



# MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## MINUTES MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SUMMER BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN-PERSON MEETING 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm; Friday, June 28, 2024 Camp Utmost, Greenough, MT

**Attendees:** Dave Hanna (Co-President), Kenda Herman (Vice President), Laurie Kurth (Treasurer), Camie Westfall (Secretary), Carol Goffe (Co-Webmaster), Bob Person (Co-Webmaster), Beth Madden (MNPS Presents), Teagan Hayes (Clark Fork Chapter Representative), Gretchen Rupp (Valley of Flowers Chapter Representative), Libby Knotts (Maka Flora Chapter Representative), Rachel Potter (Flathead Chapter), Kelsey Malloy (Eastern At Large Director), Jennifer Lyman (Conservation Committee Co-chair), Betty Kuropat (Grants and Giving Committee Co-Chair), Patrick Plantenberg (Past President/Landscape and Revegetation Committee)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda, Announcements – *Dave Hanna*

2. Secretary's Report – *Camie Westfall*

- Approve Winter Board meeting minutes
  - Thank you to everyone who reviewed and provided minor edits.
  - Motion: Patrick Plantenberg moved that we approved the minutes as edited, Teagan Hayes seconded, all in favor, motion carried
- For the elections, the incumbents all received unanimous votes: Kenda Herman as Vice President, Camie Westfall as Secretary, and Kelsey Malloy as Eastern At Large Director.
- Board member contact updates. Please review and send corrections to Camie. In the fall she will need contact information for Alex Brown for MNPS Presents.
  - Robert Pal will transition into the acting president role later this summer.

3. Treasurer's Report - *Laurie Kurth*

- The report and budget summary is in the Google Drive folder.
- 2024 Budget Update
  - As of 6/26/2024, the total Income is at \$34,476.14 after \$18,930.18 in expenses.
  - The Grants and Giving donation fund is a money market account and the balance is at \$7,867.26
    - We have received \$6,680 from 105 donations this fiscal year, which is more than this time last year.
    - The money market account has made over \$400 so far this year.
  - Per discussion at the March 2024 Board meeting, instead of automatically giving to an herbarium, Laurie is waiting until the fall for the Board to determine where to allocate the amounts.
  - For the yearly Montana Audubon payment, Laurie will issue the check.
  - Beartooth Highway sign is in the budget at \$1,000. Laurie will talk to Jenny Lyman about where to issue the check.
  - There is an outstanding check to Calypso Chapter that has not been cashed. Laurie will talk with Jessie Salix.
  - Artemisia Chapter has an open account with signatory authority to Dave Hanna.

4. Newsletter Editors Report - *Dave Hanna on behalf of Scott Guse and Jen Hintz Guse*

- The summer Kelsey Newsletter went out this morning.
- If you have ideas about items for the fall newsletter, please email Jen and Scott. Deadline is September 10 for the fall issue.

5. Membership Report - *Maria Mantas*

- Membership is currently at 879.
- Maria brought brochures and they can be taken while at the meeting. There will be another brochure printing in the fall.
- There have been more membership communications in the last few months than before. This includes more mass emailing to the entire membership and Maria requests that we give her plenty of time to get the emails out before your requested send date.
  - Maria said maybe there needs to be a Communications position on the Board.

6. Webmaster Report – *Carol Goffe/Bob Person*

- Website updates: website is running smoothly.

7. 2024 Annual Meeting Update – *Clark Fork Chapter Representative (Teagan Hayes)*

- Meeting is going great so far.
- There was discussion about possibly a folder with photos from attendees that have free domain to be used for MNPS social media, website, brochures, or other MNPS uses and another folder that is for photos where the photographer does not give permission for free use and distribution.

- 2025 Next Annual Meeting – *Maka Flora Chapter Representative (Libby Knotts)*

- Next year the meeting will be in Ekalaka.
- They have a venue (Camp Needmore) and are starting to get organized with planning and gathering volunteers for hikes and general help.
  - Kelsey Malloy and members of Eastern At Large can likely help.

