

Anchorage Chapter



Volume 9, Issue 9

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

September 2007

Alaska's Giant Vegetable's Reign

Julie Riley, Extension Horticulture Agent

How many times have you seen people's eyes light up with visions of giant vegetables when you tell them you're from Alaska. Our state's reputation for mammoth-sized produce has outsiders thinking there's a giant cabbage lurking in every back yard (along with wildlife bounding across the road at every turn).

Growing larger-than-average vegetables is a Mat-Su Valley phenomenon. Sitting at home the first week of the Alaska State Fair got me wondering about who actually grows these giants. I have been teaching vegetable gardening classes for over 20 years and seldom does anyone ask how to grow a big one. There are 58 categories listed on the Alaska State Fair's giant vegetable web site (2006 data). Only five of the growers winning state records are from Anchorage and one from Eagle River. The single Anchorage name I recognized was Arda Sutton who grew a 8.8 pound cucumber in 1990. (This fact is used by one of the trolley companies giving tours of Anchorage to make a dill pickle joke.)

Sixty-six percent of gardeners achieving state giant vegetable records are from the Mat-Su Valley (36 Palmer, 2 Wasilla). John Evans and Scott Robb hold more than half of these records. Evans holds 12 state records, the earliest from 1993, a 35 pound Romanesco broccoli. Robb's first state winning entry was a rutabaga weighing 75.75 pounds (1999). He holds a total of 8 state records, 6 of which are world. (The Anchorage Daily News reported 7, so I'll have to sort this out.) This year Robb brought in a 84.7 pound kale the first week of the fair and a humongous 105.9 pound kale in round two, beating out the state's record cabbage weight set by Barb Everingham in 2000 (105.6 pounds)! This beat out the standing kale world record set by Dave Iles of North Pole (58.6 pounds, 2006). World records must be certified by the Guinness Book of World Records.

In all fairness to growers in the Interior, Mr. Iles holds 12 state records. Most of his winners are warm season crops and as you might expect, but interestingly none of these are world records. Perhaps it's not warm enough in North Pole to compete with other states/countries. Talk about warm summers— 2005 and 2004 in Southcentral Alaska were exceptional, so I checked the number of state record winners for those years. Seven records were set in 2005 and four in 2004. Last year's fair had 12 new state record winners and in addition to Scott Robb's record-size kale this year, Ron Caster beat his old state record for parsnip, 5.25 pounds.

Alaska's winning weight for a pumpkin comes from Nikiski. J.D. Megchelsen's 1,019 pound giant was almost the size of a Volkswagen. There were hopes for another whopper this year, but the Anchorage Daily News "Talk Dirt to Me" gardening blog (www.adn.com/talkdirt) reported rumors of Megchelsen's giant pumpkin blowing up a couple of weeks before fair time. "Talk Dirt to Me" is also a great place to view video footage of the fair and the Alaska State Fair web site includes video of the Giant Cabbage Weigh-Off. This year's winning entry weighed 87.7 pounds. Steve Hubacek beat out Scott Robb's largest cabbage by only 0.7 pounds. Fourteen year-old Seth Dinkel placed third with a 79.7 pounder. For all of Anchorage's claim to fame for giant cabbages, the Anchorage Daily News reported (8/31/07) the world record for cabbage weight, 124 pounds, was set in Wales 18 years ago. Have any of you even grown a 50 pound cabbage? Let me know.



CLEMATIS IN BLOOM

by Jo Anne Banta

Ah, yes, clematis (together with everything else!) were in bloom at Kris Mulholland's home on the first August tour. Master Gardeners flocked through her gardens, front and back, shade and sun, totally in awe.

Notebooks in hand, members peppered Kris with questions as they spied new plants, novel varieties not often seen in our area. At the front door, there is a rare small-leaved lilac, "palaban," which reaches a maximum height of four feet and is extremely fragrant. In the back shade garden, mini-hostas hide among a bevy of lush woodland plants. There is an elegant yellow "hibiscus flower" Kirengeshoma palmata, a native of Japan; and a tall Tricyrtis, lemon twist, with its unique foliage. Clematis macropetala, Markham Pink, thrives in the total shade covering the back fence and twining its way through a Canada red cherry.

