



Enter the GATE of Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 2 February 2025

**“Cultivating Community
Connections”**



<https://willtiptop.com/garden-gate-ideas/>

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 – February 2025

Hello Everyone,

It is February and the light is noticeably coming back to the Interior, with the days brighter and longer. All the dust bunnies become visible and so it is time for 'out with the old and in with the new'! It is also that time of year to begin dreaming about gardening again and starting up with the preliminary planning of plots and plant types 😊. That time of year where it is fun to start leafing through seed and bulb catalogs and putting in orders for good old standby favorites as well as trying out brand new or more exotic cultivar varieties. What will you plant this season? I hope that you are all enjoying this time of year and may the 2025 Garden Season be a prosperous and fun one for all!

The FGC February Meeting takes place Wednesday the 19th at Pioneer Hall @ Pioneer Park. Millie P. and Susie C. will be our hosts. They will be providing a lovely lunch for us. The program this month is "Rhubarb Research" with Ericka W. Ericka has presented to our club before and her information is always very interesting.

Come join in for a nice lunch and informative meeting.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Best Wishes,

Jane



Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS and Events

This Month's meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 19th at 12:00 Noon.

Where: Pioneer Hall in Pioneer Park.

Located at: 2300 Airport Way, Fairbanks.

Hostess: Millie P. Co-Hostess Susie C.

Please Phone Regrets to Millie P.

Roll Call: Do you have rhubarb and, if so, is it red or green?

Which do you prefer and why?

Horticultural Moment / Conservation Tip

Program: "Rhubarb Research" with Ericka W.

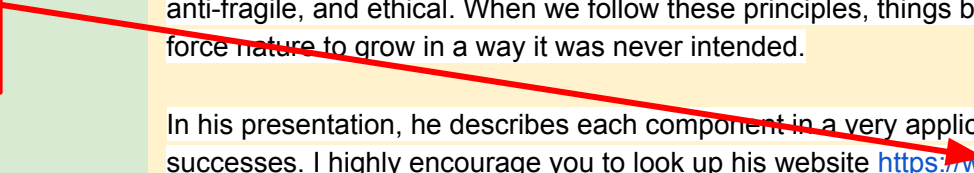
*The glory of gardening:
hands in the dirt, head in
the sun, heart with
nature. To nurture a
garden is to feed
not just the body, but the
soul.*

~ Alfred Austin



February
Horticultural
Moment
by April S.

This link
works



Permaculture - the problem is always the solution

Are you familiar with the term permaculture? I am, or at least I thought I was. Recently, I had the opportunity to learn some basic concepts that I have tended to overcomplicate. And I ended up with so many ah-ha and inspired moments. I watched a permaculture presentation by Takota Coen from Alberta, Canada who grows in a climate very similar to ours. He paid homage to two Australian men who were instrumental in the permaculture concept.

Bill Mollison, dubbed The Father of permaculture said, "The core permaculture is design, and the working relationships and connections between all things." While David Holmgren described it as, "Consciously designed landscapes which mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature, while yielding an abundance of food, fiber, and energy for provisions of local needs."

In my words I would say that biomimicry is THE word to really paint the picture of permaculture. It means "to comprehend and copy nature to accomplish human flourishing in ways that are better, faster and/or cheaper." According to Takota, the 5 rules for permaculture design include synergy, adaptive, optimization, anti-fragile, and ethical. When we follow these principles, things become so much easier rather than trying to force nature to grow in a way it was never intended.

In his presentation, he describes each component in a very applicable way with real stories of failures and successes. I highly encourage you to look up his website <https://www.buildingyourhomestead.com/> Or just google Takota Coen and watch one of his YouTube videos.

My favorite part of the entire presentation was contemplating the life lessons that we can learn by cultivating the Earth. In the end, what we come to realize is that **"the problem is always the solution."**

January 15, 2025 Denali Center

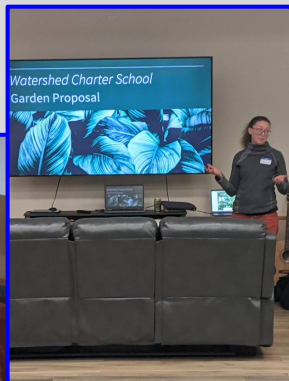
Each resident was given a live plant. Bingo winners with prizes



