

Anchorage Chapter



Volume 7, Issue 6

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER May 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Dana Klinkhart

Spring showers bring May flowers - maybe sooner than later this year. Are you seeing an earlier than usual development in your yard? By April 15th the bleeding hearts and Alliums were a foot high in the southern exposure next to my house. The bulbs and Primula were especially anxious to make an appearance early, too. Risking being reported by the neighbors of exhibiting strange behavior, I snuck around and took soil temperatures in mid April with a digital probe. Three inches from the house on a southern exposure the temperature recorded 43 degrees. Seventy inches farther out, the probe read 37 degrees. In a raised flower bed twenty feet from the house, the temperature recorded 34 degrees. In my back yard a bed facing south and on a raised brick against the wooden fence about 30 feet from the house a temperature of 39 degrees was recorded. This must be a very efficient heat sink. These samples were recorded at a depth of six inches. It would be interesting to hear from gardeners of their observations in their yards this spring.

It's not too early to get in the swing of things - there are many "not to be missed" gardening events coming up. Lots of gardening information will be taught, talked about, or shared - you just need to take the time and effort to attend. There are programs and community school classes available on Giant Vegetables, Container Gardening, Responsible Lawn Care, Invasive Plants and a Lobelia Workshop. The Rock Garden Society is bringing up Graham Nichols, a noted author and Alpine Expert, to speak on "The Cultivation of North American Alpines". There are many happenings at the Alaska Botanical Gardens. Garden tours will start soon, the first probably being Sally Arant's garden with the opening of In the Garden Nursery. Soon the plant sales will be happening and you don't want to miss these! ABG will be having plant sales as well as the Garden Club, Rose Society, Rock Garden Society, and tree sales on Arbor Day!

The May AMGA program is another program not to be missed: "Constructing willow chairs, tables and footstools", presented by Debbie Filter. It should be very informative & fun. I am so looking forward to this! Come early, the last few classes have been almost standing room only.

Check the Gardening Event calendar in this issue, or check the AMGA web site for times, locations & costs. Plan ahead and don't miss out on these educational offerings. You just might learn something useful or interesting!

Rest up friends, the gardening season is about to burst wide open. AND DON'T FORGET TO VOLUNTEER! That's what Master Gardening is all about!

CES CELEBRATES ITS 75TH

Here's another nugget from Extension's 75 years in Alaska-

With the settlement of the Alaska Native Land Claims in 1972 and North slope oil production early in the decade, new sources of revenue and educational needs expanded sharply. Associated with a state sponsored large scale farm development project at Delta, the Governor's office funded an agricultural extension agent position at Delta... Beginning extension work with reindeer industry on the Seward Peninsula occurred soon afterwards.

Excerpted from "University of Alaska's Cooperative Extension service History, 1950-2003" written by Dr. James Matthews, 2/04.





April's AMGA Meeting

By Jo Anne Banta

Over 50 master gardeners attended the April meeting – all suffering from spring fever and anxious for the annual planting ritual. Judy Christianson and Mary Shier already have seedlings going for the Pioneer Home gardens; and Tracy Johnson was busily signing up volunteers for planting at the Botanical Gardens.

Marianne Kerr, 4-H director, was there with fund-raiser coupons for Bell's Nursery or P&M. A \$30 coupon is worth twelve 4-packs of bedding plants, while \$40 will buy a 12" hanging basket. Coupons are still available at the CES office. Marge Olson told of the willow furniture classes being given this summer in Trapper Creek. Debbie Filter, the instructor, will be the main feature at May's AMGA meeting. Judy Christianson suggested a stroll down the Coastal Trail towards the Rasmussen home where several wonderful copper wind-sculptures have just been installed. The lovely constantly-moving sculptures range from 5 feet to over 20 feet and can be glimpsed through the trees from the Trail.

