



Summer Field Trip Guide 2026

MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

mtnativeplants.org

MONTANA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY

MNPS Field Trip Guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Is Your Membership Current?

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2026, this will be the last mailing you will receive from MNPS.

Renew online at: <https://www.mtnativeplants.org/membership/>.

All Season Long

Glacier National Park Huckleberry Phenology Citizen Science. (Glacier National Park).

Taking a hike in or near Glacier National Park? You can help scientists understand huckleberry phenology in this region. Huckleberries are an important food source for wildlife, including grizzly bears. The park is collecting data to understand how weather and other factors influence the phenology, or timing, of berry ripeness. Contact Glacier National Park's citizen science program for a link to a DIY training that provides all the tools you will need to record data while you enjoy your day, at glac_citizen_science@nps.gov or call 406-888-7986.

April

Saturday, April 25 - Yaak Falls and Riverside Walk (Troy/Yaak). 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Easy walk starts on terraces overlooking Yaak Falls with beds of glacier lilies and other early bloomers. Then a 1 - 2 mile round trip walk downstream along the Yaak River on the Dipper Trail #704. Trail has little elevation change, but uneven, rocky tread. We'll see some big (and small) trees, old mine shafts, maybe calypso orchids and Geyer's biscuitroot. Meet at Yaak Falls Campground. To sign up, contact Betty Kuropat at blueirismt@gmail.com or 406-250-8156.

May

Saturday, May 2 - LeBeau Research Natural Area and Lichens with Dr. Toby Spribille

(Stryker). 9:30 a.m. Toby will lead a walk through this geologically complex area with steep cliffs, humid grand fir forests, and Pacific yew-filled ravines. The walk will include an introduction to basic concepts of lichen identification and biology and highlight some of the rare and unusual species of the Lebeau RNA. 10x hand lens highly recommended. Limit 15 people. Contact Joe Rizzi to sign up at 406-334-9583 or joefloriz@gmail.com.

Monday to Friday, May 4 to 8. Volunteer for the Flathead Forestry Expo Plant ID Station

(Columbia Falls). Times vary. Help share the joy of plant identification and appreciation with 5th graders from the Flathead Valley. Volunteer to spend a half-day guiding students in an already prepared activity-based lesson. You will be partnered with an experienced presenter. Contact Tad Wehunt at 406-758-5280 or william.wehunt@usda.gov for more information or to sign up.

Thursday, May 7 - Milltown State Park, Deer Creek Road (Missoula). 5:30 p.m.

As part of National Wildflower week, Clare Beelman will be leading the annual walk through the Milltown state park. Clare has led this trip for several years and knows the area and plants very well, providing an informative look at these habitats. The trip starts in Douglas-fir forest and meanders down to the Clark Fork River riparian habitat below. The hike will be on gravel trails with some single-track sections and one short steeper descent and climb back. Please contact Clare at clare.beelman@gmail.com to sign up and for more information.

Thursday, May 7 - Columbia Mountain Trail (Columbia Falls). 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Join Tara Carolin for an early season walk through diverse habitats to see species that occur in inland rainforest as well as on dry rocky slopes. We hope to find early season blooms including shooting stars, glacier lilies, serviceberry, and more beauties to be discovered. See May 25 event for additional details. Limit of 12. To register, contact Tara at montara96@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 14 - Columbia Mountain Garden Tour (Columbia Falls). 6:00 p.m. to 8:00

p.m. Join Forestoration, Inc. on the 3rd tour of a private residence that has been transformed into a beautiful and diverse landscape with hundreds of species and thousands of plants. Participants will learn all about the process from soil health, landscape design principles, plant selection,



irrigation, to maintenance. See both native and non-native early season blooms and experience why this garden is truly a one of a kind in the Flathead Valley! This tour will be limited to 25 people and is co-hosted with Center for Native Plants and Forestoration. Sign up by emailing Shiva at shiva@forestoration.com.

