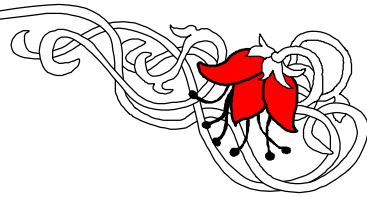


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 4, Issue 8

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER July 2002

MESSAGE FROM SUE LINCOLN

Our summer this year has been quite fickle - nothing beats a gardening challenge! We are well into the growing season; some plants are doing well, while others are trying their best to figure out how to manage our weather for a successful season.

For those of you who aren't aware, we have a new Volunteer area, complete with a PC fully connected to the internet via cable! In addition, we have space to store reference materials, sort through slides, sit down and construct your syllabus and space to man the phones with efficient access to informational files. Come in and take a look!

You have all been very busy taking care of the community gardening needs. A big THANK YOU to you who have spent time in the office answering homeowner questions. Most of you have realized there is never a "cut and dried" answer to the questions!

Another big THANK YOU to all of you who have graciously answered the call for volunteers. Your expertise in garden clinics, community school classes, presentations, and informal talks at organization activities is an invaluable contribution to the education of our community gardeners. This community holds Master Gardeners in awe and have placed you on a very high pedestal. It is obvious that you have contributed to that high status.

For those of you who are waiting for your crop to come in, there are several events that would benefit from your expertise:

Alaska Botanical Garden Garden Fair June 29 -30, 10a – 6p

Need one Master Gardener for the 10a – 2p shift (set up)

Need one Master Gardener for the 2p – 6p (take down)

Hort Phones

There are several shifts available July through August.

Home Decorating and Remodeling Show, Sullivan Arena

August – Date/Time to be announced

Will run Friday evening through Sunday evening

Need Garden Clinic Coordinator

Alaska State Fair

August 22 through September 2, 2002

Weekdays Noon – 10p

Weekends & Labor Day 10a – 10p

Need Garden Clinic Coordinator

Perhaps two to work together

Anchorage Home and Garden Show, Sullivan Arena

September 20, 4p – 8p – one shift, 2 Master Gardeners

September 21, 11a – 8p – two shifts; 11a – 3:30p/3:30p – 8p,
2 Master Gardeners each

September 22, 11a – 6p – two shifts; 11a – 2:30p/2:30p – 6p,
2 Master Gardeners each to include take down on last shift

Need Garden Clinic Coordinator

Wishing you warm soil and bountiful harvests,
Sue Lincoln

*"You cannot understand a garden
unless it has soiled your hands."*

- Texas Bix Bender



ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

[REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM NATUREWORKS]

WWW.NATUREWORK.COM

Healthy soil is the basis for healthy plant life. More than a structural material to hold plants up, your soil is a living thing. Nutrients and minerals are bound into soil particles, released by the breaking down of organic matter by soil microbes and beneficial insects. In order to maintain healthy soil you must maintain a high level of organic matter and encourage essential soil life.

Chemical fertilizers feed the soil with nutrients without providing the substance of organic matter necessary to maintain soil health. Insecticides, herbicides, and soil chemicals destroy any soil life that may have existed. Eventually, the result is a “dead” soil that must constantly be fed with artificial nutrients. Compare it to humans living on vitamin pills instead of real food!

As an alternative, at Natureworks, we offer fertilizers from natural sources, meant to enrich the life in the soil, increase microbial action, thus releasing nutrients slowly. This maximizes nutrient uptake of the plant and reduces the amount of nutrients leached away or fixed in the soil.

To accurately assess your soil's needs, we recommend that you take a soil test of each separate planting area (ie. lawn, vegetable garden, flower beds, etc.). See our page on Preparing your Soil for Planting for a complete explanation of how to take a soil test.

