



# Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

## Newsletter ~ May 2022

P.O. Box 240563  
Anchorage, AK  
99524

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

### Messages from the Presidents

With the typical vagaries of weather in Alaska, it seems we have won the jackpot (so far) weatherwise. It received messages from friends in Utah and Calgary that they have had snow in the last few days. While we were enjoying bright sunshine a few weeks ago, it was snowing a foot in Tahoe and Oregon! No complaints from this gardener, although I am deeply amazed that the season is just starting, and I already am fallen behind! How does this happen, year after year? Well, I do plan to spend every day outdoors in the gardens during the summer. In fact, I always get a chuckle when every summer my Dr says, "Now that's more like it!" when checking my weight. He always forgets that I am in the yard from 0800-1800 every day and don't bother coming in to wash off my hands to get something to eat. And then he freaks out in winter (winter is for eating, since there is nothing happening in the yard. And the kitchen is right there...). That's OK, there is growth in every season—sometimes it's the garden and sometimes it's the gardener! I hope you can grow what's pleasing to you this season!

**Paul**



**Kathy**

## What's Growing Now

The April Service Project, the Children's Marigold Giveaway, was a resounding success under project lead Barbara Baker. This year we incorporated craft & plant sales which drew a great bit of attention. Of course, many children were delighted to triumphantly carry away their trophy marigold. Many Thank-You's to the numerous volunteers who helped make it run smoothly.

The meetings this month are consisting of our service projects at the Alaska Botanical Garden on the Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail and the native plant garden at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. It will be nice to see each other in person again.



## Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Deb Blaylock, Janet Hartmann, Kathy Liska, Mary Moline & Cindy Walker



May's birth flowers are Lily of the valley and Hawthorn.

Known for its bell-shaped white blooms, Lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*), is a classic, fragrant, spring flower in the Asparagaceae family. The lily-of-the-valley isn't a true lily as it belongs to the asparagus family! This flower signifies the return of happiness, sweetness, humility, and motherhood.

The Hawthorn flower (*Crataegus*) is a genus of shrubs and trees in the Rosaceae family. It's a small white or pink flower that is typically seen blooming on a plant or bush instead of in a bouquet. However, its red berries are sometimes used as fillers in bouquets to add color and texture. The Hawthorn flower is a symbol of hope.



# Club Business



Susitna Elementary, our club grant recipient in 2021, is eagerly looking forward to the period after our plant sale to acquire any native plants our members would like to donate to help populate their native wild setting for their outdoor classroom. They did also ask for direction and help in planning the installation.

The school has their own volunteer group that we would assist. **This collaboration a one-time project that club members can become involved in if you are interested.**

As our ground has pretty well thawed by now, we ask that you look for native plants that you are willing to donate to the school. **Again, this project will take place after our plant sale on June 4th.**

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

- |                           |                        |                           |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Ferns</b>              | <b>Native Currants</b> | <b>Aleutian Speedwell</b> |
| <b>Wild geraniums</b>     | <b>Jacobs Ladder</b>   | <b>Iris setosa</b>        |
| <b>Native Cranberries</b> | <b>Forget-me-nots</b>  | <b>Native Columbines</b>  |

If you find things, please send a note to [akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto: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 Reports

<b>Denali Federal Credit Union</b>	
Business Savings APYO .10%	\$7,501.07
Business Checking	\$1,214.84
CD - 6 month	\$2,502.43
CD - 12 month	\$5,009.79
<b>Balance 4/30/22</b>	<b>\$16,228.13</b>
<b>Morgan Stanley Balance 4/30/22</b>	<b>\$44,901.88</b>
<b>Total Assets 4/30/22</b>	<b>\$61,130.01</b>



## Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

**Thursday, May 12 – 10am\* to 12pm**

**Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail Clean-up at Alaska 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!**



We are once again privileged to have our plant sale at the old DMV building on the corner of Benson and Spenard (1300 W Benson, to be precise). This proved to be an ideal location for our sale last year. It has excellent exposure and accessibility and is quite roomy. We hope that many members will join us both in selling plants and garden crafts and in working at the sale. It is an event full of excitement and energy, and is a great way to encourage and advise new gardeners.

The plant sale is our largest fund raiser and is extremely popular with the gardening community. We will need many hands to make it another tremendous success!

**Please look for information coming soon about selling criteria and volunteer opportunities in an email from the club.**

## Announcements

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

## **Member's Corner**

### **Cucumber Raita**

**From the kitchen of Paul Marmora**



The English cucumber has immature seeds and skin, so it can be used whole. The regular cucumber has a thick skin and mature seeds, so those must be removed.

Raita is used as a side dish with Indian cuisine most often, but works with any spicy food. The combination of the fresh cucumber and mint and the soothing yoghurt are very effective at cooling the effects of pepper on taste buds. It is also delicious served as a dip with crudité on a summer day.

### **Ingredients**

- 1 English Cucumber, unpeeled or one regular cucumber, peeled and seeded
- 2 Cups Greek Yoghurt
- 1 inch fresh ginger, peeled and grated
- ½ tsp each of ground coriander and cumin
- ½ tsp salt, plus a little more
- 1 – 1 ½ Cups fresh mint, chopped

### **Method**

Grate cucumber into colander, let sit for about 20 minutes. Layer grated cucumber around colander and sprinkle with salt to encourage liquid to weep out of cucumber. After about 20 minutes of draining, press cucumber against sides of colander to remove any residual moisture.

Mix all the other ingredients in a medium bowl and stir well. Stir in grated cucumber and adjust salt. Raita is a little sour, but salt will adjust the flavor as you prefer.

Refrigerate for approximately 30 minutes to encourage flavors to blend.

**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](mailto:akliska@aol.com) or Paul Marmora at [pmarmora@aol.com](mailto:pmarmora@aol.com)

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

