

BOREALIS

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ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 141613, Anchorage, Alaska 99514

MEETING

The October meeting of the Anchorage Chapter will be on Monday, October 7th. in the meeting room of the Muldoon Library. Entrance to the room is at the rear of the bldg. at the west end of the Carrs Mall at N.L. and Muldoon. This is our annual Potluck meeting and is at 6:30 P.M. Bring a dish to serve 3 times the number in your party. We will provide paper plates, plastic utensils, drinks and cups.

Bring slides of Wildflowers, Summer activities, etc. We may be limited to 10 slides per person, but you may bring more. We will show as many as possible.

GOOD-BY

Good luck in your new home and job, Lynn and Mark Catlin. We will all miss you. Our loss is Seattles gain.

CONGRATULATIONS

Gary Davies is our New Anchorage Chapter President.

MYSTERY PLANT

This plant could easily go un-noticed. It is found in very wet woods and shady bogs throughout most of the state except S.E. and the Aleutian Chain. Its 4 to 6 in. stems arise from a white rhizome deep beneath the wet mossy habitat. Its light green leaves are 3 parted- the lower lobes usually deeply divided again. The leaflets are shallowly notched with 3 to 5 rather blunt teeth. The small long stemmed flowers have 3 sepals and 6 to 8 small rounded light yellow petals that fall off easily making it less noticeable.



Thanks

Gary Davies for volunteering to do write-ups of the Plant Families again this year.

Martha Hatch for volunteering to copy and mail out the newsletters.

VOLUNTEERS?

1. Write up the Mystery Plant each month. --See Verna
2. Draw the MYstery Plant each Month. ---See Verna
3. Give a short Plant Family talk at a meeting.
--See Gary Davies
4. Be in charge of finding people to do Plant Family.
5. Give short mini-botany presentation.--See Gary
6. Refreshment person. Make arrangements for some one to bring goodies each month. --See Gary

DANGER!!! Beware Wild Potato Leaves!!

Have you ever looked close at a potato leaf? The leaves are covered with a microscopic thicket of hairs, or trichomes, Botanically speaking, the two types of glandular trichomes are called type A and type B. Together the two different trichomes make an effective insecticide. The shorter type A hairs have a four-lobed head that ruptures on contact, entrapping aphids or other insects in a quick-setting sticky liquid. The insects legs quickly become encased in clumps of the stuff and become immobilized. Large insects are not stopped, but glue attaches to thier feet as if they were wearing clown shoes! The glue also gets into their mouths and glues them shut- hence the insect starves. The type B hairs plan an even more fascinating role in the plant's defenses. The sticky exudate that they secrete cobtains a chemical that is the main ingredient of the alarm pheromone for aphids. An extract prepared from these hairs greatly disturbs aphids causing them to avoid the potato plant entirely. Together the t wo types of hairs constitute a formidable barrier against the aphids and other potato pests. Breeding experiments have now been

now succeeded in transferring these hairs to the cultivated tomato and potato; the new strains are much more resistant to pests than the non-hybrid ones. So.....Be careful when digging y our potatoes this fall!!

MYSTERY PLANT ANSWER:

Lapland Buttercup
Ranunculus lapponicus