

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society



Kelseya uniflora
ill. by Bonnie Heidel

ANNUAL MEETING Field Trip Reports

Kleinschmidt Lake

By Peter Lesica, Clark Fork Chapter

IT WAS COOL AND WINDY FOR THE LAST DAY OF JUNE, but the rain held off. Ten MNPS members spent a good part of the day hiking through the rolling, glaciated country southwest of Ovando that Meriwether Lewis called the Valley of the Knobs. The rough fescue grasslands are in good condition, and over each gentle rise we found a new pond or wetland with yet another, different species in bloom. In all we observed 66 species of wildflowers, including four species of milkvetch (*Astragalus*), four species of daisy (*Erigeron*), but, oddly, only one species of buttercup (*Ranunculus*). The slopes were covered with a striking display of owl's clover (*Orthocarpus tenuifolius*). We ate lunch in the shelter of a line of trees in view of the lake and returned to camp with our heads full of plant names.

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Top: Good cheer on the Kleinschmidt Lake field trip. Despite best efforts we could not name everyone in this photo, but it includes Charlie and Pat McLeod, Jack and Chris Reichert, Chris Newguard and Peter Lesica.
Photo courtesy of Charlie McLeod

Bottom: A profusion of owl's clover in the vicinity of Kleinschmidt Lake.
Photo courtesy of Peter Lesica.





Chapter Events

Calypso Chapter

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

Sunday, October 28, time TBD. "Dyeing with Native Plants." This is your chance to learn about using native plant materials to dye yarns and fabrics. Several dyes will be available to use at the event, but feel free to bring in your own concoctions as well. A limited number of silk scarves will be available for purchase at the workshop. Come spend a morning at this season-ending Chapter event, presented by Jessie Salix, Beaverhead-Deerlodge forest botanist. Info and to find out exact time and place: Jessie at 683-3749.

Sunday, December 2, time TBD. Calypso Chapter Annual Meeting and Potluck. Come share a meal and enjoy the warmth of the season as we plan Chapter events for 2019. Exact time and place will be announced.

Clark Fork Chapter

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

Thursday, October 11, 7:00 p.m. Many of us prefer to hike with a smaller, lighter camera, but often the great picture you thought you took was not so great. Kristi DuBois will discuss the challenges of taking "Flower Pictures with the Camera in Your Pocket" and provide some tips and tricks for close-ups. Bring your camera or phone. Room L09, Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

Thursday, November 8, 7:00 p.m. Andrea Stierle and her husband, Don, are organic chemists who worked with herbalist Robyn Klein to study Northern Cheyenne and Blackfeet medicinal plants. Come hear about "Medicinal Plants: Some History, Some Chemistry, and a Montana Connection." Room L09, Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus.

Thursday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. Our annual Christmas potluck will take place in the Del Brown Room in Turner Hall on the UM Campus, northwest side of the Oval. With luck, parking will be available west of the Gallagher Bldg., in lots or on the streets off Arthur and Connell. Bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share. Alcoholic beverages are okay! Don't forget to bring a few of your favorite digital wildflower photos from the summer. Info: Peter at 728-8740 or Kelly at 258-5439.

Monday, January 14, 7:00 p.m. Greenland is an incredibly wild, ice-encrusted place. Iceland offers more diversity but a similar suite of plants. Flora and fauna alike are adapted to survive these harsh realities. There's also a fascinating human history in these sparsely populated lands. Join Teagan Hayes as she explores "Arctic Wild Life: Flora and Fauna of Iceland and Greenland." This will be a joint meeting with Montana Audubon, Room 123 Gallagher Business Bldg., UM Campus (note different day and location).

Eastern At-Large

Info: Jennifer Lyman at 426-1227, jencylyman@gmail.com

Flathead Chapter

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

Kelsey Chapter

Info: Bob Person at 443-4678, thepersons@mcn.net.

