



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska July 2021 Newsletter

P.O. Box 240563
Anchorage, Alaska
99524

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

Messages from the Presidents

An odd season: it feels like fall AND it feels like summer. Timing is certainly off schedule this year, but the plants are still blooming and growing. I guess nature can handle it when things go awry. At least we do not have the horrible heat and dust bowl conditions that they are having in the lower 48. As I have watched the weather reports, it makes me even more thankful to live up here. I hope your gardens are flourishing and you are able to be outside enjoying your own paradise.

Paul

It is hard to believe it is the middle of July already! I have not checked off enough to-dos from my lists to be this far into the season yet. So many things going on in my world. A new Grandson, family visiting from outside, trying to make time to work on Verna's trail at ABG (thank you Sally Byrne-Flores) for keeping up on it... you rock!), volunteering at the Rose Garden, the annual WGCA plant sale, two nice Garden Tours last week, weeding, deadheading, watering, and from now until September my usual get ready for the Fair work. I need more time than this short season is willing to give. Oh well, I know it's par for course given I choose to garden in Alaska... and enjoy every minute of it! Hoping you are taking pleasure in the sunshine when it appears and these long days of summer.

Kathy



What's Growing Now



We are very thankful for **Carroll Samuelson** stepping in when the first part of our tour was no longer possible and volunteering to have our club visit her home and gardens and to host the bring-a-bag lunch there. Carroll has spent the last 20 years developing her yard into a Botanical Garden worthy haven. Nooks and crannies abound with lovely sculptures and vignettes of incredible detail. Plants are lovingly displayed with regard to color and architectural precision, making the entire experience a delight. Coupled with Carroll's memories and anecdotes, it makes time spent in her own corner of Eden a lovely and rewarding respite. See more photos below in Members Corner!



We are thankful also to **Debbie Hinchey** for her agreeing to move up the time of the **Centennial Rose Garden tour on July 15**. (See those details below).

We have heard no further details about the dedication of the Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail at ABG, but rest assured we will let you know when we do.

Do you have something else you would like to share in the Newsletter such as recipes, garden ideas or info? This is also the perfect time to begin sharing your summer gardens, Alaska wildlife & adventure pictures for our November meeting slide show! Please submit your photos to Kathy at akliska@aol.com

We would like your ideas on what would be of interest to you for monthly programs in 2022. Is there something you are curious about finding more information on? Please let us know at akwildflowers@gmail.com

Special wildflowers that bloomed this month



Birth Flower
of July: Larkspur

Paul Chan, Julie Ginder, Tobi Harvey, Robin Hill, Shirley Luedke, Beverly Luedke-Chan, & Alis Schmitt.

The birth flower for July is larkspur. Often expressed as "wearing one's heart on the sleeve". Larkspur is used to symbolize openness and lightness, as well as the fickleness. However, different colors have

different meanings, pink larkspur is associated with fickleness. White larkspurs are associated with joy. Purple larkspurs are used to convey the message that a receiver is a sweet person. Waterlily is also used as the birth flower for July. It represents majesty, open heart, and pure heart.

Announcements

The **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** in Portage has graciously made available a tour on **Thursday, July 29 from 11am to 1pm** for our garden club members to tour the facility and view the native plant garden we have assisted in. This is available at a cost of only \$10/person. We need interested people to **RSVP to Paul Marmora by Monday, July 26 at pmarmora@aol.com** so AWCC knows how many to expect. **We will have a bring-a-bag lunch at the bear viewing pavilion. Parking is always tight there, so carpooling is a must.** If someone needs a ride, please say so when contacting Paul. Hope to see you there!



Remember that the **Alaska State Fair** in Palmer is slated for Friday, August 20 through Monday, September 6. They have added an extra weekend! Although the Fair will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week, the **Fairgrounds will be open for Crops & Flowers Entries on Wednesdays August 25 & September 1 from 12-9 p.m.**

There is also an opportunity to volunteer amidst all the fun and bustle. Co-president Kathy Liska is in charge of the entire horticulture display in the barn and is taking names of people that would like to assist in



taking entries on Wednesdays, August 25 & September 1 from 5-9pm, and on Thursdays, August 26 & September 2 from 8am-Noon. No experience is necessary. You will easily pick up on what needs to be done. It is a great deal of fun to be there! **Please contact Kathy at 337-2196 or akliska@aol.com** for more information if you are interested in helping to bring these exhibits to the fruition of “**Seeing is Believing!**”... the 2021 theme.

