

# Borealis

the newsletter of the



PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

SEPTEMBER 1997

## JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL POTLUCK

**Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.**  
**at the Campbell Creek Center**  
**off 68<sup>th</sup> and Lake Otis**  
**(See Map on Back)**

### "Share, Show & Tell"

Bring a dish to serve four times  
the number in your party. We'll  
provide drinks and tableware.  
Bring up to 10 slides of summer  
activities, native plants.

\*\*\*\*\*

### COMING UP SOON

**Alaska Rock & Garden Society**  
(To join, contact Wendy Anderson,  
Palmer, 99645  
(907)7 )

#### October 18: Plant Propagation

Join our panel of experts, Doug Tryck,  
Verna Pratt, Don Dinkel, and Bill  
Campbell as they cover the ins and outs  
of evergreen cuttings, basal divisions,  
seed germination techniques, tissue  
culture and more. Hands on!  
Meet at Mat-Su College: Fred and Sara  
Machetanz Building Room 103, at 2:00  
PM.

#### November 15: Garden Photography

A potluck and seed exchange will round  
out this last meeting for the 1997 year.  
Meet at 2 PM at Sally Karabelnikoff's  
home at  
Anchorage.

## Ah! The Smell of Fall!

### *Blame it on cranberry leaves, not the berries!*

Every fall the woods around Anchorage pick up a distinct odor, which is ascribed to the high bush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*). Since the berries are ripening at that time, most of us simply attribute the smell to ripening berries. Two students at East high were curious enough about the high bush cranberries to run experiments to track the odor. Stefani Nistler and Rebecca Johnson submitted their project to the science fair this past spring and won top honors.

The title of their project was "The Composition of the Highbush Cranberry: Determining Volatile Components and Differences in Saccharide Contents of the *Viburnum edule*." They hypothesized that the reason the fruit has an odor is for the purpose of discouraging animals from eating unripe berries. They thought a chemical must be contained somewhere in the plant and is let out through the berries before the first frost of the season so the berries have a chance to ripen, and the plant would have a chance to prepare for winter. After the first frost, the berry is sweet and the odor disappears. The fruit also turns a bright red color, which may attract animals.

They set up an experimental procedure using an autosampler, a gas chromatograph and a mass spectrometer. Methylene chloride was used to extract and concentrate the compounds of the leaves and berries. Their results showed two things: 1) that ripe berries have more sugar than unripe berries and 2) that the berries were devoid of odor-producing hydrocarbons, hence odor-free. The leaves on the other hand were found to contain pentanoic acid (or a compound very similar to pentanoic acid). Pentanoic acid is similar to butyric acid, the rancid butter chemical. Hence the pungent fall odor is the product of senescing leaves.

**Alaska Native Plant Society  
Treasurer's Report**

For the period ending June 30, 1997

	Jan-Mar'97	Apr-June'97	Yr to date
<b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>	5349.69	4652.54	5349.69
<b>Receipts</b>			
Membership Dues	562.00	576.00	1138.00
Sale of Prints	20.00		20.00
Sale of Decal Stickers			0.00
Sale of Sew On patches			0.00
Sale of Seeds		76.40	76.40
Sale of Shirts	158.00	80.70	238.70
Contribution to Scholarship Fund			0.00
Contribution, Unrestricted			0.00
Homer Chapter Membership Dues			0.00
Advertising			0.00
Donations			0.00
Books			0.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>740.00</b>	<b>733.10</b>	<b>1473.10</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Newsletter: Printing & Postage	387.45	450.90	838.35
Business License	50.00		50.00
P.O Box Rental	58.00		58.00
Seed Sale Envelopes			0.00
Administrative Supplies and Postage			0.00
Monthly Meetings, Refreshments			0.00
Refunds			0.00
Donations			0.00
Scholarships			0.00
Anchorage Chapter, 30% of Membership Dues	941.70		941.70
Field Trips			0.00
ANPS Shirts			0.00
Folded Handouts			0.00
Seed Envelopes		25.62	25.62
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>1437.15</b>	<b>476.52</b>	<b>1913.67</b>
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b>4652.54</b>	<b>4909.12</b>	<b>4909.12</b>

End Cash Balance as per 12/31/96 statement	5345.69
Unrecorded Deposits	317.00
Unrecorded payment	313.00
<b>Adjusted Cash Balance carried forward to 1/1/97</b>	<b>5349.69</b>

Yaso Thiru, Treasurer

Alaska Native Plant Society

# ALASKAKRAFTS, INC.

P. O. Box 210087, Anchorage, AK 99521-0087 (907) 333-8212

Verna & Frank Pratt

publishers of "Alaska's Wild Berries and berry-like fruit" and Alaska Wildflower Books  
proudly announces the publication

of

## "Berry Bears"

A new childrens' book

by

Aliene Thunell

This is a delightful prose type story about a Mother Bear teaching her Baby Bear which berries are good to eat. The simple line art of the Bears combined with the full-color illustrations of each berry makes this an amusing and educational book for children from ages 2 to 100.