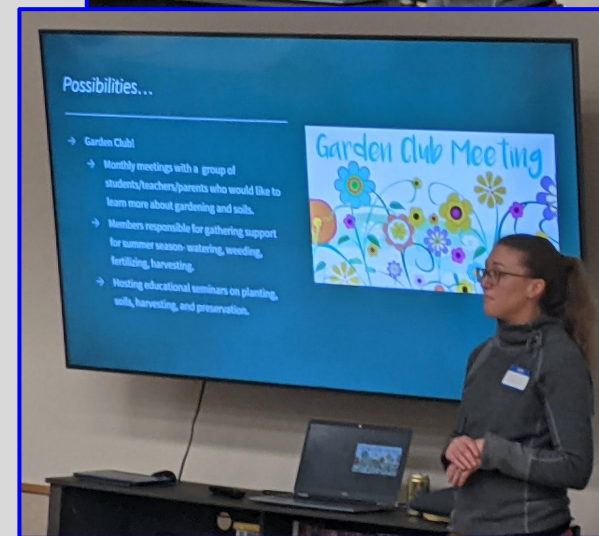
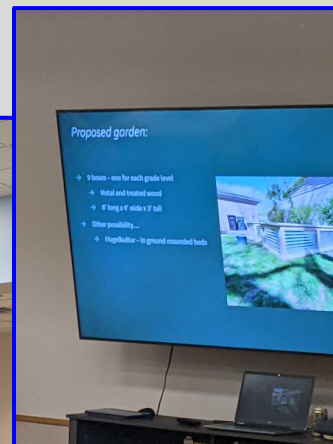
See FGC
January
minutes for
details.



See the link in the email to
enjoy the Summer 2024
garden tours shown at Denali
Center



Patricia M. sharing about Watershed Charter School Community Garden Proposal with FGC members and Denali residents.



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB

Brenda Moore, NGC President

Theme for 2023-2025 is

“Go Green–Plant America”

<https://gardenclub.org/>

The **Winter** issue of “The National Gardener”
magazine link:

https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/tng-winter-2025_0.pdf



Correct links
in the redo
newsletter
email..



Come join in the fun in
Charleston SC for the
NGC Convention in May.
Information & registration
at

<https://gardenclub.org/2025-ngc-convention-details>.

Pacific Region Garden Club

<https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/home>

The region is made up of eight states
Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon,
Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii
[Connect to the state websites](#)

[Facebook](#)

Pacific Region Director:
Carol Norquist 907-248-9563
3734 W 35th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99517
PacRegGardenClubs@gmail.com

PRGC PHOTO FUNDRAISER

Entries are due by March 1, 2025.

For information and entry form:

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



Pacific Region Conventions

April 28-30, 2025 Tempe, Arizona "Wild & Water Wise"

Link to the PRGC Convention

<https://azgardenclubs.com/conventions/>

Latest WACONIAH

(November 24, 2024) [see link below:](https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/waconiah-issues)
<https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/waconiah-issues>

KNOW YOUR LAND

2025 TALK SERIES

January

Winter 2025

Thursdays 6-7pm

- 9 High Tunnels 101
- 16 Low Tunnels 101
- 23 Irrigation & Water Management*
- 30 Grower Spotlight: Up Yonder Farm

February

- 6 USDA Programs: How to make them work for YOU
- 13 Cover Crops 101
- 20 Vegetable Varieties for Alaska*
- 27 Grower Spotlight: The Rustic Peony

*Co-sponsored
by the South Kenai
Peninsula Farm
Bureau – food will
be provided!

March

- 6 The Great Mulch Study
- 13 Soil Microbiology
- 20 Soil Health
- 27 Soil Testing 101

April

- 3 Herbicides 101
- 10 Managing Your
Forest: Tools and
topics to think
about



Join in person or via Zoom

All sessions held in person at the KPC
Kachemak Bay Campus and on Zoom.

Visit homerswcd.org for more details &
to register for Zoom sessions.

