

Volume 3 | Issue 8  
August 2023

# Garden Gate

Fairbanks Garden Club Newsletter

## FGC officers

**President: Barbara  
Horner-Miller**  
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[screvensten@gmail.com](mailto:screvensten@gmail.com)

**Lucy Smyth**  
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**Treasurer:**  
**Carol Slater**  
[cslater48@gmail.com](mailto:cslater48@gmail.com)

**Secretary:**  
**Janet Brower**  
[brower\\_janet@hotmail.com](mailto:brower_janet@hotmail.com)

**Past FGC presidents:**  
**Amanda Ross**  
[Aross1140@gmail.com](mailto:Aross1140@gmail.com)  
**Ruth Knapman**  
[alaskaknapman@gmail.com](mailto:alaskaknapman@gmail.com)  
**Susie Crevensten**  
**Barbara Horner-Miller**



## Message from the President

Hi Everyone

I am so sorry to have to miss this month's meeting- the second in a row. I am currently in Boulder meeting with the contractors who will remodel my house. I definitely plan to be at the September meeting supporting the new executive committee. I will start the drive to Boulder the next morning. You will be in great hands with Jane, Mary, Janet and Carol!! I hope everyone's garden survived the hot weather and lack of water (or the floods that happened right before I flew out). My beds have suffered terribly from neglect and my absence this summer. I hope the new owner will get them back in shape in the spring. It has been a wonderful experience to be a member of the club for the last 10 years and president for the last few. I wish the club and each of you success. I will stay a member for a while.

Barbara Horner Miller



**FGC Committees. \*Chairman**Awards (State, Pacific Region,  
National)

\*Barbara Honner-Miller

**Blue Star Memorial**

\*Gwenn Davies Guy

Community Beautification and  
Outreach

\*Carol Slater

**Conservation and Green  
Moment**

\*Janet Brower

**Creamer's Historic Flower &  
Vegetable Gardens**

\*Althea St. Martin

**Flower Show**

\*Becky Hassebroek

**Fundraiser**

\*Barbara Horner-Miller

**Gaming Permit**

\*Becky Hassebroek

**Garden Tours**

\*Marlene Wright

**Georgeson Botanical Garden**

\*Lucy Smyth

**History/Biographies**

\*Janet Brower

**Horticulture**

\*Gwenn Davies Guy

**Installation of New Members and  
Officers**

\*Becky Hassebroek

Kitty Hensley House  
\*Janet Matheson

# Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS and Events

## This Month's meeting:

**August 16, 2023****10:00 Garden Tour****Meet at Raven Landing** to Carpool for Tour **12:00 Noon Regular Monthly Meeting** Hostess: Betty Anne Marshall Co-Hostess: Marlene Wright and Beverly

Please Phone Regrets to Barbara: (907) 479-9419

**Roll Call: What is your favorite public garden?****Horticultural Moment / Conservation Tip****Debrief Flower Show****Vote on New Slate of Officers (odd numbered years)***You can spend your whole life traveling around the world searching for the Garden of Eden, or you can create it in your backyard.*

~ Khang Kijarro Nguyen

## Next Month's meeting:

**September 20, 2023****12:00 Noon Regular Monthly Meeting**

Hostess: Barbara Horner-Miller Co-Hostess: Susie Crevensten

Please Phone Regrets to Barbara: (907) 479-9419

**Roll Call: What garden pests did you have last summer?****Horticultural Moment / Conservation Tip****Annual Meeting - Bylaw Revisions****Plan Yearbook****Presidents' Annual Report and Recommendations****New Officer Installation (odd numbered years)**

FGC Committees \* chairman

Library Holiday Tree \*Althea St. Martin

Member of the Year \*Gwenn Davies Guy

Membership \*Becky Hassebroek

Newsletter \*Amanda Ross

Nominating

As elected by Members

Photography \*Denise Bates

Programs \*Susie Crevensten/Lucy Smyth

Publicity \*Barbara Horner-Miller

Scholarship \*Katie DiCristina

Scrapbook \*Amanda Ross

Sunshine \*Sheila McCleary

Telephone/Non-Email \* Janet Brower

Website \*Liz McGlothen

Wildlife Gardening \*Wendy Anderson

Yearbook. \* Barbara Horner-Miller

Youth Gardening / Garden Therapy \*Carol Slater



*Squirrels are blamed for many crimes they are not responsible for, but in this case honesty compels me to say it was the squirrels done it. I saw them.*  
~ Henry Mitchell

### Horticulture moment: Time to Think about Improving your Soil

An important element in keeping your garden looking healthy and fully producing is to keep your focus on soil quality. Although costly fertilizers are available you can improve your soil on a budget. The first step is to test your soil's pH and nutrient level. Once the soil quality is determined you can add natural and inexpensive amendments; compost, well-aged manure or home collected organic mulch. Shared from Gwenn.

