

Borealis

the newsletter of the



PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

APRIL 1999

JOIN US AT OUR APRIL MEETING

**Monday, April 5, 7:30 pm
at the Campbell Creek Center
off 68th and Lake Otis**

**Topic: "Moose Menus"
Presenter: Don Spalinger**

Don Spalinger will discuss the moose herbivory and the plants they prefer. Dr. Spalinger works for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and teaches at UAA.



PLANT STUDIES

Presenter: Marilyn Barker
Lagotis and Synthris
Scrophulariaceae /Figwort
Family

The Condition of the Boreal Forest

By Bob Wheeler

The following list is a summary of conclusions regarding the condition of the boreal forest which were discussed at the conference "Managing for Forest Condition in Interior Alaska: What are our Options" last spring at the University of Alaska Fairbanks co-sponsored by the Alaska Cooperative Extension and the Alaska Boreal Forest Council.

Insects

Although the spruce bark beetle is present in the Interior, catastrophic timber losses are more likely to be caused by the Ips engraver beetle. The change in climate to warmer and drier conditions adds stress on the trees and increases the likelihood of greater insect related mortality.

Disease

We are finding that diseases are more prevalent than we thought even as much as five years ago. They are an integral part of the forest ecosystem and we are unsure of the interaction between disease and insect attack.

Climate

There was general agreement that a warming shift in the climate occurred about two decades ago. Since then, conditions have been warmer than usual and drier during the growing season. These changes are strongly related to a decline in forest health and an increase in fire risk.

Forest Genetics and Regeneration

There was unanimous agreement that reforestation should use native species. However, there was some discussion about whether we should include genetic material from a wider ecological range. There is a need to collect more seed for reforestation and germplasm protection.

Continued on Page 2

(Continued from Page 1)

Forest Condition

It was concluded that forest health in the Interior was declining as a result of increased insect and disease activity, greater fire risk, greater stress on trees caused by drying conditions and moisture stress, and problems with regeneration capabilities. Previous fire control has contributed to an imbalance in the distribution of young to intermediate stand structures in the region. Some degree of disturbance is healthy, but excessive mortality leads to loss of biodiversity.

Ecosystem Management

There was broad support for the application of ecosystem management to the Interior forest region of Alaska.

Bob Wheeler is a Forestry Specialist with the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service/University of Alaska, Fairbanks. He works out of the Fairbanks office. Contact him at Alaska Cooperative Extension, PO Box 756180, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6180.

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Newsletter ("Borealis")

Editor Ginny Moore
 Circulation Martha Hatch

Borealis is published monthly October through May. Articles may be sent to Ginny Moore, Anchorage, AK 99516. Phone or FAX: or E-mail: mooretg@alaska.net

GREATER ANCHORAGE AREA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS – MEETINGS & CONTACTS

CLUB	MEETINGS	WHO TO CONTACT
Alaska Native Plant Society	1st Monday, 7:30-9:00 p.m.	Marilyn Barker:
Anchorage Garden Club	1st & 3 rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.	Carol Norquist:
Alaska Ikebana Society	2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.	Nina Stehr:
Alaska Rose Society	2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.	Barbara Hedges:
Wildflower Garden Club	2nd Thursday, 10:00 a.m.	Liz Rockwell:
Alaska State Beekeeping Assn.	3rd Monday, 6:00 p.m.	Fletcher Miller:
Alaska Master Gardener Association, Inc.	3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m.	Martie Black: email:gardener@corecom.net
Cook Inlet Beekeeper's Association	3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m.	Jerry Fries:
Aurora Borealis African Violet Society	3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.	Pat Addison:
Alaska Botanical Garden	3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.	ABG Office: email:garden@alaska.net
Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers	3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.	Kevin Irvin:
Alaska Orchid Society	4th Tuesday, 7:30-9:00 p.m.	Jane Bibee:
Herb Study Group	4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m.	Mary Shier, email:mshier.anch@juno.com
Alaska Rock Garden Society	To be announced	Wendy Anderson:
Greater Anchorage Mycological Association	To be announced	Phyllis Kempton:

Lagotis and Synthesis

Scrophulariaceae: Figwort or Snapdragon Family

At first glance these two genera may look similar but they have some very different characteristics. *Lagotis glauca* is commonly known as “weasel’s snout” as its dark colored thick spike of flowers looks much like a weasel’s nose as it pushes through the ground. These plants grow in rocky wet tundra throughout much of Alaska.

