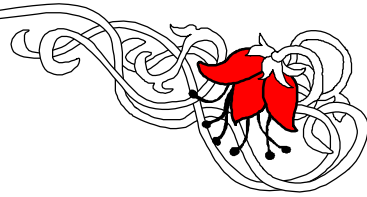


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 7, Issue 8

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

July 2005

From the President's Corner By Dana Klinkhart

Summer in July! Hmmm... isn't it grand! The dark cold days of winter are lost in my memory now that gardening is in full swing. With the preparation and planting done, I can prepare a cup of coffee in the morning and meander through the garden just to admire everything that is flourishing. The garden seems to shout a surprise or two nearly every day. I am reminded during each tour of the garden of something special taking place. This season I have been happy to see the faithful orange oriental poppies and the red 'Shirley' poppies burst with color to decorate the back yard. The best greeting so far, however, is the Papaver somniferum. It has reseeded in a very serious way in the warm raised bed at the front entrance. This is exactly where it was planted as an annual last year. Little did I know that it would present itself as a volunteer. The stocks are strong and bold, standing nearly three feet tall. Their sassy dark plum faces greet me as I approach the porch. Each day a new blossom breaks from its bud. A friend gave me these poppies last year during a visit with her in Homer. A quote from Jamie Jobb states, "The best things that can come out of the garden are gifts for other people." How right he was! My friend's gift from last year has increased twice over.

This poppy piqued my curiosity! I wanted to know more about this colorful visitor. In my garden it's three feet tall but it has been reported to grow up to 16 feet. I imagine that! The Sunset Western Garden book refers to the poppy as an opium poppy or breadbox poppy. Its dried seeds are used for muffins or bagels and the dried pods make their way into floral arrangements. The Houghton-Mifflin reference reports the Papaver somniferum as a southwestern Asian herb and the source of opium as well as an important food item. The on-line Wikipedia refers to its narcotic properties and suggests the name means "sleep-bringing poppy". Images of opium poppies have been found in ancient Sumerian artifacts dated as early as 3000 BC. Britannica On-line tells me that the opiates from the poppy are our best known narcotic. The same source says that after the opium is extracted it is purified to different alkaloids. One type acts on the nervous system and is addictive. The other form is not addicting and instead serves as a muscle relaxant. The poppy displays the dark side of its personality through its addictive properties. Did you know those same drugs are also referenced by modern writers, notably L. Frank Baum with *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and Thomas de Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*? It's amazing how this beautiful flower carries such a loaded history. Regardless of its background, I plan to just enjoy it as the beautiful guest that it is and invite it back next year.

MG Garden Survey – How did your garden survive?

I sent out a mass emailing to gardeners asking a few questions on how their garden survived the winter. It must have hit a sore spot, as there were many replies sent back.

1. Did you lose any plants over the winter? If so, what were they?
 2. What do you think caused the problem?
 3. Were there any plants that you would have expected to lose? If so, what were they?
- [For reasons of space, I have had to edit some comments & leave out blank lines. My apologies.]



AMGA Learns of Junior AMG

By Jo Anne Banta

Did you know that 325 pairs of jeans are made from one bale of cotton? that it takes only one bushel of wheat to produce 70 loaves of bread? That's just a sampling of what AMGA members learned at the June meeting, when they met in the Junior Master Gardeners' outdoor classroom at the Botanical Gardens to learn about the JMG program.

Instructor Patrick Ryan told of how he first became interested in the JMG plan, showed us some of the great illustrated text materials, and even brought out his guitar and sang us a couple of gardening songs. If Patrick's enthusiasm is any indication, the program has got to be a huge success.

This year's class begins on June 28 and runs six weeks, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 to 12:00. If you know of any budding gardeners, they still have room for one or two more. Check with the Alaska Botanical Gardens, or with Patrick Ryan at 345-0638.

OMISSION

In May's newsletter article on the television show, SMART GARDENING, I neglected to include that Amelia Walsh (and husband John) were filmed in their gorgeous rock garden. The segment on their garden aired the last Saturday in March (KAKM, 8:00 a.m.). Let's hope there'll be reruns. It was an excellent show! Keep watching for other talented local gardeners this month. --Julie Riley

GAZING BALLS & BIRDS

The following question came in to the CES office on June 23. If you have an opinion on whether gazing balls repel birds, please respond.

