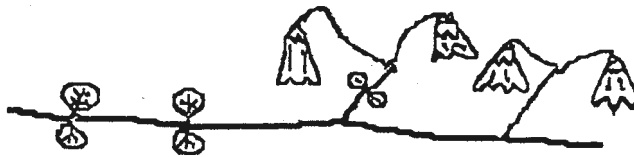


BOREALIS

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ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141613, Anchorage, Alaska 99514

Seasons Greetings

MEETING NEWS

The December meeting of the **Anchorage Chapter** will be held at **7:30PM Monday, Dec 5th** 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---The Board of Directors will meet at **6:45PM** immediately preceding the General Meeting.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIMES THAT WERE APPROVED AT THE LAST MEETING AND THE FACT THAT WE ARE AGAIN MEETING AT THE LIBRARY. PLEASE BE PROMPT.

PROGRAM---ANPS State President Verna Pratt will present a slide program "Flora of the Dempster Highway--Dawson City to Inuvik". This is a very interesting area in Canada's Yukon & Northwest Territories. The program should bring back memories to those who have made the trip; and, provide much information for anyone contemplating this journey.

PLANT FAMILY---Anchorage Chapter President-Elect Lynn Catlin will present the Pinaceae/Pine Family. This family makes up a large portion of the forests of Alaska. It consists of cone-bearing, mostly evergreen, trees (rarely shrubs) with long linear leaves that are spirally arranged on the stems. It is well represented in Alaska with 5 genera. Two genera have leaves in fascicles (grouped together) of 2 or more that are borne at the end of short shoots. Pine (which may be found in S.E. Alaska) is an evergreen with long needles in fascicles of 2 and broad cones. Larix (Larch) is deciduous, has many short leaves in bunches and very small cones, and is found in bogs in central Alaska.

The other 3 genera have solitary leaves. Abies (Fir) has long needles on peg-like stubs, fairly large erect cones, and can be found in S.E. Alaska and a few other scattered areas. Picea (spruce) has short tetragonal (4-sided) leaves and fairly small cones. The 3 species cover most of Alaska except north of the Brooks Range, the western coastal areas, and the Aleutian Chain. Tsuga (Hemlock) has 2 species with flattened leaves and very small cones. It is mostly found in Southeastern, Coastal, and Southcentral Alaska.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by John Wenger, Pres. Anchorage Chapter

As your President for the past two years, I would like to thank all the members of the Alaska Native Plant Society. Your contributions in attendance, time, and finances have been noted and appreciated. A special thanks to the dedicated Board and various function members and those who have actively served during my term.

Our organization's membership has grown and our influence has broadened substantially over the years. With your continued support, this trend should continue. Remember, there are lots of folks out there who don't know about us, so please invite a friend who you think would enjoy seeing and learning about our flora of Alaska

While it has been an honor and challenge to serve as the Chapter's leader, the changing of the guard in January will allow me more time to devote to a personal pursuit---the search for and eventual purchase of a parcel of land that needs protection for an endangered species. Since, quite possibly, this would be a plant species, I figured that plant lovers, like yourselves, would be interested in hearing about this goal and my progress.

As soon as next Fall, I hope to leave Alaska to visit potential sites in the lower 48, returning in the Spring to continue my natural history program at the University. It may take several years before a selection is made, but helping save any endangered species is at the top of my priorities.

Looking forward to seeing each of you and many new members in the years to come.

Sincerely,
John Wenger

CONGRATULATIONS

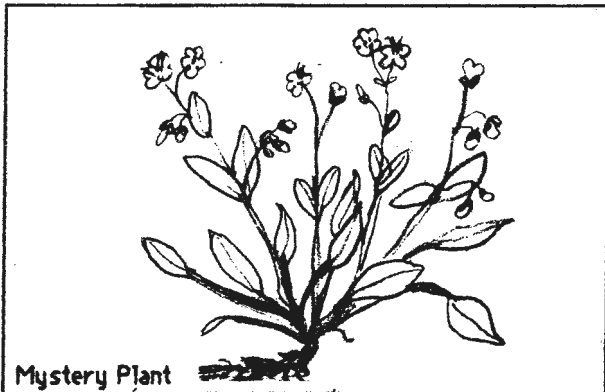
To ANPS member Larry Read on his receipt of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. Larry, who teaches at Clark Junior High School, has 11 years in the teaching field. He is one of 104 teachers from across the country to receive this prestigious award, which included five days in D.C., gifts, and a cash award to spend on career pursuits. Your dedication really shows, Larry!

