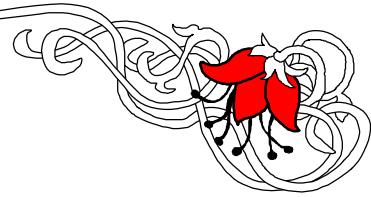


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 6, Issue 2

# ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

January 2004



From the President  
By Mary Shier

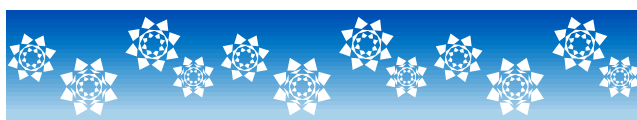
I can't believe we're at the start of another new year! A time to rethink our lives and set new goals to achieve. Hopefully these goals will be realistic, and not cause us to surrender to defeat later on when we're feeling overwhelmed and failure seems inevitable. Small goals are more easily attainable, and one derives satisfaction from not giving up.

I hope one of the goals for our members will be to take a more active role within the organization. For those folks who do not attend meetings: how about setting a goal to attend at least two meetings during the year? Look over the program information in the directory and select a few according to your interests. Mark the dates on your calendar ahead of time and set aside that time slot. For those who have never done much with the volunteer programs: how about setting a goal to participate in one activity in a particular field *or* more than one in an area in which you'd be more comfortable? Pick the month(s) you can work it in and make a note to yourself. Sue Lincoln sends out notices several times a year, so it's a matter of selecting the month you've set aside. These are simple goals which are "do-able".

As is the custom, we have a class of newly graduated master gardeners joining us this year. I hope our new members will be attending our meetings, and getting to know what our group has to offer. I hope a large number of our more experienced members can attend the meetings and greet our new "sprouts" as Sue Lincoln likes to call them. It always encourages people to get involved when there is a warm 'hello'. We welcome new faces with new ideas and gardening experiences.

That makes me think of a similar idea: Let's set a goal to see how many new friends we can make within the Master Gardener Association. At each meeting or function, get acquainted with one new person. Introduce yourself; ask them about their garden or what they are interested in. Talking about gardening is something we all have in common, and it's a goal we can all accomplish easily.

Happy New Year - and remember to set a goal or two that you can carry out!





## **Alaska Greenhouse & Nursery Conference**

Scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, January 28 & 29 at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage, this year's Alaska Greenhouse & Nursery Conference has a new twist. The first day of the conference will feature three presentations on fruit. Dr. Bob Bors from the University of Saskatchewan will be speaking on sour cherries and other tree and bush fruits. Dr. Dave Ianson with the Agricultural Research Service has more to say on rhubarb than you can imagine. (And he will tell you rhubarb is a vegetable, not a fruit.) Dave's collection of plants in Palmer is part of the National germ plasm repository. Kevin Irvn, Master Gardener and Vice-President of the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers, will be part of a panel discussion on "Bringing Plants Across International Borders".

The two-day conference includes many other topics and a trade show geared to the horticulture industry. Invasive garden plants, peonies, cut-flowers, new annuals for 2004, compost tea, native plants, and landscape design projects are all part of the agenda. Paul Dinkins, P&M Garden Services, Alaska's largest wholesaler of bedding plants, will talk about marketing and production. Ron Sexton, Trinity Greenhouse, will give you a candid picture on how his family operation in Soldotna evolved. The conference will also give you the opportunity to meet Dr. Jeff Smeenk, Cooperative Extension Service's new Horticulture Specialist.

Registration for the full conference is \$85 and includes lunch. A one-day registration is available for \$45. If you'd like a brochure, please contact CES in Anchorage, 786-6300. Extension offices in Soldotna, Palmer and Fairbanks offices will also have brochures once they become available.

## **Junior Master Gardener Program Award**

MG Pat Ryan's first-graders at Trailside Elementary School have been selected to receive one of 40 grants as part of the 2003 national Growing good Kids Garden Grants Program sponsored by the Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Program and Minute Maid.

