



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MINUTES MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY WINTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; Saturday, March 2, 2024 via Zoom

Online Attendees: Dave Hanna (Co-President), Kenda Herman (Vice President), Laurie Kurth (Treasurer), Camie Westfall (Secretary), Leah Grunzke (Administrative Assistant), Carol Goffe (Co-Webmaster), Bob Person (Co-Webmaster), Karen Porter (Calypso Chapter Representative), Teagan Hayes (Clark Fork Chapter Representative), Gretchen Rupp (Valley of Flowers Chapter Representative), Devon Malizia (Kelsey Chapter Representative), Elizabeth Bergstrom (Conservation Committee Co-chair), Jennifer Lyman (Conservation Committee Co-chair), Betty Kuropat (Grants and Giving Committee Co-Chair).

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda, Announcements – *Dave Hanna (00:00:00)*
 - Agenda additions
 - Meeting logistics
2. Secretary's Report – *Camie Westfall (00:01:30)*
 - Fall 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
 - Gretchen had a question about a possible edit on a hanging sentence related to finalizing the Grants and Giving Policy; the correction was made in the Minutes.
 - Motion: Gretchen Rupp moved that we approved the minutes as edited, Karen Porter seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
 - Board member contact updates - Please review and send corrections to Camie.
 - Camie will work on creating a centralized MNPS Board Google Account to house all meeting folders and past information.
 - Call for by-law changes. Reminder: Bylaw changes must be approved by the general membership at the annual meeting.
 - The publication of the annual report of MNPS activities for the Winter Kelsey Newsletter needs to be listed as a Board duty.
 - Information and policies for Administrative Assistant should be incorporated.
 - Need to update/add a policy about updating the signatory authority on the state MNPS bank account(s) every year that the Board positions change hands.
 - Donations and Thank You Note policy: President has discretion on how the thank you notes are handled.
 - Possibly write in a line regarding number of votes for shared or "co" board positions and if both people can vote individually or if it's one vote per position title.
 - Everyone should review the bylaws and the policies in the Board Handbook.
 - Gretchen suggested that this fall we appoint a sub-committee to draft a proposal to be approved by the Board at the Winter Board meeting, and then to be voted on at the 2025 Summer General Membership meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report – Laurie Kurth (see report) (00:15:00)

- Review 2023 financial report
 - Interest income of \$756.02 more than covered the PayPal fees.
 - Total net gain of \$7,160.72 for 2023.
 - Donations in 2023 were \$10,350.
- Review and approve final budget for 2024 (Jan 1 – Dec 31)
 - Big changes in the budget for 2024.
 - Grants and Giving Budget is separate from the main budget. Grants and Giving Budget is funded by donations.
 - The general fund will operate at a \$13,000 deficit in 2024. If we continued with this deficit we would expend our savings in 4-5 years.
 - Question: should the Grants and Giving money market account pay back the main MNPS account. After discussion about proposed Grants and Giving expenses in 2024, we can keep the money in that account and not pay back the main MNPS account.
 - Separate line items:
 - The contract for Administrative Assistant is a separate line item.
 - Website and Zoom are now separate line items.
 - Conservation Committee expense line, add \$1,000 for the Beartooth Highway sign project.
 - Conservation Committee add \$5,000 in income for registration pay back from the Conservation Conference.
 - Special Projects
 - Citizen Botany/Special Projects. Betty and Elizabeth discussed that it should be left in the General Budget.
 - Chapter Projects should be moved to Grants and Giving. We rarely get any Chapter projects, so this should not be a line item in the General Budget.
- Grants and Giving Fund
 - When a membership is paid with a donation, the membership/General budget pays the PayPal fees.
 - When it's just a donation (not with membership), then the Grants and Giving fund would pay the PayPal fees.
 - Dave thinks that all PayPal fees be paid for by the General Fund.
 - Laurie proposes we add \$300 administrative postage and thank you letters come out of the Grants and Giving Fund. Betty agrees that this amount could be built into the cost/expenses of doing donation business.
 - Perhaps increase to \$2,000 for administrative and website application development.
 - Herbarium donation/unsolicited gifts:
 - Gretchen suggested that organizations that receive donations from us should give MNPS a report or update.
 - Reminder that the review committee for Chapter Projects and Unsolicited donations is the Board.
 - Reminder that the review committee for scholarships and grants is the Grants and Giving Committee.
 - Elizabeth: for 2025, "UM Herbarium Donation" line item could change to "Montana Herbarium Support" and go to UM and/or MSU and/or other herbaria.
 - Set at \$2,000 now and then the Board will determine where to allocate those amounts in the Fall.
 - Teagan: Clark Fork Chapter has significant income and perhaps the UM Herbarium donation could come from the Clark Fork Chapter or other Chapters, if they have good membership and income. Or doing an every-other-year split with the state General budget for the Herbarium donation.

- Betty suggested the Chapter could kick money back up to the State Grants and Giving budget so that the donation gift could be recognized as a state MNPS donation.
 - Dave suggested that the income and expenses in the Grants and Giving budget match/ for the proposed income and proposed expenses.
 - Suggestion to write an update article (“What’s Up with the Budget”) in the Kelsey Newsletter explaining the Budget breakout changes and why it looks so different: Laurie can start it and Betty can help collaborate. Maria might also want to look at the article before it’s published.
- PayPal update
 - Advanced checkout with use of more payment methods (Venmo).
 - The update will not occur during peak membership renewal time.
 - Giving Fund: We are now a recognized charity/organization through PayPal.
 - PayPal charges \$0 for donations through the PayPal Giving Fund.
- Artemesia Chapter
 - Laurie Kurth will open a bank account at Interstate Bank.
 - Leslie Marty will have signature authority on the account.
 - Needs approval by the Board and a letter signed by the Co-President.
 - Motion: Gretchen made the Motion that Laurie Kurth has authority to open an account at Interstate Bank on behalf of Artemesia Chapter. Kenda seconded. No discussion. All approved, Motion carried.
- Motion: Bob Person moved that Dave Hanna and Robert Pal be added as signatory authority on the state MNPS account. Devon Malizia seconded. No discussion. All approved, Motion carried.

