



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ June 2024

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Anchorage, AK
99524

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akwildflowers@gmail.com
www.wildflowergardenclub.org

Message from the Presidents

Goodness gracious it's already June! It's been a whirlwind two months with lots of events and our own gardening. Indeed, it's hard to choose sometimes between attending an event or working our own garden Thankfully our gardens aren't going anywhere!

Thanks to all who brought plants and helped out at the plant sale. It was a fun day with record sales! We heard customer after customer say that they look forward to this event every year. We do too! There were so many amazing plants (ok more than a few). Many of us found new plants which we had to purchase and bring to our own homes.

All this cool weather means we're about two weeks behind our typical spring. Apple and crabapple trees are just now blooming. One comment we heard at the plant sale was that due to our cooler weather the colors are more vibrant in our flowers. Have you found that to be true? We love that feeling of accomplishment when all the plants are in the ground or their container. We hope to feel that soon!

Christie and Kellie

A friendly welcome to our new and returning members:

Millie Crittenden
Rebecca Manley
Lois Rockcastle
Erika Wolter



What's Growing Now

We have had a very busy time in the last month, with numerous club activities.

In May, we moved the Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail Clean-up to the 16th due to both weather and to accommodate the safety training required to volunteer at ABG. Six club members showed up and two ABG employees and we were able to work the trail efficiently and quickly. It is a pleasure to make it ready for visitors to the garden. This is an ongoing Wildflower volunteer project on Wednesdays from 10am-noon throughout the summer months. Feel free



to sign up (required), to help keep the trail looking nice for out of state visitors and locals at [General Volunteer Notifications: 2024 Horticulture Volunteer Opportunities \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Also in May, on the 18th, we went to the native plant garden at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) to clean up the winter leftovers. This year was an especially bad season for vole damage and the garden at AWCC was no exception. There were about 40 vole tunnels evident and they had chewed all the bark off the maple, silverberry, currants, and blueberries. In addition, the many tunnels undermined some of the soil and many plants were lost due to their roots being opened to the winter cold. Another trip is in order to see just what may have come back. On a positive note, the white fireweed, white and purple iris, spring beauty, and pussytoes are thriving, AND the orchids have come back strongly.



On June 1st, we had our major public event—our plant sale. It was a resounding success with a substantial increase in revenue. **Many thanks** are due to the volunteers who brought plants, stayed on Friday to receive plants, and especially to all those who showed up at 7am on Saturday to set up tables, move the plants out, staff the sale and craft booth, run the cashier, tag wiping, tallying and tag sorting stations. A number of people were heard to exclaim that this is their favorite plant sale of the year, and all participants seemed to have a great time!



More photos of happy smiles of our members at the end of this newsletter!

To plant a garden is
believe in tomorrow!



Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Mary Britton, Eli Fleischer, and Gayle Mathiesen

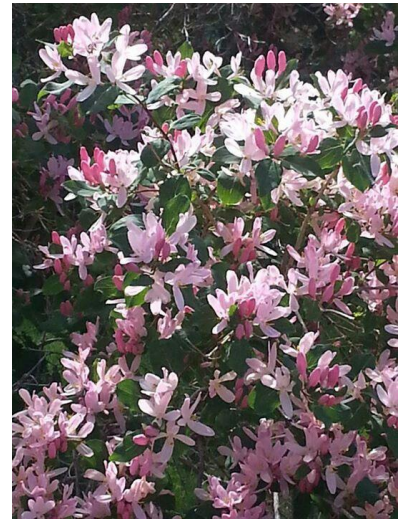


June has two birth flowers: Rose and the Honeysuckle.

There are over 300 cultivars of roses, the oldest specimen (1,000 years old) grows on the walls of the cathedral of Hildesheim in Germany. The largest rose, covering 9,000 square feet is in Tombstone, Arizona, planted in 1885. Roses, depending on color, symbolize love and romance, elegance and beauty, remembrance, desire and passion, purity and innocence, and friendship.

Honeysuckle is a popular vine in gardens. The name comes from the sweet nectar that can be sucked out of the pointy end of the blossom. It has been used to sweeten teas, desserts and salads. Some people believe it brings good luck and protection from malignant spirits.

Aside from being a favorite of hummingbirds and other pollinators, honeysuckle symbolizes sweetness and happiness, love and affection, faithfulness and devotion, and charm and beauty. June people are said to draw others to them much like the sweet flower draws the hummingbird.



Happy Birthday

Club Business

May 2024 Treasurer Reports

Denali Federal Credit Union

Business Savings	\$7,583.31
Business Checking	\$2,882.87
CD-9 month (matures 7/30/24) 6%	\$5,174.25
Balance	\$15,640.43

Morgan Stanley Balance **\$49,688.15**

Total Assets 5/31/24 **\$65,328.58**



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

Thursday, July 11 – Palmer Garden Tours

We have planned tours beginning at 11am of the Alaska State Fair gardens with Becky Myrvold and the Palmer Visitors Center with Jaime Rodriguez. We will enjoy a bring-a bag picnic lunch at one of these locations. **This is a Member and Family Only event.** Carpooling is encouraged. More information is coming soon!



