Volume 4| Issue 9 September 2024

Garden Gate

Fairbanks Garden Club Newsletter

FGC Officers 2023-2024 President:

Jane G.

Vice President: Mary F.

Secretary Janet B.

Treasurer: Carol S.

Past FGC Presidents: Barbara H. Susie C. Amanda R.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - September 2024

Greetings to Everyone,

Fairbanks Garden Club President's Annual Report January 2023- December 2023

2023 was a wonderful, busy, and productive year for the Fairbanks Garden Club filled with activities and civic projects in good keeping with our theme: "Cultivating Community Connections". Meetings have been quite well attended by our active membership. We have continued to offer a Zoom option at each meeting for those who cannot attend in person. We have enjoyed our potlucks or hostess-provided meetings and, all in all, it has been a robust year for our club.

Although we lost a few active, longtime members for personal reasons, we have gained several new members who have enthusiastically embraced the club projects and have become active members themselves. We continue to encourage new membership through our outreach efforts.

We remained very active with our community projects and our historic gardens. We also worked hard on fundraising with our annual 'Garage & Plant Sale'. It was well attended and successful. The Creamer's Field Historic Garden has produced a bountiful harvest of fresh vegetables, which we donated to local organizations such as: The Fairbanks Food Bank, The Stone Soup Kitchen, and The Door. Additionally, to show our support for the National Garden Club's project, 'Plant America Feed America', we have tracked and reported all of our food donations. The Fairbanks Garden Club donated a total of 379 lbs. of food locally in 2023!



We helped the city of Fairbanks plant beds in the Golden Heart Downtown Plaza, helped plant hanging baskets that hung throughout the Raven Landing Senior Community grounds, and distributed hanging baskets to Denali Center Nursing Home. Our beds at the Georgeson Botanical Gardens and the Blue Star Memorial located on the borough library grounds were cared for. The children and staff at the Children's Museum downtown thoroughly enjoyed planting marigolds, which they could take home as a gift for Mom or another important person. We hosted our annual 'Flower Show' in July in collaboration with our long-time partners, 'Pioneers of Alaska Igloos #4 & #8'. It was a big success. We provided information tables with children's seed matching games at two heavily attended events at Creamer's Field: The Spring Migration Celebration in April & Creamers Dairy Days in July. The children's seed game was a huge hit and both events resulted in new members joining our club. At our June meeting, we awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to UAF student Susan Glade. We capped off the calendar year by decorating our Holiday Christmas Tree at the Noel Wien Public Library.

In March, FGC hosted the AK State Annual Meeting at Walden Community Center in Fairbanks. It was a very good meeting bringing our three state clubs together for an enjoyable day. We hosted a silent auction fundraiser. We enjoyed great food catered by a prior FGC member. Participants enjoyed attending the 'World Ice Art Championships' at the Tanana Valley Fairgrounds.

Special thanks go out to Amanda Ross, the Garden Gate Newsletter continues to be come out monthly and helps to keep our members informed of club events and activities as well as to put us in touch monthly with some aspect of the Alaska, Pacific Region, and National Garden Club levels.

2023 was a very successful year for the Fairbanks Garden Club due entirely to the enthusiastic support of club members who participated in a myriad of civic gardening projects. Members gave of their time, talent, and expertise selflessly and generously. Their work and team spirit makes our club strong! We look forward to continuing to 'Cultivate Community Connections.'



Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS and Events

This Month's meeting

September 18, 2024
12:00 Noon Regular Monthly Meeting

Hostess: Susie C. Co-Hostess: Mary F.

Address: see Jane's email

"HAPPY HARVEST POTLUCK".

Roll Call: What seeds are you saving for next year's garden?



Horticultural Moment / Conservation Tip

Annual Meeting - Bylaw Revisions Distribute new Yearbooks Presidents' Annual Report and Recommendations

Program: "Growing Asparagus" with Liz M.



September Horticultural Moment by April S. Overwintering Geranium and Fuchsia

I recently came across someone giving away some Geraniums because they were moving. They were distraught at the notion that they would have to dump these gorgeous plants in the woods. I saved them! Now what to do?? I did overwinter a white Geranium this past Winter. I really didn't try too hard and it made it! It's beautiful and still blooming on my deck.

