The Flora of Mount Helena database is now available on-line. The Kelsey Chapter project began in 1997 with the collection of vascular plant species on Mount Helena. Data were entered into a database, specimens mounted, labels completed, and the collection was housed in a custom-made cabinet in the Montana section at the Lewis and Clark Library. Now the public can access the informative database. You can search for any of the 286 species currently entered into the database by common or scientific name and view the record for that collection. The records include the date the specimen was collected, where on Mount Helena it can be found, where it was collected on the mountain, the habitat it was found in, if the plant is native or exotic, when the species flowers, elevation, slope, aspect and much more. The next step in the process is to add pictures of the plant species to the database. Thanks to Bruce Newell of the Montana State Library, Matt Beckstrom of the Lewis and Clark Library in Helena and Kelsey Chapter members for making this information available to the public. Visit: www.lewisanclarklibrary.org/onlinedatabases

Lewis and Clark Plants Coming to the Montana Historical Society

An exhibit of four plants collected by the Lewis and Clark Expedition and permanently housed in the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia will find a temporary home in Helena at the Montana Historical Society and Museum. The plants include three that were collected in Montana: bitterroot (Lewisia rediviva), blanket flower (Gaillardia aristata) and Lewis’s mockorange (Philadelphus lewisia). Beargrass (Xerophyllum tenax) will also be displayed. The exhibit opens on June 3 with the official opening on June 10 and will run through Labor Day. Dr. John Taylor will speak about the plants of Lewis and Clark at the opening celebration. Plant related art work, including paintings by Frederica Marshall, will also be featured.

ABOVE THE TREES

MNPS 2004 Annual Meeting

The Artemisia Chapter will host the Montana Native Plant Society’s 2004 Annual Meeting at the Timbercrest Girl Scout Camp located 7 miles southwest of Red Lodge. The meeting’s theme is Above the Trees and will focus on the flora of the Beartooth Plateau. The meeting is open to the public and is scheduled for Friday, July 9 through Sunday, July 11. You are welcome to wander about, stake out tent sites, check out the cabins or play Frisbee and horseshoes beginning at 2 p.m. on Friday. Weekend events kick-off at 5:00 p.m. with a cocktail convivial followed by a potluck dinner and the annual membership meeting. Saturday is packed-full with fun events, starting with half- and full-day field trips that range from easy walks to strenuous treks, all led by regional botanists. A plant ID contest, a silent auction, a tee-shirt fashion show, a catered Mediterranean dinner, and a speaker presentation fill out the remainder of the day. Jeanne Chambers (USFS Research Ecologist) will be our speaker, presenting a program titled Life as an Alpine Plant—the Challenge of Reproducing in an Extreme Environment. Jean’s presentation will feature her photos of Montana’s alpine flora and the results of 10 years of research on the fate of seeds and alpine seedling establishment on the Beartooth Plateau. She will discuss the implications of her work, and that of other alpine researchers, for the restoration of disturbed alpine ecosystems. On Sunday there will be several field trip options to augment your voyage home. So bring yourself, friends, and family and a dish for the potluck. Registration is due by June 1, and please remember that no pets are allowed.

LEWIS AND CLARK

Flora of Mount Helena available on-line

The Flora of Mount Helena database is now available on-line. The Kelsey Chapter project began in 1997 with the collection of vascular plant species on Mount Helena. Data were entered into a database, specimens mounted, labels completed, and the collection was housed in a custom-made cabinet in the Montana section at the Lewis and Clark Library. Now the public can access the informative database. You can search for any of the 286 species currently entered into the database by common or scientific name and view the record for that collection. The records include the date the specimen was collected, where on Mount Helena it can be found, where it was collected on the mountain, the habitat it was found in, if the plant is native or exotic, when the species flowers, elevation, slope, aspect and much more. The next step in the process is to add pictures of the plant species to the database. Thanks to Bruce Newell of the Montana State Library, Matt Beckstrom of the Lewis and Clark Library in Helena and Kelsey Chapter members for making this information available to the public. Visit: www.lewisanclarklibrary.org/onlinedatabases

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It doesn’t happen to me much anymore. But not so long ago, relatives or acquaintances from outside Montana would ask things like “Do you have electricity?” or “Do you get mail when it snows?” I guess they are reasonable questions. There was a time when Edd and I didn’t have electricity or phone and didn’t get mail every day. And there are still occasional “snow” days when it’s best not to venture out on the roads (although skis or snowshoes work). Montana is still rural, but not low-tech. I have a cell phone, but can’t use it from my house because it’s too far from antenna towers. MNPS has also moved into the electronic age: slowly, but we’re adjusting. All of the Board of Directors and many MNPS members have e-mail. We conduct some society business and share a lot of information via e-mail. We have a very nice website that continually improves, thanks to feedback from you and web-mastering by Marilyn Marler.

The March 6 winter Board of Directors meeting took us to a new realm of technology. As often happens, the weekend of our meeting brought winter weather and icy roads. Normally, we just buck up, leave early, and drive to Helena (and some did). This time, some board members called me the night before to say they wouldn’t make it due to road conditions. I called the road conditions phone message at 5 a.m. and it said, “emergency travel only” for my route. After a flurry of phone calls we decided to hold the meeting, as scheduled, but with a conference call. We had good attendance, stuck almost strictly to business, and got done 2 hours earlier than planned. Now that’s high tech for MNPS! Thanks go to Patrick Plantenberg and Westech for arranging the meeting place and conference call at the Westech offices in Helena.

