

Anchorage Chapter



Volume 9, Issue 6

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER June 2007

From the President's Corner Dana Klinkhart

Your response to the membership survey was terrific. I believe your replies demonstrated that the Alaska Master Gardeners Association and what it represents is important to you. Thank you gardeners for your comments, too. They brought ideas to ponder as well as comments that may need clarification.

It seemed that some members interpreted the question of adding volunteer hours to maintain the 'master gardener' status as part of the Alaska Master Gardeners Association. That was not the intention. Some cooperative extension programs have expanded the master gardener certification to include on-going educational training as a requirement for 'active' status and some require additional volunteer service. I hope this message clarifies the reservations some members expressed about the survey. As you know, membership in AMGA does not require that members be a master gardener. The membership is open to any person or organization interested in the objectives of the association. *Voting* membership is available to certified master gardeners. *Nonvoting* membership is available to organizations, businesses and those without a master gardener certification. I believe that it is a good thing to have both types of memberships available to gardeners.

The forty hour 'repayment' time for having taken the master gardener course is sometimes confused with the activities in the Alaska Master Gardeners Association. The 'payback' is the return of hours the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service requires for having completed the master gardening course. This is what each of us signed up to do when we took the course. The return hours are satisfied by providing gardening information and instruction in the community. Each person works through our horticultural agent to define their own return hours.

The service in AMGA that brings gardeners together to beautify the Pioneer Home garden and the Alaska Botanical Garden entrance beds is a gift from the heart. Although planting, watering and weeding are **not** required, it is what we do as a group to further support gardening in our community. While giving of our selves in this forum, we serve as ambassadors from the Alaska Master Gardeners Association. The bottom line is that your volunteer efforts are highly valued but they are **not** required. Master gardeners give of their time and talent in many ways throughout the year. Gardeners teach classes, prepare presentations, write articles, field calls from the hot line and volunteer at clinics and schools. Master gardeners are promoting gardening on an ongoing basis. It is recognized that home and family must be a priority. There are certain times in our busy lives that we do have some hours to spare and that is when we sign-up to help. And when we've finished, we put the trowel and garden gloves away until the next chance we have to connect in the gardening community. Every member is important to our association, if you have concerns about the association, please share them with me.



Tours are scheduled for June, July and August. Marge Olson and her helpers have worked to make the summer tours inspirational and fun. We sure hope that you will mark the tours on your summer calendar. The first of the season will be at Amelia Walsh's garden on Monday June 18th. Her spring rock garden will be a treat for us all. I hope to see you there.



Ready for Clematis? You Bet!

By Jo Anne Banta

Yes, indeed, most of the AMGers were more than ready to go clematis shopping after hearing

Kris Mulholland's presentation, "Clematis in South Central Alaska" at May's meeting. Kris is our Anchorage expert; she has at least thirty clematis in her yard – some that grow to the rooftop.

Clematis love rich, cool soil, sunny sites, and something to climb or ramble through: a trellis or a shrub. Lilacs or honeysuckles are great companions. Kris fertilizes weekly with Life Link (5-5-5 plus microbes) available at Alaska Mill and Feed. She suggests planting clematis in early spring so they become well-established by winter, carefully covering the root base with two inches of soil to prevent wilt. Plant at least a foot away from the trellis, pointing toward it. First year clematis should be cut down to one foot the following spring.

Clematis are grouped by pruning style:

Group One are spring bloomers and are not pruned (only dead wood after blooming).

Group Two clematis bloom in early summer and may be lightly pruned.

Group Three contains the mid- to late-summer bloomers and should be hard-pruned.

Group One, containing the Alpina and Macropetala types, is extremely winter-hardy and has 1- to 2-inch nodding flowers. Try Alpina 'Foxy' or 'Stolwijk Gold' with its yellowish leaves. Kris recommends C. macropetala 'White Swan' and 'Markham's Pink,' as well.

Group Two clematis bloom on old and new wood. Try the July blooming 'Multi Blue' or 'New Moon.'

