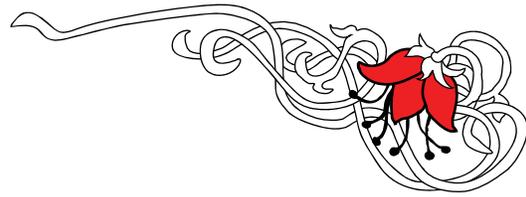


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 15, Issue 3

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER March 2013



A Nickel's Worth From President LaFleur

With the 77th Rony under way and the Iditarod athletes on their way to Nome, I give thanks for the longer days, the beautiful full moon and all the excitement this time of year brings.

If you didn't get all the seeds you need at our February program meeting, then now is time to act. I love to fondle the seed packets (thanks to all those who shared their seed crop at our Feb 18th meeting) but recognize it's also time to wash out pots and trays (a dreaded job), thaw a bale of seed soil and Promix and put my plan into action. I can attest to how important it is to start out your growing operation in the cleanest place possible. It doesn't guarantee you a free pass to avoid diligently scouting for pests but it's really worth the exact effort it takes. I try hard to stick with biological controls in my gardening world because I believe it is safest for me, you and the plants. This year I bought a bag of 1,500 lady bugs as well as a praying mantis hive. The lady bugs have scattered and I await hatching of the praying mantis in due time. Note to self: take down the yellow sticky strips before introducing lady bugs into the greenhouse as it appears lady bugs enjoy the color yellow, too.

I suppose I should point out that I do have a heated greenhouse in which to release my biological controls. For the first week or two I would inevitably have a lady bug make the trip from the greenhouse into my house somewhere on my body. When I found one, I would flick it into the house plants in hopes there was something interesting for a lady bug to digest. I'm keeping a keen eye out to corral the praying mantis in the greenhouse if possible <weak smile>.

I admit I jumped the 'planting gun' over here. At the end of January I was gaga over seed packets and scouring my greenhouse (and Alaska Mill & Feed) in search of seeds. I needed plant therapy no matter what month the calendar was displaying. Of course, I ended up planting the entire packet - I have no will power when it comes to seeds from my favorite flowers. I'm proud to say that the zebra mallow I planted a month ago has sprouted 2 sets of leaves and have healthy green stems. Anyone want to trade some seedlings of *Malva sylvestris* 'Zebrina' (also called mallow - it's a cousin to the hollyhock family) for another type of equally exciting seedling?

As I mentioned above, I overwintered hybrid tea roses in the greenhouse and they are already producing buds - and I expect flowers to open by mid-March. But for now I'm caring for half dozen pelargoniums in hanging baskets that are producing bright red blossoms for my color-deprived eyes. Much appreciated.



Nickel's
Greenhouse -
Photo by Nickel
LaFleur

Continued
on page 2

Treasurer's Report

Balances 12/31/12

Checking	2230.64
Savings	15141.74
CD-112.1 (ABG)	3357.35
CD-I36 (Education)	3005.20
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$23734.93</u>

Revenue:	
Donation	100.00
Interest	3.21
Membership	870.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$973.21</u>

Expense:	
Hospitality	101.81
Newsletter	29.99
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$130.80</u>

Balances 1/31/13

Checking	3069.84
Savings	15144.95
CD-112.1 (ABG)	3357.35
CD-I36 (Education)	3005.20
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$24577.34</u>

Potatoes, Potluck, Seed Exchange & AMGA History

By Jane Baldwin

The festivities began with the official potato tasting of unidentified potatoes. Julie Riley, Leslie Shallcross and Greg and Kathy Kalal produced enough cooked potatoes for all members attending to taste and rate 7 different potatoes. Samples were small, but x 7, they easily added up to a good sized potato! There were 6 different potatoes, but they were tricky, with one sample repeated twice as a sort of control.

The potato tasting had to be done first - before we spoiled our palates with the beckoning potluck offerings. Tasting was not quite as simple as taking a bite and saying yay or nay. No salt, pepper or butter allowed for first bites! This was serious business: complete with soda crackers and water to cleanse your palate between samples.

