

Summer Field Trip Guide 2023

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

"...to preserve, conserve and study Montana's native plants & plant communities."

mtnativeplants.org



MNPS Field Trip Guidelines

Enjoy a wide variety of fabulous Montana field trips this summer with the Montana Native Plant Society. Led by ecologists, botanists and natural scientists, these trips offer enriching and fun opportunities to get out and explore Montana's abundant beauty.

This guide is arranged by date so you can coordinate your summer Montana travel with an outing near your destination. You might even want to target a destination.

Please always contact the listed trip leader for the most current information. This guide, prepared in early spring, cannot anticipate the many changes that may occur throughout the summer due to changes in the weather, fires or other unforeseen events.

The trips vary from easy to difficult. Please read each description and contact the trip leader with your questions to ensure that the trip meets your expectations, physical abilities and circumstances.

Please leave dogs and firearms at home in fairness to other participants and wildlife.

Some trips are more child-friendly than others. Check with your trip leader.

Be prepared for Montana's instantaneous weather changes. Please wear appropriate clothes and shoes. Bring food, water, extra clothes, rain gear, sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses, hat and any other personal gear you might need. You also may want to bring your favorite field guides and a notebook for recording species you see.

If you have a health condition, including allergies, that could affect you during the field trip, please tell the trip leader and carry necessary medications.

Be aware of wildlife that you might encounter and know how to behave to avoid conflicts. You may encounter bear, deer, elk, moose, snakes, mountain lions, wasps and other species.

MNPS assumes no liability for personal injury or loss of property on MNPS-sponsored field trips. Each participant may be required to sign an attendance sheet and liability waiver before starting the field trip.

Is Your Membership Current?

Please check the date on your mailing label to make sure you are current. If it says "2023" it means that your membership has expired and this will be the last mailing you will get from MNPS unless you renew. Renew online at

https://www.mtnativeplants.org/membership/.

May

Thursday, May 4 – Annual Milltown State Park Flower Count (Missoula). 5:30 p.m. Clare Beelman - Leader. Celebrate National Wildflower Week on this most beautiful walk-through in Milltown State Park. The many diverse plant species in bloom along the Overlook Trail will be identified and catalogued in this annual assessment. A checklist of more than 20 species will be provided. From the parking area the trail gently drops to the cliff that overlooks the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers and then works its way through mixed ponderosa forest down to the flood plain of the Clark Fork River. For more information and to register (by May 1) contact Clare Beelman at clare.beelman@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 11 - Migrations & Springtime Budding (Creston). 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Join Steve Gniadek and Kathy Ross, with Flathead Audubon and Montana Native Plant Society for birding along the Fish Hatchery trails where native spring ephemerals will brighten the walk on an easy trail. An abundance of migratory (as well as local) birds will be returning. Dippers, Swans, Osprey, Eagles and Warblers are a few of the birds we will see. We will share ideas on how we can encourage our birds by protecting and promoting our native plant communities. This field trip is limited to 12 participants. For more information and to sign up contact Kathy at <a href="mailto:mthats-missing-mis

Saturday, May 13 - Spring BBQ (Sidney). 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Join Maka Flora chapter for a cookout and short hike along the Yellowstone River at Richland Park just north of Sidney. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided but please bring a side dish or beverages to share. RSVP with Fraser Watson at **703-509-0152** or dfw9sb@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 14 - Mother's Day Wildflower Walk with Yaak Valley Forest Council (Troy). 10:00 a.m. Low elevation walk to Shannon Lake. Tucked in the northern foothills of the Cabinet Mountains, the Shannon Lake trail winds through a narrow forested basin with little elevation gain. Along the trail we will visit about native and non-native plants, with a major focus on wildflower identification, as we take in expansive views of the Kootenai River Valley and the south end of the Purcell Mountain Range. Register at https://wildmontana.org/events/.

