

Borealis

the newsletter of the



PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

February 2001

Join us at our November meeting!

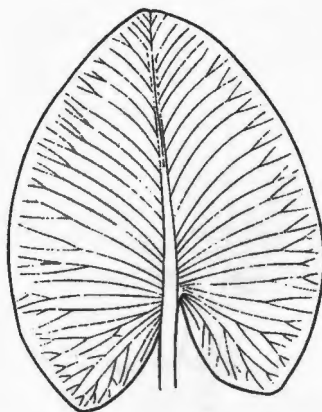
**Monday, February 5 , 7:30 p.m.
at the Campbell Creek Center
off 68th and Lake Otis**

Topic: Backyard Wildlife Habitats

Speaker: Renee Haen

Plant Family Study:

Water Plants



ANPS Activities

How much do you really know about your Native Plant Society? (Don't worry, this is not a test.) Maybe you're one of the stalwarts who attend most monthly meetings and volunteer for many, or any, of the myriad positions that help make the organization work. Maybe you are a peripheral member who just wants to know more about our native plants. The Bulletin Board Notices on the inside of the back cover of this newsletter and the list of upcoming events on the back cover will help remind you of community-wide activities.

Another ongoing activity that may be of interest is the bi-monthly meeting of the ANPS Board. That's where decisions are made about what activities to pursue as an organization, what projects to fund, and how to obtain funding. In an effort to keep all ANPS members more informed about what's happening at those meetings, the Board has agreed to provide pertinent details for the newsletter.

Highlights of the January meeting of the ANPS Board meeting were:

ANPS Soon To Celebrate 20th Anniversary

In the process of noting that we'll soon be in existence for 20 years, we realized there is no catalog of our work, and suggest a new board position: a HISTORIAN, who can be either elected or appointed. (Anybody interested?)

Many plant societies put out volumes on subjects relating to local plants. The board thought it would be good to target a Twenty - Year Commemorative volume about Alaska Native Plants.

Celebrating Wildflowers 2001

We set tentative dates for the 2001 Celebrating Wildflowers Week 7 June to 16 June. Verna will start the week with a lecture on the 7th. We need a volunteer chairperson to coordinate CW Week.

Other Business

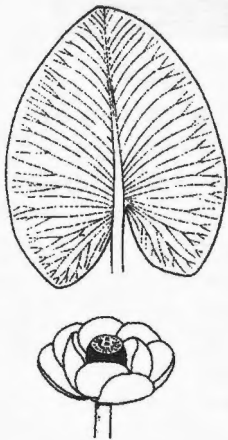
1. Treasurer Sue Jensen reported that the society has operating funds of \$8,036.
2. We had a lengthy discussion of changing the venue for printing
3. the newsletter and will make changes this year.
4. We accepted the request to have a booth at the Sears Mall on
5. 14th April.

The ANPS Board meets every other month during the regular meeting part of the year. The next meeting will be in March. Guests are always welcome. Contact President Frank Pratt for details.

Water Plants

Continuing our study of water plants, this month's plant family study will focus on two species of the Nymphaeaceae/Water Lily family and one species of the Polygonaceae/Buckwheat family.

These plants are frequently seen together when boating on lakes.

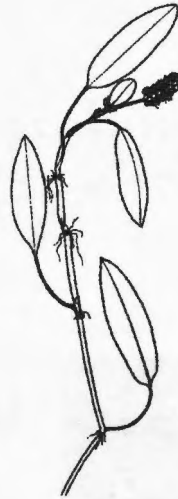
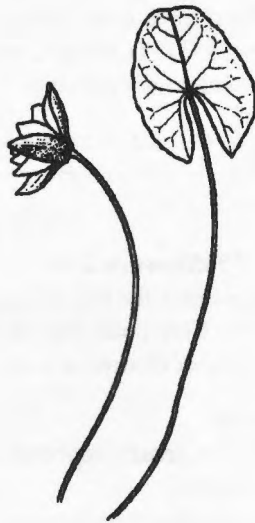


The most common and obvious of the three plants is the Yellow Pond Lily, *Nuphar polysepalum*. The large bright yellow, showy flowers and the very large lily pads seem to float on the surface of the lakes throughout most of Alaska except north of the Brooks Range, and Coastal Western Alaska. Global distribution is mostly in the U.S., west of the Rockies. The very large, stout rhizome was an important starchy staple food for native people. It can also sometimes be seen used by

beavers to boost up their dams. Flowers can be seen in July and August and are supported by thick porous stems. These plants provide a perfect hiding place for fish that feed on the insects that prey on the leaves.

