

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society



Montana Has a New Important Plant Area



By Beverly Skinner (Flathead Chapter), Peter Lesica (Clark Fork Chapter),
& Pat Jaquith (Flathead Chapter)



Threatened Spalding's catchfly,
(*Silene spaldingii*) at LTNWR

In early November, the MNPS Board of Directors approved Montana's tenth Important Plant Area (IPA). This new IPA occurs almost entirely on Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge approximately 38 road miles west of Kalispell. The 9,225-acre Lost Trail NWR was established in 1999 in Pleasant Valley and is a mosaic of wetlands, streams, forested hillsides, salt flats, rock outcroppings and over a thousand acres of native bunchgrass prairie. It also includes the large, but shallow, Dahl Lake. A total of 360 native plant species have currently been documented on the Refuge.

The IPA designation was bestowed on Lost Trail primarily because there is a large population (>500 plants) of Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*) scattered across the mostly intact native grasslands. Spalding's catchfly is listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has

designated Lost Trail a Key Conservation Area for the recovery of this listed species. Primarily due to the wide range of habitat types on the Refuge, several rare plant species can be found on the Refuge. Three State listed plants are also found on the Refuge: Hutchinsia (*Hornungia procumbens*), Scalepod (*Idahoia scapigera*) and Geyer's Onion (*Allium geyeri* var. *geyeri*).

Over the past few years several easement projects have successfully protected lands surrounding the Refuge from future

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- ~ Beartooth Highway: Are we loving it to death?
- ~ Herbalist's Notebook: Gumweed (*Grindelia*)
- ~ Landscapes: Inside a photographer's process



Chapter Events

Calypso Chapter

Info: Catherine Cain at 406-498-6198; nativeplants@montana.com or Karen Porter at 406-498-9728; karenwporter44@gmail.com.

Clark Fork Chapter

Info: Teagan Hayes at 920-979-9009; teagan.hayes@gmail.com or Paul Buck at 970-901-2418; paul7703@gmail.com.

Thursday, January 12, 7:00 p.m. Successful weed management must take the whole plant community into consideration. Weed District Manager **Bryce Christiaens** will inform us on **Ecologically-based Invasive Plant Management**, including our common invasive species and the variety of programs Missoula County Weed District uses to manage for healthy, desirable plant communities. Room L09 Gallagher Business Building, UM Campus.

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 p.m.

Blue Camas, *Camassia quamash*, is an important plant species both culturally and ecologically. **Kathryn Matthews** (National Park Service), **Steven Kloetzel** (The Nature Conservancy) and **Jen McNew** (Bureau of Land Management) will share information on the history and significance behind **Blue Camas Restoration in Western Montana**. Room L09 Gallagher Business Building, UM Campus.



Monday, March 13, 7:00 p.m. Tropical rainforests are known for their incredible diversity of animals and plants. Come and hear UM's **Jedediah Brodie** explore how birds, mammals, and insects help and hinder plants with pollination, seed dispersal, and herbivory through **Plant-Animal Interactions in Tropical Rainforests**. Room 110 of the Interdisciplinary Science Building, at the southwest end of campus (**note different day and place**).

Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m. Native plantings and natural processes are combined to restore wetland and riparian areas. **Sarah Flynn** of Geum Environmental Consulting will inform us on common species and strategies used in **Revegetating Riparian and Wetland Areas in Western Montana**. North Valley Library, 208 Main Street, Stevensville. **Note different location.**

Eastern At-Large

Info: Kelsey Molloy at 406-654-4566; kelsey88@gmail.com.

Flathead Chapter

Info: Tara Carolin at 406-607-7670; mnp.flathead@gmail.com. Email us if you have questions, suggestions, and to be put on our mailing list. Please note varying program days and locations!

Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m. **The Dance of Landscape Design.** **Leslie Lowe** with Beargrass Landscape Architecture says the biggest question when she designs is how to balance the needs of pollinators, animals and humans in our landscapes. It is a dance of exquisite proportions, resulting in sustainable beautiful outdoor spaces. Join her to learn about the dance of landscape design. Come at 5:30 p.m. to meet other members and help plan Chapter events. Program starts at 7:00 p.m. North Valley Senior Center, 205 Nucleus Avenue, Columbia Falls.

Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m. **What's Going on with the Flathead Conservation District?** **FCD staff** will highlight their wide-ranging and exciting programs. The District provides a plethora of resources, tools, funding and education for landowners to carry out conservation projects on their property. They help with watershed restoration, pollinator and rain gardens, native seedlings and native grass seed mixes, lawn alternatives, soil health, and land stewardship. Come at 5:30 p.m. to help plan Chapter events. The program starts at 7:00 p.m. at Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, 490 N Meridian Road, Kalispell.

Kelsey Chapter

Info: Mark Majerus (president) or Jane Fournier (secretary) at kelseychaptermnp@gmail.com.

Maka Flora Chapter

Info: Fraser Watson at 703-509-0152 or Dfw9sb@gmail.com.

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Info: Contact Gretchen Rupp for program details or to be added to the Valley of Flowers Chapter "Friends" e-mail list, at 406-586-8363; beesgrmt@gmail.com.

Friday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. The Valley of Flowers Chapter is co-sponsoring a visit to Bozeman by renowned landscape ecologist **Dr. Doug Tallamy**. Doug will speak and sign books at the Emerson Center, and there will also be a remote viewing option; register for the streaming link at www.gallatinvalleyearthday.org/. This visit is sponsored by the Valley of Flowers Chapter-MNPS, the Sacagawea Audubon Society, Gallatin Valley Earth Day and a number of local businesses. Contact Anne Ready at gallatinvalleyearthday@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 14, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – **Lichen Identification Workshop.** **Dr. Sharon Eversman** will lead this workshop in the upstairs teaching lab of the Plant Growth Center on the MSU-Bozeman campus (the greenhouse complex on the west side of South 11th Avenue). There is a very good reference handbook for lichens of our area: *Macrolichens of the Pacific Northwest, 2nd edition*, by Bruce McCune and Linda Geiser. Contact Sharon Eversman at 406-586-6788.

Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m. **Invasive Species – Our Ecosystem Legacy.** In-person presentation by **Jen Mohler** of the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance. 108 Plant Bioscience Building, MSU-Bozeman.

Tuesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m. – Topic TBA. In-person presentation. 108 Plant Bioscience Building, MSU-Bozeman.

Western At-Large

Info: Kris Boyd at 406-295-9414; boyd.kristina@yahoo.com.

Upcoming MNPS Presents! ZOOM Programs

All programs are online at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. Look for Zoom registration details in your inbox - or find them on our MNPS Facebook page. For details: bethmadden64@gmail.com.

January 4 - Seeing the Trees and the Forest: Can Whitebark Pine Adapt to a Changing World? With Diana Six.

February 1 - Prairie Conservation and a Photo Journey of Flora and Fauna of Montana Prairies. With John Carlson.

March 1 - Indigikitchen: Fostering an Appreciation and Love of Traditional Native Foods. With Mariah Gladstone.

Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society Annual Conference

"Plants and Pollinators: Conserving all of the Interdependent Parts"

February 13-17, 2023

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial, Helena, MT

For more information and/or to submit abstracts:
<https://mttws.org/conferences/>.

Nominate a Shining Star

It's time again to offer up names for MNPS' two periodic Awards: The Outstanding Service Award goes to a MNPS member for extraordinary contributions to the Society. The Special Achievement Award is given to an individual— member or not— whose work exemplifies the mission and goals of the MNPS, namely, to "preserve, conserve, and study the native plants and plant communities of Montana, and to educate the public about the values of our native flora."

Nominations are due by April 1st and must include (1) which Award your nomination is for, (2) a description of the nominee's contributions to the MNPS and/or the MNPS mission, and (3) what makes their work outstanding and worthy of recognition. Awards will be presented during the Annual Meeting, June 23-25, 2023 at Bannack State Park. Send nominations to Rachel Potter (jrepotter@centurytel.net).

GOLDENRODS, GHOSTS and GOLD 2023 Annual Meeting

June 23-25, 2023



Calypso Chapter welcomes you to Bannack State Park in southwest Montana, 22 miles west of Dillon. Expansive sagebrush steppe spreading across low-lying Badger Pass south of the Pioneer Mountains characterizes the region and includes the famed Grasshopper Valley and Clark Canyon Reservoir.

The region is rich in mining and early settlement history, which we plan to incorporate into the weekend.

