

# Kelseya

NEWSLETTER of the MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## USFWS finally moves on listing Spalding's Catchfly

*Comments needed right away to support its preservation*

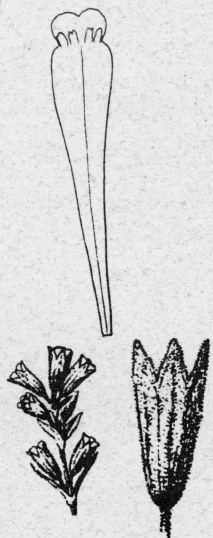
By Shannon Kimball

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced on November 16, 1998 that listing Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii* Wats.) as threatened or endangered may be warranted under the Endangered Species Act. The announcement came in the form of a 90-day finding in response to a petition submitted by the Flathead and Northeast Chapters of the Montana and Washington Native Plant Societies, Peter Lesica and Biodiversity Legal Foundation. Legal assistance was provided by Earthlaw, an Environmental Law firm in Denver, Colorado.

The petition to list Spalding's catchfly as threatened or endangered was filed in February of 1995. Once a petition is received the USFWS has 90 days to evaluate all information on the status of the species in question and decide whether it is appropriate to pursue listing of this species (publish a 90-day finding). The 90-day finding for Spalding's catchfly was put on hold for more than three and a half years, while the petitioners placed calls and wrote letters urging the USFWS to evaluate the petition and publish a decision.

The threat of a lawsuit, filed in Federal District Court on September 11, 1998, finally pushed the USFWS into action. The agency now recognizes that the petition presents ample information to warrant further investigation into listing Spalding's catchfly.

### *Silene spaldingii*



Sketches from *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* by Hitchcock & Cronquist.

Spalding's catchfly, a member of the Caryophyllaceae (Pink) family, is a herbaceous perennial with one to several stems 8-24 inches long growing from a woody caudex (Schassberger, 1998). Cauline leaves are lance-shaped, 2-3 inches long, arranged in pairs, and covered with sticky hairs (Schassberger, 1998). The spirally arranged flowers of the inflorescence are small and greenish-white, ranging in size from 0.4 to 0.8 inches (Lesica, 1993).

The distribution of Spalding's catchfly includes the Palouse regions of northwest Montana, Idaho, southeastern Washington, and northeastern Oregon. One plant occurs in British Columbia, adjoining the northwest Montana population. Spalding's catchfly is restricted to fairly mesic grasslands or steppe habitat. Most populations are found in relatively undisturbed Palouse

*Continued on page 3*

## Natives Are Nice

By Susan Palermo

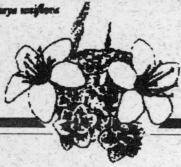
The *Natives Are Nice: Understanding Native Plants and Native Plant Communities* curriculum for grades three to five was completed in October. The curriculum is low-maintenance for the Native Plant Society and easily accessible on the Internet or through local MNPS chapters for teachers.

There are five *Natives Are Nice* activities, two of which have two distinct parts. Each activity has background information for the teachers so they can understand the concepts illustrated in the activity. Several native plant communities were used to depict the diversity of Montana and the concepts of the program: a mountain meadow, a Ponderosa pine forest and a prairie grassland.

The activities begin with an introductory project ("A Walk in a Montana Native Plant Community"), which defines natives and introduces the concept of the interdependence of native plants and native animals. The second activity ("Hold That Soil") illustrates through model building how native plant communities help keep the naturally occurring process of erosion in check. Another activity ("The Uninvited") is a research project which helps students learn about the adverse effects of non-natives on native plant communities.

*Continued on page 3*

***The 90-day finding for Spalding's catchfly was put on hold for more than three and a half years, while the petitioners placed calls and wrote letters urging the USFWS to evaluate the petition and publish a decision.***



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

WAYNE PHILLIPS

## More Wildflowers in the News

Kathy Sweet, a Calypso Chapter member from Philipsburg has been writing a column called "On the Wild Side" in the Philipsburg Mail. This weekly column features a native plant, complete with illustration, description and interesting facts. The focus this winter will be on noxious weeds. Good job, Kathy!

At the Fall Board Meeting Kathy Lloyd, *Kelseyia* Chapter Representative from Clancy, brought a sample of the articles that she has been featuring in the Helena Independent Record for the last few years. *Kelseyia* Newsletter Editor, Dennis Nicholls, was present at this meeting and saw the potential for these articles to be repeated for our members in the *Kelseyia* (see page 9).

Please submit copies of your clippings of wildflower articles to Dennis Nicholls, PO Box 1632, Noxon, MT 59853. Dennis will maintain them in a file, as a resource to use in future issues of the *Kelseyia*. The author's work will be credited when the article is published in the *Kelseyia*. Please include line drawings if you have them. Thanks for sharing this information with your Society members.

## Echinacea and other Medicinal Herbs

The concern for saving Montana's wild populations of medicinal herbs is growing. Montana Senator Linda Nelson (D-Medicine Lake) is submitting a bill (LC 319) to place a three-year moratorium on the digging of *Echinacea* and other wild medicinal plants on any state-owned land, and to assign a task force to develop plans for the sustainable harvest of native medicinal plants.

Society members concerned about this issue have asked me what they can do, as individuals, to help preserve our remaining wild populations of these native species. I recommend the following:

\*Reduce your consumption of medicinal herbs to a level that is truly needed, rather

than follow the rule "if a little is good, then a lot is better."

\*Insist on buying only organically grown medicinal herbs (of native species), and refusing wildcrafted native herbs, even if claimed to be "ethically wildcrafted". In my opinion, these native species are at risk in our Montana flora, or soon will be, given the current market demand and trend.

\*Grow your own medicinal herbs for personal use. It's fun, and the questions of quality and strength are in your control.

\*Encourage Montana organic farmers to grow medicinal herbs of our native species.

\*Support Senator Nelson's bill. Please send your letters of support for this legislation to Senator Nelson directly (469 Griffin Rd., Medicine Lake, MT 59247), or to me (2601 Third Ave North, Great Falls, MT 59401). We need these letters now, as we hope the legislation will be introduced in January. Thanks.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Saturday, March 27 at Big Fork (Pattie Brown's place, 560 Wolf Creek Drive, phone 837-5018). This MNPS Board meeting follows the Montana Native Plant Conference in Pablo, March 25-26 at the Salish-Kootenai College Campus. So, plan to come to the Conference and stay for the Board Meeting. All members welcome. Be sure and let your Chapter

Representative know of your concerns and needs for the Society in advance of this meeting.

