



Anchorage Chapter



Volume 13, Issue 2

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER February 2011



Message From Jane

Seed catalogs. Seed selection. Seed starting. Seedling tending. Seed exchange at the February MG meeting. Who has what started and if not yet, when?

Decisions, decisions, decisions. With a bit of thinking outside the box (or maybe that's inside the box!) gardeners can wrest a bit of control over some of the food we eat. Think veggies: intermixing with ornamentals; raised beds; a 10' x 10' row could be 100 sq. ft of veggies.

Space challenged? Think growing in containers—yes even growing in cardboard boxes; growing vertically; window boxes, pots on the balcony or deck; garden pots or a plastic tub veggie garden in the driveway.

Soil challenged? Think lasagna-style growing in pots (composting while you grow). This will work. Two years in a row I've container-grown potatoes in the leaves used for winter mulch that were raked off beds in the spring, harvesting not only potatoes but the leaves also partially composted in the pot providing a nice batch of leaf mold to use as a soil conditioner to improve soil structure and water retention.

Think about growing heirloom, non hybrid seeds; save your own seeds from year to year; maintaining diversity. Know how your food was grown; think nutrition: vitamins, minerals and fiber and even protein from your own produce; think satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment.

Kale: Having Leslie Shalcroft's October MG program on the super nutritional benefits of Kale in mind: Red Russian, Redbor, Nero Di Toscona, Dwarf Blue Curled, Scotch, Winterbor, Dinosaur (Lacinata or Tuscan Black), Rainbow Tuscan (Lacinata x Redbor). Portuguese kale which is an offbeat loose leafed cabbage (Tronchuda cabbage).

Beets: Cylindra, Detroit, Early Wonder, bolthardy, Crosby Egyptian, Golden, white albino, ruby Queen, Red Cloud, Red Ace, Lutz Winter Keeper - OMG, which seeds to order!

Carrots. Experiment with starting carrots early indoors. Apparently contrary to popular belief, it is possible to start them early and transplant as long as you don't damage their tap root in the process. You need to use a planting container deep enough to accommodate

their roots (at least 4"). Time to start saving those ½ gallon milk containers, or 20-oz latte cups. Keep the soil loosely packed to allow long straight roots to develop. Try some successive starts. Transplant when warm enough and get a jump start on harvesting, or so they say.

February 21st MG Meeting: potluck and seed exchange. Bring a dish to share (and perhaps the recipe?) and seeds to share. And I'm hoping the delicious rhubarb-orange pie that appeared last year will reappear with a recipe... :-). We will also have a presentation on UAF's Georgeson Botanical Garden by Dr. Pat Holloway, Director.

Summer Garden Tours: We're looking for gardens to visit. Please consider hosting the MGs for a summer Monday evening tour. Call or email me or any of the Board members if you're willing to share your gardens this coming summer. Works in progress and experiments welcomed - remember, there are no failures in gardening, only experiments! We are trying to schedule garden visits by the end of February so they can be included in the new Directory.

2011 Board of Directors: Don't hesitate to contact any Board member with questions and/or suggestions. Contact info in the directory. Jane Baldwin, Judy Christianson, Gina Docherty, Sandra Harrington, Nickel LaFleur, Sue Lincoln, Annie Nevaldine and Mary Shier.



AMGA Treasurer's Report

Checking Account:

12/31/2010 Balance:	\$3,901.26
Income (dues & donation)	+2,050.00
Expenses	-680.80

1/25/2011 Balance	\$5,342.46

AMGA Meeting Report Monday, January 17th By Gina Docherty

Apple Growing by Dwight Bradley,
Pioneer Fruit Growers
www.bradleyorchard2@gmail.com



The evening's agenda included the annual business meeting with introduction of four new or returning Board of Directors: Judy Christianson, Sandra Harrington, Nickel LaFleur and Annie Nevalidine. Certificates of achievement were presented to Advanced Master Gardeners who completed all course requirements for advanced training in the 2009 Entomology course.

