



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska Newsletter ~ April 2022

P.O. Box 240563
Anchorage, AK
99524

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

Messages from the Presidents

Oh my goodness!! The extra daylight is intoxicating!! Seedlings are popping up in the flats, I found *Iris setosa* in the barrel out front already grown to 1 inch tall. Catkins are on the willows, the piles of snow are getting smaller (I know it will snow again, but so what?), bulbs are peeking through the snow along the foundation, and what is that yellow thing in the sky called again? It could be my imagination, but are the bud nubs on the birches and forsythia looking just a tiny bit more swollen? Who cares about the puddles? Who could be bothered by the dust being thrown up by cars? What's another chip in the windshield from melting ice-loosened gravel? The plants are gathering their haunches to make that leap into the growing season! Yes, I may be getting a little giddy from the warmer temps and extra light. Yes, I know we have another month or more where it could get snowy and cold again. Don't rain on my parade!! Hopefully, we will be able to see each other at the Midtown Mall Spring Garden Show on 16 APR **Paul**

A few days of blue skies and sunshine can fool us into believing that spring has finally arrived after a long winter making us antsy to uncover our gardens as the snow melts. I will patiently wait a few more weeks to make sure that Mother Nature has really put us on defrost mode. This is the perfect time to clean up my shrubs and trees of the 3 D's – damaged, diseased, and dead wood, especially after the heavy snow this past season. The coming weeks will offer us new beginnings, new opportunities, and new green plant life to take pleasure in! **Kathy**



What's Growing Now

Thursday, April 14 at 10am – “Pioneer Peonies” with Denise Bowlan (ZOOM ONLINE)

Denise Bowlan, of Pioneer Peonies in Wasilla was our speaker for our April program. The peony industry has put Alaska on the map in the global floral market. It was encouraging to hear the challenges and successes they have experienced from raw ground to a productive farm, sending flowers around the world. It was amazing to see how much production the Bowlan family has been able to garner from three quarters of an acre. How many peony bushes can you fit into your yard? Denise encouraged us to follow up with the **Alaska Peony Society** at alaskapeonysociety for types, forms, and availability of different types of peonies for our gardens.



Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Debbie Cameron, Barbara Carrick, Deb Cologgi, Donna Dewhurst, Helen Craig, Rebecca Gramm, and Alice Samuelson



The April birth month flowers are the **daisy** and the **sweet pea**. The daisy stands for innocence, purity, and true love, while the sweet pea is a way to say goodbye, send good wishes, or merely convey a thank you.

Stemming from Old English, daisy comes from “day’s eye.” The daisy is actually made up of two flowers. The center eye—or disc floret—is a collection of tiny florets, while the ray floret (the petals) radiate from the center, resembling the Sun. Because a daisy is made up of two flowers that work in perfect harmony, they have long been a symbol of true love.

A bouquet of sweet peas is a way to say goodbye or thank you for a lovely time. It can also mean blissful pleasure, good wishes,

kindness, gratitude, and friendship. They are found in a wide range of colors with hundreds of varieties.

(Apologies to new member Doug Poage. We missed his birthday month in the March newsletter. Congratulations Doug!)



Thank you to the 14 people who responded to the poll we sent out recently and for all the programs they have volunteered to take part in!

Club Business

Susitna Elementary was the WGCA grant recipient in 2021. We helped supply funding to build their outdoor classroom. They asked for direction and help in planning the installation. We have offered to donate some native plants to be used in their instruction on things Alaskan. The school has their own volunteer group that we would assist. **This collaboration in the initial set-up is just a one-time project that club members can become involved in if you are interested.** As we are getting ready to see our gardens and plants again, we ask that you look for native plants that you are willing to donate to the school. **This project will take place after our plant sale on June 4th.**



Specifically – but not exclusively – we are looking for the following native plants:

Ferns

Native Currants

Aleutian Speedwell

Wild geraniums

Jacobs Ladder

Iris setosa

Native Cranberries

Forget-me-nots

Native Columbines

If you find things, please send a note to akwildflowers@gmail.com to tell us what you have available. Please also write if you are willing to help design or plant their natural woodland garden setting.

