



Anchorage Chapter



Volume 11, Issue 6

# ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER June 2009



## Ornamental Grasses in Alaska? Yes, You Can! By Jane Baldwin

As Julie Riley said, "Christine Bingham has everyone jazzed up about ornamental grasses with her excellent presentation on growing ornamental grasses at the May MG meeting", Christine is an MG who actually focuses on growing ornamental grasses right here in our area.

Christine provided a good starter list for perennial grasses and annual grasses that will grow here - ones she has experience with growing. Worried about grasses being invasive? Stick to clumping grasses, rather than rhizomatous, running or groundcover grasses - use these only in containers or contained spaces.

There were some great cultivation tips presented for the beginner. Most grasses like well-drained soil in full sun the best, although some will do alright in less than full sun; the less sun, the floppier the foliage. Too rich soil, or over fertilization may also result in floppier grasses. Water grasses for about a year after planting to help them establish. Don't cut them down in the fall, save the clean up for spring. They make a great winter garden landscape if left in place.

Not only did Christine have some great pictures of grasses growing here in her own yard, she also provided names of local vendors where one might find ornamental grasses available as well as internet resources and names of several books specifically on ornamental grasses. (Pictures included here are from Fritz Creek Nursery, Alaskahardy.com.)

What a treat to learn so much in one evening program. After listening to Christine's talk, there are now a bunch of folks out there who will take another look with interest in grasses. One attractive big selling point: most grasses do not attract slugs. There are also sedges and rushes. Here's a little ditty that Christine passed along: "Sedges have edges, rushes are round, grasses are hollow and rush all around".

I was so impressed and envious with the ease with which those botanical names rolled off Christine's tongue. Note to self: make more effort to master botanical-speak.



*Phalaris arundinacea* var. *picta*  
'Feesey' (Ribbon Grass)



*Festuca glauca* 'Elijah Blue'  
(Blue Fescue)



*Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Overdam'  
(Feather Reed Grass)



*Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'  
(Feather Reed Grass)



*Chasmanthium latifolium*  
(Sea Oats)



*Phalaris arundinacea* var. *picta*  
'Feesey' (Ribbon Grass)

## MOA Rain Garden Program

Did you know the Municipality of Anchorage has a program that helps you pay for your costs to build a garden? It's both too good to be, and yet still true. The only catch is that it has to catch rain water. The MOA Rain Garden Program will reimburse residents 50% of their costs to build a rain garden, up to 750\$ available per property. A rain garden is just like any other garden with a few additional considerations. A rain garden is sunken on the surface, like a very shallow pond. This is to provide a space to hold the runoff during an intense storm. The garden must be located so that it can intercept runoff on its way to a street, at the end of a gutter for example. And a rain garden must be well drained. Often they have a layer of gravel underneath unless your soil is very sandy or you have a high water table. To learn more about this great program visit the website: [AnchorageRainGardens.com](http://AnchorageRainGardens.com) or call Kari Sherman, the Rain Garden Program Assistant: 343-8084, email her at: [AnchorageRainGardens@muni.org](mailto:AnchorageRainGardens@muni.org). All properties within the MOA are eligible for this grant. Help keep our streams clean and cut down on municipal storm drain maintenance by managing your runoff at the source.



Above: Central Middle School Rain Garden

Installed: August 2008

Location: 1405 E Street; Anchorage, AK

Below: Taku Lake Rain Garden

Installed: June 2007

Location: E 76th Ave; Anchorage, AK

Photos from <http://www.anchorageraingardens.com/projects.html>



## Plant By Numbers Linda McCarthy Beckworth

This is a synopsis of an article in *Gardening Basics Vol. 1 Planting By Number* by Julie Siegel.

I've heard of "paint by number," I've even tried those painting kits before. And I've always been told to plant in odd multiples but this article gave me a new appreciation and concept of "planting by numbers."

1 is not the loneliest number (contrary to its popular musical identity).