I hope you can help me as I have several gazing balls in my yard and garden and have recently been told that they will keep birds away. I want birds in my yard- have ponds, stream, birdbath and friendly habitat. I have birds but not as many as I have had in past years. I've blamed it on the neighbor's teenage drummer, as well as the magpies! However, if it is due to the gazing balls, I will take them out. Thank you.

Moni Butts
queenmother@gci.net
333-4908

How did your Garden Survive... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sorry to say, but we have almost no garden this year. We lost about 90% of our peony field planting. Some are trying to come back, but it will take a long time for them to recover, most likely several years. We are not distributing cut flowers or field divisions this year. After 7/12 there will be some potted items that the nurseries didn't take, available to the public. After this loss, I'll have to quit telling folks how tough peonies are; they certainly didn't favor our wetter winter. The plants that did survive are struggling along, not near as many stems as past years and some foliage very distorted and weird. Many of the older plants completely rotted in the soil. I dug down to 5-10" depth on some to see what was going on, and the roots are like red mush. We haven't decided yet if we will replant or not, will probably make that decision in August. After talking to some local gardeners, seems most plants near foundations are doing well (better drainage??). At first we thought the DeArmoun RD project may have changed drainage issues in this area, but after talking to 20 gardeners and friends around Anchorage, looks like many folks lost peonies this winter. Someone made the comment to me that 'Nature has given us several wonderful warm springs and summers of late, and then takes something back in payment.' Our losses were peonies (every age group and every type), thyme, columbines and dianthus. Only 1 Early type of peony survived. 'Garden Treasure'-yellow peony: The one that is on a south facing slope was not damaged, the one facing East on an 8" raised area died. Damaged were outdoor fruit trees, Sargent Crab Apple, Lewisia, Kiwi vines, and some hardy roses. The rhody's did not suffer near as much this winter as in the past, and they bloomed profusely.

Judy Wilmarth

I lost William Baffin roses, peonies, white and pink bleeding hearts, large lady ferns, some bunchberry plants, bachelor buttons...tulips, Asiatic lilies, daffodils - is that enough?! Too many freeze-thaw cycles and not enough frozen ground or snow cover in between? Our mushy roads and mosquito problem bespeak of way more moisture than normal getting into the ground... The plants (ferns, bleeding hearts, lilies in the warmest spot in the garden, with house walls on the west and north, are robust-- perhaps the heat bulb kept them drier or with less temperature variation...) I maybe expected to lose some of the older tulips, but not all that we lost...

Cindy Kinard

My most dramatic loss was my daffodils. For many years I have had a bank of daffodils, probably about 300 or so, that come up like clockwork every spring. I lost every single one. Unbelievable. Don't know the cause for sure. The area where they grew normally has great drainage, but I still suspect rot caused by the top layer of ground thawing before the lower portion and the water must have just sat on top of the frozen soil, rotting the bulbs. I lost a couple of astilbe and a ligularia all of which I've had for years. They surround a pond which had abnormally high water this year (it overflowed the banks, freezing and thawing more than once). A bunch of artemesia Valerie Finnis by the pond that has always been an aggressive spreader all but died out, while the same plant up by the house was fine. Water again is the suspect. Some dwarf bearded irises that have been around for years died, but they were also in the area where the pond overflowed. There are more plants by the pond that died but I can't stand to think about it any more. The good news is the iris loved



the bath! I lost two old peonies for reasons I don't understand at all. Six or seven others planted in the same bed are happy and healthy. No drainage or water issue where the peonies are planted. This loss is a mystery. Lost a few primulas, but most came through with flying colors. One brunnera died, and the other survived – but just barely. I hope we have a better winter/spring for plants next year because if we don't I anticipate a lot more plant losses next year. My Hansa roses survived, but look terrible, and the less well-established lilies aren't looking too great. I also lost a bunch of things that I expected to lose. Some non-vining clematis, and a bunch of tradescantia come immediately to mind.

