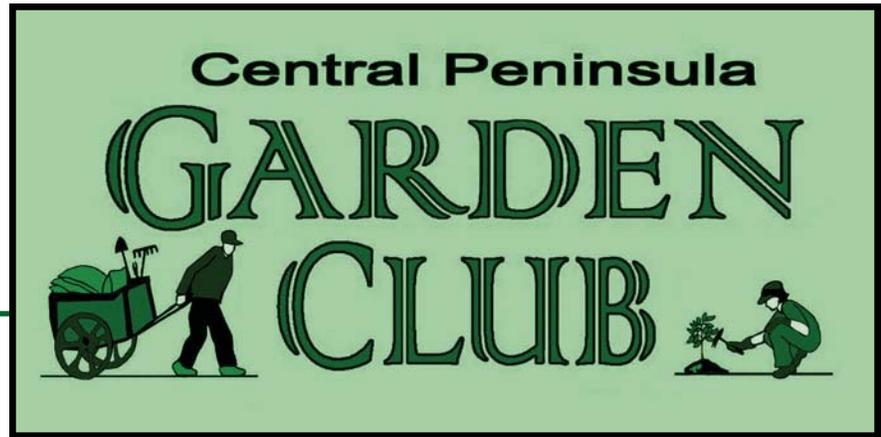


September 2013

Central Peninsula Garden Club



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

Harvest Dinner— September 10th, 7pm

We've had a lot of sunshine this summer and more recently, lots of rain. How has this season's weather affected your outdoor gardens? What was the new plant or process in your greenhouse or high tunnel this season?

The Lynch's in Nikiski grew dynamite melons, and have been eating corn on the cob for some time. Cathy Haas's greenhouse always becomes a wonderful jungle of tomato plants and tomatoes that her grandkids enjoy picking. Don Thompson put in a new potato patch with several varieties. Which ones look the most promising Don? Bob Malvin put in new raised beds plus a great fence with a super gate! The new raised beds behind the Soldotna Methodist church have been very productive in their effort to raise food for those who need it. Shonia Werner's 6th graders at Tustumena El are going to have a great time in her classroom with her aquaponics projects plus the school has plans for low tunnels next spring. How many high tunnels have gone up in our area this summer or are going up yet this fall? Did you see all the 4-H produce entries at the Fair this year, including the Salad Bowl project entries? And the fabulous Farmer's Markets that have improved and multiplied over the past few years that are so valuable to so many. Seems like it's been a great growing season and seems like there is more and more interest in fresh local food, how to grow it successfully and make it available at a reasonable price.

The CPGC Harvest Dinner is a celebration of our growing efforts and local foods by sharing them with one another, along with ideas and growing tips. I've often told those who wonder what goes on at Garden Club programs that if you have a gardening question, there is usually an answer from the person sitting next to you or behind/in front of you. The expertise in the room is amazing as is the sharing of ideas.

Program:

Get Squashed! Tom Gotcher and Velma Bittick will show some of their squash varieties and explain how they grew them so successfully in their high tunnel.

Bonus: Slide show of summer gardens thanks to Don St. John. Send some of your pictures to Don at akdon@acsalaska.net

Time: 7pm

Location: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Bldg on K-Beach Road (between KSRM radio and Bridge Access Road intersection)

Please bring a dish to share made with locally harvested food. Remember to label your dishes and your serving utensils. The club will provide salmon donated by Snug Harbor Seafoods and Rupert and Sarah of Kenai Feed will provide pork and chicken. It is truly the best meal of the year!
~Marion Nelson, President & Program Chair

September – May/June, CPGC monthly programs on the second Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the Aquaculture Bldg. on K-Beach Rd. Occasional bonus program.

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, hospitality*
- Peggy Morris - *Treasurer, plant sale, CIAA gardens*
- _____ - *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 - *Special events programs*
- Lee Bowman - *Sea Ag committee, special events*

A Good Year for Local Food Production

By Heidi Chay, Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District Manager

Looking back on 2013, there have been many encouraging signs for the future of local food production on the Kenai Peninsula.

In January, a joint Chamber of Commerce luncheon on the "eating locally" theme drew an overflow crowd and planted seeds for new farm-to-restaurant efforts. In February, Peninsula residents spoke up for agriculture, both current and future, in the borough-wide land use survey. In April, the third annual Kenai Peninsula Ag Forum featured local food innovators Rupert Scribner and Sarah Donchi of Funny River Fjord Ranch and the debut of the Peninsula's only certified seed potato producers, Don McNamara and Donna Rae Faulkner of Oceanside Farms in Homer. In May, city councils in Kenai and Soldotna, the Kenai Peninsula Foundation and local businesses threw their financial support behind efforts to raise consumer awareness of locally-grown food. June saw the successful launch of a new farmers market at the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. As an aside, did you know that upwards of 600 customers visit local farmers markets each week? In July, at the height of the fishing season, local composters were hard at work turning record quantities of fish waste into valuable agricultural inputs. And in August, the Borough Mayor and the cities of Kenai and Soldotna issued proclamations declaring September 16-22 Harvest Moon Local Foods Week.

