

Borealis

the newsletter of the



PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

October 2000

Join us at our October Potluck!

Monday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.
at the Campbell Creek Center
off 68th and Lake Otis

"Share, Show & Tell"

It's that time of year again- time to
"put it all out on the table" and visit!

- ◆ Bring a dish for all to enjoy. We'll provide drinks and tableware.
- ◆ Bring up to 20 slides of summer activities, native plants.
- ◆ Bring a friend.

Recipe Swap

We'll start the sharing with a recipe from Marilyn Barker, the current President of ANPS. Marilyn has had great success in getting attendance at the ANPS Board meetings by providing home-made soup each time! Here's a Board favorite.

Curried Carrot Soup

1 T butter ½ onion
4 carrots 1 celery or zucchini
1 clove garlic 2 tsp curry

Combine and saute about 7 minutes.
Add 6 C. chicken stock and ¼ C. peanut butter.
Boil 30 minutes.
Puree.
Add milk or sour cream if desired.

They've Gone Native!

Some highlights of the Alaska Rare Plant Forum held at the BLM offices in Fairbanks in April, co-hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the herbarium of the University of Alaska.

Move Over R2D2, It's G2S2!

Carolyn Parker, from the Herbarium of the University of Alaska Museum, reported on the Lime Hills-Lyman Hills inventory supported by BLM last summer. These mountains are outliers on the interior side of the Alaska Range about 200 miles due west of Anchorage.

Especially noteworthy was the discovery of *Douglasia beringensis* (Bering Sea Douglasia) on limestone outcrops in the Lime Hills, and *Smelowskia pyriformis* (pear-fruited Smelowskia) on limestone screes in the Lyman Hills. *Douglasia beringensis* was described (new to science!) in 1992 from material collected from two limestone buttes a few miles apart on the Seward Peninsula. For several years it was thought to be one of the state's rarest plants, since no new localities for it could be found after extensive searching on the Seward Peninsula. In 1997 and 1998, it was found at several localities in the Nulato Hills east of Unalakleet on shaley screes during BLM-supported inventories there. The Lime Hills population represents a substantial range extension to the east, on habitats similar to those where the original discovery was made on the Seward Peninsula. *Smelowskia pyriformis* is narrowly endemic to limestone screes of northern outliers of the western Alaska Range, and to isolated mountain groups in southwest Alaska. Its occurrence in the Lyman Hills was not too much of a surprise, but it is always nice to have new localities for this taxon, which is rated G2S2 (imperiled both globally and within the state) by the Alaska Natural Heritage Program.

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Not A Computer Virus

Nancy Robertson, Research Plant Pathologist with the USDA/ARS at the Arctic Plant Germplasm Repository in Palmer gave an overview of plant viruses in Alaska. She is new to the state, having been here just over one year, and so far has worked mostly with crop plants. She has confirmed that viruses are indeed present in Alaskan barley plants. She has also found viruses in several native plants, including *Pyrola*. The most common symptom seems to be a pale mottling along the leaf venation, sometimes extending to the rest of the leaf. This summer she plans to continue her search for native plants infected with viruses. There are over 1,000 plant viruses known, worldwide.

It Was A Steller Performance!

Jack Frost, Emeritus Professor of Humanities at Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, gave a fascinating talk on Georg Steller's voyage with Vitus Bering in 1741. Georg Steller was the first European naturalist to set foot on the Northwest Coast of North America when the expedition finally struck land on Kayak Island. Because of the lateness of the season, Bering only allowed Steller 10 hours ashore before sailing home to Kamchatka. They were plagued by many misfortunes on their trip home and were finally shipwrecked on Bering Island, a hundred miles short of their destination. Bering and most of his crew perished there, but in the spring Steller and the rest of the survivors were able to build a small boat from the wreckage of their ship and get back to Kamchatka. Steller himself died mysteriously on his trip from Kamchatka back to St. Petersburg. His manuscripts survived, but have been misinterpreted by most historians.

Separating The "Haves" From The "Have-Nots"

Mary Stensvold, Regional Botanist for the U.S. Forest Service in Sitka, talked about her work with Don Farrar on *Botrychiums* (moonworts, grapeferns) in southern Alaska. Don has been using electrophoresis to gain insights on the taxonomy of these interesting tiny (usually) ferns. Several new species have been described for Alaska in recent years by the late Herb Wagner of the University of Michigan. Morphological differences between species are small, but remarkably consistent with the electrophoresis data.

Phytogeographics of Denali

Carl Roland, Botanist at Denali National Park, summarized the results of his two field seasons of work on the floristics of Denali National Park. The Park has a long history of botanical exploration. Major collections dating back to the 1920s have been made within the park, including the collections of Ynes Mexia, Aven and Ruth Nelson, the Baileys, Adolf Murie (40s-50s) and Les Viereck (50s-60s). With a few important exceptions, most collections prior to Carl's work were made within a few miles of the park road. In 1998, Carl was able to visit a number of new sites, including the Chulitna Valley and the northern foothills near the northern park boundary. These sites added 78 species to the park flora. In 1999, more sites were visited including Mt.

Chitsia (a northern outlier of the Kantishna Hills) and the Yentna River valley. The Yentna River is in a southwestern corner of the park. It is relatively low in elevation and has a coastal climate, making it much different than the rest of the park. Many forest and wetland species characteristic of the Susitna valley were found there. In 1999, 89 species were added to the flora of the park, bringing the total to 629. Many of these species are rare or otherwise phytogeographically interesting. *Smelowskia calycina* and *S. borealis* are both present in the park. *S. pyriformis* is known from just west of the park, but hasn't been found inside the boundaries yet.

