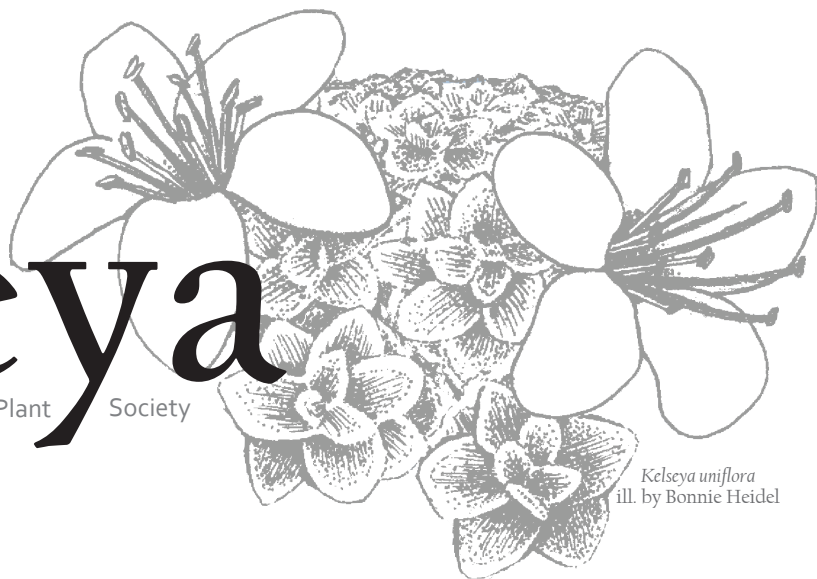


Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society



Botanical Treasures in the Swan Valley

A preview of the MNPS Annual Meeting

By Steve Shelly, Clark Fork Chapter

Along with its spectacular scenery, the Swan Valley in northwestern Montana has many unique ecological characteristics that have long drawn the attention of botanists and naturalists. To start, it is one of the few predominantly forested broad river valleys in Montana. Productive stands of conifers and deciduous trees occur almost uninterrupted across the valley, from the divide between the Swan and Clearwater River drainages at the south end to Swan Lake at the north end.

Another special feature of the Swan Valley is its high diversity of wetland habitats, which are typically embedded within the forested communities on the valley floor. Scattered throughout the valley are lakes, marshes, vernal ponds, sedge meadows and peatlands.

Of particular interest are the peatlands, which represent a specialized type of wetland in which the rate of accumulation of organic matter exceeds the rate of decomposition. This accumulation results in a deepening layer of peat over time, which in our region occurs at a rate of approximately one inch per 100 years. There are two broad types of peatlands – bogs and fens. Bogs receive water only from precipitation, while the water entering fens comes from both precipitation and groundwater. All of the peatlands in Montana are fens. Because fens are influenced in part by groundwater, the vegetation and species they support reflect the surrounding geological formations. The prominence of limestone, especially in the Swan Range on the east side of the Swan Valley, produces peatlands that are more alkaline with respect to the groundwater that flows into them. Some of the rare plant species with an affinity for such “rich” fens include *Cypripedium passerinum*



Cypripedium calceolus. Photo by Steve Shelly

(sparrow's egg lady's-slipper), *Liparis loeselii* (fen orchid), *Eleocharis rostellata* (beaked spikerush), *Carex rostrata* (glaucous beaked sedge), and *Epipactis gigantea* (giant helleborine).

Another significant attribute of the Swan Valley is the high diversity of plant species that inhabit lower elevations in the watershed. According to the Montana Natural Heritage Program, there are 35 rare plant species in the valley below an elevation of 4,500 feet. These include three mosses, eight lichens and 24 vascular plants; the latter include six of the 30 orchid species native to Montana. Regarding this set of uncommon species:

- * Of the rare vascular plants, 19 species are restricted to wetland habitats;
- * Several species are among the rarest in Montana:

continued on page 5

Chapter Events

Calypso Chapter

Saturday, April 4. "7th Annual Gardening with Natives Workshop." **Cancelled.**

Monday, April 6, 6:00 pm. "Invasive Plant Issues in Scotland." Linda Lyon will discuss natives that have become weeds and what Scotland is doing to control them. Room 101, Chemistry/Biology Bldg., Montana Tech, Butte.

May, date and time TBA. "Getting to Know Your Western Trees." Bob Wooley presents this talk, to be followed at a later date by a field trip to monitor Whitebark Pine regrowth. Meet in Dillon. Info: Catherine Cain at 498-6198, nativeplants@montana.com.

Saturday, May 9, 10:00 am. "Mother's Day Wildflower Walk." USFS botanist Jessie Salix leads this gentle excursion. Destination depends on weather and will be cancelled if rain or snow. Bring a sack lunch and plan to car pool. Meet in the USFS parking lot, Dillon. Info and to RSVP: Jessie at 683-3947, jsalix@fs.fed.us.

Sunday, June 14, 10:00 am. "Celebrate National Pollinator Week." Catherine Cain will host an open house at Southwest Montana Native Landscapes, her native plant nursery. Visit anytime before 5:00; Pollinator Scavenger Hunt starts at 2:00. 15000 Hwy 91 North, 15 miles north of Dillon (five miles south of Glen). Info: Catherine at 498-6198.

