

Kelseya

NEWSLETTER of the MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Norse Legend Explains Kissing **UNDER THE MISTLETOE**

By Fay Benton

There it hangs, in the doorway, waiting for some unsuspecting friend or family member to pass beneath its unassuming presence in your home. But beware! Once you're under the influence of that tiny sprig of American Dwarf Mistletoe, someone is likely to step forward to offer you a kiss. Why?

Fay Benton tells us the story...

Once Upon a Time,...

...there was a god named Balder the Bright. He was the god of Light and Joy and was greatly loved by all in the heavens and on earth. He was the son of Odin who was the eldest of the gods of the North. Peace and goodwill surrounded Balder wherever he went.

One night, Balder dreamed of his own death. He dreamt not of how he died, but of the cold and darkness that engulfed him. In the days that followed, Balder became pensive and depressed.

The change in the god of Light and Joy was apparent to everyone, most especially to his wife, Nanna. After some discussion among the gods, it was decided that in order to prevent this terrible event from happening, Balder's mother, Queen Frigga, would go forth and receive a oath from everything in the heavens and on earth not to harm her son.

Nearing home and the end of the detailed undertaking, Frigga grew tired. She saw the inconspicuous little mistletoe and realized it was the only thing that she had not asked to promise of. In her weariness, she proceeded on, dismissing



the puny, insignificant plant. She deemed it too little to ever cause any harm to her son.

But Loki, son of the Frost Giant, was about. He was permitted to wander Asgard, the place where the gods lived, through a mysterious agreement with Odin.

Loki hated everything good and he despised Balder. It was not long before he changed his image into that of a curious, old woman and procured from Frigga what it was that might harm Balder. With this knowledge, Loki went into the woods and cut a sprig of the little mistletoe from an ancient oak tree. Returning to the gods, he tricked Balder's brother, the blind god Hodur, to throw the sharpened plant at Balder. When he did this, the mistletoe pierced Balder's heart and he was killed

instantly.

For days afterward, all the gods and goddesses used their special powers to try and bring the beloved god of Light and Joy back to life, but to no avail.

So, Frigga devised a plan and Hermod the Bold volunteered to carry it out. The plan was to ride into the underworld and offer a ransom for Balder's return. The funeral proceeded and Balder's body was placed on his ship, which had been prepared as a pyre.

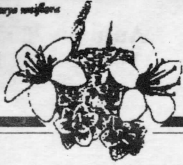
Nanna was so overcome with grief that her heart broke and she died also. Her body was placed next to her husband's and the ship was pushed out to sea by the female giant, Hyrrokin, and set ablaze.

In the meantime, Hermod the Bold had reached the gates of Hel and went deeper into the cold darkness. Finding Hela, Queen of the Underworld, he conveyed the message and offered the ransom. Hela agreed to return Balder and Nanna, but on one condition: he must prove that everything in the heavens and on earth were indeed weeping for the god of Light and Joy.

Hermod speedily returned to Asgard and relayed Hela's terms. Messengers were then dispatched to prove every plant, every rock, every animal, the fire, the wind, the water and the earth were all weeping for Balder. This was done, until the messengers came upon an old woman who refused to cry for Balder. It was Loki.

Pursued throughout the kingdom, he escaped repeatedly by changing his shape. But finally he was caught, and he was chained and held captive in a deep cavern.

Continued on page 2



FROM THE PRESIDENT

WAYNE PHILLIPS

Meet your Board of Directors

The Fall Board Meeting in Helena October 28 was well attended by the majority of the officers, chapter representatives and committee chairpersons of the Society. What a fine group of folks, willing to devote their time to advancing the goals of our Society. For example, Maria Mantas presented to the Board her work on a revised Society brochure, complete with color illustrations and a proposal for printing them.

As each person attending the meeting reported on their work for the Society it was clear that the Montana Native Plant Society is an active and dynamic organization of folks dedicated to "preserving, conserving, and studying Montana's native plants." Thanks to Board members: Linda Iverson (Past President and newsletter/publications committee chairperson), Betty Kuropat (Vice-President and Small Grants Committee Board Member), Pat Platenberg (Secretary), Madeline Mazurski (Treasurer and member of the

Landscaping/Revegetation Committee and the new brochure committee), Dennis Nicholls (Newsletter Editor), Sam Culotta (Western Montana Director at Large), Al Joyes (Maka Flora Chapter Rep.), Kathy Lloyd (Kelsey Chapter Rep. and Conservation Committee member), Annie Greene (Calypso Chapter Rep.), Jean Redonski (Beartooth Mountain Chapter Rep.), Pete Lesica (Conservation Committee Chair), John Pierce (Landscaping/Revegetation Committee Chair), Rachel Feigley (Small Grants Committee Chair) and Scott Mincemoyer (Membership Committee Chair and database manager).

I would like to introduce some new members of the Board and Committees:

Fay Benton of Vaughn has replaced Hal Vosen as the Eastern Montana Director at Large. Fay considers herself a "plant enthusiast" and has fostered native plant interest and education for several years in the Great Falls area with her weekly articles in the *Great Falls Tribune* titled "The Wildflower Trail" and leading wildflower walks in the area.

Hal Vosen of Miles City has replaced Clayton McCracken as the Chapter Representative of the Artemisia Chapter. Hal recently retired as a Range Conservationist for the BLM and is well known in the Society for his work on the Echinacea issue and as Director at Large for Eastern Montana.

Gertrude Lackschewitz of Missoula has replaced Lori Parr Campbell as the Chapter Representative for the Clark Fork Chapter. Gertrude has been a hard worker in the Clark Fork Chapter for years, devoting many long hours on the Botany Department garden at the University of Montana. She has recently initiated wildflower articles in the *Missoulian*.

Maria Mantas of Whitefish has replaced Mary Sloan as the Chapter Representative for the Flathead Chapter. Maria is a professional botanist for the Flathead National Forest and an expert wildflower photographer. Her work on the Society brochure will be a great improvement in promoting the Society.

Joanne Jennings of Bozeman has replaced Judy

McCarthy as the Chapter Representative for the Valley of the Flowers Chapter. Joanne has retired from the University of Montana, where she was a Research Associate in the Plant Pathology Department. She is active in the City Recreation and Parks Board and is an avid gardener, hiker, skier and dancer.

