

Anchorage Chapter

Volume 12, Issue 22

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER January 2010



Meet the Candidates

Here's a line up of the great nominees we have for the upcoming AMGA board election. Their names will be on the electronic ballot that you will receive after January 1st, 2010. Please take your time to read about each member, and vote for the appropriate number of people to fill all 7 of the vacant seats. The results will be announced at the January 18th meeting, and published in the February newsletter. Happy Voting!! (Candidates are listed alphabetically.)

Barbara Baker:



Having gardened indoors & out throughout her life, Barbara's recent retirement freed up time to learn more about gardening. She completed the UAA organic gardening class in 2006 & the Master Gardener's course in 2007. Flowers, trees & landscape design are her primary interests. Her former life as an administrator, where among her duties she wrote & managed grants, & planned conferences, will hopefully be of value to the MG association.

Jane Baldwin:



Jane took the Master Gardener course 99/00. She was on the Board of Directors 08/09 & 09/10 as Secretary. "I've enjoyed working with the MG monthly programs & garden tours, updating AMGAA's bylaws & helping to develop the first AMGA advanced master gardener training program. If elected, I would continue to encourage & welcome your participation so AMGAA's Board of Directors can best serve its membership."

best serve its membership."

Alice Campbell:



I have been a Master Gardener since 2005 & recently attended the Advanced Master Gardener class. I have lived all over the state & have lived in Anchorage 6 years. Before moving to Anchorage we lived in Kodiak where I was a member & President of the Kodiak Garden club for several years.

Judy Christianson:



Judy was in the first master gardener class & helped form the Alaska Master Gardeners Association. She served on the board in different positions including president. "I grew up in Anchorage gardening at my Mother's side. My husband & I have had a landscaping & excavating business for 30 years. I have done design work as large as the Sears Mall & small as a corner bed. I have planted trees, shrubs, vegetables & flowers on the job. We are currently working on semi retirement. I have volunteered at the Pioneer

Home as a MG for over 20 years designing, growing, planting & helping to maintain designated flowerbeds. I have helped with the ABG entry beds, planted & maintained the flowerbeds at the Equestrian Center. For many years I designed, planted & maintained the flowerbeds at church. I have taken many classes & workshops on agriculture & horticulture."

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Gina Docherty:



Gina is a recently retired RN who moved to Alaska from Oregon in 1979. She has been gardening since she was a child in Oregon; her parents were both gardeners. She took the MG course in 1995 through the CES Correspondence course from Wayne Vandre, & joined the AMGA in 1997. Gina was elected to the board at her first meeting in January of 1997, & has served a total of 7 years on the AMGA board. She developed the AMGA newsletter and web site in 1999 & has maintained

them both since.

Robbie Frankovich



Robbie's been gardening in Girdwood, Alaska since 1987. Alyeska Ski Resort employs him as the Parking & Grounds Supervisor. In the summer, this entails gardening & landscaping the grounds of the Hotel Alyeska as well as giving slide presentations

on gardening to hotel guests. Wintertime finds Robbie running heavy equipment & plowing snow. But more importantly, this is the season he spends researching new plant material & planning next year's beds. In 2003 Robbie completed the Master Gardener's class. Since then he has taught several community school classes sharing what he has learned with other gardeners. In 2008, Robbie & his Alyeska garden beds were featured on the PBS program "Garden Smart." You can read more about Robbie in the October 2009 Master Gardener's newsletter.

Nickel LaFleur



Nickel retired from FEDEX in 2002 to start her own business - LaFleur Gardening. After completing MG training in the spring of 2003, she took the Alaska Tree Steward class, passed the International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist exam in 2006 & became recertified in December 2009 after completing the necessary CEUs. She completed the Advanced MG class in Entomology in November 2009 & passed the National Garden Club Flower Show Judge exam in October 2009. She is

an active member of Anchorage Garden Club, Alaska Botanical Society, and Vice Chair of the Alaska Community Forest Council.

