



# Summer Field Trip Guide 2024

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

**[mtnativeplants.org](https://mtnativeplants.org)**

MONTANA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY

# MNPS Field Trip Guidelines

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

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

**Please always contact the listed trip leader for the most current information.**

This guide, prepared in early spring, cannot anticipate the many changes that may occur throughout the summer due to changes in the weather, fires or other unforeseen events.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Is Your Membership Current?

Please check the date on your mailing label to make sure you are current. If it says "2024" it means that your membership has expired and this will be the last mailing you will get from MNPS unless you renew. Renew online at

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

# May

**Thursday, May 16 - Pollinator Habitat Restoration Potential at McClay Flat (Missoula).**

**5:30 p.m.** Join William Schlegel, Botanist, Lolo National Forest, at McClay flats, the site of one of the largest known populations of showy milkweed on the Lolo National Forest, our only locally native host plant for monarch butterflies. We intend to plant more milkweed and other plants that will enhance pollinator habitat. The surrounding meadow is degraded by noxious weeds and aggressive introduced grasses. Let's botanize the area to see what is currently there, and talk about what the meadow could potentially look like in the future. McClay Flat parking lot is about 1.75 miles up Blue Mountain Road from Highway 93 South. Limit 14 people. To sign up, contact Paul Buck at paul7703@gmail.com or 970-901-2418.

**Saturday, May 18 - Transitioning Native Prairie Habitat in Canyon Cove Grasslands (Billings). 9:00 a.m. to noon.**

This is currently a landscape that is slowly transitioning back from being negatively impacted by intensive grazing and wildfire. This tour will look at various successional phases of a native prairie habitat, emerging riparian areas, prairie dog towns and coulees. Plants to expect are Indian paintbrush, Rocky Mountain bee plant, penstemon varieties, aster varieties, death camas, yuccas, western sage, woman's sage, cottonwoods, ponderosa pines and many many more! Those looking for a hike with a greater challenge are welcome to follow the volunteer leader, while those who wish for an easier hike can stay back and explore less treacherous areas. Please bring a lunch. For more information and carpooling and navigation guidance, contact Anthony Sammartano at sammartanoanthony1@gmail.com.

**Saturday, May 18 - Jumbo Saddle Wildflower Walk (Missoula).**

Three miles, easy. In the springtime, Mount Jumbo is a beloved destination for Missoulians for good reason. Sun-kissed aspects burst with arrowleaf balsamroot and lupine stands just as tall as their colors are vibrant. Join us for a moderate loop hike where we'll pause to take in the beauty of spring's wildflowers and teach you what's what. Pre-registration required. Hosted by Montana Wild. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at wildmontana.org/walks.

**Sunday, May 19 - Gallatin Valley Early Blooms (Bozeman). 9:00 a.m.**

Take an easy two- or three-hour stroll to identify common (and maybe some uncommon!) early blooming wildflowers and other plants along sections of the Triple Tree and Painted Hills trails. Say hello to your green friends that you have missed during the long winter! The trip is limited to 15 people. For more information or to sign up, contact Sarah Howell at slh274@gmail.com or 650-274-2855.

**Monday, May 20 - West Valley School Garden Tour & Work Session (Kalispell). 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.**

Linda deKort and Pat Jaquith invite you to visit a modest native plant garden at the West Valley Elementary School. Participants will glean ideas on how to start a native plant garden and learn how this garden survives with only volunteer help! Participants are also encouraged to assist with spring maintenance all while discussing ideas, suggestions and future plans. Meet at West Valley School, 2290 Farm to Market Road, Kalispell. No sign-ups necessary.

**Wednesday, May 22 (subject to blooming time) - Jon Gulch, Thompson Park (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

An easy evening walk in a shady canyon with forest to wetland settings, hoping to discover the elusive calypso orchid, our chapter's namesake. LEADER: Krystal Weilage. For details and to register contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

**Wednesday, May 22 - Spring Creek Cemetery (Kalispell). 10:00 a.m.**

The land for Spring Creek Cemetery was set aside from the unplowed prairie in 1895 and remains largely unchanged. Plants that no longer exist in the area are still present in this picturesque spot surrounded by canola and wheat fields and encroaching modern developments. Pat Jaquith will welcome visitors to this historic site. Parking is limited, so please contact patjaquith07@gmail.com to reserve a spot.



