



Anchorage Chapter



Volume 12, Issue 12

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER December 2010



Message From Jane

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It is good to take the time to think about all the things and reasons we have to be thankful. For me Thanksgiving always clears the way to get serious about the Christmas season! None of this early gift shopping for me - doesn't work. I stash them away and then forget about them.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, Gina has gathered a collection of suggested gifts for gardeners from many of you. Wonderful ideas. Gardeners are easy folks to gift - most welcome any and all things related to gardening. For last minute shoppers, there are even many items to be found at our local big box stores: a box full of several rolls of garden twine and 'twist-ems, a special fancy pot they wouldn't buy themselves, a giant jar of time-release fertilizer. Bet you could even get a sales associate to retrieve a big 2-3 cubic foot bag of peat moss or pro-mix or the like. (Wouldn't that be impressive under the Christmas tree!)

With a little imagination, there are great possibilities for gardeners. A couple of years ago, a friend (a widow) really wanted to put in small paver-stone patio but was a bit overwhelmed by the daunting task. Each of her two children and 6 grandchildren gifted her with certificates for a set number of hours of labor working on the patio and delivery of 8x16 paver stones equal to their ages. She was delighted and come spring she had about 135 paver stones and a crew to help.

How about a gift membership to AMGAA for a gardening neighbor or friend? It's a great way to introduce folks to our association - the monthly programs, the summer garden tours, and the newsletter.

My thanks go to all of you who took the time to complete the recent member satisfaction survey. There were some great responses - and the Board will be looking closely at all you had to say. There were a lot of positive comments about how we're doing as an organization, some great suggestions for program topics of interest, and some suggestions of what some of you would like to see from your association.

I personally was pleased to see a number of comments about 'feeling connected', enjoying (and wanting more opportunity for) networking between members, and

appreciating the interaction between members and the Board.

With a group that numbers between 280 and 300, it's always a challenge to serve everyone's interests. But we're working hard at doing the best we can towards that end. Your continued input helps us - and serves to keep us all connected. Contact information for all Board members is in your MG Directory - please feel comfortable in using it. Keep your comments coming - the Board does appreciate them.



Foaming at the mouth, or enjoying a snow cone?
Photo by Jane B.

Master Gardeners 2011 Membership Renewal From Sandy Harrington

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 2011 membership renewal form. Please fill it in and mail it in with your dues before December 31st.

If you have questions about this year's renewal or any questions about membership now or throughout the year, please contact Sandra Harrington at dsharr@ptialaska.net or call 346-3599. I will be happy to help. It is important to keep our records accurate so you don't miss the newsletter, the directory or any special announcements. We're all looking forward to the new year and lots of sharing of gardening and plant information.

Sandy

Seasons Change, Summer Memories by Mary Rydesky

At the November gathering of the Master Gardeners, visions of the season past brought to life the beauty of Alaska summer gardening. Marveling at the achievements came easily: nearly ten presentations covered the best of 2010. How now to bridge the days until the seed catalogs arrive? How to see the color and form long after your winter Poinsettia and Christmas cactus finish their holiday blooms.

Well, if you have 'apps' on your iPhone, iPad or iTouch and access to the iTunes store, look up terms related to gardening, plants, or flowers. Several entertainment



Plants vs. Zombies HD

Games

Updated Aug 02, 2010

\$9.99 BUY

programs are available to fill the time when you are waiting at the bank or in line for customer service, including games like "Plants vs Zombies HD".

The zombie ate my flowers!

One program is truly exciting: Florafolio. It is a reference tool that includes over 200 plant profiles. Although they represent the North East section of the US and Canada, this field guide provides ideas for trees, shrubs, perennials, ferns, vines, sedges, and grasses that are native. Florafolio has a search tool for searching by common and Latin names, and you can also search by leaf shape, flower color, wildlife benefit, gardening use, and more features!