Sunday, June 21, 9:00 am. "Wildflower Tour of Vipond Park." A driving tour (no hiking) with emphasis on native pollinators. Bring a sack lunch, rain gear and layered clothing. Plan on car pooling; no dogs. Meet at the Divide Fishing Access parking lot, across the Big Hole River bridge, two miles west of I-15 on Hwy 43. Info and to RSVP: Catherine Cain at 498-6198, nativeplants@montana.com

Clark Fork Chapter

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 pm. "Wildflower ID." You haven't seen them for nearly a year; can you remember their names? Get an early-season refresher with Clark Fork Chapter photographers. Room Log, Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

Wednesday, April 22, 6:00 pm. "Early Bloomers in Pattee Canyon." Celebrate Earth Day with an evening stroll to look for fairy slippers, glacier lilies, violets and more. Meet at the bleachers, Dornblaser Field, southeast corner of South and Higgins Ave. to carpool. Info: Clare at 728-0189 or www.facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter.

Thursday, May 7, 6:00 pm. "Waterworks Cushion Plant TLC." Celebrate National Wildflower Week getting up close and personal with the low-growing, colorful and unique cushion plants of Waterworks Hill. Meet uncommon Missoula phlox and Rocky Mountain douglasia, as well as treasured bitterroots and important pollinator plants like buckwheat. These slow-growing natives are threatened by invasive weeds like leafy spurge and spotted knapweed, yet their delicate nature prevents the use of weed-control methods such as herbicides, tilling or sheep grazing. We will help by hand-pulling weeds. Bring gloves, weeding tool,

pruning shears and a bucket. Tools also will be provided by the Missoula Conservation Lands Program. Meet at the Waterworks trailhead on Greenough Dr. Info: Clare at 728-0189 or www.facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter.

Thursday, May 14, 6:30 pm. "Annual Spring Potluck." Bring your own plate, utensils and a dish to share. Hosts Joe Elliott and Nancy Volle have a great garden with even a few natives. Meet at 3918 Lincoln Rd. in the Upper Rattlesnake. Info: Joe or Nancy at 542-5014.

Wednesday, May 20, 6:00 pm. "Later Bloomers in Pattee Canyon." On our second evening walk we will look for orchids and blue camas. Meet at bleachers, Dornblaser Field, southeast corner of South and Higgins Ave. Info: Clare at 728-0189 or www.facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter.

Saturday, May 16, 10:00 am. "Mt. Sentinel Budburst." Clare Beelman, volunteer with the phenology project on Mt. Sentinel, shows us which flowers and leaves appear first on Mt. Sentinel this year. Hiking up the Evans Street Trail to the fire road, we'll see as many as 130 different species of plants. If there is interest, we'll hike a loop that goes up to the forest patch within 500' of the summit. Wear sturdy shoes for steep sections. Meet on the south side of the UM campus, parking lot at the corner of Beckwith and Madeline Ave. Info: Clare at 721-0189 or www.facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter.

Thursday, May 28, 6:30 pm. "Plant Labeling Party." Nosh on hors d'oeuvres and sweets while preparing this year's plants for sale. Bring your labeling fingers and a savory or sweet dish to share. Meet at 2 September Drive, Lincoln Hills, in the Upper Rattlesnake. Info: Clare at 728-0189.

Saturday, May 30, 8:00 am-noon. "Annual Montana Native Plant Society, Clark Fork Chapter Plant Sale." One day only at the Clark Fork River Market in Missoula. Come early for the best selection of native plants to add to your landscape! Info: www.facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter.

Saturday, June 13, 9:00 am. "Plants of a Ninemile Conservation Easement." **See story page 5 for details.**

Sunday, June 14, 1:00 pm. "Clarkia Weed Pull Party." Join folks at Native Ideals Seed Farm for an afternoon of pulling weeds from rows of *Clarkia pulchella*, followed by good food and a tour. This is a great chance to see mass planting (and blooming!) of scarlet gilia, cushion buckwheat, lanceleaf daisy, penstemons and, perhaps, bitterroot. Meet southeast of Arlee, 31046 Jocko Rd. Info: Bryce at 726-3010 or www.facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter.

Saturday, June 20, 6:00 am. "Subalpine & Montane Plants of the Southern Front." Wayne Phillips, author and botanist-extraordinaire, leads a day-long trip from Rogers Pass to Lewis & Clark Pass and down Alice Creek to view a great diversity of wildflowers from forest to grassland and subalpine areas. Look for rock jasmine, chocolate lily, alpine forget-me-not, Lyall's penstemon, hoary balsamroot, and sugarbowl. The hike follows good trail along the Continental Divide for about 11 miles. A shorter, out-and-back trip can be done of the first part of the hike in the Rogers Pass area. Please RSVP to Clare (728-0189, clare.beelman@gmail.com) to indicate which version you will be doing. Meet at the Milltown truck stop at 6:00 am to carpool from the Missoula area to Lincoln. Meet in Lincoln at the Cenex Convenience Store at 8:00 am to arrange cars to Alice Creek for



return shuttle. Kelsey Chapter hikers meet at Rogers Pass at 9:30 am. Info: Clare at 728-0189, Wayne at 453-0648, or www.facebook.com/MNPSClarkForkChapter.

Flathead Chapter

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 pm. "A Garden on Sylvan Drive, Flathead Lake." Kathy Ross shares 25 years of experience landscaping with native and ornamental plants. She encourages the value of native plant gardens, showing how they can be enhanced with well-chosen, non-invasive ornamental varieties. Meet at North Valley Community Hall (also North Valley Physical Therapy), 235 Nucleus Ave., Columbia Falls.

