

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society



Kelseya uniflora
ill. by Bonnie Heide

Leafy Spurge and Intelligent Tinkering

By Shane Sater,
Kelsey Chapter



A sampling of the insect diversity observed on leafy spurge inflorescences near Helena, photos by Shane Sater

Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) is a much-hated noxious weed. This Eurasian plant has spread across millions of acres of North American rangeland, reducing forage quality and posing a competitive threat to native plants. On a human scale of values, it would be tempting to say that leafy spurge in Montana is “bad.”

But when it comes to ecology, things are rarely as simple as “good” and “bad.” And for leafy spurge, some observations I’ve made in recent years complicate the picture.

These observations are centered on a stream restoration site near Helena, where spurge grows patchily in the disturbed riparian zone. Its bloom period here extends for several months, from mid-May to early August. And on any warm, sunny day during this period, these flowers are busy with a remarkable variety of insects.

Since 2021, I’ve collected 95 insect specimens from spurge inflorescences and photographed dozens more. Wasps, flies, and beetles are well-represented here; bees are relatively rare. I typically see insects visiting this plant’s prominent, easily accessible extrafloral nectaries, gathering sugars.

Ichneumonid wasps (family Ichneumonidae) are especially common spurge visitors. This group contains over 5,000 North American species and is poorly studied. All are parasitoids: larvae develop on a particular host arthropod, eventually killing it. On this site, leafy spurge is by far the most popular flower with ichneumonids. Numerous species are present, most still pending identification.

(continued on page 10)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ∞ Annual Meeting 2023 at Bannack State Park
- ∞ A Different Take on Noxious Weeds
- ∞ Citizen Botany Enters 2nd Year
- ∞ Small Grant Winners
- ∞ Wetland Plants of Owen Sowerwine
- ∞ Lichens Take Center Stage
- ∞ New Landscaping and Revegetation Information on the MNPS Website



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 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. **Please note different location.**

Thursday May 11, 6:30 p.m. Our **Spring Potluck** will be held at the Pineview Park Pavilion in the Upper Rattlesnake off of Rattlesnake Drive, just west of Rattlesnake School. Bring your own plate, utensils and a dish to share. No alcohol please. We will be putting label sticks together for the annual native plant sale. Call Peter at 406-728-8740) or Clare at 406-728-0189 for directions.



Eastern At-Large

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

Flathead Chapter

Info: Tara Carolin at 406-607-7670; mnps.flathead@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. **Wildflowers of Glacier National Park: 20 years in the Shadow of a Plot Frame.** Jen Hintz Guse will present on 20 years of native plant monitoring in Glacier: lessons learned, and lots of pretty pictures. Jen is a longtime MNPS member, past president of Flathead Chapter, and former Glacier National Park botanist, now working for Flathead Land Trust. The program starts at 7:00 p.m. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, 490 N. Meridian Rd., Kalispell. **Please note that a different date was advertised. The program is April 12!**

Monday-Friday, May 8-12. **Flathead Forestry Expo Botany Station Volunteers Needed.** Do you love learning about native plants and working with youth? Volunteers are needed to help with this year's native plant station at the [Forestry Expo](#) held outside of Columbia Falls. A volunteer to help coordinate this effort, as well as others to staff this fun event are needed. Please contact Flathead National Forest Conservation Education Specialist Teresa Wenum, at teresa.wenum@usda.gov if you would like to sign up to help or learn more about this opportunity. Volunteers will most likely be assigned to short 1/2 day slots.

Kelsey Chapter

Info: Mark Majerus (president) or Jane Fournier (secretary) at kelseychaptermnps@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.

Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. **A neutral view of exotic plants: How native plant diversity can be protected - even enhanced - by taking an open-minded approach to plant management in native environments.** **Presenters: Jeff Copeland and Matt Lavin.** Fairly evaluating the ecosystem services and disservices of any plant species being considered for management requires a thoughtful approach to the composition, uniqueness, and conservation value of the native plant community being restored. An approach that might be viewed as a contrarian view of exotic plant species will be explained in a live presentation that will take place in Room 108 of the Plant Bioscience Building at MSU-Bozeman.

Saturday, April 22: Gallatin Valley Earth Day. The Valley of Flowers Chapter is a sponsor for Gallatin Valley Earth Day events, and there are a number of talks and workshops going on between now and the official Earth Day. To see all events, visit <https://www.gallatinvalleyearthday.org/>. We'll have a table at the event itself - please stop by!

Late April. Pollinator Garden Spring Clean-up. Bring work gloves and hand clippers for our annual spring clean-up of the popular native plant garden by the Gallagator Trail (north of Mason Street, by the Langohr Community gardens in Bozeman). We'll be cleaning out dead material, but also making some new plantings. Date & time TBA; watch your Valley of Flowers April e-newsletter.

Western At-Large

Info: Jon Reny at 406-334-0459; jreny@kvis.net.

Sunday, April 30, OR May 7, 2:00 p.m. **Yaak Falls and River Stroll.** Afternoon stroll starting on terraces overlooking Yaak Falls with beds of glacier lilies and other early bloomers. Then an easy 1.5 mile walk downstream along the Yaak River on a brand-new trail. We'll see some big (and small) trees, maybe calypso orchids and Geyer's biscuitroot, and old mine shafts. We'll car shuttle back to the trailhead. Date is phenology- and weather-dependent. Contact Betty Kuropat if interested and to confirm the date, at 406-295-7143; blueirismt@gmail.com.

Congratulations Billings area residents for re-forming the *Artemisia* chapter of the MNPS. Welcome!

Third Annual Northern Rockies Nature Journaling Conference

Three days of classes, nature journaling sessions and discussion

June 2 - 4, 2023

Bison Range, Moiese, Montana

Kathy Settevendemie of MNPS will lead sessions on Identifying and Drawing Native Plants
<https://www.northernrockiesnaturejournaling.org/events/event-one-446xh>.

Join Our Volunteer Team!

Would you like to help MNPS accomplish its mission of conserving native plants in Montana? MNPS is looking for volunteers in leadership roles. The following opportunities are available now for dedicated plant lovers who have some extra time and would like to join our team of motivated, caring, conservation-minded people.

- ☞ Program Organizer for the on-line speaker series, MNPS Presents!
- ☞ Committee members for our new Grants and Giving Program. We are seeking people with interest and expertise in research, native plant restoration, education, and plant conservation.
- ☞ Co-Chair for the Conservation Committee.
- ☞ Local Chapter Leadership. Help to organize MNPS activities for your local membership.

If you are interested in or have questions about these engaging worthwhile opportunities, please contact our President, Patrick Plantenberg at 406-431-4615 or email us at mtnativeplantmembership@gmail.com.



April is Native Plant Month in Montana as well as across the nation. Please celebrate Native Plants in your local chapter events!

MNPS IS HIRING

If you work well on a team, as well as independently, are organized, detail-oriented, and love native plants, this could be a great position for you! Montana Native Plant Society is looking for an administrative assistant to help with the important work we do to promote and protect the native plants of Montana.

- ☞ Remote
- ☞ Contractor position
- ☞ Average of 5 hours per week
- ☞ \$22/hour
- ☞ Entry level candidates are welcome
- ☞ Open through 5/15/2023

The primary work of this position is to support the Board of Directors with communications, website updates, the MNPS Facebook page, and membership data management. Experience with or ability to learn office and website management software is critical. Experience with native plants is a plus, but we are also happy to help you learn. Check our website for a full position description. If interested, please email your resume and a brief cover letter to: mnpstreasurer@gmail.com.

