

Borealis

the newsletter of the



April 1996

P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514

Anchorage Chapter ☆ April Meeting ☆

Monday, First Congregational Church
April 1 2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
7:30 p.m. (Please use back entrance)

Mosses and Lichens: Who Cares and Why?

by Bjartmar Sveinbjörnsson

This month's program will be given by Bjartmar Sveinbjörnsson, a native of Iceland who has studied lichen, moss and treeline ecology in many northern parts of the globe. His research aims to explain what environmental factors and plant processes limit distribution and performance of plants.

Plant Family - This month's featured fern families, marsh and maidenhair ferns, will be presented by Marilyn Barker.

Mini-Botany - Sally Karabelnikoff will provide us with insights into the sex life of orchids.

Seed Swap - seed swap seeds will be available.

A Board Meeting will be held half an hour beforehand, starting at 7 p.m.

Mystery Plant by Trevor Ricketts

This shrub is one of our earliest flowering plants. Look for its blooms along Turnagain Arm by the last week of April, although you'll have to be observant as the flowers are very small and you could easily pass by without noticing. The winter twigs are more obvious; their scaly tips look as though they've been dipped in molten copper. Leaves appear later. They are green above, and covered with reddish brown scales and silvery star-shaped hairs below. The fruits of this plant are picked by native peoples, mixed with sugar and water, and beaten into an edible froth which gives the plant its common name.



Answer on Page 3.
Mystery Plant drawings by
Toby Tyler, ANPS Kachemak Chapter.

DUES ARE DUE!

Please take a moment to check your mailing label and make sure your name, address and your renewal date are correct. If your renewal date is circled in red and the label doesn't show PD = 96, this may be your last newsletter. Don't miss out on the field trip schedule; a membership renewal form is on Page 7.

Field Trips

Sign-up Soon for Llama Buddies Trips!

Travel the trails in luxury this summer! If you would like a llama to carry your gear and someone else to do the cooking, these are just the trips for you. Verna is taking reservations for both dates (), but you will need to sign-up soon.

Gold Mint Trail near Hatcher Pass: July 6 & 7. There are still a few spaces left for this one, although it is filling fast. If you would like to go, call Verna. All reservations must be made by May 1, and if necessary we will keep a wait list. (Cost \$245 / person).

Lost Lake Trail: August 3 - 5. At the moment, we don't have enough people signed up for this one to make it happen. If you would like to go, please sign up by April 15. If there are not enough people by that date, the trip will be canceled. (Cost \$435 / person).

Intertidal Plant Kayaking Trip: Kachemak Bay Probably Saturday, August 17

Dotti Harness of Seaside Adventures is offering ANPS members a one-day kayaking trip in Kachemak Bay. Tentative plans are to travel from Homer across Kachemak Bay by water taxi, and to kayak around the protected bays and islands on the other side. The date has been selected for its low tide, so plenty of intertidal life will be on display. The trip would run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and estimated cost is \$125 / person, including round trip water taxi fare, kayak and paddling gear, basic instruction and guide. Minimum 2; maximum 12. There is also an option to run this as a two-day trip, spending one night in Seldovia.

To hold this date open for ANPS members, reservations will have to be made by the end of April. If you are interested, call Dotti Harness () or Kathy Burke ().

Mediterranean Cruise

ANPS members are invited to join a small Native Plant group from S. Georgia for a Grand Mediterranean tour with artist Nathalie Salamone. Places visited on the 12-day cruise will include: Greek Isles, Athens, Rome, Florence, and Barcelona. During the cruise, Nathalie will teach her SMART ART course using watercolors. Cruise costs range from \$3400 - \$7145, depending on cabin choice. However, Valerie Brown of Set Sail Cruises is offering a special incentive of a free cruise to anyone in ANPS who could contact other plant lovers and spread the news about the cruise. For more information, call Valerie Brown () or write to her at: , Covington, GA 30209.

Volunteer Opportunities

Spring Garden Show at the Sears Mall

Saturday, April 20
10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sears Mall at Northern Lights
and New Seward Highway

We need your help!!

We are planning to host an ANPS publicity table at the annual Spring Garden Show. This is a good opportunity to let people know who we are and maybe attract some new members. Our table will feature various displays, and we will sell prints and other items that are available at membership meetings. To make this event run smoothly, we need lots of volunteers to step forward and take a two hour slot at staffing the tables. Please call Julia Ricketts () if you can help.

Historian

We are still looking for someone to take on the role of chapter historian, but Verna has volunteered to start the ball rolling. If you have photographs of ANPS field trips or other items that might be of interest to ANPS members and are suitable for a club scrap book, please get them to Verna ().

Turnagain Arm Trail Challenge Cost Share Grant

A USFWS Challenge Cost Share Grant has been awarded to Chugach State Park and the ANPS for restoration efforts on the Turnagain Arm Trail. As part of the deal, ANPS will supply volunteers, the park will provide heavy equipment, and the money can be used for landscape architect services. Look for more information next month.

