drift planting of separate species. When calculating seeding rate, translate #/acre to #/1000 sq ft. Get to know what pure live seed means! Rates vary depending on the plant composition (your seed dealer will recommend a rate). Follow seeding rates carefully, using a scale to measure the area into blocks. Over-seeding results in a jungle where aggressive species quickly dominate.

Spring planting is best if winters are dry, windy and open, however seeds that have dormancy requirements will not show up until the next year unless they are pre-chilled. It's interesting to note that perennial plant root growth comprises two to three times the biomass of above ground vegetation the first year. Most plants will only reach 2-3" in height; you have to look closely to see them!

Frequent light sprinkling the first season will increase germination and seedling growth if weather conditions do not cooperate. Subsequent years it is best to leave watering to nature.

Care and Continuation

Follow-up maintenance is another key to success. The first three years are the crucial period. Although you can never get all the weeds, especially the perennial ones, mowing is a great weed control technique.

The first year as weeds tower over the fragile seedlings and before the annual weeds set seed, mow them off to six inches and remove the debris. Spot mow so as to not lose the flower display of the native annuals.

Unfortunately a typical lawnmower won't do because you cannot set the blade high enough. Heavy duty weed eaters, brush cutters or sickle mowers are best, available at most rental shops. Mowing will weaken perennial and biennial weeds, especially during flowering. In cases of severe perennial weed infestation, hand pulling or spot treatment with non-residual herbicides is sometimes necessary. Do not let them gain a root-hold.

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MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY *** MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE _____

STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP WITH CHAPTER AFFILIATION*

- ___ \$12 I. Individual
- ___ 16 II. Family
- ___ 28 III. Business/Organization
- ___ 4 IV. Yearly chapter dues for Lifetime Members

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (Statewide membership only)

- ___ \$ 8 I. Individual
- ___ 12 II. Family
- ___ 25 III. Business/Organization
- ___ 150 IV. Lifetime member (one-time payment)

Additional Donation \$ _____

*AREAS COVERED BY CHAPTERS:

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER - Yellowstone and Carbon Counties; south-eastern/south-central 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 and Jefferson Counties

VALLEY OF THE FLOWERS CHAPTER - Gallatin, Park, Madison and Sweet Grass Counties plus Yellowstone National Park

All MNPS chapters welcome members from areas other than those counties indicated - we've listed the counties just to give you some idea of what part of the state is served by each chapter. More chapters are in the planning stages for other areas; watch for announcements of meetings in your local newspaper. Ten paid members are required for a chapter to be eligible for acceptance in MNPS. Membership in the 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 September each year will expire the following February; those processed after the first of October will expire in February of the year after. Membership renewal notices are included in the Winter issue of KELSEYA. Anyone who has not renewed by the time the Summer KELSEYA is ready to mail will be dropped from the mailing list/MNPS membership roster.

Your mailing label tells you

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP (I, II, III, IV - see above)

CHAPTER AFFILIATION, if any (ART = Artemisia; CF = Clark Fork; F = Flathead; K = Kelsey; VoF = Valley of the Flowers)

DATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: If your label reads "x2/94" your membership expired February 28, 1994...use this coupon to renew your membership now! New memberships received after November 1, 1993, are good through 2/28/95, and the top line of your label should read "2/95." Please drop us a note if any information on your label is incorrect.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MAIL TO: Montana Native Plant Society
P O Box 992
Bozeman MT 59711-0992

GARDENING ON THE WILD SIDE, continued:

Don't be discouraged by the seeming labor intensiveness of this type of gardening. It's really quite similar to other types of garden preparation, except subsequent maintenance (after the first few years) is less. Typical vegetable gardens require yearly seeding, fertilizing and watering while your prairie garden does not! The reward of rich diversity and textures will last season after season.

