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Homer Garden Club



May 2023

Newsletter

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May 14 HGC Meeting will Feature Beth Van Sandt of Scenic Place Peonies Talking About Peonies



I have lived in Homer for over 50 years, enjoying a variety of careers and experiences. As a child I gardened alongside my father. I do admit that I did not think it fun at the time, lots of weeding, but I have grown to love the smell of freshly turned soil in my hands. We started our peony farm in 2010 and expanded into a full cut flower farm in 2016. We start our season

with tulips in May and end with Dahlias into October. It is thrilling to be able to experience the joy of developing our farm into a place that's not only "work" but "play".

This program will be all about peonies! How to source roots, plant them, soils and nutrient needs, harvesting for best vase life, when and how to divide. I'll also be sharing exciting peony events happening on and off the farm. Potted peonies and dahlia as well as dahlia tubers will be available for purchase.



The May 14 meeting will be a hybrid meeting on Zoom and also in person. Directions for the Zoom meeting are on page 2

Treasurer's Report

by Louise Ashmun, Treasurer

Treasurer Report April 2023 (FY 2022-23)

Income

Membership	\$40.00
Newsletter Ad Revenue	\$360.00
Book Sales	\$10.97

Total Income **\$410.97**

Expenses

Garden Tours Committee	\$433.00
MS Office Annual Fee	\$75.48
Website Domain Registration	\$24.85
Meeting Venue	\$150.00
Meeting Speaker	\$200.00

Total Expenses **\$883.33**

Checking Beginning Balance 04/01/2023	\$	5,551.91
Income	\$	410.97
Expenses	\$	883.33
Interest	\$	<u>0.23</u>
Ending Balance 04/30/2023	\$	5,079.78
Money Market Beginning Balance 04/01/2023	\$	21,101.86
Interest	\$	<u>4.34</u>
Money Market Ending Balance 04/30/2023	\$	21,106.20
Total Ending Balance 04/30/2023	\$	<u>26,185.98</u>

Instructions for Zoom Meeting May 14

by Kathy Dube'

May Garden Club Meeting In Person and on Zoom

Once again our May meeting will be in person, with a Zoom option for those who are not able to meet in person.

As I write this I am visiting my Dad in Seattle and enjoying weeding his garden in the warm sun! Hopefully when I get back home to Homer the foot (or more) of snow that was in my garden when I left last week will be gone - or going! - and I can get out in my own garden as well.

Topic: Homer Garden Club May Meeting
Time: May 21, 2023 02:00 PM Alaska

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86472916371?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86472916371?pwd=L2lQcUxML0hUWEYzSGFjRDRTVzRhZz09)
[pwd=L2lQcUxML0hUWEYzSGFjRDRTVzRhZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86472916371?pwd=L2lQcUxML0hUWEYzSGFjRDRTVzRhZz09)

Meeting ID: 864 7291 6371

Passcode: 171314

OR: one tap mo-

bile +12532158782,,86472916371#,,,,*171314#

Invasive Plants—Bonus Speaker

Jen Chauvet, Homer Soil & Water Conservation Service

After having to cancel her presentation for the April HGC meeting, this month Jen Chauvet with Homer Soil and Water Conservation Service will give a short presentation on invasive plants as described below.

Invasive plants threaten our native ecosystems and wildlife, and can invade your garden. Ironically, some of Alaska's most troublesome invasive plants were originally introduced as ornamentals. Some even remain available for purchase at local plant retailers and online. The Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (KP-CISMA) wants to keep these plants off our shelves, out of our gardens, and out of our wild spaces. And we need your help! As a gardener, how can we support you in your efforts to maintain a yard free from invasive plants? As a plant retailer, what kinds of resources might help you make informed decisions about avoiding invasive plants in your business?

We'd love to hear your ideas, needs, and wish list items. Your feedback will be valuable in informing our community outreach and support efforts.

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Gardening Podcast

by Francie Roberts

Have you been disappointed that Jeff Lowenfels of Anchorage Daily News has not come to Homer to speak to the Homer Garden Club? Well, there is some good news for you. Jeff and a local Anchorage gardener, Jonathan White, have started a Podcast called "*Teaming with Microbes*". Does that sound familiar? It is the title of his first book! The podcast addresses or-

ganic gardening information and the first two episodes are about the soil food web. You can find his podcast on your favorite podcast app - such as Apple, Google or Stitcher. Have fun listening in the garden.



April Meeting Minutes

by Connie Cavasos, Secretary

Homer Garden Club
Membership Meeting at the Aspen
Hotel and via Zoom
April 16, 2023

Business meeting called to order
by President Kathy Dube' at 2:05

Announcements – None

Secretary's Report – Kathy for
Connie: Minutes are posted on the
website and in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report - Louise:
Treasurers report is in the monthly
newsletter, bottom line is we have
\$26,653.77 as of the end of March.
At the Board meeting on Thursday
we approved some money to up-
grade our computer and micro-
phone to better deal with zoom
meetings and when we have a
speaker either in person or on
zoom.

