

Anchorage Chapter



Volume 7, Issue 5

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER April 2005

From the President's Corner
By Dana Klinkhart

Spring must be here! At least a couple of chickadees and a few red polls believe it to be so. They have been actively checking out the 'real estate' in our yard. The ornamental bird houses have been thoroughly investigated by the high energy visitors. They are not the only harbingers of our changing season, though. Gardeners turned out in unbelievable numbers for our monthly program this past month. Slides shows of beautiful flowers and of creative landscaping caught the attention of those in attendance.

So while we are waking up from our long winter's nap, let's put on our thinking caps and plan to share what we are learning from our gardening experiences this year. Conversation is always welcome and encouraged at our monthly meetings. Are you trying something new? Is your goal to experiment with a new vegetable or a new flowering cultivar? How about sharing what you've learned about compost tea and beyond. Are you finding success with shrubs and trees that have been 'iffy' in the past? Won't you keep notes and plan to share this experience with us? How about a presentation for Master Gardeners this fall? How about an article for the Master Gardener newsletter? Our newsletter editor, Gina Docherty at AMGA@gci.net, asks us to submit articles from our personal perspective. Check in with Gina with an article from your point of view.

Speaking of garden writers, Donna Freedman will once again be working with the Anchorage Daily News this summer in the gardening section. She has invited gardeners to communicate with her about writing gardening articles. If you are interested in examining the possibilities, she asks for a sentence or two of what you would like to write about and send it to her at donna_freedman@hotmail.com. Guest columnists are not usually compensated, but time spent may be applied to master gardeners volunteer hours, not to mention notoriety in our local newspaper. I encourage you to share your knowledge. It's not as hard as it sounds.

Master Gardeners are all about sharing gardening information with others. Lets start out this new gardening season by sharing our gardening secrets with each other. See you at the next meeting!

2005 Arbor Day CelebrationVolunteers Needed



Monday, May 16th marks Arbor Day in Anchorage and we welcome all of you in joining us in getting the word out on how important trees are to our environment. Master Gardeners are needed to teach classes about how to plant trees, how to take care of trees & the importance of trees in our environment, just to name a few topics to further explore. Let's set aside the week of Monday May 16th through Friday May 20th to celebrate trees and their plantings by going into the classrooms to educate the children on the value of trees to our environment. Help us root for healthy trees! Vi Stansell & Nickel LaFleur, Anchorage Garden Club Co-Chairs

*The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way.
Some see nature all ridicule and deformity... and some scarce see nature at all.
But to the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself.*

-William Blake, poet, engraver, and painter (1757-1827)



Garden Photography For All

by Nancy Larsen

The first bloom of the year occurred on Feb. 21, when the AMGA met to begin their meeting with a potluck buffet. The table bloomed and blossomed with all things savory, spicy, fruity, and CHOCOLATE. We were even treated to chicken drumsticks each tied with a bow!

Then on to our speaker - Annie Nevaldine is noted for her wonderful photos such as those in her 2005 Alaska Garden Flowers calendar. Her 2006 calendar is available! If you check the *Perennials* summer '05 issue (a quarterly magazine put out by Better Homes & Gardens) you'll find an article featuring Annie Nevaldine with *her* photos of *her* garden.

Annie spoke to us about garden and flower photography and addressed our questions: how do you capture the color red? How do you market your pictures? What's the current state of digital photography?

Her primary message concerned the principles of light, composition, focus, and exposure. These principles apply regardless of whether you use film or digital, and Annie had a great series of slides to illustrate her points.

Annie also recommended getting away from the "bull's eye" habit of putting the main subject smack in the center of the photo. Instead, visualize a tic-tac-toe grid and position the subject on one of those intersections. She has used film (mostly slide film) exclusively until recently and quite often takes 5 shots of the exact same subject with different exposures - one that she thinks is best, as well as the 2 on either side. She does this with shutter speed, not the f-stop, because f-stop changes the depth of field. Her tripod is her best friend, and her favorite weather for shooting is OVERCAST, not sunny!