The less hardy Group Three has beautiful blooms on new wood. Our expert recommends the toughest: 'Jackmani' and 'Hagley Hybrid,' a vine that takes shade well.

The C. viticella type 'Pagoda,' and 'Polish Spirit' are worth a try once you have successfully grown a clematis or two.

For those of you who were not at the meeting, do see if you can beg, borrow or steal a copy of the informational handout that Kris distributed there. It is full of more clematis information, its varieties and advice on growing. Recommended reading: Clematis for Everyone, by Raymond J. Evison, available through Songsparrow.com.

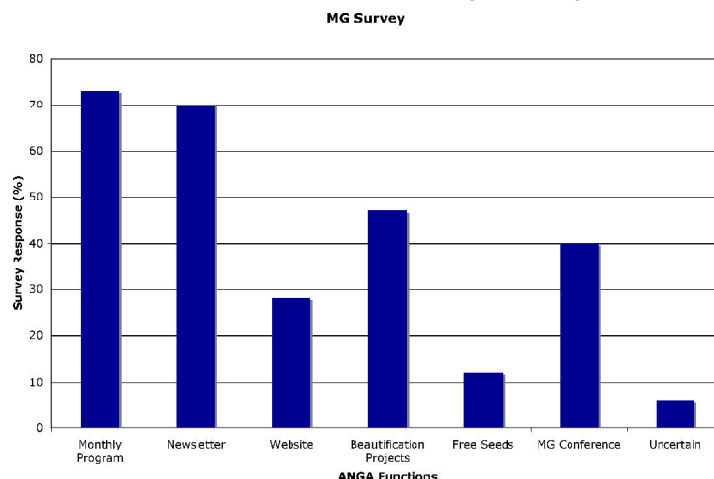
AMGA Survey Results by Julie Riley, Extension Horticulture Agent

Last month's survey resulted in 99 electronic responses and 10 that came in on paper. This is quite an impressive showing. Thank you everybody! Many thoughtful responses were included in your answers and I'm thinking that the board may want to respond to your thoughts in future newsletter issues.

MEMBERSHIP/ORGANIZATION FUNCTIONS

The greatest number of responses came from those who have been AMGA members for 2-4 years (39.8%) and 4-9 years (31.5%). Three people have been members since AMGA began and 2 people for 20-21 years.

Why did you join AMGA? The overwhelming response, 91.6% was "to continue to learn about gardening".



Most other choices listed in the survey also received high votes and 11 people gave reasons in addition to the nine choices listed. To network/socialize with other gardeners, 64.5%; to keep in touch with what's going on, 50.9%; to receive the newsletters, 48.1%; because of the monthly educational programs 43.0%; to support UAF Cooperative Extension Service, 37.4%; because of the summer (garden) tours, 31.8%; and because of the opportunity to participate in community service gardening projects, 23.4%. This last response is interesting because it received a much higher response rate when asked about in a different question.

Which functions of AMGA serve you and the community best? Seventy-two percent of those who responded selected monthly educational programs and tours (72.9%) and the newsletter (72.0%). Beautification projects at the Anchorage Pioneer Home and the Alaska Botanical Garden was selected by 48.6% of respondents. So although about one quarter of AMGA members joined the organization to have the opportunity to be involved in beautification volunteer service projects, almost half think it is function which serves members and the community best.

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(Aerated) Compost Tea

Julie Riley, Extension Horticulture Agent

Compost tea is like religion– you have to have faith. It's the aerated compost tea I'm referring to. Nonaerated compost tea has been around as long as I can remember. Take a bucket of water, throw in a shovel full of compost, let it sit a while and water your plants with the liquid fertilizer that results. It's aerated compost tea that has created a stir these last five years.

There's been a lot of misinformation floating around since 2002 when three companies started marketing aerated compost tea to gardeners in Southcentral Alaska. "Compost tea is a fertilizer." "Compost tea provides mycorrhizae which make all plants grow better." "Compost tea will cure all that ails your plants." "Aerated compost tea is what you need; nonaerated compost tea doesn't work." "Brand X compost tea is better than Brand Y compost tea."