The upcoming Annual Meeting near Red Lodge on July 9-11 was a big topic for the board. Artemisia Chapter has a great location and plant-filled weekend planned for us. Be sure to save the insert and register early for Above the Trees.

The Conservation Committee is working on a letter to National Forest Supervisors in Montana asking them to consider the impacts of weeds on native plant communities and minimize activities that promote weeds as they revise their Forest Plans over the next few years (see page 3). Consider providing your own comments on Forest Plan revisions for the national forests in your neighborhood.

All of the chapters are busy with winter programs and planning summer field trips. These activities, along with this newsletter, are our foundation. They provide opportunities for us to get together and share information about native plants and ecosystems (along with potlucks, stories, and laughs). More importantly, they allow us share our passion with others who may not be interested in joining, but are interested in some aspect of Montana’s flora. Remember to welcome and include everyone.

Be sure to cast your vote for Vice-president, Secretary, and Eastern Montana Representative. Once again, the chapter with the highest percentage of voter turnout will get $100. See the article on page 5.

The board welcomes your input on issues or concerns you have. At the fall meeting we will address our role as an activist organization. What types of political or activist activities should we engage in? How, how much, and what types of activist groups should we support—financially or by endorsement? We periodically get requests from environmental organizations to contribute to or endorse a cause, a project, or a legal defense. We want to establish a guideline for our decisions on these requests. So far, we base decisions on how well it accomplishes our purpose to “preserve, conserve, study, and educate the public about the native plants and plant communities of Montana” (excerpt from MNPS By-laws). If you have ideas about this, please share them with your representative to the board.

Enjoy the spring and I look forward to seeing you Above the Trees in July.

Betty can be reached at 2688 Witty Ln. Columbia Falls, MT 59912 406-892-0129 e-mail: kuropat@bigsky.net

Dear Editors,
I came across this amusing observation from nuclear physicist Enrico Fermi who protested “If I could remember the names of all of these particles I would have been a botanist.” Fermi was referring to the discovery of a numerous and bewildering assortment of particles in quantum physics that forced 20th century physicists to consult the Particle Properties Data Handbook just to keep track of them. His complaint is from Emilio Segre’s biography of Enrico Fermi (Univ. of Chicago Press, 1970).

Jim Rogers, Polson

WELCOME new members!
Harold Armstrong, Gay Austin, Virginia Deneve, Clint Emerson, Lila Fishman, Karen Heald, John & Durrae Johansen, Mary Johnson, Dale Kerkvliet, Kathy Knudsen, Rebecca Lawrence, Marcella MacDonald, Sandra Marker, Jerry Nahrin, Samantha O’Byrne, Merle Palmiter, Sue Reel, James Riser, Megan Ryan, Carol Sajor, Michael Sample, Paul Strum, Richard Van Nice, and Raelen Wiliard.

Your participation and support are important to us! Please contact your chapter representative with any ideas or suggestions you may have.
Tree Planting Group Makes Commitment to Native Plants

Native plants will benefit from a recent decision made by the Board of Directors of Growing Friends of Helena, which is a group of citizens committed to beautifying the area through planting trees. Montana Audubon, the Kelsey Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society, and Last Chance Audubon recently approached Growing Friends to consider two policies to benefit both Helena and native plants. On March 11, 2004, the board adopted both of them.

The first policy states that Growing Friends will no longer support projects that plant the following species: Russian Olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia), Tamarisk (Salt Cedar) (Tamarix species), and European Buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica). These trees can cause significant problems for native plants, and their spread should not be encouraged or promoted. This policy includes 1) not giving money to projects that use these species; 2) not using these species in projects done by Growing Friends volunteers; and 3) excluding these species from any publications done in the future.

In an effort to ensure that all projects have long-term benefits for the area, the board also adopted a second policy that will require that native plants be used in certain projects. The policy establishes a list of native plants (provided by the Kelsey Chapter), along with criteria to guide the board in its decisions about which projects should require the use native plants. The locations where native plants will be required include: 1) along streams such as Tenmile Creek and its tributaries and Prickly Pear Creek and its tributaries; 2) adjacent to wetlands; 3) adjacent to lakes and ponds such as Spring Meadow Lake and the Fairgrounds Duck Pond; and 4) in or adjacent to natural areas (areas where naturally occurring native vegetation exists on, close to, or downstream from the project site), including parks such as Mount Helena City Park and Nature Park. It should be noted that native plants will not be required in projects that Growing Friends plants in neighborhoods, along boulevards, and adjacent to soccer fields.

Janet Ellis of Montana Audubon spearheaded this effort. Thanks also to Kathy Lloyd, Phil Johnson, Peter Lesica, Cary Lund, and Jo Lace for their help.

Janet Ellis

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National forests in Montana are beginning the process of revising the Forest Plans that dictate how our national forests will be managed. In a letter submitted to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, the Montana Native Plant Society’s Conservation Committee makes an excellent case for preserving roadless lands as refuges for native plants and intact communities, and limiting the spread of exotic plant species caused by vehicle traffic and roads on public lands. The fully referenced letter points out the negative impacts of exotic plant species on fish, wildlife and the economy. The Conservation Committee’s work provides a template that can be applied to other public lands in Montana, and MNPS members are encouraged to become involved in forest planning in their areas. The full text of the letter is available on the MNPS website at: www.umt.edu/mnps.

