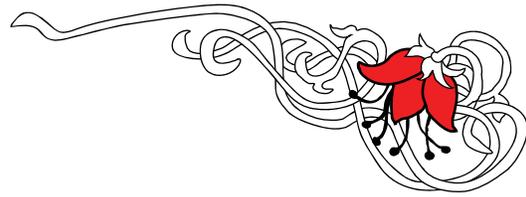


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 15, Issue 2

# ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER February 2013



## A Nickel's Worth from President LaFleur



Happy Valentine's Day Master Gardeners and thank you for coming to our Annual Meeting on January 21st. Each January it is the President's responsibility to update membership on the status of our organization.

The inside the cover of our Directory spells out Alaska Master Gardeners Association Anchorage (AMGAA) purpose and mission statement, I encourage each of you to read it and know that we are committed to follow it and be good stewards of the land.

The membership elected four members to the Board of Directors in AMGAA's third year of using electronic ballot process. A huge Master Gardener hug to Mary Rydesky for her expertise in that process as well as to Barbara Baker and Lynne Opstad for their following through on the nominations and elections process. It IS a formidable job and I hope you take time to thank them each next time you see them.

So, let me introduce your 2013 Board for AMGAA: President - Nickel LaFleur; Co-Vice Presidents - Barbara Baker and Amy Olmstead; Secretary - Jill Shepherd; Treasurer - Cindy Walker; Parliamentarian - Cheryl Shroyer; and Members-At-Large: Lynne Opstad, and Greg Kalal.

2012 began with extensive organization being done on the upcoming Spring Conference in April. Our theme of Gardening Realities worked nicely with the key-note speakers we chose - Linda Chalker-Scott and Marion Owen. I'm glad to report that the Conference was well attended and brought a profit to AMGAA.

Our monthly educational programs offered a meeting on Our World Full of Bees in January. February MG Judith Brendel pleased the audience talking about Perennial Partners while we enjoyed a pot luck and seed exchange. March brought Marilyn Barker in to talk about her love for all things mosses. MG Camille Williams brought in plants and showed us how she makes flower design look easy in April. Our May meeting had us on the floor doing Pilates for Gardeners.

We had a wonderful variety of gardens to tour from late May through the middle of September and I am thankful and appreciative to all of you who shared your gardens with us. I hope you will let Annie Nevaldine or

a Board member know if you have a garden we can tour for the 2013 season. Your willingness to share is appreciated by all.

The Board is working towards getting the paperwork filed to become a 501C3 nonprofit group - hopefully by the end of 2013. It is a huge amount of paperwork to delve through --- once our Bylaws are updated! Many thanks to Cindy Walker and Jane Baldwin for their time and effort into this time consuming job!!! The treasury balance of January 31, 2011 reported \$21,609.01 and the balance at 12/31/2012 showed \$23,734.93.

In October, the Advanced Master Gardener program saw around forty eager MGs participating in learning more about Plant Disease. Then, on the 12th of December a group of fifty new Master Gardeners graduated and are working towards achieving the MG certificate by giving back to the Community. Welcome new Master Gardeners from the Board and me.

Continued on page 7

### Treasurer's Report

Balances 11/30/12	
Checking S-88	2588.43
Savings S-19	15138.53
CD (ABG)	3351.44
CD(Educational)	3000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24078.40</b>

Revenue:	
Donation	30.00
Hospitality	9.52
Interest	14.32
Membership	1920.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1973.84</b>

Expense:	
Hospitality (25th celebration)	325.00
Hospitality	105.99
Newsletter-Nov	316.33
Operations	90.00
Website	1479.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2317.31</b>

Balances 12/31/12	
Checking S-88	2230.64
Savings S-19	15141.74
CD-I12.1 (ABG)	3357.35
CD-I36 (Education)	3005.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23734.93</b>



## AN IDEAL 30 YEAR CAREER AT UAA

By Pat Anderson

Pat Leary shared her reflections as a horticulturist at UAA during the last MG meeting on January 21st. It was obvious during her presentation that she loved her job, and put her whole being and effort into its success. In the first part of her remembrance she showed a video and told the names of her helpers and fellow workers. You could tell from the smiling faces that the helpers enjoyed their jobs also.

Pat began her UAA career in 1981, and graduated from MG in '82/'83 with encouragement from her employer. She in turn encourages everyone working there to take the MG course. She retired from UAA on October 31st, 2011.

She dreamed about a hort career in Wisconsin when she saw a man misting a giant plant and wondered if he actually got paid for such a desirable job. She was born a farmer's daughter, so she said no office with windows for her. Pat gave credit for her videos to Kathleen McCoy, a video & electronic specialist at UAA, who also writes the column "How do Your Gardens Grow?" for the ADN.

The greenhouse frame was built in '84 - 85 at UAA, and got a Lexan skin two years later. She stressed that keeping it clean has kept it in good shape (she uses '409'). All the plants used at UAA are grown from seeds. Since the area is kept so clean, no diseases arise, and no pesticides are needed either. There is one 1,680 foot greenhouse, where plants are grown in tiers to maximize the space for one hundred species/varieties. The greenhouse is kept heated at a lower temperature during the winter.

On Earth-Day in April, around 150 people come and help out at the campus. They are then rewarded with a barbecue and many door prizes!

She showed a picture of a magnificent blooming Siberian Pear Tree, which is Pat's favorite tree of over 12,000 trees, with 125 species/varieties of trees on the 385 acre campus; ninety to one hundred acres are developed. There is a tree tour-guide map on site you can obtain, which allows you to do your own tour, just Google "UAA Tree Tour". For other group tours etc. call Catherine Sherk, the current UAA Landscaping Supervisor of Horticulture and leave a message with dispatch at 786-6980. Included on campus are many pines and fir from Alaska plus a beautiful Norway Maple, fruit trees, cherry and apple trees just to name a few. Wildlife such as moose, and beaver live on campus, and are taken into account when planting new trees and shrubs. There is a vegetable garden too.

The new sports center cleared 10 acres at UAA-some of the logs were saved for the art program. UAA won the "USA Tree Campus Award" in 2010! Such an amazing feat for a far north campus, or any US campus. This information brought a big round of applause from all MGs. All Alaskans should be proud of this accomplishment! It leads one to imagine UAA becoming The Anchorage Arboretum, which would be "a place where trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes." It is an exciting idea!

UAA has many named gardens on Campus. Mel Monson, well known Master Gardener wanted a rose garden at

UAA where he worked, but there was no money available until a memorial for Bill Rose needed a site. Now, with Chester Creek in the background, and a bench in front of the walk, Mel designed and installed a Bill Rose Memorial Rose Garden. The 50th Anniversary Garden holds all the spare plants, some are huge. An herb bed, named Charlie's Herb Garden was inspired by our own Julie Riley around 1984, and holds wonderful herbs such as bay leaf (laurel), sorrel and others which grow both inside and outside. The Culinary Arts students greatly enjoy, use and have expanded the herb garden which must certainly enhance their culinary creations. It is located south of the Gordon Hartlieb Building, and most of the herbs are labeled.

There are 700 plus interior plants on campus; only 0.5% must be replaced yearly, which beats the industry average of 15% being replaced and is an example of the care and careful attention that the landscaping crew gives year round. In the winter they are also the snow removal crew.

UAA people bring back seeds from their vacations. This accounts for the beautiful picture Pat showed of a passion flower grown from seed on a cement wall, and a large Sago Palm (not grown from seed) growing proudly on campus in a planter. Pat talked about a "living wall" that has hens and chicks growing on it.

Pat said besides occasional reforestation from beaver damage, they try to renovate perennial flower beds about every 10 years to thoroughly get rid of unwanted weeds and plants. Many big concrete planters planted with some of the 12,000 annuals grown in the greenhouse are used to give diversity and color to long concrete walkways required on a campus. Pat answered an audience question as to what she does with 'old' soil from the year before from the planters. She said that the planters have composted steer manure added, and 8-32-16. About three times during the growing season they add water with one half strength water soluble 9-45-15.

2004 was the 50th year anniversary of UAA. What a privilege we have to enjoy this magnificent campus in Anchorage - so much as a result of Pat Leary, her very hard work and foresight. We all thank her for a job so well done, and for sharing a small part of her career with us.

### Upcoming AMGA Meeting by Nickel LeFleur

February 18th, 7 p.m., will be our next meeting at the CES. The program has changed, it will be "25 Years and Counting", on the history of the AMGA. We will be showing the video that Joette and Gene Storm put together as well as look at the wonderful photos that MGs Tony Flores and Dana Klinkhart took on December 15th.

Bring in any seeds you have to share. I have treasures to bring such as Amaranthus in both lime green and red, nicandra physalodes, red poppies, malva sylvestris zeb-rina and more. Bring along sharpened pencils, scissors, tape, and legal sized envelopes to use to identify your seed stash.

It's also member's pot luck, so bring a dish to share. Please send in information / facts on Anchorage Master Gardeners to: Tagalak@alaska.net, or  
bring it to the 2/18 meeting.

## Master Gardener Focus: Cheryl Shroyer By Cheryl Chapman

Cheryl Shroyer's own first garden was hard-baked fill in front of a small Philadelphia townhouse, but over earlier years, others' gardens, show gardens and garden shows, garden art and a childhood amid the moss and oaks of deep woods had been silently, secretly working the newlywed like a compost pile. And so it was that when she and her husband moved in, she gave the hostile slab - her hostile slab -- a speculative look and thought, "Let-tuce."

"The soil was horrible, and it was August and really too late to even do a tomato," the new Master Gardeners board member says. "I'd always seen gardens but I'd never seen a human being garden, and I thought it was very scary. I was so pathetic."

It happened that garden writer Mike McGrath had just started working his editing sorcery on Organic Gardening magazine. It happened that her neighbor, a subscriber, saw Cheryl scratching away hopefully at her glazed brick of a plot, took pity and passed along her issues. And it happened that Cheryl's memories of forest mast clicked with her frustration, and thus was born the block's first organic compost pile.

"A neighbor kept domestic rabbits and would give me their bunny-poo-infused straw, and I would mix it with the compost," Cheryl says "That spring, the Spring of the Bunnies, the radishes were popping out of the ground. Bunny poo made all the difference; it was a breakthrough."

Her engineer husband invented and installed a drip watering system in what was becoming Plant Avenue's increasingly famous multi-tiered garden installation. By the third year Cheryl's habanero pepper plant took the "Best of Class" blue at the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society's Harvest Show.

"I won with eggplants, and with squash and tomatoes," she says. "I won with raspberry salsa from wild raspberries harvested at the train station down the street. And I won with cinnamon-habanero oil."

Her sister had returned from vacation laden with cinnamon bark, and Cheryl submerged the bark and her fiery-sweet habanero peppers in a gallon of extra-virgin olive oil.

"You could use it on anything, from pot roast to popcorn," Cheryl says. The siblings went to that year's Harvest Show to cheer on their cinnamon-habanero oil and found the depleted jug on a top shelf, suffocated beneath blue ribbons. One nearby judge said to another, "You have got to try this amazing stuff," took the jug down, shook the last drops onto bread, and shared it with his fellow.

She read and gardened, gardened and read and became active in Philadelphia's Bala Cynwyd Garden Club, "which brought in fabulous speakers: the heads of the scented geranium society, of the iris society. There were 12 national flower show judges in that one club." She got to know Mike McGrath personally and marched with him under the organics banner.

And then came 1998, a year when everything seemed to be ending. "Even my Post Office box expired," she says. A childhood friend and her college roommate, now

Anchorage residents, had urged her to come up, "so I packed a bag, the cats and the cappuccino machine and away we flew. I wasn't going to stay, but it was 89 degrees and humid in Philadelphia, and here it was dry and cool all summer, and I thought, 'I'm never going to sweat into my sneakers again.'"

She got a temporary job at Green Connection, shared a house with childhood friend Heidi in Ocean View, and one day said to a neighbor, "Mardane, why don't you put some flowers in your weeds?" To which Mardane Connor replied, "I want a community garden," and Cheryl said, "Me too. Now."

A dock belonging to Heidi's husband lost boards that day for the first raised beds. "We rented the biggest tiller in Anchorage and tilled that bad boy down," says Cheryl. "We only had the tiller for the day so we missed the final episode of 'Murphy Brown.' And yes, that was a big deal."

What is now known as "Mardane's Garden" was the first organic community garden in Anchorage and exists to this day, though the list of its gardeners has turned over like its deep, rich soil. By its second year, it was a star on the Anchorage Garden Club's city garden tour, and shone again in 2012. "Mardane was not a gardener at first but had always thought about it, and our work on the Ocean View community garden brought her to the Master Gardeners. I had joined the Anchorage Garden Club, and when the Master Gardeners finally had a class at night, I joined them too (05/06)," says Cheryl.

Then the Anchorage Garden Club's much-loved flower show judge, Dorothy Hardesty, died. "Everybody looked around and noticed there were no more judges, so several of us got recruited," Cheryl says. "I hung back at first but then thought, 'Heck, I've had 25 years of reading every judge's comment on every exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show. I've been training to be a flower show judge my whole life.' The two-year run-up to the exam was brutal, the two-hour test torture (MG Martie Black sighed, "Just stick nails in my eyeballs now.") The small pack of new National Garden Clubs Accredited Flower Show Judges has since has fanned out to raise standards in shows from Alaska to Arizona. Cheryl has judged fruits, vegetables and flowers in Anchorage, Fairbanks and at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer, where she personally gave the boot to the eggplant entered as a purple tomato.

"Gardeners advocate for plants and for every living thing," says the former Ocean View Community Council president. "When the city wanted to tear the trees out of Town Square and pave it, all these old gardening dears went ripping down to the meeting in a blizzard - 'Oh, no, oh, no, no, no, no, no, no' - they said, and saved that municipal treasure. Mayor George Wuerch's plan to scrap the flowers that make Anchorage the 'City of Flowers' was stopped by a solid furious front presented by all 20 community councils. Gardeners need to reach out, to speak out.

"We're all passing through this tiny moment of time and should do what we can for life. We present plants with opportunities to nourish us, and in turn, we nourish them. This is why you care for and respect soil structure, why you care for and respect plants. They know. We just think we do."

## Nightshade

Nightshade is one of the many plants that belong to the Solanaceae. This plant family includes such edible plants as the tomato, potato, eggplant and chile pepper; decorative plants such as the petunia; and toxic plants such as Jimson weed (datura), tobacco, henbane, mandrake, and deadly nightshade, also known as belladonna.

At one time, when the entire nightshade family shared the bad reputation of its more toxic members, it was thought that eating an eggplant might drive you insane. This belief is reflected in the name Linnaeus gave to the eggplant, *Solanum melongena*. It is related to the Italian name melanzana, or "mad apple".

Nightshade by Susan Wittig Albert Berkley Publishing Group c.2008

## RHUBARB CREAM CAKE

From Margaret Love

1 pkg. white or yellow cake mix  
1 c. sugar  
3 c. fresh rhubarb cut up  
2 c. whipping cream

Prepare cake mix according to directions and pour into a greased (bottom only) 9 x 13-inch pan. Put rhubarb on batter then sprinkle the sugar on rhubarb. Pour whipping cream over this.

Bake at 350 degrees for 40 to 50 minutes. Custard will form in bottom of pan.

Store in refrigerator.

## Different, but the Same

Alaska and Hawaii may have different climates, but they share some of the same garden problems. Seen in a "West Hawaii Today" newspaper (Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013):

"Powdery Mildew thrives in dry windy weather." Their remedy is similar to ours:

Mix the following in a gallon of water and spray late in the day to avoid hot sun exposure on newly sprayed leaves:

1-2 TBSP baking soda  
1-2 TBSP cooking oil or light horticultural oil  
1 tsp liquid soap or an insecticidal soap



## Edible Hibiscus By Gina Docherty

Sources: Wikipedia;  
[www.hiddenvallyhibiscus.com/care/houseplants.htm](http://www.hiddenvallyhibiscus.com/care/houseplants.htm)



[Editor's note: After spending some time on the Big Island of Hawaii, one of the most common but beautiful flowers I've noticed here is the hibiscus. I was curious about them so I did a little research. And I would like to share with you what I learned.]

Hibiscus is a genus of flowering plants in the mallow family, Malvaceae. It is quite large, containing several hundred species that are native to warm-temperate, subtropical and tropical regions throughout the world.

The two native Hawaiian white hibiscuses, *Hibiscus arnottianus* and *H. waimeae*, are the only species of hibiscus in the world known to have fragrant flowers.

In Alaska, it can be grown as an indoor plant in a sunny window. Fertilize "weakly weekly" with a low nitrogen / high potassium, magnesium, & iron fertilizer in a slightly acidic soil. And like orchids, they like to be clean - a shower in the sink is good for them, but don't leave them in standing water or they will drown.

Just as with outdoor hibiscus, if you want to see lots of blooms, you have to pinch and prune your indoor hibiscus plants to make them grow more branches for flowers to bloom on. Even small plants in 4" pots will bloom if you pinch them, feed them well, give them lots of sun, and wait patiently for them to branch.

Hibiscus tea is popular as a natural diuretic; it contains vitamin C and minerals, and is used traditionally as a mild medicine. A 2008 USDA study shows consuming hibiscus tea lowers blood pressure in a group of prehypertensive and mildly hypertensive adults. The red flowers have also been used as a food coloring. Dried hibiscus is edible, and is often a delicacy in Mexico. It can also be candied and used as a garnish. In Hawaii, the 'akiohala' was a valued source of leafy greens, especially for pregnant women, since it was considered "to make whole and firm the body of the child."



In the Philippines, the gumamela (local name for hibiscus) is used by children as part of a bubble-making pastime. The flowers and leaves are crushed until the sticky juices come out. Hollow papaya stalks are then dipped into this and used as straws for blowing bubbles.

The red hibiscus flower is traditionally worn by Tahitian women. A single flower, tucked behind the ear, is used to indicate the wearer's availability for marriage.

There are some lovely cake recipes online - just Google "Hibiscus Cake Recipes" and see where it takes you!

Photos by Gina Docherty



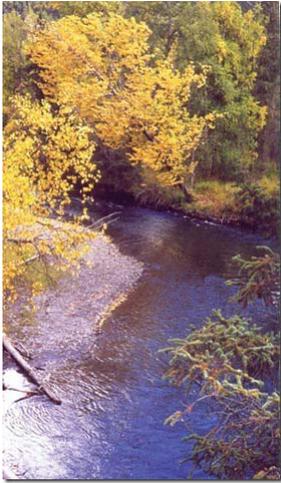
Rosemary is out of state this month. She writes:

*I'm "thawed" and ready for, the rest of the winter after you guys solve the ice problems.*

Meanwhile, from the husband of Central Peninsula MG Kathy Wartinbee:

### What happens to all the leaves?

By Dr. David Wartinbee, Kenai Peninsula College - Professor of Biology, KWF Board of Directors



There are estimates that large trees can produce more than 200,000 leaves each year. As Fall approaches, valuable nutrients are extracted from the leaf and drawn into the trunk and roots. During that removal of nutrients, changes in biochemistry within the leaf, and changes in temperatures, we get the beautiful "fall colors". Then the millions of leaves are dropped and they cover the ground some distance from the parent trees.

The leaves pile-up along the ground and many get blown into our rivers and streams. The smaller streams receive a larger proportion of leaves than larger rivers since smaller streams may be completely shaded by overhanging limbs & trees. Leaves falling into moving waters get swept into piles above rocks, roots, or in-stream obstructions. Other leaves settle-out into deeper, slow-moving pools.



Initially these leaves contain mostly cellulose and are of little nutritional value for most organisms. (While cellulose is a polymer of glucose, only a few bacteria or fungi can break down cellulose.) However, after soaking in the stream for only a few days, the

leaves become covered by aquatic fungi and bacteria that are able to break-down cellulose. As the fungi & bacteria layer grows, the overall nutritive value of the leaves increases significantly. Now the leaves become a desired food source for a variety of in-stream insects. The fungi and bacteria are the source of the nutritive value...and were once described by Stream Ecologist Ken Cummins as the "peanut butter on a tasteless cracker".

The guild of aquatic insects that work on those leaves are called "shredders". Basically, they feed on the leaves and convert the leaf into a skeleton of its former self. The fine particles that were chewed from the leaves provide nutrition for the growing insects. A couple of the common shredders in our area are the large,



dark stoneflies called Pteronarcella. We don't often see them unless we dig into a pack of leaves and specifically look for them. Another group of shredders are called craneflies. As fat, worm-like larvae, they borrow through the

leaves and chop them into fine particles. (Craneflies are often seen as adults during the summer since they look like giant mosquitoes buzzing around. Note that they don't feed as adults.)

The particles that the shredders create from leaves will pass through their gut mostly intact. Insect guts are able to extract only about 5% of the leaf particles that passes through. So, there are lots of small particles released into the water by these shredders. The fine leaf fragments are then a food source for another guild of aquatic insects called collectors. Collectors trap the fine particles drifting with nets, leg hairs, or special antennal fans. They then consume the particles and pass them through their gut for a second round of nutrient extraction. Some of the common insects that use these fine leaf particles are the mayflies, many chironomids, many caddisflies, and the black flies.

After the particles have passed through a number of guts, they are then so small that it only takes bacterial action to completely transform the leaf particles. Eventually all the sugars and nutrients that were in the leaf have been transformed into a water soluble or animal form. The leaves no longer exist.

This spring when the ice melts from our rivers and streams, there will be only a few fall leaves left from September. They will be gone. Where have they gone? During the coldest time of the year, the aquatic insect community, the collectors and the shredders, has been busy feeding on the leaves that arrived a few months earlier. These stream insects that fed on leaf particles all winter will become the food for young salmon fry as they emerge from stream gravels in the spring. Leaves truly provide some of the fuel needed for a healthy river system. Without one piece of the puzzle, the aquatic insects or the leaves, the system ceases to function as a healthy river system.

Photos from David Wartinbee

### The Coming Of Wisdom With Time

*THOUGH leaves are many, the root is one;  
Through all the lying days of my youth  
I swayed my leaves and flowers in the sun;  
Now I may wither into the truth.*

William Butler Yeats

*I hide myself within my flower,  
That fading from your Vase,  
You, unsuspecting, feel for me—  
Almost a loneliness.*

Emily Dickinson



## Bird Chatter

-- The MG class that finished last month was happy, organic and anti-lawn (except for Scott Snow who proudly professed his love of turf).

-- Former Alaska MG Brenda Bissell wasted no time in making connections in Florida. She emailed she's started the Master Gardener class. And the Florida CES agent knows the Anchorage CES agent.

- One fungus, one name. This ruling by the International Botanical Congress's Nomenclature Section reverses a 30-year provision that allowed a fungus to have two separate names if its sexual and asexual phases were very different morphologically. The change took effect January 1st.

-- Words to live by: Turnips are the key to a good stew. (Leslie Shallcross, Anchorage CES District Home Economist).

-- What's CES hort agent Julie Riley up to in the next few months? 75 hours of pesticide safety classes along with making presentations to the Anchorage Garden Club, Alpha Delta Kappa, Anchorage Petroleum Wives Club, Alaska Peony Growers Association, AMGAA and Alaska Botanical Garden members.

-- We miss Michael Rasy, who after 12 years in the saddle as CES Statewide IPM Technician, has moved to Connecticut. Michael we miss you, and it's not just because you weren't here to identify those head lice and bed bugs.

--The Municipality of Anchorage has finally hired an Urban Forester to replace Scott Stringer who left at the end of 2011. Our new forester is a female out of the San Francisco area and scheduled to start work in early February. Great deal!

-- The Herb Study Group met on February 1 to learn about herbs that are used as aphrodisiacs. An MG, who shall remain nameless, reported on black pepper. While in Florida with her husband recently, she purchased black pepper at a health food store. After experimenting with the spice, she had some interesting information for MGs back in Anchorage. "Let me just say that it brought far more to the plate than we anticipated," she said, without offering any salacious details. The room filled with laughter. MGs who care about such things and are looking for things to spice up their love life might consider the gift of black pepper this Valentine's Day.

### In Memorium by Julie Riley



Pat DeRoche (MG 98/99) passed away January 28, 2013. Rosemary for remembrance — Pat loved herbs. During the early years of the Herb Study Group she shared her prowess with herbs, both culinary and medicinal. Herbal luncheons with friends would last hours and hours. Pat was a delight and will be missed by her friends—including Master Gardeners Irma Schreiner and Sue Bailey— and everyone whose lives she touched. A polished stone, I was hoping to be able to give her, sits in my desk drawer engraved with the word 'Hope'. Pat's struggle with cancer was brief.

## New MGs Complete Course

Forty-eight new Master Gardeners completed the course in December. Tony Flores jumped right in to document the 25th Anniversary Celebration of AMGAA. At the event on December 15, mother & daughter, MG Kat Karabelnikoff and MG Mary Moline posed with their Master Gardener certificates. Halley Trodden has been hard at work mounting herbarium specimens of exotic aquatic plants, invasive garden flowers, and other weeds that can be used in displays and for teaching. Michael Cox has been leading tours through the Alaska Botanical Garden on snowshoes and Paula Williams is on the schedule to speak on backyard biodiversity at the Alaska Botanical Garden Spring Conference, March 9th.

Congratulations new Master Gardeners!

Lisa Balivet, Connie Bingham, Joel Bos, Louisa Branchflower, Julie Buehler, Carmen Bydalek, Christopher Bydalek, Jessica Carleton, Christine Cooper, MichaelCox, Puongthong Cox, Lillian Crites-Flesher, Lynne Duncan, Tony Flores, Margie Goodrich, Lois Gross, Barbara Hendrix, Margaret Hintz, Ginger Hudson, Tracy Hulse, Julie Jorgenson, Kat Karabelnikoff, Diana Kent, Debbie Korpi, Marsha Korri, Stacie Lordan, Karen McCrae, Rosa Meehan, Brita Mjos, Fran Pekar, Peggy Piper, Andrea Rayt, Sherry Rogers, Dennis Ronsse, Sandra Salvatore, Tessa Sellars, Danielle Simoni, Scott Snow, Sherri Spangler, Kalimah Tauheed, Courtney Ruckel, Bonnie Tisler, Halley Trodden, Patty Underwood, Sarah Whicker, Paula Williams, Marjorie Williams.

### Message From Brenda Bissell

Hello all my Alaska gardening friends. After 45 years in the beautiful State of Alaska I made a very difficult decision to move to the Panhandle of Florida. Today I started my 15 week course to be certified down here.

I want to invite any of my old Alaska gardening friends to come visit when you get down this way. My new info will be in the directory correctly. Would love to show all of you the spectacular Emerald Coast. I have the best of Florida, all the beauty but not a lot of people.

My brother calls this area here the Redneck Riviera. So much beauty and things to do. Gardening 12 months a year. Can you spell paradise?

My email address is  
[www.redhatterqueen@hotmail.com](mailto:www.redhatterqueen@hotmail.com)

Look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes and happy planting.



### Got Dahlias?

Rob Wells' dahlia catalog is available online or via mail. Visit [www.thepersistentfarmer.com](http://www.thepersistentfarmer.com) for more information or to see the catalog or call 1-907-745-2789 or 1-907-355-5586. Wells expects to begin delivering the tubers in early March at the Center Market.

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

Communication with our monthly newsletter and GOOGLE Group is a good way to stay in touch in between meetings. I welcome all of you to join in the GOOGLE Group fun. Any issues or suggestions, please contact a Board member with your concerns. We are a friendly group.

February program has been changed somewhat and along with a POTLUCK and seed exchange offering; we will be presenting "25 Years & Counting" a historical review of the past 25 years along with video and photos from the recent Anniversary Party in December. Please bring along a dish to share and extra seeds as well, and join us on February 18th for some fun.

As we roll into my 'Year Two' as your President, I just want to let you know that it has been a lot of fun and I hope to have the learning-curve behind me. To my fellow Board members I say "Woohoo - I look forward to the ride with you!"

### **Anchorage Park Foundation Announces It Will Fund \$200,000 in Community Challenge Grants For Park Improvements**

Seeking applicants who want to make a difference in a neighborhood park

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Wednesday January 24, 2013 - Have you always wanted to do something to improve your neighborhood park or trail? Does your community garden need some help to grow? Have a great project but not enough funds? Citizens can now apply for an Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant. APF will match money raised, volunteer time and in-kind donations \$1 for \$1.

Since 2006, APF has awarded 61 Challenge Grants for park and trail improvements throughout Anchorage, featuring a wide variety of projects, including: facility upgrades; garden improvements; art installations; and recreation opportunities. As a result of past APF Challenge Grants, the Anchorage community has significantly revitalized our parks.

Previous Challenge Grantee Tracy Fischbach says, "We at the C St. Gardens in Midtown received a 2010 Challenge Grant for a fence and landscaping, and the community gardens have never looked better. We were able to secure in-kind support and the volunteers loved helping!"

APF will be accepting applications until Friday, March 22nd. Two free workshops are scheduled for the evenings of February 11th at Spenard Recreation Center and 27th at Fairview Recreation Center, where applicants will have the opportunity to work with volunteer landscape architects on their applications.

Applications available in English and Spanish. More here: <http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/programs/challenge-grants/>

## Garden Event Calendar

### Monday, February 4

Alaska Native Plant Society, 2012 Summer Season, Kate Mohatt, USFS, glacier District, 7 pm, Campbell Creek Science Center, 5600 Science Center Dr., Anchorage

### Thursday, February 7

Anchorage Garden Club, Program: Orchids, Wayne Toupe of Alaska Orchid Society - 7pm, Pioneer School House, 437 E. 3rd Ave.

### Sunday, February 10

Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, 10FEB: Bonsai Pot Selection criteria-- Paul Marmora 1pm-4pm, Dimond Greenhouses, 1050 Dimond Blvd, Anchorage. Contact Paul Marmora 278-5926.

### Thursday, February 14

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association, 'Adaptation' - How plants and animals adapt to changing environments, Fred Sorensen, 6:30pm, BP Energy Center, 900 E. Benson Blvd

### Saturday, February 16

Alaska Rock Garden Society Meeting, 2pm, CES, Anchorage; program TBA

### Monday, February 18

AMGA, 25 Year History of AMGAA, 7pm CES- Member Seed Exchange and POTLUCK.

### Tuesday, February 19th

Primula Study Group, Program: Primula Denticulata aka Drumstick Primrose (Jane Baldwin) 12:00 noon; CES.

### Wed - Sunday, February 20-24

Northwest Garden Show, Seattle

### Thursday, February 21

Wildflower Garden Club Program: Laugh Session, Leslie Shalcross from CES - 10am, Central Lutheran Church, 15th & Cordova

### Monday, March 4th

Alaska Native Plant Society, Program: Anchorage Trees' Health Report, Stephan Nickel of AK Dept. of Natural Resources - 7pm, Campbell Creek Science Center

### Friday, March 8th

ABG Annual Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm in the auditorium at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center; Keynote by Gary Paul Nabhan

### Saturday, March 9th

6th Annual Spring Garden Conference, 9:00 am - 5:15 pm Reception follows (location TBA)



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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AMGA Web Site: [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org)

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

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

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If you have questions or want to make address or email corrections, please contact Jane Baldwin at: [jbaldwin@alaska.net](mailto:jbaldwin@alaska.net)

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Newly elected board member, Cheryl Shroyer, seen here with her AMGA hat on, is this month's "Master Gardener Focus". Read Cheryl Chapman's article on page 3.  
Photo by Tony Flores

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