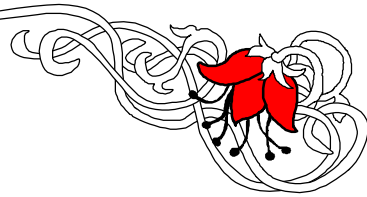


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 4, Issue 2

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

January 2002

**FROM THE PRESIDENT
BY MARY SHIER**

Happy New Year!

I can't believe we're at the beginning of yet another year. Time flies when you're having fun.

A couple of major happenings coming up: elections this month and hosting the state wide conference in May.

The Conference is scheduled for May 10 -11 at the Hawthorn Hotel. There will be several key note speakers instead of one which will be quite a change. We've got a good group of people who have volunteered to work along with the Board members on the conference . YEA! to those folks. There is lot to do, so if any of you out there have not been aware of the conference coming up prior to this and can contribute, get in touch with Blythe Campbell who is chairperson. ALL HELP IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!!! You won't regret it.

We have two positions on the Board to fill at this time. I know some of you have a desire to participate as a member of the Board but may be hesitant to raise that arm and declare yourself willing. You may think ' I'd like to, but, I couldn't do as good a job as any who have served, I don't know how, I don't have any talents for it, I'm afraid I'll mess up and be looked down on.' Hey, you know what? Everyone who has served on the Board has had one or more of these thoughts, or maybe some other negative thought before getting involved.

The secret is POSITIVE THOUGHTS! Let positive thoughts replace all those the negative ones.

'I can learn, I can contribute, I can do a good job, I can devote time to it and I will.'

Just make a commitment to pitch in. You'll be amazed at the gratification you'll feel, the good that will come from the results and you will have fun along the way.

Let your New Year's resolution be -

GET IN GEAR AND VOLUNTEER!



**ANCHORAGE MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2001, 7 P.M.**

Thirty-one members attended.

Announcements:

Ed Humme Seeds are available – contact Judy Christianson or Mary Shier.

The Master Gardener Conference is scheduled on May 10 and 11, 2002 at the Hawthorn Suites.

Blythe Campbell reported on the guest speakers:

·Dan Heims –Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc. Portland
Gardening with New Perennials
·Sharon Lovejoy-author of “Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots”

Gardening with Children

·Shane Smith –author of “Greenhouse Gardening”
Greenhouse Gardening in Cold Climates
·Steve Schmidt –president of American Ornamental Perennials.

Ornamental Grasses in the Landscape

·Richard Reames –author of “How to Grow a Living Chair; Tree Trunk Topiary”
Arbor sculpture

·Marion Owens –co-author of “Chicken Soup for the Gardener’s Soul”
No Fear Seed Starting

·Other topics and local speakers to be announced

Annie Nevaldine reported on the Anchorage Horticultural Coalition.

Gardeners Journals are limited and available – contact CES

Membership dues are being accepted – contact Mary Moline

Our guest program speaker–Annie Nevaldine and her Garden Art Photography

Annie presented a very creative and entertaining container slide show - Plants were shown living in barrels, boots, canoes, old skiffs, and mining buckets. More plants were shown embellishing fish wheels, swings sets, old pick up trucks, train cars and farm cars. Along her many stops to photograph this creative art, Annie considered designing a personal bumper sticker to read: ‘I BRAKE FOR YARD ART’.

Door prizes were awarded to:

- Jim Roberts – gardening slippers
- Margaret Love – bulbs

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

When: **February 15-18, 2002**

Where: **Your backyard or nearby park**

Who: **Sponsored by Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology**

Why: **To track the mid-winter location of migrator birds**

Learn more about birds in your own back yard and help scientists track bird trends across the country by joining the “Great Backyard Bird Count” (GBBC) from February 15-18.

Here in Anchorage, the event kicks off on Tuesday, February 12, with a free bird identification class at the Loussac Library’s ground-floor conference room at 7:30 p.m. Participants will gain tips on how to identify Anchorage’s winter birds and find out the best places, from backyard feeders to local parks, to view birds. With this information, each person participating in the GBBC will count birds for at least 15 minutes any of the four days of the event, then report results on-line at the GBBC website.

Sponsored by the National Audubon Society and hosted locally by the Anchorage Audubon Society, the GBBC was initiated five years ago to find clues to ecological phenomenon that affects birds in winter.

