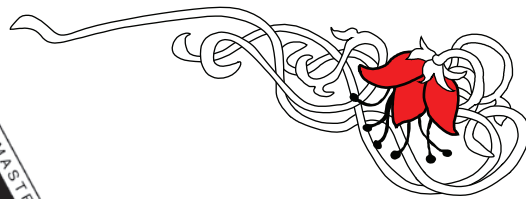




Anchorage Chapter



Volume 10, Issue 4

# ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER April 2008



From the President  
Beth Schlabaugh

"I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden."- Ruth Stout

What a lovely sentiment, I know that most of you are as anxious as I am to be out in the garden, and though there are many early garden tasks to keep us busy, it feels like spring is still a long way off.

The calendar may say that the first day of spring is in March, but to me April is the month that truly portends spring. In April the earth begins to awaken and dormant life seems to emerge overnight. In April two events also signal spring to me. These events are both on the same day; I'm assured never to forget one or the other. The first is my mother's birthday, the second, a more recent addition to the calendar - Earth Day.

My Mother taught me to respect all things and gave me a love and appreciation of flowers. Celebrating her birthday is always a wonderful time. Many cultures honor another mother, Gaia: Earth Mother, "The mother of life". The idea that the fertile earth itself is female thus nurturing mankind is as old as history. Mythological stories are full of goddess "mothers"; from the Greek Demeter, to the Roman grain goddess Ceres. These ideas were not limited to the Greco-Roman world, but have roots in cultures from around the world.



Being a gardener, the idea of "honoring" an Earth Mother has always appealed to me. I feel that I am a steward of the planet and it is my responsibility to respect, and protect it. As a sign of education and stewardship of our planet I thought that I'd share a little information about Earth Day with all of you.

Each year April 22, marks Earth Day and the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement. The first Earth Day, in 1970 was a response at the grassroots level to the rising concern about the environmental crisis sweeping the nation. The hope was to thrust the environment onto the national agenda. That day, 20 million Americans peacefully demonstrated for a healthy, sustainable environment and the initiation of environmental reform. As a result of the first Earth Day, Congress passed legislation including the Clean Air Act, laws to protect drinking water, wild lands and the ocean, and the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Successive Earth Day events have lifted the status of environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day 1990 was a boost to recycling and paved the way for the first United Nations Earth Summit. Earth Day 2000 focused on global warming and a push for quick and decisive action on clean energy. Earth Day 2007 was the largest Earth Day to date, with an estimated billion people participating in thousands of places like Kiev, Caracas, Manila, London, and New York.

Coordinated by the nonprofit Earth Day Network, Earth Day is now the largest secular holiday in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people, in 184 countries. The Earth Day Network (EDN) is a driving force, promoting environmental awareness, citizenship and year round progressive action worldwide. EDN seeks to make Earth Day a day of action which changes human behavior and provokes changes in local, national, and global policies. Earth Day is the only event celebrated simultaneously around the globe by people of all backgrounds, faiths and nationalities.

While most of us do not honor the Earth Mother goddesses of the ancients, the awakening of the planet each spring is nothing less than awe-inspiring and miraculous. Participating in local Earth Day events - what a great way to enjoy spring and participate in nature's rebirth!



## Asiatic Lilies & Dahlias - March 17, 2008 AMGA program by Jane Baldwin

MGs were treated to a perfectly timed spring double header at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting: Asiatic Lilies by Sally Karabelnikoff and Dahlias by Amelia Walsh. They both demonstrated dividing their respective plants. These experienced gardeners tore into clumps with no fear and made it look easy. Resolution: tackle the way-too-many clumps of various perennials desperately needing division in your yard. You can do it! No more intimidation and wimpiness equals lots more plants. Gardening tough love, yes indeed.

Asiatic lilies are hardy to Zone 2 (they survive in Fairbanks); do best with lots of sun (Martagon lilies will take some shade); and absolutely demand well drained soil. L. A. Hybrids, (asiatic x trumpet) produce some large flowered lilies. Oriental lilies are much less hardy here. Our lilies usually exceed the heights generally indicated - often by more than a foot. You can plant three asiatic lilies now and in a couple of years probably have 20 or more. And who knew you could propagate even more lilies using the "scales" that form on the outside of the big bulb. Asiatic lilies are best divided and replanted in the fall. Sally pots some and stores in her "root cellar" at 20-40 degrees F. (a garage will also work). They are never totally dormant, but continue to produce bulblets beneath the soil.