Greg Lyall, the evening's main speaker, introduced "Water Gardens." Greg says he is an engineer by vocation, a landscaper by avocation, and we could certainly see why. We were enthralled by his power-point pictures of landscaping with water: ponds, large and small, complete with waterfalls; ponds with lovely plant growth; ponds from around the world, many with koi, attracting frogs and other wildlife; and even acoustic ponds.

Some of the many things to consider when planning a water garden are size, location, form, underlayment, pump type and size, aeration, and drainage. Then there are water plants (Be sure they're not invasive.), edging, and things like ballast and depth (Koi, for instance, require a depth of three feet in order to survive the winter.) Should you be seriously considering a pond, contact Greg Lyall. You'll find him in your new AMGA Directory.

Gardening Books for Children

by Linda Coy

Learning fractions with apples, understanding the importance of rain forests, or knowing how a flower grows into fruit are just a few of the things that can be taught to young and old alike with books written especially for children. Beautiful illustrations and colorful photographs add tremendously to understanding the concepts presented. Master Gardener, Linda Coy, reviewed 42 gardening books for children and added summaries in order to make it easier for parents, educators, and children to find the right book that answers questions and provides enjoyment for children of all ages. This list is now available through the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service. Another good resource for children's books is jmg.com (the Junior Master Gardening link).

PBS SMART GARDENING features MGs

Last summer a television crew from Oregon State University was in Alaska filming gardeners for SMART GARDENING, a T.V. series that features gardens from across the country. New segments of SMART GARDENING started airing March 26 and included beautiful footage of MG Amelia and John Walsh's rock garden and water feature. April.

SMART GARDENING is different from most gardening shows in that it is shot in High Definition and has content conceived and verified by experts in concordance with the Cooperative Extension Services of the Land Grant University System. Log on to SMART GARDENING's website (<http://www.smartgardeningtv.com/>) to find an incredible array of supplemental material which partners with each of the shows.

The show airs here on KAKM (Channel 7) at 8:00 a.m. To figure out which topics will be shown on any given Saturday, see KAKM's program guide by clicking on the calendar on their home page, <http://kakm.org/KAKM-Index-2.html>. Gardeners interviewed include: Mel Monsen (warm season vegetables), Annie Nevaldine (lilies), Carmel Tysver (hypertufa), Les Brake (color in the garden), Jerry Conrad (garden furniture), Don Dinkel and his granddaughter (giant cabbage), Steve Bowhay (Glacier Gardens' upside down trees, Juneau), and Ed Buyarski (primroses).

Segments already aired in April featured Juneau and the Alaska Botanical Garden herb garden with Julie Riley. If you like, contact KAKM to thank them for purchasing the series.

Excerpted from "University of Alaska's Cooperative Extension service History, 1950-2003" written by Dr. James Matthews, 2/04.

Outdoor Seed Planting using Presprouted Seeds in Seed Gel

Submitted by Jane Baldwin

Plants will grow in cooler soil temperatures than what is needed to germinate seeds.

To get a "jump start" on planting seeds outdoors, plant presprouted seeds using a "seed gel" for planting convenience:

- Sprout seeds in a warm place (wet paper plate covered with a wet paper towel, etc.)
- Make Seed Gel: Mix a rounded Tablespoon of cornstarch in a cup of cold water. Bring to a boil stirring to prevent lumps, and continue stirring while you cool the pan over cold water.
- Pour the cooled gel into a small plastic bag (easy to do if you put the bag in a cup). Add sprouted seeds and stir/mix gently to distribute in the gel. Fasten the bag with a twist tie. (You can refrigerate for a few days at this point.)
- Cut off a small corner of the bag and squeeze the gel into a shallow furrow and cover with about ¼" of soil. It is said to be great for small seeds because thinning is not needed.

This interesting concept was suggested by a gardener in Wisconsin, although she hadn't actually tried it yet. I think I'll give it a try (maybe with carrots?).

