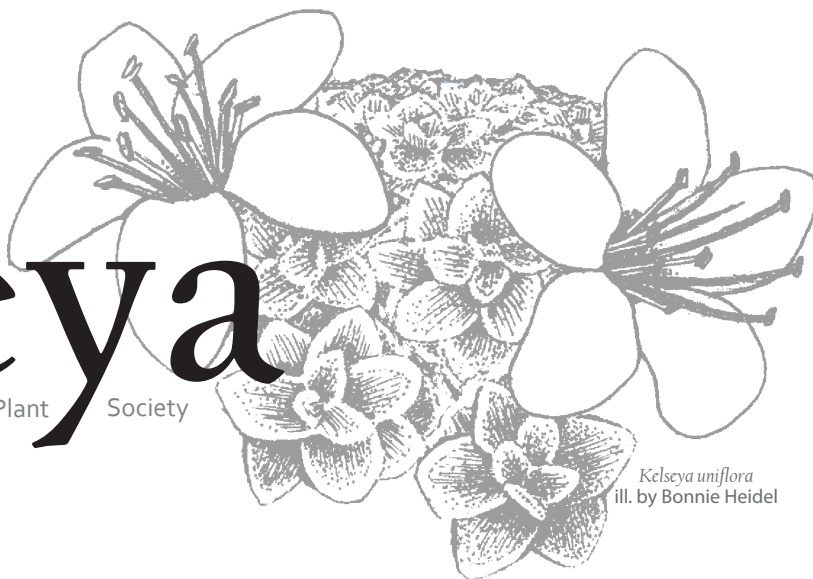


Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society



Blackfeet Botanist: Annie Mad Plume Wall

By Rosalyn LaPier



Annie Wall in the field. Courtesy of Rosalyn LaPier

ETHNOHISTORIAN Walter McClintock chronicled the lives of the Blackfeet in the early 20th century in his book "The Old North Trail." In his study he described how all the Blackfeet women he met were expert "botanists" who were taught "the knowledge of herbs and wild vegetables" from early childhood. McClintock became fascinated by the knowledge these women held and set out to document what they knew. In 1909 he published "Materia Medica of the Blackfeet" with the Berlin Society for Anthropology, Ethnology and History. It was the first comprehensive study of Blackfeet women's plant knowledge.

"The Old North Trail" also began to document the transition of the Blackfeet away from the buffalo days into the 20th century. My grandmother was raised during this time and the stories told by McClintock reflect the world in which she grew up. The women who raised my grandmother were born and lived during the last of the buffalo days on the northern Great Plains. Their knowledge of the world testified to the intimate relationship they had with their landscape.

The Blackfeet historically made use of more than 200 different plants for food, medicine and as material for creating useful objects. My grandmother and her family gathered a wide variety of food plants, including Pisatsiinikimm (*Allium* spp.), Ka'kitsimo (*Mentha* spp.) and Niistskápa's (*Perideridia gairdneri*) to use in their cooking. They would also harvest large quantities of berries, such as Okonok (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Pákkii'p (*Prunus virginiana*) and Mi'ksinittsiim (*Shepherdia argentea*) to use fresh or to dry for winter use. After the Blackfeet settled and began to grow small home gardens of introduced root vegetables people came to rely less and less on native plant foods, but many still continued to use plants for medicinal purposes.

My grandmother learned how to use many of these medicinal plants and she continues to gather them today. The Blackfeet use different parts of plants – roots, leaves and fruit – for different purposes. The gathering and processing of plants was generally the responsibility of women. My grandmother learned which plants to pick and in what seasons by going into the hills with her grandmothers. She also learned how to process and preserve these plants for future use. My grandmother has handed down these same skills to subsequent generations.

We now go out during specific times of the year to collect the roots, leaves, flower buds or the fruit of a plant. Some plants are picked in spring before they flower,

continued, page 9

don't miss
**MNPS Annual Meeting
Information Inside!**

News & Notes



Botany Among the Beargrass *by Rachel Potter*

Join us July 17-19 in Hungry Horse, MT, for the MNPS Annual Meeting.

Spend a weekend exploring the "Crown of the Continent."

