



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MINUTES MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY WINTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; Saturday, March 9, 2025 via Zoom

Online Attendees: Robert Pal (Co-President), Dave Hanna (Co-President), Kenda Herman (Vice President), Laurie Kruth (Treasurer), Camie Westfall (Secretary), Leah Grunzke (Administrative Assistant), Scott Guse (Newsletter Co-Editor), Jen Guse (Newsletter Co-Editor), Carol Goffe (Webmaster), Maria Mantas (Membership Chair), Alex Brown (MNPS Presents), Patrick Plantenberg (Past President), Mark Majerus (Landscaping and Revegetation Committee), Rachel Potter (Flathead Chapter Representative), Kelsey Malloy (Eastern At Large Representative), Elena Johnson (Kelsey Chapter Representative), Teagan Hayes (Clark Fork Chapter Representative), Karen Porter (Calypso Chapter Representative), Libby Knotts (Maka Flora Representative), Gretchen Rupp (Valley of Flowers Representative).

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda, Announcements – Robert Pal

- Agenda additions
- Meeting logistics

2. Secretary's Report – Camie Westfall

- Approve minutes from Fall Board of Directors (Board) meeting

Motion: Gretchen Rupp moved that we approve the fall minutes as revised, Patrick Plantenberg seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

- Board member contact updates - Please review and send corrections to Camie
- Call for by-law changes. Reminder: Bylaw changes must be approved by the general membership at the annual meeting. The bylaws don't necessarily need formal Board approval, but we should have consensus and agreement as a Board that these are supported bylaw amendments.
 - Discussion about proposed bylaw changes, which are mainly minor changes to the Board position descriptions; they are not controversial and clarify language about how MNPS should operate.
 - Discussion about online voting instead of voice vote at annual meeting. Also discussion about how to add a short summary blurb to the spring Kelsey newsletter for membership awareness, as well as how to add voting for or against the bylaw changes on the physical or online ballots, and posting a link to the proposed bylaw changes on the website.
 - **Motion:** Robert Pal moved in favor of the proposed bylaw updates and in favor of voting being carried out by electronic and mail in ballot while the membership is voting on the Board positions. No more discussion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.
 - Camie will prepare blurb for Spring Kelsey newsletter and work with Jen Guse and Carol Goffe on the ballot design for the newsletter and the website electronic ballot.
 - Camie will provide PDF version of the proposed bylaw changes to be posted on the website for the membership to view, consider, and vote on.

3. Treasurer's Report –Laurie Kurth

- 2024 Budget Update
 - We ended 2024 with a combined total of \$84,853.14 from all accounts with \$11,376.71 in the checking account, \$65,541.14 in the savings account, and \$7,935.29 in the Grants and Giving Fund.
- Review proposed budget for 2025 and funding requests from Chapters and Committees
 - Board gave permission to move funds across accounts and into CD savings accounts. Laurie moved some funds into a six-month CD which are now earning interest.
 - Discussion about Zoom versus Google Meet. Laurie added a line to the budget to pay for Google Business account level for a trial period to test out Google Meet.
 - Approval of the 2025 budget occurred at the end of the meeting.
- Other items
 - Laurie got Calypso Chapter set up for direct deposit. Laurie will get Leah and Jen set up for direct deposit.
 - Laurie asked if the Chapter Treasurers would like to have a meeting with Laurie to discuss some of the common issues or questions. Rachel said that there would probably be interest. Laurie will reach out to Chapter Representatives or Treasurers to see if there is interest.

4. Newsletter Editors Report - Scott Guse and Jen Hintz Guse

- Deadline reminders, items for the spring newsletter
 - Deadline for submissions for the Spring Kelseyia newsletter is Monday, March 10th with an April 1 publication date.
 - Deadline for submissions for the Field Trip Guide is Thursday, April 10th with a May 1 publication date.
 - Jen had a question about the status of the Grants and Giving Committee, and if there are any additions to this Kelseyia newsletter. Grants and Giving Committee will have updates in a future Kelseyia newsletter.
 - Jen had a question about publishing an article discussing a Review of the Conservation Strategy. Gretchen discussed that conservation is an important aspect of MNPS, and she thinks it's important to include a summary or review of the entire Conservation Strategy document.
 - Scott Guse thanks us for responding to their needs and requests for content. Scott wants us to think about people to interview or be featured
 - Robert suggested maybe Chapter Presidents or Representatives be featured or highlighted occasionally.
 - Gretchen suggested the Awardees be featured after the Annual Meeting.
 - Carol suggested Peter Lesica be featured as the first one. Also, Carol suggested featuring the original MNPS founders.
 - Gretchen asked if Scott and Jen feel like they are adequately compensated for their efforts.
Motion: Patrick Plantenberg moved that we give Leah Grunzke (Administrative Assistant) and Scott and Jen Guse a 10% increase in compensation.
 - Amended to include just the Newsletter Editors as the Administrative Assistant contract is already approved and final for 2025.
 - Rachel and Gretchen seconded as amended. All voted in favor. Motion carries.
 - Laurie will add that in to the 2025 proposed budget for payment of \$4,400 for Newsletter Editing.

5. Membership Report - Maria Mantas

- Membership Report
 - Membership Update

- March 1 is the start of a new membership year.
 - Reminder for Chapters and to look at the volunteer check box on the monthly Membership spreadsheet.
 - New Brochure – approve new version for printing.
 - The new version is in the Board meeting material folder. If you have comments and edits, get them to Maria by April 1.
 - Membership Database migration to new platform
 - Little Green Light is one of the programs being considered to place the Membership database. The cost would be about \$486 per year for a membership of our size.
 - Maria is looking for a new database that automatically updates or populates when someone joins or renews.
 - Question for Board: Are we ok with moving to a more efficient membership tracking platform. Is the Board ok with Laurie, Carol, Leah, and Maria doing more research and deciding on the better option. Rachel asked if Montana Nonprofit Association would be a resource to ask about common membership tracking platforms used by other nonprofits or if we could ask more questions to the Flathead Audubon about their research and why they ultimately selected Little Green Light. Maria will call the person at Flathead Audubon and ask him these questions.
 - Maria will set up a meeting with Laurie, Carol, and Leah to discuss in more depth after she's done some more research.
 - **Motion:** Carol Goffe moves that we include \$500 as a new line item in the 2025 Budget for purchase of Little Green Light. Robert Pal seconded.
 - Sending Mass emails to Chapters or entire membership
 - Reminder to give Maria and Leah at least one week heads-up if you would like them to send out a mass email to the membership. Provide the text and any additional important attachments to them when requesting a mass email be sent out.
 - Chapter Area Map (finalize)
 - No changes since the last publishing of the map. Email Maria if you would like changes; she will accept comments until April 1.
 - Possible new Chapter in Hot Springs
 - Someone approached Maria about the requirements for creating a new MNPS Chapter in Hot Springs; there is a group of people who are already meeting and discussing native landscaping and gardening. Maria gave them the information for how to apply to the Board to create a new Chapter.
- Donations Update
 - Donations update
 - 2024 Donations: \$11,590 from 144 donations.
 - 2025 Donations to date: \$9,316 from 73 donations.
 - Giving Tuesday Summary
 - Shout out to Patrick for his \$1,000 donation at Giving Tuesday.
 - Because of end of year timing, it's difficult to determine how much is brought in from Giving Tuesday.
 - \$5,000 gift from Vanguard Charitable, in memory of Robert N. Reynolds.
 - Laurie said this came through on the Pay Pal Giving, so there were no fees associated with this donation.
 - Discuss about forming a Development Committee which would be a Standing Committee that would coordinate donation solicitations and donation tracking and management. Carol and Robert agree there is a need because these duties are typically heaped onto the Membership Chairperson duties.

- Maria has volunteered to chair this committee if no one steps up. Kelsey Malloy and Laurie Kurth and Carol Goffe volunteered to be on the committee. Laurie said the Development Committee should start as an ad hoc or exploratory committee for now to put together a proposal to bring the Board at a future date to include in the Board Handbook and get approval to be designated as a Standing Committee.
Motion: Robert moved that an ad hoc/exploratory committee be formed to put together a proposal for the formation of a new Standing Committee to bring to the Board. Board Approves. All voted in favor. Motion carries.
 - Karen discussed the possibility of separating the financial aspects of the Board from the other Committees and Karen doesn't think we should be spending so much time developing the Budget at each Board meeting. Discussion and recommendation that committees meet as small groups and creating proposals or structured questions to bring to the Board for approval, and which would create fewer longer discussions involving the entire Board during the (already lengthy) Board meetings.
- Gretchen brought up that since the re-forming of the Artemisia Chapter, we have not had a representative of Artemisia Chapter present or a Chapter report at Board meetings.
 - Maka Flora/Libby can ask them if they have someone who can lead a field trip. Robert will call the Chapter Representative and see how things are going and if the Chapter is active and remind them that they should have a representative participate on the Board or have a Chapter report uploaded to the Board meeting folder.

