

Anchorage Chapter



Volume 9, Issue 5

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

May 2007

From the President's Corner

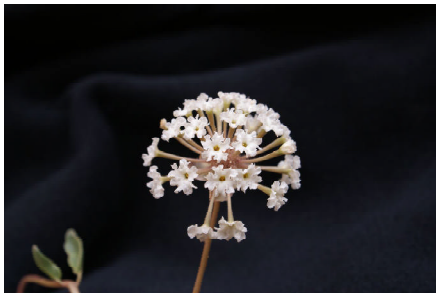
Dana Klinkhart

Maybe road trips are for those willing to take on some risk, like testing relationships. And if that is true, we must have met the challenge. Staying just a step ahead of contrary weather was the first challenge. We avoided the rain in Oregon, the high winds in California and the extreme heat in Arizona. After driving nearly 4,000 miles since April 1st, we camped in Capitol Reef National Park and my mate and I are still speaking. Capitol Reef lies in the heart of Utah's canyon country, halfway between Canyonlands and Bryce Canyon national parks. The colorful cliffs, the massive domes and the twisting canyons are spectacular. Shades of amber and grey colored sandstone canyons surrounded visitors during their drives into the park. The white Navajo sandstone domes are reminders of the parks namesake. The term 'Capitol Reef' describes the white rock formations resembling capitol buildings.

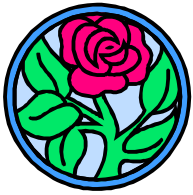


Let's say that spring arrives in unique ways here in Capitol Reef National Park. After avoiding questionable weather conditions early in the trip, we awoke to two inches of snow on our first morning in the park. At 6800 feet above sea level and night temperatures close to freezing, it was no surprise that the predicated rain brought snow at that altitude. It soon melted though and did nothing to chill our enthusiasm to explore the parks multiple trails. The sun quickly returned and we immediately loaded our camera gear to search for flowers and critters.

High on slopes the Claretcup Cactus (*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*) was quickly observed. Its brilliant red blossom lit up the terrain like a beacon. And where it bloomed, it had friends that shared nature's garden. The Blue Scorpionweed (*Phacelia crenulata*) reminded me of our own Jacobs Ladder as it flourished with the apricot color of the Desert Globe Mallow (*Sphaeralcea spp.*) And they were joined by the gentle red colors of both the Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja spp.*) and the Utah Penstemon (*Penstemon utabensis*). For those of us who are charmed by fragrance, the dainty white Fragrant Sandverbena (*Abronia fragrans*) and the sweet yellow Fringed Gromwell (*Lithospermum incisum*) pleased the senses. The dwarf sized blossoms brought admirers to the ground to enjoy their special aroma. While the flora proudly announced its presence, the fauna was much more obscure. The birds delighted in sharing their songs but did so under cover of foliage. It was to our advantage that the snakes remained hidden. They would have scared this Alaskan to death. Only the rabbits and geckos had the courage to take a peek at us and then promptly scatter.



When our adventure came to a close, we had a great collection of pictures and lots of memories. What's the next adventure? You probably guessed it. Home and gardening. There is nothing that compares to home and Alaska's beautiful flowers, fruits and vegetables.



Roses, Roses, Roses

by Jo Anne Banta, with much help from Mary Wondzell, secretary of the Rose Society

A rose by any other name . . . is still a rose, whether it be hardy or non-hardy, so gardeners learned at April's AMGA meeting. Rose Society guests, Chuck Decker, Mary Wondzell, and Mary Moline, delighted us with their presentation. By the time we had seen slides and listened to their discussion of the Centennial Rose Garden, all of us were ready to try more roses this season.

In real life, Chuck Decker is a pharmacist; to gardeners in Anchorage, he is the Rose Man. After beginning with 6 plants and a 27'x 27' plot, he became interested in delicate roses and now grows 280 hybrid teas and 200 miniatures. Just before freezing, he prunes them back to 8-10 inches and strips the leaves to prevent mildew. He winters them in an enclosed overhang beneath his house where he keeps the temperature just above freezing and waters once during the winter by turning on an overhead sprinkler.

In the spring Chuck transfers the plants to his greenhouse, heated only to above freezing, and prunes off anything over 1 ½ inches. He demonstrated this as many of us shuddered at the loss of those early green shoots. Chuckling (no pun intended), he explained that the long green growth tends to produce leggy stems with no blossoms. Because each axial produces 3 buds, removing one shoot causes another normal, healthy one to grow in its place. Air circulation, too, is very important in order to reduce mildew. To keep his roses healthy, he prunes out the central canes, as well as any spindly, weak ones. (He did, however, mention that he sprays for mildew and fungus during the summer and before storing.) Chuck expects blooms on his hybrid teas by the third week of May. At this point, he stressed that it is always best to buy roses on their own root stock. Jackson and Perkins is a good source for these.

If this sounds labor-intensive to you; and if, like me, you loved some of the non-hardy roses that we saw in the slide presentation, rest easy. You, too, can have beautiful hybrid teas and miniatures simply by treating them as annuals. Many rose growers do this; and, after this presentation, I'm sure some of us will be joining them.

Other words of wisdom from our visitors: miniature roses are more prolific bloomers than are teas; red roses often have more scent but they are more prone to mildew; ever-bloomers may be pruned at any time; mini-miniatures, growing 6 to 8 inches tall, are worth a try; and pot-grown roses may be refreshed by raising them, adding more soil at the bottom. To guard against mildew, do not get leaves wet and do not water roses in the evening.

Much of the further discussion centered around the Centennial Rose Garden, its flowers and its care. For those of you who haven't seen it, the Centennial Rose Garden is a must. Located on the Park Strip between 9th and 10th Avenues, across from the Hawthorne Suites, it is made up of hardy roses. These are planted in raised beds of alternate layers of leaves and soil, and are often planted 3 to 4 inches deeper for Alaska survival. The pink-white Martin Frobisher and the yellow Morning Sunrise thrive there.

Unfortunately, the focal fountain is no longer functioning – seems it had become a bathing spot and salmon-cleaning station for visitors – and is now overflowing with the gorgeous rugosa hybrid, Buffalo Gal. Buffalo Gal is one of the earliest-blooming of the Pavement Roses that are planted throughout the Garden. These varieties are low-growing Rugosas that were given the name "Pavement" because they survive well around the sidewalks in the U.K. The Rose Society's annual tour and work party takes place at the Park Strip on the second Tuesday in July, 6:30 p.m., and this year it will feature a plant sale as well. This should be a good opportunity to pick up some fine roses.

As for sources, the rosarians recommend Pickering Nursery, a former East-Coast grower now in California, Cornhill Nursery, and High Country Nursery in Utah. All offer a good selection of hardy varieties and can be found on the internet. Here in Alaska, Valley Nurseries and Fritz Creek both carry some good, hardy roses.