Numerous field trips will venture to spectacular settings in and around Glacier National Park, including to alpine meadows, watery fens and deep cedar-hemlock forests.

Friday night's campfire will feature MNPS poetry and song; Saturday we'll share photos from the day's field trips after the dinner and membership meeting. Don't forget to bring lunches, field gear, and some funds for the awesome t-shirts, water bottles, silent auction and raffle items. Go to www.mtnativeplants.org for details and lodging information.

Remember, July 10 is the last day to sign up for meals. Also, July 18 and 19 are "Entrance Free-Fee Days" at Glacier National Park. So, if you are staying in the area after the Annual Meeting, you can go back to the park on Sunday for a little sightseeing at no charge!

The 2010 MNPS Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Calypso chapter!

MNPS Election Update: The Polls are Still Open (*Dehiscent*)

By Patrick Plantenberg

Unlike elections that are caducous, MNPS elections provide ample opportunity (e.g., elections are indeterminate) for members to vote to show their enthusiasm for the new officers and to win a prize for the local Chapter or At-Large organization with the largest percentage of votes. Members can vote using hard (indurate) ballots or create their own email ballots. The polls will remain open (dehiscent) until the week before the July 17-19 Annual Meeting.

The Calypso Chapter won last year because some clever individual provided copies of ballots at a meeting and coerced Chapter members, who would otherwise have forgotten, to vote. This slick procedure (adventitious) netted (reticulated) the Chapter the \$100 prize and dethroned the Maka Flora Chapter from its 5-year seat of dominance. So, if your Chapter is having a meeting or field trip between now and July 15, try mimicking this strategy. See you in Hungry Horse!

Reminder: Native Wildflowers/Landscapes Photo Contest

Twelve winners will have their photos featured in a 2010 calendar fundraiser for the Calypso Chapter, host of next year's Annual Meeting. Send your favorite pics online by going to www.public.fotki.com/nativelandscape/wildflower~/. Login using "nativelandscape;" "southwest" is the password. Click on "photo album" and then select "add photo." Follow the directions using the "one photo at a time" option. Be sure to include your name, photo location, subject, type of camera used and your email address. Photographers give permission for the Calypso Chapter to publish the photos. Info: Catherine Cain, (406) 498-6198. Deadline is September 1.



President's Platform



One of the cool things about studying plants is that they don't run away. Pretty different from studying, say, grizzly bears or flycatchers. Plants let you get close and hang out as long as you want—and they'll be there if you come back the next week. Most plants don't even mind if you touch them, although those that do will usually let you know right away.

Since plants don't run away, another cool thing about studying them is that you have to go where they are. A bowl of cat food on the back porch will bring you magpies and raccoons (maybe even a bear), but no plants. To learn about lots of different plants, you get to go to lots of different places. Since Montana is so big and diverse you don't have to go far to find interesting specimens, but you can if you want. So this summer, make a point to spend quality time with some nearby native plants. And then take a trip to check out plants somewhere you've never been. They'll be there waiting for you.

~ Dave Hanna

In Praise of *Poaceae*

By Leah Grunzke

There's a rich satisfaction that comes with making the choice to work with the landscape around you, rather than against it. Native plants seem to settle cozily into our surroundings, complementing our sense of place. It's true that in most native plants you won't find the brazen showiness of their tropical cousins, or even the uniformity of a well-watered Kentucky bluegrass lawn. But plants that have evolved to survive here offer a different sort of appeal—one of a rigorous spirit that's as well-suited to this area as the mountains and rivers we hold dear. The muted tones of our native species work with the palate of our landscape. And for good reason—many charms of natives are actually adaptations to this harsh environment. Silvery-grey foliage reflects hot summer sun, and small leaf-surface areas slow the loss of precious water.



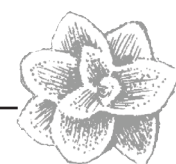
An example of native grasses in a landscaping bed. Courtesy of Leah Grunzke

The members of *Poaceae*, the Grass Family, embody many of these resilient traits. Most grasses have deep, fibrous root systems. This improves poor soil by depositing rich organic matter deep underground, increases water permeability and stabilizes the soil against erosion. At the same time, birds and other wildlife use grass stands as habitat and food sources.

