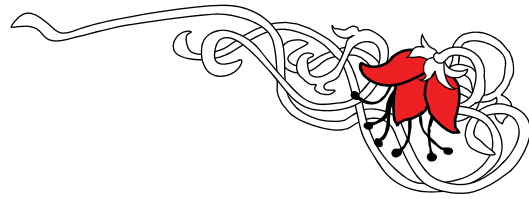


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 11, Issue 11

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER November 2009



Message from the President Beth Schlabaugh

We are still seeking nominations for the upcoming Board of Directors election in January. If you've ever thought about serving now is a great time! This is a terrific way to meet other Master Gardeners, learn new things and give back to your association.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How many members serve on the board? We have an 8 member board.

How long is a board term? The term is two (2) years, with 4 members rotating terms.

Note: We will have 1 seat open for a one (1) year term to fill a vacancy and put the board back on a 4 & 4 rotation.

How often does the Board meet? Once a month. No regular meetings will be held during June, July or August. However, additional meetings may be called as needed.

When and where does the board meet? The board may choose a day and time that is most convenient for its members, the location is also determined by the members.

I don't have any experience, does that matter? No, all experience levels are welcome. In fact our association recently joined the Foraker Group. This organization helps nonprofit groups strengthen their boards or staff. They do this by providing high quality, low cost education opportunities designed to strengthen a group and help it grow, become more organized, more effective, and increase its sustainability.

The current board has recently revised and approved the executive board position descriptions, approved a new more comprehensive and user friendly set of association bylaws, and we are in the process of creating a set of standing rules. This will be a hand book to use in cooperation with the bylaws that will help with the day to day running of the association's business. The association's financial records are undergoing a thorough review and there will be a suggested operating budget for 2010. We are still hoping to proceed with the 501c (3) paperwork before year end, and I have a meeting with the Foraker Group later this month to help us with some of our goal setting and strategic planning.

So, now you have an idea of what is involved with board service, how do you nominate yourself or someone else? What are the Rules? Here are the basic guidelines in no

particular order.

-You may self nominate (and we hope you do!) or nominate one (1) other person with their prior approval.

- ALL NOMINATIONAS MUST BE IN WRITING.

-Nominations can be done in three ways. You may submit your name or your name and your nominee by:

(1) The mail- To P.O. Box 221403 Anchorage, AK, 99522-1403 Attn: Nomination Committee

(2) In person- We will be taking nominations at the Nov. 15th general meeting.

(3) By email- You may email your nominations to the Nomination Chair Len Grau at lgrau@mtaonline.net be sure to write "AMGA Nominations" in the subject line of your email.

-Nominations must have been received during the open nomination period from October 2009 and nominations will close on Nov. 15th 2009.

A point to note there will be no nominations from the floor this year. This is different than in past elections. Any additional questions can be directed to Len and the nomination committee.

At the time of this writing none of the out-going board members are seeking re-lection, so there is great opportunity and need for our membership to step up to the challenge and help our association grow!

Information about the actual election will be in the December newsletter. We also hope to have a few lines from each of the nominees to help us get to know them better.

Alaska seeds included in Kew Gardens Millennium Seed Bank By Margaret Bauman Alaska Journal of Commerce

http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/102309/loc_adi.shtml
[Reprinted with permission from the author]

Alaska's wild plant seeds, collected by federal employees and the Alaska Natural Heritage Program, are among the growing number of seed samples now included in the Kew Garden Millennium Seed Bank Program, southwest of London, England.

"Since the Seeds of Success Program started, over 120 collections have been made in Alaska, not including over 40 collections this past season not yet counted," said Paul Krabacher, of the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management office in Anchorage. **Continued on page 6**

AMGA Meeting Report – October 19, 2009 By Jane Baldwin

AMGA's first Lifetime Achievement Award was presented with great affection and respect to Verna and Frank Pratt. "In Recognition of Your Knowledge and Dedication to Teaching Others to Appreciate and Understand the Wildflowers of Alaska", as the plaque on the large granite stone reads, recognizes the more than forty years that the Pratts have been involved in making knowledge of our native plants and wildflowers accessible to all of us. Verna's native plants and wildflower knowledge is legendary as is her incredible generosity in teaching and sharing that expertise. The collaborative effort of the Pratts in the photography, presentation and systematic organization of their Alaska wildflower books has provided information on our native wildflowers to those of us who count them as 'must have' references. Cake and sparkling cider were enjoyed by all in celebration of their award. Julie Riley said it well when she spoke of Verna's ability to teach and teach and teach and run up mountains with people following her!

