



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

MARCH MEETING--8 PM at the Pub in the Sports Center Complex of the ACC-UAA Campus-----March 5th, the FIRST MONDAY!!!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING--7 PM, one hour prior to General Meeting.

MEETING INFO

This month we are honored to have as our speaker, Dr. David Murray, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; who will speak on "North Slope Plants". Dr. Murray is Curator of the Botany Division of the University Museum; and furnished a description of the Division's activities, which will be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Adoxaceae (Moschatel) family will be presented this month. It is represented in Alaska by one genus, one species - *Adoxa moschatellina*. The plants are small perennial herbs. The leaves are of 2 types: opposite, lobed, palmately veined cauline and basal ternately compound. The flowers are yellowish green, regular, perfect and are borne in heads. The ovary is inferior and the fruit is a drupe. Larry Read will present the discussion at the meeting and provide more detailed information of the flower structure of this unusual plant.

BY-LAWS CHANGES

Ballots for proposed changes to Constitution and By-laws are in the mail. PLEASE return yours as soon as possible, we must have ballots returned from all members.

PLANT QUIZ-M. Barker

I am a perennial plant found throughout the State in wet, marshy places. I prefer stream edges, creek beds and ditches. I have a stout hollow stem with large round to kidney-shaped leaves that have scalloped edges. My flowers are bright yellow and may be produced singly or in clusters. What no one usually guesses is that I lack petals, what looks like petals are actually showy sepals. I produce multiple stamens and pistils. I am an early bloomer in most parts of the State and at the end of the season I leave a spreading cluster of dried follicles.

I have two subspecies in Alaska which differ from each other primarily on the basis of size. The arctic subspecies is much smaller than the southeast subspecies.

I have edible leaves and roots; however, much care must go into my preparation. My raw parts contain the poison helleborin. This poison can be quickly dispelled by dropping my parts in boiling water, pouring off all the water after it has returned to a boil, and then simmering for a short while.

Who am I?

Quiz drawing and answer located elsewhere in newsletter.

(The following article furnished to the newsletter by Dr. David F. Murray, describes the Botany Division of the U of A Museum, Fairbanks, AK.):—

BOTANY

David F. Murray, Ph.D., Curator
Botany Division, U of A Museum, Fairbanks, AK

The herbarium now has over 100,000 specimens of which roughly 70,000 are vascular plants and 30,000 are cryptogams (curated by Barbara M. Murray, Research Associate), primarily lichens (10,000) and bryophytes (20,000). We have the largest collection of Alaskan vascular plants, richer even than those of Eric Hulten at Stockholm and J. P. Anderson at Ames, and excellent collections of arctic mosses. Representation for Alaska is good, but our strength lies in the arctic and alpine flora. Nevertheless, major areas of the State are poorly represented because they remain essentially uncollected. Since there has been so much activity related to exploration of natural resources in the Arctic during the past decade or more, our botanical activity has been there also, consequently our strength from the Brooks Range northward. Much of our recent acquisition has been the result of inventories in support of environmental assessment or related to pre-impact certification that specific areas were free of rare, threatened, or endangered plants. We have been fortunate also to have duplicates from other important arctic and boreal collections such as those of Hugh M. Raup, A. E. Porsild, J.P. Anderson, Eric Hulten, Hildur Krog (lichens), William C. Steere (bryophytes) and several recent exsiccatae. Exchanges have given us a fine series from Fennoscandia, Greenland, arctic and boreal Canada, and northeastern U.S.S.R. Based on our holding and activity, the Herbarium (ALA) was designated a national Resource Collection in 1974 by the Advisory Committee for Systematic Resources in Botany (report on Systematic Botany Resources in America, Part 1).

Responding to the need by state, federal, and industry land managers for very basic information on the distribution of plants, we have obtained, in collaboration with the Institute of Arctic biology, support from the Department of Energy to compile a computer file of the label data from the specimens in our herbarium — vascular plants, lichens, and bryophytes. We are using SELGEM, and thanks to help from other users of SELGEM on Honeywell equipment (Smithsonian Institution, and Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas), we are developing the data bank, writing reports, and drawing dot maps. The Northern Plant Documentation Center is the name given this specific project, which at the present addresses only the arctic flora. The spinoff of this is the introduction of computerized recording keeping and general management including a register of all type specimens. As we log the label data from each specimen of vascular plants we are extracting seed, whenever present, to create a fully documented seed collection with the hope of producing a photographic atlas.

Current research is on the floristics and taxonomy of vascular plants, lichens, and bryophytes of arctic and alpine areas and also of northern steppe vegetation. Monographic studies are restricted to Carex (Cyperaceae) and Andreaeobryaceae and Andreaeaceae (Musci).