Kim Goodwin and **Pete Husby** of Bozeman have been appointed as co-chairpersons of the Education Committee, (long vacant). Kim is an Extension Assistant at Montana State University, working under noxious weed specialist Roger Sheley. Kim was formerly Data Manager for the Nevada Natural Heritage Program and Program Chair for the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society. Pete is State Biologist for the USDA NRCS.

So, this is your Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons! All of these folks are enthusiastic about Montana's native plants and are hard at work promoting the goals of our Society. This is volunteer work; time spent away from family and jobs to forward the Society's objectives. They all deserve your support and thanks.

Wayne can be reached at 2601 Third Ave. North, Great Falls, MT 59401 (406)453-0648 e-mail: mtwayne@juno.com

Norse Legend

From page one

So, Hela kept her dead, and still Balder has not been returned to Asgard, and won't be until the Final Battle. This battle will take place when Loki escapes an in alliance with the Frost Giants and the Fire Giant, Surt, invades Asgard and all the worlds are consumed by fire.

Fire, though, is the great cleanser, and the earth will renew itself and become green again. Balder will be released from the underworld to brighten and grace the lives of every living thing.

And so, for untold generations,

people have gathered mistletoe at the winter solstice to celebrate Balder the Bright's return, for at that time they know the days will become longer and the sun brighter. To light the way back for the god of Light and Joy, Yule logs are burned and evergreen plants are displayed to symbolize everlasting life.

These symbols have become intermingled with Christianity, including holly, pine trees, and the kiss under the mistletoe, a practice of the ancient Druids. Continuing this Norse legend from many years ago, mistletoe is still hung in our doorways at Christmas, so that all entering our homes may receive a kiss of friendship and love, heartening the mistletoe, still to this day, to harm no one.

Newsletter Exchanges

The Montana Native Plant Society exchanges its newsletter, *Kelseya*, with about a dozen other groups across the nation who share our love and enthusiasm for native plants. From time to time, we find stuff in their newsletters to share with our members in *Kelseya*, and from time to time we see where other organizations have found something interesting in ours to share with their members. For instance, the November 2000 issue of the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society newsletter contains Pete Lesica's article on carnivorous plants that was published in *Kelseya's* Summer 2000 edition. It's great to know we can freely share information like this with other interested folks.

Dow Wages War on the West's Wildflowers

BIG TIMBER - An outraged Linda Iverson (MNPS past president) brought an advertisement brochure she obtained at her county extension office to the board of director's meeting in the summer of '99. The handout read, "Double Your Grass with Grazon," and went on to state that "weeds" such as lupine, wild rose, phlox, goldenrod and asters "rob crucial moisture and nutrients needed for grass vigor and growth." Grazon is a combination of tordon and 2,4-D, and DowElanco Corporation is conducting a vigorous advertising campaign in Montana to encourage ranchers to use it to lower the diversity of native plants in their pastures.

The Native Plant Society's conservation committee formed a grazing subcommittee and drafted a letter to all Extension Service and Natural Resources and Conservation Service offices in the state. While our subcommittee believes there is a place for herbicide in a multi-faceted weed management program, it should not be used to alter our native grasslands to favor livestock production. In our letter we asked agents and conservationists to discourage the use of herbicide to eliminate native plants on rangelands. We pointed out that broad-leaved plants are an important part of native grasslands, can help the plant communities resist weed invasion, and some may be a component of livestock diets. Further, an overabundance of broad-leaved species usually indicates past overgrazing, and herbicide use is no substitute for good management. Write the Conservation Committee at our Missoula P.O. box if you would like a copy of our letter.

Pete Lesica
Conservation Committee

Natural Areas on State Lands

HELENA - Secretary of State Mike Cooney requested that Attorney General Joe Mazurek reexamine a 1976 Attorney General's Opinion that effectively made the Montana Natural Areas Act obsolete. The Natural Areas Act of 1974 was designed to establish the means to protect ecologically important areas located on Montana's school trust lands. Because of the 1976 Opinion, issued by then-Attorney General Woodahl, the Natural Areas system envisioned by the Montana Legislature has been stalled for a quarter century.

Montana has approximately five million acres of school trust land which were given to the state by Congress to use in support of our public schools. The 1976 Opinion requires that before a Natural Area is designated, the state's school trust must be compensated for the full appraised value of the parcel being designated. In Montana, AG Opinions are considered law.

Since 1976, several court cases at the state and federal level have indicated that former Attorney General Woodahl's decision should be reexamined. Secretary of State Cooney is the first person to make this request. He is a member of Montana's Land Board which oversees management of school trust lands. The Land Board is increasingly being asked to balance protection of these lands, which will ultimately benefit future generations, and turning short term profits that could degrade a significant area. Consequently, a reexamination of the 1976 AG Opinion is important and timely.

Perhaps the strongest court case on this issue occurred in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. In *Branson School District v. Roy Romer* (1998), a Colorado case, the court upheld stewardship of school trust lands as a valid option for the state, concluding that the "requirement to consider beauty, nature, open space, and wildlife habitat as part of the whole panoply of land management considerations simply indicates a change in the state's

chosen mechanism for achieving its continuing obligation to manage the school lands for the support of the common schools... it is certainly fairly possible for a trustee to conclude that protecting and enhancing the aesthetic value of a property will increase its long term potential and productivity. The trust obligation, after all, is unlimited in time and a long range vision of how best to preserve the value and productivity of the trust assets may very well include attention to preserving the beauty and natural values of the property."

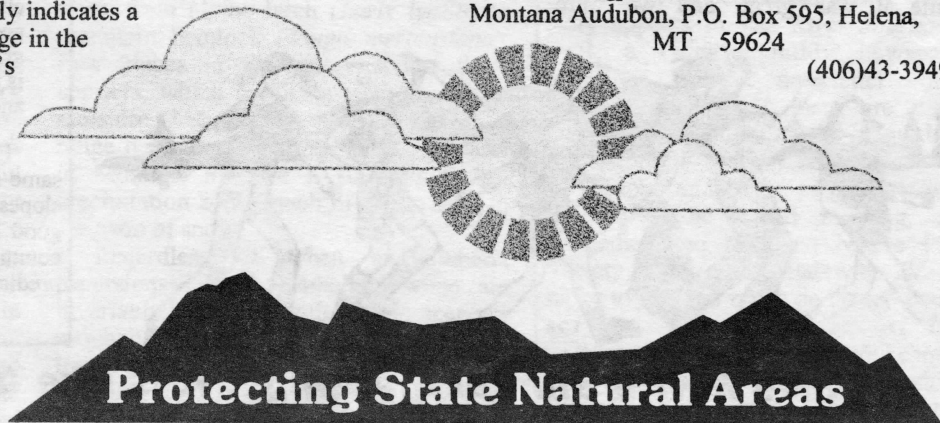
Additionally, in *Branson* the Court upheld the creation of a 300,000-acre "Stewardship Trust" which was created as a "permanent reservation of school trust lands." The Stewardship Trust in Colorado is similar to the natural Areas concept in Montana.

