

BOREALIS

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ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141613, Anchorage, Alaska 99514

THE NEWSLETTER IS BEING MAILED EARLY TO
ANNOUNCE AN EARLY FIELD TRIP

MEETING NEWS

The May Meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be on Monday, May 7th, at 7:30PM in the utility room of the Muldoon Library in the west end of the Carr's Muldoon Shopping Mall. The library will be closed, so enter by the door at the rear of the building. This will be our last meeting until October.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There will be no Board meeting this month.

SPEAKER

The guest speaker will be ANPS member Dr. David F. Murray, Curator of the Herbarium, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. His topic will be "Historical Origins of Arctic and Alpine Flora in Alaska".

Dr. Murray has a special interest in the relationship of the flora of Alaska to that of the Soviet Far East. He has made several trips to the Soviet Union in recent years.

This will be an interesting and informative program presented by an excellent speaker. We certainly appreciate Dave's, once again, making time in his busy schedule to bring us another in a series of his annual programs.

(Editor's Note: I urge the members and guests to be prompt, as this will undoubtedly be a Standing Room Only event.)

PLANT FAMILY

Sally Karabelnikoff will lead a discussion of the Saxifrage genus of the Saxifrage family (*Saxifragaceae*). This complex family is well represented in Alaska. Most members have small flowers composed of 5 sepals, 5 petals, 5 or 10 stamens, and, usually, a 2-parted ovary. The fruit is a capsule. Plants are herbaceous and are usually scapose (having no stem leaves). Most members are easily recognized by their pointed, well-separated, stiff petals, and an obvious, pronounced, conical-shaped ovary visible while the flower is in bloom. Because this is such a large genus, only the small tufted (cushion type) varieties will be addressed in this discussion.

MINI-BOTANY

Scott Christy will lead a mini-botany discussion on the Rock Glaciers and Mud Volcanoes as a lead-in to two of his early summer field trips.

EARLY FIELD TRIP

Sunday, April 29---"Windy"

Leader---Marilyn Barker

Early spring plants of Turnagain arm.

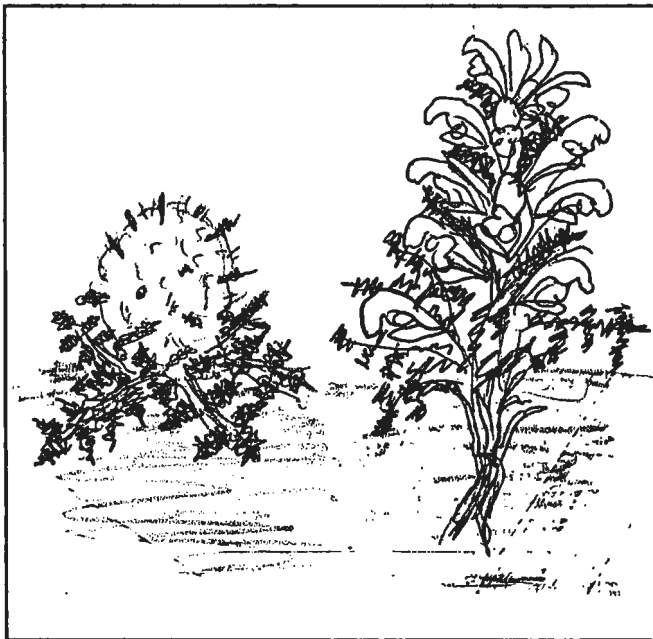
Meeting place---N.E. corner of Sears parking lot (Seward Hwy & No. Lts.) at 12:30PM or Windy parking area at mile 106.6 Seward Hwy at 1:00PM.

MYSTERY PLANT

This perennial plant has a simple, usually single, about 15 cm. (6 inch) tall stem arising from a thick yellow taproot. Numerous long-petioled, linear-lanceolate basal leaves are pinnately lobed. The inflorescence is densely white wooly (especially with age), the lower bracts longer than the flowers. The calyx has triangular acute teeth; the rose-colored corolla has a straight galea and tube, teeth are lacking, and lower lip is about as long as the upper and three-lobed.

The roots are edible raw or boiled, according to Hulten.

Found in wet to dry tundra or heathlands; throughout Alaska.



SUMMER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

The 1990 ANPS Summer Field Trip Schedule will be in the mail shortly. It looks like we will have a busy summer!

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I would like to thank those dedicated souls amongst the membership who submitted articles for the newsletter this year. How about all of our readers taking notes this summer so that we can have lots of nice articles next fall. Hope to see you on some of the field trips!

WILDFLOWER CLASSES

Univ. of Alaska, Anchorage
"Biology 075"

(consists of four 3-hour weekday sessions and one all-day field trip)

Instructor---Marilyn Barker

Tuesday mornings, May 8 thru 29, plus field trip to be announced.

Instructor---Verna Pratt

Tuesday evenings, 6-9PM, May 8 thru 29, plus field trip to be announced.

Instructor---Verna Pratt

Wednesday evenings, 6-9PM, May 9 thru 30, plus field trip to be announced.

Univ. of Alaska, Anchorage
Alaska Wilderness Studies Program
"Edible & Poisonous Plants"

Instructor---Verna Pratt

Wednesday evenings, 6:30-9:30PM, June 13, 20, 27, and Saturday, all-day, June 30.

Univ. of Alaska, Anchorage
Alaska Wilderness Studies Program
"Wildflowers"

Instructor---John Wenger

Tuesday evenings, 7-11PM, June 12 to mid-August, and overnight on 11-12 Aug.

QUIZ ANSWER

Pedicularis kanei, Durand., Woolly Lousewort.

LOTIONS, NOTIONS and POTIONS by OLD DOC

Sorry, no long article. Doc is getting into the swing of summer loafing early this year.

However, for those long summer evenings when it's too light to give up and go to bed, I'd like to recommend a good book.

"Chills and Fever", Health and Disease in the Early History of Alaska, by Robert Fortune is the only book that I have run across on this topic. (cont'd next page)

Dr. Fortune had an extended career in the Indian Health Service including assignments in North Dakota, Washington, DC, Arizona and some 17 years in various parts of Alaska. He also served a 3 year term in Geneva as the US government representative to the World Health Organization. He retired from the Public Health Service in 1987, but still serves as a volunteer physician at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. He recently joined the faculty of the Biomedical Program at UAA.

Chills and Fever provides an unusual insight into the early history of Alaska through the health of its people.

If you are at all interested in the history of Alaska from the medical standpoint, you will find this a fascinating volume.

The book is printed by the University of Alaska Press, price about \$30.

KACHEMAK CHAPTER FORMED

In June 1990, the Kachemak Chapter of the Alaska Native Plant was formed. Here is a letter received from JoAnne Popham, the Chapter President:

Hello to Fellow ANPS Members,

We are pleased to join with the statewide network of plant enthusiasts in founding the Kachemak Chapter of the Alaska Native Plant Society last June. Included are folks from around Kachemak Bay, including Homer, and from as far away as Kenai. Since Homer already has so many natural history and environmental groups, even the thought of another meeting (to attend) made people hesitate. It certainly made sense to take advantage of affiliation with the statewide organization and form an ANPS chapter.

Among the goals of the Kachemak Chapter are promoting the wise use of plants, increasing the awareness of rare plants and habitat loss, adding to known ranges of plants, and educating ourselves and others by having talks, information sharing & field trips and adding to and maintaining a local

herbarium. There are strong interests among group members in marine plants and the medicinal and Native use of plants. (There was a mycological group formed simultaneously in Homer, with many overlapping memberships).

We would very much enjoy meeting and sharing information with other ANPS members. Our fall meeting is on October 24th to recap our summers botanical experiences. If anyone would like to present a program at a future time, let us know. We could at least house and feed you. I am the contact for the chapter: JoAnne Popham, President, P.O. Box 15061, Homer, AK 99603, Phone 907-233-1111. Other Chapter Officers are: Josie Bills, Vice-President, Phone 907-233-1111; Jane Middleton, Treasurer; Priscilla Russell, Secretary.

We welcome the Kachemak Chapter and encourage all ANPS members to support the Chapter in any way that they can. It has been a long haul waiting for the Society to branch out. Special thanks to JoAnne for spearheading the chapter formation.