



Anchorage Chapter



Volume 14, Issue 10

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER October 2012



A Nickel's Worth from Madam President LaFleur-meister

I don't know about you, but I'm not ready to call an end to my gardening season. It seems that I didn't ever get off 'on the right step' in the 2012 season in the first place. I expect it started out with my wardrobe-malfunction. I never made the switch from my winter clothes to my summer clothes and my overflowing dresser drawers are proof! And now, it's time to put away my gardening gear and gather up what made it through our windstorm and put the tender perennials to bed.

Each year I tell myself that I'm going to put a tag next to the gladiola or border dahlia so I can identify them by their color but the early freeze and raging winds caught me off-guard. So next year, I'll try to do better. What about you? Did the winds destroy trees and shrubs at your part of town? I live near the bike path and a lot of the trees fell. They bent, split and were ripped up by the roots. I noticed a lot of the bird cherry were taken down but like cottonwood, their aggressive root system will send up shoots. It's easy to prune these root-suckers down when they are young and maybe just keep one or two to shape into something.

I've seen some clever ideas on reusing the tree trunks into garden art. I think the beautiful reddish golden color of the peeling Amur chokecherry is beautiful to look at by itself. I've considered making a waddling fence with some of the lilac whips I've inherited, or maybe another trellis for the clematis to run on. The winds seem to have beaten up the one I currently have. I'm sure I'm dreaming when I hope for survival of the clematis (which restarts itself from old growth) that the wind ripped out at ground level. I'm just going to think positive all winter and deal with the results this next spring. Besides if it doesn't return, it will give me an opportunity to embellish the trellis with jewels until its replacement flourishes.

I need some help from our membership, please. At the end of 2011, our Municipal Forester left his position to move to the Lower 48 to further his education. We have been waiting all of 2012 for the Municipality to refill this position and last time I inquired, I was advised that due to budget cuts, the position was not expected to be filled this year and there were no promises on when it would be done. I believe this is totally unacceptable. We NEED our Urban Forester more than ever

after the huge wind storm that knocked down trees all over the Municipality. For the past few years, we were having the trees in the Muni inventoried so if and when any major disaster happened, we would be able to have up-to-date data on our tree inventory to get federal reimbursement. Now, without the support of a Municipal Forester, we have no one to turn to for assistance and the buck stops here! We each need to write a letter to our Assembly person to ask them to get the Mayor to reinstate our Municipal Forester position PRONTO and get continued support from the Administration to take care of our valuable urban forests.

2015 will be the 100 year anniversary of the founding of Anchorage and it will be a time for all of us to celebrate getting to live in the biggest city in Alaska. We are lucky to have our parks and trail systems and can do our part by supporting the Northeast Community Council's plan to turn the old Alaska Greenhouse property at the corner of Debarr and Muldoon into a park. The area has horticultural heritage and was once a destination for many of us in South Central. I'm sure all of us know of someone who got married there, had an anniversary or birthday party or just toured the greenhouses for some personal R&R.

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Treasurer's Report

Balances 7/31/12	
Checking acct	4646.95
Savings acct	12129.76
CD's	7701.33
Total	\$24478.04

Revenue:	
Interest	2.06
Total	\$2.06

Expense:	
Adv. Master Gardener	337.50
Hospitality	52.22
Operations	14.40
Total	404.12

Balances 8/31/12	
Checking acct	4242.83
Savings acct	12131.82
CD's	7701.33
Total	\$24075.98



What Are Master Gardeners Reading? By Barbara Baker

The September meeting drew an audience of readers with eclectic tastes, who shared their favorite classics, curiosities and fascinations in books and websites. The presentation was led off by our own author, Verna Pratt. Verna has written and published field guides on wild flowers in Alaska, but she talked about a must read classic on alpine tundra called Land Above the Trees: A Guide to American Alpine Tundra by Ann Zwinger and Beatrice Willard. She had the pleasure of taking writer/botanist, Beatrice Willard, on a tour of alpine flowers in Hatcher Pass.