Wednesday, May 17 - Flathead Rain Garden Initiative Workshop (Whitefish). 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The FRGI will teach participants about rain gardens: what they are, how they work, why they're helpful and the how-to's on designing and building a rain garden in your yard. The evening will include a tour of Center for Native Plants to learn about the native plants used in this program as well as information on the free resources available to landowners in Flathead County. This event is hosted by the Flathead Rain Garden Initiative, Flathead Basin Commission, Flathead Conservation District and Center for Native Plants. For information or to fill out required registration required visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/553640041267.

Saturday, May 20 - Native Plants on the Blue Mountain Nature Trail with Blue Mountain Nature Tours (Missoula). 10:30 a.m. Join Elena Ulev, a Montana Master Naturalist and Certified Interpretive Guide, to learn about native Montana wildflowers, shrubs, trees and lichens. Lunch will be provided following the walk, part of the Shining Mountains Chapter's "Spring into Summer" event at Fort Missoula. Register at https://wildmontana.org/events/.



Saturday, May 20 - The Hogback (Livingston). Climb the ridge trail atop this prominent geological feature on private land in the foothills on the west side of the Paradise Valley. The south face of this steep, knife-edged ridge hosts rocky, xeric plant communities, while the north side supports coniferous forest and associated understory plants. Moderately strenuous two to four miles walking, elevation gain of 1,500 feet (to about 6,600 feet). Hiking poles may be helpful for steep sections; rattlesnakes may be present. This hike affords fabulous views of the Paradise Valley and Absaroka Mountains. The hike will conclude by mid-afternoon. To sign up contact leader Gretchen Rupp at beesgrmt@gmail.com or 406-586-8363 (don't hesitate to leave a message).

Wednesday, May 24 - Orchids of the Pig Farm Trail System (Whitefish/Kalispell). 9:30 a.m. Join Pat Jaquith on an exploratory hike at the Pig Farm trail system (DNRC lands on Farm to Market Road, northwest of Kalispell). We will look for two varieties and a hybrid of *Calypso bulbosa* (fairy slipper orchids); coral root, and whatever else we can find! Expect an easy pace on moderately difficult trails. Pouring rain will cancel this trip. For more information or to sign up contact Pat at pjaquith07@gmail.com.

Wednesday, May 24 - Columbia Mountain Wildflowers (Columbia Falls). 6:00 p.m. The Columbia Mountain Trail is a flower lover's paradise. Join Tara Carolin for an evening wildflower walk. We will travel through many habitat types – from moist forests to dry open slopes. Expect an easy pace with lots of stops to view big, bold blossoms like those of balsamroot, and less conspicuous beauties that include orchids and mitreworts. The hike will be moderately difficulty (about two miles and 500 feet elevation gain). This walk will be limited to 15 participants. For more information or to sign up contact Tara at montara96@gmail.com or **406-607-7670**.

Wednesday, May 24 – Jon Gulch, Thompson Park (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. An easy evening walk with Krystal Weilage in a shady canyon with forest to wetland settings, hoping to discover the elusive calypso orchid. Sign up is required. Please contact Karen Porter at 406-498-9728, or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 27 - Pryor Mountains. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Join botanists Jennifer Lyman and Doug Reynolds to explore various habitats on the southern side of the Pryors where we will see plant species that are northern extensions of the Great Basin Flora. Depending on time and weather we may also visit habitats at higher elevations. Limit of 12. Register at Jenclyman@gmail.com. Details about meeting time and place will be sent to registered participants.

Saturday, May 27 – Mt. Jumbo Sound of Music Trail – Lincoln Hills Trailhead (Missoula). 8:45 a.m. Anne Garde - Leader. The Sound of Music Trail is so lovely, you'll want to burst into song. It breaks off from one of the wide four-mile loop trails on the Jumbo saddle and cuts a single track through abundant flowers - balsamroot, larkspur, paintbrush and more - then back to the main trail. It's over three miles up and down hill; long but not steep. The views of the valley are beautiful. Bring water and snacks. Call Annie for details at **406-274-8648**.

