

A Field Guide to **Flora** at Baxter Bog

Baxter Bog is a city park (3424 Lunar Circle, Anchorage) visited by Alaska Native Plant Society members and wetland enthusiasts for its diversity of peat bog flora. This field guide includes records from hikers, AKNPS field trips and specimens held at the University of Alaska Anchorage Herbarium. Lichens, mosses and fungi are included after vascular plants.

This booklet is formatted to fit on a phone and assist with field ID for some plants found at Baxter Bog. Photos are sorted by scientific names consistent with the 2020 Flora of Alaska Project. A cross-reference to Hulten's 1968 *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories* is provided. A more complete checklist (names only) is available from the Alaska Native Plant Society website: <https://aknps.org>.

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Botanical Name

Achillea alpina multiflora

Common Name

Siberian Yarrow

Family

Asteraceae

Siberian Yarrow (*Achillea alpina*)- Leaves serrate or pinnatifid w/ very broad rachis. Interior AK. Rare in Anchorage area (meadows & woods) vs. Northern Yarrow (*A. millefolium*)- Leaves pinnatifid w/ narrow rachis. Common most of AK.



Hulten Family

Asteraceae

Hulten Name

*Achillea sibirica**

Hulten page

887

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

*Alnus **alnobetula** sinuata*

Common Name

Sitka Alder

Family

Betulaceae

Sitka Alder (*ssp sinuata*)- Leaf blade **coarsely doubly serrate** vs Siberian Alder (*ssp fruitocosa*)- Leaf blade broadly ovate, **margins sharply and densely doubly serrate**, apex acute to short-acuminate vs. Mountain Alder (*ssp crispa*)- Leaf blade broadly to narrowly ovate or elliptic, **margins serrulate or finely serrate**, apex obtuse to acute. Usually sub-alpine habitats.



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Hulten Family

Betulaceae

Hulten Name

*Alnus crispa ssp sinuata**

Hulten page

369.1

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

Alnus incana tenuifolia

Common Name

Thin-leaf Alder

Family

Betulaceae

Thin-leaf Alder (*A. incana* ssp *tenuifolia*)- Leaves dark green on top, dull, not sticky when young, short pointed teeth. Only in very wet places, often in standing water. Stalks shorter than cone-like fruits. vs Sitka Alder (*A. alnobetula sinuata*)- **Leaves lustrous**, wet or dry habitats, but not usually standing water (3 spp in SC AK).



Hulten Family

Betulaceae

Hulten Name

Alnus incana ssp *tenuifolia*

Hulten page

370

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Andromeda polifolia ssp. pumila

Common Name

Bog Rosemary

Family

Ericaceae

Bog Rosemary- Small dark evergreen shrub. Leaves thick, long, narrow, gray-green above, silvery-white below, edges rolled under. Flowers pink urn-shaped. Very poisonous, neurotoxin, causes nausea, problems breathing, lowering of blood pressure (possible confusion w/ Labrador Tea).



Hulten Family

Ericaceae

Hulten Name

Andromeda polifolia

Hulten page

727

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Betula glandulosa

Common Name

Dwarf Birch

Family

Betulaceae

Dwarf Birch- (2 in SC AK) *B. glandulosa* **leaves longer than wide, wedge shaped at base.** Petioles hairy 5-6 mm long vs. *B. nana* **leaves often wider than long, straight or notched at base.** Petioles very short, 2 mm long. Hybrids are common between the two dwarf birches, and also between tree & dwarf birches.



Hulten Family

Betulaceae

Hulten Name

Betula glandulosa

Hulten page

365

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name**Common Name****Family***Betula nana exilis*

Dwarf Birch

Betulaceae

Dwarf Birch- (2 in SC AK) *B. nana* **leaves often wider than long, straight or notched at base.** Petioles very short, 2 mm long. vs *B. glandulosa* **leaves longer than wide, wedge shaped at base.** Petioles hairy 5-6 mm long. Hybrids are common between the two dwarf birches, and also between tree & dwarf birches.



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Hulten Family**Hulten Name****Hulten page****Accepted***Betulaceae**Betula nana exilis*

365

yes

Betula neoalaskana

Alaska Paper Birch

Betulaceae

Alaska Paper Birch (*B. neoalaskana*)- **Larger leaf blades generally more than 5 cm, with 5–18 pairs of lateral veins**; medium to large trees, 10–30 m. Bark white or reddish-brown. vs Kenai Birch (*B. kenaica*)- **Larger leaf blades mostly less than 5 cm, with 2–6 pairs of lateral veins**; shrubs and small to medium trees, 0.5–12 m. Bark pinkish or grayish-white, exfoliating in sheets Moose eat upper branches of older trees when available., but not younger branches. Young twigs have coarse texture & contain an antibiotic that kills moose gut bacteria.