One of our very favorites was the climbing hydrangea vine whose Velcro-like "legs" cling to the side fence, growing horizontally. Kris says it took three years to fully establish itself, and now her goal is to have it cover the entire fence. There are two wonderful kiwis; an alcove filled with hostas; and a grouping of healthy arborvitae.

Kris' first passion was roses, as one can tell by the amazing array of roses that adorn the front garden and surround the wrought iron fence. There are roses of all colors, an especially fragrant yellow Radiant Perfume; there are hardy roses, a great William Baffin; and there are tender roses in their pots that spend the winters inside. Advice from Kris: to harden your roses, start slowing down their water now, don't deadhead; and don't fertilize.

Her second love was peonies. Alas, these were past their blooming season, but we could see from the foliage that the Mulholland's yard would be well-worth a drive-by in the spring.

Today Kris is into clematis, of course, and what a wonderful collection of the vines she has on display. There is a blue macropetala along the fence; there is a low-growing upright in a gorgeous purple-blue; there is the C. Jackmanii Countessa Bouchard; there is the bell-shaped pink Betty Corning against the wrought iron fence; a C. alpina Pamela Jackson; a white, fragrant macropetala Blanc de Corbert; and, covering an entire corner of the house is the small-flowered C. viticella. When it comes to fertilizing, Kris uses Life-Link in the spring and once a month during the growing season.

Kris loves plants that you "discover." She has discovered many, and she doesn't hesitate to try challenging new ones. She has an unbelievable wisteria, Blue Moon, covering her arbor. A hardy variety, it is a year old and is good to minus-forty degrees. She has a lovely variegated lilac,

blueberries that actually bear fruit, a tall hollyhock ready to bloom, and near it a trumpet lily. The front garden features an attractive combination of lupine in lavender, pink, white, and variegated purple; beside them blooms a short delphinium in a gorgeous, almost neon, blue called Blue Butterfly.

Visitors really couldn't begin to absorb everything in one session. Suffice to say that at the end of an enjoyable evening, gardeners went away smiling, enriched by the having visited one of Anchorage's most beautiful gardens, and filled with ideas for a whole new array of plants to try, come spring.

GORDON'S GARDENS

By Jo Anne Banta

What a blast it was! I'm speaking of AMGA's trip to the historic old Spenard area and to Gordon Pyle's gardens, as well as those of his neighbors. Not only did we visit gardens, but we absorbed a lot of local history.

Gordon has only lived in his home since 2000, but his developing gardens show lots of promise. Along the front of his property are nicely-spaced new beds of sun flowers, Velvet Queen, that will reach heights of four to six feet, and local staples including bleeding hearts and ligularias. He has compost started in back, but Gordon says he still has a lot of work to do there. When fully completed, his back beds will be filled with, among other things, false indigo, meadow rue and sunflowers. Right now, however, the bordering wild area is producing pests that love feasting on his young flowers.

This is a close-knit, friendly micro-community. Next door, artist Sheila Wyne has her studio. Three huge "heads" (relics from a former drama production) rest on high poles, and scattered throughout are pieces of her wondrous yard art. Most of us remember the curved spider-like wooden sculptures, "Voracious" and "Incremental," from this year's Botanical Garden Fair. There is a metal inchworm and a lovely carved toad-stool; its stem, a naturally twisted thin tree stump. There are chairs on stumps surrounding a fire pit. (I'm told that Sheila hosts a great annual neighborhood barbeque.) At the front of her studio hangs a huge, thought-provoking bent pencil. Most interesting, however, is the rest of Sheila's large lot, for it is filled with cement-block buildings, two built into the hillside. One is truly a "tree house" (Yes, a tree is actually growing in it.) probably originally built as a woodshed. Time and the elements have wreaked havoc with them; blocks are crumbling as the hillside caves in. Sheila thinks the original owner ran a good old boys club, perhaps with gambling. As for gardening, right now she has plenty of comfrey – no slugs there, sunflowers and even a two-year old hydrangea. She is continually bringing in soil and plans to put in several 20-foot crabapples next season.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Twenty-Nine Reasons for Planting Trees

