

June 2014

Central Peninsula Garden Club



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



GET YOUR PLANTS READY TO DONATE! CPGC PLANT SALE—JUNE 7TH

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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

The 5th Annual Central Peninsula Garden Club Plant Sale is on Saturday, June 7th, 10AM. This is one of the Garden Club's biggest fund raisers and helps support 4-H projects, Ninilchik Fair AG awards, and many other club events.

We can use as many plants as you can donate. Our best sellers are perennials, flower and vegetable starts, herbs, berries, and hanging baskets. No house plants please.

Plants need to be potted up in good quality soil and in clean pots. All plants need to be identified with the plant name plus "A" for Annual or "P" for Perennial along with height and color, if known.

Pots and markers are available by calling Cathy Haas 262-7248.

Plant donation drop off times are:

Friday evening early drop off— June 6th, 6:30-7:30pm.

Saturday morning pre-sale drop off—June 7th, 8:00-9:00am.

Sale opens to the public at 10am and goes fast!

Location: Kenai New Life Assembly of God Church parking lot, across from the Challenger Center in Kenai.



5th Annual
PLANT SALE!

Variety of Plants! • Great Prices!

June 7, 2014
10:00 a.m.

Location: Corner of Kenai Spur & Princess (Church Parking Lot)

Look for the Signs!

Contact, Cathy Haas, 262-7248

Upcoming CPGC Events & Volunteer Opportunities!

Volunteers Needed & Appreciated!

It's your club.....Which committee do you want to serve on starting this fall?

-Newsletter Committee: Share pictures or write articles on local gardening topics of interest to our members. Special plant articles welcome.

-Special event booth staffing & workshop host (a few times a year): Home Show in April, Workshop Weekends in May, Ninilchik Fair in August. Next information table event is the Ninilchik Fair in August. Contact Cindy Barnes, alaskancindy-lou@yahoo.com or 262-1395.

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

-Publicity Volunteer: Post a few program flyers. Contact Velma Bittick, velee@acsalaska.net or 252-7579.

-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.

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

-Tech backup: Power Point programs and mike set up for programs, 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.

-Occasional guest speaker lodging: Great opportunity for more expert information. 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 this valuable contribution. Contact Peggy Morris, 262-8374.

Programs:

No monthly programs: May, June, July, August.

-June 7: Annual Plant Sale! Morning pre-sale plant drop off 8am-9am on the 7th. Sale opens at 10am. Early plant drop off Friday evening, June 6th from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Held in the Kenai New Life Assembly of God Church parking lot, across from the Challenger Center in Kenai. **Get plants ready for the sale! Thanks in advance.**

-June, July, August: Local garden tours. Open to dues-current members—a membership benefit. Ideas welcome. Participants car pool to destinations which are located in the same general area. Catch up on your dues so you can take part in this popular summer activity. You will learn something at every destination.

-How about a tour to another part of Alaska? What gardens do you want to visit?



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

Burger Bus



OPEN YEAR ROUND

Monday—Saturday

11am to 6pm

Will's Rambling—Micro Potato Soup

by Will Hightower

I have problems in cooking for “the family”.

1. The first problem, daughter, Gail, is a vegetarian for health reasons.
2. The second is each fall when the grandkids help Gramps dig the potatoes, anything that looks like it might be a potato is bagged. Some of these want-to-be are no bigger than a pencil eraser. All “potatoes” are stored in the fall.

Spring comes and the storage boxes need cleaning before there is nothing left but potato sprouts. Problem number two means that no “potatoes” may be found on the compost pile.

Did you ever try to clean micro potatoes? My technique is to place about 6 cups of potatoes in a container with enough water to cover and then play agitating washer. Where are the grandkids when you have something fun to do? The potatoes are then placed in pot with a strainer and boiled (little potatoes don't take long). Rinse and you pretty much have clean, boiled micro potatoes. Any leftover debris adds body to the soup.

