



Anchorage Chapter



Volume 11, Issue 7

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

July 2009



Message From the President By Beth Schlabaugh

The outdoor gardening season is in full swing and with it the sprains, strains, and injuries that are associated with it. Gardening after a winter break is a joy for many, yet all too often we tackle too much without preparing our bodies for the physical stresses that accompany it. Many injuries are a result of "over doing it" but there are also inherent dangers to gardening that we should be aware of, protect ourselves against and try to avoid.

According to an April 27, 2004, news release the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that emergency rooms treat more than 400,000 outdoor garden tool-related injuries each year.

I've listed some of the more common gardening hazards and possible steps to take to avoid these problems.

Sprains and strains- Many hospitals and clinics report an increase in gardening related injuries including strains and sprains in the spring. The most common problems are lower back pain and ligament or joint strains; these kinds of injuries can often take up to two weeks or more to recover from. Here are some suggestions to help you remain injury-free:

- Gently stretch before beginning
- Limit your activity to 2 hours/day the first week and switch tasks regularly
- Use proper ergonomic posture ie. Instead of bending over, kneel down to plant
- Use the proper tool for the job
- Back injuries as a result of lifting heavy or awkward loads such as fertilizer bags, large pots and large plants can be prevented by using an appropriate lifting stance or better yet "buddy" lifting.
- Stop if you feel pain!

Protect your eyes and ears- always wear appropriate safety equipment when string trimming and mowing.

Did you Know?

-Estimates of lawn-mower-related injuries range from 23,000 to a horrendous 75,000/yr. Fatalities average 75/yr. Tragically, essentially all mower accidents are preventable.*

-Mowers can hurl small objects as far as 50 feet at more than 200 mph

-At a minimum, power mower blades spin at 3,000 rpm (That's 50 per second.)

*statistic taken from grounds-mag.com

Protect your hands- wear garden gloves to reduce blisters and protect skin from cuts, garden chemicals, soil born pathogens, skin irritants, thorns and insect bites.

The following recommendations are from the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH). To avoid discomfort when gardening, wear gloves, avoid prolonged repetitive motions, including raking, digging, and planing that can cause skin, tendon, and nerve irritation and muscle strain, and vary tasks every 15 minutes with a brief rest in between.

Protect yourself from insect bites. Using a good quality insect repellent reduces the chance of bites, irritation, and allergic reaction. Many products contain DEET but some very effective "natural" products are available ie. All Terrain Herbal Armor Insect Repellent. This brand is also safe for kids and pets.

Protect your feet- always wearing appropriate footwear. Garden clogs and Crocs are very comfortable however, they do not necessarily provide the ankle, hard sole, and instep support needed for strenuous garden activities such as digging, standing on ladders, or lifting. They also may not provide the traction needed to avoid more serious knees, hips and leg injuries.

Sunburns/Sun and heat exhaustion- protect your head by wearing a wide brimmed hat. Use appropriate sun block on your exposed skin and remember your lips by using a lip balm that has an SPF rating. Staying hydrated is another key element to avoiding sun/heat damage as is choosing the best time of the day to work. Early morning and evening are best as the sun is not directly overhead.

Follow the manufacturer's warnings and practice safe handling techniques when using gardening tools, forks or rakes which can cause puncture wounds, and the blades of mowers and shears which can cause lacerations.

Chemicals in the garden present another type of hazard. Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers can cause skin, eye, or respiratory damage, and in severe cases poisoning. Always read and follow the manufacturer's directions. Make sure that products are labeled correctly and store in the appropriate containers. Protective gear like gloves and goggles are recommended.

If an injury does occur, you should follow basic first aid instructions and seek medical attention if necessary. Remember: Most gardening related injuries are preventable, so be vigilant, work smartly and enjoy this garden season!

First Summer MG Garden Tours

By Jane Baldwin

June 8th: Therese Piech

June was off to an early start with the tour of Therese Piech's back yard. We were pleased Therese was able to host the master gardeners and share with us what she has accomplished in her yard to date since her house is on the market and she will soon be relocating to points south.



