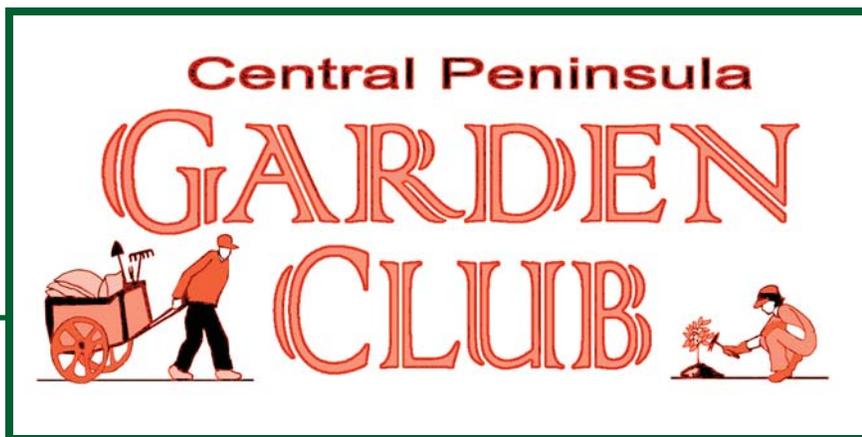


October 2012

Central Peninsula Garden Club



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

Round Table Topics – Lots of Them!

October 9th Program

What growing/gardening topic would you like to discuss or need to ask questions about or is new to you?

Well, the October program plan is to have 10-12 tables with a different topic at each table and seating for 10-15 people at each table. Pick the topic you'd like to get in on and head for that table. There will be a facilitator for each group. Participants are free to table hop to get in on as many discussions as interest them.

The CPGC Board wants to make this opportunity available this month since we never have enough time to just talk to each other and ask questions at our regular programs. This is a great chance to pick a lot of brains in one evening. No preregistration necessary.

Table Topics on the list at this time are:

- ~ Seed Starting
- ~ Compost Making
- ~ Raised Beds & How They Grow
- ~ Garden Planning – Where to Start
- ~ Home Greenhouse Management
- ~ Building a Budget Greenhouse -12 X 20
- ~ Common Pests - Aphids, Root Maggots, Cut Worms, Slugs
- ~ Chickens – Getting Started & Keepin' On
- ~ What Should I Do for Fall Clean Up?
- ~ What Should I Do to Get Ready For Spring Planting?

Jot down your questions and the topics you want to discuss, plus your own ideas to share. It should be a very fun and informative evening.

Date: Tuesday, October 9th. Programs are the 2nd Tuesday of the month, September-May

Time: 7pm

Location: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Bldg on K-Beach Road located between KSRM and Bridge Access Road intersection.

Open to the public. Refreshments and sometimes door prizes. Membership information and lots more, available at www.cenpengardenclub.org.

Board Members

- Marion Nelson - *President, program chair—*
(907) 283-4632, (907) 398-8669 (cell)
- Liz LeDuc - *Vice president, web site coordinator, hospitality*
- Kay Gardner - *Secretary, special events*
- Peggy Morris - *Treasurer, plant sale*
- Chris Cook - *Hospitality chair*
- Cathy Haas - *Plant sale co-chair, historian chair*
- Don St. John - *Tech chair, Sea Ag sales chair, special events*
- Renae Wall - *Publicity chair, nominating committee*
- Don Thompson - *Special events, plant sale*
- Velma Bittick - *Hospitality*
- Lee Bowman - *Sea Ag committee, special events*

Fruit Programs, Site Visits & Surprises

The three day visit to the Central Peninsula by Dr. Bob Bors, Assistant Professor in the Plant Science Department at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada was jam-packed with programs and site visits. His trip north was jointly sponsored by the CPGC, the Homer Garden Club, the Pioneer Fruit Growers, ERA Aviation, and the UAF Cooperative Extension Service located on K-Beach Road. He was shown many examples of local fruit growing efforts and made several public presentations.

While in our area, his program topics included: Planning, Planting and Pruning Trees and Small Fruits; Cold, Hardy and New Fruit Varieties; and Secrets of Great Fruit Production in Cold Climates followed by a round table discussion on the 26th, before heading out for Homer. Dr. Bors received a wonderful tour of KPC thanks to Suzie Kendrick. We then went on to visit Mike O'Brien's fruit trees; Northern Lights Mushrooms with Dan and Gail Bilyeu, who explained their amazing commercial mushroom growing business; Don Thompson's growing area with its many clever and interesting projects; Lydia Clayton's residence featuring lots of small fruit bushes and a large garden area; Cliff deShong's high tunnel; Jim Brenton's fruit trees in his greenhouse; and Rupert Scribner's well thought-out acreage.

