

# BOREALIS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED OCTOBER THROUGH MAY BY THE



P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, Ak. 99514

## MEETING NEWS

The March meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be on Monday, March 2nd at 8PM in the basement meeting room of the Grandview Gardens Library, on Primrose (just west of Bragaw and south of DeBarr). Entrance on Primrose (west) side.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING---7:15PM immediately preceeding the general meeting.

SPEAKER---By special arrangement with the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center in Philadelphia, our speaker will be ANPS member Lynn Catlin (see Lynn for details). Her presentation, "Old Friends--Distant Relatives", is a study of Alaskan plants and their relatives. Which Alaskan wildflowers grow in "the lower 48" and which ones have close relatives there.

PLANT FAMILY---Jon Snyder will present a discussion on the Crassulaceae or Stonecrop family. Alaska has 2 genera and 4 species in this succulent family. The leaves, which may be opposite or alternate, are simple and fleshy. The flowers are usually perfect with a calyx of 4 or 5 sepals, the same number of petals, and twice as many stamens. The ovary is superior with 3 to many separate carpels subtended by a glandular scale.

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## GO FOR IT, JOHN!

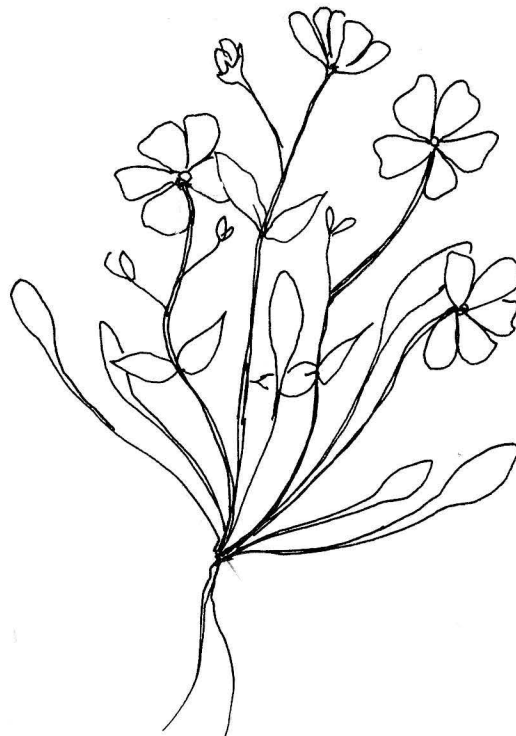
By the time this newsletter reaches you, Anchorage Chapter President, John Wenger, will be once again (he just came back) basking in sunny Hawaii! He has been invited to join a natural history tour group, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, to tour the Hawaiian Islands. They arrange tours throughout the world for museums, zoos, and conservation organizations. If John measures up to their expectations, he may be leading some tours next year for them. Good Luck and have fun, John.

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## MYSTERY PLANT

I belong to a plant family which has 20 genera and 200 species. Most of the members of my family are on the North American continent. In Alaska there are just 3 genera and 13 species. All of us have the odd characteristic of having 5 (4-6) petals and only 2 sepals. I should add at this point that recent studies indicate that my sepals are actually bracts and that my corolla is a uniseriate perianth of sepals. I typically have 5 stamens and these are placed opposite my "petals". I have 1 pistil which has 1 chamber. My seeds are born on a free central placenta.

You have probably figured out my family by now, so let me give you a clue about my species. I have a filiform root stock with filiform runners and several petiolate basal leaves shaped like spatulas. I have 2 opposite stem leaves which are sessile and produce a raceme of 1 to 5 flowers. My flowers are white or rose colored.



#### 1987-88 STATE OFFICERS ARE:

President-----Verna Pratt-----  
Vice-President-----Marilyn Barker-----  
Secretary-----Charlu Choate-----  
Treasurer-----Larry Haller-----  
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Newsletter-----Frank Pratt-----  
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#### 1987 ANCHORAGE CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

President-----John Wenger-----  
Vice-President-----Sandy Underwood-----  
Secretary-----Peggy Pletcher-----  
Treasurer-----Larry Haller-----  
Representative to State Board-----Frank Bogardus-----  
General Program Chairperson-----Lynn Catlin-----  
Educational Programming-----Lynn Catlin-----  
Field Trips-----Frank Pratt-----  
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#### WOW ! ! ! !