6. Webmaster Report - Carol Goffe/Bob Person

- Website updates
 - Leah has been doing a great job keeping the website calendar updated. Please send updates about events or presentation to Leah and Carol.
 - Leah says thank you to everyone sending events for the calendar. This is very helpful for them to not have to go chase down these events. Leah would like folks to send in more photos (with descriptions) for the events. For social media, Leah also requests we send a recap of how many people attended or the highlights of the event.
 - Carol moved the YouTube and Zoom accounts to the Google Workspace account. Ask Carol if you have issues accessing the accounts.
 - Google Workspace, non-profit account cannot record meetings in Google Meet, as previously thought. (See Carol's report in the Board meeting folder.)
 - Questions and discussions from Alex Brown about comparison of Zoom versus Google Meet and user friendliness and familiarity.
 - Leah commented that there would be a bit of a learning curve for viewers. Also when we advertise the presentations, we should be a little more mindful about the language used (not say "Zoom", instead say "virtual presentation").
 - Robert discussed that we shouldn't cancel the Zoom account quite yet until we are sure we like the functionality of Google Meet.
 - Kenda agrees that we should keep Zoom and continue to test out Google Meet under the Business level of Google Workspace. The expense is not that much to have both while we are researching, testing, and comparing.
 - We will need to ultimately decide between keeping the Zoom account and using Google Workspace for non-profits (free) for other MNPS Board activities or paying for Google Workspace for Business for everything (and eliminate the Zoom account expense). Carol will continue researching and present her recommendation to the Board in the fall.
 - Carol requests that Chapters or Board members update the lists of active native plant gardens on the website. She would like more feedback and information.

- Carol requests that we add a webpage and header for Education. Maria agrees and thinks we can add lots more resources and links to build out that page. Karen agrees that we should add an Education header/webpage.
- We should all take a look at the website and make suggestions and send feedback.
 - Fill out Carol's survey about the website and suggestions. Share this with two other members. Carol will send around the survey for the Board.
 - Dave suggested that Carol have a working session meeting with interested Board members. Kenda would like to be on the list of folks looking at the website.

7. 2025 Annual Meeting Update - Libby Knotts

- Current plans, budget needs, etc.
 - Dates are: Friday, June 20 to Sunday June, 22
 - Theme for the meeting: Prairie Solstice Sojourns
 - A local artist is working on the logo.
 - Seven field trips are already planned, and more being developed.
 - Libby has contacted the Carter County Museum to see if their paleontologist is interested in speaking to the group.
 - Two workshops planned: a Citizen Botany demo survey and Bumble Bee Atlas survey.
 - Libby reserved the camp for Thursday, 6/19 because of the distance, but she does not want to start a precedent of making the annual meeting longer.
- The \$5,000 loan is plenty, and they don't request any additional funds.
- Question if MNPS (at the state level) wants to make money from the Annual Meeting? Does the State want to take any income from the Annual Meeting, or should it go back to the Chapter?
 - Dave said that we should try to keep registration amounts as low as possible in order for more people to be able to attend.
 - Maria said MNPS as the state level doesn't really need the income or fundraising.
 - Board agreed any profits after the \$5,000 loan is paid back can go back to the hosting Chapter.

8. Standing Committee Reports

- Conservation - Elizabeth Bergstrom
 - Citizen Botany – Kenda Herman / Dave Hanna
 - Carol created and published an information webpage about Citizen Botany.
 - Small meetings were held with stakeholders. Andrea Pipp and Dave Hanna pursued coordinating with the Montana Department of Agriculture and AmeriCorps to have a part time position for the Citizen Botany Coordinator. This is an excellent solution for 2025 and we will have to explore other/new options in future years.
 - Montana Natural Heritage Program explored many philanthropic organizations that could possibly help fund, administer, and sustain the Citizen Botany Project in the future.
 - Patrick suggested that our Board possibly set aside in future budgets an amount to help annually fund it as well.
 - Cost share amount for the position would be \$3,000 for this year. MNPS would get an invoice from Montana Department of Agriculture. We originally proposed \$5,000 for the 2025 budget, so this would be less money than originally planned to help fund this position and program.
 - The Montana Department of Agriculture would facilitate the contract and do the administrative work for the Citizen Botany Coordinator position. Andrea Pipp is willing to supervise the position.
 - Training 30-40 new Citizen Botanists that will be operating this year.
 - There will be a Citizen Botany Workshop at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

- Publication printing question to Kenda about printing the Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy document. Discussion about it being a working document, and it may not be worth it to print it. Kenda will check with Andrea and if there is interest in printing it, perhaps it can come from Federal partner funding/publication sources.
 - *Spiranthes diluvialis* - Removal of Ute Ladies'-Tresses from the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants / Robert Pal
 - A letter was sent on behalf of MNPS as well as a combine letter of support with Colorado and Idaho to the USFWS with the recommendation that the USFWS postpone the decision to possibly delist *Spiranthes diluvialis* to a future date.
 - New chair/ co-chair nominations
 - Gretchen said they have not had success getting a new chair for this committee.
 - Elizabeth is willing to take on things for the Gallatin/Ennis area of the state.
 - Discussion about Chapters or regional members doing the conservation work.
 - Jennifer Lyman is still willing to help with the Beartooth Plateau issues.
 - Gretchen suggested that she, Patrick, and Elizabeth draft a memo to the Chapter Representatives requesting conservation issues and project be monitored at the Chapter level instead of the state Conservation Committee level. Then Chapter Representatives should get in touch with Peter Lesica or Robert if they need technical assistance responding to conservation issues on behalf of MNPS.
 - Patrick asked if anyone is monitoring what is happening at the 2025 Legislature and if there are impacts to native plants. We should be aware of what's happening and possibly submit comments.
 - Next Plant Conservation Conference will be held in Missoula in 2026 and Clark Fork Chapter will help put that conference on.
 - Kenda is going to the Native Plant Symposium on March 30th at the Audubon Center in Billings. Artemisia Chapter is planning on hosting a table at this event and Kenda is asking if we have a banner, brochures, or stickers or anything to give out to people. Kenda will reach out to Jen Guse about copies of past Kelsey newsletters; Kenda will also reach out to Kelsey Chapter for brochures and the banner.
 - Question about an update on the Threats List and if that should be updated on the website and who is in charge of those updates. Possibly check with Scott Mincemoyer.
 - Herbarium Gift Question about if Peter visited with other herbaria. Robert said that there are probably three herbaria in the picture for possibly getting funds (MSU, UM, and Billings).
- Landscaping and Revegetation Committee – Patrick Plantenberg/Mark Majerus
 - DNRC Conservation Seedling Nursery has been adding several new native plants that they are collecting
 - The Conservation Seedling Nursery is requesting assistance collecting native species seeds in both east and west of the divide.
 - There is a proof of the Landscaping Brochure in the Board meeting folder. This Landscaping brochure would be useful to have for various tabling events. Board approved printing of 2000 copies at \$598.
 - 2025 Gold Country Master Gardener Symposium is coming up on Saturday, April 5 at Carroll College in Helena. Mark Majerus will be doing a presentation about identification and appreciation of native grasses.
 - Patrick requests that Leah help update the Native Plant Source Guide.
 - Discussion about native plant gardens and their importance to maintain them and also view and be aware of challenges or failures.

- Ward Six Native Plant Garden in Helena has been updated and maintained by Mark Majerus with assistance from a few Kelsey Chapter members. There are 125 species with informational signs.
- Grants and Giving Committee – Leah Grunzke
 - New chair /co-chair nomination
 - No updates on filling this position.
 - They would like to have more people on the Grants and Giving Committee; it's preferable to have 5-7 on the Grants sub-program.
 - Grants and Giving policy review/approval

Motion: Patrick Plantenberg moved that we accept the Grants and Giving Program Policy and Procedures as the final operating document. Gretchen seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carries.
 - Scholarships: They are currently soliciting, and there have been 23 applications
 - The Committee feels strongly about supporting the scholarships and education and give out five academic scholarships at \$1,000 (\$5,000 total) and five professional development scholarships at \$500 each (\$2,500 total). The remainder of the Grants and Giving Fund would be given to Grants sub-program (\$10,000 total).
 - Maria asked if the Committee has discussed allocation of Board Gifts in the breakout of the donation funds.
 - Maria reminded the Board that the Board can change and move more money or pull more money back as needed. The Board can also gift money as needed.
 - All Board members were in favor of putting the proposed allocations in the 2025 Budget for Grants and Giving Fund.
 - There will be one round of grants, which will be advertised in the fall.
 - Maria is wondering if Clark Fork Chapter is soliciting their own grants. Maria will reach out to Teagan and see if there is a way to coordinate with the state level Grants and Giving Committee.

