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The next HGC meeting will be October 15 at the Aspen Hotel at 2:00 for both Zoom and in person.



Newsletter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Dube, President—
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299-0153
janpeyton73@gmail.com

Louise Ashmun—299-6360
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Michael Murray—435-7333
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Paula Riley — 435-7055
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Francie Roberts —235-1068,
francie.roberts@gmail.com

Tina Seaton

Kendall Dellaesperanza

October 15 Meeting will Feature Dr. Reid Brewer Discussing the High Tunnel Program

Dr. Reid Brewer, director of Kachemak Bay Campus, will talk to us with his newly hired staff about the high tunnel program at the college and future college courses in agriculture.

The college recently hired Monica Kopp and Carey Restino to develop a series of agricultural classes and workshops to help growers of all levels become more successful and productive.

Monica is the agriculture program coordinator and soil analyzer for Homer Soil and Water Conservation District. After ten years of working in remote areas all over the state as an ecological field technician,

Monica Kopp settled down in Nikolaevsk and has been building her farmstead, Tilted Hills Farm, for the past four years. She

loves applying her understanding of ecological systems to growing food. She has been working for Homer Soil & Water for two years analyzing soil tests and organizing their workshop series, *Know Your*

Land. She is excited about expanding educational opportunities in Homer with her new position with Kachemak Bay Campus while continuing to



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Directions for October Zoom meeting are on page 3

Treasurer's Report

by Louise Ashmun, Treasurer

Homer Garden Club Treasurer's Report for September 2023

Income

Book Sales	\$19.00	
Membership	\$285.00	
Total Income		<u>\$304.00</u>

Expenses

Chamber of Commerce		
Dues	\$39.00	
Peony Festival Sponsor	\$250.00	
Computer Upgrade	\$624.68	
Venue	\$200.00	
Total Expenses		<u>\$1,113.68</u>

Checking Beginning Balance 09/01/2023	\$	6,658.27
Income	\$	304.00
Expenses	\$	1,113.68
Interest	\$	0.26
Ending Balance 09/30/2023	\$	5,848.85
Money Market Beginning Balance 09/01/2023	\$	6,112.32
Interest	\$	1.00
Money Market Ending Balance 09/30/2023	\$	6,113.32
CD Beginning Balance 09/01/2023	\$	15,000.00
Interest [received at maturity (02/19/2024)]	\$	-
CD Ending Balance 09/30/2023	\$	15,000.00
Total Ending Balance 09/30/2023	\$	<u>26,962.17</u>

(October speaker
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work for the District.

Carey (photo unavailable) is the owner and operator of Homer Hilltop Farm, a family business established in 2011. This 2 acre farm

grows organic vegetables, more than 40 varieties, and flowers - selling locally at the Farmer's Market, local grocery stores, and CSA boxes. This farm is also home to many interns, employees, and volunteers who learn and practice organic farming. Carey and compa-

ny are committed to teaching the next generation of farmers. In her position at the college, Carey will help guide the planting and production of KBC's Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration High Tunnel and outdoor garden space.

(2 Co-Treasurers Elected
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merchandise. In addition, the maintenance of the membership database will now be included in the Treasurer job responsibilities and Louise will assume that treasurer task as well. In the past, the membership dues and forms were collected by the treasurer and then the forms were transferred to the Database person (Barbara Kennedy) who then updated the

membership list. Although Barbara will no longer be keeping the updated membership list, she will continue to send out the Newsletters and other broadcast email communications for the Club. We will likely rename Barbara's position "Membership Communication" and drop "Database" from the list of HGC Board Members.

Frosty Mornings and Happy Harvests

Hope everyone has been enjoying the fall days – and finally some sun, even if it means frosty nights and cold mornings. We are happy to have a volunteer for Secretary, thank you Tina Seaton, and thank you Kendal Dellasparanza for volunteering to share the Treasurer job! And a BIG thank you to all the other board members who are continuing in their roles to help keep the club running and organize all the great meetings and activities.

Our meetings this year will be hybrid in-person at the Aspen Hotel and Zoom for people who are not able to attend in person. Here's the link for the October meeting if you would like to join us via Zoom:

Topic: Homer Garden Club October Meeting
Time: Oct 15, 2023 02:00 PM Alaska
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87639015770?pwd=Ry74dmR9bsyng9qqwlkevG54waQkam.1>

OR
Meeting ID: 876 3901 5770
Passcode: 772349
OR
One tap mobile (for audio only)
+17193594580,,87639015770#,,,,*772349# US

September Meeting Minutes

by Francie Roberts

Jan Peyton called the meeting to order. She welcomed all old members and new attendees.

Secretary Report - The secretary was not present to give a report. Minutes of the previous meeting are posted on the website.

