

Volume 4 | Issue 12
December 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.



“Cultivating Community Connections.”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – DECEMBER 2024

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

I am so looking forward to seeing everyone at our annual Christmas Party gathering at Pioneer Hall on Wednesday, December 11th. It is a potluck with a gift exchange. This is going to be a fun party time with only a quick roll call and a couple very brief club information updates. Other than that, it's time to relax, visit, and enjoy some great food and each other's company.

The Library Holiday Tree Committee put up the FGC Tree at the FNSB Noel Wien Library. Janet B., Marlene W., and Beverly W. were there. Althea, on behalf of the club, donated some glass ornament prizes to the library for the annual Children's Christmas Scavenger Hunt. Take a moment to stop on by and see the beautiful trees on display 😊.

FGC has had another wonderful and successful year with its myriad annual programs, as well as several exciting new club endeavors developing and coming up!

We currently have a **‘Holiday Challenge 2024’** for every member of FGC to donate a minimum of 12 canned goods to **Stone Soup Café** this season. Their address is: 507 Gaffney Road and they are open from 7:30 am to 2:00 pm Monday through Friday. When donating, please be sure and mention you are from our club and, prior to dropping your donation, please be extra sure to guesstimate the weight of your donation, log it onto a ‘Plant America Feed America’ (PAFA) form, and turn the form into Althea. The form can be



Fairbanks Garden Club
Fairbanks, Alaska
Est. 1954



downloaded directly from our website @ fairbanksgardenclub.org under the 'More' tab at top of the main page, and is also available at our monthly meetings. Our National Garden Club's PAFA Campaign runs through May 2025. Food donations by garden clubs from all across America are being tracked. Let's make a big difference in our wonderful Fairbanks community!

As promised, below is a list of the items they are needing:

Fruit – any type

Tomatoes

"Heat & Eat" ready-mades, any shelf stable snacks – granola bars etc.

Tuna

Coconut Milk

Corn



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Joyous Solstice! Happy New Year! - to all of you and your loved ones at this special time of year!

Best Wishes,

Jane

Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS and Events

This Month's meeting

December 11, 2024* *Second Wednesday of December
12:00 Noon Regular Monthly Meeting



The best fertilizer is the gardener's shadow.
~ Author unknown

Hostess: Carol S
Co-Hostess: Janet B

Address: Pioneer Hall in Pioneer Park, 2300 Airport Way Please Phone

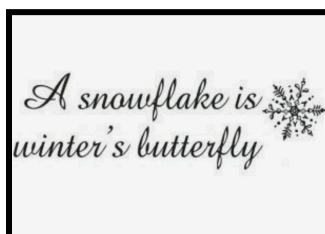
Regrets to Carol

Roll Call: What is your favorite Christmas movie?

Share your Favorite Holiday Recipes Send to Amanda to Distribute

Horticultural Moment / Conservation Tip

Program: Gift Exchange, \$20 limit please



December Horticultural Moment

by April S.

Making sense of plants

Have you ever wondered what it is about plants that grounds us? Is it the lush green color? Or perhaps the bright colored blooms? But what about the scent? Don't forget about the texture of the leaves. Whether smooth and glossy or frilly and soft, there is definitely a tactile connection when we are able to run our fingers through a floppy, frilly lavender plant in the dead of Winter. The tickle we feel through our fingers. The enlivening fragrance that can simply make us smile as we breathe in the sweet smell. I propose that it is our senses that connect us and ground us to these living things.

The visual, the smell, the feel, and often a taste (depending on the plant of course), and lastly the sound. What sound does a plant make? Have you ever listened? I am sure you have talked to your plants quite often. But have you ever listened to hear what they have to say? Since they don't audibly talk back perhaps that's why we find such comfort in them :-)

We all know indoor plants are beneficial for our health because of how they contribute to our air quality, but what about those things that we can directly attribute to them. There's nothing like fresh, living herbs in an Alaskan home on a cold Wintery day. While they provide an immediate source of inspiration and joy they can also help us with the feelings of hope that we look for toward the end of our long, dark, cold Winters. But for now...let's all appreciate the slower pace of Winter and all that our indoor plants teach us by grounding us in the reality that nothing lasts forever.