9. Other Business

- Administrative Assistant update – Maria Mantas
 - Things are going very well. Leah is doing a great job.
 - We have around 7,000 people in our social media audience. Leah requests that everyone send job announcements and good items for social media to her.
- Montana Nonprofit Association liaison – Bob Person, Laurie Kurth, Robert Pal
 - Bob had agreed to be the liaison between Montana Nonprofit Association and MNPS. We need to find a new liaison because Bob would like to step down from this role for MNPS.
 - Maria asked if we are a paid member of Montana Nonprofit Association.
 - Karen and Maria vaguely remember a discussion about this several years ago and the decisions may have been that we didn't find membership as meaningful to continue.
 - Robert will talk with Bob and suggest that he unsubscribe from notifications and emails.
 - Dave suggested that possibly the Secretary or Treasurer sign up for the newsletters and possibly forward information on to other Board members as necessary.
- April 2025 National Native Plant Month - David Hanna
 - MNPS has been supporting the month of April being designated by US Congress as National Native Plant Month since 2021. Dave will let Jen Guse know if it passes this year, so it can be included in the spring Kelsey newsletter.
- 2026 Annual Meeting - Gretchen Rupp
 - Annual meeting will be hosted by Valley of Flowers and will be held June 26-28, 2026 at Homestake Lodge, near Butte.

10. Ad Hoc Committees

- 2025 Nominating Committee report – Gretchen Rupp
 - Robert Pal (incumbent) running for President
 - Laurie Kurth (incumbent) is running for Treasurer
 - John Reny (incumbent) is running for Western At Large
- MNPS Presents! Spring Programs– Alex Brown
 - Last Program of the season is Tuesday, March 11th.
 - She is appreciative of Beth Madden in helping keep the program on track and big thank you to Leah for advertising and getting the word out.
 - Next season Alex will start tracking and comparing the number of registrants versus the number of attendees.

11. Areas-at-Large and Chapter Reports - Chapter Reps

- See the reports that were submitted by Chapters in the Board meeting folder.

12. Wrap-up – all (2:20)

- Vote to approve the 2025 Budget as amended and recorded on the spreadsheet.
Motion: Gretchen Rupp moved that we accept the budget as amended. Robert Pal seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carries.
- The Summer Board meeting is usually the Friday evening of Annual Meeting, 6/20). This will be confirmed, and notice will be sent out as the Annual Meeting approaches.

Adjourn at 2:50pm.



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

*This is the current copy of the By-laws as revised in June 2016. Reformatted December 2017.
Proposed 2025 revisions are noted in red text.*

BY-LAWS OF THE MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Adopted 4-30-88

Article I. Name

Section 1. This corporation shall be named and known as the Montana Native Plant Society, Inc.

Article II. Purpose

The purposes of the Montana Native Plant Society shall be as follows:

The preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and plant communities of Montana and the education of the public to the values of the native flora and its habitat.

To be a non-profit corporation organized under the Montana Non-profit Corporation Act.

To be organized exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

To engage, to the extent not inconsistent with the purposes set forth, in other activities not prohibited by law.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be open to any person who agrees with the purposes of this organization as stated in Article II.

Section 2. No persons shall be denied membership due to sex, creed, color, religion, or national origin.

Section 3. Membership categories and dues shall be set by the Board.

Article IV. Governance

Section 1. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation and these By-laws shall control the affairs of the Society.

- Section 2. The Society shall be governed in its affairs by a Board of Directors. Only persons who are members of the Society may be Board members.
- Section 3. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and East and West Directors-at-Large who are elected by the general membership. The Board of Directors also includes the Past-President and a designated representative of each Chapter. Finally, the Board of Directors includes the Newsletter Editor(s), Webmaster, Membership Chairperson, and the Standing Committee Chairpersons. The Newsletter Editor(s), Webmaster, Membership Chairperson, and the Standing Committee Chairpersons are appointed by a majority vote of the Board. All Board members listed above are voting members.
- Section 4. Each individual member within a category of membership shall be accorded one vote for the purposes of electing officers or acting on any other matters properly brought before the membership.
- Section 5. The President and the Board of Directors, when acting in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and these By-laws may speak and act on behalf of the membership of the Society.
- Section 6. Non-Liability of Directors. The Directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the Corporation.
- Section 7. Indemnification of Corporation of Directors and Officers. The Directors and Officers of the Corporation shall be indemnified by the Corporation to the fullest extent permissible under the laws of the state of Montana.

Article V. Officers and Board Members

- Section 1. The Society shall have the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2. All officers and Board members shall serve two-year terms of office. Any officer or Board member may serve successive terms if duly elected and/or approved by the Board of Directors. The President, Treasurer, and West Director-at-Large positions should be rotated at one time (odd years); the Secretary, Vice-President, and East Director-at-Large at the other (even years).
- Section 3. The President shall serve as the presiding officer of the Society, perform such duties as are usually performed by a president, and perform such duties as the Board of Directors may direct. The President shall preside over the regular Board Meetings and **Annual Membership Meeting**. The President shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of meeting agendas and any notices and materials as may be appropriate for distribution to the Board of Directors or Society members in general. The President, subject to review by the Board of Directors, may delegate to other officers or persons chosen by the President responsibilities for Society activities. The President may speak and act on behalf of the Society in such matters as the Board may authorize or direct. **The President shall be an additional signatory on State Society financial accounts.**
- Section 4. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President and shall perform additional functions as required. The Vice-President shall become President immediately if the President vacates the office before the end of the President's current term. The Vice-President upon assuming the Presidency shall serve as President until the end of the

current term. The Vice-President shall receive and present reports on behalf of Board members who are absent from Board meetings.

- Section 5. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the transactions of the Society, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, and disbursements. The Treasurer shall deposit all moneys and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Society as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, shall render to the President and Directors whenever they request an account of all transactions and of the financial condition of the Society. The Treasurer shall prepare a budget for approval at the Fall Board meeting. The Treasurer shall make required filings with the IRS to maintain Society 501(c)3 status **and for contracted work agreements**. The fiscal year of the Society shall be from January 1 to December 31. The Treasurer shall store all current Society financial records and dispose of them based on the approved record retention schedule and IRS timelines. **The Treasurer shall ensure the signatories on the State Society financial accounts are up to date.**
- Section 6. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, with the time and place of holding, and shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall prepare such directives and other documents as are needed and authorized by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall maintain a notebook of Society policies, procedures, guidelines, and other information as needed. The Secretary shall track other miscellaneous information on awards, funding proposals including small grants, annual meeting locations, membership, and other information over time for historical purposes. The Secretary shall provide a copy of records of the Society's activities annually to the University of Montana, Mansfield Library. The Secretary shall store all current Society records and dispose of them based on the approved record retention schedule.
- Section 7. A vacancy in the office of Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer shall be filled by a person selected by majority vote of the Board of Directors. An officer thus elected shall hold the office until the end of the current term.
- Section 8. Each officer or member of the Board, appointed or elected, upon the expiration of their term or the termination of their duties for any other reason, shall deliver to their successor the records of the office.
- Section 9. If a written grievance is filed with the Board against a Board member, the Board must act on the grievance at the next scheduled Board meeting. The Board member may respond to the grievance at that time.
- Section 10. A member of the Board of Directors can be terminated by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board.
- Section 11. Officer and Board positions may be co-chaired by two people during the same term where the position duties would be shared. Individuals sharing a position on the Board must be elected or appointed together. Co-chaired positions will have one (1) Board vote.**

Article VI. Elections

- Section 1. The election of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and East and West Directors-at-Large shall be conducted by ballot prior to the annual meeting.

Each member of the Society shall have a ballot mailed or electronically sent to him or her. The ballot will be accompanied by biographical information on the nominees.

