



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MINUTES

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

10:00 am to 2:00 pm; Sunday, November 9, 2025

In person (in Butte Montana Tech) and via Zoom

Attendees:

In person: Robert Pal (President), Kenda Herman (Vice President), Laurie Kurth (Treasurer), Gretchen Rupp (Valley of Flowers Chapter Rep), Teagan Hayes (Clark Fork Chapter Rep), Carol Goffe (Webmaster), Karen Porter (Calypso Chapter Rep), Mark Majerus (Landscaping Committee Co-Chair), Rachel Potter (Flathead Chapter Rep), Dave Hanna (Past President),

Online: Camie Westfall (Secretary), Alex Brown (MNPS! Presents), Betty Kuropat (Western At Large Rep), Elena Johnson (Kelsey Chapter Rep), Jennifer Guse (Newsletter Co-Editor), Libby Knotts (Maka Flora Chapter Rep), Peter Lesica (Conservation Committee), Maria Mantas (Membership Committee Chair), Leah Grunzke (Administrative Assistant), Patrick Plantenberg (Landscaping Committee Co-Chair)

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

- Agenda additions
- Meeting logistics

2. Secretary's Report – *Camie Westfall*

- **Motion:** Patrick Plantenberg moved to approve the summer 2025 Board meeting and Membership meeting minutes, Robert Pal seconded. Rachel Potter wanted to quickly go through the action items. Camie Westfall read them off. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- Board member contact updates - Please review and send corrections to Camie
- Google Drive folder design
 - Rachel wants to have the logo package and style guide
 - Teagan asked if the logo in the folder is the highest resolution. Rachel thought it was the highest we have.
 - Camie added a folder to the Board Handbook folder for the Logo/Style Guide.
 - Camie will share these folders with the Board.

3. Treasurer's Report –*Laurie Kurth*

- 2025 Budget Update
 - \$92,000 in all State MNPS accounts. See the Treasurer's Report folder.
 - Income \$47,334.65 as of 11/8/2025.

- We will have new filing requirements for the first time this year because we have gone over the \$40,000 benchmark bracket.
- Draft 2026 Budget – suggestion move to the end of the meeting conversation after everyone has presented their funding requests in all of the agenda items.
 - Funding requests from chapters and committees
 - Laurie wants to put in an amount of money to set aside for possible payment of a tax profession for tax advisement. She proposed \$750.
 - Discuss the Citizen Botany payment which has not been invoiced yet.

4. Newsletter Editors Report - *Jen Hintz Guse*

- Deadline reminders, items for the winter newsletter
 - December 10 for winter issue content:
 - Recap of year’s achievements for MNPS.
 - Memberships are coming due.
 - Conservation Corner: Jen asked if there are ideas about any info/content to include.
 - Perhaps Elizabeth Bergstrom and Jenny Lyman have information about the Beartooth Highway.
 - Perhaps content about Ambros Fen in Kalispell.
 - Upcoming 2026 Conservation Conference will have a two-page info sheet about the upcoming Conservation Conference.
 - Rachel suggested that if we need content, it is acceptable to consider reprinting good past articles.
 - Donor acknowledgements have been moved to spring issue.

5. Membership Report - *Maria Mantas*

- Membership Report
 - There are 924 members as of November 7, 2025.
 - Brochures were printed.
 - Maria will not have Microsoft Publisher software in the future, so she is wondering if we should preemptively print a bunch of brochures before she loses her MS Publisher license. Discussion and concern about possibility of being out of date and if memberships or chapters are accurate.
 - Maria will be ready to continue working on the new membership database (Little Green Light) this winter.
 - Mass emails: discussion about adding “friends” mailing list outside of the general membership.
 - Laurie brought up that some donations come from non-members, so perhaps if we are proactively emailing the friends list, then perhaps more people will join or donate.
 - A lot of the Board is in favor of having a “friends” distribution list, with emphasis for people to become a member. Invite more people to the table than just the general membership list.
 - No one was highly opposed.
 - It would help people participate and not create barriers or exclude certain people due to financial barriers or other barriers.

- Leah and Carol will work on a button for the website for people to opt in to a new mailing list.
- Donations Update
 - As of 11/7/2025, we have received \$12,170 from 122 donations. Minor discrepancy between Laurie's Treasurer report.
 - Maria and Leah will work together to send out an email about Giving Tuesday.
 - Maria will work together with Laurie to try to track which donations come in from Giving Tuesday as opposed to regular/other donations.
- Proposed Development Committee
 - Maria will reach out to interested Board members about this committee. From the Winter 2025 Meeting, Kelsey Malloy, Carol Goffe, and Laurie Kurth were interested in being on the committee with Maria Mantas as the Chairperson.

6. MNPS Presents! Winter Programs – *Alex Brown*

- Huge thank you to Leah for helping.
- Thank you to Gretchen Rupp for the first presentation idea for field trip photos and summaries. The first presentation was well received and attended. Alex would like to do this one again in the future.
- Alex has ideas and presenters lined up for November, January, February, and March.
 - She still needs someone for December 16; she has a couple ideas and is still searching for someone.
 - Patrick brought up including an announcement at the beginning of the presentations for the Audubon Native Plant Symposium. If anyone has any other announcements to include at the beginning of the presentations, reach out to Alex.
 - A lot of the presentations and topics are focused on the western side of the state, so there was discussion about including a presenter from central or eastern Montana. Please reach out to Alex with any ideas.

