

# Wildflowers of Interior and Southcentral Alaska

Daniel H. Wieczorek and Kazuya Numazawa



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**Date of First Publication: April 1, 2025,**

**First Published as Wildflowers of Alaska:**

**an Addendum to our “*Wildflowers of Interior Alaska*”**

ISBN- 13: 979-8-2489-4483-5

## FOREWORD

What is the purpose of this book? It is not intended to be a "definitive field guide" to the wildflowers of Alaska. There are areas we have not yet traveled in, rather, it is intended to show you some of the amazing beauty that can be found when you are out for a hike in the mountains and fields of Alaska. It is also not intended to show every wildflower which can be found in Alaska. What is contained herein is only a sample of the beauty and of the species which you can find here. The goal of this book is to give you an idea of the species of wildflowers that are here as well as to show you some amazing photographs. The photos are not tiny little things similar to those found in most of the books which are used as field guides for plant identification. The photos you'll find here are all quite large and some of them are cropped in such a way as to show the smallest parts of the flowers. This should probably be considered a coffee-table book of beautiful flower photos and at the same time it should also help you identify many of the flowers which you will find here.

The specific areas visited in this book include, but are not limited to, the following. Probably our favorite wildflower area is along the Steese Highway between about milepost 85 (Twelvemile Summit) and milepost 107 (Eagle Summit Wayside), as well as along the Pinnell Mountain Trail, which is a trail through the mountains between Twelvemile Summit and Eagle Summit. We have spent a great deal of

time in this area. Next on our list of favorite places, is the Elliott Highway between milepost 27.6 (Wickersham Dome Trail parking lot) and milepost 57. We have spent many hours on the Wickersham Dome Trail and on the Upper Grapefruit Rocks Trail, plus a bit of time on the Lower Grapefruit Rocks Trail. We suppose that our next favorite area is along the Chena Hot Springs Road from milepost 48.9 (Angel Rocks Trailhead) to the end of the Chena Hot Springs Road at milepost 56.5 (Chena Hot Springs).

In this new and newly named edition of *Wildflowers of Interior and Southcentral Alaska: An Addendum to our "Wildflowers of Interior Alaska"* we are also including several Southcentral Region species that we have found between Thompson Pass and Valdez, as well as species we've found just south of Delta Junction, along the Richardson Highway. This includes the area between milepost 1 and milepost 268 of the Richardson Highway. In addition, we are also including wildflowers we've had the opportunity to find in the Hatcher Pass area, which can be accessed via the Fishhook Loop Road between Palmer and Willow, Alaska. We are adding 65 species of wildflowers in this renamed addendum. A couple of the new species included are ones that we have found only in Yukon Territory, Canada, but the literature indicates that they are also found in Alaska, as one would expect, and therefore we are also including those, with notes as to where they might be found in Alaska.

Here are the new species included in this Addendum to “*Wildflowers of Interior Alaska*”.  
As in the original work this list is in alphabetical order by genus, with page numbers.

1) <i>Anemone multiceps</i>	9-10	34) <i>Minuartia rubella</i>	48
2) <i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	11	35) <i>Myosotis asiatica</i>	49-50
3) <i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	12	36) <i>Oxyria digyna</i>	51-52
4) <i>Arenaria chamissonis</i>	13	37) <i>Oxytropis nigrescens</i> var. <i>nigrescens</i>	53
5) <i>Caltha leptosepala</i>	14	38) <i>Pedicularis sudetica</i>	54
6) <i>Campanula uniflora</i>	15	39) <i>Phlox richardsonii</i> ssp. <i>alaskensis</i>	55-56
7) <i>Capnoides sempervirens</i>	16	40) <i>Phyllodoce aleutica</i>	57
8) <i>Claytonia sarmentosa</i>	17, 19	41) <i>Physaria arctica</i>	58
9) <i>Claytonia scammaniana</i>	18-19	42) <i>Platanthera aquilonis</i>	59
10) <i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	20	43) <i>Platanthera dilatata</i>	60-61
11) <i>Crepis nana</i>	21	44) <i>Polemonium acutiflorum</i>	62
12) <i>Delphinium glaucum</i>	22	45) <i>Polygonum alpinum</i>	63
13) <i>Douglasia gormanii</i>	23	46) <i>Potentilla nivea</i>	64
14) <i>Draba lactea</i>	24	47) <i>Potentilla uniflora</i>	65
15) <i>Draba stenopetala</i>	25	48) <i>Primula cuneifolia</i> ssp. <i>saxifragifolia</i>	66
16) <i>Erigeron caespitosus</i>	26	49) <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	67
17) <i>Erigeron compositus</i>	27	50) <i>Pyrola minor</i>	68
18) <i>Erigeron peregrinus</i>	28	51) <i>Ranunculus hyperboreus</i>	69
19) <i>Erysimum redowskii</i>	29	52) <i>Rhododendron groenlandicum</i>	70
20) <i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i>	30-31	53) <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	71
21) <i>Galearis rotundifolia</i>	32-33	54) <i>Sanguisorba stipulata</i>	72-73
22) <i>Gentiana platypetala</i>	34-35	55) <i>Saxifraga eschscholtzii</i>	74
23) <i>Gentiana prostrata</i>	36	56) <i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	75
24) <i>Gentianopsis detonsa</i>	37-38	57) <i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i>	76
25) <i>Geranium erianthum</i>	39	58) <i>Swertia perennis</i>	77-78
26) <i>Geum calthifolium</i>	40	59) <i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	79
27) <i>Geum macrophyllum</i> (var. <i>pauciflorum</i> )	41	60) <i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i>	80
28) <i>Geum rossii</i>	42	61) <i>Valeriana sitchensis</i>	81
29) <i>Leptarrhena pyrolifolia</i>	43	62) <i>Veratrum viride</i> var. <i>eschscholzianum</i>	82-83
30) <i>Luetkea pectinata</i>	44	63) <i>Veronica wormskjoldii</i>	84
31) <i>Micranthes neschaniana</i>	45	64) <i>Viola langsdorffii</i>	85
32) <i>Micranthes reflexa</i>	46	65) <i>Wilhelmsia physodes</i>	86
33) <i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	47		

## Plant families you'll find here and their page numbers:

*Apocynaceae*/Dogbane 11  
*Asteraceae*/Aster, Sunflower 21, 26, 27, 28  
*Boraginaceae*/Borage 49, 50  
*Brassicaceae*/Mustard 24, 25, 29, 58  
*Campanulaceae*/Bellflower 15  
*Caryophyllaceae*/Pink, Carnation 13, 48, 86  
*Ericaceae*/Heath 57, 70, 80  
*Fabaceae*/Pea 53  
*Gentianaceae*/Gentian 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 77  
*Geraniaceae*/Geranium 39  
*Lamiaceae*/Mint 67  
*Liliaceae*/Lily 30, 31  
*Montiaceae*/Spring beauty 17, 18, 19  
*Orchidaceae*/Orchid 20, 32, 59, 60, 61

*Orobanchaceae*/Broomrape 54  
*Papaveraceae*/Poppy 16  
*Phrymaceae*/Lopseed 47  
*Plantaginaceae*/Plantain, Veronica 84  
*Polemoniaceae*/Phlox 55, 56, 62  
*Polygonaceae*/Buckwheat 51, 52, 63  
*Primulaceae*/Primrose 23, 66  
*Pyrolaceae*/Wintergreen 68  
*Ranunculaceae*/Buttercup 9, 10, 11, 14, 22, 69  
*Rosaceae*/Rose 42, 64, 65, 71, 72, 76  
*Saxifragaceae*/Saxifrage 43, 45, 46, 74, 75, 79  
*Valerianaceae*/Valerian 21  
*Violaceae*/Violets 35

As you can see from the species and family lists above, we have photos of 65 species of wildflowers here. Sixty-two of them are new species that we have found since our original publication in 2018 and 2 of the species are repeats from the original book because we now have far better photographs of them.

The method we are using to show species order in this book is the same as we used in its predecessor; it is strictly alphabetical by genus and species name, just the way you see them listed above on page iv. This seems like a good method, despite the fact that many people do not know an *Anemone* from a *Viola*. We believe that after thumbing through this book a few times on your wildflower adventures that you will become more able to identify plants and flowers by scientific name if we use this method, and of course, it should be the ultimate goal of wildflower hunters to be able to know and recognize the plants we see and discover by scientific name. The scientific name is the name that the people in Maine, Alabama, Alaska, Russia, Japan, India, and every other location will recognize.

If you're reading the Kindle edition of this book, please note that on the species list page (page iv) each page number is linked to the page where that particular species is found. If you click on the "9-10" after *Anemone multiceps* above, you will be taken to that page (specifically page 9 in this instance). To return to page iv just click on the text box that shows the species number and the scientific name on any given page. The map page numbers (page vii) are also clickable links and to return to page vii, please click on the text box that contains the map number. The page numbers in the Plant families list immediately above are not linked.

One more thing – in our original book there was sometimes more than a single species shown on a single page, and sometimes there were even photos of 2 different species on a single page. In this book you will find one species on one page, sometimes two pages. You will not see two species photos on a single page except for one instance on page 18. Some people did not like two species photos on a single page.

## THE FIVE REGIONS OF ALASKA



Map from [alaskaadventurers.com](http://alaskaadventurers.com)  
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You'll notice that there are several cities shown on this map that you can use for a general reference so that you can get a pretty good idea of what region you happen to be traveling in. However, one should not be surprised to find some of these species in regions other than the regions where we have found them. In this new edition we will also continue to state the general location where we have found each species, and will note if we found it in the Southcentral Region, the Interior Region, or elsewhere.

Of course, we have found all of the original book's 111 species in the Interior Region, that was really the only region we had been wildflower hunting in before this new adden-

dum. Species numbered from 1 to 64 include 62 new species (to us) and 2 repeated species from our original book, species that we have found in the Interior Region and also species which we have found in the Southcentral Region of Alaska. Some species are so uncommon that we have discovered only one small area where they can be found. That certainly does not mean that any particular species can only be found in that area. For example, as we stated previously, we will be showing you some species that we have found only in Yukon Territory, Canada, but the literature shows that they can be found in several places in Alaska, and therefore, we are including them here. Enjoy your travels, wherever you go.

## List of Maps that are included in this edition.

Note that a scale of 1:250,000 equals about 1 inch = about 4 mile

A scale of 1:63,360 is exactly 1 inch = 1 mile. The maps included here may not be inserted at scale, so before you use them for measuring distances, measure a square section of land on the 1:63,360 scale maps to see how close it is to 1 inch and calculate accordingly.

**Map #1:** a 1:250,000 scale map of the Steese Highway from just before Twelvemile Summit to just beyond Eagle Summit.

**Map #2:** a 1:63,360 scale map that shows the Twelvemile Summit end of the Pinnell Mountain Trail and also the Steese Highway.

**Map #3:** a 1:63,360 scale map of the Eagle Summit end of the Pinnell Mountain Trail and the Steese Highway.

**Map #4:** a 1:63,360 scale map of the Grapefruit Rocks and Wickersham Dome areas.

**Map #5:** a 1:63,360 scale map that shows the Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs area.

**Map #6:** a 1:250,000 scale map that includes a large section of the Chena Hot Springs Road, from about milepost 24, out to milepost 56.5 to Chena Hot Springs. This map is included primarily to show you that there is a very large area out in the Chena River Recreation Area in which you can hike and search for wildflowers. Caution is advised – there are bears and other wild animals.

**Map #7:** a 1:63,360 scale map that includes the Richardson Highway, Thompson Pass and much more.

**Map #8:** a 1:63,360 scale map of the Hatcher Pass general area. We have drawn very obvious black arrows to draw your attention to the actual Hatcher Pass and also the Craigie Creek Trail, or primitive road.

Map #1	Page 1
Map #2	Page 2
Map #3	Page 3
Map #4	Page 4

Map #5	Page 5
Map #6	Page 6
Map #7	Page 7
Map #8	Page 8

*“Mountains are the cathedrals where I practice my religion.”*

— Anatoli Boukreev

*“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of Autumn.”*

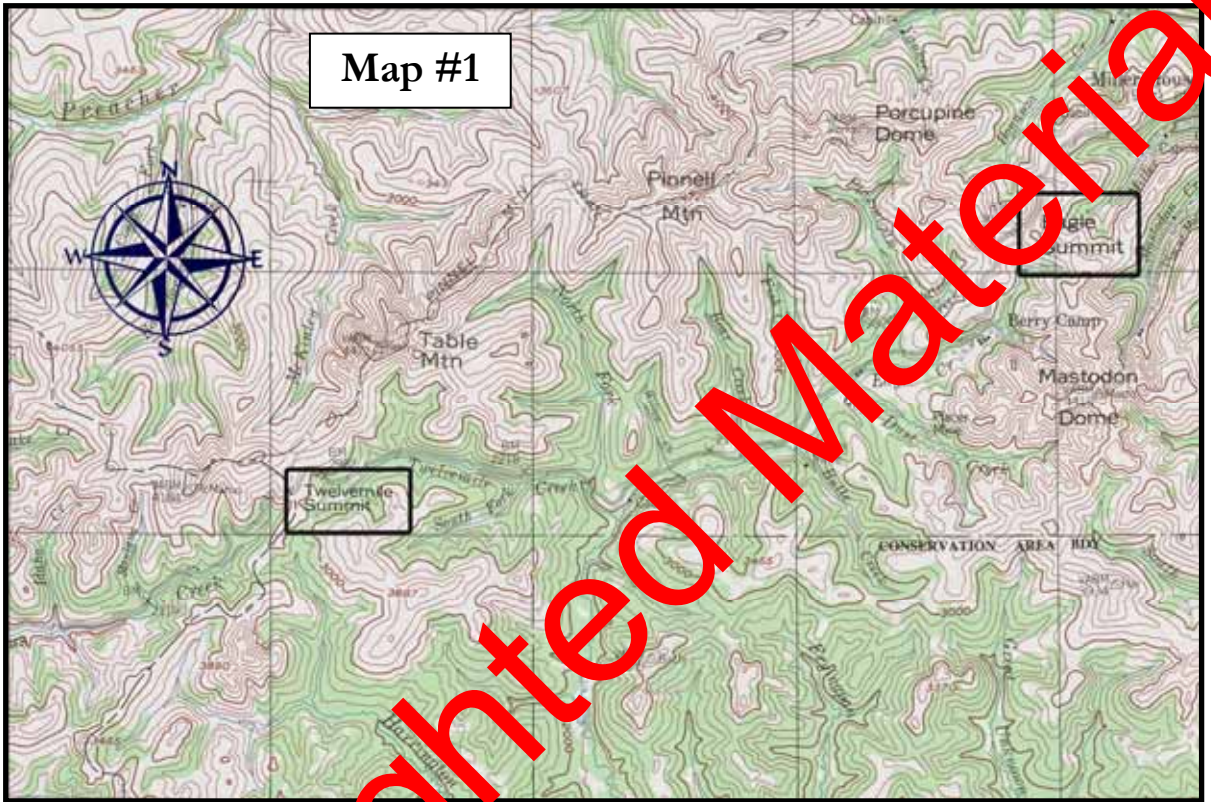
— John Muir, The Mountains of California

