

Article	Page
Summer Garden Tour	1
Treasurer's Report	2
May Meeting Minutes	3
Baycrest Garden Cleanup	4
Old-Fashioned Tips	5

Homer Garden Club

Newsletter

The next HGC meeting will be the Harvest Dinner in September at the Aspen Hotel.

June 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Jan Peyton—Vice President
299-0153
janpeyton73@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

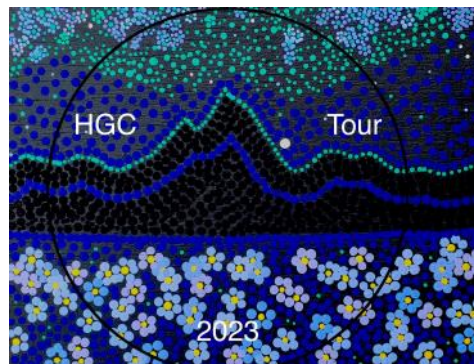
Michael Murray—435-7333
murmurart66@gmail.com

Julie Parizek — 299-0343
j3parizek@outlook.com

Paula Riley — 435-7055
pauril@yahoo.com

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

SUMMER GARDEN TOUR JULY 16TH



Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 16th! We have five great gardens this year. Selected yards range from a tiny specialty flower oasis to one of Homer's premier gardens. A main feature of another one is a traditional Japanese garden, Homer-style, and a beautiful hillside rock garden is featured at another. The last one is Viking inspired.

Tickets, at the cost of \$15, are on sale at the Homer Book Store. Only cash or checks can be accepted. Will-call tickets for out of town attendees can be obtained

by mailing your check to Homer Garden Club, PO Box 2833, Homer, Alaska 99603. Include your name, phone number and email. Information about ticket pickup will be sent to you.

As always, volunteers are an important part of making this event successful. Garden hosts are still needed. You can 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 beautiful button for this year's tour was drawn by local artist Deland Anderson. The picture is part of the article.

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.

Treasurer's Report

by Louise Ashmun, Treasurer

Homer Garden Club Treasurer Report May 2023 (FY22-23)

Income

Membership	\$55.00	
Plants Sales	\$1,439.00	
Merchandise	\$27.00	
Garden Tour Tickets	\$345.00	
Book Sales	\$10.97	
Total Income		<u>\$1,876.97</u>

Expenses

Garden Tours Committee	\$230.50	
Plant Sale Materials	\$96.36	
Computer Enhancements	\$347.18	
Peony Celebration Sponsor	\$250.00	
Mini-storage Rental	\$395.00	
Meeting Venue	\$150.00	
Meeting Speaker	\$200.00	
Total Expenses		<u>\$1,669.04</u>

Checking Beginning Balance 05/01/2023	\$	5,079.78
Income	\$	1,876.97
Expenses	\$	1,669.04
Interest	\$	<u>0.22</u>
Ending Balance 05/31/2023	\$	5,287.93
Money Market Beginning Balance 05/01/2023	\$	21,106.20
Transfer to 9 mo CD	\$	15,000.00
Interest	\$	<u>3.04</u>
Money Market Ending Balance 05/31/2023	\$	6,109.24
CD Beginning Balance 05/19/2023	\$	15,000.00
Interest	\$	<u>-</u>
CD Ending Balance 05/31/2023	\$	15,000.00
Total Ending Balance 05/31/2023	\$	<u>26,397.17</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS VOTE:

At the Harvest Dinner in September the members of the Board of Directors will be voted on. If you desire to be on the Board of Directors, be sure to let a BOD member know. Their names are on page 1 of this newsletter. We especially need to fill the vacancy of the Recording Secretary.

Ulmer's

Drug & Hardware



Everything you need for your garden indeed!

- Seeds
- Planters
- Soils
- Mulch
- Tools
- Gloves/Clothes

3858 Lake Street, Homer

Open 7 days a week!

