



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ December 2024

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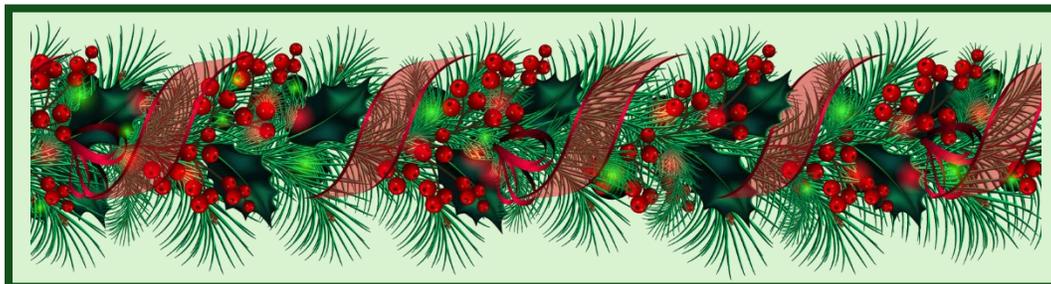
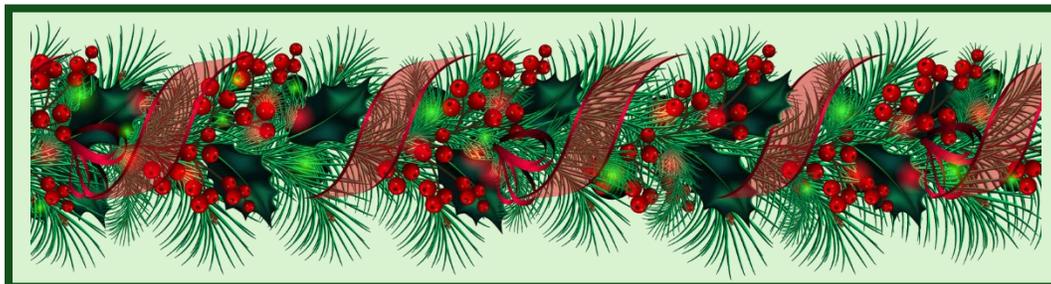
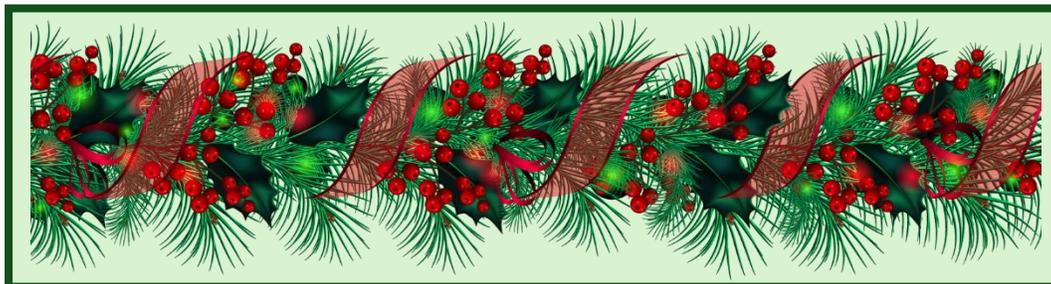
Message from the Presidents

They say the older you get the faster time goes. How can it be December? It seems like we were just starting out the year learning how to maintain our ability to continue working in the garden, enjoying a slide show about English gardens, having fun at our craft round tables, and learning about rock garden construction. Then, after a winter we thought would never end, summer finally made an appearance and we were off running as fast as we could to plant color everywhere. Fall made its appearance with us "Enjoying the Ride" at the Alaska state fair, learning how to preserve our summer bounty, and composting with worms. Winter brought us gathering for a fun day of more crafts and our annual Friendsgiving potluck & food drive. In between we had service projects at the Alaska Botanical Garden, Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, delighted many children by helping them plant a marigold, had a fantastic plant sale, and enjoyed garden tours at the Palmer Visitor Center and the Alaska State Fairgrounds. We blinked and the year went by! Wow!. Our holiday wreath class and annual holiday luncheon with a spirited gift exchange took place a few days ago which is always so much fun. Still to come is a gnome workshop!

We've had a very productive year and look forward to what 2025 brings us! We thank each of you for giving your time to our service projects, sharing your knowledge with us, and for helping our club be a fun place to meet! At the end of our gatherings, we always leave with a smile on our faces and joy in our hearts.

Thank you! We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season filled with laughter and time spent with those you cherish the most.

Christie & Kellie



What's Growing Now

The morning of the wreath workshop, December 5th, came with freezing rain, making a skating rink of all side roads and greatly increasing the number of ditch divers for the year's tally. Road conditions prevented a number of people from coming to Dimond Greenhouses for our annual wreath or centerpiece making workshop where Darryl Leiser is always a hoot as he instructs us on the method of wreath making he learned from his grandfather, Mann, and his father, Wayne. Paul gave a short lesson on making centerpieces and away we went! It is always fun to be creative together, and seven members were able to participate in the event.

Darryl has said that if any club members and family want to have a "make-up session," just give them a call at 907-349-2552 to give them a heads up and they will be happy to have you come in.



Annual Wildflower Holiday Party ... Ho, Ho, Ho!

Thursday, December 12th brought our club holiday get together. Twenty-one of us gathered at the Central Lutheran Church to enjoy festivities with other Wildflowers. This year, table decorations were set up by members—Each was a delight and a feast for the eyes. Gnomes made appearances at three tables, and the hit of the party was Alis's Snowman built on a plunger, with decorated rolls of TP!! What a riot to behold!