Blue stones sparkle in the dry river bed at Therese Piech's - Photo by Gina Docherty

Therese's yard is grassless and flat, with paths of large flat slabs of dark slate leading you around the yard much like a dry river bed. Large planting areas were featured with a minimalist planting concept, interspersed with various pieces of garden art. A number of 'statement' or architectural plants were used like large ferns and iris swords edged by repeated clumps of saxifrage. The vertical fence boards and a number of white barked birch trees planted in front of the fence provide a strong vertical back drop to the curving beds, paths and a large circular shaped floating cement patio which provides a

perfect gathering area around a fire pit. I hesitate to use the term 'zen-like garden' as that is often a cliché, but in a world where life is full of distractions and it is sometimes difficult to absorb all the information coming at us, the simple elements of Therese' garden seemed calming and comfortable.



2008 tulip planting at Forget Me Not Nursery - photo by Gina Docherty

June 15: Kathy Feathergill-Calvin's home garden and Forget Me Not Nursery at Indian;

Alyeska Resort Gardens hosted by Robbie Frankevich; Susan Opalka's yard

Even though experiencing the "End of the Day Tireds", a lot of MGs were glad they made the trip to points south.

The weather turned sunny and was a spectacular evening for the drive. MGs met at Forget Me Not Nursery on Indian Road where Kathy Feathergill-Calvin (MG) was our most friendly & gracious tour director. Thanks to the nesting swallows in the area, there was no mosquito problem! We toured Kathy's home garden adjacent to the nursery. Kathy's shady garden is filled with large and lush plants (things were about 3 times as tall as in my Anchorage garden). The entrance to the nursery is charming, inviting one to sit down and have a cup of tea.

Kathy pointed us onward in the direction of Alyeska resort and turned us over to host Robbie Frankevich (MG). Robbie manages the gardens and grounds for the resort and the garden beds, landscape and pond areas were lovely. Daffodils and narcissus were still blooming



Yellow Trout Lily at Alyeska Resort - photo by Jane Baldwin



Susan Opalka in front of her shed - photo by Jane Baldwin

and I spotted a lot of Primula veris plants in bloom in sunset shades of reds, oranges, rusts, etc. The blooming little yellow trout lily that had spread along a very shady bed was lovely - Erythronium americanum?

Robbie joined Kathy and they convoyed about 12-15 MG cars through the lanes of Girdwood for some drive-by garden gazing and we ended up at the lovely and very BIG yard of Susan Opalka, another noted Girdwood gardener. Susan maintains some gardens for some of the Girdwood residences. Susan's large yard is complete with a natural tiny creek drainage that forms a lovely, natural pond (with duck decoys floating no less) before

meandering on its way. Colorful pots were perched on moss covered rocks in front of a shed faced with spruce slab wood that looked like a very old Alaskan cabin. One pot was gorgeous with an orange yellow nemisa (what variety was that?).

June 22: Dave and Franny Junge Composting Techniques



Compost Rocker Sieve at Junge's garden tour - photo by Jane Baldwin

The evening turned very cold and windy for a June evening, but hardy MGs turned out in force to see and hear Dave Junge talk about his batch composting techniques that result in at least 3 batches completed per summer and one completed through the winter ready for spring use. A wonderful by-product of the compost demonstration

was the chance to visit the Junge's back yard, which features a beautiful deck including a lovely water feature (See Fran Durner's Garden Blog for the photo)

Three key components to the compost operation are an upright 6.5 hp chipper/shredder (which Dave said is actually a hammer mill), his compost bin which is roughly 4' x 6' x 2' in size, and his totally neat sieve rocker screen which he built for the final step in processing the compost. EVERYONE who composts should have one of these! The Junge's efficient and very tidy composting area was very motivating to those attending who left with firm resolve to clean up and better organize for more efficient composting results!

Master Gardener Focus: Lorri Abel By Cheryl Chapman

If annuals are the summer flings of the plant world, perennials are the longtime lovers, ever-blooming, ever faithful (given enough snow cover), and horticulturist Lorri Abel, owner of In the Garden Nursery, has been introducing new perennial varieties and lesser-known old favorites to Anchorage-area gardeners for more than a decade.

This season is no exception at 7307 O'Brien St., just west of Lake Otis, where fans have been browsing the plants for shade, for sun, for the rock garden, climbers for trellises and shrubs like the stunning cutleaf golden elderberry and sedum October Daphne with its scalloped silver-blue leaves and clusters of star-shaped bright pink flowers.

