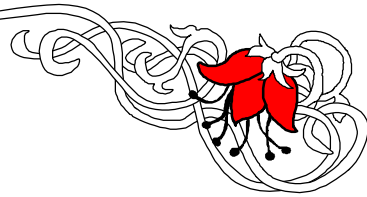


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 5, Issue 1

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER December 2002

FROM THE PRESIDENT BY MARY SHIER

As I look out the window onto my garden area I ponder..... there is no snow, temperatures are hanging around freezing and there are still plants showing the last bloom of summer or last bloom of not giving up. I thought the 'winter blahs' came along much later in the dark season. Gad, and there is the question of mulch or not to mulch. What's a person to do?

I picked a couple heads of 'frozen cabbage' the other day which I had left in the garden since the days were not ready to call it quits yet or so I thought. I was amazed at how well they turned out. The outer layers were frozen of course, but the inner structure was fine and cooked up just great. I also had some leeks still out in the garden which I have to admit I never got around to harvesting before we left on our trip. I had my husband dig one out the other day for a dish I was preparing, just in case there was something usable left. Wonders upon wonders! It was still in A-one condition and not a wimpy watery mess. That leek turned out so well that a couple of days later I decided to have him dig up the rest (yes, there were quite a few more) before they reached the point of no return. As luck would have it, the temperature dropped so that instead of the digging fork that had been used previously a crowbar was required. I was informed that it was a bit more work than necessary.

The best cure for SGD, or 'Seasonal Gardening Disorder' took place the other day - seeds!!!!!! Judy Christianson, Cliona Gross & I sorted Ed Hume seeds one afternoon recently. Ed Hume Seed Co. and the local distributor, Nancy Kroon, have been very generous in sharing left over seed with the Master Gardener Association for the past several years. We put them into "yes or no" piles for the Pioneer Home. Some of the herbs we designated for the Herb Garden at ABG and some for the Herb Study Group. All others go to schools or needy groups in the area or non-profit organizations. If any of you are affiliated with these types of groups who can use seeds, call Judy Christianson for seed donations.

Hey, by the way there's only about 30+/- more days until the days start getting longer each day. Yeeeeeeeeeeeha!

A GENTLE REMINDER....

Your AMGA membership will be expired December 31st. In order to be included in the Annual Directory, and continue receiving the AMGA newsletter, be sure to get your dues paid soon! Just fill out the registration form on page 7 of the newsletter, or print out a form from the AMGA web site & send it in with your \$15 dues.





NOVEMBER AMGA MEETING REPORT

By DANA KLINKHART

Julie Riley reported on The Anchorage Horticultural Coalition. It was observed that the municipal budget did not reflect any cuts to the horticultural program at this time. The form in which the budget was presented did not easily lend it self to cross reference for public view. Gift certificates continue to be available as a fund-raiser for the AHC. The \$35 Bell's Nursery Gift Certificates raise \$10 for AHC.

Julie Riley announced that the Fairbanks Master Gardeners Association has scheduled their garden conference in February 2003. Michelle Hebert is the contact person.

Mary Shier and Mary Schneider invited the membership to assist the Garden Journal committee as they work on updating the journal. Contact them with ideas and changes that you would like to see published in the new journal. The old journals are on sale for \$12.

Mary Shier announced that The International Garden Conference is scheduled in June 2003 in Ohio. Additional information is at the CES office.

Sixteen members were in attendance. A MASTER GARDENER Parking Sign was awarded as a door prize. The lucky recipient was Margaret Lowe.

"A Pig, a Concubine and a Garden"

AMGA member and master gardener, Erma Macmillan introduced the evening's video program. She told of a love story, a garden and of a group of citizens determined to save piece of history in the form of a garden. The video portrayed the story of Peggy and Nicholas Abkhazi, how they met as young adults, were separated through war and finally reunited after World War II. The heart warming tale continued of their life in Victoria BC and of their life-long passion in creating a garden on an acre of land. The story also told of the hard work of a grass root group committed to preserving the Abkhazi Gardens for generations to come. The Abkhazi Garden video's title is derived from a Chinese proverb:

*A pig, a concubine and a garden
If you will be happy for a week, take a concubine.
If you will be happy for a month, kill your pig.
But if you will be happy all your life, plant a garden.*

Copies of the video are available from The Land Conservancy of BC at 1-888-738-0533 or on the web at: www.conservancy.bc.ca. or www.abkhazigarden.com/forms/Video_form.htm



VOICE FROM THE PAST

MiSchelle Carpenter, AMGA president in 1995, is still active as a Master Gardener even though she left Alaska in '96. Julie Riley shares parts of a recent e-mail sent from Pennsylvania.