Laurie Constantino

I lost some plants but I am not sure what they were 'cause my dog knocked out all me labels. I am still trying to identify the survivors. I do have a small rhododendron that survived. Lots of my plants I had wintered in their pots, some buried and some next to the house. About half of each batch survived. I have two bleeding hearts that were huge last year and barely came to this time but they may just need thinning. I'm not sure. My blue poppies came back but are not very tall. One is about to bloom. I am having this infestation of leaf wrapping worms that I am going to try to get rid of. They seem to be on what few trees I do have. Will they ruin my apple tree? I only had three flowers on it. I got some "stuff" from Diamond Greenhouse that I am going to attempt to eradicate the bugs with. We'll see.

MS Doering

I lost all of the Stella d'Oro daylilies that I divided last year - I started with an original three plants 12 years ago and have divided them every couple of years so I had 24 plants. The only one that survived was one I didn't divide last summer. A couple of the clumps are sending up one or two shoots, but the crown is dry and brittle when you dig into it. I lost a peony that had grown and multiplied in the same spot for 10 years - last year it had 10 blooming stems. I finally dug up part of it a couple of days ago. The tubers were "petrified" - fibrous and woody. Bleeding hearts were a complete loss - both traditional garden types and the ferny-leafed variety. One leaf is poking up from a clump that used to fill a four-foot area. I have no idea what happened - I didn't feel like we had a bad winter, or even a strange one.

Blythe Campbell

I lost a lot of heuchera. I think due to the warm, cold winter we had with no snow cover in the beginning. Planted a bunch of heuchera at a friend's yard and they ALL died. Once again, plants that didn't have a deep root system. Some die off on rose canes. Had this last year too. Most of my creeping thyme died out. This thyme has been around for 10 years! Another plant that is a ground cover (can't remember the name) So, it seems that plants that are near the surface of the ground were the most affected. My tip...I put a scented geranium in my greenhouse and haven't had any trouble with aphids even though there is a birch tree right next to the door. I don't treat the birch tree.

Janie Taylor

Surprisingly, I did not lose plants here in Soldotna. But some of my flowering plants bloomed earlier and smaller and I think it was because of the dry spring and me not watering the flower beds.

Barbara Jewell

I am in northeast Anchorage and had more snow cover than most parts of town. I also mulched. It is hard to remember but I lost a couple primroses, which I've lost before, a sedum, some dianthus, snow on the mountain, and a trailing plant with sort of prickly leaves and red flowers – maybe a phlox. Plants near the edge of a raised bed seem to fare the worst. I also have dogs that walk in the beds and compact the snow so that they cause some of the damage. I did not lose any hostas, natives (except Gallium (bedstraw) which surprised me, lilies, peonies, or tulips. A friend in the southwest part of town, where there was little snow cover and lots of ice and wind, lost lots of lilies, some iris (yellow pseudocoris), and hops. We were surprised that three dwarf balsam fir shrubs, which stood in glare ice for months show no damage. I'm guessing it was the rain and melting snow followed by freezing temperatures and no snow cover. Thanks for compiling the list of victims. I'll look forward to reading it.

Patricia Joyner

I didn't lose many plants but we are up on the hillside and don't get the really extreme swings in temperature. I have daffodils that came up but only 3 bloomed out of probably 40. However I have clients that lost some plants. Down by the water a client lost a peony I planted last year and had a very small sample of tulips that returned, another client lost about 95% of the tulips we planted last fall (we think due to ground water that kept flowing through much of the winter and froze and thawed). Hostas seem to be either gone or very slow in returning.

Erika Kienlen

My husband Jim and I bought a house in Palmer last September but I had been dreading leaving my nice walk-through gardens in Anchorage. We started creating these gardens from scratch 9 years earlier. They were so much fun and were maturing so beautifully.

Our Anchorage home sold even before we listed it for sale and I was sure the gardens were a big part of this quick sale. However, when a real estate agent brought us the offer from the buyers it contained a surprise condition. It seems that the buyers had no time for our flower gardens and requested that we remove the plants and put the whole yard into lawn. I was thrilled. Now I wouldn't have to say farewell to my plants. We could just pot up the plants and take them to the 30 acres we purchased in Palmer. We moved our entire garden but it took over 1000 (mostly large) pots. Since it was already mid-September, we wanted to get the plants in the ground as soon as possible but there was limited planting area available. We hastily planted these perennials wherever we could, mostly in rows, with no rhyme, reason, or plan but at least they were in the ground. Thank goodness my 18 year old grandson and his friend had decided at the last minute to visit us from Florida. These two boys were life (plant) savers. They did a great job and they were happy to make some spending money. We would not have been able to do this without their help. All winter I wondered how many plants would make it. I was amazed to find that I lost only ONE. I don't know what happened in Anchorage compared to here in Palmer this past winter that caused so much plant loss there. I do know I am very grateful that our plants did so well after all that work. I'm sure it will take quite some time to again have walk-through gardens that we like so much but it's nice to know we already have so many mature plants.