- Wayne P.

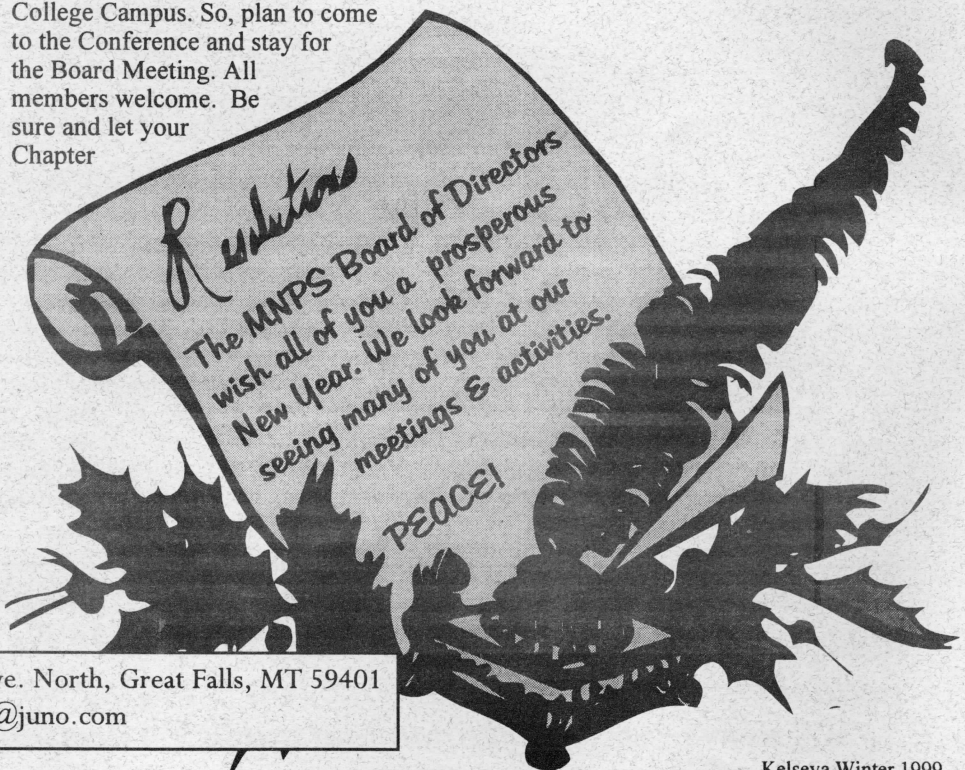
## Earth to Herbalist

With the growing concern for the use of native plants, it seemed appropriate to mention a book by Gregory L. Tilford, *From Earth to Herbalist*. It begins with an overview of the herbalist's connection with the earth and the principles of ethical wildcrafting, recognizing that the health of the plant communities is part of our own well-being.

The potential drawback to this publication is that special sections explain how to keep a field journal and include guidelines for harvesting and handling herbs. MNPS currently opposes the wildcrafting of many native species in Montana.

Tilford is an internationally renowned herbalist and naturalist. He is author of *Edible and Medicinal Plants of the West* (Mountain Press, 1997). If anyone has read *From Earth to Herbalist*, maybe you could write a review for the next issue of *Kelseyia*.

- Editor



Wayne can be reached at 2601 Third Ave. North, Great Falls, MT 59401  
e-mail: mtwayne@juno.com

## Spalding's Catchfly

From page one

prairie remnants. The Palouse prairie has been severely impacted by human settlement over the last century, degrading habitat for Spalding's catchfly. Alteration in the fire regime and hydrology of these areas, and conversion of native prairie to agriculture has almost eliminated habitat available for this plant.

Current threats include continued habitat degradation and invasion of habitat by exotic plant species. Fire suppression may also contribute to a decline in Spalding's catchfly survival by allowing the encroachment of woody and other plant species which compete for light, water and nutrients (Lesica, personal communication 1996). As is the case for many threatened plant species, conservation of habitat is the key to long-term survival of Spalding's catchfly.

The next step in the listing process is publication of a 12-month finding by the USFWS, which further evaluates the justification for listing Spalding's catchfly as threatened or endangered. The petitioners and Earthlaw will continue legal pressure to ensure the agency holds to the appropriate timeframe for this action. Comments and additional information are being accepted by the USFWS until January 15, 1999. A strong show of support for listing Spalding's catchfly is imperative. Please uphold the

efforts of the Flathead Chapter to save this unique and biologically important species by sending a letter of support to the Supervisor, Snake River Basin Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709. Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions about the suit, petition, or Spalding's catchfly at (406) 257-4859 or shannon@digisys.net.

Since this newsletter is due to arrive in your mailbox in mid-January, the timeframe for sending a comment letter to USFWS may be tight. Please don't let this unfortunate timing discourage you. It's important the USFWS knows how important plant species and habitat conservation is to our membership, so please rise to the occasion and send off a quick note. Letters received a few days late will probably still be considered. Thanks in advance for your letters of support.

### References:

Lesica, P. 1993. Loss of fitness resulting from pollinator exclusion in *Silene spaldingii* (Caryophyllaceae). *Madrono* 40:193-201.

Schassberger, L.A. 1988. Report on the conservation status of *Silene spaldingii*, a candidate threatened species. Unpublished report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena, Montana.

## Update on Ute ladies' tresses

From Bonnie Heidel

THREE FORKS – The previous newsletter presented information on a new Ute ladies' tresses record much as it was conveyed in newspapers. The quiet resolution of this matter did not make the newspapers and we are pleased to report that Pogreba Field airport expansion IS taking place in a segment of airport property that does not affect the species. *Kelseya* readers are reminded that this species is "protected" under the Endangered Species Act only insofar as federal lands or funds are concerned, including the FAA support for airport expansion. Only two or three of the Ute ladies-tresses records in Montana are "protected" in this way, at sites representing the least



"natural" of settings in the state. Many botanists are concerned that this kind of publicity sends the wrong message to private landowners and the general public, fostering fear that some plant unknown to them will "show up" and shut down private land use practices.