Committee Reports –

Gardener's Weekend:
Francie – Still scheduled for Sun-
day July 16th, we have six that
range from a beautiful rock garden
to a small Japanese garden and a
very artistic garden is on tour this
year. Tickets are going on sale at
the next Garden Club meeting, at

the Book Store and at the Plant
Sale for \$15.00. We still need vol-
unteers and Annie has the sign-up
sheet to pass around. We are hav-
ing an after party for volunteers,
garden owners and the Board of
Directors Tuesday July 18th. Also
this year we are having small gar-
den tours for members only on July
30th featuring a mushroom farm
and a greenhouse that has an inno-
vative way of heating and growing
and looking at a third garden that
also uses alternative energy.

Speaker's Committee: Jan
– Today we have Jason Davis and
next month Beth Van Sandt who is
co-owner of a peony farm to speak
on growing and propagating. We
have someone lined up for Novem-
ber and we're looking at forming a
panel of experienced gardeners for
questions and answers in the Octo-
ber meeting. If you are interested
in being on the panel please let us
know.

Baycrest Garden: Brenda –
Looking for volunteers to maintain,
May is covered and most of June,
but July and August we need peo-
ple. Two people at a time go up
once a week to weed and clean up
around. Something anyone can
come to is the spring clean up
scheduled for Saturday May 13th at

10:00. If we have a good turnout it
only takes about two hours.

Plant Sale: Kathy for Julie
– Originally scheduled for May 20th
but because there is still so much
snow, we may look at changing it to
the 27th. Once it is decided we will
let everyone know which date; ask-
ing for volunteers to set up, work
the sale and clean up afterward.
Once you can get in your gardens,
please think about dividing plants
or if you have extras, we are al-
ways looking for plant donations to
sell. This is our biggest fund raiser
of the year. It is always fun and
goes really fast.

Social Committee: Michael
– Want to thank Ronnie and Marie
for the great snacks and next
month is covered.

Data Base: Barb – Mem-
bership is at 121, if you are signed
up and not getting a newsletter, let
Barb know so she can update her
spreadsheet with correct infor-
mation.

General Giving Committee:
Kathy for Julie – Committee formed
to use our funds to help with gar-
dening and share information. The
Board approved the guidelines on
Thursday, thank you to the commit-
tee who worked on this. The

(Continued on page 5)



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*(April Meeting Minutes
Continued from page 4)*

General Giving Guidelines will be printed in the next newsletter, the membership will vote at the May meeting.

Other Business: Kathy – We are looking for volunteers to be on the Board; openings are for Secretary to take and record the minutes for the Board of Directors and membership meetings. Treas-

urer Louise: Will be onboard for awhile, but would like someone to shadow and learn the ropes to take over, everything is on Excel. Website: Someone with computer skills to maintain and post to HGC website and Facebook. Kathy: Also looking for someone with audiovisual experience to set up computer, microphone and screen for the speakers at membership meetings; needs to be someone

who can be here in the winter for the meetings. Thank you for considering.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30

Next membership meeting will be May 21st.

Jan Peyton introduces Jason Davis from Sweetgale Meadworks.

Refreshments for the May meeting will be provided by Michael Murray, Susan McLane, Francie Roberts and Janice Jorganson. Thanks all—you are appreciated!

Baycrest Garden by Brenda Adams

**Baycrest Garden Spring Clean-up
May 13th at 10AM**

Please join us Saturday, May 13th from 10AM until about noon to spruce up our beautiful garden at the Baycrest Overlook. Rain or shine, but let's hope for shine! With a good turnout, it takes very little time to get the garden ready for the season. It's always a fun event. See old gardening friends and meet new ones.

Please bring:

Your favorite hand tools, especially a digging tool for weeds and clippers or sturdy scissors for cutting back spent foliage. Kneeling pads if you have and use them as well as a bucket. Also bring your summer calendar so you can pick a week for your turn at continuing maintenance.



HGC will provide compost and bark mulch for top dressing as well as trash bags. We will also provide people familiar with the garden and its plants to provide guidance if needed.

Thanks in advance for putting this on your calendar and joining us. See you there!

Plant Sale

by Julie Parizek

Plant Sale Date moving to May 27th!

I hated to do this, but because we are experiencing such a chilly Spring, I felt we should have the best chance possible for everyone to be ready to work in their gardens. We will be moving the sale back a week, to Memorial Day weekend, May 27th, still on the Chamber Lawn.

Event schedule will be as follows:

- 8:30am begin setup of tents (if needed) and tables
- 9:00am members can begin dropping off plants for the Sale
- 11:00 Sale begins
- 11:30 begin tear down and wrap up the Sale
- 12:30 Done!