Census 2000

Sara Wesser, Inventory and Monitoring Coordinator, NPS-Alaska Region, filled us in on the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program in Alaska, and fielded a lot of questions from agency and University people in the audience.

And That's Not Even Counting The Microlichens!

Peter Neitlich, botanist at Bering Land Bridge national Park, reported on his inventory of the macrolichens of Gates of the Arctic National Park. He pointed out that roughly half to the species of the flora of this park (the ratio would be similar in almost any area of Alaska) are cyptogams (macrolichens or bryophytes). This component of the flora and vegetation is ignored in most studies.

Alaska's South Pacific Isles

Carolyn Parker, from the Herbarium of the University of Alaska Museum, reported on a trip to Attu Island. Carolyn and Nancy Moore, of the Alaska Plant Materials Center, visited the island last September and October to gather seeds for use at the Center. Attu Island is so far south and so oceanic that it was still quite green in the middle of September, and many species were still flowering in phonologically delayed habitats like snowbeds and north-facing gullies. A number of species characteristic of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula extend east to Attu Island, but get no further east along the chain. *Sorbus sambucifloia* and *Senecia cannabifolius* were two of these that were in flower during Carolyn's visit. Attu was occupied by the Japanese during World War II and artifacts dating from that period are everywhere on the island.

And Beyond.....

Amy Denton, who will be Herbarium Curator and Assistant Professor of Biology at UAF starting in November, gave a travelogue and Rhododendronologue about her trip with a group of Scottish horticulturalists hunting for Rhododendrons in eastern Tibet. The Scottish horticulturalists were retracing the steps of one of the great Rhododendron hunters of the 19th century as well as collecting seeds for their gardens. Amy was getting vouchers and leaf tissue samples for DNA analysis, for her study of species relationships within a section of the genus Rhododendron.

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.

WANTED: ANPS Program Chair

I am stepping down as program chair in January and we need to fill the position. I've really enjoyed doing the programs but am ready to move on to another activity. This position is really not that hard and I am willing to help the new person with suggestions and a "how to do it" cheat sheet. The main tasks are asking people to do a program and writing a small paragraph for the newsletter and to go in the Anchorage Daily News. Other members of the Native Plant Society often give suggestions and contact names, so you don't have to personally know the people you ask to do programs. I also have a list of possible people and topics, which I will pass on to the next chair. Programs can be lined up in advance, so you don't necessarily have to find someone each month. If you're lucky, you can schedule programs for the whole year and sit back and relax. If you are interested please call me (Susan Klein) at _____ evenings or days.

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

State and Anchorage Chapter Officers

President Marilyn Barker
 Vice President Frank Pratt
 Secretary Beth Koltun
 Treasurer Sue Jensen

Anchorage Chapter Program Coordinators

Main Program Susan Klein
 Plant Family Verna Pratt
 Mini-Botany Verna Pratt
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Newsletter ("Borealis")

Editor Ginny Moore
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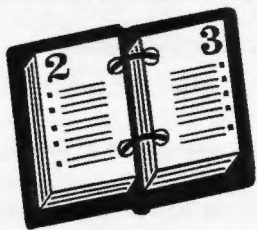


Collect Those Seeds

This is a great time of year to be collecting seeds of native plants so that next year we'll have a great selection of seeds for the Seed Exchange. Read up on how to collect and store seeds in last May's *Borealis* newsletter.

ANPS Sweatshirts and T-Shirts

ANPS has an assortment of beautiful T-shirts and sweatshirts that are available to members at bargain rates! Sweatshirts: \$18, Long sleeve T-shirts: \$15 and Short sleeve T-shirts: \$12. Hurry and get yours at the next meeting or at Verna's booth at the Make It Alaska Show at the Sullivan Arena, Oct. 6, 7, 8.



UPCOMING PLANTS & NATURE EVENTS

- October 2, 6:30 PM Alaska Native Plant Society Meeting: Annual Potluck and Slideshow, Campbell Creek Science Center, Anchorage
- October 7, 7:30 PM Anchorage Garden Club Meeting: Feng Shui in the Garden, Pioneer School House, bottom level at 7:30 pm.
- October 16: 7:00 PM Alaska Master Gardener Meeting: "Hydroponics", with Charles Kirby, MG, & former ACE IPM Technician; 7 p.m., Alaska Cooperative Extension, Conference Rm. 130, Carlton Trust Bldg., 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK. Call:
- October 21, 2:00 PM Alaska Rock Garden Society meeting at Mat-Su College. "Great Uncommon Rock Garden Plants" Fred and Sarah Machetanz Building, room 103
- October 26, 7:00 PM Alaska Herb Study Group Meeting, Alaska Cooperative Extension, Conference Rm. 130, Carlton Trust Bldg., 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK. Call:
- November 6, 7:30 PM Alaska Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting: *The Landscape and Plants of Katmai National Park and Preserve*. Alaska Native Plant Society members Beth Koltun and Susan Klein worked on a vegetation mapping project in Katmai National Park and Preserve this past summer. Susan and Beth will show photographs of the plants and landscape of Katmai
- November 18, 2:00 PM Alaska Rock Garden Society meeting: Reports from the China Seed Expedition, Cooperative Extension Service, Carlton Trust Building, 2221 E. Northern Lights Ave.

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