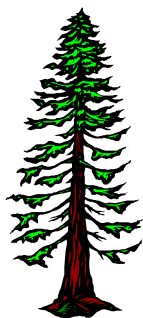
Compiled by Glenn Roloff from
USDA Forest Service –
Northern Region in Missoula,
Montana

1. To alleviate "Greenhouse Effects" by being carbon "sinks". One acre of new forest will sequester about 2.5 tons of carbon annually with trees. Each tree can absorb 13 pounds of CO₂ per year of growth with their greatest carbon storage ability at about ten years. We need to reforest the earth to remove the roughly 2.9 billion tons of carbon currently going into the earth's atmosphere.
2. Prevents or reduces soil erosion and pollution.
3. Helps recharge ground water and sustains stream flow
4. Properly placed screens of trees and shrubs significantly decrease noise pollution along busy thoroughfares and intersections
5. Screen unsightly views
6. Soften harsh outlines of buildings
7. Provides fuel-wood for stoves and fireplaces.
8. Provides lumber, plywood and other wood products on a sustained yield basis
9. 'Right tree, right place' can reduce utility bills for air conditionings by 15- 50%
10. Provide a wind and/or snow break reducing heating costs as much as 30%.
11. Provides shade to cool the city's streets and parking lots.
12. Properly placed trees and shrubs increase property value.
13. Windbreaks will significantly increase crop yields compared to fields with no windbreaks creating a micro-climate for the cropland.
14. Windbreaks will reduce utility bills for cooling & heating, providing snow entrapment, wind reduction, aesthetics, and wildlife habitat.
15. Provide nutmeats, fruits, berries, and syrups.
16. Shelters livestock
17. Living snow-fences that reduce road maintenance costs.
18. Add beauty and grace making it more enjoyable, peaceful and relaxing and offer a rich inheritance for future generations.
19. Tropical forest plants healing value. One of every four pharmaceutical products used in the U.S. comes from a plant found in a tropical forest.
20. Pharmaceutical and other medical purposes of native trees in the U.S. Example is a drug called taxol that is extracted from the bark of the Pacific yew. Taxol has been found to be effective in cutting ovarian cancer and the National Cancer Institute is conducting tests on this plant material to determine which individual yew trees will produce the highest volume of taxol and then plant a plantation of these for future use in fighting cancer.
21. Gives people a multitude of recreational opportunities and provides habitat for wildlife.
22. Along rivers/streams/lakes they reduce water temps through shading; prevent/reduce bank erosion and silt; provide hiding places for fisheries habitat.
23. Adds brilliant colors to the landscape; providing excellent mulch for flowerbeds and gardens and good exercise when raking them up.
24. Shown to reduce stress in the workplace and speed recovery of hospital patients.
25. Trees in the landscape instill community pride.
26. Helps us experience connections with our natural heritage and with our most deeply held spiritual and cultural values.
27. Valuable as commemoratives of deceased loved ones and for passing on something of value to future generations.
28. A tribe of South American Indians believes trees hold up the sky. According to legend, the fall of trees will precipitate the downfall of Earth.
29. Many people enjoy planting and caring for trees simply because they like to see them grow.

Planting trees reduces amount of carbon and saves consumers billions each year on utility bills. During a 50-year life span, one tree will generate \$30,000 in oxygen, recycle \$35,000 worth of water, and clean up to \$60,000 worth of air pollution or \$125,000 total per tree without including any other values. Planting trees just makes sense/ cents.



