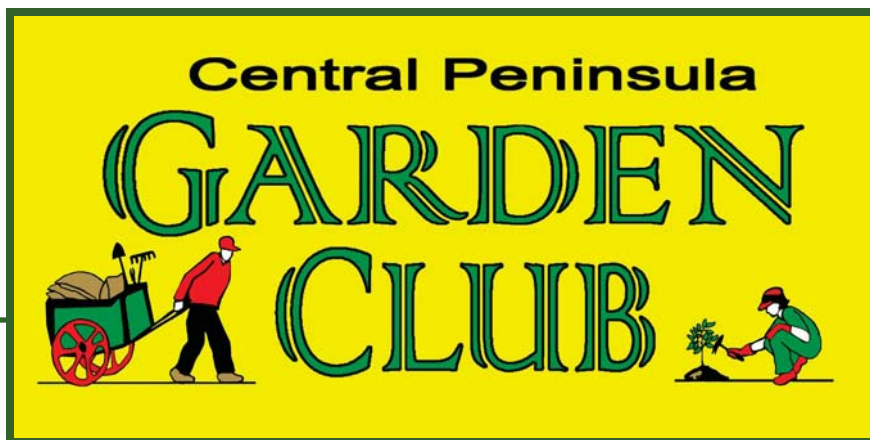


January 2016

Central Peninsula Garden Club



PO Box 767 · Kenai, Alaska 99611 · [www.cenpengardenclub.org](http://www.cenpengardenclub.org)



Happy  
New  
Year  
2016!

## Jan 12 Program - What is the Central Peninsula Garden Club & its History?

Presenter Renae Wall, current CPGC Vice President

### 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 Committee  
Chair—  
Don St. John

Director & Special  
Events—  
Velma Bittick

Director & Special Events  
Chair—Cindy Barnes

Sea-Ag Chair—Della  
Bridenburg

Director, Special Events—  
Lee Bowman

Even though we are in the dark days of January, or perhaps because of it, I have been musing about the impact that our garden club has had on my life. I first started attending club events in 2009. The May Workshops were what got me hooked; I'll never forget the feeling of satisfaction and confidence I felt after building a wood arbor using *power tools*—thank you Will Hightower!

My husband Robert and I have a few acres in Sterling we wanted to do something with, so I started to soak up information in club programs. How do we prepare our land? Should we grow peonies, rhubarb, hascaps, rhodiola? Or build a high tunnel to grow vegetable crops? What about landscaping our large yard? I was staring with an empty canvas, and the club programs helped me visualize so many possibilities. We finally started a commercial rhubarb farm, but are still learning and adjusting future plans. For a girl who grew up having a simple family kitchen garden, there is no doubt in my mind that it was the Garden Club that gave me the confidence to try for something bigger!

I now realize that the Garden Club has helped so many of us. I can't even fathom how many others have been encouraged and inspired to go bigger, try new things, and grow good food! As other club members have so generously shared their experiences and encouragement, friendships have developed. What a perfect forum for those with more knowledge to pass it on to those of us who want to learn! And through the club's community outreach programs, who knows how many more local residents, including our local youth, have had their confidence built up just enough to attempt something new, grow a new plant, bring beauty to their world, and yes, eat better.

So, what is the Central Peninsula Garden Club? Some of you may be newer attendees and not know much more than that we offer free monthly programs that are open to the public.... But how did the club get started? When? What projects have we taken



Renae Wall, CPGC Vice  
President

## Renae Wall (continued from page 1)

on? Where have our presenters hailed from? What kinds of workshops and seminars have we enjoyed? How have we reached into our community? As January's program presenter (yikes!), I will attempt to give us a broader understanding of, and appreciation for, the club that we support. As we start a new year and elect new board members, it seems fitting that we take a moment to appreciate who we, as a club, pat ourselves on the back, and grow a vision for the year ahead. Until then, I hope you are enjoying your seed catalogs and musing about New Year possibilities!

**Date:** Tuesday, January 12,

**Time:** 7:10pm, after the brief annual meeting

**Location:** Cook Inlet Aquaculture Building, Mile 16.5 K-Beach Rd. (lit sign with fish)

**Free & open to the public.**

**Refreshments and sometimes door prizes. Bring refreshments to share if you can.**

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## Annual Meeting Notice

**Tuesday January 12, 6:50pm**, immediately prior to the monthly program at 7:10pm

**Location:** Cook Inlet Aquaculture Bldg., mile 16.5 K-Beach Road.

Current members are eligible to vote. Free and open to the public.