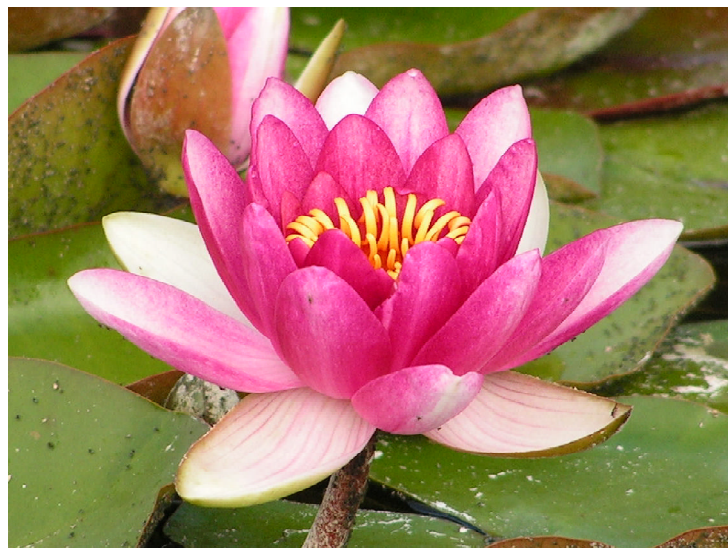


Hybrid Water Lilies in Alaska

By Stephanie Moore

Many people are attracted to specific aspects of water gardening, including growing water plants, landscaping, keeping fish, installing fountains and waterfalls and the technical aspects of maintaining good water quality. My own chief interests are cultivating hybrid water lilies and trying to keep my goldfish in good health. I have gardened all my life, but started concentrating on water gardening after we fenced our two Whippets in with the flowers. Whippets dig avidly but swim only reluctantly.

In my area - Eagle River - water lilies want as much sun as possible and the warmest water I can give them. Although I tried to locate my greenhouse and later ponds in sunny areas, I found that our low sun angle and long shadows even in mid-summer make it difficult to get six hours of continuous strong sun - the minimum required by most lily varieties. Accordingly, I have selected many of my lilies from types listed as blooming well with only four hours of sun.



Even an unusually warm spell barely sees my ponds over 65 degrees, and they are closer to 60 degrees during most of the summer. I start my plants out in the greenhouse and move them outdoors in late May or early June, placing them on pond shelves or supports to raise them within inches of the water surface. Vigorous plants are moved deeper as they start growing well. My ponds are all shallow: not over 30 inches deep. I have had excellent success with a number of red, pink and white varieties. Yellows and "changeables" have been generally less satisfactory; I have been told that the "sunset changeables" need 70 degree water. Last summer, I had blooms on at least fifteen varieties of hardy water lilies.

Water lilies perform best planted in heavy soil in large containers, where they can be left to grow undisturbed for several years. I generally use 11 inch mesh baskets, as a compromise with the weight of larger containers. I supplement my sandy soil with clay and manure and fertilize at least monthly with aquatic fertilizer.

Like most perennials, water lilies are likely to bloom better the second and subsequent years after being divided and replanted. Even vigorous growers may not bloom at all the first year. This brings us to the topic of over-wintering. Hardy hybrid lilies will only survive winter if their rhizomes are prevented from freezing. Rather than trying to deal with ponds deep enough to not freeze solid, I bring my lilies in and store them over winter. I have almost 100% success storing them in water in my garage. Other people do quite well storing them in plastic bags in cool, dark areas. The fish come inside, too.

Although our yard landscaping is mostly a work-in-progress by the dogs, I derive a great deal of pleasure from decorating the edges of my water gardens with pots of water-loving plants like iris, cannas, callas, mints and impatiens. I am gradually working my way through commercial offerings of deep- and shallow-water marginals, floating plants and oxygenators, almost none of which are hardy here. For their hardiness and beauty, I continue to favor the simple native plants like our wild calla lilies and marsh marigold. Yellow iris (*pseudacorus*) can also be over-wintered by lifting the pot and digging it into the vegetable garden. Water cress seeds itself in my bog and is invaluable for covering pot and pond edges.

