

Borealis

The Newsletter of the



PO Box 141613, Anchorage, Alaska

Summer 2022

Summer 2022 is almost upon us and the Alaska Native Plant Society has so many exciting opportunities for you!

Botanical Hikes



Work Parties



Information

- 2022 Alaska Botany Bioblitz!
- Flora of Chugach State Park Inventory Project

IT'S HERE – Your ANPS SUMMER 2022 ACTIVITY CALENDER!

Keep it by your side and take advantage of all we have to offer while you get outdoors and enjoy summer in the land of the midnight sun!

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

2022 AKNPS Field Trip Calendar

Alaska Native Plant Society members lead a wide variety of field trips throughout Alaska each year—from urban plant walks to alpine ascents. Most hikes have a size limit to ensure a good experience for all participants. If you would like to join one or more of these hikes, we ask that you:

- RSVP in advance with the trip leader
- Sign the AKNPS liability waiver included with this newsletter and submit it to the trip leader
- Do not bring dogs without permission from the trip leader

Always plan for Alaska weather: Carry warm gear, snacks, water

PLEASE remember to ALWAYS contact trip leaders to let them know if you change your plans.

May 7, Saturday: “Emerging Spring Plants and First Flowers at Windy Corner”

Meeting time/location: 1 pm at roadside parking at Milepost 106.6 of Seward Highway (12 miles south of Anchorage)

Description: Early snowmelt on Turnagain Arm makes it one of the first places to find plant growth near Anchorage. Join Annie Ronsse and Marilyn Watts for a 2.5-hour, 2-mile hike on the Turnagain Arm Trail. Fairly level, but rocky in places.

Contact: Annie Ronsse at akronsse@gmail.com or phone/text

May 19, Thursday: “Sutton Paleobotany Hike”

Meeting time/location: 9 am at Muldoon Fred Meyer, east side of the parking lot

Description: Curvin Metzler will lead a 1-mile hike 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. RVSPs required, this trip is limited to 15 participants.

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

June 2, Thursday: “Art to Explore Native Plants” at Turnagain Arm

Meeting time/location: 5-7 pm at the Windy Corner Trailhead at Milepost 106.7 of Seward Highway (*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. RSVPs required, this trip is limited to 12 participants.

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.

Contact: Barb Johnson at barbj15@gmail.com or phone/text:

June 18, Saturday: “Wildflowers and Birds of Arctic Valley and Mt. Gordon Lyon”

Meeting 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. This trip will start in riparian willow habitat transitioning into high alpine with unique wildflowers in bloom and interesting birds not common to lower elevations.

Contact: Steve Scordino (Audubon) at steve_scordino@yahoo.com and Marilyn Barker (AKNPS) at mhwbarker@icloud.com

July 8-10, Friday-Sunday: “Botany Weekend in the Clearwater Mountains” near Cantwell

Meeting time/location: Contact organizer for meeting time. Meeting location will be the Alpine Creek Lodge located at Mile 68 of the Denali Highway.

Description: Jeff Mason will lead a multi-day field trip up a valley in the Clearwater Mountains. This is a two-night backpacking trip with an option for non-backpackers to reserve space at the lodge or camp nearby to botanize the Denali Highway. The distance to the proposed campsite at an alpine lake is approximately 2.5 miles with an elevation gain of ~1,200 feet. This trip coincides with the [Alaska Botany Bioblitz](#) and there are very few herbarium collections or iNaturalist data from the Clearwater Mountains.

Contact: Jeff Mason, jdotmason@gmail.com

July 9, Saturday: “Turnagain Pass Wildflowers”

Meeting time/location: 10 am at the Turnagain Rest Area (on the northbound side of the Seward Highway).

Description: Hike about 4 to 6 miles round trip along a trail from the parking lot through the spruce and mixed forest to an open meadow half-way point for lunch. Wildflowers may include twayblade-leaf orchids, deer cabbage, a native hawkweed, multiple species of saxifrages, and a surprise find at the lunchtime meadow! This is a relatively easy walk with some elevation gain but mostly a gently rolling terrain. Please bring bear spray, appropriate clothing, water and snacks for the day. Expect 4 hours on trail. This trip is limited to 10 people so please RSVP. No dogs please. Children are welcome. This trip coincides with the [Alaska Botany Bioblitz](#).

Contact: Beth Norris, ejnorris2142@gmail.com or ()

July 10, 2022, Sunday: “Jensen-Olson Arboretum and Surrounding Trails” in Juneau

Meeting time/location: 10 am at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum at 23035 Glacier Hwy in Juneau

Description: Join Ginger Hudson for a tour of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum. The arboretum features curated native garden beds and one alpine bed among other horticulture crafted beds. The arboretum is unique, situated on a protected cove with a view of the Inside Passage and surrounded by spruce-hemlock forest. Dogs are not permitted in the arboretum but are allowed on nearby trails which visitors may want to take on their own: Pt Caroline is accessible from the same parking area; and the Peterson Creek Trail is 1/8 mile down the road. This trip coincides with the [Alaska Botany Bioblitz](#).

