

Special
points of
interest:

- New Meeting Location!
Best Western Bidarka Inn!
- Time for Fish Meal Orders!

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Paul Castellani to Inspire Our Summer Vegetable Gardens February 22nd

The Homer Garden Club is thrilled to have Paul Castellani join us February 22, at 2:00 p.m. at the Best Western-Bidarka Inn Conference Room. Many of us know Paul and his wife Jen, by purchasing their delicious produce at the Homer Farmer's Market.

Paul Castellani moved to Alaska from Missouri in 1990. He and his wife Jen and moved to the Southern Peninsula in

1994 and immediately began gardening on their land three miles south of Anchor Point.



Paul became involved with the Homer Farmer's Market at its

inception in 1999, thus began his "ongoing education with growing vegetables for market."

He will discuss the tools and techniques he uses as well as what he grows and the varieties that he currently favors.

Remember to
come to the Best
Western Bidarka
Inn Conference
Room, Sunday,
February 22nd!
Our new location!

New Location for Homer Garden Club Meetings...!!!!

Responding to many member requests that we find a larger venue, the Best Western Bidarka will be the new home of our Sunday meetings. Several members requested that we find a larger location and the downstairs Bidarka Conference Room is large

enough to accommodate all those wanting to hear our fantastic Sunday speakers.

For effortless access, there is a side entrance that leads right to the downstairs. Take a left at Crittenden and right below the Homer Insurance Building is park-

ing that leads directly to the Conference Room. You may also enter at the main entrance and take the stairs.

Come hear Paul at our new location, right across from the Homer Middle School on the Seward Highway.

Time For New Leadership to Step Forward

Brenda Adams
President

It has been nearly six years since you all honored me by electing me president of the Homer Garden Club. Since then I've had the opportunity to get to know many of you much better than I would have had I stayed "only a member" of the audience at meetings. This has enriched my life and I thank you.

In the first article I wrote as president for the newsletter, I said:

One of my goals is to encourage more people to join our club. Homer is growing steadily and many of our new neighbors have gardened elsewhere and wish to learn how to do it here. Gardening is also the fastest growing past time in the country. With demographics like this, our ranks should swell!

At the same time, the Garden Club must continue to serve the needs of our current membership. Therefore, my other major goal is to provide a forum for a vigorous exchange of knowledge (and there is an enormous amount within the membership), a platform for informative and enjoyable programs, and an environment for comfortable social interaction among the members, new and old. In short, a club in which you want to spend your precious time.

In that first year, your Board of Directors established a similar, more detailed list of ambitious goals for the Homer Garden Club designed to increase the club's presence and awareness in the community, attendance at meetings and other functions, volunteerism, membership and participation during meetings. We also wanted to improve the quality of programs, speakers, garden tours and the financial health of the club.

To achieve each of these major goals, we agreed on a series of actions and activities, the most significant of which was the re-write and publishing of the third edition of the Homer Garden Club book, now titled *Kachemak Cultivating from Seaside to Summit*. (The second edition had been long out of print and unavailable for newer members.) Our third edition added a tremendous amount of new material and was a major contributor to putting us on a sound financial footing. The establishment of Gardeners' Weekend has also been a major change for us. The popularity and scope of this event has really put our club at the vanguard of other clubs in the state.

Many traditions like the Spring Plant Sale, member panels and local speakers have been kept and bolstered. We've also brought many well-known leaders of the horticulture community to Homer to share their ideas and knowledge. We continue to care for two major gardens for the city. One of these, the Pioneer Avenue "Car Wash" Garden, was completely redone using an excellent, site-appropriate design by Teena Garay, our long-time vice president.

Our paid membership is now over 150, our meetings have been so well attended that we've had to move to larger quarters effective this month and the quality and variety of our programs has set a new benchmark. You have all

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Red twig dogwood
Photo by Teena Garay

Time For New Leadership...

(Continued from Page 2)

volunteered in ever greater numbers and actively participated in meetings where a lively exchange of ideas and information is the norm. Membership of the Board has changed and evolved over the past six years, but has remained an enthusiastic, committed group that strives to make your club enjoyable, educational and rewarding for all members, regardless of their area of horticultural interest or experience.

I strongly believe that all organizations benefit from the enthusiasm and ideas that a fresh approach brings. New leadership brings new energy. It's time for a new set of goals designed to meet the future needs of our club. Many of you have good ideas for how to improve or change things. It's time for you to step forward to implement your ideas as well as carry on our best traditions. So, as I stated in September, when I accepted this role for a sixth year, Teena and I will step down next September. According to our constitution, I will stay on as a Board member in support of our new president, as Shirley Forquer has done so unselfishly for me. That is to say, I will be there to help you step into the role of president to the extent you wish me to do so. To provide our new vice president a running start, Teena has already planned and recruited speakers for half of next year's programs. She will also help guide our new VP during the course of next year.

So who will it be? Let it be you. Call 235-3763. Volunteer to run today.

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HOMER GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

President - Brenda Adams @ 235-3763

Vice-President - Teena Garay @ 235-2150

Secretary - Rachel Roe @ 235-9454

Treasurer - Peggy Craig @ 235-0631

Social Chair - Roni Overway @ 226-3404

Historian - Patrick Church and Barbara Kennedy

Publicity - Barbara Landi @ 235-1809

Newsletter - Pam Voeller @ 235-8078

and Kim Smith



Spirea froebelii, Deschampsia, in January
Photo by Teena Garay

Treasurer's Report

Peggy Craig
Treasurer

Income

Membership	\$185.00
Merchandise	<u>38.00</u>
Total Income	\$223.00

Expenses

Historian	12.89
Meeting	55.00
Newsletter	<u>50.06</u>
Total Expenses	\$117.95

Beginning balance 1-01-09	\$8,537.27
Income	223.00
Expenses	<u>117.95</u>
Ending balance 1-31-09	\$8,642.32



Rosa acicularis
Photo by Teena Garay

TIME FOR THE FISH BONE MEAL ORDER

Unfortunately, like everything else, the price of Fish Bone Meal, an Alaskan product, has gone up.

