



# Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ May 2026

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## Message from the President

Christie is on the road again in North Carolina. She will be back soon!

## Special wildflowers that bloomed this month

Deb Blaylock, Elizabeth Bluemink, Janet Hartmann, Kathy Liska, Mary Moline, Jaime Rodriguez Norma Stanford, and Cindy Walker



The May birth flowers are the Lily of the Valley and the Hawthorn. Much like these sweet smelling flowers, May-born people are said to be sweet and even-tempered.

Lily of the Valley's botanical name **Convallaria Majalis** translates to "Valley plant of May." The flowers symbolize sweetness and humility, they are associated with romance (being featured in wedding bouquets often), and are also called "the return of happiness." Native to Europe and Asia, they feature in religion and folklore. The sweet fragrance is a favorite of perfumers, especially in France where there is a festival in honor of the flowers. While the word lily features in the name, these flowers are related to

Asparagus, not lilies. The Lily of the Valley is very hardy and adaptable, growing in all kinds of soil and light conditions. Caution should be used in planting them, as they spread very easily and have been known to cross under sidewalks with their rhizomes and to start another patch on the other side.

The Hawthorn is a member of the rose family, as are other fruit-bearing trees, such as apple, cherry and pear. The botanical name, **Crataegus** is from the Greek words meaning "Strength" and "Sharp" referencing the fact that many hawthorn species have prominent thorns. For this reason and for the dense foliage they produce, they were used as hedgerows to define property and to protect livestock. In Celtic mythology, Hawthorns are associated with the fairy world and are thought to be gateways to their realm. Hawthorns are symbolic of hope, love, happiness, protection and fertility.



## In the Loop

Our April 9<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting topic, “How to Keep Alaska Trees Healthy,” was presented by Justin Sturn, of Greatland Tree Service. Justin is a certified arborist and is experienced in tree risk assessment and pesticide application. He told us this was his first public speaking engagement, but one would never know it. Justin was engaging, personable and informative. He spoke on growing healthy trees, proper pruning cuts, why sprinklers are bad, common pests and how to spot them, how trees compartmentalize decay, and followed up with a question & answer session. A great presentation!



Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> the Wildflowers participated with a booth at the Midtown Mall Spring Garden Show. We planted and handed out over 100 marigolds with and to kids, sold some craft items and lots of plants! This is always a fun event, with the chance to meet up and make new friends from other groups. Typically busy in the early hours of the day, this year the mall was packed all day. Two thoughts to why could be that everyone is ready for spring to be arrive in full force, plus it was a chilly day, so why not do something inside. Many thanks to Barbara Baker, Kellie Staples, Kristie Holshouser, Cindy Walker, Kathy Liska, Donna Dewhurst, Madge Oswald, Alis Schmitt, Janet Hartmann, Jamye Rue, Cindy Calzada, Rebecca Gramm, Lois Rockcastle, Judy Pendleton, and Sally Byrne-Flores for bringing the best in personality, help, and product for this community event. Check out some of the fun and smiles we shared together in the photos taken by Cindy Calzada below.





## Club Business

### April 2026 Treasurer Reports

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

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Business Savings                  | \$8,003.78         |
| Business Checking                 | \$2,240.75         |
| CD-9 month (matures 5/1/26) 5.37% | \$5,205.59         |
| <b>Balance 4/30/26</b>            | <b>\$15,450.12</b> |

**Morgan Stanley Balance 4/30/26** **\$60,493.39**

**Total Funds 4/30/26** **\$75,943.51**



## Announcements

### **Celebrate Alaska Native Plant Month in May!**

Alaska Native Plant Month is a celebration of the importance of native plants to Alaska's people, economy, and ecosystems. It is observed in May each year, with various activities and resources available to promote the appreciation and conservation of native plants.

The Alaska Native Plant Society and other organization provide educational materials, event calendars by clicking [Alaska Native Plant Month - Event Calendar](#), self-guided plant walks, and opportunities for planting and the care of native trees, shrubs, and flowers.