A fascinating series at the end of her slide show showed Annie's back yard over the course of one entire year. From the same vantage point, we saw shots taken every week or so. We saw the snow piled high, then melting away, then a bare spring skeleton, then a burgeoning of greens and blossoms and high-summer bloom. We identified "the peak" of summer beauty. Then we saw the gradual sliding away to spent bloom, bare branches, and frost-covered grass. Then again, snow.

Answers developed over the course of Annie's talk. She finds that Fuji film favors green tones, Kodak favors the orange and gold earth tones, and Lumiere is great for blues. And for red... nothing beats Velvia.

To finish up: door prize winners were Mary Moline, Margaret Love, and Briann Campbell.



Proteas of Hawaii

By JoAnne Banta

Today I visited a protea farm. For those who do not know, proteas are those huge tropical flowers that look as if they are beautiful handmade fakes. Anyone who has visited Hawaii has seen the round pink or yellow bloom that resembles grandmother's pincushion filled with pins (stiles). Stiles, incidentally, are found in all proteas. The King Protea, on the other hand, is a huge flower, reminiscent of a lovely pink and white dinner-plate dahlia, while the Queen Protea's shape is elongated, its petals almost resembling feathers. There is nothing more beautiful than a pink Queen Mayday. Last, but certainly not least, is the Safari Sunset - a dark red papery blossom whose foliage is nearly the same color. Growers turn these petals inside out in the field in order to make a showier flower, and they dry nearly like wood.

Aloha Protea Farm owners Dan Wegner and Dona Foster, both retired educators from Sitka, began growing proteas on the volcanic slopes at the south end of the Big Island in 1984. They farm roughly 10 acres at the 3300-foot level, where morning temperatures sometimes reach as low as 47 degrees. As friends, they graciously invited us to visit their farm.

I envisioned neat rows of varieties of Pincushions, Kings and Queens. Surprise! Proteas are shrubs, and they grow up and down the crushed lava slopes wherever they are planted, creating a magical fairyland of color. Native vegetation forms a background, and neat paths for harvesting wind throughout the park-like slopes.

Proteas originated in southern Africa, South America and Australia - actually back before the continents separated. The name Protea comes from the mythical sea god Proteus who could assume many different shapes. They are one of the oldest flowering plants in the world, thought to be at least 300-million years old. There are some 1600 natural varieties, taking from 3 to 20 years to reach maturity - Dan and Dona grow 70 to 100 varieties.

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New Plants for 2005

by Julie Riley
Extension Horticulture Agent, Anchorage

Every gardener wants to try something new and during the first months of the year gardening magazines and seed catalogs are full of suggestions. It's become an annual ritual with me as well. I go to the All American Selections (AAS) website to see which cultivars have been selected as winners. I check out the Perennial Plant Association's Perennial Plant of the Year. I see what the International Herb Association (IHA) has designated as Herb of the Year. I look at the cover of seed catalogs and speculate as to whether the plants being touted will perform in Southcentral Alaska.

This year's recommendations look grim. The Perennial Plant of the Year is Hellebore. As soon as I say you can't grow this in Anchorage, someone will tell me they are, but the only thriving Hellebore I've seen were in Juneau.

I'm shocked at the AAS winners. Usually there are a number of cultivars that look promising for gardeners in Southcentral Alaska. After all, one of the criteria used to evaluate AAS nominees is their adaptability across a wide range of growing conditions. For 2005, the only flower selection I can recommend you try is *Gaillardia aristata* 'Arizona Sun'. Gaillardias, also known as Blanket flowers, have red and yellow flower petals. 'Arizona Sun' bears three-inch single mahogany red petals with bright yellow edges. Plants are compact, growing only 8-10 inches tall. They should be placed in the garden in full sun. Although a perennial in warmer climates, think of 'Arizona Sun' as an annual. It supposedly blooms well the first year from seed and is packed with flowers all summer long.

Thompson & Morgan lists a mahogany and gold sunflower as their Annual of the Year. The blooms of Sunflower 'Bicentenary' are six inches across on 5-foot tall stems. I suggest giving any sunflower a head start on the season and starting seeds indoors on May 1.