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PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW EMAIL & WEB SITE DOMAIN NAME LISTED BELOW:

Bonnie Heidel, Botanist  
Montana Natural Heritage Program  
1515 E. 6th Ave.  
Helena, MT 59620-1800

Phone 406/444-0536  
Fax 406/444-0581  
email bheidel@nris.state.mt.us  
homepage <http://nris.state.mt.us/mtnhp/>

## Natives Are Nice

From page one

"The Insect Connection" is a role-playing activity which illustrates how insects keep native plant communities in balance. And finally, "The Invited" provides students with a project that can help them attract birds, butterflies and other animals to native plant communities.

All of the activities can be done indoors, but two or three would work very well outdoors in warmer weather. The activities are interdisciplinary, utilizing science, language arts, arts and math skills. They also appeal to a range of learning styles.

The curriculum contains original drawings by Nan Parsons, an award-winning Helena area artist. The drawings are worksheets: a matching activity, a maze and an art project with cut-out doors that open to reveal native animals utilizing native plants.

Two fourth grade teachers in Helena School District No. 1 piloted *Natives Are Nice*, and their comments were incorporated in the final project. Each Montana Native Plant Society chapter has a copy of the curriculum, which can be borrowed and duplicated. The Montana Office of Public Instruction is adding *Natives Are Nice* to their Internet MetNet site as a special project. Teachers with access to the Internet can download the entire curriculum at <<http://www.metnet.mt.gov/montana%20education/special%20projects!/natives%20are%20nice>>

Researching, writing and working with local teachers to test *Natives Are Nice* was very rewarding. Thank you to the Montana Native Plant Society for this opportunity to make information regarding Montana's precious native plants readily available to Montana teachers and their students.

*Susan Palermo received a small grant from MNPS in 1997 for the project, Natives Are Nice. She lives in Clancy.*

# Wildcrafting Native Plants

## *MNPS seeks support for legislative moratorium*

By Robyn Klein

**I**t all started a handful of years ago when the collection (wildcrafting) of *Echinacea* was just beginning to increase on the prairies of North Dakota. Local Forest Service employees of prairie grasslands noticed requests for collection permits for this plant. The Fort Berthold and Turtle Island Indian Reservations were promised large sums of money to sell their wild medicinal herbs. Private land owners were told they could make a profit on their "weeds." But, mass harvesting with little regard to sustainable practices easily damages lands. Soon, state, federal and tribal agencies started to pass laws against any harvesting of *Echinacea*.

The pressures of an insatiable herb market then moved to eastern Montana where the people were still unaware of the negative impacts this gold-rush boom could bring to the sociological and ecological balance of their region.

With 80% unemployment, the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Reservation was the perfect place. *Echinacea angustifolia* grew abundantly there. Buyers set up booths on the street corners of Poplar, the main town on the reservation. Price wars ensued and contests were held to bring in the largest and heaviest roots, and of course, to stimulate the digging practice. Seemingly overnight the banks noticed thousands of dollars flowing through accounts and they didn't mind one bit. But, such gold-rush harvest usually leaves an area poorer, not richer.

This new activity stirred the traditional religious community which makes up about 15% of the Fort Peck tribal population. But with 85% of their people out digging, how could their concerns for conservation and traditional collection practices be taken seriously?

One might ask, why don't the tribes protect their resources? The answer is the

same for state, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management lands as well. They simply don't have the law enforcement staff available. While both the Northern Cheyenne and Fort Belknap Indian Tribal Councils have banned the harvest of *Echinacea* for commercial sale, they cannot effectively stop their own people from tasting the short-term financial rewards of wildcrafting. They simply do not have the staff.

Monique Kolster, a graduate student at the University of Montana, picked this problem for her thesis in environmental sciences. The valuable information uncovered in her investigations led to the fact that much was not known about the life biology of *Echinacea angustifolia* in Montana. In fact, biologists really didn't know what the thousands of holes in the prairie would mean to this delicate semi-arid prairie ecosystem.

Monique did know, though, that in 1997, and in just the area around Poplar, an estimated 700,000 plants were dug out of the ground that year. Along with a small group of other concerned Montanans, she decided that there must be something that could be done.

So, last October a small group of people met for two days in a cabin in the Big Snowy Mountains. One of the results of that meeting was a commitment to bring this problem to the attention of the state legislature. Friends of *Echinacea*, as we call ourselves, has accomplished this in the form of a proposed bill which would place a three-year moratorium on the collection of the following wild medicinal plants on state lands:

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***mass harvesting  
with little regard  
to sustainable  
practices easily  
damages lands***

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***biologists really  
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would mean to this  
delicate semi-arid  
prairie ecosystem***

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*Echinacea angustifolia, Lewisia rediviva (bitterroot), all species of Cypripedium (lady slipper), Lomatium dissectum (biscuitroot), all species of Ligusticum (osha), all species of Drosera (sundew) and Trillium ovatum.*

The second part of the bill would set up a governor's task force to collect information and find as many solutions as possible to the problem. One such solution would be to contrast how much money could be made from selling cultivated medicinal herbs compared to harvesting wild medicinal plants.

We don't know much about *Echinacea angustifolia* here in Montana. In order to suggest some sustainable harvesting practices of *Echinacea angustifolia* we must learn more about it. For example, what are its pollinators? How many years does it take to grow from seed to flowering adult? How many seeds does it produce and what percentage of them survive to produce seedlings. What percentage of seedlings survive to maturity?

While some of this information would be very costly, we can look into the literature and get some estimates based on studies completed by other biologists. For example, the root of *Lomatium dissectum*, another plant listed in the moratorium, is harvested only from the wild for the medicinal plant market. It is not cultivated. But although *Lomatium dissectum* often grows in large communities and is locally abundant like *Echinacea angustifolia*, it has a long-term reproduction strategy.

One 10-year study found that every year 99% of the seeds produced were eaten by mammals and insects. This means that it relies on an adequate number of long-lived adult individuals which continue to put out seed in the hopes that 1% will

*Continued on next page >*

survive to keep the population healthy. Such information is crucial in order to make sustainable harvest recommendations.

The Legislature really needs to hear from Montanans and right now. They will be in session just after New Year's and Friends of Echinacea wants to give them lots of letters to show that Montanans want them to do something about this problem.