Synthesis borealis is known as “Alaska Synthesis” or “Kitten Tails”. It is found on high rocky alpine tundra and is one of the earliest blooming plants. It is found in a narrow band of the Wrangell St. Elias Mountains, north to Eagle and Eagle Summit, and the Alaska Range.



× 1/2

L. glauca subsp. *glauca* has two or three toothed ovate basal leaves and 8-10 inch stems of reduced leaves, topped by a thick spike of light blue to white flowers.

The two-petalled flowers have 2-3 lobes on the lower petals, two stamens, and are subtended by large obvious bracts. *L. glauca* subsp.

glauca can be found in coastal western Alaska, the Aleutian chain up into the Cook Inlet portion of South Central.

In early spring its small two-petalled flowers are hidden by dense hairs causing it to look much like a fuzzy gray kitten’s tail. The lower petal has three lobes and the flowers have two stamens. The kidney shaped, toothed leaves are very hairy. Because of its very early blooming time this 3 to 5 inch plant is not seen by many people.



× 3/4



× 1/2

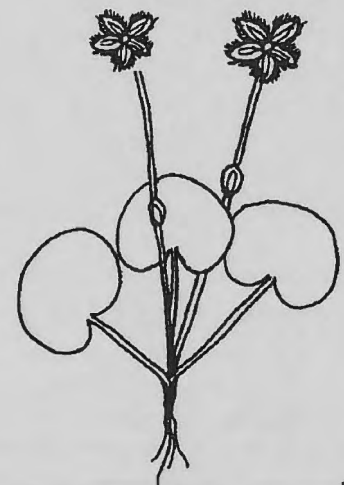
L. glauca subsp. *minor* has two or three toothed, lanceolate basal leaves. As you can see from the diagram at the left, it has narrower leaves.

Subsp. *minor* can be found throughout the state except Southeast, the coastal areas of South Central and the Aleutian chain.

Mystery Plant

By Verna Pratt

This 6-10 inch plant may be found throughout Southeast Alaska and Coasta South Central, North to about Valdez. Its smooth petiolate kidney-shaped leaves are basal and form a 4-6 inch rosette in wet areas. There is one small bract 1/3-1/2 way up the flowering stem and one 5-petalled white flower with fine hairs on top.



FROM WHAT WE GATHER

FIELD TRIPS

It is field trip planning time again. Diane Toebe is our chairman again this year, so give her a call or send in your form (next page) or bring it to the next meeting. Let's make this a great field trip year.

THE ALASKA RARE PLANT FORUM

The Alaska Rare Plant Forum will hold its annual meeting on April 8-9 in Anchorage at the office of the Chugach National Forest in the Calais II Building at 3301 'C' Street, Suite 300. Anyone interested in rare plants of northern regions is invited to attend. Contact: John DeLapp, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, 3301 'C' Street, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503, Telephone:

RESERVED FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

Subscribe to *Wild Garden* today, at a special members-only discount rate. *Wild Garden* is the first national gardening magazine to demystify the process of using native plants to create beautiful landscapes and provide bird and wildlife habitat and support the ecosystem. You can find current issues at Carr's, Borders, and other larger magazine stands. *Wild Garden* is published quarterly and the regular subscription rate is \$23.95 for 6 quarterly issues. Through the Alaska Native Plant Society you can order today for only \$12.50 for a 1-year (4 quarters) subscription. Call 1-877-NATIVE-2 and tell them you're a member of the Alaska Native Plant Society.