The meeting will be on the rustic side with camp sites, vault toilets, space for RVs and campers. Motels are available in Dillon. A large, central pavilion with electricity will house us for meals and meetings. There will be Friday afternoon workshops and a good selection of regional field trips on Saturday. The Friday night speaker will be Dr. Rob Thomas, Professor of Geology at UM-Western.

We are planning for just 100 attendees, and will be following any updated advisories for Covid-19 procedures. Full information and meeting registration will be available online in the spring and in the spring *Kelsey*. Until then, mark your calendar and plan to join us in southwest Montana next June.

REMINDER:

2022 MNPS Small Grant Applications Are due January 31, 2023

Please check the MNPS website for details at:
<https://mtnativeplants.org/small-grants-program/>

It's Membership Renewal Season

It's January, and that means it's time to renew your annual membership to MNPS. If your membership is due, you will receive a reminder via email and/or postcard. If you don't receive a reminder, it means you are either a lifetime member or you are already paid up for the next year. Please note, we are no longer accepting multiple-year membership payments, so any payment above dues will be considered a donation. To avoid paying annually, you may wish to consider a lifetime membership. If you have any questions, please contact us at mtnativeplantmembership@gmail.com and we can let you know your membership status. Also, please let us know if there have been any changes in your contact information. Thank you!



Idaho scapigera – Scalepod, photo by Peter Lesica



Hornungia procumbens – Hutchinsia, photo by Peter Lesica



Allium georgii var *georgii* – Geyer's Onion, photo by Peter Lesica

development. In 2022, an additional 120,000 private timberland acres north of the Refuge boundary were designated as the Lost Trail Conservation Area. All these new easement designations guarantee public access to these undeveloped private timber lands in perpetuity.

Wildlife and native plant species are varied and abundant, and the Refuge

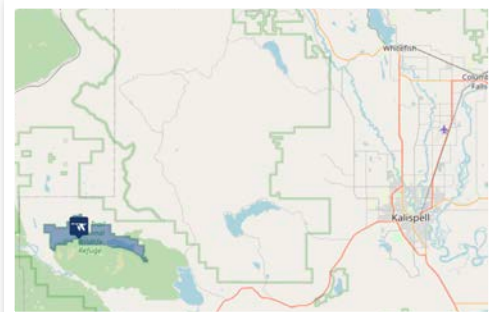
attracts a variety of visitors including birders, plant enthusiasts, photographers as well as fall hunters. There are currently 12 designated trails within the Refuge (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/lost-trail/visit-us/trails>). This new trail system allows the public to locate and visit many of the different habitats of the Refuge more easily. Of course, the public is not required to stay on the designated trails. All visitors are welcome to explore the entire Refuge, but it is requested that each person does a “weed seed free check” prior to hiking on Refuge lands. Due to the small staff size, the Refuge office is often closed to the public especially during the active field seasons. Visitors can contact the Refuge staff in advance of planned visits to plan for access to the office and Refuge plant species lists. Lost Trail National Refuge also maintains a Refuge-specific plant species herbarium which is open to the public. Refuge maps are available outside the office and in several designated parking lots. Trail maps are currently only available online (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/lost-trail/map>).

Beverly Skinner led a hike at Lost Trail NWR in Marion, MT on July 16 – perhaps the hottest day of the summer! The flowers were abundant and colorful featuring *Galliardia aristata*, *Geranium viscosissimum*, *Lupinus sericeus*, *Orthocarpus tenuifolius*, both yellow and white *Eriogonum* and more. *Silene*

spaldingii made a last-minute appearance with one flower in bloom just in time for the walk! The group appreciated seeing many of the projects that have restored the site to its historic condition with a natural wetland that supports a diverse number of waterfowl, plants, and 13 of the 14 bat species that are known in Montana.



Silene spaldingii, photo by Peter Lesica



Location of Lost Trail Wildlife Refuge, west of Kalispell ([fws.gov/refuge/lost-trail/map](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/lost-trail/map))



Field Trip at the site of *Silene Spaldingii* on July 16, 2022; photo by Pat Jaquith

The Global Important Plant Area Program

Plantlife International

Important Plant Areas (IPAs) are the most important places worldwide for native plant diversity.

IPAs are identified as the best sites for native plants and their habitats based on three criteria - threatened species, botanical richness (including socially, economically, and culturally valuable plants) and threatened habitats.

IPAs are a well-established and globally-recognized tool to help reduce species extinction and restore plant diversity. More than 50 countries across the world are identifying and managing their IPAs to cherish, protect, celebrate and restore their native wild plants and habitats."

