

# Alaska Native Plant Society

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

## NEWSLETTER, APRIL 1983

**APRIL 4** -- The April program meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. Monday, April 4, at The Pub, in the Campus Center part of the Anchorage Community College/UAA Physical Education Facility off Providence Drive. The public is always welcome. Program: Mann Leiser will present a program on landscaping with Alaska's native plants, including trees and shrubs. Our vice president is well known for his gardening tips on KIMO (Channel 13) TV news. He owns and operates Alaska Greenhouses and has extensive experience in propagating and growing native plants for gardens and ground covers. Short feature: Barbara Swanson will present a short slide talk on "Summer Wildflowers of the Kisaralik River." She spent 10 days last July rafting the Kisaralik, a Kuskokwim River tributary, northeast of Bethel in Western Alaska. Executive Board Meeting: 7:15 p.m. at The Pub, will precede the regular program meeting.

**BOARD MEETING BRIEFS** -- There was no official board meeting in March, for lack of a quorum. An informal discussion of plans for field trips and educational display workshops took the place of the regular meeting. President Verna Pratt announced later that amendments to the Society's Constitution had been passed in last month's balloting. The results have been forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service, where a ruling on the Society's non-profit status is pending.

**SEEN ANY ORCHIDS LATELY?** Please contact Verna Pratt if you know of any nice patches of Yellow-Spotted Orchids (*Cypripedium guttatum*) or Fairy Slipper Orchids (*Calypso bulbosa*) growing wild in Anchorage. Society members are interested in evaluating such areas with an eye to preserving a plot of each in town, if suitable sites still exist.

**EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS:** A workshop to prepare and mount specimens for display will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 2, in the Dawson Room at Nerland's Ethan Allan Gallery, Tudor Road, east of the Seward Highway. (This is for a display requested by the Alaska Center for the Environment for use during the tourist season.)

Also Bob Dittrick, who works with Alaska State Parks, is looking for photographs suitable for enlargement to be used in an informational display at the Tok Visitor Center. He wants good, strong transparencies (color slides) of the following subjects: flowers and leaves of Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), a close-in view of dense alders (*Alnus* sp.), any kind of blueberry with leaves and berry (*Vaccinium* sp.) plainly shown; also tussocks and "a good shot of a wet, sloshy, boggy area." If you have slides of any of these subjects suitable for making big blow-ups, call him at

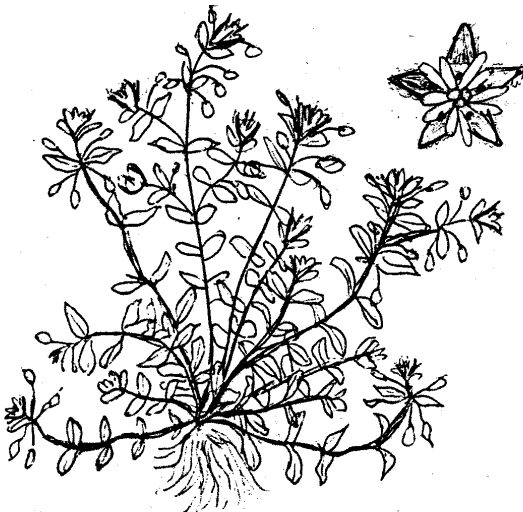
**COMMUNITY SCHOOL CLASSES** of interest include several not included in last month's newsletter. Watch for the Community School supplement to be included with local newspapers.

**SPRINGS AND SUMMER FIELD TRIPS** begin this weekend with a Portage Glacier outing Saturday. See next page for details. To get in on the fun of leading field trips, call Joanne Sedgwick and she'll explain the procedures. (You don't necessarily have to know the flowers -- usually someone who does can be persuaded to accompany the group if you're familiar with the area and will be responsible for other arrangements.)