Biological Analysis of Natural Fertilizers

On every bag of fertilizer, whether chemical or biological, there is an analysis of the percentage of available nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (N-P-K) written in plain view. This analysis enables the user to determine how much he or she needs to produce a good yield. By law, manufacturers are allowed to indicate only the nutrients that are immediately available. This causes confusion for people who prefer to use natural/organic fertilizers because most of the nutrients in these materials are available over an extended period of time. These time-release or insoluble nutrients are not indicated on the bag, but because insoluble nutrients are so much more efficient than soluble nutrients, the analysis on a bag of natural fertilizer need only be 15-20% as high as the analysis on a bag of chemical fertilizer for comparable yields. This is not to say that natural fertilizers are 5-6 times stronger than their analysis indicates, only that a strict translation of the analysis into pounds per square foot without considering the insoluble portion of the material would be inaccurate and impractical. The recommended application rates of organic fertilizers consider the short and long term nutrients and are designed for maximum production and quality at a competitive price.

NATURAL ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

Bone Meal Pure, steamed ground bone is an excellent organic source (not mineral) of phosphorus which breaks down rapidly by soil microbial action. Also contains calcium and trace minerals. Excellent for lessening transplant shock, promoting healthy and extensive root systems. Do not use if dogs are a problem in your garden as they may dig up your plants looking for a bone! Use rock phosphate instead.

Colloidal Rock Phosphate Also called soft rock phosphate, this is a mineral source of phosphorus. It contains 18% phosphate, 2% immediately available, calcium, and 18 essential trace minerals necessary for maximum growth. CRP is a soft, natural, colloidal clay formation that gives up its nutrient slowly enough to last for years without leaching or fixing in the soil. An excellent amendment to add to all planting holes and when preparing beds. It provides a long lasting, slow release source of phosphorus and helps to improve the nutrient holding capacity of sandy soil.

Black Rock Phosphate is similar to the above but has a high carbon content and has 30% total phosphate, 4% immediately available. Use this for faster phosphorus availability and for soils that do not contain lots of sand.

Greensand This is a naturally-occurring iron-potassium silicate (also called glauconite) which has the consistency of sand but is able to absorb 10 times more moisture making it an exceptional soil conditioner. It loosens clay soils, binds and catalyzes the release of additional nutrients from the soil. Greensand contains potassium, iron, magnesium, calcium, phosphorus (in small amounts) and as many as 30 other trace minerals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



ORGANIC FERTILIZERS CONT. FROM PAGE 2

Greensand and Rock Phosphate Mix A blend of 50% black rock phosphate and 50% greensand which provides both phosphorus and potassium as well as a wide variety of minerals in slow release form. We usually recommend this mixture as the basis for long-term fertility for most gardens.

Gypsum Calcium sulfate is used to lower PH when calcium and sulfur are deficient. Excellent to loosen clay soils and increase available calcium. Also used to neutralize salt damage in seashore gardens that get flooded.

Aluminum Sulfate is used to make the soil more acidic. Great to turn pink Hydrangeas blue and for acid-loving plants.

Dried Blood High-nitrogen fertilizer (11%) offers the fastest release of any organic nitrogen source. Also acts as a temporary rabbit repellent. (Reapply after each rain.)

Cottonseed Meal A good nitrogen source (6%) for acid-loving plants.

Fish Emulsion A refined and filtered liquid fish fertilizer. Excellent as a foliar spray or for soil feeding. High in trace elements, we find it provides spectacular results in our nursery and on all interior plants. We apply it with a fertilizer proportioner attached to our garden hose for soil or foliar feeding. Now also available as a hose end sprayer. Fish emulsion has a formulation that is good for flowering plants as it is high in phosphorus in relation to nitrogen. (2-4-5) Coast of Main Fermented Salmon Made of fermented salmon fishery byproducts, this is touted as a repellent for all kinds of pests (4-legged and 6-legged alike), as an effective anti-fungal agent, and as a superior spray and foliar feed. Two factors seem to be responsible for this miraculous performance: the oils natural to salmon, and the fermenting process. The oils adhere to leaves for up to 6 weeks, even after heavy and repeated rains, and the fermenting process preserves nutrients that are lost in the dry process used with fish emulsion products. Be warned, though: fermented salmon packs a mighty aromatic wallop when first applied. Fortunately, this seems to dissipate rather quickly, at least as far as human olfactory apparatus are concerned. Recommended for ornamental use only.

