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Homer Garden Club

Newsletter

October 2022

The October HGC meeting will be held October 16 at 2:00 pm in person at the Aspen Hotel.

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October 16 HGC Meeting Will Feature Lori Jenkins of Synergy Farms on Winterizing the Garden

In partnership with her husband Wayne Jenkins, Lori moved to Homer in 2012 to start Synergy Gardens and the Alaska Garlic Project. Lori had worked professionally as an executive director for non-profit arts associations for 13 years, then became an art teacher in public schools for 10 years before moving to Homer.

Lori will speak about winterization for gardens and tools. She will share tips and best practices for preparing your gardens and tools for long, cold, unpredictable winters and spring.



Homer Garden Club September 2022 Treasurer's Report

Income

Membership	\$380.00	
Apron Sale	\$25.00	
Book Sales	\$46.94	
Total Income		<u>\$451.94</u>

Expenses

Chamber of Commerce Dues	\$39.00	
Peony Festival (Chamber of Commerce)	\$300.00	
Meeting Venue Rental	\$150.00	
Total Expenses		<u>\$489.00</u>

Checking Beginning Balance 09/01/2022	\$	12,134.76
Income	\$	451.94
Expenses	\$	489.00
Interest	\$	0.50
Ending Balance 09/30/2022	\$	<u>12,098.20</u>
Money Market Beginning Balance 09/01/2022	\$	15,081.85
Interest	\$	1.24
Money Market Ending Balance 09/30/2022	\$	<u>15,083.09</u>
Total Ending Balance 09/30/2022	\$	<u>27,181.29</u>

How to Get Rid of Slugs in the Garden Naturally

by Wanda Simon, Gardeners' Oasis

Where there are plants, there are pests. And one of the most common garden pests are slugs. Following are some methods for preventing them from eating your garden.

Shock Slugs with Copper— Copper Tape is a simple, low-cost solution to invasive slugs. The slime that coats and protects the body of the slug reacts with copper,

delivering a tiny electric shock (like static shock) every time they come in contact. Wrap it around the outside of your containers to prevent the slugs from climbing up the sides.

Feed Them Some Beer—Believe it or not, slugs love the scent of beer! You can use that to your advantage by setting a beer trap. Simply place a medium-sized con-

tainer in your garden near areas where slugs are abundant. Then fill it halfway with beer (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic versions work). The smell of the beer will attract the slugs, who will climb the sides and get stuck in the liquid. Then you can dump them out and start over again. The container will need to be re-filled frequently as the beer evaporates or gets watered down.

(Continued on page 5)

Homer Garden Club
Membership Meeting in Person,
Aspen Hotel
September 25, 2022

Meeting called to order by President Kathy Dube' at 5:11

Kathy welcomes new Garden Club members. Reminder that membership dues renew October 1

Announcements: Brenda Adams announces that she has sold "Gardens by Design" to Kellie Kekich; Brenda will be working with her.

Elections: Kathy announces that Sally Coleman (co Vice-President) is stepping down with Janice Holden taking over the position with approval from the membership. All other Board members have agreed to stay on:

Kathy Dube' - President,
Jan Peyton - Vice President,
Janice Holden - Co Vice President,
Connie Cavasos - Secretary,
Louise Ashmun - Treasurer,
Michael Murray - Social Coordinator,
Elaine Burgess - Historian,
Paula Riley - Newsletter,
Barbara Kennedy - Data Base,
Julie Parizek - Website/Publishing,
Francie Roberts - Past President.

Kathy asks if there are any nominations for the positions; there were none.

Sally Coleman moves to accept officers as listed for '22 - '23 fiscal

year, Brenda Adams seconds; no objections, motion passes unanimously.

Secretaries Report: Connie, nothing to report.

Treasurers Report: Louise - club is making more money than we are spending, due to COVID and inactivity. We have \$27,000 in the bank. She asks everyone to brainstorm and think about programs that will fit with club missions. Brenda suggests scholarships to the Master Gardener class sponsored by Cooperative Extension. Cost is \$400 and is all online via Zoom. Each student is required to perform 40 hours of community service as part of the class.