4. Conservation Committee - *Elizabeth Bergstrom / Jennifer Lyman* (01:33:54)

- Beartooth Highway Project - *Jennifer Lyman*
 - Wyoming side came up with signs.
 - MOU: We need to be patient and try the process over again with the new Forest Supervisor and District Ranger.
 - No policies or documents say we can’t put a sign in the location that Jen suggests.
- Conservation Strategy - *Elizabeth Bergstrom*
 - Making progress and having weekly meetings.
 - Graphic designer is helping.
 - Plant lists will change over time as we learn more about the species and occurrence.
 - The Conservation Strategy covers plant communities, unique habitats, and species.
- Citizen Botany - *Elizabeth Bergstrom / Kenda Herman*
 - Will continue with momentum in 2024.
 - Grant application \$17,000 to usher Citizen Botany on the MNPS webpage on a stand-alone page through Cedar Mountain software to research and build the features we need to support the Citizen Botany Program and administrative processes.
- 2024 Plant Conservation Conference - *Elizabeth Bergstrom* (03:05:40)
 - We have 49 people signed up so far.
 - Elizabeth asked if there is another Board member who can give an introduction. presentation about MNPS and what the organization does: Kenda volunteered to give a MNPS intro presentation instead of Dave Hanna.
 - Gretchen will be facilitating.
 - Karen also volunteered to help with the Conservation Conference in any way that is needed.
 - Elizabeth will explore a recorded option for the presentations and conference. She will talk with MSU about recording equipment; could be cumbersome to splice and deal with the recording. This conference will not be held via Zoom or hybrid.
 - Betty suggested just providing an abstract and/or summary of the presentations that people can be accessed.

- Gretchen said that with Valley of Flowers Chapter, their presentations and workshops always have people ask and expect it to be recorded and available.
- Laurie said if we do that, then people should have to pay to access the recording.

4. Newsletter Editors Report - *Scott Guse and Jen Hintz Guse (02:00:00)*

- Deadline reminders, items for the winter newsletter
 - March 10th is the deadline for contributions for the Spring Kelseya newsletter. Let Jen and Scott know if you have contributions.
 - April 10th is the deadline for the Field Trip Flyer (to be published on May 1).
- Reminder about 2024 annual MNPS accomplishment and activity report for next Winter Kelseya newsletter. Big thank you to everyone for contributing to that report. – *Dave*

5. Membership Report - *Leah Grunzke for Maria Mantas (02:03:24)*

- Membership Report
 - End of the renewal season.
 - Several hundred membership renewals were received in the last couple of months. Total membership is around 982 as of 2/21/2024.
 - Quite a few people are checking the box for volunteering, so pay attention to that field.
 - Teagan asked if there was a way to add a question or text box where people can say what they are interested in volunteering for.
 - Leah said there are a few ways to handle it: either have extra questions on the membership renewal form, or once they check that box, then we follow up with a volunteer application form, or a link to the volunteer survey form (perhaps Google Forms).
 - Membership list is getting sent out once per month now, instead of quarterly.
 - Printing of the membership brochure again this year. Reach out to Maria if you have edits before more are printed.
- Donations Report
 - See Maria's report for the 2023 Summary.
 - 2024 YTD
 - Around 25% of membership renewals also have a donation with them.
 - High Country Apps, Katie Gibbs – Montana Grasses App. Part of funds from the application purchase downloads go back to MNPS.
 - High Country Apps has free promo codes that could be used in give-aways or engagement promotions or door prizes or annual meetings.
 - Teagan volunteered to keep the code/information about the copies of the app and be responsible for distributing the codes to prize winners.
- Review and approve updated Donations Policy (policy draft in google drive folder) – *Dave*
 - Possible Policy/Handbook update: President discretion on how the thank you notes are handled.
 - Motion: Gretchen Rupp moved to adopt this policy as written. Kenda Herman seconded. No discussion. All approved, Motion carried.
- Donation thank you procedure – *Dave / Leah*
 - Leah is doing donation receipts to include in the donation thank you card. She made the donation receipts using Canva (free account for non-profits). Could be used for posters, name tags, post cards, stickers, social media, website, and there are lots of templates. Reach out to Leah if you would like access to the Canva account.
- Endowment – *Dave*
 - We were contacted by a financial advisor for a donor considering giving to an endowment and Dave spoke with them and explained our situation.
 - Patrick also had communications with another potential donor.

6. Webmaster Report - *Bob Person/Carol Goffe (02:35:55)*

- Bob provided a report with Website and Zoom summaries and updates.
 - Possibly some new structure for the Membership form and PayPal process.
 - Leah/Maria will get Carol and Bob a list people who were “Processing”, but didn’t successfully process payment.
 - Reach out to Bob when you are logging into the Zoom account for the log in code. A different Board member (possibly not Webmaster) should take on coordination of the Zoom account. Discuss more in the future, but continue management with Bob.
 - The Zoom account is currently paid with the MNPS debit card, when ownership of the Zoom account is transferred involve Laurie to make sure the payment of the account is maintained.
 - PayPal account for annual meetings. Need to coordinate with the Treasurer of the hosting Chapter to get it attached to the Chapter bank account, so the funds go into the correct account for the annual meeting. Carol can take on management of coordinating the PayPal account.
- Appoint new Webmaster – *Bob*
 - Motion: Bob Person moved that Carol Goffe becomes the lead webmaster and Bob Person continue as Assistant Webmaster, as needed for the next year, Karen seconded. Discussion: Bob said that he’s been doing the webmaster tasks since 2008. Recently Carol has been doing the lion’s share of the work on the website. Kenda said that after February 2025, she could assist with website management regarding the Citizen Botany page and assist Carol in Bob’s place. Teagan had questions about the Zoom account log in. All in favor, motion carries.
 - Special gratitude and appreciation to Bob for his passion, hard work, and enthusiasm in the Webmaster role for MNPS.