"I planted some of that sedum outside the fence to trial but didn't realize how gorgeous it was until it got bigger and bloomed," says Lorri. "In fact, it was so gorgeous that somebody came with a shovel and stole it."

Lorri grew up on a farm near Silverton, Ore., and drifted through a couple of different medical fields before realizing that what she really wanted to be was outdoors, and horticulture could put her there. She met an Alaskan; they married and moved to Anchorage where she worked first at the University of Alaska Anchorage, then at Providence Hospital, where she had charge of the grounds until the birth of their child.

She resigned to care for their daughter but kept her hand in by working seasonally at the Alaska Botanical Garden. There she and landscape architect and artist Sally Arant met and struck up a business, the original In the Garden.

"That first year, 1997, we were only open one weekend," says Lorri. "We had lots of garden art, lots of plants, but all we were selling was plants. Our business model changed very rapidly."

That first In the Garden was a fixture for nine years on De Armoun Road; over time, though, Sally moved more into art than garden design, and Lorri now owns and operates the nursery. Like this year, however, Sally comes back from Seattle periodically, and speaks at In the Garden events.

Lorri begins ordering bare roots and plugs in late summer - "that way I can get many more varieties and have a wider palette" - and fine-tunes the selection in early autumn. Winter is time to read (this past one, Ann Lovejoy's books), reflect and learn new things, "though I've just picked up a primula book. I always try to keep learning."

Come April, the plants hit all at once, and Lorri scrambles to get everything potted up.

This year could be called the Year of Grass at In the Garden, among them Calamagrostis Eldorado, a feather reed grass with slim green blades striped with clear gold; steel blue oat grass, or Helictotrichon "Sapphire"; and Carex muskingumensis "Oehme," or variegated palm sedge, which has yellow stripes, too, but along the edges of the blades.

"I only get the clumpers because the spreaders can really spread, and that would be really, really bad," says Lorri. "I'm always looking for something new: new varieties of the same thing, new cultivars. I love the Cimicifugas (bugbane or cohosh) and love all the hostas, and somebody loved my Morden Sunrise rose as much as I did because they stole it this spring from the front bed."

"What I love to do most is build gardens, to bring a big palette of plants to a site and work with the homeowner to create something just for them."

Lorri always has a "trial" table going of experiments that may or may not find Alaska to their liking. Gardeners plant them and report back on how they do. This year Heleniums had a top spot, bright Zone 3 daisy-like flowers in the Asteraceae family, as well as a Veronica, or speedwell, the pure blue of heaven; a tall bearded iris, "Megabucks," jaw-dropping gold and lavender; the royal purple bearded Iris Germanica; and out in the front bed, Iris sibirica "Ruffled Velvet."

Her own home in South Anchorage is on summer garden tours. "It's not a designed garden, not a finished garden," she says. "I don't think you can 'finish' a garden, though some do think that. I've had people bring me plants Sally designed for them six or seven years ago, and when I don't have the plants that we had then - though I'll have equivalent plants - they can't handle it." "My own garden is moose-friendly. Dog-friendly. Child-friendly. It has to be."

For gardeners who want to keep themselves and their plants contented, she suggests six things:

1. Improve your soil; that's the No. 1 most important thing you can do;
2. Support the local nurseries. Their owners know what plants will work here and offer those, and in the long run, they'll work out better for you.
3. Plant compatible plants together, plants with similar requirements for moisture, drainage, sun or shade;
4. Avoid aggressive plants; if the label says "vigorous" or "spreads quickly," that's the tipoff: That means "ram-pant." Back away, back away. The Cooperative Extension Service has a list of things to avoid;
5. Be good with your hose. Plants need lots and lots of water here;
6. Only plant what makes you happy.



Lorri Abel relaxes at her In The Garden Nursery recently. Photo by Gina Docherty

The Value of Deadwood



Everyone likes a healthy, nicely pruned tree. They are often more attractive, safer and healthier than their unpruned counterparts because many of the defects such as dead, dying and broken branches have been removed. However, something that is often overlooked in arboriculture is the relationships between the trees, these defects and the many organisms that depend on them.

