

Kelseya

Newsletter of the Montana Native Plant Society



Kelseya uniflora
ill. by Bonnie Heidel

Dusty Maidens Have More than one Lifestyle

By Peter Lesica, Clark Fork Chapter



Chaenactis douglasii alpina, photo by Peter Lesica



Chaenactis douglasii douglasii, photo by Peter Lesica

Many of our important food crops (e.g. wheat, corn, lentils) are annuals. They produce flowers and fruits (grains) and then die, all in one growing season. This annual lifestyle can be good because the plants put most of their energy into their progeny rather than saving part of it in the root system for next year. However, there is a downside to this annual life cycle: every year, farmers must plow the field and then replant it. This results in losing soil nutrients, using extra water and wearing out farm equipment and the farmer. Recently people have realized that it also burns more fuel and puts more carbon into the air, adding to human-caused global warming. As a result of these problems, agricultural researchers are attempting to create perennial wheat and other crops. My understanding is that they are making slow progress. That's not surprising, because

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ☞ Review of the Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy
- ☞ Citizen Botany Update
- ☞ *Prairie Solstice Sojourns*: 2025 Annual Meeting
- ☞ Proposed Changes to MNPS Bylaws
- ☞ Remembering Mary Sloan
- ☞ USDA Bridger Plant Materials Program
- ☞ DNRC Nursery: A Native Seed Production Hub for the Montana Native Seed Network



Chapter Events

Artemisia Chapter

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

Calypso Chapter

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

Clark Fork Chapter

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

Thursday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. For the past 98 years, the DNRC Conservation Seedling Nursery has produced seedlings for conservation projects across the state. **Ashley Mattson**, Nursery Operations Specialist, will inform us about **Seed, Seedlings, and Conservation in Montana**. Rocky Mountain Exploration Center, 1075 South Avenue West.

Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m. Our **Spring Potluck** will be held at the Pineview Park Pavilion in the Upper Rattlesnake off of Rattlesnake Drive, just west of Rattlesnake School. Bring your own plate, utensils and a dish to share. No alcohol please. Call Peter at 406-728-8740 for directions.

Wednesday, May 7, 5:30 p.m. Milltown State Park - Deer Creek Road. 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 well which provides for a most interesting and informative time. The trip varies from Douglas fir forest to Clark Fork River riparian area. 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.

Eastern At-Large

Info: Kelsey Molloy at 406-654-4566; kelseym88@gmail.com.

Flathead Chapter

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

Please send us your questions and suggestions!

Friday, May 2, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Spring Migration at Creston Fish Hatchery.

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. Field 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 17, 9:30 a.m. Lion Creek, Swan Valley.

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 Hwy 83 (mile marker 59). Call Maria at 406-407-2045 for more information, to reserve a spot, and inquire about carpooling opportunities.

Monday, May 19, 5:30 p.m. Cedar Flats. 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 two miles. Contact Rachel at jrepotter@centurytel.net to reserve a spot, find out where to meet, and for last-minute changes.

Wednesday, May 21, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. & Wednesday, June 4, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Birds, Native plants of Wayfarers State Park.

Join local naturalist **Kathy Ross** for a leisurely spring flower walk at the Wayfarer's unit of Flathead Lake State Park, Bigfork. 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. Each walk is limited to six participants. For meeting information and to sign up contact Kathy at 406-837-3837.



Silky lupine (*Lupinus sericeus*), photo by Matt Lavin

Sunday, June 15, 6:30 p.m. Montana Woodland Garden Tour.

Participants are invited to tour approximately two fenced acres of a 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 signup contact: mmoffitt406@gmail.com.

Kelsey Chapter

Info: Elena Johnson (president) or Jane Fournier (secretary) at kelseychaptermnps@gmail.com.

Maka Flora Chapter

Info: Libby Knotts at 406-774-3778; libbyknotts@gmail.com.

Valley of Flowers Chapter

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

Western At-Large

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

(Dusty Maidens, continued from page 1)

if you look at a field manual or flora, most species are classified as either annual (occasionally biennial) perennial but not both. But like everything else in botany there are exceptions.

Dusty maiden (*Chaenactis douglasii*) occurs throughout most of the western United States. and much of Montana. It is highly variable, and numerous forms have been described, either as varieties or separate species. The two most commonly recognized varieties are var. *douglasii* and var. *alpina*, both of which occur in Montana (see figures on page 1). The former has a leafy stem and usually at least two flower heads with white flowers and is found in poorly vegetated soil at lower elevations. Var. *alpina* lacks above-ground stems and almost always has a single, often pink flower head arising from branched, below-ground stems. It almost always occurs at or above timberline.

A recent study by Forest Service researchers documented that var. *alpina* is always a perennial. Not so with var. *douglasii*, which can have an annual or perennial life history. They collected seeds from 95 populations across Nevada, southern Idaho and adjacent Oregon and raised them in a greenhouse with ambient temperature and daylight. Nine percent of the 6,000 plants bolted the same year as germination; they were annuals. The remainder were alive for at least a second year. More than half of the 95 sampled populations had at least one plant with an annual lifespan.

The researchers also found a strong relationship between the proportion of annual plants in the populations and the degree of a volatile, hot and arid climate. Populations from habitats with greater aridity exhibited a higher proportion of individuals with an annual lifespan. Apparently, there are at least some plants in most populations that are capable of an annual lifestyle, depending to some extent on the harshness and volatility of the long-term climate faced by that population.

It was not clear from the study whether there would have been a higher proportion of bolting plants if the greenhouse had been hotter and drier or if var. *douglasii* individuals are hardwired to be either annual or perennial. Regardless, the results of this study suggest that dusty maiden var. *douglasii* is prepared for global warming. Furthermore, this plant may help researchers trying to figure out how to develop perennials from annual crops.

Additional reading

Amos, C.H. et al. 2024. Annual-perennial lifespan variation in *Chaenactis douglasii* suggests a drought escape strategy in warm-arid environments. American Journal of Botany DOI: 10.1002/ajb2.16391.



Alpine Dusty Maiden (*Chaenactis douglasii* var. *alpina*) flower heads and basal rosette, photos by Matt Lavin

MNPS is Looking for a New Conservation Chairperson

A few years ago, MNPS polled members, and conservation was the most important Society activity for a majority of members. If you are enthusiastic about conservation, the job is rewarding because your actions have almost 1,000 MNPS members behind them. Duties include: (1) Help organize the biennial Conservation Conference (Missoula, Helena, Bozeman); (2) Write comments on proposed agency land management; (3) Write Conservation Corner articles for *Kelsey*; (4) Help organize the Important Plant Areas and Plant Threats Assessments projects; (5) Attend Board of Directors meetings. If you are interested, contact Peter Lesica at lesica.peter@gmail.com for more information. *You can make a difference!*

New Grants & Giving Program

We are thrilled to announce that the new MNPS Grants & Giving Program is officially up and running! Funded directly through the generous donations of our members and supporters, MNPS is now able to provide annual grants, academic scholarships and professional development scholarships to organizations and individuals working on native-plant related projects or fields of study. Please visit mtnativeplants.org/board/grants-scholarships for details on how to apply, deadlines and more information!