Many others offered their reviews and recommendations of books. Michel Semerad reviewed Weeds-In Defense of Nature's Unloved Plants, by Richard Mabey. It's an entertaining journey through the wonder and lore of the weed. She also reviewed Extra Virginity-The Sublime and Scandalous World of Olive Oil, by Tom Mueller. Mueller tells a riveting tale about how first class quality small scale olive oil producers are doing battle with worldwide commodity pricing and big-money subsidies. A take-out from the book is to consume olive oil that is under a year old from the time it was pressed. If there is no date, the oil is probably of poor quality.

Jill Sheppard reviewed two books about obsession: The Wild Trees, by Richard Preston and The Lawn-History of the American Obsession, by Virginia Scott Jenkins. "The Wild Trees" tells the story of extreme botanists and naturalists who climb and explore the unknown world of the redwood canopies and their unique ecosystems. The Lawn traces the origin of lawns, the lawn care industry and the environmental impact of this obsession.

Gina Docherty and Sonja Arduser reviewed books by English historian, Andrea Wulf. The Brother Gardeners, tells the fascinating story of seven Englishmen from the last half of the 1700's who were adventurers and scientists that collected, catalogued and preserved plant life from around the world. Their efforts were the genesis of modern horticulture. Gina pointed out that many of plants in the English garden had been transported from the American colonies. Founding Gardeners takes a look at the founders of our nation and their personal passion for horticulture combined with the political philosophies of the American Revolutionary period. Sonja also recommended Discovery of Jeanne Baret, by Glennis Ridley. Disguising herself as a man, in order to be part of a world-wide expedition with French explorer Louis Antoine de Bougainville in the 1700's, the book describes Baret's adventures, challenges and botanical contributions, including the naming of the bougainvillea plant. Sonja also enjoyed two books on apples, both providing the myths, origins, history and anecdotes of apples. They are Apples, by Frank Browning and The Story of the Apple, by Juniper and Maberly.

Spicing things up, Annie Nevaldine reviewed Sex in Your Garden by Angela Overy. This clever and humorous look at the reproductive processes of garden plants and their relationship to their pollinators is artistically illustrated. Annie called it a timeless book and wished she had thought of the idea, first!

The Garden of Invention: Luther Burbank and the Business of Breeding Plants, by Jane S. Smith is the story of a regular guy with an enterprising spirit who became a plant cultivation pioneer. Over the course of his life he developed such well known plants as the Freestone

peach, Wickson plum, Shasta Daisy and the Russett Burbank potato.

Jane Baldwin entertained the audience with her selection of books: The Secret World of Slugs and Snails, by David George Gordon; Dirt-The Erosion of Civilization, by David R. Montgomery and Holy Shit: Managing Manure to Save Mankind, by Gene Logsdon. Jane found that a book devoted to slugs and snails was actually interesting and provided useful information about their biology, the purpose they fill in the garden ecosystem and other interesting anecdotes. "Dirt" provided an historical overview of the importance dirt has played in the development and destruction of prior civilizations as well as its influence in conquering of new lands. The author also provides a cautionary tale for the preservation of soils to support present and future population of the world. Holy Shit is a folksy, part philosophy part informative, book about the importance of manure in replenishing vital nutrients in the soils not found in commercial fertilizers. Jane added one more succulent book to her review list, Dwarf Campanulas, by Graham Nicholls. This book provides an important update to the identification and listing of dwarf campanulas, which are the main stay of Alaska's rock gardens. It contains an A - Z description of campanulas and associate genera.