- Section 2. A nomination committee selected by the President, with Board of Directors approval, shall provide a list of nominees for each office and Board position that is to be elected at the general election.
- Section 3. All nominees shall have equal opportunity to provide biographical information and statements to the membership by such means as may be made available.
- Section 4. The officers or Board members elected are those persons who shall receive the most votes of the membership voting.

Article VII. Meetings

- Section 1. At least one general membership meeting shall be held annually for the purpose of announcing the outcome of the elections, for voting on By-law changes, and for adopting an annual budget. This meeting shall be designated as the annual meeting.
- Section 2. The Board of Directors shall conduct a Board of Directors meeting at the time of the annual meeting. Additional Board meetings may be held at such times and places as the President or the Board of Directors directs.
- Section 3. The membership of the society shall be provided with effective and timely notice of the time, place, and agenda of any membership meetings.
- Section 4. The Board of Directors shall be given notice of the call of Board meetings in the manner that it directs.
- Section 5. Board of Directors meetings shall be open to the attendance of any member of the Society.
- Section 6. Official business of the Board of Directors may be conducted by telephone, mail, or electronic format provided that each Board member is informed by the President of the matter to be considered and is provided the opportunity to comment and vote on any item of business requiring a vote of the Board of Directors.
- Section 7. Representation of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of the business of the Society.
- Section 8. The President and Treasurer shall at the annual meeting present a report to the Board of Directors on the financial status of the Society and the activities of the Society.

Article VIII. Finances

- Section 1. The accounting of the Society shall be on a cash basis.
- Section 2. All checks drawn against Society funds shall be signed by the President, Treasurer, or such other persons as the Board of Directors may designate.
- Section 3. Costs incurred by the President or other persons acting in an authorized manner on behalf of the Society may be reimbursed from Society funds if approved by the Board of

Directors. The Treasurer shall provide the Board of Directors with an accounting of all such expenditures.

- Section 4. The Board of Directors may raise monies to be used for the activities of the Society in any manner which is in accordance with its status as a non-profit corporation, applicable laws, the Articles of Incorporation, and these By-laws.
- Section 5. All income received by the Society shall be applied only to such purposes as are in accordance with its status as a non-profit corporation, applicable laws, the Articles of Incorporation, and these By-laws. No part of any income received shall go to the benefit of any officer, Board member, or any other person.
- Section 6. In the event of the dissolution of the Society all remaining assets shall be disbursed in accordance with applicable laws and the Articles of Incorporation.

Article IX. Committees

- Section 1. The Board of Directors may designate such standing and ad hoc committees as are appropriate and necessary for the conduct of the business and activities of the Society.
- Section 2. The President may appoint with the approval of the Board of Directors persons to chair or sit on such committees as the Board of Directors may designate.
- Section 3. The chairpersons and committees may act and speak on behalf of the Society only as may be authorized by the President and the Board of Directors.

Article X. Chapter Organization

- Section 1. A group of ten or more persons, members of the Society, may organize a chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society upon approval of the Board of Directors. A written request addressed to the Board of Directors for recognition as a chapter shall be mailed to the President to initiate the process.
- Section 2. Each chapter, as the Board of Directors may authorize, shall be designated "**Montana Native Plant Society, _____ Chapter.**" No acronyms will be used in text.
- Section 3. Members of each chapter shall elect their own officers, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer). All election results shall be promptly reported to the Secretary of the Society.
- Section 4. Duties of the chapter officers shall be those usually associated with the offices.
- Section 5. Each local chapter shall designate a representative to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Montana Native Plant Society.
- Section 6. All members of a local chapter must be members of the Society and are entitled to all the privileges pertaining thereto.
- Section 7. Local chapters are authorized to adopt their own By-laws, not inconsistent with those of the Society.
- Section 8. Each chapter is encouraged to have its own programs and educational activities.

- Section 9. Publications, reports of meetings, chapter news, and items for publication should be sent to the President or Newsletter Editor(s) of the Society.
- Section 10. No chapter or affiliated society, or any officer or member thereof, except with approval of the Board of Directors, shall have power to act for the Society in any official manner, financially or otherwise.
- Section 11. Meetings of the members of local chapters shall be held not less than four times annually, the dates, time, and place to be decided by the local officers.
- Section 12. Chapters may apply for grants and other funding using the Montana Native Plant Society 501(c)(3) status with Board of Directors approval. Grant funds will be deposited in the State Treasury. Chapters will pay all grant expenses out of the Chapter Treasury. Chapter Treasurers will be responsible for all record keeping and reporting to the granting agencies. When the grant record keeping and reporting is approved by the funding organization, the Montana Native Plant Society will reimburse the local Chapter Treasury. If grant record keeping and reporting do not meet with funding organization approval, the local Chapter will not be reimbursed for the losses by the Society.
- Section 13. The Board of Directors may dissolve a chapter that it finds is not fulfilling the intent of the Society in establishing the chapter. The Board will develop and maintain a Chapter dissolution policy and list it on the Society Webpage.

Article XI. Amendments

- Section 1. These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at the annual meeting or of those members returning ballots within 30 days of ballot **delivery**.

Article XII. Adoption

- Section 1. These By-laws initially shall be adopted by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. The By-laws as adopted by the Board of Directors shall be presented to the members at the next annual meeting to be considered for ratification. The By-laws must be ratified for final adoption by majority vote of the members present at that annual meeting or by a mail poll of the membership requiring a two-thirds vote of ballots returned within 30 days of ballot mailing.
- Section 2. These By-laws shall be in full force and effect immediately upon their adoption as set forth in Section 1.

Article XIII. Society Newsletter

- Section 1. The Society shall publish a Newsletter four times a year on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. The Newsletter will be numbered by Volume and Issue. The Field Trip Booklet will be published by May 1.
- Section 2. The Newsletter may be produced by a paid publisher, but the Newsletter Editor(s) will be a member of the MNPS and be responsible for approval of articles used in the Newsletter.

END

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY -- RECORD OF BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

March 2011 update, revised and reformatted December 2017
The following has been excerpted from MNPS minutes.

October 22, 1988 (FALL BOARD MEETING)

Specific language on terms of election needed.

Anne Bradley proposed:

Two of the officers should serve one more year and the other two should be up for election at the next annual meeting (Spring 1989), and that the President and Treasurer positions should be rotated at one time, the Secretary and Vice-President at the other.

President/Treasurer -- Spring 1989 (odd years)

Vice-President/Secretary -- Spring 1990 (even years)

Nomination committee will consist of one person from each chapter

Two non-voting Directors-at-Large will be chosen from areas that do not have chapters. One from the eastern part of the state. One from the western part of the state.

By-laws amendment to be presented at annual meeting

May 6, 1989 (GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, HELENA)

General membership meeting adopted two amendments. No record of amendments in minutes or files.

Motion made by Jan Nixon that the immediate Past President of MNPS become a voting member of the Board of Directors of the Society. John Pierce seconded, and the motion passed a voice vote of membership.

February 10, 1990 (WINTER BOARD MEETING)

By-laws Article XII. Section I. Kathy moved (? seconded) that this article be amended by adding the following at the end: "or by a mail poll of the membership requiring a two-thirds vote of ballots returned by a specified date. Motion passed.

May 5, 1990 (GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

A By-laws change was described and passed unanimously.

Handwritten note in margin of a copy of the By-laws: Add to end Article XI. Section 1. ", or of those "members returning ballots within 30 days of ballot mailing."

May 2, 1992 (GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, BOZEMAN)

General membership meeting adopted two amendments:

Article IV. Section 3: The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, a designated Representative of each chapter, the Newsletter Editor(s), and

two Directors-at-Large, one for eastern Montana and one for western Montana. The Directors-at-Large shall serve as representatives on the Board for those members who are not affiliated with a chapter.

Article XII. Section 1: These By-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those members voting. Voting will be conducted either at the annual meeting or by mail ballot.

June 11, 1994 (BOARD MEETING NOTES)

Linda Iverson would complete the By-laws changes and deposit the disk with the Secretary.

Article VI, Section 2: The rewrite dropped the inclusion of one chapter representative in the nominating committee.

June 18, 1999 (SUMMER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

By-laws changes recommended by the Board were approved by the general membership.

Article IV, Section 2: Dropped "elected by the membership" after Board of Directors because some Board members are not elected.

Article IV, Section 3: The section was rewritten to bring it up to date. The rewrite clarifies the Board members that are elected and listed all current non-elected Board members.

Article V, Section 2: added, "and/or approved by the Board of Directors".