Audubon thinks it makes sense to protect ecologically important school trust land for future generations. We are also interested in this request our commitment to the Owen Sowerwine Natural Area, the only designated state natural area on school trust land. Located just outside the city limits of Kalispell, this area protects the confluence of the Stillwater and Flathead rivers. The water, black cottonwood forest, large birch trees and tangle of understory make this area a magnet for wildlife. Buird surveys conducted by the Flathead Chapter (Audubon) have documented 51 species of likely breeders in the area. To protect Owen Sowerline, Flathead Audubon began leasing the 442-acre parcel in 1994. Currently, Montana Audubon is negotiating with the state for a 20-year lease on this pristine area.

Audubon hopes that the new AG Opinion will breathe life back into the Natural Area program. Surely, protecting the most ecologically significant school trust lands is an important benefit for future generations.

From *Magpie Muse*, newsletter of Montana Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

(406)43-3949



MNPS ANNUAL MEETINGS

Like a Family Reunion

By Pattie Brown

I love MNPS annual meetings. Initially, I went to learn plants, but now I go for the people. It is like a family reunion, not to be confused with a family reunion, which can be horrid. I rejoice even to see all my Flathead friends, although it doesn't make much sense to drive for 7 hours to see my neighbors. It is the context, the camping, the camaraderie, the alliteration.

Then I choose a hike to learn some alpine plants and follow Pete Lesica and Maria Mantas around like a groupie. I think just by close proximity, I will learn great new things from them. I also think this year I will be able to keep up since I have gone to the gym a few times and lost one pound.

Like women who don't remember the pain of childbirth and decide to do it again, I go for the hike that is going to hurt. I have forgotten that I won't learn any plants because I can't keep up with the group. Then Peter's hike turns into a rock climb and a scramble and I have to bail out.

Next year when you see me standing in Peter's group, will you remind me with utmost delicacy and tact that it might not be the best choice for me.

And so I looked forward to my next hike with the Flathead Chapter MNPS. Maria Mantas was leading us up to the alpine along Logan Creek out of Hungry Horse. She saw this trail on the map, and it looked great!

Uh-oh.

It was great until we crossed the creek after a couple of miles and couldn't find the trail on the other side. While it was great, and we were

chatting and having fun, we saw *Dracocephalum parviflorum* and *Geranium bicknellii* as we walked through a burn. As fire dependent species, the seeds will remain in the soil for 50, maybe even 250 years waiting for the next fire.

Then the hike became a scramble over burned down logs and nettles that were waist-high. There was some comfort in knowing that I wasn't the only one in shorts. Once again I couldn't keep up, but the group was kind and patient and made sure at regular intervals that I wasn't lost or broken.

When we were out of the burn, the cover was very dense alder, and I feared being lost forever and living in an alder thicket like a hobbit. We never found the trail. Even Maria knew when to quit. We could see the basin and alpine area; it was so close, yet so far, and we turned back. I couldn't even keep up going back as I had twisted my knee.

But no one rivals Maria when it comes to enthusiasm, knowledge, wit. And she has the most beautiful laugh which she uses often, and it rings through the woods like a thrush. Yea, I'm still a big fan even though the next day, my legs looked like I had come too close to a thrashing machine. Maria later disclosed that she had to use some cortisone for the itching nettle bites.

Although I may not be able to hike with Peter and Maria, they will remain two of my favorite people in the whole world. I applaud the work they do in the field of conservation. They have the passion, energy and dedication needed to affect change, and I am so glad they are in my life.

See you at Bull River!

2001: A Plant Odyssey



BULL RIVER - Planning continues for next year's annual meeting in the far northwest corner of the state. Aside from the plethora of wonderful field trips that'll be available, our special guest and keynote speaker will be Jack Nisbet, a legitimate expert on the travels and explorations of David Thompson.

Thompson, for whom the town of Thompson Falls was named, was likely the first white man to step foot in the lower Clark Fork Valley. He came here by way of the Kootenai Valley in the fall of 1809, having turned south at present-day Bonners Ferry, Idaho and then trekked upstream from Lake Pend Oreille to as far as the confluence of the Clark Fork River (which he called the Saleesh) and the Jocko River.

Nisbet will be on hand Saturday night at our camp on the East Fork Bull River for our evening program. To give you a sense of his interests and knowledge, here's an excerpt from his book, *Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson Across Western North America* about the area near Dixon in view of the Mission Range ...

"(Thompson) was gratified by the results of his trading post that winter. He had chosen a good location for Saleesh House, in a rich beaver area where several tribes traditionally wintered. He had found natives he could work with and trust, who had kept him supplied with dried meat and pemmican...Thompson liked this rich territory, especially the stretch to the east, along the Flathead River:

The impression of my mind is, from the formation of the country and its climate, its extensive Meadows and fine Forests, watered by countless Brooks and Rills of pure water, that it will become the abode of civilized Man, whether Natives or other people; part of it will bear rich crops of grain, the greater part will be pastoral, as it is admirably adapted to the rearing of Cattle and Sheep.

"From the top of a lookout ridge above the same section of the Flathead river, I scanned the slopes for animals poised in the grass...It's a good place to get a feel for just how close the country looks today to the way David Thompson predicted it would almost two centuries ago."



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not to be confused with a family reunion, which can be horrid.**

Life in the Subalpine Zone

Is there a more inspiring place on earth to be than in the spectacular high country of any one of Montana's twenty-some mountain ranges? And at any time of the year!

Most people don't get a chance to experience the high country after the fall colors fade to November drab, but even in the black and white landscape of winter, the high country is fascinating.