Many of these grass species are now finding yet another niche, as gardeners become increasingly aware of their low-maintenance, year-round appeal as ornamentals. The following are some examples of native grasses that make great specimen or accent plants.

All of these are bunchgrasses that grow in free-standing clumps. Showy seed heads form mid- to late-season. These can be left on

continued, page 4



Noteworthy Natives

These native bunchgrasses shine in the home landscape.



Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*; Syn. *Pseudoregenaria spicata*, *Elymus spicatus*):

Montana's state grass grows in hearty 1-4' clumps. Leaves are bluish, with a pale yellow fall color. Extremely tolerant of fire, drought, cold and poor soils. Often found on dry montane slopes as a companion to big sagebrush.



Prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria cristata*):

Perky and highly ornamental, this grass grows in erect 1-2' clumps—perfect for tight spaces. The large, silvery-green flowering stalks are at their prime in mid-summer, before the hot weather sets in.



Idaho Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*):

A common and easy-to-grow cascading ornamental grass with threadlike, glaucous leaves. Long-lived and easily propagated by division or from seed.



Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*; Syn. *Andropogon scoparius*):

Robust with large bristly flowers, grows to 2-3'. Prized for its deep, mahogany-red fall color, which persists throughout winter and provides a striking contrast to the white of a fresh snowfall. The fuzzy white seeds are relished by small birds.

throughout the winter until the following spring, when they should be trimmed back to make way for new growth. None of these is picky about soil conditions, and all will thrive in nearly any sunny, well-drained site. Rather than starting from seed, it is best to transplant from containers in spring. And remember, all plants need a little extra attention until their roots are established, so be sure to provide sufficient water for the first season or two. Beyond that, they require very little watering or fertilization.

Leah Grunzke has a horticultural science degree from MSU-Bozeman and a certification in nonprofit administration from UM. She has worked on various research projects involving the use of native plants in landscaping and the effects of invasive weeds on native plants. Her passion is community education, such as outdoor science education for kids and demonstration projects for adults interested in native gardening.

Welcome New Members

The Montana Native Plant Society warmly welcomes the following people as members:

Calypso Chapter: Cathy Maloney, Michael West, Shirley Groff, Fay Weber, Kate & Carl Smith, Hester & John Dillon

Clark Fork Chapter: Anne & Pat Little, Amy Cilimburg, Bill Gabriel, Judy Henning, Margaret Stickney, H.D. Hampton, Rebecca Smith, Ellen Lark, Byron Weber, Pam Gardiner

Flathead Chapter: Leslie Lowe, Jane Hunston, Sally Miller

Kelsey Chapter: Paula's Garden & Flower Design, Brian Welzenbach

Maka Flora Chapter: Nicole Davidson

Eastern At-Large: Kerry Hovland

Valley of Flowers Chapter: Ann Cook



Native Gardens and Native Animals

by Peter Lesica



Butterfly on Milkweed, Doug Tallamy

Development has converted millions of acres of native vegetation to urban and suburban landscapes. Preservation of the remaining native habitat is critical, but allowing for the survival of native species in altered environments also has a major part to play in conservation.

Recent studies have shown that gardening with natives can play a role in conserving native diversity in urbanized landscapes. The most commonly mentioned reason for using natives in landscaping is that exotic plants can escape cultivation and become troublesome or even destructive weeds. Indeed, more than half of the noxious weeds in the United States were first introduced for horticultural purposes. But there are other ways that gardening with natives can help conserve biological diversity. Evidence that native urban landscaping results in greater native animal diversity and abundance is beginning to accumulate.

Douglas Tallamy and his colleagues at the University of Delaware compared a half-dozen Pennsylvania suburban yards landscaped with native plants to similar yards with conventional exotic ornamentals and turf. They found that there were three times more species of native butterfly and moth larvae and twice as many insectivorous bird species in the native compared to the conventional yards. Moreover, both native birds and butterflies were more abundant in the native yards. This should

not be surprising because the vast majority of herbivorous insects, such as butterfly larvae, are specialists—they thrive on only one or a few closely-related plant species. Non-native plants, no matter how pretty they are, just won't do for a meal. And since non-native yards have fewer insects, there are fewer insectivorous birds as well.