**HARD TO FIND BOTANICAL AND GARDENING BOOKS** may be obtained through Daniel Lloyd (Heather Lea) 4 Hillcrest Avenue, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 9RD England. Free 110-page catalog includes thousands of listings, world-wide, new and used.

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

- Verna Pratt, President.....
- Joanne Sedgwick, Field Trips.....
- Marianne See, Education.....
- Jerriane Lowther, Newsletter.....
- Peggy Pletcher, Membership.....



**APRIL PLANT QUIZ:** I am a small, common plant with white flowers. Nearly everyone thinks I have 10 petals, but I only have five. Each petal is split nearly to its base to look like two. I grow in loose mats close to the ground. When my stems get heavy, they fall to the ground and form roots at each node. My leaves are opposite and usually ovate (egg-shaped) with acuminate (pointed) tips. My most intriguing feature is that I have longitudinal lines of pubescence (tiny hairs) along my stem, usually on just one side. I am edible and can be cooked as any garden green, though almost everyone considers me to be just another weed. Hint: I grow in your yard, and though I am not native to Alaska, I share many characteristics with my wild, native Alaska cousins. Who am I? (For plant quiz answer, see bottom of next page.)

## 1983 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

### MARCH 26 (SAT.) PORTAGE VALLEY -- Trip Leader: Jim Mitchell,

The calendar says it's spring, but the leader says this will be a late winter field trip to learn about winter plant identification, winter damage to plants (sun scald, frost cracking, winter drought, etc.) and plant succession. Wear rubber boots and pack a portable picnic lunch for this easy walk over fairly flat terrain. Several sites of interest include the terminal moraine near the Portage Glacier Visitor Center and a lush bit of forest farther down the road. Figure on five hours, total, to drive the 100-mile round trip to Portage over highway that is partly under construction, with a couple of hours for exploring. Meet: 10 a.m. in the south end of the parking lot west of Building K (Performing Arts Center) at Anchorage Community College. (Easiest entrance to the parking lot is off Lake Otis Parkway at south side of Wendler Junior High School; access from Providence Drive is limited to westbound traffic due to barrier island.) Reservations are not required.

### MAY 15 (SUN.) EAGLE RIVER VISITOR CENTER, CHUGACH STATE PARK -- Trip Leader: Dale Bingham,

Time and date are tentative (see May newsletter or call the leader to confirm), but who would want to miss an easy, three-hour, three-mile round trip walk to see Fairy Slipper Orchids (*Calypto bulbosa*) in bloom? Wear good walking shoes suitable for travel in wooded areas and bring your insect repellent. Meet: 12:15 p.m. at south end of the parking lot west of Building K (Performing Arts Center) at Anchorage Community College for car pooling, or 1 p.m. at Eagle River Visitor Center. Reservations are not required.

### MAY 18 (WED.) ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY TRAILS -- Trip Leader: Beverly Bridger,

An easy 1-1/2 hour walk around APU ski/hiking trails to see bog and woodland plants is a pleasant evening outing for the whole family. Wear boots and bring your insect repellent. Meet: 6:30 p.m. in parking lot across from Grant Hall.

### MAY 28 (SAT.) NANCY LAKE RECREATION AREA -- Trip Leader: John Wenger (no phone).

This popular trip is still tentative (see May newsletter or call Field Trip Chairman Joanne Sedgwick, 561-0468, to confirm). See Coralroot Orchids (*Coralorrhiza* sp.) along the Tulik Nature Trail on an easy, four-hour, three-mile hike over dry trail with Arctic Loons as an added attraction. Bring binoculars, lunch and bug repellent. Meet: 10 a.m. at Tulik Nature Trail sign at small cabin on recreation area road, approximately two miles in from Parks Highway. Drive from Anchorage is 70 miles, one way. Reservations are not required.

### JUNE 11-12 (SAT.-SUN.) ANCHORAGE GARDEN CLUB WILDFLOWER SHOW

See May newsletter or local newspaper for times on this popular annual event, to be held at Pioneer Schoolhouse, Third Avenue at Eagle Street.