Ph: 907-235-8594

May Minutes

Connie Cavasos, Secretary

Homer Garden Club
Membership Meeting at the Aspen
Hotel and via Zoom
May 21, 2023

Business meeting called to order at
2:00 by President Kathy Dube'

Announcements – Yarrow: Pratt is
up and running with programs and
will have the plant sale the same
date HGC. Jan: Oceanside Farms
is looking for people who would
like to work at the farm, also Don
and Donna Rae have a new book
out on Korean natural farming and
will be for sale at the HGC plant
sale.

Secretary's Report – Kathy: The
club is looking to fill the Secretary
position on the Board. It is a critical
position for the club to function so
if anyone is interested in volunteer-
ing to record the minutes of the
Board of Directors meetings (via
Zoom) once a month and the mem-
bership meetings, please let us
know.

Treasurer's Report – Louise: Eve-
rything is the same as what was in

the newsletter, we have \$26,000.
At the Board of Directors meeting
on Thursday we voted to take
\$15,000 from the money market
account and put it in a 9 month CD
which will earn 4.55% interest as
opposed to 0.25%. Kendall Della
Sparanza has volunteered to be-
come Treasurer and will be shad-
owing Louise for a short time.
HGC books are \$25.00 each and are
available at the Wagon Wheel and
the Bookstore.

Committee Reports

Gardener's Weekend: An-
nie – the tours will be Sunday, July
16; we had 6 gardens but one had to
drop out so we now have 5 unique
gardens. Tickets are \$15.00 and are
on sale here, at the plant sale and at
the Bookstore after June 1. We
need hostess volunteers, 6 morning
slots were filled, but now only need
5 so hoping someone will move to
the afternoon where we need 3.
The after party will be Tuesday July
18th for garden owners, volunteers
and the Board of Directors. We had
the garden share scheduled for late
July, but the mushroom farmer de-
cided to wait a year, so the decision

was made to cancel it altogether for
this year.

Speakers Committee: Jan –
have a lot of ideas we're working
on, if anyone has suggestions,
please let Jan know.

Baycrest Garden: Brenda –
we got the gardens cleaned out with
about 20 people and only took an
hour and a quarter but now we need
volunteers to do the weekly mainte-
nance. We have 2 people sign up
for each week, any day and any
time you choose, to weed and in
July dead heading as necessary.
We have all of May, June and July
covered, need 2 people for the week
of August 13th, August 20th and the
first 2 weeks of September.

Plant Sale: Julie – sale
seems to be under control but we
are always nervous that volunteers
won't show up so there is a sign up
sheet that you can put down your
name and what you were planning
to do to help with the sale. Rain is
in the forecast so we'll have the
tents on site if we need them. Setup
will start at about 8:30; plants come
in at 9:00 and cashiers there about
10:30 so we can have everything

(Continued on page 4)

(May Minutes
Continued from page 3)

ready to start at 11:00. Tear down at about 11:30.

Social Committee: Michael – has a signup sheet for refreshments next season starting in October; would like to have 2 or 3 people for each membership meeting. Kathy – harvest dinner on the 17th of September is planned to be at the

Aspen and will be Harvest hors d'oeuvres like last year where everyone brings something to share.

Data Base: Barb – we have 114 members.

General Giving Committee: Julie – guidelines were printed in the newsletter giving everyone a chance to read it and we will be voting on this today. Julie makes motion that the membership ap-

proves the giving guidelines as printed in the May newsletter, Brenda seconds, no discussion or opposition; the motion is unanimously approved. A committee is needed to follow the guidelines and approve applications.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33



WAGON WHEEL GARDEN & PET

1506 Ocean Drive, Homer, AK 99603
907-235-8777 -Open all year- akwagonwheel.com

Seeds and Starting Supplies	Annual Bedding Plants	Soils
Tomato Starts	Trees and Shrubs	Organic Soil Amendments
Vegetable Bedding Plants	Houseplants	Landscape Supplies
Perennials	Hanging Baskets	Garden Décor

A HOMER ICON

Baycrest Garden Cleanup

by Brenda Adams

We got the garden cleaned out with about 20 people helping. It only took an hour and a quarter but now we need volunteers to do the weekly maintenance. We have 2 people sign up for each week, any day and any time you choose, to weed and in July dead heading as necessary. We have all of May, June and July covered, but need 2 people for the week of August 13th, August 20th and the first 2 weeks of September.