*“Chasing angels or fleeing demons, go to the mountains.”*

— Jeffrey Rasley

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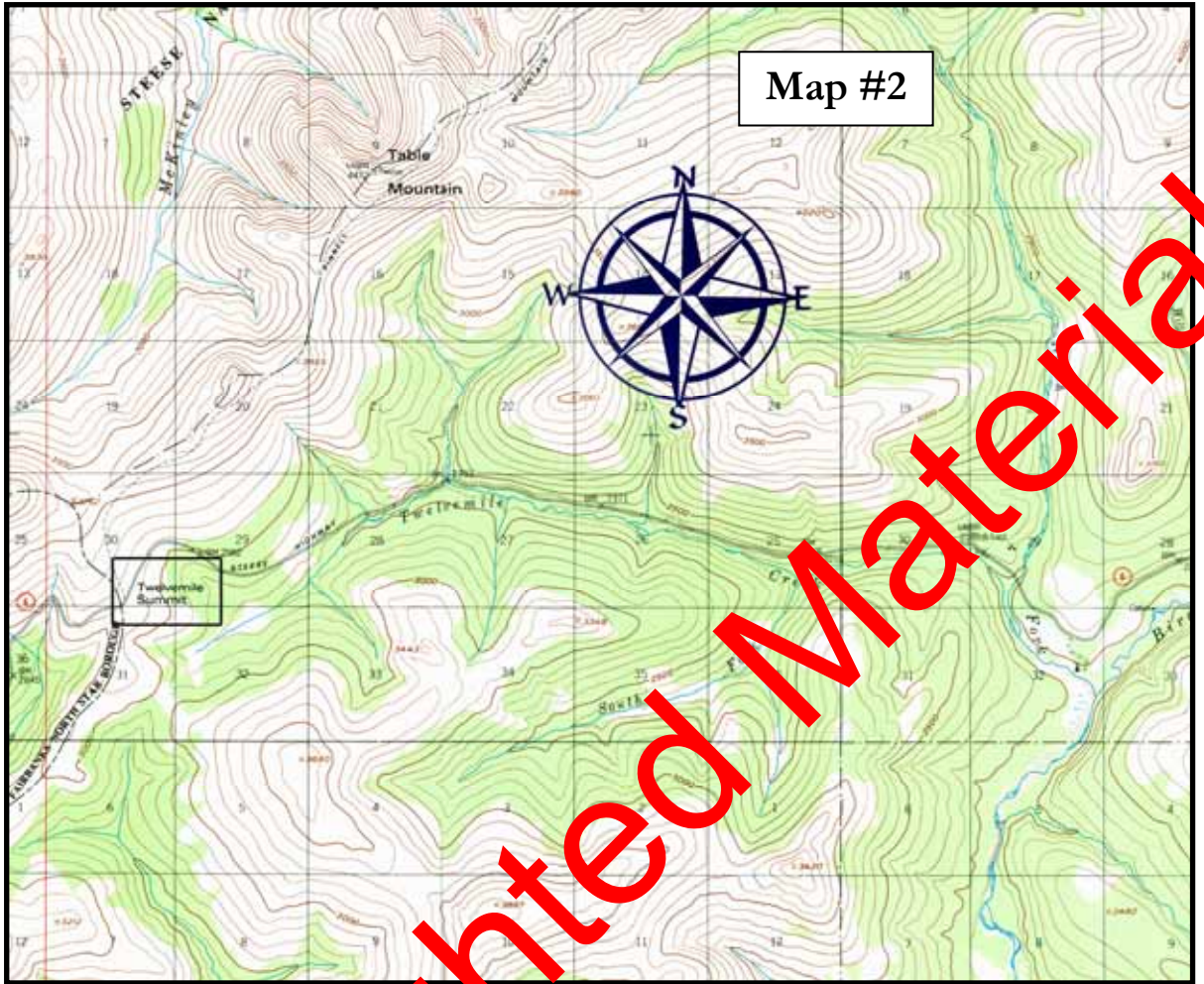
## MAPS



Just above is a 1:250,000 scale map of the Steese Highway from a short distance before Twelvemile Summit to just beyond Eagle Summit. If you look closely, you can find the Pinnell Mountain Trail. The Pinnell Mountain Trail officially starts at Eagle Summit and extends approximately 27 miles to Twelvemile Summit. There are mileposts every mile along this trail. We have hiked the first 5 miles, starting at Eagle Summit to just before Porcupine Dome and found many of the species of wildflowers shown in

our original book and a few in this book. We have also hiked from the Twelvemile Summit end of the trail, also about 5 miles, up to Table Mountain. This trail is not excessively strenuous to hike.

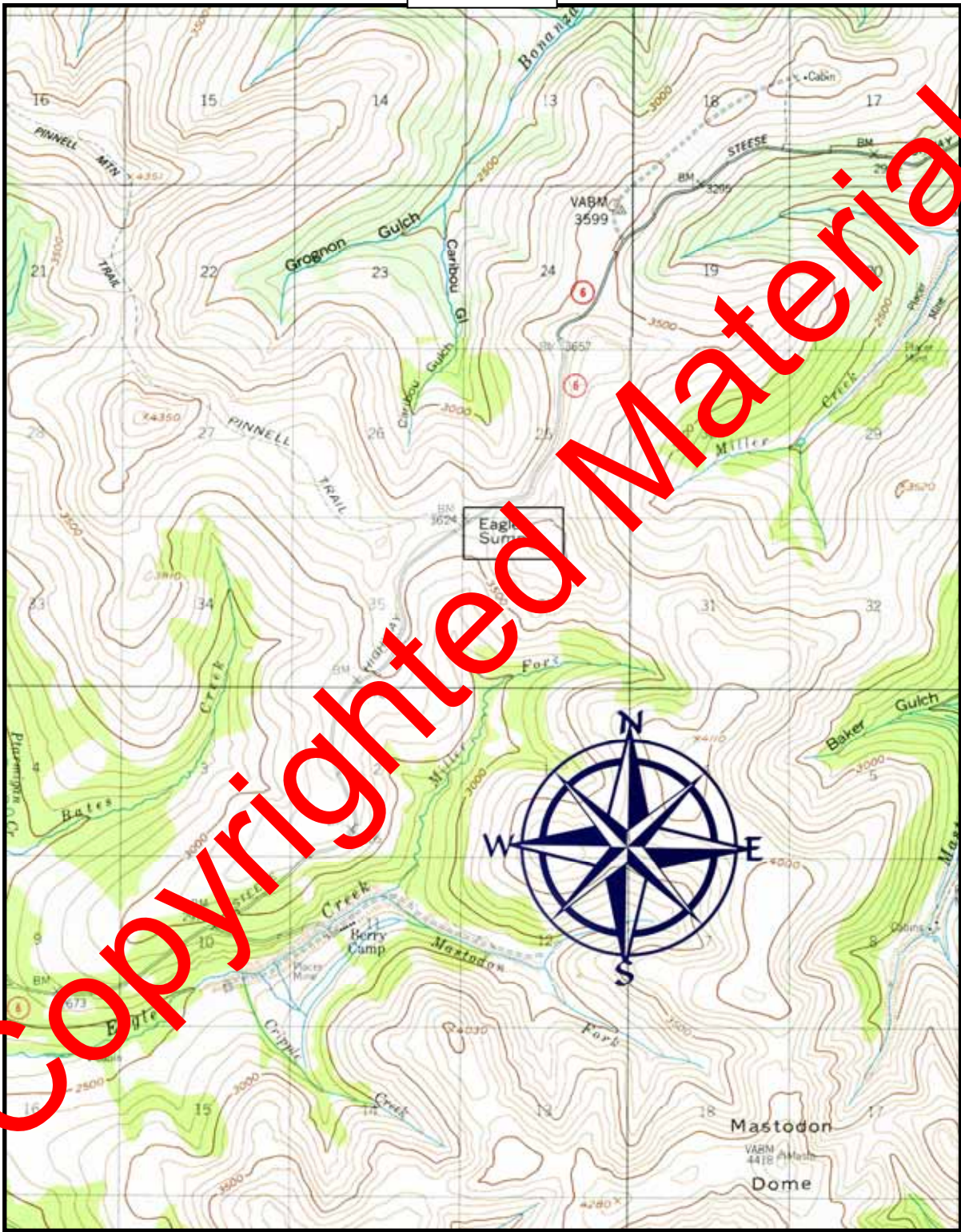
We recommend hiking here from about the second week of June through about the second week of July to find the wildflowers in this area at their peak. If you go too early you will find very few species in bloom and if you go too late, of course you'll find many seed pods, but few remaining flowers.



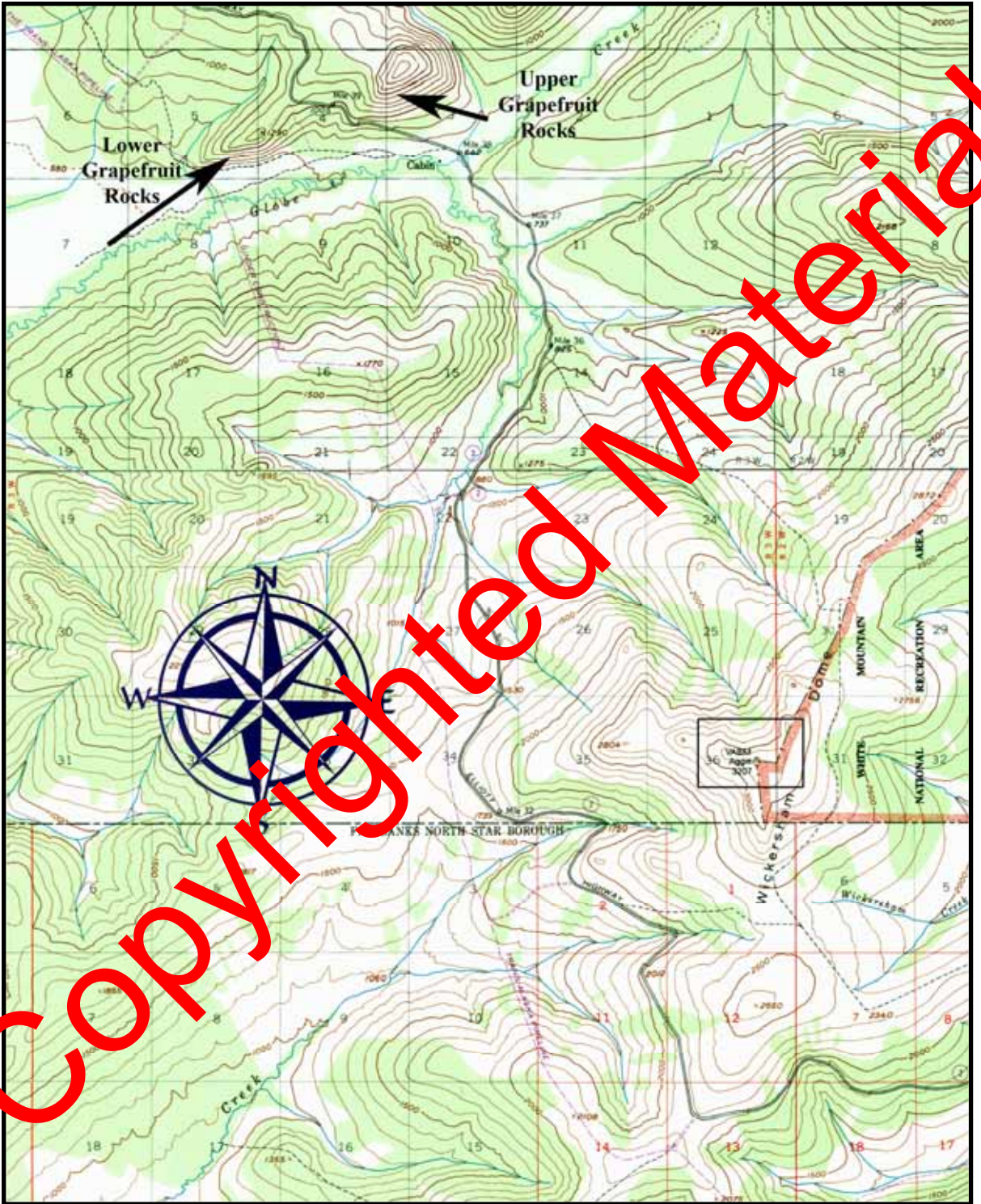
Here is a 1:63,360 map which shows the Twelvemile Summit end of the Pinnell Mountain Trail and also the Steese Highway. As we stated above we have hiked the Pinnell Mountain Trail from this end up to Table Mountain, a distance of approximately 5 miles. There are no super steep pitches along this section of the trail, it is not a very difficult climb/hike.

On the following page is a 1:63,360 map of the Eagle Summit end of the Pinnell Mountain Trail and the Steese Highway. As stated above, we have hiked/climbed the first 5 miles of this end of the trail. It's an amazing trip. There were so many wildflowers that we felt that we had died and gone to flower lover's paradise, it was the most amazing experience to have.

Map #3



Map #4



The map on the previous page shows the Grapefruit Rocks and Wickersham Dome areas at a scale of 1:63,360. Near the upper portion of the map, you will note the Upper Grapefruit Rocks and Lower Grapefruit Rocks areas, with black arrows for attention, and down near the lower right you can see the Wickersham Dome text, which is on the ridge, and please note outlined area

that says “VABM Aggie 3207”, which is the highest point on Wickersham Dome.