Native pollinators are not as dependent on native flowers as herbivorous insects are on their food plants. For example, a monarch caterpillar must feed on milkweed, but the monarch butterfly will sip nectar from many different flowers. Furthermore, some exotic plants are actually beneficial to native pollinators. For example, leafy spurge, which was introduced as an ornamental, produces copious, easily-accessible nectar and is regularly visited by native bees (*Kelsey* Vol. 22, No. 3). Nonetheless, non-native ornamentals often will have flowers that are not beneficial to native pollinators. A team of Oxford researchers compared native pollinator visitation to five native and several non-native horticultural plants in England. They found that all five natives were commonly visited by native bees and flies. On the other hand, one of the exotics was of subtropical origin and was bird- rather than insect-pollinated. In addition, some of the non-native species failed even to produce nectar.

It is clear that additional studies on the thousands of introduced ornamentals are needed to sort out which species can be beneficial for native animals. Many may be as good as some natives. But right now it's a good bet that, all else being equal, natives will do more for our birds and bees than conventional landscaping.



Coreopsis and Bee, photo courtesy of moonlightdesigns at Nature.org

References:

- Burghardt, K. T., D. W. Tallamy and W. G. Shriver. 2008. *Impact of native plants on bird and butterfly biodiversity in suburban landscapes. Conservation Biology* 23: 219-224.
- Corbet, S. A., Bee, J., K. Dasmahapatra et al. 2001. *Native or exotic? Double or single? Evaluating plants for pollinator-friendly gardens. Annals of Botany* 87: 219-232.



Annual Meeting Preview: *Mantas, DeSanto to be*



Photo courtesy Steve Shelly

Maria Mantas

Maria Mantas is dedicated to the conservation of native plants and natural resources, and has consistently sought out relationships that support these goals. Her contributions to MNPS, her degrees, career and recreational pursuits all focus on the appreciation and conservation of native plants and their habitats. For these

reasons and more, Maria will be recognized with an Outstanding Service Award from the Montana Native Plant Society at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Maria is a charter member of Montana Native Plant Society, and one of only five of those pioneers who are still members. She has been an active leader and mentor for 22 years. As Flathead Chapter president in 2001 and 2002, she oversaw planning and preparations for 2002 Annual Meeting at the Roosevelt Ranch near Dupuyer.

During the 1980s, Maria spent her summers in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. She discovered several rare plant occurrences while there, including sparrow's egg lady slipper (*Cypripedium passerinum*), round-leaved orchid (*Orchis rotundifolia*) and Loesel's twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*). She earned her M.S. in Forest Resources in 1993, after spending months in northwestern Montana fens studying the "Ecology and Reproductive Biology of *Epipactis gigantea* (giant helleborine)."

Maria was Flathead National Forest Botanist from 1991 to 2003. She managed the botany program by training and including any interested forest employee or volunteer. She held workshops, prepared field guides, and mentored many botanist "wannabes" who searched for rare plants and collected seed for revegetation projects. Her annual field-training workshops were popular, informative and fun. More than a few of us were sucked into a fen, following Maria

as she skipped across the high spots. She helped people learn about plants by telling stories and singing songs (e.g., "you can call me anything you like, but my name is Veronica, Veronica, Veronica").

Among her research accomplishments were a long-term monitoring project for water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*), which she designed with Steve Shelly, and an extensive assessment of noxious weed potential in native plant communities. Results of this latter work are described in "Evaluating Risk to Native Plant Communities from Selected Exotic Plant Species." She also produced the "Vascular Plant Checklist for the Flathead Forest" in 1999, with updates in 2002 and 2007. It is a comprehensive list of almost 1,100 species, accompanied by tables for references, synonyms and common names. Peter Stickney mentored her while she worked on this list. This was the first forest-wide plant list in Montana, and the Flathead Chapter of MNPS currently distributes it.

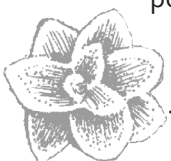
Now, as Western Montana director of science and stewardship for The Nature Conservancy, Maria combines her knowledge of plant ecology with her

concern for natural resource conservation in general. At the 2006 Montana Plant Conservation

She helped people learn about plants by telling stories and singing songs

Conference, Maria led a workshop and helped form a committee on "Developing Threat Ranks for Species of Concern." She and Melisa Waggy created a database for the Species of Concern and threats information that was submitted. She and the committee used this information to assign a threat rank to each species.

