



Homer Garden Club Newsletter

September 2010

Annual Harvest Dinner Around the Corner ~ September 26th!

Submitted by Roni Overway

Despite the fact that many of us are questioning whether we actually had a summer this year, we are beginning to see rather compelling evidence that autumn is close at hand. Days grow shorter, summer's exuberant growth is slowing, our Sandhills are moving around somewhat nervously and dandy-lions seem, finally, to have sung their swan song! Many of the shops on the spit are boarded up in anticipation of Homer's "quiet season" and our thoughts have now turned toward the necessary gardening tasks we need to attend to as summer wanes and autumn slips in to take its place.

But along with those time consuming chores come some special occasions as well. We begin to look forward to end-of-the-year holidays that seem to follow rapidly on the heels of one other as we move toward the beginning of a new year. For some of us the first real evidence that fall is upon us, rather than just around the corner, is the Garden Club's annual **Harvest Dinner**. Combining business with pleasure, this evening will feature a short business meeting during which new officers will be elected.

Last year's dinner, a celebration of the season and a time to get together to share stories of the season's successes and failures, was a truly fun event...a party where we officially put an end to summer and welcome the colors and character of Autumn. This year's dinner will be held on **September**

26, at 6:00 PM, at the Homer United Methodist Church. The club will provide, as it did last year, a baron of beef, prepared by Jon Olson. Club members are invited to round out the menu with dishes they provide utilizing the bounty of their own gardens. "Harvest" is the keyword and whether you harvest from your garden, from the sea, or even from the produce available all around town, we invite you to contribute to this annual pot-luck. The dishes prepared last year by members were nothing short of fantastic.

Leaving the hectic pace of summer behind, this year's dinner will take on a slightly different tone. In keeping with the quieting of seasons, our celebration will feature the peaceful melodies of Julie Ann Smith's harp as well as a poetry reading. Not to be denied the party-atmosphere we all enjoyed in 2009, we will also feature some seasonal and garden related door prizes.

So, join us, won't you?September 26, 6 until 8....Mark those calendars now and join your garden club friends for this festive evening.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SEPTEMBER 26TH ~ HARVEST DINNER ~ TIME TO SHARE THE BOUNTY OF SUMMER AND YOUR TALES OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE FROM THE RAINY SUMMER OF 2010! UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6:00 PM!!

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A Rose Grows in Homer

Article and Photo Submitted by Jack Regan
Club President



Sedona Rose

"we would like willing members to give a brief update on what worked (or didn't work) or any new tip they learned this summer."

I remember the children's story of *Frederick the Mouse*. He gathered bits of color in the glorious autumn days and stored them to savor and to sustain his community in the cold white days of winter. The Sedona Rose is an exquisite example of vibrant color and intense perfume. I have been cultivating this hybrid tea rose in my greenhouse this summer and enjoying its sensory bursts. The plant was ordered from the Jackson Perkins Nursery and arrived in Homer in the mail. Although many chemical

pesticides are recommended for rose cultivation, I have managed to avoid using them.

Now that the cool days and nights are coming, I am preparing to employ the *Minnesota Tip Method* to bed the rose for the winter. The plant is moved outside and placed on the garden surface in early October. A trench is dug the length of the plant's height. The plant is tipped into the trench and covered with garden soil and capped with a layer of mulch. The plant lies dormant until the

process is reversed in late April and the new season begins.

This month the garden club members gather at the Fellowship Hall of the Homer Methodist Church for the annual harvest dinner celebration. There will be feasting and a program of *Sensory Messages from the Garden* including harp music, a display of cut flowers, projected garden images, and a reading of garden poetry to help carry us through the coming winter.

Notes From Neil

Article and Photo Submitted by Neil Wagner
Club Vice President

I spent an afternoon this week building a new raised bed frame in our high tunnel. After digging down and working to get out the horsetail roots I was hungry and remembered that soil microbes need to eat, too.

So, I pulled up a bunch of green rye plants from an experimental plot on the other side of the high tunnel and layered it onto the new bed. It was topped off with some compost, a little fish bone meal and a layer of dirt. This raised bed has high cedar sides and wire loops, so I can cover it with remay cloth. This added layer of insulation should help the plants withstand frost and continue growing much later in the year.