Connie Sanders

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Garden Question cont... FROM PAGE 3

I'm not a master gardener, but I've gone to some of the classes and events, and someday I'd like to be one! Yes, I lost a lot of plants. I live on the lower Hillside, if that is useful information. I have talked to many people downtown who didn't lose much at all, but lots of people on the Hillside seem to have lost many plants. I'm not sure what was harder on the Hillside for plants last winter; maybe we had more rain?

I didn't mulch my plants with birch leaves last fall like I usually do (my excuse is that I had a baby in late August), and it was a bad year not to mulch.

Iris Pseudocorus (very large and established), Nepeta spp., Hostas, several 5-year old, established peonies, blue poppies; almost all the primroses, including Primula elatior and the later-blooming copper-colored Primula; some older, established Asiatic lilies, many Oriental lilies; Aстранtia (had been transplanted in the fall, so maybe it wasn't happy to begin with); some Lady's Mantle, some Pulmonaria, some large, established bleeding hearts, Coreopsis, Heliopsis helianoides (False Sunflower? I can't remember the Latin name)

Alison Arians

We only lost a one year old Bleeding Heart and one primrose. I think the Bleeding Heart was fairly small when planted last year and was not sufficiently mature to survive. The primrose is a puzzle- the plant next to it survived. They were covered with a heavy layer of raked leaves. I thought our plants were relatively slow to get started in comparison with our fine April and May weather. Having said that, our peony is thriving as it never has and our lilies (Asiatic and Calla) are doing exceptionally well. Our delphiniums are doing well with no worms. I would have to say our tulips (old, seven to ten years) did not do as well as they normally do. I didn't notice any activity from voles or our neighboring cats so I'm not sure to what this may be ascribed. I'm using Messenger for the first time! Wow!

Allison Brown

I lost all of my blue poppies. All were in a south facing bed against the house that was mulched but had no snow cover. I did not expect to lose the blue poppies. I also lost all hybrid geraniums, and did not expect to lose those either. All were mulched, but when I pulled up the big roots they were rotted and wet like they had frozen/thawed too many times. They might have been border-line hardy (but oh so beautiful), I never checked. We also lost one hop plant, two clematis (yellow one with big pods), several astilbe, and all the anemone De Caan (not really that hardy). My "Maureen" tulips, which were planted against the south side of the house, were stunted and pitiful even though they were new bulbs last fall. My peonies made it but are smaller this year. I also lost a bleeding heart. Unmulched. A big surprise.

Maureen Pintner

I lost half my garden. I think it was due to the wet fall combined with lack of snow cover during those really cold spells that we had. Everything appeared to have died from rot. As far as what I lost: all my old fashioned bleeding hearts plus one dwarf bh, all my ladies mantle. Astilbe, coneflower, dwarf shasta daisies, lythrum, various primroses, my blue poppies, 3 wonderful geraniums that I can't remember the name of but I grew them for their foliage as they had a green leaf with brown in the center, and even two hostas. All plants were large well established ones-

not just first year ones. There were a few first year ones in one garden area that I was trying out- don't remember what they were but they are gone. I am not a happy gardener this year as you can imagine. I felt just devastated when I realized they just weren't slow but dead. I still feel like I'm in a state of shock over it all. Oh, as far as what I might have expected to lose, probably the shasta daisies and the coneflower though not necessarily the coneflower. I just knew it was a possible with the cold that we had.