Tuesdays, May and June, 10:00 am. "Bigfork Wild Mile Corridor Wildflower Walks." Join Anne Morley and Neal Brown for these gentle strolls to look at birds and wildflowers. Enjoy easy two-mile hikes along the Old Swan River Road. Meet in front of Showthyme restaurant. Info: Anne at 886-2242 or Neal at 837-5018.

Wednesday, May 20, 6:00 pm. "Flathead Chapter Annual Meeting planning session." Potluck of snacks and finger food. Meet at North Valley Community Hall (also North Valley Physical Therapy), 235 Nucleus Ave., Columbia Falls.

Saturday, May 23, 7:00 am. "Coonsa Creek Wetlands: Birds, Bears and Native Plants." Jointly sponsored with Flathead Audubon, this half-day trip is led by wildlife biologist Steve Gniadek and botanist Betty Kuropat. Look for birds in the rich riparian habitat along Coonsa Creek and for wildflowers on the ridge and in wetlands near the Firebrand Pass trailhead. We'll only go two or three miles up the trail (not to pass). Meet at Columbia Heights Park & Ride (junction of US 2 and MT 206) to carpool. Info and to sign up: Steve at 892-7406.

Tuesdays, June-August, 9:00 am. "Volunteer Opportunity 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 and work gloves. Come anytime after 9; work an hour or stay all day. Meet at the Native Plant Nursery, Glacier National Park. Info: Rebecca Lawrence at 888-7836.

Monday, June 1, 5:30 pm. "Evening Wildflower Walk on Columbia Mountain." One of two evening walks on Columbia Mountain (see June 10th event). Ellen Horowitz leads a three-hour walk through a flower-lover's paradise. Look for showy larkspur, mitreworts and others. We'll go at an easy pace and make lots of stops. Jointly sponsored with the Montana Wilderness Association. Info and to sign up: Ellen at 752-2909, horowitz@centurytel.net.

Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 pm. "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. Meet at FVCC, Blake Hall, SCA 140. Tour is wheelchair accessible. Info: Teresa at 471-3786, acacia78@bresnan.net.

Saturday, June 6, 10:00 am. "Lost Trail Wildlife Refuge." The annual Exploding Car Battery trip takes participants to Montana's newest wildlife refuge! Explore the plants

and animals of Palouse prairie and wetland habitats with botanists Peter Lesica and Jon Reny, and wildlife biologist Beverly Skinner. Lost Trail Refuge is located between Kalispell and Libby, north of McGregor Lake. Bring a lunch and shoes that can get wet. Meet at the Marion Post Office. Info and to carpool from Flathead Valley: Betty at 892-0129.

Wednesday, June 10, 5:30 pm. "Columbia Mountain Field Trip." Glacier National Park Biologist Tara Carolin leads this evening stroll up the Columbia Mountain trail. Enjoy spring and early summer blooms along the forested trail with lovely rock outcrops in the sunshine. Bring a sack supper if you like. Meet at the Columbia Mountain parking lot and trailhead. Info: Tara at 260-7533, writetaraywc@yahoo.com.

Thursday, June 11, 10:00 am. "Sprunger-Whitney Nature Trail." Learn about plants, birds and wildlife habitats with botanist/naturalist Anne Morley along this gentle, two-mile trail located in the Swan Valley. The trail meanders through a low-elevation old growth forest. Meet at Point Pleasant campground, south of Swan Lake, half-mile south of mile marker 64 on Hwy 83. Info: Anne at 886-2242.

MNPS 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

Friday-Sunday, June 26-28.

"For Peat's Sake...Befriend the Fens!" This year's gathering will be highlighted by several field trips around the Seeley-Swan area. Orchids, sundews, rushes and more! Home base will be the Loon Lake 4H Camp just outside Bigfork—see you there!

See the enclosed inserts for info and registration or visit

www.mtnativeplants.org

or www.facebook.com/MTNativePlantSociety.

Kelsey Chapter

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 pm. "Review of Native Gardens in Montana." The Montana Native Plant Society has funded native plant gardening projects in many areas of Montana. Clare Beelman and Madeline Mazurski are traveling to many of those gardens to review those projects. What has worked? What has not? They will be presenting some of their preliminary findings at Montana Wild, 2668 Broadwater Avenue. Join us for a lively debate on gardening with native plants. For more information, contact Patrick Plantenberg at 431-4615 – if no answer, please leave a message mentioning the event.

Sunday, April 26, time TBD. "*Kelseya uniflora*." Join us to visit the plant discovered by our chapter's namesake Francis Kelsey. This early-blooming rose family plant should be showing its colors right about this time. It is a short walk to see this plant, but depending on conditions, we may wander up the Trout Creek Canyon to see what else early spring has to offer. The first mile is an easy accessible trail. The trip is out and back. For more information, contact Bob Person at 443-4678—if no answer, please leave a message mentioning the event.



Thursday, May 28, 7:00 pm. [Note date change] Mount Helena Spring Wildflowers. The third week in May is set for "Celebrating Wildflowers," a program for grade schools jointly sponsored by the Forest Service, the Discovery Foundation, and the Kelsey Chapter. The Kelsey Chapter and the Prickly Pear Land Trust invite you to celebrate wildflowers yourself on an evening walk of about a mile on the same route the grade school children follow to see a wide variety of spring blooming plants on Mount Helena. Meet at the main Mount Helena Trailhead above Reeder's Village and plan for two-hour walk. For more information, contact Bob Person at 443-4678 – if no answer, please leave a message mentioning the event.