7. 2024 Annual Meeting Update – *Teagan Hayes (02:59:38)*

- Review and approve annual meeting plan
 - Everything is coming together smoothly.
 - Teagan would like to send the registration form to Karen or others to make sure there isn’t anything missed for registration.
 - Meeting will be open to non-members, but they will be encouraged to join.
 - Registration will likely open in early-mid April and close in mid-June.
- Review and approve proposal from Chapter on state vs. Chapter share of profits
 - Clark Fork Chapter does not need any funding from the state MNPS. They are not anticipating making very much profit.

8. Standing Committee Reports (03:05:40)

- 2024 Plant Conservation Conference - *Elizabeth Bergstrom* – (See notes at the end of Section 4, page 3)
- Landscaping and Revegetation Committee – *Dave Hanna for Patrick Plantenberg / Mark Majerus*
 - MNLA Expo 2024 is in Missoula. Perhaps someone from the Clark Fork Chapter would like to be involved in tabling at that expo.
- Grants and Giving Committee – *Betty Kuropat / Annie Garde (03:11:33)*
 - Current Committee Co-Chairs are: Annie Garde and Betty Kuropat
 - Committee of about six people.
 - Adapting proposal into a policy.
 - They plan to bring the new policy to the Board in the fall.
 - Offer grants and scholarships later in the fall or for 2025.
 - Betty said they could almost launch the two scholarships (Professional Development Scholarship and Academic Scholarship) this spring, but Annie and Betty decided to just wait until the entire policy is finished.
 - Professional development scholarship (\$500 per year). Question for the Board: Should this be a rolling application or should there be deadline? Let Betty and Annie know if you have ideas about how to post a deadline (or not) for that scholarship.

9. Other Business (03:16:12)

- Executive Assistant update – *Kenda Herman*
 - Contract renewed for 2024 and Leah is getting paid on time now.
 - Things are going amazingly, and we are appreciative of Leah’s expertise and productivity.
 - Betty asked that as the Grants and Giving policy gets finalized, is there time in Leah’s capacity to help with editing or other administrative tasks related to Grants and Giving. When Betty and Annie are ready to ask for assistance, they will email Leah with details and copy Kenda.

10. Ad Hoc Committees (03:27:00)

- 2024 Nominating Committee report – *Dave Hanna*
 - Elections for Secretary (Camie Westfall), Vice President (Kenda Herman), Eastern-at-Large Director (Kelsey Malloy)
- Awards Committee for 2024 Annual Meeting (nominations due April 1) *Karen Porter/ Peter Lesica*
 - They are moving forward and on time with their nominations.
- MNPS Presents! Winter Programs *Kenda Herman and Dave Hanna* for Beth Madden
 - Future of this program
 - Carol asked about the details of coordinating the program. Dave discussed that it entails finding presenters, scheduling presenters, running the Zoom meeting, etc. Beth and Andrew have a document describing how it works. Gretchen said that we need to ask about possible people to take it on at the June annual meeting.
 - At the last presentation coming up in March, Beth and Andrew should mention that this is that last one and that there is no one to coordinate the future of the MNPS Presents program.
 - Huge Thank you to Andrew Smith for facilitating this program in 2024.

11. Areas-at-Large and Chapter Reports - *Chapter Representatives (03:35:45)*

- See reports from Calypso, Maka Flora, and Kelsey Chapters in Board meeting packet.
- Calypso: Has two workshops where registration is needed and should be open to
- Clark Fork: they have been taking on a few local grant requests. Teagan has been talking about showing the BLM Native Seed film in Missoula. Teagan can help other Chapters if they are also interested in showing that film or other films.
- VOF: has had three to four presentations this winter. Upcoming seed starting workshop with Clare Beelman coming up. Also, Earth Day events are planned.
- Western at Large: is planning several field trips for this summer.

12. Wrap-up – *all (03:45:32)*

- Next Board meeting will be at the Annual Meeting. Likely on the evening of Friday, 6/28.

Adjourn 2:16 pm

MNPS 2023 BUDGET --12/31/2024 Prepared by: Laurie Kurth

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES							
Membership	\$20,000.00	\$24,305.00	(\$5,200.00)	(\$5,682.20)	\$14,800.00	\$18,622.80	
Dues and Fees	\$20,000.00	\$24,305.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,191.20)			\$592.46 membership mailings, \$598.74 pay pal fees
Chapter Portion	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,200.00)	(\$4,491.00)			includes \$200 to Billings for startup
Newsletter	\$1,000.00	\$560.00	(\$9,000.00)	(\$8,798.80)	(\$8,000.00)	(\$8,238.80)	\$4000 design, \$4798.80 printing and mailing (includes fieldtrip brochure)
Operating Budget	\$5,000.00	\$11,141.02	(\$7,650.00)	(\$4,214.30)	(\$2,650.00)	\$6,926.72	
Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$600.00)	\$0.00			
Committees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Board Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$750.00)	(\$974.11)			\$250 Montana Chapter The Wildlife Society
Interest	\$0.00	\$756.02	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Website	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$435.00)			web hosting
Donations	\$5,000.00	\$10,350.00	(\$300.00)	(\$322.11)			\$72.11 paypal fees, \$250 to Clark Fork Chapter - Scott Miles memorial
Publications	\$0.00	\$35.00	(\$500.00)	(\$495.00)			\$495 membership brochure, \$35 pioneer botanist book sale
Operating Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,000.00)	(\$1,988.08)			\$788 Zoom fees, \$1210 AA contract
At-Large Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	\$0.00			
GOE TOTALS	\$26,000.00	\$36,006.02	(\$21,850.00)	(\$18,695.30)	\$4,150.00	\$17,310.72	
SPECIAL PROJECTS							
Small Grants Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,600.00)	(\$5,350.00)		(\$5,350.00)	
UM Herbarium Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
MT Audubon Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	(\$1,000.00)		(\$1,000.00)	
Chapter Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Annual Meeting	\$5,000.00	\$6,800.00	(\$5,000.00)	(\$5,000.00)		\$1,800.00	
Plant Conservation Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Citizen Botany Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	(\$5,000.00)		(\$5,000.00)	
MNPS Presents!	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	(\$600.00)		(\$600.00)	
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	\$5,000.00	\$6,800.00	(\$16,800.00)	(\$16,950.00)	(\$11,800.00)	(\$10,150.00)	
TOTALS	\$31,000.00	\$42,806.02	(\$38,650.00)	(\$35,645.30)	(\$7,650.00)	\$7,160.72	