Committee Reports:

Gardeners Weekend:
Francie - the weekend a great success; it was over 2 weekends, one for members only and the other for the public with 300 tickets sold. Anyone interested in featuring their garden for next year, please let someone on the committee know.

Speakers Committee: Jan reports the meeting for October 16 will feature the Jenkins from Synergy Gardens speaking about putting garden to bed for the winter and planting garlic. For the November 20th meeting, a presentation on hoop gardening, cold frames and care of tools. March looking at Kelp farming; tentative for January 15 meeting is Jeff Dean to cover

art and sculpture in the garden, also looking at Jason Davis who has Sweetgale Meadworks. The writers conference is in May with Robin Wall Kimmerer as a speaker; will try to get her to address members somehow while she is in town.

Baycrest Garden: Brenda - garden did well all summer but looks messy now since there were no volunteers for September. Garden Club sign disappeared. Brenda thanks all the volunteers for this year.

Plant Sale: Julie - sale this year big success. Majority of the plants come from club members who are cleaning up in the spring.

Social: Michael - will pass around a signup sheet so people can volunteer to help with refreshments for the meetings, would like to have 3 volunteers for each meeting. He also has some cactus starts to give away from a plant that belonged to Edith Parsons. Just a reminder that membership meetings are the 3rd Sunday of the month (except December) at 2:00 at the Aspen for now.

Database: Barb - membership is growing, now at 121. Please sign up or renew your membership with Louise.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 for everyone to enjoy some great hors d'oeuvres.

REMEMBER!

2202-23 Homer Garden Club membership dues were due October 1. If you have not yet paid them, you can fill out the form on page 6 and mail it and the dues to the address indicated on the form.

The rain patters on a watery swale, sending silvered droplets upward with each raindrop that falls. Two dozen greater yellowlegs feed with purpose, high-stepping through the backwaters left from the receding high tide. A fall storm swept in while I was kayaking, and I now stand along the shore, rain ticking off my hood, while I wait for the winds to die down before resuming my journey. With nothing to occupy me, I am drawn to this busy enclave of birdlife and find them a welcome diversion.

As a child, I was introduced to the allure of birds, and rainstorms for that matter, by my maternal grandmother. I've heard it said that most naturalists and scientists were mentored by someone at a young age. In my case, Grandma Alyce drew me close and taught me the names of the birds at the feeder,



“that’s a male goldfinch. You can tell them from the females because the males are the pretty ones.” Sometimes on rainy days, we would sit together on the porch, a scratchy wool Marine Corp blanket from Grandpa’s military days across our laps. “Listen, do you hear that liquid song? That’s an American robin,” she might say as rain gurgled down the gutters. The air could have been heady with the scent of spring lilacs, which bloomed on both sides of the sidewalk, or piquant with burning leaves, the talisman of a cool fall

day.

How did she come to know the wild birds? Did someone, her mother perhaps, take the time to point out the silhouette of a Cooper’s hawk in a cottonwood tree? Or hold up a finger, “Shhhh,” to still her children’s voices so they might hear the soft, “tew, tew” of a mountain bluebird gracing the garden gate? Perhaps my grandmother learned



all she knew from the dog-eared Golden Books Guide to Birds of North America she kept close at hand. Whatever the answer, she gifted me her love of birds and set my feet on the path toward my own education.

Bird watching is an easy pastime, requiring little more than hope and patience. Today, even without binoculars, I make out white tail feathers and bellies as four lesser (and thus smaller) yellowlegs bounce-land in the rain-dimpled water, calling a high, “cheer-cheer-cheer” in



greeting to their larger cousins. Overhead, ducks wing by, moving southward as the tide drops to ex-

pose coastal foraging grounds. In the flat light, I can only make out the white wing bars of American Wigeons, but guess that the other



ducks are mallards and maybe pintails. Some may winter over in Kachemak Bay, but others will depart within the next few weeks, bound for warmer climes now that termination dust illuminates the high peaks.

