



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

MID-SUMMER NEWSLETTER and FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

MINUTES OF THE ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S 1ST ANNUAL STATEWIDE MEETING

Present: Peggy & John Pletcher, Frank Bogardus, Verna (better known as "here, here!") and Frank Pratt, Marilyn Barker, and Charlu Choate from Anchorage; and Tass Kelso from Fairbanks.

Minutes of the previous meeting: not applicable

Treasurer's Report: in the mail

Agenda:

The meeting officially started at 2:00 PM Saturday 23 June 1984 at Mile 243.6 Parks Highway at Bison Gulch---and so did the wind and rain! The arriving group was met by a steady breeze and heavy black rain clouds. Undaunted by these occurrences, members quickly pitched tents, parked campers and took an afternoon walk from the parking mound to a bluff overlooking Bison Gulch---now known as *Eritrichium East*---and on into the Gulch, following the Gulch to the Nenana River. Exciting finds included: *Eritrichium splendens*, *Arenaria capillaris* and a very sprawling *Saxifraga oppositifolia*.

While the group explored the Gulch, the rain clouds moved on, leaving sunshine behind. Upon returning to the parking mound in the early evening, we all partook of a rousing fireside feast of chili and hot dogs. A small seagull joined us for dinner; and, upon experimentation, it was discovered that seagulls love wieners, but detest mustard!

After the feast, the business meeting was opened near the campfire. Shortly thereafter, the still persistent wind and the mosquitoes drove us into the comfort of the Pratt's trailer for the conclusion of the meeting.

Sunday morning began bright and early with Verna's wake-up call at 7:30 AM---after a night of tent flapping and trailer rocking thanks to the ever present gusty wind. Two hours later we departed for the high alpine country of Mt. Healy to the southwest of Bison Gulch. During the early part of the climb up the steep grassy slopes---and alder thickets---our band stayed together. Echoes of "HERE !, HERE !" could be heard as new plants were discovered. As the rock shale cliffs of higher elevations were approached, exciting finds of miniature plants---all less than a centimeter tall---were made. These tiny plants included: *Saxifraga eschschultzii* ("barnacle saxifrage"), *Arenaria chamissonis* and *Draba stenopetala*. Time passed quickly and soon it was time for lunch, after which the group split in half; those who had to drive (or fly) home that afternoon moving along at a faster pace. The remaining group continued to climb higher and higher. Anticipating a "wing-waggle" from our flying members as they departed, we positioned ourselves on the edge of ridge. (cont'd page 2)

Through binoculars we watched them taxi down the lake far below and around a wooded point of land--we watched and waited, and waited and watched, but never saw them airborne. Meanwhile, a brief mountain squall passed overhead, dropping a small amount of rain, and leaving behind a giant full rainbow (no pot of gold located). Still no airplane. Assuming that they had gone around the back side of the mountain from us due to the adverse weather, we continued upwards for "just one more ridge", adding new plants to our list as we went--*Saxifraga serphyllifolia*, *Smelowskia borealis*, and *Chrysosplenium Wrightii*.

Ceaseless wind and intermittent rain showers had been constant companions during the upper part of the climb, but near our highest point we were suddenly hit by a gale force wind and HAIL. We crouched to the ground with 2 dogs under the protection of our knees and lay still as the storm blew over. Afterwards, we went a little higher, enjoying our last alpine plants and a couple of snowfields--(in the sunshine!) before descending the opposite slope down into a stream system running parallel to Bison Gulch. There we found an elusive primrose--*Primula egaliksensis*. Unfortunately, Tass, who has been searching for locations of primulas in the interior, had left us earlier in the day to return to Fairbanks. Also found were *Geum rossii* and *Chrysanthemum arcticum* ssp. *polare*--the latter plant being a new distributional range.

We returned to camp at 9:00 PM; starved, exhausted, but happy with our exciting finds. At the camper, we found our airplane friends! The anticipated "wing-waggle" hadn't been seen because a sudden violent gust of wind had caused our very perceptive pilot friend to abort the take-off attempt. Later, when the weather had settled down, the undaunted pilot made a successful take-off at 10 PM. After a late but hearty dinner we retired for another night of wind whistling through the campground.

Monday morning, the remaining sturdy four headed up Bison Creek to its headwaters. Only a few new species of plants were added to our list, but a good time was had by all, despite a couple of spills in the rocky creek. Curtains of *Sedum rosea* and *Saxifraga oppositifolia* draped from the cliffs, cushions of *Silene acaulis* dotted the rocks and several species of *Oxytropis* were scattered amongst the rocks. Snow banks covered much of the lower stream, affording an interesting challenge; and the Pratt's 2 dogs afforded us a good laugh, as they slid down the ice, all claws in gear. On the return trip we relaxed by dipping our feet in an icy pool at the foot of a small waterfall--Charlu posed knee deep in the water as Verna took her time (lots of it!) taking a picture to preserve the moment for posterity.

About 180 plant observations (still computerizing the list), many hours of laughing, keying and joking characterized the expedition. A good time was had by all--some of us can still hear echoes of "Here!, Here!" into the night!

New business: The location of the Second annual meeting was discussed and Denali State Park was tentatively selected for 1985. Fund-raising projects such as the sale of a limited edition watercolor print, club badges and/or T-shirts were considered. Nothing definite was decided. The meeting was officially adjourned at 11 PM Monday, 25 June 1984.

Minutes respectfully submitted by "Antelope" and "I'm slow".

