



# Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ September 2025

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## Message from the Presidents

It's that time of year... both the leaves and mercury are starting to fall. Mornings and evenings alike are dark. And while we love to see every plant blooming, we know it's time to start cleaning up and prepping for the s\*\*w that's certainly on its way. Which plants will we winter over? Which will grace the compost heap?

Fortunately, not all the choices before us are so hard. We just held our first in-person meeting of the fall and it was great to see everyone and hear how your gardens did this summer. Now, we have to choose speakers for 2026. Do you have a topic or someone you'd like to hear from? If so, please let us know! We really want your ideas!

**Christie and Kellie**



*Gather the harvest, cherish the colors,  
and live in the fullness of fall.*

## In the Loop

### **Flower Bouquets with Paul Marmora**

**(Photos shared by Cindy Calzada)**

On 14 August 2025, four artsy souls got together at the home of Dennis and Annie Ronsse, who again opened up their home and gardens to share with our club. We each brought two containers to fill with the bounty of their gardens. We had a fun time perusing what was growing and choosing flowers to make a couple of bouquets to bring home or give away to friends. The Ronsses have such incredible garden abundance and are so willing to share their bounty with others to spread joy. We left with full hearts and arms of flowers. Many thanks to Dennis and Annie for their generosity!



Paul Marmora



Cindy Calzada



Peggy Pletcher



Mary Moline

### **Alaska State Fair Awards:**

#### **Division 17; Class 01 Ages 6-12: Juniors Largest Zucchini - \$20/\$10/\$5 Awards**

1 <sup>st</sup> Entry:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Alfonso Mora	Wasilla	5.58 lb.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Charlotte Mora	Wasilla	4.56 lb.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Penelope Collins	Wasilla	2.12 lb.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Entry:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Emmi Raisanen	Wasilla	9.26 lb.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Rhys Herbert	Palmer	5.08 lb.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Hunter Sterling	Willow	Unknown



#### **Division 01 Champion: Perennial/Biennial Flowers - \$25 Award**

1 <sup>st</sup> Entry:	Nathanael Warta	Palmer	Bleeding Heart
2 <sup>nd</sup> Entry:	Marlun Maestas	Wasilla	Pseudata Iris "Yarai" Night Thunder



**Congratulations to these gardeners ... Way to Grow!**

## **Wildflowers that bloomed**

Mollie Crittenden, Bob Estey, Rebecca McCart, Lois Rockcastle, Jamye Rue & Kellie Staples  
September's Official Birth Month Flowers are the Aster and Morning Glory.

Aster is an herbaceous perennial plant of the *Asteraceae* family. The colorful blooms vary from white and yellow to pastel pinks, blues, purples, while some varieties are vibrant and contain vivid hues.

It is one of the largest families of flowering plants with over 32,000 species in more than 1,900 genus, with a wide variety of annuals, shrubs, and a few trees. Members of this family include sunflowers, daisies, dandelions, and even lettuce!



Pollinators like bees and butterflies love these abundant flowers since they are late-season bloomers and provide necessary pollen and nectar for them later in the year.

Asters hold a variety of meanings and symbolism. Generally, it conveys faith, love, achievement, and wisdom. It also means bravery, patience, and good luck wishes. In some cultures, star-shaped flowers are expressions of grief for the death of a loved one. In the Victorian era, the flower represents charm and daintiness.



The Morning Glory, *Convolvulaceae*, has been grown as a valued and decorative garden addition for centuries because of their attractive flowers and colorful blooms.

With over 1,000 species included under the general umbrella of the Morning Glory name, it's hard to sum them all up.

Interestingly, there isn't one specific species of flower that uses this name either. In general, almost any member of the *Convolvulaceae* family can be called a Morning Glory.

This family features a variety of climbing plants known for their trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom in the morning and close by late afternoon. And despite the common name, many varieties actually bloom at night instead!

In the language of flowers, morning glory blooms represent unrequited love because of their short lifespan. They also symbolize affection, mortality, mourning, and resurrection.

Happy Birthday



## **Club Business**

The Board of Directors has completed the annual review of the **WGCA Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules (CBSR)**. No changes are recommended at this time.

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The **Nomination Committee** for the 2026-2027 Board of Directors election has been formed. It consists of **Barbara Baker at 907-360-5910, Paul Marmora at 907-360-3728, and Kellie Staples at 907-632-8368.**

If you are interested in being on the Board, would like to be placed on the nomination slate, need more information, or have any other questions, please contact one of the Nomination Committee persons listed above. We would welcome your assistance.

- **Nominations from the floor will be open Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Prior permission is required from potential candidates before nominating.**
  - **The Slate of Board Members returning and/or nominated, will be presented at the November 13<sup>th</sup> general meeting, and sent electronically by email to all current members.**
  - **Electronic Voting for the Board of Directors will begin Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> - Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm. More information via email will be coming soon!**
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### **August 2025 Treasurer Reports**

#### **Nuvision Federal Credit Union**

Business Savings	\$7,998.47
Business Checking	\$7,931.99
CD - 12 month (matures 7/30/25) 3.34%	\$5,024.04
<b>Balance 8/31/25</b>	<b>\$20,954.50</b>

<b>Morgan Stanley Balance 8/31/25</b>	<b>\$56,278.98</b>
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<b>Total Funds 8/31/25</b>	<b>\$77,233.48</b>
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## Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** – “Prune the Stump or Stump the Pruner!” with Debbie Hinchey  
10-11:30 AM at Central Lutheran Church

**October 9<sup>th</sup>** – “Orchid Hangups” with Paul Marmora  
10-11:30 AM at Central Lutheran Church

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** – “Friendsgiving Potluck & Food Drive” plus a bonus Holiday Craft Workshop!  
11 AM – 1 PM at Central Lutheran Church ~ **Members and Family Only Activity**

