

Volume 4 | Issue 10
October 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 – October 2024

Hello Everyone,

With the final plantings of garlic cultivars into the September ground, combined with general garden clean up and tidying, the gardening summer of 2024 is officially over. It was a great season for our club filled with production, some excellent garden tours, and fun meetings. In September we enjoyed our FGC Annual Club Meeting at Susie’s home. It was a very well attended meeting. We had the drawing for the winner of the quilt, our fundraising project which was a labor of love and the culmination of a year’s worth of hard work and dedication to the cause. We awarded the Smokey the Bear poster contest certificates and prizes to 2nd grader Isadora O., the daughter of our member, Dorothea O.. Liz M. received her ‘Lifetime Garden Club Member’ certificate and pin. And we received our new yearbooks for 2024-2025. We enjoyed great food and good fellowship.

As we close the chapter on one season, it is time to look forward to the activities of the winter months and the Holidays. I am looking forward to another successful year keeping our dedication to community projects, events, and new initiatives on membership and fundraising efforts. The holiday season can be a fun filled time with family & friends, but it can also be a time of hardship and struggle for many. I challenge all FGC members to continue with your efforts to donate food to the community in keeping with our National Garden Club’s ‘Plant America Feed



America' (PAFA) program. Please keep track of any foods you donate on our tracking PAFA forms and get those turned into Althea each month.



We have a fun afternoon planned for our regular meeting this month, taking place this coming Wednesday, October 16th. The meeting is at April's home up on Skyline Drive. It is a potluck with a 'Fall Harvest' theme. Mary Fenno will be presenting a program on "Wintering Over Perennials". I still have some yearbooks to hand out to those members who could not make it to the September meeting. So, this is a great opportunity to come to the meeting and pick up your copy and enjoy a bountiful fall harvest luncheon with good friends.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this Wednesday 😊 .

Best Wishes, Jane

Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS and Events

This Month's meeting

October 16, 2024 12:00 Noon Regular Monthly Meeting



Hostess: April S. Co-Hostess: Althea S.

see Jane's email for directions Phone regrets to April

Roll Call: What plants do you overwinter?

Horticultural Moment / Conservation Tip

Program: "Wintering Over Perennials" with Mary F

Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful' and sitting in the shade.

~ Rudyard Kipling

October Horticultural Moment

by April

Food Forests

Several years ago I stumbled upon the concept of a Food Forest. The basic idea is that you deliberately design a growing space that mimics the layers found in a forest. Think taller fruit trees, bushier honey berry bushes, lower strawberries.

It is perennial focused thereby making it a lower maintenance way to grow food. Growing plants that produce edibles as well as support pollinators are key. These can include fruit trees, nuts, berries, veggies and herbs. It is completely scalable, appealing to both urban and rural environments.

If you think of the attributes of a forest, it will become self-sustaining once it is established. No watering, no weeding and potentially no fertilizing if you can strategically design it to organically



decompose and feed itself. To make it successful you must work with, not against your land, your climate and your eating habits. It can be a very personalized food source. No two will look the same.

In an effort to encourage more people to grow food for themselves, the food forest revolution is becoming a popular option for people to do their small part to produce food rather than relying on big commercial production and massive transportation of our groceries. A true, local, homegrown effort!

When we moved to our property in 2018, I started our food forest that was carved out of a forest that had been hydroaxed. It is a long way from looking like a forest, but the plants I've put in the ground so far are in various stages of production. My current inventory includes: apple, plum, cherry, apricot, Saskatoon, haskaps, currants (black, red, golden), gooseberry, grapevine, asparagus, horseradish, strawberries, raspberries, nagoon berries, rhubarb, chives, Russian onion, chamomile, catmint, fiddlehead fern, Angelica giga, anise hyssop. I still want to add sea buckthorn and blackberries. I love the challenge of finding the varieties that will survive in our climate. And if I do it right, my food forest will feed people for many years.

Overwintering fuchsia and geranium

The contained plant can be overwintered in any dark, cool place that is 40°F and frost-free. The soil must not be allowed to dry out.

Bring the plant indoors before the first frost is expected. Pruning the plant back prior to overwintering will reestablish a centrally located area for new growth. This will result in the formation of a full, compact plant when growth resumes. Remove all the green and red stems, leaving the tan hardwood. Remove all the leaves. Water to keep the plant slightly moist but not wet during the winter.

Early next spring, perhaps as early as mid- to late February, new growth should start appearing. When this happens, increase moisture and return it to the growing conditions the plant prefers (increased light and warmer temperatures). When new growth starts, it will often produce single stem branches. If left to continue, this would result in a sparse, leggy plant. Pinching the growing tips early will promote branching, and the result will be a plant that fills and covers the container.