We have a rather limited pond season, but one nice thing about water gardening in Alaska is that nobody hesitates to sell you water hyacinths. I had so many last year that I was throwing them in the slough, but we can all rest assured that there is no chance of their naturalizing to threaten our waterways.



DIRT CHEAP GARDENING

By Sheri Walker, MG

Seeds and seed starting kits have shown up at the grocery and department stores, indicating its time to think about gardening. If you're addicted to gardening like I am, it can become rather expensive, especially if you go for all the kits and gadgets that are available. With a little knowledge, imagination, improvisation and patience, you can have a much less expensive hobby and still enjoy a beautiful garden.

Plants:

Generally, it is less expensive to start your own plants from seed. If you are a beginner, plant seeds that are easy to start such as sunflower, peas, radishes, spinach, zucchini. Follow the directions on back of the seed packet.

Grow plants that are hardy in your climate. There's nothing more disappointing than planting something that dies because it is not suitable for the hardiness zone. So be aware that some of the "non-nursery" type stores that sell plants in the spring only, may have non-hardy plants in stock.

Buy healthy plants that have been cared for properly. You may find a "great" deal at a big box store but make sure it's been watered appropriately, that it has not become root bound nor has nasty pests on it. A local nursery may be your best bet in the long run even if it costs slightly more. A healthy plant will turn out better.

Friends and neighbors who garden will most likely have divisions, cuttings or seeds that they would be happy to share with you for free. Or learn how to divide, take cuttings or gather seeds from your own best plants. You may end up with more than you can use and they make great gifts, or swapped with other gardeners for something you need. Another saving!

Plant self-sowing seeds. With a little patience, a little garden can become a larger, more beautiful garden in subsequent years. Self-sowing plants include: sweet alyssum, poppies, forget-me-nots, columbine and many others.

Plant fast growing types. You won't need so many plants and by the end of the season or next year, they will have filled in the bare spots. Just make sure not to get invasive plants or they will take over. Contact the Cooperative Extension Service to find out what plants are invasive.

Grow native plants. They are well adapted to weather conditions, and therefore require less care (your time is worth something too). Natives usually do well and therefore replacement costs will be kept low.

Shop at local garden club and Master Gardener sales.

Buy at the end of the season when nurseries are trying to get rid of plants, shrubs and trees and have them at deep discounts. There is usually still plenty of time to plant so the roots get established.

Buy smaller plants – they will become large with time. Larger ones have required more labor and therefore are more expensive.

However, if the larger plant can be divided into 2 or 3 plants, it may be cheaper to buy the larger one. Do the math!

Containers:

Seed starting: Recycle

Pots and cell packs from previous plants bought at the nursery (wash well first, preferably with a solution of bleach to prevent disease)

Small yogurt or other plastic containers from the kitchen. Punch drainage holes in the bottom.

Meat trays (washed well) make great trays for setting starter pots on

Newspaper strips rolled into cylinders and secured on the edge can be filled with seed starting mix and then planted directly in the garden once seedlings are big enough. The newspaper will decompose and add organic matter to the soil.

Egg shells – poke a hole in the bottom for drainage, fill with starter mix and sow seeds. Use the top of the carton to hold shells. When seedlings are ready to be transplanted, crush shell slightly to allow roots to penetrate and plant in garden. The shells will also decompose. Remember that these will be tiny containers so they won't work for plants that need to be very large before being transplanted.

Be aware that the peat pots you can buy may NOT decompose in Alaska's cold soil, so if you use them to start your seeds, you may not be able to put them in garden without removing the pots.

For Display:

Use your imagination. Anything that can hold soil and have drainage holes drilled in the bottom can be used as a planter.

