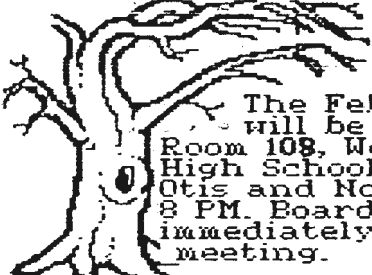


Alaska Native Plant Society

P.O. BOX 141613, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99514

FEBRUARY 1985

FEBRUARY MEETING



The February meeting will be Mon. Feb 3rd in Room 108, Wendler Junior High School, corner of Lake Otis and Northern Lts. at 8 PM. Board meeting at 7:15 immediately prior to general meeting.

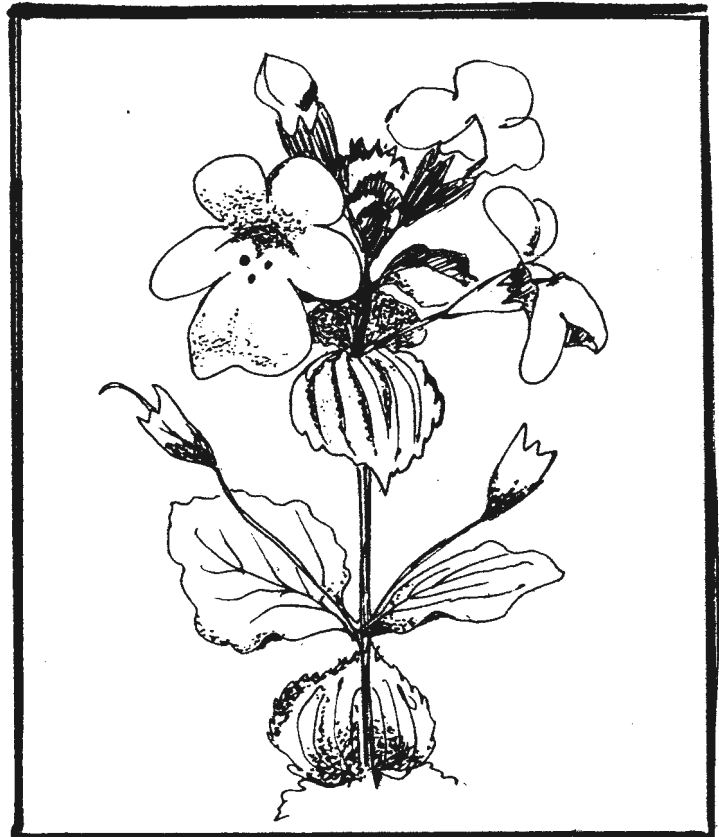
SPEAKER: Pete Scorup, Research Associate with Agriculture and Forest Experiment station in Palmer. Pete's had many years experience in a Vegetation inventory of the Reindeer Range of the Seward Peninsula. Program coordinated by Soil Conser. Corp

DISCUSSION: The plant family to be discussed is the *Violaceae* or Violet family. The 1st thing that probably comes to mind is fragrant five-petal irregular purple flowers born on small plants with heart-shaped leaves. Most in Alaska have heart-shaped or reniform leaves (more rounded at apex), that are finely toothed on the margins. The stems, leaves and flowers are edible and very tasty. Flowers have 5 sepals, 5 petals (the lower one larger and extending back into a spur), 5 stamens and 1 pistil with a 3-loculed ovary. In Alaska there are 2 violet or purple varieties, 1 lavender, 1 white and 3 yellow.

SEEDS: If you have seeds for our seed exchange, please bring them to the February meeting or make arrangements for Cathy Wright to receive them. Cathy will give a mini-program on seed preparation and we will have a workshop on preparing and packaging our wildflower seeds. If you have a cookie sheet (with sides), and a fine soil sifter, bring them with you.

THANKS: Many thanks to those who responded to our plea for input to the newsletter. Keep the articles coming-----it's just great!!!