Friday, May 15 - Phillips/Beardance Trail on Crane Mt. (Bigfork). 9:00 a.m. We will hike up to 6 miles on Trail #373 over varied terrain with a great assortment of colorful wildflowers. There are some steep sections, but we'll be rewarded with splendid views of Flathead Lake. Bring water, lunch, and be prepared for a good hike! Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the trailhead on the west side of Rt. 35. Limited to 12 participants. For more information and to sign up, contact Pat at pjaquith07@gmail.com.

Friday, May 15 - Mountain Bikes & Blooms. 5:30 p.m. Join us on for an evening mountain bike ride to enjoy peak spring blooms! We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. at Big Sky Bikes and bike to the Lincoln Hills-Mt. Jumbo trailhead. Or meet us at the Mt. Jumbo Trailhead around 6:00 p.m. We plan to explore about 5 – 10 miles of singletrack trails and doubletrack gravel with some significant climbs (intermediate skill level required). The route from the trailhead will depend on group consensus and ambition. We'll make a few stops to check out native plants and habitats along the way. Bring your curiosity, bike, water, and snacks - we'll bring the plant nerdery!

Saturday, May 16 - Lion Creek (Swan Valley). 9:30 a.m. Take an easy hike up the Lion Creek Trail, in the Swan Valley, for viewing spring wildflowers with Maria Mantas, plant ecologist. We will visit open forests, shrubfields, and bedrock plant communities. Call Maria at 406-407-2045 for more information, to reserve a spot, and inquire about carpooling opportunities.

Sunday May 17th - Citizen Botany field trip, Rare orchid: Clustered Lady Slipper (St. Regis). 9:00 a.m to approximately 2:00 p.m. The Citizen Botany Program is a collaborative project between the Montana Native Plant Society and Natural Heritage Program. It's designed to involve volunteers (our "citizen botanists") in searching for and documenting rare native plants across the state. Participants help update important records by surveying sites that haven't been visited in 20 years or more. The information they collect supports plant conservation efforts and helps scientists and land managers better understand where these rare species still exist. Are you curious about becoming a Citizen Botanist? Or already participating but want more? Join Botanists Erynn McNeill and Ecologist & Clark Fork Chapter President Teagan Hayes on a rare plant site revisit looking for Clustered Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) near St. Regis, MT - a population that hasn't been revisited in over 30 years! Please bring snacks and water and be prepared for inclement weather and bushwacking on various terrain. Meeting in St. Regis or carpooling from Missoula may also be an option. Please contact erynnmcneill@gmail.com to RSVP and for more information.

Saturday, May 16 - The Hogback (Livingston). 8:30 a.m. Climb the ridge trail atop this prominent geological feature on the west side of Paradise Valley. The south face of this steep, knife-edged ridge hosts rocky, xeric plant communities, while the north side supports coniferous forest and associated understory plants. Moderately strenuous 2 - 4 miles walking, elevation gain of 1,500 feet. Hiking poles may be helpful; rattlesnakes may be present. This hike affords fabulous views of the Paradise Valley and Absaroka Mountains. Meet at the softball parking lot off Haggerty Lane in Bozeman at 8:30 a.m.; we'll be back by mid-afternoon. Contact leader Gretchen Rupp with questions at beesgrmt@gmail.com or 406-586-8363 (don't hesitate to leave a message).

Saturday, May 16 - Old Highway 2 Trail (Troy). 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Easy 2 - 3 mile leisurely wildflower walk in scenic foothills of the Cabinet Mountains. This low elevation trail meanders through a mixed forested basin with minimal elevation gain. Along the way, we'll explore the diversity of native and non-native plants, with a special focus on identifying spring wildflowers in bloom. The trail also offers beautiful views overlooking the Kootenai River Valley and the southern



end of the Purcell Mountains. Meet at the weigh station rest stop at the Hwy. 2 & Hwy. 56 junction. To sign up, contact Pat McLeod at pat_mcleod@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, May 19 - Cedar Flats Trails (Columbia Falls). 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Learn about forest plants and hunt for wildflowers on the Cedar Flats Trails in our backyard north of Columbia Falls. The terrain is gentle, and our journey will be less than two miles. Limit 12 people. Contact Rachel Potter at jrepotter@gmail.com to reserve a spot, find out where to meet, and for last-minute changes.