7. Webmaster Report – Carol Goffe/Bob Person

- Website updates
 - Survey: eight respondents in the spring. People were generally positive about the website and functionality.
- Google Meet discussion:
 - Has some limits: 1 hour limit (can restart another meeting), with a google for non-profit account, you can have a 24-hour meeting, there is a participant limit of 100 people). We cannot record these Google Meet meetings.
 - This is the last meeting that Robert can host via Zoom because agencies and organizations are now using Teams instead of Zoom.
- Google for Non-Profit account set up
 - Reach out to Carol to set up your account under the MNPS Google for Non-profit parent account.
 - Maria and Leah will set up and become active for the Membership Google for Non-profit account.
 - Carol showed that there are a bunch of folders set up that the Board could have access to and use for consolidating their files and folders in one location. This also creates

ability for shared access and having everything in one place in preparation for turnover or historical information tracking.

8. 2025 Annual Meeting Summary – *Libby Knotts*

- Special should out to Carol for helping with the PayPal account.
- There were 123 attendees.
- Profit of \$883.71 from registrations, plus \$1,151.50 from silent auction and sales for a total profit of \$2,035.21. The Chapter would like to keep the money instead of giving it to the State level. The Chapter can use it for events and outreach and would like to keep it in their accounts.
 - Motion: Patrick Plantenberg moves that we give the profit money to the Maka Flora Chapter, Rachel Potter seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.
 - Laurie will send the funds that the State level is holding to Maka Flora Chapter. These were the funds that came in through PayPal registrations.

9. 2026 Annual Meeting Update - *Gretchen Rupp*

- Valley of Flowers would like to limit registration to 175 participants for the 2026 Annual Meeting.
 - They would like to do online registration only (no mail registration).
 - Possibly offer a phone number for people to call in order to get assistance with online registration. The past couple meetings had 20 or less mail in registrants.
 - Several Board members expressed concerns about excluding people due to limit on participants. Past meetings that had limits, got a lot of push back from upset members who were not able to attend, but wanted to.
 - Highest participation was the Annual Meeting hosted by Clark Fork Chapter in 2024. That meeting had possibly over 140-150 participants.
 - Valley of Flowers hosted Annual Meeting could draw high participation due to proximity to Bozeman and Butte and easy access off Interstate 90.
 - Ideas about having registration options of “Saturday only” or “Friday only” to attempt to not go over facility limits for camping there and using restrooms.
 - Ideas about cutting off registration early so that they have their final count earlier and there aren’t last minute surprises or extra registrants using the facility or for the caterer.
 - Interest in getting more young people and university students to attend. Possibly offer free registration for students or offer students scholarships to attend. Discussion about outreach to campuses.
- They have a 22 person planning committee, so they have plenty of help.
- Discussion about renaming the MNPS Annual Meeting to “Montana Native Plant Society Festival” or “Rendezvous” or “Celebration”.
 - Valley of Flowers Chapter will come up with ideas. ☑ Montana Native Plant Rendezvous 2026 was agreed on by the Board via email after the meeting.
- Betty has a question about the 2027 Annual Meeting.
 - Kelsey Chapter is hosting. They are putting together a survey for the Kelsey Chapter membership if they have ideas. Elena or the Kelsey Chapter secretary will reach out to Libby for notes and information from the Maka Flora 2025 meeting. The folder with info can be shared with Kelsey Chapter.

10. Standing Committee Reports

- Conservation – *Peter Lesica*
 - 2025 Montana Natural Heritage Program Annual Partner’s Meeting –*Robert Pal*
 - This meeting was scheduled for November, but it is now rescheduled for Thursday, December 11th to accommodate federal employees impacted by the current federal government shutdown.
 - Native Plant Symposium (Audubon)
 - Audubon is interested in having our feedback about their next Native Plant Symposium in Billings. In 2025, over 50 people attended and wanted to know more about native plants.
 - Artemisia Chapter could assist, and it could be Chapter grant or a Board unsolicited gift to support the event.
 - MNPS might want to have a booth at this event, and may need to incorporate money in the 2026 budget for this.
 - Gold Country Master Gardener Association Symposium in spring 2026
 - MNPS will want to have a booth at this event.
 - Citizen Botany – *Kenda Herman*
 - They hired a Citizen Botany Coordinator through AmeriCorps as an AgCorps intern and Andrea Pipp will supervise the position. The intern will arrive in Helena, Montana in January 2026, and Andrea will provide office space at the Montana State Library/Montana Natural Heritage Program. MNPS has already set aside money to help support this role.
 - We need to set aside \$6,000 to be paid to the Department of Agriculture when they invoice us.
 - It is still possible that it could fall apart due to this being an AmeriCorps (federal) position.
 - Kenda will continue to be involved in training and facilitating building the Citizen Botany Program with the AmeriCorps member.
 - Conservation Committee Chair - *Peter Lesica*
 - Lynda Saul can no longer be the central chair of this committee.
 - There are a handful of people from different regions of Montana on the Conservation Committee who can continue to assist and support the Committee on the side: Elizabeth Bergstrom (Ennis), Jenny Lyman (Red Lodge/Beartooth Hwy), Andrew Smith (Flathead), Scott Mincemoyer (Helena), Peter Lesica (Missoula).
 - After the meeting, Peter announced that Ashley Mattson has agreed to be the new chair of the Conservation Committee. Board appointment of this position will happen at the 2026 Winter Board meeting.
 - *Conservation Conference April 7 and 8, 2026 – Peter Lesica*
 - The Conference will be both in person and available online.
 - Peter is talking with Bob Keane and other people are helping from the USFS Fire Lab. They have helped create a list of over 25 topics; the list was narrowed down and another list was created of possible presenters.
 - Concerns about federal participation and attendance and funding support.
 - Typically, there is funding from BLM and Forest Service.
 - They may need funding from the State MNPS.

