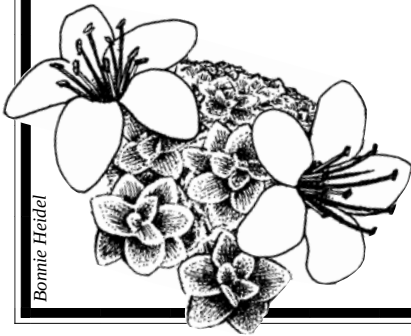




Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society

www.mtnativeplants.org

MNPS and Audubon Petition to List *Russian Olive* as a Noxious Weed

by Peter Lesica

Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) is a small Eurasian tree that was introduced into North America for horticultural purposes. It tolerates drought as well as saline soils so it has been widely planted for windbreaks as well as wildlife habitat on the Northern Great Plains. Russian olive has been available at most nurseries in Montana, and as recently as 2007, Russian olive was being grown by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation nursery for "conservation" plantings. Unfortunately, Russian olive is a prolific seeder and spreads into riparian areas where it competes with native willows and cottonwoods, sometimes forming impenetrable stands along streams or ditches. It has hard wood and few insect pests so it provides poor habitat for birds, except those like robins and pheasants that eat the fruit. Conservationists have long been concerned about the spread of Russian olive, and it has recently been listed as a noxious weed in Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming. A petition to have Russian olive put on the state noxious weed list in Montana was turned down at the start of the decade from fear that it would require landowners to destroy their windbreaks.

This past year the Montana

Department of Agriculture established a new category of noxious weed. A Category 4 noxious weed is one that cannot be sold in the state but existing plants do not have to be destroyed. Scotch broom, an ornamental shrub that has become invasive in Washington and Oregon was the first plant to be listed as Category 4 in Montana. This past August the Montana Native Plant Society and Montana Audubon filed a petition with the Montana Department of Agriculture to have Russian olive listed as a Category 4 noxious weed in Montana.



Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

The following are excerpts from the petition. You can view the entire petition by going to the Conservation link on the MNPS website.

In the riparian systems of eastern Montana, Russian olive can fill the niche of late successional canopy dominant. Russian olive is shade tolerant (Campbell and Dick-Peddie 1964), capable of reproducing beneath a cottonwood canopy or other shaded sites. As cottonwoods decline with age and eventually disappear, Russian olive can continue to reproduce and become the canopy dominant (Lesica and Miles 1999). Green ash is also capable of reproducing in the shade of cottonwood and is the native late successional dominant along major rivers in much of the Northern Great Plains and parts of eastern Montana. Russian olive is ecologically similar to green ash and could replace it where both occur because it grows three times faster in girth than green ash (Lesica and Miles 2001).

Russian olive has adverse effects on agriculture in Montana. It can block the flow of irrigation ditches (Lesica observations in Yellowstone County). Dense infestations of Russian olive make it difficult to move cattle in bottomland pastures. Dense stands of Russian olive can also completely shade out understory plants, decreasing the value of these lands

(Continued on page 7)



President's Platform

Dave Hanna



Last fall, I wrote about the hot, smoky, fire-filled summer of 2007. This summer, by contrast, was quite pleasant weather-wise—not too hot, not too dry. Just recently, I got a chance to visit some of the nearby areas that burned last summer on the Lewis & Clark National Forest. There were lots of black trees, of course, but the forest floor was covered with the bright green of new plant growth. It was especially cool to see the abundance of fire-adapted plants, like American dragonhead (*Dracocephalum parviflorum*) and Bicknell's geranium (*Geranium bicknellii*). These species make a brief but spectacular appearance immedi-

ately after a fire, then patiently hang out as seeds for years until the next fire event stimulates germination again. Just another reminder of the cycles of change in our forests and the amazing adaptations of our native plants.

There has been some recent change on the MNPS board of directors as well. I want to welcome Marlene Renwyck as our new treasurer! Many thanks to outgoing treasurer Madeline Mazurski, one of the longest serving officers in the society!

I also want to welcome our new webmaster Bob Person, who has been working hard to get the website up-

dated and switched over to a new server. Remember to check out the website at its new address www.mtnativeplants.org, and see the article on page 9. Thanks to Marilyn Marler for keeping the site up over the last year!

We had a great annual meeting in Hyalite Canyon back in June, and the full report is on page 6. Thanks to all the members of the Valley of Flowers Chapter who worked so hard to make it happen, and who were undeterred even in the face of landslides! Be sure to make plans to attend the 2009 annual meeting in Hungry Horse July 17-19. But for now, enjoy the fall!