April 2022 Treasurer's Report

Denali Federal Credit Union

Business Savings APYO .10%	\$7,500.76
Business Checking	\$1,040.56
CD - 6 month	\$2,502.02
CD - 12 month	\$5,008.15

Balance 3/31/22 **\$16,051.49**

Morgan Stanley Balance 3/31/22 **\$47,761.68**

Total Assets 3/31/22 **\$63,813.17**



Look for an email from the Wildflowers in the next few days about opening discussion on what will happen with the club in 2023.

Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

Saturday, April 16 - 9am to 4 pm

Children's Marigold Giveaway

One of our most popular Service Projects is coming up this weekend on Saturday, April 16th at the Midtown Mall Spring Garden Show. This is always a fun get together for club members. We will hand out or assist children in planting their very own marigold to take home from the WGCA booth. **Be sure to wear your Wildflower name badge!**



Thursday, May 12 – 10am* to 12pm Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail Clean-up at AK Botanical Garden

Club members work hard to keep the Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail weed-free and attractive for the Anchorage community and summer visitors. Bring your favorite tools as well as gloves. A bring-a-bag lunch is optional for a picnic in the garden afterwards for those who choose to do so.

***At 10:00am, the ABG staff will perform a required orientation, including bear awareness, for those working that and any future days.**

Thursday, May 21 – 11am to 1pm

Native Plant Garden Clean-up Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center

We plan to go to AWCC in Portage for the same purpose in the native plant garden. We will arrange a carpool and meet with members of other garden clubs to get that garden prepped for the tourist season.



Saturday, June 4 – 9am to 3pm

WGCA Annual Plant Sale! Location to be determined.

We have received an email from **Michael Mazzacavallo**, a habitat biologist with the Department of Fish and Game. The Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership is hosting a community riparian planting day on August 4th at the Fish Creek Park, in Big Lake. The goals of the event are to educate on the importance of healthy riparian habitats to fish, improve degraded streambank vegetation, and improve community public spaces. He is looking for sources of Alaska native plants, and wanted to reach out to invite any of our interested members to participate in this community planting day. Contact Michael directly at Michael.mazzacavallo@alaska.gov if you know someone who sells wildflowers, would like to donate plants, or volunteer your help.

Member's Corner

Orange-Pineapple Cream Cake

1 pkg. butter cake
11 oz. Mandarin oranges, juice & all
1/2 cup oil
4 eggs, beaten

Mix together and pour into 9x12 pan.
Bake 30-35 minutes.
(You can use layer pans but bake 25-30 minutes)

Frost with:

1 - 3oz. Pkg vanilla instant pudding
1 - 8 oz Cool Whip
1 large can crushed pineapple, juice and all.

Mix together and spread on cool cake.
Keep refrigerated. This sheet cake can serve a large group.

Shared by Elaine Estey



Shared by Alis Schmitt – Lenten Rose (Helleborus x hybridus)

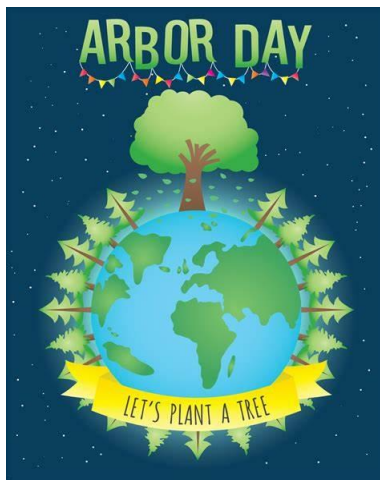


The purpose of the Member's Corner section is to inspire and encourage each other. Photos, gardening hacks, recipes, articles on a plant that you grow or want to know more about, something you think would be of interest to us, are all welcome. The deadline for submitting items for our newsletter is the 1st of each month. Send to Kathy Liska at akliska@aol.com or Paul Marmora at pmarmora@aol.com

~ Our Motto... Show, Share and Tell ~

Announcements

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org (formerly Earth Day Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2022 is '[Invest in Our Planet](#)' **Make every day earth Day!**



National Arbor Day is April 29, 2022. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the tree planter's holiday! It was first observed in Nebraska in 1872. Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April in the lower 48. **However, in Alaska it is celebrated on the third Monday of May, this year on the 16th.**

It is marked by the planting of trees and emphasizes caring for them as a way to sustainably protect our planet's natural resources. People often dedicate trees to loved ones. Trees help slow climate change, foster biodiversity, improve our communities, and provide a stronger future for everyone. More information can be found at www.arborday.org