Liquid Seaweed provides plants with trace elements and natural growth hormones that greatly improve health, growth, and resistance to insects and diseases. There are 16 trace elements considered essential to plant life and most conventional fertilizer contain few if any of them. The trace elements in seaweed are easily broken down and released by the activity of soil microorganisms. It is biologically active when it goes into the soil and stimulates an increase of soil life. Seaweed also

contains hormones which help plants with growth and development, stress management, seed germination, disease resistance, rooting, and more. We apply liquid seaweed here at our nursery by the use of a fertilizer proportioner (a brass fitting which goes on your faucet which we sell here). We water our potted plants with it once a month, and foliar feed the gardens monthly or more often in the heat of the summer when plants are under stress.

Sea Mix is a combination of fish emulsion and liquid seaweed. It has a formulation of 2-3-5. By combining these two important products into one, you can feed and improve plant health in one step.

Kelp Meal is a dried seaweed product that can be incorporated into soil at planting or can be used as a topdressing. Nutritional contents and benefits the same as liquid seaweed above. (1-0-2)

Roots is a wonderful product developed at Science Park in New Haven. It is a combination of kelp (seaweed), peat humic substances, and vitamin B12. It provides astounding results when used as a foliar spray on the plants.

Dry Roots is a balanced (3-3-3) blend of organic composts, humus extracts, and sea kelp extracts formulated for new plantings. It helps prevent transplant shock, and can be used with trees, shrubs, bulbs, perennials, annuals, and grass, in gardens, containers, and lawns. Incorporate it into the soil at planting time, or topdress stressed plants and water in.

Organic Humus and Manure is the best product available for revitalizing the soil. It contains small amounts of N-P-K, but more important, it adds life to the soil, inoculating it with soil microorganisms which break down organic matter and feed the plants. It makes the soil more friable, loosens heavy soils, and increases the water-holding capacity of sandy soils. As a soil conditioner, it is superior to peat moss as it is alive and has a neutral P.H. ALL of our gardens here at Natureworks were prepared with generous amounts of compost and each new plant has compost worked into the planting hole. It is our "secret" to lush, healthy gardens. If you do not yet produce your own compost, it is available in 40 pound bags.

There is a lot of useful information available from this website - check it out: www.naturework.com

Natureworks Horticultural Center
518 Forest Road
Northford CT 06472
203.484.2748-phone
203.484.7621 fax
nature@iconn.net



As a follow up to last month's article on the Alaska Botanical Garden, here is the map of the "Illustrative Master Plan".





**ALASKA ROSE SOCIETY PRESENTS A CONSULTING ROSARIAN SCHOOL
JULY 13 – 14, 2002**

Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd Avenue & Eagle Street, Anchorage
We will be supplying lunch on Saturday, asking for donations

Saturday, July 13
9:30 AM—3:00 PM *
Sunday, July 14
8:30 AM—Noon

A full day, Saturday of lectures will cover rose growing topics such as:

- 1 Basic rose culture
- 2 Insects & Integrated Pest Management
- 3 Diseases
- 4 Chemicals—selection, use & safety
- 5 Fertilizers

A half-day session Sunday about rose exhibiting and judging topics including:

- 1 Ethics
- 2 Point scoring
- 3 Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas
- 4 Miniatures & Old Garden Roses
- 5 Rose Arrangements

Saturday and Sunday sessions are open to members and non-members of the Alaska Rose Society. Early registration is encouraged. For more information, please contact Lonnie Chace at (907)345-5725 or by e-mail at "lchace@ak.net"

Please Note: Members of both the Alaska Rose Society and the American Rose Society for at least three years (continuous membership since October 1999), may qualify as Consulting Rosarian candidates. If you meet this membership requirement, please contact Lonnie Chace immediately at (907)345-5725 or by e-mail at "lchace@ak.net"

* Consulting Rosarian candidates must also attend an 8:30–9:30AM Saturday session and the testing session beginning at 3:15PM on Saturday.

