



March 2021 Newsletter

Greetings Central Peninsula Garden Club members.

My name is Larry Opperman and I will be the new editor of the monthly newsletter. I look forward to providing as much information as possible on club activities, garden knowledge, member activities, preserving your harvest, workshops, tours, and a host of other topics pertinent to gardening activities and processes on the central Kenai Peninsula.

I would also like to focus on some of our members and their gardens. If you have any secrets you wish to share with the rest of our members, let me know and I'll try my best to work them into the newsletter. Pictures are always appreciated and especially pics of kids and grandkids in the garden. Either eating everything or helping out. Let me know what those little green thumbs are learning from Mom, Dad, Grandma or Grandpa.

You can email your stories and pictures to me, Larry Opperman, at CPGCNewsletter@gmail.com or to the club email at cenpengardenclub@gmail.com. Thanks

Larry Opperman

SAVE THE DATE

The annual **Get Ready for Spring Roundtable** event will be held on March 27, 2021 at Peninsula Grace Church, 44175 K-Beach Road from 10 AM – 2 PM. This is a Saturday event.

We look to have a great event this year after having to postpone last year's event due to COVID-19 concerns. The following are the current tables planned for the event.

Planting seeds
Fruit trees in Alaska
Grow buckets
Growing Garlic
High tunnels
Growing Berries
Composting
Gardening for newcomers
Sea AG orders/sales
Growing Perennials
Bee Keeping
Fermentation

Stop on by for a chat, learn a few gardening tips, and generally just have some fun!

CPGC Board of Directors

Cleta Elefritz – President
Mitzie Long – Vice President
Terrell Brewer- Treasurer
Cindy Roque- Secretary
Cathy Haas - Director
David Rigall – Director
Charlene McLean- Director
Dirk Tanner- Director
Larry Opperman – Director

If anyone in the club is interested in becoming a board member, please let Cleta know as soon as possible. We'd love to have you!

If there is anyone who is more optimistic than a gardener, I don't know who that is!

MARCH 9, 2021 MONTHLY PROGRAM

We have a great program lined up for the next monthly program and it promises to be a great evening. Ellen Vande Visse from Good Earth Garden School in Palmer will be our featured speaker and she will discuss: *How to fight pest diseases naturally and how to get your seeds and soil prepared to have a maximal harvest this year.*

This will be a ZOOM meeting and you must be a paid-up club member to receive the link to participate in the presentation if you are not attending in person.

However, we will also be showing her presentation on the big screen at our usual meeting place, Peninsula Grace Church located at 44175 K-Beach Road, Soldotna...right across the street from Craig Taylor Equipment. The meeting will start at **7 PM** with the ZOOM presentation beginning closer to **7:30 PM**.

We'd love to have everyone with us at the church and we will have our usual snacks, door prizes, and general conversations about gardening. It promises to be yet another good time with our friends and fellow gardeners.

You do not have to be a member to attend the program at Peninsula Grace as the onsite meetings are free and open to the public.

See you all on the 9th!



A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

God made rainy days, so gardeners could get the housework done.



SOIL AMENDMENTS SALE COMING SOON. SEE THE INFORMATION AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Green Waves –CPGC on Radio Kenai!
Follow CPGC member Larry Opperman’s Program on Radio Kenai:
<https://www.radiokenai.net/stations/listen-online/>

This radio gardening program offers listeners a chance to ask questions and hear what other gardeners on the Peninsula have to say.

The next broadcast will be on March 4, 4PM, on KSRM

How do you know you are a Master Gardener?

There is a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.

You would rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothing store.

You prefer gardening to watching television.

You plan vacation trips to arboretums and public parks.

Dirt under your fingernails and calloused palms are matters of pride.

MINI-GRANTS

Did you know the Central Peninsula Garden Club awards mini-grants to support other organizations' efforts that directly promote local agriculture? CPGC provides an annual part of its budget to help fund these projects.

Recent mini-grants have supported:

The Kenai Local Food Connection

Kenai Peninsula Food Bank

Promote Our Pollinators – (Anna DeVolld)

Imperfect Produce (Nekoda Cooper)

HOW TO REQUEST A CPGC MINI-GRANT

Do you have a project that will promote local agriculture? We might be able to help! Go to the club website at cenpengardenclub.com and click on the mini-grant link at the top of the page. You will see the directions on how to apply. Mini-grant requests are considered at CPGC monthly board meetings, and all funding is subject to funds available.

