

Homer Garden Club

Article	Page
March meeting	1
Zoom Mtg Instructions	2
Treasurer Report	3
Baycrest Garden Cleanup	4
March Minutes	5
Spring Garden Cleanup	6

The next meeting of the Homer Garden Club will be a Zoom meeting April 24 at 2:00 pm.

Newsletter

April 2022

Board of Directors

Kathy Dube, President—
425-241-1045
kdube197@gmail.com

Jan Peyton—Co-Vice President
299-0153
janpeyton73@gmail.com

Sally Coleman—Co-VP
805-746-4148
sallyjcoleman@gmail.com

Louise Ashmun—299-6360
leashmum@gmail.com

Elaine Burgess—299-2325
eburgess216@gmail.com

Connie Cavazos—399-7071
connierc@alaska.net

Barbara Kennedy — 299-0007
barbara_e_kennedy@msn.com

Michael Murray—435-7333
murmurart66@gmail.com

Julie Parizek — 299-0343
j3parizek@outlook.com

Paula Riley — 435-7055
pauril@yahoo.com

Francie Roberts —235-1068,
francie.roberts@gmail.com

The April Homer Garden Club meeting will be held on the 4th Sunday, April 24, because of Easter.



The April 24 Zoom meeting will feature Don and Donna Rae on Korean Natural Farming

Introduction to Korean Natural Farming and Nurturing Your Indigenous Soil Food Web to Grow More Nutritious Vegetables

Don McNamara (a.k.a. Iceman) is the co-owner of Oceanside Farms along with his sweet wife, Donna Rae Faulkner. Oceanside Farms is located 5.2 miles out East End Road where they have a roadside Farmstand. They raise a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, berries, and some charming chickens (some egg layers and some pasture raised broilers), ducks and Thanksgiving turkeys! They grow all their produce and 9 varieties of Alaska Certified Seed Potatoes without the use of synthetically



based chemicals, pesticides, fungicides, or fertilizers. It's all about soil biology to them! They are market gardeners and use 10 high tunnels also in outdoor beds. They have over 100 fruit trees,

(Continued on page 2)

Instructions for attending the April Zoom Meeting are on Page 2

April Speaker Don and Donna Rae
Continued from page 1)

wine grapes, delicious spring asparagus. Lots of rhubarb and a custom grinder juicer that works on apples too! Don is a master composter and incorporates biochar and (Korean) Natural Farming recipes in the mix. They have backgrounds in both construction and education and have been working with KALI (the Kodiak Archipelago Leadership Institute) and residents of villages on Kodiak Island since 2015 to create community market farms with high tunnels and hydroponics for nutrition and sustainability in six tribal villages and are excited about their new Alutiiq Grown logo. The progress that the small farms have made in a few short years is FANTASTIC!

Summary:



Come learn the basics of KNF as an economical way to build the soil food web and provide natural inputs for your crops. Gathering Indigenous Microorganisms (IMOs) and propagating them in compost to kickstart your soil microbiology. Feeding them plant saps full of exudates; tinctures of garlic, ginger, angelica, licorice, and cinnamon maintenance solutions; benefit from “good” *Lactobacillus* bacteria; work with your plants’ life stages add phosphate (from bones) for structure, fish amino acids for food, and Calcium (from eggshells) for flowers and fruit. Stop using synthetics! Grow more nutritious crops – we can change the world! There’s no Planet B!



April Zoom Meeting Instructions by Kathy Dube’, President

April 24, 2:00 pm, Garden Club Meeting via Zoom

I am looking forward to chatting with everyone at the April Zoom meeting.

Below is the link to the Zoom meeting. As always, we will have a short business meeting first and then enjoy the speakers, Don McNamara and Donna Rae Faulkner.. If you click on the link it should get you directly into the meeting, or you can go to Zoom on your web browser and type in the meeting ID and passcode. See you then!

The Homer Garden Club is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Homer Garden Club April Meeting

Time: Apr 24, 2022 02:00 PM Alaska

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86174945888?pwd=UHA3WE0wNVp0UXNGRU9zM0k2YjQ0QT09>

Meeting ID: 861 7494 5888

Passcode: 740001

To call in from a phone (audio only):

+12532158782,,86174945888#,,,,*740001#

Cookie's Country Greenhouse

2340 East End Road, Homer, AK 99603
907-399-8915 (Cookie) or 907-399-0128 (Ron)

We carry vegetable starts and seed potatoes. We have lots of beautiful new flowers, including pansies, lobelia, marigolds and hanging baskets, as well as ProMix, Fishy Peat compost, landscape bark and red wiggler worms.