Thompson & Morgan also promotes a Perennial of the Year and has given *Potentilla atrosanguinea* 'Fireball Mixed' this honor. Although their catalog gives it a zone 5 hardiness rating, I do know gardeners who successfully overwinter *Potentilla atrosanguinea*. I'm not sure what 'Fireball Mixed' will do, but its blend of fiery colored flowers sounds intriguing. Pictures of it show multi-colored flowers on a single plant, but I'm doubtful. The 36 inch height would be a change from many of the herbaceous Potentillas we grow.

Other AAS winners for this year include Vinca 'First Kiss Blueberry', Zinnia 'Magellan Coral', Eggplant 'Fairy Tale', Tomato 'Sugary' and Squash 'Bonbon'. All require warm summer temperatures to do well. Since there seems to be more interest in trying to grow winter squash, I'll tell you a little bit about 'Bonbon'. It is a hybrid buttercup-type squash with an upright, semi-bush growth habit. The small 6-inch fruit matures early and Alaska gardeners may have more success with this cultivar than with other varieties. Unfortunately, there are two groups of winter squash that are difficult to grow here because our long days affect flowering. And butternut is one of them. Try a few plants, but don't devote an entire row to 'Bonbon'.

The Herb of the Year is oregano(s). Botanically, this is such a confusing group that the designated plant has to be plural. Oreganos have had mixed success in terms of their overwintering at the Alaska Botanical Garden (ABG). The true Greek oregano *Origanum*, *Origanum vulgare hirtum* has one of the best culinary flavors and does overwinter part of the time. Master Gardener Cathy Sage has always recommended buying Greek Oregano as a plant that has been propagated vegetatively due to the variation you find in the flavor of seed grown plants.

Origanum vulgare 'Hot 'n' Spicy' did not survive the winter of '03/04 at ABG. *Origanum majorana* 'Aurea' has pretty good winter survival. Plants purchased from nurseries in Anchorage and Eagle River are usually labeled Upright Golden Marjoram, but plants look more like oregano, *O. vulgare*, than the annual sweet marjoram, *Origanum majorana*. Wild marjoram, *Origanum vulgare subsp. vulgare* has the prettiest flowers for drying. For a good description of the oreganos, see http://www.herbnet.com/herbalpedia_final.htm.

My suggestion for a (new) perennial to try in 2005 is Yellow Waxbells, *Kirengeshoma palmata*. My single test plant survived the winter in a pot above ground. (Why else would any gardener overwinter a perennial plant like this unless they were checking for winter hardiness!) Yellow waxbells flowers late and is not showy, but its palmate leaves have an interesting shape. The plant will grow in shady locations. Its height is about 3 feet and I have seen it available at local nurseries.



Renee's Garden Seeds are Winners

By Blythe Campbell

I just received my 2005 media kit from Renee's Garden. Along with several new varieties that sound intriguing, their catalog lists a number of varieties that have been great successes in my garden. Seed packets and the website at www.reneesgarden.com have good information for gardeners, and with their watercolor illustrations, the seed packets are so pretty they're inspiring. Renee's seeds are sold at Alaska Mill & Feed in season if you want a local source. My picks:

Alyssum "Gulf Winds" (*Lobularia maritime*) This exclusive variety is a mix of pinks, purples and whites, and are strongly scented. I started these very early – in mid February – under lights and was rewarded with dense stocky plants that did well in bright sun in my garden.

Hollyhock "Black Watchman" (*Alcea rosea* var. *nigra*) If you start these early enough (early March) you'll get blooms the first year. This biennial popped up in my garden last summer; I had forgotten it was there. It quickly became my husband's favorite flower, with multiple flower stalks reaching nearly 7 feet tall, in the deepest black. I have had trouble with aphids on hollyhocks; I drench with insecticidal soap before the blooms open.