“Last year, participants in the GBBC nationwide reported a multitude of Common Redpolls moving south in search of food,” says Anchorage Audubon membership chair and GBBC organizer Diana Woods. “Some of the most common species found around the country during this bird count, like Black-capped Chickadees, are here in Anchorage all winter.”

Identifying backyard birds also proves fascinating for local residents. “In the coldest part of winter, birds are visible, especially at feeders,” Woods adds. “Once you start learning the names of a few birds, you have more fun watching birds year-round.”

Participants in the GBBC will receive annual membership in the Anchorage Audubon Society and a one-year subscription to Audubon magazine, and also be eligible for a variety of prizes. The prizes will be awarded during a drawing at one of Anchorage Audubon’s monthly meetings.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Year of the Rose – 2002
Debbie Hinchey, Year of the Rose Coordinator
Alaska Rose Society & Alaska State Federation of Garden Clubs

You will be hearing a lot about roses in the coming year.

The American Rose Society and the National Garden Clubs have joined forces to make 2002 the “Year of the Rose.” Even though the organizing of this campaign to educate people about our national flower began a couple years ago, it is even more appropriate now with the tragedies that have recently struck our country.

The United States Senate and House of Representatives have passed a resolution proclaiming 2002 to be “The Year of the Rose.” There will be an official signing of the proclamation in the White House Rose Garden at a later date. The rose, America’s Floral Emblem, has traditionally been a symbol of Love, Friendship, Beauty, and Peace. Here is another way to show our patriotism – through gardening.

Anchorage’s City of Flowers Committee has joined the national campaign by adopting a rose theme for 2002 – “Roses, Roses, Roses...Everything Coming up Roses.” The three roses in the theme denote three different ways that you can have roses in your garden: rose bushes; rose-form flowers (like rose-form begonias and impatiens, as well as other double flowers); and rose-colored flowers.

Statewide, the Alaska Rose Society (AkRS) and the Alaska State Federation of Garden Clubs (ASFGC) have united to promote roses suitable for Alaska. I am the “Year of the Rose – 2002” Chairman for both organizations. As chairman, I will attempt to funnel information to and between the AkRS and ASFGC. I also hope to have rose society members interface with other gardening organizations to supply speakers, brochures, and posters for upcoming events in 2002.

With the wide range of members in the garden clubs, it is hoped that each local club will compile lists of roses that have been tried in their area. Some will have been successful and other trials not. Not only would this be valuable for their communities, it would be valuable to the AkRS.

The AkRS has a database of roses grown by many of its members. Input of information is not limited to members, however. The rose society’s goal is to document every rose that has lived (*or* died) in our state. Many roses are grown by many people throughout the state, but perform differently in the different areas. By gathering *lots* of data, perhaps we will find roses that are good for all areas and identify varieties suitable for certain parts of the state or situations.

We are gathering information to determine which roses suffer winter damage, are moose-proof (hope, hope!), fragrance, rain damage, and other attributes that may make a rose more desirable. We are also interested in techniques used to over-winter tender and marginally hardy roses. In short, we want to know everything about growing roses in Alaska. With the collected information the AkRS intends to produce lectures and brochures to let everyone know the findings.

The biggest problem, however, is that although we are all growing roses...we’re not telling the AkRS. This is where you can help. Collect information, send to AkRS, they will compile brochures, and then make the brochures available to everyone. Everyone helps everyone.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



ANTHRAX IRRADIATION & MAIL ORDER SEEDS

The negative effects mail irradiation might have on mail ordered seeds is a concern of new Master Gardener Sandy Spencer. Below is the response Julie Riley received from Seeds of Change, a company which specializes in heirloom varieties.

Thank you inquiring about the issue of Postal Service irradiation of our mail. The staff at Seeds of Change is very concerned about the possibility of the US Postal Service irradiating all packages sent via mail, as it would have a devastating effect on our organic seeds. We are working closely with our local Postal Service representatives, getting weekly updates on policy status and changes.

Today, the Postal Service is only irradiating mail going to Federal offices in the Washington DC area and the network offices of NBC and CBS in New York City. Mail addressed to these offices is being diverted to an off-site location, irradiated and inspected.

Future Postal Service policy may call for irradiation at the point of entry into the mail service system. Packages sent to customers from major mailers, such as Seeds of Change, whose products would be adversely impacted by irradiation, would be excluded from irradiation.

