



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

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

DECEMBER MEETING--8 PM at the Pub in the Sports Center Complex of the ACC-UAA Campus--DEC 12th, the SECOND MONDAY!!!

### MEETING INFO

AND Emma Walton, Science Coordinator for the Anchorage School District, will present "How We Can Best Help The Schools."



The Onagraceae Family will be discussed this month. Some members of this family are woody, but most are herbaceous annuals or perennials. Leaves are simple and arranged oppositely or alternately. Flowers are regular, bisexual, and arranged in spikes, racemes, panicles, or single blossoms. There are 2 to 5 sepals, usually 4. The corolla usually has 4 clawed petals--with zero to 9 possible. The ovary is inferior. The perianth and androecium form a hypanthium. The gonoecium has 2 to 5--usually 4, united carpels. Placentation is axile. The fruit is a capsule, berry, or nutlet.



axile placentation

John Wenger will do the presentation at the Dec. meeting and would welcome any slides of the smaller epilobium species and *Circaea alpina* (Enchanter's nightshade).



### PLANT QUIZ---M. Barker

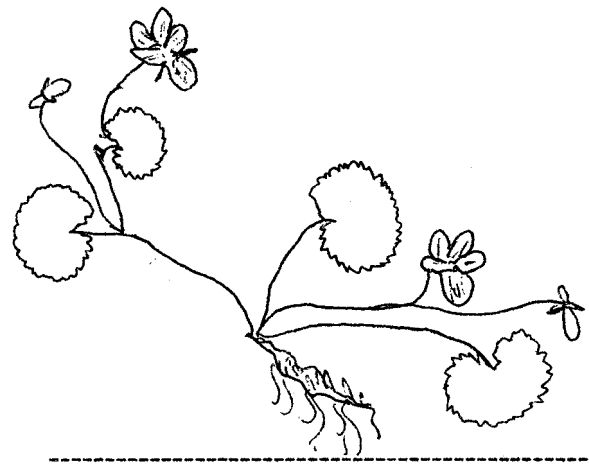
This small perennial plant grows from a horizontal root stalk and has broadly serrated reniform petioled leaves that are cordate at the base and mostly glabrous on the top surface. It grows in moist tundra and woods in central and western Alaska and the Aleutians. It has two yellow, irregular, 5-petaled flowers with purplish veins and a short spur.

- Serrated---toothed
- Reniform---kidney shaped
- Petiole---leaf stem
- Cordate---heart shaped

(drawing and answer elsewhere on this page)

*W.M. Barker description of plant communities*

### PLANT QUIZ DRAWING



### ADVERTISING

The Board of Directors has voted to allow advertisements in the Newsletter on a trial basis. All advertisements must be related to Native plants, and the Board retains the final authority on suitability. The cost of advertising will be \$15 for full page, \$8 for half-page, \$5.00 for 1/4 page, and \$2.50 for 1/8 page. Because the Society is an educational organization; persons presenting classes on Native flora through an accredited educational facility will be allowed free notice of same in the Newsletter.

### HERBARIUM

The Public Herbarium Specimens Display that will be housed at The Alaska Center For The Environment was finished at the workshop after our last meeting. Thank you, everyone! It is now on display at the Center and plans are in effect to use it at the Alaska Environmental Assembly at ACC on December 3rd & 4th.

### QUIZ ANSWER

*Viola biflora* (Two-flowered Violet)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BY-LAWS. THESE CHANGES WERE READ AT THE GENERAL MEETING ON 14 NOVEMBER 1983, AND ARE TO BE VOTED ON THE GENERAL MEETING ON 12 DECEMBER 1983:

November 14, 1983

Amendments to the Bylaws of the Alaska Native Plant Society.  
Add new Section 10, and change present Section 10 to Section 11.

#### 10. Chapters

Any group of ten or more persons, who reside in the same region, and are interested in the objectives of the Alaska Native Plant Society, may form a chapter. Application forms are available from the Board of Directors and require the signatures of three of the persons who are applying and include the boundaries of the proposed chapter. If the proposed boundaries include territory already assigned to an existing chapter, the application must be accompanied by a waiver from said chapter. Each chapter shall be designated as "The \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of the Alaska Native Plant Society." If an organization already in existence desires to become a chapter, it may retain its name and be known as the "\_\_\_\_\_", a chapter of the Alaska Native Plant Society."

Upon approval of the application by the Board of Directors, a chapter shall have a meeting and form such Bylaws as deemed necessary; and elect a President, Treasurer and any other officers necessary to conduct the business of their group. These Bylaws must in no way conflict with or be inconsistent with the Constitution or objectives of the Society. Meetings shall be open to the public, and membership shall be open to any interested persons. A Chapter may not change its name, boundaries, nor Bylaws without the approval of the Board. A Chapter must hold at least 2 meetings each year, and a Treasurer's Report must be sent in annually as of the end of the calendar year.

Any member of the society who resides within the territorial limits of a chapter shall be considered to be a member of chapter and entitled to all chapter privileges. No member shall be a member of more than one chapter. Any member who: (1) resides in a territory that has no chapter, or (2) resides within the boundaries of one chapter but desires membership in another chapter; may, upon written application to the Board of Directors, become a member of the chapter of his choice.

Each chapter is authorized to undertake all such local activities as are consistent with the purposes of the Society. No chapter, chapter officers, nor chapter members shall have the power to bind the Society in any manner without the approval of the Board. Chapters shall not own real estate, but the Board of Directors may place management of any of the Society's property in the care of a chapter. No chapter shall act on questions of public policy without the consent of the Board of Directors; except to recommend action by the Board, or to secure from it the permission to take such action as the Chapter may desire. No chapter shall have any proprietary interest in the name "Alaska Native Plant Society."