**Polypodiophyta:
Adiantaceae (Maidenhair Fern) and
Thelypteridaceae (Marsh Ferns)**

Plants of this month's featured fern families possess similar fertile and sterile fronds (unlike last month) that are pinnately divided. In the Adiantaceae, marginal sori are covered by the deflexed edge of the leaf. In the Thelypteridaceae, sori are not covered by leaf margins and are submarginal (arranged near leaf margins). Next month, we will feature fern families with sori arranged along the veins of the leaves.

Adiantum pedatum (Maidenhair Fern) is the only representative of its family in Alaska. It is restricted to SE and a few scattered locations throughout southern coastal areas, and prefers shady, humus-rich sites, often on cliffs or in the spray zone of waterfalls. Its dark, shiny stipes grow to 50 cm tall, dividing near the top and then sub-dividing into many delicate sections that are held almost at right angles to the stipe. The species name *pedatum* means "having feet," and refers to the resemblance of the branching leaves to birds' feet. *Adiantum* comes from a Greek word meaning "waterproof;" leaves of this genus will not absorb much water. The glossy stipes are believed to resemble "maidenhair," hence the common name.

Two species of *Thelypteris* exist in Alaska: *T. phegopteris* (Narrow Beech Fern) and *T. limbosperma*. The former is common on the southern coast of Alaska from lowlands up to lower alpine regions in woods and on stony slopes. In the Yukon valley, its most northerly known location, it is found at a hot spring. Rhizomes produce solitary, widely-spaced, deciduous fronds to 40 cm tall. Stipes are brown to straw colored, hairy and sparsely scaly. They are equal or longer than the blade in length. Blades of this plant are triangular, twice-pinnate, with a distinctive lower pair of leaflets that usually bend forward. To some they suggest spurs or bowed legs, giving rise to the common name of cowboy fern. This species lacks an indusium.

T. limbosperma differs in that its fronds are short-stalked and lance-shaped, and its sori are covered by a lobed indusium. It is an uncommon coastal plant of open, rocky slopes, found east of the Kenai Peninsula, and in other scattered areas along the south coast of Alaska. When crushed its yellow-green leaves are strongly scented.

What's In a Name

***Pulsatilla patens* (Pasqueflower)**



In Alaska Pasqueflowers bloom in May or early June, but in more southerly places their flowers can be found around Easter time. *Pasque* is the Old French word for Easter, and is derived from a Greek word *pashka*. The Hebrew word *pesakh*, meaning "Passover," is also related. In some areas the plants are known as April-Fools because they blossom around April 1 and often get buried by a late snow fall.

The generic name *Pulsatilla* means "quiverer," and refers to the plant's habit of shaking in the wind. *Patens* means "spreading."

Mystery Plant Answer:

***Shepherdia canadensis*
Soapberry
Eleagnaceae (Oleaster Family)**

**We need willow galls from your region:
A request from Dominique Collet**

Collections of willow galls are needed from different regions of Alaska. Your collections will allow us to have a better knowledge of the gall insects that live all over the state, and provide us with basic information

identification of the shrub. There are over 30 willow species and numerous other types of shrubs in Alaska. Even if you are in doubt about the identity of the shrub, send it anyway. We would like up to 50 galls of each type, because all insects that live in a certain type of gall are not present in each gall.



Types of Willow Galls

Mail the package priority mail. We will reimburse you right away. We will keep you informed of what we find in the galls after the insects that emerge have been examined.

We ask you to fill out a form for each set of galls collected, so we can learn as much as possible about the origin and habitat of the insects that emerge from the material you send us.

For forms or more information, write to **Dominique Collet, Box 704, Sterling, AK 99672, Tel: () , email: collet@alaska.net**

Thank you for your help.

Editor's Note: Dominique is particularly interested in gall collections from areas north of Anchorage and throughout Alaska with the exception of the Kenai road system. He has been collecting galls on the Kenai for the last few years. A few collections from the Anchorage area are also needed.

needed for writing a useful illustrated study guide for amateur naturalists in Alaska. With the help of such a guide, much could be learned and taught about food chains, as well as animal and plant biology. Most of the rearing and study of the gall insects can be done indoors in the latter part of winter, providing an excellent subject for natural history studies.

New Booklet on Willow Identification

We are looking for galls formed on willows. The best time to collect the galls is in late March, April or May (when there is still snow on the ground, or before the willow leaves have opened). At that time, most of the gall insects are in their final larval stages and can be reared to adult from clipped galls. The gall bearing willow twigs can be airmailed inside a closed paper bag, cushioned by crumpled newspaper or other light packaging material, in a cardboard box.