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

Endangered Species Act Under Attack (again)

On August 15, 2008, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne proposed sweeping changes to the rules that govern how the Endangered Species Act is carried out — changes that would eviscerate protections for endangered species by excusing thousands of federal activities, including those that generate greenhouse gases, from review under the Act. This proposal followed an earlier proposal issued on August 5, which claimed to be just a formatting change to the federal list of threatened and endangered species — but which would actually limit protection of endangered species to their current (and

usually vastly diminished) ranges.

The Ecological Society of America criticized the Bush administration's August 15 proposal to reinterpret the Endangered Species Act, which would impose regulatory changes eliminating the requirement for federal projects to undergo independent scientific review. The proposal would allow federal agencies to decide for themselves whether their projects would harm endangered animals and plants.

"The concept of independent scientific review has been in practice since the 18th century and is crucial to ensuring that ideas and proposed work are scientifically sound," said Alison Power, president of the Society and professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University. "This overhaul of the En-

dangered Species Act would place the fate of rare species in the hands of government stakeholders who are not qualified to assess the environmental impacts of their activities."

The Endangered Species Act protects more than 2,000 of the United States' rarest plants and animals. Ranging from green sea turtles to Santa Cruz cypress trees, these species are not only national treasures, but also biological resources and often integral parts of their ecosystems.

To comment on Interior Department proposed rules, please go to the Regulations.gov website at <http://www.regulations.gov/search/index.jsp>

The comment deadline is October 15, 2008.

Center for Biological Diversity

Robert Dorn – Award Winning Botanist

Robert Dorn received a well deserved Montana Native Plant Society Special Achievement Award at the annual meeting in July. Walter Fertig and Peter Lesica recounted some of their experiences learning botany and comparing specimens with Bob. After the award presentation, Bob and Jane, his wife and illustrator, were kept busy autographing all of our well used, tattered copies of *Vascular Plants of Montana*. Bob was awarded a beautiful watercolor of *Salix boothii* painted by Montana artist Nancy Seiler and a certificate “For remarkable contributions to the understanding of Montana flora, especially willow taxonomy and rare plants, and for willingness to help less experienced botanists.”

Few contemporary botanists in the western United States can match Dorn’s contributions to the understanding of rare plants, willow taxonomy, and flora in general. Even more remarkable is that this work has been done independently—without benefit of a tenured faculty position or full-time government employment.

Bob got his M.S. degree from Montana State University where he studied the vegetation of the Centennial Valley for his thesis. He moved next door to Wyoming to get his Ph.D. and started his lifelong study of willows. Dorn has published more than half a dozen scholarly papers and books on the willows of western North America. The willows are a notoriously difficult group because they often have to be identified based on unreliable vegetative characteristics in the absence of catkins or fruits. Dorn’s efforts have helped untangle the web of synonyms and misapplied names that have plagued the genus for decades. In the process Dorn discovered and named *Salix boothii*

(named for W.E. Booth, his mentor at Montana State University) and *Salix arizonica*, a rare endemic of the American southwest. In 2005, Dorn published a revised treatment of willows in volume 2b of the *Intermountain Flora* and is currently collaborating on the *Salix* chapter for the *Flora of North America* series.

He first wrote floras for Wyoming and for the Black Hills of South

records, and described at least 15 species new to science.

In addition to his floras he wrote a book on the vegetation of Wyoming and on the willows of the Rocky Mountains. Bob recently retired from his consulting business, but he’s not finished contributing. He and his wife recently published a book on gardening with native plants of the Northern Rockies and Great Plains.



Bob Dorn received a Special Achievement Award in 2008.

Dakota and Wyoming in 1977. Later, he went back to Bozeman to write the *Vascular Plants of Montana* which he self-published in 1984. This has been a main reference for Montana botanists for the past 25 years. This little book is almost without typographic errors despite his having written it on a typewriter. Few people can produce this quality of work in such a short time. Dorn’s floras aren’t mere rehashing of the work of others, but are based on exhaustive field work, meticulous scrutiny of the literature, and careful study of herbarium material. In the process, Dorn discovered hundreds of new state and county distribution

Certainly all of this is enough to make Montana botanists forever grateful, but just as impressive is his willingness to help other less experienced botanists. Those who do botany for a living have often sent willows and other specimens to Bob, who always promptly returns determinations. Whether in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Utah, or other points west, we in the scientific and native plant community have all benefited from Dorn’s research, his many scientific and popular publications, and his enthusiasm for botany.

Walter Fertig, Peter Lesica, and
Betty Kuropat

Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife In Our Gardens

By Dr. Douglas Tallamy (Timber
Press, Inc. 2007, \$27.95)



This review was compiled with permission from several sources, including Kay Charter of the Idaho Native Plant Society, and Aquilegia, the Colorado Native Plant Society newsletter.