Mischelle writes...

Wyoming County is small and we don't do much other than a trial garden, county fair, and an occasional tree pruning presentation. Oh yeah, and I am 'County Composting Queen'; a title I picked up during my county coordination of a state-wide DEP free compost bin distribution. How's the program up there? I sure miss it, and find myself saying, "Well, in Alaska we did it this way". Annoying to the locals, I'm sure.

It's hard being in such a small area (we have a new class of 15 MG's every two or three years) and limited resources. Hard to stay enthusiastic, but I did convince everyone we could pull off a Spring seminar this past year, and it was a HUGE success (150 attendees!). Now I guess we'll have to do it again this year. If anyone from the early 90's is still around, tell them I said 'Hi' and it's 60 degrees out today. I think I'll cut the grass!

MiSchelle Carpenter, Class of '91
mischelle.carpenter@tasd.net



Over wintering those Favorite Flowering Plants

by Michele Hébert

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
CORRESPONDENCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Mild and long falls allow us gardeners to enjoy our flowers for more days. This is a great reward, considering all the hard work that was put into planting. I personally appreciated my dahlias, which came on with a vengeance in late August and September. October was a total bonus. The extended fall has also been beneficial for the plants. It has allowed them to prepare for winter by building up reserves and thickening cell walls. Now that we have had a few mornings of frost and the snow is beginning to come down, we need to do a little planning for next year. Some plants can be over wintered indoors, reducing costs and producing bigger and better blooms next year.

Fuchsia, geranium, dahlia and tuberous begonia: are all perennials that will not over winter outside in Alaska. These plants are native or perennials in warmer climates. Special care and an indoor over wintering site are required to keep these plants from year to year. The extra work does have its rewards: each of these plants has large showy flowers from year to year.

Growing conditions

The first condition for success in over wintering is to start with a healthy, strong plant that has the reserves to survive in a dormant state throughout the winter. During the growing season, fertilize weekly with a weak, complete soluble fertilizer such as 10-15-10. In preparation for the approaching season's end, stop fertilizing at least two weeks before bringing them indoors. Reduce watering without letting plants dry out completely.

Fuchsia and geranium

Containerized fuchsia and geranium can be successfully over wintered in any cool frost-free site. The growth is held back by low temperatures (ideally below 45 degrees F) and the soil is not allowed to dry completely. Prune the plant back 10-12 inches. Check for insects and disease. Water with 1 to 2 cups of water monthly if the soil becomes dry. Geraniums can also be over wintered outside the soil. Pull plant from the garden and remove as much soil as possible. Hang the plants upside down in a plastic bag with holes, containing wet peat moss, in a cool location.

Dahlia and tuberous begonia

Dahlia and tuberous begonia are plants that have evolved, underground tuberous roots to store food and survive through the winter. The first year these are grown from seed and develop storage roots or tubers. The tuberous root system is replanted annually, and grows bigger each year. The tuberous roots can be replanted whole or split, making several plants. As the storage organ gets bigger, so will the flowers. Each fall; follow a few simple steps for over wintering.

Dig the roots with care leaving them in a cluster. A spading fork works best. Clean off soil by brushing gently. Cut off the plant about 3 inches above the tuberous roots and place in a cool dry place on newspaper. The stem will heal itself as it dries. After a week pack the roots in a container with a lid containing packing material such as peat moss, sawdust or vermiculite. The packing material insulates against fluctuating temperatures, moisture loss and spreading of diseases. Store in a cool dark place, around 40 degrees F till next spring. Many individuals do not have a cool storage facility. The vegetable tray in a refrigerator or a cold spot in the corner of the garage will often suffice.

By late March some of the tubers will be sprouting. If not, place them in a warm room and keep moist till sprouts appear. Plant the tubers when buds or eyes appear. Plant in a good loose potting soil. Give as much light as possible and cool growing conditions (55-65 degrees F). If you need additional information on care of these plants stop by the Cooperative Extension and pick up publication number HGA-00333.