June

Saturday, June 3 - Phipps Park (Billings). 9:00 a.m. Easy to moderate 3.1 mile hike up the Phipps Park West Loop. This loop starts out in the flat sagebrush steppe/grassland and climbs up the butte ~450 ft to great views and ponderosa pine woodland along the sandstone cliffs of the rimrocks. Beautiful scenery and a diverse variety of early summer flowers as you move between different microclimates. Contact megan.poulette@rocky.edu to register, ask questions, and get directions.

Saturday, June 3 or 10 - Lindy Peak (Libby). 9:00 a.m. Moderate 6-mile round trip hike. Trail goes through a burned area (2017 fire), then follows a gentle ridge to the top where there are remnants of a tree-stand fire lookout built in 1910. Vegetation is in different stages of recovery. *Lomatium geyeri* has been seen on the trail. Meet in Libby at 9:00 a.m. Contact Jon Reny for more information at <u>jreny@kvis.net</u>.

Sunday, June 4 - An Up-close Look at the World of Lichens (Butte). Time TBA. A multi-stop tour with Mike Garverich to sites showcasing the beauty and diversity of our native lichens in the Fish Creek drainage and Highlands foothills south of Butte. Sign up is required. Please contact Karen Porter at **406-498-9728** or <u>karenwporter44@gmail.com</u>.

Wednesday, June 7 – Whitefish Trail Wildflower Walk (Whitefish). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Meander through the woods and learn about the wide array of colorful wildflowers that line the Whitefish Trail with Whitefish Legacy Partners and Diane Lundgren of MNPS. Identify local wildflowers and noxious weeds using the hand lenses and field guides provided during this two- to three-mile hike. This event is free and suitable for all ages and abilities. Registration is required at www.whitefishlegacy.org/guided-learning-hikes.

Saturday, June 10 - Billings Rims Exploration (Billings). 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Exact location is TBD, but this exploration will be close to Billings in the eastern part of Zimmerman Park or the Back 9. Plan on a three- to four-mile excursion with rolling trails. Flowers will depend on weather conditions. Meet at Zimmerman park at 9:30 a.m. Contact Sandra Abraham at 406-671-7442 (please leave a voicemail) or email at abrahamj17@gmail.com. This outing will be limited to ten.

Sunday, June 11 - Johnson Terraces (NW Whitefish). 10:00 a.m. Excursion to Johnson Terraces led by Flathead National Forest Botanist, Ryan Quire, and member Leslie Kermath. This gentle hike will take us to species-rich bedrock meadows NW of Whitefish. The shallow, moss-covered soils are flooded by seeps in spring and dry up quickly as summer approaches. This results in a unique and varied flora of bulbed, taprooted, and annual plants; many are very small. We might even find the tiny, rare native *Idahoa scapigera* (Scalepod). Bring lunch, water, wildflower guide and a hand lens if you have one. Meeting time/location: 10:00 a.m. at Grouse Mountain Lodge tennis court rest area parking in Whitefish. This outing includes a two-mile round-trip walk and a one-hour drive each way. To sign-up & questions contact Leslie at <u>lk wf@yahoo.com</u>.

Sunday, June 11 – Highland Mtns. Subalpine Meadow (Butte). Time TBA.A late morning walk in the Highland Mountains foothills at peak-bloom led by Krystal Weilage and Karen Porter. Sign up is required. Please contact Karen Porter at **406-498-9728** or karenwporter44@gmail.com.





Mid-June – Plant survey of the Crazy D Ranch (Melville, Sweet Grass County). All day. Jeff Copeland and Matt Lavin will lead a field trip on the Crazy D Ranch, a large, conservation cattle ranch. Ranch habitats include native grasslands, agricultural lands/disturbed grasslands (tame wheatgrass/dryland alfalfa), sagebrush steppe, riparian, and wetland. Sweet Grass Creek runs through the property, with cottonwood gallery forest, and beavers are actively being encouraged to pioneer the area. The ranch operators are interested in MNPS visiting and conducting a plant survey. The exact date of the field trip will be determined after a preliminary reconnaissance, and registered participants will be notified by text in early June. Contact Jeff Copeland at ceeland777@protonmail.com or Matt Lavin at mlavin@montana.edu to register.

