



AGENDA
MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
10:00 am to 2:00 pm; Saturday, November 4, 2023
via Zoom

Attendees (all on zoom):

Dave Hanna, Camie Westfall, Kenda Herman, Rachel Potter, Gretchen Rupp, Betty Kuropat, Maria Mantas, Karen Porter, Bob Person, Patrick Plantenberg, Carol Goffe, Jessica Callahan, Jennifer Guse, Scott Guse, Leah Grunzke, Elizabeth Bergstrom, Teagan Hayes, Fraser Watson, Libby Knotts

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda, Announcements – Dave Hanna (00:00:00)
 - Agenda additions and meeting logistics
2. Secretary's Report – Camie Westfall (00:09:22)
 - Approve minutes of Summer Board meeting
 - Patrick moved to approve the minutes. Rachel seconded. Rachel had some discussion about reviewing the action items efficiently during the board meeting. Dave suggested that we cover action items as we go through the agenda and Dave can track those items as we go. Board approved, no opposition.
 - Board member contact updates. All: Please review and send corrections to Camie
3. Treasurer's Report – Absent: Laurie Kurth (see report) (00:18:14)
 - 2023 Budget Update - We are on track for 2023 with some items not paid yet. See the balance report and budget reports as of 10/20/2023.
 - We have not paid Leah at all yet for her work since July 2023. The contract is not quite finalized.
 - Draft 2024 Budget
 - Dave reminded us to think about funding requests for chapters and committees for projects, we can add that into the 2024 budget.
 - For efficiency, we talked about discussing the 2024 Budget at the end of the meeting after discussing all the agenda item sections. For each agenda item, there was discussion about whether there were any expected budget requests or needs for the 2024 Budget.
 - Additional 2024 Budget discussion starts at minute 04:20:32 and is captured in column J of the Proposed 2024 Budget November Meeting spreadsheet.
4. Newsletter Editors Report - Scott Guse and Jen Hintz Guse (00:30:36)
 - Thank you to everyone who has been contributing content. They are pleased about their relationship with the printer.
 - Next deadline is December 10 for the January 1, 2024 publication date goal.
 - They always need items for the Gardener's Notebook and feature articles.
 - Rachel wanted to know if they have a list of people who have contributed in the past. Jen and Scott do have a list of past contributors and can send solicitations out to see if those

individuals have anything to contribute again. Chapters can also ask their membership for contributions.

- Jen and Elizabeth briefly discussed the notification, logo, and form for the upcoming Conservation Conference which will be published in the winter Kelsey Newsletter.

5. Membership Report - Maria Mantas (00:33:50)

- See Maria's report. Membership numbers are up. We will likely surpass last year's membership numbers.
- We received two lifetime memberships this year.
- Our Administrative Assistant, Leah Grunzke, has been helping input membership data. Maria will get with Kenda and Leah to do more.
- Maria is still working on updating the Chapter boundary map. Rachel asked how the people who are affected by the boundary changes are notified. Maria said the Chapter representatives should be notifying the people in their membership who are affected by the boundary changes. When people join or renew their membership, they can self select which Chapter they want to be part of.
- Maria would like to put in \$500 for the Publications portion of the membership 2024 Budget for printing more brochures.
- Peter Lesica is still graciously helping with the mailed postcard membership renewal notices.
- Donations Update: We've received \$6,620 in donations from 108 separate donations.
 - Maria reminded everyone to check the quarterly membership list for donors to send Thank Yous.
- Giving Tuesday is November 28. Rachel, Patrick, Maria, Leah, and Bob/Carol will work together to create a notification via email, the website, and social media regarding Giving Tuesday.
- Maria expects that donations will be similar to what we expected in the 2023 Budget and she suggests that we put in around \$7,000 for incoming donations (and outgoing expenses for the new Grants and Giving Program).
- Maria also proposed that we change our giving amount from \$1,000 on alternating years to Montana Audubon and the UM Herbarium to give \$1,000 every year to each of those entities for the 2024 Budget.
 - Rachel reminded us that the purpose of giving to Montana Audubon every other year was to help support their legislative lobbying efforts for conservation in Montana.
 - Dave suggested maybe we continue to give to Montana Audubon every other year, but increase the amount to \$2,000, and then perhaps we give \$1,000 to the UM Herbarium every year instead of every other year.
- Elizabeth proposed that on the off year where we are not donating to Montana Audubon, that we give monetary support to the MSU Bozeman or the MSU Billings Herbariums.
- Thank You Note Volunteer - Gretchen (00:48:10)
 - Gretchen would like to retire from writing the thank you notes after this quarter. MNPS policy states that we write a personal thank you note for everyone who donates \$30 or more: the MNPS President writes thank you notes to those who donate \$250 or more, and someone designated by the president writes thank you notes to those who donated \$30-\$249.
 - Leah can do this for most quarters, but in the Spring when there is a large backlog of letters, it will become too much for one person (and Leah's hour/project allotment). Camie and Kenda can help with writing some letters.
 - For larger donations, Patrick can be the designee for lifetime member and business member amounts.
 - Dave can do the thank you notes for the larger (over \$250) amounts.
 - Maria asked how to sign the letters. Maybe we should have a designated signature for Leah/others to use. The Board liked: "On behalf of the Montana Native Plant Society Board of Directors" to be used as the standard signature.
 - See the template letter that Gretchen provided.
- 2023 MNPS Accomplishments - Gretchen (00:56:05)

