

Homer Garden Club Newsletter

January 2010

Starting From Seed

Teena Garay and Jeannie McArthur to Headline January 24th Meeting

Special points of interest:

- Monthly Garden Club Meeting is Sunday, January 24th, at 2:00pm, at the Best Western Bidarka
- Time to order your Fish Meal

Inside this issue:

- A Tale of Winter Kale 2
by Jack Regan,
President
- 2010 Homer Garden 2
Club Spring Speak-
ers
- Treasurer's Reports 3
by Peggy Craig
- Club Bulletin Board 3

Jeannie McArthur and Teena Garay will present a talk on how to grow annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees from seed. They will discuss how they choose seed, sources for seed, and how to collect and store your own seed.

Jeanne McArthur has grown bedding plants for the Wagon Wheel at her home based greenhouses for 30 years. She will share tips for

choosing and starting seeds of annual flowers, herbs, and vegetables and then growing the plants, on to transplanting them into the garden, window box or greenhouse.

Teena Garay has been growing perennials, shrubs and trees from seed for the last 25 years. She starts 25 to 100 different plants each year. In 2000, she and

eight other Alaskans travelled to Yunnan, China to collect hardy seed for cold climates. She has hundreds of different species of plants in her garden, mostly grown from seed.



Teena's greenhouse is lined with a multitude of pots each year.



From left to right, Rosa sp. Nepal, Iris Delavayi and Lillium martagon Alba, all grown from seed by Teena Garay. The Iris and Rose were grown from collected seed. (Photos courtesy of Teena)

A Tale of Winter Kale

Homer Garden Club President Jack Regan

"Siberian kale provides rich nutrition and can be harvested from under the snow in mid-winter."

After coming to Homer, I learned from an accomplished gardening mentor, Walter Johnson that Siberian Kale provides rich nutrition and can be harvested from under the snow in mid-winter. Seeds for this plant, Brassica, can be obtained from seed catalogs, such as *Territorial Seed Company*. I wanted to experience this winter garden phenomenon, so I planted a row of Siberian Kale last summer.

On a bright, clear, winter day, following a period of prolonged fog, I ventured into the garden. The cantilevered garden gate slid like the runner of a sleigh through the snow as I entered the garden, transformed into a fairyland. Hoarfrost covered every twig.



Tall stakes marked the row of kale in the field of white snow. With my shovel, I was able to uncover the sleeping kale. A bagful of plants was harvested and brought to the kitchen.



Here is an improvised recipe:

Soak the kale in cold water to remove any soil.

Remove the green leaves from the stems.

Steam the kale leaves for 12 minutes.

Remove the kale from the stove and chop it into bite sized pieces.

Meanwhile, sauté ½ onion, ½ cup chopped almonds, ½ cup dried cherries rehydrated in ½ cup white wine, 3 cloves garlic chopped.

Add the kale to the pan and simmer over low heat for 15 minutes.

Serve and enjoy.

Homer Garden Speakers Spring 2010

Contact person Neil Wagner
neil@sustainablehomer.org
235-6953

February 28: **Dominique Collet** will present "A Feast for the Eye. Alaskan Mushroom Watercolors. His talk & pictures will focus on edible local mushrooms. He is vice president of Southcentral Alaska's Mycological Society. March 28:

Verna Pratt : "Easy Rock Gardening". Verna has been in AK since 1966. She has had rock gardens the past fifteen years.

April 25: **Mary Jo Burns** Growing Primroses.

May 23: **Marion Owen** will present "How to stretch your growing season:" Is a year-round growing season possible in Alaska? Marion Co-authored the New York Times Bestseller, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul.

Treasurer's Reports

Peggy Craig, Treasurer

November 2009

Income

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Membership | \$120.00 |
| Ad | <u>40.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$160.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Newsletter | \$44.00 |
| Meeting | <u>104.02</u> |
| Total Expenses | (\$148.02) |

Beginning balance

11-01-09 **\$12,400.12**

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Income | 160.00 |
| Expenses | <u>(148.02)</u> |

Ending balance

11-30-09 **\$12,412.10**

December 2009

Income

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Membership | \$ <u>25.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$25.00 |

Expense

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Meeting | \$ <u>6.42</u> |
| Total Expense | (\$6.42) |

Beginning balance

12-01-09 **\$12,412.10**

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| Income | 25.00 |
| Expense | <u>(6.42)</u> |

Ending balance

12-30-09 **\$12,430.68**

Homer Garden Club Bulletin Board

*A glass vase about 12 inches tall with a line of white spiraling from top to bottom was left at the September Harvest Dinner. If no one claims it by the January meeting it will be given to charity. Peggy Craig 235-0631 or e-mail michaeland-peggy@acsalaska.net.

*TIME TO SIGN UP FOR FISH BONE MEAL

Peggy and Michael Craig will be going to Palmer in late March or early April to pick up fish bone meal. They won't know the cost until later. They will be able to bring back five tons. Each year, some people are disappointed because they don't sign up and we don't have extra. If they have more orders than they have fish bone meal, it will be distributed in the order the order was received

You may email an order to Peggy Craig at michaeland-peggy@acsalaska.net or call 235-0631. They need your

name, phone number, and how many sacks. Peggy will have a signup sheet at the January meeting. It is important that you pick up and pay on the day it comes in. If you are going to be out of town you need to make arrangement to have it picked up promptly. Call or email with questions.

*There is a new CSA making deliveries to Homer & the rest of the kenai Peninsula: Glacier Valley CSA from Palmer, in case anyone is interested in ordering fresh produce boxes. (alison@glaciervalleycsa.com) Full Circle Farm from Washington also delivers to Homer. Find them at www.fullcirclefarm.com.

*As part of the "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative the USDA is conducting a pilot project to assist producers in constructing high tunnels and hoop houses. The three-year project will seek to determine if high tunnels are effective in reducing

pesticide use, maintaining or improving soil health, extending the growing season, and increasing yields for growers. For more information on this initiative see a video showing hoop houses being constructed at the White House garden at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07vtMJqp0no> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07vtMHJgp0no>

USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service will proved cost-share for one high tunnel per farm with a maximum of 2,175 square feet of covered ground. Crops must be seeded or planted directly into the ground and cannot be in beds or pots. To meet program eligibility the ground must already be in production and the producer must gross \$1000/year in food or fibre product two of the last five years. Other EQIP and USDA program participation and eligibility criteria apply.

A NRCS cost-shared structure will be part of a comprehensive conservation plan that also considers pest management, nutrient management, and other resource concerns. For 2010 only structures from prefabricated kits will be cost-shared. For more information contact the USDA-NRCS Homer Field Office at 235-8177 ext 3.

*Northwest Garden & Flower Show

Dates: Feb 3-7. Wed-Sun. Location: Washington State Convention Center Schedule, registration form and hotel rates including proximity: www.gardenshow.com Lots of national level speakers, amazing displays and vendors.

*Make sure to get the latest on Statewide Gardening Programs of interest at Fran Durner's Blog in the Anchorage Daily News. www.adn.com/talkdirt

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