**Friday, May 24 - Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (Marion). 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** A total of 433 species of plants have been observed on Lost Trail NWR - springtime is a great time to see many of those in bloom in the restored wetlands, rolling hills and forest. Depending on climate conditions, Dahl Lake and other wetlands may have numerous nesting waterfowl, moose, elk, and other wildlife, which are frequently sighted from the road through this large biological reserve. We will have some copies of the Vascular Plant Checklist compiled by Peter Lesica available for reference. Meet at the Refuge office (well-signed). Please bring a lunch. Co-hosted with GOB (Great Old Broads). Please contact Rosemary to sign-up at [rosemary.mckinnon@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.mckinnon@gmail.com).

**Saturday, May 25 - House of Sky Trail (Missoula). 9:45 a.m.** Join Annie Garde to take in all the wildflowers and views! This single-track trail follows a beautiful ridgeline above Pattee Canyon between Mt. Dean Stone and Deer Creek drainage. It provides great views of the Bitterroot range and Miller Creek Valley. Not a hard hike but it does have ups and downs. Meet Saturday morning at the Sam Braxton/Pattee Canyon trail head at the top of the canyon (beyond Crazy Canyon). We can carpool from there. Limit: 12 people. To register contact Paul Buck at [paul7703@gmail.com](mailto:paul7703@gmail.com) or 970-901-2418.

**Monday, May 27 - Bridger Foothills Wildflowers (Bozeman). 9:00 a.m.** Join Peter Husby to explore the spectacular bloom - and the subtle but equally intriguing grasses - on the big alluvial fan traversed by the first part of the North Cottonwood trail. The hike will take place at a leisurely pace. Please bring a lunch. This is an easement over private land. Meet at the trailhead off Rocky Mountain Road. Leader: Peter Husby, [peterohusby@yahoo.com](mailto:peterohusby@yahoo.com), 406-451-1521.

**Monday, May 27 - North Fork Camassia (West Glacier). 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The *Camassia quamash* (blue camas) fields off the Inside North Fork Road are spectacular in early summer. We'll also see abundant *Dodecatheon*, *Castilleja*, *Cypripedium montanum* and many grasses. The meadows are wet, so waterproof footwear and mosquito repellent is needed. Trip size is limited to 12 and registration is required. A Glacier Park pass is needed for each car's entry, but a daily reservation is not. We will be carpooling as there is limited parking. Contact Lynn Smith at [calypsolynn@gmail.com](mailto:calypsolynn@gmail.com) or 406-250-2307 to reserve a spot. Details about the trip and carpooling will be given after your reservation is secured.

**Monday, May 27 - Columbia Mountain Wildflowers (Columbia Falls). 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.** Join botanist and field instructor, Ellen Horowitz, for a glorious evening wildflower walk on Columbia Mountain. Plan on traveling through many habitat types - from moist forests to dry open slopes. Expect an easy pace with lots of stops to view big, bold blossoms, like those of balsamroot, and less conspicuous beauties, including orchids and mitreworts. The hike will be moderately difficult (about two miles and 500 feet elevation gain). This walk will be limited to 12 participants. Please send questions to, or to register please contact Ellen at [horowitz@centurytel.net](mailto:horowitz@centurytel.net).

**Tuesday, May 28 - Winnett ACES Pasture Walk (Winnett) 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.** Join Kelsey Molloy (TNC) and Kendall Wojcik (Winnett ACES) on one of Winnett ACES' monthly pasture walks. Pasture walks are held the last Tuesday of the month, May to September, with a different focus each time. This walk will be focused on native plant ID but we will also discuss topics such as grazing management and soil health. We can expect to see native sagebrush plants such as evening primrose, downy paintbrush, sego lily and milkvetch species. The walk will be held at a ranch near Winnett, exact location TBD. Plan to meet at the Winnett NRCS office (813 Broadway Ave) at 5:30 p.m. Sign up with leader Kelsey Molloy at 406-654-4566 or [kelseywm88@gmail.com](mailto:kelseywm88@gmail.com); or Kendall Wojcik at [kendall@winnettaces.org](mailto:kendall@winnettaces.org).

## June

**Sunday, June 2 - Highland Mountains Foothills (Butte). 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** A slow-paced walk in a subalpine meadow at peak bloom of native forbs and shrubs with spectacular



vistas. LEADER: Krystal Weilage. For details and to register contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or [karenwporter44@gmail.com](mailto:karenwporter44@gmail.com).