An excerpt from their letter follows: “The Montana Native Plant Society encourages the Forest Service to limit road building as much as possible in order to protect biological diversity, sustain the economic values of weed-free land and maintain recreational opportunities for everyone. Similarly, MNPS urges the Forest Service to curtail off-road vehicle use and prevent the unauthorized creation of de facto roads by off-road vehicles. If new roads must be built we suggest avoiding the building of roads in lower-elevation grasslands, shrublands and pine savannah. Roads constructed through forest should be as narrow as possible to limit the amount of sunlight reaching the ground. We also advise not bringing in foreign road materials, especially from sources in proximity to weed infestations. MNPS also urges the Forest Service to close or remove existing roads whenever possible. Again, roads that traverse or access low-elevation grasslands or open forest should be given priority.”

Kathy Lloyd
Available from MNPS

The third edition of the Source Guide for Native Plants of Montana is now available. The cost is $6.00. Send a check made out to MNPS to: MNPS Publications, 1270 Lower Sweet Grass Road, Big Timber, Montana 59011. The cost will cover postage. The guide lists 55 sources for over 500 species of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses. This edition has e-mail and website addresses for many sources and a handy common name index. The guide is a must for home landscapers, native plant gardeners and those involved in restoration projects. The Source Guide will include an insert with recent updates for each source. Contact information for several new sources is included but their plants are not listed. If you already purchased a Guide, you can find the update on the website or send a SASE to MNPS Publications (see address above).

Available free from MNPS Publications: MNPS membership brochures, Plant Collection Guidelines for Teachers brochures, and Echinacea Cultivation Information. Also available are additional copies of Plants Collected in Montana During the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

Utah Rare Plants On-line

The Utah Native Plant Society is pleased to announce the availability of an on-line rare plant guide for Utah that is, in part, intended to be an update to the 1991 Utah Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Plant Field Guide. The URL is: http://www.utahrareplants.org

Another Native Plant Resource

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has expanded its commitment to promoting plant-related organizations and events to a North American audience by developing a fully automated National Organizations Directory and National Event Calendar as part of its Native Plant Information Network. The Network site also provides photos and publications. Visit: http://www.wildflower2.org/ to see the complete list of site offerings. The new National Native Plant Organization Directory is online at: http://www.wildflower2.org/NPIN/ Organizations/organizations.html and the Native Plant Event Directory may be viewed online at: http://www.wildflower.org/?nd=native_cal. The Montana Native Plant Society’s events will soon be posted on the site.

Montana Plant Life

Check out the great website http://montana.plant-life.org. Developed as a personal project by Jan Hjalmarsson, currently in Bozeman but originally from Sweden, the site is an incredible resource for links and photos. Jan has linked to the MNPS website and Marilyn Marler, our webmaster, will post a link from our website to his. Jan has a background in botany and has been checking his collections with the MSU herbarium. Matt Lavin from MSU says, “I should mention to you that Jan is depositing many of his interesting collections in the MSU Herbarium. He has discovered many new county records, some state records, as well as a bunch of collections of species previously poorly known from the state.”

A Region of Astonishing Beauty


Roger L. Williams, Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus and former History Department head at the University of Wyoming, is rooted in the history of Europe and the history of scientific inquiry just as firmly as the flora of the Rocky Mountains (Nelson and Williams 1992) and the windblown Laramie Basin. Out of his eclectic expertise, and the “abetting” of long-standing friends, arose a superlative documentary, A Region of Astonishing Beauty. Williams’ indubitable command of history, geography, and human stories is engaging. Each chapter in A Region of Astonishing Beauty is recommended reading in its own right. The breadth of this undertaking also casts light on the history of botany as it developed into a separate scientific discipline during the 19th century, and as it illuminated the course of regional history.

Twenty-five botanical explorers, variously trained in botany as well as theology, medicine, horticulture, and geology are prominently featured in...
...Beauty (Continued from page 4)
nineteen chapters that follow general chronological order. The title is taken from a statement by Edwin James, the first botanist to explore the alpine flora in the Rocky Mountains, at Pike’s Peak (Benson 1988). The botanical explorers also include Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Nuttall, John Charles Fremont, Ferdinand Hayden, Marcus Jones, Per Axel Rydberg, and Aven Nelson, presented in adroit and scholarly text, with no pretenses of common themes or uniform structures except for presenting a biographic sketch and the species they discovered. Quotations are used judiciously, illustrations are absent, and footnotes are faithfully recorded. Contributions to botany are the focus, and not the adventure tales en route. Williams is respectful and skilled at presenting the individuals, sometimes framing questions without concocting answers, painting halos, or veering into psychoanalysis.

If there are any common threads, they are linked to the question: How do you classify life forms? This most basic intellectual problem of the 18th century with its tension between “artificial” vs. “natural” classification emerging from the Age of Enlightenment played out in the early documentation of the Rocky Mountain flora in the 19th century. The active debates shifted from taxonomic framework to more pedantic questions of nomenclatural conventions over the following century, sometimes pitting botanists of the New World and the Old, and botanists of the east and west who saw the Rocky Mountain flora differently from mounted specimens compared to fresh material. As late as 1880, only three genera were recognized by Asa Gray and Joseph Dalton Hooker as endemic to the Rocky Mountain Region: Chionophila Bentham, Leucampyx Gray ex Bentham & Hook., and Orogenia S. Wats. Taxonomic collaborators outside the Rocky Mountain Region are profiled, too. “The long memory of such quarrels greatly contributed to the traditional conviction that botanists are by nature an exceptionally quarrelsome lot...” Williams wryly notes.

A Region of Astonishing Beauty does not take the place of more detailed books on individual explorers (e.g., the biography of Aven Nelson published earlier by Williams in 1984). But it presents a broad cast of characters and a sense of the collective breadth and depth of Rocky Mountain botanical explorations regardless of state lines, expedition mandates, and individual predilections. Far more comprehensive treatments on the subject of North American botany explorers are presented by Reveal and Pringle (1993). Feature articles on individual botanical explorers are also posted on the Wyoming Native Plant Society homepage. However, these works do not convey a regional picture and the contemporary scientific advances in taxonomy, evolution, geology, and biogeography that changed the course of botany.