A full house greeted our speaker for the night, who discussed apple growing in Alaska, and in general. Dwight is the owner of Bradley Orchards in Chugiak. He moved to Alaska from New Hampshire and planted 50 apple trees - none survived. He now has around 150 trees, 70 varieties, and harvests about 2000 pounds of apples a year.

Dwight gave an informative presentation on all aspects of growing apples in Alaska. Here are a few notes from his talk:

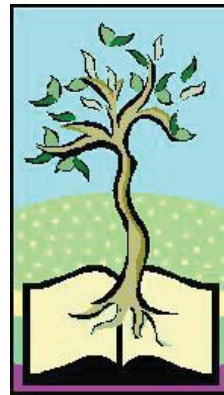
- *Malus pumila* originated in Central Asia in the Kazakhstan fruit forests (Tien Shan) where pears, apples nuts, apricots grew. Surviving trees from this area are a valuable source of germplasm; they harbor no diseases since they are wild apples. The tree line is at 8000-9000 feet elevation, latitude 47°N, and grows naturally dwarfed apple trees. This area is surrounded by desert, so apples were carried by man via the 'Silk Road' as animal food (not trees) to the Roman Empire and spread from there. Apple trees were carried through the northern route to Russia & Scandinavia; this is where our Alaskan varieties come from.
- There are 20,000 named varieties of apples, 700 of which have been tried in Alaska by 'Claire' out of Fairbanks; Claire is currently growing 350 varieties, of which 250 varieties ripen, depending on the year & the location. Only 10 are reliable even in bad years (in Anchorage).
- There is no "one" best apple variety in Alaska. To choose a variety, ask these questions: Is it hardy to zone 3? Will it ripen (no later than 2 weeks after yellow transparent, which is the standard time, around September 20th). Is it worth growing? Remember: "A living dog is better than a dead lion".
- The best apples to grow: LARGE: Norland, Parkland & Prairie Sun; BETTER: Prairie Magic, Ariole, Zestar, Ginger Gold, State Fair, September Ruby, Carroll; RELIABLE: Trailman, Yellow Transparent (mediocre), Centennial, Rescue (small red), Chinese Golden Early (1st to ripen but doesn't last)...)
- Planting: Dig hole 2 ½' wide and 1 ½' deep; plant in May or June. When planting, mix a shovelful of compost, a handful of bonemeal, and a handful of lime. Set 3 stakes in a triangle pattern around the tree, keep tied for 1 year only. Space trees 8-10 feet apart in an orchard. Put an 8' fence around your trees to protect from moose. Sprinkle compost around the tree once a year in June, never (fertilize) after July 4th. Keep weeded, and water well in June & July. A foliar application of a seaweed spray will provide trace elements. Pesticides are not recommended.
- Rootstock: ½ is underground. Preferred variety is RENETKA for larger trees, or ANTONOVKA (less

hardy) for smaller trees. The rootstock dictates tree size and contributes to hardiness. AVOID M26 OR OTHER M SERIES ROOTSTOCK.

- Weather problems: mid winter thaw, early freeze, frost during bloom, cool summers, dry June & July, wet August (scab).
- Apple Calendar - March-April: collect scion wood, apply wood ash, prune; April 15-30: bench graft on bare rootstock; May 15-June 15: top work; establish trees; May 1-15: apply compost, remove tree wraps; Late May-Early June: blossom time; May 20-June 20: Foliar feed; July 1-15: hand thin apples; Late August - September: HARVEST!

Dwight passed on some good advice: Plant more than you want; graft more than you want; bad winters happen; mistakes can take a long time to happen.

Recommended reading: "The Story of the Apple" by Barry Juniper; "The Apple Grower" by Michael Phillips.



Fertilizing Your Mind: Some Winter's Vocabulary for Spring Mike Baldwin, MG

A little winter vocabulary building to keep the mind fresh and ready for Spring. For your consideration, some tree and plant related words and their origins from a recent A.Word.A.Day newsletter (www.wordsmith.org):

- dendroid (DEN-droid) (adj): Resembling, branching like, or shaped like a tree. This comes from the

Greek dendron (tree). The earliest documented use is in 1846.

