



Anchorage Chapter



Volume 12, Issue 7

# ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

July 2010



## Message From Jane

**Awesome:** How about those lilacs all around town! With apologies to Ray Charles, I've been humming "Lilacs, lilacs; the whole day through; just the old sweet scent keeps lilacs on my mind. . . I'll say lilacs, lilacs the whole day through; the scent of you comes as sweet and clear as moonlight through the pines." Sorry 'bout that Ray. I truly can't remember such a glorious season of lilacs. I don't know if it was the weather last summer during their bud set time or the winter's abundant snow cover or the cool, slow snow melt spring that morphed rapidly into warmer spring temperatures - or all of the above, but something triggered major lilac flowering in this year.

That two-day rainy spell bowed the branches nearly to the ground on one of my lilacs. I noticed my two resident chickadees jumping in and out of the lilac flowers - and immediately thought OH NO, SOME KIND OF BUG IS ATTACKING MY LILACS! But, but not to worry: those little guys were taking advantage of the water laden lilac panicles. They spent about 30 minutes repeatedly jumping into the lilac flowers and doing the wing fluffing and preening bit. Lilac scented baths, chickadee style!

**On Calendulas:** If you're partial to contrasting colors, a great vase of cut flowers is a mix of orange calendulas with cornflower blue bachelor buttons (*Centaurea cyanus*). Thanks to Mary Shier and Judy Christianson's Pioneer Home plantings three summers ago, I discovered the calendula 'Candyman Orange' (*Calendula officinalis*). It's a wonderfully stocky, sturdy, multi-branching, non-sprawling, shorter, long flowering annual plant with large double clear orange flowers that is easily grown from seed. Candyman Yellow seed is available, too. With attention to deadheading, they will be in bloom well into September.

**About Nemesia:** Has anyone noticed the Nemesia series Juicy Fruits that have been available last year and this year? They are 10"-16" in height and less upright growing than the typical Nemesia (6"-10") lending themselves wonderfully to baskets and pots. Great names and great colors: 'Papaya' is a golden yellow with distinct purple throats; 'Watermelon' is a wonderful deep rosy pink with yellow throats. But my favorite has to be 'Kumquat': a bi-color with the face a light yellow with an orangey tinge on the edges with the back side of the flower petals a deep rosy pink.

**Procrastination:** Don't. You may delay, but time will not -- Benjamin Franklin.



Now is the time to enjoy our summer flowers and gardens. This is the time we wait for all year 'round and unfortunately it will be over all too soon! Take in the MG garden tours. Do a walk-about in your neighborhood. Visit the Alaska Botanical Garden. Check out the municipal plantings downtown. Visit the Centennial Rose Garden. And then in three or four weeks, do it all again as there will be different plants peaking at different times!

**Whimsey:** Last month I discovered birth month trees and apparently I fell out of a maple tree. This month I was reminded of birth month flowers. Mine is the Calendula - what's yours? Google birth month flowers for each flower's meaning and hidden messages they sent during the Victorian era. Sending calendulas sent the unspoken message "my thoughts are with you".

- January: Carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus*).
- February: Violet (*Viola sororia*, the common blue violet).
- March: Daffodil aka jonquil (*Narcissus jonquilla*).
- April: Daisy or Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*).
- May: Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*).
- June: Rose (*Rosa*).
- July: Larkspur (*Delphinium*).
- August: The Gladiolus.
- September: Aster.
- October: Calendula (*Calendula officinalis*).
- November: Chrysanthemum.
- December: Narcissus (*Narcissus*).

## June Garden Tours By Robbie Frankevich



Garden tours for June kicked off in Girdwood at Hotel Alyeska where we were greeted at the entrance by a display of Erythronium 'pagoda'. Behind the hotel we saw a long border of tulips, daffodils and primula. The next garden was Jackie Grahams. This was a garden tucked in

under tall hemlocks and spruce with a stream running along one side of the property. The flower beds were in the full shade of the tall trees with tulips woven throughout. At the next home we were greeted by Dave Sears.



A unique white fence with planters of annuals ran along the front of the property. The garden beds were again in the shade of tall trees. His tulip flowers were held high above the perennials on long, stout stems that gave an added air of elegance. Last on the evening's tour was the home of Joan and Robbie Frankevich where we enjoyed cold drinks, homemade cookies

and lots of garden talk among the mixed perennials and shrubs.

