

January 2015



PO Box 767 · Kenai, Alaska 99611 · www.cenpengardenclub.org



January 13th Program

Agriculture to Art

Presenter Lee Coray-Ludden, President of the AK Natural Fiber Business

Lee and others in our local fiber group, have worked to raise the awareness of growing various fiber producing animals, fiber products, and the unique processes involved. She will enlighten us about the **local group's diversity, the role growing animal feed** of all kinds plays in the quality of the fiber, group activities such as at their booth at the Ninilchik Fair, dyeing workshops and their annual Fiber Festival in April. She will also bring fiber examples to pass around and one of her little kids.... not to pass around.



Some of Lee Coray-Ludden's fiber producing goats. We'll hear more about them on the 13th.

Board Members

President & Program Chair & Newsletter— Marion Nelson

Vice president—Renae Wall

Secretary—Kay Gardner

Treasurer—Peggy Morris

Plant sale Chair, Director & Historian—Cathy Haas

Director & Hospitality Chair—
Juanita Owens

Director & Tech & Sea Ag
Committee Chair—
Don St. John

Director & Publicity—
Velma Bittick

Director & Special Events
Chair—Cindy Barnes

Director, Special Events—Don
Thompson

Director, Special Events—Lee
Bowman

Lee sez the Alaska Natural Fiber Business Association has a focus on 'Agriculture to Art' which means producing fiber as well as producing a finished and marketable product. Our membership includes fiber producers, gardeners, hay producers, fiber artists and crafts persons, we are a diverse group. Many of our members are also gardeners, raise chickens and produce food for themselves and their livestock. One excellent feed that grows well in gardens is comfrey and makes an excellent food supplement for ruminants and poultry. Many root crops also do well as a livestock food supplement. As you clean your produce for the market or processing, the fresh, outer leaves are welcomed by most goats and sheep. Fodder is becoming popular for livestock from horses to chickens. Also some plants common to the garden or field make good natural dyes for fibers.

Lee sends out the monthly Fiber Rovings for the group with current information that also includes fiber, weaving or spinning equipment for sale or trade and animal information. **It's a good read.** She will share a power point with us on the 13th. Come early for best parking.

Location: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Assn. Bldg., Mile 16.5 K-Beach Road • Time: 7pm
Refreshments, and sometimes door prizes! Help with refreshments if you can.

**January 13th, 6:50 pm
—Brief Annual Meeting—**

Prior to the 7 pm monthly program for membership approval of the 2015 Budget and Board of Directors election.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION
3-year terms, 2015 through 2017
Four openings to be elected by the membership. Four candidates presented by the nominating committee:

Della Bridenburg—CPGC volunteer
Lee Bowman—incumbent
Renae Wall—incumbent
Velma Bittick—incumbent

2014 Board Members

Marion Nelson
Renae Wall
Kay Gardener
Peggy Morris
Cathy Haas
Juanita Owens
Don St. John
Velma Bittick
Cindy Barnes
Don Thompson
Lee Bowman

Please get your dues in for 2015 to keep your name active on our roster and contacts list.

Please fill out a membership form to verify phone and email information. Form available: www.cenpengardenclub.org/membership

2014 December Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance:	\$ 18,200.47
Income:	
Dues:	\$ 395.00
Reimburse from 4-H	\$ 500.00
Donation	\$ 60.00
Newsletter Ad	\$ 300.00
Expenses:	
Tax Exempt Card	\$ (10.00)
Program Gift Card	\$ (25.00)
Ending Balance:	\$ 19,420.47

Submitted by Peggy Morris, Treasurer

2015 Proposed Budget

	Income	Expense	Net
Dues	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00
Plant Sale	\$2,300.00	(\$250.00)	\$2,050.00
Sea-Ag	\$5,500.00	(\$3,600.00)	\$1,900.00
Newsletter Ads	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Workshop Weekends	\$1,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	\$0.00
Monthly Programs	\$500.00	(\$1,500.00)	(\$1,000.00)
Printing	\$0.00	(\$800.00)	(\$800.00)
Historian	\$0.00	(\$50.00)	(\$50.00)
Hospitality	\$0.00	(\$300.00)	(\$300.00)
Technical Equipment	\$0.00	(\$400.00)	(\$400.00)
T-shirts	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$225.00
Misc	\$200.00	(\$100.00)	\$100.00
*Business Expenses	\$0.00	(\$1,600.00)	(\$1,600.00)
**Sponsorships	\$0.00	(\$2,525.00)	(\$2,525.00)
***Special Events/Projects	<u>\$800.00</u>	<u>(\$3,000.00)</u>	<u>(\$2,200.00)</u>
	\$15,125.00	(\$15,125.00)	\$0.00