Have you ever thought about potatoes in terms of texture: fluffy, moist, waxy, grainy, creamy and meaty? Or about the flavor and aroma: (pleasant, bitter, astringent, nutty, sweet, buttery)? Rating each one, and then ranking only the first six when it was revealed that the last tasting sample was a ringer repeat. And we even had to turn in our test papers for ratings review and tabulation. And the winner was. . . [stay tuned!]

Turning to the potluck, plates were filled, the meeting resumed with Nickel introducing the new Board members present, announcing the various officers for this year and presenting a number of announcements of upcoming horticultural related events, including ABG's Spring conference on March 9th and this year's Master Gardener Conference on April 6th in Palmer hosted by the Mat-Su Master Gardeners.

'AMGA: 25 Years and Counting' had President Nickel sharing some historical highlights uncovered during preparation for December's 25th Anniversary Celebration, including fond recollections of the longtime AMGA involvement of the late MG Dick Juelson who passed away this month. Bringing together potatoes & history: from longtime Alaskan MG Bonnie Tisler came mention that her parents, Catherine and Bob Weimer were early Anchorage homesteaders in the vicinity of Jewel Lake and Raspberry Roads where they commercially grew potatoes! The Weimers also grew raspberries and strawberries: hmmm, is that coincidental with the names of Raspberry and Strawberry Roads in the same area?

We also saw photos of the December 25th Celebration taken by new MG Tony Flores and pictures from Dana Klinkhart of AMGA events. Nickel created another slide rotation of many interesting things horticultural and garden related.

A special treat was seeing the video that Gene and MG Joette Storm put together from the December 25th Celebration featuring interviews with original charter members - who are still members today! Also captured in the video was our wandering troubadour MG Pat Ryan with guitar in hand leading enthusiastic MGs Nickel and Della Colver Barry through the crowd who joined Pat in singing such memorable phrases as "inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow" and "dirt made my lunch- thank you dirt, thanks a bunch!"

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

Oh yeah, I found a bag of mystery seeds in the greenhouse. Apparently I knew what they were when I bagged them up. Another lesson learned - don't trust your memory - write things down when you know them. It's funny how one seed pod looks much like another. I have plucked them into some moistened seed soil and await germination. If something shows up in the pots - and I get it identified, I'll let you know. I just love a good mystery at this time of year, don't you?

It is true, there is a chart and a rhyme and reason for which seed to plant when but I needed plant therapy by the end of January. I'm interested in joining other Master Gardeners and enter something in the Alaska State Fair. Keep that in mind when you plant your seeds this year. Last year we had quite a few Master Gardeners enter AND win. I hope you follow my lead on this so we have a huge turnout in the horticulture and crops department at our wonderful fair the end of August, beginning of September. The 'more the merrier' is my motto!

Just wanted to mention a couple of things more: Alaska Botanical Gardens is hosting their 7th Annual Spring Conference on March 8th & 9th and the venue for the annual meeting and conference will be at the Millennium Hotel. I apologize for saying it will be at the Museum - it will not. Both events will be on the 3rd floor of the Millennium on Spennard Road in Anchorage.

Also, the MatSu Master Gardeners are hosting the annual MG Conference and could use some assistance from fellow Anchorage Master Gardeners. If you can help - email them at their website pronto. Please note that the Master Gardener Conference (being held in Palmer at the Valley Depot) is the same day as Garden Days at the Mall at Sears---Saturday, April 6th this year. I wish I could clone myself for that weekend!

I'm pleased to see the days noticeably getting longer and just jazzed to be receiving over 10 hours of daylight by the last weekend in February. It just gives me hope that spring will arrive and the spring bulbs WILL poke their heads out right behind the snow.

For those of you that came to the February program meeting and enjoyed the seed swap, pot luck feast, potato tasting and history review, thanks a lot. I really do enjoy festivities around fellow gardeners and hope we get a chance to do it all again. Thanks must be given again to Gene & Joette Storm, Tony Flores, Dana Klinkhart, and Patrick Ryan on guitar - it was the best of times.