The award followed a presentation and discussion on heirloom seeds by Julie Riley. Julie also showed a short video from the Seed Savers Exchange that stressed the importance of maintaining biodiversity and described this nonprofit organization's efforts to conserve and promote heirloom vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs. More about the Seed Savers Exchange can be found on their website at: <http://www.seedsavers.org/>. Look for Seed Savers Exchange on Facebook to view this video if you missed the program or on their home page, click on "What's New at Heritage Farms", to find their Facebook link. MG Fran Durner's ADN garden blog for October 20th contains a good write up on the heirloom seeds discussion.

2009 Botany Forum November 12th & 13th

The 2009 Botany Forum will be held Thursday November 12th and Friday November 13th, hosted by the Alaska Natural Heritage Program (AKNHP), Environment and Natural Resources Institute, UAA. Registration and other information can be found at:

http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/botany/Botany_BotanyForum2009.htm

A PDF of the full agenda can be found at:

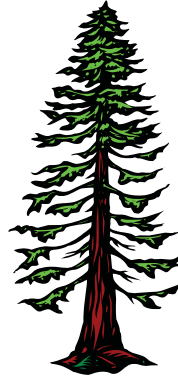
http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/botany/pdfs/2009/2009_Alaska_Botany_Forum_Agenda.pdf

The agenda contains a number of short presentations, including presentations by MGs Marilyn Barker (i.e., floristic surveys in Bering Glacier National Park) and Verna Pratt (on Alaska's Vulnerable Alpines). A Willow Identification workshop by Dominique Collet is also listed on the agenda. Other topics include (but not limited to) Finding Rare Plants on the Chugach & Tongass National Forests; Vegetation change in Kenai Fjords; Native Plant Development for Reclamation in Alaska-Seeds of Success.

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Anchorage Urban Forests

By Stephen Nickel
Community Assistance Forester
for the Alaska Division of Forestry,
Community Forestry Program



About a year ago, the Municipality of Anchorage, a Tree City USA since 2006, hired the state's first urban forester, a milestone for Anchorage and the State of Alaska. For those unfamiliar, the role of an urban forester is to plant, grow and manage trees and forests on municipal property for public safety, and for the social, economic and environmental benefits that they provide. They also serve as a resource for other departments, and provide technical expertise for tree selection and preservation on public projects. Because an urban forester has oversight of large municipal projects, they also ensure that public funds are spent wisely on the planting and care of trees.

In his first year at work, Anchorage's Municipal Forester Scott Stringer and his crews have been very busy working in parks and along streets to improve the health, safety and appearance of trees in the municipality. You may have noticed that the dead European mountain ash trees in the downtown area have been removed and replaced with native birch trees.

A new planting technique was used to plant these trees called root washing. Root washing involves removing the soil from the root ball to expose potential defects such as dead or girdling roots, which can be removed before the tree is planted. Two added benefits are that most, if not all unwanted plants and seeds are removed (include those that may be invasive) and the tree planting crew can make sure that the tree is planted at the right depth. Most tree health problems can be traced back to the way that they were planted. When a tree is planted too deep, its root system functions are reduced, leading to a stressed condition and predisposing the tree to secondary attacks by insects and/or diseases. Correctly planting the right tree in the right place gives the tree its best chance to thrive.

The urban forestry program has also been working hard to complete a street and park tree inventory that will help guide tree planting and maintenance activities each year. So far, several unsafe trees have been removed along Anchorage's busy trail system, increasing the safety of users. Scott is also working with other departments to ensure appropriate design with the right trees in the right places, and better use of landscaping to streamline maintenance and reduce costs.

All across America, including Alaska, municipal budgets are being scrutinized and funding for programs is being reduced or eliminated. Anchorage's urban forestry program has survived the first rounds of budget cuts, but with more cuts planned in early 2010, its future is uncertain. Anchorage's urban forestry program has the opportunity to show how to effectively manage a community's natural assets for increased public benefit.

