



## **Anchorage Chapter Meeting Space**

We are currently considering several meeting space options for our monthly programs, starting in the fall. These will be discussed at the May meeting. If you have a suggestion or would like to express an opinion, contact Jean Poor at ( ) .

## **Spring 1995 Meeting of the Alaska Rare Plant Working Group**

A meeting of the Alaska Rare Plant Working Group was held on April 5, 6 and 7, and was attended by around 45 people from various agencies and organizations throughout the state.

Notable achievements included the following. The 1994 field season produced a few new species to Alaska, and many new plant populations for some plants that were thought to be rare. Work is nearly finalized on the updated version of Alaska's Rare and Endangered Plant book. The meetings have helped to encourage State and Federal organizations to support extensive plant surveys.

## **Southcentral Alaska Pollinator Survey**

The Alaska Cooperative Extension would like to know what visits your flowers this summer. The results will be used to compile a list of plants that attract pollinators and beneficial insects. Both native and cultivated plants will be included, so be on the look out for hummingbird moths, mourning cloak butterflies, syrphid flies, and other pollinators that visit gardens or natural areas. Your observations are valuable and you don't need to be an entomologist to identify what you see. Field guides, available at local libraries, and the Extension Office can help with identification. If you would like to participate in the Southcentral Alaska Pollinator Survey, pick up a survey form from our office, located at 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 118. Forms and additional information are available from Sarah McClellan, Interim Horticulture Agent, telephone ( ) . The results of the survey will be shared with all participants.

## **Dates for Your Diaries**

**Wednesday, May 17th at 7 p.m.**

Alaska Botanical Garden  
is sponsoring a lecture on  
**Native Orchids**

by

**Verna Pratt**

at the

**Anchorage Museum of History and Art**

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## **2-Day Herbal Conference July 22 and 23**

The Good Earth Garden School will present a 2-day Herbal Conference at the Meier Lake Conference Center near Wasilla. Events will include speakers, and the opportunity to try herbal massage and foot baths. A deposit of \$50 is required to secure a place. Call Ellen Vande Visse, horticulturist, at ( ) for more information.

## **Celebrating Wildflowers**

At the last organizational meeting, it was decided to make Celebrating Wildflowers a summer-long event, with a concentration of activities in the last two weeks of June.

The next organizational meeting for Celebrating Wildflowers will be at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10 in the library at the FWS Anchorage Field Office, 605 W. 4th Avenue.

We are still looking for volunteers. If you are interested in assisting with the creation of a native wildflower garden for downtown Anchorage, call Kathy Kingston at ( ) for more information. If you would like to volunteer to lead a hike, give a talk or have any other good ideas call Ginny Moran at ( ) . The deadline for adding events is June 1.

A preliminary schedule of events will appear in the ANPS field trip schedule.

**The Figwort Family continued:  
Yellow-flowered *Pedicularis***

Concluding our series on the Figwort family is a look at the yellow-flowered species of the genus *Pedicularis*. There are 4 species for Alaska listed in Hulten. All of them bloom in June or July, and stem leaves, if present, are arranged alternately.

Of the 4 species, only *P. lapponica* has flowers with a beaked galea (the hood formed by the upper lip of the flower). This beak is held at right angles to the lip. Flowers are held horizontally. This small, rather inconspicuous tundra species occurs in alpine meadows, north of the Brooks Range.

Labrador Lousewort (*P. labradorica*) is a much branched plant with small, pale yellow (or yellow spotted with red) flowers scattered near the end of its branches. Flowers have long, slender teeth at the apex of the galea. Leaves are narrow and occur on the stems. It can be found in bogs, woods, alpine and tundra.

The other two yellow species lack teeth or a beak. Oeder's Lousewort (*P. oederi*) produces a tight spike of largish, bright yellow flowers. The tip of the upper lip is brownish-red, with 2 red spots. It grows to 10 inches tall and is found in wet meadows and tundra throughout most of the state, with the exception of the Cook Inlet area, the Kenai Peninsula, the high arctic and the extreme western Aleutian Islands.

Capitate Lousewort (*P. capitata*) is a smaller plant, growing to 5 inches tall. It is found on rocky

alpine slopes and tundra throughout most of the state, with the exceptions of southeastern and coastal southcentral Alaska and the Yukon drainage. At the end of the hairy stems, it bears 3-4 large, hooded flowers that may be cream, yellow or pale pink, and turn rust-colored with age. Leaves are long-stemmed.



