



Anchorage Chapter



Volume 12, Issue 2

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER February 2010



President's Message By Jane Baldwin

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage
Board of Directors Update

The AMGAA membership elected seven directors to the MG Board in January. With director Mary Rydesky's term carrying over, the board is now at its full complement of eight. We're ready, willing and excited about serving the Association and doing our best to accomplish all the tasks that keep our organization running smoothly.

The new board elected the following for the four executive offices: Jane Baldwin, President; Robbie Frankevich, Vice-President; Mary Shier, Treasurer; and Mary Rydesky Secretary. Judy Christianson, Gina Docherty, Nickel LaFleur and Sue Lincoln, will serve as Members at Large.

We welcome and encourage your input as to how we can best serve our membership. Please feel free to contact me (jbaldwin@alaska.net - 562-5451) or any of the Board of Directors for any suggestions, ideas, information or questions.

Daylight hours are increasing - have you noticed? We're gaining at the rate of over 5 minutes a day. Might not seem like a big deal, but put it together with the 'almost light' of dawn and dusk, and we're on our way! It makes it easier to flip that switch off in your brain dismissing the lethargic cocooning tendencies of our winter months and turn the one on that makes you smile with anticipation, excitement and increased motivation. It's a bit like coming out of suspended animation and jumping head first into the up-tempo activities that the gardening season will bring.

And speaking of jumping into spring head first, consider volunteering for your AMGA. Volunteering is the essence of AMGA. We need you to make the association work.

Some volunteer needs on the immediate horizon include:

Meeting Hospitality - This includes volunteers to provide refreshments for the general meetings. Usually 2 people per meeting bring snacks. Jane B. is signing up

NOW to bring snacks for April 2010 and March 2011. Will you join her or cover a different month? We need someone soon, as the annual directory publication deadline is the first of March.

Pioneer Home Gardens - This involves watering, weeding & deadheading the Pioneer home entry beds. It only takes about 2 hours twice a week, and you share the responsibility with someone else. Jane B. is signing up NOW to cover the weeks of June 20-26, July 11-17, and August 8-14. Why not join her or cover another week or even one day? If you like doing something nice for others, here's your chance. The residents really appreciate your work in their gardens.

Summer Garden Tours -- We need gardens to visit. Please consider offering to host a Monday night MG tour and show off your garden. MGs love to visit and talk about gardens - big gardens, little gardens, works in progress, whatever. We almost all have gardens and love to see gardens of all types. We learn so much by sharing.

A Volunteer Coordinator will be coming online soon. In the meantime, to volunteer contact any 'user friendly' board member:

Jane Baldwin
Judy Christianson
Gina Docherty
Robbie Frankevich
Nickel LaFleur
Sue Lincoln
Mary Rydesky
Mary Shier

jbaldwin@alaska.net
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mshier.anch@juno.com

AMGAA is a great organization. We bring together like minded people who have great interests in all aspects of gardening; folks who love to share their experiences and learn from others; people who contribute and volunteer their time and expertise; people who provide educational opportunities for all of us to learn the best and most responsible gardening practices for ensuring good stewardship of the earth; people with sense of pride of place in their gardens and community. Aren't you glad you're a Master Gardener?

AMGA Meeting Report – January 18, 2010

Julie Riley, CES MG Advisor, welcomed all to the AMGAA annual meeting which included a good turnout from our newest MG class graduates before turning the meeting over to Don Smith, Chairman of the Elections Committee, who announced election results for Board of Director vacancies.

Julie thanked the previous board members for their service to AMGA, mentioning some of the past year's activities for the membership: good programs, great garden tours, spring workshop, winter lecture series, Advanced Master Gardener Training, and revision of the association's bylaws.

The evening's program was a presentation on Vines by Dana Klinkhart. Dana's interest in vines was evident in the great collection of pictures of vines in her powerpoint presentation as well as her interesting talk about the different kinds of vines and their climbing characteristics. Vines and other plants often considered climbers (i.e., roses) offer a great opportunity to extend our gardens vertically. Dana covered a number of vines and other climbing plants, both annual and perennials hardy to our area, as well as some that might be tried in containers. Dana is interested in learning about others' experience in growing various vines - and would welcome the opportunity for pictures of same this coming summer. Contact Dana (klinkhart@gci.net) if you might know of any vine photo ops! A wreath and a bird feeder made from hops vines cut down in the fall were donated as door prizes by Jane Baldwin.

