

# Borealis

The Newsletter of the



PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

Summer 2021

Summer 2021 is almost upon us and the Alaska Native Plant Society has so many exciting opportunities for you!

## Botanical Hikes



## Work Parties



## Information

- e- Hultén
- Flora of Chugach State Park Inventory Project
- Intro to AK Flora – a virtual botany class

## Volunteer: Become a Weed Warrior – Or A Gardener

For almost two decades ANPS has led a project to remove the invasive weed *Tragopogon dubius* (western or yellow salsify) from the few locations that this plant grows in Turnagain Arm.

ANPS members meet most Tuesday evenings in the summer to search for and remove *Tragopogon* from several locations between McHugh Creek and Bird Creek, in order to find plants before they go to seed.



Volunteers should be prepared to walk or scramble rough terrain in and near active transportation corridors (the shoulder of the Seward Highway, steep adjoining hillsides, etc.) for up to two and half hours at a time. Dogs and children should remain home. Helpful items include gloves, a sturdy dandelion digger or similar device adequate to loosen rocky compacted soil with, a medium or large sized trash bag to put plants into, and a bright, visible jacket or hat.

Rewards include the amazing views over the Arm during quiet summer weekend evenings and the potential for complete eradication of an invasive species from our state by volunteer efforts only. We'll see you there!

- **Campbell Creek Science Center Maintenance** – the volunteer work we provide at the Science Center gardens in the summer contributes to reduced room rentals for our meetings throughout the rest of the year. Check the Volunteer Schedule for the best dates for you to participate.

## 2021 AKNPS Field Trip Calendar

**General Instructions: Always plan for Alaska weather: Carry warm gear, snacks, water**  
**PLEASE remember to ALWAYS contact trip leaders to let them know you plan to attend.**

### ☼ **May 21, Friday: “Sutton Paleobotany Hike”**

Time and Location: 9 am at Muldoon Fred Meyer, east side of the parking lot

Description: Hike one mile, with some mud and scree, to a spot rich with various deciduous, coniferous and horsetail tree fossils. Expect to return to Anchorage around 4-5 pm. This trip is limited to 15 participants.

Leader: Curvin Metzler

Contact: [curvn@hotmail.com](mailto:curvn@hotmail.com), (home landline)

### ☼ **May 23, Sunday: “Art to Explore Native Plants” at Turnagain Arm**

Time & Location: 10 am-2 pm, Windy Corner Trailhead, milepost 106.7 (*Location may change based on conditions*)

Description: Join Barbara Johnson, Monica O’Keefe, and Annie Ronsse to explore the joy of journaling, sketching, and painting plants in the outdoors. No experience necessary. Plan to hike on the Turnagain Arm Trail with sketching/painting for 30 minutes to an hour at various locations along the way, using different techniques. Bring water, lunch, and warm garments.

Contact: Monica O’Keefe, [monicaokeefe@gmail.com](mailto:monicaokeefe@gmail.com) or

Materials: No materials necessary but if you want to make up your own kit, bring any of the following: watercolor booklet or sketchbook, pencil, fine tip black ink pen, colored pencils, eraser, watercolor brushes 2-3 sizes, watercolor set, small pencil sharpener, small container for water, paper towel or Kleenex. Optional extras: Hand lens, binoculars, camera, and a pad to sit on.

Trip Size Limit: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this trip will be limited to 12 participants

### ☼ **June 5, Saturday: “Wildflowers and Birds of Arctic Valley and Mt. Gordon Lyon”**

Time & Location: 10 am, Arctic Valley Ski Area (parking \$5/day)

Description: Expect 5-6 hrs, 5 miles with 1,760 feet of ascent over Mt. Gordon Lyon in a loop route. Bring lunch and warm garments. Expert local birders Declan Troy and Steven Scordino will be co-leading the trip, and it will be open to the public, but due to COVID-19, group size will be limited to 15 persons, with priority will be given to AK Native Plant Society members. To assist in planning, please contact [dennis.ronsse@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.ronsse@gmail.com) to reserve a space.

Contact/Leaders: Dennis Ronsse, [dennis.ronsse@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.ronsse@gmail.com) and Beth Norris

### ☼ **June 14, Monday: “Orange Hawkweed in the Chugach Front Range”**

Time and Location: 7 pm, via Zoom (Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://alaska.zoom.us/j/86878717470?pwd=UktDbkxVQ3BvNmhjckHo4L0FwdXJHQT09>, Meeting ID: 868 7871 7470, Passcode: 842431)

Description: Help us find Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum* a.k.a. *Pilosella aurantiacum*)! Recent reports from reliable sources have identified orange hawkweed in various backcountry areas of the Chugach front range. We want to document where more infestations are to aid in controlling the spread. This session will tell you how to identify orange hawkweed, where it is reported in backcountry areas, and how to report it.

