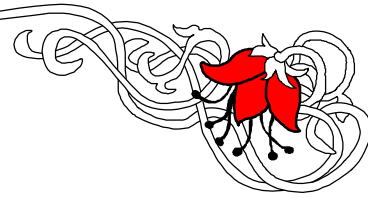


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 4, Issue 4

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER March 2002

From The President by Mary Shier

Since the January and February meetings did not get to finalize elections I'm going to bring you up to date. I guess I have to take part of that back as at the general meeting in January we did elect one new member to the board and then in February we elected another new member to fill the two slots open. Unfortunately we were missing some board members at the recent general meeting so we couldn't elect officers that evening as is the usual custom and then announce the outcome.

Relying on modern technology, I e-mailed the board members for their votes rather than call another meeting. Getting eight people together quickly is tricky. This is not the norm as we usually do meet face to face, but it seemed to work well in this situation. I even was able to hear from Gina Docherty who is vacationing in New Zealand. This was an unexpected plus.

Our two newest members to the board are Judy Christianson and Michelle Campbell. Judy is a long time MG member and has served on the board in prior years. Michelle completed the course a couple of years ago and has been a member since. I hope you join me in extending a warm welcome to these two willing souls to the board. Judy Christianson has been elected to vice president position, replacing Blythe Campbell. Michelle will replace our outgoing treasurer Mary Moline. Dana Klinkhart has graciously accepted the secretary office again and you're stuck with me as president for another year.

I would like to thank Blythe Campbell and Mary Moline for their past services to the board. Though they are off the board I'm certain they will not drop from sight and hopefully will remain active in other ways within our group. I've a dynamite crew with me on the board so I anticipate a successful year.

Hey Master Gardeners!

The Spring Schedule for Community Schools Classes is being put together! The dates will be March 26, 2002 through May 18, 2002. I need your subject, which community school and the date you plan to teach as soon as possible. For those of you who would like, I will be available to help you put your presentation together. We have wonderful resources here to help you with that. Remember, a maximum of 10 hours preparation time can be granted toward your volunteer hour commitment in addition to the actual presentation time. Possible subjects include but are certainly not limited to:

- Seed starting
- Perennial garden beds
- Greenhouse gardening
- Annual garden beds
- Shrubs
- Trees
- Water gardening
- Vegetable gardening
- Composting

Remember, you don't have to have your presentation ready now, I just need your title, place and time for the schedule. We can worry about course materials later!

Sue Lincoln, Horticultural Program Assistant



Gardening - Can you Dig it?

**Alaska Master Gardeners
2002 State Conference Registration Form
May 10-11, 2002
Anchorage, Alaska
Hosted by The Anchorage Chapter of the Alaska
Master Gardeners Association
Early Registration Due April 1, 2002**



Name: _____

Address: _____

City,State,Zip: _____

First Name or Nickname for NameTag: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Full Conference Registration (includes continental breakfast and lunch,two days of conference sessions and Saturday night reception)

Early Registration (Prior to April 1, 2002):	\$100
Regular Registration:	\$120
One day (Friday):	\$60
One day (Saturday):	\$60
Saturday Reception (hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar and garden fair shopping):	\$25
Lobelia Basket Workshop (includes all materials; take home a basket):	\$45
Sunday Mother's Day Tour on May 12:	\$25
Sunday Box Lunch/Optional (Bus leaves at 9:30 am & returns at 3:30 pm):	\$5
Total (Make checks payable to Alaska Master Gardeners Assoc.): \$_____	

Please mail check to: Alaska Master Gardeners Association, c/o Alaska Cooperative Extension, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 118, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. Confirmation will be mailed or e-mailed in two or three weeks. Please save a copy of this registration form for your records. Cancellations accepted and refunds provided, minus a \$25 handling fee, until May 1, 2002. Registration at the door will be on a space-available basis.

Conference location:
Hawthorne Suites
1110 West 8th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907)222-5005



Special conference rate: \$89/night. Mention the Alaska Master Gardeners Conference when making reservations. Limited number of rooms available at this rate. Please let us know if you have any special meal requirements or need other accommodation to attend the conference.



