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Homer Garden Club

Newsletter

May 2024

The next HGC meeting will be **September 15.**

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Annual Garden Tour Sunday July 21st 11AM - 5PM

There are five beautiful gardens featured in this year's garden tour. One is a magnificent view property with peonies, high tunnels and outdoor gardens. Another takes you on a walk on the wild side of the Homer bench to a Monet-like setting of flowers laid out with novel use of pallets, halibut poles and golf clubs. Up against the bluff, a shade garden amongst towering cottonwoods is the backdrop to showy peonies, vegetable boxes, fruit trees and a hot-

house. A fourth garden is a masterful mix of flowers, vegetables, fruit trees, berries and high tunnel, all nurtured with devotion. Lastly, a meander amongst old growth spruce trees, fruit trees and berries reveals plots of wild, native flowers, vegetables and other blooms, adorned



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Treasurer's Report

by Kendall Dellaesperanza, Treasurer

Homer Garden Club Treasurer's Report for May 2024

Income

Membership	\$225.00
Plants Sales	\$2,734.50
Merchandise	\$65.00
Garden Tour Tickets	\$585.00
Newsletter Ad	\$120.00
Book Sales	\$459.50

Total Income **\$4,189.00**

Expenses

Garden Tours Committee	\$234.00
Plant Sale Materials	\$211.29
Mini-storage Rental	\$395.00
Meeting Venue	\$200.00
Meeting Speaker	\$200.00

Total Expenses **\$1,240.29**

Checking Beginning Balance 05/01/2024	\$	4,262.58
Income	\$	4,189.00
Expenses	\$	1,240.29
CD dividend	\$	37.03
Interest	\$	<u>0.22</u>
Ending Balance 05/31/2024	\$	7,248.54
Money Market Beginning Balance 05/01/2024	\$	6,120.47
Interest	\$	<u>1.04</u>
Money Market Ending Balance 05/31/2024	\$	6,121.51
CD Beginning Balance 5/01/2024		
6 month term	\$	5,000.00
Interest [received at maturity (08/19/2024)]	\$	<u>-</u>
12 month term (maturity 2/19/25)	\$	<u>10,000.00</u>
Interest (transferred to checking)	\$	<u>-</u>
CD Ending Balance 5/31/2024	\$	15,000.00
Total Ending Balance 5/31/2024	\$	<u>28,370.05</u>

This is the last newsletter until September.

The next HGC meeting will be September 15.

Garden Tour
Continued from page 1)

with found objects and pieces from the resident pottery studio.

Tickets for \$15 are available at the Homer Bookstore (cash or check only). Check the Homer Garden Club web-

site homergardenclub.org on the Garden Tour tab for information about will call tickets.

Also mark your calendars for the afternoon of Wednesday, July 10th. Two local gardens will be available for Homer Garden Club members to visit for free. An email will be sent to members with details in early July.



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5/19/24 Homer Garden Club Meeting - Minutes

1. Attendance and Announcements – President Kathy Dube’ brought the meeting to order at 2 pm. She noted this would be the last meeting till this fall.
2. Additions to Agenda – There were no additions to the agenda.
3. Secretary’s Report – Tina Seaton reported that last month’s meeting minutes can be found in the email newsletter and on the website,
4. Treasurer’s Report – Kendall reported an income of \$349.50, with \$240 of that from Newsletter advertisements and about \$100 in merchandise sales. The current total balance is \$25,285,

Louise, the ‘intake treasurer’ reported that we have 123 members. She noted that membership is only \$10 and she also has Aprons, t-shirts and Garden club books to sell.

5. Committee Reports

a. Garden Tour – The Garden Tour will be July 21. Tickets are \$15 at the Homer Book Store. The “member’s only” Garden Tour will take place July 10, 2-6 pm at Darius’ Mushroom farm and Peggy Craig’s garden.

The after-party for garden hosts, volunteers

and board members will be July 23 at Homestead Restaurant.

b. Speaker’s Committee – This is Jan Peyton’s last month as Vice President. We thank her for her years of service on the board! Sally Coleman and Fran Durner have agreed to take on the VP job for the next year! Thanks to Sally and Fran!

c. Baycrest Garden Committee – Brenda reported that the clean up crew at Baycrest Garden finished the job in 1 hour and 19 min. She thanked all who came to help and asked everyone to sign up to help with weekly weeding and maintenance.

d. Social Committee – Michael said he appreciates all the people who have brought snacks.

e. Newsletter – The June newsletter will have information on the Garden Tours.

f. Plant Sale – Sally said, “we are ready!” She said she potted up 34 plants from the Baycrest garden to sell in the plant sale. She asked people to bring more plant starts and be sure to have them labeled. Volunteers can come between 8:30 and 9, the sale will start at 11 and is usually over in about an hour.

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g. Scholarship and Giving Committee – no activity.

Kathy reminded everyone that we are looking for a tech-savvy helper that can set up the tech for meetings.

Jan introduced our speaker, Brenda Adams, a renowned garden designer and author.

