

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society



Kelseya uniflora
Ill. by Bonnie Heidel

2024 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP: From Prairies to Potholes in the Blackfoot Valley



Annual meeting hike along the ridge between Morrell Lookout and Morrell Mountain,
photo by Maria Mantas

By Teagan Hayes, Clark Fork Chapter

This year's Annual Meeting was a fantastic floristic celebration of nature, community, and learning. Members from all over the state (and beyond!) met at Camp Utmost in the stunning Blackfoot Valley, a region steeped in history and natural beauty. In 1806, Meriwether Lewis traveled along what was known as the Cokahlahrshkit—the “Road to the Buffalo.” He marveled at the “prairie of the knobs,” where glacial potholes and mounds of debris left by glaciers thousands of years ago now dot the landscape. This varied, knobby terrain and glacial remnants inspired the theme for our gathering, “Prairies to Potholes,” which provided a beautiful backdrop for the botanizing that echoed throughout the weekend's activities.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ∞ Annual meeting recap
- ∞ Field trip report: Shoofy Meadows
- ∞ Conservation Corner: Spalding's catchfly
- ∞ Facilitation in plants
- ∞ Gardener's Notebook: Rocky Mountain
beeplant (*Cleome*)
- ∞ Water howellia sign restored
- ∞ Lewis & Clark Collection added to Clark
County Library

(continued on page 3)



Chapter Events

Artemisia Chapter

Info: Jessica Callahan at 507-696-5467; artemisiamnps@gmail.com.

Calypso Chapter

Info: Catherine Cain at 406-498-6198; nativeplants@montana.com or Karen Porter at 406-498-9728; karenwporter44@gmail.com.

Clark Fork Chapter

Info: Teagan Hayes at 920-979-9009; teagan.hayes@gmail.com or Paul Buck at 970-901-2418; paul7703@gmail.com.

Thursday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. Native plant gardens need your attention throughout the seasons. Come hear Aimee Kelley of Great Bear Native Plants describe **Care for Native Plants Year Round**. Neely Center, 150 South A Street, Victor. **Please note different date and location!**

Thursday, November 14. Dessert & socializing at 6:30 p.m., talk at 7:00 p.m. The U.S. Forest Service is working hard to curtail forest wildfires. Fire Lab researcher, **Sharon Hood** will inform us on **Long-term Effects of Forest Fuel and Restoration Treatments in Western Montana**. Rocky Mountain Exploration Center, 1075 South Avenue West.

Thursday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. Our annual **Christmas Potluck** will again be held in the Del Brown Room in Turner Hall on the UM Campus northwest of the Oval. Bring plates, utensils and a dish to share. Alcoholic beverages are okay! Don't forget to bring a few of your favorite digital wildflower photos from the summer. Call Peter at 406-728-8740 or Kelly at 406-258-5439 if you have questions.

Monday, January 13, 7:00 p.m. This year our annual meeting with Five Valleys Audubon will feature **Dr. Tabitha Graves** showcasing **Plant and Wildlife Interactions in Glacier National Park**, with examples highlighting wildflowers, bees, birds and bears. Room 110 of the Interdisciplinary Science Building at the southwest end of campus. **Please note the different day and place!**



Eastern At-Large

Info: Kelsey Molloy at 406-654-4566; kelsey88@gmail.com.

Flathead Chapter

Info: Tara Carolin at 406-607-7670; mnps.flathead@gmail.com.

Please check your email inbox for fall and winter activities and send your suggestions and questions to mnps.flathead@gmail.com. Info: Tara Carolin 406-607-7670 or mnps.flathead@gmail.com.

Kelsey Chapter

Info: Devon Malizia (president) or Jane Fournier (secretary) at kelseychaptermnps@gmail.com.

Maka Flora Chapter

Info: Fraser Watson at 703-509-0152; Dfw9sb@gmail.com.

Valley of Flowers Chapter

Info: Contact Gretchen Rupp for program details or to be added to the Valley of Flowers Chapter "Friends" e-mail list, at 406-586-8363; beesgrmt@gmail.com.

The events listed for the Valley of Flowers Chapter are live, in-person, and are not recorded. For indoor events, folks are encouraged to bring treats to share.

Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 p.m. Pull...Plant...Repeat : 30 Years on the Kagy Hillside. Join Field Boss Sharon Eversman (stevensman61@gmail.com) to reflect on our chapter's work over more than 30 years, and what's to come, on the Kagy Hill native plant revegetation project. Sharon has many photos to share – a younger you might be in one of them! Room 108 of the Plant Bioscience Building on the campus of MSU-Bozeman.

Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. The Montana Bumble Bee Atlas Takes Flight. The Atlas is an exciting new citizen science project coordinated by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, to track and conserve bumble bees. Launched in Montana this spring, the Bumble Bee Atlas aims to document bumble bee diversity and habitat use across Montana's diverse landscapes. These pollinators are crucial to our native plants, and many species are experiencing rapid decline. Project leader Michelle Toshack (michelle.toshack@xerces.org) will discuss the fascinating world of bumble bee ecology and conservation, exciting results from the first season and how to get involved next season! The presentation will take place in Room 108 of the Plant Bioscience Building on the campus of MSU-Bozeman.

Saturday, December 7, 1:00 p.m. Woody Plant Id Hike at Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park. Join Robyn Klein and Matt Lavin for a short hike to identify trees and shrubs native to our area. If you have one, bring a 10x plant lens (available at the MSU Bookstore). The leaders will have copies of the Winter Field Key to the Native Shrubs of Montana; you can also download one here: https://mtnhp.org/Reports/BOT_Key_MT_WinterShrubs_Morris_1962.pdf. Meet at the Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park Visitors Center. Be prepared for snow and ice. Information and registration: Robyn Klein at 406-600-1712.

Western At-Large

Info: Jon Reny at 406-334-0459; jreny@kvis.net.

Photo left: Western bumblebee (*Bombus sitkensis*), James P. Strange, USDA-ARS Pollinating Insect Research Unit, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Record Attendance!

We had an incredible turnout this year with 137 participants—our largest group yet! The weekend was a whirlwind of new friendships, joyful reunions, and a shared passion for the natural world. Together, we explored the wild beauty of the Blackfoot Valley, connected with nature and each other, and shared a renewed sense of community and purpose, strengthening our commitment to stewardship of Montana's native plants.

Field Trips and Workshops

The weekend was packed with opportunities to learn and explore. Friday afternoon kicked off with two workshops: Wildflower Journaling with Kathy Settevendemie and Moss Identification with Joe Elliot.



On Saturday, participants spread out across the valley for 14 diverse field trips, ranging from the foothills and fens to wetlands, old-growth Ponderosa forests and subalpine ridges. Each trip offered a chance to discover the rich flora and unique ecosystems of the area.



Steven Kloetzel leading a field trip to Primm Meadow

Sunday brought even more learning opportunities with Robyn Klein's Introduction to Vascular Plant ID workshop as well as a handful of shorter field trips for those heading home. Highlights included Sculptures in the Wild, cushion plants and even sightings of dendrites—the tree-like patterns found in rock formations. It was truly a weekend full of natural marvels!

Evening Highlights

Our Friday evening speaker, Tim Ryan, captivated the audience with his deep knowledge of heritage skills, traditional toolmaking, seasonal rounds and the movement and history of tribes in the intermontane Northwest. Tim brought along strongly built and intricately designed tools used in this area, offering a glimpse into the traditions that have shaped the region. Tim's presentation was more than just informative; it was an immersive journey into history woven into our lives today.



Gratitude and Community

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who attended and helped make the 2024 Annual Meeting a success! Special recognition goes to our Friday night speaker, Tim Ryan, and our dedicated field trip and workshop leaders for their time, knowledge and passion.

We are also deeply grateful for the many volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend—especially those who helped with meals, food prep, serving and cleanup. Lastly, a big round of applause to the Clark Fork Chapter executive committee and annual meeting committee members. In particular, Paul Buck, Kathy Settevendemie and Janet Simms were the backbone of the event, dedicating countless hours before, during, and after the meeting to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Looking to the Future

Mark your calendars! Next year's annual meeting will be hosted by the Maka Flora Chapter on June 20-22, 2025, including a celebration of the summer solstice! We'll gather at Camp Needmore near Ekalaka in the Custer National Forest. With stunning landscapes, rock formations, and a vibrant community spirit, it's sure to be another unforgettable weekend. If you'd like to get involved, whether through volunteering or planning, reach out to Libby Knotts (libbyknotts@gmail.com). We'd love to see both familiar and new faces!