In recent years, Maria has served on the Friends of the University of Montana Herbarium Board of Directors, from 2002 to 2004, and has generously contributed her excellent photography and design skills to MNPS in the membership and Plant Collection Guidelines for Teachers brochures. And, of course, she loves to grow and landscape with native plants. Her passion and skill for growing natives led Maria to start Stillwater Native Plant Nursery in 2001. Terry Divoky became her business partner, and Maria generously showed Terry what she knew about growing natives and managing a greenhouse. Flathead Audubon recently recognized Maria and Terry for exclusively growing and marketing native plants that contribute to wildlife habitat and ecosystem diversity.



— contributed by Betty Kuropat

Recognized for Outstanding Service, Lifetime Achievement



Photo courtesy Columbia Falls Library

Jerry DeSanto

In recognition of his lifetime exploring the mysteries of Nature, and especially for sharing his enthusiasm and love for plants, Jerry DeSanto will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Montana Native Plant Society at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Jerry earned a B.S. in Geology and M.S. in History at

the University of Colorado. He took courses in Botany and Ornithology at the University of Colorado, and his interest in plants eventually expanded to become a dominant focus in his life. He became an energetic and knowledgeable field naturalist and he was meticulous in his search for relevant literature.

Jerry was a Ranger-Naturalist in Yellowstone National Park from 1961 to 1965, and accepted a position in 1966 as a permanent ranger in Glacier National Park. His assignments in Glacier included Belly River, Headquarters, Goat Haunt, St. Mary, Two Medicine, East Glacier and Walton. In 1974 he became Sub-District Ranger for the North Fork, stationed at Polebridge, where he remained until his retirement in 1986. Jerry's dedicated stewardship of his assigned area became legendary. He wrote a number of articles in the 1980s on the history of Glacier Park for *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*.

A consummate outdoorsman, tireless hiker and explorer, Jerry accomplished first ascents of Mount

*Jerry possesses an ability
to tie several disciplines together*

Peabody and the west face of Kintla Peak. He always was ready and willing to guide a fellow botanist to some special place, especially if it required a superhuman

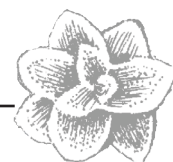
effort to get there. Jerry collected the first Montana specimens of pinewoods peavine (*Lathyrus bijugatus*) and northern rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera repens*). He also collected the first Glacier Park records of bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*), bird's egg lady's slipper (*Cypripedium passerinum*), and Macoun's gentian (*Gentianopsis macounii*), among others. He published "Variations in *Aquilegia jonesii*" in the Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society (1991):49[1], and "A Rare Color Variation in Three Species of *Lewisia*," in the Rock Garden Quarterly (1998): 56[2].

In his self-published 1989 book "Alpine Wildflowers of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks," Jerry matched his skill as a wildflower photographer with his knowledge of alpine plants. This book soon will be available on the University of Montana Mansfield Library web site.

Jerry possesses an ability to tie several disciplines together in describing events, plants and people, as exhibited in his widely acclaimed book "Bitterroot" (1993, LERE Press). The book is an exhaustive source of information on Montana's state flower, and is, as stated on the back cover, "The story of a flower, a book for historians, botanists, gardeners, pilgrims and students of every ilk." "Logan Pass: Alpine Splendor in Glacier National Park" (Falcon Press), Jerry's third book, was published in 1995. And he has used his historian skills to write biographies of David Lyall and Klaus Lackschewitz for a yet-to-be-published compendium on Pacific Northwest plant collectors.

Jerry credits his long-time friend Dr. Duane ("Hamp") Hampton, University of Montana Historian, for assistance with his botanical and historical field work, and for the many discussions that expanded Jerry's perceptions. Other teachers, mentors and friends who have enriched his life-long association with plants include Dr. Leroy Harvey, Dr. Klaus Lackschewitz, and Dr. James Habeck, all of the University of Montana, and Karen Feather, who has accompanied him on many of his botany trips throughout the western United States in search of new information on plants, especially the bitterroot and alpine wildflowers.