Judith Thomas

I didn't lose much at all this year. I think the worst damage was to my kiwi's and my hardy roses. Several lost canes and were not as robust as usual. I didn't loose any of my very borderline plants. I still have my maidenhair fern and my jack in the pulpit. They have wintered for two years for me in a new bed. I also have not lost any bulbs. I do live in Muldoon which didn't have the snow loss and rain that other parts of town suffered in January. As I was in Maui, that is just hearsay for me! I wintered a huge amount of trees in pots on the west side of my back greenhouse and they all survived just fine. I had a new cutting of an Austria elderberry survive in a pot. Also a bunch of rhodies and azalaleas that haven't been repotted in 4 years. I just put leaves and wood shavings around the pots and left them for the winter. I also had many hardy roses in pots that I layed on their side and covered with leaves. They all survived with no problem at all. All of my flower beds are in great shape and in fact I wish I had lost a few of my weed flowers. The verbascum is HORRIBLE!!! I also have a sheet of butter and eggs that came in a load of compost from the local supplier at Point McKenzie. It is a major problem. If only I could get all of my orphan plants in pots into the ground I could monitor all the weeds???

Sally K

I did not lose much of anything - in fact I cannot think of a single item at this moment. In fact, I had exceptional survival. Roses, blue-eyed-grass, Primula, and many others over wintered above ground in pots. My Primula - and most other plants are exceptionally healthy and early. I have been surprised to hear so many people had problems! No problem here - maybe because of a combination of factors:

- 1. I may have been saved because I do not get as much wind as many other people do. Being down in this "dip" protects me from southern winds (but not northern ones! I did loose most of my snow (several times) but a few inches did stay all winter.*
- 2. The cottonwood trees south of me (in the park) shade most of my garden from the sun in winter, so maybe there was a slower loss of snow during the warm spells.*
- 3. I do not mulch my plants or cut them back in the fall so the crowns are only protected by their own foliage which is airy.*
- 4. My very porous garden soil did not seem to be frozen, so rain and snow melted into the ground, did not ice up around crowns of plants.*

The main work I get around to in my garden is to improve the soil. And NEVER step on it if I can help it. I have paths and do yoga-like stretches to reach the few hard to reach areas. I truly believe that if you create good soil the plants will do the rest.

5. Moose did not visit much this year. I lose more from them stepping on things and recessing the plants into the ground than any other reason.

There many plants that I would have expected to lose. The above ground plants listed above, and several tender Primula, many kinds of iris seedlings and tender shrubs that I transplanted just before the ground froze in the fall. Even my bonsai plants in pots



over wintered in great shape. (The ground did freeze at least a few inches in the fall, but I think it melted later from the latent heat from below the surface after the snows arrived.)

I did lose perennials in a few of my commercial jobs where they were under an eave and/or in parking lot beds where the snow was plowed away next to them so they were particularly susceptible to the drastic changes in the winter temperatures. Many of the perennials had growth start when it was unusually warm and later died when winter-temperatures returned. I had at least a half-inch of new growth on most of these plants during one of the Chinooks. (Euphorbia polychroma was particularly hard hit.) I found Irises were particularly resistant to the temperature fluctuations. I had Iris setosa, I. pseudacorus, I. lactea, I. versicolor, I. spuria (type?), I. siberica hybrids, I. pumilla hybrids, and several others over winter very nicely in all situations.

Debbie Hinchey

The most surprising casualty of the winter has been my garlic. I have had three plants survive out of about thirty or forty planted. It is not just me. Sarah Bean at Arctic Organics has had a similar survival rate.

Dawn Moreau Page

I lost a couple primula and my scotch moss, also 2 hostas, and most of my iris siberica. I believe the reason was too much warming and cooling. And we could have used more snow. The ground did not freeze until very late and did not totally thaw out until this past week. Mel was digging frost and ice 18 inches down in 2 different parts of town around the 7th of June. My friend Charlotte lost her fabulous delphiniums up on Upper DeArmoun.