- ligneous (LIG-nee-uhs) (adj): Having the texture or appearance of wood. The word comes from the Latin lignum (wood), and ultimately from the Indo-European root leg- (to collect), which is also the source of lexicon, legal, dialogue, lecture, logic, legend, logarithm, intelligent, diligent, sacrilege, elect, and loyal. First sprouted around 1626.

- primrose path (PRIM-rohz path) (noun): 1. An easy life especially devoted to sensual pleasure. 2. A path of least resistance, especially one that ends in disaster. This comes from Latin prima rosa (first rose) and the earliest documented cultivation was from 1604 in Shakespeare's Hamlet.

In Hamlet [Act 1, Scene 3] Ophelia says to her brother Laertes:

"Do not, as some ungracious pastors do,
Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven,
Whilst, like a puff'd and reckless libertine,
Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads,
And recks not his own rede." [Heeds not his own counsel.]

Continued on page 6

Master Gardener Focus:

Lynne Opstad and Anna Denis, The Snaps Girls by Cheryl Chapman

Friends can be so annoying, especially when they're right.

Who hasn't been bragging about some marvelous jaunt, only to hear, "Well, what did you think of Aaa?" or "Surely you didn't miss Bbb" or worst, "I can't believe you didn't see Ccc after going all that way."

No more such for Alaska gardeners, thanks to Garden Snaps Girls Lynne Opstad and Anna Denis, their website, www.gardensnapsmap.com and their updated map and brochure, which will be available starting March 12 at the Alaska Botanical Garden's 5th Annual Spring Garden Conference in Anchorage, and thereafter at nurseries and garden shops around the state.

For three years now, Lynne and Anna have scoured Alaska for nurseries, greenhouses, farmers' markets, public gardens, garden centers, operations specializing in garden creation and care, and garden-related gifts for gardeners and their gardens alike, and have made their finds available in the glove-compartment-size Garden Snaps Map. They've handed out more than 30,000.

Even better: Their website, which is getting about 10,000 hits a month. It keeps current with garden club information from Fairbanks to Homer, and upcoming events and classes into, right now, May. The maps can be printed from the website, which is updated weekly; for instance, the International Carnivorous Plant Society now has an Alaska branch, Anna says, and Dwight Bradley, who talked about his Peters Creek apple operation at the Jan. 19 Master Gardener meeting, is president.

There's also a new rhubarb group, Rhubarb or Bust, devoted to all things rhubarb, which they call "Alaska's Apple": www.akrhubarb.blogspot.com. Lynne and Anna have been going over their brochure.

Many of the nurseries listed are small, specialized and well off the beaten path, like Ewetopia at the Butte, with its unusual begonias.

"You think you know where all the sources are," says Anna. "You don't. We found places that not even Julie Riley knew about." (Horticulturist Julie's digs at the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service's Anchorage office is one of the places gardeners can snag a Garden Snaps map.

They've always gardened, say Lynne (MG 08/09) and Anna (MG 97/98).

"My parents built their house in Fresno, Calif., in what had been a fig orchard," says Anna. "My father gardened, or tried to. When he tried to plant his first two ginkgo trees, he hit hardpan right under the good soil.

"That was our first experiment with gardening with dynamite."

Anna's was a mapmaking family. Her father, a mapmaker for the state, was a grafting enthusiast as well as occasionally blowing things up, "and we had lemons, limes and grapefruits all growing on the same tree," she says.

Lynne was a longtime manager in sales and marketing for DHL Worldwide Express, and brings business experience to their Snaps venture. She grew up in Dubuque, Iowa, and always gardened. Her mother saw to that. "Mom gave each of us a garden every year, and every year, we got to weed it," she says. "Mom liked to do the cutting and picking parts herself."

The two became friends in the 1980s. Their husbands worked together, they had children about the same time, they both lived in South Anchorage, they all loved to camp and explore - and they diverted at every opportunity to check out promising nurseries.

