

# Borealis

the newsletter of the



PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

MARCH 1998

## JOIN US AT OUR MARCH MEETING

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

### MAIN PROGRAM

"Summer Field Trips Revisited"  
Presenter: Verna Pratt

Come see and enjoy some of the greatest trips we've had since ANPS was established in 1982. You are sure to recognize someone you know or perhaps yourself. This should be a fun and educational presentation, with many great plants, too.

If anyone has slides that might add to the program, contact Verna at \_\_\_\_\_ before the day of the meeting. If you have prints to add to the presentation, bring them to the meeting and we'll spread them out on a table for people to see. Be sure to put your name on the back of your pictures to avoid mix-ups.

### PLANT FAMILY STUDY

Juncaginaceae: Arrow Grass Family

Presenter: Marilyn Barker

## DESKTOP HORTICULTURE: SURFING THE WEB!

By Ginny Moore

Too dark, too cold, too wet to go outside today? How about virtual gardening? Have you tried surfing the web - the Internet, that is - and exploring the infinite variety of sites with information on native plants? I could give you a list of favorite web sites with all their complicated addresses, but the easiest way to check out what's out there is to do your own "Net Search". For starters, I picked LYCOS as my web browser, and searched for "NATIVE PLANTS". I immediately found sites for Native Plant Societies in other states. Washington State has a particularly useful site. From there I jumped to other sites they listed as LINKS.

Here are some of the types of sites I found:

- Gardening With Native Plants
- Pacific Northwest Native Plant Resources - Commercial and Public
- The World Wide Web Virtual Library of Botany.
- National Plant Database - produced by the Department of Agriculture, with photos and detailed descriptions
- To assist in armchair and desktop explorations there are reviews of books, field guides and Internet resources
- A coloring book of wildflowers that can be downloaded for use in the classroom
- Native and endangered plants in every region of the world

Another time you might choose ALTA VISTA as your web browser, or come up with a more specific topic to search for. However you do it, it won't be long before you're into the WEB - and having some virtual FUN!

## Plant Terminology



Here are definitions for some of the plant terms used in articles in this month's newsletter.

**Cordate** - Heart shaped.

**Cotyledon** - The first leaves that appear when a seed germinates.

**Dicot** - Having two cotyledons.

**Monocot** - Having one cotyledon.

**Petiolate** - Having a petiole, or leaf stalk.

**Raceme** - A flower arrangement in which individual flowers have stalks and are attached to an elongated axis or stem. Flowers in a raceme bloom from the base upward so the youngest flowers are at the top, as in a fireweed blossom.

### ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

#### State Officers

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

#### 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

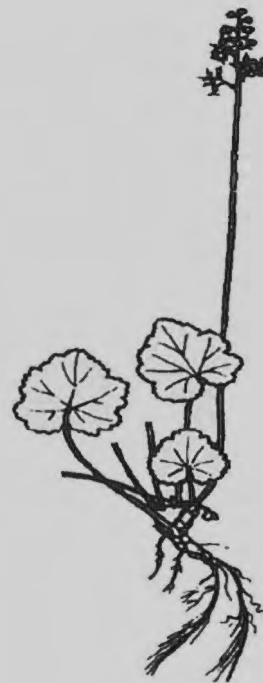
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## MYSTERY PLANT

by Verna Pratt

This plant grows in moist woods, at low elevations, and along streams or nearby wet meadows in alpine areas of SE Alaska, some parts of the Aleutian Chain, Prince William Sound, and from Seward to Hatcher Pass. The petiolate, cordate leaves are shallowly lobed and have irregular, numerous teeth and a few hairs. They look a bit like small currant leaves. The tiny green flowers are in a raceme atop a 4-5 inch stem with glandular hairs. Although this is a small inconspicuous plant, most of us tend to have our eyes focused on the ground, and once seen, it is an unmistakable plant.

### What is this plant?



Hints are above.

For the answer, turn to page 3.

## PLANT FAMILY STUDY

### Juncaginaceae: Arrow Grass Family

Presenter: Marilyn Barker

This monocot family contains perennial herbs that grow in salt or fresh water marshes - often in brackish water. The long narrow leaves and fruiting stalk might be confused with *Plantago maritima*. *Plantago* however is a dicot. The tiny flowers consist of 6 tepals (3 petals and 3 sepals that look alike) 6 or 4 stamens and a 3- or 6-parted ovary. There is only one genus in Alaska, with two species. *Triglochin maritimum* is the species most commonly found in coastal marshes but it can also be seen in interior Alaska and the Yukon River area. The fruit has a thick long rootstock and 6 carpels. *Triglochin palustris* is generally found in wet marshes throughout the southern half of Alaska and following north along the Yukon River drainages. This species has a bulb-like rootstock, narrower leaves, and 3 carpels. Both species are 4-6 inches tall and often overlooked or mistaken for plantain.



*Triglochin maritimum*



*Triglochin palustris*

### 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 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835  
; or Carolyn Parker, Herbarium, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775

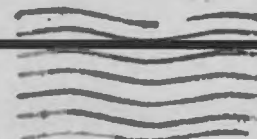
### FIELD TRIPS NEED YOU!!

Now is the time to make arrangements for summer field trips! Our Field Trip Chairperson, Diane Toebe, needs to start coordinating them. We hope that this March program will inspire more people help lead trips. It is very difficult for a field trip chairperson to organize everything themselves. Please help all you can even if it is just suggesting an area. If you don't feel knowledgeable but have a great place, let us know. We could probably arrange for a more knowledgeable person to be available on your trip. They don't have to be long trips or to an exotic area. Every little bit helps. Don't be bashful. Volunteer and help take the load off of a few tired overworked people. Give Diane Toebe a call at see her at the meeting, or just mail your field trip form to the ANPS PO Box. Thanks!

### Mystery Plant

Mitella pentandra  
Alpine Mitrewort; Bishop's Cap

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.

