# **Borealis**

the newsletter of the

Alaska Native Plant Society

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PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

January 2004

# Join us at our NEXT meetings!

Campbell Creek Center

Monday, January 5, 7:30 p.m.

**Topic:** "Aleutian Shield Fern – Recent Genetic Studies"

Speaker: Sandra Talbot
U.S. Geological Survey

Monday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.

**Topic:** "Long-Term Ecological Change on The Kenai"

**Speaker: Ed Berg**, U.S. Fish & Wildlife He'll discuss what's been learned from lake sediment cores about vegetation changes and fire history, review spruce bark beetle outbreak history over the last 250 years, and summarize current work on the drying of the western Kenai lowlands and the forest invasion of peatlands.

Plant Family Study
"Saxafrage Family"

January Presenter: Verna Pratt February Presenter: Anjanette Steer

You may be receiving this newsletter even if your membership has expired – BUT not again! Don't miss out on future issues, seed exchange and field trip schedules.

RENEW TODAY!!

## "Weed Warriors" in Anchorage

By Verna Pratt

During this past year we've had many programs and miniprograms on weedy or introduced plants. When the season was nearly over we realized that another group of people in town were forming a "Weed Warriors" organization and were intent on eradicating some terrible weed infestations in Anchorage before they become a city-wide problem. Their list of the "Ten Most Wanted" did not totally agree with ours, as they had input from Southeast Alaska and could see which plants were slowly creping our way. The weeds that seem to be the worst on both lists may already be beyond control.

The "Weed Warriors" of Anchorage are hoping to ban together as they have in Juneau and many other locations, to help remove troublesome, invasive species. With regular work sessions and a good workforce, we can make a difference. Help save the wildflowers by destroying some of the worst weeds that are crowding them out and absorbing their nutrients and moisture.

The group chose two projects for this past year:

- Dandelions on the Lowenfels Trail at the Botanical Garden. Our hope was to clear out the dandelion plants that are there to help keep the Botanical Garden natural. We will try again next year and see if we can get more volunteers. Although there are not a tremendous amount of plants there, it is pretty overwhelming for a couple of people.
- 2. Eradication of *Tragopogon dubius* on the Seward Highway. Like dandelions, this is a fast spreading plant, apparently seeded there when the highway was upgraded several years ago. Next year we will start before the seeds disperse. At first the three of us were digging out the plants, but it was obvious by their root system that they were not perennials, so we resorted to removing flowers and seed heads. Through some careful researching after returning home, I realized that these are biennial plants and have short-lived seeds (probably a year or two). This makes this task seem more achievable, but we were appalled at how much this plant had spread in the ditch between the highway and railroad tracks from Beluga Point to Indian.

