



MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MINUTES MONTANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY WINTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; Sunday, March 1, 2026 Held online via Zoom

Online Attendees: Robert Pal (President), Kenda Herman (Vice President), Laurie Kurth (Treasurer), Camie Westfall (Secretary), Dave Hanna (Past President), Maria Mantas (Membership Chair), Rachel Potter (Flathead Chapter), Gretchen Rupp (Valley of Flowers Rep), Patrick Plantenberg (Landscape/Revegetation Committee), Carol Goffe (Webmaster), Betty Kuropat (Western At Large Rep), Leah Grunzke (Administrative Assistant), Matt Lavin (Grants and Giving Committee Chair), Andrea Berry (Artemisia Chapter Rep), Jennifer Guse (Newsletter Co-Editor), Scott Guse (Newsletter Co-Editor), Karen Porter (Calypso Chapter Rep), Teagan Hayes (Clark Fork Chapter Rep), Kelsey Malloy (Eastern At Large Rep), and Elena Johnson (Kelsey Chapter Rep), Grace Hoelscher (Citizen Botany Coordinator).

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda, Announcements – Robert Pal
 - Agenda additions
 - Meeting logistics
2. Secretary's Report – Camie Westfall
 - Quick review of Action Items from Fall Board meeting.
 - Approved minutes of Fall Board meeting
 - **Motion:** Robert moved to approve the Fall minutes. Rachel seconds. No discussion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.
 - Board member contact updates. There are some new folks on the Board, please use the most up to date contact lists. Please review and send corrections to Camie
 - Handbook Folder. Work in progress for updating and organizing. Please review your Board position duties/responsibilities. If updates are needed, work with Camie.
 - Maria requested that "MNPS" be added to the front of the Board folder on Google Drive. Some Board members are on several different Boards that all use Google Drive, and it would add clarity to which Board folder it is.
 - Dave Hanna brought up that Board voting by email needs to have a unanimous vote per Montana state law.
 - Email makes it difficult to have a true discussion.
 - One idea is to possibly designate a small executive committee that is authorized to approve decisions between board meetings. The new committee would give powers to the President and/or other elected positions between meetings (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President).
 - Possibly needs to be added to Bylaws.

- If we make this an ad hoc committee that the Board can change the make-up of as needed, then we would not need it added as a formal committee that is added to the Bylaws.
- See Item 10 (page 6) of these Minutes for Board vote on creation of this Ad Hoc Committee.

3. Treasurer's Report –Laurie Kurth

- 2025: See Laurie's written report.
 - 2025 was the tightest year since Laurie has been Treasurer.
 - \$23,000 in membership income, over \$18,000 in donations.
 - Earned over \$2,700 in interest last year.
 - \$8,000 of donations came in through PayPal Giving Fund.
- Review and approve final budget for 2026
 - Certificate of Deposit matures in July 2026. \$25,000.
 - Proposed budget expenses are expected to overspend the expected income.
 - This is ok for this year, but it is not sustainable in the long term.
 - Administrative Assistance contract is \$8,640 for 320 hours at \$27/hr.
 - Questions about funding dispersal:
 - It was agreed to provide Artemisia Chapter \$1,000 to support Audubon's Native Plant Symposium. Laurie needs contact information to arrange fund delivery. Kenda will work with Laurie on this.
 - Funding to Herbaria. Peter proposed \$1,000 to MSU and \$1,000 to UM, and \$500 to Billings. Are we in agreement to send \$500 to Billings?
 - Matt Lavin said he could contact Peter Lesica and see if the Billings Herbarium is still active.
 - **Motion:** Dave Hanna moved that we accept Peter Lesica's recommendation for allocation to the Herbaria. Rachel seconded. All voted in Favor. Motion Carries.
 - Laurie needs to know at least two months in advance for funds on new projects or ideas.
 - This is for anything that will bring in funds or take funds out of the state accounts.
 - Also, involve Carol Goffe if any funds need to be taken in via a website form.
 - Laurie is working on moving to Quick Books for tracking and reporting. She would like to clean up the budget tracking spreadsheet.
 - If anyone has ideas about what they want to see on the budget spreadsheet or suggestions, please email Laurie.
 - If the Chapters have income that they took in or funds that they dispersed on their own, please send a summary to Laurie.
- **Motion:** Gretchen moves that we approve the current proposed 2026 budget with the caveat that we will overspend the budget this year. Robert seconded. All voted in favor. Motion Carries.
- Grants and Giving Budget
 - Projected \$21,000.
 - Currently, we have \$12,000 in the Grants and Giving Fund.
 - Current Proposed expenses for Grants and Giving Fund are \$14,550.
 - The board also discussed that if the Operating Budget is short, we have the option to move money from Grants and Giving to the Operating Budget. We try to have donations go toward Grants and Giving, but if we got too tight in the Operating Budget, we could be flexible and move money back and forth, as needed. We do not have to spend out the Grants and Giving Fund every year; these funds can roll over to the next year.