If anyone would like to drop plants early, you can bring them to my house at 4020 Beluga Cir (down Mattox from East End Rd, right on Aurora Ct, left on Beluga Cir, 3rd house on the left). If you need help (or pots or additional potting soil) for your donated plants you can call or

Summer Garden Tour News

by Francie Roberts

Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 16th! We have six great gardens this year. Gardens range from tiny specialty gardens to one of Homer's premier gardens. Another garden is a traditional Japanese garden Homer-style and a beautiful hillside rock garden is the main feature of another garden.

Tickets, at the cost of \$15, will go on sale to members at the May meeting. They will also be sold at the Plant Sale in May. After that tickets may be purchased at the Homer Book Store starting June 1st.

As always, volunteers are an important part of the making this event successful. Garden hosts

are still needed. You can sign up at the May meeting of the Homer Garden Club. You can also email anneobe@gmail.com to volunteer.

The afterparty this year will be Tuesday, July 18th in the late afternoon. All volunteers are welcome to attend and bring a friend.

The committee is sorry to announce the small Garden Share event originally scheduled for July 30th will be cancelled. One of the two gardens is unable to show their place this year but hopes to next year.

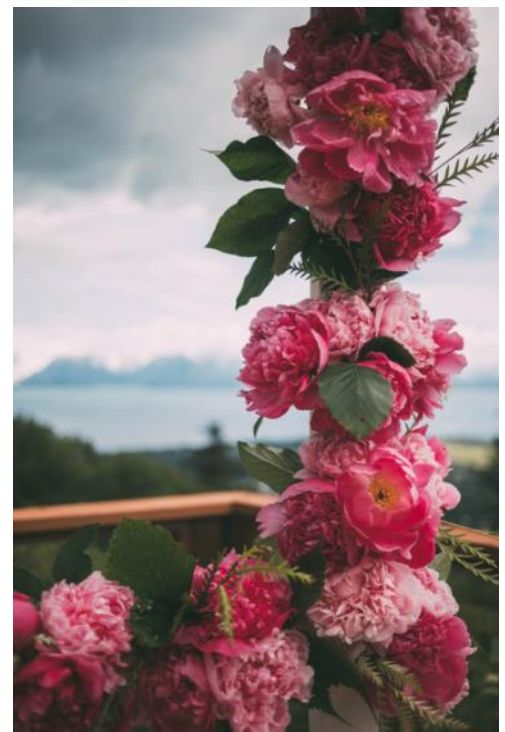


Photo courtesy of Beth Van Sandt, Scenic Place Peonies



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Charitable Giving Guidelines

Charitable Giving Guidelines

We are finally done! We know that you all are probably wondering why this has taken so long but there were just a lot of details that we didn't want to get wrong. Following is the final version for your review. We will be voting on it at the next General Meeting on May 14st to make sure that it meets your approval. As you will note, these guidelines refer to a "General Giving Committee", which upon approval of this document will become a Standing Committee of the Homer Garden Club. It will be headed by one of the Board members and includes 2 additional club members who will rotate on some regular schedule, to be determined.

Homer Garden Club General Giving Guidelines 2023

The Mission of the Homer Garden Club (HGC) is to educate and exchange reliable information about gardening and related activities.

Who Are We?

HGC is a non-profit organization which was formed in 1984 as a group of Homer gardeners to share gardening information and experiences. The club has expanded over the years and now holds a 501(C)(3) status. It is led by a board elected by the general membership.

Giving Program

HGC does not provide a formal grant program. The Club's intent is to consider requests for funds, when support is needed, to assist and aid in gardening-related scientific and educational projects.

(Continued on page 8)

Who is eligible?

Non-profit organizations whose goal is education,
Educational entities,

For-profit entities providing free educational seminars to the community related to gardening. Assistance from HGC would be only for venue and/or educational materials for the event.

Individuals who are members of the Homer Garden Club and wish to further their knowledge of horticulture and share with the community through the Master Gardener certification program.

Individuals who are residents of the southern Kenai Peninsula (Ninilchik and south) can apply for the HGC scholarship.

Application Process

For School Programs and Community Assistance Programs: Applicant will inform the HGC General Giving Committee of the intent and focus of their request, including project description, gardening and educational value and start and completion dates. The request should include individuals or staff involved in implementation of the project and a list of community partners, if any and indicate how HGC and any additional funds or in-kind donations would be used for successful completion of the project.

For Scholarships:

Applicants to the **Master Gardener Program** must be members in good standing of HGC and agree to complete all course work and community service work that is required. Upon successful completion of course work and community service, the Master Gardener tuition will be reimbursed.

Applicants interested in horticultural sciences, landscaping, garden design, greenhouse management, farming, or a related environmental field and wish to apply for a scholarship shall apply via the Scholarship application process.

Homer Garden Club Review and Action

The HGC General Giving Committee will consider submitted requests to determine if the request is appropriate. Requests that are approved by the General Giving Committee will be presented to the HGC Board of Directors for final approval. The Board reserves the option to ask for additional or clarifying information before making its decision. Should a request not earn Board approval, for whatever reason, the proposal is denied, and the Board's decision is final. However, if a request is approved by the Board, the essence of the proposal will be published in the next HGC newsletter.



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