## Announcements

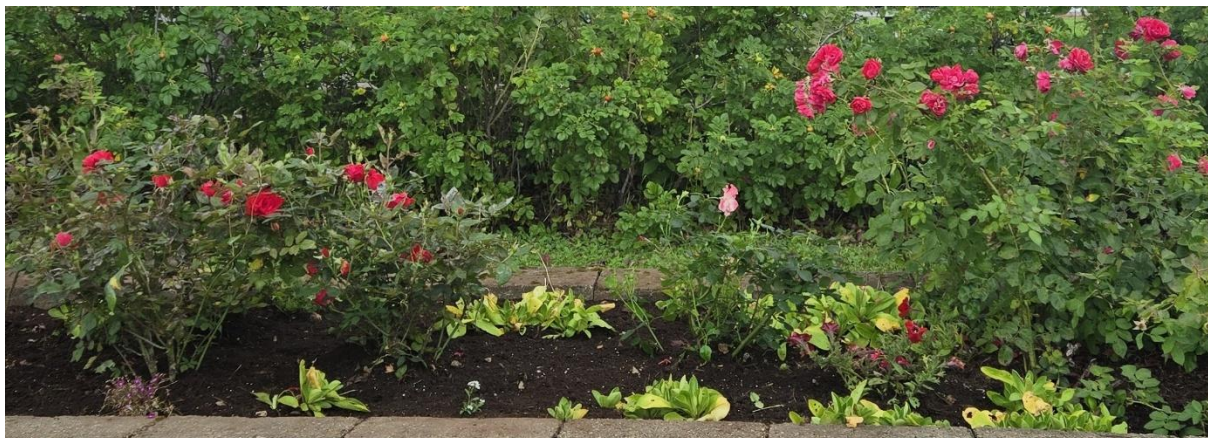
It has come to the attention of the Board that 10am may not be as convenient for meeting attendees as it was in the past. We do have the opportunity to shift the start times to 10:30am without adversely affecting the schedule of the events at Central Lutheran Church. It would be more convenient for working members to blend a later start into their lunch hour, and a later start might benefit others who like a little more time to start their day. This change would begin in January 2026. What do you think? Please respond to this question at [akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflowers@gmail.com) to let us know your opinion.

**Ideas for 2026 programs** – We would like to hear from members about types of educational programs you would like us to work on scheduling. Plant Photography using our cell phones? Insects? Container Gardening? Member Picture Sharing? Wildlife? Mushrooms? Propagation? Please share your thoughts with us at [akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflowers@gmail.com)

## Member Share

**Centennial Rose Garden news and information from member Debbie Hinchey**

We totally dug up this section and removed a black spot susceptible plant that always seemed to look bad , and was spreading into the rest of the bed. We also went through the soil to remove all the **Campanula rapunculoides**\* (**Chimney Bells or Creeping Bellflower**) pieces as we could find. this meant the Primula auricula also had to be dug up and then replanted. The one shrub to the right of the three Double Knock Out roses is 'Campfire' a relatively new Canadian-bred rose. We sure miss our chopped-leaf mulch! (*It was accidentally taken out by the Muni during a cleanup*).



## Centennial Rose Garden ~ Volunteer Today!

Thank you to the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation crew who take care of all the lawn mowing in the garden and remove the big bags of bad weeds the volunteers produce each week!

The roses, beds, and rose hedges are maintained by an all-volunteer crew. Interested in helping care for the garden? You will be very welcome! Come for an hour or stay for hours at a time. There are plenty of opportunities with trimming, deadheading, planting annual flowers, weeding, and mulching important to keep the roses healthy and visitors happy. Some may think of it as work or a chore, while you may find instead the peaceful effects of garden Zen.

### Volunteer Windows:

**Spring, Summer & Fall**

Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m.

#### **Fall**

Mulching Party to tuck the roses in for winter (generally late September or early October)

Can you join us or want to learn more? We look forward to hearing from you!

[anchoragerosegarden@gmail.com](mailto:anchoragerosegarden@gmail.com)

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#### **\*From UAF Cooperative Extension Service**

Becoming extremely aggressive wherever it is planted, **Campanula rapunculoides**, **Creeping Bellflower** is known by some gardeners as the “purple monster.” It produces a large number of seeds and also spreads by creeping rootstocks. It escapes into lawns and can persist with frequent mowing. Removal by digging is usually not successful because plants resprout from any small pieces left in the ground.



#### **Don't Plant a Problem: Invasive Garden Species**

FGV-00146 [View this publication in PDF form to print or download.](#)

## As gardeners, what can you do?

- Don't plant flowers, trees and shrubs which are known to be invasive.
- Watch species that have the potential to become troublesome and help share information.
- Order from reputable nurseries that are not likely to mislabel plants or sell weedy seed mixes.
- Don't share potential problems with other gardeners.
- When you purchase new plants, watch to make sure you don't introduce weeds hitchhiking in pots or root balls.
- Make sure you don't introduce problems by planting nonnative wildflower seed mixes which contain invasive species or weed seeds.


**Human actions are the primary means of invasive species introductions. Gardeners can be part of the solution. Don't plant invasive species intentionally.**



### Let It Bee

The Secret to a Healthier Garden

Dead and decaying plants & seed pods are essential food & habitat for life in your garden.



Winter survival of birds, bees, butterflies, other insects, & microbes depends on them.



Do protect tender perennials and decor.



But, unless diseased, pest-infested, or invasive, leave the rest until late spring.



Let nature do what it does best.

Fall 'mess' nurtures spring life.

Empress of Dirt

