

Borealis

the newsletter of the



PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

March 2004

Join us at our NEXT meeting!

Campbell Creek Center

Monday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.

Topic

"Flowers Along Northern Rivers"

Join us for a look at flowers found on trips down the Coppermine River and Gataga River in Canada, as well as from northern Norway

Speaker

Dr. Garry Davies
University of Alaska, Anchorage

Plant Family Study

Saxafrage Family Stragglers

Presenter: Verna Pratt

Be sure to check out and hang on to the Summer Field Trip Schedule that is included in the center section of this issue. That is the real reason why we we're part of this organization, so get out and enjoy!



Alaska Rare Plant Forum 2004

By Marilyn Barker

The 2004 Rare Plant Forum was held in Fairbanks Alaska on April 8-9. The agenda featured many former ANPS speakers—Dave Murray, Carolyn Parker, Bruce Benett, Al Batten, Matt Carlson and Marilyn Barker, as well as many other botanists from Alaska and the Yukon.

Hot topics at the meetings were updates from the 2003 field season, a review of the Alaska Natural Heritage Rare Plant Tracking List and the ever present and increasing weeds. WEEDS!

Of importance to all of us who deal with plants is the new checklist which will be available on the web of the vascular plants of Alaska. Dave Murray has taken the lead in this project and showed us a sample genus—can you believe 4 pages of *Senecios*? He has cross referenced their names to those found in the common local floras used in our region (Hultén, Anderson, Porsild, Wiggins, ect.).

Another nice update was that the Forest Service is going to pick up the lead for Celebrating Wildflowers week starting in 2005 (if budgeting goes as planned). That should give a real boost to that program.

For a treat, two members gave a botanical travelogue from opposite ends of the globe. Mary Stensvold talked about Norway, and Dave Murray talked of Tibet.

Most interesting fact learned at the meeting? *Dodecatheon* (shooting star) flowers taste like grapes!

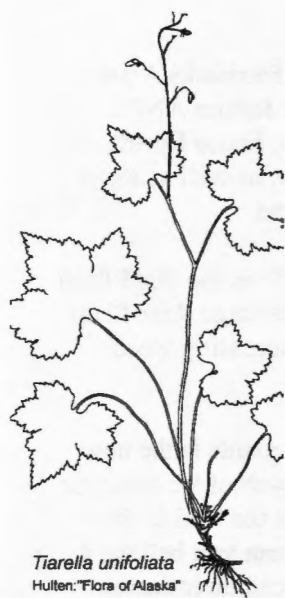
The 2005 meeting will be held in April in Anchorage—do try and attend all or some of the meetings.

The Saxifrage Family Genera:

Presenter: Verna Pratt

Most of the genera that will be discussed in this month's Plant Family Study have only one species in Alaska. All species except *Tiarella trifoliata* have lobed leaves - much like currants. *T. trifoliata* has 3 leaves with three leaflets. All are present in Southeast Alaska; four are present in S. Central and only one ventures north into the Alaska Range.

All have very small flowers - most containing 5 sepals and 5 petals and are on an elongated terminal inflorescence. Hultén's *Flora of Alaska* divides the genera by number of stamens in each.



Tiarella unifoliata
Hultén: "Flora of Alaska"

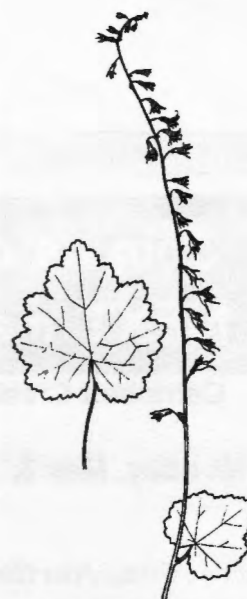
Tiarella and *Tellima* each have 10 stamens. *Tiarella* has two species in Alaska. *Tiarella trifoliata* can be found in moist coastal forests from British Columbia, Canada northward to the Kenai Peninsula. Most of the leaves are basal and long petiolate. They have 3 leaflets that have crenate margins. The 7-10 inch flowering stem has several dainty white flowers from which it acquired its common name of "Lace Flower".