The dust has finally started to settle and the most recent compost tea mantra is that "compost tea jump-starts your soil's population of microorganisms." This statement I don't have issues with but the idea that your soil is a sterile waste-land if you've ever used chemical fertilizers is false. It is possible to destroy the life in your soil with the over-use of chemical fertilizers (and pesticides), but most gardens and lawns that have been fertilized properly still contain soil biota.

A healthy soil is a very dynamic system. Its population of microorganisms waxes and wanes depending on temperature, moisture and sources of food. Compost tea is not a fertilizer material. The way microorganisms help enrich a soil is to break down organic matter into the ionic forms of nutrients that plants utilize. For example, plants don't take up blood meal, they take up nitrogen as NH_4^+ and NO_3^- .

There are situations where microbes actually use soil nitrogen at the expense of plant health. Microorganism populations can build up quickly if a large source of carbon, such as sawdust, is incorporated into the soil. Until the microorganisms have broken down the sawdust, plants growing in the area may become yellow, stunted and even die.

Mycorrhizae are beneficial fungi that grow in a symbiotic relationship with plants. They are not necessarily a component of aerated compost tea. Mycorrhizal fungi are usually quite host specific. According to Lori Trummer, USDA Forest Service Plant Pathologist, there are more than 10 different species of mycorrhizae that grow in association with birch trees. What's beneficial to turf grass won't necessarily work with broccoli.

The scientific literature on compost tea does not support the claim that aerated compost tea reduces the incidence of disease. Washington State University Extension Horticulturist Linda Chalker-Scott has been debunking horticultural myths since 2000. Her most recent article published in the first issue of the new online Master Gardener magazine (<http://www.mastergardeneronline.com>) states that **WSU Master Gardeners cannot recommend compost tea use**. In an interview with Dr. Chalker-Scott (5/25/07) she emphatically stated, "There is no scientific evidence that compost tea does any good and Master Gardeners cannot recommend a product without the science to back-up its claims." View Dr. Chalker-Scott's web site at <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~Linda%20Chalker-Scott/> and you'll find eight pages of compost tea references. She also does an excellent job explaining the difference between peer reviewed articles, gray literature and anecdotal claims.

Her article "Compost tea: Examining the science behind the claims" states there appears to be a trend for nonaerated teas to reduce the incidence of foliar diseases (but not the severity). So much for the idea that aerated compost teas are better than those that are nonaerated.

Brand X compost tea and Brand Y compost tea may indeed harbor different species of organisms. But which is better for the soil and your plants' health is difficult to say. This is where faith comes in. Since you can't see the organisms, you have to have faith that they're even there. As I mentioned earlier, life in the soil is very dynamic and which organisms are present and in what quantity depends on a wide range of environmental factors at a given point in time.

I know there are Anchorage Master Gardeners who feel they get good results with compost tea. I've always said to gardeners, "If you're happy with your results, keep doing what you're doing."



AMGA SURVEY RESULTS CONT. FROM PAGE 2

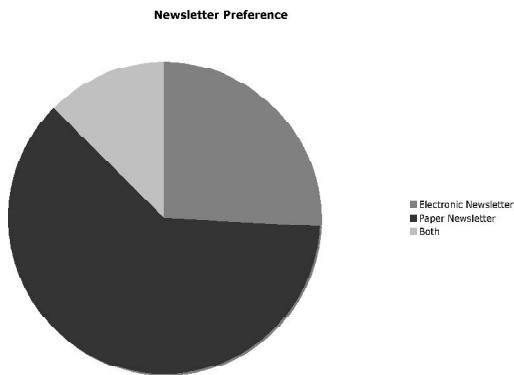
The statewide Master Gardener conference received votes by 38.3% of respondents. This is good given the conference is slated for Anchorage in 2008. Other responses were:

website (26.2%), free seed distribution (13.1%) and other (10.3%). One of the "other" responses listed was continuing education in gardening. Six people were uncertain which functions of AMGA served them and the community best.