When looking at the forest as a functioning ecosystem there are many complex relationships that have evolved over incomprehensible periods of time. The deeper you peer into these relationships, the more complicated they appear and it is this ecology that makes life on earth possible. For example, cavity nesting birds such as downy woodpeckers and red breasted nuthatches depend on the dead, broken and decaying snags of aspen, alder and birch to rear their young. They eat insects and tree pests like bark beetles and budworms. Fluctuations in any one of these components can have cascading effects on the entire system.

Typically, there is a prejudice against deadwood in arboriculture and forestry. Land management strategies that remove too much deadwood from forests can have far reaching implications. Fortunately, Alaska has an abundance of natural forested areas that can buffer some of the effects from these changes. We benefit from this in many ways, including the abundant wildlife in our communities.

So, where am I going with this you might ask? For those who like to attract birds to your yard, incorporating natural habitat into your landscape is a worthwhile consideration. You might look at ways incorporate a few dead limbs on a tree in the back corner of the property, or maybe all or part of a dead tree as a habitat snag. I am not advocating for killing a tree just for the sake of creating habitat for the birds, but if you do have a tree that has died or is in decline, this could be an option rather than complete removal, especially if there is an existing cavity that is use by birds or other animals.

Habitat snags are not for everyone. It is important to carefully evaluate how you use and maintain your property. If keeping a standing dead snag is something that you are considering, picking the right location to maximize its benefits and the safety of your property requires the skills of a qualified arborist. Keep in mind that snags should be inspected regularly to determine if they are still safe to keep around.

Death is a part of the continuous cycle of life in the forest; there are many organisms that are dependant on it, including humans. So the next time you are out for a walk in the woods and come upon a dead tree, think about how many other critters are connected to it.

Written by Stephen Nickel, Community Assistance Forester from the Alaska Division of Forestry, Community Forestry Program, which supports Anchorage TREErific and community forestry groups statewide. For information about the program and on tree planting and care, visit <http://www.forestry.alaska.gov/community/>

Anchorage TREErific, a community group that plants, cares for, and promotes trees, would love to have your help. Send questions or sign up for notices of events to TREErificAnchorage@yahoo.com or call Nancy Beardsley at 343-4288.

UAF Cooperative Extension Service Advanced Master Gardener Program Sponsored by the AMGA

Introducing: The Advanced MG Program
The AMGA Education Committee in association with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service has been hard at work developing an Advanced MG Program. The following proposed program has yet to be presented to the Board of Directors, but is introduced here as a 'heads up' to those who may be interested.

To qualify for the Advanced Master Gardener Training one must first be a Master Gardener and have completed their initial 40 hours of volunteer service.

1. The Advanced MG Course consists of 20 hours of training. It varies from year to year, but will usually consist of a required core course of advanced horticulture topics that go beyond the basic MG course plus additional Continuing Education Units (CEUs). In addition, ten hours of volunteer service will be required.
2. Continuing Education Units can be obtained by attending horticultural educational programs such as conferences, garden club meetings, presentations, garden tours and workshops; other venues on approval.
3. The volunteer commitment can be met by educational programs or service projects. Possible service examples are: Board membership, ABG entry bed maintenance, Pioneer Home bed maintenance or other venues .
4. MGs will receive an Advanced MG certificate and a name badge upon completion of their 10 hours of volunteer service.
5. To remain an Advanced MG, within one calendar year, one must:
 - a. Take an additional Advanced MG core course and complete the requirements or
 - b. Maintain a combined total of 10 CEUs and/or volunteer service
6. Upon completion of additional Advanced MG core training and volunteer requirement, the Advanced MG will progress to the title of Advanced MG II, III, etc.

The Cooperative Extension Service is offering two entomological sessions in July that directly relate to the first Advanced MG Core Course. These sessions WILL count toward CEUs for certification as Advanced MG. The first course is tentatively scheduled for this fall. Watch the Newsletter, website and Cooperative Extension Service for further details.

America's Favorite Flower

You can now vote from among six annual flowers using your cell phone. Choices include three Petunia, a Pentas and Rudbeckia 'TigerEye™ Gold'. Last time I checked, the Rudbeckia was ahead by a long shot with Petunia 'Baby Duck Yellow' coming up second. In September, the top three vote-getters will be introduced as American Garden Award winners. Voting can be done via text message or a 1-800 number. The flowers are on display at 16 botanical gardens in the United States. But you'll have to leave Alaska to find a voting site.