# Select invasive plant species in Alaska and an estimate of the acres infested; geographic region; and comments.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Family	Acres *Infested	Location	Comments/control
Narrow-Leaf Hawkweed	Hieracium umbellatum	Asteraceae	L	MS	
Orange Hawkweed	Hieracium aurantiacum	Asteraceae	L	All	Eradication project begun on Kodiak FWS
Spotted catsear	Hypochoeris radicata	Asteraceae	Р	SE	
Tansy Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea	Asteraceae	Т	SE	
Common tansy	Tanacetum vulgare	Asteraceae	T	A/SE	Spreading in Anch.
Hawksbeard group	Crepis tectorum	Asteraceae	L	All	
Western salsify	Tragapogon dubius	Asteraceae	L	A	ANPS volunteer group attempting eradication
Ox-eye Daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare	Asteraceae	L	All	Spreading along roads
Canada thistle	Cirsium arvense	Asteraceae	L	All	Delta controlling population
Bull Thistle	Cirsium vulgare	Asteraceae	Т	A/SE	Seedheads cut off in Anchorage, POW infestation also
Perennial sow thistle	Sonchus arvensis	Asteraceae	L	All	Delta controlling population there
Brass buttons	Cotula coronopifolia	Asteraceae	М	SE	Within estuaries
Knapweed species	Centaurea spp.	Asteraceae	Т	A/SE	3 plants pulled in Anch; 100 pulled in Valdez
Reed Canary Grass	Phalaris arundinacea	Poaceae	M	A/SE	
Orchard Grass	Dactylis glomerata	Poaceae	L	SE	
Foxtail barley	Hodeum jubateum	Poaceae	Н	FD/MS/ A/K	
Cheat grass	Bromus tectorum	Poaceae	Т	MS	2 infestations found in newly seeded roadsides
Quack grass	Elymus repens	Poaceae	Н	FD/MS/ A	
Hemp nettle	Galeopsis tetrahit	Lamiaceae	М	All	
Japanese Knotweed	Polygonum cuspidatum	Polygonaceae	М	SE	One eradication project on Tongass NF
Garlic Mustard	Allaria petiolata	Brassicaceae	Т	SE	Eradication project underway in Juneau
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	Lythraceae	Т	Α	Ornamental plants in gardens only
Butter & Eggs	Linaria vulgaris	Scrophulariaceae	М	All	Spreading along shoreline in Anch.
Creeping bellflower	Campanula rapunculoides	Campanulaceae	T	Α	
Amur chokecherry, European bird cherry	Prunus padus	Rosaceae	Т	Α	Invading riparian areas
Bouncing bet	Saponaria officinalis	Caryophyllaceae	Т	MS	Listed as noxious in 35 states; new infestation
Scotch Broom	Cytisus scoparius	Fabaceae	T	SE	,
Black medic	Medicago lupulina	Fabaceae	L	MS/A	Spreading along roads/seeded
Winter vetch	Vicia villosa	Fabaceae	Т	Α	One infestation in Anch
Tufted (Bird) vetch	Vicia cracca	Fabaceae	Н	FD/MS/ A/K	Spreading aggressively along roads
Sweet Clover (yellow)	Melilotus officianalis	Fabaceae	L	All	
Sweet Clover (White)	Melilotus albas	Fabaceae	Н	All	Invading Matanuska R, Nenana R, Stikine R

<sup>\*\*</sup>Location: SE=Southeast ,K=Kenai, A=Anchorage, MS=Matanuska-Susitna Valley, FD=Fairbanks/Delta, All = all areas \*Acres infested –from surveys completed in 2002 & 2003. All are estimates; No information (NI); Present but acreage unknown (P); Trace (T) = 0.1-50 acres; Low (L) = 50.1-300 acres; Medium (M) = 300.1-1000 acres; High (H) = >1,000 acres

Compiled by Michael Shepard, Vegetarian Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Anchorage, Alaska

## **Plant Family Study**

## The Saxifrage Family

January: Saxifrage genus
Presenter: Verna Pratt

## Introduction

The Saxifrage genus is a group of plants with small flowers (often clawed). Leaves are mostly basal with just a few modified leaves on the flowering stems. The genus includes nine species which can usually be found in rocky soil, mostly in alpine areas. Plants in this genus have very small leaves, are very low to the ground and form small cushions or mats. Most of them have just a few flowers on short stems.

This is the last section of the saxifrage genus to be studied this year. There are ten species in this group. All have a basal rosette of somewhat wedge-shaped leave. A few have broad petioles also. The flowers are small and most are on leafless stems. A few have modified leaves on the stems. All have white flowers except Saxifraga hieracifolia and all have distinctly clawed petals which all more of the sepals to be exposed.

**Saxifraga Iyallii**By Cara Wardlaw-Bailey

and jagged teeth. S. Iyállii has red stems and follicles whereas S. davurica an S. unalaschcénsis have purplish black follicles. They all grow in wet, stony tundra or next to streams.