Watching Amelia wield her favorite screwdriver tool was awe-inspiring. Loosen that soil, separate those newly grown dahlia tubers being sure to leave a piece of the center

stalk with a growing eye — not all tubers will have an eye — and, GULP, sometimes throwing the big older tuber and those with no eye away. More gardening tough love. But what a way to increase a particularly fine plant. Dahlias need good drainage and a sunny location (at least 8 hours of direct sunlight is best). Amelia winters her dahlias in pots, divides tubers in the fall, replants them (dry) in pots, and stores them that way until spring when she brings them into lighted conditions and waters them very sparingly. Avoid high nitrogen fertilizer and compost as they promote weak stems, more leaves, and less blooms. Amelia uses a bit of timed-release



fertilizer - and doesn't note a difference in which brand she uses. And yes, they will need staking - but what large beautiful flowering plant doesn't benefit from staking?

Beth Schlabaugh brought in pompom and decorative dahlia tubers, soil and pots and issued a challenge: pot up a tuber, take it home and grow it through the summer. Take pictures and come fall, the growers of the two best looking plants will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate from the Swan Island Nursery ([www.dahlia.com](http://www.dahlia.com)).

April 21, 2008 AMGA Program:  
Small Garden Design Considerations:  
What Works in South-central Alaska and  
What's New In The Garden

Lorri Abel of In the Garden Nursery will present a program of tips, techniques and ideas relevant to our area and talk about new plants and coming trends. Lorri Abel and Sally Arant began In the Garden Nursery more than 10 years ago.

The nursery location has changed and Sally Arant has moved out of state. The nursery is now located at 7307 O'Brien Street, a block off Lake Otis Pkwy at 72nd. Suanne Sikkema, a long time professional gardener has joined Lorri in the nursery business. In the Garden Nursery's website is at <http://www.inthegardennursery.com>.



Green With Envy and Dahlias  
submitted by Linda McCartey

Lust, greed, covetousness, jealousy, and avarice - incontrovertible if ugly facts of life when dealing with a gardener in the throes of a particular plant hunger. Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon Bonaparte, was devoted to her gardens at Malmaison and was very protective of her prized plants from all over the world. When the many plants became too much for her to tend to personally, a gardener was put in charge of the collection, and corruption erupted over that most showy and flamboyant of blooms - the dahlia. One of Josephine's ladies-in-waiting approached the head gardener asking for a tuber, hoping to outdo her mistress's collection but the good man refused. Not to be denied, the young lady ordered her lover to bribe the gardener and 100 roots were promptly produced. When Josephine heard, she was outraged, dismissed the gardener, her lady-in-waiting and exiled the lover. Then she had all her dahlias chopped up and never again would let the plant be in her presence. Pretty harsh consequences for the poor plant indeed!



## Author & Horticulture Specialist from Saskatchewan to Speak at Conference By Julie Riley



The harsh climate of the Canadian Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Manitoba) rivals that which many Alaskan gardeners face. Summer daylight is shorter in the Prairie Provinces, but strong winter winds and cold temperatures make proper plant selection just as critical as it is for us. Sara Williams, retired horticulture specialist with the University of

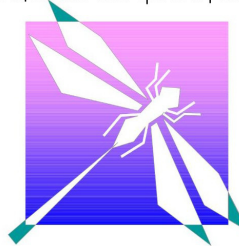
Saskatchewan in Saskatoon will be one of three featured speakers from outside the state at the 2008 Alaska Master Gardener Conference.

Sara has authored two books, along with Hugh Skinner, which focus on species selection, Best Groundcovers & Vines for the Prairies and Best Trees and Shrubs for the Prairies. Both books are packed full of information and although not "picture books", they do include color photographs.