*Business expenses: PO Box Rent \$134, Chamber dues \$265, Web Hosting \$300, Storage Unit \$660, CIAA Planting \$100, Office Supplies \$80

**Sponsorships: Fair \$500 + \$200 Youth Awards, Birding Festival \$275, Youth Container Project \$500, Peninsula Ag Forum \$200, Local Foods Week \$200, Youth Poster Contest \$250, Tustamena School Garden Project \$400

***Special event: Home Show Booth \$940, Spring "Get Ready" Event \$495

**Thank you Don
Thompson for your
service on the board
for the past three
years!**



Will's Rambling

Hemp —by Will Hightower

I voted “for” hemp in the last election. I wish that I had voted “No.” Having legalized hemp may cause me problems.

Hemp has been an Ag crop for thousands of years. It is a worldwide “weed” that is easy to grow. The Vikings made ropes from hemp fiber, maybe they chewed too much on their mooring lines and that caused them to go wild? Actually they were motivated merchants. You too, might be motivated to stay away from home if you had the living conditions of “middle ages” northern Europe.

The first twenty five years of my life, I traveled through Grundy Center, Iowa, time after time. Just west of town was an abandoned factory. I asked my dad what the factory had made. He said that rope had been made there during the Second World War. I asked him why the factory was no longer in operation. The answer was that hemp had been used to make the ropes and it was illegal to grow hemp now.

Hemp, a renewable material, used to defeat the evil forces of the world, was now illegal to grow because someone said it was? (Well, I guess, yellow plastic rope made from oil would have won the war quicker?)

When Monti and I moved to Nebraska we had a farmer neighbor who had a large “weed” patch, all hemp, down by the creek. The cows would not clean it up as the plants were too tough and stringy. Claus asked me if I would help cut and burn the plants. Sure! I spent all day walking through thick clouds of “weed” smoke. The only thing I got was hot and sweaty.

After retiring, my dad moved to Alaska and opened a gun shop north of Seward. Dad liked to do some gardening. There was a shop sign out next to the highway with a flower bed under the sign. One year there appeared a lacy little plant. Dad thought the beautifully leaved plant added a nice touch to the flower bed arrangement. (We snickered, knowing what it was.) One day one of his customers mentioned that the little plant was hemp. I didn't know that the old man could still move that fast!

Most people do not understand that to make hemp into something other than rope takes the correct genetics, the right growing conditions, correct processing, and a lot of work. You just don't pick a leaf or whatever, roll it and set it afire. (I'm just waiting for Monti to decide she wants to try spinning and weaving some hemp).

The reason I don't want hemp to be legal is that it then would once again, become an Ag crop. I am involved through the USDA in a farm finance program and I do not want to have to deal with the crazies on both sides of the hemp issue. “Hey man, I need some bread to grow some weed.”

Hagar, you and I are just victims of history.



Got a story or photos to share?

Contact Marion Nelson, 283-4632 or
mmkn@ptialaska.net

Advertising space available at very
 reasonable prices!

Check out the club's Face Book page!

Newsletter layout by Becky Holloway and Pam Voeller

December 9th CPGC Program Review

We were fortunate to have PHD author, historian, KPC instructor and fellow CPGC member Jane Haigh as our guest speaker. Jane has written and co-authored several history books on Alaskans, but the topic of this evening was a very notable woman- Fannie Quigley based on her book, "Searching for Fannie Quigley."

Jane told us about the 20 years of research for her book on Fannie, a pioneer woman who lived in the shadows of Mt. McKinley, in the Kantishna area. Fannie had several mining claims, ran trap lines, had fantastic gardens and even had a kitchen restaurant that served mostly miners passing through the area.

Jane told how Fannie carried top soil up from the creek beds below to set up her higher elevation (1900 ft) garden beds, and how she drove her dog team 15 miles to gather wood for heat and cooking, as there were no trees in the area of her homesteads. Fannie had many tiered, raised beds supported with stones on her sloped location plus cold frames near the cabin door. She also had a large underground root cellar to store vegetables and game meat. She not only grew veggies, but also had lots of flowers. From the pictures Jane has in her book, we could see that Fannie grew rhubarb, carrots, kale, cabbage, lettuce and probably broccoli. At one point, she developed a second garden location on Bear Creek to grow corn.