Kay Charter writes, "Two years ago, while attending an international wildlife conference, I struck up a conversation with the educational director of a state Audubon Society. I mentioned the fact that native plants host the insects that support our migratory birds. The young man, a biologist, challenged my statement. He asked, 'Do we know that's true?' He needs to pick up a copy of Dr. Douglas Tallamy's wonderful new book, *Bringing Nature Home*.

The encouraging message in

this book explains and demonstrates how each of us can contribute to biodiversity by making our yards more native-friendly.

Written by a scientist—Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, Newark—the book's style is appealing to both gardeners and scientists.

With roughly 40 million acres of land in American yards, Tallamy makes a compelling appeal, "Because there is too little space left for the wildlife we care about and love to watch, we must make our yards friendlier to the birds, frogs, butterflies and other wild creatures with which we share this planet."

He maintains that gardens of exotic flowers are starving the wild birds so many of us love. Yards of mowed grass, with non-native shrubs are no place to raise a bird family.

Topics covered in the book include the importance of suburban gardens to the ecosystem; why insects can't eat alien plants; and what are the gardening needs of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. One chapter, "What Does Bird Food Look Like?" is devoted to insects, a critical food component that supports migratory birds.

For those of us on a budget, next year the book will be out in paperback at a lower price. Filled with beautiful photographs of insects, plants, birds, and hard data presented in a readable manner, *Bringing Nature Home* offers tangible and inspiring ways to incorporate its message into our own back yards.

Available from MNPS

Available free from MNPS Publications: MNPS membership brochures, *Plant Collection Guidelines for Teachers* brochures, and *Echinacea Cultivation Information*. Also available are additional copies of *Plants Collected in Montana During the Lewis & Clark Expedition*. Please send a SASE to 1270 Lower Sweet Grass Road, Big Timber, MT 59011 to receive any of these publications.

Available from the Flathead Chapter: a packet of information about gardening with Flathead Valley native plants. The packet can be mailed to you for \$3.50. Contact Tara Carolin at 334 North Many Lakes Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Available from the Kelsey Chapter: a packet of information on landscaping with natives in the Helena area. The packet will be mailed to you for \$3.50. Contact Kathy at 449-6586 or e-mail: drakekath@hughes.net to order.

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

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

WELCOME new members!

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

Calypso Chapter: Nancy Allen, John & Betsy Hamann; **Kelsey Chapter:** Ellen Aiken, Jeff & Vicky Tiberi; **Western Montana:** Terry Quinn.

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

Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area

Field Trip Report and Status Update

A group of about 25 MNPS members escaped the heat for a day on September 8, 2007, and ventured to the top of Carlton Ridge, in the Bitterroot Mountains southwest of Missoula. We were fortunate to be joined by Steve Arno and Clint Carlson, two U.S. Forest Service scientists now retired from the Rocky Mountain Research Station. Steve and Clint were heavily involved in the establishment of the Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area (RNA), which since 1987 has permanently protected 920 acres within the unique subalpine forests on the ridge. The ridge has always been a special place for western Montana residents and visitors alike, and in the fall the changing golden foliage of the alpine larches is even visible from downtown Missoula.

Since 1952 the Forest Service has designated 65 RNAs in Montana, encompassing a total of 91,086 acres. These protected areas thus constitute one of the largest natural area systems in the state aside from the designated wilderness areas and National Parks. These RNAs are actually part of a national network of sites protected in perpetuity on federal lands, and in Montana they represent a wide variety of plant communities, including grasslands, shrublands, forests, aquatic and riparian habitats, and alpine areas. Numerous rare plant communities and unique features are protected as well, such as peatlands and springs. Especially noteworthy is fact that these RNAs protect 102 populations of rare plants in the state, representing 61 species of conservation concern that are tracked by the Montana Natural Heritage Program. As a result, these RNAs make a significant contribution to the protection of plant species and natural community diversity in Montana.

In the case of Carlton Ridge, the RNA protects the best known example of an alpine larch (*Larix lyallii*) forest on deep subalpine soils known to occur in the northern Rocky Mountains. Most alpine larch stands in the

region are found in areas with rocky, skeletal soils; these more typical habitats occur on coarse talus and boulder slides. The upper slopes of Carlton Ridge escaped glaciation, however, which led to the development of these unusually well-developed high-altitude soils. This deep mantle of weathered soil is very well drained, and supports the open park-like stand of alpine larch. During the winter, southwesterly winds blow much of the snow over the ridge onto the north-facing slopes in the open larch forest. This combination of deep snowdrifts and good soil has resulted in an unusually productive site compared to other ridges in the Bitterroot Mountains. In many areas the understory is dominated by red mountain heath (*Phyllodoce empetrifomis*) and Hitchcock's woodrush (*Luzula hitchcockii*), which affords a very unique feel to these forests. Despite their rather small diameters (typically 18 to 25 inches), the age of many of the larch trees exceeds 400 years. Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) is also present along the ridge, but is not nearly as abundant as the alpine larch.