Contact: Gino Graziano, [gagraziano@alaska.edu](mailto:gagraziano@alaska.edu)

🌿 **June 15 & 17, Tuesday & Thursday: “Learn to use iNaturalist”**

Time & Location:

- Hike: June 15 at 7 pm, Goose Lake
- Webinar: June 17 at 7 pm (via Google Meet: Link: [meet.google.com/qvc-wiou-wnw](https://meet.google.com/qvc-wiou-wnw); join via phone audio at (US)+1 617-675-4444, PIN: 630 617 528 8076#)

Description: Learn to use iNaturalist and become a part of local research projects. Aaron Wells will lead an evening hike, followed by an online learning webinar. On June 15 expect a 2-hour walk around Goose Lake. Bring warm clothes, rubber boots, bear spray, and a camera. A phone with a camera would be ideal. Aaron can advise about downloading the iNaturalist app and creating an account before the hike. On June 17, join the 1-hour webinar using the link above to learn how to upload your observations to the iNaturalist website.

Contact: Aaron Wells, [treasurer@aknps.org](mailto:treasurer@aknps.org)

🌿 **June 16, Wednesday: “Native Plants at the Alaska Botanical Garden”**

Time & Location: 6:30 pm, at the Alaska Botanical Garden; meet at the gated entrance to the Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail.

Description: Walk along with Marilyn Barker to get an insider’s view of native plants at ABG. The garden closes at 7 pm so the group will walk out using the perimeter trail.

Contact: Marilyn Barker, [marilynbarcker29@gmail.com](mailto:marilynbarcker29@gmail.com)

🌿 **June 25-27, Friday-Sunday: “Botany Weekend to the Alaska Range” near Tok**

Time & Location: Contact organizer directly.

Description: Jeff Mason will lead a field trip to a nice little alpine lake near Tok. This is an overnight backpacking trip with a round-trip distance of 5.4 miles to the lake and some elevation gain.

Contact: Jeff Mason, [jdotmason@gmail.com](mailto:jdotmason@gmail.com)

🌿 **July 10, Saturday: “The Wildflowers of Craggie Creek” at Hatcher Pass**

Time and Location: Meet at 9 am at the Palmer Fred Meyer on the east side of the building. Carpooling is only advised for households or COVID bubbles.

Description: Hike along an old mining road up a lush sub-alpine valley, about 2 miles with very little change in elevation. If time allows the group might add a stop at April Bowl on the way home for a look at higher alpine flora.

Contact: Beth Norris [enorris@aknps.org](mailto:enorris@aknps.org) or by phone at

🌿 **July 23-27, 2021, Friday-Tuesday: “Jensen-Olson Arboretum and Surrounding Trails” in Juneau**

Time and Location: Contact organizer directly. Times and dates will be finalized upon traveler confirmation.

Description: Join Ginger Hudson for a tour of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum and hike trails in the surrounding area. The arboretum features one native garden bed and one alpine bed among other horticulture crafted beds. The arboretum is situated on a protected cove with a view of the Inside Passage and surrounded by spruce-hemlock forest.

Contact: Ginger Hudson, [growingtallllc@gmail.com](mailto:growingtallllc@gmail.com) or Jensen-Arboretum landline (907-789-0139)

🌿 **July 24, Saturday, “Hatcher Pass Wildflower Hike”**

Time and Location: **Contact organizer directly.** Meet at the Palmer Fred Meyer parking lot o at 9 am.

Join Jaime Rodriguez and the Alaska Rock Garden Society for a wildflower hike in Hatcher Pass. Depending on snow melt conditions, the hike will be the Gold Cord Lake Trail or April Bowl. Following the hike is an option to drive down the Willow side of Hatcher Pass to visit Les Brake’s Coyote Gardens.