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW.....!

Thanks to Nancy Beck's wonderful book on Sedums, Julie Riley has learned of a new type of photosynthesis. Sedums and other members of the *Crassula* family keep their stomata closed during the day to cut down on transpiration. They take in carbon dioxide during the night and store it as malic acid. The next day they use light energy to convert the malic acid into sugar. This allows the plants to survive in very arid conditions. And she thought she understood photosynthesis before!!

MYSTERY PLANT ANSWER:

Parnassia fimbriata
Fringed Grass of Parnassus
Saxifragacea/Saxifrage family

WATERSHED STEWARD COURSE

The next Alaska Watershed Steward course begins April 12th. This FUN and FREE 40-hour training course consists of classroom and field trip instruction on topics such as wetland ecology, stream monitoring and salmon biology. It will be taught at Alaska Cooperative Extension, each Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. through May. As part of the program, participants conduct 40 hours of volunteer service on a field project or a public education program.

PLANTS MOOSE EAT LAST

The following list of plants was submitted to the Alaska Master Gardeners' Association by Rita Jo Shultz, from Fritz Creek Garden, Fritz Creek, AK

PERENNIALS:

Astilbe	Achillea (Yarrow)
Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)	Monarda (Bee Balm)
Aquilegia (Columbine)	Artemisia schimidtiana (Silver Mound)
Jonquils (Daffodils)	Stachysbyzantina (Lamb's Ear)
Digitalis (Foxglove)	Thymus Coccineus
Iris (Flag)	Convallaria (Lily of the Valley)
Pulmanaria	Lulpine
Lavender	Phlox subulata
Euphorbia	Lychnis Rose Campion

Any pungent foliage is less attractive, especially herbs, chives, etc

SHRUBS:

Prunus machai	Picea pungens "Nudiformis"
Picea pungens "Glauca"	

VEGETABLES MOOSE WON'T TOUCH:

Potatoes

This is not a complete list. And remember that there isn't anything that these monstrous ungulates won't step on, taste, or cause havoc with. The best defense is "a" fence! (a 6 foot or higher variety.)

BULBS THAT SQUIRRELS AND VOLES EAT LAST:

Daffodils	Eranthis heimalis (winter aconite)
Crocus tommasinianus	Hyacinthus orientalis
Fritillaria imperialis	Muscari
Scilla	Iris (some)
Galanthus (snowdrop)	

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPRING & SUMMER 1999: FIELD TRIP PLANNING WORKSHEET

Field Trip to: _____

Leader(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Date: _____ Day of Week: _____ Time Allotted: _____

Meeting Time: _____ Meeting Place: _____

Driving Distance/Car Pooling, etc. _____

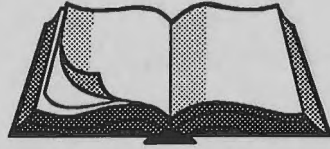
Reservations by: _____

Level of Difficulty: _____ Minimum Age: _____

Description of trip: _____

Special instructions/Items to Bring: _____

Please hand in completed forms to the Field Trip Chair at Anchorage Chapter meetings, or mail to the ANPS, P.O. Box P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514 Field trip schedules will be sent out to members in the first week of May.



Native Plants/Gardening Literature Review

Berry Book Arrival

Gathering wild berries has always been a way of life for people in Alaska, and since 1931 Alaska Cooperative Extension (ACE) has been helping residents preserve and use wild berries. The ACE publication "Alaska Berries" first issued in 1931, was the original "how to" publication on collecting and using Alaska's wild berries. This publication went through many face lifts and titles over the years, but managed to keep many of the original recipes. You are fortunate indeed if you managed to collect copies of the different versions over the years. This month ACE has released a wonderful new edition in book form titled, "Collecting and Using Alaska's Wild Berries and other Wild Products." This edition is a complete revision and is packed with information on gathering berries, techniques for storing and canning, and clear easy-to-understand recipes (old and new).