The visitors had several suggestions regarding their favorite varieties. Polestar, with its small white flowers, is the most vigorous climber; however, it blooms only once during the spring. Mary Wondzell recommended planting some of the Canadian climbing ever-bloomers with them. (Adelaid Hoodless, Captain Sam Holland, Henry Kelsey, John Davis, Martin Frobisher, and Quatra are some of Mary's favorites.) Some other beauties from the slide presentation are the peach Prairie Dawn, the bronze-colored Austrian Copper, and red Winnipeg Park, the largest blooming of the hardy roses. The Canadian Explorer series is a favorite here, as well. Rita Jo at Fritz Creek Nursery in Homer has Henry Hudson and William Baffin varieties.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



ROSES...CONT.

Recommended reading includes *Rose Favorites* by Lois Hole, *Hardy Roses* by Robert Osborne, and *Roses for Dummies*. For those of you interested in joining the Rose Society, contact

Mary Wondzell at 345-5609 or Mary Moline at 333-7719. For more information try www.AlaskaRoseSociety.org or write them at P.O. Box 242243, Anchorage, AK 99524.



Favorite Garden Photography Books

Julie Riley, Extension Horticulture Agent

Many books have inspired my garden photography. Right now my favorite book is by Ian Adams, **The Art of Garden Photography**, (2005, Timber Press). It's a great reference for those switching from film to digital. It helped me get over my digital photography phobia (but so did taking a workshop from the author at the Montreal Botanical Gardens last summer). The book is available at the Z.J. Loussac Library as are these other books that I used to prepare the presentation I gave at the Alaska Master Gardeners Conference in Fairbanks.

Garden Photography: A professional guide, Tony Cooper, 2004, Photographers' Institute Press.

Photographing Flowers, Sue Bishop, 2004, Photographers' Institute Press.

The Practical Guide to Digital Imaging, 2005 Michelle Perkins, Amherst Media, Buffalo, NY.

Focus on Flowers, Allen Rokach and Anne Millman, 1990, Abbeville Press Publishers, New York.

Mel Monsen's Warm Weather Varieties



Three keys to success include: 1) location, 2) cultural practices (IRT mulch, floating row covers, and bottles of water to collect heat) and 3) varieties. Mel's suggested varieties are listed below.

Green Beans: 'Provider' and 'Contender', presprout in a zip-lock bag with a wet paper towel for 2-3 days. Plant carefully when 1" tall.

Outdoor tomato: 'Stupice', thin skinned, regular tomato flavor, earliest harvest July 7.

Pumpkins: 'Frosty', dependable, produces 12 lb. pumpkins, 1-2 per plant; Mel has grown a 30 lb. one. 'Jack-Be-Little', more variable, can produce 1-50 small pumpkins per plant.

Green pepper: 'New Ace', small, pretty dependable. 'Fat & Sassy', bigger than 'New Ace', blockier pepper that can be stuffed; Mel even had one turn red (ripe) outside

Corn: 'Precocious', small ear, supersweet and thin-skinned kernels, dwarf 4' tall plants. 'Early Vee', has more rows of kernels than 'Precocious' but is not as sweet, plants 7-8' tall. ['Trinity', long beautiful ears, taste not good.]

Cucumber: 'SMR 58', for pickling, can get 100 cukes/plant. For slicing, 'Seneca Long Bow'.

Cantaloupe: 'Fast Break', softball sized, better flavor than the melons you buy in the store. 'Sweet & Early', similar to 'Fast Break', but skin not ribbed, both delicious and small.

Watermelon: 'Blacktail Mountain', round, won't set fruit if flowers get wet. Growing watermelon successfully is Mel's biggest challenge.

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 me to take pictures? If so, please contact me at alzina@acsalaska.net or at 333-2100. You just might see your gardens and those of your friends and neighbors in one of my slide presentations! Thank you very much.



The Vanilla Story

By Jo Anne Banta

Are you one who loves vanilla? Do you like getting off the "touristy" beaten track when you're on vacation? Do you enjoy gourmet food? Then come with me to the Hawaiian Vanilla Company.

From the Kona side, we pass through Waimea and follow the coastline south toward Hilo, watching carefully for the 37-Mile sign on the mauka (mountain) side. As instructed, we turn at the bright (yes!) blue house and wind our way up the mountain through a tall, shady eucalyptus forest.

After four or five miles, we arrive at our destination, a wide clearing and a large yellow building, the upcountry home of the Hawaiian Vanilla Company. An old coffee mill, it has been completely restored, converted into a large dining area featuring wall-to-wall windows framed by gorgeous Hawaiian woodwork, and filled with beautifully-set tables. Photographs of vanilla orchids (yes, the vanilla bean is actually the seed pod of the vanilla orchid.) in various stages of development adorn the entry hall, and even the restroom with its warm wood tones shows off live orchids. The tiny, homey gift shop is filled with classic vanilla products attractively displayed on old fashioned shelves. There are vanilla soaps, body lotions, and shampoos. There are vanilla salad dressings (Does champagne vinaigrette sound good?), vanilla tea (my favorite), and delicious-looking baked products, courtesy of the dessert chef. And, above all, there are fresh, aromatic vanilla beans, sealed tightly in their glass bottles. The Hawaiian beans, incidentally, are much longer than most, so one can use less in recipes. We were told later that one bean, split of course, in a fifth of good vodka will produce a great vanilla in about six weeks. (It will also produce a vanilla martini in five days.) Any alcohol will do, good vodka, however, says owner Jim Reddekopp, is best. The gift shop walls feature glowing, framed articles from gourmet magazines. (When interviewing Jim, I did mention that the "Alaska Master Gardeners Association Newsletter" is not quite in the same category as Sunset magazine.) I felt a little more insecure, however, after learning that The Vanilla Company has been featured on the Food Network and the Discovery and Travel Channels, among others.



The entire visit was one vast learning experience. The four-course luncheon was sublime: all Hawaiian-grown products, from the Big Island beef burgundy to the soup and salad vegetables. During the ensuing discussion and slide presentation, we learned of the Company's history and about the propagation, growing and harvesting of the vanilla orchid – listening carefully as Jim dropped recipe hints such as "lobster seared in vanilla butter." On the brief tour of the grounds, we saw actual vanilla vines in various stages of growth. Most amazing, though, is the fact that this is a family project. Jim and Tracy Reddekopp, their four boys and daughter, have done this almost entirely by themselves. Tracy is the driving force in the dining department. Their delightful, handsome children, ages five to fifteen, serve in the dining room and share in the process of hand-pollenating, a delicate process which must be completed within a 24-hour window.

(Coming later, more about vanilla growing and vanilla products.)



Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer.

~Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.

~W. Earl Hall



South Central Peninsula Master Gardener News

By Rosemary Kimball

Things are hopping on the peninsula! We've got a garden club and a composting company down here now.