Grant Opportunity

The American Penstemon Society (APS) is seeking high-quality proposals for activities that promote knowledge and appreciation of penstemons. The Society is particularly interested in funding projects, up to \$1,000, that promote conservation of *Penstemon* species in the wild or promote appreciation for the diversity and beauty of penstemons in wild and domestic landscapes. APS also offers a maximum of \$2,000 to support a graduate student on any aspect of penstemon biology. More information is available on the APS website, <https://penstemons.org/index.php/society/grants>.



ANNUAL MEETING SIGN UP BEGINS APRIL 15
(Please see inserts for details and registration form)

Logo by Jessica Glenn



Conservation Corner



By Elizabeth Bergstrom, Conservation Chair
and Andrea Pipp, Kelsey Chapter

CITIZEN BOTANY ENTERS YEAR TWO

In its first year (2022) the Citizen Botany Pilot Study was quite successful. Almost 30 revisits to Montana Potential/Species of Concern plants were accomplished. It was impressive, in that Citizen Botanists were mostly able to access their target locations, search, recognize look-a likes, and report on the presence or absence of their target plant along with habitat, threat, and other data. Many of their photos will be posted onto the Montana Field Guide to help improve the profiles.

Now in our second (and last) year of pilot study, our experiences and your feedback are allowing the Montana Natural Program (MTNHP) Botanist and Pilot Study Coordinator to make some adjustments for 2023. This year we offered the two part training twice using the Zoom platform. If you missed the trainings and want to be involved, please contact your chapter coordinator or Kenda Herman (kh Herman@mt.gov). We are working to offer recorded trainings. We are aiming that all Citizen Botanists will make their target plant site selection and be provided the necessary data and resources by the end of April. We are still exploring the possibility of a summer camp-out for Citizen Botanists.

Remember the Annual Meeting, where we are offering the same workshop as in 2022 that provides some field and data collection experience.

2023 MNPS Small Grants A Tetrad of Projects

By Betty Kuropat and Anne Garde,
Small Grants Committee

The Small Grants Committee and MNPS Board of Directors are pleased to award funds to four projects in a variety of fields: schooling, gardening, and research. All have an educational component and nicely align with the objectives of the Small Grants Program: "To stimulate research, conservation, and educational activities which help foster an appreciation of Montana's native plants and plant

communities; and to promote native plant conservation through a better understanding of Montana's native flora and vegetation and the factors affecting their survival."

*Glacier National Park
Grassland Crew en
route to a study site*



PREPARING THEIR HOME ON THE RANGE: BASELINE SURVEYS FOR BISON RESTORATION:

NICOLAS MATALLANA-MEJIA, PHD
STUDENT, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY,
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

The Blackfeet Tribal Nation (BTN) is planning to restore free roaming bison to the Crown of the Continent ecosystem. Glacier National Park (GNP) and BTN are mandated to protect the diversity and function of these ecosystems and to manage the bison appropriately upon their return. Building on ongoing studies in GNP, Nico Matallana-Mejia proposes to provide a landscape scale model of bison habitat and carrying capacity.

He will train Blackfeet Community College students in plant community survey techniques to establish critical baseline knowledge of plant diversity, ecosystem function, and nutrient recycling. The students will work as well with tribal managers and Blackfeet knowledge holders to understand indigenous ways of learning. They will produce a report of all plant species discovered, their location and abundance. Areas of interest such as rare species populations and diversity hotspots will be included.

MNPS funds will pay for forage quality analysis and soil sample analysis. Other funding will come from Glacier National Park, Colorado State University and Blackfeet Community College.

TOURIST PARK ALONG THE RIVER'S EDGE TRAIL, GREAT FALLS, MT:

KERRY HOVLAND, TOURIST PARK
CHAIRPERSON

The River's Edge Trail in Great Falls offers over 60 miles of paved and singletrack trails alongside the Missouri River. Thousands of visitors and locals walk, hike, run, ride bikes, and enjoy this trail. The Great Falls Flower Growers, headed by Kerry Hovland,

volunteered to take on a half block of this trail that was overgrown with Russian olive and buckthorn. They decided to clear the space and then showcase the plants Lewis and Clark found on their journey. The group started work in 2022, weeding and landscaping. They will begin the first plantings this spring, 2023. They are committed to working this space for years to come, with native plant experts to help. The city's Parks and Rec Department is responsible for watering all the plants along the trail.

MNPS funds will cover the cost of the plants they intend to showcase, for example, *Ribes aureum* (golden currant) and *Philadelphus lewisii* (mock orange), and markers to label the plants. We added funds to the group's original request in return for a sign acknowledging MNPS.



NATIVE SEED COLLECTION BY MISSOULA STUDENTS TO RESTORE BEE HABITAT:

MONTANA NATURAL HISTORY CENTER (MNHC)

The Center will take two groups of about 48 middle school students on one spring field trip per group to the MNHC native plant garden at Fort Missoula to learn about native plants and the importance of conserving them. They'll also visit Forest Service sites to see the plants in their actual habitat and engage in activities that support Next Generation Science Standards. They'll learn about pollinators and the trouble with invasives.

Next fall, in partnership with the Lolo National Forest, the same students will participate in two seed collecting field

trips as part of a citizen science research project. The seeds will be sent to the Coeur d'Alene nursery for growing and later transplanting on land managed by the Lolo National Forest.

The Montana Natural History Center has been active in nature education since 1991. MNPS and the Clark Fork Chapter are proud to have supported many of their projects. We're pleased to be able to support them this year for bus transport costs.

LEAVE NO WEEDS:

MISSOULA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND EXTENSION

Leave No Weeds is a program with a 22-year track record of serving 1,000 fifth grade students a year. The goal of this project is to promote an understanding of plant communities and the problems, economic and ecological, with invasive species. The program consists of a classroom presentation on biodiversity and its benefits to the ecosystem and humans. Students also learn how invasive species decrease biodiversity, where invasive species come from and how they are moved across the landscape. Finally, integrated weed management is introduced.

The next component of the program is a field trip to Mount Jumbo. Students are led on a two mile hike during which they will explore different native plant communities, and identify natives and invasives. A weed pull will follow and the area will be reseeded with natives.

We're pleased to be able to support them with bus transport costs.

Congratulations to the recipients. We look forward to reading about their successes in future *Kelseyas*.

This is the 28th year that MNPS has awarded Small Grants. These recipients can feel extra special because this is the last year for the Small Grants Program as we know it. It will be restructured and become part of a comprehensive Grants

and Giving Program. Watch for more details in a future *Kelsey* and on the website.



Does arrowleaf balsamroot smell like cocoa?



Getting psyched to pull spotted knapweed



Successful taproot removal



FINDING TREASURES IN THE MUD OF OWEN SOWERWINE

By Pat Jaquith, Flathead Chapter

Making a list of plant species in Owen Sowerwine, just outside of Kalispell, seemed like an easy enough task in September when the trails were dry, vegetation was senescing, and the deciduous trees still had leaves and fruit, so I accepted the challenge and started out. Seasons progressed, and I realized that I hadn't seen what was growing there in June. I drove down Treasure Lane and set off — but not too far! I got as far as the slough, where the ferryman wasn't waiting to transport the uninitiated across a full channel, and turned back. This newcomer has a daunting amount of homework to do on the assignment in this wetland!