Another important feature of this RNA is a zone of hybridization where the altitudinal ranges of western larch (*Larix occidentalis*) and alpine larch overlap. In this lower portion of the RNA, trees having characteristics of both species have been studied by Clint and Steve, and shown to

be the result of crossing between these two species. Such a phenomenon is of great interest to plant ecologists and silviculturists, and is a prime example of the scientific importance of RNAs.

The Carlton Ridge RNA has been in the news over the last several years, as it is adjacent to areas on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests that have been suggested for development of a large ski area (the Bitterroot Resort). Unless a catastrophic natural event adversely affects the ecological features that an RNA was established to protect, the areas are designated in perpetuity, so the land within the currently designated boundary would not be subject to development. Any future development proposed near the RNA would be analyzed fully in the context of the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forest plans. Revision of such Forest plans is currently on hold nationally, pending the resolution of a lawsuit regarding the Forest Service planning regulations.

In the meantime, if the heat returns to the Missoula valley later this summer, it would be well worthwhile to take a day hike up to the Carlton Ridge RNA (from the Mormon Creek trailhead). The alpine larch stand is unlike any other forest in western Montana, and the beauty and uniqueness of this RNA will offer a welcome change of pace from life in the bustling valleys below.

Steve Shelly
Regional Botanist, U.S. Forest Service



Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area is located in the Bitterroot Mountains southwest of Missoula.

SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY TO THE FOSSIL FOREST

2008 MNPS Annual Meeting at Hyalite Youth Camp

When the spring rains sent repeated walls of mud sliding down over the road to the site of our Annual Meeting, our chapter became very alarmed. The Forest Service made it clear that the road could not be cleared and opened until the rain stopped. So, we held our collective breath and waited until the week before the meeting when the rain stopped. Summer arrived, the slide was pushed back and the road opened just four days before the meeting. Hyalite Youth Camp, operated by the Bozeman Lions Club, was finally open for business.

Our chapter turned back the clock to focus on the amazing botanical fossils of our past, dominated by a tree that has not grown here for 35 million years: the Magnificent Redwood, *Sequoia magnifica*. To inform us about the Gallatin Petrified Forest and *S. magnifica*, Jim Wilbur of Helena presented a wonderful slide show explaining the history of the Eocene fossilized forests of Montana and Wyoming.

Over 100 participants enjoyed the weekend, from a potluck the first evening, to the beautiful mountains reflecting on Hyalite Reservoir, to a very diverse silent

auction, to a wide variety of hikes. The weather was warm and dry and old friends were reacquainted and new friendships made.

The Petrified Forest hike was so popular we ran two hikes originating at the Specimen Creek trailhead in Yellowstone Park. Other hikes focused on lichens, beautiful waterfalls, and the meadow and forest plants of early summer in the Gallatin and Madison Ranges. Many thanks to hike leaders: Cathy and Norm Weeden, Marlene Renwyck, Matt Lavin, Peter Lesica, Robyn Klein, Gretchen Rupp, and Sharon Eversman. Many hike photos were taken and shown Saturday evening, after our catered dinner at Hyalite Youth Camp. That evening MNPS was also pleased to give a special award to a true guest of honor, Dr. Robert Dorn!

This year's *S. magnifica* logo was designed by VOF member Leslie Eddington. Some 2008 t-shirts (a few left), embroidered hats, and neck scarves can be found at next year's meeting or purchased from the Valley of Flowers Chapter.

Robyn Klein

Annual Meeting Field Trip Wildflowers or Skiing?

Saturday morning of the Annual Meeting people were skiing on Mount Blackmore, so it was a good bet our hike wasn't going up there to look for wildflowers. Instead we went to South Cottonwood Creek, a Gallatin Range drainage flowing off the backside of Mount Blackmore. About ten people headed up the trail and found 123 species of plants in bloom. We tallied three species of pussytoes (*Antennaria*), rockcress (*Arabis*), paintbrush (*Castilleja*), miterwort (*Mitella*), a spectacular four species of violets (*Viola*), and coralroot orchids (*Corallorhiza*). We started out near the trailhead finding summer flowers like Missouri iris (*Iris missouriensis*) and sticky geranium (*Geranium viscosissimum*). Three miles later we ate lunch and turned around after finding a flowering trillium (*Trillium ovatum*), a sure sign of spring.

Peter Lesica

MNPS Elections Set Records Calypso Topples Maka Flora

MNPS election results were summarized at the MNPS Annual Meeting at Hyalite Canyon Youth Camp on June 28th. New officers that were elected unanimously include Karen Shelly, Vice President; Patrick Plantenberg, Secretary; and Wayne Phillips, Eastern-At-Large representative.