### JUNE 13, JULY 11, AUGUST 8 (MON.) GLEN ALPS SURVEY -- Trip Leader:

Details are sketchy yet on this planned survey project. Plans are to visit the same site each month, June through September, to evaluate all plants in a specific area. The walking is easy, but you'll want to wear hiking boots and some areas might be wet. See May newsletter for more details or call Verna Pratt,

### JUNE 18 (SAT.) GLEN ALPS, CHUGACH STATE PARK -- Trip Leader: Glen Ray,

This easy hike through an alpine meadow along a powerline cut will be an opportunity to learn something about plants used for herbal teas, though no collecting is permitted within the park. Meet: 12:30 p.m. at south end of the parking lot west of Building K (Performing Arts Center) at Anchorage Community College for car pooling, or 1 p.m. in the Glen Alps parking lot.

### JULY 1-4 (FRI.-MON.) NOME -- Trip Leader:

Details are still sketchy, but don't let that keep you from marking your calendar now. Plan to bring raingear, mosquito head nets, and insect repellent. Possible bad weather and the reality of tundra mosquito hordes should be considered if you are thinking of bringing children along.

Best available air fare, as of March 17, was a Wien Air Alaska Super Saver for \$262, with these restrictions:

reservations and payment must be made at least seven days in advance, no changes in dates specified when tickets purchased, and stay must include Sunday. Air fare is a do-it-yourself arrangement, as there is no additional discount for groups. Choice of flight times July 1: Leave ANCHORAGE 8:15 a.m., Arrive NOME 8:45 a.m. direct; or Leave ANCHORAGE 3:20 p.m., Arrive NOME 5:10 p.m. with stop in Kotzebue. Return July 4: Leave NOME 9:25 a.m., Arrive ANCHORAGE 1:15 p.m., or Leave NOME 5:40 p.m., Arrive ANCHORAGE 8:20 p.m.

### JULY 16 (SAT.) RABBIT LAKE

### JULY 30 (SAT.) HATCHER PASS

### AUG. 13 (SAT.) WHITTIER

### AUG. 27 (SAT.) MUSHROOM TRIP

**NOTE: Plants should not be collected on Alaska Native Plant Society Field Trips, except designated plant rescue trips.**

**Answer: Common Chickweed — *Stellaria media* (L.) Cyrill.  
This common weed actually has a very nice, but small, flower.**

## A FEW WORDS ABOUT COLLECTING PLANTS

NO collecting is permitted on National Park or State Park lands, private property, in campgrounds, along highways, in Portage Valley, or Turnagain Pass. (The Chugach Mountains are all state park land to the Chugach National Forest border, just north of Girdwood.)

Collecting is permitted 50 feet back from highways on state land that is not designated park land, and 200 feet back from established trails, roads, and campgrounds in national forests (except Portage Valley and Turnagain Pass, which are protected.)

Collecting is permitted and encouraged where road or building construction would otherwise destroy plants. Contact owners of land to be developed, in advance. If the owner is unknown, call the zoning and platting department of the municipality or borough to determine ownership.

Contact the Department of Highways Right-of-Way section (Dean Rettick, 266-1500) for information on road construction. The following projects are planned for 1983:

Wasilla: general widening of Highway 3 with turn lanes throughout the town section is to begin early this spring.

South Birchwood: cut out area will be widened to prevent slides on east leg of interchange.

Minnesota By-pass: may be extended below Dimond Boulevard late this year.

**HINTS:** If obtaining plants from an area not to be destroyed, take plenty of soil and fill the resulting hole with downed plant material, rocks, or soil to protect roots of surrounding plants. Transplant as quickly as possible and water well for the first season.

Plant sales: Wildflower Garden Club, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 21, at 3126 Cottonwood. See May newsletter or local newspaper for information on Anchorage Garden Club sale.

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