Join us on March 18th when we welcome Dennis and Annie Ronse who will talk about Starting a New Garden, Including Making Soil & Keeping Records. After all, there IS a method to all the planting madness and a way to ensure success. I wish you all much success in your planting endeavors and I will see you with your pen and paper ready to take notes on the 3rd Monday in March.

I look forward to the Iditarod race and wish mushers and dogs safe travel on their way to Nome. I'll keep my lights on until the last musher reaches the burlled arches in Nome. Safe and happy, healthy trails to them all --- and to you, too.

Gloxinia Gamble

By Mary Tilly

"Don't touch!" my grandmother would say when I was a child. "The flowers will die!" Those beautiful, velvety bells were ever so tempting to my small fingers. The black stamens and pistils reminded me of eyelashes, and when the blooms would turn toward the sun, I thought they were eyes that actually looked around the room. As I grew a bit, I learned the name of these jewel-toned wonders: gloxinia.

Gloxinia are members of the family of flowers called Gesneriaceae, or the more common, Gesneriads. Cousins in this flower family include Streptocarpus and African Violets. All are known for their variations in rich colors, and fuzzy leaves.

I have had much luck with growing African Violets in my home, and last spring, decided to try something new. "Isn't just living in Alaska a challenge?" one of my co-workers said. We were discussing our respective challenges in the garden. Very true, I thought. Nevertheless, I decided on my newest challenge, growing gloxinia. First, I had to find some.

Suffering from an acute case of cabin fever after the memorable winter, I ventured to one of the first garden shows in Anchorage. It was one Saturday morning at the Sears Mall in early March. One of the booths featured cuttings of African Violets and Streptocarpus. I took them home, applied a little rooting hormone and voila! new plants. Actually, they grow ever so slowly, but quite deliberately. I hope to have blooms this spring. Well, I thought, if these cousins thrive, what about the gloxinia themselves? As the saying goes, the hunt was on.

I scoured the local nurseries, my Master Gardener Resource Book, and Internet sites. Finally, via Garden-Web, I was able to locate gloxinia seeds from Thomson and Morgan. A couple of weeks later, a seed packet arrived. Inside, I found a small plastic vial that, on first inspection, appeared empty. Donning my glasses, I took a second look and found about 20 tiny (nearly microscopic) specks in the vial.

Carefully, I distributed the specks to four small pots of my favorite soil mixture. The pots rested under the lights in my mini in home greenhouse, and were regularly sprinkled with water. For two solid months, despite lights, water, and daily verbal encouragement those four pots of soil sat forlornly under the lights. One day, I was watering when, fearing an hallucination brought on by severe wishful thinking, I saw a tiny green shoot in one of the pots. My unsuspecting cats were nearly mowed down as I ran, shrieking with joy to find my camera. Two days later, a second green shoot became visible...in the same pot.



Just for the record, the other three pots never produced any green foliage. I am anxiously awaiting, as any expectant mother, the first bloom!

MGs Get Involved in Public Process

By Julie Riley

Last month Anchorage's land use code, known as Title 21, was approved by the assembly after ten years of hard work and a massive amount of public input. Master Gardeners are not usually a politically active group, but armed with knowledge on many of the issues addressed in Title 21, individuals came together and rallied around what they felt was important.

With Fran Durner's leadership, Master Gardeners took up the cry against invasive species when no one else seemed to notice the issue was no longer addressed. Fran spent innumerable hours sifting through documents and talking to agencies and assembly members. She synthesized a huge volume of information and distilled it into smaller pieces so that others could understand what was happening.

Fran, Joette Storm, Sharon Davies and Joan Diamond testified before the assembly. Nickel LaFleur, Pat Anderson and LaVonne Rhyneer encouraged others to contact the assembly to let their opinions be heard. Marjorie Jordan, Franny Junge, Shirley Kelly and Dohnn Wood are among those who responded by sending emails.