The alpine zone extends from the upper edge of the montane forest to the lower edge of the treeless alpine zone. It is sometimes said to end at "timberline," but

some guide books, like *Plants of the Rocky Mountains* (Kershaw, MacKinnon and Pojar, 1998), from which most of this information is taken, will include as the upper limit of the subalpine zone the "krummholz" stands of stunted, twisted trees such as what you see at Logan Pass in Glacier Park.

The subalpine zone is fairly uniform throughout the Rocky Mountains, and consists primarily of forests of subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*)

and Englemann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). The forest floor is often dominated by low shrubs, forbs and grasses like grouse whortleberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*), beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) and Wood's rush (*Luzula spp.*). Some of the more beautiful wildflowers to be found in this zone are Prince's Pine (*Chimaphila umbellata*) and One-flowered wintergreen (*Moneses uniflora*); but of course, what constitutes the most beautiful wildflowers is really in the eye of the beholder.

There are hundreds of plants adapted to the moderate to high elevation of the subalpine zone, including the one featured

in the sketch below, Parry's Townsendia. And who wouldn't be awestruck by the fragile beauty of Glacier lilies (*Erythronium grandiflorum*) or tall Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium acutiflorum*)? No doubt, we each have our favorites in the forested upper slopes of Montana's Rocky Mountains.

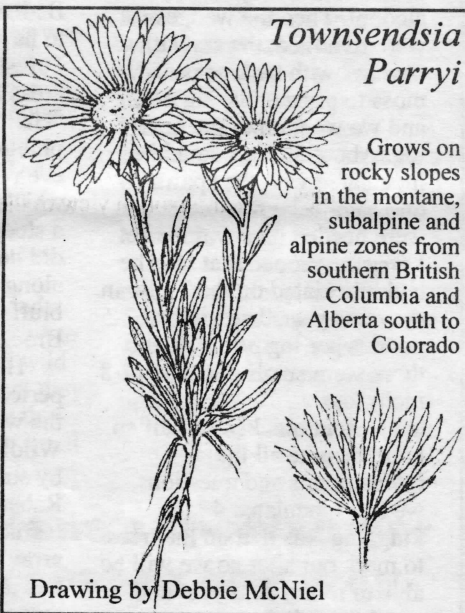
Forest, of course, is not the only environment you'll find in the subalpine zone. Open meadows with scattered trees like Limber Pine and Whitebark Pine (*Pinus flexilis* and *albicaulis*, respectively) can be among the most spectacular components of the high country. Affording

expansive panoramas, the scenic views are rivaled, perhaps, only by the rich diversity of life right underfoot.

Climate has a great deal to do with what type of habitat you will encounter in the subalpine zone. In the Cabinet Mountains of far northwest Montana, for instance (where the 2001 MNPS annual meeting will take place), the subalpine zone is comprised mostly of dense forests with a large variety of

trees, from alpine larch (*Larix lyallii*) to mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*). Few places in the state support these conifers, which require a vast amount of moisture. The Cabinets may be the only range outside of Glacier Park's west side in Montana to have a 100-plus inches precipitation zone, much of which falls in the form of snow.

Regardless of when and where, excursions into the subalpine zone are invariably rewarded with terrific scenery, a richness of plant and animal life, and an inner strengthening that verges on the spiritual. You should find time to get up there in the coming year. DN



Board Banter

A report on the Fall Board of Directors meeting

HELENA - A group of 15 MNPS board members met at the Lewis and Clark Library in Helena on October 28 to discuss business matters of the Montana Native Plant Society. The board meeting is held in this location twice each year, as it seems about the most central place to gather from all corners of the state.

Treasurer Madeline Mazurski shared that the Society's financial status remains in excellent shape, with more than \$21,000 in assets.

Linda Iverson, past President, passed around extra t-shirts from last summer's annual meeting at Pine Creek. Various members have them for sale. Contact your chapter representative if you'd like to get one. They would make great Christmas gifts. Linda, who is also chair of the Publications committee, discussed the need to update the Native Plants Source Guide, and Hal Vosen and John Pierce will help her with that project.

The Society's membership as of late October stood at 365, according to Membership Chairman Scott Mincemoyer. Among the chapters, the Beartooth Mountains Chapter is currently struggling the most with just four members. The Clark Fork Chapter in Missoula has the highest membership with 80. Maria Mantas has completed a draft of a new brochure for MNPS and will finalize that this winter.

Newspaper articles have been a big plus for the Montana Native Plant Society. The Kelsey Chapter has long been providing a column to the *Helena Independent Record*, and now Clark Fork Chapter members are getting published in the *Missoulian* and Fay Benton, our eastern Montana Representative-at-large, has been getting articles published in the *Great Falls Tribune*. The occasional native plants story appears in *The River Journal* as well, a twice monthly newspaper published by our newsletter editor, Dennis Nicholls. If there are others putting flower stories in their local newspaper, let us know about it.

Chapter and committee reports were shared at the board meeting, and altogether, the Montana Native Plant Society is very active statewide. We are lucky to have so many dedicated people serving the purposes of our organization. If you'd like to be more involved in your area, contact President Wayne Phillips for ideas on what steps to take.

CHAPTER LIFE

Mertensia oblongifolia
By Debbie McNiel

Stories and Legends

September 8 was the dedication of the newly constructed Tu-Hi and Pum-Hi Hong Herbarium in Great Falls, designed to house the extensive liverwort and moss collections of Dr. Won Shic Hong. The MNPS will conduct a visit to the herbarium later this winter.

October 24 we met at the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks building in Great Falls to identify wildflower slides and to share pictures of the Camp Lubec meeting.

October 24-25 Fay Benton presented a program at Lewistown, MT on the "Stories and Legends about Montana Wildflowers." The next morning, Ted Hawn and Fay conducted a hike along the Big Spring Creek Trail in Lewistown.

Fay Benton

Oysters in Montana?

Here is a short article about oyster mushroom workshops. We encourage members to contact the WMMA at PO Box 7306 Missoula, MT 59807 for more info or to join (still just \$10 a year!)