- Hoping to have a registration form to go into the December Kelsey newsletter.
- Maria feels like this is one of the most important events that MNPS does. She feels that we should not be making money on the Conservation Conference and we should just make it a free event that is open to anyone.
 - Concern about parking on/near UM campus.
 - Discussion about having the Conference be free, but making people register.
 - We want students to come. The Board would like it to be free to students, but they should still register.
 - Keep the cost as low as possible, so it's not a barrier for people to attend.
 - Concern about setting a precedent about not charging for this in the future.
 - The 2024 Conservation Conference cost \$7,500 - \$5,500, with \$2,000 total of that cost typically coming from the BLM and Forest Service. Likely, the federal partners will not be able to cover/approve this in 2026.
 - \$6,000 into the budget for the 2026 Conservation Conference.
- Request to fund printing and binding of Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy document– *Kenda Herman*
 - Quotes for printing 100-200 copies are around \$5,000. The document is 310 pages.
 - This would mean we could get copies in every library in Montana.
 - Discussion about having some copies available and charging for them at the Conservation Conference or other events.
 - The online PDF version is available for free to download.
 - The document is a living document, but it will not likely have any major revisions until at least 2034.
 - Update: After the meeting, a quote from State Print and Mail was \$2,048.70 for 200 coil bound copies.
 - Public libraries around Montana are less interested in physical, printed copies than previously thought, and they would prefer to host/have access to a digital version on the MontanaLibrary2Go <https://montana.overdrive.com/>.
- Ambros Fen property near Kalispell – *Jennifer Guse*
 - Looking for a conservation buyer for an ecologically significant wetland property; it was possibly appraised at \$1 million.
 - 42 acres on the northern part of Ambros Fen
 - It has at least five species of concern within the fen: home to several grizzly bears and also has fireflies.
 - Some of the hydrology has possibly changed due to Highway 35 to the east.
 - Perhaps MNPS would like to take on management of the northern parcels and perhaps work with Flathead Land Trust?
 - The southern part of the fen has been owned by the same family since the 1800s.
 - Possibly proposed an Important Plant Area nomination.

- Landscaping and Revegetation Committee – *Patrick Plantenberg and Mark Majerus*
 - Mark gave some native grass presentations on Helena and Billings. The presentation is available on the MNPS YouTube page.
 - The Seed Collection Workshop at the Helena Ward 6 Community Garden was well attended.
 - Some of the seed was collected for DNRC Nursery.
 - Mark also collected other seed for the DNRC Nursery from other locations in east of the continental divide.
 - Final approval to print Native Plant Landscaping brochure – *Teagan Hayes*
 - Printing 2000 copies.
 - A Clark Fork Chapter member designed the brochure, Teagan made some MNPS edits. Clark Fork Chapter member will foot the bill up to \$1,000.
 - Already approved last year for \$600 for printing. The Clark Fork Chapter member would be paying for this, not MNPS.
 - Landscaping and Revegetation Committee will attend the Audubon Native Plant Symposium and the Gold Country Master Gardeners Symposium.

- Grants and Giving Committee – *Betty Kuropat and Leah Grunzke*
 - Betty would like to be removed as the contact person for the Grants and Giving Committee Chair. Also, remove Annie Garde. Camie will make updates and leave the chair position as vacant if we don't have a chair to act as a representative.
 - Update: After the meeting, it was announced that Matt Lavin has agreed to be the new chair of the Grants and Giving Committee. Board appointment of this position will take place at the 2026 Winter Board meeting.
 - *Leah Grunzke*
 - \$2,500 for Academic Scholarships update: we awarded five scholarships; one person turned it down.
 - \$2,500 for Professional Development Scholarships has gone unrequested/unawarded.
 - \$10,000 for Grants category has received 52 grant applications. Total funding request is over \$200,000. The committee may ask that the Professional Development Scholarship be rolled into the Grant awards.
 - More than half of the scholarships came in at the very end of the deadline.
 - The committee has just begun their reviews.
 - Laurie proposes that we move the \$2,500 from the unapplied Professional Development Scholarships and the returned \$500 Academic Scholarship, so that \$3,000 could be used to increase the number of Grants that could be funded; \$13,000 total instead of the previously approved \$10,000.
 - Maria would like to know if we are using up the money that came in for donations this year. Leah and Laurie said we would essentially be using all of the funds this year.
 - Betty mentioned that we had some carryover from the previous year. Moving forward, we may not have as much or any carry over.
 - It's possible that Clark Fork Chapter can help fund a few of the best grants that can't be funded with the State Grants and Giving Fund.

- Laurie said that when we solicit for donations, we should say that the donation money goes to the Grants and Giving Fund and we are not able to fund all grants/projects or all scholarship requests. We are only able to fund about 10% or less. There was also discussion about general summarizing of the type of work that we would like to be able to fund that isn't able to get funded due to high competition and lack of funds to see if others could help fund them.

11. Other Business

- Executive Assistant update – *Maria Mantas*
 - Rachel Potter thinks we should try to do more on Social Media posts and possibly open it up to members for posts.
 - Leah says that it would be super helpful to have photos and summaries after field trips or events.
- MNPS “What We Do” List – *Gretchen Rupp*
 - Take a look at the document and get additions to Gretchen Rupp. This will be included in the Winter Kelsey Newsletter and posted on the website.
- Admin Assistant – *Leah Grunzke*
 - Grants and Giving takes way more time than expected to set up and coordinate and answer questions and set up meetings and documents.
 - We are almost out of hours/money for the end of the year.
 - Patrick would like to increase the Admin Assistant time or wages for 2026.
 - Maria would like to increase money to wrap up the month of the November; she has 27 hours remaining. The Board is not opposed to increasing the hours to 57 hours for the end of November.
 - Her new contract starts over for December 1 (December is paid in January of the following calendar year.)

