



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ October 2024

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Message from the Presidents

Welcome to October. Have you put your garden to sleep yet? The advancing days of autumn bring so much pressure to pack things up before the first snow. A whirlwind of cleaning, thinning, moving plants, and putting everything away. It's as if we're racing time! It's hard to put away our baskets and garden when some are doing so well. We find ourselves bringing some inside just to enjoy them a little bit longer. How about you? What a wonderful feeling when our fall tasks are finally done! Now we can relax just a bit and hopefully enjoy a long-extended fall. Time will tell.

It was wonderful to see everyone again at the September meeting. Approving the April meeting minutes made us all realize just how long it had been since we were last together! We will both be traveling out of state or taking care of family members in October. Thanks to Paul for once again stepping into the role of leading our meeting. We'll be back in November for the Friendsgiving Potluck and Food Drive.

One change in the program for November is that we will be doing crafts instead of the slide show. Mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you then.

Christie and Kelly



Sweater weather? More like 'better find that other glove' weather!

What's Growing Now

At our October 10th monthly meeting, Fran Flint, Sarah Black, and member Judy Pendleton spoke to the club about their successes with vermiculture – growing worms. The castings are great for fertilizing and the worm teas are highly nutritious liquid fertilizers for both houseplant and garden. The three presenters all had somewhat different methods and very entertainingly explained their different techniques. Growing a “herd” of your own is surprisingly easy and greatly rewarding.



Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Cindy Calzada, Joyce Goodell, Donna Kellar, Paul Marmora, Madge Oswald, Tim Pack, Fran Pekar, Erika Wolter, Kathy Zins



Marigolds and cosmos are the birth flowers for October. Both of these popular flowers are easy to grow and provide color in the garden until the first frost of the fall.

Marigolds, a member of the aster family, and more specifically the *Tagetes* genus, have three main types: French, African (also called American), and Signet, which appear in orange, yellow, red, and bicolor, as well as other color combinations. The flowers have been linked to optimism and prosperity, cheer and joy, love and strong emotions, wealth and success.

Cosmos bloom in a number of colors, from orange, red, and yellow to pink, purple, and white. The colorful petals radiate from a yellow center. A member of the daisy family (Asteraceae), cosmos make a fantastic addition to flower gardens. Native to Mexico, the annual flowers are daisy-like and sit atop long, thin stems that can grow up to six feet tall.

The genus comes from the Greek work kosmos, meaning order and harmony of the universe. The flowers have long symbolized order, harmony, and balance. Others believe it is a sign of peace, love, joy and innocence.



Member of the Year!

It gives the Board of Directors great pleasure to announce the Member of the Year for 2024. Kathy Liska was the member nominated in overwhelming majority to receive the honor. Kathy has served on the Board of Directors for many years: first as Secretary, then as Co-president, She has chaired the Mid-town Mall Garden Show Marigold Give-away for years, co-writes the newsletter and yearbook, and stepped in as the Membership Chair for this year. Kathy has rendered outstanding service to the club and we are proud to have her as a fellow club member and especially as the Member of the Year for 2024. Congratulations, Kathy!



Club Business

Board of Directors Election – A reminder that the current Board is on a 2 year term approved by members last year. The next election will not need to take place until November 2025.

2025 Monthly & Workshop Programs – The Board of Directors has completed putting together the lineup for next year’s monthly meetings and are now asking for members feedback with ideas regarding what kinds of hands-on workshops would be of interest. Please contact any Board Member, or email your thoughts and suggestions to akwildflowers@gmail.com THANKS!

September 2024 Treasurer Reports

Nuvison Federal Credit Union

Business Savings	\$7,585.83
Business Checking	\$7,088.58
CD - 12 month (matures 7/30/25) 3.34%	\$5,254.10
Balance 9/30/24	\$19,928.51

Morgan Stanley Balance 9/30/24 **\$53,207.92**

Total Funds 9/30/24 **\$73,136.43**



Announcements

Membership Renewal

It is the time of year to think about renewing your club membership for the upcoming year 2025. **Remember, to be included in the coming yearbook's list of members, you will need to send in an online or printed application and pay your dues by December 1st.**

You can access the membership form from 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.

The WGCA 2025 Grants application period is open!

Please share this opportunity 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 (WGCA)** 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 total amount to be awarded each year is determined by the WGCA Executive Committee. The minimum request considered will be \$200, the maximum \$1,000. The number of awards will vary each year dependent upon the number of applications received, the amount of money requested, and the total amount to be awarded.



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

Our **November 14th** meeting will be an in-person meeting with a sociable hands-on art project, followed by sharing in fellowship with a “**Friendsgiving**” **Potluck**. We will also participate in a **Food Drive** to which we can donate canned or shelf-stable food items to the bins set up at **Central Lutheran Church**. **Members and Family only event**.

NOTE: Attendance via Zoom will not be available until we can assure consistent connectivity in our meeting space.

Fresh Holiday Wreath or Centerpiece making at Dimond Greenhouses!

Our traditional holiday wreath and centerpiece making workshop is scheduled for **December 5th from 10am-12pm** at Dimond Greenhouses, led by Darryl Leiser. This is always a fun time working together and being both festive and creative. **The cost of the workshop will be \$35 for a wreath and \$25 for a centerpiece**—pending shipping charges, about which we will learn as we get closer to the date. Please consider getting together with fellow club members and the ever humorous and instructional antics of Darryl and his son Matt. **This workshop is open to WGCA Members and family only.**

The **Annual Wildflower Holiday Party** and spirited gift exchange is tentatively planned to be held at **Central Lutheran Church** on **December 12th from 11am-1pm**. More info coming soon!

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