Thanks to a grant from AERO and the experts at the Western Montana Mycological Association, over 20 landowners in the Flathead and Bitterroot valleys now have oyster mushrooms growing in their cottonwood trees. These big, tasty mushrooms are a native part of riparian habitats all over the Northern Rockies and growing them is as easy as splitting wood. Here is a brief account

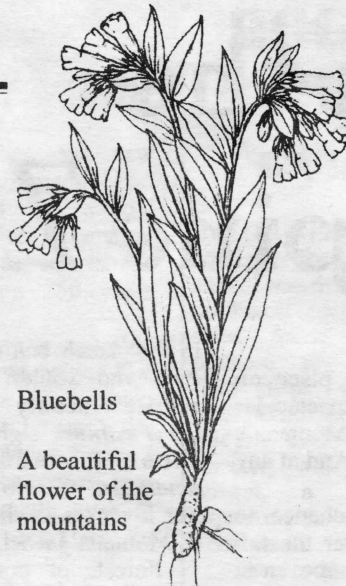
of one of the workshops, held at the Teller Wildlife Refuge September 12.

At noon we arrived at the barn, and soon we were watching a slide presentation, which illustrated the oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) and just about every other mushroom that grows on cottonwoods or could be mistaken for an oyster mushroom. Despite our lack of experience with fungi, everyone felt confident that they could positively identify the oyster mushroom by the time we were done.

The next course was a quick cooking demonstration where some fresh oyster mushrooms were sliced and fried in butter. That was over in a hurry, and there were no leftovers! So we gathered our recipes, oyster mushroom market reports, and other information and headed out to the field.

Having the workshops at the Teller refuge was an advantage, as the refuge has supported the oyster mushroom pilot project since its inception in 1992. Three subsequent workshops in 1993, 1995, and 1997 had introduced oyster mushrooms into logs in one area of the property and, despite the dry weather, our group found 4 actively fruiting oyster colonies from years past.

Glen Babcock provided bags of mushroom spawn, which was "grown out" on rye grain and sawdust from cultures and spore prints taken by Larry Evans from oyster mushrooms found on cottonwood and Douglas fir. The workshop participants took to some downed logs with a sledgehammer and



Bluebells

A beautiful flower of the mountains

wedges, splitting them apart enough to insert handfuls of the spawn while wearing latex gloves that had been disinfected with isopropyl alcohol. Then the wedges were removed, the cracks covered with bark or peat moss to prevent drying out, and we went on to the next log. About 30 logs could be inoculated with the spawn in one bag; just a few teaspoons were needed on any one site. Larry mentioned that logs he had inoculated on the Teller in previous years had yielded 2-5 pounds per log per year, and these were small diameter (4-8 inch) logs.

It went quickly. In half an hour, despite all the interruptions and questions, we had inoculated 4 logs. Flagging was tied on the trees to mark our sites so we will be able to return next year and see the results!

Larry Evans

A Maka Flora Summer

The Maka Flora Chapter had another active summer of

field trips and outings. There were three events scheduled locally and members also attended the "Botany Blowout" on the Matador Ranch near Malta. That event was hosted by the Montana Nature Conservancy. Although turnouts have been variable over the past several seasons, we have a core group that enthusiastically participates in each activity planned by the Chapter. On the prairies where people are scattered far and wide it is always a day well spent to trek with likeminded people.

A summary of the summer's events would have to include a day in western North Dakota driving and walking in the Little Missouri Badlands. We were fortunate to have a guide from the Forest Service, and we viewed areas burned during last year's "Halloween Fires." We hiked pine-covered uplands and even discovered a petrified log which was recently exposed in a steep ravine. The weather did not cooperate for a hike along the Missouri River bluffs near the town of Brockton, so turnout was light.

However, the weather was perfect for a close up look at the wetlands of Medicine Lake Wildlife Refuge. We were led by staff biologist Mike Rabenburg and we saw and learned about a mystifying array of water loving plants and animals. The really amazing part was that everyone except Mike ended the day still dry!

Al Joyes, Westby

Continued on next page

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

Be sure to write up a report of your programs and share the excitement of what you learn with the rest of us. Send your reports to: Montana Native Plant Society, Kelsey Editor, P.O. Box 1632, Noxon, MT 59853, or by email to trj@blackfoot.net

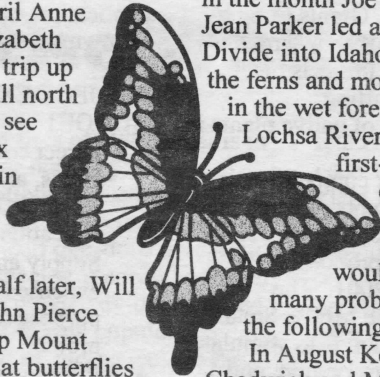
Butterflies & Flowers, Fire & Grasses, Ferns & Mosses & More

The Clark Fork Chapter teamed up with the Missoula County Extension Service to sponsor a series of field trips this past summer.

In early April Anne Garde and Elizabeth Johnston led a trip up Waterworks hill north of Missoula to see phlox and douglasia in flower. Even the cub scouts were cold. A month and a half later, Will Kerling and John Pierce took a group up Mount Jumbo to look at butterflies and wildflowers. There were lots of both, including the larvae of a blue being tended by ants on lupine- a three-way interaction! In early June Peter Stickney led a group to inspect the effects of a 1999 fire on Mount Sentinel just above the University. The grasses were undamaged. The rain held off until we were as far from our cars as possible.

In July, John Pierce led a trip to the Pryor Mountains to look at wildflowers and wild horses. They found what they were looking for. Later that month Scott Miles led a small

group of intrepid canoeists down the Clark Fork River just west of Missoula to look at how the river used to interact with its floodplain and how people have changed it. Our new chapter president, Gertrude Lackschewitz, became more intimate with the river than she might have wanted. Late in the month Joe Elliott and Jean Parker led a trip over the Divide into Idaho to look at the ferns and mosses growing in the wet forests along the Lochsa River. We got a



first-hand view of one of the many large fires that would cause so many problems over the following month. In August Kelly Chadwick and Madeline Mazurski led a tour of four native plan gardens in Missoula. Some were mixed with typical ornamentals, while others were purely native. Later that month Helen Atthowe showed interested members the results of small-scale grassland restoration projects in the Missoula area.

We visited a true prairie restoration along the Clark Fork River, a large yard in the hills south of town and a subdivision common area near Lolo.

Pete Lesica, Missoula

Enjoy Montana's spectacular native landscapes any way you can!