8. Standing Committee Reports

- Conservation - *Jennifer Lyman*

- The Montana Plant Conservation Strategy is almost finished, and the draft is currently being edited.
- The sign for the Beartooth Highway regarding the fragility of the ecosystem. Continuing to attempt to make progress with the USFS stakeholders.
- The Citizen Botany project is moving in small steps to create a webpage interface with the MNPS website. They are applying for funding sources from the USFS, BLM, and MNPS.
  - Overall the pilot project was a success. They are not doing any more formal trainings or taking on new citizen botanists this summer, but there are some folks from the previous two years who have elected to continue doing revisits this summer.
- The 2024 Conservation Conference was a success with many excellent speakers. The conference operated in the black and spent less than \$5,000.
  - The next Conservation Conference will be in spring of 2026 in Missoula. One possible theme of the conference is fire on the landscape, but other theme ideas are being discussed.
- The committee continues to keep trying to get plants listed in the Montana State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) which will be updated again in 2025.

- Landscaping and Revegetation Committee – *Patrick Plantenberg*

- They are doing well with projects and Patrick presented more information at the General Membership Meeting.

- Grants and Giving Committee- *Betty Kuropat*

- The Draft Policy was put together by Betty Kuropat and Annie Garde and it is in the Google Drive folder.
  - They would like all online applications and will work with Carol to develop pieces at a time.
  - The Professional Development Scholarship deadline is October 15. Betty asked the Board if we want to launch it this year. If so, it will need to be put in the fall Kelsey Newsletter.
  - The Board needs to review policy and hopefully approve the new policy.
- A new chair and/or co-chairs are needed for the committee.
  - The committee could also use more people. Betty said she can stay on as a committee member, but she doesn't want to be a chairperson.

#### 9. Ad Hoc Committees

- MNPS Presents! - *Beth Madden*
  - The 2023-2024 season was the fourth successful season.
  - Beth will be turning MNPS Presents! over to Alex Brown for the 2024-2025 season, but she will assist at the beginning of the season.
    - If anyone has ideas for speakers and programs, let Beth and Alex know.
  - Beth has drafted the MNPS Presents! Committee duties description to be approved by the Board and added to the Board Handbook at the next Board meeting.

#### 10. Wrap-up – *all*

- Set fall Board meeting date; usually it is early November. Gretchen will send the poll around again. She will include a question about preference for online only or hybrid.

Adjourn at 8:10pm.

**MNPS Annual Balance Statement as of 6/26/2024**

Prepared by: Laurie Kurth

<b>Year</b>	<b>CDs</b>	<b>Savings</b>	<b>Checking</b>	<b>Grants and Giving Fund</b>	<b>Total Assets*</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>
<u>2024</u>	n/a	\$64,876.48	\$13,046.84	\$7,867.26	\$77,923.32	\$34,476.14	(18,930.18)	15,545.96
<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

**MNPS BUDGET SUMMARY**

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<b>General Fund</b>	26700.00	25784.86	(35800.00)	(18106.16)	(9100.00)	7678.70	
<b>Grants and Giving Fund</b>	7100.00	8691.28	(6050.00)	(824.02)	1050.00	7867.26	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>33800.00</b>	<b>34476.14</b>	<b>(41850.00)</b>	<b>(18930.18)</b>	<b>(8050.00)</b>	<b>15545.96</b>	

