

# Homer Garden Club

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## Newsletter

November 2022

The next HGC meeting will be held November 20 at 2:00 pm in person at the Aspen Hotel.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

Janice Holden—Co-Vice President  
805-415-0864  
janjorgenson57@gmail.com

Louise Ashmun—299-6360  
leashmum@gmail.com

Elaine Burgess—299-2325  
eburgess216@gmail.com

Connie Cavasos—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

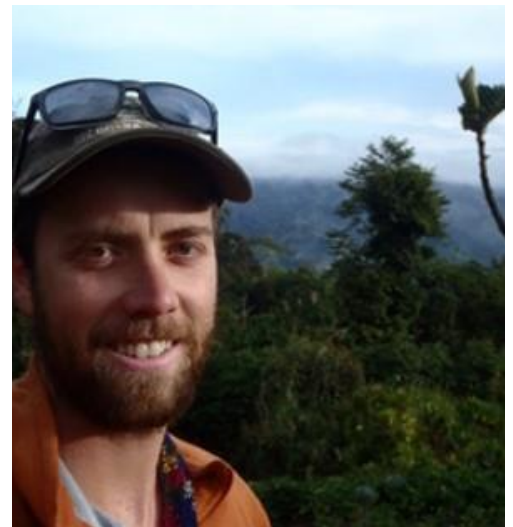
Francie Roberts —235-1068,  
francie.roberts@gmail.com

### November 20 HGC Meeting Will Feature Brad Casar on Season Extension Tools & Techniques

Brad has farming and gardening experience in a variety of harsh climates. Over the years working on farms and with farmers through the Soil and Water Conservation District, he has learned a range of techniques and strategies to extend the growing season. Currently he manages a small farm on Ohlson Mt producing vegetables, berries, shrubs, and trees called Woodman Perennials.

With our short summers it is important to get the most out every day in the growing season. With the use of small simple structures like hoop houses and cold frames you can utilize those shoulder season days for farming and gardening. We will talk about types of structures, how they can be utilized, and their benefits and shortcomings.

In addition, we will chat about how to keep your tools lasting a lifetime by using proper maintenance and storage.



There will not be a newsletter in December due to the holidays.

## October Treasurer's Report

by Louise Ashmun, Treasurer

### Homer Garden Club October 2022 (Fiscal Year 22-23) Treasurer's Report

#### Income

Membership	\$240.00	
Donation	\$10.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b><u>\$250.00</u></b>

#### Expenses

Speaker Honorarium	\$200.00	
Meeting Venue Rental	\$150.00	
Website Host annual fee	\$168.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b><u>\$518.00</u></b>

Checking Beginning Balance 10/01/2022	\$	<b>12,098.20</b>
Income	\$	<b>250.00</b>
Expenses	\$	<b>518.00</b>
Interest	\$	<b><u>0.51</u></b>
Ending Balance 10/31/2022	\$	<b>11,830.71</b>
Money Market Beginning Balance 10/01/2022	\$	<b>15,083.09</b>
Interest	\$	<b><u>2.56</u></b>
Money Market Ending Balance 10/31/2022	\$	<b>15,085.65</b>
<b>Total Ending Balance 10/31/2022</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>26,916.36</u></b>

## Comments From HGC President

by Kathy Dube'

Winter is Here!

Winter sure arrived quickly this fall, I don't know about you, but I struggled to get the last potatoes out of the frozen ground and didn't quite get my Spring bulbs planted – maybe the warm rain predicted for this week will give me a second chance (or I will have some nice planters full of Spring flowers!)

Please join us for our November in-person meeting and then enjoy the holidays with your family and friends – as always there will be no meeting in December so we'll see you again in January!

## October Meeting Minutes

by Connie Cavasos, Secretary

Homer Garden Club  
Membership Meeting at  
Aspen Hotel  
October 16, 2022

Meeting called to order by President Kathy Dube' at 2:10

Board of Directors present introduce themselves

Announcements: Jan – Michael (Social Committee) is out of town, but will be contacting volunteers to provide snacks for the membership meetings, thank you to volunteers.

Secretaries Report: Connie – would like to approve the meeting minutes of the September 25, 2022 membership meeting. Louise moves to approve the minutes, Jan seconds. Discussion: minutes need to be posted on the website. Motion carries

Treasurers Report: Louise – budget posted in the newsletter. Aspen Hotel room is \$150 per meeting, small honorarium given to guest speakers. There is still \$27,000 in account.

Committee Reports:  
Gardener's Weekend – Try-

ing to get gardens signed up early, we now have 5 tentatively. Jan has suggested smaller multiple tours in the summer. Looking at July 16 for 2023 for main tour; smaller tour (garden share) will be for members only.