HOMER (907) 235-7337
MON-FRI 11-6 & SAT 11-5
KENAI (907) 283-6010
MON-FRI 10-6 & SAT 10-5

SENIOR DISCOUNT TUESDAYS
60+ 5-10% OFF



5% DISCOUNT
FOR ACTIVE GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS!

DOWN TO EARTH ORGANICS
 FERTILIZERS & NUTRIENTS
 SOILS & COMPOST
 DRIPWORKS IRRIGATION
 HYDROPONIC SUPPLIES

LED LIGHTING
 PROPAGATION SUPPLIES
 TYPAR & WEED BLOCK
 GARDEN TOOLS
 CBD & ESSENTIAL OILS

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GROW GREAT THINGS!

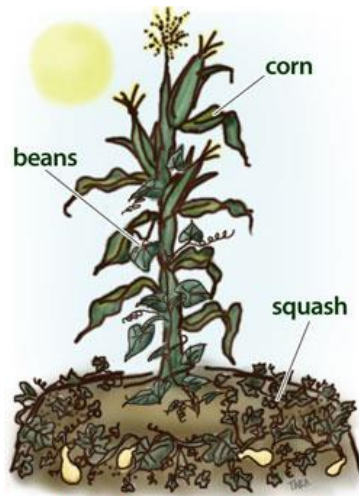
15 Old-Fashioned Tips From Our Grandparents

by Melissa, "My Homemade Roots"

Although I was trained as a biologist, and I am truly a bit of a science nerd, I still believe it's worthwhile to keep the old ways alive and to honor the wisdom of previous generations (whether it's to put into practice or just for the history of it). And in that spirit, I've put together a list of garden tips and tricks that our grandparents and great-grandparents may have used in their own gardens. Now some of these old-fashioned tips and tricks are based only on anecdotes, observation, and folklore, while some tips have gone on to be backed by science. But in any case, I hope you find them to be interesting or useful in some way.

1. Plant Friends Together

This ancient system of pairing plants together in the garden has been making a comeback since the organic movement of the 1970s. Part science and part folklore, companion planting is the art and science of pairing compatible plants (*or friends*) together in order to create a healthier, more productive vegetable garden. Attracting pollinators and beneficial insects, and also repelling pests are only a few of the many ways that companion planting can benefit a garden. A well-



Direct-Sow, Easy-to-Grow:
 The Ancient **Three Sisters** Method

known example of companion planting is the Three Sisters method of planting corn, beans, and squash which was used by Native Americans.

And sometimes, the aim of companion planting is knowing which plants not to plant in proximity to each other (non-compatible plants are often referred to as foes). This is the case with Black Walnut trees which create a substance called juglone that seeps in the soil and can kill certain plants.

If you find the idea of companion planting interesting, more in-depth information can be found in an article by Grit Magazine and in a chart by The Old Farmer's Almanac.

2. Use Cornmeal to Sow Tiny Seeds

Sow tiny seeds by mixing seeds with an equal amount of cornmeal. This allows seeds to be distributed more evenly, and for the placement of the seeds on the soil to be more visible against the light background of the cornmeal.

3. Save Your Fingernails with Soap

Do you have a hard time scrubbing the dirt and green stains from your fingernails after a day in the garden? An easy fix for this is to scrape your fingernails over a bar of soap before gardening and they will stay clean and free of stains.

(Continued on page 6)



3800 Sterling Highway, Homer, Alaska
907-235-4969
www.alaskahardy.com



Alaska Hardy Nursery is the home of over 500 varieties of Alaska Hardy® perennials, trees, shrubs, vines and roses. Our goal is to provide the largest variety of Alaska Hardy® plants suitable for the great North.



*(Old-Fashioned Tips
Continued from page 5)*

4. Use Green Manure for a Bountiful Garden

Despite the name, green manure actually has nothing to do with poop. It is the age-old practice of sowing cover crops that will later be turned over and incorporated into the soil. Green manure adds nutrients and improves soil structure.