AMGA NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is a winner! Out of 106 responses only one person said they seldom read the newsletter. Many people are reading the entire issue. Votes were as follows: calendar of events, 96.2%; articles written by Master Gardeners, 94.3%; articles written by Extension Horticulture Agent, 89.6%; message from the (AMGA) president, 84%; MG volunteer opportunities, 78.3%; Bird Chatter, 78.3%; previous monthly program/tour highlights, 74.5% (Thank you JoAnne Banta!); garden quotes and sayings 71.7%; and articles reprinted from other newsletters/websites, 69.8%. Even the articles written by Rosemary Kimball from the Central Peninsula chapter have high readership, 62.3%. This is amazing since I'm not sure anyone from the Kenai answered the survey. When asked how long you've been an AMGA member, not a single person answered since the Central Peninsula MGs joined as a chapter.

Survey results showed that keeping the newsletter monthly is what membership wants, 75.5%.



Only 11.3% of respondents thought it should be published quarterly. One person mentioned there was too much information for a quarterly. Fourteen percent said the frequency of publication didn't matter.

Perhaps the question that initiated the entire survey was whether the newsletter should go electronic only. Of those who responded to the survey electronically, 62.5% said they would prefer receiving a paper copy. When adding in the 10 responses from people who did not have e-mail

addresses, this rose to 65.1%. About a quarter of the responses (23.6%) indicated preference for receiving electronic copy. Some members said they'd like to receive the newsletter both ways. (Please note this was a question where only one response was allowed unlike some of the other questions.)

If AMGA were to start publishing its newsletter electronically, 28.6% said they would not read it. (The percentage response rate was 24.2% for those answering the survey electronically.) Thirty-nine % of respondents said if the newsletter was sent electronically, they would want it sent directly to their e-mail address as compared to 14.3% who said their preference was to get it as a link to the newsletter site.

AMGA DIRECTORY

The AMGA Directory is being used to find contact information for other MGs (69.5%) and to check monthly program/tour dates and topics (55.2%). Forty percent of those responding to the survey also use it to find contact information for other gardening groups and 34.3% to check other event dates. The number of members responding that they seldom use the Directory was 21.9% and 17.8% said they would not be willing to pay a separate fee to receive it. Forty-two percent said they would be willing to pay a fee to receive the Directory. There were quite a few (30) comments on the topic of charging a fee for the Directory.

DUES INCREASE

In regards to a dues increase, 69.8% said they would support it; 14.2% were uncertain; 16% said no. The electronic survey did not allow for comments on this questions, but I have heard from several people that \$20 was already one of the highest garden club dues in Anchorage and increasing it would make it unaffordable (for the person making the comment).

NEW RENEWAL FORMS

The personalized computer-generated renewal forms sent to members this year for the first time did not cause a stir. Only one person said it was harder to use the personalized form; 56.7% said it was easier; 17.3 said it was the same and 24% were uncertain.

MANDATORY VOLUNTEER HOURS

The 40 hours of volunteer time MGs commit to have always been separate from the Alaska Master Gardener Association. AMGA has a volunteer coordinator to manage the community service beautification projects sponsored by the association. It takes a lot of MGs and a lot of hours to make these projects successful, but joining AMGA has not meant more volunteer hour requirements either to AMGA or to the Cooperative Extension Service. Some states require continued hours in order for Master Gardeners to maintain their "active" status. Some also require additional training.

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Central Peninsula Master Gardener News

By Rosemary Kimball

It must be the beginning of summer because the Christmas wreath on the front deck is starting to shed every time I shut the door.

Our days of cookie baking for the Master Gardener Winter Lecture Series are over. The MGs had an early Pad Thai and decided that since the new garden club on the central peninsula is so active, we'd let the winter meetings go to them. We're going to concentrate on a few in-depth workshops on various subjects...what? where? when? who knows.