Several weeks ago I kept seeing notices in the newspaper about a Garden Club forming. Since we have trouble getting eight Master Gardeners together for anything I scoffed but went to the organizational meeting. I quit counting the people coming in at 80 and I bet there were 100 people there! The slate of officers volunteered (Janice's classic comment was for someone to raise a hand because this would not be forever...) Nancy Casey, a landscape architect here was the featured speaker. The club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Cook Inlet Aquaculture Building and the next speaker will be Julie Riley talking about container planting. Anything Julie does, Julie does well and with humor.

Our Ramrod, Janice, did the Master Gardener presentation for April talking about the good guys in the garden. Ground beetles are soil heroes that eat caterpillar larvae, water beetles and dragon flies munch mosquito larvae. In May, we are having Stephen Nichols for the state's Community and Urban Forestry to do a hands on tree workshop. The nice thing is that this is done just before the 4-H tree sale so we should come away from his presentation knowing what to look for when buying a tree.

Snug Harbor Seafoods got nicked by the Feds for illegal discharge of wastes and the Feds knocked off \$27,000 of the fine if they would set up a fish waste composting plant which is called, appropriately enough, Fish and Chips. They are using wood chips and fish waste. I hope they sell it by the truck load because I want a biiiig one. Snug Harbor has partnered with Environmental Recycling, the nonprofit that runs the Anchorage Regional Composting Facility.

Taxes are paid and it's time to start garden transplants. It's been cold enough this spring– and I use spring loosely– that I hadn't even thought about starting my pea transplants and all of a sudden it's time. It takes exactly 28 days for the vines to reach a comfortable transplant size. Any days after that are too many. I've started my cabbage and stuff, covered, on the propagation mat set at 70° F but in the unheated greenhouse which dips down near freezing at night. So far everything is happy. I aim for five true leaves on the plants at transplant time. Better too small than too big.

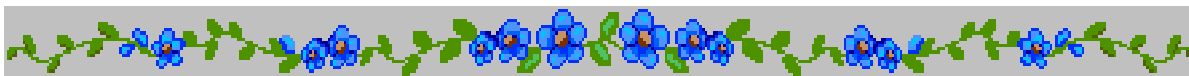
Let's also mention the multiplier effect of lilies. Our neighbor gave me a pretty pink Asiatic lily about a decade ago. Since we're going to add a sun room this summer I dug up the bulbs from which I'd been making flower arrangements all this while (you can never make a bad arrangement if you have lilies). I got two huge clumps of bulbs from which I got 25 pots with 2-4 bulbs in each. The Central Peninsula Garden Club is having a plant exchange June 12 and have I got trade goods!

Our neighbor has one of his roosters and a couple hens in our yard so he can hear his roosters crow up our street: our house, his house, his dad's house. Our rooster clocks in at 4:45 AM outside our bedroom window and he's still getting earlier.

I'm feeling virtuous this year. I sent off the soil sample I've been meaning to do for the last decade and got the analysis back. It didn't have parameters that I could understand so I whined to CES and Tom interpreted it. It seems the only fertilizer I need in that quadrant of the garden is nitrogen. I've been growing strawberries, carrots and beets down there and using the good old 8-32-16. I'll sample another quadrant next winter.

I talked to another gardening friend who grew artichokes last year. Come fall, she dug up three plants and stored them in her garage. Two of them sprouted this spring. Next fall, they all get saved.

People here are comparing migratory bird arrival dates at their feeders. The thermometer in our yard hit 61°F on April 23 at 1 PM. It's spring after all! Well sort of.



Bird Chatter

– There were 111 entries for the national Extension Master Gardener logo and slogan contest. The winning logo will be unveiled at the International Master Gardener Conference in May in Little Rock, Arkansas. Did anyone besides Joe Jordan enter?

– MG Brenda Bissell retired March 31 and has opened a horticultural consulting business called Dragonfly Gardens, dragonfly.gardens@acsalaska.net.

– Mat-Su Master Gardener's Annual Plant Sale will be on June 2, from 9-5 at the Palmer Pavilion. On May 7th at 7 PM they will be potting up plants for sale at the Palmer Municipal Greenhouse

– Seen at Bells Nursery: WEEDING glasses. The reading-type glasses are tinted so you can do your weeding on sunny days.

– Strange & bizarre, but true: albino artichoke seedlings among the batch started by Blythe Campbell.

– There is no need to worry about using color newsprint as mulch. According to the Anchorage Daily News production manager, the colors are soy soil based.

– MG Della Barry won a blue ribbon at an international flower show for her forced Nanking Cherry branches. Her entry also landed in the top ten being considered for the arboreal award. Congratulations Della!

– In the Garden Nursery's opening day is Mother's Day, May 13 from 12 – 5 p.m. Remember their new location is 7307 O'Brien Street.

– MG Pat Ryan will be a presenter at the national "Ag in the Classroom" in New Orleans in June. He will once again be teaching the Junior Master Gardener camps at the Alaska Botanical Garden this summer.

– The Municipality of Anchorage is looking for support for its downtown hanging basket program. You can Foster A Flower for \$75, or for \$150 you can foster two and get your name placed on the light post below the flowers.

– AMGA member Lorri Abel has embraced the City's new slogan and is offering a class this summer titled, "Big Wild Shrubs for Southcentral Alaska."

– Only 13% of AMGA members claimed to have joined so they could read this gossip column. However, 76% admitted to reading it.

– Gina Docherty has been AMGA newsletter editor and web master since day one, December 1998. THANK YOU Gina!

– The Delaney Park Rose Garden is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year.

– Dana Klinkhart inspired a full-house of gardeners with her "How to Develop a Powerpoint Class" at the ABG Spring Garden Conference.

– At the ABG conference MG Rosemary Borchardt won the ABG gift shop certificate (\$25).

– As a UAF faculty member, Julie Riley was promoted to Professor, to become effective July 1. Thanks to all who wrote letters of support.

– The first flowers of spring were reported by Mel Monsen who said crocus were blooming on the UAA campus April 9. Mel's rockcress (*Arabis*) was in bloom a few days later. Downtown Julie Riley had crocus in bloom April 25.

– "Primarily Poppies", a First Friday art exhibit by Willow Garden Club president Karen Mattson, will be held at the Captain Cook Hotel's Whales Tail, May 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Gardening Tips from THINK SPRING Class

- For big leeks start with plants ordered from Dixondale Farms (Dawn Bishop). They also sell onion plants.
- Favorite perennial book– *Perennials for Every Purpose* by Quebec City gardener Larry Hodgson, 2000, Rodale Press (Gretchen Fowler).
- Grow a long row of kale to roast. Recipe: Preheat oven to 400-425°. Toss kale with olive oil, salt and pepper. Spread in single layer on oiled cookie sheet. After about 5 min. leaves will appear limp & steamed; watch closely for another 3-5 minutes. There's a fine line between crispy & burnt! When crisp, eat and enjoy. Yum! (Mary Vavrik)

Additions for the AMGA Directory

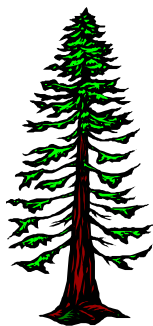
Please welcome the following members to the AMGA. Michelle Semerad and Leslie Kellogg are returning members (although Leslie has now moved to Wasilla). April Leuzinger and Carol Jones are new, non-voting members. Remember to add them to your AMGA Directory.