On August 11, 2022, after a rainy spring when the slough flooded to a depth of eight or more feet (as estimated from the silt that still coated the vegetation) and lasted well into July, I stocked up on mosquito repellent and ventured into the slough again. WOW! I had not gone far when a “lifer” plant popped out at me among the dense grassy vegetation! On hands and knees in the mud, I investigated the slender plant with tubular lavender blossoms from every angle, took photographs galore and measured as many features as seemed useful. With my hand lens I examined the square stems, counted the stamens in the tubular flowers, and observed the pattern of seeds developing from the senescent blooms. I counted the number of plants in that area. Did I miss anything?

All this information went home with me to begin my homework. I returned to the site and double-checked. Eventually, I had a tentative identification: *Physostegia parviflora*, purple dragon-head, as it is cataloged by the Montana Natural Heritage Program. It is a member of the Lamiaceae/Mint family. Its Wetland plant indicator status is FACW (Facultative Wetland; 67-99% of occurrences are in wetlands).

The same day, before I recovered from the excitement of finding a “lifer”, I discovered a patch of *Lysimachia ciliata* (fringed loosestrife) plants. Though new to me in Montana, I had some familiarity from New England. Its five bright yellow pointed petals on the six- to eight-inch plants are a lovely sight - but what about the “fringe”? Down on hands and knees in the mud again! Get out the hand lens. Look at the silt still adhering to those little stems! They had been flooded up to their necks! There it is: the fringe is a collection of little erect hairs in the intersection of the leaf and stem.



Purple dragon-head
(*Physostegia parviflora*)



Fringed Loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata*)

vulgaris), black medic (*Medicago lupulina*) and reedtop (*Agrostis alba*).

Owen Sowerwine is a vulnerable location. The rich, moist bottomland of the Flathead Valley provides a perfect spot for plants to get established. Birds help distribute the seeds. The floodwaters scour upland areas and provide transportation.

Its proximity to human activity can be a source of those seeds, as gardens and farms have long been a part of this valley. Awareness and vigilance are going to be required to keep the invasives out.



Common Loosestrife
(*Lysimachia vulgaris*)

Fueled by the elation of finding two great plants, I continued on. My final discovery for the day was a mixed blessing. I'd located a second “lifer”, but it bore such a strong resemblance to a well-known aggressively invasive wetland plant, I had my worries. Pictures, measurements, pawing through the vegetation, more mud...I took my data and went home to do the research. Indeed, *Lysimachia vulgaris* (common loosestrife) is a non-native that has a reputation of becoming invasive.

Below are partial lists of wetland plants that I have cataloged at Owen Sowerwine.

Some of the plants in Owen Sowerwine are in the “Obligate Wetland” category (99% of occurrences are in wetlands). Bladderwort (*Utricularia*), silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), northern arrow-head (*Sagittaria cuneata*), hooded skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*), mare's tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*), sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), beaked sedge (*Carex rostrata*), least spikerush (*Eleocharis acicularis*) and northern water-plantain (*Alisma triviale*). Many of these grow in pools or frequently-flooded areas.

Among the native plants in the category “Facultative Wetland” (67-99% occurrences in wetlands) are marsh hedge-nettle (*Stachys palustris*), twisted stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*), field mint (*Mentha arvensis*), sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), small yellow water-buttercup (*Ranunculus gmelini*), alder (*Alnus incana*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*).

Non-native plants in the “Facultative Wetland” category include creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*); common loosestrife (*Lysimachia*

LICHENS TAKE CENTER STAGE

On a sunny Saturday morning in January, 30 people gathered in a biology teaching lab at MSU-Bozeman for a bout of hands-on learning about lichens. They were instructed by Dr. Sharon Eversman, retired professor of botany and long-time member of the Valley of Flowers Chapter of MNPS. From the first, it was clear that lichens are a particular passion of Sharon's, as she explained their peculiar biology (if it doesn't involve higher plants, does it count as botany?). After reviewing the basic biology, the session broke up so that individuals and groups could examine the diverse study specimens, with the instructor circulating. Participants seemed to be in agreement: there's more – much more – to the forest than the trees!



*Dr. Eversman discussing individual specimens.
Photo by Bill Klenn*



*Workshop participants examine specimens on rock and branches.
Photo by Lou Ann Harris*



*Matt Lavin, John Parker and Vicky Saab with a table of specimens.
Photo by Bill Klenn*

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

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

Calypso Chapter

Maggie Crowley (Hometown LLC), Carolyn Dillon, Madeline Larson & Nathaniel Proffitt, Felicia Redfield

Clark Fork Chapter

Kylie Brown, Elaine Caton, Gunner Davies, Natalie Dietz, Jean Duncan, Anne Greene, Meg & Mark Milanick, Steffany Rogge, Dixie Stark, Adele Underwood

Flathead Chapter

Mary Alexine, Megan Beard, Valerie Beebe, Marilyn Brandt, Caitlin Garcia, Sarah Harding, Miranda Hernandez, Cyndi Meuchel, Cathleen Neary

Kelsey Chapter

Pat Boyer, Kelli Hall, Joan Higgins-Smith, Chaya Semple

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Melissa Blackford, Chandler Bowen, Kim Curren, Diane Debinski, Henry Hardin, Mikaela Howie, Harry Lee, Kathy Powell, Janette Rounds & Walter Wiese, Stephanie Stout, Stacey Weyant, Janet Winne

Eastern Montana at Large

Janet Dietrich, Angela B. Farr, Larry French, John Gaskin, Kim Niday, Holly Sessoms, Karen Stears

And special thanks to Mark and Marilyn Majerus of the Kelsey Chapter who have renewed as Lifetime Members of MNPS.

THE STATE-WIDE FIELD TRIP FLIER IS COMING!

Please check your mailbox in early May



Gardening & Landscaping

MNPS New Landscaping & Revegetation Information

By Patrick Plantenberg, President MNPS

(Editor's Note: This article was submitted to *The Leaflet*, the official publication of the MT Nursery and Landscape Association)

The Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) Landscaping and Revegetation Committee has some new documents on the website at <https://mtnativeplants.org/native-plant-landscaping/>.

- ☞ Montana Native Plant Source Guide, April 2022 (being updated again this spring)
- ☞ Germination of Wildland Collected Seed
- ☞ Water-Wise Grasses: Alternatives to Kentucky Bluegrass Turf
- ☞ Native Bunchgrasses Used as Specimen/Accent Plants in Landscaping
- ☞ Landscaping, Reclamation, Site Stabilization, and Ground Cover Grass Seed Mixtures
- ☞ Commercially Available Native Wildflower Seed, Released by USDA-NRCS Plant Material Centers

Native plant landscaping is being promoted by animal-, bird-, and bug-lovers, as well as native plant enthusiasts. As reported on the National Wildlife Federation website, the research of entomologist, Dr. Doug Tallamy, and his team at the University

of Delaware have found that 14% of native plants (the keystones) support 90% of butterfly and moth lepidoptera species. MNPS hopes to identify and promote propagation of the Montana keystone native species that do the 90% of the work. Then these species would be available for sale at Montana nurseries.



Your landscapes don't have to be completely changed to all native species. Just by reducing your lawn by 10% and putting in native plantings and/or by planting a bee lawn (mixture of turfgrass and small stature wildflowers like clover, selfheal, violets, etc.) you can provide much needed habitat for bugs, bees, birds, and other animals. Clint Culver, owner of NitroGreen of Helena is offering a 10% discount for his lawn care customers for converting 10% of their lawn to a native landscape and/or a bee lawn.

