

Homer Garden Club

Newsletter

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The next HGC meeting will be **September 22** at 2:00 at the Aspen hotel

September 2024

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September 22 Meeting to Celebrate Autumn Appetizers

Invitation to share some Autumn Appetizers

As summer winds down and we move into the Fall season, we invite any and all members attending our September Garden Club meeting to bring and share hors d'oeuvres as we once again meet for our monthly meetings and reconnect with fellow gardeners and friends.

At the September gathering we will also circulate a sign-up sheet for monthly meetings for the 2024/25 season where we ask 2 or 3 people to provide snacks for upcoming meetings.

We look forward to seeing you in September and sampling some of your tasty treats. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

By Michael Murray – the refreshments guy

Treasurer's Report

by Kendall Dellaesperanza, Treasurer

Homer Garden Club Treasurer's Report for June, July and August 2024

Income

Garden Tour Tickets	\$4,850.00
Book Sales	\$53.50
Dona-	\$500.00
Membership	\$50.00

Total Income **\$5,453.50**

Expenses

PO Box Rental	\$218.00
Newsletter expenses	\$84.80
Dept of Commerce	\$25.00
Garden Tour Costs	\$4,731.53

Total Expenses **\$5,059.33**

Checking Beginning Balance 06/01/2024	\$	7,248.54
Income	\$	5,453.50
Expenses	\$	5,059.33
12 month CD dividend	\$	109.90
Interest	\$	1.04
Ending Balance 08/31/2024	\$	<u>7,753.65</u>

Money Market Beginning Balance 06/01/2024	\$	6,121.51
CD with interest	\$	5,102.22
Interest	\$	3.26
Money Market Ending Balance 08/31/2024	\$	<u>11,226.99</u>

CD Beginning Balance 06/01/2024	\$	15,000.00
6 month CD matured and transferred to Money Market	\$	5,000.00
CD Ending Balance 08/31/2024	\$	<u>10,000.00</u>

Total Ending Balance 08/31/2023	\$	28,980.64
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Fall is Back!

by Kathy Dube', President

Fall is Back – after a Great Summer!

Welcome back to the next season of the Homer Garden Club. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the warm sunny summer, much appreciated after the past few years of rainy cool summers. My flowers and strawberries were so much happier and the fireweed in my yard bloomed! Unfortunately, it was also a banner year for all the pushki up here near McNeil canyon, but I guess you have to take the bad with the good.

We are happy to be starting up our monthly meetings on September 22 at the Aspen Hotel (2-4 PM; no Zoom this month since we have a different format for September meetings). This is our annual harvest celebration and this year we'll be doing potluck appetizers again, so bring something to share if you can.

We will also be holding elections for officers. **We have a desperate need for a Co-Vice President to help Fran Durner. PLEASE** consider volunteering to help Fran out; primary duties include helping select speakers/topics for our monthly meetings, helping to introduce the speakers, and helping to set up and take down the Audio Visual equipment at the meet-

ings (we have a great checklist for AV equipment set-up and I am always available to help out – it's just a little too much for me to try to get it all set up and run the meeting at the same time). I know that everyone enjoys coming to meetings, and we just can't do everything without a bit of additional help.

It's also that time of year to renew your membership. It's a real bargain at just \$10/year. You will get the monthly newsletter and discounts at local garden stores. Applications will be available at the September meeting or online at <https://www.homergardenclub.org/> (see "Membership Application" button at the bottom of the page).



Just a Friendly Reminder

by Louise Ashmun, Membership/Co-Treasurer

For most Homer Garden Club members, annual membership ends on September 30 and dues for the upcoming year are due. The exceptions are folks who have paid for multiple years at one time and are not due this year, and garden owners that were on the Garden Tour this past summer—they get a one-year membership free. For everyone else, this is a very friendly reminder that HGC dues are due for fiscal year 2024-25. To avoid any lapse in your Homer Garden Club newsletter subscription, please plan to renew your membership by the **end of October**.

I will be prepared to accept payment (cash or check only) of dues at Autumn Appetizers, the HGC kick-off

meeting on Sept 22nd, and at the following monthly meetings. If you will not be able to attend meetings, please fill in the membership form at the end of this newsletter (also available at www.homergardenclub.org) and mail your dues payment check to the Homer Garden Club. If you have any questions about your current membership status, email me at the Homer Garden Club (2013gardenclub@gmail.com) or text me at 907-299-6360—be sure to include your full name in your message. See you soon!

Election of officers will take place at the September meeting. Please consider taking the vacant Co-Vice President position. This position, consisting of two officers, is responsible for arranging the speakers for our monthly meetings. We need your help!

The Homer Garden Club's Summer 2024 Garden Tour was a resounding success! With all 350 tickets sold, attendees enjoyed a perfect day exploring a variety of stunning gardens. This year's tour featured five diverse gardens, ranging from impeccably manicured spaces beneath cottonwood trees to a charming, meandering high-elevation country garden.