- Update this document summarizing accomplishments and services to the MNPS membership.
 - All: Gretchen wants to finish updating this by the end of this month (November 30).
 - It could also be posted on the website.
- Maria said maybe we should have a formal annual report to note these activities in the Kelseyia Newsletter.
 - Jen said that the Spring issue is VERY packed, so it will be a challenge to fit an annual report in the Spring issue. The Winter issue could be a good place for it because it could be tied to people who would be renewing their membership.
 - cdsRachel said maybe we should have this in the Winter issue. Patrick and Karen agree.
 - Gretchen said she will work it up for this year for the Winter issue of the Kelseyia Newsletter.
 - In the future during the fall Board meeting, we should prompt for the annual report to be updated for the Winter issue of the Kelseyia. Jen Guse will add it to her list to ask that someone volunteer or be designated to help out with the report using Gretchen's template.
 - The Annual Report can also be added to the Board Handbook list of items to be included in each issue of the Kelseyia.
 - Betty said we should also be sharing this at the Annual General Membership meeting in the summer.

6. Webmaster Report - Bob Person (01:02:40)

- Bob has been communicating with Leah and Kenda about Administrative Assistant duties for the website.
- Bob wants to step down from website duties within 15 months.
 - Bob has a very detailed list of all the duties and how they are done for the Webmaster position. We need to be thinking about how to split the responsibilities and who can take over for Bob. Some of the web tasks were discussed to be assigned to Leah and possibly Carol can take on some of the tasks from Bob.
- Zoom update:
 - Bob reminded everyone that Chapter use of the MNPS Host Zoom account needs to be arranged with Bob in advance because the security settings are somewhat random and can be cumbersome to get a new user logged in.

7. 2024 Annual Meeting Update – Teagan Hayes / Peter Lesica (01:13:08)

- June 28-30, 2024 at Camp Utmost in Greenough, MT.
- They have some upcoming notification deadlines for the Winter issue of the Kelseyia Newsletter.
- The Camp Utmost venue can seat and house over 200 people. Teagan said to verbally spread the word and share it on social media.
 - There is a main lodge which can be used for meetings/gatherings as well as a kitchen/dining area.
 - There are around 38 dorm rooms, eight cabins that sleep 16 people, and lots of RV camping and dispersed camping.
 - Food will be catered and also contributions from Clark Fork Chapter.
- The Clark Fork Chapter has multiple subcommittees to help with planning the various logistics for the meeting.
 - They have worked with a Bozeman based artist, Leah Mendes, who has volunteered to do a piece for the meeting to feature a plant that is endemic to the Blackfoot Valley.
 - Peter is planning about 18 different hikes and field trip leaders.
- Clark Fork Chapter does not need any funding or support from the state MNPS.

- Teagan will talk with her Chapter to propose how much of the auction items will go back to the Clark Fork Chapter versus the state MNPS.

