

BOREALIS

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ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141613, Anchorage, Alaska 99514

ANPS STATE ELECTION RESULTS:

The results of the recent election of state officers for the 1991-1992 term are as follows:

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

ANCHORAGE CHAPTER OFFICERS ARE:

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

ANCHORAGE CHAPTER MEETING NEWS:

The February meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be held on Monday, February 4th, 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: How Plants Keep Warm and Turgid.

Anchorage Chapter Vice-President, Gary Davies, who worked for many years with the National Park Service, and now teaches in the Biology Department of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, will present the program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Board of Directors will meet at 6:45PM, just prior to the general membership meeting.

PLANT FAMILY:

This month's discussion is a continuation of the Ranunculus (Crowfoot or Buttercup) Family. Cathy Wright will do a presentation on the first-half of the Ranunculus genus (following Hulten's keys). This includes scapose (flowering stems having no leaves) plants, and decumbent species of non-scapose plants. Many of the plants in this genus have leaves in the "birdfoot" pattern. Most grow in damp areas. The name Ranunculus comes from the Latin word RANA which means FROG (which usually inhabit damp areas). Most of the plants have 5 sepals, 5 petals and a cushion of stamens. This genus is notable for the poison, protoanemonin, that it contains. Although it could be used in emergencies for food it is not adviseable. You must cook the plants in many changes of water until there is no bitter taste.

MYSTERY PLANT:

This member of the Apiaceae family grows on some of the driest sites in the State of Alaska. It grows from sea level to some 3000 feet in elevation. It is found throughout the northern part of the State. Excluded areas are Southeast Alaska, Southcentral Alaska, and the Aleutian Chain. The plant can be recognized instantly by its bright yellow flowers and simple, linear leaves.



Mystery Plant

THANKS:

Thank You, Judy Hagler, for the donation of seeds for the roadside seeding project mentioned in last month's newsletter.

POLYPODIUM RESOLVED:

The nomenclature of the fern genus *Polypodium* in North America has long been in confusion. The names *P. sibiricum* Siplivinsky and *P. glycyrrhiza* D.C. Eat. replace *P. vulgare* L. ssp. *columbianum* (Gilb.) Hult. and *P. vulgare* L. ssp. *occidentale* (Hook.) Hult. respectively.

In Hulten's 'Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories', the name *Polypodium vulgare* is used to reflect the two taxa in the area of scope. Two subspecies have been also recognized: *P. vulgare* ssp. *columbianum*, and *P. vulgare* ssp. *occidentale*.

Recent research on the genus for several different projects including the Flora of North America have shown these names to be incorrect. Dr. David B. Lellinger of the United States National Herbarium at the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. Michael Windham of the Utah Museum of Natural History have examined specimens of mine from the Salcha River area near Fairbanks, and both agree to the name *Polypodium sibiricum* as correct. *P. glycyrrhiza* is an older name synonymized with *p. vulgare* ssp. *occidentale* by Hulten which has since been resurrected as more appropriate.

Polypodium sibiricum is an uncommonly collected species known from the interior of Alaska, the Yukon Territories and the Northwest Territories. It can be found on bluffs along the Salcha River south of Fairbanks, and near Circle Hot Springs. *P. glycyrrhiza* can be found near coastal areas throughout the Aleutian Islands, Kodiak Island, the Prince William Sound area, and most of southeastern Alaska stretching south through British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California.

---Submitted by Jason R. Grant

(Editor's Note: Jason is from Fairbanks and was, at one time, our youngest ANPS member, having joined at age 15 while attending school in Fairbanks. He later attended UAF and studied under Dr. David Murray. He is now with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.)

Jason is looking for Alaska Native names for *Parrya*, Parry's Wallflower. Can any of our readers help him? You may contact him at:

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Many of our native Alaska plants have species names that link them to the area. Slight differences in spelling and endings cause confusion. Some are: *alaskana*, *alaskanum*, *alaskensis*, and *alascensis*. Other species commonly seen that link plants to a specific area are: *KAMTSCHATICA*, *ALEUTICUM*, *KENAICA*, *NUTKATENSIS*, *SITCHENSIS*, *BERINGENSIS*, *UNALASKENSIS*, etc.

Other species names relate to other northern communities, probably where the plants were first discovered. We frequently see: *canadensis*, *yukonensis*, *asiatica*, *sibirica*, *labradorica*, *laponica*. While still other names link them merely to the north with names like *arcticum*, *borealis*, *frigida*, *hyperborea* or *septentrionalis*. When these names are translated to common names; such as, *Androsace septentrionalis*, it becomes Northern Jasmine. Learning and understanding the scientific name is a lot easier when you know what the species name means.

---Submitted by Verna Pratt

FIELD TRIP PLANNING:

We now have a Field Trip Chairman, Frank Bogardus. Now we need ideas and leaders. We **must** start planning now for a successful season! It's later than you think! March 30th is the deadline for input to the planning. You can reach Frank at 333-9292.

Let's please have your input now!

QUIZ ANSWER:

Bupleurum triradiatum (Thorough-wort).