There are also some older regional landscape guides on the MNPS website, such as:

- ☞ Regional Landscaping with Native Plant Guides: for the Flathead Valley, Helena area, Bozeman & Southwest Montana area, and the Missoula & West-Central Montana area.

MNPS is planning on updating these guides over the next two years. Find out more about MNPS at <https://mtnativeplants.org/>.

President's Platform

In my first President's Platform in June 2021, I listed goals for MNPS during my term:

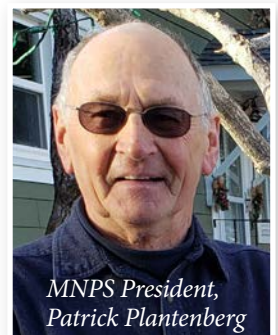
- ☞ Hire a part-time administrative assistant to help our busy volunteer board members. Our membership and donations have increased exponentially with the help of Zoom programs and more marketing. At our March 2023 board meeting, we agreed to hire that part-time administrative assistant. And the MNPS Board has revised and increased our Grants and Giving Program.
- ☞ Ask our talented younger members to step up and become active board members. My goal has been to lower the average age of the board by 20 years! Peter Lesica has successfully recruited Dave Hanna and Robert Pal to cooperatively run for president. They are at least a generation younger than Peter or me! The age of our eastern Montana leadership has also decreased significantly with Kelsey Molloy agreeing to be the Eastern-at-Large Representative and Fraser Watson stepping up to be the Maka Flora Chapter President. And I have successfully recruited Camie Westfall to be our secretary and Kenda Herman to finish the

vice presidential term. All these younger members will someday make excellent presidents of this organization. Thank you all for stepping up to represent MNPS!

- ☞ Complete the Montana Plant Conservation Strategy. The Conservation Committee continues its work completing the Plant Conservation Strategy as well as helping get plants on the State Wildlife Action Plan. Both are needed to focus our conservation goals and help secure any future funding. The Plant Conservation Strategy should be completed by the end of May.

- ☞ Get members back in the field after COVID-19 and develop a Citizen Botany Pilot Program in Montana. It was so good to see people in the field again in 2022. The first year of the Citizen Botany Pilot Program was very successful and will continue in 2023.

- ☞ Develop partnerships with groups such as Audubon to promote



MNPS President,
Patrick Plantenberg

the need for native plants. I am sorry to say that native plant societies have not been as successful as animal, bird, and bug societies at promoting the need for native plants. The National Wildlife Federation, Audubon Society, the Xerces Society, and others all have tremendous information on their websites promoting the planting of native species. We have helped sponsor Audubon programs with Doug Tallamy, and a pollinator plenary session at the MT Chapter of the Wildlife Society. More of this cooperation is needed.

☞ Reactivate the Landscaping and Revegetation Committee.
Thanks to Catherine Cain of the Calypso Chapter for updating

the Montana Native Plant Source Guide. I would also like to thank Mark Majerus, President of the Kelsey Chapter, for helping develop much needed new landscaping and revegetation materials for the native plant landscaping page on the MNPS website. MNPS will be featured in the new edition of *The Leaflet*, the publication of the Montana Nursery and Landscape Association. See the article on the previous page of this edition of the *Kelsey*.

We worked with the Garden Clubs of America to promote April 2023 as National Native Plant Month and the Governor has proclaimed April 2023 as Montana Native Plant Month. Help us celebrate this spring! Thank you to all.

Thank You MNPS Business/Organization Members

In the last issue of *Kelsey*, MNPS honored and thanked our nine lifetime business and organization members. In this issue, MNPS would like to thank and honor all 27 of our current business and organization members. MNPS is growing and has over 900 members! Your business or organizational membership helps support the mission of MNPS.

Business members receive special recognition in the [MNPS Native Plant Source Guide](#) if they are native plant suppliers. Business and organization members will receive a certificate indicating that they are MNPS members for display in their

office, on their website, and on social media.

Here is an especially warm THANK YOU to our 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 Business or Organization Membership when you renew in 2023. If you would like to change an 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/>.

- ☞ Beth Macfawn Landscape Design, Bozeman
- ☞ Blackfoot Native Plants, Bonner (*lft*, *sg*)
- ☞ Blake Nursery, Big Timber (*sg*)
- ☞ Bruce Boody Landscape Architect, Inc., Whitefish (*lft*)
- ☞ Center for Native Plants, Whitefish (*sg*)
- ☞ Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Polson
- ☞ Dorothea Kast Landscape Gardening, Missoula
- ☞ Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, Bozeman
- ☞ Gardenwerks, Helena (*sg*)
- ☞ Great Bear Native Plants, Hamilton (*sg*)
- ☞ Highline Adventures, Butte KOA, Butte
- ☞ Hill Botanical, Atlanta, GA (*lft*)
- ☞ Hometown LLC, Butte
- ☞ HOPS Press, Pony (*lft*)

lft = Business/organization lifetime members.

sg = These businesses sell Montana native plants or seeds and are featured in the [Montana Native Plant Source Guide](#).

- ☞ Native Ideals Seed Farm, Arlee (*sg*)
- ☞ Petals Gardening, Bozeman
- ☞ Pink Bench Distilling, Troy
- ☞ Precision Instruments Northwest, Bozeman (*lft*)
- ☞ RBM Lumber, Columbia Falls (*lft*)
- ☞ Roxi's Greenhouse & Nursery, Dillon (*sg*)
- ☞ Smokechasers Inc., LLC, Grangeville, ID
- ☞ Steffany Rogge, Missoula
- ☞ The Bookstore, Dillon
- ☞ The Landscape Architecture Studio, Missoula (*lft*)
- ☞ The Nature Conservancy, Helena (*lft*)
- ☞ Westech Environmental Services, Inc., Helena (*lft*)
- ☞ Yaak Valley Forest Council, Troy

Election Time is Here - Please Vote!

The Board of MNPS asks you to choose our statewide Board positions. This year, we're voting for Co-Presidents, Treasurer and Western Director-At-Large. Please read the candidate profiles and fill out the enclosed ballot, or vote online at <https://www.mtnativeplants.org/election> by June 15. We'll announce the result at the Annual Membership Meeting at Bannack State Park on June 24.



I frequently see predatory wasps visiting spurge nectaries. Among these are *Astata*, which provisions its nest with paralyzed bugs; *Oxybelus*, which hunts flies; *Tachysphex*, which hunts grasshoppers or their relatives; and *Cryptocheilus*, which hunts wolf spiders.

Then there are all of the as-yet unidentified species: brilliant green cuckoo wasps, syrphids and bee flies, tumbling flower beetles, click beetles, blister beetles, crane flies, stoneflies, and many more.

This leafy spurge population grows within a degraded community dominated by smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) and other exotic grasses. And within this context, it appears to be providing an

important resource for a diverse group of pollinators.

But is leafy spurge actually boosting this area's carrying capacity for flower-visiting insects? Or could it be that leafy spurge is simply "stealing" pollinators from the few native plants that have managed to persist here, such as two-groove milkvetch (*Astragalus bisulcatus*) and giant goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*)? Qualitative observations suggest that flower visitors overlap little between these plants - implying that spurge may, indeed, be increasing insect habitat within this system.

This is a question that calls for more rigorous investigation. But in the

meanwhile, Aldo Leopold's principle of "intelligent tinkering" suggests a prudent course of action. Before we label a weed "bad" and try to eradicate it, let's consider what it's doing for insect diversity. And perhaps, instead of eradicating weeds, increasing native plant diversity would be a better management goal.