8. Standing Committee Reports

- Conservation - Elizabeth Bergstrom (01:21:28)
 - The 2024 Plant Conservation Conference: The theme is Restoration.
 - The conference will be in person. at MSU Campus, Strand Student Union Ballroom which can seat about 100 people. For the second day, there is a smaller room reserved.
 - \$300 + \$120 for the room reservations
 - Elizabeth needs to talk with the MSU conference center director about food catering for lunch/snacks.
 - For the first day, there is a great line-up of speakers on a variety of topics.
 - At the end of the first day, they are planning on having a field trip to tour the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve in Bozeman.
 - On the second day, Andrea can present on the Conservation Strategy effort.
 - MSU probably needs to have a retainer fee in December.
 - In the past, the Conservation Conference has always paid for itself. Registration is typically \$25 for individuals and \$5 for students.
 - Elizabeth proposed \$5,000 for lodging and transportation for out-of-town speakers. Many speakers are from Bozeman, but several are from Helena, Missoula, and eastern Montana.
 - Motion: Gretchen moves that we advance \$5,000 for the Conservation Conference with the expectation that registration fees will likely reimburse the \$5,000 to the state MNPS 2024 Budget.
 - Karen seconded the motion. No discussion. Board Approved.
 - Beartooth Highway Update
 - Jennifer Lyman has been working with both the Shoshone National Forest and the Custer-Gallatin National Forest, to decide where to put an interpretive sign on the Montana side. The Montana side has a sign that they would like to use, but it doesn't quite match the Forest Service's Interpretive Plan, so more discussions are needed. Wyoming will have three signs coming up from their side.
 - They are also hoping to develop a brochure with information on the history, importance, and leave no trace principles or perhaps have a radio station or something to take in your car to learn more at various stops along the highway.
 - There have been discussions about an MOU with the Custer-Gallatin National Forest and MNPS for this developing program. Then we could have our logo on the signage and the brochure as recognition to the MNPS. Neither organization would have to be committed to funding these projects.
 - Dave discussed some of the reasons why we would want to have an MOU such as defining boundaries, expectations, and responsibilities for collaboration and use of logos. The MNPS Conservation Committee draft the MOU.
 - Possibly also include more agencies such as MDT, WDOT, and the Wyoming Native Plant Society or other interested groups.
 - Elizabeth will find out more information on the MOU and discuss again at the Spring MNPS Board meeting for a board vote. She will find out if the WNPS and/or the National Park Service has an MOU with the

- Budget structure: Laurie has ideas about how to track this separately so she can up the donations in a bucket. Donation bucket would roll over every year and could accrue over time to be used for Grants and Giving purposes.
- Patrick suggested that we do the Small Grants budget again for one more year. Betty cannot do another year while she is trying to help transition the new Grants and Giving Committee.
- Adele Underwood and Annie Garde are technically the co-chairs of the new Grants and Giving Committee. There needs to be a leader to step forward for policy creation. Maria might have some time this winter to help set up meetings. Leah has experience with grant writing and may be able to look at it, but she may not have time available with the other tasks.
 - On the next Kelsey Newsletter, change it to “Grants and Giving Committee” and confirm whether Adele and Annie are still the co-chairs or say the chair position is vacant.
 - Perhaps advertise in the Kelsey Newsletter that we are in need.
 - Camie can review the Kelsey Chapter skills survey results. Camie can send around the Skills Survey that Kelsey Chapter created. (Done)
 - Possibly use another non-profit’s policy to use as a template to base our policy that is customized to the plant society and creating subcommittees.
 - The application review committee members are identified, but those individuals aren’t necessarily interested in assisting with the policy writing process. Eventually there will be implementation labor for building the online application process and some of the application compilation review process and letter/award writing process. Carol can help with some of the online aspects and Leah could help with some administrative application compilation tasks.
- Budget: Possibly put something in the budget to hire someone to lead writing the
 - Expense: propose \$7,000 for the Grants and Giving Committee and adjust it at the next Board Meeting.

9. Other Business

- Records Retention Policy and Storage (03:13:24)
 - Betty has a tub with all the Small Grants historical information. Some from recent years are electronic, but others are physical paper records. The Board discussed making these types of records electronic and housing them in a central repository that is accessible to the Board.
 - The Board discussed creating a centralized MNPS Google Drive account to initiate this organizational process for storage of records. Camie will work on creating a MNPS Board Google Drive.
- Board Handbook update – Dave Hanna
 - The Handbook needs updating. Camie will work on that with assistance from Dave and Rachel.
 - All: If there are previous versions of Word documents, send them to Camie.
 - Camie will set up a centralized Google Account and Google Drive.
- Executive Assistant update – Kenda Herman (03:27:44)
 - Mailbox duties
 - Laurie is picking up the mail weekly and then she sends it to Leah directly to be entered and process memberships as quickly as possible. The current arrangement is much more efficient and much better than how it was in the past.
 - There is a need to figure out a regular member to volunteer to check the mailbox. Possibly someone from the Clark Fork Chapter could take this on.
 - Contractor Review by Dec 15, Needs approval from two Board members.
 - Kenda will send it around the contract for the next calendar year.