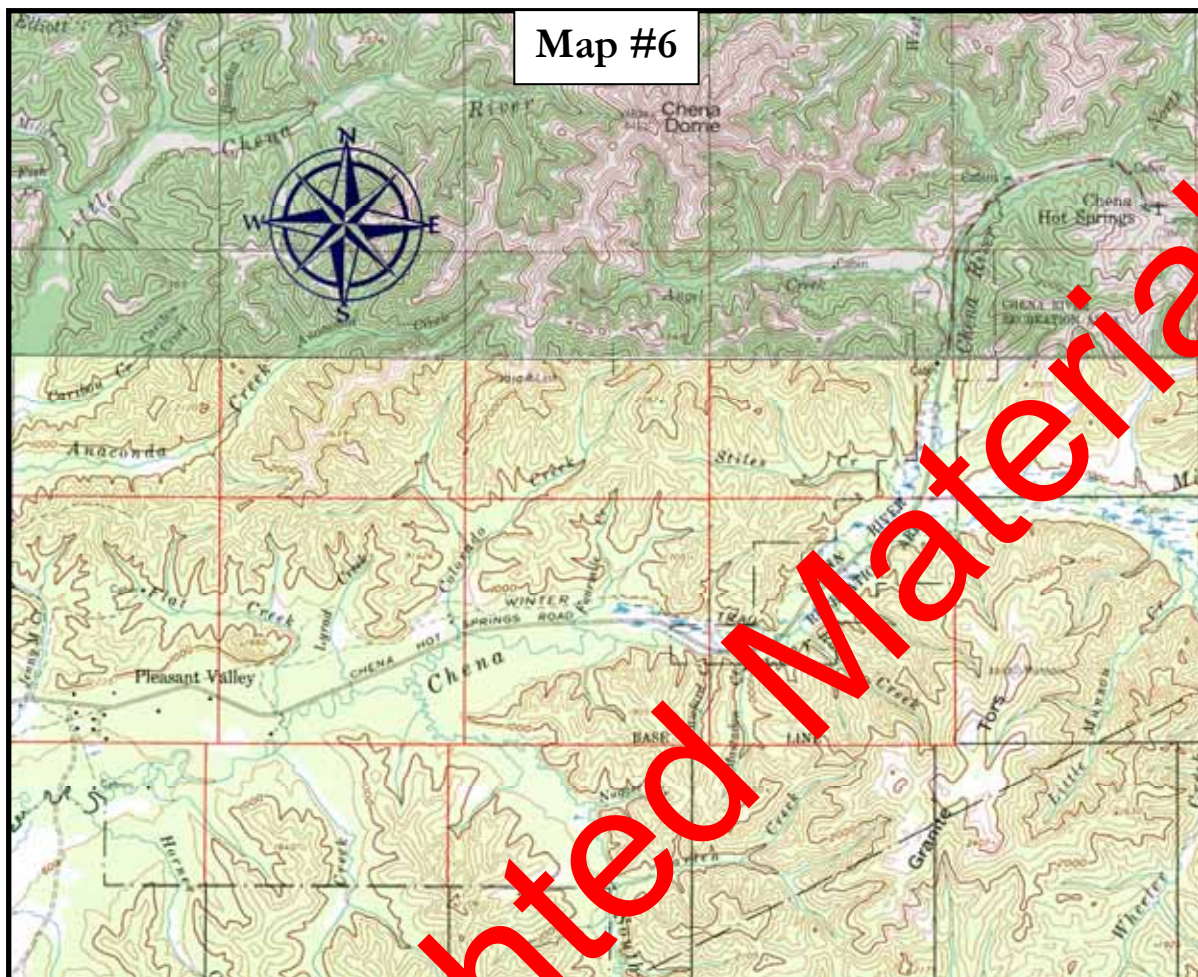
The map on this page shows the Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs area at a scale of 1:63,360. We have hiked the 8-mile trail from Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs and some of the photos you saw in our original book were taken on that amazing hike. There are no photos from that hike in this book.



The 1:63,360 scale map on the following page includes a larger section of the Chena Hot Springs Road, from just a bit west of Pleasant Valley, at about milepost 24, out to milepost 56.5 – Chena Hot Springs. This map

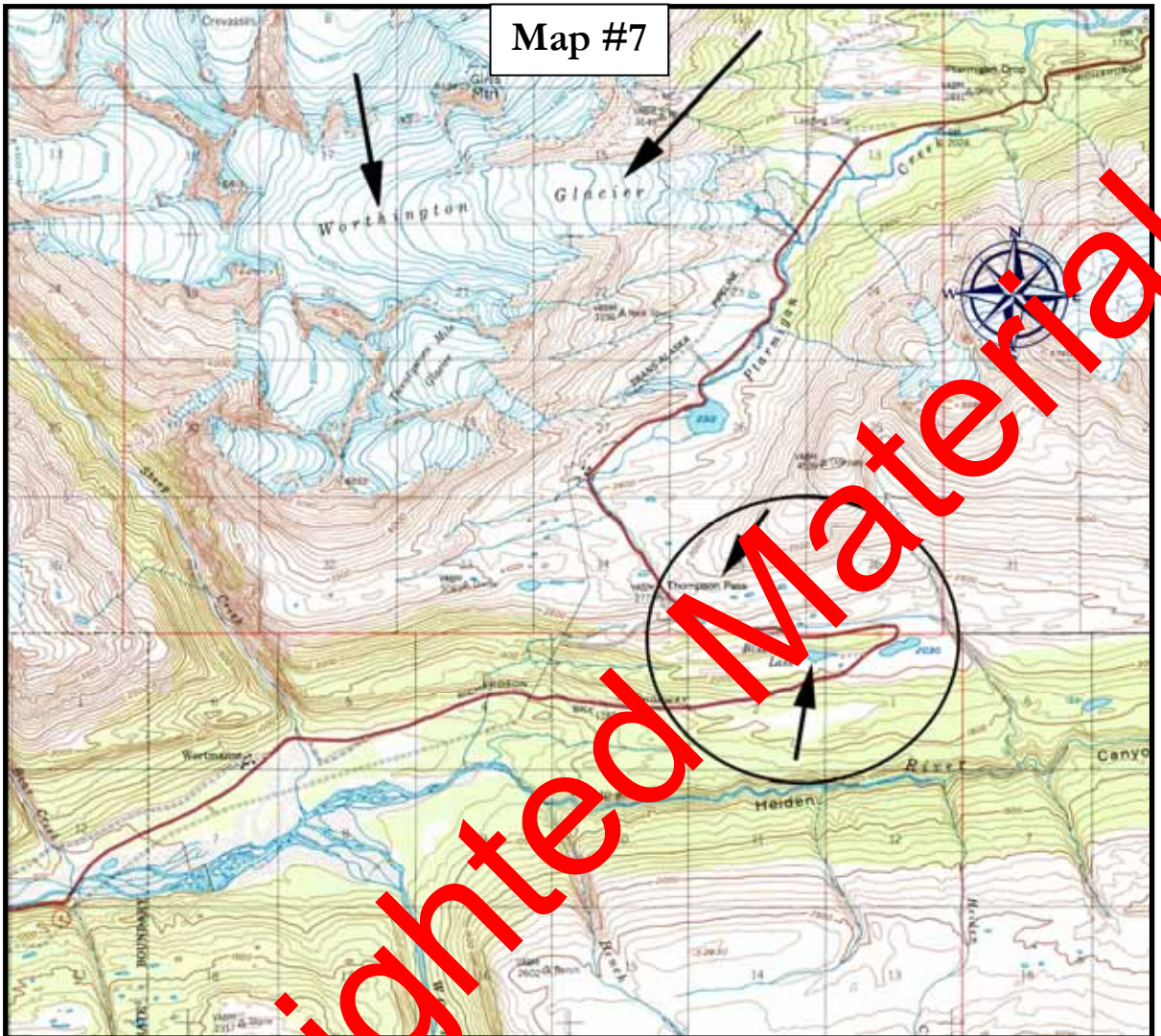
is included primarily to show you that there is a very large area out in the Chena River Recreation Area in which you can hike and search for wildflowers. Caution is advised – there are bears and other wild animals.

Map #6



That ends the maps which were included in the original edition. Maps #7 and #8 are added in this addendum to show the new areas we have hiked and explored in. You can download topographic maps free of charge from several websites, but the most reliable would be the USGS website. You can purchase maps at sev-

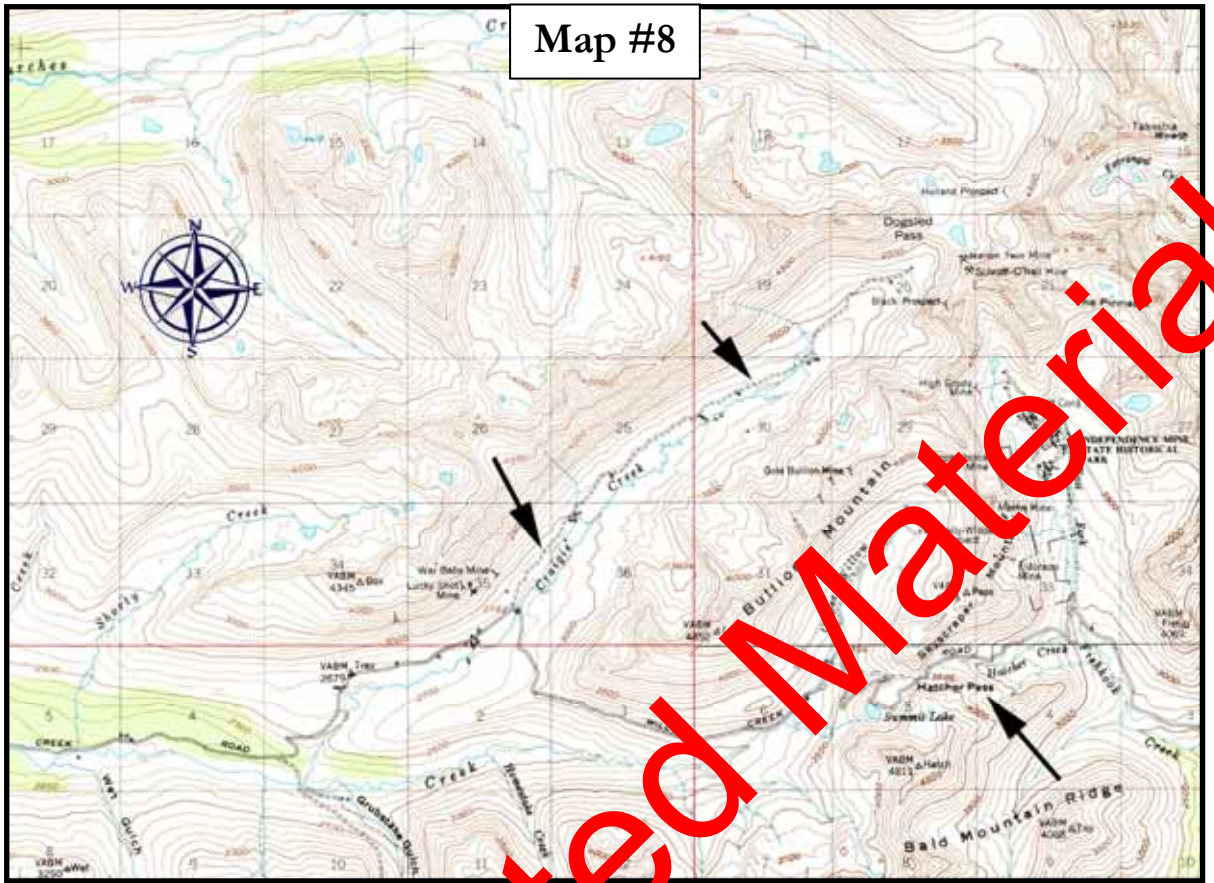
eral places in Fairbanks. If you're planning on doing much hiking you should be prepared with maps and a good compass. Also keep in mind that this is mountain country, the weather can and does change quickly. It can be sunny one moment and then you can be shivering in a cold rain a few minutes later.



Just above you see a 1:63,360 scale map (1 inch = 1 mile) that includes the Richardson Highway, Thompson Pass, Blueberry Lake, Worthington Glacier, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and more. We have explored quite extensively in the area of the black circle and also around Worthington Glacier. When we say that a species was found in the Thompson Pass area, we are surely referring to the area enclosed in the black circle. Don't be afraid to climb up that hill.

When you're traveling in this area there is a very nice State Campground at Blueberry Lake, this is virtually the only option for camping in a developed campground in this area. Also, while you are in this area, you will surely make a visit to Worthington Glacier. Don't miss that photo opportunity. When the sun is shining in this area, the glacier views, plus the abundance of wildflowers, makes it just amazingly beautiful. This area is a photographer's paradise, for sure.

Map #8



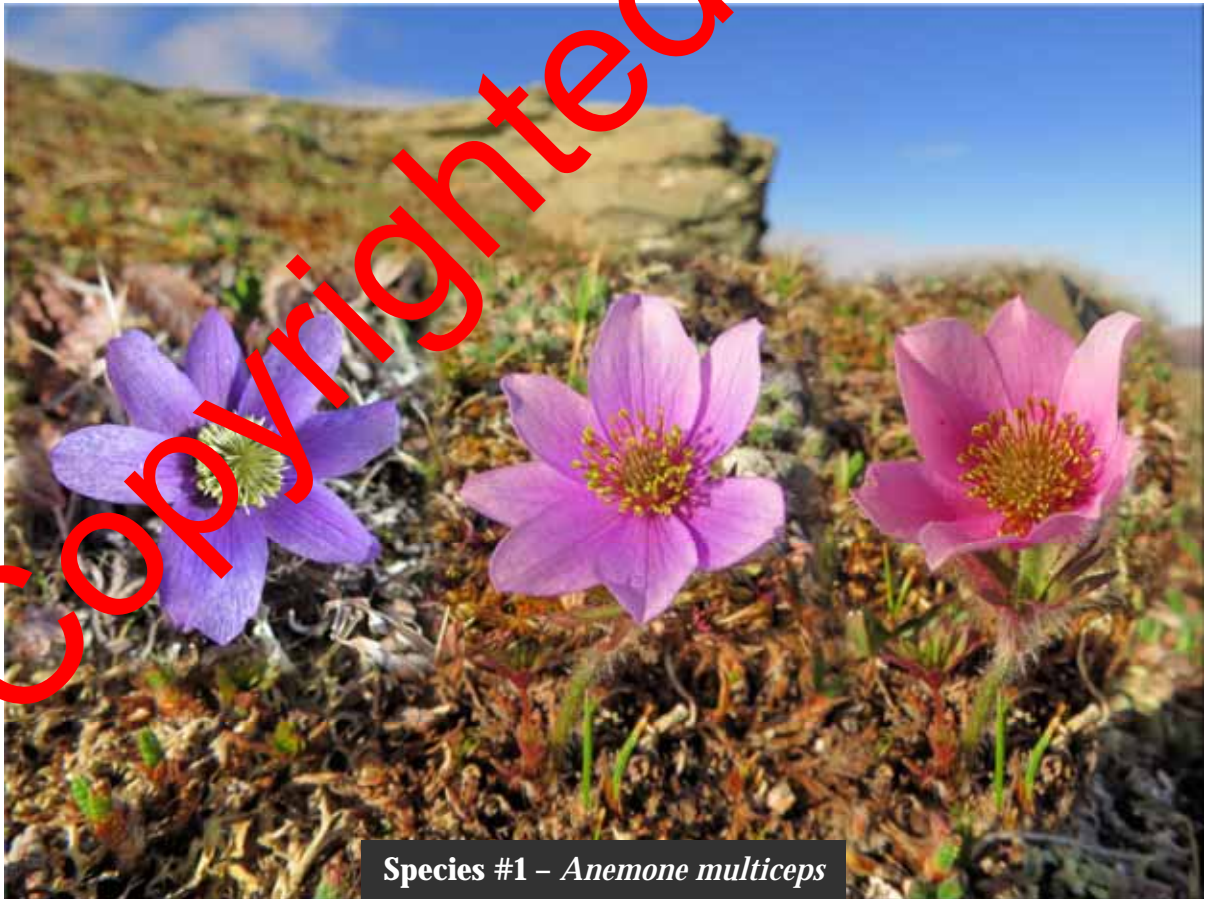
Just above you see Map #8, another 1:63,360 scale map (1 inch = 1 mile) of the Hatcher Pass general area. We have made obvious arrows to draw your attention to the actual Hatcher Pass and also the Craigie Creek Trail or primitive road. Don't even attempt to drive a vehicle on this road that does not have 4-wheel drive and high clearance from the ground. We have only walked the trail/road, even though we have

a 4-wheel drive vehicle we would not consider attempting to drive on this road. When we write that we found something in the Hatcher Pass area. We are most likely referring to the Craigie Creek Trail, though we may have also found that species at other places in the Hatcher Pass area. While you're traveling in this area you should also visit the Independence Mine State Historical Park, it's worth a look.