Please write the Montana State Legislature and tell them you support this bill. Tell them you don't want wildflowers leaving the state en masse without fair compensation to land owners and sustainable practices followed. Tell them you are concerned about the poaching, weed encroachment and erosion that this "gold-rush" mentality is bringing to Montana. Point out that Montana could lose tourism dollars if there are no more pretty wildflowers to see in the Last Best Place. And point out that cultivating *Echinacea* could bring economic benefit to the state.

Address letters of support of Bill LC319 to the Montana State Legislature, but mail them to the secretary of Friends of Echinacea, Robyn Klein, 6101 Shadow Circle Dr, Bozeman, MT 59715. Mail is best, but email is also accepted at [rrr@avicom.net](mailto:rrr@avicom.net) (attachment as a text or Word document is fine). Thanks very much for your support. Donations are also gratefully accepted, as this work is coming out of our personal pockets which are getting pretty darn thin.

*Robyn Klein is Herbalist AHG at the Sweetgrass School of Herbalism and authors Robyn's Recommended Reading in Bozeman, MT.*

## Moratorium

A proposed bill would place a three-year moratorium on the collection of the following wild medicinal plants on state lands:

- ◆ *Echinacea angustifolia*
- ◆ *Lewisia rediviva* (bitterroot)
- ◆ all species of *Cypripedium* (lady slipper)
- ◆ *Lomatium dissectum* (biscuitroot)
- ◆ all species of *Ligusticum* (osha)
- ◆ all species of *Drosera* (sundew)
- ◆ *Trillium ovatum*

## Letters of Support

Write letters of support of Bill LC319 to the Montana State Legislature, but mail them to:

Robyn Klein  
Friends of Echinacea  
6101 Shadow Circle Dr.  
Bozeman, MT 59715.

Mail is best, but email is also accepted at [rrr@avicom.net](mailto:rrr@avicom.net) (attachment as a text or Word document is fine).

***In order to suggest some sustainable harvesting practices of *Echinacea angustifolia* we must learn more about it.***

## Application Deadline for 1999 Small Grants Draws Near

The Montana Native Plant Society's Fourth Annual Small Grants program is offering one or two grants in the amount of up to \$500 each. Deadline for applying for a grant is January 30, 1999, so interested applicants are requested to submit your proposal soon.

The purpose of the small grants program is to stimulate research, conservation and education activities which help foster an appreciation for Montana's native plants and native plant communities. These grants are intended to promote native plant conservation through better understanding of our native flora and the factors effecting their survival.

Past grants have been awarded to people such as Susan Palermo, whose report

on how she utilized her MNPS small grant appears on the front page of this issue of *Kelsey*.

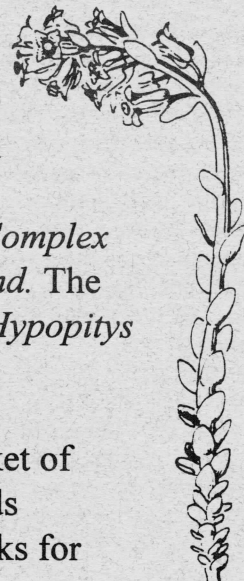
If you have a project you think might qualify for a MNPS small grant, you are encouraged to submit a proposal containing all pertinent information concerning the project you are undertaking. Further details were published in the Autumn 1998 *Kelsey*, or you can call 406-862-0877 for more information.

Mail your project proposal to Small Grants, Montana Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 8783, Missoula, MT 59807-8783. Do so by January 30. MNPS will be happy to award one or two worthy projects funds that will help promote the conservation of native plants in Montana.

## LIFE UNDER GROUND Plant ID Contest Winner

Drake Barton, from Helena, won the Plant ID contest that accompanied Pete Lesica's article in the last newsletter, *The Complex Web of Life Under Ground*. The plant, shown at right, is *Hypopitys monotropa*, or Pinesap.

Drake will receive a packet of native plant greeting cards courtesy of MNPS. Thanks for your entry, Drake!



## It's a big state. Let's share our adventures.

The Montana Native Plant Society has eight chapters across our great state. From Westby to Whitefish, Billings to Butte, we'd like to hear about your activities in each issue of *Kelsey* right here in Chapter Life. Send your reports to:  
Montana Native Plant Society, *Kelsey* Editor, P.O. Box 1632, Noxon, MT 59853.



### WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

#### Coal Ridge Lookout

POLEBRIDGE – Coal Ridge has an old, barely standing fire lookout tower at the head of Moran Creek, in the North Fork of the Flathead, just south of Polebridge. The hike is about 8 miles round trip on a Forest Service trail that was cleared recently; a very “hiker-friendly trail,” according to participant Ed Prach.

The August 15, 1998 hike was sponsored jointly by the Montana Native Plant Society and Flathead Audubon. So, we looked for birds and interesting plants, as well as other wildlife, their habitats, and of course, the views. Seven people and a leashed dog made the trek. They were members of MNPS or Audubon or new to the area and wanted to learn some places to hike and meet some conservation-minded neighbors. The weather was perfect, hot and clear with a cool breeze near the top. The views from the lookout, at 7400 feet elevation, were awesome in every direction, especially looking east into Glacier Park and west to the Whitefish Divide.

The trail passes through an area burned by wildfire in the 1970's; a spruce old growth forest; a series of grassy openings interspersed in the old growth; a subalpine basin with a ‘ghost forest’ of mostly dead whitebark pine; and the open, rocky ridge with grouse whortleberries, various

wildflowers, and a few small whitebark pine and subalpine fir trees. There were no huckleberries, but many empty bushes along the trail. Grouse whortleberries were abundant on the ridge top and smelled delicious baking in the hot sun. We saw a mule deer buck and some ruffed grouse on the road as we drove to the trailhead. There were birds chirping and calling each other all along the trail, but we weren't much good at identifying their calls. Those we saw included blue grouse, wren (winter?), mountain chickadees, a hummingbird (too quick to see which), northern flicker, Clarks nutcracker, a robin right on top of the peak, a pair of redtailed hawks, and olive-sided flycatchers. Our plant list of 18 species includes those we found in bloom and a few others we found interesting enough to stop, identify and talk about. We were impressed with how many species were in bloom in mid-August, especially at the lower elevations (6000'). Some of these include:

- \* shiny leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus velutinus*)
- \* red and yellow monkey flowers (*Mimulus lewisii* and *M. guttatus*)
- \* common harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)
- \* grass of parnassus (*Parnassia fimbriata*)
- \* showy aster (*Aster conspicuus*)

- Betty Kuropat

#### Annual Meeting Scheduled

HELENA – Mark your calendars! The Montana Native Plant Society's renowned Annual Meeting has been scheduled for June 18-20, 1999. Hosted by the *Kelsey* Chapter in the Helena area, the meeting will be at Camp Thunderbird on the east side of MacDonald Pass. The *Kelsey* Chapter is busy with plans and organization for this fabulous event which has become a hallmark tradition for MNPS members and friends. More information will follow in the next edition of *Kelsey*, but we hope you are already making plans to be at Camp Thunderbird Friday through Sunday, June 18, 19 and 20, 1999. And be sure to tell your fellow plant lovers about it so we have a chance to visit with each and every one of you.