Best Groundcovers & Vines offers good advice for Alaskan gardeners and includes a few woody plants as well as grasses and ferns. I'm looking forward to trying some of the more unusual perennials mentioned such as the evergreen called mat penstemon, *Penstemon caespitosus*, creeping forget-me-not, *Omphalodes verna alba* and the *Heuchera* that have come out of the Morden Arboretum's breeding program in Manitoba. Cathy Wright, who was horticulturist at the Plant Materials Center in Palmer in the 1980s and '90s, used to talk about *Euonymus nanus* var. *turkestanicus*, a winter hardy groundcover shrub. I'd never seen this species listed anywhere, but Sara Williams and Hugh Skinner describe it in their book.

Now that I've had a chance to look at Anita Williams's copy of Best Trees & Shrubs I'll have to add it to my bookshelf, especially since Cooperative Extension's publication "Landscape Plant Materials" is being revised. After all, the authors appreciate Ussurian pear, our first tree to bloom in spring. They even list a number of its cultivars. Hardy roses have always confused me and Best Trees & Shrubs explains the parentage of the Explorer and the Parkland series which we grow in Southcentral Alaska. Both books will be offered for sale at the conference along with Sara's book on xeriscaping and low maintenance gardening which I hope to review for next month's newsletter.

2008 Alaska Master Gardener  
Conference and Garden Fair



## In the Zone

- 2 Days of classes and lectures discussing topics about gardening in Zones 2, 3, 4
- Guest speakers include International gardening experts and authors Cisco Morris, Larry Hodgson, and Sara Williams
- 20+ Select vendors showcasing garden gadgets & 'must haves' for your garden life
- Special Conference room rates for the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel.
- Free Parking for Conference attendees

Full Registration \$135  
1 Day Registration \$ 85

After April 25th:  
2 Day Registration \$165  
1 Day Registration \$95  
(lunch provided both days)

To register call Sue Lincoln @ 696-2015 or visit:

[WWW.ALASKAMASTERGARDENERS.ORG](http://WWW.ALASKAMASTERGARDENERS.ORG)

## 2008 AMGA Spring Conference Advertisers

Peaches by the Beach - Interior Styling & Garden Design

## 2008 AMGA Spring Conference Garden Market Vendors

Alaskakrafts  
Alaska Forge  
Alaska Botanical Garden  
Alaska Master Gardeners Association  
Art With a Past Life  
Harmony Garden Art & Décor  
Hotrocks  
In the Garden  
Pendleton Fine Arts  
The Garden Gate  
Seven Sisters Soap  
Tall Trees  
Woolwood Studio & Gardens



Jane Baldwin's Beaded Dragonfly



## Northwest Garden Show by Marge Olson

I had a flash from my childhood as I walked into the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Seattle: it was just like Christmas. Before me spread booths beckoning with piles and piles of colorful things begging to be bought - I wanted to be the first to get them. Bright lights, bright colors drew me into the show and once again they have created a wonderland of gardens, arrangements, and a market place with everything new to gardening. Everyone is excited and surges across the floor to present their ticket to the most wonderful show ever of greenery. At the door, you pause, trying to take it all in and trying to figure out where to start. Debbie Hinchey advised me the first time that I went, to head to the market place before everything was gone. Good advice which I have passed on to others. Sunset Magazine sponsors 120 seminars of speakers from around the globe and the trickiest thing you have to do is get a ticket for the seminar that you want to hear and see. Our first seminar was to hear Dan Hinkley describe his new home at Windcliff.

David Stevens of the UK talked about "Small Gardens Designed for People" with a delightful English accent and slides that explained how to make a small yard look bigger by paths that disappear around corners and reappear across the yard making it seem far, far away. There were many talks on color in the garden as well as pots with personality - so many seminars and so little time.

Next were the show gardens where they bring in full grown trees planted in a setting including water features, perhaps a potting shed along with a car, tricycle or playhouse; the scare crow helped by ravens watched over the apple orchard, complete with apples still on the trees. I don't know if that was done with carefully applied glue to hold them in place or what. One arborist makes new trees look old by trimming them down to nothing and using a Dremel tool to do it. Bonsai and Ikebana displays line the aisles.

