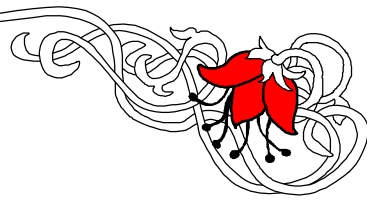


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 8, Issue 10

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER October 2006

Honor our Hard-Working Municipal Horticulture Staff

Mayor Mark Begich proclaimed Monday, September 25th as Honor our Hard-Working Horticulture Staff Day. He read the following proclamation during a celebration at the Municipal Greenhouse which included live music by MOA Gardener Pierre who sang an original piece about Alice Sauvageau's 19 years watering the hanging baskets downtown:

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ALASKA PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the horticulture staff is required to have nerves of steel and the patience of a saint; and

Whereas, horticulture staff NEVER waters plant material in the rain (they are actually applying fertilizer); and

Whereas, when unbathed and unshaved constituents reeking of alcohol are passed out in flower beds or landscapes, shrubs, they always appear to care and refrain from watering & fertilizing these same constituents; and

Whereas, they always smile graciously and nod when they receive one finger salutes as they operate their equipment on the municipal roads, and

Whereas, Mary Susan Goccey and Amy Hubbard could never be replaced as they know where ALL municipal skeletons are buried under flower beds; and

Whereas, well-grown and beautiful plants appear magically in the flower beds each year whereby dead trees and shrubs miraculously return to life after a visit from horticulture staff; and

Whereas, horticulture staff knows that they have the best job in the world - when it is sunny and clear but also the most difficult when finding a bathroom becomes the highlight of their day.

NOW, therefore, I, Mark Begich, Mayor of Anchorage, Alaska, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2006, as

"HONOR OUR HARD-WORKING HORTICULTURE STAFF DAY"

and ask all citizens to thank all the wonderful staff of the Horticulture Section for a job well done each and every year.

Mark Begich, Mayor



Tortured Trees

By Jo Anne Banta



Yes, the poor trees are tortured. They get cinched, their branches pinched. More branches wired, their roots mired (in teacups full of decomposed granite and hemlock bark). Only after such rough treatment can a young tree be made to look truly centuries old – and be termed “Bonsai.”

Such was the topic of September’s AMGA meeting. Paul Marmora, a member of the Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, was our speaker-demonstrator. The term “Bonsai” translates literally to “tree in a tray,” and Paul’s presentation not only told us how this is done, but he proceeded to show us. The usual ready-potted bonsai (BONE-sigh – “Pronounce it right, lady.”) that you might purchase is a “juniper in a little soil with glued gravel.” Paul says this will die within a year through no fault of yours. In fact, he says, if you’re trying Bonsai yourself, don’t worry about killing trees. They’re just plants, and he’s killed hundreds.

There are many things to learn. For instance, there are “tempered” trees that need a cold winter, that must “go to sleep” for at least two weeks. Remember, you are trying to make a tree small and to make it look windswept. To get smaller leaves or needles, cut the leaves from a stem; the stem will fall and the new leaf will be one-third the size of the original. A razor blade hammered into the trunk will cause a new branch to grow. You want to force the branches down; this can be done with weights or with anodized aluminum wire.

As for tree types, some that Paul mentioned were native juniper, Siberian pea, aspen, mountain hemlock and larch. If you decide to go tree hunting in the wild, remember that nothing can be taken from state parks; trees 100 feet or more from the road are legal in national parks. Mica pots work just fine; clay pots are more expensive. As a good guide, the depth of the pot should be roughly the width of the trunk and its length about the height of the tree. Paul recommends unglazed pots for conifers and glazed pots for leafy trees. Keep in mind that you are to look at the tree, not the pot.



With this introduction, Paul began to torture Marge Olson’s juniper. Out of the pot it came, and he began raking out dirt, exposing the roots and clipping them. Then a stiff brushing took off the dead needles and wimpy little branches near the trunk. To create the windswept look, Paul pruned off

Marge Olson looks over Paul's Bonsai plants



A grinning Paul Marmora “tortures” Marge Olson’s Juniper

anything growing in the wrong direction, as well as any small boughs below the larger ones. Next came the wire, one-third longer than the branch he selected. Pushed into the ground two inches and twisted around the limb from the opposite side, it forced the branch to bend down in a slight arch. A second wire was wrapped around the first to create and anchor. A real bonsai, says Paul, has every piece wired. When he was finished, Marge’s tree was beginning to look like a windswept piece of art.