Did you really read that!!! Read it again!!! Look who's back!!! Welcome back, Lynn!!!

#### FIELD TRIP

Saturday, March 21st, 9:45AM meet at Safeway Parking Lot, corner of Boniface and Northern Lights Blvd. on the west side of the building.

We will visit a wooded area on the east end of Anchorage. If we have a lot of new snow, you may want to bring skis.

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#### FLOWER CLASSES

"Easy Identification of Wildflowers", Instructor--Verna Pratt. Rogers Park Community School, Tuesday evenings, Apr. 28, May 5, 12, 19, 7 to 9:30PM. Includes 2 field trips--Monday evening, May 18 and Wednesday evening, May 20. Cost \$8.00 plus Community School Fee.

"Alaska Wildflowers"-(Biology-075), Anchorage Community College, Instructor--Dr. Marilyn Barker. Are you interested in plants but have no background in biology? Have you ever identified a plant and wondered if you were right? Here is a course designed for you! One college credit, 3 field trips (a bog, an alpine meadow, a south facing ridge), 4 illustrated lectures, meets 4 Tuesdays in May plus one all-day weekend field trip. Two sections are offered: Day---9:30AM to 1:00PM and Evening---6:30PM to 10:00PM. For more details of registration, call Marilyn Barker or Nancy Pierson at: 786-1344.

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#### NEW BOOKS, ETC.

"Wild Orchids of the Middle Atlantic States" by Oscar W. Gutton describes 52 species in non-technical terms and has a color photograph of each taken in the field. Price is \$12.50 from University of Tennessee Press, 293 Communications Bldg., Knoxville, Tenn. 37996-0325.

"Common Arctic Wildflowers of the Northwest Territories", a new pamphlet written and illustrated in color by Dr. Sylvia Edlund. Dr. Edlund is a Canadian botanist who has spent 15 field seasons in the Arctic. Much of her time was spent correlating vegetation with surface geology. To help her geological colleagues, she developed this pamphlet which shows 58 common plants, life-size and in color. For each plant there is a colored diagram and a brief description that includes important recognition characteristics, habitat and time of blooming. Available free of charge from: Mrs. Judy Wilson, Director, Regional Communication Services, INAC, Box 1500, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada X1A2R3.

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LOTIONS, NOTIONS AND POTIONS  
by Old Doc

This month we'll take a look at Silverweed or Potentilla anserina. One of the commonest of the Potentillas, it is found throughout much of Alaska. It favors most kinds of soils, and is spread by means of long, creeping runners. The leaves are covered on both sides by a silky, white down of soft hairs, hence the name of Silverweed. The leaves are 2-5 inches long, much cut or divided, interruptedly pinnate (divided into 12-15 pairs of oval, toothed leaflets along the midrib, each pair being separated by a shorter pair all the way up).

The buttercup-like flowers bloom from early spring to late autumn and are carried on long stalks from the axils of the leaves on the slender runners. They are large with 5 petals of a brilliant yellow color.

The generic name, Potentilla, is derived from the Latin adjective, potens, powerful in allusion to the medicinal properties of some of the species.

All parts of the plant contain tannin. In modern herbal medicine, the whole herb is used, dried, for its mildly astringent and tonic action. It is said that an infusion, sweetened with honey, constitutes an excellent gargle for sore throat. It has been used as a remedy for cramps in the stomach and abdomen.