Tiarella unifoliata has petiolate leaves that have 3-5

lobes and crenate margins. It is found in moist coastal forests of Southeast Alaska and British Columbia. The leaves extend up the 7-10 inch stem that is topped by just a few small white flowers. Its common name of "Sugar Scoop" comes from its unique seed pod. The lower portion of the two sectioned seed pod, which is held horizontal on the stem, resembles a sugar scoop once the upper part falls off.

Tellima grandiflora can be found in moist coastal forests or moist rocky woodlands from British Columbia northward onto the Aleutian Chain. The leaves are hairy and somewhat heart shaped with shallow lobes and crenate margins. The 14-20 inch long graceful flower stalks have 1-3 small leaves and small green aromatic flowers that have fringed recurved petals. The cup-like flowers with a fringed collar give this plant the common name of "Fringed Cup".

Tolmiea menziesii can be found as far south as Oregon and up into Southeast Alaska. It is similar in appearance to *Tillima* but has brown flowers with 5 sepals, 4 petals and only 3 stamens, making it a very distinct plant. Its common name of "Youth on Age" comes from its ability to grow baby plants on top of the older leaves. It is also known as "Piggyback Plant".



Tolmiea menziesii
Hultén: "Flora of Alaska"

Mitella and *Huechera* both have 5 stamens. *Mitella* has two species. *Mitella nuda* grows only in a small remote part of Southeast Alaska and southward into Canada. It differs in having 10 stamens, 5 petals and a leafless stem. *Mitella pentandra* can be found in moist woodlands and along mountain streams as far south as Colorado. The leaves are similar in shape to *Tellima* but small and glabrous. The 6-8 inch stem has several small green flowers with narrow recurved segments, giving it the common name of "Bishop's Cap".



Heuchera glabra
Hultén: "Flora of Alaska"

Heuchera glabra is probably the most recognized species of this group of plants. It can be found in western North America from Washington to the Aleutian Chain and north into the Alaska Range. The leaves have 3-5 lobes, are hairy, crenate in margin and fairly coarse looking. There are often many old, stiff leaf stalks present. The heavily branched stem has a terminal inflorescence of small, 5-petaled, delicate, white flowers and can have one or two small leaves.

2004 ANPS Field Trip List

Here is the much anticipated field trip list for the 2004 summer season. Each leader has carefully chosen a favorite spot to explore the local flora and/or help protect native plant populations. If you plan to attend an out of town field trip, please call the leaders so they know to expect you. Have a great summer!

May 24 –Monday – Potter Creek Trail

Leader: Marilyn Barker

Phone:

Time Allotted: 4 hours

Meeting Time: 6pm

Meeting Place: Potter Creek Trailhead

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Description of trip: Easy stroll along old Johnson trail through cottonwoods and aspen stands. A good place for early blooming wildflowers, including violets, and maybe morels.
Special Instructions: Mosquitoes like this trail too.

May 29 – Saturday – Girdwood – Moose Meadows

Leader: Cara Wardlaw-Baily

Telephone:

Email: caraquiana@hotmail.com

Time Allotted: 3 hours

Meeting Time: 12 Noon

Meeting Place: Moose Meadows Parking Lot

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Description of Trip: Slog in the bog to see the buckbean blooming. Directions: Drive approx. 30 miles south from Anchorage on the Seward highway to Girdwood. Turn left into Girdwood, follow Alyeska highway until it ends. Turn left at Alyeska resort sign, drive a couple blocks, turn left into Moose Meadows parking lot.
Special Instructions: Wear tall waterproof boots.

June 6 – Sunday – Wallace Mountain (Eagle River)

Leader: Verna Pratt

Phone:

Time Allotted: All day

Meeting Time: 8:30am

Meeting Place: Fred Meyer Store – Muldoon

Level of Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Description of trip: We will hike as far as we can and return to Anchorage by 5-6pm
Directions: Meet at Fred Meyer -Muldoon (S. side next to the Debarr entrance). Regroup at 9:15am at the trailhead. From the Glenn highway, take the Hiland Road exit. Continue on Eagle River Loop Road, cross Eagle River Road. When the road bends to the left turn right on Skyline Drive. Bear to the left on Broadwater Drive and follow it to the end. Limited parking. NOTE: Check map to find this trailhead – it's not as easy as it sounds.
Special Instructions: Hiking boots, lunch, bug repellent, water, extra layers, day pack.