If you have observations that support or contradict mine, I'd love to hear from you! Contact me through my website, <https://whatsgoingonblog.org/>.



A leafy spurge inflorescence, showing the glistening, crescent-shaped extrafloral nectaries.

GIFTS FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS HELP TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION. WE ARE THANKFUL TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2022:

In Memory of Scott Miles:

Bob Antibus, Bill Kirchhoff

In Memory of Klaus and Gertrude Lackschewitz:

Anthony Beltramo, Chinwon Reinhardt

In Memory of W.D. Billings:

Douglas N. Reynolds

In Honor of Beth Madden and Bill Klenn:

Ellen Lynn

Donors Supporting Montana Native Plant Society:

Jessica Allewalt & Adam Messer
Ruth Angeletti
Lael Berner
Stephanie Berry
Charles & Diane Bickenheuser
Jessica Brewer
Louis Bruno
C. Alina Cansler & Andrew Larson
Hailey Moore (Center For Native Plants)
Judy Chadwick
Mary Alice Chester
Dave Chrismon
Mae Clark (Gardenwerks)
Karin Connelly
Jeff Copeland
Jen Cowardin
Konrad Degenhard
Tom Deveny
Liz Doroski
Joe Elliott & Nancy Volle
Deborah Eunpu

Angela Evenden
Susan Ewing
Judith Fraser
Sue Furey
Molly Galusha
Mark & Ginger Garff
Maureen Gary
Katie Gibson (High Country Apps)
James & Patricia Habeck
Janice Hand & Richard Sanders
Kurt Hansen
Linda Healow
Christiane Holmquist
Jane D. Horton & Doug Holly
Alyson Illich
Brent Jacobsen
Elizabeth & Chris Johns
Elena Johnson
Shannon & John Kimball
Christine King
Steven Kloetzel & Andrea Morgan
Libby Knotts
Elizabeth Kuropat
Mary F. Laporte
Lisa Larsen
Mary Lawrence
John Ligas
Megan Martinez
Eileen McCall
Joyce McDonough
Kelly McGuire
Holly McKenzie
Rosemary McKinnon
Jennifer McNew & Josh Smith
Pamela McSloy
Christine Merriman
Kate Mostad

Sally Mueller
Deborah Mueller
Kris & Beth Murray
Debi Naccarto (Wild Birds Unlimited)
Catherine Nolan & James Schmid
Yvette Ortega
Diane Pavak
Robert Person
Barbara Phinney
Andrea & Don Pipp
Patrick Plantenberg
Elizabeth Poletti
Karen W. Porter
Wendy Rihner
Susan Rinehart-Richtmyer
Wendy Roberts
Victoria Saab
Joan Schmidt
Corinne Schroeder
Andrea & Don Schussler
Nancy Seiler
Mark Sheehan
Estelle Shuttleworth
Amber & Robert Smith
Melissa Smith
Harry Spillman
Andrea & Don Stierle
Anna R. Taft
Giles Thelen Family
Sarah Urban (Petals Gardening)
Vicki Watson
Tad Weaver
Norm & Cathy Weeden
Faye Woltz
Elizabeth & Wilbur Wood

AND 22 Anonymous Donors

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail _____

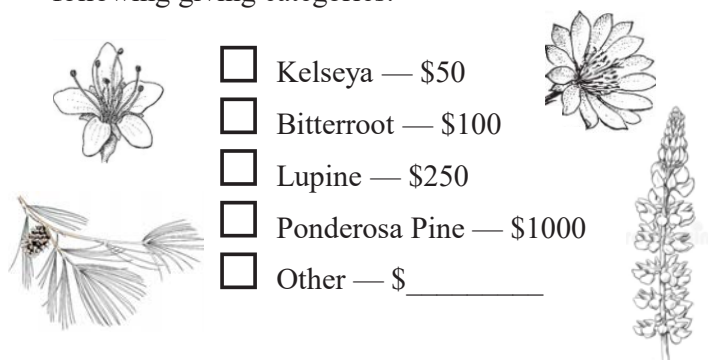
Phone _____

**JOIN, RENEW, OR DONATE
ONLINE AT
www.mtnativeplants.org**

Please notify us promptly of address changes (physical or email) at mtnativeplantmembership@gmail.com

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Membership Type	Dues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business/Organization	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/>	Living Lightly/Student	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime-Individual Only (one-time payment)	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper Kelseya Fee Add \$10 if you wish to receive a paper copy of our quarterly newsletter Kelseya, otherwise an e-version of Kelseya will be delivered via email	\$10

An **additional donation** to MNPS helps support conservation action, educational programs, and botanical research. Donors will receive acknowledgement of their contribution in the spring issue of *Kelseya**. You can select from the following giving categories:



- ☐ Kelseya — \$50
- ☐ Bitterroot — \$100
- ☐ Lupine — \$250
- ☐ Ponderosa Pine — \$1000
- ☐ Other — \$ _____

- ☐ *Check if you wish your donation to be anonymous
- ☐ Check if you wish to be contacted for volunteer opportunities

Membership in MNPS is on an annual basis, March 1st to February 28th. Memberships processed before November 1st will expire the following February 28th. Memberships processed after October 31st will expire February 28th of the year after.

MNPS Chapters and the Areas They Serve

Members are welcome to affiliate with any chapter.

Please select ☒ your chapter affiliation.

- ☐ **Artemisia** (Yellowstone, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Rosebud, Treasure, Big Horn, Carbon, & Stillwater Counties)
- ☐ **Calypso** (Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow & parts of Madison Counties)
- ☐ **Clark Fork** (Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Granite, Ravalli & parts of Lake Counties)
- ☐ **Flathead** (Flathead & parts of Lake and Lincoln Counties)
- ☐ **Kelsey** (Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, Judith Basin, Meagher, Broadwater & parts of Jefferson Counties)
- ☐ **Maka Flora** (Richland, Roosevelt, McCone, Sheridan, Daniels, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Custer, Fallon, Powder River & Carter Counties)
- ☐ **Valley of Flowers** (Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass and parts of Madison Counties)
- ☐ **Eastern-at-Large** (Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Garfield, Petroleum, Fergus, & Wheatland Counties)
- ☐ **Western-at-Large** (Sanders & parts of Lincoln Counties)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Montana Native Plant Society**
Please mail this form with your check to:

**MNPS
PO Box 8783
Missoula, MT 59807-8783**

**Welcome to the
Montana Native Plant Society!**

Memberships are processed on a quarterly basis so you may experience a slight delay in membership recognition and benefits. We appreciate your patience with our all-volunteer organization.



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 8783
Missoula, MT 59807-8783

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Plains, MT
59859
PERMIT NO. 3

© Copyright 2023
Montana Native Plant Society
Printed on recycled paper

About Montana Native Plant Society

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

Your yearly membership fee includes an electronic 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.

Summer issue deadline is June 10

Please send web items to our webmasters:
Bob Person at mnpwebmaster@gmail.com

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.

If you would like extra copies of *Kelsey* for friends or family, contact the Newsletter co-editors at: scottguse@yahoo.com or jenhintzguse@gmail.com. No part of this publication may be reprinted without the consent of MNPS. Reprint requests should be directed to the newsletter co-editors.

