



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ April 2023

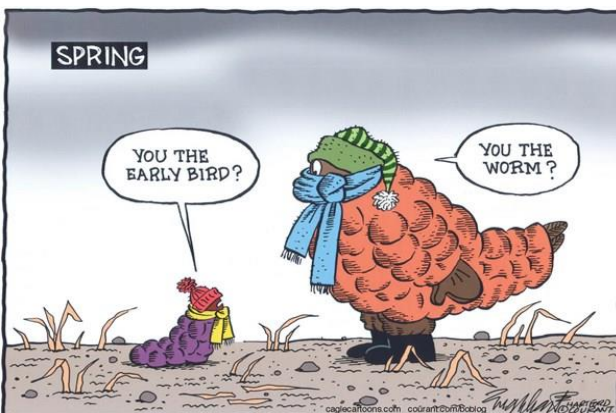
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Messages from the Presidents

"April showers bring May flowers." Isn't that a lovely saying? Longer and sunny days have us all wishing this snow would hurry up and melt already. While we know we'll get more snow (and wish it wasn't true) we also know it's on its way OUT! Thank goodness! After being color deprived all winter, we're ready for a little vibrancy. Not only plant wise but also tan wise! We're visiting greenhouses and soaking up the smell and beauty of all the early seedlings. Some even made their way home with us... even though we were "just going to look NOT buy anything!" We're talking gardening with our friends, comparing notes, and soaking up any advice offered for this upcoming season. We're planting, double checking our garden plans, and studying those seed catalogs once again to see what else we think we need. Soon we'll be outside walking our gardens and checking out how they fared over this for the record books winter. It truly can't come soon enough!

Thanks to Paul Marmora for teaching the Wildflower Workshop last month on forcing tulips and sharing tulip history with us. Fun to learn that in 1634 tulip mania hit the world where one tulip could command the value of an Amsterdam canal house. WOW! Interestingly, three years later their value dropped drastically to become almost worthless. Our bulbs are quickly growing, and we look forward to their splash of color soon! We hope to see you on April 22nd at the Garden Show in the Midtown Mall. We thank Kathy Liska and Barbara Baker for coordinating the event. If you haven't signed up to help, please do that now! It's a fun day with gardeners of all levels everywhere! There's a little of something for everyone. Lots of great information, plants, fun garden art and great conversations. It's an event you don't want to miss. See you there! **Christie & Kellie**



What's Growing Now

The April 13th Monthly Meeting program was all about how to succeed at 'Growing Arctic Garlic'. **Deb Blaylock** has been growing garlic in Palmer for around 20 years. She has managed to get it down to a science and always has massive heads of garlic like you see in grocery stores—not a common feat in Alaska. Deb has the ribbons garnered from her outstanding crops from the state fair to prove it! She shared tips and types for successfully growing garlic in our far northern climate. What a privilege to have such an accomplished and down to earth gardener as a club member!



Deb's recommended Garlic Bulb Sources:

Best to purchase early for best choices of varieties.

Look for early shipping dates – some companies don't ship until late in October!

Filaree Farms – www.filareefarm.com

Peaceful Valley – www.groworganic.com

Seed Savers Exchange – www.seedsavers.org

Tulip Workshop – March 16th & 18th

We had two workshops on forcing tulip bulbs. We started with the history of tulips, had some interesting facts of their cultivation, their spread from the mountains of Kazakhstan to the rest of the world, facts on their care, and then proceeded to fill vases with rocks and bulbs. Many thanks to **Alaska Wholesale Flower Market** for hosting the event.



Special Wildflowers that bloomed this month

Debbie Cameron, Barbara Carrick, Lou Ann Clark, Helen Craig, Donna Dewhurst, Rebecca Gramm, Karen Jenkins, & Alice Samuelson



The birth flowers for April are Daisy and Sweet Pea.

In the language of flowers, daisies symbolize new beginnings and rebirth, in addition to love, cheerfulness, beauty, purity, innocence, hope, fun, and affection. The daisy family **Asteraceae** contains more than 32,000 species of plants in 1,900 genera. Members of the family are commonly called daisies, asters, or sunflowers.

Several species of daisies produce a high amount of nectar, making them attractive to pollinators. You can expect the garden favorites, bees, and butterflies, as well as a host of other pollinators in your daisy patch.

Lathyrus odoratus, commonly known as the sweet pea, holds the symbolic meaning of blissful pleasure. Its upright, clumping flower clusters also symbolize good wishes, friendship, kindness, and goodbyes. Many believe that these blooms leave a positive sentiment and a thoughtful way to say thank you as they further symbolize gratitude.



Announcements

April's meeting will be the last monthly meeting until **September 14**, after the Fair. We do have the service projects, our plant sale in June, the tours in July, and a workshop or two to tide us over.

To combat the devastation caused by the recent spruce-bark beetle infestation, the **Anchorage Audubon Society** has decided to hand out white spruce seedlings at various locations starting in late May or early June. We have decided to provide a table for them at our plant sale to assist them in their distribution efforts.

The **Alaska Native Plant Month** proclamation has been approved for May 2023! Thank you to the Alaska Native Plant Society and many other organizations for making this a reality. There will be numerous events in May to recognize this special month.



Earth Day – April 22
Reduce, reuse, recycle!

National Arbor Day – April 28
Alaska Arbor Day – May 15
Plant a tree!



