



Summer Field Trip Guide 2025

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

"...to preserve, conserve and study Montana's native plants & plant communities."

mtnativeplants.org

MONTANA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY

MNPS Field Trip Guidelines

Enjoy a wide variety of fabulous Montana field trips this summer with the Montana Native Plant Society. Led by ecologists, botanists, naturalists and natural scientists, these trips offer enriching and fun opportunities to get out and explore Montana's abundant beauty.

This guide is arranged chronologically so you can coordinate your summer travel with field trips offered in a given area. You might even want to target a destination.

Please always contact the listed trip leader for the most current information.

This guide, prepared in early spring, cannot anticipate the many changes that may occur throughout the summer due to changes in the weather, fires or other unforeseen events.

The trips vary from easy to difficult in length and/or elevation gain. Please read each description and contact the trip leader with your questions to ensure that the trip meets your expectations, physical abilities and circumstances.

In respect for other participants and wildlife, **please leave dogs and firearms at home.**

Some trips are more child-friendly than others. Check with your trip leader.

Be prepared for Montana's instantaneous weather changes. **Please wear appropriate clothes and shoes. Bring food, water, extra clothes, rain gear, sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses, hat** and any other personal gear you might need. You also may want to bring your favorite field guides, a hand lens and a notebook for recording species you see.

If you have a health condition, including allergies, that could affect you during the field trip, please tell the trip leader and carry necessary medications.

Be aware of wildlife that you might encounter and know how to behave to avoid conflicts. You may encounter bear, deer, elk, moose, snakes, mountain lions, wasps and other species.

MNPS assumes no liability for personal injury or loss of property on MNPS-sponsored field trips. Each participant may be required to sign an attendance sheet and liability waiver before starting the field trip.

Is Your Membership Current?

Please check the date on your mailing label to make sure you are current. If it says "2025" it means that your membership has expired and this will be the last mailing you will get from MNPS unless you renew. Renew online at

<https://www.mtnativeplants.org/membership/>.

May

Friday, May 2 - Spring Migration at the Creston Fish Hatchery (Bigfork). 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Join Karen Nichols and Kathy Ross to explore the easily accessible hatchery trails, for our returning avian migrants and ephemeral native plants (nature's own bird food, especially for parent birds feeding chicks!). We will also be exploring a new area of the hatchery trail system. The trip is limited to 12 participants. For meeting place, questions and to sign up, contact Kathy at mtkat67@gmail.com or leave a message at 406-837-3837.

Saturday, May 3 - Native Plant Signage on the High Trails System/Beaverhead Trail Coalition (Dillon). 10:00 a.m. Come and hike the High Trails with Calypso Chapter members, checking out the newly posted trail signage for native forbs, shrubs, trees and grasses along the trail. These trails are established and maintained by the Beaverhead Trails Coalition. For more information contact Catherine Cain at 406-498-6198 or nativeplants@montana.com.

Saturday, May 3 - Yaak Falls and Riverside Stroll (Troy/Yaak). 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Afternoon stroll starting on terraces overlooking Yaak Falls with beds of glacier lilies and other early bloomers. Then an easy 1 - 2 mile round-trip walk downstream along the Yaak River on the Dipper Trail #704. The trail has little elevation change, but has uneven, rocky tread. We'll see some big (and small) trees, old mine shafts, and maybe calypso orchids and Geyer's biscuitroot. Meet at Yaak Falls Campground. For questions and to sign up, contact Betty Kuropat at 406-250-8156 or blueirismt@gmail.com.

Wednesday, May 7 - Milltown State Park - Deer Creek Road (Missoula). 5:30 p.m. As part of National Wildflower Week, Clare Beelman will be leading the annual walk through the state park. Clare has led this trip for several years and knows the area and plants very well, providing a most interesting and informative time. The trip varies from Douglas-fir forest to Clark Fork River riparian habitat. The hike will be on gravel trails with some single track and one short steeper descent and climb. Please contact Clare at clare.beelman@gmail.com to sign up and for more information.

Sunday May 11 - Tobacco Plains (Eureka). 10:00 a.m. Meet at the historical village. We will have a slow-paced hike exploring a rough fescue prairie with alkali lakes. Sign up with Joe Rizzi at 406-334-9583 or joefloriz@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 17 - Lion Creek (Swan Valley). 9:30 a.m. Take an easy hike up the Lion Creek Trail in the Swan Valley for viewing spring wildflowers with Maria Mantas. We will visit open forests, shrubfields, and bedrock plant communities. Meet at the Swan River State Forest Office on Highway 83 (mile post 59). Call Maria at 406-407-2045 for more information, to reserve a spot, and to inquire about carpooling opportunities.