COLLEGE CREDIT GARDENING CLASSES OFFERED

Advanced Gardening Principles

AGRI A294B

Instructor: Sue Lincoln

January 13 – May 5, 2003

Wednesdays 4:00p – 7:45p

Mat-Su Campus

Prerequisite: Modern Home Gardening – AGRI A139

This is a new course developed for persons who have taken the Modern Home Gardening course (AGRI A139) or persons who have extensive experience in horticulture and/or gardening whether professionally or in their own garden or persons who have completed the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Course. Instructor approval is required if you do not meet the College prerequisite. The course will cover advanced techniques and principles in growing crops. The course emphasizes microclimate, soils, cultivar selection, and enhanced observation skills. Research and laboratory projects will enhance this hands on course.

Greenhouse Operations and Management

AGRI A240

Instructor: Sue Lincoln

January 13 – May 5, 2003

Thursdays 7:00p – 9:45p

Mat-Su Campus

This course will cover operations and management of crop production in a greenhouse whether a commercial operation or a back yard greenhouse. Topics include greenhouse construction, heating, cooling, growing media, watering, fertilization, carbon dioxide fertilization, light and temperature management, chemical growth regulation, insect and disease control, and the management of several crops.



Weeds are crack addicts. No matter how small the crack, there's a weed that desperately wants it. - Texas Bix Bender

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Congratulations to the new Master Gardener Course Graduates! Welcome!

The following opportunities have been received:

Polaris Garden Party

January 31, 2003, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Polaris K-12 multipurpose room

Need master gardeners to staff a booth – details to come...

Mothers Day Garden Show

May 9-11, 2003, 10a – 6p

Northway Mall

Garden Clinic – need master gardeners to staff a booth

This is a new Show. It is held on Mother's Day weekend. If there is not enough interest in staffing this event, we will decline the invitation...I would need 4 master gardeners per day – two 4 hour shifts per day (10a – 2p and 2p – 6p)

Covenant House needs a master gardener to work with the residents to grow plants for their own use in their brand new greenhouse. Need someone who has greenhouse growing and operating experience. If you are interested in working with these teens for an extended commitment – several hours a week for the spring through early summer -give me a call or email me.

For any of these opportunities call or email me to volunteer!

My NEW hours will be:

Monday, Tuesday – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Out of the office

Thursday – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Friday – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (these hours will be variable)

I will be out of the office December 6 – 13, 2002.

Sue Lincoln

786 6315

fnsml@uaf.edu

PS. I NEED your hours submitted. Reporting time has come around. If you haven't submitted your hours, now is the time. I will be sending out a report to each of you after the first of the year on the hours we have recorded for you. If your records differ – let me know!



GARDEN NOTES FROM AN ITALIAN HOLIDAY
BY ROSEMARY KIMBALL

This is an ivy that I fell in love with. Its variegation was reversed from the usual pattern in that the white was in the center and the



green at the edge. The ivy was also growing up the side of a stark cream-colored stairway and it was beautiful. I won't mention how many pictures I took of it! Lots. We were based in Sienna, 60 kilometers from Florence. What a lovely town. Not too big, not too small. Old and new. And the food... And the variety of vegetables in the grocery stores. Boy are we, as a country, insular when it comes to food. One thing I didn't see in the stores was the Tuscan black cabbage which looks like chard-on-a-stalk. I saw it in every veggie garden I could see. I'm hoping to find the seed in Shepherd's catalog or some other esoteric vegetable catalog. A very interesting thing about yard plants in Sienna was that they encompassed tropical to temperate plants. I saw mature banana plants, hibiscus, oleander, as well as pines, apples, cherries, cotoneaster, junipers and other evergreens. Rosemary (rosmarinus) was waist high. Sage was a bush. What was interesting was the lack of variety within the species. I counted only 3 different marigold varieties. Purple Wave was the only vining petunia I saw. All of the plants that grow in Tuscany make multiple varieties unnecessary. What a fantastic part of the planet! Watch out...I'm trying to put together a power point presentation....

