

Homer Garden Club

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April 2021

The next HGC meeting is a Zoom meeting on **May 16** at 2:00..

Newsletter

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**There will be no April Homer Garden Club Meeting.
The next meeting will be a Zoom meeting
On May 16 at 2:00**

The **May** Zoom meeting will feature Don McNamara from Oceanside Farms and Saskia Esslinger. Don will speak about drip irrigation and Saskia will speak on water preservation in the soil. More will be explained in the May newsletter.

The following Instructions are for downloading the March Zoom meeting on hydroponics

Note that there are 2 recordings – the first is the business meeting and the second is Francie’s excellent presentation on hydroponics. Just click on the link and type the passcode or copy and paste the passcode.

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/
k_0YKqriXcnmAPnVSXCfIn1PDGDp6kbXLudlCtPnjHtJn1uvJ6nDBYDXHyo_eWBs.rZN87B
sBJqQdVRAO](https://zoom.us/rec/share/k_0YKqriXcnmAPnVSXCfIn1PDGDp6kbXLudlCtPnjHtJn1uvJ6nDBYDXHyo_eWBs.rZN87BsBJqQdVRAO)

Passcode: xw^w1Z.b

Monthly Treasurer Report for March 2021

Income

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

Expenses

200 Garden books printed	\$891.00	
Postage	\$11.00	
Newsletter	\$22.86	
Total Expenses		<u>\$924.86</u>

Checking Beginning Balance 03/01/2021	\$	4,552.58
Income	\$	25.00
Expenses	\$	924.86
Interest	\$	0.18
Ending Balance 03/31/2021	\$	3,652.90
Money Market Beginning Balance 03/01/2021	\$	15,059.17
Interest	\$	1.28
Money Market Ending Balance 03/31/2021	\$	15,060.45
Total Ending Balance 03/31/2021	\$	18,713.35



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Our Annual Plant Sale is on for May 22, 2021

by Barbara Kennedy

I know that the snow is still here, but as soon as we melt, let's transplant our perennial sprouting babies into a box to sell to our neighbors. Let those little plants you had to thin out LIVE!

Viewing at 10:00 AM. Sale begins at 11:00 sharp!

This is the Club's major fund-raiser that supports the wide range of Speakers in our monthly meetings, the Harvest Dinner and planting of the Baycrest Garden.

Location: Homer Chamber of Commerce's parking lot, 201 Sterling Hwy next to Fat Olives.

We are hoping that the Sale will follow the usual format, minus the coffee and muffins.

HELP NEEDED:

1. Our tents, if needed, will go up about 9 am on Saturday and you can help by showing up and assisting in raising the tents and placing the tables we are borrowing from the Chamber
 2. We'll have lots of Plant signs and tape to attach them to the tables
 3. We need a couple of Price Setters (hello Brenda!)
 4. We'll be selling our books and aprons also – and offering sign up for new members
 5. We will have three tables for Cashiers and their helpers
 6. Truck person to help get sandwich board, tents, etc., from storage locker by Gear Shed on Friday.
 7. Need boxes for folks to take their plants home in—liquor store half boxes are perfect.
- And there is always the joy of tagging and pricing the plants as they arrive

Plant drop off begins at 9:30 am

Sale begins at 11 am with ribbon cutting.

I would love for people to contact me about helping! You know the drill. I work mornings but I'll be available to help any afternoon with digging or storing plants (outside), and setting up some meetings for helpers to help with designing and placing HGC Annual Poster around town.

More information coming later. I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Barbara — 907-299-0007, email: Barbara.Homer@gmail.com

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OFFICER REPORTS: President Kathy welcomed all member gathered via Zoom.

Homer Seed Library Saskia Esslinger reported that appointments can be made at the library to access seeds. She encouraged gardeners to step up and participate in the project and to work with favorite varieties. She is looking for volunteers to help with packing and marketing. Classes will be offered soon on general gardening and seed saving. More info at 'homerseedlibrary' facebook page.

Pratt Museum Gardens Yarrow spoke of the grant received for restoration of the botanical garden and improvement of the Homestead Garden. There are lots of volunteer opportunities. Contact: trailhealer@gmail.com

Secretary was absent, but the previous minutes are posted on the website. Treasurer reported we currently

have, in combined accounts, \$18,626. More copies of the garden book have been ordered. 30 copies were sold to the bookstore and a few to Wagon Wheel. Also available on Amazon – but buy local when possible! They will be available for purchase at the plant sale.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Gardeners Weekend. A return to times of yore. Plans are for low key, casual, smaller group visits to gardens in progress or with a feature to share. Tentative dates are June 24th and July 8th for 2-3 hrs in the late afternoon. \$10 season tickets are for members only and limited to about 75. The committee is seeking neighborhood options.