Dr. Bors enjoyed the delicious Harvest Dinner pot luck on Tuesday evening—CPGC has some talented cooks. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the wonderful dinner. It truly was a testament to our local bounty from the past growing season, in addition to the salmon, buffalo, chicken and pork.



Well known Nikiski apple tree grower & grafter, Mike O'Brien, and visiting Fruit Research Expert, Dr. Bob Bors.

Dr. Bors found our high tunnels very intriguing and was impressed with the various plant examples, many of which are larger versions of what he grows in his part of the world. He had good pruning advice and even demonstrated some hands on pruning during a couple site visits and gave advice in others.

Special thanks to Peggy and Dan Morris who hosted Dr. Bors at their home; Lydia Clayton for hosting him for lunch and more; and to all the people who welcomed him to their grower sites.

*Below left: Red and mostly ripe red currants at Lydia Clayton's home.
Below right: Picked at Lydia Clayton's home. Good enough to eat!
Berry pictures taken by CPGC Historian Cathy Haas*



Above left: Apples at Jim Brenton's greenhouse, one of the many site visits made by Dr Bors.

Above right: Apricots that, unfortunately, won't have time to ripen in Jim Brenton's greenhouse. Jim likes the challenge of growing fruit trees.



Recalling the July Coyote Garden Visit

A year ago, at our September Garden Club meeting, Les Brake tantalized us with his photos and stories about his Coyote Garden in Willow. His philosophical humor and humility outshined the textures, design and color of his plantings. I was intrigued and inspired.

In late July this year, my comrade Barb Beeman and I packed up her 25 year old Winnebago and headed on a road trip to catch Coyote Garden during the Willow Garden Club annual tour. We tore ourselves away from red fishing and moseyed our way up north on an overnight adventure.

Coyote Garden, Mile 71 Parks Highway is more impressive than the slide show promised. Les welcomed us as old friends. "You Kenai folks have a great group down there," he told me. "I had such a good time with everyone."

Coyote Garden is smaller than I thought, but walking in it turned out to be more satisfying and relaxing than I had anticipated. Paths leading everywhere, plantings boasting a variety of color along with shape: full, tall, spiky as well as soft. The plantings didn't look contrived or planned, even though we knew how much work Les put into planning and planting and tending and enjoying. Barb told Les his garden looked "whimsical".

Les uses enough repetition for cohesion, plenty of variety for interest, allowing colors and fragrances to soothe. The colors were not wildly varied, but very complementary. Shades of green were punctuated by pops of white. He used strawberries as ground cover, nasturtiums here, there and everywhere, pansies shoot up all over, and he has a Horse Tail Garden! Yes, he's corralled that pesky weed and maximized its potential by highlighting its fluffiness in its own dedicated special setting.

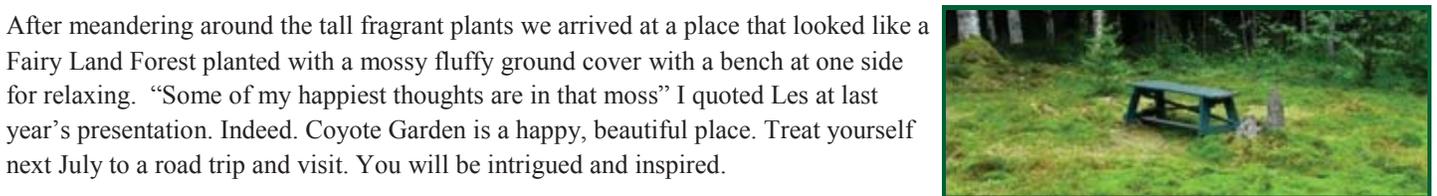
Natural wood and imagination combine into interesting containers for window boxes, a bed frame and a settee, chairs, tables. Les' partner is quite the skilled and artistic wood worker.

After meandering around the tall fragrant plants we arrived at a place that looked like a Fairy Land Forest planted with a mossy fluffy ground cover with a bench at one side for relaxing. "Some of my happiest thoughts are in that moss" I quoted Les at last year's presentation. Indeed. Coyote Garden is a happy, beautiful place. Treat yourself next July to a road trip and visit. You will be intrigued and inspired.

