



Enter the GATE of Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 1 January 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 – January 2025

Dear Fellow Garden Club Members,

Happy New Year to you All!

I hope that the coming year is a good one for all of you and for your families and loved ones. 2024 was a very good year for our garden club. We accomplished many excellent things and I know that 2025 holds much promise to be another beneficial and productive club year as well!

We have a fun meeting coming up for Wednesday January 15th, at the Denali Center Nursing Home in Fairbanks. We will be joining the residents for lunch. Soup & beverages provided by Denali Center. Sandwiches provided by our hostesses, Brenda S. and Mel S. We ask that members bring salads or soft cookies. We will have a summer flower tour slideshow presentation and play Wildflower Bingo games with the residents, along with prizes for winners. Business meeting to follow lunch. We will continue our discussion on plans for the FGC Yearbook.

Come on out and kick off the FGC New Year and bring some January cheer to the residents of the Denali Center Nursing Home.

Look forward to seeing you there,

Best Wishes,

Jane



Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS and Events



This Month's meeting

January 15, 2025 11:30 AM Regular Monthly Meeting

Address: Denali Center Nursing Home, 1510 19th Avenue

Hostess: Brenda S. Co-Hostess: Mel S. Please Phone Regrets to Brenda S.

The meeting will be a specialized Potluck - Please bring salads or soft cookies.

Denali Center is providing soup & beverages for us. Sandwiches provided by hosts.

Roll Call: What is your New Year's gardening resolution?

Horticultural Moment / Conservation Tip

Program: "Virtual Garden Tours and Members' Flowers" Powerpoint

Presentation by Fairbanks Garden Club Members

Spring Bulbs Presented to the Denali Center Green Thumb Garden Group

Wildflower Bingo Game with the Seniors

**January
Horticultural
Moment
by April S.**



Inspiring the next generation of growth

Do you remember who inspired you to grow? Was there a particular person or a place where you were first intrigued by a funky kind of plant? Maybe because the shape of the plant was odd. Or perhaps because the leaves were crazy colorful? Was it a big plant? Was it growing in the ground or in a pot? Did it produce beautiful blooms? What were the smells that you remember? Was it a plant that produced something you could eat?

I had fond memories of being in my Granny's garden when I was a kid. Their garden was just out back of the house in an area where the soil was always tilled and fluffy. It was so fun to walk barefoot in! My favorite part was when it was time to dig the potatoes. I remember digging down with my hands to find as many as I could. And despite my fingernails becoming crammed with dirt, it was the most cleansing ritual ever.

Now, I hope to inspire my own children as we grow potatoes, carrots and various other crops. It seems like no matter what else we grow, the favorite time is always when it's time to dig the potatoes or pull those carrots out of the ground. Maybe because it's so magical to finally see what has been growing for so many weeks or months. It's like the big reveal! After all, many times we only see what's on the surface and tend to forget about all the amazing things happening beneath.

Whether our next generation of kiddos or potatoes, there is always so much more to the story we see on the outside.

May we never forget to look deeper to find the real growth.



Meeting pictures and Information

December 11, 2024 Christmas Potluck and Gift Exchange



Members present: Janet B., Mary F.,
Jane G., Agnes G., Carol S., April S.,
Lucy S., Althea S., Beverly W. and
Marlene W.

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



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

Youth Poetry Contest rules link here; <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/poetry-contest.pdf>

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

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/p
hoto-contest](https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/photo-contest)



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

<https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/waconiah-issues>

KNOW YOUR LAND

2025 TALK SERIES

January

Winter 2025

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

Thursdays 6-7pm

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/>



January Birthdays:

Janet B. 16th

Betty Anne M. 16th

Carol Ann L. 18th



Indoor Plants 101 for Hydroponic Home Growers

Free Webinar

When: Wednesday, Jan. 29, 12 to 1 p.m.

Where: Zoom. Register at

<https://bit.ly/Hydroponics25>



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		

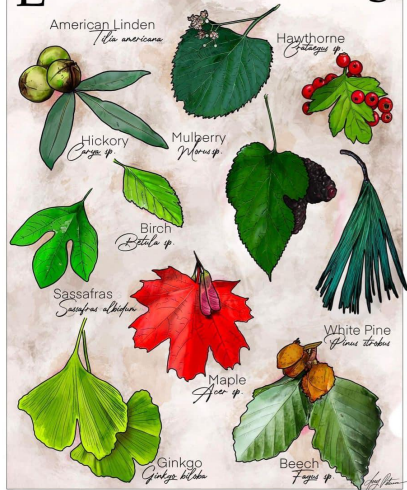
FGC is participating in **Plant America Feed America**.