Criticisms? There are many typographical errors in the scientific names, courtesy of the spell check function built into Microsoft office products. This brand of typo provides further grounds for botanists to relate to the book.

Some of the pithiest comments are in the preface and introduction, which are otherwise short, terse, and possibly prepared in haste. Williams does not address contemporary botany except obliquely: “Whereas in the eighteenth century lengthy expeditions or field trips, commonly of two or more years, had been the graduate schools for botanists, after about 1890 one attended a formal graduate school; and graduate degrees became the licenses to practice. Everyone is aware of what has been gained through that transition. Probably very few are conscious of what has been lost.”

Who is the audience for this book? If you have read this far—it is definitely for you. Even if you don’t have time before spring arrives, its chapters might be read casually in fragments. Or it might be read as a springboard to more in-depth research, whether by botanists, natural history buffs, or historians. Chances are you will want to read it more than once, for the people, the places, and the plants that it presents together.

Bonnie Heidel

References are available from the Editors

Kelsey Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) has agreed to run again for a two-year term, and that two new candidates, Dave Hanna of Choteau, a Vice-presidential contender, and Connie Jacobs of Fort Benton, hopeful Eastern Representative-at-large, have cast their hats into the ring. (Note: the MNPS board has not felt the need to impose term limits at this point). Please read the VITA for each candidate on the enclosed ballot and get your vote in the mail.

Patrick Plantenberg

“Ultraglitter Wildflower Guide to the Central Montana Rocky Mountains” 665 photos 333 species; Only 1.5 oz, Waterproof, 3" x 5" $21.95 Diamond Springs Press 8085 Diamond Springs Dr. Helena, MT 59602-8312
NATIVE LANDSCAPE NEWS

Spring is here and it’s time to get our hands dirty again, pull out the shovels and rakes, and emerge from the long winter dormancy along with the plants. Here are some landscape related tidbits worth mentioning.

Source Guide Update and Native Nurseries

The state Landscape Committee worked earlier this winter to complete a one-page update of our 2001 Source Guide. We contacted all the sources in the guide (nurseries and seed dealers) and updated their listings for address, website, etc. Unfortunately, we found that 5 had gone out of business. Luckily this was balanced by listings for 6 new sources for Montana native plants. See page 4 to find out how to get the update if you already have a guide and how to purchase the 2001 guide if you don’t have one. You can also download the update from our webpage.

We are fortunate to have a number of nurseries in Montana that specialize exclusively in the native plants of their region and the state. Westscape Wholesale Nursery in Bozeman is a new source for containerized shrubs, perennials and grasses. Their plants are appearing in several retail nurseries in the area, and it’s great to have them growing for landscapers and reclamation folks. Nearby in Livingston is ADC (Aquatic Design and Construction) Native Nursery. They specialize in wetland and aquatic species but have mastered the dryland natives as well.

In the Flathead region, past MNPS board member Terry Divoky of West Glacier has just started up Wildflower Native Plant Nursery and has several native wildflowers available, grown from locally collected seed. Nursery for Native Plants in Kalispell carries only natives and is very knowledgeable. Grouse Springs Nursery, in Polson, carries many unusual natives.

Gong south of Missoula to Stevensville you’ll find Biodesign Farm, run by Helen Atthowe. Helen grows a large selection of natives that she often takes to the Missoula Farmers Market. I might mention that Clark Fork Chapter has their annual native plant sale at the market on May 15.

Hope I haven’t missed any new native nurseries; let me know if I have. You can find out more about these great nurseries and many others in our Source Guide! Please support their efforts by buying native plants. It’s not easy to be so specialized and they depend on enthusiasts to increase the demand.

Landscaping With Natives Packets

The Landscape Committee is pleased that chapters are creating and offering ‘landscape packets’ with very specific plant lists and resources on native plant landscaping for their regions. Helena and the Flathead area have completed packets, and Bozeman and Missoula are working on theirs. See the website and page 4 for more information. It’s wonderful to be spreading accurate information on native plant landscaping.

Book Reviews

I love curling up with garden books during the long winter nights. We are sorely lacking in books tailored to our northern peaks and prairies, more often we see pages full of lush gardens from coastal regions that make us green with envy. We need to look harder to appreciate a very diverse and unique landscape. Here are a couple books I recommend:

I picked up Waterstained Landscapes by Joan Woodward on a recent trip to Powell’s bookstore. Although it centers on the Denver area, there are many similarities to our landscape vocabulary. It’s a great book for landscape designers exploring a sustainable approach to the design process by deriving designs from natural vegetation patterns. Just in at my local library, Native Plants for High Elevation Western Gardens by Janice Busco and Nancy Morin, is a beautiful reference. Although it’s published with the Arbotetum in Flagstaff, Arizona, it contains many wildflowers native to Montana and useful information about using native plants ornamentally in gardens, containers and naturalized plantings. Unfortunately, there isn’t specific info on propagation. For a very thorough, detailed look at propagating 150 Montana native forbs you can order The Magic of Montana Native Plants by Sheila Morrison for $20.95 (includes postage).