Saturday, June 17 - Bitterroot Knob (Libby). 10:00 a.m. Easy one-mile round trip hike. This site supports a large population of the state flower and other species found in open, rocky slopes and on bedrock meadows. Site is a south facing, open slope above the Kootenai River. The trail has a few short segments where care must be taken because of loose rock. Meet in Libby at 10:00 a.m. Contact Jon Reny for more information at ireny@kvis.net.

Saturday, June 17 - Chalk Buttes (Ekalaka). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Plant hikes in Custer National Forest and the Chalk Buttes south of Ekalaka. Camping options at Ekalaka Park Campground for those interested on Friday, June 16. We hope to find some SE Montana endemics including *Astragalus racemosus, Eriogonum visheri*, and *Oonopsis multicaulis* which grow in clay soils from Pierre shale in the Chalk Buttes. RSVP with Fraser Watson at **703-509-0152** or dfw9sb@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 17- Big Snowy Alpine Wildflower walk (Lewistown). 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Join Kelsey Molloy and Jim Hanson for a hike in the Big Snowy Mountains. Meet at the Ulhorn Trail Head. We will go up in elevation with the hopes of seeing Jones' columbine in bloom. Along the way we'll see a number of forest species and alpine species like alpine forget-me-not, king's crown, and Parry's Townsend daisy. Wear hiking boots and bring water, sunscreen, and a lunch. The hike is about four miles round trip. Sign up with Kelsey at kelseym88@gmail.com or **406-654-4566**.

Saturday, June 17 - Onion Park RNA (Great Falls). 9:00 a.m. Come along with Matthew Stewart and Klara Varga as we venture into the Little Belt Mountains south of Monarch. This field trip includes stops at Belt Park and Onion Park Research Natural Area, among others. These areas are botanically-rich, featuring a high amount of plant diversity, so there should be lots to see. Join us as we explore upper-montane to subalpine meadows and forests. We will meet at the northeast corner of the 10th Avenue South Walmart parking lot, by the gas station, at 9:00 a.m. Group size is limited to 15. Things to bring: Lunch, water, your botany book of choice, a hand lens, and of course, a spirit of adventure. Please register at kelseychaptersignup@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 17 - Native Plant Garden Tour (S. Whitefish). 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Chapter members are invited to tour this native plant garden created by Rebecca A. Durham. Rebecca is a poet, botanist and artist who has transformed part of her lawn into a beautiful native plant oasis. Participants will learn about the transformation process, landscaping tips and ideas, as well as enjoying the prolific display of blooms. This will be a leisurely summer evening with pizza provided for all participants! Bring your own drinks, utensils, and side dishes to share. For questions or to RSVP contact Rebecca at agoseris@gmail.com. All signups are due by June 12th and participants will receive the address after registering. Please make note of dietary restrictions when registering.

Sunday, June 18 - Lubec Trail Wildflowers (Columbia Falls / Glacier National Park). 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Co-hosted trip with MNPS and GOB (Great Old Broads) to view the magnificent views and prolific wildflower displays of the Lubec Lake Trail system in GNP. Meet at Columbia Heights and Route 206 Park and Ride area at 9:00 a.m. Be prepared for the weather, hiking three to four miles with considerable elevation gain. Bring lunch and hiking poles. This trip is limited to 12 participants. For more information or to sign up, contact Pat at pjaquith07@gmail.com.

Friday, June 23 - Weed Rodeo on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River (West Glacier). Help keep noxious weeds from taking over our precious Flathead River! This is the 19th year of volunteers and West Glacier companies showing they care all while having fun! Raft companies will take volunteers on the upper portions and private boaters will cover the West Glacier to Blankenship areas. An expert will assist each group with weed identification. All participants will gather in the afternoon at Wild River for a barbeque and prizes. For questions or to register visit https://riverweedrodeo.blogspot.com/.

