

# BOREALIS

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## ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141613, Anchorage, Alaska 99514

**MEETING NEWS**---The December meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be held on Monday, December 4th, at the Muldoon Library which is located in the west end of the Carr's Muldoon Shopping Mall, corner of Muldoon Road and Northern Lights. The library will be closed, so enter by the door at the rear of the building.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**---will meet at 6:45 PM immediately preceding the general meeting. Board members please note!

**PLANT FAMILY**---ANPS Member Gary Davies will lead a discussion on the Loranthaceae or Mistletoe Family. These plants are parasites on *Tsuga heterophylla* (Western Hemlock), small and mostly overlooked.

The mistletoe family stems are yellowish to olive-green or brown, 5-10 times longer than thick; shoots often much branched, mostly tufted.

The sepals mostly 4, oblong-ovate. Male flowers light green to yellow, in pairs at nodes, female flowers axillary, in lateral pairs.

The plant has a unique means of dispersal, and a long association with man.

**PROGRAM**---"Discovering Wild Plants" by ANPS member Janice Schofield, who will be introducing her recently published book. The book describes uses, gathering and preparation of plants for food, lotion and dyes. Books will be available at the meeting.

**ELECTION RESULTS**---results of the recently held election

of officers for the Anchorage Chapter for 1990 are as follows:

President-----Lynn Catlin

Vice-President-----Dorothy Emmons

Secretary-----Carol Hoblitzel

Treasurer-----Dr. Ram Srinivasan

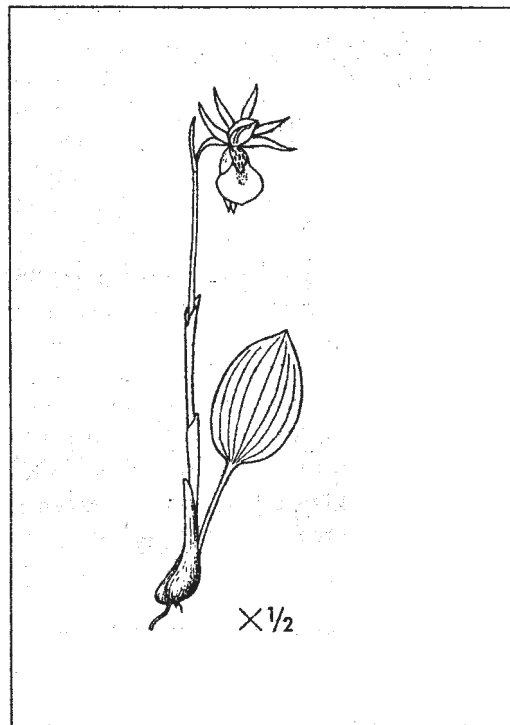
Representative to State Board (1990-91)-----Frank Bogardus

**MYSTERY PLANT**---The genus name of this mystery plant was named after "the sea-nymph daughter of Atlas" and means "concealment", referring to the habit of this attractive flower of growing amongst mosses in the deep shade of the forest. Stem grows from a fleshy, oblong or globose corm with a single leaf. The leaf is firm, oval and corrugated; it appears in the late summer, overwintering and persisting until after the flower bud is pushed up by 5 to 20 cm (2 to 8 inch) flower stalk in May or June, when the leaf slowly withers.

The blossom has three sepals and two petals, all delicate mauve, above the jewel-like lip, and its fragrance is distinctive.

This most beautiful of all glade flowers can be found the first of June in the King Mountain Campground on the Glenn Highway ;or in the Klatt Bog in Anchorage the last of June and the beginning of July.....Along with lots of mosquitos.

submitted by Gary Davies , ANPS



## CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS LYCOPODIUM

Lycopodium, the club mosses are often used in holiday floral arrangements, where they go by the name of ground pine. Green all winter, Lycopodium is nestled beneath an insulating blanket of snow in the woods. Not a moss at all, but a relative of ferns, these plants have several interesting characteristics.