# 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>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>20000.00</b>	<b>18900.00</b>	<b>(5000.00)</b>	<b>(1079.48)</b>	<b>15000.00</b>	<b>17820.52</b>
Dues and Fees	20000.00	18900.00	(1000.00)	(1079.48)	19000.00	17820.52
Chapter Portion	0.00	0.00	(4000.00)	0.00	(4000.00)	0.00
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>1000.00</b>	<b>640.00</b>	<b>(9000.00)</b>	<b>(5507.45)</b>	<b>(8000.00)</b>	<b>(4867.45)</b>
<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>1286.86</b>	<b>(13100.00)</b>	<b>(6443.60)</b>	<b>(12400.00)</b>	<b>(5156.74)</b>
Awards	0.00	0.00	(600.00)	0.00	(600.00)	0.00
Committees	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00
Contracts	0.00	0.00	(6500.00)	(3751.00)	(6500.00)	(3751.00)
Board Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	700.00	440.86	0.00	0.00	700.00	440.86
Website	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(174.00)	(1000.00)	(174.00)
Zoom	0.00	0.00	(800.00)	(311.28)	(800.00)	(311.28)
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)	(207.32)	(200.00)	(207.32)
At-Large Expenses	0.00	0.00	(500.00)	0.00	(500.00)	0.00
Transfer between GF and G&G funds	0.00	750.00	(2000.00)	(2000.00)	(2000.00)	(1250.00)
<b>GOE TOTALS</b>	<b>21700.00</b>	<b>20826.86</b>	<b>(27100.00)</b>	<b>(13030.53)</b>	<b>(5400.00)</b>	<b>7796.33</b>
<b>SPECIAL PROJECTS</b>						
Annual Meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plant Conservation Conference	5000.00	4958.00	(5000.00)	(4675.63)	0.00	282.37
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)
<b>SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS</b>	<b>5000.00</b>	<b>4958.00</b>	<b>(8700.00)</b>	<b>(5075.63)</b>	<b>(3700.00)</b>	<b>(117.63)</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>26700.00</b>	<b>25784.86</b>	<b>(35800.00)</b>	<b>(18106.16)</b>	<b>(9100.00)</b>	<b>7678.70</b>

Beartooth Highway Signs - conservation committee

AA contract

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

## 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>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>7100.00</b>	<b>8691.28</b>	<b>(300.00)</b>	<b>(74.02)</b>	<b>6800.00</b>	<b>8617.26</b>
Donation	7000.00	6660.00	(300.00)	(74.02)	6700.00	6585.98
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	100.00	31.28	0.00	0.00	100.00	31.28
Transfer between GF and G&G funds	0.00	2000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2000.00
<b>GRANTS AND GIVING</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(5750.00)</b>	<b>(750.00)</b>	<b>(5750.00)</b>	<b>(750.00)</b>
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants (Solicited)	0.00	0.00	(2000.00)	(750.00)	(2000.00)	(750.00)
Gifts (Unsolicited)						
MT Herbaria Donation	0.00	0.00	(2000.00)	0.00	(2000.00)	0.00
MT Audubon Donation	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	(750.00)	0.00	(750.00)	0.00
Chapter Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>GRANTS AND GIVING FUND 2024 TOTALS</b>	<b>7100.00</b>	<b>8691.28</b>	<b>(6050.00)</b>	<b>(824.02)</b>	<b>1050.00</b>	<b>7867.26</b>
Carryover from previous year	0.00					
<b>GRANTS AND GIVING FUND AVAILABLE FUNDS</b>		<b>7867.26</b>				