Saturday, May 23 - Berray Mountain (Between Troy and Heron). 8:00 a.m. to late afternoon. Moderate, 4 miles total. Gain in elevation about 1,800 feet. This walk goes through several plant communities as you gain elevation. Last year, over 35 species were recorded in bloom. Total distance of hike depends on snow and the group's energy. Meet at the weigh station rest stop at the Hwy. 2 & Hwy. 56 junction. To sign up, contact Eric Dickinson at ericdickinson99@gmail.com.

Monday, May 25 - Columbia Mountain Trail (Columbia Falls). 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Join Ellen Horowitz for a 2.5-hour evening wildflower walk. We will travel through a variety of habitat types – from moist forests to dry open slopes. Expect an easy pace with lots of stops to view big, bold blossoms like those of balsamroot, and less conspicuous beauties that include orchids and mitreworts. The trail is moderately difficult (about one mile round-trip and 300 feet elevation gain). Walking sticks are recommended. This walk is limited to 12 participants. Registration required. Please contact Ellen by Email at horowitz@centurytel.net to register. Be sure to include your phone number when registering. Also see May 7 trip.

Tuesday, May 26 - The “Butte Tough” Flora (Butte). 6:00 p.m. During this field trip, we will visit several heavy metal-contaminated sites around Butte, to examine native plant species that have adapted to thrive under extreme soil conditions. We will assess metal concentrations in soils and associated plant species, providing real-time insight into the contamination levels these plants are tolerating. For more information and to register contact Karen Porter at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 30 - White Pine Creek (Trout Creek, MT). 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Moderate walking for under a half-mile as there is no trail to follow and it is a bit brushy. But once there, we will find some rather uncommon orchids. Based on where everyone is traveling from, we may carpool from Libby (meet at 8:00 a.m.) or meet in Trout Creek (9:30 a.m.). To sign up, contact Kat Thomas at kattthomas0316@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 30 – North Cottonwood (Belgrade). 9:00 a.m. Explore the rich prairie flora atop this alluvial fan, then climb into the forested foothills on the west side of the Bridgers. This will be a slow-paced walk on trail, that may cover three miles total. Please bring a lunch. Meet at the trailhead on Rocky Mountain Road at 9:00 a.m. Contact leader Peter Husby at peterohusby@gmail.com or 406-451-1521.

Saturday, May 30 - Loon Lake Ranch (Polson). 9:30 a.m. Join us while we explore intact intermountain grasslands on the largest conservation easement in northwest Montana. Loon Lake Ranch near Polson is more than 15,000 acres of recently conserved land by the Montana Land Reliance. Led by Mark Schiltz with Montana Land Reliance and Maria Mantas, plant ecologist. Call Maria at 406-407-2045 to reserve a spot and inquire about carpooling opportunities.

Sunday, May 31- Bumble Bee Atlas (Columbia Falls). 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Bumble Bee Atlas field season starts June 1! To kick off the season, Michelle Toshack (Montana Bumble Bee Atlas) and Tabitha Graves (USGS) will lead a training on the Montana Bumble Bee Atlas, a community science project to track and conserve bumble bees. We will hike a short distance (~1 mile) to a meadow and travel off-trail to catch bees. The protocol involves catching, photographing,



and releasing bumble bees, documenting wildflowers, and doing a brief habitat assessment. This is a wonderful way to practice protocol if you are a new volunteer or want a refresher. Participating in the atlas program is fun and is a terrific way to learn more about interactions between native plants and these incredible animals. You will also be gathering vital information about these important pollinators. Register for the event at BumbleBeeAtlas.org/pages/events. Or contact Michelle at mtbumblebeeatlas@xerces.org; or Tabitha Graves at 406-589-6645 or tgraves@usgs.gov with questions.

Sunday, May 31 - Bird's Eye View Trail - Bannack State Park (SW of Dillon). 10:00 a.m. This is a moderately strenuous 2.3-mile hike on a loop trail with about 500 feet of elevation gain. The leisurely, plant-focused hike, including a lunch stop, promises wide views out over the sagebrush/grassland steppe. An extensive native flora should be in bloom. Participants may wish to camp at the State Park the night before, and/or extend their stay in the area (Park contact: 406-834-3413). To register contact the leader, Jessie Salix, at jessica.salix@usda.gov or call or text Jessie at 406-660-0011.