Barbara Santora, Fairbanks graphic artist, known for her unique botanical illustrations and paintings, created colorful linoleum block illustrations for the new publication. The cover features a spray of berries and flowers hand tinted with watercolors.

Collecting and Using Alaska's Wild Berries and other Wild Products: is a practical and useful guide as well as a collector's item. The book is available at the Anchorage District Office (2221 E. Northern Lights Avenue) at a cost of \$9.00.

FORESTRY NEWSLETTER

A new Forestry Products newsletter, UNDER THE CANOPY, compiled and written by Alaska Cooperative Extension (ACE) Forestry Specialist Robert Wheeler, is now available. To receive your free 15-page copy of the Fall/Winter edition, or to be placed on the mailing list, write to Alaska Cooperative Extension, PO Box 756180, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6180, Attention: Amy Simpson. Copies are also available at ACE's Anchorage District Office, 2221 E. Northern Lights Avenue.

The following review comes from the website for Pacific Natives & Gardening Book & Music Store: www.nwgardening.com/. It is a great gardening book and cd site, and they have a connection with amazon.com so that if you order through them you can receive up to a 30% discount on your order.

"Naturalistic Gardening"

by Ann Lovejoy

As I read the opening chapters of Ann's new book, I couldn't help but think that we've almost come full circle. The world's first gardens, of course, weren't really gardens but simply nature's arrangements of plants. But as we humans took up the activity of gardening, our landscapes became examples of how well we could tame and control nature, with edged lawns, symmetrical layouts, exotic plant material, clipped shrubs and chemicals designed to banish the least sign of plant imperfection.

Now, Ann suggests, the trend is toward gardening in cooperation with nature: taking design cues from the way nature layers plant material, minimizing the way nature groups certain types of plants and paying attention to the ways our gardens can provide habitat for other living beings. This way of gardening she calls "naturalistic" -- not purely natural, but more like nature.

Lavishly illustrated with photographs taken by Allan Mandell of some of the most beautiful public and private gardens in the Northwest, the book shows how the "naturalistic" style works in stroll gardens, small urban gardens, mixed borders and, of course, our beloved Northwest style gardens.

This "naturalistic" trend is what, I believe, so many of my clients talk about when we begin their landscape designs. They say, "I want something that has controlled-wild look." Then they look sort of sheepish and ask, "Does that make sense?" This book is proof that it does.

Special guest lectures presented by:

Dr. Dale Vitt

The Melting of Permafrost across Western
Canada: Cause for Concern

Thursday 15 April 1999

7:30 PM ARTS 150

Reception at 6:45 PM

Partitioning of Bryophyte Diversity: The
role of Habitat on Conserving Species
Richness.

