

Homer Garden Club Newsletter

Neil Wagner Discusses Cold Climate Permaculture November 22

Neil will be presenting the basic philosophies of Permaculture Design based on his research and a seven day class this October in Minnesota. Permaculture is a design philosophy based on first observing natural systems then designing from general to specific. Underlying all design work is the concept that everything exists within patterns of time, birth, growth and decay. Permaculture makes use of many strategies and techniques such as swales, edge effects, stacking plants into guilds and identifying/grouping zones of use on your land. Part of the goal is to see if your gardens & orchards can thrive on sheer utter neglect!

Permaculture was started in the 70's in Australia by Bill Mollison & David Holmgren. It was about the time of the first oil embargo and following recession. They were looking for a more Permanent Agriculture/Permanent Culture; a culture designed after the self supporting closed loop systems in nature. They wanted one that takes into account all living and non living things like plants, animals, land, water and air compared to agribusiness that needs huge inputs of oil products for fertility with its standard loss and degrading of croplands.

What does that have to do with us in the far North? A lot. It's really a set of ethics that provide a sense of place in the larger scheme of things. It's a guide to right livelihood and connecting with the global community and our life support systems.

The Homer Garden Club has members that have been gardening up here for decades. That knowledge is an important resource of collected gardening wisdom from our local area. In the past Alaska produced a lot of its own food. In the future as energy prices go up we will need that again if we plan to stay here.

In this presentation, Neil hopes to share some of the design principles that, when combined with local adaptations, can improve yields. It is a whole system approach that can be applied to your own place to simplify yet improve production. It is important to relearn how to grow as much food locally as we can with a minimum of effort. This is more than a lecture for Neil; it's a way of life he subscribes to. In our changing world and as Alaskans, Neil thinks it is important to strive to be as self dependent as you can.



- Mark your calendar...Sunday, November 22nd , 2 PM, Neil Wagner our new Vice President, at the Best Western Bidarka! Homer Garden Club Meeting!



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Time for a Change

Teena Garay

For the last 7 years, I have been the Vice President and Program chair for the Garden Club. Being able to pick the programs was quite fun and I had the opportunity to bring in speakers as diverse as ornamental, vegetable, and organic gardening, to hands on classes such as plant propagation, trough and copper art making, holiday floral arranging and how to build a greenhouse for under \$100. With the help of Rita Jo Shoultz, we brought in Brent Heath from Brent and Becky's Bulbs, the North American Rock Garden Society sent us Harry Jans of the Netherlands to talk on rock gardening and the list goes on. I hope you have all learned as much as I did and found at least a few of the topics interesting and helpful. I tried to find something for everyone as there are many different aspects of gardening to consider.

It is important to let Neil Wagner, our new Vice President, know what is interesting to you. Without your input, it's hard to know what areas should be covered. Thanks to everyone who helped me in the past and to Neil, who has taken on this position. I look forward to the programs ahead.

Notes from our President

Jack Regan

As the days become colder and darker, and the ground freezes, November marks the beginning of winter activities in the garden. Bird feeders replace the hoe and shovel. The staff at Campbell Creek Science Center in Anchorage recommends setting out bird feeders between November and mid March to avoid attracting bears into your area. Birds are drawn to feeders filled with sunflower seeds, millet, Niger thistle seed, cracked corn, and suet. Enjoy the finches, chickadees, nut-hatches, waxwings, and whatever avian visitors arrive at your feeding station.



Compostable material has been offered by some of our members. Ty Gates at Captain's coffee will make available coffee grounds for your compost pile. Bring an empty five gallon white bucket to Captain's Coffee and exchange it for one filled with coffee grounds. Maureen Moore located at ten mile on East End Road has offered horse manure for your compost pile. Call Maureen at 226 2338 to arrange pick up of the manure.



This past month, the South Peninsula Fruit Growers Association has requested a merger of their organization with the Homer Garden Club. The request from SPFGA President Judith James was presented to the HGC Board for consideration. The HGC Board recommended that that all the SPFGA members be welcomed to the HGC. The fine activities of the SPFGA such as grafting workshops, pruning instruction, and orchard tours hopefully will continue, now under the auspices and with support of the HGC.