A tally of live votes, pictures of the flowers and participating gardens can be found at www.americangardenaward.org.



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

All of a sudden the garden was ready to plant and I was LATE. The euphoria of May settled down to the reality of June and that the annual rye grass was germinating faster than the carrots. Asking around to other peninsula MGs about their garden activities the words "weed" and "weeding" figured prominently. I'm letting part of the garden go fallow again (too lazy to plant more) and will work on horse tail control.

Someone who shall remain nameless didn't hook the door to the duck pen one night. The next morning as we were having our coffee on the deck there was noticeable quiet from the pen instead of the morning yelling to be let out. The ducks had gone through 50 feet of cabbages and cauliflower and 25 feet of lettuce, celery and radicchio. They stopped just at the edge of the 50 broccoli plants. I can now say, with authority, that ducks don't like dill, Tuscan kale, scallions and parsley. Some of the plants are thinking about coming back, but the row is a lot shorter than it was. If the ducks weren't such wonderful layers of such gorgeous eggs they would be served up a l'orange.

The front yard is now a true green and the moss is black. The pretty yellow "teeth of the lion" are disappearing. Cheryl Wikstrom's weapon of choice is a 15-inch screwdriver. I'm less PC. I bought 25%-more-in-the-can of 2-4-D. The ducks are "mowing" the annual rye grass in the garden, their grass of preference. They are allowed in the garden only under direct supervision now.

My husband appropriated, with his blessing, MG neighbor Mark's guineas. They are supposed to be wonderful in the garden for slug/bug control because they don't scratch like chickens. They're noisy. Since having the radios on in the garden last summer seemed to work so well for bear control (foot prints but no raids on chickens, ducks or rabbits) we have the radio tuned to a rant station and the noise sets them off...ALL DAY. I'm glad I'm not my neighbor. We set 10 eggs under a banty hen that went broody and now have 7 wee fluff balls that she minds for us.

I've put ashes and watered the morel patch in our yard but so far nothing has happened. I've got a mushroom omelet recipe all worked up for them but nothing. MG Barb Jewell is hoping for a nice rain for her raspberries and maybe that will work for the morels too.

We lost our strawberry patch again over the winter, but my strawberry competitor at the top of our hill had a good return. Muddled that little problem over and came to the conclusion that it had to be the grass clippings I mulched directly around the plants themselves instead of in the paths. I asked the woman from whom we get the clippings what kind of fertilizer she used, and you guessed it: Weed and Feed. Oh. Then I started looking at other things I'd mulched with the grass...The raspberries have very good new growth but the top ends

of many canes are dead. The grass also went into the compost pile but the composted areas of the garden seem unaffected by the chemical.

After looking at all the currants that are setting on my Holland Long Bunch bushes I cleaned out the veggie/fruit freezer and I'm going to make currant syrup from a recipe that MG Margaret Simon passed on.

[Addendum from Rosemary: "*According to Rosen et. al, 1988 (in Worms Eat My Garbage), 2,4-D lasts 1-2 months in the soil; Dicamba 3-12 months. These pesticide residue shelf-lives were determined utilizing far warmer soils than we have in Alaska, thus, the numbers could potentially double in AK! Many weed and feeds have both 2,4-D and Dicamba in them, some only 2,4-D.*" Thomas R. Jahns, CES Soldotna)

RED OR BLACK CURRANT SYRUP

1 pound currants, 1 1/2 cups sugar

Combine berries and sugar in a non-aluminum pan. Mash berries into sugar and let stand for 12 to 24 hours.

Wash down sides of pan with a wet brush. Bring to a boil over moderate heat and stir. Cover pan and boil gently for 2 minutes. Strain juice through a fine sieve and pour into a sterilized jar. Cap loosely and cool. Tighten cap and refrigerate up to 6 months. Makes 2 cups syrup.

From UNCOMMON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES--A COMMONSENSE GUIDE by Elizabeth Schneider

APHID FACTS

By Linda McCarthy Beckworth

All this is adapted from GARDENING MAGIC by Joey Green and Wikipedia and are some of the things I've been reading about as the gardening season gets into full swing!

Aphids have a tube for a mouth. They use this tube to pierce the stems of plants and suck out the juices.

