

Homer Garden Club

Newsletter

September
2011

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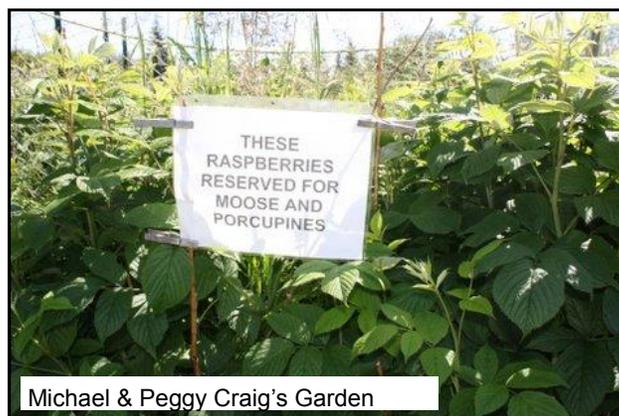
Harvest Dinner and Meeting to be Held September 25, 5:30 pm, at Methodist Church

It's that time of year again...the leaves are starting to turn, the fireweed is almost gone (isn't it a little too early for that?!) and there's a decided chill in the air. The Harvest Dinner can't be too far behind!

Our regular September meeting and Harvest Dinner will be held again this year at the Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday the 25th. The schedule will be:

- 4:30-5:00 Set up the Hall
- 5:00-5:30 Members arrive and deliver food to the kitchen
- 5:30-6:30 Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 Meeting (Election of Officers) with the balance devoted to sharing our summer's experiences
- 7:30-8:30 Cleanup

The dinner this year will be a potluck. The last 2 years we have been so lucky to have Jon Olson who has cooked a wonderful beef roast for the dinner, but this year Jon and Barb are in the midst of building a new house in Palmer and this just didn't fit with their schedule. We will certainly be sorry to lose them when they finally finish and move back up the road! Anyway, back to the menu....If you are planning to attend (and we certainly hope that all of you will!) we wanted to let you know



about the menu change in case you would like to bring a "heartier" dish.

As always, we can certainly use volunteers for setting up before and tearing down after dinner, making table decorations, wrapping door prizes, etc. If you would like to help, please contact me at jparizek@acsalaska.net or by phone at 226-3276. The more the merrier!

Hope to see all of you on the 25th!

Julie Parizek
Social Chairman

REMINDER!!!!

Garden Club dues are due October 1. You can mail them in with the enrollment sheet on page 6 or enroll at the Harvest Dinner. If you don't pay your dues, you will not receive the newsletter.

President's Report

by Jack Regan, President

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The fall season brings a new year to the Homer Garden Club cycle. At the Harvest Dinner Celebration, members will share the bounty from their gardens and will elect the board for the upcoming year. The Nominations Committee has forwarded a slate of candidates for the members to consider. Also, candidates can be nominated from the floor during the proceedings.

Several of the current board members have agreed to continue serving. Two of our current board members will be vacating their positions. Publicity Secretary Barb Landi will be moving to Palmer this fall. Recording Secretary Roni Overway will be leaving her posi-

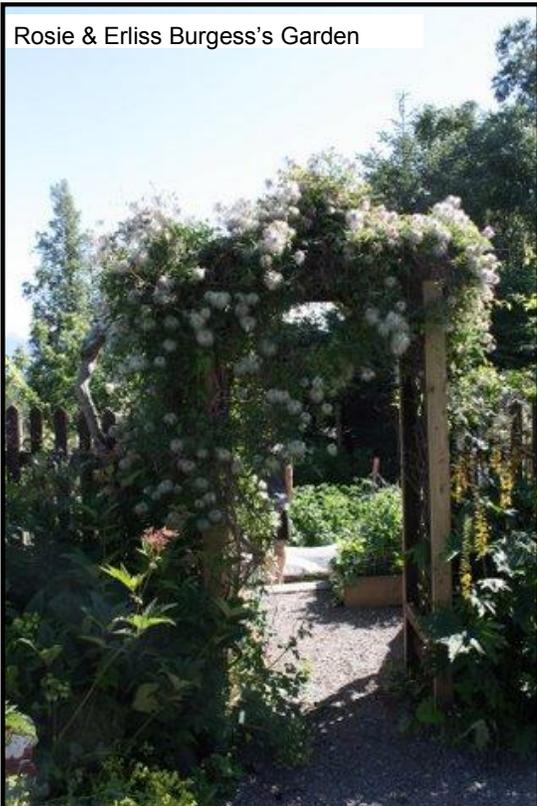
tion but will be active on the Gardener's Weekend Committee. The board and the members deeply appreciate their contributions to our activities over the recent years.