Once you see a plant that interests you, continue to read about growing and caring for it. Imagine having this electronic pocket guide on hikes or visits to botanical gardens: instead of carrying books and notepaper, you can have both the look-up and annotation features on in your pocket, combined with your phone!

This little program is now in version 2.5 and once you pay the grand price of \$3.99, you will receive updates as new plants are added. Want to see a quick video on its features and use? Go to YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuXsTZ1DeMQ>

Florafolio is building a group on Facebook, too. The site has a link at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=150290417303> or you can search in Facebook under "Florafolio" to find it. Then select "join group" to have access. Once in, you will be able to post and converse about gardening with other members.

The value of a great outpouring of interest by Alaska MGs? We might petition to become the next state they add to this field guide. As they use original photos, it seems a natural extension of the November AMGAA program and may offer an avenue for sharing your gardening achievements!

If you surf the Internet, visit the publishers of Florafolio at <http://florafolio.holimolimedia.com/> where you will find links to the other resources such as their Facebook Group page, iTunes, and Twitter.

So while it is difficult to dig in the garden, it is the time to dig the technology!

Clark's Orchard Carries On By Jo Anne Banta

What would you do if you suddenly inherited an orchard in Anchorage? Probably exactly what Randy and Sonja Arduser are doing in the well-known Clark Orchard on Rabbit Creek Road: improve its upkeep, keep planting, and keep selling apples.



Lawrence and Mary Clark settled at the bottom of Rabbit Creek Road in 1961 near what was then a gravel pit. Lawrence collected fill from the new roads being built in the area, good peat and sand; and, since he had always wanted to grow apples, he began growing a few trees. He had no specific plan, but somehow an orchard evolved. Now, nearly fifty years later, there are 200 apple trees, 11 crabapples and root stock, 10 cherries and an apricot tree. Lawrence Clark passed away last year, at ninety-four, leaving the two-and-a-half acre plot to Mary's niece, Sonja.

After helping Lawrence for years, Randy Arduser already knew a lot about the business, so the Ardusers were able to step right in. Master gardener, Sonja, who fulfills her AMGA obligations as a docent at the Botanical Gardens, has cataloged the orchard. She has one entire binder for apples, complete with a series of beautiful pictures for each of the 25 varieties. She shows the blossoms and fruit of each, together with a top and cross cut view and a side and half-cut view -- and, wow, what a difference there is in the cut views of the assorted varieties!

Sonja also has a binder of like photos for the other fruits and nuts: crabapples, cherries, raspberries (Canby), and plums (Compass and Manchurian), to name a few. There are 10 varieties of cherries. The Ardusers say that their Meteor, Sam and Monterey cherries are best for pies. For a sweet eating cherry, there is nothing better than the Clark Cherry, a variety developed by Lawrence Clark, himself, in 2004. There is a Stacey Pear which Sonja is not fond of and the Butternut Walnut which, while it does not bear nuts, is still surviving.

The single Manchurian Apricot flourishes in the front yard, and Sonja makes apricot jam from its fruit. Her pictures made my mouth water. Apricots are difficult to grow in Alaska; and, while Sonja has saved seeds and

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Master Gardener Focus: Bonnie Lembo By Cheryl Chapman

At the foot of a ridge that stair-steps up to Cook Inlet sunsets sits a wee blue house. It tucks sweetly under the wing of the ridge, close enough to the Park Strip to share festival drums and trombones, yet is quiet and safe and with a full buffet, as noted in the personal address books of golden-crowned and white-crowned sparrows, red-eyed vireos, arctic warblers and other birds of passage looking to rest and refuel.

Master Gardener Bonnie Lembo and husband Bob Bundy garden for the little creatures of the city -- the shy, the hungry, the timid - at their home, which the National Wildlife Foundation has designated a Certified Wildlife Habitat.

"People are overrunning the planet like a bunch of cockroaches," says Bonnie, daughter of a landscape gardener from New Rochelle, N.Y. "Where will room be left for anything else? Everything in nature supports us in one way or another in a web of life. We need to nurture our part of it just like we nurture our families."

