

Borealis

the newsletter of the



December 1966

P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514

Anchorage Chapter December Meeting

Monday,
December 2
7:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
(Please use back entrance)

Wildflowers for Revegetation & Restoration

Verna Pratt, well-known author and field-botanist, will present a program of her observations of Alaska wild plants best suited for restoring vegetation to a pleasing and natural state. This month she will be presenting a mini-version of a two-hour talk that she will be giving in mid-January at the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin, Texas.

Plant Family: Our goal this year is to help clear up confusion that some people have with recognizing confusing species, even when they are not in bloom. Often it is easier than you think when individual characteristics are pointed out for you.

Presenter, Dr. Marilyn Barker, will help clear up any confusion you might have between; *Diapensia* and *Alpine Azalea* (when they are not in bloom, that is) and *Crowberry* from the *Heathers*.

Mini-Botany: Sally Karabelnikoff will discuss *Orchid* morphology. She recently gave a very interesting talk at a Senior Seminar at UAA on "Orchid Morphology and Germination" that had extensive information on both terrestrial and epiphyte orchids. Her presentation to ANPS will be on the mycorrhizal relationship of our 31 native species which are all terrestrial Orchids.

A Board of Directors meeting will be at 7 p.m. immediately preceding the general membership meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Mystery Plant



This common plant of low elevation on the Aleutian Chain, Southeast and Southcentral Alaska is often overlooked or misunderstood by many people. In the early spring its large arrow-shaped leaves are sometimes mistaken for a *Coltsfoot* sp.

(*Petasites*); the lack of flowers being very puzzling as *Coltsfoot* usually is an early bloomer. It usually grows near streams, in damp woods, or where the water table is high. When it blooms in mid to late summer, its tall (12-18 inch) stem with ragged whitish one-inch flowers bears little resemblance to the early spring leaves which may now be somewhat covered with the foliage of other plants. Being puzzled by its common names, last year we dug up some plants and discovered that they look something like a tan & brown mottled rope.

Are you one of those folks who didn't bother reading the piece in last months newsletter that has all Xs in place of Es. If so, you should take the time to read it. Very interesting!

Newsletter:

Frank Pratt is taking over editorial duties of the newsletter for the time being. He says, "Julia will be a tough act to follow." We will all miss Julia & Trevor greatly. (We assume that all of our readers realize that they have been transferred to Norway). They hope to be available on the Internet for E-mail, and Frank promises to publish it in the newsletter.

Election of Anchorage Chapter ANPS Officers

Anchorage Chapter Officers:

The following is the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee at the November meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the December meeting and the 1997 officers will be voted on at that time.

President -----	Marlena Mooring
Vice-President -----	Nancy Krieger
Secretary -----	Carol Hoblitzell
Treasurer -----	Unison Hubbard

Volunteers and more Opportunities

Seed Swap Coordinator:

Janeen Herr has volunteered to be Seed Swap Coordinator this year. We are still looking for seeds, however. Alaskan Wildflower Seeds are in highest demand, but others are okay also, especially if they are unusual. Bring seeds to the December meeting, or mail to P.O. Box address on header of newsletter, or call Verna at

Plant Family Presenters:

You would be surprised at what you can learn and how easy it can be to present a brief mini-program (10 minutes). This year we are concentrating on high confusion areas — that are not as difficult as they seem when you know the tricks. Presenters are needed for: 1) *Arabis* and *Draba* from the Mustard family, 2) *Arnica* / *Senecio* and 3) *Erigeron* / *Aster* from the Aster family, 4) Buttercup and Rose families, and 5) *Potentilla* / *Geum* from the Rose family. If you would like to volunteer to make a 10 minute presentation on one of the above groupings give Verna a call at

UAA Senior Seminars:

We will try to post these in the newsletter when possible. Some may not relate to plants, but may be of interest to members.

6 December 1996

9:00	AUTISM: THE BIG PICTURE Presented by Margaret Ellis Responders: Jacques Kosto and Crista Martinovich
9:45	BIOREMEDIATION Presented by Catherine Ducasse Responders: Margaret Ellis and Mike Rabb
10:30	UNRELENTING INVESTIGATIONS IN ANIMAL COGNITION Presented by Penny Randall Responders: Margaret Ellis and Sally Karabelnikoff
11:15	COS RESEARCH TOWARDS A STABLE ENVIRONMENT Presented by Barbara Mowery Responders: M. Jane Moore and Penny Randall
12:00	UNTITLED Presented by Mike Rabb Responders: Mike Fleckenstein and Catherine Ducasse

Program Chair:

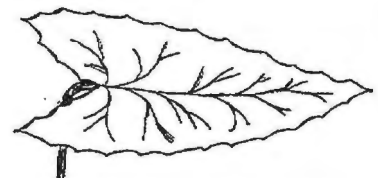
If you read last months newsletter you already know that Ginny Moran would like some relief. There are only 7 meeting a year to plan for and any person interested will be given suggestions and telephone numbers of possible speakers.