**Sunday, June 2 - Lewis and Clark Pass, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest (Helena). 9:30 a.m.** Join Klara Varga on a hike along the Lewis and Clark Pass trail to explore the botany of the surrounding grassland, burned-over lodgepole and whitebark pine habitat and alpine plant communities. We may find some rare mustards, and the alpine flower show should be starting around then. The hike is moderate and we will be moving at the usual botanical crawl. We'll meet at the Lewis and Clark Pass trailhead at 9:30 a.m. Folks carpooling from Helena might want to leave around 8:00 a.m. From the junction of Highway 200 and Highway 279, head WEST on Highway 200 to the Alice Creek Road, which is marked with a brown and white sign. Proceed approximately 11 miles up the dirt road to the terminus, and park at the trailhead. Note: There are two creek crossings that have concrete bottoms. In early June most cars will be able to cross with no problem, though some drivers may be hesitant. The pass can be quite windy, very sunny, or both, or be thunderous. We will stay and explore and hike as long as the weather allows. Folks who have less time are welcome to turn around early. It will be an out-and-back adventure.

**Tuesday, June 4 - Cedar Flats (Columbia Falls). 5:30 p.m.** We'll look for forest wildflowers and explore the Cedar Flats Trails north of Columbia Falls. The terrain is gentle, and we'll walk less than two miles. Contact Rachel at [jrepotter@centurytel.net](mailto:jrepotter@centurytel.net) to sign up, learn where to meet and for last-minute changes.

**Saturday, June 8 - Hidden Lake Botanical Area (Trego). 9:00 a.m.** Two to three miles of moderate to strenuous off-trail botanizing. This area contains low-elevation forest, ponds, lakes and wetlands. We will be looking for sensitive species such as small yellow lady's slipper, sparrow's egg lady's slipper and round-leaved Orchis. Limit ten people. Sign up with Joe Rizzi at 406-334-9583 or [joefloriz@gmail.com](mailto:joefloriz@gmail.com).

**Saturday, June 8, 9:00 a.m. - Madison Buffalo Jump State Park (Three Forks).** Besides its cultural interest, the Buffalo Jump has been free of grazing for decades, and has diverse grassland and sagebrush/juniper steppe habitats. Meet at the parking area for a leisurely half-day ramble with leader Jeff Copeland; [ceeland777@protonmail.com](mailto:ceeland777@protonmail.com), 406-539-6029. Please pack a lunch.

**Sunday, June 9 - The Variable Lichen/Rock Host Interface (south of Butte). 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Join geologist/botanist Mike Garverich on "the Hogback", east of the Apex Exit off I-15, to examine the beauty and diversity of lichen/rock relationships. For details and to register contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or [karenwporter44@gmail.com](mailto:karenwporter44@gmail.com).

**Sunday, June 9 - Hensley Hill Panorama (Yaak). 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** A Sunday drive to a 360-degree view of the Yaak Valley, remains of an old radar station and colorful display of wildflowers, both native and not. We will probably see alumroot, biscuitroot, arrowleaf balsamroot, stonecrop, Jacob's ladder, prairie smoke and many others. The drive is about ½ hour from Yaak up a dirt road. Meet at the Yaak school at 2:00 p.m. There are meet and carpool options from Libby and Troy. Contact Betty Kuropat for information and sign up at 406-250-8156 or [blueirismt@gmail.com](mailto:blueirismt@gmail.com).

**Sunday, June 9 - Johnson Terraces (Whitefish). 10:00 a.m.** Join this excursion to Johnson Terraces, led by FNF Botanist, Ryan Quire, and member Leslie Kermath. This gentle hike will take us to species-rich bedrock meadows NW of Whitefish, and we might even find the tiny, rare native *Idahoia scapigera* (scalepod). Please bring a lunch. Meet at Grouse Mountain Lodge tennis court rest area parking in Whitefish at 10:00 a.m. This outing includes a two-mile round-trip walk and a one-hour drive each way. For more information or to sign-up contact Leslie at [lk\\_wf@yahoo.com](mailto:lk_wf@yahoo.com).

**Sunday June 9 - Firebrand Pass (West Glacier). 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Join in the appreciation of our returning migratory birds shared by Steve Gniadek, of the Flathead Audubon Society, and



Kathy Ross, from MNPS. We will explore the wetlands, mixed forests and grassland habitats near the trailhead for waterfowl and many species of neotropical migrant birds. We'll also enjoy the native wildflowers that color the contrasting wetland/rocky and windswept habitat. Contact Kathy at mtkat67@gmail.com to sign up and for the meeting place and carpooling details. The trip is limited to 12 participants. Dress appropriately for possible windy, chilly spring weather, and bring snacks and water. Easy to moderate trail walking, three to four miles round trip.