MONTANA NATIVE  
PLANT SOCIETY

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP IN-PERSON MEETING**

**7:00 pm to 8:30 pm; Saturday, June 29, 2024, Camp Utmost, Greenough, MT**

1. Introduction – *Dave Hanna*
2. Election Results – *Camie Westfall*
  - For the elections, the incumbents all received unanimous votes: Kenda Herman as Vice President, Camie Westfall as Secretary, and Kelsey Malloy as Eastern At Large Director. There were no write-ins.
    - Valley of Flowers Chapter sent in the most mailed ballots with flower stamps.
    - Clark Fork Chapter had the most total votes (online and mailed).
    - In general the total number of votes was down from 2023: 2024 had 66 total votes and 2023 had 87.
3. Awards Committee - *Peter Lesica*
  - There were two recipients (Jenny Tollefson and Shannon Kimball) for the Outstanding Service Award for their incredible and dedicated work together as Co-Treasurers for the MNPS state Board for 10 years.
4. Current Annual Meeting Hosting Chapter – *Clark Fork Chapter, Teagan Hayes*
  - There were 157 registrants with great appreciation for all those who volunteered to help make the meeting a success.
  - Reminder about Sunday morning Intro to Plant ID workshop with Robyn Klein.
  - A notice to all that the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation needs more members and general participation and volunteers and awareness about the work they do.
5. Next Annual Meeting Hosting Chapter, 2025 – *Maka Flora Chapter, Libby Knotts*
  - The next Annual Meeting will be hosted in Ekalaka at Camp Needmore on June 20-22, 2025.
    - Start preparing now for a possible botany talent and variety show.
  - Reach out to Libby if you would like to volunteer and help with the meeting.
6. Membership - *Maria Mantas*
  - Currently 879 members to date and starting to plateau.
  - Generally there are close to \$10,000 donations per year on average. This year, we have received \$6,680 from 105 donations this fiscal year.
7. Treasurer – *Laurie Kurth*
  - Budget accounts are looking great.

#### 8. Webmasters - *Carol Goffe and Bob Person*

- The website is functioning well.
- The website maintenance is a big lift and Bob has done an incredible job, but is retiring from the duty; Carol Goffe will continue to do an amazing job.

#### 9. Conservation Committee – *Jennifer Lyman*

- Conversations and progress are continuing with stakeholders about the Beartooth Highway signage educating recreators about the fragility of the alpine ecosystem. MNPS has dedicated funds to help create and erect the signage.
- The 2024 Conservation Conference had a great turn out and the conference paid for itself with the registration fees and attendance.
- Citizen Botany – *Andrea Pipp, MTNHP*
  - There were 166 individuals involved in a variety of roles with 120 trained and 96 becoming Citizen Botanists.
  - In 2022 and 2023, there were 121 locations revisited.
  - In 2024, there have been 8 so far with a few more expected.
  - The Pilot Study report is not finished, but it's expected to be available in the next few months.
    - Continued discussions with MNPS and MTNHP and other stakeholders about next steps for the Citizen Botany project.
- Montana Plant Conservation Strategy – *Andrea Pipp, MTNHP*
  - The Montana Plant Conservation Strategy report is expected to be finished this fall; stay tuned.
  - Andrea gave some background on the focus to retain knowledge and skills across agencies and organizations to allow native plants to persist and identify certain species, habitat and communities of greatest plant conservation need.
    - The effort was kicked off in 2019 with 25 agencies represented, including tribes. The steering committee consists of federal and state agencies.
    - One of the goals is to get plants listed in the Montana State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) which will be updated again in 2025, which would have implications for funding for native plant conservation.

#### 10. Landscape and Revegetation Committee –*Patrick Plantenberg*

- Native Plant Source Guide is updated and online
  - They have been working with the Bruce Seed Farm in Townsend and DNRC Nursery to identify the largest need and growing distribution.

#### 11. MNPS Presents – *Beth Madden*

- The 2023-2024 was the fourth season.
- There was an average of more than 100 people participating in each presentation.
- You can check out the MNPS YouTube channel for all the past presentations.
- There will be a new coordinator starting this fall (Alex Brown).

#### 12. Grants and Giving Committee – *Betty Kurpat*

- There has been an update on the policy and Procedures.

- Grants will be more flexible and there will be two types of scholarships offered, one for academic scholarships for attending a Montana university program and one for Professional Development.
- Member donations fund and support the Grants and Giving fund.
- Betty will be stepping down as the co-chairperson, so a new chair or co-chair is needed.