—contributed by Peter Lesica



Chapter News

Kelsey Chapter

The Kelsey Chapter and MNPS provided some funding that has enabled the Townsend (MT) Tree Board to complete a native tree and shrub highway beautification demonstration project. Specifically, the Tree Board, with the help of many local organizations, the City of Townsend and MNPS, completed a three block stretch of native seeding and planting on the west side of the highway on North Front Street between the highway and the railroad tracks. It's been a lengthy process.

Since 2000, weeds were mowed and sprayed regularly. In 2007 and 2008, all cheatgrass was hand pulled along the three-block business stretch. In fall 2008, the west side of the highway was re-leveled, rock-raked and seeded to a native grass mixture containing thickspike wheatgrass, blue grama and inland saltgrass. More than 35 native trees and shrubs were planted this May, including ponderosa pine, limber pine, red osier dogwood, water birch, mountain alder, common chokecherry and bur oak. The area does not have irrigation, so the trees and shrubs are being watered by a retired maintenance person hired by the Broadwater County Development Corporation and funded by the Tree Board. Cheatgrass will be hand pulled and the native grasses will continue to be replanted until a stand is established.

The planting is designed to help screen the large, graveled industrial area between the highway and railroad tracks. Plans call for completing another phase of seeding and planting on the south end of Townsend in the next two years. Info: Patrick Plantenberg, 431-4615 or email m2andp2@mt.net.

Kelsey Online

Results from a recent MNPS member survey indicate a fairly even split between members who wish to receive Kelsey in the mail and those who would prefer to read it online. For now, both options are available, starting with the Spring 2009 issue. Go to www.mtnativeplants.org to find the electronic version. We will continue to survey membership to see whether we wish to go entirely electronic in the future.

Flathead Chapter

The Flathead Chapter hosted several well-attended programs during monthly meetings this year. We wandered virtually among beautiful wildflowers with Jen Hintz, learned about whitebark pine and challenges to its regeneration from Kay Izlar, had a native gardening symposium led by Terry Divoky and Bill McClaren, and reviewed the characteristics of six common plant families. We created a tree identification display that made appearances at Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations and the Family Forestry Expo.

Glacier Discovery Square in Columbia Falls is our comfortable new home, although it is a longer drive for our members and friends from Kalispell and points south. We prepared and planted a native, moist-forest garden at Discovery Square in May. Chapter members have been watering, weeding and nurturing it along. Thank you to the statewide membership for the matching project funds that helped buy the plants. Many local businesses and individuals also contributed time and materials.

Our biggest work has been planning the Annual Meeting. Many members have worked hard to cover all the details. We hope you have a fun weekend botanizing among the beargrass in and around Glacier Park July 17-19. Our plans for the coming year include getting the annual meeting notebooks updated and passed on to the Calypso Chapter for their 2010 planning, and to continue finding ways to keep our members and local community interested in native plant conservation.

Upcoming events include:

Tuesdays through August 25: Volunteer Opportunities at Glacier National Park Nursery. Help with seeding, transplanting, weeding and cleaning, or work on a particular research or experimental project. Bring a sack lunch, favorite work gloves and clothes that can get dirty. Drop in for an hour or stay all day. Meet at the Native Plant Nursery. Info: Joyce Lapp, 888-7817.

Saturday, September 26: Fall Plant Identification and International Birds in Flight. Dave Hadden leads a steep, 5.5 mile hike to Mount Brown lookout in Glacier National Park. Walk through old-growth and subalpine forests into alpine plant communities. Every year hundreds of golden eagles migrate past the lookout. Pack plenty of food, water and clothing suitable for extreme weather. Don't forget binoculars and hiking poles. Info: Dave at 837-0783 or paddler@centrytel.net.