Alaska nurseries were different then. Fewer. Smaller.

"They were more like flower shops," says Anna.

"It used to be that everybody's garden had the same things," says Lynne. "Trollius. Bleeding heart. Delphiniums. Bergenia. Now people are trying out lots of new things. Rhododendrons. Vines. And food. There's an explosion of farmers' markets, and Community Supported Agriculture is a huge hit."

With CSAs, people sign up for a local farmer's produce like a magazine subscription, and every week a box of fresh vegetables arrives as faithfully as The New Yorker.

"River Bean in the Valley and the Fairbanks CSA have sold out the past two years," she says. "And more restaurants locally are buying locally."

The original Garden Snaps Map was comparatively dainty, 18x23 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and covered Anchorage, Eagle River, Wasilla-Palmer, Big Lake and Girdwood. By 2010, it had swelled to 24x27 inches to take in the original places plus Nenana, Talkeetna, Willow, Fairbanks, North Pole, Indian, Kenai, Ridgeway, Soldotna, Homer, Anchor Point and Seward.

Now Lynne and Anna are ranging even farther afield, to the Copper River Valley, to Glennallen, Chitina, and Copper Center. They've had inquiries from Valdez.

It may be that Alaska's Garden Snaps Map stands alone. It appears that only one other state - Oregon -- has something similar, and it's put together by the Oregon Nursery Association.

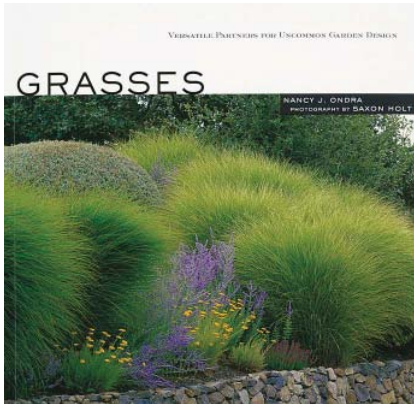
"We'll be winding it up by March 1, and then we can start traveling again, visiting nurseries and having fun," says Lynne.

<http://www.gardensnapsmap.com/cofe.html>

Book Review from Fran Durner:
GRASSES: Versatile Partners for Uncommon Garden Design by Nancy J. Ondra, photos by Saxon Holt.
(Storey Publishing, soft cover, \$19.95)

A New Journal:
Journal of Integrated Pest Management

Submitted by Michael Baldwin



Looking for a way to soften the look of a wood or chain link fence? Want to screen out the street or put some distance between you and your neighbors? Hankering for a new look in your garden? Think about trying an ornamental grass, one of the latest vegetative vogues to hit the gardening circuit.

Once upon a time, the only grass that ever crowded our thoughts was the one in our lawns that needed to be mowed over and over every summer. And we often needed regular reminders to do even that. For some, a no-grass yard is a welcome respite, so why would anyone really want to grow grass as an ornamental plant in their garden?

Has your head ever been turned by the look and sound of a tall grass swaying gently in an evening breeze with its flowering spikes or panicles glowing warmly as it is backlit by the sun? That's why. Another reason is because grasses come in many more colors and textures and heights than the plain ol' lawn grass we are used to overlooking.

Gardeners in Alaska are discovering the calming beauty of *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Overdam,' the dwarf habit of *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Northern Lights' and the arresting presence of *Alopecurus pratensis* 'Aureus,' just to name three of the grasses that are hardy in our zone.

Grasses by Nancy J. Ondra examines the possibilities of this versatile plant as a companion, a backdrop and a stand-alone star in your garden.

The book is divided into four sections with the first section introducing you to the basic terms and features of what makes an ornamental grass. Not all the plants that are lumped under the title "grasses" are true grasses, but can be sedges, rushes, flax or liriopse. The book gives descriptions and explanations to help understand the nature and habit of each before moving on to colors, designs, uses and suggested varieties for special areas.