Michelle Semerad, 337 E. 4th Ave #69 Anchorage, 99501, 868-7715, msemerad@qci.net
 April Leuzinger, 3640 MIRA GLE CIR, Anchorage 99504, 337-0086, leuzinger8@yahoo.com
 Carol Jones, 6720 Baby Bear Drive, Anchorage, 99507, 344-9115, cfjones@alaska.net
 Leslie, Kellogg, P.O. Box 875910-101, Wasilla, 99687, lkkrk@pobox.mtaonline.net



TREerific Q & A

by a couple of TREerific members for AMGA



Q: What is the difference between Fir, Spruce and Pine trees?

A: Evergreens are a great way to add color and variety to your winter landscape. We are all very familiar with the spruce that grow native here in Alaska, but what we may not realize is that there are many options when it comes to selecting ornamentals for our landscape. What follows is a background on what the different species are, and some of their identifying characteristics. There are many good sources of information available about these and other species, and we encourage you to pick one up and learn more.

The *Abies* (Fir) genus is in the Pinaceae family and consists of about 42 species widely spread through North and Central America, Canada, Europe and Asia, and northern Africa, however there are about 13 that grow here in Alaska. They are typically very conical or pyramidal in form, especially when young, and can grow over 200 feet tall. The leaves (needles) are relatively short, flat and spirally arranged along the twigs, often in 2 rows giving a flat appearance. They usually have 2 white or pale stripes (stomatic bands) on the bottom leaf surface, and the apex (tips) of the individual leaves can be rounded, pointed or even notched, depending on species. The bark varies by species, but most are light in color and have resinous bumps. The mature cones of the *Abies* genus are erect and vary in length depending on species. They prefer moist, well drained, acid soils and high atmospheric moisture with cooler temperatures; however they are intolerant of air pollution.

The *Picea* (Spruce) genus is in the Pinaceae family and consists of 35-40 species spread through the cooler regions of the Northern Hemisphere. About 16 different varieties grow well here in Alaska. Spruces typically develop a fairly uniform conical shape and the leaves are spirally arranged along the twigs from a peg like structure. The individual leaves (needles) are 3-4 sided and can be rolled between the fingers. The apex of the leaves are pointed, and some can be very sharp. The cones are pendant, meaning they hang from the branches and vary in size by species. The bark is usually thin and scaly on old trees and can be very resinous. The *Picea* genus prefer moderately moist, well drained soils.

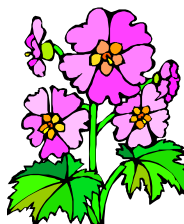
The *Pinus* (Pine) genus is also in the Pinaceae family and is comprised of 90-110 species that are spread widely throughout the northern hemisphere from the arctic circle to Guatemala. If you are interested in selecting from the Pine palate, there is good news; about 22 varieties will grow well here. Most of the species are large trees, but they can vary greatly in mature height and spread. Their growth habit is mostly pyramidal, and symmetrical in youth and develop into an open, round topped tree as they mature. They are the most

pollution tolerant of these three species. Mature leaves (needles) can be very long, and originate from fascicles (clusters) of 2, 3 or 5, a defining characteristic of the species. The leaves of the 2 needle species are semi-circular whereas the 3 and 5 leaved species are triangular. The cones of the Pines vary greatly, and some can be very large and heavy.

If you want to learn more about the Fir, Spruce or Pine trees that grow well here in Alaska, contact Anchorage TREerific by sending an email to TREerificAnchorage@yahoo.com. Join us by helping plant and maintain trees in various parks this summer. Any questions, call Nancy Beardsley at 343-4288.

Gardening Calendar

[See Enclosure for 2007 Anchorage Calendar Items]



**57th National Primrose Show & Garden Tours,
American Primrose Society,
Juneau.
May 18-20**

For inquiries, tickets and additional information contact Ed Buyarski at (907) 789-2299 or amprimsoc@hotmail.com. American Primrose Society web site- <http://www.americanprimrosesociety.org/special%20events.html>.



Garden Help Needed

I am looking for someone to hire to maintain my garden. It's small but I'm willing to expand it. My previous gardener, a wonderful lady, died this past winter. I have no skill in gardening and honestly no interest in getting intimate with dirt. But I do love the beautiful flowers she made bloom. I've been through the yellow pages of the phone book and can't find any service that will do this that is not a big landscaping service which is beyond my means or needs. Contact: www.elisepatkotak.com or phone 907-344-2113



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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2007 ANCHORAGE AREA GARDENING CALENDAR PULL OUT

**Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
Anchorage Chapter
University of Alaska Cooperative Extension
P.O. Box 221403
Anchorage, Alaska 99522-1403**

Non Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #107
Anchorage, Alaska

2007 Anchorage Area Gardening Calendar

Compiled by Julie Riley, Extension Horticulture Agent

SPECIAL PLANT SALES

May 7, Mon – Friday, until plants sell out

King Career Education Center plant sale, weekdays 9 am – 5 pm. In the greenhouse at 2650 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, 278-9631.

May 12, Saturday

Spring Tree Seedling Sale, sponsored by the Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter, 9 am, in the parking lot on W. Northern Lights Blvd. and Spenard Road, near REI in Anchorage. Species include Lodgepole pine, Siberian larch, Paper birch, Blue spruce and White spruce. Seedlings will be approximately 8 inches tall. Contact, 269-8465.

May 19, Saturday

Alaska Botanical Garden Plant Sale and Membership Drive, 10 am - 12 pm ABG members only; 12 – 4 pm, public welcome. Includes the Alaska Rose Society. ABG is located just south of Tudor on Campbell Airstrip Road, 770-3692, garden@alaskabg.org.

Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale, 9 am – 4 pm, 7435 Old Harbor Avenue, 333-4989.

May 22 – September 15

Alaska Botanical Garden Nursery Open, Tuesdays – Saturdays from 11 am – 4 pm; Wednesdays open until 7 pm. ABG and American Horticultural Society members get 10% discount on plant sales. ABG is located south of Tudor on Campbell Airstrip Road, 770-3692.

May 23 & 24

Hiland Mountain Correctional Center Plant Sale, 12 – 5 pm and if plants are still available– May 25 thru 28, 10 am – 5 pm. Includes bedding plants and hanging baskets with unusual varieties. Take the Hiland Road exit off the Glenn Highway and follow the signs to the Correctional Center, Amy Rabeau, 696-9102.