From her research, Jane deduced that Fannie probably ended her gardening about 1939 (she lived from 1870-1944), and she was found in her cabin in 1944, most likely dying alone in the last cabin she lived in, which was built by the Park Service near the Moose Creek airstrip. This is not located in the rugged Kantishna area she lived most of her life but where she spent her final years.

Many questions were asked about Fannie's mining claims, if she profited from them, the number of cabins she lived in, types of gardens she had, and I personally wonder where she got her seeds or starts to begin her gardens in this remote area?

Thank you, Jane for a very enjoyable, interesting and informative presentation.

Submitted by CPGC volunteer, Donna Endresen

(Jane Haigh's books are available at the KPC book store, River City books or Amazon)

Save the date!

The **2015 Alaska Botanical Garden Spring Conference** dates have been set.

Please mark **April 10th and 11th** on your calendar for our keynote speaker and annual meeting on Friday night, with more from the keynote and various workshops on Saturday, at a location TBA. More information about speakers, venue, and registration coming very soon!

alaskabg.org or [\(907\) 770-3692](tel:9077703692)

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Upcoming CPGC Events & Volunteer Opportunities!

Volunteers Needed & Appreciated! *2015 Committees Forming in January

It's your club...Help with a committee or event! Most are just once a year events.

-Newsletter: Editor, or share pictures, articles on local gardening topics.. Contact Marion mmkn@ptialaska.net

-Event booth staffing & decorating: Home Show in April, Ninilchik Fair in August. Contact Cindy Barnes, alaskancindy@yaho.com or 262-1395

-Workshop Weekends in May. Arranging workshops, presenters, and venues. Contact Marion mmkn@ptialaska.net

-Program Committee: Meets occasionally. Contact Marion, mmkn@ptialaska.net

-Publicity Volunteer: Email publicity information to the media. Contact Marion Nelson, 283-4632

-Hospitality Committee: Help at the registration desk for program meetings or certain special events, greeting, taking memberships etc, room set up, refreshments, clean up. Contact Juanita Owens, samowens0969@yahoo.com or (318) 557 -9876.

-Co-Videographer/photographer for programs and workshops: Contact Linda Dunn, lindadunn78@gmail.com or 283-7857.

-Tech committee: Power Point programs and mike set up for pro- grams, occasional workshops. Contact Don St. John, 398- 4474.

-Sea Ag Fertilizer Fundraiser: Order & Pick-up help, March-May delivery day. Contact Don St. John, 398-4474.

-Summer Garden Tours committee. Coordinate local garden tours during June, July, August. Contact Marion 283-4632

-June through September: Weekly summer flower bed maintenance and clean up at the Aquaculture Bldg. Light weeding and some planting. The entrance area plantings are a thank you to CIAA for meeting room use throughout the year. We appreciate their valuable meeting space contribution. Contact Peggy Morris, 262-8374.

-Face book administrator. Approve/deny requests to join the club's group page. Contact Marion mmkn@ptialaska.net

-Occasional guest speaker lodging or local transportation: Great opportunity for expert information. Contact Marion, 283-4632.

Programs & Events

Jan 13, Gardening/Farming & Fiber Animals & Brief Annual meeting, election of 2015 Board and budget approval.

Jan X Workshop -TBA

Feb 10 & 11, Arthur Keyes of Glacier Valley Farms, Amy Petit of Dept of Ag. Farm and Farmer's Market Development.

March 10 TBA

March-May, Sea Ag Fertilizer Fundraiser Sales. Contact Don St. John 398-4474

March 21st -Saturday, Get Ready for Spring Round Table Event – Kenai Visitor Center

March 28-29, Home Show Booth April, TBA May, Workshops June, July, August, Summer Garden Tours

April 14 TBA

May TBA

Check out Seedwise.com. It is a website which connects small organic seed growers with small farmers. Presently, there are ~25 farmers listed with farm "bio", products & zone. You can buy either organic or open pollinated seeds or become a seed vendor.

**Refreshing Libations
for Your Next
Garden Party!**



Country Liquor
140 S. Willow St.
Downtown Kenai
283-7651