Why overwinter some flowers that you could just replace in the Spring? A few simple reasons...Cost savings, a healthier plant with earlier blooms and it's a just good Winter project. Especially come January and February when we are all looking for some green in our lives.

If you've never tried this before, there are a multitude of ways to tackle it. Just as any garden question. Ask 10 gardeners, get more than 10 different ways to grow it!

I'm attaching the UAF Coop Extension handout. Ironically, it is the complete opposite of what every gardener I know does. Many local gardeners, bring in their geraniums and fuchsias before the first frost. They put them in a room with light, either windows or some sort of grow light. Water weekly. Fertilize periodically and come Spring they are ready to be hardened off and set out for the season.

This Winter I am attempting to overwinter quite a few Geraniums, Fuchsias, Lavender, Rosemary and Mint. I may even try to overwinter my Marshmallow plant.





July 17, 2024 FGC meeting pictures and notes:



Members Attending: Marilyn B, Janet B, Gwenn DG, Mary F, Jane G, Betty Anne M, Liz M, Marilyn P, Carol S, Lucy S, Althea St. M, Beverly W, Marlene W at Mary's home. Thanks Jane for the photos. No pictures available yet.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR is LIZ MASI. A 1-page synopsis of her many contributions to FGC over the past 15 years was read and is attached. Liz is an energetic 24-hour gardener/farmer and tech savvy.











Flower Show photos link:

https://photos.app.goo.gl/9X9oPMAHHgLEUrkh8

July 17th tour at Georgeson Botanical Garden

album link: https://photos.app.goo.gl/duPvvtbQAkdyWrXe7



June 19, 2024 meeting at Becky's. Enjoy.

Hostess: Becky H and Co-host Mary F.

link to the google album

https://photos.app.goo.gl/qnVixNtFMCFDqwt67

March 20, 2024 Potluck meeting pictures

Hostess: Mary F. Co-Hostess: Jane G. Pioneer Hall, Pioneer Park 2300 Airport Way

https://photos.app.goo.gl/x5gBUCSBvMjt1xnX7

February 21, 2024 Potluck meeting picture

Hostess: Althea Co-Hostess: Mary Pioneer Hall, Pioneer Park 2300 Airport Way

link to google album: https://photos.app.goo.gl/oaNuZKuqoAtgkkjK9

January 17, 2024 Denali Center Lunch meeting pictures

Denali Center Nursing Home

Hostess: Carol S. Co-Hostess: Mary F.

link to google album: https://photos.app.goo.gl/8vBvrKygsD5xmw7N9

December 13, 2023 Holiday Potluck Meeting pictures

Walden Estates Community Center Hostess: Lucy S. Co-Hostess: Marilyn B. + Potluck

link to google album: https://photos.app.goo.gl/NUzqAKcUsaZ2gL3GA



Update on the Kitty Hensley House - Janet M. reported: 1

removed the 28 geraniums from the Kitty house planters on Tuesday, Sept. 3rd, transplanting them into containers for the winter. I didn't take pictures of the emptied & raked planters. The geraniums are now in my shop, next to windows, with flowers & buds removed, for the winter (moved indoors last night, good thing because moose struck my yard last night, eating remaining roses, glads, and anything else green.



I donated the costs of soil & plants to the Kitty Hensley House; we can reuse both next spring to replant, so "it is a gift that keeps on giving..."



Blue Star Memorial Update September 2, 2024



Mary for the photos.

Gwenn put to bed the Blue Star Memorial by digging up the geraniums and taking them home to winter over. Her puppy supperrived. Thanks







Update on Creamer's Garden August and September









August 22, 2024
Creamers in the rain.
Susie, Marlene and
Brenda with samples
of the 61 pounds of



vegetables we donated to Stone Soup today sent by Janet B.







Wednesday, Sept 4th,









from Susie Last Wednesday, Sept 4th, Creamer's gardeners took down the plants that were affected by the heavy frost on Monday.