CALENDAR

ARTEMISIA CHAPTER *Billings*

BEARTOOTH MOUNTAINS CHAPTER *Red Lodge*

Jean Radonski, 446-3907

CALYPSO CHAPTER *Butte*

Annie Green, 683-6594.

CLARK FORK CHAPTER *Missoula*

Thursday November 9, 7:30 pm. Peter Husby, State Biologist for the Natural Resources and Conservation Service, will talk to us on his experiences in "Restoration and Management of Montana's Wetlands and Riparian Areas." Rm L14 in the Gallagher Business Building on the UM Campus.

Thursday December 14, 6:30 pm. Our annual Christmas potluck will be at the home of Gertrude Lackschewitz, 6322 Woods Rd east of the entrance to the Rattlesnake Recreation area near the north end of Rattlesnake Dr. Bring a plate, utensils, a dish to share and a few of your favorite slides from the past year. Call Gertrude for more information (543-5009).

Thursday January 11, 7:30 pm. Helen Smith, Montana Champion Trees Coordinator and Forest Service Botanist, Scott Mincemoyer will tell us about "Champion Trees of Montana and the West." Rm L14 in the Gallagher Business Building on the UM Campus.

Thursday February 8, 7:30 pm. Steve Siebert of UM's School of Forestry will talk and show slides about his long-term research on conservation forestry in the Asian tropics, "The Unique Flora of Sulawesi and the Conservation and Management of Ratan." Rm L14 in the Gallagher Business

Building on the UM Campus.

Flathead chapter *Kalispell*

Flathead Chapter Meetings: Are at the Montana Logging Association Building, 2224 Highway 35, east of Kalispell and across from Hooper's nursery. The conference room door is at the back of the building. Everyone is invited to the 5:30 business and project meeting. Programs start at 7. Call Rachel Potter (892-2446) for more information.

Wednesday, November 15. Bonnie Heidel of the Montana Natural Heritage Program in Helena will be talking about 'Gap analysis- are Montana's plants protected?' When we look at natural area protection across a broad geographic area, are the size and spacing of gaps between these areas too big to afford protection to species?

Wednesday, December 20 is the chapter Christmas Party at Betty and Ed Kuropat's in Columbia Falls. 5:30, hors d'ouvers, potluck at 6:30. It's always a great time. Call them at 892-0129 for directions.

Wednesday, January 17. Mark Behan, professor emeritus and the University of Montana, will be telling us just about everything about tea - ethnobotany, history, cultivation, processing, types, and preparation, followed by tea tasting. This is a program not to miss.

Wednesday, February 21. Russ Willis, president of Bighorn Botanicals in Noxon, Montana will be discussing "The history and future of pacific yew harvest and medicinal use.

Wednesday, March 21. Sheila Morrison, Missoula's master native plant gardener, will be talking about "Growing natives from seed."

Continued on next page

KELSEY CHAPTER

Helena

The Kelsey chapter annual holiday pot-luck and slide show is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 9th at 6:00 p.m. Hosted by John and Deb Beaver at 1806 N. Harris in Helena, the event is open to all Plant Society members. Don't forget to bring your own table service, a dish to share and a few slides to inspire the crowd!

Kelsey chapter will have monthly programs throughout the fall and winter. Call 449-6586 (DrakeKath@aol.com) for late-breaking news!

Monday, January 8, 2001 Kelsey chapter's first hands-on study night will feature Astragalus and related plants. Drake Barton will lead the study, which is open to all members. We will bring specimens and microscopes. Bring your keys and questions. 7 pm at the Lewis & Clark Library small meeting room.

MAKA FLORA CHAPTER

Westby

There will be a winter meeting after the New Year holiday. That will be our annual planning and winter social event. Notices will be sent out. We will also discuss our native plants articles for local newspapers and determine how to proceed with that project.

VALLEY OF THE FLOWERS

Bozeman

Monday, Dec. 4th, 7 pm at the new Ag-Bioscience Building on 11th Street, MSU campus, room 108 (free parking lot north of the building). The speaker is Anthony Kern, MSU instructor of Plant Sciences. He will talk to us about the current issues arising from the production of genetically modified plants.

We have evening meetings scheduled for Jan 22, Feb 19, Mar 26 and April 23; topics to be announced in chapter mailings or call Joanne Jennings at 586-9585 for more information.

GREAT FALLS AREA

The following programs are planned in Great Falls at the MT FWP Regional Headquarters at Giant Springs. Each program will start at 7:00 pm. Open to the public and MNPS members are invited to come and bring their friends.

November 20 Steve Shaller, Education Coordinator at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, will present a program on the wonders of New Zealand, the native plants and the environmental concerns facing these unique islands. Refreshments served.

December 18 A potluck social and sharing of wildflower stories, pictures, and poems. Beverages will be provided.

January 22 Jennephyr Reiche-Sterling, co-owner of The Root and the Leaf Herb and Massage/Reike Shop in Great Falls will introduce Herbs and the different ways to use them, both medicinally and as food. Jennephyr will give special attention to native plants that grow in our area and the importance of conserving them. Refreshments served.



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 2001 SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) announces the sixth annual small grants program for research, study, and appreciation of Montana's native plants. Grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded in 2001 to fund projects or studies supporting conservation of native plants in Montana.

The grant competition is open to residents of Montana or members of MNPS. The deadline for proposals is January 31, 2001. The purpose of the MNPS Small Grants Program is to stimulate research, conservation, and education activities which help foster an appreciation for Montana's native plants and plant communities. These grants are intended to promote native plant conservation through better understanding of our native flora and the factors effecting their survival.

This year, the Small Grant Program is helping fund two native plant gardens for enjoyment, education, and aesthetic purposes wherein whole communities can gain an appreciation for native plants. These projects will make a significant contribution to promoting awareness, appreciation and conservation of Montana's native plants.

We encourage anyone who has a project that might

qualify for the MNPS small grants program to consider submitting a proposal!

