

1985

Next meeting
Monday Dec. 2 8:00pm
Rm 103
Wendler J. High School



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

OCTOBER MEETING--ANCHORAGE CHAPTER--ANNUAL FALL POTLUCK DINNER AND SLIDE SHOW--Monday, October 7th, 1985 at 6:30PM in the Multipurpose room at Wendler Junior High School, corner of Lake Otis and Northern Lights. Bring a dish to serve twice the number in your party. We will supply plates, utensils and beverages. Guests are welcome.

Bring color slides (maximum 10) of something special that you have seen on your Summer excursions, or perhaps you have a slide of an unidentified plant.

NOMINATIONS--The Nominating Committee is searching for new candidates for officers of the Anchorage Chapter. Please be cooperative when you are called. Let's spread out the chores and keep our society humming. We've come a long way in only 3 years and need to branch out.

WILDFLOWER PRINT--This is the winner of our first annual wildflower print contest. They are 8x10" color prints, and are individually signed by the artist. They sell for \$15 in stores, and \$10 to ANPS members thru the Society. Add \$1 for postage or pick yours up at the meetings. Would someone in Fairbanks like to handle initial distribution to the stores there? Contact through the mails would be sufficient once established.



ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

This is the first Alaskan Wildflower print to be released by the Alaska Native Plant Society. Artists are encouraged to participate in the yearly contest, to be held in early fall each year. Information concerning the contest or activities of the group may be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address.

Dodecatheon Jeffreyi

— Van Houte
The bright early blooms of shooting stars with their reflexed petals are a familiar sight throughout most of Alaska except the extreme arctic coast, some southwestern coastal areas and parts of the Aleutian chain. There are three species in Alaska and they are found growing in wet meadows from sea level to about 1,700 meters. Jeffreyi is usually found in coastal areas of Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. Two of its common characteristics are its pale colored roots, and short flower stem in proportion to its leaves.

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Erdine Nelson is a long-time Alaskan resident; coming to Sitka from the Puget Sound area in the late 1930's. It was, while working in the Accounting Department of The Alaska Lumber and Pulp Mill that she got her start in the field of art. During her lunch time, she would "slip out" and sketch, and eventually worked in many mediums — charcoal, oil, acrylic and watercolor. Because of the difficulty in obtaining artists supplies in Sitka, she, and other artists, opened an art supply store. In 1977, she moved to Anchorage, and is probably best known for her original watercolors of birds and wildflowers. Presently, she has 5 prints of her own of Alaskan Wildflowers on the market.

FIELD TRIPS--Despite rather unfavorable weather, most of our Summer, field trips went off as scheduled and were well attended. Thank all of you for being patient as the flowers were about 2 weeks behind schedule which made for a few disappointments.

THE WHITTIER TRIP--May 19--was cancelled due to unusually deep snow at the time. **BONNIE LAKE**--search for the pink dandelion was not successful, but we now know the approximate area and will return next year. **THE PETERSON BAY TRIP**--was superb and attended by 31 members and guests who stayed at the China Poot Bay Society Bldg. (Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies). Jan & Ed Schofield, volunteer guides for the China Poot Bay Society spent the weekend guiding us around the peninsula and supplied a delicious rice, seafood, and wild plant dish to accompany our clam chowder. Jan & Ed are now members of ANPS. They live near Seldovia in the Summer, and in Homer in the winter. Jan is very interested in edible and medicinal plants and makes a few concoctions of her own. **MUSHROOM TRIP**--timing was perfect, as we had a beautiful August day, and over 30 varieties were identified.

ANNUAL MEETING--Our Annual Meeting, held this year at Tangle Lakes, was enjoyable despite the late breakup. The campground entrance road was blocked by a snowdrift, so we camped near the entrance! Beth Walton, a guest, and archeologist with BLM led a field trip informing us of the archeological sights in that area and their significance. One evening was spent talking to a bus load of college ^{STUDENTS} from the Institute for Field Studies of Northeastern University. They were passing thru the area going to McKinley Park for a presentation by ANPS member, Tass Kelso.

WOW ! A new plant discovery for Alaska (*Douglasia laebeulsis*) was made near Crescent Lake on the Kenai Peninsula. Sounds like a place for a field trip next year about mid-June, as specimens need to be collected for verification.