SO-- we have a bounty of pumpkins and green tomatoes that I have brought home to ripen up. Our consensus Wed. was to offer up some of the pumpkins to our garden crew before taking them all down to Stone Soup. Let me know if you would like a pumpkin and I will save it out for you to pick up at the Sept meeting.

We have given 2 harvests of pumpkins to Stone Soup so far. Plenty to go around. Creamer's when our crew was putting the garden to bed and one from my garden.

from Althea: On September 4th the Creamer's garden saw its first hard freeze. Pumpkins, zucchinis, and tomato plants were gone. The Creamer's gardeners harvested an unusually large batch of pumpkins that day and sent two larger and riper ones over to Stone Soup. I brought the rest of

them to my house to ripen up-----and they will be available for Club members to "take one home" at our next meeting on September 18th at my house. The Potluck at Susie's C. house is themed "Happy Harvest" so bring your favorite dishes and grab a pumpkin on the way out! Althea reported: Congratulations and thanks to Team Creamer. Their efforts yield 320.5 pounds of fresh food donated to Stone Soup/Breadline, Foodbank and The Door. Individual members contributed additional food that will be included in our clubs Plant America Feed America (PAPF) totals along with the Creamers Garden donations.

Members can turn in your PAPF donations slips through April of 2025.

National Garden Clubs



Brenda Moore, NGC
President
Theme for 2023-2025 is
"Go Green-Plant
America".
https://ga
rdenclub.org/





The Summer 2024 issue of "The National Gardener" can be found here: https://gardenclub.org/.../files/2024-07/tng-summer-2024.pdf

<u>Spring edition of *The National Gardener* magazine.</u> <u>https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/tng-spring-2024.pdf</u>

Winter 2024 *The National Gardener* link: https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/tng-winter-2024.pdf





2025 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

TIMELINE

Date	Activity	Responsibility of
June 2024	Information packages mailed to poster contest chairpersons and Forest Service conservation education and fire prevention coordinators	Forest Service
January 20, 2025	Local winning posters must be received by the State garden club or poster contest chairperson	Local garden club or poster contest chairperson
February 24, 2025	State winning posters must be received by the regional garden club or poster contest chairperson	State garden club or poster contest chairperson
March 17, 2025	Regional winning posters must be received by the National Garden Clubs poster contest chairperson	Regional garden club or poster contest chairperson
April 7, 2025	Judging to select the national winners for each grade level	National Garden Clubs poster contest chairperson and Fores Service staff
April 17-28, 2025	Selection of the national grand prize winner	Forest Service employees
May 2025	Announcement of national poster contest winners	National Garden Clubs (at their national convention)
Late summer 2025	National grand prize winner recognition ceremony in Washington, DC	Forest Service and National Garden Clubs Inc.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender

Pacific Region Garden Club

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/

Comprised of Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, and Hawaii (= WACONIAH)

Pacific Region Director 2023- 2025

Carol Norquist 907-248-9563 3734 W. 35th Avenue Anchorage, AK 99517

PacRegGardenClubs@gmail.com

Facebook





Latest WACONIAH

USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest HISTORY

- What is now known as the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest began as an initiative of the New Mexico State Garden Club in 1959.
- In 1960, the National Council of State Garden Clubs (today's National Garden Clubs, Inc.) decided to replicate this contest and called it the National Smokey Bear Coloring Contest.
- The winners of the first National Smokey Bear Coloring Contest were announced at the National Council of State Garden Club's 1961 convention by Mrs. N.P. Marton, Junior Gardering Chairman, and Miss Elizabeth Mason of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.
- The name changed to the Free-Hand Smokey Bear Coloring Contest in 1971. Contest organizers asked children to draw original entries rather than color in a preexisting template. One year later, conservation took its place beside wildfire prevention in the first Woodsy Owl and/or Smokey Bear Poster Contest.
- In response to the environmental concerns in the 1970's, the contest was known as the Environmental Poster Contest. Entries to the annual competition could include either Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl but were not required to.
- In 1994, the contest celebrated Smokey Bear's 50th birthday
 under the name of the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster
 Contest. The contest became a national art competition in which
 children draw their interpretation of Smokey Bear and his wildfire
 prevention message or Woodsy Owl and his conservation
 message.
- Today, the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest is an annual tradition amongst elementary schools, scout troops, and youth groups across the Nation.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Alaska Garden Clubs 2023-2025