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Master Gardener Focus: Nickel LaFleur By CHERYL CHAPMAN



Photo by Nancy Beardsley

Nickel LaFleur might differ with ex-lumberjack Gilles Sandon's conviction that trees talk. But the glass artist and arborist from Anchorage and the ex-lumberjack from Louise Penny's wonderful mystery "The Cruellest Month" would agree that trees do communicate, and all the time to those who pay attention.

In Anchorage, that might be "more water." Or

"hole's too deep." Or "disturbing roots? Bad idea." Or "shelter here with me from the wind."

"Our flowers in Anchorage are beautiful," says Nickel, "but our trees are gorgeous. Trees have been around us since we were born but we don't really see them and we take them for granted."

"Trees speak to us. I want to speak for the trees."

LaFleur came to Anchorage from the woods of Minnesota by way of the Kodiak crab cannery. That was in 1976, a summer job, "king crab, all king crab and 24 hours a day king crab. Kodiak's exciting when you're 21." And Kodiak was instantly home. Four years later she bought the Quonset hut where she'd been squatting but by 1985 realized her high school degree wasn't enough and moved to Anchorage and the University of Alaska. "Business, that's what I wanted. Criminal justice. I was going to work for children and save the world," she says. "But then I discovered I couldn't leave the work at work, and I had to get out."

She went with FedEx in sales in the early years - Kodiak, Anchorage, Fairbanks. "It was so great to have a part in bringing this service to Alaska where people weren't expecting anything to happen, and then this would happen - overnight delivery! - and they were jazzed."

She found her husband, Ed, in Minnesota when she went back for her 15th high school reunion. "I fell in love with the banker, and he moved to Kodiak with me. But he didn't like Kodiak. He likes running water." And so in 1991 the LaFleurs came to East Anchorage, under the shadow of the Chugach. Nickel still was with FedEx but increasingly drawn to the plants in her clients' offices, wandering around while customers filled out paperwork, pinching off dead leaves, poking compacted soil. "Then I met the Anchorage Garden Club ladies and horticulturist Debbie Hinchey, who mentored me," she says. "Debbie is a soil scientist, and she's been the biggest influence on my gardening world."

"She's made me recognize that it's all about the soil. From the beginning, she stressed that it's what's under the soil that counts. Especially with trees, you can learn a lot by doing a little root excavation."

In 2002, Nickel quit FedEx - "I wanted something that would make my heart happy" - and found the Master Gardeners. "I'd been looking for these people my whole life," she says.

She attended a tree class by Patricia Joyner, a certified arborist and program coordinator for the Alaska division of Forestry's community forestry program, "and I thought, 'Oh my God, I can do this.'" Nickel became a certified arborist herself - "I'm interested in trees and shrubs, but trees, mostly" - and launched into the municipality's Town Square project as vice chair of the Town Square Advisory Committee, advocating more planting variety and less monoculture. The trees downtown are stressed: traffic fumes, vandalism, neglect. They're each living about seven years before succumbing, Nickel says. "With Mother Nature, they last a lifetime. There's something we're doing wrong."

"It doesn't help when people run into them in their cars. It's so sad to drive downtown and see the empty spaces where trees used to be. Anchorage needs a tree law. Trees should have legal standing, and I want to be a voice for the trees in court."

"People who run into a tree, their insurance needs to pay for that tree. The trees are part of what makes this city beautiful, and when someone destroys that beauty, they should have to pay to make it right."

And how to keep trees thriving? First, says Nickel, they must be planted properly, not too deep and not too shallow. Those who count on a nursery to plant for them need to keep an eye on how it's done. "It takes a tree a couple of years to die, and you'll almost never get a guarantee of more than a year," she says. "Be sure it's properly watered, especially for the first three years. Stick your finger in the soil and if it's moist to the knuckle, it's good to go."

Second, scout for pests and take them out before they become overwhelming. (Nickel has a pair of Optivision 7X hobby magnifying glasses; with them, she can spot pests while keeping both hands free for squashing.)

Third, don't use pesticides or herbicides in the yard. Think of what's going on in the soil.

And fourth, be aware that little things matter. Keep a circle cleared of vegetation around the base of each tree. "A tree's roots are mostly in the top 18 inches of soil, which is where we want to plant annuals and bulbs and perennials. But fight that impulse. Don't disrupt that soil."

