

BOREALIS

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Alaska Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514

MEETING NEWS

The October meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be on Monday, October 5th, at 6:30PM in the basement meeting room of the 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—There will be no Board of Directors meeting due to the early meeting hour.

PROGRAM—This is our 1st meeting of the fall 1987 season and our annual potluck supper. Bring your family and friends, and a dish to serve twice the number of people in your party. We will supply hot drinks, lemonade, paper plates, and plastic tableware. If you desire more durable items, you are welcome to bring your own. Bring up to 10 color slides of plants or summer activities that you would like to show us. This makes an enjoyable evening for all.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

7—Rock glacier near Victory Bible Camp—a fantastic geological study and display of early plants emerging on a beautiful day. Calypso orchids and Purple Mt. Saxifrage were the highlights of the day.

May 19—Johnson Trail—a large group turned out for this familiar, but nice, trail for any season.

May 25—Nancy Lake—John Wenger's annual trip drew a crowd, as it always does.

May 31—Lazy Mt.—they're wrong, it's no lazy mountain! In the scree slopes at the top we saw *Ranunculus gelidus* and *Papaver alboroseum*.

Jun 9—Beach Lake—fighting the new batch of mosquitoes was the call of the evening.

Jun 20—Crescent Lake—Cancelled due to inclement flying weather. Thanks anyway, John. A group of us did camp at Summit Lake and had an enjoyable weekend despite rain and fog. Scott did fly a few of us into Crescent Lake in July, and we hiked the forbiddingly steep mountain, but still no luck with finding *Douglasia laebuelsis*—will try again. We did see lots of *Papaver alboroseum* again. We nearly got marooned for the night when the fog rolled in and made the lake invisible.

Jun 27—Mentasta—we decided this trip description should be changed from "moderate to difficult" to "difficult to impossible". A beautiful day and some new plants for many people. *Douglasia Gormani* and *Synthyris borealis*. *Woodsia glabella*, a tiny fern about 2" tall was a new one for everyone. Also *Gentiana lutea* found at the Tok airport.

Jul 3,4,5—Curry Ridge—Eleven of us backpacked and had a wonderful time camping out near an alpine lake. We somehow managed to find our way back in the fog. Some interesting photos should show up at the potluck from this trip.

Jul 12—Falls Creek—wait until you see how this trip ended. It started up a slippery trail in heavy rain and ended way short of the

planned destination due to—you guessed it—inclement weather.

Aug 1—Kenai Fjords—a million apologies to all who took this trip expecting to get off on an island. When we arrived, the operators balked at that part of the pre-arranged deal. It certainly would have been more proper to tell us before we all arrived down there. We suspect that they had second thoughts about the liability involved. I believe that all concerned had a nice trip and nobody got seasick.

Aug 2—Exit Glacier—a large group went to the glacier, and about half continued on up toward Harding Icefield. A glorious day and trip, and fields of yellow stream violets.

Aug 15-16—Palmer Creek—What can we say! One day of rain, and one day of sunshine in beautiful alpine country (with *Gentiana platypetala*) and hemlock forest with Sulphur Shelf mushrooms.

Aug 22—Peters Creek—Thanks again, Ben Guild, for a great mushroom trip. Each time we learn a little more.

Sep 6—Glen Alps—talk about die-hards! Four people showed up in a downpour and high winds to see a field of *Gentiana platypetala*.

NOTE: Photos from these trips should give us some very interesting slides for the potluck.

FIELD TRIP—Sat. Oct 3—Leader—Verna Pratt, We will have a special re-vegetation field trip along the new Flattop Trail. If you have any alpine meadow seeds, native grass seeds, or seeds of dry rocky alpine plants to share, please bring them or let us know. Meeting time 9:30AM at the N.E. corner of the Sears Parking Lot. Bring a lunch if you desire and dress very warmly, it can be a very unforgiving place in bad weather. Let's help restore some of the old worn trails to a natural state and speed up re-vegetation along the new trail. A great job was done by those working on improving the trail.