One is a symbol of a plant that doesn't require the safety of numbers. One plant can be the focus or a unifier. If using a single plant as a focal point, be sure its qualities are strong enough to stand on its own.

2 signals formality like guards at a gate.

Two plants tend to divide your eye, so this number works best when used like sentries to mark both sides of an entrance or passageway. Trees and shrubs are easy to use in pairs, but perennials are more challenging. Some larger perennials and ornamental grasses work well in pairs as do some annuals and tender perennials.

3 is good company in the plant world (a little trickier in human relationships).

Three plants fit expertly in a landscape. The trick is in the arrangement. Three plants in a row is dull. If there is enough space, group them instead in an offset triangle. This looks particularly good with mounding or vertical plants. Leave some space between the plants if they are three different types. You can use a garden ornament like a birdbath or sculpture as one of the set of three.

4 works best when divided.

Avoid planting two and two even on sides of an entry. It feels off-kilter, always calling for more. A good way to use four plants is by putting one in each quadrant of a circle or a square. Another way that works well is dividing the plants into three and one, positioning three on one side of a path or planting bed and one on the other. This is especially effective with evergreens because of their strong weight.

5 is pleasing to the eye.

Five is used often in designs. A classic example is three plants in a row and two staggered in a parallel row behind. This works best in rectangular beds but can work in irregularly shaped beds too. Two plants on one side of a path and three on the other also works well especially with mounding plants but having four balanced by a fifth feels right.

6 is two sets of three.

Six works best broken into two groups of three. You can duplicate the arrangement of threes in staggered rows, in a triangle, or position them to fill a corner. Dividing plants into groups of two and four doesn't work because it's unbalanced, nor does a line of six because they will compete for attention.

Continued on page 4



## Master Gardener Focus: Charles and Jimmie King by Cheryl Chapman

Think of Alaska's natural flow of critters from mountain to valley (winter) and valley back to mountain (summer), and the fueling stop Charles and Jimmie King's gardens on Rabbit Creek would be - if the Kings were agreeable.

They're not. No animal is harmed, but a moose can find itself with a snoot-full of Plantskydd, or a rabbit bolt out of its trap and into a neighborhood with far fewer carrots.

Resident wildlife is a pure Alaska fact, ready-made angst for gardeners, and the Kings, who came to their log cabin on 10 acres in 1962, have gotten living in a community of creatures down to a science.

This year's squirrel birthed her pups in a leggy bird-house-sized log cache, then shifted them to an outbuilding just to the west. The Kings keep the door cracked so she can whisk in and out.

A previous year's squirrel decided the attic warmth next to the stovepipe was ideal for winter maternity; Charles encouraged her to find a more appropriate nursery by gently placing her litter outside, then closing the opening around the cap with stiff wire. There are limits.

The limits are taller and broader for the moose - cages of concrete wire around anything a moose might sample, which is to say almost everything but the cabin and solarium, a big welcoming planter of bright godetia at the turn-in and the stone-bordered iris beds flanking the driveway. Rust has naturalized the concrete wire as just another, though plentiful, element in the Kings' immaculate landscaping at the home they call Spruce Acres. Even the spruce-grove pool, spanned by an arched wooden bridge, had to be fenced.

"The moose would lie right down in the pool and stay there," says Charles.

The snowshoe hares aren't a problem; rabbits gone wild are.

"Twenty years ago there was a restaurant down the road called 'The Rabbit Hutch,'" says Charles. "They had rabbits, and when they closed, suddenly there were rabbits everywhere."

The Kings barricade the lower ring of moose-wire with rabbit wire to thwart the rascals, but even so lost a prized crabapple to their girdling.

Lynx stop by; black bears visit; the spruce, birch and alder woodlands framing the cabin are alive with birds; and for many years, the Kings hosted children from St. John's United Methodist Church in a week-long church day camp, 40 or 50 at a time.

"We'd put down tarps and have benches and logs to sit on," says Charles. "And we'd have nature walks. It always surprised us the number of Alaska children we had who knew nothing about the plants and animals all around them."