Saxifraga nivàlis and S. refléxa have thick haire

Saxifraga Iyállii, S. davùrica and S. unalaschcénsis have thick leaves with blunt ends

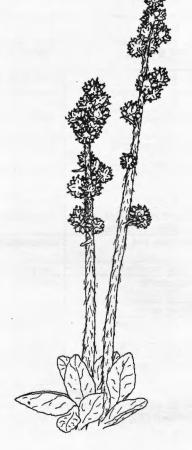
Saxifraga nivàlis and S. refléxa have thick, hairy ovate leaves with jagged teeth. The leaves are usually purplish beneath and they grow in

S. ferruginea and S. foliosa are also plants of very wet tundra. The small wedge-shaped leaves are packed into a tight rosette and have wavy margins. The flowering branches of S. ferruginea are so widespread that the plant often looks top heavy. A very attractive coastal species with many flowers, S. foliosa on the other hand, has flowers only on the end of its branches. It produces many asexual seeds bunched together along the flowering stems.

S. adscendens and S. caespitose are small species of dry rocky tundra. S. adscendens has a tight rosette much like the previous two. S. caespitose has many rosettes that can form a small mat unlike other species listed here. The leaves are thin and less rigid.

S. hieracifolia is a taller (10-12") plant found on moist tundra or meadows. Flowers are greenish-

brown and on a stout spike. Leaves are thick, lanceolate, green above and reddish below.



Saxifraga hieracifolia
By Cara Wardlaw-Bailey

dry stony tundra.

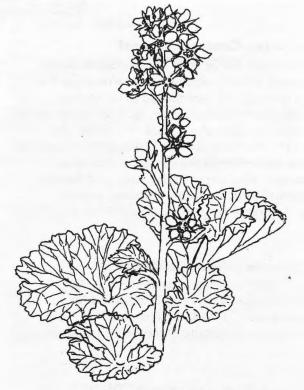
February: Leptarrhena and Boykinia

Presenter: Anjanette Steer

This month's presentation includes two genera and each genus has only one species in Alaska.

Leptarrhena pyrolifolia grows in wet alpine bogs or meadows. The thick evergreen leaves are toothed and oval. Its common name of Leatherleaved Saxifrage expresses its appearance in winter. Although the leaves are in rosettes, this rhizomatous plant forms dense mats. The clusters of small creamy-white flowers are borne on 8 inch stalks with a couple of modified leaves. In late summer the reddish stalks are topped with clusters of bright red seed capsules.

Boykinia richardsonii also has a few leaves on the 8-18 inch flowering stem. The flowers are usually white, sometimes pinkish, and have dark red-to-maroon sepals. They are ¾-1 inch across. This tall, showy plant has very large, reniform leaves that have coarse veins. It can be found in meadows and on mountain slopes and is a favorite food of bears. Hence, its common name, Bear Flower.



Boykinia richardsonii

By Cara Wardlaw-Bailey

#### **BOTANICAL VOCABULARY**

wedge-shaped leaves: triangular-like leaves, narrow at the base and wider at the end	My
ovate leaves: rounded at base; oval with a pointed end	
lanceolate: longer than wide, with the widest point below the middle, pointed at the end	
reniform: kidney bean shaped	
follicle: a seed pod that opens down one side to release seeds	

petiole: the stem of a leaf	R
rosette: a group of leaves symetricaly placed around the central growing point of a plant	
clawed petals: narrow at the base	20
asexual reproduction: producing seeds (often on stems) and/or young plants without pollination	

"Plant Identification Terminology" by James Harris

## FROM WHAT WE GATHER

## Nature Essay Contest Winner!

Diane Pleninger, Eagle River Nature Center Board Member and ANPS member, recently received first prize for an essay she contributed to the journal Economist. Diane's essay was chosen from 6000 entries to receive a \$20,000 grand prize. The essay was published in the November 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of the Economist. Her essay responded to the contest question: Do we need nature? You can read the essay and those of other winners by going to the following website: <a href="https://www.shelleconomistprize.com">www.shelleconomistprize.com</a>. Congratulations, Diane!

### 2004 Invasive Plant Calendar

The Alien Plant Working Group's Invasive Plant Calendar for 2004 is now available online for you to download & print. Check it out at it at <a href="http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/calendar.htm#print">http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/calendar.htm#print</a>

## "Invasive & Common Weeds" Field Guide

The new roadside field guide "Invasive and Problem Weeds for Alaska" is available. Please contact Michele Hebert at the Cooperative Extension in Fairbanks if you would like a copy. Also they are planning another printing and this is an opportunity for revisions. Please let Michele know if you have any suggested change. Contact Info: Phone: 907-474-2423 or e-mail: ffmah@uaf.edu

#### Directory of Alaska Native Plant Sources

http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/ag/native directory.