The discussion ended with gardeners sharing their favorite websites. Among those listed were:

Little and Lewis on concrete leaf castings: www.littleandlewis.com

The Meconopsis Group provides detailed information on blue poppies and other members of the genus. Information includes their cultivation with numerous illustrations and a seed exchange, www.meconopsis.org

Two Women and Hoe provide ideas and pictures of garden art and landscaping ideas utilizing recycled materials: www.facebook.com/TWOwomenANDaHOE

Old Moss Woman's Secret Garden features pictures of moss landscapes and statuaries: www.facebook.com/.../Old-Moss-Womans-Secret-Garden/

Google "Gardening websites" and a variety of websites will appear, including: National Gardening Association at www.garden.org.



"He that loves a book will never want a faithful friend,
a wholesome counselor, a cheerful companion,
an effectual comforter.

By study, by reading, by thinking,
one may innocently divert and pleasantly entertain himself,
as in all weathers, as in all fortunes."

- Barrow

Master Gardener Focus: Margaret Klatt By Cheryl Chapman



Margaret Klatt points out a Willow shrub at the Klatt tree tour held in July. Photo by Gina D.

Blustery Brother Wind rules Margaret Klatt's Ocean View garden on its bluff overlooking Cook Inlet, and plants bow in homage, sometimes even prudently opting to crawl along the ground instead of up their trellises.

"My home is the highest point on the bluff, and Portage winds come right through," she says. "They keep things cooled down to a Zone 3, sometimes even a Zone 2. Nature cycles, though, and I think this spot actually may be getting a little warmer because of things I'm able to grow now, like Virginia creeper and hops. The clematis is doing OK, too, but there's still the wind, always the wind, so for winter I lay everything down that I can."

Margaret's family homesteaded a lofty hill in the city's southwest corner in 1947, raising the log cabin that's still there and founding a greenhouse, then a nursery with trees, then the first sod farm in Alaska, and finally, years later, a driving range fenced with fishing nets on what was once the hay meadows. She's planted and cared for plants almost from birth.

"Mom and Dad were interested in raising plants commercially, and in the '50s they started with pansies in cold frames. By summer we'd have beautiful, stocky plants. Mrs. Oscar Anderson came out every year. She loved yellow and would take home almost everything yellow we could grow." (The Oscar Anderson House downtown, built in 1915, was the first wood-frame house in the city; it has been restored — there are tours — and is on the National Register of Historic Places.)

Next came a greenhouse, an enormous greenhouse with three layers of shelves. "I loved to climb, and I would take my little sprinkler and water everything," she says. "It was a real sport. My two brothers and I did functional sports. No Klatt had time for sports that weren't functional."

So many trees now common in Anchorage were introduced and trialed by the Klatts. "Dad would read about something and order it, Mom was behind him all the way with everything, and there were eventually so many trees I have no idea how many thousands of trees we planted," Margaret says.

To this day, the Klatt homestead is like a global repository of cold-climate trees: Just a few on the list would be Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*); a cousin Scotch pine from Finnish Lapland; Swiss stone pine (*Pinus cembra*); Norway spruce (*Picea abies*); Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*); Tamarack larch (*Larix laricina*); a blooming corridor of at least 11 different apples and crabapples, among them the Klatt apple developed by Margaret's father (*Malus sylvestris* "Klatt"); six varieties from the

cherry family; Cutleaf weeping birch (*Betula pendula*); Oakleaf mountain ash (*Sorbus x hybrida thuringiaca*); Siberian pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis*); and many, many mature shrubs.

Margaret experiments with color and textures in her own garden and home, a project of years pulled back from ruin with an artist's sensibility and heavy sweat equity. "I was getting ready to build in Norton Park next to my brother, but then this place went up for sale," she says. "It was a single-story dungeon. It hadn't been lived in for two years, the sliding doors wouldn't close, the carpet was full of spiders and only six lights worked."

Now the home is filled with light, order, peace and color, and the clean wind and sweep of sky. "My goal has been to blend a sense of space with the harmony of nature," Margaret says. "What I see changes all the time. However many times I look outside, it's always a new day."