The class has chosen the name the Green Machine for their gardening group. As a grant winner, the Green Machine will receive JMG curricula,

associated JMG products, and a cash component that will support efforts to create outdoor gardening projects at Trailside elementary. The Green Machine has registered as an official JMG group and agreed to complete eight service learning projects for their school, neighborhood or community.

Pat is hoping to find two Master Gardeners who can work with him in the class room. If you are interested, please contact Sue Lincoln (786-6315). The National Junior Master Gardener Program was developed by Texas Cooperative Extension at Texas A&M University. In Alaska, Michele Hébert, Land Resources Agent in Fairbanks, serves as state coordinator.

To learn more about the Junior Master Gardener Program, please check out the JMG website at [www.jmgkids.com](http://www.jmgkids.com). The program operates a little differently than the Master Gardener Program in Alaska. The JMG core curriculum contains eight chapters with a total of 44 teaching concepts. Kids must complete total of 44 group activities, 44 individual activities and 8 community service/ leadership projects to become certified Junior Master Gardeners.

## **Congratulations New MG Grads!**

The following 41 Master Gardeners completed the course in Anchorage on December 5th. Welcome to the Anchorage Chapter of the Alaska Master Gardener Association.

Pat Anderson, Sandy Andrews, Dawn Aumann, Mary Catherine Barker, John Burns, Deanna Crabb, Lin Emmons, Thomas Fischbach, Robbie Frankevich, Gail Green, Rae Hall, Susan Harding, Margaret Harwick Thomas, Kerri Jackson, Teri Janis, Tracy Johnson, Leslie Kellogg, Mary Kern, Caedmon Liburd, Natalya Louvring, Dominic Mauricio, Judy McGrath, Ginny Moore, Leslie Mott, Loretta Mumford, Susan Opalka, Vern Paluba, Jill Pawson, Sandy Rapp, Ron Schaad, Nettie Scott, Judy Sedwick, Rebecca Shellikoff, Joyce Smith, Jo Stockly, John Tracy, Tammy VanFossen, Sheri Walker, Michael Webb, Susan Weiss, Kathy Zins.

Jan Hamlin will join the group as soon as she completes her exam.





**Juneau Arts & Humanities Council  
First Annual Juneau Art 'n Garden Fair  
Marine Park Plaza on the Juneau  
Waterfront  
Sunday, June 13, 2004**

There's an exciting new seasonal event coming to Juneau June 13, 2004. The Juneau Arts & Humanities Council is sponsoring the first annual Juneau Art 'n Garden Fair to provide Juneau's gardeners with unique "landscape jewelry" and to create a new venue for Southeast Alaska's artists, gardeners and artisans.

Located in the beautiful new Marine Park Plaza right on the waterfront, the Fair will offer original garden art, plants and flowers, new landscaping ideas, and seminars by gardening experts.

For the purposes of this event, garden art is defined as something that is used outdoors in a garden, i.e., birdhouses, bird feeders, fountains, whirligigs, birdbaths, wind chimes, windsocks, arbors, trellises, arches, planters, statuary, garden plaques, stepping stones, lanterns, handmade outdoor furniture, chainsaw bears, etc. Allowances will be made for machine made objects like garden hats, kneeling pads and outdoor furniture as long as value is added by the artist in a significant way. For example, a handcrafted birdbath can be on a manufactured base. Plant and flower booths will add greenery and color to the Fair.

Contact: Fair Manager Barbara Belknap at [artngarden@gci.net](mailto:artngarden@gci.net); telephone 907-209-8602. Information and applications will be available online at [www.juneauartscouncil.org](http://www.juneauartscouncil.org).