Please submit an application which includes the following information:

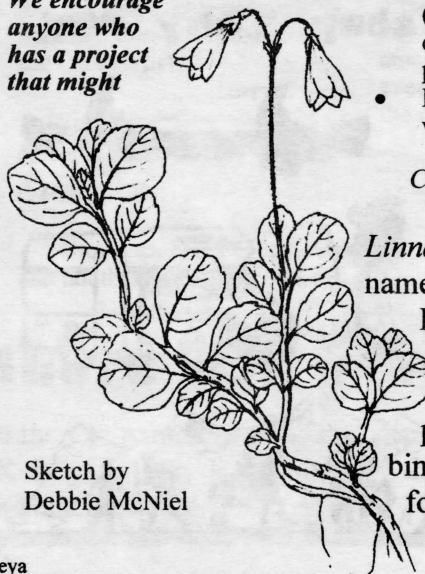
PROJECT EXPENSES AND BUDGET:

- Direct costs of travel, meals, and lodging for research, conservation or education projects.
- Supply and service expenses used for the sole purpose of the native plant project.
- Printing costs for public outreach projects or research publications.
- Do not include expenses such as wages and equipment, nor expenses that are non-essential to the project.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE & REQUIREMENTS:

- Submit two copies of your proposal. It should be no longer than three pages, double spaced type.
- Include a project title.
- Identify a contact person, organization affiliation if any, and give an address, phone number, and e-mail if applicable.
- Describe the project (objectives, methods, description of final product).
- Explain how the project will benefit native plant

Continued on next page



Sketch by
Debbie McNiel

Linnaea borealis, left, was named for Carolus Linnaeus, 1707-1778, a Swedish botanist who originated our present scientific binomial naming system for plants and animals.

Big Sky

KETCHES

By Bonnie Heidel

In the Wake of Fire

After the fires of 2000, what is in store for burned plant populations and landscapes?

Your help is requested in coming up with answers for difficult questions involving Montana plant species of special concern.

If you revisit previously-documented occurrences or find new populations within burned areas, please include the following information with the standard sensitive plant survey form information:

1. **Fire conditions.** Note fire date and intensity of the burn. Did the fire kill all woody vegetation? Burn all litter and duff?
2. **Immediate fire effects on the species.** Did individual plants survive the fire? What proportion and segments of the population? What kind of damage resulted? Was there resprouting?
3. **Other plant response observations.** Are seedlings or newly-established plants present? How are they distributed? Are established plants vegetative or flowering? How do the numbers of established plants differ between pre- and post-burn conditions?
4. **Observation context.** Note the intensity and purpose of the survey.

This information will be included on the element occurrence records, and also compiled into summaries of management-

related information to be added for each species to the Montana Rare Plant Electronic Field Guide.

Glimpses of the future are already provided in the information compiled on species' responses to fires, as presented in the Fire Effects Information homepage (<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants>). One can retrieve compiled literature reviews for a select set of plants, animals, and vegetation types.

The response of *Corydalis sempevirens* is reprinted below from the Fire Effects Information database, based in large part on data collected in states and provinces where it is more common. The entry is directly linked to a bibliographic database. Note: This Montana plant species of special concern is known from six state records to date, but has apparently only been collected once since 1950.

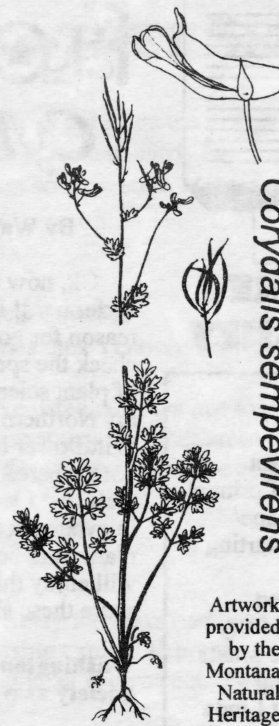
SPECIES: *Corydalis sempevirens* (pink corydalis; also called pale corydalis)

IMMEDIATE FIRE EFFECT ON PLANT : Fire generally kills pink corydalis.

PLANT RESPONSE TO FIRE : Pink corydalis frequently invades recently burned areas [28]. Seeds stored in the soil often germinate following fire [1,4,21,24,25]. Pink

Project or study proposals must pertain to native plants of Montana. Preference will be given to proposals expected to generate data or public support for conservation of native plants in the wild. Proposals which demonstrate initiative and cooperation with other organizations or agencies are also preferred. Please limit small grant requests to \$500 or less.

Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report documenting the study or project accomplishments to the Montana Native Plant Society. We will



Corydalis sempevirens

Artwork provided by the Montana Natural Heritage Program

corydalis biomass generally peaks the second growing season after fire [23,25].

The species is generally not found in areas that have not been recently burned, although seed may be present in the soil [2,13]. Pink corydalis has been reported to increase in lightly, moderately, and heavily burned areas [6,25]. In one case, it grew better after a summer fire (on a warm, dry forest floor) than after a spring fire (on a cool, wet floor)

[17]. In another case, seedlings of pink corydalis and of Carolina geranium (*Geranium carolinianum*) emerged soon after a severe fire in the Appalachian Mountains of New Jersey and were well established one year later [29].

FIRE MANAGEMENT

CONSIDERATIONS : Pink corydalis requires fire to thrive. Since the species declines 3 to 5 years after a fire, it is likely to become uncommon in areas where fires are suppressed. Controlled burning in areas where this species was formerly present would likely cause it to increase if viable seed were still present in the soil. Recently burned areas may be monitored for this species to determine whether the potential for viable populations remains.

(Editor's note: Highlights and news in fire response research are invited for including in future issues of Kelsey.)

Small Grants continued

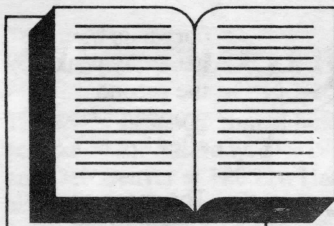
conservation in Montana.

- Outline an overall project budget, including the amount you are requesting from MNPS (up to \$500), and show other funding sources.
- Give a time frame for completion of the project.
- Give a brief statement of the applicant's qualifications.

also require a brief summary of the work to be published in Kelsey, newsletter of MNPS.

Submit your project proposal to:
Chairman, Small Grants Committee
Montana Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 8783
Missoula, MT 59807-8783

Remember the deadline for applications is January 31, 2001. Grants will be awarded by March 15, 2001.



READING LITERATURE THE INTERNET

Source Guide

The MNPS Native Plant Source Guide is out of print at this time. The Landscape/Reveg Committee is starting to update and compile information for the next edition. If you know of any new sources for native plants or need info on existing sources please contact Linda Iverson at 932-5840 or email her at jliverson@mcn.net.