At this point, in the past, we would add bacon cooked on the Bar-B-Q, chopped green onion, milk and spices. The result being potato soup. Then problem number one returned home for a while and out went the bacon. By-the-way, have you tasted meatless dishes? To a carnivore raised on a farm in Iowa, they often need a lot of help. So now we were left with boiled potatoes, chopped onion, and spices in milk.

Spices. I keep a lidded glass container with salt, pepper and garlic powder at the ready. The amount of each spice in the bowl fluctuates as to how much I dump in at each refilling. At present I am also using rosemary as an add-in spice, it has not yet become a “bowl” ingredient.

Trash the milk in the soup - thin stuff. Now we use 1 qt of organic vegetable stock from the “health nut section” and 1 qt of heavy cream.

No grilled bacon. Now we use grilled asparagus. Chopped and in the pot it goes. Following the asparagus are sautéed green onions and chopped mushrooms.

To change the pot to “kind of” chowder add two cans of drained whole kernel corn. Adding corn juice to the mix thins things out and gets rid of the creaminess.

So, at the present time micro potato soup is:

6 cups micro potatoes

2 cans whole kernel corn, drained

1 large bunch of asparagus, grilled and chopped

6 to 8 large mushrooms, sautéed

A bunch of chopped green onions, sautéed with the mushrooms. (Don't forget to plant the onion bottoms).

Rosemary, salt, pepper, and garlic to liking. Fresh crushed garlic is always a plus.

Serve with a salad and a loaf of nice crusty bread. What a supper! Naturally, it's better the next day after the flavors have blended. Don't count on there being leftovers for more than a day or two. Even a large batch disappears quickly.

 <p>KENAI FEED & SUPPLY www.kenaifeed.com MILE 14.5 K-Beach Rd. 907-283-1929</p>	<p>HIGH TUNNELS ORGANIC FERTILIZER PEAT • SEEDS FENCING LIVESTOCK & PET FEED/SUPPLIES PRODUCE</p>	
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Bowman's Amazing Spring

This spring has been a great new experience for Julie and I. We have asparagus to eat!! We have tried for many years and several different ways to grow asparagus, all to no avail. When we got our hoop houses, we decided to try it one more time.



We harvested wild growing ditch bank crowns from our old home farm, and swiped (maybe borrowed when no one was home) from family gardens, from northern Michigan. We brought them up to AK in late October, which is the wrong time to transplant asparagus, but was our only opportunity to get them. Much to our surprise and joy, several crowns survived.

With asparagus, it needs 2-3 years to build up an adequate root system to be able to sustain cutting. This year is year 3. Our patience for the last 2 years of not eating those delicious looking shoots has paid off. We have had several meals so far, and hope to have many, many more in the future. Our fresh corn for the last couple years has been the very top of our fresh garden eating experience, but asparagus is also right up there. Our challenge now is when do you stop cutting in order to let the root system continue to grow. We are opting on the conservative side this year to give the root system all the time it needs.



Our cherry trees, also in one of our hoop houses, have had more blossoms than we have seen it the past. It was so interesting to watch the pollination process going on. We had 5 different sizes of bumblebees, 2 different colors of honeybees, and 3 different kinds of moths, plus many different small flies and bee shaped insect actively interacting with the blooms. With the trees being in the hoop house, it is sometimes a challenge to get them pollinated because the warmth of the hoop house causes the trees to flower sometimes before it is warm enough for the bees to be active.

Usually the earliest arrivals are the bumblebees. If we get 10% of the flowers to set, we will have a bumper crop of cherries. Last year we had over 7 gallons that we processed and many handfuls that disappeared before they made it to the house. Some of the cherry pits were dropped on the ground last summer and this spring several of them have sprouted. It will be interesting to see how long it takes them to start to produce cherries. They are supposed to seed true. We will see.