Native Plant Landscaping Publication Available

Landscaping with Native Plants of the Intermountain Region has just been printed by the Idaho office of the Bureau of Land Management. Contributors include Hilary Parkison, Ann DeBolt, Roger Rosentreter and Valerie Geertson. The reference includes color photos, drawings and descriptions of plants native to the Intermountain Region, the Southwest or the Great Plains. Each plant listing includes information about sun and water preferences, wildlife values, height, color, cultural and medicinal uses and more. Also included is a quick reference guide, information about landscaping to reduce wildfire risk, and sources for native species. The reference will be a valuable addition to the landscaping packets developed by Montana MNPS chapters. To request the publication call Roger Rosentreter at 208-373-3824, or download it at: http://www.id.blm.gov/publications/TR1730-3/

Kathy Lloyd
Board Announces Small Grant Recipients

Congratulations to this year’s recipients of the MNPS’s Small Grant Awards. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the approval of two awards, both in education and conservation, in this year’s small grants competition.

The first successful award goes to Lisa Beczkiewicz, Youth Development Coordinator, The Flagship Program, for her proposal titled Fort Missoula Conservation Nursery. This small grant helps supply nursery materials (soils and pots) and transportation to students participating in a K–12 Conservation Education Curriculum at the Fort Missoula Conservation Nursery. Students will plant seeds of native plants, and/or transplant seedlings into bigger pots and by doing so, will understand that their efforts are contributing to local conservation.

The second successful award goes to Marijka Wessner, Weed Education Specialist for Missoula County Weed District, who submitted a proposal titled The 10 Most Desired Native Plants Poster. Marijka is re-creating a poster that shows important desirable native plants found in Montana’s open spaces. The poster depicts 5 native grasses and 5 native wildflowers with a brief written description, line drawings and pictures. The poster helps spread awareness of Montana’s native vegetation and educates new urban landowners about the importance of native plant communities. The small grant will help print a second edition of 3000 posters that will be distributed to schools, counties and other educational outlets.

The Small Grant Committee received another six excellent proposals encompassing school and interpretive gardens and a variety of educational and scientific research projects. This year’s proposals offered many unique ideas and each was worthy of funding. Thank you for doing such a good job. Following is a list of proposals submitted:

**RESEARCH**
- Winter Hardy Native Plant Adaptability along the Missouri River
- Clonal Recruitment of Narrowleaf Cottonwood along the Upper Yellowstone

**EDUCATION**
- Plant Quirks and Nature Walks in Montana’s Unprotected Refuges
- The 10 Most Desired Native Plants Poster
- A Collection and Guide to the Common Bryophytes and Lichens of the Rattlesnake
- Fort Missoula Conservation Nursery
- DeSmets School’s Native Garden/Classroom
- Native Plant Demonstration Garden

We have asked Lisa and Marijka to prepare Kelseya articles to keep members informed of their projects. Thanks to everyone who participated in this year’s competition. We hope to hear from many of you again in future year grant programs.

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**GET INVOLVED IN THE SMALL GRANT COMMITTEE**

If you would like to become more involved in the Montana Native Plant Society, there are many avenues for you to try. Why not volunteer to participate on the Small Grant Committee? You can help with getting information out, help choose worthy recipients, or try your hand at committee chair. If you are interested, please call Cathie Jean, Small Grant Committee chair at 406-922-9503.

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**Members in the News**

Montana Native Plant Society members are active people. Here is a partial list of some of the newsworthy contributions they have been making. Please send future references about MNPS members to the Editors at: drakekath64@msn.com. We want to know what you are up to!

**Steve Shelly**
Steve was featured in the Natural Area Association’s 2004 Winter Newsletter with the lead article called Research Natural Areas on your National Forests and Grasslands. Steve is a member of the Clark Fork Chapter and is the Region One botanist and administrator of the Research Natural Area program for the Forest Service. Steve is also featured in the March/April issue of Montana Magazine with an article titled Deep Light, Open Space...that Feeling of Prairie. The article includes an inset about MNPS. Be sure to check it out.

**Kriss Douglass**
All bimonthly issues of Montana Magazine published in 2003 featured a column written by Calypso Chapter member Kriss Douglass. Kriss wrote a Naturalist's Journal article for all six issues, and you can catch them in back issues at your local library.

**Bob Anderson**
Former public service commissioner and Kelsey Chapter member Bob Anderson was awarded the 2004 Montana Renewable Energy Award presented by the Montana Renewable Energy Association. Bob was honored for his history of advocating resource conservation and renewable energy. Way to go Bob!

**Drake Barton**
A photographer, plant nerd, and Kelsey Chapter member, Drake has had several photos published in recent issues of Montana Magazine and Montana Outdoors. Check out his mushroom photos in the new Montana Outdoors.

**Ellen Horowitz**
Ellen is featured in the March/April issue of Montana Outdoors with an article titled On the Trail of the Elusive Morel. She is a member of the Flathead Chapter and teaches wildflower classes at the Glacier Institute as well as ecology-related classes at Flathead Valley Community College.

**Wayne Phillips**
Wayne, Past-president of MNPS, has been a featured speaker throughout the northwest on Lewis and Clark and other plant related topics. He just returned from Idaho Falls where he spoke at a Horticultural Symposium sponsored by the University of Idaho Extension Service. This spring he will present programs on the plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in towns from Pierre, South Dakota to Charleston, Missouri.

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Kelsey Spring 2004
**Artemisia chapter**  
L e s l i e  M a r t y  4 4 5 - 9 1 7 8

**Calypso chapter**

Call Catherine Cain at 267-3362 for info.

May, date to be announced

The illustrious Matt Vincent has agreed to lead a field trip to point out the unusual species that inhabit the lower area of German Gulch. This will be an awesome field trip, and will likely be scheduled sometime in May, while the ground is still moist.