12. Ad Hoc Committees

- Select Awards Committee for 2026 Annual Meeting
 - Gretchen Rupp (Chair) and Kenda Herman
- Nomination Committee for 2026 for Vice President, Eastern At Large, Secretary
 - Robert Pal (Chair), Dave Hanna, Rachel Potter
 - Call for nominations in the Winter Kelsey Newsletter
 - Nominations announced in the Spring Kelsey Newsletter

13. Areas-at-Large and Chapter Reports - *Chapter Reps*

- Put reports in the Google Drive folder.

14. Proposed 2026 Budget – *Laurie Kurth*

- Herbarium fund allocation: possibly have donation amount be based on the size of the herbarium collection. Discussion that we haven't donated to any herbarium yet in 2025; for now, we will do \$1,000 to UM and \$1,000 to MSU.
 - For 2026, we will assess the third herbarium getting a scaled gift as well as UM and MSU.

- Traditionally the gift to Montana Audubon is only on Legislative years, so that could be removed from the proposed 2026 budget.
- Laurie will clean up the 2026 Proposed Budget spreadsheet with these changes and notes, and we will approve it at the next Board meeting.

14. Wrap-up – *all*

- Finalized Proposed 2026 Budget.
- Survey will be set out for Spring Board Meeting date (Meeting is usually late February or early March)

Adjourn at 2:30 pm.

FINAL

Montana Native Plant Society
Treasurer's Report
November 8, 2025

Finances Summary:

The state of our finances is good.

We have a total of almost \$92,000 currently available, with \$18,500 in the Grants and Giving fund and the remaining in the General Operating Fund. This will cover the remainder of our expenses for the year with significant carry over to next year.

We have exceeded our proposed income from memberships, paper Kelseya fees, and interest. We are \$1500 shy on our donations. With November and December being historically good donation months, I expect we will exceed our projected donation income as well.

Our expenses are within our proposed budget with no exceedances needing discussion. We do have a few large items that will come from the Grants and Giving Fund after this meeting and followup. (Audubon and Herbaria)

Notes and Discussion

Finalizing 2025 budget

Any updates on citizen botany project? There is \$3000 in budget, but no invoices to date.

General Notes

Our current website services only allow one paypal account to be available for all sales. This means that the state treasurer is responsible for managing the funds received by chapters, including the annual meeting and book sales. Note to chapters: if you plan to do any type of sales via our website, please let the treasurer know (Carol Goffe is great at making the link when needed). We do have ACH available with many chapters included so transfer of funds does not rely on processing checks. A side note, with postage, cost of envelopes and checks, ACH has saved us between \$20 and \$30 this...an individual membership that can go toward other aspects of our mission.

More than \$5500 in donations came through the paypal giving fund, some from non-members that we do not know. Reminder that the paypal giving fund does not charge a processing fee while the regular paypal account does. Paypal giving fund is for donations only and cannot be used for membership, annual meeting, book sales, etc.

2026 Treasurer budget request

We have reached a milestone with our finances that may require additional federal tax filing (income over \$40,000). If there is anyone with experience filing non-profit taxes that is willing to help please reach out to me at: lkquilts@hotmail.com. Additionally, I am requesting authorization of \$750 to be included in board expenses in 2026 for the treasurer to get professional advice from a tax accountant or tax preparer to resolve questions and make sure our filings are correct.

MNPS Annual Balance Statement as of 11/8/2025

Prepared by: Laurie Kurth

*reflects bank account balances on date above. The total income and total expenses will include transactions that have not cleared the bank accounts.