Board of Director nominees bio and the 2016 CPGC budget has been emailed to members.

Nominees for four vacancies are: Kathy Hobart, Ron Homan, Dr. Liz Dowler and Sharon Gherman. All are interested in gardening and contributing their talents to the future of the club. Terms are for 3 years unless a nominee is completing a term for a resigning board member with 1 or 2 years remaining.

The CPGC Board of Directors has maintained a conservative approach to the budget, resulting in a continued healthy overall balance of \$22,000. This has allowed us to bring in speakers from various parts of Alaska or partner with other groups for Outside presenters, have a variety of garden related events, support community agricultural projects for youth and adults, and have the ability to respond to opportunities that arise during the year.

Leaving the Board are Velma Bittick, Cindy Barnes, Juanita Owens and Marion Nelson.

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***Thank you to the 2015 Board of Directors for their hard work that benefits club members and the Central Peninsula in a variety of ways: Marion Nelson, Renae Wall, Kay Gardner, Peggy Morris, Cathy Haas, Don St. John, Juanita Owens, Velma Bittick, Cindy Barnes, Della Bridenburg and Lee Bowman.***

 <p><b>KENAI FEED &amp; SUPPLY</b> www.kenaifeed.com MILE 14.5 K-Beach Rd. <b>907-283-1929</b></p>	<p>HIGH TUNNELS ORGANIC FERTILIZER PEAT • SEEDS FENCING LIVESTOCK &amp; PET FEED/SUPPLIES PRODUCE</p>	
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## The Never Ending Garden—A Ramble by Will Hightower

In the fall of the year, do you ever feel that if you never water another plant or pull another weed, it would be way too soon? Your partner is standing at the door, daring you to bring to the house another container of anything from the garden. But, there are berries to pick and carrots and potatoes to dig! The bush cherries have yet to be touched! I understand why some of the gardeners of copious quantities of produce, go hunting for a month in the fall.

Tonight, I am trying to complete the yearly reports to the NRCS about what went on in the High Tunnels during last gardening season. Don't they know that pulling weeds is more enjoyable (and urgent) than record keeping?

I've already planted sweet potatoes from the 'tater I found trying to grow in the bottom of a storage bin. This will be the third year of attempting to grow this crop. I actually had some last season big enough to save! I've made room for them in the crop rotation, but, this may be the last year because they require so much space. I'm trying to use the garden space wisely.

Also, the fresh bottom 1 ½ inches from store-bought spring onions have been potted. I have new growth about 2 inches high, and am projecting fresh onion greens within two weeks.

Next week, we may start replacing tomatoes in the third floor buckets. I'm trying to think of anything to delay going out to the cold High Tunnel to resume building the eleven garden boxes that I told the NCRS would be ready to go in the spring. After all, I have all winter to work on them.....

See, if you are really into this, the garden never ends!

Changing subjects, I have a different job with the school district. It even comes with a desk and phone! No computer or Email yet (maybe tomorrow). I do not have a cubical; it is more like a triangle. I'm still associated with buses but won't spend much time behind the wheel. Today I was hiding, oops; I mean working in my triangle, when I heard two people talking in the Purchasing Dept. next to me. They were trying to figure out where to find Alaskan grown produce. My ears grew two feet and I ran, oops I mean casually walked out to talk with them. They had no idea where to make contact with the local growers. The lady said that they needed someone to supply lots of apples.

Needless to say, with some effort getting a phone number, School District purchasing now has the phone number for O'Brien Nursery. Also, Purchasing now realizes that there is a University Extension Office who would really like to help them make local producer contacts. Agriculture has come a long ways on the Kenai, but baby, there is still a greater distance to go.

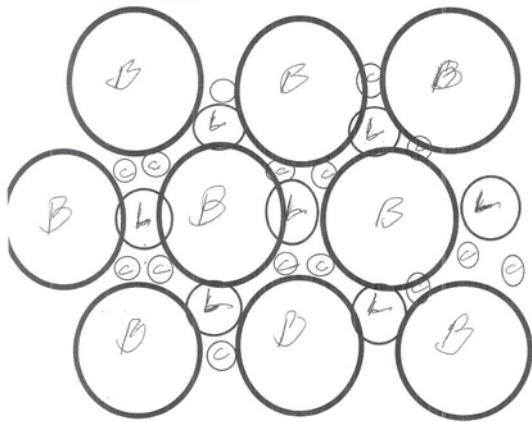
(I'll bet Monti will work this into a reason why I need to finish those raised beds.)