~ Contributed by Lee Bowman, CPGC Board member & Sterling gardener



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



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

Don't Forget Your Inside Babies

Well, I did. Last year, I finally got a garden in and spent much of my time experimenting and working there. My inside plants took a bit of a hit.

I have always been an orchid lover and many of my favorites did not flower as a result of neglect. This year I plan to try to balance my time so I'll have a nice show of orchids in the spring.

I did get a nice orchid fix in Singapore this spring. I visited the National Orchid Garden and was truly impressed by some of their exhibitions. Here are a few of my favorites and photos from the Singapore venture.:

Dark Magenta - *Cattleya* cross
Light pink - *Dendrobium* cross
White - *Phalaenopsis*, moth orchid.



National Orchid Garden sign & display



Any other orchid lovers in The Garden Club? Anyone wishing to trade? I have a few divisions that I could part with, for the right plants.

~ Contributed by Bob Malvin, avid Sterling area gardener and orchid lover

Anacortes Gardens of Former Alaskan

We live on a rock called Cap Sante, about 100 feet above sea level. The house was built in 1892 and the gardens have developed over all those years. The garden was badly overgrown when we moved in, and there has been lots of renovation, moving of plants, adding plants, etc.

Because the place has been here for so long, the soil has been amended with compost for many years. We use only organic products and keep the weeds down with compost and small cedar bark. Most of the big stuff - hawthorn trees, laburnum, lilacs, have been here forever. We have odd and unusual plants like *Hesperis matronalis* that nobody else in town has. Tons of volunteer foxglove, iris, etc. Huge hydrangeas, 50 roses, lilies, azaleas, rhodies, asters and chrysanthemums, on and on. Something is blooming all year long. The hellebores bloom in January. There is sweetbox and *Daphne odora*, and some of the camellias in February, etc. Lots of spring bulbs because there is much rain in the spring. We have to water in the late summer. The soil is very porous and dries out quickly so we have to watch to make sure things don't dry out too fast.



Happy Gardening.

~ Caroline Cochran, former Kenai resident, now lives in Anacortes, Washington which is on the water north of Seattle and south of Bellingham, off I-5.



Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
40610 Kalifornsky Beach Road
Kenai, Alaska 99611
283-5761 + www.ciaa.net.org

Healthy habitats for healthy salmon.

Weekend Workshops

Blair Martin and his llama advisor during the **Bigger, Better, Faster Compost** workshop on May 10th. Blair's compost method involves turning salmon waste piles and rows with big equipment.

One story from the workshop: "Once while turning his compost a whole salmon broke in half exposing a perfectly poached fish."



Connie Royal presented the **Hanging Basket Workshop** on May 10th.

Far left: Participants in the workshop are shown assembling their plants, soil and baskets. This is always a fun workshop.

Right: Connie Royal, of Connie's Greenhouse, and her granddaughter show how to recognize root formation on plant starts for hanging baskets.

Right: Hypertufa trough making workshop presenter, Carmel Tysfer is suited up to show the materials that are used in the process.

Far right: Chelline Larsen and another workshop participant are shown pressing the Portland cement mixture into forms for their hypertufa container.

Below: Hypertufa trough container done and ready to dry for future planting.



Weekend Workshops (continued)

Bobbie Jackson's "Growing Fruit and Berries" Workshop on May 17.

Right: Bobbie pointing out the finer points of growing raspberries

Inset: Bobbie explaining how to manage a large berry producing bush for long term production and health. Note the Typar on the ground for weed control.



"Compost & Soil Building" on May 17th.

Left: Workshop Presenter, Jodie Anderson (white shirt) shares common compost issues and details with the workshop group.

"Garden Charting and Planning" workshop on May 17th.

Below: Workshop presenter, Velma Bittick, showing her files of seeds for present and future planting. She stores her seeds in a plastic tote and, even with seeds that are many years old, has a high germination rate.