- We should authorize Kenda and two other board members to make the decision to approve the contract. Gretchen is comfortable delegating the approval to Board members who are familiar with the work and tasks assigned to the Administrative Assistant.
- Bob suggested the committee be Kenda (Chair), Dave, and Maria.
 - Motion: Karen moves to appoint a committee of three Board members to review the Administrative Assistant contract which will meet the deadline of December 15 and report back to the Board.
 - Betty Seconded the Motion with the addition “and determine and prepare an extension of the contract for 2024 as appropriate”.
 - Discussion: Dave suggested changing the motion to allow the committee to approval/deny the new contract and not have to go back to the Board for an approval vote before the end of the year.
 - No further discussion.
 - Motion carried as revised to appoint a committee of three Board members to review and execute or deny the Administrative Assistant contract, and to determine, prepare, and execute an extension for 2024 which will meet the deadline of December 15 and report back to the Board. All approve.
- Budget: Expense: propose \$5,000 for 2024.
- Kenda will help set up a meeting with Rachel for social media aspects.
- Kenda will write a welcome message about Leah Grunzke as our Administrative Assistant for the Winter Kelseya.
- Leah will help with the Source Guide updates.
- Leah hasn’t been assigned very many tasks yet except updating the membership database as they come in. She has some time available to be assigned more tasks. Routine tasks are easy things to hand off to Leah. She is available to help 5-10 hours per week.
- Endowment – Dave Hanna/Patrick Plantenberg (03:45:16)
 - Potential donor to help get an endowment started. Patrick might know of someone. Some source of income in order to have a stable budget. Dave doesn’t know if an endowment is necessary from a budget perspective.
 - These possible options were discussed:
 - We could have an account with a broker for management of the funds. In order to set this up, it would take a big lift from the Treasurer side and the IRS reporting side.
 - Montana Community Foundation, money manager for nonprofits that has fund set aside, donation would actually go to the MCF and then they disperse annually based on their policies.
 - Annual payout/donation from the MCF to MNPS per the MCF 4.5%, must have \$10,000 (locks these funds up) in account before we get the payout.
 - If the donor only wants an endowment, then Dave would suggest using the Montana Community Foundation avenue instead of putting the labor on our volunteer Treasurer.
 - Patrick suggested the money be set aside to another account that could gain interest and be on reserve for us (another CD or money market account).
 - Karen suggested that the donation be set aside and put in the Grants and Giving bucket/fund.
 - Patrick will go back to the possible donors and discuss which options they might be comfortable moving forward with and how they would like to direct us on use of the funds.

10. Ad Hoc Committees

- MNPS Presents! Winter Programs - Beth Madden/Andrew Smith (04:07:10)

- If you have ideas for speakers, contact Beth and Andrew. Need to fill spots for December and January and March. Speakers are offered \$200 to speak.
 - Beth wants this to be her last year doing this. If the Board wants to continue having these programs, we need to find someone else to do them. Discuss again at the next Board meeting.
 - Dave suggested that maybe each Chapter commit to hosting one presentation per year and any extra presentations can be bonus.
 - We might need to enlist a solid person to help with the Zoom set up.
- Select Nominating Committee for 2024 election. (04:14:00)
 - Committee: Dave (chair), Kenda, and Camie
 - Elections for Secretary, Vice President, Eastern-at-Large Director
 - Need to make something for the Winter Kelsey about upcoming positions that are open and need nominations.
- Select Awards Committee for 2024 Annual Meeting (04:16:00)
 - Committee: Peter (Chair) and Karen
 - Awards to be considered are: the Outstanding Service to this Organization and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

11. Areas-at-Large and Chapter Reports - Chapter Reps

- Maka Flora - Fraser Watson is moving, Libby Knotts is taking over as the President/Chapter Representative. Maka Flora is working on the planning of the 2025 Annual MNPS Meeting June 20-22, 2025 in Ekalaka.
- Other Chapter updates are in the Board Meeting packet and in the Kelsey Newsletter.

12. Wrap-up – all

- Set Spring Board meeting date. Gretchen will send around a poll.
- Rachel received the Lifetime Achievement award from Flathead Audubon for 35 years of service. Congrats to Rachel!

13. Additional 2024 Budget discussion (04:20:32)

- Notes are captured in column J of the Proposed 2024 Budget November Meeting spreadsheet.