Saturday, June 24 - Old North Trail Wildflower Ramble (Dupuyer). Join Dave and Genevieve Shea for a three mile hike through prairie and foothill wildflowers, across the Old North Trail and grizzly country. We will be on the Boone & Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch and will cross the prairie toward North Fork Canyon and Walling Reef. Plant/wildlife identification and discussion of the history and spectacular geology of the area will be covered. We expect to see more than 75 species of wildflowers, as well as tipi rings and features of the Old North Trail. Cosponsored by Wild Montana. Pre-registration is required. Sign-up begins one month before the event date at wildmontana.org/walks.

Wednesday, June 28 – Musselshell Plains Native Plants (Roundup). 3:00 p.m. Aaron Clausen will lead a leisurely exploration across a variety of habitats on Bill and Dana Milton's ranch – the first recipients of Montana's Leopold Award. Time permitting, we will visit two to three locations on the ranch with a diversity of habitats, including short-grass prairie, sage-steppe, rock outcrops, and conifer hills. We will see a number of charismatic prairie flora, likely including downy paintbrush, sego lily, locoweed, milkwort, and many grasses. The group will meet at the Roundup IGA at 3:00 p.m., carpooling, and arriving at the ranch around 3:30 p.m. Plan for sun exposure and short walks from the car at multiple locations. To sign up, email Aaron at aaron.clausen@wwfus.org.

July

Saturday, July 1 - Floral Response in the Bridger Foothills Fire (Bozeman). 9:00 a.m. Join Vicki Saab and Beth Madden to explore the pioneering plant life within the 2020 Bridger Foothills Fire perimeter. This is an opportunity to visit a recent burn and learn about post-fire ecology, including plant responses and relationships to forest fires and burned landscapes. Since the fire, glacier lilies, pasqueflower, and prairie smoke have been profuse in the early spring, followed by an abundance of western showy aster, larkspur, arrowleaf balsamroot, sticky geranium, and flowering shrubs. Birders may want to bring binoculars to enjoy the post-fire bird community as well. Limit 12 people. Registration required. For more information or to register contact Beth Madden at bethmadden64@gmail.com.

Dates TBD – Weed Pull at Adopted Trailheads (Butte). Times TBA. The Calypso Chapter will be conducting their annual commitment with the Adopt a Trailhead Program (AATP) for noxious weed maintenance. To sign up contact Karen Porter at **406-498-9728**, or karenwporter44@gmail.com.



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Saturday, July 1 – Wildflower Extravaganza in the Vipond Meadows (Butte). Time TBA. Join Kriss Douglass in this classic wildflower event in the northern East Pioneers. Registration is required. To sign up contact Kriss Douglass at **406-782-9060** or samjd@montana.com.

Saturday, July 1– Peterson Ranch (Drummond). 10:00 a.m. Leader: Mary Ellyn DuPre. The Peterson Ranch is about 6.5 miles southwest of Drummond and is part of the Five Valleys Land Trust. The ranch is comprised of intermountain grasslands with a wide variety of grasses and forbs. The hike will be a three- to four-mile walk up a gentle to moderate slope across open rangeland. Please bring a lunch and water. To carpool from Missoula we will meet at Eastgate Shopping Center (Albertsons) on east Broadway at 9:00 a.m. and leave at 9:10 a.m. Directions to ranch: Take Highway 1 south from I-90 exit at Drummond about 2.5 miles to the old Mullan Road. Turn right and proceed about four miles up Mullan Road and we will meet at a gate with a FVLT sign. To register contact Paul Buck at paul7703@gmail.com or **970-901-2418**.

Sunday, July 2 - Lichens and Wildflowers in the Big Belts (Helena / Townsend). 9:30 a.m. Join us for an easy hike along the ski trail above the Skidway campground in Deep Creek Canyon. Andrea Pipp will introduce us to a variety of foliose and fruticose lichen in the first 1/2 mile of the hike. Then we will continue on with an easy two-mile loop hike to check out forest and mountain meadow wildflowers. Parking at the trailhead is limited so we will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Albertsons on Fee Street in Helena to carpool together. OR, if you are coming from Bozeman, please locate a parking spot near the campground and walk to meet us at the trailhead by 9:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Connie at **406-437-2793** or connieinmt@aol.com.