In 1984 when the longtime attorneys bought the home from friends and moved in with their twin daughters, it was a standard house on a standard lot. Stiff lawn. Chain-link fence. Trees planted too close and clawing each other for space, light and food.

"I did all the standard things in my standard yard," says Bonnie. "I planted roses. They died. I used Weed and Feed, herbicides, pesticides, the whole nine yards, and then just decided, 'I don't want to do this anymore,' and went cold turkey organic." About that time she wrote a paper, "Landscaping as Wildlife Habitat," for a Community College course under Doug Tryck, and hooked herself.

"Birds won't come to yards where there are pesticides and herbicides," she says. "It took almost three years before the birds, butterflies and dragonflies came back, even though we were spending a lot of thought on plantings that would attract them."

They absorbed "the best book on the subject," "The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds" by Stephen W. Kress, with a foreword by Roger Tory Peterson. They learned that birds and people aren't all that different. They need the same things: Shelter. Food. Water. A safe place to raise their young. Bonnie and Bob thought like birds and set out trees, bushes like cotoneaster, low shrubs such as nangoon berries, and perennials and native plants, including white fireweed, so their guests could drop down in steps, pausing at each level to check things out.

They replaced an invasive Mayday tree out front with a willow on a mound ("Birds like irregular landscapes"), built a Hansel and Gretel potting shed next to spruce and birch and started a discreet brush pile of raspberry canes, old Christmas trees and branches behind the potting shed for little birds to dive into at need. They added lilacs, mountain ash for Bohemian waxwings, irises, and black and red currants and raspberries. Seed-bearing plants overwintered untouched, except by hungry birds.

And they paid attention to the water table beneath. Everything about their property except the house, garage and potting shed is porous; Bonnie and Bob's yard works

like one big rain garden. Pavers are in sand. Shredded bark covers the driveway. A vine arbor out front, support for fresh peas, sits in gravel. Moisture trickles through their land to the aquifers below with no runoff, purifying itself and leaving sediments behind.

They found a design "from an old, old book on composting" and built twin compost bins of mesh and wood slats beside the garage; the bins can be open or closed, "a spectacular success" once they blocked out the magpies with wire mesh over the top. "Before we did this, magpies would go fishing in the kitchen compost and carry their finds to our neighbors' beautiful deck, and they'd noodle it around to see what they could do, say, with an old rotten onion," says Bonnie.

A serendipity: Bonnie and Bob discovered the new mesh bin tops were perfect for growing mesclun greens in perforated trays, "and at the end of the season, we just empty them into the compost."

The couple put one of their first birdhouses 25 feet up in a big birch behind the garage, and a nuthatch family moved in. Bonnie and Bob worried about how they could clean the lofty box, "but then we saw the nuthatches were cleaning it themselves," she says.

They wanted a second birdhouse there but nuthatches are no more sociable than Daniel Boone. However, David Allen Sibley in that birding bible, "The Sibley Guide to Birds," suggests facing the next birdhouse the other way so the occupants think they're farther apart than they really are. "We did, and it worked," says Bonnie.

Bonnie and Bob lined up more birdhouses high under the eaves, and feeders with cracked sunflower seed and niger thistle at almost every window, close enough to enjoy their guests but not so close as to alarm or tempt them to dash against the glass.



"Bonnie Lembo and her grandson Elias in her kitchen garden, surrounded by pea trellises and bread seed poppies, with an espaliered Norland apple tree in the background."

Photo by S. Jordan Photography

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Master Gardener Focus: Bonnie Lembo

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Simple wood birdhouses are best, says Bonnie, with a small entry hole up high and no outside perch to be used by a marauding squirrel or magpie poking into the box to spear baby birds. The inside should be rough so fledglings can clamber out for test flights, and box bottoms should come off for easy cleaning. "Don't get brightly painted decorator birdhouses," she says. "You don't want to draw predators' attention. Magpies and ravens will shred the straw ones and strew the litter on the ground. And metal gets too cold and too hot."