Conservation Corner

By Elizabeth Bergstrom, Conservation Chair



Plant Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Spalding's Catchfly (*Silene Spaldingii*) Technical Team Meeting

In late May of this year, the technical team tracking with the recovery plan efforts for Spalding's catchfly met in Moscow, Idaho. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Team lead, Kim Frymire, facilitated group discussions on the outcome of conservation actions and monitoring progress for the rare plant across its occupied range. The focus of the second day included field visits to areas where the catchfly occurs and to a unique site where the plant was introduced into suitable yet previously unoccupied habitat.

To provide some background regarding the Spalding's catchfly, it is a perennial, grassland-associated plant within the carnation family, *Caryophyllaceae*. The plant occurs across five physiographic regions: Palouse grasslands of west-central Idaho and south-east Washington, the channel scablands of southeast Washington, Blue Mountain basins of northeast Oregon, Canyon Grasslands of the Snake River in Idaho and the Intermontane Valleys of northwestern Montana with a small extension into British Columbia. However, due to limited population sizes and considerable alterations to habitat, the catchfly was listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 2001. The recovery plan for Spalding's catchfly was developed with the involvement of numerous specialists and was published by the USFWS in 2007.

The focus of recovery efforts is the protection and maintenance of twenty-seven large populations, each represented by a minimum of 500 plants. A selected population must occupy at least 40 acres of intact habitat. Each of these sites are described as a Key Conservation Area (KCA). At least three KCAs were identified within each physiographic region to maintain the genetic diversity of the species. An additional caveat to the selection of a KCA is that it be surrounded by 300 acres of habitat that is, or can be restored to, suitable habitat for Spalding's catchfly.

Agricultural conversion has attributed to the rangewide loss of Spalding's catchfly habitat. This is especially evident in the Palouse Prairie Region. At present, key impacts to plants and habitats include incompatible grazing practices, weed infestations, human development and disruption of a periodic fire interval which was favorable to maintain the rare plant habitat, versus replacement

with longer fire intervals and associated high severity fires.

This year's technical team reported on the monitoring completed for various Recovery Plan KCAs. Mature plants may remain dormant, underground for one to two years. Therefore, the monitoring protocol entails repeating the survey over three consecutive years to determine population trends. Spalding's catchfly seedlings are small and can occur in dense grass cover.

To verify seedling identity the observer must note the presence of small retrose (turned backwards) hairs on the leaves. In some cases, this is an exercise of looking for the proverbial "needle in the grassland," while using a hand lens to observe hair detail and taking care to not impact other seedlings.

Within Montana, our Natural Heritage Program Botanist, Andrea Pipp, reported that the three consecutive year monitoring efforts had been completed for the Crosson Valley KCA and Sullivan Gulch KCA. Both KCAs lie within the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal lands. Peter Lesica discussed the monitoring he completed within the The Nature Conservancy's Dancing Prairie Preserve, KCA. He noted a population decline. Our fourth KCA in Montana is within the USFWS-Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge.

Seed collection for both outgrowing plugs and seed banking has been completed for some KCAs and is an ongoing objective for each of the designated recovery sites. Idaho's Paradise Ridge site, the area of suitable but previously unoccupied habitat for Spalding's catchfly, was outplanted with plugs from locally sourced Palouse Prairie seed. Hand broadcasting of catchfly seed was also completed with minimal success. Seedlings which established from seed versus the plugs rarely survived over three years. The Paradise Ridge site is an established conservation easement on private land.

The Recovery efforts for Spalding's catchfly reflects a tremendous amount of work that is being completed by many dedicated people. From searching for seedlings in monitoring surveys, the repeated monitoring required to provide population trend data, to bringing a community of private landowners together to form a conservation easement and, of course, exotic weed management, all efforts reflect determination to maintain a unique plant community and associated rare plant, the Spalding's catchfly.