Take advantage of the savings on this special pre-publication offer now by ordering by October 31st, 1997 using the order blank below.

### In addition here's a Special Package Deal

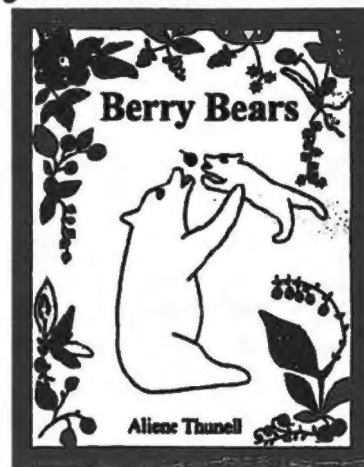
Order any (or all) of our other titles at about 20% off the regular prices when ordered with "Berry Bears".

Unless otherwise arranged, pickup will be at Tundra Arts & Gifts, 425 D Street, Anchorage, AK, 276-0190.

If mailed, book rate is \$1.00 for 1st book (1st Class \$3.00) and 50¢ for each additional book.

A  
Great  
Christmas  
Gift

Regular Retail price:  
Soft cover—\$8.95  
plus shipping.  
Hard cover—\$14.95  
plus shipping



Release date: November 1, 1997

tear here

Mail this order blank to: Alaskakrafts, Inc., P. O. Box 210087, Anchorage, AK 99521-0087 (907) 333-8212

### ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- copies of Berry Bears [hard cover] \_\_\_\_\_ (Reg. \$14.95—Special \$11.95) \_\_\_\_\_ total \_\_\_\_\_
- copies of Berry Bears [soft cover] \_\_\_\_\_ (Reg. \$8.95—Special \$7.15) \_\_\_\_\_ total \_\_\_\_\_
- copies of Field Guide to Alaskan Wildflowers \_\_\_\_\_ (Sorry, temporarily out of stock)
- copies of Wildflowers along the Alaska Highway \_\_\_\_\_ (Reg. \$19.95—Special \$15.95) \_\_\_\_\_ total \_\_\_\_\_
- copies of Wildflowers of Denali National Park \_\_\_\_\_ (Reg. \$16.95—Special \$13.50) \_\_\_\_\_ total \_\_\_\_\_
- copies of Alaska's Wild Berries and berry-like fruit \_\_\_\_\_ (Reg. \$9.95—Special \$7.95) \_\_\_\_\_ total \_\_\_\_\_
- copies of Linnaea's World [hard cover] \_\_\_\_\_ (Reg. \$19.95—Special \$15.95) \_\_\_\_\_ total \_\_\_\_\_
- copies of Linnaea's World [soft cover] \_\_\_\_\_ (Reg. \$11.95—Special \$9.59) \_\_\_\_\_ total \_\_\_\_\_

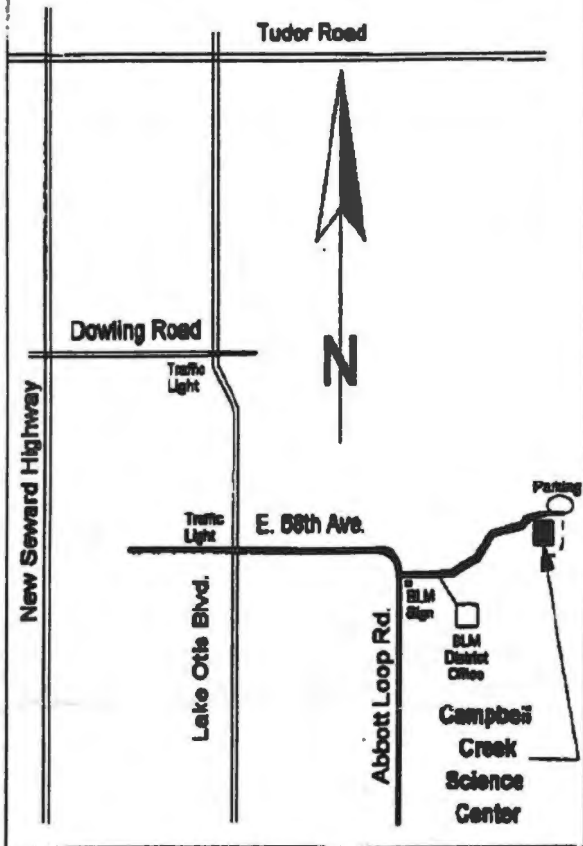
Postage & handling \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my book(s) mailed (attach instructions if different from address above). Book rate is \$1.00 for 1st book (First Class \$3.00) & 50¢ for each additional book.

All orders must be prepaid to qualify for discount prices. We accept checks, Money Orders, Visa, Mastercard, and AMEX.

**Map To The New Meeting Place  
Campbell Creek Science Center**



**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 goal 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, fill in the form below and mail it with the appropriate remittance to:

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



STATUS  New  RENEWAL

**CATEGORY**

- Full-time Student \$ 5
- Senior Citizen \$10
- Individual \$12
- Family \$18
- Organization \$30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is on a calendar year basis.

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