5. Treat 'em Mean for Better Tomatoes

Back in my early gardening days, an older gardener once told me that I needed to treat my tomato plants a little mean. This may sound harsh, but what this really means is that in order to have strong tomato plants and abundant fruit, you need to avoid coddling



them.

Overwatering can choke the roots of the plant and also result in a poorly developed root system. Allowing the soil to dry out a little between waterings en-

courages the plant to reach out and grow deep roots, making for a stronger, healthier plant. So water your tomatoes less frequently (2-3 times a week) but more deeply so that the water seeps down into the soil.

And when it comes to fertilizer, it's possible to add too much of a good thing to your garden. Over-fertilizing and adding too much nitrogen will make your tomato plants grow big beautiful foliage, but very little fruit. You can determine the nutrient levels of your soil by using a home test kit or sending a soil sample to your local county extension for testing.

6. Use Pie Plates for the Birds

Hang a few aluminum pie tins from a fence or trellis in the garden, or from a branch on your fruit tree. The flashing of the reflected light and the sounds they make banging together help to deter birds and other critters from feasting on your garden.

7. Give the Slugs a Brew

Place a shallow pan of beer in the garden to help trap slugs and snails. Apparently, slugs are attracted to beer (who knew?!), and they will crawl into the pan and drown (there are worse ways to go!) This may not 100% solve your slug problem, but you will trap at least a few this way.

8. Bury Your Kitchen Scraps

Composting in place, also called trench composting, was more common in previous generations than was a traditional compost pile. The basic idea is to dig holes or shallow trenches in your garden and fill them with the things you would normally add to a compost pile. This is an especially good method if you don't

(Continued on page 7)

have the room for a compost pile, or if local ordinances prohibit them. To compost in place, simply dig a shallow trench in between garden plantings and fill it with kitchen scraps like eggshells, coffee grounds, and peelings. Cover with soil and that's it. When you're ready to add more, simply dig a new trench.

9. Plant Flowers for the Insects

Pollinators aren't the only important insects in the garden. Plant flowers and herbs that attract other beneficial insects like ladybugs, praying mantises, and parasitic wasps.

10. Pick the Bugs

Don't forget about using mechanical means of pest control. To help rid your garden of pests like Japanese Beetles and Hornworms, handpick them from your plants and drop them in a bucket of soapy water to drown them.

11. Deadhead Your Flowers

Our grandmothers always remembered to deadhead her flowers to keep them beautiful throughout the summer. Simply taking a few minutes to remove the dead or fading flowers will help to maintain the health and appearance of the plants and to encourage new blooms to form.

12. Take Good Care of Your Tools

Our grandparents knew the value of a dollar and took great care of their stuff, including their garden tools. Help to keep your tools clean and free of rust by storing them in a bucket of sand mixed with a little mineral oil

13. Use Old Pantyhose

Upcycle old pantyhose by using them in the garden. Soft and stretchy, strips cut from pantyhose work great to tie up tomatoes. They are also useful for storing onions after they are harvested and cured.

14. Save the Hair From Your Hairbrush

Now I don't know if this one falls into the science or folklore category, but an old-time garden tip for keeping rabbits out of the garden is to scatter some hair from your hairbrush around the garden. And even if it doesn't deter the rabbits, it makes nice nesting material for birds.



15 Old-Fashioned Gardening Tips from Our Grandparents



15. Plant by the Signs and Moon Phases

Now, this definitely falls into the folklore category, but many of our great-grandparents swore by using the zodiac signs and the moon phases to guide their planting (and also food preservation – like making sauerkraut). In fact, many people where I live here in the southern Appalachians still use this system.

If you want to learn more about this very interesting subject, I will refer you to these links:

[The Blind Pig and the Acorn – Planting by the Signs](#), [WV Culture](#), and [Appalachian Magazine](#)

CF336316
You don't need to do all that hard work, Grandad. These days you can get all of your vegetables this way



He's doing better this year—last year his back gave out before his enthusiasm.

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