CLASSICAL GREEN SAUCE

- a fistful of bread crumbs
- 1 or more cloves of garlic
- 3 or more anchovy filets
- 2 hard boiled eggs
- a handful of fresh parsley

- 2 or more tablespoons of capers
- 1 sprig of tarragon
- wine vinegar, really good olive oil,
- salt and pepper

Put some vinegar on the bread crumbs in a bowl and leave to soften. Mince the parsley, tarragon, capers, anchovies, garlic and hard boiled eggs. Add the bread and mince a bit more. Use enough olive oil to make the mixture sloppy. Correct the seasoning. This is served on small rounds of crisp baguette as an antipasto. It is good over a thin slice of tomato on the bread. It is wonderful as a mask on baked salmon. It is good with rice for breakfast. It is divine directly from the spoon.

It was so good I brought back 4 big jars of anchovy filets. If you don't like anchovy flavor use a bit more vinegar. I cut down on the vinegar because I love anchovies.

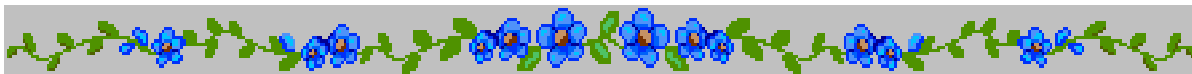


WELCOME NEW MASTER GARDENERS

Congratulations to the following Master Gardeners who completed the course in November. They scored higher on the exam than any other Anchorage Master Gardener class.

- JOYCE ANDERSEN, REBECCA ARTHEN, ANN BALLOW, MARGUERITE BARNARD, LINDA B. PEISSIG, SANDY BURKET, LYNN CASWELL, GAIL CHARLES, JASON COE, INGRID COGDILL, C. J. DOUGLAS, SHANE FEIRER, KATHERINE FROEHLICH, JULES HARTNETT, JANA HAYENGA, BOB HUMPHREY, LORI JOHNSTON, BRUCE JOKELA, FRANNY JUNGE, RUTH KIRCHER, NICKLETTE LAFLEUR, CHARLENE LEWIS, GREG LYALL, MONICA LYALL, SHEILA MACIAS, KATHY MADEJ, MIKE MESSICK, NANCY MOSES, AMY OLMSTEAD, JOYCE PALMER, CANDICE POWERS, SARA PULLEN, TAMMY QUAN, MARGIE SCHAEFER, DIANE SIEWERT, JEFFERY JAMES TAYLOR, SHEILA THROCKMORTON, CINDY WALKER, ANITA WILLIAMS, CAMILLE WILLIAMS, KATIE WOOD, DENISE WOODS.

ARLENE FROST and CHARMAINE RAMOS plan to complete their exams soon.



Bird Chatter

- German solution to slugs: Leave the back gate slightly open so the hedgehog can get in at night. (This was from Nürnberg in the "beer, brauts and bread" part of Rosemary K's trip)
- Jim Roberts was found rubbing shoulders with other participants at the 3rd Annual Noxious and Invasives Plant Conference. "What are we doing about this issue in Anchorage?" he asks. How about a program on invasive species at a AMGA meeting?
- Corlene Rose made the purchase of the century. She rescued a bird-of-paradise for \$20 from Green Connection's plant orphanage originally priced at \$350!
- Julie Riley was seen taking a swig of tea while teaching the soils/fertilizer section of the Willow Master Gardener course—worm bin compost tea! "Not recommended as a beverage," she states.
- What a fall! At the November AMGA meeting Marge Jordan said she had a rose still blooming in her front yard on Halloween. Jane Baldwin proudly announced that as of Nov. 18 she still had a white/pink clematis in flower.
- Anchorage MG Sally Karabelnikoff was a guest of the Juneau Master Gardeners. The group paid for her travel and she dazzled them with 4 1/2 hours on orchids.
- Congratulations fo Dana Klinkhart! She received \$350 toward tuition for a web site design course from the James W. Matthews Extension Volunteer Leadership Development Fund.
- The Cooperative Extension Service is currently searching for an Associate Director of Administration to be located in the Fairbanks State Office. It's been about 20 years since Extension had an Assistant Associate Director.

The Fuel on the Hill

I like to split logs by hand with a splitting maul. The object becomes to pop the log apart with one economical blow. Each time a log splits open, I am the first person in the world to see this grain. Heretofore it had been hidden beneath the bark and in the dark interior of the tree. But opened to light, it reveals color, texture and pattern. Wood is the tree's chief product and it's crafted with precision along flowing courses around knots and limbs and splits to flow around crotches. Wood appears to be a solidified pattern of flowing water, created by the liquids in the tree, produced layer by layer through the years.