Barbara Belknap, BJ Belknap & Associates

**How much do you know? Test yourself....**

1. There's one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends. What is it?
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. Name the only sport in which the ball is always in possession of the team on defense and the offensive team can score without touching the ball?
5. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
6. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
7. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters "dw." They are all common. Name two of them.
8. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name half of them?
9. Where are the lakes that are referred to in the "Los Angeles Lakers"?
10. There are seven ways a baseball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit. Taking a base on balls-a walk is one way. Name the other six.
11. It's the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh. What is it?
12. Name six or more things that you can wear on your feet that begin with the letter "S."

**Answers to Quiz on Page 7**





## Central Peninsula Master Gardener News

By Rosemary Kimball

It must be January as I've killed my rosemary plant. This is an annual ritual. No matter how careful I am with the pot and potting soil, moisture level, or fertilizer, it dies a slow and agonizing death. Maybe I ought to go to the Master Gardener web site and ask a Master Gardener what I am doing wrong!! But love's labor was not all lost and I whacked off the last two sprigs extant, chopped them into small pieces along with some garlic and olive oil and stuffed the gush under the loosened breast skin of the late and unlamented Wheezer for Christmas dinner.

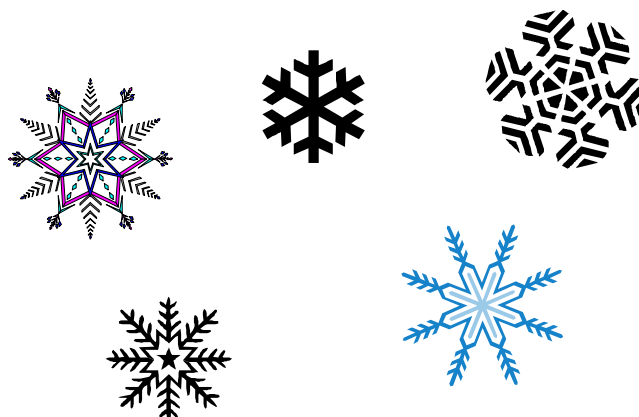
January 8 is our first MG community presentation. An real live landscape architect, Nancy Casey, is going to be our lead off speaker on designing your garden to make it personally yours. I wonder if she covers what to do with 'trollius-gone-to-weeds'? I hate to think of stopping them because I can dig them and put them in a pot to sell. However, it would be nice to have a garden space back again so I will be there taking notes like mad. In February we will have Kearlee Wright with his presentation on making a water garden. We've got an extra bed here if anyone wants come down for any of our presentations. I make good breakfasts too.

I got back a note from my originally-from-Germany friend who showed me how to make the recipe Red Pond Scum that I put in last month's newsletter and I quote it: "When I told you that Gruetze is pond scum, I failed to add that that is called "Entengruetze" (Enten are ducks). I hope you have seen ponds with green stuff growing on top that the ducks like to eat. Some of your friends might not take to a dish called red pond scum, but then people in Alaska are different!" Aren't we though! And she will be back to the state someday I bet you.

Can you imagine what it would be like to have a 12-month garden? The weeds? The bugs? All year? Spare me and let it snow!

Mercifully, the new catalogs are arriving and the problem now becomes which company do I order from, that I haven't ordered from lately, in order to keep the catalogs coming?

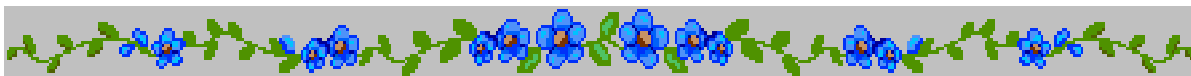
And the snow saga. Soil temperature is still a "warm" 31°F instead of a more normal 27°F. The snow is butt deep to a short gardener so no matter what the temperature will be for the rest of the winter, everything, including bugs and slugs should return. I'm just glad we don't have many.



Out of the bosom of the Air,  
Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,  
Over the woodlands brown and bare,  
Over the harvest-fields forsaken,  
Silent, and soft, and slow  
Descends the snow.