Nesting material is appreciated, such as purchased moss put out in mesh onion bags ("Magpies and ravens will trash it, otherwise), human and dog hair. Pieces of string should not be longer than an inch "because the little ones in the nest will tangle their feet in it and get gangrene." Dryer lint in this rainy climate is a bad idea "since it compacts when wet, and baby birds without feathers can die of hypothermia on it."

Though not good for birdhouses, metal is, however, more sanitary for feeders. "Birds are germy little guys and they carry lice," Bonnie says. "Feeders and water dishes have to be kept clean. A few years ago there was a big redpoll die-off from salmonella. Redpolls are ground feeders. Seed spilled on the ground and they flew down and pooped on it but kept on eating."

Bonnie and Bob entice chickadees and nuthatches with peanut-butter-filled pine cones. No suet, though. "The little birds can't crack greasy seeds with their bills," she says.

No water in winter, either. "I see the birds scoop up snow," she says, "and we have so much open water that they easily can find it."

After breakup, shallow bathing saucers filled with water go out across the yard. "The catcher dishes under pot plants are perfect," says Bonnie. "The birdbaths on pedestals are too deep for anything but the big birds. The little ones want very shallow dishes with sloping sides." They like to tiptoe in without getting their tummies wet. The garden saucers attract other visitors; butterflies balance on pebbles mounded in the center, sipping, and dragonflies practice touch-and-go. The saucers should be scrubbed out with a stiff brush every few days, although without soap or Clorox.

Bonnie and Bob have been adding roosting boxes to the bird-house lineup. They look similar but the entrance is close to the base, with several perches above it in the closed part of the box. "The birds fly up and huddle together on the perches to keep each other warm, and it helps them survive the winter," says Bonnie. "A little bird can lose half its body weight to cold in a single night."

The birds, for their part, offer generous payback. They take care of almost all the pests, so there's no need at the Lembo/Bundy refuge for the long-spurred insecticides. And surely, every garden has room for joy and color and song.

"We sit out on the patio with coffee in the morning, or in the evening with a glass of wine and watch them," Bonnie says. "When you think about it, it takes so little to add so much pleasure to your life."

Clark Orchards cont. from page 2

distributed them among members of the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association, only three or four have survived. Nevertheless, she has more seeds saved in her freezer.

Most of their apples are Norland, Yellow Transparent and Westland. I picked a single Westland, still clinging to the tree. Even after being frozen, it was crisp and delicious. There are, however, many other varieties thriving, among them the Sheep's Nose that has an interesting blossom end and the Almata, which is a beautiful entirely red apple. The Almata's blossoms are a gorgeous crimson, and its cross-cut views show its cinnamon-candy colored flesh.

Randy and Sonja have worked hard to preserve and improve Lawrence's dream, no mean task when Randy is fishing in Bristol Bay during the summer. Maintenance, of course, is never ending. This year they repaired and renewed the watering system and mapped and labeled ninety-five per cent of the trees. The orchard is surrounded by a high chain-link fence; and fruit trees, evenly spaced, form straight-as-an-arrow rows, diagonal, horizontal or vertical, symmetric and beautiful. In the summer three hives of bees grace the grounds, courtesy of Bill and Judy Bartee.

Apples, like our gardens, have good and bad years. Blossom freeze is a big problem in Alaska. Then there are the mice that nibble on the bark. All of the fruit trees wear plastic pipe or fine screen around their trunks. Alaskan fruit trees, of course, are grafted on to hardy root stock, and over his years of experimenting, Lawrence Clark determined that Renetka root stock is the best for this area. The Ardusers agree, and they continue to order Renetka stock from Montana as they renew and replant.

Each fall, a week or two after Labor Day, Randy and Sonja have a "you pick" day, advertised by word-of-mouth only. Before turning loose pickers, they educate their visitors on the fine points such as, "Be kind to the trees," and, "Supervise your children." So far they have been pleased with the good, obeying crowd, and they are happy that, due to their organic methods, even children who are allergic can eat these apples.