The process itself consists of slowly moving a tree from a ten-gallon to a four-inch pot by root pruning (Out with the woody roots, the healthy ones are hair roots.), further “torturing,” and repotting. Should you be interested in trying you hand at it, Paul says that Sunset’s Bonsai is the best book for beginners. For further advice, visit the Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group’s booth at any of the local garden fairs or contact Paul Marmora at pmarmora@aol.com.

October’s meeting will feature Ayse Gilbert with a special topic, “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly,” comments on what’s new from Europe for next year’s planting season. Don’t forget to keep your favorite piece of garden art handy (be it good, bad or ugly!) to bring to our November meeting.

October’s poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter.

~Nova Bair





Extension Master Gardener Logo & Slogan Contest

Logo & Slogan Contest Invitation

The Extension Master Gardener program will be 35 years old in 2007, and as part of that celebration you are invited to submit an original logo design and slogan for the organization's communication and visual identity.

The Extension Master Gardener Program needs a "National" logo for the national website and to demonstrate national collaboration and recognition of all Master Gardener programs. As Extension is developed, the logo and slogan will be utilized with new standardized curriculum.

This partnership will signify the cooperation of all State Master Gardener Programs. We will use this identification for marketing and promotion of a national unified program. Likely, state and local logos will still be utilized, and you have the option of adding the International logo and slogan. The new logo and the title will be trademarked and protected.

The Extension Master Gardener Program is a platform for each state partner to share materials and thereby increase the availability of information for volunteers and for Extension personnel to share with the general public.

Guidelines

Submissions of a qualifying nature will be passed on to a panel appointed by the EMG-ECH committee.

Appropriateness, creativity, originality, aesthetics and the use of space will be used to measure the logo & slogan's merit. The winning logo & slogan will demonstrate the mission and understanding of the Extension Master Gardener Program to the general population.

LOGO SPECIFICATIONS

- ? Logos must be legible, simple and clear.
- ? Logos must be effective in black and white and in color.
- ? Both grayscale and color versions must be submitted.
- ? Logos should be no more than two Pantalone colors plus black.
- ? Logos must be scalable as it will be used on websites, stationary and banners.
- ? Submit high resolution images 640 x 480 dpi.
- ? File format must be JPG, eps or Illustrator on a CD-ROM.
- ? Logo and slogan should relate.
- ? Submit logo and slogan as separate files.

SLOGAN SPECIFICATIONS

- ? Slogan should be appropriate and must reflect the mission of the Extension Master Gardener Program.
- ? Slogan should be short and to the point.
- ? Slogan should relate with logo.
- ? Submit slogan and logo as separate files.

PRIZE

Registration and lodging at the 2007 International Master Gardener conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 2 through May 5, 2007.

DEADLINE FOR JUDGEMENT

Entries will be accepted beginning October 15th and the contest will close on February 15th (postmark deadline). The committee will judge the entries and select the winner by March 1, 2007. The winner will be announced at the 2007 International Master Gardener conference.

SUBMISSION

Art submitted to the contest will not be return to the artist. More than one original art piece can be entered per Master Gardener.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Extension MG Logo & Slogan Contest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Please mail all submission to:
 Kerrie B. Badertscher, CPH
 Western Area Specialist, Horticulture
 University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
 5305 Mill Street
 Reno, NV 89502
 Phone: 775.784.4848 ext 125; Fax: 775.784.4881 or
 Email: badertscherk@unce.unr.edu

Submission Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

File Format:

Slogan:

Please Mail or Deliver to:

Kerrie B. Badertscher, CPH
 Western Area Specialist, Horticulture
 University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
 5305 Mill Street
 Reno, NV 89502

Noxious & Invasive Plants Management Workshop

Coast International Inn • Anchorage, AK

Oct. 25 & 26, 2006

Some topics to be covered include:

- Overview and Update on the Development of National 'Early Detection Rapid Response' for Invasive Plants
- AK DNR Plans for State Noxious Weed List and Regulations
- FIFRA, EPA herbicide testing, environmental and human toxicology for herbicides commonly used in Alaska
- Alaska's New Invasive Species Working Group: Future goals and what they mean for CNIPM
- Working toward a sustainable CNIPM: Charter, Board, and Annual Meeting Elections
- Show me the money! How to find grants, and tips on writing successful grant proposals
- Successful Cooperative Weed Management Areas: Projects in the Lower 48, what's going on, and who's involved.
- Two species of interest in 2006: Giant Burdock and Yellow Starthistle
- Analysis of Melilotus movement
- And much more!

