

# Homer Garden Club *Newsletter*



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The next HGC meeting will be **October 19** at 2:00 at the Aspen Hotel.

**October 2025**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kathy Dube, President—  
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kdube197@gmail.com
  
- VACANT- Vice President —
  
- Louise Ashmun—299-6360  
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- Elaine Burgess —907-299-2325  
eburgess216@gmail.com
  
- Francie Roberts —907-235-1068,  
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- Kendall Dellaesperanza—  
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- Michael Murray—907-435-7333  
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- Paula Riley — 907-435-7055  
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- Tina Seaton—907-399-1353  
tinaseaton@gmail.com

## Oct. 19 Meeting will Feature Don and Donna Rae Faulkner Discussing Alutiiq Grown Village Farms

Don and Donna Rae of Oceanside Farms in Homer say “Growing fresh, affordable, delicious, nutrient-dense foods using organic and regenerative methods for our community became a passion. We don’t use pesticides, herbicides or synthetic fertilizers. We do compost and make biochar and use a Johnson-Su bioreactor to build healthy soil biology. We put everything we’ve got into farming. We continued growing and learning, transitioning from gardeners to small scale market farmers.



will be talking about, is our 9 years of ongoing work with what are now the Alutiiq Grown village farms on Kodiak. The Kodiak Archipelago Leadership Institute (KALI) is supporting small farm development in communities in that region. The Alutiiq Grown producers are growing, harvesting, and distributing

“One project we are proud of, and

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## Homer Garden Club Treasurer Report September 2025 (FY24-25)

### Income

membership	\$420.00
newsletter ad	\$120.00
aprons	\$75.00

**Total Income** **\$615.00**

### Expenses

Chamber fee + Peony festival	290.00
Computer security	\$89.99
Insurance	\$400.00

**Total Expenses** **\$779.99**

Checking Beginning Balance 9/01/2025	\$ 6,651.97
Income	\$ 615.00
Expenses	\$ 779.99
CD dividend	\$ 16.36
Interest	\$ 0.27
Ending Balance 9/30/2025	<u>\$ 6,503.61</u>
Money Market Beginning Balance 9/01/2025	\$ 6,240.71
Interest	\$ 1.03
Money Market Ending Balance 9/30/2025	<u>\$ 6,241.74</u>
CD 18 month term (maturity 10/10/2026)	\$ 10,161.60
interest/dividend	\$ 33.99
CD 18 month term (maturity 3/30/2026)	\$ 5,000.00
interest/dividend (transferred to checking)	
CD Ending Balance 9/30/2025	\$ 15,195.59
<b>Total Ending Balance 9/30/2025</b>	<b>\$ 27,940.94</b>

(Faulkner Talk  
Continued from page 1)

fresh and healthy foods for their tribal and community members. This work is important in creating and expanding food security and sovereignty for Kodiak. Our talk will review the latest work being done on the Alutiiq Grown Farms, their hydroponic projects, the Qik'rtaq Foodhub, and their mariculture projects! Look for the "Alutiiq Grown" brand when shopping!

Be sure to check out their website  
[www.oceansidefarmsalaska.com](http://www.oceansidefarmsalaska.com), as well as  
[www.alutiiqgrown.com](http://www.alutiiqgrown.com)



## Notes From the President

by Kathy Dube', President

### October Garden Club Zoom Meeting Info

I hope to see everyone for the October Garden Club Meeting in person at the Aspen Inn – but if you can't make it, here's the link for the Zoom meeting!

Topic: Homer Garden Club October Meeting

Time: Oct 19, 2025 02:00 PM Alaska

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85881864741?pwd=agrBXA6l4KSYcobZ7aaBUvW4AFjt7t.1>

Meeting ID: 858 8186 4741

Passcode: 871521

Via Mobile phone (audio only):

+12532158782,,85881864741#,,,,\*871521# US

## Vice President Vacancy

At the September meeting all the current officers were voted back into their offices. Unfortunately, Fran Durner, our former Vice President, has found she cannot continue as the Vice President due to other commitments.

