



P.O. Box 8737 Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
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**MEETING NEWS**

The November meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be on Monday, November 3, 1986, at 8PM in the basement meeting room of Grandview Gardens Library, 1325 Primrose (Just south of DeBarr and 1 block west of Bragaw). Entrance is on the west side, facing Primrose.

**BOARD MEETING---**7:15PM immediately preceding the general meeting.

**SPEAKER---**New ANPS member, photographer Steve Johnson, will present Flowers of Interior Alaska and Their Healing and Food Uses.

**PLANT FAMILY---**discussion will be on the Mint/LAMIACEAE family. This family is represented in Alaska by many introduced genera plus Scutellaria, Prunella, Stachys, Lycopus and Mentha. These aromatic herbs usually have square stems and simple leaves which are placed opposite on the stems or in whorls. The irregular flowers have 5 united petals. Two are joined together at the top like a hood and the 3 lower ones joined like a lobed lip. These flowers are in whorls or placed close to the main stem. They have 2 or 4 stamens joined at the middle of the petals and 2 united carpels (4-lobed). The fruit is usually 4 nutlets, occasionally a drupe.

**1985-86 STATE OFFICERS ARE:**

- President-----Verna Pratt-----
- Vice-President----Marilyn Barker-----
- Secretary-----Charlu Choate-----
- Treasurer-----Larry Haller-----
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- Newsletter-----Frank Pratt-----

**1986 ANCHORAGE CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS ARE:**

- President-----Lynn Catlin-----
- Vice-President-----Doug Tryck-----
- Secretary-----Peggy Pletcher-----
- Treasurer-----Larry Haller-----
- Representative to State Board-----Frank Bogardus-----
- General Program Chairperson-----Debbie Brown-----
- Educational Programming-----Debbie Brown-----
- Field Trips-----Frank Bogardus-----

**ELECTION NOTICE**

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate of officers for the Anchorage Chapter for 1987. Voting will take place at the November meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted prior to the voting.

- President-----Lynne Catlin
- Vice-President-----John Wenger
- Secretary-----Peggy Pletcher
- Treasurer-----Larry Haller

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**MYSTERY PLANT**

This plant arises from a stout root stalk and has many hairy shallowly-lobed, broad cordate (kidney-shaped) basal leaves. The hairy flowering stalk is 15" to 24" tall and has a few slightly reduced leaves and a long spike of small greenish-white, very fragrant flowers. The flowers have 5 sepals, 5 petals, and 10 stamens and turn reddish-brown as they mature. This plant is found in very moist rocky wooded coastal areas of southeastern and southcentral Alaska and the Aleutian Chain.



## TRAVEL INFO

If you are travelling this winter season, here are some possibilities to see unusual plants:

(1) In the California Desert is a 17 acre plot of land that was purchased by environmental organizations and local garden clubs. It is the home of the "King Clone" Creosote Bush. This plant, which was studied by botanist Frank Vasek in 1974, was estimated to be 11,700 years old, which makes it the oldest plant ever discovered. A clone is an exact copy of the original. As the seedling of this plant grows, it develops a "crown" which sprouts many branches. Over 40-90 years these branches develop roots of their own and the main crown dies leaving a ring of many plants around it that have the same genetic makeup as the original plant.

(2) In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. It is locally known as "The Domes" and has 3 beehive-like structures. It was designed by Donald Grieb. The glass and aluminum structure has a unique system for draining off dirt, snow and condensation making it a valuable year round house for trees, grasses and plants from all over the world. It is the only structure of its kind in the world. It has been in operation since 1964 and has over 600 varieties of plants. The Arid Dome resembles a painted desert. The Tropical Dome has exotic plants and trees of warm climates, and the Show Dome is changed 5 times a year to display a variety of flowers and trees. A welcome change in the dead of winter.

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## FIELD TRIP

Campbell Airfield Road---Saturday, November 1st, at 10AM. Meeting place is SW corner of Bldg. K Parking Lot at ACC (corner of Lake Otis and 36th Ave.).

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## !!! HELP !!!

It's time to start planning next season's field trips. please let us know if you wish to lead us to a nice area, or if you have any suggestions. Is there someone in Fairbanks who would lead a trip there??? We now have about 20 members in that area.

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## QUIZ ANSWER

Fringe Cups, Tellima grandiflora

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## LOTIONS, NOTIONS and POTIONS

by Old Doc

Don't believe that I've heard this one mentioned in a while, so let's take a quick look at Bistort (Polygonum bistorta). The latin name bistorta means twice twisted (or S-shaped) and refers to the character of the root stock. Also called Twice-Writhen, Snake Weed, and Adderwort. A traditional Easter pudding was made in Lancashire and Cumberland from the young leaves of Bistort and Nettle, chopped with oatmeal and barley and boiled in a bag; eggs and butter were beaten in before the pudding was served. Bistort was formerly cultivated in Britain as a wound-herb and as a green vegetable. The root contains tannic and gallic acids in large amounts, making it one of the strongest vegetable astringents known. It is also used for tanning leather. The root is very rich in starch, and in times of famine it was dried and ground for flour. A side benefit, it is said, was that its astringent properties would shrink the intestines and reduce the amount of food required.

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## !!! HELP !!!

Here's another plea for help. This issue of the newsletter was prepared by your newsletter staff.....consisting of VP & FP.....with help from \_\_\_\_\_. That's right, all 0 of you.

Why not get your name inserted in the blank space above for the next newsletter. Write a short article on any subject relating to the plant world. It really doesn't take much time and would be sincerely appreciated. Get it to the editor by the 15th of November. If you don't, the next newsletter may well be a meeting notice printed on postcard stock!!!! So, PLEASE!