In order for us to choose the best grasses for our gardens, knowing the hardiness zone for each plant is important. It may take a little extra effort to find out if a grass that you find exciting will work here, as zone recommendations are not listed for all the plants mentioned. However, I have seen non-hardy grasses used as accent plants in containers to great effect. And you really never can tell until you try something in your own garden at least three times, so I've heard.

Nurseries, garden centers and big box stores are beginning to carry and introduce more varieties of grasses as their popularity has grown. Let them know that you'd like to see more.

For those of you interested in pests and learning more about insects and integrated pest management there is a new on-line resource for you!

In October the Entomological Society of America released the first issue of its newest periodical - the *Journal of Integrated Pest Management*. According to a press release from the ESA, the *Journal of IPM* will be published quarterly, and available online for free. It will be publishing articles in all pest management disciplines, including entomology, nematology (i.e., wormology!), plant pathology, weed science, and other subject areas. In particular it will be organized around providing profiles of insects, emerging IPM issues, and science based recommendations on pest-control and pest-management topics based upon the principles of integrated pest management.

Intended for professionals, such as farmers, manufacturers/suppliers of pest management products, educators and pest control operators, the goal of the journal is to publish science based articles written to non-scientific readers. After a quick read, the articles did not seem to be overly technical and were quite readable for this non-scientist.

The half dozen articles in the first issue range from a description of a recent outbreak of a moth and its cutworm caterpillars that caused crop damage, destruction of turf, and pet illness in Michigan to a new model of IPM decision making when plant-pest interactions and economic outcomes are unknown or uncertain.

The article on the cutworm caterpillars might be worth checking out. A little web-wandering revealed a 2009 State of Alaska Division of Agricultural report indicating that moth discussed in the IPM journal (European Yellow Underwing; *Noctua pronuba*) has been found in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska since 2005 and was expected to be found in Interior by the end of the decade (Yikes - that's NOW!)

All you have to do is to follow this link to check it out!
<http://esa.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/esa/jipm>

On the IPM journal website just click on the link for Volume 1, Number 1, October 2010, and you will be taken to a table of contents for the journal. Pick an article, click on the title and soon you'll be reading some of the most current IPM thinking!

If you have some time, and you're looking for a little something different, but garden related, to do this winter—go check it out!



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

Well, it was January. All month it was, but actually it was "shorter" than the usual January.

Four Anchorage MGs who'd taken the Advanced MG class on soils, Gina, Mary Rydesky, Jane Baldwin and Nickel, came down from ANC and scored five of their Continuing Education Units in one day. It is always fun to have MGs around "talking plant" and just talking, period. There's something about the mental processes that make MGs interesting conversationalists about all sorts of stuff. Like food.

We're really going to miss Tom Jahns, the soils guru, who is the retiring head of the CES office down here. Anything he talks about, he does well and is easy to listen to and learn from. What I really thought interesting was the leaching of aluminum from items in planters. Being cheap, I've used empty pop cans to bulk out the space in big planters so I didn't have to use so much potting soil...not any more. Aluminum leaches easily and stunts plant growth. Tom is also starting his last MG class here on the peninsula.

I swore off food gardening for the two of us last year when I burned my hand, couldn't get into the garden, and the weeds went crazy. There are three things that are working on changing my mind...The first are the new seed catalogs and the second, missing the packages of mixed greens in the freezer. The other thing is that overspray chemical, Ornamec. I tried it out last year because I'd had the chemical on hand, unused, for quite a few years. In three weeks, the grass suddenly died leaving the established planting which, in my case, was horsetail. I'm going to head back to the federal label and see what they say about fragaria and maybe get my strawberry beds back again. I'm just hoping that the 8 HP rototiller that I abandoned in the garden in July will work. I need to bring it up to my work area and rehab it, big time. Ditto the chipper shredder by the compost piles. I have 3 bins of finished compost material that needs spreading. It makes my back sore just to think about it and write this stuff!