The Vice President's main task is to find speakers for our monthly meetings. Fran has already lined up several speakers for the coming months, but we need someone to keep in contact with them in case of scheduling conflicts and also get a synopsis of their intended presentation for the newsletter. The new Vice President would also need to line up

speakers for the months where none are currently scheduled.

This position can be shared by two members, so if you have a buddy that you would like to have join you, by all means invite him or her along.

If no one comes forth to accept this position, we will lose the most popular aspect of our monthly meetings. Please contact any of the current officers listed on page one of this newsletter if you would like to volunteer for the Vice Presidency. Our club needs you!

## HGC September Minutes

by Tina Seaton, Secretary

### 9/21/25 Homer Garden Club Meeting – Minutes

The annual 'Autumn Appetizers' and election meeting started off with many offerings of tasty hors d'oeuvres & snacks.

Attendance and Announcements – The business meeting started at 2:21 with 29 attendees. Donna Rae Faulkner announced that people could bring apples to Oceanside Farm for juicing. A 5-gallon bucket will make about 2 gallons. She also announced that there will be an End-of-Life program on the 5 Wishes put on by SPHS on November 3.

Additions to Agenda - None

Secretary's Report – No report

Treasurer's Report – Kendall reported that we have \$15,000 in CDs and \$13,054.28 available in cash for a total of \$28,054.28. She asked membership to let board members know if there are projects we could support or a need for scholarships. Louise reported that there are 135 members which takes our numbers back up to pre-Covid level. She noted that we still have Garden Club books and aprons for sale for \$25. The new membership year starts in October and is still a bargain for \$10! You can send checks through the mail or pay at a meeting.

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## Committee Reports

Speaker's Committee – Fran announced she is stepping down as VP and would like to have one or two people to step up. She has done much of the work for this year, scheduling speakers through April of next year. Someone is needed to coordinate with each speaker ahead of the meeting to make sure they get all necessary information. This will not require much time since Fran has done so much of the initial contacts! If we don't get a volunteer, we may not have monthly speakers after March or April. Upcoming speakers: October - Don & Donna Rae from Oceanside Farms will give a PechaKucha presentation; November – We will be sharing photos of our gardens from this past summer (send your photos to Fran by the 2nd week of October – [Durner1@gmail.com](mailto:Durner1@gmail.com)); December – No meeting; January – Marion Owen from Kodiak; February – Yarrow and possibly Shawn from the Pratt Museum gardens will talk about the Orchid family and 33 species of local orchids; March or April – Josh Smith to speak about native plants and will bring some plants for sale; April or March – Dahlias. Again, we are looking for one or two people to help coordinate speakers, with most of the work already done for this year!

Social Committee - Michael passed around a calendar for people to sign up for snacks at each meeting. Michael will contact each person to remind them before the date they signed up for.

Newsletter – Paula asked that people send in articles to put in the newsletter whenever they want to write one or find a good one to share.

Baycrest Garden Committee – Lorraine Haas from Pioneers of Alaska asked for help to maintain their garden at Baycrest. Brenda Adams, who

heads up the maintenance of our garden there, is willing for us to take it over as long as the invasive Centaurea can be removed. There was a short discussion on working together to clean up both Baycrest garden beds in the spring.

Plant Sale – No report

Garden Tour – A new committee (4-6 people) is needed. There are some gardeners willing to share their gardens, but a committee is required to coordinate and organized the event.

Other – Elections

President - Kathy Dube' was reelected unanimously.

VP – No candidate

Secretary – Tina Seaton was reelected unanimously.

Bank Account Treasurer – Kendall DellaSperanza was reelected unanimously.

Membership Treasurer – Louise Ashmun was reelected unanimously.

Social/Hospitality Chair – Michael Murray was reelected unanimously.

Historian – Elaine Burgess was reelected unanimously.

Newsletter Editor – Paula Riley was reelected unanimously.