- Discussion that we should take a look at the Operating Budget and think about which items could be considered “gifts” and consider taking them out of the Operating Budget section and move them to the Grants and Giving Fund instead. (Examples could be: printing of the Conservation Strategy, printing of brochures, awards, Citizen Botany, etc.)

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

- March 10th is the Spring Kelsey deadline.
- Working on amending the Kelsey Newsletter content list for each newsletter.
 - Need a short article about our grant recipients. Leah will send a short article.
 - Need Budget inserts for 2025 and proposed 2026.
 - Need Annual Rendezvous information.
 - Reminder about Field Trip Guide Deadline is April 10th. Field Trip Guide is published around May 1st.
- Discussion about an email the Guses received from a member asking for a copy of the Kelsey in a larger font. The printer company said they could print on a larger sheet of paper and mail it out to the individual. The Guses and the Board expressed huge appreciation for the printing company.

5. Membership Report - Maria Mantas

- Membership Report
 - For the very first time we were over 1,000 members for the last membership year (March 1 – February 28, 2025)! We are currently at 1,010 members at the end of February 2026!
 - Maria and Leah are working on starting to work with the new membership database, Little Green Light. Maria will work with Carol and Laurie to continue setting it up and linking to the website and
 - Mass emailing BMPs.
 - We don’t want to be sending mass emails back to back; too much emailing/contacting may make people unsubscribe. They are scheduled and spread out.
 - Give Leah and Maria at least one week before you want the email to be sent out. The email language and photos need to be constructed, so it’s basically ready to go for sending.
 - Only Board members should be requesting mass emails, no non-Board member emails will be permitted.
- Donations Update
 - Giving Tuesday 2025 donations were \$1,825. \$1,000 of those donations were from one person: Patrick Plantenberg; special appreciation to Patrick!
 - As of 2/27/2026, donations are \$5,605 from 93 donors.

6. Webmaster Report – Carol Goffe

- Website updates
 - Please provide information about public native plant gardens and send that information to Carol, especially information about native plant gardens.
<https://mtnativeplants.org/landscaping/native-plant-gardens/>
 - Discussion that sometimes native plant gardens are established and then they lose momentum and are no longer maintained or updated, so those would need to be updated continuously on the website.
 - Zoom account
 - Had an unauthorized user on the account. Carol will change the password and make some changes to the users and add Camie as an alternate authorized user on the account.
 - The failure rate of PayPal is very low. PayPal works very well.

- Robert discussed that a more formal PDF receipt of their transaction might be good to develop. Leah also said that she also received emails sometimes that people would like a receipt emailed to them.
 - This is more of an issue when people pay directly with a debit/credit card. PayPal always sends a receipt to PayPal users.
 - Possibly using Little Green Light will solve this for all payment types.

7. 2026 Annual Rendezvous Update – Gretchen Rupp

- Theme: “Botany on the Batholith”
- Discussion that there will be a Square card reader or set it up on a phone to be able to take electronic payment instead of only cash or check payment at the meeting.
- Bidding Owl auction brought in \$1,900 for the cabin accommodations for the meeting.
- Guidance from Board: is this to be a money-maker?
 - Patrick states that it is never an expectation to make money.
 - Kenda agreed that keeping attendance cost low is more important than making money.
 - Teagan asked if there is a rate for students or a living lightly rate. Teagan says that removing obstacles or extra steps for students to attend is important.
 - Gretchen says that in the past when we had this, no students used this option. Additionally, the Conservation Conference was well advertised at the MSU campus and no students attended.
 - Rachel says that it’s more important to not burn out Chapter volunteers and have fun, rather than make money.
 - Rachel says that perhaps Chapters could give a scholarship for students to attend or cover student meals.
 - Gretchen asked if they should change a small fee of \$5-\$10 for the Friday Workshops.
 - Discussion that having people register and pay a small fee will help ensure people actually show up and it would help offset the cost of print outs or other supplies for the workshop. It was decided to charge \$10 for the botanical drawing and specimen collecting workshops; no charge for the Citizen Botany workshop.

8. Standing Committee Reports

- Conservation Committee
 - Citizen Botany – *Kenda Herman*
 - Introduced Grace Hoelscher, as the new Citizen Botany Coordinator. Grace is an AgCorps Member stationed out of Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) in Helena.
 - At the last training session, 11 people attended. 20 people are signed up for the next training.
 - Deadline for signing up for the next training is March 31.
 - Training for documenting native seed source locations will be available as a separate training.
 - Grace will be added to the Board Contact sheet.
 - All of the Citizen Botany information is on the MNPS website now. <https://mtnativeplants.org/conservation/citizen-botany/>
 - Jen Guse asked if Grace’s contact information should be added to the Kelseya Newsletter? Kenda and Grace agreed.
 - We are close to about 240 species occurrences that have been revisited so far. The Citizen Botany Program has been a huge success.
 - Kenda will send Gretchen blurbs about the Citizen Botany workshops for the Annual Rendezvous on Friday, 6/26.

