



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ June 2025

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Message from the Presidents

Summer has (finally) arrived! Let the gardening adventures begin. We spent so many winter hours looking through catalogs, researching what will work best, talking to fellow gardeners, and planning our gardens for this season. The same can be said about our club, where we all have worked together to develop fun, interactive meetings and workshops. Like our gardens, it takes time and folks working together to be successful.

Speaking of the club: we have important news! The terms for current board members will be up in December, and new board members for 2026/2027 are needed. Open positions include Club President, Vice President, Treasurer, and two seats for members-at-large. Will you please give it some thought? The board meets for an hour on the first Thursday of each month. Other duties are listed in the club directory.

If you're interested, please email Kellie or me to discuss it further!

Christie & Kellie



In the Loop

A quick trip to clean up the garden at **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center** on May 17 saw four of us arrive with our buckets and trowels. Lots of weeds, but the depredations of the voles was at a minimum this year. We think that they ran through everything they wanted last year, so the survivors are unpalatable and present. The nub the voles left of the Douglas maple has even sprouted some tiny new branches. The arctic birch has grown quite large and is becoming windswept. There was a large number of chatty Australian tourists with tons of fun gardening questions and comparisons. After a good clean up, the garden was ready for viewing.

The Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska had our **Annual Plant Sale** on May 31.

Thanks again to the Hinchey family for the generous use of their facility at 1300 W Benson. It is an ideal location for a plant sale. Although the day started with rain, our doughty crew set up the sale in record time. It is such a pleasure to work with such capable and willing volunteers!

Some thought we had fewer plants than normal, but we certainly had fewer left at the end of the sale. We grossed a few thousand dollars more than last year, which is always a nice trend. The customers appreciated the presence of the Cooperative Extension booth. The tools were a positive addition, although it was not a huge presentation. Alaska Rock Garden Society was thankful to sell a lot of the hard goods they had been donated, and the shoppers were delighted by the enormous selection of plants that were available. Of course, we all had loads of fun working together, greeting and helping customers, and enjoying a lovely day focused on plants and gardening. It is a favorite event for the club and such a pleasure to be a part of such a fun group. Thank you to all who participated and made the event such an overwhelming success!

On Saturday, June 14, eight Wildflowers gathered at member/instructor Carol Norquist's home for a workshop to learn the artful skill of constructing an easy to make **Willow Trellis** for our gardens. The biggest hurdle of the day was – making sure our finished project would fit inside our vehicles! After choosing our wood pieces, sawing them to the perfect size, figuring out how the drills worked, the creativity began and a fun time was had by all. As you can see from the photos below, each trellis was different!

It has been a busy May and June so far for our group, with tending to our own gardens after a late start to spring, Service Projects and the start of Summer Workshops, with more to come in the next two months. Information on this is included in following pages so mark your calendars. We hope up choose to join us at one or more of the planned gatherings with fellow Wildflowers.





Beverly Luedke-Chan



Erika Wolter



Susan Miller



Donna Kellar



Shirley Luedke



Christie Holshouser



Donna



Sally Byrne-Flores



A gardening stance we are all familiar with!



Erika, Shirley & Beverly

Wildflowers that bloomed this month

Mary Britton, Eli Fleischer, Gayle Mathiesen, and Annie Messer



The official June birth flowers are roses and honeysuckles. Both of these beautiful plants have aromatic scents that are synonymous with summer. Roses are the primary flower, and honeysuckle is the secondary flower.

What's more, roses (*Rosa* genus) are aptly nicknamed "The Queen of Flowers." Roses are incredibly diverse in terms of color and form, with red and white roses being the most famous. They

have been cultivated for thousands of years, starting in ancient China and Japan. Roses symbolize love, gratitude, passion, purity, and romance. Although roses are mainly associated with Valentine's Day, they are excellent floral gifts for June birthdays.

Honeysuckles (*Lonicera* genus) are fragrant perennial vines from the honeysuckle family (Caprifoliaceae). Honeysuckle blooms come in white, pink, red, and yellow and produce pungent fragrances, especially in the evening. Honeysuckles symbolize happiness, eternal love, and sweetness.



♥ HAPPY ♥
birthday

Club Business



May 2025 Treasurer Reports

Nuvision Federal Credit Union

Business Savings	\$7,590.85
Business Checking	\$5,029.22
CD - 12 month (matures 7/30/25) 3.34%	\$5,375.69
Balance 5/31/25	\$17,995.76

Morgan Stanley Balance 5/31/25	\$53,076.70
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Total Funds 5/31/25	\$71,072.46
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Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

June 18 – ABG Verna Pratt Trail Maintenance – 10am-12pm **

July 10 – Summer Garden Tours – More information coming soon to your email.

July 16 – ABG Verna Pratt Trail Maintenance – 10am-12pm **

July 16 & 17 – Flower Plate Workshop with Jean Krause. More info is coming soon!

August TBD – Beautiful Bouquets of Garden Bounty Workshop at the Ronsse home

August 15-September 1 – Alaska State Fair “Reach for the Stars”

NOTICE ... changes to this year’s Crops & Flowers entry days!

Entries will be held on **Tuesdays, August 19 & August 26 from Noon-9pm.**

Exhibitor Guide & the AK State Fair website links are listed below for your peruse.

[Crops - 2025 - Alaska State Fairs](#)

[Flowers - 2025 - Alaska State Fair](#)

[Alaska State Fair](#)

September 11 – Return of our Monthly Meetings!

“Prune the Stump or Stump the Pruner” presented by Debbie Hinchey

This promises to be both fun and informative!

**** A note from Rachel Shedd of ABG** – “If you haven't had a chance to join us yet this season, there's still plenty of gardening left. Horticulture opportunities open on a rolling 30-day schedule, so click the link below to sign up, or bookmark the **Horticulture Volunteer 2025** page so you can check back regularly for future opportunities:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/abghort2025#/>

Finally, if you haven't attended a **Volunteer Orientation** yet this year, we are offering two more dates: **June 26 and July 17**. Follow this link to sign up for orientation:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/abgvolunteerorientation2025#/>

Thank you again for all you do for the garden. Looking forward to working with you more!” The ABG Horticulture Team

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or ideas for future programs or workshops, please contact Christie at Holshouser.family@gmail.com



Now You Know ~ Member Share from Annita Magee



Lapland Rosebay/*Rhododendron lapponicum*



Frigid Shooting Star/*Dodecatheon frigidum*



Large Leaf Avens/*Geum macrophyllum*



Bog Rosemary/*Andromeda polifolia*

A trip to the Southeast town of Petersburg in late May/early June gave Annita the opportunity to find these special wildflowers in glorious bloom. The use of umbrellas to protect garden boxes on the deck is a unique idea due to the rain received in this area. Repurposing at its best!

