

NOTICE---CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE---NOTICE  
FOR OCTOBER POTLUCK  
CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL/MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
CORNER OF 15th AVE. AND E St.  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, 6PM---SEE YOU THERE!

# BOREALIS

published monthly  
October thru May  
by the

October 1988



ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141613, Anchorage, Alaska 99514

## MEETING NEWS

The October meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be on Monday, October 3rd at 6PM 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---No Board of Directors meeting this month due to the early hour

PROGRAM---The October meeting is our Annual Potluck Dinner and Slide Show. **Please note the time-6PM.** Please bring a dish to serve 3 times the number of people in your party and come join the fun. We will supply the paper plates, plastic utensils, drinks, and cups.

The program will consist of a slide show presented by our members. Perhaps you have a slide of a special plant that you would like to share with us, or a special scene on one of our field trips (or one of your own). We will show up to 10 slides from each member. (Bring extras if you wish. We will show as many as time permits).

This is always one of our most popular events of the year. Come and let's share what's been going on.

## MYSTERY PLANT

This slender plant grows 6-8" high from a creeping root stalk in mixed woodlands and is one of the first to bloom in the spring. It has very small green flowers having 5 sepals, 5 stamens (opposite the sepals) and a single ovary with 1 locule and 1 pistil. These plants are parasitic on the roots of other plants and their oblong leaves are usually mottled green and brown. They usually grow in dry areas throughout most of Alaska except coastal areas. They produce edible (though not too tasty) orange-colored fruit (a drupe) in Aug & Sept.



**1987-88 STATE OFFICERS ARE:**

**President-----Verna Pratt----**

**Vice President-Marilyn Barker**

**Secretary-----Charlu Choate--**

**Treasurer-----Larry Haller---**

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**1988 ANCHORAGE CHAPTER OFFICERS ARE:**

**President-----John Wenger-----**

**Vice-President-Sandy Underwood**

**Secretary-----Peggy Pletcher---**

**Treasurer-----Larry Haller-----**

**Rep. to St. Bd.-Frank Bogardus--**

**Gen. Programs-Mertha Hatch---**

**Ed. Programs--Lynn Catlin-----**

**D.N.R.-ANNOUNCEMENT**

A Public Information Announcement from DNR: Mitsui recently unveiled its plan for a massive year-round tourist resort at Hatcher Pass. Ten times the size of Alyeska, the resort could handle up to 25,000 skiers a day. Plans call for an airport, golf courses, shopping centers, 300 bed resort hotel, up to 1,000 residential units, and other skiing and recreational facilities.

A Citizens Advisory Board has been formed to help with the proposal. Todd Miner ) is representing backcountry users and welcomes comments or ideas from concerned citizens. Comments can also be sent directly to DNR to:

Helen Nienhueser  
DNR, DL&WM, SCRD  
3601 C Street, Box 107005  
Anchorage, AK 99510-7005

**SUMMER FIELD TRIP NOTES**

Many thanks to all of you who led or attended our summer field trips. As usual, some were well-attended and at others people were sparse; but we hope you all enjoyed what trips you made. Now we can start planning for next season. We are always looking for new ideas and leaders for trips. Make note

of the comment on the Matanuska Valley Trip. She was very concerned about being a leader, but it was wonderfully enjoyed by all.

TRIPS---An overview of some of the Summer Field Trips follows:

---Scott Christy's trip (May 14) to Burnt Butte proved very interesting. We were expecting similar vegetation as is found on Bodenbug Butte (but not grazed by cattle), but were surprized at the difference. Bodenbug being in an open wind-swept area is covered with glacial silt whereas Burnt Butte is tree covered with a few rocky clearings. It houses much the same vegetation as areas along the Seward Highway just south of Anchorage.

---It was learned that hiking up the ridge of Bear Mt. (May 29) crossed some private property so we used the old Peters Creekd Homestead access road and went up a valley behind Bear Mt. It was a fabulous trip and we made discovery of a mountainside covered with *Armeria maritima* (This is a range extension as Hulten does not list *Armeria* in the Chugach Mts).

---WOW, *Armeria* again on the Arctic Valley Trip (June 1).

## FIELD TRIP NOTES (cont'd.)

---Bison Gulch (June 4 & 5) was, as usual, a great trip and enjoyed by both Anchorage and Fairbanks members.

---An encouragement to those of you who do not feel qualified to lead a field trip. As we've said before, "just knowing a good place" is all that matters. We will make arrangements for a knowledgeable person to be along. The Matanuska Valley "Orchid" Trip (June 12) was a perfect example. The leader knew only that there were "lots of Lady Slippers" there. We assumed Calypso, but were amazed to see *Cypripedium guttatum* so thick that you could not walk between them; and, picturesquely blended with *Cornus Canadensis*!

---Fortunately, different people came to the Klatt Bog Field Trip (June 23) so were not disappointed to see the scattered selection of *Cypripedium guttatum* there. It was still a treat for them.

---The McCarthy-Kennicott Trip (July 2 & 3) turned out to be extremely interesting. We found a person to drive us up an old mining road into the alpine country to explore the meadows and the old copper mine areas.

---Again, the edge had already been taken off a trip, Williwaw Lakes (July 15, 16, 17) especially arranged to find a specific plant. In this case, *Armeria* in the Chugach Mts. Yes, we found it there, too. We now know that the Chugach Mts. could not have ever been researched very well, as we have found many things there that are out of range. *Armeria* is easily distinguished from a grass or sedge even when not in bloom because of its characteristic "chive-like" seed head.

---Despite the rain, and being shrouded in low clouds, a few brave souls hiked up McHugh Peak (July 24).

---The controversy over the trail to Rabbit Lake (July 26) required a change of plans, but we had a good trip behind Glen Alps. Let's hope that matter is settled next year.

---Upper Fuller Lake (July 30-31) was a beautiful place to camp and explore.

\*\*\*The seed collection and reseeding trips were not well attended, but the mission was accomplished. Hopefully, in a few years, we will see some of them blooming up on the Flattop Trail.\*\*\*

We hope to see more of you out and about in next year's field trip season. And, please volunteer to lead a trip. We need some new ideas. Those who attended this year's trips will, we're sure, vouch that some really enjoyable times were had by all.

---

**A.S.O.N.P.**---The Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers. Those ANPS members who are serious about photography and/or would like to improve their skills might be interested in this organization, the only one of its kind in the state. Meetings are generally held on the 4th Sunday of each month at the Dimond Center Library. (See article below). Info can be had from Ed Bovy at 562-5723.

---

## LIBRARY CRISIS !!!

Are all ANPS members aware of the Municipality's plan to close ALL branch libraries????? Original plan was 30 Dec, now said to be 1 Dec. This is ridiculous, are taxpayers really to be limited to only the Loussac. What about those who don't drive? And schoolchildren? Letters or calls to Muni officials and/or the BIG FINK would seem to be in order!!!!!!

---

## LOTIONS, NOTIONS and POTIONS---by Old Doc

This month might be a good time to start talking about evergreens, so let's take a look at *Juniperus communis*, the Common Mountain Juniper. This grows as a low shrub to 2' high. The leaves are sharp stiff needles, 1/4 to 1/2" long, which are very aromatic. The tops are green with a white band and are grooved. The bottoms are shiny and yellow-green. The berry is green the first year, blue the second year (both with a frosted color) and black the third year. They are 3/4 to 3/8" in diameter.

The Alaska Eskimo people use the berries for medicine. They pick the berries or whole twig at any time of the year when they want to use them. "Use the berries alone. Eat one a day to avoid or cure a cold. Suck on it for a long time. Boil some berries to make a tea. This is strong medicine to avoid a cold or flu, or to help you get over these sicknesses."

They also use the berries along with the needles and the twig, this is the most common way. "Boil them up to make a tea. You can leave the branch soaking in the medicine. Drink one cup a day for coughing or respiratory ailments."

Sometimes people roast the leaves on the stove in the sick persons room to that the rest of the family will not get sick.

The berries can be frozen for later use. They are better fresh, but stored or even dried ones are good to use.

.....This information from *Nauriat Niginaqtuat*---*Plants That We Eat*---a work on Eskimo plant foods.

---

### QUIZ ANSWER

*Geocaulon lividum*, Northern Comandra or Timberberry. We were unable to determine what they are parasitic upon. Does anyone know?                   ?                   ?

---

# Happy Holidays

As snow and ice adorn the hills,  
And frost bedecks the trees.  
Let memories still linger on,  
Proud plants before the freeze.

WREATH  
#1

ALASKAKRAFTS  
7446 East 20th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99504

Verna Pratt

SWAG  
#2

GARLAND  
#3

SPECIAL PRICE  
TO  
ANPS.  
MEMBERS

7.50 for 90  
Cards  
Plus shipping

Specify which  
Design  
or mixed

HOGARTH  
CURVE  
#4

FULL  
COLOR  
ALASKAN  
Xmas  
CARDS

Alaskan plant material used in this design:  
Mountain Hemlock, Crowberry leaves,  
Prickly Rose leaves and Hips, Red Twig  
Dogwood leaves, Alpine Bearberry leaves,  
Soapberry leaves and berries, Northern  
Wormwood leaves and flowers, Sidebells  
Pyrola leaves and seed pods, Alpine Club  
Moss, Columbine seed pods, Cladonia sp.  
(lichen).

BACK of Design #4

Alaska Native Plant Society

Post Office Box 141613

Anchorage, Alaska 99514