June

Saturday, June 6 – Exploring the Prairie (Melville). 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. Join Jeff Copeland and Matt Lavin in exploring the native plants on state lands in northern Sweet Grass County. During an easy meander of 1 - 2 miles, we should see many plant species of the northern grasslands and sagebrush steppe. Jeff and Matt will discuss plant diversity of this area as it relates to the modern plant composition and perhaps its original (historical) composition. There will likely be attendees with a good knowledge of birds and the plant and animal fossils of the area. Limit 12 people. Sign up with co-leader Matt Lavin at Matt_Lavin@msn.com. Questions can be sent to either Matt or Jeff Copeland at ceeland777@protonmail.com.

Saturday, June 6 - Bitterroots at Gopher Hill (Libby). 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Moderate, 4 miles round trip. We will walk on a road and through a number of rocky openings on the way to viewing Montana's state flower. These shallow soil areas always hold a variety of spring flowers. There will be excellent views of Lake Kooconusa also. To sign up, contact Jon Reny at jreny@kvis.net.

Saturday, June 6 - Black Lake (Tobacco Valley). 9:30 a.m. A saunter through the Tobacco Plains to look for bitterroot, milkweed, and other grassland species. Meet at the Historical Village in Eureka. Call Joe Rizzi at 406-334-9583 for more information and to reserve a spot.

Tuesday, June 9 - House of Sky Trail above Pattee Canyon (Missoula). 11:00 a.m. Join Annie Garde for a morning hike on the House of Sky trail, above Pattee Canyon. We hope to see abundant wildflowers and breathtaking views of the Bitterroot Range and Miller Creek Valley. Plan to meet at the top of Pattee Canyon (the trailhead for the Sam Braxton trail) on the south side of the road. From there, we'll plan on carpooling to the House of Sky Trailhead in Deer Creek. The trail is steep in areas but mostly moderate rolling hills along the ridge. Please bring water and a lunch. The trail is 4.6 miles and connects to other trails. For more information, please contact Annie Garde at 406-274-8648 or anniegarde@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, June 10 - Not Lost But Found - the Flora of Lost Creek (north of Anaconda). 6:00 p.m. Join Krystal Weilage for an early evening hike from Lost Creek State Park. A leisurely hike uphill following Lost Creek through forest and meadow environments, looking especially for any uncommon species in the Anaconda-Pintler area. For more information and to register contact Karen at karenwporter44@gmail.com or 406-498-9728.

Saturday - Sunday, June 13 - 14 - Foraging Montana (near Pony). Walk with expert Thomas J. Elpel through meadows and woodlands, learning to identify edible and medicinal plants and the techniques and essential guidelines for ethical foraging. Harvest wild greens and



prepare communal dinners with Tom, author of *Foraging the Mountain West* and *Botany in a Day*. Families are especially welcome. For more information and to sign up, visit Tom's website: GreenUniversity.com/Class_Schedule/Foraging_Montana.htm.

Saturday, June 13th- Hay Canyon hike to see *Aquilegia brevistyla* (Utica). 10:00 a.m. Matt Stewart will lead a hike through Hay Canyon to see *Aquilegia brevistyla* in flower. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Utica Museum in Utica, MT. Email kelseychaptermnps@gmail.com to sign up and receive hike details.

Saturday, June 13 – Pulpit Ridge (Troy). 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Moderate hike, up to 6 miles round trip, depending on the flora and group's interests. Trail 709 starts on Rd. 331 (Rabbit O'Brien) and follows the ridge toward Pulpit Mountain. We'll see spring flowers, grassy meadows, shaded forest, open soil slopes, rock scree, and stunning views. In this subalpine habitat some plants and trees are stunted or low growing due to the harsh windy environment. Meet at Watson's Grocery parking lot in Troy. To sign up, contact Elaina Graham at elainag77@gmail.com or 530-598-9048, or Doug Parker at dparker8879@gmail.com or 406-949-8510.