They have big plans for the future, such as re-roofing the greenhouse, bringing in more peat and, of course, planting more trees. Eventually Randy would like to host elementary school tours, such as Lawrence did many years ago.

The Ardusers are active members of the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association, a busy group with members throughout the state. Like AMGA members, they enjoy field trips: spring blossom-smelling parties, fall apple tasting get-togethers, pruning parties and grafting workshops. Little wonder the State Fair sees more and more fruits each year.

Lawrence Clark would be proud of the way the Randy and Sonja have taken over and carried on his tradition. Their son, Alex, Alaska State Trooper in Cordova, knows the orchard well, and he and his wife Kate are interested in fruit growing, too. Happily, Anchorage apple lovers can rest assured that Lawrence Clark's orchard will continue to grow and prosper well into the future.



**Central Peninsula
Master Gardener News
By Rosemary Kimball**

Well, we've gotten our white Christmas, thank you Bing Crosby for the dream.

And with the snow it was possible to see what was going on in the yard. I haven't seen so many hare tracks in years. They are all over and seem to appreciate my paths down to the lower garden to feed the ducks. I don't see any tracks inside the lower garden which is nice for the apples and other trees. I keep looking for lynx or weasel tracks but no such luck. The snow was also a resting place for all the birch and spruce seeds that blew off. There were so many I think we could reforest the state if everything sprouted.

The first catalog to arrive was Pinetree. (Jane Baldwin just flipping through the catalog, found six varieties of kale) I've been getting the Pinetree catalog for years and it is interesting to see how it has grown and changed over the years. Stokes was next. We're still having a problem with Thompson and Morgan. I've ordered from them most every year and they quit sending catalogs several years ago. MG Barb Jewell has had the same problem and her comment was, "it's their loss". Browsing on line just doesn't make it. I know a lot of my ordering is from poking through the paper catalog.

Asking around about what's happening, MG Margaret Simon wrote back, "Christmas! It's time for the smells of the season rather than the greenery of growing! I am waiting for last year's poinsettias to show color...." In Honolulu along the fence of the water works on Nu'uano Avenue was a half mile hedge of poinsettias. The streetlights were shaded on the hedge side to keep the flowering even as the least bit of light will retard the boom. Margaret also said that her hairdresser had given her an herb kit for her Aerogarden so she had fresh herbs with which to roast her turkey. MG Kathy Wartinbee has already ordered some of her seeds for next year, mostly veggies, to take advantage of free shipping and other come ons. She's very organized.



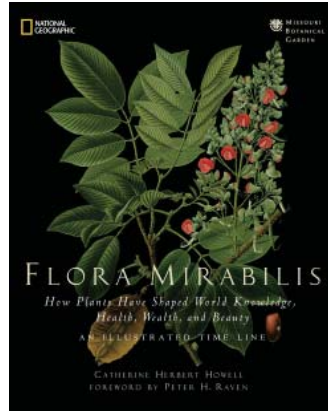
I'm still having fun with my bug zapper. The fly population has fallen low enough that I'm now worrying about being able to keep a breeding population. I go to zap several times a day...Rosemary Kimball, Fly Hunter! A friend said his four-year-old nephew licked the zapper and cried. I was wondering what would happen... I'm keeping my tongue in my mouth! It's nice to see the growing pile of unmoving black specks on the vanity edge (that's where the worm composter is located in the laundry room). Since I

don't have the lid on the top level tray, seeds are sprouting. Every tomato seed has sprouted and there are some mystery seed leaves that might be cantaloupe. A very important observation: Fried flies don't make shadows on the wall.

**From the book " A Miscellany of Garden Wisdom: A Collection of Supremely Useful Tips and Homespun Knowledge Much of Which Has Been Obscured by Time and Memory" by Bernard Schofield
Submitted by Nickel LaFleur**

*I think it must be rather nice
To live by giving good advice:
To talk of what the garden needs,
Instead of pulling up the weeds.*

**Book Review
By Fran Durner**



FLORA MIRABILIS: How Plants Have Shaped World Knowledge, Health, Wealth and Beauty, by Catherine Herbert Howell (hardcover, \$35, National Geographic.)

