

# Borealis

the newsletter of the



February 1995

P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514

Anchorage Chapter

☆ February Meeting ☆

## Accelerated Cutting of the Boreal Forest in Alaska: Lessons for Native Plant Conservation

Monday, Feb. 6  
7:30 p.m.

→ Alaska Aviation  
Heritage Museum,  
4721 Aircraft Dr.,  
near Lake Hood.

The main program will be given by Dr. Glenn Juday, Associate Professor of Forest Ecology and Alaska Ecological Reserves Coordinator at UAF-Dept. of Forest Sciences, School of Agriculture and Land Resources Management.

**Plant Family** - Verna will continue our series on the Figwort Family. Plants in the genera *Linaria*, *Synthyris* and *Lagotis* will be featured this month.

**Mini-Botany** - Marlena Mooring will present a program on one of her favorite Alaskan berries: Lowbush Cranberries. The plant is a member of the Heath family or Ericaceae. Refreshments on a cranberry theme will be provided.

A board meeting will be held half an hour beforehand, starting at 7 p.m.

Seed Swap seeds will be available (see listing last month).

## Mystery Plant by Jason Grant

This lovely plant flourishes in disturbed situations in addition to its natural habitat in wooded areas. At my



parents' house in Fairbanks, they have created a "natural" lawn by cutting down about an acre of poplar-birch forest, leaving some specimen trees, and simply mowing the ground. After a couple of years, native and cultivated grasses found themselves seeded in among the native vegetation that adapted to being mowed all summer. Our mystery plant is one that has adapted to this unnatural upkeep. It has seeded itself across many areas, and if one is lazy in mowing for a couple of weeks, a whitish bloom can be seen due to the flowering of this plant.

In areas that aren't mowed for about half the summer, *Aconitum delphinifolium*, *Mertensia paniculata*, *Delphinium glaucum*, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Galium boreale*, *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, and *Linnaea borealis* also bloom in the open sunny meadow. The mystery plant is shown here just a little shorter than life size. They are slender, yet graceful plants perfect for a miniature flower arrangement. Its grass-green leaves are conspicuously opposite, while the five petals are snow-white. Don't be confused by its similarity to some weedy species of a related genus in its family.

Answer on Page 3.

Mystery Plant drawings by Toby Tyler, ANPS Kachemak Chapter.

**ANPS State Officers Meeting -  
December 31, 1994  
submitted by Jean Tam**

Attendees: Sally Karabelnikoff, Ginny Moran,  
Jean Poor, Verna Pratt and Jean Tam.

The following is a summary of the minutes.

1. ANPS Brochure. Verna and Frank Pratt will produce a brochure. Verna showed samples. Some suggestions were made on content and positioning.
2. T-shirts/Sweatshirts. The Orchid Society has had some nice ones made. Ginny will look into using the same company. They can be paid for with money in our account and then sold to the chapters, who in turn will sell to members. Each group should be able to make a little money.
3. Phyllis Kempton's mushroom collection. Phyllis has willed her collection privately, but it would be nice if it were available to the public. Maybe it could be stored at the UAA herbarium? After the T-shirt sale, ANPS will write to the UAA President offering some funding for appropriate storage.
4. New chapters. Interest has been expressed in starting a Juneau chapter. Ginny will give Verna addresses of organizations who can be sent complimentary copies of our newsletter to try and generate some interest. We will try to get input from our members via a survey in the newsletter.
5. Field Trip Chair. Julia Ricketts is the new field trip chair.
6. Funding for the Alaska Rare Plant Book. BP may contribute money for printing in May or June. BLM, NPS and USFWS are also donating. ANPS will donate \$1,000 toward the printing costs.
7. Challenge Cost Share Grants. Ginny suggested that matching funds from the government may be available for plantings around the Aviation Heritage Museum. However, it is already too late for 1995.
8. Dues. Membership dues will be raised next year, starting from October '95: Individual \$12, Family \$18, Organizations \$30, Senior (over 65) \$10, student unchanged.
9. Slate of Officers for 1995. See opposite.
10. Scholarship. Awarding a scholarship will have to wait until we have more money.
11. Reference books at UAA Herbarium. None are currently available. There might be a problem with books disappearing as there is nobody officially in charge.

**New State of Officers for 1995**

The nominating committee has prepared a slate of officers for next year's state board. The nominations are:

President	Sally Karabelnikoff
Vice-president	Ginny Moran
Secretary	Jean Tam
Treasurer	Yaso Gurusingan-Thiru

Any other nominations or abstentions should be mailed to the ANPS, to arrive by February 10. If you do not send in an alternative nomination or abstention vote, it will be assumed that you support the slate as proposed. If there are any other nominations, a postal ballot will be included in next month's newsletter.