Location:

Coast International Inn
 3450 Aviation Avenue
 Anchorage, AK 99502
 phone 249-4420, fax 248-3796

for further information contact:

Jamie Snyder
 Cooperative Extension Service
 907-786-6315

fnjms2@uaf.edu

For early registration:
 Cooperative Extension Service
 Anchorage Office
 907-786-6300
fndew@uaf.edu

Registration form available on line -
Alaskamastergardeners.org/calendar



INVASIVE PLANTS TALK

TUESDAY • OCT 24 • 7-8 PM • WILDA MARSTON THEATRE • LOUSSAC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Little green plants from outer space? Join USGS National Invasive Plant Coordinator **Randy Westbrooks** for a closer look at **invasive plants** and what they mean for Alaska. Randy will present real-world examples of the impacts of invasive plants, and discuss the idea of a new "Biological Protection Ethic".

What are the risks of ignoring the invasive plants arriving in Alaska? What are the benefits of being informed TODAY?

This is a FREE evening event – don't miss it – Randy will be at the Loussac Public Library for one evening only. Also included is a Free Pocket Guide, "Invasive Plants of Alaska"

Call the UAF Cooperative Extension Service (768-6300) for further information.



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News

By Rosemary Kimball

Sure sign of fall– the magpies are down out of the hills and talking up a storm as they fly around.

Thursday, September 14, was “Freedom From Tomatoes Day”. I went into the greenhouse, picked up the clippers and went to work eliminating the plants. Found out later it was FFTD at MG Kathy Wartinbee’s also. There comes a time when too much is enough!

My dill produced this year and none too soon! I’ve missed having fresh (frozen) dill handy. An easy way to “chop” it is to stuff all the leaves into a Ziploc and throw the bag in the freezer. When the fern is stiff and you have time, massage the sack until the dill is the proper size for your use. I transfer mine then into a frozen glass jar for permanent storage. I figure the scent is elusive and plastic is porous....

Once again the Crispy Frills lettuce (Burpee) was a winner. What amazed me is that it doesn’t go to seed during our summer. All the others will but this variety just grows crisper and wider.

The best performing tomato variety this cool summer was *Mountain Spring*. No evidence of blossom end rot even though my watering habits tend to be irregular. Ditto *Northern Exposure*. Blossom end rot was why I quit growing Early Girl. Why put up with something that’s so dicey when other varieties are less so!

Digging potatoes wasn’t as much fun this year as previous years. No matter how my husband and I waited for the ground to dry, we ended up with a bunch of muddy lumps as we went along. What was amazing was the yields from Bintje, Brigus, and the red potatoes whose variety has been lost in the mists of time. But German Butter ball, which my neighbor MG Mark White grew so beautifully last year, were disappointing and I don’t know if I will keep them for next year. My standard of perfection for potatoes is how well they smash. I boil them in well-salted water to which I’ve added a bay leaf, drain and smash them. You can add all sorts of stuff to them: broth, milk, sour cream, some of the cooking water, veggies you want to get rid of, cheeses, and/or whatever (dill?).

Asked other gardeners about their potato yields and the results were totally irregular: reds poor, butter balls fantastic. It seems as if the whole summer was irregular. Some had poor peas, others wildly productive plants. Ditto beets.

I made it up to the first Master Gardener meeting so we can keep our affiliation with you guys in Anchorage. It is always fun to see the group again and Bonsai was really interesting. I can see how it could become an obsession! If you are working on one tree, you may as well do two, three, four, five, ad infinitum....

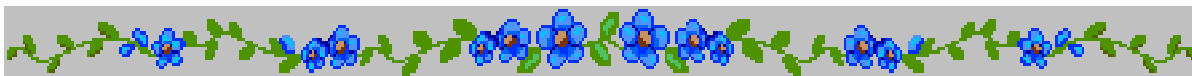
My husband & I did two stints at the Cooperative Extension Service booth at the fair in Palmer and that was lots of fun because you meet all sorts of people. It was interesting to see what their interests were. One glaring omission in the CES library is that there is no longer a raspberry pamphlet so if you have one of the older ones, hang on to it.