- Kenda and Grace are speaking about the Citizen Botany Program at the Native Plant Symposium in Billings (Saturday, 3/28) to give an overview of the Program and an update on its success.
- Conservation Conference – *Teagan Hayes for Peter Lesica and Ashley Mattson*
 - Hybrid meeting, Tuesday, April 14 and Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at UM in Missoula.
 - They are looking for more volunteers to help out. Reach out to Ashley, Peter, and/or Teagan.
 - UM is providing a tech person to help with Zoom and projector set up, etc. The MNPS Zoom account will be used.
 - Students are interested in having a career panel. Will be in the UC after the conference.
 - Robert will be bringing students from Montana Tech in Butte.
- Landscaping and Revegetation Committee – *Patrick Plantenberg/Mark Majerus*
 - Native Plant Symposium on Saturday, March 28th.
<https://center.mtaudubon.org/events/native-plant-symposium/>
 - Patrick will work with Megan Poulette of Artemisia Chapter to get someone to have an MNPS booth with the banner at the event.
 - Looking for someone from Kelsey Chapter to have a booth at the Gold Country Master Gardeners Symposium in Helena. This event is also on Saturday, March 28th.
 - Elena says Kelsey Chapter plans to have a booth at the event.
 - Mark is planning a Seed Collection Workshop at the DNRC nursery in Missoula in July in the evening.
- Grants and Giving Committee – *Matt Lavin, Leah Grunzke*
 - In 2025, applications for Academic Scholarships and Grants totaled \$52,000.
 - No Professional Development Scholarships were requested.
 - MNPS state level funded four grants totaling \$13,500.
 - Clark Fork was able to jump in and award grants to some of the top applicants that were not funded at the state level. Clark Fork funded six additional grants totaling \$3,600.
 - Proposed funding breakout for Grants and Giving for 2026: \$4,000 for academic scholarships, \$500 for professional development scholarships, \$6,500 for grants for a proposed total of \$11,000.
 - **Motion:** Robert moves to approve this allocation for the Grants and Giving Fund for 2026. Betty Seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor. Motion Carries.
 - Reminder that the Grants and Giving Committee can come forward at various times per year and ask the Board to release additional Grants and Giving funds.
- Formal Committee Chair appointment by Board
 - **Motion:** Dave moves to appoint Ashley Mattson for the Conservation Committee Chairperson and Matt Lavin for the Grants and Giving Committee Chairperson. Robert Seconds. No discussion. All voted in favor. motion carries.

9. Other Business

- Support for April 2026 as National Native Plant Month - *Robert Pal*
 - No Board members rejected continued support for the Senate Resolution.
<https://nationalnativeplantmonth.org/>
 - **Motion:** Patrick moves that we support this again in 2026. Karen seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.
 - Robert will reply to Nancy Linz that MNPS supports April being designated as National Native Plant Month, and he will provide a quote for the press release.
- Printing of the Native Plant Conservation Strategy document – *Kenda Herman*

- Kenda proposes we should print 100 copies. Cost would be around \$1,200, which is lower than the original proposal to print 200 copies.
- Montana State Library/MTNHP will pay for shipping of the non-local copies for people who pre-ordered them.
- The document is advertised and available for electronic download online on the MNPS website and the MSL website. https://mtnhp.mt.gov/resources/botany/docs/Montana-Native-Plant-Conservation-Strategy_Part1_2024-08-28_Original.pdf
- Kenda stated that we probably need a button on the website for people to pay for a printed copy of the Native Plant Conservation Strategy document. This would help with cost recovery. Carol says it is not hard to set this up on the website. Carol will work on this.

10. Ad Hoc Committees

- 2026 Nominating Committee report – *Peter Lesica, David Hanna, Robert Pal*
 - Nominations for the Board elections are for the incumbents: Vice President: Kenda Herman, Secretary: Camie Westfall, Eastern At Large: Kelsey Malloy
- MNPS Presents! Spring Programs - *Alex Brown*
 - Not in attendance. No updates.
- Awards Committee report - *Gretchen Rupp and Karen Porter*
 - The committee has made its decision. The Awards Committee will likely be using all of the \$600 funds for this award.
- Ad Hoc Executive Committee
 - **Motion:** Dave made a motion that the Board make an ad hoc committee to delegate approval of decisions that need Board voting in between meetings. The ad hoc committee would consist of the five elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President. Patrick seconded.
 - Discussion: Rachel still wants an email from the ad hoc committee so that the rest of the Board could provide input and then the ad hoc committee makes the decision based on the information provided. All in favor. Motion carries.

