



# Enter the GATE of Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 4 April 2025

“Cultivating Community  
Connections”

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



FGC Officers 2023-2024

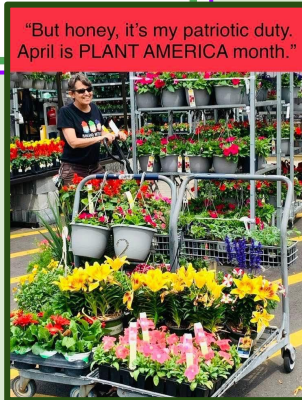
President:  
Jane G.

Vice President:  
Mary F.

Secretary  
Janet B.

Treasurer:  
Carol S.

Past FGC Presidents:  
Barbara H.  
Susie C.  
Amanda R.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – March 2025

Greetings Fellow Club Members,

**The birds are back at Creamer's Field! The Trumpeter Swans, the Sandhill Cranes, geese, ducks, and more!** I think it is now safe to say that Springtime has officially sprung in the glorious Interior 😊. Our Fairbanks Garden Club is thriving and is all geared up for another excellent summer of "Cultivating Community Connections". Kicking off the season on projects, the 'Community Beautification & Outreach Committee', headed up by Carol S., recently gathered at the Hospice Greenhouse to plant lobelia plugs to later be used for Raven Landing hanging baskets and for our Blue Star Memorial. Members: Janet M, Althea St. M, Mary F., and Liz M. joined in and helped and all had an enjoyable time. Kicking off the season on events, we have the upcoming 'Spring Migration Celebration at Creamer's Field'. The club will have tables set up and manned throughout the day, with our popular children's seed game, free prizes, and club information. And for something new, our wonderful member, Lisa W., will be offering children's face painting. This event takes place on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 o'clock. Come and join the fun at Creamers.

We are looking forward to a nice meeting at noon on Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup> at Sheila's home in North Pole. Sheila is preparing us a delicious Veggie Chili. This is a potluck and so please bring any complimentary dish you would like. **We have Tom Zimmer this month as our guest speaker from Calypso Farm and Ecology Center.** The theme of his presentation is **"25 Years: Still Growing Food and Community"**. Tom is excited to join us and speak to our club. I am excited to see all the members who will be able to attend. Important club information will be shared and a good time will be had by all!

Best Wishes      Jane

# Fairbanks Garden Club NEWS and Events

## This Month's meeting

**April 16, 2025**

**12:00 Noon Regular Monthly Meeting**

Hostess: Sheila M. Co-Hostess: April S. **Potluck**

**Home of Sheila see Jane's email meeting reminder for directions**

Please Phone Regrets to Sheila:

**Roll Call: What will you do this coming summer to support pollinators or conservation in your garden?**

**Pay dues of \$20, Please!**

**Horticultural Moment / Conservation Tip**

**Program: "25 Years: Still Growing Food and Community"**

**Tom Zimmer this month as our guest speaker**

**from Calypso Farm and Ecology Center.**

<https://calypsofarm.org>

**Pacific Region Convention April 28-30, 2025 Wyndham Phoenix Airport / Tempe Hotel, Tempe, Arizona "Wild & Water Wise"**

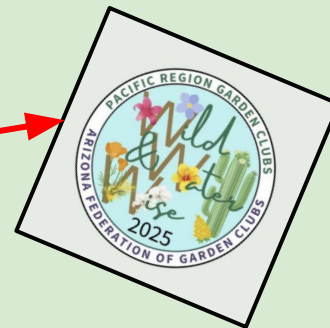


www.gardenthoughtfully.com

**"In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water. And the best way to do that? Plant Native Plants."**

**Doug Tallamy,**  
*from "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard"*

**Earth laughs in flowers. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson**



# March Horticultural Moment by April S.



Do you care about the **COLOR** of food you grow..and eat?

Well, you should. Each plant comes with its own set of nutrients. And of those nutrients, each one performs some pretty amazing functions for your body.

My latest curiosity has been about purple foods. Purple foods contain anthocyanins. And these anthocyanins have numerous health benefits to include enhancing your immune system, reducing inflammation, lowering heart disease risk, controlling blood sugar levels, improved digestion and brain health! **Which is exactly why I feel smarter after researching and starting to eat something purple every day! See, it works ;-)**

But in all seriousness, we know that a variety of foods are good for us. And sometimes, it's even better when we know why. If you want to know more about the specifics, you can dig into the linked article. But if you want to just dig in..think about finding ways to incorporate **purple foods** into your daily menu. Some to consider are blueberries, honey berries, blackberries, purple cabbage, grapes, eggplant, purple potatoes, beets...thick purple skin or purple flesh. I also included a link with some more ideas to try.

