

Borealis

the newsletter of the



January 1997

P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514

Anchorage Chapter January Meeting Program

Monday, BLM Campbell Tract Educational Center,
January 6th off of East 68th from Lake Otis Road
7:30 p.m. (see directions elsewhere in Newsletter)

“Another Chukotka Summer”

ANPS member Dr. Carolyn Parker will present another adventure in Chukotka. More adventures, beautiful landscapes, great company, and now, some insight on those troublesome Potentillas. Carolyn is affiliated with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and has made several trips to the Soviet (?) Far East.

Mini-Botany:

This is a spin-off from the Mystery Plant, explaining a 4 year science program in the Anchorage School District schools. This program, “Earth Systems”, is through a grant from the National Science Foundation. It is providing teachers with training and different methods of teaching. Children receive good hands-on learning experiences that are exciting and therefore not soon forgotten.

Plant Family:

Presenter Verna Pratt will talk about “Those D-Y-M’s, the Mustard Family, that is”. The seed capsule basically tells it all, but sometimes they are not visible early in the season. We will concentrate on *Draba* and *Arabis* genera which have a tendency to look very much alike - especially in the spring. The seed capsule of a *Draba* is a silicle, and the seed capsule of an *Arabis* a silique (see drawing). A silicle is usually less than twice as long as wide, and a silique more than twice as long as wide. Most species of both genera prefer very dry habitats and their leaves and stems are often covered with hairs. Most species of both genera also tend to grow in rosettes. Many of our native *Drabas* are small compact plants with few or no leaves on their flowering stems. Leaves are simple and rarely have any teeth.

A few taller species, such as *Draba aurea*, *Draba maxima*, or *Draba borealis* might be confused with *Arabis* species early in the season. Most *Arabis* species also have simple hairy leaves (some are toothed). Most have many leaves on their flowering stems and are taller than most *Draba* species. Seed capsules develop early, often while flowers are still blooming, which helps in identifying confusing species. Often, if it isn't a windy site, you can still see remnants of last seasons seed capsules. Even if they are skeletons the shape is still there.



Draba macrocarpa



Arabis holboellii

Mystery Plant



This month's Mystery Plant is common to farming areas, especially in the Matanuska Valley. Its bright yellow, 4-petaled, 1/2" flowers brighten many roadsides and fields in mid-summer. It is a fast growing annual with bright green leaves that can be simple or pinnately divided, the uppermost leaves clasping the stems. The flower clusters are short and broad with the lower (or outermost) flowers blooming first. The seed capsule is long, narrow and pointed giving it its common name.

Election Results of Anchorage Chapter ANPS Officers

Anchorage Chapter Officers:

The following are the Anchorage Chapter Officers elected at the December meeting. The officers will take office on 1 January 1997.

President -----	Marlena Mooring
Vice-President -----	Nancy Krieger
Secretary -----	Marilyn Upton
Treasurer -----	Unison Hubbard

Volunteers and more Opportunities

Plant Family Presenters:

You would be surprised at what you can learn and how easy it can be to present a brief mini-program (10 minutes). This year we are concentrating on high confusion areas — that are not as difficult as they seem when you know the tricks. Presenters are needed for:

- 1) *Arnica* versus *Senecio*
- 2) *Erigeron* versus *Aster*
- 3) *Potentilla* versus *Geum*
- 3) Buttercups versus *Potentilla*

If you would like to volunteer to make a 10 minute presentation on one of the above groupings give Verna a call at

Mini-Botany:

Volunteers are needed to give 5 to 10 minute presentations on a subject of their choice. This is an easy one since you get to choose your own topic, and it can be a lot of fun.

Newsletter:

Frank Pratt is taking over editorial duties of the newsletter **for the time being**. We are still looking for a permanent editor!!!

Upcoming Programs

Program Chair:

Our very special thanks to Ginny Moran for continuing as Program Chair. She has lined up the following speakers:

January -----	Carolyn Parker
February -----	Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes
March -----	Ed Berg
April -----	Rob Lipkin
May -----	Dr. Elena Conti

Thanks again, Ginny, not only did you continue as Chair, but have succeeded in filling the speaker list for the rest of the season with outstanding speakers!!! Good Show!!!

Mystery Plant Answer



Bird's Rape, *Brassica Rapa*, Mustard Family, Brassicaceae. That's right folks — a weed introduced originally from Europe and very well established throughout the U.S. It is now hybridized and grown for the production of Canola Oil, a valuable food product. It is also a close relative of those healthy vegetables: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Kale, Cabbage, etc.

Election Results of Alaska State ANPS Officers

The following are the Alaska State ANPS Officers elected in December. The officers will take office on 1 January 1997, and will serve for a two year term.