Sunday, June 14 - Botany and Geology on the Boulder Batholith (south of Butte). 10:00 a.m. Preview trip by Mike Garverich ahead of the MNPS Annual Rendezvous. An all-day tour of the geology and fauna of the Fish Creek drainage on the flanks of the Highland Mountains, through sagebrush steppe on Tertiary sediments, open Douglas-fir forests, and subalpine meadows and wetlands. We'll see water features and visit lichen localities, grass-forb communities, marble outcrops, a nivation site, and more. Vault toilets will be available at two stops along the way as our route loops around west, crosses the Continental Divide and descends the Camp Creek Valley. For more information and to register contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

Thursday, June 18 - Weed Pull on Pipestone Pass (south of Butte). 8:30 a.m. Under the Adopt a Trailhead Montana Program (AATM), and in partnership with the Butte District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest, Calypso Chapter will conduct our 6th annual weed pull on Pipestone Pass. For information and to register contact Karen at karenwporter44@gmail.com or 406-498-9728.

Thursday, June 18 - Lubec Hills Trail Wildflowers. (Carpool from Columbia Falls) 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Enjoy the magnificent views and prolific wildflower displays of the Lubec Lake Trail system east of Glacier National Park. Meet at Columbia Heights & Route 206 Park and Ride area at 9:00 a.m. Be prepared for the weather and hiking 3 - 4 miles with considerable elevation gain. Bring lunch & hiking poles. This trip is limited to 12 participants. For more information or to sign up contact Pat at pjaquith07@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 20 - Bridger Bowl Blooms (Bozeman). A moderate 4 mile hike meanders through the open runs of Bridger Bowl Ski Area and zigzags up rocky slopes below the ridge. Habitats include wet meadows, forested stands, and alpine scree, which yield everything from Solomon's plume and coralroots to monument plant and pretty Jacob's ladder. Enjoy breathtaking views from the ridge and keep an eye out for mountain goats, marmots, and moose. The trail can be steep and rocky in places, but we won't be in any hurry! Bring good hiking shoes, a sack lunch, and plenty of water. We will meet at the small parking area below Deer Park Chalet on Jeep Trail at 8:30 a.m. RSVP to Allison Rognlie at allison.rognlie@gmail.com. Also contact Allison if you need directions to the parking lot or want to carpool.

Tuesday, June 23 – CSKT Jocko River Restoration (Scilip - formerly Dixon). 10:00 a.m. Rusty Sydnor, Wetland/Riparian Restoration Ecologist with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, will walk us through the Jocko River restoration project. The project aims to move a section of the river that was straitened for agricultural practices back into its historical meandering channel. The restoration of the rivers historical riparian vegetation communities will be the main focus of this



trip. Please register at VolunteerSignup.org/W3QKQ or contact gunnerdavies@live.com for more information.

Friday to Sunday, June 26-28 – Botany on the Batholith, MNPS Annual Rendezvous (Homestake Pass, Butte). Information and Registration Here is now live! A full weekend of learning, community and celebration. If you have yet to attend annual gathering, you will likely want to keep coming back. For more information and to register, visit: mntnativeplants.org/annual-meetings/annual-meeting/.

Friday, June 26 - Weed Rodeo on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River (West Glacier). Help keep noxious weeds from taking over our precious Flathead River! This is the 23rd year of volunteers and West Glacier companies showing they care, all while having fun! Raft companies will take volunteers on the upper portions and private boaters will cover the West Glacier to Blankenship areas. An expert will assist each group with weed identification. All participants will gather in the afternoon at Wild River Adventures in West Glacier for a barbecue and prizes. For questions, email riverweedrodeo@gmail.com. To register, visit: FlatheadRivers.org/events/2026-river-weed-pull-rodeo. Spots on commercial boats fill up, so do not wait to sign up.

July

Early July Weekday Evening (based on plant seeding cycle) - I've collected my seed ... what's next? (Butte) 6:00 p.m. Krystal Weilage will engage a small, hands-on group in specific techniques for handling specific native seed types in preparation for storage and/or seeding. Bring your own native seed or learn with seed supplied at the workshop. Limit: 5 - 7 participants. For details and to register contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 2 - Gravelly Range Wildflower Tour (south of Dillon). 9:00 a.m. This almost-annual tour offered by the Madison District, U.S. Forest Service, is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to immerse yourself in the abundant floral display of the Gravelly Range subalpine meadows. Registration not required. Meet at the Madison District Office, 5 Forest Service Rd. in Ennis at 9:00 a.m. High-clearance vehicles recommended. For further information contact the Madison District Office at 406-682-4253.