Saturday, July 8 - Terry Badlands Wilderness (Terry). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Moderately strenuous hike along the Calypso Trail and Yellowstone River in the Terry Badlands BLM Wilderness Study Area north of Terry. Camping options at Terry Badlands Overlook for those interested on Friday, July 7. We should see *Astragalus ceramicus, Castilleja*, and *Penstemon* species which occur in the sandy soils of the badlands. RSVP with Fraser Watson at **703-509-0152** or dfw9sb@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 8 - North Fork Forests & Fire (Columbia Falls/Northfork of the Flathead River). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Join Steve Wirt, retired USFS forester and fire manager, where he will discuss fire history over the past 30 years. Emphasis on plant response, identification, and forest succession before and after fires. There may be an opportunity to view the Hay Creek fire of 2021. Hiking the Hornet Lookout trail will be the highlight of the day. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a sack lunch and plenty of water. Meet at Super One parking lot in Columbia Falls at 8:30 a.m., to carpool up the Northfork of the Flathead River. The trip is limited to 15 people. To sign up contact Steve at **406-261-2542**.

Saturday, July 8 - Hall Creek Bitterroot Walk with Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance (Badger-Two Medicine). Join MNPS member, Lou Bruno on this wildflower-focused walk into the Hall Creek portion of the Badger-Two Medicine Area. The leisurely walk offers outstanding views of Glacier National Park as it passes through a delightful variety of plant communities from aspen parks to meadows to conifer forests. A magical setting to learn why protecting the Badger is so important. Pre-registration is required. Sign-up begins one month before the event date at <u>wildmontana.org/walks</u>.

Thursday, July 13 - Bitterroot Bloom on Yeager Flats (Choteau). Dave and Genevieve Shea will lead this moderately difficult, five-mile round-trip hike through limber pine savannah, narrow-leafed cottonwood groves, sagebrush, Douglas-fir/Englemann spruce forest, and a portion of the Ear Mountain Fire, which was started by lightning strike in 2000. A great variety of shrubs, grasses, and forbs, including bitterroot and several orchids, grow in these habitats. Clark's nutcrackers and other birds are common, and prairie falcons nest on cliff faces. This is also good mule deer, elk, mountain sheep, and black and grizzly bear country. We'll discuss some archeology and history, as well as Rocky Mountain Front geology, wildlife, and management issues. This hike is cosponsored by Wild Montana. Registration begins one month before the event date on Wild Montana's web page using the calendar at wildmontana.org/walks.

Friday, July 14 – Crail Ranch Garden Tour and Hike (Big Sky). 1:00 p.m. Top off your visit to the Big Sky Wildflower Festival with a tour of the Crail Gardens located at the Historic Crail Ranch. Built in 2019, the gardens use native plants that are wildlife friendly, water wise, and sensitive to the historic landscape. The garden tour will be followed by a guided hike to view blooming plants in the meadow and surrounding forests. We'll hike at "plant identification pace" for about 1.5 miles, but folks are welcome to continue on and enjoy the full four-mile loop if they like. This event is part of the Big Sky Wildflower Festival, that runs July 10-14, with a variety of free and fun events and educational workshop throughout the week. Full details can be found on the events page of www.gallatinisa.org. Crail Gardens is located at 2100 Spotted Elk Road, Big Sky. For more information, contact leader Jen Mohler of the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance at jen@gallatinisa.org or 406-209-0905.