The children played in a sunny meadow between the cabin and vegetable garden (fenced, of course), close to the greenhouse with its solar fan and two upside-down tomatoes: an experiment. Nowadays the meadow's future is as a bocce court.

Charles spent a recent morning with his Mantis in the vegetable garden, working it for their big spring planting. This year Jimmie's trying something different: homemade seed tapes from strips of newspaper with a stripe of flour-water paste down the middle holding seeds an inch apart.

"For carrots and the other little seeds, I used tweezers," she says. "It's time-intensive but a lot cheaper than buying them, and you get to pick what you want."

The Kings select beans and peas, carrots and beets, lettuces and herbs proven suited for Anchorage.

"Gardeners can hardly have a better friend here than the Cooperative Extension Service," says Charles. "They have lists of varieties that work, and whatever the brand, people who choose those varieties can't go wrong."

When something does go wrong, the service also is a good first stop, they say, such as when for instance, the beets turn warty.

"It was a boron deficiency in the soil," says Charles. "The horticulturist, Julie Riley, said it was only the second time in her career she'd seen that." The deficit was corrected off the laundry shelf with a box of 20 Mule Team borax.

No water goes to waste at the Kings,' especially since the water table has dropped as residential building has increased: Rain off the roof flows into rain barrels, and other rain barrels are convenient to the garden for dipping and watering.

This Thanksgiving, the Kings will mark their 47th year in their cabin, where spring-red tulips under the window boxes match their signature red fireplace. Last August they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. He was from Massachusetts, she, from Tennessee, and they met while working at the Seward Sanatorium in 1956. Charles helped found Blood Bank of Alaska in 1962 and retired from the Anchorage School District's maintenance division in 1994. Jimmie retired in 1990 after 37 years with Northern Adjusters, where she started as a transcriber.

Now they can't understand how they ever had time to work, and with all the animals Alaska gives them, it's understandable why they don't have a dog or cat.

"No pets," says Jimmie. "Just each other."



**Choosing  
The Right Garden Hose**  
By Linda McCarthy  
from "Gardening How To"  
January/February 2009

I've never really known HOW to pick the right garden hose from the many selections at the gardening stores. This article will help me and maybe others know which to choose for what task and not stumble all over the hose we're trying to use.

**Light Vinyl Hoses** - the least expensive type of hose, usually 3-ply. They are cheap and fine for occasional use. They tend to kink and are not as durable as heavier hoses. Usually between \$8-\$15 for 50'.

**Heavy Vinyl Hose** - a medium-duty (4-ply) or heavy-duty (5-ply) though some are 6- or 7-ply. This hose kinks less and will probably last longer than a lightweight one. It's heavier to handle and more expensive. Self-straightening types usually have a collarlike device at the faucet end, still sometimes kink. Usually between \$15-\$40 for 50'.

**Rubber Hose** - the most durable type of hose. It's least likely to kink, being flexible, which is especially nice during subfreezing weather. It easily loops on a hose holder or in your hand. It's more expensive overall. All-rubber hoses may be difficult to find. Rubber-vinyl hoses are more common. Usually between \$20-\$45 for 50'.

**Flat Hose** - Collapses flat when not in use, like a fire hose. It's highly flexible and very lightweight. It may be difficult to find in stores. Usually sells for between \$25-\$45 for 50'.

**Mini or Coiled Hose** - a small hose that coils up tightly. Some are very short; others extend up to 60'. They are great for watering containers, lightweight, and easy to handle. Some are adaptable to both kitchen and outdoor faucets. Tightly coiled ones make it difficult to store neatly. They are usually not suitable for heavier watering tasks or attaching to a sprinkler. They usually sell for between \$10-\$75 depending on length. What to do with the old hose that leaks? Check out this picture:

Hose Humor:



**Plant by Numbers....continued from page 2**

7 and more becomes a mass. With seven plants, you achieve enough mass to start making a strong visual statement. You have some leeway with seven or more plants to plant in masses or to plant in groups of three, three, and one. Avoid three and four because it feels unbalanced. Even numbers higher than seven can be separated into two sets of odd numbers like five and seven for twelve, etc. Odd numbers higher than seven can be separated into groups of odd numbers like three, three, three. Avoid breaking up odd numbers of plants into an even number group and an odd number group. At a certain threshold, around a dozen, you don't need to worry about counting any more because the eye can't tell whether you have a mass of twelve or thirteen plants.