Silene Spaldingii, photo by Peter Lesica

For more information about conservation objectives for Spalding's catchfly in Montana, please read the Species of Concern profile in our state's recently posted, *Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy: Vascular Plant Species and Habitats*



Spalding's catchfly technical team, May 2024, Paradise Ridge, Idaho, monitoring site, photo by Kim Frymire

of *Greatest Conservation Need*. This document is the culmination of energy and work from many participants. It is posted on the Montana Natural Heritage Program website: <https://mtnhp.org/plants/NativePlantConservationStrategy.asp>.



Silene spaldingii tech team on a Palouse Prairie remnant on Paradise Ridge - Gormsen Butte

Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy is Out!



The "*Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy: Vascular Plant Species and Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need*," is now available online. The Strategy is a compilation of six years of work and coordination with multiple participants. To quote Andrea Pipp, the Lead Editor and Project Manager;

"The Strategy aims to promote the collective and coordinated stewardship of Montana's native flora and habitats, emphasizing those of the Greatest Conservation Need and addressing elements that intersect with plant conservation – namely acknowledging Tribal sovereignty and Traditional Knowledge, strengthening botanical capacity, investing in Montana's network of herbaria and amplifying the role of native plants in pollinator conservation efforts."

Please view the Strategy at: <https://mtnhp.org/plants/NativePlantConservationStrategy.asp>.



Facilitation

By Peter Lesica, Clark Fork Chapter

Ecologists have long believed that seedlings need to get away from their parents to thrive. The famous tropical plant ecologist, Daniel Janzen, showed that in tropical forests adult tree canopies deprived their seedlings of light and that tree roots depleted much-needed nutrients from soil beneath the canopy. He hypothesized that these are the reasons that plants have evolved different strategies for escaping from mom's influence such as winged seeds or edible fruits. As we know, parents aren't the only influence we have to stay away from. For most of the 20th century ecologists have believed that competition for light, water and nutrients were the principle drivers shaping plant communities. As usual, we have only recently come to realize that things just aren't that simple. In fact, in harsher environments we can witness just the opposite of what Janzen reported.

One of the best places to witness plant-to-plant complexities is high up in our mountains. Green gentian or century plant (*Frasera speciosa*) is common in drier, alpine and subalpine meadows in the Rocky Mountains. It is considered an herbaceous perennial; however, unlike most perennial forbs, century plant grows its roots and basal rosette of leaves for many years, then puts up a tall stem, blooms once and dies. The seeds have no means for long distance dispersal, so they mostly fall near the base of the parent plant. Researchers from the University of Missouri wanted to know how seedlings of this plant survived and lived long enough to reproduce in this relatively dry and harsh environment. The remains of the parent's basal leaves and tall stem drop to the ground during winter, often covering many of the seeds. They found that soil beneath the remains of the adult plants was moister. As a result, seeds that were under the dead parents were more likely to survive following germination and that they grew better beneath the remains of their dead parent compared to those that were in the open. Unlike in Janzen's tropical forests, young plants in these stressful environments are helped rather than hindered by their parents.

The base of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains is another example of a stressful environment for plants, due to the nearly relentless wind during much of the year that dries plants and soil

and redistributes snow on the landscape. Dayna Baumeister and Ray Callaway found that the vast majority of wax currant (*Ribes cereum*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) plants were found beneath limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) trees even though these trees are only scattered across the environment. Using experimental manipulations, they found that while protection from the wind had a positive effect on currant bushes and Douglas fir juvenile plants, it was the shade and associated reductions in water loss

provided by the pines that was mainly responsible for the association.

Through many similar studies, plant ecologists have found that in relatively benign environments the primary effect of neighboring plants is negative due to competition for water, or light or nutrients. However, in environments where water or nutrients are scarce, the effect of neighbors is more likely to be positive. When the going gets tough, plants often ask their neighbors for help.

Additional Reading:

Baumeister, D & R.M. Callaway. 2006. *Facilitation by Pinus flexilis during succession: a hierarchy of mechanisms benefits other plant species*. Ecology 87: 1816–1830.

Wied, A & C. Galen. 1998. *Plant parental care: conspecific nurse effects in Frasera speciosa and Cirsium scopulorum*. Ecology 79: 1657–1668.



