



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ November 2025

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Message from the Presidents

I have just returned from my annual October NC trip and must admit it was hard to leave the warm temperatures, vibrant fall colors, and my daily "walk-about" picking up pecans. The locals told me it is a "year for the nuts" because the acorn, pecan, walnut trees are all full. My mom has eight pecan trees, four of which had a bounty of nuts, four of which just gave us some. Nine and a half 5-gallon buckets were filled with pecans before I left, and yet the treetops are still full! The deer helped themselves to a few pecans on our drying rack before I noticed and quickly put them out of their reach. I was also told that pecans will all fall once there is a frost. No frost yet, but lots of wind. Thankfully, my dad invested in an electric pecan cracker, and I can tell you it saved the day! 130 cups of pecans were shared with family/friends or frozen, one cracked bucket went to family members, and two and a half buckets were left for my sister to crack. It had me thinking about my apple trees here in Alaska and how full they were. Maybe it was just a year of abundance. Hopefully, your gardens were bountiful and plenty as well and you were able to save some for the long winter months ahead.

Kellie & I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and may your table be filled family, friends and the bounties from your garden.

Christie & Kellie



What's Growing Now

What a delight to get together with like-minded people and share both delicious food, but also to act creatively together.

In addition, we are able to share in our abundance with others less fortunate than we. Especially poignant in light of the flooding in Western Alaska this year, and the high number of displaced people in Anchorage right now. Thanks to Central Lutheran Church for allowing us to add to their food collection for those in need.

Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

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

The November Birth flowers are the Chrysanthemum and the Peony.

The chrysanthemum is traditionally the official birth flower for November, known for blooming in the fall. They symbolize joy, longevity, and loyalty, and come in a wide variety of colors. Different chrysanthemum colors have different meanings, but include love, passion, happiness, hope, honesty, loyalty, truth, thoughtfulness, care, friendship, affection, good luck, renewal and health. These flowers represent positivity, care and sunniness, much like the people born in November.



In traditional Asian art, chrysanthemums are prized for their vibrant and delicate petals, symbolizing the sun's rays. Chinese and Japanese cultures associate these flowers with abundance, fulfillment, and intellectual achievements. They also represent inner beauty, humility, tolerance, and the tenacity to overcome adversity. The flowers are considered edible in many cultures, and are used for tea in Asia.



The Peony is the secondary November birth flower. Like the peony, November people are generous, strong, and compassionate, with a natural ability to thrive even in difficult conditions, and may have an innate ability to help others heal emotionally, reflecting their empathy and kindness. Other traits are compassion, romantic feelings, and positive thoughts. In Japan, peonies symbolize honor and fortune. The peony has been prized for its medicinal properties for humans, but can be mildly to moderately toxic if ingested by pets.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Club Business

November Board of Directors Election

The Official Ballot of Nominees for the 2026/2027 Board of Directors, Voting Procedures, and Election Timelines were emailed to all members on November 13, 2025.

- The Slate of Board Members returning and/or nominated people, was presented at the November 13th general meeting, and sent by email to all current members.
- Electronic Voting for the Board of Directors will begin Friday, November 14th through Friday, November 21st at 5pm.
- Results will be announced via email on Monday, November 24th.

2026 Official Ballot

President: Christie Holshouser

Vice President: Barbara Baker

Secretary: Mary Britton

Treasurer: Cindy Walker

Member at Large: Judy Pendleton

Member at Large: Alis Schmitt



October 2025 Treasurer Reports

Nuvision Federal Credit Union

Business Savings	\$7,999.81
Business Checking	\$8,293.04
CD - 9 month (matures 5/1/26) 5.37%	\$5,069.20
Balance 10/31/25	\$21,362.05

Morgan Stanley Balance 10/31/25 **\$58,369.46**

Total Funds 10/31/25 **\$79,731.51**



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

December 4 – 10am-12pm at Dimond Greenhouses 10am-12pm

Fresh Holiday Wreath (\$35) or Centerpiece (\$25) Workshop with Darryl Leiser

Members & Family Only Activity

December 11 – 11am-1pm at Central Lutheran Church

All Appetizers Holiday Party – Please bring a light snack to share, and your festive cheer. Experience the magic of the holidays with your garden friends, tasty food, and fun. If you would like to participate in our spirited gift exchange, bring a wrapped, garden related gift costing no more than \$20.

Members & Family Only Activity (Look for a SignUp Genius coming soon!)

NEW ~ Meeting time change to 10:30am coming in January 2026!

January 8 – Program TBA 10:30am-12pm at Central Lutheran Church

February 12 – 10:30am-12pm at Central Lutheran Church* **SAVE THE DATE!**

Meet & greet brunch for members only with our special visiting guest speaker Dr. Richard Benfield.

February 12 – 5:30pm-8:00pm at BP Energy Center* **SAVE THE DATE!**

“Around the World in 80 Gardens” presented by Dr. Richard Benfield

Join us for an enchanting evening as Dr. Richard Benfield, former Chair and Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut, shares the highlights of his distinguished career in tourism, focusing on the world's most remarkable gardens. Dr. Benfield is a highly sought-after speaker for garden and nature clubs worldwide, and his presentations captivate both gardening enthusiasts and general audiences alike.

During this special session, Dr. Benfield will guide attendees on a virtual tour beginning in the lush gardens of the Pacific. The journey continues through South America and Europe, onward to Southeast Asia and Australia, showcasing unique gardens and floral kingdoms from around the globe. The presentation will include:

- A walk through the three acres of gardens at Singapore's airport
- The arid and captivating gardens of Australia
- The tropical splendor of the Seychelles, home of the 'love nut'
- The distinctive landscapes of the Canary Islands
- A grand finale in the picturesque English country gardens of Dr. Benfield's homeland
- Exploration of unique gardens across the United States and Canada

In total, Dr. Benfield will highlight 80 extraordinary gardens spanning six continents!

This event is proudly sponsored by the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Announcements



Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your club membership for 2026. **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.

Thank you for your continued support of the Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska!

WGCA 2026 Grants application period is now 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. [The Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska - Our Grants Program](#)

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, 2026.**

Member's Corner

Wildflower's Motto... Show, Share and Tell!

The purpose of the Member's Corner section is to inspire and encourage each other. Submit items: horticulture 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

*NOVEMBER IS THE TIME TO BE THANKFUL,
A TIME TO REMEMBER,
AND TO
EMBRACE THOSE WHO ENRICH OUR LIVES.*