

Borealis

the newsletter of the



March 1994

P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514

Anchorage Chapter March Meeting

Edible Wild Plants and Marine Creatures of the Lower Kenai Peninsula

by
Daisy Lee Bitter

Monday, March 7 1994 First Congregational Church
7:30 P.M. 2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
(Please use back entrance)

Daisy Lee Bitter, from the Kachemak Bay Chapter, will present a program that will give us all a chance to see the tremendous variety of plant life on the Kenai peninsula, and also to learn about the varied marine life in the easily accessible tidal pools along the coastal highway.

A board meeting will be held beforehand, beginning at 7 P.M.

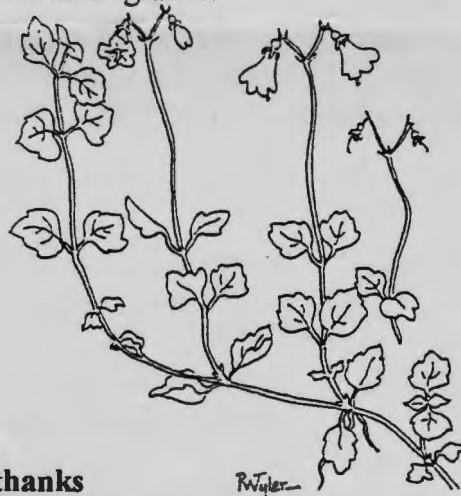
The Mini Botany Program will be given by *Jean Tam*, who will discuss winter identification characteristics of two Alder species that are common in the Anchorage area.

The Plant Family Program will be given by *Sally Karabelnikoff*. Sally will describe three more genera from the Lily family: *Lloydia* (Alp Lily), *Clintonia* and *Maianthemum* (False Lily of the Valley). See page 3.

1994 Seed Exchange - remaining seeds will be available after the meeting for purchase. See February newsletter for details.

Mystery Plant

This woody shrub has a **trailing habit** and works its way amongst the other plants in woods, dry tundra and on ridges. The thick evergreen leaves are ovate with a few teeth near the point, and are arranged opposite each other on the stems. Flowering stems are 3 to 4" tall and have 2-4 pairs of leaves near the base. Flowers are usually in pairs and are white and funnel-shaped. It is common throughout most of Alaska. To fully appreciate this plant, one must lie on the ground and take in its fragrance.



Many thanks
to *Jason Grant* for volunteering to prepare future
Mystery Plant Features.

ANPS 1993 Treasurer's Report

At the end of 1993, ANPS could boast 146 paid members - a 36% increase over 1992! Our state treasurer, Yaso Gurusingham-Thiru has prepared a balance sheet for the year, which can be found on page 6.

Winter Field Trip

Shake off the winter blues, and sharpen your winter identification skills by joining Verna on:

Saturday, March 12
at the
Muldoon Fitness Trail
at 1 P.M., for 1 -2 hours.

Meet at the car park on the south side of Northern Lights Blvd., just before reaching Muldoon Rd. Wear warm boots for this trip, or skis if we have more snow.

Beginnings of the 1994 Summer Field Trip Schedule

The field trip schedule for summer 1994 is beginning to take shape. Below are listed field trips that are already scheduled. If you have a favorite botanical spot and would like to organize an excursion to visit it, please contact Brad Andres at (w) or (h).

Hultenese expertise is not required to be a trip leader. Details describing each field trip will be provided in a future issue of the newsletter.

May 15	Wishbone Hill (Sutton)
June 6,7	Kantishna Roadhouse (Denali Park). See page 7 for details.
June 11,12	Tern Lake Campground- Upper Trail Lake Trail (Kenai)
July 10	Crow Pass (Girdwood)
July 15, 16, 17	Devil Lake/Devil Pass (Kenai)
August 13	Hatcher Pass (Willow)

In addition to these trips, river guide Kris Cassity () is willing to provide small group, customized float trips to ANPS members. If an Alaskan river has piqued your botanical curiosity, please give Kris a call.