### 13. Chapter Reports

- Eastern at Large – *Dave Hanna for Kelsey Molloy*
  - They have had some field trips planned.
- Western at Large – *Betty Kuropat*
  - Several field outings and more planned in the Troy/Libby area.
  - Peter Lesica does an annual field trip with them which is planned for mid-July.
- Calypso Chapter – *Jessie Salix*
  - They have had some good field trips so far this season.
  - There is a dying with plants workshop planned in Divide, MT for later this summer.
- Clark Fork Chapter – *Teagan Hayes*
  - They have monthly meetings and monthly field trips.
  - The annual native plant sale was the usual success.
  - They are doing some work with a few native and botanic gardens.
- Flathead Chapter – *Rachel Potter*
  - Lots of field trips in partnership with the Center for Native Plants.
- Kelsey Chapter – *Bob Person*
  - Kelsey Chapter has a good and active board.
  - Programs and/or field trips every month.
  - They have a couple native plant landscaping and garden projects that they maintain and continue to engage with in the community.
- Maka Flora Chapter – *Libby Knotts*
  - Some field trips planned.
  - Mainly planning and preparing for the 2025 Annual Meeting.
- Valley of Flowers Chapter – *Gretchen Rupp*
  - They have a native plant garden that they maintain.
  - They have a weeding and seeding project for the Galligator Trail near the library.
  - They have participated in lots of tabling events and projects involving landscaping with native plants.
  - They have consistently had the most new members every quarter.
- Artemisia Chapter – *Jessica Callahan*
  - Not present, no updates available.

### 14. Update on Board Positions – *Dave Hanna*

- The Co-Presidency will be transitioning to Robert Pal later this summer when Robert returns.

Adjourn at 7:55pm.

Field Trip Slide Show and Summaries after the General Membership Meeting.

## **2024 MNPS Outstanding Service Awards**

Starting in the summer of 2010 **Jenny Tollefson** took the financial reins of the Montana Native Plant Society by becoming the treasurer. She managed all aspects of the society's finances. With the help of her two children, she took over the task of collecting the mail and opening many dozens of envelopes and depositing the check within them, recording what the payments were for and paying the bills. But that's just the start. The treasurer is also in charge of creating an annual budget and continuously tracking income and expenditures to present to the Board of Directors twice each year. They file all required federal and state tax documents and business reports. They rectify the bank and paypal accounts to the penny. And the treasurer serves as an advisor to chapters and committees. Jenny and her family took on this arduous and tedious task for five years.

Then in 2015 she convinced her good friend, **Shannon Kimball**, to become the co-treasurer. Shannon, who was the financial manager for her mother's business, hit the ground running and went a long way to lifting the burden from Jenny's shoulders. Jenny and Shannon kept MNPS financially afloat for more than a decade, retiring in 2021.

Both Jenny and Shannon have a history of plant conservation work beyond the Native Plant Society. Jenny was a technical writer for the U.S. Forest Service Fire Lab followed by doing land stewardship work for several conservation organizations. Starting in 2011 she has been the Stewardship Manager and then Stewardship Director for Five Valleys Land Trust. Shannon was the curator of the University of Montana Herbarium from 2015 through 2022.

Prior to 2015 Shannon worked for the Montana Natural Heritage Program. After that she worked for the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station helping assemble information on Region One research natural areas. At the turn of the century she gathered field data for Glacier National Park's vegetation inventory.



**MNPS Membership Report**  
Submitted by Maria Mantas, Membership Chair

**Membership update** – This report was prepared on June 10, 2024 for the summer 2024 MNPS board meeting (June 28, 2024).

**Membership statistics** – The membership year ended Feb 28<sup>th</sup> so all those members who haven’t renewed were taken off the rolls, meaning right now we are at the lowest membership count for year. Renewals and new memberships will continue to trickle in over the rest of the year and numbers will steadily climb. No new lifetime members in 2024 yet. Last year at this time we were at 887 (8 more members). Not a significant decline in membership, but it is the first time we haven’t seen an increase in years. We did experience significant growth these last years, and I suppose it was bound to level off at some point.