BOOK CLUB

We have had the suggestion to start a book club of gardening and environmental subjects from the technical perspective to the aesthetic or thought-provoking aspect. The plan would be to read a particular book as voted on by those who wanted to participate. The selected books could either be purchased or procured by the Soldotna Library through their “book club” program. This would provide available books for free to the book club members.

The first four books to chose from are, *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations*, *A Sand County Almanac*, *Gathering Moss*, and *The Invention of Nature*. All four of these are available from the Soldotna Library. However, any book the club thinks is pertinent for discussion can be chosen by the group.

We are soliciting for your opinion as to your interest in this endeavor. The current plan would be to read and discuss the selected book via Zoom and would most likely be a wintertime venture. After the mayhem subsides, we would hope to meet at a local venue to sit and discuss what we read and what we think about it.

If you are interested in participating, please send an email to board member David Rigall at drigall@rigalldesign.com, or the club email at cenpendgardenclub@gmail.com.

SUPPORTING THE CENTRAL PENINSULA GARDEN CLUB

Many of us, in fact almost all of us order items from Amazon. But did you know, Amazon has a section called AmazonSmile. It's just Amazon with a smile and almost everything you order qualifies for a certain percentage of your purchase to be directed to a charity of your choice. Well, the Central Peninsula Garden Club is in the list of places where you could direct those funds. There is no extra expense to the buyer and it's the same as ordering through the standard Amazon page, but you must order through AmazonSmile for a donation to go to your charity. My total donations via AmazonSmile total \$54.55 on 245 purchases as of Feb 24, 2021. You can see it's not a lot of money but if 10, 20, or 50 people did this and directed funds to the garden club as their charity, it would add up to a pretty decent deposit to the club coffers, thus providing us more resources to give you more and more services and benefits for your membership.

And as of November 2020, Amazon has donated over \$217 million dollars...that's million dollars to US charities nationwide, and over \$237 million dollars to worldwide charities. All this with no extra expense to your purchase.

If you would like to do this for the club, or any other charity you like for that matter, do a search in your browser for Amazon Smile and you should see a link like this. Just click on the link and bookmark it so each order you do will be through AmazonSmile. All your regular account information stays the same.

smile.amazon.com

[AmazonSmile: You shop. Amazon gives.](#)

Experience feel-good shopping. Shop at smile.amazon.com and we'll donate to your favorite charitable organization, at no cost to you. Get started.

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Here's what the top of my page looks like and you'll notice in the upper left-hand corner of my Amazon page says: amazonsmile prime



I recently changed my designated charity to the Central Peninsula Garden Club and maybe you will too!

AND NOW...THE BIG NEWS

Hint: the big news starts on the next page. 😊

The garden club will be having our annual soil amendments sale coming up very shortly.

We will once again be selling:

Alaska Fish Bone Meal in 55-pound bags for \$50 per bag

Agricultural Lime in 50-pound bags for \$14 per bag

4-Corners Vermicompost in 1 cubic foot bags for \$21 per bag (1 CF)

Grandpa's 100% Worm Castings in ½ cubic foot bags for \$15 per bag (1/2 CF)

Grandpa's 100% Worm Castings in 1 cubic foot bags for \$30 per bag (1 CF)

The pickup location will be the same as last year at Kenai Feeds located at 38612 K-Beach Road on May 8 with the hours for pickup from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

The order form will be posted on our website, Facebook page, and emailed to our club members. Watch for the order form coming out in March.

In fact, there will be order forms available at the next garden club presentation on March 9, 7 pm, at Peninsula Grace Church. Come on down to the meeting and while you're there, pick up your order form.

Order forms will also be available at the Get Ready for Spring Roundtable event to be held March 27 from 10 am to 2 pm at Peninsula Grace Church.

**You must have your prepaid order in to the CPGC
no later than April 24th.**

And a big thank you to Kenai Feed and Grandpa's Worms
for supporting our sales event.

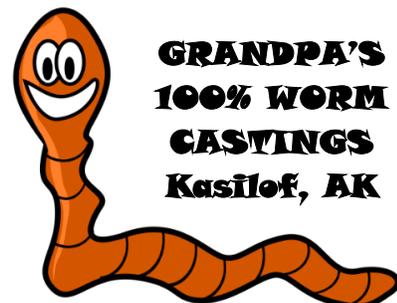
KENAI FEED



FARM, GARDEN,
& PET SUPPLY

MILE 14.5
K-Beach Rd.

907-283-1929



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100% WORM
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Kasilof, AK**