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

- Chapter Reports are appreciated in the Board Google Drive folder.
- Artemisia Chapter – *Andrea Berry*
 - Andrea is President. She is learning and getting her feet under her.
 - Artemisia Chapter had a meeting in October and are working on planning field trips and events.
- Clark Fork Chapter – *Teagan Hayes*
 - They are helping plan the Conservation Conference. They have some herbarium nights at UM, and a trivia night in collaboration with the Montana Natural History Center. Field trips are being planned for summer.
- Valley of Flowers Chapter – *Gretchen Rupp*
 - They had their annual potluck. They had a plant trivia night. They've had a few presentations. They have tabling events scheduled for April and June.
 - They are busy planning the Annual Rendezvous.
- Kelsey Chapter – *Elena Johnson*
 - Some winter presentations, annual seed starting workshop, membership potluck with a shared google album for folks to share their native plant adventures. Some summer hikes are being planned.
 - Planning committee assembled for 2027 Rendezvous. They will be deciding on a location soon.
- Flathead Chapter – *Rachel Potter*
 - Flathead Chapter struggles with volunteer participation, but they are active and Rachel is organizing field trips.

- Calypso Chapter – *Karen Porter*
 - They had their annual Chapter Potluck and are planning events for the year.
- Eastern At Large – *Kelsey Malloy*
 - Thinking about something to add to the field trip guide.
- Western At Large – *Betty Kuropat*
 - Putting together a summer 2026 field trip list. Had requests to do field trips in the Sanders County/Thompson Falls area. They participated in tabling at the Kootenai Forest Fair in the Fall.
- Maka Flora Chapter – No representative present.

12. Wrap-up – all

- Next Board Meeting: Summer in-person Board meeting will be the evening of Friday, 6/26, at 6pm the Annual Rendezvous at Homestake Lodge.
- **Discussion:** Board expressed great appreciation for the earlier start to the meeting so that we have more personal time available in the afternoon. In the future, if the meeting will be only held on Zoom, starting at 9am is preferred.
 - Board members said that we should still attempt to have in-person meetings in the fall and late winter, and perhaps for those, we should start at 10am to accommodate driving times.

Adjourn 12:30pm

Montana Native Plant Society
Treasurer's Report
February 28, 2026

Our current funds available are:

General Operating Fund: \$43,291.82

Grants and Giving Fund: \$12,100.75

Total: \$55,392.57

Certificate of deposit matures July 2026: \$25,000

2025 Summary:

Nearly \$23,000 membership income

Over \$18,000 in donations

More than \$2700 interest earned (note that CD interest does not show on the budget sheet, but does on the balance sheet - \$35K was invested)

We spent \$37,000 on general operations

And gave out just over \$21,000 through the grants and giving program

Notes:

- more than \$8000 in donations were received through the paypal giving fund which means that we retained over \$200 in paypal fees as the giving fund does not charge fees.
- Our income was approximately \$1700 more than our expenses. This is the closest the budget has been for the last six years.
- The 2025 chapter portion of the membership dues has been sent out either by ACH or check and should arrive this week.

2026 Budget:

Our budget estimates \$46,610 in income and \$68,440 in expenses for 2026. Our funds available can cover this spending level, but it is not sustainable in the long-term.

Adjustments to budget since Fall Board Meeting in November:

- Per discussions with Maria, the AA contract now shows as \$8640 – 320 hours at \$27/hr.
- Cost for printing the conservation strategy was changed to \$3000 based on emails in January/February

Questions remaining on 2026 budget:

- Funding for Artemesia Chapter to support Audubon is showing at \$1000. Would like to confirm this AND would like to have a contact to arrange for this funding delivery

- Peter Lesica proposed \$2500 for state herbaria to be issued as follows: \$1000 to MSU, \$1000 to UM, and \$500 to Billings. Adopt this or retain \$1K each to MSU and UM?

General notes:

- Projects that require receiving or paying funds at the state level. A reminder to include the state treasurer early on in your project development (at least 2 months ahead of time) so that there are no surprises or inability to meet deadlines. We have a few ways to simplify money movement and management that might be helpful. Also we have increased reporting responsibilities. Do not assume your past experience in MNPS or elsewhere are still applicable or that receiving or sending out money can occur at any moment. You may also need to include the webmaster if there will be funds managed through the website. (Chapter projects that are managed solely within the chapter accounts are not included.)
- I am working on an information memo to the chapters regarding our increased reporting requirements since we have surpassed the income level for the lowest level of IRS reporting. I am still researching the details. Plan to provide an annual report of your expenses so that they can be rolled into our tax reporting.
- I am working on moving to quickbooks and developing better ways to show the budget. If you have any thoughts on any changes you would like to see please let me know. Key changes I would like to make are to modify how we track the special projects such as the Clark Fork book sales, annual meeting, and conservation conference. The excel workbook has served us well but now that more projects move through the state, it is beginning to get a little messy.

Feel free to contact me with any questions, IDEAS, or concerns you have regarding the budget. Note that I use my personal email mostly and prefer contacts there:
lkquilts@hotmail.com

MNPS Annual Balance Statement as of 12/31/2025

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.