Reference: [gardenloversclub.com](http://gardenloversclub.com)



*“Preserving Historic Gardens”*

*41 members strong*

<http://www.fairbanksgardenclub.org/>

**President: Barbara Horner-Miller 2021-2023**



**Brenda Moore  
NGC President  
2023-2025**

**Our humble servant**

### National Garden Clubs

*Microplastic – The Effect and Dangers by Harriet Robinson*



National Garden Clubs

National

Garden Clubs, Inc.

E-Mail:

[headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)

Website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

National President 2023 - 2025

Brenda Moore

[mwarshauer@gardenclub.org](mailto:mwarshauer@gardenclub.org)

When I recently attended *NGC's Environmental School*, I learned about the dangers of microplastics. The issue was underscored by a talk from a specialist at a district meeting I attended as state president. What are microplastics? They are pieces of broken plastic that breakdown into smaller and smaller pieces. They also may start as tiny fibers that blow off synthetic clothes and are distributed by air. Besides being an eyesore, they are an environmental hazard. They are in our water supply, they threaten marine life, and the smallest pieces can cross cell walls. We can see these plastics in their larger forms, such as the discarded water bottle or plastic bag on the roadside. These plastics never biodegrade. They just get smaller.



Continue to read the blog at :

<https://gardenclub.org/blog/microplastics-effects-and-dangers>

### PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



Director:  
Carol Norquist

2023-2025 Theme:  
*Unleash the Wild:  
Bring Nature Home*

[www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org)

### Let's meet NGC, Inc. Members

Introducing: **Carol Norquist**

NGC, Inc. Social Media: Facebook Chairman



Pacific Region Garden Clubs Inc.  
Center Clubs in Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii

### 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. 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99517

[PacRegGardenClubs@gmail.com](mailto:PacRegGardenClubs@gmail.com)

[https://www.facebook.com/PacificRegionGardenClubs/?view\\_public\\_for=167928073784482](https://www.facebook.com/PacificRegionGardenClubs/?view_public_for=167928073784482)

Carol, is always in touch with other Garden Clubs in Alaska.



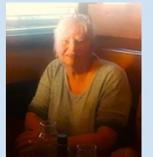
Greater Eagle River Garden Club



However, my favorite stories are always about Alaska's extraordinary wildlife and I love the images of those that often visit her garden!



Who is Carol Norquist?  
She is one of the 114 members of the three Clubs in the State of Alaska, who has served as President of the Anchorage Garden Club, AK State President, PR Awards, as a Facebook Editor, and now serves NGC, Inc. President Brenda Moore as Facebook NGC Chairman. Personally, she has been a "digital Guru" to many of us who have reached out when having any type of internet problems.



### Let's meet NGC, Inc. Members

Introducing: **Carol Norquist**

NGC, Inc. Social Media: Facebook Chairman



Pacific Region Garden Clubs Inc.  
Center Clubs in Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii

Yet, she takes time and enjoys to garden, make Jelly, and grow potatoes on tubs!



<https://www.facebook.com/greatereaglerivergardenclub/videos/296469152966595>

The volunteers of the Greater Eagle River Garden Club work hard to keep the welcome sign garden at Chief Alex Park beautiful.

Alaska Garden Clubs 2023-2025

President: **Sharron Jordon Carlson**  
[skj@mtaonline.net](mailto:skj@mtaonline.net)

Vice President – Chris Wood  
Treasurer - Becky Hassebroek  
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/>

**anchorage Garden Club**

Yesterday we planted the Della Barry Memorial Flower Bed. Della was a long-time member of the Anchorage Garden Club. The bed will fill in as the summer goes on. It is located at the northeast corner of Spenard Road and Benson.



