

Borealis

the newsletter of the



PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

FEBRUARY 1998

JOIN US AT OUR FEB. MEETING

Monday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.
at the Campbell Creek Center

MAIN PROGRAM

"Naturalist Tours in Alaska's Parklands"
Presenter: John Wenger

Naturalist John Wenger will present a beautiful one hour presentation of summer tours he leads in Alaska's parklands from the Chugach Mountains to the Arctic slopes. Some of you may have been on these tours and may see yourselves in this presentation. This will probably be the last year that John will lead these tours so you may wish to also sign up for a trip. A World War II injury is more than slightly hampering his "heavy duty" hiking excursions. Come! Sit back and relax for an evening of touring Alaska's back country.

Presenter: Marlena Mooring
Lingonberries or Low-bush cranberries

Refreshments will be made with these
beautiful tasty cranberries

Plantaginaceae/Plantain Family

Presenter: Marilyn Barber

Wildflower Seed Sale

Seeds donated to the annual seed swap will be available at the February meeting of the Anchorage Chapter. All packets will cost 50 cents. If you cannot attend the meeting, send an order to the ANPS address, enclose a check for seeds plus shipping (\$.50 for 1-3 packages, \$1.00 for more). After the meeting, Verna will have the seed packages

1998 Seed List

NOTE: Seeds have not been stratified. See Page 3 for information on stratification methods..

1. *Aconitum delphinifolium* (Monkshood) - 18"-24" tall, with dark blue flowers. Shade or meadow.
2. *Arnica frigida* (Frigid Arnica) 8"-12" tall with large yellow daisy-type flower heads (Dry). Does not need stratifying.
3. *Aster sibiricus* (Siberian Aster) 5"-7" tall with 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 " lavender flowers. Mat-forming, spreads by rhizomes. Plant in sun or shade. Very good for holding banks.
4. *Cassiope tetragona* (Bell Heather) 8"-12" evergreen shrub with white bell-shaped, aromatic flowers. Damp areas. Protect from summer drought.
5. *Draba incerta* (Whitlow Grass) 3"-5" tall with yellow flowers; forms small clumps. Dry soils or rock garden. An example is the nice low yellow clumps seen hanging on the rocks on the Seward Highway in May. Does not need stratifying.
6. *Draba kamtschatica* (Kamchatka Draba) 3"-4" tall, white flowers. Rock garden plant, spreads nicely. Does not need stratifying.

1998 Seed List Continued on Page 3

President's Corner

By Marlena Mooring

Devil's Club

There is an abundance of Devil's Club here by the cabin in the woods near 9-Mile Creek. Although I've never been there during the summer, I spend almost every weekend at the cabin in the winter. While walking in the woods where only the tops of the Devil's Club protrude through the snow, I noticed six or seven pine grosbeaks perched on the thorny stems. The birds were busy eating the fruits of these plants. They flew from one plant to the next, consuming these berries or seeds? Last winter was the first time I noticed these birds eating the Devil's Club berries, and they are back again this winter. Squirrels had obviously been eating the fruit also. I've read that bears like to eat the berries in the fall, but I never realized that other animals and birds would find this thorny plant an important food source in winter.

Many thanks and appreciation to the special people listed below who have contributed their time and talents to the Alaska Native Plant Society during the past year.

Ginny Moran - Vice President (State), Main Program Chair

Unison Hubbard - Treasurer, Anchorage Chapter

Kathy Burke - Field Trip Chair

Jean Tam - Print Sales

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

State Officers

President	Marilyn Barker
Vice President	Open
Secretary	Jean Poor
Treasurer	Yaso Thiru

Anchorage Chapter Board Members

President	Marlena Mooring
Vice President	Nancy Krieger
Secretary	Marilyn Upton
Treasurer	Jean Poor

Anchorage Chapter Program Coordinators

Main Program	Open
Plant Family	Verna Pratt
Mini-Botany	Verna Pratt
Field Trips	Diane Toebe

Newsletter ('*Borealis*')

Editor	Ginny Moore
Circulation	Martha Hatch

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Articles may be sent to Ginny Moore,
Anchorage, AK 99516. Phone or FAX:

MYSTERY PLANT

by Verna Pratt

This small plant found growing in alpine meadows and stony areas could easily be overlooked, as its foliage becomes entangled with that of other alpine plants. It is low-growing - only 2" to 3" in leaf and 4' to 6" in flower. The leaves are glossy, dark green, shallowly toothed, and pinnately divided. The inconspicuous, small brownish flowers are in a simple raceme. This is one of those plants that you seldom notice except when you sit down to rest. The clump of glossy leaves makes it a good choice for a rock garden, and it is easily propagated by division. At low elevations it may grow to be 8" or 10" tall.



