

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ June 2022



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Messages from the Presidents

It is amazing how much work spring and summer bring in Alaska! With the recent hot dry spell we have had, I spend at least an hour and a half watering every evening. That and the repotting, the plant sales, the weeding, and all the prep for the annual plant sale fill the days and part of the nights, really. I wouldn't have it any other way, though. I think we enjoy gardening so much because the winters are so long. We even spend large parts of the winter thinking about, dreaming about and prepping for the growing season. And it is so worth it when those green shoots burst through the soil surface. Got to love this place we live in!

Paul

Thanks a million to all the members who have been actively engaged in the recent club service projects at ABG and the AWCC in May, and to those who recently gave your time to lend a helping hand, your horticulture knowledge, and sharing goods from your gardens to make the WGCA Annual Plant Sale another huge success. You are the best! It was with a heavy heart that I was not able to take part in the Plant Sale this month as I continue my recovery from health issues earlier this year, and testing positive for Covid on Memorial Day weekend. I spent the day reminiscing over the past 29 years that I have taken part in this event, from when I began working for Sally K back in 1993. I truly missed what I know was a blast of a day full of laughs and making good memories with all of you.

Kathy



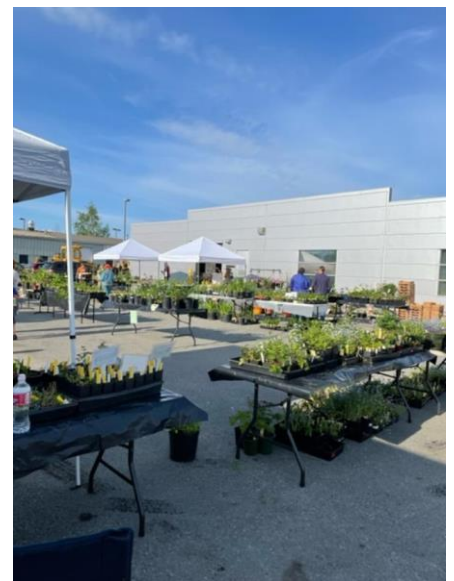
What's Growing Now

About a dozen people showed up at the AWCC native plant garden to do the first weeding of the season. A number of plants have heeled in comfortably and are spreading and thriving. We did find an infestation of voles that had chewed the bark off some of the woody shrubs and limbed them. These have to be addressed somehow before plants are replaced. Apparently, the little rodents love the rocky terrain of the garden. We all pitched in and had a very pleasant afternoon working together. One of the best things about the native plant garden is the collaboration of area gardeners regardless of club affiliations.



Photos -
Cindy Calzada

The 2022 annual plant sale was a great success. It was the best year of recent years. The location at the former DMV building on the corner of Benson and Spenard is ideal for accessibility and parking. Coupled with the sparsity of perennials available in the local area, interest was high, and a lot of plants went across our tables. Volunteers joined together at 7am and blasted out and covered the tables, set up tents, and hauled out thousands of plants. all in well under 2 hours. It was an impressive show of solidarity and like-mindedness. Numerous comments were overheard about how people loved that we have so much fun at our sale. Way to go Wildflowers!

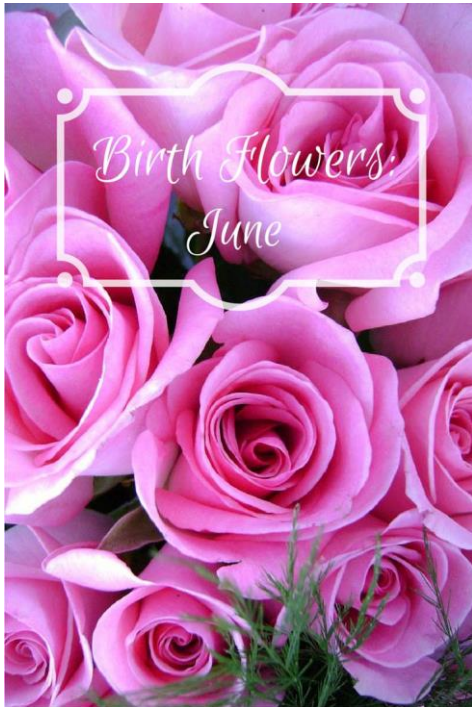


Photos – Gina Docherty

MORE PHOTOS FROM THESE TWO EVENTS CAN BE FOUND BELOW IN OUR MEMBER'S CORNER!!!

Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Mary Britton and Eli Fleischer



June's birth flowers are the rose and honeysuckle.

As summer begins, no bloom better signifies the beauty and sweetness of the new season than the rose. Available in a rainbow of colors, there are more than 100 types of roses. The rose is a symbol of devotion and love, and the various colors of roses carry their own meanings, from passionate love (red) to friendship (yellow).

You may not be as familiar with honeysuckle because honeysuckle flowers grow on shrubs or flowering vines and are not frequently used in bouquets. Honeysuckle flowers attract butterflies, so plant one in your yard if you enjoy the colorful pollinators!