**Fairbanks Garden Club July and August Events:**

**FGC meeting Wednesday June 21, 2023**

**Tours:**

We went to Dennis Rogers garden and another garden. The pictures up to and including the group picture are from Dennis's garden. Then I got one from Cyndies garden. Other members took pictures!

Susie

**Touring at lovely garden.**





**Dennis Rodger's garden**



Top row:  
Liz Masi  
Beverly Wright  
April Smurda  
Poppy Smurda  
Jane Gibson  
John Govednik  
Agnes Govednik

Bottom Row:  
Louis Biagi  
Marilyn Biagi  
Dennis Rogers  
Althea St. Martin  
Joyce White  
Betty Marshall  
Marlene Wright

**Dennis Rodger's garden**



# Fairbanks Garden Club members working hard at Creamer's Garden

July 26, 2023



July 26



# July 9, 2023 Harvesting at Creamer's Garden



# July 9, 2023 Harvesting at Creamer's Garden



Cramer's Garden August 2, 2023



Photos by Mary



Creamer's Garden August 2, 2023



Pictures from last Weds. August 2, of the FGC Crew working at Creamers Garden. Photo from Mary Fenno



Carol S., Althea, Bev, Marlene, Susie, and Liz





**August Birthdays:**

**Liz McGlothen 8/2**

**Janet Matheson 8/8**

**Virginia Bedford 8/18**

**Ruth Jolly Knapman 8/24**

**Phyllis Church 8/27**

# Blue Star Memorial July 10, 2023



# Georgeson Botanical Gardens

**Lucy weeding the adopted plot at GBG.**

**Still needs help weeding ya'all!**



# Creamers Dairy Farm Day

Prizes donate by Liz. Nice poster. FGC members at Creamer's Dairy Day



# FGC members sharing

## July's

1. What is growing great in your veggie/flower garden? **OR/and**
2. Do you have any disappointments?? **OR/and**
3. Whatever you want to share. Pictures would be great to share.

## August's

1. Your garden success(es).
2. What you are harvesting
3. Whatever else you are inclined to share.

**Janet Brower:** I just finished harvesting the lettuce I started inside (the 5 plants produced abundantly for over a month in a pot on the deck). Now the various varieties of lettuce directly seeded in my garden are ready to start eating. Perfect timing. Disappointing are some shriveled yellow broccoli and cauliflower plants. Why?

**Amanda Ross:** I am pleased with the ripening tomatoes in the greenhouse. Carrots were very slow to germinate but they are coming along. I am praying for much longer growing season this Fall.

**Gwenn Davies Guy:** My rose house is full of color and fragrance. I'm loving this time of year watching Dahlias come into full bloom.



Gwenn's Dahlias



**Liz Masi:** I am harvesting: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Kohlrabi, zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, strawberries, and onions, I have cabbage, garlic, ready to harvest. We had a meal of new potatoes. Carrots are coming along, not quite ready to harvest. I have a couple nice pumpkins - still green and a few small winter squashes. For those of you not sure what to do with kohlrabi. Try this recipe works great with zucchini too - especially if you wring out the extra juice. That is the secret to this recipe and the fritters frying up nice and crisp.

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/kohlrabi-fritters-2215969>



ready to pickle.

**Sheila McCleary:** My garden is doing great! Lots of cabbage, purple cauliflower, zucchini, yellow squash, kale, strawberries and chard. My eggplant is trying; there's a small one so far. Already gathered the rhubarb. I can see broccoli and brussels sprouts starting. Potatoes and even sweet potatoes have good foliage - will be interesting to see how they are doing underground later. Some small peppers, but oddly, they are all green while they are "supposed" to be red and orange. Doesn't matter to me, as long as they grow! Lots of different mint and other herbs that I've been dehydrating. Lettuce and spinach in smaller containers are thriving. Not sure if the bush beans will produce. The delphiniums are so tall and beautiful! I'm just thrilled that I finally have gardens again!



**Mary Fenno:** My garden successes were beets; I got a bumper crop of beets and my new squash area has been pretty productive, but I am going to put more garden boxes in there as the strawberries keep trying to move in! My failures are threefold. My strawberries did not produce nearly as abundantly as they normally do which I attribute to not many bees out there, so there wasn't much fruit. This also happened in 2020, coincidentally, both neighbors sprayed for mosquitoes that year also. Not sure if that killed the bees, but there definitely were very few pollinators. Another disappointment was my green beans, and that was directly related to the voles cutting them down, rolling them up like cigars and carrying them off. I replanted that area with the beets I thinned and they did great. The third failure was my cherry tomato plants I got at the Flower Pot. They made lots of tomatoes, but they never have turned red. I don't know why! I'm going to put them in the greenhouse today to try to ripen them. Next year, I'm looking forward to a bumper, crop of strawberries, and not a bumper crop of voles! Take care!