**Clark Fork chapter**

**Thursday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.**

With all the snow we’re getting, it should be a great flower year in the mountains. Tune up your identification skills with Clark Fork Chapter photographers for a refresher on “Montana’s High Mountain Wildflowers” Rm L09 Gallagher Business Bldg, UM Campus.

**Thursday, April 22, 6:00 p.m.**

“Mount Sentinel Phenology Field Trip.” Enjoy the parade of colors of our spring wildflowers on Mount Sentinel. This is the first of three walks led by plant ecologist Peter Stickney to explore the vernal development of Mount Sentinel’s flora. Meet at the wildflower kiosk of the Mount Sentinel trailhead. Stout walking shoes and a jacket are recommended.

**Thursday, May 6, 6:00 p.m.**

“Wildflower Phenology Field Trip #2.” Meet at the wildflower kiosk of the Mount Sentinel trailhead. Stout walking shoes and a jacket are recommended.

**Saturday, May 8, 11:00 a.m.**

Meet at the Rattlesnake trailhead and take an easy 1 1/2 mile hike to biology graduate student Tarn Ream’s research plots and learn about the “Demography of the Trillium in Montana.”

**Thursday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.**

Our “Annual Spring Potluck” will be held at the home of Elizabeth Crone, 1011 Poplar in the Lower Rattlesnake, a little more than 1 block east of Van Buren. Bring your own utensils and a dish to share. Perhaps we’ll go for a hike on Mount Jumbo after supper.

**Saturday, May 15, 9:00 a.m.-12:00**

“Native Plant Society Plant Sale.” We will be selling many species of natives including our state flower the bitterroot. We are located on the southeast end of the Farmers Market in Missoula.

**Thursday, May 20, 6:00 p.m.**

“Wildflower Phenology Field Trip #3.” Meet at the wildflower kiosk of the Mount Sentinel trailhead. Stout walking shoes and a jacket are recommended.

**Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m.**

“Dyer’s Woad Weed Pull #1.” Come help control weeds and raise money for the Clark Fork Chapter. The chapter is paid $10.00 an hour per person, up to a total of $400.00. Thirteen years ago the Dyer’s Woad infestation was 7000 plants and we are now pulling 400 plants a year. The pull takes about two hours. Meet at the Mount Sentinel trailhead. Call Marilyn at 243-6642 for info.

**Tuesday, June 8, 6:30 p.m.**

“Dyers Woad Weed Pull #2.” Meet at the Mount Sentinel trailhead. Call Marilyn at 243-6642 for more info.

**Thursday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.**

“Penstemon Party” at the home of Mike Young and Dyan Mazurana at 529 Evan Kelly Road. Hopefully up to 30 species of penstemons will be in bloom as well as a number of local and not-so-local floral members.

**Sunday, June 13, 9:30 a.m.**

“Rogers Pass Field Trip” with Wayne Phillips. See the listing under Kelsey Chapter for details.

**Tuesday, June 22, 7:00 p.m.**

“John Toole Park Weed Pull.” Come help John Pierce weed his prairie at John Toole Park on the river, east of the Higgins Street Bridge. For more information, call John at 542-2690.

**Saturday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.**

“Carole Rubin Workshop/Book Signing/ Native Plant Garden Tour.” Carole Rubin, author of How to get your lawn and garden off drugs: a basic guide to pesticide free gardening in North America and How to get your lawn off grass: a North American guide to turning off the water tap and going native will discuss gardening with native plants and waterwise gardening, followed by a book signing and a self-guided native plant garden tour. The lecture starts at 10:00 in the University Center Theater on third floor of the University Center.

**Eastern Montana**

Jennifer Walker 538-9054

**Flathead chapter**

All Flathead Chapter meetings are at the Montana Logging Association Building, 2224 Highway 35, east of Kalispell, across and just east of Hooper’s Nursery. The conference room door is at the back of the building. Call Rachel Potter (892-2446) for more information. All field trips are open to the public. Bring food, water, raingear, and a hand lens if you have one. Please leave your dogs home.

**Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.**

At 5:30 p.m. everyone is welcome to join in a working meeting. The chapter will continue to revise the Flathead Native Gardening Packet at this meeting. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for a breathtaking journey through the “Crown of the Continent Ecosystem” with a slideshow by naturalist and photographer Ralph Waldt.

**Every Tuesday in May and June**

“Bigfork Wild Mile Corridor Wildflower and Bird Walk.” 10:00 a.m. to noon. Join Anne Morley of the Native Plant Society and Neal Brown of the Flathead Audubon Society for a gentle morning of wildflower and bird identification. This is an easy 2-mile hike along the Old Swan River Road. Meet in front of Show-thyme! Restaurant in downtown Bigfork. Contact Neal at 837-5018 or neal-patt@cyberport.net for details.

**Wednesday, May 19, 6:00 p.m.**

“A Mushroom Foray” is the subject of our last evening program of the year. We will learn about finding, picking, and storing morels, and will be collecting a few to boot. Join us at the Hungry Horse Ranger District parking lot at 6:00 p.m. We will car pool from there to the collection site. Participants need to get a permit (free from the HH Ranger Dist.) for picking prior to our event. Call Dale Johnson at 250-3165 for details and a list of what to bring.

**Wednesday, May 26, 6:00 p.m.**

“Native Prairie and Old Growth Remnants along the Flathead.” Take an evening stroll along the Flathead River and discover a diverse array of species and habitats. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Malcolm Thompson property. In Columbia Falls, take Nucleus to Railroad St. and turn right. Turn right again at the Conoco Stop-and-Shop and take the first left behind the station. Stay to the left and where the road returns to the RR tracks, there is the entrance to a long driveway. Follow the posted MNPS signs to the end of the driveway. For more details, leave a message at 253-4057, and Malcolm will call you back.