The candidates designated by the Nominations Committee are:

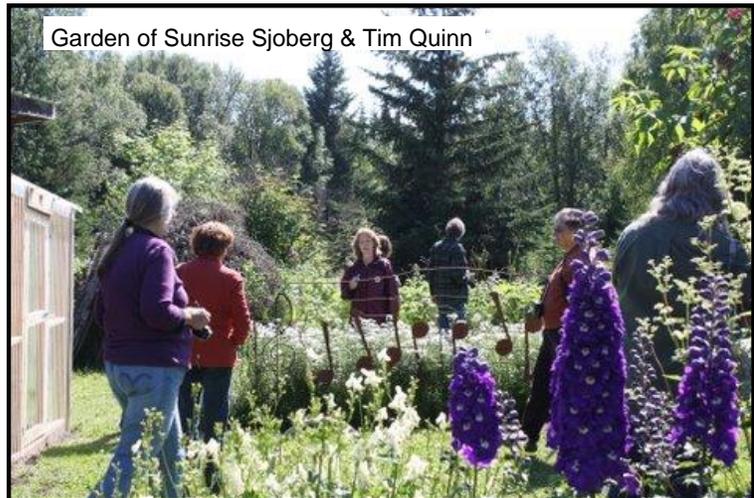
- President.....Jack Regan*
- Vice President.....Neil Wagner*
- Recording Secretary...(open)*
- Treasurer.....Peggy Craig*
- Past President.....Brenda Adams*
- Social Secretary....Julie Parizek*
- Publicity.....Kyra Wagner*
- Historian.....Michael Linden*
- Data Base Mgr ...Barb Kennedy*
- Newsletter Editor...Paula Riley*

I would like to thank the members of the Nominations Committee, including Chair Cathy Ulmer, Ty Gates, and Caroline Venuti for their work in constructing the slate of candidates for our election.

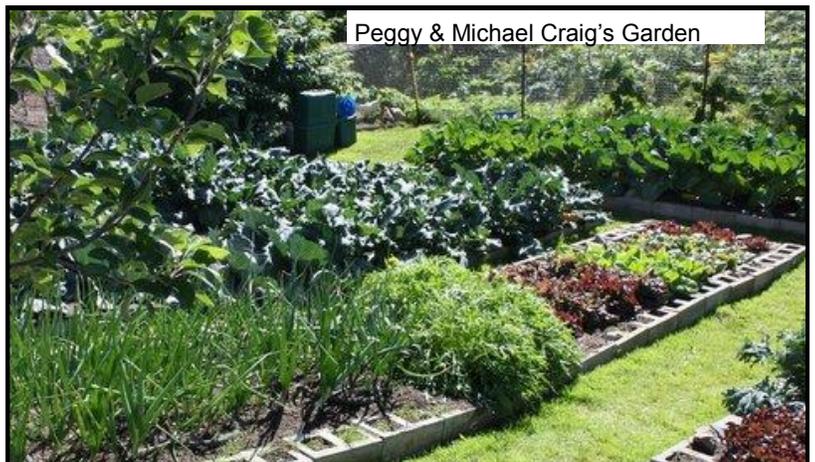
Remember, these are just the individuals who were selected by the Nominations Committee and indicated they are willing to serve in these positions. All positions are open to nominations from the floor at the time of the September Harvest Dinner meeting.



Rosie & Erliss Burgess's Garden



Garden of Sunrise Sjoberg & Tim Quinn



Peggy & Michael Craig's Garden

Treasurer's Reports

by Peggy Craig, Treasurer

June 2011

Income

Plant Sale	\$2,757.50	
Merchandise	45.00	
Book	30.00	
Membership	50.00	
Newsletter Ads	<u>120.00</u>	
Total Income		\$3,002.50

Expenses

Meeting (program)	50.00	
Plant Sale	330.37	
P O Box	116.00	
Baycrest Garden	<u>199.00</u>	
Total Expenses		695.37