Article VI, Section 1: The section was rewritten to clarify the election of Board members as listed in Article IV, Section 3.

July 2001 (SUMMER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

By-laws changes recommended by the Board were approved by the general membership. Several edits were made to make the By-laws consistent.

Article IV, Section 3: added, "The Newsletter Editor(s) is appointed by a majority vote of the Board".

Article V: The title was changed to include Board Members because some are not Officers.

Article V, Section 5: added: "The fiscal year of the Society shall be from March 1 to the end of February".

Article V, Section 8: added: "or member of the Board" because not all members of the Board are officers.

Article V: added a new Section 9 to create a process for grievances: "If a written grievance is filed with the Board against a Board member, the Board must act on the grievance at the next scheduled Board meeting. The Board member may respond to the grievance at that time".

Article V: added a new Section 10 to clarify termination of Board members: "A member of the Board of Directors can be terminated by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board".

Added a new Article XIII dealing with the Society Newsletter:

“Article XIII Society Newsletter

Section 1. The Society shall publish a Newsletter four times a year on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. The Newsletter will be numbered by Volume and Issue. The field trip booklet will be published by May 1.

Section 2. The Newsletter may be produced by a paid publisher, but the Newsletter Editor(s) will be a member of the MNPS and be responsible for approval of articles used in the Newsletter”.

June 2002 (SUMMER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

Article V. Section 4: changed “residency” to “presidency”

Article V. Section 5: changed fiscal year from “March 1 to the end of February” to “January 1 to December 31”.

Article X. Section 9: added “Newsletter” in front of “Editor(s)”. Article XIII. Section 2: capitalized “Editor(s)”.

July 2004 (SUMMER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

Article IV. Section 3: The Webmaster, Membership Chairperson, and the Standing Committee Chairpersons were added as voting members of the Board and appointed by a majority vote of the Board.

Article VI. Elections: The article was changed to recognize electronic ballots.

Article VII. Meetings: The article was changed to indicate that at the general membership meeting the outcome of the elections would be announced and the general membership would vote on By-laws changes.

July 2005 (SUMMER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

Two new Sections to Article IV were added to cover indemnification of Directors:

Article IV.

Section 6. Non-Liability of Directors. The Directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the Corporation”.

Section 7. Indemnification of Corporation of Directors and Officers. The Directors and Officers of the Corporation shall be indemnified by the Corporation to the fullest extent permissible under the laws of the state of Montana”.

March 2006 (SPRING BOARD MEETING)

The Board approved minor editorial changes to the By-laws correcting inconsistencies in the use of the words “By-laws”, “Editor(s)”, and “Newsletter”, etc. (They are underlined in the 2006 Copy only)

June 2011 (GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

The General Membership approved minor editorial changes such as commas, period, etc.

Added new sentences to Article V:

- Section 3. The President shall preside over the regular Board Meetings and Annual Membership Meeting.
- Section 4. The Vice-President shall receive and present reports on behalf of Board members absent from Board meetings.
- Section 5. The Treasurer shall make required filings with the IRS to maintain Society 501 (c) 3 status. The Treasurer shall store all current Society financial records in accordance with the approved record retention schedule and IRS guidelines”.
- Section 6. The Secretary shall store all current Society records in accordance with the approved record retention schedule.

Revised Section 12 and added Section 13. to Article X:

- Section 12. Chapters may apply for grants and other funding using the Montana Native Plant Society 501 (c) (3) status with Board of Directors approval. Grant funds will be deposited in the State Treasury. Chapters will pay all grant expenses out of the Chapter Treasury. Chapter Treasurers will be responsible for all record keeping and reporting to the granting agencies. When the grant record keeping and reporting is approved by the funding organization, the Montana Native Plant Society will reimburse the local Chapter Treasury. If grant record keeping and reporting do not meet with funding organization approval, the local Chapter will not be reimbursed for the losses by the Society.
- Section 13. The Board of Directors may dissolve a chapter that it finds is not fulfilling the intent of the Society in establishing the chapter. The Board will develop and maintain a Chapter dissolution policy and list it on the Society Webpage.

July 2016 (SPRING BOARD MEETING)

The following minor revisions to By-laws were approved at the spring Board meeting and the spring 2016 *Kelsey* announced a vote at the upcoming Membership Meeting. Their approval at the 2016 Membership meeting is presumed, but not recorded.

- Article V. Section 3. The phrase “Annual Meeting” be changed to “Annual Membership Meeting.”
- Article X. Section 2. The phrase “The _____Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society” be changed to “The Montana Native Plant Society, _____ Chapter.”

MNPS Membership Report
Submitted by Maria Mantas, Membership Chair

Membership update – This report was prepared on March 5, 2025 for the spring 2025 MNPS board meeting (March 9, 2025).

Membership statistics – The renewal “season” just ended. March 1st begins the new membership year. We have received no lifetime memberships since last year. As of today (March 5) our current membership total is 681. Last year at about this time we had 667 members so we are basically on track.

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

Number of Members – March 5, 2025						
<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Lifetime</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>Lifetime-Business</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
Artemisia	24	14	3	1	0	42
Calypso	23	8	5	1	1	38
Clark Fork	94	50	34	2	2	182
Flathead	43	22	21	1	2	89
Kelsey	56	38	22	2	1	116
Maka Flora	9	4	2	0	0	15
Eastern-at-large	13	4	10	0	1	28
Western-at-large	13	10	8	1	0	32
Valley of Flowers	62	40	30	5	2	139
Grand Total	334	190	135	13	9	681
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>
2024	52	57	268	132	142	25	37	33	200	946	46	12/31/2024
2023	44	59	266	150	135	24	55	31	179	943	47	12/31/2023
2022		58	271	149	147	27	76	36	190	954	47	12/31/2022
2021		57	265	122	139	24	69	33	192	901	46	12/31/2021
2020		51	226	98	115	22	66	32	157	767	44	12/30/2020
2019		56	207	89	102	22	59	28	124	687	44	12/26/2019
2018		46	200	95	102	19	54	31	113	660	43	12/14/2018
2017		38	195	91	92	24	54	27	98	619	43	
2016		65	204	79	90	20	59	29	102	648	43	



Membership Discussion

Volunteer Check Box: Check your monthly membership lists to see who has checked the volunteer box. 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: There is a new draft of the brochure for board comment on the shared drive in the board packet. It's basically the same brochure with some new photos and graphic updates. I wanted to make the font more readable, and I changed the color scheme to best match our official logo color. If you have comments or edits, **please send them to be by April 1st**. I will then have 1000 brochures printed and will distribute them to chapter reps.

New Membership Database Platform: I would like to ask the board to approve the migration of our membership database to a new platform. I haven't made a final choice yet but am close to selecting a service. The front runner is [Little Green Light](#) at a cost of \$486/year. I believe this is affordable and will make managing membership, donations, and sending mass emails much easier. All board members would be able to access the new platform and be able to create and send their own emails. **I am asking the board to approve \$500 as an annual expense in our budget for this service.** Here is a short [introductory video](#).

Mass Emails to Membership: Until we get the new platform set up, membership wide mailings often falls on Leah and 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.

Chapter Area Map: Thanks for everyone's input on the Chapter Area Map. You can see it at: <https://mtnativeplants.org/chapters/> I love how Carol has made it interactive! I know that the boundaries aren't exactly what some of the chapters wanted for their boundaries, but it's a lot of work to use lines other than county lines, and as these are only suggestions for chapter affiliation, I don't think it's critical these be exact.

Possible New Chapter in Hot Springs?: A Hot Springs member approached me about what it takes to start up a new chapter of the Society. She mentioned there are people in her area (she is already part of a group) who are interested in native plant gardening and pollinators. That area could serve not only Hot Springs, but the lower Clark Fork (Plains area) and the Mission Valley. There are about 20 members in that vicinity.

DONATIONS

2024 Summary

In 2024 we received a total of **\$11,590 from 144 donations**. All 2024 donors will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Kelseya* (unless they requested anonymity).

