

# Borealis

the newsletter of the



P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514-1613

APRIL 1998

## NOTICE-----NOTICE-----NOTICE

For the April meeting only---our meeting place will be at the First Congregational Church, 2610 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Just east of Lake Otis Road. Use parking lot at rear (east side) of church and enter through door off parking lot. (Our former meeting place).

### JOIN US AT OUR APRIL MEETING

Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM

#### MAIN PROGRAM

**Wildflower Photography: Art and  
Technique**

Presenter, Jon Nichols, has had a great opportunity to see and photograph much of Alaska through his work with the Fish & Wildlife Service. He has traveled extensively in Southeast, Southcentral and Western Alaska. On his own, he explored the Tombstone Mountains (Dempster Hwy in Yukon Territory), Misty Fjords, the Brooks Range, and many other remote areas. He is an avid hiker and kayaker and has Masters Degrees in both Zoology and Botany. His photographic work has been published in Alaska Geographic, Alaska Magazine; and, last spring, a Daily News article entitled "A walk through Johns Park".

Come see this exciting presentation of scenery, plants, and wildlife of the Great Land in which we live.

### PLANT FAMILY STUDY

**Polygonaceae/Buckwheat**

or

**Knotweed Family**

Presenter: Verna Pratt

These herbaceous plants have stems with swollen nodes, hence the family name that means "Many Knees".

The leaves are usually entire and alternate and often have a membranous sheath (ocrea) at the base of the petiole. The small flowers are actinomorphic, usually having 5 sepals (often colorful), 5 to 8 stamens, and a 3-parted ovary. Although the individual flowers are small, the inflorescence is often impressive.

Many of these plants have been used for food, but some should be used cautiously as they contain varying amounts of oxalic acid and calcium oxalate crystals.

This month we will study the *Rumex* and *Oxyria* genera.

*Oxyria digyna*, Mountain Sorrel, is a favorite snacking food of hikers as its sour, kidney-shaped leaves are very tasty and help to relieve thirst by increasing the saliva in ones mouth. The tiny flowers practically go unnoticed, but the red winged seed capsules are very showy. [cont'd on page 2]

[Plant Family---cont'd]

It is found in wet places in the alpine and tundra throughout all of Alaska.

There are 14 species of *Rumex* in Alaska — 5 are commonly called Sorrel. Sheep Sorrel, *Rumex acetosella*, an introduced species with small, sour, spade-shaped leaves is found in waste areas on South-eastern and Southcentral Alaska. Other members are found in coastal areas of Western Alaska and in alpine meadows of interior Alaska. All have somewhat spade-shaped leaves.

The remainder in this genus are commonly called Dock and, probably, the most common species is *Rumex arcticus* as it is found throughout most of the State. It could easily be misidentified however, as many of these species are very similar. These large plants are very weedy and spread prolifically (about half of them being introduced). All have a slightly sour taste. The large long leaves are alternate on the tall heavy stalk that is prominent in flower and fruit due to the large heavy inflorescences. Most grow in damp areas and at least one species can be found in all parts of Alaska.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

“The Current Trend toward Rock Gardening”

A presentation by Verna Pratt, President of the Alaska Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. Sponsored by the Alaska Botanical Garden.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sears Mall---Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

April is National Garden month and all Garden & Plant related groups will have displays. ANPS has 4 tables. One to sell our T-shirts and Prints, one for Educational flyers and books, and two to display fresh plant material.

We will need assistance for:

(1) Gathering plant material.

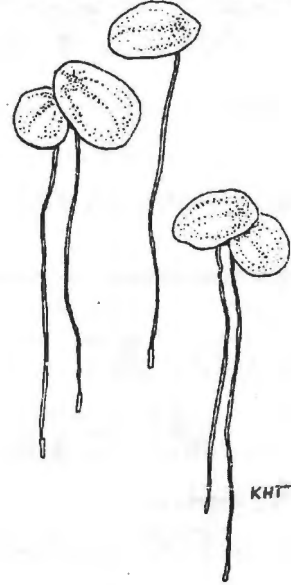
(2) Setting up and manning the display. It is best to have two people there at all times.

Please call Verna at \_\_\_\_\_ for any help you can give. This is a great way to let the public know that we exist and to gain more members.

## MYSTERY PLANT

This seldom noticed plant can be found in ponds or stagnant water at low elevations in Southcentral, Eastern, and (some parts of) Central Alaska.

The small round to oval fronds float on the surface of the water with one root dangling below. It is only in large numbers that they are noticed as each frond is only 2-4mm (about 1/8”) across. It is seldom seen in flower, but the flowers are minute and inconspicuous within a spathe. This plant is sometimes sold as a healthy addition to garden ponds.



Magnified 10 X

## ANOTHER MYSTERY

Does anyone recognize this species? Actually, this photo came all the way from Norway and is about 5 months old now.



## SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

Please call Diane Toebe at \_\_\_\_\_ if you can arrange or help with a Field Trip this summer or fall. Remember that you do not have to be an expert at botany to lead a Field Trip. If you know of a wonderfully floristic spot that you have visited (or would like to visit), we can arrange to have botanical assistance along to help out. It is not too early to be planning. In fact, we must get the entire summer schedule planned in the next few weeks as we plan to have the Field Trip schedule ready for the May meeting.

### Early Spring Field Trip

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM

Potter Trailhead

Turn left just past the Potter Section House. Come and see what El Niño has done to this early spring spot. Allow about 3 hours.

### Special Summer Field Trip

Thurs., July 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sat., July 25<sup>th</sup> (or ?)

St. Paul Island (The Pribilofs)

This is a great place to see flowers, birds and animals. Advance notice is being given due to price and time commitments. Cost is \$799.00 plus tax (\$838.52 total). This includes airfare on RAA (Reeve), 2 nights and 3 days on St. Paul with tours included. Leave Anchorage on 23 July and return on 25 July.

Another possibility (for \$989.57) would be to leave Anchorage on 21 July for 5 days/4 nights. If 10 people go, one bus could be just for ANPS and we could decide where and what we want to see.

Call Diane Toebe at \_\_\_\_\_ asap if you are interested as we need an early commitment. A \$250 per person deposit is necessary by 15 May. If there are 10 or more people going, there will be a saving of about \$40 per person.

## WEB SITE

Visit our new Web Site at:

[www.alaska.net/~akkrafts/pages/anps.htm](http://www.alaska.net/~akkrafts/pages/anps.htm)

or link from Verna & Frank's Page (lots of interesting links there) at:

[www.alaska.net/~akkrafts](http://www.alaska.net/~akkrafts)

---

## MYSTERY PLANT ANSWER

*Lemna minor*, Lemnaceae / Duckweed family

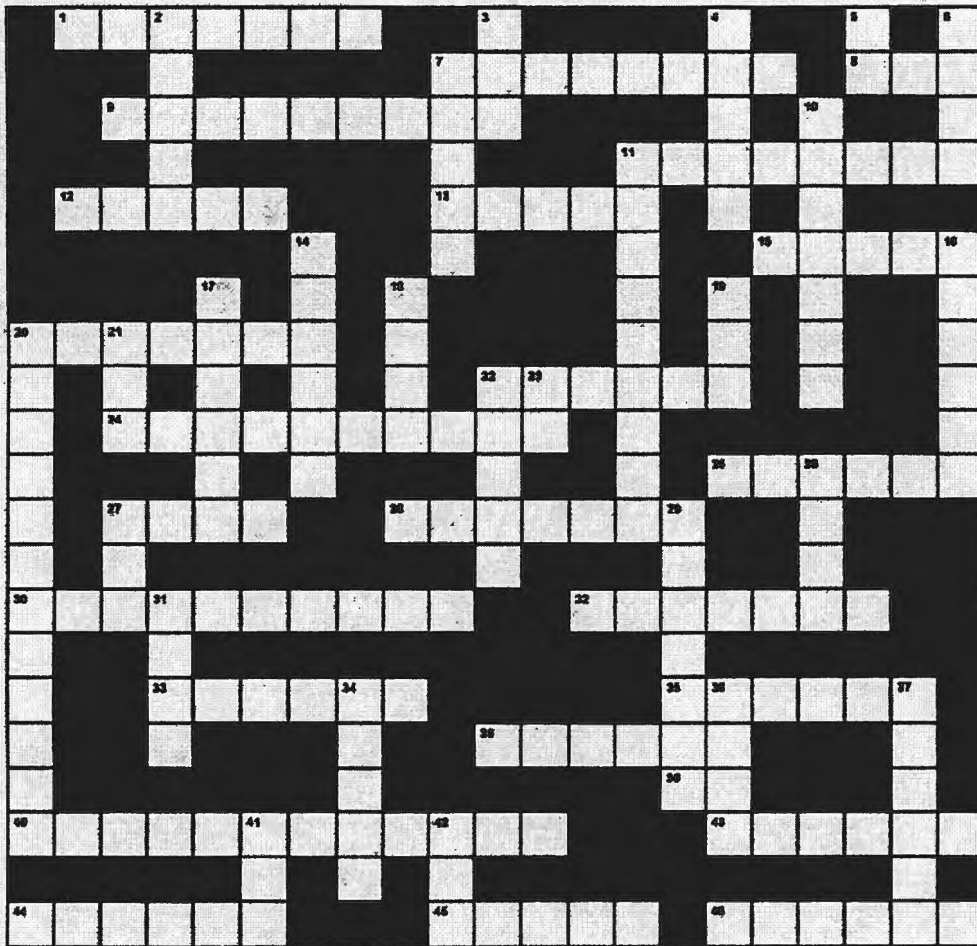
## ANOTHER MYSTERY ANSWER

Jennifer Phoebe Ricketts (held by Dad, Trevor)