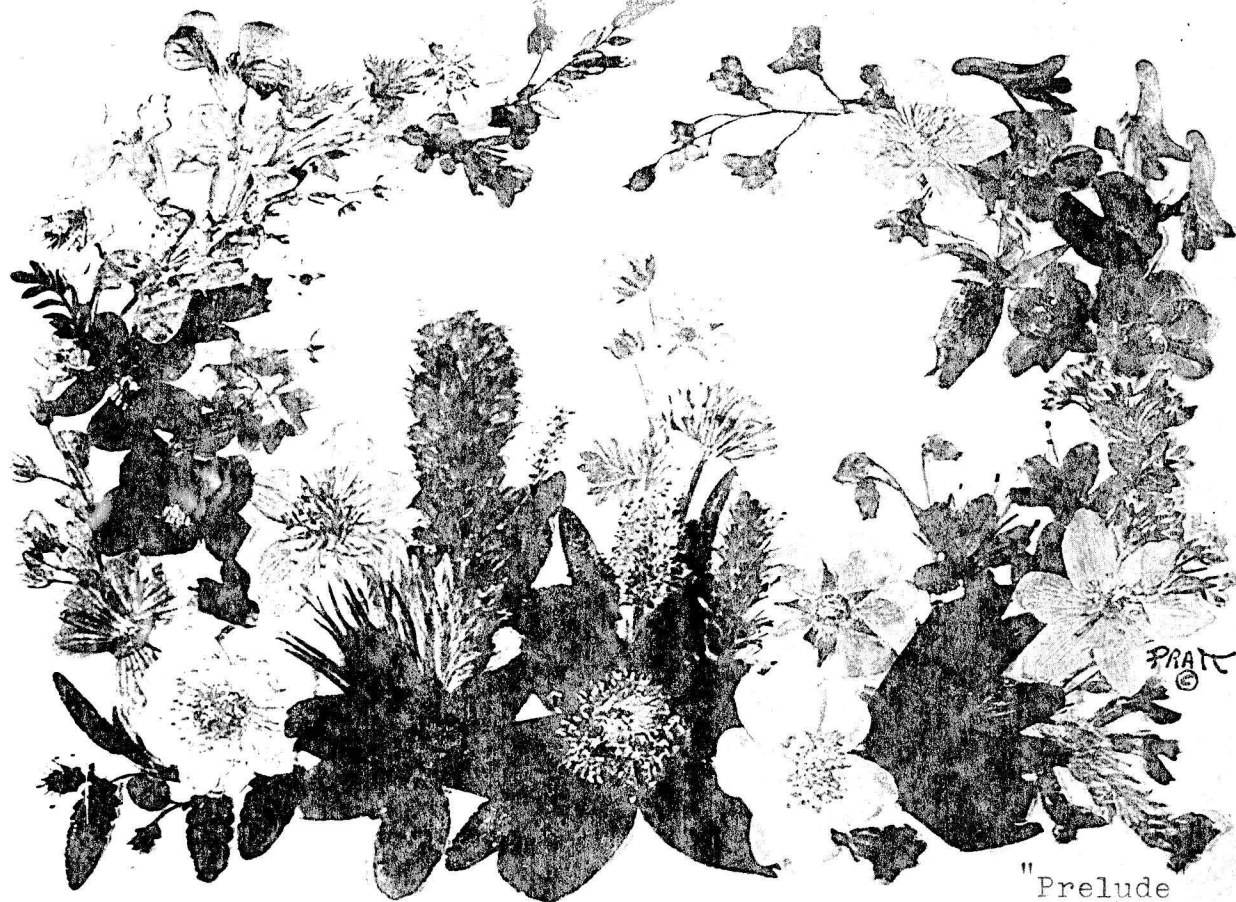
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#### MEETING SPEAKERS

April Meeting---Speaker will be Dr. Bart Sveinbjornsson, University of Alaska, Anchorage. His topic will be: "Tree Limit in Alaska".

May Meeting---Speaker will be Dr. David F. Murray, Curator of the Museum, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. His topic will be: "New Update on Rare and Endangered Plants of Alaska".

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"Prelude"

NEW

"Symphony of Summer Flowers" a 4 card series  
 "Prelude"; above;--"Rhapsody"; featuring a rose at the base---  
 "Encore"; a vertical featuring Wild Geranium and Monkshood---  
 "Finale"; a vertical, below with Fall foliage and fireweed.  
 Price \$1.25 each.

