

Alaska Native Plant Society

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

NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 1984

FALL MEETINGS---Meetings will be held on the 1st Monday of each month. Please mark your calendar. The Pub on the UAA Campus is not available for us this Fall, so meetings will be held at Central Junior High School, between C & E streets on 15th Avenue.

HARVEST DINNER---OCTOBER 1ST---Central Junior High School, Multipurpose Room, 6:30 PM. Bring a dish (casserole, salad, dessert, bread, or whatever) to feed at least twice the number of people in your group. Paper plates, plastic utensils, coffee, tea and cold drinks will be supplied. After the Pot-luck, we will have a slide presentation. If you have slides (up to 10) of wildflowers, a field trip, or a special place; that you would like to share with the group, please bring them along. To avoid mixups, please mark your slide mounts with your name.

FIELD TRIPS---We had some great field trips again this season, and would appreciate any suggestions or ideas to make next year's trips even better.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE---A nominating committee has been selected. When they contact you, please help wherever you can.

OCTOBER PLANT QUIZ---This is a perennial plant (6"-12") growing from a sessile (no stem), thick horizontal caudex. Leaves, which are light green in color, are opposite on stem; ovate to elliptical, and reduced or withered at the base. This showy plant has Sky Blue tubular, 5-petaled flowers, whitish at the base, with a very long seed capsule. It grows in alpine meadows in SE and S. Central Alaska, but is not common. It usually blooms in August or September. A beautiful sight when most other flowers have gone to seed. What is it?



PATCH AND DECAL---We are hoping that one of our artist members will design a logo appropriate for a patch and decal. The design should be 3-1/2 to 4" high, depict the Twinflower (Linnaea borealis), contain the words "Alaska Native Plant Society", and be in color.

PRINT CONTEST---Complete plans for our limited edition print contest have not been formulated. It is being researched further, but will be an 8x10" water color of an Alaska Wildflower and should not be signed until after the judging is completed.

PUBLICATIONS NEWS—The New England Wild Flower Society has published a 53-page guide to Nursery Sources, Native Plants and Wild Flowers. This booklet list and supplies information about 193 nurseries in every region of the country except Alaska and Hawaii. To order, send \$3.50 (includes postage/handling) to New England Wild Flower Society, Dept. NS, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701.

PLANT QUIZ ANSWER—Broad Petaled Gentian (Gentiana platypetala)

LOTIONS, POTIONS and NOTIONS—by Old Doc

Reindeer Moss (*Cladonia* sp.), which serves as winter forage for the reindeer of northern countries, forms bushy clumps on heaths and moors and in the drier parts of bogs. It builds humus, thus providing enrichment for future plant growth. It is not actually a moss; but, rather, one of the world's 15,000 lichens. Lichens are the result of a symbiotic relationship between an algae and a fungus. The algae contains chlorophyll, enabling it to produce carbohydrates to nourish the fungus; while the fungus provides mechanical support as well as storing moisture and furnishing inorganic materials. Reindeer Moss has been used as food by some indian tribes. It is boiled or soaked in hot water, then eaten plain or mixed with berries, fish eggs, or grease. It has been used to stop diarrhea. Since it can cause stomach distress in some people if not properly prepared, it is suggested that anyone not used to it should refrain from eating the plant.