The market place is light, sound, and an explosion of color. The little baskets that we get every year to carry purchases have fake silk flowers and cabbage leaf look-alikes that look better than real. I don't exactly know what I will do with it but I got one. There were every kind of tools and gloves imaginable and some you won for just answering a few questions on what you liked about the show. You could also get free flower seeds, lavender pouches, Sluggo and calcium pellets.

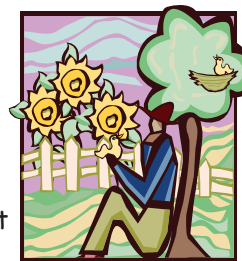
Next is the plant area. You can't imagine how many nurseries bring truck loads of plants neatly packed in plastic for you to buy. Bonsai plants, heaths, bulbs, shrubs, and hardy banana plants, dutifully bought by Alaskans who heard Cisco Morris tell us about zone 4 hardy bananas. This man is the standup comedian of the plant world with his "favorite plants" and they all are "Oo-la-la." We will be waiting for him as he delivers the opening talk at the Master Gardener's Conference here in May and those bananas better be looking good.



## The Great Sunflower Project by Gretchen LeBuhn

We have just launched The Great Sunflower Project, a community science project with the goal of increasing our understanding of where bees are doing poorly and how the pollination of our garden and wild plants are being affected. We're hoping you will join us by planting sunflowers in your garden. Community, demonstration, and school gardens are invited to participate.

We'll send you some free native sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) seed and twice a month, we'd like you to time how long it takes for 5 bees to visit one flower on that sunflower. This information will give us an index of pollination that we can compare across the United States. Once we know where bees are in trouble, we can start developing a plan to help them.



"The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others"

Saint John Chrysostom

"Life is full of beauty. Notice it. Notice the bumble bee, the small child, and the smiling faces. Smell the rain, and feel the wind. Live your life to the fullest potential, and fight for your dreams."

Ashley Smith





## South Central Peninsula Master Gardener News by Rosemary Kimball

March, or is it April, is the cruelest month? The end of March means my spring rock garden study weekend "thaw" is completed, snowdrops Outside have been admired and photographed to a fare-thee-well, and early April means too early start broccoli and cabbage, and the snow has turned to ice. My rule of thumb is to not start any transplantable vegetables like that before taxes are paid as I'm aiming for only five true leaves at transplant time. Besides I haven't finished reroofing the unheated greenhouse yet—I just need one more sunny day.



"Snowdrops" submitted by MG Rosemary Kimball after her recent Rock Garden Study Weekend

Talking to other MGs on the peninsula, lights are being plugged in and life, as gardeners know it, is starting to move again. Snow is still the dominant landscape feature. MG Margaret Simon writes: "I still have two feet of snow on my garden so I'm having a hard time getting too excited but I do have quite a few things seeded. Have already transplanted Achilles 'Summer Berries' that are supposed to bloom the first year (T&M.) The leeks are going strong and the tomatoes are getting stocky. Still too much ice in front of the greenhouse door to think about firing it up. So, gardening is at a minimum—dreams are still big!" and MG Kathy Wartinbee adds: "I pulled the begonias out about March 15. They are waking up and have a few new leaves. Petunias and geraniums started from seed are up. Today the peppermint, poppies, cucumbers, beans, and caraway was started. I can't go very far for very long because the watering routine has started".

And from Janice Chumley:

- May 1, 2008 is a BIG weed workshop here on the Kenai Peninsula. There will be speakers, a Weed ID workshop with lots of interesting information and best of all it's free. From 9:00 - 3:30 May 1st at the Kenai River Center mile 1.5 Funny River Rd. Call Janice at 262-5824 for details.

- Growers need to contact their representatives to help the Palmer Plant Materials Center distribute seed potatoes. This has been a certified disease free source

of seed potato for folks who want to grow something besides red or white for years now. Please support Bill Campbell.

- Our CPGC meets on April 1, herb seeds donated by Julie Riley

- March 31, 9:00 AM: HB 330 is before the Senate Finance Committee. It passed the house unanimously, helping Alaska to identify and deal with invasive plants. Please give your representative a call in support of an invasive plant bill that is long overdue. Act now before we are all back peddling, wishing for the country's last chance to do it right.