**Thursday, June 13 - Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Seedling Nursery tour (Missoula). 5:30 p.m.** Join Ashley Mattson and DNRC nursery staff on an in-depth tour of the Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery. The nursery, founded in 1927, produces almost one million tree, shrub, and grass seedlings for private landowners, tribes, federal and state agencies and non-profits who are looking for plant material for their conservation projects. You'll explore the nursery facilities, including five greenhouses, and visit the freshly planted seed increaser fields for the nursery's newest venture: native seed production. Please wear sturdy footwear as the nursery grounds may be wet or muddy and some walking surfaces could be uneven. 2823 Spurgin Rd., Missoula (two blocks west of Reserve on Spurgin). For more information and to register contact Ashley Mattson at 406-542-4244 or mtnursery@mt.gov.

**Friday, June 14 - Bluebird Lake Wildflower Hike (Eureka).** Four miles, moderate. Known for its tranquil beauty in the wonderful Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area, Bluebird Lake sits in a glacial cirque, surrounded by wildflower fields, native shrubs and evergreens. We'll find early-season wildflowers along the trail, explore the flowers' features and share your discoveries with the crew while enjoying a picnic by the lake. From novice wildflower seekers to botanists, join this fun outing co-hosted by Wild Montana and the Montana Native Plant Society. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at wildmontana.org/walks

**Wednesday, June 19 (subject to blooming time) - In Search of the Chocolate Lilies (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** An evening hike part way up the east side of the Maud S. trail on East Ridge, southeast Butte. We'll walk through the shrubby/aspen vegetation overlooking the Butte Valley to the specific site of these uncommon native lilies (*Fritillaria* sp.). LEADER: Krystal Weilage. For details and to register contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

**Friday, June 21 - Weed Rodeo on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River (West Glacier).** Help keep noxious weeds from taking over our precious Flathead River! This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year of volunteers and West Glacier companies showing they care all while having fun! Raft companies will take volunteers on the upper portions and private boaters will cover the West Glacier to Blankenship areas. An expert will assist each group with weed identification. All participants will gather in the afternoon at Wild River for a barbeque and prizes. For questions or to register email riverweedrodeo@gmail.com.

**Saturday/Sunday, June 22-23. Edible Wild Plant Exploration (Pony).** Walk with expert Tomas J. Elpel through meadows and woodlands, learning to identify edible and medicinal plants and the techniques and essential guidelines for ethical foraging. Tom is offering this two-day class to MNPS members at a discount (\$100/person) until May 1. Starting May 1, registration is open to all until full. Limit 20. Visit Tom's website for further information and to register for this incredible weekend: [https://www.greenuniversity.com/Class\\_Schedule/Foraging\\_Montana.htm](https://www.greenuniversity.com/Class_Schedule/Foraging_Montana.htm). Tom can be contacted at greenuniversityllc@gmail.com.

**Saturday, June 22 - Nature walk at Vista Ridge Montana (Billings). 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Vista Ridge Montana (<https://vistaridgemt.com>) is a sanctuary for pollinators, birds and native Montana plants, with a breathtaking view of the Pryor Mountains. The property includes stands of ponderosa pine, grassland and steep, rocky slopes populated with abundant native grasses and wildflowers. An eagle nest is nearby and juvenile eagles are often seen. Registration is limited to 25 participants. Register at <https://vistaridgemt.com/events>.

**Saturday, June 22 - Bitterroot Knob Hike (Libby). 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.** 60-minute drive; good clearance and good tires recommended. Easy one-mile round trip hike. This site supports a large population of the state flower and many other species in open, rocky slopes or bedrock meadows. Site is on a south facing, open slope above the Kootenai River. Excellent views of Libby, Cabinet Mountains and the river valley. The trail has a few short segments where care must be taken because of loose rock. Meet at Jon Reny's house, 10:00 a.m. (582 Reserve Rd.). We can carpool from there. Bring a small lunch. Contact Jon Reny for information (jreny@kvis.net).

**Saturday, June 22 - Dry Head Vista in the Pryor Mountains (Warren).** Please join us for a field trip to the Pryor Mountains. The focus will be the plant communities along Crooked Creek Road and up the rough gravel road past Big Ice Cave to Dry Head Vista. The road is passable for 4-wheel and all-wheel drive vehicles with drivers who understand very rough and rocky roads! The trip to Dry Head Vista is about 2 to 2.5 hours from the turnoff at the railroad siding at Warren. Folks may want to camp out in sites at Sage Creek or Tie Flats or beyond Dry Head Vista since the trip is long and they can continue on to see the Wild Horses on Sunday. For more information, including meeting time and place on Saturday, contact Jennifer Lyman at jenclyman@gmail.com or 406-860-0223.