---

## ANCHORAGE CHAPTER OFFICERS

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



**ACROSS**

- 1 favorite local alpine hiking spot
- 7 Trail head for many interesting botanical hikes
- 8 anps meeting day (ab )
- 9 latin name for cow parsnip
- 11 newsletter for the native plant society
- 12 the color of leaves
- 13 curator of the UAF herbarium is Dr. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15 All the plant life in a particular region
- 20 the october meeting
- 22 contains a group of genera
- 24 Chiefly perennial N hemisphere herbs and shrubs
- 25 A light-proof box with a lens at one end and light-sensitive film at the other
- 27 the color of bog rosemary flowers
- 28 a genus named after Carl von Linne
- 30 baby fern leaf
- 32 A small informal gathering of plant lovers
- 33 Large Integer
- 35 flower with 3 petals, 3 sepals and an inferior ovary

**DOWN**

- 2 suffix used to indicate a plant family
- 3 owner of the meeting place for the anps
- 4 reproductive structure in ferns
- 5 time when many anps field trips start
- 6 alaska native plant society (Ab.)
- 7 There have been many field trips to Bison \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 the president of the anps
- 11 favorite early spring hike
- 14 A way of hoofing it
- 16 the great land
- 17 author of the flora of alaska

- 18 anps programs all have a \_\_\_\_\_ botany
- 19 tool used to identify plants
- 20 Any plant of the genus Pulsatilla
- 21 The highest status(where all the neatest plants grow)
- 22 Touch-me-nots \_\_\_\_\_ their seeds when touched
- 23 Initials for serviceberry
- 26 many members of the genus Botrychium are known as \_\_\_\_\_ words.
- 27 structure which contains seeds
- 29 flower with showy sepals and no petals
- 31 On the petals of Saxifraga tricuspidata
- 34 founder of the anps
- 36 term which describes the odor of chocolate lilies
- 37 the great one
- 41 a favorite bog plant is the sun \_\_\_\_\_
- 42 The color of a wild raspberry

Compliments of Dr. Marilyn Barker

Answer in May Newsletter.

# WOMAN'S WEEK - 1998

JUNE 21 - 27, 1998

Woman's Week has been forming in our minds for several years now. We have walked, talked, fished, kayaked, climbed and photographed with women who love to breath the fresh air and enjoy the adventure of Alaska. I put myself, a woman crowding 50, in the shoes of an adventure seeking female traveling to Kodiak, Alaska and thought about what my goals would be on such a trip. I came up with the following list of ideas:

- \* FUN!
- \* Experience new country and adventures,
- \* Enjoy company of other women,
- \* Exercise,
- \* Spend time on and around the ocean in protected waters,
- \* Take pictures of my trip,
- \* Return home with new knowledge, photos, smoked Red Salmon and recipes.

With these goals in mind, Raspberry Island Remote Camps offers the following seven day, six night, fully guided program to take place June 21 - June 27, 1998:

## ACTIVITIES TO INCLUDE

- \*\* Sea kayak instruction and cruises,
- \*\* Hiking in alpine meadows and rain forests,
- \*\* Photographic opportunities with instruction for the beginners,
- \*\* Guided wildlife and wildflower tours,
- \*\* Full day with licensed Coast Guard captain on ocean: fishing, whale watching, birding, sightseeing,
- \*\* Guided kayak overnight and bonfire on Alaskan beach,
- \*\* Fish prep and recipe collecting.

## AFTER HOURS

Evenings are spent relaxing in the hot tub or banya, sipping wine supplied by Archery Summit and Pine Ridge Estates.

The menu to include fresh sea foods (catch of the day) and garden fresh herbs and vegetables.

## PRICING

One person seven days, six nights:

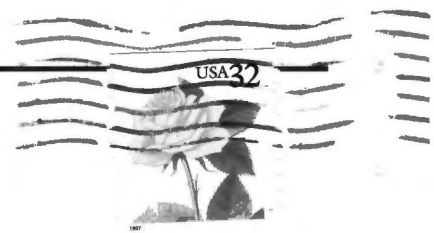
\$2640.00

To include:

- \*\*\* Round trip airfare from Anchorage to Kodiak.
- \*\*\* Round trip air or water taxi to and from the lodge.
- \*\*\* Family style meals.
- \*\*\* Fully guided activities listed above.
- \*\*\* Sea kayaks and safety gear.
- \*\*\* All fishing equipment and bait provided.
- \*\*\* Fish processing, vacuum sealing and freezing.
- \*\*\* Complimentary wine and beer with evening meals.
- \*\*\* Alaska sports fishing license.
- \*\*\* Field Guide to Alaskan Wildflowers by Verna E. Pratt
- \*\*\* Laundry facility for guests' use.

If you would like to know more about Woman's Week and the above looks like an adventure you would like to be a part of, please call us at \_\_\_\_\_ or write us at Box 888 Kodiak, AK 99615.

**Alaska Native Plant Society**  
**P.O. Box 141613**  
**Anchorage, AK 99514-1513**



If the date on your address label is circled in red,  
THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER



**1998 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 1411613, Anchorage, AK 99514-1613.**

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

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel-Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership is on a calendar year basis.