President: Sharron Jordon Carlson

ski@mtaonline.net

Vice President – Chris Wood Treasurer – Carol Norquist Secretary- Rhonda Barnklau

AKGC Web site:

https://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/

Anchorage Garden Club fb page: https://www.facebook.com/anchorage.gardenclub/

Greater Eagle River Garden Club fb page:

https://www.facebook.com/greatereaglerivergarden

Fairbanks Garden Club

http://www.fairbanksgardenclub.org/

(August 2024) see link below:



FGC Raffle in full swing: Lovely Quilt for the raffle made by Marilyn B..Althea has raffle tickets for the FGC members to sell. \$5 per ticket or a book of 5 for \$20. 500 tickets were made. ALL Tickets have been returned. The winning Ticket will be pulled at the September 18th FGC meeting. Thank you Marilyn for the lovely quilt and all the sellers to make this a



wonderful event for FGC. Final total on the quilt raffle

will be announced at the meeting along with drawing for the winner.

September Birthdays:

Kristin H. 9/10 Patricia B. 9/12



Plant America Feed America Fairbanks Garden Club Food Donation Tracker for Name Contact # Date Circle Item donate estimated weight Organization receiving donation Fresh Produce Seeds Live Plants Other donated food Fresh Produce Seeds Live Plants Other donated food

FGC is participating in

Plant America Feed America. At

the January meeting, Althea handed forms to everyone who contributed food to the community last summer and reminded us to estimate, complete, and return forms to her. All members can track their donations of produce to non-profits, friends, neighbors and others. The form (see screenshot above) covers donations made between May 4, 2023 to May 4, 2025. The program encourages garden club members to help fight hunger in America. Over 5M kids go hungry daily.

Althea reported the following; Congratulations and

thanks to Team Creamer. Their efforts yield 320.5 pounds of fresh food donated to Stone Soup/Breadline, Foodbank and The Door. Individual members contributed additional food that will be included in our clubs Plant America Feed America (PAPF) totals along with the Creamers Garden donations. Members can turn in your PAPF donations slips through April of 2025.





August 14, 2024 FGC meeting at Betty's

Hostess: Betty Anne M, Co- Hostesses: Beverly and Marlene W. Members Attending: Marilyn B,, Janet B, Gwenn DG, Mary F, Jane G, Becky H, Patty

K, Betty Anne M, Liz M, Sheila M, Carol S, Lucy S, Beverly Wt, Marlene Wt.



Fairbanks Garden Plot at Georgeson Botanical Garden

What is planted in the FGC plot at GBG? Wild Geranium, iris, pussytoes, columbine, blue bells, forget me nots, nagoon berry and arctic poppies as reported from Lucy S. These pictures

were taken July 17 on the GBG tour. Marilyn being the sweet model for us. Also pictures that Lucy took.



Fairbanks Garden Club Members Sharing

The request this month, August, is the following:

- 1. What are you doing to "put your garden(s) to bed"? OR/AND
 - 2. Brag or Lament about your garden's harvest.

OR/AND

3. Whatever else you would like to share!

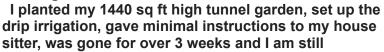


April S.: My garden is getting put to bed one plant at a time. I've had to strategize and prioritize...the predicted frost is driving the urgency in which I harvest and preserve.

Just finished pulling the peas. Corn, zucchini and cukes are coming out this week along with the last of my basil and some other herbs. Carrots, Leeks and Kale are staying in til last.

Then I will get the garlic put in.

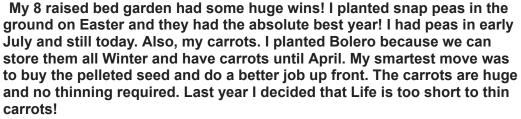
2. Brag time! I have a few!



harvesting! For the first time, I think I got my homework right! The soil, the varieties, the spacing, weed fabric and a good water set up. 14ft tall corn, beans that climbed to the sky, overload of cukes and zucc.