**Saturday, June 22 - Edna Mountain Fen (Fortine). 9:00 a.m.** One to two miles of moderate off-trail botanizing. Wander through a mature spruce stand and visit a calcareous fen that is known to have populations of round-leaved Orchis and other sensitive plants. Limit ten people. Sign up with Joe Rizzi at 406-334-9583 or joefloriz@gmail.com.

**Saturday, June 22 - Flora of Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park (Three Forks). 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Park and meet at the Visitors Center for a two-mile meander with Robyn Klein. Bring your 10x plant lens (find them at the MSU Student Union bookstore), and if you have it, the *Manual of Montana Vascular Plants*, by Peter Lesica. Also bring a lunch and water, sunhat, and wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Sign up with Robyn at herbrobin@gmail.com or text her 406-600-1712.

**Saturday, June 22 - Old North Trail Wildflower ID Hike (Choteau).** Three miles, easy. Join Dave and Genevieve Shea for a short hike along the North Fork Dupuyer Creek in the prairies and foothills of the Rocky Mountain Front. We'll start on the Boone & Crockett Club's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch and cross the prairie toward North Fork Canyon and Walling Reef. We'll discuss plant and wildlife identification as well as the history and spectacular geology of the area. We expect to see more than 75 species of wildflowers, plus tipi rings and other features of the Old North Trail. This hike is brought to you by Wild Montana and the Montana Native Plant Society. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at wildmontana.org/walks.

**Wednesday, June 26 - MT Woodland Garden Tour (Whitefish). 7:00 p.m.** Participants are invited to tour approximately two fenced acres of a private woodland garden in Whitefish Hills. We'll tour the extensive plantings of over 200 different species, many of which are native to Montana, as well as view the raised bed vegetable garden, a 16' x 16' water feature and an 8' x 12' greenhouse. Spots are limited! Email mmoffitt406@gmail.com to signup. Participants will receive location details and directions after registering.

**Wednesday, June 26 - River, Rocks and Flowers: A Hike in the Devil's Glen (Augusta).** Six miles, moderate. Join us for a relaxing hike alongside the Dearborn River in the Scapegoat Wilderness. Our route takes us through a spectacular gorge before reaching an open meadow perfect for picnicking. Along the way, there will be impromptu lessons in geology, wildflowers, birds, fire ecology and fisheries inspired by whatever wonders we stumble across. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at wildmontana.org/walks.

**Wednesday, June 28 - Musselshell Plains Native Plants (Roundup). 3:00 p.m.** Aaron Clausen will lead a leisurely exploration across a variety of habitats on Bill and Dana Milton's ranch - the first recipients of Montana's Leopold Award. Time permitting, we will visit two or three locations on



the ranch with a diversity of habitats, including short-grass prairie, sage-steppe, rock outcrops, and conifer hills. We will see a number of charismatic prairie flora, likely including downy paintbrush, sego lily, locoweed, milkwort, and many grasses. We will meet at the Roundup IGA at 3:00 p.m., carpooling, and arriving at the ranch around 3:30 p.m. Plan for sun exposure and short walks from the car at multiple locations. To sign up email Aaron at [aaron.clausen@wwfus.org](mailto:aaron.clausen@wwfus.org).

**June 28 to 30 - "Prairies to Potholes" Montana Native Plant Society Annual Meeting (Greenough).** The Clark Fork Chapter will host our 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at Camp Utmost in the Blackfoot Valley. The area is one of the most diverse in western Montana with myriad wetlands in a matrix of grasslands and open forest in what Meriwether Lewis called the "Valley of the Knobs." For more information and to sign up, please visit: <https://mntnativeplants.org/annual-meetings>.

**Saturday, June 29 - North Fork Forests & Fire (West Glacier). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Join Steve Wirt, retired USFS forester and fire manager, where he will discuss fire history over the past 30 years. Emphasis on plant response, identification, and forest succession before and after fires. There may be an opportunity to view the Hay Creek fire of 2021. Hiking the Hornet Lookout trail will be the highlight of the day. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a sack lunch and plenty of water. Meet at Super One parking lot in Columbia Falls at 9:00 a.m. to carpool up the Northfork of the Flathead River. The trip is limited to 15 people. To sign up contact Steve at 406-261-2542.