MUSHROOMOLOGY



MYSTERY PLANT

This plant grows in moist shady areas in coastal areas of Southeast and Southcentral Alaska, Kodiak Island and the Aleutian Chain, and is a tall (8"-12") member of its family. It has long branching, very watery stems with opposite ovate leaves, and many flowers. The basal rosette has acutely pointed ovate leaves with long, slightly reddish petioles (leaf stems). The flowers are small (up to 5/8"), pink or white with darker veins. The 5 petals are obcordate (indented) and have 5 stamens and 2 sepals. The plant is excellent eating, raw or cooked, and tastes very much like beet greens.



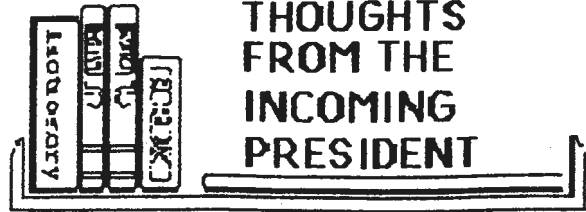
News ELECTION RESULTS

New officers of the Anchorage Chapter, elected at the November meeting, take office on 1 January 1989. They are:

President-----Lynn Catlin
 Vice-President-----Marilyn Barker
 Secretary-----Peggy Pletcher
 Treasurer-----Larry Haller

(Editor's Note: It was erroneously reported in the last newsletter that a new Chapter Representative to the State Board would be elected. However, the incumbent, Frank Bogardus, was elected in 1987 and will serve until the 1989 election, as this is a 2-year term position.)

THOUGHTS FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT



As the incoming president of ANPS Anchorage Chapter, I am looking forward to a good year serving the members. Our thanks go to John Wenger and Sandy Underwood for their 2 years of hard work!

I hope to encourage involvement of more members in different aspects of the Society. If you are interested in giving a program, bringing refreshments, leading a field trip, doing a mini-botany or plant-family, please call me at

The only requirement is enthusiasm! You don't have to be a botanist or be able to tell a poppy from a pansy. If you've been thinking about giving a presentation at a meeting, but don't know where to start, I will have some guidelines & suggestions available in January. Mini-botany and plant-family presentations should be short & sweet & fun to do!

If you have suggestions about programs, field trips or other matters, please feel free to give me a call.

One thing that I hope to see is shorter, faster-paced monthly meetings. I hope to keep society business to under 5 minutes, plant-family & mini-botany to 5-10 minutes each and the main program about 45 to 60 minutes.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the January meeting. Please come and bring a friend.-----Lynn



From the Editor's Desk:



Well, Dear Readers, it just looks like it's time to shake some limbs again. Yours! Like put a pencil on the end of one and jot off an article for the newsletter.

We keep asking for input, and we keep getting less and less.

With the exception of the articles by Lynn Catlin & John Wenger, this entire edition was done by Verna and I. That means generating the various articles, formatting them on the computer, proof-reading the copy, getting it duplicated, making address labels and sticking them on, applying postage stamps, and then carrying the whole batch to the post office. Is it really fair for 2 people to do all of this?

Come on, folks, it's your newsletter and you can make what you want of it! It doesn't take a great deal of talent to write an article. If you need help or ideas, just ask.

The deadline for items of current interest is the 15th of the month preceding publication. (Dec. 15th for the January issue). Items not of current news value can be submitted anytime. I have a big empty file folder that's just begging to be filled with articles. You can't imagine how frustrating it is to have 4 inches of a column to fill, and nothing in the folder.

What we need is input! I have the facilities and the time to put the whole thing together. However, neither Verna nor I have the time to generate the entire newsletter each month.

We need:

1. Someone to write up information on Plant Families. (Can be done in advance at your leisure).

2. Someone to write up Mystery Plant information. (Ditto).

3. Someone to do drawings of Mystery Plants. (Ditto).

4. Articles of all types pertaining to Alaska Native plants. (Ditto).

Am I getting the message through? Am I penetrating the great mystery that surrounds writing for the newsletter. There's nothing to it. We do it all the time!

Seriously, Dear Readers, how about really stuffing the Society mailbox with articles?

There is one very basic law pertaining to newsletters that we must address immediately.....Frank's Law of Feedthrough.....**"No input, No Output!"**

THE HEART'S GARDEN

The heart is a garden

Where thought flowers grow.

The thoughts that we think

Are the seeds that we sow.

Every kind, loving thought

Bears a kind, loving deed;

While a thought that is selfish

Is just like a weed.

We must watch what we think,

Each minute of the day;

And pull out the weed thoughts

And throw them away;

And plant loving seed thoughts

So thick in a row

That there will not be room

For weed thoughts to grow.

MYSTERY PLANT ANSWER

Claytonia sibirica, Siberian Spring Beauty

Lotions, Notions and Potions

by Old Doc---If you would like this column to be resumed, let's have some input to other columns so that Doc (your Editor) has time to write this one.