1983-84 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

President-----Verna Pratt-----
 Vice-President-----John Wenger-----
 Secretary-----Cheryl McCaffrey-----
 Treasurer-----Larry Haller-----
 General Programs-----Beverly Bridger-----
 Educational Programs-----Debbie Clark-----
 Field Trips-----Frank Bogardus-----
 Newsletter-----Frank Pratt-----

1984 FIELD TRIPS

Portage Field Trip--Leader Jim Mitchell--will be held on Sat. March 24th. Meet at the S.W. corner of the parking lot west of Bldg. K on the ACC Campus at 10 AM. Plan on about 5 or 6 hours. The terrain is mostly flat, but could be wet or some snow. Dress warmly as it could be cold and windy. Bring a lunch. This trip was excellent last year. However, due to our heavy snow conditions this year; if you plan on attending this trip, please call Verna on the 23rd to be sure that the trip is still on.

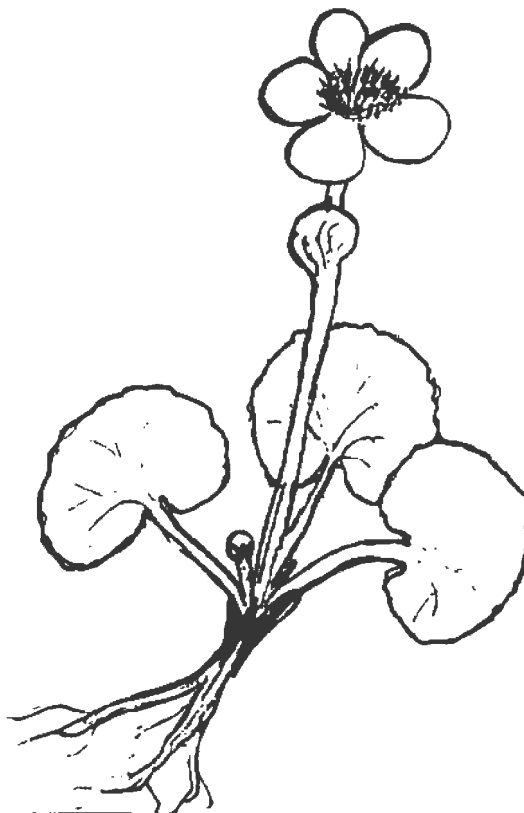
The following dates have been set aside for field trips and a summer schedule will be sent out probably in April. The purpose of this early announcement is to allow you to plan for the time and/or expense of some of the trips. Any trips in April will be in the April newsletter.

Sat.----May 12-----Seward Hwy, just S. of Anchorage-----Verna Pratt
 Thurs.----May 17-----Campbell Airfield Road-----Frank Bogardus
 Wed.----May 23-----Bog-----Marilyn Barker
 Mon.----May 28-----Nancy Lake--(Memorial Day)-----John Wenger
 Sat.----Jun 02-----Bird Creek Ridge-----
 Sun.----Jun 03-----King Mountain Wayside-----
 Mon.----Jun 04-----Glen Alps survey (evening)-----
 Sat.----Jun 09-----Knik Arm-----Cheryl McCaffrey
 Sat-Tues-Jun 23-26-----Bison Gulch-----Verna Pratt
 Mon.----Jul 02-----Glen Alps survey (evening)-----
 Sat.----Jul 14-----Arctic Valley-----
 Sat-Sun--Jul 28 & 29-----Seldovia-----Suzie Stranik

We will charter a plane and stay overnight at her place

Mon.----Aug 13-----Glen Alps survey (evening)-----
 We are looking for ideas and leaders for August or any other time you desire.

QUIZ DRAWING



LOTIONS, NOTIONS AND POTIONS-by Old Doc

This month, let's consider the lowly (?) Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). I'm sure we all consider the Dandelion an edible plant, and rightly so. However, I'll bet that few know that as long ago as the 11th century Avicenna, the great Arab physician, was using it as an alternative (produces gradual beneficial change in the body, usually by improving nutrition) and an emmenagogue (an agent that promotes menstrual flow). Although the plant is limited in nutritional value (it is poor in protein and glucosides and has no fats); it is eaten in various parts of the world. In Europe, the central leaves of the rosette are eaten in salads or cooked in the same way as spinach. In France, the roots are made into soup; and in Germany, they are added to salads. The drug, called taraxacum, is made from the roots which are gathered in the autumn, washed, slowly dried, and preserved. Taraxacum has been prescribed for liver problems, gastritis, kidney disease, inflammation of the gall bladder, and indigestion. It has been used a diuretic (hence, one of the common names, 'piss-a-beds'). Health-food manufacturers make a form of coffee from the root, which can be drunk even by those with weak digestions.

Since Fur Rendezvous is over and we are heading directly into Summer; and, eventually, the berry-picking season, Old Doc wonders how many of our readers might be interested in recipes for preparing said berries into the delightful concoction known as wild-berry liqueurs. Perhaps some could even contribute some recipes of their own. Please let Old Doc know through Ye Editor.

 QUIZ ANSWER: CALTHA PALUSTRIS L. (Common names: Marsh marigold, Meadowbright, and Ahklingquaht)

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 8-737

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508