"If elected a Board member of AMGA, I hope to be able to be able to get more networking done within the gardening groups around town... to get volunteers active in what is happening in our community!"

Sue Lincoln



Sue Lincoln was raised in Southcentral Alaska. Her family homesteaded in the Willow area in the early 1960s. She married a C-130 navigator in 1982 & suddenly found herself in foreign (albeit, US) lands! She began her horticulture studies in Nebraska, but completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture Technology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Upon returning to Alaska, Sue earned a Master of Science in Vocational Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

During this time Sue was also employed with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service Anchorage Office doing work in the Integrated Pest Management Program, Pesticide Applicator Training Program, Horticulture Program, Master Gardener Program & Water Quality Program. She has also worked with the Municipality of Anchorage as a public gardener as well as a plant propagator for a local greenhouse. Sue has served on the AMGA Board of Directors in the past as Treasurer & Member at Large & is currently serving as Chair of the Education Committee.

JoAnna Littau:



JoAnna took the Master Gardener's course in 98/99. She served on the board through 07. She is the Volunteer Coordinator Committee chair. She sends out meeting notices for AMGA.

Amy Olmstead:



I have been playing in the garden since about 1994. I enrolled in the Master Gardeners class in 2002-03 when I realized I was either going to have to buy thousands of dollars of books requiring equal amounts of time to read them, or I was going to have to take a class.

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Master Gardener Focus:

MARNIE ISAACS

By Cheryl Chapman

Master Gardener Marnie Isaacs says it's easy to find the Isaacs' house: Just drive down their West Anchorage street until you don't see anything, and that's it. The Isaacs live in a bubble underground, a comfortable V-shape of concrete and turf with an arc of meadow above for ceiling and garden ("We can hear moose walking on the roof").



Marnie Isaacs in her garden, "looking for things green" in early May and planning her pond planters for the summer.

[Photo provided by Marnie]

Tall windows on the side away from traffic open onto a plunge of woodland down to Fish Creek, a steep, fern- and native-planted understory, a bog garden, a slate-rimmed pond, and the understanding that when the creek rises, something has to give: in this case, the walkway and pergola, which are engineered to float. "We've seen them rise as much as 2 feet when the creek comes up," says Marnie, whose approach to the land is guided by

a green version of the Hippocratic oath, "Do no harm."

"We don't use fertilizer on the slope, nor any on this side of the roof where it would drain into the creek," she says. "You live with and appreciate the environment you're given, and you only enhance, never destroy."

"I try to garden as kindly as I can. I do believe that soil organisms are easily damaged by insecticides and too much fertilizer, so I hand-dig the dandelions and hand-pull the clover. Not to use chemicals, that's my big thing. Slugs, pests and such try my patience, though."

Marnie was born into a Philadelphia gardening family. Her father grew vegetables as a hobby, and Marnie, her sister and her two brothers all "loved going out there. It was a fundamental for us," she says. All four siblings garden yet, though the three others stayed on the East Coast, in Massachusetts and Upstate New York while Marnie came to Alaska in 1975 on what was planned as a summer vacation.

But Alaska captivated her and soon-to-be-husband Jon, and they moved from Hinchinbrook Island in Prince William Sound in 1976 and rented the 600-square-foot concrete basement of the house where their earth home is now. Eventually, they bought the place. "We loved the neighborhood and the peace and the orientation away from the road," she says. An architect friend loved the

potential he saw in the location with its southern exposure and sandy soil, and Marnie and Jon took his advice, and the plunge, and went Earth.

The first leg of the "V" was finished in 1982, and the second in the 1990s. More recent additions include a canopy over the steps down to the front door, and a heated driveway, what Marnie calls "anticipating age." Marnie, who has served on the board of the Alaska Botanical Garden since retiring from ConocoPhillips Alaska as director of community relations, keeps meticulous track of her own gardens with scrapbooks that are annual biographies of a dearly loved place.