We are also monitoring other carrier practices (e.g. FedEx, UPS and freight lines). These carriers are not irradiating packages. We have formulated contingency plans that would provide us with other options should the Postal Service implement blanket irradiation policies. Please rest assured, Seeds of Change will do whatever it takes to protect our products and our organic way of life.

The Staff at Seeds of Change



YEAR OF THE ROSE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3...

So,... *the Alaska Rose Society needs your help!* Let the AkRS know about the rose varieties (and species) you are growing, how well they do for you, under what conditions, and any other information you would like to contribute.

The AkRS Rose Survey Database Coordinator is Lonnie Chace. You can send rose information to Lonnie by mailing it to the AkRS. You can also contact her by e-mail at lchace@ak.net.

You can contact (and join) the Alaska Rose Society by mail at P.O. Box 242243, Anchorage, AK 99524-2243. Membership includes a great newsletter (still edited by Allen Deitz, even though he moved to Boise, Idaho), monthly meetings and educational programs, garden tours, a members-only spring rose order, a public rose (and other plants) sale, and lots of people with which to talk about roses.

Roses, roses, roses... you *will* be hearing (and learning) a lot about roses during The Year of the Rose – 2002.

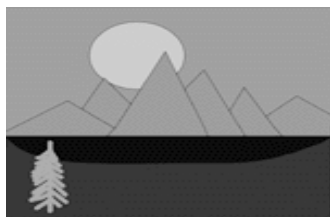
If you are interesting in helping promote roses and rose growing in Alaska, please contact me. I can be reached by e-mail at dhinchey@alaska.com or by mail at 1474 Virginia Court, Anchorage, AK 99501-4928.

Debbie has been the president of the Alaska Rose Society for the last two years and is the Vice President-elect for 2002. She is also a past president of the Alaska State Federation of Garden Clubs.



CENTRAL PENINSULA MG NEWS

By ROSEMARY KIMBALL



No, nothing is happening on the peninsula. Rumor has it that Rita Jo Schultz of Fritz Creek Nursery has a slide show of her trip to English nurseries this fall but she was not stopping to show it in Soldotna. We'll have to change that! Anything Rita Jo does is well done. Remember "Charlotte's Web" by E. B. White? Well, one of the biggest contributions Mr. White made to literature was to marry a woman named Katharine, also an editor for the New Yorker. Katherine wrote 14 essays in 12 years for the magazine on gardening. The writings are like really, really fine chocolate - read one essay and savor. Two at a time is too much. They are available in an out-of-

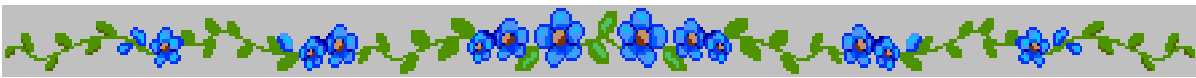
print book called "Onward and Upward in the Garden", which was posthumously edited by her husband. I am partial to the first essay written March 1, 1958, where she takes the plant breeders and seed catalogs to task for developing and selling plants that are too manipulated and lose track of their original form and appearance...her example was zinnias that were advertised to look like dahlias. Scorn is heaped also on frilly snapdragons. She is a woman of strong opinions that are good reading and good food for thought. My copy of the book, used from Title Wave in Anchorage, was given to me from a friend as a book that "needs to move onward". Good friend. I did a little looking and found that it is out of print but will be reissued in June 2002 in paperback (www.amazon.com) or there are 146 offerings of used books through Abebooks (www.abebooks.com) which deals exclusively in used and out of print books with vendors all over the world. I was able to find Kerry Carmen's "Portrait of a Garden" detailing a year in the life of her garden with good prose and wonderful pen and ink and watercolor illustrations of her plants through Abebooks. A friend living in Auckland had sent me a copy of the book which I'd loaned out and it never came back. A book seller in Queensland had 3 copies—hardback and paper—and I bought all three, shipped via air for \$57US. Please note in case I forget, that I've loaned the hardback copy (its illustrations include the water colors) to Gina D. without requiring her to sign in blood.