Speaker's Committee – Jan recaps what is in the works; November will be Brad talking about cold frames. Janice: January is tentative for Jeffrey Dean on garden art, February is open, March is Lindsey Olson on kelp farming, April is Jason Davis to speak on making mead and using various berries. May is open but still hoping to arrange with Robin Wall Kimmerer for a gathering. Another suggestion is how to use grow lights.

Baycrest Garden – Has been taken care of and put to bed for the winter.

Plant Sale – Julie asks members to donate starts or extra plants from your garden.

Social Committee – Michael is out of town but still coordinating with volunteers.

Data Base – Barb not present but has reported that membership is up to 134; it is noted that Homer Garden Club has the largest membership in the State.

Other Business: Kathy reports that a sub-committee will be established to determine best way to use funds; need to follow the HGC Mission Statement. Julie has volunteered to head it up, for suggestions and sharing ideas. Meetings will be via Zoom until first week in December.

Louise says we could possibly change the By-Laws then bring to the membership for approval. If interested in being on the sub-committee, send an email to Julie. Scholarship is currently \$1,000,

Speaker: Jan introduces Lori Jenkins of Synergy Farms and the founder of the Garlic Project to talk to everyone about putting your garden and yard to bed for the winter.

Meeting ended at 3:50. Next Membership meeting is November 20, 2022 at 2:00 at the Aspen.

## HGC Working Group

by Julie Parizek

At our last HGC Board meeting, it was determined that we need to look more carefully at our options for the way we can (and should) use our club's funds. We have amassed quite a large amount of cash for our club and as a 501C-3 charitable corporation we need to be thinking about how we can use it to give back to the community within our Mission goals.

That being said, I have volunteered to head up this committee. What I

am seeking is both a few volunteers from the club and the board of directors as well as ideas from our members to review, discuss and possibly implement in this year and future years. We need a framework moving forward that is firmly within our expressed legal "purpose". If you would like to be involved or have an idea you would like to share, please contact me via email at [j3parizek@outlook.com](mailto:j3parizek@outlook.com) or text me at 907-299-0343.

I will be traveling outside this winter and would like to set up our first meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December. This will have to be via Zoom because I'm not actually going to be back in Homer until March but I think that we all have gotten accustomed to these remote meetings so hopefully it won't be such an ordeal! When I know who is interested, we will come up with a firm day and time and I will put together an agenda and pass along the ideas that I have to date to get us going.

## Tips for Planting Bulbs in the Fall “Farmer’s Almanac” - Amber Kanuckel

Planting bulbs now is a great idea for spring flowers later. But check out these valuable tips before you start digging.

Bulbs are one of the best ways to have a colorful spring garden, but when it comes to fall bulb planting there are a few things you’ll need to know. Try out these tips this fall and you should have lots of beautiful blooms new spring!

### 1. The Right Way to Plant Fall Bulbs

As you are planting bulbs, there are a few things to remember. First, make sure that you choose a spot with at least 6 hours of sunlight. For early bloomers, like daffodils, you can plant in a spot that



gets sun before the trees have leaves in the spring. By the time trees start shading your bulb bed, early blooming bulbs should be almost finished for the year. Bulbs also like soil that is rich with organic matter or compost, and they love well-drained soil. Soggy soil or overwatering will cause them to rot. Finally, when you are ready to plant, the general rule of thumb is to plant a bulb three times as deep as the bulb is tall, making sure the pointy part is facing upwards.

### 2. Prepare the Bulb Bed Well

You don’t want to simply dig a hole and plant the bulb. For the best

growth, make sure that you prepare a bed ahead of planting. This means that you’ll need to remove weeds and loosen the soil. It is also a good idea to add compost for nutrients or sand for drainage before you plant.

### 3. Buy at the Right Time

This is a tough one because nowadays, many stores are selling their fall bulbs in July or August because they want gardening supplies out of the way in time to set up holiday displays. This means that you’ll either need to store your bulbs carefully for a month or three, or you’ll need to order online or by mail at planting time so that you have fresh, healthy bulbs. If you are stuck buying your bulbs early, then make sure they are firm and plump, with no mold or rot. Leave them in the bag that you purchased them in, and then place that bag in a paper lunch bag so that you can store the bulbs in the fridge without making a mess.

### 4. Plant at the Right Time

It differs from one climate zone to the next, but no matter where you live, there are a few ways to judge whether or not it is the right time to plant your fall bulbs. In general, try to plant when nightly temperatures are around 40 or 50 degrees, or about six weeks before you expect the ground to freeze. Most spring bulbs need a chilly period to bloom, so if you live in an area where the ground doesn’t freeze (zones 8 to 11), then you’ll need to chill them. Leave the bulbs in the bags you bought them in, and simply place them in your refrigerator for six to

10 weeks before planting. Make sure that you don’t store bulbs with fruits, since the gasses that fruit gives off can make your bulbs go bad.