Judy Christianson

I've lived/gardened at my existing home in Eagle River for 15 years- and this past winter was just a killer for my plants. I lost so many!! Here's only a partial list of plants that I've had for at least a few years that didn't survive:

actinidia kolomikta 'Arctic Beauty' kiwi- didn't live up to it's name! alchemilla mollis- some lived/some died- same area; astilbe- several different varieties; blue poppies- lost them all (different places in garden); clematis 'Jackmanii Superba'- beautiful plant, about 4 years old (I did lose another one two years ago); corydalis elata; epimedium x rubrum- lost 3 plants; but 3 others survived wonderfully in another part of my garden; geranium sanguineum- again, I lost some/others survived/same garden spot; humulus 'Nugget': I keep growing hops, but they only seem to last a few years for me- so this loss wasn't too unexpected; ligularia 'Othello'- lost 2; about 12 years old. Fortunately ALL my other ligularia survived; poeny 'Bowl of Beauty' and 'Felix Crousse'; pulmonaria- several varieties (very sad...); sedum 'Autumn Joy'- this was only a couple of years old. I bought a Finnish rhododendron from Recluse Gardens last year. Just 'stuck' it in a sunny spot, but about 6' from the house (not protected), and it's growing wonderfully. Now I don't want to try and move it! I've had a dictamus (gas plant) growing on a side garden for about 10+ years, and that's growing well. I'm always so pleased to see that pop up each spring. It's not very big (15"), and has only flowered in about the last 5 years! It would break my heart if that croaked.

Can't explain the losses- except for perhaps weather?? What was especially puzzling to me was that I'd had some of the plants

for quite a few years, and yet this past winter was a killer for them. Ah well, the nurseries have benefited from me trying to restock my garden!

Denise Elder

No, didn't lose anything. One peony very slow to poke its little head through, and only had 2 stems, but finally by late May, it showed up. All planted on south side of condo, warmest area around condo, & even with the little snow we had, they were covered most of the winter with snow shoveled off the walk, think that's why they may have made it.

Cynthia Spencer

Yes, we did lose plants, mostly delphiniums and several peonies, and two bleeding hearts; our guess is lack of snow cover, followed by rain, then cold; other peonies planted in the same area are fine. Most of these peonies and delphiniums are over 10 yrs old. Also, we planted 100 or more daffodils, and none came up, many were rotted.

Chloe & Jim Berry

We lost peonies, an Annabell hydrangea, a dogwood of six years, limbs from our Norway maple, a Virginia Creeper and a Joe Pye Weed. The tulips did not develop well. All of the lost perennials were away from the house. Even Dianthus deltoides went kaput. They did re-seed. Some of the Asiatic lilies came back 'wimpy'. The majority of the plants that died or suffered were away from the house by 10-15 feet. For some reason, their root systems appeared to have lost their vigor or rotted. I would have expected to lose the delphiniums but everyone survived. They were located on a high terraced garden bed next to a tall fence and away from the house. The drainage must have been optimum. Strangely enough, annuals came back as volunteers. Lemon Gem marigolds, Shoo Fly, hybrid poppies (supposedly the purple opium kind) and Canary Bird vine (Tropaeolum).

Dana Klinkhart

I did not lose any plants over the winter, though two apple trees and several gooseberries planted in September suffered severe damage for no apparent reason. Other trees and bushes planted along the same fence came back just fine. Don't know why. I had lemon balm come back for the first time ever, and oregano for the second year in a row. Everything so far has bloomed a full two weeks early this year.

Tami Schlies

I lost almost all my bulbs (daffodils, muscari, crocus), centauria macrocephala, many young peonies, Joe Pye Weed, & lots more. There are big holes in my garden! My fern leafed peony & the tree peony are doing fairly well in a raised foundation bed. I lost a few lavender plants, but they self seeded & so I have a lot more than I ever wanted. Most plants are not as vigorous as usual, but the weeds are especially robust this year.

Gina Docherty

The only thing wrong with this growing season is my knees aren't as flexible as they used to be. I can get down and stay down awhile but there better be something I can grab onto to get up!!! Oh yes, and the mosquitos!! Aren't they something this year?? We decided that we need head nets! Hard to believe a little insect like that can keep you out of your garden. But the Valley has BIGGER and meaner ones.