Falcon Guides Announces: Trees of the Rocky Mountains; Identifying the Region's Prominent Trees, by Robert Weiss, to be released in June, 2025.



978-1-4930-8652-8 \$24.95, Paperback/
softback 978-1-4930-8653-5 \$23.50,
Electronic book text. A dedicated guidebook to identifying the most prominent tree species occurring in the Rocky Mountain region of North America. This guide will cover a wide selection of the most prominent native and naturalized tree species of the iconic Rocky Mountain region spanning Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Idaho and the Canadian

Rockies in British Columbia and Alberta. Each species will get a full description that details physical characteristics, habitat, similar species and information on identifying potential signs of disease and damage. Each species entry will also include multiple photographs detailing the tree's bark, needles/leaves, seeds/cones, and overall appearance. Book includes biotic and abiotic tables of tree damaging agents and also year-round and winter tree taxonomic keys. Includes 200 pages, 317 Photos, 61 Maps, 6 Tables.

THE STATE-WIDE FIELD TRIP FLIER IS COMING!

Please check your mailbox in early May



Conservation Corner



Restoration Ecologist's Review of the *Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy: Part 1 - Vascular Species and Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need*

Reviewer: James William Goos, 11/21/2024

Introduction and Scope

The *Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy: Part 1 - Vascular Species and Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need* provides a detailed and scientifically robust framework for identifying and addressing the conservation challenges facing Montana's native plant species and habitats. This strategy outlines the priority vascular plant species and critical habitats that require immediate attention due to various anthropogenic and environmental threats. As such, it presents a timely and relevant resource for ecological restoration efforts in the state.

The document is comprehensive, detailing both the species at risk and the broader habitats that are integral to their survival. It addresses key concerns such as habitat loss, invasive species, climate change, and habitat fragmentation, which are central to contemporary plant conservation issues. The thorough integration of ecological data makes it a valuable tool for land managers, conservationists, and policymakers.

Content Overview and Structure

The report is well-structured, with clear sections dedicated to species conservation, habitat analysis, and actionable strategies for intervention. The focus on vascular plants is appropriate, given their critical role in ecosystem functioning and biodiversity. By classifying species and habitats according to conservation need, the strategy offers an organized approach to managing these critical ecological resources.

The inclusion of habitat-based prioritization alongside species-level assessments is an important strength. This not only reflects the interconnectedness of species and their habitats but also provides a more holistic understanding of the ecological dynamics at play. The document's approach helps readers understand the broader landscape context and the need for landscape-level interventions.

Scientific Rigor and Methodology

The methodology employed in the strategy is grounded in sound ecological principles and current research. The use of updated data, including species population surveys, ecological modeling, and habitat assessments, adds credibility to the document. Furthermore, the strategy incorporates both expert input and peer-reviewed research, ensuring that the recommendations are based on the best available science.

However, while the report presents comprehensive data and sound conclusions, it could benefit from more explicit connections between these data and practical, on-the-ground management

actions. For example, more detail on the spatial and temporal dynamics of habitat loss and fragmentation would help guide managers in prioritizing restoration areas more effectively.

Identification of Conservation Needs

The identification of species and habitats in need of conservation is thorough and well-justified. The species listed are appropriately chosen based on their vulnerability and ecological significance. The report also emphasizes the role of these plants in supporting ecosystem services such as soil stabilization, water filtration, and wildlife habitat.

The threats to these species, including invasive plant species, land development, and climate change, are carefully analyzed. This provides a clear rationale for prioritizing certain species and habitats for conservation. However, the report would benefit from further emphasis on how these threats will evolve in the future, particularly in light of projected climate shifts, to ensure that conservation efforts are forward-thinking and adaptable.

Habitat Prioritization and Landscape Connectivity

The strategy's emphasis on habitat connectivity is one of its key strengths. Goos recognizes the importance of maintaining ecological corridors to facilitate species movement, especially in the face of climate change. This focus on landscape-scale conservation is crucial for the long-term persistence of native plant species.

However, the report could offer more concrete recommendations for implementing habitat restoration and connectivity efforts, particularly in landscapes with competing land uses, such as agriculture and urban development. A greater focus on the logistical aspects of creating and maintaining these corridors would be beneficial for practitioners working on the ground.

Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Considerations

While the strategy is strong in scientific content, there is relatively limited discussion on how to engage a broader range of stakeholders in the conservation process. The inclusion of strategies for collaborating with local communities, landowners, and industry stakeholders is crucial for the success of conservation efforts. Furthermore, integrating economic considerations, such as incentives for private landowners to participate in conservation programs, would strengthen the document's practical applicability.

Conclusion

Overall, *Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy: Part 1 - Vascular Species and Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need* is a well-researched and valuable resource for anyone involved in plant conservation in Montana. It offers a clear roadmap for identifying and addressing the most pressing conservation needs in the state. While the report provides a solid scientific basis for conservation planning, it would benefit from greater emphasis on implementation strategies and stakeholder engagement.

As a reviewer, I believe this document has the potential to serve as a foundational tool for guiding conservation efforts, but it could be enhanced by further developing its practical recommendations for habitat restoration and community involvement. Given its

strong scientific grounding, I recommend that this strategy be widely adopted by state agencies, conservation organizations, and land managers involved in ecological restoration and plant conservation.

Recommendation:

I recommend that this strategy be used as a guiding document for future conservation planning and management actions in Montana. It provides a clear and evidence-based framework for prioritizing plant conservation efforts and should be incorporated into broader state and regional conservation initiatives.

View the entire conservation strategy at: <https://mtnhp.org/plants/NativePlantConservationStrategy.asp>.

Citizen Botany Update

By Kenda Herman, MNPS Vice-President, Kelsey Chapter



The Citizen Botany Pilot Study set out in 2022 to determine if volunteer botanists could fill key information gaps on Montana's rare plant populations. Leaders from every Chapter and At-Large components of the Plant Society volunteered to recruit and train interested members. With little notice, a small army of capable volunteers took to the woods, hills, prairies, and waters in pursuit of botanical survey missions. To date, 63 Citizen Botanists have traveled to 167 sites to obtain updated population, habitat, threat, and spatial data in more than half of Montana's 56 counties!

The number of site visits exceeded our expectations, but the connections made between plants and people were countless. If satisfactory plant population information plus a personal fascination with plants translated to income - a permanent Citizen Botany Program is certainly sustainable in Montana. We welcome and value your input and ideas as we work to secure a permanent Citizen Botany Program.

On behalf of the Pilot Study team, I want to thank the members of MNPS. This effort could not function without your support.

I cannot give enough thanks to the Pilot Study Chapter Coordinators who eagerly committed to helping, were unphased by adapting system features, and bolstered local enthusiasm in unique ways. Your enthusiasm fueled the entire process!