On the evening of June 14th, Pat Leary graciously volunteered to lead a tour of UAA. If like me, you missed the tour, it's not too late. You can find a self guided tour on line or in Mary Rydesky's tour reminder of June 10th. The self guided tour information includes location of trees and shrubs, variety, and when planted - a good tool for looking into the future to see how big that Norway spruce will get in 35 years.

June 21st found us at the home of Master Gardener, Sandy St. George. Her hillside home was the perfect location to spend solstice evening. She had alpine rock gardens with many flowers in bloom, and a foundation planting of trees, shrubs and perennials. In the yard were raised beds, wonderful views and everywhere the fragrance of lilac.

I would like to thank everyone who has let us tour their garden. For me, visiting other gardens is a valuable learning experience - a chance to see a new plant, different plant combinations, or find plants thriving that I have killed. It's a time to talk to the gardener and learn what they do differently- a chance to share our collective gardening experience with other gardeners; a chance to learn and a chance to teach. I look forward to seeing you all at our next garden tour.  
Happy Gardening,  
Robbie



Master gardeners Mary Shier, L, and Judy Christianson were honored with Presidential citations for their many years of volunteering to plant and maintain the garden beds at the Anchorage Pioneer home. Photo by Fran Durner

## Volunteer Awards

Master Gardeners Judy Christianson and Mary Shier received a presidential commendation from President Obama for their hours of volunteer service of planting and maintaining the Pioneer Garden beds over the years. A formal paper of recognition and a lapel pin were presented to them by a Robert Montague, the Pioneer Home Activities Coordinator, during lunch on Planting Day.

Congratulations to you both!



Anchorage master gardeners, L-R, Judy Christianson, Lynne Opstad, AMG President Jane Baldwin and Claire Chan plant a bed at the Anchorage Pioneer Home on Friday, June 4, 2010. The Anchorage master gardeners have been planting and maintaining the garden beds at the home for many years. Photo by Fran Durner

## Ask an Expert

Do you want a way to search the Cooperative Extension Service for an answer at any hour? Go to the link below and click on Ask an Expert. You might be surprised by the scope of information you will find.  
<http://www.extension.org/>

## Master Gardener Focus: Carol Ross By Cheryl Chapman



All you home economist-sharpshooters planning a fall trek through Patagonia whose gardens were dug during the Truman administration, put up your hands.

Just one? But that one is Carol Ross, who grew up in the log cabin now serving as the Big Bear Bed & Breakfast in Mountain View, a comfortable Alaska-themed inn where every item and plant, from her mother's oil portrait of Moosemeat John (who stripped bark off the logs for the house in 1949) to the Invincibelle Spirit hydrangea commemorating her aunt, has a captivating story.

Carol's own story starts with pioneers pushing ever-West, from the Mayflower and Boston in 1630 to then-wild Connecticut, New York and Missouri, always onward to new dreams. Her father's father homesteaded in South Dakota in 1900; her mother's family reached Oregon's rich Willamette Valley in the 1850s, and there her grandfather, a graduate in horticulture from Oregon State University, set up as an orchardist.

Her mother and father married in 1932. Carol, oldest of five girls, arrived in 1938; her father got back to Oregon from Alaska just in time for her birth. He'd taken the steamship north to look for a good place to raise a family, somewhere not hammered by the Depression ("It was either Alaska or Australia," says Carol). He liked what he saw, and in August 1941 his wife and their toddler daughter followed to their new home in a plank-floored tent where Mountain View Elementary School now stands. That lasted until Dec. 7, 1941: Pearl Harbor.

In May 1942, the two returned from evacuation to Oregon to improved accommodations: a two-room tarpaper and shiplap wanigan furnished with oil boxes and Army blankets, a homeplace that lasted until 1943 when the government gave her father \$30 for his land and 30 days to get off it. "He put our little house on skids and moved it to where we are now," she says.

An uncle just out of the Navy arrived in 1945 and started clearing for a garden; her gardening grandmother and grandfather from Oregon joined them in 1946. In 1949 her father, who'd gone into trucking and had the mail route between Palmer and the Copper River Valley, started building their home with logs from a Butte sawmill.

"My grandfather planted the lilac by our new front door," Carol says. "It was an economic necessity to grow vegetables - we had potatoes, peas, broccoli - and we

picked raspberries, currants, lowbush and highbush cranberries down by Ship Creek until the military put in a golf course there. We had moose. Salmon. We rented locker space from people who had an insulated railroad car and stored food there. We always gardened."