Beginning balance 6-01-11	\$10,463.19	
Income	3,002.50	
Expenses	<u>(695.37)</u>	

Ending balance 6-30-11 \$12,770.32

July 2011

Income

Newsletter Ad	\$ 40.00	
Membership	<u>15.00</u>	
Total Income		\$ 55.00

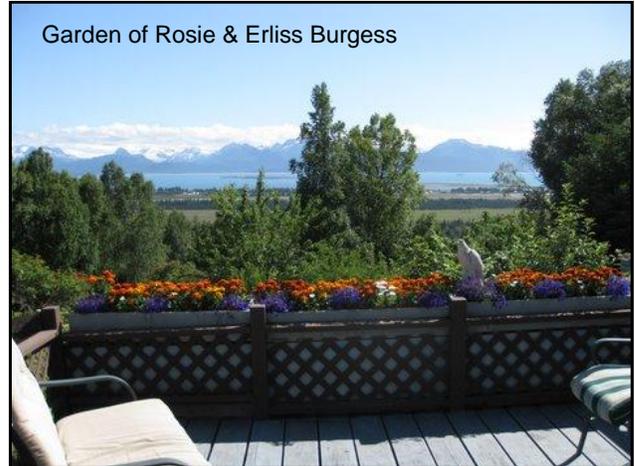
Expenses

Gardener's Weekend	562.67	
Lecture	894.44	
Plant Sale	<u>13.00</u>	
Total Expenses		1,470.11

Beginning balance 7-1-11	\$12,770.32	
Income	55.00	
Expenses	<u>(1,470.11)</u>	

Ending balance 7-31-11 \$11,355.21

Garden of Rosie & Erliss Burgess



August 2011

Income

Membership	\$ 155.00	
Gardener's Weekend	<u>6,090.00</u>	
Total Income		\$6,245.00

Expenses

Lecture		(175.00)
Security	75.00	
Void Venue	(400.00)	
Venue	150.00	
Garden Tour	559.27	
Administration	1.10	
Total Expenses		385.37

Beginning Balance 8-01-11	\$11,355.21	
Income	6,245.00	
Expenses	<u>(385.37)</u>	

Ending Balance 8-31-11 \$17,214.84

The Garden Club is needing 5-gallon pots for over-winter planting of the peonies we have purchased for the spring plant sale. If you have any, you can bring them to the Harvest Dinner or call 235-4347 to have them picked up.

After the rain how precious the sunshine! Some fall harvests thoughts:

It's been a pretty good tomato year with a couple of nice finds. At the Garden Club's Plant Sale in June I bought a rather withered and damaged Black Cherry tomato plant that Jim Rinehart had donated (it was the runt) for a buck. Within a week of planting it soon took off with vigorous growth and has provided lots of great looking and tasting black cherry tomatoes. Another great find was a gift from Donna Rae Faulkner of an "extra" yellow pear cherry tomato. It was a bit root bound and lanky but also grew vigorously producing lots of tomatoes. I'll look up the seeds and plant both next spring. I'm picking any tomatoes now with even a blush of color. Fall is in the air and I want the plants to send their energy into maturing the smaller greener tomatoes. I then set the buckets of partially ripe tomatoes in the cool basement to slow down the ripening and hope Kyra has some ideas for them. In good years we can store tomatoes and eat them to the end of the year.

I made a point of taking my garden notebook into the garden in the fall and reviewing the various crops, making notes to myself. I briefly describe the weather, honey harvest (good, about 60 lbs per hive) and decide now which plants I want back next year. Over the season I also make a few trips through the gardens, greenhouses and orchard with my digital camera to take photos. That makes it easy to look them up in the future and compare plant size with dates.

Another harvest I try to never miss is pulling out the weeds *before* they mature and the seeds start dropping. It's the old "stitch in time saves nine" but, in this case, it saves me

from hundreds of future weeds. Our two small flocks of hungry ducks and chickens help motivate me. My daily quota now is to find two five-gallon pails of weeds. It's fun to take a morning stroll through the gardens, high tunnel or orchards and see what



Spring raised beds

needs to be harvested next and stay in touch with the gardens. Chickweed and grass around the beds pull up easy and also get rid of slug hiding habitat. I'm now also thinning out the lower cabbage and brussel sprout leaves, especially those with slug damage. I wear rubber boots and am happy to send slugs on to a better life. I see slugs like weeds and work to eliminate them. In the high tunnel I'm especially diligent. They have limited access and on my second year have found less than a hundred.



Early July raised beds

Observing, observing: the old permaculture proverb. I see the cabbages are planted too close again. Next year I'll plant broccoli (which we harvest early) in between the cabbage which will leave them more room to mature. They store well into March in the root cellar with their roots left on and kept wet in tubs. For the first time last winter we had almost no loss to carrots stored in the root cellar. I attribute it to using kiln dried sawdust last fall from

Small Potatoes sawmill. Steve gave me a couple bags which we moistened before storing our carrots in it. The kiln drying must kill any bacteria. We will use it from now on. This spring I bought a couple trailer loads of his half round logs. They are excellent material for rough cut raised beds and if built fairly level will make it easy for future drip tape watering. The series of 41" wide by 10 to 14 foot long garden beds worked out quite well. Maybe not for the polished garden, they give sort of a log cabin look.