Saturday, February 2, time and place TBD. "Skiing, Plant Poetry, and Hot Beverages." This coming winter, while the winds howl around your house, peruse your poetry collection and bookmark your favorite flower poems to share with the Kelsey Chapter. On Groundhog Day we'll meet for an afternoon of skiing (or snowshoeing), ending at Andrea Pipp's house in Helena for a bonfire with hot cocoa and readings. Klara Varga and Andrea Pipp are working out the details and hope to have it figured out by December or early January. Info and to make suggestions: Klara at klara@ida.net.



Photo courtesy of Matt Stewart

Indian Meadows Reconnaissance

By Klara Varga, Kelsey Chapter

This was an invitation-only, reconnaissance excursion made in August by a handful of brave and "punny" souls to the Indian Meadows wetlands, northeast of Lincoln. These wetlands are challenging to reach due to lodgepole pine mortality in the surrounding uplands. Pine beetles have killed trees, which have been falling down and creating "jackstraw" conditions. Nevertheless we set forth, determined to have fun singing silly plant songs and exchanging plant puns through the deadfall. We succeeded — rarely has a group laughed so hard while moving so slowly.

Eventually a wetland was reached, and we were rewarded with rare plants! We admired two species of sundews, *Drosera anglica* and *Drosera linearis*. These carnivorous species have sticky red "lollipops" on their leaves which trap small insects. They also lure in the occasional botanist: we had a hard time tearing ourselves away, especially knowing we had to go back through all that deadfall again. However, now that I've done it once, we'll hope to organize an MNPS walk into the area another summer.

Maka Flora Chapter

Info: Dave Branson at 489-0463, dhbranson@gmail.com.

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Info: Jeff Copeland at 539-6029, jouzelcopeland@gmail.com.

The Valley of Flowers Chapter meets for a lecture or workshop on the second Tuesday of the month, November through April, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 108, Plant Bioscience Building, MSU campus.

Tuesday, October 9, time TBD. “Plant Trivia Night” at Outlaw Brewery. Tentative.

Western At-Large

Info: Pat McLeod at 295-4343, pat_mcleod@yahoo.com.

St. Paul Lake

The Western At-Large annual Exploding Car Battery Hike was a great success with 16 participants. It was nice to have long-time members plus at least six individuals on their first MNPS outing join for this event.

We gathered at the St. Paul Lake trail head at the boundary of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness in Sanders County off Highway 56 and broke into two groups to comply with wilderness group size limits. Peter Lesica's group started first on the four-mile trek to the lake, where they enjoyed lunch and a leisurely hike out, stopping to look at plants. Jill Davies documented 45 plants with 42 of them in flower.

Betty Kuropat and Pat McLeod led the second group, with stops to admire plants that included spotted coralroot (*corallorhiza maculata*). We got out our hand lens for a closer look at the flower — an orchid — while Betty explained that coralroot is a saprophyte, meaning it derives nutrients from decaying organic matter and lacks chlorophyll.

Also in the orchid family, we saw two types of twayblade: western (*Listera caurina*) and heart-leaved (*Listera cordata*). Peter's group identified slender bog orchid (*Platanthera stricta/Habenaria saccata*).

While goldthread (*Coptis occidentalis*) was not flowering we admired its roots, which do look like golden thread. The wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) was abundant, growing over rocks and in organic soil (duff) with easy-to-spot flowers. We were on the lookout for Jacob's ladder, specifically *Polemonium occidentale*, as there had been a possible sighting last summer. We found many plants near the lake, but they turned out to be *Polemonium pulcherrimum*.

Everyone enjoyed the accomplishment of the physical challenge of the hike and the fun of learning while sharing good conversation.



Botanizing in the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness on the hike to St. Paul Lake with group leaders Pat McLeod (standing, far left) and Betty Kuropat (standing, third from left). Photos courtesy of Pat McLeod.

Talks and Walk: MNPS Community Events

Readings by two Missoula authors prefaced a stroll along the historic Callahan Trail near Troy, MT, in late August, an outing that aimed to introduce more people in northwest Montana to MNPS and the fascinating history of our native flora.

