



Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

Newsletter ~ September 2026

P.O. Box 240563
Anchorage, AK
99524

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

Message from the President

It's time to prepare for Autumn. The leaves are starting to turn yellow, the nighttime temps are dropping, and darkness is quickly descending on us. We know this happens every year with the start of the State Fair, but somehow it always creeps up and takes us by surprise. If you're like me, you tend to remain in denial: "No, we've still got several weeks to go!" Our plants are at their peak and look amazing! And yet... pre-winter preparations must be kicked up a notch as the termination dust will be here soon. And so begins the season of hurry, hurry, hurry! Harvesting, drying begonia and dahlia tubers, trimming and bringing in the plants we want to carry over, putting away tools and containers, and prepping our perennial beds at record speed. There's so much to do. And then there's the uncertainty.... With forecasters predicting an El Nino this year, will we have more snow or more freeze, thaw, freeze, thaw? It's anyone's guess!

September finds us gathering again for our monthly meetings. We have some great presentations planned for this fall. I look forward to seeing everyone and hearing how your summer went.



In the Loop

On the September 10th, we resumed our monthly meetings with an informative presentation by Gino Graziano of the Cooperative Extension. Gino talked about invasive plants—specifically the dreaded Bird Vetch (*Vicia cracca*) and Creeping Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*)—that have been plaguing Alaska gardeners for a number of years.

Gino was very approachable, and factual without being pedantic. He offered options for removal of these invasive plants, including manual and chemical methods, in a non-judgmental manner. He discussed which chemicals worked best for each plant, correct methods for applying them and the best times to do so. He did the same for manual removal methods. We did record his presentation, so it is available to our members and community through the link below. A truly wonderful presentation!



https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/jtNLqFOMd_OUEsTO4MS2k2ezVlJh-TkflkkTk0MYj-Uxby0EFc1803pE-zaFt-F.KPwK6-yB1Jk6yMIs

Passcode: b!^&Da6R

SUGGESTED NATIVE PLANT REPLACEMENTS

Marsh Pea (*Lathyrus palustris*)

Mountain Harebell (*Campanula lasiocarpa*)



2026 brought us the **90th Anniversary of the Alaska State Fair!** The Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska sponsors awards in the Flower division for the Perennial/Biennial Division Champions each week, and in the Crops division, we sponsor the Junior Zucchini winners.

Having had such odd weather this year, with the very cold and mostly dry winter and the cool, cloudy, and rainy summer we were unsure if there would be many entries. Even more startling was the true snowfall that hit the mountains, bypassing the termination dust stage! It warmed up and melted that misjudged act of nature, and as always, Alaskans persevered and came through with results!

In the flower division, the first week division champion was for a magnificent hollyhock, and the second week award went to an incredible specimen of a tree fuchsia, entered in the “Winter sheltered, tender perennial” class.

There was only one entry for the Junior Zucchini the first week, but the second week there were four. Congratulations to those kids for developing their gardening skills!

Alaska State Fair Special Sponsored Awards from the Wildflowers

Division 11: Class 01 Ages 6-12 and Class 02 Ages 13-17 ~ Junior Largest Zucchini \$20/\$10/\$5 Awards

1 st Entry:	1 st Place	Gabe Simmons	Palmer	4.12 lbs.
2 nd Entry:	1 st Place	Ryah Herbert	Palmer	4.46 lbs.
	2 nd Place	Gabe Simmons	Palmer	4.21 lbs.
	3 rd Place	Charlotte Mora	Wasilla	3.38 lbs.



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

1 st Entry:	Melissa Davidson	Anchorage	Hollyhock
2 nd Entry:	Rose Strate	Anchorage	Winter Sheltered Fushia



FUN FACT



Did you know that a group of
Ladybugs is called a
Loveliness?

Special Wildflowers that bloomed this month

Lois Rockcastle, Jamye Rue, and Kellie Staples



September's birth flowers, the Aster and Morning Glory, couldn't be more different. Asters bring cheerful, daisy-like blooms to the garden as summer fades into fall, while morning glories climb and unfurl their trumpet-shaped flowers with the rising sun. Both flowers have rich histories and fascinating symbolism, from

love and wisdom to devotion and hope.

The Aster is a member of the daisy family **Asteraceae**, which also includes dahlias, marigolds, and sunflowers. There are hundreds of asters—with estimates between 250 and 350 species growing around the world.

In Greek, aster means “star” in reference to the starlike appearance of the flowers. Asters have long been a symbol of love, wisdom, patience, and beauty. This plant's flower has also been associated with faith, friendship, and purity.

Members of the **Ipomoea** genus, Morning Glory plants are known as fast-growing vines with a somewhat unique daily schedule: The flowers open in the morning and close up by the afternoon.



The flower's blue and purple colors are the most recognizable, but morning glories also appear in a range of pinks, reds, and whites. Each color holds a different meaning: Blue represents enduring love, desire, and power; purple symbolizes grace, wealth, and hopefulness; pink is a sign of gratitude and energy; red means passion and strength; and white, as it does for many other flowers, symbolizes purity and innocence. The leaves are large and heart-shaped and resemble the foliage of a sweet potato (another member of *Ipomoea*). The flowers are quite attractive to bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Fast Fact—Artist Georgia O'Keefe, noted as one of the key contributors to the establishment of modern art, painted one of her most popular works, “Blue Morning Glories,” in 1935.

Happy Birthday

Club Business

August 2026 Treasurer Reports

Nuvision Federal Credit Union

Business Savings	\$8,006.48
Business Checking	\$6,879.27
CD-12 month (matures 5/1/27) 3.40%	\$5,264.58
Balance 8/31/26	\$20,150.33

Morgan Stanley Balance 8/31/26 **\$62,675.75**

Total Funds 8/31/26 **\$82,826.08**



Upcoming Meetings, Projects, & Workshops

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 have all had our cameras or phones out and clicking pics this growing season. Please send in some snapshots you have taken! ***Our Wildflower Motto ... Show, Share & Tell.***

November 12th – Holiday Craft Workshop, “Friendsgiving” Potluck & Food Drive Members and Family Activity

Central Lutheran Church 10:30am-12:00pm

This will be an **in-person only** meeting with two crafty, fun, and sociable hands-on projects, followed by sharing in fellowship with a “**Friendsgiving**” Potluck.

A SignUp Genius email will be sent in mid-October and used to let others know if you plan to bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert. This helps create a well-rounded luncheon! The club will provide beverages.

We will also participate in a Food Drive. Please bring canned or shelf-stable food items to donate into the bins set up for the Lutheran Social Services Food Bank.

“Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn.” —Elizabeth Lawrence