The Flower Moon – Friday, June 21



This year, for the first time since 1985, the Full Moon rises on the summer solstice! June's full Moon, typically the last full Moon of spring or the first of summer has traditionally been called the **Strawberry Moon**.

On the evening of **Friday, June 21** —just after sunset— look towards the southeast to watch the full Moon rise gently above the horizon. There, it will appear large and golden-hued.

While strawberries certainly are a reddish-pink color and are roundish in shape, the origin of the name "Strawberry Moon" has nothing to do with the Moon's hue or appearance. A Moon usually appears reddish when it's close to the horizon because the light rays must pass through the densest layers of the atmosphere.

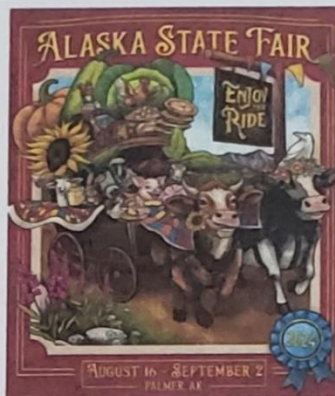
This "Strawberry Moon" name has been used by Native American Algonquian tribes that live in the northeastern United States as well as the Ojibwe, Dakota, and Lakota peoples to mark the ripening of "June-bearing" strawberries that are ready to be gathered. The Haida

term **Berries Ripen Moon** reflects this as well. As flowers bloom and early fruit ripens, June is a time of great abundance for many.

The Old Farmer's Almanac

Announcements

2024 Alaska State Fair Volunteer Opportunity



Entry & Judging days in the Alaska State Fair's Crops Department is a fun atmosphere to meet new people & catch up with old friends.

It is a great opportunity to learn something new and to share your own gardening experiences.

You can even earn some credits for Master Gardener volunteer hours!

~ Entry Clerks ~

Wednesdays, August 21 & August 28

Shifts still available ... 12-5 PM 3-8 PM (Full), and 5-9 PM (Needed)

Help Exhibitors fill out entry forms correctly, explain the use of the Exhibitor Guide, assist with verbal direction on preparation of submissions for judging, and placement of entries in the display area.

~ Judges Clerks ~

Thursdays, August 22 & August 29 from 8 AM-Noon (Needed)

Record winning results, set up and place ribbons for the final display.

~ Extra Hands Needed ~

Tuesdays, August 20 & 27 from 10AM-2PM & September 3 from 9 AM-1PM

Looking for a handful or two of volunteers to help with 1st Entry set-up, 1st Entry take down & 2nd Entry set-up, ribbon sorting, and final shut down of department for the season.

~ Admission & Parking Passes are provided ~

For more information or to sign up contact
Kathy Liska Crops Superintendent/Horticulture Manager
(907) 301-0317 or akliska@aol.com



5th Annual
PEONY CELEBRATION

Monday, July 1 to Wednesday, July 31, 2024, Homer, Alaska

Dubbed the "City of Peonies," Homer boasts 25 flourishing Peony Farms, each radiating with unforgettable scents and sights. The extended summer days, combined with the chill of glacier-fed breezes and fertile soils, create the perfect environment for these flowers to bloom more vividly. Experience these magnificent blossoms in a picturesque, 180-degree view of Kachemak Bay's coastal setting, complemented by art exhibitions, world-class eateries, and jubilant summer festivity.

Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
907-235-7740 · HomerAlaska.org



Alaska Peony season is coming up and there are lots of tours available at multiple farms.

Contact specific organizers for more information.



Alaska Beauty Peony
CO-OP FARMS

Sustainably grown peonies from Homer, Alaska

EDUCATIONAL FARM TOURS

PEONY SUBSCRIPTIONS

PEONY PRODUCTS & GIFTS

907-299-6964 | www.AlaskaBeautyPeony.com



Alaska Beauty Peony Co-Op Farms
pick joy

Our cooperative farms are distributed over a range of elevations where we have the longest harvest period in Alaska. We are enthusiastic about sustainable farming practices to cultivate peonies along the coast and in the hills above Kachemak Bay in Homer, Alaska.

Check out our events page for bouquet bars, agritourism events, and other happenings or reach out to us if you would like to schedule something with a large group.