Beth Judy (“Bold Women in Montana History”) and Caroline Patterson (“Ballet at the Moose Lodge”) read first in Libby and the next day in Troy. At the Troy event, which took place just before the walk, Beth focused on accounts of medicinal plants as used by two “Bold Women” — Crow healer Pretty Shield and African-American homesteader Agnes “Annie” Morgan. Participants at

the event enjoyed iced tea, sweet with the flavor of ceonothus, and a rich, chocolaty liqueur made from the roots of dandelion, provided by Chapter member Kris Boyd.

After the reading, some 15 people set out for a native plant stroll along the Callahan Trail. In no time the group was in deep shade beside a trickling stream, identifying species of aster and horsetail, inhaling the pungent spice of crushed wild ginger leaves, distinguishing young grand firs from yew, and learning about the plant nicknamed “pathfinder.”

Kris Boyd and fellow MNPS-er Betty Kuropat nailed down an ID of fairy bells (versus twinberry or twisted stalk), and

Betty explained about those strange branches that snowberry shrubs can put forth that look so different from the rest of the leaves and plant (we decided it's a rebellious teenage phase). She also crushed a (poisonous, watch out!) bead-lily berry for us to smell — just like cucumber! The bead lilies were spent, but the wild sarsaparilla — usually so plain — was turning a lovely, showy copper. Beth Judy talked about medicinal uses of raspberry leaf, tansy, elderberry, pipsissewa, gallium, Oregon grape, red cedar, and more. We also saw ocean spray, white pine, nootka rose, red stem ceanothus, thimbleberry, and many other species.



Daphne Boyd accompanied adults along the Callahan Trail hike.

As is typical of MNPS walks, everyone enjoyed the company of new and familiar friends, both plant and human. Special thanks to everyone who helped organize and to those who came!

— Reports by Pat McLeod, Western At-Large Representative



MNPS News

From the MNPS Annual Member Meeting

A good time was had by all (we assume!) at the well-attended 2018 Annual Membership Meeting, held in Lincoln, MT, at the very end of June. Here are some highlights from the weekend.



Outstanding Service Award

Submitted by Peter Lesica and Annie Garde, Clark Fork Chapter

Without a doubt one of the biggest benefits of belonging to the Montana Native Plant Society is receiving *Kelseya*, our quarterly newsletter. The newsletter has been educating and entertaining us as well as keeping us posted on meetings and field trips for over thirty years. For the past ten years Caroline Kurtz has been responsible for bringing us this treasure and was recognized for her service at this year's Annual Meeting.

So what's involved with putting out the MNPS newsletter? First, Caroline cajoles Chapter representatives to get their event announcements and reports in on time. Each issue is graced by at least one substantial article on native plants; sometimes these are submitted by members, but sometimes they must be gleaned from other sources such as neighboring native plant society newsletters, books, journals and even newspapers. This means Caroline must have very catholic tastes in her reading material. She also has to keep up on all the Society activities in order to get reports from the Conservation, Small Grants, and Landscaping committees. And what's a newsletter without lots of nice photographs. A picture is worth a thousand words, so the choice of illustrations is important, and these also must be gleaned from members or on-line resources. And she periodically drives to Helena to attend MNPS state board meetings. Phew! Let's hope for another ten years of a great newsletter.

Above: Kurtz was thrilled with the painting of shooting star by artist and botanical illustrator Debbie McNeil, presented by Peter Lesica at the MNPS Annual Meeting.

SAVE THE DATE

2019 Canadian Cypress Hills

Montanans! Dig out your passports and plan your vacations now, because we are going to visit our friendly Canadian neighbors in the lovely Cypress Hills of southwest Saskatchewan next year for the Annual Membership Meeting, June 22-24, 2019. The Kelsey Chapter has secured Camp Shagabec, a church camp in Cypress Hills Provincial Park Center Block, for a joint meeting of the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan and the Montana Native Plant Society. The Cypress Hills Provincial Park Center Block is only 100 miles north of Havre.