If you're the sort of person who enjoys identifying plants but has always found willows too intimidating, there's a new booklet that will help. *Willows of the Kenai Peninsula* by Dominique Collet is written for the amateur botanist with the aim of making willow identification easier. In addition to the key at the beginning of the book, it includes descriptions and drawings of each species. All willows known to or likely to occur on the Kenai Peninsula are included. The retail price of the booklet is \$10. It is published by The Kenai Peninsula Botanical Society, and can be obtained by writing to: Dominique Collet, Box 704, Sterling, AK 99672; Tel () email: collet@alaska.net

Please cut gall bearing stems about a foot long, leaving buds and side branchlets to help in the

The ANPS summer field trip schedule is starting to fill, but there's still plenty of room for more trips. If you have an idea or would like to lead a trip, give Kathy Burke a call by April 19 (). A detailed field trip schedule will be mailed out to members by the beginning of May.

DATE	PLACE	LEADER
March 31	Winter Identification by Snowshoe	Marilyn Barker & Julia Ricketts
April 19	McHugh -Winter id. and early emerging plants	Julia Ricketts
April 19	Deadline for adding field trips to schedule	
May 19	Wishbone Hill	Curvin Metzler
May 27	Nancy Lake, Tulik Trail	John Wenger
June 1	Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale	
	Anchorage garden Club Plant Sale	
June 9	Arctic Valley to S.Fork Eagle River Traverse	Verna Pratt
June 22	The Ballpark	Julia & Trevor Ricketts
June 23-July 1	The Texans are Coming: Get ready for a week of field trips	Julia Ricketts / Verna Pratt
June 26	Mt. Eklutna	Verna Pratt
June 30	Hatcher Pass - Gold Cord Trail	Panthea Redwood
July 6&7	Gold Mint Trail	Llama Buddies
July 6&7	Ship Lake Backpack	Julia & Trevor Ricketts
August 3-5	Lost Lake Trail	Llama Buddies
August 17	Kachemak Bay kayak trip	Dotti Harness

Celebrating Wildflowers Tentative Schedule:

Celebrating Wildflowers is a public program devoted to educating the public about the native plants of our area. During the last two weeks of June there will be a concentration of events featuring our native flora. If you would like to help in the organization of Celebrating Wildflowers, lead a hike, or plan any other type of event call Ginny Moran () or Debbie Blank (). Volunteers are particularly needed for the Neighborhood Flora Project on June 20 when numerous neighborhood walks will take place in Anchorage. Please consider giving a flora walk for your neighbors at your local park.

DATE	PLACE	LEADER
May 22	Old Johnson Trail (at McHugh)	Marlena Mooring
June 5	Old Johnson Trail (at McHugh)	Marlena Mooring
June 13	Wildflower Lecture at Loussac	Verna Pratt
June 15	Girdwood: Moose Meadows & Winner Creek	Julia Ricketts
June 15	Butterflies and Wildflower Lecture at Loussac	Carol Lloyd
June 16	Salt Marsh Walk	
June 18	Tour of Botanical Garden	
June 19	Old Johnson Trail (at McHugh)	Marlena Mooring
June 19	Flower Photography at museum	
June 20	Neighborhood Flora Walks	Various
June 21	Kincaid Park Hike	Verna Pratt
June 22	Prospect Heights to Williwaw	Ginny Moran
June 23	All day hike	Verna Pratt
June 26	BLM Flower Bike Ride	
June 27	Portage Wader Walk	
June 29	Fire Ecology Talk	
June 30	Arctic Valley Hike	



Alaska Native Plant Society
Treasurers Report
For the quarter ended December 31, 1995

Jan-Sep'95 Sep-Dec'95 Yr to date

	5012.21	3081.60	5012.21
Beginning Cash Balance			
Receipts:			
Membership Dues	1167.00	1001.50	2168.50
Sale of Prints	60.00		60.00
Sale of Decal Stickers	4.50		4.50
Sale of Sew On Patches	4.75		4.75
Sale of Seeds	233.50		233.50
Sale of Shirts		1263.00	1263.00
Contribution to Scholarship Fund			0.00
Contribution, Unrestricted			0.00
Homer Chapter Membership Dues			0.00
Advertising	46.00		46.00
Donations	0.73	400.00	400.73
Books	55.38		55.38
	0.00		0.00
Total Receipts	1571.86	2664.50	4236.36
Disbursements			
Newsletter: Printing and Postage	702.72	407.66	1110.38
Business License	58.00		58.00
P. O. Box Rental	0.00		0.00
Seed Sale Envelopes	22.95		22.95
Administrative Supplies and Postage		26.80	26.80
Monthly Meetings, Refreshments			0.00
Refunds			0.00
Donations		500.00	500.00
Scholarships			0.00
Anchorage Chapter, 30% of Membership Dues	755.10	21.00	776.10
Field Trips	86.10	33.28	119.38
ANPS Shirts	1857.10	829.60	2686.70
Folded Handouts	20.50		20.50
Total Disbursements	3502.47	1818.34	5320.81
Closing Cash Balance	3081.60	3927.76	3927.76

There are 120 'paid members as of December 31, 1995

Yaso Thiru

Yaso Thiru, Treasurer

Teaming with Wildlife: a natural investment
Information provided by John Schoen, ADF&G

Over 370 conservation and recreation groups and businesses are championing a national effort to prevent declines of fish and wildlife, to ensure high quality outdoor recreation, and to meet the rising demand for conservation education.