I deas:

- Buy inexpensive plastic or clay pots and dress them up with paint, seashells, twine, raffia, what ever takes your fancy.
- Leaky watering cans
- Old pairs of boots
- Rusted out wheelbarrows

Mulch:

Prevents freeze/thaw cycle in winter and helps retain moisture and provide weed control in summer. Organic mulches tend to work best for thrifty gardeners because they are usually easier to come by, less expensive (or free) and do double duty by contributing to soil fertility. Here are some to get you started:

- Newspaper
- Compost – make your own with information from the Cooperative Extension Service
- Shredded leaves – if you haven't got enough ask your neighbors. They would probably gladly give you theirs especially if you offered to rake them up!
- Pine needles
- Straw
- Bark chips from local tree trimmer

If you don't like the look of these you can cover them with a thin layer of decorative mulch, which will cost much less than using decorative mulch for the full thickness.



Information:

The more knowledge you have about your soil, plants, water requirements etc, the better able you will be to save money in the garden. Gardening books cost money; however, it is well worth it to have a good basic "text" for your area. Don't get hooked on all those beautiful garden books that show fabulous gardens from exotic corners of the earth. Ask your gardening friends and neighbors. And remember to call the Cooperative Extension. They have all the garden info you could ever want and it all relates to this area. Furthermore, most of it is FREE!!

AMGA Needs Everyone's Help!

Every year, the Anchorage Master Gardeners plants and maintain flower beds at the Pioneer Home and the entrance bed at the Alaska Botanical Garden. This is a big job for the group to take on, but the results are worth it to provide a more beautiful community!

Planting takes place at the end of May (no dates have been set yet). If you are interested in helping with the planting, let me know and we will contact you when the dates are set.

Maintenance is needed all summer. Two volunteers are signed up at each bed for each week of the summer. We need a lot of volunteers! For your week (Sunday through Saturday), you and the other volunteer care for the bed, watering, weeding and deadheading. Depending on the weather, and how you and your partner divide the chores, you might make 1-3 visits that week. The week goes by quickly. The bed coordinator will call or e-mail to remind you, tell you who your partner is, and answer questions. Summer is very busy with gardens, visitors and traveling, but we need everyone to help on this. Just pick one week where you can spare a few hours. It's fun and rewarding, believe it or not!

Please let me know which week or weeks you can sign up for. Most weeks are still open, so give me your request. Pick which bed is closer to home or maybe work. Sign up with a friend and spend the time "catching up" while you tend the garden. If everyone takes one week, it will make this huge task much easier to manage. Call or e-mail me.

Linda Klinkhart, MG Volunteer Coordinator Phone: 345-2672
Email: gek@gci.net

SPRING GARDENS

The Anchorage District 4-H Leaders Association members are selling coupons for Bells Nursery. These coupons are for a flat of annuals or a hanging basket of fuchsias, geraniums, campanulas, begonias or petunias.

- How: Buy a coupon at the CES - \$30 per flat of annuals or \$40 per hanging basket (flat=12 4 packs...hanging baskets are 12")
- When: Time for you to get ready for your gardens and flowers?
- Take your coupons to any Bells location* between May 1-31, and get what you want.
- Details: Write a check to "Anchorage South Rotary" and fill out your coupon. We take your check, you'll get the flowers. We appreciate your support of the Anchorage District 4-H clubs and members.

*Bells on Cranberry, Specking and P&M Gardens in Eagle River

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT OR LANDSCAPE DESIGNER?

What is the difference between a landscape architect and a landscape designer? Peter Briggs, Vice-President of the Alaska Chapter of the Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and Landscape Architect with Land Design North makes the following comparison.

"The easy answer is that when it comes to residential design, probably not much. The big difference is a person's knowledge and skills and how they relate to what you want for your design. The two terms are a legal necessity because landscape architecture is a legislated profession where individuals need to meet certain minimum standards of competence. These relate to the health and safety of the public. Most large or commercial projects require a landscape architect, but residential can be well served by a landscape designer."