**Attention all Members!!!!  
by Ginny Moran**

Know anybody that loves native plants that lives in Southeast? Send them a newsletter with a membership form!!! They make great gifts ANY time of the year; just think, a subscription to *Borealis* and a year-long membership to the group!

One glance at the membership list for ANPS shows we need greater statewide representation! We need a few good "ketches" from Ketchikan. "Ju'neau" we need somebody from Juneau? "Sitka" 'round with your friends from Sitka and talk about hemlock, and "haint" no reason not to have somebody in the group from Haines. What's all the "yakatat" about Yakatat, if there isn't somebody yakking about native plants? "Hoonah's" about 'em best in Hoonah? How about "wrangellin" a few plant lovers in Wrangell, and I never "metlakatla" native plant I didn't like!! Maybe we can inspire and "wrangell" some folks to start a Southeast chapter? Then again, we don't want to "barrow" anyone into this! (I'll stop, this is getting pretty bad...)

If any folks express an interest in starting a Southeast chapter (or even a Barrow chapter), have them contact Verna Pratt or Ginny Moran.

**The Figwort Family continued:  
*Synthyris*, *Lagotis* and *Linaria***

All three of this month's genera are represented by a single species, although one has two sub-species. The first two contain small plants with single stems that bear many tiny, blue flowers arranged in a cylindrical or rounded spike. Their leaves are mostly basal, but they also have smaller, alternate stem leaves. Like plants in the genus *Veronica*, their flowers have 2 stamens.

*Synthyris borealis* (Alaska *Synthyris* or Kitten Tails) is a hairy plant that produces a rounded spike of tiny blue flowers from late May to mid-June. The heart-shaped leaves have rounded teeth on the margins. It can be found in parts of central Alaska, including Denali National Park, on high alpine ridges and mountain tundra.



Kitten Tails

*Lagotis glauca* (Weasel Snout) is represented by two sub-species: *glauca* and *minor*. Between them, they cover most of the state and also range into Yukon Territory; neither is found on the Kenai Peninsula or in Southeast. Subspecies *glauca* has ovate (egg-shaped) leaves, while those of subspecies *minor* are lanceolate (lance-shaped). Where the ranges overlap, intermediates occur. In both, the leaves are smooth and the inflorescence is a cylindrical spike. They are found on stony slopes on tundra and in the mountains.

*Linaria vulgaris* (Butter-and-eggs or Toadflax), the final plant featured this month, was introduced from Europe for garden use and is now widely naturalized. It is commonly found along roadsides and in waste places around Anchorage, Seward, Palmer and Fairbanks. This plant is an aggressive colonizer, spreading rapidly by creeping rhizomes (underground stems). Its long-narrow leaves are

smooth and a bluish-green in color. The prolific flowers are yellow, with a raised orange lip (palate) that partly seals off the flower's throat, and a long, narrow spur that protrudes from the base.

**Book Review:  
"Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast"  
submitted by Verna Pratt**

"Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast", by Jim Pojar and Andy Mackinnon, is published by Lone Pine Publishing, ISBN 1-55105-040-4. This is an excellent plant guide to coastal areas from Oregon to Alaska. The book is well composed and is an asset to any plant lover's library. It has very good, precise descriptions and includes extensive ethnobotany information. The book is 528 pages long, with a soft cover, and was funded by a national grant, allowing the low price of \$19.95 - at this price it is a steal...I highly recommend it. I purchased mine at Gails News Cache in the Mall at Sears, on Northern Lights in Anchorage. If you can't locate it, ask a book store to order it.

**Mystery Plant Answer:**



*Moehringia lateriflora*  
Grove Sandwort  
Pink Family

## What's in a Name?

### *Salicornia* sp. (Glasswort)

This small, branched plant, found in coastal areas, has fleshy stems covered with tiny, succulent, scale-like leaves. The genus name can be translated as "salty horn", describing the taste, shape and habitat of the plant.

Common names include: Chicken Claw, Pigeon Foot, Saltwort, Glasswort and Beach Asparagus. Chicken Claw and Pigeon Foot both refer to the



scaly and jointed appearance of the plant. Saltwort (meaning salt plant) refers to the habitat this plant is found in, namely saline environments. Glasswort (or glass plant) derives from a time when the burnt ashes of the plant were combined with pulverized stones and melted to make glass. The plant is tasty, and can be eaten either raw or cooked. Its salty flavor make it useful as a seasoning for cooked dishes. Alternatively, the whole plant can be steamed and used as an asparagus substitute, hence the common name Beach Asparagus.