**G&G reflects actual funds available at end of year

<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	\$31,787.43	\$6,756.16	\$14,121.63	\$88,750.34	\$53,695.55	(\$1,905.40)	1,790.15
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

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
MNPS BUDGET SUMMARY						
General Fund	27660.00	34822.50	(38980.00)	(37288.69)	(2466.19)	
Grants and Giving Fund	14100.00	18873.05	(21550.00)	(14616.71)	4256.34	
TOTALS	41760.00	53695.55	(60530.00)	(51905.40)	1790.15	

GENERAL FUND					
GENERAL OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES	Proposed Inc.	Income	Proposed Exp.	Expenses	Variance
Membership	21000.00	22928.07	(5900.00)	(5677.42)	17250.65
Dues and Fees	21000.00	22928.07	(1200.00)	(1233.42)	21694.65
Chapter Portion	0.00	0.00	(4200.00)	(4444.00)	(4444.00)
Membership database system	0.00	0.00	(500.00)	0.00	0.00
Newsletter	660.00	730.00	(10400.00)	(9503.20)	(8773.20)
Operating Budget	1000.00	1482.68	(13480.00)	(11424.31)	(9941.63)
Awards	0.00	0.00	(600.00)	(135.00)	(135.00)
Committees	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	0.00	0.00
Contracts	0.00	0.00	(7680.00)	(7677.00)	(7677.00)
Board Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	(699.99)	(699.99)
Interest	1000.00	1482.68	0.00	0.00	1482.68
Website	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(1243.00)	(1243.00)
Zoom	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(753.21)	(753.21)
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publications	0.00	0.00	(1400.00)	(583.55)	(583.55)
Operating Expenses	0.00	0.00	(300.00)	(332.56)	(332.56)
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	25140.75	(29780.00)	(26604.93)	(1464.18)
SPECIAL PROJECTS					
Annual Meeting	5000.00	9381.00	(5000.00)	(9381.00)	0.00
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)	(600.00)	(600.00)
Chapter Projects	0.00	300.75	0.00	(302.76)	(2.01)
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	5000.00	9681.75	(9200.00)	(10683.76)	(1002.01)
GENERAL FUND TOTALS					
	27660.00	34822.50	(38980.00)	(37288.69)	(2466.19)

GRANTS AND GIVING FUND

	Proposed Inc.	Income	Proposed Exp.	Expenses	Variance	
INCOME	14100.00	18873.05	(300.00)	(166.72)	18706.33	
Donation	14000.00	18601.54	(300.00)	(166.72)	18434.82	expenses for thank you mailings, etc.
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Interest	100.00	271.51	0.00	0.00	271.51	
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)	(14449.99)	(14449.99)	
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	(4000.00)	(4000.00)	(4000.00)	Note: \$3500 of budget will move to grants per November board meeting
Grants (Solicited)	0.00	0.00	(13500.00)	(6750.00)	(6750.00)	Changed from 10000 to \$13500 per November board meeting based on influx of grant applications
Gifts (Unsolicited)						Special note that need to carry \$1000 over to 2026 in scholarships per designation donation
MT Herbaria Donation	0.00	0.00	(2000.00)	(2000.00)	(2000.00)	
MT Audubon Donation	0.00	0.00	(1000.00)	(1000.00)	(1000.00)	
Other	0.00	0.00	(750.00)	(699.99)	(699.99)	brochure via Clark Fork chapter
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND 2024 TOTALS	14100.00	18873.05	(21550.00)	(14616.71)	4256.34	
Carryover from previous year	9865.29					
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND PROPOSED FUNDS	23965.29					this is carryover from previous year plus proposed income
Grants awarded that will pay out after completion	(6750.00)					
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND AVAILABLE FUNDS	7371.63					actual funds available, includes carryover plus income received minus expenses

MNPS Annual Balance Statement as of 2/27/2026

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.

**G&Gfund reflects actual funds available as carry over for past

<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>
2026	\$25,000.00	\$37,120.75	\$6,171.07	\$18,510.75	\$86,802.57	\$18,671.87	(15,609.09)	3,062.78
2025	\$36,085.12	\$31,787.43	\$6,756.16	\$14,121.63	\$88,750.34	\$53,695.55	(51,905.40)	1,790.15
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

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
MNPS BUDGET SUMMARY						
General Fund	32510.00	13942.75	(54390.00)	(15609.09)	(1666.34)	
Grants and Giving Fund	14100.00	4729.12	(14050.00)	0.00	4729.12	
TOTALS	46610.00	18671.87	(68440.00)	(15609.09)	3062.78	