Saturday, June 13, 9:00 am. "Plants of a Ninemile Conservation Easement." See story page 5 for details.

Maka Flora Chapter

Info: Libby Knotts at 774-3778, rek@midrivers.net.

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Wednesday, April 8, 3:30 pm. "Copper City." Mike Garverich explores early blooms of cushion plants and other tough flora on this little-known BLM area west of the Missouri headwaters. Easy, less than two miles. Meet in the former Kmart parking lot, Bozeman. Info: Mike at 491-0887, michael.garverich@mt.usda.gov.

Tuesday, April 14. "Propagating Native Plants." A hands-on "seeds and soil" workshop with Kathy Settevendemie of Blackfoot Native Plants. Seeds have varying requirements for germination. Learn how to identify, clean, scarify, stratify and plant them. Helpful information for all experience levels. Meet in Room 108, Plant Bioscience Bldg., MSU. Info: Gretchen Rupp at 586-8363, beesgrmt@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 23, 10:00 am. "Gallatin Foothills." Stroll through native grassland and upland shrub habitat at the base of Mt. Ellis with Jeff Copeland. Look for abundant wildflowers, including *Clematis hirsutissima*. Moderately difficult, two to three miles with some off-trail bushwhacking. Meet at the Bozeman Softball Complex parking lot, east side of Highland Blvd., across from hospital. Info: Jeff at 539-6029, jouzelcopeland@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 20, 9:00 am. "Gallatin Valley Wildflowers." Brush up your plant ID skills with Sharon Eversman in the linear park between Kagy Boulevard and Cherry Drive, southeastern edge of Bozeman. Easy, half-mile stroll; no more than two hours. Meet at trailhead on Kagy Blvd., one block east of Highland Blvd. (parking along Kagy). Info: Sharon at 586-6788, steversman61@gmail.com.

Eastern At-Large

Saturday, June 13, 8:15 am. "North Fork of Dupuyer Creek." Hike starts on the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch and wanders across prairie toward the North Fork Canyon and Walking Reef. Dave Shea, former Glacier National Park ranger and naturalist, helps with plant and wildlife identification, and discusses the history and spectacular geology of the area. This is an easy three miles. Jointly sponsored with the Montana Wilderness Association. Meet at

the Chateau Information Center, near Old Trail Museum. Info: Dave Shea at 466-2161.

Saturday, June 13, 9:30 am. "Field Trip to the Pryors." Peter Lesica and Jennifer Lyman lead this trip to the south side of the Pryor Mountains. Includes visits to special plant communities recommended in the Botany Guide on the Pryors Coalition website (pryormountains.org). We'll hike within the MNPS Important Plant Area to observe species of the Great Basin Floristic Province, many considered species of concern in Montana. Moderate difficulty, one to two miles. Bring water, lunch, camera, hiking gear. Meet at the Maverick Gas Station, north end of Bridger, MT; we will enter the Pryors at Warren, MT. Info: Jennifer Lyman at 426-1227, jenclyman@gmail.com.

Western At-Large

Jon Reny (Libby) is working on activities for the year and would love to hear your thoughts. You can reach him at 334-0459, jreny@kvis.net.

Other Chapter News

A consortium of Bozeman residents has begun a multi-year project to re-naturalize Mandeville Creek and the adjoining uplands that form the eastern boundary of Bozeman High School grounds. They envision the 80-acre site eventually will host a meandering natural stream, one or more outdoor classrooms, and teaching gardens comprising several native-plant communities representative of Montana habitats. The **Valley of Flowers Chapter** has pledged \$1,500 for native-plant materials to be installed this year. In addition, Chapter members are working with project planners on the layout of the various areas, plant selection and maintenance plans. For more information on the project, visit <http://bhscreek.org/>.

Valley of Flowers Chapter members also will be maintaining the Pollinator Garden in Bozeman's Langohr Park again this summer. This popular planting is adjacent to the Gallagator Trail and garners many compliments from passers-by as our volunteers spruce things up. If you can help with occasional weeding or watering, please contact Linda Iverson at 932-5840, lilandscape@mtintouch.net.



Volunteers maintain the Pollinator Garden in Bozeman's Langohr Park. Photo courtesy of NRCS Montana Office.





Fairy Slipper (*Calipso bulbosa*). Photo by Drake Barton.

Special Opportunity: Plants of a Ninemile Conservation Easement

Ninemile landowner Andie “Rose” MacDowell invites members of the Montana Native Plant Society to attend a native plant tour on her property in the Ninemile Valley west of Missoula. The **Kelsey and Clark Fork Chapters** have teamed up with The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) to offer this hike to look for orchids and other native plants. This unique event will take place in “the cedars,” a small drainage dominated by western red cedar, so we’ll be looking for uncommon, moisture-loving jewels of plants in the understory.

According to the Montana Land Reliance, the Ninemile originally was settled in the late 1800s by prospectors and gold miners. By 1920, most of the gold mining efforts had ceased, and ranching and logging dominated private landownership. In 1937, the Thisted family bought the ranch that included “the cedars.” In 1993, MacDowell bought property in the Ninemile and placed a conservation easement on it a year later. Over time, she has built and maintains a walking trail through “the cedars” to view wildflowers and other native plants that grow under the thick canopy.