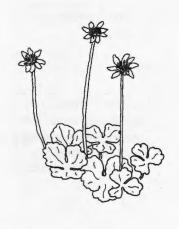
The Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center (PMC), located in Palmer, provides cost effective practices, testing production, and distribution of disease-free potatoes and landscape plant materials to Alaska horticulture and produce industries. The PMC first published the Directory of Alaska Native Plant Sources in 1993 in response to numerous requests for sources of native plant materials needed for small and large scale revegetation projects, such as streambank restoration, habitat enhancement, and landscaping on public and private lands. This new web edition updates the printed 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, and remains multi-purposed: to provide a marketing tool for plant and seed suppliers, a handy reference for consumers, and a vehicle to stimulate the production and use of Alaskan native plants.

The listings of native plant materials offered by each of the suppliers is current as of May, 2002; however, changeable growing season conditions may result in a shortage of some species. A call to the supplier is always recommended. This directory depends on the response of suppliers, and does not claim to include all producers or sellers of Alaskan native plants. If you are aware of an omission or error, please contact the Native Plant Nursery listed at the end of this section.

## **MYSTERY PLANT**

The mystery plant for this month is a glabrous plant found in wet black spruce forests throughout most of Alaska. The long white creeping rhizomes send up thin stems with small light yellow flowers with 5-8 narrow petals. The light green 3parted leaves are toothed and often can be seen poking up through a bed of damp moss.

ANSWER on Page 9



Drawing by Cara Wardlaw-Bailey

The plants listed in the directory are normally available as seeds in bulk or packet form, and live plants available as bare-root, ball & burlap, or containerized. Suppliers may also be able to supply cuttings, sprigs, or other vegetative parts suitable for propagation or planting. Interest in native plants has created increased demand for plants and cultural information. In March of 2000, the PMC launched the Alaska Native Plant Nursery. Located southwest of Palmer on Trunk Spur Rd, the Nursery uses its greenhouse and warehouse space for propagation, out-plantings, seed collection and cleaning, and distribution of native plants to commercial growers. The nursery provides advice on revegetation and restoration using native plants.

## Alaska Native Plant Society - Seed Sale List - 2004

The Alaska Native Plant Society sells seed 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.

For mail orders, include an additional \$0.50 for 1 -5 packages, or \$1.00 for 6 or more.

Make checks payable to: Alaska Native Plant Society

Send order to: Alaska Native Plant Society, PO Box 141613, Anchorage, AK. 99514

#### SEED LIST

Donors: Marilyn Barker (MB) and Verna Pratt (VP)

1. Aconitum delphinifolium—Monkshood (VP)

Height 2-3'; dark blue flowers, likes shade or sun, prefers stratification. It is recommended to soak seeds overnight before planting.

2. Armeria maritime—Thrift (VP)

Height 4-8"; grass like clump, flowers light pink. Prefers sun.

3. Arnica latifolia—Meadow arnica (MB)

Height 12-16"; flowers yellow (daisy like) 2" diameter. Prefers sun, Meadow plant.

4. Arnica Lessingii—Lessing's arnica (VP)

Height 8"; flowers yellow, nodding (daisy like). Prefers sun

5. Aster subspicatus—Leafy aster (VP)

Height 16-20"; Lavender blue flower (similar to Siberian aster, but taller) Prefers sun or semi-shade.

6. Boykinia richardsonii—Bear flower (VP)

Height 18-20:; Large toothed kidney shaped leaves, long raceme of ¾" white flowers with dark red sepals. Prefers moist soil and sun.