June 9 – Wednesday – Campbell Creek Science Center

Leader: Sue Jensen

Phone:

Time Allotted: 2 hours

Meeting Time: 7:00pm

Meeting Place: Campbell Creek Sci. Ctr.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Description of trip: To help fulfill our obligation to CCSC for meeting room rental. Come help weed in the butterfly garden. This is a great time to see early blooming wildflowers.

June 12 – Saturday – Arctic Valley

Leader: Joyce Weaver- Johnson

Phone:

Time Allotted: 5 hours

Meeting Time: Noon (12pm)

Meeting Place: Top of Arctic Valley Road

Level of Difficulty: Moderate; steep sections

Description of trip: Sub alpine plants on lower slopes, alpine wildflowers on peaks and ridges near prime blooming time. We hope to find the lovely primrose, *Primula cuneifolia*.
Directions: Arctic Valley Road to Anchorage Ski Club parking are at the top
Special Instructions: Call Joyce to arrange for carpooling. \$5 parking fee. Bring snack, water, and magnifier/hand lens if you have one; wear sturdy hiking boots and extra layers.

June 15 –Tuesday – Alaska Botanical Garden

Leader: Sue Jensen

Phone:

Time Allotted: 2 hours

Meeting Time: 7:00pm

Meeting Place: ABG entrance near nursery.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Description of trip: Come help pull weeds from the Lowenfels Family Nature Trail. ANPS provides some of the funding for this interpretive trail. Let's help maintain it. Maximum distance: 2 miles.

June 16 –Wednesday – Seward Highway

Leader: Verna Pratt

Phone:

Time Allotted: 2-3 hours

Meeting Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Place: Potter Section House

Level of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Directions: Meet at parking lot S. end Potter Section House; carpool to Falls Creek Trailhead

Minimum Age: Adults only please.

Description of trip: This is a "Weed Warriors" work party to remove *Tragopogon dubius* along the highway. This plant is a biennial with short-lived seed, so we won't let it bloom. Please help remove this problem from our lovely National Scenic Byway.

Items to bring: Dandelion digger type tools and gloves. Wear good sturdy shoes, as some areas are steep and rocky.

June 18-20 Friday – Sunday – Maclaren Summit/ Tangle Lakes, Denali Highway

Leader: Anjanette Steer

Phone: , anj@ak.net

Time Allotted: 2 full days

Meeting Time: 9:00am- Saturday morning

Meeting Place: Tangle Lakes Campground

Level of Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Distance is 5-6 hours from Anchorage; Tangle Lakes Campground is at Mile 21 of Denali Highway from Paxson Side.

Description of trip: We'll explore Maclaren Summit during the day and use the Tangle Lakes Campground as our base camp each night. We will key out the plants we don't know in the midnight sun as we celebrate summer solstice. On Sunday, we'll explore the Swede Lake trail before heading home. Expect to hike 5-7 miles each day with lots of time for plant investigation.

Special Instructions: Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring food, water, camping gear, hand lens, bug repellent, water, rain jacket, extra layers and a day pack. Call the leader for carpooling Friday night from Sheep Mountain.

June 26 – Saturday – Lowenfels Nature Trail – Alaska Botanical Garden

Leader: Marilyn Barker

Phone:

Time Allotted: 1-2 hours

Meeting Time: 11:00am

Meeting Place: Herb Garden

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Description of trip: A short walk of about 2 miles. This easy stroll will go through spruce and mixed spruce birch forest. This hike is planned to coordinate with the Botanical Garden Fair. Plan to spend an hour with Marilyn to learn the native plants of the area.

Special Instructions: May need mosquito repellent.

July 4 –Sunday – Mount Eklutna

Leader: Anderson "Andy" Smith

Phone:

Time Allotted: 4-6 hours

Driving Distance: 17 miles from Muldoon to Peters Creek Exit, 2 1/2 miles to trailhead.

Minimum Age: 12 years old

Meeting Time: 10am

Meeting Place: Trailhead Malcolm Drive

Level of Difficulty: Moderate - Difficult

Description of trip: Hike #8 in *50 Hikes in Alaska's Chugach State Park*. Hike thru mountain meadows to summit of Mount Eklutna and back. Trail is sometimes steep.
Special Instructions: Wear sturdy hiking boots; bring lunch, bug repellent, water, extra layers and a day pack. Leader's email address: andersonsmith@gci.net.