Extracts From Dana Klinkhart's "Vines" Handout

Climbing plants climb in particular ways: some wrap, some adhere and some curl. Observe plants' climbing characteristics to determine the appropriate vertical support to provide.

Tendrils: (peas, cobeia) . . . includes stem tendrils and leaf tendrils -- skinny, wiry structures along the stem that reach around in the air until they come into contact with something they can grab; then tendrils curl, forming a coil that lets plant adjust to degree of tension or pull on the support.

Adhesive Pads: (Boston Ivy, Virginia Creeper) Stem tendrils have touch-sensitive adhesive pads that allow them to stick to almost any surface (face of building, fence, or the trunk of a tree). If not provided vertical support, they will crawl sideways attaching themselves to anything in their path.

Clinging (aerial) stem roots: Stems produce a cluster of short, stout roots that cling to surfaces of almost any kind. Examples include *Hydrangea petiolaris*, most ivies (English & Irish) & *euonymus*. These plants can damage paint & mortar if you try to remove stem roots from a structure.

Twiners: Twine by either twining leaves (Clematis, Rhodochiton, Climbing nasturtium) or twining stems (Pole beans, Arctic Kiwi, Hops, Thungeria). Twining leaves are used like tendrils and twining stems twist around whatever they touch. Twining stems will wind either clockwise or counterclockwise depending on the plant species. If turned upside down, they will uncoil and recircle. The elliptical motion of twining plants is called "circumnutation" and is typically at a right angle to a source of light or heat.

Scramblers: (climbing or rambling roses, Bougainvillea, potato vine). Have long, flexible stems that may look like vines, but they are unable to climb on their own; some have thorns that help them grip neighboring stems. To grow "up" you will need to tie them in place.



An impressive display of climbing nasturtium on Jo Anne Banta's front porch
Photo by Dana Klinkhart



Virginia Creeper growing on Jane B's First



Numerous clematis varieties adorn Dana Klinkhart's entryway
Photo by Dana Klinkhart

Master Gardener Focus:

Frank and Verna Pratt by Cheryl Chapman

One line for "occupation" on a job application wouldn't be enough for Frank and Verna Pratt: They're authors, photographers and publishers; Frank is ex-military intelligence, specializing in Turkey; Verna knows rock gardens (garden writer Jeff Lowenfels calls her "THE world's expert on the subject") as well as Alaska's native plants, and greenhouse gardening (their greenhouse perches on top of their garage), and she shares what she knows through talks, seminars, walks and college classes.



Gardeners' conventions also value Verna: Among many other invitations, she has spoken in New York and Newfoundland for the North American Rock Garden Society and, in 2002, in Scotland for the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

For hikers and climbers wondering what that scrubby little thing with pink tassels might be, the Pratts' field guides are the gold standard, starting with the first one, "Field Guide to Alaskan Wildflowers" (1990) followed by "Wildflowers of Denali National Park," "Wildflowers Along the Alaska Highway," "Alaska's Wild Berries and Berry-like Fruit," and the children's book, "Linnaea's World," with Allene Franklin.

The Alaska Master Gardeners Association honored the Pratts' decades of gardening generosity in October with their Lifetime Achievement Award: in this case, a hefty boulder for their home rock gardens.

Not that there weren't rocks there already, a shock when Frank and Verna started trying to dig post holes for the dog fence at their new home in 1970. From the surface to China, their house lot was solid rock that had been a stone island dividing a powerful stream on either side. The developer rerouted the stream into a ditch, called it good and built. The stream, however, remembered its old haunts.

"This is the only house we've ever had that leaked from the bottom up," said Verna. "There was a little grass in the front and nothing in the back. I'd bought plants but there was no place to put them. One of my sons kept bringing in baby trees that he'd found out hiking, and he'd say, 'Mom, plant this! Mom, plant this one too!' and the only way I could was to set them on top of the rock, pile soil around them and hope for the best.