Carol graduated with a degree in home economics from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, where she shot competitively, and went to work teaching Home Ec and coaching the rifle team at East High. She rewarded her prize-winning sharpshooters with pies, powerful motivators: One, a rhubarb-strawberry, took her to national competition in the Crisco All-American Pie Celebration in 1988.

She and her husband, Bill Ross, bought the family log cabin in 1963 from her parents. The couple and their three children expanded and updated it in 1974, and in 1990, they decided to open a bed and breakfast. Carol, who became a Master Gardener in 1983, started transforming their four lots with an eye to beauty that defined the seasons and utility that would put home-grown fruits and vegetables on the table for the inn's guests.

They brought in raspberries from the Valley, Lathams (good flavor, flimsy canes, apt to mold) and Boynes (delicious, strong upright canes, invasive), and the Boynes, true Boynes, seized the potato patch. Raised beds, thought Carol, grubbed up the invaders and put in seven raised vegetable beds sided with concrete to hold heat and covered with chicken wire to thwart neighborhood cats.

"Our female Kiwi vine on the back arbor has done very well," she says, "but neighborhood cats would eat the males and roll in them like catnip until the plants died, one after the other. Only the male kiwis. They left the females alone."

Carol and Bill added a tumbling stream and a pond where fat goldfish sun and dart. Dark gold lilies with red streaks on the brink repeat goldfish colors. After their first greenhouse on the garage blew away, the Rosses put in a solarium, where the fish and water lilies live in winter and seeds are nursed into plants in the spring. They joined the Alaska Rock Garden Society and planted *Mecanopsis*, the blue poppy, brought back to the U.S. by society members from China in the mid-1990s, and alpine *Edelweiss* at the head of the stream.

After Bill's death in a car crash in 2005, Carol added a memorial garden on the east of the house with a Colorado blue spruce, white rugosa roses and a carved bear with a fish in its mouth for her husband. An uncle has white rugosas, too, and for an aunt who died in March, there's an Invincibelle Spirit pink hydrangea, a snowball type that blooms on new wood, comes back from its roots and is said to be hardy to minus-30 degrees. The basic palette is pinks and whites with blue accents: bleeding hearts and *Mecanopsis*, delphiniums and campanulas. A guest-room window opens onto a sleep fountain trickling lulling droplets into a basin. Heavy snow cover helped the scree garden this past winter; the winter before, Carol blanketed it with insulation to protect it. A tiny *Draba* set seeds and has offspring;

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**MG Focus: Carol Ross**  
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the creeping jenny, or moneywort, is creeping like mad, and the creeping thyme is a dainty blanket of minute leaves and pink blossoms, a dwarf conifer at its feet. Sedum Dragon's Blood is holding its own, but of the pus-sytoes, only one of the three survived.

Perimeter beds hold yellow early primulas, red heuchera, white and red peonies, sweet William, dianthus, chives, pink and white Lollipop Asiatic lilies, and lady's mantle, which needs watching, and a brass antique bed head-board for a climbing clematis.

Carol has planted a trail of blazing *Lychnis Vesuvius*, dwarf Maltese Crosses with burgundy leaves, bordering a path from the memorial garden and fanning out under the trees into the back yard. She started the *Lychnis* from seed from a Rock Garden Society sale, and paired it with a huechera lookalike with light green leaves.

Pink Sitka hybrid, Quinault and Matanuska red strawberries are almost knee-high out back, the domestic blueberries are full of their usual empty promises, lingonberries provide thick groundcover along the path, the Aronia, or black chokecherry bushes, are thriving, as are the highbush cranberries, and for once, the red currants are bushy, green and laden with fruit, thanks to last year's lethal inoculants that slaughtered almost all the currant defoliators.

"We sacrificed the berries for a year to get rid of them," says Carol. "They'd denude the bushes in a week. It was outrageous."

The home economist harvests her gardens for jams, jellies and relishes for gifts, as well as for liquors and cordials.

Her garden roots go deep. Every inch of Ross land is productive, evidence that it has been nourished and worked for almost seven decades.