**Every Tuesday, starting June 1st**

“Volunteer opportunity at the Glacier National Park Nursery” from 9:00 to 4:30 p.m. (come and leave as you choose). Help out with spring activities such as seeding, transplanting, weeding and...
cleaning. Those who are interested may also help with data management, or work on a particular research or experimental project. Bring a sack lunch, your favorite work gloves, and clothes that can tolerate dirt. Meet at the Native Plant Nursery at Glacier National Park. Contact Joyce Lapp at 888-7817 for details.

Wednesday, June 9
“Tour Two Local Native Plant Gardens.” Join Bill McClaren for a tour of the FVCC Native Plant Garden followed by a tour of his home native plant garden. Meet at the native plant garden in back of Blake Hall at the college at 7:00 p.m. Contact Bill McClaren at 257-2540 or e-mail mccl@cyberport.net. for details. Blake Hall will be available in case of rain, in which case the group will take a quick look at the garden then follow up inside with questions. The tour is less than a block long and is wheelchair accessible.

Monday, June 14
“Central School Weeding Experience and Dinner.” The Central School Native Tree site offers a wide variety of natives planted by science classes and it needs weeding. If interested, contact Jan Metzmaker, 862-7960 (home) or 862-6110 (work). Kerrie Byrne and friends have graciously offered to feed those who help with the weeding at Kerrie’s home before the event. Meet at Kerrie’s at 6:00 p.m. at 5 Fir Avenue, Whitefish (turn north off of East Second St., by Memorial Field). RSVP 862-3795 by June 11th if you plan to join us for dinner.

Wednesday, June 16, 6:00 p.m.
“Moist Forest Habitat of West Glacier.” Tara Carolin, Glacier National Park ecologist, will lead an easy 1 to 2 mile walk through a moist forest habitat of West Glacier. Learn a variety of native plants and see mountain lady’s-slippers West Glacier. Learn a variety of native plants and see mountain lady’s-slippers West Glacier. Meet at Blake Hall at the college at 7:00 p.m. Contact Bill McClaren at 257-2540 or e-mail mccl@cyberport.net. for details. Blake Hall will be available in case of rain, in which case the group will take a quick look at the garden then follow up inside with questions. The tour is less than a block long and is wheelchair accessible.

Wednesday, June 23, 9:00 a.m.
“Crystal Creek to McClellan Creek Hike” southeast of Helena. The hike is moderate, 7 miles long with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. This is a beautiful, mostly gradual, all trail hike along the northern rim of the Elkhorn Range. The leader, Andy Kukolax, will point out some of the plants, birds and geologic features along the way. Co-sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Association. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the south end of the K-Mart parking lot, on Cedar Street (Exit I-15) in Helena. Call Andy at 458-9220 to reserve a place.

MakA Flora chapter
Rebecca Kallevig 488-5455

Valley of flowers
For additional information call Joanne Jennings at 586-9585.

Monday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.
Jennifer Lyman of Billings will be speaking in Room 108 of the Agriculture Building on the MSU campus.

Saturday, May 8
A field trip to observe “Nightmare”, the knapweed sniffing dog at work. Details will be announced later.

Western Montana
Call Dennis Nicholls at 295-4768 for additional details.

Saturday, May 1, 10:00 a.m.
“The Plight of Mule Deer,” with Bruce Sterling, Wayne Johnson and Ray Rugg. Meet at Noxon School. This program will explore the plight of mule deer and their habitat and what can, and is being done to reverse their decline in the West.

Saturday, June 5, 2:00 p.m.
“Cottonwood Restoration Project” at Hereford Slough with Nate Hall. Meet in front of the Hereford Bar and Restaurant on Highway 200, 3.5 miles west of the Noxon Bridge. This will be a 2-hour field trip to learn about Avista’s efforts to restore a large tract of cottonwood habitat along the Clark Fork River.

Saturday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.
“Old Growth in Peril?” with Dan Leavell. Meet at the Bull River Historic Ranger Station for a field trip up the East Fork Bull River to examine various stands of old growth, from ponderosa pine to cedar-hemlock. Bring a lunch and water for this all-day field trip.

Montana Native Plant Sale
Saturday, May 15 9–12 a.m.
Farmers’ Market in Missoula
Rep Rap with Western Rep. Dennis Nicholls

Heavy snow and extreme cold in the far western corner of Montana made early January seem like real winter. Duh! It is real winter that time of the year. But then unusually mild and dry conditions made late January and all of February feel like spring. The snow has disappeared from the lowest elevations on south-facing slopes in the lower Clark Fork Valley and I have already started training my eye to spot the first buttercup of the season. A bit premature, I know, but when bare ground is bathed in glorious sunshine on a warm afternoon—even if it is February—it’s hard not to wish for a little color on the drab brown dirt. (Editor’s note: Dennis has since reported seeing his first buttercup.)

Not that we didn’t enjoy winter this year in this part of Montana. All that snow we got over the Christmas and New Year’s holidays made for a firm, deep snowpack for the first program of the year in the Bull River Outdoors series. In late January Erich Pfalzer led a group of neophytes on a trip into the Cabinets looking at and identifying tracks in the snow.

MNPS, along with the Cabinet Resource Group and the Cabinet Ranger District of the Kootenai National Forest, sponsor these nature education programs in the Naxon area. These programs are now entering the tenth year. It is quite a milestone and one that the organizers are very proud of.