The hike is easy to moderately difficult. Bring a lunch, something to drink, and appropriate clothing and boots for wet walking.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 13. To carpool from Missoula, meet at 9:00 am on the north side of the Town Pump gas station, 5310 Grant Creek Rd. To carpool from Helena, contact Kathy Lloyd, drakekath01@gmail.com. This field trip is limited to 25 participants. **Contact Kathy to RSVP.**

Additionally, MLR would like to establish a tradition of summer plant tours on conserved properties to help demonstrate how conservation easements protect some of Montana’s most precious habitat. If any MNPS chapter is interested in working with Mark on this, please contact him at mark@mtlandreliance.org.

Botanical Treasures, cont’d

Carex lacustris (lake-bank sedge; four occurrences in the state), *Carex rostrata* (five occurrences); *Liparis loeselii* (nine occurrences); and *Lycopodiella inundata* (northern bog clubmoss; five occurrences);

* Water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*), a federally listed threatened species, occurs in numerous vernal ponds throughout the Swan Valley. This fascinating species is an aquatic winter annual. If the ponds where it occurs dry out enough in the fall, the seeds germinate and the plants overwinter under the snowpack as seedlings. Then when the ponds are filled again by snowmelt and rainfall in the spring and early summer, the plants grow and produce a new crop of seeds during that second summer.

Howellia aquatilis and *Liparis loeselii* are both confined to the Swan Valley in Montana, and the latter is the rarest orchid in the state.

Several important sites for these rare habitats and species have been protected by various organizations and agencies. Examples include the Swan River Oxbow Preserve, managed by the Nature Conservancy, and the Swan River Research Natural Area and Condon Creek Botanical Special Area, which are managed by the Flathead National Forest. In addition, a Forest Service conservation strategy protects the habitat of *Howellia aquatilis* from land management activities that could affect the habitat.

Even with its long history of settlement, there are many wild places left in the Swan Valley that support an amazing diversity of habitats and species. The Annual Meeting field trips will provide an excellent way to experience this unique ecosystem!

Steve Shelly is the regional botanist for the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula.



Liparis loeselii. Photo by Steve Shelly.

News & Notes



President's Message

Spring is a beautiful time of year, especially in Montana. It is exciting to watch plants re-emerge and, if you are like me, we eagerly greet each new flowering face. Spring is a time of change and an appropriate time to assess our own progress and goals.

At its February meeting, the MNPS board made several decisions that we hope will energize the future of our organization. First, we recognized that it is time to create a vision statement and delineate some fresh goals. Second, we saw that the state-wide organization needs a logo to use in its various communications, publications and on the Web, and approved action to solicit comment from our membership on that. Third, we approved funds to upgrade the MNPS website to improve the mobile format and begin work on updating the site. Your input on any of these items is welcome!

The board also voted to increase the level of support from MNPS to Montana Audubon in recognition of the work that organization does in promoting conservation, both to the public at large and in the legislature. We

also voted to make a financial contribution to the production of *Hometown Habitat*, a 90-minute, environmental-education documentary film focused on how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems.

A lot is happening as you can see, but let's not forget to take time to smell the flowers!

— Kathy Settevendemie

Seeking Input: A Logo for the Montana Native Plant Society

Submitted by Clare Beelman, Clark Fork Chapter

In 2014, the Montana Native Plant Society Board created an Ad Hoc committee for Marketing and Branding to investigate ways of increasing the recognition of MNPS as an organization. MNPS communicates with the public and its membership through various forms of digital and print media. Currently there is no uniform graphic representation of MNPS to allow consistent and ready identification of the Society and its Chapters during events, on websites or in print.

The Marketing and Branding Committee is starting work on creating a logo that will provide appealing, unique and uniform graphic representation for use in all types of media. This logo will have a broader role than the *Kelseya uniflora* emblem of the newsletter and the floral mascots of Annual Meetings. Those graphics will continue to represent those particular components of MNPS. The Committee seeks your input to help create this new state logo: Can you suggest an iconic floral species of Montana that might be used? Can you recommend a graphic designer to the Committee? If so, please email your ideas no later than April 30 to Madeline Mazurski, mmazurski@msn.com.

Please Give Us Your Opinion

The Montana Native Plant Society has not revised its organizational vision and goals for a number of years. This year, the Board is contemplating undertaking some degree of formal organization-building. To help inform this process, the Board would be deeply grateful if you'd answer a handful of questions about MNPS—what it is and what it could be. Please take the online survey at eSurv.org?u=mnps_2015 before June 1. Thank you!

Celebrating Peter Stickney

Submitted by Kathy Settevendemie, MNPS President



Peter Stickney. Photo by Kenneth Stolz.

On February 5, 2015 nearly 80 people gathered at the University of Montana Herbarium to celebrate Peter Stickney's many years of dedicating his time and talent to the plant collection, and his establishment of the Herbarium Endowment to support its work in perpetuity. Annie Garde, co-president of the Clark Fork Chapter, UM President Royce Engstrom, and I spoke at the reception. Interim curator Marilyn Marler coordinated the event and gathered thank-you

letters to Peter in an album. Contributions to the Herbarium Endowment during the event raised its balance to more than \$50,000.