CUT HERE: OR EMAIL (lchace @ak.net) THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Consulting Rosarian School Registration

Name _____
Address _____
City State Zip+4 _____
Phone (day) _____ (eve.) _____ (fax) _____
E-Mail _____

Check one: Alaska Rose Society Member/ Non-Member
\$25 / \$30 Saturday session only
\$30 / \$35 Saturday and Sunday sessions
\$10 / \$15 Sunday session only

Make check payable to: Alaska Rose Society
Mail to: Lonnie Chace, AKRS President, 14111 Sunview Drive, Anchorage AK 99515



Bird Chatter

For anyone coming down to the Peninsula Show and Tell on July 13, I have thousands of trollius seedlings to give away, you dig. Most are two winter plants. Most are tall orange, but some with larger flowers than ordinary. I have the tools, you bring the box.

Martie Black and her husband Blacky are offering a hands on class in basic concrete in early August. Firm date will come later. This will be a 2 day event, Sat. and Sun. The cost is \$50. and you will leave with a stepping stone of your own. Blacky has worked in the construction business in Anchorage for 37 years, mainly pouring concrete. For more information contact Martie or Blacky after July 5th at 248-0432.

Cooperative Extension Volunteer Needs

These activities DO count toward your 40 hour commitment

June 30th 10a - 6p

ABG Garden Fair

Two Master Gardeners for the morning shift (10a - 2p)

June, July August

Horticulture Hotline

Many morning (9a - Noon) and afternoon (1p - 3p) shifts still need filling

Children's Summer Program

Needs a consulting Master Gardener to work with the kids on a scheduled basis

Community Garden

Needs a consulting Master Gardener to work with kids on a scheduled basis

Community School Classes

Start thinking about Fall Classes

Suggested topics:

planning a garden, raised bed gardening
houseplants, flora design, seed saving

Alaska Master Gardener Association Community Needs

These hours typically do NOT count toward your 40 hour commitment, but they are a rewarding volunteer experience

Pioneer Home Maintenance

ABG Entrance Bed Maintenance

(ABG Entrance Bed desparately needs volunteers - contact Madge Oswald, 345-5144, or email johnmadge@chugach.net)

LANDSCAPE AWARDED TO UAA

A 2002 Community Award from the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects was awarded to the University of Alaska Anchorage. The award recognizes the on-going efforts in maintaining the UAA landscape and for the educational resource UAA provides through the extensive collection of plant materials maintained on campus. UAA ground supervisors Pat Leary and Chris Mizelle accepted the award along with Director of Facilities Maintenance Larry Grady. Pat Leary is a MG and an AMGA member, and many of the UAA grounds crew have taken the MG course including Paul Siebel, Theresa Rzczycki, Charlie Richey and Sarah Lee to name a few.

KUDOS!!



ANCHORAGE HORTICULTURE COALITION FUND RAISER

The next fundraiser for the Anchorage Horticulture Coalition is Sunday, July 14, 12 noon till 4 p.m. at Janice and Brock Shamberg's home. Featured will be their dwarf and standard lilacs, bridal wreath spirea, a blue dwarf conifer garden, a dozen hanging baskets, roses, lilies, dianthus, irises, among other features. Their home is located at 13640 McDonell Street, exactly 1.5 miles east of the New Seward Highway on DeArmoun. From DeArmoun, turn left onto McDonell. Their home is the last house at the end of the road on the left.

High quality plant vendors will be there to tempt you to add to your gardens. Suggested contribution of \$5 benefits the Anchorage Horticulture Coalition, working for you to keep Anchorage beautiful. Please come and bring family and friends.