From your TREErific friends & the Alaska Division of Forestry, Community Forestry Program



It is not too late for each of us to take advantage of end of the year bargains on trees and plant them in our landscapes. Glenn Roloff sums it up in his article on 29 reasons we should plant trees; hope it encourages you to plant one! We at Anchorage TREErific are busily planting trees and shrubs in local parks and would love to have your help.

To volunteer, ask questions, or sign up for notices of events, email us: TREErificAnchorage@yahoo.com or call Nancy Beardsley at 343-4288.



A Plant by any other Name....is it the Same Plant?

By Linda McCarthy



I was reading an article in the newly received August/September Horticulture Magazine when I discovered I've been mispronouncing Fuchsia! I've always called the plant FEW-shuh. According to the Plant Pronunciation Guide I'd found online, Fuchsia is pronounced FEWK-see-ah. However this article said the correct pronunciation is FOOK-see-ah. I did find a conundrum in that the Plant Index and Pronunciation Guide at the back of the magazine said Fuchsia was pronounced FOOKS-ee-ah. I now know that the plant was named after the 16th century German botanist Leonard Fuchs but FEW, FOOK or FOOKS....which do we use?

Another frequent mispronunciation is forsythia, pronounced for-SI TH-ee-ah. But this plant was named for William Forsyth and the 'i' in his last name is long as in "ice" so it should be for-SI TH-i-ah.

Heuchera (frequently pronounced HEW-ker-ah) was named after Johanna Heinrich Heucher and should properly be pronounced HOY-ker-uh.

I've felt pretty good about remembering clematis was really KLEM-uh-tiss instead of Kla-MAT-us though sometimes my tongue trips over the correct pronunciation.

Will the Master Gardener's Association revoke my designation if I can't pronounce a plant name correctly???? What if I get close? I can always stick to the common name. I wonder if any other gardeners can come up with other plant names in debate.

At one point, we were asked for gardening books....thought I'd mention a few of my favorite. The following books have been issued or reissued by the Modern Library of Gardening. They are great reading for someone who loves to garden:

The Gardener's Bed Book by Richardson Wright

First published in 1929, this book contains short writings to read in bed (or elsewhere) about gardening.

In The Land of The Blue Poppies by Frank Kingdon Ward

Stories about Ward who was a professional plant collector and explorer for 40 years and author of more than 25 books.

We Made A Garden by Margery Fish

First published in 1956, this is the story of how one of Britain's most esteemed gardening writers created her famous cottage garden in Somerset, England.

My Summer In A Garden by Charles Dudley Warner

First published around 1870, this is the story by one of the earliest classical American garden writers about his Connecticut garden.

The Gardener's Year by Karel Capek

First published in Prague in 1929 and in the US in 1931 this is a month by month portrait of his gardening trials and tribulations.



Rhubarb Pie

From Dana Klinkhart

1 egg, beaten
1 cup sour cream
1 cup sugar
4 Tablespoons Tapioca
Dash of red food coloring
Pie crust
Mix the ingredients above and pour over:

Rhubarb (3-4 cups, chopped) that has been tossed with 1/3 cup sugar and place in bottom pie crust. Top with pie crust. Bake for 15 minutes at 425 degrees F. Lower temperature to 375 degrees F. and continue baking for 35-40 minutes.

Easy Cheesy Yorkshire Pie with Asparagus

2 eggs
1 cup milk
1/2 cup flour
12 teaspoon salt
1 cup cheddar cheese
1 cup chopped asparagus, cooked (or use cooked broccoli, zucchini, spinach ... whatever you have)

Mix eggs and milk. Add flour and salt. Beat until smooth. Add 1/2 cup cheese and pour into pie plate. Top with asparagus, followed by remaining cheese. Bake at 425 degrees for 30 minutes.
Serves 4



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News

By Rosemary Kimball



Life doesn't get any better than when you bring in that first bucket of strawberries. It's the end of August and we're eating as fast as we can and yet the broccoli rolls in after

I've frozen all I want. I've started looking for unlocked cars for the extra zucchini. It's the end of summer.