Sunday, May 18 - Lincoln Hills - Mt. Jumbo Trailhead Mountain Bikes and Blooms (Missoula). 10:00 a.m. Join Greta Brom-Palkowski and Teagan Hayes on a mountain bike ride to enjoy peak spring blooms. We'll make a few stops to check out native plants and habitats along the way. Join us on Sunday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m. at Lincoln Hills - Mt. Jumbo Trailhead, in Missoula's Rattlesnake. We plan to explore about 5 - 10 miles of singletrack trails and doubletrack gravel with some significant climbs (intermediate skill level). The final route will depend on group consensus. Bring your curiosity, bike, water, and snacks — we'll bring the plant nerd energy!

Monday, May 19 - Cedar Flats (Columbia Falls). 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Hunt for forest wildflowers and woodland birds on the Cedar Flats Trails in our backyard north of Columbia Falls with Jim Rogers and Rachel Potter. The terrain is gentle, and our journey will be less than 2 miles. Limit 15 people. Contact Rachel at jrepotter@centurytel.net after May 11 to reserve a spot, find out where to meet, and for last-minute changes.



Wednesday, May 21 – Birds & Native Plants of Wayfarers State Park (Bigfork). 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Join local naturalist Kathy Ross for a leisurely spring flower walk at the Wayfarer's unit of Flathead Lake State Park. You will learn about the native plants and the birds that thrive in this lovely native East Shore habitat. See and hear Spotted Towhee and Chipping Sparrows foraging in the lupine/ninebark understory, while Bald Eagles, Merlin and Osprey soar overhead. Lazuli Bunting can be easily viewed singing from chokecherry branches. Dress appropriately for surprise-filled spring weather. Walk is limited to 6 participants. Repeated trip on June 4. For meeting information and to sign up contact Kathy at 406-837-3837.

Saturday, May 24 - Wildflower Walk on Old Highway 2 and Shannon Lake (Troy). 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Enjoy a leisurely wildflower walk to Shannon Lake, nestled in the scenic foothills of the Cabinet Mountains. This low-elevation trail meanders through a mixed forested basin with minimal elevation gain - perfect for a relaxed outing. Along the way, we'll explore the diversity of native and non-native plants, with a special focus on identifying spring wildflowers in bloom. The trail also offers beautiful views overlooking the Kootenai River Valley and the southern end of the Purcell Mountains. Come and enjoy a peaceful morning in nature and celebrate the season of wildflowers! The moderately difficult trail is a 2-3 mile loop, depending on the route we choose. Meet at the weigh station rest stop at the Highway 2 & Highway 56 junction. To sign up contact Ashley South at ashley@yaakvalley.org or Pat McLeod at 713-898-6822 or pat_mcleod@yahoo.com.

Saturday, May 24 - Pine Hills and Prairie (Big Timber). 8:00 a.m. Linda and Jerry Iverson invite you to visit their rangeland ranch northeast of Big Timber; Matt Lavin will help with botany. We'll wander through forested hills, rough rock outcrops and sagebrush flats to look at an assortment of very tough dryland natives. Meet at 8:00 a.m. to carpool from Bozeman, at the Haggerty Lane softball field parking lot. This lot lies on the east side of the fields (it's not the parking lot accessed off of Highland Blvd.). If you are coming from other places, please contact Linda for directions and possible carpooling at 406-930-1682 or lilandscape@mtintouch.net. Drive time from Bozeman is approximately 1.5 hours. We'll plan to start the hike around 10:00 a.m. and go most of the day, so bring a lunch and plenty of water.

Wednesday, May 28 - Restoration of the Butte Hill – Part I: Producing the Native Plants (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Krystal Weilage, Greenhouse Manager and Native Plant Specialist with the Restoration Program at Montana Tech, will take us through the materials and practices used in seeding and propagating various native forbs in preparation for on-site planting on Butte's Superfund reclamation sites. For more information and to register contact Karen Porter at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 31 - Kicking Horse Mitigation Unit Walk (Charlo). 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Gunner Davies, Wildlife Habitat Restoration & Management Ecologist with Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, will lead this slow-paced walk through intermountain prairie, where we will see wildflowers and grasses, as well as pingo wetlands and sedge meadow habitats. Please bring water and food; it is suggested to bring water shoes. To sign up and obtain information about meeting location and carpooling contact Gunner Davies at gunnerdavies@live.com. Limit 15 people.