Homer Garden Club Officers

- President — Jack Regan @ 235-3650
- Vice President — Neil Wagner @ 235-6953
- Treasurer — Peggy Craig @ 235-0631
- Recording Secretary — Paula Riley @ 435-3983
- Historian — Barbara Kennedy @ 235-4347
- Social Secretary — Roni Overway @ 226 -3404
- Publicity — Barbara Landi @ 235-1809
- Newsletter and Data Base — Kim Smith @ 235-6703 and Pam Voeller
- Past President — Brenda Adams @ 235-3763

Treasurer's Report

Peggy Craig

Treasurer's Yearend Report
October 1 2008-September 30 2009

September 2009

Income

Membership	\$1,885.00
Newsletter Ads	580.00
Books	885.00
Plant Sale Cash	300.00
Plant Sale	3,230.80
Bank Error	1.00
Gardener's Weekend Cash Box	340.00
Gardener's Weekend	5,280.00
Merchandise	38.00
Bins	750.00
Total Income	\$13,289.80

Expenses

Meeting	\$1,351.50
Newsletter	821.37
Chamber Membership	27.00
Administration	148.57
Roster	25.59
President's Gift	61.95
Computer, etc.	1,540.88
Gardener's Weekend Lecture	1,022.90
Gardener's Weekend Cash Box	340.00
Gardener's Weekend	2,003.91
Tracy DiSabato-Aust	575.63
Car Wash Garden Sign	43.54
Overlook Garden	68.09
Plant Sale Cash	300.00
Plant Sale	228.70
Historian	12.89
Bins	750.00
Total Expenses	\$9,322.52

Beginning Balance 10-1-08	\$8,754.99
Income	13,289.80
Expenses	<u>\$9,322.52</u>
Ending Balance 9-30-09	\$12,722.27

Income

Membership	\$165.00
Total Income	\$165.00

Expenses

Meeting	358.14
Chamber Membership	27.00
Newsletter	44.00
Administration	22.08
President's Gift	<u>61.95</u>
Total Expenses	513.17

Beginning Balance 9-1-09	\$13,070.44
Income	165.00
Expenses	<u>(513.17)</u>
Ending Balance 9-30-09	\$12,722.27

October 2009

Income

Membership	\$40.00
Book	30.00
Compost Bins	<u>750.00</u>
Total Income	\$820.00

Expense

Meeting	334.69
Newsletter	56.56
Administration	.90
Compost Bins	<u>750.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,142.15

Beginning Balance 10-01-09	\$12,722.27
Income	820.00
Expenses	<u>(1,142.15)</u>
Ending Balance 10-31-09	\$12,400.12

Homer Garden Club Bulletin Board



Our new Vice President has been lining up Speakers for 2010:

January 24 — Jeannie McArthur and Teena Garay will be presenting "Starting From Seed." Jeannie will cover growing annuals and vegetables from seed and Teena will discuss growing perennials, shrubs and trees from seed.

February 28 — Open

March 28 — Verna Pratt will help us with "Easy Rock Gardening". Verna is a well know and highly respected gardener and Alaskan Wildflower expert.

April 25 — Mary Jo Burns — Growing Primroses.

May 23 — Open

Stayed tuned for information on the remaining unscheduled presentations. Bet on them being as interesting as those already planned!!



After the Garden Club meeting in October, a couple of people asked Barbara Kennedy about the copper mesh wiring she used for slug control that seems to work. This is what she recommends:

WWW.NIXALITE.COM sells copper mesh rolls for slug control at \$45.00 per 100ft. See URL <http://www.nixalite.com/copperblockeraccesscontrol.aspx?gclid=COTR-auK7Z0CFRQpawodgihpMg>



From Member Janet Klein:

The Dena'ina Athabascans of Cook Inlet decorated their caribou and moose hide clothing with porcupine quills and silverberry seeds (*Elaeagnus commutata*) before glass trade beads were available. The seeds were usually strung on the abundant fringe which characterized their clothing. I'm working on a Dena'ina project and want to obtain a cup or two of silverberry seeds to photograph and study, probably after they have dried on the plant.

This shrub is common on rocky south-facing slopes and sandbars from the Matanuska Valley northward. Range maps show that it does not grow in Kachemak Bay. It can be purchased from an Anchorage landscaper and Janet is hoping that a local gardener might have a bush or two. She can be contacted at 235-8925.



Our Homer Garden Club is now 175 members strong! Last year, with our well planned Spring Plant Sale and Gardener's Weekend events, the Club prospered and continued to grow robust. We are so lucky to have such a great organization here in Homer. A Club of this size, with such fantastic, educational presentations; public gardens ; and exciting, fun events relies on **Volunteer Power**. Take the time to sign up and give to your Club. Call an officer and fill one of the needs. Check on the form on the back and look at the opportunities...it is important for all to give a bit of their precious time....every contribution makes us stronger. Call today!



Fran Durner, from the Anchorage Daily News, and one of our Club members would like to start posting questions and answers to her blog to give everyone a chance to share what we've learned / done / seen / thought about this last summer. She would love to hear what you have to say! 1.) Now that we've had some time to reflect, what would you say have been your successes and/or failures of the past summer?, 2.) Where did you find inspiration this year?, 3.) What would you like for Christmas? (Garden themed of course!)