"Unfortunately, they were cottonwoods. At that time I didn't know what a cottonwood was. I had to wait until the kids were up and gone to cut them down."

"We brought in seven loads of topsoil, and that wasn't nearly enough. Even today, the gardens could always stand more soil, despite our additions, and composting all the time."

Plants that love wet feet love the Pratts' yard atop its underground river. They've built raised beds everywhere, both to keep roots of rare specimens from rotting and to raise soil temperatures.

Both Frank and Verna grew up in a Massachusetts town so tiny that the two of them were one-third of their high school graduating class. Verna's father had a one-acre vegetable garden and leased another plot for fruit trees and a grape arbor, and the family sold their produce at a roadside stand. Frank raised a few vegetables as well and had his own roadside stand.

He went on to study pharmacy. She worked as a small-town telephone operator. They married at 20, and after he graduated, Frank joined the Army, first as a pharmacist, then in intelligence. North, South, East, West, the military Pratts quartered the nation: Michigan, New Orleans, Baltimore, Monterey, Calif., on the ocean.

"Every place I went I took a yard with absolutely nothing and made it really something very nice," says Verna. "And then I'd leave."

Came 1966, and the Pratt family - two adults, their then two children, a dog -- jammed in a Ford Mustang hitched to a tent trailer and headed north up the Alaska Highway to Fort Richardson.

"From the day I moved to Alaska, I wanted to pick berries and make jams and jellies, but I wasn't familiar with any of them here," Verna says. As she studied the berries, she and Frank also started photographing the unfamiliar plants around them, until by 1990 "we had hundreds of photos that we didn't know what to do with, so we thought, 'Let's make a book!'" says Frank. Verna does the writing; Frank handles the computer end of the project; they both take the pictures.

Sometimes in Alaska the fauna does burst into the flora. Verna and Frank were on a photo hike near the Savage River in Denali once, burdened with cameras and tripods when, over the jingling of equipment, Frank heard a branch snap, and a big grizzly came barreling down "like a freight train," says Verna. "We jumped to opposite sides of the trail; he ran around me and then headed for Frank, ran around him, stomped and huffed and then walked off. We looked for plants in the opposite direction that day."

From her 44-year perspective on Alaska gardening, Verna says probably the best thing a gardener can do is hang around with other gardeners. "The Master Gardeners, the garden clubs - listen to other people who've had the problems you may be having," she says.

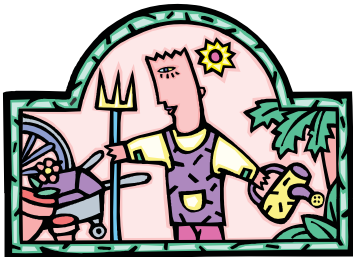
"The best book I've found about gardening in Alaska is Lenore Hedla's 'Alaska Gardener's Handbook.' I've got lots of books that supposedly help you, and they do, but only in particular ways. Lenore's book helps with everything.

"And visit other people's gardens. Visit other people's gardens as much as you can because there you can see what's working and get wonderful ideas."

Welcome the 2009-2010 Master Gardeners!

John Ascott
Suzanne Ascott
Michael Baldwin
Scott Brawner
Judith Brendel
Michelle Coburn
Denise Corcoran
Dean Davidson
Holly DiMeglio
Julie Dreher
Gretchen Fowler
Richard Gain
Konstantin Gaskov
Uni Hanley
Pam Hawkins-Sacco
Lou Ann Hennig
Steve Hennig
Kelly Ingram
Margaret King
Shirley King
Sandra Kranich
Megan Lillick
Majbritt Logan
Jo Ann Marshall
Melody Milliken
Mary Miner
Laura Minski
Karen Montague
Dawn Needham
Nancy Nix
Vonda Nixon
Erin O'Connell
Leslie Patrick
Andy Phouksouvath
Tracy Russell
Jean Shaindlin
Alice Stevens
Kathy Stewart
Ron Sullivan
Mary Kay Swartz
Carol Taylor
Sharon Watson
Terry Wilson
Mark Wohlgemuth

We hope to see you at our educational meetings!