Saturday, May 31 - Nature Art (Lake Koocanusa, Rexford). 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Join Julia Higgins for a fun-filled day full of nature-inspired crafts. Julia is a German nature educator with a master's degree in outdoor education and is the owner of "Waldlife"- a center for nature-based learning. We will create art from natural materials that we will collect at the lake shore and surrounding area. Be ready to be inspired by mother nature! Limit 12 people. Children welcome. Sign up at waldlife@proton.me.



June

Wednesday, June 4 - Birds & Native Plants of Wayfarers State Park (Bigfork). 7:30 to 9:30

a.m. Join local naturalist Kathy Ross for a leisurely spring flower walk at the Wayfarer's unit of Flathead Lake State Park. You will learn about the native plants and the birds that thrive in this lovely native East Shore habitat. See and hear Spotted Towhee and Chipping Sparrows foraging in the lupine/ninebark understory, while Bald Eagles, Merlin and Osprey soar overhead. Lazuli Bunting can be easily viewed singing from chokecherry branches. Dress appropriately for surprise-filled spring weather. Walk is limited to 6 participants. For meeting information and to sign up contact Kathy at 406-837-3837.

Wednesday, June 4 - Wildflower ID walk with iNaturalist & Whitefish Legacy Partners

(Whitefish). 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Meander through the woods at Smith Lake with native plant expert Lech Naumovich and learn about the wide array of wildflowers that line the Whitefish Trail. This botanical hike will introduce and explore some common Montana plants found in the Flathead, talk a bit about vegetation ecology, and introduce you to iNaturalist, a phone app that documents plants and animals throughout the world. Visit www.whitefishlegacy.org for required registration that opens May 21.

Thursday June 5 - Bison Range (Charlo). 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Walk with Peter Bugoni, Wildlife and Range Ecologist with Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, on a slow-paced walk through current restoration projects on the Bison Range. Enjoy the beautiful views, wildflowers, grasses and possibly see some bison and antelope! Please bring water, food and binoculars. To sign up and obtain information about meeting location and carpooling contact Gunner at gunnerdavies@live.com. Limit of 15 people.

Friday to Monday, June 6 to 9 - Botanical Foray of the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, Kootenai National Forest (Libby).

Spend a weekend camping and botanizing (or even join for a day) with researchers from the Rocky Mountain Herbarium. Director, Dr. David Tank, and graduate student, Marguerite Trost, alongside other volunteers from the University of Wyoming, will lead the trip, as part of a two-summer floristic inventory of the Kootenai National Forest. We will be based at the Timberlane Campground north of Libby, Montana. Please bring your own camping and hiking gear; floristic fieldwork gear and training provided. We will spread out each morning in groups of 5 to 6 people according to expertise and fieldwork capacity. At the campground we will regroup in the afternoon to press plant collections and exchange field stories, and maybe even have a potluck and photo contest. Foray participants will help collect and press specimens to document the diversity and distribution of plants on the Kootenai. These collaboratively generated data will be added to the flora in Trost's thesis, with specimens held in the Rocky Mountain Herbarium and its publicly accessible database. Get more details and RSVP with Marguerite Trost at etrost@uwyo.edu or 615-925-9497.

Saturday, June 7 - Monitor Survey for *Physaria douglasii* (Eureka). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30+ p.m.

In Montana, Douglas' Bladderpod (*Physaria douglasii*) is documented from only one location. It has been found along the shore of Lake Koocanusa, near Rexford, in NW Montana (<https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=PDBRA220U0>). The site was surveyed in 2019 by several MNPS members and US Forest Service employees. We think it is time to re-check the area. The area is used by motorized vehicles. Hiking is fairly easy, but good boots are always recommended. Meeting place to be determined. For questions and to sign up, contact Jon Reny at 406-334-0459 or jreny@kvis.net.

Saturday June 7 - 494 Bedrock Meadow (Trego). 9:00 a.m. Meet at Murphy Lake Ranger Station. We will be exploring a bed rock meadow in the Salish Mountains. Sign up with Joe Rizzi at 406-334-9583 or joefloriz@gmail.com.