Mystery, science, intrigue, travel, history, discovery, life, death, sex, love, religion, politics, romance, art: We could be talking about the latest of-fering in TV reality or detec-tive shows, but instead, this is a fabulous book that offers more than a cheap thrill.

Flora Mirabilis is for gardeners who love art, history, science and a little story telling along the way. It is a collaboration between the National Geographic Society (penned by one of their natural history writers) and the Missouri Botanical Garden, which supplied the illustrations from their library of exquisite botanical artwork.

Although this book lacks the literary style of Michael Pollan's similar themed Botany of Desire, in contrast, Flora Mirabilis makes it up with the extent of the content.

Weaving mankind's reliance and interaction with plant life throughout history and culture, Flora Mirabilis examines how humans came to discover and ultimately depend on plants for almost everything we need to exist in our modern life.

Flora Mirabilis offers up the big picture, juxtaposing timelines of plant discoveries with scientific breakthroughs and historic events and how they worked together to change the course of civilization.

Sprinkled amongst the prose, twenty-seven plants are profiled such as cotton, rice, rubber, rose, and yes, cannabis and the opium poppy too. The synopsis of cinchona - the source of quinine used to cure malaria - proved to be a favorite with the story of British sailors posted to India adding gin to the bitter tonic to make it more palatable, hence the invention of one of our most ubiquitous drinks!



The artwork is to die for, though I believe the originals are probably twenty times better and the book's re-production does not do them justice. Whenever I've been to garden shows, one of the first things I do is head to booths that feature vintage botanical illustrations. The kind that were painstakingly drawn by

a botanical artist, transformed into etchings or woodcuts, printed and lovingly colored by hand. The illustrations in this book are among the best in the collection of the Missouri Botanical Garden Library and how I wish I could travel there to see them in person!

If you haven't yet found a Christmas gift for your best gardening friend or if you are in need of something to add to your own wish list, I heartily recommend leaving this review in plain sight somewhere circled with **MUST HAVE!**
written on it in big red letters.



Bird Chatter

Advanced Master Gardener Program 2010 CEUs and VSHs

-- Julie Riley has put something besides paper books in her new office! With two north-facing windows she thinks a low-light, low-water requiring philodendron just might stand a chance.

-- Ms. Pat Anderson celebrated her birthday attending Advanced MG and nary a soul knew about it. Now we all know the date (November 16), thanks to Pat's son Eric who is in the new MG class.

-- Sandy Harrington was honored at the November AMGAA meeting with an engraved vase for 30 years of Service as a Master Gardener. As it turns out, Sandy was in the second Master Gardener class and 2010 marks her 31st year!

-- Though not seen at AMGAA meetings, Caroline Valentine and Caroline Hudnall still keep up their AMGAA membership. They were part of the first MG class taught by Wayne Vandre in 1978.

-- Susan Bybee has been working on a historical timeline for CES but little information has been found on the Anchorage CES office. Does anyone remember, the early years?

-- If you're purchasing a real Christmas tree this holiday season, balsam fir really do retain their needles. Julie Riley's tree still had its needles in May when it went to the Anchorage woodlot.

-- MG Mike Baldwin is President of the International Carnivorous Plant Society. Who knew—except maybe his mother Jane, www.carnivorousplants.org.

-- Rumor has it that Sue Lincoln was in Willow mid-November burning brush on her newly cleared peony field.

-- The Anchorage CES office had the inaugural run of its video-conferencing equipment when Dr. Steve Sparrow taught 'Biological Aspects of Soil' from Fairbanks as part of the Advanced Master Gardener course.

-- Welcome to new MG, Amy Fuelling. Amy took the class via the on-line option and has been working on her 40 hours by mounting herbarium specimens. She also shelved the gardening books in the volunteer/storage room at the new Anchorage CES office.