GENERAL FUND					
GENERAL OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES	Proposed Inc.	Income	Proposed Exp.	Expenses	Variance
Membership	21000.00	11545.00	(5900.00)	(613.91)	10931.09
Dues and Fees	21000.00	11545.00	(1200.00)	(613.91)	10931.09
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)	(1945.00)	(1545.00)
Operating Budget	1000.00	42.75	(18540.00)	(1522.61)	(1479.86)
Awards	0.00	0.00	(600.00)	0.00	0.00
Committees	0.00	0.00	(2000.00)	0.00	0.00
Contracts	0.00	0.00	(8640.00)	(1224.75)	(1224.75)
Board Expenses	0.00	0.00	(750.00)	(13.60)	(13.60)
Interest	1000.00	42.75	0.00	0.00	42.75
Website	0.00	0.00	(1200.00)	(180.50)	(180.50)
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	(3550.00)	0.00	0.00
Operating Expenses	0.00	0.00	(300.00)	0.00	0.00
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	11987.75	(34840.00)	(4081.52)	7906.23
SPECIAL PROJECTS					
Annual Meeting	5000.00	1940.00	(5000.00)	(5312.57)	(3372.57)
Plant Conservation Conference	4500.00	0.00	(6000.00)	0.00	0.00
Citizen Botany Project	0.00	0.00	(6000.00)	(6000.00)	(6000.00)
MNPS Presents!	0.00	0.00	(1200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)
Chapter Projects	350.00	15.00	(1350.00)	(15.00)	0.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS TOTALS	9850.00	1955.00	(19550.00)	(11527.57)	(9572.57)
GENERAL FUND TOTALS	32510.00	13942.75	(54390.00)	(15609.09)	(1666.34)

expect similar numbers for 2026

equals 20 percent of membership dues - payout will be January of 2027 for FY 2026

newsletter is 1100 per issue for Biographic Design

\$1000 Beartooth Highway Signs - conservation committee, Elizabeth confirmed she wants to retain, 1000 for tables at conferences

AA contract - 320 hours per new contract

Consulting with tax professional

Interest rates are going down so don't suggest an increase

continuing zoom and trying google

2026 - \$550 membership brochure (mm 11/30 email), \$3000 for the Conservation Strategy

\$5000 reserved as loan to hosting chapter to be returned following meeting;

Laurie's estimate on income based on 2024

goes to Mt department of Agriculture

suggesting 800 based on schedule with 4 presentations (or 1000 in the event December comes online

\$350 is passthrough to Clark Fork Chapter for the book, \$1000 for Artemesia chapter for Audubon conference support

GRANTS AND GIVING FUND

	<u>Proposed Inc.</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Proposed Exp.</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
INCOME	14100.00	4729.12	(300.00)	0.00	4729.12	
Donation	14000.00	4710.00	(300.00)	0.00	4710.00	expenses for thank you mailings, etc.
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Interest	100.00	19.12	0.00	0.00	19.12	suggest keeping the same as 2025
Transfer between GF and G&G funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
GRANTS AND GIVING	0.00	0.00	(13750.00)	0.00	0.00	
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	(2500.00)	0.00	0.00	a minimum of \$1105 specific for scholarships from specified donations
Grants (Solicited)	0.00	0.00	(8500.00)	0.00	0.00	
Gifts (Unsolicited)						
MT Herbaria Donation	0.00	0.00	(2000.00)	0.00	0.00	scaled to the size of the collection? Peter recommends Missoula \$1K, Boze
MT Audubon Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Other	0.00	0.00	(750.00)	0.00	0.00	
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND 2024 TOTALS	14100.00	4729.12	(14050.00)	0.00	4729.12	
Carryover from previous year	14121.63					This is carryover in the bank account, but includes funds that will pay grant commitments
Grants awarded that will pay out after completion	(6750.00)					these are funds that are committed in 2025 to grants as the second 1/2 payment
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND PROPOSED FUNDS	21471.63					This is carryover from previous year, minus commitments, plus proposed income
GRANTS AND GIVING FUND AVAILABLE FUNDS	12100.75					These are the funds that are currently available to be used for G&G



MNPS Membership Report

Submitted by Maria Mantas, Membership Chair

Membership update – This report was prepared on February 27, 2026 for the Winter 2026 MNPS board meeting (March 1, 2026).

Membership statistics –As of February 27, when I prepared this report, our current membership total was 1010. **First time we have ever broken 1000!** The bad news is on March 1st that number drops to 706 as there are more than 300 members whose membership expires that day. But again with good news.... the comparable figure on this date last year was 681, so we still ahead of last year by more than 20 members. There are 2 board members who have not yet renewed their membership, I won't shame you in public but let me know if you have any question about your stewardship status. Remember, we get renewals and memberships all year long so I fully expect us to approach 1000 by December.

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

Number of Members –February 27, 2026						
<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Lifetime</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>Lifetime-Business</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
Artemisia	34	16	3	1	0	54
Calypso	40	16	5	1	1	63
Clark Fork	179	72	34	2	2	289
Flathead	70	42	20	1	2	135
Kelsey	85	48	22	4	1	160
Maka Flora	12	10	2	1	0	25
Eastern-at-large	14	10	11	1	1	37
Western-at-large	18	10	8	1	0	37
Valley of Flowers	95	78	28	7	1	210
Grand Total	547	302	133	19	9	1010
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>
2025	54	57	266	129	148	23	38	35	194	944	46	12/31/2025
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: The current brochure is in MS Publisher which I will lose in October, so as I am almost out, I should plan on a printing this year. Laurie, I think I put that in the budget, if not we will need about \$500 to cover that cost.