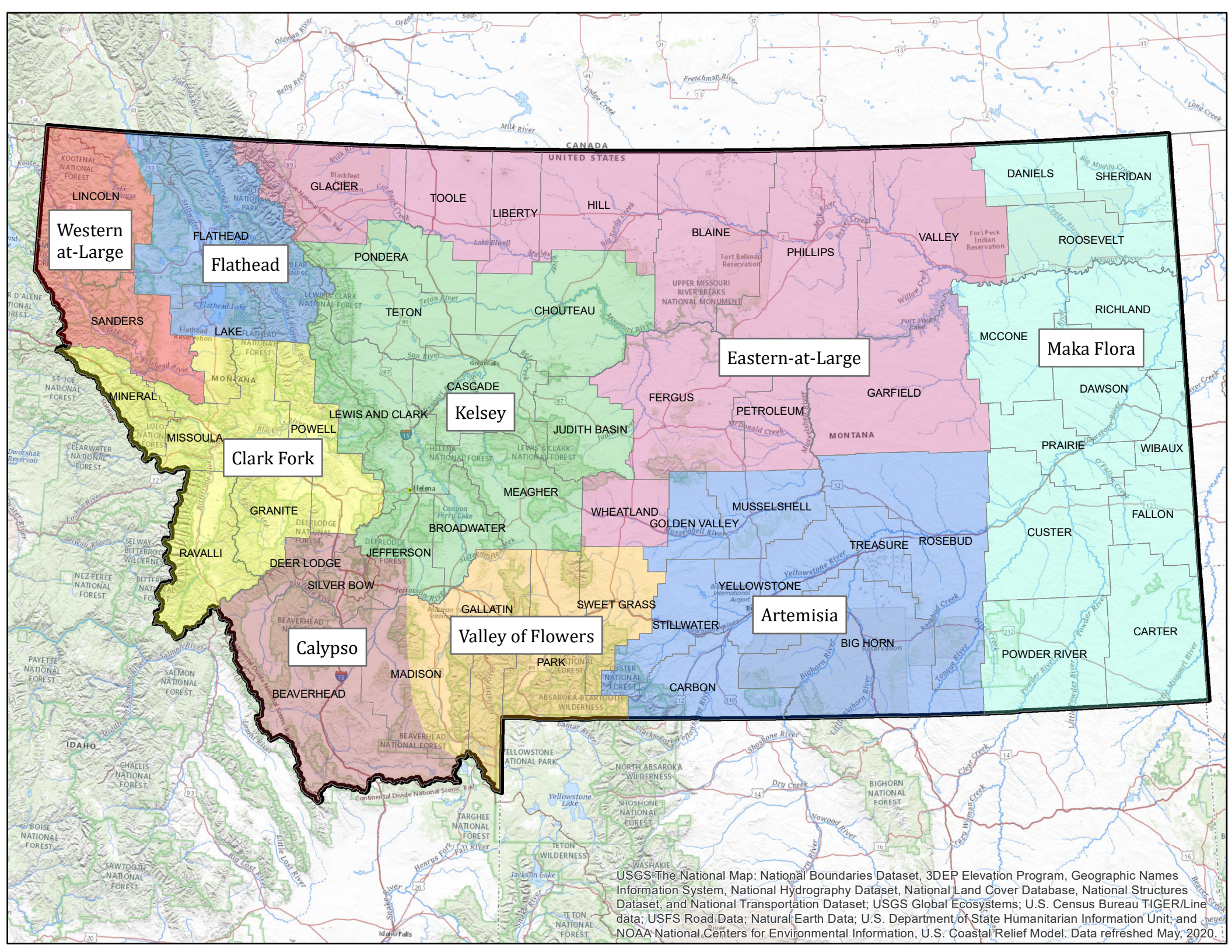
Tax letters were sent as Leah processed the donations, a great improvement from when I sent them once a year. Thanks to Leah for preparing and mailing all the letters.

2025 Update:

As of this report (3-5-2025) we have received **\$9,316** from **73** donations this fiscal year. Last year at about this time we had \$5,150 from 74 donations. My numbers may be a bit different than Laurie's. The huge jump from this time last year is due to a very large gift (\$5,000) from Vanguard Charitable, a donor advised fund. The direction came from Douglas Reynolds, a donor to that fund, in memory of Robert N. Reynolds. It was stipulated that this amount is to go towards scholarships. I continue to be awed by the generosity of our membership. 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.

Giving Tuesday – It's hard to summarize the success of our Giving Tuesday solicitation, because donations trickled in continuously to the end of the year and it's hard to know which of those were influenced by the ask. Basically, you could say we received around \$1000 in addition to Patrick Plantenberg's generous \$1000 match, for a total of about \$2000. I feel we could have done better as many donors don't like using Paypal. I am hoping that having a new donor database platform where we can send out solicitations will improve giving.

Development Committee – Given the continual and increasing support we receive from members and donors, with very little solicitation, I am wondering if it would be a good idea to form a new committee to deal with all the issues and tasks related to fundraising. I would like to propose we consider this.



Western at-Large

Flathead

Clark Fork

Calypso

Valley of Flowers

Kelsey

Eastern-at-Large

Artemisia

Maka Flora

USGS: The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed May, 2020.

Membership

Member Benefits

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Join online at mtnativeplants.org or complete the form below:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

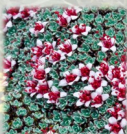
Phone No. _____

Email _____

- Individual – \$30
- Family – \$50
- Business/Organization – \$75
- Living Lightly/Student – \$20
- Lifetime (Individual Only) – \$1000 (one-time payment)
- Paper *Kelseya* Fee* – \$10

*Add \$10 if you wish to receive a paper copy of our newsletter, *Kelseya*, otherwise, a digital version will be delivered via email.

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 *Kelseya*. You can select from the following giving categories:



Kelseya – \$50



Bitterroot – \$100



Lupine – \$250



Ponderosa Pine – \$1000

Other – \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
Montana Native Plant Society
PO Box 8783, Missoula, MT 59807-8783

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

- ☼ Learn about Montana's native plants and plant communities through chapter presentations, workshops, and field trips led by friendly, knowledgeable people.
- ☼ Receive the quarterly newsletter *Kelseya* containing articles on the biology, natural history, and cultivation of native plants. Read about conservation actions taken by MNPS.
- ☼ Participate in annual membership meetings held at various locations around the state with workshops, field trips, and informative speakers.
- ☼ Become part of a network of native plant lovers and enthusiasts across the state.



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 Jefferson and Madison Counties)
- Clark Fork** (Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, & parts of Lake Counties)
- Flathead** (Flathead, northern Lake and NE 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, & 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)

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.



Yellow Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*)

“...to preserve, conserve, and study Montana's native plants and plant communities.”

About the Montana Native Plant Society

Visit us at mtnativeplants.org for scheduled field trips, information on landscaping with native plants, and past issues of our newsletter, *Kelseya*.



- ☼ The goals of the Montana Native Plant Society are to preserve, conserve, and study the native plants and plant communities of Montana and inform the public about the value of native flora.
- ☼ MNPS addresses native plant related issues and topics in plant conservation, research, education, and landscaping.
- ☼ MNPS is a volunteer non-profit organization chartered in 1987. Today we have more than 900 members. Membership is open to individuals, families, businesses, and organizations within and outside Montana.
- ☼ Members can affiliate themselves with a local chapter or become an Eastern or Western member-at-large.




Our Mission in Action The Montana Native Plant Society...

- ☼ **Provides** funding for projects that further the understanding and conservation of native plants
- ☼ **Works** independently and with other conservation groups to advocate for plant conservation on public lands
- ☼ **Supports** and encourages native plant conservation and restoration on private lands
- ☼ **Sponsors** conferences to help inform land managers and the public about conserving biological diversity
- ☼ **Compiles** information on threatened plant species and specific geographic areas of conservation value
- ☼ **Offers** resources for landscaping with native plants and holds native plant sales



Pincushion cactus (*Coryphantha missouriensis*)



MNPS Website update for the Winter 2025 Board meeting

Submitted by Carol Goffe, webmaster

- 1) There are some new pages on the website: a couple supporting Citizen Botany, and several supporting Grants & Giving (as Grants & Scholarships on the web). These are works in progress. Kenda's been involved with Citizen Botany, and Leah did the vast majority of the work on Grants & Scholarships.
- 2) Speaking of Leah, she's done a great job keeping the Calendar of Events populated. Please try to remember to contact her – or me – about any upcoming meetings, classes, trips, or other events, so we can get the word out: email me at webmaster@gmail.com or Leah at leahg.mnps@gmail.com.
- 3) The payment error rate using PayPal seems to be way down. Currently, the failed payment rate is only ½ of 1%, which certainly should be acceptable.
- 4) Ownership of the YouTube & Zoom accounts has been transferred into the Google Workspace. Our videos and annual meeting photos are now stored there, but it's transparent to users. Let me know if you need something.
- 5) I have some bad news about the Google Workspace: In early Feb, I discovered that our nonprofit account does NOT include the ability to RECORD all those long Google Meetings that can have hundreds of participants. !!!

