



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ May 2023

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Message from the Presidents

Gardeners turned out for the Midtown Garden Show. The main topic discussed was how happy everyone was that the growing season has arrived! Young and seniorly both enjoyed playing in the soil and planting marigolds. Smiles and laughter were abundant. It really was a fun day!

Winter seemed eternal and spring is lagging with our temperatures 10 degrees lower than "normal." But every day as we drive to and fro, we notice that there's bare ground in places we haven't seen in many months. Now we begin the process of keeping an eagle's eye on overnight temperatures, hardening off plants, cleaning yards, assessing winter damage, setting up our greenhouses, and experiencing pure delight at the discovery of emerging plants.

For us there is great pleasure in planning and planting our flower beds and gardens. This spring Kellie has a brand-new greenhouse to plant in! We can just taste yummy tomatoes and cucumbers that I'm sure she's going to share! You'll be able to see it and (maybe even taste too!) when we all get together for our summer garden tour and picnic on July 20th. However, one does ponder what we were thinking when we planted 72 peppers (Kellie) and 36 broccolis (Christie)!

We hope to see you at the Alaska Botanical Garden May 11th and Wildlife Conservation Center on May 20th for our spring cleanup service projects for the Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail and the Native Plant Garden planned for later this month, the ever popular WGCA Plant Sale June 3rd, and the Garden Tours & picnic July 20th. We look forward to catching up and hearing all about your wonderful garden adventures!

Christie & Kellie



What's Growing Now

Children's Marigold Giveaway & Fundraiser – April 22nd at the Midtown Mall

Many thanks to Wildflowers Barbara Baker, Kathy Liska, Christie Holshouser, Kellie Staples, Cindy Walker, Paul Marmora, Billye Goff, Alis Schmitt, Janet Hartmann, Tobi Harvey and Alice Samuelson who assisted and supported the club's booth.



Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail at Alaska Botanical Garden –

Postponed and Rescheduled for Wednesday, May 17 from 10am-12pm



On Tuesday May 2, Kathy and Paul went to the volunteer orientation (which is required for all those volunteering in any capacity at ABG), they took a look at the wildflower trail. We were scheduled to clean the trail on Thursday, May 11. Every bit of the trail garden was still covered in snow. The ABG staff also concurred that we should postpone the annual cleanup to a later date. We are working with ABG on scheduling an orientation to coincide with the trail cleaning for those who have not had the opportunity to do this mandatory course, which takes about 30 minutes.



ABG Volunteer Signup Genius Link - [General Volunteer Notifications: 2023 Horticulture Volunteer Opportunities \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

Weekly slots will be available throughout the summer keep the trail maintained on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm. Those who would like to help will need to sign up on the ABG Signup Genius link so they know who is coming and to keep track of volunteer hours.

Special Wildflowers that bloomed this month

Deb Blaylock, Janet Hartmann, Kathy Liska, Mary Moline, Jaime Rodriguez and Cindy Walker



The birth flowers of May are **Lily of the Valley Hawthorn**. While it may have lily in its name, the *Lily of the Valley* is not a “true” lily. It belongs to the *Asparagaceae* (Asparagus) family!

With its small, dainty, bell-shaped, fragrant flowers, it is a perennial groundcover that spreads aggressively given the right conditions. (As lovely and delicate as the blossoms are, the leaves are quite toxic, so consideration should be taken when planting). Often these woodland bunches are considered a very feminine flower type, and as such are known to represent motherhood, chastity, good luck, sweetness, and purity.

Hawthorns, of the Rosaceae (Rose) family, symbolize happiness, beauty, faith, longevity, and hope, but they also hold a more magical meaning. Some believe hawthorn trees or shrubs help shelter fairies, who act as their guardians. The fruit is an important winter food source for birds, and the thorny hawthorns also provide protective nesting areas safe from predators.



HAPPY
birthday

Club Business

April 2023 Treasurer Reports

Nuvision Credit Union

Business Savings	\$7,506.10
Business Checking	\$3,742.32
CD - 12 month	\$5,043.33

Balance 4/30/23 **\$16,291.75**

Morgan Stanley Balance 4/30/23 **\$44,590.24**

Total Assets 4/30/23 **\$60,881.99**

Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage
Native Plant Garden Spring Clean-Up
Saturday, May 20th 11am-1pm.