Treasurer Report - Louise reported a balance of \$27,770.59 in the bank. Today is the day to pay your dues for the upcoming year. Louise presented a plan to have a Co-Treasurer. One treasurer would deal with income and the other would deal with expenses. Louise will write an article for the newsletter regarding this change. Brenda moved and Barbara Kennedy second to split the treasurer job. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports
Summer Garden Tour - The event went well this summer considering the rainy weather and it made a profit. As always, the committee would appreciate ideas for gardens for next summer's event.

Baycrest Garden - It is winding down for the season.

Plant Sale - No news

Data Base - No news

News letter - no news

Social Committee - Michael passed around a refreshment signup sheet for the coming meetings.

Election of Officers - Jan presented

the slate of officers for the coming year:

President - Kathy Dube
Vice President - Jan Peyton
Secretary -
Treasurers - Louise Ashmun and Kendall Dellaesperanza
Data Base - Barbara Kennedy
Newsletter - Paula Riley
Social Secretary - Michael M
Historian - Elaine Burgess
Brenda Adams moved and Barbara Kennedy seconded to elect this slate of officers as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Tina Seaton volunteered to become secretary. Barbara Kennedy moved and Louise Ashmun seconded to elect Tina to Secretary position. Motion passed unanimously.

Two Co-Treasurers Elected

At the September's Membership meeting (Harvest Celebration) the slate of officers for this fiscal year (FY23-24) was approved by a vote of the membership. This included approval for two people, Kendall DellaSperanza and Louise Ashmun, to share the Treasurer position as Co-Treasurers. The division of treasurer duties will have Kendall responsible for

bank account management, paying bills and reimbursements, creating reports, and filing required government reports. Louise will be responsible for collecting and depositing money that comes into the Homer Garden Club through memberships, donations, event tickets, and sales of books and

Thanks to All of You who Helped Maintain our Baycrest Garden

A great big "THANK YOU" to all the folks who helped tend the Homer Garden Club's Garden at Baycrest. From the 19 folks who helped with spring clean-up (whose names I unfortunately do not have) to those of you who visited the garden each week, your efforts are sincerely appreciated. Because of your regular care, our garden stands as a testament to how perfect and easy to maintain a large garden

can be if it is touched up each and every week. Consistency is the key! At the risk of inadvertently missing someone, and the hope you will bring it to my attention if I have, the following HGC members and friends have been part of the regular maintenance team. Please thank them for their efforts: Kathy Dube, Michael Murray, Sharon Freschle, Kate McNulty, Barbara Kennedy, Sally Coleman, Peggy

Pittman, Lori Murray, Nicky Szarzy, Annie O, Louise Ashman, Francie Roberts, Shirley Forquer, Patty Forquer, Karen Howorth, Anita Chittchett, Linda Rowe, Astrid Friend, Shawn Dickson, Patti Jay, Elaine Burgess, Susan M, Patti Lane, Jay, Sandy McDaniel, Jan H., Marjorie Ringer, and Marissa Gathman.

Changes to Board Member Titles and Duties

by Louise Ashmun

Two Co-Treasurers Elected

At the September's Membership meeting (Harvest Celebration) the slate of officers for this fiscal year (FY23-24) was approved by a vote of the membership. This included approval for two people, Kendall DellaSperanza and Louise Ashmun, to share the Treasurer position as Co-Treasurers. The division of treasurer duties will have Kendall responsible for bank account management, paying bills and reimbursements, creating reports, and filing required govern-

ment reports. Louise will be responsible for collecting and depositing money that comes into the Homer Garden Club through memberships, donations, event tickets, and sales of books and merchandise.

In addition, the maintenance of the membership database will now be included in the Treasurer job responsibilities and Louise will assume that treasurer task as well. In the past, the membership dues and forms were collected by the treasurer and then the forms were trans-

ferred to the Database person (Barbara Kennedy) who then updated the membership list. Although Barbara will no longer be keeping the updated membership list, she will continue to send out the Newsletters and other broadcast email communications for the Club. We will likely rename Barbara's position "Membership Communication" and drop "Database" from the list of HGC Board Members.

Ode to an Odd Summer

by Jessica Shepherd

Despite the gift of an Indian Summer, signs of fall abound. Daddy Long Legs greet me in the shower, crawl unbidden across the bed, and drop on me from the ceiling. They always invade the house when frost first bejewels the lawn, but they seem particularly numerous this year. Squealing my alarm, to husband Hal's amusement, I fling them out the nearest window. Too, the squirrels are cutting

spruce cones from the trees and dropping them in a noisy shower onto the metal roof, which sets the dogs to barking. The cones accumulate on the deck throughout the day, but by the next morning, she has squirreled them into some underground cache, making ready for winter.