7. Bupleurum triradiatum—Thorough wax (VP)

Height 10-15"; umbels of small yellow flowers; prefers sun and dry soil

- 8. Campanula lasiocarpa—Mountain harebell (VP) dark blue form 3-4"; vivid blue flowers. Germinates easily; rock garden plant.
- 9. Epilobium luteum—Yellow willow herb (MB)

Height 12-16"; flowers light yellow one inch diameter; prefers wet soil.

10. Gentiana glauca—Glaucous gentian (MB)

Height 3-4"; Flowers green to turquoise tubular form. Nice size for rock gardens, but needs some humussy soil.

11. Geum calthifolium—Caltha -leaf Avens (MB)

Height 8-12"; I inch yellow flowers. Meadow plant, prefers sun.

12. Geum rosii—Ross Avens (VP)

Height a7-10", 1 inch yellow flowers. Tundra plant, prefers sun.

13. Iris setosa—Blue flag (VP) light lavender form

Height 15-18"; soak seeds overnight before planting, prefers sun.

14. Iris setosa—Blue flag (VP) white form

Height 15-18"; soak seeds overnight before planting, prefers sun.

15. Leptarrhena pyrolifolia—Pyrola leaved saxifrage (MB)

Height 7-10"; cluster of whitish flowers, seed heads bright red; wet soil and sun.

16. Mitella pentandra—Mitrewort (MB)

Height 8-12"; tiny green fringed flowers; prefers wet soil and shade

17. Papaver alaskanum—Alaska Poppy (VP)

Height 7-12"; flowers 1-11/2 " diameter; lemon yellow. Germinates easily, short-lived, but reseeds. Prefers dry gravelly soil and sun.

18. Parnassia kotzebueii—Kotzebue's grass of Parnassus. (MB)

Height 4-6"; small white flowers, prefers damp area; stratification recommended.

19.	Parrya nudicaulis—Parry's Wallflower (VP)
	Height 7-12", Flowers light pink, white or mauve, ¾-1" diameter; sun.
20.	Polemonium acutifolium—Tall Jacob's ladder (MB)
	Height 20-30"; 1 inch lavender/blue flowers. Meadow plant, easy to germinate, re-seeds; Sun.
21.	Potentilla uniflora—One flowered cinquefoil (VP)
	Height 3-5"; 34 inch yellow flowers. Rock Garden plant, dry and sun.
22.	Primula eximia—Chuckchi Primrose (MB) formerly P. tschutchorum
	Height 3-6"; 5/8" magenta flowes, moist soil. Likes sun; may take 2 years to germinate.
23.	Rhododendron camtschaticum ssp. Glandulosum—Kamchatka rhododendron (VP)
24	Height 2'3" subshrub; flowers 2" diameter, magenta. Rocky tundra, sun.
24.	Saxifraga ferruginea—Coast saxifrage (MB)
25	Height 4-10"; small white flowers. Damp gravelly areas, very attractive, sun.
25.	Saxifraga foliosa—Grained saxifrage (VP) Height 6-10"; solitary small white flower followed by many bulblets on the stems, wet and sun.
26	Saxifraga hirculus—Bog saxifrage (MB)
20.	Height 4-5"; ¾" bright hellow flowers. Forms a low mat, damp and sun.
27	Saxifraga nudicaulis—Saxifrage (MB)
21.	Height 4-5"; small white flowers with pink center, red seedheads; damp and sun
28	Saxifraga tricuspidata—Prickly saxifrage (VP)
20.	Height 4-6"; small cream flowers; evergreen leaves (red in winter). Rock garden plant, dry and sun.
20	Saxifraga unalaschcensis—Saxifrage (MB)
29.	Height 3-6"; small white flowers; damp and sun.
30	Silene acaulis—Moss campion (MB)
50.	Tight mat, pink flowers, aromatic, dry and sun. good rock garden plant.
31	Tripleurospermum phaeocephalum—Wild arctic chamomile (VP)
J	Height 8-14"—shorter in gravelly soil; 2" white daisy like flowers. Reseeds.
32.	Wilhelmsia physodes—Wilhelmsia (VP)
	Height 2-4 inches, small white flowers, round purplish seed pods/ damp and moderate
	sun to semi-shade
50.	NON-NATIVE Sisrinchium—Blue-eyed grass (MB)
	Mimics the native Sisrinchium littorale; Height 5-8"; iris-like leaves; blue flowers.
	ANPS SEED EXCHANGE ORDER FORM
	Orders will be filled in the order that they are received
Orc	ler by plant number appearing before the name
The	price is \$0.50 per packet. For mail orders, add \$0.50 for 1 -5 packets, or \$1.00 for 6 or more.
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Sen	d order to: Alaska Native Plant Society, PO Box 141613, Anchorage, AK. 99514