Come visit Homer during the annual Peony Celebration in July

WE SHIP OVERNIGHT TO THE LOWER 48 STATES

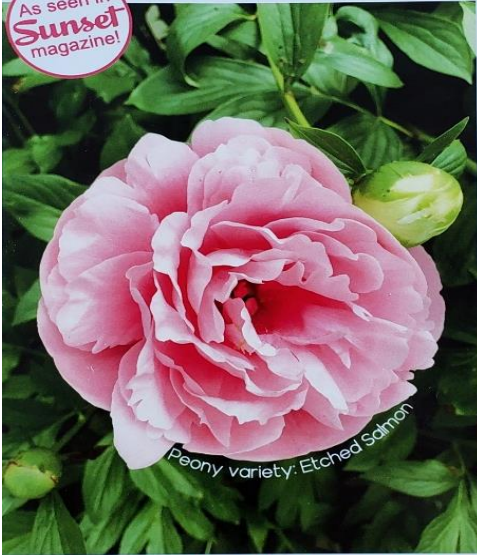
Packhouse location: 1435 Lakeshore Dr. Homer, AK

ALASKA PERFECT PEONY

GUIDED PEONY FARM TOURS

TOURS RUN FROM JUNE 24TH TO JULY 29TH
FRIDAYS 1-2:30PM
SUNDAYS 10-11:30AM

As seen in
Sunset
magazine!



Peony variety: Etched Salmon

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT ON THE TOUR

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.ALASKAPERFECTPEONY.COM
OR CALL 907-235-8116

COME VISIT

Alaska's oldest peony farm -
the Shoultz Family Homestead & famous
Fritz Creek Botanical Gardens

Tours
\$75



Take
home a
bouquet or a
bare root!



Come
prepared for
lots of photo
ops!

We'll meet at the lake where you're sure to see
wildlife, water fowl and their cute duckling's antics.
Then it's off to the peony fields where owner, Rita Jo,
will talk about how she got started and best practices
for growing and harvesting peonies. Next we'll head
to the 'platform' where you'll be shown how peonies
are processed and packed for shipping. There will
also be a demonstration on how to create a
gorgeous peony arrangement.

Intimate weddings
& other venues
available - see
website for details

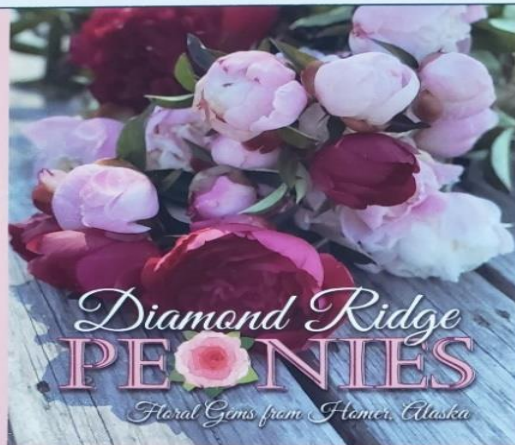
**Reservations
Required**

See website or email:
rita.jo@alaskaperfectpeony.com

Location:
55640 East End Road
Fritz Creek, AK 99603



Fresh Alaska Peonies!



Diamond Ridge
PEONIES
Floral Gems from Homer, Alaska

Mid July ~ August ~ Early Sept.

Our farm in Homer, Alaska is one of the latest
farms producing fresh cut peonies in all of
Alaska!

FLORISTS ~ WHOLESALE ~ EVENT PLANNERS

Whites/Blush/Pinks/Reds/Coral

Diamond Ridge Peonies
907-399-7597 ~ 907-399-1556
Homer, Alaska
diamondridgepeonies@gmail.com
diamondridgepeonies.com

CERTIFIED AMERICAN GROWN

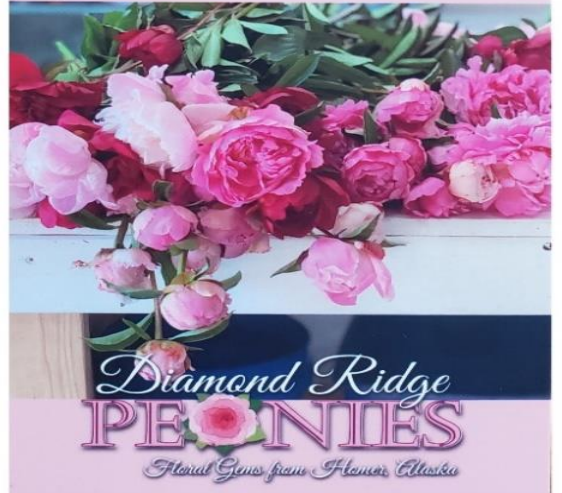
Farm Tours

Come visit our Peony Farm in action!

The tour will include a walk through our
field and property overlooking Kachemak
Bay, into the processing packhouse and
cooler to see how the farm operates.

Tours run between 2-4 pm most days
\$25/person, kids 12 and under free

*Reservations
Required*
907-399-1556/907-399-7597
40885 Knott Circle
(off Diamond Ridge Road)



Diamond Ridge
PEONIES
Floral Gems from Homer, Alaska

2024 Plant Sale Photos ... Smiles everywhere!



Paul Marmora – Plant Sale Chair



Christie Holshouser – Co President



Kellie Staples – Co President



Cindy Calzada & Alis Schmitt



DeShana York (CES) & Susan Miller



Barbara Baker – Vice President



Cindy Walker – Treasurer



Kathy Liska – Membership Chair



Tobi Harvey



Beverly Luedke-Chan



Debbie Hinchey



Merry Johnson – Sunshine Chair