Sunflower Color Mix "Sun Samba" (*Helianthus annuus*) This collection gives you a great variety of sunflowers for cutting, from shaggy yellow doubles to dark chocolate and bicolored singles. Heights range from 3 to 6 feet. Renee's has ten different sunflower seeds and mixes available.

Sweet Peas, Scented "Saltwater Taffy Swirls" (*Lathyrus odoratus*) I have never seen anything like these striped and swirled sweet peas, which are vigorous with large flowers on long, straight stems. Sweet peas, especially fragrant varieties, are a specialty of Renee's. I'll be ordering the "Queen of the Night" packet, with deep shades of navy blue, mauve-blue, bicolor maroon and lilac, dark crimson and salmon pink. What a great palette!

Basil "Mrs. Burns' Lemon" (*Ocimum basilicum*) and "Lime Scented" (*Ocimum americanum*) The best citrus basil I've grown. I grow them indoors and in the greenhouse because I haven't had good luck with basil in the garden, but my husband's been mulling cold frame ideas and the one summer I had a cold frame (a cheap aluminum variety that blew into the next zip code one windy day) the basil did wonderfully in it.

Dill "Dukat" (*Anethum graveolens*) A Danish import that has lots of feathery blue-green leaves that don't wilt easily when picked.

Cucumber "Garden Oasis" This was a big hit last summer, producing prolifically in the greenhouse with long, straight, slender fruits and the most tender, edible (not bitter) skin I've ever tasted in a cucumber.

Romaine Lettuce "Caesar Duo" A great mix of red and green leafed romaines.

New varieties from Renee's this year, that I'll be trying, include Larkspur "Parisian Pink" (for cutting, branching 3-5 foot spires in rose-pink with a hint of salmon), Nasturtiums "Cherries Jubilee" (lipstick colors with blue-green foliage), Container Sweet Pea "Electric Blue" (species sweet peas with grassy 3 foot vines), Lettuce "Merveille De 4 Saisons" (a bibb lettuce with ruby leaves and green hearts), and Spinach "Oriental Giant" (Japanese hybrid with giant, smooth leaves).



To find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter... to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wildflower in spring - these are some of the rewards of the simple life.

-John Burroughs, naturalist and writer (1837-1921)



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News

By Rosemary Kimball

When I was Outside last month I was rhapsodizing about the change mid-March in the quality of the air and said that breakup would follow in a month. I guess Mother Nature didn't think predicting breakup was my business because at the end of March, breakup is half over!!! The soil temperature under the remaining snow in the garden is 33°F and that means that all the water pouring down our lane is not pooling but going straight down into the ground! The mid-40° temperatures have made all the paths into an ice rink and it is back to studded shoes again. Plants that have come out of the snow have been covered with plywood to protect them from the freeze-thaw cycle.

And at this time of the year people are starting to "talk seed" and tomato varieties and starting some extras for others.

We're still coming down from our conference "high". I miss seeing the people who worked on it on a regular basis. We made enough that we can afford to have an occasional speaker that charges a speaker's fee. Since we had the conference, we didn't do but one of our winter lectures so we are planless until next fall.

Ramrod Janice has gone to Homer to do a Good Bug-Bad Bug talk to the Homer Garden Club. As always, she was a wealth of knowledge! And during the afternoon down there, eavesdropping, I heard one man say his crocuses and daffodils were blooming. I'm ready for that.



And by the time you read this....my husband and I will be in Arizona chasing wild flowers and cacti with our camera.

What's New at *In the Garden* for 2005

By Lorri Abel

With winter in retreat it's time to think about new plants and ideas for gardening. Our ninth year in business brings once again many new varieties of old favorites and some additional new plants to try. Sally and I are always looking for new plants as well as new varieties to try, we welcome your ideas.