Mowers and Hoses By Linda McCarthy Beckworth

Garden Hoses

In 1860, the inventor of vulcanized rubber, Charles Goodyear died, having failed to perfect a practical use for his invention and leaving his family nearly \$200,000 in debt. Ten years later, Dr. Benjamin Franklin Goodrich, determined to cash in on rubber's untapped potential, founded the B. F. Goodrich Company in Akron, Ohio, and began producing the world's first rubber hoses.

Prior to the invention of the rubber hose, people used watering cans to water lawns, flowerbeds, and veggie gardens.

Repair a small leak in a garden hose with chewed gum, Krazy Glue, or a wood toothpick. If using the toothpick, stick it in the hole, snap it off flush with the hose's outer skin, and wrap the hose in duct tape. The toothpick will absorb water, swelling to seal the hole.

You can store a hose inside a tire to prevent it kinking.

A leaky hose can be used to make an inexpensive drip irrigation system or soaker hose. Simply use a hammer and nail to poke a series of holes along the length of the hose.

In Italian, a hose is called a tubo flessibile, which literally means "flexible tube."

Lawn Mower Facts

In 1830 British inventor Ferrabee Budding invented the world's first hand pushed lawn mower by adapting parts from a rotary sheering machine used to cut the nap off cotton cloth.

In 1911, American army colonel Edwin George, using a gasoline engine from a washing machine, invented the world's first gasoline-powered lawn mower.

If your mower refuses to start, spray WD-40 in the carburetor/air cleaner and pull the draw cord. Also spray WD-40 on the blades and the underside of the lawn mower to prevent cut grass from sticking.

Turf farmer Jay Edgar Frick of Monroe, Ohio, owns the widest lawn mower in the world. The Big Green Machine, a lawn mower 60' wide, can mow an acre of grass per minute.

Gasoline-powered lawn mowers are not required by law to meet the same emissions standards as vehicles.

Mowing your lawn for one hour with a conventional gasoline-powered lawn mower creates more air pollution than driving a new car from New York City to Washington, D.C.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, gasoline-powered lawn mowers cause 5% of the nation's air pollution.



Central Peninsula MG News By Rosemary Kimball

It's hard to have to write about something when nothing is happening; yet according to my MG contacts, I have the picture in my mind of our editor on the lanai in Kailua-Kona with a cup of morning coffee and her new pet orchid!

Catalogs are still sparse. I've gotten catalogs from companies I've not ordered from, yet nothing from Parks, Thompson and Morgan and Stokes from whom I order every year! I was going to stick it out and see when the catalogs arrived without prompting but I couldn't stand it anymore. I went to their web sites and requested catalogs. So many of my purchases are impulse purchases and those are harder for me to do from a web site.

I feed my neighbor's chickens and rabbits every week-day and keep tabs on the wild life in the 'hood. Mark has had Mama Moose hanging around this winter and the moose finally got hungry enough to eat the Clematis tangutica. Mark has it climbing up a 6x6 support for his deck. He's rigged up a piece of concrete reinforcing wire in a "U" around the post to protect the main growing stem of his plant. The moose can't get at it and in the winter she prunes back the summer's growth and keeps the plant along the paths of grace and beauty but not wildness. Also Mama developed a taste for chicken and rabbit food and Mark had to move them into the storage area of his animal shed - but Mama found out that by pushing on the gate she could bust in. She had a good feast which included bread scraps, until the gate was tied shut.

This has been another snowless month on the central peninsula. We had three inches in early January of snowball-style white stuff and then a half inch here and there. The soil temperature in the garden has dropped to 24°F which is low-normal. What's amazing about the garden this year is that there are no hare-y tracks in the snow although there are plenty on their well-used paths around the garden fencing. I did see weasel paw prints just once. The weasel we had last year was fun to watch. He'd come up on the back deck and peer in the window. He also did a number on the voles that came to clean up food in the duck pen. I miss him.

