

1985

Alaska Native Plant Society

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

APRIL MEETING--ANCHORAGE CHAPTER--Monday, April 1st, 1985 at 8PM at the PUB on the ACC/UAA Campus.

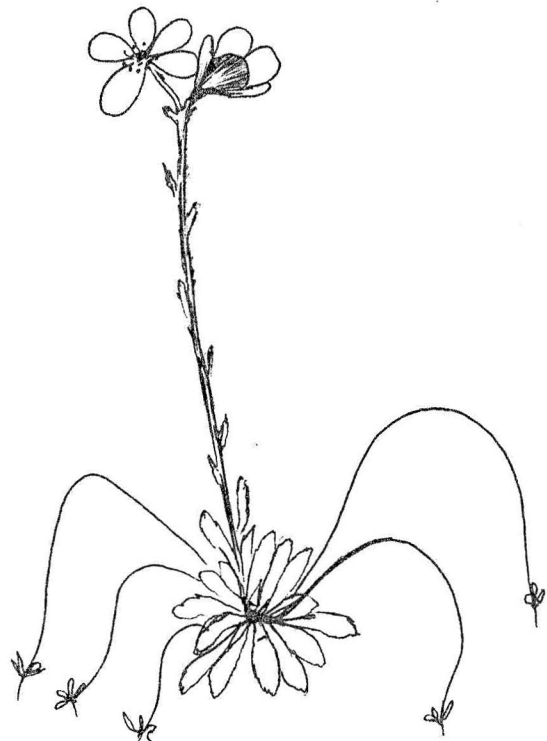
BOARD MEETING--ANCHORAGE CHAPTER--7:15PM immediately preceeding the General Meeting listed above. Board Members are: President--Verna Pratt, Vice-President--John Wenger, Secretary--Sandra Cosentino, Treasurer--Larry Haller, Programs--Debbie Brown, Mini-Botany--Lynn Catlin, Field Trips--Frank Bogardus. Board members please mark your calendars.

MEETING PROGRAM--ANCHORAGE CHAPTER

PROGRAM: The program will be "The Making of an Arboretum" presented by "AHA", the Alaska Horticulture Association. We are in a unique situation here to be able to see and be a part of the organizing and building of an Arboretum. Come learn what an Arboretum is, how it is planned, how we can help, and to see some color slides of a completed Arboretum.

PLANT FAMILY: Discussion, presented by member Larry Read, will be on the *Caprifoliaceae* or Honeysuckle family. All Alaska varieties are shrubs and trees having opposite simple or pinnate leaves. The flowers usually are 5-lobed tubular, campanulate or funnelform with 5 stamens. The flowers are perfect with an inferior ovary and the fruit is a 1-6 celled berry drupe or capsule.

MYSTERY PLANT--I am a small plant, typically less than one decimeter tall. My leaves form a basal rosette, each one is entire and spatulate, and each has a setose-ciliate margin (that is botanical language which means each leaf has a fringe of bristles!). My flowering stems are erect and glandular and bear a few small cauline leaves. Each of my flowers has 5 bright yellow petals and 10 stamens. The feature that gives me away is my habit of bearing elongate slender red stolons with a miniature of me at each tip--if you haven't figured me out yet, I'll give you a clue--if you use your imagination, my stolons look kind of like the legs of a spider!



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---

FLOWER CLASSES

ANCHORAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPRING WILDFLOWER CLASS: Biology 075

Are you interested in plants but have no background in Biology? Have you ever identified a plant and wondered if you were right?

Here's the course for you. We will have classroom exercises and illustrated lectures, and we will take three leisurely field trips in the Anchorage Area: a bog, an alpine meadow and a south facing ridge.

We offer 2 sections of this course, Alaska Wildflowers, at ACC: a day section (11:30 AM - 2:30 PM) and an evening section (6:30 - 9:30 PM). Your cost is \$25.

Both meet once a week on Wednesdays from May 8 to May 29--a perfect time to catch the early Spring flowers. The course is taught by Dr. Marilyn Barker. Register now at ACC. For more information call 786-1344.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CLASSES

"Edible and Poisonous Plants of Alaska"--Frank Bogardus

Nunaka Valley Community School; Mondays, Apr. 29, May 6, 13, 20. 7-9PM. \$6.00

"Alaskan Wildflowers"--Verna Pratt

Easy Identification of Wildflowers of the Anchorage Area

Rogers Park Community School; Thursdays, Apr. 25, May 2, 9, 16. 7-9:30PM.

Field trip-Wed. eve, May 22. \$8.00

"Edible & Poisonous Berries of Alaska"--Verna Pratt

Homestead Elementary School, Eagle River; Thursday Apr. 18. 7:30-9:30PM. No fee.

"Wildflowers of the Eagle River Area"--Verna Pratt

Eagle River Elementary School; Wed. Apr. 24. 7:30-9:30PM. No fee.

SPECIAL !!! ---DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!!