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

July 16, Saturday: “The Wildflowers of Craigie Creek” at Hatcher Pass

Meeting time/location: 9 am at the Palmer Fred Meyer on the east side of the building

Description: Hike along an old mining road up a lush sub-alpine valley, about 2 miles with very little change in elevation. Abundant and diverse wildflowers in full blooms including several orchid species.

Contact: Beth Norris, ejnorris2142@gmail.com or (phone/text)

August 4, Thursday: “Plants of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge”

Meeting time/location: 6 pm and park near the 800 block of Coral Lane. Do not block driveways or post boxes.

Description: Join Marilyn Barker to venture into a salt marsh to look at plants adapted to high salinity. This is a mostly flat walk of 2-3 miles round trip. This trip can be done in hiking/tennis shoes but rubber boots are best. RSVPs are required and no dogs are allowed on this hike. This trip is limited to 15 participants with preference given to AKNPS members.

Contact: Marilyn Barker, mhwbarker@icloud.com or (phone/text)

August 6, Saturday “Common Lichens of Southcentral Alaska”

Meeting time/location: 10 am at the Basher Drive Trailhead in Anchorage (9001 Basher Drive)

Description: Join Preston Villumsen for a 2 to 3 mile round-trip walk starting at the Basher Trailhead to explore common lichens of Southcentral Alaska. During this walk you will learn about the diverse shapes and colors of common lichens and their ecology and importance to the overall health of the environment. Please dress for the weather and bring water/snacks. Anticipated time on the trail will be 4 hours. RSVPs are required: this hike will be limited to 15 participants with preference given to AKNPS members. Please no dogs.

Contact: Preston Villumsen at pcvillumsen@alaska.edu or

August 13, Saturday “Art to Explore Native Alpine Foliage and Berries”

Meeting time/location: 10 am at the Summit Lake State Recreation Site located at mile 19.6 Hatcher Pass Road. (Location may change based on conditions)

Description: Join Barb Johnson and Annie Ronsse to explore the joy of journaling, sketching, and painting plants in the outdoors. No experience necessary. Plan for a 3-hour hike in the April Bowl area of Hatcher Pass with sketching/painting for 30 minutes to an hour at various locations along the way, using different techniques. Bring water, snacks, and warm garments. RSVPs are required, this trip is limited to 12 participants.

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.

Contact: Barb Johnson at barbj15@gmail.com or

(phone/text)



2022 AKNPS Summer Volunteer Calendar

Campbell Creek Science Center Garden Work Parties

Meeting Location: The Campbell Creek Science Center, located in the Campbell Tract at 5600 Science Center Drive in Anchorage

Description: Join Alaska Native Plant Society volunteers who are maintaining the Campbell Creek Science Center's wildflower gardens. Gardening equipment is provided. This volunteer work is a mutually-beneficial arrangement that enables the Alaska Native Plant Society to use the center's indoor space for in-person educational meetings. *Make sure to log your time on the CCSC log sheet!*

You can sign up [here](#) or Contact individuals below:

Contact: Elizabeth Bluemink, president@aknps.org and/or individual trip leaders listed below (Mary Stella, mstella@gci.net; Beth Baker, daisymae@mtaonline.net; and Ginger May, gmaynj@gmail.com)

Dates/Time:

- Wednesday, May 25, 9-12, (Leader: Mary Stella)
- Wednesday June 8, 9-12 (Leader: Beth Baker)
- Wednesday June 22, 4-6 (Leader: Elizabeth Bluemink)
- Wednesday, July 6, 9-12 (Leader: Ginger May)
- Thursday, July 28, 9-12 (Leader: Beth Baker)
- Wednesday, Aug. 10, 9-12 (Leader: Mary Stella)
- Saturday, Aug. 27, 9-12 (Leader: Elizabeth Bluemink)
- Wednesday, Sept. 7, 9-12 (Beth Baker)
- Saturday, Sept. 24 (National Public Lands Day) - Time TBD

Tragopogon Removal along Turnagain Arm

Meeting Location: 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. No dogs or children allowed. Volunteers should avoid venturing into any steep terrain unless they are experienced and have discussed this in advance with the trip leader. RSVP for one or more work sessions using our [Tragopogon volunteer signup sheet](#) and contact the trip leader in advance if you plan to participate.

Dates/Time:

- Tuesday, June 14, 6:30-8:30 pm, led by Diane Toebe, diannetoebe@gmail.com or
- Tuesday, June 21, 6:30-8:30 pm, led by James Sowerwine, james.sowerwine@gmail.com
- Tuesday, June 28, 6:30-8:30 pm, led by Gino Graziano, gagraziano@alaska.edu
- Tuesday, July 5, 6:30-8:30 pm, led by Diane Toebe, diannetoebe@gmail.com or



***Tragopogon dubius* reproduces only by seed**

Liability Waiver

Starting with the summer 2016 outings each field trip participant has been required to sign a liability waiver. The club has been fortunate in not having serious injuries occur and botany is not usually viewed as a high risk endeavor. That being said the unexpected can occur. This waiver is the participant's acknowledgement of risk and that he/she will not hold the society or its leadership responsible for injuries should they occur. The leader of each trip will be responsible for having all participants sign before the start of each outing and will return the form to the club president. We include a copy of the form here so that everyone will have a chance to read it and realize that it will be a part of the start of every hike, with signatures required for all participants.