Camp Shagabec holds just 120 people, so as soon as our plans are finalized get your reservations in early. Camping sites in the Provincial Park fill up months ahead of time. The Kelsey Chapter is preparing materials to help you plan an extended vacation around the Cypress Hills, including sites of interest in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Plans will include activities for children so families are encouraged to attend.

This will be our first, truly international meeting and will certainly result in a future joint meeting in Montana with our Saskatchewan neighbors. For more information, contact the meeting co-chair Patrick Plantenberg at 431-4615, m2andp2@mt.net.

View on Cypress Hills.

Photo: Eriklizze/Wikipedia



The Results are In MNPS 2018 Elections

The results are in...the multitudinous ballots have been counted...the losers' legal challenges have been resolved. Rachel Potter of the Flathead Chapter was elected by our membership to another two-year term as Secretary, Ryan Quire of the Valley of Flowers Chapter will serve a two-year term as Vice President, and Jennifer Lyman will continue as Eastern At-Large Representative. Many thanks to these and our other board members who keep this all-volunteer organization chugging. See the back page of this newsletter for Board member contact information.

WELCOME ABOARD!

The Montana Native Plant Society welcomes the following new members:

Clark Fork Chapter

Annie Bernauer, Annette Gillespie, Beverly Thomas, Kevin Ewing, Deborah Goslin and the Magnolia Bread Company

Flathead Chapter

Joshua Crunk and Susan Dawson

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Nancy Gentzel, Anne Buchwald, Liliya Kirpotina, Amy Lloyd, Even Dunkel and Jean Perkins

Western-At-Large

Nancy Baumeister and Kathryn Hutton

CORRECTION

Please note that the Summer 2018 issue of *Kelseya* inadvertently included an out-dated MNPS Board of Directors contact list on the back page. Please refer to this issue for a correct listing of Board, Chapter Reps, and Committee Chairs and phone numbers.

President's Platform

Some years ago I went on a bird walk outside of Helena with an acclaimed local leader. I didn't know him, but my companions treated him with outright reverence; one lady even whispered that she thought he could identify every feather of every Montana bird. But when someone asked for help locating a vocal-but-invisible songbird, our leader pointed to a solitary Douglas-fir 50 feet away and declared authoritatively "It's in that pine tree!" My esteem for Mr. Big Expert plummeted.

I'm happy to say I've NEVER had a like experience on a field trip of the Montana Native Plant Society. It would be surprising indeed to have an MNPS trip leader pronounce a morel to be a slime mold, or a gull a warbler. Our leaders may not be expert in every domain of the natural world

(who is?), but they welcome the contributions of other group members who can help out with rock types, or birdcalls, or mushroom ID. And even when the object of the field trip is noses-in-the-field-guide serious botany, people seem to keep their ears tuned for birdcalls and coyote yowls, and their noses sensitive to elk scat. We are naturalists.

Why do we bother with all this learning about nature, especially when many of us are beginning to feel that all our memory slots are full? I suspect it's simply for personal satisfaction. It's deeply fulfilling to travel on the land and not feel like a stranger to it; to have some understanding of what formed the rocks, why there's a mountain range in one place and a basin in another, what's growing and what's feeding on the growth.

But there are a couple of additional reasons to become well-rounded in our nature study. One is the truth of John Muir's observation that "everything is connected to everything else."

When it comes to plants, this is most pronounced in their relationship to soils.

The plant community that develops on a soil derived from limestone differs from those atop shale or granite soils. And so, having some acquaintance with the local geology, we can better understand the distribution of plants at each location. This, in turn, will render us more effective advocates for the conservation of specific native plant communities. For example, we can point out that it is simply not appropriate to conserve a fen on the Rocky Mountain Front and claim that that is an adequate substitute for a wetland planned for eradication in the granite-bound Bitterroot. They are not equivalent.