~ Mary Starrs-Armstrong



Coyote Gardens delightful hand crafted bench and flowers.



Bench amid moss at Coyote Gardens.



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CPGC Co-Sponsored Poster Contest Needs Judges

The Central Peninsula Garden Club is co-sponsoring a poster contest with Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District, 4-H and Boys & Girls Clubs and we'll need some volunteer judges. The contest is open to students in grades K-12 in Nikiski, Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Kasilof and Clam Gulch. The theme of this local, state, and national contest, "Soil to Spoon," gets kids learning and thinking about where food comes from, as well as the connection between soil conservation and the food we eat every day. First prize winners in each age category (K-1st, 2nd-3rd, 4th-6th, 7th-9th, 10th-12th) win \$20 and the chance to compete in the state-level competition. Second place winners will receive \$10, and third place winners receive \$5. The entry deadline is Friday, Nov. 2, 2012. Complete contest rules and the entry form can be downloaded from www.kenaisoilandwater.org.

Conference to be Held in Wasilla/Palmer

Feeding and Grazing Practices for Multiple Species in Alaska: Problems and Prospects

October 18 & 19, 2012 - Grand View Inn Wasilla and the Palmer Center for Sustainable Living

[Alaska Diversified Livestock Association \(ADLA\)](#) in conjunction with [The School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences](#) and the [Cooperative Extension Service](#), UAF, are sponsoring a conference and workshop on grazing practices in Alaska.

The meeting will be held at the Grand View Inn, Wasilla on Oct 18 with a mini workshop at the Palmer Center for Sustainable Living on Oct 19. A special program for fiber producers will follow on Oct 20 also at the Center for Sustainable Living, Palmer.

Alaska Fiber Production: From Agriculture to Art

Oct. 19 & 20, 2012, Palmer Center for Sustainable Living, Matanuska Experiment Farm

The Division of Agriculture, Alaska Department of Natural Resources is sponsoring a one day mini symposium on fiber Production in Alaska. [Dr Lyle McNeal](#) is the guest speaker.



For details visit: <http://www.uaf.edu/snras/dslp/>

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9th Annual Bioneers in Alaska Conference

The 9th annual Bioneers in Alaska conference, OUR OWN BACKYARD, runs 5pm Friday, Oct 26th through Sunday, Oct. 28th at UAA in Anchorage. Featured speaker, Dr. Apela Colorado, Native American Elder, presents “The Indigenous Within” at 7:30 pm, Saturday, October 27th.

Local Sustainability Workshops feature talks on Alaska’s food, farming, energy, housing, spirituality and youth, plus telecasts of plenary speakers such as Bill McKibben, Paul Hawken, Maria Silva, and more. Students with ID are free to plenary sessions.

<http://bioneersinak.org/>

June Plant Sale—It’s not too Early to Plan

Remember the June Plant Sale, when dividing or heeling in those extra plants for spring. We can’t have too many plants!

A portion of the Plant Sale proceeds go toward 4-H programs.

For more information on the sale and fall or spring plant prep, contact Co-chair, Cathy Haas, 272-7248.

2013 Community Garden Tour, Co-sponsored by the Soldotna Chamber

If you’d like to have your gardens (all types) or landscaped area considered for next year’s tour, please contact Tami Murray at the Chamber office, 262-9814 or Marion Nelson, 283 4632.

The goal of the tour is to answer the perennial question, “What do you grow here?”

The proceeds, minus the expenses, benefit the Garden Club’s programs and workshops.



Above: Dinosaur kale at its best .

Below: Lettuce is beautiful.



September 2012 Treasurers Report		
Beginning Balance		\$13,651.48
Income:	Dues	\$215.00
	T-Shirts	\$50.00
	Walmart event	\$150.00
	Sol Chamber tours	\$847.79
		\$1,262.79
Expenses:	Annual PO box rent	(\$116.00)
	Printing	(\$84.00)
	Historian expenses	(\$14.53)
	Electronic expenses	(\$25.50)
		(\$240.03)
Ending Balance		\$14,674.24
Submitted by Peggy Morris, Treasurer		

To place ads, submit stories or pictures, contact Marion Nelson, 283 4632 or mmkn@ptialaska.net
 Newsletter layout/production—Pam Voeller