The Calypso Chapter ended the Maka Flora Chapter's five-year reign as the chapter with the highest percentage of votes. The Calypso Chapter had 63% of their members voting, breaking the 54% voting percentage record held by the Maka Flora Chapter. The Calypso Chapter received a \$100 check for its efforts. Maka Flora came in second beating the Kelsey Chapter by 1/10 of one percent. The Calypso Chapter also had the highest percentage increase in members (45%) in 2008.

Teresa Schrum of Suwanee, GA, a member of the Georgia Native

Plant Society and a member of the Valley of Flowers Chapter, was the first member to vote—6 days before any other member!

MNPS memberships total 833, which is a record and 19% more than 2007. A record number of voters (157) voted in 2008, surpassing the 2003 total of 139. The 2008 total vote was 38% more than last year. The voters east of the Continental Divide beat the west voters again, 25% to 18%. The west-of-the-Divide voters have never won this competition. Helena was the city with the most votes (31) again in 2008. Bozeman was a distant second with 19 votes.

MNPS members again used plant stamps and labels over any other stamp and label on their 2008 ballots. Patrick reported that pollinators were another important stamp type in 2008. Patrick thanks MNPS members for the tremendous turnout in 2008. See you at the polls again in 2009!

Patrick Plantenberg

...Russian olive (Continued from page 1)

for livestock forage. Russian olive can also spread into low lying pastures, reducing forage production and utilization by livestock.

- ♦ From 2005 through 2007, the Bureau of Land Management expended about \$500,000 for control of Russian olive in riparian areas (Jennifer Cramer, personal comm.).
- ♦ A Russian olive control/demonstration project along the Marias River has received \$21,000 in state funding (Warren Kellogg, personal comm.).
- ♦ Treasure County removed 100 acres with hand labor at a cost of \$1,000/acre (Marias River Watershed Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2008).
- ♦ On June 21, 2007, the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council adopted a recommendation for Russian olive management in the Yellowstone River Valley that states, "Russian olive should not be planted in the Yellowstone River valley, and where it currently exists, Russian olive should be controlled or eradicated." Several removal demonstration projects have been initiated since this recommendation was approved.

Kelsey Chapter Weed Warriors in Action

Are you looking for a rewarding, service-oriented way to spend time in the summer? Think about pulling weeds. That's what Mary Johnson, Kathy Lloyd, Martha Vogt, and Jim Greene, all members of the Kelsey Chapter, did on June 26th. They had intended to spearhead a Kelsey Chapter pull, but ended up joining forces with a fun group of employees from the Department of Agriculture in Helena. The group met at 9:00 a.m. and pulled weeds, almost exclusively Dalmation toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) for two hours on the grounds of the Ten Mile Creek Water Purification Plant west of Helena, near Rimini. Following the pull the group adjourned to nearby Moose Creek Campground for a delicious picnic lunch provided by the Department of Agriculture.

The groups' numbers were impressive. There were a total of 30 pullers divided into groups; those 30 pullers collected a total of 1,584.5 pounds of weeds. The Kelsey group, while not winning the fun, informal contest for most weeds pulled, represented the MNPS well by collecting 62 pounds of nefarious herbage.

The four veteran warriors agreed it was a morning well spent, and are looking forward to participating again next year, perhaps in addition to sponsoring a Kelsey Chapter weed pull in the immediate Helena area.

Jim Greene

Flathead Valley News

The New Center for Culture

The Glacier Discovery Square is the new center for Flathead Valley culture, history, community and visitor education, as well as the future home of the Columbia Falls branch of the Flathead County Library. It is in the town square and commerce center of Columbia Falls. This effort is being driven by the grassroots community organization, The First Best Place Task Force. Their name, "First Best Place," reflects the notion that the Columbia Falls area is the oldest community in the Flathead Valley.

A wide variety of diverse individuals and organizations have volunteered to contribute their skills and efforts to the task force. Among these groups is North Valley Music School, whose mission is to enrich the musical life of the community through music education and performance. They have been making music in Whitefish for the past 10 years and currently have over 600 students a year from babies to retirees. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce, Flathead Valley Community College, and the local Rotary chapter have joined the effort. Terry Divoky, Elizabeth Nauertz, and Joyce Lapp from the Flathead Chapter of the MNPS have begun a partnership by consulting with the First Best Place Task Force to create native plant demonstration gardens throughout the Discovery Square. For more information about Glacier Discovery Square and First Best Place, visit: <http://firstbestplace.org/>.

Terry Divoky and Betty Kuropat

Kelsey Chapter
weed warriors
Jim Greene,
Martha Vogt,
Mary Johnson,
and Kathy Lloyd
bagged 62
pounds of weeds.

Photo: Montana
Dept. of Ag.



CALENDAR

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

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER

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

CALYPSO CHAPTER

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

CLARK FORK CHAPTER

Thursday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.