Chapters may conduct their own fund-raising activities, provided that they are consonant with the purposes of the Society, but shall not assess additional chapter dues. A portion of the annual dues paid to the Alaska Native Plant Society by a Chapter member shall be returned to the Chapter. The Board of Directors shall consider each Chapter separately and determine the percentage of dues (not to exceed 30%) to be paid to the respective Chapters, and such payments shall be made quarterly, or as needed, to the Chapter Treasurer. If a Chapter desires special funds from the Society for a specific project, they should file applications with the Board prior to the beginning of each calendar quarter. Approval of such applications will be by a majority vote by the Board.

The Board of Directors may terminate or suspend chapter status and privileges if the membership of a chapter falls below ten members, or if the chapter takes any action inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. Such action shall not affect the standing of the individual members of the Society. The Board shall not terminate nor suspend a chapter; however, until after written notice, specifying the ground upon which the proposed action is based, is furnished to the principal officer or officers of the chapter involved, and a reasonable opportunity allowed for such chapter to present evidence in opposition to the proposed action and affording it a full opportunity to be heard. A majority vote of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Directors shall be required to terminate or suspend chapter status. A chapter's right to use the words "Alaska Native Plant Society" as part of its name shall cease upon the termination or suspension of its status as a chapter. All financial or physical assets shall become the property of the Alaska Native Plant Society.

Section 10 Amendment shall be re-numbered to read:

11. Amendments

DEVIL'S CLUB (*Oploupanax horridum*), a member of the Ginseng (*Araliaceae*) family, is a very attractive shrub that grows in excellent soil in very moist forests. Stalks which may be as large as 1-1/2" in diameter, reach a height of 8' and are covered with sharp spines which can be extremely irritating and painful if touched. Infection of wounds is common. Even the leaves and berries have spines.

This information has been extracted from various publications. All paragraphs in *italics* were taken directly from an article written by James. W. Justice, M.D., formerly Chief of Field Health, Mt. Edgecumbe Service Unit, USPHS Indian Health in Southeastern Alaska. He researched several publications and collected information from patients at the hospital and in the field during 1963 to 1965.

*Ancient medicinal uses, which are probably not practiced now, included: body perfume; baby talc; emetic; regulation of puerperal menstruation; lactation suppressant, and for menstrual cramps.*

*Aside from medicinal purposes, the devil's club extract was used during the neophyte shaman's purification rites as the only nourishment for weeks. The whole stalk, complete with thorns, was used for whipping suspected practitioners of witchcraft. Before a whale or a seal hunting expedition the hunters bathed their bodies in the extract. The dried bark was mixed with red paint as a love charm. The stalk was whittled and hung on a fish line as a lure.*

In an emergency, Devil's Club can be used as an analgesic by chewing the stalk, that has been stripped of thorns and spitting it directly on the wound. The bark may also be laid in strips, inner side against the skin, to reduce the pain and swelling from a fracture. The most common way to prepare extract from the plant is to simmer dried stems or roots in water to cover for 3 or 4 hours.

*Informants who regularly drink the extract report that upon starting to take the brew, one may have diarrhea and feel very weak. Greater weakness is experienced if alcoholic beverages are taken concurrently.*

*Dr. Blaschke, a physician in Sitka in 1836, reported 25 plants used by the Tlingits for medicine. Apparently, devil's club is the only member of this pharmacopia to survive in common use today.*

*The extract has potent hypoglycemic properties. In 1938, a Prince Rupert physician reported:*

*'Our attention was brought to this material through the examination by one of us of a surgical patient who on hospitalization, developed marked symptoms of diabetes. This person, it was learned, had kept in apparent good health for several years by oral doses of an infusion of this root bark, and is in fact still leading a normal life with the aid of this infusion.'*

Persons laying dried inner bark directly into a tooth cavity have stated that they experienced prompt relief of pain, and this practice has also been used to relieve the pain of ax wounds until a person could reach medical attention.

*The Chief of the (a Tlingit) tribe came to clinic with a red, tender, swollen fifth finger that appeared suddenly one evening. The prescribed treatment of aspirin, elevation, and heat did not relieve symptoms. One glass of extract, taken after the physician left, relieved the symptoms completely in eight hours. One month later, the finger was re-examined and was completely normal.*

*This writer has observed one male patient with metastatic adenocarcinoma who was discharged after resection of three ribs, but without identification of the primary site. He was given a few months' prognosis and a terminal supply of morphine. Three years later, he had regained his health and strength after extensive treatment with devil's club extract and was re-admitted for withdrawal of narcotics.*

Some Indians believe so strongly in devil's club's effectiveness against cancer that they refuse treatments; thus creating an obstacle for cancer control programs.

*Although devil's club has been used for generations for a variety of ills among the Indians in Southeast Alaska, it is currently enjoying a revival along with other aspects of Tlingit culture. Some teenagers are being introduced to its effect for the first time. Adults over 50 years old are generally well-acquainted with the use and manufacture of the extract.*

*For the brief published studies of this drug, further exploration would seem to be of value. Present knowledge of its effects should caution physicians to instruct their patients against using the drug if they suffer from diabetes, cardiac, or renal disorders. Effects on the human liver are not known.*

*Does devil's club have any value? Well, if nothing else, money. A California herb Company, for reasons unknown, has offered ten dollars per pound of devil's club's roots. Whoever their customers are, they are not Alaskan Indians!*