Valley of Flowers Chapter

Programs for the Valley of the Flowers Chapter, which meets on the Montana State University campus, were varied this year. We began with a presentation on "Wildcrafting" by member Chris Hall, who owns Hill Botanical. She prepares her own botanical mixtures and shared her "secrets" with us. In November, Tracy Dougher, MNPS member and also on the MSU faculty, talked about "Grasses and Perennials for the Native Landscape." In the new year, Rebecca Baril of Pollinators Partnership told of plans for a native area along our local Gallagator Trail. We expect to hear more about and work on this project this fall. Tom Forward from Lewis & Clark Caverns shared flower photographs taken in the Tobacco Root Mountains. Cathy Cripps of the mycology section of Plant Science and Plant Pathology at MSU gave us some insights into mushrooms in alpine habitats, while Don Despain, who has kept records for Yellowstone National Park for many years, gave us a talk about willows in the Yellowstone area and how they regrow in various sites over the years. We look forward to more field trips this summer. See the MNPS Summer Field Trip Guide for details.

Publications & Guides

Free from MNPS Publications:

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

Online at www.mtnativeplants.org:

- Guidelines for Selecting Horticultural Plant Material for Montana (voluntary guidelines by MNPS and the Montana Nursery and Landscape Association)
- Lewis & Clark Plants Collected Elsewhere That Occur in Montana, an inclusive list of Lewis & Clark plants found in the state.
- Guide to Missoula and West-Central Montana Landscaping with Native Plants

Flathead, Kelsey and Valley of Flowers chapters also offer inexpensive booklets about gardening with each respective area's native plants. Watch for an updated list in the next Kelsey.

Blackfeet botanist, cont'd

others are picked in summer when they are in full bloom, others are picked in late fall just before they become dormant. My grandmother taught us how to identify and use plants based on sight, smell, texture and, of course, long years of experience.

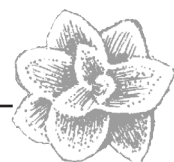
My family now helps our grandmother gather the many different edible and medicinal plants that we continue to use. One medicinal plant we gather is Otahkoyitsi (*Comandra umbellata*). We use the clean, dried roots in a poultice to relieve inflammation. Sometimes we burn dried Ootsiisiimats (*Letharia vulpina*) like incense and inhale the smoke to relieve headaches. Siiksinoko (*Juniperus horizontalis*) berries are used in a tea to treat kidney problems. We also collect Aapaawapsspi (*Vaccinium membranaceum*) leaves for use in a daily tonic, and my grandmother thinks the berries should strictly be used for therapeutic purposes. I once told her that my husband was making huckleberry milkshakes and she gasped disapprovingly, "They're medicine!"

McClintock's observations and documentation of Blackfeet women's botanical knowledge almost 100 years ago provides a valuable resource for Blackfeet today and for anyone interested in learning about ethnobotany. But there are still a few elder Blackfeet women who retain this knowledge as well. My grandmother continues to use what she learned from her grandmothers on a daily basis. She also has taught her own family how to collect and use native plants. She continues today, at age 91, to gather numerous roots, berries, tea leaves and other plants during the summer and fall, and to share with those who seek her knowledge of native plants.



Preparing medicinal plants. Courtesy of Rosalyn LaPier

This article first appeared in Montana Naturalist (Fall, 2005). Rosalyn LaPier lives in Missoula with her husband David Beck and their daughters, Abaki and Ikotsi. She works for the Piegan Institute in Browning and gives public presentations on Blackfeet ethnobotany while working toward her Ph.D. in history at the University of Montana. She says that Annie Mad Plume Wall now is 95 years old and still makes medicine for folks, although illness has caused her to rely on her family to collect enough plant material to use throughout the year.



Going Native is the Right Thing! Flathead Audubon Commends Local Entrepreneurs

To conserve birds, we must conserve their diverse habitats. Therefore, Flathead Audubon recently presented Conservation Achievement Recognition awards to five local businesses that grow and market exclusively native plants. We are grateful for their dedicated and cooperative conservation efforts.

Laurie Gorham Hammill started the Flathead's first native plant nursery. When her husband flipped a coke can tab and won \$10,000, they established the **Nursery for Native Plants in 2000**. Laurie propagated, grew and sold local wildflowers, shrubs and trees. She also did landscaping and gave lectures to promote gardening with natives. Laurie moved in 2006. We are indebted to her for literally sowing the seeds of native plant gardens in the Flathead.