Speakers. The committee is working on possibilities for a May Zoom meeting with a presentation on Drip Irrigation Newsletter Any inspiration for an article? Please forward to Paula

Data Base. Not much change – a couple of new members from afar
Baycrest Gardens. Sharon

Froeschle confirmed that no plans are scheduled yet.

Social Committee. Hiatus time continues

Plant Sale May 22nd. Please plan to donate some seedlings or divided plants. Pots and soil can be provided. Barb will be looking for helpers. If you have extra empty pots they can be dropped off at Barb's (1133 Cook way, off Mattox)

Scholarship. The Homer Garden Club \$500 Environmental Scholarship Application has been sent to Homer High to be offered this year. If you have questions or recommendations please contact Francie, Louise or Kathy 2

HYDROPONIC GARDENING - Spreaker Francie Roberts began hydroponic (Water Working) gardening when teaching the Natural Resources class at Homer High School and has continued with a successful home system for several years. Members were treated to a 'no glitch!' power point presenta-

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Cookie's Country Greenhouse

2340 East End Road, Homer, AK 99603 — 235-8915, 399-8915 or 399-0128 (Ron)

We carry vegetable starts, seed tapes and seed potatoes. We have lots of beautiful new flowers, including good old reliable pansies, lobelia and marigolds, as well as ProMix, lime, Fishy Peat compost, landscape bark, etc., and red wiggler worms.



We accept credit cards and gift certificates.

If you want to come in and browse just maintain your 6-ft. distance—please.

**Monday through Saturday,
from 9:00 to 6:00**

(March 22 Meeting Minutes
Continued from page 4)

tion with a wealth of information. Why do it? You can have fast growing, fresh food year round without the hassle of soils or diseases and because Francie made it seem so doable and so rewarding. She has done all the research on systems,

so I thoroughly recommend watching a replay of her presentation . (See page 1 of this newsletter for access directions.) You will benefit from all the practical tips on how to be successful without investing more than necessary. Francie illustrated and explained the options for mediums, pots, systems, lighting,

fans, pumps, timers and fertilizers. Panama Reds is recommended as a great local source for purchasing everything you need – and giving you helpful advice Francie is very willing and able to answer questions and to help inspired gardeners to get started.

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**Gardens are not made by singing
'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in
the shade.**

Rudyard Kipling

How to Install a Drip Irrigation System in Your Garden

Using soaker hoses will save you time, money, and water.

If you're not using soaker hoses in your garden, now's the time to start. It's a highly efficient way to water, so while you may spend a little on a soaker hose and fittings at the onset, you will recoup those costs in time and money saved on watering your garden. Studies show that well-designed drip irrigation systems use at least 30% — and in some cases 50% — less water than other methods of watering such as sprinkling.

A drip irrigation system can be as simple as a soaker hose or two snaked through your garden, or as complex as a network of tubes and other hardware. Either way, the principal is the same: A soaker hose or a perforated tube delivers water directly to the root zone of a plant where it seeps slowly into the soil one drop at a time, dripping at just the rate that soil can absorb and hold moisture.

Soaker hoses' slow, steady drip ensures that almost no water is lost to surface runoff or evaporation — all of the water goes to your plants. It also means very few nutrients leach down beyond the reach of plant roots. Furthermore, since soaker hoses deliver water directly to the plants you want to grow, less is wasted on weeds. The soil surface between the plants also remains drier, which discourages weed seeds from sprouting.

For busy gardeners, the main benefit of using a drip irrigation system is the savings of both time and effort. Drip irrigation systems eliminate the need to drag around hoses and sprinklers. You place your soaker hoses once, and leave them be. For drip irrigation systems that use a timer, gardeners need only spend a few seconds to turn the system on; the timer automatically turns it off.

Drip irrigation systems are good for plants, too. Plants watered with soaker hoses grow more quickly and are more productive, because they have all the water they need and their growth isn't slowed by water stress. (This is especially true when drip irrigation is used in conjunction with mulch.) Also, plants watered by drip irrigation don't end up with wet foliage from sprinkler spray, which can help prevent some foliage diseases.