Alaska Garden Clubs 2023-2025

President: Sharron Jordon Carlson
skj@mtaonline.net

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

AKGC

Website: <https://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/>

Anchorage Garden Club fb page:

<https://www.facebook.com/anchorage.gardenclub/>

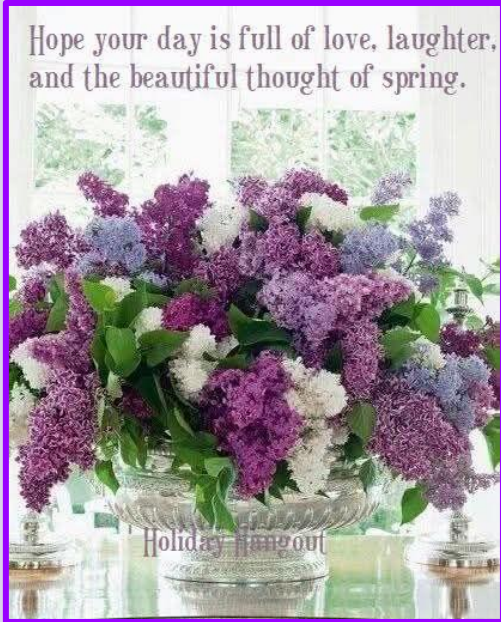
Greater Eagle River Garden Club fb

page: <https://www.facebook.com/greatereaglerivergardenclub>

Fairbanks Garden Club

<https://fairbanksgardenclub.org/>

February Birthdays:
Millie P. 2/23
Marv H. 2/18



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		

In the garden's silence,
you'll hear your heart sing.

Turn over a new
leaf and let your
garden inspire
your heart.

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.

GARDENING is
a journey of LOVE,
where every
seed planted
is a whisper of
HOPE.

Procrastiplanting:
When you have
millions of things
to do but go to
the garden to
plant instead.

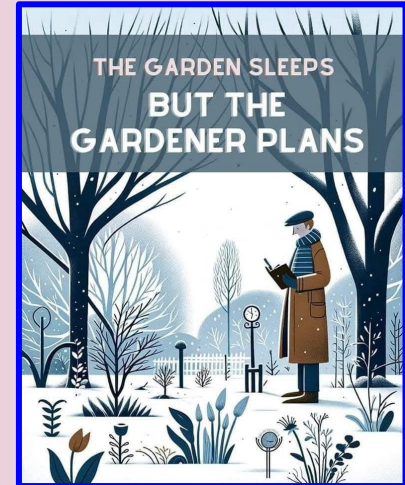
Fairbanks Garden Club MEMBERS Sharing February 2025

1. What are you dreading this growing season?
2. What are you growing NOW under lights.. seedlings, house plants, etc?
- 3 And/or Anything else you would like to share.

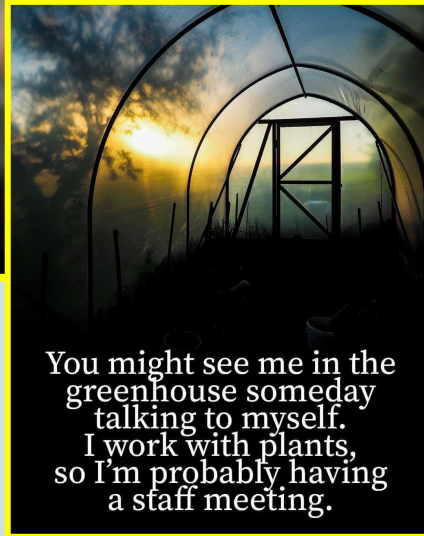
April shared: 1. Keeping up with my garden tracking log. It always starts out great, neat and organized then I get consumed by Summer and Plants. And I end up with 100 zillion sticky notes of things to transcribe.
2. I have planted my onion and leek seeds and am currently caring for them.
3. I'm also thinking about how I want to fertilize my overwintered Geraniums and Fushia. Oh, and trying to figure out how I want to heat my new lil Costco Greenhouse.

Mary shared: I'm not really dreading anything in the garden at this point. I do pray for good rains this summer as the one thing I fear is a very dry season that increase our odds to have big wildfires. That's always on my mind as I work to find things I can do and can afford to have done to lessen the odds of losing my home to fire! I look around and see so many magnificent spruce trees that tower over and around us; are they our protective friends or flammable nemeses? When I talked with my tree whisperer/lumberjack about which trees to fell, which to leave and how much it'd cost to save the wooden house, he took a long hard look and told me, you can spend a fortune thinning the woods, but if it's a big fire coming from any direction, you have to just get out and hope for the best. So I am looking into fire resistant paint, taking down the closest old giants and using lots of gravel as a barrier! Putting those concerns aside for now, I have all the potted plants that had a long rest this winter under the grow lights next to the house plants to wake them up. The germaniums, fuchsias and a couple experimental plants are already sporting new green leaves; that always gives me joy and hope for another safe, productive season.