Meeting pictures and Information:

The 2024 pictures will be deleted in the Jan. 2025 newsletter.

November 20, 2024 meeting pictures:

Our program was "Gardening with Arthritis". Professor Leslie Shallcross, Registered Dietician, arrived after searching the wrong building. She works in food safety, food preservation, health promotion, and disease prevention. She distributed and discussed the following pamphlets: "AgrAbility" (a new Federal program for cultivating accessible agriculture), "A guide to Back Health in Agriculture", and "Arthritis and Gardening". Leslie displayed several gardening tools modified with enlarged handles, which enables better grip for arthritic hands. She stressed adapting our practices, not goals, to continue farming and/or gardening. Break tasks into smaller amounts; avoid kneeling on both knees. Since strong muscles around joints prevent pain, exercise regularly; Strong Women program recommended. Physical and occupational therapy may help.



Members present: Marilyn B, Janet B, Mary F, Jane G, Agnes G, Becky H, Millie P, Amanda R, Brenda S, Apri S, Lucy S, Althea S, Beverly W, Marlene W. Guest: Leslie S.



October 16, 2024 meeting was canceled due to weather.. yes we live in AK but.... better safe than sorry.

September 18, 2024 FGC meeting pictures and notes:

Trish R. shown receiving the FGC quilt that Marily B. made and donated to the club to raffle. ONE happy Friend! Two Happy Friends!

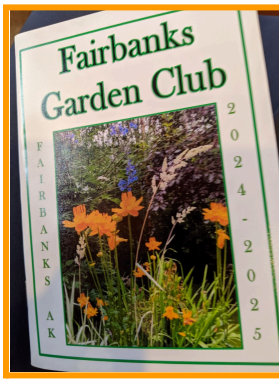


Members Attending: Marilyn B, Janet B, Susie C, Mary F, Jane G, Agnes G, Becky H, Patty K, Liz Mi, Dorthea O, Amanda R, Brenda S, April S, Lucy S, Althea S, Beverly W, Marlene W,, by Zoom Barbara H and guests Ellis O. and Isadora O.



Smokey Bear and Woodsey Owl Poster Contest Award was presented to Izzy. She placed 1st in State and 1st in Pacific Region. Besides the Certificate and National Garden Club book "Save Seed," Amanda had a card with a \$\$ gift. Jane had a bag of goodies for Izzy, as well as a signed copy of NGC President Brenda Moore's children's book, The Saved Seed.





Yearbooks 2024/2025 were distributed to members present. Jane for compiling the information and getting it to Becky. Mary for filling the programs and hostess and co-hostess slots for each month. Jane for compiling the information and getting it to Becky. Becky for laying out and printing such a useful and concise handbook. The photos and pictures are beautiful.

September Album <https://photos.app.goo.gl/3GvJ4K8qFA5x2AxT9>



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>



National Garden Clubs



Brenda Moore, NGC President
Theme for 2023-2025 is

“Go Green–Plant America”.

<https://gardenclub.org/>



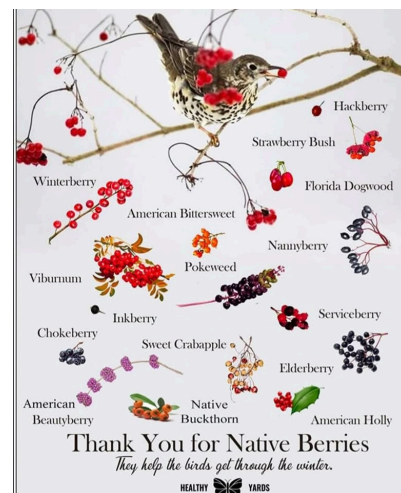
the **Fall 2024 issue** of “The National Gardener” magazine link:

<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/tng-fall-2024.pdf>

The **Summer 2024 issue** of “The National Gardener” can be found here:
<https://gardenclub.org/.../files/2024-07/tng-summer-2024.pdf>

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

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



Youth Sculpture Contest:

The purpose of this contest is to encourage our youth to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment.

All children in 4th – 8th grades are eligible to enter, with a local garden club sponsor. Sculptures must consist of recycled, reused, and reduced materials. The sculpture is limited to a size that will fit sitting on an 8 ½” x11” sheet of paper; height should be proportionate. A list of materials used, and a brief description of the sculpture should be included on the entry form.

