

Homer Garden Club

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The next HGC meeting will be **May 19** at the Aspen Hotel at 2:00 for both Zoom and in person.

Newsletter

May 2024

On May 19 Garden Designer Brenda Adams Will Discuss How to Create Beautiful Gardens

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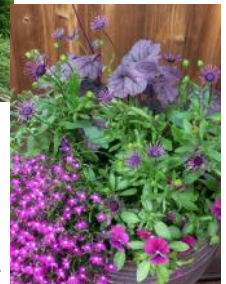
A former HGC President for eight years and Board member for 13, Brenda Adams has been a stalwart of the Homer Garden Club for decades. She is also the author of the acclaimed books, *Cool Plants for Cold Climates: A Garden Designer's Perspective*, winner of the Garden Writers' Association 2018 Silver Award, and *There's a Moose in My Garden: Designing Gardens in Alaska and the Far North*.

As the international-award-winning designer for Gardens By Design, Brenda created over 260 unique gardens for residential and commercial clients. She is a long-time master gardener as well as a frequent guest on radio. A sought-after speaker, she has appeared throughout Alaska and around the country including the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. During two recent springs, she taught an

in-depth, 6-week class on design to the Advanced Master Gardeners Anchorage. She has also taught garden design classes for the University of Alaska and for the Cooperative Extension.



Join us as Brenda shares many of the



techniques and tricks she developed over years of gardening in Homer at different elevations and in different conditions. These methods will help you create unique and special gardens. Brenda's talk will cover how to evaluate plants for all their visual attributes –

(Continued on page 3)

Directions for May Zoom meeting are on page 3

Treasurer's Report

by Kendall Dellaesperanza, Treasurer

Homer Garden Club Treasurer's Report for April 2024

Income

Membership	\$40.00	
Newsletter ads	\$240.00	
Merchandise sales	\$69.50	
Total Income		<u>\$349.50</u>

Expenses

Aspen Hotel Venue	\$200.00	
Speaker Honorarium	\$200.00	
Garden Tour	\$40.93	
Website domain	\$24.85	
Microsoft 365	\$75.48	
Total Expenses		<u>\$541.26</u>

Checking Beginning Balance 4/01/2024	\$	4,418.31
Income	\$	349.50
Expenses	\$	541.26
CD dividend	\$	35.84
Interest	\$	<u>0.19</u>
Ending Balance 4/30/2024	\$	4,262.58

Money Market Beginning Balance 4/01/2024	\$	6,119.46
Interest	\$	<u>1.01</u>
Money Market Ending Balance 4/30/2024	\$	6,120.47

CD Beginning Balance 4/01/2024 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 4/30/2024	\$	15,000.00

Total Ending Balance 4/30/2024	\$	25,383.05
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The following individuals will be providing refreshments for the HGC meeting on Sunday May 19:
 - Patti Jay, Susan McLane, Peggy Pittman
- There will be a newsletter in June, but the May meeting will be the last member meeting for the summer.

April Speaker
Continued from page 1)

foliage, flowers, seeds pods, bark, texture, fragrance, and more. Then she will explain the utility and dependability attributes of different plants and why they are important. Among them are early and late season bloom, appeal to pollinators, winter display, and a long season of

bloom. With all these tools in hand, she will lead us through a straight forward way to combine these great plants into lovely gardens that will bring you pleasure for years.



A few of her books will be available at the May meeting. They can also be purchased at the Homer Bookstore, on Amazon and other on-line venues. Or if you already have one and would like it signed, bring it to the meeting!

May Zoom Meeting

by Kathy Dube', President

A Busy May in the Garden Club

Happy May – at least I can say there is only one small patch of snow left in my garden, and hopefully it will be completely gone soon and dry out a bit so I can actually get out there and plant things! I know in town it's much warmer and folks have been able to garden for weeks. We've got lots of Garden Club activities this month: the Baycrest Cleanup, Garden Club Meeting, and the popular Plant Sale. Hopefully we will see everyone at all three! The May meeting is the last speaker meeting until fall, so join us either in person at the Aspen Hotel or online via Zoom:

Topic: Homer Garden Club May Meeting

Time: May 19, 2024 02:00 PM Alaska

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87108675108?pwd=kAaaVI5dDAUZSnFr5b5IkcadjVTCye.1>

Meeting ID: 871 0867 5108

Passcode: 635342

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March 21 Meeting Minutes

by Tina Seaton

President Kathy Dube brought the meeting to order at 2:06 and commented on the full house of attendees!

1. Additions to Agenda – there were no additions to the agenda
2. Secretary's Report – Tina reported that minutes from the March meeting could be found in the email Newsletter sent to all members or on the website.
3. Treasurer's Report – Kendall reported that we have a total balance of \$25,537.77, \$15,000 is in CD's. \$50 was received in membership fees, and expenses last month were \$980. Louise noted that she has never seen so many people at a meeting! She said membership is \$10 for a calendar year, Oct. 1 – Sept. 30. She also has Garden club aprons, t-shirts and the gardening book for sale. She noted the membership only garden tour July 10 as a perk for membership. She also brought Borax to use for Ellie VandeVisse's foliage fertilizer to share with members.