New Membership Database Platform: I finally started the Little Green Light trial. Just getting going on it. I have moved data over and will start to learn how the new platform runs. Leah and will be working on getting data transferred over and cleaned up, then we will give Laurie and Carol access to get in there and see how it can meet with their needs. At the end of the trial, we will then pay the yearly fee, which we have already budgeted for. I am really hoping this new system will relieve some of the membership management issues we face regularly. If all goes well, we may consider switching to a rolling membership year. Stay tuned.

Mass Emails to Membership: We are sending more and more mass emails to membership, requiring that we refine our mass emailing BMPs. This request to the board was prompted by a recent issue with a member who is not on the board directing Leah to send out a mass email. You may recall I sent an email to the board, I'll recap here:



- **Prepare the email yourself.** Don't expect the membership chair or Leah to craft it for you. It takes a lot of work and time to send out a nice-looking mass email, so we ask that you make it easier for us. Send us a prepared subject line and text for the email, along with any attachments that go along with the email if there are any.
- Send this email request and draft **at least a week before it needs to be sent.** Remember, Leah only works a couple days a week for us, and if you wait until the last minute the email may not go out in time.
- If the email is announcing a previously scheduled event and it must go out on a particular date (or date range) we will send it when needed. However, if it's a general announcement or information sharing that isn't time sensitive, we may have to push sending it back a few weeks so it doesn't conflict with time sensitive correspondence. **We will not send emails that don't have to be sent immediately if they will conflict with the timing of other emails.** The reason for this should be obvious, we risk folks unsubscribing from our emails if they feel they are being bombarded.
- Finally, I ask that **emails to membership only originate from the board.** It's not Leah's responsibility to decide when and from whom emails should be sent. It's our job to coordinate that for her. I have instructed her not to do this without someone from the board approving the email.

DONATIONS

2025 Update:

The 2025 fiscal year brought in another record-breaking sum in donations. We received **\$18,502** from **163** donations in the fiscal year. The prior year (2024) we had received \$12,170 from 122 donations. We received another very large gift (\$5,000) from Vanguard Charitable, a donor advised fund at 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.

All 2025 Donors will be recognized in the next edition of Kelseya.

2026 Update:

As of February 27 our donations database shows **\$5605 from 93 donors.** Laurie's numbers will likely be different as the total is always changing and is only reconciled at the end of the fiscal year. At this time last year we had **\$9,316** from **73** donations, however that included the \$5000 from Douglas Reynolds, which we haven't received this year. I have no idea if we will receive that gift again this year, but keeping things even, if we compare last year's totals from membership without the large gift to this year's, we are ahead \$1289. All depends on how you want to look at it!



Website update for the Winter 2026 Board meeting of 3/1/2026

1. Still looking for documentation about *public, maintained native plant gardens* around the state. So far, the information we have is about a few gardens west of the Divide. Maybe locating local gardens could be a meeting topic or activity for your chapter? Take a look under the Native Plant Gardens button in Landscaping to see what we have. Please help, so we can represent the whole state. Surely there's at least one native plant garden within each chapter's boundary?
2. "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." I said that last time, it still hasn't happened, & not likely before a quiet time on the website, which won't be until after the annual meeting is held.
3. Eagerly awaiting the opportunity to try out Little Green Light, which is advertised as a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) database. If we implement this package & if it has as much functionality as claimed, then maybe it could mitigate the kind of problems we've had with Conservation Conference signups. Conference signups were muddled with the offer of free membership, creating confusion among users & more work for us.
If LGL actually constitutes an integrated database system, then we could have a form that bases its fees on membership where it's able to verify whether a person is in fact a member! Currently, Leah (whose workload wasn't supposed to be impacted by the conference) has to search the membership spreadsheet for each signup, Laurie has refunds to process for the people who seem to have equated conference signup with membership renewal, and the undesignated conference registrar needs to contact other people to explain that they've underpaid & encourage them to pay more. It's a mess. If we don't have an integrated system that works, I'm not going to participate in such a scheme again.
4. Just recently there was an unauthorized use of our Zoom account. After discussing with Bob, I'm changing the password. The people who regularly use the account include Alexandra, Kylie and Gretchen, and I'll let them know how to access. Am also going to add Robert, so he can set up meetings when he needs to, Camie as alternate administrator & Bob if he wants. If someone else needs access, let me know.
5. The current rate of failed transactions in PayPal from our membership data since 11/23/24 is 17 out of 915, which amounts to a gross 1.8%. After examining the data, only 3 did not resolve, meaning that there's another successful entry from the same person within a few days. This amounts to a real failure rate of less than 1 per 300, or only 3/10 of 1%. And, from what I read online about failed transactions in PayPal, most are due to ISF or credit card bills being paid late. So I'd say PayPal has been a wonderful success.