If you have an idea or a question you like to throw out there - please let Fran know at FDurner@adn.com , **BLOG:** www.adn.com/talkdirt

Thank you to our 2009 Members— Old and New!!!!

Brenda Adams
 Connie Alderfer
 Sue Alexander
 Tonda Allred
 Suzanne Singer Alvarez
 Virginia Amstrup
 Erika Arndt
 Tracy Asselin, Baycrest
 Greenhouse
 Marie Bader
 Seraphine Bailey
 Tom Balland
 Jeanne Barnhart
 Diane Bartz
 Sharon Baur
 Michael Bavers
 Karen Berger, Homer Brew
 Terry Billotte
 Josie Bills
 Daisy Lee Bitter
 Lori Blank
 Amy Bollenbach
 Cindy Bolognani, Lucky
 Star Gardens
 Jacque Botkin
 Les Brake
 Elizabeth Brennand
 Deborah Brown
 Tracie Brown
 Linda Browning
 Rosie Burgess, A Rosy
 Outlook B and B
 Kathy Burgess Simonson
 Marylou Burton
 Jenny Carroll
 Peggy Chapple
 Jamice Chumley
 Patrick Church
 Denice and Roger Clyne
 Cookie's Country Green-
 house
 Peggy Craig
 Beverly Cronen
 Joanne Cutler
 Lena Davis
 Carol Dee
 Allen Deitz Jr.
 Carole Demers
 Ruth Dickerson
 Judy Dickson
 Susan Drathman
 Bonnie Dupree
 Fran Durner
 Sandy Early
 Judith Erikson
 Edna Farsdahl

Don and Mary Fell
 Trina Fellows
 Sadie Fisher
 Rosemary Fitzpatrick
 Shirley Forquer
 Diane Foster
 Fritz Creek Gardens
 Teena Garay
 Gardens By Design
 Ty Gates
 Allison Gaylord
 Jim and Cindy Gorman
 Sharon Gorman
 Elaine Grabowski
 Midge Grice
 Pat Gross
 Ground Control Landscap-
 ing
 Tamara Hagerty
 Frances Haines
 Frederica Hall
 Carol Harding
 Mary Ann Harding
 Gentian Harrison
 Marilyn Hendren
 Barbara Hill
 Sarah Eastin, Homer
 SWCD
 Becky Horton
 Joan Hoyt
 Madrene Hoyt
 Tom Jahns, UAF, CEA
 Elizabeth A. Johnson
 Walter and Judith Johnson
 Patricia Joyner
 Mary Lou Kelsey
 Patricia A. Kennedy
 Barbara Kennedy
 Rosemary Kimball
 Janet Klein
 Susan Kyllonen
 Barbara Landi
 Nancy Larsen
 Patricia Leary
 Jane Lefevre
 Mary Lentfer
 Millie Lewis
 Darlene Lind
 Michael Linden
 Kathy Little
 Louise Manley
 Jeanne McArthur
 Pam McGinley
 Kate McNulty
 Melanie Meeker

Joan Mello
 Sue Mihora-Scholl
 Carla Milburn
 Susan Miller
 Anne Morrison
 Mike and Bonnie Morawitz
 Loraine Murphy
 Janie Myers
 Deborah Nakada
 Marion Nelson, The Mile-
 post
 Angie Newby
 Kathy Noller
 Oscar and Karen Nyvall
 Shelley O'Guinn
 Mary Oldham
 Lorna Olson
 Jack and Deborah Oudiz
 Roni Overway
 Kathy Pancratz
 Julie Parizek
 De Patch
 Peggy Pittman
 Tim Quinn
 John Regan
 Jim and Linda Reinhart
 Deborah Rhoades
 Cheryl Riley
 Paula Riley
 Marjorie Ringer
 Kathy Roberts
 Joyce Robinette
 Kathy Robinson
 Racheal Roe
 Jane Roop
 Marali Sargeant-Smith
 Susan Saxton
 Helen Schoepke
 Dave and Beth Schroer
 Susan Schulmeister
 Betty Seaman
 Tina Seaton
 Dots Sherwood
 Betty Siegel
 Margaret Simon
 Kim Smith
 Michelle Smith
 Linda Soistman
 Blaine Spellman
 Carla Stanley
 Judy and Bill Steyer
 Linda and Rodney Stone
 Birgitte Suter
 Wayne Thompson
 Rita Traugott

Martina Uhlig
 Catherine Ulmer
 Jim VanOss
 Teddi Velsko
 Caroline Venuti
 Pam Voeller
 Kyra and Neil Wagner
 Debra and Warren Waldorf
 Colleta Walker
 Coowie Walker
 Jeanne Walker
 Kathy Wartinbee
 Toby Wheeler
 Linda Willard
 Joyce Williams
 Susan Woodward



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