Linda Iverson

Plants of Sheridan County

The Montana Natural Heritage Program has recently published a study that targets Sheridan County. It is titled "Plant Species of Special Concern and Plant Associations of Sheridan County, Montana." Bonnie Heidel is the person primarily responsible for the document and, as usual, her work is excellent. We encourage anyone interested in the ecology of northeastern Montana to have a look at this publication. *Al Joyes*

Guide books as gifts

There are loads of good field guides to help amateur and professional botanists alike when out searching for wildflowers. It's next to impossible to recommend one over another, but two good ones in my library are *Plants of the Rocky Mountains*, a Lone Pine Field Guide, and a Falcon Guide authored by Wayne Phillips, *Central Rocky Mountain Wildflowers*. DN

FLOWERS IN SPACE

Cyberspace, that is!

By Wayne Phillips

Ok, now I'm not a web surfer nerd! I had a legitimate reason for going on line to check the spelling and validity of plant scientific names for my Northern Rocky Mountain Wildflower book. But I was not prepared for the amazing stuff that I would bump into in cyberspace. If you like plants and botany, then you will enjoy this! I just had to share these sites with you:

Washington Native Plant Society at www.wnps.org/

Browsing this site is great for imagining what we can do for spreading the word of the Montana Native Plant Society through a web site. Click links "website" for other cool related sites, including other native plant society sites and click on "photos" for great color photos of native plants.

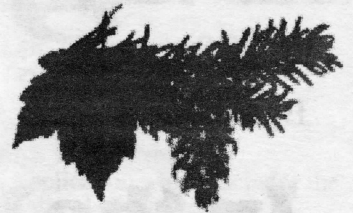
Association for Biodiversity Information at www.abi.org

This site works in a partnership with the 75 Natural Heritage network/data centers in the U.S., Canada and Latin America. Click on "NatureServe," then "Plants & Animals" to enter the name of a plant, and then click "search now" to see the status information; and then click on the "globe" to the right for a map of North America showing the range distribution of the plant by state and its status.

Flora of North America <http://hua.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/>

Click on "The Flora" and "Search" and (for example) "R" (under Angiosperm) and "Ranunculaceae" to view the interactive on-line flora of the buttercup family where you can use the keys and see the descriptions of the species. You can do this for all of the families/genera in the available volumes 2, 3, and 22 of the Flora of North America all on line.

Below is the logo of the Washington Native Plant Society and an excerpt of their history taken from their website.



Members of the Washington Native Plant Society share a common interest in Washington's unique flora. The Washington Native Plant Society has 20 years of activity and involvement in protecting native plants. The small group of individuals who assembled at the Pacific Science Center in 1976 has now grown to nearly 1800 members and 12 active chapters throughout Washington. The charter members envisioned an organization dedicated to the appreciation, conservation and study of Washington's native plants and their habitats. Dr. Art Kruckeberg, professor emeritus of botany at the University of Washington, author of numerous papers and books on horticulture and native plants and initial and continuing force behind the Society says, "We knew it would be successful because the flora of Washington is so extraordinarily rich there would always be people dedicated to its preservation and conservation."

Topo maps at your fingertips

A new, easy way to get USGS topographic maps (1:24,000) for anywhere in Montana is now available courtesy of GIS wizards in the Natural Resource Information Service (NRIS) of Montana State Library. With the new "Topo Finder" application you can search and find USGS quad maps using a variety of search options:

Township, range, and section
Latitude and Longitude coordinates
24k quad name
Feature name (includes 70,000 statewide features)

After you enter search parameters the system will display the USGS topographic image matching your search parameters. Then, using the system, you can pan, zoom, or calculate exact coordinate locations for points YOU CHOOSE, on the map! You can also resize the map if you like.

To get USGS topographic maps, go to the NRIS homepage (<http://nr.is.state.mt.us>) then choose "GIS" and "USGS topographic maps."

Bonnie Heidel

MNPS CHAPTERS & THE AREAS THEY SERVE:

- **ARTEMISIA CHAPTER** - Yellowstone and Carbon Counties; southeastern/south-central Montana
- **BEARTOOTH MOUNTAIN CHAPTER** - South-central Montana, the Beartooth Plateau country
- **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.

YOUR MAILING LABEL TELLS YOU THE FOLLOWING:

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP (See I, II, III, IV below)

CHAPTER AFFILIATION: (ART=Artemisia; CAL=Calypto; CF=Clark Fork; F=Flathead; K=Kelsey; MF=Maka Flora; VOF=Valley of the Flowers)

DATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES. If your label reads "2/97" your membership expired February 28, 1997. Use this form to renew your membership TODAY! 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*. Please renew your membership before the summer issue of *Kelsey* so your name is not dropped from our mailing list. Your continued support is crucial to the conservation of native plants in Montana. THANK YOU.

BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

DATE _____

NAME (please print) _____ Email _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ NEW MEMBERSHIP _____ RENEWAL _____

STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP WITH CHAPTER AFFILIATION

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (No chapter affiliation) or "LIVING LIGHTLY"

- ___ \$18 I. Individual
- ___ 22 II. Family
- ___ 35 III. Business/Organization
- ___ 300 IV. Lifetime Members (one-time payment)

- ___ \$12 I. Individual
- ___ 18 II. Family
- ___ 30 III. Business/Organization
- ___ 300 IV. Lifetime member (one-time payment)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 8783
 Missoula MT 59807-8783



Canadian subscribers please add \$4.00 to each category to cover additional mailing costs. Additional donations may be specified for a particular project.

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 or, better yet, email them to trj@blackfoot.net as a text file (Microsoft Word, for example). All items should be typed and, if possible, put on a 3.5” disk and saved in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher for a PC. Please include a hard copy with your disk.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND INQUIRIES ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN MNPS SHOULD BE SENT TO: MNPS MEMBERSHIP, P.O. BOX 8783, MISSOULA MT 59807-8783. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD ALSO BE DIRECTED TO THE MISSOULA ADDRESS.

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 each issue is AUTUMN – September 10; WINTER – December 10; SPRING – March 10; SUMMER – June 10.

Want extra copies of *Kelsey* for friends or family? Call the Newsletter Editor or write to the Noxon address for more information.

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MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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