Anchorage Chapter February Meeting: Adventures in Chukotka

At last month's meeting Carolyn Parker gave a highly entertaining and informative program on her trip last summer to the Chukotka Peninsula in eastern Russia. During her stay, Carolyn explored the fjord valley around Provideniya, coastal areas around Anadyr, and took an adventurous rafting trip from a point 2.5 hours inland by helicopter, back to the coast.

This area has a common biological and cultural history with the Alaskan side of the Bering Sea; some of the plants she found were familiar to us, but many others don't make it across to the Seward Peninsula or to other parts of Alaska. The latter include a Globeflower (*Trollius*) found in



Globeflower
(*Trollius*)

snow bed communities, a dwarf delphinium, *Dicentra peregrina* (related to Bleeding Hearts) that occurred on screes and disturbed sites, a *Crepis* species (Hawk's Beard), a weeping member of the willow family (*Chosenia*), and a very showy yellow rhododendron that grows to 8 inches tall with 3 inch flowers. Other

plants that were widespread there, but are less common in Alaska, were *Artemisia glomerata* and a *Rumex* species considered sensitive here.

We enjoyed sharing this adventure, and learned many useful tips for any future rafting trips. Now we know to put Roseroot in our vodka to make it more palatable, and that the latter is also a useful solvent to use when patching a raft. Thanks Carolyn!

Lily Family continued: Alp Lily, Clintonia and False Lily of the Valley

The three genera selected for this month are all represented by small plants. *Lloydia serotina*, or Alp Lily, is grass-like, and attains a height of 4-6 inches. It occurs on dry tundra and in the alpine throughout Alaska. Solitary, or occasionally two, white flowers appear from June to early July. Each has six tepals and purplish veins. The fruit is a capsule with three sections.

Clintonia uniflora (One Flowered Clintonia or Blue Beard) is found only in SE Alaska. It spreads by rhizomes and prefers moist, dense woodlands. The oblanceolate leaves are produced in groups of twos or threes, and have long petioles. The white flowers have six narrow tepals and produce a blue berry.

Maianthemum dilatatum (False Lily of the Valley, Deer Berry) occurs in SE, parts of coastal south-central, and at the western end of the Aleutian chain. It prefers moist woods and meadows. This is a slightly unusual member of the Lily family as



False Lily of
the Valley

the flower parts are in multiples of four instead of three, giving rise to another common name of Four-parted Lily. The plant grows to 14 inches, and has heart shaped (cordate) leaves with palmate venation. It spreads by rhizomes, which at intervals produce a stem with two leaves, which subsequently gives rise to a flowering stalk and a spike of

tiny white or cream colored flowers. The berries are round, red and poisonous due to the presence of alkaloids that affect the heart.

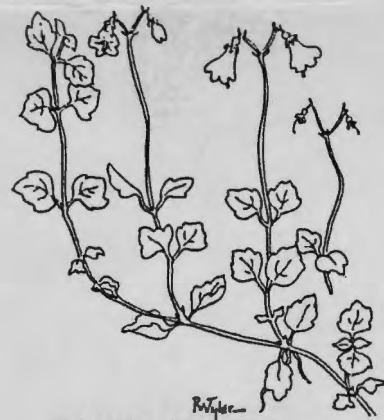
What's in a Name?

Lupinus nootkatensis (Nootka Lupine)

The genus name for this plant is derived from the Latin word "lupus", meaning wolf. It stems from an ancient belief that lupines robbed the soil of nutrients. Many of the species in this genus grow on nutrient-poor soils, and in the past the cause and effect were confused. All members of the Fabaceae (Bean Family), to which this genus belongs, form mycorrhizal relationships with a bacterium that produces root nodules on the plant and fixes nitrogen from the atmosphere, thus helping to enrich the soil.

"Nootkatensis" is derived from Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The plant was first described from that area.

Mystery Plant Answer



Twinflower

Linnaea Borealis

a member of the Caprifoliaceae
or Honeysuckle family.

This is the emblem of our organization, hence the name of our newsletter, "Borealis".