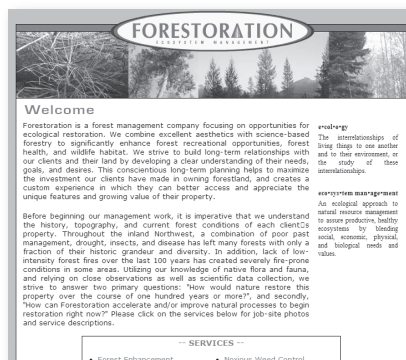


Terry Divoky began **Windflower Native Plant Nursery** (www.windflowernativeplants.com) before retiring as teacher-librarian last year. Her interest in native plant gardening began many years ago with the Montana Native Plant Society. She is indebted to Maria Mantas who created Stillwater Native Plant Nursery in 2001 and took Terry as her partner. Terry renamed

and relocated the nursery when Maria moved in 2003. At Windflower, Terry propagates plants from seeds and cuttings collected ethically from the wild. She sells her plants at her nursery, farmer's markets, and through her beautiful and educational website.

Forestation

(www.forestation.org), a forest management company, focuses on ecological restoration. Owners Greg Gunderson, Andrew Beltz and



David Noftsinger specialize in planting native conifers and aspen, salvaging and transplanting native shrubs, low-impact logging, insect and weed management, erosion control and wildlife habitat improvement. Forestation works closely with Windflower and Sleepingtree nurseries to acquire material for their projects. Last fall, Forestation and Sleepingtree collaborated to propagate, then plant, thousands of native trees and shrubs along 300 feet of eroding Flathead River bank.



Sleepingtree Native Plants (www.sleepingtree.com) produces high quality native plant material for ecological and watershed restoration projects. Owner Jeff Evans began propagating plants as a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica. He propagated native plants as a horticulturist for the University of California-Berkeley and for Glacier National Park,

where he worked with Joyce Lapp to develop propagation protocols for more than 200 species. The protocols are online at www.nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu. Jeff founded Sleepingtree Native Plants in Kila in 2003. The nursery is named for krummholtz trees near Two Medicine in Glacier National Park.

This spring, the owners of Windflower and Forestation introduced the **Center for Native Plants**. The Center is a native plant cooperative with a wholesale and retail outlet at the site first used by Laurie Hammill.

They offer locally-grown native plants, consultation, project implementation, plant salvage and contract growing. The cooperative is forming partnerships with individuals and groups who share the same foundation, including the Montana Native Plant Society. Just as there is a relationship between native plants and birds, these honorees cultivate mutually beneficial relationships with each other.

[This article was condensed from the Pileated Post (May, 2009) and submitted to Kelseya by Betty Kuropat. Thanks to Paula Smith and Linda DeKort for researching, preparing and presenting these awards.]

Roots of A Gardening Obsession

An alert reader from the Calypso Chapter spotted this interesting article in The Wall Street Journal (April 25-26, 2009, page W3). The opening paragraph reads:

In 1733, an American farmer, John Bartram, started sending boxes of seed from all kinds of native plants to Peter Collinson in London. Collinson was a passionate plant collector and for decades he distributed the American treasures to his friends. These American natives changed the face of English gardening, and by the end of the century American plants were available in nurseries all across England and formed the foundation of a new aesthetic. Today, American plant pilgrims flock to famous British gardens, not realizing that these gardens were originally developed with native American species.



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

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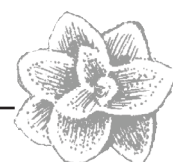
If you wish to be affiliated with a chapter (see above), list it here_____

You will receive membership acknowledgement by email, as well as a pdf of the most recent Kelseya. Future newsletter issues will arrive by mail.

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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 *Kelseya*, 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: carolinek@montanadsl.net or mailed to Kelseya Editor, 645 Beverly Avenue, Missoula, MT, 59801.

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

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

The deadline for each issue is Fall–September 10; Winter–December 10; Spring–March 10; Field Trip Guide–April 10; Summer–June 10. Please send web items to our webmaster concurrent with these dates.

If you want extra copies of *Kelseya* for friends or family, call the Newsletter Editor, write to the above address, or email: carolinek@montanadsl.net

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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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Montana Native Plant Society

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