If you're young and your brain is a sponge for learning about the natural world through school, field course and camp opportunities — take maximum advantage of them! The rest of us should definitely not despair, though. We, too, have loads of opportunities to round out our natural history knowledge. Besides MNPS, Montana has birding groups, rock and mineral clubs, mushroom clubs, stargazing clubs, and adult education classes galore. I encourage you to pick an aspect of the natural world you'd like to know better and set out to make its acquaintance. I think you'll find it very fulfilling.

— Gretchen Rupp



***“everything is connected
to everything else.”***

- John Muir



Sieben Ranch Wetlands

By Klara Varga, Kelsey Chapter

[Due to heavy rain around the time of the Annual Meeting, this outing to the Sieben Ranch replaced the planned trip to Indian Meadows — Ed.]

ABOUT A DOZEN FOLKS STROLLED UP SOME OLD LOGGING ROADS north of Highway 200 and west of the Lander's Fork. The flower displays on open south aspects were delightful. Species enjoyed included larkspur, arnica, and balsamroot. Forested areas were lush and putting on a memorable lupine show. The wetlands had a lovely mix of willows, sedges, and wild flowers to admire. While we did not see anything particularly rare, we enjoyed spending time with FFF*s and teaching each other plant names.

*Fellow Flower Freaks

visit the Granite Butte Proposed Research Natural Area (RNA) on the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest.

As soon as we arrived, everyone donned hats, gloves, and parkas to ward off the brisk west wind that was blowing. After starting our hike in earnest, though, the many flowering species caught our attention and the wind was no longer a distraction.

Granite Butte is slated for protection as an RNA under the forest plan that is currently being revised for the Helena-Lewis & Clark forest and will represent an extensive example of a montane rough fescue (*Festuca campestris*) grassland.

Green gentian (*Frasera speciosa*) was in full flower across much of the area. This striking species is monocarpic, meaning that

Below: Views of the Granite Butte grassland and ribbon forest, with it's late-June snowpack.

Opposite: Glacier lily and spring beauty abound at Granite Butte, taking advantage of the melting snow drift. Photos courtesy of Steve Shelly



Granite Butte Proposed RNA

By Steve and Karen Shelly, Clark Fork Chapter

IT OFTEN SEEMS IN WESTERN MONTANA THAT CHILLY, wet weather continues until around July 4, then switches to the heat of summer. This year was a good example of that flip as our group headed up near Stemple Pass to





it grows for several years as a vegetative rosette, then flowers once and dies. We also found a few late-flowering individuals of Missoula phlox (*Phlox kelseyi* var. *missoulensis*), a state endemic known from the Missoula area east to the Little Belt Mountains.

As we continued our hike along the Continental Divide, we eventually came to the most striking feature in the proposed RNA — a subalpine ribbon forest that occurs right along the ridgeline. This narrow forest of whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) is only about 100 feet wide, giving way to an equally narrow snow glade plant community dominated by Parry's rush (*Juncus parryi*). During the winter, strong westerly winds hit the west-facing grassland slopes and blow the heavy snow uphill through the ribbon forest, where it is then deposited on the lee side of the ridgeline. The resulting drift, which extends about a half mile along the ridgeline, steadily accumulates to a depth of fifteen feet or more! On the date of our visit – the last day of June – the drift was still very deep. If we had thought about it we could have brought our cross-country skis and gotten in at least a short ski tour! This drift slowly melts during July, providing the moisture for the snow glade community. The moist areas adjacent to the melting drift were blanketed with very dense, showy displays of spring beauty (*Claytonia lanceolata*) and glacier lily (*Erythronium grandiflorum*). We took our time admiring these showy blooms after our lunch in the shelter of the ribbon forest. On the way back we meandered through the pristine grassland, enjoying the numerous forb species such as shooting star (*Dodecatheon conjugens*), prairie star (*Lithophragma parviflorum*), and an interesting higher elevation population of buttercup (*Ranunculus glaberrimus*). Despite the cool winds and rain showers, it was a spectacular day on the divide. Thanks to all who joined us for this special trip! 🌸

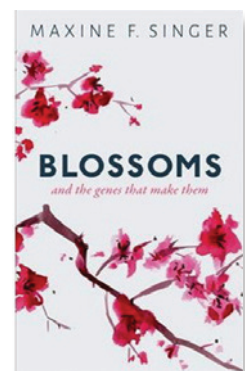
MNPS SMALL GRANTS CALL FOR PROPOSALS



2019 Small Grants Proposals Are Due January 31

Do you have an idea for a project that promotes native plant conservation or education?

