

# Borealis

the newsletter of the



October 1994

P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514

## Anchorage Chapter October Meeting

### Pot Luck Supper & Slide Show-'n'-Tell

Monday, October 3 At our new meeting place at the  
at 7:00 p.m. Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum  
4721 Aircraft Dr., nr Lake Hood

Follow the brown signs to the aviation museum.



Get ready for the first ANPS Anchorage Chapter meeting of the 1994 - 1995 season, at our new meeting place, at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum. This is our traditional Pot-Luck supper and slide show. Please bring a baked dish, vegetable, bread or dessert in a quantity large enough to share with three times the size of your group. ANPS will provide hot and cold beverages, paper plates, and plastic utensils. Guests are always welcome, so invite any interested friends to join the party.

Everyone enjoys seeing new plants and new locations. Bring up to 10 slides of your summer activities and/or plants to show the group. Don't miss the fun!  
**No board meeting will be held this month.**

## Mystery Plant by Jason Grant

This common perennial herb of damp mossy forests is unique in having only a single basal leaf, while the other species of its genus in Alaska have several to many leaves. It has thick roots that sink deep into the moss and soil rather than bulblets, and small, light-green flowers positioned on a leafless scape. The linear-veined leaves are obovate to oblanceolate (wider at the end than at the base) with an obtuse (blunt) apex. Its pollination biology is quite unique - it is pollinated by mosquitoes! So when you think about the hoards of mosquitoes you swatted this summer, think of the mystery plant that depends on them for reproduction.



Answer on Page 3.

Mystery Plant drawings by Toby Tyler, ANPS Kachemak Chapter.

## Arbor Day Celebrated at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum

The ANPS and the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum Director, Ted Spencer, conducted a brief Arbor Day tree planting ceremony on the museum's grounds on May 20, 1994. The young white spruce tree was purchased from a local nursery with a grant provided by the State Division of Forestry's Urban & Community Forestry Program.

ANPS and the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum are working together to enhance the museum grounds. This summer ANPS volunteers have planted a variety of hardy native wild flowers. Notable among these is the state flower, the forget-me-not. These little blue and gold flowers were planted inside the spruce's bed near the lake. The society will also be assisting the museum staff in identifying its trees, shrubs and flowers. This information will help the museum provide interpretation for the visitors. In return the museum's conference room will be available for the society's monthly meetings from October to May.



M. Scott Christy

*Thanks go to Scott for obtaining the grant money, for providing lumber for edging the spruce bed and for stakes, and for leading the planting. Thanks also to Jean Poor and Verna for providing various wild flowers to add to the plantings, and to the volunteers who helped plant them. So far Columbinas, Geraniums, Forget-me-nots, Kamchatka Rockcress, Bluebells of Scotland and Star Flower have all been added. In addition Shooting Stars and Marsh Marigolds were planted along the edge of the lake. We're all looking forward to working with the museum on this ongoing project.*

## Nominating Committee

The nominating committee recently met to consider a new slate of officers for 1995. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor and elections will take place at the November meeting. Thanks to Marilyn Upton, Frank Pratt and Chuck Adsit for serving on the Nominating Committee. The new slate is below:

### Anchorage Chapter Board Members

President	Jean Poor
Vice-president	Julia Ricketts
Secretary	Andrea Woods
Treasurer	Unison Hubbard

## Seed Swap Volunteer Needed

A volunteer is needed to coordinate the seed exchange project this year. If you are interested call Verna at

If you have any seeds for this event please bring them to the October through December meetings, or mail them to the ANPS care of the post office box address.

## Request for Native Plant Recipes

This year saw a bumper crop of blueberries - we picked pounds of them. Now we could use some creative recipe ideas. Do you have a favorite blueberry recipe? Or do you have a good recipe for another of our native plants? If you do, send it to us! If we get enough response we will run a series called "Recipe of the Month". It depends on YOU.

Trevor Ricketts



## What's in a Name?

### *Drosera* sp. (Sundew)

Plants in this genus belong to the family Droseraceae. Both the genus and family names are derived from a Greek word meaning 'dew'. The leaves of these carnivorous plants are liberally covered with stalked red glands that secrete a sticky glue-like substance. Small insects that land on the leaves become trapped and are slowly digested. In bright sunlight these secretions glisten like dew. The common name describes the same phenomenon.



#### *D. rotundifolia*

Two species in this genus occur in Alaska: *Drosera*.

*rotundifolia* (Round-leaf Sundew) and *D. anglica* (Long-leaf Sundew). *Rotundifolia* is derived from rotund, meaning round, and folia, meaning leaf. *Anglica*; means from England, where the first plants of this species were described.



*Drosera anglica*

## Book Review:

### Hispid? Hirsute? Villous? Help for Those Pesky Plant Terms

**Plant Identification Terminology: an illustrated glossary** by James G. Harris and Melinda Woolf Harris is a new publication that helps guide anyone interested in plants through that "confusing, confounding, seemingly constantly increasing and often impossible array of terms" found in botanical texts. The following review was written by Ann Pinzl, and published in the *Northern Nevada Plant Society Bulletin*.

