



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

November 2020 Newsletter

P.O. Box 240563
Anchorage, Alaska
99524

FB: Wildflower Garden Club
akwildflowers@gmail.com
www.wildflowergardenclub.org

Messages from the Presidents

Be it as it may, winter is here, and what is finished is done, and what is not done I have decided was meant to be done in the spring anyway... After the whirlwind with elections and the review, vote and updates of the Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules, and now preparing the yearbook for publishing, there is no dearth of things to still be accomplished. We welcome a new board of officers, and shower extreme gratitude on our faithful and longstanding Member-at-Large, Annita Magee. We have a couple of workshops planned for December, and then the year starts again with our monthly meetings, albeit it will continue to be on Zoom for the time-being. I hope all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving and upcoming holiday season. I am thankful to be apart of this club!

Paul

As we come closer to the end of almost a year of unknowns, and as difficult as it may seem at times, I have come to realize there is always something to be thankful for. One of these 'somethings' has been the ability of getting and sharing in fellowship and friendship with our club Zoom meetings. Sending you my warm wishes from home to home and from heart to heart wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

Kathy



What's Growing Now?

What a pleasant session we had at our last meeting! It was so nice to see all the slides of peoples' summers. Kathy Liska did a wonderful job assembling all the photos people sent her. We have addressed the not-so-pleasant addition to the slide show and believe we can prevent it from happening again. Unfortunately, there are small-minded people out there with nothing else to do but try to show off their shortcomings.

Announcements

We have two workshops planned for December.

The first is our traditional wreath or centerpiece making session with our friend Darryl Leiser at **Dimond Greenhouses from 10am to 12pm on Dec 3rd**. This will be an in-person session, masked and distanced, at the greenhouse at **1050 W. Dimond Blvd**. **The cost is \$30/person** for this members-only event. **We will need confirmation by Nov 27th via email at akwildflowers@gmail.com.**



The second will be a **Zoom workshop** on how to make a Kissing Ball for the holidays. We will have the session on **Dec 17th from 10am to 12pm**. **Participants will pick up a kit at Alaska Wholesale Flower Market at 7437 Old Seward Hwy**. **The cost for the workshop is \$35 and the deadline for registration and payment is Dec 7th**. The registration form was sent to the club email, and **the form can be sent in with the check to the Wildflower Garden Club at PO Box 240563, Anchorage, AK 99524**

If anyone needs assistance with the Zoom program, please let us know and we can help out or have another practice meetings Email to akwildflowers@gmail.com to ask for assistance. You do not want to miss this fun event!

Unfortunately, the club has decided to forgo the traditional Holiday Luncheon this year. The current climate of the pandemic makes the proposal too dangerous for us to host.

It is our sad duty to report the passing of two pillars of the Alaska gardening community. Longtime local gardener Mary Shier has passed away. Mary will be remembered for all the different gardening groups she touched. Her special passion was the herb study group, and Mary assisted in that Division as well as Judged in Outdoor-Grown Vegetables at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer for well over 25 years.

Ketchikan has lost a gardening stalwart with the passing of Lee Skidmore. Lee was the President their local garden club and was with the Alaska State Garden Clubs for a long time. In fact, Lee was Second Vice President for the Alaska State Clubs.



Membership Renewal

It is the time of year to renew our club memberships for the upcoming year 2021.

Remember, to be included in the next yearbook's list of members, you will need to send in the paperwork and pay your dues by December 1st. This year you may print the membership form from the email sent to club members on Nov 4th, or access the form from www.wildflowergardenclub.org under the membership tab. If you print a copy of the form and send in a check, the membership cost is \$20 with an additional \$15 for each family member (only one yearbook will be shared in a family membership). If you fill in the form online and pay electronically, the cost is an additional \$1 for member to cover the processing fees at the credit card company.

We would like to recognize members' birthday months, so there will also be a spot on the membership form to include that information. Month—not year! If sharing birthday information is an issue for you, you may always write n/a on the spot on the form.

Club Business

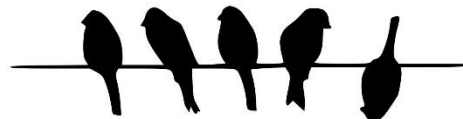
The vote for the Board of the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska was completed Nov. 16th and the slate of officers presented was approved unanimously by each vote cast.

The 2021 Officers are:

Co-President: Kathy Liska
Co-President: Paul Marmora
Vice President: Barbara Baker
Secretary: Barbara Carrick
Treasurer: Cindy Walker
Member at Large: Sally Byrne-Flores
Member at Large: Ruth Bauman



The sign proposed for the Native Plant Garden at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center has been developed and we have received a copy of the layout. It is very nice!



Committee Chairs Needed!

We are in need of committee chairs for the following committees: Publicity, Social Media, Conventions, Historian, Yearbook, Grants, Programs. The chair does not have to be the Lone Ranger—a pair of you could work on these committees together! Please help—there are too many duties for just the board members to handle these items. We might be forced to shut down some of these programs.

Wildflower of the Month

Submitted by Paul Marmora

Juniperus communis var. depressa

Synonyms: *Juniperus canadensis*, *Juniperus communis* ssp. *depressa*, *Juniperus depressa*

Common names: Alaska Juniper, Common Juniper, Old Field Juniper, Prostrate Juniper

Junipers are a member of the Cypress family, and *J. communis* is considered the most widely spread native conifer in the world. It is native to the western and mid-range United States, north through Canada and Alaska, into Greenland and Northern Europe, with one isolated stand in the Atlas Mountains in Africa. Although quite adaptable, the Common Juniper thrives in sunny, dry soils in wooded areas, on hillsides and mountainous locales, in cooler climates.



In Alaska, the shrub is commonly 12-18 inches and rarely grows more than three feet tall, though in other native habitats it can grow to six to eight feet, very occasionally even growing to 35 or 40 feet in well protected areas. A spreading shrub, *communis* can grow in patches up to 12 feet wide, often the thick woody stems will bury themselves in the soil and the clumps of foliage are quite far from the main root ball. The insignificant blooms are yellow and often occur in June in Alaska.



The foliage consists of needles growing in whorls of three sharp and pointy spikes. For most of the year, the needles are a bluish green, although winter foliage is often a yellowish brown. The bark is exfoliating and is a reddish-brown in color.



The fruit are small, waxy, somewhat hard, and berry-like and covered in a bluish gray powdery coating. The 'berries' are used to flavor gin, cooked with meats and fish, and in red cabbage dishes. Young shoots are sometimes used to make cold tea.



Members Corner ... An encore from the November slideshow.



Photos courtesy of:

Alis Schmitt - Lewesia

Janet Hartmann - Dahlias

Cindy Walker – Primulas

Elaine Estey - Chocolate Lily

Kathy Swick - Gentiana

Members Corner ... An encore from the November Slideshow.



Photos courtesy of:

Kelly Liska - Moss Campion

Paul Marmora - Lily & Iris

Kathy Liska – Clematis

Sally Byrne-Flores – Peony

Jeanette Bock – Oriental Poppy