



Feb 1983

P.O. Box 8-737 Anchorage, Alaska 99508

NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 1983

FEBRUARY 7 -- The February program meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. Monday at The Pub, in the Campus Center part of the Anchorage Community College/UAA Physical Education Facility off Providence Drive. Mike Anarol of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will present a program on Alaska's Rare and Endangered Plants. Dr. Glen Juday, natural areas coordinator for the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, will discuss conserving native plant habitats through natural areas. A board meeting at 7:15 will precede the program meeting at 8 p.m. The public is welcome to attend program meetings -- come and bring an interested friend. Program meetings February through May will be the first Monday of each month at The Pub. No program meetings are scheduled for June through September.

NON-PROFIT, TAX DEDUCTIBLE STATUS has been requested from the Internal Revenue Service and they have directed that we add new language to the Alaska Native Plant Society Constitution to qualify. The required language was read at the January meeting, in accordance with the Constitution. Adoption requires that the information be put to the membership in writing and approved by a vote of two-thirds of the membership. Since we do not regularly see that many members at a program meeting, we are sending out ballots with this newsletter to be mailed back or brought to the February meeting. We need a stronger than usual response from the membership to make this change, so please put your X in the box and mail it back today. It won't take a minute. If you haven't renewed for 1983, put your check in, too, because only the votes of paid up members can be counted. The new language is to make the cost deductible.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME -- All memberships more than ⁵three months old expired at the stroke of midnight December 31. Here's a blank for your convenience. Please fill out the membership survey also if you haven't completed one recently. Mail to the Post Office box or bring it to the February meeting. Bring your membership card, too, and get it stamped for 1983. We need your renewal to continue your newsletter subscription.

RESULTS OF THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY to date show that most members are strongly interested in identification, transplanting, and learning more about mosses and lichens. More than half checked edible plants, mushroom identification, plant families, revegetation of scarred areas, special habitats, winter identification, growing from seed, cultural uses, and preparation of wild edibles. Other areas of interest included collecting and pressing wild flowers, drying a wild bouquet, habitat protection, animal/plant relationships, insect/plant relationships, Alaska prehistory, Southeastern Alaska forest ecology, fire ecology, and poisonous plants. Almost all respondents indicated no interest in learning about wildflowers outside Alaska. Thanks for taking the time to fill out the questionnaire. If you haven't yet done so, it's not too late.

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE MEETING time and place are to be set at the February meeting. If you are interested in leading or assisting on a field trip, or even just have an idea on where you'd like to see a trip scheduled, see Joanne Sedgwick at the meeting or call her at the number below. It's time to plan for great summer field trips.

SOME PHONE NUMBERS if you need information or want to help out:

Verna Pratt, President.....

Joanne Sedgwick, Field Trips....

Peggy Pletcher, Membership.....

Jerrienne Lowther, Newsletter....

Marianne See, Education.....

ZIEBART: WHERE ARE YOU WHEN WE NEED YOU?

Have you noticed some seemingly healthy spruce trees with rusty tips on their branches? The rust color is caused by chains of aeciospores of Spruce Needle Rust (*Chrysomyxa ledicola*.) This fungus has a very complicated life history. The spores produced on the spruce must be transferred to Labrador tea (*Ledum* spp.) which hosts the other half of the life cycle. They cannot re-infect the spruce. To reproduce, the fungus must alternate between Labrador tea and spruce. -- Marilyn Barker

FEBRUARY PLANT QUIZ:

This perennial grows in damp areas at both high and low elevations. Underground parts are scaly bulbs surrounded by bulblets that are edible raw or cooked and very tasty. The plant grows six to 24 inches high with long, narrow, linear (or lanceolate) leaves appearing in whorls around the stem. One to six flowers are dark, purplish brown to almost black and often greenish yellow on the outside, especially near the stem. This member of the _____ family has an fetid odor and is known by many common names, most of which refer to its botanical name or edibility. It is the _____. (Answers below.)

GOING BANANAS -- You might enjoy using a cup of *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, also known as Low Bush Cranberries or Lingonberries, that you have been storing in your freezer in your favorite banana bread recipe. -- Verna Pratt

OUT AND ABOUT -- A good place to do some late winter or early spring botanizing is along the Seward Highway against the side of the mountains just on the Anchorage side of Girdwood. This is an exceptionally warm spot and the plant life starts as soon as the snow leaves. I picked blueberry bloom there in early April last year. -- Verna Pratt

Answers to February Plant Quiz: *Liliaceae* (Lily Family) and *Fritillaria kamschatcensis* (Chocolate Lily, Indian Rice, Black Lily, Kamchatka Rice Lily, Squaw Lily, Rice Lily, Mission Bells, Speckled Hen, or Sourdough Lily)