



Wildflower Garden Club Newsletter

August 2019

PO Box 240563, Anchorage, AK 99524
akwildflowers@gmail.com

www.wildflowergardenclub.org
FB: Wildflower Garden Club

A Member of National, Pacific Region, and Alaska State Garden Clubs

Messages from the Presidents

Hard to believe the last month of summer is now here. Next weekend August 10 is the Master Gardener Late Season Plant Sale at the Botanical Garden parking lot. It is the last plant sale of the gardening season. In about two weeks, the Alaska State Fair in Palmer starts! Hopefully, we are sorting our bounty and beauties for entry into the Fair and have contacted Kathy Liska to book some volunteer time to help out.

An odd time of year for gardeners in Alaska, in that we know we will miss gardening season, but we are SO VERY TIRED from the non-stop work that we also look forward to the new snow—for about a month or two, then we are itching to get back in the soil. I do look forward to seeing everyone again when the meetings start in September.

Paul

August ... a time when things start winding down in the gardens. Who am I fooling? Not this year as I am focusing on making sure the perennial plants and trees get lots of water to survive over the months that I don't want to talk about right now. Keeping my fingers crossed for an extended fall season. Thoughts of Fair are on my mind. Fourteen days (yes, I'm on the countdown) until all the 'Crazy Good' fun starts in the Crops Department. It will be interesting to see what sort of entries we get after this record breaking summer. One thing is for sure and that's that it was a good growing season for warmer season vegetables and flowers.

I hope everyone has had a great growing season, had some good times with friends and family, and is looking forward like I am to meet up again at our monthly meetings next month.

Kathy



What's Growing Now

We had a very enjoyable day on the garden tours. The day started at Jeanette Bock's home with her carefully laid out and lush beds. A fascinating design feature was the ornaments on the chain link fence between her yard and the neighbor. Jeanette used the glass shades from older ceiling light fixtures to set a boundary with points of interest and simple decoration. A fascinating and effective idea.



Clockwise from top right: Jeanette's vegetable beds. (Notice the glass shades on the fence)
WfGC Members enjoying the well-manicured gardens in the backyard.
Front yard rock garden ... stunning with all the blue plants.
A fabulous color and smelling Orientpet Lily.
Jeanette on her back deck surrounded by beautiful blooms!



Paul Marmora's garden showed just how many plants can be crammed into a space—a nice word for it would be lush. His garden has become his growing fields and there are potted perennials everywhere. The many bonsai on the back deck were a point of interest for people.



Paul is a local legend when it comes to Bonsai! His back deck is load with what seems like 100s of mini forests growing. His front yard is always chock full of perennials for sale.



Carroll Samuelson invited the club to her gardens again this year. She has spent many years creating paths, meditation corners, and points of interest throughout her yard. She has put so much time, thought and meaning into each vignette and section.



As you wind around Carroll's garden from front to back to front again, there is a special feeling of peace.



The group enjoyed a gorgeous afternoon and a relaxing potluck lunch on her lawn amongst all the beauty of this personal botanical garden Utopia.

Many thanks and much appreciation to Jeanette, Paul and Carroll for sharing their gardens with us!



More of 'What's Growing Now'

The Anchorage Garden Club had a horticultural flower show on Saturday and Sunday, August 3 & 4 at the Central Lutheran Church on Cordova and 15th. The five club members who attended the first phase of Flower Judges School were well-represented as both Judges and clerks and as entrants/exhibitors. Also, please take pride in the fact that a number of first place and section awards were won by these same five people. The Horticultural Award of Excellence (like Best in Show) went to member Chris Wood for an outstanding Pelargonium in near perfect shape. When you learn the rules and criteria for a flower show, it makes a huge difference in how you make entries and in how those entries are received. Maybe look into becoming a Flower Show Judge yourself!

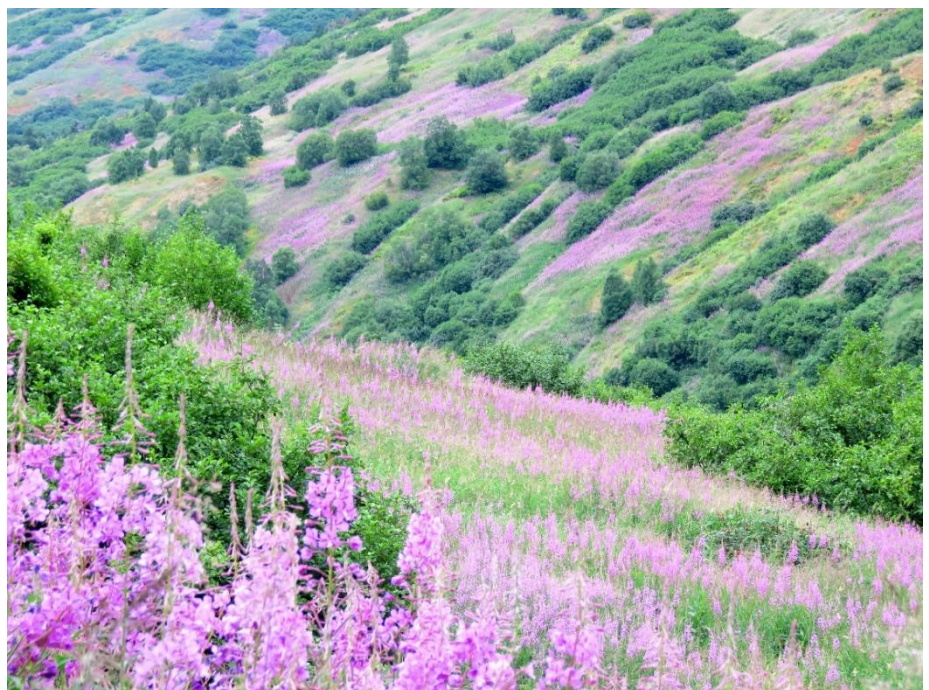
Members Corner



Thank you to Bob Estey for sharing these wonderful photos from his travels around the state.

Alpine Hawk's Beard near his mining claim in the Gunsite Mountain area. It is not in full bloom in the picture, but it is an interesting plant. It seems to like rocks and gravelly soil. It opens and closes during the daylight cycle

A stunning photo of the Fireweed 'super bloom' that happened this summer! WOW ...



Announcements

Our next service project is set for **Thursday, August 8**, for another clean-up project for the **Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail** at the **Alaska Botanical Garden**. The group will meet **at 10am** at the trail, as per usual. We will probably have an easier time of it, as we have been clearing the trail regularly, so it will probably means mostly touching up the trail.

ALPAR plastic pot recycling August 17 from 10am-5pm in the Alaska Botanical Garden parking lot. Plastic garden containers only; cell pots and trays. Remove, rinse dirt and remove metal hangers. Please, NO wooden or fiber planters. Recyclers can take away pots for reuse, too! Please do not drop off pots early. This is a one day event only.

Alaska State Fair starts on August 22. Entry days are on the Wednesdays, August 21 & 28. Make sure to look up the Exhibitor's Guide at www.alaskastatefair.org to see what categories you can enter in. Remember, Kathy Liska needs volunteers for both entry and judging days each week. Contact her at akliska@aol.com, (907) 337-2196 or for during the fair (907) 301-0317.

Our September meeting is scheduled for Thursday Sept. 12 at the home of Dennis and Annie Ronsse at 230 Pacific View Drive. This is a members-only meeting with Dennis speaking on **'Building Garden Fertility'**. There will be a potluck lunch at their home afterwards.

It is our sad duty to mention the passing of Scott Christy and Jean Tam in an aircraft accident on June 28, 2019 in the Moose Pass area. Scott and Jean were renowned throughout the country in the conservation and wildlife communities. Jean was the longest serving board member of the Alaska Audubon Society. We were fortunate to have Scott speak at our April 11th meeting and Jean often attended our meetings over the years. A large hole is left in the Conservation community with the loss of their incredible contributions in so many fields.