Five pages of mindful comment, drafted by Fran and signed by 24 Master Gardeners, were submitted as part of the public process. To take a look, go to the 'Title 21 rewrite' page and click on 'Written comments received by February 12'. Clean air, stream setbacks, landscaping requirements and tree selection are but a few of the topics addressed in Development & Design Standards, Chapter 7.

Their letter states, "As Master Gardeners, we are extremely concerned about the amount of invasive species of plant and tree materials that have already been introduced to Anchorage and continue to show up, whether intentionally or not, at nurseries, big box stores and local plant sales. Specific language must be included to prohibit further introduction."

And also "... please add invasive cherry trees (*Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana*) as trees that may not be used to meet the existing landscape requirements."

Throughout the letter, the assembly is urged to place a high value on the preservation of native vegetation. One of my favorite statements reads, "We can't underline enough the importance of... the retention of existing trees in the urban landscape." This is so true.

By the time of the assembly vote, much of the Title 21 verbiage pertaining to sustainable landscaping had been removed. I don't believe the word 'invasive' appears anywhere, but it's hard to tell until all the revisions have been put into one final document.

Not all battles are won, but we learn things along the way. The public process exists for citizens to utilize. I've been told it only takes 2,000 votes to win a seat on the Anchorage assembly.

Fava Beans By Gina Docherty

Sources:

<http://www.wisegEEK.org/what-are-fava-beans.htm>
& Wikipedia



Fava Beans have a long tradition of cultivation in Old World agriculture, being among the most ancient plants in cultivation and also among the easiest to grow. It is believed that along with lentils, peas, and chickpeas, they became part of the eastern Mediterranean diet in around 6000 BC or earlier.

Although called 'beans', they are actually in the pea family. Also known as pigeon beans, horse beans, and windsor beans, they grow on bushy plants with tapering leaves, white and black flowers, and yielding anywhere from 25 to 50 pods per plant. The pods resemble pea pods in shape, but much larger and lined with a fluffy white material that protects the seeds inside. In warmer countries, they are grown over winter, and can tolerate our cool Anchorage soils. The main crop is sown in early spring and will be ready to harvest from mid to late summer. Horse beans, left to mature fully, are usually harvested in the late autumn. The young leaves of the plant can also be eaten either raw or cooked like spinach.

Fava beans can also be used as a cover crop to amend garden soil; they are fast growers and produce lush foliage. In addition, like most legumes, fava beans are nitrogen fixers, and they replenish the soil with this vital nutrient. Many farmers plant fava beans and plow them back into the field after the growth has peaked for mulch.

Culinary Use

Broad beans are a staple food in many countries in the Middle East. There are many interesting recipes available on line - just do a Google search and see how many there are! Fava beans are great steamed and served with olive oil, salt, and lemon. They can also be added to soups and pastas, ground into purees, grilled, or enjoyed in artichoke risotto.

Health Issues

Fava beans should be shelled and peeled before eating. The outer peel on the beans, while technically edible, is very woody in texture and detracts from the buttery feel of the inner bean. In addition, fava beans should be cooked before serving because of favism, a rare reaction to fava beans found among people of Mediterranean descent. Little risk has been found from eating cooked beans, but some diners may have an allergic reaction to raw or unpeeled favas. Once called "Baghdad Fever", favism is a genetic enzyme deficiency. When exposed to fava beans, or even fava pollen, allergic people can develop acute hemolytic anemia, the breakdown of red blood cells which carry oxygen throughout the body. It can be fatal.

Broad beans are rich in L-dopa, a substance used medically in the treatment of Parkinson's disease. L-dopa is also a natriuretic agent, which might help in controlling hypertension. It is said also that some use fava beans

as a natural alternative to drugs like Viagra, citing a link between L-dopa production and the human libido. (Is this why Italian men like to pinch women - too many fava beans?) And there are studies that show that fava beans may protect against malaria.

Folklore

* In ancient Greece and Rome, beans were used in voting; a white bean being used to cast a yes vote, and a black bean for no. Even today the word *koukia* (*koukiá*) is used unofficially, referring to the votes.