Photos: 1) A citizen botanist measures the height of a storm saxifrage (Micranthes tempistiva) individual; 2) The profile of Parry's fleabane (Erigeron parryi) shows characteristics that set it apart from other fleabane species sharing rugged southwest Montana habitat; 3) USFS employee with the BHDL NF revisiting sapphire rockcress (Boechera fecunda) monitoring population, photo by Andrea Pipp; 4) A Citizen Botanist photograph of the sori to help verify the presence of northern beechfern (Phegopteris connectilis), photo credit: Edward Zyniack

Citizen Botany is back in 2025!

From Superior to Sidney- MNPS members pitched in to prove that a Citizen Botany Program in Montana is well worth the effort. A fresh list of rare plant occurrences is ready to share. We welcome new and returning Citizen Botanists to select a pair of revisit locations by April 11, 2025. Please email kherman@mt.gov to access the list and reserve your sites for 2025 and 2026 field seasons.

We will be thrilled to welcome a Program Coordinator from a pool of AgCorps applicants in the coming weeks. AgCorps is a state AmeriCorps program administered by the Montana Department of Agriculture. The Program Coordinator will manage Citizen Botany operations and guide program growth in 2025. Applications for the position are under review, so stay tuned for a welcome announcement!



Join us in Ekalaka for a Citizen Botany Workshop during the MNPS Annual Meeting. Fraser Watson and Kenda Herman will demonstrate a revisit survey focusing on mapping methods. We will show you how to map different types of plant distributions in the field using Survey 123 or paper field forms.





Prairie Solstice Sojourns

2025 Montana Native Plant Society Annual Meeting

June 20-22, 2025 (Camp Needmore, Rimrock Carter Road, Ekalaka, MT)



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 coral root 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.

Registration will be available online starting April 1st and running through June 13th on our website under the Activities/Annual Meetings tab. Late registration in person at the meeting is an option, but cabins and meals cannot be guaranteed.

Our base will be Camp Needmore, just seven miles east of Ekalaka. Lodging options are dormitory-style cabins, or tent and RV camping on-site. Limited motels, B&Bs and RV sites are in Ekalaka (seven miles) or Baker (35 miles); find them with a general internet search or via Ekalaka.gov. Breakfasts and dinners will be catered with

vegan and gluten-free options. Bring your own Saturday lunch. No WiFi is available at camp and cell service is limited. Please note: Events occur June 20-22, but the camp will be available Thursday night, June 19, for a cost of \$10/person; there will be NO meals provided until Friday night, but the kitchen and cooler may be used.

Activities include our featured speaker, USFS District Ranger Kurt Hansen, presenting on the history and botany of the Sioux Ranger District; two workshops (a Citizen Botany Training Survey and a Bumble Bee Atlas Training Survey); a wide range of field trips on Saturday; the Wayne Phillips Plant ID Contest; a field trip slide show; a member-made variety show; and a silent auction fundraiser. As to the latter events, consider sharing a song, dance, poem, impersonation, mime, comedy routine, recitation, skit, etc. if you will - botany-related or not; and please bring what you can craft, bake, create, or dig out of the closet or bookshelf for the silent auction.

Contact Maka Flora president Libby Knotts at libbyknotts@gmail.com or 808-238-4902 if you would like more details, have questions, or have something to contribute to the meeting. Please see the registration insert for details. Maka Flora members look forward to hosting you in June!

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

By Camie Westfall, MNPS Secretary, Kelsey Chapter

At the March 2025 Board of Directors meeting, the board approved some minor clarifications and additions to the Montana Native Plant Society Board Bylaws. The last updates to the bylaws were in 2011 and 2016.

Descriptions of the suggested bylaws additions are added *in green text* below, and the entire MNPS Bylaws document can be found on the MNPS website.

Article V. Officers and Board Members

Section 3. Change “Annual Meeting” to “Annual Membership Meeting” in the sentence, “The President shall preside over the

regular Board Meetings and Annual *Membership Meeting*.” (Note: This edit was approved by the Board in 2016, but there is unclear documentation of an approval vote by MNPS Membership.)

Add the sentence “*The President shall be an additional signatory on State Society financial accounts.*”

Section 5. Add “and for contracted work agreements” to this sentence “The Treasurer shall make required filings with the IRS to maintain Society 501(c)3 status *and for contracted work agreements.*”

Add the sentence “*The Treasurer shall ensure the signatories on the State Society financial accounts are up to date.*”

Add 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 X. Chapter Organization

Section 2. Change the sentence from “The _____ Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society” to “*The Montana Native Plant Society, _____ Chapter.*” (Note: This edit was approved by the Board in 2016, but there is unclear documentation of an approval vote by MNPS Membership.

Article XI. Amendments

Section 1. Change the word “mailing” to “delivery”. “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.*”

The Board of Directors is presenting these proposed bylawsW changes for approval by the General Membership via electronic or mail in ballot. If any MNPS member has any questions, please contact the MNPS Secretary, Camie Westfall, at secretary@mtnativeplants.org.

A Tribute to Mary Sloan

Mary Sloan, longtime MNPS member, passed away in February. Those who knew Mary would no doubt agree that she was one of the kindest, sweetest souls you could ever meet. Mary became a member of MNPS in 1989 and was a dedicated volunteer, serving as Flathead

Chapter secretary before becoming chapter President from 1996-2000. With her late husband Gary, the Sloans were among the most respected and active conservationists in the Flathead Valley.

Mary’s interest in native plants began when she volunteered in a plant succession study on the Flathead National Forest (FNF). She worked with Peter Stickney of the Rocky Mountain Research Station for 10 seasons to study the impact of fire and other treatments on native plants.

Mary was an artistic and creative person. She made beautiful embroideries of native plants, some of which she donated to MNPS for silent auctions and gifts. One of her creations was a large banner with beautifully stitched native plants that was used at Flathead Chapter events. Mary also grew native plants from seed and planted natives around her property to promote biodiversity for birds and wildlife.

Mary’s long history of volunteering can be traced to work she and Gary did years ago for The Nature Conservancy at its Pine Butte Preserve. Mary said, “From that, we found out how interesting it was that there were organizations that understood what we could offer as volunteers,” she said. “It became a way of life.”

Mary and Gary often accompanied professional botanists on

plant surveys. During these outings, engaging conversation went far beyond the topics of native plants and plant ecology. They both had enchanting stories of what it was like to explore the mountains of the Flathead region in the 1940s and 50s.

Mary and Gary’s accomplishments in conservation are numerous. They championed the protection of Johnson Terraces, a unique shelf bedrock habitat on the FNF, inspiring its recognition as a Botanical Special Interest Area. Mary helped establish and maintain a native plant garden at Flathead Valley Community College. She was involved in the early stages of the Whitefish Trail system, getting plants recognized and leading plant walks there. The Sloans established an herbarium for the Whitefish Community Library with more than 100 native plants that they pressed, described, and displayed. They started the Plant

ID Station for the Flathead Forestry Expo in early 1990s, an annual event that introduces 5th graders to native plants. Mary and Gary worked with the Tally Lake Ranger District designing and implementing a 15-year photo record of post-fire plant succession after the 1995 Little Wolf Fire. They also

helped inventory old growth forests for the Audubon Society.