The delay of sharp frost has meant that stuff can stand in the garden and that means that cleaning up doesn’t get done early which means real soon I’m going to get zapped when I least expect it! I’ve been canning up a storm and what doesn’t get canned (LOTS) gets dumped on gardenless friends. Thank heavens for them! Now I have lots of stuff canned and starting to use the jars hurts - all the effort that went into filling them and the cost of the lids and I want to save them for some future time. However I have a root cellar packed full of canned stuff and there are just two of us. I told my husband that if I looked like I was going to can anything more to tie me to a post. We also have 400 pounds of potatoes. How smart is that? I still have five huge, beautiful Tuscan kale plants looking at me and I only want one. I did get one taker for a plant but what do I do with three remaining? It hurts to even think of composting those beauties.

We turned the attack rooster and his girls out into the fenced garden (it only took us 5 days to plug up all the leaks in the fence so they wouldn’t be by the porch again) on the theory that if they would eat carpenter ants (maybe we didn’t have any this year like we didn’t have aphids in the greenhouse?) they would also eat slugs. That was fuzzy thinking as they like to see their food move and slugs don’t move during the day and chickens don’t move at night. So we put down our boards again and are trying to teach the ones that use them to swim.

Lingonberries are back again on the peninsula after a four-year hiatus from the Bora in March of 2002. There was no snow cover when the winds came and my “pet” plant looked like it had been hit by a flame thrower

We’re off again soon to the pepper patch on the big island of Hawaii. It’s nice to have traveling friends. Aloha y’all!



Bird Chatter

- Congratulations to Rita Wade for completing her 40 Master Gardener hours at the Palmer State Fair display.
- Julie Riley moved to a house downtown that has a young magnolia tree in the yard.
- Sue Lincoln shared 3 of the 6 cherries her 'Evans' produced this year. No one was impressed with their flavor– quite bland after the tartness wore off.
- Jamie Snyder and volunteers with the Municipality pulled more purple loosestrife from the creek near Westchester Lagoon. It was harder to find the plants since moose had eaten off the flowers.
- The statewide Master Gardener Conference in Fairbanks March 16 & 17 will include speakers Bob Bors from the University of Saskatchewan on fruit, Tracy DiSabato-Aust, author of the **Well-Tended Perennial Garden**, a national speaker on horticulture therapy, Les Brake from Willow and Julie Riley on garden photography.
- Master Gardeners have been the caretakers of ABG's herb garden this summer. Anyone interested in helping to prepare the garden for winter might go home with a few herbs to dry. Contact Mary Shier, Erna Rousey, Margaret Love or Michelle Semerad to find out the date for clean-up.
- A special thanks to Jerry Jenkins for all the gardening supplies he gave away at the September AMGA meeting, including red plastic mulch, fertilizer, irrigation tubing and a brand new coldframe.
- Martha Galbreath has donated the **Alaskan Mushroom Hunter's Guide** (by Ben Guild) and **Insect Eating Plants & How to Grow Them** to the library in the volunteer room at CES. Thank you Martha.
- Does anyone remember when the Municipality started using lobelia and marigolds in the hanging baskets downtown? Mayor Begich thinks it was 1984.
- The word "lettuce" is derived from the Latin root word "lac" meaning "milk," referring to the milky juice found in mature lettuce stems.
- Perennial gardening is the slowest form of performance art

Autumn is a second spring
when every leaf is a flower.

~Albert Camus



Rembrandt & Tulips Turn 400

In 2006, art lovers will celebrate the 400th anniversary of Dutch painter Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn's birth. This fall, gardeners can commemorate the event by planting Rembrandt Tulips. These are the famous flamed or broken-color tulips that "drove men mad" and led to Tulipmania, the colossal 1637 crash of Holland's speculative tulip bulb market. The tulips that fueled the wild stock market ride were spectacular, with highly variable broken-color markings. No two were alike. Later it was learned that a virus had caused the exotic coloration. Paintings from the era – The Golden Age of Dutch Master Painters – featured these fabulous tulips in abundance. Curiously, tulips were not a motif in Rembrandt's own work.

Today, Dutch hybridizers have bred similar-looking but healthy flamed tulips. Now widely available, they're called Rembrandt-style tulips.

Source: Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center,
www.bulb.com



Kudos to Amelia

Amelia Walsh's horticultural efforts were recognized this summer at the Rock Garden Society Flower Show and at the Anchorage Garden Club Flower Show.