I'm inspired after seeing Elliot Coleman's presentation at this summer's Gardeners' Week-end. He grows vegetables commercially in Maine for ten months of the year. After eating our fresh produce during these few summer months I don't want it to end. Arugula, spinach, two types of radish, and two mesclun blends are planted and awaiting germination. In a couple of weeks I'll replant the same and see how they do. I'm hoping to be harvesting greens into November. Meanwhile, when I go down to pick cucumbers, beans and squash (we ate the last of the corn) I'll be watching the new plants emerge with anticipation. I'll let you know how

everything goes in a future article or stop by if you're curious.

During this September's Harvest meal we will not be bringing in a speaker. Instead we would like willing members to give a brief update on what worked (or didn't work) or any new tip they learned this summer.

We also plan to have a revolving slide show of pictures projected up for you to enjoy. We could use more pictures so email me your best garden pictures. Please do the editing yourself and limit the pictures to six or less. Send them to neil@sustainablehomer.org



New Raised Bed Frame

Treasurer's Reports

Submitted By Peggy Craig
Club Treasurer

Plant Sale 2010

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Income | |
| Plants | \$2,438.50 |
| Books | 120.00 |
| Merchandise | <u>96.00</u> |
| Total Income | 2,654.50 |
| Expenses | |
| Supplies | 18.57 |
| Canopy | 215.69 |
| Tent Rental | 21.50 |
| Plants | 257.75 |
| Posters | <u>95.50</u> |
| Total Expenses | 609.01 |
| Income | \$2,654.50 |
| Expenses | (609.01) |
| Net Profit | \$2,045.49 |

June 2010

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Income | |
| Plant Sale Cash | 180.00 |
| Plant Sale | 2,438.50 |
| Books | 480.00 |
| Merchandise | 96.00 |
| Newsletter Ad | <u>40.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$3,234.50 |
| Expenses | |
| Plant Sale Cash | 180.00 |
| Plant Sale | 349.64 |
| PO Box | 116.00 |
| Baycrest Garden | 56.30 |
| Gardener's Weekend | 385.15 |
| Meeting | <u>9.87</u> |
| Total Expenses | 1,096.96 |
| Beginning balance 6-1-10 | \$9,188.30 |
| Income | 3,234.50 |
| Expenses | (1,096.96) |
| Ending balance 6-31-10 | 11,325.84 |

Gardener's Weekend July 2010

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Income | |
| Lecture | 1,100.00 |
| Membership | 120.00 |
| Books | 60.00 |
| Garden Tour | <u>4,285.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$5,565.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Speaker Fee | 1,000.00 |
| Transportation | 1,018.00 |
| Lunch | 18.00 |
| Lodging | 440.75 |
| Eliot's gift | 276.85 |
| Lecture Tech | 200.00 |
| Lecture Venue | 280.00 |
| Posters | 148.63 |
| Signage and envelopes | 17.11 |
| Umbrella Stands | 61.12 |
| Bear Creek Reception | 206.09 |
| Owner's Gifts | 113.92 |
| Owners Lunch | 21.99 |
| General Supplies, maps, pins, etc. | 166.14 |
| Total Expenses | 3,968.60 |
| Net Profit | \$1,596.40 |
| The Alderfer donation for Bear Creek Reception was \$274.11. | |

July 2010

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Income | |
| Advertising | \$ 40.00 |
| Membership | 140.00 |
| Insurance Refund | 354.00 |
| Cash | 240.00 |
| Lecture | 1,100.00 |
| Books | 60.00 |
| Garden Tour | <u>4,285.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$6,219.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Lecture | 2,218.00 |
| Cash for Garden Tour | 240.00 |
| Gardener's Weekend Tour | 258.69 |
| Administration | <u>.80</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$2,717.49 |
| Beginning balance 7-01-10 | \$11,325.84 |
| Income | 6,219.00 |
| Expenses | (2,717.49) |
| Ending balance 7-31-10 | \$14,827.35 |

August 2010

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Income | |
| Membership | <u>\$10.00</u> |
| Total Income | \$10.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Gardener's Tour | 1,001.02 |
| Homer Chamber | 78.00 |
| Total Expenses | 1,079.02 |
| Beginning balance 8-01-10 | \$14,827.35 |
| Income | 10.00 |
| Expenses | (1,079.02) |
| Ending balance 8-31-10 | \$13,758.33 |

Membership News



All Members are asked to renew their memberships this October, and then every October thereafter.

