



# Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

## Newsletter ~ January 2023

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### Messages from the Presidents

A new year has begun, we are past the shortest day of the year and seed catalogs have begun gracing our mailboxes. It's always exciting to view the colorful catalogs when our world outside is all covered in white! Don't know about you but I tend to have a very long list of what grabs my interest before I trim it down to realistic needs. Outdoor spring planting may be 130+ days away but its sure fun to start planning! The 2023 WGCA Yearbook has been mailed with the dates for upcoming meetings and events. It's just as exciting to get as our seed catalogs with lots of interesting meetings and fun events planned for us! I look forward to seeing you there. Cheers to 2023! **Christie**

My husband Stan and I decided to leave and head to Texas for New Year and will be returning at the end of January. Enjoying the sunshine and placing all my seed orders. Yes, I brought seed catalogs with me! Houston had a pretty good freeze before Christmas so I'll get to play in the dirt while I'm cutting back all the plants damaged in my brothers yard. Excited for 2023 and all the club has planned. Will see you all in February! **Kellie**



## What's Growing Now

Mardie Robb presented via Zoom on the art of Gourd Growing and Decorating at our January meeting. Mardie's enthusiasm and enjoyment of gourds is quite contagious, and she hopes that by sharing her passion, that others will enter decorated gourds in the State Fair. It was fascinating to see how the seasoning of the gourds proceeds before the sculpture and painting begins. It is truly astounding the diversity, intricacies, and artwork her mind and hands are able draw out of humble gourds.



## Special Wildflowers that bloomed this month

Laura Ashlock, Alice Bethka, Sally Byrne-Flores, Gina Docherty, Christie Holshouser, Merry Johnson, Carol Lovejoy, Beth Terry, and Chris Wood



The traditional birth flowers of January are the **carnation** and the **snowdrop**.

Native to the Mediterranean area, carnations were originally pale pink and peach, but hybridizing has led to an enormous number of color variations. Translated from Greek, the flower is often referred to as the “flower of the

gods.” The fringe-petalled flower with a spicy fragrance, carnations were used in the Middle Ages to spice wine or ale and was used to treat fevers in Europe. Traditional herbal medicine used it to treat coronary and nervous disorders. The different colors are used to represent different meanings: different reds can mean admiration or deep love; white, innocence, pure love and remembrance; and pink, admiration and mother's love.

The Snowdrop is the second January flower. The snowdrop is famous for being the earliest flower in the garden, often blooming through the snow cover. Native to Europe and Asia Minor, the snowdrop has been naturalized throughout most of the cooler areas of the world. A very pure white, it is representative of Innocence. It is symbolic of hope and optimism in happy times and compassion in times of death, and so is used to express both celebration and sympathy.



♥ HAPPY ♥  
birthday

## **Club Business**

### **Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska Annual Report**

2022 was another activity packed year for the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska! The year was full of paradoxes as it was one of the driest Junes on record, and the wettest August in the wettest year on record. It ended with the snowiest December in many years.

We continued with the Zoom meetings for most of the year, as the pandemic kept raising its ugly head—safety of our members being our priority. Thankfully, we were able to return to meeting in person for our Thanksgiving potluck in November. It was so nice to fellowship with each other in person. We intended to do so again in December for our holiday get-together, but one of the “snowpocalypses” prevented that.

We had seven meetings with topics led by various experts to enrich our souls, from mulching, preserving herbs, and peony growing to gathering seed. We were privileged to have a virtual tour of the Jensen-Olsen Arboretum in Juneau, and had a delightful presentation on Up-cycling with slides from various members. Our service projects included the Children’s Marigold giveaway at the Midtown mall (at which we also had a successful sale), our clean up and tending to the Verna Pratt Wildflower trail at the Alaska Botanical Garden, the native plant garden clean up at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, and plant donation and planting advice at Susitna Elementary School.

Our plant sale in June was a resounding success, and we had delightful tours in July of the Harvest of Hope Memorial Gardens as well as a tour of the many lovely gardens at the Oswald’s. August saw many members volunteering at the State Fair in Palmer—always a fun and instructional occasion.

Our flower arranging workshop for August was canceled due to the plants being beaten by all the rain and by unforeseen problems that crept up, but we did have a successful gnome workshop in December, as well as the pleasure of our annual wreath and centerpiece making workshop at Dimond Greenhouses. A great year!

Vice president Barbara Baker was awarded the Member of the Year for 2022 in recognition of her outstanding record of service to the club in many capacities.

Kathy Liska and Paul Marmora have “retired” from the co-presidency after four years, and the mantle has been passed to Christie Holshouser and Kellie Staples, who are excited to bring their personal touch to club affairs.

The **2023 Approved Budget** was emailed to members on January 2.

Treasurer Cindy Walker and Co-President Kathy Liska completed the **2022 Financial Review** on January 2, 2023, with all WGCA accounts found to be in good order and balanced to the cent. This final report of the year was sent to members on January 13 via email. If you have any questions or concerns in regard to either of these, please feel free to contact Cindy Walker at [cynthia.ann.walker@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.ann.walker@gmail.com)

Outgoing Co-President Kathy Liska installed the **2023 Board of Directors** at the January 12th Monthly Meeting. Welcome to the new officers, and thank you to those who have returned for another year.

### **December 2022 Treasurer Reports**

#### **NuVision Credit Union**

Business Savings APYO .10%	\$7,503.62
Business Checking	\$6,468.33
CD - 12 month	\$5,027.67

**Balance 12/31/22** **\$18,992.62**

**Morgan Stanley Balance 12/31/22** **\$42,196.40**

**Total Assets 12/31/22** **\$61,189.02**

## **Announcements**

Our 2023 WGCA Yearbook were mailed out via USPS at the end of January. You should have received them by now. If not, please email the club at [akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflowers@gmail.com) and let us know that.

## **Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops**

**Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**

**'Native Orchids in Alaska' presented by Dr. Marilyn Barker**

Club member Marilyn has spent her career as a Professor of Biology and Botany at UAA, studying and photographing these beautiful plants and flowers and she is excited to share her knowledge with us.

**The meeting will be held both in person at the Central Lutheran Church and via 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.





## **Member's Corner**

Worth checking the link below out... beautiful photos!

**Shared by member Bob Estey** – “Take a look at this botanical/mineralogical wonder from Kyle Johnson, a former Chugach Gem and Mineral Society club member, geologist, and now, also hobby horticulturist”.

<https://www.succulentsandmore.com/2022/12/collecting-rocks-and-succulents-kyles.html>

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

## **Garden humor...**