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

Please visit our website at www.mtnativeplants.org

MNPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Patrick Plantenberg	Townsend	431-4615
Past-President	Gretchen Rupp	Bozeman	586-8363
Vice President	Robert Pal	Butte	496-4725
Secretary	Camie Westfall	Helena	363-8295
Treasurer	Laurie Kurth	Frenchtown	626-4462
Newsletter Co-editors	Scott Guse Jen Hintz Guse	Whitefish Whitefish	998-7638 270-7028

Directors At-Large

Eastern Montana	Kelsey Molloy	Malta	654-4566
Western Montana	Jon Reny	Libby	334-0459

Chapter Representatives

Calypso Chapter	Catherine Cain	Glen	498-6198
	Karen Porter	Butte	498-9728
Clark Fork Chapter	Teagan Hayes	Missoula	920-979-9009
Flathead Chapter	Tara Carolin	Kalispell	607-7670
Kelsey Chapter	Mark Majerus	Helena	425-3443
Maka Flora Chapter	Fraser Watson	Sydney	703-509-0152
Valley of Flowers Chapter	Gretchen Rupp	Bozeman	586-8363

Standing Committees

Conservation	Elizabeth Bergstrom	Ennis	581-6571
Landscaping/Reveg	Patrick Plantenberg	Townsend	431-4615
Membership	Maria Mantas	Bigfork	407-2045
	Sasha Victor	Missoula	407-2045
Small Grants	Betty Kuropat	Troy	295-7143

Moving? Please let us know at mtnativeplantmembership@gmail.com

OFFICIAL 2023 MNPS ELECTION BALLOT

Please vote for the candidate(s) of your choice, or a write-in candidate, including yourself. Fill out and mail to the address on the ballot. Or go to the election page online: www.mtnativeplants.org/elections. Terms are two years. Results will be announced at the Annual Membership Meeting on June 24, 2023 at Bannack State Park, near Dillon Montana.

CANDIDATES FOR CO-PRESIDENT - PLEASE VOTE FOR TWO

() **ROBERT PAL** - Robert is an Associate Professor and the Director of Restoration at Montana Technological University (Department of Biological Sciences). He holds a master's in agriculture and a Ph.D. in Biology/Plant Ecology. His main research focus has always been the study of the flora and vegetation of disturbed habitats, including agricultural and urban areas. That led him to work on ecological restoration and plant invasions. He was awarded by prestigious research grants such as the Fulbright Research Grant and the Marie Curie Research Fellowship. From 2021 Robert has been the vice president of the Montana Native Plant Society and in 2023 he is interested in running for president.



() **DAVE HANNA** - Dave has been fortunate to do conservation work in Montana since the early 1990s, and currently works for The Nature Conservancy in the Crown on the Continent. He lives in Choteau near a diversity of native plants and habitats. Dave previously served as MNPS president from 2007-2013.



() _____ Write-in candidate

CANDIDATE FOR WESTERN DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

() **JON RENY** - Jon is from Libby. Experiencing the joy and interest others have for native plants is one of the things that attracts him to this position. Jon has been looking at plants and looking for plants with more than just a passing interest for over 30 years. Coordinating with other Western Members is a role he looks forward to.



() _____ Write-in candidate

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

() **Laurie Kurth (Incumbant)** - Laurie is a plant ecologist with more than 32 years of service with federal agencies, and she is currently serving as the MNPS treasurer. In Laurie's final position in her career, she managed the national US Forest Service program budget for wildfire risk reduction (fuels management) and oversaw wildfire prevention, air quality management, and state assistance programs. Since returning to Montana in 2018, she has enjoyed reconnecting with Montana flora, including expanding native plant gardens. She enjoys kayaking, traveling, hiking, biking, Chicago Cubs baseball, and quilting. In the summer, you might see her at farmer's markets, fairs, and street festivals selling handcrafted goods, including those brought back from Nepal and Thailand. She lives with her two furry felines, Fuego and Rosie, in Frenchtown, and is a member of the Clark Fork Chapter.



() _____ Write-in candidate

MEET YOUR NEW VICE-PRESIDENT

(APPOINTED TO FILL IN FOR ROBERT PAL,
IF ELECTED AS CO-PRESIDENT)

KENDA HERMAN - Kenda lives in Helena, where she is the Botany Data Assistant for the Montana Natural Heritage Program and Citizen Botany Pilot Study Coordinator. Shaped by mentorship from botanists and naturalists in her early career, she is a biologist with a background in environmental science and plant ecology. Since then, she has spent about 15 years supporting land management, restoration, and conservation. Kenda has appreciated many years of membership to the Montana Native Plant Society and is eager to contribute to its leadership team.



CHAPTER AFFILIATION

Please indicate your affiliation. All members previously not affiliated have been assigned to one of the two -at-Large groups.

() Artemisia () Calypso () Clark Fork () Flathead () Kelsey () Maka Flora () Valley of Flowers () Eastern-at-Large () Western-at-Large

Number of paid members in your household _____ **THE MNPS ELECTORAL COLLEGE THANKS YOU!**

From:

Flower
Stamp

To: Montana Native Plant Society
Electoral College c/o Camie Westfall
5730 Racehorse Loop
Helena, MT 59602

Fold here



Solidago multiradiata

Tape here

MONTANA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY



Logo by Jessica Glenn

GOLDENRODS GHOSTS and GOLD 2023 Annual Meeting

JUNE 23-25,
2023

TO REGISTER:

Fill out the registration form in this *Kelsey* or online at <https://mtnativeplants.org/annual-meetings/>. Registration opens April 15th. Please register EARLY.

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

Workshops are from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Friday June 23rd. Sign-up is required at the time of registration for the meeting. Space is limited so register early. You may complete on-site check-in at Bannack after the workshop.

Identification of Grasses with Mark Majerus. Participants will work with field specimens from Mark's extensive inventory, focusing on initial observations, characteristics of the main tribes of grasses, and certain key observations to distinguish species. Bring a hand lens if you have one. There may be a short field excursion near the end of the course. Limit 20.

Dyeing with Native Plants with Jessie Salix. See what our native plant colors can produce. Jessie will lead participants through the dying process including preparation of scarf materials, creating the dye bath, and dyeing your scarf. A materials fee will be payable to Jessie at the time of the course (est. \$8-20 for the scarf). Limit 20.

Citizen Botany Training - Beginning Course with Andrea Pipp and Kenda Herman. Field testing rare plant data collection & mapping. We'll test aspects of data collection and mapping of a target plant, hopefully a rare one. For that plant we'll review existing materials, search for it, and conduct data collection, photography, and mapping using the Survey 123 app and digital and paper forms. Limit 20.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

A half-day Saturday activity will be planned when we have determined the number and ages of kids attending.

Email mnps.calypso@gmail.com if you have questions.

FOOD

Registration for meals closes May 15. Please bring your own lunches and snacks. There will be vegetarian and gluten-free options at every meal.

Friday Dinner (\$15 adult; \$7 child): Hearty soups; bread sticks; green salad; desserts; lemonade.

Saturday Breakfast (\$16 adult; \$8 child): Quiches (spinach/mushroom/cheese); bacon/sausage; hash-browns; fruit bowl; coffee and tea.

Saturday Dinner (\$17 adult; \$8 child): Southwestern theme. Enchiladas (bean, chicken, GF); Spanish rice; corn & black beans; shredded lettuce; chips & salsa; desserts; lemonade.

Sunday Breakfast (\$16 adult; \$8 child): Same as Saturday breakfast.