We had -20°F last year in November without a snow cover and I'm sweating the strawberries' return. Last summer we replanted 400 feet of the plants because of the same thing the November before that. I'm not sure I'm looking forward to the snow being gone to see if I have anything left in the rows or have to reorder.

MG Kathy Wartinbee and I went down to Homer to hear Lee Reich talk about bacciferous trees and shrubs that could grow up here. I hope you guys went to the ABG "do" and heard him there. Julie Riley loaned me his book on uncommon fruits so I got it autographed for the CES! (Bacciferous means berry producing and I learned that word on [www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com). If you haven't been to that web site, try it out and donate rice to those that need it.) It's nice living halfway between all the interesting speakers that come to Southcentral.

This month is a time of reckoning and I ask myself why I ordered eggplant seeds? They are aphid attractors worse than the seven varieties of peppers I ordered for the new deck and they drop their blossoms in cold weather, which is our microclimate in Sterling, for sure. I guess the plant will become a summer resident of the sun room and allowed occasionally out to the exercise yard on the deck. I do have a dynamite recipe for an eggplant dip and one for salad.

I've also pulled out a bag from the refrigerator containing a 'dead body' (?) that I was trying to overwinter. I have absolutely no idea what it is, which end is up, or why I kept it. How many mystery plants are stored in how many refrigerators up here at this time?...something to ponder. Also ponder why some people think they can remember what they did last year...

Would the cause of our Zamboni-ed driveway please go away.



## Bird Chatter

— Pat Anderson photographed her *Primula auricula*'s green leaves on March 8 and is renaming the hardy perennial "Spring Greeter"!

— Gordon Pyle and Debbie Hinchey reported their crocus were in bloom March 27. This is two and a half weeks earlier than I usually hear about the first spring crocus.

— Representative Max Guttentberg mentioned Chris Cikan (as a Master Gardener) on March 17 when he spoke in favor of passing HB 330 on Weeds & Invasive Plants. The bill passed unanimously.

— Sally Koppenberg will be helping to celebrate National Herb Week when she presents "Herbal Revival: Introducing Herbs to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" on May 9 at the Master Gardener Conference.

— MG Dawn Bishop-Kleweno's family won 67 ribbons for flowers and vegetables at the 2007 Alaska State Fair in Palmer. This included 18 first place ribbons. INCREDIBLE!

— An obituary section announcement on Julie Riley brought in calls from as far away as California and Indiana. Your Extension horticulture agent in Anchorage is alive and well and flattered that some of you thought she was 45.

— Denise Saigh is creating the 2008 Alaska Master Gardener Conference dragonfly logo in stained glass. It will be raffled off at the May conference.

— The room was so quiet as Jane Baldwin and her granddaughter taught ten MGs and two guests to make beaded dragonflies that you could hear a pin drop, or was it a bead?

— A photo of Dana Klinkhart teaching her PowerPoint class graces the March issue of ABG's Gardens North newsletter.

— Martha Galbreath noted an Anchorage Daily News announcement (3/6/08) that said Alaska Mill and Feed will be recycling Crocs footwear. The recycled shoes will be sold or donated to the needy in countries in Asia, Africa and Central America.

— Baseball coach, soccer coach, GARDEN COACH! To find the garden coach nearest you check out the worldwide directory at [thegardeningcoach.com](http://thegardeningcoach.com) (from Newsweek, March 10, 2008).

— Fasciated spruce branches were included in a fiber arts piece titled "Rooted", part of Mary Hertert's ELEMENTS March show at Snow City Café.

— Jeff Lowenfels was excited to learn that author Larry Hodgson is on the agenda to speak at the 2008 Master Gardener Conference.

— Fran Durner had hoped to flatten a bunch of pennies to use to deter slugs when she was at the Anchorage Museum during Bloom Town. Alas, there is stiff fee to flatten your coins.

— Mary Jo Burns won second place in Bloom Town's "Name that Plant" contest. MG Linda Slack would have won third had she been around to collect.