By special arrangement with the Loof Lirpa Distributing Company, ANPS members may now sign up for the soon to be published new edition of Anderson's "Flora of Alaska", at the special pre-publication price of \$10. This very limited offer good only through March 31st. To get your name on the list, call Verna at

LAST CHANCE FOR PETERSON BAY TRIP

A terrific deal on a weekend trip, July 4-6. (See last Newsletter for details). We already have 20 members signed up for this trip. If we can get a total of 30 signed up, we can have the whole place to ourselves. Deadline has been extended to April 3rd. We MUST have your reservations by then, no exceptions!

PRINT CONTEST--The winning entry in the print contest held in December was "*Dodecatheon Jeffreyi*" by Erdine Nelson. It is now in the process of being printed. This is a limited edition of 750 signed and numbered prints. The other entries that were left with the Society to be auctioned will be displayed at the Sears Mall on Saturday April 27 and Sunday April 28, during the Lawn and Garden Show. The auction will be done by "Open Bid". There will be a list with each picture where a person may write in their bid. We will also have an educational display of pressed plant samples and winter twigs, plus a sale of wildflower seeds. We need help setting up the display on Friday evening April 26 at 7 PM and taking down the display at 6 PM Sunday the 28th. We will also need help manning the booth from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM Saturday and 11:30 AM to 6:00 PM on Sunday. Anyone able to help please sign up at the April meeting or call Verna at 333-8212. Every little bit helps!

SCHOOL PROGRAM--The Wonder Park School will have their ALASKA DAY again this year on Friday April 19th, and is looking for volunteers to give a slide program of common wildflowers of the Anchorage area to elementary school age children. This is a project that we undertook last year. There will be 1/2 hour sessions at 8:40-9:10, 9:15-9:45, 10:30-11:00, 11:05-11:35, 1:15-1:45, and 2:15-2:45. We will have a prepared slide presentation with a list of the plants represented along with information about them. The program will be assembled in such a way that individual speakers can use all or part of it according to how much they embellish upon the general information.

PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS--Before going to Europe last fall, Doug Tryck made copies of some slides of Alaska Wildflowers so that he could give programs in the British Isles while studying horticulture there during the Winter. Some of these slides will be made available to the Society for the purpose of organizing programs for schools. Properly done programs of slides, teacher text and pressed plant samples could be an invaluable aid to teaching and encouraging future botanists. There are many ways we can use help; gathering plant specimens (Summer) 8 x 10 size preferable, mounting specimens (in the Fall), labeling, writing teacher texts, donating slides, etc. This will be a Fall and Winter project except for photography and plant pressing. Let's all work together to make this a super project. Most children do not have the opportunity to be fully exposed to one of Alaska's greatest assets (the flora) and we should do all that we can to help encourage them at an early age. Plans are for making up "Botanical sets" by habitats.

MYSTERY PLANT ANSWER--*Saxifraga flagellaris* Willd. subsp. *setigera* (Pursh) Tolm. (The Spider Plant)

LOTIONS, NOTIONS and POTIONS-----by Old Doc
This month let's consider a family of quite pretty little plants, the *Violaceae*. This family comprises over 200 species, widely distributed in Europe, Northern Asia, and North America. The leaves are heart-shaped, slightly downy, on stalks rising alternately from a creeping rhizome. The flowers are generally deep purple, but pale rose-colored or even white varieties exist. Violets were mentioned by Homer and Virgil. They were used in ancient Greek medicine "to moderate anger", to procure sleep, and "to comfort and strengthen the heart". A wine made from the flowers of Sweet Violet was much used by the Romans. Syrup of Violets was widely used in English medicine until the 1930s; and is, I believe, still included in the British Pharmacopoeia. It is used as a laxative. In ancient medicine it was used for: epilepsy, sleeplessness, jaundice, and for "ripening and dissolving swellings". The latter usage probably has some merit because Violets contain an acrid principle named violin or violine. Because of this acrid quality the extracted juice of violets may well help to draw out boils, and treat other skin troubles such as impetigo, ulcers, and psoriasis.....

Be sure not to miss this column in the next newsletter, when Old Doc will present the most important article yet published in this newsletter!

BIRD CLASS--If you enjoy being in the field around plants but wanted to know more about the birds out there, here is an opportunity. The Wasilla Community Schools is sponsoring, **THE BIRDS OF ALASKA** by naturalist/wildlife biologist, John Wenger. This course is designed to provide field instruction and experience to those interested in learning the birds of Alaska. Information will be both general and specific so anyone, regardless of background who desires to learn more about birds, may attend and benefit. The course consists of informal and enjoyable outings to Mat-Su Valley "hotspots". Instruction will concentrate in the identification of local species by learning to recognize individual and group "field marks" and behavioral actions. Several early morning canoe trips will emphasize calls and/or songs. Additional topics will include the migration, habitat needs, territories, nesting, classification, and characteristics of our Alaskan species. There is a 25 student limit. Starts 28 April, 0700 AM - 0300 PM for seven Sundays. Fee is \$35. Contact 745-4822 (Wasilla Community Schools) for details, or you can register directly in Anchorage by calling John at

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