Saturday, July 15 - Tepee Mountain / Newton Mountain (Troy). 8:30 a.m. Join Peter Lesica on this ridge hike that is near the southern end of the Yaak River. After a mile and a moderate push, we hit the ridge just below Tepee Mountain (5,761'). Then follow the ridge north towards Newton Mountain (6,538'). Expect to see an assortment of mid-elevation plants on the way to the ridge, and once on the ridge, we should find numerous grasses. Meet in Troy at Stein's Grocery Store at 8:30 a.m. Contact Jon Reny for more information at jreny@kvis.net.

Tuesday, July 18 - Sqaylth-kwum Trail Plant & Flower ID Hike with Cube Iron Cataract Coalition (Thompson Falls). Join us for a slower paced hike with plenty of stops to identify plants, wildflower, and trees along the trail and enjoy beautiful views to the valley below. The trail is 4.5 miles long, but our group's plans will be flexible to allow for reflection on our surroundings. Even a short distance will be educational for all participants! Walk cosponsored by Wild Montana. Registration begins one month before the event date on Wild Montana's web page using the calendar at wildmontana.org/walks.

Tuesday, July 18 - Glacier National Park Weed Blitz (West Glacier). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Join fellow citizens in removing invasive plants from priority sites in GNP. Park biologist, Dawn LaFleur, will train participants on identification and effective hand-pulling techniques for targeted weed species. The morning will focus on learning about invasive plant ecology, issues, and identification. We will head into the field during the afternoon. Bring some muscles, water, and gloves. Lunch will be provided by the Glacier National Park Conservancy. RSVP by July 11 at glac_citizen_science@nps.gov or **406-888-7986**.





Sunday, July 23 - Beartooth Highway (Red Lodge). 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join botanists Jenny Lyman and Doug Reynolds to make several stops along the Beartooth Highway with short walks to visit different alpine habitats such as timberline, fell fields, snow beds and bogs to see what's in flower. Limit of 12. Register at pinyon51@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, July 26 - Sprunger-Whitney Nature Trail (Swan Lake). 10:00 a.m. Join Friends of the Wild Swan for a guided naturalist hike on the Sprunger-Whitney Nature Trail. The forest will be carpeted with wildflowers and the air filled with the warbles of songbirds. Anne Morley, naturalist and botanist, will be your guide. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing for the weather. Binoculars not required but recommended. The two-mile loop trail meanders through a low elevation old-growth forest with interpretive and plant identification signs along the route. Please contact Anne at 406-886-2242 to let her know you are coming so she can contact you in case of inclement weather. Directions: Take Hwy. 83 approximately 7 miles south of Swan Lake. Turn right 1/2 mile south of mile marker 64 and follow the sign to the trailhead.

Saturday, July 29 – Nocturnal Pollinator Bioblitz (West Glacier). Join Glacier National Park in its citizen science program to better understand the diversity and vulnerability of nocturnal pollinators as these fascinating creatures are critical to the success of many rare plants and provide a major food source for grizzly bears. Stay tuned to website for more information at https://www.nps.gov/rlc/crown/citizen-science or contact glac-citizen-science on guestions.

Date TBD (Late July or August) - In search of Spiranthes diluvialis in Bloom. (Helena / Three Forks). Join Andrea Pipp (MTNHP Botanist) and Larry Urban (MDT Wetland Mitigation Specialist) on an easy outing to find Spiranthes diluvialis (Ute Ladies'-tresses), an orchid that is also federally listed as threatened. We'll discover how to identify this beautiful orchid, discuss its unique life history, learn about its distribution, how it got listed, and more! Plan to carpool either from Helena or Three Forks and pack a lunch. It's best to find it in flower, so we will select a date and develop logistics once we get a sense of this summer's phenology. We are aiming for a Saturday or Sunday outing in late July to late August. If you are interested in attending, contact Andrea Pipp at apipp@mt.gov or 406-439-0294 and give her your name and contact information.

August

Wednesday, August 2 - Birch Lake Wildflowers (Jewel Basin). Join Wild Montana for your chance to learn some Rocky Mountain wildflowers. Your leaders will have plant identification books on hand to help you revel in the Jewel Basin's floral wonders. If you enjoy nature sketching or plein air painting, bring your journal & supplies. While at the lake we'll learn about the area's status as recommended wilderness and its implications for this gem of the Swan Range. Pre-registration is required. Sign up begins one month before the event date at wildmontana.org/walks.