May 25 & 26, Friday & Saturday

Bud Dubay & Friends Plant Sale, Friday 4 – 7 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, 2065 Belair Dr. (off Forest Park Drive). Includes many varieties of dahlia and tomatoes, a few perennials and some unusual annuals, 276-1804.

May 26, Saturday

Valley Garden Club Plant Sale, 9 am – 3 pm, Burchell High School/Wasilla, 907-892-0993, golfdrum@gci.net.

May 26, Saturday

Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale, 10 am – 5 pm, Snowfire Garden, 3379 Inlet Vista Circle, off mile 5.2 Fairview Loop Road, Wasilla. The garden will be open to visitors this day also, 907-376-5390.

June 2, Saturday

Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale, 9 am – 4 pm, 7435 Old Harbor Avenue, 333-8237.

June 2, Saturday

Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale, 9 am – 5 pm, 3734 W. 35th Ave., 248-9563.

June 2 Saturday

Mat-Su Master Gardener's Plant Sale, 9 am – 5 pm, Palmer Pavilion (by the downtown visitor's center). Also includes garden related items such as magazines, garden art, and bird houses, 907-745-6561.

July 10, Tuesday

Alaska Rose Society Plant Sale, 7 – 9 pm, Delaney Park Strip Centennial Rose Garden, 345-5609.

Special Classes, Programs and Events

Community Garden Plots. The Municipality of Anchorage is currently taking registrations for both the C Street and McPhee Gardens. For more information, check out <http://www.muni.org/parks/gardenplots.cfm>. Also, look for a new community garden opening in Fairview Lion's Park later this July! For questions or to register, you can contact the Garden Administrator, Deseray Lincoln at 343-4473.

May 8 -11, Tuesday – Friday

Floral Design Workshop, 10 am – 1 pm, UAF Cooperative Extension Service in Anchorage. Taught by floral design expert Sharon Hoffbeck. Students will learn introductory design theory, techniques and the proper care and handling of fresh plant material. Fresh floral arrangements completed in each class by students will be taken home to enjoy. Pre-registration is required, fee \$110, 786-6300.

May 10, Thursday

Citizen Weed Warriors Information Meeting, 6:30 -7:30 pm, Hilltop Chalet, Anchorage. Not all aliens are from outer space! Stop the spread of noxious and invasive plants by joining a MOA volunteer weed pulling group. Instruction by Jamie Nielsen, UAF Cooperative Extension, contact Margaret Timmerman, MOA, 343-4217.

May 10, Thursday

Tree City, USA Celebration, 11 am. Join Mayor Mark Begich, MOA Parks and Recreation Department and the State Division of Forestry at Russian Jack Springs Park Greenhouse. This event will celebrate Anchorage as a Tree City, USA and kick off 'Arbor Days' May 12 – 24. Contact Monique Anderson andersonms@muni.org for more information.

May 14 & 15, Monday & Tuesday

Pesticide Applicator Course, Initial & Recertification, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. For licensed pesticide applicators needing certification in categories 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, or 14. Held at UAF Cooperative Extension Service in Anchorage, 2221 E. Northern Lights (behind Medical Park). Pre-registration required, \$40, 786-6300.

May 18, Friday

Clare House Annual Garden Party, 5 – 8 pm, BP Atrium. A Catholic Social Services benefit for Clare House, a shelter for homeless women and children. Purchase hanging baskets, window boxes & perennials. Silent auction including unique gardening related items. Appetizers, beverages, music. Advance tickets \$25 or \$30 at the door, 764-1150.

May 19, Saturday

Lobelia Basket Workshop, sponsored by the Anchorage Garden Club 10 am – 12 pm. Make a lobelia basket similar to the ones the Municipality puts up downtown. Application form available at http://communitynews.adn.com/main.wsi?group_id=49. Cost \$50, pre-registration required. Workshop location provided upon registration, 566-0539.

May 19, Saturday

Tremendous Adopt-a-Tree, tree pickup for lucky applicants. Every year 1,000 trees are given out to residents of the Municipality of Anchorage. Applications can be found in the Daily News the first Friday of April and names are drawn by lottery. Sponsored by the Municipality of Anchorage and Conoco Phillips. Contact Wade Collins CollinsWA@muni.org for more information.

May 19, Saturday

Soils and Organic Amendments, Short demonstrations presented between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 by Julie Riley, Extension Horticulture Agent at the Alaska Botanical Garden Plant Sale, 786-6300.

May 21, Monday

Alaska Arbor Day, 2 -3 pm. Celebrate with the Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Garden Club with tree plantings at Susitna Elementary School, 7500 Tyone Court (near Northern Lights/Muldoon Carrs). For questions contact Nickel LaFleur, 337-5651 or tagalak@alaska.net.

May 22, Tuesday

Rachel Carson Celebration, 5:30 – 8:30 pm, sponsored by Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT). An evening of assorted music and learning about organic gardening and healthy alternatives to pesticides. Kincaid Park Chalet, free. For more information contact ACAT at 222-7714.

May 22 – September 15, Tuesdays – Saturdays

Alaska Botanical Gardens Discovery Duffels, 11 am – 4 pm. Families and groups with kids ages 4–9 can check out a duffel bag containing a book and variety of activities for kids. Just ask a staff member or volunteer in the ABG Nursery. There is no charge, but you will need to surrender a driver's license while you have the bag, 770-3692.

June 1-3, Friday – Sunday

Alaska Dandelion Festival "Celebrating the Bounty & Diversity of Nature", Seward. Contact Marie Wagner, 623-703-4453 or dmea@netzero.net.

June 2, Saturday

New Ideas and Inspiration for Container Gardens, 9 am, taught by Suanne Sikkema, at In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street. Register at 346-4247 or abel@gci.net.

June 2, Saturday

Meet metal artist Marieke Heatwole, at In the Garden Nursery, 11 am – 5 pm. Original garden art on display and for purchase, 7307 O'Brien Street, 346-4247 or inthegardennursery.com.

June 2 – September 8, Wednesdays

Shop at the Alaska Botanical Garden Open, Wednesdays 1 - 7 pm; Saturdays 11 am – 4 pm. ABG and American Horticultural Society members get 10% discount on gift shop sales. ABG is located south of Tudor on Campbell Airstrip Road, 770-3692.

June 2 – September 8, Wednesdays & Saturdays

Guided Tours of the Alaska Botanical Garden, 1 - 7 pm. Docent on Duty 11 am – 4 pm. Meet at the ABG entrance. Tour the gardens with an ABG docent and you are sure to learn something new. Groups are welcome but should call ahead if more than 15 people will be attending, 770-3692.

June 3, Sunday

North Root Big Lake Gardeners Third Annual Mat-Su Greenhouse Gallup, 12 noon. Carpool from the Big Lake Library parking lot. Visit nurseries, greenhouses and tree lots from Big Lake to beyond Palmer on an organized tour with map and stops for coffee and goodies. Donations for gas to drivers appreciated. Need more Information? Linda Lockhart at 892-8119.