June Juelson

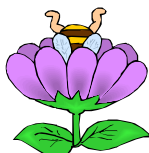


Bird Chatter

Springtime in September Tour Offered

July Bird Chatter

- Congratulations to Ginny Jacober for being the first MG of the 2004 class to complete her volunteer hours! Linda Coy, Kathy Honeysett, Gordon Pyle, and Lois Hall have also done 40 hours, plus more.
- There is a new Palmer State Fair entry category for 2005– **VEG HEADS**. It's an open division which means adults, as well as kids can participate.
- The statewide Master Gardener database includes a Love, Lovejoy and Loveless. That just about covers everything! (Our own Anchorage MG is Margaret Love.)
- A beautiful picture of Marcy Vreeland in her container garden was featured in the Anchorage Daily News on June 23. The article also gave great ideas offered by MGs Pat Anderson, Linda Klinkhart, Marge Olson, Mary Shier and AMGA member Susan Miller.
- The article on Annie Nevaldine's garden featured in the Better Homes & Garden special issue magazine, PERENNIALS, was highlighted in "Notes from the Potting Shed", a summer ADN column being written by Cathy Carpenter.
- What did Prince Charles wear in his lapel for his wedding? Hellebore, Perennial Plant of the Year (William and Harry, too). And speaking of hellebore, Mary Jo Burns had hellebore bloom in May.
- If you're landscaping this summer and plan to dig, make sure to contact the Locate Call Center to mark underground utilities, 278-3121. The Danger Tree Hotline with ML&P is 263-5463.
- While MG Gordon Pyle was staffing the CES Horticulture Hotline, a call came in from the Philadelphia Master Gardener Association. The caller said **Alaska had the best MG web site**. Way to go Gina! We agree.
- Overheard at an Anchorage Garden Club meeting: Sally Karabelnikoff is part of an original Mat-Su Colonist family. Carmel Tysver's grandfather was a Colonist. The Alaska State Fair was first held in 1936, thanks to the Colonists, on the site of the Palmer Pioneer Home.



Friendship Force International announces a gardeners' trip which will explore gardens, parks and floral festivals of springtime Australia, Sept. 4-28. "**Adventures in Down Under Gardens**" offers 16 nights of homehosting with Australian citizens in three diverse regions of Queensland and New South Wales along with 6 nights of hotel stay in Cairns and Sydney.

Highlights include the Toowoomba Mountain Garden Festival & parade (Aussie's version of the Rose Bowl parade), a daylong catamaran trip on the Great Barrier Reef, Canberra's Floriade Festival, visits to private gardens, public botanical gardens and national parks, trip to an aboriginal cultural center, kangaroos sightings, tram ride over the rainforest, cruise of Sydney Harbor and a day in Brisbane plus lots more.

Friendship Force International promotes international friendship through citizen exchanges with over 500 chapters in 54 countries. www.friendshipforce.org or www.ffbr.org You do not need to be a member of Friendship Force to join this gardening adventure, but must agree to abide by the goals of international friendship. This exchange is open to gardening enthusiasts throughout the United States. You do not need to be a Master Gardener to join this exchange, but must have the desire to learn about Australian native plants.

The fee of \$3795 includes round trip international airfare via Qantas from Los Angeles International to Sydney, four internal flights via Qantas within Australia, 22 nights accommodation (double occupancy), tour/entry fees and gratuities. Airfare from your hometown to Los Angeles and travel insurance are not included. Trip is limited to 20 participants and 9 slots remain open.

For additional information, contact Vicki Vance, Friendship Force of Baton Rouge, (225) 275-3816 or vcvance@aol.com

More Email from "Down Under"

Remember the lasagna garden idea? Robyn Parry, a gardener from Australia, sent an email to the AMGA with information on her ebook & CD Rom titled: "No Dig Gardening", or lasagna gardening. Robyn offers the CD Rom and e-book downloads at very low cost. Information can be found at: www.nodiggarden.com



Master Gardener Help Needed

The Cooperative Extension Service will have a display at the **Alaska Garden & Arts Festival**, July 23 at the Palmer Fairgrounds. Master Gardeners are needed to staff a booth near the vegetable garden (along with Palmer Agriculture Agent, Peter Bierman.) Shifts are 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 2 p.m.-5 p.m. (The Mat-Su Master Gardeners are having their own display and will be selling plants. Julie Riley will be giving tours in the Eckert Memorial Herb Garden at 11:30, 1:30 and 2:30.)