Gardening - Can you Dig it?



Alaska Master Gardeners 2002 State Conference May 10-11, 2002 Hawthorne Suites Anchorage, Alaska



Kick off the gardening season with two days of exciting presentations by national and local speakers who will give you practical information about successful gardening in Alaska. Join us to pick up new tips, get motivated for that big project, and meet and share with other gardeners. Featured speakers include:

- " Dan Heims, Terra Nova Nurseries, Portland, Oregon
- " Sharon Lovejoy, author of Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots and other books about gardening with children and Country Living Gardener columnist
- " Shane Smith, author of Greenhouse Gardening and Director of the Cheyenne Botanical Garden
- " Steve Schmidt, president of American Ornamental Perennials nursery, Eagle Creek, Oregon
- " Richard Reames, author of How to Grow a Living Chair: Tree Trunk Topiary
- " Marion Owens, co-author of Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul
- " In addition to these out of town speakers, Julie Riley, Debbie Hinchey, Annie Nevaldine, Judy Wilmarth and Dana Klinkhart, Harry Engel and others will make presentations.
- " A post-conference Mother's Day nursery tour of Eagle River and Valley nurseries. Take the bus and have a fun day of touring and shopping from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Tentative Conference Schedule

Friday, May 10

Time	Large Ballroom	Small Ballroom
9:00 am to 9:15 am	-Conference Opening	
9:15 am to 10:45 am	-Sharon Lovejoy: "Theme Gardens"	
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	-Steve Schmidt: "Ornamental Grasses in the Landscape"	
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	-Box Lunch and shopping in the garden fair	
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	-Shane Smith: Ruthless Gardening	-Julie Riley's Believe it or Not
2:30 pm to 4:00 pm	-Richard Reames: Arborsculpture	-Debbie Hinchey: Roses
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm	-Judy Wilmarth and Dana Klinkhart: Peonies	-Marion Owens: Garden Photography
6:00 pm	-Meet friends in the garden fair to make dinner plans	

Saturday, May 11

Time	Large Ballroom	Small Ballroom
8:00 am to 9:00 am	-Continental Breakfast/shopping in the garden fair	
9:00 am to 10:30 am	-Dan Heims: "New Perennials from Around the World"	
10:45 am to 12:00 pm	-Shane Smith: "Greenhouse Gardening in Cold Climates"	
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm	-Box Lunch and shopping in the garden fair	
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	-Annie Nevaldine: Liliium in the Alaska Garden	-Harry Engle: Getting Started in Beekeeping
2:30 pm to 4:00 pm	-Sharon Lovejoy: Garden with Children	-TBA:Vegetable Garden Success in Alaska
4:00 pm-5:30 pm	-Marion Owens: "No Fear" Seed Starting	-Debbie Hinchey: Lobelia Basket Workshop
6:00 pm-8:00 pm	-No Host cocktail reception in the garden fair	



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q & A with Bob Polomski
Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Clemson University

VEGETABLE SEED VIABILITY

How can I be sure that the vegetable seeds I sow are still viable? D.F., Eugene, OR

Answer: Seeds have a limited shelf life, even when stored under cool, dry conditions. While some seeds, such as tomatoes, squash, and watermelons, can safely be kept for four or five years, those of onions, parsnips, or parsley should not be stored for more than one. When you purchase a package of seed it will specify the minimum germination percentage at that time, but if you have waited more than a season to sow the seed, or have saved leftover seed, you are right to question its viability. Sowing the seeds without first testing their germination is an act of faith, that may result in disappointment. To prevent this, perform the following simple test. Take two or three layers of moistened paper towels and lay 10 to 20 seeds on the surface. Gently roll up the towels, enclosing the seeds, and put the roll inside a plastic bag. Label with the variety and date of sowing and place the bag in a location where the temperature is between 70 and 80°F. After two to three days, unroll the paper towels and examine the seeds, and daily thereafter. At the end of three weeks total up the number of seeds that have germinated. If 10 of the 20 have sprouted you can expect a 50 percent germination rate when you sow the remainder.