Frasera speciosa, photo by Peter Lesica



Limber pine, photo by Peter Lesica

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

The Montana Native Plant Society would like to welcome and thank new and returning members from the following chapters:

∞ Clark Fork Chapter

Alexandra Brown, Claire Compton & Mike Koole, Eric Gren, Jace Haynes, Erica Husse, Nathan Lang, Dr. Gary A. Laursen, Myshell Lyday, Annamarie Oesterreich, Deb Sonnenberg, and Mary Shaffer joining as a Lifetime Member

∞ Flathead Chapter

Monica Lomahukluh, Cindy Murray

∞ Kelsey Chapter

Kim Crowley, Shannon Reed

∞ Valley of Flowers Chapter

Kristine Fitzgerald of Woods Rose Market, Jenny Johnston, Leslie Stoltz, Michael Thornton

∞ Western Montana at Large

Rita Giebel, Rebekah & Dana Harmon, Megan Leach

Shoofly Meadows Field Trip



By Paul Buck, Clark Fork Chapter

The Clark Fork Chapter's annual August trip, led by Peter Lesica, has been a season highlight, as most trips have gone to higher elevations. This year we traveled northeast of Missoula to the upper reaches of the Rattlesnake Creek drainage. At an elevation of 5,869 feet, the temperature was a welcome relief from the record summer heat in Missoula.

Six MNPS members walked roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile across a fen, along wetlands that pierced the surrounding forest, and into a smaller fen. Google Earth shows an elevation change of six feet on our path, so the hike was not a strenuous one. Drier than usual (this area has been in drought conditions for over three years), we trod on "solid" ground with the occasional surprise step that left one with a wet leg. As we stepped onto the fen an attempt was made to avoid the *Drosera rotundifolia*, however, it became so thick that missing it was impossible. This year's crop of tiny boreal chorus frogs provided more "watch your step" moments.

Over thirty species of forbs, grasses and sedges were identified. The flowering highlights were *Geum rivale*, *Carex utriculata*, *Comarum palustre*, *Drosera rotundifolia* and *Spiranthes romanzoffiana*. Peter did note that one of the more predominant sedges, *Dulichium arundinaceum*, showed few signs of flowering this year as compared with years past. The ecology of the area was discussed with Joe Elliott providing information about the critical role peat mosses and sphagnum mosses have in the habitat.

As we left the meadow, and the afternoon temperature rose, some of us felt the presence of deer flies and realized that maybe Shoofly meadows might just have the right name.



Peter Lesica, Gunnar Davies, Claire Compton, Mike Koole, Joe Elliott

Transboundary Grasslands Partnership 2024 Workshop Shelby, Montana

Beyond Conservation:
Connecting
Communities for
Resilience in the
Northern Great Plains

OCT 22 | Optional Field Tour
10:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Blackfeet Nation

OCT 23 | TGP Workshop
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Marias Valley Golf Club

OCT 24 | TGP Workshop
8:00 AM - 12:00 AM
Marias Valley Golf Club

Best Western Shelby Inn & Suites
Group Rate Code: TGP
(406) 424-4560

Comfort Inn & Suites Gateway to Glacier
National Park
Group Rate Code: TGP
(406) 434-2212

Photo Credit: MSU Native Land Project/PLHI

REGISTER HERE:

<https://ranchstewards.org/events/transboundary-grasslands-partnership-workshop/>





Gardener's Notebook

Using Native Plants in Backyard Landscaping

Rocky Mountain Beeplant - *Cleome serrulata* (Cleomaceae): the Almost Perfect Native Plant for Gardens

By Paul Buck, Clark Fork Chapter

Four years ago, a long time Clark Fork Chapter member, Janet Sims, introduced me to Rocky Mountain beeplant (*Cleome*) through a few seeds. That first year several germinated, grew, bloomed and I was hooked. Since then, many seeds have been collected and strewn to where this year, a carpet of *Cleome* seedlings was created. Maybe a few too many.

This beautiful, pollinator-friendly annual (pollinated by bees, wasps, butterflies, flies and moths) has many prominent positive traits, and yes, a few minor ones. The delicate beauty of the flowers, the draping of the seed pods and different shapes the plant can present a picture many neighbors enjoy and comment on.