The Dwarf Water

Lily/*Nymphaea tetragona* grows in a similar manner but is much smaller. It prefers shallower water near the margin of lakes. The white flowers look like a typical water lily but are only 1-1/4 to 2 inches across. They can be found on scattered lakes in Interior and S. Central Alaska. Photographing them can prove to be a real challenge! Although not very widely distributed in Alaska, this is a circumpolar plant of the Northern Hemisphere.



Polygonum amphibium/Water Smartweed could easily be mistaken for a pondweed in the Potamogetonaceae family. Typical of most water plants, it also creeps along rhizomes. The leaves are long oval with a slightly acute tip and they lie flat on the surface of the water. The fat spikes of small pink flowers protrude above the water.

All of these plants are unmistakable species with no real "look-alike" in Alaska.

MYSTERY PLANT

This plant, rare worldwide, is found only in one place in Alaska. It has a long taproot and pinnately divided leaves with small oval leaflets. The scapose (having no leaves) stem is about 6 inches tall and has 5 or 6 small purplish flowers with a purplish hairy calyx.



Answer is on Page 5.

Alaska Native Plant Society - Seed Sale List - 2001

The Alaska Native Plant Society sells seeds of plants native to Alaska, which have been collected by members during the year. Seeds can be purchased at the regular monthly meetings or by mail order. The price is \$0.50 per package. Package sizes vary considerably due to the number or amount of seeds collected. Some rare or difficult to collect species may contain few seeds, while some easy to collect species may contain a large number of seeds. If seeds are to be mailed, include an additional \$0.50 for 1-5 packages or \$1.00 for 6 or more packages. Make checks payable to Alaska Native Plant Society, and send order to: Gary Rasmussen, Anchorage, AK 99503-1917.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Anemone, Cut-leaf (Pink) | <i>Anemone multifida</i> |
| 2. Anemone, Yellow | <i>Anemone richardsonii</i> |
| 3. Arnica, Meadow | <i>Arnica chamissonis</i> |
| 4. Aster, Beach Fleabane | <i>Senecio pseudo-arnica</i> |
| 5. Aster, Black-tipped Groundsel | <i>Senecio lugens</i> |
| 6. Aster, Siberian | <i>Aster sibiricus</i> |
| 7. Columbine, Western | <i>Aquilegia formosa</i> |
| 8. Dryas, Eight-petaled / Mountain Avens | <i>Dryas octopetala</i> |
| 9. Dryas, Yellow | <i>Dryas drummondii</i> |
| 10. Gentian, Blue Star | <i>Lomatogonium rotatum</i> |
| 11. Geranium, Wild (white) (limited #, 15 seeds/packet) | <i>Geranium erianthum</i> |
| 12. Iris (blue) | <i>Iris setosa</i> |
| 13. Jacob's Ladder, Low or Beautiful | <i>Polemonium pulcherrimum</i> |
| 14. Lily, Chocolate | <i>Fritillaria camshatcensis</i> |
| 15. Monkshood | <i>Aconitum delphinifolium</i> |
| 16. Pasque Flower | <i>Pulsatilla patens</i> |
| 17. Poppy, Arctic (yellow) | <i>Papaver lapponicum</i> |
| 18. Poppy, Iceland (yellow, orange, white) | <i>Papaver nudicaule</i> |
| 19. Poppy, Pink (garden grown, may have hybridized seeds) | <i>Papaver alboroseum</i> |
| 20. Poppy, Pink (collected in the wild) | <i>Papaver alboroseum</i> |
| 21. Shooting Star (ssp. superbum) (10 - 15") very limited # | <i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i> |
| 22. Shooting Star (ssp. alaskanum) (4 - 8") very limited # | <i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i> |
| 23. Sitka Burnet | <i>Sanguisorba stipulata</i> |
| 24. Spinach | <i>Chenopodium capitatum</i> |
| 25. Violet, Dog (very limited number) | <i>Viola adunca</i> |
| 26. Whitlow Grass | <i>Draba incerta</i> |

Non Native Seeds

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Himalayan Poppy (white) limited number | <i>Meconopsis grandis</i> |
|---|---------------------------|

ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPRING & SUMMER 2001: FIELD TRIP PLANNING WORKSHEET

Field Trip to: _____

Leader(s): _____ **Telephone:** _____

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

Meeting Time: _____ **Meeting Place:** _____

Driving Distance/Car Pooling, etc. _____

Reservations by: _____

Level of Difficulty: _____ **Minimum Age:** _____

Description of trip: _____

Special instructions/Items to Bring: _____

Please hand in completed forms to Susan Klein, Field Trip Chair, at Anchorage Chapter meetings, or mail to the ANPS, P.O. Box P.O. Box 141613, Anchorage, AK 99514 Field trip schedules will be sent out to members in the first week of May.

