

# Borealis

the newsletter of the



January 1994

P.O. Box 141613 Anchorage, Alaska 99514

## Anchorage Chapter News

The January ANPS Anchorage Chapter meeting will be held Monday, January 3rd at 7:30PM in the First Congregational Church at 2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd. This is the large brown church building just east of Wendler Junior High School on the south side of Northern Lights. Please use the entrance at the back of the church.

A Board meeting will be held before the regular meeting, beginning at 7:00PM.

Virginia Moran will be the featured evening speaker. Her topic will be "The Heritage Land Bank and Planning in the City of Anchorage".

## Anchorage Chapter Elections

Election of new officers took place at the December meeting of the Anchorage Chapter. The slate of nominees was accepted by the 26 members present at the meeting with no nominations made from the floor. The new Anchorage Chapter officers of the Alaska Native Plant Society are as follows:

President: Jean Poor  
Vice President: Julia Ricketts  
Secretary: Andrea Woods  
Treasurer: Jim Poor  
Chapter Representative: Marilyn Barker

## Mystery Plant

A tall perennial with a stiff and obvious seed head, the mystery plant may still be visible through the snow in some areas.

The deeply toothed leaves are arranged alternately on the flowering stems and are very distinctive.

The top surface of the leaf is dark green and the underside is, in contrast, covered with short silvery hairs.

This aromatic plant has been used medicinally in the past and salves and liniments are still prepared today. The small flower heads are inconspicuous, but numerous. There are four sub-species of this mystery plant which can be found in most parts of Alaska.



## Plant Family

Sarah Andres will present another portion of the Lily family. She will discuss chives, *Allium schoenoprasom*, and chocolate lily, *Fritillaria camschatensis*. Chocolate lily is a bulbous perennial that likes damp meadows and is common in coastal areas of SE, South Central Alaska and the Aleutian Chain. It can also be found inland as far north as Denali Park.

The bell shaped flowers are usually a rich brown color splashed with green. The tasty bulb has been an important food item for native Alaskans. Wild chives is also a food item and is used as a seasoning much like the commercial variety. Its head of small delicate lavender flowers is on a stiff stem among the hollow flavorful long leaves. This month's selection is a direct contrast to last month's selections which were both poisonous.



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Alaska Native Plant Society**

**ANPS State Officers**

President - Sally Karabelnikoff  
Vice President - Jean Poor  
Secretary - Jean Tam  
Treasurer - Yaso Gurusingan-Thiru

**Anchorage Chapter Officers**

President - Jean Poor  
Vice President - Julia Ricketts  
Secretary - Andrea Woods  
Treasurer - Jim Poor  
Rep. to State Board - Marilyn Barker

**Borealis Staff**

Editor - Lynne Balogh  
Circulation - Martha Hatch

Borealis is published monthly except for June, July, August and September. For information on how to join the Alaska Native Plant Society or to send questions, comments and articles, please contact:

Alaska Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 141613 Anchorage, AK 99514

## Volunteer Opportunities

The Alaska Native Plant Society is composed of people who offer their time and knowledge to increase understanding of native plants. The Anchorage Chapter is in need of volunteers to help organize several programs.

**Seed Exchange Organizer** - This position will organize the seed exchange program; cleaning seeds as needed, packaging them in labelled envelopes provided by ANPS, as well as keeping the collected seeds in safe storage. To offer your services, please contact Verna Pratt at

**Botany Presentation Coordinator** - This position arranges for volunteers to present short talks, five to ten minutes in length, on a selection of botanical topics at ANPS meetings. Topics can vary from explanations of botanical terminology commonly found in field guides to more difficult subjects. To volunteer, please call Jean Poor at

**Mystery Plant Researcher and Author** - This position is responsible for the Mystery Plant column in the newsletter, researching the plant and preparing a brief monthly installment. The drawings for the plants have already been prepared by Richard "Toby" Tyler. If you are interested in writing this column for the newsletter, please contact Verna Pratt at

**Newsletter Articles** - Guest writers and topic suggestions are always welcome. If you would like to read an article in the *Borealis* that you wrote yourself, please contact Lynne Balogh at

## Program Recommendations

Gary Davies, the acting Program Chairman, can use your input and suggestions for future meetings. Please contact him during the day at \_\_\_\_\_ or in the evening at \_\_\_\_\_.

Virginia Moran has agreed to become the Program Chairman for the Anchorage Chapter next season. She will need the help of the ANPS members to arrange the programs for meetings, both with ideas and arranging speakers. If you have any ideas for programs next season, please contact her at \_\_\_\_\_ during the weekdays and evenings at \_\_\_\_\_.

## Summer Field Trips

'Tis the season to begin planning our summer field trip schedule! If you would like to lead a trip or would like to suggest a favorite spot to view native plants, please use the sign up form enclosed with this newsletter. We can never have too many field trips to choose from.

Carolyn Parker is arranging another Kantishna Road House (Denali Park) trip for early June during the week.

## Mystery Plant Answer

*Artemisia tilesii* -- Tall or Common  
Wormwood

A member of the Aster (Asteraceae) family.



# ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## FIELD TRIP PLANNING WORKSHEET

Field Trip to: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Day of Week: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Allotted: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Driving Distance / Car Polling, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reservations by: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Difficulty: \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Trip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

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