Publicity Chair – Francie Roberts has been acting as publicity chair but was unable to attend this meeting. We will address this position at the next meeting.

There were free strawberry runners to take home along with some donated carrots and Peggy brought some beautiful flowers in pots and vases for all to enjoy!

The meeting ended at 3:12.

For October Refreshments we have Joyce Clause and Kate McNulty. Thank you!

## A Fall Journey

by Jessica Shepherd

Here in the north country, fall is upon us. The birch leaves shimmer gold along the hills while the understory of fireweed and highbush cranberries flare crimson. The Sandhill cranes departed in advance of a storm that dusted the highest peaks with new snow. They ascended in mass, spiraled over Homer with a noisy farewell, then winged south towards their wintering grounds in California.

We were not there to see them off. Instead, husband Hal and I intersected them a day later as they flew along the Alcan Highway. We were three days into our annual fall trip and had pulled into a rest stop overlooking the watery Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, just west of the Canadian border. We heard their reedy voices far above us, and spotted several irregular V formations in the gray sky, "Safe travels! See you next spring!" we called, faces tilted upward.

Crossing into the Yukon Territory, we spent the next two days navigating frost heaves, construction, and drinking in the gorgeous scenery on our way to Haines, a tiny hamlet 1,000 miles south. We arrived on a sunny morning in time for the Saturday Farmer's Market, which is held at the fairgrounds. The market was tiny by Homer standards, but I scored fresh greens, peas, and tomatoes, along with jars of pickled kelp salsa and red onions. Purchasing a fresh raspberry scone and chai tea from the adjacent Foundroot Bakery, I enjoyed lunch at a picnic table in the community garden, awash in flowers.

Soon after, we were joined by Hal's son Alex and his partner Salem, who had driven up from Tacoma. Cruise ship season was over for the year, and most of the shops were closed. The locals were friendly, the sun sparkled on the blue-green waters of the Chilkat and Chilkoot Inlets which sequester the town, and the clouds parted long enough to reveal rugged mountains towering above us. We fell in love with this quiet version of Haines, with a winter population of 1,600, and spent our three-day visit walking along the beach with the dogs, visiting the Eagle Refuge (sans eagles), and hiking Mount Ripinski through a dripping, mossy, spruce and hemlock forest.



Local treats in Haines—photo by Jessica Shepherd

No trip would be complete without sampling the local cuisine. My favorite meal was a humble carrot-ginger soup from a gas station along the shores of Kluane Lake in the Yukon. For Hal, it was surely the flight of mead we savored at Three Norsemen in Haines. An evening campfire on the beach with Alex and Salem roasting marshmallows to savor between squares of melty chocolate was memorable as well.

Now, back home after 11 days, the woodlands are eerily quiet. Along with the Sandhill Cranes, the songbirds have left us. Still, our winter birds, the Steller's Jays and Black Capped Chickadees, check in, hoping we'll hang the birdfeeders (sorry guys, not until the bears tuck in for the winter). And while the grass is lush from the rain, and the gardens still produce more than we can eat, chilly mornings are a harbinger of winter.

We hit the ground running, as they say, with Hal up on a ladder harvesting apples, while I picked raspberries and made pesto from a mound of basil that would not survive a frost. The apples transformed into spicy apple butter

and the best fresh-squeezed cider ever. Then Hal started on the wood pile, as I blanched and froze a meager crop of green beans and the last of the summer squash, and set out jars to can pickles. Come winter, when cold snakes around our ankles and snow obscures the shape of the garden boxes, we'll enjoy the pleasures of this summer bounty.

A sunny morning and a long list of outside chores pull me outside, so I don a jacket and head out..

*Advice from a tea bag:*  
"A garden is a delight to the eyes and a solace for the soul."

~Saadi



Mouth of Chilkoot Inlet—photo by Jessica Shepherd

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept 30<sup>th</sup>  
This membership will expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>

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  
P.O. Box 2833  
Homer, Alaska 99603