Proposals that meet the criteria will be considered for a grant up to \$1,500. Proposals must be emailed by January 31, 2019. Grant recipients will be required to submit a final report of the study or project accomplishments by January, 2020. For eligibility and application instructions, visit the Montana Native Plant Society Small Grants page on our website (www.mtnativeplants.org/Small_Grants_Program) or contact Betty Kuropat, Small Grants committee chair, at blueirismt@gmail.com.



Botany Books of Note

Oxford University Press announces the release of "Blossoms And the Genes that Make Them" by Maxine F. Singer. In her new book, Singer explains what we have pieced together about the genetics behind flowering, particularly the key genes that cause plants to flower at a particular time. These genes are regulated by other genes, modulated by epigenetic effects, and will respond to environmental cues so they can also define the variety of flowers. This is cutting-edge science and we have much still to learn, say the publishers, but the emerging story behind the flowers in our gardens, parks, and fields is proving astonishing.



Gardener's Notebook

Using Native Plants in Backyard Landscaping

Western Coneflower or *Rudbeckia occidentalis* Nutt.

By Denise Montgomery, Valley of Flowers Chapter

Whether you are creating a pollinator paradise, attracting birds, or looking for interesting plant forms, western coneflower (*Rudbeckia occidentalis*) is a beautiful addition to native plant gardens and cottage gardens alike. This attractive plant is valuable to native bees, offering abundant pollen and nectar. It is also visited by butterflies, supplies seeds for birds, and provides visual interest in the mid- to late-season garden.

Rudbeckia occidentalis is in the *Asteraceae* (Aster) family. Unlike most members of this family, it has no ray flowers. The inflorescence (flower head) is made up entirely of tubular, perfect flowers densely packed into a button-like disc, which grows into a purple-brown cylindrical or conical dome about an inch wide by two and a half inches high, ringed at the base by green, leaf-like bracts. The flower heads are born singly or with a few secondary heads atop long, un-branched stems two and a half to six feet tall. Its leaves are arranged alternately on the stem; they are large, ovate, and about three inches wide up to 10 inches long with a slightly pointed tip and are entire or slightly serrate, or sometimes sparsely, deeply toothed. The plant has thick, woody rhizomes and fibrous roots.

Western coneflower is found at elevations from 4,000 to 9,000 feet, in moist mountain meadows, forest openings, seeps or along stream-banks, and at edges or in under-stories of older, open aspen stands. Its native range extends from Montana to Washington, to California and Nevada, through Wyoming to Utah.

In the garden, western coneflower grows easily with best results in consistently moist (but not saturated), organically-rich loam and full sun. It prefers a soil pH of 5.5 to 7.2 but is sometimes found in drier, poorer soils, and occasionally in soils with more lime, in which case its stems will tend to be shorter. Western coneflower will tolerate some shade, but stems will then be longer and weaker, and the inflorescence may be smaller.

I suggest grouping several western coneflower plants together for the best visual effect and to benefit pollinators, and such density is necessary for cross-pollination. Space your plants to allow good air circulation, about 18 to 24 inches apart. Water the soil evenly at ground level; avoid overhead sprinkling. Consistent moisture, air circulation, and ground-watering will result

Top: Bees gather resources from western coneflower in the Bridger Mountains.

Bottom: A stand of western coneflower graces the corner of an old mining camp building in the Tobacco Root Mountains.

Photos by Denise Montgomery.



in the healthiest plants. Competition, especially the crowding of foliage, erratic watering, and droughty conditions can lead to powdery mildew.