* In Ubykh culture, throwing beans on the ground and interpreting the pattern in which they fall was a common method of divination (*favomancy*), and the word for "bean-thrower" in that language has become a generic term for seers and soothsayers in general.

* In Italy, broad beans are traditionally sown on November 2, All Souls Day. Small cakes made in the shape of broad beans (though not out of them) are known as *fave dei morti* or "beans of the dead". According to tradition, Sicily once experienced a failure of all crops other than the beans; the beans kept the population from starvation, and thanks were given to Saint Joseph. Broad beans subsequently became traditional on Saint Joseph's Day altars in many Italian communities. Some people carry a broad bean for good luck; some believe that if one carries a broad bean, one will never be without the essentials of life. In Rome, on the first of May Roman families traditionally eat fresh fava beans with *Pecorino Romano* cheese during a daily excursion in the Campagna.

* In Portugal a Christmas Cake called *Bolo Rei* ("King Cake") is baked with a "Fava" bean inside. Whoever eats the slice containing it, is supposed to buy next year's cake.

* In ancient Greece and Rome, beans were used as a food for the dead, such as during the annual *Lemuria* festival.

* In some folk legends, such as in Estonia and the common Jack and the Beanstalk story, magical beans grow tall enough to bring the hero to the clouds.

* The Grimm Brothers collected a story in which a bean splits its sides laughing at the failure of others. Dreaming of a bean is sometimes said to be a sign of impending conflict, though others said that they caused bad dreams.

* Pliny claimed that they acted as a laxative.

* European folklore also claims that planting beans on Good Friday or during the night brings good luck.

Why not give them a try? A food that has such a rich history as the fava bean can't be all that bad. And at the very least you would be doing your soil and maybe your soul a favor.



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

Gina brought me back into the real world by saying she wanted words. I'm speechless.

Barb Jewell is getting ready to go to southern Arizona to poke around and Tucson just had two inches of snow. Kathy Wartinbee is down at the Seattle Flower Show. Margaret Simon forgot to give me a fig start when I was out there last Sunday. Last year she got 56 figs from her tree. I kill for figs. I love the crunch of the seeds. I keep trying to murder my plant so it is sitting in Mark's window at work where I can't damage it further. She's got inch-high tomato seedlings. When I sent out my my panic note to the MGs here, Don St. John put it succinctly, "cold... white... dead".

I was going to be Outside for six weeks. I was back in three. I was too early for spring flowers. I found the spring flowers in the sun room when I got home. Mark had left me a pot of hyacinths and another of yellow daffodils.



Runaway Roadside Cotton along old Highway 80 in Arizona. Photo by Rosemary K.



Cactus Gloves? What to do with cactus tips when frost is threatening. Photo by Rosemary K.

While I was in Arizona I took my usual trip down old highway 80 between Buckeye and Gila Bend. I am fascinated by the changes in the crops and agriculture that are happening. Years ago, when I went down for the first time the agriculture was simply alfalfa, on laser-leveled fields with

a big bush by the east side of the road with the most gorgeous green worm as big as my pointy finger on it. Unfortunately I just had a Sony camera that put the pictures on a floppy disk which no longer lives with me.

Even since seven years ago when Phil and I went down, it is a wildly different place with several large feed lots, cotton fields, jojoba plantations and several solar arrays. Jojoba oil has been used to replace the very high quality oil from the sperm whales.

And lots of water was flowing out of the irrigation pipes. I don't know how deep the wells are but they look like they should be going down fast. Then what, I don't know as both cotton and alfalfa use a lot of water. The shrimp farm just outside of Gila Bend is no longer growing crustaceans but is growing algae.

I went to the CES office in Green Valley AZ to see if they had a need for a willing weeder. Compared to our office here it was dead. I did get to go out to the demo garden out back. Granted, they'd had some really severe frosts but the cauliflower was puny compared to ours. The peas were really knocked out. We might have moose and root maggots but I think gardening up here is more rewarding! Their gardening is stopped by summers, ours by winters.