<u>Year</u>	<u>CDs</u>	<u>Savings*</u>	<u>Checking*</u>	<u>Grants and Giving Fund*</u>	<u>Total Assets*</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>Net Gain/Loss</u>
2025	\$36,085.12	\$31,710.87	\$5,512.31	\$18,534.68	\$91,842.98	\$47,334.65	(33,705.80)	13,628.85
2024	n/a	\$65,541.14	\$11,376.71	\$7,935.29	\$76,917.85	\$44,850.83	(34,560.08)	10,290.75
2023	n/a	\$54,356.81	\$17,367.36		\$71,724.17	\$42,806.02	(35,645.30)	7,160.72
2022	n/a	\$18,836.47	\$35,853.91		\$54,690.38	\$39,873.34	(23,898.15)	15,975.19
2021	n/a	\$18,821.56	\$32,679.34		\$51,500.90	\$26,441.31	(17,992.93)	8,448.38
2020	n/a	\$18,817.67	\$21,901.32		\$40,718.99	\$36,523.89	(33,421.84)	3,102.05
2019	n/a	\$18,805.84	\$18,845.53		\$37,651.37	\$15,424.54	(19,186.60)	(3,762.06)
2018	n/a	\$18,796.44	\$26,445.16		\$45,241.60	\$21,169.53	(19,098.80)	2,070.73
2017	n/a	\$18,789.41	\$20,057.51		\$38,846.92	\$27,488.37	(27,486.99)	1.38
2016	n/a	\$18,776.35	\$21,588.14		\$40,364.49	\$16,755.12	(15,448.07)	1,307.05
2015	n/a	\$18,770.70	\$20,842.02		\$39,612.72	\$21,734.63	(26,898.58)	(5,163.95)
2014	n/a	\$18,765.55	\$32,408.02		\$51,173.57	\$28,025.84	(34,261.59)	(6,235.75)
2013	n/a	\$18,759.02	\$24,782.59		\$43,541.61	\$34,679.92	(13,391.48)	21,288.44
2012	n/a	\$18,746.10	\$15,767.06		\$34,513.16	\$35,293.27	(42,239.19)	(6,945.92)
2011	n/a	\$33,647.55	\$7,640.20		\$41,287.75	\$17,127.48	(17,547.35)	(419.87)
2010	n/a	\$33,550.71	\$8,361.70		\$41,912.41	\$17,816.41	(18,414.32)	(597.91)
2009	\$20,146.52	\$13,197.62	\$4,886.07		\$38,230.21	\$22,337.87	(14,250.28)	8,087.59
2008	\$20,000.00	\$4,695.49	\$9,178.00		\$33,873.49	\$18,288.96	(18,110.16)	178.80
2007	\$16,172.00	\$4,186.00	\$16,498.00		\$36,856.00	\$17,835.00	(13,149.00)	4,686.00
2006	\$15,605.00	\$3,679.00	\$5,544.00		\$24,828.00	\$17,677.00	(11,297.00)	6,380.00
2005	\$10,605.00	\$3,806.00	\$3,338.00		\$17,749.00	\$11,111.00	(9,609.00)	1,502.00
2004	\$10,400.00	\$3,663.00	\$7,986.00		\$22,049.00	\$12,429.00	(15,487.00)	(3,058.00)
2003	\$10,319.00	\$6,125.00	\$4,125.00		\$20,569.00	\$12,744.00	(12,791.00)	(47.00)
2002	\$10,000.00	\$4,138.00	\$6,269.00		\$20,407.00	\$12,382.00	(11,353.00)	1,029.00
2001	\$10,000.00	\$11,564.00	\$301.00		\$21,865.00	\$9,170.00	(8,686.00)	484.00
2000	\$10,000.00	\$11,244.00	\$307.00		\$21,551.00	\$7,816.00	(6,410.00)	1,406.00
1999	\$10,000.00	\$8,865.00	\$891.00		\$19,756.00	\$9,039.00	(4,762.00)	4,277.00
1998					\$14,576.00	\$11,978.00	(10,912.00)	1,066.00
1997	\$4,050.00	\$10,600.00	\$1,300.00		\$15,950.00	\$6,019.00	(6,948.00)	(929.00)

1996	\$2,500.00	\$9,272.00	\$411.00	\$12,183.00	\$6,147.00	(\$4,746.00)	1,401.00
1995	\$3,000.00	\$6,320.00	\$277.00	\$9,597.00	\$6,172.00	(\$6,037.00)	135.00

	Proposed Inc.	Income	Proposed Exp.	Expenses	Variance	Notes
MNPS BUDGET SUMMARY						
General Fund	27660.00	34687.50	(38500.00)	(29539.08)	5148.42	
Grants and Giving Fund	14100.00	12647.15	(21550.00)	(4166.72)	8480.43	
TOTALS	41760.00	47334.65	(60050.00)	(33705.80)	13628.85	

GENERAL FUND

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES	Proposed Inc.	Income	Proposed Exp.	Expenses	Variance	
Membership	21000.00	22853.07	(5900.00)	(1175.65)	21677.42	
Dues and Fees	21000.00	22853.07	(1200.00)	(1175.65)	21677.42	
Chapter Portion	0.00	0.00	(4200.00)	0.00	0.00	equals 20 percent of membership dues
Membership database system	0.00	0.00	(500.00)	0.00	0.00	
Newsletter	660.00	670.00	(10400.00)	(9503.20)	(8833.20)	newsletter is 1100 per issue for Biographic Design
Operating Budget	1000.00	1482.68	(13000.00)	(9371.81)	(7889.13)	
Awards	0.00	0.00	(600.00)	(135.00)	(135.00)	
Committees	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	0.00	Beartooth Highway Signs - conservation committee
Contracts	0.00	0.00	(7200.00)	(6537.00)	(6537.00)	AA contract
Board Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Interest	1000.00	1482.68	0.00	0.00	1482.68	
Website	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(1184.00)	(1184.00)	
Zoom	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(684.70)	(684.70)	continuing zoom and trying google
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Publications	0.00	0.00	(1400.00)	(583.55)	(583.55)	\$800 membership brochure, \$600 Landscape and revegetation brochure
Operating Expenses	0.00	0.00	(300.00)	(247.56)	(247.56)	
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	25005.75	(29300.00)	(20050.66)	4955.09	
SPECIAL PROJECTS						
Annual Meeting	5000.00	9381.00	(5000.00)	(8387.67)	993.33	loan to Maka Flora to be returned following meeting
Plant Conservation Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00	(400.00)	(400.00)	
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)	
Chapter Projects	0.00	300.75	0.00	(300.75)	0.00	
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	5000.00	9681.75	(9200.00)	(9488.42)	193.33	
GENERAL FUND TOTALS	27660.00	34687.50	(38500.00)	(29539.08)	5148.42	

GRANTS AND GIVING FUND

	Proposed Inc.	Income	Proposed Exp.	Expenses	Variance	
INCOME	14100.00	12647.15	(300.00)	(166.72)	12480.43	
Donation	14000.00	12449.55	(300.00)	(166.72)	12282.83	expenses for thank you mailings, etc.
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Interest	100.00	197.60	0.00	0.00	197.60	
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)	(4000.00)	(4000.00)	
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	(7500.00)	(4000.00)	(4000.00)	
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	
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND 2024 TOTALS	14100.00	12647.15	(21550.00)	(4166.72)	8480.43	
Carryover from previous year	9865.29					
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND PROPOSED FUNDS	23965.29					
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND AVAILABLE FUNDS	18345.72					this is carryover from previous year plus proposed income actual funds available, includes carryover plus income received minus expenses

MNPS Membership Report
 Submitted by Maria Mantas, Membership Chair

Membership update – This report was prepared on November 7, 2025 for the Fall 2025 MNPS board meeting (November 9, 2025).