Large islands are famous for unusual plants. Join UM Ecology professor Erick Greene to see some of them when he shows us "Plants of New Zealand: What 80 Million Years of Isolation Can Do." Rm L09 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

Thursday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.

What's it like to have house plants growing outside your door? Marilyn Marler and David Schmeterling will tell us about "Treehouse Botany in Southeast Asia." Rm L09 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

Thursday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.

Our annual Christmas potluck will be held at the Missoula Children's Theater, second floor Rm 302. Please come to the Main Street entrance. Elevator access through the main lobby. Bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share. Alcoholic beverages are okay! Don't forget to bring a few of your favorite slides or digital pictures from the summer. Call Peter (728-8740) or Kelly (258-5439) if you have questions.

Thursday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.

You've heard the Plant Detective on public radio. This is your chance to meet her. Beth Judy has promised to put aside her magnifying glass and tell us about "Native Plants as Medicine." Rm L09 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

EASTERN MONTANA

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

FLATHEAD CHAPTER

Flathead Chapter will hold its 2008-2009 meetings and programs at a new location, The Glacier Discovery Square in Columbia Falls (see page 7). The chapter meets the first Wednesday of each month beginning Wednesday, October 1st. The October meeting will be a potluck and business meeting to plan programs for the year. The December meeting will be our Christmas party. All other months, a business meeting begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by a program at 7:00 p.m. We are hosting the statewide Annual Meeting July 17-19, 2009. The business meetings will focus on planning for that weekend. Winter programs will be announced in the winter *Kelseya*. For more information about our meetings or programs, contact Jen Asebrook at 863-9630 or Betty Kuropat at 892-0129.

KELSEY CHAPTER

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

Thursday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.

Scott Mincemoyer, botanist with the Montana Natural Heritage Program, will present a program on "The Rare Plants of Montana." Free to the public at the Lewis and Clark Library.

Saturday, December 6, 6:00 p.m.

Our annual "Holiday Potluck" will be hosted by Mary and Steve Johnson at 418 Holter in Helena. Bring a dish to share, your own table service, and a native plant "show and tell."

MAKA FLORA CHAPTER

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

VALLEY OF FLOWERS

Valley of Flowers fall programs will be held in Room 108 of the Plant Bioscience building on South 11th Avenue (MSU campus). Parking is to the north of the building despite the construction fencing. Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. For further information call Joanne Jennings at 586-9585. There will be no meeting in December.

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.

Kris Hall, owner of Hall Botanical, will present an update on "Wildcrafting Medicinal Plants in Montana."

Tuesday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.

Tracy Dougher, Horticultural professor in the Department of Plant Science and Plant Pathology, will talk of her work in "Horticulture as it Relates to Native Plants."

WESTERN MONTANA

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

2009 Annual Meeting Scheduled

Mark your calendars now! The 2009 MNPS annual meeting is July 17-19 at Glacier Bible Camp in Hungry Horse. The Flathead Chapter is busy with plans to make this event one not to be missed and the event promises to be loads of fun. There are lots of great hiking opportunities and Glacier National Park is close by. Hungry Horse is about 10 miles from West Glacier. Wildflowers should be abundant! Look for more information in the winter *Kelseya* and on the website.

Plan ahead and we'll see you then.

2009 Small Grant Program

Get your small grant proposals ready for the MNPS thirteenth annual Small Grants Program. Grants up to \$1,000 will be awarded in 2009 to fund projects that stimulate research, conservation, or educational activities that foster an appreciation for Montana's native plants and plant communities. The deadline is January 31, 2009. Watch for the winter issue of *Kelseya* and check the MNPS website (www.mtnativeplants.org) for complete proposal and grant application process details. For more information contact committee chair Cathie Jean at 406-599-9614 or cathie_jean@hughes.net.

Cathie Jean

Sweetgrass Hills Spelunking

Twelve intrepid souls converged at the Scari Ranch at the foot of the Sweetgrass Hills on August 15-16 for the annual Wayne Phillips botanical smorgasbord. We were treated to wonderful camping facilities by our gracious hosts Arlo and Darlene Scari. Under the full moon we sang every moon song that came to mind.

After a delicious breakfast Saturday morning, we headed for the hills. We were joined by Dan and Beverly Foote from the Illinois Native Plant Society. We were also accompanied by our Viennese professional photo snapping guest Florian Herzog.

The roadside sitings included *Liatris punctata* (gay feather), *Helianthus annuus* (common sunflower), and *Chrysopsis villosa* (hairy golden aster) in gay profusion.