President ----- Marilyn Barker
 Vice-President ----- Virginia Moran
 Secretary ----- Jean Poor
 Treasurer ----- Yaso Thiro

Books of Interest:

"From Seed to Bloom"

by Eileen Powell

Garden Way Publishing Book

312 pages

\$18.95

Soft Cover

This is an excellent guide on recognizing, germinating and growing many species of plants. It covers annuals and perennials including many of our wildflowers. Ever wonder why your Veronica seeds didn't germinate — (they need light), or your forget-me-nots — (they need dark). [Sample page below]

Tellima

False alumroot, Fringe cups



Unusual perennials native to western North America bearing tall, delicate spikes of loosely scattered, bell-shaped flowers of white, turning to pink; heart-shaped leaves may be green or bronze. 2' tall. Plants for the wildflower or woodland garden.

SOWING

INDOORS: See "Germinating, Requirements."

OUTDOORS: See "Germinating, Requirements."

DEPTH: Surface.

GERMINATING

TIME: 30-90 days.

REQUIREMENTS: Always use fresh seed. **Autumn sowing:** Sow seeds in flats, sink in the ground against a north-facing wall, and cover with glass. Moisten soil occasionally, if necessary. Bring flats indoors in spring to 55°-60°F. **Spring sowing:** Sow seeds in flats, place flats in plastic bags, and refrigerate. After 2-3 weeks remove and sink in the ground in a shady location. Cover with glass, removing when seeds sprout.

PLANTING SEEDLINGS OUTDOORS

TIME: Autumn.

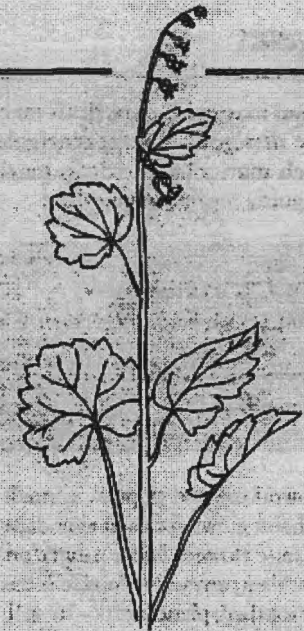
SPACING: 18"-24".

LIGHT: Part to full shade.

SOIL: Cool, moist, rich.

CARING FOR PLANTS

Easy. Mulch in spring and autumn; water during dry spells. *Tellima* spreads rapidly when happy.



Tellima grandiflora

PROPAGATING

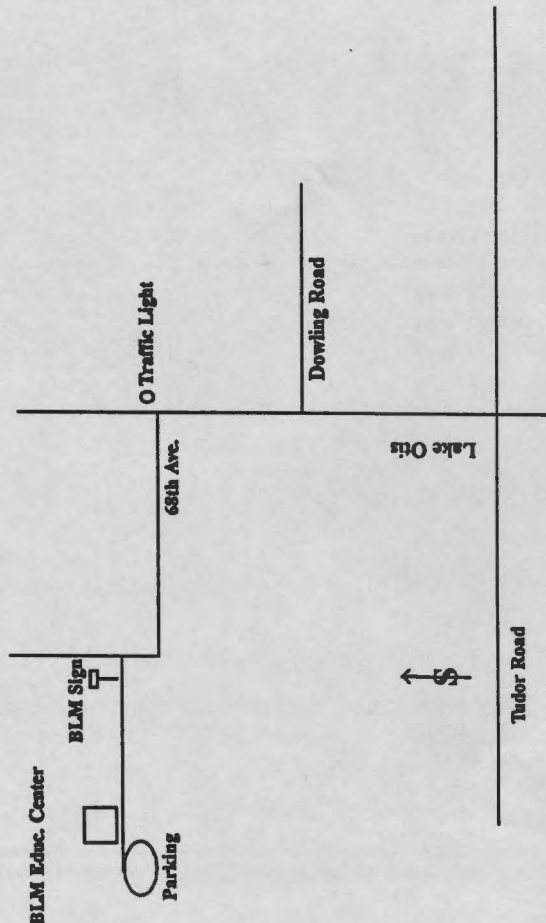
Divide in spring (zones 3-6) or early autumn (zones 7-9).

A-Annual; P-Perennial; B-Biennial; HHA-Half-hardy annual; HA-Hardy annual; HB-Hardy biennial; HHP-Half-hardy perennial; HP-Hardy perennial; HHB-Half-hardy bulb; HB-Hardy bulb

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



Map to New Meeting Place



👉 1997 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.

- Full-time Student () \$5
- Senior (65) () \$10
- Individual () \$12
- Family () \$18
- Organization () \$30

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____

(Work) _____

Membership is on a calendar year basis.