Membership statistics –As of today (June 7) our current membership total is 927. Last year at about this time we had 921 members.

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

Number of Members – November 7, 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	32	20	3	1	0	56
Calypso	31	16	5	1	1	54
Clark Fork	153	66	34	3	2	258
Flathead	67	36	21	1	2	127
Kelsey	74	46	22	3	1	146
Maka Flora	13	8	2	0	0	23
Eastern-at-large	17	6	10	2	1	36
Western-at-large	16	10	8	1	0	35
Valley of Flowers	91	60	30	6	2	189
Grand Total	494	268	135	18	9	924
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: Most of the new printing has been distributed at the annual meeting, but I still have some left if you need them.

New Membership Database Platform: In my last report I stated I couldn't get it together before summer and as I want to work on this while I'm spending most of my time indoors. I haven't started yet but will soon. I will have more to report at the winter meeting.

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.

DONATIONS

2025 Update:

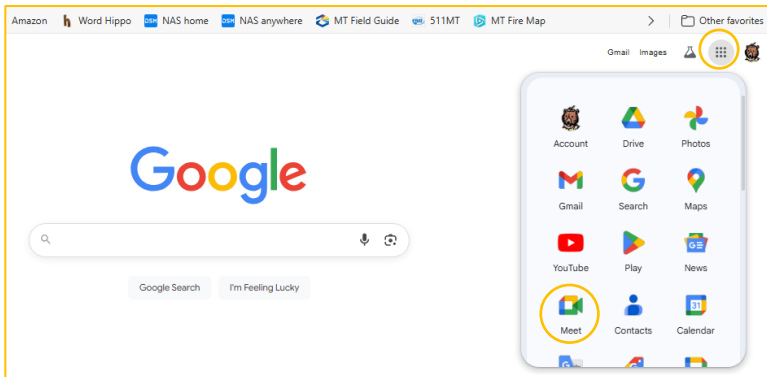
As of this report (11/7/2025) we have received **\$12,170** from **122** donations this fiscal year. Last year at about this time we had \$7,020 from 110 donations. My numbers may be a bit different than Laurie's. The huge jump from this time last year is due to a very large gift (\$5,000) from Vanguard 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.

Development Committee – At last spring's meeting I brought up the need for a development committee and offered to chair it. However, like the summer pause on developing the membership database, I haven't done anything with this. Hoping to think this through soon and have something to discuss at the winter meeting.



Website update for the Fall 2025 Board meeting of 11/9/2025

1. You may remember a survey from the meeting in March 2025. Eight people responded. Results were mostly positive -- most people said they found it fairly easy to find what they were looking for & to get things done. A key question was whether people think the website should be geared to experts or to the general public. 6 said the public, 2 said both -- I think we're about in line with that.



2. Some members find it's hard for them to get to town for Chapter meetings, especially during the winter.

You could use Google Meet to easily turn a meeting into a video conference. All you need is a computer & an internet connection.

There are 2 options:

- A. On your web browser, you log into your "normal" Google account (your Gmail account), & then click on the little 9-dots-in-a-square in upper-right-hand-corner of screen. A bunch of Google apps come up – one is Google Meet – it looks like a movie camera in rainbow colors. Click on that & go from there. It's pretty darn straightforward. However, it's limited to 24 participants & one-hour in duration. If you need more time, you can shut down & start over, or have someone else start another Google Meeting.

- B. OR you can use your Google4Nonprofits account, which allows meetings as long as 24 hours with 100s of participants.

If you're interested, call or email me & I'll get you set up with a username/password. Once you've established the account, the procedure is the same as above:

Log into your Username@mntnativeplants.org account with the password you created; click on the 9-dots-in-a-square in upper-right-hand-corner of screen; click on the Google Meet movie camera icon, & go from there.

Of course, if you need to record the meeting, then Zoom is the answer.

2. I am still looking for documentation about *public, maintained native plant gardens* around the state. So far, the only information is about a few gardens West of the divide. Maybe locating local garden/s could be a winter meeting topic, or visiting one could be a spring meeting event for your chapter. Take a look under the Native Plant Gardens button in Landscaping to see what's there, and please help fill this out so that it better represents the whole state. Surely there's at least one native plant garden in each chapter's area?
3. Planning on a bit of a new look for the website, but it takes time, & I simply haven't had the time to devote to this task. With luck, this will happen before our next meeting.

Submitted by Carol Goffe, webmaster

2026 ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

VALLEY OF FLOWERS CHAPTER – MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

October 5, 2025

Here are the basic details of the planned meeting, with two requests for the MNPS Board.

Location: Homestake Lodge.

Dates: June 26-28, 2026

Slogan: Botany on the Batholith

Plant Mascot: Sulphur-flowered Buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)

Caterer: The Ore Cart (Butte)

Planning Committee Chair: Beth Madden

Format: As in the recent past – Friday afternoon workshops, social, speaker, Saturday field trips, plant ID contest, fundraising, member meeting, talent show, etc.

Homestake Lodge is a private business within a 150-acre inholding in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, on the Continental Divide three miles off I-90 via a good road. Accommodations include dorm rooms, cabins and plenty of space for vehicle and tent camping. Group events will take place in a large pavilion that can be open, or closed and heated, as appropriate. The lodge does not require that we have liability insurance.