The Fish & Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative (FWDFI), heralded as **Teaming with Wildlife**, offers a simple, proven mechanism to raise \$350 million annually that will return to state fish and wildlife agencies for the three-fold purpose of conservation, recreation and education. Funds would be distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies on a formula based on two-thirds state population and one-third state area. If there were \$100 million to be distributed, Alaska's annual share would be \$5 million of federal money which would need to be matched by \$1.7 million of state funds.

By paying very small user fees (1/4 - 5%) on a wide range of outdoor equipment, from binoculars to camping gear, the initiative would benefit many wildlife species for which no reliably funded conservation programs exist and the 160 million Americans who now enjoy the outdoors. Most state wildlife management is now paid for by hunting and fishing license fees or from federal wildlife and sport restoration funds levied from hunters and anglers under the Sport Fish & Wildlife Restoration Acts. Those dollars have funded the restoration of some game species, as well as habitat acquisition and management

for game species. Although wildlife enthusiasts who neither hunt nor fish use the lands and enjoy the wildlife, their financial contribution to state wildlife conservation programs is limited. The FWDFI will provide a way for these wildlife enthusiasts to help fund wildlife conservation.

The need for nature centers, watchable wildlife interpretation and educational materials for teachers has never been greater. Funding for conservation of non-game species, including plants, has been sparse and the situation is likely to get worse as budgets are tightened. Benefits for plant enthusiasts might include: habitat protection, more interpretive facilities, state recognition of rare plants, and possibly even a state rare plant program.

Join Team Wildlife! In Alaska nearly 50 organizations have already joined the coalition, including Governor Tony Knowles, The Nature Conservancy of Alaska, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Alaska Natural History Association, Audubon chapters, and a number of university departments, state agencies and ecotourism companies. You can help by using your buying power as a consumer. Write letters to outdoor equipment manufacturers and retailers, such as REI, LL Bean, Coleman and Pentax. Tell them you want to invest in conservation through a dedicated user fee.

For more information, call John Schoen at ADF&G ().

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, Membership Dept., 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.

ANPS State Officers

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

Anchorage Chapter Board Members

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

Anchorage Chapter Program Coordinators

Main Program Ginny Moran
Plant Family Verna Pratt
Mini-Botany Marilyn Barker
Field Trips Kathy Burke

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 May issue should be mailed to: Julia and Trevor Ricketts, , Anchorage, AK 99516 to arrive by April 19.

Early Season Field Trips

Winter Plant Identification Field Trip: Sunday, March 31 at 1 p.m.

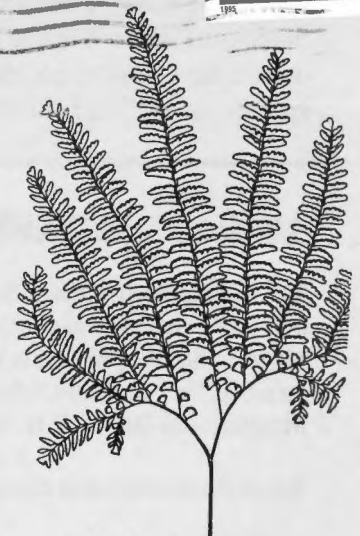
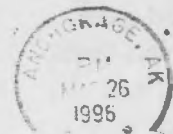
Marilyn Barker is looking for an excuse to try out her new snowshoes! Join Marilyn and Julia at Glen Alps at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 31, for an alpine winter plant hunt. We'll head up the Powerline Pass trail, and see what we find. Ptarmigan should be starting to display and change plumage at this time, so bring your binoculars. For the latest snow conditions call Julia Ricketts () on Sunday morning, or call either Julia or Marilyn () for more information.

McHugh Creek:

Friday, April 19 at 7 p.m.

It's early, but this month's Mystery Plant may already be blooming! We'll look for early emerging plants and identify winter twigs. Meet at 6:40 p.m. at the SW corner of Huffman Carrs parking lot, or at 7:00 p.m. at McHugh Creek (mile 111.8 on the Seward Highway). This will be an easy trip, although trail conditions may be slick. Come prepared for whatever the weather might throw at us. For more information, call Julia & Trevor at

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



Maidenhair Fern

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