HATCHER PASS--ANPS member, Sandra Cosentino, who is working on the Hatcher Pass management study for the Ak. Dept. of Natural Resources, recently led a field trip of interested botanists, biologists and geologists over the road, compiling information from all. Plans are for pull-offs with interpretive signs. There will be a need for Alaskan native plants seeds to revegetate the disturbed areas. Sandra will accept all donations. Perhaps we can get an overall highway revegetation program started.

FAIRBANKS CHAPTER ?--Where are you? Despite the fact that applications for chapter organization were mailed to several people in Fairbanks this Spring, none has been returned to the Society to this date. Is anyone working, or willing to work, on formation of a chapter in Fairbanks?

PLANT QUIZ ANSWER--Strawberry Spinach, Strawberry Blite, (*Chenopodium capitatum*).

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---

STICKERS--Our ANPS Stickers have arrived and are on sale to members for \$0.75 ea. If ordering by mail, add \$0.25 for postage for up to 4, or \$0.50 for postage for more than four.

PATCHES--Shoulder (or backpack, or whatever) patches with the same design as the stickers have been ordered, but have not arrived as of newsletter press time. Hopefully, they will show up prior to the meeting. Price has not been established.



MYSTERY PLANT--This is an annual common in dry roadside and waste areas in interior Alaska. Its leaves are edible, raw or cooked, and taste much like its cousin, a common garden vegetable. Its flowers are in round bunches looking much like red berries which can be used to make a delicately flavored jelly or pancake syrup.



FLOWER POWER

NATURE'S SOLAR GENERATORS

by Marilyn Barker

Even before solar power gained popularity, millions of flowers were in the business of trapping solar energy and converting it to heat. Actually, plants use sunlight for a dual purpose. First, they use the energy of the sun to power photosynthesis (a sugar making process); and, second, they use the sun's energy to increase their own internal temperature.

Many flowers in the arctic regions are designed to gather an extra large portion of solar energy. Saucer-shaped flowers such as poppies, buttercups and avens (to name a few) have a parabolic shape which focuses heat energy toward the center of the flower. In appearance, the flower suggests a miniature radar antenna. Some of these flowers are programmed to actively follow the sun in the manner of a radio telescope. The tracking activity concentrates heat on the reproductive organs in the center of the flower allowing the flower to mature and develop seeds at an accelerated rate.

On sunny days poppies follow the sun a full 24 hours, tracking at the rate of 15 degrees of arc per hour. Temperature differences of 7 degrees Centigrade between the flower and ambient air temperature are common and botanists have measured differences as great as 25 degrees C! If all the petals are removed from "sun-tracker plants" there is no measurable difference between air and flower temperatures. Likewise, on a cloudy overcast day, flower temperature and air temperature are basically the same. The petals of sun-trackers generally persist several days beyond pollination in the arctic, maintaining a high thermostat setting for the development of seeds.

In addition to the accelerated maturation of the flowers, the flower "hot spots" attract pollinating insects. As the insects bask in the flower, they become pre-heated thus speeding their own development and warming them for flight. Thus pollination of the flower is insured. Flowers which act as solar heaters, combining special flower shape and a sun-tracking mechanism, have an advantage over other plants. Their heat attracts potential pollinators and speeds up their own (and the insects) maturation. They can effectively increase their growing season by 25%.

The arctic is covered with millions of miniature sun-trackers, each one turning to follow the sun, each one designed to optimize available energy from the sun. Each one designed to give its flower a slight advantage over its neighbor.

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
TREASURERS REPORT
YEAR-TO-DATE

AUGUST 31, 1985

Opening Balance, 1/1/85 \$1,779.86

Receipts

Membership Dues	\$ 665.00
Sale of Native Plant Seeds	87.25
Sale of Original Artwork	67.00
Sale of 1985 First Annual Print	299.00
Sale of Decals	<u>2.25</u>

1,120.50

Disbursements

Officer Administrative Supplies	\$ 7.67
Postage	117.21
Post Office Box Rent	29.00
First Annual Print	1,480.00
Business License	25.00
Decals/Patches	<u>550.60</u>

(2,209.48)

Balance, 8/31/85 \$ 690.88

There are 105 paid members at 8/31/85