For more information on International IPAs, visit the link below to Plantlife International's IPA page. Among many others, it tells the story of one of Montana's IPAs in the Pryor Mountains, and how this helped to halt gypsum mining in the area. This designation also protected this site's historic, archaeological and cultural values, as well as safeguarded several species of concern, including thick-leaf bladderpod (*Physaria pachyphylla*), found only in the foothills of the Pryor Mountains.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1c26da332a9e4b70bd7cc4a6b5cf8a22#ref-n-ctcquj>

Greg Halsten Retires as Kelsey Chapter Treasurer

Greg Halsten has retired from his position as Kelsey Chapter Treasurer. Greg, who has been a member of the Kelsey Chapter and its Treasurer since at or near the founding of the chapter has likewise retired from his business in Helena and moved to the Bozeman area. Over the years, in addition to his loyal service as chapter treasurer, he participated regularly in the late '90s.

Greg contributed to a chapter project that involved writing vivid descriptions of flora blooming on Mount Helena that were printed in the Outdoors section of the local newspaper. The chapter will miss Greg's loyal service and wishes him the best in his retirement.

Whitebark Pine Listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act



On December 14, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced a final rule to list whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) as a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). This landmark listing establishes critical protections for whitebark pine across its U.S. range, which is the most widely distributed tree species to be listed under the ESA.

Read the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation's full press release at:

<https://whitebarkfound.org/whitebark-pine-listed-threatened/>.

Consider Donating to MNPS

As you all know, MNPS is a membership organization with dues being our main source of income. In the past, there were those who occasionally threw in a little extra (a donation) to help the cause. A few years back we started seeing a steady growth in membership, which meant more dues income. At the same time, we also saw an increase in donations, which have risen from a few hundred dollars annually to more than \$7,000 a year in just five years!

With this increased revenue, the board has started soliciting donations to enable an even greater impact on native plant conservation and education. On Giving Tuesday, one quick email prompted you to give more than \$1200 in just a few hours. You are truly a generous bunch! Please consider a donation to MNPS. It is easy to do. You can add it to your membership renewal or make a separate donation on our website. Your generosity will translate into increased support of research, educational programs, plant conservation efforts, and much more. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Montana Native Plant Society would like to welcome and thank new members from the following chapters:

Calyпсо Chapter

Madi Crawford

Clark Fork Chapter

Mitch Hall, Amanda Hendrix, Kelly McGuire, Nancy Seldin, Stacey Sherwin, Jean Duncan

Flathead Chapter

Laura Hutton, Alyson Illich, Kerri Kleinen, Holly McKenzie, Marcia Pade

Kelsey Chapter

Betsey Hurd, Laura Strickling, Andrea Walker

Maka Flora

Nicole and Mallory Davidson

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Leslie Eddington, Stephen, Huysman, Allison Levy, Kennan Miller

Eastern-At-Large

Ashley Skartved, Angel Vega

And a special welcome to SARA OWEN of the Kelsey Chapter who is a new Lifetime Member of MNPS.



Conservation Corner

Beartooth Highway: A Route to Alpine Education¹

by Jennifer Lyman, Eastern-at-Large Chapter and Bonnie Heidel, Wyoming Native Plant Society

The Beartooth Scenic Byway (U.S. Hwy. 212) is an alpine wonderland along the highest segments of its 70-mile route, crossing through Montana and Wyoming between Red Lodge, MT and Yellowstone National Park. In fact, it is the longest highway crossing alpine habitat in Wyoming.

“Are we loving it to death?” asked Ann DeBolt, a botanist who visited the Beartooth Highway last year. She is a member of the Idaho and Montana Native Plant Societies who saw firsthand the tundra damage and spoke-like patterns of trailing radiation out from parking areas along the Beartooth Highway. Ann reached out to Wyoming and Montana Native Plant Societies about possible educational efforts to encourage a gentler and more sensitive use of this heavily visited landscape.