Now the hard part will be BUYING just the right number when you're faced with row after row and pot after pot of plants once spring arrives!

**Container Veggies: Photos 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](mailto:alzina@acsalaska.net) or at 333-2100.

**2009 Bean Challenge**



For anyone who is going to try growing the dry bush beans that Jane Baldwin shared at the last MG meeting, let us know your results -- successes and/or failure...

Contact Jane Baldwin: [jbaldwin@alaska.net](mailto:jbaldwin@alaska.net)

*Good gardening advice: Weed it and reap.*

*"The Amen of nature is always a flower."*

*poet Oliver Wendell Holmes*



**Sally Arant Returns to Speak  
at In The Garden Nursery**

Sally Arant is returning (temporarily) to display her art work and teach a class entitled 'Fighting Recession Depression with garden renewal', Saturday June 13th at 11 am, at In the Garden Nursery, 7037 O'Brien St. Classes are free but registration is required. Call 346 4247 to register.





## Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

May was a month of garden excess. So much happened, who knows where to begin! And the wonderful sunshine! I swear there were more sunny days in May than there were all of last summer.

The Central Peninsula Master Gardeners started the month with Tracy DiSabato-Aust's talk on garden design. She is a good speaker with interesting visuals and 85 people turned out with their ten bucks! I hope you heard her when she came to Anchorage.

The neighborhood valley nursery stomp was mid-May. The only extra person Mark and I had was Gina Docherty of newsletter fame. We didn't break any records for the number of nurseries visited but where we went was first rate. We traditionally start at Alaska Mill and Feed. Since I managed to kill Mark's mints over the winter, I got a lot of them with him in mind and then didn't give them to him. Last summer he had about six different kinds in different-sized clay pots and they made a very tasty grouping until I came along in the fall.

From Anchorage we went to P&M, then to Colony Greenhouse to admire the clematis, and on to Gray Owl Farm. The baskets and planters there are wonderfully different from anyone else's. I'd describe the style as whimsical. A flower that has come on the market and that I saw there is a yellow nasturtium with well-divided petals. I'm going to try to find it in the catalogs next year, for sure. We gave Jaime Rodriguez a call and he was home and "receiving". We got alpines there. By now, the back of the van was looking like its own garden shop.

We finished up the day at Dave Taplin and Nancy Beck's. They had roses from Jackson and Perkins' blanket series in large hanging pots and they make a beautiful plant for the pot. I'm going to copy that. The nice thing about our garden stomps is all the ideas that are out there.

And May is the month you go on tombstone tag patrol. My viola Labradorica bit the dust but I'd gotten its replacement in the valley so the hole is filled and the plant is flowering profusely and I purr whenever I go up the steps to the back deck. There's a lot of joy in wee purple flowers.

And the lamium lived! I was given some lamium that was thrown away and it lived! Joy and delight! Now it has all summer to grow bigger.

The Central Peninsula Garden Club goes berserk in May with speakers every Friday night and workshops on Saturdays. MG Kathy Wartinbee and I did the Greenhouse Management workshops. I learned a lot! Here are some web sites to visit:

[www.tomatofest.com](http://www.tomatofest.com) and for LED grow lights (I didn't know that was possible!) [www.ledgrowth.com](http://www.ledgrowth.com), [ledsgrowinggreen.com](http://ledsgrowinggreen.com), [www.led-grow-master.com](http://www.led-grow-master.com). Don

St. John gave me tomatoes that he'd started from seeds from Tomatofest. One, Buckbee's new 50-day, I'm going to try outside against the greenhouse amongst the zucchini and nasturtiums.