We're enjoying days on end of El Nino-induced sunshine. We make

the most of it by cutting wood, harvesting apples, and riding our bikes into town to pick up groceries and mail before stopping for chai tea at a local cafe. The warmth and sun are a surprise after a cold, rainy spring followed by a cool, drizzly summer. While the rest of North America broiled under an unrelenting heat dome, we pulled on jackets and wool caps to ward

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*(Ode to an Odd Summer
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off wind and chill. I have a screen capture of a National Weather Service map produced in July showing the entire US in shades of red except a tiny blue curve in southern-central Alaska marked “below normal.”

All summer, after nudging up the thermostat on the Toyo stove, we scanned the headlines. In Canada, thousands of fires have burned 64,000 square miles to date, with smoke blanketing the eastern and central US, impacting flights and driving people indoors away from the toxic air. Then Lahaina, Hawaii, a community about the size of the greater Homer area, burned, devastating that tight-knit community. I couldn't help thinking, but by the grace of God, that could be our town.

We followed the news of Hurricane Idalia as it swirled above the shimmering 101-degree waters of the Pacific before slamming into Cedar Key, Florida, just 30 miles south of my brother's double-wide. Folks there are still cleaning up after a seven-foot storm surge. We'd previously made plans to stay in this quaint artist community for Christmas and we'll see first-hand what the one-two punch of climate change and El Nino have done.

The last four months, including September, have temperatures that broke global records, with August exceeding the 1951 – 1980 average by 2.2 degrees, nudging us ever closer to that fateful 1.5-degree tipping point.

Even now, as we scrape frost off the windshield of a morning, it's 102 in Tucson, where my granddaughter sits in her third-grade classroom. As termination dust (a colloquium for the first snowfall of the season), dusts the mountains across the bay like powdered sugar, record-breaking temperatures continue across the northeast corner of the US, and European countries like Spain shatter records.

Given everything going on in the lower 48 states, I'm grateful for our cooler-than-average summer. Grateful to live in that one small crescent of land and sea spared from the ravages of climate change. Still, our late spring and chilly summer brought their own troubling implications.

At first, I didn't think much of it when the trees were two weeks late leafing out, and the lawn didn't need mowing until mid-June. But, come early July, when we typically look for the first fireweed blossoms to add their vibrant magenta to the landscape, there were no blooms. Throughout August, even on a drive up to Anchorage through a vast swath of recently burned forest that should be awash in hot pink flowers, the landscape was oddly vacant of color. This, in turn, meant no flowers for the bees and, thus, little honey to be had. Over a glass of mead from our locally sourced meadery, I learned that the owner had to import honey from Alberta for the first time ever, driving up costs and, subsequently, the price of the tasty cloudberry mead I savored. Conversely, the noxious pushki plants (our local name for cow parsnip) grew taller and denser than ever, towering over our heads and closing in on the running trails, much to Hal's consternation.

Throughout much of Alaska, fish numbers were down for the third or fourth year in a row. Hal and I work with Native tribes up in the Norton Sound region, and they spoke in somber tones of empty drying racks and smokehouses. Here in Kache-

mak Bay, we use a setnet to catch silver salmon each August. As a family, we're allowed 30 fish, and in prior years, we've filled the chest freezer with red, vacuum-packed fillets. This year, we caught just two fish. Two. Instead of salmon, our nets were caked with seaweed, torn up from the ocean floor by relentless wave action throughout the summer. Fortunately, we still have some salmon left from last year's haul. And while they're not as good as fresh-caught, they'll be fine in patties and salmon salad.

We don't hunt, but I've also heard that moose numbers are down. At our local food pantry, where I volunteer, we depend on moose, either donated or acquired from the Department of Fish and Game when a moose is under legal size, to feed families facing food insecurity. This year, not a single moose has come in. Antidotally, my perky physical therapist told me her husband had seen no moose during his two-week hunting trip, but he did tally 20 bears!

And speaking of bears, they're hungry this year. A big black bear has been frequenting compost piles in my neighborhood all week – something we've not seen in the dozen years we've lived here. With few salmon spawned out on the beach for them to eat and only a smattering of berries, they're going into the winter season without the layer of fat they need.

In the garden, the carrots never grew longer than finger-sized, even though I planted them early and used heat tape to warm the soil. This spring, we scaled back the outdoor gardens from seven beds to four, which turned out to be a good thing. The cool-loving crops like broccoli, Magic Molly potatoes, and Brussel sprouts did fine, but the pumpkins I so pride myself on never got bigger than tennis balls. And don't get me started on the slugs.



*****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 ___ Gardener Tour

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

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