<https://themicrogardener.com/health-benefits-eating-growing-purple-foods/>  
<https://www.health.com/purple-foods-8761782>



# FGC March 19, 2025

Pioneer Hall in Pioneer Park

Members present: Marilyn B, Janet B, Mary F, Jane G, Patty K, Liz M, Sheila M, Millie P, Brenda S, April S, Lisa W, Beverly W, Marlene W.



The baked potato buffet was provided by Lisa W. and a variety of foil wrapped perfect potatoes were from Marilyn's garden. Members added side dishes to complete our feast.



**FGC March 19, 2025**  
**Pioneer Hall in Pioneer Park**

## **Program: “Compost Tea” with Lisa W.**

Compost tea is a liquid natural fertilizer to make plants thrive. The two kinds are aerated, which Lisa tried, and non-aerated which requires stirring daily.

Her recipe is 3 cups of high quality compost in 5 gallons of non-chlorinated water, add 1 - 2 tablespoons of unsulphured molasses. Let set for 24 hours at 75 – 90 degrees F. Strain, dilute 1 part to 5 parts water, and use by spraying on plant foliage or near the roots. Compost tea must be used within 6 hours and not on food near harvest time. Lisa said she had temperature issues at first, but her 3<sup>rd</sup> try was successful.

Susie C. sent this recipe

This recipe was given to me in 1971 by Mrs. Legg, an Italian woman in her 80's, who owned a farm in Maple Valley, Washington. Enjoy!

## **Rhubarb Coffee Cake**

1 1/2 cups light brown sugar

1/2 c. butter

1 c. buttermilk ( you can use 1 c. milk with 2 Tbsp. vinegar)

2 cups flour

1 . baking soda

2 cups fresh or frozen rhubarb cut into 1/2 inch lengths

1/4 cup cinnamon sugar combo

Cream the butter and sugar. Alternatively add the buttermilk and flour with baking soda.

Stir in rhubarb. Spread the batter into a 9X13" buttered pan. Sprinkle on cinnamon sugar. Bake for 40 minutes at 350 degrees.



**April 5, 2025 Let the planting begin... FUN!**



**Althea, Janet M,  
Carol S. and Liz P.  
Planting of Lobelia  
at the Hospice  
greenhouse on  
Turner Street  
Saturday.**



**Carol, Liz, Althea, and Liz**







**More fun....  
April 5, 2025**





# NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB

Brenda Moore, NGC President

Theme for 2023-2025 is

**“Go Green–Plant America”**

<https://gardenclub.org/>

**View the Spring 2025 Issue of The National Gardener Here!**

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

[https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/tng-winter-2025\\_0.pdf](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>.

## SCHOOLS & RELATED PROGRAMS

1. Landscape Design School
2. Gardening School
3. Flower Show School
4. Environmental School – was sponsored by NGC during this administration
5. Symposiums & Refreshers
6. 4- Star Programs & 5-Star program

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



## 7. Webinars



- “Going Green - Problems with and getting away from single use plastics.”
- “Hanging of the Greens” –Williamsburg decorating tips
- “Green yards - planting for pollinators and wildlife”
- “Dark Skies – the dangers of light pollution”
- “Going green for the holidays – Eco friendly Floral Design”
- “Go Green – Feed America” How Garden Clubs are helping to eliminate food insecurities

Membership Mondays zoom at 1:00 pm EST, EDT, on the first Monday of the month. Last one for this administration is in April

## NGC Store

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

### 9. Youth Books:

- *The Frightened Frog*
- *The Saved Seed*
- *Network with Nature*
- *My Green is Gone*

### 10. Books



## 11. Fun Plant America Accessories



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



## Publications



- 12. *The National Gardener*
- 13. *NGC Blogs*
- 14. *Newsletters*

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



**GO GREEN  
PLANT AMERICA**

## GRANTS

15. Plant America Community Grants
16. Natural Disasters Grants
17. Wildflower/Native Plant Education Grants
18. Youth Pollinator Grants
19. Sponsor Grants
20. Ames

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



**What National Garden Club has to offer YOU!**

President Brenda Moore spoke at the last Membership Monday event.



# Youtube video about Garden Club Membership

**Membership Monday March 2025 Virtual Clubs and Hybrid Meetings-** Welcome to the Wonderful

World of Online clubs - an exploration of creating a virtual club and the ins and outs of hybrid meetings.

**Membership Monday Feb 2025 Tools and Tips for Membership-**

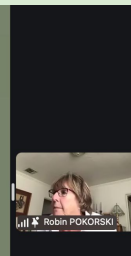
## Some tools for increasing membership



1. Have fun!
2. Have food!
3. Dynamic speakers / varied programs
4. Have no drama
5. Efficient business meetings
6. Diversity of activities/projects
7. Create community
8. Keep it simple!