Large seeds, such as those tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash, can also be pregerminated in an empty plastic margarine container, and then grown on as transplants, a simple way to improve your yield of seedlings. Cut a paper towel into postage-stamp-size pieces, lay these on the inverted lid of the container, and moisten each with a few drops of water. Next, place a single seed atop each square of moist paper towel, turn the container upside down, and snap it onto the lid to form a little greenhouse. Again, set the container in a warm place. Check periodically, and once you see the radicle, or seedling root, emerge from a seed, pluck that seed off the lid and transplant it to its own medium-filled cell or pot. This is a technique that measures seed viability without wasting any seed. *Printed with permission from Horticultural Magazine.

New Master Gardeners are welcomed

By Sue Lincoln, Horticultural Program Assistant
Congratulations! We have 47 people who have completed the Master Gardeners Course given in November and December 2001! Everyone passed their test and everyone seems very eager to start their volunteering on their way to earning their Master Gardeners Certificate. So, some definitions are in order!

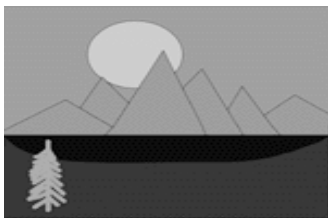
All of you are members of the Anchorage Chapter of the Alaska Master Gardeners Association (A-AMGA) as well as volunteers for the Cooperative Extension Service (CES). These two organizations are separate, although they work closely and harmoniously with each other. In many cases volunteering with one can also include volunteering with the other. The A-AMGA does a tremendous amount of service volunteer work in this community. Projects such as maintaining the Pioneer Home grounds and maintaining the entry gardens to the Alaska Botanical Gardens are needed and very much appreciated service projects. I encourage each and every one of you to include yourself in these worthwhile and self-satisfying projects. (I especially encourage those of you who have "bought-out" your volunteer time, to volunteer with the AMGA on projects such as these.) Unfortunately, these service projects will not meet your CES volunteer commitment.

The basic definition for projects that *will* satisfy your CES commitment is:

An activity where the knowledge you gained in class is passed on to others.

Such activities include, but are not limited to: Garden Clinics – many throughout the year; classroom demonstrations (Talking Plant), community schools classes; usually a one evening class on topics such as bulb forcing, seed starting, landscape design, water gardens, garden structures, etc. This is your opportunity to really be creative and take your own particular interest out to other people. We have a need to have several "canned" presentations developed. This would require research for the text portion; slides, overheads, etc.; gathering hands-on materials, etc. and arranging them in a fashion that will be easily used. Ideally, a volunteer would be

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.. WELCOME)



SOUTH-CENTRAL PENINSULA NEWS

By MARGARET SIMON

“In search of my mother’s garden, I found my own.”

—Alice Walker

It’s that time of the year when new gardening catalogs are piled high on my desk. It’s almost like Christmas catalogs only this time the contents are nearer and dearer to the earth (and my heart!). Alice Walker was right. As I browse the catalogs, I think of all the flowers my mother grew. Zinnias, Bells of Ireland, Petunias, Marigolds, Peonies....

My own garden now has taken shape. I’ve been fortunate in creating my own garden—the flowers from my mother’s garden that I don’t want in my own, don’t grow well here anyway. Is it meant to be that way? A bouquet of zinnias often brightened our table but, you know, I really didn’t like them. Mostly I didn’t like the ‘feel’ of their sandpapery foliage. I remember Mother taking her dried Bells of Ireland and patiently painting the inside of the bells with a color she adored (or maybe it was more to use up some leftover paint) and then painting the outside of the bells another color. The more I think about it, the more I believe she was using up odds and ends of paint since it was difficult for her to throw anything away!

The colors of petunias varied from year to year. They grew well in that South Dakota hot sun because Mother always watered them with the bath or dishwater. Marigolds were a wonderfully bright splash of color. Now one can even get varieties without that awful smell I remember. Did she really plant them to repel the bugs? If she were still with us, I would ask if that were the real reason she grew them.