I'm not sure whether it was the cool temperatures or what, but the female sea berries, *Hippophae rhamnoides*, (really, really sour but full of lycopenes for aging eyes) came out of dormancy just fine, but the male took his own sweet time until after I thought the girls had quit blossoming and I was threatening to get a new stud. It turned out that the scroungiest of the female sea berries was loaded with fruit, which picked and eaten in the garden, puckers this mouth, but tossed into the blender it's a very nice juice. We're still drinking our first crop of three cups of berries but are now adding to it with a dab of leftover rhubarb, currant and orange juices. The two more robust female plants have a pretty paltry yield for which we're going to have to dive through the thorns. The autumn olive, *Eleagnus angustifolia* "Quicksilver", bloomed profusely this year with tiny fragrant yellow flowers but no high-in-lycopene fruit set. It has a native Alaskan plant, *Eleagnus commutata* or silver berry, for a cousin. Both these plants, with judicious trimming, would make nice yard trees or, in the case of the sea berries, also a nice hedge.

After a slow start, it's been a cool summer down here punctuated with bursts of sun for bursts of production. No one has had much enthusiasm for their garden's growth. MG Kathy Wartinbee mentioned she'd not start her sweet peas as early (February) as she did because they were a pain to tease apart and that her best crops were *equisetum* and dandelions. But she's also the one who says her rock garden is at its best in February when it is covered with snow (though it is very nice in August in my opinion).

Neighbor Mark grew seven different kinds of mint in separate pots this summer, grouped together at different levels, on his patio and the effect was very pleasing. His goal was to make mojitos. Google that.

We had a huge crop of red currants after the awesome display of flowers. I made the rhubarb juice recipe and substituted some of the red currants for the rhubarb. Just plain currant juice was disappointing but the combination of the two had zing. First though, they had to be defended from robins. Our local robins left several weeks ago, and what I call the North Slope robins arrived en masse. I went down to feed chickens one morning and found a flock eating MY currants. Fortunately I'd bought a 24'x36' bird net in Switzerland that the wine growers use to protect their grapes and I grabbed it and put it on. Problem solved. That's the first time that's ever happened and I'd hate to have the birds get used to eating MY currants.

If you bring in plants that have been outside for the summer, put 1/4 inch of sand on the top of the soil to foil the fungus gnats for the winter.

Looking forward to the first meeting and Fabulous Fall Foliage. See you all soon.

Winter Cabbage Salad

"If you lived on cabbage," remarked Diogenes to a young courtier, "you would not be obliged to flatter the powerful." "If you flattered the powerful," quipped the courtier, "you would not be obliged to live on cabbage."

½ cup vegetable oil
¾ cup white vinegar (sometimes I have use something like raspberry vinegar)
¾ cup granulated sugar
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. celery seed
1 tsp. mustard seed
1 medium cabbage, shredded
1 medium onion, chopped
2 green peppers, chopped
2 carrots, shredded
½ cup pitted and chopped green olives

In a medium saucepan, combine the oil, vinegar, sugar and spices. Bring to a boil and then let cool to lukewarm. Combine the vegetables in a large bowl. Pour the lukewarm mixture over the vegetables and let sit for a while before serving. Keeps in the refrigerator for at least two weeks. Makes 12 cups. To serve, lift from the liquid and drain slightly. Add cream salad dressing before serving.

From: The Well-Filled Cupboard (I SBN: 1-55041-748-7) by Mary Alice Downie and Barbara Robertson. (p. 105)

Ode to Zucchini Linda Andersen, Karlstad, Minnesota [submitted by Mary Shier]

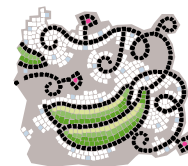
Zucchini, oh zucchini,
It's not that I'm ungrateful.
When I think of all your vitamins,
There must be loads, in every plateful!