Movies for Gardeners - "A Man Called Pearl"

By Janice Berry

If you want to experience a feel-good story about an unlikely role model, watch this movie. It's a story about a man obsessed with topiaries. Just what is a topiary? Wikipedia says it is the horticultural practice of training live perennial plants by clipping the foliage and twigs of trees, shrubs and subshrubs to develop and maintain clearly defined shapes. It's an art form as living sculpture, much like bonsai trees. The word derives from the Latin word for an ornamental landscape gardener, topiarius, a creator of topia or "places." The plants used in topiary are evergreen, mostly woody, have small leaves or needles, produce dense foliage, and have compact and/or columnar growth habits.



The movie is a documentary filmed in 2006, whose subject, contrary to what the title suggests, has nothing to do with transgender issues. The son of a sharecropper, he was named by his mother. And he's all man, there is no doubt. He's an African-American living in the rural south, and he moves into a predominantly white neighborhood in the early 1980s. The neighbors assumed that he wouldn't be able to maintain the same standard of lawn care as them. In response, Pearl set a goal to become the first black recipient of the local garden club's Yard of the Month award. He began by using rescues from the compost pile at the local nursery. One day, the owner gave him a short lesson on trimming the bushes to form a topiary and a new hobby was begun.

While Pearl's first topiaries were mainly classical or animal shapes, his vision has turned to the abstract over recent years. Junipers, several forms of cypress, camellias and hollies are among the plants he uses as his medium. He uses gas trimmers, wire and electrical tape to form his horticultural creations. Pearl's garden with its 20- to 30-foot-tall specimens has been featured in every major gardening magazine and several newspapers across the country.

Continued on page 7



Bird Chatter

-- Potato scab, *Streptomyces scabies*, straddles two worlds. It is a single-celled organism like bacteria but has the mycelium of a fungus.

-- Master Gardeners and commercial peony growers Sue Lincoln and Rachel Christy have been elected to the Alaska Peony Growers Association board of directors.

-- Overheard by Kat Karabelnikoff at the Fur Rendezvous display... *Prunus padus* was referred to as Mayapple. Folks from the East and Midwest usually think of Mayapple as *Podophyllum peltatum*, a distinctive umbrella-leaved, woodland wildflower.

-- The USDA Plant Variety Protection Office has issued a Certificate of Protection to Orsetti Seed Company, Inc. for a new lettuce named 'Kodiak'. Intellectual property rights protection is provided to breeders for new varieties that are seed or tuber propagated.

-- Does this mean that gardeners (or farmers) cannot save the seed of a protected variety for future planting? No. If you legally purchased the seed, you CAN grow and save it. However, the Plant Variety Protection Act does not cover plant patents or contracts. Visit the PVPO website for other dazzling tidbits of information.

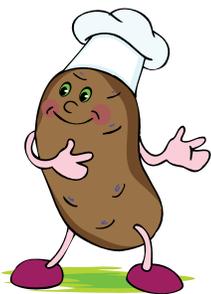
-- Please welcome Kara Monroe to a permanent position in the Anchorage CES front office. If you attended the Potato Lovers Bash January 30, you may remember Kara as one of the spud runners.

-- Matanuska Creamery has closed its doors after a 4-year run as Alaska's largest dairy. Equipment is being sold at public auction on March 16, 2013.

-- The rumors are true! Potato Lovers Bash panelists compared 30 different varieties. Who was greenest around the gills after tasting that many potatoes, Jane Baldwin, Cheryl Shroyer or Jim Roberts?

-- Julie Riley hammed it up with potato trivia, potato jokes and potato songs while waiting for Leslie Shallcross and her band of volunteers to get the baked and boiled tubers on the table for tasting. Spud producers Greg Kalal and Jeff Smeenk pretended it was life as usual. The booby prize for a wrong answer to a Spin-the-Potato-Wheel question, was a bag of you-know-who's russets.

