

# BOREALIS

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ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141613, Anchorage, Alaska 99514

January 1991

## ANPS STATE OFFICERS FOR 1989-1990 ARE:

President-----Forrest Baldwin  
Vice-President-----Jean Poor  
Secretary-----Jean Tam  
Treasurer-----Larry Haller  
Newsletter Editor (appointed)--Frank Pratt

The balloting for State Officers for the 1991-1992 term closed on 31 December 1990, after the newsletter deadline. Results will be published in the February newsletter.

## ANCHORAGE CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 1991 ARE:

President-----Lynne Catlin  
Vice-President-----Gary Davies  
Secretary-----Carol Hoblitzel  
Treasurer-----Ram Srinivasan  
Rep. to State Board-----Frank Bogardus

## MEETING NEWS:

The January 1991 meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be held on Monday, January 7th, at 7:30PM in the meeting room of the Muldoon Library in the Carr's Shopping Mall on the corner of Muldoon Road and Northern Lts. The library will be closed, so enter by the door at the rear of the building.

## PROGRAM: Adaptive Strategies for Life in the Far North.--by Carolyn Parker

ANPS member, Carolyn Parker, from Fairbanks is Assistant to the Curator of the Museum Herbarium, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Will meet immediately after the regular meeting.

## PLANT FAMILY:

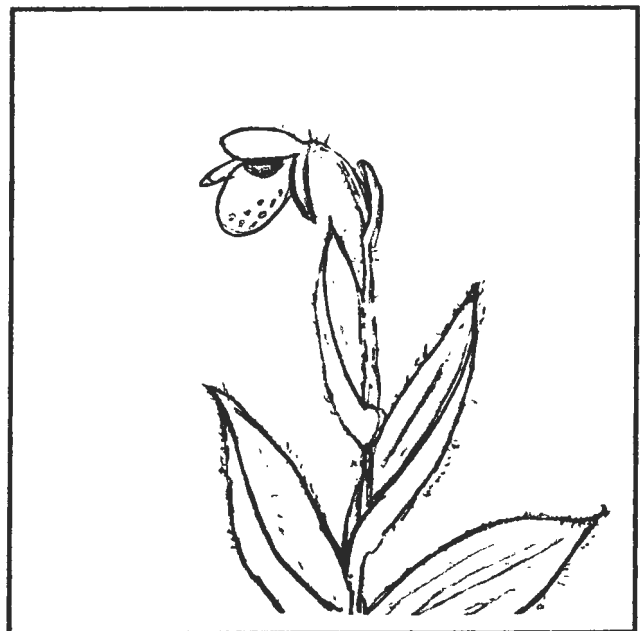
Our continuation of the study of the Ranunculaceae family brings us this month to the *Actaea* genus. This herbaceous plant is different from the other members of this family in that its fruit is berry-like. Its leaves are dissected and toothed. Each berry on the raceme of fruit has a long stem and an indented crease down one side. The berries are poisonous.

*Actaea rubra*, ssp *rubra*, is found mostly in interior Alaska. Ssp. *arcuta* is found in Southeastern and Southcentral Alaska and the Aleutian chain. Variety *neglecta* has white fruit.

## MYSTERY PLANT:

The stems of this plant grow out of a stout, dark rootstock. Clustered with 3 or 4 large leaves per stem. The solitary flowers have short, greenish sepals and whitish petals rounded at the ends with an egg-shaped "pouch" The "pouch" is more or less purple-spotted inside. Its flowers are sweet scented.

This beautiful plant is found in profusion in the spruce forest situated alongside the Matanuska Glacier, but subdivision development looks as if it might restrict its habitat in the future.



*Mystery Plant*

## STATE BOARD MEETING:

Minutes of the Alaska Native Plant Society - State Board meeting, Anchorage, Alaska, Dec. 1990.

Called to order on December 8, 1990, at 1:31 p.m. by Forrest Baldwin.

Attendees: Forrest Baldwin, Verna Pratt, Jean Poor, Jean Tam, Joanne Popham, Lynn Catlin, Ram Srinivasan.

Correspondence: Given to Srini.

Treasurer's Report dated Nov. 26, 1990, was handed out.

Bottom line was closing balance of \$5108.34

Main topic for this meeting was to decide how to divide up the funds between the two chapters.

Separate accounts to be established for the two chapters. The Kachemak chapter account will hold \$100 plus 30% of its members dues. Kachemak will open a petty cash account of \$50 in Homer.

Ideas for earning money:

Sponsor bingo games. Mark Catlin will provide details.

Put money into CD (Certificate of Deposit).

Motion passed to put all funds except \$1000 into a 6-month CD.

Ideas for spending money:

Joanne submitted a proposal to help publish a book by Priscilla Russell. \$200 requested. Motion passed to fund up to \$500 depending on quality of publication.

Scholarships/tuition/book money

Research grants

Travel money for guest speakers

Other business:

Donna Standerwick wants permission to use the ANPS prints for notecards. (She was the artist.) Motion passed.

Dues structure will remain unchanged.

A slide projector will be purchased for the Anchorage chapter.

The State board members will meet twice a year - a spring field trip and a fall meeting.