Brenda stated that plant choices are important, and combinations make the difference, along with the use of repetition. Garden impact is achieved through the use of interesting foliage and flowers, color, highly textured bark, seed pods, motion and fragrance, as well as utility and dependability.

She said for flowers, think Trollius for early, Asiatic Lily for late bold flowers. Look for different sizes, shapes and colors. Brenda showed a slide of Artichoke plants surrounded by chard and nasturtiums as an example of interesting colors and leaf shapes. Pick plants that bloom a long time such as Aстранtia Major or Catmint.

Under utility and dependability, you want to think about early season value and fall beauty, leaves that turn colors as well as the winter display with interesting seed heads and bark.

Brenda said to attract bees and other insects use more variety of plants and flowers. She said you can create exceptional beds using compelling combinations with contrasts and repetition, but

most important: Do you love it?

Elements of combinations:

Texture – big meaty leaves with wispy grasses; rock with moss

Shape – repeat in different sizes & colors

Dimension – contrast & repetition

Color – monochromatic or opposites on the color wheel, can pick up and match colors of buds. Think about the seasonal colors.

Structure, Form, Architecture – “Spikey, frilly, moundy.” You can prune trees early in their life to create shapes and contrasting architecture.

Repetition, Contrast – you can repeat the colors of your home with flowers or plants or create repetition with groups of plants.

Bloom succession – You will have to have more plants that will keep a color scheme going – or change the colors through the season.

Brenda said with foliage, flowers & buds, bark & stems, berries, seed pods and garden art – you put it all together. If it is your garden, do whatever pleases you!

The meeting ended at 3:48

There were over 50 attendees.



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HGC Plant Sale 5/25/24

by Sally Coleman

Hello Gardening Friends! This is an official THANK YOU for a job well done with the Plant Sale! So FUN!! I am super grateful to all of you who shared your beautiful plants and seedlings! We had a really nice variety of veggies, herbs and flowers. I am also very thankful to those of you who helped set up, price plants, organize, clean, whatever. This is truly an event that takes a village and our team came in strong!

As many of you know, this was my first year of "managing" the event. I was told time and again that the event basically manages itself and I



as they burst through the tape was a memorable moment!

So, as we close our season and work in our own gardens, remember, we will be doing this again next year! As you trim, move and divide your plants, you can possibly pot a few and set them aside, knowing that if you do this, they will be lovely and well established by our plant sale next year!

Thank you again for your help, support and generosity. I appreciate and value your contributions!!

needed to relax and have faith. Well, guess what?!? The sale really did all come together nicely. So many of you have been contributing to this event for years and you are in the groove. I am glad that I got to help with my little bit – mostly potting of plants that others donated and writing the reminder articles.... Whatever the case may be, it was FUN!!

I have to say I really enjoyed the moment when Kathy announced the opening of the sale and people literally ran into the sale area. What a blast and to hear the hoots and hollering from the community



Request for Garden Potting Supplies

by Megan Stoll, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District

PLANT CONTAINER COLLECTION JUNE 10th-30th, 2024

Homer Soil and Water Conservation District's Native Plants Program will reuse your unwanted plant pots and other garden supplies you would like to donate. Your donations will keep useable items out of the dump, and help us conduct native plant salvage and propagation operations.

Drop-off is behind the Wildberry Building located at 528 E Pioneer Ave in Homer: Turn in at ACDC Electric and look for the covered porch and green signs. Text or call (907)953-1958 with questions, or to arrange large volume donations.



Northern Gardening Tips

by Alaska Master Gardeners, Anchorage

Vegetables

Carrots grow well in a bed prepared with lots of sand (1/2 sand, 1/2 soil) (Rebecca Perry, Kasilof)

Cover newly seeded carrots with reemay cloth. Plant onion sets between the rows of carrots to keep the cloth above the ground. This will prevent the seeds from washing away when watering & keeps the top soil from getting crusty. (Beth Schulz-Blitz, Anchorage)

Raised beds work wonderfully for carrots. They improve germination & keep the soil from becoming compacted by keeping feet out!

The walls keep the compost & fertilizer right where the plants can use it. Plant the seeds in rows only 6" apart, cover with clear plastic to hold in heat & moisture. Watch your germination rate rise to 100% & enjoy an early harvest of carrots. I do this for lettuce & spinach too.

Carrots, lettuce & beets will benefit from liming.

Thin lettuce to at least 12" apart for

heads to form—it really does make a difference!

For faster germination, plant turnip, peas, beets, lettuce & cabbage seed outside as soon as you can walk on the ground. If breakup is over, it's time to get those seeds growing! (Tommye Jo Corr, Soldotna)

When setting out cold crop starts, protect them with paper cups that have the bottoms cut out. Originally used for cut-worm protection, they also protect young plants from the wind, acting like mini-greenhouses. (Beth Schulz-Blitz, Anchorage)

Quick start potatoes in four inch pots in the greenhouse. Sure beats the cold ground & makes for an early crop of new potatoes. (John & Johnelle Reid, Homer)

Start potatoes indoors in April, transplant outside on June 1st. The yield doubles because the potatoes get huge.