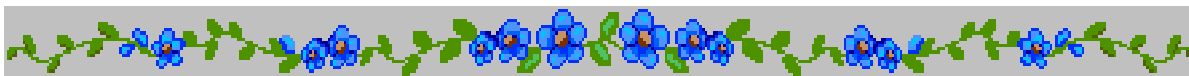
New varieties of old favorites include *Astrantia* (Masterwort) *Magnum Blush*, *Dicentra* (Bleeding Heart) *Ivory Heart*, *Geranium Shocking Blue*, *Rodgersia* (Rodger's Flower) *Fireworks*, and several new varieties of *Hosta* and *Hemerocallis* (Daylily). If you have a warm sunny place there are many new varieties of *Echinacea* (Coneflower) this year, the two new ones available through us are *Echinacea* p. 'The King' and 'Ruby Glow'. Shrubs we have this year reflect the value of good foliage. We will have the dark purple foliage of *Physocarpus* (Ninebark) 'Diablo', and the gold foliage of *Philadelphus* (Mock Orange) c. *Aureus*, and *Sambucus* (Elderberry) r. *Plumosa Aurea*.

New plants to us this year are *Mukdenia rossii* 'Crimson Fans', a *Heuchera* relative that promises large maple-like leaves emerging bronze-green then aging to green splashed with bright red. This should be an interesting new variety for part shade. While not new to Anchorage, it's our first time carrying *Helenium* (Sneezeweed) *Red Army*. It is a 25" sun lover, blooming later in the season with the bold hot colors of red and yellow. *Mertensia* (Japanese Bluebells) promises longer lasting foliage than other *Mertensia*, a cool blue cast to the leaves, and periwinkle blue spring flowers. Also new to us this year are the non-climbing *Clematis*, 'New Love' sporting dark violet flowers and *Clematis recta* 'Purpurea' which has purplish foliage and white flowers.

Though we are still in the process of ordering, these are some of the new plants we hope to have available. For more information, to share ideas, or to be on our mailing list contact Lorri Abel abel@gci.net 346 4246.

LANDSCAPE BUSINESSES

If you are a Master Gardener with a landscaping business, please contact Julie Riley with information including your business name, contact information and services offered (i.e. garden design, flower bed installation, lawn care, landscape contracting, deck building etc.) She is in the process of compiling a directory. The CES phone number is 786-6300; fax 786-6312 and Julie's e-mail afjar@uaa.alaska.edu



Bird Chatter

- A BIG THANKS to Sandra Harrington who spent hours updating the AMGA Directory (with input from Marguerite Barnard). Directories will be distributed at the April AMGA meeting.
- New Master Gardener Rita Wade and her friends counted 75 Alaskans at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show in Seattle. Is this an all time record?
- Not all rhubarb is created equal. Dave Ianson with the USDA Agricultural Research Service has 41 different types planted at the UAF Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station in Palmer. This summer he will be collecting "morphological plant descriptor" data.
- You don't have to drive to Homer to get perennials from Fritz Creek Gardens. Rita Jo will put your order on the Homer Stage Coach. For ordering information see <http://www.alaskahardy.com/order.html>.
- Damping off problems? Verna Pratt reports that cinnamon does wonders. There are even commercial products using cinnamon as the active ingredient.

Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

Women's Show display

Master Gardeners are needed to staff an Extension Display at the Women's Show, April 22-24 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dottie McDewitt is handling the scheduling. Shifts are 2 or 3 hours— 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., 1-4 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. Contact information for Dottie is pddk@alaska.net or 346-3202. Volunteers scheduled for last shift on Sunday will need to help take down the display.

Sears Mall Spring Garden Show

This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, April 16. It's lots of fun because most Anchorage area gardening groups participate. Master Gardeners are needed to set up at 9:00 a.m. Regular shifts run 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 1-4 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. with take down. Contact Dottie if you can help: pddk@alaska.net or 346-3202.

After School Gardening Activities

Kit Greene with 21st Century After-School Program at Taku Elementary is hoping to find a Master Gardener who would be interested in doing a series of gardening activities sometime between April 1 and May 6. Twenty-first Century meets from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Kids involved in the program are K-6 graders. Kit says 30-45 minutes blocks of time with about 10 kids in each group would work well. If you are interested in putting something together for kids at Taku, please contact Kit at 742-5340 and let me know. If you only want to do 1 activity, I'm sure that could be arranged, too.