It was a strange breakup...a non event! Our lane didn't get hub deep in mud but stayed nice all the time. The "green sheen" on the birch trees was a full week earlier than our usual mid-May but after that the world stalled, even with the sunshine. The sunshine meant that here in suburban Sterling the nighttime temperatures would drop into the mid 20°s. Not nice. People started watering like crazy until we finally got a bit of rain at the end of the month. So it is on to "poke and hope" (thank you to Kathy W. for that neat phrase) gardening if the bog, which is our lower garden, dries enough to till.

If you are going to use predatory nematodes for root maggot control go to www.suburbanhabitat.com for the least expensive price for 1 million of the little wormlettes. One takes that million on faith as what arrives is a sponge with some brown goo on it. They are easy to install. On the evening of a cloudy day, water your maggot dinners thoroughly. Mix the nematodes according to included directions and put a teaspoon to a tablespoon right next to the plant stem. Water again. I use a pressure tank that I keep simply for the nematodes so I am sure it doesn't get contaminated with anything that is bad for them. The nematodes are control only to keep the maggots to manageable numbers. You might see maggots on the plants that escaped being nematode dinners, or a few pupae when you fall till, but the nematodes do make a difference.

Kathy Tarr, Barb Jewell, neighbor Mark and I did our yearly trek to the valley in search of plants. Mark had the map from the Daily News' gardening section and we went to our usual stops like P&M and Colony and then four nurseries we'd not been to before: Stonehill, Gray Owl

Danamac and WoolWood. All four of the new ones are worth going to again. The nice thing about small nurseries is that the owners can plant/sell their whims and wishes without having to think of selling a thousand of something. That gives us, the buying public, a much greater choice. We came back with the back of the Dodge Grand Caravan STUFFED. This time we each had stakes with our own color that we could put into our purchases to tell what was whose. That way I don't end up with plants that aren't mine and having to return them somewhere. Honest! By the time we're through I don't want any more plants. It worked well. Of course we had to eat and that comes under the same serious consideration as which nursery stops to make.

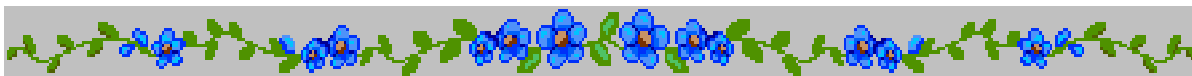
It's nice to be able to get back to having dirty fingernails. And it is always interesting to see which labels have turned into grave markers. We lost 95% of our Honeoye strawberries from last November's snowless cold. Oh well, the beds needed to be rehabbed anyway. That's the bright side, but as I look at the widely scattered runners that did survive that's not what I'm thinking and what I think is impolite.

Still under the spell of Dr. Bob Bors from the U. of Saskatchewan's talk on propagation at the Fairbanks MG conference, I started pots of various currants. Our main crop of red currants, Holland Longbunch, is hard to find and a wonderful variety for yield. Why I'm trying to start more is beyond me as we have more than we can use anyway.

Here are some neat web sites to visit:
for delphiniums: <http://home.gci.net/~goodgame/index.html>
I don't know where the garden is but I want to see it!
Check out the flowers and drool.
from the MG program of Washington State University:
mastergardeneronline.com The magazine is published quarterly is worth the price of the hard copy.

Pray for some more rain.