FIELD TRIPS

Below is a PRELIMINARY list of field trips. Final sign-up list available at time of Friday check-in. Distances are round-trip (RT).

SATURDAY

Baldy Peak, East Pioneers - Strenuous, 5-mile RT hike with 2400-ft elevation gain. Expect a variety of alpine flora at peak bloom.

Southwestern-most Montana - Geology, History and Plants - Significant driving miles to reach/explore unvisited country with a rich history, spectacular scenery.

Bell Limekiln Gulch WMA - Moderate 6-mile RT hike into north end of Tendoy Mtns.; 40-mile RT drive from camp.

Bird's Eye View Trail - Moderate 2.3-mile loop walk, with 500-ft elev. gain; scenic, with Bannack-area flora along the route.

Sagebrush Species and Varieties - SW Montana - Moderate off-trail walking in sagebrush steppe; distinguishing Big Sagebrush varieties, other sage species.

Interplay Between Flora and Geology - Easy to moderate 1-3-mile off-trail hike through shoreline & upland vegetation around Clark Canyon Reservoir.

Sawtooth Lake Wildflower Hike - Moderately strenuous 8-mile RT hike, 1500-ft elev. gain, in the East Pioneer Mtns. Spectacular scenery and wildflower bloom.

Plant Diversity in the Sagebrush Steppe: Lessons Learned - Easy off-road walking west of camp, across a patch of sagebrush steppe rich in native plant species.

Herbs of the Sagebrush Steppe - Easy walking in Grasshopper Creek riparian area including medicinal plants.

Fire on the Landscape: Post-burn Regrowth Along Badger Pass - Easy to moderate off-trail hiking in Douglas-fir forest, site of the 2020 Bon Accord Fire.

Rare Plants of the Steppe and Grassland Communities - Easy off-trail walking, 3 miles RT in hills northeast of camp.

Plant Functional Traits Along Environmental Gradients - Easy short hikes in nearby environments; focus: plant interactions with their environment.

SUNDAY

Tour of Bannack Townsite with John Phillips, starting at 9:30 a.m. from the Visitor Center. **En route home** you may wish to visit regional sites including Big Hole National Battlefield, Lemhi Pass area, Clark Canyon Reservoir, Jackson Hot Springs, Clark's Lookout, and Pioneer Mtns. Nat. Scenic Byway. Travel directions provided as needed.

SUPPORT
MONTANA
NATIVE
PLANT
SOCIETY

2023 MNPS ONLINE AUCTION

<https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/mtnativeplantsauction>

Auction closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 28, 2023
Winners will be notified by April 30th

GOING
ON NOW!

New items
may be added
throughout
the auction



Two nights at a Butte KOA Cabin during the Montana Folk Festival!

Up to 4 persons

Saturday & Sunday nights (July 15 and 16)

Experience the Montana Folk Festival in Butte with 2 nights accommodations at a beautiful KOA cabin. As a bonus, the KOA will host a complimentary BBQ on Sunday night.



Stunning Hand Thrown Pottery Bowl by Peggy Steffes.

Stunning signed hand thrown pottery bowl with iridescent glaze by the famous Bitterroot ceramist Peggy Steffes. The light hits the bowl and it glows with pink, blue, and white iridescence. The drip glaze resembles the waves of color in the Northern Lights. A lovely piece for your home or a gift. It is 6 1/2 " tall and 11 1/2" across the rim.



Original painting by Montana watercolor artist Jessica Glenn (the Annual Meeting Logo Artist!)

Created specifically for the "Goldenrods, Ghosts and Gold" 2023 MNPS Annual Meeting.

Framed; framed size: 30" x 18".



Beautiful porcelain birds mounted on wood by well-known Southwest Montana artist Cathy Weber.

2 birds, ~6" high, on a table mount branch. Glazed cone 6 porcelain on found wood.



Goldenrods, Ghosts and Gold

Montana Native Plant Society

Annual Meeting – June 23-25, 2023

Online registration opens
April 15, 2023

Join us in exploring the broad sagebrush steppe and southern Pioneer Mountains of southwest Montana. The extensive grasslands, incised by the Grasshopper Creek drainage, support a rich native flora in diverse ecological settings, and the adjacent granite-cored mountains are timbered with conifers including the embattled Whitebark Pine. Native Americans long used the region, crossing Badger Pass to reach the eastern bison herds. Later history embraced the gold rush of the 1860s, with Montana's first significant gold strike on Grasshopper Creek, establishment of Bannack as Montana's Capital, and the reign of the vigilantes.

WEEKEND EVENTS

Friday Workshops: To attend a workshop you must sign up when you register for the meeting by June 16th. Workshops are:

Grasses ID – Mark Majerus
Dyeing with Native Plants – Jessie Salix
Citizen Botany Training – Andrea Pipp and Kenda Herman

Friday Mixer: Pre-dinner social hosted by Calypso Chapter with beer, wine, other beverages and snacks.

Friday Evening Speaker: Dr. Rob Thomas is a Regents Professor of Geology at the University of Montana Western in Dillon. Probably best known to us for his publications *Roadside Geology of Yellowstone Country* and *Roadside Geology of Montana*, Rob's topic will be "Geologic History of Montana". His books will be available for purchase.

Field Trips: You may sign up for Saturday and Sunday field trips Friday afternoon when checking in. All trips are subject to change based on weather. You are responsible for your own lunch, water, appropriate footwear and clothing, sunscreen, insect repellent, and bear spray.

Saturday trips include exploration of the grasslands, sagebrush steppe, medicinal plants, rare plant communities, subalpine mountain lake flora, and post-fire regeneration. Sunday trip is a guided morning tour of Bannack townsite. En route home you may wish to visit regional sites including Big Hole National Battlefield, the Lemhi Pass area, Jackson Hot Springs, Clark Canyon Reservoir, Clark's Lookout, or Pioneer Mountains National Scenic Byway.

AGENDA

Friday, June 23

1:00-4:00 Workshops (registration required when registering for meeting)
3:00-6:00 Check-in and field trip sign-up
5:00-6:00 Mixer at Pavilion
6:00-7:00 Dinner at Pavilion
6:30-7:30 Board of Directors meeting
7:30-8:30 Fireside talk: Dr. Rob Thomas, "Geological History of Montana"

Saturday, June 24

7:00-8:00 Breakfast
8:00-4:30 Field trips (pack your own lunch)
4:00-6:00 Wayne Phillips Plant ID Challenge
6:00-7:00 Dinner at Pavilion
7:00-8:00 General Membership Meeting, Raffle drawing, and socializing
9:00 Ghost Walk through Bannack with John Phillips

Sunday, June 25

7:00-8:30 Breakfast
8:30-9:30 Committee meetings. Break camp
9:30 - 10:30 Tour of Bannack with John Phillips
11:00 - 1:00 Park Area Checkout

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration and payment will be available on-line starting April 15th at <https://www.mtnativeplants.org/annual-meetings/>
- No refunds after June 1st.
- If ordering meals, registration is required by May 15th.
- Registration will be open until the weekend of the meeting.
- Meeting attendance will be limited to 100 people.
- Due to campsite limits, tent sites will be reserved for tenters only and will be assigned as registrations are received. There is ample space for RV/Camper vehicles - no hookups or electricity. No generators between 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM.

YOU MAY NOT REGISTER AT THE MEETING IF CAPACITY HAS BEEN REACHED, SO REGISTER EARLY!