Peonies! I remember helping to cut the peonies for arrangements for my sister’s wedding. Ah, peonies—I love them in my own garden. I have one in particular, given to me by a friend before she passed. It’s a special, special plant. It’s the healthiest of all and blooms profusely. Is Lee helping it out? Can any one tell me why one of my peonies

(SOUTH-CENTRAL PENINSULA NEWS.. CONTINUED)

have never bloomed? I don’t think its planted too deeply, its located near the others, yet it pouts. Obviously, I am not making it happy. Or has it lost its confidence to bloom because of that beautiful ‘Over-the-Fence’ deep rosy/red variety planted next to it? Some one has helped you find your own garden. Reminisce a bit—perhaps it will bring a smile and brighten up the black and white landscape you see out your window.

(NEW MASTER GARDENER ARE WELCOMED.. CONTINUED)

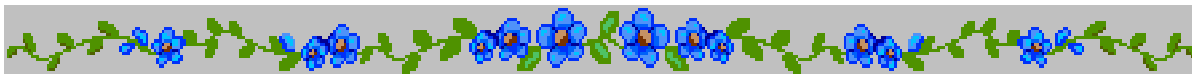
able to come to the office, pick up a packet or bin with all the materials in it and take it to their class. Multi-media presentations such as PowerPoint would be ideal due to the fact that photos, slides, overheads – even motion clips - can be incorporated into one easily transportable disk or CD. Hardware, e.g., laptop, LCD projector, slide projector, etc. is available for check out. If you have an interest that seems rather gray or border line, *please call me!* We can talk about your interest and how it can satisfy your commitment while satisfying your interest!

Remember that I work part time. Every time I set hours, they get revised; so I really hesitate to set any. I AM in the office 20 hours a week; usually always in the morning. I have voice mail; 786-6315 and I also have e-mail; fnsm1@uaf.edu. My home number is listed in the AMGA directory as I too am a Master Gardener; however, please refrain from calling my home number unless a volunteer activity is going on after “normal” business hours. I am always available during the time you are volunteering! *Please call me if you have questions or concerns!*

Happy volunteering!

Wanted: Garden Fair Vendors

Interested in having a table at the Alaska Master Gardeners Conference?
Contact: Joanna Littau for details at
279-6559 or E-mail- jlittau@alaska.com



Bird Chatter

- A Master Gardener newsletter called “Glacial Gardener’s Grapevine” was found on the internet. Does it come out of the frozen North? Nope, temperate Wisconsin!
- A bit of confusion resulted when Julie Riley told a non-gardener trying to set up presentations that Dana Klinkhart could probably do a program on “Water Gardening”. When asked to do the talk, the request came as "Watering your garden".
- Master Gardener Jill Shepherd is writing gardening articles for issues of Anchorage magazine which is inserted into local issues of Alaska magazine. Check it out!
- The soil temperature in beautiful suburban Sterling is 30 degrees F. six inches below the surface. Normally the soil temps range between 24-28 degrees F so with knee-deep settled snow, the soil is staying ‘warmer’ than usual reports Rosemary Kimball.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LOCAL FLORA BY VERNA PRATT

The Alaska Rock Garden Society (ARGS) is seeking Tour Guide Helpers. ARGS is hosting the Annual General Meeting of the North American Rock Garden Society, June 11-14, 2002. Tour Guides are entitled to attend the evening lectures and will be furnished lunches on hikes.

This is a great way to become more knowledgeable about our Local Flora, but will require some dedication on your part. Hiking areas are Bird Ridge (Moderate to Difficult) — Winter Training on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7 pm in Room 130 of the Coop Extension Service. Training for Alpine areas is on Wednesday, April 3rd at 7 pm in Room 130 of the Cooperative Extension Service. The Alpine areas include Wallace Mountain, Arctic Valley, and Glen Alps (hiking ability from Easy to Difficult).