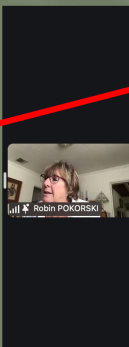


9. Create a welcoming atmosphere
10. Wear name badges at every meeting/event
11. Follow-up with visitors, guests, new members
12. Sponsor an NGC school
13. Keep a finger on the pulse of the members
14. Active social media content
15. Commit to a membership drive
16. Yard-of-the-Month program

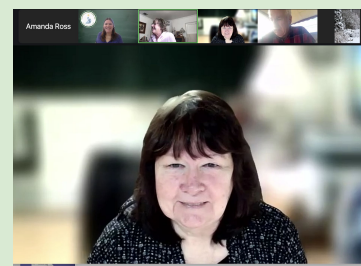


25. Make sure everyone is having **FUN!!!**

**Thanks Robin and your team for Membership Mondays**



17. Outreach – to everyone, everywhere
18. "Tabling" at community events
19. Mentorship
20. Brand your club
21. Introduce guests & invite them back
22. Guest/new member information packets
23. Honor outstanding community members with awards
24. Public events



**Thanks Becky and team for the wonderful trivia questions before each Membership Monday talk.**

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

## WACONIAH

Current Issue **February 2025**

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/a2be4215-dd41-4740-9844-4e781966e01c/downloads/405a80b0-c02e-4e36-b5b9-cbbc04858e0c/Feb25.pdf?ver=174066765338415-dd41-4740-9844-4e781966e01c/downloads/33be4757-3bd6-4148-b62c-c70f8457a70b/Nov24.pdf?ver=1732208023799>

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



## Pacific Region Conventions

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



Link to the PRGC Convention  
<https://azgardenclubs.com/conventions/>





**WHERE MOUNTAINS  
AND RIVERS MEET**

**Alaska Garden Clubs  
66<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
Thursday, June 19, 2025**

**Hosted by the Greater Eagle River Garden Club  
Joy Lutheran Church, 10111 Eagle River Loop Rd**

**2025 Alaska State Convention.**

**The convention is June 19, 2025 – Thursday.**

**The location is Joy Lutheran Church, Eagle River, AK.**

**AK Garden Clubs convention registration  
link:**

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgzQZTgXBLkMtmfJILSwjXgdTJVCm?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

## **Alaska Garden Clubs 2023-2025**

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

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

**AKGC**

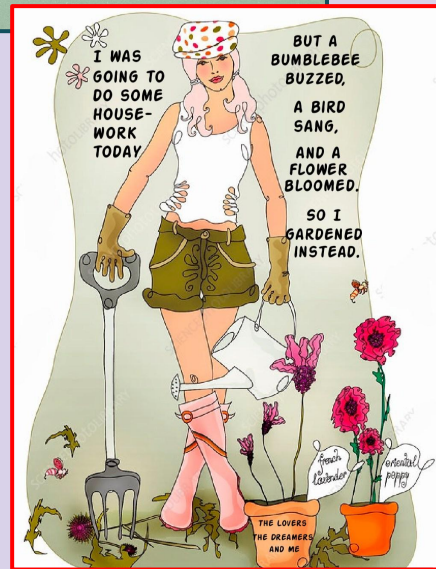
**Website:** <https://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/>

**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/>

April Birthdays:  
Stephanie S. 4/02  
April S. 4/12  
Liz M. 4/15





# Plant America Feed America

## Fairbanks Garden Club

Food Donation Tracker for \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Circle Item donate	Name	Contact #
		estimated weight	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 April 2025

1. What will you do this coming summer to support pollinators or conservation in your garden?
2. Do you use worm castings to enrich your plants' soil?
3. Whatever else you would like to share.

**Liz M.** We always plant some buckwheat for the pollinators. I also let some of my broccoli go to flower and I don't pull the bok choy when it bolts and let flowers stay. We also plant sunflowers in each corner of the garden. Although I don't specifically use worm castings. I did have a red worm colony going last year and dumped a bunch of the red worms in my compost pile. I always find some worms when using the broad fork in the garden.