Saturday, June 7 – Wildflowers of the Gallatin Foothills (Bozeman). 9:00 a.m. We'll enjoy the beautiful and plentiful early summer wildflowers at a leisurely pace as we walk up the meadow and then enter the forest beneath Little Mt. Ellis, going east up the old logging road, for a total of 3 - 5 miles. Meet at the Mount Ellis Trailhead off Mount Ellis Lane at 9:00 a.m., and please bring lunch. Those who hike on Mount Ellis (and all state land) should have a Montana Conservation License, available online through Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Contact: Bryce at 775-560-0759 or peasebryce@gmail.com.

Wednesday, June 11 - Restoration of the Butte Hill – Part II: Examination of Restoration Sites Underway (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Dr. Robert Pal, Professor and Director of Restoration at Montana Tech, will guide participants through several key native plant diversification projects in the field to examine specific planting approaches during the program's history, and will discuss the range of successes and problems that this effort has encountered over the past 10 years. For more information and to register, contact Karen Porter at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

Thursday, June 12 - House of Sky Trail above Pattee Canyon (Missoula). 9:00 a.m. Join Annie Garde and let's try a morning hike on the House of Sky trail, a ridgeline trail above Pattee Canyon, opened in 2022. We should see abundant wildflowers and beautiful views of the Bitterroot Range and the Miller Creek Valley. We'll meet at the top of Pattee Canyon (the trailhead for the Sam Braxton trail) on the south side of the road. From there we'll carpool to the House of Sky Trailhead in Deer Creek. The trail has some steep areas but mostly rolls up and down along the ridge. Please bring water and a sandwich or snacks. We can hike as far as we want. The trail is 4.6 miles long and connects to other trails. For more information, contact Annie Garde at 406-274-8648 or anniegarde@yahoo.com.

Saturday, June 14 - Bitterroot Knob (Libby). 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The annual "stroll" to see the state flower (Bitterroot). Jon Reny and Betty Kuropat help guide this leisurely walk down the ridge to the lunch spot overlooking the Kootenai River, with views into the town of Libby and westward towards Troy. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Jon's house (582 Reserve Rd.) and then carpool from there. Please bring a lunch to snack on while we sit and take in the surroundings. For questions and to sign up, contact Jon Reny at 406-334-0459 or jreny@kvis.net.

Wednesday June 18 - Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge (Kalispell). 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join Amy Lisk, Refuge Manager, on a slow-paced walk through the Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge. We will be looking at past and current restoration projects and learn how Amy is combatting the invasive *Ventennata dubia* to protect the endangered Spalding's catchfly on the Refuge. To sign up and obtain information about meeting location and carpooling contact Gunner Davies at gunnerdavies@live.com. Limit of 15 people.

Wednesday, June 18 - The Bees Have It (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join Jessie Salix at a Butte locale to learn the MT Bumble Bee Atlas protocol involving non-lethal bumble bee collection, taking identifying photographs, and releasing the bumble bees. Bring your camera and notebook – or just come to see how it's done. For more information and to register contact Jessie at 406-660-0011 or jessiesalix@hotmail.com.

Friday - Sunday, June 20 - 22 - Prairie Solstice Sojourns: 2025 Montana Native Plant Society Annual Meeting (Ekalaka). The Maka Flora Chapter is pleased to host the 2025 Annual Meeting in the far southeast corner of the state. The longest days of the year provide a great opportunity to immerse ourselves in plants, education and friendship. Carter County is composed of native prairie, ponderosa pine forest, badlands, and wetlands, and hosts a wide diversity of native plants due to the broad range of habitats. You may see coralroot orchids and wintergreens more commonly seen in the mountains; sand-loving plants such as little Indian breadroot and smooth goosefoot; Dakota buckwheat and double bladderpod in badland habitat; and of course iconic



prairie grasses, forbs, and trees, including American elm at the western edge of its range. Our base will be Camp Needmore, 7 miles east of Ekalaka. Register at: <https://mtnativeplants.org/annual-meetings/annual-meeting-2025/annual-meeting-registration/>.