4. Committee Reports

a. Speaker's Committee

Jan announced that Teena Garay would be speaking this month and Brenda Adams will speak at the May meeting. She said the club is looking for someone or two people to take on the VP role and setting up speakers for club meetings – Fall through

May. Speak to Jan or any Club board member if you are interested.

b. Baycrest Garden Committee

Brenda said the spring clean-up of the Baycrest Garden will be May 18 at 10 am. She said we will be digging up plants to divide for the garden sale as well as cleaning the beds. Bring hand tools and any extra pots if you have them. We will clean up, spread compost, and then bark. Please sign up for one of the weekly maintenance slots with a friend. When maintenance is done weekly it is a quick and easy job to keep it up.

c. Plant Sale

Sally reported that she met with the Chamber to set the date for the plant sale. (May 25) They asked if a Garden Club member would sit on the Chamber's Peony Task Force. (HGC donates \$250 annually to the Peony Festival) Sally asked that people bring buckets, rags, and sawhorses to the sale. She said she has pots if anyone needs some for garden sale plants. We share advertising with the Pratt Museum's plant sale, which will be held the same day. She asked volunteers to come at 9 to help set up canopies, sort plants, set up coffee and goodies, and set up the sales ar-

(Continued on page 5)

The logo for Alaska Hardy features the words "Alaska Hardy" in a stylized, handwritten font. The letter "A" is green and has a leaf-like shape above it. The word "Hardy" has a registered trademark symbol (®) to its upper right. The entire logo is underlined in green.

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ea. A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around.

d. Garden Tour

Francie announced that the Garden tour will take place July 21. Tickets will be available at next month's meeting, at the plant sale and ahead of time at the Bookstore. Volunteers are needed as hosts at each garden, parking, and ticket sales. The after party will be held at Homestead Restaurant. The small garden tour for members only will be held July 10 at the Mushroom Farm. They are looking for another small garden to add to that tour.

6. Other – As well as looking for a VP, the club is also looking for someone to take on the tech position, setting up the tech at the beginning of each meeting. Don thanked all those that helped weed at his farm while Donna Rae is in the hospital. Jason spoke for the beekeepers to promote "No Mow May". He asked that people leave the dandelions in lawns at least until they are ready to go to seed, and then cut the lawn. The beekeepers group has over 100 members.

Speaker – Teena Garay has been gardening in Washington and Homer for 33 years. Her expansive gardens have been on the garden tour several times. She has traveled to China and other countries to collect seeds. Her garden is at 632 feet but her previous garden was at 875 feet and she said that was a challenge. Teena said now is the time for spring cleaning in the garden. She pulls weeds and cleans up the spent

leaves from last year. She cleans the greenhouse and pots, starts plants, and roto-tills her compost. Her tools are a garbage can, scissors, and her favorite for big jobs, a hedge trimmer.

She collects leaves and shreds them with the mower before putting them into the compost pile. Teena has 3 bins for compost but wishes she had 4. She uses chicken straw, layered grass clippings, food scraps (no meat or dairy). She doesn't turn her compost, then after a year she tills it with a small tiller before using it in the garden.

Teena keeps perennials in the greenhouse all winter. They freeze, but she rarely loses anything. She will be putting plants out in a couple of weeks.

She said Homer is zone 3-4.

Zone 2 = -50 to -40

Zone 3 = -40 to -30

Zone 4 = -30 to -20

Zone 5 = -20 to -10

Zone 6 = -10 to 0

Teena showed slides and talked about many different flowers, perennials, vines, shrubs and trees (but I couldn't keep up with all the Latin names)!

Teena also has a vegetable garden with 6 beds at 25'X4'. She said Lori Jenkins is trying to overwinter artichoke and she plans to try this also. She plants her garlic in October and covers it with leaf mulch and plastic to keep out the rain. Music is her favorite garlic. She digs it in August to give it time to dry. She said garlic loves comfrey and she fertilizes the garlic well and adds a layer of whole comfrey plants under the plastic. She noted that comfrey spreads so be careful where you plant it.

The meeting ended at 3:54. The meeting was attended by over 60 people. The next meeting will be May 19.

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Homer Garden Club Plant Sale 5/25/24 by Sally Coleman

Hello Gardening Friends! This is the last Plant Sale article in our newsletter before the annual event!! I am going to take a moment to write a list of the things you can help with:

- Selling HGC merchandise
- Pricing plants
- Tallying plants and acting as cashiers
- Cleaning tables

- Taking our posters to stores and locations with bulletin boards to have them displayed
- Donating plants or seedlings
- Helping to set up tables and/or canopies
- Bringing sawhorses and helping to set them up to define a border for the sale
- Assisting in labeling the tables with the type of plants (herbs, veggies, perennials, etc) and then placing the donated plants in the proper places
- Bringing cardboard boxes or extra plastic plant trays for customers to use when shopping and buying plants
- Helping to clean up after the event
- Bringing snacks for customers to enjoy with coffee (the coffee part is handled)

Volunteers will begin arriving by 9:00 am to set up for the sale. The sale officially opens at 11:00 am and plants will go fast. It is very likely that the plants will be sold out by 12:30 or 1:00 pm. Any help or contribution you can provide will be greatly appreciated! You can contact me at:

Sally Coleman, 805-746 -4148
 and sallyjcoleman@gmail.com

I think we have the following assignments covered but if you are interested there is always an opportunity to help with these tasks as well:



Summer Garden Tour

by Francie Roberts

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 hothouse. 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 with found objects and pieces from the resident pottery studio.