What is this plant?

Hints are above.

For the answer, turn to page 4.

1998 ANPS SEED SALE LIST, Continued from Page 1

7. *Epilobium angustifolium* (Common Fireweed) Beautiful, long racemes of WHITE flowers. Spreads like any fireweed. Needs containment if this is a problem. A very impressive plant. Easily recognized in the spring as the new shoots are NOT red. Keep moist when plants are young.
8. *Leptarrhena pyrolifolia* (Leatherleaved Saxifrage) 8"-12" tall plant with creamy white flower heads developing bright red seed heads. Evergreen basal leaves. Likes wet soil. Stratify seeds.
9. *Hedysarum mackenzii* (Wild Sweet Pea) 12"-20" tall, clump-forming plant, aromatic, with pink flowers. Good garden plant. No stratification needed.
10. *Linum perrene* (Wild Flax) 12"-18" tall, a wispy plant with 1" blue 5-petaled flowers. Likes dry soil. Best grown as an annual in most of Alaska. No stratification needed. Plant now indoors and they will bloom the first year.
11. *Mimulus guttatus* (Yellow Monkey Flower) 10"-18" tall with large yellow flowers. Mat-forming. A short-lived perennial that re-seeds. It spreads by runners - very aggressive in wet areas. No stratification needed.
12. *Oxytropis campestris* (Yellow Oxytrope or Field Oxytrope) 8"-10" tall. Likes dry soil.
13. *Papaver alaskanum* (Alaska Poppy) 6"-12" tall, with very large yellow flowers. Needs space to prevent mold. Re-seeds. Dry soil or rock garden. No stratification needed. Start inside for early blooms.
14. *Papaver alboroseum* (Pale Pink Poppy) up to 4" tall with small pink flowers. Plant needs space and good drainage to prevent mold. Re-seeds. Dry soils or rock garden. Excellent garden plant. No stratification needed.
15. *Papaver hultenii* (Hulten's Poppy) 4"-6" high with small, yellow flowers. Needs space to prevent mold. Re-seeds. Dry soil or rock garden. No stratification needed. Start inside for early blooms.
16. *Polemonium pulcherrimum* (Beautiful Jacob's Ladder) 6"-12" showy clumps; early blooming with 3/4" lavender-blue flowers. Dry soil border or rock garden. Re-seeds easily.
17. *Potentilla villosa* (Villous Cinquefoil) 3"-6" tall, with yellow flowers; forms 6"-8" mounds. Rock gardens, dry soils.
18. *Saxifraga hieracifolia* (Stiff-Stemmed Saxifrage) 6"-12" tall with creamy white small flowers that are very red in seed. Likes wet soil. Leaves are basal and evergreen.
19. *Viola adunca* (Dog Violet) A low purple violet that likes dry areas; re-seeds easily, often in your lawn. No stratification needed. Non-native.
20. "Shoe-fly". A lovely bright pink flowered annual; 8"-15" tall, depending on soil conditions. Blooms mid to late season. Re-seeds easily.

FOOTNOTES ON STRATIFICATION

Some seeds require special treatment for good germination. This occurs naturally outdoors, but if you are starting your seeds indoors or plan to scatter them outside in the spring, you will need to read further.

Our ANPS seeds have not been stratified this year. Some do not require it. For those requiring stratification, it is accomplished by treating seeds with a cold treatment for a period of about 45 days. Some prefer brief thawing periods, so this is recommended for all seeds requiring stratification. Some also require dampness during this time.

Some Methods of Stratification

Method #1: Place packets of seed in a box or plastic bag in a freezer or refrigerator/freezer. Remove to thaw about every 10 days, and return to freezer. Repeat this cycle for the full time period. Those seeds that require dampness should be sprinkled with water before returning to the freezer each time.

Method #2: Scatter outdoors if you can locate where you want them at this time.

Method #3: Plant in flats, put outside, and cover with snow. Be aware that it is difficult to keep trays moist once the snow leaves. Moisture is crucial at that time, especially when your plants start growing.

Method #4: Put seeds in a plastic bag so they don't get continually soaked and place in a somewhat protected area, outside, where they won't blow away. Seeds that require dampness should not be in plastic bags. Bring them indoors about every 10 days to thaw, then return them outside for the duration of the stratification period. After this, you may plant them indoors and enjoy watching them grow, or plant outside as soon as possible. Drying winds sometimes make it difficult to keep them moist. If you plant them inside, be sure they have adequate light for growth by locating seedlings next to a window for good natural light, or placing them under an artificial light.