— An article and photographs by Willow gardener Les Brake are featured in the current issue of Horticulture magazine. In "The Alaskan Attitude" Les talks about the changes he

## Alaska Rock Garden Society Presents:

### Harry Jans

April 26th, 7:30 p.m.  
Grant Hall Lecture Room



Alaska Rock Garden Society presents Harry Jans, founding member of the Dutch Rock Garden Society & 6 year president; member of 4 AGS Expeditions including ACE 1994, SQAQ 2000, Iran Expedition 2003 & Tibet 2005. AGS Tour leader to various provinces in China in 1997, 1998, 2001 & 2006, Tibet 2005, Ethiopia & Kenya in 2006. He organized & led tours to China, Italy, Holland, Germany, England, Scotland, USA & Canada. His topics while in Alaska will include "Growing Alpines in the hills of Holland" and "Plant Hunting on the Roof of the World" (Tibet). To learn more about Mr. Jans go to [www.jansalpin.es.com](http://www.jansalpin.es.com)

## Wanted: Water Feature



I am looking for one or more "water features" for my gardens here at the house and I was wondering if any other gardeners want to get rid of or sell their no longer wanted or broken water features.

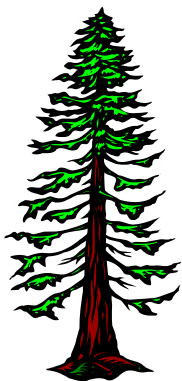
I saw some beautiful pottery water features last year on the Garden Tour and have been thinking about the use of one ever since. Please call Susan



CES Horticulture Agent Julie Riley gave two presentations and Donna Basinger helped to organize the ABG Spring Garden Conference, on Saturday, March 29, 2008.

Photo by Fran Durner





## TREErific Stuff

Society of American Foresters tree seedling order forms ready now. Seedlings will be in bundles of 20 of a single species at \$20/bundle. Order NOW up to May 1st with the distribution of seedlings in the REI parking lot Spenard and Northern Lights on May 10th. For more info contact Roger Burnside, [reburnsi@gci.net](mailto:reburnsi@gci.net) or 269-8460. The 4 bundled species available will be: Lodgepole Pine, Siberian Larch, Colorado Blue Spruce, White Spruce. Make an order with friends for some great trees. Order form is attached.

Sign up now for the Tree Care Safety: Assessing Tree Defects course on April 15th. Two half-day programs sponsored by Alaska Community Forestry Program and Pacific Northwest International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) being held at BLM Training Room off Elmore Road. Morning program is on tree care safety and afternoon program on assessing tree defects. Registration is \$100 for non ISA members for both programs or \$60 each. Register before April 4th to avoid late fee. For more information contact Stephen Nickel at 269-8466 or [stephen.nickel@alaska.gov](mailto:stephen.nickel@alaska.gov)

TREErific is looking for plant donations for both Habitat for Humanity as well as the new rain garden to be created at Central Middle School on 15th between C&E. Some plant suggestions are: lady & ostrich ferns, yellow & blue iris, hostas, perennials...



## Opportunity to Help Habitat for Humanity - Anchorage

Habitat for Humanity - Anchorage is a nonprofit housing ministry whose mission is to eliminate substandard housing in Anchorage and make affordable housing a matter of conscience and action. We partner with families to build simple, decent, affordable homes.

HFHA is completing a 12 townhome community at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Spenard. Landscaping will be a major focus for May and June, 2008.

Landscape Architect, Tamas Deak, has combined low maintenance landscaping and rain gardens in an innovative design to help the homeowners maintain the appearance of their property with minimal expense and effort.

Habitat partners with the community to help us control costs with donations of time and materials. We are inviting the gardeners of Anchorage to stop by and see the project, to volunteer to help with grounds preparation and landscape installation, and or to help with donations of iris, ferns and hostas.

To donate plants or to volunteer, contact Margaret Forbes at:

907.272.0800  
[mforbes@hfhanchorage.org](mailto:mforbes@hfhanchorage.org)

## Garden Event Calendar

April 12th, Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Anchorage Garden Club: Garden Day - A day devoted to gardening. The Anchorage Garden Club will have a booth where you can ask questions and learn about various activities the club is involved with. Come join us!! Sears Mall, Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage AK 99503 Free

Thursday, April 17th

Composting Jeff Smeenk is the instructor for this class held at the Cooperative Extension Service, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. 7-9 pm. The above class is free, but contact CES to register, 786-6300; or email: [afjar@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afjar@uaa.alaska.edu)