Recently the Alaska Chapter of ASLA surveyed its members to see who was interested in hearing from residential clients. The Anchorage members are listed below.

Sally Arant, Landscape Designer, 345-9168
Peter Briggs, Landscape Architect, 276-5885
Tamás Deák, Landscape Architect, 274-7443
Sharon Ferguson, Landscape Architect, 258-2125
Mark Kimerer, Landscape Architect, 276-5885
Ed Leonetti, Landscape Architect, 563-9896
Erma MacMillan, Landscape Designer, 276-7836 ext. 16
I sobel Roy, Landscape Designer, 349-1266
Travis Taylor, Landscape Designer, 276-5885

An excellent website with suggestions on "How to Hire a Landscape Architect" can be found" at http://www.ehow.com/how_17940_choose-landscape-architect.html. The same series also carries pages on "How to Know When to Hire a Landscape Professional" and "How to Hire a Gardener".

New Home for a Boston Fern

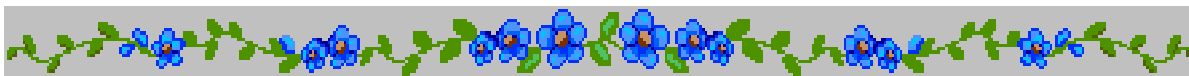
A friend of Annie Nevaldine's, Mrs. Sonju (pronounced "Song-you"), has four large, lush, and beautiful 20-year-old Boston ferns for which she is looking to find good homes. She can be contacted directly at 277-9442.

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



[Editor's Note: Rosemary Kimball is out of state & sends her regards. Hopefully she will be writing her popular article again next month. We miss you Rosemary!]



Bird Chatter

- The April 2005 issue of Horticulture magazine included a "Letter to the Editor" from Rosemary Kimball on her crops, pests and control measures.
 - MG Kit Gurule has just finished revising Cooperative Extension Service's list of garden centers and greenhouses for the Anchorage Area including Indian, Eagle River, Chugiak, Palmer and Wasilla. Contact CES if you'd like a copy, 786-6300
- Mary Shier, Michelle Semerad, Margaret Love, Julie Riley et al. are looking for others interested in herbs to join them in planting and caring for the herbs at the Alaska Botanical Garden.
- Gleaned from the Wildflower Garden Club– Calendula petals add beautiful coloring to rice dishes. Plant in your flower garden and harvest for your kitchen.
- Good University of Alaska ladybug website to check out: <http://www.alaska.edu/opa/el nfo/index.xml?StoryID=118>
- Master Gardener Anita Williams will once again be working at the Alaska Botanical Garden this summer as Assistant Horticulturist.
- Carol Ross will be planting two evergreens in memory of her husband who was killed in an accident last winter.
- As part of her Master Gardener pay-back time, Courtney Cox-Akers is organizing a tour of Spenard gardens. Get in touch with her if you're interested in being featured on the tour, 646-0656.
- AMGA Directories not picked up at the April meeting or at the CES volunteer office will be available at the May 16th meeting.

Benefit Plant Sale for the Chugiak Senior Center Activity Fund.

The sale is Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in their north parking lot. I would like to invite others that are willing to donate a portion of their sales to attend. We will be selling over 30 varieties of own root (hardy) roses including Jackson and Perkins and Nor East minis. Also for sale are 49 varieties of tomatoes. We have many heirlooms, different colors and plants that originated in different countries. Contact: Dani Haviland, Phone: 688-3998 or email: dani.haviland@gmail.com

CLITHEROE SEEKS DONATION OF FLOWERS

The Salvation Arm Clitheroe Residential Treatment Center has a beautiful south-facing bed they'd like to fill with perennial flowers. When you're dividing perennials or weeding out seedlings, think of them. They also plant quite a few annuals and have a vegetable garden area fenced off from moose. Please call Julie if you know you'll have plants to donate. If you'd like to head-up the project by gathering the donations to take out there, that would be great too!

