

JUNEAU GARDEN CLUB HISTORY

The Juneau Garden Club was founded in 1927 and reorganized in 1942. There is no information preserved about the early years; however, yearbooks have been saved from 1946 to the present. There were 36 members in 1946 and 48 in 1953 when it claimed affiliation with the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs.

The Juneau Garden Club became affiliated with the Alaska State Federation of Garden Clubs in 1961. The National Council and Regional Director were listed for the first time in the 1963-64 yearbook.

The motto of the Juneau Garden Club is "Every Member is a Working Member" and a list of the projects that have been accomplished over the years bears this out. They began with the landscaping of what is now the City Museum and the triangular plot at Twelfth and Glacier.

Bella Hammond was a member in 1975-76 and continued during her residence in Juneau, when she was First Lady of Alaska. Civic beautification projects were Sears Roebuck Environment Award, hospital landscaping, library and adjoining lot landscaping and care, Juneau Ferry Terminal planting, Junior High School flower boxes, and Norway Point landscaping.

Basic Gardening Classes, given in collaboration with the University of Alaska, began in 1984. Club members taught the various classes which continued for several years. The classes formed the basis for the "Gardening in Southeast Alaska" book – published for the first time in 1991 as a resource for gardeners and written by the Juneau Garden Club members and friends. It was revised, expanded and reprinted in 1994.

Other projects through the years include:

- decorating the Governor's Mansion for Christmas for several years
- Wickersham House flower beds
- hanging baskets downtown
- hospital ground's plantings
- ferry terminal barrels and landscaping
- plantings at the airport
- Caroline's Mountainside ground's project
- Archibald Menzies Bog Garden near the University
- Litter Bug campaigns leading to Adopt A Highway
- Federal Building landscaping
- lobbying for a City Gardener (1982)
- funding for Friends of the Flowers for summer beautification
- Pioneer Home Garden Therapy/flower boxes
- funding for the Pioneer Home greenhouse
- Peggie's weekly flower arrangements at the Pioneer Home
- hosting Alaska State Garden Club Conventions
- planting of Arbor Day trees
- participating in a Youth Program (going into schools and starting seeds)
- granting scholarships to students interested in gardening, botany or horticulture
- landscaping for Habitat for Humanity
- Add to these:
 - flower shows, "silver teas" and, for more fun, wildflower hikes, Garden Hat Luncheons (hats made from flowers and/or vegetables), taste testing and recipe sharing potlucks and monthly educational programs

To pay for the scholarships and the plantings, the sole money making project is the annual plant sale. The garden club members dig, separate, pot and sell perennials from their own yards and from yards of donators. On an early Saturday morning in May (usually the day before Mother's Day) they sell the 4" containers to a very eager Juneau crowd.

As a civic organization, the Juneau Garden Club has always been interested in the beautification of Juneau. As a social organization, it has always been a place to meet friends and share common goals.