Mini-Botany Presenters:

Presenters are needed for 5 to 10 minute mini-programs. Pick a month and a subject that you are comfortable with and call Verna at

[Last months Mini-Botany was on a natural cure (?) for skin eruptions. Make a tea (strong) from Birch twigs and leaves (Paper or Dwarf Birch). Splash it on the irritated area and let air dry. Do this whenever necessary until the itch or rash goes away. Re-apply when necessary. This is not necessarily a cure — merely a treatment for symptoms.]

Mystery Plant Answer



Rattlesnake Root
Prenanthes alata
Aster / Asteraceae Family

Recipe of the month:

For a festive cookie, substitute low-bush cranberries for chocolate chips in your favorite chocolate chip cookie recipe. They are scrumptious and look good too.

Books of Interest:

"*Plant Identification and Terminology*" by James & Melinda Harris Publisher—Spring Lakes Publishing
This is a great book for any plant enthusiast's library.

(Remember Larry Read's mini-botany presentations on Hairs? Well, this book is a wonderful help in all areas with great drawings).

(See sample page below ↓)

150

PLANT IDENTIFICATION TERMINOLOGY

Glandular. Bearing glands. Figure 1451.

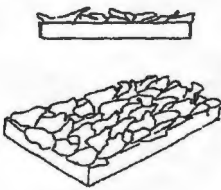


Figure 1450

Glaucouscent. Somewhat glaucous; becoming glaucous.

Glaucous. Covered with a whitish or bluish waxy coating (bloom), as on the surface of a plum.

Glochidiate. Barbed at the tip. Figure 1452.

Glutinous. Gluey; sticky; gummy; covered with a sticky exudation.

Hirsute. Pubescent with coarse, stiff hairs. Figure 1453.

Hirsutulous. Pubescent with very small, coarse, stiff hairs. Figure 1454.

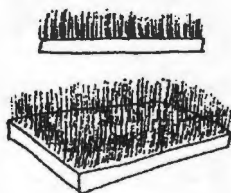


Figure 1453

Hirtellate. Same as hirsutulous.

Hirtellous. Same as hirsutulous.

Hispid. Rough with firm, stiff hairs. Figure 1455.

Hispidulous. Minutely hispid. Figure 1456.

Hoary. With gray or

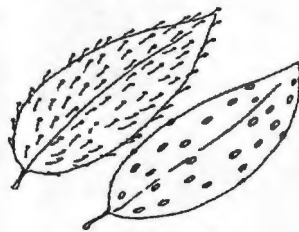


Figure 1451



Figure 1452

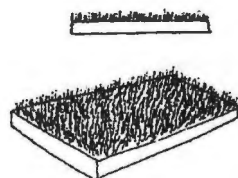


Figure 1454

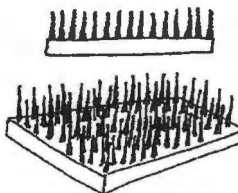


Figure 1455

white short, fine hairs. Figure 1457.

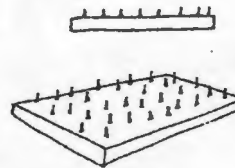


Figure 1456

Holosericeous. Covered with fine, silky hairs.

Incanous. With a whitish pubescence.

Inermous. See unarmed.

Innocuous. Harmless; lacking thorns or spines.

Laevigate. Lustrous; shining.

Lanate. Woolly; densely covered with long tangled hairs. Figure 1458.

Lanuginose. See lanuginous.

Lanuginous. Downy or woolly; with soft downy hairs. Figure 1459.

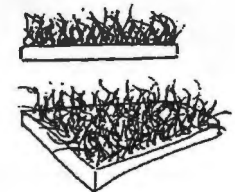


Figure 1458

Lanulose. Diminutive of lanate; minutely woolly. Figure 1460.

Lepidote. Covered with small, scurfy scales. Figure 1461.

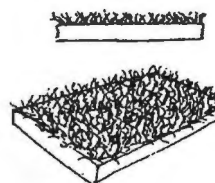


Figure 1460

Lucid. Luminous; shining.

Lustrous. Shiny or glossy.