During the Paleozoic, club mosses grew to tree size. Carboniferous coal seams are largely composed of spores from Lycopodium's ancient relatives. Today, club mosses are called "mouse's tail bone" by Denainas, and used in eye wash and as a headache remedy. In the old days, Lycopodium was put to many uses. Its spores are so tiny and uniform in size that they were used as a microscopic measurement. Small as dust grains and water repellent, club moss spores made a good talcum powder and were used to prevent chafing and on wounds. Spores were also used to coat pills. (Ask your local "pill roller"). My favorite use for Lycopodium spores is a demonstration of their pyrotechnic qualities. The spores contain mostly oil. When ignited, they go off with an explosive flash. Club moss spores are responsible for the light in all early flash photographs, and they were used in fireworks, too. Lycopodium stems can be used as a mordant in dyeing wools, as well as made into emetics and even poisons.

Submitted by Lynn Catlin, Pres., Anch., Chap., ANPS

## CARING FOR CHRISTMAS TREES

### Caring for Black or White Spruce Christmas Trees

Our local black and white spruces make excellent Christmas Trees, but they need proper care in order for them to remain fresh, attractive and safe throughout the holiday season. Here are some tips on how you can enjoy your tree for a longer period of time.

### Cutting

As temperatures are normally below zero in December, extra care should be taken when cutting down your tree to ensure that branches are not broken-off.

At these cold temperatures, the twigs and branches of both spruce species become brittle and can be broken-off quite easily. To prevent this, don't allow the tree to fall to the ground when you cut it, and don't drag it over the snow to your vehicle. Try to avoid any unnecessary bending of branches.

### Home Care

There are a number of different tree solutions which have been used in the past to prolong the retention of needles once a tree has been brought indoors. Research conducted by the School of Agriculture and Land Resources Management during December 1985 compared the needle retention of black and white spruce in three solutions: water, water-bleach, water-bleach-corn syrup. Of these, the trees in water exhibited the best needle retention, with black spruce averaging 17 days and white spruce averaging 25 days before moderate needle loss occurred.

Both tree species in the other solutions began to lose their needles in moderate amounts after only 7 days.

It also was found that needle retention for all solutions and species was improved by keeping the trees in a moist environment. This can be achieved by using a humidifier in the room where the tree is located, and positioning the tree away from heat sources.

Before putting the tree in its stand, cut an inch or two off the butt end. This fresh cut will allow the tree to take up water more readily. Be sure to maintain an adequate water level in the stand at all times. As fresh trees take up water at a very fast rate, check the water level two hours after setting up the tree. Then check the water level at least once daily to see that it covers the bottom of the tree's trunk.

Submitted by Dr. Pat Holloway, ANPS  
School of Agriculture & Land Resources Management  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

## RECIPE---PUMPKIN CHEESE BARS

### Base:

- 1---(16oz) package pound cake mix
- 1---egg
- 2---tbsp. margarine, melted
- 2---tsp. pumpkin pie spice

### Topping:

- 1---(8oz.) package cream cheese, softened
- 1---(14oz.) can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2---eggs
- 2---tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1---(16oz.) can pumpkin
- 1/2--tsp. salt
- 1---cup chopped nuts

- 1)Pre-heat oven to 350 deg.
- 2)In large mixer bowl, on low speed, combine ingredients for the base. When crumbly, press into bottom of greased 10x15 inch jellyroll pan.
- 3)In large mixer bowl, beat cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in sweetened milk; then rest of ingredients, except chopped nuts. Mix well; pour over base.
- 4)Sprinkle with nuts.
- 5)Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until set.
- 6)Cool. Chill; cut into bars. Store, covered in refrigerator.

Submitted by Marilyn Upton, ANPS

**SEEDS**---Last call for contributions of seeds for annual seed sale. Contact Peggy Pletcher,

## QUIZ ANSWER

*Calypso bulbosa* (L.) Rchb., Fairy Slipper or Calypso Orchid.

**EDITOR'S NOTE**---We still need input for the newsletter. Hope you like the slowly improving print.

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