### **Pioneer Home Gardens**

Wildflower member Susan Miller coordinates the Alaska Master Gardener Anchorage volunteer efforts at the gardens at the Pioneer Home. As with all service projects, this presents an opportunity for members to assist in gardening for others. Volunteers plant annuals in the gardens, and weed, water and dead head the plants all summer. They meet every Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. for an hour or two. Spring Cleanup Day and Planting Day have not been scheduled yet, but will be sometime in late May. If you would like to volunteer and be notified of the date and time for clean-up and planting days, please email Susan Miller at [smiller.ret@gmail.com](mailto:smiller.ret@gmail.com) for more information.



## Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

### **May 7<sup>th</sup> – Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail Spring Cleanup\* – Service Project**

**10am-12pm** at the Alaska Botanical Garden.

It would be nice to get some clean up done for the Mother's Day event at ABG. Bring your own favorite tools and gloves. \*Date dependent on snow presence.

*It is required that all volunteers, new and returning, participate in a short orientation with Stacey Shriner and Rachel Shedd to learn and/or refresh us about the procedures the garden uses for future signups and wayward wildlife known to wander to grounds. **Please use the ABG provided SignUp Genius link below to register for your orientation.** Thank you!*

### [General Volunteer Notifications: Volunteer Orientation 2026 Season](#)

### **May 16<sup>th</sup> – Native Plant Garden Spring Cleanup\* – Service Project**

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

\*Date dependent on snow presence. Please contact Paul at [pmarmora@aol.com](mailto:pmarmora@aol.com) to volunteer.

### **May 30<sup>th</sup> – Wildflower & Anchorage Garden Clubs Plant Sale – Community Event**

Every year, our plant sale is one of the looked-for events of the gardening season!

The best news is that the Anchorage Garden Club will join us at the sale this year, allowing consumers a larger range of plants and a consolidated location for shopping!

The club combined sale this year is scheduled for **Saturday, May 30th at our favorite location; 1300 W. Benson Blvd**, the former DMV building, located on the corner of Benson and Spenard, **from 9am to 3pm.**

**We will be able to deliver our plants to the building on Friday, May 29 from 12pm to 7pm, and set up will start on Saturday morning at 7am. All sellers are expected to work at least part of the day. The end of the day clean-up is scheduled from 3-5pm. Sellers must pick up their leftover plants & flats by 5pm.**

**WGCA plant sales will be divided with 75% to the sellers and 25% to the club, as usual.**

Normally, the prices should be lower than the retail stores, and values are set according to the size and rarity of the species offered.. Remember, this is not a garage sale, so prices should be affordable, but not dirt cheap either. The minimum price is \$3/pot. All plants need to be in good condition, pest-free, and well-watered (as watering facilities are not available at the facility).

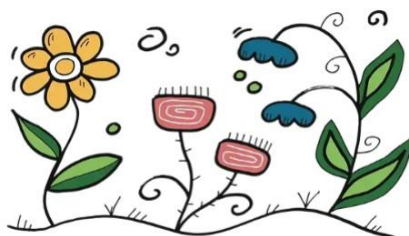
**ALL PLANTS NEED A YELLOW AND WHITE TAG.** The yellow tag has the seller's initials and the price of the item, **in dollar increments only, no cents.** The white tag has the name of the plant. If the price or owner's initials on the tags are unreadable, the price is determined by the tag wipers and/or the amount will go to the club. **You can get tags from the club by calling or texting Paul for details (907-360-3728) on how to get some.**

We will also offer a miscellaneous garden items give away this year. Any leftover items will be the responsibility of the person who brought them. **This does not include used flower pots.** **Used pots can be donated to the Midtown Garden Depot and Community Garden at the corner of Benson and Cheechako (2930 Cheechako St – just east of Arctic).**

Please use the **SignUp Genius** link below to sign up for a few hours of lending a hand to make this event possible. Many hands make light work for everyone. As always, there will be a potluck for the volunteers!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COC45AF2EA6F9C70-49434882-annual>

## Wildflower and Anchorage Garden Club Annual Plant Sales



### **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](mailto:akliska@aol.com) or Paul Marmora at [pmarmora@aol.com](mailto:pmarmora@aol.com)

Every Mother is like a flower...  
Unique and beautiful  
in their own way.

