



# Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

## Newsletter ~ June 2023

P.O. Box 240563  
Anchorage, AK  
99524

FB: Wildflower Garden Club  
[akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflowers@gmail.com)  
[www.wildflowergardenclub.org](http://www.wildflowergardenclub.org)

### **Message from the Presidents**

Alaska Wildflower Garden Club Members are the BEST! Many thanks to all who came out to help with the Botanical Garden and the Wildlife Conservation Center service projects. While the gardens were just awakening due to our late spring, many hands made fast work of getting them ready for the growing season.

The 2023 Plant Sale was a success! Whether you brought plants, helped set up/tear down/man tables, or shared your knowledge with fellow gardeners — THANK YOU. Many of you stayed the whole day and we cannot thank you enough. A big thanks to the young missionaries who volunteered as well. It's amazing to think that tables were set up and a warehouse full of plants were taken out and organized in less than 2 hours!

We'd like to take this time to also THANK the chairs and individuals who work "behind the scenes" to make each event happen. A lot happens before and after these events, which most folks don't see - scheduling, coordinating, reconsolidating, trips back and forth to our storage shed, follow up etc. So a big shout out of THANKS to all who work to make sure our events run smoothly.

Our gardens could use a little more sunshine to help them along and we keep hoping the clouds will part, the wind will blow somewhere else, and the heat of the sun will return! Weather aside, being outside and playing in the dirt – even if it is pulling weeds – makes for a delightful day!

### **A Welcome to our 2023 New Members!**

Linda Chisolm  
Lou Ann Clark  
Nancy Dearden  
Kim Dunn  
Pat Holloway  
Karen Jenkins  
Joey Jigliotti

Donna Kellar  
Robin Klein  
David MacLeod  
Oona Martin  
Blair Mathews  
Meg O'Mullane  
Tim Pack

Burton Smith  
Kelly Thorngren  
Beth Verelli  
Hilary Walker  
Katie Ward-Hamer  
Bruce Welkovich  
Teri Zell

*"Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years."*

## What's Growing Now

### **Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail at Alaska Botanical Garden Spring Clean Up**

About a dozen volunteers, most (but not all), members of the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska met at 10am on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> to give the trail its first clean-up of the year. We cleaned trails, swept up leaves, pulled grass and made ready the beds for the upcoming surge of spring growth. We will continue to maintain the trail on a weekly basis throughout the growing season.



### **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center Spring Clean Up**

Six people made the trek down to Portage to work on the Native plant garden at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> for the initial cleanup of the garden. The weeds were growing happily, but the plants were still a little behind in sprouting. We were pleased to see the growth spread of some of the species and will look for others on subsequent trips. It was much neater by the time we finished.

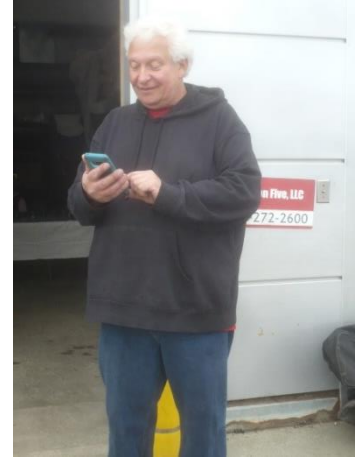


### **WGCA Annual Plant Sale**

Our annual plant sale took place at the former DMV at the corner of Benson and Spenard on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. People brought their plants on the day before and then gathered at 7am with the help of 6 LDS missionaries and set up tables, distributed plants, supplied a potluck, and greeted and assisted plant-hungry gardeners from 9-3. A busy and long day, but always a pleasure to talk plants and to catch up with friends in the gardening community. Another successful year, and many gardeners went home happy with new treasures.







## Special Wildflowers that bloomed this month

Mary Britton, Linda Chisholm, Nancy Dearden, and Eli Fleischer



The lovely **Rose** and fragrant **Honeysuckle** are considered the June flower. Belonging to the large family of **Rosaceae**, there are many types of roses and this flower is said to have gotten its name from the Goddess of Love, Aphrodite. The flowers are abundant in June and this is probably the reason why it is considered the month's flower. Although the symbolism for roses varies with color, the flower is generally associated with love and beauty. Red roses mean passion and white roses symbolize purity.