Aphids excrete a sweet fluid called honeydew, a favorite food of ants. Ants are known to protect colonies of aphids so they can feast on an endless supply of honeydew. Ants will also move the aphids from one plant to another to help sustain the colony.

Aphids reproduce through a process called parthenogenesis. Males and females mate in the fall, causing the females to lay fertilized eggs that hatch in the spring. Only female aphids hatch. Female aphids give birth to living female aphids hatched from unfertilized eggs in their bodies. This fatherless process continues for several generations, until the fall, when aphids develop into males and females, restarting the cycle. Nicknamed 'plant lice' aphids can be green, black, pink, or yellow.

APHID LORE

In ancient Greece, King Aphidas ruled Tegea and was the father of Aleus, who built a Temple of Athena in Tegea, 16 miles southeast of Tripolis in Arcadia, Peloponnese, Greece.

Aphid is the name of a heat-seeking missile, carried by MIG jet fighter planes, that homes in on an enemy jet's fiery exhaust.



Bird Chatter

-- Mr. Whitekeys got pretty ornery about organic gardening in his Alaska magazine column. In his quest to find the perfect use for hooligan, he once buried the fish beneath his broccoli transplants only to have them dug up by the neighborhood cats.

-- Technological innovations have reached the Anchorage CES front counter. Julie Riley had a client use his iPhone to access his email to show her a picture of the garden he was trying to describe.

-- Steve Brown, Ag/Hort Agent for Mat-Su, is making a quest for the top of Denali and so is Heidi Rader, Ag/Hort Agent for Tanana Chiefs.

-- MGs Cathy Schneider and Greg Kalal had their plot at the McPhee Street Community Garden planted by May 11. They're in the process of determining the dollar value of the produce that they can grow on a 15' X15' plot.

-- Dr. Fred Schlutt joined the UAF Cooperative Extension Service as Vice Provost of Engagement and Director of CES. He has 30 years of experience with Cooperative Extension and comes to us most recently from Maine.

-- Channel 11 featured MG Joette Storm and her garden on May 29. The topic was front yard farming.

-- Julie Riley survived a Friday night 'Single's Mingle' at Home Depot where she set up a display on organic soil amendments. She only came away with one phone number.

-- Haley Scofield is back in the IPM saddle in the Anchorage CES office this summer. Sherry Lee Bottoms is responsible for the gypsy moth trapping program and will be putting up traps from the Aleutians to Nome.

-- According to naturalist and author Dominique Collet who spoke on willows and insects at ABG, a mass of fungus gnats was found floating in Cook Inlet near Kenai was so large that it would fill up a dump truck.

-- According to Ned Rozell's Anchorage Daily News column on May 31, UAF doctoral candidate Todd Sformo has discovered that the fungus gnat, *Exechia nugatoria*'s abdomen freezes at minus 25 degrees while its head doesn't freeze until 60 degrees below zero.

-- Over Memorial Day weekend AMGA newsletter editor and web master Gina Docherty found herself camping next to Anchorage CES staffer Donna Resnick. It's a small world. -- National Pollinator Week was celebrated the last week of June. Birds, bees, bats, beetles, butterflies, moths, and flies are needed to produce 80% of our flowering plants and one third of our human food crops.

-- The weather has gone bonkers. Jane Baldwin reported 37° F at her house on June 24. Cathy Schneider said she had snow in Glen Alps.

-- MG raffle winners at the Alaska Botanical Garden Fair included Herb Spencer (1st place) and Brigitte Ressel (3rd place). Yippee!

-- Aimee Demientieff took the MG course in Fairbanks, but has now moved to Anchorage on Jacqueline Circle.

-- A special thanks to Sherry Lee Bottoms, Mel Langdon, Lynne Opstad and another woman who slaved in the hot sun for two hours in an effort to prevent the giant dandelions at the edge of the refugee garden from going to seed.

-- Franny Junge bought a pitchfork and now her husband Dave produces three batches of compost a summer.

AMGA Directory Errata

Please add the following MGs to your AMGA Directory.

Troy and Lori Zaumseil
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A few of the AMGA Directories are missing a page. If you'd like to turn yours in for a complete copy, give the CES office a call, 786-6300.

Photo Opportunities Needed

Annie Nevaldine is collecting pictures of container growing vegetables this summer.