Saturday-Sunday, June 21-22 (pre-May 1 registration for MNPS members) - Edible Wild Plant Foraging and Feasting (South of Dillon). Walk with expert Tomas J. Elpel through grasslands, riparian areas, and mountain sites, learning to identify edible and medicinal plants and the techniques and essential guidelines for ethical foraging. For those not venturing east to the Annual Meeting, Calypso Chapter will again sponsor this Foraging Montana Weekend Workshop presented by Tom. Starting May 1, this two-day class will open to all until full. Families are especially welcome. Limit 20. For more information and to register, visit Tom's website at https://www.greenuniversity.com/Class_Schedule/Foraging_Montana.htm. Tom can be contacted at greenuniversityllc@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 25 - Montana Woodland Garden Tour (Whitefish). 6:30 p.m. Participants are invited to tour approximately two acres of a fenced, private second-year woodland garden in Whitefish Hills. We'll tour the extensive plantings of over 200 different species, many of which are native to Montana, as well as view the raised bed vegetable garden, a 16' x 16' water feature and an 8' x 12' greenhouse. Spots are limited! To sign up, contact: mmoffitt406@gmail.com.

Friday, June 27 - Weed Pull on Pipestone Pass (south of Butte). 8:00 a.m. Under the Adopt a Trailhead Montana Program (AATM), and in partnership with the Butte District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest, Calypso Chapter will conduct our 5th annual weed pull on Pipestone Pass. For information and to register contact Karen Porter at 406-498-9728 or karenporter44@gmail.com.

Friday, June 27 - Weed Rodeo on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River (West Glacier). Help keep noxious weeds from taking over our precious Flathead River! This is the 22nd year of volunteers and West Glacier companies showing they care, all while having fun! Raft companies will take volunteers on the upper portions and private boaters will cover the West Glacier to Blankenship areas. An expert will assist each group with weed identification. All participants will gather in the afternoon at Wild River Adventures in West Glacier for a barbeque and prizes. For questions or to register, email riverweedrodeo@gmail.com or visit: <https://riverweedrodeo.blogspot.com/>.

Saturday, June 28 - Chestnut Mountain Wildflowers (Bozeman). 8:30 a.m. A moderate 5-mile hike just east of Bozeman, climbing from the canyon bottom up to ridgelines with sweeping vistas. The trail passes through a wide variety of habitat types; shrubby hillsides of wild rose, ninebark, and serviceberry; stands of pine and Douglas-fir; and lush alpine meadows bursting with lupine, balsamroot, and paintbrush. We may even find coralroot and fairy slippers hidden in the undergrowth. The trail is out-and-back and there is a decent elevation gain, but we won't be in any hurry and people can turn around whenever they want! Bring good hiking shoes, a sack lunch, and plenty of water. Parking at the trailhead is limited, so we will be carpooling; please meet at the Museum of the Rockies parking lot at 8:30 a.m. RSVP to Allison Rognlie at allison.rognlie@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 28 - Therriault Pass, (Eureka) 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eve Wills, retired Forest Service and professional naturalist guide, will lead this hike which starts on Therriault Pass Road (FS 7120) and climbs 1575 feet to Therriault Pass. The trailhead is 11 miles from the Grave Creek turnoff on highway 93, approximately 10 miles south of Eureka. About half the distance is paved. The trail is a steady climb through forested and open terrain. We will ascend through multiple forest habitat types with a diverse understory which includes beargrass, white rhododendron, Dawson's angelica and many other species. Limit of 12 people. Text Eve Wills at 406-925-0655 or email veinmontana@gmail.com.



July

Monday, July 7- Education to Develop All Senses - What Is It? (Eureka). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Join Julia Higgins for a day of sensory-sharpening techniques. Julia is a German nature educator with a master's degree in outdoor education and is the owner of "Waldlife"- a center for nature-based learning. We will focus on each of our senses separately with the help of different activities like forest meditation, walking barefoot on paths and much more. Limit of 10 people. Please email waldlife@proton.me to sign up and to receive exact location.

Wednesday, July 9 - How to Collect Native Plant Seed (Butte). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Krystal Weilage, Native Plant Specialist at Montana Tech, will engage a small, hands-on group in specific techniques for individual native plant species. Please bring your own collecting envelopes. Limit: 5 - 7. For details and to register, contact Karen Porter at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 10 - Montana Native Seed Network Tour at the DNRC Seedling Nursery (Missoula). 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Join Ashley Mattson and Kylie Brown for a walk through the Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery's native seed fields, greenhouses, seed bank, and more. This tour will showcase the progress of the Nursery's newly expanded operation as the ecoregional native seed production hub for the Montana Native Seed Network. To sign up and for more information contact the nursery at mtnursery@mt.gov or 406-542-4244.