Peter formerly was curator of the U.S. Forest Services' Rocky Mountain Research Station Herbarium, where he was instrumental in acquiring numerous large collections in addition to contributing approximately 3,000 specimens of his own. In 2010, the Forest Service herbarium combined with UM's and Peter spent endless hours boxing



Peter and Michael Krebs enjoy the reception. Photo by Kenneth Stolz.

and personally moving specimens, ensuring that they would be carefully preserved for future generations to use. Our celebration was in appreciation for such an enduring legacy. Thank you Peter!

Welcome New Members

At the end of 2014, MNPS had 610 regular and 44 exchange members. Please welcome the following new and lifetime members:

Calypso Chapter

Grant Peterson

Clark Fork Chapter

Christine McManamen, Stephen Lippitt, Karen Harvey, Jeff Shryer, Salvatore Culotta, Jack Frost, Courtney Cansler, Mary Bobbit, Tim Meikle and lifetime member Angelia Evenden

Flathead Chapter

Kathy Shogen, Rob McIver, Steve Johnson, Joan Schmidt and Rebecca Manna

Kelsey Chapter

Winifred Youngblood, Mary Chester and Jill Downing

Maka Flora

Kelly Privratsky

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Deborah Eby (All Season Inn & Suites), Temia & Joe Keel, Jennifer Jones, Monty Lane, Deborah Hartman and Ryan Quire

Western-At-Large

Barb Gass

Eastern -At-Large

Mike Kintgen, Megan Poulette, Gene Ball, Kelsey Molloy and Terri Hilderbrand

Nominate a Star!

Submitted by Bob Person, Kelsey Chapter and Rachel Potter, Flathead Chapter

The Montana Native Plant Society offers two annual awards. The **Outstanding Service Award** is given to an MNPS member in recognition of his or her meaningful service to the Society. The **Special Achievement Award** recognizes someone—member or not—whose work has contributed in a significant way to the mission and goals of MNPS. Awards are presented at the Annual Meeting, to be held June 26-28, 2015 at Loon Lake near Bigfork.

Please take a moment to nominate a person who has made a difference to the preservation, conservation, study and/or appreciation of native plants. Any member can make a nomination with a written statement about the nominee's contribution to MNPS (Outstanding Service) or to the Society's goals and mission (Special Achievement). Please indicate which award they are being nominated for and send entries to jrepotter@centurytel.net by April 15.



2015 SMALL GRANT AWARDS

Submitted by Anne Garde, Clark Fork Chapter and Betty Kuropat, Flathead Chapter

Emails flew between members of the MNPS Small Grants Committee recently as we worked to choose the recipients of this year's grants. We received 14 well-written applications for educational gardens, graduate and undergraduate research, and even one for a native plant photo guide. Given an increase in the small grants budget we were able to fund three projects at close to \$1500 each, and to offer partial funding for a fourth. Here are brief descriptions of the funded projects:

Dr. Michelle Flenniken is the project coordinator of an ambitious educational garden project that she calls a Hub for Pollinator Health at Montana State University. The garden will feature native Montana bee-friendly plants (such as phlox, penstemon, evening primrose), honey bee colonies and a honey bee observation hive. The garden will serve as a field laboratory and as a venue for students and community members to learn about native plants and pollinators. MNPS funds will be used to purchase soil, nursery stock and educational signage.

Christine McManamen, an undergraduate in the University of Montana's Ecological Restoration program, proposes to study the duration and degree to which herbicides negatively affect native plants when they are sown in chemically treated soil. She also will study the role of duff on seed germination in chemically treated soil. Her study addresses the importance of timing when combining herbicide applications with reseeding to promote the restoration of native plant communities. She expects results will provide land managers and private landowners with recommendations that can improve native plant conservation and weed management strategies. Our funds will buy herbicide, top soil and greenhouse supplies. We will also cover travel to her research sites in Rock Creek.

Michael Simanonok, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Ecology at Montana State University, is studying how fire severity affects many species of native plants and pollinators in Montana, and the effects of fire through time. His project will assess the assembly of pollination networks after wildfire, i.e., how the interactions between native bee species and wildflowers return during succession after wildfire. He will perform this research across a gradient of time and will compare different fire severities as well. We will cover his travel to field

sites as well as some supplies and identification materials.

In addition to approving these three projects, the MNPS Board voted to provide partial funding for the **Montana Audubon Center's Wildflower and Pollinator Discovery Program** in Billings. We will help pay for top soil, wildflower seed and other materials for a wildflower addition to an ongoing native shrub garden area.

Congratulations to the recipients, and best wishes for success to all who applied. MNPS is gratified to see so many researchers, gardeners and organizations interested in promoting native plant conservation. If any MNPS member would like to participate on this fun and rewarding committee, please contact Betty Kuropat at bkuropat@centurytel.net.

Candidate Profiles for MNPS Officer Positions

Submitted by Patrick Plantenberg, MNPS Secretary

The Montana Native Plant Society is fortunate that current President **Kathy Settevendemie** has agreed to run for another term. With her husband, Kathy owns and operates Blackfoot Native Plants Nursery near Bonner, promoting the conservation and preservation of Montana's native plants. Besides serving as a hands-on President of MNPS the past couple of years, Kathy has abundant experience as chair and member of several other boards and committees.