If you have, or know of someone who has, vegetables growing in containers this season and are willing to have them photographed, please contact Annie at alzina@acsalaska.net or at 333-2100.

Dana Klinkhart is looking for vines & climbing things to photograph. If you have any, email klinkhart@gci.net or phone ...?

Can-O-Worms Door Prize Winner

Would the winner of the Can-O-Worms door prize at the recent AMGA "Hands On Harvest Workshop" please contact Jane Baldwin? Jane located another tray that belongs with the set. 562-5451 or jbaldwin@alaska.net

Alaska Trees Linda McCarthy Beckworth

Alaska Trees is MORE than trees though they do have a good selection of both deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. They have a good selection of very hardy Alaska wildflowers, ferns, meconopsis, paeonias, daylilies, hostas, echinacea, roses, potentilla, lilacs, trollius, bergenia, and irises (including white irises). Owner Daniel Rhoads from Palmer is knowledgeable about what will and won't grow in Alaska and has been known to slip in an extra pot or two for frequent buyers.

Alaska Trees (360-TREE 8733) is located on Old Seward Highway between Klatt Road and Huffman, on the east side of the road next to Café Loco Espresso. Look for the white tent (they have low overhead so prices meet or are better than other nurseries I've seen). Pot sizes are usually one gallon or larger and prices start at \$5. They are open 8-5 seven days a week. Daniel says he usually opens this location in mid May and keeps it open until the snow flies. Give him a try; it's definitely worth a visit.

Garden Event Calendar

July 2 - August 20, Thursdays, 4 pm - 5:30 pm or 5:30 pm-7 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden Secret Garden Series, tour seven private gardens, chat with the owners in an unhurried atmosphere and learn secrets of their success. Cost \$120, ABG membership required, non-members may join at the time of ticket purchase, www.alaskabg.org

July 6, Monday, 7 p.m.

AMGA Field Trip: "Organic Garden of Perennials, Containers, Herbs & Fruit"; Bonnie Lembo, 1342 W. 12th Ave. Call 278-2725 for info.

July 10, Friday, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Lighthouse Gardens Tea, this year's theme, "The Cat's Meow", explore exquisite gardens and beautiful views at a riverfront home in Eagle River, enjoy a light meal and live music. Cost \$30 per person to benefit the Alaska Botanical Garden, reservations required, www.alaskabg.org or 770-3692

July 13, Monday, 7 p.m.

AMGA Field Trip:

*"Established Gardens of Perennials & Shrubs in Sun & Shade"; Dana Klinkhart & Neighbors, 1941 Meander Cir.; Call 346-1631 for info.

*"Rock Garden & Water Features", Amelia Walsh, 12330 Lilac Dr.; call 345-9343 for info.

July 15, Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Anchorage Master Gardener Association field trip,

*Anchorage Pioneer Home gardens drive-by, 923 W. 11th Avenue, gardens designed, planted and maintained by Master Gardener volunteers.

*Municipal Rose Garden, on the Park Strip; Meet at the Delaney Park Rose Garden, between 9th and 10th at N Street, Alaska Rose Society members will be present to answer questions. For information contact the Cooperative Extension Service at 786-6300

July 15, Wednesday, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Citizen Weed Warriors Event at Goose Lake. For details, contact Wade Collins, Volunteer Coordinator, Anchorage Parks & Recreation, CollinsWA@muni.org or 343-4460

July 18, Saturday, 10:00 am

Willow Garden Tour, Willow Garden Club meet at Willow Community Center, bring a snack lunch 495-1005

July 18 - 19, Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday 12 pm - 5 pm

Coyote Garden Tour, Willow, hosted by Les Brake, benefit for the Willow Garden Club and the Alaska Rock Garden Society seed collecting expedition. For information 495-6525

July 20, Monday, 7 p.m.

AMGA Field Trip:

*"Ornamental Grasses & Perennials", Christin Bingham, 3950 Camai Cir. Call 349-8044 for info.

*"Perennials - 5 Year Old Garden", Evan Hancock, 9010 Snowy Owl Circle; Call 562-7259 for info.

*"1/3 Acre Garden: Sun & Shade Gardens, Berries, Solar Water Fountains", Linda McCarthy-Beckworth, 8514 Cormorant Cove; Call 346-3701 for info.