## July

**Saturday, July 6 - Vipond Park - A Wildflower Extravaganza (Butte). 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Join Kriss Douglass on an auto tour of the lush subalpine meadows of the East Pioneers. Participants will carpool and several botanists will be available for plant identification. LEADER: Kriss Douglass. For details and to register contact Kriss at 406-782-9060 or [samjd@montana.com](mailto:samjd@montana.com).

**Saturday, July 6 - Hall Creek Wildflower Walk (East Glacier Park).** Four to five miles, moderate. Join naturalist Lou Bruno for a wildflower-focused walk in the Badger-Two Medicine Area. We'll meander through the Hall Creek drainage, passing through a delightful variety of plant communities from aspen parks to meadows to conifer forests. We'll make a point to search for bitterroots and take in views of Glacier National Park. This outing is hosted in partnership with Wild Montana and Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

**Tuesday, July 9 - Gravelly Range Wildflower Tour (Ennis). 9:00 a.m.** This annual tour offered by the Madison District, U.S. Forest Service, is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to immerse yourself in the abundant floral display of the Gravelly Range subalpine meadows. Registration not required. Meet at the Madison District Office, 5 Forest Service Rd. in Ennis at 9:00 a.m. High-clearance vehicles recommended. For more information contact the Madison District Office at 406-682-4253.

**Wednesday, July 10 - A Relict Floodplain Within a Degraded Stream Corridor (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Explore this special locality in the Silver Bow Creek floodplain – a weed-free, ungrazed and almost undisturbed relict floodplain environment proximal to Silver Bow Creek near Ramsay, MT. See which native plants exclude the weeds in the Butte area. LEADER: Rich Producers. For details and to register contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or [karenwporter44@gmail.com](mailto:karenwporter44@gmail.com).

**Saturday, July 13 - North Fork Meadow Creek with Peter Lesica (Troy). 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Join Peter and others on this eight- to nine-mile round-trip, moderately difficult hike. We start out following the North Fork of Meadow Creek and work our way up to the ridge near the Idaho-Montana border (just north of Keno Mountain). The trail along the ridge goes between forest cover and open grassy slopes. The ridge has lots of beargrass which could be in bloom this year. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the junction of Yaak River Road and Meadow Creek (#524) - this

is approximately 17.6 miles up the Yaak River Rd. There are carpool options depending upon who signs up. Bring a lunch, water, and appropriate clothing. Contact Jon Reny for information at [jreny@kvis.net](mailto:jreny@kvis.net).

**Saturday, July 13 - Native Plant Garden Tour (Bozeman). 9:00 a.m.** Meet at the Museum of the Rockies parking lot, towards the east end. We will carpool to the gardens from there. We'll visit four to five residences that highlight native plants in interesting ways, with natives used in town and rural settings, both planted and seeded. Please bring a lunch. We will provide plant lists and info sheets on each garden. Tour will probably take most of the day. Contact trip leader Linda Iverson at [lilandscape@mtintouch.net](mailto:lilandscape@mtintouch.net) or 406-930-1682.

**Wednesday, July 17 (subject to seeding time) - How to Collect Native Plant Seed (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Krystal Weilage, expert seed collector, will engage a small, very hands-on group in specific techniques for specific native plants. Bring your own collecting envelopes. Limit: five to seven. LEADER: Krystal Weilage. For details and to register contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or [karenwporter44@gmail.com](mailto:karenwporter44@gmail.com).

**Thursday, July 18 - Bitterroot Bloom on Yeager Flats (Choteau).** Dave and Genevieve Shea will lead this moderately difficult, five-mile round-trip hike through limber pine savannah, narrow-leaved cottonwood groves, sagebrush, Douglas-fir/Englemann spruce forest, and a portion of the Ear Mountain Fire, which was started by lightning strike in 2000. A great variety of shrubs, grasses, and forbs, including bitterroot and several orchids, grow in these habitats. Clark's nutcrackers and other birds are common and prairie falcons nest on cliff faces. This is also good mule deer, elk, mountain sheep, and black and grizzly bear country. We'll discuss some archaeology and history, as well as Rocky Mountain Front geology, wildlife and management issues. Come prepared for a steep initial climb before the hike mellows out. This hike is brought to you by Wild Montana and the Montana Native Plant Society. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

**Friday, July 19 - Whitebark Pine Hike on the Gallatin Crest (Big Sky).** Seven and a half miles, strenuous. Join us for a wildflower-filled hike to Windy Pass in the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area. Our scenic perch atop the Gallatin Crest will serve as our outdoor classroom. Eric Shanahan, a whitebark pine expert with the National Park Service, will share insights into whitebark's essential role in Montana's wild mountain ecosystems. We'll also discuss the surrounding area's newly appointed status as recommended wilderness. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