We accept credit cards and gift certificates.

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



March Treasurer's Report

by Louise Ashmun, Treasurer

Homer Garden Club March 2022

Income

Book Sales	\$43.88	
Membership	\$95.00	
Total Income		<u>\$138.88</u>

Expenses

Speaker Honorarium	\$100	
Total Expenses		<u>\$100.00</u>

Checking Beginning Balance 03/01/2022	\$	7,028.11
Income	\$	138.88
Expenses	\$	100.00
Interest	\$	0.30
Ending Balance 03/31/2022	\$	<u>7,067.29</u>
Money Market Beginning Balance 03/01/2022	\$	15,074.25
Interest	\$	1.28
Money Market Ending Balance 03/31/2022	\$	<u>15,075.53</u>
Total Ending Balance 03/31/2022	\$	<u>22,142.82</u>

**NEW HOMER LOCATION!
Next to Homer Animal Friends
In the Kachemak Center
Off Heath St.**

Everything you need to grow great things!

DRIPWORKS IRRIGATION	PROPAGATION & CLONING
LIGHTING SYSTEMS	VENTILATION & FANS
ORGANIC AMENDMENTS	ESSENTIAL OILS
FERTILIZERS & NUTRIENTS	GARDEN TOOLS
SOILS & GROW MEDIA	HYDROPONIC SUPPLIES



**SENIOR
DISCOUNT
TUESDAYS
5-10% OFF**

907-235-7337
HOMER
907-283-6010
KENAI

**CBD
FOR
HEALTH
& WELLNESS**



Baycrest Garden Cleanup

by Brenda Adams

Missing your gardening friends? I sure am! Here's a perfect opportunity to get together.

Join us all at the HGC garden at the Baycrest Overlook, Saturday, May 14th at 10AM. It's time to do the spring clean-up of the garden. This is truly a fun event. With many hands, it takes only about 1 ½ to 2 hours. Bring your favorite hand tools, your calendar so you can get first pick of your week to do touch up during the summer, and something to drink. Feel free to bring a friend as well. All are welcome. Senior gardeners will be there to guide inexperienced folks.



We'll provide trash bags, long handled tools, compost and top dressing. Those of you who need vegetation for your compost pile are welcome to take the spent foliage home.

We've all been cooped up for too long. Let's get out and garden together – rain or shine. Be there!



WAGON WHEEL GARDEN & PET

1506 Ocean Drive, Homer, AK 99603

A HOMER ICON

907-235-8777 -Open all year- akwagonwheel.com

Seeds and Starting Supplies	Annual Bedding Plants	Soils
Tomato Starts	Trees and Shrubs	Organic Soil Amendments
Vegetable Bedding Plants	Houseplants	Landscape Supplies
Perennials	Hanging Baskets	Garden Décor



March 20 HGC Meeting Minutes

by Connie Cavasos, Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Dube' at 2:06

19 attendees; no new announcements

Secretaries Report – Connie: nothing to report

Treasurers Report – Louise: Sending honorariums to speakers; full treasurer report is in the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Gardeners Weekend - Annie: Challenge this year finding gardens; Ken Hahn passing and just found out another garden has backed out. We have a couple for sure but only one for July 17. Brenda offered some suggestions.

Speakers – Barbara: Don and Donna Rae will present on Korean natural gardening April 24. Yarrow will be presenting fermenting and dehydrating food on May 15. April will be Zoom, hoping in person meeting in May.

Baycrest Garden – Brenda: Clean up day will be May 14 at 10:00, need about 20 people to volunteer for couple of hours. Then two weeks after that will need two volunteers each week for maintenance.

Social – Kathy: Asked Michael to gather volunteers to bring treats for the May 15 meeting.

Data Base – Barbara: We have 98 members. Please send articles to Paula for the newsletter.

Plant Sale – Kathy: Looking at May 21 after checking with the Chamber. Please let Julie know if you'd like to help. Also if you have any plants to donate, information on how to drop off will be in the newsletter.

President Dube' adjourned business at 2:25.

Guest speaker Master Gardner Brenda Adams to do presentation on colors in your garden.

Ulmer's

Drug & Hardware



Everything you need for your garden indeed!

- Seeds
- Planters
- Soils
- Mulch
- Tools
- Gloves/Clothes

3858 Lake Street, Homer

Open 7 days a week!

