BOREALIS

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ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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P.O. BOX 141613, Anchorage, Alaska 99514

ANPS STATE OFFICERS ARE:

President----------Forrest Baldwin
Vice-President----------Jean Poore
Secretary----------Jean Tam
Treasurer----------Larry Haller

MEETING NEWS:

The October meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be held on Monday, October 1st at 6:30PM in the meeting room of the Muldoon Library in the Carr's Shopping Mall on the corner of Muldoon Road and Northern Lights. The library will be closed, so enter by the door at the rear of the building.

Please note the early hour, as this is our Annual Potluck. Bring a dish to serve 3 to 4 times the number of people in your party. We will provide the drinks. Paper plates, cups and plastic utensils will also be provided, but you may bring your own dishes and utensils if you desire more durable items.

The Potluck will be followed by a slide show. Everyone is encouraged to bring 10 slides of interesting plants, or summer activities. You may bring more than 10 slides, and we will show them if time permits.

The Potluck is always one of our most popular meetings of the year, and a great way to start off a new season of meetings and renew friendships. Hope to see you there!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

There will be no Board of Directors meeting this month due to the early meeting time.

SEEDS:

Please bring seeds that you have gathered to the Oct or Nov meeting. Let's get the seed sale organized early this year. Who would like to volunteer to organize this project?

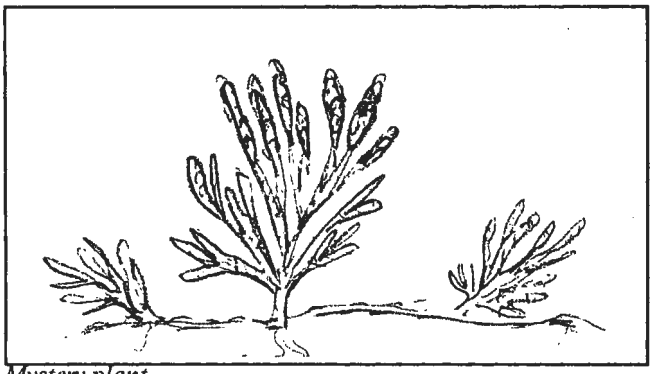
ANCHORAGE CHAPTER OFFICERS ARE:

President----------Lynn Catlin
Vice-President----------Dorothy Emmons
Secretary----------Carol Hoblitzel
Treasurer----------Ram Srinivasan
Rep. to State Board---------Frank Bogardus
Newsletter Editor----------Frank Pratt

MYSTERY PLANT:

This mystery plant will definitely stump you, just because of the general description. Stems perennial, producing erect, dichotomously branched, aerial stems, the fertile ones 5-16 centimeters long, the vegetative ones shorter; leaves 4-ranked with those on the lower surfaces trowel-shaped. The strobili solitary or few, sessile or essentially so, 1-2.5 centimeters long. Sporophylls greenish or yellowish, becoming brownish in age.

This plant is found in tundra and heathlands, and in woods, in most of Alaska south of the Brooks Range.



Mystery plant

FALL COLORS

The beautiful color display of autumn, actually had its beginning in the summer when chlorophyll production began to slow down as day length decreased. As the chlorophyll dwindles, the already present pigments become unmasked and the yellow and orange carotenoids color the leaf. Red colors are due to the anthocyanin pigment present in cell vacuoles. As the leaf prepares to fall, conduction back to the tree is cut off. This causes an accumulation of sugar in the leaf. Anthocyanins are made up, in part of sugar, so this situation is favorable for production of the red pigment in great quantity. Remember, sugar is produced by photosynthesis, which requires light. So, sunny days are good for vibrant fall colors. So are cool temperatures which slow down sugar transport out of the leaf. Rain is bad for fall colors, as the water soluble anthocyanins leach out of the dying leaves with broken vacuolar membranes. Before the leaves fall, most of the minerals present in the leaf are translocated back to the tree; except for calcium which falls to the ground in the leaf and re-enters the tree next spring when the autumn leaves become spring mulch.

In Alaska, the most glorious colors develop on the tundra, not on the trees. By early September the mountain tops begin to blush. Vivid scarlet is the artistry of red and alpine bearberry. Blueberries burst into bright orange and crimsons before dropping their leaves. Dwarf birch contributes shades of oranges to the alpine palette and willows dapple the ground with gold. The red and orange leaves carpeting the tundra may not be as high as those adorning October trees in New England, but they are every bit as beautiful.

Lynn Catlin, Pres. Anch. Chapter

FIELD TRIPS

Our special thanks to everyone who led Field Trips during the 1990 season. This was a very successful year.

Most of the Summer Field Trips were well attended this year, and were very enjoyable. In most instances, flowers were 1 to 2 weeks earlier than normal and many dried up terribly during the summer. A few trips had some unexpected happenings. Simple things can sometimes cause unnecessary concern. Beth Blitz made a special trip back to Bird Ridge on june 2nd in the evening after a call from someone saying their family had not returned from the trip. They had pursued the area farther and joined another group that returned happy and well at about 10PM.

The Fairbanks Trip (June 9) was very enjoyable. We even had people fly up from Anchorage to attend.

The Pink Dandelion trip (June 16) was a success this year! We located a small colony of plants--later confirmed by Rob Lipkin.

Again on the Valdez Trip (July 6-8), we temporarily lost a few people while they scoured the mountains near the summit. Actually, they were having a great time in the rain; we were already tired and wet.

The Kayak Trip (Aug 18-19) became a bit exciting when the seas rose to 4 to 5 feet. Fortunately, the novices thought that this was a normal condition, so they werent really concerned. It was a great indoctrination for everyone in the inherent stability of ocean kayaks.

We understand that lots of people attended the mushroom trip on August 25th.

Although the Glen Alps Trip (June 18) proved to be rather late for the Broad-Petaled Gentian this year, we did a lot of seeding along the trail. Limited success of our previous seeding was realized on the trip when we found Pink Forget-me-nots downhill from the trail. We also learned this year that White Fireweed was spotted along the trail in the hemlocks. Sorry about these variations of our Native Plants, folks; but Native seeds were collected in various locations (including members yards). Only seeds of plants native to the Chugach Mountains were used in the reseeding; however.

QUIZ ANSWER

Lycopodium alpinum L., Alpine Clubmoss