Her land plunges from hilltop to swamp, then inlet. "Geese come in spring to the slough," she says. "First, snow geese, then the Canadians, then the sandhill cranes to nest, then trumpeter swans around the edges, but we have to watch for them." Moose, too, of course: "Moose eat anything except spruce."

And red-backed voles in their thousands, rolling in a mighty wave of Rodentia from shore up and over the bluff each fall like lemmings in reverse, and eating everything in their path until petering out, satiated, two blocks inland. Some years are better. Some are worse. "They ate straight through the strapping tape around the trees last year," says Margaret. "That was the first year they've done that. No matter how hard or tight you wrap the trees, by spring the wind has buffeted it all free."

Hence, Margaret has become a skilled grafter, drawing surgical instruments from a neat brown canvas roll to save her stricken trees. "You have to look. You have to be really observant of what nature is giving you to work with," she says. "When the buds start to swell a tiny bit in spring, make a little slit to see if you can easily separate the cambium layer from the wood. If you can't, wait. It's still too early."

Her first patient was her specimen Siberian crabapple, totally girdled, "but I wanted it there, I wanted it where it was growing." And the operation, a complicated bridge graft, was a success. "It's like a sculpture project," she says. "Keep it as clean as possible — make those layers line up."

(She recommends the University of Connecticut website, www.hort.uconn.edu/ipm/homegrnd/htms/28graft.htm, as a primer on bridge grafts.)

Gardening and art run in the family, she says. "Mom's oldest sister, Ruth, and her husband built a little house in a rock quarry near Carpenteria, Calif., near Santa Barbara, and she laid out Japanese gardens all around. She was painting with flowers in beds of the same color, so there would be, for instance, all pinks in one area — spirea, astilbe, tulips. She taught me the calming effects of large blocks of color, and this is why one side of my driveway is planted in pinks, and the other side in blues."

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Pioneer Home Gardens - Summer of 2012



The Board wants to recognize this summer's Pioneer Home volunteers. The summer was particularly difficult due to continual construction at the home. Several days after planting, the water was turned off forcing the volunteers to hand carry water to the gardens. Gardens were planted only to be ripped out as the construction progressed throughout the summer. Plants

had to be stored in pots in the back courtyard and watered until they could be replanted. To top it all off at the end of the summer we got the wind which took down one of the large clematis. The roots were dug up and moved (because of even more planned construction), and hopefully saved for another day.

Despite all the challenges our Master Gardeners pulled it off and produced some wonderful gardens. Over 180 volunteer hours were spent planting, maintaining and cleaning up the gardens. When the gardens were cleaned out the flowers still in bloom were cut and put in vases for the residents to enjoy on their dining tables. Many compliments were received from the residents, employees and neighbors of the home, all of which enjoy the gardens and appreciate so much the work that the Master Gardeners do. One woman commented that her husband, who is a resident at the home and in a wheelchair, has her take him over to the windows every day so he can look out at the gardens.

The 2012 Garden Volunteers were:

Camille Williams and Marge Olsen planned the gardens, started, transplanted, watered and fertilized the plants from the beginning of April until late May, and oversaw the planting. Camille coordinated with the Pioneer Home all summer. They spent countless hours to ensure the gardens were a success.



Jane Baldwin stepped in and worked with the Pioneer Home as construction unfolded and dug up and replanted gardens torn up for construction. She worked with the volunteers and also worked the gardens numerous weeks.

Lynne Opstad coordinated the volunteers and also worked in the gardens throughout the summer.

Photos by Lynne Opstad

September 10th, Morrow Tour By Annie Nevaldine



The final tour of the 2012 MG private gardens series proved to be a most delightful late season stop at the Morrows on September 10. Dahlias and many perennials had survived light frost and strong winds to present quite an impressive display.



Marya graciously led us through the gardens and explained many plants, with special tutorials about the dahlias. The large neat and tidy dahlia bed would soothe any neatnik's soul. Each plant was well-staked and clearly labeled with its cultivar name. Several forms of flowers were displayed, each one more compelling than the last. Marya is saving seed from some prized varieties, curious to see next year how beautiful their offspring are. She explained how to tell when dahlia seed pods are ripe and ready to be harvested.