Incumbent Co-Treasurer, **Jenny Tollefson** of the Clark Fork Chapter, has agreed to run for a third term with Flathead Chapter member Shannon Kimball as co-Chair. Jenny was active in the Flathead Chapter in the 1990s and now lives in Missoula, where she works as an ecologist and is the mother of two children.

Shannon Kimball has been serving as Co-Treasurer with Jenny and has recently moved from the Flathead Valley to Missoula. She's been a contract botanist for 20 years and is the new Curator/Collections Manager for the University of Montana Herbarium.

Western Representative-at-Large **Jon Reny** has agreed to run again for that position. Jon has a degree from Auburn in Forestry Management and worked for the U.S. Forest Service for many years, including 12 years as Sensitive Plant Botanist at the Kootenai National Forest, Canoe Gulch Ranger District. Since 2007, he has worked for St. John's Lutheran Hospital in Libby as a Computer Analyst.

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Promoting the Pryors

Submitted by Jennifer Lyman, Eastern At-Large Representative

When the Beartooth Ranger District of the Custer-Gallatin National Forest began to update its 1987 Travel Management Plan nearly ten years ago, local folks sprang into action. Those who have enjoyed the Pryor Mountains as an escape seized the opportunity to participate in the public planning sessions. The clashing interests of non-motorized and off-road vehicle users immediately became apparent. Individuals and groups hoping to increase the designated and officially signed hiking, biking and horseback trails from zero to a significant number formed the Pryors Coalition. The Coalition has devoted substantial effort to creating an educational website (www.pryormountains.org) that displays the wonderful attributes of the Pryor Mountains.

The Pryor Mountain range is a beautiful yet “small and vulnerable area,” offering hunting, bird watching, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, camping, and rich natural and cultural history. Unfortunately, the final Travel Management Plan adopted most recently for the area designated only a single mile of official hiking trail and included in its new official travel routes many roads that were ORV-created during the period between plan revisions.

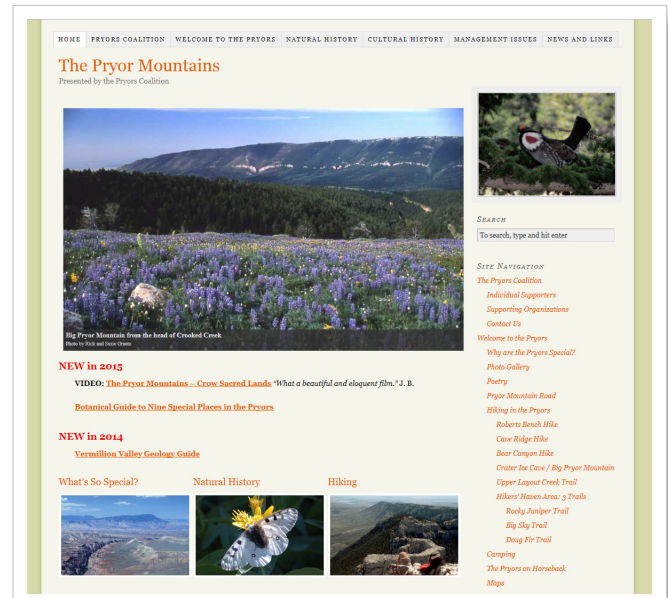
Nevertheless, the Pryors Coalition continues to improve and add educational material to its website, hoping to increase the number of people who will become advocates for improved stewardship. The buttons at the top of the website’s homepage direct the user to several categories of information about the Pryors, including Natural History, Cultural History, Management Issues and Current News.

Many of the information materials can be printed and used as field guides. For example, the Botany tab under Natural History includes a discussion of the Pryors as a “botanical hot spot” by noted botanist and author Peter Lesica, and his description of the MNPS-designated Important Plant Area. Another tab provides a Botanical Guide to nine plant communities that two students from Rocky Mountain College and I prepared as part of the establishment of long-term monitoring plots that will track invasive weed invasions. The Guide is intended for use by visitors while exploring each site. GPS locations and downloadable maps sets are available for each of the nine locations. The students established their long-term monitoring program during one field season, so the plant lists for each site are not comprehensive. The coalition hopes that visitors to the sites will provide photographs of additional species as they become familiar with these places. Most of these sites are on the south side of the Pryors and are included in the area designated as an Important Plant Area by MNPS.

Candidate Profiles, continued

MNPS encourages members to consider the option of running for statewide or local Chapter offices in co-chair positions, like Jenny and Shannon. If you are interested, just write in your nominee or co-chair team on the election ballot in the “write in candidate” location.

You can choose to submit your ballot to the MNPS Electoral College via e-mail or postal service. Go to the MNPS website at www.mtnativeplants.org and look for the link to the 2015 Elections!! Download and fill out the ballot and e-mail it to the MNPS Electoral College in Townsend at 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 Meeting, June 26-28, 2014 at the Loon Lake 4H Camp in the Swan River Valley, 20 minutes from Bigfork, MT.



The Geology tab offers a detailed look at the Vermillion Valley area of the Pryor Mountains as well as a wonderful virtual tour that describes the geological history that drives the Pryors biogeography and ecology. Dr. Gary Thompson and Dick Walton prepared beautiful graphics that give users a visual display of particular geologic features.

The website also contains content about the cultural importance of the Pryor Mountains. Under Cultural History, for example, is a video with Burton Pretty On Top, a Crow elder who emphasizes the spiritual and sacred importance of the Pryor Mountains to the Crow tribe and his desire for a return to a roadless Pryor landscape.