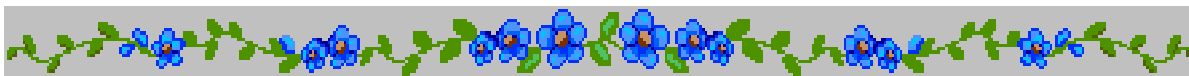
But for days, my kitchen's been a mess,
And it's all because of you, I guess.
I'd vowed I would not waste
A single one of you.

I baked you and I fried you,
Pickled, froze and dried you.
I made every zucchini recipe I knew.

And now, just as I tucked the last of you
In a quaint new bread, called "banzini,"
My proud little boy is telling me,
"Look, Mom, I found 13 more zucchini!"

So, zucchini, oh zucchini,
Though I think you're quite terrific,
Could you, please just try to be
A little less prolific?





Bird Chatter

- MG Erika Kienlen noticed a large opening on the side of the 4 inch-long black slug she found. The opening opened and closed. According to IPM Technician Michael Rasy, the hole is a respiratory opening.
- Not all insects are attracted to yellow. Julie learned at the National Association of County Ag Agents meeting in Michigan that the Emerald Ash Borer, killing thousands of *Fraxinus* species in the Midwest, likes bright purple.
- Signs were seen along commercial blueberry fields in Michigan that said "Environmentally Sensitive Area". According to the Master Gardener leading the tour, the signs are meant to alert road crews to lay off the salt in those areas during the winter months.
- The new version of **Alaska Trees & Shrubs** by Les Viereck and Elbert Little, lists the three paper birches found in the state as separate species. Those encountered in Southcentral Alaska include Alaska Paper Birch, *Betula neoalaskana* and Kenai Birch, *B. kenaica*. *Betula papyrifera*, Western Paper Birch, is found along the Canadian border in Southeast.
- Walters Gardens, which wholesales perennials in Anchorage, has switched over to a new type of paper pot called an Elle plug. Most consumers won't see the paper plug because growers are likely to pot the Elle plug into larger containers before sales. In case you're wondering about the name, Elle plug technology was developed in Denmark by Mr. Ellegaard.
- The Palmer CES office has a new agriculture/horticulture agent. Dr. Steve Brown joined UAF Cooperative Extension in late August. He previously worked with Kansas State University's Cooperative Extension Service as County Extension Director.
- "With seal oil, " is the response given by a customer purchasing turnips from Fresh International Gardens at the Saturday Market when asked how they were planning to prepare the vegetable.
- The Veldheer Tulip Farm in Holland (Michigan) describes many tulip cultivars as blue. However, during their July bulb harvest the owner told Julie Riley that in reality there are no blue tulips. He said the best blue is a Blue Parrot which is really lilac blue in color.
- Jeff Lowenfels is reminding gardeners to take home-grown vegetables to Bean's Cafe or the Anchorage Food Bank.
- The Alaska State Fair has a Giant Cabbage Webcam. You can see pictures of Bob Thom's cabbage growing between **July 15 and August 22 at** <http://www.alaskastatefair.org/2007/thefair/cabbage.html>. It's not real exciting but is more entertaining than the webcam footage of a Kotzebue snowbank.
- The critics are after presidential candidate Barack Obama for mentioning arugula. Trying to sympathize with Iowa farmers Senator Obama asked his audience if they had seen the price of arugula. Apparently someone in the audience whispered, "What's arugula?". (Source: Newsweek, 8/20/07)
- MG Jill Shepherd has assisted in getting rhubarb that had been planted at a historic site near the Akalura River added to the nation's germ plasm repository. She collected roots from Kodiak Island and transported them to Palmer where she handed them off to Joe Kuhl with the USDA Agricultural Research Service.
- October's AMGA meeting topic is on genetically modified organisms. Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, addressed the topic after his presentation on global sustainability at the Z.J. Loussac Library. He said 1/8 of the cropland in the world is now planted with genetically engineered crops and no one has gotten ill. The real problems are social and ethical in nature. Are we willing to tolerate only five companies controlling the world's food sources?
- Julie Riley will be back to work September 19. Some herbal medicines her doctor told her not to take two weeks before surgery include St. John's wort, *Echinacea*, *Ginkgo biloba*, ginseng, valerian and garlic (garlic in food is okay).
- Registration for the Anchorage Master Gardener course begins September 21. If you have friends interested in taking the class have them call the office now. The course will be taught Wednesdays and Fridays, 12 noon - 3 p.m. beginning October 17.
- In **Garden Spells**, a novel by Sarah Addison Allen, an apple tree bears magical fruit and a garden filled with herbs and edible flowers possesses the power to curiously affect anyone who eats them. (Source: Barnes & Noble promotional e-flyer.)
- Maidenhair fern was seen happily growing along a stone wall in AMGA member Debbie Hinchey's garden..
- An interestingly named array of coleus cultivars were available this year– 'Religious Radish', 'Texas Parking Lot', 'Fishnet Stockings' and 'Inky Fingers'. The 'Kong®' series cultivars were indeed giant.
- Surprise, surprise... still standing after one month in completely water logged soil: nasturtium and 'Lemon Gem' marigold. Petunia 'Purple Wave' and nemesis bit the dust.
- Garden archaeology is a relatively new field. Information can be found at the Society of Garden Archaeology's website www.gardenarchaeology.org.
- MG Nickel LaFleur has been answering tree questions in the Anchorage Daily News Ask the Expert column as a member of Anchorage TREErific.
- The Great Pumpkin Weigh-off at the Alaska State Fair was a BUST. Supposedly the pumpkin J.D. Megchelsen was growing for the contest BLEW UP a few weeks before fair time.