Nickel stays busy. She's on the board of the Alaska Community Forest Council, a statewide advisory body that works with the state Division of Forestry. She's active as well in Anchorage's TREErific, a small citizens' group "with a large mailing list" that keeps an eye on trees around town, plants trees in parks and tries to see that they get follow-up care needed.

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Getting started with ornamental grasses in Alaska

By Christine Bingham

<http://lastfrontiergarden.blogspot.com>



Unknown variety, possibly *Nassella tenuissima*

Perhaps you have already dabbled a bit with ornamental grasses. Or maybe you have heard that they aren't hardy or are badly behaved and run around in the border. I hope to dispel any rumors and inspire a renewed consideration for these under-appreciated plants.

Grasses have enjoyed a burst of popularity in the last decade or so. Just glancing at a few of my Fine Gardening magazines, I can read articles entitled "Set the mood with ornamental grasses (cover article, Dec '09)", "Low-maintenance native grasses (Nov/Dec '08)", and "New and unusual grasses (Dec

'07)." Additionally, they can be found gracing the covers (front or back) of recent FG issues 130, 129, 127, 124, 123, 120, 119, 118, and 117. No less an entity than the Perennial Plant Association, has chosen a grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola') as 2009's Perennial Plant of the Year. An ornamental grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster') was chosen in 2001, as well. They are definitely part of the gardening scene in the Lower 48, but why not here?



Deschampsia flexuosa 'Aurea'

I have heard from folks with a good deal of gardening experience say things like, "They just don't do well in Alaska." I have had a different experience with the two-dozen or so different types of grasses I grow in my small yard. I know many of us take published zone hardiness with a grain of salt and a prayer, so I have made a short list of easy-to-grow grasses that I have had at least a few years experience with here in Anchorage.

Grasses to try in containers

Containers need a little pizzazz? Looking for that plant to take your container from blah to sublime or sophisticated? Nab one of the grasses below to make your pot a feature from spring to fall, and beyond! The linear quality of grasses makes them a natural for contrasting the larger, rounder leaf shapes of most container plants. They also are available in some fantastic colors. The grasses below are smaller selections that won't overwhelm their neighbors (unless otherwise noted) in a contained space.

- *Carex* 'Red Rooster'- caramel colored and still going strong in a front porch container as I write this on October 23, annual (for me), worth every penny
- *Festuca* 'Elijah Blue'- blue/gray leaved, wonderful with jewel tones, great for textural contrasts

- *Isolepis cernua*- the "fiber-optic" grass is a great for adding a tufted, somewhat pendulous shape to containers, yellow green foliage, whitish blooms, cute as a button
- *Phalaris* 'Feesy's Form'- variegated and tinged with pink, (a rhizomatous runner, so don't plant in the border!), wonderful by itself in a pot, pleasant rustling sound in the wind

Grasses to try in the border (they do not run!) Craving some rhythm in your long border? Need a screen for ugly "plant ankles"? If you find your border is looking a bit fussy, try some of these beauties, which work equally well in groups, as specimens, or an accent.



Alopecurus pratensis 'Aureus' also called 'Variegatus'

Calamagrostis x acutiflora- all the cultivars from this cross I have tried have been dynamite, but my current favorites are:

- 'Karl Foerster', all green, tall (7 feet!), upright, and 'Overdam', variegated, mounding, 4-5 feet in flower, a real four-season grass if left intact over winter
- *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Schotland'- small, medium green tuft, about 2-3 feet in flower, excellent for massing

- *Alopecurus praetensis* 'Aureus'- glows in part shade, chartreuse, 1-2 feet, lovely accent plant in spring and early summer



Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Overdam'

I am not a gardener that enjoys staking, so I never stake my grasses. I do not fertilize them either. Most are sun lovers and get a spot in as much sun as I can give them. They perform spectacularly with this treatment, so save the coddling for the delphiniums. Another important reason for Alaskans to consider an ornamental grass in their garden: the moose don't favor them!

The above grasses are just a few selections to whet your appetite. Many can be found at local nurseries and even big box stores in spring and summer. Happy gardening!