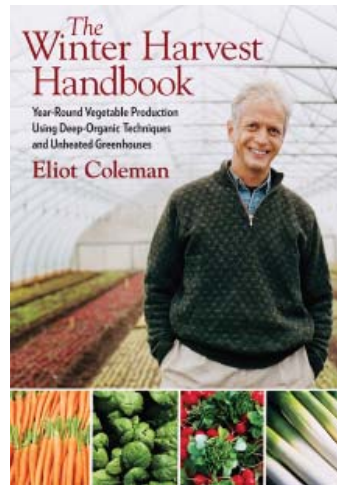
"If I had one thing to suggest to beginning gardeners, or all gardeners," says Carol, "It's this: Understand your soil."



Cheryl Chapman's Bunny Blaster is loaded (with water) and ready to help deter the loose domestic rabbits chomping on her garden. "It works!" Cheryl claims.

**The Winter Harvest Handbook:  
Year-Round Vegetable Production  
Using Deep-Organic Techniques and  
Unheated Greenhouses**  
By Eliot Coleman

A Book Review by Fran Durner



There are two reasons why I chose this book to review. The first is because I had several "Ah ha!" moments while reading it. The book is a primer on how-to-do-it. The second reason is at the end of this review.

Why would anyone even want to start thinking about winter now, in the middle of our summer and even as we cling desperately to the little bit of warmth we have? Even as we encourage each other and cheer each plant that we are able to grow in our cold-climate? Aren't most of us exhausted by our efforts by the end

September? But don't we also miss our bits of green and the fresh harvests from our own gardens?

Extending the harvest season in Alaska is impossible, isn't it? It couldn't possibly be done.

Author Eliot Coleman, who owns a market farm in coastal Maine, would disagree with that statement. He maintains that growing cool climate crops for harvest during the winter months can be, and is, practiced successfully on his farm and he gives you lots of practical information on how to achieve it yourself. Winter temperatures can reach -20 F in his area although the mean number of days of below freezing temps is about 50 days less than what we experience in Anchorage.

Coleman describes the techniques he has adapted and uses and the historical perspectives behind them. His winning formula is in picking the right variety of crops that grow well in cool climates, succession planting, and a system of providing two layers of protection - cold frames or row covers over beds inside unheated greenhouses.

Some crops grow well in and even prefer cool temperatures and can reach maturity in a short number of days. Succession planting guarantees a continuing harvest and the two layers of protection produce a microclimate and in his experience, moved the air temperatures up to three zones warmer.

In his research Coleman discovered that plants will continue to grow until day length drops below ten hours and that plants need to have made sufficient growth by that time period in order to have a successful winter harvest.

Coleman declares, "We think the winter harvest could be successful as north as Anchorage, Alaska on the 61st parallel even though at that latitude they experience a day length less than ten hours from October 16 to February 24."

Here's the second reason I decided to look over this book: We will be able to ask Coleman personally to describe how this can

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## Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

It be summer, big time. Asking around down here about what is happening in peoples' gardens, I hear the common refrain of "weeds" in addition to the usual food stuffs. Janice Chumley is

growing her lettuce in pots to evade the slugs. Her bees are happy and she's about ready to start robbing the hive. Barb Jewell, in Soldotna, hasn't had slugs...yet. It's been very dry down here in the central peninsula. I went back over my rainfall records for the last three months and we've only had a total of ONE inch. Janice mentioned that the last rainfall sure helped the beets which like sky water better then well water. Don't all the plants! I have a garden of flea beetles so I don't grow arugula. I put plastic over the bean seed bed and the jumping beetles sounded like rain on the greenhouse roof. And for the first time our red currants had gray aphids! Each year is different.

My personal problem is our banty chickens that inhabit the sun room and fly up to my husband's lap for petting and a snooze. They are out of their cage in there only under adult supervision but they may go out on the back deck (which can be hosed down) during the day. There they have discovered the petunias, pepper, tomato and rose leaves. I put the pepper in a nice big ceramic pot that's big enough for dusting if they get bored with their sand dusting box. I put plants up on cement blocks. Not glamorous but it works.

Something that's happening down here is a lot of fruit blossoms: lingonberry, apples, currants. My Costco cherry tree had 24, its first year to blossom. I told it



I expected at least 12 fruit which will be ceremonially eaten. The mountain ashes all over Soldotna are loaded with blossom clusters. My edible mountain ash, Ivan's belle, has her first cluster. Edible mountain ash is called rowan in Europe and has connections with druids and mythology. The flower is bewitching. It's white like the regular mountain ash but the stamens are orange-red. I saw a couple apple trees outside of Soldotna that were nothing but solid blossoms on all the limbs. It was awesome. My Holland long bunch red currants are loaded this year and open to picking by friends. The syrphid flies showed up, along with the bumble bees at the right

time for my edible honeysuckles so there's juice for awhile. Even the Sea Buckthorns flowered together and the wind blew. I can tell the direction of the prevailing wind at pollination by which tree has the most fruit.