I grew up in Colorado in the company of crafty blue jays and melodious meadowlarks. Yet I’ve spent most of my adult life in Alaska among hardy boreal chickadees



and sharp-eyed ravens who keep me company in the winter and the transient snowbirds. Still, despite the miles and the memories, I am still, at heart, that curious child, and I pull the comfort of my grandmother’s lessons around me like an embrace.

Jessica would like you to join her blog at shepherdalaska.com

Use Organic Bait—If you find that your slug problem is uncontrollable and you need to turn to using poisonous baits, please be mindful of commercial products. Many slug baits contain poisonous ingredients which can be harmful to other ani-



mals, pets and soil health and should be avoided. Organic slug bait contains natural, non-toxic ingredients specifically targeted towards eliminating slugs—not anything that comes in contact with it. Search for slug baits that include iron phosphate as an active ingredient. Iron phosphate is safe to use in your garden and won't harm kids or pets, and is generally recognized as safe by the FDA...except for slugs. Sluggo is my favorite variety.

Sprinkle Them With Salt—Since slugs don't have a shell to protect them, sprinkling them with salt causes their body to dry out, which kills them. For this to work, you have to pour the salt directly onto the slug. So it isn't an effective solution for controlling an infestation.

Avoid Plants That Slugs Love—While slugs eat many garden plants, not all are equally attractive. If you want to make your garden slug-proof from the start, try planting varieties that are resistant to slugs and less likely to be eaten. These include:

- strongly-scented or bitter plants, such as salvia, fennel and many herbs
- anything that has furry or prick-

ly stems and leaves. The slugs have a hard time getting a grip on them.

- Plants with thick and waxy leaves (like succulents). They just can't chew through it.

Grow Slug-resistant Plants—If you live in an area with lots of slugs, just slug-resistant plants might not be enough. Luckily, some plants actively repel slugs, deterring them from entering that section of your garden.

- Aromatics like rosemary, fennel, and anise are unpleasant to slugs and can help to keep them away from your garden beds.
- Foxglove contains a nerve toxin that keeps slugs away.
- Euphorbia and Japanese Anemone contain a type of latex fiber that repels slugs as well as many other insects.

Distract With Companion Plants—Since you can't stop slugs from entering your garden altogether, some gardeners like to plant 'companion plants' which act as decoys to distract from your more precious items. Companion planting involves planting slug favorites close to plants you want for yourself. For example, you might plant a few lettuces (a slug-favorite) around your strawberry patch to distract the slugs before they can make it to the sweet berries. Only do this if you know you already have slugs in the area. Otherwise, you might attract them into the part of the garden where you don't want them.

Give Your Garden Sharp Edges—Without a shell, slugs are highly vulnerable to their environment, especially sharp and prickly objects. That also means they are most comfortable traveling over flat, smooth, and soft surfaces. So adding a sharp barrier around your most precious plants is a good way to keep slugs at bay. A sharp barrier can be created using crushed

eggshells, pine needles, diatomaceous earth or other thorny organic materials. Simply scatter them around your garden, and replenish them as needed.

Keep Your Garden Tidy—Slugs like dark, damp places to hide, and will take advantage of logs, leaves, sticks, rocks, and everything else to provide shelter. Keeping your yard clean and tidy is a good way to keep slug populations in control since you can minimize the number of hiding spots. Picking up dead leaves, regularly mowing your grass, and removing logs, sticks, and other items from your lawn will help to deter slugs from making your garden their home.



Spread Ground Coffee—Caffeine is supposed to be a natural repellent for slugs and snails. So some people say you can sprinkle ground coffee beans or coffee grounds around your plants to keep the slugs away. Others claim that this doesn't work at all. I haven't tried it so I can't say one or the other, but it might be worth a shot!

Well, that's it for our natural slug repellents. It will probably take a little trial and error to find the ones that work best in your garden. But with a little work, you can get the slimy pests under control.

*****Our Membership Year is October 1st to September 30th*****

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

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