Photos from Christine Bingham



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

Here it is, the end of October and the ground is still soft and the weather is mild. Unusual but enjoyable. More projects are getting done instead of put off for spring because they are covered with snow and out of mind.

I can still enjoy the rock garden that MG Kathy Wartinbee put in at the bottom of the steps by our back deck. However... The garden is much too crowded now. Since I'm not anticipating much winter attrition, I've got to quit adding plants (not fun) or build another (fun) doing what Kathy calls the "lawn abatement project". I'll opt for the latter next spring.

Everyone down here is finished with gardening and preserving what they have grown. It's relaxation before the seed catalogs start coming. Plants are brought in for the winter if they can't make it outside and all of a sudden there is a spontaneous generation of aphids in the house where there weren't any two weeks before. Amazing bugs, those. So far I've been able to take care of mine with the thumb-and-forefinger insecticide.

It's wonderful the paths that open up simply because of being a Master Gardener and meeting others. We were in MG Donna Franzmann's kitchen and she offered us her woodpile as she no longer fires up the stove in the kitchen since her husband died. Phil and I spent four days hauling two fat stove-cut cords of wood to our wood lot and greatly improved its appearance. Then our neighbor, MG Mark White, stored his potatoes in our root cellar with an invitation to help ourselves to them. Thanks! (He's the one that grew the French Reds that I like so much.)

To top off the fall, we got a call from MG Rita Jo Shoultz to ask if we wanted their four beautiful ducks that they didn't want to overwinter. So our garden has been re-duck-ed and life is good. After a hawk fly by, they, the Gang of Six guineas, and Mark's banty rooster all ended up in the same pen which is protected by fish net on the top. They seemed to not have any problems getting along so everyone is all together which makes winter care so much easier.

I've started commuting to Anchorage for the Advanced MG certification and the four sessions on bugs. I come home with my head bulging with stuff I hope I can remember. It's also been a good time to go to Costco and out to dinner.

Oh winter, when is thy sting?

Urtica Dioica By Rosemary Kimball



Photo from Wikipedia

When is a weed not a weed? When it makes a really good spring soup like stinging nettles, *Urtica dioica*. There is nothing bad you can say about the plant. They are an indicator of good soil. All parts can be used medicinally. The roots can be used for a yellow dye. The leaves are one of the plant kingdom's top sources of digestible iron.

The secret for using nettles in the kitchen is to harvest the young tips as soon as possible in the spring. By doing that every time there are young tips (the leaves are opposite so the plant will put out two new shoots as soon as possible) the plant can be kept in production all summer. The leaves are wonderful in a cream sauce and in potato soup.

To annoy someone is to nettle him. Nettles do have a defense mechanism in that they will irritate your skin if gloves are not worn. According to Janice Schofield in her book "Discovering Wild Plants" if you crush the nettle leaves between gloved hands and apply them to the welts, the welts will disappear.

If they can be corralled, nettles do make a nice addition to the edge of a garden and take no care at all.



Photo by Gina Docherty

MG Focus: Nickel LaFleur cont. from page 3

She plants. She prunes. She consults. She works in her sunny greenhouse. She applies glass mosaic art to anything that will sit still long enough for the glue to set. She's just taken the national exam to become a flower show judge. She swaps "my ability to prune, for instance, for what you know about bulbs.

"What I really need, though, is someone who needs pruning who'll clean house. Someone who needs a whole lot of pruning."



Bird Chatter

MG Fran Durner would like to know if anyone has been to the Philadelphia Flower Show recently or if anyone is thinking of going next year. The show runs from Feb 28 - March 7, 2010 in downtown Philadelphia. You can email her at fdurner@adn.com

Letter from Former AMGA Member

Hi I'm Caroline Hudnall out of the first class that Wayne trained many years ago. Although I live in Helena, Montana I'm still an Alaskan and certainly a Master Gardener. I've written gardening articles for a local publication called "All the good Dirt". And I give some advice from time to time on various gardening issues and I raise Bearded Iris as a hobby.

Please add me to your membership as I think I'm one of the incorporators of the Association and I'd like to hear about what my fellow MG's are doing. I'm glad to see that Julie is still involved.

The MG program here in Montana is not that strong and one does not hear of them very often. Which I think is a shame.