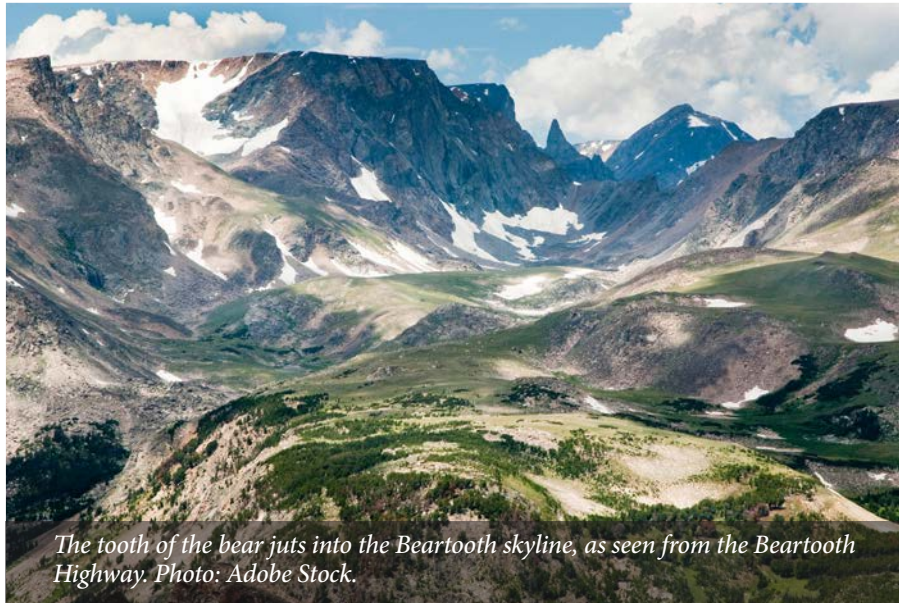
What is at stake? The alpine flora and the alpine vistas are the very heart of the Beartooth Highway experience.

Why? The Beartooth Highway ascends the Beartooth Plateau, an alpine peneplain that is hypothesized to have had areas of unglaciated refugia (Pierce, 1961) during glacial periods that pushed ice as far down the valley toward Red Lodge as campground areas at Greenough Lake. Unglaciated high elevation “refuges” protected plant species that occur today in a number of alpine and Arctic regions of the world. Beartooth Pass along the highway reaches nearly 11,000 feet and is surrounded by glacial cirques, clear alpine lakes, perennial snow beds, tundra expanses and wetlands. This entire region took thousands of years to form and still supports an amazingly thin cover of soil.

The plateau has a spectacular array of alpine, high-elevation wetlands, and montane plant communities some of which were designated a 22,422-acre Line Creek Plateau

Research Natural Area (RNA) in 2000. The RNA was established to include parts of the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming and the Custer National Forest in Montana, and the governing documents give both National Forests co-management responsibilities. The area straddles the state line, and includes the Twin Lakes area of Wyoming

and larger areas of Montana, in order to protect alpine vegetation and rare plants near their southern limits in the Rockies. Eighty acres that encompass the ski area on the plateau were excluded from the RNA as a Shoshone National Forest special permit zone. What we have seen in the past several years is an increasingly high volume of winter and summer



motorized recreationists traveling far outside the special permit zone into the RNA and across sensitive alpine areas.

In addition to dramatic increases in local and regional tourism, the Beartooth Plateau is a visual treat for foreign tourists on their way to or from Yellowstone National Park. In summer 2018, I talked with international tourists who were driving rental cars across the alpine tundra to the high points that connect the Quad Creek area with the state boundary. They said that because there were no international signs to suggest that driving off the road was not allowed, they assumed it was fine to travel anywhere a car could go.

In late June and July, the fragile tundra blossoms with a lavish display of wildflowers that have only a brief few weeks to attract their equally beautiful and often rare insect pollinators. The brutal climate deters the growth of trees other than stunted krumholtz spruce and willows, all growing at very slow rates.

A nearby Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA), part of an international

network of alpine monitoring programs, is one of many research sites on the Beartooth Plateau. The project has monitored the changes in plant species diversity for ten years and the yearly changes in soil temperatures at each site. The RNA provides a place and support for additional researchers who are studying pikas, bee and other insect diversity and pollination behavior, lichenologists, mycologists, whitebark pine ecology, and a myriad of other scientific studies. High elevation peatlands and post-glacial plant vegetation studies from the 1960's provided early documentation of the alpine-Arctic relationships of plant species, and rare plant surveys along the Beartooth Highway right of way yielded the highest number of records among high surveys in Wyoming.