MNPS Annual Balance Statement as of 12/31/2023

Prepared by: Laurie Kurth

<u>Year</u>	<u>CDs</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Total Assets*</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>Net Gain/Loss</u>
2023	n/a	\$54,594.15	\$17,779.15	\$72,373.30	\$42,806.02	(\$35,645.30)	\$7,160.72
2022	n/a	\$18,836.47	\$35,853.91	\$54,690.38	\$39,873.34	(\$23,898.15)	\$15,975.19
2021	n/a	\$18,821.56	\$32,679.34	\$51,500.90	\$26,441.31	(\$17,992.93)	\$8,448.38
2020	n/a	\$18,817.67	\$21,901.32	\$40,718.99	\$36,523.89	(\$33,421.84)	\$3,102.05
2019	n/a	\$18,805.84	\$18,845.53	\$37,651.37	\$15,424.54	(\$19,186.60)	(\$3,762.06)
2018	n/a	\$18,796.44	\$26,445.16	\$45,241.60	\$21,169.53	(\$19,098.80)	\$2,070.73
2017	n/a	\$18,789.41	\$20,057.51	\$38,846.92	\$27,488.37	(\$27,486.99)	\$1.38
2016	n/a	\$18,776.35	\$21,588.14	\$40,364.49	\$16,755.12	(\$15,448.07)	\$1,307.05
2015	n/a	\$18,770.70	\$20,842.02	\$39,612.72	\$21,734.63	(\$26,898.58)	(\$5,163.95)
2014	n/a	\$18,765.55	\$32,408.02	\$51,173.57	\$28,025.84	(\$34,261.59)	(\$6,235.75)
2013	n/a	\$18,759.02	\$24,782.59	\$43,541.61	\$34,679.92	(\$13,391.48)	\$21,288.44
2012	n/a	\$18,746.10	\$15,767.06	\$34,513.16	\$35,293.27	(\$42,239.19)	(\$6,945.92)
2011	n/a	\$33,647.55	\$7,640.20	\$41,287.75	\$17,127.48	(\$17,547.35)	(\$419.87)
2010	n/a	\$33,550.71	\$8,361.70	\$41,912.41	\$17,816.41	(\$18,414.32)	(\$597.91)
2009	\$20,146.52	\$13,197.62	\$4,886.07	\$38,230.21	\$22,337.87	(\$14,250.28)	\$8,087.59
2008	\$20,000.00	\$4,695.49	\$9,178.00	\$33,873.49	\$18,288.96	(\$18,110.16)	\$178.80
2007	\$16,172.00	\$4,186.00	\$16,498.00	\$36,856.00	\$17,835.00	(\$13,149.00)	\$4,686.00
2006	\$15,605.00	\$3,679.00	\$5,544.00	\$24,828.00	\$17,677.00	(\$11,297.00)	\$6,380.00
2005	\$10,605.00	\$3,806.00	\$3,338.00	\$17,749.00	\$11,111.00	(\$9,609.00)	\$1,502.00
2004	\$10,400.00	\$3,663.00	\$7,986.00	\$22,049.00	\$12,429.00	(\$15,487.00)	(\$3,058.00)
2003	\$10,319.00	\$6,125.00	\$4,125.00	\$20,569.00	\$12,744.00	(\$12,791.00)	(\$47.00)
2002	\$10,000.00	\$4,138.00	\$6,269.00	\$20,407.00	\$12,382.00	(\$11,353.00)	\$1,029.00
2001	\$10,000.00	\$11,564.00	\$301.00	\$21,865.00	\$9,170.00	(\$8,686.00)	\$484.00
2000	\$10,000.00	\$11,244.00	\$307.00	\$21,551.00	\$7,816.00	(\$6,410.00)	\$1,406.00
1999	\$10,000.00	\$8,865.00	\$891.00	\$19,756.00	\$9,039.00	(\$4,762.00)	\$4,277.00