**Friday, July 19 - Musselshell Breaks Hike: Eastern Montana WSA Tour Day One (Lewistown).** Eight miles, extremely strenuous. The Musselshell Breaks Wilderness Study Area is an area of steep hills and deep coulees cut through by the Musselshell River. Erosional processes have created beautiful river breaks scenery dotted with ponderosa pine and juniper groves, range grasses, native wildflowers and brush. We will explore this area off-trail, providing a unique opportunity for solitude and beauty in a stunning but seldom-seen part of the state. Group camping and a second hike on Saturday are available for those interested. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

**Saturday, July 20 - Bridge Coulee Hike: Eastern Montana WSA Tour Day Two (Lewistown).** Eight miles, strenuous. Join us for an off-trail trek through the Bridge Coulee Wilderness Study Area. Narrow ridges and small stands of ponderosa pine provide a welcome interruption to otherwise sweeping views of rolling prairies and the Musselshell River. In the distance, panoramic vistas of the Little Snowy Mountains, Judith Mountains, and Little Rocky Mountains entice further discovery. Group camping and a precursor hike on Friday are available for those interested. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).



**Saturday, July 20 - Northwest Peak Scenic Area (Yaak). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 (or later) p.m.** Join a hike to Northwest Peak in Lincoln County to visit whitebark pine and subalpine larch habitats. Chris Reichert, retired Forest Service silviculturist will lead this moderate three- or four-mile hike. This will be a good time to visit the beautiful Northwest Peak Scenic area, find blooming wildflowers in the subalpine zone, and review and discuss efforts to conserve whitebark pine. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring raingear, a lunch and plenty of water. Meet at the Troy Museum parking area at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. The drive to the trailhead is about 60 miles from Troy. Sign up with Chris at 406-291-8324 or reichert.chris9@gmail.com.

**Sunday, July 21 - Ten Lakes Sampler Hike (Eureka).** Thirteen miles, extremely strenuous. The hike from Little Therriault Lake through Bluebird and Poorman Basins is one of the more beautiful routes in the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area. We will stride alongside several beautiful lakes, meander through meadows filled with wildflowers, and take a side trip to the summit of Poorman Peak for sweeping vistas. When we circle Wolverine Lakes, we will have a chance for a dip and enjoy seeing the Historic Wolverine Cabin. Hosted by Wild Montana. Preregistration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

**Thursday, July 25 - Glacier National Park Weed Blitz (West Glacier).** Join fellow citizens in removing invasive plants from priority sites in GNP. Park biologist, Dawn LaFleur, will train participants on identification and effective hand-pulling techniques for targeted weed species. The morning will focus on learning about invasive plant ecology, issues, and identification. We will head into the field during the afternoon. Bring some muscles, water and gloves. Lunch will be provided by the Glacier National Park Conservancy. RSVP by July 11 at [glac\\_citizen\\_science@nps.gov](mailto:glac_citizen_science@nps.gov) or 406-888-7986.

**Thursday, July 25 - Lake Elsin to Lake Dinah Hike. (Seeley Lake).** Five miles, moderate. Lake Elsin and Lake Dinah lie in the foothills of the southern Mission Mountains. We'll visit both lakes, starting at Lake Elsin. On the way to Lake Dinah, we'll take breaks to examine wildlife signs and enjoy the beargrass. Lake Dinah's east-facing orientation gives us hope for viewing an abundance of late-season wildflowers. As we enjoy the blooms, we'll discuss the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act, which stands to add an area north of us in the Missions into the Wilderness Area. The route consists of some literal ups and downs, but the 400' of elevation gain is well worth the effort. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

**Saturday, July 27 - Badger Two-Medicine Community Weed Pull (East Glacier). 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Join the Glacier Two-Med Alliance and help fight weeds in East Glacier. Learn about the impacts of weeds from local experts and cultural leaders all while preserving this beautiful place. Lunch will be provided and there will be fabulous door prizes for participants. All ages welcome. Registration is required at <https://www.glaciertwomedicine.org/events/community-weed-pull/>.