**What's in a Name?**

***Sedum rosea* (Roseroot, King's Crown)**



This small plant, with its dense clusters of pink, red or yellow flowers, grows on rocky soils throughout Alaska. *Sedum* is from the Latin word meaning "to sit" and describes the way the flowers perch at the top of the stem. Bruised or broken roots give off a fragrance reminiscent of a rose, hence the species name *rosea*.

The plant goes by a number of common names. Roseroot and Rosewort both refer to the fragrant roots. King's Crown is descriptive of the flower clusters, and Hen and Chicks refers to the way plantlets are formed around the parent plant each year. It is also one of a number of plants referred to as Scurvy Grass, as the leaves are a good source of Vitamin C.

**Mystery Plant Answer:**



*Geranium erianthum*  
Cranesbill  
Geraniaceae

## Field Trips

Spring is here and the field trip season already underway! On April 9, Marilyn Barker led us around the foothills trail at Hillside Park. Even though conditions were a little mushy, we enjoyed the plants visible above the snow and in some of the bare patches. Willow catkins and swollen buds on many of the trees and shrubs suggested that spring was on its way. On April 15, despite strong winds and sleet at McHugh, 6 ANPS members hiked a short distance along the Turnagain Arm trail. Green shoots of quite a few species had started to emerge. On the exposed bluffs, Holboell's Rockcress (*Arabis holboellii*) was already showing flower buds, and Soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*) was close to blooming. Thanks, Marilyn and Verna, for getting the field trip season off to a good start!

The summer field trip schedule will be available for pick-up at the Anchorage Chapter meeting on May 1, or will be mailed out immediately afterwards. Thanks to everybody who has volunteered to lead a hike this summer.

We hope to see you all on the trail!



## An Orchid Patch

by Marilyn Barker

Seventeen Mile Lake (near the Palmer Correctional Facility) is home to a very special orchid patch. It is one of the densest colonies of Spotted Lady Slipper Orchids in South-central Alaska. ANPS members visited the site in June 1993 for the purpose of documenting the incredible numbers of plants and flowers. The group consisted of Gil Bane, Sally Karabelnikoff, Joe Blazek and myself. We set up a transect of 10 one meter square plots and counted orchids. For all other plants we estimated the percent of the plot they occupied. A complete list of the results follows.

The steep sloping site (50 degrees slope!) where the orchids grow has an open canopy of aspen and birch along with a few scattered white spruce trees. Although there were a few tall shrubs present (high bush cranberry and wild rose), the understory was dominated by two herbs: ground dogwood and the spotted lady slipper. Other common flowers were timberberry, wild geranium and nootka lupine. Pleurocarpus mosses covered the ground between the plants. The soil was littered with old wood in varying levels of decomposition, and poking into the soil with a trowel unearthed more chunks of decomposing wood.

The plots were set in a row paralleling the lake shore, and separated from each other by one meter. Orchid counts in the plots ranged from 2 to 52! The average was 34.5 plants per plot. An astounding 68% of the orchids were flowering; one plot alone contained 40 blossoms! There was a strong positive correlation between the presence of orchids and deciduous trees -- aspen and birch. Plots with the most evergreen trees (white spruce) had the fewest orchids (2 and 12). Those with moderate deciduous tree cover averaged 28 orchids per plot, and plots with an open canopy had counts of orchid plants as high as 52.

We also checked the plots for seed capsules remaining from last year. This would give us an idea of the reproductive success of the plants, as the presence of old pods would indicate flowers

from the previous season which were successfully pollinated and set seed. Old capsules were a dismal 2.5% per plot, or about one of every 10 flowers.

The following table lists species present, their % frequency and % coverage. Frequency is

determined by dividing the number of plots the species occurred in by the total number of plots and multiplying by 100. Coverage is an estimate of the actual area covered by the plant. Note total coverage is over 100% due to layering of species.