Entry form may be found on NGC website at www.gardenclub.org

Entries will include (2) 4”x6” photographs printed on the back of the entry form.

Chairman should make photos of entries to provide as requested from the NGC website.

Club entries must be sent to your State Chairman by your state’s deadline.

SCR winners will be sent to NGC by March 1.

If your state does not participate in this contest, your entry may be sent directly to the SCR Youth Sculpture Chairman.

Contest Information: www.gardenclub.org/youth-sculpture-contest

Sculpture Contest Entry Form

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





Youth Poetry Contest rules link below..

<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/poetry-contest.pdf>



Eligibility, Categories and Judging Criteria Youth in grades K-12 compete by grade-level in one of three categories: General Education, Special Education or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Scale of Points: Title 10%, Content 40%, Creativity 30%, Style 20%. Total 100% When choosing a poem title, please be creative and incorporate the theme: “My Garden Has Vegetables to Spare That I Can Share – Helping Fight Hunger by Sharing Vegetables From Our Garden.” However, the theme should not be used as the title to any poetry. When judging, the title is worth 10 points.



Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl contest rules... Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

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



Alaska Garden Clubs 2023-2025

President: **Sharron Jordon Carlson**
skj@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/greatereaglerivergardenclub>

Fairbanks Garden Club
<http://www.fairbanksgardenclub.org/>



Latest WACONIAH (November 24, 2024) [see link below:](#)

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/a2be4215-dd41-4740-9844-4e781966e01c/downloads/33be4757-3bd6-4148-b62c-c70f8457a70b/Nov24.pdf?ver=1732208053302>

PRGC PHOTO FUNDRAISER

Entries are due by March 1, 2025. For information and entry form:

<https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/photo-contest>

The photos can be in color or black and white. Enter as many as you would like-It is a fundraiser! The categories are as follows:

1. Landscapes/Gardens

2. Birds/Animals

3. Insects

4. Floral

5. Director's Choice - "Down the Primrose Path", a photo incorporating primrose(s).

Complete an Entry Form for each entry and mail it with the \$5 entry fee (or 5 entries for \$20), to: Tanja Swanson, 227 Ewauna St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601-3131. Checks made payable to PRGC. Deadline for receipt of entry forms and digital files is March 1, 2025 Photos must have been taken by a current Pacific Region Garden Clubs member in good standing.



December Birthdays:

Lucy S 12/02

Agnes G 12/07

Jane G 12/18

Patty K 12/20

Pat D 12/20

Plant America Feed America

Fairbanks Garden Club

Food Donation Tracker for

Date	Circle Item donate	Name estimated weight	Contact # 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.

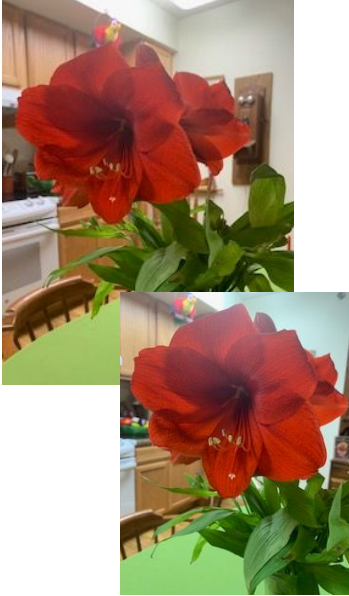
Members can turn in your PAPF donations slips through April of 2025.

Althea reminds us of the need for food in Fairbanks; keep track on the forms of your donations.

Fairbanks Garden Club Members Sharing

The questions for this month, **December**, are the following:

1. **Pictures of your indoor plants that are blooming or about to.**
2. Any holiday traditions you would like to share.
3. **Favorite cookie recipe or holiday dessert.**
4. **OR/AND anything else you would like to share....ie what garden item are you asking Santa to bring you... ho ho ho..**



Grace M - Enclosed is a photo of an amaryllis bulb (which I bought on sale at Home Depot in January). I bought this and 3 other amaryllis bulbs and planted them only to be astounded by them in mid February as all four bloomed. They were gorgeous, a real delight!