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

MNPS Annual Balance Statement as of 2/28/2024

Prepared by: Laurie Kurth

Year	CDs	Savings	Checking	Grants and Giving Fund	Total Assets*	Total Income	Total Expenses	Net Gain/Loss
<u>2024</u>	n/a	\$64,516.29	\$17,778.64	\$6,951.96	\$82,294.93	\$18,988.63	(6,696.77)	\$12,291.86
<u>2023</u>	n/a	\$54,356.81	\$17,367.36		\$71,724.17	\$42,806.02	(\$35,645.30)	\$7,160.72
<u>2022</u>	n/a	\$18,836.47	\$35,853.91		\$54,690.38	\$39,873.34	(\$23,898.15)	\$15,975.19
2021	n/a	\$18,821.56	\$32,679.34		\$51,500.90	\$26,441.31	(\$17,992.93)	\$8,448.38
2020	n/a	\$18,817.67	\$21,901.32		\$40,718.99	\$36,523.89	(\$33,421.84)	\$3,102.05
2019	n/a	\$18,805.84	\$18,845.53		\$37,651.37	\$15,424.54	(\$19,186.60)	(\$3,762.06)
2018	n/a	\$18,796.44	\$26,445.16		\$45,241.60	\$21,169.53	(\$19,098.80)	\$2,070.73
2017	n/a	\$18,789.41	\$20,057.51		\$38,846.92	\$27,488.37	(\$27,486.99)	\$1.38
2016	n/a	\$18,776.35	\$21,588.14		\$40,364.49	\$16,755.12	(\$15,448.07)	\$1,307.05
2015	n/a	\$18,770.70	\$20,842.02		\$39,612.72	\$21,734.63	(\$26,898.58)	(\$5,163.95)
2014	n/a	\$18,765.55	\$32,408.02		\$51,173.57	\$28,025.84	(\$34,261.59)	(\$6,235.75)
2013	n/a	\$18,759.02	\$24,782.59		\$43,541.61	\$34,679.92	(\$13,391.48)	\$21,288.44
2012	n/a	\$18,746.10	\$15,767.06		\$34,513.16	\$35,293.27	(\$42,239.19)	(\$6,945.92)
2011	n/a	\$33,647.55	\$7,640.20		\$41,287.75	\$17,127.48	(\$17,547.35)	(\$419.87)
2010	n/a	\$33,550.71	\$8,361.70		\$41,912.41	\$17,816.41	(\$18,414.32)	(\$597.91)
2009	\$20,146.52	\$13,197.62	\$4,886.07		\$38,230.21	\$22,337.87	(\$14,250.28)	\$8,087.59
2008	\$20,000.00	\$4,695.49	\$9,178.00		\$33,873.49	\$18,288.96	(\$18,110.16)	\$178.80
2007	\$16,172.00	\$4,186.00	\$16,498.00		\$36,856.00	\$17,835.00	(\$13,149.00)	\$4,686.00
2006	\$15,605.00	\$3,679.00	\$5,544.00		\$24,828.00	\$17,677.00	(\$11,297.00)	\$6,380.00
2005	\$10,605.00	\$3,806.00	\$3,338.00		\$17,749.00	\$11,111.00	(\$9,609.00)	\$1,502.00
2004	\$10,400.00	\$3,663.00	\$7,986.00		\$22,049.00	\$12,429.00	(\$15,487.00)	(\$3,058.00)
2003	\$10,319.00	\$6,125.00	\$4,125.00		\$20,569.00	\$12,744.00	(\$12,791.00)	(\$47.00)
2002	\$10,000.00	\$4,138.00	\$6,269.00		\$20,407.00	\$12,382.00	(\$11,353.00)	\$1,029.00
2001	\$10,000.00	\$11,564.00	\$301.00		\$21,865.00	\$9,170.00	(\$8,686.00)	\$484.00
2000	\$10,000.00	\$11,244.00	\$307.00		\$21,551.00	\$7,816.00	(\$6,410.00)	\$1,406.00
1999	\$10,000.00	\$8,865.00	\$891.00		\$19,756.00	\$9,039.00	(\$4,762.00)	\$4,277.00
1998					\$14,576.00	\$11,978.00	(\$10,912.00)	\$1,066.00
1997	\$4,050.00	\$10,600.00	\$1,300.00		\$15,950.00	\$6,019.00	(\$6,948.00)	(\$929.00)
1996	\$2,500.00	\$9,272.00	\$411.00		\$12,183.00	\$6,147.00	(\$4,746.00)	\$1,401.00
1995	\$3,000.00	\$6,320.00	\$277.00		\$9,597.00	\$6,172.00	(\$6,037.00)	\$135.00

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
MNPS TOTAL 2024 BUDGET							
General Fund	21700.00	12036.67	(34800.00)	(6696.77)	(13100.00)	5339.90	note proposed 13000 deficit budget - see below for ? Regarding G&G
Grants and Giving Fund	7100.00	6951.96	(6850.00)	0.00	250.00	6951.96	
TOTALS	28800.00	18988.63	(41650.00)	(6696.77)	(12850.00)	12291.86	

GENERAL FUND

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Membership	20000.00	11580.00	(5000.00)	(583.24)	15000.00	10996.76
Dues and Fees	20000.00	11580.00	(1000.00)	(583.24)	19000.00	10996.76
Chapter Portion	0.00	0.00	(4000.00)	0.00	(4000.00)	0.00
Newsletter	1000.00	280.00	(9000.00)	(1768.45)	(8000.00)	(1488.45)
Operating Budget	700.00	176.67	(12100.00)	(3845.08)	(11400.00)	(3668.41)
Awards	0.00	0.00	(600.00)	0.00	(600.00)	0.00
Committees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contracts	0.00	0.00	(6500.00)	(1716.00)	(6500.00)	(1716.00)
Board Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	700.00	80.67	0.00	0.00	700.00	80.67
Website	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00
Zoom	0.00	0.00	(800.00)	(103.76)	(800.00)	(103.76)
Donations	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Publications	0.00	46.00	(500.00)	0.00	(500.00)	46.00
Operating Expenses	0.00	0.00	(200.00)	(25.32)	(200.00)	(25.32)
At-Large Expenses	0.00	0.00	(500.00)	0.00	(500.00)	0.00
Transfer between GF and G&G funds	0.00	0.00	(2000.00)	(2000.00)	(2000.00)	(2000.00)
GOE TOTALS	21700.00	12036.67	(26100.00)	(6196.77)	(4400.00)	5839.90
SPECIAL PROJECTS						
Chapter Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual Meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plant Conservation Conference	0.00	0.00	(5000.00)	(100.00)	(5000.00)	(100.00)
Citizen Botany Project	0.00	0.00	(2500.00)	0.00	(2500.00)	0.00
MNPS Presents!	0.00	0.00	(1200.00)	(400.00)	(1200.00)	(400.00)
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	0.00	0.00	(8700.00)	(500.00)	(8700.00)	(500.00)
GENERAL FUND TOTALS	21700.00	12036.67	(34800.00)	(6696.77)	(13100.00)	5339.90

AA contract

note that website fees for 2023 were \$400, may need funds to update paypal fees in 2023 were \$788 no reason to believe increase?