Club Business

Now that the plant sale is over, if you have any native plants you would like to donate to the collection of native plants for Susitna Elementary school, please let us know what you would be willing to donate. You can email us at akwildflowers@gmail.com so we can start a list. We have a message in to Jennifer at the school to find out how to proceed. We'll keep you posted.

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

May 2022 Treasurer Reports

Denali Federal Credit Union

Business Savings APYO .10%	\$7,501.39
Business Checking	\$1,166.69
CD - 6 month	\$2,502.85
CD - 12 month	\$5,011.49
Balance 5/31/22	\$16,182.42

Morgan Stanley Balance 5/31/22 **\$44,848.42**

Total Assets 5/31/22 **\$61,030.84**

Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail – Wednesdays – 10am to Noon

Ongoing maintenance throughout the summer, such as weeding, watering, and pruning takes place each Wednesday. Come enjoy a few hours of peacefulness on this wonderful trail with fellow members and other volunteers. Use the ABG Signup Genius link below to schedule a day with us.

[Horticulture Volunteers: Horticulture Volunteer Opportunities \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

Summer Garden Tours – Thursday, July 14 – 11am to 2pm

First on the tour we will visit the Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden, an impressive urban farm which grows an abundance of vegetables for the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry. Our host will be Advanced Master Gardener Don Bladow.

Due to some logistics issues at the Government Hill Commons, the gardens are no longer available for our planned tour. Member Madge Oswald has graciously volunteered her yard for a tour. John and Madge have a spectacular collection of gardens and have been featured on numerous garden tours in the past for many different garden clubs. There are many areas of interest from primroses to hostas, from rhododendrons to peonies, from fruit trees to shade gardens, from lily collections to vegetable gardens. We are very thankful for this opportunity. Madge has invited us to share our **bring-a-brown bag lunch** after the tour, and will supply bottled water, napkins and seating. This promises to be a wonderful garden visit for us. We will proceed there after our tour of the Harvest of Hope Memorial garden, probably arriving at about 12:30. Address and directions will follow in an email.

Our **Floral Bouquet Workshop** at the Ronsse's garden will take place in **August (exact date to be announced later)**. Their beautiful flower gardens and generosity in sharing have been an inspiration to others for years. Each participant will bring two vases and be able to build an arrangement from the flowers in the gardens. The cost will be \$20, there will be 2 workshops, and a limit of 12 people per workshop. We will keep you posted.

Announcements

2022 Alaska State Fair Volunteer Opportunity!

It is always a busy and fun time working the State Fair **Crops Department** at the Horticulture building. Volunteers help with set-up, entries, placement, clerking, and judging over the course of the Fair— August 19 - September 5. It is quite the vibrant place to be, and a great opportunity to learn something new and to share your own gardening experiences with numerous local gardeners.

Entry dates are August 24th and 31st from noon to 9pm and Judging dates are August 25th and September 1st from 8am to noon (or when done). Admission and parking passes are provided.

Contact Kathy Liska at 907-301-0317 or via email at akliska@aol.com to volunteer.



Member's Corner Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center Service Project – May 21, 2022

Photos - Cindy Calzada



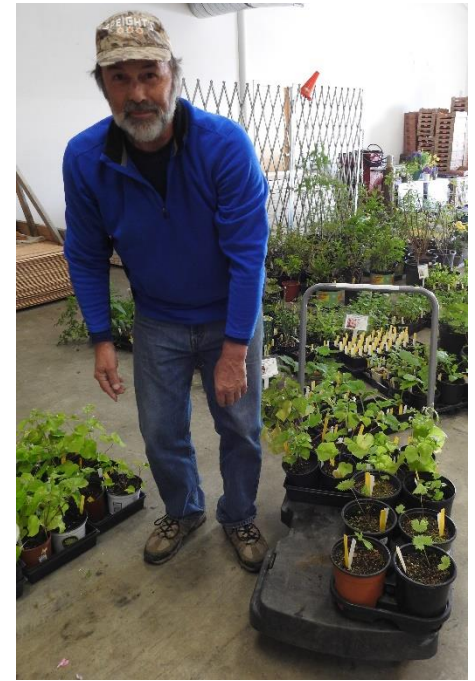
Fresh new spring growth, weeding, the smell of soil, and getting our hands dirty always brings out the best in a gardener!



Sharing in the fun, memories, sunshine, and the love of horticulture!