The CPGC had MG Fran Durner down for a Friday night talk on Gardens in Alaska and Rocks in the Garden and finished with Carmel Tysver finishing the month with a hypertufa trough class (go to [www.artisticgarden.com](http://www.artisticgarden.com)) for ideas when you need them.

The garden is still too soggy to rototill towards the end of May so I will turn my attention to our lawn which has been completely ignored for two years. If there is green in the lawn it's either moss or dandelions so I need to get cracking... Give a weed an inch and it will take a yard.



This beautiful Clematis was seen at Colony Greenhouse and at Jamie Rodriguez's house. Both plants were wintered indoors.

Photo by Rosemary Kimball

## "Gardener's Paradise" Home For Sale

Dave Taplin & Nancy Beck are leaving the state and will soon put their place on the market. An 8' moose fence surrounds nearly 2 acres, planted with 500+ peonies, many gold-medal winners; 100+ delphiniums, 2 fully functional greenhouses with heat & fans (24x60 & 20x60). There is also a rock garden area with 2 tons of tufa rock from Canada. The house is a charming old style house, remodeled, with a large deck, one of the first in the Sand Lake area. It also has a 3 car detached garage/workshop. There are many raised beds, with lots of planting potential. Several 50+ year old May Day trees partially surround the property. They would prefer selling the property to serious gardeners. Contact Dave at 243-6124. The property is located at 74th & Blackberry.



## Bird Chatter

[No Bird Chatter this month.]

### Seed Dispersal by Animals

Submitted by Gina Docherty

[from Gardener's Pocket Companion, Pavilion Books, 2008: Taxi Traveler Loses her Way: Eight ways that animals disperse seeds]

Flowering plants reproduce themselves by producing seeds. If the seeds are not dispersed far from the point of origin, many germinating seedlings will grow close to the parent plant. Competition will arise between every one of the seedlings as well as with the parent plant for light, space, water and nutrients, which are important for plants to be able to grow.

Seeds can be dispersed in a number of different ways. They may be carried by wind or water. Some plants even shoot the seeds out explosively.

Many animals play an important role in assisting the plant with its survival. Here's how they do it:

1. Ectozoochory - Dispersal of seeds outside their bodies, usually stuck to their fur.
2. Endozoochory - Dispersal of seeds from inside the body, usually by birds; seeds survive the bird's digestion.
3. Scatterhoarding - Seeds are hoarded in different places, usually by mice.
4. Larderhoarding - Large numbers of seeds are hoarded in 1-2 places, by squirrels.
5. Inhumation - Seeds dispersed at the entrance of ant nests, fertilized by body parts & excrement.
6. Myrmecochory - seeds dispersed by ants.
7. Seed rewards - Rewards offered by plants, such as fleshy pulp with sugar, starch and protein, to encourage animals to eat the seeds with the end result of seed dispersal.
8. Fruit mimicry - Seeds that pretend to be nutritious by being highly colored or patterned, to be consumed & expelled by an animal.

### AMGA Newsletter Deadlines

Articles or announcements for the following month are due by the 3rd weekend of the current month. The editor needs at least a week to put the newsletter together before sending it to the printers by the first of the month. The earlier the better - you don't need to wait until the deadline to submit material. In fact, it is preferred to have the information submitted earlier in the month.

Thank you.

Your editor, Gina Docherty



### Think of your Trees, Please!

By Nickel LaFleur  
LaFleur Gardening

As a certified arborist, I am asked what to do to help the trees and shrubs in our landscaping as we explode into a glorious Alaskan summer and my answer is always the same "water, water, water". Using a soaker hose coiled around the baseline of the tree, left on trickle all night long, will give it a better chance of fighting pests and diseases. It's much like the adage, if you're worn down to start with, you're more apt to catch the office-cold. Same with trees, if they are already stressed because of moisture-deprivation, there is more of a chance they will be attacked by pests. It's a good idea to attach a two-way splitter on your water spigot so you can adjust the water velocity from the soaker hose to the long hose (& ladder) you'll need to spray it up into the tree to knock off the dust, ash and pests. (This is especially necessary if you have tamarack because of the larch saw fly problem.)

