



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ September 2023

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Message from the Presidents

It's that time of the year again. The chill is in the morning air and the leaves are starting to turn. We keep thinking it's a bit early to clean up but memories of putting away gardening tools and pots in the pouring rain of 2022 are pushing us to start 2023 when the days are still clear. It seems we create our gardens over days/weeks each spring but cleanup is at a much faster pace and with thoughts of 'Where did the summer go?'

How exciting is it that the giant pumpkin for 2023 weighted 2023.5 pounds at the Alaska State Fair!? Many of us volunteered in the Crops Department. "Behind the scenes" is a fun place to be! We experienced both entry and judging days this year, an interesting process that makes you appreciate the mass number of volunteers and judges it takes to be successful and leaves us in awe of Kathy's organizational skills! If you've never volunteered, we encourage you to do so in 2024. The excitement is truly contagious. It's like a family reunion with individuals entering again or those who are 1st timers. Lots of knowledge walks through that barn!

We look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meetings and hearing your gardening and summer adventure stories. In the meantime, let's hope we have a warm and long fall season ahead of us!

Christie and Kellie



Happy Fall Y'all!

What's Growing Now

Well, the Alaska State Fair at Palmer has come and gone for another year. It was the 87th anniversary of the Fair—talk about tradition! As usual club members were volunteers for both the Crops and Flowers Departments on both entry and judging dates. (See *photos in the Member's Corner*). While the entries were not as abundant due to the cool and gray summer we had, there were numerous outstanding entries, and four new Alaska State records were achieved.

Again this year, the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska sponsored both the **Junior Largest Zucchini Contest** and the **Perennial/Biennial Division Champion Special Awards**.

There were no entries the first week in the Junior Zucchini contest.

On week two, the Class 1 awards for ages 6-12 were presented to:

Kenzie M. (Palmer) - 1st place

Academy Charter School (Palmer) - 2nd place

Markus F. (Wasilla) - 3rd place

The class 2 awards for ages 13-17 were presented to:

Academy Charter School (Palmer) - 1st place

Megan F. (Wasilla) - 2nd place

Matthew F. (Wasilla) - 3rd place.



In the Flowers Department, the first week's Special Award for Perennial/Biennial was given to Janice Werner (Palmer), for her entry of a purple foxglove.

The second week's Special Award was earned by Ron Stamnes (Chugiak), for a snow white lupine.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
THESE
GARDENERS!**

The **September 14th monthly meeting at 10am** was again in person at Central Lutheran Church and on Zoom. **Claire Kaufman** of Boreal Bioscapes took us through the skills, tools, and science needed to separate the bulbs and perennials best suited to division during the fall season. Many thanks to Claire for stepping in last minute to give a presentation. Her warm personality and delight in all growing things came through beautifully and positively.

Special Wildflowers that bloomed this month!

Bob Esey, Jamey Rue, Kellie Staples, and Hillary Walker

The birth flowers for September are the Aster and the Morning Glory.



Asters are a very welcome bloom in late summer, bringing cheer to shortening days and grayer skies. Asters come in different colors, each with different meanings, but in general, they represent love and wisdom. Additional meanings are royalty, purity, innocence, undying devotion, and sensitivity. In Greek mythology, the goddess Astraea was crying as she watched stars in the dark sky. Where her tears fell to the earth, they turned into star shaped flowers.

Morning Glory has a unique aspect to it. It is known to open in the morning and close in the afternoon. It is another late season bloomer, and with other vining plants, is associated with love—both love that was never returned and love that is undying. The different colors of Morning Glory symbolize enduring love, desire, power, grace, hopefulness, wealth, gratitude, energy, passion, strength, purity, and innocence.



HAPPY
Birthday!

Club Business

The Board has started the annual review of the **Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules**. Any proposed amendments will be presented at the October 12th monthly meeting and emailed to all members. Voting will open at the November meeting time frame.

The **Nomination Committee** for the 2024 Board of Directors election has been formed. If you are interested in being on the Board, please contact one of the committee members, Tobi Harvey at 907-885-1234, Lou Ann Clark at 907-632-2555 or Alis Schmitt at 907-562-7024 to be placed on the nomination slate. Nominations from the floor will open Thursday, October 12th. **Electronic Voting for the Board of Directors will begin Friday, November 10th - Friday, November 17th at 5pm.** More information via email will be coming soon!

September Treasurer Reports

Nuvision Credit Union	
Business Savings	\$7,508.64
Business Checking	\$6,670.32
CD - 12 month	\$5,059.42
Balance 8/31/23	\$19,238.38
Morgan Stanley Balance 8/31/23	\$45,595.56
Total Assets 8/31/23	\$64,833.94

HELP WANTED ~ HELP NEEDED!

In search of someone with an eye for detail and Excel experience to take over the **Membership Chair** position in 2024. Contact Kathy Liska at 907-301-0317 or akliska@aol.com for more information.

We are also looking for someone who is interested in **assisting the Media Chair** by helping to post garden info, photos & upcoming meetings on the Wildflower Facebook page. Please contact Kellie Staples at 907-632-8368 kellie_staples@hotmail.com for more information.