-- Nickel LaFleur wants to thank Robbie Frankevich for providing those wonderful Alyeska lift tickets for door prizes. (she won some at the last meeting!)

Reminders: Membership renewal due December 31st, Board elections in early January, and the annual association membership meeting January 17, 2011.

For this year's core course we studied Soil and Soil Amendments. It was a wonderful series of four sessions. Everyone learned A LOT. For those of you who completed all four sessions, now is the time to start planning how you are going to fulfill the eight hours of Continuing Education Units and the ten hours of Volunteer Service Hours. The CEUs and the VSH must be completed by September 1, 2011. Refer to your packet and the AMG Program brochure.

The requirements are very fluid in that the VSHs can be board membership, flower bed maintenance or some other form of volunteer time of horticulture nature. They need NOT be educational in nature. Julie Riley ALWAYS has need for volunteers. Give her a call: 786.6300 and ask her what you can do for her.

The CEUs can be completed by attending garden club monthly educational programs, field trips, garden tours or Campbell Creek Science Center, Eagle River Nature Center or Alaska Botanical Garden programs, to name a few. They must be horticulture in nature. Check the Garden Calendar in every issue of the AMGAA Newsletter for upcoming opportunities. There are several coming up in the next few months.

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE if a program, presentation or volunteer service you would like to participate in is appropriate; PLEASE ASK. There is a form in your packet that addresses individualism. It is titled:

"Continuing Education Credit/Volunteer Opportunity/Special Consideration Request Form"

PLEASE USE IT! Perhaps there is a program on television such as "Breeding Orchids" or "The History of the Potato" that you would like to use for your CEUs. This form is where you would request approval. In instances such as these, we may ask you to present a synopsis to a group or write an article for the newsletter. We will work with you to help you obtain the CEUs and VSHs you need. We are a very dynamic and open minded committee. ASK, ASK, ASK!

Remember, YOU are required to track your hours. A form is provided for tracking CEUs and VSHs in your packet. Keep them in a safe place where you can jot down the hours as they are completed. When you have completed the minimum requirements, submit the forms to the AMGAA Education Committee or Julie Riley. If you do more than the minimum, please continue to record your hours. Julie will use these numbers in an end of year report.

Feel free to call any of the members of the Education Committee if you have a question, concern or idea:

Sue Lincoln, Chair - 854.9536 - gardens@gci.net

Jane Baldwin, - 562.5451 - jbaldwin@alaska.net

Sharon Hoffbeck - 345.1222 - Sh385@acsalaska.net

Dana Klinkhart - 346.1631 - Klinkhart@gci.net

Julie Riley - 786.6300 - afjar@uaa.alaska.edu



Garden Stuff I Want for Christmas:

My MG wish list is rather short this year:

1. a garden (and home to go with it), 2. a ticket to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show next February, 3. more local visitors/comments at my Alaska garden blog, Last Frontier Garden.

Christine Bingham

I wish for: the upper arm strength to start my 8.5 hp chipper/shredder; beneficial insects to be readily available when I need them in the greenhouse (Gina, can you rent out your praying mantis for a couple months?) time, energy and creativity to complete some mosaic lawn art pieces this winter; continued good health for my husband, family, friends, pets and me. Nickel LaFleur -

I would wish for gloves, I just found a pair in Hawaii for \$8.95, Botanical Collection" Flora Infusion. They are floral, spandex, nitrile coated, light weight, ...Now, don't let the spandex part go to your head! Anyway, these are too cool. I plan to get some for my gardening friends, those who like spandex! I would also wish for and give Botanical Garden membership or gift certs. (in Maui where I just bought a huge bouquet of protea and bird of paradise for \$4.00! I'm planting calla lily and caladium this afternoon and plan to wear my new "spandex" gloves)
Susan O.