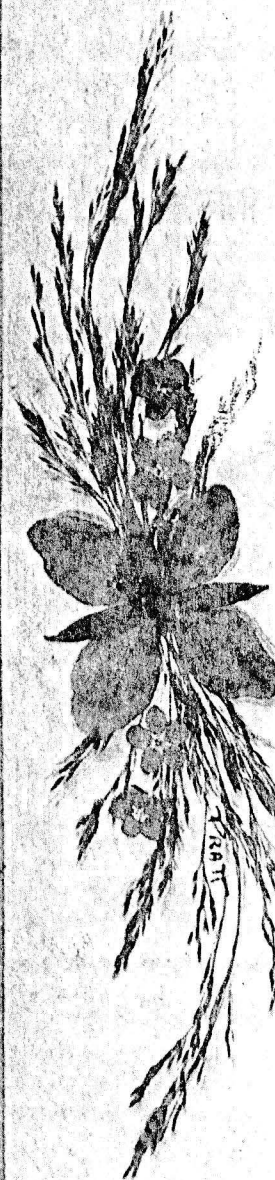
Four Bookmark designs---Dwarf Fireweed, right---Rose---Tall  
 Jacobs Ladder---and a forget-me-not cross. Price \$1.50 each  
 Book-marks are laminated for durability.

"Encore"



Alaskan  
 Wildflower  
 Designs  
 by  
 ALASKAKRAFTS  
 7446 E. 20th  
 Anchorage  
 Ak. 99504

Dwarf  
 Fireweed



A Paid Ad.

## SEED SALE

There will be no seed sale/exchange this year because of lack of any input.

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## QUIZ ANSWER

*Claytonia sarmentosa* C.A. Mey., Spring Beauty

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## NEWSLETTER NAME

The winner of our "Name the Newsletter" contest with the name "Borealis" is ANPS member Dr. Robert F. Glock of Tacoma. Congratulations! Your certificate will be mailed soon.

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## ADVERTISING

The Board of Directors encourages advertisements in the newsletter. All advertisements must be related to Native plants, and the Board retains the final authority on suitability. The cost of advertising (per issue) is \$15 for full-page, \$8 for half-page, \$5.00 for 1/4 page, and \$2.50 for 1/8 page. Because the Society is an educational organization, persons presenting classes on Native flora through an accredited educational facility will be allowed free notice of same in the newsletter.

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## FIELD TRIPS

Tentative schedule for summer field trips follows. Most dates are not firm and we are still open to new ideas.

VICTORY BIBLE CAMP AREA---Mid-May, weekend of 16th-17th, fossil area. Leader-Scott Christy.

NANCY LAKE---Monday, May 25th, Memorial Day (FIRM DATE). Leader-John Wenger.

NEAR POINT---Sunday, May 31st, from Stuckagain Inn.

CHUGACH MTS.---Saturday, June 6th.

FAIRBANKS AREA---sometime in June 7-13th period. How about somebody in the Fairbanks area volunteering to lead a trip. Donnelly Dome, perhaps, or Eagle Summit?

CRESCENT LAKE---Saturday, June 20th and/or Sunday, June 21st. Fly-in.

MENTASTA---Saturday, June 27th. 10AM. Explore limestone ridge Interesting rock cliffs. Leader-Scott Christy.

CURRY RIDGE---July 4th weekend (FIRM DATE). 3 or 4 days of backpacking.

?????????---Saturday, July 11th. Great weekend for somebody to lead a trip.

COEUR d'ALENE CAMPGROUND, Hope Area---Saturday, Aug. 1st and Sunday Aug. 2nd. Beautiful hiking area. Tent camping.

KNIK GLACIER---(Requested by a member) Saturday, Aug. 8th and/or Sunday, Aug. 9th. Any volunteers to lead the way?

MUSHROOM TRIP---Saturday, Aug. 22nd.

MUSHROOM TRIP---Saturday, Sep. 5th.

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