July 6 –Tuesday – Seward Highway

Leader: Verna Pratt

Phone:

Time Allotted: 2-3 hours

Meeting Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Place: Potter Section House

Level of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Directions: Carpool to Falls Creek Trailhead from S end of Potter Section House lot

Minimum Age: Adults only please.

Description of trip: "Weed Warriors" work party; Many hands make quick work.

Items to bring: Dandelion digger type tools and gloves for tough plants in tough soils. Wear good sturdy shoes, as some areas are steep and rocky. Be prepared for windy conditions.

July 10 & 11 –Saturday/Sunday – Lost Lake/Resurrection Bay

Leader: Marilyn Barker, Carol Griswold, Joyce Weaver-Johnson

Phone:

Time Allotted: All day

Meeting Time: 9am (Saturday)

Meeting Place: Lost Lake Trailhead (Seward Highway Mile 5)

Level of Difficulty: Moderate

Driving Distance: 2 ½ - 3 hours

Minimum Age: 10 years old

Description of trip: 12 miles roundtrip – in & out the same trail. Alpines, sundews, bog candle orchids and much more. This is peak wildflower time here. Check this web address for a map to trailhead: <http://www.trailmonkey.com/viaklost1.htm> Bring a sleeping bag to spend the night at Joyce's rustic cabin. On Sunday we will do a coastal hike with Carol Griswold near Lowell Point.

July 12 –Monday – Alaska Botanical Garden

Leader: Sue Jensen

Phone:

Time Allotted: 2 hours

Meeting Time: 7:00pm

Meeting Place: ABG entrance near nursery.

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Description of trip: Come help pull weeds from the Lowenfels Family Nature Trail. ANPS provides some of the funding for this interpretive trail. Lets help maintain it. This will be our final "weeding" on the trail this summer. It is a beautiful place to spend a summer evening. Maximum distance covered is 2 miles.

Special Instructions: Bring gloves, trash bags, bug dope and water bottle.

July 24 – Saturday – Belanger Pass

Leader: Anjanette Steer

Phone: anj@ak.net

Time Allotted: 6 hours

Directions: 2 ½ hours from Anchorage to Sheep Mt Lodge mile 113.5 Glenn Highway. We will carpool from here to mile 121 – Martin Road

Minimum age: 10 years old

Meeting Time: 10:00am

Meeting Place: Sheep Mountain Lodge

Level of Difficulty: Moderate

Description of trip: We'll hike along an old mining road for the first mile and then explore the alpine tundra of Belanger Pass and Syncline Mountain. The arnicas and shooting stars are reputed to be beautiful here this time of year. This will be an all day hike; we'll spend the afternoon back at camp keying out any plants we don't know. Be prepared for crossing small streams.

Special Instructions: Wear sturdy hiking boots; bring lunch, bug repellent, water, rain jacket, extra layers and a day pack. Camp in the area the night before if possible (Matanuska Glacier campground Mile 101).

August 1 – Sunday – Winner Creek, Girdwood

Leader: Anderson Smith

Phone:

Time Allotted: 3 hours

Meeting Time: 11:00am

Meeting Place: Alyeska Prince Hotel

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Minimum age: 10 years old

Description of trip: Hike #50 in *50 Hikes in Alaska's Chugach State Park*. Hike through boreal rainforest to Winner Creek Gorge along a gentle trail.

Special Instructions: Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring lunch, bug repellent, water, extra layers and a day pack. Leader's email address: andersonsmith@gci.net.

August 4 –Wednesday – Seward Highway

Leader: Verna Pratt

Phone:

Time Allotted: 2-3 hours

Meeting Time: 6:30pm

Meeting Place: Potter Section House

Level of Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Directions: Meet at S. end of parking lot at Potter Section House; carpool to Falls Creek Trailhead

Minimum Age: Adults only please.

Description of trip: This is a "Weed Warriors" work party but will still be fun. Persistence will pay off if enough people help.

Items to bring: Dandelion digger type tools and gloves for tough plants in tough soils. Wear good sturdy shoes, as some areas are steep and rocky. Be prepared for windy conditions.

August 28 – Saturday – Lions Head

Leader: Anjanette Steer

Phone: anj@ak.net

Time Allotted: 3-4 hours

Distance: 5 –6 hours from Anchorage

Meeting Time: 11:00am

Meeting Place: MP 101 Glenn Highway.