The plants' height lends them well to the back of the garden; select a spot with a background that shows the coneflowers to their advantage, such as a light-colored fence or wall, or masses of bright green or gold foliage. They are very attractive near a water feature. Middle-of-the-border works well, too; just remember not to crowd the plants.

In the spring, western coneflowers emerge as rosettes when the snow melts and temperatures warm. Growth appears to be more dependent on temperature than day length, so be patient, as emergence can vary from year to year by several weeks, from mid-May to mid-June. Once flower stems begin to develop they grow rapidly, as much as six inches per week. Flower heads develop in mid-July to mid-August. Seeds disperse from mid-August to mid-September, depending on seasonal variation and elevation. Deadheading (removal of spent flowers) may extend the flowering period, but in my garden I prefer to let the seeds mature for the birds, usually in mid-September. Seeds disperse within the vicinity of the parent; though usually scattered, subsequent seedlings may require some thinning to prevent crowding.

Western coneflower generally is deer-resistant, although moose may sample the flower heads. It should be noted that the plants have been reported to be toxic to livestock, particularly if fed-upon exclusively or heavily. Check with your county extension agent for more information.

On a final note: practice ethical collecting. There is no need to collect wild plants as western coneflower is readily available in nurseries where native plants are sold. Look for the most locally-sourced plants possible and avoid cultivars for nectar and pollen quality and quantity.

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<http://www.wildflower.org/plants>

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<http://www.missouri-botanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfinderresearch.aspx>

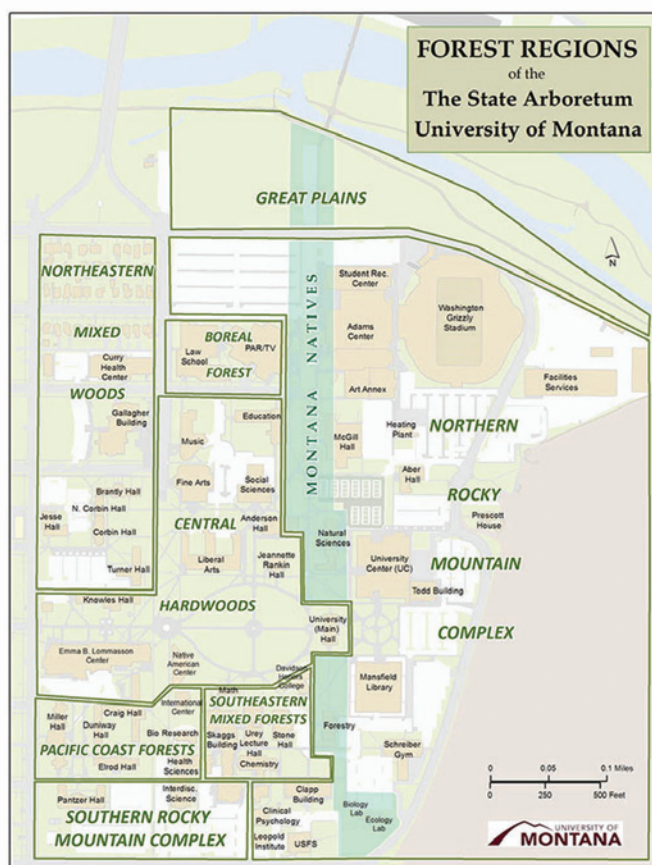
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Photo: Frank DiBona, flickr.com



Root for the Arboretum

The University of Montana is known for its forestry program – but also for its trees, first planted in 1896. Since 1991, the UM campus has been the official State of Montana Arboretum, yet few people are aware of this resource. On Arbor Day, 2018, the Arboretum Committee and UM's W.A.Franke College of Forestry and Conservation kicked off the "Root for the Arboretum" campaign to raise \$15,000 to educate and inspire the public about North American trees through interpretive signage and other outreach. The campaign is closing in on its goal but still needs your help. Please go to www.umt.edu/arboretum to learn more and to donate.