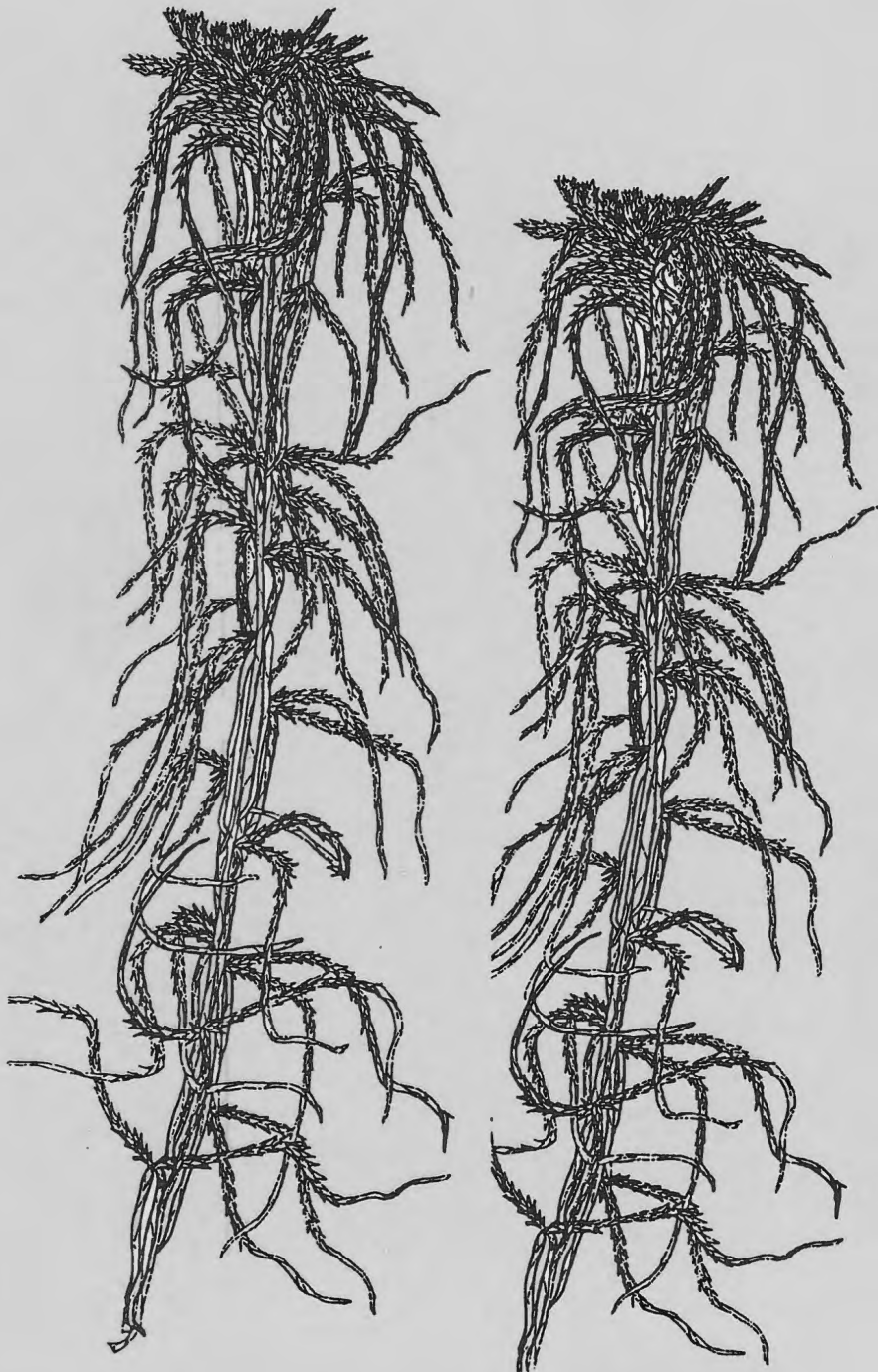
Friday 16 April 1999

3:00 PM ENGR 110

Dr. Dale Vitt is a professor of Botany at the University of
Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta Canada. His other duties
include: Director of the Devonian Botanical Garden,
serving on the Executive Committee of the Canadian
Circumpolar Institute and as an advisor to the Meanook
Biological Research Station.

Dale is a co-author of the popular photographic field guide
Mosses Lichens & Ferns.

Dale's talks are sponsored by the UAA Biology
Department, the Canadian Studies Program, the Polaris
Lecture Series and the Alaska Native Plant Society.





UAA Canadian Studies
in conjunction with
The Alaska Design Forum

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and
- *Robson Square Complex, Vancouver B.C.***
- *UBC Museum of Anthropology***
- *Canadian Chancery, Washington D.C.***
- *National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa***

Monday April 12, 1999, 7:30 pm
Anchorage Museum of History and Art

General Admission \$10 Student/Starving Artist \$5

University of Alaska Anchorage

3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-8194
Telephone: (907) 786-4856 Fax: (907) 786-4647



Alaska Rare Plant Forum

April 8 and 9, 1999

Chugach National Forest office in Anchorage,
Calais II Building at 3301 C Street, Suite 300.

