

# ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY-- SUMMER 2014 FIELD ACTIVITIES

General instruction: always plan for Alaska weather, carry raingear and snacks.  
PLEASE Contact trip leader to let them know you will be there.

Symbols: \$ = Plant Sale      ✂=Work Party      \* = Field Trip

## May

- \$ 17 May Saturday: Alaska Rock Garden Soc. Plant Sale**  
Inlet View Circle, Wasilla (off Fairview Loop Road, mile 5.2)  
Time 9AM-3PM
- \* 18 May Sunday: Table Rock**  
Time: 11AM -4PM  
Leader: Marilyn Barker [mhbarker@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:mhbarker@uaa.alaska.edu)  
Meeting place: Upper McHugh Parking Lot  
Instructions: Elevation gain about 1000 feet to a large rock outcrop, table rock.  
Gives spectacular views of McHugh valley and Turnagain Arm. A good chance to review early spring plants.
- \$ 24 May Saturday: Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale**  
Time 9AM-4PM  
Place: Alaska Botanical Garden—by the Rock Garden.
- \* 27 May, Tuesday: Windy to Rainbow.**  
Leaders: Marilyn Barker (333-0602) and Verna Pratt (333-8212) [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Meeting place: Rainbow Trailhead, mile 108.4 on the Seward Hwy. (about 3 and 1/2 miles after McHugh). Time: 9:30 am. We will regroup and carpool to Windy Trailhead (Mile 106.7 on the Seward Hwy.) and walk back to Rainbow. the trail has lots of rocks and roots and lots of small hills to climb. This is a very early spot. Four species were blooming on April 19th. Bring lunch, water and appropriate clothes. Hint: It could be windy and cold. Allow 3 to 4 hours.
- ✂ 29 May, Thursday: Alaska Zoo**  
Leader: Michelle Coburn [pacapyr@gmail.com](mailto:pacapyr@gmail.com)  
Meeting place: Alaska Zoo main entrance  
Meeting time: 10 AM, estimated time 2-3 hours.  
Description: Members will walk the zoo paths looking for good places to put signage regarding native plants and make suggestions on how to better incorporate native plants in the zoo experience. Admission is free for the first 8 members to contact Michelle.
- \$ 31 May Saturday: Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale**  
Time: 9AM -4PM  
Meeting Place: 7534 Old Harbor Avenue, Anchorage

## June

- ✂ 3 June Tuesday: Dandelion removal for the Lowenfels Trail.**  
Time: 7 PM-9 PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Instructions: Helpful items to bring include dandelion digger, kneeling pad and a 5 gallon pail, or plastic bag.  
Parking is available at the Benny Benson School
- ✂ 5 June Thursday: Tragopogon pull.**  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Place: Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)  
Instructions: Adults only. Bring Garden gloves and dandelion digger  
Ground surface is steep and uneven.

- \* **6 June Friday: Government Peak**  
Time: 10:30 AM  
Leader: Anjanette Steer 745-5156 [anjsteer@gmail.com](mailto:anjsteer@gmail.com)  
Meeting Place: Turners Corner (yellow store) approx. Mile 7 Palmer Fishhook Road.  
Leisurely stroll up the Govt. Peak trail- at a native plant lovers pace- slow. 2-3 miles. 1,000 - 1,500 elevation gain. Call or email leader to let her know you are coming.
- ✂ **7 June Saturday: BLM Trails Day.**  
Time: Check in time 8:30 to 9:00 AM Sign up for the activity of your choice.  
Meet at the East entrance of the Science Center.  
Free pizza at noon. Be sure to let Louisa know you are with ANPS as this service counts towards a price reduction for our meeting space.
- \$ **7 June Saturday: Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale**  
Time: 10AM-4PM 3734 W 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage
- \* **8 June, Sunday: South Fork Eagle River Trail**  
Leader: Beth Baker 694-6347 or [daisymae@mtaonline.net](mailto:daisymae@mtaonline.net)  
Meeting time: 8:30 am  
Meeting place: Eagle River Carr's parking lot-at the newspaper recycling dumpsters  
Level of difficulty: easy to moderate  
Minimum age: adults and teens only  
Description of trip: Initial climb up for 0.5 miles as the route climbs up onto a shelf high above the valley after which it descends to cross the river in two miles. The first 5 miles is predominately dirt with some rocks. As one nears the lakes, the dirt with some rocks changes to rock with some boulders requiring slower movement. We will walk out checking for flowers as we go, enjoying the beautiful valley and then return back to trail head. Be prepared for cool, wind, rain, mosquitos, and possible wet trail in spots. Hiking boot and hiking poles are helpful for ankle support and balance. Bring lunch, snacks, water, mosquito repellent, and sun screen.
- ✂ **17 June Tuesday: Dandelion removal for the Lowenfels trail.**  
Time: 7 PM-9 PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Instructions: Helpful items to bring include dandelion digger, kneeling pad and a 5 gallon pail, or plastic bag.  
Parking is available at the Benny Benson School
- ✂ **18 June Wednesday: Campbell Creek Science Center Work Party**  
Time 7-9PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Meeting Place: East entrance to Science Center.  
Description: This is mostly weeding of the wildflower beds.
- ✂ **19 June Thursday: Tragopogon pull.**  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Place: Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)  
Instructions: Adults only. Bring Garden gloves and dandelion digger.  
Ground surface is steep and uneven.
- ✂ **26 June Thursday: Tragopogon pull.**  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Place: Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)  
Instructions: Adults only. Bring Garden gloves and dandelion digger.  
Ground surface is steep and uneven.