June 3- 9

Celebrate National Garden Week. During spring, the season of renewal, millions of Americans turn joyfully to gardening.

June 5, 7, 12 & 14, Tuesdays & Thursdays

Watershed Stewardship Workshop, 6-9 pm. taught by Fred Sorensen, UAF Cooperative Extension Water Quality Specialist. Basics of watershed stewardship with an introduction to the processes and vocabulary of watersheds and what it means for you. Class on June 12 is a field trip; others meet at CES, 2221 E. Northern Lights (behind Medical Park). Registration fee, \$10, 786-6311.

June 6 – August 15, Wednesdays

Storytime in the Garden, Wednesdays 6:30 pm, Come hear nature stories. For kids ages 3-5 with a caregiver. Meets in the Lower Perennial Garden at the Alaska Botanical Garden. Cancelled if raining. ABG is located south of Tudor on Campbell Airstrip Road, 770-3692.

June 6 – August 15, Wednesdays

Garden Notes, Wednesday evenings, Come hear music in the Alaska Botanical Garden. Cancelled if raining, 770-3692.

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. Alaska Botanical Garden. 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 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.

June 24-30

Alaska Weeds Awareness Week

June 26, Tuesday

Invasive Weeds Identification Workshop, sponsored by the UAF Cooperative Extension Service. Two sessions available, 1 – 3 pm or 7 - 9 pm. Includes live plants and pressed specimens. Held at the Cooperative Extension Service office in Anchorage, 2221 E. Northern Lights (behind Medical Park), free, 786-6300.

June 28 – August 2, Thursdays

Alaska Botanical Garden's "Secret Garden Series", 4 – 5:30 p.m. or 5:30 – 7 pm. Features tours of six private gardens. Chat with the owners in an unhurried atmosphere. Educational topics include landscape design for fire mitigation, color and texture combinations, rock gardening, over-wintering tender plants and over-winter pond fish. \$90 ABG membership required to purchase tickets. New members may join at time of ticket purchase, 770-3692 or stop by the ABG office at 3701 E. Tudor Road, Suite 203.

July 7, Saturday

Hypertufa Trough Workshop, 11 am. Make a light-weight simulated rock planter with the guidance of expert hypertufa crafter Carmel Tysver. Held at the Alaska Botanical Garden, south of Tudor on Campbell Airstrip Road, \$25. Call ABG to sign up, 770-3692.

July 7, Saturday

North Root Big Lake Gardeners Stepping Stone Workshop, 11 am. Construct your own fanciful stepping stones. Use common items to make long-lasting, beautiful stones for your garden. Location: Lockhart & Erskine Garden, Mile 6.7 South Big Lake Road. \$40 includes materials for one large or two small stepping stones. Space is limited to 10. Please call for reservations, Linda Lockhart at 892-8119.

July 7, Saturday

Nursery Pot Recycling Day, 10 am -5 pm. Come to the Alaska Botanical Garden and drop off your plastic nursery/flower pots for recycling. This special one-day-only event is coordinated with ALPAR and the Smurfit-Stone Recycling Center. For details contact ABG at 770-3692 or garden@alaskabg.org.

July 14, Saturday

Bells Nursery 3rd Annual Garden Fair, 10 am – 4 pm. See new varieties for 2008 and other displays, 13700 Specking Road. Contact Steph at 345-4476 if you have questions.

July 21, Saturday

Willow Garden Club Garden Tour. Meet at the Willow community Center, Mile 69.2 Parks Highway to get maps. Bring a sack lunch. Tour ends at Les Brake's Coyote Garden. Contact Karen Mattson, 495-6636.

July 21, Saturday

Alaska Garden & Art Festival, 11 am – 6 pm. Explore the beautiful Alaska State Fair Gardens in Palmer, attend garden-related talks, workshops and demonstrations. Learn about local gardening clubs and enjoy a variety of vendors. \$5, children 11 and under free, gardenfestival@alaskastatefair.org.

July 21 & 22, Saturday & Sunday

Coyote Garden Tour, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 12 – 5 pm. Enjoy Les Brake's beautiful garden which has been featured in the magazines *Horticulture*, *Sunset*, *Country Gardens* and *Gardens Illustrated*. Donations benefit the Alaska Botanical Garden and the Willow Garden Club. Mile 7, Willow/Fishhook Road, Willow, 770-3692 or garden@alaskabg.org.

July 10 – 12, Tuesday – Thursday

July 13 – 15, Friday – Sunday

July 16-18, Monday – Wednesday

Edible & Medicinal Plants of Mantanuska Valley, taught by Janice Schofield. Class meets the first day in each series from 7-9 pm; the following two days from 9 am – 5 pm. Includes field trips to munch, identify and harvest wild herbs. Also preparation of wild foods, tinctures, boot baths, salves and teas. Cost: \$110. For details see http://www.goodearthgardenschool.com/schofield07_announcement.htm

July 20 – 22, Friday – Sunday

Beyond Herbology, taught by Janice Schofield and Ellen Vande Visse. Friday 7 – 9 pm, Saturday & Sunday 9 am – 5 pm. For those who have already taken a basic wild herb workshop. Learn to tune-in to interact directly with nature. Includes making flower and/or environmental essences as well as potentized remedies for personal and garden health. Students will report back in autumn via internet on the results of their personal projects. Cost: \$110. For details see http://www.goodearthgardenschool.com/schofield07_announcement.htm

July 27 – 29, Friday – Sunday

Alaska Herb Conference: Herb-Land Security Conference, Meier Lake Conference Center between Wasilla and Palmer. Themes include: 1) Empowerment thru Education: Physical Well Being, 2) Mental-Emotional Well Being, 3) Pets, 4) Spiritual Connection, and 5) Empowerment in Action: Gardens for Life. Saturday evening herbal spa, herb walks and delicious organic meals. Registration by June 30, \$175; \$195 after this date. Full details at <http://www.goodearthgardenschool.com>.

July 29, Sunday

Anchorage Garden Club's Annual City Garden Tour, 12 – 5 pm, a self-guided tour 6-8 wonderful gardens. Watch the Anchorage Daily News on Thursday, July 26 for details. If you have a garden to nominate for the tour http://communitynews.adn.com/main.wsi?group_id=49, or 566-0539.

August 4 & 5, Saturday and Sunday

Anchorage Garden Club's 64th Annual Flower Show, Saturday 10 am – 8 pm, Sunday 10 am – 6 pm. A standard flower show with horticulture and flower design exhibits. Anyone can enter. To receive a booklet listing rules and categories leave a message at 566-0539. The show is held at the Alaska Botanical Gardens, south of Tudor on Campbell Airstrip Road, http://communitynews.adn.com/main.wsi?group_id=49.