Hort phones

Master Gardeners started to help answer horticulture questions over the telephone last month. The Anchorage CES office is open for calls M-F from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Shifts that are 2-4 hours in length work best. Call Julie if you'd like to help, 786-6300.

PROTEAS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the other vegetation that thrives on the farm. There is eight-foot high aloe, beautiful lamb's ear, catalpa orchids and tall Norfolk pines. Climbing and vining throughout is the standard Hawaiian weed, known to us as nasturtiums. There are fun things like walking iris, a smaller variety that travels by shoots, and a tall Jacaranda tree that will become a mass of lavender blossoms in another month.

Nothing, however, beats the beauty of the protea slopes, or the bouquet that Dan sent home with us – the King in my vase measures 9 inches across. Want to see what I'm talking about? Go to www.proteas.com. – and should you ever need a gift for a special occasion, contact Aloha Protea Farms at 1-877-226-5742 (or on-line, above). Dan and Dona ship to all 50 states and Canada. The flowers are shipped fresh, arrive in beautiful shape, varieties are labeled; and the great part is that they last for years. Proteas don't die, they dry – and they become gorgeous fall arrangements. (I know because I have a year-old vaseful.) Next year – their anthurium field!

Hazard Trees workshop

The Cooperative Extension Service is offering a program designed to assist arborists, tree care professionals and homeowners in assessing hazard tree risk. Tree care, including procedures to prevent or reduce hazard tree formation, will also be covered.

- Instructor: Dr. Bob Wheeler, CES Forestry Specialist
- Date & time: Thursday, April 7, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Location: Cooperative Extension Service, 2221 E. Northern Lights, room 130, Anchorage
- Registration: The program is free, but please call 786-6300 to pre-register.
- Continuing Education Units: Those desiring CEU credit can download the form from International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) website.

Attention all Anchorage Gardeners! Gardening, Literature

and How Gardens Preserve Our Cultural Heritage

Come and meet Dr. Patricia Klindienst, Saturday April 16 at 10:00am in the UAA/APU Consortium Library room 307. Patricia wants to meet local gardeners and record their stories about gardening, cultural heritage and their relationship to the land. With permission, stories will be taped and collected for a future multi-lingual publication that will be put together by the UAA Campus Bookstore. Translators and interpreters will be available to help have your stories told. This is a great opportunity for Anchorage community to come together and share our common bond— gardening.

Collecting Gardeners' Stories is free and open to the public. For more information contact Rachel Epstein at 786-4782 or anre@uaa.alaska.edu.

Heads up bargain hunting gardeners!

St. Mary's Creative Playschool is again selling bedding plant coupons. For \$20 you receive a coupon redeemable for twelve 4 packs of bedding plants, a \$21.48 value from Dimond Greenhouse. Coupons are available through Eva Hancock, 562-7259, and good through June 15th.



Graham Nichols
Alpine Plant Expert
scheduled to speak in May

Graham Nichols, author of "Alpine Plants of North America", will speak at the Loussac Library Assembly Chamber, Saturday, May 14th at 7 pm, on the Cultivation of Alpine Plants. Cost to attend will be \$10.00 per person. We will have his book for sale. He will be speaking in Homer on Sunday at 2 pm.

His book is by Timber Press and there is a web site that covers the author and is very informative.

Flower Fundraiser benefits 4-H

Shop at Bells Nursery and support the 4-H program at the same time. All you need to do is purchase flower coupons in advance from the 4-H Leaders Council. Coupons are available for flats of annuals(\$30) and 12" hanging baskets(\$40).

The Anchorage 4-H program thanks you for your support and says, "We're blossoming, we're blooming and we're growing! Contact 4-H Agent Marianne Kerr to make arrangements to pick up coupons at the CES office, 786-6305 or email anchorage.4h@uaf.edu. The sale is being done in an arrangement with the South Anchorage Rotary and ends mid-May.

You can also talk to Marianne if you're interested in starting a 4-H Garden Club this summer. Being a Master Gardener 4-H Leader is a great way to teach kids valuable life-skills and work off your 40 hours of volunteer commitment.