Another suggestion is to go to the trunk of the trees (and shrubs) and remove the turf and weeds at least four to six inches away from the base. The easiest way to accomplish this is to take a sharp serrated knife and slice down the thickness of the turf and skim it off.. Do not cut any deeper than necessary as the trees roots are close to the surface and you don't want to damage them by slicing into them. Having the turf removed next to the tree will save it from weed whacker whips and lawn mower bites and ultimately, it's death. Trees need the bark to complete its photosynthesis cycle. And, it's a given, trees never win when it comes to lawn mowers and weed whackers.

Don't prune live-wood right now, either. Wait until the shrub or tree has completed leafed out and then prune sparingly- keeping in mind that the nutrients it needs come from the leaves. If you don't know how to prune properly and don't know someone who can, find a certified arborist by going to the International Society of Arboriculture's website to find someone in your area.

Considering that we live in cohabitation with moose, the fencing of certain trees is a must, especially when they are young and tender. I've found that 12' rebar stakes, bird netting and zip ties to work as competent caging material. I also suggest the use of Plantskydd (or whatever method you have that has worked for you in the past) to protect your investment from their hungry mouths.

Of all earthly possessions, trees are the only things we own that grow in value with age. Take a look around your property and see what you can do to ensure your investment keeps growing, too. For more information about tree health, go to [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com). The trees will thank you for it!



# Garden Event Calendar

## June 6, Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale, Palmer Pavilion, South Valley Way, across from Visitors Center. For information call 746-6772 or 745-3537

## June 6, Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm

Anchorage Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, 3734 W 35th Avenue. Information hotline, 566-0539

## June 6, Saturday, 11 am

Homer Garden Club Plant Sale, Homer City Hall parking lot, 491 E. Pioneer Ave. For more information, [brenda@gardensbybrenda.com](mailto:brenda@gardensbybrenda.com)

## June 9, Tuesday, 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Community Gardener Green Thumb Series, "Chickweed and Beyond". Identify weed and insect pests. Learn how to manage them in your garden plot. McPhee Community Gardens, sponsored by Anchorage Parks & Recreation and UAF Cooperative Extension Service. Free, ages 12+. For more information 343-4217 or [timmermanma@muni.org](mailto:timmermanma@muni.org)

## June 11, Thursday, 6 pm - 7:30 pm

Community Gardener Green Thumb Series, "Chickweed and Beyond", identify weed and insect pests, learn how to manage them in your garden plot. 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](mailto:timmermanma@muni.org)

## June 12 - 14, Friday - Sunday

High Country Wildflowers: A Closer Look, taught by wildflower expert Verna Pratt. Take a closer look at the beautiful blooms of a Denali summer. Learn about plant classification and what makes each wildflower family unique. Prior wildflower knowledge encouraged but not required. Lodging at a rustic field camp located 29 miles inside Denali National Park. Cost \$320, includes all meals, accommodations, transportation and instruction. Professional development credit available through UAA. Course offered by AK Geographic through the Murie Science & Learning Center at Denali National Park and Preserve. For more information or to register: [www.murieslc.org](http://www.murieslc.org) or 1-888-688-1269

## June 11, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

"How to Install a Rain Garden & Get Money Back", a 10-minute presentation at the Turnagain Arm Community Council meeting, Indian Valley Bible Chalet, mile 103 Seward Highway. For information on rain gardens see [www.anchorageraingardens.com](http://www.anchorageraingardens.com)

## June 13, Saturday, 11:00 am

"Fighting Recession Depression with Garden Renewal", special appearance by out-of-state guest, landscape designer Sally Arant. Held at In the Garden Nursery, 7037 O'Brien St. Class is free but participants must preregister, 346-4247 or [www.inthegardennursery.com](http://www.inthegardennursery.com)

## June 15, Monday 7:00 pm

Anchorage Master Gardener Association field trip, "Girdwood Gardens" meet at the Alyeska Resort. For information call Kathy Feathergill-Calvin 653-7673