Split out from fall meeting \$7500 - \$6500 contract AA; \$800 zoom; \$200 other expenses

used to seed G&G account - should it be reimbursed?

Grants and Giving? Add potential income to narrow deficit?

Grants and Giving?

GRANTS AND GIVING FUND

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
INCOME	7100.00	6951.96	(100.00)	0.00	7000.00	6951.96	
Donation	7000.00	4950.00	(100.00)	0.00	6900.00	4950.00	added \$100 in expenses for paypal fees
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Interest	100.00	1.96	0.00	0.00	100.00	1.96	
Transfer between GF and G&G funds	0.00	2000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00	
GRANTS AND GIVING	0.00	0.00	(6750.00)	0.00	(6750.00)	0.00	
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grants (Solicited)	0.00	0.00	(4000.00)	0.00	(4000.00)	0.00	
Gifts (Unsolicited)							
UM Herbarium Donation	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	Maria suggests doing \$1000 every year to each because we have th
MT Audubon Donation	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	Maria suggests doing \$1000 every year to each because we have th
Other	0.00	0.00	(750.00)	0.00	(750.00)	0.00	added 750 for tws based on meeting notes
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND 2024 TOTALS	7100.00	6951.96	(6850.00)	0.00	250.00	6951.96	
Carryover from previous year	0.00						
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND AVAILABLE FUNDS		6951.96					



MNPS Membership Report
 Submitted by Maria Mantas, Membership Chair

Membership update – This report was prepared on February 21, 2024 for the winter 2024 MNPS board meeting (March 2, 2024).

Membership statistics – The membership year ends Feb 28th. With 2023 memberships still current, the numbers are high. These totals will drop precipitously on March 1st when all those who haven’t renewed (315 memberships as of today) are removed from the count (Peter and I will send out another reminder to these folks in mid-March). Even though we will lose these members when the 2023 membership year ends, renewals and new memberships will continue to trickle in over the next few months and numbers will climb again toward the end of the year. No new lifetime members in 2024 yet.

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

Number of Members – February 21, 2024						
<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Lifetime</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>Lifetime-Business</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
Artemisia	36	12	3	1	0	52
Calypso	32	18	5	2	1	58
Clark Fork	165	74	33	8	2	282
Flathead	81	44	21	1	2	149
Kelsey	71	44	21	3	1	140
Maka Flora	15	8	2	0	0	25
Eastern-at-large	26	10	10	0	1	47
Western-at-large	17	6	8	2	0	33
Valley of Flowers	96	64	30	4	2	196
Grand Total	539	280	133	21	9	982
Exchange *	47					

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

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

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

	<i>Art</i>	<i>Cal</i>	<i>CF</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>MF</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>VoF</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Exch</i>	<i>Date</i>
2023	44*	59	266	150	135	24	55	31	179	943	47	12/31/2023
2022		58	271	149	147	27	76	36	190	954	47	12/31/2022
2021		57	265	122	139	24	69	33	192	901	46	12/31/2021
2020		51	226	98	115	22	66	32	157	767	44	12/30/2020
2019		56	207	89	102	22	59	28	124	687	44	12/26/2019
2018		46	200	95	102	19	54	31	113	660	43	12/14/2018
2017		38	195	91	92	24	54	27	98	619	43	
2016		65	204	79	90	20	59	29	102	648	43	

*Many of the members of the “new” Artemisia Chapter were taken from the Eastern-at-Large group and Valley of Flowers Chapter, which explains the large decrease in the membership for those groups.



Membership Discussion

Membership Numbers: This is the first year since 2017 that our annual membership number has not increased. I had hoped that we would cap at over 1000 members before this happened, we were so close!

As an exercise to see if I could uncover the pattern to annual memberships, I did a quick analysis of membership stats over the years. Here are some observations:

- We have lost very few long-time members; in the last three years we've only lost 27 members who joined before 2010.
- 214 recently "lost" members were only members for 3 years or less.
- I think these more recent members who haven't renewed may have joined because they liked a program or field trip and are making the payment more like a donation, with no intention of long-term commitment – especially as we still seem to get the same number of new members every year.

Volunteer Check Box: As of February 21, 144 people have checked the box saying they would like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities in the last 2 years. Check your quarterly membership lists to see who these people are. I realize that just because someone says they would like to volunteer doesn't mean they would be able to provide meaningful help.

Membership Budget: On track.

Membership Brochures: I am planning on a new printing sometime this year, but it probably won't happen til later. I will need to update chapter area descriptions. If you see any other needed edits, please let me know.

New Membership Database Platform: Nothing new to report here. Leah and I have discussed this several times but we still haven't made any progress. Hoping to this year.

Membership Lists to Chapters: Leah has taken over preparing and sending out the current membership lists to chapters. You are now receiving them monthly, rather than quarterly, so the board can be more up to date with membership.

Administrative Assistance: Leah has been **enormously** helpful, taking on a huge amount of work for membership. As we continue to grow so does our workload and her assistance has been vital. Furthermore, Leah has been creative, suggesting and implementing new ideas and new ways of doing business. I am extremely happy that we made the decision to hire her! GREAT JOB LEAH!