MYSTERY PLANT: The Mystery plant this month is rather decumbent sprawling on the ground on wet, rocky slopes and on the edges of streams. The upright portion can be 6"-10" high with toothed, ovate leaves that are placed opposite each other on the stems. The lower leaves have short petioles (stems) and the upper are sessile (stemless) and reduced in size. The 5-lobed calyx is tubular encasing the base of bright yellow 1"-1.5" long, 2-petaled corolla (colorful portion of flower). The upper petal (lip) is 2-lobed, the lower 3-lobed and longer. The petals are joined together and have red spots in the throat of the tube. It has 1 pistil and 4 stamens. It is mostly a coastal plant, but is occasionally found in interior Alaska. A similar species with pink to purple flowers is found in British Columbia and extreme Southeastern Alaska.



1985-86 STATE OFFICERS ARE:
 President-----Verna Pratt-----
 Vice-President--Marilyn Barker----
 Secretary-----Charlu Choate-----
 Treasurer-----Larry Haller-----;

Newsletter----Frank Pratt-----

HELP! HELP! HELP!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

We need your help! The Alaska Native Plant Society needs \$1100 by February 5th to pay for printing costs of our second wildflower print. How can you help? Two ways. Please RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! Send your check to: ANPS, Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514, or pay at the Feb 3rd. meeting. ***** AND*****If you've been meaning to buy a print of our 1st winner, the beautiful Shooting Star, don't wait any longer. Buy one today! Buy 2! They make great Valentine's gifts. Or pre-order our 2nd print, the Dogwood. Specify your choice. Print are also available at ANPS meetings for \$10 to members.

BOOK REVIEW-by Verna Pratt

PLANT LORE OF AN ALASKAN ISLAND
 by Frances Kelso Graham. This new book, copyright 1985 (of about 200 pages) is an interesting compilation of material from various sources on edible, herbal and other uses of local plants.

Spruce Island lies just offshore from Kodiak Island to the NE and just South of Afognak Island. The book contains good drawings of the plants, their botanical and common names in English, Aleut and Russian, easy to read descriptions, plant uses, and recipes.

Many of the recipes in this book are by courtesy of the local people, while some are quoted as copied from well-known publications.

A good book for your personal Alaska Book Library. It sells for \$9.95 and is available at local book stores.

AWARD: Wildflower Rediscovery Award. The American Horticulture Society presented 5 awards in October 1985, to persons who rediscovered or found new populations of extremely rare species of plants. If any readers have been fortunate enough to have made such a discovery, contact us. We have written for more information on this matter. The program is in its 3rd year of existence.



LOTIONS, NOTIONS, AND POTIONS—by Old Doc

Our information this month was extracted from several sources, one of which was "Plant Lore of an Alaskan Island" reviewed in this news-letter.

Fir Club Moss (also known as Spike Moss and Christmas Greens) is known to botanists as Lycopodium selago.

What we know as a low-growing perennial grew to the size of trees in prehistoric times. It is closer to a fern than a true moss. It grows in woods and grasslands. Its branches look like miniature spruce boughs, and the tips have ends like tiny clubs. **WARNING:** All parts of this plant are poisonous if taken internally! A powder made from the spores has been used to stop nosebleeds and bleeding from wounds. In times past,



pills were rolled in this spore dust to keep them from sticking together (hence, pharmacist=pill-roller). It was quite likely the "cloth of gold" used by Bruuds to ward off black magic.

QUIZ ANSWER: Mimulus guttatus (Monkey Flower or Wild Snapdragon)

"SONG"

The year's at the spring
 And day's at the morn;
 Morning's at seven;
 The hill-side's dew-pearled;
 The lark's on the wing;
 The snail's on the thorn;
 God's in His heaven---
 All's right with the world!

Robert Browning

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA TREES AND THEIR USES
submitted by Lynn Catlin

This month the Spruces;

WHITE SPRUCE *Picea glauca* - White spruce is an important tree for wildlife; red squirrels eat the seeds, as do crossbills and ptarmigan, porcupines eat the sweet bark and sapwood, and bears will sometimes claw at the bark in order to reach the sweet sapwood which they too will eat. Native Americans use white spruce roots in a number of ways, including basket weaving, tying snowshoes together, and as fasteners in the construction of birch bark canoes. The resin from white spruce provided Native Americans with the first chewing gum. White spruce is used as timber for rough lumber and for pulp.