"I think longevity helps," she says. "I like the anchor of a lot, a house and a neighborhood that I know."

The current scrapbook, a spiral-backed 10-inch-by-10-inch covered with dragonfly-print linen - the Alaska state insect and symbol of hope, change and love -- is organized by year, starting in 2001, with sketched plans, photos, seed packets, weather notes, plant inventories and - in red - what lived, what didn't, and, at the end of each season, plans for the year to come.

"I keep close records of what I'm doing," she says. "I don't like to make the same mistake over and over again."

A tale of two vines, with photos, is illustrative: 2001, Virginia creeper, "Loser: None of four plants survived winter (mulched)"; "Arctic Beauty kiwi, male, female, planted along back stairs/trained nicely. Both male, female plants survived well; vines wrapped on the railing are greening out as well. Heavily mulched."

Free-roaming neighborhood cats stalking birds on Isaacs turf turned out to be partial to Kiwi, too, but Marnie says an herb with the common name of Cat Scat did its job to repel them, helped along on her part by a Wrist Rocket, like a slingshot but more accurate. "I had buckets of stones."

Decades of gardening have taught her the wisdom of taking time to consider. "Don't rush it if you want to succeed," she says. "Observe winter/summer and summer/winter. Look at where your shade is, where the sun is. Don't throw a lot of things into the environment that you don't understand."

Take pictures and keep notes, too. "Keep a record of where you've been." And do your homework. "Experiment safely," says Marnie. "Be responsible, but have fun with it."

Each year she expands on successes and tries something new, but if it's clearly not Alaskan, like the Doyle's thornless blackberry, she plants it first in a buried tub "so I know where the roots are" and clears a space around it so it doesn't escape pell-mell into the wilds or wetlands below the home. In 2010, her goals include trying to grow more moss - buttermilk seems to help - and to study a muskrat that has denned up in the creek bank.

"Life comes back," says Marnie. "There's always something to learn."

2010 New Year Gardening Resolutions

By Jane Baldwin

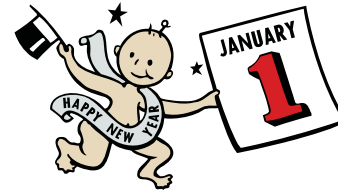
It may be dark and gloomy outside, but it's a perfect time to dream and scheme for the coming summer. This is the gardener's chance to plan a "do over" for next summer's garden to make it better than last year's. If you happen to need another New Year's resolution or two for motivation, here's the easy way: multiple choice -all answers are correct - and you can pick as many as you like!



I resolve to:

- use more compost to enrich the soil, which adds nutrients and beneficial microbes, improves texture and water retention
- either start a compost pile or do better at working my existing compost pile.
- mulch, mulch, mulch and then mulch again to reduce weeds, reduce the amount of watering required and to enrich and replenish the soil.
- grow more of my own vegetables so I know what I eat.
- plant some veggies among my perennials, experiment with growing veggies in containers, and try at least one vegetable that I've never grown before.
- look at plants I buy carefully before purchasing for signs of invaders such as spider mites, scale insects, slugs, aphids, etc.
- build at least one "lasagna style" garden bed.
- learn and use the botanical names of plants as well as the common names.
- start and/or do better at keeping a garden journal and keep a photographic journal of my garden.
- see what other gardeners are doing and learn as much about gardening in my area by visiting and seeing as many gardens as I can and I will share my gardens with others.
- try growing blue potatoes, perhaps in a container using only compost or leaves.
- to work towards gardening organically or going green, or at least with the least possible use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers to avoid polluting my soil, natural areas, and waterways with runoff.
- to order seeds early to avoid substitutions, but not to go crazy and over-order and start too many seeds.
- adjust my mower's cutting height to a higher level to let grass grow taller & develop a better root system, requiring less watering & mowing and crowds out weeds, & mulch or compost the grass clippings.
- donate more of my veggie harvest and/or plant an extra row of veggies to donate to local food banks, shelters, or cafes for the homeless and hungry.
- set a plant purchase budget and stay within it (except in extreme, simply must have situations!).
- have a plan and not buy whatever is on sale at the nursery or garden center unless I know exactly where it will be planted.
- I will actually PLANT in the ground all the plants I buy as soon as possible, and before the end of summer.
- learn to better understand my gardening conditions by studying my yard this winter, spring and summer & work on developing plans to mitigate problem areas to better site plants with differing requirements, and work on creating some higher gardening zone niches in my yard.
- plant more heirloom seeds, and save and share the seeds with others.
- I add one new 'feature' to my garden this year (garden bed, rocks, bench, bird bath or feeder, path, garden art, new shrub, arbor, etc.).
- recycle something for use in my garden instead of buying 'new'.