Visiting the Pryor Mountains with field guides in hand will provide an awesome experience in the natural history tradition. The best time to see the flower displays is late May through June, but the Pryors are wonderful to visit anytime.



A Montana Spring Beauty

By Kathy Settevendemie, MNPS President

(Adapted and re-printed from the February 2015 issue of Montana Woman magazine)



Balsamorhiza plant in full bloom.
Photo by Kathy Settevendemie.

Few wildflowers are as well known to Montanans as arrowleaf balsamorhiza (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*). More people recognize balsamorhiza—even if they don't know its name—than almost any of our other native species. Blooming in early May in large clusters across sunny, south-facing, dry hillsides, its blazing yellow flowers

signal the return of wildflower season to Montana.

Found in abundance in mid- to upper-elevations throughout the Intermountain West and Rocky Mountains, balsamorhiza is commonly associated with sagebrush and ponderosa pine plant communities. It grows on stony slopes in grasslands and in the understory of open coniferous forests in cold, dry climates. Lewis and Clark collected balsamorhiza in the early 1800s as they travelled through Montana.

Identifying arrowleaf balsamorhiza is fairly easy. Look for large clusters of multiple yellow sunflower-like flowers atop two and half foot stalks. The large flowers (a bit smaller than a compact disc) are actually composed of ray flowers (petals) and disk flowers (center of flower). The large silvery leaves on six-inch stems are arrowhead-shaped, giving rise to the first part of its common name, while "balsamorhiza" refers to the balsam pitch aroma from the resin in the root.

Balsamorhiza takes three to five years to bloom. In areas with low precipitation it may take up to eight years. The young taproot grows eight inches a month as it works its way deep into the soil in search of moisture before the dry season begins. Taproots become increasingly thick and woody as the plant ages. Old plants may have taproots four or five inches in diameter with depths to eight feet. The impressive bark-covered taproot allows the plant to tolerate grazing, fire and drought.

Impervious to harsh winters and dry summers, this long-lived perennial blooms year after year, providing early season pollinators like honey bees, mason bees and many tiny native bees with nectar. Deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn and elk browse the flowers and leaves.

Historically, Native American people used all parts of the plant. Roots were baked or steamed, stems

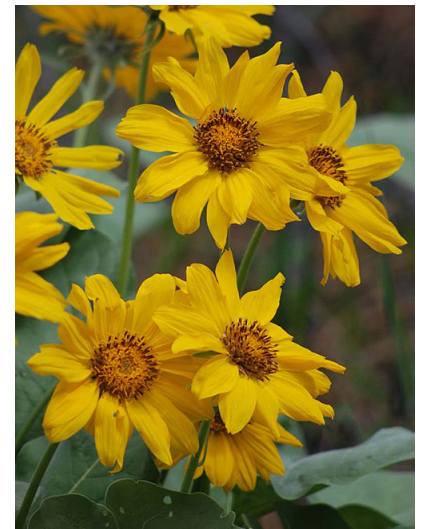
were peeled and eaten like celery, and the nutritious seeds dried and pounded into flour. Traditional medicinal uses include salves for burns and as a tea for treatment of coughs.

Digging balsamorhiza from the wild is nearly impossible since breaking the taproot effectively kills the plant. Digging plants from the wild is never a good idea since it not only depletes populations but opens the soil to invasion by weed seeds and kills microorganisms.

The best way to obtain balsamorhiza plants is to grow them from seed. Seeds look like small sunflower seeds, and although they are frequently eaten by birds and small mammals they can be collected by shaking seed heads into a paper bag. Seeds sown in the fall should be lightly covered with soil and kept moist in the spring. Balsamorhiza is very slow growing and typically only one or two leaves are added to the plant each year.

In a garden, balsamorhiza is a gorgeous specimen plant that beautifully complements the deep purple color of silvery lupine and little larkspur. It tolerates light shade, is winter hardy and very drought resistant (although it dies back during hot weather). Since it is a cool season plant, you should plant it next to species that bloom later in the season. Placing markers where you plant balsamorhiza helps avoid digging it up the first few years while it's small. It is such a joy to see the first blooms on plants grown from seed—worth the patience it takes!

Montana's native plants are an integral part of our heritage. Let's make sure future generations get to enjoy them!



Balsamorhiza flowers.
Photo by Kathy Settevendemie

In addition to her MNPS involvement, Kathy owns Blackfoot Native Plants Nursery in Potomac.



MNPS Chapters & 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. 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: CAL=Calypso; CF=Clark Fork; F=Flathead; K=Kelsey; MF= Maka Flora; VOF=Valley of Flowers

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

Use this form to join MNPS only if you are a first-time member! To renew a membership, please wait for your yellow renewal card in the mail. **Moving? Please notify us promptly of address changes at mtnativeplantmembership@gmail.com.**

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

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Name (please print)_____E-mail_____

Address_____City/State/Zip_____

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Delivery preference _____ paper copy by mail _____ digital copy by email

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

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www.mtnativeplants.org**

or by mail at
Montana Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 8783
Missoula, MT 59807-8783

Membership Level	Dues w/affiliation	Dues w/o affiliation
Individual	\$20	\$15
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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, inquiries about membership, and general correspondence 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.

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Visit our website at: www.mtnativeplants.org or contact our webmaster Bob Person at: thepersons@mcn.net

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