This summer I moved to Raven Landing and brought my four amaryllis pots to my balcony here. Now, of course, they are indoors. But a couple of weeks ago, one plant shot up a lovely stem with four flowers. This week another bloomed (as pictured), and I have another bud which may be waiting to bloom.

I love my amaryllis. We send you all best wishes for Christmas!

Mary F.- A family tradition I remember from my childhood was the celebration of St. Nicholas on December 6. Some families put out shoes on the night of Dec. 5 and the children would find small gifts in them the next morning. In our family, St. Nicholas left a paper grocery bag of oranges, cookies and candy by the front door on Dec. 6 as proof that we hadn't been "that bad," and he would indeed visit us on Christmas with gifts. This was a big deal at our house as extra food, especially treats were few and far between. Usually, we scrounged pop bottles for 3¢ apiece to buy candy, but this was especially limited in the winter. So, we, eight kids under the age of 15, always tried to keep a close watch on the front porch in anticipation of St. Nick's visit. One year, when I was on the fence about believing in Santa and the use of paper bags by saints who visited our house, my suspicions were confirmed. My Mom collared me in the kitchen and backed me into the pantry. It was already almost bedtime, the dreaded witching hour, when the little kids were whining that St. Nick wasn't coming and loudly blaming each other for their many faults, transgressions, and being the reason our yearly St. Nick candy feast wasn't happening. Mom shoved a paper bag and a flashlight in my hands and whispered, "Go out the back door and around the side of the house and help Dad! I wondered what was taking him so long so I looked out the dining room window and he slipped, the bag was ripped and spilled all over! He can't see anything and I can't open the curtains!" O-kay, I said confused but finally getting the picture, I gotta get my coat. "No, just go, you'll be fine!" She opened the back door and I went down the steps and out into the bitterly cold, windy night. I found Dad on his hands and knees as he raked the snow, dead hollyhocks and bushes along the house looking for the loot. With the flashlight, we quickly found the treats and sweets, brushed the snow off of them with our hands and stuffed them in the bag. I helped Dad to his feet as he winced in pain and



**HOW TO CELEBRATE
ST. NICHOLAS DAY!**



said, "Go put it on the porch and stay low!" So I sneaked around to the front porch and slid it by the door. Then I helped Dad hobble around to the back porch, up the steps and into the kitchen. He wasn't hurt badly, just a banged up knee and shortly after we reappeared as normal as possible in the living room. Soon, the joyous screams that St. Nick had finally come rang through the house. Later that night, when Dad tucked us in, five girls in one bedroom with two beds, he whispered in my ear, "Good job, Nick!" and winked. This cemented my belief in the true spirit of Christmas. We can all be St. Nick if we choose to be. Merry Christmas! Mary Fenno



Janet B: Still have 1/2 a cabbage, a few carrots and kale leaves in a canvas bag with snow inside and buried in snow on my deck. Yay! from NOV.

Amanda R: As darkness sets in for the season it is important for me to have house plants growing the best they can. Watering with thawed rain water is what I do when I can remember. My plants suffer when I don't remember sad to say. The rosemary plant pictured for April's horticultural moment is mine. I am glad to say it is surviving my forgetfulness whereas my lavender and thyme didn't. boo hoo. In the past, our Grandchildren have gone to Santa Claus House for annual picture, to pick an ornament and to have the famous fudge there. We then travel over to Pagoda for a wonderful holiday dinner. Gifts are opened then later on Christmas day. Prayers for all to know in their heart the reason for Christmas.



Jane G. love traditional English Christmas Cake. This is a heavy fruit (currant based) cake layered with marzipan and then a Royal Icing on top. My parents were British immigrants to the USA and so I love things like this. Also love individual mincemeat pies topped with brandy butter and whipped cream 😊

Marilyn B: Seasons Greetings from sunny California. Forgot to pack shorts. Visiting my brother. Will hand deliver the raffle quilt tomorrow. Will send photos.

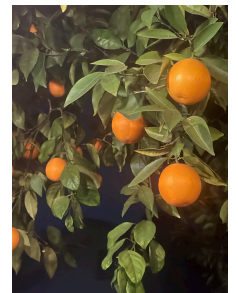
Gwen D - It's been so nice to receive the Garden Gate while I'm in Az. It certainly helps keep me connected to the happenings with the club and beyond. Following the holiday, I have a little down time and thought I would share a few photos with commentary for this upcoming newsletter.