Adjourn: 3:15 pm

MNPS Annual Balance Statement as of 10/20/2023

Prepared by: Laurie Kurth

<u>Year</u>	<u>CDs</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Total Assets*</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>Net Gain/Loss</u>
2023	n/a	\$54,356.81	\$17,367.36	\$71,724.17	\$34,190.00	(\$26,828.94)	\$7,361.06
2022	n/a	\$18,836.47	\$35,853.91	\$54,690.38	\$39,873.34	(\$23,898.15)	\$15,975.19
2021	n/a	\$18,821.56	\$32,679.34	\$51,500.90	\$26,441.31	(\$17,992.93)	\$8,448.38
2020	n/a	\$18,817.67	\$21,901.32	\$40,718.99	\$36,523.89	(\$33,421.84)	\$3,102.05
2019	n/a	\$18,805.84	\$18,845.53	\$37,651.37	\$15,424.54	(\$19,186.60)	(\$3,762.06)
2018	n/a	\$18,796.44	\$26,445.16	\$45,241.60	\$21,169.53	(\$19,098.80)	\$2,070.73
2017	n/a	\$18,789.41	\$20,057.51	\$38,846.92	\$27,488.37	(\$27,486.99)	\$1.38
2016	n/a	\$18,776.35	\$21,588.14	\$40,364.49	\$16,755.12	(\$15,448.07)	\$1,307.05
2015	n/a	\$18,770.70	\$20,842.02	\$39,612.72	\$21,734.63	(\$26,898.58)	(\$5,163.95)
2014	n/a	\$18,765.55	\$32,408.02	\$51,173.57	\$28,025.84	(\$34,261.59)	(\$6,235.75)
2013	n/a	\$18,759.02	\$24,782.59	\$43,541.61	\$34,679.92	(\$13,391.48)	\$21,288.44
2012	n/a	\$18,746.10	\$15,767.06	\$34,513.16	\$35,293.27	(\$42,239.19)	(\$6,945.92)
2011	n/a	\$33,647.55	\$7,640.20	\$41,287.75	\$17,127.48	(\$17,547.35)	(\$419.87)
2010	n/a	\$33,550.71	\$8,361.70	\$41,912.41	\$17,816.41	(\$18,414.32)	(\$597.91)
2009	\$20,146.52	\$13,197.62	\$4,886.07	\$38,230.21	\$22,337.87	(\$14,250.28)	\$8,087.59
2008	\$20,000.00	\$4,695.49	\$9,178.00	\$33,873.49	\$18,288.96	(\$18,110.16)	\$178.80
2007	\$16,172.00	\$4,186.00	\$16,498.00	\$36,856.00	\$17,835.00	(\$13,149.00)	\$4,686.00
2006	\$15,605.00	\$3,679.00	\$5,544.00	\$24,828.00	\$17,677.00	(\$11,297.00)	\$6,380.00
2005	\$10,605.00	\$3,806.00	\$3,338.00	\$17,749.00	\$11,111.00	(\$9,609.00)	\$1,502.00
2004	\$10,400.00	\$3,663.00	\$7,986.00	\$22,049.00	\$12,429.00	(\$15,487.00)	(\$3,058.00)
2003	\$10,319.00	\$6,125.00	\$4,125.00	\$20,569.00	\$12,744.00	(\$12,791.00)	(\$47.00)
2002	\$10,000.00	\$4,138.00	\$6,269.00	\$20,407.00	\$12,382.00	(\$11,353.00)	\$1,029.00
2001	\$10,000.00	\$11,564.00	\$301.00	\$21,865.00	\$9,170.00	(\$8,686.00)	\$484.00
2000	\$10,000.00	\$11,244.00	\$307.00	\$21,551.00	\$7,816.00	(\$6,410.00)	\$1,406.00
1999	\$10,000.00	\$8,865.00	\$891.00	\$19,756.00	\$9,039.00	(\$4,762.00)	\$4,277.00

1998				\$14,576.00	\$11,978.00	(\$10,912.00)	\$1,066.00
1997	\$4,050.00	\$10,600.00	\$1,300.00	\$15,950.00	\$6,019.00	(\$6,948.00)	(\$929.00)
1996	\$2,500.00	\$9,272.00	\$411.00	\$12,183.00	\$6,147.00	(\$4,746.00)	\$1,401.00
1995	\$3,000.00	\$6,320.00	\$277.00	\$9,597.00	\$6,172.00	(\$6,037.00)	\$135.00