- get to know my bugs and their life cycles, both beneficial and pests, to learn what is the best time and frequency to control and/or encourage them by good IPM using the least toxic methods. (Remember insects help to maintain the balance of nature.)
 - to enjoy my garden more fully by eating outdoors more, feeding and watching the birds, smelling the flowers, watching the amazing world of insects inhabiting my garden, and marveling at the colors and textures, and smiling at more ladybugs.
 - to think of the future, plan "smaller" and try to downsize my garden into efficient, manageable "vignettes" of plantings.
- [added by Gina D.]



2010 AMGA Nominees cont. from page 2

I was very lucky in that my class was the first, and only, to be offered at night for those who still have to work in order to sustain the habit of gardening! The art of turning dirt into soil became my favorite topic and I became a passionate convert and expert on Lasagne Gardening. My love for this techniques has turned into several fun community classes and garden tours in an attempt to convert others. I live in my garden in the summer and dream about it in the winter. My garden home has been on the Anchorage Tour of Gardens in 2007 and I have supported my mom's garden on the tour in 2008 and my sister-in-law in 2009. My street is full of gardeners and we all fully enjoy wandering the neighborhood sharing ideas and swapping cuttings, seeds and starts. I have never met a perennial I did not like, I admire those with the talent for growing from seed, and I think nothing of removing plants that do not behave they way they should! I am a drip irrigation and watering system nut. I designed and installed both my front and back gardens with these easy systems and believe that more time should be spent getting dirty rather than manually watering! I am a Master Gardener in terms of my desire to continue to learn and I believe the title of such is truly a door to exploring more.

Mary Shier:



Mary took the Master Gardener course 79/80. She has been President of AMGA several times. She volunteers at the Herb bed at the ABG, and at the Pioneer Home. Recently, she was awarded for a 30-year continuous contribution to gardening in the Anchorage area. (See December newsletter for more details)



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

The winter of few catalogs drags on. I queried my gardening friends and there's only been two T&Ms so far at the end of December. Pine Tree has been fairly generous and Stokes has been spotty. Barb Jewell got hers, but I haven't gotten mine. Parks is a hard one to keep coming. Shopping on line without having first browsed through the catalogs just doesn't make it. I think the companies come out ahead by sending the paper catalogs because of impulse purchases.

Winter attrition continues. The first to go was the *Saxifrage longifolia*, hardy to -20° but I pulled it into the house after it was -27° mid-November. More slowly, its cousin *S. paniculata* died. I repotted my adorable *Chamaecyparis* into a pot that matched its foliage and put it in the kitchen window. Several weeks later I happened to touch its foliage and it was dry, brittle and dead. As long as I don't jiggle the pot it still looks nice as a dried arrangement. And I killed one of my rosemaries. The nice thing about that death in the family is that I can strip the needles off and put them in a jar.

Then I repotted neighbor Mark's pretty-leafed begonia and for several weeks it was stunning. Then reality arrived and I took it back to his house to die. Gina is trying to revive my *Primula cockburniana* and I'm trying to start its seeds. The moose ate Rose Adelaide Hoodless ankle high and much of the mock orange because I never got around to Plantskydd-ing them. Next year.