On our ascent of the hills, we saw *Acer glabrum* (Rocky Mountain maple), *Juniperus communis*, *horizontalis*, and *scopulorum*, *Potentilla fruticosa*, *Shepherdia canadensis*, *Erigeron speciosa*, *Gaillardia aristata*, *Solidago missouriensis*, *Agoseris glauca*, *Achillea millefolium*, and bovine munched *Angelica arguta*. *Monarda fistulosa* and *Artemisia ludoviciana* were everywhere. We were treated to parsnip flavored *Perideridia gairdneri* (yampa) root and its fennel-flavored seeds, along with wild strawberries and currents.

Some of the more unusual plants for the area were *Mimulus guttatus*, *Moneses (Pyrola) uniflora*, *Parnassia palustris* (grass-of-Parnassus), *Zigadenus elegans*, *Penstemon nitidus*, and *Picea glauca* (white spruce). Wayne pointed out the distinctive 'W' on the blade of *Bromus inermis*, the "Wal-Mart" of brome.

After following some paths-less-traveled, subsequent scouting, and map consultation, we arrived at our destination, the skylighted cave in Devil's Chimney. Our trip was peppered with Wayne's songs and poems.

Thanks to Wayne for another great trip! We will attempt to surpass the fun when we meet next year in Vienna.

Tarn Ream, Kathy Ream, Annie Garde, Kelly Chadwick



The Sweetgrass Hills in August, site of the annual Wayne Phillips botanical smorgasbord.

Photo: Dean Radke

MNPS Website Has Moved

Update your internet bookmarks because the MNPS website has moved! You can now find MNPS on line at **www.mtnativeplants.org**. As of Monday, September 1st, Cedar Mountain Software is still working on the migration, and it should be completely finished soon.

The decision to move the website came down to security issues and access on the UM web server. With the Cedar Mountain version, the website will still look and function almost the same, but access and updates will be much easier for the Society to maintain; which leads me to introduce and thank our new webmaster, Bob Person! From now on, please send your quarterly chapter updates, annual meeting information, and of course, notifications of web problems that need fixing to Bob at: thepersons@mcn.net

It has been a pleasure working on the website for the past several years, and I look forward to seeing what changes and improvements develop over time in Bob's hands.

Marilyn Marler

As most of you probably know, Marilyn Marler has done yeoman work for these many years, having set up and maintained the website for MNPS. For nearly a year we have been discussing transferring the job to me. That transfer has now happened.

Before Marilyn handed over the reins, for a number of reasons, she arranged to have Cedar Mountain Software in Missoula take over hosting the site. Cedar Mountain

imported the site onto their server. The site now has a new URL: **www.mtnativeplants.org**. The URL at the University of Montana will have a redirect that will automatically transfer a user to the new site. Kenneth Ranen of Cedar Mountain and I are working through a number of issues to perfect the transfer. Please bear with us while this is going on.

We did discover some funky stuff that happened when the site transferred over. You will see some oddities in the page layouts, strange font changes, and the like. Kenneth is working on some style sheets that I will then be able to use to go through the site and clean things up. This will entail doing some extensive editing on all the pages. Bear with us while we get this done—it won't take too long.

Meanwhile, I will also post new chapter information as I am able to get to it. Since we will of necessity be working through the site, I would appreciate it if each of you would take some time to look at all of it, or some part of the site that particularly interests you or about which you have updated information, strong opinions, etc. Let me know what you think and I will see what we can do to fix any problems or change information. There are possibilities for other features like mailing lists, online sale of goods and services, etc. that we can consider down the road. Short term, we'll just try to get things edited and up to date, then decide what we can reasonably add.

I look forward to hearing from you. Bob Person at: thepersons@mcn.net

A TRIBUTE TO MARK BEHAN: 1931-2008

Professor Mark Behan was a botanist who had a talent for grabbing your attention with an appropriate opening comment, whether he was delivering a research seminar or writing up a newspaper article on one of Montana's native plant species. In a 2004 write-up addressing Montana's five-needle white pines, Mark's first line was, "Montana is blessed with three white pine species. Like sisters they share some characteristics, but differ markedly in their natural history." Or, when describing trembling aspen, "There are few autumn shows that exceed golden-leaved aspen groves imbedded in emerald colored conifer forests, all set against an azure sky." A master of words! And he got people to read or listen further to what he had to say.

The Montana Native Plant Society and its Clark Fork Chapter lost one of its charter members when Mark Behan died on June 18, 2008. I knew Mark from the first day he walked into the University of Montana's Natural Science Building in 1962, ready to begin teaching plant ecology to forestry students enrolled in their spring quarter classes at UM's Lubrecht School Forest. After he sized up the situation I recall Mark commenting on the potential difficulty of conducting outdoor field trips involving plant identifications when two feet of snow still remained in Lubrecht Forest. Mark successfully dealt with that typical Montana teaching challenge, and went on for decades, instructing in ecology and plant physiology, conducting tree physiology research, and directing the research of many graduate students. As for the two feet of snow, we all now know there was never too much snow on the ground for Mark!