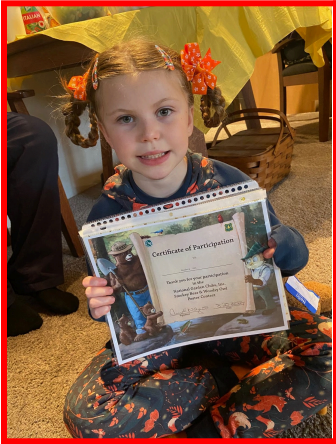
There are various ways to overwinter geranium. One method is to pull plants from the garden and remove as much soil as possible. Hang the plants in a cool location upside down in a plastic bag with holes and wet peat moss. They can also be left in the pot and treated like fuchsia.

**September's Overwintering
Geranium and Fuchsia**
(screenshot of information from
UAF Coop Extension [handout](#).)



September 18, 2024 FGC meeting pictures and notes:

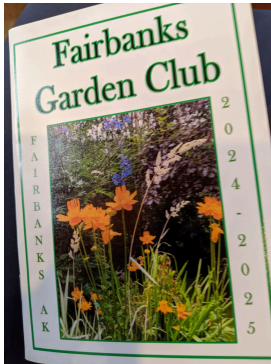
Members Attending: Marilyn B, Janet B, Susie C, Mary F, Jane G, Agnes G, Becky H, Patty K, Liz Mi, Dorthea O, Amanda R, Brenda S, April S, Lucy S, Althea S, Beverly W, Marlene W,, by Zoom Barbara H and guests Ellis O. and Isadora O.



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/duPvvtbQAkdyWrXeZ>



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/qnVixNtFMCFDqwt6Z>

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/oaNuZKuqoAtgkjkjK9>

January 17, 2024 Denali Center Lunch meeting pictures

Denali Center Nursing Home

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

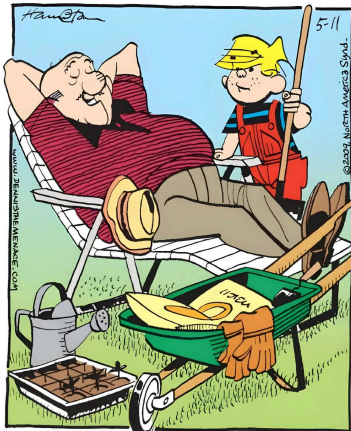
link to google album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/8vBvrKygsD5xmw7N9>

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/NUzqAKcUaZ2gL3GA>



"AHH, THIS IS MY KIND OF GARDENING...
PLANTING YOURSELF IN A LAWN CHAIR."

National Garden Clubs



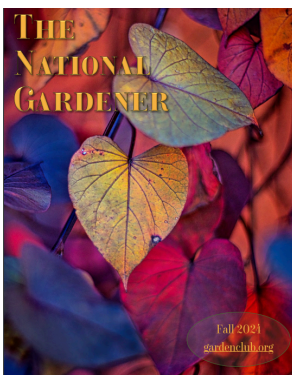
Brenda Moore, NGC President
Theme for 2023-2025 is

"Go Green-Plant America".

<https://gardenclub.org/>



NGC president, Brenda Moore cutting the ribbon on Paving the Way.



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/sites/default/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:

Now is the time to start planning for the 2024-2025 Contest for 4th -8th grade students with a local garden club sponsor. This contest encourages students to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment. The contest begins at the club level first, so schools in your districts, including Virtual and Home schools will need the contest information. The contest rules are on the NGC website under Youth Contests. Download the information and the Entry Form from the NGC website.

Send to your state chairman by your State Deadline. The winning State entries at each grade level then advance to the Pacific Region Chairman, before February 1, 2025.

Please follow the rules in the Information on the NGC Website. The actual sculptures are NOT sent, only the form with the Photos: 4 by 6" on the back of the entry form. We look forward to seeing all the creative entries. Excitement from the students is contagious. Our youth are the future, so let's get them involved.

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



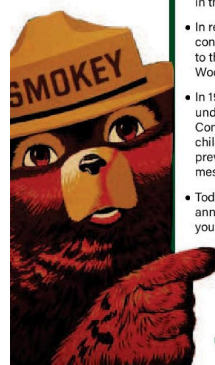
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest HISTORY



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 Forest 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.



- 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 Gardening 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.

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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 (August 2024) [see link below:](#)

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/a2be4215-dd41-4740-9844-4e781966e01c/downloads/Aug24.pdf?ver=1723164097854>



PRGC PHOTO FUNDRAISER

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

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



FGC Raffle in full swing: Quilt drawing: Liz M. reports that she and Althea S. counted 630 tickets sold and all are in the tumbler. Liz displayed the Gaming Permit which is up to date. Carol S. bought the tumbler and donated it to the club. Patty K. reached in and retrieved a ticket. Trish R. (seem minutes for the full name) of California is the winner of the Quilt Raffle. The sewer of the quilt, Marilyn B, says



she knows her. FGC will pay to mail the quilt to Trish. The proceedings were filmed. The tickets sold raised \$2,595.00. To the right is Marilyn calling her friend that won the quilt.