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Hulten Family

Hulten Name

Hulten page

Accepted

*Betulaceae**Betula papyrifera ssp humilis**

367

no

Botanical Name

Carex chordorrhiza

Common Name

Cordroot Sedge

Family

Cyperaceae

C. chordorrhiza- Culms curved at base, straight at top, Rhizome slender branching. Leaves short straight thick. Bogs, lake margins, lowland quagmires.



Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

Carex chordorrhiza

Hulten page

229

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Carex diandra

Common Name

Lesser Panicled Sedge

Family

Cyperaceae

C. diandra Spikes 5-7 dark brown almost continuous appearing spike, Inconspicuous male flowers at tips. culms round and smooth below, very scabrous and angular above. often in water on floating margin of woodland bogs.



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Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

Carex diandra

Hulten page

231

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Carex lasiocarpa

Common Name

Woolly Fruit Sedge

Family

Cyperaceae

C. lasiocarpa Perigynia densely short hirsute. Lake emergent. Greenish-gray & slender w/ only a few stems per plant. Culms: Smooth slender, round to obtusely triangular & wine red at base. Leaves: Longer than stems, lowermost reduced to sheathes around stem.



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Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

Carex lasiocarpa

Hulten page

279

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Common Name

Family

Carex limosa

Shore Sedge

Cyperaceae

C. limosa Pistillate scales golden / yellow, not awned or small pointed. Section Limosae



Hulten Family

Hulten Name

Hulten page

Accepted

Cyperaceae

Carex limosa

269

yes

Botanical Name

Carex pauciflora

Common Name

Small Flowered Sedge

Family

Cyperaceae

C. pauciflora- Single spike, Perigynia 6-7 mm long, few, spreading. Stem triangular. Peat bogs (acid soil). Explosive seed dispersal.



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Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

Carex pauciflora

Hulten page

228

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Carex paupercula

Common Name

Boreal Bog Sedge

Family

Cyperaceae

C. paupercula (magellanica) - Pistillate scales dark & narrow with long awns make spikes bicolored w/ pale perigynia. Lowest bract longer than inflorescence (unlike other Limosae).



Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

*Carex magellanica ssp irrigua**

Hulten page

270

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

Carex rotundata

Common Name

Round Sedge

Family

Cyperaceae

Round Sedge (*C. rotundata*)- Leaves septate nodose involute. Lowest bract can be reflexed, female spikes short & round.



Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

Carex rotundata

Hulten page

278

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Carex utriculata

Common Name

Beaked Sedge

Family

Cyperaceae

C. utriculata- Robust. Perigynia dark red / purple at maturity. Leaves longer than inflorescence. Spikes: Terminal male, lateral erect female. Very common, sometimes dominant various wet places, can be standing water.



Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

*Carex rhynchophysa**

Hulten page

279

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

Chamaedaphne calyculata

Common Name

Leatherleaf

Family

Ericaceae

Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*)- Leaves thick leathery and slightly rolled under. Flowers in racemes at tips of stems, hang down. Bogs, Black Spruce throughout boreal forest. Reddish leaves in fall, winter, and spring give bogs this hue from a distance.



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Hulten Family

Ericaceae

Hulten Name

Chamaedaphne calyculata

Hulten page

727

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Comarum palustre

Common Name

Marsh Five-finger

Family

Rosaceae

Marsh Five-finger (*Comarum palustre*)- Long creeping (often floating) rhizomes w/ emergent stems. Leaflets 5-7. Flowers reddish-purple secrete fetid nectar attracting carrion flies.



Hulten Family

Rosaceae

Hulten Name

*Potentilla palustris**

Hulten page

608

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

Drosera anglica

Common Name

English Sundew

Family

Droseraceae

English Sundew (*Drosera anglica*)- Leaf blades obovate to linear, spatulate. Petioles glabrous vs. Roundleaf Sundew (*D. rotundifolia*)- Leaf blades round. Petioles pubescent.



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Hulten Family

Droseraceae

Hulten Name

Drosera anglica

Hulten page

559

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Common Name

Family

Drosera rotundifolia

Round-leaved Sundew

Droseraceae

Roundleaf Sundew (*D. rotundifolia*)- Leaf blades round. Petioles pubescent. vs English Sundew (*Drosera anglica*)- Leaf blades obovate to linear, spatulate. Petioles glabrous.