There is an area there where we can share a bring-a-bag lunch. This is a carpool event. **Contact: Paul Marmora** at pmarmora@aol.com or 907-360-3728 for more information and/or to volunteer to spruce the AWCC garden up!



Announcements

The **Alaska Native Plant Month** proclamation has been approved as of May 1, 2023! Thank you to the Alaska Native Plant Society and many other organizations for supporting and making this a reality. There are numerous planned events in May to recognize this special month. Below is a link for the calendar of programs that might be of interest.

<https://bit.ly/AKnativeplantmonth>

Annual Plant Sale – Saturday, June 3rd

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska
~ Annual Plant Sale ~
A Wide Variety of Locally-Grown Plants!



June 3, 2023
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

1300 W Benson Blvd
(Old DMV building)

Native Alaskan Plants
Perennials & Annuals
Berries
Houseplants
Trees, Shrubs, Roses
Herbs and Vegetable Starts
Garden Craft Corner

Arrive early for best selections!

Sale proceeds help fund the WGCA
Grant Program & Community Projects

Find us on Facebook!
www.wildflowergardenclub.org

The Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska offers a yearly plant sale to make available locally grown plants to area residents. 75% of the proceeds from the plant sale goes to the sellers (membership required), and 25% goes towards helping fund our grant, community service projects, and club maintenance.

One of the most fun parts of the sale is getting together with other like-minded folks. It is wonderful to see each other and to learn from experienced gardeners and to exhort, encourage, and advise folks newly bitten by the gardening bug.

Volunteers are needed between **7AM-6PM**. **Signup Genius** will be used for scheduling.

We have a potluck for all plant sale volunteers to keep our energy up throughout the day!

Contact Paul at pmarmora@aol.com or 907-360-3728 for more information.



PLANT SALE CRITERIA

1. The plants must be potted up and ready to go to their new home. All plants need to be clean and bug and disease free. They should be well watered, as there is no chance to water them at the sale location.
2. The earlier you dig, the better the plants look when you offer them for sale. Many sellers soak the plants for a day or two after potting them to make sure they are perky. Keep them out of the sun for a week or more too.
3. Each plant must have a white tag with the name of the plant (botanical or common) and a yellow tag with the sellers initials and price. Make the initials known to the recorder before the sale. Plants without both white and yellow tags cannot be accepted for the sale.
4. Plants offered for sale are subject to removal from the sale per the plant sale committee. Criteria for removal may be due to a plant's status as an invasive, poor condition, or mis-labeling.
5. As far as pricing goes, remember, this is not a garage sale. Prices at nurseries are very high: we try to price lower than they do, but not so low that there is no profit. Our plants are grown right here and are most likely to survive for the people buying them from us. Most nurseries bring their plants in from outside, so we are really selling superior products. The more common plants fetch a lower price as there are so many of them, and the rarer plants command a higher price. Go on a nursery crawl and scope out prices to help you decide.
6. Plant sellers are expected to work at least a part of the day, including set up, sales, wiping tags, tallying, cashiering, tear down and clean up. All unsold plant materials must be picked up immediately after the sale ends.
7. **If you wish to just donate the potted plants, feel free to do so—you can put WGCA for the seller's initials or leave it blank.** Any tags that are unreadable or missing initials, or do not have a yellow tag will be credited to the Club.
8. If anyone needs tags, please contact us at akwildflowers@gmail.com
The cost is \$3 per bundle of 100.

CRAFT CORNER CRITERIA

1. The only criteria is that the crafts should be garden related (be it a picture of flowers, garden art, botanical themed cloth items). Vendors must put their initials and price on a string tag attached to the item.
2. Vendors who bring crafts for sale are expected to commit to work the craft area for some part of the day. We need to ensure the crafts are kept secure.
3. The Craft Corner has proven to be an item of interest to our customers. It is great fun to have this section!



