**Homer Garden Club Board Meeting – 3/10/24 Minutes**

President Kathy Dube’ brought the meeting to order at 2:07

1. Announcements – The Alaska Botanical Garden will hold a gardening conference March 23-24 in Anchorage.
2. Additions to Agenda – No additions to the Agenda.
3. Secretary’s Report – Tina announced that the minutes from the February meeting can be found in the email newsletter and on the website.
4. Treasurer’s Report – Kendall reported that the Club has a total of $26, 379.50, including a $15,000. CD that matured, resulting in a $516. dividend. $10,000. has been reinvested in a 12 mo. CD at 4.45%, $5,000 has been reinvested in a 6 mo. CD with a monthly dividend at 4.1% interest. Louise reported on the income side and said we have 111 members. She said there will be a special tour for members this summer. Membership is still a bargain at $10 per year! She noted that we have t shirts, gardening aprons and the Garden Club book, Kachemak Cultivating from Seaside to Summit for sale at meetings.
5. Committee Reports
   1. Speaker’s Committee – Jan reported that Tina Garay will present on perennials at the April meeting and Brenda Adams will present on garden design at the May meeting. Jan has been doing the VP job for 5-6 years and will be resigning after the May meeting. This is a board seat that can be filled by two people. Please speak to Kathy if you are interested.
   2. Social Committee - There will be a potluck at the September meeting.
   3. Garden Tour – The Garden Tour will be July 14th with 5 gardens to visit. Sign-up sheets will be passed around for volunteers to sign up for two hour shifts as hosts. Starting June 1st, tickets can be purchased through the mail (send your name, email, and phone number along with a check made out to Homer Garden Club for the number of tickets ($15/each) being purchased to the Homer Garden Club, PO Box 2388, Homer, AK 99603).  Tickets purchased through the mail will be available at "Will Call" on the day of the tour and on the Friday and Saturday preceding the tour.
   4. Baycrest Garden Committee – Brenda noted that volunteers take care of the garden in the summer. It requires 2 people to sign up for each week to weed and deadhead. There will be a May cleanup for all members to help with: clean up dead plant material and put down compost. It is a fun time to get together. This year plants need to be divided and potted up so they can be sold at the plant sale. The cleanup will be May 18th, one week ahead of the plant sale, May 25th.
   5. Plant Sale – Sally announced that we have pots and can help anyone dig up plants for the plant sale. Contact Sally if you would like help or need pots. Plants will need to be brought between 8:30 – 9 am on May 25th. Mark the plant name and flower color if possible. Please save flat boxes from soda or beer and bring them to the sale.

Kyra introduced Ellie VandeVisse who has run a market garden, school garden, CSA’s and written a book titled “Ask Mother Nature”. She teaches at Mat Su College and has been called the ‘compost queen’.

Ellie started her presentation emphasizing the importance of giving plants the nutrients they need. Two important elements that are not native to Alaskan soils are Boron and Calcium. Boron is very important but necessary in only very tiny amounts. 1 tsp. per acre is the proper amount! Too much is toxic – 2-5 ppm and more. Too little is less than .8 ppm. A soil test will tell you what you need. Lab tests require interpretation which Homer Soil & Water provides.

Boron is found in greensand, rock phosphate, kelp, Maxicrop, both liquid and granular fish fertilizer, and Borax - which is 11.3% - 14.5% boron.

Ellie said All disease is a result of mineral deficiency. With our cold Alaskan soils, both foliar feeding and drenching the root zone are the best way to get fertilizer to the roots.

Boron and calcium work together to prevent problems like blossom end rot, strengthen cell walls, etc.

Ellie described how to make Calcium liquid from vinegar and eggshells. See Liquid Calcium recipe below. This is fun to mix up with kids – the eggshells start dancing!

See attached Boron and Calcium fertilizer spray for recipe.

Drench the roots when transplanting and again in mid-season (drench and foliar spray).

For Apple trees – Use foliar spray before fruit development and drench the dripline in mid-July.

Soil samples can be taken to Homer Soil and Water. Their staff will make interpretations of lab results and suggest soil amendments.

The next meeting will be April 21

Attendees – 29

The meeting ended at 3:54