GARDEN WORD SEARCH

SUBMITTED BY JUDY CHRISTIANSON

B	E	E	S	C	H	I	V	E	S	R	B	P
Z	L	I	L	A	C	E	L	B	A	D	R	I
A	C	I	B	T	E	V	O	L	G	I	A	N
L	E	M	O	N	B	A	L	M	E	H	C	R
N	U	E	L	I	O	D	S	U	A	P	H	U
O	R	P	A	P	K	O	M	E	S	A	Y	T
T	S	O	I	Y	C	E	L	E	R	Y	C	O
I	A	T	S	O	H	U	M	I	N	T	O	N
H	I	E	L	P	O	O	C	L	E	O	M	E
C	S	N	A	D	I	I	S	U	D	L	E	M
O	H	T	K	A	E	L	E	T	M	I	N	T
D	C	I	L	I	K	L	U	S	C	B	O	E
O	U	L	I	S	A	O	M	T	K	Z	E	G
H	F	L	L	Y	R	R	E	B	P	S	A	R
R	E	A	A	N	M	T	H	C	L	U	M	O
S	N	O	I	L	E	D	N	A	D	S	U	F

Aphid, Bees, Bok choi, Brachycome, Catnip, Celery, Chives, Cleome, Cos, Cucumber, Daisy, Dandelion, Forget Me Not, Fuschia, Hosta, Lemon Balm, Lilac, Mint, Mulch, Potentilla, Rake, Raspberry, Rhodochitin, Sage, Tulip, Turnip



Bird Chatter

- The last question on the 2001 Master Gardener exam was a quote by Aristotle, "Earthworms are the intestines of the soil". Fifteen percent of Master Gardeners taking the test thought it was 'the motto of the Alaska Master Gardener Association' or 'words that soil scientists live by.'
- The Northwest Flower & Garden Show is Feb 6-10, 2002. Airfares have been as low as \$150-200. Check it out!
- Green grass was seen poking through the snow in Anchorage between Christmas and New Year's Eve.
- Les Brake is threatening to move to Fairbanks so his ice luminaries don't melt.
- AMGA's GARDEN JOURNAL is sold out. Mary Shier reports 80 copies were sold. Plans are to have revised copies available in time for the Alaska Master Gardener Conference in May.

What's that Word Again?

There's a word that describes people who have a "forgetful" disorder, and it's not Alzheimers. This disorder is the problem that causes people afflicted to forget the word they want to use.

The word is *lethologica*. It's derived from Greek *letho* (forgetfulness) and *logos* (word). Recall that in Greek mythology, *Lethe* was one of the five rivers in Hades. Its water caused forgetfulness in those who drank it.

[I knew it was from the water.....]

Experience is the comb life gives you after you lose your hair.

Judith Stearn

GBBC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2...

Anchorage residents interested in participating in the GBBC can get more information by calling Woods at 265-9183.

CALLING ALL BIRD ENTHUSIASTS!

Anchorage Audubon needs your helping in counting birds for the Great Backyard Bird Count from February 15-18. Here's what you do.

1. Register to participate by calling Diana Woods at 265-9183.
2. Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on any of the four count days. Watch your bird feeders, or take a short walk (less than 1 mile) in your neighborhood or park. For each species of bird that you see, record the highest number of individuals that you observe at any one time during your count. Don't add a bird every time you see one at your feeder; you could be counting the same individual! Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate. We recommend watching for a little while longer so that you get a good sense of what birds are in your area.
3. Enter your count on-line at the GBBC site (<http://www.birdsource.org>) and use the State/Province Checklist to submit your highest counts for the day.
4. View your results. After you've entered your count for the day, visit our Map-room and see results from across the continent.





POLARIS K-12 GARDEN PARTY

Polaris K-12 School cordially invites Master Gardeners to attend their Schoolyard Habitat "Garden Party" Fund-raiser to be held Friday evening, January 18, 2002 from 7:00 to 10:00 at our school on the corner of Dowling and New Seward.

Guest speakers include: Verna Pratt will show a slide show and talk about habitat wildflowers, Carol Glasscock will demonstrate and discuss her unique floral art, and Master Gardener Julie Riley will present a slide show and talk about donated, transplanted perennials in our habitat.

Baby sitting services with garden art projects will be available. Drinks and light refreshments will be provided, and 15 door prizes with garden themes will be given out. Admission will be \$5.00 per person. Please come and smell the flowers (over 400 flowering spring bulbs)!

Take a short walk in a colorful "garden." It will awaken your senses.



Gardening Calendar

January 19

Preview of Alaskan yard and garden art and whimsy photo project, by Annie Nevaldine. Held in Anchorage, 2 p.m.; location TBA.