MG Volunteer Opportunities

The rush is on! The big push for volunteer help is now. Things quiet down for the summer. There will be displays at the ABG Fair and home shows, but unless you're planning on working with a gardening group or answering hort phones, volunteer opportunities will be less.

ABG Docent Program

The Alaska Botanical Garden is putting together a docent program for the Garden this summer. Barbara Miller has information packets that she is asking volunteers to pick up now. In the Garden training has been set for Tuesday, May 24, 10:00 a.m. or Friday, May 27, 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in being an ABG docent as part of your 40 hours of volunteer service, please contact Barbara Miller at 770-3692 or horticulture@alaskabg.org.

ABG Garden Tours for grades 1, 3 & 5

Retired teacher and gardener extraordinaire, Susan Brusehaber, has developed an elementary education series at the Alaska Botanical Garden. She is looking for Master Gardeners who could lead garden tours for classrooms April 26 – June 3 and then again in the fall. Tours will take place Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Susan's contact information is sbrusehaber@aol.com; 694-9772.

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 (or even presenting on one day). 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, please contact Kit at 742-5340 and let Julie know.

4-H Garden Club

Consider starting a 4-H Gardening Club in your neighborhood or to take care of a garden at the Anchorage Senior Center or Youth Hostel. Participants would be eligible to exhibit at the District and State Fairs. Kids should be going into 4th grade or older. Two Master Gardeners/8 kids are good working numbers. For more information contact Julie or Marianne Kerr, Anchorage 4-H & Youth Development Agent, 786-6300.

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.

Clare House/McAuley Manor Garden Party Benefit

This wonderful plant sale is like no other. Gardeners enjoy entertainment and food as they make their plant selections. Master Gardeners help with sales and by answering questions. For specific date and volunteer contact information, get in touch with Julie Riley, 786-6300.



Talking Plant presentations

Master Gardeners are offering a 45 minute presentation called the 4-H Talking Plant to every interested 2nd grade class in the Anchorage School District. MG Kathy Honeysett is in charge of organizing this effort. If you'd like to be involved or schedule a presentation at a private school, please let her know, 349-6407 or honeysettdaniels@gci.net. School ends in early June.

JAMES MATTHEWS SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Upon his retirement in 1987, CES Director Dr. James W. Matthews set up a scholarship fund for volunteers. Applications are due twice a year. **June 1st** and Dec. 1st. According to Dr. Matthews, "Volunteers have been an extremely important part of the Extension educational system throughout its history. It is hoped that this fund can be a catalyst to encourage them to take advantage of leadership training opportunities in which they otherwise might not be able to participate."

In the past, the committee reviewing scholarship applications has defined leadership in the broadest of terms. Proposals that are often funded include many kinds of conferences and training. If you've got an idea for something you'd like to do, as an Extension volunteer you're eligible. Please take a look at the web site for more information, <http://www.uaf.edu/coop-ext/matthews/> or contact the CES office for an application.

Gardening Calendar

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 11, Wednesday

Spring Clean Up Day at the ABG - 9am-4pm - Volunteers needed to help set up the nursery, remove mulch from flower beds and do light trail maintenance.

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

May 16, Monday

*ARBOR DAY, join the Anchorage Garden Club/MOA/ConocoPhillips for their Arbor Day Celebration at Airport Heights Elementary School, 2:00 p.m.

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

May 17, Tuesday

"Container Gardening", 7-8:30 p.m. Sandy St. George, Master Gardener, \$8, Baxter Community School. Preregistration required; register on line <http://www.akcommunityschools.org>.

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 DeArmour Rd.

May 21, Saturday

*"Right Plant for the Right Place", 10:30 a.m. Alaska Botanical Garden, Julie Riley, CES (also includes ABG plant sale), 786-6300.

