

BOREALIS

published monthly
October thru May
by the



ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141613, Anchorage, Alaska 99514

MAY 1991

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ANCHORAGE CHAPTER MEETING NEWS:

The May meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be held on Monday, May 6th, at 7:30PM in the meeting room of the Muldoon Library in the Carr's Shopping Mall on the corner of Muldoon Road and Northern Lts. The library will be closed, so enter by the door at the rear of the building.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board of Directors will meet at 6:45PM just prior to the general membership meeting.

PROGRAM: Speaker, Doug Tryck, will discuss "Cultivated Cousins of our Wild Plants". Come and hear an interesting lecture on some familiar cultivated garden plants that are closely related to our wild plants. Doug is a horticulturist and owns Tryck's Nursery on Rabbit Creek Road. He experiments with different and unusual plants for the Anchorage area.

PLANT FAMILY: The Pulsatilla and Anemone genera of the Buttercup or Ranunculaceae family. Presenter will be Gary Davies. These 2 genera were once all classified as Anemones. Pulsatilla now is being classified separately because it has a longer, plumose (feathery) style and stamens with staminodia (gland-like sterile structures). Both genera, like the Thalictrum genus studied last month, have petaloid sepals only (no true sepals). The modified upper stem leaves form in a circle around the stem below the flowers. Flowers are usually large and showy and mostly singular.

*** SPECIAL MEETING ***

The May meeting is usually our last until the Fall, and Dr. David Murray, curator of the herbarium at UAF, is usually our guest speaker. Dave was not able to make it in May this year, but, here's the good news:

He will be in Anchorage in early June hosting some Soviet botanists that will be visiting Alaska. So we will have a special meeting on Monday, June 3rd at 7:30PM, at the Muldoon Library, at which time Dr. Murray will speak on the Botany of Ellesmere Island in northern Northwest Territories, Canada.

MYSTERY PLANT:

This grass is found along almost all of the roadways in the city of Anchorage, and provides a beautiful pinkish-red to the vegetative display towards the end of summer.

The erect stems, 12 to 16 inches tall, with two to three long, thin leaves, each bear a nodding, pale-green to purple spike that may be up to 4 inches long. This grass is easily recognized by these long awns which give a silky, almost fluid, appearance to the heads of the grass as they wave in unison in the breeze.



Mystery plant

FIELD TRIPS:

Thanks to everyone who came forward and helped to form up a nice Field Trip Schedule for this Summer. The schedule should be in your mailbox with this newsletter or very shortly thereafter.

EXTRA FIELD TRIP:

On Saturday, June 1st, to the Sheep Mt. Area Leader---Curvin Metzler ()
Meet---8:30AM at NE corner of Sears Parking lot
OR 9:25AM at AK. Dept. of Fish and Game Bldg.
on the N side of the Glenn Hwy just past the entrance to the State Fairgrounds in Palmer. This will be a long day---moderate to steep---hike in a valley exploring early plants and studying rocks in the area.

OUTDOOR GEAR SWAP:

On May 18th from 10AM to 5PM, APU will be sponsoring an Outdoor Gear Show and Gear Swap. There is no entry fee or commission, so bring your gear to sell or swap. The National Outdoor Leadership School will be there unloading their surplus, so good deals are guaranteed! Setup starts at 9AM at APU's Moseley Center and lasts until 5PM on Saturday the 18th. Call 564-8328 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Would anyone like to set up (or help to man) a table at the APU Gear Swap with information about ANPS??? Contact Lynn Catlin at

GOOD EARTH GARDENING SCHOOL (ORGANIC GARDENING)

is having some interesting classes this year. Unless otherwise noted, they are taught by Ellen Vande Visse.

Aug 9 or 10 "Composting in Alaska"
Aug (13-14, "Gardening with Nature"
17-18)
Aug 24 "Talking with Nature"

ANPS member, Dr. Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes
Aug 25 "Biodynamic Farming/Gardening"

Janis Schofield, Author of "*Discovering Wild Plants*"

Sep 7 or 9 "Harvest and Storage"
Sep 14 or 15 "Health, Happiness"

QUIZ ANSWER:

Hordeum jubatum (Squirrel-tail Grass, Wild Barley)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is the last newsletter until Fall. Now it's time to go play in the sun, explore those lush meadows and climb those alpine peaks to enjoy the beautiful Alaskan flora. While we are all enjoying the Summer weather, I hope that someone out there will give serious thought to taking over the preparation of the newsletter next Fall. I find that the time it takes to put it together each month is keeping me from other things that I really want to do with my life. (How many of you realize that the editor not only types the text into the computer, but maintains the mailing list and generates those mailing labels each month. And that the rest of the newsletter staff [that's Verna] has to take the finished copy to the printer, pick up the finished newsletters, fold them, attach mailing labels and stamps, and take them to the post office?) How about a volunteer? Or, at least, some help with foldin', lickin' and stickin'.

We hope that all of our readers have a very pleasant Summer. Take lots of pictures so that we can have a good time at our annual Pot Luck Supper / Slide Show in October.