Hulten Family

Hulten Name

Hulten page

Accepted

Droseraceae

Drosera rotundifolia

559

yes

Botanical Name

Common Name

Family

Equisetum fluviatile

Water Horsetail

Equisetaceae

Water Horsetail- Stems stout, round (usually unbranched) central cavity large >3mm vs. thinner angular stems & small central cavity <3mm. of *E. palustre* & *E. scirpoides*.



Hulten Family

Hulten Name

Hulten page

Accepted

Equisetaceae

Equisetum fluviatile

36

yes

Botanical Name

Common Name

Family

Equisetum sylvaticum

Wood Horsetail

Equisetaceae

Wood Horsetail- Secondary branches have additional feathery branches.



Hulten Family

Hulten Name

Hulten page

Accepted

Equisetaceae

*Equisetum sylvaticum**

36

no

Botanical Name

Eriophorum viridicarinatum

Common Name

Tall Cotton-grass

Family

Cyperaceae

E. viridicarinatum Spikelets more than 1. Midrib of scales prominent to very tip, no purple on stems. Leaves Flat. vs. *E. angustifolium* Midrib of scales not prominent to very tip. vs. *E. gracile* leaves narrow, triangular in cross section.



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Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

Eriophorum viridicarinatum

Hulten page

200

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Iris setosa

Common Name

Wild Iris

Family

Iridaceae

Wild Iris- Poisonous, especially the rhizome.



Hulten Family

Iridaceae

Hulten Name

Iris setosa

Hulten page

313

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Myrica gale

Common Name

Sweet Gale

Family

Myricaceae

Sweet Gale- An important nitrogen fixer in bogs. Stl'atl'imx people or NW coast called it "monkey bush" probably because it was used by sasquatches (for some purpose). On the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, moose seem to prefer *Myrica gale* more than *Salix fuscescens*.



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Hulten Family

Myricaceae

Hulten Name

Myrica gale

Hulten page

364

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Nuphar polysepala

Common Name

Yellow Pond Lily

Family

Nymphaeaceae



Hulten Family

Nymphaeaceae

Hulten Name

*Nuphar polysepalum**

Hulten page

450

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

Oxycoccus microcarpus

Common Name

Bog Cranberry

Family

Ericaceae

Bog Cranberry- Trailing evergreen shrub common in boggy areas w/ tiny leaves. Flowers light pink and reflexed like miniature shooting stars.



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Hulten Family

Ericaceae

Hulten Name

Oxycoccus microcarpus

Hulten page

735

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Parnassia palustris

Common Name

Northern Grass of

Family

Parnassiaceae

Northern Grass of Parnassus (*P. palustris*)- wet meadows, ditches, lake margins most of AK. pointed petals, conspicuously veined. Petals almost twice as long as sepals.



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Hulten Family

*Saxifragaceae**

Hulten Name

Parnassia palustris

Hulten page

589

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

Pedicularis labradorica

Common Name

Labrador Lousewort

Family

Orobanchaceae

Labrador Lousewort- Flowers yellow or reddish (or w/ red spot), small, in leaf axils, on many flower stalks. Bogs, tundra & woods.



Hulten Family

*Scrophulariaceae**

Hulten Name

Pedicularis labradorica

Hulten page

820

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

Polemonium acutiflorum

Common Name

Tall jacob's ladder

Family

Polemoniaceae

Tall Jacob's Ladder (*P. acutiflorum*)- Corolla lobes acuminate, margins ciliate, throat white. Anthers yellow. Leaflets glabrous (or nearly so), sharply pointed. vs. *P. boreale*- Corolla lobes broadly rounded, margins glabrous, throat yellow. Anthers white. Leaflets 10 or less / side, viscid-pubescent, not sharply pointed tips. Both very common in AK.



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Hulten Family

Polemoniaceae

Hulten Name

Polemonium acutiflorum

Hulten page

767

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Rhinanthus minor

Common Name

Rattlebox

Family

Orobanchaceae

Rattlebox- Annual. Stems unbranched (usually) w/ 4-6 prolonged internodes. Leaves sessile, long and narrow w/ long teeth. Bracts w/ long acute teeth, longer than calyx.



Hulten Family

*Scrophulariaceae**

Hulten Name

Rhinanthus minor

Hulten page

815

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

Rhododendron groenlandicum

Common Name

Labrador Tea

Family

Ericaceae

Labrador Tea (2 sp)- *R. groenlandicum* **leaves oblong, blunt tipped. Stamens 10** vs. *R. tomentosum* **leaves smaller, linear, acute tipped. Stamens (5-)8(-10)**, Both have rusty hairs on stem & underside of leaves w/ strong aroma.