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.

EDIBLE TREE LEAVES



Did You Know?



The smell of soil after rain, called petrichor, is actually caused by actinobacteria in the dirt, which release spores into the air.

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

Fairbanks Garden Club MEMBERS Sharing January 2025

1. What is your New Year's gardening resolution?
 2. What have you started for this growing season?
 3. Do you dream about this growing season while looking at your favorite seed catalogue ... tell us about it, please.
- OR/and
4. Whatever else you would like to share.

Althea shared: Janet and Charlie Brower and Althea took down the library Christmas tree. They loved our tree and had placed it in a special spot. I'm sure the FGC tree was the only one with pumpkin, tomato and carrot ornaments.

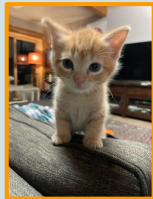
I will be experimenting with different plants in my new lasagna garden area. I hope to revive an old perennial garden. BUT, with a new puppy, all plans may change!

April shared: 1 While I don't have any resolutions, I do have a simple goal of refining my growing processes and systems.

2 I haven't started any seeds yet. Hopefully I will get my onion seeds in soil this upcoming week.

3 I've not had time to oogle over seed catalogs but I stepped inside my new mini greenhouse today and breathed in the cedar framing.

4 All that being said, the most exciting addition we have this upcoming year is our new line up of garden protectors:



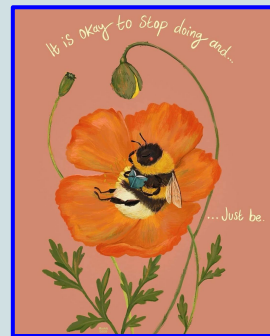
Fairbanks Garden Club MEMBERS Sharing January 2025

Mary shared: This year I resolved to water less by hand! I envision a mechanical watering system whether it's sprinklers or soaker hoses. I spend too many late night hours standing outside watering with my handheld hose and feeding mosquitoes! Granted, we have incredible sunsets and sunrises, but I barely notice them when I have to focus on watering everything, not crushing plants with the hose and surviving the aerial onslaught of those biting buggers! I haven't started anything for this year's garden, though I am overwintering several pots of geraniums, fuschias and a couple of trial possible survivors. I dream of growing lots more root crops this year as I am already out of carrots, beets and potatoes.

Amanda Shared: I hope to get the entire garden rototilled by Stump Grinders. I know it will cost money but will give me a clean slate. Well till the weeds start growing again. What i really need is more sunshine. I dream about having lots of flowers blooming in my newish flower garden area. Using cardboard and leaves to stifle the weeds is the groundwork littertily. NOW to start lots of flowers using the winter sowing method. HOPE all are doing well.

Joan shared: IN a phone conversation this morning Joan shared "Been in HI 2.5 years and still love it. Daughter and husband moved in penthouse above her and helps take where she needs to go. I do miss my AK friends. I receive news of Weeks Field community Park which still looks beautiful. The Manager of Weeks Field grew across the street from me and shares news about the park frequently On 2nd floor there is a grocery store and 3 restaurants on the frist floor. There is a .big swimming pool not many children but lots of dogs. She sees them in the elevator. Slower way of life. People are very friendly and nice. Hello and Love to all the FGC "

Sheila shared: Her mom ,Doris, enjoyed the birthday cards sent to her on her 100th birthday. Thank you to all that sent cards.



Trish Radovich,
the LUCKY winner



Marilyn was able to deliver the raffle quilt to her friend, Trish.

I flew to Oakland CA on Dec6 to visit my brother, Louis. I hand carried the quilt on board to be safe.

Dec9 my dear friend Trish R. the LUCKY winner (she didn't even buy a ticket)! Anyway we planned to spend the day together and lunch with her daughter Dana. We were at Trish's house after lunch. Dana and I made her sit down close her eyes and wait for a big surprise. It was fun! She loves the quilt and is planning to paint her bedroom blue. I made a matching pillowcase as I had extra fabric and I know the recipient well. We met in 9th grade. She was my Maid of Honor on my wedding day. I made a quilt for her daughter's college graduation.

A mutual friend, Greg H., bought the winning ticket at the Risse Greenhouse First Friday event in June. He bought a book of tickets and instructed me to put Trish's name on them. I sold the winning ticket and a dear friend won!

What a successful fundraiser! A true labor of love. Although I will say it's more fun to make the quilt than sell the tickets. A special thank you to everyone who bought and sold tickets. Mary F gets a special shout out as well as Athea and Liz for getting this started.

Thanks Marilyn for sharing the beginning and fund and sweet ending of the Quilt raffle.



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.