As a result of these many conservation achievements, the Sloans were awarded the Danny On Conservation Award in 1996 from the FNF, Flathead Audubon’s Outstanding Conservation Achievements Award in 2018, and a Special Achievement Award from MNPS in 2015.

We are grateful to Mary for her many contributions. Her sweet smile and gentle soul will be sorely missed.





The USDA Bridger, MT Plant Materials Program

By Larry K. Holzworth, retired USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Specialist

The Montana DNRC Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery Program Manager presented their current work for the [National Seed Strategy](#) at the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) [virtual zoom meeting](#) December 17, 2024. Like the eco-regional seed zones production hub for The National Seed Strategy, the mission of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), [Plant Materials Program](#) is to assemble, test and make native plant species available to the public for use in conservation programs to solve natural resource concerns. With assistance from the NRCS Field Office Staff, they assemble ecotypes of interest across their range of occurrence. The Bridger Plant Materials Center (BPMC) staff evaluates those ecotypes for speed of germination, erosion control and seed production in a common nursery for three to five years. They then select superior plant populations, develop cultural techniques for a species' successful establishment, install field evaluation plantings to promote their use by land managers, landowners, and seed producers. After selections are proven, they are released to the private sector for commercial production.

The Bridger PMC is owned by the Montana and Wyoming Conservation Districts and its work is conducted cooperatively with state and federal agencies, conservation districts, commercial businesses, and seed and nursery associations. It was established to provide native plant materials for the reclamation of disturbed

lands, specifically the coal strip mines of eastern Montana and Wyoming. Its beginning was in response to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977, a federal law that regulates the environmental impact of coal mining in the United States which required the mines to reclaim their disturbances back to the original plant community. Until 'Critana' thickspike wheatgrass was released in 1971, there were no indigenous native

species available to the mining companies on the open market. Critana has proven to be adapted over a large area of the northern great plains and has been used extensively by private landowners in CRP, State Highway Departments for stabilization of road corridors, public lands for reclamation of disturbances, etc. Since 1959, the BPMC has released over 35 plants for conservation use.

Obviously, the National Seed Strategy and what the BPMC works with run parallel. The National Seed Strategy is the just the next generation of refining ecoregional seed zones

of indigenous species. The major challenge is maintaining genetic purity and encouraging their commercial production on an economy of scale. The special production techniques are costly and will require a large demand. However, with the experience and success of the BPMC in serving as a native plant seed bank for the revegetation of highways in Yellowstone, Glacier and Teton National Parks, the State Forest Tree Seedling Nursery and the BPMC can collaborate jointly on similar native seed projects for common goals.



Seed Production of Meriwether Germplasm blanketflower; a Bridger PMC release

DNRC Nursery: A Native Seed Production Hub for the Montana Native Seed Network

By Michael Butts, DNRC Nursery Program Manager

Great things are happening in Montana's native plant world! It has been three years since I joined the DNRC Nursery as Program Manager and it's been a pleasure meeting many MNPS members along the way. From the 2024 Conservation Conference in Bozeman to botanical field trips and volunteer events, I am truly grateful for the MNPS network!

Speaking of networks, we are developing a native seed production hub here at the DNRC Nursery in Missoula, which produces ecotype seed for the Montana Native Seed Network (MTNSN). The mission of the network is: *As part of 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 large scale at the DNRC Seedling Nursery in Missoula. This seed is accessible to all partners to restore and enhance ecosystems throughout the region.

The DNRC Nursery operates as a proprietary fund and does not receive an annual state budget. Seedling sales support the seven full time staff and seasonal workers' salaries and maintenance of aging infrastructure. Developing a seed production program requires a lot of investment, thus the Montana Native Seed Network will be fully grant-funded during its initial years. Fortunately, many partners have joined the efforts to support the MTNSN, including

its principal partner, the Missoula Conservation District, which contributed the start-up funds to prepare fields for cultivation. Going forward, the Montana Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Region I will be the network's primary federal funding partners.

For the next couple of years, production will be focused at the DNRC Nursery in the form of Foundation Seed. Foundation seed, otherwise known as generation 0 seed, is produced directly from wild populations. Foundation seed is then used to establish bulk production fields with commercial growers.

The long-term goal of the MTNSN is to produce large quantities of ecotype seed or "pre-varietal releases" available on the open market for landscape-level restoration. This will be accomplished through partnerships with the private sector and commercial seed growers. As we move into the next phase of production, the DNRC Nursery will be entering into contracts with commercial growers to scale up production.

We will need as much help as we can get over the next several years with foundation seed production which includes live plant

plug installation, harvesting, and seed cleaning. We had an excellent first year of volunteer events in 2024 organized by the Missoula Conservation District and we look forward to many more in 2025. Please reach out to Bryan Vogt at the Missoula Conservation District at bvogt@missoulacd.org if you are interested in volunteer opportunities during the 2025 season.

The MTNSN is also looking for experienced botanists as contract seed collectors during the 2025 field season. We are especially looking to collect from populations outside the radius of Missoula. The MTNSN has grant funds to pay private contract seed collectors. Please contact the nursery at mtnursery@mt.gov or 406-542-4244 for more information.

Finally, the DNRC Nursery welcomes MNPS members to tour the facilities and seed production fields this summer! Please stay tuned to the MNPS summer field trip schedule for updates. Network updates are also available through the nursery's newsletter and website, at <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Conservation-Nursery/>.

Thanks again for the support from the Montana Native Plant Society and I look forward to seeing you in the seed fields this season!

President's Platform

I would like to start by thanking Dave Hanna for his leadership as co-president over the past year. He was the one who led the MNPS while I was on sabbatical, collaborating on plant-related research around the globe. Even now, as I continue to learn the ropes of this esteemed position, his insight and assistance remain invaluable.

I also would like to thank ALL the MNPS Board Members for putting up with me. Most importantly, I am deeply grateful for our nearly 1,000 members—you are the heart of MNPS and the driving force behind everything we do. Your passion and involvement inspire our ongoing efforts to study and conserve native plants of Montana. And finally, special thanks to our donors, your generosity enables us to launch and collaborate on meaningful initiatives to better understand native plant species and plant communities in our state.

I stepped up as president just a couple of months ago and it has been truly inspiring to see all the great things happening around native plants. Many of you likely heard about the new Montana

Native Plant Conservation Strategy, spearheaded by Andrea Pipp. This comprehensive plan, developed collaboratively by the Montana Natural Heritage Program and the MNPS, promotes the coordinated stewardship of Montana's native flora and habitats. In addition, the Analysis of the Montana Citizen Botany Pilot

Study was recently published, led by Andrea Pipp and Kenda Herman, alongside the same key stakeholders. The study aimed to update Montana's dataset on rare plant occurrences by engaging trained citizen scientists, known as Citizen Botanists, to revisit known rare plant sites that had not been surveyed for at least 20 years. Programs like these are essential for understanding population trends of endangered plant species, such as the Ute Ladies'-tresses, and allow us to

stand up for their continued protection.