### 5. Plant the Right Bulbs

Not all bulbs should be planted in the fall. Dahlias and gladiolus should be planted in the spring, for instance, while daffodils and tulips do well when planted in late summer or early autumn. For bulbs that bloom early summer or later, plant them in the spring.

### 6. Wait for Spring to Fertilize

Once you have the bulbs in the ground, they’ll stay dormant for the remainder of the fall and winter, so you won’t need to bother with fertilizing. Wait until you start to see the first shoots of spring, because that is an indicator that the roots are growing and ready for nutrients. You’ll also want to make sure that you don’t fertilize after the bulbs start to flower because this will inhibit bulb growth. If you haven’t tried bulbs in your garden, you definitely should. With daffodils, hyacinths, tulips and other early spring bloomers, bulb beds will give you beautiful color long before the rest of your garden starts to grow.



# Planting Spring-Blooming Bulbs in Containers

“Fine Gardening”—Richard Hartlage

When I plant containers of bulbs in the fall, I'm thinking of the color and drama they will add to the following spring's landscape. Not only will these planted pots create focal points throughout the garden, but they will also welcome visitors at entryways and add a touch of bright color to the spring garden.

Any bulb can be planted in a container, but tulips are by far my favorite because of their simple form and the infinite choice of colors. You can combine different types of bulbs in a single container, but be sure they bloom at the same time or the earlier bulb's dying foliage will mar the display of the late-flowering bulb. I prefer to plant only one type of bulb per container to get the maximum impact. By choosing bulbs with staggered bloom times, we have a succession of flowers from early March to mid-May.

## Plant Bulbs in Containers in Fall



Plan for a succession of color. When this container of *Tulipa* 'Spring Green' finishes blooming, it will be replaced with another container of tulips just starting to open.

I plant our bulbs in late October in containers with good drainage. In a

24-inch container I plant either 50 tulips, 30 large-flowered daffodils, 50 small-flowered daffodils, or 100 minor bulbs like crocus, scilla or iris species or cultivars. I fill the pot with a soil mix that drains very well so the bulbs will sit in moist but not soggy soil. I plant the bulbs just as I would in the ground, at a soil depth of twice the diameter of the bulb.

## Layering Bulbs in Containers

If I am planting more than one type of bulb in the same container and they require different planting depths, I layer the bulbs. I fill the container to the right level and plant the large bulbs, then cover them with soil until it's at the proper depth to plant the smaller bulbs. Finally, I fill the container with soil, being sure to leave at least 1/2 inch of space between the surface of the soil and the top of the container for easy watering.

I water the planted container thoroughly, then water periodically throughout the winter. The bulbs should not sit in soil that is too wet, but you also don't want them to dry out entirely.

## Overwintering Methods Depend on Where You Live

Gardening in Seattle makes overwintering bulbs in containers rather easy. I use mostly stoneware pots because they can be left outside through the winter. Our mild winters allow us to group the pots together tightly in our nursery and leave them outside for the season.

More durable containers made of stone, cast concrete, fiberglass, cast iron, or plastic are suitable for colder winter climates. In cold parts of the country, you could surround the pots in tightly packed straw or put them in sawdust and put a

good 18 inches of mulch on top. Or you could store them in a garage or outbuilding that won't get too far below freezing but will also not heat up during the day.

If your winter is just too severe to risk leaving the bulbs out or you want to use bulbs in a container that can't be stored in the cold, you have another option. Plant your bulbs in small 6-inch or 8-inch plastic pots and overwinter them under protection outdoors (in a cold frame for instance) or in a cold garage.

In the spring, as they start to bloom, you can then sink the pots into larger display containers. Bring your containers outside in the spring when the danger of hard frost has passed or when the bulbs in the ground are starting to emerge.



After the flowers have faded and the spring gala is over, I plant all the bulbs, except for the tulips, in the garden. Tulips tend not to do well in subsequent years, so I compost them. Then I start thinking ahead to the varieties I'll be planting up in the fall for next year's display.

\*\*\*\*\*Our Membership Year is October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*\*\*

## THE HOMER GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Type: Basic(\$10) \_\_ Supporting (\$15) \_\_ Business (\$25) \_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

You will receive the newsletter by E-Mail. This saves us printing and postage costs.  
Plus, the E-mailed version is in fabulous color!

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

### How would you like to participate in the Garden Club *this Membership Year?*

(please check any activities in which you would like to help)

Meeting Refreshments    Board of Directors    Nominating Committee    Newsletter  
 Spring Plant Sale    Harvest Dinner    Baycrest Garden    Gardeners' Weekend

**Suggestions for future Topics or Speakers** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to "Homer Garden Club" and mail along with this form to:  
Homer Garden Club, P.O. Box 2833, Homer AK 99603  
HGC is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. EIN 92-0133642

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