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



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

## December 8th Program Presented by Dohnn Wood—The Miracle of (1500 Pounds of Almost) Free Food.



*Dohnn Wood wore a Santa hat for his Dec. 8th program presentation. Dohnn gets maximum yield from his growing areas.*



### Dohnn Wood's Co-planting intensive planting scheme.

- Large circles are brassica's (broccoli, cabbage, etc.) or other large long term plants i.e. celery - 12in circles
- Medium circles are lettuce, spinach, beets, onion, spinach, lettuce or other compatible companion veggies - 5in circles
- Small circles are carrots, radish, green onion, boc choy, other root veg's - 3 in circles

If you want to grow a plant that is bigger than the 12" circle you can plant quick maturing plants that would get covered by the big plant mid to late season in the outer circles, that you just harvest before they get shaded out. *John Jeavons* book how to grow more vegetables is where I first learned of this concept, but many different sources on co-planting and beneficial co-planting out there.

Dohnn Wood  
[dohnn@sakbike@hotmail.com](mailto:dohnn@sakbike@hotmail.com)

## Soil Workshops 2016

Sponsored by NRCS, UAF Cooperative Extension, Homer/Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District.

Location: KPC/Kenai River Campus & Kachemak Bay Campus. Cost \$5.00 per session.

Pre-registration requested, call Extension Service at 262-5824.

Presenters are: Dr. Casey Matney, the new Ag/Hort agent, Brad Casar and Janice Chumley.

January 14, 2016, 6:00–8:30 PM. **Introduction to Soils**—What soil properties are optimal for plant growth? How do different soil types affect nutrient absorption? What is a soil series? What can you do to improve your soil for better plant growth? These questions and more will begin our series of soils classes for the home gardener or high tunnel producer.

January 21, 2016, 6:00–8:30 PM. **Understanding Soil Management Practices.** Why does pH alter nutrient uptake? How do nutrients enter the plant? Why is air as important as water for plant growth? These questions and more will be explored in depth in our soils series for the home gardener or market producer.

February 18, 2016, 6:00–8:30 PM. **Soil Test Interpretation.** What do those numbers mean? How much calcium do plants uptake? How much nitrogen or phosphorus is too much? What should you know about variability between laboratories or what testing methods are used? All things soil testing will be discussed in this portion of our soils series for the home gardener or market producer.

March 24, 2016, 6:00–8:30 PM. **Soil Fertility Management.** How much compost is a good thing? When should it be added? Do you have to use a commercial fertilizer mix or can you make your own organic blend for optimum plant growth.



Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association  
40610 Kalifornsky Beach Road  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
283-5761 + [www.ciaa.net.org](http://www.ciaa.net.org)

Healthy habitats for healthy salmon.

## Workshops and Conferences

### Don't Miss "SARE" - In Anchorage this Year! Register by Feb. 9

Market gardeners, farmers and those interested in moving in that direction will NOT want to miss the 12th Annual Sustainable Agriculture and Research and Education (SARE) conference being held in Anchorage Feb. 23-25. This terrific, affordable and energizing conference is usually held in Fairbanks, so grab this opportunity while it is close to home! Pre-conference workshops on Feb. 23 include farm budgeting, on-farm food safety and marketing, and practical tools for fiber producers and artisans. The agenda for Feb. 24-25 is FULL of sessions on fruit, vegetables, meat and fiber production, sustainable farm practices, farm management, and even birch syrup. Register by February 9 for best rates: \$85 for 2 days (discounts for UA students), plus \$25-50 per pre-conference workshop. Can't make it to Anchorage? Sign up for the new live-stream video option (\$20). Full conference information is available at: <https://uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference/>

Please note that with the SARE conference being held in Anchorage, the organizers of the annual Kenai Peninsula Ag Forum have decided to take a break for 2016. Garden Club members interested to help organize the **Kenai Peninsula Ag Forum 2017** should contact Heidi Chay at 283-8732 X 5.