Author: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
Source: Snow-Flakes





## Bird Chatter

- From the August, 2003, *Avant Gardener* comes news of a nematode, an European native, called the *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita* that kills slugs, and now according to the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, does not harm earth worms. It is sold in Europe under the name "Nemaslug". Do we dare to hope it might come to us?
- Check out Thompson and Morgan's Nemesia shooting stars....and it's fragrant besides looking weird.
- New Master Gardener Leslie Mott lives on Caragana Circle. Did she know this was the genus of Siberian pea shrub before she took the class?
- Youth grant opportunity: Landscapes for Learning Awards sponsored by *Fine Gardening* and the National Gardening Association, <http://kidsgardening.com/grants/fq.asp>. Applications due March 15, 2004
- Seen in EPA's November issue of the newsletter WaterTalk: **Don't mow all your lawn.** If allowed to grow tall and interspersed with weeds, your lawn can be a haven for butterfly caterpillars, small mammals and birds.
- At least 2 master gardeners treated themselves to new "Remote thermometers" that register temperatures below the standard -21°F for Christmas. These instruments can be found locally at Radio Shack, as well as on the internet at the Radio Shack site & the Wind and Weather web site. They can accommodate 3 remote sensors, so you can see how warm/cold it is in your greenhouse, in the soil, or on your deck.
- Quote from Patricia Joyner, Community Forestry Education Coordinator: "Sometimes a newly planted tree is like a car, it only lasts as long as its warranty."
- Sue Lincoln was seen wearing a T-shirt that said, DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR PLANTS DOWN (purchased from the American Phytopathological Society).
- Many thanks to Genevieve Holubik for her contribution of gardening books to the Master Gardener volunteer book shelf.
- New MG Thomas Fischbach is a "repeat attender". He first took the MG Course from Wayne Vandre 20 years ago in 1983.
- Anchorage's beautification theme for 2004 is "The Aurora--A Northern Blast of Color".
- Alaska magazine debut: There is a picture of MG Nickel Lafleur in the Dec/Jan issue (along with Micheal Rasy, Gregg Terry and Lorri Abel) who volunteered their pruning services at the Anchorage Memorial Cemetery at the United Way Day of Caring last fall.

## FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Virginia Samson has two umbrella tree plants, *Schefflera*, in her conservatory that have outgrown their welcome (after 30 years). The siblings are quite different in appearance. The first stands about 6-7 feet high - such elegant architecture. The second plant is smaller, perhaps 3-4 feet and is hoping to go solo ....or escape the shadow of its long-time companion. If you have a spare corner (away from bright sunlight) please email [virginiasamson@hotmail.com](mailto:virginiasamson@hotmail.com).



Winter is an etching,  
spring a watercolor,  
summer an oil painting  
and autumn a mosaic of them all.

-Stanley Horowitz



## Answers to Quiz

1. Boxing.
2. Niagara Falls. The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.
3. Asparagus and rhubarb.
4. Baseball.
5. Strawberry.
6. The pear grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the whole growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
7. Dwarf, dwell, and dwindle.
8. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
9. In Minnesota. The team was originally known as the Minneapolis Lakers and kept the name when they moved west.
10. Batter hit by a pitch; passed ball; catcher interference; catcher drops third strike; fielder's choice; and being designated as a pinch runner.
11. Lettuce.
12. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, snowshoes, stockings.



## In Remembrance

Arborist Matt Tyralla, Aspen Tree Surgery, passed away in November. He was passionate about trees and passionate about teaching others about trees. Matt will be remembered for his many contributions to the community, including the Christmas tree recycling program he started.