Committees are working on graphics, merchandise, field trips, program and workshops. To raise funds, we plan an internet auction of the three (very nice) cabins before the event – they are ideal for groups of five. Other methods of fund-raising have not been settled yet. The Valley of Flowers Chapter does not now need a cash advance from MNPS, but will ask the Board for an advance at the Board's winter meeting.

Two requests/action items for the Board:

We wish to limit registration to 175. More than that would require extra expenses and last-minute scrambles (lining up extra porta-potties for a June weekend, for example).

We wish to conduct registration online, only. This is essential if we're going to limit registration. It is what the Board agreed to for the (blighted) 2000 annual meeting. We'll offer telephone help to those who cannot do it themselves.

Respectively submitted,

Gretchen Rupp, Valley of Flowers Chapter Representative

Montana Audubon Center: Native Plant Symposium

Background

The Montana Audubon Center's Native Plant Symposium was established by local conservation leaders with the following initial purpose and goals:

Purpose:

To inform and inspire the Billings community to plant native/naturalized plants for the overall benefit of our local water, wildlife, and well-being.

Initial Goals:

- Provide beneficial information about local geography and native plantings
- Support interest in resurrecting the Artemisia Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society
- Create a native plant-conscious community
- Serve as a hub of support for local landscape architects and nurseries

The inaugural symposium was held in 2016, with events continuing annually until 2022. The symposium was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic due to reduced attendance at virtual events.

Recent Developments

The symposium was restarted in March 2025 with renewed energy and a slightly refined focus. Following the reconstitution of the Artemisia Chapter of MNPS in 2023 and waning interest from landscapers and nurseries, our goals evolved to emphasize community empowerment and ecological stewardship.

While still grounded in promoting native plant knowledge and awareness, the new direction seeks to empower individuals to take meaningful conservation action—whether by enhancing personal spaces with native plants or contributing to citizen science initiatives. This vision was reflected in our 2025 theme:

“From Seeds to Science: Connecting Native Plants, Citizen Science, and Stewardship”

2025 Symposium Overview

The 2025 event featured a one-day symposium at the Montana Audubon Center, with three morning presentations and two afternoon workshops, alongside information booths hosted by partner organizations.

Partners included:

- Artemisia Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society
- Bureau of Land Management
- Montana State University Extension with the Billings Community Seed Library
- Billings Parks and Recreation
- Montana Natural Heritage Program
- Yellowstone County Weed District
- Montana Bumble Bee Atlas
- Local community members and professionals

We hosted a full house of 50 participants for the presentations and 30 for workshops (the maximum capacity of our facilities). Most attendees were from Billings, however, we had some traveler in from Red Lodge, Livingston, Huntley, Crow Agency, Broadus, and Powell, WY.

More details about the 2025 symposium can be found [here](#).

Looking Ahead

As we plan for future symposia, we are evaluating how best to accommodate growth and expand reach. The Montana Audubon Center is at its space capacity, and we are considering new approaches to increase accessibility and impact. We are also discussing timing, weighing the benefits of a March event—when participants are preparing for the growing season—against the possibility of shifting to August to allow for more hands-on field workshops, though this period presents scheduling challenges for both attendees and partners.

Collaboration with MNPS

We are seeking to strengthen our collaboration with MNPS to build upon the success of this long-standing event and expand its reach. Specifically, we hope to:

- **Broaden the resource base** for native plant information, education, and expert speakers
- **Collaborate on programming** and content development for future symposia
- **Expand outreach** to new audiences and communities through shared networks and promotion
- **Apply to the MNPS grants program** to help fund symposium expansion and enhance native plant awareness across the region

What We Do

- Conduct more than 70 field trips each year
- Sponsor in-person workshops and presentations concerning native plants
- Distribute educational materials at public events
- Host a series of online presentations on native plants
- Host the biennial *Montana Plant Conservation Conference*
- Mobilize Citizen Botanists to re-visit sites of old records of rare plants
- Comment on plans and projects of public land management agencies
- Provide scholarships to Montana undergraduate and graduate students
- Provide small grants for research, conservation and education projects
- Provide ongoing financial support to Montana academic herbaria
- Distribute the *Guide to Sources of Montana Native Plant Material*
- Grow up native plants from seed and conduct a plant sale
- Convene for an annual meeting featuring presentations, field trips and fellowship among more than 100 participants
- Design and maintain native plant demonstration gardens
- Publish the *Kelseya*, a quarterly compendium of plant biology and education essays
- Work with partners to implement the *Montana Native Plant Conservation Strategy*, that will shape the actions of land-management agencies for decades to come.

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM TITLE	ATTENDEES	REGISTERED
October 21	Gretchen Rupp	MNPS 2025 summer field trips		
November 18	Dr. Meredith Zettlemyer	UM's Work With Missoula Phlox		
December 16	Rachel Potter	Botanical Expeditions Through Glacier National Park in 1909 & 1910		
January 21	Ashley Martens	Old-Growth Forest Network		
February 18	Dr. Enzo Martelli Moya	Whitebark Pine Ecology, Conservation, & Current Restoration Initiatives		
March 18	Elliott Conrad, Pipilo Native Plants	Gardening with Native Plants		

**Calypso Chapter Report
Montana Native Plants Society
Board Meeting November 9, 2025**

Since the Annual Meeting in June, Calypso Chapter conducted four events:

- Our fifth **Annual Weed Pull** on Pipestone Pass, under the “Adopt a Trailhead Montana” (AATM) Program in partnership with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Seven members participated with three forest service personnel and 61 pounds of weed were carried to the landfill.
- A weekday evening outdoor workshop on “**How to Collect Native Plant Seed**”. Three(?) participated, guided by Krystal Weilage.
- An evening or overnight camping event on the Big Hole River for “**A Night of Fun With Moths**”, presented by Nick Tucci. Eleven people attended, camped overnight, and learned a lot about moths as major pollinators.
- Our annual “**Dyeing with Native Plants**” workshop conducted by USFS botanist Jessie Salix, assisted by chapter member Catherine Cain – there were 19 participants. This year many more pots were brewing, additional plant materials were used, and many gorgeous designs were produced.