This name was chosen as a result of a newsletter naming contest which was won by member Robert Glock from Tacoma, Washington.

Common Mountain Juniper
(Ground Juniper, Low Juniper)
Juniperus communis L. subsp. *nana*
 tsuni ela - "Brown bear's spruce bough" -
 Dena'ina Indians
 shint'una - Iliamna Indians



Common Mountain Juniper can be found scattered in sub-arctic and alpine areas right across northern latitudes, and as far south as the Himalayas and New Mexico. Locally it can be found in Chugach State Park. It usually grows as a low-lying shrub or tree on dry slopes at elevations to 5500'. It has acicular (needle-shaped) leaves in whorls of three with a whitish groove above, and produces small cones which look like berries. The latter are green in their first year, and ripen to blue and then black after the second or third years. The bark is a dark reddish-brown or gray. This evergreen conifer is one of four

members of the cypress family, Cupressaceae, occurring in Alaska. *Juniperus horizontalis* (Creeping Juniper) is rare, but can be found on dry, rocky slopes and sunny sands in SE Interior Alaska, and as far west as Hicks Creek, near Palmer. Two other genera are represented with one species each: Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) is only found in SE, and the range of Alaska Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) extends as far north as Prince William Sound.

Common Mountain Juniper has a pleasant aroma and this has led to some interesting uses: The Dena'ina Indians of Upper Cook Inlet burn leaves on top of wood stoves as incense, and inhale the vapors for colds. The branches are used to make a tea, which is said to be helpful for colds, sore throats and tuberculosis. The ripe 'berries' are also used to make a tea which is used for mild stomach upsets, coughs or congestion.

In Europe, in earlier days, juniper was used as a protective charm. Branches were hung above doors and windows on May Eve to keep away witches, and were burnt during outbreaks of the plague. Smoke from a juniper fire was said to keep demons away, while infusions of the 'berries' could restore lost youth. To dream of a juniper tree was considered unlucky, but to dream of the 'berries' was a good omen, foretelling future success or the birth of an heir. In Scandinavia and Germany juniper 'berries' are used as a culinary spice, particularly in sauerkraut. The ripe 'berries' are also used to make a tea in Scandinavia, or can be roasted, ground and used like coffee. They have also been used in alcoholic drinks: In Sweden they are used to make a health beer, and in France they are fermented with barley to make 'genevrette'. Probably their best-known use is to produce a volatile oil which is a prime ingredient of gin. Juniper 'berries' have diuretic properties and one author warns that large quantities can irritate the kidneys and that some people may be allergic to them. Maybe that's why we drink gin with a tonic?

Trevor Rickett

Campbell Tract Plant List

Field trips are always fun, but sometimes they can also provide useful information for those who manage our open spaces. Last year, several field trips to Campbell Tract led to the production of a plant list for the BLM. Here is the list that was compiled from those field trips. Thanks to everyone who helped!