Grow Kohlrabi instead of turnips. Since the vegetable forms above



the ground there are no root mag-gots in the part you eat. (Dawn Hibbert, Anchorage)

Give peppers, eggplants & other hot climate vegetables a boost of potassium by placing banana peels into the hole dug for each plant. (Susan Rogers, Anchorage)

When the weather man says "frost tonight", it's time to harvest outdoor tomatoes. The quickest & easiest way is to cut sprays of fruit from the vines. Indoors, snap fruit from the stems & remove stems completely, if possible. Do not tear fruit skin. Leaves will drop off when they become dry. Wash fruit thoroughly in

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cool water & wipe or air dry them. Store tomatoes in the purple paper trays found in apple boxes. This separates the fruit & prevents cross-infection. Check boxes frequently & remove ripe fruit for consumption. All green tomatoes will ripen but it may take as long as 2 months. (Enid Meglyesi, Fairbanks)

Fertilizer

If you have a fresh water aquarium, don't toss out the old water when you clean the tank. Use the old water to root cuttings & fertilize plants. Please note: This smells bad. Don't use too generously if your house is closed up for the winter. (Anonymous M.G.)

Keep a 30 gallon trash can full of water soluble fertilizer mixed 1/2 strength for watering hanging & container flowers. Sure is convenient. Plants benefit from the warm water, too. (MiSchelle Carpenter, Anchorage)

Use seaweed anytime of the year, but especially when there is herring roe on it (beware of the odor). Also in the Southeast you can use liquid fertilizer more often than the usual recommendations due to heavy rain falls & the long summer days. (Melanie C. Dabler, Sitka)

Bury freezer burnt fish in your garden during the spring to fertilize the soil. Not recommended for bear country! (Anonymous M.G.)

Fertilize plants continually when you water them by using a 1/2 strength solution of water-soluble fertilizer. The same goes for houseplants, outdoor bedding plants, baskets & greenhouse plants. Trees also benefit from this method & it helps against the onslaught of aphids & spruce bark beetles. Don't forget to spray tree & shrub foliage with the solution too. (Kay Towle, Soldotna)

Composting

A handy way to gather vegetable waste, coffee grounds & eggshells is by reusing plastic bags--makes for a quick clean-up. Don't forget dog hairs & dryer lint, which add tilth to the soil. (Arlene Strandberg, Fairbanks)



Build a compost pile in a sunny location. Use heavy duty fencing or wire mesh, so it breathes yet, keeps the critters out. Try composting salmon, halibut & shellfish scraps & bones in addition to most anything organic (weeds, wood ash, & kitchen scraps). On garbage days in the fall, drive through your neighborhood to pick up large plastic bags of leaves that can be layered into the pile. This will save space in our landfills, you get free garbage bags to reuse & improve soil in you garden. (Peter D. Tompkins, Fairbanks)

Miscellaneous

Raised beds made into a rectangle of 4'x8' boards makes it easy to weed from all sides & saves the gardener's back. (Arlene Strandberg, Fairbanks)

Living in a tiny yard does not mean the end to gardening. Build planter boxes on supports to line a fence for flowers & a six tier planter box 12' long can be used for lettuce, spinach, herbs, & nasturtiums. I grow six types of lettuce, spinach, eight herbs, & beautiful flowers in my tiny yard. The best part is NO WEEDING! Hooray for container gardening. (Sandy Allen, Anchorage)

Order soil & fertilizer in the fall. Store in a corner of the greenhouse to keep it sterile & ready for early

planting. (Arlene Bowman, Palmer)

When transplanting trees, keep them facing the same direction. Keep the north side facing north. Mark the tree before it is moved. It makes a big difference. (Sandra R. Anderson, Anchorage)

For good grass & no mosquitoes or other insects, mix equal amounts of Listerine, ammonia, Epsom salts & liquid soap (1/2 10 3/4 cup each). Fill the rest of the container with beer. Mix & spray by hand or hose, (Sandra Rogers, Anchorage)

Pink flamingoes keep the birds out of my strawberry patch! Two seasons without a peck out of my strawberries. Place at least two of the beautiful creatures in the patch once the fruit begins forming. Move them every week or so & take them down once fruit production slows, unless pink flamingoes are an important part of your garden decor. (Sally Randich, Anchorage)

When cleaning up around ornamentals or berry plants, save the suckers in pots. It's easy to share roses, raspberries, & other favorites with gardening friends & neighbors. Also, do not be shy about asking for a transplant or a small sucker from a desirable plant. Grafted plants may be a problem, but overall this practice is fun & will add to your landscape beauty & productivity. (Ray Grey, Anchorage)

Place old mail boxes around your garden, of course, on a stand or post. Then put garden tools, etc. inside. This is really handy & cuts down the time spent walking here & there for garden tools. (Toni Walken, Fairbanks)

Take pictures of your vegetable & flower gardens. Write the varieties on the back along with any notes you have. Take pictures of the disasters along with the wonders. This will be a strong reminder when you start pulling together plans for next year's gardens. (Sally Randich, Anchorage)