Announcements



It is time to nominate your choice for Member(s) of the Year. Nominations must be sent into the club email, akwildflowers@gmail.com no later than Monday, October 9th at 5pm. You will need to include the name of the nominee and a brief description of why you feel they have deserved the honor of being chosen the **2023 Wildflower Member of the Year**. The honor will go to the person(s) who receive the majority of the nominations. The results will be announced at the October 12th monthly meeting.

Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

On **October 12th**, Paul Marmora will present **Succulents in Glass**. Succulents are ideal plants for folks who are not obsessive waterers, and are able to survive in all sorts of conditions. We will go through the method of making succulent gardens in glass containers. If people wish to do so, they can register to purchase plants and soil and can make a garden along with the lecture. If interested in doing so, please write to the club email at akwildflowers@gmail.com and let us know. **Please do so by September 24th so we can get the plants ordered and delivered.** This presents a great opportunity to use Great Aunt Muriel's antique candy dish that has been in the China cabinet since she left it to you all those years ago. Should be lots of fun!



Now is the time to send up to 10 of your favorite 'Summer Garden & Alaska Adventures' pictures to share in our members slideshow at the **November 9th Thanksgiving Potluck!** Send your snapshots of flowers, scenes, water features, people, wildlife, or pets enjoying the garden to Kathy Liska at akliska@aol.com or text to 907-301-0317 no later than October 30th.

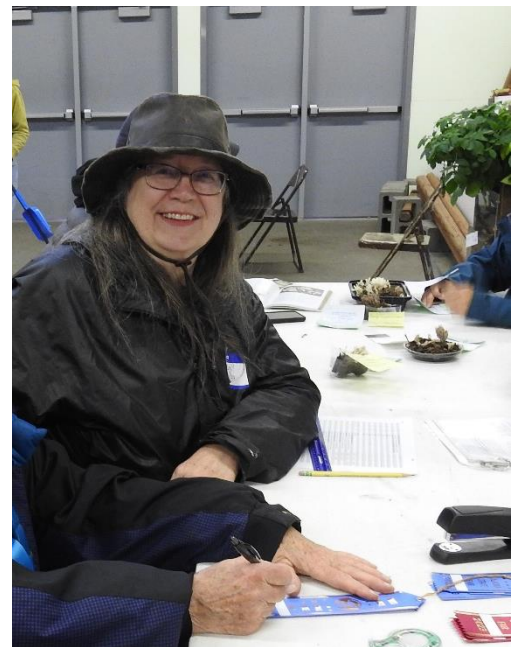
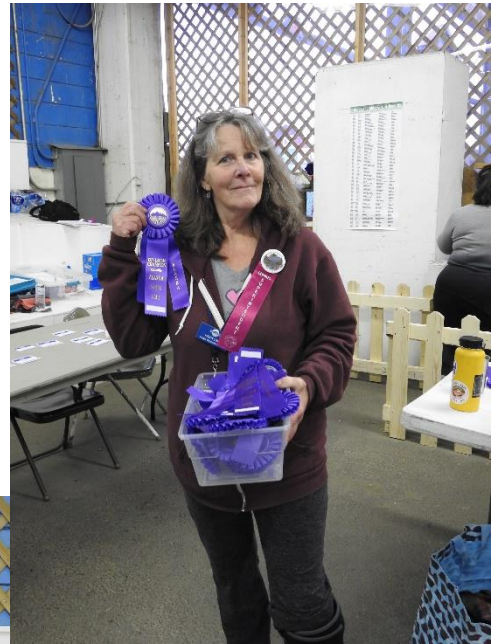
Wildflower Cookbook?

Did you always enjoy those small cookbooks compiled by groups or churches? They always had some pretty good recipes in them. We think it would be really fun to put one together from the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska. We will need about 50 or more recipes for it to be worth people's while to get it. It sounds like a super fun idea to work on together. We are looking for appetizers, soups, salads, main courses, fish, desserts, and gluten free, vegetarian, and vegan—something for everyone! Please think about it and gather two or three recipes you would like to share and send them to Kathy Liska (akliska@aol.com) or Paul Marmora (pmarmora@aol.com) to start the collection building.

Member's Corner

Fun Times & Good Memories at the 2023 Alaska State Fair "Beyond the Mountains"

Photos shared by Cindy Calzada



Wildflowers at Work...

Top: Christie Holshouser, Kellie Staples, Kathy Liska

Middle: Paul Marmora, Carol Norquist, Cindy Calzada

Bottom: Ken and Deb Blaylock

Volunteers Make It Happen!!!



Member's Corner

Wildflower members had a great showing in the Crops Dept at the Fair!!!

Photos shared by Kathy Liska



Cindy Walker Collections -
Indoor Grown (left)
Outdoor Grown (below)



Donna Dewhurst -
Creative Crop Arrangements (above)
"Judge's Choice" Award
Outdoor Grown Collection (right)



Member's Corner

Photos shared by Kathy Liska



Deb Blaylock -
Greenhouse Grown
Cucumbers and
Tomatoes



Deb Blaylock –
Garlic Collection
“Best In Show” Award

Parsley ‘Menuette’
“Superintendent Award”

Deb also grew a
New State Record
17 1/4” Hot Pepper!!!

WAY TO GROW!