Hulten Family

Ericaceae

Hulten Name

*Ledum palustre ssp groenlandicum**

Hulten page

718

Accepted

no

Botanical Name

Common Name

Family

Rhododendron tomentosum decumbens

Labrador Tea

Ericaceae

Labrador Tea (2 in SC AK)- *R. tomentosum*- **leaves smaller, linear, acute tipped. Pedicels bent abruptly just below the capsule.** vs *R. groenlandicum*- **leaves oblong, blunt tipped. Pedicels broadly bent, evenly curved.** Both have rusty hairs on stem & underside of leaves w/ strong aroma.



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Hulten Family

Hulten Name

Hulten page

Accepted

Ericaceae

*Ledum palustre ssp decumbens**

717

no

Botanical Name

Rhynchospora alba

Common Name

White Beak-sedge

Family

Cyperaceae

White Beak-sedge- Height 10-50 cm. stems triangular leafy. Spikelets in 1-3 compact head-like clusters, terminal & largest w/ a small bract about as long as inflorescence (white).



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Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

Rhynchospora alba

Hulten page

213

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Rubus chamaemorus

Common Name

Cloudberry

Family

Rosaceae

Cloudberry- Bogs & tundra. Low growing. Leaves are long stemmed w/ 5 lobes. Petals white. Berries orange, highly sought after, collected in large amounts, often combined with seal oil.



Hulten Family

Rosaceae

Hulten Name

Rubus chamaemorus

Hulten page

602

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Rubus idaeus

Common Name

Wild Raspberry

Family

Rosaceae

Wild Raspberry- A bristly shrub 2-4 feet tall. Five white petals w/ many stamens. Can be abundant at forest openings & roadsides. Cultivated plant from Europe.



Hulten Family

Rosaceae

Hulten Name

Rubus idaeus ssp. melanolasius

Hulten page

604

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Salix barclayi

Common Name

Barclay Willow

Family

Salicaceae

Barclay Willow (*S. barclayi*)- Medium sized bush. Leaves toothed, shiny above, glaucous & hairless below. (New leaves sparsely hairy). Stipules broad remaining on plant till fall. Young twigs blackish densely hairy, becoming reddish, hairless. Capsules hairless. Willow Roses aids identification. The most common thicket forming willow in SC AK. 3 willows provide most moose browse in SC AK: *S. scouleriana*, *S. alaskensis*, and *S. barclayi* because they produce less salicylic acid (less bitter).



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Hulten Family

Salicaceae

Hulten Name

Salix Barclayi

Hulten page

353

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name*Salix bebbiana***Common Name**

Bebb Willow

Family*Salicaceae*

Bebb Willow- **Catkins appear in mid-June, same time as leaves develop.** Abundant yellow stamens of males, and grayish female, make it stand out in the forest. **Long stalks on capsules 1/4" seen at a distance.** Porcupine's like this one. Diamond Willow found around Gulcana. The most common upland willow in interior AK.

**Hulten Family***Salicaceae***Hulten Name***Salix depressa ssp rostrata****Hulten page**

358

Accepted

no

Salix pulchra

Diamond-leaf Willow

Salicaceae

Diamond-leaf Willow (*S. pulchra*)- Stipules linear to narrowly oblong, 3-32 mm, usually longer than petioles, and usually marcescent for two or more years. Old leaves persist on twigs 2-3 years, pointed at both ends (diamond-shaped), smooth or w/ a few small teeth. Twigs shiny brown, reddish, or purple, hairy when young but becoming hairless in age vs. Tea-leaf Willow (*S. planifolia*)- Rare in AK. Stipules are oblong to narrowly elliptic or obovate, 0.8-3 mm, distinctly shorter than petioles, and rarely marcescent for more than one year.



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Hulten Family

Hulten Name

Hulten page

Accepted

*Salicaceae**Salix pulchra*

359

yes

Botanical Name

Salix scouleriana

Common Name

Scoulers Willow

Family

Salicaceae

Scoulers Willow (*S. scouleriana*)- Tree size. Leaves dark green above nearly hairless, beneath white or gray and hairy, becoming rusty & hairy when older. Three willows provide most moose browse in SC AK: *S. scouleriana*, *S. alaskensis*, and *S. barclayi* because they produce less salicylic acid (less bitter).



Hulten Family

Salicaceae

Hulten Name

Salix scouleriana

Hulten page

361

Accepted

yes

Botanical Name

Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani

Common Name

Soft-stem Bulrush

Family

Cyperaceae

Soft-stem Bulrush- Involucral leaf solitary, appearing as continuation of culm. Spikelets in terminal cluster of loose branches. Very strong fibers, NW natives made baskets, mats, walls & roofs.



Hulten Family

Cyperaceae

Hulten Name

*Scirpus validus**

Hulten page

208

Accepted

no