Bird Chatter

- The 2009 International Master Gardener Conference is scheduled for March 22 – 26 in Las Vegas! Start saving your nickels.
- *Lewisia tweedyi* has had a name change. This Pacific Northwest native is now *Cistanthe tweedyi*. In its natural range it more commonly grows on the drier eastern side of the Cascade Mountains.
- At their statewide convention in May, the Alaska State Federation of Garden Clubs changed its name to Alaska Garden Clubs.
- The Municipality of Anchorage has a new website that explains how (and why) to build a rain garden. See <http://www.anchorageraingardens.com/index.html> for details.
- From MG Michele Semerad: A root is a flower that disdains fame (KAHLI L GIBRAN).
- If you're considering purchasing a new lawn mower, the May 2007 issue of **Consumer Reports** includes rating information for push and tractor mowers.
- Garden clubs are hopping in other parts of the state. Over 90 people showed up to form the Central Peninsula Garden Club in Kenai/Soldotna. The Ketchikan Garden Club went from 13 to 49 members almost overnight.
- The AMGA Board of Directors will be meeting in June to start talking about the 2008 Alaska Master Gardener Conference to be held in Anchorage.
- Learn by doing at the ABG Herb Garden this summer. Work along side of experienced herb growers Mary Shier, Margaret Love, Erna Rousey, Jill Shepherd, Lupita Weese and Michele Semerad. Tuesdays at 1:00.
- According to the May 21 issue of Newsweek, American gardeners spent \$34 billion on their yards last year (landscaping 45%, lawns 25%, flowers 10%, edibles 7%, insect control 5%, houseplants 6%). Source: National Gardening Association.
- MG "Lucky" George Petrowski has a secret to his frequent door prize winnings at the MG meetings: he concentrates on his number when he signs in. He has some incredible brain power!
- The Anchorage Daily News gardening blog (adn.com/talkdirt) has hot links to articles found on the AMGA website

AMGA SURVEY RESULTS CONT. FROM PAGE 4

Although the survey did not ask about a requirement for extra hours of training, I hardly think this would be a problem since most members state they join AMGA to continue to increase their gardening knowledge. The extra volunteer hours question seemed to bring out concerns that went in both directions. Thirty-three percent of respondents were in favor of requiring mandatory volunteer hours to maintain a current "active" MG status; 33% were not; and 28.3% were uncertain. More than 30 people wrote comments and there was a lot of guilt expressed about not being an active volunteer in the association. One person said "mandatory volunteer" was an oxymoron! The question of more volunteer hours/more training is not new. It was addressed when Marty Black was president of AMGA in 1997- 1998. It looks like it will once again have to be taken up and the pros and cons carefully considered.

FUND RAISING

AMGA has not been a fund raising organization. It is one of few gardening groups in the state that does not have a plant sale. This question may have raised some angst. Half of those responding to the survey said they would support fund raising activities (50.5%). Almost 10 percent (9.7%) said no and 23.3% were not certain. Sixteen people skipped it completely, while only 2-3 people skipped each of the other questions. Sixty percent (60.4%) of respondents said they would probably participate in AMGA fund raising activities. A number of people interpreted this question to mean "would they buy something the group was selling". Over a quarter of respondents said they were uncertain and 13.2 % said probably not.

The question that needs to be asked is, "Raise money for what purpose?" Last summer MG Kyle Wessels spearheaded a MG garage sale that brought in \$1,000 for reference books. Some Master Gardener associations provide travel to meetings for their Extension agent given how tight University funding often is.

The survey has answered many questions and raised a few more. It looks like a ripe time for discussion on future goals and objectives of AMGA. Thanks again to everyone who took time to answer the survey.





Gardening Calendar

MG Volunteer Opportunities

Alaska Botanical Garden Fair, June 23 & 24

Help staff a CES booth along with IPM staff at this fun-filled event. Shifts are short, only two hours. Sat 10-2, 2-4, 4-6 and Sun 11-1, 1-3 3-5. Call Julie Riley at 786-6300 if you are interested.

McLaughlin Youth Detention Center

Teens at McLaughlin are planting a vegetable garden and hoping to put in strawberries and raspberries. They also have a greenhouse. MGs Alice Campbell and Christy Smith are working with them once a week. Additional help is needed, especially during planting and MG vacation times.

Alaska Garden & Arts Festival, July 21

Carmen Summerfield is looking for a Master Gardener to teach a class on greenhouse growing. If you have another topic in mind, she'd like to hear your idea. Please give Carmen a call at 745-4827 (and let Julie know you're teaching).