My only BIG mistake was planting nasturtiums next to my beans and cucumbers. Apparently there were climbing varieties mixed in and they covered the ground and smothered some plants.





And then a little sadness...because I had so many other things to do, my raised bed garden was not successful in a few areas because weeds took over! My broccoli and herbs did not

thrive at all.









Brenda S. My potted geraniums were amazing!

Lucy S. Had mini sunflower plants from a friend that turned out beautiful! Broccoli leaves got eaten by moose.... But they didn't disturb the head and we got lots of broccoli!

Janet B. Harvested 40lbs of carrots Saturday. Will take some to Stone Soup. My son will help with the potatoes. Still a lot of vegetables to harvest. So far frost free.



Carol S. 1. Everything on the north side of my house grew especially well this year because of just the right amount of rain and warm temperatures.



- 2. I very much enjoyed growing my first eggplant (given to me by Liz). It was a sturdy, healthy plant that produced 5 very pretty purple blossoms and each became an eggplant. They all grew well, but this last week I pruned all but one off because I want a large enough one to use. It's now a bit larger than a goose egg.
- 3. We may lament the rain, but we all have beautiful lawns this year!

Liz M: Success - the corn, the glads, the cherries, the strawflowers. The disappointment - how slow the egg plants are growing!

Marilyn B Harvested 40lbs of carrots Saturday. Will take some to Stone Soup. My son will help with the potatoes. Still a lot of vegetables to harvest. So far frost free.



Mary F. I am trying to get my garden put to bed but the rain keeps slowing me down! So far I've gotten the squash and corn pulled but still have peas still producing and carrots, beets and potatoes to dig! Everything did well through June, but all the rain in the latter part of the summer really stalled out the progress the garden had been making. So far most of my harvest has been less than normal.

I'm also finishing up building a three bin compost area for all of my compost. I hope to make a lot more of my own soil so I don't have to buy it and I look forward to better quality soil.

I had one new visitor to my garden this year, a porcupine with its porcupette. They feasted on more strawberries than I did this





The usual culprits, that's the resident mother moose with her calves, came by to check out the garden, but luckily she didn't jump the fence — yet! I also had a large group of butterfly moths come through and enjoy the lilacs this summer! I had not seen more than one or two but there was at least a dozen here working on them for quite a while and then they were gone!

I work with the students at Ticasuk to plant the flowers in the spring and all ten planters and the perennial garden were in full bloom and beautiful to





Denise B:
Attached is some pictures of the flowers in

the new planter (see picture at the right) her husband installed, and a sweet picture of Denise with permission. July newsletter. Link for her lovely garden:

newsletter. Link for her lovely garden https://photos.app.goo.gl/bRCZ4haVMPYN5JB66

September Update on Denise B.'s new flower bed area thanks to her husband's hard work:



https://photos.app.goo.gl/skd8HsWQXwr9gE3c9
August Update on Denise B.'s new flower bed area thanks to her husband's hard work:

welcome the students and staff back in the fall! They'll be cutting the flowers and taking bouquets home because the hard frost is coming soon

https://photos.app.goo.gl/skd8HsWQXwr9gE3c9

Amanda R: I am still letting my zucchini grow, as well as peas and potatoes and the greenhouse tomatoes grow and ripen. NOT much sun here so Praising GOD for the extended growing season. I also planted very late. One of my joys in gardening is going outside each day and finding a new flower blooming or growth on the seedlings/plants. As mentioned above, Lack of sunshine has made my Brussels sprouts about the size of a pinhead..... not my best year but thankful for what I do have. I will be eating the sprouts leaves as well and the broccoli leaves.



Alaska Clubs 65th Convention 2024

Hosted by the Anchorage Garden Club BP Petroleum Club 1014 Energy Center Anchorage, Alaska August 20, 2024

Theme: "Ya Gotta Love It"

Fairbanks Garden Club Attendees: Jane G., President; Becky H., Past President, Alaska Clubs; and Susie C., Memorial Program Presenter.