The good news is that there are options:

- a) Keep the free Google for Nonprofits workspace, with all its storage, & keep the Zoom account. That's our current situation, costs \$52/month for Zoom, \$0 for Google Workspace.
- b) Drop Zoom, & change our Google for Nonprofits to a business account. If we buy a business account, then we can record – but it costs (naturally), \$4.80/user. Estimated cost \$0 for Zoom, \$43/month for Google Workspace.

I WOULD LIKE TO TRY THIS.

If we did this, it would be better to keep the number of users to a minimum. (From what I've seen, I don't think that's going to break anybody's heart.)

Treasurer, Membership, Grants&Giving, Secretary/Board, Kelsey, MNPS Presents all could use either the storage space or the centrality, + Citizen Botany, depending on how that ends up being organized. Also we'd need a sort-of slush account for people who just want to use Google Meet with the record option for online presentations. Currently, that'd be 9 accounts (including me, the admin) x \$4.80/month = \$43/month. Not a great savings, but some. Would cost less if some of those accounts were not used.

- c) There's also the option to drop Zoom, keep the free Google for Nonprofits account, and record the Google Meet-ings a different way. Cost \$0 for Zoom, \$0 for Google. However, it would be more complicated & would require people to use another computer application. Options include:
1. Most PC's have a thing called "Game Bar," which allows you to record audio & video on your PC. The amount of computer storage space needed for even a long meeting isn't all that huge, because the video quality we're recording isn't all that great.
I just transferred all 45 of our MNPS Presents! videos into our Google Workspace account & they totaled 8.8 gigs. This means one presentation is only ~ 2000 megabytes, which not all that large. – OR --
 2. There are lots of other free ways to record – like using Twitch – which again require more fooling around.

My recommendation is to keep it simple – either continue to use Zoom or starting paying for Google Meet.

- 6) Remember, the Google Workspace comes with 100 terrabytes of storage, the possibility of 2000 users, Google Earth & Maps, live “chatting” & more.

These drives have been set up in our Google Workspace for the main information areas:

- Board/secretary
- Chapters/At-large areas
- Citizen Botany
- Conservation
- Grants & Giving
- Kelsey
- Landscape & Reveg
- Membership
- MNPS Presents!
- Treasurer

Out of 32 board members, Chapter reps & committee heads, 10 have established a username/password. So far, only two (Camie & Kenda) are actually using it. It's a great place to keep Society documents.

- 7) We haven't been providing much education about plant identification on the website. One way to do that is to direct folks to native plant gardens, where people can encounter named natives without much effort. I added some information under Landscaping. I'd like to be able to *document public, maintained native plant gardens statewide*. So far, the only information I have is about a few gardens West of the divide. Take a look under the Native Plant Gardens button in Landscaping to see what's there, and please help fill this out.

MNPS website survey

Do you ever use the MNPS website?

- Yes No, not really
- Only when I need to renew or sign up for something
- Once in a while when I'm looking for something

Is it **easy to find what you want** when you try to ...

- Yes.... No Join/renew Membership
- Yes.... No Sign up for Annual meeting
- Yes.... No Sign up for Conservation conference
- Yes.... No Donate

Is it **easy to get the job done** when you try to ...

- Donate N/A Easy So-so Difficult
- Renew Membership N/A Easy So-so Difficult
- Sign up for Annual meeting N/A Easy So-so Difficult
- Sign up for Conservation conference. N/A Easy So-so Difficult

The **Calendar** is a new feature on the website.

- Did you know there's a calendar on the website? Yes No
- Have you used the calendar? N/A Yes No
- If you used it, how was it to use? N/A Easy So-so Difficult

What about the page for your **Chapter or Area**?

- Did you know there was one? Yes No
- Was it easy or hard to find the page? N/A Easy So-so Difficult
- Does it have any useful information? N/A Yes No

What about finding other kinds of information ...

- Kelsey* Easy So-so Difficult
- Conservation Easy So-so Difficult
- Landscaping Easy So-so Difficult
- Native plant source guide Easy So-so Difficult
- Grants Easy So-so Difficult
- Scholarships Easy So-so Difficult

Do you think our website should be geared to a community of experts? Yes No

Or to the general public? Yes No

Comments? Suggestions?

THANK YOU for taking the time to help figure out how to make the website better!

MNPS Annual Meeting Update for 3/9/2025 Board Meeting

Current Plans

- Camp Needmore near Ekalaka, Friday - Sunday, June 20-22.
- “Prairie Solstice Sojourns”; we have a local artist working on the logo for t-shirts, etc.
- Currently have 7 field trips planned and Kurt Hansen will finalize more. Two of these are by outside interests to be held on private land. Asked if the paleontologist from the Carter County museum would join a field trip offering his expertise on geology and paleo.
 - *Have 4 or 5 trip leaders confirmed; I will be asking more botanists to lead trips...volunteers? (I can get trip details to potential volunteers.)*
- Two workshops planned: Bumble Bee Survey (Michelle Toshack) and Citizen Botany (Fraser Watson and Kenda Herman).
- USFS District Ranger and botanist, Kurt Hansen, will be our speaker.
- Wayne Phillips will hold his annual plant ID contest and has a backup person if needed.
- Will have a Friday social, a silent auction (donations accepted!), a Member Talent/Variety Show (open to all!), and Field Trip Slideshow.
- Board meeting Friday, general membership meeting Saturday night and standing committees Sunday morning.
- Caterer committed; she will get us meal prices ~March 15; includes vegan/gluten-free options.
- Will have an article and registration in Spring Kelseya.
- We need to work with Carol on online registration/PayPayl/etc. (Maka Flora has an account.)
- We have actually rented the camp for Thursday night as well so that Maka Flora members, trip leaders, others coming to help can come and stay Thursday night if they want (there will be no provided meals, but we can use the cooler and kitchen); Maka Flora might just pay for this night. *Thoughts on opening this up to any registrant (in which case \$10/camper)?*
- *Do we need a list of sites to see/things to do for travelers on the website? Is this something that is done every year?*

Budget and Needs

- *Does the State Board want to make money on this via registration?*
- *Does the State Board have an insurance option, or do we need to get our own?*
- The State Board sent Maka Flora a \$5,000 loan; this will be adequate for up-front costs.
- Maka Flora will pay for Friday social.
- Don't have caterer prices yet, but we are hoping to keep the per adult cost about the same as last year for camping/meals/registration: approx \$100 to \$120.
- Had about 85 people in 2011; we anticipate (hope for) at least that many again.

Proposal from Chapter on state vs. Chapter share of profits

- *What is normally done?*

Submitted by Libby Knotts, Maka Flora President

3/8/2025

Landscaping and Revegetation Committee Report
March 9, 2025
Patrick Plantenberg and Mark Majerus, Co-Chairs

January 23: Patrick gave a presentation on Native Plants to the Anaconda Garden Club. Over 30 people attended, and much interest was shown by the attendees.

March 5: Mark and Patrick attended the Montana Native Seed Network Annual Meeting. As a eco-regional production hub for The National Seed Strategy, The Montana Native Seed Network brings together public and private conservation practitioners that are working in the native seed industry. Through partnerships genetically-rich \ eco-type seed is derived from wild plant populations and produced on a largescale at The Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery in Missoula. This seed is accessible to all partners and customers to restore and enhance ecosystems throughout Montana.

Attached is a list of species they want to collect in the 2025 season from around the state. If you want to help collect these species, please contact the Conservation Seedling Nursery Ashley Mattson @ Ashley.Mattson@mt.gov

Species Installed at Conservation Seedling Nursery in 2024:

Achillea millefolium - Common yarrow
Arnica cordifolia - Heart leaf arnica
Balsamorhiza sagittata - Balsamroot
Symphyotrichum laeve - Smooth blue aster
Gailardia aristata - Blanket flower
Lupinus sericeus - Silky lupine
Penstemon albertinus - Alberta beardtongue
Solidago missouriensis - Missouri goldenrod

Tentative list of plants to be installed at Conservation Seedling Nursery during the 2025 growing season:

Agastache urticifolia - Nettleleaf Giant Hyssop
Erigeron speciosus - Showy fleabane
Geum triflorum - Prairie Smoke
Grindelia squarrosa - Curlycup gumweed
Heterotheca villosa - Hairy golden aster
Monarda fistulosa - Wild Bergamont
Phacelia hastata- Silverleaf phacelia
Solidago canadensis - Canada goldenrod

Tentative list of plants to be installed at Conservation Seedling Nursery during the 2026 growing season:

Achnatherum nelsonii - Columbia Needlegrass
Agrostis scabra - Rough ticklegrass
Bromus marginatus - Mountain brome
Calamagrostis canadensis - Northern redgrass
Elymus glaucus - Blue wildrye
Elymus trachycaulis - Slender wheatgrass
Festuca idahoensis - Idaho fescue

Koeleria macrantha - Prairie Junegrass
Pascopyrum smithii - Western wheatgrass
Poa secunda - Sandberg bluegrass
Pseudoroegneria spicata - Bluebunch wheatgrass

March 7: Bill Andrews has volunteered work on producing a Montana Native Plant brochure (open link). Teagan Hayes, Patrick and Mark have been following the progress and advising on the project. We now have a final proof.



