

What's Growing Now

Club member Dr. Marilyn Barker has spent much of her life exploring Alaska's byways as part of her fascination with native plants and in line with her career as Professor of Biology and Botany at UAA. Marilyn shared the names and photos of Alaska's 33 (or 34--depending on who's speaking) different orchids at the February 9th meeting. She included humorous anecdotes about where they are found, stories about trips into their habitats to take the photographs, and shared which orchid is the easiest to grow in our area. Marilyn also told us about CITES (the Convention for International Trade of Endangered Species and how all wild orchid species are illegal to dig up. She suggested getting some from people who already grow them--maybe at the plant sale this year? A delightful presentation indeed.



Special Wildflowers that bloomed this month

Barbara Baker, Scott Cameron, Billye Goff, Kat Karabelnikoff, Annita Magee, and Teri Zell



Violets, Primroses, and Iris are the February birth flowers. Violets, those delightful early bloomers with the heart-shaped leaves, are the symbols of modesty, faithfulness, everlasting love, thoughtfulness, and dependability. Violets were used for medicinal purposes and to decorate and sweeten food in the Greek and Roman eras.

Primroses are native to Europe, the name *Primula* derives from the Latin word *primus*, meaning first—a reference to the very early blooming of the flowers. It has been associated with folklore and folk medicine for years. The ancient Celts believed that natural patches of primroses found in the forest were gateways to the fairies and that if a person ate one, they would see a fairy. The Norse believed the primrose was a symbol of Freya, the goddess of love, and to this day, it is thought to provide protection, safety, and love.

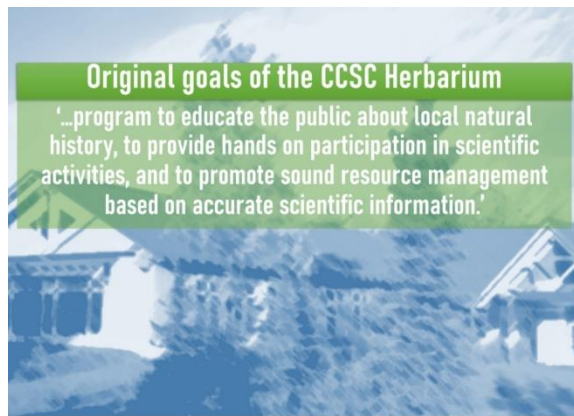


The Iris represents purity in Japanese culture and is thought to be cleansing of evil energies. In Western folklore, the iris bloom represents eloquence, good communication and mutual understanding. In Greek, the word iris translates as rainbow, or messenger—the myriad of colors available suggests the reference to the rainbow, but the Greek goddess Iris was said to have traveled rainbows to deliver messages.

Happy Birthday

Club Business

One of our Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska's grants in 2022 was awarded to **Dennis Ronse** who requested \$1000 for a UAA student to digitize, catalog, and develop signage of an orphaned herbarium voucher plant collection (donated to UAA) of the BLM Campbell Tract managed area, Chugach Mountains, and Limestone Gap. The information provides important cataloging of Alaska's botanical species that may be significant in such things as climate change studies. This is part of the final report which the club has received. A slide show was also submitted which will be shared at an upcoming monthly meeting. It has also been suggested that 20 members could enjoy a tour of the UAA Herbarium. If you are interested, please email the club at akwildflowers@gmail.com and let us know.



The Board of Directors has unanimously voted to repeat last year's donation to the Alaska State Fair for hanging baskets at the Agriculture building and entrances to the Fair. These flower collections are important to jazz up these areas and are often one of the things the fairgoers remember most fondly. We will repeat the \$1000 donation this year.

January 2023 Treasurer Reports

NuVision Credit Union

Business Savings APYO .10%	\$7,503.62
Business Checking	\$5,109.01
CD - 12 month	\$5,027.67

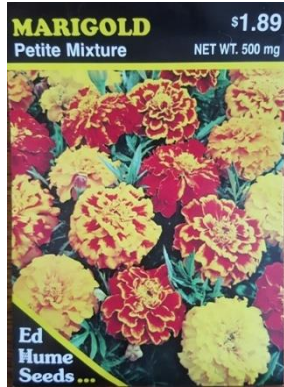
Balance 1/31/23 **\$17,640.30**

Morgan Stanley Balance 1/31/23 **\$44,127.64**

Total Assets 1/31/23 **\$61,767.94**



Announcements



One of our most popular Service Projects, the **Children's Marigold Giveaway** will take place on Saturday, **April 22nd at the Midtown Mall Garden Fair**. We will hand out and/or assist children in planting their very own marigold. Please consider growing the 'Petite' type, which works well with small hands. Fred Meyers has this variety in stock. With this in mind, in order to have blooming plants in April, which takes about 8 weeks, your **marigold seeds should be planted now!** Last year, over 100+ children walked away with a prized plant!

Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

Thursday, March at 10:00am

'Riley's Believe it or Not: Alaskan Insects'
Presented by Julie Riley

The meeting will be held in person at the Central Lutheran Church and on Zoom for those who are unable or unwilling to join in the group setting. We will send out the Zoom link a few days before the meeting.



Spring Bulb Forcing Workshop



We have received a donation of spring bulbs from the Eagle River Fred Meyer. We are thinking of a bulb forcing workshop to be held in **March**. We would like to gauge interest of our members in participating. Please let us know via email to if you would be interested in a workshop like this at akwildflowers@gmail.com



Native Plant Garden at AK State Fair?

An opportunity has come up at the Alaska State Fair. The management has expressed interest in developing a native plant garden to be placed around the fish wheel in the Gathering Place. It is in very rudimentary planning now, but the Fair can supply soil and perhaps some stones and earth moving equipment, and possibly a limited amount of funds to acquire plants or signage. They are looking for both native plant donations, plants for sale, and a group of volunteers to plant and perhaps periodically maintain the gardens. Is anyone in our club interested in being part of this? Let us know by email or contacting any of the board members.

Member's Corner

From the kitchen of Barbara Baker. She shared these at our February 9th meeting and everyone raved about these crispy treats. Who would have thought that cheese and Rice Krispies together would taste so good? We think you'll like them too!

Savory Cheese Rice Krispies Bites

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F

Prepare baking sheets with parchment paper

Ingredients:

1 cup sharp grated cheddar cheese

1/2 cup butter, softened

1 cup flour

1/2 tsp salt

1/8 tsp cayenne pepper

1 cup Rice Krispies

1/2 cup finely chopped pecans

Mix together grated cheese and butter.

Blend flour, salt and pepper together and add to cheese mixture. Blend until crumbly.

Add Rice Krispies and pecans and mix until fully blended. Shape into small to medium size balls.

Place on parchment covered baking sheets. Flatten balls with fork to no thicker than 3/8" thickness.

Bake at 375 degrees F for about 12 minutes.



Out and about on the
Gas Line Trail along
Campbell Creek

Photos by
Kathy Liska



Seed starting chart ... Shared by member Deb Blaylock

Palmer/South Central Alaska Seed Starting Chart 2022

January	February	March	April	May	June
Late-Jan	Early Feb	Early March	Early April	Direct Sow	Direct Sow
Echinacea	Hot Peppers	Dahlia bulbs	Kale	Carrots	Beans
Rhodochiton	Catnip	Bell/Sweet Pepper	Cilantro	Potatoes	Sweet Corn
Leeks	State Fair Cabbage	Kalettes	Sweet Corn	Beets	Zucchini
Shallots	Parsley	Marigolds	Lettuce	Swiss Chard	All Squashes
Onions	White Sage	Mid March	Dill	Lettuce	
Lemon Grass	Lemon Balm	Leaf fennel	State Fair cucumbers	Peas	
Rhodiola	Thyme	Tomatoes		Spinach	Transplants*
Rosemary	Stevia	Late March		Turnips	Sweet Corn
Artichokes	Hyssop	Broccoli	Late April	Cilantro/Dill	Zucchini
	Lavender	Cauliflower	Zucchini	Transplants*	Winter Squash
	Horehound	Cabbage	Winter Squash	Cauliflower	Summer Squash
	Oregano	Kohlrabi	Summer Squash	Cabbage	Tomatillos
	Stevia	Romanesco	Cucumbers	Broccoli	Tomatoes
	Leaf Fennel	Alyssum	Pumpkins	Herbs	Pumpkins
	Mid to Late February	Nasturium	Melons	Onions/Scallions	
	Sage	Holy Basil		Leeks	
	Celery	Calendula		Kohlrabi	
	Celeriac	Sweet Basil		Romanesco	
	Brussel sprouts	Tomatillos		Flowers	
	Scallions	Lily bulbs		Lettuce	
	Hot Peppers			Kalettes	
				Celery	
				Brussels sprouts	
			* These should be hardened off before transplanting.		

This is my personal seed starting schedule - it is not written in stone, and you can modify it to work for you. I start some things early as they are very slow growing, and I schedule things based on my available seed starting space and when I can move them from my grow room (some call it the laundry room) out to a larger heated area in my greenhouse. I am fortunate to be able to set up a shelter logic in my greenhouse to expand my seedling growing area. I move things from the seedling area in the house out to the heated area in my greenhouse (it's a 10 x 10 shelter logic lined with Reflectix insulation and Agribon with a small space heater) when the seedlings are large enough. This is generally around early to mid-March. Deb Blaylock, Alaska Master Gardener, Palmer, Alaska January 2022

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





Happy Valentine's Day!

I gave a hundred valentines.
A hundred did I say?
I gave a thousand valentines
one cold and wintry day.
I didn't put my name on them
or any other words,
because my valentines were
seeds for February birds!

By Aileen Fisher