Mass Emails to Membership: Because only a few of us have access to the statewide membership list, membership wide mailings often falls on me, which is an addition to all the membership duties. To make this less painful, I ask that if you anticipate a member wide mailing you contact me well in advance and we can make a plan. Please don't expect me to send out a mailing if I only have a few days notice.



DONATIONS

2023 Summary

In 2023 we received a total of **\$10,350 from 138 donations**. All 2023 donors will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Kelseya* (unless they requested anonymity).

Tax letters were e-mailed in January. Thanks to Leah for preparing and mailing all the letters.

2024 Donations

As of this report (2-21-2024) we have received **\$5,150 from 74 donations** in 2024 (my numbers may be a bit different than Laurie's). Please refer to your quarterly membership list for the list of donors. It's always good practice to reach out and thank these people when you have the opportunity.

Donor Thank yous : Leah and Dave will review how thank yous are handled.

New Donation Receipts: Leah has created a new notecard that will serve as both a thank you note and tax receipt. She will send them at least monthly to donors, rather than sending them all in January as we had been. These will be sent to all donors. The President (or their designee) will still be sending personal thank you notes to donors of \$250 and up.



February 25, 2024

TO: MNPS Board of Directors
FROM: Bob Person, Webmaster
RE: Webmaster Transition

Item 6 of the draft BOD meeting agenda for March 2, 2024 includes two items. Here I provide information regarding each of those items in reverse order, so first information on webmaster appointment and second an update on a few things related to the site and transitions.

Appoint new Webmaster:

I asked Dave to put this item on the agenda as I believe we are now in a position to take formal action on it. The Bylaws provide in Article III, Section 3 that the Webmaster is a member of the Board of Directors appointed by the Board. I am prepared to move that Carol Goffe be appointed to this position effective immediately in accordance with the bylaws.

As you know, it has been my goal to have effected a transfer of Webmaster duties no later than February 2025. Several years ago Carol Goffe stepped up to help as an assistant webmaster. Over the past year, she has taken on an increasing range of the work on the site. Around the time of the last board meeting, Carol indicated that she was indeed interested in taking over the position and we began more seriously to get her deeply involved as much as possible. Our “informal” position currently is that Carol is maintaining the site in close consultation with me. If my proposal for a formal transfer of the duties is accepted, I plan to continue to be of assistance for as long as it may be of value, which may be true at least until next Fall. Carol is doing an excellent job, so I anticipate no problems.

By way of background, Marilyn Marler initiated the website in the 1990s hosting the site on a University of Montana server. About 2005, she began trying to pass on the duties to someone else with very little immediate success. In about 2007, some folks took on the job, but I think it is fair to say they may have had a conflict of interest with respect to a business they were starting. Marilyn ended up having to take the work back and recruitment continued. Having had some experience with other websites, I decided I would try my hand at it and let that be known. At the 2008 Annual Meeting, some members of the Board (led by Dave Hanna) interviewed me. I was assigned to take over the site and coordinated with Marilyn on that. By that time, UM was no longer willing to have outside people having access to their server, so Marilyn arranged the agreement with Cedar Mountain Software to host the site. Working with Cedar Mountain, all of the site files were transferred to the Cedar Mountain server and the core parts of the website were built out by Cedar Mountain. In September 2008, I took over the site and learned the set up and restored access to a great number of files that had been transferred but not linked. By the end of October the site was back to full strength with what I hope were a number of improvements. At the November 8, 2008 Board Meeting, I was welcomed and discussed the transition, but no formal appointment was recorded in the minutes. Maybe I have been an impostor all these years! But now we're ready to go.

Current Website Work in Progress:

- As mentioned above, Carol Goffe has been taking over the lion's share of web updates in consultation with me as needed. The goal is to have experienced all of the routine updates normally experienced in a year. This has been going smoothly.
- As long as MNPS has been doing online registration and limited other sales transactions, we have used PayPal as our credit card processing company. A few years ago, when we began using WordPress as our website software, we also began using an add-on program called

Gravity Forms to build the online forms we use. A feature of Gravity Forms provides a function that connects the parts of the form related to the money to be forwarded to our PayPal Account and to functionality that allows a user to pay by credit card or to use their own PayPal account to pay for the registration or whatever. Paypal provides feedback to Gravity Forms when payment is completed. Sometimes there are glitches in this feedback process that have caused heartburn most particularly to Membership and to some of the users as well. So we have been working to understand better what is going wrong in those few cases and what might be a solution. Recently Carol and I along with Laurie Kurth have been looking into an alternative to PayPal for card processing or to a new alternative that PayPal is offering that might simplify payment for users who do not have a PayPal account or choose not to use it. This is not a simple as it might seem, but we don't want to make a number of changes that don't fix the problem or that trade one problem for another, so we are taking the time to be careful.

- Carol recently handled building the online registration form for the biennial Conservation Conference. That is up and running.
- We will soon begin working with the Clark Fork Chapter to get the website part of the Annual Meeting information and registration material into final form and will be off and running.

Other things related to transition:

Over the years, I have also taken on some other tasks that it will be good to transition to someone else. These need not be directly related to the Webmaster, but also could be.

- State Zoom account
- Annual Meeting PayPal Account

Report to the Board on ***MNPS Presents!***

Here is a brief summary of our 2023-2024 online programs, each of which was recorded and is on our MNPS YouTube Channel. Attendance ranged from 73-178 people at the various events. A \$200 honorarium was paid to the presenter in most cases (not Oct). A big thank you to Andrew Smith for arranging and hosting the Feb and March programs!