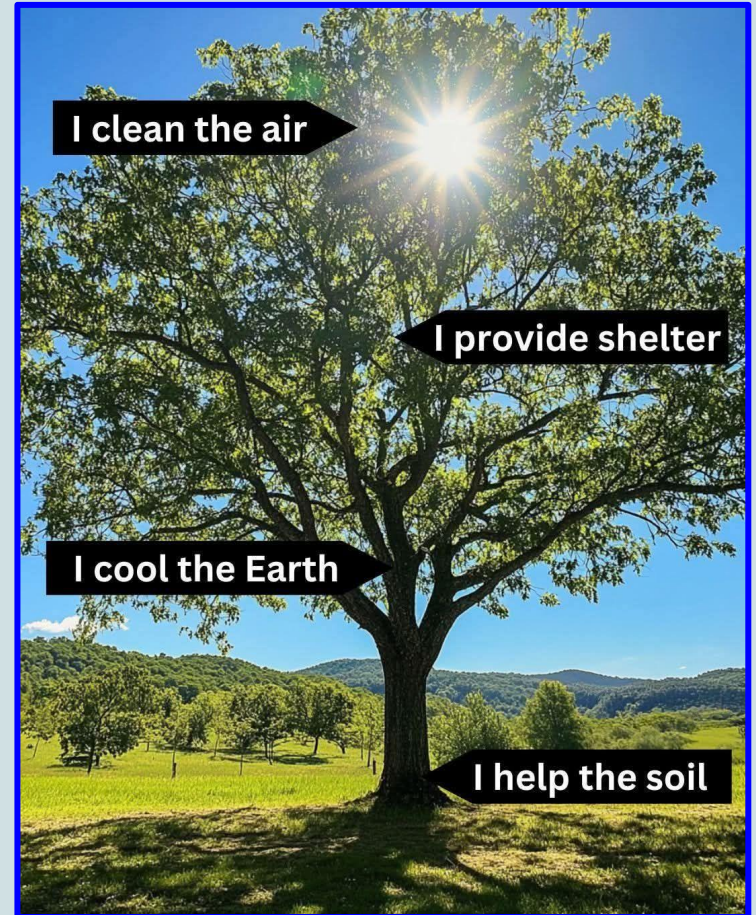
Amanda Shared: I am dreading getting back into shape for gardening. I usually do about 20 minutes of garden work then move up to two hours outside doing fun garden stuff. BUT it is fun once I get my stamina back. Two geraniums are still surviving placed in the big window with the sunshine coming in..I hope my violets will bloom soon also.



Soil isn't just dirt - it's alive. A single teaspoon of healthy soil contains more microorganisms than there are people on Earth. Those microbes cycle nutrients, store carbon, and keep ecosystems running.



You might see me in the greenhouse someday talking to myself. I work with plants, so I'm probably having a staff meeting.



I clean the air

I provide shelter

I cool the Earth

I help the soil

FGC Committee Chairs

FGC Committee	Chair
Awards (AK, PR, Nat)	Barbara H
Blue Star Memorial	Gwenn G
Community Beautification and Outreach	Carol S.
Conservation and Green Moment	Janet B.
Creamer's Historic Flower & Vegetable Garden	Althea S.
Flower Show	Becky H.
Fundraiser - Garage Sale & quilt Raffle	Liz M.
Gamin Permit	Becky H.
Garden Tours	Marlene W

FGC committee	Chair
Georgeson Botanical Garden	Lucy S
History/Biographies	Janet B.
Horticulture	April S
Installation of New Members	Becky H.
Kitty Hensley House	Janet M.
Library Holiday Tree	Althea S.
Member of the Year	Gwenn G.
Membership	Becky H.
Newsletter	Amanda R.
Nominating	As Elected

FGC Committee	Chair
Photography	Gwenn G.
Programs	Mary F.
Publicity	Jane G
Scholarship	Lacey H.
Scrapbook	Amanda R.
Sunshine	Sheila M.
Telephone/Non Email	Janet B.
Website	Liz M.
Wildlife Gardening	Susie C.
Yearbook	Jane G.
Youth Gardening/Garden Therapy	Amanda R.