- Kathy Lloyd

#### Journal Giveaway

MISSOULA – The Mansfield Library at the University of Montana is offering several journals that they intend to hand over to some interested person(s) for free. The books to be given away are: American Journal of Botany Vol. 13-60 (1926-73) and Vol. 67-74 (1980-87) all complete except Vol. 61, 63, and 66; Vol. 78-81 (1991-94) incomplete. Contact Tarn Ream at UM Mansfield

Library (243-6731) if you would be interested in owning any of these journals.

- Pete Lesica

#### Nature Programs in the Cabinets

HERON – Another summer season of Nature Education programs is being organized by a partnership of groups in the lower Clark Fork Valley. Led by Melinda Ferrell this year as representative of the Cabinet Resource Group (based in Heron), the Montana Native Plant Society is working with CRG, the Cabinet Wilderness Historical Society and the Cabinet Ranger District of the Kootenai National Forest to bring a series of ten activities in a variety of locations, from the Historic Bull River Ranger Station to the Whitepine Grange Hall. Two of the programs have been specifically dedicated to learning more about native plants in the area.

Mindy Ferrell replaces Debby Boots, an MNPS member, as program director. Debby's incredible efforts over the past three years have been responsible for the marvelous success of the Bull River Outdoor Education Committee (as the ad hoc group is called). The 1999 programs will take place the 2nd & 4th Saturdays, May through September. More details will follow in the next *Kelsey*. - Dennis Nicholls

# CALENDAR:

PLEASE REMEMBER: to send in meeting announcements  
by March 10 for the next issue of the newsletter.

## Don't Forget! 1999 Montana Native Plant Conference

March 25 & 26, Salish  
Kootenai College, Pablo, MT.  
Contact Virgil Dupuis at  
(406)675-4800 for info.

## ARTEMISIA CHAPTER *Billings*

Clayton McCracken says that those interested in summer native plant programs should contact him so plans can be made. Leaders and volunteers are needed, so be sure to give him a call if you have ideas. 252-2807.

## BEARTOOTH MOUNTAINS CHAPTER *Red Lodge*

Jean Redonski is this chapter's president, and if you would like information about upcoming programs in the Beartooth area, please call her at 446-3907.

## CALYPSO CHAPTER *Butte*

Winter Meetings are being held monthly at the BLM Office, 106 North Parkmount in Butte. For further information contact Wilma Immonen 494-3367 in Butte or Annie Green, 683-6594 in Dillon.

*Thursday, Jan. 7, 6 pm.* Mike Garverich will share his experiences in Alaska with a slide show of "Alaska Wildflowers".

*Thursday, Feb. 11, 6 pm* Wayne Phillips will present "Botany of the Lewis and Clark Expedition" with slides, plant mounts and dried berries/roots.

## CLARK FORK

Kelseya Winter 1999

## CHAPTER *Missoula*

*Thursday, Jan. 14, 7:30 pm* Steve Arno, U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Research Station, will discuss the plant ecology of "Timberlines." Rm L26 downstairs in the Gallagher Bldg, UMCampus.

*Tuesday, Jan. 26, 7:30 pm* Herbarium Night, "Roses, Blackberries and Brambles." Peter Lesica will try to explain infrastipular prickles and other mysteries of the spiny members of the Rose Family. Rm 303 Natural Sciences (Botany) Bldg, UM Campus.

*Thursday, Feb. 11, 7:30 pm,* Paul Alaback will discuss his studies on the temperate rainforests of South America. Call Will Butler at 543-6744 for more details.

*Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:30 pm* Herbarium Night, Peter Stickney will guide us through "Montana's Liliaceae: The Berry-fruited Lilies." Rm 303 Natural Sciences (Botany) Bldg, UM Campus.

*Thursday, March 11, 7:30 pm* Brian Martin, land steward for The Nature Conservancy, will take us to "Montana's Prairies." Rm L26 downstairs in the Gallagher Bldg, UM Campus.

*Tuesday, March 30, 7:30 pm* Herbarium Night, John Pierce, fresh from summer's lacustrine adventures will show and tell us about "Aquatic Plants of the Northern Rockies." Rm 303 Natural Sciences (Botany) Bldg, UM Campus.

## flathead chapter *Kalispell*

All winter/spring programs will be at the Central School Museum at the corner of 2nd St East & 2nd Ave East in Kalispell. Meetings begin at

5:30 and are followed by a program at 7:00.

*Monday, Jan. 18,* Marilyn Wood, Field Rep for The Nature Conservancy, will talk about TNC's projects in northwest Montana.

*Wednesday, Feb. 17,* Marlene Reynolds, botanist with the USFS will present "The Ecology and Importance of Lichens."

*Sunday, March 21,* Jack Greenlee, Ecologist with the Montana Natural Heritage Program will present "Wetlands of Flathead County."

*Wednesday, April 21,* Potluck slide show - everyone bring 5 to 10 slides of native plants and plant communities to help teach us a little more about the diverse world of plants!

"Eco Partnerships" **Education Forum**, led by Elaine Caton, UM. A half to full day workshop where local elementary school teachers and the public can take a short course on ecology, with special emphasis on plant ecology. The workshop will offer learning through miniature ecological studies, and instructs teachers how to teach science based on ecological principles and research ideas. Teachers can earn 1 to 3 hours of credit. The forum will also highlight the MNPS trunk developed by Carla Womback and an educational box made by Terry Divoky. For more information call Jen Asebrook, (406)888-5104.

