ASTERCACEAE (COMPOSITAE)

 Arnica cordifolia Hook.

 heartleaf arnica

FORM: Deciduous, perennial, hairy forb, 1-6dm (4-24in) tall, stems solitary to few, loosely clustered together, from a naked rhizome.

LEAVES: Opposite, bluish-green, heart-shaped, entire to toothed, 4-12cm (2-5in) long, soft hairy upper surface, with the veins appearing embedded; during flowering, lowest pair of leaves are well-developed with largest blade and longest petioles; other leaves smaller, mostly 2-4, lance-shaped, petiolate, becoming sessile up the stem.

FLOWERS: Heads generally one per stem, rays yellow, involucres densely hairy; April-June.

FRUIT: Achenes mostly uniformly short hairy or glandular (1), most dependable character for distinguishing A. cordifolia from A. latifolia.

ENEMIES: Fire: moderate to low resistance, regeneration from rhizomes to preburn levels within 3-7 years.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Arnica latifolia, p.115, nonpetiolate cauline leaves; opposite leaf arrangement generally distinguishes A. cordifolia and A. latifolia from other similar genera.

NOTES: A. cordifolia and A. latifolia may inhabit the same site and often hybridize; A. cordifolia generally flowers before A. latifolia.