# July

- ✂ **1 July Tuesday: Dandelion removal for the Lowenfels Trail.**  
Time: 7 PM-9 PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Instructions: Helpful items to bring include dandelion digger, kneeling pad and a 5 gallon pail, or plastic bag.  
Parking is available at the Benny Benson School
  
- ✂ **2 July Wednesday: Campbell Creek Science Center Work Party**  
Time: 10 AM-Noon  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Meeting Place: East entrance to Science Center.  
Description: This is mostly weeding of the wildflower beds.
  
- ✂ **3 July Thursday: Tragopogon pull.**  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Place: Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Pott  
Ground surface is steep and uneven.
  
- ✂ **10 July Thursday: Tragopogon pull.**  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Place: Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)  
Instructions: Adults only. Bring Garden gloves and dandelion digger.  
Ground surface is steep and uneven.
  
- \* **14 July, Monday: TURNAGAIN PASS FEN**  
Leaders: Marilyn Barker (333-0602) and Verna Pratt (333-8212) [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Meeting place: Carrs-Huffman parking area (S/W corner) at 10:00 am. We will re-meet at Turnagain Pass parking area (east side of the hwy), mile 68.1 on the Seward Hwy.  
This will be the 2nd parking area and it is on the left side going south. This is a bathroom stop and regrouping before our final stop (safety reasons). There is a short steep bank down to the fen. A walking stick might be handy. The fen is wet, but it is possible to avoid most of it. There could be some water at the base of the bank so knee boots might be handy. It would be a wise idea to have them with you. We will check this out ahead of time. Bring lunch, water, repellent and raingear. We should be back by 5 pm.
  
- ✂ **15 July Tuesday: Dandelion removal for the Lowenfels trail.**  
Time: 7 PM-9 PM  
Leader: Vena Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Instructions': Helpful items to bring include dandelion digger, kneeling pad and a 5 gallon pail.  
Parking is available at the Benny Benson School
  
- ✂ **16 July Wednesday: Campbell Creek Science Center Work Party**  
Time 7-9PM  
Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
Meeting Place: East entrance to Science Center  
Description: This is mostly weeding and deadheading of the wildflower beds.
  
- \* **19 July Saturday: Palmer Creek**  
Leader: Dennis Ronsse [dennis.ronsse@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.ronsse@gmail.com)  
9:50 Meet at Carrs Huffman (SW corner of parking lot) to car pool / discuss route.  
10:00 Drive 93 miles to Coeur d'Alene Campground on Palmer Creek Road.  
12:20 Meet at campground / others can join the trip here.  
12:30 Slow drive with stops to the end of Palmer Creek Road (5 miles).  
1:00 Park at end of the road barricade. Hike & picnic 2 - 3 hours.  
4:00 Begin drive home.

- \* **26 July Saturday: Girdwood Mosses, Lichens and Ferns**  
 Time: 1 PM  
 Leaders: Ruth & Barry Kircher [oldhouse48@alaska.net](mailto:oldhouse48@alaska.net) hm 783-2291 cell: 632-6024  
 Description: Field trip would start in an open area surrounding our house looking at mosses, lichens and ferns. Many of the mosses and lichens are growing on rocks and buildings of known age. Then expand the search into the surrounding spruce/hemlock forest  
 Directions: Take Seward Hwy south from Anchorage to Girdwood/Alyeska turnoff at Mile 90. Drive 1.9 miles to the left hand turn of Crow Creek Road. Continue 0.4 miles to 533 Crow Creek Road. Do not cross the bridge. Turn up the circular driveway for parking in the yard or park on the road just before the bridge.  
 Special needs: Come prepared for rain. The forest has no maintained trails. If someone has trouble with rough walking, there should be plenty to look at in the open area.. Bring identification reference material and a hand lens.
  
- \* **24 July Thursday: Tragopogon pull.**  
 Time: 6:30 PM  
 Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
 Place: Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)  
 Instructions: Adults only. Bring Garden gloves and dandelion digger. Ground surface is steep and uneven.
  