## KELSEY CHAPTER *Helena*

The Kelsey Chapter is planning programs throughout the winter and spring months. As of yet, no definite dates have been set. Call Kathy, 449-6586, for late-breaking

information, or watch the local newspaper (*Independent Record*) for details.

## MAKA FLORA CHAPTER *Westby*

*Saturday, Jan. 16,* Mid-winter meeting at Doug Smith's house. Waether permitting, MNPS Eastern Rep. Hal Vosen (from Miles City) will attend and give a talk on *Echinacea* and the problems caused by its popularity as an herbal medicine. After the meeting there will be a potluck meal and socializing. Guests are welcome. Notices and a map will be mailed to all chapter members soon. If anyone has questions or ideas, please contact Al Joyes at 385-2579.

## VALLEY OF THE FLOWERS CHAPTER *Bozeman*

*Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7:30 pm* Rm 306 Lewis Hall, MSU Campus. (stay tuned for details).

*Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 pm* Rm 306 Lewis Hall, MSU Campus. Charlotte Trollinger, "Photographics for the Phytogenically Inclined."

*Wednesday, April 7, 7:30 pm* Rm 306 Lewis Hall, MSU Campus. Bonnie Heidel, "Newly Discovered Species Since Dorn."

## OOPS!!!

In the last issue of *Kelseya* we announced a workshop at Carroll College, "Is There A Forest Health Crisis?" for June 20, 1999. But that meeting came from an old notice about an event that took place last June. Sorry for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused you. - Editor

# Diversity on Campus

## *Native Plant Garden at U. of M. preserves samples of Montana's Native Flora*

By Jean Pfeiffer

MISSOULA – The Montana Native Plant Garden wraps itself around the Old Botany annex and greenhouse, west of the University Center on the University of Montana campus.

The genesis of the garden was the inspiration of the late curator and horticulturist, Klaus Lackschewitz, and the late chairman of the Botany Department, Sherman Preece. On the northeast side of the garden is a lovely sitting rock with a plaque dedicating the garden to them. With the help of other members of the Botany Department, the building of the garden was started in 1967. Klaus lovingly developed and cared for it until his retirement in 1976.

Subsequently, the native plants were not maintained and replaced, and the native character of the garden was neglected. However, in 1989 some of us in the Clark Fork Chapter of MNPS decided to revitalize the project. With eight dedicated volunteers, we have maintained the original plan of developing several Montana habitats, from the xeric steppe and bunchgrass prairie to the wet meadows, mesic coniferous forest and alpine areas. Each of us is responsible for an area.

The Clark Fork Chapter

has a contract with the University of Montana to maintain and develop the gardens. The Division of Biological Sciences has supplied tools, soils and storage sheds. The Physical Plant has provided an automated watering system, and the Clark Fork Chapter gives us an annual budget for acquiring plants. The Garden Committee also earns money for the gardens with an annual native plant sale in May in conjunction with the Missoula Farmers Market.

From the beginning, the main purpose of the gardens (besides the pleasure it gives us gardeners) was to provide a reference collection for students of the native flora in Forestry, Ecology and other disciplines. The gardens also help to diversify the campus, and they give the public a chance to view indigenous plants from habitats around the state.

We feel the garden is almost stable enough to prepare a brochure with plant lists for self-guided tours. This can be difficult, since some plants in these native habitats die each year and are replaced by others.

This winter the

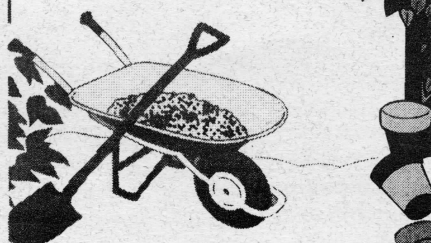
greenhouse is being replaced, which necessitated the removal of the old Rocky Mountain Juniper and Yew hedge. These will be replaced by new, younger trees as part of the building contract.

An informational sign for the gardens is being prepared which will include a map of the habitat zones. It will be financed by the Lackschewitz Memorial Fund and the Clark Fork Chapter of MNPS.

We welcome input from MNPS members throughout the state. Many of you have experience growing native plants and may have valuable suggestions for us. Please stop by and visit our gardens when you are in the area. Any advice or donations of plants or seeds will be gratefully received and can be made by contacting one of the Garden Committee members listed below.

**For more information, contact one of these Garden Committee members:**

- **Jean Pfeiffer**  
(406)549-0570
- **Jean Parker**  
(406)273-6412
- **Sheila Morrison**  
(406)721-1398



### ***Are you a native plants gardener?***

*Why not write to us and share your adventures with native plants? Perhaps you have insights others could learn from; or maybe you have questions that someone else could answer. Send your story to Kelsey, P.O. Box 1632, Noxon, MT 59853.*

## **RHIZOMES**

(news briefs from around the state)

### ***Water Howellia Conservation***

By Shannon Kimball

SWAN VALLEY – Conservation efforts continued this past fall in the Swan Valley to protect Water Howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*) from livestock impacts. The Flathead Chapter organized a team of workers to build more fencing and restore brushed in areas that keep cattle from wading in and trampling prime Water Howellia habitat. Our activities have resulted in the protection of one pond, which straddles the boundary between Forest Service and Plum Creek land.

The hot, dry climate in late summer 1998 produced some very thirsty cattle. The fencing and brushing around a pond that we dubbed as “finished” in 1997 was no match for these water-crazed bovine. An early scouting mission by Maria Mantas last summer uncovered the sad truth. Our attempts at stacking brush to block cattle trails through dense forest were futile. Armed with chain saws and loppers, Betty Kuropat, Mary and Gary Sloan, Terry and Dennis Divoky and John and Shannon Kimball reinforced these areas and built more jack-leg fencing to discourage cattle from finding their way into this pond. We hope!

If our work holds up, we will move on to the second pond targeted for protection. Our work force has dwindled, but it seems the work load has increased. If a day or two of good, hard work surrounded by the majestic peaks of the Swan and Mission ranges saving habitat for one of Montana's federally listed “threatened” plants sounds appealing, please call (406)257-4859 or send email (shannon@digisys.net). Our next work day will be in September 1999. We'd love your help. And thanks again to all those who have donated time and energy the past two years.

# Big Sky

## KETCHES

*A plant for  
all seasons*

Some native plants are just plain show-offs. They will use every ploy to get your attention all year round. One such plant is known as creeping barberry, or Oregon Grape. It's official name is *Berberis repens*. It is found throughout the mountain West; and a close relative, *Berberis aquifolium*, is the state flower of Oregon.