"It would seem that this book would be for just about everyone who is interested in plants from the neophyte to the professional. I would particularly recommend it to those who are struggling over that hump between the beginning stage of comparing pictures/drawings to the plant in hand to the experienced stage of key utilization where pictures/drawings become increasingly infrequent and its all done with words ... well here's your help with those words."

The retail price of this book is regularly \$17.95. ANPS is able to offer it at the discount rate of \$13.50 for pick-up in Anchorage, and \$15 for postal orders. If you are interested in ordering a copy of this book contact Verna Pratt at

### Mystery Plant Answer:



Northern Bog Orchid  
(*Platanthera obtusata*)

a member of the Orchid family (Orchidaceae)

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
TREASURERS REPORT

For Six Months ended June 30, 1994

	Months Jan - June	Year to Date
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 4,470.46	\$ 4,470.46
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Membership dues .....	1,052.00	1,052.00
Sale of prints .....	257.50	257.50
Sale of decal stickers .....	0.75	0.75
Sale of sew-on patches .....	3.00	3.00
Sale of seeds .....	66.65	66.65
Contribution to scholarship fund .....		
Contribution, unrestricted .....		
Advertising .....	10.00	10.00
Miscellaneous <sup>Donations</sup> .....	15.00	15.00
<sup>Dues from Homer</sup> .....	129.50	129.50
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b> .....	<b>\$ 1,534.40</b>	<b>\$ 1,534.40</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
News letter, postage, printing .....	910.98	910.98
Business license .....		2.00
PO Box rental .....	49.00	49.00
Seed sale envelopes .....		
Administrative supplies, postage .....	17.79	17.79
Postage prepaid on sales items .....		
Monthly meetings, refreshments <sup>Field Trip</sup> .....	43.00	43.00
Refunds .....		
Miscellaneous .....		
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b> .....	<b>\$ 1,020.77</b>	<b>\$ 1,020.77</b>
Closing Cash Balance	\$ 4,984.09	\$ 4,984.09

115 paid members as of June 30, 1994

123 Paid members as of Aug 31, 1994.

*Yaso Gurusingam*

09/17/94

Yaso Gurusingam-Thiru, Treasurer

## As Summer slips away...

We all know that the inevitable has come upon us - and all too soon! "Termination Dust" has already fallen on peaks in the Chugach Mountains, and Fall colors around Anchorage are spectacular. Summer is over, and we have only a short window in which to enjoy Fall before Winter hurries in ...

Yesterday, September 17, we hiked to Hidden Lake in the Chugach Mountains, and were surprised to find some flowers defying the cold winds and threatening clouds: Sitka Valerian, Ross Avens, Yellow Monkeyflower and Mountain Harebell were all blooming. Maybe there are always a few hardy individuals that bloom into September, maybe it's due to our excellent Summer this year.

Being relatively new to Alaska, we are still discovering great locations for botanizing. Many of you are probably already familiar with them. In mid-August, long after plants in many of our favorite locations were putting all their efforts into setting seeds, we were delighted to find many beautiful flowers still blooming along the Harding Icefield Trail, next to Exit Glacier near Seward.

Salmonberries were ripe and plentiful along the lower part of the trail. Higher the alpine meadows were a riot of color with lupines, geraniums, columbine, valerian, and Dwarf Fireweed. In the Alpine we located Moss Campion still in flower and several saxifrages. Perhaps the most diverse saxifrage spot we located this summer was in Crow Pass, where ten species vied for our attention. This proved to be another great late summer location, with many alpine flowers still in bloom in mid August.

Did you discover a special plant or location this summer? Would you like to write a short account of an ANPS field trip? Please share your recollections with the group. Jot them down and mail them to us.

Trevor Ricketts



---

### 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	[ ] \$5	Name: _____
Individual	[ ] \$10	Address: _____
Family	[ ] \$15	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Organization	[ ] \$25	

Membership is on a calendar year basis. Any renewals before the end of 1994 will be valid until December 1995.

**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  
State Board Rep. Marilyn Barker

**Anchorage Chapter Program Coordinators**

Ginny Moran Main Program  
Verna Pratt Plant Family  
Julia Ricketts Mini Botany  
Sarah Andres Field Trips

**Borealis Staff**

Editors Julia Ricketts  
Trevor Ricketts  
Circulation Martha Hatch

The newsletter of the Alaska Native Plant Society is published monthly except for June, July, August and September. Contributions for the November issue should be mailed to: Julia and Trevor Ricketts, Anchorage, AK 99516 to arrive by October 14.

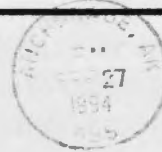
**T-Shirt Competition Reminder**

There's still time to enter the ANPS T-Shirt Competition! We need some free advertising in the form of a T-Shirt, but what to put on it? For anyone with artistic inclinations this is the chance of a lifetime. Tell all your creative friends! In addition to the artist winning a mystery prize, limitless prestige will follow for years to come.

Submissions will be taken until November 7, and judging will take place at the Anchorage Chapter December meeting. To submit your entry either mail it to Ginny Moran, C/O ANPS, P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514, or bring it to the October or November Anchorage Chapter meetings. Call Ginny Moran for more details at w( ) or h( ).



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.