

Borealis

the newsletter of the



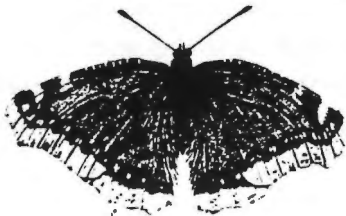
November 1996

P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514

Anchorage Chapter November Meeting

Monday,
November 4
7:30 p.m.

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



Butterflies of Chugach State Park & Wildflowers They Depend On

Carole Lloyd, naturalist at the Eagle River Nature Center, will present a program on the butterflies and wildflowers of Chugach State Park. Carole invites any one with slides of butterflies to bring them along.

Plant Family: Can you tell the difference between plants from the Iris and Lily families? Julia Ricketts will introduce a new series, focusing on how to distinguish plants from families that many of us find confusing. See pages 2 and 4 for more information.

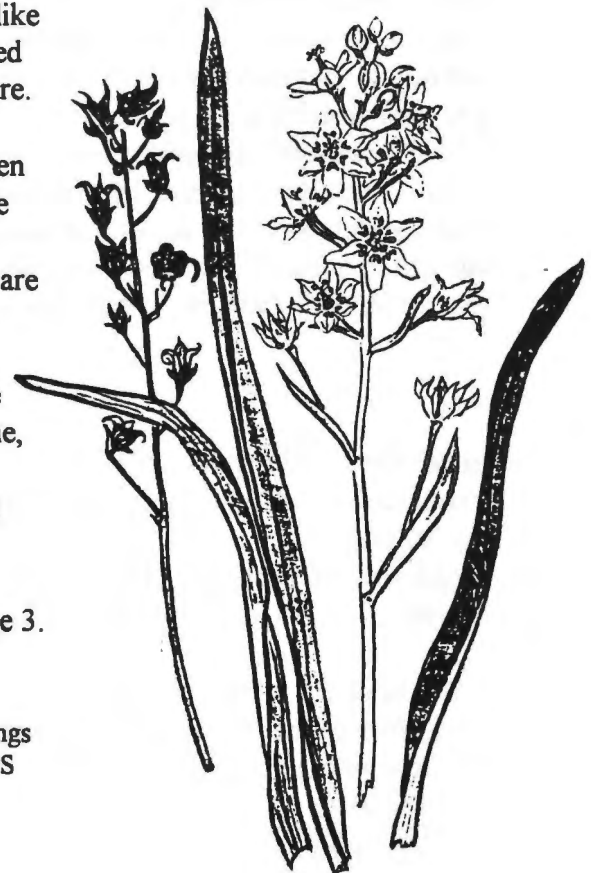
Mini-Botany: It's a Surprise! Verna will present this one.

A board meeting will be held at 7 p.m., immediately preceding the membership meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Mystery Plant

This elegant plant grows in open woods and on dry, grassy slopes throughout much of Alaska. It has flat, linear, grass-like leaves that clasp the stem. The elongated inflorescence is a raceme, composed of many greenish-white flowers with large green nectar glands. Like many members of its family, the flowers have two whorls of similar segments, a superior ovary and six stamens.

Our plant can easily be confused with the wild onion as it grows from an onion-like bulb. However, the bulb and leaves of our mystery plant are odorless, while those of wild onion have a distinctive onion-like scent when crushed or bruised. Beware. This plant is very poisonous and even small doses can be lethal. Many domestic animals are killed annually by grazing on it, although hogs are apparently immune, leading to the nickname of "hog potato."



Answer on Page 3.

Mystery Plant drawings
by Toby Tyler, ANPS
Kachemak Chapter.

Kxy Pxoplx Nxxdxd:

The following excerpt came from the *Medical Amateur Radio Council Newsletter*.

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works wxll xxxcpt for onx of thx kxys. I'vx wishxd many timxs that it workxd propxrlly. Trux, thxrx arx 42 kxys that function, but onx kxy not working makxs a big diffxrxnce. Somxtimxs, it sxxms to mx that our organization is somxwhat likx my typxwritxr — not all thx pxoplx arx working propxrlly at all timxs. You might say, "Wxll, I'm only onx pxrson. It won't makx much diffxrxncx." But you sxx, an organization, to bx xffixxnt, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxy pxrson. So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxxdxd, rxmxbxr my typxwritxr, and say to yoursxlf, "I'm a kxy person and they need mx vxry much."

With this in mind, we are currently looking for kxy people for the following positions. Don't be shy!