Bumblebee (*Bombus* sp.) on *Cleome*

Cleome readily reseeds itself but is relatively easy to control through thinning and seed control. The first true leaves are easy to recognize, and plants can be easily pulled until the stems have toughened - when plants reach four to five feet tall. As the plants mature and many racemes form, the subsequent seed pods can be pulled off by holding on to the end and pulling the seed pods back towards the stem. The raceme will continue to grow. Larger plant stems become thick and very tough and can be cut with loppers with some difficulty. So, as with most plants - get 'em while they're young.

Cleome germinates in most soils. From the *Manual of Montana Vascular Plants*, the habitats include: "sparsely vegetated, often saline, sandy to clay soil of grasslands, steppe, moist meadows, roadsides; plains, valleys" (Lesica et al. 2012. *Manual of Montana Vascular Plants*. BRIT Press. Fort Worth, TX).

It grows best in full sun and is drought tolerant. This past summer, with the record setting heat and lack of moisture in Missoula, most *Cleome* plants did not receive extra water and most survived.

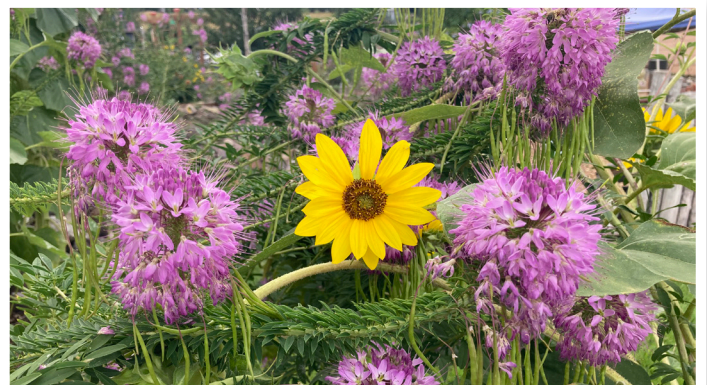
Several articles about *C. serrulata* have called them a "malodorous annual". We, and the many neighbors that walk by, have never noticed such an odor. However, it must be strong enough for the deer as they do not browse on it!



Six feet tall and loaded with seeds

One problem is that the mature plants are easily knocked over by high winds. The branches will then turn upwards, and racemes hang down. Plants can be modified by pruning in diverse ways to create vastly different looks. Two to three plants can be twined together for a fuller look, and this will increase resistance to high winds. When plants are three to four feet tall they can be bent over and held on the ground and the plant will form a bush like form.

Cleome is a fun, beautiful plant. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.



The wind created a lovely contrast

Water Howellia Interpretive Sign Restored By Maria Mantas, Flathead Chapter

In 2003, MNPS partnered with the Flathead National Forest and Partners for Plants (a partnership program of the Garden Club of America) to install an interpretive sign on a vernal pond in the Swan Valley. The wetland is habitat for the rare water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*), a plant that was formerly listed as threatened by the USFWS. More than 20 years ago, a group of volunteers gathered to erect the sign, which was beautifully designed by Sue Reel, former Lolo National Forest Biologist and MNPS member.

way to the annual meeting this year, armed with a scrub brush and soapy water, I gave the sign a makeover. It now looks almost new and ready for another 20 years of interpretation! Next time you are near the Holland Lake Campground take the short nature trail through an old growth Douglas-fir/ ponderosa pine forest that circles around the vernal pond and read about this amazing little annual plant.



Among the volunteers from 2003 are Cindy and Harry Poett, Cory Davis, Linh Hoang, Betty and Edd Kuropat, Maria Mantas, and Jeff Jones

It had been a long time since I walked the nature trail at Holland Lake where this sign is installed, so last year I decided to check it out. I was happy to see the sign still standing and in great shape, but it was very dirty and covered with lichens. So, on my



Water howellia interpretive sign in need of a little love



Water howellia interpretive sign

Matt Lavin's Grass Workshops at Lubrecht Experimental Forest: A Selection of Photos

Photos by Matt Lavin



Carex stipata



Trisetum canescens



Alopecurus magellanicus



Lewis and Clark Collection Added to County Library

By Kathy Lloyd and Drake Barton, Kelsey Chapter

A collection of plants collected by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Montana has been added to the Flora of Mount Helena collection housed in the Lewis and Clark County Library in Helena. The addition contains 25 plant species that were collected in Montana. The Lewis and Clark flora specimens are filed in the third drawer of the cabinet alphabetically by scientific name: genus and then species. Each specimen folder contains a pressed plant specimen, a collection label describing where the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery collected the plant, high quality photos of the plant, and journal entries from the expedition that mention the plant species.



Arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), photo by Drake Barton

All nomenclature used in the collection follows *Manual of Montana Vascular Plants*, second edition by Peter Lesica, 2022. The explanatory manual on top of the cabinet also contains a list of the 31 plants collected in Montana during the Lewis and Clark Expedition that are housed in the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Those 31 plant species each have a printed abstract that discusses the plant, how it was part of the Expedition, its biology and uses, together with additional photographs of the plant. The abstracts will also be



Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) berries, photo by Drake Barton

posted on the Lewis and Clark Library website and are currently featured on the Montana Native Plant Society website. The collection was donated to the Lewis and Clark Library by Montana Native Plant Society Kelsey Chapter member Kathy Lloyd, with photographs by fellow member Drake Barton. Stop by the Lewis and Clark County Library and take a look!



Bitterroot (*Lewisia rediviva*), photo by Drake Barton

2024 Whitebark Pine Science and Management Conference, October 9 - 11

The annual whitebark pine conference, held in Baker City, Oregon, will bring together researchers, managers, students, and enthusiasts of whitebark pine and other high-elevation, five-needle pine ecosystems in the Western United States and Canada. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information: <https://whitebarkfound.org/conferences/this-years-conference/>.



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP





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<input type="checkbox"/>	Living Lightly/Student	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime-Individual Only (one-time payment)	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper Kelseyia Fee Add \$10 if you wish to receive a paper copy of our quarterly newsletter Kelseyia, otherwise an e-version of Kelseyia will be delivered via email	\$10

An **additional donation** to MNPS helps support conservation action, educational programs, and botanical research. Donors will receive acknowledgement of their contribution in the spring issue of *Kelseyia**. You can select from the following giving categories:

	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelseyia — \$50	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bitterroot — \$100	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lupine — \$250	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ponderosa Pine — \$1000	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other — \$ _____	

- *Check if you wish your donation to be anonymous
- Check if you wish to be contacted for volunteer opportunities

MNPS Chapters and the Areas They Serve

Members are welcome to affiliate with any chapter. Please select your chapter affiliation.

- Artemisia** (Yellowstone, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Rosebud, Treasure, Big Horn, Carbon, & Stillwater Counties)
- Calypso** (Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow & parts of Madison Counties)
- Clark Fork** (Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Granite, Ravalli & parts of Lake Counties)
- Flathead** (Flathead & parts of Lake and Lincoln Counties)
- Kelsey** (Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, Judith Basin, Meagher, Broadwater & parts of Jefferson Counties)
- Maka Flora** (Richland, Roosevelt, McCone, Sheridan, Daniels, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Custer, Fallon, Powder River & Carter Counties)
- Valley of Flowers** (Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass and parts of Madison Counties)
- Eastern-at-Large** (Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Garfield, Petroleum, Fergus, & Wheatland Counties)
- Western-at-Large** (Sanders & parts of Lincoln Counties)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Montana Native Plant Society**
 Please mail this form with your check to:

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Missoula, MT 59807-8783

Welcome to the
Montana Native Plant Society!

Membership in MNPS is on an annual basis, March 1st to February 28th. Memberships processed before November 1st will expire the following February 28th. Memberships processed after October 31st will expire February 28th of the year after.



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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About 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 about the value of our native flora. Contributions to MNPS are tax deductible, and may be designated for a specific project or chapter, for the Grants & Giving Fund, or the general operating fund.

Your yearly membership fee includes an electronic subscription to *Kelsey*, the quarterly newsletter of MNPS. We welcome your articles, field trip reports, book reviews, or anything that relates to native plants or the Society. Please include a line or two of "bio" information with each article. Drawings should be in black ink or a good quality photocopy. All items should be emailed to scottguse@yahoo.com and jenhintzguse@gmail.com, or mailed to: Scott and Jennifer Guse, *Kelsey* Editors, 725 Twin Lakes Road, Whitefish, MT 59937.

Winter issue submission deadline is December 10

Please send web items to our webmasters:

Bob Person and Carol Goffe at mnpwebmaster@gmail.com

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