	Frequency	Coverage
	%	%
<b>TREES</b>		
<i>Betula papyrifera</i> (Paper Birch)	30	19.8
<i>Picea glauca</i> (White Spruce)	40	18.5
<i>Populus tremuloides</i> (Aspen)	60	10
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i> (Black Cottonwood)	10	1
<b>TALL SHRUBS</b>		
<i>Rosa acicularis</i> (Wild Rose)	30	0.2
<i>Viburnum edule</i> (High Bush Cranberry)	50	4
<b>LOW SHRUBS</b>		
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> (Low bush Cranberry)	20	0.1
<b>GRASSES</b>		
<i>Agrostis</i> sp.	90	1.7
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> (Bluejoint Grass)	20	0.2
<i>Hierochloe alpina</i> (Alpine Holy Grass)	50	0.3
<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	10	0.1
<b>HERBS</b>		
<i>Cornus suecica</i> (Ground Dogwood)	100	33.1
<i>Cypripedium guttatum</i> (Spotted Lady Slipper)	100	30.5
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> (Fireweed)	100	2.7
<i>Geocaulon lividum</i> (Timberberry)	100	15.9
<i>Geranium erianthum</i> (Wild Geranium)	100	10.5
<i>Lupinus nootkatensis</i> (Nootka Lupine)	100	16.4
<i>Pyrola secunda</i> (Sidebells Pyrola)	10	0.1
<i>Pyrola chlorantha</i> (Woodland Bells)	10	0.1
<i>Trientalis europaea</i> (Star Flower)	100	1.7
<i>Viola renifolia</i> (White Violet)	30	0.1
<b>MOSSES</b>		
<i>Brachythecium</i> sp.	10	6.9
<i>Hylocomium splendens</i> (Stairstep Moss)	80	22.9
<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> (Wall Moss)	30	14.4
<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i> (Hairycap Moss)	30	0.2
<i>Rhytidium rugosum</i>	40	8.8
<i>Thuidium</i> sp.	60	10.3
<b>LICHENS</b>		
<i>Cladonia</i>	20	2
<i>Peltigera</i>	50	5.2
<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>		<b>237.7</b>

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These are the most frequently used taxonomic references and aids at the University of Alaska Museum Herbarium, Fairbanks. Some are out of print, unfortunately, but most should be available through the UAA or UAF library system or at the Alaska Resource Library, Anchorage.

Compiled by: Carolyn Parker, UA Museum Herbarium, Fairbanks  
 Ginny Moran, USFWS, Anchorage  
 Deborah Blank, BLM-Alaska State Office, Anchorage



ASTERACEAE

Achillea	886
Antennaria	871
Apargidium	943
Arnica	915
Artemisia	896
Aster	856
Chrysanthemum	891
Cirsium	939
Crepis	954
Erigeron	861
Hieracium	958
Petasites	911
Saussurea	935
Senecio	925
Solidago	851
Taraxacum	944

A quick and incomplete index to  
Hulten's Flora!

Cut it up and make a bookmark,  
tape it on your wall, or let the  
bird shred it up for nesting,  
whatever works best for you.

Happy Botanizing!!

"GRASSES"

Agropyron	181
Agrostis	97
Alopecurus	89
Arctagrostis	94
Arctophila	149
Bromus	172
Calamagrostis	103
Carex	215
Cinna	95
Danthonia	121
Deschampsia	110
Dupontia	149
Eleocharis	210
Elymus	193
Eriophorum	197
Festuca	166
Glyceria	150
Hierochloe	84
Hordeum	191
Juncus	283
Kobresia	213
Luzula	295
Melica	125
Phippsia	92
Phleum	88
Poa	127
Podagrostis	96
Puccinellia	154
Scirpus	207
Trichophorum	205
Trisetum	116
Vahlodea	115

MORE FAVORITES

Arabis	544
Arenaria	435
Astragalus	646
Braya	553
Campanula	847
Cardamine	512
Castilleja	806
Cerastium	420
Claytonia	404
Draba	520
Dryas	629
Epilobium	685
Erysimum	549
Galium	836
Gentiana	753
Geum	625
Hedysarum	667
Melandrium	444
Minuartia	429
Oxytropis	655
Papaver	489
Pedicularis	816
Platanthera	320
Polygonum	384
Potentilla	607
Primula	737
Ranunculus	467
Ribes	590
Rubus	600
Rumex	374
Sagina	426
Salix	333
Saxifraga	563
Silene	440
Stellaria	411
Veronica	797
Viola	680

Alaska Native Plant Society  
Treasurers Report  
For the quarter endec March 31, 1995