Newsletter Editor:

This will be our last newsletter before we leave for Norway in mid-November. We are still looking for a/several creative plant enthusiast(s) to assume the role of newsletter editor(s). You'll find tremendous support from club members and a great opportunity (and excuse) to learn more about our native flora. If you think you may be interested, call Julia or Trevor Ricketts at

Seed Swap Coordinator:

Verna has now received a few seed donations for the '97 seed swap, so we will need a volunteer to coordinate the exchange. If you think you may be interested, call Verna ().

If you have any surplus seeds to donate, please bring them to the November or December meetings or mail them to the ANPS care of the PO Box address.

Program Chair:

Presentations by guest speakers are a major part of Anchorage Chapter meetings, and for the past two years Ginny Moran has done an excellent job in arranging an entertaining, informative and varied set of programs. Unfortunately, school and other commitments mean Ginny will be resigning from this position. Thanks, Ginny, for a wonderful job and good luck with your new endeavors!

The program chair is responsible for arranging guest speakers on a variety of botanical topics for monthly meetings. Jobs include: contacting potential guests, providing information on upcoming speakers and programs to the *Borealis* editor(s) and secretary, arranging for any special equipment needed by the speaker, and announcing the guest at monthly meetings. **To volunteer for this position contact Julia Ricketts at**

Plant Family Presenters:

This year, we are planning a slightly different approach to the plant family presentations. Based on questions that she is frequently asked, Verna has identified pairs or groups of confusing plant families or genera for this year's series. Instead of focusing on an entire family, we will concentrate on distinguishing between families or on separating confusing genera within some of the larger families. Verna has suggested the following groupings: 1) Iris / Lily Families, 2) Heath / Diapensia / Crowberry Families, 3) *Arabis* and *Draba* from the Mustard Family, 4) *Arnica* / *Senecio* and 5) *Erigeron* / *Aster* from the Aster Family, 6) Buttercup and Rose Families and 7) *Potentilla* / *Geum* from the Rose Family. If you would like to volunteer to make a 10 minute presentation at a membership meeting on one of the above groupings give Verna a call ().

What's In A Name?

Iris setosa (Wild Flag)

With their large, multi-colored flowers these plants are aptly named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow, Iris, who served Zeus and Hera by transmitting messages between heaven and earth on the pathway of a rainbow. Another of Iris' duties was leading the souls of women to the Elysian fields, and today Greek women still put iris flowers on graves of deceased female relatives. The name *iris* can be translated from Latin as "eye of heaven," a name given both to the center of the eye and to the rainbow.

Setosa means "bristly," perhaps referring to the sharp petal tips. A common name for many Iris species is "flag," referring to the sepals that hang out like banners.

In France, the iris has been used as a victory symbol since the first century A.D. According to legend, Clovis I, King of the Franks, adopted the symbol after he found himself trapped on a bend of the Rhine by a superior force of Goths. Looking out across the water, Clovis noticed a yellow flag iris growing midway across the channel, revealing shallows over which the Franks retreated. In another legend, a shield charged with iris was brought to Clovis from heaven while he was battling the Saracens. (Some iris leaves are incredibly tough; botanist David Douglas reported that aboriginal peoples of the Cascades used braided iris leaves to snare animals as large as elk.) Louis VII revived the iris symbol, and it became known as the flower of Louis, or *fleur-de-lis*. During the reign of Charles IV, the iris was included on the French banner.

Herbalists use iridin, a resinous complex from iris rhizomes, for treating ailments of the liver. However, overdoses may cause diarrhea and vomiting.

"A Leaving Hooly"

You are invited to a Potluck Leaving Party for Trevor & Julia Ricketts, to celebrate their time in Alaska and to prepare them for their move south, by 2°, to Norway!

At the house of Alan & Claire Marsden

Saturday, October 26 from 6:30 p.m. onwards.

RSVP to Claire Marsden -

New Exhibit at National Wildflower Research Center

A new, permanent wildflower gardening exhibit has opened at the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin, Texas. It focuses on wildflowers in planned landscaping. Photographs by Julie Riley and Verna Pratt are featured in the exhibit.

Nominations for Anchorage Chapter Officers

A nominating committee will soon be contacting members to find officers for the Anchorage Chapter for 1997. Officers for which volunteers can be nominated are: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

Mystery Plant Answer:



Death Camas
Zygadenus elegans
Lily Family (Liliaceae)

**Liliaceae or Iridaceae?
Distinguishing Plants of the Iris and Lily Families**

Superficially plants from these two families can appear similar. Most have simple, sessile (without stalks), parallel-veined leaves with sheathing bases; flowers with parts in multiples of three; and a three-celled ovary. In Alaska, they are all perennial herbs. However, on closer examination some key features become apparent that, once learned, will easily distinguish plants from the two families.