Friday to Thursday, July 11 to 17 - Second Botanical Foray for Kootenai National Forest Floristics Camping Trip (Northwest Montana). Spend several days (exact dates and location flexible, pending participant interest) camping and botanizing as part of a two-summer floristic inventory of the Kootenai National Forest with graduate student Marguerite Trost, and other researchers from the Rocky Mountain Herbarium. Please bring your own camping and hiking gear; floristic fieldwork gear and training provided. We will spread out each morning in groups of 5 - 6 people according to expertise and fieldwork capacity. At the campground we will regroup in the afternoon to press plant collections and exchange field stories. Foray participants will help collect and press specimens to document the diversity and distribution of plants on the Kootenai. These collaboratively generated data will be added to the flora in Trost's thesis, with specimens held in the Rocky Mountain Herbarium and its publicly accessible database. For more details and to RSVP, contact Marguerite Trost at etrost@uwyo.edu or 615-925-9497.

Saturday, July 12 - Miller Creek Wetland and Open Hillides (Libby). 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Join Peter Lesica for his annual plant hike in NW Montana. The wetland is on private property and the owners have granted us permission to visit the site. Waders might be a good thing to bring, along but are not required. After walking the wetland area, we will drive to a trailhead and hike up to south-facing openings that are at 5,000 feet in elevation. Please bring lunch and water. Meeting place to be determined. For questions and to sign up, contact Jon Reny at 406-334-0459 or jreny@kvis.net.

Saturday, July 12 - North Fork Forests & Fire (Columbia Falls). 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Join Steve Wirt, retired USFS forester and fire manager, where he will discuss fire history in this area for the third consecutive trip! Emphasis on plant response, identification, and forest succession before and after fires. There may be an opportunity to view the Hay Creek fire of 2021. Hiking the Hornet Lookout trail will be the highlight of the day. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a sack lunch and plenty of water. Meet at Super One parking lot in Columbia Falls at 9:00 a.m., to carpool up the Northfork of the Flathead River. The trip is limited to 15 people. To sign up contact Steve at 406-261-2542.

Saturday, July 12 - Adventure to Balanced Rock (Sheridan). 11:00 a.m. Tucked away on the west side of the Tobacco Roots and on a somewhat challenging road (no trailers), we'll meet at Balanced Rock Campground for an exploration of trails in the area. We're going sight unseen, but



we know there will be flowers! Plan for a long drive (estimated two hours from Bozeman). We'll meet at 11:00 am at the Balanced Rock Campground: from Sheridan, MT, head east on Mill Creek Road. If you like, camp out the night before at Mill Creek or Balanced Rock campgrounds. Led by Robyn Klein, who will be especially focused on medicinal and edible plant species. Come and adventure with us! For more information, contact Robyn Klein at herbrobin@gmail.com.

Sunday, July 13 - Citizen Botany Field Trip - Rare orchid: Clustered Lady Slipper (St.Regis).

9:00 a.m. to approximately 2:00 p.m. The Citizen Botany Program is a collaborative project between the Montana Native Plant Society and Natural Heritage Program. It's designed to involve volunteers (our "Citizen Botanists") in searching for and documenting rare native plants across the state. Participants help update important records by surveying sites that haven't been visited in 20 years or more. The information they collect supports plant conservation efforts and helps scientists and land managers better understand where these rare species still exist.

Are you curious about becoming a Citizen Botanist? Or already participating but want more? Join botanists Erynn McNeill and Teagan Hayes on a rare plant site revisit looking for Clustered Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) near St. Regis. Please bring snacks and water and be prepared for inclement weather and bushwacking on various terrain. This field trip is limited to 10 participants - please RSVP to erynnmcneill@gmail.com to get on the list and for information on meeting location.

Sunday, July 13, August 10 and September 14 – Prairie Peace Garden Self-Guided Garden Tour (Townsend). 12:00 p.m to 3:00 p.m.