With that, I would like to thank you for your trust and support and I am looking forward to seeing you in the field and at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Ekalaka.

- Robert Pal



MNPS President, Robert Pal



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2024. GIFTS FROM PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS HELP TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION.

Ponderosa Pine Donor (\$1000+)

Patrick Plantenberg & Mary Mistik

Lupine Donor (\$250+)

Dee L. Blank
Tom Deveny
Lou Ann Harris
Alyson Illich
Jeff & Jaime Kicklighter Fund
Michael & Sandra King
Donna Maston
Sacha Pealer – In Memory of Eva Masin Prather

Bitterroot Donor (\$100+)

Laura Alvey
Susan & Paul Ballinger
Stephanie Brecht - Brecht Consulting Services, LLC
Mary Byron
Mae Clark - Gardenwerks
Stephani Conner & Jude Ferrara
Eric Dickinson
Vicki & Bill Fitzgerald
Maureen Gary
Jessica Giuliani
Jane D. Horton & Doug Holly
Sarah Howell
Judy Hutchins
Margaret Johnson
Lisa Larsen
Dr. Gary A. Laursen

Cary Lund
Helen H. McCarty
Rosemary McKinnon
Pamela McSloy
Ava Orr – in Memory of Peter F. Stickney
Karen W. Porter
Harry Spilman
Sherry Vogel
Christine Walrath
Joan Wright
& two anonymous donors

Kelsey Donor (\$50+)

Mike Baker
Valerie Beebe
Carol Brooker
Deb Burfeind
Ed Callaghan & Valerie Hedquist
Christine Carson
Hailey Moore - Center for Native Plants
Ellen Chuang & Thomas Templeton
Pom & Kathi Collins
Bruce Cowgill
Tracy Dougher
Deborah Drain
Susan Ewing
Kristine Fitzgerald - Woods Rose Market
Judith Fraser
Mark & Ginger Garff
Katie Gibson - High Country Apps
Jessica & Jason Glenn

Elaina Graham & Doug Parker
Raymond & Mary Delle Gunn
James Habeck
Jennifer Heiss
Joan Higgins-Smith
Judy Hoy
Sandy Hugus
Kathleen & Jeffrey Janosko
Michael A. Jasumback
Temia & Joseph Keel
Chelsea Kiser
Connie Marmet-Baldwen
Bruce Maxwell
Mary T. McClelland
Bruce McCune & Pat Muir
Holly McKenzie
Janet McMillan & Land Lindbergh
Nora Miller
Kelsey Molloy
Cathy Morris
Sheila Morrison
Serene Munroe & David Rinker
Terri Narotzky
Barbara Olson
Nathan Phillips
Katherine Richards
Bryn Robertson
Brad & Susan Robinson
Danielle Rose
Jani Rounds
Victoria Saab
Erica Shuhler & River Campeau

Martin Skinner & Julie Swanson-Skinner
Amber & Robert Smith
Andrew Smith
Andrea & Donald Stierle
Rosan Stover
Jamie Sullivan
Sara Toubman
Nancy Volle
Norm & Cathy Weeden
Janet Winnie
& 13 anonymous donors

Grass Roots Donors

Elaine Caton
Judy Chadwick
Mary Alice Chester
Roberta Coppinger
Milla Cummins
Deborah Eunpu
Monica Haaland
Kelli Hall
Sierra Harris
James Hatley
Leslie A. Hayes
Elizabeth Kuropat
Laurie Kurth
Peter Lesica
Maria Mantas
Kathy Powell
Cara Priem
Mary Swanson
Andrew Wanta
Idell Weydenmeyer
Beverly Young
& 10 anonymous donors

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

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

☞ **Artemisia Chapter**

Adrienne & Erin Baker,
Theresa Butcher, Barbara Pitman

☞ **Calypso Chapter**

Bridget Canning, Dave Colella

☞ **Clark Fork Chapter**

Amelia Armstrong, Lee Brown, Michelle Cummins,

Jay Dobson, Melinda List, Charlotte Main, Erynn McNeill, Nicole Miller, Marvin Pauls, Madeline Swanberg, Mitch Vorwerk, Shawnalee Voyles

☞ **Flathead Chapter**

Alexandra Hudson, Heidi Ruggiero

☞ **Kelsey Chapter**

Talinna Appling, Casey

Bereszniewicz, Berry Berryman, Christina Evans, Jim Hunt & Barb Howe, Emily Hunt, Stacy Montemayor, Haley Schwarz, Jennifer Steilmann, Amanda Webster

☞ **Valley of Flowers Chapter**

Pam Bode, Mary Engel,

Kelli Gibbs, Nicki Hoskins, Riley McClelland, Melissa McLemore, Elise Reynaud, Kelly Steele

☞ **Eastern-At-Large**

Paula Maier

☞ **Western-At-Large**

Rita Adams, Carolyn Pardini, Elaine & Colton Tanassy, Marguerite Trost

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____





**JOIN, RENEW, OR DONATE
ONLINE AT:**

www.mtnativeplants.org

Please notify us promptly of address changes (physical or email) at mtnativeplantmembership@gmail.com

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Membership Type	Dues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business/Organization	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/>	Living Lightly/Student	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime-Individual Only (one-time payment)	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper Kelseyia Fee Add \$10 if you wish to receive a paper copy of our quarterly newsletter Kelseyia, otherwise an e-version of Kelseyia will be delivered via email	\$10

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

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

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

MNPS Chapters and the Areas They Serve

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

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

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

MNPS
PO Box 8783
Missoula, MT 59807-8783

Welcome to the
Montana Native Plant Society!

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



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. Box 8783
Missoula, MT 59807-8783

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Plains, MT
59859
PERMIT NO. 3

© Copyright 2025
Montana Native Plant Society
Printed on recycled paper

About Montana Native Plant Society

The Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation chartered for the purpose of preserving, conserving, and studying the native plants and plant communities of Montana, and educating the public about the value of our native flora. Contributions to MNPS are tax deductible.

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

Summer issue submission deadline is June 10

Please send web items to our webmasters:

Bob Person and Carol Goffe at mnpswebmaster@gmail.com

Advertising space is available in each issue at \$5/column inch. Ads must be camera-ready and must meet the guidelines set by the Board of Directors for suitable subject matter; that is, be related in some way to native plants or the interests of MNPS members.

If you would like extra copies of *Kelsey* for friends or family, contact the Newsletter co-editors at: scottguse@yahoo.com or jenhintzguse@gmail.com. No part of this publication may be reprinted without the consent of MNPS. Reprint requests should be directed to the newsletter co-editors.

