



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ March 2026

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Message from the President

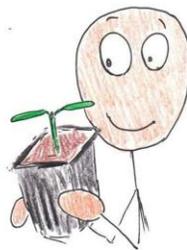
In many parts of the country spring is in the air. Unfortunately, spring is many weeks away for Alaska. While March doesn't bring us spring flowers it does find many of us totally immersed in one of winter's best activities: planting seeds!

Thanks to Wildflower Club member Deb Blalock, I have a spreadsheet which lists what should be planted each month. It's a wonderful document (thank you, Deb). I've altered it a bit, mostly adding flowers, to fit what I grow. It's my go-to reference when I'm going through the seed catalogs and beginning to order what I need for the season, and it's handy as I can look in each of my seed containers to see my inventory and know which seeds need to be ordered first. All in all, it's a good system. But no system is immune to user error... In January when I was taking inventory I glanced at the sweet pea container, noted there were five or six packs, and decided not to order any new seeds. Imagine my surprise when I went to plant and there was only a single seed among all six packs. One seed! The packets were empty. I'd like to blame it on a hungry garden gnome but I suspect "past me" thought "future me" would want to keep empty packets for reference. Oh well. Thankfully, it doesn't take long for orders to arrive, and the seed trays are now planted.

Soon spring will arrive and we'll begin the "in out, in out" process of hardening off our seedlings. Until then, I'll keep "petting" my seedlings as Wildflower member Kathy Liska says and wait, probably very impatiently, for spring to arrive.

Christie

Amid all the uncertainty in the
world right now...



Thank goodness seeds still
germinate.

Joseph Tychonievich

In the Loop

An even dozen of Wildflower members braved the frigid below zero temperature to attend our March 12th meeting to get their hands and artistic minds working while making 'Seed Flowers' with Christie Holshouser & Kathy Liska, and also learning the art of 'Flower Hammering' for cards or framing with Alis Schmitt. It was a very casual hands-on time together doing these crafts, chatting, laughing, and sharing a potluck lunch with friends!



Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Ruth Bauman, Ken Blaylock, Rachel Giannulis, Gail Heineman, Susan Miller and Nancy Tone

Daffodils and Cherry Blossoms are the official March birth flowers. The flowers themselves are beautiful and so are their special meanings! Daffodils, a member of the Narcissus family, are best known for a single bloom on each stem, but others in the daffodil family, like the jonquil, will produce multiple blooms per stem. The traditional daffodil is either yellow, white, or a combination of the two, with six petals and a trumpet- or bell-shaped crown that is frilled at its edge.



The daffodil symbolizes new beginnings, rebirth, and the arrival of spring. Additionally, it represents love, forgiveness, memory, and inspiration. Who could help being in love with this little bright sun that brings hope and new life with spring? However, gifting someone a single stem is bad luck, so always deliver a bunch!



The Sakura, a member of the Prunus family and commonly known as the Cherry Blossom, is widely regarded as Japan's cultural and emotional national symbol. Because their life span is very short, they have become associated with living the moment, and taking time to appreciate things as they are at present, and not always looking at the distant future.

A time to reflect on renewal and optimism, the acceptance of change, to remind us to live life to the fullest, cherishing each precious day, as life is fleeting and should be enjoyed to the best of one's ability. Think of this birth flower as the floral equivalent to a reset. These stunning pink blooms mark the end of winter and signify the beginning of warmer spring days.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Member Share

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

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

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

Club Business

February 2026 Treasurer Reports

Nuvision Federal Credit Union	
Business Savings	\$8,002.44
Business Checking	\$4,353.28
CD-9 month (matures 5/1/26) 5.37%	\$5,159.22
Balance 2/28/26	\$17,514.94
Morgan Stanley Balance 2/28/26	\$59,688.88
Total Funds 2/28/26	\$77,203.82



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

April 9th – Regular Monthly Meeting

“How to Keep Alaska Trees Healthy” with Justin Sturn of Greatland Tree Service
10:30am-12pm at Central Lutheran Church

This will be the last monthly meeting until September. The months of May, June, July and August will be full of opportunities for Community & Service Projects, the ever popular Plant Sale, Garden Tours, and Workshops!

April 18th – Midtown Mall Spring Garden Show – Community Project 9am-4pm

Volunteers are needed to help set up, plant marigolds with the kids, answer questions about the club and gardening, assist with plant and craft sales, and take down. An opportunity to sell a limited amount of plants and garden related craft items will be available for members. A SignUp Genius will be sent in March.

May 7th – Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail Spring Cleanup* – Service Project

10am-12pm at the Alaska Botanical Garden.

*Dependent on snow presence.

May 16th – Native Plant Garden Spring Cleanup* – Service Project

11am-1pm at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage.

*Date dependent on snow presence.

May 30th – Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale – Community Event 9am-3pm

Volunteer help is needed throughout the day for overseeing plant tables, sales, and answering questions. We will also need assistance before and after the event for setup & takedown. A SignUp Genius will be sent in late April. More information coming soon!

Announcements

We are sad to announce that a long time club friend, Wayne Toups, has passed away. Wayne, a vital part of the Alaska Orchid Society, was a good friend to Sally Karabelnikoff, and as such was around the Wildflower Garden Club often. He has presented on orchid care to our club, and was always pleasant, helpful, and accommodating to all he came into contact with. Although health issues have caused him to scale back his participation in a number of garden activities in recent years, Wayne will be greatly missed in the gardening community.



*May you have all the happiness and luck that life can hold,
and at the end of your rainbows may you find a pot of gold!*

Happy St. Patrick's Day