The food offerings were varied and delicious, and as always, it was sweet to hang out with each other. The spirited gift exchange was lively and quite a few gifts were "stolen" in the Yankee gift exchange, to everyone's chagrin and enjoyment. Happiest of holiday celebrations to all, in whatever you do. Enjoy friends and family and may we look forward to a wonderful new growing season. Those catalogs will be coming soon!!





**Friendships
&
Fellowship**





Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Mardie Lower, Dennis Ronsse, and Stan Staples

The Birth Flowers of December are Holly and Narcissus. Holly is a beloved evergreen shrub to tree, known especially for dark vibrant green or variegated leaves with pointy edges and ends and for its bright red berries. It represents hope, festivities and continuous life, and is often associated with rebirth and renewal. In ancient times, it was believed to ward off evil spirits and to bring a home good luck—especially during the winter solstice.



Narcissus family includes paperwhites, daffodils, and jonquils. In Alaska, they bloom in springtime, though in other climates they may even bloom in late winter. The Narcissus family represents hope, renewal, wealth and good wishes, In addition, paperwhites symbolize purity and unconditional love. Paperwhites are especially popular as a highly fragrant forced blooming plant that can be opened around the holidays. It is popular at Channukah as the association with light, hope renewal, and rebirth reflect the holiday themes. In Christian celebrations, it is often symbolic of the birth of Christ.



Club Business

November 2024 Treasurer Reports

Nuvison Federal Credit Union	
Business Savings	\$7,587.09
Business Checking	\$6,384.65
CD - 12 month (matures 7/30/25) 3.34%	\$5,284.31
Balance 10/31/24	\$19,256.05
Morgan Stanley Balance 10/31/24	\$54,126.49
Total Funds 10/31/24	\$73,382.54



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops



'Gnome Sweet Gnome' Workshops with Paul Marmora

It is time for the **gnome in the home** workshops again! Our Wildflower members and families can join us in making some gnomes to hang out in the house (or on the porch) throughout the holidays. Our first session will be on Saturday, 14DEC, at 10am at the Alaska Wholesale Flower Market. Workshops are limited to 12 people. We will have another session on Wednesday, 18DEC, at 10am in the same location. The cost will be \$50 per gnome. If you bring the hat, gloves and dish from last year, the cost will be \$45. This is a super fun time.

Please use the following Signup Genius link and click to register for the workshops.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45AFAF2EA6F9C70-53558251-gnome>

If the form causes you grief, you can email Paul at pmarmora@aol.com to reserve a space.

January 9th, 2025 – “Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail: Past, Present, and Future”

Presenter: Rachel Shedd from ABG

Followed by the WGCA Annual Business Meeting & 2024 Review

Central Lutheran Church 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

We'll dig into the history of the Wildflower Trail at Alaska Botanical Garden. The Wildflower Garden Club have lovingly maintained this trail for decades. This trail was recently re named in 2021 in honor of Verna Pratt, longtime supporter and volunteer of ABG. We'll also talk about the current state of the trail and open the discussion to suggestions for future maintenance and projects.

Announcements

The WGCA 2025 Grants application period is still open!

Please share this opportunity and web link with those you know who may be interested in applying. Information and the application can be found using the following link to our website. <https://wildflowergardenclub.org/wgca-grant-application.pdf>

The goal of the **Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska Grants Program** is to encourage botanical education by funding scholarly studies, scientific research projects, or work in the areas of Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Forestry, Botany, Agronomy, Plant Pathology and/or allied subjects.

- Individuals, Schools and Non-Profit entities engaged in work in the above listed fields may apply for grant funding until the **deadline of January 31, 2025.**
- Organizations must have 501(c)(3) status.
- All applicants must be based in the State of Alaska.

The minimum request considered will be \$200, the maximum \$1,000. The number of awards will vary each year depending upon the number of applications received, the amount of money requested, and the total amount to be awarded.



Member's Corner

The purpose of the Member's Corner section is to inspire and encourage each other.

Our Motto... Show, Share and Tell!

Submit items: articles, garden ideas, photos, recipes, etc. for our newsletter by the last day of each month. Send to Kathy Liska at akliska@aol.com or Paul Marmora at pmarmora@aol.com



We will see you in 2025!

A Gardener's Version of the Night Before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the yard,
the branches were bare and the ground frozen hard;

The roses were dormant and mulched all around,
to protect them from damage if frost heaves the ground.

The perennials were nestled all snug in their beds,
while visions of 5-10-5 danced in their heads.

The new-planted shrubs had been soaked by the hose,
to settle their roots for the long winter's doze.

And out on the lawn the new-fallen snow,
protected the roots of the grasses below.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
but a truck full of gifts of gardening gear.

Saint Nick was the driver - the jolly old elf,
and he winked as he said, "*I'm a gardener myself.*"

I've brought Wilt-Pruf, rootone, and gibberellin, too.
Please try them and see what each of them can do.

To start new plants, a propagating kit.
Sparkling new shears, to keep plants looking fit.

To seed your new lawn, I've a patented sower;
in case it should grow, here's a new power mower.

For seed-planting days, I've a trowel and a dibble,
and a roll of wire mesh if the rabbits should nibble.

For gardening all season, some gadgets to love;
plant stakes, a sprinkler, and waterproof gloves;

A chemical agent for the compost pit,
and for pH detecting, a soil testing kit.

With these colorful flagstones lay a new garden path,
to access the bird feeder and clean out the bath.

And last but not least, some well-rotted manure.
A green Christmas year-round, these gifts will ensure.

Then jolly Saint Nick, having emptied his load,
started his truck and took to the road.

And I heard him exclaim through the motor's loud hum,
"*Merry Christmas to all, and to all a green thumb!*"