October Birthdays:

Lisa W. 10/19
Amanda R. 10/27
Carol S. 10/30



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.

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.

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

Fairbanks Garden Club Members Sharing

The request this month, **October** is the following:

1. What would you plan to do differently for the next growing season?
Or/And
2. What plants to do over winter?
Or/And
3. Whatever else you would like to share.. health concerns, fall/winter traveling plans, etc.

April S:

2025! I'm so excited for the next growing season. I have refinements to make.

I just finished my harvest records and I'm going to brag!

Last year we grew and harvested over 300 lbs of food from our high tunnel. This year we hit over 450 lbs!

We put away so much food this year for our family...getting closer to our goal to raise enough food to feed our family for a year.

Additionally, we were able to sell enough to pay for next year's seeds as well as to donate some as well.

So, what did we grow?

Here are the highlights just from the high tunnel.

Corn - 105 ears

Tomatoes - 106 lbs

Cucumbers - 140 lbs

Zucchini - 147 lbs

Green Beans - 37 lbs

Pumpkins - 8 tiny and 1 18.6 lb Cinderella

Basil - 5 gallons

Anise hyssop - 1 gallon

Rosemary - 9 plants to overwinter!



Liz M: My plans for next year.... Garden less travel more!! I did plant over 300 garlic cloves this fall (5 different cultivars.)

I plan to see how a sage plant overwinters (inside of course!). I don't know how it will do as a house plant.

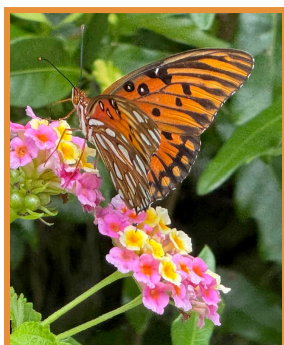
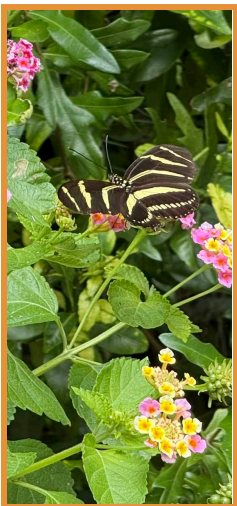


Also I plan to bring Adenium ("Desert Rose") seeds to the meeting on Wednesday if anyone wants to try growing them. They were featured in an article " Growing Adenium". in the National Gardening newsletter sent out last week. These are from Florida. My sister in law starts them from seed and sells them in Florida.

Marilyn B A mini rose that was a birthday gift last March and a stargazer lily gift from Dennis Rogers. Finally I pulled up my annual flowers Friday. Climate change.

Mary F. Next year I plan to transform much of my strawberry hill to garden boxes so I have just one fenced garden area. I dismantled my smaller garden area and am getting three big spruce trees taken out of there as they're starting to lean toward the house! I will encourage the cranberries growing nearby to take over that open space. Below the house I plan to clear the grass and delphiniums and plant several apple trees to maintain the stability of the hill. I also need to clear all the tall grass and keep a perimeter cleared around the entire house for fire safety. We've been very lucky for several years now, but probably, sooner than later, we're going to have a bad fire year and I want to be as prepared as possible for it!

Thanks for all the work you do on the newsletter! Take care! Mary



Sheila M: In Florida helping mom. We are fine, lots of debris in the yard but had some neighbors come and help clear that up. Feeling homesick for AK but these butterflies are helping.

Amanda R I need to do something different!! I plan on making raised rows for the cold weather crops next growing season and use the correct fertilizer. I hope to over winter Rosemary and lavender (always lose the lavender that I grow all summer when I bring them into the

house... why?? I am also going to try overwintering geraniums. THANKS April for your timely horticultural moment last month.

Denise B:

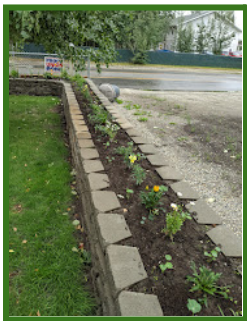
September Update on Denise B.'s new flower bed area thanks to her husband's hard work:

<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>



GARDENING

It grounds us... gets us out
of our busy heads and
back into our bodies.
Alone there on our knees,
we can breathe.
With our nurturing hands
duly occupied, while
gardening we allow
ourselves the time & space
to truly feel peace, pride,
satisfaction, joy.



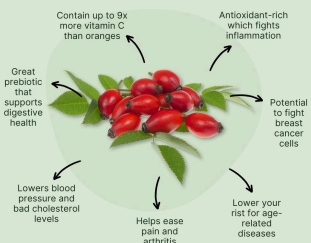
Fairbanks Garden Club Committees and Chairs:

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.

Anti-Aging Benefits of Rosehips



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