# WILDFLOWERS

1. *Anemone multiceps* aka *A. drummondii* is the very first species in this expanded edition of our Wildflowers book. Its common names are Alaska blue anemone, Porcupine River thimbleweed and many-headed anemone. Flora of North America treats these as 2 separate species, but they need more information to determine if they are actually distinct. It is in the *Ranunculaceae*/Buttercup family. We have found this species in only 3 locations and all 3 of those are in very close proximity to Eagle Summit. These are one of the earliest high elevation wildflowers that we can find and they begin blooming before any leaves are present, so it

is most difficult to know positively which species they are, but we are confident in calling them *A. multiceps*. We generally find them around May 15<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, and then they are gone until next year. As you can determine from the photos, a collage of which is on this page and also on the following page, this species comes in many colors ranging from nearly white, through blue, pink, violet, and more. The collage on this page shows 3 plants in their native environment. In the photo collage on page 10 you can see the small leaves in 2 photos. Those shots were taken on May 28<sup>th</sup>, very close to the end of the season for this species.



Species #1 – *Anemone multiceps*



**Species #1 – *Anemone multiceps***

In the above collage you can see the amazingly wide variation that can be found in the color of the flowers.





Species #2 – *Apocynum androsaemifolium*

2. *Apocynum androsaemifolium* is commonly known as spreading dogbane and also fly-trap dogbane. It is in the *Apocynaceae*/Dogbane family. It is common across the northern tier of states in the lower 48, Canada, and of course, Alaska. It is a perennial

herb with hairy undersides of the leaves, as you will note in the photo collages both above and below. It can be found in both dry and wetland environments, though we have only found it growing in a relatively dry location – the Angel Rocks area (Map #5) in mid-July.



Species #3 – *Aquilegia formosa*



3. *Aquilegia formosa* is commonly known as the crimson columbine, western columbine, and red columbine. It is a perennial and is in the *Ranunculaceae* Buttercup family. The flowers are supposedly edible, with a sweet taste, but the seeds can be fatal if eaten. We have found this species in Southcentral Alaska, along the Richardson Highway between Thompson Pass and

Valdez, especially in moist locations in Keystone Canyon as you drive towards Valdez. The literature informs us that this species can be found in several types of habitats, though it is not found at high elevations. It is a tallish plant, 12 to 36 inches. If it is in bloom, its height and beauty should make it a little bit hard to miss. Good luck with your search.

4. *Arenaria chamissonis* is commonly known as matted sandwort and is in the *Caryophyllaceae* /Pink, Carnation family. We have found this in Denali National Park and areas close by there. It has been found in Interior Alaska, as well as the Far North Region. There is very little information available on this species, it barely shows up through various search engines, a most disappointing re-

sult of searching. In the photos below you do not see any small white flower petals, although you can see what appears to have been flowers. Maybe the petals have dropped off already, but we are not sure. The literature states that flower petals are lacking or rudimentary for this species, so maybe there were never even any flower petals on this plant.



Species #4 – *Arenaria chamissonis*



Species #5 – *Caltha leptosepala*



5. *Caltha leptosepala* is commonly known as white marsh marigold, twinflowered marsh marigold and also broadleaved marsh marigold. It is in the *Ranunculaceae*/Buttercup family. It can be found throughout the western part of the Lower 48 and extends through

Western Canada and parts of Alaska. It can be found in wet mountain habitats in alpine and subalpine regions. It is a perennial that we have found only in the Thompson Pass area of the Southcentral Region. It is small, but prized for its buttercup-like white flowers.



Species #6 – *Campanula uniflora*



6. *Campanula uniflora* is commonly known as Arctic bellflower and Arctic harebell. It is a short and slender perennial in the *Campanulaceae*/Bellflower family. Its range includes Arctic North America, Greenland and the Rocky Mountains. Discovered by Linnaeus in

1732, this species is a perennial and can grow up to 12 inches tall. It has been reported in several Alaska locations, however, we have only found it one time, on June 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Eagle Summit area. One can probably assume, therefore, that it is quite uncommon.



Species #7 – *Capnoides sempervirens*

7. *Capnoide sempervirens* aka *Corydalis sempervirens* is commonly referred to as the pale corydalis or rock harlequin. It is in the *Papaveraceae*/Poppy Family. The flowers have 2 pairs of petals and a short blunt spur at the back. Petals are pale rose to deep pink with bright yellow lips at the mouth of the tube. The pink tube is somewhat flattened with a ridge all along the top and around the spur. The lower petals are thin and narrow and fit in the fold of the upper; the lips of both flare into bright yellow lobes at the opening. The leaves are com-

ound in groups of 3 to 5, with leaflets in 2 or 3 parts that are further divided. The lower leaves are stalked, upper leaves are stalkless or nearly so. Stems are erect; leaves and stems are hairless, gray-green to blue-green, covered by a waxy bloom. It is a pioneer species after wildfire, and we have found it only at Grapefruit Rocks, one year after wildfire, on September 24. We wondered how long those seeds waited in the soil for the next wildfire? It has been widely reported from Maine to Alaska. It is the only plant in the *Capnoides* genus.

**8. *Claytonia sarmentosa*** is most commonly known as Alaska spring beauty. It is reportedly, a delicate plant. Often, what seems like several plants is actually only one plant with the various sections connected by runners. It is in the *Montiaceae*/Spring beauty family. It is a small plant and most references say that it is an annual plant, or a short-lived perennial. It is native to Northwestern North America including Alaska, Yukon, and Northern British

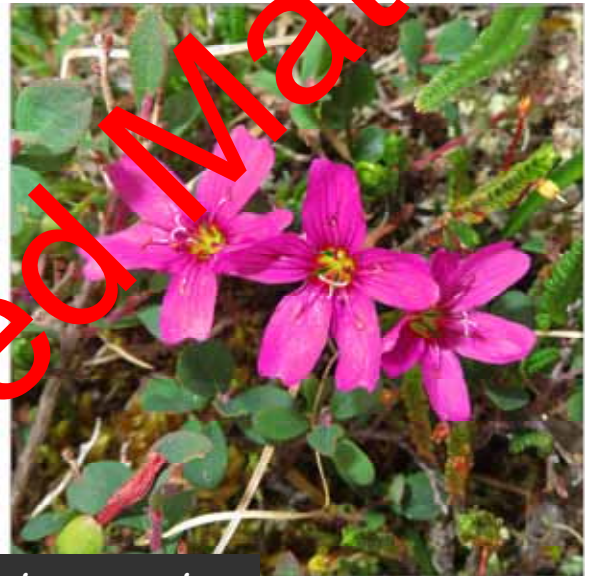
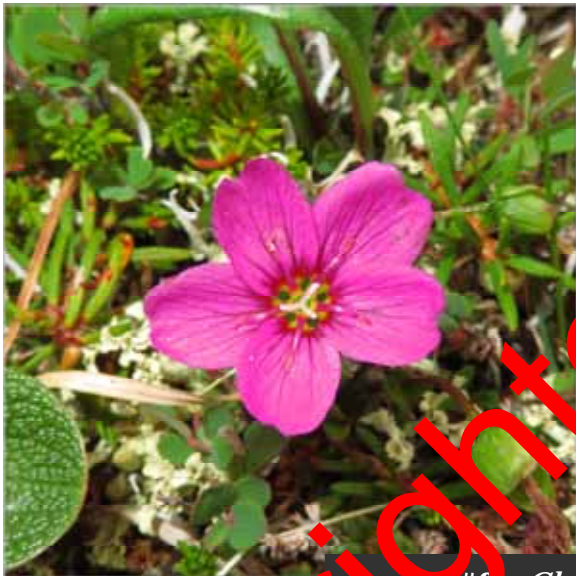
Columbia. There is not a great deal of available information on this species, despite its beauty and widespread range. We have found it blooming in many places around Twelvemile and Eagle Summits, generally between July 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, but as early as the first part of June in Denali National Park along the Savage Alpine Trail. It's a beautiful flower for sure. You can find one additional photo of this species on page 19.



**Species #8 – *Claytonia sarmentosa***

9. *Claytonia scammaniana* is also in the *Montiaceae*/Spring beauty family. The common names for this species include Scamman's spring beauty and Scamman's claytonia. Amazingly enough, its range includes only Alaska and Canada's Yukon Territory, a very limited area. It is a perennial species and can grow to about 8 inches maximum height, though I don't think we have ever come across any that are that tall. We have only found it from about late June until the end of the first

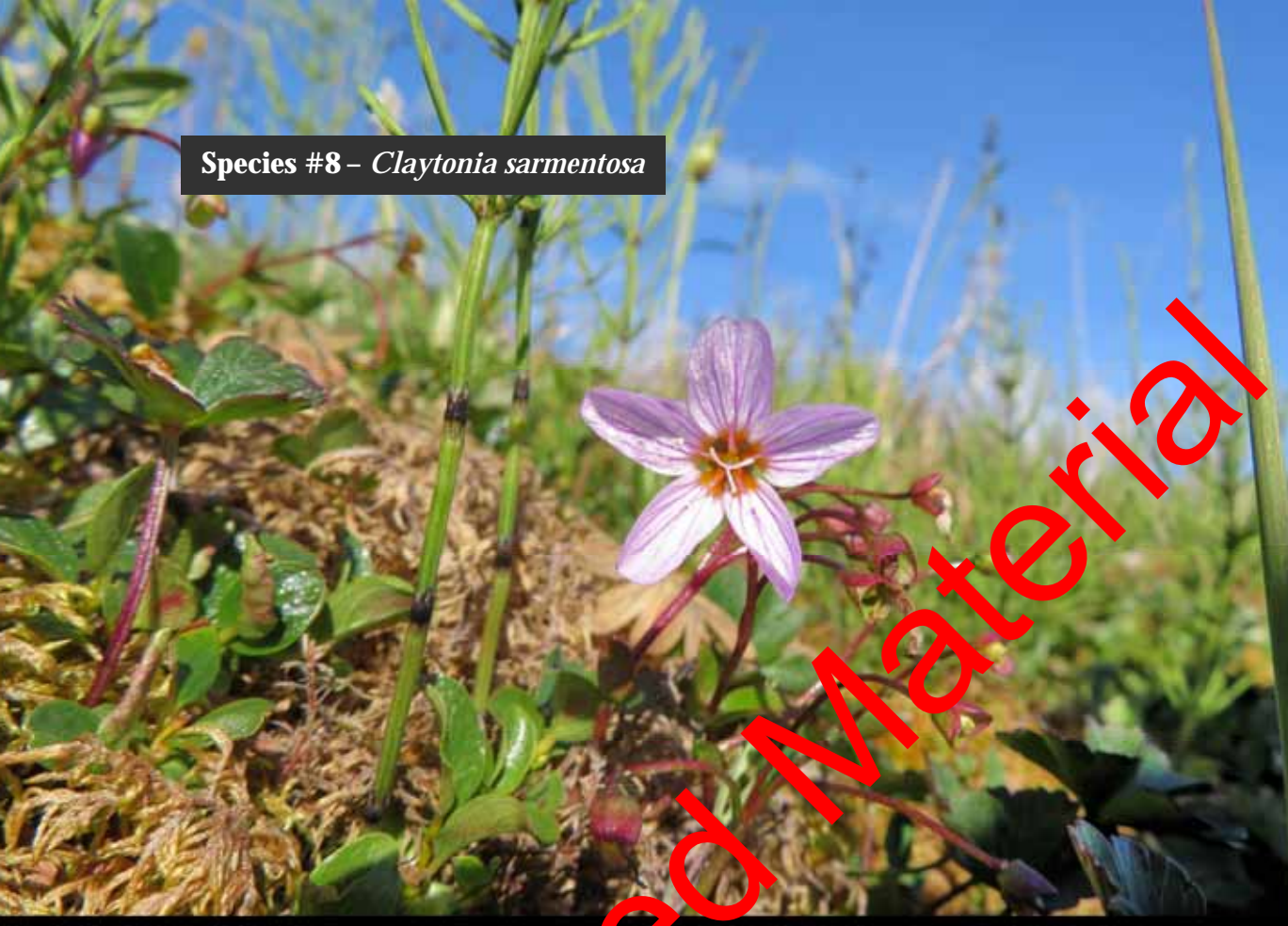
week of July or so. From this observation it seems that you need to be fortunate and be in the right area at the right time to find it. We had not realized the flowering season of this species was so very short until just now while looking at the dates of our 500+ photos that we have of this species. We have found it blooming in several places around Lower Summit and Eagle Summit. It's a small plant, but not tiny. Good luck. There is one more photo on page 19.



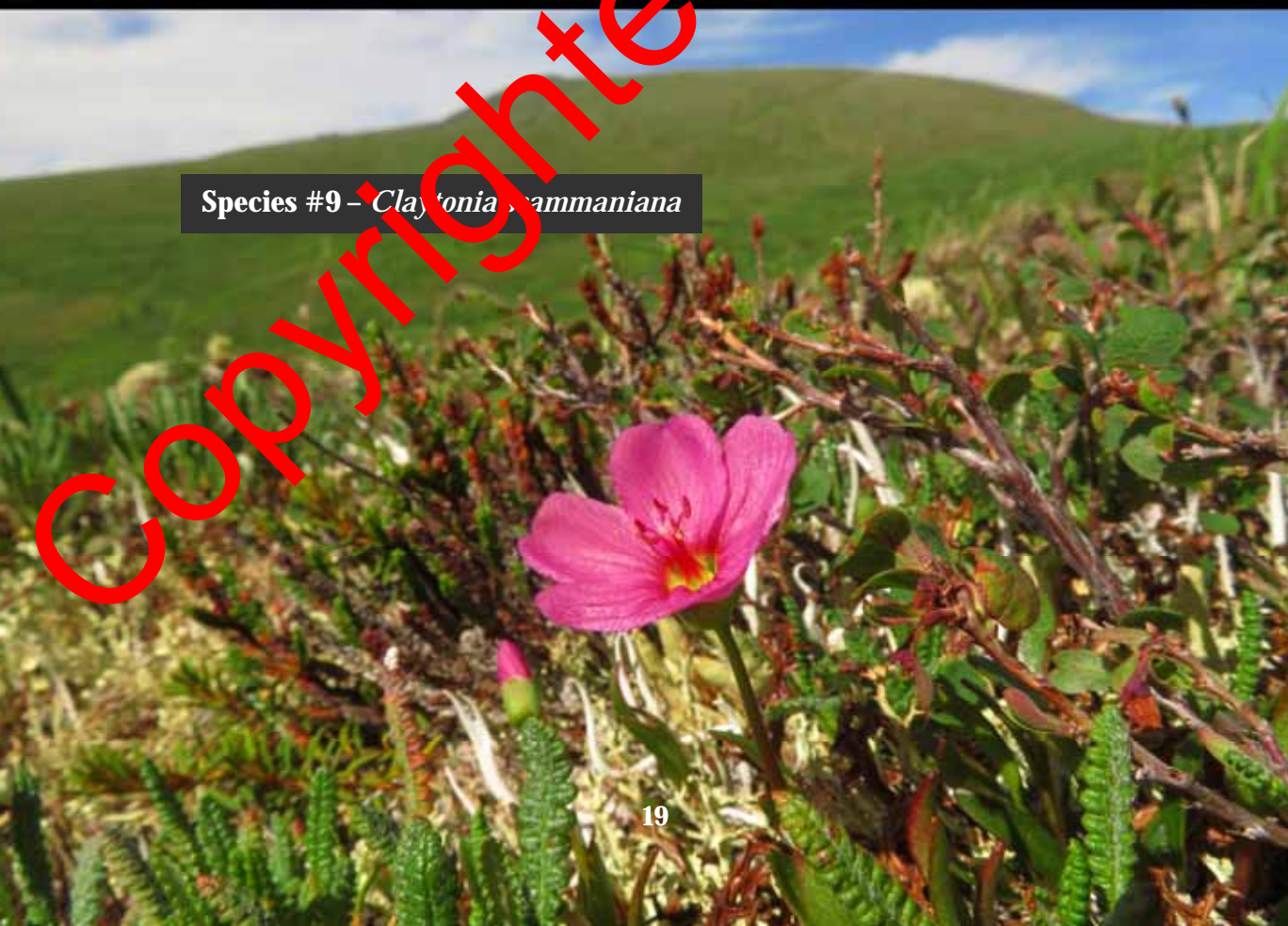
Species #9 - *Claytonia scammaniana*



Species #8 – *Claytonia sarmentosa*



Species #9 – *Claytonia sammaniana*



**10. *Corallorhiza trifida*** is in the *Orchidaceae*/Orchid family. The common names include yellow coralroot, early coralroot, and northern coralroot. It is a perennial wildflower with a broad distribution across Canada and the Northern United States into Alaska, and south into the Central Northern Rocky Mountains. It is yellowish green in color, leafless, and partially mycohetero-

trophic, deriving some, but not all of its nutrients from association with fungi of the *Tomentella* genus. It also contains chlorophyll, with which it supplies some of its own carbon nutrition via autotrophy. We have found it in the Twelvemile Summit area, as well as in our back yard near Fairbanks from the end of May in our back yard, until mid-July at Eagle Summit.