Eriophorum gracile (Slender cottongrass), *Parnassia kotzebui* (Kotzebue's grass-of-parnassus), *Pinus albicaulis* (whitebark pine), *Ranunculus gelidus* (Timberline buttercup), *Carex leptalea* (Bristly-stalk sedge), *Eriophorum callitrix* (Sheathed cottongrass), *Koenigia islandica* (Koenigia), *Phippsia algida* (Ice-grass), and *Potentilla nivea* (Snow cinquefoil) are Montana and/or Wyoming Species of Concern that occur within these areas and are likely to be severely impacted by improper snowmobile operations that travel over a too-thin snowpack or over the bare ground. Impacts at their critical time of growth in the spring or

preparation for dormancy in the fall can harm or destroy these Species of Concern.

Ann DeBolt asked if we are loving the Beartooth Plateau to death and the answer is a definitive YES. At risk are the Beartooth Plateau ecological

integrity above and below ground, its mantle of intact vegetation, the exemplary Research Natural Area available to scientists who are conducting noninvasive research on the geological, climatic, and ecological functions of the alpine zone, and an incredibly beautiful alpine flora and vistas offered by a unique high elevation alpine landscape that is there for us all to appreciate.

What can we do to protect the alpine zone in the long term? The Beartooth Highway straddles two national forests, the Custer-Gallatin Forest (Montana) and the Shoshone National Forest (Wyoming). The native plant societies in both states are proposing educational signage and brochures that will alert the visitors about the alpine wonderland before them, and the roles and responsibilities of all visitors in protecting the very fragile alpine areas in summer and in winter. Look for updates on this new joint educational project in future issues.



Top: *Phippsia algida* (ice grass) – a glacial relict. Photo by Jennifer Lyman.

Right: *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, one of the earliest flowering alpine flowers, associated with steep rocky slopes. Photo by Glenn Clifton.



Truck tracks in the alpine tundra across from Gardiner Lake Parking Lot. Photo taken May 31, 2021 by Jeff Dibenedetto.



Wetland "refugia" with dwarf willows and one of very few annual plant species *Koenigia islandica*. Photo by Doug Reynolds.

¹ This article represents expansion of one that appeared by the same name in Castilleja, Wyoming Native Plant Society newsletter (Heidel. 2022. Castilleja 41:3. Posted at <http://www.wynps.org/>).



Herbalist's Notebook

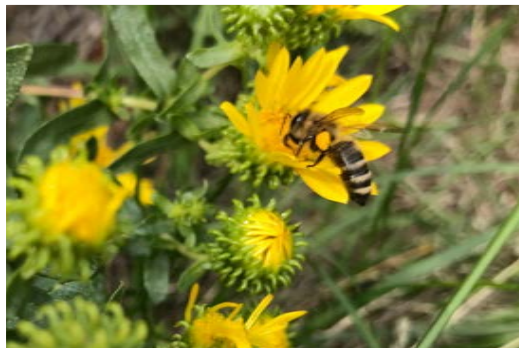
Using Native Plants for Medicinal Purposes

Grindelia

By Robyn Klein, MSc.,
Medical Botanist
Vale of Flowers Chapter

Gumweed, *Grindelia* Willd., likes to grow right along the sides of roads, where it can benefit from the moisture run-off. The milky-white goo that fills the young Asteraceae inflorescences is a dead giveaway to differentiate it from all the other yellow Asteraceae that blossom in the late summer.

The “goo” is a mixed resin of diterpene acids similar in chemistry to pine resin. In the book, *Plant Resins: Chemistry, Evolution, Ecology, Ethnobotany* by Jean H. Langeheim (sadly out of print), *Grindelia* resin makes up 5-18% of some *Grindelia* species, suggesting uses for the rubber, textile, and polymer industries. The resins in *Grindelia* are always present (constitutive, not induced). Why would a plant put so much energy into making this resin? It's thought that the fragrance and stickiness confuse herbivores and pathogens.

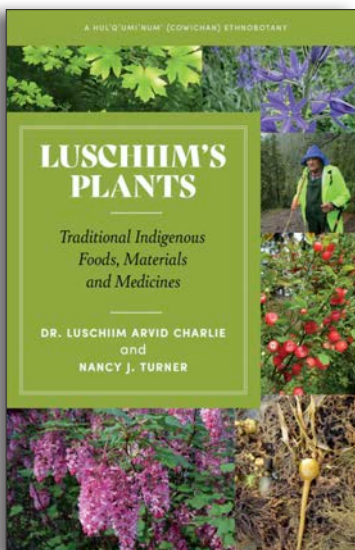


Or perhaps the plant is absorbing nitrogen from unlucky insects.