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) _____

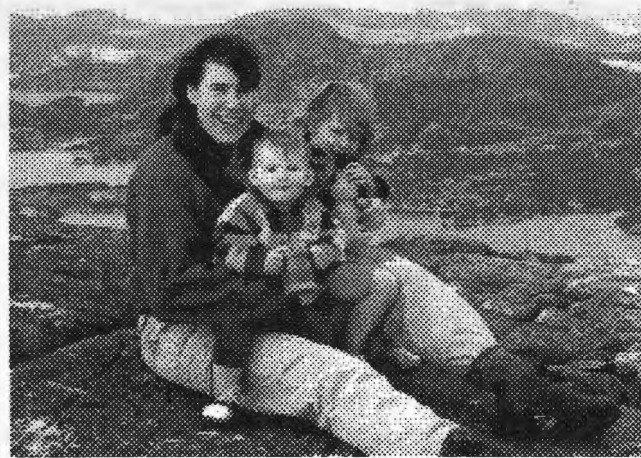
Membership is on a calendar year basis.

Summer 2001 Field Trips

I know it is only February but it is time to start thinking about what field trips you would like to lead this coming summer. As you saw in last month's newsletter, one field trip up the Dalton Highway is already in the planning stages. Trips do not need to be extensive. An evening walk at a park you are familiar, a hike at Hatcher Pass, or a walk in a local wetland are some ideas. Please start planning and sending me your field trip ideas for this summer. A field trip form is included in this newsletter. You can fax them to me at _____ or email me at popcorn@ak.net. Thanks.
Susan Klein, Field Trip Coordinator

News From Afar

A Christmas letter from Norway brought news of former Alaskan ANPS members Julia and Trevor Ricketts and their family, which now includes two daughters, Jenny and . The family expects to be departing Stavanger sometime next summer, most likely returning to the UK in time for Jenny to start school.



ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY State and Anchorage Chapter Officers

President Frank Pratt
Vice President Leonard Grau
Secretary Beth Koltun
Treasurer Sue Jensen

Anchorage Chapter Program Coordinators

Main Program OPEN
Plant Family Verna Pratt
Mini-Botany Verna Pratt
Field Trips Susan Klein

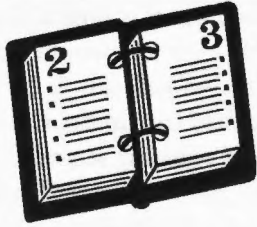
Newsletter ("*Borealis*")

Editor Ginny Moore
Circulation Martha Hatch

Borealis is published monthly October through May. Articles may be sent to Ginny Moore, Anchorage, AK 99516. Phone or FAX: _____ or E-mail: mooretg@alaska.net

MYSTERY PLANT ANSWER

Oxytropis kobukensis
Pea/Fabaceae Family



UPCOMING PLANTS & NATURE EVENTS

February 5, 7:30 PM **Alaska Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting:** *Campbell Creek Science Center*

Slide presentations for ARGs tour guide trainees for North American Rock Garden Society 2002 Conference
January 27, 2 PM Mat-Su College in Palmer

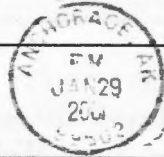
January 26, 7 PM **Alaska Rock Garden Society China Trip Slide Show**
The Alaska Rock Garden Society will present a special slide show at the Anchorage Museum of History & Fine Arts
Jamie Rodriguez will provide the program, using his slides, as well as those of other members of the seed collecting expedition. You'll see spectacular scenery, close-ups of plants, people and general living condition.
The show is free to the public and includes a package of seeds that were collected on the trip

February 12, 7:15 PM "Skating On Thin Ice: Is The Arctic Climate Changing?", Martin Jeffries, UAF Professor of Geophysics, Wendy Williamson Auditorium on the UAA campus.

February 19, 7:15 PM "Earthquakes in Alaska" Doug Christensen, UAF Professor of Geophysics

February 26, 7:15 PM "Avoiding Conflicts With Bears", Tom Smith, Alaska Biological Science Center.

March 5, 7:30 PM **Alaska Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting:** *Campbell Creek Science Center*



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

ANPS Membership Renewal Time!

99501-4999 42