I also quit composting aggressively. I now look at kitchen wastes differently. Carrot peelings? Onion or celery ends? Into the someday-soup bag in the freezer. We have chickens in the greenhouse (is that a crappy mess!) and what would they like? Our ducks are too dumb to appreciate kitchen wastes. And Neighbor Mark has chickens which eat everything else very efficiently.

When Gina came down to the peninsula with the ANC MGs I put new batteries in my fly swatter and turned her loose. She's wicked! I had been worried about keeping a breeding population of flies downstairs in my worm bins for winter entertainment and I've quit that waste of time. The flies are rampant even though I swat several times a day. It's time to give up and order predatory nematodes to munch on the eggs and maggots because the winged ones have gotten out of hand. The January effect? I decided that with my swatter backhand I might have made a tennis player except that I've never been able to run. My pelvis is build for babies and I waddle.

I'd let my subscription to the North American Rock Garden Society go because I'm not able to travel now

to the Western Winter Study Weekend which was my spring get-out-of-Dodge trip. However, they sent out the new quarterly with a new format and I rejoined for two years. Google that group.

And this wandered in from the internet: Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Fruit Presses

New Master Gardeners, Trent and Christine Sexton brought a home-made fruit press to the January AMGA meeting. Christine writes:



My husband Trent Sexton thought he'd make me a fruit press to lessen my time boiling down fruit...so for Christmas he made me a 10-quart fruit press. Trent has since made and sold 4-quart fruit presses. He can make a fruit press to fit your needs for making juice, wine or jelly, 748-4341.

Old CDs for the Garden by Debbie Hinchey

There has been a lot of information on the Master Gardener blog about rabbits eating gardens and what to do about it. Rabbit stew was mentioned several times, but many people are looking for a less consumptive solution - that still works.

At a recent meeting someone brought in old The Garden magazines for giving away. In a February 2003 issue a reader offered a suggestion for keeping birds and rabbits out of the garden (i.e. from harvesting the garden.)

He used CDs to scare the birds away from his berries. When he put the CDs out as the berries began to ripen, the new family of rabbits that had moved in disappeared overnight, never to be seen again.

I assume the CDs were on strings and held up so that the wind could catch them and reflect the light in unpredictable patterns - scarring the critters away.

500 Years = 1" of topsoil From Linda McCarthy

Do some gardening and you'll dig up history. Most of that nutrient-rich ground-topper began as a hunk of rock reduced by physical and chemical deterioration. Over time plants grow in the cracks & their roots break up the rock into smaller pieces while adding in organic matter. Rock pieces turn into sand, silt, and clay particles. Five factors contribute to soil formation: rock type, vegetation, climate, topography, and time. Two factors contribute to flourishing gardens: water and lots of love.



Bird Chatter

-- Apologies to Mari Wood and Gregg Terry who were left off the list of those who completed the Advanced MG core course on Soils & Soil Amendments.

-- CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Anderson who has already completed her Advanced MG CEUs and volunteer hours and is now an Advanced Master Gardener II.

-- "If left uncontrolled, insect pests would eat or ruin about half of all crops grown in the United States."
Quote from Daniel Strickman, National Program Leader, USDA Agricultural Research Service

-- Two interesting book titles published in 2010, Holy Sh*#! and The Sheer Ecstasy of Being a Lunatic Farmer.

-- "In the early 1600s farmers obsessed with fertilization began plowing into their fields lime, dung, and almost any other organic waste that could be obtained."
— from *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations* by David Montgomery.

-- There are 21 names for the color 'green' in the L.L. Bean catalog except green. Some names include the word green (vintage green, pale green, light green, grass green, Atlantic green, garden green). Others include the names of plants (light moss, lime, dark seedling, bay leaf, sage, pale moss, moss, tarragon, sea grass, seedling, green tea, antique pine, snow pea). And then there's loden.

-- Dwight Bradley got everyone excited about the fruit forests of Kyrgyzstan when he spoke to MGs in January.

-- Commercial peony growers in Soldotna, Homer and Fritz Creek have recently formed the Kenai Peninsula Peony Growers, KPPG. The estimate for number of peonies planted on the Kenai is 33,000.