Edible and Ornamental Plantings

Have you interplanted edibles and ornamentals? This summer Annie Nevaldine is doing a photo documentary of gardens and beds where vegetables and flowers have been planted together. If you have such a mix, or know someone who does, would you be willing to allow her to take pictures? If so, please contact her at alzina@acsalaska.net or at 333-2100. You just might see your gardens and those of your friends and neighbors in one of her slide presentations! She thanks you VERY much.



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!)

June 7, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club Meeting, "Primrose" presented by Mary Jo Burns, 7:30 p.m. Contact the AGC hotline to see if the program is in the Pioneer School House basement or at Mary Jo's house. 566-0539

June 9, Saturday

Volunteers are needed at Taku Lake Park, King Street Entrance, 10 a.m.. Bring a shovel and contribute to cleaner water in Anchorage. From Tudor going south on Old Seward Hwy, take a right on 76th, and then follow the road to the end. Contact: Tammie Wilson, 343-8008.

June 9, Saturday

Gardening 101: Basic Flower Gardening, 9 am, taught by Lorri Abel. For those new to gardening or to Southcentral Alaska, held at In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street. Register at 346-4247 or abel@gci.net.

June 9, Saturday

North Root Big Lake Gardeners Hypertufa Trough Workshop, 11 am. Construct your own lightweight faux-stone trough for planting a miniature rock garden or other plants. \$40 includes materials for one large or two small troughs. Location: Lockhart & Erskine Garden, Mile 6.7 South Big Lake Road. Space is limited to 10. Please call for reservations, Linda Lockhart at 892-8119.

June 11 – August 1, Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays

Junior Master Gardener Camp, 9 am – 12 pm or 1 pm – 4 pm. ABG. Hands-on activities for children ages 7-11 with a focus on botany, horticulture and ecology. Taught by Patrick Ryan, a certified Junior Master Gardener Specialist, 1st grade teacher and 1999 BP teacher of excellence. \$125/child. Visit the ABG website (www.alaskabg.org) or call the ABG office, 770-3692 for registration materials.

June 15, Friday

Feng Shui for Your Garden, 5:30 pm, taught by Jan Rednall, at In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street. Register at 346-4247 or abel@gci.net.

June 16, Saturday

Art in the Garden, Alaska Mill Feed & Garden Center, 501 E. 1st Ave, Anchorage, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. A silent art auction of pieces donated to benefit the Alaska SPCA which provides rescue for local pets, 276-6016.

June 16, Saturday

Perennial Gardening: Favorites, New Varieties and Help to Get Started, 9 am, taught by Suanne Sikkema and Lorri Abel at In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street. Register at 346-4247 or abel@gci.net.

June 18, Monday

AMGA field trip, "Spring in the Rock Garden", 7 p.m. Amelia & John Walsh's : 12330 Lilac Drive, 786-6300.

June 21 & 22, Thursday & Friday

Visit with former In the Garden Nursery co-owner Sally Arrant. Her new art projects will be on display and available for sale. In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street. For information on times, see inthegardennursery.com or call 346-4247.

June 22, Friday

Yoga for Gardeners, 5:30 pm, taught by Jane Tibbetts at In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street. Register at 346-4247 or abel@gci.net.

June 23, Saturday

Valley Garden Club Tea, 3 – 5 pm. A fundraiser to benefit the Big Lake Library held at Snowfire Garden. Tickets limited, \$25 fee, advanced purchase required. Contact Dawn at 907-376-2771.

June 23, Saturday

Big Wild Shrubs for Southcentral Alaska, 9 am, taught by Lorri Abel at In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street. Register at 346-4247 or abel@gci.net.

June 23 & 24, Saturday & Sunday

10th Annual Garden Fair at ABG, Saturday ABG member preview from 10 – 11 am; public invited 11 am – 6 pm. Sunday 11 am – 5 pm. Both days include invitational garden art show, craft and plant vendors, speakers, demonstrations, Children's Village, Plant Show for alpine & rock garden plants, music and food court. \$5/person, kids age 2 and under free, 770-3692.

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



Are You Ready for Clematis?
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