WGCA Annual Plant Sale – June 4, 2022

Photos - Cindy Calzada





“May your life be like a wildflower, growing freely in the beauty and joy of each day.”
-Native American Proverb



Blooming on Verna's Trail at the Alaska Botanical Garden

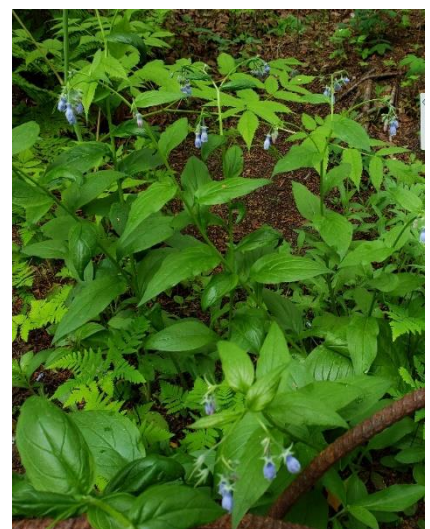
Photos - Kathy Liska



Nagoonberry – *Rubus arcticus*



Starflower – *Trientalis europea*



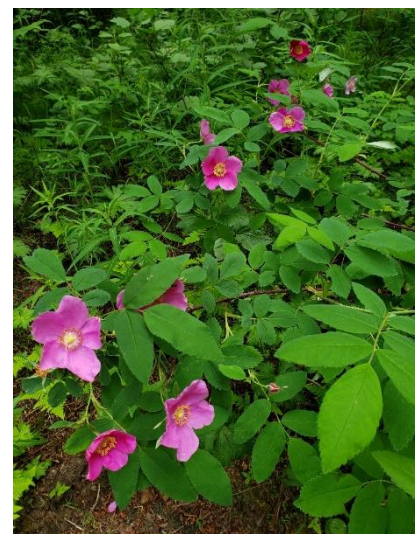
Bluebells – *Mertensia paniculata*



Frigid Arnica – *Arnica fridiga*



Chocolate Lily – *Fritillaria camschatcensis*



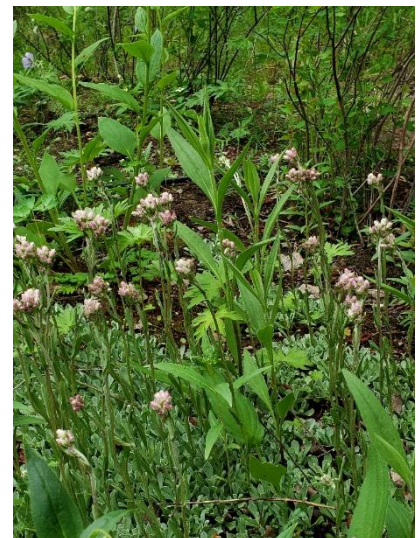
Prickly Rose – *Rosa acicularis*



Shooting Star – *Dodecatheon pulchellum*



Dwarf Dogwood – *Cornus canadensis*



Pussy Toes - *Antennaria*



Maurine Loopstra has been playing with plants for nearly a century. She loves growing things and makes sure to always plant plenty of seeds so she can enjoy the thrill of watching them grow. For years she supplied marigolds to the children's give away at the midtown mall spring garden show--this year, she gave a large group of spider plants, which all were snatched up. For our annual plant sale, Maurine and her family donated a large number of raspberry canes to be sold for the club's profit, and the last few of them are still selling at Paul's ongoing plant sale. May we all enjoy our gardening as much as and for as long a time as Maurine is doing!



Photo – Daughter Diane

One of a kind AK Forget-me-not Decals

This custom made decal was designed with the Wildflower group in mind. Available in 3 sizes, 3 colors, choose outline or with solid color background. Made of waterproof vinyl, they can be applied to car windows, tumblers/water bottles, notebook/journal, laptops, etc...

Size - Cost: 3" - \$5 5" - \$7 7" - \$10

Contact Kathy Liska at akliska@aol.com



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 ~



Spinacci al Forno

From the kitchen of Paul Marmora

Ingredients:

Olive oil

2 tsp each of fennel seed and dried rosemary leaves

60 ounces frozen chopped spinach

1 tsp granulated garlic

1 TBSP each of dried basil leaves, oregano leaves, parsley flakes

8-10 eggs, beaten

2 Cups grated parmesan

1 ½ Cups seasoned Italian breadcrumbs

Method:

In a covered saucepan, heat 2 TBSP olive oil, add in fennel seed, rosemary and frozen spinach and sauté over medium low heat until no longer frozen and heated throughout. This will require constant stirring so the spinach does not burn as it defrosts. I normally set the timer for every 3-4 minutes in case I get distracted with other preparations.

Once spinach is heated throughout, add in granulated garlic, basil, oregano, parsley, stir well, cover, and turn off heat.

Preheat oven heat to 350 degrees.

In a bowl, mix spinach, egg, parmesan, and breadcrumbs. You can adjust cheese and breadcrumbs until the mixture is the consistency of thick oatmeal. Place in 9X13 inch baking pan and place in oven, baking for approximately 45-60 minutes. You can test the mixture by inserting a knife into the middle. It should come out clean and dry.

Serve as a main course much as you would a meatloaf. The Spinacci is also extremely good the next day served as the filling for a sandwich. I like mine on Italian bread with a bit of mayonnaise.

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