	Jan-Mar '95	Yr to date
<b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>	5012.21	5012.21
Receipts:		
Membership Dues	875.00	875.00
Sale of Prints		
Sale of Decal Stickers		
Sale of Sew On Patches	0.75	0.75
Sale of Seeds	206.50	206.50
Contribution to Scholarship Fund		
Contribution, Unrestricted		
Homer Chapter Membership Dues		
Advertising	23.00	23.00
Donations		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1105.25</b>	<b>1105.25</b>
 Disbursements		
Newsletter: Printing and Postage	161.40	161.40
Business License	50.00	50.00
P. O. Box Rental		
Seed Sale Envelopes	22.95	22.95
Administrative Supplies and Postage		
Monthly Meetings, Refreshments		
Refunds		
Donations		
Scholarships		
Anchorage Chapter, 30% of Membership Dues	755.10	755.10
Field Trips		
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>989.45</b>	<b>989.45</b>
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>5128.01</b>	<b>5128.01</b>

There are 93 paid members as of March 31, 1995

*Y Thiru*

Yaso Thiru, Treasurer

**Purple Loosestrife --**  
**Do we really want this plant in Alaska?**  
by Verna Pratt

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a very large (up to 6 ft.) aggressive plant that spreads by rhizomes. It was imported from Europe many years ago as a garden plant. Like all garden plants that become troublesome, it soon was discarded over the fence, or across the street, into the natural environment. Its long beautiful spike-like panicles of purplish-magenta, 3/4 inch flowers are an impressive sight and hard to resist. As a child growing up in New England, how well I recall making tunnels through these large plants to quickly escape from playmates in the profusion of leaves. Because it is such an invasive plant and chokes out natural vegetation, it is now illegal in many states to sell these plants. Wyman's Encyclopedia of Garden Plants (1971) states "striking in bloom, but best kept within bounds." This, however, has not been achieved in most areas.

Some local nurseries are now selling a shorter version of this plant that "won't spread like that here." I would recommend extreme caution if you purchase any of these plants, as they have not

been grown here long enough to be properly evaluated.

The following article was printed recently in the Illinois Native Plant Society newsletter. Let's hope that enough research was done before these alien predators were introduced. We wonder what damage might be done to other plants. It is sad that such extreme measures need to be taken.

**Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol**

After 7 Illinois releases of leaf beetles in 1994, 1995 plans call for supplemental releases at these sites if survival indicates need. Production of biocontrol insects is being shifted from the NY Coop. Wildlife Lab. to the states after 1995. Research continues at NY to develop culturing and release procedures for root weevils. They imported a new weevil infested flower from Europe in 1994. If propagation can be initiated in Illinois, new releases of leaf beetles will be made late in the summer of 1995.

**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	Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Membership is on a calendar year basis.

### ANPS State Officers

President Sally Karabelnikoff  
Vice-president Ginny Moran  
Secretary Jean Tam  
Treasurer Yaso Gurusingam-Thiru

### Anchorage Chapter Board Members

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

### Anchorage Chapter Program Coordinators

Ginny Moran Main Program  
Verna Pratt Plant Family  
Marilyn Barker Mini-Botany  
Julia Ricketts Field Trips

### Borealis

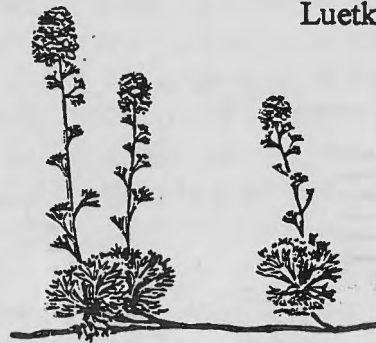
Editors Julia Ricketts  
Trevor Ricketts  
Circulation Martha Hatch

The newsletter of the ANPS is published monthly except for June, July, August and September. Material for the October issue should be mailed to: Julia and Trevor Ricketts, Anchorage, AK 99516 to arrive by September 15.

*Borealis* will be taking a break for the summer months, but we'll be back in October in time for the first fall programs. We'd love to print any field trip write-ups or interesting botanical finds. If you'd like to submit articles, drawings, information, or anything else, send it to the editors at the address opposite.

Thanks to all of the following people who have contributed to the newsletter this season: Marilyn Barker, Scott Christy, Jason Grant, Patricia Joyner, Marlena Mooring, Ginny Moran, Carolyn Parker, Jean Poor, Verna Pratt, Jean Tam, Yaso-Gurusingam Thiru and Toby Tyler.

Happy Botanizing!



Luetkea



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.