**Saturday, July 27 Sqaylth-Kwum Trail Plant & ID Hike (Thompson Falls).** Four to nine miles, moderate. Join us for a leisurely hike with plenty of stops to identify plants, wildflowers and trees along the trail and enjoy beautiful views of the Clark Fork River valley. The trail is four and a half miles long, but our group's plans will be flexible to allow for reflection on our surroundings. Even a short distance will be educational for all participants! Brought to you by Wild Montana and the Cube Iron Cataract Coalition. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

**Tuesday, July 30 - Dry Creek Ridge Hike (Livingston).** Five miles, strenuous. Dry Ridge is among the best places to view wildflowers in the Gallatins. Join us for a hike up West Pine Creek Trail, where we'll travel through a burn-scarred forest before eventually reaching the open grassland ridge. Once atop these mountain meadows, we'll search for bitterroot, pasque flower, arrowleaf balsamroot, lupine and whatever flowers we find in bloom. Views of the Paradise Valley and the Absarokas will give us reason to pick our heads up occasionally. Hosted by Wild Montana. Pre-registration required. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

## August

**Thursday, August 1 - Ruby Habitat Foundation: Working Lands and Conservation (Alder).** One and a half miles, easy. Explore the nature path at the Ruby Habitat Foundation's non-profit working ranch, dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural resources and social and economic makeup of the Ruby Valley. Enjoy some time for nature journaling or field sketching, and hear from 5th-generation Ruby Valley rancher Les Gilman and Wild Montana conservation director Emily Cleveland about the role of working lands in conservation and wildlife connectivity. The hike will last two hours and includes visiting the Ruby Habitat Foundation's lovely pollinator garden. Following the hike, at 5:30 p.m., join the Wildlife Speaker Series, a free and informative presentation on the mountain lion research of Joshua Lisbon, education director of MPG Ranch. Pre-registration required. Hosted by Wild Montana. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

**Friday, August 2 - Newton Mountain Ridge Walk (Troy).** Eight miles, strenuous. Join Yaak Valley Forest Council and Wild Montana on a hike atop Newton Ridge, home to one of the Yaak's best views. When not taking in sights of neighboring mountain ranges and watersheds, we'll identify alpine wildflowers and watch for the wildlife species that utilize the Teepee Mountain wildfire burn area. Pre-registration required. Hosted by Wild Montana. Sign-ups begin one month before the outing at [wildmontana.org/walks](http://wildmontana.org/walks).

**Saturday, August 3 - Shoofly Meadows (Missoula) 9:00 a.m.** Join Peter Lesica to explore the botany of wetlands, forests and fens that compose Shoofly Meadows at the headwaters of Gold Creek, approximately a 25-mile drive from Missoula. We will meet and carpool from the east end of the Eastgate Shopping Center parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch and shoes or boots for walking in shallow water. For more information and to register contact Peter Lesica at [lesica.peter@gmail.com](mailto:lesica.peter@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, August 7 - A Created Wetland Complex (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Explore this unusual setting with ponds, seagulls, and a separate beaver dam along Silver Bow Creek south of Ramsay, MT. We will learn a few willows and sedges and possibly some birds, and discuss the origins of this wetland. Wear rubber boots. LEADER: Rich Prodggers. For details and to register contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or [karenwporter44@gmail.com](mailto:karenwporter44@gmail.com)

## October

**Saturday, October 12 - Wood Creek Larch Scenic Area (Yaak). 10:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Experience golden larch in the fall. This four-mile round trip easy hike takes us to a grove of big, old western larch close to the Canadian border. There won't be many, or any, flowering plants and you'll be mostly looking up. The trailhead is about ½ hour from Yaak on Road 92. Meet at the Dirty Shame Saloon at 9:30 a.m. There are also meet and carpool options from Libby and Troy. Contact Betty Kuropat for information and to sign up at 406-250-8156 or [blueirismt@gmail.com](mailto:blueirismt@gmail.com).

**Sunday, October 20 - Dyeing with Native Plants (Divide) - A Hands-on Educational Workshop. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Co-hosted with the US Forest Service, this workshop will guide participants in developing a dye notebook using various plant dye materials including lichens, acorns, bark, leaves, flowers and berries, and fabric samples including cotton/wool yarn, wool batting for felting and silk/cotton. Participants may also purchase a silk scarf to dye while samples are drying and notebooks are compiled. We will discover how different fabrics interact with different plants related to the pH of the dye. Limit 30. Materials fee TBD, paid at time of workshop. For details and to register contact Jessie at 406-660-0011 or [jessica.salix@usda.gov](mailto:jessica.salix@usda.gov).



The logo features a stylized plant with a long stem and a small, dark, star-shaped flower at the top, positioned to the left of the text.

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