Saturday, July 4 - Little Beaver Lake (Whitefish). 9:30 a.m. A 'FEN'nominal exploration along the Whitefish Trail system. We will visit managed forest, fen, and riparian plant communities. Meet at the Beaver Lake Trailhead. Call Joe Rizzi at 406-334-9583 for more info and to reserve a spot.

July 5-18, 2006 - Botany and Foraging Intensive – Montana-Idaho/Magruder Corridor. Join Tom Elpel and guest instructors for a botanical exploration of southwestern Montana and central Idaho, exploring ecosystems ranging from sagebrush rangelands to cattail swamps, coniferous forests and alpine meadows. We will have five different campsites, visiting the traditional lands of the Indigenous peoples, practicing plant identification and ethical foraging for wild foods as we celebrate this green world. For more information, visit Tom's website: GreenUniversity.com/Class_Schedule/Botany_Foraging_Intensive.htm.

Tuesday, July 7 – CSKT Greenhouse Tour (Ronan). 10:00 a.m. Join Matthew Ogden for a walk through of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes native greenhouses. The tour will showcase locally sourced native species grown out for restoration projects within the Mission Valley and throughout Montana. Please register at VolunteerSignup.org/EQ4AJ or email gunnerdavies@live.com.

Tuesday, July 7 - Montana Woodland Garden Tour (Whitefish). 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Participants are invited to tour approximately two acres of a fenced, private woodland garden in



Whitefish Hills. We will tour the extensive plantings of over 200 varied species, many of which are native to Montana, as well as view the raised bed vegetable garden, a 16' x 16' water feature and an 8' x 12' greenhouse. Spots are limited! To sign up, contact mmoffitt406@gmail.com.

Wednesday, July 8 - Yeager Flats (Choteau). 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Dave Shea and Rachel Potter will lead participants through limber pine savannah, cottonwood groves, sagebrush, and an old burn before ending in a vast high-elevation native fescue prairie near the base of Ear Mountain on the Rocky Mountain Front. We should see bitterroot, and if our stars are aligned, they will be in bloom, but plenty of other wildflowers will be. It is a 5 mile round-trip with 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Contact Rachel Potter for more details and to sign up at jrepotter@gmail.com. Rachel and her family will be camping at the Cave Mountain Campground before and after the trip. Come join us!

Thursday, July 9 - Glacier National Park Weed Blitz (West Glacier). 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Join fellow citizens in removing invasive plants from priority sites in GNP. Park biologist, Dawn LaFleur, will train participants on identification and effective hand-pulling techniques for targeted weed species. The morning will focus on learning about invasive plant ecology, issues, and identification. We will head into the field during the afternoon. Bring muscles, water, and gloves. The Glacier National Park Conservancy will provide lunch. Participants must RSVP before July 7 by emailing glac_citizen_science@nps.gov or calling 406-888-7986.

Saturday, July 11 - North Fork Forests & Fire (Columbia Falls). 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Join Steve Wirt, retired USFS forester and fire manager, where he will discuss fire history in this area for the fourth consecutive trip! Emphasis on plant response, identification, and forest succession before and after fires. There may be an opportunity to view the Hay Creek fire of 2021. Hiking the Hornet Lookout trail will be the highlight of the day. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a sack lunch and plenty of water. Meet in Columbia Falls to carpool up the Northfork of the Flathead River. The trip is limited to 15 people. To sign up contact Steve at 406-261-2542.

Saturday July 11 – North Yaak Wetland/Fen Walkabout (Yaak). 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Easy, slow-paced, mostly flat 2.5 mile (round-trip) walk exploring habitat security in the Yaak Valley. This field trip will visit recently protected wetland and fen habitats near Yaak, with opportunities to observe English sundew, mosses, and other wetland indicator species. The outing will create space for discussion around species ecology and sensitive habitat types. Group size is limited to 10 participants. To sign up, contact Pat McLeod at pat_mcleod@yahoo.com.

