



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ August 2026

P.O. Box 240563
Anchorage, AK
99524

FB: Wildflower Garden Club
akwildflowers@gmail.com
wildflowergardenclub.org

Message from the President

Sunny bright days find us spending hours outside in the garden.

Uplifting – sunshine makes everyone smile and happy!

Nasturtiums and all our flowers are dazzling in color.

Solstice – brings bounties from our gardens.

Heat – Have you noticed how fast things started growing with all the hot days?

Ice Cream- A treat after spending most of the day in the garden.

No weed is safe when the sun comes out!

Expecting rain to come and release us of our watering duties.

Hope you're all out having great adventures.

Christie



Special Wildflowers that bloomed this month

Debbie Hinchey, Patricia Holloway, Rebecca Manley, Shirley Ryan, and Thais Thomas

August birth flowers are the Gladiolus and the Poppy.

The **gladiolus**, also known as the "sword lily," is the primary birth flower for August. Its name comes from the Latin word *gladius*, meaning sword, which refers to the shape of its leaves. Gladiolus flowers are tall, trumpet-shaped blooms that grow from 2 to 5 feet high and come in a wide range of colors. They are native to South Africa, the Mediterranean, and parts of Asia, and have been cultivated for centuries. Gladiolus represents strength, honor, moral integrity, and love at first sight. Historically, Roman gladiators wore these flowers around their necks as a symbol of protection and victory. Different colors carry additional meanings: red for romance and love, pink for gentle affection, yellow for friendship and joy, purple for royalty and beauty, and white for purity and innocence. Gladiolus is also associated with remembrance and admiration, making it a meaningful gift for August birthdays.



The **poppy** is the secondary birth flower for August. Poppies are herbaceous plants from the Papaveraceae family, with nearly 100 species worldwide. They are known for their vibrant, often red, flowers and have a long history of cultural and symbolic significance. Poppies symbolize remembrance, sleep, comfort after death, wealth, and success. They are often used to honor those who have passed away, reflecting their

historical association with war and memorials. Poppies also come in various colors, each with unique meanings, making them versatile for gifts and floral arrangements.

Together, the gladiolus and poppy capture the essence of August with their vibrant colors and rich symbolism. These flowers are not only beautiful in gardens and bouquets but also carry deep historical and cultural significance, making them thoughtful choices for celebrating August birthdays!

Happy Birthday

Club Business

July 2026 Treasurer Reports

Nuvision Federal Credit Union

Business Savings	\$8,005.80
Business Checking	\$7,087.31
CD-12 month (matures 5/1/27) 3.40%	\$5,249.65
Balance 7/31/26	\$20,342.76

Morgan Stanley Balance 7/31/26 **\$61,639.32**

Total Funds 7/31/26 **\$81,982.08**



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

September 10th – “Invasive Plants” with Gino Graziano from CES
Central Lutheran Church 10:30am-12:00pm with optional potluck following meeting.

October 8th – “Picture Share of our Summer Gardens” with Kathy Liska
Central Lutheran Church 10:30am-12:00pm with optional potluck following meeting.
Members are asked to share up to 10 photos of your garden flowers and/or wildlife with identification, no later than September 15th to Kathy at akliska@aol.com so she can put together an eye-catching slideshow for this meeting. We know you’ve had your cameras and phones out taking pictures!

Announcements

2026 Alaska State Fair “90 Years with You!” – August 21st thru September 7th

Encourage a young person aged 6-17 to submit a large squash entry in the Crops Department; **Division 11 – Juniors Largest Zucchini Contest**, and all ages to submit entries for the **Flowers Department; Division 1 – Perennials/Biennials.**

Special Awards sponsored by the Wildflowers!

Crops & Flowers Exhibit Entry Days:

1st Entry: Tuesday, August 25, Noon – 8 pm

2nd Entry: Tuesday, September 1, Noon – 8 pm

Click links below for more information

[Crops - 2026 - Alaska State Fair](#)

[Flowers - 2026 - Alaska State Fair](#)

[Fair Side Homepage - Alaska State Fair](#)