**Species #10 – *Corallorhiza trifida***

Species #11 – *Crepis nana*



11. *Crepis nana* is in the *Asterales*, Aster, Sunflower family. The common names include dwarf alpine hawkbeard and dwarf hawkbeard. It is a perennial plant and it is distributed widely across Western North America, including Alaska, Northern Canada, Siberia, and parts of

China. It is primarily found on sandy, gravelly slopes, and talus in subalpine and alpine zones. The gravelly slopes are the only place we have ever seen this species and that was a one-time find near Twelvemile Summit in July of 2018, we must have been lucky.

**12. *Delphinium glaucum*** is in the *Ranunculaceae*/Buttercup family and its common names are Sierra larkspur, mountain larkspur, and glaucous larkspur. Although this species was included in our original book, we are including it here due to the fact that we now have better photographs of it. This perennial plant rises from a woody rootstock, and the stout leafy stems reach 3 to 6 feet or more, in height. The leaves are palmately divided and toothed becoming

gradually smaller up the stem. Both the leaves and the stems have a grayish, waxy covering. Densely flowered racemes are up to 16 inches long and are made up of spurred blue-purple flowers. The native range includes Alaska, Western Canada, and most US states from the Rocky Mountains westward. We have identified this species near Lower Grapefruit Rocks (Map # 4), along the Taylor Highway, and along the Craigie Creek Trail (Map # 8).



**Species #12 – *Delphinium glaucum***

**13. *Douglasia gormanii*** is in the *Primulaceae*/ Primrose family. The common name is Gorman's dwarf primrose. The literature says this is a rare plant to find and grows in the mountains of Central and Southern Alaska, as well as in Canada's Yukon Territory. Whether *Douglasia* should be considered a separate genus, part of a very broadly construed *Androsace*, or, perhaps part of a new segregate genus comprising *Androsace* subsection *Aretia*, has been a longstanding question and remains unresolved. The plants are tightly growing in

small dense clumps or tufts with a branched thickened main stem. Its habitat includes rocky sites and scree slopes in mountains. We have found it in the high country areas of Denali National Park, as well as in Bison Gulch. It sports a truly beautiful little flower in pink, rose, or purple, sometimes turning white or violet in age, if you're fortunate enough to find it in bloom. It is a perennial plant, so if you find it in a specific location this year, chances are good that you can find it in the same spot next year.



Species #13 – *Douglasia gormanii*



Species #14 – *Draba lactea*



**14.** *Draba lactea* is in the *Brassicaceae*/Mustard Family and its common names are Lapland whitlow-grass and milky whitlow-grass. It is a flower common throughout the high Arctic, but stretches farther south in mountainous areas of Norway, Montana, Canada, and Greenland. This plant is only about 2 to 6 inches tall, a small perennial herb. The flower stems are glabrous. The leaves

have stellate hairs on the surface and simple hairs at the margins. The flowers are pure white, and there are many flowers on each stem. It can be found on dry as well as moist locations, such as wet meadows, fields and prairies. It has been reported from all regions of Alaska. We have found it only in the Eagle Summit area (Maps #1, #2, #3) at about the end of May.

**15. *Draba stenopetala*** is in the *Brassicaceae*/ Mustard family and its common name is Anadyr Whitlow-grass. The stems are unbranched and the basal leaves are overlapping. It is a perennial herb. The flowers can be yellow or purple, though we have not seen anything resembling purple. Its habitat includes rock outcrops, talus, rocky ridges, and alpine tundra. It is found in Alaska, Canada's Yukon

Territory, and the Russian Far East. It has been reported from all Alaska Regions except the Far North Region. Surprisingly, it is considered imperiled in Canada. We have found it only in and near Denali National Park along the rocky areas of the Savage Alpine Trail during the first and second weeks of June. It should be noted that this species is considered rare and uncommon.



**Species #15 – *Draba stenopetala***



This species can have white, pale pink, and blue flowers.



Species #16 – *Erigeron caespitosus*

16. *Erigeron caespitosus* is in the *Asteraceae*/  
Aster family and the common name is tufted  
fleabane. Its native range is Subarctic America  
to West Central and Central U.S.A. We  
have found it only in the vicinity of Grapefruit

Rocks (Map #4) in Interior Alaska near the  
beginning of July and only a single time. Of  
course we shot several photos of it. It is a  
perennial herb that can attain a height of 12  
inches, forming clumps over a taproot.

17. *Erigeron compositus* is also in the *Asteraceae*/Aster family and the common names include dwarf mountain fleabane, cutleaf daisy, and trifold mountain fleabane. It is an Arctic and alpine species, and like the previous species, we have found this only in the higher elevation areas of Grapefruit Rocks (Map #4). It is a perennial herb which only grows to about 10 inches in

height. It is a widely scattered species that can be found in several states, the Russian Far East, Greenland and more. The tips of the leaves are divided, which you can see in the photos below. The flower stems are covered with hairs, often glandular. The colors can vary through a wide range of white, pink, and even purple. We have found it in white and pink

Species #17 – *Erigeron compositus*





Species #18 – *Erigeron peregrinus*



18. *Erigeron peregrinus* is also in the *Asteraceae*/Aster family and the common names include wandering fleabane, subalpine fleabane, coastal fleabane, and mountain daisy. We have found this species in both the Thompson Pass area and also in the Hatcher Pass area of

Southcentral Alaska. We have not seen it in Interior Alaska. It is a perennial herb that can attain a height of about 2 feet. It generally produces one blue, purple, pink, or white flower per stem. It is native to Northwestern North America, from Alaska to Oregon.

**19. *Erysimum redowskii* aka *Erysimum pallasii*** is in the *Brassicaceae*/ Mustard family and the common name is Pallas' wallflower. It is native to the circumpolar region of the earth, and that certainly includes Alaska. It can be found on cliffs, shale slopes, talus, sandy ground, alpine areas, clay banks, pebbles, and gravel. It is a perennial and it has purple flowers that do not reflect ultraviolet light. This species

seems to be asexual, since it is scarcely visited by insects and seed production is independent of flower visitors. It has been reported from all Alaska Regions except the Southeast Region however, we have found it only in Tombstone Territorial Park in Canada's Yukon Territory. Every photo that we were able to find online showed it growing on gravel areas, as you can also see in our photos.



**Species #19 – *Erysimum redowskii***

**20. *Fritillaria camschatcensis*** is in the *Liliaceae*/Lily family and the common names are chocolate lily, Kamchatka fritillary, wild rice, or northern rice root, though the most logical one seems to us, to be chocolate lily. This species is native to Northeastern Asia and Northwestern North America and can attain heights of over 2 feet under good conditions. It is a perennial and produces bulbs, as do most lilies. It can be found in moist tide flats, meadows, open forests,

rocky beaches, and stream banks in the lowland to subalpine zones of its range. We have found it only in the Hatcher Pass area of the Southcentral Region of Alaska (Map #8) while hiking along the Craigie Creek Trail. The local Forest Service Office in Valdez informed us that it is quite common in the Valdez area too, but we were there at a time when the flowering was finished for the season. There is one additional photo on the next page.

**Species #20 – *Fritillaria camschatcensis***





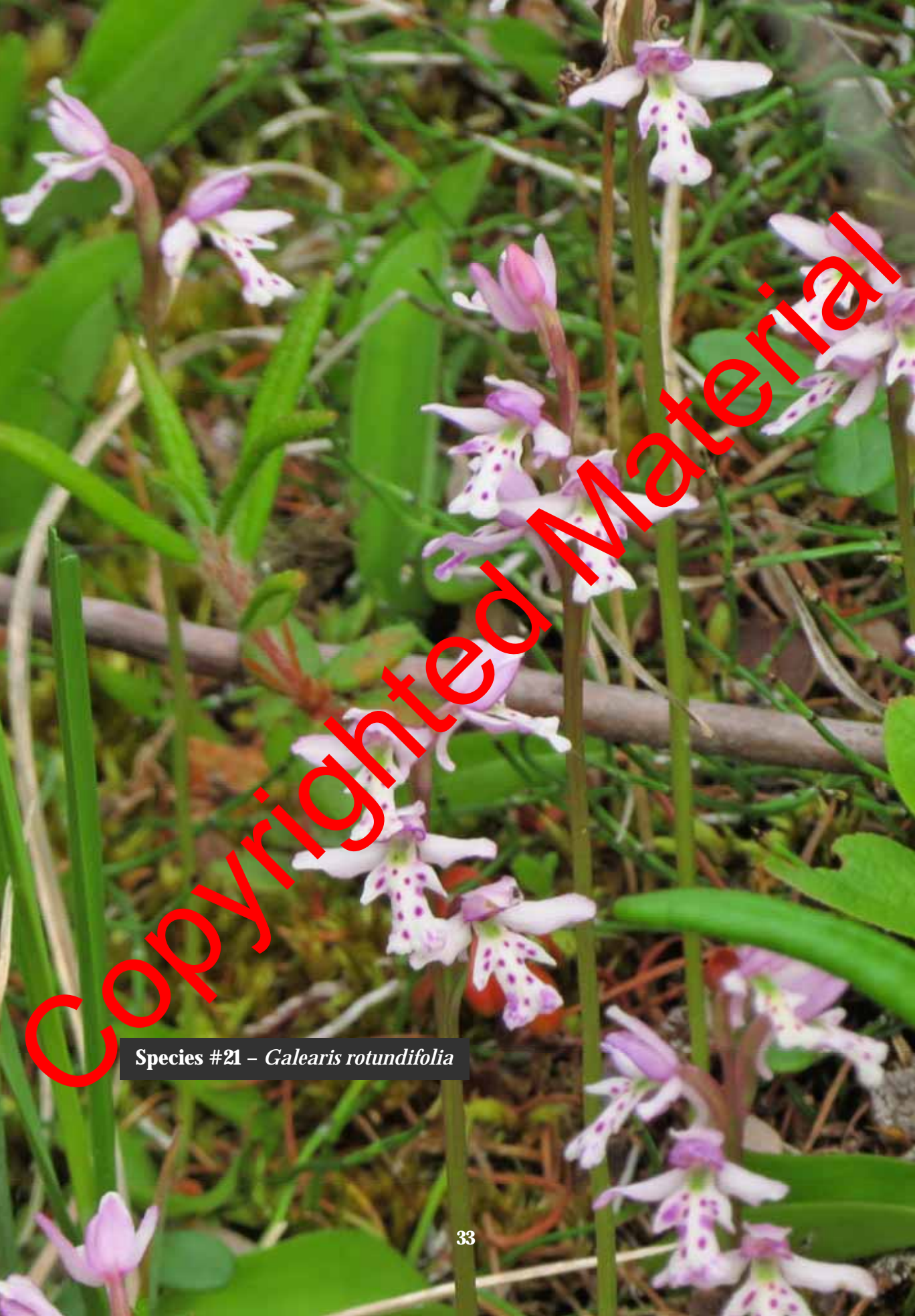
Species #20 – *Fritillaria camschatcensis*

**21. *Galearis rotundifolia*** is in the *Orchidaceae*/Orchid family. Another Alaska orchid for you to search for. The common names are roundleaf orchid, one leaf orchid, fly speckled orchid and small round-leaved orchid. This species is native to Northern North America, including Alaska. It is a succulent perennial herb that forms a fleshy rhizome. It has a single leaf that clasps the

base of the stem. The literature states that it can have up to 18 flowers on a single stem. We have found it only in the area of the Peat Ponds, which are on Goldstream Road close to Ivory Jacks Bar in Fairbanks. We generally find it near the first part of summer – June 15<sup>th</sup> through nearly the end of June. There is one more photo, which is on the following page.

**Species #21 – *Galearis rotundifolia***





Species #21 – *Galearis rotundifolia*

**22. *Gentiana platypetala*** is in the *Gentianaceae*/Gentian family. The only common name for this species is broad-petal gentian. It is a perennial herb. Its habitat is listed as alpine and coastal mountain meadows, heathlands, rocky and boggy slopes. The native range of this species is S. Alaska to W. British Columbia and seems to be quite rare in all areas. The literature states that it can grow up to 14 inches in height. I was

able to locate a map which shows where it has been reported from and it seems that this local population which we found while hiking on the Craigie Creek Trail (Map #8) has been documented. We have found it in bloom on July 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, in different years, so it seems like mid-July would be a good time to search for it. If you can find this species in bloom you'll remember that day forever.

**Species #22 – *Gentiana platypetala***





Species #22 – *Gentiana platypetala*



**23. *Gentiana prostrata*** is in the *Gentianaceae*/Gentian family. The common names for this species are pygmy gentian and moss gentian. It is a small annual or biennial herb and the stems may be erect or prostrate. Its single blue flowers are at the end of the stem and close when shaded or touched. It is native to Western Canada, the Western United States, and Alaska. It occurs in moist areas

in subalpine and alpine environments. It has been reported in Alaska from the North Slope to Southeast Alaska. It is considered to be a rare species of gentian. We have found it in one small area in Canada's Yukon Territory, specifically, on the side of Rake Mountain, in Tombstone Territorial Park, in late June as well as alongside the Savage River Loop Trail in Denali National Park.