-- Kelly Ingram, CES's Americorp VISTA volunteer last year, is now working in her home state of North Carolina doing fitness and nutrition after-school activities with 5-12 year olds at the YMCA.

-- Marci Johnson is now working in CES's front office. Marci has been a long-time Extension employee and most recently worked to answer questions on the state-wide food preservation hotline.

-- Leonardo Da Vinci once said, "We know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot."

-- Nickel LaFleur can do more than garden. She was seen sewing with the 4-H Pillow Patrol one Saturday. The pillows are donated to children in foster care. Way to go Nickel!

MG Volunteer Help Needed

Fur Rendezvous display

Master Gardeners are needed to staff an Extension display during Fur Rendezvous and answer gardening questions. Rony starts Feb 24 and runs through March 6. Last year our display was outside the entrance to the Dimond Mall Library. Since the library has closed, we'll need to find a new venue. Stay tuned and expect to hear more details via email.

Alaska Botanical Garden

If you'd like to do all or some your volunteer work at the Alaska Botanical Garden, below is a list of projects that ABG needs help with. Please contact Lacey Ott at 770-3692, lacey@alaskabg.org and let Julie know what you're doing if you decide to tackle one of the following.

- Create Iphone Ap---guided tour of the garden
- Help with Schools in the Garden Spring/Fall (April/May & Sept/Oct)
- Help with Junior Master Gardener (July-Aug)
- Become a docent (end of May-Sept)
- Lead workshops...adult and/or children
- Convert Verna Pratt's slides to CD or jump drive
- Start seeds for Kitchen Garden Exhibit and create a brochure to go with it
- Detailed bed mapping with corresponding pictures
- Coordinate the educational tables for Garden Fair (make calls, map, be there morning of set up)
- Garden Fair Speaker Coordinator (contact potential speakers, create schedule, etc.)
- Garden Fair Children's Village Coordinator (contact past organizations, get volunteers, shop for supplies, maybe create a new activity, etc.)
- Re-create Lowenfels Family Trail Map
- Write newsletter articles (book reviews, educational articles)
- Worm Bin Demos at events and/or garden
- Help with Girl Scout Encampment at fair grounds (June?)
- Lead educational walks at the garden (fungi, edible, native)

Some Winter's Vocabulary...cont. from page 2

- sylvan or silvan (SIL-vuhn) 1. (adj): Related to the woods or wooded. 2. (noun) One who inhabits or frequents the woods. From the Latin silva (forest), and first germinated in 1565.
- wormwood (WUHRM-wood) (noun) 1. A plant of the genus *Artemisia*, used in making absinthe and medicines. 2. Something that brings bitterness or grief. This word's origin isn't clear, but appears to be an alteration of *wermod*, which is of obscure origin, and first used around 1400.
- procumbent (pro-KUM-buhnt) (adj) : 1. Lying face down; prone; prostrate. 2. Of a plant: Growing along the ground without putting new roots. This comes from the Latin *procumbent-* (bending forward), present participle of *procumbere* (to lean forward), from *pro-* (forward) + *cumbere* (to lie down). The earliest documented use is in 1668.

Nothing better than Hawaii in December by Nickel LaFleur - certified arborist

I found paradise on the south end of the Garden Isle courtesy of the National Botanical Gardens on Kauai. Seven of us from all over the U.S. met up with David, our tour guide for the Ho'ike Tour of the McBryde and Allerton Gardens. Ho'ike means: 'to be shown' or 'to see' in Hawaiian and was well worth the sixty dollar admission.

The design of this land dates back to Queen Emma who planted rose apples, ferns, bamboo and bougainvillea that survives on the steep hills today. After leasing the land for many years, the McBryde sugar cane family bought it in a land-auction held after the death of Queen Emma. Their son Alexander arranged to have one of Queen Emma's cottages brought down from the cliffs to the Lawai beach area where he continued to improve the land by planting palms, plumerias, ferns and ginger near his cottage. (While the rest of the acreage was developed into sugar cane, taro and rice fields).