Where to Install Soaker Hoses

The easiest way to experiment with drip irrigation is to buy a couple of soaker hoses, which ooze water over their entire length. You can snake soaker hoses through garden beds of rose and perennials, among shrubs, or in the vegetable garden, where the hoses can run parallel to rows of crops.

Pin them in place with wire garden



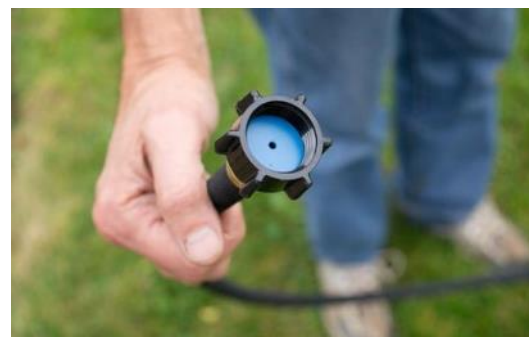
pins and cover with mulch, not soil.

This reduces moisture loss from evaporation — just remember to check where the hose lies before you dig. When it's time to water, connect them to the nearest faucet with a garden hose. Take out the hoses at the end of the growing season.

Tip: To get the kinks out of a soaker hose that has been stored tightly coiled, unroll the hose and let the sun warm it for an hour or more.

How to Reduce Water Pressure

The plastic pressure reducer or pressure regulator inside the hose coupling protects the hose from splitting under high water pressure. If your soaker hose doesn't have a pressure regulator, you can purchase one separately, or simply keep the faucet turned low. Water should slowly seep, not squirt, from the pores.



How to Space Soaker Hoses

As you wind a soaker hose through a flowerbed, make an extra loop around plants with the greatest moisture needs, such as hydrangeas or cannas, but keep the hose a few inches from plant stems. Otherwise, space the lengths of hose about 24 inches apart over clay or loamy soils, or about 12 inches apart if the soil is sandy.

When several soaker hoses are connected end to end, most of

(Continued on page 7)

(Drip Irrigation
Continued from page 6)



how long it takes, automate the process by adding a timer at the faucet.

When to Use Other Irrigation Systems

Soaker hoses are great for row crops such as carrots and beans, but for watering trees and shrubs or an expansive container garden, you'll probably want to set up a more sophisticated drip irrigation system. Topography is also a consideration: If your garden is hilly, you'll probably need to use emitters that compensate for pressure changes in the line.

in the area where the water is available. It's important to spread water uniformly throughout the irrigated area for uniform root growth. For example, if you're irrigating trees and shrubs, place emitters on two or more sides of each plant. For the same reason, it's best to provide long, slow waterings. If you turn it on for frequent, short sessions, water won't spread far in the soil, and consequently the roots will form a tight, ball-like mass around the emitters.

the water will seep from the hose closest to the faucet; less water will reach the far end. Avoid uneven distribution of water by setting up separate watering zones with no more than 100 feet of soaker hose each. Use quick-connect couplings or Y valves to switch the water from zone to zone.

Tip: Leave the hose running until water has penetrated 6 to 12 inches into the ground (less for shallow-rooted annuals, more for shrubs and perennials). Once you know

pography is also a consideration: If your garden is hilly, you'll probably need to use emitters that compensate for pressure changes in the line.

Keep in mind that plants can become "addicted" to drip irrigation, because roots will concentrate



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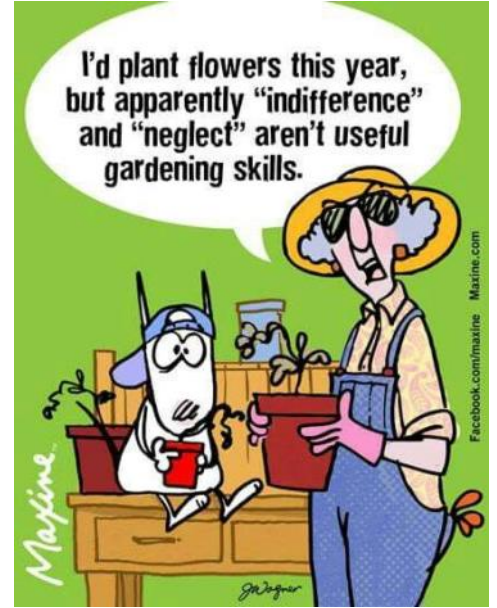
Dutch Boy
LANDSCAPING

970-235-7140

Just For Fun



He went for a walk and saw three daffodils!



Homer Garden Club
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