Found solutions to the fall generation of house aphids. MG Kathy Wartinbee brought three praying mantises in from her greenhouse and hasn't seen them or aphids since. I vacuumed my aphids. I got some micro attachments with my new hose and I rigged up the wee brush and went over the aphids and they disappeared down into the bowels of the house with the lint and cat hair. They haven't come back.

The two big May Day trees (aka European Bird Cherry) we have out front had their berries eaten by the robins this year! They've not done that before so when a small flock of wax wings came through at the end of December there was nothing left. I felt like apologizing to them. I'd rather have wax wings than robins.

What a difference a year makes. After Christmas last year it was consistently 30° below. This year it's 30° above. I wonder what next year will bring.



2010: The Year of the Dill By Rosemary Kimball

The International Herb Association has designated 2010 The Year of Dill, *Anthem graveolens*. The common name, dill, comes from Norse meaning "to lull". Dill is the only member of its genus and is such a versatile plant it doesn't need "cousins". Dill's use has been traced back to the New Stone Age about 9500 years ago. It was also commonly used by Greeks, Romans and Egyptians.

Want to put a spell on someone--use dill seed. Want to keep from getting hexed? Wear a sachet of dill seed over the heart. Use dill seed as a love potion or to strengthen the brain. Dill tea made with water or white wine will calm an upset stomach. It's a diuretic. Chewing the seed rids halitosis. Use a decoction of dill seed for insomnia. There's practically nothing that dill seed, won't cure.

The seed is considered a spice but the leaves are an herb. If ever there was an herb for Alaska, this is it, even though it originally came from the Mediterranean region. Dill weed is good with potatoes, cucumbers, salmon, halibut, cream cheese and yogurt. What's not to like about it?



Dill is easy to grow but I use a tomato cage around the plants because of the wind. Even though it is a roadside weed in warmer climates, it does like fairly rich soil and full sun. I put out transplants. I use 3-4 seeds in a small pot and use care in the transfer. I seldom get mature seeds for pickles but I get lots of weed.

Dill weed loses its flavor when dried so the easiest way to insure good flavor is to freeze it. I put the leaves into a plastic sack, take out as much air as possible and throw the sack in the freezer until the temperature outdoors is around zero. Then I chill a glass jar out there, take the bag of dill weed outside and massage it until the frozen crisp dill is broken to the size I want. Toss it into the jar, put the lid on and back into the freezer it goes for winter use.

To make tea, steep 2 teaspoons of seed in a cup of water for 10 to 15 minutes. Take a half cup at a time, using one to two cups a day for whatever ails you.



Bird Chatter

[No Bird Chatter this month]

You Useless Weed! By Linda McCarthy Beckworth

Latin pinpoints an exact plant within a group of the same plants. It's a process of narrowing down and we owe this plant classification system to Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778), a Swedish naturalist who worked to bring order to the plant world. Others had attempted it before him but nothing was consistent. One thing botanists are famous for is naming plants for themselves, or others. When Johann Siegesbeck, an opponent of Linnaeus' system, became fiercely vocal about it, Linnaeus got his revenge. He named a useless European weed *Siegesbeckia*.



ANTICIPATION By Jane Baldwin

By the time you get this newsletter we will have left the winter solstice behind and the daylight hours will have increased 13 minutes from our shortest day of 5 hours 27 minutes of daylight. By the time you get February's newsletter we will be enjoying 8 plus hours of daylight and begin gaining daylight at the rate of 5 and 6 minutes a day. Another hour of daylight every 10 days! By mid March we will have passed 12 hours of daylight and be on our way to our 19+ hours of summer daylight. (However, no matter how much daylight there is, summer does not arrive until the ice is out of the compost heap!)