August 5, Sunday

North Root Big Lake Gardeners Hidden Valley Garden Tour, 11 am. Tour interesting and fabulous gardens in the Big Lake/Meadow Lakes area. This is a progressive tour. Directions for only the first garden are given at the Library. You must proceed to the next garden to get the map to the second garden and so on. There will also be a progressive game with winners selected at the final garden. Location: Meet at Big Lake Library parking lot. Free, but donations will be applied to the NRBLG Scholarship Fund. Need more Information? Linda Lockhart at 892-8119

August 15, Wednesday

Mushroom Walk at the Alaska Botanical Garden with Diane Pleninger, 7 pm. Meet at the ABG entrance, 770-3692 or garden@alaskabg.org.

August 18, Saturday

Sweet Pea Day, at Alaska Mill Feed & Garden Center, 1501 E. 1st Ave., Anchorage. Entries can be viewed from 9 am – 5 pm. Flowers will be judged with prizes in several categories, 276-6016.

August 23- Sept 3

Alaska State Fair, Palmer "Fun Amongst the GIANTS". Fair hours 12 - 10 pm on weekdays, 10 am - 10 pm on weekends, including Labor. Day Flower and crop entries August 22 and August 28, 907-745-4827.

August 29 – December 16, Wednesdays

UAA 3 credit course: Introduction to Horticulture (AGRI A136) 6:30 – 9:20 p.m.. Instructor: Gregg Terry. Offered through UAA's Community & Technical College, Eagle River Campus. Class meets at Chugiak High. \$384 plus possible fees; register early, 694-3713.

September 5, Wednesday

Mushroom Walk at the Alaska Botanical Garden with Diane Pleninger, 7 pm. Meet at the ABG entrance, 770-3692 or garden@alaskabg.org.

November 13 & 14, Tuesday & Wednesday

Anchorage Garden Club's 47th Annual Holiday Flower Show. A flower show to start the holiday season. Anyone can enter. There are both horticulture and design categories. A schedule listing the categories should be available in September. Check the Anchorage Garden Club hotline for show hours, 566-0539. Tuesday Tea from 1 – 3 pm. Held at Wells Fargo Bank, C Street and Northern Lights Blvd., http://communitynews.adn.com/main.wsi?group_id=49.

Garden Club Meetings– public welcome

May 7, Monday

Alaska Native Plant Society meeting, "Vegetation Diversity of the Chugach National Forest", 7:30 pm, presentation by Rob Develis, Campbell Creek Science Center, Anchorage, The entrance to the Science Center is at the intersection of Abbott Loop Road and East 68th St. For more information see <http://aknps.org>.

May 10, Thursday

Herb Study Group meeting, "Lemon Balm–Herb of the Year", 1:30 pm. UAF Cooperative Extension Service in Anchorage, room 130, 2221 E. Northern Lights (behind Medical Park). Also includes making plans to plant the Alaska Botanical Garden herb garden, 786-6300.

May 19, Saturday

North Root Big Lake Gardeners Garden Planning Workshop II, 1 pm, Big Lake Library Community Room. Need more Information? Linda Lockhart at 892-8119.

May 21, Monday

Anchorage Master Gardener Association meeting, "Clematis", presented by Kris Mulholland. 7 pm. UAF Cooperative Extension Service in Anchorage, room 130, 2221 E. Northern Lights (behind Medical Park), 786-6300.

May 22, Tuesday

Alaska Orchid Society meeting, "Repotting & Mounting Orchids" presented by Sally Karabelnikoff, 7:30 pm, Central Lutheran Church, 15th and Cordova, Anchorage, 248-1644.

June 5, Tuesday

North Root Big Lake Gardeners meeting, 6:30 pm. Living wreath construction, perennial division, tomato culture and planting demonstration. Greenhouse tips, and installation of new officers. Bring excess plant starts to share and trade. Location: Faith Bible Fellowship Hall. Need more Information? Linda Lockhart at 892-8119.

June 7, Thursday

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

June 18, Monday

Anchorage Master Gardener Association field trip, "Spring in the Rock Garden", 7 pm. Amelia and John Walsh's, 12330 Lilac Drive, 786-6300.

July 3, Tuesday

North Root Big Lake Gardeners meeting, 6:30 pm, Native plants in the garden, trellises, arbors and canes. Supporting plants, shrubs and trees with local willow branches. Location: Faith Bible Fellowship Hall. Contact Linda Lockhart, 892-8119.

July 16, Monday

Anchorage Master Gardener Association field trip, "Tropical Greenhouse Tour", 7 pm, Gary & Stephanie Moore's, 11719 Laurie Circle, Eagle River, 786-6300.

July 12, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club field trip to Girdwood, "Moose Meadows/ Mt. Alyeska" led by Verna Pratt. Meet at Carrs Huffman parking lot, south side, 9 am. Contact Verna on what to bring, 333-8212.

August 2, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club Meeting, "Delphiniums" presented by David Goodgame, 7:30 pm. Contact the Anchorage Garden Club hotline to see if the program is in the Pioneer School House basement or at David's house, 566-0539.

August 6, Monday

Anchorage Master Gardener Association field trip, "Clematis in Bloom", 7 pm. Kris Mulholland's, 7211 E. Chester Heights Circle, 786-6300.

August 20, Monday

Anchorage Master Gardener Association field trip, "Gardens of Spenard", 7 pm. Meet at Gordon Pyle's to begin tour of 3 – 5 gardens. For directions call 786-6300 or 245-8081.

September 6, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club Meeting, "Bird Banquets" presented by Charlotte and John Jensen, 7:30 pm. Pioneer School House basement, corner of 3rd and Eagle, 566-0539.

September 13, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club meeting, "Integrating Vegetables into the Flower Garden", presented by Annie Nevaldine, 10 am, Central Lutheran Church, 15th & Cordova, 277-7150.

September 17, Monday

Anchorage Master Gardener Association meeting, "Fabulous Foliage", 7 pm, presented by Peg Reynolds, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. (behind Medical Park), 786-6300.

September 25, Tuesday

Alaska Orchid Society meeting, special guest to speak on complex *Paphiopedilums* (bulldogs), 7:30 pm, Central Lutheran Church, 15th and Cordova, Anchorage, 248-1644.

October 4, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club Meeting, "Ten Ways to Kill a Lawn" presented by Julie Riley, Extension Horticulture Agent, 7:30 pm. Pioneer School House basement, corner of 3rd and Eagle, 566-0539.

October 11, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club meeting, "Dry Flower Arranging", presented by Della Barry & Liz Rockwell, 10 am, Central Lutheran Church, 15th & Cordova, 277-7150.

October 15, Monday

Anchorage Master Gardener Association meeting, "Genetically Modified Organisms", 7 pm, presented by Dr. Roseann Leiner, Extension Horticulture Specialist, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. (behind Medical Park), 786-6300.

November 1, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club Meeting, "Fall Blooming Perennials" presented by Annie Nevaldine, 7:30 pm. Pioneer School House basement, corner of 3rd and Eagle, 566-0539.