Level of Difficulty: Moderate

Minimum Age: 10

Directions: Meet at Matanuska Glacier St. Rec Area and carpool to trailhead at Mile 104.5.

Description of trip: This hike is short and sweet. We'll mosey our way up Lions Head (1000') elevation gain, enjoying berries and beautiful fall colors along the way. Lunch will be on top of the "famous" rock outcropping with an outstanding 360 degree view of the Matanuska Glacier and surrounding river valleys. We'll enjoy a leisurely stroll back, picking berries along the way.

Items to bring: Wear good sturdy shoes, as some areas are steep and rocky. Dress in layers. Lunch, water, day pack, camera and berry picking containers.

Special Instructions: Please call the leader ahead of time to let her know you will be coming.

September 18 – Saturday – Campbell Creek Science Center, National Public Lands Day

Leader: Sue Jensen

Phone:

Time Allotted: 4 hours

Meeting Time: 8:45am

Meeting Place: Campbell Creek Sci. Ctr

Level of Difficulty: Easy

Description of trip: ANPS members are needed to help fulfill our obligation to CCSC for meeting room rental. Come help with revegetation projects, trail projects, etc. Lunch and door prizes are provided afterwards by the Science Center.

Special Instructions: Wear boots, bring gloves

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.

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 Luise Woelflein
 Plant Family Verna Pratt
 Mini-Botany Marilyn Barker
 Field Trips 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: tgmoores@gci.net

MYSTERY PLANT ANSWER

Do I dare say, again, that this is one of my favorite plants? Perhaps I'm a bit prejudiced to small delicate daisy-type flowers. This small plant has broad white ray flowers with toothed ends (usually 3). The yellow disc flowers are quite flat and compact. There is a single head of flowers on a 3-5 inch stem with one or two simple leaves. Basal leaves are narrow, linear (1-1 1/2 inches long), mostly glabrous, and in a small neat, distinct rosette. Most plants in this genus have toothed, lobed or pinnately divided leaves. This plant has a branched caudex (woody base of a perennial plant), and forms small tight, flat mats of rosettes on the tundra. It can be found across the Arctic from eastern Canada, across Alaska and barely into eastern Russia. Limited distribution has also been found in the Alaska Range, Eagle Summit and across the Yukon Territory.



Illustration by Cara Wardlaw-Bailey

(See Answer Below)



To Program Speakers: **Matt Carlson**
 (March) and **Don Spalinger** (April)

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!

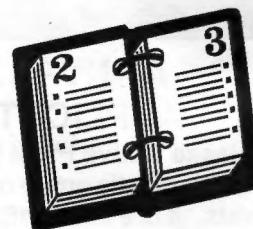
**Mystery Plant
Answer**

*Chrysanthemum
integrifolium*

Entire-leaf Daisy

Asteraceae/Aster
family

UPCOMING PLANT EVENTS (AND Check Out Our Field Trip Schedule Inside!)



May 3

Alaska Native Plant Society: 7:30 p.m., Campbell Creek Science Center off 68th and Lake Otis

May 22

Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale, 7435 Old Harbor Road, Anchorage 9-AM-4 PM.

May 29

Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale, Inlet Vista Circle, off Fairview Loop, Wasilla 9-AM-4 PM.

June 5

Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale; 9AM-4PM

June 19 and 20

ARGS Garden Tour of Member Gardens; Tour one venue on Saturday and one on Sunday.

June 25

Dan Hinkley will speak, time and place to be announced. Look for information in Anchorage Daily News

June 26

Dan Hinkley will speak at the Alaska Botanical Garden Fair.
Plant Show at the ABG Garden Fair. Admissions and Judging Saturday am.

July 9

National Garden Clubs Regional Convention in Anchorage. Will need tour guides for Alpenglow who can discuss native plants. The chair lift will be running. If you can help please let Debbie Hinchey know at

July 14

Lauren Springer and Scott Ogdan will present a talk in Homer. Location, time and title of talk to be announced

July 16

Lauren Springer and Scott Ogdan will present a talk in Anchorage. Location, time and title of talk to be announced.

July 17 and 18

Lauren and Scott will be at Coyote Garden Open Garden, home of Les Brake in Willow. There is a plant sale, tour of gardens and Lauren and Scott will sign books.

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



SUMMER FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE INSIDE!!