Species #23 – *Gentiana prostrata*

**24.** *Gentianopsis detonsa* is also in the *Gentianaceae*/Gentian family. The common names for this species are windmill fringed gentian and western fringe gentian. It is an annual or biennial herb and it can grow up 2 feet in height. The literature states that it can have white, blue, or purple flowers, though we have seen only blue and purplish

blooms. It is native to Alaska, Northern Canada and Greenland and scattered in the Arctic and subarctic to subalpine and forest meadows. We have found it in Interior Alaska, near the Mt. Fairplay Wayside (Taylor Highway) and also along the Richardson Highway between Delta Junction and Paxson, in mid-July.



Species #24 – *Gentianopsis detonsa*

Species #24 – *Gentianopsis detonsa*



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**25. *Geranium erianthum*** is in the *Geraniaceae* /Geranium family. The common names for this species include woolly geranium, wild geranium, and cranesbill. It is a tall perennial herb that can grow up to nearly 3 feet in height. The literature states that it can have blue to violet blooms, though we have also found several white flowered plants, possibly albino forms. It is native to Alaska and Northwest Canada and its habi-

tat includes sub-alpine meadows and scrub, grassy slopes near the sea, and woods, and meadows from low elevations to fairly high elevations in the mountains. We have found it along the Richardson Highway from the area of Rainbow Ridge, all the way through Thompson Pass (Map #7) down to Valdez around mid-July. Due to its height you should find it without difficulty along the highway as you drive.



**Species #25 – *Geranium erianthum***

26. *Geum calthifolium* is in the *Rosacea*/Rose family and its common names are Calthaleaf avens and Caltha-leaved avens. Its habitats include muskegs, moist meadows, heathlands, moist sites on rocky slopes, ledges, and cliffs in British Columbia, Alaska, and the Russian Far

East. It is a 3 inch to 16 inch tall rhizomatous perennial with bright yellow flowers. It has been reported only from Alaska's Southcentral, Southeast, and Southwest Regions. We have found it only in the Thompson Pass area (Map #7) during mid-July.



Species #26 – *Geum calthifolium*

Species #27 – *Geum macrophyllum* var. *perincisum*



**27. *Geum macrophyllum* var. *perincisum*** is in the *Rosaceae*/Rose family. Its common names are large-leaved avens, yellow avens and big-leaf avens. The sepals open spreading but soon reflex back. Its habitat includes wet meadows, stream banks, thickets, muskegs, clearings, forest edges and, roadsides. It can be found from

Alaska to California, including Western Canada. It can grow to a height of 2.5 feet, a tall species of avens. It is a perennial herb with bright yellow flowers. It has been reported from the Interior and Southcentral Regions of Alaska. All of our sightings of it were in the Thompson Pass area (Map #7) during mid-July.

**28. *Geum rossii*** is in the *Rosaceae*/Rose family. Its common names are alpine avens and Ross' avens. Although this species was included in our original book, we are including it here due to the fact that we now have better photographs of it. This is a perennial plant that can grow to about 12 inches tall and can also form dense clumps up to 12 inches or more in diameter. The stems can produce a single yellow flower or

sometimes more. It is native to North America, where its distribution spans Northern Canada and the high mountains of the Western United States. It grows in high-latitude and high-elevation habitat, including the Arctic and in alpine climates, including all Alaska Region. We have identified this species in the Eagle Summit area (Maps #1, #2, #3) and also in the Hatcher Pass area (Map #8).



**Species #28 – *Geum rossii***

Species #29 – *Leptarrhena pyrolifolia*



**29. *Leptarrhena pyrolifolia*** is in the *Saxifragaceae* Saxifrage family. The common names for this species are leatherleaf saxifrage and fireleaf leptarrhena. The flower stems are reddish, 8 to 16 inches in height, and topped with clusters of white flowers in red calyxes that age to bright red seed heads (most often seen this way). It is a perennial herb found in alpine and sub-

alpine streambanks and meadows. The literature states that it can have white to pink flowers. It is native from Alaska, Western Canada, and as far south as Central Oregon. We have found it in both the Thompson Pass area (Map #7) and in the Hatcher Pass area (Map #8). When you see this species with the bright red seed heads you will easily identify it immediately.

30. *Luetkea pectinata* is in the *Rosacea*/Rose family and its common names are partridgefoot and luetkea. It is a mat-forming semi-shrub that is endemic to the cold portions of Western North America, occurring in subarctic Alaska, Yukon, Western Northwest Territories, and subalpine to alpine regions as far south as Northern California. The inflorescence is a dense and erect terminal cluster from about ½ inch to

5 inches in height with several to many short-stalked flowers. It is the only member of the genus *Luetkea*, which commemorates Count Luetke, a Russian captain and explorer of the early 1800s who mapped the coastline of Alaska. Its habitat is moist and shady environments. It is a perennial plant. We have identified this species in the Thompson Pass area and also the Hatcher Pass area in mid-July (Maps #7, #8).



Species #30 – *Luetkea pectinata*

**31. *Micranthes nelsoniana*** is also in the *Saxifragaceae*/Saxifrage family. The common names for this species include dotted saxifrage, Nelson's saxifrage, and heartleaf saxifrage. It is a white-flowered perennial herb which can be found primarily near flowing water, or wet

areas. Its range includes Alaska, Western Canada, Washington, Oregon, and Eastern Siberia. Although it has been reported from several locations in Alaska, we have only found it in the vicinity of Eagle Summit (Map #1, #2) and only from mid-June through mid-July.



**Species #31 – *Micranthes nelsoniana***

Species #32 – *Micranthes reflexa*



**32. *Micranthes reflexa*** is also in the *Saxifragaceae*/Saxifrage family. The common names for this species are reflexed saxifrage and Yukon saxifrage. The flower petals are white, with 2 basal yellow spots, which you can see in the photos. It is a perennial herb which can be found primarily in heath, tundra, dry to mesic meadows, alpine gravelly slopes and more. It is native to Northern

Canada, Alaska, and as far south as Northern Washington. We have found it in Denali National Park along the Savage Alpine Trail and also along the Elliott Highway from the vicinity of Grapefruit Rocks at milepost 39 (Map #4) to about milepost 58 in both May and June. In the photos note that the leaves are elliptical to broadly ovate shaped. (cf. Species #30 photos)



Note yellow spots

Species #33 – *Mimulus guttatus*



**33. *Mimulus guttatus*** is presently in the *Phrymaceae*/Loosestrife family. It was previously in the *Scrophulariaceae*/Snapdragon family but has been moved after genetic research. The common names for this species are deep monkeyflower and yellow monkeyflower. The flowers are an intense yellow with red spots on the lower lip and a shape similar to snapdragon flowers. It is both a perennial and an annual bee pollinated spe-

cies of herb found primarily along streams, lakes, and wet slopes. It can be quite large and bushy and attain heights of 30 inches. It is native to Western North America from Alaska to Mexico. We have found it only near Valdez, specifically, in Keystone Canyon near the waterfalls as you will note in some photos. Surely it can be easily found in other areas as well, as the range supposedly includes all of Alaska.

**34. *Minuartia rubella* aka *Sabulina rubella*** is in the *Caryophyllaceae*/Pink, Carnation family. Its common names are beautiful sandwort, mountain sandwort, Arctic sandwort, and boreal stitchwort. It has a circum-boreal distribution, occurring throughout the northernmost Northern Hemisphere from the Arctic Circle on the Arctic tundra into the alpine climates of mountainous areas in temperate Eurasia and North America. It grows in rocky, moist, often barren habitat,

including gravelly, and sparsely vegetated slopes with little organic matter. It is a small mat-forming perennial herb growing in a low tight clump of hairy, glandular herbage. The leaves are no more than 0.5 inches in length and the tiny flowers are composed of pointed to rounded sepals about 0.1 inches. The white petals are roughly the same length. It occurs in all Alaska Regions, though we have found it only in the Eagle Summit area (Maps #1, #2, #3).



**Species #34 – *Minuartia rubella***

**35. *Myosotis asiatica*** is in the *Boraginaceae* /Borage family. The taxonomy and classification of the Borage family is currently under review by Flora of North America and associated taxonomists, so names could change in the future. The common names for this species include alpine forget-me-not, mountain forget-me-not and Asian forget-me-not and it is the Alaska state flower. The flowers are a bright blue with a contrasting bright-yellow center. It is a perennial herb that can grow

to about 16 inches tall and is generally found in moist mountain areas on both wooded slopes and grassy meadows. Its range extends from the Pacific Northwest through Western Canada and Alaska. We have found it only near Twelvemile Summit (Maps #1, #2) in a spot we refer to as Diversity Gulch, obviously due to the plant diversity we see there. We have seen it from about the end of June to the end of July and then it is gone until next year.



**Species #35 – *Myosotis asiatica***



Species #35 - *Myosotis asiatica*



Species #36 – *Oxyria digyna*



**36. *Oxyria digyna*** is in the *Polygonaceae* /Buckwheat family. The common names include mountain sorrel, wood sorrel, alpine sorrel, and alpine mountainsorrel. It is native to the Arctic and mountainous regions of the Northern Hemisphere. It is a perennial plant with a very tough taproot. It can attain heights of around 4 to 12 inches. The stems are usually unbranched, hairless, and somewhat reddish in color. It is a common

plant of the Arctic tundra. The leaves have a sour or fresh acidic taste, due to oxalic acid, and are rich in vitamin C. They can be eaten raw or cooked. It can be found in rocky areas at high elevations including both hillsides and along streambeds. We have found it in the Eagle Summit area, as well as in Denali National Park along the Savage Alpine Trail from about early June to mid-July and a little later.

Species #36 – *Oxyria digyna*



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**37. *Oxytropis nigrescens* var. *nigrescens*** is in the *Fabaceae*/Pea family. The common names include blackish oxytrope, purple oxytrope, and blackish crazyweed. It is a poisonous species of plant for grazing animals. The range maps for this species include the major portion of the Northern Hemisphere. It is a loosely-matted, clump-forming herbaceous perennial plant

growing from a branched caudex and it can grow up to 3 inches in height. The branches can be either erect or prostrate. It enjoys mesic to dry tundra, heath, meadows, and sandy or gravelly ridges and slopes in the alpine zone. We have found it in the alpine zone of Twelvemile Summit to the Eagle Summit area from late in May to around mid-June.



**Species #37 – *Oxytropis nigrescens* var. *nigrescens***

Species #38 – *Pedicularis sudetica*



**38. *Pedicularis sudetica*** is in the *Orobanchaceae* /Broomrape family. The common names are fernweed, Sudeten lousewort, Sedetic lousewort, and Sudetic lousewort. The plant is both perennial and bisexual. It can grow to about 1 foot tall with the flowers being hermaphroditic. There are apparently several questions about how many subspecies and varieties should be included for this plant, with some authorities saying that there are 5 or 6 varying plants that are called by this

name. The literature states that it is native to Northern Europe, specifically Poland, but currently it can be found circumpolar Arctic-alpine. Its native range explains the species name – it was named after the Sudetic Mountains shared by the Czech Republic, Poland, and Germany. We have found it in the Twelvemile Summit area and the Eagle Summit area from late in June to around the middle of July and after that it is pretty much gone until next year.



**39. *Phlox richardsonii* ssp. *alaskensis*** is in the *Polemoniaceae*/Phlox family. The literature states that a synonym for this species is ***Phlox sibirica* ssp. *alaskensis***. The common name is Alaskan phlox, which is a subspecies of Richardson's phlox. The plant is a perennial herb and can grow to only about 4 inches tall. It has been reported only in Alaska, and Canada's Yukon and Northwest Territories. In Alaska it has been reported from several regions, ranging from the Far

North, and Southwest, to the Interior Region. The flowers are bisexual and can range in color from pink to lilac or whitish. We have found it only on Rake Mountain, located in Tombstone Territorial Park, in Canada's Yukon Territory, and only on June 28<sup>th</sup>, the day we were hiking there, though the literature states that it can be in bloom during July and August. This does not sound like a realistic time frame to us in our very northern climate.

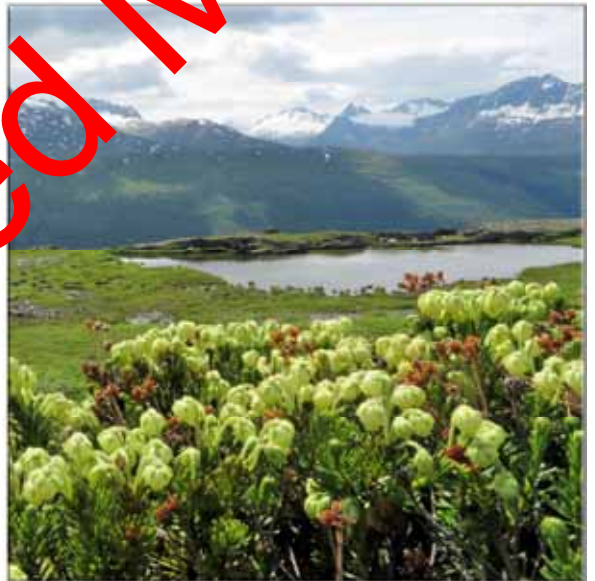
Species #39 – *Phlox richardsonii* ssp. *alaskensis*





Species #39 – *Phlox richardsonii* ssp. *alaskensis*

Species #40 – *Phyllodoce aleutica*



40. *Phyllodoce aleutica* is in the *Ericaceae*/Heath family. The common names are Aleutian mountain heath, Aleutian mountain heath, and Aleutian mountain heather. It is actually considered a dwarf evergreen shrub and can attain heights of 5 to 9 inches. It is native to Japan, Sakhalin, the Kuriles, the Aleutians, and West-

ern Alaska and was first described in 1825. The flowers are nodding, each one on a downy glandular stalk. In Alaska it has been reported from several locations, mostly in the Southcentral Region. The flowers can range in color from yellow to whitish. We have found it only in the Thompson Pass area (Map #7).

Species #41 – *Physaria arctica*



41. *Physaria arctica* is in the *Brassicaceae* /Mustard Family and apparently, its only common name is Arctic bladderpod. Plants range from about 2.5 to a maximum of 5 inches in height with a short taproot and woody stem at the base. The leaves generally form a rosette. It is a perennial and grows in sand and gravel from calcareous bedrock. The native range extends from Eastern Si-

beria to the Northern Russian Far East, and from subarctic America to Northern Canada, including most of Alaska, from the Arctic Ocean to and including Southeast Alaska. We have identified this species only in the vicinity of Denali National Park, specifically, in the Bison Gulch area in early June. Therefore, it can surely also be found in Denali National Park.

**42.** *Platanthera aquilonis* is in the *Orchidaceae*/Orchid family. The common names include north wind bog orchid, and northern green orchid. It is widely distributed throughout Western and Central Canada, Alaska, the Western and Northern United States, as well as in the Northeastern USA and New England States. The flowers are small

and yellowish green in color. There can be few to several leaves on its single stem. It generally occurs in wetter environments, though sometimes can also be found in drier areas. It is a smallish plant, ranging from about 2 to 24 inches. We have found it only near Central, at the end of the Steese Highway from about mid-June through early July.



**Species #42 – *Platanthera aquilonis***

Species #43 – *Platanthera dilatata*



**43. *Platanthera dilatata*** is also in the *Orchidaceae*/Orchid Family. The common names include tall white bog orchid, bog candle, and boreal bog orchid. It is also sometimes called fragrant white bog orchid or scentbottle, for the smell of its flowers, described as intensely spicy or clove-like, and we can attest to that. With 33 species, *Platanthera* is the largest genus of orchids found in North America. It is a perennial with showy white flowers clustered on long spikes. It

can be found in wet places, including marshes, stream sides, springs, and bogs. It is widely distributed throughout the U.S.A., including Alaska. It also occurs in Canada. It can become a rather tall plant and ranges from about 4 to 50 inches in height. We have found it in both the Thompson Pass area and along the Craigie Creek Trail in the Hatcher Pass area (Maps #7, #8) in mid-July. The literature shows that it occurs in several areas in Southcentral Alaska.



Sometimes you have to stop  
and smell the orchids!

Species #43 - *Platanthera dilatata*



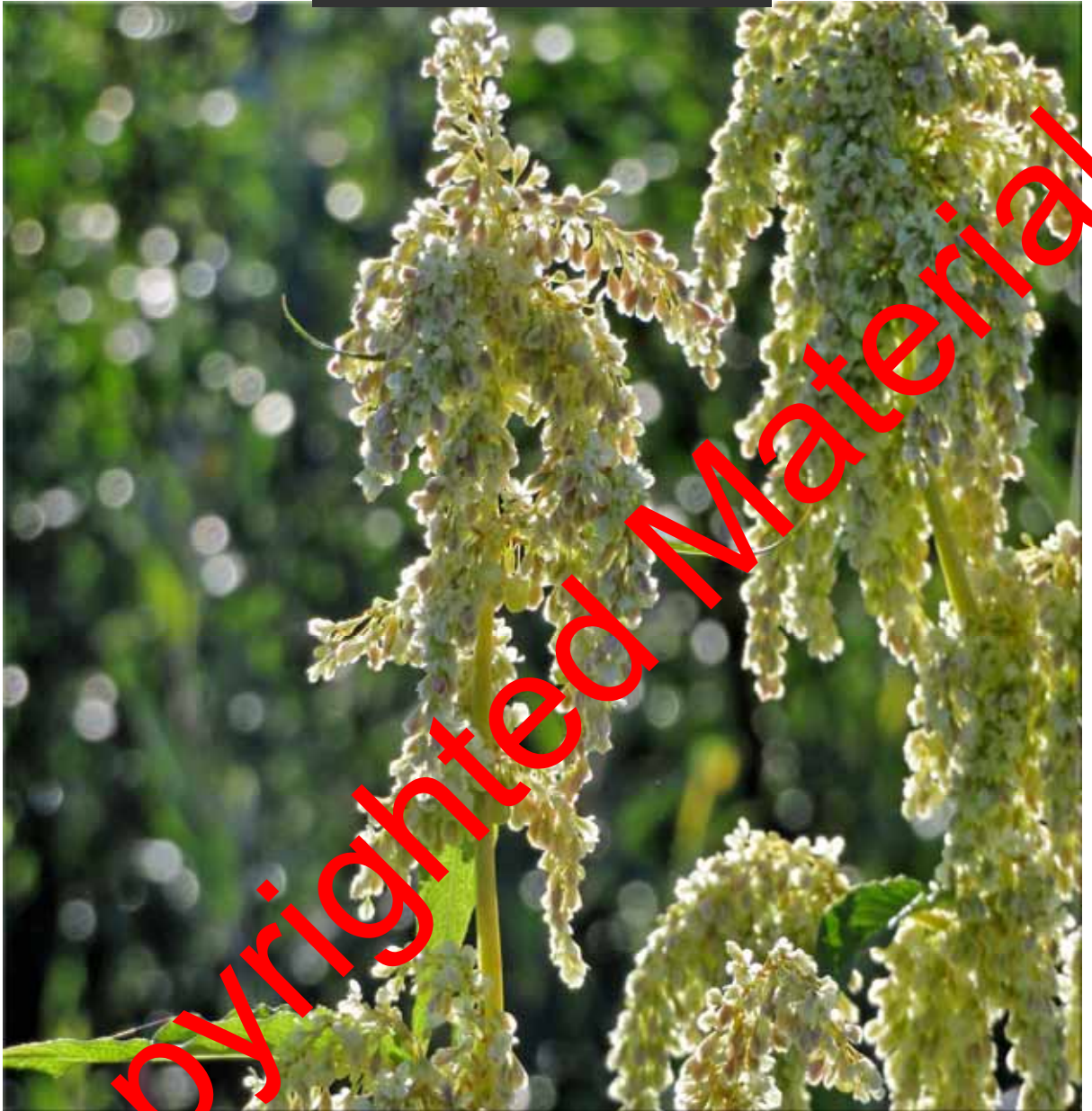
**44. *Polemonium acutiflorum*** is in the *Polemoniaceae*/Phlox family. The common name is tall Jacob's-ladder. It is a perennial herb and can grow from about 5 inches to 16 inches and even more. The inflorescences are clusters of bell-shaped flowers that bloom at the top of the stems. Each flower is light blue to lavender or sometimes white. In North America it can be found from Alaska east to the Mackenzie Mountains in Canada's Yukon

Territory and south into British Columbia and Alberta. The literature shows that it has been reported from all Alaska Regions. It prefers moist rich peaty humus and moist sites in meadows and along streams in tundra, heath and woodlands. We have found it in the Twelvemile Summit and Eagle Summit areas (Maps #1, #2, #3) from the first part of July to late July, though it surely has a different bloom time in various other areas of Alaska.



**Species #44 – *Polemonium acutiflorum***

Species #45 – *Polygonum alpinum*



45. *Polygonum alpinum* is in the *Polygonaceae*/ Buckwheat family. The common names are many but the most prominent are alpine knotweed and Alaska wild rhubarb. It is a perennial herb and can grow to 6 feet in height. The flowers are white to greenish-white. It has been reported from all Alaska Regions and east

to the Mackenzie Mountains in Canada's Yukon Territory and south into British Columbia and Alberta. It likes meadows, mixed grass steppes, open slopes, and along rivers. We have found it only along the Taylor Highway near the Mount Fairplay Wayside (not on any maps we have included) in mid-July.

Species #46 – *Potentilla nivea*



46. *Potentilla nivea* is in the *Rosaceae*/Rose family and its common names are snow cinquefoil, snowy cinquefoil, and villous cinquefoil. It is a perennial herb with a branched crown and short rootstocks. It is covered with short woolly hairs and can grow to around 7 inches tall. The flowers are deep yellow, fading to pale yellow. It has been reported from all Alaska Regions and is native to

Subarctic Asia, North America, Greenland, and Europe, and the Subalpine Rockies and Alps. It grows in alpine meadows, rocky ridges, fell fields, and scree, but it prefers rocky substrates and well-drained soils. We have found it only in the Grapefruit Rocks high elevation areas among the rocks there. Our sightings of it were on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Note that this species is more woolly haired than the following one.

**47. *Potentilla uniflora*** is in the *Rosaceae*/Rose family and its common names include one-flowered cinquefoil and singleflower cinquefoil. It is a yellow-flowered perennial herb with a taproot. The flowering stems are covered in short hairs (shorter than the diameter of the stem and the flowers have a velvety soft surface. Its habitat includes rocky and gravelly

alpine slopes, rocky outcrops and gravelly soils in tundra and heathlands. It has been reported from all Alaska Regions and is native to Western North America, Siberia, and the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. All of our sightings of this species have been in and near Denali National Park, specifically along the Savage Alpine Trail and in the Bison Gulch area.



**Species #47 – *Potentilla uniflora***

Species #48 – *Primula cuneifolia* ssp. *saxifragifolia*



**48. *Primula cuneifolia* ssp. *saxifragifolia*** is in the *Primulaceae* (Primrose) family and its common names include wedgeleaf primrose and wedgeleaf primrose. It has apparently only been reported from Alaska and Canada's British Columbia, surprisingly. It is a pink to purple flowered perennial herb and apparently white flowers can be found, though rarely. The flowers are bisexual. Its habitat includes moist alpine

meadows and rocky slopes on granitic bedrock in the subalpine and alpine zones. In Alaska it has been reported from the Southcentral and Southeast Regions. All of our sightings of this species have been in the Thompson Pass and Hatcher Pass areas. If you drive through Thompson Pass in July you should be able to find it quite easily by just parking your car and hiking uphill a short distance.

**49. *Prunella vulgaris*** is in the *Lamiaceae*/Mint family and its common names include common self-heal, heal-all, woundwort, heart-of-the-earth, brownwort, carpenter's herb, and blue curls. It grows from 2 inches to about 1 foot in height with creeping, self-rooting, tough, square, reddish stems branching at the leaf axes. The flowers grow from a clublike, somewhat square whorled cluster and immediately below this club is a pair of stalkless leaves standing out on either side like a collar. The flowers are

2-lipped and tubular. The top lip is a purple hood, and the bottom lip can sometimes be white. It is a perennial herb native in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America, and is common in most temperate climates. It can be found in moist areas, from sea level to moderate elevations in the mountains. In Alaska it has been reported only from the Southcentral Region. All of our sightings of this species have been in and near Valdez, specifically at Valdez Glacier and also in the Valdez Glacier Campground.

**Species #49 – *Prunella vulgaris***



50. *Pyrola minor* is in the *Pyrolaceae* /Wintergreen family and its common names include snowline wintergreen, lesser wintergreen, and common wintergreen. It is a perennial herb or subshrub growing up to 1 foot in height. It has a circumboreal distribution and can be found throughout the northern latitudes of Eurasia and North America. It grows in moist areas and the literature states that it flowers from June to

August, but I don't think that necessarily applies here in our northern climes. The flowers have 5 petals that are pale pink to rose in color. In Alaska it has been reported from the Far North Region all the way down to the Southeast Region. Our sightings of this species have been in the Eagle Summit area (Maps #1, 2) and also in the Hatcher Pass area (Map #8) - both places in the latter half of July.



Species #50 – *Pyrola minor*

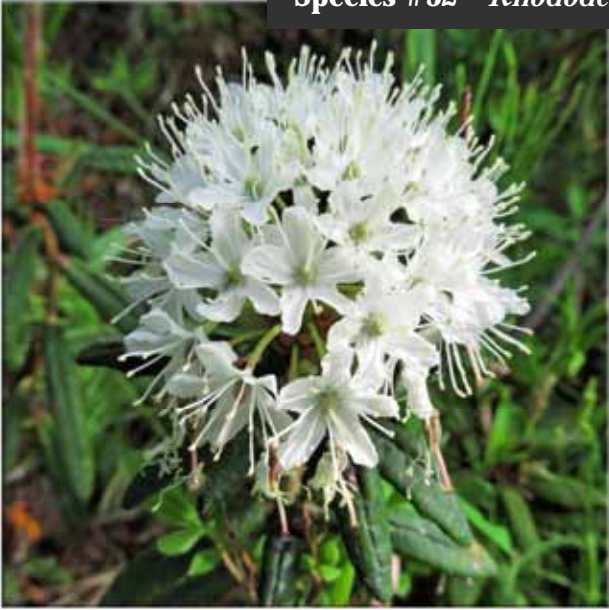
Species #51 – *Ranunculus hyperboreus*



51. *Ranunculus hyperboreus* is in the *Ranunculaceae* Buttercup family. Its common names are Arctic buttercup, floating buttercup, and high northern buttercup. It occurs from Alaska to Eastern Canada and also the Rocky Mountain Region of the Western U.S.A. You can find it floating in shallow water or stranded on exposed mud at mar-

gins of streams and ponds and open wet soil and marshes, in tundra and in boreal or sub-alpine areas. Note the 3-lobed leaves that are described as fan-shaped, or broad and note that the lobes are undivided. In Alaska it occurs primarily in the Southcentral Region, and that is where we found it, at Hatcher Pass in mid-July.

Species #52 – *Rhododendron groenlandicum*



52. *Rhododendron groenlandicum* is in the Ericaceae/Heath family and its common names include bog Labrador tea, muskeg tea, swamp tea, or in Northern Canada, Hudson's Bay tea. This was formerly named *Ledum groenlandicum* or *Ledum latifolium* and it is a flowering shrub with white flowers and evergreen leaves that are used to make an herbal tea. It can be found in bogs, swamps and wet conifer forests of Canada and the Northern United States, including Alaska. It

is a perennial herb that can reach 3 feet in height and have multiple stems. The evergreen leaves are wrinkled on top, densely hairy white to red-brown underneath, and have a leathery texture, curling at the edges. The tiny white flowers grow in hemispherical clusters and are very fragrant and sticky. It has been reported from all regions of Alaska. Our sightings of this species in bloom have been in the Eagle Summit area (Maps #1, #2) in early June.

Species #53 – *Sanguisorba officinalis*



**53.** *Sanguisorba officinalis* is in the *Rosaceae*/Rose family and its common name is great burnet. It is a clump-forming, rhizomatous perennial which typically grows to 3 feet tall. It grows in grasslands and on grassy banks of well-drained but moist soils. It has been reported in all regions of Alaska, though we have found it only at about on the border of the Interior and

Southcentral regions along the Richardson Highway, just a few miles south of Delta Junction, specifically in the flat military training area there. It is native throughout the cooler regions of the Northern Hemisphere in Europe, Northern Asia, and Northern North America. Interestingly enough, we have also found this species in Japan, in the mountains west of Tokyo.





Species #54 – *Sanguisorba stipulata*



Note serrated leaf edges

54. *Sanguisorba stipulata* is in the *Rosaceae* /Rose family and its common names are Sitka burnet and Canadian burnet. It is a clump-forming, deciduous perennial which typically grows to about 3 feet in height. Its habitat includes rich wet meadows, subalpine forests, avalanche tracks, ravines, gorges, moist to wet meadows and forest glades, thickets and, stream

banks. It has been reported from the Southcentral, Southeast, and Southwest Regions of Alaska. Its range includes the Pacific Northwest, Western Canada, and of course, Alaska. We have found it near Valdez, in the Hatcher Pass area and along the Denali Highway. Note that there is a similar species, *S. canadensis*, which does NOT have serrated leaf edges.

Species #54 – *Sanguisorba stipulata*  
(and blooming fireweed behind it)

Note serrated leaf edges

55. *Saxifraga eschscholtzii* is in the *Saxifragaceae*/Saxifrage family and its common names include cushion saxifrage and ciliate saxifrage. It is a mat-forming or cushion forming species and the stems may be slightly woody at the base. It is a perennial plant that can live for several years under good conditions. Its habitat includes cliffs and gravelly spits, rocky outcrops, gravel

shores, and tundra. It has been reported from all regions of Alaska; from the Far North to the Southeast Regions. Its native range includes only the far north portions of the earth – Alaska, and Canada's Yukon and Northwest Territories and Nunavut. We have found it only in and near Denali National Park during the first week of June. This is a very strange little plant.



