

June 2009

# Homer Garden Club Newsletter

## Gardener's Weekend August 1st and 2nd

Only 7 weeks to go before the Summer Gardener's Weekend, 2009! Hope you are all marking it on your calendars and inviting your friends and families! Make it a fun weekend with some great learning opportunities thrown in!

We've introduced you to our featured speaker at club meetings and in the newsletter, but in case you've been away or just missed it, he's Don Engebretson, the "Renegade Gardener"...a high energy gardener who will share tips for avoiding garden and landscaping blunders (we've all made them, right?) and choosing some "cool" plants for northern gardens during two presentations on Saturday, August 1st.

Sunday, the 2nd, you will have the opportunity to visit six wonderful Homer gardens we've not had the good fortune to visit before. There should be something for everyone, from rock gardens to bluff gardens, from veggie gardens to flower gardens and from artsy and organic to eclectic and lively... each one a special destination. We promise you a wonderful horticultural experience!

And...let us not forget our Sunday reception at the Bear Creek Winery. According to our survey following the event last year you loved it, so we're going to do it again. Sip wine, nibble hors d'oeuvres, visit with your friends and, perhaps, win a door prize! Food and fun...a great way to celebrate the gardens and the gardeners who so lovingly create and share them.

Watch for our posters and brochures around town, and purchase tickets after July 1 at the Homer Bookstore or the Chamber of Commerce. If you'd like to be a part of the gardeners' weekend, it's not too late to volunteer. We can still use hostesses at the featured gardens and a couple of ticket sellers!

Roni Overway



# Homer Garden Club Newsletter

## Treasurer's Report

May 2009

Peggy Craig

### Income

Newsletter Ad	\$40.00
Membership	<u>30.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>

### Expenses

Meeting	<u>75.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(75.00)</b>

**Beginning Balance 5-1-09** \$6,406.41

Income 70.00

Expense (75.00)

**Ending Balance 5-31-09** **\$6,401.41**



## 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 @ 235-6703

## DICK BALDWIN

The Alaskan Plant Community has lost a long time supporter. Dick Baldwin, founder of Seeds of Alaska and author of Growing Alaska Natives, the propagation of Alaska's native plants died last month at his home. A long time purveyor of native plant seeds Dick was a walking encyclopedia of native plant information. The Kenai Peninsula office of UAF-Cooperative Extension will host a remembrance of Mr. Baldwin and his contribution to plant lovers on Tuesday June 23rd 2009 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM at the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Bldg. on K-Beach Rd. Refreshments and stories will be shared.



## June 2009

### Raspberry Die-Off—Possible Causes

For the past several years' growers on the Kenai Peninsula have contacted the UAF-Cooperative Extension Service about established raspberry plants turning less productive and often having several plants dying off. In response to these requests last fall samples were taken and sent off for virus and disease testing. The good news is that there were no viruses found, the not so good news is, there is a problem with the roots. While the testing has proved inconclusive, evidence points to *Phytophthora* Root Rot. The following information is to help gardeners understand what this fungus is and how they can recognize this disease in their raspberry crops.

*Phytophthora* Root Rot was recognized as a worldwide problem for commercial berry production in the mid-1980s. Its symptom's are often mistaken for winter dieback and desiccation. Canes often do not show symptoms until after planting. Affected plants are usually found in groups and are most common in areas of poor drainage or excessive rainfall or heavy soils. Symptoms include lack of vigor and often apparently healthy canes may suddenly decline. Fruit stems are usually shortened and berries, if formed, remain small. New roots may arise from above decayed ones in summer, and the plants may appear to recover, but the new

roots are often weak and lack lateral development, so in turn they become infected during cold wet weather and are progressively unproductive. Inspection of the root crown can show a demarcation between healthy (white) tissue and infected (reddish brown) tissue. This disease develops by fungi that persist as mycelium in infected roots or as dormant resting spores in the soil. When the soil conditions are right spore reproduction leads to new infections and poor plant health.

There is no simple cure for this disease, however there are a number of practices that gardeners can use to avoid or minimize plant loss. Once again an IPM or integrated pest management approach will provide the most successful results.

First, as always, avoid introduction of infected plants into your berry patch. Do not plant canes from areas that have had disease. Inspect new nursery stock to insure it is healthy. Ask your neighbor, farmers market, greenhouse, nursery or other plant provider questions about their fields, sources, or divisional plant health. Always best not to bring in something unwanted.

Second, select an area to plant your raspberries that has good drainage. If you already have a berry patch modify it by placing drain tiles or digging

trenches so that water is carried away from pooling around the roots.

Third, plant resistant varieties. Some cultivars are more susceptible than others; learn which ones will thrive in your specific area, many cultivars found in Alaska are considered to be fairly resistant. These are Latham, Boyne, Killarney and Nordic among others. Also *Phytophthora* is found more frequently on red varieties than golden or black varieties.

Fourth, fungicides are registered for use in raspberries in Alaska. Call the Extension office for recommendations on products but remember that fungicides alone will not be an effective control and should be applied with the above practices. 907-262-5824.

And finally, if you have plants that you suspect have this disease as they have been in decline for the last couple of years and meet the above criteria, remove them. Burn or bag diseased plant materials, do not compost them. Think about planting the area with something else and relocating the raspberries to a new well drained location. As was mentioned in the beginning, the samples were inconclusive, but it does appear that this could be the culprit and hopefully following the above ideas will provide you with a lovely healthy raspberry patch once again.

Janice Chumley



Summer Plant Dieback



Root Crown Tissue Discoloration

## 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, along with form, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Homer Garden Club

P.O. Box 2833

Homer, Alaska 99603