Whew, time to celebrate our progress toward a thriving local food system! There are a variety of ways to get involved during Harvest Moon Local Foods Week:

- All week long, enjoy local food specials at one of the participating restaurants: Mykel's, Corner Cafe, Fine Thyme Cafe and Odie's Deli in Soldotna, and Veronica's Old Town Cafe in Kenai.
- On Sept. 18 or 19, take in a presentation on the Alaska Food Challenge -- a year of eating all locally -- by Anchorage gardener and permaculture teacher Saskia Esslinger.
- On Sept. 20 and 21, attend the Local Food Film Festival at the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank. The festival kicks off at 6 pm on Friday, Sept. 20 with guest speaker and renowned Alaskan chef, Rob Kineen. Festivities continue Saturday, Sept. 21 with films at 3 pm and 7 pm, and a free dinner, all Alaskan grown of course, at 5 pm.
- And don't forget the farmers markets on Tuesdays and Saturdays! (See inset for details.)

You'll find the complete schedule of events at www.kenailocalfood.org.



Tuesday at the Farmers Fresh Market in the Food Bank parking lot.

Local Farmer's Market Schedule and Locations

-Central Kenai Peninsula Farmer's Market, Soldotna
Schedule: Saturdays until Sept. 28.

Hours: 10am-2pm

Location: Corner of Corral St. and Kenai Spur Highway, at the "bus turn-around."

For more information: 262-7502

-Kenai's Saturday/Farmer's Market

Schedule: Saturdays through Sept. 14. Hours: 10am-4pm.

Location: Kenai Chamber & Visitors Center, parking lot, 11471 Kenai Spur Highway.

For more information: 283-1991

-Farmers Fresh Market

Schedule: Tuesdays, 3 - 6 pm through Sept. 28

PLUS Saturday, Sept. 21, noon - 3 pm.

Location: Community College Drive in the Food Bank Parking Lot.

For more information: 262-3111

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



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

Container Gardening 4-H Project Brings Bountiful Results

By Lydia Clayton, Kenai District Agriculture/Horticulture Agent



Above: Members of the Northroad Rangers 4-H Club show off their very productive container gardens.

Below: Fun and fruitful beginnings for the container garden project!



Starting Next Month!— From Shonia Werner, 6th Grade Teacher at Tustumena Elementary

We are creating a school yard habitat with a garden this year. The dirt work should be done in the next month and low tunnels will be used in April/May to get started before school gets out. We are also attempting to combine aquaponics and hydroponics in the classroom. Should be an exciting year!

We'll plan on the CPGC October issue for our first article and contribute articles each month.

'We even took our container garden on a camping trip to Homer and ate some of the veggies on the trip!' explained River Heames as he proudly displayed his carrot and lettuce container garden.

Twenty interested 4-H Club members planted and seeded container gardens and harvested goods that were happily shared with hungry family and neighbors. Participants were asked to keep record of amounts harvested and awards will be given at the 4-H Awards Banquet (tentatively the end of October) for a variety of categories, from the 'Golden Carrot' for the best overall garden, to the 'Feeding Frenzy' for the most productive.

A BIG thank you goes out to the Central Peninsula Garden Club, Winter Greens Organic Gardens, TNT Compost, and UAF Master Gardener Volunteer Donna Endresen for their generous donations and encouragement making this fun and fruitful project possible.

You can find more photos and videos of the container gardens on the UAF CES Kenai District Horticulture Facebook page, www.facebook.com/kenaigardens.



Above: Alie Minium, Kenai Peninsula 4-H Club member, poses with her beautiful container gardens at the Kenai Peninsula Fair.

Below: Members of the Northroad Rangers 4-H Club show off their newly seeded container gardens. These gardens go on to produce multiple crops of radishes, beets, carrots, and lettuce throughout the growing season.



Far left: Fritz Miller, owner of TNT Compost, thrilled 4-Hers by sharing the secrets of making good compost and why it's so great for helping plants grow.

Left: River's container garden even went on the family vacation this summer!

All photos on this page by Lydia Clayton.