-- What was the result of all this potato-loving commotion? 'Magic Molly' is on the map! Tasters ranked it highly, both baked and boiled. 'Magic Mirna' really does taste like a sweet potato. The usually mild-tasting, rosy-skinned 'French Fingerling' was bitter. Fingers pointed to the wet season as a potential culprit.



-- Julie lost her reverence for 'Yukon Gold'. By the end of the night, her preference was 'German Butterball'. All other potato taste test results will be forthcoming, along with those from the AMGA

six-tater trial of bakers.

Advanced Master Gardener Program Update



The Advanced Master Gardener Program Education Committee has some sad news, and some happy news! First the sad news. As some of you are already aware, Sue Lincoln and Dana Klinkhart have both resigned from the Advanced Master Gardener Education Committee so they can move on to other endeavors. Both Sue and Dana were instrumental in creating and developing the Advanced Master Gardener Program, and they have spent

countless hours supporting it over the past 4 years. We will miss their always positive attitudes, and devotion to the program. Sharon Hoffbeck, who has been a committee member for the past 3 years, has agreed to try to fill Sue's shoes and be the Committee Chair. The good news is that we have two new committee members, Ginny Moore and Marilyn Barker. Both Ginny and Marilyn are dedicated Master Gardeners, and we are excited to have them join the committee.

Also a reminder—the program requirements are now much easier to complete. After completing the core, all you need is either 15 hours of CEU's, or 15 hours of Volunteer Hours that are related to horticulture, or 15 hours of a combination of CEU's and Volunteer Hours in order to complete all of the requirements and move to the next Advanced Master Gardener level.

If you didn't attend the last AMG core course last fall, or you did not attend all of the fall core classes, you can maintain your previous Advanced Master Gardener level by either completing 15 CEUs, or 15 Volunteer Hours, or 15 hours of a combination of CEUs and Volunteer Hours.

Check out the Advanced Master Gardener brochure on the AMGA's website for details. Remember, your reporting form must be submitted by September 1, 2013.

If you need to complete some hours, you might take a look some of the upcoming gardening events for potential CEU's such as the ABG's Spring Seminar March 9th, and the Master Gardener Conference hosted by the Mat-Su MGs in Palmer on April 6th. Additionally, there are still a number of educational programs being presented at various local garden groups' monthly meetings between now and summer when many groups take a hiatus from their monthly meetings. Many volunteer opportunities also exist – for example, summer MG support for AMGA's Pioneer Home Gardens project.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Sharon Hoffbeck, sh385@acsalaska.net.



Condolences

Master Gardener Dick Juelson passed away February 10th, 2013. He and his wife, June, had been married for over 60 years! He had been a resident of Alaska since September, 1947.

He witnessed major changes in history of his beloved Alaska, beginning with statehood, first state-wide presidential election, the 1964 earthquake and the resulting tidal wave experienced in Kodiak.

Dick was an avid gardener and composter who shared his knowledge and love of gardening with other master gardeners freely. He was featured on the front page in an AMGA newsletter, November, 2002, on his success with growing onions.

Thank you Dick, you will be missed.

Movies for Gardeners...cont. from page 5

Today at 68 years old he has over 300 topiaries on three acres of his property. He can be found at night, after his day job, perched on a ladder shaping his plants with an electric hedge-clipper in the dark with the help of a spotlight. His sculptures have become so artful and numerous that his yard became a tourist attraction to this small southern town, with busloads of gardening fans coming just to see Pearl's work. Today the Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden draws visitors from around the world, and he frequently gives talks and lectures to schools on the topic of perseverance, hard work and positive thinking.

This award-winning documentary can be rented on Netflix, or watch a trailer on YouTube. He also has a website: www.pearlfryar.com. Just in case you are inspired to try your own hand at topiaries, two recommended shrubs hardy for the Anchorage planting zone would be cypress or juniper.

No Leftover 8 Minute Pie for One

1 apple or 1 pear, peeled & thinly sliced
2 Tbsp brown sugar
2 Tbsp uncooked oatmeal
1 Tbsp flour
1 Tbsp butter
1/4 tsp cinnamon



Put last 5 ingredients in a cup & microwave until butter is melted, stir. Put fruit in a bowl, sprinkle topping over fruit. Microwave for 2-5 minutes, or until fruit is tender. (You could also use peaches or berries. You can also bake at 325° for 25 minutes, but why wait?)