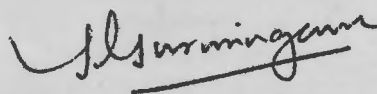
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Pepper Grass	
Northern Yarrow	<i>Achillea borealis</i>
Siberian Yarrow	<i>Achillea sibirica</i>
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum delphinifolium</i>
Mountain Alder	<i>Alnus crispa</i>
Bog Rosemary	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>
White Pussy-toes	<i>Antennaria sp.</i>
Kamchatka Rockcress	<i>Arabis lyrata</i>
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
Common Wormwood	<i>Artemisia tilesii</i>
Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
Kenai Birch or Black Birch	<i>Betula kenaica</i>
Dwarf Birch	<i>Betula nana</i>
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Moonwort	<i>Botrychium lanceolatum</i>
Bluejoint Grass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>
Leather Leaf	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i>
Canadian Dogwood	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>
Lapland Dogwood	<i>Cornus suecica</i>
Hawk's Beard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium glaucum</i>
Tansy Mustard	<i>Descurainia sophioides</i>
Sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>
Crowberry	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>
Common Fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>
Dwarf Fireweed	<i>Epilobium latifolium</i>
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
Woodland Horsetail	<i>Equisetum silvaticum</i>
Blue Fleabane	<i>Erigeron acris</i>
Bedstraw	<i>Galium triflorum</i>
Timberberry	<i>Geocaulon lividum</i>
Large-leaf Avens	<i>Geum macrophyllum</i>
Rattlesnake Plantain	<i>Goodyera repens</i>
Oak Fern	<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>
Cow Parsnip	<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>
Squirreltail Grass	<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>
Narrow-leaf Labrador Tea	<i>Ledum decumbens</i>
Labrador Tea	<i>Ledum palustre</i>
Butter and Eggs	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
Twinflower	<i>Linnaea borealis</i>
Alpine Azalea	<i>Loiseleuria procumbens</i>
Nootka Lupine	<i>Lupinus nootkatensis</i>
Stiff Club Moss	<i>Lycopodium annotinum</i>
Creeping Jenny	<i>Lycopodium complanatum</i>
Pineapple Weed	<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>
Ostrich Fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
False Azalea	<i>Menziesia ferruginea</i>
Bluebells	<i>Mertensia paniculata</i>
Grove Sandwort	<i>Moehringia lateriflora</i>
Single Delight	<i>Moneses uniflora</i>
Sweet Gale	<i>Myrica gale</i>
Bog Cranberry	<i>Oxycoccus microcarpus</i>
Labrador Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis labradorica</i>
White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>
Black Spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>
Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Tall Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium acutiflorum</i>
Knot Weed	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Tundra Rose	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>
Norwegian Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla norvegica</i>
Marsh Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>
Pink Pyrola	<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>
Green Pyrola	<i>Pyrola chlorantha</i>
Small flowered Pyrola	<i>Pyrola minor</i>
Sidebells Pyrola	<i>Pyrola secunda</i>
Rattlebox	<i>Rhinanthus minor ssp. borealis</i>
Northern Black Currant	<i>Ribes hudsonianum</i>
Red Currant	<i>Ribes triste</i>
Prickly Rose	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>
Nagoonberry	<i>Rubus arcticus</i>
Cloudberry	<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>
Alaska Willow	<i>Salix alaxensis</i>
Bebb Willow	<i>Salix bebbiana</i>
Bog Willow	<i>Salix fuscescens</i>
Grayleaf Willow	<i>Salix glauca</i>
Scouler's Willow	<i>Salix scouleriana</i>
Northern Goldenrod	<i>Solidago multiradiata</i>
Sitka Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus sitchensis</i>
Alaska Spiraea	<i>Spiraea beauverdiana</i>
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria sp.</i>
Watermelon Berry	<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i>
Common Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum sparsiflorum</i>
Star Flower	<i>Trientalis europaea</i>
Clover	<i>Trifolium sp.</i>
Nettle	<i>Urtica lyallii</i>
Bog Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>
Low-bush Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>
High-bush Cranberry	<i>Viburnum edule</i>
Marsh Violet	<i>Viola epipsila</i>

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
TREASURERS REPORT
December 31, 1993

	Month Sept - Dec	Year to Date
Beginning Cash Balance	4,470.46	4,724.40
RECEIPTS:		
Membership dues		1,235.00
Sale of prints		105.00
Sale of decal stickers		4.75
Sale of sew-on patches		
Sale of seeds		
Contribution to scholarship fund		
Contribution, unrestricted		
Advertising		15.00
Miscellaneous <i>Book Sale</i>		36.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,395.75
DISBURSEMENTS:		
News letter, postage, printing, <i>Field Trip</i>		790.19
Business license		49.00
PO Box rental		
Seed sale envelopes		
Administrative supplies, postage		
Postage prepaid on sales items		
Monthly meetings, refreshments		
Refunds		
Miscellaneous <i>Paid to State AN.P.S. 30% of '92 Dues Educational Project, Pratt Museum</i>		310.50
		500.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		1,649.69
Closing Cash Balance	4,470.46	4,470.46

146 paid members as of Dec. 31, 1993.