Right: Velma and CPGC member Della Bridenburg discuss some of the finer points of Charting and more.





RUSTY RAVIN PLANT RANCH

“Not your ordinary Greenhouse”

MILE 12.5 K-BEACH, ALASKA

3.5 MILES SOUTH OF BRIDGE ACCESS INTERSECTION

LEMON, ORANGE AND LIME TREES

LARGE BEAUTIFUL BASKETS

VEGETABLES AND HERB PLANTS

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS



283-5686



BRING THE KIDS TO SEE THE PETTING ZOO

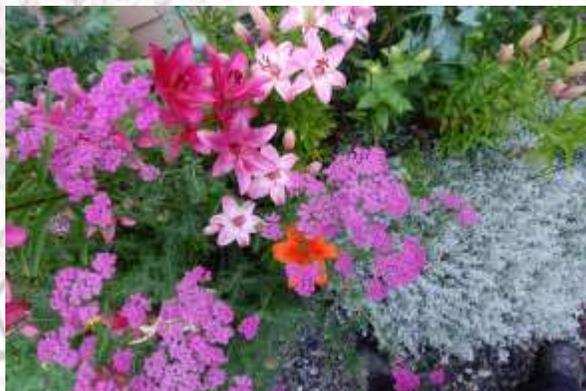


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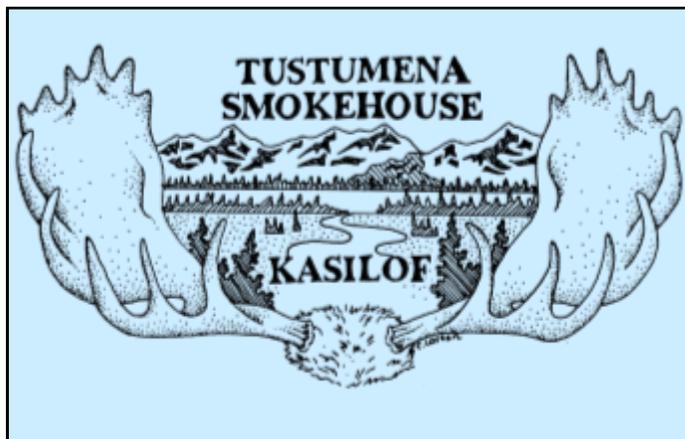
Janet St. John's annual cookie extravaganza for our jointly sponsored speaker during the Kenai Birding Festival May 17th. Janet's cookies taste as good as they look!

This year's program was on Rain Gardens, presented by Landscape Architect Nancy Casey at the Kenai Visitor Center.



Heads up, Hotmail users!

Garden Club emails sent to Hotmail addresses commonly end up in the junk mail box or get bounced back to Marion. If you have another email address and want to receive Garden Club news, send your other address to Marion at mmkn@ptialaska.net.



April 2014 Treasurers Report			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 16,069.56
Income:			
Dues	1,140.00		
Sea-Ag	3,295.00		
Newsletter Ads	450.00		
T-Shirts	125.00		
Plants at Home Show	255.00		
Expenses:			
Printing		(363.50)	
Shelving		(94.94)	
Misc office supply		(86.96)	
Workshop Week-end		(350.00)	
Ending Balance:			\$ 20,439.16
Submitted by Peggy Morris, Treasurer			

May 2014 Treasurers Report			
Beginning Balance:			\$ 20,439.16
Income:			
Dues:	160.00		
Newsletter ads	60.00		
Sea-ag	1205.00		
Workshop weekends	751.00		
Expenses:			
Soldotna Chamber Dues		(165.00)	
Sea-Ag		(3,690.88)	
Workshop Weekends		(225.00)	
Sponsorships		(210.00)	
Special Events		(250.00)	
Printing		(268.40)	
Web Hosting		(300.00)	
Correction		(0.90)	
Ending Balance:			\$ 17,504.98
Submitted by Peggy Morris, Treasurer			