Invasive Weed Identification Workshop

If you're free on Friday, July 15th from 1-3 p.m., there's an opportunity to learn more about weeds, especially those that are considered invasive species. CES staff Michael Rasy, Jamie Snyder, Julie Riley, and Corlene Rose will have live specimens for you to study. Irina Lapina with UAA's Natural Heritage Program will be on hand to help figure out the weeds that are especially hard to identify. The workshop is free, but please call to register as space is limited, 786-6300. Bring along your favorite "bad plant" or any weeds you'd like identified.

AMGA Directory revisions

- Mary Shier e-mail: mshier.anch@juno.com
- Mary Jo Burns e-mail: burns2@qci.net
- Susan Young PO Box 771364
- Kathy Honeysett 349-6407

AMGA Directories Available

If you were late in paying your AMGA dues this year and did not receive a Directory, additional copies have been photocopied and are available at the CES office.

- A heartfelt thanks to MG Bob Welsh, Spenard Builders Supply, for donating left-over seed to the Cooperative Extension Service to be distributed at events and to be used with special gardening groups next spring.

AMGA JULY MEETING CHANGES

The July meeting has been changed to **July 25th** (1 week later than usual) at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will begin at Mary Shire's home for a potluck. Drinks will be provided by the club. At 7:30 we will adjourn to Brock and Janice Shamborg's house where Brock will give us a tour of his evergreen collection which is quite different than the few offered by local stores.

Take the New Seward Highway to DeArmoun Road. Turn east (up the hill) on DeArmoun, & drive 1.5 miles - McDonell will be on the left just at the big turn in the road. Mary's house is the 2nd driveway on the left. Mary Shier's address is 13840 McDonell St. The Shamborg's live at the end of McDonell Rd. Call Mary for information: 345-1562.

Gardening Calendar

July 6, Wednesday

Wildflower Garden Club - Verna Pratt: Hatcher Pass Tour - Bring your cameras & notepads as we expand your knowledge of Alaska's alpine flora. Carpool @ Fred Meyers on DeBarr, left of the Freddy's sign.

July 9 & 10, Saturday

Blue Poppy Garden Tour - 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm; Come see professional growers Stan and Dona Ashmore's beautiful garden filled with many varieties of poppies, including the striking blue poppies. Mile 9 Wolverine Road, Palmer. \$10 per person benefits ABG.

July 15, Friday

Lighthouse Garden Tea. 3pm-7pm - Explore fabulous gardens and beautiful views at a riverfront home in Eagle River; enjoy a light meal and live music. This year's theme is "Gone Fishing". Tickets \$30 (reservations required).

July 16 & 17, Saturday/Sunday

Coyote Garden Tour at Les Brake's home, mile 7 Willow/Fishhook Rd., Willow. Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 12pm-5pm. A visit to this garden featured in Horticulture Magazine, Sunset, Country Gardens, and Gardens Illustrated. Donations benefit ABG and Willow Garden Club.

July 25, Monday

AMGA meeting and potluck NOTE CHANGES IN ARTICLE THIS PAGE!!!

July 23, Saturday

Monsen Garden Tour at the home of Mel and Lisa Monsen home. 12801 Wellsford Circle in south Anchorage. Sat 12pm-5pm See mature roses, fruit trees, and extensive raised vegetable beds. Admission \$10 per person benefits ABG.

July 31, Sunday

Anchorage Garden Club Annual City Garden Tour - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Come view 6-8 gardens around the city. Locations will be in the Anchorage Daily News on Friday July 29. View the gardens in any order between noon and 5pm. Please no strollers, high heels, uncontrolled children or dogs and please be respectful of the gardens.

August 4, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club Program - "Dried Flower Arrangements / Preparing Plants for a Flower Show" - presented by Camille Williams and Letti Delk - 7:30 - 9 p.m., Pioneer Schoolhouse @ 3rd & Eagle St. - Information can be found @ 566-0539, or <http://communitynews.adn.agclub>

August 6-7, Saturday/Sunday

Anchorage Garden Club - 62nd Annual Flower Show - Saturday 1pm-9pm, Sunday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Alaska Botanical Garden - Admission Free. A standard flower show with horticulture exhibits as well as flower design exhibits. Anyone can enter. A booklet listing rules and categories should be available in late April. Either e-mail or leave a message on our voice mail to receive a copy. Call 566-0539 for details. <http://communitynews.adn.agclub>

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!)

Happy Fourth of July!



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