LOCATION

Bannack State Park is located west of Dillon, MT. Coming from the east: From Interstate 15, take Exit 59 onto Hwy. 287 heading west. Travel about 22 miles, look for the sign to Bannack State Park and turn left (south). Coming from the west: On Hwy. 287, look for the sign to Bannack State Park and run right (south). Drive a short distance and turn left again into the Park. Follow signs about 3 miles to Check-In Canopy.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be a rustic setting. Tent sites will be on a first-come basis; no dispersed camping in the park. RV/camper sites also available. Vault toilets, water and wash stations available. There is no cell service and electricity is available only at the group Pavilion. The large Pavilion and a canopy tent will house group activities in camp and serve as shelter if needed. Motel accommodations are available in Dillon – reserve early. Breakfast bar (Saturday and Sunday) and catered dinners (Friday and Saturday) can be purchased when registering (see separate registration form). Lunches are on your own. Please remember to bring cash/checks if you wish to purchase raffle tickets or other merchandise – there will not be a credit card option.

WHAT TO BRING

Lawn Chairs	Raingear
Food for lunches	Sunscreen/hat
Snacks	Insect repellent
Mug	Bear Spray
Water Bottle / Extra Water	

Cash/Checks for Raffle Tickets and Sale Items

JOIN THE MNPS AUCTION EVENT & SUPPORT MNPS

...going on now at

<https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/mtnativeplantsauction>

See auction flyer for more (with Kelsey or online)

Auction ends at 4:00 PM Friday April 28th.

PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON MNPS ACTIVITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the MNPS website at <https://mtnativeplants.org/annual-meetings>, see the Spring Kelsey, or contact us at mnps.calypso@gmail.com

Montana Native Plant Society Annual Meeting
Hosted by Calypso Chapter
June 23 – 25, 2023

Registration Form

We encourage you to register and view meeting details on-line at mtnativeplants.org/annual-meetings/. When using this form to register, make checks out to MNPS. Send payment and form to:

MNPS, Calypso Chapter
c/o Joyce Connors
P.O. Box 1025
Dillon, MT 59725

Registrant Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

REGISTRATION DETAILS	RATE	#PEOPLE	\$TOTAL
Please keep a copy of this form as a record of your registration and meal orders.			
Adult Registration (ages 12 and up) MNPS Member	\$35.00		
Non-member	\$65.00		
Child Registration (ages 11 and under) # ____ Please include children's ages so we can tailor activities:	FREE		
MEALS. Please enter the number in your party who want Vegetarian (____) Gluten-free (____) Neither (____)			
Friday Dinner: Hearty soups; bread sticks; green salad; desserts; lemonade	\$ 15 / adult		
	\$7 / child		
Saturday Breakfast: Quiches (spinach, mushroom, cheese); bacon/sausage; hash-browns; fruit bowl; coffee and tea	\$16 / adult		
	\$8 / child		
Saturday Dinner: Southwestern theme: Enchiladas (bean, chicken, GF); Spanish rice; corn & black beans; shredded lettuce; chips & salsa; desserts; lemonade	\$17 / adult		
	\$8 / child		
Sunday Breakfast: Same as Saturday Breakfast	\$16 / adult		
	\$8 / child		
CAMPING. Need ____ tent site (number limited) or ____ camper/RV site			
Grand Total (check only – mail with form to address above)			

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION: Deadline, June 16; space is limited; enter # registering:

1. Identification of Grasses with Mark Majerus (#____)
2. Dyeing with Native Plants with Jessie Salix (#____)
3. Citizen Botany Training with Andrea Pipp and Kenda Herman (#____)

I (we) hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) and its board of directors and members against claims of liability, damages, and injury that may arise out of my (our) participation in Montana Native Plant Society's Annual Meeting at Bannack State Park and related field trips in or near the Bannack State Park, June 23 -25, 2023. I understand pets are not allowed at MNPS Activities.

Signature(s): _____

MNPS 2022 BUDGET

Prepared by: Laurie Kurth

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES</u>						
Membership	\$19,400.00	\$22,080.00	(\$3,900.00)	(\$5,061.76)	\$15,500.00	\$17,018.24
Dues and Fees	\$19,400.00	\$22,080.00	\$0.00	(\$1,049.76)		
Chapter Portion	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$3,900.00)	(\$4,012.00)		
Newsletter	\$1,000.00	\$760.00	(\$8,000.00)	(\$8,164.45)	(\$7,000.00)	(\$7,404.45)
Operating Budget	\$4,000.00	\$8,605.00	(\$2,460.00)	(\$2,006.92)	\$1,540.00	\$6,598.08
Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Committees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Board Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$347.05)		
Website	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,060.00)	(\$348.00)		
Donations	\$4,000.00	\$8,476.00	\$0.00	(\$56.17)		
Publications	\$0.00	\$129.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$900.00)	(\$1,255.70)		
At-Large Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	\$0.00		
GOE TOTALS	\$24,400.00	\$31,445.00	(\$14,360.00)	(\$15,233.13)	\$10,040.00	\$16,211.87
<u>SPECIAL PROJECTS</u>						
Small Grants Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$3,200.00)	(\$2,415.02)		(\$2,415.02)
UM Herbarium Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,000.00)		(\$1,000.00)
MT Audubon Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Chapter Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Annual Meeting	\$5,000.00	\$8,428.34	(\$5,000.00)	(\$5,000.00)		\$3,428.34
Plant Conservation Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$250.00)		(\$250.00)
Citizen Botany Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	\$0.00		\$0.00
MNPS Presents!	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	(\$600.00)		(\$600.00)
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	\$5,000.00	\$8,428.34	(\$15,200.00)	(\$8,665.02)	(\$10,200.00)	(\$236.68)
TOTALS	\$29,400.00	\$39,873.34	(\$29,560.00)	(\$23,898.15)	(\$160.00)	\$15,975.19

PROPOSED MNPS 2023 BUDGET - March 6, 2023

Prepared by: Laurie Kurth

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<u>GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES</u>						
Membership	\$20,000.00	\$12,910.00	(\$5,200.00)	(\$764.66)	\$14,800.00	\$12,145.34
Dues and Fees	\$20,000.00	\$12,910.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$764.66)		
Chapter Portion	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,200.00)	\$0.00		
Newsletter	\$1,000.00	\$370.00	(\$9,000.00)	(\$1,675.50)	(\$8,000.00)	(\$1,305.50)
Operating Budget	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	(\$7,650.00)	(\$342.75)	(\$2,650.00)	\$3,657.25
Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$600.00)	\$0.00		
Committees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Board Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$750.00)	(\$250.00)		
Website	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$87.00)		
Donations	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	(\$300.00)	(\$5.75)		
Publications	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	\$0.00		
Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,000.00)	\$0.00		
At-Large Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	\$0.00		
GOE TOTALS	\$26,000.00	\$17,280.00	(\$21,850.00)	(\$2,782.91)	\$4,150.00	\$14,497.09
<u>SPECIAL PROJECTS</u>						
Small Grants Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,600.00)	\$0.00		\$0.00
UM Herbarium Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
MT Audubon Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	\$0.00		\$0.00
Chapter Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Annual Meeting	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	\$0.00		\$0.00
Plant Conservation Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Citizen Botany Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	\$0.00		\$0.00
MNPS Presents!	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	(\$200.00)		(\$200.00)
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	(\$15,600.00)	\$0.00	(\$10,600.00)	\$0.00
TOTALS	\$31,000.00	\$17,280.00	(\$37,450.00)	(\$2,782.91)	(\$6,450.00)	\$14,497.09