Although the honeysuckle has had many different flower meanings throughout history, today it is predominantly viewed as a symbol of happiness. It can often be used to symbolize devotion and everlasting bonds, too. The scientific name for the honeysuckle, ***Lonicera japonica***, is derived from the name of the Renaissance botanist, Adam Lonicer. Plain and simple, the name is a tribute to this man.



Happy Birthday

## **Club Business**

**HELP NEEDED!** - In search of someone with Excel experience to take over the **Membership Chair** position. Contact Kathy Liska at 907-301-0317, Christie Holshouser at 907-854-3401, or Kellie Staples 907-632-8368 for more information.

### **May 2023 Treasurer Reports**

#### **Nuvision Credit Union**

Business Savings	<b>\$7,506.74</b>
Business Checking	<b>\$3,638.09</b>
CD - 12 month	<b>\$5,047.38</b>
<b>Balance 5/31/23</b>	<b>\$16,192.21</b>
<b>Morgan Stanley Balance 5/31/23</b>	<b>\$44,150.50</b>
<b>Total Assets 5/31/23</b>	<b>\$60,342.71</b>

## **Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops**

**Summer Garden Tours (Members & Family Only Activity) Locations TBA soon!**

**July 20: 11am-2pm**

The Greater Eagle River Garden Club has been working to restore and beautify the different gardens around Eagle River that may have fallen into disrepair.

We will have the opportunity to tour some of those forgotten gardens. The tour will culminate with a bring-a-bag lunch in the gardens at the home of Co-president Kellie Staples and her husband Stan. After the meal, we will have the opportunity to learn how to make the beaded fairy wands from Sally Byrne Flores herself. (Supply costs to be determined). It should be a fun time and we will most probably be touring gardens completely new to us.

**August Workshop: Date TBA**

**“Beautiful Bouquets of Garden Bounty”**

Dennis and Annie Ronsse have worked for many years to duplicate a small portion of the Garden of Eden in their corner of the world. Ever generous, they are willing to host a fundraiser allowing members to pick their flowers and make two beautiful arrangements to take home.

Cost: \$20



## **Announcements**

### **Alaska Botanical Garden Volunteer Signup Genius Link**

General Volunteer Notifications: [2023 Horticulture Volunteer Opportunities \(signupgenius.com\)](https://2023horticulturevolunteeropportunities.signupgenius.com)

Weekly slots will be available Wednesdays from 10am-12pm throughout the summer to keep the trail maintained for visitors and ABG events. Those who would like to help will need to sign up through the ABG Signup Genius link above so they know who to expect and to also keep track of volunteer hours. No more sign-in book at the office!

### **Alaska State Fair Volunteer Opportunity ~ Crops Department**

Offer a helping hand to register crops entries, or clerk on the Judging days.

Contact Kathy Liska, ASF Crops Superintendent/Horticulture Manager, and Wildflower Garden Club of member at 907-301-0317 or [akliska@aol.com](mailto:akliska@aol.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Entry date: Wednesday, August 23 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Judging date: Thursday, August 24**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Entry date: Wednesday, August 30 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Judging date: Thursday, August 31**

**Entry hours: Noon to 9pm ~ Judging hours: 8am to Noon**



***Encourage a young person aged 6-17 to submit an entry in the WGCA sponsored Junior Giant Zucchini Contest!***





**Member's Corner** Photos of Primula, Gazania & Gerbera Daisy by: Alis Schmitt



Cindy Walker Primulas

L - Auricula variety

R - 'City of Juneau'

Photos by Kathy Liska





**Shared by Christie Holshouser** - While most of our plants are just emerging, we can always count on the rhubarb to be ready first! The first rhubarb crisp is always the best, so we're sharing our recipe. This recipe is from Shelia Burgh and came out of the *Pioneers of Alaska Cookbook* Copyright 1988.

## Rhubarb Crunch

1 cup flour  
1 cup brown sugar  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup oatmeal  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter, melted  
4 cups rhubarb, cut  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
1 cup water  
1 teaspoon vanilla

(Berries or apples can be added as well)

Mix flour, brown sugar, oatmeal, and melted butter till crumbly. Cut 4 cups rhubarb. Bring to boil sugar, cornstarch, water, and vanilla. Press half crumb mixture in bottom of 8-inch square pan. Add rhubarb, spreading evenly. Pour boiled liquid over rhubarb. Top with remaining crumb mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Serve with ice cream. Enjoy!

## Gardener Giggles