**CarO\_\_:**

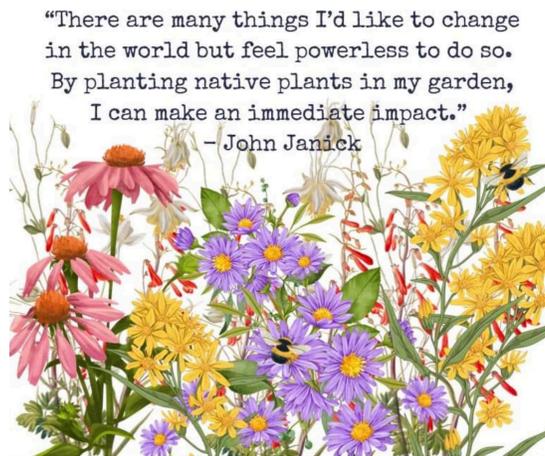
The little tomatoes are almost all finished. My one big tomato is still green. The basil was small, but delicious parsley, chives, rosemary, dill, just cut last night



**Carol Slater:**

My garden is successful in part because I plant crops that I know will produce. A fun part of my garden is sharing it with my dog, Lizzie.

She will eat any of it but particularly loves the carrots and peas. I have to keep an eye on her because she'll spot a pea pod up high and pull down the vine. Naughty girl!



**GARDENER'S  
SERENITY PRAYER**

JORD, GRANT ME THE SERENITY  
TO ACCEPT THAT I CANNOT GROW  
ALL THE PLANTS, THE PATIENCE  
TO WAIT FOR MY SEEDS TO  
SPROUT, AND THE WISDOM TO  
KNOW THE BEST TIME TO SNEAK  
ZUCCHINIS ONTO PORCHES.

AMEN.

August Word Search - Enjoy!



A felt thank you to all for the articles, photos and information offered for this newsletter.

Answer to last month's word find

NUTS

Almond	English Walnut	Palm Nut
Arceuthobium	Filbert	Peanut
Beechnut	Gabon Nut	Pecan
Black Walnut	Ginkgo	Pine Nut
Brazil Nut	Hazelnut	Pistachio
Cashew	Hickory	
Chestnut	Macadamia	

CAN'T TOUCH THIS

R L N W D V G L R C Y N C W R B C N J M  
 E H P V L K N N T V W Y Z A M R G R N K  
 G M C R X K Z J Y R P L S H O Y E L R Q  
 G R E M I F B B Q K H P R W P V M X O C  
 A M E W J C P O V P B M N D A T F X H E  
 D H R M R Y K Z U E Z O D G R G G G T N  
 H F T L F M C L R G F L A R Q K N Q R T  
 S P E M J B V R Y T A T C C C I X H E U  
 I Y B N T P I E H P S I Q V K M B N V R  
 N R U H X E L O S U E Y N R L L N J L Y  
 A A J T S F R Q C O M A E V H M R V I P  
 P C U A D N T O N M R T R X I K W R S L  
 S A J I S H L Z L N N Y F W X L L K N A  
 X N J C R F Y P N I N B C Y M P L K Q N  
 L T Y A D Z T Z W P R T F M L Q P E M T  
 F H M C R T W R G L Y H C L J L K X A G  
 H A M A B L A C K B E R R I E S O Z T N  
 K C T N A T A L P L U M F D N Q V H Y T  
 B Z T N O T A M O T E N I P U C R O P R  
 M Q W D T R N R O H T W A H K B Z C K V

- |                 |                  |                |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Acacia          | Holly            | Raspberries    |
| Agave           | Jujube Tree      | Rose           |
| Blackberries    | Locust           | Silverthorn    |
| Bougainvillea   | Natal Plum       | Spanish Dagger |
| Century Plant   | Porcupine Tomato | Winter King    |
| Crown of Thorns | Prickly Pear     |                |
| Hawthorn        | Pyracantha       |                |