November 8, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club meeting, "Climate Changes in Anchorage", presented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 10 am, Central Lutheran Church, 15th & Cordova, 277-7150.

November 19, Monday

Anchorage Master Gardener Association meeting, "Great Alaskan Taste Discoveries", 7 pm. Bring a special treat with recipe to share. UAF Cooperative Extension Service, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. (behind Medical Park), 786-6300.

November 29, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club special meeting, "Holiday Wreaths", taught by Wayne Leiser, 10 am, Dimond Greenhouses, 1050 W, Dimond Blvd., \$20/person, 277-7150.

Additional Garden Group Activities

Most groups do not have regular summer meetings. Check dates and location before attending any of the group monthly activities listed below.

1st Sundays

Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group meets at 1 pm in Eagle River. They are currently looking for a permanent meeting location. See www.alaskabonsaiclubs.org or call 278-5926.

1st Mondays

Alaska Native Plant Society meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Campbell Creek Science Center in Anchorage. See www.aknps.org

2nd Thursdays

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers meet at 7 pm in Anchorage. See www.apfga.org or call 907-745-2043.

3rd Saturdays

Alaska Rock Garden Society meets at 2 pm in Anchorage or Palmer. Anchorage contact, 522-3490; Wasilla contact, 357-2747.

4th Mondays

Southcentral Alaska Beekeepers Association meets at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post 9785, 10527 VFW Road in Eagle River, except for August and December. See alaskabees.com or call 727-8200.

4th Tuesdays

Alaska Orchid Society meets at 7:30 p.m. in Anchorage.

4th Wednesdays

Anchorage TREErific meets at 6:00 pm at Russian Jack Chalet, TREErificAnchorage@yahoo.com.

Meetings vary

Primrose Study Group contact is Mary Jo Burns, 248-2827.

Meetings vary

Aurora Borealis African Violet Society contact is Pat Addison, 562-0547.

Volunteer (and learning) Opportunities

May 9, Wednesday

Spring Clean Up Day at the Botanical Garden, 10 am – 3 pm. Volunteers needed to help set up the nursery, remove mulch from beds, and do light trail maintenance. ABG is located south of Tudor on Campbell Airstrip Road, 770-3692, garden@alaskabg.org.

May 12, Saturday

Join the Alaska Rock Garden Society in the spring clean-up of the Alaska Botanical Garden rock garden, 522-4390.

May 13, Sunday

North Root Big Lake Gardeners Reforestation Project, 1 pm, North Root Big Lake Gardeners have purchased 100 paper birch and 100 white spruce seedlings from the American Society of Foresters. These seedlings will be used to reforest a small area that was burned in the 1996 Big Lake Fire. Please bring shovel or trowel, gloves and a bucket or two of water for planting. Refreshments will be provided. Need more Information? Linda Lockhart at 892-8119.

May 17, Thursday

Join the Wildflower Garden Club in renovating the wildflower beds at the Alaska Botanical Gardens, 10am, 277-7150.

May 19, Saturday

23rd Annual Creek Cleanup & Celebration, cleanup 9 am – 12 pm; celebration 12 pm -2 pm. Help clean up Anchorage area creeks, rivers, lakes and wetlands from Eagle river to Girdwood. For details contact Deb Essex, 743-1053 or deb@anchoragecreeks.org.

May 26, Saturday

North Root Big Lake Gardeners Big Lake Library Garden Clean-up, 10 am, Big Lake Library Grounds
Annual spring garden bed cleaning and re-planting. This year we will also be taking an inventory of local plants for inclusion in a large round planter for the Jordan Lake Project so we can plant a "native habitat plant identification garden" for the area. Need more Information? Linda Lockhart at 892-8119.

May & June

Garden Assistance Program (GAP). Gardeners are needed to help plant vegetable gardens in Anchorage, 929-0687, patricksw@ak.net.

June 1 & 2, Friday and Saturday

Day of Caring in Fairview. The Municipality of Anchorage has partnered with United Way and Fairview Recreation Center to improve parks in Fairview. Improvements include the creation of a new Community Garden. Contact Nancy Beardsley beardsleynj@muni.org for more information.

June 19-27

Citizen Weeds Warriors

Join this group at various parks to attack invasive plant species. This is the second year of this popular volunteer opportunity! Contact Margaret Timmerman timmermanma@muni.org for more information.

May - September

Adopt-a-Garden, Volunteers are needed to care for 42 Adopt-a-Garden sites throughout Anchorage. In late May Parks and Recreation will begin delivering flowers to beautification sites located in parks, medians and public right-of-ways. Volunteers care for these gardens June through September. Contact Nancy Beardsley beardsleynj@muni.org for more information.

May 23 & 24, Wednesday & Thursday

Anchorage TREErific Arboretum Planting, 6-9 pm at Lyn Ary Park
Contact Nancy Beardsley beardsleynj@muni.org for more information.

Foster a Flower

Parks and Recreation displays over 1,000 hanging baskets in the Downtown and Spenard business districts each summer. Flower baskets can be fostered for \$75. Foster two baskets for \$150 and a plaque will be placed on a light pole recognizing your contribution. Download an application at www.muni.org/parks/volunteer.cfm or contact Wade Collins collinswa@muni.org for more information.

May - September

Anchorage TREErific Tree Care. Would you like to help care for trees this summer? The mission of Anchorage TREErific is to "enrich our community through planting, caring and promotion of trees." There are trees in select areas that need watering and weeding. Contact Nancy Beardsley beardsleynj@muni.org for more information.

Late May - September

Join the Herb Study Group at the Alaska Botanical Garden on Tuesday afternoons to plant and care for over 100 species of herbs. Confirm meeting times with Mary Shier 345-1562 or Cynthia Tomlinson, ABG, garden@alaskabg.org.

June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, Tuesdays

Join the Alaska Rose Society for hands on projects at Centennial Rose Garden, Delaney Park Strip 7 pm, , 10 & N, contact Mary Wondzell, 345-5609.

September 12, Wednesday

United Way "Day of Caring", 10 am - 4 pm, Help community volunteers with projects at the Alaska Botanical Garden, south of Tudor on Campbell Airstrip Road, 770-3692 or garden@alaskabg.org.

September 24-29

Fall Clean Up at the Alaska Botanical Garden, Volunteers needed to help organize the Alaska Botanical Garden nursery area and tool shed, inventory plants, trip perennials and mulch flowerbeds, 770-3692 or garden@alaskabg.org.

September 21, Friday

Anchorage Master Gardener Course, registration begins for classes starting October 17. The 14 session series runs Wednesdays and Fridays, 12 - 3 pm through December 4. Volunteers commit to 40 hours of volunteer time once they complete the course. To be placed on the interest list to receive registration materials in September, contact UAF Cooperative Extension Service in Anchorage now, 786-6300.