Changes of address and inquiries about membership should be sent to **MNPS Membership, P.O. Box 8783, Missoula, MT 59807-8783.**

Please visit our website at www.mtnativeplants.org

MNPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Robert Pal	Butte	496-4725
Past-Presidents	Dave Hanna	Choteau	788-4938
	Patrick Plantenberg	Townsend	431-4615
Vice President	Kenda Herman	Clancy	683-2737
Secretary	Camie Westfall	Helena	363-8295
Treasurer	Laurie Kurth	Frenchtown	626-4462
Administrative Asst.	Leah Grunzke	Bemidji, MN	493-0544
Newsletter Co-editors	Scott Guse	Whitefish	998-7638
	Jen Hintz Guse	Whitefish	270-7028
Directors At-Large			
Eastern Montana	Kelsey Molloy	Malta	654-4566
Western Montana	Jon Reny	Libby	334-0459
Chapter Representatives			
Artemisia Chapter	Jessica Callahan	Billings	507-696-5467
Calypso Chapter	Catherine Cain	Glen	498-6198
	Karen Porter	Butte	498-9728
Clark Fork Chapter	Teagan Hayes	Missoula	920-979-9009
Flathead Chapter	Tara Carolin	Kalispell	607-7670
Kelsey Chapter	Elena Johnson	Helena	459-2987
Maka Flora Chapter	Libby Knotts	Lambert	774-3778
Valley of Flowers Chapter	Gretchen Rupp	Bozeman	586-8363
Standing Committees			
Conservation	VACANT		
Landscaping/Reveg.	Patrick Plantenberg	Townsend	431-4615
Membership	Maria Mantas	Bigfork	407-2045
Grants & Giving	Annie Garde	Missoula	721-7627
	Betty Kuropat	Troy	295-7143

Moving? Please let us know at mtnativeplantmembership@gmail.com

OFFICIAL 2025 MNPS ELECTION BALLOT

Please vote for the candidate of your choice, or a write-in candidate, including yourself. Fill out and mail to the address on the ballot, or go to the election page online: www.mtnativeplants.org/elections. Terms are two years. Results will be announced at the Annual General Membership Meeting on June 21, 2025 at Camp Needmore near Ekalaka, Montana.

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

ROBERT PAL (Incumbant) - Robert is a Professor and the Director of Restoration at Montana Technological University (Department of Biological Sciences). He holds a master's in agriculture and a Ph.D. in Biology/Plant Ecology. His main research focus has always been the study of the flora and vegetation of disturbed habitats, including agricultural and urban areas. That led him to work on ecological restoration and plant invasions. He was awarded prestigious research grants such as the Fulbright Research Grant and the Marie Curie Research Fellowship. From 2021-2023 Robert served as the vice president of the Montana Native Plant Society. In 2023 he was elected as co-president with Dave Hanna, and is currently serving as president.



_____ Write-in candidate

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

Laurie Kurth (Incumbant) - Laurie is a plant ecologist with more than 32 years of service with federal agencies, and she is currently serving as the MNPS treasurer. In Laurie's final position in her career, she managed the national US Forest Service program budget for wildfire risk reduction (fuels management) and oversaw wildfire prevention, air quality management, and state assistance programs. Since returning to Montana in 2018, she has enjoyed reconnecting with Montana flora, including expanding native plant gardens. She enjoys kayaking, traveling, hiking, biking, Chicago Cubs baseball, and quilting. In the summer, you might see her at farmer's markets, fairs, and street festivals selling handcrafted goods, including those brought back from Nepal and Thailand. She lives with her two furry felines, Fuego and Rosie, in Frenchtown, and is a member of the Clark Fork Chapter. Laurie has been serving as treasurer of the Montana Native Plant Society since 2021.



_____ Write-in candidate

CANDIDATE FOR WESTERN DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

JON RENY (Incumbant) - Jon Reny first came to Montana in 1977, working for the Forest Service in the Yaak River area. He was still going to college in Alabama and worked summers or falls in the Yaak until 1980, when he finished school and moved up here. Jon first got involved with the Montana Native Plant Society in the late 1980's when he was on the Small Grants Committee. From 1993 to 2005, he worked as a Sensitive Plant technician in Libby, MT area. During those years, he got to meet and work with many interesting botanical people. Jon has been the Western Director-at-Large since 2023.



_____ Write-in candidate

CHANGES TO MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY BYLAWS

Please refer to article in this issue or [online document](#) for proposed changes

- I approve the bylaw changes as presented and approved by the Board of Directors
 I DO NOT approve the bylaw changes as presented and approved by the Board of Directors
-

CHAPTER AFFILIATION

Please indicate your affiliation. All members previously not affiliated have been assigned to one of the two -at-Large groups.
() Artemisia () Calypso () Clark Fork () Flathead () Kelsey () Maka Flora () Valley of Flowers () Eastern-at-Large () Western-at-Large

Number of paid members in your household _____ **THE MNPS ELECTORAL COLLEGE THANKS YOU!**

From:

Flower
Stamp

To: Montana Native Plant Society
Electoral College
1827 11th Avenue, PMB#120
Helena, MT 59601

Fold here



Tape here


MONTANA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY

Montana Native Plant Society Annual Meeting

"Prairie Solstice Sojourns"

June 20-22, 2025 (plus June 19 optional early arrival)

Camp Needmore, Ekalaka, Montana

Join us during summer solstice to botanize the rolling plains, buttes, forests, and badlands of southeast Montana where you will see a wide variety of flora, including many unique species. Maka Flora offers an agenda packed with lots of botany, learning, socializing, food and fun.

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

Citizen Botany Training Survey: Fraser Watson and Kenda Herman will conduct hands-on training on how to do a survey of rare plants for the Natural Heritage Citizen Botany program using Survey 123. Get comfortable following the Citizen Botany protocol so that you can help document rare plants in Montana.

Bumble Bee Atlas Training Survey: Michelle Toshack of The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation will conduct hands-on training on how to survey native bumble bees. Great opportunity to learn to ID native bumble bees in hand and contribute to pollinator science.

SATURDAY FULL DAY FIELD TRIPS (tentative)

"Orchid Alley", Northern Ekalaka Hills/Opeeche Area: Mixture of pine savanna and pine forest ecosystems with a wide variety of species including coral root orchids and Plains frostweed (new record and new Family for Montana). (easy)

Tongue River Sandstone+Hell Creek Formation Badlands: Plants to be seen include Dakota buckwheat, various *Atriplex* forb and shrub species and other badlands loving plants. Hike 1-1.5 miles. (easy)

Long Pines/Capitol Rock: A driving tour on national forest roads with short hikes to explore the diversity of ecotypes and native plants of the region. (easy)

Chalk Buttes: Hike through ponderosa pine forest and sandstone bluffs to the grassy top of the Chalk Buttes for a vista of surrounding plains and buttes. Hike 2-3 miles. (more difficult)

Powderville Road Tour: We'll stop and check out a variety of habitats including very sandy soils and badland terrain that make for uncommon species such as Dakota buckwheat, bird's egg milkvetch, little Indian breadroot, and Prince's plume. (moderate)

Medicine Rocks State Park: Explore sandstone outcrops and discover the unique plant species found in the sandy, eolian environment of this state park. (easy) *This trip can be half day also, as people can leave as they wish with their own vehicle.*

Private Land: Visit a working ranch to explore prairie ecosystems and learn about sustainable grazing management with a local rancher and WWF. (easy)

Ringling Ranch: Tour a private stream and wetland mitigation bank along O'Fallon Creek. Hike 3-4 miles through prairie grassland observing upland and wetland plants and learning about the mitigation process and restoration at the site. (moderately easy)

SATURDAY HALF DAY TRIPS

Rimroad Tour in the Ekalaka Hills: Forest parkland, wildflower meadows, scenic vistas. Driving tour with short hikes. (easy)

Carter County Museum: On your own. Renowned for its paleontology, Native American and western history. If this place isn't on your "Montana bucket list", it should be. Plan ahead at <https://cartercountymuseum.org/> as it will be open every day.