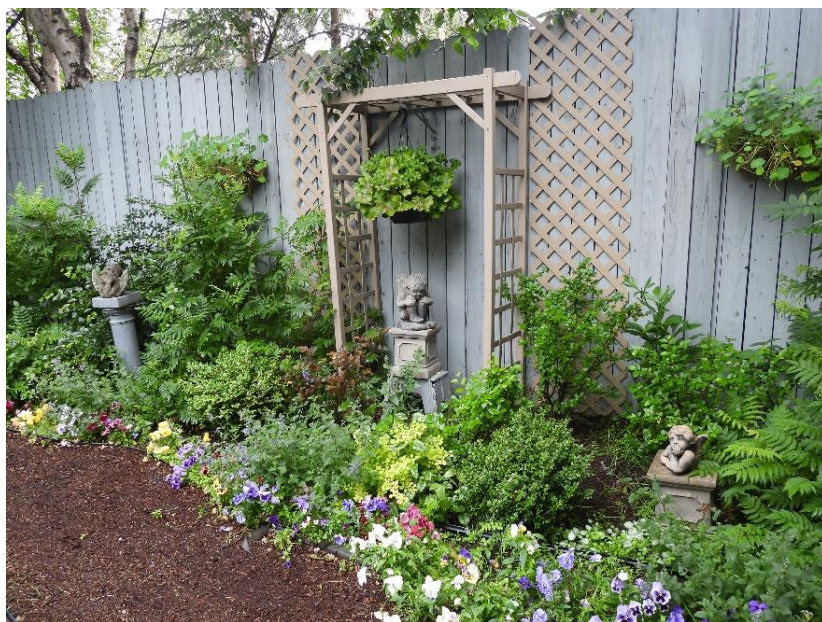
In the Club Loop

July 9th Garden Tours

Despite heavy rain, a few doughty club members braved the elements and joined the garden tour. We started at the **Chanshtnu Muldoon Park Gardens** at the former site of the Alaska Greenhouses and the Leiser family acreage. We were fortunate to have member **Cindy Calzada** with us, as she has a plot there at the community garden and was able show us around and to introduce us to a friend with two plots there. Between the two of them, we had quite a comprehensive tour. **A big thanks to Cindy for teaching us about the area.**



Our second stop was to the **home of member Carroll Samuelson**. Carroll downsized a few years ago from a larger house with extensive gardens to a townhouse with a smaller yard. She has developed what she calls a “Senior Garden” for easier access and maintenance, and she was eager to share her vision with others. Her small corner of Eden was an absolute delight to behold. **Many thanks Carrol for sharing your lovely eutopia with us!**



Our third stop was rained out due to heavy puddling, but member **Debbie Hinchey** agreed to tour us around the **Anchorage Rose Garden**, which happened to be in full bloom, which was evident from the fragrance more than forty feet away! Debbie is curator of the rose garden and was able to share history and specifics about the garden to tour delight. There are more than 80 species of hardy roses in that sanctuary.

Unfortunately, due the major accident and subsequent closure on the Glen Highway on Thursday morning, the Eagle River contingent as unable to reach Anchorage for the tours. Christie said to tell everyone she was quite jealous, as the highway closure and the rain in Eagle River prevented her from working in her garden, so she was forced to do housework...



**Thank you Debbie for stepping up at the spur of the moment
to show us the beauty of this special garden!**

Dare to be a rose in a world full of daisies!

July 22nd & 23rd Flower Plate Workshop

Club members gathered in **Kellie and Stan Staples'** garage to make flowers from a large assortment of plates and other glass and china dishware. We had a great deal of fun assembling decorative flowers from odds and ends. Glue or silicone cemented them together and we had to let them dry overnight, gathering the next day to attach hangers so the flowers can be placed on stakes in the garden, or on fences or walls. Such a fun activity, and seeing how people put things together is inspiring! **Thank you Christie, Paul, Kellie & Stan for making this event happen.**



July 29th & 30th Stepping Stone Workshop

Whew... July was a busy month!! At this workshop, held at the home of member **Norma Stanford**, we put together concrete stepping stones with stained glass inserts that she had prepared for us. We were scheduled to reconvene on Thursday, but decided the concrete needed more time to cure, so we met again on Friday, July 31st to add the finishing touches. These are bright and colorful, and long-lasting, Norma showed us photos of some that she had made over 20 years ago. A very fun activity!





Thank you Norma for welcoming us into your backyard and bringing out the artistic side in all of us!

August 6th Garden Bouquet Workshop

Our club had the pleasure of once again participating in a workshop at the Ronsse's home and extensive gardens to build two bouquets from their bounty. The garden across the street—Mardane's Garden—has always been available to us as well. This year, a new family had purchased the house and garden property and they have continued to generously allow us access as well. They even participated in the workshop! Nine of us built lovely arrangements, learned a little more about flower design, enjoyed working together and departed triumphantly with our treasures.



Many, many thanks to Annie and Dennis for generously opening their gardens to us year after year!



**Friends are like flowers in the garden of life,
bringing beauty, joy, and warmth to our journey!**



GARDENING

**It grounds us ... gets us out of our
busy heads and back into our bodies.
Alone there on our knees, we can breathe.
With our nurturing hands duly occupied,
while gardening we allow ourselves
the time & space to truly feel
peace, pride, satisfaction, joy.**