Member's Corner

Lenten Rose & Crocus – Photo by Alis Schmitt



Crocus – Photo by Cindy Walker



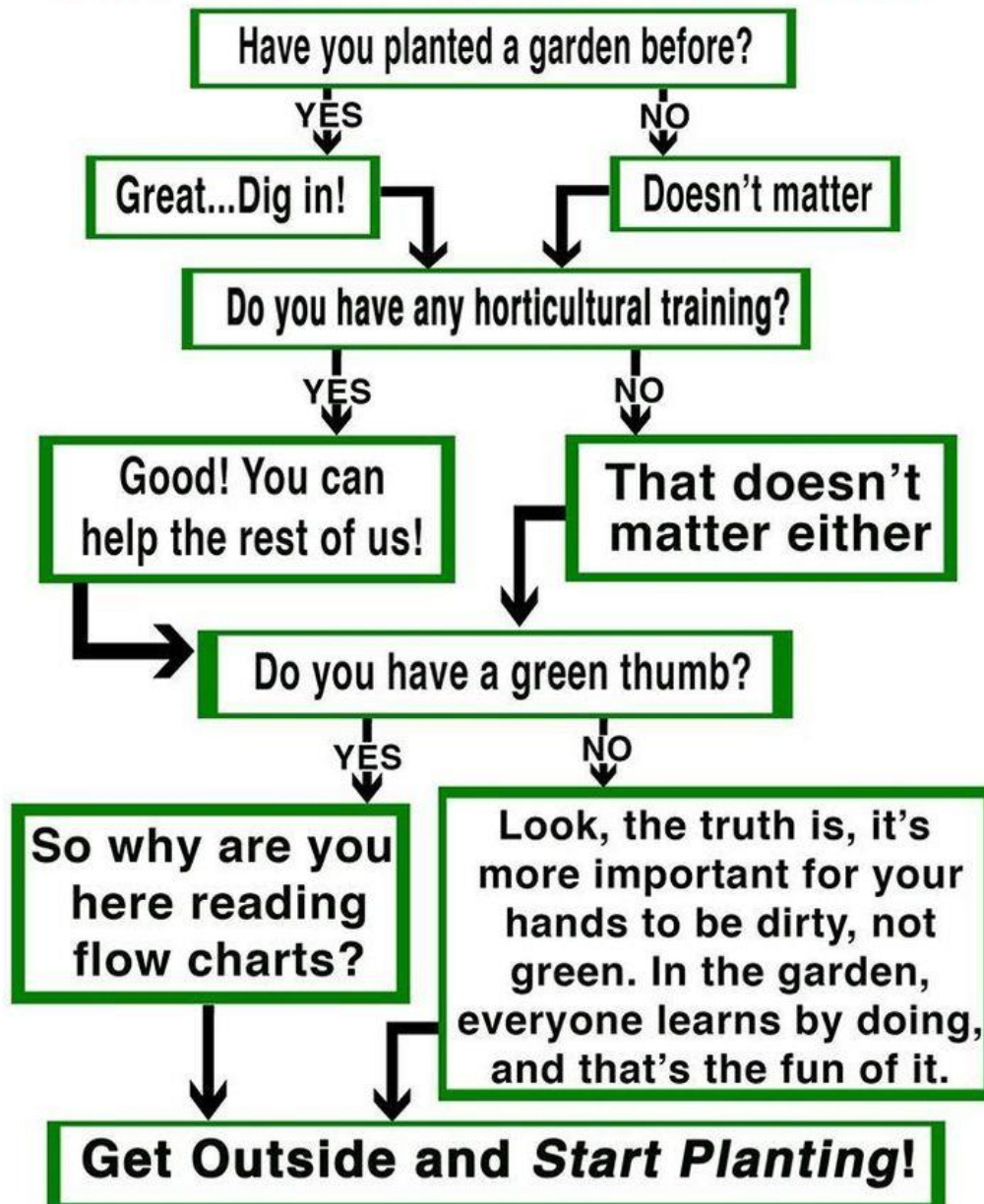
Grape Hyacinth – Photo by Kathy Liska



In the greenhouse – Photos by Kathy Liska



Should I Plant a Garden?



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