Yaso Gurusingam-Thiru, Treasurer

**SUMMER VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITY
AT
YUKON FLATS NWR**

A volunteer is needed to conduct vegetation transects at Yukon Flats NWR this summer. The transects will be part of ground truthing efforts to interpret TM-imagery, and the end product will be a refined land cover map.

This project calls for a special volunteer who is familiar with transect sampling methods and Viereck's classification system, and has a high level of identification skills with Alaskan plants. In addition they will need to be a self starter in good physical condition, and able to deal with hot temperatures, long hikes and carrying heavy loads. They will also need patience with high concentrations of mosquitoes and gnats. It is anticipated that the project will take 1 - 2 months.

Equipment, a program orientation, and first aid, bear and watercraft safety training will be provided. Volunteers need only to bring their personal gear. However, housing is not available for any time spent in Fairbanks.

If you think you may be interested in this project contact Mark Bertram, of the Yukon Flats NWR, at

**JUNE FIELD TRIP TO
KANTISHNA
and
DENALI NATIONAL PARK
June 6 and 7, 1994**

This trip promises to be very special. Participants will spend two nights at the Kantishna Roadhouse in the heart of Denali National Park. During that time they will be able to enjoy wonderful hospitality, beautiful surroundings and delicious food. Guide led day hikes and evening natural history programs will be provided. We will drive to Kantishna, via the Park Road, on June 6, and drive out on June 8. This is a wonderful opportunity to travel the Park Road at your own pace.

Room rates are: twin - \$200/person/night, triple - \$175/person/night, quad - \$150/person/night. Six rooms are being held that will accommodate 24 people. Meals, and everything else are included in the price. A deposit of \$150 will be needed by April 1 to reserve a place. Participants will receive access permits to drive the Park Road in private vehicles, and car pooling is encouraged. Brochures describing the lodge will be available at the March meeting.

Contact Carolyn Parker () by April 1 to reserve your space, or for more information.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

The Alaska Native Plant Society was organized in 1982 by an enthusiastic group of amateur and professional botanists. It is a non-profit educational organization with the aim of uniting all persons interested in the flora of Alaska.

Membership is open to any interested individual or organization. If you wish to join us, please indicate the category of membership you desire, then clip and mail this application with the appropriate remittance to: **Alaska Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514**

Select the membership category you desire:

Full Time Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5	Name: _____
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	Address: _____
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	

Newsletter Contributions

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER.

We encourage you to submit articles, letters and events for inclusion in the newsletter. Contributions for the April issue should be handed to the editors at the Anchorage Chapter March meeting, or mailed to: Julia and Trevor Ricketts, 6325 Red Tree Circle, Anchorage AK 99516 to arrive by March 11. Here are some suggestions of topics for articles that we would particularly welcome:

- Write-ups of last summer's field trips, or botanically interesting places in Alaska that you have visited.
- Medicinal or Culinary Uses for Native Plants: Either traditional or contemporary.
- Native Plants for the garden.
- Explanations of botanical terminology/taxonomy.
- Descriptions of individual species.
- Poems, reflections and observations about native plants.
- Reviews of relevant books that you think other members would find interesting.
- Good quality pen & ink drawings.

Please try to think of one contribution that **YOU** can make to *your newsletter* this year!

ANPS State Officers

President Sally Karabelnikoff
Vice-President Jean Poor
Secretary Jean Tam
Treasurer Yaso Gurusingan-Thiru

Anchorage Chapter Board Members

President Jean Poor
Vice-President Julia Ricketts
Secretary Andrea Woods
Treasurer Jim Poor
State Board Rep. Marilyn Barker

Anchorage Chapter Program Coordinators

Gary Davies Main Program
Verna Pratt Plant Family
Julia Ricketts Mini Botany
Sarah Andres Field Trips

Borealis Staff

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The newsletter of the Alaska Native Plant Society is published monthly except for June, July, August and September.

Alaska Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 141613
Anchorage, AK 99514



IS YOUR MAILING LABEL CORRECT?

Please take a moment to check your mailing label and make sure that your name, address and your renewal date are correct. If your label doesn't say '94, your dues are due.