In 1938, Robert Allerton and his son John Gregg Allerton purchased the 86 acre beach-front parcel from Alexander McBryde's estate (who died in 1935) for \$50,000. They continued on with Mr. McBryde's love of exotic tropical plants by developing and designing the land into fascinating garden rooms from plants acquired during their worldly travels.

Robert and John spent as much time as they could from Thanksgiving until mid-March in their Pacific paradise creating, preserving and developing the property. They employed an expert in stone-sculpture named Mr. Yamamoto, to build stone walk ways and walls to interesting places to rest. It is impressive to note that these walkways were as architecturally sound and straight today as they were fifty years ago. The Allerton's enjoyed walks around the property and delighted in providing 'hidden garden room treasures' for his guests to stumble upon when on their strolls.

It was hard for me to choose a 'favorite' part of the garden tour. The jaw-dropping Hawaiian landscape was eye-candy in itself. I love the Palmetum comprised of all palm trees known to exist; the raised gnarly roots of the Moreton Bay Fig Trees (used in the filming of Jurassic Park) made me feel insignificant in size; all types of plumeria trees dotted the landscape. I was told that even though they look 'dead', that they had recently shed their leaves and were in dormancy.

Our guide Dave pointed out the largest breadfruit tree's research orchard on the property and spoke of the importance of this tree to save our world from starvation. Dave wondered why more people didn't plant the Koa tree since its nut provides an oil that we could harvest for fuel.

Then we drove by the absolutely coolest-tree called the Pandanus, a member of the Pandanaceae or 'Screw Pine' family. It's a 'must have' tree for me in my bucket list of life.

Make Kauai a place on your list of tropical gardens to visit while Alaska is experiencing winter. You won't be sorry!

Garden Event Calendar

February 6, Sunday 2:00 pm

Alaska Rock Garden Society presentation "Native plants of Kodiak" by Stacy Studebaker, author. CES Office, 1675 C Street, Anchorage

February 7, Monday 7:30 pm

Alaska Native Plant Society presentation "Native plants of Kodiak" by Stacy Studebaker, author. - Campbell Creek Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive, Anchorage

February 10, Thursday 10:00 am

Wildflower Garden Club "Perennials for the Shade and Semi-shade Garden" presented by Sally Arant. - Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage

February 12, Saturday 2:00-4:00 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden Winter Workshop "Worm Composting" \$25pp/\$20 ABG members. Pre-registration required. Bell's Nursery on Specking Rd. 770-3692

February 19, Saturday 2:00-4:00 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden Winter Workshop "Garden Design" \$25pp/\$20 ABG members. Pre-registration required. Bell's Nursery on Specking Rd. 770-3692

February 21, Monday 7:00 pm

Alaska Master Gardeners Assn.: Pat Holloway with the Georgeson Botanical Garden. Potluck and seed exchange. CES, 1675 C Street, Anchorage

February 23, Wednesday 6:00 pm

Anchorage TREErific program "Humans, Wetlands and Forests" presented by Dr. Carl Tobin. CES, 1675 C Street, Anchorage

February 26, Saturday 2:00-4:00 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden Winter Workshop "Beautiful Bonsai" \$25pp/\$20 ABG members plus \$25 for materials. Pre-registration required. Bell's Nursery on Specking Rd. 770-3692

March 3, Thursday 7:00 pm

Anchorage Garden Club "Fruit Trees for South Central Alaska" - Dwight Bradley, Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers - Pioneer School House, 437 E. 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. 566-0539

March 7, Monday 7:30 p.m.

Alaska Native Plant Society - "National Park Service Research" with Amy Miller. Campbell Creek Science Center,

March 10, Thursday 10 a.m.

Wildflower Garden Club: "Primroses" - Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage



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

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

To send concerns or information to the AMGA directly, mail to:
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Lynn Opstad and Anna Denis display their Garden Snaps Map. They are the featured Master Gardeners for this month. See article on page 3.

Photo by Fran Durner

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