- \* **29 July Tuesday: Dandelion removal for the Lowenfels Trail.**  
 Time: 7 PM-9 PM  
 Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
 Instructions: Helpful items to bring include dandelion digger, kneeling pad and a 5 gallon pail.  
 Parking is available at the Benny Benson School
  
- \* **30 July Wednesday: : Campbell Creek Science Center Work Party**  
 Time 10 AM-Noon  
 Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
 Meeting Place: East entrance to Science Center.  
 Description: This is mostly weeding of the wildflower beds.

## August

- \* **2 August Saturday: Botanical Garden's alpine property**  
 Time: 9 AM  
 Leaders: Mike Monterussa and Julianne McGuinness [julianne@alaskabg.org](mailto:julianne@alaskabg.org) 562-7010  
 Description: The Botanical Garden co owns a large tract of alpine habitat adjacent to Chugach State Park. The focus of the trip will be to explore the potential of the property.  
 Contact leader for more information and directions.
  
- \* **5 August Tuesday: Dandelion removal for the Lowenfels trail.**  
 Time: 7 PM-9 PM  
 Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
 Instructions: Helpful items to bring include dandelion digger, kneeling pad and a 5 gallon pail.  
 Parking is available at the Benny Benson School
  
- \* **9 August Saturday: Wolverine Peak**  
 Time: 10AM-6PM  
 Meeting place: Prospect Heights Parking Lot  
 Leader: Marilyn Barker [mhbarker@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:mhbarker@uaa.alaska.edu)  
 Instructions: Elevation gain 3340 feet. This trail has awesome views and incredible plants. The leader is old, so plan for a slow trip.
  
- \* **7 August Thursday: Tragopogon pull.**  
 Time: 6:30 PM  
 Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
 Place: Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)  
 Instructions: Adults only. Bring Garden gloves and dandelion digger. Ground surface is steep and uneven.

- ✂ **13 August Wednesday: : Campbell Creek Science Center Work Party**  
 Time 7-9PM  
 Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
 Meeting Place: East entrance to Science Center.  
 Description: This is mostly weeding of the wildflower beds.
  
- ✂ **21 August Thursday: Tragopogon pull.**  
 Time: 6:30 PM  
 Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
 Place: Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)  
 Instructions: Adults only. Bring Garden gloves and dandelion digger.  
 Ground surface is steep and uneven.
  
- ✂ **27 August Wednesday: : Campbell Creek Science Center Work Party**  
 Time 10AM-noon  
 Leader: Verna Pratt 333-8212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net)  
 Meeting Place: East entrance to Science Center.  
 Description: This is mostly weeding of the wildflower beds.

## September

- \* **18 September, Thursday: Alaska Botanical Garden**  
 Meeting Place: ABG parking lot  
 Time: 6:00 PM  
 Patricia Joyner from the Alaska Community Forestry Program will lead a hike in and around the Alaska Botanical Garden. She is an excellent educator and will teach us re boreal and coastal forest tree species and help us to identify them in the field. Understory plants will also be discussed and identified as seen.  
 Wear hiking boots and bring drinking water, rain wear, clothing appropriate for the temperature. Cover from mosquitos and hiking poles if muddy/slippery may also be useful.  
 Hike coordinator: Beth Baker [daisymae@mtaonline.net](mailto:daisymae@mtaonline.net)
  
- ✂ **27 September, Saturday: National Public Lands Day.**  
 Meeting place: East entrance of the Campbell Creek Science Center  
 Check-in time: 8:30 to 9:00 AM Sign up for the activity of your choice.  
 Free pizza at 12:30. Be sure to let Louisa know you are with ANPS as this service counts towards a price reduction for our meeting space. Meeting place Campbell Creek Science Center.

## Weed Eradication Update - Why We Do It

It has been ten years since we started the eradication of *Tragopogon dubius* on the Seward Highway. The original plants occurred in the Falls Creek area and were mostly ignored as we didn't expect them to be a problem. Several years of "spreading like dandelions" proved otherwise. It had spread from Bird Point to McHugh, and the Falls Creek area was overwhelming as the plants had completely taken over the area between the railroad and the highway. We now find only a few scattered plants each time we work, but we will persist until they are all gone. The native plants are now returning and some great floral displays greet us as we walk the area searching for *Tragopogon* plants to remove before they bloom.

The discovery of another weedy specie there, and immediate removal with yearly inspections has proven that early detection is the best defense against weedy invasive species. We have successfully eradicated Spotted Knapweed, which is considered to be an extremely troublesome weed in the lower 48.

Dandelion removal from the Lowenfels Trail will continue, as new young plants are always a concern with that species.

Here it is!

Alaska Native Plant Society's

## SUMMER 2014 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE!!!

**There's something happening every week, all summer! Bring your family and summer visitors. Enjoy the out-of-doors and learn to identify some more plants. Or become a Weed Warrior.**



**Now all we need is summer!**

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