



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ October 2022

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Messages from the Presidents

Hunkering down seems to be the order of the day. This is when we pull out the mulch, fences, burlap, or whatever we are accustomed to using. This the time to spread out the coffee grounds, bone/blood/fish meals or other fertilizers on our garden beds. It is also about when we wistfully cut back the flowering plants and pull down the hanging baskets (or will they make it just one more week?). For me it is always a mixed bag of emotions—regret that summer is over and the growing season finished for another 7 months, versus the exhaustion and relief that I don't have to deal with watering (although this year was certainly an exception since July) and schlepping plants around anymore. The exhaustion will carry me through January and then I will start getting antsy to get my fingers dirty again. I certainly am thankful for you all and look forward to seeing you in November.

Paul

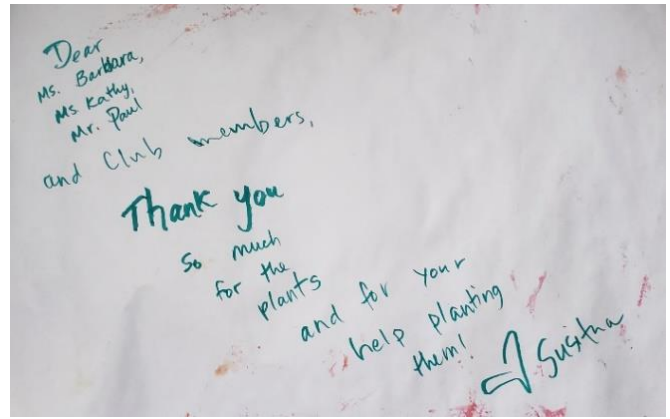
Fall is one of my top 3 favorite seasons. You can probably guess which is #4. The best thing about fall for me is that it is a season for simple pleasures once the yard chores have been completed and gardens have been put to bed. The crisp air smells amazing and the leaves have changed color. This time of year also brings 'sweater weather' which I happily welcome back to break out and feel cozy in my hoodies once again. It is truly a nice reminder of how beautiful life can be. I have started placing orders for my favorite seed catalogs which will begin arriving in a few short months to treat my eyes. I am looking forward to the next few months and opportunities to meet in person at the November meeting and upcoming workshops. Take care garden friends!

Kathy



What's Growing Now

A few club members joined staff and families in installing the donated native woodland plants at Susitna Elementary School on Thursday, September 15th. The members placed plants where they were best suited around the paths and edges of the wooded area and showed the willing volunteers how to plant their treasures. The volunteers fell to with eagerness and it was fun to see the enthusiasm and care the kids brought to the task. The area should be quite lovely in a couple of years when the plants settle in.



Our topic for the October 13th meeting was **"It's All About the Seed"** with member **Jaime Rodriguez**. Jaime is quite expert at gathering, storing, and propagating from seed. He clearly detailed his processes and reasons for his success. Get out there and start gathering!

To plant a seed
is to believe in tomorrow!

Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Cindy Calzada, Joyce Goodell, Donna Kellar, Paul Marmora, Jeannette Newcomb, Madge Oswald, Fran Pekar and Kathy Zins.



The October birth flowers are the marigold and the cosmos. Today, the focus on the sunny colors and bright hues of Marigolds is on optimism and prosperity. Traditionally associated with remembrance and grief for the departed, the sunny colors of the marigold represented the sunlit paths that guide the departed loved ones. The bright yellow and orange also represented the beauty and warmth of the rising sun and its power to resurrect.

The Cosmos is a symbol of order, peace, and serenity. From the Greek word for order, harmony, and the world, Mission priests in Mexico gave the flower its name because of the evenly spaced petals.

In addition to the order and harmony expressed in the blossom's symmetry, grace, and simplicity, it is re-emphasized in the symmetrically balanced, regularly doubled production of leaf and blossom stems.



Member of the Year!



It is with pride and gratitude that members of the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska have selected **Barbara Baker as Member of the Year for 2022**. Barbara is a vital and active member of our club; she has acted as Vice-president since 2020 and cheerfully dons any hat asked of her. Barbara has overseen the WGCA Grant committee and awards, and written grant requests for the project at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. In 2022, Barbara stepped in to oversee the Children's Marigold giveaway and information booth at the Spring Garden show at the Midtown Mall. She has followed up with past grant recipients, being point of contact with Susitna Elementary school and represented our club at a tour of the Eagle River Nature Center. On numerous occasions, Barbara has stepped in to act as Secretary at both monthly and Board of Director meetings. She staffed the Craft Corner tent at our club plant sale this year. Barbara does all this with a calm, cheerful, and positive demeanor, and is a pleasure to work with at all times. Congratulations, Barbara, and we thank you wholeheartedly for all you do with the club and for standing with us.



Club Business

September 2022 Treasurer Reports

Denali Federal Credit Union	
Business Savings APYO .10%	\$7,502.65
Business Checking	\$3,097.76
CD - 6 month	\$2,504.53
CD - 12 month	\$5,018.18
Balance 9/30/22	\$18,123.12
Morgan Stanley Balance 9/30/22	\$40,440.57
Total Funds 9/30/22	\$58,563.69



November Election

The November 10th monthly meeting will be the start date of the WGCA Election time frame for the **2023 Board of Directors**.

Electronic (email) votes will be accepted from
Thursday, November 10 - Monday, November 15 at 5pm.

All members were emailed the Voting Procedures,
Slate of Nominees, and Election Timelines on October 12th.

The Official Ballot will be emailed to all members on the November 10th.

Currently the slate is as follows:



Co-President: Christie Holshouser

Co-President: Kellie Staples

Vice President: Barbara Baker

Secretary: Mary Britton

Treasurer: Cindy Walker

Member at Large: Sally Byrne-Flores

Member at Large: Ruth Bauman

Membership Renewal

It is the time of year to think about renewing our club memberships for the upcoming year 2023. **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.** You can access the membership 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 immediate family member (only one yearbook will be shared in a family membership). You can also fill in the form online and pay electronically. An additional cost of \$1 per member registration will be applied to cover the processing fees of the credit card company.

We like to recognize members' birthday months in the newsletter, so there is also 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 in that spot on the form.

Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

The **November 10th** meeting will be our member photo share. The slide show will be made from members' pictures of their gardens and Alaskan adventures. Please send your photos to Kathy Liska at akliska@aol.com. We are going to try to have an in-person potluck meeting. If we do meet in person, remember, we have the **food drive** where we donate canned or shelf-stable food items to the bins set up at the Central Lutheran Church.

Fresh Holiday Wreath or Centerpiece making at Dimond Greenhouses ~ December 8th at 10am with Darryl Leiser. The projected workshop cost will be \$30-35 per person although price may change depending on cost of supplies. **This event is open to WGCA Members and family.**

The **Annual Holiday Luncheon** and spirited gift exchange is tentatively planned to be held at **Central Lutheran Church** on **December 15th from 11am-1pm**. More info coming soon!

In Memory



We regret to inform you that we have heard from Tad Rockwell that his mother, long-time member **Liz Rockwell**, has passed away. Liz joined the Wildflower Garden club in 1992, and served as president for an impressive 7 years: 1998, 1999, 2003, and 2005-2008. Liz was a regular, constant attendee at meetings and was a principal cashier at our plant sale for many years. Liz moved to Washington a couple of years ago to be near her family and for better care opportunities. Liz passed in May, and funeral arrangements are planned for November in Pennsylvania. The family has asked that if people wish to make a donation in her name, they can donate to the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska.



Member's Corner

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