One of the most outstanding features, to me, of the garden were its borders. Four kales--edible redbor, Nero d'Toscana, and winterbor, and flowering Chidori red--offset the huge dahlia bed with surprising contrast. Vegetables and flowers together made a charming marriage.

In addition, 'Golden Gem' signet marigolds grown from saved seed smiled up at the visitors.



Many thanks to the Morrows, and especially to Marya, for hosting a large crowd of appreciative master gardeners, grateful to be permitted to wander freely throughout all the perennial gardens.



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

Well, no one can say this wasn't a "different" year and I'm not sure where the deleted expletives go in that sentence. Leeks are up and potatoes down.

In Sterling we had our first mild frost mid-August which discouraged the top of the potato vines followed by 26° a week later.

All the bright bunchberry flowers in the spring turned into a wonderfully red polka dotted fall.

Janice Chumley, our CES MG and Pest Scout is now a published author. She was the primary author and along with Tom Jahns, our retired CES head honcho down here, collaborated with Ronda Hirnyckof the University of Idaho to publish the "Alaska Field Guide to Potato Pests and Beneficial Insects in English and Russian". What tickled me was that the Idaho CES is in Moscow (Idaho that is). She also wrote that her leeks were stupendous (I've never seen any as big as the ones she gave me). She did potato trials for Bill Campbell and was impressed with one called Daisy.

Barb Jewell, in Soldotna, replied when asked what did well this year: "Slugs did beautifully with the damp summer. Actually, everything was late and smaller! Need to rethink my garden next year and allocate more time for it. Still have carrots and herbs growing since we have not had a killing frost."

So far people are remarking on a very good leek yield. This time of year is a good time to visit others' gardens. I scored leeks and potatoes from Janice which made a wonderful Cockaleekie soup.

At Kathy Wartinbee's garden I got garlic and beets with their greens. I regularly have a couple of carrots at Mark's when I go over to feed his animals and which also reminds me I need to thank him as I pull and run. I also had some of his gorgeous lettuce when I had a guest.

I went to Anchorage's Moose Gardens B&B in early September before the wind and rain started to meet some friends that were staying there. The dahlias were a in full bloom and very pretty but what really caught my eye and held it was the marigold border in the front of the dahlias. The plants were low and wide with lots and lots of yellow flowers. The cultivar is Signet and for sure, that's what is going to be in front of my house next summer. All the rest of the flowers will be window dressing for the Signets.

I love figs. I adore figs. I really like the crunch the wee seeds make. Last year my neighbor Mark gave me a fig tree. It got done in by an unanticipated frost. I ordered another this year and potted it up in the greenhouse. It was doing very well until I decapitated it with a hose. Then I moved it to the warm back deck and we got that 26° frost which separated the two old and all the new leaves from life. I was ready to toss it over the back railing to plant heaven when Cheryl Chapman pleaded for its life, and looking at it this morning I'm finding small hints of green. There is hope so thank you, Cheryl. Margaret Simon doesn't put hers outside at all. This year, on a four-year-old tree, she has about 50 figs which she grills or just plain eats. My goal!

But she also writes: "Regarding the garden--do I have one?? I have been paying no attention. Nothing has been harvested for weeks. Haven't even considered digging potatoes yet. I really don't have anything to report but I'm hoping the slugs have left us a few things."

Watering of hanging baskets is always a problem and it was interesting to see that alyssum and lobelia were entirely forgiving. That's all going into my baskets next year!

I went to the Saturday Market in Soldotna a couple weeks ago for one zucchini. The vendor also had a real nice kohlrabi so I got that too. The price for the two vegetables was \$3! I don't think I'll be going back.