Saturday, July 11, Prairie Peace Garden Self-Guided Garden Tour (Townsend). 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You are invited to Bryan Flynn's site at Private Stock Peonies (AKA Prairie Peace Garden), located a few miles southeast of Townsend. Bryan has created an ever-expanding number of native grass and forb strips in various stages of development, as well as a 750-square-foot xeriscape rock garden he would like to share with MNPS members. There will be self-guided tours on July 11 and August 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The two dates are offered to showcase a broad variety of native plants at different stages of their seasonal development. You are certainly welcome to come on both days if you wish. Bryan will, of course, be on hand to chat with visitors, and handouts describing various aspects of native gardening will be available. Picnickers are welcome as there are numerous comfortable garden benches with backs as well as tables on the premises. This year he will have plants for sale, contingent on remaining availability, on those dates. You will be asked to sign a liability waiver as you enter the premises. Directions to the site can be found on Bryan's website at privatestockpeonies.com.

Tuesday, July 21 - Native Seed Collection Workshop (West Glacier). 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Presented by Mark Majerus, retired Bridger Plant Materials Center botanist/agronomist and native plant enthusiast. The workshop will emphasize stages of seed development (grasses, forbs, and shrubs), diagnostic techniques (when to harvest vs. wait), seed harvest techniques, and handling-drying-threshing-conditioning harvested seed. Bring fingernail clippers, a hand lens, and an



inquisitive mind. Sign up with Grace Hoelscher at: [Forms.office.com/g/p3hURnrRsJ](https://forms.office.com/g/p3hURnrRsJ). Contact Grace at grace.hoelscher@mt.gov if you need help signing up. Co-sponsored with the Montana Natural Heritage Program.

Tuesday, July 21 - Grass Identification and Appreciation Workshop (West Glacier). 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Grasses comprise the largest, most wide-spread and economically important plant family worldwide. Mark Majerus has spent his career working with grasses and authored the book *Forage and Reclamation Grasses of the Northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains*. The workshop will discuss the morphological characteristics that are used to distinguish between grass genera and species. Mark will utilize samples of 60 - 70 different species and point out characteristics that are unique to individual species. The importance of each species for disturbed land restoration, forage (wildlife and livestock), and wildlife habitat will be discussed. Sign up with Grace Hoelscher at: [Forms.office.com/g/p3hURnrRsJ](https://forms.office.com/g/p3hURnrRsJ). Contact Grace at grace.hoelscher@mt.gov if you need help signing up. Co-sponsored with the Montana Natural Heritage Program.

Thursday, July 23 – Native Seed Collection Workshop at the DNRC Seedling Nursery (Missoula). 5:30 p.m. Mark Majerus will walk us through how to collect and process seed from native plants species. For more details and to register, please email mtnursery@mt.gov.

Sunday, July 26th – Spanish Peaks Trail (Bozeman). 8:00 am. We will take the main trail south from Spanish Peaks trailhead, following the gentle valley and stopping often to look at the flowers, including side trips to look at montane riparian wetland species along the creek. It's a bit of a drive to a popular trailhead with limited parking, so we will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the northeast corner of the Bozeman Rosauer's parking lot to carpool. Trip leader is Bryce Pease: 775-550-0759.

August

Saturday, August 1 – McGuire Ridge (south of Rexford, MT). 8:30 a.m. to 4:00+ p.m. Moderate, 3 - 4 miles round trip (we drive to 6,400'). Explore NW Montana's upper elevation vegetation. Join Peter Lesica as we walk a ridge that is nearly 7,000 feet in elevation. We will go past a maintained lookout on McGuire Mountain. Views in all directions should be spectacular. Carpooling from Libby or the Eureka area is recommended. Meeting time and location is to be determined. To sign up, contact Jon Reny at jreny@kvis.net.

