

## REVIEW

### *WILDFLOWERS OF UNALASKA ISLAND: A GUIDE TO THE FLOWERING PLANTS OF AN ALEUTIAN ISLAND*

*By Suzi Golodoff, 2003. University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks.  
Paperback, 272 pages, drawings, photographs, map, pronunciation guide, indices. ISBN 1-889963-18-6.*

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*Wildflowers of Unalaska Island* is the first book of its kind to deal solely with the Aleutian Islands. While focused specifically on Unalaska Island in the eastern Aleutians, much of this book is relevant to the whole of the archipelago and the lower Alaska Peninsula.

The book begins with a helpful introduction, in which the natural and human history of the Aleutian region is succinctly reviewed. Here, Golodoff touches upon possible geological explanations for the differences among the plant communities of the western, central, and eastern portions of the archipelago. She also outlines the variety of small-scale, local habitats that render plant communities on Unalaska Island diverse, and she provides a few notes on the Aleut (Unangan) language plant names that are included throughout the book.

The bulk of the book is devoted to descriptions of over 160 species of flowering plants. These are organized by taxa, not by color or by location as in some other flower guides. For each plant, a color photograph and a line

drawing supplement text describing the plant's features, habitat, and—particularly interesting from an ethnobotanical perspective—usefulness as a food, raw material, or medicine. In addition to common and scientific names, Aleut names, where known, are provided for the eastern, Atkan (central), and Attuan (western) dialects. *Wildflowers* concludes with a bibliography, a pronunciation guide for Aleut plant names, and indices to Aleut names, botanical names, and common names.

Overall, this is a welcome book. It is not overly technical or jargon-laden and thus will appeal to a wide range of readers, including those interested in Alaska Native ethnobotany. One of the clear strengths of *Wildflowers* is the contextual depth of the detailed, yet straightforward, plant descriptions, a quality attributable to Golodoff's long-term residence in Unalaska and her obvious familiarity with and respect for the larger natural and cultural world of the Aleutians.