The end of gardening is here and what amazes me is the spontaneous generation of fungus gnats in the house even before I bring stuff inside. Then in March comes the spontaneous generation of aphids.

It is a real thrill to walk outside and hear the long skeins of geese and sandhill cranes heading out, talking about the trip all the way. Is that the bird version of texting to keep in touch?

Cock-a-Leekie Soup (Scotland)

4 cups of minced leeks--whites and some of the tender greens
6 cups of chicken stock--yours or someone else's
1 Tablespoon chicken fat (or not)
1/2 cup pearl barley cooked in salted water (or ½ the broth) for 1-1/2 hours (or use potatoes)
1-1/2 cups shredded cooked chicken
1 cup half and half (or substitute evaporated milk)

Cook leeks in 3 cups of the stock until tender, then add the fat, drained barley and the rest of the stock and cook covered until the barley is mushy. Add chicken and half and half. Adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper and garnish with minced parsley.

Source: "Soup" by Coralie Castle. c.1974.

*You can also thicken somewhat with part of a packet of off-the-shelf potato soup available everywhere to a consistency you like and then add shredded carrots. The Scotts used to also add prunes.

A Nickel's Worth....cont. from page 1

Whatever the reason you have for loving this parcel of land, we need you to help! Contact the Mayor and our Assembly and let them know how important it is to save a piece of our horticultural heritage and get it turned into parkland so we can get some community gardens and a park-like setting established on the east side of town. Sometimes it is tough to have your voice heard but when we approach it as a group willing to improve our community through working together in a garden setting - we all win. Please take the time to talk to your neighbors and weigh in with the Assembly and Administration on both the need for our Urban Forester and the Muldoon Town Square Park. I'd appreciate the support.

I look forward to seeing you at our next gathering on October 15th when we will discuss what did and did not work for you in your gardens this season. Gina Docherty and I are responsible for bringing refreshments so please don't disappoint us by staying home. Parking is so much easier at the new building and the restrooms give you a chance to lap the building. Come and share what's happening - I know I've got a few good stories!



Bird Chatter

MGs Shine at Palmer State Fair by Julie Riley

-- Cindy Walker (MG 02/03) won 1st place for her 'Petite 'n' Sweet' Carrots. AMGAA board members were each treated to a beautifully wrapped carrot cake in celebration. One recipient ate the whole thing after the meeting.

-- Another World Record was set by Scott Robb. Scott's giant cabbage entry weighed 138.25 pounds. Word on the street was that because of the cold summer, the leaves were leathery and heavy.

-- According to Curt Mueller, President of Mat-Su Master Gardeners, 'Northern Giant' Cabbage is the variety to grow for a big one.' Poor little 'O-S Cross' has outlived its glory days.

-- Marge Mueller (Mat-Su MG) was not dissuaded from vying for a second try in the Annual Giant Cabbage Weigh-Off. Her cabbage entry, named for an Olympic athlete I can never remember, tipped the scales at 45.9 pounds.

-- Who were the giant cabbage wranglers keeping track of all things official? None other than Kenai Peninsula's Kathy Wartinbee (MG 98/99) and Dawn Caswell from Wasilla (Mat-Su MG).

-- Marge Olson (MG 01/02) wants to see a class on the ultimate challenge--Growing for Giant Pumpkin Competition. Dale Marshall's behemoth weighed in at 931 pounds (and it was a cool year)!

-- Where do giant vegetables go when the party's over? To the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage. Check out photos at [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1g7vze5ztjdkj4i/YfMVqmqzSSn#/.](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1g7vze5ztjdkj4i/YfMVqmqzSSn#/)



Most of us love checking out the flower and crop exhibits at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer and this year I realized that a few families put an extraordinary amount of time into their entries. At the risk of excluding someone, I have to say that the fair would not be the same without Marya Morrow (MG) and her husband Garnett and son Garnett, Jr., Dawn (MG) & Keven (MG) Klewano's family, Pat Tremaine (Mat-Su MG) and Hazel Koppenberg (Mat-Su MG).