Oct 5 - ***A Photo Celebration of Montana Native Plants***, with Gretchen Rupp and membership (73 Attendees)

Nov 8 - ***Converting Lawn into a Native Plant Garden***, with Kareen Erbe (178 Attendees)

Dec program - (*cancelled due to illness*)

January 4 - ***Xerces Society: Native Plants and Invertebrates are like two seeds in a lupine pod***, with Angie Orpet (115 Attendees)

Feb 1 - ***Exploring the Ecological Drivers of the Pollen Virome***, with Drs. Andrea Feters and Tia-Lynn Ashman (?? Attendees)

(*Upcoming*) March 22 - ***Grasslands of Glacier National Park***, with Nico Matallana

Regarding our advertisement for a new coordinator for the program for 2024-25, no one has responded. I recommend suspending the program, but perhaps entertaining the option of intermittent online programming if a good program presents itself and an advocate is willing to host it. We have the framework well defined, and quite a few of us have experience hosting on Zoom at this point.

Submitted by Beth Madden
Feb 20, 2024

Calypso Chapter Report to MNPS Board March 3, 2024

Since the fall Board meeting, Calypso has held its annual Potluck and Planning Meeting in early December and now completed our program of trips/workshops/events for the 2024 season.

Two events should be highlighted now because they pre-date the May 1st release of the 2024 Field Trip Guidebook but may be of wide interest:

Saturday, April 27

A Native Plants Workshop - Including Landscaping, Dyeing and Planting for Dye Colors (Divide). 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Convening at the Grange in Divide, the morning will start with dyeing a scarf (participants will purchase) with local native plants, emphasizing simple design techniques. While the scarves are simmering in the dye pots, there will be a presentation on Landscaping with Native Plants. After lunch, we will plant native seeds to start indoors for later outdoor planting (seeds and planting materials provided). **Limit 20.** For details and to register contact Catherine Cain at 406-498-6198; nativeplants@montana.com.

Saturday-Sunday, June, 22-23

Edible Wild Plant Exploration (Pony). Walk with expert Tomas J. Elpel through meadows and woodlands, learning to identify edible and medicinal plants and the techniques and essential guidelines for ethical foraging. Tom is offering this two-day class to MNPS members at a special discount (\$100/person) until May 1st. **Limit 20.** Visit Tom's website for further information and to register for this incredible weekend:

https://www.greenuniversity.com/Class_Schedule/Foraging_Montana.htm

Kelsey Chapter Updates

2024 News and Events:

January:

- Seed Starting Workshop at Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds
 - The seed starting workshop included a number of potential new members and was filled up immediately.
- Table and 6th Ward Native Garden Poster at MNLA (Montana Nursery and Landscape Assn.) Expo in Billings
 - Interest in purchasing Source Guide- potential revenue source for MNPS
 - MNLA is eager to have more involvement from the MNPS at their events. For example, they would like to have speakers from our organization to address native plant landscaping. As a result of our MNLA involvement in Billings, Dr. Megan Poulette, Botanist at Rocky Mountain College, texted Mark and asked if he would give a presentation about 6th Ward and Justice building gardens to the newly revived Artemesia chapter.
 - Could co-launch a native plant certification program with MNLA. Examples include: [Missouri](#), [N. Carolina](#), [Massachusetts](#) (I have an entire list of all the programs nationwide)

February

- Potluck at Bob's house with a slideshow presentation
 - The event was well attended - mostly by longer-time members of the Chapter. One interesting potential Chapter project came from Sarah Owen who is proposing a wetland monitoring project, possibly somewhere along McClellan Creek. There is currently a self-guided nature trail on Willard Creek that flows into McClellan Creek.
- National Native Seed Conference
 - Mark participated in this video-conference event on February 7 and 8. He stood in for Patrick Plantenberg and Elizabeth Bergstrom who were both unable to attend.
 - Mark will be writing an article about the conference for the Kelsey
- March:
 - MNPS booth and representation @ Master Gardener Symposium Date: 3/30 – Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 - Goals are for membership as well as advertise the 6th Ward garden and sign up some people willing to help with maintenance.

- June:
 - Macro photography by Matt Stewart – sometime in June; the exact date and place TBD.
- TBD:
 - Plein air sketching and painting

Addl 2024 Activities and Field Trips

- 6th Ward Reinvestment
 - We need a slate of volunteers to ensure that the work Mark has done in revitalizing this area is maintained. The attendees of the seed starting workshop and participants in the Master Gardener symposium are two possible sources of volunteers along with the general Chapter membership. Mark is willing to organize the volunteers once we have them. As incentives, we could offer volunteers the seeds that can be collected at the garden and/or a free first year of MNPS membership if they are not already members. The clean-up or maintenance could also provide educational event opportunities, such as weed ID and plant ID.
 - Mark will make a list of maintenance priorities and categories and when they need to be done, and a description of how things get done so that volunteers can work without Mark's personal presence.
- Signs: Currently in the process of making the large signs for both MNPS gardens and the City of Helena will make the stands for the signs.
- MNPS Seed packets
 - Branded packets of native plant seeds would be a great way to create awareness of our Chapter and native plants at the events we attend. Karen has many seeds left over from the seed starting workshop and we could also order native seeds in bulk and repackage them. The best packaging for seed health would be paper envelopes to which we can affix a self-adhesive label printed with the MNPS logo, our Chapter, a QR code, the species name, and any other useful information.

Treasurer's Report

There have been the following transactions since the last meeting:

Check to MNLA \$529

Check to L&C Fairgrounds \$146

The Chapter account has a balance of \$7,683.

The Chapter has not yet been reimbursed for half of the MNLA event.

Updates from absent meeting members:

Libby Knotts- Maka Flora Chapter Representative

Maka Flora has reserved Camp Needmore near Ekala for June 20-22, 2025 for the state annual meeting. This is the same location where we held the meeting in 2011. Over the next year our concentration will be on preparing for the meeting starting with field trip scouting this summer. I hope to attend this year's annual meeting.

Rachel Potter- Flathead Chapter

The Flathead Chapter is only hosting a couple programs this winter, so we are very grateful for MNPS Presents! and the remote offerings from other chapters.