Contact: Jaime Rodriguez, [jrtinker@mtaonline.net](mailto:jrtinker@mtaonline.net)

## 2021 AKNPS Summer Volunteer Calendar

### **May 21, Friday: “Campbell Creek Science Center Garden Maintenance”**

Time & Location: Friday May 21, 2-5pm at the Campbell Creek Science Center. *Meet at the Science Center gate off Elmore Road just south of East 68th by 2pm.*

Description: Weeding and planting in the CCSC wildflower gardens. Equipment provided. *Make sure to log your time. AKNPS volunteer hours count toward our reduced room rental rate.*

Contact: Elizabeth Bluemink, [president@aknps.org](mailto:president@aknps.org)

### **June 9, Wednesday: “Campbell Creek Science Center Garden Maintenance”**

Time & Location: 9 am-12 pm, at the Campbell Creek Science Center. *Meet at the Science Center gate off Elmore Road just south of East 68th by 2pm.*

Description: Weeding and planting in the CCSC wildflower gardens. Equipment provided. *Make sure to log your time. AKNPS volunteer hours count toward our reduced room rental rate.*

Contact: Elizabeth Bluemink, [president@aknps.org](mailto:president@aknps.org)

### **June 15, Tuesday: “Tragopogon Removal in Turnagain Arm”**

Time & Location: 6:30-8:30 pm, Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)

Description: Western salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*) is a persistent invasive weed along Turnagain Arm. Due to AKNPS efforts, it is nearly eradicated but more work is needed to finish the job. Bring dandelion digger type tools, gloves, and garbage bags. 1st of 4 sessions.

Contact: Diane Toebbe, [diannetoebbe@gmail.com](mailto:diannetoebbe@gmail.com),

Special instructions: Please RSVP for one or more work sessions using our [Tragopogon volunteer signup sheet](#) and contact the trip leader if you plan to participate.

### **June 22, Tuesday: “Tragopogon Removal in Turnagain Arm”**

Time & Location: 6:30-8:30 pm, Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)

Description: Western salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*) is a persistent invasive weed along Turnagain Arm. Due to AKNPS efforts, it has nearly been eradicated but more work is needed to finish the job. Bring dandelion digger type tools, gloves, and garbage bags. 2nd of 4 sessions

Contact: Gino Graziano, [gagraziano@alaska.edu](mailto:gagraziano@alaska.edu)

Special instructions: Please RSVP for one or more work sessions using our [Tragopogon volunteer signup sheet](#) and contact the trip leader if you plan to participate.

### **June 29, Tuesday: “Tragopogon Removal in Turnagain Arm”**

Time & Location: 6:30-8:30 pm, Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)

Description: Western salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*) is a persistent invasive weed along Turnagain Arm. Due to AKNPS efforts, it is nearly eradicated but more work is needed to finish the job. Bring dandelion digger type tools, gloves, and garbage bags. 3rd of 4 sessions.

Contact: James Sowerwine, [james.sowerwine@gmail.com](mailto:james.sowerwine@gmail.com),

Special instructions: Please RSVP for one or more work sessions using our [Tragopogon volunteer signup sheet](#) and contact the trip leader if you plan to participate.

### **July 6, Tuesday: “Tragopogon Removal in Turnagain Arm”**

Time & Location: 6:30-8:30 pm, Potter Section House Parking Area (Seward Hwy just past Potter Marsh)

Description: Western salsify (*Tragopogon dubius*) is a persistent invasive weed along Turnagain Arm. Due to AKNPS efforts, it is nearly eradicated but more work is needed to finish the job. Bring dandelion digger type tools, gloves, and garbage bags. 4th and final session.

Contact: Dianne Toebbe, [diannetoebbe@gmail.com](mailto:diannetoebbe@gmail.com),

Special instructions: Please RSVP for one or more work sessions using our [Tragopogon volunteer signup sheet](#) and contact the trip leader if you plan to participate.

### **July 7, Wednesday: “Campbell Creek Science Center Garden Maintenance”**

Time & Location: 9 am-12 pm, at the Campbell Creek Science Center. *Meet at the Science Center gate off Elmore Road just south of East 68th by 2pm.*

Description: Weeding and planting in the CCSC wildflower gardens. Equipment provided. *Make sure to log your time. AKNPS volunteer hours count toward our reduced room rental rate.* Contact: Elizabeth Bluemink, [president@aknps.org](mailto:president@aknps.org)

**July 21, Wednesday: “Campbell Creek Science Center Garden Maintenance”**

Time & Location: 9 am-12 pm, at the Campbell Creek Science Center. *Meet at the Science Center gate off Elmore Road just south of East 68th by 2pm.*