You are invited to Bryan Flynn's site at Private Stock Peonies (AKA Prairie Peace Garden), located a few miles southeast of Townsend. Bryan has created an ever-expanding number of native grass and forb strips in various stages of development, as well as a 500 square-foot xeriscape rock garden he would like to share with MNPS members. There will be a series of self-guided tours on the following Sundays from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.: July 13, August 10, and September 14. The three dates are offered to showcase a broad variety of native plants at different stages of their seasonal development. You are certainly welcome to come on all days if you wish. Bryan will, of course, be on hand to chat with visitors, and some handouts describing various aspects of native gardening will be available. Picnickers are welcome as there are numerous comfortable garden benches with backs as well as tables on the premises. This year he will have plants for sale, contingent on remaining availability, on those dates. You will be asked to sign a liability waiver as you enter the premises. Directions to the site can be found on Bryan's website privatestockpeonies.com.

Saturday, July 19th - Bluebird Lake Loop, (Eureka). 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eve Wills, retired Forest Service and professional naturalist guide, will lead this hike which starts just above Little Therriault Lake, in the Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area. The drive to the trailhead takes about 1.5 hours from the Grave Creek turnoff 10 miles south of Eureka, with approximately 12 miles paved. The remaining 17 miles is gravel, but easily passible for most vehicles. Carpooling will be strongly encouraged. This moderately strenuous loop hike encompasses a wide variety of terrain ranging from cold, moist forest to an alpine lake basin, and scree habitats with stunning views on the Highline Trail. Many showy blooms will be seen such as yellow columbine, paintbrush, mountain heath, asters, arnica, penstemon and many other species. Distance: 7.2 mile loop; elevation gain: 1650 feet. Limit of 12 people. Text Eve Wills at 406-925-0655 or email veinmontana@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 19 - O'Dell Creek Wetland Restoration, Granger Ranch (Ennis). 9:00 a.m.

to 3:00 p.m. View the largest wetland restoration effort in Montana along privately owned O'Dell Creek, a tributary to the Madison River. Through the efforts of Jeff Laszlo and his family, fifth-generation owners of the Granger Ranch just outside Ennis, the ambitious restoration project has transformed miles of heavily-grazed lands and drainage ditches back to the stream's original meandering path. Since the transformation during the early 2000s, the wetlands now provide important habitat for native vegetation, waterfowl, migratory birds, and fish. Wetland



plant specialists will help us identify plants in the riparian areas. Additionally, we will visit the drier, upland river benches to view wildflowers and native grasses. Please bring lunch. For more information on carpooling and navigation guidance, contact Vicki Saab at victoriaannsaab@gmail.com.

Sunday, July 20 – Glories of the Gallatin Range (Bozeman). 9:00 a.m. Join us for this all-day, moderately strenuous, 11-mile hike, climbing 2,200 feet in elevation on a good trail. Starting in lodgepole pine forest, we'll pass by spectacular waterfalls and enjoy coralroots, pipsissewas, twin flowers, and the unique plants across the numerous wetland seeps we traverse. But, we won't want to linger long as the real treat is the wildflowers and sedges that occupy the subalpine around Emerald Lakes! Here we'll spend most of our time enjoying this unique environment's wetland plants, high up in the Gallatin Range. Make sure to bring lunch, snacks, and gear for all weather conditions. Meet at the Hyalite welcome center: <https://g.co/kgs/UNk6jnM>, just above the mouth of the canyon, at 9:00 a.m. For information, contact Jared Trilling at jaredtrilling@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 24 - A Night of Fun with Moths (Location TBA). Evening or overnight. It's not just the bees ... Montana's native moths have an outsized role in pollinating our native plants. Join moth expert Nick Tucci at a campground location (TBD) to observe the spectacular numbers and diversity of our native moths during evening and nighttime hours. Late into the night and early morning, Nick will employ various light traps and screens for attracting and observing, with no harm to the moths. Come for the evening only, or plan to camp. All are welcome. For details and to register contact Karen Porter at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

August

Saturday, August 2 – Standard Peak (Columbia Falls). 8:00 a.m. Strenuous, 6-mile round trip hike with 2,000 ft. of elevation gain. We'll look for late season alpine flowers and observe senescence on this beautiful but challenging hike. Contact Andrew at andrew.p.smith95@gmail.com to sign up and to learn the meeting location. Limited to 10 people.