MARION'S
PLAN & PLANT

MARION K. NELSON

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cell 907.398.8669

P.O. BOX 3612 • KENAI, ALASKA 99611 • mmkn@ptl.alaska.net

SWAT the Organic Garden—Will's Ramblings by Will Hightower

I really wanted to 'rant' - Oh, I mean 'ramble' about soil testing. However, now and then something comes across "my desk" that just begs to be passed on.

Paranoia is not something I deal with very well. When there were many worldwide reports on the following, it went from urban legend to something that needed sharing.

A lady in Arlington, Texas appears to be having troubles with the "city fathers" and her neighbors. She is running the "Garden of Eden Organic Farm," a 3 ½ acre operation, the goal: be as food self-sufficient as possible. It appears that some of the neighbors were not happy to have "the Garden of Eden" in their neighborhood (reminds me of some of the rumblings that I have heard regarding the City of Kenai). Complaints were filed with "the City" and Compliance officers inspected for covenant violations. It was noted that the grass was too long, a piece of house siding was missing, and there was a piano and a chair in the front yard. In pictures that accompanied some of the "world coverage" the farm looked like many Alaska properties, only drier.

Then reports of a marijuana growing operation spread and aerial surveillance was sent up. The "spy in the sky" reported there appeared to be plants of a marijuana nature in "the Garden of Eden." The "City," not to be put off, sent in the SWAT team.

When the SWAT "swatted" there were six adults on the property who were promptly handcuffed. Ten hours of crop and property destruction followed.

At the end of the siege, most of the plantings were destroyed and police seized 17 blackberry bushes, 15 okra plants, 14 tomatillo plants and some equipment totaling about \$10,000 in value.

Police found no drugs or criminal activities on the farm, but did arrest one adult on an outstanding unpaid parking ticket.

The City of Arlington has made no apology for the heavy handed tactics. And, yes, the code compliance officers mowed the grass to the proper height while the raid was in progress. No word on the piano.

The Gifts of Summer Seedlings—by Mary Starrs Armstrong

Early this June, after a week long golf clinic, an eight year old girl presented each of us coaches with a small pot of three-inch sunflower seedlings, stems barely able to hold up the new leaves. An illustrated, pencil-written thank you note accompanied the gift. **Nice touch**, I thought. Kind and generous. How thoughtful. No student had ever given me recently sprouted, ready to plant plants.

I wondered what to do with these small living green things; even considered ignoring them and letting them wither. My conscience nagged me on that one, so I stuck those babies into the middle of my recently reconstructed raised bed. Dwarfed by the early pansies and marigolds surrounding it, the seedlings found strength in the new soil with plenty of room to grow. Shape and balance promised something beautiful. With a couple of packs of nasturtium seeds planted around it, my bed was complete.

As our May/ June chill gave way to a respectably warm sunny summer, the sunflowers inched their way skyward. I admired them every day. While blowing winds strengthened their stalks, I worried about them. I didn't want them to break. Watching them grow made me smile. I staked them for security, mine and theirs.

Summer moved on and these plants moved up! Seemed like six inches some days. Every time I looked at them I thought of the little golfer whom I hoped was thriving as well. Pleasure was present on many fronts. Growth all around me.

Now it's the end of the season and those sunflower plants are eight feet tall. YES! EIGHT FEET TALL! with seed heads shining atop strong stalks. I look at them and think, nice touch indeed.





“Where Does Your Water Shed?” Poster Contest

The "Where Does Your Water Shed?" poster 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 gets kids learning and thinking about the special place we live and how to take care of the fresh water that we need each day.

The contest is co-sponsored by Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District, Kenai Watershed Forum, 4-H/Cooperative Extension Service, and NRCS. First prize winners in each age category (K-1st, 2nd-3rd, 4th-6th, 7th-9th, 10th-12th) win \$25 and the chance to compete in the state-level competition. Second place in each age group wins \$15, and third place wins \$10. Posters are due September 30, 2013.

The contest flyer, containing contest rules, resources and entry form, can be downloaded at www.kenaisoilandwater.org.