Although this plant is rarely even a foot tall, you will notice it in open winters (as we had up until Christmas) on mountainsides in partial shade of evergreen trees. It will be one of the few plants that still has its leaves.

Barberry looks so much like holly that many call the plant mountain holly or holly grape. Like holly, the leaves are leathery and spiny.

Sometime between April and July, when bald eagle eggs are hatching, the plant sends out a dense cluster of bright yellow flowers. Each

flower is small, but very showy. It has six petals surrounded by six sepals that look just like the petals. Later in the summer, the flowers develop into dark blue fruit. They look exactly like clusters of small grapes. The bears love them, and so do many jelly makers. The taste is tart, but quite good.

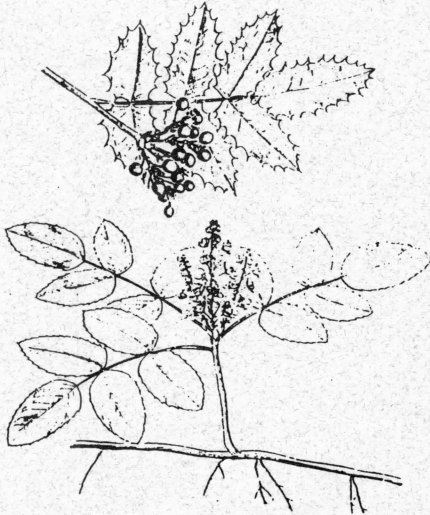
To make jelly, use the grape jelly recipe on the pectin package. If the fruit is too tart for your taste, mix it with apple juice.

When the weather turns frosty in the fall, this plant really tries to catch your eye. The leaves turn a brilliant red. Many people gather the leaves for autumn and Christmas decorations.

In gathering the plant, you will discover that the stem is actually a branch of a much longer stem that spreads along the ground just under the forest duff. What looks like many plants on a hillside may all be one plant. Snip the

branches without disturbing the main stem and more will grow to replace what you take.

*This article was taken from Wildflower Watch, a spring and summer feature in the Helena Independent, and was written by Carol Macklin. Carol is a member of the Kelsey Chapter of MNPS, and loves making jelly from wild fruit such as huckleberry chokecherry, barberry and serviceberry.*



## Bountiful berries

Serviceberry is aptly named, as it is one of the berry-bearing staples in western Montana. You may know this shrub by another of its many names – Juneberry, sarvisberry, Saskatoon berry, or its scientific name, *Amelanchier alnifolia*. Its berries are good eaten raw or cooked in pies and jams. They have a nutty taste and are not tart.

Serviceberries should be picked as soon as they are ripe (mid to late July), or they will soon become seedy. These berries can be substituted in any recipe which uses blueberries.

Easy to identify, it is a large shrub that grows in open forests and draws. The leaves are oval shaped, and are toothed starting at the midpoint of the leaf. The petals of the small, fragrant flowers are white, and the berries are a bluish-purple when ripe. It is commonly found with Douglas fir, Ponderosa pine, aspen and chokecherry.

Serviceberry was important to American Indians. The fruits were dried and mixed with dried buffalo meat and animal fat. This mixture was called pemmican, and

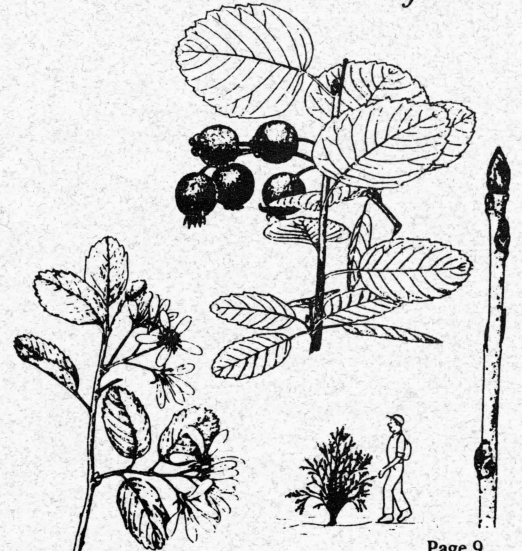
was an important food during the long winter months. The berries were also used in soups and stews. The wood was valued for making arrows.

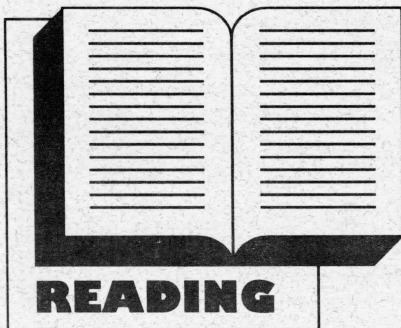
This common shrub prefers growing in partial to full sunlight. The roots of serviceberry can survive for a long time under heavily timbered areas. If the trees are removed or the area is burned, serviceberry will sprout vigorously.

Moose, mule deer, whitetail deer, elk and mountain goats eat the serviceberry plant in the winter. Small mammals, bears and many species of birds eat the berries. Cattle and sheep will also graze serviceberry in summer, though it is not a preferred food.

*This article was taken from Wildflower Watch, a spring and summer feature in the Helena Independent, and was written by Lois Olsen. Lois is an ecologist with the Helena National Forest.*

## *Amelanchier alnifolia*





# Plant Use By Early Montanans

Reviewed by Al Joyes

## Kelsey Readers Write Poetry

### Them Botanists

How 'bout them botanists,  
Ain't they a show?  
Runnin' here and there  
To where the green things grow.

Sluggin' through the spring mud,  
Muckin' through the mire,  
Off to see an orchid  
Like their pants is on fire.

Them down home botanists  
Take you for a ride,  
Find themselves a flower  
And look inside.

Lookit that pistil,  
Stamens by the ton.  
Pokin' at the privy parts  
Sure is fun.

How 'bout them botanists, Ain't  
they funny?  
Can't get 'em clean  
For love nor money.

How to be a botanist?  
It'll make you sick.  
Go and lose your shoes  
Where the mud's real thick.

- by Forrest Marsh

### Small World

Ever run into someone somewhere  
you met somewhere else and said,  
"Sure is a small world!"?

