2/85

Alaska Native Plant Society

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

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FEBRUARY MEETING--Monday, February 4, 1985 at 8PM at the PUB in the Sports Complex on the UAA/ACC Campus.

BOARD MEETING--7:30PM immediately preceeding the General Meeting listed above. Board members please note the time.

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MEETING PROGRAM

SPEAKER: John Hall of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will present "Alaskan Wetland Plants"--a study of wetlands and how certain plants determine how wetlands are classified. USFWS has done extensive wetland studies in Alaska.

FIELD TRIPS 1984 (Cont'd): Because we ran short of time at the January meeting, slides and commentary of the 1984 Bison Gulch Field Trip (and annual statewide meeting of ANPS) will be presented this month.

PLANT FAMILY--Discussion, presented by member Jeanne Schaff, will be on the *Orobanchaceae* (Broomrape) family. These are unique, erect, parasitic plants with leaves that are reduced to scales. The flowers are tubular and inconspicuous and have 4 or 5 petals. The most common member of this family in Alaska is *Boschniakia rossica* sometimes referred to as a ground cone as it looks like a tall brown pine cone growing out of the ground.

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MYSTERY PLANT--I am a northern species - I like cold weather - I grow in localized patches in open mossy woods and meadows. I am considered to be a rare find! I can be found near Anchorage and Fairbanks and all the way to the Canadian border, as well as along the Mackenzie drainage system in Canada. I grow to about 12 inches tall and produce 2 big leaves and one flower. My leaves grow from the middle of my stem; they are ovate with clasping bases and parallel veins. My flower is showy and conspicuous. I have 3 sepals and 3 petals, one of which is modified into a pouch 3/4 inch wide. My color is variable; but, generally, I am cream-white or pinkish with greenish purple blotches, sometimes my blotches run together and I look like a maroon flower. My flowers can be found in mid-June and my glandular seed capsules ripen in late July. Who am I?

NEWLY-ELECTED 1985-86 STATE OFFICERS AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR ARE:

President----------Verna Pratt----------
Vice-President----------Marilyn Barker----------
Secretary----------Charlu Choate----------
Treasurer----------Larry Haller----------
Newsletter----------Frank Pratt----------
Anchorage Chapter Representative---Frank Bogardus----------
Fairbanks Chapter Representative---

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THANKS, CHARLU---Enclosed with the January newsletter was a copy of the Glen Alps Survey and a brief explanation of it. We neglected to give credit to the person who was always there and who organized the information that was gathered. Our special thanks to Charlu Choate!!!!!

SEEDS---We will attempt another seed exchange this year. If you wish to participate, please bring any Alaskan Wildflower seeds that you have gathered to the next meeting for packaging. Cathy Wright will head this committee; and, hopefully, they will be available in March or April.

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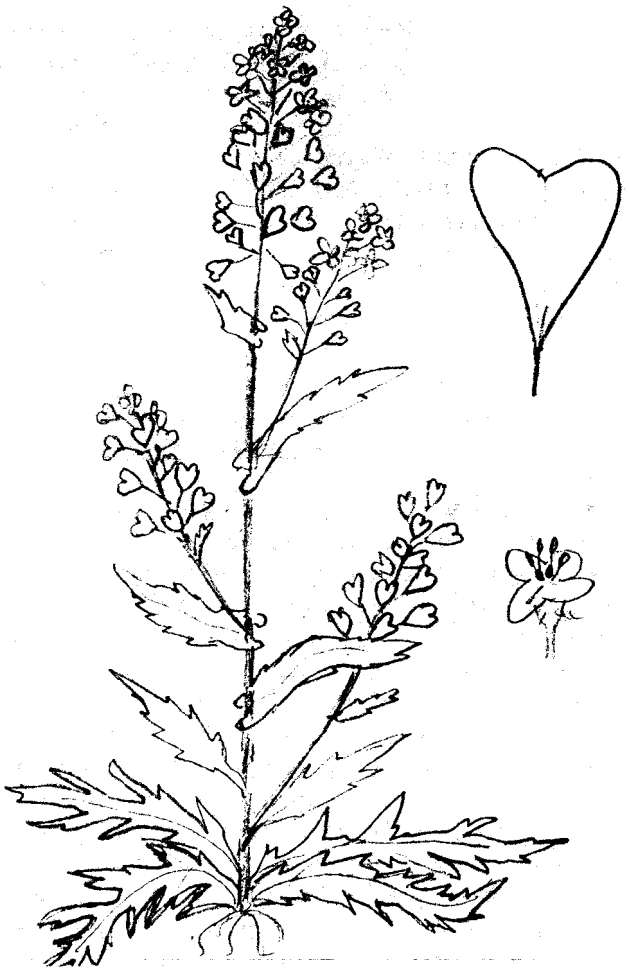
LOTIONS, NOTIONS, and POTIONS---by Old Doc