Neonicotinoids Found in Many Products—Contributed by Marion Nelson with Information from *The Avont Gardener*

INSECT CONTROLS CONTAINING NEONICOTINOIDS CONTINUE TO RAISE CONCERN. Recent issues of *The Avont Gardener* have reported bans in Europe of insecticides containing neonicotinoids as a result of studies showing they are hazardous to the environment, causing the deaths of songbirds and beneficial insects such as honeybees. Although the US has no such ban, environmental groups such as the Xerxes Society (a non-profit group that seeks to preserve wildlife through the protection of invertebrates such as bees, butterflies and dragonflies) are agitating for one, and so we thought it prudent to publish a list of commonly available garden insecticides that contain neonicotinoids. *The Avont Gardener* list is taken from the Xerxes Society website: www.xerxes.org <<http://www.xerxes.org>> :

Bayer Advanced 3-in-1 Disease and Mite Control; Bayer Advanced 12 month Tree & Shrub Insect Control; Bayer Advanced Protect & Feed; Bayer Advanced All-in-One Rose & Flower Care; DIY Tree Care Products Multi-Insect Killer Concentrate; Ferti-lome 2-N-1 Systemic; Hi-Yield Systemic Insect Spray; Knockout Ready-to-Use Grub Killer; Monterey Once a Year Insect Control; Ortho Bug B Gon Year-Long Tree & Shrub Insect Control; Surrender Brand Grub Z Out; Bayer Advanced All-in-One Rose & Flower Care Granules; Green Light Grub Control with Arena; Andro Quick Kill Lawn & Landscape Insect Killer; Andro Rose & Flower Care; Maxide Dual Action Insect Killer; Ortho Bug B Gon Garden Insect Killer; Ortho Bug B Gone for Lawns; Ortho Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Insect Killer; Ortho Rose & Flower Insect Killer; Ortho Rose Pride Insect Killer; Green Light Tree & Shrub Insect Control with Safari 2G; Ortho Tree & Shrub Insect Control Plus; Miracle Gro Plant Food.

 <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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Upcoming CPGC Events & Volunteer Opportunities!

October 8th Program— Brenda Adams, “Explore Your Options – Bark, Berries, Bulbs, Fragrance, Herbs and Vegetables”. Author of *There’s a Moose in My Garden* and winner of three international design awards. Discover how to incorporate the texture and color of bark and stems into your designs. See the role brilliant berries and seed pods can play. Explore how to make your ornamental designs edible as well. Learn to expand your season with bulbs and increase your sensory pleasure with effectively placed fragrant plants. Brenda’s talks are always full of information. This will be a fast paced power point with lots of great images.

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

Videographer backup, for programs and workshops. Contact Linda Dunn, 262-4465.

Tech backup person. Power Point programs and mike set up for programs. Contact Don St. John, 394-4474.

Guest speaker lodging. Needed occasionally for out of town speakers. Contact Marion, 283 4632.

Registration HELP- 2014 Workshop Weekends. The board is considering the “RegOnline” program. Please offer technical help to get this going. Contact Marion 283-4632.

Phone calling for special event scheduling such as the Home Show. Contact Marion 283 4632, mmkn@ptialaska.net

Alaska Farm Bureau Looking for New Members on the Kenai Peninsula

Whether you are a livestock grower, a horse owner, a hay producer, a gardener, a peony grower or are just interested in seeing agriculture and sustainable living grow in our state, the Farm Bureau invites you to join. All the chapters statewide are trying to grow their memberships, AND THEIR VOICE, to further their message of Alaska agricultural expansion and support of farm families' lives. Their annual meeting is just around the corner in November and will be held in Chena Hot Springs this year. Membership is only \$40 a year. In addition to being connected with the agricultural community, there are also benefits to membership including retailer discounts and a complimentary subscription to the Alaska Farm & Ranch News.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Jane Conway of Lancashire Farm Fibers at jane_conway@hotmail.com or call her at 907-229-7920 and she will get you hooked up with an application or information.

Agricultural Tools for Rent by the Kenai SWCD

The Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District has a wide variety of agricultural equipment for rent, including manual and mechanized tools for soil preparation (Meri Crusher), tillage, re-seeding, planting, pesticide and fertilizer application and bale wrapping.

Operators are available to do custom tractor work using the District's rental equipment. For information, see the "Equipment Rental" page at www.kenaisoilandwater.org or call Kenai Feed, 283-1929.



Treasurer’s Report, September 2013

Submitted by Peggy Morris, Treasurer

Beginning Balance		\$18,214.19
Income:		
Dues	\$120.00	
Workshop Weekends	\$115.00	
Misc	\$30.00	
Expenses:		
4-H Fair Awards	(\$500.00)	
Kenai Peninsula Fair Awards	(\$500.00)	
Kenai Self Storage	(\$330.00)	
Ending Balance:		\$17,149.19

Burger Bus



OPEN YEAR ROUND
Monday—Saturday
11am to 6pm
CLOSED SUNDAY
 283-9611

To place ads, submit stories or pictures, contact Marion Nelson, 283-4632 or mmkn@ptialaska.net

Newsletter layout, Pam Voeller.