Garden Space for Use

Master Gardener Pat McGee operates the International (Youth) Hostel downtown and is looking for a Master Gardener to adopt a plot. There is a flower garden area that would provide a nice spot for someone without a piece of soil or anyone else for that matter. And your handiwork would be admired by visitors from around the world. Contact Pat McGee for details, 243-3456.

Gardener Needed

My neighbor's wife, Betty, died a couple of years ago. Paul needs somebody to plant some annuals in this spring and someone to come on a weekly basis to weed. There is no grass. He is set up with a drip watering system so he can water. The location is in Turnagain, on Telequana.

Laurie Tryck did it the year Betty died and I think she would be happy to talk to anyone and give them information on what worked. If interested, please contact Dawn Page @ 248-4071



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: amga@gci.net

AMGA Web Site: www.corecom.net/~gardener
 (The Newsletter will be on-line in living color!)

Gardening Calendar

April 7, Thursday

Hazard Trees, presented by Dr. Bob Wheeler, CES Forestry Specialist, 6:30-8:30 p.m. CES conference room. Free, but call to register, 786-6300.

April 7, 14, 21, Thursdays

Whole Foods as Good Medicine - Meets 3 Thursday evenings 7-9 p.m. in Palmer. Call 746-7701 for registration and directions.\$30

April 15, Friday

"Pesticide Applicator Re-certification", April 15, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Bob Gorman. Call to preregister, 786-6300. Fee.

April 16, Saturday

Sears Mall Garden Show, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

*Master Gardener Display

*Wildflower Garden Club presents Gail Harbin: Children's Marigold Education.

April 7, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club Program - "Baby Greens - Miniature Vegetables" presented by Dr Jeff Smeenk and/or Roseann Leiner, Extension Horticulturist Specialists. 7:30 - 9 p.m., Pioneer Schoolhouse @ 3rd & Eagle St. - Information can be found @ 566-0539, or <http://communitynews.adn.agclub>

April 18, Monday

AMGA Meeting: "Water Gardening" - presented by Greg Lyall - 7 p.m., CES Conf. rm 130; 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

April 22-24, Friday - Sunday

Alaska Women's Show, Sullivan Arena, Master Gardener & Master Food Preserver display, gardening presentations, (from CES).

April 23 & 24, Friday - Saturday

Homer Home & Garden Show

May 5, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club Program - "Giant Vegetable Records" - presented by Kathy Liska, Superintendent of Crops, Alaska State Fair. 7:30 - 9 p.m., Pioneer Schoolhouse @ 3rd & Eagle St. - Information can be found @ 566-0539, or <http://communitynews.adn.agclub>

May 12, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club - Verna Pratt: Annual Picnic & Work Party at the Botanical Garden.

May 14, Saturday

*Anchorage Garden Club - Lobelia Basket Workshop - 10 a.m. - 12 noon; Will be notified of location after registration is received.

Event cost: \$50.00

*ARGS - Graham Nichols presentation, Loussac Library; see article this page.

May 16, Monday

*"Alaska Arbor Day" - Information can be found at: <http://communitynews.adn.agclub>

*AMGA Meeting: "Constructing willow chairs, tables and foot-stools" - presented by Debbie Filter - 7 p.m., CES Conf. rm 130; 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

May 19, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club - Sally Arant: Garden Tour of Sally's Spring Perennials. See the results of Sally "practicing what she teaches." You will have the opportunity to purchase plants after the tour. "In The Garden", 3021 DeArmoun Rd.

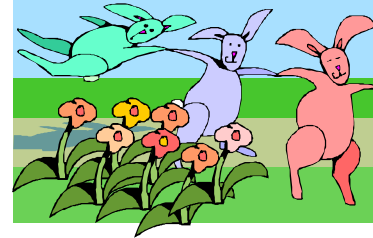




April comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers.
Edna St. Vincent Millay

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Spring is in the Air!

**If you ordered a Name Tag, it can be picked up at the CES,
or it will be waiting for you at the next AMGA meeting.**

**Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
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