Saturday, August 5 - Flatiron Mtn. and Rainbow Lake (Libby). 9:00 a.m. Moderate 4.5-mile round trip, 1,500-ft elevation gain. Trail follows a gentle ridge to the top of Flatiron Mountain (5,787-ft). Excellent views of surrounding area as we walk through a mixture of openings and wooded areas. If time permits, we will visit Rainbow Lake, a mid-elevation, shallow mountain lake. Sundew was found here at the 2022 Annual Meeting. Meet in Libby at 9:00 a.m. Contact Jon Reny for more information at jreny@kvis.net.

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Saturday, August 12 - Prairie Potholes (Comertown). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Easy hikes along prairie potholes and salt playa wetlands in the NE corner of Montana. Opportunities for bird watching as well as unique plants including *Mirabilis albida* and *Helianthus* species. RSVP with Fraser Watson at **703-509-0152** or dfw9sb@gmail.com.

Saturday, August 12 - Krause Creek Restoration (Bigfork). 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. MNPS members are invited to view Don and Mary Gardner's conservation project on Krause Creek as well as their extensive efforts in land stewardship. River Design Group and the Flathead Conservation district (plus many volunteers) implemented a unique Low-Tech Processed Based Restoration technique (LTPBR) in hopes of curtailing signification erosion that impacts native plant communities, wildlife, and water quality in Echo Lake. Participants will have an exclusive look into this unique restoration project! For questions or to sign up contact hailey@centerfornativeplants.com.

Saturday, August 12 - Bitterroot River Riparian Walk with Peter Lesica (Hamilton). 9:00 a.m. We will explore riparian areas north of Hamilton. Easy walking along river bottom and banks with wet ground, so bring boots or sandals. Bring a lunch. Meet at the southwest end of Walmart parking lot near Hwy. 93 South and Miller Creek Road at 9:00 a.m. or at the east end of Chief Looking Glass Road by the campground at 9:30 a.m. We hope to return by 5:00 p.m. Limit 12 people. To register email Peter Lesica at lesica.peter@gmail.com.

September

Saturday, September 23 - Lichens of the Bitterroot Mountains (Stevensville). 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Join Laura Johnston, botanist at Bitterroot National Forest, to explore lichens of the Bitterroot Valley. Expect an easy, slow-paced walk on the Bass Creek Nature Trail (#391) and along Bass Creek if time allows. Meet at the Nature Trail Trailhead at 9:30 a.m., returning to cars by 12:00 p.m. Parking available at trailhead (46.575976, -114.135454). Trail info can be found at https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/bitterroot/recreation/bicycling/recarea/?recid=60640&actid=50. We'll talk about the unique lichen communities of the Bitterroot Mountains, as well as meet the common species of the foothills and riparian areas. Bring a snack, water, and a hand lens (if you have one!). Limit 12 people. To register email, text or call Laura Johnston at laura.johnsto@gmail.com or 484-802-4981.

Saturday, September 23 - Rosebud Battlefield State Park (Billings). 7:30 a.m. Meet at the Audubon Center at 7:30 a.m. (7026 S. Billings Boulevard) to carpool from Billings. It is a two-hour drive from there to the Battlefield. Leaders will be Mark Taylor and Wendy Velman. Our field trip will assemble at the Battlefield's parking lot at 9:30 a.m. This little-visited park holds great cultural significance. It is named for a major battle that was fought here on 17 June 1876. The site also includes an impressive buffalo jump and several petroglyphs. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is planning a survey of vegetation in the park this summer, so we hope to hear about it. Group size is limited to no more than 30 individuals. Note that this is a remote location. The closest amenities are an hour away.

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MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MARIA MANTAS MNPS MEMBERSHIP 13786 RIDGE LOOP ROAD BIGFORK, MT 59911 CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED