

Newsletter January, 2019

Message from the Presidents

Hello Wildflowers! Being installed as co-presidents brings a time of excitement and a bit of apprehension. I am looking forward to working together, and trying new things together. We are pretty excited to look at opportunities for workshops and projects as a club. There is a member poll attached for people to send or bring in to let us know what might be of interest. We would like to be sure all members are getting their needs and wants met and have a voice in what is happening. We already have a Facebook page that is meeting with great success and we are talking with other clubs to see if we can get together for larger workshops. This should be quite a bit of fun. Be sure to put in your two cents so your interests can be represented. **Let's have fun!!** **Paul**

Greetings Wildflowers! Ditto to all Paul wrote above and know that I am excited for the upcoming year of Programs and Service Projects with our club. I am looking forward to proceeding with our vision of growth within the Wildflower Club as well as working with other local clubs for hands on workshops that are currently in the planning. We believe this will be a great opportunity to bring our interests in all areas of horticulture and our gardening community together. **Cheers to 2019!** **Kathy**

What's growing now?

This month's presentation was by Ginger Hudson. Her topic was **Remembering Verna**. As most of you know, Verna E. Pratt was a champion of wildflowers in Alaska. She was self-taught, and her knowledge of flora, genus, species and the intricate differences was infinite. If she did not know something, she made sure to find out. She was generous with her knowledge and open and friendly to all. Ginger shared how she had met Verna and how after Verna passed away in January 2017, Annie Nevaldine, another outstanding Alaska gardener persuaded her to write Verna's biography. Combining her studies for her master's degree, Ginger is compiling facts, stories, and peoples' impressions of Verna to produce her book in a few years. As noted by some present, both Verna and Annie were now gone, having passed away that very week, two and one year ago respectively. A few people got to voice some of their remembrances of Verna and all who knew her recalled their many interactions with that great lady fondly.

The wildflower of the month was Grass of Parnassus, presented by Paul Marmora. He related how that flower was firmly attached to his remembrances of Verna, as he can always hear her pronouncing the name, "Grahss of Pahnahssus" in her distinctive New England accent.

The 2019 Executive Board was installed by outgoing president Jeanette Bock: Kathy Liska and Paul Marmora are 2019 Co-Presidents. Elaine Estey will continue as Vice-President, and Beverly Luedke-Chan is filling the Treasurer position again. Tobi Harvey has accepted the Secretary position. Jeanette Bock will be on the board as past-president and Annita Magee is continuing as Member-At-Large.

Kathy Liska announced that the plaque honoring Verna Pratt, sponsored by the Wildflower Garden Club (**WfGC**), has been ordered and should arrive in 4-6 weeks.

Flower Show School training, sponsored by the National Garden Clubs has been scheduled for June and October of this year. To be a nationally certified Flower judge, you must belong to a garden club linked to the National Garden Clubs, Inc. The clubs in Alaska that qualify are: **Anchorage, Wildflower, Eagle River, Fairbanks, and Ketchikan Garden Clubs**. If you wish to be nationally certified, it is fairly easy and inexpensive to join one of those clubs. There are other requirements to maintain your certifications. Ask one of the garden clubs for more information. You may take parts of the training without the certification for learning, if you desire. There are also a couple of symposia available: one on pelargoniums and one on mechanics of flower design. Good news is the Master Gardeners are supporting using parts of these training sessions for Advanced Master Gardener credits.

WfGC is still looking for an artist to make a statue of Calypso orchids in honor of deceased founder and member Sally Karablenikoff. We have found an artist who is entertaining some designs to present to us.

There are still opportunities for people to donate in memory of either the plaque for Verna or the Statue for Sally. The additional funds will go to help toward the purchase of and setting of a substantial boulder to be placed at the Start of the Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail and for the mounting of the plaque at the Alaska Botanical Gardens. There may also be possibilities for additional signage along the trail.

Kathy Liska reminded us that the Marigold Giveaway at the Midtown Mall is scheduled for 20APR, and the marigold seeds should be started in early February to be blooming in time for the show. Kathy shared some tips in terms of full light and regularly brushing (petting) the seedlings as they come up to encourage strong stems and compact growth.

The 2019 Yearbooks were passed out at the meeting, and the rest of them were mailed out on Monday.

A member poll was passed to the members present (and will be attached to this email) to encourage ideas for workshops and projects from our members. Please fill one out and either mail it to the Wildflower Garden Club at PO Box 240563, Anchorage, AK 99524. You may also bring it to February's meeting. This is your opportunity to have your interests addressed and for you to have a place to learn more about what fascinates you. There may also be opportunities for you to share your knowledge, if you would like to.

There has been some work done on the Wildflower Garden Club site on the Alaska Garden Clubs site. Please access the pages to see the changes.

Other news is that WfGC has started a Facebook page. There has been great interest in the page already, having been visited by nearly 2200 people in the last month. If you do not have a Facebook account, you can simply access the Alaska Garden Clubs site, go to the link for Wildflower Garden Club and press the Facebook icon in the blue box on the upper right of the page, and you can then access Facebook for our page as a non-member.

Poll for Wildflower Garden Club

We would like to see what the members of the Wildflower Garden Club are interested in learning about and doing as a group. We ask that you to take the time to look at the list of workshop suggestions and rate them from 1 (mildly interested in) to 10 – (very interested in). There are spaces at the bottom for additional suggestions. We may conduct some of these workshops with other clubs, and may do some of them twice – once in Anchorage and once in the Valley. If you are qualified to offer one of these workshops or know someone who may be, please write in a name.

Workshop Suggestions

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seed Starting | <input type="checkbox"/> Trellis Making | <input type="checkbox"/> Wall Planters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf molds | <input type="checkbox"/> Pressing Flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Cup and Saucer
Birdfeeders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mosaics | <input type="checkbox"/> Birdhouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Topsy Planters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stone Mobiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertufa | <input type="checkbox"/> Tool Sharpening/Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stone Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Stepping Stones | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trough Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> Potting party/plant
exchange | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luminaria | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass/Ceramic Yard Art | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bow Making | <input type="checkbox"/> Succulent Topiary | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ornament Wreaths | <input type="checkbox"/> Succulent Wreaths | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Design | | _____ |

WfGC Projects and Activity Suggestions

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|--|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Star Marker | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Clean-up for
Members needing help | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Craft Show Sale
for Gardeners | <input type="checkbox"/> Verna Pratt Wildflower
Trail Clean-up and
Maintenance at ABG | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Rummage Sale | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Club Plant Sale | | _____ |

What Else would you like to see the WfGC club accomplish?

Please print, fill out and bring to February meeting or mail form in.