Tickets go on sale at the May meeting for \$15. They will also be available at the Plant Sale. Beginning June 1st, tickets will be sold at the Book Store.

Also mark your calendar for July 10th when there

A reminder that the Homer Garden Club web page has a link to all information about the Garden Tour. <https://www.homergardenclub.org/about-3>

Also mark your calendar for July 10 when there will be two local gardens available to view. This event is only open to Garden Club members. An email will be sent to all members with information closer to the date.



Baycrest Garden Cleanup

by Brenda Adams

******* SPRING CLEAN-UP WILL BE SATURDAY, MAY 18th BEGINNING AT 10:00 AM *******

With 20 or more folks it takes only one- and one-half to two hours to cut back, weed, fertilize and mulch the garden. Please join us; it's a fun event! Everyone is welcome – house guests included. Senior gardeners will be there to help with questions and guidance.

What to bring? Your favorite hand tools, especially your clippers. This year we will be doing some dividing, so it would be helpful for you to bring a shovel or lifting fork as well. The club will provide trash bags, the compost and bark mulch to freshen the top dressing. Tom has offered to bring his pick-up and tarp so much of the debris can go to the landfill with him. Any of you who would like some of the spent foliage for your compost pile, feel free to take what you'd like.

Please bring one more thing – *your calendar*. I will have the sign-up calendar there so you can add your name to the maintenance schedule. We need 2 *volunteers per week*. You can *go any day* of the week that works with

your schedule. Sign up with a friend and go together or coordinate with your fellow volunteer if you wish.

Any questions: Call Brenda at 235-3763 or 299-4701. Thanks for your continued support of this flourishing, well-maintained garden.



Even before the strawberries and asparagus emerge, among the trees and roots and rocks there are stirrings of warmer things to come! Growing wild up and down the coasts of North America, slowly unfurling fiddlehead ferns, exuberant stinging nettles, and elusive ramps are the telltale signs that spring is coming. Gathered by intrepid foragers, these wild plants have enormous flavor – much more than any cultivated fruit or vegetable. And with their show-stopping flavor comes game-changing nutrition. Fiddleheads, ramps, and nettles are bursting at the seams with powerful phytochemicals, vitamins, and nutrients. Humans have gathered and eaten these wild plants for thousands of years, and throughout history they have served as essential tools for cleansing and purifying – getting the body ready for spring and summer after the long, stagnant winter.

While you certainly could venture out on your own to find these delicacies, we suggest leaving it to the experts and taking your hand at them in the kitchen instead. These wild plants grow when they want, not when they're told, so be sure to enjoy them whenever you can. If you see them at the store: buy them. On a menu? Order it. April and May pass WAY too quickly to go around passing them up.

Fiddlehead Ferns—Fiddlehead ferns are just what you're thinking:

the tiny tender tip of a fern before



it unfurls into the beautiful lacy plant common to temperate forests around the world. Picked close to the ground and tightly curled, both resemble (bet you can guess) the ornate carved head of a fiddle. Though, don't go picking just any common fern and calling it a fiddlehead because only certain varieties are edible (hence the whole "leaving it to the experts" thing)! The best varieties for eating are the Western Sword Fern (more common on the West Coast) and the Lady Fern (the primary variety found on the East Coast).

What does a fern taste like? Think fresh, grassy, herbaceous asparagus with a crisp but meltingly tender texture. Yeah. They're good. Clean them well in cold water, quickly par-boil to take the edge off, and saute in butter for a luxurious side dish to a spring headliner like cod or lamb.

And as promised, fiddleheads are a nutritional powerhouse rich in antioxidants, high in omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, and chock full of fiber.

Stinging Nettles—Handle with care! Stinging nettles live up to their name: when handled raw they can give you a nasty sting! But don't be alarmed and certainly don't run off – they're so worth wearing gloves. Their flavor is indescribably spring-like. A little like spinach but with a distinct pepperness and hint of cucumber – but a certain *je ne sais quoi* that turns heads and keeps attention. They can be used as spinach or basil would for a fancy twist on pesto or pasta fillings, and they make a gorgeous spring soup.

These wild leaves have 5x the nutrients of spinach (yes, really). Nettles are wildly rich in minerals, and can



even be used as a multivitamin and cleansing aid for people trying to avoid chemically synthesized medications and vitamins! They're hugely important to the diet of long-lived Mediterranean populations, where they are celebrated in the spring when tender, and brewed as a tea year-round.