GARDEN JARGON WORD SEARCH Submitted by Linda McCarthy Beckworth

H	C	D	N	T	M	F	F	A	E	G	K
H	S	G	L	A	E	O	R	O	V	C	G
A	H	I	O	T	E	N	P	B	A	R	I
R	C	L	L	B	M	U	D	B	T	A	D
D	L	A	I	O	T	F	H	E	D	R	E
S	U	D	C	B	A	C	A	N	R	I	L
C	M	Q	P	Z	N	T	E	N	R	L	B
A	Y	A	K	I	U	M	S	N	L	T	U
P	S	G	P	V	A	A	N	E	T	L	O
E	D	A	E	H	D	A	E	D	I	C	D
A	X	R	B	J	U	U	T	G	H	D	X
H	H	B	E	J	K	X	I	K	C	K	E

Find these familiar garden words in the table above.

- Amend - to improve the soil;
- Chit - to nick or somehow breach a seed coat;
- Cultivar - cultivated variety;
- Deadhead - to remove a spent flower;
- Double-dig - to tortuously overwork the soil;
- Establish - to root well into the garden;
- Foetid (like fetid) - stinky;
- Hardscape - the nonplant part of a garden;
- Leaf mold - decomposed leaves;
- Loam - a soil equally comprised of sand, silt, and clay;
- Mulch - material spread on the ground to conserve moisture and reduce weeds;
- Pinch back - to remove the growing tip of a stem;
- Pot up - to move a container plant up a size;
- Tender - not likely to survive the cold;
- Turf - lawn



DYC by Rosemary Kimball

Here's a DYC (Darned Yellow Composite) for you: Dandelion. According to Hultèn there are 11 different kinds up here. The one we're most familiar with is the annoying perennial *Taraxacum officinale*. The plant got its common name from French around the 16th century from the shape of the leaves which looked like teeth or dents of lions.

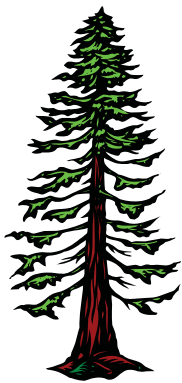


I use dandelions, along with lupin, to figure out what areas around the central peninsula are warmest first in the spring. Where those flowers bloom first,

the soil warms soonest--or like Sterling, latest.

The flower is yellow and cheery and if it didn't mean lawn work it would be even prettier. The flower seems to get its seed head almost over night and the seeds disperse to the four winds on little parachutes with the slightest breeze. The plant can be controlled chemically with 2-4-D, or with a tool like Cheryl Wikstrom's favorite, a 15-inch screwdriver.

Garden Event Calendar



Bringing in the New Year Thinking about our Trees

By: Nickel LaFleur, ISA certified
arborist and landscape professional

As I look out the window, I don't think I've ever seen our landscape look prettier. Unfortunately, with the addition of the significant amount of hoarfrost on the trees along with the dumping of snow, a lot of branches are ready to break or have already broken. It's a quandary whether to get in there and knock the snow off them, and take a chance of mistakably breaking off branches with those efforts, or doing nothing at all.

I've decided to take the approach of knocking the snow off the most noticeable 'deciduous-leaning' by getting underneath the low branches and form my body into an inverted "L" and slowly rock the snow off. (Note: you get covered in snow from the process so keep your hood up). Once the snow-load was lifted off the lower branches, I used a push broom with extendo-handle to gently knock the snow off the higher branches. I'm almost sure I heard the trees breathe a sigh of relief from my intervention as they swayed their thanks.

The snow is great insulation for your planting beds, so take advantage of all this freshly dropped mulch to put over areas under eaves or in hard to get spaces. Of course, you don't have to remove the snow for the sake of the tree (I think it may like the extra moisture) but if it lands in an area that needs to be shoveled, think of the snow as 'white gold' for your planting areas.

Speaking of mulch, (and a change of seasons) did you know that you can smother a tree with dumping load after load of leaves around its trunk? It's better to spread out the chopped up leaves around the drip-line of the tree than to concentrate the dumping near its base. The tree needs to be able to absorb its oxygen from the area near the trunk's root zone in order to complete its cycle, so keep the mulch at least four to six inches away from the base, please.