Jeff Cox
1986 Gardener's Almanac Seasonal Celebrations

For Idle Minds....

What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month? The letter "D".

What do you call a polar bear wearing ear muffs?
Anything you want. He can't hear you!

What do you call a chicken at the North Pole?
Lost.

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus were riding in the elevator of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$20 bill lying on the floor. Which one picked it up? Santa of course, because the other two don't exist!

What happened when Santa's cat swallowed a ball of yarn?
She had mittens.

What do you call it when your Christmas tree explodes?
A tannen-bomb. (tannenbaum)

What's red and white and red and white and red and white?
Santa Claus rolling down a hill.

Where did the mistletoe go to become rich and famous?
Holly-wood.

Why did Frosty go to live in the middle of the ocean?
Because snow man is an island.



Christmas Trees & Poinsettias

Help support the Anchorage Horticulture Coalition by purchasing a gift certificate redeemable for Christmas trees, poinsettias and other plants at Bell's Nursery. The certificates are \$35. You get \$35 worth of plants and the Anchorage Horticulture coalition gets \$10.

To purchase gift certificates, please contact Julie Riley (230-7339) or Master Gardeners Linda Teninty (333-5285), Karla Kolash (248-3979) and Annie Nevaldine (333-2100).





Statewide MG Conference

The 2003 Alaska Master Gardener Conference will be held in Fairbanks on Saturday, February 1 at the Fairbanks Riverside Princess Lodge. Speakers scheduled for the event include Cass Turnbull, with PlantAmnesty in Seattle who will address landscaping and pruning, Michele Hébert, Fairbanks Extension Agent, on "Floating Gardens, The New Hydroponics", Don Dinkle, UAF Horticulture Professor Emeritus speaking on the propagation of native plants, MG and entrepreneur Marion Owen from Kodiak on "Seeding is Believing", George Wilson on safety in the garden, Deborah McCorkle sharing herbal remedies and therapies and Grant Matheke explaining irrigation systems.

The Fairbanks Master Gardeners also promise a silent auction and Garden Market. The event follows the two-day professional Alaska Greenhouse & Nursery Conference. They've worked with the hotel to lock in reasonable room rates. Stay tuned for more information.

[Registration forms can be found on the AMGA web site, on the calendar page:

www.corecom.net/~gardener, click on *Calendar*]

Adopt a Stick

Cooperative Extension Service's IPM office would like to announce the newest members of its family. Slim, a 6" long stick insect, *Diapheromera femorata* (Order Phasmidae) is the proud mother of 30+ little ones, with still more on the way. If you would like to adopt any of these cuties, contact Michael Rasy in the IPM office 786-6300. [The baby stick insects need an aquarium, sticks, and a supply of fresh rose, raspberry and romaine lettuce leaves to keep them happy.]



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

Gardening Calendar

January 20, 2003

AMGA meeting: "Everything I Know About Life, I Learned from Gardening: A psychologist and a horticulturist discuss how gardening mirrors life", Annie Nevaldine and Julie Riley; 7 p.m., Carlton Trust Bldg., Rm 130

February 1

Alaska Master Gardener Conference: Fairbanks, AK; [see article]

May 6 through June 3

Alaska Community Tree Stewards: Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Contact: Patricia Joyner, Community Forestry Program, 269-8465; Registration in April

Alaska Master Gardeners Membership Renewal Form

_____ Renewal _____ New _____ Changes to Directory
_____ \$15.00 voting (completed Master Gardener Course)
_____ \$15.00 non-voting

Please provide the following information as you want it to appear in our Annual Directory.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone# Day _____ Evening _____

Fax# _____ Dedicated fax line? Y N

Email Address _____

Return this form along with your dues to:

Alaska Master Gardeners Association
Anchorage Chapter
P.O. Box 221403
Anchorage, Alaska 99522-1403

In order for your name to be included in the annual directory, payment must be received by January 31, 2003.

Registration form can also be found on the AMGA web site.



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Statewide MG Conference Information

Adopt a Stick

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Anchorage Chapter
University of Alaska Cooperative Extension
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