Mark Behan came to Missoula with a solid foundation he built as a graduate student at the Universities of Wyoming and Washington, in the science area we now call "plant ecophysiology." He established and maintained a very close relationship with western Montana's forests. Early in his career Mark's special interest was to learn how western larch and lodgepole pine responded to mineral fertilization treatments. He and his students spent lots of time hiking and collecting data in western

Montana's forests. Specifically, and more technically, he sought ways to better understand how these Montana conifers dealt with soil mineral deficiencies, in combination with a reduced water supply.

He devised new laboratory and greenhouse methodologies for assessing the nutrient health of these conifers, using funds granted by the National Science Foundation, the U. S. Forest Service, and from UM's School of Forestry. He consistently published his research results for others to benefit from his findings. In addition Mark was interested in, and actively involved with, UM's wildlife biology program, and he represented the botany department on UM's wildlife faculty and chaired the wildlife curriculum committee. Many of Mark Behan's students were majors in forestry and wildlife, and many have had successful resource management careers in Montana.

Mark also was one of the Montana representatives in the International Biological Program [IBP], the global effort to understand and manage the earth's ecosystems. He authored a report, "Fire in Coniferous Forests," a topic which decades later still remains of great importance. Mark's IBP involvement in the 1970's may have

contributed, I believe, to the expansion of his interests to the international level. This is reflected in Mark being awarded a Fulbright Professorship to Nepal, an opportunity that greatly expanded his horizons. It was a turning point in his career; he returned many times to that part of the world, teaching and consulting in India and Pakistan.

Mark was well known for his ability to make complicated material in his botany classes easier for students to understand. A student evaluation report stated, "Dr. Behan was demanding, enthusiastic, relaxed, and his informal lecture style of including personal experiences made the class enjoyable and the course stimu-

lating." One student even claimed he "learned how to think" in Dr. Behan's class. His talent to communicate was also evident when he delivered departmental seminars and when he gave guest talks at MNPS chapter meetings. He found it easy to interject humor as he went along, keeping his audiences alert, happy, and content. He was an excellent teacher and never at a loss for words or stories, abilities most university students would like to see displayed by all their professors! Mark touched a lot of botany, wildlife, and ecology bases in his lifetime, locally and globally, to the benefit of us all.

James Habeck, Emeritus Professor of Botany,
University of Montana, Missoula



MNPS Chapters & the Areas They Serve:

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER - Yellowstone and Carbon Counties; southeastern/south-central Montana

CALYPSO CHAPTER - Beaverhead, Madison, Deer Lodge, and Silver Bow Counties; southwestern Montana

CLARK FORK CHAPTER - Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, and Ravalli Counties

FLATHEAD CHAPTER - Flathead and Lake Counties plus Glacier National Park

KELSEY CHAPTER - Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater Counties

MAKA FLORA CHAPTER - Richland, Roosevelt, McCone, Sheridan, and Daniels Counties

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

All MNPS chapters welcome members from areas other than those indicated. We've listed counties just to give you some idea of what part of the state is served by each chapter. Watch for meeting announcements in your local newspaper. Ten paid members are required for a chapter to be eligible for acceptance in MNPS.

Your mailing label tells you the following:

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

DATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: If your label reads "2/08" your membership expired February 28, 2008. Use this form to renew your membership TODAY! Please drop us a note if any information on your label is incorrect. Please notify us promptly of address changes.

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

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Montana Native Plant Society

The Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation chartered for the purpose of preserving, conserving, and studying the native plants and plant communities of Montana, and educating the public about the value of our native flora. Contributions to MNPS are tax deductible, and may be designated for a specific project or chapter, for the Small Grants fund, or the general operating fund.

Your yearly membership fee includes a subscription to *Kelseya*, the quarterly newsletter of MNPS. We welcome your articles, field trip reports, book reviews, or anything that relates to native plants or the Society. Please include a line or two of "bio" information with each article. Drawings should be in black ink or a good quality photocopy. All items should be typed, saved in Microsoft Word or rich text format (rtf) for a PC, and sent electronically to: kelseyaeditor@gmail.com or mailed to *Kelseya* Editor, 10350 Lakewood Place., Lolo, MT 59847.

Changes of address, inquiries about membership, and general correspondence should be sent to MNPS Membership, P.O. Box 8783, Missoula, MT 59807-8783.

Advertising space is available in each issue at \$5/column inch. Ads must be camera-ready and must meet the guidelines set by the Board of Directors for suitable subject matter; that is, be related in some way to native plants or the interests of MNPS members.

**The deadline for each issue is: Fall— September 10;
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Please send web items to our webmaster concurrent with these dates.**

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Montana Native Plant Society

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