Suggested Reading and Sources

Diekelmann and Schuster. **Natural Landscaping: Designing with Native Plant Communities.**

*Handouts from National Wildflower Research Center: *Recreating a Prairie, Creating a Wildlife Garden, Wildflower Meadow Gardening, and Planting Wildflowers on a Large Scale.*

*Handouts from MNPS workshop in Bozeman: *Native Grasses and Forbs Commonly Used, Pure Live Seed Worksheet, Grasses for Landscape Accents, and Water Conserving Grasses for Lawns*
Knopf, Jim. **The Xeriscape Flower Gardener.** Johnson Publishing Co.

*MNPS **Native Plant Source Guide** - \$3.00

*MNPS **Native Plant Booklist, Guideline for Collecting Native Plants, and Gardeners and Gardens Guide** (due out summer '94)
Montana Interagency **Plant Materials Handbook**, MSU Extension Service, #EB69

Munshower, Frank, 1991. **Forbs, Shrubs and Trees for Revegetation of Disturbed Lands in Northern Great Plains and Adjacent Areas.** MSU Reclamation Research Unit Pub #9102

Munshower, Frank, 1991. **Perennial Grasses for Revegetation in Northern Great Plains and Intermountain Region.** MSU Reclamation Research Unit Publication #9101

Wasowski, Sally and Andy, 1992. **Requiem for a Lawnmower.** Taylor Publishing.

* Available from MNPS. To obtain, call Linda Iverson at 932-5840.

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS, continued from Page 8:

NEVADA

HENDERSON

Sheila K Sheldon

NORTH DAKOTA

MINOT

Shan Cunningham

OREGON

BEND

Stuart Garrett

CANADA

TORONTO, ONTARIO

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MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

KELSEYA Editor

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PLEASE NOTE: If the top line of your label ends in "94", your membership expired 2/94. If your label reads COMP or COMP2, this is your LAST FREE ISSUE. Won't you send in your membership check today?

I.C.F.2/95
PETER LESICA
929 LOCUST
MISSOULA MT 59802

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Plant Society



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MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

The Montana Native Plant Society is a 501-C-3 (non-profit) corporation chartered for the purpose of learning more about plants native to our state and their habitats, and of sharing that knowledge. Contributions to MNPS are tax deductible, and may be designated for a specific project or chapter, or may be made to the general fund.

Your yearly membership fee includes a subscription to KELSEYA, the newsletter of MNPS, published quarterly. We welcome your articles, clippings, field trip reports, meeting notices, book reviews - almost anything, in fact, that relates to our native plants or the Society. Please include a one- or two-line "bio" sketch with each article. Drawings should be in black ink or good-quality photocopy. If you send clippings, please note the source, volume/issue and date.

Changes of address and inquiries about membership in MNPS should be sent to MNPS, P O Box 992, Bozeman MT 59771-0992. All newsletter material should be mailed to Jan Nixon at the same address, and may be typed or on disk (prefer 3.5") in WordPerfect 4.2 or better.

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 plants or the interests of MNPS members.

Deadline for the Summer issue is JULY 15; please include meeting/field trip notices through mid-October '94. The Summer issue of KELSEYA will be mailed the second week of August.

IF YOU MOVE, PLEASE SEND US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS!

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PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

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Tim McGarvey
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Sunrise Nursery
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Walter Gerwert
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KALISPELL, cont:
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MILES CITY
Tom Mott
MISSOULA
Fred Allendorf
Bridget Barker
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Lance & Nina Cherry
Marcy Mahr, Bill Schenk
& Michelle Napoli
OUTLOOK
Gordon & Edith Holte
PLENTYWOOD
Shawn Bayless
Barbara Golterman
Terry Heck
Harriet McCoy
Bill & Cheryl Wagner

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Phyllis Granning
SCOBEY
Jodi Buer-Benson
SEELEY LAKE
Dorothy Boulton & Paul
Conn
SILVER BOW
Pat Yasenak
SULA
Judith Fraser
VAUGHN
Fay Valois
WHITEFISH
Kerrie Byrne
Colleen Sullivan
WHITEHALL
Lance & Patricia Elias
ARKANSAS
HOT SPRINGS NATL PARK
Eileen Vieau

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