## Recipe of the Month by Marlina Mooring

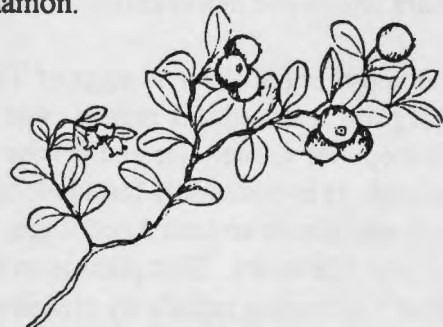
The refreshments at the February meeting will feature Lowbush Cranberries. Included will be: Lowbush Cranberry Nut Bread (see recipe below), Lowbush Cranberry cookies and various Alaskan wild-berry jellies (Red Currant, Highbush Cranberry and Lowbush Cranberry). Verna contributed the Lowbush Cranberry cookie recipe. She uses a basic chocolate chip cookie recipe and substitutes cranberries for the chocolate chips.

## Lowbush Cranberry Nut Bread

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup brown sugar (packed)  
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/4 cup shortening  
3/4 cup orange juice  
1 tabls. grated orange rind  
1 egg  
1/2 cup chopped nuts  
1-2 cups Lowbush Cranberries

1. Sift together flour, sugar, baking powder, soda, salt and cinnamon.
2. Cut in the shortening until the mixture resembles coarse corn meal.
3. Combine orange juice and grated rind with well-beaten egg. Pour all at once into dry ingredients. Mix just enough to moisten.
4. Carefully fold in chopped nuts and cranberries.
5. Spoon into a greased 9x5x3 inch loaf pan. Spread corners and sides slightly higher than center.
6. Bake in moderate oven at 350 F for about an hour. (If frozen berries are used, it takes longer to bake.) Bake until the crust is golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the loaf comes out clean. Remove from the pan. Store overnight for easy slicing. Cranberry bread freezes well.

This recipe is from "Collecting and Using Alaska's Wildberries", published by the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Alaska and U.S. Department of Agriculture. I changed the recipe by substituting brown sugar for white and adding the cinnamon.



## Anchorage Chapter News.....

### Meeting Place by Jean Poor

Up until our first fall meeting in October last year, we held our meetings at the First Congregational Church. Prior to that time, we had learned that some people were not happy with the concept of holding meetings in a church facility. This, along with the feeling that we should pay for the space, caused us look around for alternative meeting spaces. Although the church did not request us to pay for the meeting space, one very kind ANPS member felt that some payment should be made and had contributed to the church himself. We felt that it was unfair to expect him or anyone else to do so, and ANPS could not afford to offer similar payment to the church.

Many factors enter into the selection of a meeting place: location, suitability, availability on those nights we hold meetings, space enough to hold at least 40 people (sometimes more), permission for serving of coffee and refreshments, permission for holding a potluck, and, of course, cost. It is not easy to find a place that meets every requirement and it is especially difficult to find a location to suit everybody.

We felt that we were fortunate when we learned that there was space at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum which seemed to meet nearly all of our requirements. In talking with Mr. Spencer and others at the museum, it was agreed that we could hold our meetings in their "theater" room on eight Monday evenings per year, that the October meeting could be a potluck, that we could use their facilities for making coffee and serving refreshments, and that we could use their viewing screen. It was agreed that for the use of the museum at no cost, our members would furnish assistance in landscaping the yard at the museum (with wildflower plantings as much as possible) and in providing information on the care and handling of plants and shrubs already there. This proposal was taken to our membership at the April

meeting, and the reasons for making a change were given. The members agreed to move to the new location, starting with the October meeting. Last year, ANPS members planted a tree for Arbor Day and added wildflower plantings around the tree and at the edge of the lake. Throughout the summer, members went there from time to time to set out more plants or to water and check on those already planted. We plan to do more this summer.

We realize and regret that this distance is a hardship for out-of-town members. It is also further for some Anchorage members who did not have to drive very far before, but it is now nearer for those who have had to drive way across town for a long time.

If anyone would like to express an opinion in regard to our change of meeting place, please drop us a note addressed to the Alaska Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514. Please mark on the envelope the words "Meeting Place". Comments will be reviewed by the Executive Board.