I once saw a bumble bee  
peering inside a tiny little flower -  
maybe a penstemon -  
and I'm sure I heard him hum,  
"Sure is a small world!"

- anonymous

Learning about and using native plants is currently very popular. This timely attention to our heritage is fostered by publications such as *Montana Native Plants and Early Peoples*, which records the uses made of Montana's native flora by early people. Written by Jeff Hart, it is a revision of a book first published in 1976.

We tend to think of wild game as the primary source of food, fiber and tools used by Native Americans, but, as the author illustrates, it would be a mistake to overlook the significant role played by plants. In fact, plant food sources like the bitterroot and camas were of such regional importance that social and cultural events centered on their harvest and use. Many others were important dietary supplements, or, in the case of a few species, used only to stave off hunger during lean times.

Most of the medicines used by Montana's native people were also of plant

origin, and many had cultural and ceremonial significance, too. For example, *Artemisia ludoviciana* was accorded by the Cheyenne the power to "drive away bad spirits, evil influences and ominous dreams of sick persons."

Included in the text of *Montana Native Plants and Early Peoples* is a discussion of the uses early explorers and settlers made of some species. A few of Montana's native plants species occurred in the eastern U.S. or in Europe, and so had known properties; but many others were new and their values were learned from native people.

This book discusses 60 plants, and includes a sketch of each species. There is no apparent order to the chapters, each of which covers the uses of one plant, along with short sections on the plant's physical description, habitat and range. It is probably not all inclusive, but the book does seem to cover a majority of

plants used by people of pre-modern Montana.

Though not highly scientific nor tightly organized, it is a major contribution toward preserving plant knowledge and lore of Montana's native people. This understanding about plants is held largely by a dwindling number of the elderly, and is in danger of being lost. Because the primary source of data for this book came from interviews with these people, some of their knowledge will be preserved.

Anyone interested in our history or in native plants should make *Montana Native Plants and Early Peoples* part of their reading program and reference library.

Published by Montana Historical Society Press, Helena. 152 pages. \$9.95 (paperback).

*Al Joyes is a member of the Maka Flora Chapter of MNPS & lives in Westby, MT*

## Wild Orchids

Philip Keenan has driven more than 100,000 miles - and walked several hundred more - in pursuit of orchids in their native habitats. This is a delightfully chatty account of his field trips in Canada and throughout the U.S. From Alaska to the Maritime Provinces, from

the desert southwest to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, Keenan documents most of the 145 American orchid species in absolutely remarkable color photographs. His narrative inspires the reader to respectfully explore the wealth of native orchids and other fascinating wildlife to be found across the continent.

Keenan lives in Dover, New Hampshire, and has contributed articles and photos to *Orchid*, the journal of the American Orchid Society.

*Wild Orchids Across America, A Botanical Travelogue* 321 p., 170 color photos. \$39.95 hardcover. (800)327-5680. (503)227-2878. Timber Press.

## There's a flower that needs you!

Don't let your membership in the Montana Native Plant Society lapse. Send in your renewal today! See the membership form on page 11. Every one of you are important to the conservation of native plants in Montana.

# MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY \*\*\* Membership Application/Renewal

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**CALYPSO CHAPTER** - Beaverhead, Madison, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow Counties; southwestern Montana

**CLARK FORK CHAPTER** - Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli Counties

**FLATHEAD CHAPTER** - Flathead and Lake Counties plus Glacier National Park

**KELSEY CHAPTER** - Lewis & Clark and Jefferson Counties

**MAKA FLORA CHAPTER** - Richland, Roosevelt, McCone, Sheridan and Daniels Counties

**VALLEY OF THE FLOWERS CHAPTER** - Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass Counties plus Yellowstone National Park

All MNPS chapters welcome members from areas other than those indicated. We've listed counties just to give you some idea of what part of the state is served by each chapter. Additional chapters are in the planning stages for other areas. Watch for announcements of meetings in your local newspaper. Ten paid members are required for a chapter to be eligible for acceptance in MNPS.

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**DATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES.** If your label reads "2/97" your membership expired February 28, 1997. Use this form to renew your membership **immediately**. Please drop us a note if any information on your label is incorrect. Please notify us promptly of any address changes.

Membership in the Montana Native Plant Society is on a calendar-year basis, March 1 through the end of February of the following year. New-member applications processed before the end of October each year will expire the following February; those processed after November 1 will expire in February of the year after. Membership renewal notices are included in the Winter issue of *KELSEYA*. Anyone who has not renewed by the time the Summer *KELSEYA* is ready to mail will be dropped from the mailing list/MNPS membership roster.



**Cheep Talk...**

**...about plants.**

◆ Africa has relatively few conifers, but *Welwitschia mirabilis*, loosely related to them, has a good claim to be the most bizarre of all plants. Endemic to the coastal deserts of Namibia and Angola, it has a short, stout, woody stem and a pair of giant leaves of indeterminate growth. Small groups of cone-like 'flowers', the male and female on separate plants, are pollinated by insects. The plant obtains most of its water from sea frogs.

◆ Easter Island demonstrates a remarkable cautionary tale of devastation of an island flora. Polynesian colonists destroyed the native forests of endemic *Sophora toromiro* and were then unable to leave the island because they had not enough wood for ship-building. Over-population led to starvation, civil war and collapse of their civilization.

*From Plant Talk: News and Views on Plant Conservation Worldwide. Provided by Pete Lesica.*

## 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 to the values 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 may be made to the general operating fund.

Your yearly membership fee includes a subscription to *KELSEYA*, the newsletter of MNPS, published quarterly. We welcome your articles, clippings, field trip reports, meeting notices, book reviews — almost anything, in fact, that relates to our native plants or the society. Please include a line or two of "bio" information with each article. Drawings should be in black ink or good-quality photocopy. If you send clippings, please note the source, volume/issue, and date. All meeting and field trip notices, field trip reports or announcements should be mailed to *KELSEYA* EDITOR, P.O. BOX 1632, NOXON, MT 59853. All items should be typed and, if possible, put on a 3.5" disk and saved in Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, or Microsoft Publisher for a PC. Please include a hard copy with your disk.

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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 plants or the interests of MNPS members.

Deadline for the SPRING issue is MARCH 10. Please include meeting/field trip notices through August. The SPRING issue of *KELSEYA* will be mailed by April 10, 1999.

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## MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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