The Morrow's have been known for growing dahlias since I arrived in Anchorage. I tried to make a list of all their winning entries but there were too many. Thanks to the Morrow' and Rob Wells (a.k.a The Persistent Farmer, a vendor at the April Alaska MG Conference) one entire side of the flower entry area was filled with dahlias. The heavy competition did not scare away the Kleweno family. Both Keven and Liz won ribbons for their Formal Decorative Dahlias over 8 inches! And this family gardens on a small urban lot in South Addition.

Anchorage Master Gardeners winning Grand Champion and Special Exhibit Awards are listed below. Next month I'll list a few winning vegetable and flower entries. I spent 8 hours judging herbs and never wrote down a single winner.

Grand Champions

Sandra Harrington, Greenhouse Grown Vegetables
Melanie San Angelo, Outdoor Grown Vegetables
Keven Kleweno, Cultivated Berries
Marya Morrow, Collections

Special Exhibit Awards

- Kevin Kleweno, Glacier Valley Farm Special Award, both weeks for strawberries.
- Marya Morrow, 1) Alpine Nursery Special Award: Most unusual perennial 2) Mat-Su Master Gardener's Club: Artistic design, Fair theme "You're Gonna Love It!" 3) Valley Garden Club Special Award (Pat Newcomb's Award, Judge's Choice) 4) Mat-Su Master Gardeners Award

Congratulations and thanks for making the fair fun for the rest of us.

How did MG's fare in the September wind storms? From Jane Baldwin

Unscientific collection of data shows that MGs experienced upwards of 47 trees either fully lost, snapped off, or tipped requiring removal and many more had branches lost. Not all tree species are known, but of those reported via the Google Group: 31 birch, 4 Mayday/chokecherry trees, 2 Amur chokecherries (prunus mackii), 2 European Mountain Ash, 2 very large spruce, 1 willow and 3 cottonwoods.



Jeannine Lyerly Passes

Master Gardener Jeannine Lyerly passed away September 23 after a brief illness from pancreatic cancer. It seems I just spoke with her about going to England to commemorate the

200th birthday of Charles Dickens. Always perpetually interested in new adventures, Jeannine's Facebook pictures show her climbing a coconut palm and riding a horse on the Mongolian Steppes.

Becoming a Master Gardener may have been one of Jeannine's new adventures. I'm not sure she had a garden in 2007 when she took the class but she was a dynamite volunteer. One day she decided she needed to look more like a gardener for her elementary school presentations so she got MG Michael Carey to take off his bib-overhauls and turn them over to her right then and there. A photo of Jeannine and Pat Ryan dressed in brown Carhartts showed up in my mailbox later in the year. I'm not sure of the story was but glo-sticks were involved.

Jeannine was 81 when she died. On Tuesday, October 30 at 6 p.m., there will be a gathering of Jeannine's friends in the Discovery Theater at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, one of the many organizations for which Jeannine volunteered.

MG Focus: Margaret Klatt...cont. from page 3

"There were little places to sit down in Aunt Ruth's garden, and a sense of openness, yet intimacy. She had a section that was all succulents, hens and chickens, all different, graded by size and color. They all were common California plants but she treated them in uncommon ways."

Margaret, a counselor, began the Master Gardener class in fall 2010, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer the next month, underwent surgery and aggressive treatment and completed the class.

"Ovarian cancer has been one of the best experiences of my life," she says. "I've learned that caring does move from one person to another, and since I counsel kids and their families every day, I decided I'd better counsel myself to turn around all the anger and fear and be a good example of what I teach. My patients knew."
"It has been a fight and I could have been sucked down, but I decided to get through it in a positive way. It was a choice. Always, there's a choice."

Pioneer Home cont. from page 4

The following individuals helped with the planting/clean up and/or watered, weeded, moved plants, whatever needed to be done on a weekly basis:

Julie Ginder, Joyce Smith, Susan Miller, Mari Wood, Janice Berry, Barbara Baker, Nickel LaFleur, Ginny Jacober, Kathy Tiede, Sharon Schlicht, Connie Hebert, Susan Saltmarsh, Joyce Palmer, Bobbe Seibert, Marsha Burns, Bernie Ruskin.

Thanks so much to everyone that volunteered- your efforts were truly appreciated!

The good news is that the construction is done and while they were at it they added numerous new water spigots plus the Pioneer Home bought additional watering equipment to make it much easier for 2013 garden maintenance. Please keep in mind that working at the Pioneer Home fulfills Advanced Master Gardener volunteer hour requirements. Look for more information in the spring about volunteering at the home in 2013.

Advanced MG Certificates Awarded

Certificates for completing the requirements of the Advanced Master Gardener Program were handed out at the September AMGAA meeting.

Advanced Master Gardeners maintaining their advanced certification this past year include: Sue Lincoln, AMG II, George Patrawke, AMG I, Brenda Carlson, AMG I, Lynne Opstad, AMG I, JoAnne Banta, AMG II

Certificates were presented to the following:
Advanced Master Gardener I
Michael Baldwin, Kathy Tiede, Cynthia Walker

Advanced Master Gardener II
Sharon Hoffbeck, Tamea Isham, Ruth Kircher, Margaret Love

Advanced Master Gardener III
Pat Anderson, Jane Baldwin, Cheryl Chapman, Gina Docherty, Julie Ginder, Greg Kalal, Rosemary Kimball, Dana Klinkhart, Nickel LaFleur, Ginny Moore, Marge Olson, Carol Ross, Amelia Walsh, Camille Williams

Thanks to everyone for supporting the Advanced Master Gardener program as it enters its fourth year.

Garden Event Calendar

Thursday, October 4

Anchorage Garden Club: All Occasion Swags, Wreaths & Centerpieces - These are not just for Christmas. Find out how to make and use them for other times. 7 to 9 pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue.

Saturday, October 6; Thursday, Oct. 11, 18 & 25

Advanced Master Gardener Core Course:
Plant Pathology - Saturday, October 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Thursdays, Oct. 11, 18 & 25, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Pre-registration required. Contact CES office at 786-6300 for details.

October 10 to December 12

2012 Master Gardener classes start October 10 and will be held from 4 - 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays until December 12 at 1675 C Street, Suite 100. Registration fees are \$160 and include all course materials. For a class syllabus and registration, please contact UAF CES office at 786-6300.

Thursday, October 11

Wildflower Garden Club: Beneficial Bugs, Beetles & Other Crawlies - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova.

Sunday, October 14

Eagle River Nature Center - Monitoring Insects - Michael Rasy, IPM - Learn about common native insects as well as invasive insects of concern. Free program; \$5 parking for non-members.

Monday, October 15

AMGA Meeting: A Summer after the Year of the Snow; Mgs share their summer gardening experiences. 7 p.m., CES.

Monday, October 31; Wednesday, Nov 16

AMGAA: Advanced Master Gardener Training Class, Plant Physiology - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, UAF CES, Anchorage office. Pre-registration required. Contact Anchorage UAF CES office at 786-6300 for details

Thursday, November 1

Alaska Garden Club: "Foliage & Texture for the Garden" - Sally Arant explores how to use foliage and texture in your garden to create interest. Open to the public. Pioneer School House - 437 E 3rd Avenue

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@alaska.net (NEW EMAIL)

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

If you have questions or want to make address or email corrections, please contact Kathy Munk at: munkster@hotmail.com

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The last AMGAA garden tour of the year: The Morrow garden was toured by MGs on September 10th. Story & more photos on page 4.

It's nearly renewal time! Membership renewal forms will be sent out with the November issue. If you want a head start, the renewal form will be on line at ALASKAMASTERGARDENERS.ORG under "Membership Renewal Form"