Such an event could not have been possible without the dedication of our many volunteers. To show our appreciation, we hosted an Afterparty at The Homestead, where we celebrated the efforts of garden owners and volunteers alike.

Looking ahead to the 2025 Garden Tour, we bid farewell to the members of our Garden Tour Committee, who have faithfully organized the event for several years. This group, having taken over from a previous committee, put their own unique stamp on the tour. As we prepare for the next chapter, we invite new committee members to bring their vision to the event. Whether you envision an exclusive member-only Pop-up Tour or the reintroduction of guest speakers, your fresh ideas are welcome. The previous committee had prepared a comprehensive manual and the current group is ready to transfer all computer files to ensure a smooth transition.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to the team that managed the Garden Tour during the challenging COVID years: Annie Oberlitner, Ruth Dickerson, Nicky Szarzi, Patti Jay, Susan McLane, Louise Ashman, Elaine Grabowski, and Francie Roberts. Your dedication and resilience were truly remarkable. The picture attached to the article shows all the buttons that have been made since the Garden Tours began.



Let us give thanks for a bounty of people

- For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us for our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.
- For generous friends...with hearts and smiles as bright as their blossoms
- For feisty friends, as tart as apples.
- For continuous friends who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them.
- For crotchety friends, sour as rhubarb and indestructible.
- For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as egg-plants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the others, as plain as potatoes and so good for you.

For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussell sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes.

And serious friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter.

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes.

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us despite our blights, wilts and witherings.

And finally, to those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter. For these we give thanks.

...Max Coots (1927—2009)

Hello members!

Thank you to everyone who answered the speaker survey sent out this summer to the HGC membership! We received some good ideas and suggestions and hope to use them to put together interesting monthly programs for you this season. Here is a compilation of the results of the survey. If you have any questions or additional comments or suggestions, please feel free to email me at durner1@gmail.com. See you at our first get-together this month!

HGC Speaker Survey Results Summer 2024

There were 32 respondents but not everyone answered all of the questions.

1. What field most interests you in gardening? Eg: Growing vegetables, growing flowers, garden design, high/low tunnel gardening, roses, fruit trees, gardening for pollinators, container gardening, seed saving, etc, etc, etc. (Any subject you are interested in!)

Response —Vegetables (13), Container gardening (7), Flowers (5), Fruit and berries (3), using natives, rewilding.

2. What topics would you most like to hear about at one of our upcoming monthly meetings? Eg: Winter sowing, plants to battle erosion, how to properly plant a tree, water pond plants, etc, etc. (Any topic you are interested in!)

Response —Starting seeds (4); Winter sowing (4); Pruning/tree care (4); Berries (2); Seed saving, fermenting, mid to late bloomers.

3. Is there a specific speaker you would like to hear from inside Alaska? Please tell us who is it, and what is their expertise?

Response —Jeff Lowenfels (3); Marion Owen (3); Brenda Adams; Jaime Rodriguez on rock gardens; Carol DeMers on vegetables; Lori Jenkins on garlic; Tim Alzheimer on hardscaping.

4. If there is a previous speaker or subject you would like to hear again - please tell us!

Response —Teena and Brenda; Some of the special speakers we brought in - Dan Hinckley, Elliot Coleman, Ellie Vandevisse

5. In the past, we have invited a special national/international speaker at Gardeners Weekend during the summer, and we have sold tickets to the speaker event. Would you like to revive that tradition?

Response —Yes (16) No (10), Don't know (3)

6. If we could assemble a panel of (2-3) experts for a Q&A during one of our monthly meetings, what subject, or related subjects, would you be most interested in?

Response —Seed starting, Food preservation, Dealing with invasive plants, Dividing and overwintering plants

7. Are you a Master Gardener? What year did you complete the course?

Response — Yes - (8), anywhere from 1999 to 2015.
No - (21).

8. How long have you been a member of the Homer Garden Club?

Response — One yr or less (5);
2 yrs - (4);
Between 7 and 10 years -(10);
Between 13 and 18 yrs - (5);
From 20 to 30 yrs - (6);
"Longtime" member -(2)
Not a member -(1)

9. Additional comments and suggestions are welcome!

Response — More pop-up tours, bring back the guest book at summer garden tour, appreciate seeing meetings on Zoom.

THE HOMER GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

Email Address

(Please print clearly to make sure you receive all club newsletters and messages)

Membership Type: _____ **Basic (\$10)** _____ **Supporting (\$15)** _____ **Business (\$25)**

Suggestions for future meeting topics or speakers:

**Homer Garden Club Membership year is Oct 1st to Sept 30th
This membership will expire on September 30th**

Please make your check payable to "Homer Garden Club" and mail it along with this form to:
Homer Garden Club, PO Box 2833, Homer AK 99603

HGC is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization (EIN92-0133642)

Homer Garden Club
PO Box 2833
Homer, Alaska 99603