Saturday, April 19

North Root Big Lake Gardeners Spring Symposium, 9:30 am til 5:30 pm, Mid-Valley Senior Center, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door (without pre-registration no seat guarantee.) Speakers, a silent auction and a luncheon will be served. Space is limited to 75 (fire code) so please call Linda Lockhart at 892-8119 to pre-register. Scheduled seminars include: "One Man's Garden" - Les Brake of Coyote Garden; "Wildflowers in the Garden" - Verna Pratt; "The Big Green" - Steve Brown of the Cooperative Extension Service; "Peonies for Fun & Profit" - Amy Pettit. "Feathers and Song, Birds in Your Backyard" - Dorthea Taylor; "Garden Art" - Carmen Summerfield; "Managing Your Digital Garden" - Linda Lockhart.

Saturday, April 19, 10am.

Learn basic gardening advice from local garden expert and master gardener Brenda Bissell. Brenda will be teaching a class for new and new to Alaska gardeners. Brenda has over 30 years gardening experience in Alaska and is a great source of information and advice. 11am. Dani Haviland of Chillout Roses will give a slide presentation and talk on growing roses in Alaska. Dani is 'wild' about roses and has lots of tips to share. Both classes held at Alaska Mill & Feed, 1301 E 1st Avenue. Free, call 276-6016 to register.

Sunday, April 20, 2pm.

CELEBRATING THE EARTH. Celebrate Earth Day by learning about soil and the hidden life in it. Indoor presentation, followed by a walk and a forest floor dig. Eagle River Nature Center. Free program, \$5 parking for non-members.

April 21th, Monday 7 - 9 p.m.

AMGA meeting: "Small Garden Design Considerations: What Works in South Central Alaska and What's New In the Garden: Lorri Abel of In the Garden Nursery will present a program of tips, techniques and ideas relevant to our area and talk about new plants and coming trends. Cooperative Extension Office, room 106. Call 786-6300 for more info.

Saturday, April 26th, 7:30 p.m.

ARGS presentation Harry Jans "Plant Hunting on the Roof of the World" (Tibet); UAA Grant Hall Lecture Room, APU Campus, 4101 University Drive Anchorage, AK \$10 donation to help pay for the hall [see related article pg. 3]

Thursday, May 1st, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Anchorage Garden Club: Trees - Stephen Nickel from the Alaska Community Forestry Program "The importance of trees in our landscapes". Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage AK Free

Friday - Saturday, May 9 - 10

Alaska Master Gardener Conference and Garden Market: In The Zone - Sheraton Anchorage Hotel - 2 Days of classes and lectures discussing topics about gardening in Zones 2, 3, 4; Guest speakers include Cisco Morris, Larry Hodgson, and Sara Williams. Optional Post Conference Open Garden Tours. Garden Market located outside conference in Atrium. Open to the public.



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

Mail: 14051 Fejes Road [new mailing address]  
Anchorage, AK 99516

Phone: 345-4099

Email: [amga@gci.net](mailto:amga@gci.net)

AMGA Web Site: [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://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: 786-6312



## Inside this issue....

From the President  
Asiatic Lilies and Dahlias  
Green With Envy and Dahlias  
Sara Williams, Author and  
Horticulture Specialist  
2008 Alaska Master Gardener  
Conference  
Northwest Garden Show  
The Great Sunflower Project  
South Central Peninsula MG News  
Bird Chatter  
ARGS Presentation: Harry Jans  
TREErific Stuff  
Habitat for Humanity  
Garden Event Calendar



Despite evacuating the building because of a fire alarm, master gardener Debbie Hinchey continued her presentation, "Designing Low Maintenance Gardens," outside the ABG Spring Conference on Saturday, March 29, 2008.  
Photo by Fran Durner

## AMGA 2008 Spring Conference and Garden Market: In The Zone

Don't forget to register by April 25th for Early Bird Rates! You can find the registration form at: [alaskamastergardeners.org](http://alaskamastergardeners.org).  
Credit card payments are now available via the website, or contact Sue Lincoln: 696-2015.

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.  
Anchorage Chapter  
University of Alaska Cooperative Extension  
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