This month we will consider an introduced weed, *Capsella bursa-pastoris* (Shepherd's purse). This is a member of the *Cruciferae* family; and, therefore, related to mustard, wallflower, stock, cabbage, radish and other edible plants. It has a bitter taste, but has never been noted as poisoning animal or man. Fortunate, as this is one of the most common weedy plants in this country. It grows 6 to 18 inches tall from a basal rosette of toothed leaves resembling those of the dandelion. An extract of Shepherd's purse is an effective blood coagulant which has been used both internally and externally. It has been used as an expectorant, diuretic, antiscorbutic, and styptic. It was, in fact, used in Germany during World War I as a styptic applied externally to stop bleeding. When taken internally, it constricts the blood vessels and thusly raises the blood pressure. No mention is made of Shepherd's purse in early Colonial medicine undoubtedly due to the fact that it had not been introduced to this country at that time.



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PLANT QUIZ ANSWER---*Cypripedium guttatum* Sw. subsp. *uttatum* (Spotted lady's slipper).

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TIMBER NEWS---Remember last year when many Alaskan residents were questioning the purpose of allowing forest fires to burn over large areas rather than being quickly contained? Consider this article, reprinted from the April 1984 issue of Outside magazine:

"END OF THE GROVE?

Many consider it to be this country's most beautiful tree. The aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) can go unnoticed in the East, anong other hardwood species, but not in the West, where its fiery yellows and rich golds paint the mountain slopes each autumn. It is the only tall, grove-forming hardwood to challenge the supremacy and green monotony of the ruling conifers.

Now, however, there are predictions that the tree's glory days may be ending. For example, most of Colorado's 1.9 million acres of aspen groves are at least 80 years old, and the trees are showing signs of age. According to the U.S. Forest Service, most of those groves will die out in the next 20 to 60 years unless they are cut back sharply to allow new growth.

The problem is modern forestry management. Aspens reproduce vegetatively, requiring strong sunlight to form root buds that eventually develop into young trees. In the past, aspens sprouted thickly after fires that regularly cleared mature forests of trees---both older aspens and conifers. Today's emphasis on wildfire prevention and containment means that the older and bigger trees shade more of the forest floor---favorable to the reproduction of conifers but not aspens.

Another reason the current aspen groves have grown so old is that the tree has never been prized by lumbermen. They dislike its softness, ist susceptibility to rot, and its fiber length, which is too short for prime pulp. It is not particularly good firewood, and at 25 pounds per cubic foot it is lighter than most conifers and inefficient to cut and stack. Most often aspen wood is used for fence posts, matches, and toothpicks.

To some extent, that situation may be ending. Louisiana Pacific Corporation, a major lumber company, is building a $12 million plant in western Colorado to process aspen chips into "waferboard", a type of panel that the company believes may eventually replace conventional plywood."

*** It should also be noted that controlled burns that promote the development of new tree growth are beneficial to game and wildlife management, as it is well known that animals such as moose browse on the younger and shorter trees and will leave an area that is devoid of such browse. ---Ed. ***

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
P. O. Box 8-737
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

Treasurers Report

December 31, 1984

Opening Balance, 1/1/84		$1,216.53
Receipts		
Membership Dues		855.00
Sale of Native Plant Seeds		38.90
Advertising		8.00
Disbursements		
Officer Administrative Supplies	$ 8.40	
Postage	261.17	
Post Office Box Rent	26.00	
Newsletter Printing/Xeroxing	28.00	
Monthly Meeting/Presentation Expense	5.00	
Refund of Duplicate Membership Pmt.	10.00	
		(338.57)
Closing Balance, 12/31/84		$1,779.86

There are 109 paid members as of 1/24/85

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