January 21

AMGA Annual meeting, "Seed Starting Basics", with Ellen Schwenne; Elections & Seed Exchange; 7 p.m., Cooperative Extension, Rm 130.

February 7

Anchorage Garden Club, Public program: "Getting to Know Roses" with Tom Throop

February 16

Planting alpiners in pots and troughs, by Rhonda Williams. Held in the Valley, 2 p.m.; location TBA.

March 2

Dr. Finn Haugli, Director of the Arctic-alpine Botanic Garden in Tromso, Norway, the world's northernmost botanic garden at 70° north latitude. Precise topic, time, and Anchorage location TBA.

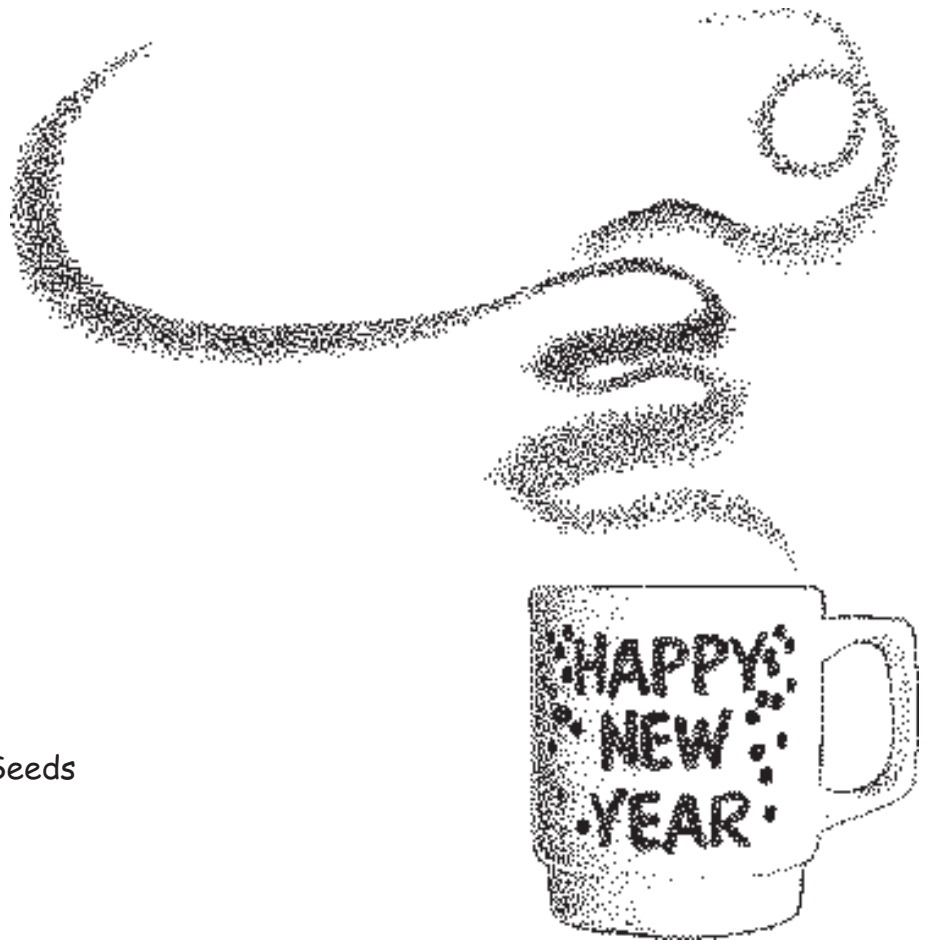
March 7

Anchorage Garden Club, Public program: "Common Perennials, Unusual Species", with Julie Riley

Newsletter articles are due by the last Saturday of the month to appear in the following month's newsletter.

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
Cooperative Extension Service
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: 786-6300
Fax: 786-6312

The Anchorage Chapter of the Alaska Master Gardeners Association welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. Contact the editor, Gina Docherty, at:
Mail: 4006 DeArmoun Road
Anchorage, AK 99516
Phone: 345-4099
Email: gardener@corecom.net
AMGA Web Site: www.corecom.net/~gardener
(The Newsletter will be on-line in living color!)



Inside this issue....

Great Backyard Bird Count
The Year of the Rose
Anthrax Irradiation & Mail Order Seeds
Central Peninsula News
Word Search
Polaris K-12 Garden Party

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