I don't want to rub it in but you know the temps in Az are just fabulous this time of the year. I have several planters outdoors around my patio highlighting poinsettia plants companioned with other colorful annuals.

This is the time of year gardening takes off in full swing. When we first arrived a neighbor offered us three hydroponic tomato plants to transplant. They know we like to play in the dirt. We're hoping for tomatoes in JANUARY.

I have a small herb planting and our orange tree is graciously producing oranges.

I like to spread out the joy of planting. Yesterday I made a stop at our local nursery and picked up some additional color to complete my container planting sometime this week.





This past Saturday, my mom came over to spend the day making Christmas cookies. This is the third year we've set aside a day in making and baking our favorite cookie recipes. The end result gets individually packaged to give to friends and family.

Decorating for Christmas while living in a desert climate, is not the same as having a white, snowy environment to inspire but I will always enjoy having a Christmas tree.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Gwenn



Lucy S - Orchids and cactus...



April S - We are enjoying our own carrots, potatoes and kale. And I just finished making jam from my fresh huckleberries. My favorite dish is always the one I grew. Or raised. My giant rosemary plant that I am overwintering will provide some incredible flavor. This year we will have roasted turkey. But it's not just any turkey...it's a 26 lb turkey that we raised ourselves. So grateful for such a wonderful harvest. from NOV.

Becky H. - no indoor plants due to traveling during winter... so they would die...

cookie recipe: brown Sugar chews... a good recipe.. not too hard. people like it.

Traditions: the entire family over for Christmas day.. all 32 of them... celebrate traditional Christmas meal.. only 7 this year... due to family having other plans. So catering is a possibility this year.

Ruth K. - I am "upright" and living at Timber Creek and have no car. I am missing everyone. Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas. There are always adjustments need to be made. But they are cooking for me. Rates are going up.

Denise B -

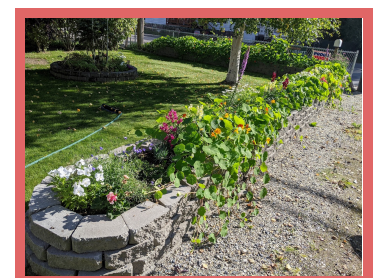
September Update on Denise B.'s new flower bed area thanks to her husband's hard work:

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

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

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

July newsletter. Attached are 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.
 Link for her lovely garden: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/bRCZ4haVMPYN5JB66>



Bring Home Happiness: Plants for Your Mind & Soul

Did you know plants can work wonders for your mental health? Here's how:

Reduce Stress: Caring for plants promotes relaxation.

Boost Mood: Greenery = happiness and calm.

Improve Air & Focus: Cleaner air helps you breathe easy and stay productive.

Connect to Nature: Create a soothing, natural space indoors.

Find your perfect plant companion today—whether you're a newbie or a green thumb! Let's grow happiness together.

[Hawks Greenhouse Page](#)

Fairbanks Garden Club Committees and Chairs:

FGC Committee	Chair	FGC committee	Chair	FGC Committee	Chair
Awards (AK, PR, Nat)	Barbara H	Georgeson Botanical Garden	Lucy S	Photography	Gwenn G.
Blue Star Memorial	Gwenn G	History/Biographies	Janet B.	Programs	Mary F.
Community Beautification and Outreach	Carol S.	Horticulture	April S	Publicity	Jane G
Conservation and Green Moment	Janet B.	Installation of New Members	Becky H.	Scholarship	Lacey H.
Creamer's Historic Flower & Vegetable Garden	Althea S.	Kitty Hensley House	Janet M.	Scrapbook	Amanda R.
Flower Show	Becky H.	Library Holiday Tree	Althea S.	Sunshine	Sheila M.
Fundraiser - Garage Sale & quilt Raffle	Liz M.	Member of the Year	Gwenn G.	Telephone/Non Email	Janet B.
Gamin Permit	Becky H.	Membership	Becky H.	Website	Liz M.
Garden Tours	Marlene W	Newsletter	Amanda R.	Wildlife Gardening	Susie C.
		Nominating	As Elected	Yearbook	Jane G.
				Youth Gardening/Garden Therapy	Amanda R.