Special Guests: Brenda Moore, President, National Garden Clubs, Carol Norquist, President, Pacific Region Garden Clubs, and Lana Finegold, Past President, Pacific Region Garden Clubs,

The official count of members present was 17 at the beginning of the meeting. These members were from the Fairbanks Garden Club, the Greater Eagle River Garden Club and the Anchorage Garden Club.



Sharron Jordan-Carlson, President Alaska Clubs, officiated the meeting.

The venue for this convention highlighted the natural beauty of nature with windows from floor to ceiling looking out on the birch and evergreen forest. The place certainly reflected the feeling of "Ya Gotta Love It"

Officers Nominated for the 2025 year are:

President—Debbie Henchey

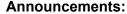
1 VP—Mary F.

2 VP—Marty Calilson

Secretary—Lara Nichols

Treasurer—Carol Norquist

The Garden Club Presidents gave their Annual Reports and Members of the Year reports. Liz Masi is the Fairbanks Garden Club's Member of the Year and has been made a lifetime member.



NGC Convention—May 18-21 2025. North Charleston, SC

PRGC Convention—April 28-30. Tempe, Arizona

AK State Convention—Hosted by the Greater Eagle River Garden

Club—Date to be announced

NGC Path to Success—A private Facebook group for members to have conversations has been set up. Carol Norquist reported after the Convention there will be a private area on the Alaska Clubs Website for members to talk

Alaska Clubs Awards 2024 for the Fairbanks Garden Club

Roadside Beautification—First Place Youth Workshop—(Children's Museum) First Place State Life Membership Liz Masi Yearbook—Second Place Scrapbook—First Place

Pacific Region Awards for the Fairbanks Garden Club

Newsletter—Second Place Membership Campaign—(Migration Celebration, Dairy Days at Creamers) First

Youth Activities--(Children's Museum) First Place

Garden Therapy— First Place

Website—Second Place

The Fairbanks Garden Club also made the table favors and 3 Large Baskets for the Pacific Region Silent Auction that was held the day after the Alaska Clubs Convention.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Club Projects, Programs, and Meetings in the 2023 year!

Submitted by Susie C. September 16, 2024







Fairbanks Garden Club Member of the Year July 18, 2024

Congratulations!!

Liz M. has been voted as this year's Fairbanks Garden Club Member of the Year 2024.

Liz has been at the heart of our Garden Club for over 15 years. Her expertise in gardening has enhanced many projects, events, and connections with other gardeners. FGC has maintained a Wildflower Garden at the Georgeson Botanical gardens for over

10 years. Thanks to Liz, the garden was started and planted with soil remediation and careful collection of wildflowers making it a perennial bed that has evolved and is still beautiful over time.

Liz initiated and guided the renovation of Anna Creamer's Historical Garden at the Creamer's Waterfowl and Wildlife Refuge. The garden looked like a neglected parking lot in the beginning. Thanks to Liz, the soil got manure as well as a planting of buckwheat for remediation. Later, she donated her potatoes and other plants to get the garden growing. Her constant attention to the garden made it become what it looks like today----a thriving vegetable garden that harvests enough food to give weekly donations to the Stone Soup Café that prepares chef-made hot meals and sack lunches for those in need.

Another long-term project Liz has done over the years is the Fairbanks Garden Club's website. She is quite technology clever as well as in digging potatoes! Updating the website with pictures, membership forms, links to other gardener's information sites, and announcement of our monthly meetings increased our visibility online, and helped our membership as well.

Liz and her husband,-----, own and operate a farm off Chena Hot Springs road. Her interest in farming allowed her to be part of a growing group of sustainable farmers in Alaska where she sells produce at Farmer's Markets around town and donates produce to the community in the Plant America-Feed America National Garden Club program.

In Alaska we have 24 hours of sunshine during the Summer months; and, lucky for the Fairbanks Garden Club, we have a member who is a 24-hour gardener and farmer.

Thank you, Liz,!

I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. I do enjoy crafting the "sent" information, pictures and what I find on FB that might interest us gardeners. Sincere gratitude to all that support the items in the newsletter Always suggestions/additions/corrections are appreciated.

Take care all.. Amanda Ross