In early September Kyra and I went over to Seldovia to speak to the newly formed Seldovia Garden Club about high tunnels. Suzie Stranik is the energized organizer and we had a great time meeting and speaking to the new members about high tunnels at her place down on the boardwalk. I look forward to hearing great things about the new club across the bay. They have an enviable "beautification sprawl" going on over there.

During our September harvest meeting instead of a regular speaker we're asking the members to tell us stories about your gardening experiences this summer. We're open to what worked well or didn't work at all, any new advice or humor will be appreciated. Make a few notes to bring along with the potluck dish.



Summer meals

2011 Gardeners' Weekend an Unqualified Success! by Roni Overway

Although the Homer Garden Club's 2011 Gardeners' Weekend has come and gone, around town the kudos go on. There are some who have suggested that it was the best ever!! You'll find no argument here!!!

When Saturday, August 6th, dawned a bit gray and damp, you could detect a little bit of nervousness on the part of the Weekend committee members. But they kept reminding themselves of the enthusiasm those attending have brought to the event, rain or shine, for five straight years.



With an awesome presentation and by using digitally-altered photographs, guest speaker and exceptional communicator and plantsman Dan Hinkley demonstrated ways of assuring balance in perennial gardens. His talk drew over 100 people to the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center's auditorium. By the presentation's end Dan had added many entertained and grateful gardeners to his world-wide fan club.

As Sunday morning arrived under sunny blue skies there were audible sighs of relief! At that point it seemed successful tours were assured. Those touring the seven open gardens numbered more than 375. They were identified by the bright fabric flowers they sported and guided by our 14 hostess-volunteers (accolades to each and every one of them!).

The Bear Creek Winery reception following the tours capped off an

incredible day of pure garden delight, whether the visitor was a perennial plant fanatic or veggie aficionado. Enjoying appetizers prepared by club members and organized by Lorna Olsen and her committee and sipping wine provided by the Winery, tour participants reveled in a party atmosphere. Thanks go out to Bill and Dorothy

Fry, who continue to support our event as well as many others in our community.

Another heartfelt thank you goes to the Homer Bookstore folks and volunteers at the Chamber of Commerce who year after year have helped our club immensely by selling tickets for us from the beginning of July through the day of the tours. Their support has been nothing short of fantastic.

Owners of the open gardens have the club's sincere gratitude for all of the hard work they put forth to present their gardens to their neighbors and friends in their very

best light. Thank you Larry and Bridget Kuhns, Peggy and Michael Craig, Norma Leland, Rosie and Erliss Burgess, Fran and Bob Moore, Jon Olsen and Barb Landi, as well as Sunrise Sjoberg and Tim Quinn.

The owners enjoyed a mini-tour on the Tuesday following Gardeners' Weekend, a time when *they* could view one another's gardens and enjoy a Two Sisters catered luncheon together at the home of Homer Garden Club members, Teena and Pete Garay.

To all of you who attended, the Weekend committee is extremely thankful for your continuing support of this fun and educational summer event. To those of you who missed it, you can begin planning right now for Gardeners' Weekend 2012! It will be held on August 4th and 5th. Our featured speaker will be E. Colston Burrell. We are currently previewing gardens for the 2012 tour. Please contact Roni (226 3404) or Brenda (235 3763) with garden nominations.

Roni Overway, co-chair, Brenda Adams, co-chair, and committee members Lorna Olson, Saraphine Bailey, Barb Landi, Sharon Froeschle and Millie Lewis.



REMEMBER: Dues are now due October 1st. Members are encouraged to have the newsletter sent to them via e-mail as it is much less expensive for the club and you will then receive it in fabulous color.

THE HOMER GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

May we send your Newsletter via E-Mail? Yes ____ No ____

Are you interested in vegetable gardening ____ ? flower gardening ____ ?

How would you like to participate in the Garden Club?

(please check any activities you may be interested in)

____ Meeting Refreshments ____ Board of Directors ____ Nominating Committee ____ Newsletter

____ Programs/Speakers ____ Spring Plant Sale ____ Harvest Dinner ____ Pioneer Garden

____ Baycrest Garden ____ Gardeners' Weekend

Please make check payable to "Homer Garden Club" and mail, along with form, to:
Homer Garden Club, P.O. Box 2833 Homer, AK 99603

*Homer Garden Club
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