



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ November 2024

P.O. Box 240563
Anchorage, AK
99524

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

Message from the Presidents

I just returned from a trip to North Carolina where fall was just beginning to show its colors. While traveling, we stopped at several (but not all!) of the garden centers we passed. Pumpkins, scarecrows, hay bales, etcetera, were abundant. It's a reminder that while fall can be short here in other states it is a nice long extended season!

If you ever get to Newport, NC, be sure to make a stop at the Carolina Home & Garden. (www.carolinahomegarden.com) Plan to stay a bit as it's five acres of retail gardens, cafés serving coffee, wine & beer, and event rooms which are filled with plants and flowers. Nearby you'll also find Grace Adventure Park, a mix of treehouses, animals, crafting & building, and fun family experiences, all within one park! There's fun for all - young and old alike.

November is the month we reflect on the year and the memories we made. We'd like to say how thankful we are for the fellowship and friendships of our "Wildflower" group. The lessons we've learned from each of you, our time together, and the laughter we've shared have been most enjoyable for us. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming holiday meetings or events.

Christie & Kellie



What's Growing Now

November's Friendsgiving potluck and craft workshop was, as always, a fun-filled time of sharing. With about two dozen members present, we had a fun time fellowshiping around our well known buffet style spread of delectable food items, decorating/painting acorns with Kellie Staples, getting our hands dirty while making seed bombs with Christie Holshouser, and learning to easily assemble seed tapes with Sally Byrne-Flores.



Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

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



November's Official Birth Month Flowers are the Chrysanthemum and the Peony.

The chrysanthemum, commonly called the mum, and its many hybrids are known for their vibrant colors and many-layered petals. The mum comes in many forms: cushion, daisy, pompom, and spiders. A long lasting flower in design, they are beloved by flower arrangers. Originating in China, the Latin name comes from the Ancient Greek words **chrysos**, meaning gold, and **anthos**, meaning flower. The

chrysanthemum is the symbol of the Japanese Emperor and Imperial family. The different colors have various meanings, including longevity, joy, optimism, friendship and support. In Asian cultures, chrysanthemums symbolize abundance, fulfillment, and intellectual achievements.

The peony has its central origins in China, but is also native to parts of Europe and Western North America. This flower is extremely popular due to its large, showy, and fragrant blooms. Very popular for use in bridal bouquets. In most parts of the world, the peony blooms in late May to early June. As most weddings are in late June and July, this has provided a boon to Alaska peony growers, as our peonies bloom in June and July, thus creating a lucrative agricultural business in Alaska. We ship peonies worldwide. The name comes from the Greek name **Paeon**, a physician to the Greek Gods who was transformed into a peony flower by Zeus.



The peony represents prosperity, happiness, good fortune, love, romance, and compassion. Some cultures believe peonies protect from evil spirits. In some cultures, peonies are used for medicinal purposes.



Club Business

October 2024 Treasurer Reports

Nuvision Federal Credit Union	
Business Savings	\$7,586.47
Business Checking	\$6,093.39
CD - 12 month (matures 7/30/25) 3.34%	\$5,269.43
Balance 10/31/24	\$18,949.29
Morgan Stanley Balance 10/31/24	\$52,255.26
Total Funds 10/31/24	\$71,204.55



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

Fresh Holiday Wreath or Centerpiece Workshop

Consider joining together with fellow club members and the ever humorous and instructional antics of Darryl Leiser and his son Matt. Our traditional holiday wreath and centerpiece making workshop is scheduled for **December 5th from 10am-12pm at Dimond Greenhouses**. This is always a fun time working together and being both festive and creative!

Cost of the workshop is \$35/wreath and \$25/centerpiece. This workshop is open to WGCA Members and family only. Sign-Up Genius pre-registration is coming to your inbox soon.



Annual Wildflower Holiday Party and optional spirited gift exchange is planned for **December 12th from 11am-1pm at Central Lutheran Church**. Come share in the magic of the holidays with your garden friends, with a tasty potluck, and jolly fun!
Sign-Up Genius with more information and RSVP is coming to you inbox soon.



Announcements

2025 Membership Renewal Reminder

To be included in the 2025 Wildflower Yearbook, membership renewals are due no later than December 1st. Don't delay ... renew today!

Membership forms and payment options can be found by clicking the link below.

[The Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska - Membership](#)

Applications can be filled out online and paid electronically. *An additional cost of \$1 per member registration* will be applied to cover the processing fees of the credit card company. You may also choose to renew by printing a paper copy of the membership form, filling it out, and mailing along with a check to the club.

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).

A great deal for monthly programs including educational guest speakers, hands-on workshops, community projects, field trips, opportunity to take part in the annual plant sale, potlucks, friendships & fellowship with other garden enthusiasts!

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.

2025 Workshop Program Ideas

The Board of Directors is seeking members input & feedback for hands-on workshops which would be of interest to you. Please contact any Board Member, or email your thoughts and suggestions to akwildflowers@gmail.com

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



THANKFUL ... GRATEFUL ... BLESSED