Map: W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation



Combatting Plant Blindness

By Caroline Kurtz, *Kelseya* Editor

An email communication from Emily Roberson, Ph.D., of the Native Plant Conservation Campaign, summarized a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* about the increasing inability of people in the U.S. — even well-degreed ones — to know a rhododendron from a hydrangea or an orchid from a fern.

Roberson writes: “An article in the [August 15, 2018] *Wall Street Journal* explores some of the issues associated with ‘plant blindness,’ a problem that the NPCC and the botanical community generally, have been fighting for decades.

Plant blindness is the phenomena of people not understanding or appreciating plants. This lack of understanding translates into inadequate laws, staffing, and funding for plant conservation. These in turn contribute to the critical imperilment of at least 20 percent of the planet’s flora.

The *Journal* article covered some of the problems resulting from plant blindness:

- Botanists with expertise specific to their regions developed over decades are retiring from the federal government and are not being replaced. Today, there is roughly one botanist on the federal payroll for every 20 million acres of land, according to the Chicago Botanic Garden;
- Not only are there fewer university botany programs but those who graduate from them may not be well versed in plant identification;
- The cutting edge of plant science, which has commercial applications, is molecular. Students and universities are following the significant money



Examples of a rhododendron (above) and a hydrangea (below) from the New York Botanical Garden Steere Herbarium.



— away from botany and plant ecology;

- ‘zoochauvinistic’ introductory biology instructors’ use ‘zoocentric examples’ to teach basic biological concepts to stack the deck against plants;
- schools are getting rid of herbaria, the sometimes vast collection of plants that form the spine of a botanist’s education. In the past 30 years, [NPCC Affiliate] the New York Botanical Garden alone has absorbed collections from 15 colleges and universities that no longer have space, budget, or interest in maintaining it. Barbara M. Thiers, who directs the herbarium at the Garden, estimates about a quarter of the world’s 3,200 herbaria are at risk because of physical threats such as hurricanes or administrative apathy.

The [WSJ] article notes that efforts are being made to confront plant blindness and the problems it creates. For example, the ‘Botany Bill’ (a.k.a. the Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration, and Promotion Act) has been introduced in the House and Senate. The bill encourages federal land management agencies to hire botanists, conduct research on native plant materials, and give preference to native plants in projects on federal land when feasible. The NPCC fights the problems of plant blindness throughout our work, including the Equal Protection for Plants and Botany Staffing and Funding programs.”

For more information, visit <http://plantsocieties.cnps.org>.



MNPS Chapters and the Areas They Serve

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

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

FLATHEAD CHAPTER - Flathead and Lake Counties plus Glacier National Park

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

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

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

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

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

Your mailing label tells you the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Name (please print) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____ Chapter Affiliation (optional) _____

Delivery preference _____ paper by USPS* _____ digital by email

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

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

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

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE at www.mtnativeplants.org

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

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



About Montana Native Plant Society

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

Your yearly membership fee includes a subscription to *Kelsey*, the quarterly newsletter of MNPS. We welcome your articles, field trip reports, book review, or anything that relates to native plants or the Society. Please include a line or two of "bio" information with each article. Drawings should be in black ink or a good quality photocopy. All items should be emailed to: carokurtz@gmail.com or mailed to *Kelsey* Editor, 645 Beverly Avenue, Missoula, MT, 59801.

Changes of address and inquiries about membership should be sent to MNPS Membership, 398 Jeffers Road, Ennis, MT 59729. Advertising space is available in each issue at \$5/column inch. Ads must be camera-ready and must meet the guidelines set by the Board of Directors for suitable subject matter; that is, be related in some way to native plants or the interests of MNPS members.

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

If you want extra copies of *Kelsey* for friends or family, call the Newsletter Editor or email: carokurtz@gmail.com. No part of this publication may be reprinted without the consent of MNPS. Reprint requests should be directed to the Newsletter Editor.

**Visit our website at: www.mtnativeplants.org
or contact our webmaster Bob Person at: thepersons@mcn.net
For Facebook posts, contact Clare Beelman at: clare.beelman@gmail.com**

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MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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