Liliaceae	Iridaceae
Roots fleshy.	Roots fibrous.
Grows from bulbs , rhizomes, or corms.	Rhizomes or corms.
Leaves basal, alternate or whorled.	Leaves basal, usually linear and grass-like to sword-shaped; leaves usually equitant (overlapping leaves arranged in 2 ranks) conduplicate (folded together lengthwise).
Flowers 3-merous. 3 petals plus 3 sepals are usually similar and collectively called tepals.	Flowers 3-merous. 3 petals plus 3 sepals usually dissimilar. Sepals often petaloid.
Flowers usually without bracts, although in <i>Allium</i> the inflorescence is subtended by a single spathe-like bract.	Flowers usually subtended by two bracts.
Ovary usually superior (sepals, petals and stamens attached beneath ovary); ovary 3-parted and frequently triangular.	Ovary inferior (sepals, petals and stamens attached above ovary). Solid core hypanthium present, formed by the fusion of sepals, petals and stamens at their bases.
Stamens 6	Stamens 3 , opposite sepals.
Stigma capitate and 3-lobed.	Stigma and style often petaloid.
Fruit a 3-chambered capsule or berry.	Fruit a 3-chambered capsule that opens by longitudinal slits.
Alaskan Genera: <i>Tofieldia</i> (False Asphodel), <i>Zygadenus</i> (Death Camass), <i>Veratrum</i> (False Hellebore), <i>Allium</i> (Chives), <i>Fritillaria</i> (Chocolate Lily), <i>Lloydia</i> (Alp Lily), <i>Clintonia</i> (Blue Bead), <i>Smilacina</i> (False Solomon's Seal), <i>Maianthemum</i> (False Lily of the Valley), <i>Streptopus</i> (Watermelon Berry).	Alaskan Genera: <i>Iris</i> , <i>Sisyrinchium</i> (Blue-eyed Grass) Examples of Other Genera: <i>Gladiolus</i> , <i>Freesia</i> , <i>Crocus</i>

Recipe of the Month

Blueberry Poppy Seed Brunch Cake

Ingredients

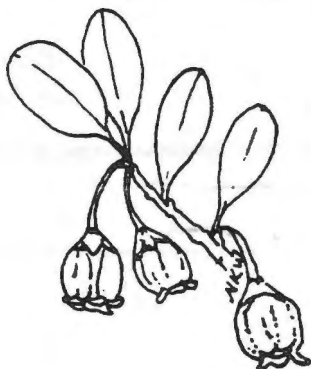
2/3 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter / margarine (at room temp.)
2 tsp. grated lemon peel
1 egg
1 1/2 cups unbleached flour
2 tabsp. poppy seeds
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup sour cream

Filling

2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries (thawed and drained)
1/3 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
2 tsp. flour

Glaze

1/3 cup icing sugar
1-2 tsp. milk



1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Grease and flour a 9 - 10 inch springform pan.
3. In large bowl, beat together 2/3 cup sugar and butter until fluffy. Add lemon peel and egg. Beat 2 minutes at medium speed.
4. Combine flour, poppy seeds, baking soda and salt. Gradually add flour mixture and sour cream to butter mixture, alternating additions and blending until smooth.
5. Spread batter over bottom and 1 inch up side of tin.
6. In medium bowl combine all filling ingredients; spoon over batter.
7. Bake 45 - 55 minutes or until crust is golden-brown. Cool. Remove sides of pan.
8. In small bowl combine sugar and milk until glaze is of a drizzling consistency; blend until smooth.
9. Drizzle over top of warm cake.
10. Serve warm or cool.

Makes 8 servings

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. Any renewals before the end of 1996 are valid until December 1997.

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 Vacant
Plant Family Verna Pratt
Mini-Botany Marilyn Barker
Field Trips Kathy Burke

Borealis

Editor(s) Vacant
Circulation Martha Hatch

The newsletter of the ANPS is published monthly except for June, July, August and September. Material for the December issue should be mailed to: ANPS, *Borealis*, PO Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514 by November 14.

Before they disperse to Norway . . .

You are invited to a

Good Luck & Bon Voyage Party

for Julia & Trevor Ricketts

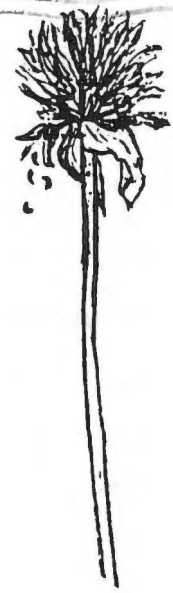
on
Sunday, November 11
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
at Marilyn Barker's house

Anchorage

RSVP to Marilyn at

Bring snacks
Beverages will be provided

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



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.