There comes a time to say ENOUGH! Two people don't need 14 rows of veggies and 200 feet of potatoes. I burned my hand and while contemplating my morning cup of coffee the next day I thought, I QUIT! Fortunately I have some wonderful friends. Will from the Homer Hostel came up and rototilled so the garden was ready the next day when Margaret Simon came over to help me plant too many strawberries. Before she came she asked if we could use tomatoes or cucumbers...who was I to say no? She brought a box with two varieties of cucumbers and six! varieties of tomatoes. Heaven. I will keep the greenhouse going and my zucchini patch out in front of it going and turn a small area out the downstairs door into a kitchen garden. I'm hoping this will make summer gardening fun again instead of a hateful chore.

## Master Gardener Volunteers Needed for Tent Trap Hosts

We are looking for a few Master Gardeners to host insect traps that are being utilized for the ongoing bio-control program targeting exotic birch leaf-mining sawflies. The original project began at the Alaska Botanical Gardens and the Forest Service and PNW Research station are looking to expand to other areas around Anchorage.

What is the extent of the project? There are two different biocontrol agents being utilized against the ABLM. One is a fungal pathogen and the other is a parasitic nematode that are applied to the soil to infect soil dwelling birch leafmining larvae and pupae. These test plot applications will hopefully allow us to utilize least toxic IPM controls towards exotic sawfly species. The tent traps are placed in order to capture emerging ABLM adults and determine efficacy of each biocontrol agent.



Traps will be placed during the week of July 19th and should remain up until September. During that time, the yellow sticky cards within the tent traps should be collected and refreshed once a week. Sticky cards and collection methods will all be

provided and explained.

We are looking for Master Gardeners who could host at least 6 tent traps that would constitute an application plot. That would be about a 20x20 area. If you could host more, we would be delighted. The only other prerequisite is a consistent population of birch infesting leaf miners that cause early browning of leaves.



## Bird Chatter

-- Marge Olson is proud to report that she got rid of the last patch of grass in her backyard.

-- In 1992, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) designated nickel (Ni) an essential micronutrient for plant growth. We find our own Nickel (LaFleur) indispensable as well!

-- Twenty-four people turned out for the "Landscape mulch and Topsoil" fieldtrip in June. Richard Gain spent \$30 to get to Valley Sawmill in a cab. Martha knew Valley Sawmill owner, Greg Bell. He had built her a deck when he was 17.

-- The Alaska Master Gardener course is going to have a new textbook this fall. Thanks to proofreader extraordinaire, MG Dawn Bishop-Kleweno who read through each of the 466 pages.

-- Julie Riley learned two new things about kiwi by reading Sustainable Gardening: The Alaska Master Gardener Manual. 1) Kiwi leaves can have the same effect on cats as catnip and 2) some female kiwi plants can be bisexual—this explains the fruit on the vines at the Alaska Botanical Garden when there were no male flowers present to help with pollination.

-- MG volunteers have big hearts. Martha Jokela, Linda Ewers and Anita Williams were all seen volunteering at World Refugee Day. MG Noel Nelson was given a special volunteer award by Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services. In addition to spending over 100 hours helping with the Refugee Farmers Market Garden, Noel tutored a family from Sudan.

-- A gentleman living in Dick Green & Sue Adams old house on Kupreanoff called to say his yard was filled with worm casting mounds. He claims they're from the red wigglers used in worm composting that aren't supposed to be winter hardy. Dick is probably smiling in his grave.

-- For everything you ever wanted to know about beets, see Jeff Smeenk's new CES publication, "Growing Beets in the Alaska Garden".

-- Fresh International Gardens went to the Northway Mall Farmers' Market on Wednesday, June 30. Thanks to MGs Tracy Russell, Leslie Patrick and Greg Kalal for making it happen by helping VISTA volunteer Kelly Ingram and the gardeners from Bhutan.

-- The Anchorage District CES office is still at its old location during the month of July.

-- Sue Lincoln is turning into a farmer. Ask her how much elbow grease it takes to clear an acre of land near Willow.