There was a weasel at Mark's animal shed last fall and Mark caught it stealing an egg by tucking it under its chin and rolling it along. It got to keep the egg after all that. It's amazing how little it takes us to be entertained in the winter.

The hares are legion this winter. There's a well worn path where the calendula and petunias and zucchini live so that means everything this spring is behind a chick wire fence. Where's a lynx when you need her?

Winter attrition is complete here as my last two plants brought in from outdoors died. Oh well.

Orange Hawkweed By Rosemary Kimball

One day, long ago, the prettiest orange-red flowers with yellowish centers appeared in my front garden. I cut them and brought them into the kitchen and to put in a vase to enjoy this new, long-lasting cut flower. I won't do that again! It turned out it was Orange Hawkweed, *Heiracium aurantiacum*, one of the most invasive, obnoxious of the noxious plants we have here on the Kenai Peninsula. I got rid of the plant. Now and then I will find one plant planted by a low-flying bird I presume.

Hawkweed is a small plant, just a few inches high. It is perennial. It has hairy leaves. It likes acid soils. It spreads by seed and the seed will remain viable for at least seven years. It spreads by underground stolons. It can form a carpet of basal rosettes. It takes over pastures crowding out the native pasture grasses. Animals won't eat it as the milky sap is bitter. It isn't a useable herb.

There are absolutely no redeeming features of this member of the Aster Family. There are three native species in the state but the orange hawkweed is an introduced plant from Europe. I even saw it as a garden plant in Switzerland!

Mowing it doesn't get rid of the hawkweed because the rosettes are so close to the ground. Hand digging is ineffectual except on the smallest infestations as you will miss the roots for sure. Herbicides are the only effective solution. 2-4-D (Weed Be Gone)



Orange Hawkweed - photo by wikipedia.com



Bird Chatter

-- January's electronic election of new AMGA board members had an unprecedented response rate of 62%. Thanks to everyone who voted and to those that offered to serve on the Board of Directors.

-- Congratulations to Greg Kalal for being the first MG to complete his 20 hours of horticulture education for Advanced Master Gardener.

-- The Anchorage CES office will be moving May 1st to 1675 C Street. The building's entrance is off 16th between A St. and C St.

-- Ninety-five percent of AMGA members are connected to the Internet.

-- New MG Terry Wilson lives on Botanical Circle. How cool!

-- MG Jill Shepherd will be speaking on rhubarb at the Lifeways in Russian America conference in Sitka. Her paper falls under the category of "Diet and Drink: subsistence, locally harvested food, foodstuff imported from Russian America as well as from Mother Russia, Europe, Asia."

-- The Mat-Su Master Gardeners have a new website. It's the color of baby-blue-eyes. Check it out at matsumastergardeners.org/. Note that you can pay association dues on-line.

-- The Master Gardeners in Juneau are planning a conference for later this spring. On Feb 27 there is a free Southeast Gardening Workshop following the Alaska Greenhouse and Nursery Conference in Juneau.

-- Ashley Grant recently joined Cooperative Extension Program's IPM team as Invasive Plants Instructor. Her background is in ecological research and environmental education.

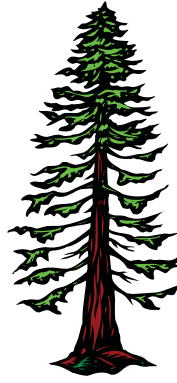
-- MGs who migrated South this past year include Bud Dubai, Nancy Beck and Cheryl Simpson.

-- Leave it to Martha Galbreath to find a magazine with the title "Gardens & Guns". The August/Sept cover was a pitcher plant but there were more hunting articles than those related to gardening.

Gardeners New Age Song:

*Peas would rule the planets,
and love would clear the bars.
It was the dawning of the Age of Asparagus. . .*

Pencil in ARBOR DAY - Monday, May 17th Nickel LaFleur - Anchorage TREErific



I was transferring dates to my new 2010 calendar and thought it was a good time to remind fellow MG's of Alaska's Arbor Day - Monday, May 17th. My favorite holiday! Always the 3rd Monday in May for Alaskans.