MNPS 2023 BUDGET --10/20/2023

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>Notes</u>
GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES							
Membership	\$20,000.00	\$21,955.00	(\$5,200.00)	(\$1,323.71)	\$14,800.00	\$20,631.29	
Dues and Fees	\$20,000.00	\$21,955.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,123.71)			\$592.46 membership mailings, \$531.35 pay pal fees
Chapter Portion	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,200.00)	(\$200.00)			includes \$200 to Billings for startup
Newsletter	\$1,000.00	\$550.00	(\$9,000.00)	(\$8,798.80)	(\$8,000.00)	(\$8,248.80)	\$4000 design, \$4798.80 printing and mailing (includes fieldtrip brochure)
Operating Budget	\$5,000.00	\$7,202.31	(\$7,650.00)	(\$2,481.43)	(\$2,650.00)	\$4,720.88	
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)	(\$948.42)			\$250 Montana Chapter The Wildlife Society
Interest	\$0.00	\$517.31	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Website	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$348.00)			web hosting
Donations	\$5,000.00	\$6,650.00	(\$300.00)	(\$15.69)			\$15.69 paypal fees
Publications	\$0.00	\$35.00	(\$500.00)	(\$495.00)			\$495 membership brochure
Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,000.00)	(\$674.32)			Zoom fees
At-Large Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	\$0.00			
GOE TOTALS	\$26,000.00	\$29,707.31	(\$21,850.00)	(\$12,603.94)	\$4,150.00	\$17,103.37	
SPECIAL PROJECTS							
Small Grants Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,600.00)	(\$4,225.00)		(\$4,225.00)	
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	\$5,000.00	(\$5,000.00)	(\$5,000.00)		\$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)	(\$5,000.00)		(\$5,000.00)	
MNPS Presents!	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	(\$600.00)		(\$600.00)	
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	(\$15,600.00)	(\$14,225.00)	(\$10,600.00)	(\$9,225.00)	
TOTALS	\$31,000.00	\$34,707.31	(\$37,450.00)	(\$26,828.94)	(\$6,450.00)	\$7,878.37	



MNPS Membership Report
Submitted by Maria Mantas, Membership Chair

Membership update – This report was prepared on October 23, 2023 for the fall 2023 MNPS board meeting (November 4, 2023).

Membership statistics – Our total membership to date is 930 as displayed in Table A. This time last year, our total was 919 so we are up 11 members from a year ago. That’s great, but we will need 25 new members (or renewed expired memberships) to continue the trend of increased membership every year since.... well as long as I’ve been chair! Let’s see if we can get some more members to join!

Just after I prepared an earlier version of this report we received a new lifetime membership! We are now at two for the year to date. You may recall, we projected only one of these a year, so we are ahead!

Table A. Number of MNPS MEMBERS by chapter and membership type

Number of Members – October 23, 2023						
<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Lifetime</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>Lifetime-Business*</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
Artemisia	27	10	2			39
Calypso	32	18	5	2	1	58
Clark Fork	156	66	33	7	2	264
Flathead	78	44	21	1	2	146
Kelsey	65	46	22	2	1	136
Maka Flora	14	8	2			24
Eastern-at-large	32	12	11		1	56
Western-at-large	17	4	8	2		31
Valley of Flowers	87	52	30	5	2	176
Grand Total	508	260	134	19	9	930
Exchange **	47					

* We have added a new membership category: Lifetime Business Membership. This will make it easier to target businesses as members.

**We track Exchange Member stats separately (exchange memberships are other native plant societies, libraries, herbaria, arboreta, and the like).

Table B. Annual membership for the Montana Native Plant Society over time showing the number of members for each chapter and exchange memberships.

This table only reflects the count of members **at the end of each calendar year**. As our membership fluctuates throughout the year, this is the number that should be used to represent our membership as it is close to when our numbers are the highest and it’s a consistent point in time from which to compare year to year.

	<i>Cal</i>	<i>CF</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>MF</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>VoF</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Exch</i>	<i>Date</i>
2022	58	271	149	147	27	76	36	190	954	47	12/31/2022
2021	57	265	122	139	24	69	33	192	901	46	12/31/2021
2020	51	226	98	115	22	66	32	157	767	44	12/30/2020
2019	56	207	89	102	22	59	28	124	687	44	12/26/2019
2018	46	200	95	102	19	54	31	113	660	43	12/14/2018
2017	38	195	91	92	24	54	27	98	619	43	
2016	65	204	79	90	20	59	29	102	648	43	



Membership Discussion

Administrative Assistant Help: I didn't hesitate to grab Leah Grunzke as soon as she came on board! Leah now processes all memberships on a weekly basis, improving our response time to new members. This winter I will be assigning Leah some more tasks to help make members feel more attended to (like more frequent welcome to new members, quicker responses to emails, and more). In time I hope to have Leah get us on track with a new email system.

Volunteer Check Box: As of October 18, 191 people have checked the box saying they would like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities since 2021. This number of new people offering to help has increased every year since we started asking. Check your quarterly membership lists to see who they are. I realize that just because someone says they would like to volunteer doesn't mean they would be able to provide meaningful help.

Count of Volunteer Offers by Year	
2021	29
2022	64
2023	98

Membership Budget: On track.

Membership Brochures: Please let me know if you need any.

Chapter Areas: I still haven't finalized the map with some late edits. I'll get to it this winter I hope!