Some 66 species of *Grindelia* flourish throughout North America and South America. *Grindelia squarrosa* (Pursh) Dunal, is our most common native species, and has been found to be pollinated by at least 30 species of native bees. Another, less common species in Montana is *G. howellii* Steyerl., which is rarely found and likely hybridized. The last species is *G. nana* Nutt., which is shorter and found in western Montana. Some *Grindelia* species are biennial, and some are short-lived perennials.

While being native to North America, *G. squarrosa* is invasive in Europe. In 1804, it was introduced as a medicinal and ornamental plant in the Royal Botanical Gardens of Madrid. That legacy continued when

Grindelia squarrosa was brought to the attention of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1875 and included it in the *United States Pharmacopeia*. The herbalist, Michael Moore, reintroduced gumweed to his students throughout the 1990s. Today, it's one of the most popular plants used by herbalists for asthma, pertussis, and other upper respiratory infections, including influenza and SARS-CoV-2.



Book Review

By Robyn Klein,
MSc., Medical Botanist
Vale of Flowers Chapter

This little book is a wonderful review of the plants that Cowichan elder, Dr. Luschiim Arvid Charlie learned from his great-grandparents and others of their generation. The stories of his experience with plants used by the Quw'utsun people are divided into botanical groupings from seaweeds, lichen, fungi, trees, and herbaceous species. It's rare to find such a collection of cultural knowledge in one book. This compilation was gleaned by Nancy J. Turner and others from interviews and field outings. A wonderful accomplishment and treatise documented for the Quw'utsun people and others.

Luschiim's Plants: Traditional Indigenous Foods, Materials and Medicines.

Dr. Luschiim Arvid Charlie and Nancy J. Turner
Harbour Publishing, 2021; 274 pages

www.harbourpublishing.com

\$29.95; eBook also available.

<https://harbourpublishing.com/products/9781550179453>

President's Platform

Another exciting year for MNPS. We had a lot of younger members show up for our annual meeting in the Libby area last June. Younger members are the future of MNPS. My goal as President is to reduce the average age of MNPS Board members by 20 years! Please contact me or any Board member if you want to get involved in the exciting work being done by MNPS. We are always looking for members to help with Chapter offices, committee chairs, or as potential co-chairs for various positions in Chapters or on the MNPS board to get a foot in the door of MNPS.

With the increase in revenue from donations and a growing membership base, the MNPS Board is evaluating our grants and giving program, hoping to expand it and provide more opportunities to support others who contribute to our mission of conservation and education of Montana's native plants. In addition, the Board has decided to hire a part-time Administrative Assistant to help with our growing administration tasks, which will partially free up volunteer Board members and allow them more time to work on native plant programs and projects.

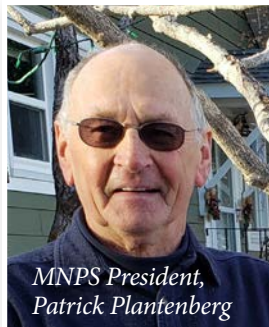
MNPS is going to recognize our lifetime business/organization members (see related article in the sidebar). My goal as President continues to be getting members who make money on native plants as a business or organization to join MNPS as a business/organization member or potentially as a lifetime business/organization member. Businesses and organizations: please consider a membership category change for 2023!

A couple of Montana nurseries have supplied MNPS with a partial list of Montana native plants that they would like to see collected locally, developed, and marketed for sale in Montana. This is a potential service that MNPS can help promote. Montana Nurseries: Please continue to let the MNPS Board know what services we can provide you as a member and how you could help us with that service.

We are working with the Garden Clubs of America to promote April 2023 as National Native Plant Month and to ask the Governor to promote April 2023 as Montana Native Plant Month. Help us celebrate this spring!

Thank you to all.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



MNPS President,
Patrick Plantenberg

Thank You Lifetime MNPS Business/ Organization Members

MNPS is growing and now has over 900 members, including 30 businesses and organizations, nine of which have paid for lifetime memberships! Lisa Larsen of Westech Environmental Services of Helena, a Lifetime Business Member, states: "Westech has been on board with MNPS since day one! We consider MNPS to be a valuable resource for the type of work we do. We value our friends and partners at MNPS."