Species #55 – *Saxifraga eschscholtzii*

Species #56 – *Saxifraga oppositifolia*



**56.** *Saxifraga oppositifolia* is also in the Saxifragaceae/Saxifrage family and its common names are purple saxifrage and purple mountain saxifrage. It is a low-growing, densely or loosely matted perennial plant growing up to 2 inches in height. Its habitat includes alpine

slopes and rocky outcroppings. It has been reported from all regions of Alaska, from the Far North to Southeast. Its native range is circumboreal. We have found it only in and near Denali National Park during the first week of June, same as the previous species.

57. *Sibbaldia procumbens* is in the *Rosaceae*/ Rose family. Its common name is creeping Sibbaldia and it has an Arctic-alpine distribution; it can be found throughout the Arctic, as well as at higher elevations in the mountains of Eurasia and North America. It grows on tundra and in alpine climates where snow remains year-round, and on subalpine mountain slopes. This is a low,

mat-forming perennial herb producing clumps of herbage in rocky, gravelly substrate. The flowers often become reddish with age. Each wedge-shaped compound leaf has 2 or more discrete leaflets and each leaf has 3 teeth at the tip. In Alaska it occurs in all regions, excluding the Far North Region. We have found it only in the Hatcher Pass area in mid-July.



Species #57 – *Sibbaldia procumbens*

**58. *Swertia perennis*** is in the *Gentianaceae*/Gentian family and its common names are felwort and star swertia. It is a perennial herb usually producing one erect stem from 4 to 20 inches in height. The inflorescence is an open panicle of flowers atop the stem. Each flower has a calyx of 4 or 5 pointed sepals and a corolla of 4 or 5 pointed lobes each up to ½ inch long. The corolla is dull blue to violet in color with darker purplish veining. The basal

leaves are spoon-shaped with rounded tips while the leaves higher on the plant are widely lance-shaped or somewhat oval, with pointed tips. Its habitat is mountainous sub-alpine areas in moist meadowland, bogs, stream banks, and other moist places. It has been reported only from the Southcentral and Southeast Regions of Alaska. We have found it only along the Craigie Creek Trail (Map #8) a moist meadowland, during mid July.



**Species #58 – *Swertia perennis***



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Species #58 – *Swertia perennis*

Species #59 – *Tellima grandiflora*

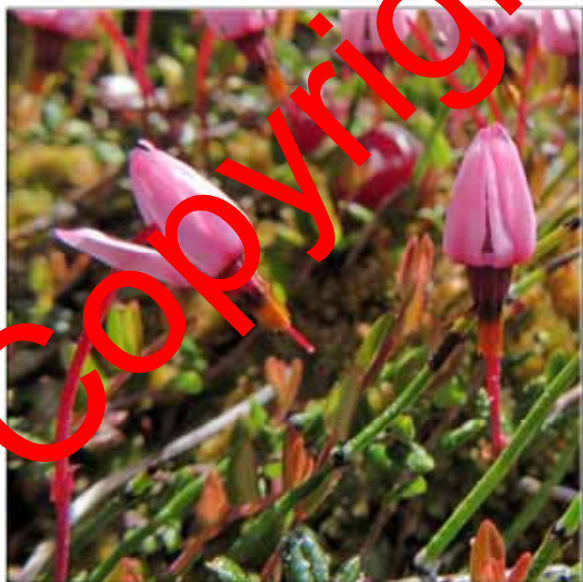


59. *Tellima grandiflora* is another member of the Saxifragaceae/Saxifrage family and its common names are fringe cup, fringed cups, and bigflower tellima. It is an herbaceous perennial flowering plant. The plant is a native of moist forests in Western North America, from Alaska and British Columbia to Northern California. It has been recorded only from the Southcentral

and Southeast Regions of Alaska. It can grow to about 12 inches tall. The genus name *Tellima* is an anagram of the genus *Mitella*, to which it is closely related; this species is the only member of the genus *Tellima*. Its habitat is moist forests, streambanks, thickets, and clearings. We have only found it in the Valdez Glacier and Valdez Glacier Campground areas in mid-July.

**60.** *Vaccinium oxycoccos* is in the *Ericaceae*/Heath family. Its common names are small cranberry, bog cranberry, swamp cranberry, or marshberry. It occurs broadly across cooler climates in the temperate Northern Hemisphere. This cranberry is a small, prostrate shrub with vine-like stems that root at the nodes. The evergreen leaves are leathery and lance-shaped, up to ½ inch

long. The stems can range from about 0.4 to 4.0 inches tall, upon which are one to a few nodding pink flowers with 4-petals. It occurs in moist to wet soils which are low in nitrogen and have a high water table. In Alaska it occurs in all regions. We have found it only in the area of the Peat Ponds, which are on Goldstream Road close to Ivery Jacks Bar in Fairbanks.



**Species #60 – *Vaccinium oxycoccos***

**61.** *Valeriana sitchensis* is in the *Valerianaceae* /Valerian family and its common names are Sitka valerian and mountain helioptrope. It is a conspicuous, stately perennial with 2 or 3 stalks that bear opposite leaves with coarsely toothed leaflets, and rounded clusters of small, tubular, aromatic flowers at the top. It can attain heights ranging from 12 to 48 inches. The flowers are generally white but may

have a pinkish tinge. The plant is native to northwestern North America from Alaska to Northern California. It grows in moist habitats in the mountains, including meadows, wooded slopes, and stream banks. Surprisingly, it has been recorded only from the Interior, Southcentral and Southeast Regions of Alaska. We have found it in both the Thompson Pass and Hatcher Pass areas (Maps #7, #8).



**Species #61 – *Valeriana sitchensis***

Species #62 – *Veratrum viride* var. *eschscholtzianum*



**62. *Veratrum viride* var. *eschscholtzianum*** is in the *Melanthiaceae*/Bunchflower family. Its common names are Indian poke, corn-lily, Indian hellebore, false hellebore, giant false hellebore, giant false-helleborine and several more. It is native to Eastern and Western (but not central) North America and is extremely toxic. It is considered a

pest plant by farmers with livestock. The flowers are dark green to greenish yellow, irregularly toothed, and have pubescent edges. The stem of the plant is also pubescent. It can occur in moist meadows and woodlands from the lowlands to subalpine. We have found it only in the Hatcher Pass area (Map #8).



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Species #62 – *Veratrum viride* var. *eschscholtzianum*

Species #63 – *Veronica wormskjoldii*



**63.** *Veronica wormskjoldii* is in the *Plantaginaceae/Plantago*, *Veronica* family and its common names are alpine speedwell, American alpine speedwell, and alpine veronica. It is a small perennial herb that grows from rhizomes. The flowers are bisexual and irregular in symmetry. It can be found in alpine meadows, heathlands, moist to dry meadows and mossy places along streams in the tundra. It produces a decumbent to erect, mostly unbranched stem

from about 10 to 16 inches tall, and coated in long hairs. The flowers can range in color from blue to violet. This plant is native to Northwestern North America from Alaska to the Eastern Rocky Mountains. It has been recorded in both the Interior and Southcentral Regions of Alaska. We have found it in both the Twelvemile Summit area and also in the Thompson Pass area (Maps #1, #2, #3, and #7) near mid-July in both places.

**64.** *Viola langsdorffii* is in the *Violaceae* /Violet family and its common names are Alaska violet and Aleutian violet. It is a low-growing perennial with rounded, heart-shaped leaves at the tips of petioles which can be up to 8 inches in length. It bears eye-catching, large, light bluish-violet flowers with dark purple veins that appear from mid-spring to late summer. The lateral flower petals display small white beards. Alaska violet is edible, with both

leaves and flowers historically used for food and medicine. Its habitat includes bogs, moist meadows, stream banks, and near snow beds. This plant is native from the Aleutian Islands down through Western Canada. In Alaska it has been recorded in the Southwest, Southcentral and Southeast Regions. We have found it in both the Thompson Pass area and along the Craigie Creek Trail (Maps #7, #8) near mid-July in both places.



**Species #64 – *Viola langsdorffii***

**65. *Wilhelmsia physodes*** is in the *Caryophyllaceae*/Pink, Carnation family. The genus contains only this single species, native to Alaska, Northern Canada (Yukon and Northwest Territories), and Russia. Its common names are merckia or merkia, and Arctic-flower. It is distinctive in the family because of its large inflated ovary that develops into a round purple capsule up to about 0.4 inch in diameter, divided inside into 3 compartments, each with 2 teeth on the out-

side. I wish we could have seen that later in the season, maybe someday. The stems are creeping and branched, with a purplish pubescence. The plant is a perennial herb that grows in moist sandy areas along streams and on gravel bars. In Alaska it occurs in all regions except the Southeast Region. We have found it only in Tombstone Territorial Park in Canada's Yukon Territory, however, it has been reported from the Twelvemile Summit area, in our home territory.



**Species #65 – *Wilhelmsia physodes***

We sincerely hope that you both enjoyed this book, and also learned something by reading or looking through it. If you would like any further information about any of these genera or species there is a great abundance of it available on the

internet. If you want to e-mail me with specific questions as to precise locations where we found something you may do so through the link on my website, which is <http://danwiz.com>. I hope to maintain this site as long as I am alive.

## THE END

**There is a Rainbow Collage Bonus that Kazuya created on pages 88 and 89. Note the reason it is called a Rainbow Collage**

**is because the photos, mostly flower photos are arranged from red at the upper left to violet at the lower right.**

Kazuya's Rainbow Collage of Flowers and Scenes



Kazuya's Rainbow Collage of Flowers and Scenes



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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Daniel Wiczorek was born in 1947 in Ionia, Michigan. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.S. in Forestry in 1969. He moved to Oregon to work in the field of forestry in 1971. That was followed by a move to Alaska in 1975, where he continued his career in forestry. After about a 14-year career in forestry, Daniel decided to do something different and he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in The Philippines from 1985 to 1987. Upon completion of his Peace Corps service he returned to Alaska, where he attended the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and received an M.B.A. in 1991. This was followed by a move to South Korea in 1992, where Daniel taught English to Korean people wishing to improve their English Language skills. Daniel's next stop was in New York City, where he worked as temporary staff at Deutsche Bank from 1998 to 2001. He left NYC in March 2001 and moved on to Mitaka City, Tokyo, Japan. He taught English in Japan for 15 years

and ended up teaching as a career for about 20 years before retiring with his life partner, Kazuyasu to Fairbanks, Alaska. He has been hiking, climbing and doing photography since he was 12 years old.

Kazuyasu Numazawa was born in 1979 in Shinjo City in Yamagata Prefecture, Japan. He was raised in Funagata Town in Yamagata Prefecture. He graduated from Tokyo University in 2005. Since that time he has worked in several fields, but primarily in Cram Schools around the Mitaka City area of Japan. In 2016 he moved to Fairbanks, Alaska with Daniel, where he is now the owner/baker of "*Kazuyasu's Baked Delights*".

Daniel and Kazuyasu met in 2001 and they have been hiking, mountain climbing and doing photography together since that time. They have been happily married since 2015.

## DEDICATION and THANKS

This work, like its predecessor, is dedicated, first of all, to my life-partner, Kazuya Numazawa. He always keeps my interest in photography up and makes me keep striving for the perfect photo. He also often makes me think of the expression “when the going gets tough, the tough keep going.” Without my partner it has to also be noted that I most likely would not have seen many of these flowers nor the plants that produce them.

Secondly, it is dedicated to my mother and father, bless them, for tolerating and even encouraging my photography hobby from the time I was 12 years old.

And finally, it is dedicated to our friends who have encouraged us to create books of photographs which we have taken while engaging in our adventures.

Sincere thanks go to J. Chris Maisch for his brilliant suggestion to also number the text portion of each species, so that when readers notice that the photo for *Anemone pulsatilla* is numbered “1” they can then search for the “1” text, which might or might not be on the same page as the photo. His suggestion also gave me the idea of showing page numbers on the pages titled “List of Species Included”.

## Some other books by Daniel H. Wiczorek and Kazuya Numazawa

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 1: Mt. Daisetsu (Mt. Asahidake)”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 2: Mt. Chokai (Choumai)”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 3: Mt. Gassan”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 4: Mt. Hakkou & Mt. Zao”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 5: Mt. Kurodake”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 6: Mt. Shirane (Kusatsu)”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 7: Mt. Shibutsu”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 8: Mt. Kiso-Komagatake”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 9: Mt. Kitadake”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 10: Mt. Mizugaki”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 11: Mt. Shiroumadake (includes Mt. Shakushidake & Mt. Yarigatake)”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 12: Mt. Tate (Tateyama)”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Climbing a Few of Japan’s 100 Famous Mountains – Volume 13: Mt. Yatsugatake (Mt. Akadake)”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Outdoor Photography of Japan: Through the Seasons”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Outdoor Photography of Japan: Through the Seasons – Volume 1 of 3 (Winter & Spring)”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Outdoor Photography of Japan: Through the Seasons – Volume 2 of 3 (Summer)”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Outdoor Photography of Japan: Through the Seasons – Volume 3 of 3 (Autumn)”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Samurai Seasons Exposed: Nipponese Outdoor Rhapsodies”*; Paperback, Hardcover and Kindle Editions

*“Twelvemile: Summit to Summit”*; Two Paperback Editions and One Hardcover Edition

*“Wildflowers of Interior Alaska”*; Two Hardcover Editions, One Paperback Edition, and Kindle Edition.

## Photo Credits:

### Daniel's Photos:

9 center and right, 10 lower left, 12 lower left, 14 upper left, 16 lower left, 17 all except lower left, 18 all except lower left, 19 bottom, 20 lower right, 21 upper right, lower left, 26 upper right, 28 upper left, 30 all, 33, 34 all except lower right, 35, 36 top row, 38 lower left, 43 upper right, lower right, 49 top row, 50 all, 53 lower right, 54 upper left, lower left, 55 bottom row center and right, 57 upper left, upper right, 60 left, 62 upper left, 66 upper left, 70 all except upper right, 71 all, 72 bottom, 75 lower left lower right, 85 all except upper right.

### Kazuya's Photos:

9 left, 10 top collage, center left, lower right, 11 all, 12 all except lower left, 13 all, 14 all except upper left, 15 all, 16 all except lower left, 17 lower left, 18 lower left, 19 top, 20 all except lower right, 21 upper left, lower right, 22 all, 23 all, 24 all, 25 all, 26 all except upper right, 27 all, 28 all except upper left, 29 all, 30 all, 31, 34 lower right, 36 bottom row, 37 all, 38 all except lower left, 39 all, 40 all, 41 all, 42 all, 43 upper left, lower left, 44 all, 45 all, 46 all, 47 all, 48 all, 49 bottom row, 50 all, 51 all, 52 all, 53 all except lower right, 54 upper right lower right, 55 top collage, bottom left, 56, 57 lower left, lower right, 58 all, 59 all, 60 right, 61 both, 62 all except upper left, 63, 64 all, 65 all, 66 all except upper left, 67 all, 68 all, 69 all, 70 upper right, 72 top, 73, 74 all, 75 upper left upper right, 76 all, 77 all, 78 all, 79 all, 80 all, 81 all, 82 all, 83, 84 all, 85 upper right, 86 all, 89 all, 90 all.