## **ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

## **2003 FIELD TRIP PLANNING WORKSHEET**

Chairman: Anjanette Steer E-mail: <a href="mailto:sheepmt@alaska.net">sheepmt@alaska.net</a>, Tel: (907)745-5121, FAX: (907) 745-5120 Co-Chairman: Verna Pratt E-mail: <a href="mailto:verna@alaskakrafts.com">verna@alaskakrafts.com</a>, Tel: 333-8212, FAX: 333-4989

Leader:			
Telephone:	FAX:	E-Mail:	
Field Trip to:			
Date:	Day of Week:		Time Allotted:
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Level of Difficulty		<u> </u>	Minimum Age:
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## **ON-GOING PLANT-RELATED EVENTS**

Alaska Native Plant Society: 1st Monday 7:30 Campbell Creek Science Center

Alaska Garden Club: 1st Thursday, 7:30 PM

Contact: Carol Norquist:

Alaska Rock Garden Society: 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat, 2PM

Contact: Carmel Tysver:

Alaska Master Gardener Assn.: 3rd Monday, 7PM

Contact: Mary Shier,

Alaska Botanical Garden: www.alaskabg.org

Contact ABG Office, 770-3692

Primrose Study Group: Meetings available

Contact: Mary Jo Burns,

Wildflower Garden Club: 2nd Thursday, 10AM

Contact: Liz Rockwell,

Alaska Rose Society: 2nd Tuesday 7PM

Contact Chuck Decker,

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers: 2nd Thursday, 7PM

Contact: Dan Elliot,

Alaska Orchid Society: 4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Contact: Sally Karabelnikoff,

Aurora Borealis African Violet Society: 3rd Tue. 7:30

Contact: Pat Addison,

Herb Study Group: Contact Mary Shier,

Alaska Ikebana Society: 3 meetings/yr.:

Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group: 1st or 2nd Wed. Eagle

River; Contact: Paul Marmora,

Southcentral Alaska Beekeepers: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 6:30PM

Contact: Steve Victors,

#### **MYSTERY PLANT ANSWER**

Ranúnculus lapponicas
Ranunculaceae/Buttercup family

#### Please Send Mail!

ANPS Member Dorothy Emmons has moved and would love to hear from other members of ANPS. Her address

is

Sun Cit, AZ 85351

Phone:

#### **FOUND AFTER POTLUCK**

2 large stainless steel spoons were left at the potluck in October. If you think they might be yours, call Verna and describe them in detail and maybe she'll return them to you!



Alan Batten for presenting the Plant Family in December. It was a treat to have an out-of-town member participate in our program on short notice!

Kellie Peirce and Scott Guyer for their interesting and informative presentations at the November and December meetings!

# ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY State and Anchorage Chapter Officers

President Leonard Grau
Vice President Connie Kison Keeney
Secretary Cara Wardlaw-Bailey

Treasurer Sue Jensen

## **Anchorage Chapter Program Coordinators**

Main Program
Plant Family
Mini-Botany
Field Trips

Luiz Woelflein
Verna Pratt
Marilyn Barker
Anjanette Steer

Newsletter ("Borealis")

Editor Ginny Moore

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

## RENEWAL TIME!

Don't miss out on future issues, Seed Exchanges, and Field Trip Schedules!

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.

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KLIKLVAL				
	1.5	\$ 5 \$10 \$12 \$18	\$ 5 \$10 \$12 \$18	\$ 5 \$10 \$12 \$18

Membership is on a calendar year basis.

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