- 1-5 bags \$28.50 per bag
- 6 or more \$26.50 per bag

We will be taking orders but won't know when the weather is right for grinding. Like everything else, our trip to Palmer to pick up the fish bone meal depends on the weather. I will call when we know the pick up date. We can bring back a limited amount so get your order in early so you won't be disappointed.

To place an order call Peggy Craig at 235-0631 between 4pm and 9pm or e-mail her at

peggyandmichael@acsalaska.net



Suggestions from Members:

From Peggy Craig:

This is an address that has great catalogs, all whom have signed the safe seed pledge.

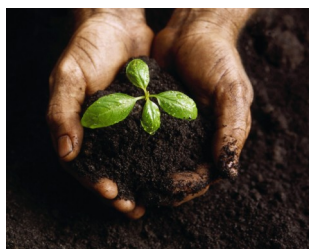
<http://www.gene-watch.org/programs/safeseed/sourcebook.html>

From Brenda Adams:

Flowers have a beauty only bees can see~ Here is a link to a bee article in the Telegraph.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/4060211/Flowers-have-a-beauty-only-only-bees-can-see.html>

Interested in Soil Testing?



Tom Jahns from the Alaska Cooperative office in Soldotna recommends:

Brookside Laboratories
308 South Main St
Knoxville, OH 45871
419-753-2448
www.blinc.com

The cost is \$16.50 and if you have a large garden or gardens in different areas you may want to have more than one test. To have the test interpreted send the results to Tom Jahns at:

Tom Jahns
Alaska Cooperative Office
43961 K-Beach Rd., Suite A
Soldotna, AK 99669-9728
800-478-5824
907-262-5824

He will be back in the office in May.

There is a good pamphlet FGV-00045, Factors to Consider in Selecting a Soil Testing Laboratory, available at the Cooperative Office and another FGV-00044 on Soil Sampling. Any questions, ask Millie Lewis or Peggy Craig.

Remember members, the newsletter is great in color and so fun to receive via email...just let Kim or Pam know! We welcome newsletter contributions too!

Thank you to our Supporting Members...

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Brenda Adams | Beth Cumming | Madrene Hoyt | Marion Nelson |
| Sue Alexander | Joanne Cutler | Elizabeth Johnson | Mary Oldham |
| Seraphine Bailey | Allen Deitz, Jr. | Mary Lou Kelsey | Lorna Olson |
| Tom Balland | Alyson Dickson | Barbara Kennedy | Roni Overway |
| Terry Billotte | Judy Dickson | Rosemary Kimbell | Marga Raskin |
| Josie Bills | Fran Durner | Mary Lentfer | Ingeborg Rathke |
| Daisy Lee Bitter | Jolee Ellis | Millie Lewis | Kathy Roberts |
| Elizabeth Brennand | Shirley Forquer | Pam McGinley | Rachael Roe |
| Tracie Brown | Dianne Foster | Joan Mello | Marali Sargeant-Smith |
| Linda Browning | Teena Garay | Anne Morrison | Susan Schulmeister |
| Mary Lou Burton | Frederica Hall | Mike and Bonnie | Tina Seaton |
| Peggy Chapple | Pat Hartley | Morawitz | Dots Sherwood |
| Janice Chumley | Barbara Hill | Loraine Murphy | Kim Smith |
| Peggy Craig | Joan Hoyt | Janie Myers | Michelle Smith |
| | | | Linda Soistman |
| | | | Catherine Ulmer |
| | | | Teddi Velsko |
| | | | Caroline Venuti |
| | | | Kathy Wartinbee |
| | | | Susan Woodward |

Members take Note!

Kachemak Bay Campus KPC Presents:

Landscape Design: A Homeowner's Approach

- With Wayne Vandre, Retired CES Agent
- May 16-17, Sa/Su, 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
- Register on line or at Kachemak Bay Campus beginning February 23!
- Stop by our campus off Pioneer Ave. or Call 235-7743

www.homer.alaska.edu



Clematis Tangutica in winter
Photo by Teena Garay

THE HOMER GARDEN CLUB - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Today's Date: _____

New or Renewal Month/Year ____/____ ___BASIC \$10 ___SUPPORTING \$15 ___BUSINESS \$25 ___

Please make check payable to "Homer Garden Club" and mail to: Homer Garden Club, PO Box 2833, Homer, AK 99603

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Resource info: May we put this information into our *Resource Book* for distribution to members? ___OK ___Not OK

May we include your Email address in our *Resource Book*? ___OK ___Not OK

May we send your Newsletter via Email? ___Yes ___No

Gardening skill level (Make a guess): ___Master ___Advanced ___Intermediate ___Beginner

Years Gardening _____ # Years Gardening in Homer _____ Elevation of your Homer Garden _____

Gardening Conditions _____

Gardening Specialties _____

Gardening Goals _____

How would you like to participate in the Garden Club?

___ Refreshments ___ Spring Plant Sale ___ Newsletter ___ Autumn Harvest Dinner

___ Telephone ___ Pioneer Avenue Garden ___ Baycrest Garden ___ Program Committee

___ Nominating Committee ___ Officer/Board of Directors Other _____