Ph: 907-235-8594



Spring Garden Cleanup Done RIGHT by Jessica Walliser, "Savvy Gardening"

Now that spring is on our doorstep, many of us are getting anxious to head out to the garden and clean things up. I know I am. We see all the dead ornamental grass stalks, the spent perennial stems, and the autumn leaves collected in our gardens and they give us spring fever. We want to bolt outside and spring clean the garden as soon as we can because we know that as the days get warmer, there will be more and more gardening chores to do. But, don't head out with your favorite clippers and rake just yet! **There's a right way and a wrong way to do a spring garden clean up.**

Last fall I wrote a post on all the reasons why you shouldn't do

a fall garden clean up. The post encouraged you to **let your garden stand all winter in order to provide habitat for many of the beneficial insects and other creatures living in it.** So now, spring has arrived, and if you didn't do a fall garden clean up as I recommended in that post, you now have a big spring garden clean up facing you. Along the same vein as my fall post, I'd like to now offer you some spring garden clean up tips that encourage a similar level of habitat preservation for beneficial insects.

How to do a spring garden clean up the RIGHT way:

Step 1: Cut, bundle, and tie.

In early spring, many insects are still in diapause (a physiological state akin to hibernation). In other words, they're still sleeping. Sometimes they wake up because the weather warms and sometimes they wake up

because the day-length increases. **Lots of beneficial insects, including pollinators like tiny native bees and pest-munching predators like syrphid flies, lacewings, and parasitic wasps, spend the winter hunkered down in hollow plant stems either as adults or pupae.** Cutting down the dead plant stems too early in the spring will disturb them before they have a chance to emerge. Wait as long as you can to do your spring garden clean up. Ideally, you should wait until the daytime temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees F for at least 7 consecutive days. But, that being said, I'm well aware that gardeners like to cut down old plant stems before new growth starts, so as an alternative to delaying your spring garden clean up, here are two other options:

- **Toss cut perennial and woody plant stems onto the compost pile very, very loosely,** or spread them out at the edge of the woods. Many of the insects

(Continued on page 7)





3800 Sterling Highway, Homer, Alaska
907-235-4969
www.alaskahardy.com



Alaska Hardy Nursery is the home of over 500 varieties of Alaska Hardy® perennials, trees, shrubs, vines and roses.

Our goal is to provide the largest variety of Alaska Hardy® plants suitable for the great North.



970-235-7140

*(Spring Garden Cleanu Done RIGHT
Continued from page 6)*

taking shelter inside the plant stems will still be able to emerge when the time is right. When you cut off the plants, leave about 8 inches

a tree on an angle. Again, the insects sheltering inside of them will emerge when they're ready. An added bonus of this method: More insects, especially native bees, will move in to the

stems and possibly use them as brood chambers all summer long.

Step 2: Do a CAREFUL leaf clean up

Again, waiting as long as possible to rake leaves out of perennial beds is the best idea. **Hold off on your spring garden clean up until day-**

marks, and commas, nestle into leaf litter for the winter. Luna moths spend the winter in cocoons that look just like a crinkled brown leaf. As you clean up your leaves keep a sharp eye out for these insects and do your best not to disturb them.

Step 3: Don't mulch... yet!

There are also many beneficial insects and pollinators who overwinter in soil burrows as either eggs, pupae, or adults. Some examples include the hummingbird clearing moth, soldier beetles, and many native bees. **Covering the ground with a layer of mulch too early in the spring may block their emergence.** Hold off on mulching chores until the soil dries out a little and the weather warms.



of stubble behind. These hollow stems will serve as overwintering sites for future generations of insects and the new growth will soon hide them.

- Another option (and the one I prefer) is to **take the cut stems and gather them into small bundles of a few dozen stems each.** Tie the bundles together with a piece of jute twine and hang them on a fence or lean them against

time temperatures consistently reach the 50s, if possible. Scores of beneficial insects – ladybugs, assassin bugs, and damsel bugs, for example – hunker down for the winter in leaf litter as adults. Others do so as eggs or pupae. And, adult butterflies, such as morning cloaks, question



(Continued on page 8)

*(Spring Gsrden Cleanup Done RIGHT
Continued from page 7)*

Step 4: Prune with great care

If part of your cleanup involves pruning back woody perennials or shrubs, **keep a sharp eye out for cocoons and chrysalises**. Some of our most beautiful moths and butterflies spend the winter in a delicate cocoon dangling from a branch, including the swallowtails, the sulfurs, and spring azures. Allow any branches with a cocoon or

chrysalis present to stay intact. You can always cut them back later in the season.

A proper spring garden clean up should NOT be a destructive process. By taking your time and doing it right, you and your garden can reap the many benefits of a healthy population of pest-munching beneficial insects and pollinators.



Homer Garden Club
P.O. Box 2833
Homer, Alaska 99603