### New Mini-Botany Coordinator

Marilyn Barker has graciously agreed to be our new Mini-Botany Coordinator. Preparing for a short (ten minutes max.) mini-botany program is a great way to learn. You can investigate a topic of your own choice and share your discoveries with a very friendly audience at the meeting. Marilyn can also suggest topics that would be suitable. So, if you would like to have a go, give Marilyn a call at



Trailing Raspberry  
*Rubus pedatus*

**National Mindless Society Bestows  
 "Most Mindless Blunder of 1995" Award  
 to ANPS T-shirt Coordinator  
 by Ginny Moran**

Recently, I earned this award with a "mindless blunder" that is so very very mindless, it is already the blunder of the year, even though 1995 has only just started. In response to the recent contest for designs for an ANPS sweatshirt/T-shirt, I received two beautiful entries; one from Verna Pratt, and one from Susan Jensen. The entries were placed in flat foam within a cardboard container. The mindless blunder of the year was that, while I was in the midst of moving house and unpacking, I inadvertently included this container in a stack of cardboard for recycling. Yes, I kid you not folks!! I recycled the two entries for the contest and now am looking around for the nearest rock to crawl under!! I would not wish this experience upon anyone. I have asked the Anchorage Recycling Center to post a flier and speak to their staff, and have offered a substantial reward for the return of the artwork. They feel the likelihood of recovery is slim, but nonetheless, they have alerted their "sorters". So I feel I have given new meaning to the word "OOPS". **My sincerest apologies go out to Verna and Susan and to all the members.**

What should we do? I would still like to see the society have shirts and am willing to coordinate it (perhaps after we designate a new position entitled "artwork safe-keeper" or "keep the entries away from Ginny coordinator"), but I would like some input. Should we contract-out an artist to do the design (I will gladly donate \$100 towards this) or should you hang me from the highest tree (suddenly I wish I was on the Aleutians)? It is open for discussion. Again, I am very sorry and ask all to forgive my truly outstanding display of mindlessness.



☞ **Dues are Due** ☞

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL**

The Alaska Native Plant Society was organized in 1982 by an enthusiastic group of amateur and professional botanists. It is a non-profit educational organization with the aim of uniting all persons interested in the flora of Alaska.

Membership is open to any interested individual or organization. If you wish to join us, please indicate the category of membership you desire, then clip and mail this application with the appropriate remittance to: **Alaska Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514.**

Select the membership category you desire:

Full Time Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5	Name: _____
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	Address: _____
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Membership is on a calendar year basis..

# ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## SUMMER 1995 FIELD TRIP PLANNING WORKSHEET

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

Leader(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Level of Difficulty: \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum age: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of trip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special instructions / Items to Bring: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please hand in completed forms to Julia Ricketts at Anchorage Chapter meetings, or mail to \_\_\_\_\_, Anchorage, AK 99516, or the ANPS P.O. Box Office address. Field trip schedules will be sent out to members by the beginning of May.

### **ANPS State Officers**

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

### **Anchorage Chapter Board Members**

President Jean Poor  
Vice-president Julia Ricketts  
Secretary Andrea Woods  
Treasurer Unison Hubbard  
State Board Rep. Marilyn Barker

### **Anchorage Chapter Program Coordinators**

Ginny Moran Main Program  
Verna Pratt Plant Family  
Marilyn Barker Mini-Botany  
Julia Ricketts Field Trips

### **Borealis**

Editors Julia Ricketts  
Trevor Ricketts  
Circulation Martha Hatch

The newsletter of the Alaska Native Plant Society is published monthly except for June, July, August and September. Contributions for the February issue should be mailed to: Julia and Trevor Ricketts, Anchorage, AK 99516 to arrive by February 10.

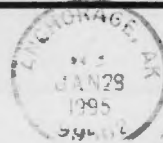
**Alaska Native Plant Society**  
**P.O. Box 141613**  
**Anchorage, AK 99514**

### **Field Trips for '95**

Summer may seem a long way off, but for many folks the diaries are already beginning to fill up. So, we would like to invite you to think about volunteering to lead a trip this summer. With your help, this can be the best summer field trip season ever!!

We want to be able to issue the list of trips in good time, so it is important that you set aside time NOW. You don't have to be an Hultenese-type expert. You just need to be able to direct folks to the meeting place, lead them to your desired location(s), and return them to their vehicles without getting lost. Our members will do the rest, field guides and plant keys at the ready!! On the reverse of this page, you'll find a Field Trip Planning Sheet. Please don't leave it blank. (Make as many photocopies as you wish!) We'd especially love to hear from members outside of Anchorage.

If there is somewhere that you would like to go, but you feel that you really can not lead the trip, let us know and we'll see if we can find a leader. Please return your planning sheets to Julia Ricketts at \_\_\_\_\_, Anchorage, AK 99516, or hand them in at Anchorage Chapter meetings. If you have any queries regarding field trips, call Julia at \_\_\_\_\_



### **IS YOUR MAILING LABEL CORRECT?**

Please take a moment to check your mailing label and make sure that your name, address and your renewal date are correct.