Here's an interesting read for vegetable gardeners. The author suggests NOT planting intensively but going back to the single row with wide spacing: Gardening When it Counts: Growing Food in Hard Times, 2005, Steve Solomon, New Society Publishers, BC, Canada, 342 pp. I have a copy so don't need it for Christmas :-)
Julie Riley

For Christmas I want an LED grow light just like Dana's Glow-panel 45 by Sunshine Systems.com
Jo Anne Banta

Leather work gloves that fit, lined. Costco's are always too long in the fingers and somewhat stiff; Knit gloves with rubber palms and fingers; Gloves in a Bottle; White plastic id tabs (for plant names); Rubber garden shoes; Wonderful short handled (18") machete/garden tool - Double ended, one claw, one straight blade (go after roots); Garden file; Felcro pruners; Woman sized long handled spade (slightly smaller, and lighter). LaVonne Rhyneer

I want Santa to bring me a thick-pronged pitch-fork to dig with, not to throw compost. I already have a long-handled skinny prong pitch-fork for compost! I have seen gardeners use these, but don't know for certain what they are called. You can dig up the earth, and remove weeds or plants or whatever you want without disrupting the whole area-like a shovel would. I wish I knew the name of my wished-for tool!
Pat Anderson

My gardening Christmas list: A chipper shredder that I can start & move around easily; Sharp secateurs that are bright colored or have a long string on them so I don't lose them; Garden gloves; gift certificates for plants next spring (I need another rhododendron).
Gina Docherty

My Christmas Gardening Wish List -
radiant heating for the sunroom garden beds, three more composting bins, and a warm sunny extended growing season in 2011
Mary Rydesky

Garden Event Calendar

December 6, 2010

Alaska Native Plant Society, "Plant Reproduction in the Arctic", Justin Fulkerson, UAA biological Sciences. 7:30 pm, Campbell Creek Science Center.

December 7

KENAI Central Peninsula Garden Club - "European and Southern Hemisphere Gardens", presented by Tom Jahns. 7:00 pm, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Bldg., 40610 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Kenai. Contact: Marion Nelson <mmkn@ptialaska.net> <http://www.cenpengardenclub.org/index.html>

December 13

AMGAA Board of Directors meeting, 11:30 a.m. CES office, 1675 C Street, Anchorage.

December 12

"Keeping Bees in Alaska" - Eagle River Nature Center (end of Eagle River Road), 2:00 pm. Beekeeper Susan Dunsmore will share her knowledge about keeping bees in the far north. Free program: \$5 parking for non-members. Contact: 694-2108 <http://www.ernc.org/>

December 20 - 31

Anchorage CES office closed.

December 31st

AMGAA Membership Renewals due!

JANUARY 1st, 2011 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 3, 2011

Alaska Native Plant Society: Where Trees Live: Biogeography of North American Trees including the laws of biogeography and how micro climates affect range distribution. 7:30 pm, Campbell Creek Science Center.

January 17

AMGAA Annual Meeting & Board Elections; 7 p.m., CES; Program : To be announced

January 26 & 27

Alaska Greenhouse & Nursery Conference, Anchorage.

January 27 & 28

Alaska Peony Growers Conference, Anchorage.

February 23-27

Northwest Flower & Garden Show, Seattle <http://www.gardenshow.com/>

March 11 and 12

Alaska Botanical Garden Annual Meeting and 5th Annual Spring Garden Conference.

March 25-26

Master Gardener Conference- MGs of the Tanana Valley. Wedgewood Resort, Fairbanks Alaska; speakers, workshops, and vendors. Open to interested gardeners, and Master Gardeners statewide. Check the website for agenda and registration form. <http://interiormastergardeners.org/>

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

Mail: 14051 Fejes Road

Anchorage, AK 99516

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Email: amga@alaska.net (NEW EMAIL)

AMGA Web Site: www.alaskamastergardeners.org
(The Newsletter will be on-line in living color!)

To send concerns or information to the AMGA directly, mail to:

AMGA

P.O. Box 221403

Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
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Anchorage, AK 99501
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Fax: 786-6312



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