Others who wish to attend the Conference should contact the Pratts for an application. Requirements are membership in ARGS and NARGS. Fee is \$300 for the entire Conference June 11-14. (Starts mid-day on 11th, hikes on 12th and 13th, closing by 11 am on the 14th. Evening speakers on 11th, 12th, and 13th, and morning speakers on the 14th). The possibility of partial registration is being considered. For further information contact: webmaster@args.org and/or visit website at www.args.org

* For those who attended the last Master Gardeners meeting — The Currant that Verna showed that looked like a tiny Fuchsia was Ribes lobbii.

2002 Alaska Master Gardeners Membership Form

Changes to information Yes No

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code+4 : _____

Phone-Day:() _____ Evening:() _____

Fax:() _____ Dedicated Line? Yes No

Email: _____

_____ \$10.00 voting (Completed Master Gardeners Course)

_____ \$10.00 non-voting

Membership dues are for calendar year. In order for your name to be included in Annual Directory. Payment must be received by January 31.

Please mail payment to AMGA ,PO BOX 221403, Anchorage, AK 99522-1403



Gardening Calendar

March 5

Forage Conference – Lake Lucille Resort – Wasilla, Alaska

March 6,

Alaska Potato Conference – Lake Lucille Resort – Wasilla, Alaska

March 7

Alaska Vegetable Conference – Lake Lucille Resort – Wasilla, Alaska

March 7

Anchorage Garden Club meeting – Pioneer School House, - 7:30pm, 437-3rd. Ave. Presentation by Julie Riley, CES Horticulture Agent “Common Perennials, Unusual Species”

March 14

Wildflower Garden Club meeting - Central Lutheran Church 1420 Cordova Street - 10:00am- Presentation by Julie Riley, CES Horticulture Agent; “Fall & Spring Planted Bulbs”

March 18

Anchorage Master Gardeners Association meeting - Pat Hallaway from the Georgeson Botanical Garden at UAF - 7:00pm-Call Cooperative Extension to confirm topic, 786-6300.

March 23

Turnagain Spring Bazaar and Garden Show - Turnagain Community School, 3500 W. Northern Lights Blvd. **Contact Community School Coordinator at 243-2650 for details **CES Master Gardener Clinic and other Anchorage area gardening clubs.

April 1

Early registration for **Alaska Master Gardeners Conference**; registration forms available at Cooperative Extension Service.

April 13

Spring Garden Show - Mall at Sears CES Master Gardeners Clinic and other Anchorage area gardening clubs - 10am - 6:00pm

May 10 & 11

Alaska Master Gardeners Conference; The Hawthorne Suites in Anchorage. **Contact Dana Klinkhart at 346-1631 or klinkhart@gci.net**

April 15

Anchorage Master Gardeners Association meeting - 7:00pm –2221 E Northern Lights Blvd. Call CES at 786-6300 for topic.

April 19

Early registration for **Southeast Alaska Gardening Conference**. Held in May 3 & 4 in Juneau. **See web site at <http://www.spectrumdesignonline.com/gconf/program.htm> or contact CES in Anchorage at 786-6300 for a registration brochure**

April 20 and May 18

North American Rock Garden Society work sessions dedicated to finishing details for the June, 2002, annual general meeting to be held in Anchorage at 2:00 p.m.

April 20

Hazard Tree Evaluation - Campbell Creek Science Center -6881 Abbott Loop Rd 9:00am - 5:00pm -Main speaker Robert Wheeler, CES Forestry Specialist**pre-registration required, call CES at 786-6300**

April 22-24

Alaska FFA State Convention, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

May 10 & 11

Alaska Master Gardeners Conference, Hawthorne Suites, 1110 W. 8th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska.

May 18

Lobelia Basket Workshop-10 am \$45 includes everything except scissors, call for registration information- **Anchorage Garden Club**-566-0539.

• For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
Alaska Cooperative Extension
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99508

NEW ACE PHONE NUMBERS:

Master Gardener Line 786-6314
Main Receptionist 786-6300

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

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....

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- 'In Search of my Mother's Garden'*
- Welcome New Master Gardeners!*

**Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
Anchorage Chapter
University of Alaska Cooperative Extension
P.O. Box 221403
Anchorage, Alaska 99522-1403**

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