## June 18, Thursday, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

A Midsummer Gala in the Garden (Alaska Botanical Garden), enjoy an enchanted evening of fine food, wine, and festive music in a spectacular garden setting. Join an experienced docent for a guided tour of the Garden or take a leisurely stroll as you enjoy an exclusive Gala preview of this year's Garden Art Show. Children's program from 6-8 pm (limit 50 children). Cost \$50 per person or \$100 per family, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, [www.alaskabg.org](http://www.alaskabg.org)

## June 20 - 21, Saturday, 12 - 7 pm, Sunday 11am - 5pm

12th Annual Garden Fair & Garden Art Show (Alaska Botanical Garden), family fun includes invitational garden art show, craft and plant vendors, speakers, demonstrations, Children's Village, Cook Inlet Bon-sai Study Group, plant show for alpine & rock plants, music, and food court, ABG member preview 11:00 - 12 noon on Saturday. Admission \$5 per person (kids age 2 and under free), 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, [www.alaskabg.org](http://www.alaskabg.org)

## June 22, Monday, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Anchorage CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area) Annual Invasive Weeds Fair, Invasive weeds related education and activities. Lidia Selkregg Chalet at Russian Jack Park. For details, contact Wade Collins, Volunteer Coordinator, Anchorage Parks & Recreation, [CollinsWA@muni.org](mailto:CollinsWA@muni.org) or 343-4460

## June 23, Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Citizen Weed Warriors Event at Westchester Lagoon. Meet in the southwest corner of the Z.J. Loussac Library parking lot. For details, contact Wade Collins, Volunteer Coordinator, Anchorage Parks & Recreation, [CollinsWA@muni.org](mailto:CollinsWA@muni.org) or 343-4460

## June 24, Wednesday, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Citizen Weed Warriors Event at Cuddy Family Mid-Town Park. For details, contact Wade Collins, Volunteer Coordinator, Anchorage Parks & Recreation, [CollinsWA@ci.anchorage.ak.us](mailto:CollinsWA@ci.anchorage.ak.us) or 343-4460

## June 27 & 28, Saturday & Sunday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Parade of Ponds (Alaska Botanical Garden), visit backyard ponds, streams, and waterfalls at private residences from Chugiak to Girdwood. Host, Green Acres Landscaping, will donate proceeds to ABG. Cost \$15, purchase tickets at ABG events, or Shop-in-the-Garden, [www.alaskabg.org](http://www.alaskabg.org)

## July 2 - August 20, Thursdays, 4-5:30 pm or 5:30 - 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](http://www.alaskabg.org)

## July 7, Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Community Gardener Green Thumb Series, "Composting 101". The how, what and why of composting in Alaska. Learn how to enrich your soil without breaking the bank. McPhee Community Gardens, sponsored by Anchorage Parks & Recreation and UAF Cooperative Extension Service. Free, ages 12+. For more information 343-4217 or [timmermanma@muni.org](mailto:timmermanma@muni.org)

## July 9, Thursday, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Community Gardener Green Thumb Series, "Composting 101". The how, what and why of composting in Alaska. Learn how to enrich your soil without breaking the bank. 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](mailto:timmermanma@muni.org)

## 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](http://www.alaskabg.org) or 770-3692

## July 11, Saturday, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Alaska Garden & Art Festival, Alaska State Fairgrounds, Palmer. Speakers, garden tours, exhibits, food. Special presentations by author Jeff Lowenfels, Teaming with Microbes and author Jennifer Bartley, Designing the New Kitchen Garden. Cost \$5, [www.alaskastate-fair.org](http://www.alaskastate-fair.org)



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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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:  
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2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
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Helictotrichon sempervirens (Blue Oat Grass)  
Photo from AlaskaHardy.com, Rita Jo Fritz of Fritz Creek Gardens in Homer  
Ornamental Grasses are beautiful, low maintenance plants for the garden. See article on page 1.

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