Proof of NP
brochure-compresses

This design is for 8.5 x 11" folded to 8.5 x 5.5." - a good size for a brochure like this. Teagan Hayes, Patrick and Mark Majerus have been reviewing work as it progresses. Need a decision on how to proceed.

March 15: Mark is giving a webinar on Identification and Appreciation of Montana Native Grasses for the Gold Country Master Gardeners at 11 am.

April 5: The Kelsey Chapter is sponsoring a booth at the 2025 Gold Country Master Gardener Symposium in Helena.

Later this Summer: Mark will be giving a presentation on 'Landscaping with Grasses' for the Gold Country Master Gardeners.

MNPS Presents! 2024-2025 Schedule and Attendance				
DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM TITLE	ATTENDEES	REGISTERED
October 15	Wendy Velman	BLM work supporting the National Native Seed Strategy and Rare Plants	54	
November 19	Sharon Eversma	Trees Talk to Each Other???	102	
December 17	Michael Butts	The Montana Native Seed Network: Developing a production hub at the DNRC Nursery to serve the surrounding ecoregions	100	
January 21	Lila Fishman	The Remarkable Diversity of Monkeyflowers	100	
February 18	Andrea Pipp	The Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy		222
March 11	Ylva Lekberg	Invader Effects on Soil Ecosystems & Implications for Restoration		106

Calypso Chapter Report to MNPS Board March 9, 2025

Since the fall Board meeting, Calypso has held its annual Potluck and Planning Meeting in early December. We are now completing plans for our program of trips/workshops/events for the 2025 season. The document will be emailed to Chapter Members & Friends in early March.

One event should be highlighted now because of its exclusive MNPS member sign-up date of May 1st:

Saturday-Sunday June 21-22 (pre-May1 registration for MNPS members)

Edible Wild Plant Foraging and Feasting – South of Dillon. Walk with expert Tomas J. Elpel through sagebrush grasslands, riparian areas, and mountain sites above Argenta, learning to identify edible and medicinal plants and the techniques and essential guidelines for ethical foraging. For those not venturing way east to the Annual Meeting, Calypso Chapter will again sponsor this Foraging Montana Weekend Workshop hosted by Tom, author of *Foraging the Mountain West* and *Botany in a Day*. This two-day class is open exclusively to MNPS members until May 1 – families are especially welcome. Starting May 1, registration is open to all until full. **Limit 20**. For more information and to register, visit Tom's website:

https://www.greenuniversity.com/Class_Schedule/Foraging_Montana.htm. Tom can be contacted at greenuniversityllc@gmail.com.

Testimonial: *"I took my whole family last year and we had a blast learning from Tom how to eat like a deer, recognize the watch out plants, and make use of our most hated weeds. My favorite tasting plant was musk thistle of all things, followed by goat's beard."* -Jessie Salix

Clark Fork Chapter

We have been working with a local Clark Fork member who is interested in helping make native plant landscaping more accessible to the public. He formerly worked in marketing and had a lot of ideas, so he asked if he could work with a designer to create an introductory brochure. He would like MNPS to pay for the printing of at least 1,000 brochures and then donate that amount to the organization. The cost to print with Vista Print is \$598 for 2,000 or \$392 for 1,000. If the board is interested in using and distributing these brochures, we ask that the board approve this brochure, the printing, and the donation to cover the cost. A proof of the brochure is in the Google Drive folder (*MNPS-Native-Plant-Landscaping-Brochure.pdf*). If the board is not interested, the Clark Fork chapter can do this exchange instead of the state organization.

The Clark Fork chapter hosted our holiday season annual potluck on the University of Montana campus in December.

Dr. Tabitha Graves presented for our annual joint meeting of the local MNPS and Audubon chapters about plant and wildlife interactions in Glacier National Park, with examples highlighting wildflowers, bees, birds, and bears.

Peter Lesica filled in to present for a monthly meeting in February. The scheduled speaker, UM Herbarium curator Giovanna Bishop, was sick so Peter presented on plants and geology of eastern Montana - hoping to get folks excited about the upcoming annual meeting.

Upcoming events include:

A March presentation by Kelly Chadwick and Beth Judy about Plant-Hunting in Patagonia, including species of violet, pocketbook plant, and orchid, iconic monkey puzzle trees, and some familiar invasives.

An April presentation on the DNRC Conservation Seedling Nursery by Ashley Mattson, which has produced seedlings for conservation projects across the state.

A spring potluck in May and our annual Native Plant Sale on June 7, 8 am – 1 pm at the southeast end of the Clark Fork Farmers' Market. The sale features native plants grown by members of the Clark Fork chapter.

Flathead Chapter Report – Winter MNPS Board Meeting

Rachel apologizes for leaving the Board Meeting early for a Flathead Chapter program on Mushrooms by Julia Smit at Lone Pine State Park. We've gotten positive feedback about offering a Sunday afternoon program in lieu of a dark winter night.

This will be our 2nd program this winter season, after one by USGS staff Dr. Tabitha Graves on Montana bumblebees and their preferred native plants.

We are trying to dig up more volunteers to help staff a plant ID station for 5th graders at Flathead Forestry Expo that the USFS has largely taken over in recent years. We've done this for many many years.

We are sad to report the death of long time member Mary Sloan. Please be sure to read Maria's tribute to Mary in the Spring *Kelsey*.

After specifically targeting those checking the volunteer box and sending out the Clark Fork Chapter's volunteer questionnaire (no respondents), we are still struggling to engage more volunteers for Chapter organizing.

Hailey Moore is working hard to offer another great list of field trips, the one thing the Chapter has done very well at.

Thank you,

Rachel Potter

Kelsey Chapter

Winter Activities

In January, Kelsey Chapter hosted a seed starting workshop that included presentations on seed anatomy, natural garden design, and seed stratification methods. 20+ participants joined including some from Butte and Missoula.

Upcoming Events

- April 5: We will have a table at the [Gold County Master Gardener Symposium](#). We will fill seed packets with seeds from the seed starting workshop to give away.
- April 16th: "Flower Power" trivia night at Lewis & Clark Brewing- we will have a table, raffle and native plants round of trivia.
- April 26: Botanical sketching hike to see Kelseya in bloom
- We are co-sponsoring "Celebrating Wildflowers" (a spring conservation education event for fourth graders in Helena) with up to a \$200 donation and supporting a free billboard.
- Late summer: we will host a native grasses and design workshop, date TBD

Jane Fournier is working on an illustration of Montana specific native plant root systems compared to Kentucky Bluegrass that we will use for tabling events like the master gardener symposium and trivia night.

Valley of Flowers Chapter Report – Winter 2025

In December, Robyn Klein and Matt Lavin led a winter shrub identification walk at Lewis & Clark State Park. However, only three species of shrubs were encountered. The area was snow-free, and many flowering herbaceous plants were exposed, so the group never made it to the shrubby slope. There were 20-25 participants.

During late fall and early winter, we cast a wide net to identify and secure a facility for the 2026 MNPS Annual Meeting. Success was achieved in February: Homestake Lodge will be our host, and has our \$\$ deposit.

In February we sponsored a raucous Plant Trivia Night at MAP Brewing in Bozeman. It turned out to be the coldest night of the winter, but that did not deter the enthusiasts; more than 60 people participated. The event was organized and led by Bryce Pease and Jared Trilling.

In March we'll be taking part in the first "expo" of the Bozeman Tree Coalition, with information tables, presentations and refreshments. The focus is landscaping with appropriate plants for our area.

On Earth Day, April 19, we'll be tabling at the Gallatin Valley Earth Day Festival. We'll be giving out informational material about landscaping with native plants and about MNPS, as well as free seed packets.