If you have trees that are caged, now is a good time to check those structures to ensure the branches and/or trunk aren't accessible to the hungry moose. Remember, it's best to have the cage as high as possible as it is rare a moose gets on its belly to maneuver in to munch on a tree. There are just too many other trees for the moose to feast on to do that. The big secret is 'height of the cage'. Get out there with your 10' tall ladder and nestle it in the deep snow and do some fence revamping, your trees are worth it.

I wish everyone a happy new year as we enjoy a lunar eclipse blue moon to bring in 2010. Here's hoping for a clear, bright new year for all my fellow tree lovers.



Thursday, January 14

Wildflower Garden Club monthly meeting. "Growing the Best Tomatoes!" Verna Pratt will share the results of her many years of experimentation with both greenhouse and garden varieties. 10am, Central Lutheran Church, 15th Avenue and Cordova Street. Contact Deb Cologgi for more info at cologgi@mtaonline.net

Monday, January 18

Alaska Master Gardener meeting: "Vines, a Slide Show" by Dana Klinkhart; Election results - 7 p.m., CES, room 130; 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Call 786-6400

Saturday, January 23

Alaska Botanical Garden Winter Workshop Series. "Vermicomposting". Learn how to compost at home with worms. Worm compost bins will be available for sale at the class. To be held at the UAA / APU Consortium Library room 307, 2:30-4pm. \$5 ABG members, \$10 non-members. Registration required, call 562-7055 for more information.

Sunday, January 24

Homer Garden Club monthly meeting. "Starting From Seed" presented by Jeannie McArthur and Teena Garay. Jeannie will cover growing annuals and vegetables and Teena will be covering growing perennials, shrubs and trees from seed. 2pm., Best Western Bidarka Inn conference room. The public is welcome. Contact Neil Wagner at nlights@xyz.net or 235-6953 for more info.

Tuesday, January 26

Alaska Orchid Society monthly meeting. "Bromeliads" and a tour of the orchid house at the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden presented by Jerry McEwen. Guests are always welcome to attend. 7:30pm. Central Lutheran Church at the corner of 15th Avenue and Cordova Street. Contact Wayne at AKOS-Newsletter@aol.com or calling 277-2157.

Wednesday, January 27

Anchorage TREErific! meeting: Scott Stringer, municipal forester and certified arborist, will explain where, what and how the root impact zone affects a tree's overall health. 6pm., Anchorage Senior Center, 1300 East 19th Ave. Pizza donated by The Moose's Tooth arrives by 5:45. Any questions Call Nancy Beardsley at 343-4288 or email us at TREErificAnchorage@yahoo.com

Sunday, January 31st

Miniature Birch-Bark Baskets - Make beautiful baskets using bark harvested from downed trees. 2pm. Learn how to sew baskets from birch bark - all materials provided. Limited to the first 10 participants ages 15 and up, who register at 694-2108. Cost \$10; additional \$5 parking for non-members. At the Eagle River Nature Center.

[The complete Gardening Calendar can be found at the ADN website (adn.com) under Fran Durner's "Talk Dirt" blog. Thank you, Fran!]

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

Mail: 14051 Fejes Road

Anchorage, AK 99516

Phone: 345-4099

Email: amga@gci.net

AMGA Web Site: www.alaskamastergardeners.org

(The Newsletter will be on-line in living color!)

To send concerns or information to the AMGA directly, mail to:

AMGA

P.O. Box 221403

Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
Cooperative Extension Office
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: 786-6300
Fax: 786-6312



Happy New Year!

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Think Spring! Photo of lewisia tweedii, spring flower from Marnie Isaacs' garden. Marnie is the Master Gardener Focus for January, 2010. See article on page 3.
Photo by Marnie Isaacs

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
Anchorage Chapter
University of Alaska Cooperative Extension
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Anchorage, Alaska 99522-1403

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