Submitted by Carol Goffe, webmaster

MNPS STATE Funded Grants

Project Title	Contact Name	Organization	City/State/Zip	Award Amount	First Installment	Project Description
Â L. Price Park Native American Ethnobotany Exhibit	Katherine Miller	SE MT Area Revitalization Team	Baker, MT 59313	\$2,500.00	\$1,250.00	The Ethnobotany Garden is an educational space for residents and visitors, which highlights the deep historical and cultural roots of the Native Americans. The garden will focus particularly on the uses of native plants by the tribes that lived in this region, and will feature a curated selection of wild plants found in Montana.
Growing Apsáalooke Abundance through Restoring Plant Knowledge	Eleanor Ross	Hardin School District 17H & 1 Farm to School	Hardin, MT 59034	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	Our Farm to School Program has been developing a 5 acre teaching farm. The space will support lessons, production for the school lunch program, and community gatherings. Funding will support edible walkways, a food forest, and pollinator MMIP memorial garden with native varieties of plants, berries, and fruit trees.
From Good to Great: Jay's Native American Medicinal Plant Garden Expansion Project	Holly Sessoms	The Science & Conservation Center	Billings, MT 59106	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	Jay's Native American Medicinal Plant Garden was established on the grounds of Zoo Montana in 2022. The garden serves as a demonstration garden for native plants and their Indigenous uses. Through this project, we would increase the species in the garden, add educational signage, and host the "Native Plant Table" at the Zoo Montana's Earth Day event.
Effects of logging on native plant communities and plant-pollinator interactions	Laura Burkle	MT State University Dept of Ecology	Bozeman, MT 59717	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	We will study how forest management actions (logging), implemented to protect Bozeman's water supply, impact native understory plant communities, non-native species invasion, and plant-pollinator interactions. This project is partially funded by USFS, but due to federal funding cuts and staff losses, we are seeking to re-fund important aspects.

Total
\$13,500.00

Clark Fork Chapter Funded Grants

Project Title	Contact Name	Organization	City/State/Zip	Award Amount	Notes	Confirmed	Project Description
The Right Seed at the Right Site	Addie Schlusell	Ohio State University - Office of Sponsored Programs	Detroit, MI 48277	\$500.00	Growing Supplies	Yes	High seedling mortality, often due to drought, limits success of seed-based restoration in Montana's grasslands. I will test the characteristics and drought performance of seedlings from different source populations of four native forb species. These data will guide seed source selection to improve restoration success.
Target Range Native Plant Garden	Michele McGuire	Target Range School District, Attn: Robbi Ludeman, Business Office	Missoula, MT 59804	\$700.00	Native Plants	Yes	The Target Range Native Plant Garden is student-led, we will create a 5000' sq ft outdoor classroom with native Montana plants. Students research, plant, and maintain species. We will teach ecology and tribal plant knowledge. The garden will be a hands-on learning space for our entire school and community.
SVC Native Plant Teaching Garden	Megan Parker	Swan Valley Connections	Condon, MT 59826	\$600.00	Native Plants	Yes	Our visitor center is in the heart of Condon and our educational outreach extends across and far beyond the watershed. We plan to build native plant gardens for education and beauty across our 11 acres, with these 3,000' the beginning, welcoming project. We will share the building and planting with our many volunteers and students.
Heart Lake & Burdette Creek Re-Seeding Pilot Program	Chris Prange	Great Burn Conservation Alliance	Missoula, MT 59801	\$700.00	Seed	Yes	This project will reintroduce fourteen species of native grasses and forbs into two National Forest sites previously infested with invasive weeds through GBCA's first-ever re-seeding pilot initiative. The project will monitor the success of native plant restoration using data collection techniques performed by staff and UM students.
What's That Plant? Identifying Montana's Native Flora	Judy Matson	Bonner Milltown History Center	Bonner, MT 59823	\$400.00	ID Supplies	Yes	BMHC created a native plant garden in 2024 to help visitors recognize and appreciate local flora. In the fall, Bonner School sixth graders plant native species, keep plant journals, and return each spring to record growth and seasonal changes. Centrally located in Bonner, the garden is free to all. Plant id aids will enhance visitor experience.
Plants, Pollinators & People: Connecting Students to Montana's Living Landscapes	Sarah Holden	MSU Extension	Missoula, MT 59801	\$700.00	Landscaping Supplies		Missoula County Extension will create native-plant gardens at Lewis & Clark, Big Sky High, Hellgate Middle, Condon schools and beyond. These spaces teach K-12 students about Montana's native ecosystems through ecology, art, and Indigenous knowledge, fostering community awareness and future demand for native plants.

Total	\$3,600.00
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Calypso Chapter Report to MNPS Board March 9, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

Artemisia Chapter Report -2026 Winter Meeting

I am the new president of the Artemisia Chapter, as the previous person will be leaving the area soon. So far, contact with earlier listed interested people via email has had minimal response. We will try some other approaches in the future and hope to have more to report at a later meeting.

Andrea Berry
Artemisia Chapter
MNPS