Field Trip Advice: Field trip sizes will be limited; come early and be flexible. Bring your own lunch, plenty of water, clothes for all weather including rain, hand lenses, and eastern Montana field guides. Recommended guides: Grassland Plants of South Dakota or Plants of the Black Hills and Bear Lodge Mountains, both by Gary Larson. For homework, read: *Botanical and Vegetation Survey of Carter County*: http://mtnhp.org/plants/reports/bnv_survey_cartercounty.pdf. NO DOGS on any field trips.

AGENDA

Thursday, June 19 *Optional Extra Night*

Noon+ Optional early arrival; no meals provided, kitchen available for use

Friday, June 20

Noon+ Arrive, register

2:00-4:00 Workshops

5:00 Field Trip sign-up opens

3:00-6:00 Social with snacks, beer, soda, etc.

6:30 Dinner

7:00 MNPS Board Meeting

8:00 History & Botany of the Sioux Ranger District by District Ranger Kurt Hansen

Saturday, June 21

7:00-8:00 Breakfast

8:30-4:30 Field trips (bring your own lunch)

3:00-5:30 *Wayne Phillips* Plant ID contest

6:00-7:00 Dinner

7:00-8:00 General membership meeting

8:00-8:30 Field trip slides

9:00 Silent Auction ends

9:00+ Variety Show - all are welcome to share talent, wit, or wisdom (there may be prizes)

Sunday, June 22

7:00-9:00 Breakfast

8:30-9:30 Committee meetings

9:30-12:00 Break camp, cleanup, farewells

Questions? Contact Libby at libbyknotts@gmail.com or cell 808-238-4902;

Nicole at makafloraam@gmail.com or aquametalmark@msn.com

MNPS 2025...*Prairie Solstice Sojourns* REGISTRATION (or online at mtnativeplants.org/annual-meetings/)

Online and mail registration must be **received before June 13** to ensure meals and lodging; registration received after June 13 and in-person registration at camp with cash or check is possible, but meals and lodging cannot be guaranteed.

Adult Registration (Ages 12+) Before June 13	Members ____ x \$25	Non-members ____ x \$35	Total \$ _____
Adult Registration (Ages 12+) June 13 and later	Members ____ x \$30	Non-members ____ x \$40	Total \$ _____
Student/Living Lightly (no late fee, but still no meal/lodging guarantees after June 13)	Members ____ x \$20	Non-members ____ x \$25	Total \$ _____
Children (under 12)	_____ # kids	Free! Sorry, no planned activities for kids.	
WORKSHOPS Friday 2:00 - 4:00			
Citizen Botany Training Survey	# people _____	Free	
Bumble Bee Atlas Training Survey	# people _____	Free	
MEALS - NOT GUARANTEED AFTER JUNE 13 (children must be <12)			
Friday Dinner <i>Pasta Bar - chicken or zucchini pasta with salad, dessert, and drinks</i>	# adults <i>Meat</i> ____ x \$16	# children <i>Meat</i> ____ x \$8	Total \$ _____
	# adults <i>Veg</i> ____ x \$16	# children <i>Veg</i> ____ x \$8	Total \$ _____
Saturday Breakfast <i>Breakfast burrito bar, fruit, drinks</i>	# adults <i>Meat</i> ____ x \$12	# children <i>Meat</i> ____ x \$6	Total \$ _____
	# adults <i>Veg</i> ____ x \$12	# children <i>Veg</i> ____ x \$6	Total \$ _____
Saturday Dinner <i>Roast beef or veggie burger, vegetable, salad, dessert, drinks</i>	# adults <i>Meat</i> ____ x \$20	# children <i>Meat</i> ____ x \$10	Total \$ _____
	# adults <i>Veg</i> ____ x \$20	# children <i>Veg</i> ____ x \$10	Total \$ _____
Sunday Breakfast <i>Pastries, fruit, yogurt, drinks</i>	# adults ____ x \$12	# children ____ x \$6	Total \$ _____
LODGING - Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights are available (Thursday is for lodging only; no meals offered.)			
Note: Bunkhouses are NOT private; only segregated as identified below (you may be sharing with others in your same category-men/women/couples/families). All are single bed, dorm style. Bring your own bedding and towel; access to bath house.			
Bunkhouse for Women	_____ # people x _____ # nights x \$10 =	Total \$ _____	
Bunkhouse for Men	_____ # people x _____ # nights x \$10 =	Total \$ _____	
Bunkhouse for Couples	_____ # people x _____ # nights x \$10 =	Total \$ _____	
Bunkhouse for Families	_____ # people x _____ # nights x \$10 =	Total \$ _____	
Tent Camping. Access to bath house with showers. Vehicles must be left in parking lot.	_____ # people x _____ # nights x \$10 =	Total \$ _____	
RV Site with electric hook up. Limit of 11 sites – reserve early! (<i>If you don't need electricity, put 0 for sites needed; park in lot or on gravel road.</i>)	_____ # sites needed	x _____ # nights x \$12	Total \$ _____
	_____ # people	x _____ # nights x \$10	
			Grand Total \$ _____

All Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Phone (_____) _____

I (we) agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS) and its board of directors and members against claims of liability, damages, and injury that may arise out of my (our) participation in MNPS activities at Camp Needmore and related field trips, June 19-22, 2025.

All Signature(s) _____

Make checks to MNPS. Mail payment and this form BY JUNE 6th to: MNPS, c/o Nicole Davidson, 103 9th Ave NW, Sidney, MT

59270.

You may also register and pay online with Paypal at www.mtnativeplants.org; click on Annual Meeting.

Facility and Lodging: Rustic Camp Needmore boasts a spacious lodge for dining and meeting with an accessible bathroom, shared dormitory-style cabins (single beds, bring your own bedding and towel), bath house with toilets and hot showers, campfire circle, RV sites with electricity, and lots of space for tent camping. Bring camp chairs for the fire. **Sorry, no dogs in camp.** Ekalaka (7 miles) and Baker (35 miles) both have hotels and RV camping (find them with a general internet search or via Ekalaka.gov). **NOTE: NO WiFi or cell service at camp; the camp landline for incoming or local calls is 406-775-6413; cell service is available as you go toward town.**

Address: Camp Needmore, Rimrock Carter Rd, Ekalaka, MT 59324. **Getting There:** From Ekalaka, take Highway 323 south for 5 miles. Turn right onto Rimrock Carter Road, then 2 miles to camp. Look for MNPS signs.