Gardening Calendar

July 3, 8

ABG Summer Garden Series B: fund raiser for ABG, 6 private garden tours, 4-5:30 p.m., or 5:30-7 p.m., \$60 for series, reservations required. contact ABG at 77-3692

July 4

Anchorage Garden Club: Annual Picnic at TBA - 6:30 pm

July 9

Alaska Rose Society Rose plant sale, 7 - 9 p.m., 7435 Old Harbor Ave., 333-8237

July 11

Wildflower Garden Club field trip, "Rose Garden Tour," Church & Gladys Decker, 10 a.m., contact 566-0084

July 11, 25

ABG Summer Garden Series A: fund raiser for ABG, 6 private garden tours, 4-5:30 p.m., or 5:30-7 p.m., \$60 for series, reservations required. contact ABG at 770-3692

July 13

Alaska Master Gardener Association field trip to Soldotna-area garden, meet outside of Nikiski by Island Lake at 11 a.m., contact 345-1562 for details and directions.

July 14

*Alaska Youth & Parent Foundation Garden Tour fundraiser, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cost \$15 or \$25 for 2 people. To reserve a space on bus, contact 257-8847

*Anchorage Horticulture Coalition Fundraiser, [see article on page 6]

July 15

Alaska Master Gardener Association field trip, 7 p.m., Providence Medical Center garden, (meet at greenhouse), then tour Dick & June Juelson's garden; contact 345-1562

July 18

Wildflower Garden Club field trip, "Hatcher Pass Wildflowers," meet at 9 a.m. at southwest end of Fred Meyer on Muldoon Rd. to carpool, contact 566-0034

July 18 - 20

"Colorful Riverbanks," Alaska State Federation of Garden Clubs annual state convention in Fairbanks, \$150. Contact Pat Babcock, 907-479-6651 or pbacock@ptialaska.net

July 20 - 21

Coyote Garden Open House, fund-raiser for ABG & the Willow Garden Club. Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday noon-6 p.m., mile 41.8 Hatcher Pass Rd., Willow; 907-770-3692

July 25

Herb Study Group meeting, Alaska Botanical Garden, 7:30 p.m. ABG is located just south of Tudor Rd. on Campbell airstrip Rd. Contact 345-1562

July 26

*Lighthouse Garden Tea, fund raiser for ABG, Susan & Don Brusenhaber's, 15117 Poppy Lane, Eagle River; 3-7 p.m., reservations required. Contact ABG 770-3692

*City of Flowers contest entries postmark due. Photographs must be mailed to City of Flowers Contest, P.O. Box 196650, Anchorage 99519. Categories include City of Flowers theme "Roses, Roses, Roses," garden beds, con-

tainers, best before & after, best professional small business design, best professional large business design. Grand prize is one year use of a new Saturn. Contact Anchorage Parks & Recreation, 343-4287

July 28

Anchorage Garden Club: Annual City Garden Tour - noon - 5 p.m. sites listed in the Anchorage Daily News - contact 566-0539

August 1

Anchorage Garden Club meeting, Anchorage Waterways Council" by Holly Kent, 7:30 p.m., Pioneer School house basement, corner of Third & Eagle; contact 566-0539

August 1, 15

ABG Summer Garden Series B: fund raiser for ABG, 6 private garden tours, 4-5:30 p.m., or 5:30-7 p.m., \$60 for series, reservations required. contact ABG at 77-3692

August 8

Wildflower Garden Club progressive garden tour, "Eagle River Gardens", 10 a.m., contact 566-0084



The Anchorage Chapter of the Alaska Master Gardeners Association welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. Contact the editor, Gina Docherty, at:

Mail: 4006 DeArmour Road
Anchorage, AK 99516

Phone: 345-4099

Email: gardener@corecom.net

AMGA Web Site: www.corecom.net/~gardener

The Anchorage Community Gardening Calendar can be accessed via the web site.

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:

Alaska Cooperative Extension
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: 786-6300

Fax Line: 786-6312

Newsletter articles are due by the third Saturday of the month to appear in next month's newsletter.

*I pledge allegiance to the Earth
This unique blue water planet,
Graced by life, our only home.
I promise to respect all living things,
To protect to the best of my abilities
All parts of our planet's environment.
And to promote peace among the human family
With liberty and justice for all.
Dr. Alfred W. Bauer, Kirkland, WA*



Inside this issue....

UAA Landscape Award
Organic Fertilizers
ABG Master Plan Map
Consulting Rosarian School
Volunteer Opportunities

**Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
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