Be sure to pass on to my fellow Alaska MGs all my best and I hope that they are doing great and wonderful things. I can't say enough for the Alaska MG program is one of the best anywhere, you can be very proud of yourselves and what the program has done for Alaska.

You can contact me at:
dogskater@bresnan.net
Caroline Hudnall
P. O. Box 1016
East Helena, MT
59635
406/227-6945

1,725-pound pumpkin takes the prize in Ohio

Wednesday, October 7, 2009 10:33 AM EDT
The Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — A teacher from Ohio has won top honors in a pumpkin-growing contest with a 1,725-pound behemoth that could land worldwide bragging rights.

Christy Harp of Jackson Township near Canton took first place at the Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers annual weigh-off Saturday in Canfield. She won \$2,500 and could claim the world title.

Contest organizers say the entry topped the 1,689-pound record-holder grown in 2007 by Joe Jutras of North Scituate, R.I.

The seeds from Harp's winning pumpkin will be dried and given to anyone who asks.

Alaska seeds included in Kew Gardens Cont. from page 1

The collection of seeds of plants native to Alaska is funded by Kew Gardens in a partnership agreement with the BLM, Krabacher said. While the actual collection in the past has been done by BLM employees, that federal agency now has an agreement with the Alaska Natural Heritage Program, which did the lion's share of the collecting this year, he said.

For the 2010 collection, mostly in late August or early September, the BLM also anticipates getting some intern seed collectors from the Chicago Botanical Gardens, Krabacher said. Each collection includes some 20,000 seeds, of which Kew Gardens returns some 10,000 seeds for storage in a national seed collection. The Alaska seeds returned are deposited in a seed bank in Pullman, Wash., he said.

Kew Gardens, formally known as the Royal Botanic Gardens, is renown for cultivating the world's largest collection of living plants, more than 30,000 varieties in all, while the herbarium, the largest in the world, has over 7 million preserved plant specimens.

In an announcement Oct. 16 from Washington, D.C., BLM Director Bob Abbey congratulated Kew Gardens for its milestone accomplishment of collecting, banking and conserving 10 percent of the world's wild plant species. The BLM has, for nearly a decade, been a partner with Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Program in its native seed collection effort.

The BLM's Seeds of Success Program has played a large role in Kew's ability to meet its goal on time and under budget, Abbey said. This nationwide seed-collecting network of teams has made over 8,500 wild land native seed collections to support the Native Plant Materials Development Program and simultaneously seed banked over 10 percent of U.S. flora for future generations, he said.

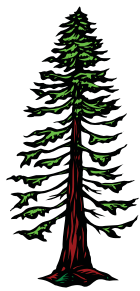
"Not only is BLM leading a national effort to develop diversity and quantity in native plant materials for restoration and rehabilitation projects, but the agency is also shaping global conservation in the face of today's environmental challenges," Abbey said in a written statement.

The BLM partners in its Seeds of Success program include Chicago Botanic Garden, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, North Carolina Botanical Garden, new England Wild Flower Society, new York city Department of Parks and Recreation-Greenbelt Native Plant center, and Zoological Society of San Diego.

Seeds collected are stored in the U.S. and England for long-term conservation, as well as short-term storage for the distribution of seeds to any researcher interested in working with native seed.

"Tho an old man, I am a young gardener." Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson turned to gardening in his later years though he was building and planting at Monticello before he retired from public service. He planted 113 species of ornamental trees, 65 kinds of shrubs, many from other parts of the world and several unknown to the New World, over 100 species of herbaceous plants, and over 400 varieties of nearly 100 different species of vegetables, fruits, and nuts. He was clearly the fellow America's first great gardening nut!



The benefits of urban forests, parks and green spaces are well documented. Even the best engineers can't design something that will do all the things that trees do, and for such a small investment. The bottom line is that trees, forests and parks contribute to the health, safety and well-being of our communities and the people who live in them. They are valuable city assets that must be maintained just like any other asset. In fact, few programs provide a return on investment equal to urban forestry.

If you value your community's parks and urban forest, let your elected leaders know that you support investing in the future health and well-being of your community. After all, our parks and forests are our living legacies for future generations to inherit.

For research findings about the benefits of trees, visit: <http://www.treelink.org/linx/factoid.php>. Also visit <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/>

The Community Forestry Program, with financial assistance from the USDA Forest Service, helps establish and sustain local community forestry programs throughout Alaska and supports Anchorage TREErific and other community forestry groups statewide. For information about the program and on tree planting and care, visit <http://www.forestry.alaska.gov/community/>

Join Anchorage TREErific for our next meeting on Wednesday, November 18th as we welcome Michael Rasy to update us on what's happening when it comes to pests and diseases as they relate to trees. Pizza will be served at 5:45 pm with our meeting to start at 6p. We will be meeting at Anchorage Sr. Center located at 1300 East 19th. Any questions, feel free to email us at TREErificAnchorage@yahoo.com or phone Nancy Beard-sley 343-4288. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Botany Forum continued from page 2

The Alaska Natural Heritage Program (AKNHP), is Alaska's clearinghouse for information on plant and animal species of conservation concern, natural communities of conservation concern, and invasive nonnative plant species. AKNHP collects, validates, and distributes this information, and assists in applying it effectively.

AKNHP is part of NatureServe, with data linked to similar programs in all 50 states, most Canadian provinces, and many Latin American countries. AKNHP was established in 1989 by The Nature Conservancy and in 1993 became part of the UAA's Environment and Natural Resources Institute. NatureServe is a non-profit conservation organization, a network connecting science with conservation, whose mission is to provide the scientific basis for effective conservation action. Among its goals are making biodiversity a mainstream consideration in significant conservation and natural resource management decisions. (<http://www.natureserve.org>)

Garden Event Calendar

November 12, Thursday, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Wildflower Garden Club meeting, "A Facelift for the Older Garden" presented by Rita Jo Shoultz, Fritz Creek Gardens, Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St., Anchorage. For more information, gardencentral.org/asfgc/wildflowergardenclub.

November 12, Thursday

The 2009 Botany Forum will be held Thursday November 12th and Friday November 13th, hosted by the Alaska Natural Heritage Program (AKNHP), Environment and Natural Resources Institute, UAA. Registration and other information can be found at:

http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/botany/Botany_BotanyForum2009.htm

November 15, Monday 7 pm - 9 pm

Anchorage Master Gardener Association meeting, "Winter Time for Gardeners: Dreams, Schemes & Plan Ahead". MGs share their favorite catalogs and nursery website URLs. Held at Cooperative Extension Service, 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. For information call 786-6300

November 21, Saturday, 2 p.m. Alaska Rock Garden Society: "Plants on the Edge: A floristic inventory of the Bering Glacier Region"; a 10 year study of the vary large receding glacier located between Cordova and Skagway. Speaker: Marilyn Barker. Held at the CES conference room on Northern Lights.

November 17 - 18, Tuesday and Wednesday

Anchorage Garden Club, 49th Annual Holiday Flower Show held at Wells Fargo Bank, 301 W. Northern Lights (Northern Lights and C Street). Anchorage Garden Club hotline 566-0539 or www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchoragegardenclub

December 1, Tuesday, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Central Peninsula Garden Club meeting, "How Trinity Greenhouse got Started", presenters Ron and Dan Sexton, held at Cook Inlet Aquaculture Building on Kalifornsky Beach Road, Kenai. For more information 283-4632, 398-8669 or mmkn@ptialaska.net

December, 1st & 2nd week, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Make Your Own Christmas Centerpiece at Dimond Greenhouses, 1050 W. Dimond Blvd., Anchorage. Watch a demonstration and then make your own centerpiece to take home. Materials provided, including tools; dress warmly. \$25 for materials. For information contact 349-2552 or www.dimondgreenhouses.com

December, 3rd week, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Make Your Own Christmas Wreath at Dimond Greenhouses, 1050 W. Dimond Blvd., Anchorage. Watch a wreath making demonstration and then make your own. Materials provided, including tools, but dress warmly. \$15 for materials. For information contact 349-2552 or www.dimondgreenhouses.com



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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(The Newsletter will be on-line in living color!)

To send concerns or information to the AMGA directly, mail to:
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For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
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Verna and Frank Pratt with their "Life Time Achievement Award" presented by the Alaska Master Gardener Association, Anchorage Chapter. See article on page 2, MG Meeting Report.
Photo by Fran Durner

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