Agenda

April 8, Thursday

- 8:30 Welcome, introductions, housekeeping and agenda adjustments.
Brief review of rare plant/botany work this past year.
- 9:00 Plant inventory adventures in Denali National Park
Carl Roland
- 9:45 Identification of a representative network of Research Natural Areas based on a bioenvironmental database. *Rob Develice, Ecologist, Chugach National Forest*
- 10:45 Population demographics of a patch of *Platanthera orbiculata* at Lancaster Cove.
Ellen Anderson, Forestry Sciences Lab, Juneau
- 11:00 Rare lichens in southeastern Alaska and how to manage them.
Linda Geiser, Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:30 Defining a list of rare lichens for the State of Alaska.
Linda Geiser, Rob Lipkin, Mary Stensvold
- 2:00 Floristics of the Semidi Islands: a jewel of an archipelago.

Martha Hatch, University of Alaska, Anchorage
- 2:45 Status of *Arnica lessingii* ssp. *norbergii* in the Chugach National Forest.
Connie Hubbard, Ecologist, Chugach National Forest
- 3:15 Plant surveys in the Kenai Wildlife Refuge.
Ed Berg, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
- 4:00 Floristic Inventory of the Nulato Hills II.
Carolyn Parker, University of Alaska Herbarium

April 9, Friday

- 9:00 Results of floristic surveys at the Kobuk Sand dunes.
Rob Lipkin, Botanist, Alaska Natural Heritage Program
- 9:45 Carcross Dunes: Motherlode of *Lupinus kuschii* and *Carex sabulosa*.
Carolyn Parker, University of Alaska Herbarium
- 10:00 Botrychulating at Yakutat, the saga continues. Past, present and future of moonwort ferns in south coastal Alaska. *Mary Stensvold, Botanist, Alaska Region, USFS*
- 11:00 Ivishak Springs, a perennial springs on the north side of the Brooks Range in Arctic NWR. Attractions include lush forb meadow, sparkling cascades, poplar stand, and scenic mountain setting.
Janet Jorgenson, Fish and Wildlife Service
- 11:15 Beringian connection with southeastern Yukon, and an update on the rare plants of the Yukon.
Bruce Bennett, Canadian Wildlife Service
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:30 Living On the Edge - range extensions, disjunctions, and micro-niches of the southern Tongass National Forest. Taxa of interest include: *Polystichum kruckebergii*, *Ligusticum calderi*, *Listera convallarioides*, *Senecio moresbiensis*, and *Scirpus subterminalis*.
Phyllis Woolwine, Botanist, Ketchikan Area, Tongass National Forest
- 2:00 ANHP database updates, new information about tracked plants, plants no longer being tracked. Updates on publications *Rob Lipkin, Botanist, Alaska Natural Heritage Program*
- 2:30 Medicinal flora of the Alaska Natives.
Ann Garibaldi, Alaska Natural Heritage Program
- 3:15 Coordinating summer field work, collection requests. Meeting wrap-up. Future meeting dates.
- 4:00 End of meeting.

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 goal 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, fill in the form below and mail it with the appropriate remittance to:

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

STATUS New RENEWAL

CATEGORY

- Full-time Student \$ 5
 Senior Citizen \$10
 Individual \$12
 Family \$18
 Organization \$30

Name _____

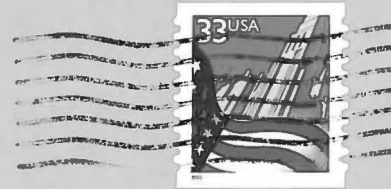
Address _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Membership is on a calendar year basis.

Alaska Native Plant Society
PO Box 141613
Anchorage, AK 99514



Alaska Native Plant Society