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>
MNPS BUDGET SUMMARY						
General Fund	26700.00	33161.52	(33800.00)	(28736.06)	(7100.00)	4425.46
Grants and Giving Fund	7100.00	11689.31	(6050.00)	(3824.02)	1050.00	7865.29
TOTALS	33800.00	44850.83	(39850.00)	(32560.08)	(6050.00)	12290.75

GENERAL FUND

<u>GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES</u>	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Membership	20000.00	23020.00	(5000.00)	(5497.45)	15000.00	17522.55
Dues and Fees	20000.00	23020.00	(1000.00)	(1227.45)	19000.00	21792.55
Chapter Portion	0.00	0.00	(4000.00)	(4270.00)	(4000.00)	(4270.00)
Newsletter	1000.00	710.00	(9000.00)	(9135.45)	(8000.00)	(8425.45)
Operating Budget	700.00	1201.52	(11100.00)	(8627.53)	(10400.00)	(7426.01)
Awards	0.00	0.00	(600.00)	0.00	(600.00)	0.00
Committees	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00
Contracts	0.00	0.00	(6500.00)	(6787.00)	(6500.00)	(6787.00)
Board Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	700.00	1105.52	0.00	0.00	700.00	1105.52
Website	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(754.75)	(1000.00)	(754.75)
Zoom	0.00	0.00	(800.00)	(788.46)	(800.00)	(788.46)
Donations	0.00	50.00	0.00	(50.00)	0.00	0.00
Publications	0.00	46.00	(500.00)	0.00	(500.00)	46.00
Operating Expenses	0.00	0.00	(200.00)	(247.32)	(200.00)	(247.32)
At-Large Expenses	0.00	0.00	(500.00)	0.00	(500.00)	0.00
Transfer between GF and G&G funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GOE TOTALS	21700.00	24931.52	(25100.00)	(23260.43)	(3400.00)	1671.09
SPECIAL PROJECTS						
Annual Meeting	0.00	3272.00	0.00	(200.00)	0.00	3072.00
Plant Conservation Conference	5000.00	4958.00	(5000.00)	(4675.63)	0.00	282.37
Citizen Botany Project	0.00	0.00	(2500.00)	0.00	(2500.00)	0.00
MNPS Presents!	0.00	0.00	(1200.00)	(600.00)	(1200.00)	(600.00)
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	5000.00	8230.00	(8700.00)	(5475.63)	(3700.00)	2754.37
GENERAL FUND TOTALS	26700.00	33161.52	(33800.00)	(28736.06)	(7100.00)	4425.46

GRANTS AND GIVING FUND

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Proposed Var.</u>	<u>Variance</u>
INCOME	7100.00	11689.31	(300.00)	(74.02)	6800.00	11615.29
Donation	7000.00	11590.00	(300.00)	(74.02)	6700.00	11515.98
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	100.00	99.31	0.00	0.00	100.00	99.31
Transfer between GF and G&G funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS AND GIVING	0.00	0.00	(5750.00)	(3750.00)	(5750.00)	(3750.00)
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants (Solicited)	0.00	0.00	(2000.00)	(750.00)	(2000.00)	(750.00)
Gifts (Unsolicited)						
MT Herbaria Donation	0.00	0.00	(2000.00)	(2000.00)	(2000.00)	(2000.00)
MT Audubon Donation	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(1000.00)	(1000.00)	(1000.00)
Other	0.00	0.00	(750.00)	0.00	(750.00)	0.00
Chapter Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND 2024 TOTALS	7100.00	11689.31	(6050.00)	(3824.02)	1050.00	7865.29
Carryover from previous year	2000.00					
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND AVAILABLE FUNDS	9865.29					

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Variance</u>
MNPS BUDGET SUMMARY					
General Fund	27660.00	14184.27	(38500.00)	(10820.37)	3363.90
Grants and Giving Fund	14100.00	9337.74	(21550.00)	(166.72)	9171.02
TOTALS	41760.00	23522.01	(60050.00)	(10987.09)	12534.92

GENERAL FUND

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Membership	21000.00	13670.07	(5900.00)	(727.84)	12942.23
Dues and Fees	21000.00	13670.07	(1200.00)	(727.84)	12942.23
Chapter Portion	0.00	0.00	(4200.00)	0.00	0.00
Membership database system	0.00	0.00	(500.00)	0.00	0.00
Newsletter	660.00	400.00	(10400.00)	(1825.00)	(1425.00)
Operating Budget	1000.00	114.20	(13000.00)	(2867.53)	(2753.33)
Awards	0.00	0.00	(600.00)	0.00	0.00
Committees	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	0.00
Contracts	0.00	0.00	(7200.00)	(2427.00)	(2427.00)
Board Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	1000.00	114.20	0.00	0.00	114.20
Website	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(333.25)	(333.25)
Zoom	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(103.76)	(103.76)
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publications	0.00	0.00	(1400.00)	0.00	0.00
Operating Expenses	0.00	0.00	(300.00)	(3.52)	(3.52)
At-Large Expenses	0.00	0.00	(500.00)	0.00	0.00
Transfer between GF and G&G funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GOE TOTALS	22660.00	14184.27	(29300.00)	(5420.37)	8763.90
SPECIAL PROJECTS					
Annual Meeting	5000.00	0.00	(5000.00)	(5000.00)	(5000.00)
Plant Conservation Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Citizen Botany Project	0.00	0.00	(3000.00)	0.00	0.00
MNPS Presents!	0.00	0.00	(1200.00)	(400.00)	(400.00)
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	5000.00	0.00	(9200.00)	(5400.00)	(5400.00)
GENERAL FUND TOTALS	27660.00	14184.27	(38500.00)	(10820.37)	3363.90

GRANTS AND GIVING FUND

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Variance</u>
INCOME	14100.00	9337.74	(300.00)	(166.72)	9171.02
Donation	14000.00	9316.00	(300.00)	(166.72)	9149.28
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	100.00	21.74	0.00	0.00	21.74
Transfer between GF and G&G funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS AND GIVING	0.00	0.00	(21250.00)	0.00	0.00
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	(7500.00)	0.00	0.00
Grants (Solicited)	0.00	0.00	(10000.00)	0.00	0.00
Gifts (Unsolicited)					
MT Herbaria Donation	0.00	0.00	(2000.00)	0.00	0.00
MT Audubon Donation	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	(750.00)	0.00	0.00
Chapter Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND 2024 TOTALS	14100.00	9337.74	(21550.00)	(166.72)	9171.02
Carryover from previous year	9865.29				
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND PROPOSED FUNDS	23965.29				
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND AVAILABLE FUNDS	19036.31				