



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ November 2023

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Message from the Presidents

Can you believe that it's November already? Did you get all your fall chores completed, put away your garden tools, and clean out all your garden beds? Are you currently saying over and over "Snow helps with insulating our plants as well as lightens up the darkness"? We don't know about you but we're ready for a breather from snow! Every muscle is screaming NO MORE! Whew! November means we can sit back and reflect on which plants did well and which didn't this year. For several years we've kept a journal as it seems come spring, we think we'll remember but have to pull it out to check as our memory seems to have flown south. It's also a great place for us to write down what we've learned from you, our fellow gardeners, so that we can give that variety a try next spring or stay far away. November's monthly meeting gave us a chance to see photos and "ooh" and "ahhh" over fellow Wildflower members gardens. Several new plants are on our "have to have" list now. Weather stopped us from sharing in our "Friendsgiving" luncheon but hopefully we'll all be together for our December meeting. Until then we're wishing all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Christie and Kellie



What's Growing Now

The weather in Alaska once again proved contrary, and re-emphasized that it is in charge, ultimately. Our planned, in-person Thanksgiving potluck on Nov 9th had to be canceled due to enormous amounts of snowfall. Thankfully, Zoom enabled us to show Kathy's masterful presentation of members' gardens and Alaskan adventures. It was a delightful and (much needed) colorful glance at our summer enjoyments! Thanks to all who contributed photographs and made commentary for the enlightenment of the rest of the club!

Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Marilyn Barker, Karen Edmondson, Elaine Estey, Peggy Pletcher, Annie Ronsse, and Burton Smith



The birth flowers for November are the **Chrysanthemum and the Peony**. While the chrysanthemum is widely recognized as THE birth flower of November, the peony is a lesser known one as well.

Chrysanthemums and their variety of colors have specific meanings including love and passion, cheerfulness and optimism, longevity, strong friendships, sharing happiness and wishing for well-being.

Interestingly, while in the floral industry the Chrysanthemum is known as the Queen of flowers, the other November flower, the Peony, is regarded as the King of flowers.

Peonies are representative of love, happiness, honor, good fortune, wealth, and a happy marriage. As with mums, the different colors of peonies carry different meanings, from passion and utmost honor to both romantic and platonic love to optimism and happiness.

Peonies have become an important industry in Alaska, as our late blooming season makes them available for the bulk of the marriage season, and we ship the blooms worldwide.



Happy Birthday!

Club Business

Proposed Amendments of Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules

The vote for approval for the amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules was sent out on November 9 and closed on November 12. The amendments passed unanimously. The biggest change is the extension of the Board of directors one year term to a two year term. This will allow the Board members to gain more experience to help with running the club.

November Board of Directors Election

The Board of Director's election ballot was sent out on November 13 and closed on November 16. The board was also elected unanimously. **Congratulations to Co-presidents Christie Holshouser and Kellie Staples, Vice-president Barbara Baker, Treasurer Cindy Walker, Secretary Mary Britton, and Members at Large Sally Byrne-Flores and Paul Marmora.** It will be a fun and productive two years!



October 2023 Treasurer Reports

Denali Federal Credit Union	
Business Savings	\$2,509.87
Business Checking	\$5,247.51
CD-12 month (matures 11/23)	\$5,067.42
CD- 9 month (matures 7/30/244) 6%	\$5,001.60
Balance	\$17,826.40
Morgan Stanley Balance	\$42,980.84
Total Funds 10/31/23	\$60,807.24

Announcements

Time to renew your Wildflower Membership!

We are currently in our membership drive. **To be included in the 2024 yearbook, membership applications must be received by December 1st.**

To renew, go to www.wildflowergardenclub.org and click the **Membership** tab and fill out the form. The yearly individual membership cost is \$20. For Family membership, the charge is \$15 for each additional immediate family member. Only one yearbook will be sent per family.

You may pay online with a credit card for an additional \$1 per family member, or print the form and send a check to Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska, at PO Box 240563, Anchorage, AK 99524. Thank you for your continued support!



In our ongoing fundraising project of developing a Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska cookbook, we need recipes! The Board members have agreed to share 5 each, which makes it 40 to start with. We would like to have a minimum of 100 to make the effort worth it. Please search through your recipe collection and send in a few or your favorites to akwildflowers@gmail.com Thank you!!!

Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

December has some well-loved club events coming up!

Thursday, December 7th from 10am-12pm we will meet at **Dimond Greenhouses** for our annual 'Fresh Holiday Wreath or Centerpiece' making session with Darryl Leiser.

Darryl is well informed, teaches the technique simply, and is a very entertaining host. The wreath will be made on a 12 inch frame this year, and the cost is projected to be \$35 and \$20 for a centerpiece.

We will need to know by **Sunday, December 3rd** who is planning on coming to inform Darryl of the supplies he has to make ready. **This activity is open to club members and family only.**



Thursday, December 14th, our club holiday get-together, and appetizers only potluck will take place at **Central Lutheran Church from 11am-1pm**. A SignUp Genius email will be sent out so we can get a count of how many to set the tables for. This is a fun time of getting to hang out together in a more social setting. If attendees wish to participate, they can also join in the spirited gift exchange. The gift they bring to share should have a \$15 value and hopefully relate to gardening or flowers in some way.

SignUp Genius will be used for both these events. Coming your way soon!

Member's Corner

Green Salad with Apples, Cranberries and Pepitas
Serves 4

Cookieandkate.com

Ingredients:

1 bag (5 oz) spring greens salad blend
1 large or 2 small Granny Smith apple(s)
1/3 cup dried cranberries
1/4 cup pepitas (green pumpkin seeds) or chopped raw pecans
2 ounces feta or goat cheese, crumbled (about 1/3 cup)

Apple cider vinaigrette:

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 1/2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons honey
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste



Instructions:

Toast the pepitas: In a medium-sized skillet, toast the pepitas over medium heat, stirring frequently, until they are turning golden on the edges and making little popping noises (if using pecans instead, warm them just until they are fragrant). Transfer the pepitas to a small bowl to cool.

Make the dressing: In a cup or jar, whisk together the olive oil, vinegar, honey, mustard and salt until well blended. Season to taste with pepper.

Just before serving, chop the apple into thin, bite-sized pieces. Place your greens in a large serving bowl. Top with sliced apple, dried cranberries and toasted pepitas. Use a fork to crumble the feta cheese over the salad.

Drizzle the salad with just enough dressing to lightly coat the leaves once tossed (you probably won't need all of it). Gently toss to mix all of the ingredients and serve!

The purpose of the Member's Corner section is to inspire and encourage each other. Our Motto... Show, Share and Tell! Submit items for our newsletter by the 1st day of each month. Send to Kathy Liska at akliska@aol.com or Paul Marmora at pmarmora@aol.com

happy thanksgiving