FLOWER PRESSES—We will be placing an order for flower presses and supplies. Anyone interested should contact Verna Pratt at by Oct. 15th. A complete press for the casual collector costs \$28.55 plus shipping. These are professional quality presses, about 12x18", with slatted hardwood frames, straps, and about 25 sets of blotter papers and cardboard. Highly recommended. Extra cardboard and blotter paper available, if desired.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the summer season closes, ripening berries and fall colors greet us. They are signs of an everchanging natural world. Likewise, the Alaska Native Plant Society has changed in its time.

From just an inspiration sparked by Verna Pratt, and with help from a dedicated few, the idea of the Society became reality for all of us. We continually reap the rewards of others' past actions.

Now that the fall season swings into view, let's do our part to keep the momentum of the Society going forward. I would like to

1987-88 STATE OFFICERS ARE:

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

1987 ANCHORAGE CHAPTER OFFICERS ARE:

President-----John Wenger-----
 Vice President-----Sandy Underwood-----
 Secretary-----Peggy Pletcher-----
 Treasurer-----Larry Hall-----
 Representative to State Board---Frank Bogard-----
 General Program Chairperson-----Lynn Catlin-----
 Educational Programming-----Lynn Catlin-----
 Field Trips-----Frank Pratt-----

encourage your active support. One suggestion is to invite a friend to each meeting. We have an exciting new season ahead. Welcome, and I'll see you at the meetings.

Your President,
 John Wenger

RECIPES---For those of you who had a good blueberry picking season, here are some good recipes to try:

BLUEBERRY PUDDING-----4 cups blueberries
 1-1/2 cups sugar
 3/4 tsp cinnamon
 butter
 white bread, crust removed

Butter one side of bread. Place, buttered side up, in a casserole dish. Cut slices to fit entire surface. Put a generous layer of berries on top and sprinkle with sugar/cinnamon mix. Repeat until berries used. Bake covered at 375° until bubbly, 30-40 minutes.

(Submitted by Verna Pratt)

OLD FASHIONED BLUEBERRY CAKE

1 cup butter or margarine	1-1/4 cups sugar
4 eggs, beaten	3 cups flour
1/2 tsp salt	2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp nutmeg	1 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp cloves	1 cup apricot preserves or peach jam
1 cup raisins	2 cups blueberries
1/2 cup buttermilk	
powdered sugar (1/2-1 cup)	

Cream butter & sugar, add beaten eggs, add preserves. Sift dry ingredients and add alternately with milk. Add raisins and blueberries. Bake for 25-35 minutes at 350°. Makes 3-8" round layers. Cool. Sprinkle each layer and top with powdered sugar.



DR. LILLIAN SEDGEWICK

Many of you will remember this spry lady who joined our organization last year while visiting her daughter and family in Anchorage. Her visit extended to nearly a full year and she attended meetings regularly. She told her daughter that one of the greatest pleasures while here was attending our meetings. She held a degree in Botany and frequently gave programs on the subject in her home state of New York. Memorials will be assigned to the ANPS Scholarship Fund.



MYSTERY PLANT

This very low, tufted, high-alpine cushion plant prefers dry rocky outcroppings and is found in the Alaska Range, the Talkeetna and Wrangell Mts., in Interior Alaska, and the Yukon Territory. The leaves are small linear, light green, and have branched hairs on the upper surface. At a quick glance, it could easily be mistaken for a "looselooking" Moss Campion. Each short stem has a small 5-petaled (obovate) pink to magenta flower with 5 sepals, 5 stamens (placed opposite the petals), and 1 pistil with 5 carpels.



MYSTERY PLANT ANSWER:

Douglasia Gormanii. This plant was chosen as our mystery plant because it so resembles the "Mystery Plant", *Douglasia laebuelis*, above Crescent Lake that we have been searching for. The difference being that *Douglasia laebuelis* has slightly broader leaves, and flowers are an umbrel. If you find *laebuelis*, you should collect an entire plant and press it for Dr. Murray to properly verify it's existance in Alaska.

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