BLACK SPRUCE *Picea mariana* - Black spruce is less important to wildlife as food, than is white spruce. However birds and squirrels still eat the seeds. It's a bad sign when moose are seen foraging on black spruce boughs. This is a sign that better food is unavailable and that the moose is probably starving. Black spruce, along with white, can be made into a tea by boiling the needles in water. This was used to prevent scurvy and was also made into spruce beer by adding molasses or honey or maple sugar and letting the mixture ferment. The high vitamin C content of the needles is responsible for the scurvy cure. Because black spruce is so slow growing and small (a 75 yr. old tree may be only a few inches in diameter!) it is not use for timber, and rarely for pulp.

SITKA SPRUCE *Picea sitchensis* - Sitka spruce also provides food for wildlife; birds, squirrels, mice and shrews feast on its seeds. The light resilient wood of Sitka spruce is used for aircraft wings, sound- ing boards in musical instruments, as well as for plywood and for rough lumber. This tree also has the honor of being Alaska's state tree.

STATE PARK programs you might enjoy;

SUNDAY	SKI WITH A RANGER	ARCTIC VALLEY CIVILIAN SKI
FEBRUARY 9		AREA
11 AM-3 PM		

This will be a Ranger-guided half-day (3-4 hours, 5-6 miles round trip) ski tour over moderately difficult terrain up to the saddle overlooking the South Fork of Eagle River. We'll discuss whatever topics you'd like, to help you respect and enjoy the winter wilderness of Chugach. Intermediate level skiing ability is required. Families welcome. Bring a lunch and beverage.

SUNDAY	SNOW, FROST & FLAKES	EAGLE RIVER VISITOR CENTER
FEBRUARY 16		Mile 12 Eagle River Road
1-3 PM		

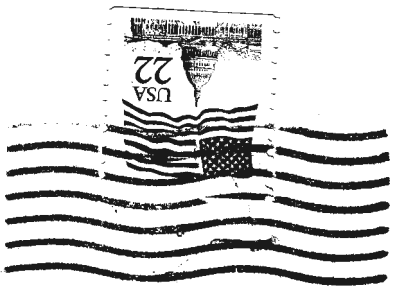
Explore the world of snow and ice, from the warmth inside a snow cave to the beauty of a single flake. Learn how to preserve snow crystals and take some home!

SATURDAY	SKI WITH A RANGER	EAGLE RIVER VISITOR CENTER
FEBRUARY 22		Mile 12 Eagle River Road
12:30-4 PM		

This will be a Ranger-guided 3 mile round trip, moderate difficulty ski tour in Eagle River Valley. Families welcome. Bring a snack and beverage, and dress warm!

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
TREASURERS REPORT
DECEMBER 31, 1985

Opening Balance, 1/1/85		\$1,779.86
<u>Receipts</u>		
Membership Dues	\$ 805.00	
Sale of Native Plant Seeds	87.25	
Sale of Original Art	177.00	
Sale of First Annual 1985 Prints	412.50	
Sale of Decal Stickers	18.00	
Sale of Sew-On Patches	30.00	
Contributions	5.00	
Prepaid Postage; Sales Items	8.50	
		1,543.25
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Administrative Supplies/Postage	\$ 78.51	
Newsletter Postage	163.00	
Post Office Box Rent	29.00	
First Annual 1985 Prints (750)	1,480.00	
Business License	25.00	
Decal Stickers (1,000)	222.68	
Sew-On Patches (517)	343.97	
One-half of Revenue from Sale of 1985 Original Art	88.50	
Postage; Sales Items	8.10	
		(2,438.76)
Closing Balance, 12/31/85		\$ 884.35
There are 110 paid members at 12/31/85		



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