-- If you're interested in cut-flower peony production, make sure not to miss the peony meeting and field trips scheduled for July 21 & 22 in Fairbanks. Wednesday visits are to the UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden, Polar Peonies, Basically Basil, Mayo Farm and Lilyvale Farm. Thursday presentations feature local speakers and experts from around the country.

-- Visiting Girdwood this summer? Stop by for a slide show. Every Friday at 11 am Robbie Frankevich gives a free slide show at Alyeska in one of the conference rooms on the gardens, followed with a brief garden tour on request. It is always fun to have Alaskans in the audience. Call first, 754-1111 just in case there are any unforeseen changes.

### From the Messy Gardener

Several years ago I wrote of my garage and yard being such a mess that a passer-by thought I was having a garage sale. This year, I beat that: I had my plants, two rolling racks plus a garden cart full of dahlias for my church containers, hardening off in our driveway, when a car drove by. The brakes screeched; the car backed up, and a lady in heels jumped out and wanted to know if I was having a plant sale.  
Jo Anne Banta

**The Winter Harvest Handbook**....cont from page 4  
work for us as he is one of two speakers scheduled to appear (for him it will be by satellite) at the annual Homer Gardeners' Weekend July 24-25. Coleman is scheduled to speak Saturday, July 24 at 2 p.m. from Four Seasons Farm, his home in Harbor side, Maine. Through E-Live computer technology, we should be able to see him on screen and hopefully also get a tour of his farm, and he will be able to answer our questions in real-time. This is a first for Alaska gardeners and an exciting opportunity to participate in!

The first speaker will be Erica Glasener of Home & Garden TV who will be there in-person on Saturday at 11 a.m. Stay overnight and go on the annual Homer Garden Tour which will feature six of Homer's best gardens and ends with a reception at the Bear Creek Winery. In my experience, this is one of the don't-miss garden tours in Alaska. Tickets for both the lectures and the tour go on sale July 1 at the Homer Bookstore or the Chamber of Commerce. Check out [www.homergardenclub.org](http://www.homergardenclub.org) for more info.

### Follow up on the Thursday afternoon Landscape, Mulch and Soils Tours from Pat Anderson

Marge, Beth and I stopped at Gage on the way home. Ashley, the office girl called Will who appeared a few minutes later to tell us about Gage. He showed us the mulch, natural, brown, red and gold. The natural was the finest cut. They have 2 cubic foot bags of each for \$5.50 - and by the yard it is \$39. Will was personable and showed us the grids used in chopping the mulch, as well as explained to us how busy they are and how the color of the mulch intensifies as it gets older in the huge bins surrounded by the giant concrete blocks like the ones at the Sawmill. We left there at 2:40 and were happy we stopped.

### How to be the Envy of Your Neighborhood\

- 1) Live in a neighborhood of non-gardeners.
- 2) Purchase a large bouquet of fine silk daffodils.

Years ago, when we lived in the Bush, I bought a large bunch of beautiful silk daffodils in Seattle, thinking they would be just the thing to cheer up the kitchen table when breakup came.

Now, when the ground warms up and the tulips in my front garden begin to pop out, a sudden miracle happens. Seemingly overnight (usually on a Saturday night, by the way), every bulb from tulip to allium becomes a daffodil or narcissus in full bloom. Neighbors and dog walkers are in awe.  
Jo Anne Banta

### MGs Needed in July

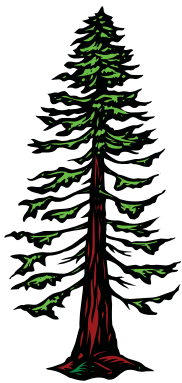
#### Spenard Farmers Market

Spend a delightful few hours on a Saturday answering questions and passing out Extension publications at the Ask the Expert booth. You could even highlight a certain topic you want people to ask you questions about. I did it a few weeks ago on organic soil amendments. It was easy and fun. Laura Minski, MG from the last class is filling out the schedule, [www.corvus-design.com](http://www.corvus-design.com), 222-5335.

#### Boys & Girls Club GARDEN CLUB

Kelly Ingram is meeting Monday's with the Boys & Girls Club GARDEN CLUB in Spenard. The kids are into it and it would be great to have a second adult to handle the group. Sometimes there are only a few kids, but there can also be 20. They meet for an hour on Monday's at 2:30. If you can help, please get in touch with Kelly at 786-6331 or 910-264-3582,

[kingram8@gmail.com](mailto:kingram8@gmail.com).