July 22, Wednesday, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Citizen Weed Warriors Event at Kincaid Park. Meet at the park entrance along the road. For details, contact Wade Collins, Volunteer Coordinator, Anchorage Parks & Recreation, CollinsWA@muni.org or 343-4460

July 26, Sunday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Annual City Garden Tour sponsored by the Anchorage Garden Club. Visit numerous gardens open to the public, Anchorage Garden Club hotline 566-0539 or alaskagardenclubs.org/anchoragegardenclub

July 27, Monday, 7 p.m.

AMGA Field Trip:

*"Upper O'Malley Garden", Lorri Abel, 6030 W. Tree Dr.; Call 346-4246 for info

*"Rain Garden", Joyce Palmer, 10505 Main Tree Dr.; Call 346-1947 for info.

August 1 & 2, Saturday 1 pm - 9 pm, Sunday 10 am-6 pm

Anchorage Garden Club's 66th Annual Flower Show. "Let's Dance", a flower show at the Alaska Botanical Garden with both horticulture and flower design exhibits, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road. For entry information and deadlines, contact the Anchorage Garden Club at 566-0539 or www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchoragegardenclub

August (TBA)

Plastic Pot Recycling Day, join ALPAR and the Alaska Botanical Garden to recycle types 2, 5, & 7 plastic pots, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, www.alaskabg.org

August (TBA)

Commercial cut-flower peony production, tentative field trip of producers' fields scheduled for the Kenai Peninsula. Watch the Alaska Peony Growers Association website for details, alaskapeonies.org

August (TBA)

Central Peninsula Garden Club meeting, "Fruit Production & Orchards", presenter Dr. Bob Bors, University of Saskatchewan, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Building on Kalifornsky Beach Road, Kenai. For more information, 283-4632, 398-8669 or mmkn@ptialaska.net

August 1, Saturday, 11:00 am & 1:30 pm

Gardeners' Weekend sponsored by the Homer Garden Club. Don Engebretson, known as the Renegade Gardener from Minnesota, will give two presentations, "Ten Blunders Gardeners Make and How to Avoid Them" and "Interesting Plants for Northern Gardens". Held at the Bidarka Inn, 575 Sterling Highway. For more information brenda@gardensbybrenda.com

August 2, Sunday, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Greater Homer Area: Open Gardens Self-Guided Tour sponsored by the Homer Garden Club. Tickets and maps available late July at the Homer Chamber of Commerce and the Homer Bookstore. Reception for tour-goers at Bear Creek Winery from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. For more information brenda@gardensbybrenda.com

August 2, 1:00 pm

Big Lake Garden Tour, Big Lake, meet at that Big Lake Public Library. For information lockhart@mtaonline.net

August 3, Monday, 7 p.m.

AMGA Potluck Picnic & Plant Swap - Don Smith's place, 2121 Tudor Hills Ct.; Call 529-6170 for info.

August 3, Monday, 7:00 pm

Tour of the UAF Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station, given by Jeff Smeenk, UAF Cooperative Extension Service Commercial Horticulture Specialist, meet at the Matanuska Experiment Farm, 1509 S. Trunk Road, Wasilla. For information call 746-6772

August 4, Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Community Gardener Green Thumb Series, "How to use your Harvest". Learn ways to use all the beautiful produce that you've grown. McPhee Community Gardens, sponsored by Anchorage Parks & Recreation and UAF Cooperative Extension Service. For more information 343-4217 or timmermanma@muni.org

August 6, Thursday, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Community Gardener Green Thumb Series, "How to use your Harvest". Learn ways to use all the beautiful produce that you've grown. C Street Community Gardens, sponsored by Anchorage Parks & Recreation and UAF Cooperative Extension Service. Free, ages 12+. For more information 343-4217 or timmermanma@muni.org

August 6, Thursday, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Anchorage Garden Club meeting, "The Latest on Invasive Weeds", presenter Michael Rasy, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, held at the Pioneer School House (lower level), 437 E. 3rd Ave. For information 566-0539 or www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchoragegardenclub



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

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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:
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Fran Durner / Anchorage Daily News

Lorri Abel waters in her nursery, *In The Garden*. For a small fee, gardeners can trial plants in their own garden and report back to her about how they do. [See article "Master Gardener Focus" on page 3]

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
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