Summer Gardening Help Needed

I own two properties in Anchorage and am looking for someone to do some gardening this spring and summer. I would like someone to help me do some plantings and maintenance for a number of days each month. My budget is limited. Looking for referrals, suggestions. Thanks! Michele - michelepalatas@hotmail.com (Please put Gardening Help in the subject) or call 351-2004.



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

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 Jane Baldwin at: jbaldwin@alaska.net

Garden Event Calendar

Thursday, March 7th

Anchorage Garden Club's public program, Pruning Annuals & Perennials presented by Becky Myvold; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage

Friday, March 8th

ABG Annual Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Millennium Hotel, 4800 Spenard Rd., Anchorage; Keynote by Gary Paul Nabhan

Saturday, March 9th

6th Annual ABG Spring Garden Conference, 9:00 am - 5:15 pm Reception follows (Millennium Hotel)

Thursday, March 14

Wildflower Garden Club's monthly meeting - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Dimond Greenhouses 1050 W. Dimond Blvd. Anchorage

Thursday, March 14

Cooperatives and their role in developing a sustainable food system for Alaska communities - 6:00 - 8:00 pm Cooperative Extension Office, 1675 C Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK
Featured speaker: Ken Meter, president of Crossroads. For more information or to register for this free workshop, contact Andrew Crow, 907-786-5447, anacc@uaa.alaska.edu or Tony Nakazawa, 907-460-0825, atnakazawa@alaska.edu.

Saturday, March 16

NARGS Speaker Jim Locklear, Dir. of Conservation, Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha NE; Author of Phlox, A Natural History and Gardener's Guide - 2:00 p.m. Palmer, MTA Conference Room.

Sunday, March 17th

Presentation: "The View from Phlox Mountain." 4:00 p.m. Anchorage Cooperative Extension Classroom. NARGS Speaker Jim Locklear, "Naming and Taming the Flame."

Monday, March 18

AMGA Meeting: Dennis and Annie Ronse who will talk about Starting a New Garden, Including Making Soil & Keeping Records. 7:00 pm, CES.

Wednesday, March 20

Alaska Community Action on Toxics - Building Great Soil Structure: The Secret to a Great Garden - A workshop with Saskia Esslinger and GeorgeAnne Sprinkle; 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Central Lutheran Church, 15th and Cordova in Anchorage

Monday, April 1

Alaska Native Plant Society, Program: Plant Ethnobotany, Alaska Plant Materials Center, presented by Peggy Hunt 7:00 pm, Campbell Creek Science Center

Monday, April 1

Mat-Su Master Gardeners meeting, 7 pm, MTA conf. room

Thursday, April 4

Anchorage Garden Club's public program, Organic Gardening Issues, presented by Julie Riley - 7:00 pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage

Saturday, April 6

Alaska Master Gardeners Conference - "Back Yard Security" 8 am - 5 pm, Palmer Community Center (The Depot) - 610 S. Valley Way, Palmer AK - <http://www.matsumastergardeners.org/>

Saturday, April 6

Annual Spring Garden Show at the Sears Mall - 600 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Wednesday, April 10

Alaska Community Action on Toxics - Detox Gardening - A workshop with Saskia Esslinger and Birgit Lenger 7-9 pm at Central Lutheran Church, 15th and Cordova in Anchorage

Thursday, April 11 - Saturday, April 13

Alaska Garden Clubs State Convention - Chena Hot Springs

Saturday, April 13

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association (APFGA)

Annual Grafting Workshop - 1:00 pm, Dimond Greenhouses <http://www.apfga.org/meetings.html>

For CES information contact:
Cooperative Extension Office
1675 C St, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 786-6300
Fax: 786-6312



For upcoming meetings, visit:
www.alaskamastergardeners.org

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Spring is Coming!

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