**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	35	8	3	2	0	<b>48</b>
Calypso	29	16	5	1	1	<b>52</b>
Clark Fork	140	68	33	5	2	<b>248</b>
Flathead	67	35	21	1	2	<b>126</b>
Kelsey	65	44	21	3	1	<b>134</b>
Maka Flora	14	8	2	0	0	<b>24</b>
Eastern-at-large	14	10	10	0	1	<b>35</b>
Western-at-large	15	6	8	0	0	<b>29</b>
Valley of Flowers	92	54	30	5	2	<b>183</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>879</b>
Exchange *	46					

\*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.**

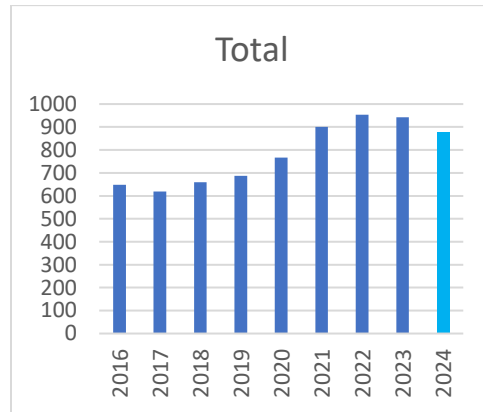
This table only reflects the count of members **at the end of each calendar year**. As our membership fluctuates throughout the year, this is the number that should be used to represent our membership as it is close to when our numbers are the highest and it’s a consistent point in time from which to 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	<b>943</b>	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	



## Membership Discussion

Membership Numbers: It appears our annual membership count is plateauing. I still hope to reach 1000 members someday, we are so close!



\*2024 value will increase throughout the rest of the year.

Volunteer Check Box: As of June 10, 209 memberships have checked the box saying they would like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities in the last 2 years. Check your monthly 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 until later. I will need to update chapter area descriptions. If you see any other needed edits, please let me know. Also, if you have any old brochures lying around (with the old dues rates) please discard. I am still getting renewals from them.

New Membership Database Platform: Still no progress here regrettably. We really need to do it as we have run into problems using the current system.

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

As of this report (6-10-2024) we have received **\$6,680** from **105** donations this fiscal year. Last year at this time we received \$6,125 from 98 donations, so we are tracking very close to last year (my numbers may be a bit different than Laurie's). Please refer to your monthly membership list for the list of donors. It's always good practice to reach out and thank these people when you have the opportunity.

## **Citizen Botany Pilot Study 2022-2023: Summary of Outcomes**

A huge thank you to the many MNPS members who participated in the pilot study! Many beneficial outcomes to people, places and plants included:

### **PEOPLE**

166 people participated in the pilot study in a number of roles

124 people participated in some form of citizen botany training or workshop

96 people completed training to operate as a Citizen Botanist

### **PLACES AND PLANTS**

121 sites were revisited in 2022 and 2023.

8 sites were already revisited this field season!

22 additional sites are expected to be revisited by the end of this season.

Species of concern (or potential species of concern) were revisited in 29 counties.

The full report is expected to be finalized in Fall 2024.

## **Calypso Chapter Report to MNPS Board June 28, 2024**

Since the spring Board meeting, Calypso has held a workshop and the first four of our scheduled field trips as listed below. Participation in the workshop was high, but thus far our weekend and mid-week field walks have mostly had low attendance.

**Saturday, April 27 - A Native Plants Workshop - Landscaping, Dyeing and Planting for Dye Colors.** 9 Participants

**Wednesday, May 29 - Jon Gulch, Thompson Park south of Butte.** 4 participants.

**Sunday, June 2 - Highland Mountains Foothills.** 4 participants.

**Sunday, June 9 - Lichens and Host Rocks: An Up-close Look at the Interface of Lichens and Their Variable Rock Hosts.** 5 participants.

**Wednesday, June 19 - In Search of the Chocolate Lilies.** 9 participants.

**Saturday-Sunday June 22-23 - Edible Wild Plant Exploration.** Participation number is not yet known for this 2-day camping event.