Really into local food? Stay on for the **Alaska Food Festival & Conference** Feb. 26-28:

<https://akfoodpolicycouncil.wordpress.com/festival-conference-2016/>

### Women in Agriculture Workshop - Mar. 19

Kenai/Soldotna is one of more than two dozen sites participating in Washington State University's Women in Agriculture Workshop on Saturday, Mar. 19, 8 am - 2:30 pm. The event alternates livestream video with opportunities for discussion among local participants. The cost is \$25 and scholarships are available. Look for further details about location, agenda and how to register in the February newsletter. In the meanwhile, here is the video archive from prior years of Women in Ag:

<http://womeninag.wsu.edu/archived-presentations/>

**12th Annual**  
**Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference**

# Save the Date

**February 23-25, 2016**  
The Lakefront Anchorage  
**Getting Down to Business with Fibers and Foods**

Tuesday workshops will be followed by two days of presentations and discussion related to farm management, including a Thursday session on qiviut.

**Tuesday Workshops:**

- **Budgeting for Farm Decision Making**  
Presented by Gina Greenway
- **On-farm Food Safety and Marketing**  
Presented by Barbara Hanson and Johanna Herron
- **Connecting Fiber Producers to Markets**  
Presented by Carrie Hull

Contact Darcy Etcheverry at [ddetcheverry@alaska.edu](mailto:ddetcheverry@alaska.edu) or 907-474-5107 or visit [bit.ly/sareconf](http://bit.ly/sareconf) for more information.

UAF is an affirmative action equal opportunity employer and educational institution.

## Upcoming CPGC Events & Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteers Needed & Appreciated!

-Newsletter: Editor or write garden related articles such as plants of interest and construction projects. We like to know how the other person does it. Contact Sharon Gherman, [sgherman677@gmail.com](mailto:sgherman677@gmail.com)

- Newsletter ad sales. Contact Sharon Gherman, [sgherman677@gmail.com](mailto:sgherman677@gmail.com)

- Special event table, event booth staffing and booth decorating. Annual events include: Ninilchik Fair in August, Home Show in spring, HEA Energy Fair in fall-2017. Contact board members to volunteer.

--Saturday Seminars in May. Deciding on topics, organizing the schedule, contacting presenters, booking seminar venues. Contact board members with your ideas.

-Program Committee: Meets occasionally. Contact board members with your ideas.

-Publicity Volunteer: Email publicity information to the media. Contact Renae Wall, 260-6616.

-Hospitality Committee: Room set up in advance, clean up, help at the registration desk for programs or other events, greeting, taking memberships. Contact - TBA

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

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

-Sea Ag Fertilizer Fundraiser: Prepaid orders March-May. Delivery in May. Contact Della Bridenburg, 776-3908.

-Summer Garden Tours. Coordinate local garden tours during June, July, August. Contact board members.

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

-Face book page administrator. Preview requests to join the club's group page. Contact Marion Nelson, [marionknelson090@gmail.com](mailto:marionknelson090@gmail.com).

-Occasional speaker lodging or local transportation. Opportunity for more expert information. Contact board members.

#### Programs & Events

Dues for 2016 payable now. Dues schedule runs from Sept. 1, 2015 to Aug 31, 2016. \$20 individual, \$30 family. Thanks to all for your support.

January 12, 2016, 6:50pm— Annual meeting: pass 2016 budget, election of 2016 BOD.

January 12, 2016, 7:10pm—Program meeting, "History of the Central Peninsula Garden Club".



February 9, 2016, 7pm – Tim Meyers from Bethel...Alaska's Rock Star Gardener. Tim has new information to share re: process, productivity and equipment. Mark your calendars.

March 8, 2016, 7pm- Future of Alaska Agriculture, Agribusiness - Presenters: Heidi Chay, Soil & Water Conservation District and Amy Seitz, Alaska Farm Bureau.

March – Saturday Seminars - TBA

#### December 2015 Treasurers Report

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$22,866.31</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Dues	\$ 360.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Food Bank Room Rental Donation	\$ (100.00)
Food Bank Rototiller	\$ (389.00)
Printing	\$ (133.48)
Monthly Speaker Expenses	\$ (203.00)
Storage Unit	\$ (342.42)
KP Borough Tax Exempt Card	\$ (10.00)
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$22,048.41</b>

Submitted by Peggy Morris, Treasurer