PLANT FAMILY STUDY

Plantaginaceae/Plantain Family

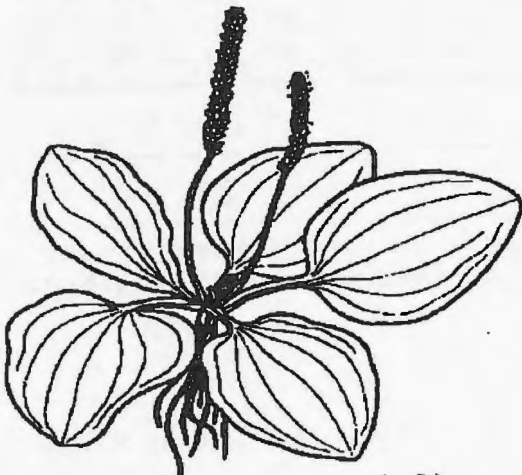
Presenter; Marilyn Barker

Everyone, I'm sure, is very familiar with the introduced species of this family. Common Plantain, *Plantago major*, can be seen along most trails and is scattered around lawns, parks and most public areas. The Native American Indians called it "White Man's Foot" as it appeared everywhere the new settlers travelled. Apparently it was brought with them from Europe, probably for its medicinal value of curbing bleeding.

Although the flowers on these plants are small and inconspicuous, the inflorescence as a whole is quite obvious. The long spike of small flowers is held high above the leaves, which (although it is a Dicot) appear to have parallel veins.

Flowers are very small, usually greenish, and consist of 4 connected sepals, 4 connected petals, 4 stamens, and a 2-parted capsule (nut). Seeds may be used as a grain and young leaves eaten as a salad vegetable.

Plantago is the only genus in Alaska and is the most widespread worldwide. Although these plants are useful in many ways and are of some economic value, the are dreaded additions to most people's yards. Four species are native to Alaska - two are coastal species and 2 of dry interior areas.



Mystery Plant

Ranunculaceae/Buttercup Family

Alpine Meadow Rue

Thalictrum alpinum

The Alaska Rare Plant Forum March 25-27, 1998 in Fairbanks

The Alaska Rare Plant Forum will hold its annual spring meeting at the Bureau of Land Management, Northern District Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks. The meeting will begin at 1:00 on Wednesday, March 25 and end at 1:00 on Friday, March 27, 1998. Anyone interested in the rare plants of northern regions is invited to attend or to give a presentation.

For further information about the meeting, or if you wish to give a presentation, please contact: Mary Stensvold, U.S. Forest Service, 204 Signaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835 ; or Carolyn Parker, Herbarium, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775

Newsletter Contributions Wanted

The newsletter of the ANPS is published monthly except for June, July, August, and September. Material for the March issue should be mailed to Ginny Moore, ANPS BOREALIS Editor, 14530 Echo Street, Anchorage, AK 99516 by February 15, 1997. We welcome articles, book reviews, jokes, trivia, recipes, announcements and just about anything else you can think of concerning the flora of Alaska.

It's Field Trip Planning Time Again!

The days are getting longer and soon we'll be seeing green again! Please help ANPS out by volunteering your time or information. We need leaders for all types of field trips and ideas for long and short trips. Perhaps you and a friend can co-lead a field trip. Let's try to visit as many different habitats as possible and really sleuth out some interesting plant communities within the Anchorage Bowl during this coming season. If you have only a few evening hours available, maybe you can lead an evening field trip near your neighborhood. Make a commitment and fill out the attached worksheet and return it to ANPS FIELDTRIPS, P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514 Attn: Diane Toebe

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

FIELD TRIP PLANNING WORKSHEET

Field Trip to: _____

Leader: _____ Telephone: _____

Date: _____ Day of Week: _____ Time Allotted: _____

Meeting Time: _____ Meeting Place: _____

Driving Distance/Car Pooling, etc. _____

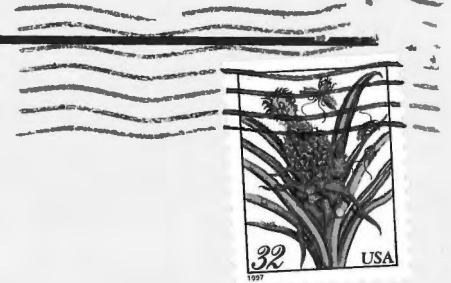
Reservations by (Date): _____

Level of Difficulty: _____ Minimum Age: _____

Description of Trip: _____

Special Instructions: _____

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



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.