Friday, August 7 – Inaugural trailhead event (Hoodoo Pass) 11:00 a.m. The Clark Fork Chapter has adopted the Hoodoo pass trailhead! Come and help pull invasive weeds and install an educational kiosk and boot brush station. Afterword's, hike along State Line Trail #738 while admiring the plants making up the forest understory. Please bring bug spray, water, a lunch, and a pair of gardening gloves. Please register at VolunteerSignup.org/PH74P or email gunnerdavies@live.com.

Saturday, August 8 - Northwest Peak Scenic Area (Yaak). 8:30 a.m. to 4:30+ p.m. Hike to Northwest Peak in Lincoln County to visit whitebark pine and subalpine larch habitats. Chris Reichert and Betty Kuropat, retired Forest Service silviculturists, will lead this moderate 3 - 4 mile round-trip hike. This will be a good time to visit the beautiful Northwest Peak Scenic area, find blooming wildflowers in the subalpine zone, and discuss efforts to conserve whitebark pine. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring rain gear, a lunch and plenty of water. Meet at the parking area at the junction of Pete Creek Rd. 338 and Yaak Hwy. 508 at 9:30 a.m. or at the Troy Museum parking area at 8:30 a.m. to carpool from Troy. The drive to the trailhead is about 60 miles (2 hrs.) from Troy. To sign up, contact Chris at reichert.chris9@gmail.com or 406-291-8324; or Betty at blueirismt@gmail.com or 406-250-8156.



Saturday, August 8, Prairie Peace Garden Self-Guided Garden Tour (Townsend). 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You are invited to Bryan Flynn's site at Private Stock Peonies (AKA Prairie Peace Garden), located a few miles southeast of Townsend. Bryan has created an ever-expanding number of native grass and forb strips in various stages of development, as well as a 750-square-foot xeriscape rock garden he would like to share with MNPS members. There will be self-guided tours on July 11 and August 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The two dates are offered to showcase a broad variety of native plants at different stages of their seasonal development. You are certainly welcome to come on both days if you wish. Bryan will, of course, be on hand to chat with visitors, and handouts describing various aspects of native gardening will be available. Picnickers are welcome as there are numerous comfortable garden benches with backs as well as tables on the premises. This year he will have plants for sale, contingent on remaining availability, on those dates. You will be asked to sign a liability waiver as you enter the premises. Directions to the site can be found on Bryan's website at privatestockpeonies.com.

September

Saturday, September 12 – Baree Lake (Libby). 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Moderate to strenuous hike to Baree Lake in the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness to look for whitebark pine. The trail is roughly 3.3 miles with 2260' of elevation change. We can take our time hiking in and out and may continue on to the ridge above the lake if people would like. Meet in Libby or at the trailhead. Group size is limited to 8 participants. To sign up, contact Kat Thomas at katthomas0316@gmail.com.

October

Sunday, October TBD - Dyeing with Plants – A Hands-on Educational Workshop (Divide). 10:00 a.m. Co-hosted with the U.S. Forest Service, this workshop will guide participants in developing a dye notebook using various plant dye materials including lichens, bark, flowers, leaves and berries. Participants may purchase a silk scarf to dye (\$8 - \$13 depending on the type of scarf chosen; paid at the event) or bring small samples of their own fabrics (silks or wools). For details and to register contact Jessie at 406-660-0011 or jessica.salix@usda.gov.

Saturday, October 17 or 24 – Wood Creek Larch Scenic Area (Yaak). 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Golden larch in the fall. Date will depend on optimum fall color and weather. Easy 4 mile round trip hike to a grove of big, old western larch near the Canadian border. There won't be many, or any flowering plants and you'll be mostly looking up. The trailhead is about ½ hour from Yaak on Road 92. Meet at the Dirty Shame Saloon at 9:30 a.m. Also carpool options from Libby and Troy. To sign up, contact Betty Kuropat at blueirismt@gmail.com or 406-250-8156.

December

Sunday, December 6 - Calypso Chapter Annual Potluck and Planning Brunch (Divide). 11:00 a.m. We will gather to celebrate the season, enjoy a meal together, and plan the trips and events we will offer in 2027. For more information contact Karen at 406-498-9728 or karenwporter44@gmail.com.

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



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

MONTANA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY

MARIA MANTAS
MNPS MEMBERSHIP
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BIGFORK, MT 59911

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED