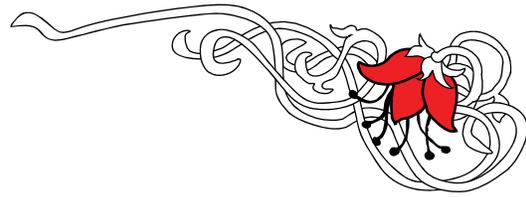


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 15, Issue 1

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER January 2013



A Nickel's Worth from President LaFleur

Happy New Year and thanks for a fun anniversary party on December 15th. There is a lot of work that goes into any party and this one was no exception.

I was touched and pleased to have assistance from many, many Master Gardeners as well as The Bear Tooth (thanks MG Eva and husband Warren Hancock for the above-and-beyond donation) for the fabulous pizzas and salads they donated to our party.

Here's a list of some of the members I want to thank: MG Joette and husband Gene Storm for taking video of much of the event as well as doing some historical videos with our Charter Members that came to the event. Our Santa photographer for the event was MG Tony Flores out of the 2012 MG class who willingly took pictures of everything and everyone. Dear MG Dana-banana Klinkhart for taking photos and helping with the setup of the power points. MG Annie Nevaldine for playing the wonderful 'Harvest Song' video which makes me smile every time I see & hear it. Fabulous MG Patrick Ryan for playing songs on his guitar and entertaining us in spite of his not feeling all that well. Past President Jane Baldwin for being willing to work on the timeline, help with the decorations and being invaluable to me. Sweet MG Sandy and husband David Harrington along with MG Fran Durner for retrieving the pizzas and salads in a timely manner. MG Della Barry and MG Cheryl Shroyer for trying to keep up with getting the guest book signed.

So pleased to have a few of our Charter Members there: Mary Shier, Judy Christiansen and Martie Black and am anxious to see the video that the Storm's are putting together.

I especially want to thank MG Allen Deitz for helping with piecing the history of the past 25 years of Master Gardeners together for us. Allen is the one who instigated the wonderful directories we have today. Did you know that it wasn't until MG Gina Docherty got involved with the group that we got a newsletter going??? One of which we are all so proud of today - Thanks, Gina.

I am very grateful to Cathy Janigo with the Mayor's Office and the Festival of Flowers for allowing us to bring Ms. Delphinium and Ms. Orange Dahlia costumes to the event. Since Ms. Delphinium's hat nearly touched the ceiling and was unstable, letting the mannequin wear

the costume was the right answer. Julie and I enjoyed parading around in Ms. Orange Dahlia head-gear. The Festival of Flowers will be Saturday, June 1st at Towne Square, mark your calendars now.

To Nina Markossian and Susan Bybee with CES for helping with the decorating and for designing the banners for the 25th Anniversary, please know you are appreciated. And to Julie Riley for being our leader and for willing to fit one more thing in her busy schedule -I say 'Please, never, never retire!' Thank you all !!

It was truly enjoyable to see Master Gardeners show up at the Anniversary Party that I haven't seen for years (MG Nancy Larson for instance). I hope this year we have a large membership increase - please do your part to make sure your membership renewal has been sent in and encourage your MG neighbor to do so as well.

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Treasurer's Report

Balances 10/31/12	
Checking acct	8557.31
Savings acct	12135.87
CD's	3351.44
Total	\$24044.62

Revenue:	
Interest	2.66
Membership (3 dual)	530.00
Total	532.66

Expense:	
Advanced Master Gardening	227.58
Newsletter (Oct)	271.30
Total	498.88

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



AMGA Board Nominees for 2013

By now, you should have received your voting ballot via email in a Survey Monkey. If you have opted out of receiving Survey Monkeys, contact Barbara Baker or Mary Rydesky for a ballot.

The outgoing board members are Judy Christianson, Annie Nevaldine, and Kathy Munk. Their service was most appreciated and they will be missed!

Serving on the Board of Directors is an honor and a great way to become involved in the direction of the AMGA. Here are the bios for the 2013 AMGA Board of Directors:

Amy Olmstead



Hi everyone! My name is Amy Olmstead; I have been a master gardener since 2003. I was in the first class offered at night, which allowed me to take the class while working during the day and being a mom during the night.

I am a garden junky and enjoy getting others interested in my passion. I have since persuaded several friends and family to join me in my obsession and take

the on-line courses to become master gardeners as well.

I live on the east side and thus enjoy the challenges of extreme weather swings, microclimates and the joy of breaking as many zonal rules as possible! As a member of Gardeners in the Hood, I enjoy walking up and down our street chatting with fellow gardeners, sharing plant starts, divided clumps and sharing gardening stories throughout the season.

I have a passion for Lasagna Gardening and creating drip-watering systems for friends and family. My garden is forever changing with add-ons, re-dos and anything interesting that catches my fancy. My garden has been on tour twice now and I have enjoyed opening my yard to master gardener classes in Lasagna Gardening and Self Installed drip irrigation systems. Winter doesn't stop my desire as I carry my passion through the white months with my back yard well lit with garden lights in various designs, luminaries, garden art creations for the coming season, and of course as many plans as I can draw up for ideas to come.

I am never bothered by the death of a plant as it affords me the excuse to shop for another one!



Greg Kalal

Born in New York to a military family, I lived in Hawaii, California, Nebraska Missouri and Virginia prior to high school graduation. I chose Dana College in Blair Nebraska to be close to the family farm southwest of Des Moines, Iowa, which is still farmed by cousins. I graduated with a BA in Biology and General Sciences. I worked for a year in a chemistry-biology lab for a food science company in Omaha. Dental School was my big desire so I attended the University of Nebraska Medical center in Lincoln NE. Upon graduation, I entered a practice as an associate in Winterset, Iowa (the birthplace of John Wayne and setting for the movies Cold Turkey and Bridges of Madison County).

The urge to move again struck and I joined the Army and was stationed at Ft Campbell KY, Ft. Richardson (where I fell in love with Alaska), Colorado Springs and back to Alaska where I vowed to never leave. After duty at Ft. Wainwright, Ft. Richardson, and Ft. Greeley, the Army decided that Texas was in my future, so I retired. I moved to Kotzebue and worked for the Indian Health Service for three years. Then moved back to Anchorage and I took a contract job as a dentist back at Ft. Richardson.

I found out that I had a GI bill from my Army time and thought about agriculture classes. It was suggested that I take the Master Gardener course prior to enrolling in classes again. The course was held during the day and my employer told me that "part time is no time" so I quit my job and completed Master Gardener in 2009. I loved it and went on to take several college classes in land management and soils. When the 80 acre agriculture parcel next to my Trapper Creek cabin came up for bid, I bought it. With my soil science classes at UAF in Palmer, I have been trying sustainable agriculture in Alaska.

My desire to be on the board is related to sustainable agriculture and the need for food security in Alaska. There are many varieties of vegetables that grow well in Alaska but are not found on many household menus such as rutabagas and turnips. Plans are underway for a "Potato Lovers Bash" in early February to introduce some new Alaskan bred potatoes. While Seed potatoes and vegetables are my primary focus, I have ventured into the nutraceutical *Rhodiola rosea*, and the cut flower market with peonies.

Continued on page 4

Master Gardener Focus: Rosemary Kimball
By Cheryl Chapman



There's no problem with bears getting after the ducks or chickens at Rosemary Kimball's 40-acre place: The Kenai Master Gardener blasted rock 'n' roll and talk radio into the Wayback Coops toward the rear of the property, and after that, predators made themselves scarce.

In Alaska, a Hawaiian gardener does what she has to do (think: elf on a road grader). Alaska in the '70s was quite a change from the tropics where Rosemary

grew up: "I was born in the same hospital that Barack Obama was born in but got there sooner; you're talking to a kid who didn't wear shoes until seventh grade."

Rosemary and her late husband Phil hopped from Guam by way of Haines to Phil's new Alaska job with the FAA on Cook Inlet's Fire Island in 1976 and settled into a weekend cottage, back when Fire Island was a White Alice communications site honeycombed with underground passages and vital to Cold War national security.

"We had grocery delivery once a month so we had a big garden and a greenhouse, and I picked berries and canned anything that held still," says Rosemary, an ex-librarian. "There were beets, potatoes and carrots, and tomatoes in the greenhouse. We harvested 169 pounds of tomatoes that first year.

"We had a salmon-lobster net on a pulley on the back of a 50 cc Honda scooter and sometimes our catch filled the whole bathtub. Once we caught 150 salmon in 15 minutes. Sometimes I still open a can of salmon but only for a desperation dinner."

By 1979, the couple had moved to a Kenai cabin near Sterling, planning to buy land in Fallon, Nev., for retirement, but that deal fell through, and when the grieving broke down into "I thought you wanted to move"; "No, I thought you wanted to move," they snapped up 40 acres near the cabin posted for sale by a dental consortium instead.

First the Kimballs built a woodshed and ran phone and electric lines to it, put in a freezer, and cleared spruce, birch and alders for a big garden.

"Microwaves don't work at 32 degrees or lower, but the \$10 propane stove with the oven did," Rosemary says. "We lived in wall tents on a platform for two years and raised banty chickens in a cold frame."

By then Phil had retired. They finished the garage, moved into it and started working on their home. Rosemary painted and Phil wired it with "more circuits in the kitchen than most people have in their whole house," says Rosemary. They shifted to the basement and attached an unheated greenhouse to the garage. The outhouse was behind a storage shed, "and I used to keep dried flower arrangements in there on a shelf but had to stop because the moose kept sticking their heads in and eating them," she says.

The Kimballs plowed and planted a 125-by-75-foot fenced garden plus 300 running feet of potatoes and rhubarb out by the duck pond, "but those days are over," says Rosemary. "Mark and I [neighbor and Master Gardener Mark White] used to run a plant sale for about 10 years, but it just got too big and wasn't fun anymore." Now she grows lettuces, parsley and different mints in whiskey barrels, and cultivates three rock gardens, two little ones by the well head and by the back door, and a big one put in as a surprise by friends last May while she was house-sitting in Hilo, on the Big Island.

Rosemary grows Holland long bunch red currants and white ones as well, but a baffling virus has smitten the black currants. She has serviceberries, too, and yellow raspberries and thornless red raspberries from neighbor Mark. Hares took out the Shipova mountain ash -- a mountain ash and pear hybrid -- as well as two cherries and the male and the female sea buckthorn, though the quince seems to have succumbed on its own. Rosemary is a curious and experimental gardener and all such gardeners know her mantra: "I had one, but it died."

She has completed not one but two Master Gardener courses, the first in 1984-85 on the Kenai under Wayne Vandre, and the second 10 years later, plus the advanced courses on botany and plant pathogens. "Wayne knows so doggone much and the rest of us were so doggone ignorant that three of us sat together and raised our hands to slow him down whenever we started getting into the weeds," she says.

The Kimball ducks and geese are gone now. So, too, is the pond, which leaked itself dry. "The senior goose, Mother Goose, crashed in the duck pond. It unnerved her," Rosemary says. Bonnie and Clyde, two of Mother Goose's goslings, became pets, but later in life Clyde had to be disciplined every now and then. "I'd make myself into a bigger goose, pinion his wings with the goose grip, and sit on a stump with him for a while and embarrass him in front of his harem," Rosemary says. "We didn't eat Bonnie or Clyde or Mother Goose (who all died of old age at a friend's pond) but we sure ate their offspring." (For people with goose troubles, geese are averse to grape Kool-Aid mixed with a non-toxic spreader-sticker. Use a spray bottle.)

Harry the guinea continues to tap at the window every morning for corn, and Rosemary has acquired six young bantams to keep him company. Relations have been frostier than the thermometer in her 8-by-12-foot root cellar to the left of the basement wood stove. "It's insulated three ways from Sunday," she says. "In winter the median ground temperature is 35 degrees, and in summer it's 55 degrees, perfect for beer or chardonnay. I keep carrots, beets, potatoes, sauerkraut, and dry and canned goods there for me, and for friends too. It's like having my own personal store.

"During World War II in Hawaii, with Japanese subs patrolling between Hawaii and California, canned goods were wealth."

AMGA Board Nominees...cont. from page 2

Cheryl Shroyer



Cheryl's qualifications include accredited Flower Show judge by the National Garden Clubs Association, a Master Gardener speaker on compost at the Alaska Botanical Gardens Garden Fair and the Alaska Mill & Feed Garden Series, and immediate past president of the Anchorage Garden Club.

Her love of gardening started in suburban Philadelphia amid spectacular botanical gardens & arboretums.

Primarily an organic vegetable gardener she started competitive gardening at the Philadelphia Horticulture Show winning top honors.

Cheryl is especially proud of her work with the late Mardane Conner, creating the first private organic community garden in Anchorage.

Cheryl enjoys working with the community and served as Oceanview Community Council president. She is a passionate gardener and attends educational seminars from the Rodale Institute, Longwood Gardens, Philadelphia Flower Show, Seattle Flowers Show and the myriad of local educational opportunities.

Nickel LaFleur



In 2002, I took my 1st Master Gardener course and knew I had found a group of people I wanted to be with while I learned more about the fascinating world of horticulture. Here we are, ten full years later and I am throwing my hat into the ring again as a candidate for the 2012 Board

of Directors for AMGA.

Along with being a certified Arborist and owning my own landscape business, I believe in giving back to my community. I have been a member of the Alaska Community Forest Council since 2005, a volunteer with Anchorage TREErific in planting and maintaining trees in various parks, and an active member of Muldoon's Park Council and the Eastside District Plan.

I am looking for your vote as I run for the Board of Directors for another two-year term. I believe my enthusiasm and reapplication to the Board will benefit continuity of the group. I've enjoyed serving on the Board the past few years and look forward to continuing serving in a leadership role.

Feeding Birds in Winter

By Gina Docherty, edited by Liza Sanden,
Volunteer Naturalist, Eagle River Nature Center



Birds that over-winter here in Alaska have a tough time of it. Between cold temperatures, wind, snow, predators and limited day light, they are lucky to survive at all.

To cope with these harsh conditions, birds shiver, fluff up their feathers, hover over their feet, and often gather together

er or roost in trees, empty birdhouses or brush piles to stay warm. Black capped chickadees can enter a state of 'torpor' where they lower their body temperature to conserve energy during the night. They will head to your feeders during the early morning til late evening to feed.

You may have noticed that birds seem to flock to your feeders at the same time - this is not a coincidence! This is a safety measure - more eyes to look out for predators. The most common birds to visit our winter feeders here in Anchorage are chickadees, nut hatches, wood peckers, red polls, and occasionally grosbeaks, Stellar's jays and magpies.

To increase the survival of our winter friends, providing a dependable source of good quality food is the most important thing we can do. Black sunflower seeds are the most popular seed at the bird feeders. Red polls like nyjer seed, but it can get really messy on your deck.

Suet is available at most garden centers, but you can also make your own with a few inexpensive items. Here is my favorite recipe for suet:

Beef fat - available at many butcher shops (pork fat can be also be used, but does not get as hard as beef fat)
Peanut butter
Crushed peanuts
Hulled sunflower seeds

Cook the beef fat in a large kettle on low heat until melted. Strain the meat from the fat. Cool the fat and put in refrigerator to solidify. To render the fat, you must recook it, or melt it again. This makes the fat harder & less apt to go rancid. If you prefer, you can skip this process and buy store bought lard.

When the suet is cooling off, add peanut butter, shelled sunflower seeds, &/or crushed peanuts. You can also add cornmeal, oatmeal, or other seeds & nuts. Millet does not meet the nutritional needs of Alaska birds and the birds avoid it.

You can mix the cracklings (meat saved from cooking down the fat) in some of the suet as well. I've noticed that birds love this mixture as much or more than plain suet with nuts. Decide what size suet cake you want, & pour the suet into a container that will give you the shape or thickness you desire. You can also use a large pine cone to smear suet on as it starts to harden up.

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Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

So, what makes anyone think that anything is going on down here?

Barb Jewell gave neat Christmas presents. She potted up hyacinth and miniature daffodil bulbs and they were starting to sprout when she gave them away. Mark White did the same. Mark gave me a bag of paper whites which I'll pot up when I get back from my Arizona "thaw" at the end of February.

Margaret Simon, in Nikiski, wrote at the very end of December: "The poinsettias are fading and the seed catalogs are arriving! In short, there's not much going on in my gardening world. It's raining here this morn so no need to water the garden.... I discovered the prunings that I put in a jar of water that I took from my fig tree are sprouting. Baby figs! Need one?" I just laughed. I finally had a fig that I hadn't killed...yet... then decapitated it with a hose. It's alive and doing well at Mark's office.

Kathy Wartinbee wrote, "Not much new here. I have my seeds but it's a bit chilly to start them. Brussels sprouts didn't do well last summer but there were a handful. Too bad they weren't that good. This year we are trying a new package of seeds."

My house plants are surviving so far. I haven't killed my rosemary...yet. Everything else is able to survive my winter indifference moderately well. I ship what I can to Mark's office because he has a south facing window that goes to the floor. Gina Docherty gave me a start of a Easter? Christmas? cactus and it has grown into a huge plant that is almost more than I can lift. It re-bloomed around Thanksgiving and was just covered with blossoms so that went into Mark's office for decoration too.

Barb Jewell has the houseplant situation tamed. "I only have one house plant, a philodendron that I received when I retired 15.5 years ago. I throw water on it once in a while and that's it."



Margaret Simon has a zygote in full bloom. What a nice time of year for that to happen!

Kathy Wartinbee is looking at her houseplants and telling them that summer is coming.

Merle Dean Feldman, our Garden Guru has moved back to Sterling (!) from Oregon and I was at her house whining that I wasn't going to garden anymore and she wanted to know if she could tame my weeds and plant here. Heaven's yes! I'd already given her husband, David, my 8 HP Troybilt which is now more than I can start and maneuver; so, since it is still parked up next to the house, he won't have to move it any further than back down the hill. I told

her she could also plan on using the greenhouse but I'm embarrassed as I have my birds in there for the winter. Mark decided that I needed 3 of his banties and brought over 5. One rooster died where I could see it but one hen is somewhere and I probably won't find her until she smells in the spring. I also have that very durable and poopy guinea there too.

Kathy Wartinbee also wrote this, "A couple of friends have decided that moving to the lower 48 is a good thing and they will be moving sooner or later. Not sure of their time table. Wonder how long they will be gone before they need to return. It seems like people move out and then come back because they can't seem to stay away."

Isn't that the truth! My husband and I came up here for two years in 1976. We did go Outside looking for property (along the Tootle River before Mt. Saint Helens blew) but didn't score so we returned, looked at each other and said, "I thought you wanted to leave". So, since we'd sold our cabin, we bought 40 acres just a quarter mile down the road and sold 20 acres to neighbor Mark White.

Feeding Birds in Winter.... cont. from page 4

Birds, especially woodpeckers, love this. You will need a bendable wire to attach the pine cone to the hanger.

You can even wire 2 smaller pine cones together to make them longer, which will accommodate a feeding woodpecker - they use their tail to steady themselves while feeding.

Some other useful tips include:

- Clean out birdhouses in the fall & put some dry material in there in case a bird wants to get out of the weather inside it - no sawdust, as this can get wet.
- Provide some grit - birds don't have teeth & require grit to digest their food. Oyster shell (which can provide calcium as well), or plain bird grit is available at garden centers.
- Providing water is a nice idea, however to keep the water from freezing can be an expensive process.
- Make sure your bird feeders are clean so as not to spread disease.
- Corn & nuts can grow bacteria, so make sure suet containing them are refrigerated while in the house.
- Place bird feeders at least 3 feet from windows to avoid 'bird strikes', and at least 5 feet off the ground to deter dogs. Paper bird silhouettes or sun catchers in your windows can help prevent bird strikes too.
- Be sure to remove your suet cakes & bird seed once it warms up enough so as not to attract bears. Melted suet can be detrimental to bird feathers, and can also go rancid.
- Only shelled sunflower seeds should be used in gardens; their hulls can prevent other plants from growing where they fall. Also, birds are less likely to visit a feeder in the open than one with shelter from the weather or predators. Trees or even feeders with roofs offer protection.

Enjoy our hardy friends and help them survive our long winters.



Bird Chatter

- 17 Memberships arrived at the 25th anniversary party:
12 renewals and 5 new members

- Three AMGAA members are among the new 2013 Board of the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association:

President Kevin Irvin, Vice President Mark Wever
Secretary Dan Elliot (MG), Treasurer Debbie Hinchey (MG)
Directors: Tami Schlies (MG), Fred Deiser, Doug Ott

In Remembrance....

Frank Pratt



(From the ADN):
Frank Gardner Pratt Jr., passed away at Alaska Regional Hospital on December 15th, 2012. He was born in Cambridge, MA, and came to Alaska in August 1966 as an Army Intelligence Officer. After leaving the Army he worked as a pharmacist in Anchorage for 34 years. Before his decline in health, Frank enjoyed photography, amateur radio, and

traveling around Alaska enjoying the outdoors. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Verna E. Pratt and two sons.

Frank and wife Verna were the first to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the AMGA in October, 2009. The award, a large granite stone with a plaque, reads: "In Recognition of Your Knowledge and Dedication to Teaching Others to Appreciate and Understand the Wildflowers of Alaska." Frank was also a member of many other gardening groups in Anchorage. His charm and wit will always be remembered by those who knew him.

Lester Klatt

An excerpt from his ADN obituary reads:

Eventually his interests guided the family into the greenhouse business, tree and shrub nursery, landscaping business, a sod farm, and a golf driving range. He also built a frame house next to the log cabin that fit Les's needs perfectly even when he required the use of a wheelchair. On December 14th at 6:35 p.m., Les passed away in that house with his family all around him. He had proven well that there was and is opportunity in Alaska.

On June 25th, 2012, Margaret Klatt led the Master Gardeners on a tour of the Klatt Homestead. We were provided a 3 page inventory of most of the trees that were on the property - an arboretum of eye candy to a tree enthusiast. It was thrilling to see a couple of the old "Delaney apple trees" that were saved from the corner of 3rd and K Street when the Court House was being built - still living today. They weren't beautiful thriving specimens but they were alive - a lot of history there and that's exciting.

It is because of the forward-thinking actions of Margaret's dad, Lester Klatt that this tree tour existed. Lester Klatt was a man of vision- a true homesteader. He walked his walk -- talked his talk. On their homestead property were magnificent old trees, trees that have been there since they were planted sixty years ago; just a couple years ago Lester planted his last tree, a whip from a cherry tree. He is an example of 'planting a tree for it to shade another generation'.

Allen Deitz on the Beginnings of AMGA

I joined the association in late 1991 - first meeting was January 1992 (and then was elected president in February 1992 - yikes!) - so all the information I have on the association begins at that time.

Attached are several PDF files of AMGA directories (missing 1998). The first directory was done in 1994. For a couple of years prior to that, we had an annual list of members with some indication of individuals' personal gardening interests that were gleaned from annual surveys.

Notable dates:

- AMGA was formed in 1986 as an Anchorage-based group.
- April 1992, AMGA membership hit 100 for the first time.
- In 1993 the bylaws were rewritten to reflect a statewide 'umbrella' organization; and the Anchorage Chapter of AMGA was formed. With only the one chapter, the same officers served both organizations.
- March 1994, first annual directory of the Anchorage chapter
- 1994 was the first time the AMGA 'adopted' and planted the flower beds at the Pioneer Home and Botanical Garden entrance.
- February 1998, Wayne Vandre published "Alaska Master Gardener Program: 20 Years in the Last Frontier", a short history commemorating 20 years of master gardening in Alaska.
- April 1998, the Central Kenai Peninsula Chapter joined the AMGA; October 1998, board members and chapter representatives from both chapters met at Summit Lake (it was a summit meeting!) for the first statewide AMGA meeting.
- November 1998, Julie sent her last, regular monthly letter to AMGA members.
- December 1998, first issue of the Anchorage Chapter, Alaska Master Gardeners Association Newsletter was mailed to members.
- 1999, an apportioned board of directors for the AMGA was elected with representatives from both chapters.

Regarding charter members -- in the directories, charter members are indicated with an asterisk. However, in a directory, those are only the charter members who were still active (dues-paying) members when the directory was compiled. A couple of times an MG would join (actually, rejoin) and it would then come to light that they, too, had been a charter member. I was never successful in getting a complete, independent list of charter members. Unless someone comes up with a list from 1987, I'd suggest scanning through the list in the 1994 directory (active members and members in memoriam) to compile a list -- then add Verna Pratt, Caroline Valentine and Joe Whittenberg from the 1997 directory (but Whittenberg is not marked in the 1999 list -- hmmm, is that a correction or omission?)

In addition to the directories, I have copies of most of Julie's monthly meeting reminder letters from 1992-1998 and newsletters from 1998 on; as well as miscellaneous flyers for MG conferences and other special activities.

I don't (and won't) lend out material from my archives,

Garden Event Calendar

but I'd be happy to scan some of it and send electronic copies. Julie's office should have files of her letters and Gina Docherty should have file copies of newsletters, but if either are missing anything, let me know and I can try to fill in the gaps...

Congratulations to the AMGA - especially the Anchorage Chapter - and its members on 25 years of contributions to the Anchorage and Alaska gardening scenes!

Here's to the next 25,
Allen

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

The electronic balloting should be underway and I hope you've received yours. If not, please get with Election and Nomination Chairs Barbara Baker or Lynne Opstad to get that remedied. It's important to have your voice heard and to continue to volunteer in our community.

And finally, I'd like to extend a 'farewell - until we meet again in the gardens above' - to MG Frank Pratt who passed away on December 15th along with my deepest sympathy to MG Verna and family. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was brought to his memorial as a remembrance from the AMGAA membership. He will be missed.

Farewell to Michael Rasy By Nickel LaFleur

On Thursday, December 20th there was a going-away gathering for Michael Rasy at Anchorage CES Office.

After living in Alaska for 18 years, of which over a dozen were with the Integrated Pest Management Program, Michael was moving to Connecticut to be close to family. His wife, Colette and children, Leo & Graham, left a month ago leaving Michael to finish up his job and sell their home. Colette has secured a job in Hartford and Michael will start his job search when he arrives.

Michael and dogs were driving out of Anchorage to Haines on Saturday to be on the December 24th ferry to Bellingham and then start his journey across country.

Everyone will miss our "Tree Guy" also known as "The Bug Man" and wish him success in his new career. I sent him on with a 2013 ADN Moose Calendar to remind him of us throughout the year.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing Michael Rasy and family a happy, healthy and prosperous life and hope he stays in touch.

January 7

Alaska Native Plant Society - Program: Gino Graziano, AF/CES Invasive Plants; 7pm, Campbell Creek Science Center.

January 10

Wildflower Garden Club - Program: Ice Luminaries, by Kathy Zeitz; 10am, Central Lutheran Church, 15th & Cordova

January 12

Bird TLC'S SAVE the EAGLES DAY will be held from 2 to 4pm at the Bird TLC Clinic, 6132 Nielson Way. Celebrate all things eagle! For more information contact Bird TLC at 562-4852 or www.birdtlc.net.

January 10

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association - Program: Video on top working trees, which is either to convert your tree to a new variety or to add additional varieties to your existing variety. 6:30pm, BP Energy Center, south of BP main building, N. Lights & New Seward, accessed through BP Parking Lot One

January 21

AMGA Meeting: "An ideal 30-year Career at UAA." Pat Leary will share her reflections on 30 years as a horticulturist at UAA. She looks back on it with deep satisfying contentment at having had such a fortunate career. Her retrospective is heart-warming and uplifting. 7 p.m., CES.

January 24 & 25

Alaska Greenhouse & Nursery Conference - Pike's Waterfront Resort, Fairbanks; This event targeting Alaska's horticulture industry includes a trade show and presentations on grafting vegetables, plant breeding, using pellets for heating, the story of Juneau's Glacier Gardens' upside down trees. Registration information will be available at www.uaf.edu/ces/.

February 4

Alaska Native Plant Society - Program: Kate Mohatt, USFS Glacier District, Summer 2012 Field Season; 7pm, Campbell Creek Science Center

February 13

New Peony Growers School, Intermediate Peony Growers School - Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks; Pre-conference workshops taught by members of the Alaska Peony Growers Association. As details become available, they will be posted on the APGA website, www.alaskapeonies.org/.

February 14 & 15

Alaska Peony Growers Conference Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks - Three tracks for new, intermediate and experienced commercial cut-flower peony growers. Includes a silent auction to benefit the Alaska Peony Growers Association, trade show, and pre-conference workshops. For details watch www.alaskapeonies.org/.

February 14

Wildflower Garden Club - Program: Laugh Session, Leslie Shallcross, UAF/CES; dress in Valentine's colors! 10am, Central Lutheran Church, 15th & Cordova



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
(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.net

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
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Helping Hands - Master Gardeners celebrate 25 years of the AMGA, December 15th at the CES.

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
Anchorage Chapter
University of Alaska Cooperative Extension
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AMGA Memberships Expire December 31st.
If you haven't done so already, send in your dues now!
Check the date below your address
to see if you are a current member.