



# Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

## Newsletter ~ September 2024

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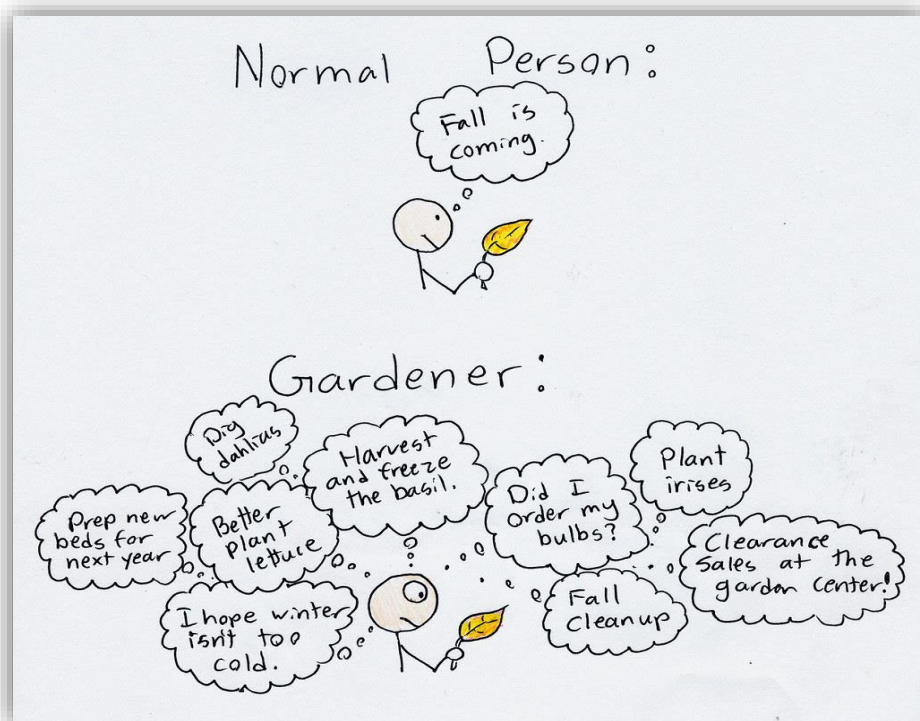
### Message from the Presidents

Change is in the air! It's hard to believe another growing season is coming to an end. Last week there was one little cluster of yellow leaves on our birch tree. Today, yellow leaves are everywhere. Sadly it's time to start putting away plants and containers. We are fortunate to have sunny days; the rain that poured in 2022 as we put things away is still a vivid memory!

According to our weather folks the average last day of 60 degree temperatures is September 17th; the average first frost is September 24th; and average first snow is October 16th. Hopefully, they're wrong and we have a long fall with warmer than average temps!

We look forward to seeing everyone as we gather together once again for meetings. Until then, happy gardening!

**Christie and Kellie**



## What's Growing Now

The Alaska State Fair at Palmer has come and gone for another year. This was the 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fair—talk about tradition! A handful of club members volunteered for both the Crops and Flowers Departments on both entry and judging dates. While the entries were not as abundant due to the cool and gray July & August we had, there were numerous outstanding entries, and 8 new Alaska State records were recorded.

The Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska sponsored Special Awards for both the **Junior Largest Zucchini Contest** and the **Perennial/Biennial Division Champions!**

**1<sup>st</sup> Entry Class 1 awards for ages 6-12 were presented to:**

Paul D. (Wasilla) - 1<sup>st</sup> place

Emmi R. (Wasilla) - 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Scarlett S. (Palmer) - 3<sup>rd</sup> place

**2<sup>nd</sup> Entry Class 1 awards, for ages 6-12 were presented to:**

Grey P. (Palmer) - 1<sup>st</sup> place

Faye R. (Wasilla) - 2<sup>nd</sup> place

No Entry – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

*\*There were no Class 2 entries either week for ages 13-17.*



In the Flowers Department, the first week's Special Award for Perennial/Biennial was given to Anna Denis (Anchorage), for her entry of Eryngium Alpinum.



The second week's Special Award was earned by Carmen Wessel (Wasilla), for spectacular, purple Anemones!



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
THESE  
GARDENERS!**



## Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Laura Ashlock, Mollie Crittenden, Bob Estey, Oona Martin, Lois Rockcastle, Jamye Rue, Kellie Staples and Hillary Walker

**The birth flowers of 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!*

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**“Autumn leaves don’t fall, they fly.  
They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar.”**

**— Delia Owens**

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## Club Business

It's time to nominate your choice for the 2024 Wildflower Member of the Year!



Nominations should be sent to the Wildflower club email, [akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflowers@gmail.com) no later than **Monday, October 7th 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 honor will go to the person who receive the majority of the nominations. **Results will be announced at the October 10<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting.**

### **August 2024 Treasurer Reports**

<b>Nuvison Federal Credit Union</b>	
Business Savings	\$7,585.21
Business Checking	\$6,778.56
CD-9 month (matures 7/30/24) 6%	\$5,239.30
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$19,603.07</b>
<b>Morgan Stanley Balance</b>	<b>\$52,444.64</b>
<b>Total Assets 8/31/24</b>	<b>\$72,047.71</b>



## Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

### **October 10<sup>th</sup> - "Worm Whisperers"**

Monthly Meeting at Central Lutheran Church from 10-11:30am presented by Fran Flint and Judy Pendleton, who will share their experience and know-how to compost with worms.

### **November 14<sup>th</sup> - Friendsgiving Potluck & Food Drive**

Monthly meeting at Central Lutheran Church from 10-11:30am.  
Program to be determined. Possibly a hands-on artsy project.

### **December 5<sup>th</sup> - Fresh Holiday Wreath or Centerpiece at Dimond Greenhouses**

### **December 12<sup>th</sup> - Annual Holiday Luncheon and optional spirited gift exchange.**



## **Member's Corner**

Barbara Baker says -- Patty Miller was kind enough to give me her recipe for the warm and yummy soup served during Entry Day potluck at the fair.

### **Ham, Corn & Potato Chowder**

#### **Ingredients:**

1/4 cup butter  
2 stalks of fresh celery with leaves, chopped  
1 sweet onion, chopped  
2 cans whole kernel corn w/liquid  
5 small red potatoes w/skin, chopped  
6 cups of water, plus 3 Tbsp. Better Than Bouillon-  
Roasted Chicken, plus 1 Tbsp. Roasted Onion  
(optional) OR 6 cups chicken stock  
2 cups heavy cream  
1 lb. ham chopped  
1/2 lb. crisp bacon, chopped  
1/2 tsp basil  
up to 1/2 cup flour and milk for soup thickener  
Cracked pepper to taste

Combine water and bouillon in stock pot. Add butter, potatoes, onion, celery and corn to pot. Cook until potatoes are tender. Add ham, bacon, basil and heavy cream.

Bring to a boil. Add soup thickener, using enough milk to make an un-lumpy slurry. Stir constantly until soup has thickened.



**Hello Fall ... Let's hope for a long one!**