Arbor Day is time to celebrate the role of trees in our lives. Since 1872, tree planting festivals have been held to recognize trees - the symbol of life.

Julius Sterling Morton and his wife Caroline moved from their home in Detroit, Michigan to Nebraska City, Nebraska where he soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper, the Nebraska City News. As a lover of nature with the ability to spread his enthusiasm for trees, Mr. Morton found a receptive audience of fellow pioneers who missed having trees about and helped him plant them for windbreaks, building materials, shade and fuel. In 1872, Nebraska State Board of Agriculture (of which Mr. Morton was a member) declared April 10, 1872 as the first Arbor Day. Prizes were given and over one million trees were planted. And with that first tree planting ceremony, J. Sterling Morton was bestowed the honor of being "Founder of Arbor Day". Today, after seeing pictures and visiting the state, it's hard to believe that in the 1800s, Nebraska's landscape was but a treeless plain.

Within a few years, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day annually with tree planting ceremonies. By 1920, more than forty-five states and territorial possessions celebrated Arbor Day. Today, all fifty states and a large number of countries have a yearly ceremony to celebrate trees.

For many years Arbor Day was celebrated on April 22, J. Sterling Morton's birthday. It wasn't until 1972, a full 100 years after the first Arbor Day ceremony that, President Richard Nixon proclaimed the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day. It's interesting to note that though most states choose Friday as the day of the week they celebrate Arbor Day; Washington and Maryland celebrate on Wednesdays and Alaska and Wyoming celebrate on Mondays. And some states like Maine, Alabama, California, Oklahoma and Oregon, use the whole week for their tree celebration ceremonies!

The State of Alaska first officially recognized Arbor Day as a holiday in 1966. Through my researching the records of the Anchorage Garden Club, the earliest date of any public ceremony held in Anchorage for a tree planting celebration was 1962. Anchorage's first official "Arbor Day ceremony" was in 1969 when it was celebrated on the first Thursday in June - this year, June 5th. Mayor George Sullivan presided over the ceremony held at Ben Crawford Park, the same location where the Pioneer School House resides today, the corner of 3rd and Eagle Street. This year Alaskan's will celebrate Arbor Day on Monday, May 17th.

Mr. Morton died in 1902 and a memorial to him at his home called 'Arbor Lodge', was dedicated by President

Grover Cleveland in 1905. One of Morton's own phrases adorns the marker, "Other holidays repose upon the past - Arbor Day proposes for the future."

So, grab your pencil and mark the 3rd Monday in May, (May 17th) to celebrate trees and start thinking today about which tree(s) will work best for you and your planting location. Remember, "the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the second best time is now".

Anchorage TREErific's next monthly business meeting will be March 24th at 6pm at the Anchorage Senior Activities Center located at 1300 East 19th Avenue. Stephen Nickel will be our guest speaker. TREErific is a small group of volunteers whose mission is to 'enrich our community through the planting, caring and promotion of trees. If you would like to know more, contact us at our email address: TREErificAnchorage@yahoo.com

Greenhearts -- FREE

Saturday, Feb. 13, 12 noon - 4 pm, Mat-Su College on Trunk Road, Sponsored by the Valley Arts Alliance, the college's beautiful greenhouse will be the main feature with speakers, garden experts and a clearinghouse of information about events that will be happening this summer. Linda Lockhart will be there to answer gardening questions from noon until 4:00 p.m. She will also have photos from the Garden Show in Seattle. There will be music and art. Tickets for the North Root Spring 2010 Symposium will be available for sale.

Alaska Master Gardener Conference, 2010

The Mat-Su Master Gardeners are hosting the state-wide Master Gardener Conference this year on Fri & Sat, March 5 & 6 at Grandview Inn. The theme is 'Back to Our Roots' and will feature keynote speaker Marianne Krasny, Director of the Initiative for Civic Ecology at Cornell University and Chair of the Department of Natural Resources. Her presentation on "Garden Mosaics" brings together people, plants and cultures and will include the topics of community gardening, urban restoration, community forestry and connecting youth and elders. Registration for the two days is \$110 and can be done on-line at matsumastergardeners.org/.