Club Business

March 2023 Treasurer Reports

NuVision Credit Union

Business Savings	\$7,505.48
Business Checking	\$3,230.56
CD - 12 month	\$5,039.41

Balance 3/31/23 \$15,775.45

Morgan Stanley Balance 3/31/23 \$44,094.60

Total Assets 3/31/23 \$59,870.05



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

Children's Marigold Giveaway at the Midtown Mall Garden Fair Saturday, April 22nd 9am-5pm

Volunteers are needed to help plant with the kids, answer questions about the WGCA, and assist with sales. Please use the Sign Up Genius link below to volunteer some time at this gardening event.

Be sure to wear your Wildflower name badge and apron if you have one.

[Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska: Children's Marigold Giveaway \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)



Remember - There is never a fee to use Signup Genius. It is only to assemble a list of names- whether registering for a class or to volunteer for something. For any workshops or classes with our garden club, any fees will be collected at the event or via a check sent to the PO Box.

If you get a request for a fee and credit card #, do not give them anything.

Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail Spring Clean-Up at Alaska Botanical Garden

Thursday, May 9th 10am-Noon *Date pending upon snow presence.*



Club members help to keep Verna's Trail weed-free and attractive for the Anchorage community and summer visitors. Bring your favorite tools as well as gloves. We also have a 'bring-a-bag lunch' optional for a picnic in the garden afterwards.

Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage

Native Plant Garden Spring Clean-Up

Saturday, May 20th 11am-1pm.

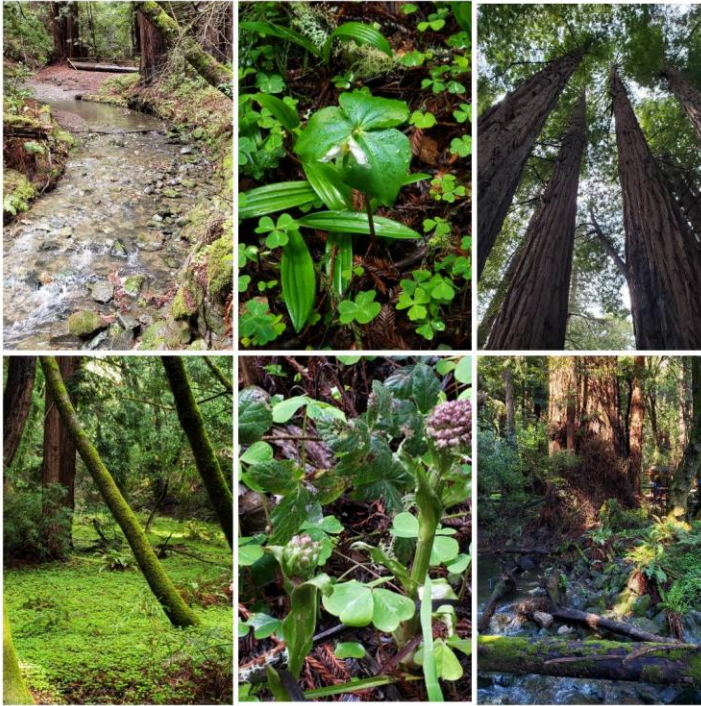
Date pending upon snow presence.

There is an area there where we can share a bring-a-bag lunch. This is a carpool event. Contact: Paul Marmora



Member's Corner

Muir Woods - Mill Valley CA



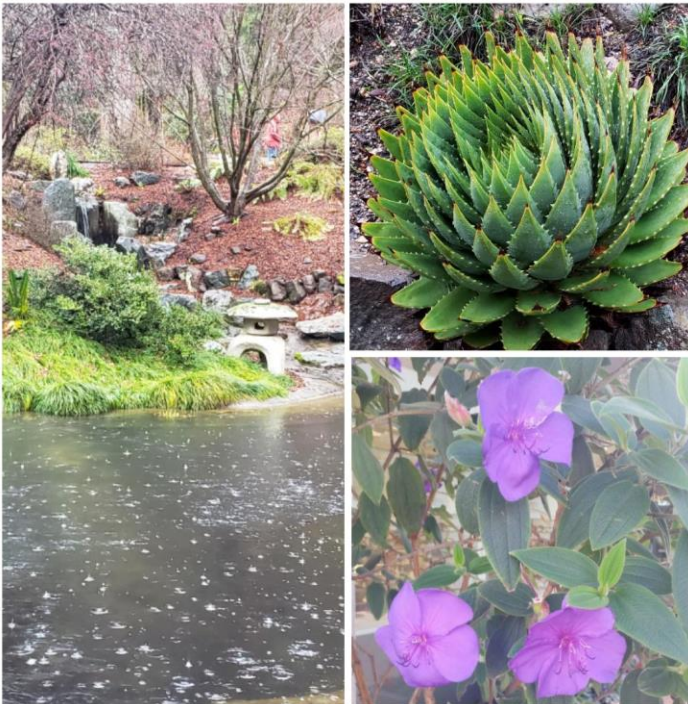
Pacific Trillium, Redwoods, Bay Laurel, Coltsfoot

Bodega Bay Headlands - Sonoma CA



Ice Plant (*Carpobrotus Chilensis*)
Pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*)

Berkeley Botanical Garden - CA



Spiral Aloe (*Aloe polyphylla*)
Princess Flower (*Tibouchina urvilleana*)

Marin County - CA



Tulip Tree
Buddha's Hand Citron
Koi Carp

Photos by - Kathy Liska

Boyce Thompson Arboretum - Superior AZ

Photos by – Alis Schmitt



Do you have something you would like to contribute to the monthly Newsletter?

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 at akliska@aol.com or Paul at pmarmora@aol.com