Saturday, August 9 - Northwest Peak Scenic Area (Yaak). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30+ p.m. Hike to Northwest Peak in Lincoln County to visit whitebark pine and subalpine larch habitats. Chris Reichert and Betty Kuropat, retired Forest Service silviculturists, will lead this moderate 3 - 4 mile round-trip hike. This will be a good time to visit the beautiful Northwest Peak Scenic area, find blooming wildflowers in the subalpine zone, and discuss efforts to conserve whitebark pine. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring rain gear, a lunch and plenty of water. Meet at the parking area at the junction of Pete Creek Road #338 and Yaak Highway 508 at 9:30 a.m. or at the Troy Museum parking area at 8:30 a.m. to carpool from Troy. The drive to the trailhead is about 60 miles from Troy. Sign up with Chris at 406-291-8324 or reichert.chris9@gmail.com.

Sunday, August 10 and September 14 – Prairie Peace Garden Self-Guided Garden Tour (Townsend). 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. You are invited to Bryan Flynn's site at Private Stock Peonies (AKA Prairie Peace Garden), located a few miles southeast of Townsend. Bryan has created an ever-expanding number of native grass and forb strips in various stages of development, as well as a 500 square-foot xeriscape rock garden he would like to share with MNPS members. There will be a series of self-guided tours on the following Sundays from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.: July 13, August 10, and September 14. The three dates are offered to showcase a broad variety of native plants at different stages of their seasonal development. You are certainly welcome to come on all days if you wish. Bryan will, of course, be on hand to chat with visitors, and some handouts describing various aspects of native gardening will be available. Picnickers are welcome as there are numerous comfortable garden benches with backs as well as tables on the premises. This year he will have plants for sale, contingent on remaining availability, on those dates. You will be asked to sign a liability waiver as you enter the premises. Directions to the site can be found on Bryan's website privatestockpeonies.com.



Saturday, August 16 - Huckleberry Ecology with Maria Mantas (Swan Valley). Take a hike in the Swan Range to observe and discuss the ecology of *Vaccinium globulare* (or is it *V. membranaceum*?) We can talk about taxonomy too! Bring a container. Location to be announced. Call Maria for details at 406-407-2045.

Thursday, August 21 - Converting Lawns using Native Plants (Whitefish). 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join Center for Native Plants & Kareen Erbe of Broken Ground where we'll take you through the steps to establish your drought tolerant native-landscape all while removing your lawn! Learn the tips and tricks from tried-and-true methods, species to consider, layout, maintenance and everything in between. Registration required at www.centerfornativeplants.com beginning May, 12.

September

Sunday, September 14 – Prairie Peace Garden Self-Guided Garden Tour (Townsend). 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. You are invited to Bryan Flynn's site at Private Stock Peonies (AKA Prairie Peace Garden), located a few miles southeast of Townsend. Bryan has created an ever-expanding number of native grass and forb strips in various stages of development, as well as a 500 square-foot xeriscape rock garden he would like to share with MNPS members. There will be a series of self-guided tours on the following Sundays from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.: July 13, August 10, and September 14. The three dates are offered to showcase a broad variety of native plants at different stages of their seasonal development. You are certainly welcome to come on all days if you wish. Bryan will, of course, be on hand to chat with visitors, and some handouts describing various aspects of native gardening will be available. Picnickers are welcome as there are numerous comfortable garden benches with backs as well as tables on the premises. This year he will have plants for sale, contingent on remaining availability, on those dates. You will be asked to sign a liability waiver as you enter the premises. Directions to the site can be found on Bryan's website privatestockpeonies.com.

October

Sunday, October 19 - Dyeing with Native Plants – A Hands-on Educational Workshop (Divide). 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Co-hosted with the US Forest Service, this workshop will guide participants in developing a dye notebook using various plant dye materials including lichens, bark, flowers and berries. Participants may purchase a silk scarf (for a small fee paid at the time) to dye, or bring small samples of their own fabrics. For details and to register, contact Jessie at 406-660-0011 or jessica.salix@usda.gov.

December

Sunday, December 7 - Calypso Chapter Annual Potluck and Planning Brunch (Divide). 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will gather at the Divide Grange to celebrate the season, enjoy a meal together, and plan the trips and events we will offer in 2025. For more information contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

For additional field trips across Montana, including wildflower-focused hikes, visit the Wild Montana website: <https://wildmontana.org/events/>.



A small logo consisting of a stylized plant stem with a single leaf and a small flower or seed head.

MONTANA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY

MARIA MANTAS
MNPS MEMBERSHIP
13786 RIDGE LOOP ROAD
BIGFORK, MT 59911

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED