



# Wildflower Garden Club Newsletter

## May 2019

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FB: Wildflower Garden Club

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

### Messages from the Presidents

It has been an interesting spring so far. We had it super warm early, then a little more snow, then cloudy cool days with some rain here and there. The plants are still pushing out though! This is the most hopeful and exciting time of year for me. I LOVE being outside pattering in the yard. I am busy putting up plants for all the sales this year, so I will return to the yard right now and allow you to do the same. Let's have a bumper sale this year!!

**Paul**

Spring has finally sprung and most of us are busy uncovering the garden beds, going through our tools, setting out hoses, and a lot of other spring chores such as potting up plants for the annual WfGC Plant Sale. I start thinking about all these to do's well ahead of time but once it really begins, I feel like I'm behind. Maybe it's because of how quick the seasons change that gives me this chasing my tail sense. No matter, I love this time of year with the ability to start playing in and smelling the soil, seeing perennials popping up, listening to the Robins sing and hearing Sandhill Cranes overhead. Spring in Alaska warms my heart ... and bones!

**Kathy**

### Service Projects

Our first service project of the year is the Midtown Mall Spring Garden Show Marigold Giveaway. It was very successful this year, with over 200 marigolds planted by children with the assistance of club members. The show was jam-packed with gardeners looking to get a taste of spring after the late snow coming in after the early spring sunshine.

A huge Thank You to Kathy Zins, Pat Anderson, Harry Dueber, Tobi Harvey, Barbara Baker, Billye Goff, Alis Schmitt, Barbara Baker, Linda Kelly, Sally Byrne-Flores, Mary Britton, Janet Hartmann and Kathy Liska, our Marigold growers and volunteers that helped to make this a fun experience for all the ki





On May 9th, the club gathered at the Alaska Botanical Garden Wildflower trail (now named the Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail) for our annual clean-up. Twelve members gathered to make the work light with many hands. Many thanks to Kathy Zins, Janet Hartmann, Barbara Baker, Annita Magee, Linda Kelly, Chris Wood, Cindy Calzada, Pat Anderson, Jamie Rue, Bob Estey, Paul Marmora and Kathy Liska. Seven of us had fun chatting over lunch afterwards. The trail is undergoing major changes this year—being enlarged, having permanent artwork installed and the installation of the plaque during the upcoming dedication of the trail in Verna’s honor. We will gather periodically to upkeep the trail through the summer and before ABG events as well.





An upshot of the March 2019 presentation by the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center was that the staff revealed that they wanted to start a wildflower garden at the conservation center. Our club members voted to plant and care for the garden as a continuing conservation project and we will be starting it this summer. Kathy Liska, Marilyn Barker, and Paul Marmora went down one afternoon last



week to see the area and it is quite promising. The area is 22 feet by 19 feet, near the building housing the moose. There are a number of gardens being built or extended, and we will be able to shift some of the food plants and non-native perennials to these gardens, so the garden we maintain will be strictly wildflowers. After the initial set-up, we will maintain a monthly weed tidying up. We will need a corps of volunteers to install and maintain the garden. Those working will have access that day to the park when their duties are finished.

## What's Growing Now ...

Speaking of volunteers, our plant sale is coming up on June 1<sup>st</sup>. As you know, the proceeds from the **Plant Sale** are designed to supply any money the club uses to fund the grants. This is our only fund-raiser, so we need to go all out to make it the best possible. We will meet for clean-up at Lee Karabelnikoff's house at 7435 Old Harbor Ave on Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of May from 10:30am-2pm. This does not take a very long time, as we have cleaned it for the last few years. Raking, bagging leaves, cutting a few limbs and clearing out rose runners is most of the job. Set up of tables and tents will take place Thursday, 30May from 2-5pm. Plants may be brought to the house on Friday, the 31<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 9pm. Please place them near the signs designated for those types of plants. All plants must have white and yellow tags, or they will not be accepted for the sale.

Remember, we will have a Garden Craft corner this year. The crafts will need to be reflective of gardens or garden art. A suggestion is to have string tags with the price and initials of the owner on them. We will need volunteers to staff the craft area. Everyone offering items for sale will need to be there at some time or other and there may be time for others to assist as well. We also need cashiers, tag wipers, talliers, and floaters for the plant section, as usual. Many of us are there all day, but the minimum shifts would be morning: 8am-11:30am and afternoon: 11:30am – 3pm. We must have the teardown and clean-up done by 5pm.

Please take note that the deadline for the **Flower Judges School** is June 1<sup>st</sup> as well. There will be a late fee for registrations received after June 1<sup>st</sup>. The symposiums are the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, the judging school is the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, and for those seeking certification, the test is the 17<sup>th</sup>. Remember that one does not have to take the entire program, nor does one have to seek certification to participate. **See the Alaska Garden Clubs website for details and sign up information.**

The Wind Spinner for the Sally Karabelnikoff memorial has arrived!! The installation will be sometime this summer at the Alaska Botanical Garden. We will send announcements as we hear of them.



Seeing as we have no formal meetings May through August, we will start a new feature in the newsletter called “**In the Garden ....**”. It will take the place of the wildflower of the month feature while there are no meetings at which the wildflower is presented. Send Kathy or Paul your photos of outstanding flowers or trailside flora to dazzle and encourage the rest of the club. It would be nice to have the botanical name, if you know it, and a few words are always encouraged.

This month, we are featuring a spectacular forsythia being trained upright on the side of a house, and a couple of Primulas from members gardens

***Forsythia suspensa v. Northern Gold*** is a relative of the olive family. Although forsythia is normally a floppy bush, it can be trained to become a hedge, or in this case, into an upright shape. This specimen is already about 12 feet tall.



### Primulas