Bones for Gardening, Bones for Life® Class

If gardening is in your bones, prepare your bones for gardening! Gentle movement class designed to strengthen bones, improve upright posture, and allow you to garden with ease by moving the way nature intended. Based on Feldenkrais techniques. Class meets Wednesday evenings March 3-31 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Class size limited to 10 people. Registration fee, \$90, or two for \$150. The first class is free. Come to at Movement Therapeutics, 1413 G Street. For more information contact Kate at 929-3633.

North Root Big Lake Gardeners Spring 2010 Gardening Symposium

Saturday, April 17 from 9:00 am til 5:30 at Houston Middle School. Tickets: advanced (\$25); at the door (\$35) with all proceeds going to the Mid-Valley Seniors and Houston Middle School.

2010 Spring Tree Seedling Sale The Society of American Foresters

The seedling order form and invoice has arrived. If you would like the pdf order form by email, contact dewainwright@alaska.edu or drop by the CES office in Anchorage for a hard copy.

Garden Event Calendar

Saturday, February 6

ABG Winter Workshop Series. Fungi Identification with Kate Mohatt of the U.S. Forest Service. UAA / APU Consortium Library room 307. 2:30-4pm. \$5 ABG members, \$10 non-members. Call 562-7055.

Monday-Friday, February 8-12

12th Alaska Forum on the Environment - 2010; Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage.

Thursday, February 11

Wildflower Garden Club monthly meeting - 10am -Dispelling Fall Gardening Myths with Julie Riley - Central Lutheran Church, 15th and Cordova Street

Saturday, February 13

Snowshoe Tree ID Tour at the ABG - Meet at the entrance to the ABG at 10am. Snowshoes dependent on the weather. RSVP required at 562-7055. Free to ABG members, \$5 nonmembers. **Repeats on Thursday, February 18 at noon.**

Monday, February 15

Alaska Master Gardener meeting: POTLUCK! "IPM: Slugs & Other Pests; Organic & Least Toxic Means of Control", Corlene Rose, CES IPM, 7 p.m. CES, room 130; 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. Call 786-6400

Tuesday - Wednesday, February 16 - 17

2010 Produce Growers Conference Palmer Community Center (The Depot), 610 S. Valley Way, Palmer- \$45.00 (both days), \$30.00 (one day), \$30.00 Agency Display Table; download registration form and agenda at <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>

Friday & Saturday - February 19 & 20

Alaska Peony Growers Conference Providence Health Park, Anchorage, Contact Rita Jo Shoultz, 907-235-4969; download registration form and agenda at <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>

Saturday, February 20

Alaska Rock Garden Society meeting: Planning the ABG Tufa Garden "Plants for Tufa Gardens" - Bring pictures, ideas to share to help decide which plants to order for the new ABG tufa garden. 2 p.m., Valley MTA Bldg, Palmer

Thursday - Friday, February 25-26

Alaska Greenhouse and Nursery Conference in Juneau

Topics will include slugs and snails, low maintenance landscape design, propagating native plants, new varieties for 2010 and more. As usual, the Polar Grower Trade Show will be available during the conference. All sessions will be at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall. registration brochure at <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>

Saturday February 27

Beginning Beekeeping Part 1. 12noon-4pm Part of the Spring Garden Series at the Spring Creek Farm. Spring Creek Farm is home to Alaska Pacific University's Mat-Su Valley Kellogg Campus. Beekeeping Part 2 is held on Saturday, March 6. Class is \$35 for both sessions. Take the Glenn Hwy. north of Palmer, left onto Farm Loop Rd., and then a right onto Lossing. Signs will be posted. Contact Michael Kircher at (907) 746-2714 for more info.

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

Phone: 345-4099

Email: amga@gci.net

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:
Cooperative Extension Office
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: 786-6300
Fax: 786-6312



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Dana Klinkhart's photo of Rhodochiton, an example of a twining vine, demonstrates the elliptical motion of the leaves and stems, called "circumnutation".

See article on page 2.

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.
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Anchorage, Alaska 99522-1403

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