Description: Weeding and planting in the CCSC wildflower gardens. Equipment provided. *Make sure to log your time. AKNPS volunteer hours count toward our reduced room rental rate.*

Contact: Elizabeth Bluemink, [president@aknps.org](mailto:president@aknps.org)

**Aug. 11, Wednesday: “Campbell Creek Science Center Garden Maintenance”**

Time & Location: 9 am-12 pm, at the Campbell Creek Science Center. *Meet at the Science Center gate off Elmore Road just south of East 68th by 2pm.*

Description: Weeding and planting in the CCSC wildflower gardens. Equipment provided. *Make sure to log your time. AKNPS volunteer hours count toward our reduced room rental rate.*

Contact: Elizabeth Bluemink, [president@aknps.org](mailto:president@aknps.org)

**Aug. 25, Wednesday: “Campbell Creek Science Center Garden Maintenance”**

Time & Location: 9 am-12 pm, at the Campbell Creek Science Center. *Meet at the Science Center gate off Elmore Road just south of East 68th by 2pm.*

Description: Weeding and planting in the CCSC wildflower gardens. Equipment provided. *Make sure to log your time. AKNPS volunteer hours count toward our reduced room rental rate.*

Contact: Elizabeth Bluemink, [president@aknps.org](mailto:president@aknps.org)

**Sept. 10, Friday: “Campbell Creek Science Center Garden Maintenance”**

Time & Location: 2-5 pm, at the Campbell Creek Science Center. *Meet at the Science Center gate off Elmore Road just south of East 68th by 2pm.*

Description: Weeding and putting the garden to bed for winter. Equipment provided. Make sure to log your time. AKNPS volunteer hours count toward our reduced room rental rate.

Contact: Elizabeth Bluemink, [president@aknps.org](mailto:president@aknps.org)



**Verna Pratt demonstrates**

**Dennis Ronsse at Turnagain Arm**





# Biology 195

## Intro to AK Flora

Are you interested in learning about the Flora of Alaska as well as getting familiar with some unique approaches to delivering a systematic botany course online, this might be the one for you.

We have carefully chosen technology that will allow students from all over the state (and even outside Alaska) to collect data in their home communities, perform plant dissections and have a hands-on learning experience within the flora's native environment. Instead of traditional course materials like textbooks, students will purchase an inexpensive wide-angle macro lens that connects to their smartphone or tablet. The technology not only lets students mimic lab spaces in their own natural areas but also expands their digital networks through the submission of images to iNaturalist, enabling them to share and collaborate with enthusiasts around the world and contribute citizen science data. Students don't just sit at their computers in this class, they go outside, touch with their hands and share what they discover. The course design includes videotaped lectures using the Learning Glass platform, video dissection demonstrations, virtual biome exploration using a 360° camera, and selected interactive reading materials. This course is an exciting intersection of curiosity for wild plants, an exploration of Alaska's plant communities and an accessible introduction to botany.

<https://introtoflora.community.uaf.edu/module-1/>

BIOL F195

Dates: June 14 - July 14

CRN: 51595

2 Credits

Steffi Ickert-Bond

[smickertbond@alaska.edu](mailto:smickertbond@alaska.edu)



Course details: <https://ecampus.uaf.edu/course-details-2/?crn=51595...>

Registration: <https://ecampus.uaf.edu/register/>

Alaska Native Plant Society

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# Flora of Chugach State Park

## 2020 Progress Report



Aaron F. Wells, Timm W. Nawrocki, Dennis E. Ronsse, and Glenn H. Brown

The 2020 progress report is ready!

You can view and download the report here:

[https://aknps.org/#flora\\_of\\_csp\\_2020report](https://aknps.org/#flora_of_csp_2020report)

The Flora of CSP project is a volunteer-led project organized by the Alaska Native Plant Society (AKNPS) in cooperation with CSP staff. Its objective is to inventory the flora and fungi of the Park, including vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens, and fungi. We initiated the project in the spring of 2020 with the creation of the “Flora of Chugach State Park” iNaturalist project ([www.inaturalist.org/projects/flora-of-chugach-state-park](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/flora-of-chugach-state-park)).