*Annual Plant Sale and Membership Drive, at the ABG nursery. Recruit a friend to join and come early. Purchase old favorites as well as new plant varieties. 10am-12pm ABG members only, 12-4pm public welcome -

May 23 thru Sept. 10, Tues-Sat

ABG Nursery Open. 9am-5pm - ABG and American Horticultural Society members get 10% discount on Nursery sales.

May 23, Monday

"Container Gardening", 7-8:30 p.m. Sandy St. George, Master Gardener, \$8, Abbot Loop Community School, preregistration required, 742-5418.

May 24, Tuesday

"Environmentally Responsible Lawn Care", 7-8:30 p.m. Julie Riley, CES, \$8, Inlet View Community School, preregistration required, 276-6722.

May 26, Thursday

"Invasive Plants", 6:30-8 p.m. Jamie Snyder, CES, \$8, Abbot Loop Community School, preregistration required, 742-5418.

May 30, Monday

Memorial Day CES office closure

June 4- August 31

Shop in the ABG. ABG and American Horticultural Society members get 10% discount on gift shop sales. Wed 1pm-7pm, Sat 10am-4pm

June 4 - August 31, Wed & Sat

Guided Tours of the Alaska Botanical Garden Meet at the ABG entrance for a docent led tour. Call ahead (770-3692) if you have more than 15 people. (Master Gardeners will be leading these tours; if you want to volunteer to docent, give ABG a call.) Children's Tours - Wed & Sat 10am, Adult Tours - Wed & Sat 11:30am, Children \$3, Adults \$5, Families \$10

June 7, 9, 14 & 16

"Floral Design Workshop" - noon - 3:00 p.m. Sharon Hoffbeck, Master Gardener. Fee: \$45 (each class includes creating a floral design participants can take home) Registration deadline: June 1. Contact James or Celeste in the Senior Center office, 258-7823.

June 8 - August 24, Wed

Storytime in the Garden. 6:30pm - Come hear nature stories. For kids age 3 to 5 with caregiver. Cancelled if raining.

June 23, Thurs

Opening Gala at ABG - 4pm-7pm - Enjoy a fabulous buffet with wine and live music. Take a docent led tour and learn the secrets of the Garden. Chat with local gardening experts: Jeff Lowenfels, Mel Monsen, Verna Pratt, and Julie Riley. \$15 per person (with Secret Garden Series), otherwise \$25, reservations required. Call ABG office 770-3692 for reservations.

June 23- Aug 11, Thurs eves

ABG - Secret Garden Series. Features gala opener and up to 7 private gardens. Chat with the owners in an unhurried atmosphere. Learn about the importance of hardscape, using native stone, starting seeds, dividing perennials, pruning specialty trees and how to grow a living wreath.



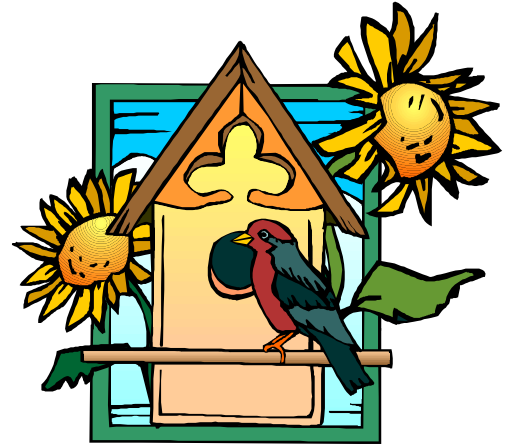
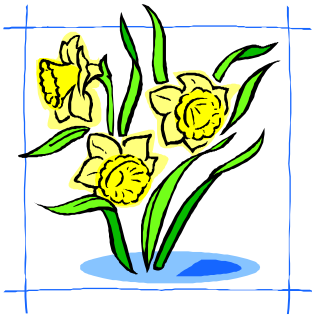
The Anchorage Chapter of the Alaska Master Gardeners Association welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. Contact the editor, Gina Docherty, at:

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(The Newsletter will be on-line in living color!)



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For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:

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