Time for a new board!!

Kathy Liska and Paul Marmora will not seek re-election for the co-presidents' position for the upcoming 2022 year. We are, of course, committed to assist in an advisory position for the first year to whomever the new president(s) will be. **Cindy Walker will not pursue continuation of her position as Treasurer.** The rest of the board has not decided one way or the other, so the club should be prepared to elect all new members of the board.

Being a member of the board is a very rewarding position, but it is a lot of work for those members. Nominations for positions will open in September through the appointed nominating committee.

Club Business

We are in the midst of our discussion about continuing affiliation with the State and National Garden Clubs. There have been some wonderful points made in the discussion forum on the email thread at akwildflowers@gmail.com. Please weigh in with your point of view. This is potentially a huge step for the club, and we want to be sure everyone has a say before the issue comes to a vote in the early part of August.

July 2021 Treasurer's Report

Denali Federal Credit Union

Business Savings APYO .10%	\$6997.25
Business Checking	\$5734.69

Balances 6/30/21	\$12,731.94
-------------------------	--------------------

Morgan Stanley Balances 6/30/21	\$58,128.27
--	--------------------

Total Assets 6/30/21	\$70,860.21
-----------------------------	--------------------



2021 Plant Sale Final Report

Revenue - Plant Sale	\$12,850.50
Expense - Paid out to Sellers	\$9150.25
Expense - Supplies, Square fees	\$375.18



Income/Profit	\$3,325.07
----------------------	-------------------

Total

Committee Chairs Are Still 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 only the board members to handle these items. We will be forced to shut down some of these committees until they are filled.**

One of Anchorage's Best Kept Secrets!



On Thursday, July 15, 2021, the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska was privileged to have a guided tour of the **Centennial Rose Garden**. It resides in downtown Anchorage on the western end of the Park Strip. A surprising number of the folks had never been there, and a few had not even heard of it before. Fortunately, Rose Society president Debbie Hinchey was a wealth of information and set us all straight.

The garden was developed in 1967 in honor of the 100th anniversary of Alaska's purchase from Russia. Initially the garden was filled with hybrid tea roses, which it so happens were also developed in 1867. The hybrid teas are not hardy to Alaska, so initially the roses inside the hardy rose outer hedge were dug up each year and stored for the winter, and then replanted in the spring, with the majority needing replacing every three years. This became incredibly labor intensive, and the Rose Society decided to shift to only using hardy roses. Communication with rose gardeners in other cold locations and the dedication of a few hardy rose growers in Alaska have led to a collection of nearly 100 rose species, and the amassing of a rather decent body of knowledge on cold-climate roses. Grants in 2007 enabled more beds to be incorporated and enclosed and the garden achieved the glory the original planners envisioned.



A group of **dedicated volunteers meets on Tuesdays from 1-4pm** and works their way through the beds, weeding, dead-heading, pruning, mulching, removing mulch, replacing the mulch, reveling in what they call the Rose Garden Zen aspect of the work. The outer rose hedge and the surrounding Canada Red trees set the garden apart, and it is easy to forget one is in the midst of a substantial city. All are welcome to join and assist in the project. In fact, those on the tour spent a bit of time removing weeds as Debbie was speaking—and pointing out weeds she would have us pull out.

A very worthy destination when in downtown Anchorage!



Members Corner / Around the Garden...



Barbara Carrick has been busy upcycling around her yard!

A neat little greenhouse to grow her micro 'Tumbling Toms and a resting area to take it all in after a day's work.



White Fireweed in Alis Schmitt's garden. Pretty!



Lovely Hellebore & Pulmonaria full of blooms on Elaine Estey's grounds.





Pathways meander through almost one acre of delightful landscaping at the home of Carroll Samuelson. Many water features, perfectly placed yard art, and sounds of nature fill this special hidden jewel in east Anchorage.

