



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ December 2023

P.O. Box 240563
Anchorage, AK
99524

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

Message from the Presidents

December is a fun, busy, chaotic, cookie-baking, gift-wrapping time of year. A time to gather and enjoy time together with family and friends. Christmas lights are everywhere, and cheer is in the air. From our home to yours, we wish you joy and peace. December also means we will soon be adding daylight to our days – Woohoo! Seed catalogs are starting to grace our mailboxes and like Santa we will be checking our list twice to make sure we have everything we need for the coming year.

With the close of the year, we say goodbye to two of our board members. Many thanks to Ruth Bauman, Member-at-Large and Kathy Liska, Past President. They are not going away – thank goodness – just stepping away from board duties. Look for them behind the scenes. Kathy will continue to chair the Newsletter along with Paul, and the Membership Committee. We cannot express enough how valuable their knowledge is to the club. All of us Wildflowers say a huge “Thank You!”

We are excited to see what 2024 has in store for us. The programs and workshops we have lined up will hopefully be interesting and (as always) full of fun and laughter. We will be optimistic Mother Nature will be kind to us this next growing season, but either way we will embrace it together. We look forward to another year of working with each of you and to our wonderful fellowship. Wishing you all the very best season.

Kellie & Christie



What's Growing Now

About a dozen of us gathered at Dimond Greenhouses on Thursday, December 7th for the club's annual **Wreath & Centerpiece Making Holiday Workshop** with Darryl Leiser. Five people opted to make centerpieces and seven made wreaths. As always, Darryl's 3rd generation expertise and special brand of humor made for a delightful time working together. Matt Leiser, now a 4th generation wreathmaker, is carrying on the family tradition.



Nine people gathered with Paul at the Alaska Wholesale Flower Market at 10am on Saturday, December 9th to make a clan of **Holiday Gnomes**. These little characters (the gnomes) are very cute and bring a smile to everyone that sees them. That and the fun of being together again made for a very pleasant morning. Big thanks to Sally Byrne-Flores for assembling the gnome hats & gloves!



Our annual **Holiday Party** get-together—the final member event of the calendar year—took place on Thursday, December 14th at Central Lutheran Church. Seventeen 'Wildflowers' gathered to share an appetizer potluck and some people took part in a spirited gift exchange. Gathering together is always a pleasant occurrence, and having so many options at the end of the year, and during the holiday season makes it especially sweet. It reinforces how much fun the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska has together and makes us thankful for each other. **See the photos below!**





Merry Everything and Happy Always!

Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Mardie Lower, Dennis Ronsse and Stan Staples

December birth flowers are the **Narcissus, Poinsettia, and Holly.**

Narcissus is a large genus of flowering plants. It's often confused with daffodils or the March birthday flower since they are also part of the Narcissus genus of the Amaryllis family. This birth flower commonly stands for purity, sweetness, respect, faithfulness, and simplicity.



Poinsettia flowers have deep spiritual meaning and are a symbol of good luck, purity, and prosperity. Its bright red color symbolizes love, joy, and good fortune. It is also a symbol of rebirth and renewal since it blooms during the winter months when nature is dormant.

The Holly tree symbolizes peace, protection, goodwill, optimism, love, happiness, and good fortune. It is often associated with the ideas of rebirth and renewal, making it a fitting choice for December, a month that marks the end of one year and the beginning of another.



Club Business

The application period for 2024 Grants is open until January 31, 2024.

Please share this opportunity with those who may be interested in applying.

Information can be found using the following link to our website.

<https://wildflowergardenclub.org/wgca-grant-application.pdf>

The goal of the **Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska (WGCA)** Grants Program is to encourage botanical education by funding scholarly studies, scientific research projects, or work in the areas of Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Forestry, Botany, Agronomy, and Plant Pathology and/or allied subjects.

The minimum request considered will be \$200. The number of awards will vary each year dependent upon the amount of money requested and the total amount to be awarded.

November 2023 Treasurer Reports

Denali Federal Credit Union

Business Savings	\$7,579.53
Business Checking	\$5,326.82
CD- 9 month (matures 7/30/244) 6%	\$5,025.61
Balance	\$17,931.96

Morgan Stanley Balance **\$45,789.40**

Total Funds 11/30/23 **\$63,732.36**



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

Alaska Botanical Garden's own **Rachel Shedd** will address us in our next member meeting on **January 11th, 2024, at Central Lutheran Church starting at 10am.** A tenured horticulturist, Rachel's presentation will teach us about **"Taking Care of Your Body in the Garden."** Gardening is a physical hobby, and we need to maintain our ability to continue our hobby for the present and future.

Other notable events taking place at January's meeting will be the installation of the new Board of Directors and the Annual Report to remind us of what we accomplished in 2023.

Announcements

2024 Membership Renewals – www.wildflowergardenclub.org

Thank you to the 75 who have renewed their Wildflower membership for 2024. We are grateful for your continued and dedicated support of the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska as we go into the **51st year!** The Wildflower group is organized by resolute members of the Anchorage gardening community with an emphasis on practical gardening, workshop activities, field trips, the sharing of talents, and inspiring fellow gardeners who are simply 'Wild About Flowers!'

The 2024 WGCA Yearbook/Directory and name badges for new members will be arriving in mailboxes soon!

- F** is for festive; the youth of your spirit.
- A** is for animated; let your energetic spirit shine.
- L** is for lofty; your ambitions are high.
- A** is for adaptable; for the world is full of unique challenges.
- L** is for life; that you live so well.
- A** is for affirm; the certainty of knowledge
- L** is for laughter; you spread wherever you go.
- A** is for aware; of your surroundings.
- L** is for lively; your life is full of energy.
- A** is for assertive; a great leader.