LIABILITY WAIVER FOR THE ALASKA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S HIKES AND OUTINGS

I acknowledge that any trip has risks. The same elements that help create the unique character of this activity may cause loss or damage to my equipment, accidental injury, illness, or in extreme cases permanent trauma, disability, or death. I understand that the ANPS officers, board, members, and the trip leader/coordinator do not want to reduce my enthusiasm for the activity but think that it is important for me to be informed in advance about the activities' inherent risks.

The trip may include hiking over uneven, rocky terrain and along ridges. Hiking up hills with significant elevation gain may occur. Travel may be over rough unpredictable terrain. Downed trees, steep slopes, slippery rocks and moving water may be encountered. Hikes may occur in wetland areas, along rivers, or along the ocean. Muddy terrain may be slippery. Associated risks include but are not limited to slipping, falling, being hit by objects, or striking objects. Risks of hiking include but are not limited to cuts, blisters, diarrhea, falling timber or rocks, falls causing soft tissue injury, fractures, concussions, drowning, hypothermia, heat exhaustion/heat stroke, dehydration, sunburn, and death. Environmental risks include but are limited to rapidly changing weather, insect bites and their transmitted diseases, rolling and shifting rock, earthquakes, lightning, tsunamis, and wild or domestic animals.

The trip may require vehicular travel. This activity has risks which include but are not limited to vehicular accidents and collision with vehicles or animals and malfunction which may results in injury, disability, and death. Vehicle malfunction may result in altering the itinerary.

Society activities may occur in remote places in a significant time and distance away from medical facilities or definitive care. The difficulty of communication and transportation may delay evacuation and transport to a medical facility. I declare that I am in good physical fitness to participate in this activity without causing harm to myself or another. . If I have medical concerns related to the activity, I have verified with my physician that I am physically and psychologically able to participate in the experience. I authorize that if I suffer injury or illness the trip leader/coordinator is entitled to arrange medical treatment and emergency evacuation services as deemed essential for my safety. I understand that I am responsible for all of these transportation and medical costs involved in this care. I release any person who renders medical services for me from any and all liability which may arise out of or be attributable to performance of such services. I am aware that environmental conditions or health/safety issues may require a change in the itinerary. This may require a change in the participant's travel plans. Any costs as a result of unexpected itinerary changes for any reason are the sole responsibility of the participant.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Alaska Native Plant Society officers, board, members, and the trip leader/coordinator against any and all claims, suits, or actions of any kind whatsoever for liability, damages, compensation, or otherwise brought by me or anyone on my behalf, including attorney's fees and any related costs, if litigation arises pursuant to any claims made by me or by anyone else acting on my behalf. If the Alaska Native Plant Society officers, boards, members, or the trip leader/coordinator incurs any of these types of expenses I agree to reimburse them according for incurred costs.

I confirm that I am 18 years old or older. If not I am having an adult 18 or over sign this on my behalf. I (or my adult signer) have read, understood, and accepted the terms and conditions stated herein and acknowledge that this agreement shall be effective and binding upon myself, my heirs, assigned personal representative or estate and all of my family members. I assume and accept full responsibility for myself and for death or any injury or loss of personal property. I will pay the expenses suffered by me or on my behalf as a result of any of the items listed anywhere above in this document.

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Date: _____



Flora of Chugach State Park 2021 Progress Report

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



What grows in “them thar” hills? The 2021 progress report is ready!

You can view and download the report here: [Flora of CSP 2021 ProgressReport April2022 ds.pdf](https://aknps.org/projects/flora-of-chugach-state-park/Flora_of_CSP_2021_ProgressReport_April2022_ds.pdf)

The Flora of CSP project is a volunteer-led project organized by the Alaska Native Plant Society (AKNPS) in cooperation with CSP staff (<https://aknps.org/projects/>). Its objective is to inventory the plants and fungi of the Park, including vascular plants, bryophytes, lichens, and fungi. To learn more please refer to the “Flora of Chugach State Park” iNaturalist project ([www.inaturalist.org /projects/flora-of-chugach-state-park](https://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 2022, 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.

To download the full resolution version (256 MB): [Flora of CSP 2021 ProgressReport April2022 FullRes.pdf](https://aknps.org/projects/flora-of-chugach-state-park/Flora_of_CSP_2021_ProgressReport_April2022_FullRes.pdf)

2022 ALASKA BOTANY BIOBLITZ! July 1st-15th

What? A bioblitz is a citizen science project to document as many species as possible in a designated time period and location.

Who? Anyone in Alaska can join! This is a family-friendly event.

How? Simply join the event below and then upload photos of plants taken during the event dates to the iNaturalist app or website.

Prizes going to:

Most observations • Widest geographic extent of observations
• Most identifications • Most individual species • Best photo

Join and get project updates:

www.inaturalist.org/projects/alaska-botany-bioblitz

Questions? Interested in partnering?

ak-botany-bioblitz-2022@aknps.org