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As you can tell from the above very spontaneous report, the Bison Gulch trip was a great success. You should have been there! There was a baffling amount of new material for many members; and, I'm sure, everyone saw something new. Although it was difficult to conduct a business meeting due to the excitement, lack of seriousness, the late hour, mixture of people, and prevailing air of conviviality; it was decided that the Society should have a patch or decal available for members to purchase if they desired to show their affiliation with the Society. Plans for these will be researched and presented to the Board of Directors. It was also decided that a limited edition Alaskan Wildflower print should become the Society's money-making project. The Board will discuss possibilities and provide details to the membership through the newsletter.

Our first wildflower seed sale was very successful, so we will try it again next year. Please help make the next sale even better by collecting seeds for it this summer. Most seeds should be dry and mature when collected. If you are not sure which species you have, press a plant and have one of our professionals identify it for you.

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-----

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

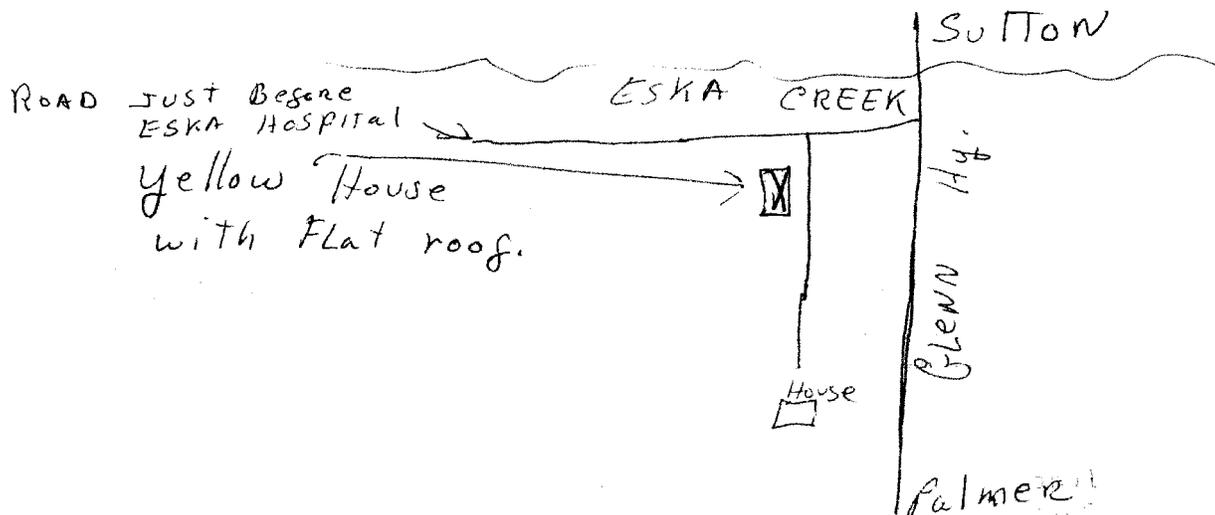
 Carpooling is done from the S.W. side of the parking lot by Building on the ACC Campus near Lake Otis Parkway and 36th Avenue.

AUG 11 (Sat.)--TRAIL TO SUMMIT OF CROW PASS--Leader: Verna Pratt

Meeting time is 8:45AM at Bldg.K parking lot and re-grouping at the Crow Pass Trailhead in Girdwood. This alpine area is a late bloomer due to the late snow cover. It is a steady uphill (not steep) climb for 4 miles (good trail). Bring a back-pack with lunch, warm clothes and raingear.

AUG 14 (TUES. EVE.)--GLEN ALPS SURVEY--Leader: Charlu Choate
 This is a survey of the mound adjacent to the parking lot and the nearby meadow, that was done last summer. We hope it will be an annual event. This is a great learning experience. Chugach State Park--NO COLLECTING! Bring appropriate clothing, can be very cold even in Summer if it is windy. Meet at 6PM at Bldg. K parking lot or at 6:45PM at parking lot at Glen Alps entrance to Chugach State Park.

AUG 18 & 19 (SAT. & SUN.)--COMBO POTLUCK FIELD TRIP AT SUTTON--Leader: Frank Bogardus
 Meet at 9:00AM on Sat. 18th at the Weigh Station on the Glen Highway North of Anchorage. We will visit 17 Mile Lake and Chickaloon. We have permission to camp in a private yard or roll out your sleeping bag on the porch. Bring a dish for the Saturday night Potluck and whatever food you may need for Sunday breakfast and Saturday and Sunday lunches.



SEP. 9--(SUN.)--GLEN ALPS SURVEY AND "BROAD-PETALED GENTIAN WALK"--Leader: Charlu Choate

Meet at 12:30PM at Bldg. K parking lot or 1:15PM at Glen Alps entrance to Chugach State Park. Plan on about 3 hours.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCT 1--(MON.)--FIRST MEETING OF 1984 FALL SEASON AND ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Treasurers Report

Year-To-Date

June 30, 1984

Opening Balance, 1/1/84 \$1,216.53

Receipts

Membership Dues 505.00
Sale of Native Plant Seeds 38.90

Disbursements

Officer Administrative Supplies \$ 8.40
Postage 161.17
Post Office Box Rent 26.00
Newsletter Printing/Xeroxing 28.00
Publicity Projects -0-
Field Trip Expenses -0-
Refund of Duplicate Membership Pmt. 10.00
(233.57)

Closing Balance, 6/30/84 \$1,526.86

June Activity

Opening Balance \$1,510.26

Receipts

Membership Dues 25.00

Disbursements

Officer Administrative Supplies \$ 8.40
Postage -0-
Post Office Box Rent -0-
Newsletter Printing/Xeroxing -0-
Publicity Projects -0-
Field Trip Expenses -0-
(8.40)

Closing Balance \$1,526.86

There are 90 paid members as of 6/30/84.

Respectfully Submitted
Larry Haller, Treasurer *LH*
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Mr. & Mrs. Frank G. Pratt