These Lifetime members receive special recognition in the *MNPS Native Plant Source Guide* if they are native plant suppliers. They also receive a certificate indicating that they are Lifetime MNPS members for display in their office, on their website, and on social media.

Here is an especially warm THANK YOU to our lifetime business/organization members. Please let them know that you appreciate their support of MNPS. Do you own a business or organization not listed here? Please consider a Lifetime Business or Organization Membership when you renew in early 2023. If you would like to change a Lifetime Individual Membership to a Business Membership, contact volunteer Membership Chair Maria Mantas at mtnativeplantmembership@gmail.com. You can find membership information online at: <https://mtnativeplants.org/membership/>.

- ~ HILL BOTANICAL (lft), Atlanta, GA
- ~ BLACKFOOT NATIVE PLANTS (lft, sg), Bonner
- ~ PRECISION INSTRUMENTS NORTHWEST (lft), Bozeman
- ~ RBM LUMBER (lft), Columbia Falls
- ~ THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (lft), Helena
- ~ WESTECH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC. (lft), Helena
- ~ THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO (lft), Missoula
- ~ HOPS PRESS (lft), Pony
- ~ BRUCE BOODY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, INC. (lft), Whitefish

lft = Business/organization lifetime members.

sg = These businesses sell Montana native plants or seeds and are featured in the *Montana Native Plant Source Guide*.

Check out this article on winter pollinators: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2022/10/07/pollinators-need-your-help-in-the-winter-too>



Landscapes

By Rosella Mosteller, Clark Fork Chapter

A pivotal point in plant photography began in the early nineteen hundreds. German photographer, Karl Blossfeldt, focused on photographing flowers, buds, and seeds for thirty-five years. Laced with nature and strong design elements, his work added a magnified, new visual to examining plants on a photographic print.

In contrast to Blossfeldt, I am devoted to black and white fine art nature photography. I take landscape photos. These images give one a sense of time and place, as you may notice in *A Field of Prairie Smoke* (right).



"Fallen Petals"

The two photos of chokecherries could also be landscapes. That said, a botanist might look at them as photos of shrubs in their native habitat. The first photo could be documentation of flowers at the beginning of a transition from blossoms to making fruit.

Dark negative spaces accentuate positive portions of an image. The chokecherry shrub in the photo, *Fallen Petals* (above), acts as positive space. Blossoms and foreground leaves that belong to this shrub define prominent negative spaces. When negative spaces are interesting shapes they could accentuate a unique interest and prompt a viewer to

continue looking at the entire image.

With every outing my knowledge expands. Just as I belong to a family, so does the chokecherry. It remains a part of the rose family. Distinct characteristics of this family display serrated and alternate leaves. Flowers garner five petals with multiple sepals. My family characteristics could be in my teeth, toes, and skin color.

I captured a profuse *Thicket of Chokecherry Bushes* just a bit past peak bloom (below). There I discovered a biscuit root, from the carrot family, in the understory of chokecherries. If Italian mathematician Fibonacci lived today he may be happy to see this seed setting umbel divide the picture plane (inside semi-circle drawn on image).



"A Field of Prairie Smoke"

I saw negative spaces and worked to place them horizontally. Using the rule of thirds, each dark negative space runs from the right hand vertical edge of this photo.

Today chokecherry acts as a shelter belt, windbreak, and natural place for wildlife habitat. Used in large plantings it is effective as erosion control. Chokecherry can form thickets, spread by rhizomes, and seed. It does well in riparian areas and stabilizes disturbed soils.



"Thicket of Chokecherry Bushes"

I pointed my camera to capture a frame within a frame as you see here. A photo's borders constitute the initial frame. Two large forefront bushes, as compositional frames (right and left), create a frame within a frame.

My love for nature photography and learning continues.

You might find me at a variety of grocery stores shopping for ingredients to create a tantalizing treat from none other than chokecherries.

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Your yearly membership fee includes a subscription to *Kelsey*, the quarterly newsletter of MNPS. We welcome your articles, field trip reports, 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 items should be emailed to scottguse@yahoo.com and jenhintzguse@gmail.com, or mailed to: Scott and Jennifer Guse, *Kelsey* Editors, 725 Twin Lakes Road, Whitefish, MT 59937.

Spring issue deadline is March 10

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