Sunday December 7th will be our **Annual Pot Luck and Planning Meeting** held at the Grange in Divide when we will visit at year’s end and begin planning events for 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cain and Karen Porter
Calypso Chapter

2025 MNPS Annual Meeting Financial Report to Board
November 9, 2025

MNPS Annual Meeting hosted by Maka Flora Chapter
Ekalaka, MT, June 19-22, 2025

2025 MNPS State Meeting Financial Summary

Description	Income	Expense
Registrations from 123 attendees	+\$11,722.00	
Camp Needmore		-\$2,426.00
Caterer		-\$7,145.00
Logo Artwork		-\$500.00
PayPal Fees		-\$325.67
Social		-\$441.62
Total Expenses		-\$10,838.29
Balance from Registrations	+ \$883.71	
Silent Auction and Sales	+\$1,151.50	
Total Balance	+\$2,035.21	

As of 11/1/2025 State Treasury holds +\$893.33 from meeting; Maka Flora account holds +\$1,272.91 from meeting totalling \$2166.24...\$131.03 more than this accounting says we should have. Not sure where the discrepancy is at.

2025 MNPS State Meeting Financial Details

<p>+\$11,722.00 Maka Flora Accounting from spreadsheet</p> <p><i>State Accounting with adjustments:</i> \$9381TotalFromPayPal - \$162 donations +\$651atCampPayments + \$2292 paper registrations = \$12,162 -\$393 Maka Flora paid refunds to people who cancelled = \$11,769 \$47 difference between State Treasurer and Maka Flora.</p>	<p>Total Registration Payments from attendees. This includes all PayPal and paper registrations we accounted for on our spreadsheet (\$2292 paper; \$9430 online). It also includes \$651 in adjustments made at camp as noted in the comments column of our registration spreadsheet (because of additions/subtractions made to people's registrations when they arrived at camp). Registrations later cancelled were not included in this total. After camp, Libby sent refund checks totalling \$393.00 to people who had cancelled. The State Treasurer did not account for this because she didn't know about it. Two people cancelled but donated their combined \$162.00 to MNPS; the State Treasurer did account for this because I had told her the people wanted to donate, and so she had subtracted it from registration "income". In the column to the left, I show the State Treasurer's total PayPal income with all of the other additions and subtractions; Maka Flora's total income accounting is \$47 less than State's accounting.</p>
<p>-\$2,426.00 Total -\$400.00 deposit -\$2,026.00 after camp</p>	<p>Camp Needmore Cost The amount paid to Camp Needmore 7/28/2025 via check was \$2,056.00. This was an overpayment of \$30; a mistake by Libby Knotts who paid Maka Flora back the \$30. Paid a \$400.00 deposit a year earlier.</p>
<p>-\$7,145.00</p>	<p>Catering Cost Amount paid to Wagon Wheel Café catering. Wagon Wheel said they counted 419 total plates and thus charged for 24 more plates than we had registered, totalling \$394 more. Not sure if the difference was people using more than one plate, people who didn't pay but ate anyway, etc.</p>
<p>-\$500.00</p>	<p>Logo Art Cost Amount Paid to Artist for Logo. This was included in the registration fee at \$10/person assuming at least 50 people;we actually took in \$1,230 with that fee, which gave us an "extra" \$730.00.</p>
<p>-\$325.67</p>	<p>PayPal Cost PayPal fees as identified by the State Treasurer. These were not taken out of registration, but rather was a gross fee owed to PayPal later.</p>
<p>-\$441.62</p>	<p>Social and Misc. Cost Includes drinks, snacks, paper products, extra TP, and cleaning supplies.</p>
<p>+ \$883.71</p>	<p>Amount left from registrations after expenses</p>
<p>+\$1,151.50</p>	<p>SILENT AUCTION See table below for details</p>
<p>+\$2,035.21</p>	<p>Total Money from Meeting Leftover Registration + Auction/Sales</p>

Financial Details for Auction/Sales	
\$3,245.50	total in cash box from sales
-\$300.00	change in box
-\$1,150.00	t-shirt cost for shirts sold onsite
-\$391.00	t-shirt cost for shirts made after camp for orders
-\$133.50	Mailing cost for ordered shirts
\$85.00	t-shirt money paid after camp for ordered shirts (most paid at camp)
-\$104.50	notecard cost
-\$100.00	Grandview pottery
\$1,151.50	Total Profit Silent Auction/Sales

Libby Knotts, Maka Flora President

11/5/2025

**Kelsey Chapter Report
Montana Native Plants Society
Board Meeting November 9, 2025**

June-October Events Completed:

- Landscaping with Native Grasses presentation by Mark Majerus and Elena Johnson
- Tabled at Gardenwerks Fall Market
- Weeding day at the Helena Law & Justice Center to help clean up their native plant project

Upcoming Events:

- 11/20/25 Ethnobotany presentation by Carson Thomas
- January seed starting workshop (date TBD)
- February membership potluck
- March willow ID workshop with Scott Mincemoyer (date TBD)

Other Items:

- Looking for 2027 annual meeting venue
- Potential collaboration with Sculptures in the Wild in Lincoln- native plants scavenger hunt, signage
- We plan to host additional weeding days at the Law & Justice Center this spring