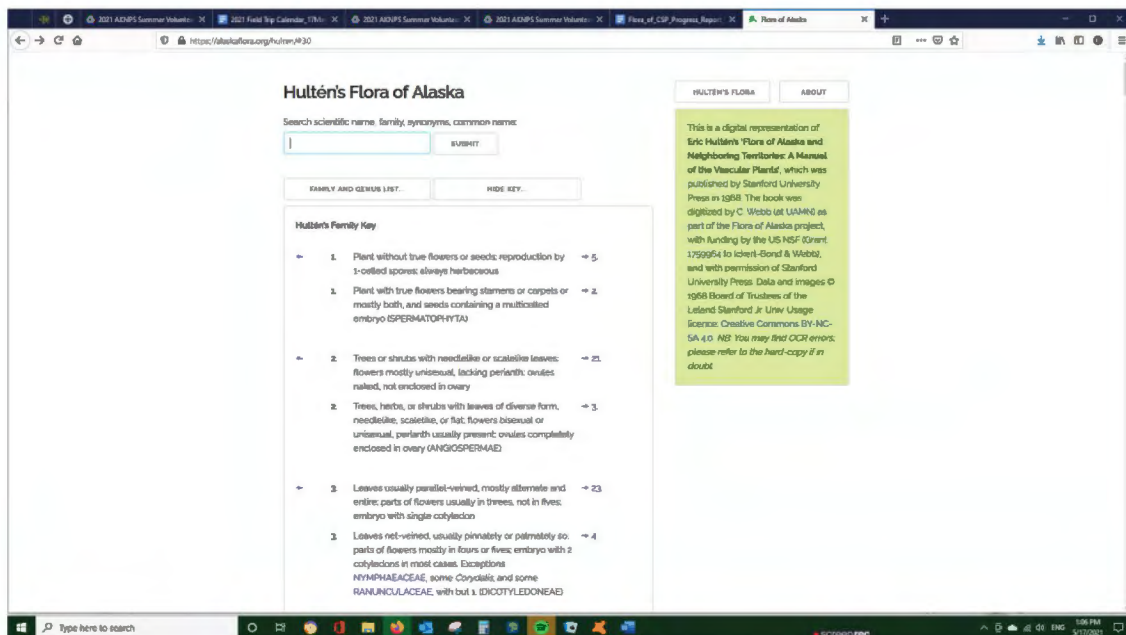
If you would like to contribute observations to this project . . . it’s possible you already have! The iNaturalist project is a “collection” project, which means that all observations that are recorded within the boundary of CSP and uploaded to iNaturalist are automatically included in the project. The Flora of CSP project will continue in 2021, and we need your help to make observations and provide identifications!

To learn more please go to the iNaturalist link above. Please direct all questions to [treasurer@aknps.org](mailto:treasurer@aknps.org).

# Announcing 'e-Hultén': A Digital Representation of Hultén's *Flora of Alaska*

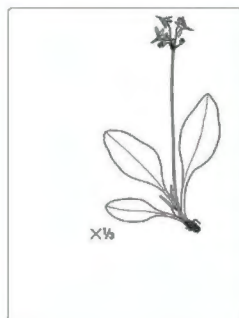
The standard, comprehensive reference for Alaskan plants has long been Eric Hultén's 'Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories: A Manual of the Vascular Plants', published by Stanford University Press in 1968. With over 1,000 pages the book is not the handiest guide to carry into the field, but its classic combination of keys, maps, descriptions and illustrations is still invaluable. Since 2018 a project has been underway to update Hultén and produce a new, modern flora of Alaska (see <https://floraofalaska.org/>). As part of this effort, Cam Webb and Steffi Ickert-Bond at the University of Alaska Museum of the North (ALA herbarium) have been working on the informatics of the new flora, with funding from the US National Science Foundation. Digitizing Hultén's flora has been a high priority, and Stanford University Press kindly gave their permission for this.

The first version of the digital representation of Hultén's flora has now been released and can be found at: <https://alaskaflora.org/hulten/>. One can easily search for names and synonyms, and view the taxon accounts, complete with illustrations and a digital map of the specimens Hultén used. The main key to families is also included. Now you can quickly check Hultén's flora in the field, on your phone, as long as you have signal!



The raw data from Hultén's flora can now also be integrated with other data resources, such as ALA specimens, observations from iNaturalist, and taxon accounts from the Flora of North America, to form a data foundation for the new flora of Alaska.

## *Dodecatheon pulchellum* subsp. *alaskanum* (Hult.) Hult.



**Family** Primulaceae — APG family: Primulaceae

**Synonyms** *Dodecatheon macrocarpum* var. *alaskanum* Hult.

**Description** Similar to subsp. *superbum*, but plant smaller, leaves membranous, thin, spread- ing, ovate-elliptic.