The Rock Garden Society Flower Show was held at the Botanical Garden during the annual festival in June. Amelia's trough was judged Best in Show and Judges choice. This is the second year in a row that she received the award; last year her *Lewisia* "Sunset Strain" was voted Best in Show and Judges Choice.

At the Anchorage Garden Club Flower Show Amelia's collection of five *Sempervivum* "Tectorum" received the Collectors Showcase Award and the Award of Horticultural Excellence. The last one is awarded to the exhibit judged finest in the entire Horticulture Division.

Amelia also received several other ribbons in other categories in both shows.

Way to go Amelia!



MG Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities for the rest of the year are limited. If you have an idea or need to submit your hours, please get in touch with me. The AMGA newsletter still needs a columnist to write a monthly Master Gardener highlight. Please see the announcement below.

Thank you. Julie Riley, Extension Horticulture Agent

AMGA Newsletter Columnist— The AMGA Board of Directors would like to see a Master Gardener highlighted in each issue of the newsletter. This would involve interviewing the MG being honored, the Extension Horticulture Agent and/or a member of the AMGA Board of Directors. The article does not have to be more than a couple of paragraphs long and would be accompanied by a photograph. Contact Julie Riley if you are interested, 786-6300, afjar@uaa.alaska.edu.

Newsletter Articles – Now that the gardening season has slowed down, consider writing something up for the newsletter. The editor always appreciates having garden related articles to publish - garden experiences, your favorite plant, an interesting plant; put your thoughts on paper & email them to amga@gci.net

"Ask a Master Gardener" Volunteer - The editor would like to have more people in the loop that respond to gardening questions via the internet. There are only 4 people on the list at this point. The only requirement is that you respond to questions & send a "CC" (copy to) the editor for the record.

Recipes - send your favorite recipe to the amga@gci.net

Annual Rock and Mineral Show

WHAT: Annual Rock and Mineral Show

WHEN: November 10 from 5 pm to 9 pm and November 11 from 10 am to 6 pm

WHERE: Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, 401 East 6th Avenue, top floor in Josephines

What else: It is free and open to the public. There will be displays of rocks and minerals from around the state and the world, information tables and vendors selling rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, and plenty of other neat items. On Saturday there will be a clown and a treasure hunt for kids.

Sponsors: Alaska Miners Association and the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society
Contact & information: Anita Williams, 345-2541, awilliam@alaska.net



Gardening Calendar

October 12

Wildflower Garden Club - presentation by Marge Olson: Designing Cards with Pressed Garden Material - Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St, Anchorage - Starts at 10:00 AM Bring your pressed flowers and get creative! Website: communitynews.adn.com?group_id=684

October 16

AMGA meeting: Ayse Gilbert, "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," comments on what's new from Europe for next year's planting season.

October 19 - 22

THE BIONEERS in ALASKA 2006 CONFERENCE University of Alaska, Anchorage Campus; Michael Pollen, of Botany of Desire fame, is among the 15 speakers doing presentations via satellite. Full information on programs and fees at <http://www.sustainak.org/>

October 25-26

Noxious & Invasive Plants Management Workshop - see related article on page 4

November 09

Winter Feeding of Birds - Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St, Anchorage - Starts at 10:00 AM

Wildflower Garden Club presentation by Charlotte Jensen. Website: communitynews.adn.com?group_id=684

November 20

AMGA meeting: Garden Art Show & Tell (Bought or handmade) Contact: 786-6300 - Cooperative Extension Service, 2221 E. Northern Lights - 7:00 PM

November 02

Invitations of a Flower - Pioneer Schoolhouse, 3rd and Eagle, Anchorage - Starts at 7:30 PM Anchorage Garden Club program by Rita Wright of the Valley Garden Club. Making cards using pressed flowers. Website: communitynews.adn.com/agclub

Eagle River Volunteer Gardening Opportunity

Eagle River Parks & Recreation Department is in need of gardening volunteers for next season. They need people who are willing to plant, maintain, and/or design flowerbeds in the Eagle River/Chugiak Municipal Parks. Plant material would be provided by the Municipal greenhouses. Any amount of time or effort would be appreciated.

Contact Beverly McCloud - mccloudba@ci.anchorage.ak.us



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

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:

Cooperative Extension Office
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone 786-6300
Fax Line 786-6312



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During September's Downtown Beautification Celebration
Mayor Begich thanks Alice Sauvageau for her 19 years
of service watering the hanging baskets downtown.
See related story on page 1.

**Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
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