Programs coming up this spring and summer include a slideshow about a man and his wife’s 2,000-mile adventure down the length of the Yukon River by kayak (April 3) and a close look at a cottonwood habitat restoration project (June 5). With the controversy surrounding old growth forests on the Kootenai National Forest, Forest Ecologist Dan Leavell is going to take us on a field trip to learn about old growth up the East Fork Bull River on June 19. And our own Pete Lesica will make his annual pilgrimage to western Sanders County for the 6th Annual Exploding Car Battery Hike, this year scheduled for Rock Creek Meadows on August 7.

You are all welcome to join us for any of these activities. For more information contact Dennis at dennis@keokee.com or call Susan at 406-827-3533 (Cabinet Ranger Station office). For now I can still be contacted at hikingfool@frontiernet.net or call 406-295-4768. Happy Spring everyone!

Calypso Chapter is Busy with Projects

On a bright and beautiful winter weekday, some Calypso members met with biology students from Montana Tech and their professor, Martha Apple, to venture to an area on the extreme southwest slope of Big Butte. The students are attempting winter propagation of hardwood cuttings. Cuttings were taken from some hardy Bebb’s willow found in the area, and brought back to the Montana Tech greenhouse to propagate. In addition, Kriss Douglass brought the students some Scoular’s willow cuttings that she had earlier obtained in the Mill Creek area. Students will also attempt to grow Ribes from a winter-harvested stalk.

In 2002, Montana Tech generously donated a small plot near the BioChem Building on which the chapter was able to establish a native garden. The plot is 15’ by 30’ and has been planted with various native species, including echinacea, sweetgrass, currant, and snowberry. The garden will be two years old this summer and is due for a good weeding as soon as weather permits. Kriss Douglass will alert us when the big “weed pull” will take place.

Also this summer, we hope to have an opportunity to volunteer our services to help the George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited with a project the GGTU is presently writing a grant for. The project, if successfully funded, will entail inter-planting native species in the weed patches that abound near German Gulch near Fairmont. If the project is funded a test site will be established and it will be a fun opportunity for Calypso members to get together and make a contribution.

The native plants growing on or near the “Big M” may soon benefit from a community effort known as “Big Butte Open Spaces.” The purpose of this effort is to acquire property for the public that is currently owned by Montana Mining Properties. This property acquisition would allow the city/county to manage the lands on Big Butte in ways that are protective of native species and would halt the spreading of noxious weeds by limiting motorized vehicle use on steep slopes, tearing out trails, and revegetating eroded soils. The Calypso Chapter will be drafting an endorsement of this plan and welcomes your input.

Debbie Mueller

Your Membership is Due!

MNPS memberships expired March 1, 2004. Renewal notices were mailed on a postcard to each MNPS member in January. Please make sure to update any address, phone, or e-mail changes and respond with your membership dues to MNPS, P.O. Box 8783, Missoula, MT 59807. Make checks payable to the MNPS. If you have questions regarding the price of memberships, please visit the website at: www.umt.edu/mnps/membershipform.htm

The annual Field Trip Booklet will be out by May 1. Please submit entries to the Editors by the April 10 deadline.

Native Plants and Birds of Peru

Peru is a country of amazing geological and biological diversity. On this educational adventure to Peru we will explore the native plants of the Peruvian Andes and Amazon. Walking with scientists, professors and tribal people we will explore some of the ecological zones, agricultural crops, medicinal plants and traditional uses of Peru’s native plants. The program runs from Aug. 31st - Sept. 15th with an extension to Lake Titicaca to the 19th. For more info go to: www.crookedtrails.com/peru. Crooked Trails is a non-profit community based tourism organization based in Seattle.

Christine Mackay
**MNPS Chapters & the Areas They Serve:**

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER - Yellowstone and Carbon counties; southeastern/south-central Montana  
CALYPSO CHAPTER - Beaverhead, Madison, Deer Lodge and Silver Bow counties; southwestern Montana  
CLARK FORK CHAPTER - Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell and Ravalli counties  
FLATHEAD CHAPTER - Flathead and Lake counties plus Glacier National Park  
KELSEY CHAPTER - Lewis & Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater counties  
MAKA FLORA CHAPTER - Richland, Roosevelt, McCone, Sheridan and Daniels counties  
VALLEY OF FLOWERS CHAPTER - Gallatin, Park and Sweet Grass counties plus Yellowstone National Park

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

Your mailing label tells you the following:

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP: See I, II, III, IV below  
CHAPTER AFFILIATION: ART=Artemisia; CAL=Calypso; CF=Clark Fork; F=Flathead; K=Kelsey; MF=Maka Flora; VOF=Valley of Flowers  
DATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: If your label reads “2/99” your membership expired February 28, 1999. Use this form to renew your membership TODAY! Please drop us a note if any information on your label is incorrect. Please notify us promptly of address changes.

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

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**MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

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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, meeting notices, book reviews or anything that relates to native plants or the Society. Please include a line or two of “bio” information with each article. Drawings should be in black ink or a good quality photocopy. All submissions should be mailed to Kelsey Editors, 314 Travis Creek Rd., Clancy, MT 59634. All items should be typed and put on a 3.5” disk and saved in Microsoft Word or rich text format (rtf.) for a PC. Please include a hard copy with your disk. They can also be sent electronically in the same format as above to: drakekath64@msn.com

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; 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 Editors, write to the above address or e-mail: drakekath64@msn.com

Visit our website at: www.umt.edu/mnps/ or contact our webmaster Marilyn Marler at: marler@bigsky.net

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