



# Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ October 2023

P.O. Box 240563  
Anchorage, AK  
99524

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

## Message from the Presidents

Fall is one of our favorite times of the year. Beautiful colors and the smell of the season change is in the air. Hope everyone has their gardens put to bed by now with dreams of what will be done differently next year. Holidays will be here before we know it along with that pretty white stuff we all look forward to. Until next time, stay safe and warm.

**Kellie**

**Christie** is outside, somewhere on a beach in North Carolina, enjoying time with family, chasing the sunshine, and an extended fall!



### Welcome New Members!

Sherlynn Fenstermaker  
Judy Pendleton



## What's Growing Now

At the October 12<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting we had a great deal of fun putting together '**Succulent Gardens in Glass**'. Most of the participants went thrifting and found quite a few nice containers. **Paul Marmora** talked about growing succulents (the biggest secret is to not water much more than once a month). He talked about soil mix and demonstrated how to best plant them. Then about 9 or 10 people jumped in and got their hands dirty building their own succulents gardens. It was lots of fun, and there were some really nice design ideas.



## Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Cindy Calzada, Joyce Goodell, Donna Kellar, Paul Marmora, Meg O'Mullane, Madge Oswald, Tim Pack, Fran Pekar, Erika Wolter, and Kathy Zins

**The October birth flowers are the Marigold and the Cosmos.**



Today, the focus on the sunny colors and bright hues of Marigolds is on optimism and prosperity. Traditionally associated with remembrance and grief for the departed, the sunny colors of the marigold represented the sunlit paths that guide the departed loved ones. The bright yellow and orange also represented the beauty and warmth of the rising sun and its power to resurrect.

The Cosmos is a symbol of order, peace, and serenity. From the Greek word for order, harmony, and the world, Mission priests in Mexico gave the flower its name because of the evenly spaced petals. In addition to the order and harmony expressed in the blossom's symmetry, grace, and simplicity, it is re-emphasized in the symmetrically balanced, regularly doubled production of leaf and blossom stems.



HAPPY  
*birthday*  
TO YOU

## Member of the Year!

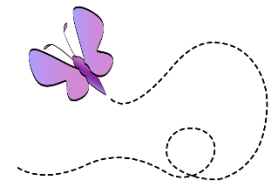
The 2023 Member of the Year is awarded to long-time member **Annita Magee**.



Annita is a long-time member of the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska. Annita has participated in multiple facets of the club--from serving multiple terms as Member At Large and on the Nomination Committee, to participating in the plant and craft sale yearly. She has participated in our club community service programs, toughing out bad weather to work at both the Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail at the Alaska Botanical Garden and the native plant garden at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, as well as staffing our booth at the Childrens' Marigold Giveaway. Annita is quiet, yet strong, dedicated to the group, and is always ready with her wit and smile, while remaining pleasant and positive.

Annita represents the true spirit of our club and fully deserves our recognition for her contributions.

Congratulations to Annita Magee, our 2023 Member of the Year!



## Announcements

### Membership Renewal

It is the time of year to think about renewing your club membership for the upcoming year 2024. **Remember, to be included in the next yearbook's list of members, you will need to send in an online or printed application and pay your dues by December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

You can access the membership form from [www.wildflowergardenclub.org](http://www.wildflowergardenclub.org) under the membership tab. To mail a renewal, print a copy of the form and send it in with a check.

The annual membership cost is \$20 for an individual with an additional \$15 for each immediate family member (only one yearbook will be shared in a family membership).

You can also fill in the form online and pay electronically. **An additional cost of \$1 per member registration** will be applied to cover the processing fees of the credit card company.

We like to recognize members' birthday months in the newsletter, so there is also a spot on the membership form to include that information. Month—not year! If sharing birthday information is an issue for you, you may always write n/a in that spot on the form.

## **Club Business**

### **Proposed Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules Amendments**

We have an important announcement regarding the voting procedures for the elections of the 2024 Board of Directors as well as the approval of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Normally, any proposed amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules are presented and voted on at a different time than the Board elections. This year, we were unable to make the separation. As one of the proposed amendments has to do with the terms of office, we have decided to do the amendment vote first and follow it immediately with the Board elections.

Upon much discussion, the members of the Board of Directors have concluded that the term of office of one year does not encompass enough time to learn a new position and to allow the most informed of decisions and policy making. We feel that a two-year term would be more beneficial to the Board members and better prepare them to be their best at their duties. **So part of the proposed changes would extend the term of office from one year to two years.** This change would align with the procedure for numerous other area garden clubs.

Votes will occur by your response (**do NOT use REPLY ALL**) to the email sent out from [akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflowers@gmail.com) – **not using REPLY ALL** will ensure privacy for your vote. You may also just send a separate email if you would prefer not to use the REPLY function.

### **Procedures for Amendment Changes**

**OCT 12:** Board of Directors presents proposed **Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules Amendments** as approved by Board on Oct. 5, 2023 at the monthly meeting and emails information to all members to meet the required **Official Club Notification** timeframe.

**Any questions must be asked before start of voting.**

**NOV 9-12:** Voting opens **Thursday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm** seeking the approval of amendment revisions through the use of **electronic communication only** and via email to the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska at [akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflowers@gmail.com)

**NOV 13:** Results of the Proposed amendments will be announced





## November Board of Directors Election

**Slate of Nominees for the 2024 Board of Directors, Voting Procedures, and Election Timelines** were emailed to all members on **October 12**.

The **Official Ballot** will be emailed to all members on **November 13**.

**Electronic (email) votes only will be accepted from Monday, November 13 - Thursday, November 16 at 5pm.**

Currently the slate is as follows:



**Co-President: Christie Holshouser**  
**Co-President: Kellie Staples**  
**Vice President: Barbara Baker**  
**Secretary: Mary Britton**  
**Treasurer: Cindy Walker**  
**Member at Large: Sally Byrne-Flores**  
**Member at Large: Paul Marmora**

Results of the Board elections will be announced on Friday, November 17.

### September 2023 Treasurer Reports

<b>Denali Federal Credit Union</b>	
Business Savings APYO .10%	\$7,508.64
Business Checking	\$6,670.32
CD - 12 month	\$5,059.42
<b>Balance 9/30/23</b>	<b>\$18,123.12</b>
<b>Morgan Stanley Balance 9/30/23</b>	<b>\$43,865.90</b>
<b>Total Funds 9/30/23</b>	<b>\$61,011.08</b>



## Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

The **November 9<sup>th</sup>** meeting will be our annual member photo share. The slideshow will be made from members' pictures of their gardens and Alaskan adventures. **Please send up to 10 your photos, no later than November 1st to Kathy Liska at [akliska@aol.com](mailto:akliska@aol.com)** This will be an in-person meeting to share our fellowship and friendships with a **Thanksgiving Potluck**. We will also participate in a **Food Drive** where we can donate canned or shelf-stable food items to the bins set up at the **Central Lutheran Church**.

### **Fresh Holiday Wreath or Centerpiece making at Dimond Greenhouses!**

**December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am** with Darryl Leiser. The projected workshop is anticipated to cost \$25 (centerpiece) -\$35 (wreath) per person although price may change depending on cost of supplies. **This event is open to WGCA Members and family.**

The **Annual Holiday Luncheon** and spirited gift exchange is tentatively planned to be held at **Central Lutheran Church** on **December 14<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm**. More info coming soon!

## Member's Corner



Tenacious roots of a maple gripping the banks of a stream, refusing to be washed away. Shared by Paul Marmora from his recent New York trip.

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