Gordon's Gardens cont...

Another neighbor has concentrated on a deck garden where she has full sun. Her potted dahlias are gorgeous, and, of course, we all envied her tall pink hollyhocks in full bloom. Cool railroad-tie steps lead to the deck.

Most of the area dates to pre-World War II, so that gives one some idea its vintage. Across the street are several neat trailers, grandfathered in on their own lots as well as Old Hermit Park which backs up to Fish Creek. A documentary has been made about the old hermit who lived there, as told by several of the children who were raised nearby. (It sometimes shows at the Bear Tooth Theater.) Another neighboring home is said to have been a house of ill repute. Fish Creek is no longer teeming with salmon as it was in the old days; but in the fall, moose still use the same old well-worn trail.

There you have it, rough and tumble old Spenard, its historic past and its gardening present. Master gardeners loved it.

Anchorage Unleashed Seeking Volunteers



Anchorage Unleashed needs MG volunteer(s) to help beautify the Conner's Bog Entryway. Contact Kayla Epstein: 2244-4801 or 337-1688.

From Stephanie Moore: July MG Garden Tour Update

Our timing was extremely fortunate: something - either moose or bear - went through my largest pond like a bulldozer last weekend. There's a major hole in the roofing-weight pond liner and the lilies are all dumped in the bottom. I'll have to drain and dry it to fix the leak or leaks; could have been the local black bear. Saturday night, my husband let dog Cody out for a bit about 11:30 when he had been barking (don't ask) and later reported that the "bear was chasing Cody and Cody was chasing the bear". Fortunately, no one caught anyone.



Gardening Calendar

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 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 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 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.

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 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.



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



Some of the Giant Vegetables at the Fair

Inside this issue....

Alaska's Giant Vegetable's Reign
Clematis in Bloom
Gordon's Gardens
Twenty Nine Reasons for Planting Trees
A Plant by any other Name
Rhubarb Pie Recipe
Easy Cheesy Yorkshire Pie with Asparagus Recipe
Central Peninsula MG News
Winter Cabbage Salad Recipe
Ode to Zucchini
Bird Chatter

Unloading Scott Robb's
World Record 105.9 lb. Kale
at the Alaska State Fair -
See "Alaska's Giant Vegetable's
Reign" article page 1
[Photos provided by Mary
Shier]



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