DONATIONS

As of this report (10-18-2023) we have received \$6,620 from 108 donations in 2023, which isn't much of an increase since June (about \$500). Last year at around this time we had received \$5,550 to date, so we are still increasing (my numbers may be a bit different than Laurie's). Please refer to your quarterly membership list for the list of donors. It's always good practice to reach out and thank these people when you have the opportunity.

WRITING PERSONAL THANK YOUS FOR DONATIONS TO MNPS

October 25, 2023

The Membership Chair sends official for-tax-purposes letters to all donors, but we also send personal thanks to those who give \$30 or more, whether that's tacked on to their membership renewal or at another time. The President thanks those who give \$250 or more, and Gretchen has been thanking those who give \$30-\$249. After three years, Gretchen will retire from this task after January 2024 (acknowledging 4th quarter 2023 gifts). Someone needs to step in to do this. It's very straightforward:

- Find stationary you like on Amazon. Notify Laurie, and she will buy it and have it sent directly to you. She'll also have the Postal Service send you first class stamps. Gretchen will pass on any extras she has (won't be much).
- When you get the new membership and donation spreadsheet each quarter from Maria, make yourself a worksheet of donations \$30-\$249 that arrived in that quarter. Write these people personal notes.

To give you some idea of how big a job this is, here are the numbers for the 4th quarter 2022 through the 3rd quarter 2023:

4th quarter: 18

1st quarter: 68

2nd quarter: 8

3rd quarter: 7.

A letter-writing party (call on those who checked the 'volunteer' box on the membership form) is one way to tackle that April marathon.

Dear Jane,

You'll be receiving an official letter for-tax-purposes, but I wanted to thank you personally for your July donation to the Montana Native Plant Society. Our organization is growing and thriving, and will put your donation to good use forwarding our education, research and conservation mission. Thank you!

Gretchen Rupp

MNPS Past President (optional)

On Behalf of the Montana Native Plant Society Board of Directors

Conservation Committee Report,
November 4, 2023
MNPS Board Meeting

**Plant Conservation Conference, April 11,12 MSU-Bozeman
Theme; Restoration**

Rooms have been reserved at the Student Union Building on the MSU campus. The first day with presentations Ballroom B is reserved and for the second day with the MT Heritage Program, Species of Concern Evaluation a smaller room has been reserved. The room cost is 300.00 and 120.00 respectively.

The MSU catering service will be able to provide a lunch both days, cost and delectable options to be determined. Coffee, hot water and water will be available.

Speakers for the conference are as follows:

Michael Butts, DNRC, Montana Native Seed Network, Developing a production hub at the DNRC Nursery to serve the surrounding ecoregions.

Justin Runyon, USDA-FS, RMRS, Assessing pollinator friendliness of plants and designing mixes to restore habitat for bees.

Christian Meny, Director of Conservation, MT Audubon Society, The Montana Audubon Conservation Ranching Program.

Jessie Salix, USFS Beaverhead – Deerlodge, Forest Botanist, The use of Biochar on forest soils and restoration success following fire. This presentation may also include a brief update on the Region 1 seed increase program.

Jennifer McNew, USDI-BLM Botanist, Restoration of purple camas within meadows.

Susan Wall, Herrera Environmental Consultants PWS Scientist, The restoration of Dutchman Wetlands and establishment of an IPA.

Dr. Catherine Zabinski, MSU-Bozeman; Insights on the use of microrrhizal fungi for restoration success.

Wendy Velman, USDI-BLM Regional Botanist for MT. and Dakotas, Best Grassland Restoration Practices.

Aaron Clausen, WWF Conservation Biologist and Project Manager; Native plant restoration at the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve and grassland restoration under the WWF sustainable ranching initiative.

Kelsey Molloy, TNC, Restoration of 1000 acres of grassland adjacent to the Bitter Creek WSA, Eastern Montana.

The last two speakers have not yet confirmed but two alternates are available, thank you Peter and Mark Majerus!

If the day permits a short fieldtrip to the Indreland Audubon Wetland Preserve is planned after the presentations.

Gretchen Rupp will be our Conference Moderator. We need a presidential welcome for the conference.

Denise Montgomery has developed the conference logo.

Jen Guse will be able to put together the registration form once the rest of the information is set such as alternative places to eat, lodging in Bozeman, and a registration payment format. I would like to propose we pay Jen for this service.

