

Borealis

the newsletter of the



October 1995

P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514

Anchorage Chapter ☆ October Meeting ☆

**Monday, October 2
7:00 p.m.**

**First Congregational Church
2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
(Please use back entrance)**

Pot-luck Supper & Slide Show-'n'-Tell

Get ready for the first ANPS Anchorage Chapter meeting of the 1995-1996 season. Our traditional Pot-Luck supper and slide show is a great opportunity to catch up on all the news, and to find out about the favorite native plant hot spots of other members.

Please bring a baked dish, vegetable, bread or dessert in a quantity large enough to share with three times the size of your group. ANPS will provide hot and cold beverages, paper plates, and plastic utensils. Guests are always welcome, so invite any interested friends to join the party.

Everyone enjoys seeing new plants and new locations. Bring up to 10 slides from your summer activities to share with the group. Don't miss the fun!

No board meeting will be held this month.

Mystery Plant

This delicate plant is usually found in moist, shady, coniferous woods, in seepage areas, and along stream banks. Its main leaves are basal, with long stalks and three leaflets; stem leaves are reduced in size with shorter stalks. The many tiny, white flowers are borne on long wire-like stems, and their appearance gives rise to one of this plant's common names. Another common name is derived from the unusual shape of the opened seed capsules.



Answer on Page 3.

Mystery Plant drawings by Toby Tyler, ANPS Kachemak Chapter.

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee has been appointed to consider a new slate of officers for the Anchorage Chapter for 1996. If you are contacted for information, please try to be of assistance to the members. Offices for which volunteers can be nominated are: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

Volunteer Opportunities

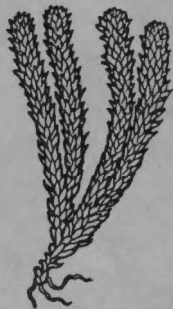
Seed Swap Coordinator:

A volunteer is needed to coordinate the seed exchange project this year. If you are interested call Verna at

If you have any seeds for this event, please bring them to the October through December meetings, or mail them to the ANPS care of the post office box address.

Plant Family Presenters Needed:

We need volunteers to give short plant family presentations at membership meetings each month. In November, Marilyn Barker will kick off a new series on non-flowering vascular plant families with a look at the horsetails.



Fir Club Moss
Lycopodium selago

If you would like to give a short 10-minute presentation at a membership meeting, give Verna a call (). You don't need to have slides as Verna has an extensive collection. Presenting is a great way to learn about the plants - why not give it a try?

Condolences

Our sincere sympathy goes to Jean Poor on the recent death of her mother, at age 102. We're all thinking of you, Jean.

T-Shirts for Sale!



T-shirts and sweatshirts, featuring artwork jointly designed by Susan Jensen and Verna Pratt, are now available. Favorite wild flowers and berries are printed on an ivory background on short and long-sleeved T-Shirts, and on white for the sweatshirts. Prices are as follows:

Short-sleeved T-shirt	\$16
Long-sleeved T-shirt	\$20
Sweatshirt	\$25

You'll be proud to be seen wearing one of these beauties!

Field Trip Thanks

Thanks to everybody who helped to make the 1995 Field Trip Schedule a reality. We couldn't do it without so many committed trip leaders!

Our thanks go to Finlay Abbott, Forrest Baldwin, Marilyn Barker, Daisy Lee Bitter, Frank Bogardus, Carole Hoblitzell, Janet & Warren Jones, Sally Karabelnikoff, Phyllis Kempton, Nancy Krieger, Curvin Metzler, Marlana Mooring, Ginny Moran, Verna Pratt, and John Wenger.

We would love to feature more articles about ANPS field trips in *Borealis*. If you would like to share a special plant, place, memory, or anecdote with other members, try writing something for the newsletter.

Julia Ricketts: Field Trip Chair

Recipe of the Month:

Blueberry Bread

Submitted by Marilyn Upton

5 cups flour
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 tbsp. baking powder
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. salt
3/4 cup butter (oleo)
1 1/2 cups chopped walnuts
1 tsp. grated lemon peel
4 eggs
2 cups milk
2 tsp. vanilla
Juice of 1 lemon (2 to 3 tblsp.)
3 cups fresh or frozen (not thawed) blueberries

1. Pre-heat oven to 350 F.
2. Grease and flour pans. (Either 1 bundt pan, or 2 9x5 pans, or 3 7 1/2x4 1/4 pans, or 4 5 3/8 x 3 1/8 pans.)
3. Combine dry ingredients, then set aside 1/2 cup of mixed dry ingredients.
4. Cut in butter to resemble fine crumbs. Add walnuts and lemon peel.
5. Beat eggs slightly; stir in milk, vanilla, and lemon juice.
6. Blend above into flour mixture.
7. Add the frozen blueberries to the set aside dry ingredients, one cup at a time, and thoroughly coat them before adding to the batter. This keeps the blueberries from sticking together.
8. Bake 80 to 90 minutes. Cool 10 minutes in pans.

Editor's Note:

Over the last year, the Recipe of the Month column has enjoyed contributions from quite a few members. Keep them rolling in! If you have a favorite recipe that utilizes native plants, please send it to us so we can share it with other members.

What's In A Name?

Chimaphila umbellata (Prince's Pine)

In Alaska, this unusual member of the Wintergreen Family (Pyrolaceae) is only found in a few coastal locations in Southeast; we found a small patch on the Chilkoot Trail, near Skagway, in an area



where Pink Pyrola blanketed sections of the forest floor. The genus derives its name from two Greek words: *cheima* meaning "winter," and *philos* meaning "loving." They refer to the plant's evergreen habit, as does the common name for the family. *Umbellata* refers to the structure of the flower cluster. An umbel is a flat-topped inflorescence with the flower stalks arising from more or less the same point, as in the struts of an umbrella.

