



Wildflower Garden Club Newsletter

September 2019

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Messages from the Presidents

I was in Fairbanks last week and came home via Paxson Lake. On the way up the Parks, the scenery was progressively more colorful and beautiful. It got frosty in Fairbanks our last night, most of the leaves were gone, and on the way back near Fort Greeley, there was fresh snow on the ground. Sigh. An interesting time of year for me—I am so exhausted from all the non-stop gardening, potting, selling, the state fair in Palmer and then the yard clean-up, that I am quite glad to see everything going to sleep, and I find the first few snows lovely and restful. After a month or so, I am DONE with restful and want plants in any shape or form. I bet I am not alone! Plenty of reason to enjoy the start of up of all the club meetings again! It will be fun to see you all again at the WfGC meetings.

Paul

Fall time ... one of my favorite seasons, though I do say this with every change of season as each brings its own special beauty, feel and smell to my senses. The crisp mornings are happening more frequently and frost on my lawn is becoming a daily sight. The frenzy of keeping up with watering after this summer of record heat, planting, weeding and deadheading has slowed, and now the chores of putting the garden tools away and perennials to bed for the year are on my daily agenda. I am still always surprised at how quickly our seasons change in what seems like the blink of an eye! It was nice to see so many members at our September meeting and catch up on what we have been doing in our gardens and long summer days, and I look forward to the remainder of this year's monthly meetings along with the great lineup of programs that have been planned for 2020.

Kathy

What's Growing Now

Club elections are around the corner. Expect some talk about people running for board positions at the next club meeting and then the elections at the November meeting by the club members present. October meeting is also the time when the WfGC club looks at the By-laws and proposed amendments, or additions—which will be also voted on at the November meeting.

Expect a separate communication about the proposed amendments to the by-laws, which we will discuss at the October meeting. It is suggested that you familiarize yourself with the current by-laws listed in the yearbook beforehand and make note of any comments or additions you might want to suggest at the meeting.

September meeting was at Dennis and Annie Ronsse's home. What a wonderful time. Dennis was very pleased that he was able to give demos in his garden, which he feels is much more effective than having to use few boxes to simulate a garden in different stages. He was surrounded by the abundance his soil amendments have brought about, so we could see the proof of what he was teaching us. We had a wonderful potluck meal with the club members afterwards.



The work at Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) is starting to roll. As discussed at the meeting, the club is in favor of collaborating with other clubs in a joint effort of Anchorage area garden clubs. We are in the process of applying for a grant from the National Garden Clubs Plant America initiative to help fund that effort. Right now, AWCC is working on hardscaping before winter and we plan to start planting in spring.

Alaska Botanical Garden asked us to poll the members at our next meeting (September) to ask members' opinions about when to dedicate the Wildflower trail in Verna's honor. The group decided that fall/winter would not be the best time to have the ceremony and would prefer to wait for the work to be completed and for the simple ceremony to take place in late spring or early summer. ABG has been so advised.

This year we had our usual largest zucchini contest winners and our first Division award for the Perennial/Biennial award. The Junior Zucchini awards were given to: 1st Entry – Wiley DeVilbiss, Palmer; Katie Christenson, Chugiak; Gabriel Twing, Palmer (Jr ages 6-12) – 2nd Entry – Caleb Wraith, Wasilla; Zachary Korn, Wasilla; Hannah Korn, Wasilla (Jr ages 6-12), Deangelo McDaniels, Wasilla; Jaden Davis, Wasilla; Grace Korn, Wasilla (Jr ages 13-17)



The Perennial/Biennial awards were given to 1st Entry winner Kali Stamnes, Chugiak for her Hollyhock and 2nd Entry winner Felicia Dock, Wasilla for her Delphinium.



Flower Judge School #2 is coming up on 12-14OCT. Anyone who took the Horticultural days of Course 1 flower judges school will be allowed to start the judges school with Course 2 and can take Course 1 later for the full credit. Contact Carol Norquist at Norquist@alaska.net if you are interested.

We are still requesting assistance with the Wildflower-of-the-Month presentation at monthly meetings and for contributions to the newsletter. More people make the presentations more interesting and varied. Feel free to share gardening tips, recipes, pictures ... every little bit helps to make our newsletter even better.