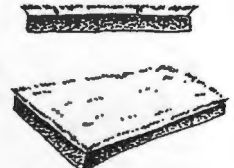


Figure 1457

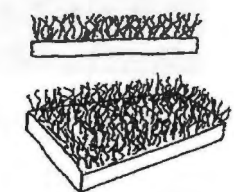


Figure 1459

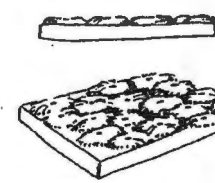


Figure 1461

The article below was extracted from a recent issue of "Garden Design" magazine:

DIRT



BY OTIS WEAVER FOR GARDEN DESIGN

A Child Shall Breed Them

STUDENTS ROCK THE ORCHID WORLD

Our vanishing native lady's slipper orchids (*Cypripediums*) are notoriously difficult to transplant, and darn near impossible to

grow from seed; a miserly few do manage to germinate under sterile laboratory conditions, and even then can take up to 19 years to bloom. So scientists have long been trying to clone lady's slippers, but to no avail. "Rumors have been surfacing for 30 years that someone has cloned a Cyp," says Ned Nash of the American Orchid Society. "It's always about to happen, but never really does."

April Dowoluk, a high school student in Lincoln,

KATIE SOKOLWSKI TOOK TO THE WOODS TO POLLINATE LADY'S SLIPPERS.

New Hampshire, didn't know the long and frustrating history behind the lady's slipper orchid. Two years ago, she just needed a science project, and decided to tissue-culture (clone) a plant. When she learned that the beautiful pink and white *C. reginae*, showy lady's slipper, was on her state's endangered-species list

Water Proof

President Clinton has just signed the revised Safe Drinking Water Act. The new law includes a provision that requires water agencies to provide information about contaminants in the water, including lead, bacteria, and pesticides. The measure is especially important in the Midwest, where EPA statistics show that 97% of tap water from rivers and reservoirs may be contaminated with herbicides. And remember the Food Quality Protection Act? Congress passed a bill that eliminates the carcinogen-prohibiting Delaney Clause that we defended. —Warren Schultz



ILLUSTRATION BY TOSAKI SAKAI

As I dig for wild orchids in the autumn fields, it is the root that I desire, not the flower — TSURU SHIKIYU

D I R T



THE SHOWY LADY'S SLIPPER IS ENDANGERED.

and could now be found in only one known spot in the state. Dovoluk decided to make more.

How did she do? Last spring, with fellow students Tyler King and Katie Sokolski, April won second prize at the prestigious 1996 International Science and Engineering Fair for success-

fully cloning a lady's slipper—astonishing the orchid world in the process.

The students needed lots of plant tissue for the experiment, so they first tried propagating the lady's slippers from seed, rather than robbing the plants from nature, even though experts insisted that would be almost impossible. By applying rigorous scientific techniques, under the guidance of their teacher, Peter Paleira, the kids succeeded with unheard-of two-week seed germination.

Now they have 8,000 babies in flasks that, with the help of students from other schools, will eventually be planted in the New Hampshire woods. —*Judy White*

MEETING PLACE CHANGE (?)

At the November meeting, a possible change of meeting place was discussed. It was proposed that we hold our monthly meeting, beginning in January 1997, at the new BLM Campbell Tract Educational Center. The beautiful \$3,00,000+ Center is located off of Lake Otis about 2 miles south of our current meeting place. A show-of-hands vote was taken and the majority were in favor of moving to the new location, the only objections voiced being that it was a farther distance to drive for those living north of the Center. It was felt, by many members, that the move would help centralize nature oriented groups in the Anchorage area.

In August, members of ANPS helped with revegetation and landscaping around the Center utilizing plants rescued from construction sites in the Anchorage area.

The center has many facilities including a small classroom, and a larger meeting room (with kitchen) which would be suitable for ANPS meetings.

The purpose of the center is environmental education. The Anchorage School District brings classes out to the center for a full day of activities. It is expected that, by the end of 1996, all sixth grade classes in Anchorage will have visited the center.

ANPS would like input from members who missed the November meeting regarding the proposed change of meeting place. We are also planning a tour of the facility, for those interested, on Sunday Dec 8th at 2PM. Meet at the Educational Center. To get there go south on Lake Otis, turn east (left, toward the mountains) on 68th, right on Abbott Loop Road, then left onto BLM Land. When the road splits, take the left fork. If you have any questions or comments on this subject, please call Verna at

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, Membership Dept., P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514.

Select the membership category you desire:

New [] Renewal []

- Full Time Student [] \$5
- Senior (over 65) [] \$10
- Individual [] \$12
- Family [] \$18
- Organization [] \$30

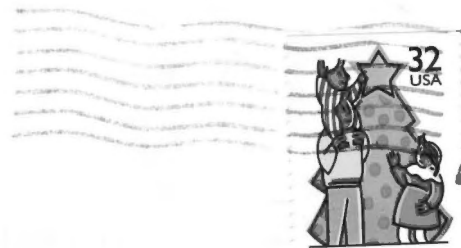
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Membership is on a calendar year basis. Any renewals before the end of 1996 are valid until December 1997.



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