Prince's Pine may refer to the plants' appearance - perhaps with a vivid imagination, one could view the whorls of glossy, dark-green, serrated leaves and the pink, waxy-looking flowers as a miniature pine tree fit for a prince?

Mystery Plant Answer:



Tiarella trifoliata
Foam Flower or Sugar Scoops
Saxifragaceae

Wildflower Safari:

A week of fun for Native Plant Society members from Alaska, Texas, and Ohio

This summer, we had the pleasure of jointly planning and conducting a week of field trips with some folks from the Native Plant Society of Texas. For most of the week, we were also joined by Stan and Karen Lockwood from the Ohio Native Plant Society. It was a great opportunity to show off our beautiful and varied flora to a group of enthusiasts familiar with totally different plants.

The week started with a visit to Arctic Valley and a climb up Rendezvous Peak. Many alpine tundra plants were blooming: potentillas, oxytropes, louseworts, alpine azalea, heathers, to name but a few. Some had already gone to seed, like the Alaska Jasmine (*Androsace alaskana*) we found sprawled on a rock just below the summit. One of the highlights was a large patch of Few-flowered Corydalis (*Corydalis pauciflora*) found in a damp gully on our descent from the peak. Another was sliding down the remaining snow banks - something that it's hard to do in Texas!



Julie Gaylord, from Texas, slides down a snow filled gully at Arctic Valley

The following day, we headed for Hatcher Pass. The timing was perfect for viewing the acres of blooming iris on Eklutna Flats. Alpine meadows on the road to Hatcher Pass were stunning, with large numbers of fragrant Bog Candles (*Platanthera dilatata*), Northern Green Bog Orchid (*Platanthera hyperborea*), Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria camschatcensis*), Geranium (*Geranium erianthum*), Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) and Death Camas (*Zygadenus elegans*). Twyblade (*Listera cordata*), Weasel Snout (*Lagotis glauca*) and Alaska Violets (*Viola Langsdorfii*) were abundant in some wetter spots near the entrance to the park. We even got to watch a Black Bear crossing the road just below the mine buildings.

In Girdwood, the group spent several hours, often on hands and knees, exploring the delights wet meadows can offer. Long-leaf and Round-leaf Sundews (*Drosera anglica* and *D. rotundifolia*), the tiny flowers of Bog Violet (*Pinguicula villosa*) and Bog Cranberry (*Oxycoccus microcarpus*), and the showy, fringed blooms of Buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) provided a photographer's paradise. Dinner at the Double Musky was followed by a late night walk on the Winner Creek trail for the hardy types who just didn't want to miss a thing - it's hard to stop botanizing when there's still light in the sky.

The Mt. Eklutna hike provided a great opportunity to explore white spruce and birch woodland - maybe for longer than originally intended as we missed the trail that would have taken us up into the alpine. Never mind, Verna, it was a great hike anyhow, and we all enjoyed the giant clumps of Twin Flower, the Shy Maidens (*Moneses uniflora*), and the patch of white geraniums!

In Homer, Daisy Lee Bitter hosted a delightful evening pot-luck, and was our guide to the Whin Nature Center, the Alaskan Center for Coastal Studies and the Calvin & Coyle trail. Hiking the trails through the lush spruce and hemlock forest,

and spotting the arm of a brightly colored octopus trapped beneath a large rock by two obstructive sea stars was a real treat.

Thanks to everybody who helped make this trip



Tidepooling at Peterson Bay

happen: Frank Willingham and Doug Williams for dealing with logistics at the Texas end of things; Verna for her advice, and for leading us at Hatcher Pass, Mt. Eklutna and around her garden; Daisy Lee Bitter for being our guide in Homer; Sally Karabelnikoff for leading us on a tour of her garden; and all the ANPS members who joined in the fun. Everybody involved had a great time and we're looking forward to future collaborations, including a possible field trip to Texas next spring. Finally, we would like to thank members of the Texas Native Plant Society and Karen and Stan Lockwood for their generous donations to ANPS.

Julia Ricketts

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	[] \$5	Name: _____
Senior (over 65)	[] \$10	Address: _____
Individual	[] \$12	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Family	[] \$18	
Organization	[] \$30	Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Membership is on a calendar year basis. Any renewals before the end of 1995 will be valid until December 1996.

ANPS State Officers

President Sally Karabelnikoff
Vice-president Ginny Moran
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 ANPS is published monthly except for June, July, August and September. Material for the November issue should be mailed to: Julia and Trevor Ricketts, Anchorage, AK 99516 to arrive by October 20.

Newsletter Contributions

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

We encourage you to submit material for inclusion in the newsletter. Now that the longer evenings are here, why not jot down a few lines on some of *your* exciting plant discoveries this summer. Here are some suggestions of topics for material that we would particularly welcome:

- Write-ups of last summer's field trips, or botanically interesting places in Alaska that you have visited.
- Medicinal or culinary uses for native plants, either traditional or contemporary.
- Native plants for the garden.
- Explanations of botanical terminology/taxonomy.
- Descriptions of individual species.
- Poems, reflections and observations about native plants.
- Reviews of relevant books that you think other members would find interesting.
- Good quality pen & ink drawings or cartoons.
- Recipes of the month.
- Details of events that other members may find interesting.

Please try to think of one contribution that **YOU** can make to *your newsletter* this year!

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



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