Beartooth Highway Coordination with the Custer-Gallatin and Shoshone National Forests

Jennifer Lyman was able to coordinate with the Custer – Gallatin botanist Suzanne Dijacoma, the Beartooth District temporary Ranger Ken Coffin, and a public affairs specialist in August for an on-site fieldtrip on the Montana side of the highway. A recommendation for interpretive sign placement has not yet developed. Jennifer has obtained and is reviewing the Interpretive Plan for the area. The USFS Custer Gallatin (CG) would like to coordinate development of an interpretive brochure for the route. It has been suggested that a MOU be written between the CG and MNPS so that our logo can also be placed on any developed products. We would not be committed to any monetary amount within the MOU. At this time a product has not been decided upon.

The Shoshone NF, Region 3 is in final development of 3 signs. These will all be placed on the Wyoming side. Bonnie Heidel, Wyoming Natural Heritage Program Botanist and Plant Society lead on the project is reviewing the signs.

I still believe that for a brochure and sign to complement the Shoshone signage we need to coordinate Wyoming and Montana Forests. Maybe summer 2024. It is interesting to note that the designated Research Natural Area is not well known among USFS employees. Jennifer and I would like to pursue an IPA designation for the Montana portion of the Line Creek Plateau. After the Native Plant Conservation Strategy.

Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy, Species and Habitats of Concern

We are meeting weekly as a core team in editing mode with the document that has been developed. Andrea also has a writer/editor that is reviewing each section. November 29 will be a review of all the photos collected for the document. Our goal for project completion is early summer. I will ask Andrea to talk about the strategy on day 2 of our Plant Conservation Conference.

Citizen Botany

I hope Kenda can speak to Citizen Botany as I have not currently caught up.....

Thank you, Elizabeth Bergstrom and Jennifer Lyman

MNPS Presents!
Report to the MNPS Board - Nov 2023

Andrew Smith and Beth Madden are working to book our six winter Zoom programs. Programs are *usually* the first Thursday of the month, Oct - March. Let Beth or Andrew know if you have ideas for possible statewide speakers. We offer them a \$200 honorarium.

October 5 - Our first monthly Zoom program was a *Photo Celebration of Montana Native Plants*, curated by Gretchen Rupp - about 80 people attended.

November 8th - *Converting a Lawn to a Native Wildflower Garden, and other Landscaping Tips*, with Karen Erbe, Broken Ground Permaculture.

Dec - not yet booked

Jan -not yet booked

Feb. 1 - Pollen-associated Viruses, with Tia-Lynn Ashman and Dr. Andrea Fetters from Ohio State University.

March - not yet booked

Submitted by Beth Madden, October 22, 2023

Maka Flora Chapter Report:

We have contacted Camp Needmore near Ekalaka and can host the 2025 meeting there June 20-22, 2025, so that is what we plan to pursue. It is the same place we hosted the 2011 meeting. Seems like yesterday, but it wasn't!

MNPS Board Meeting November 4, 2023

Calypso Chapter Report

Following the Annual Meeting in Bannack at the end of June, Calypso Chapter reverted to our slow-paced informal mode of operation. All of our scheduled Field Trips occurred in May and June. Some members did conduct an unscheduled weed-pull day at our adopted trailhead on Pipestone Pass, in accordance with our commitment with the Adopt A Trailhead Program. We also checked the AATP trailhead we maintain at Bannack State Park in July and found it clean – amazing.

On October 15th Calypso Chapter co-sponsored the Dyeing with Native Plants Workshop with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest/Dillon Office. It was conducted by chapter member Jessie Salix, Botanist with the BHDL Forest. This year Jessie focused on dyeing wools for knitting and felting, and as usual, the workshop was well attended

Calypso will hold its Annual Potluck and Planning Meeting on Sunday December 3rd at the Grange Hall in Divide. This is our chapter's only regular meeting except for the spring-summer-fall field events.

MNPS Board Meeting November 4, 2023
Eastern at Large Area Report- Kelsey Molloy

I apologize that I was unable to make the summer meeting- my updates are spanning the whole summer. It was a very busy summer for me, and wasn't able to do as much with the eastern at large area as I'd hoped. I'm open to ideas for way to engage the members and find ways to bring people together - virtually or in person.

I put on two plant ID trainings for local agency staff on the Hi Line in May.

I am participating in the MNPS Grants and Giving Committee.

Organized two eastern at large field trips - one led by Aaron Clausen at the Milton Ranch near Roundup, and the other led by Jim Hansen and myself in the Snowies near Lewistown.

Shared information with the Eastern at Large area about the Citizen Botany program and field trips. I also completed 4 surveys for the Citizen Botany program this summer.

The Montana State Gardeners Club will have their annual meeting in Malta next year and the local club will be hosting. I've offered my assistance for that event- trying to have a native plant component. I will also be doing a presentation for them about native plants in February 2024.