October 1st we will implement the new Dues Payment Policy voted on by the Board last Spring. As noted in the March 2010 Homer Garden Club Newsletter, as well as at the General Membership monthly meeting, the Board decided to make all dues payable on October 1st, the beginning of our fiscal year. This change will make it easier for members to remember when their dues need to be paid and will reduce the work load on the folks who manage our membership data base. New members will be asked to pay \$10.00 upon joining (essentially an initiation fee) regardless of time of year. Their dues will then be payable on October 1st.

We want to make sure that you are all aware again of this change in policy. All Members are asked to renew their memberships this October, and then every October thereafter. Please use the attached membership form and mail to our Treasurer, Peggy Craig. Our current process of allowing a 90 day grace period before folks are dropped from the data base will continue.

The Club has grown in size these last few years due to the hard work and dedication of committed Board Members and Volunteers. We have enjoyed great programs and many have joined for the education and the inspiration. We currently have 194 mem-

bers in our database. We ask you all to renew your membership with the current form on the last page of the newsletter. Your support of the Homer Garden Club is essential and we hope you all understand this change will streamline the volunteer efforts of the next Membership Board Member.

Pam Voeller and I are not continuing in our Board positions. Pam volunteered many years managing the data base and was a wonderful partner and support when I joined her. I have enjoyed this creative opportunity preparing the Club's newsletter.

Thank you to all who worked so hard on the Homer Garden Club's summer events; the Annual Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser and the Gardener's Weekend. Thanks to Michael Linden and Barbara Kennedy for heading up the Sale and for all the volunteers supporting this effort...those who dug and divided and shared and those who backed the Chairs to make this another successful fundraiser. And Roni Overway, with her hard working crew Barbara Landi, Saraphine Bailey, Lorna Olson and Brenda Adams, produced another highly successful Gardener's Weekend with wonderful educational presentations. Thanks to our local Homer gardeners who shared their creativity and hard work and willingly let hundreds of people traipse in their yards. Kudos to the gardeners that maintained our community gardens. This summer was a gardening challenge and in the end, we have been rewarded with warm sun, clear skies, and a Club that continues to support and educate our gardening community.

HOMER GARDEN CLUB BULLETIN BOARD

~ The Garden Club needs YOU! Peonies are going to be raised for the 2011 Plant Sale Fundraiser. Planting will take place in mid to late-September. When the shipment arrives there will be about 2 weeks to get them planted. Growers can't give us a firm date. Needed are 50 9in pots to plant peony corms. If anyone has pots to donate, Barbara Kennedy can pick them up (235-4347) or you may drop them off Barbara's house in town, 1133 Cook Way (take a right at the bottom of Mattox Ave). Volunteers to gently place plants in pots will be needed, please email BarbaraKennedy@msn.com to help. These peonies are being raised for the 2011 Plant Sale to raise money for HGC speakers and finance club activities. The idea and space to raise plants was volunteered by Daisy Lee Bitter.

~The Homer High School has reopened the greenhouse after a 17 year hiatus. Homer Garden Club Member and fabulous teacher Francie Roberts is teaching a greenhouse gardening class the first semester. We really have minimal plants and supplies at this time. As gardeners clean up their gardens this fall, Francie would appreciate **donations of any excess plants, particularly herbs for our greenhouse. Miscellaneous supplies, such as buckets, flower pots and hoses are all needed. Any donations would be appreciated.** Also, any local gardener who would like to come work with the class is welcome to contact Francie. Please support Francie with this class, call her at 235 1068 (home), 235 4680(work)

~ Kenai Peninsula College Kachemak Bay Campus and CES are providing a Master Gardening class Oct. 21-24 and Nov. 11-17 taught by Tom Jahns. The two Thurs. sessions are from 6-10pm, Sat. ones are 9am-4pm and Sundays are 1-6pm. Advance registration is required and folks can contact KBC at 235-77543 for more information or stop by to sign-up.

~ Don't forget to view and contribute to our Homer Garden Club website www.homergardenclub.org. Kyra Wagner created our site and continues to update this great tool.

Poetry and Music

ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER!!
SEPTEMBER 26, 6:00 PM
HOMER METHODIST CHURCH

Door Prizes!!

Share your harvest...your best recipes!

Bring your tales of 2010 gardening!!

THE HOMER GARDEN CLUB - MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Today's Date: _____

BASIC \$10 SUPPORTING \$15 BUSINESS \$25

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 Gardener's Weekend Other

HOMER GARDEN CLUB

P.O. BOX 2833

HOMER, ALASKA

99603