Joanne gave a brief report on the Kachemak chapter.

Brief discussion on liability on field trips. Various waivers used by other organizations will be examined.

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jean Tam, Secretary*

## FIELD TRIPS:

We are still looking for ideas and/or volunteers for Field Trips for the 1991 season. If you would be willing to lead a trip to an interesting location please let us know. If you know of a nice spot, but don't feel qualified as a field botanist, we can certainly provide a botanist if you will just take us to the spot. Anyone interested in helping out with the field trips in any way, please fill out the Field Trip Planning/Publicity Data form attached to this newsletter and either bring it to the January meeting, or mail it to the ANSP Post Office Box as soon as possible. Spring is coming!!!

## DUES IS DUE:

Yes, it's that time again. 1991 dues are due and payable. Dues remain the same as previous years:

\$5---Full-time student member

\$10-Individual member

\$15-Family members (2 voting members over age of 18 years).

## WILDFLOWER SEEDING:

If any members have any Alaskan Wildflower seeds (new or old) that would do well in a dry roadside situation please send them to Verna Pratt, 7446 East 20th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99504 or call 333-8212 for Anchorage area pickup or delivery. The Wildflower Garden Club adopted a continuing project in 1990 to reseed a section of Hiland Road with wildflowers. Two members of the organization, Kathy Farley and Robin McDowell live on Hiland Road and spearheaded this project. Hiland Road is just east of the weigh station on the Glenn Highway between Anchorage and Eagle River. About 1/3 of the project was completed last summer and plans are to complete it in the summer of 1991. There is an area of about 600,000 sq. ft. left to seed along the roadside and the median just off the Glenn Highway. The Highway Department has equipment for threshing the seeds to you need not thoroughly clean or sift them. Please send only seed of Alaskan Wildflowers that will tolerate dryness and plants that might normally grow at low elevations in Southcentral Alaska. Seeds are needed by May 1st, 1991, at the very latest. This is a very worthwhile project and it should be supported with whatever resources are available to us. Thanks.

## WEATHER RHYMES--(AND REASONS)

The following extracted from the Newsletter of the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society, Vol. 16, No. 8, October 1990.

"Ring around the moon, rain by noon; ring around the sun, rain before the night is done."

(Atmospheric ice crystals scatter the light of the sun and moon, creating rings or halos. High cirrus clouds, which form the most common halos, often indicate poor weather is 12 to 18 hours away.)

"Hens' scratchings and mares' tails make tall ships carry low sails."

(These refer to high-altitude cirrus clouds. During fair weather, check the upper atmosphere for these little clusters of wispy clouds that look like hens' scratchings or mares' tails. These are forerunners of a low-pressure storm system, they often come after a fair-weather, high-pressure system.)

"If with your nose you smell the day, stormy weather's on the way."

(Plants release oils into the atmosphere, and research indicates that the higher the humidity, the more oils the plants give off. This produces the distinctive odor many of us recognize when we say, "Smells like rain today.")

--Indications of a falling barometer: headaches, an arthritis flare-up, sleepiness.

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## A.S.O.N.P.--(Not to be confused with A.N.P.S.)

The Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers, Alaska's largest camera club, was founded in 1984.

It's stated purposes are:

- to promote individual self-improvement in outdoor and nature photography
- to promote, exchange, and share information about outdoor and nature photography
- to promote good etiquette and ethics among outdoor and nature photographers while in the field
- to assist members in the marketing and selling of their photographs

(Ed. Note: If you are serious about outdoor and nature photography, this organization may well be your cup of tea.)

## QUIZ ANSWER:

*Cypripedium passerinum* (White Lady's Slipper).

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## YELLOW VIOLETS:

The following extracted from an article in The Anchorage Times, Nov. 13, 1990:

Folks in the Lone Star State may sing about the yellow roses, but Monday they crowded about a small colony of yellow violets discovered hanging from a cliff by a park ranger who had lost his way.

A rare flower, dubbed the *Viola guadalupensis*, or Guadalupe Violet, is eligible for listing as a rare or endangered species, said John Cook, National Park Service Southwest regional director.

The plant was found March 22, 1987. It was verified as a species in June and its discovery was announced Monday at a conference on national parks attended by 350 federal officials, scientists and wild-life preservationists.....

The one small profusion of 35 individual plants with vibrant yellow flowers grow in crevices on a limestone formation on the east rim of the mountains.

The 86,000-acre park is near the Texas-New Mexico line and about 100 miles east of El Paso....

This oddball violet appears to be a sturdy survivor of the area's ancient rain forest. Half an inch in diameter with 6-to 12- inch stems, the flower is distinguished by the shape of its leaves, its leaf hairs and its habitat in the pores of limestone.

.....and a West Texas botanist believe most of the species disappeared at least 8,000 years ago.

Wauer (the wayward ranger who discovered it) and another person are the only people who know the plant's precise location, a measure taken to protect it.

"To me this plant reflects a purity of nature that we desperately need so that we can constantly go back to examine where we're going," Wauer said. "We seem to be at war with our planet and if we win that war we'll lose."

(Ed. Note: Here in Alaska, we have 2 species of yellow violets. They are not related to the Texas variety.)