## Web Notes

While searching for information on gardening in Alaska I came across the web site for the Georgeson Botanical Garden located at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. They have an extensive publication list that is well suited to our growing conditions and cover a wide variety of topics that would interest any gardener in this state! Check them out at <http://www.uaf.edu/salrm/gbg/pubs/Notes/notesindex.html>

And if you really want to plan ahead: The 2005 International Master Gardener Conference will be held July 24-27, 2005 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Web updates for this are available at: [www.mastergardener2005.usak.ca](http://www.mastergardener2005.usak.ca)  
Janice Chumley, Kenai

Have you checked out the site, [www.alaskangardens.com](http://www.alaskangardens.com)? It is done by our very own member Jean Coghill, and changes every month.  
Joan Robson, Fairbanks

[www.gardenshow.com](http://www.gardenshow.com) for the Northwest Flower and Garden Show February 4-7 and the San Francisco Garden show March 17-21.

The Juneau Master Gardeners have a new web site! Please check it out: <http://www.seakmastergardeners.org>

The 2004 Central Environmental Nursery Trade Show "CENTS", The Best Attended Show Of Its Kind In The Nation, is scheduled this month at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, January 26, 27 & 28. Running concurrently with the show is the nationally acclaimed Ohio State University Nursery Short Course offering nearly 100 educational sessions.

For complete show and short course information, including on-line registration, schedule of topics and speakers, hotel availability and rates, our virtual "CENTS" Show including booth availability, maps, visit this web site: <http://onla.org/cents.html>

## Gardening Calendar

### January 8

Central Peninsula MG meeting: "Designing your Garden to make it Personally Yours" with landscape architect Nancy Casey. Contact Rosemary Kimball (907-262-6187 or email: [rosmarinus@gci.net](mailto:rosmarinus@gci.net)) for details.

### January 19

AMGA Annual Meeting & Elections: "Art and Design in the Garden" with Rita Jo Shultz from Homer. Meets 7 p.m. @ the CES, Conference Rm. 130, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Call 345-1562 for info.

### January 28th & 29th

The 23rd Annual Alaska Greenhouse and Nursery Conference will be held in Anchorage January 28 - 29. (See article on page 2 for details.)

### February 23

AMGA Meeting, Seed Exchange and Potluck: "AMGA Member Slides and Garden Photographs" - Meets 7 p.m. @ the CES, Conference Rm. 130, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Call 345-1562 for info.

### February 26

Herb Study Group, Meets 7 p.m. @ the CES, Conference Rm. 130, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Call 345-1562 for info.  
(No January Meeting scheduled)

### March 15

AMGA Meeting: "Shade Gardening" with Sally Arant - Meets 7 p.m. @ the CES, Conference Rm. 130, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Call 345-1562 for info.

## DON'T FORGET!!!

**Please send in 2004 Gardening group events so they can be posted in the newsletter and on the MG Web page. This is not limited to the Anchorage area. Thanks!**

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](mailto:gardener@corecom.net)

AMGA Web Site: [www.corecom.net/~gardener](http://www.corecom.net/~gardener)  
(The Newsletter will be on-line in living color!)

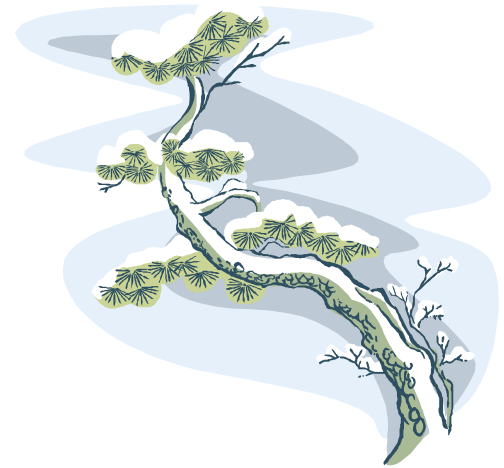
For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:

Cooperative Extension Office  
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone 786-6300

Fax Line 786-6312

**It's time to renew your AMGA Membership.  
Please fill out the enclosed membership form along with your check  
and mail it to AMGA before January 31st.**



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**Happy Gardening in 2004!**

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