**Millie P.** My pond is breeding ground for dragonflies.

**Amanda R.:** Hope to plant lots of flowers for the bees and other insects. I will have a watering place for bees, etc.

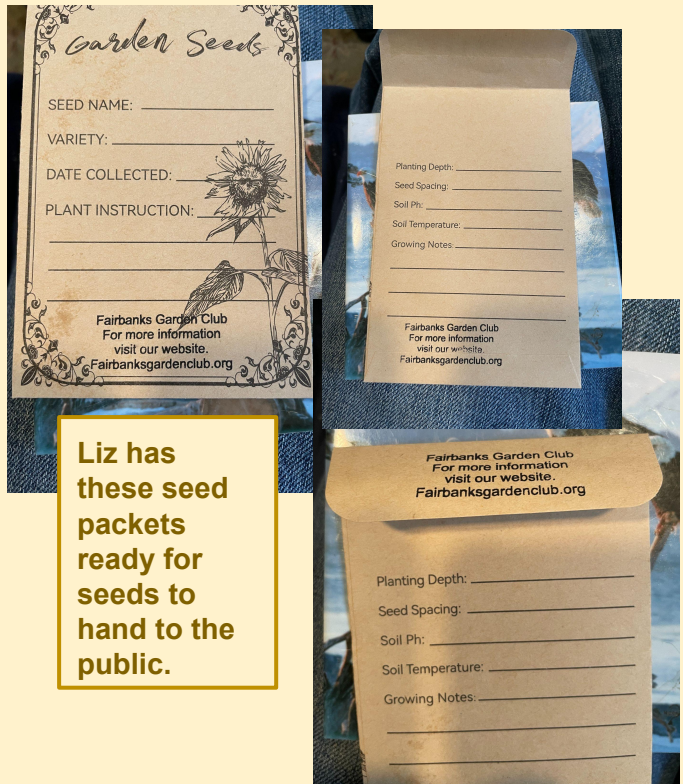


Janet B.'s garden so far.



# Getting ready for 'Spring Migration Celebration at Creamer's Field'

Kicking off the season on events, we have the upcoming 'Spring Migration Celebration at Creamer's Field'. The club will have tables set up and manned throughout the day, with our popular children's seed game, free prizes, and club information. And for something new, our wonderful member, Lisa Wendler, will be offering children's face painting. This event takes place on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 o'clock. Come and join the fun at Creamers.



Liz has these seed packets ready for seeds to hand to the public.

# LET YOUR GARDEN BE THE ART YOU LIVE AMONG



Late Lilac



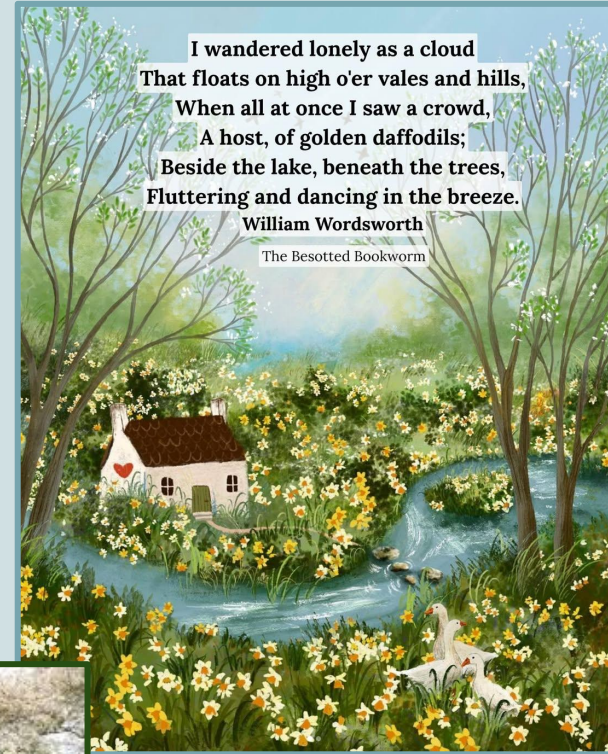
Amur Maple



I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

William Wordsworth

The Besotted Bookworm



Serviceberry tree

Just a heads up to mark your calendars for Saturday May 17th, 9 am - noon. GVEA will be doing its annual Tree Giveaway. The Fairbanks giveaway location is their campus parking lot off of Illinois Street. This year's trees are: Late Lilac, Amur Maple, and Serviceberry.

Arbor Day in Alaska falls on May 15th this year. Planting a tree can be a good club-wide effort in the spirit of Arbor Day:) Best Wishes. Jane

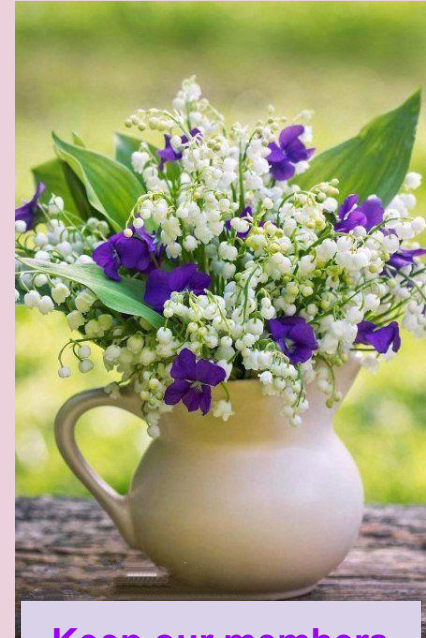


# FGC Committee Chairs

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.



**Keep our members  
in your thoughts  
and prayers.  
Thanks to all that  
contributed to the  
newsletter.. Enjoy**