## TREerific Tree Walk on Wednesday July 21st

Join us Wednesday evening, July 21st at Kincaid Park. Margaret Timmerman will lead a walk around Kincaid as we look at the spruce trees that she and many volunteers have planted over the years and see how well they have done. We will meet by the Chalet around 6:30 pm (exact time is still being firmed up -- watch for further details). Bring along your cameras, jackets, bug spray/killer and enjoy a couple hours of touring the trees in the Park on the west side of Anchorage. For questions or further information, contact Nickel LaFleur at

tagalak@alaska.net or call 337-5651.

## Should Your Garden be on the Anchorage Garden Club Tour of Gardens This Year?

The Anchorage Garden Club will host their annual Garden Tour on Sunday, July 25th. Do you have a garden or know of a garden that should be on the tour this year? We are interested in hearing from you soon! Please notify AGC hotline number of 566-0539 or feel free to email or call me, Nickel LaFleur : tagalak@alaska.net or call 337-5651.

## A Big Giant Thank You Dear Master Gardeners!

For you who didn't get an opportunity to go to the Festival of Flowers, sorry, we missed you. The weather cooperated and we had a nice turnout for the event. I want to say a huge thank you to Amelia Walsh, JoAnne Banta, Dana Klinkhart, Pat Ryan, and Julie Riley for agreeing to do a 20 minute presentation - even if the audience was meager, it was very much appreciated!



Other Master Gardeners such as Julie Grinder, Chuck Inman, Camille Williams, Fran Durner, Joan Diamond, Tracy Russell, and Jane Baldwin volunteered at many projects throughout the day. I thank each and every one of you for supporting our City of Flowers. At time of this writing, the exact total of money raised for the Flower Endowment is unknown but 'approximately \$12,000 with the Foster a Flower Program bringing in around \$3,000. Next year we hope to be able to get some landscaping competitions, largest flower contests and choose a 'flower for the year' to accent our gardens. It's all about our flowers --- and our participation! Stay tuned.

## Anchorage Garden Club wants your participation

The Anchorage Garden Club is presenting the 67th Annual Flower Show on Saturday July 10th and Sunday July 11th at Alaska Botanical Garden (4601 Campbell Airstrip Road). The theme is 2010: Space Odyssey Two. There are some interesting design categories for adults as well as youth. No time like the present to get youth interested in floral arrangements as well as quality horticulture. Entry for the exhibits will be on Saturday from 730a until 1030a and the show hours are from 1 to 9p on Saturday and 10a until 6p on Sunday. Hope to see you there. Any questions, please leave a message on our hotline: 566-0539.

# Garden Event Calendar

## Saturday-Sunday, July 10-11

67th Annual Flower Show "2010: A Space Odyssey" and Free Day at ABG. Anchorage Garden Club. AGC hotline: 566-0539

## Saturday-Sunday, July 17-18

Coyote Garden Tour (Les Brake), Saturday 10-5:00pm; Sunday 12-5:00pm. Benefit for Willow Garden Club & Alaska Rock Garden Society Seed Collecting Expedition

## Saturday-Sunday, July 24-25

Homer Garden Club - "Gardener's Weekend" Guest speaker Erica Glassner of HGTV, as well as Elliot Coleman ("The New Organic Grower") visiting via satellite. The Sunday Garden Tours will explore six of Homer's best gardens. The event ends with wine tasting and appetizers at the Bear Creek Winery. Tickets available after July 1 at the Homer Bookstore, 332 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer or at the Homer Chamber of Commerce, 201 Sterling Highway, Homer. Info: 907-226-3404 <http://www.homergardenclub.org/>

## Saturday, July 24th

Midsummer Garden and Art Faire, Downtown Palmer; 11a-8p (New event this year) Lots of exciting speakers and short programs, 3 stages with music all day and into the evening. Art, craft, garden and food vendors and a farmer's market.

## Sunday, July 25

Annual City Garden Tour - Anchorage Garden Club. AGC hotline: 566-0539

## Monday, July 26

MG Garden Tour, 7pm; Nancy Sullivan, 10600 Main Tree Drive, 346-2313

## Monday, August 2

MG Garden Plant Swap, Tour and POTLUCK, 7pm; Madge Oswald, 12001 Audubon Dr. Upper Hillside. Watch email for directions and parking info. 345-5144 (Note change in schedule for plant swap)

Watch email for more information and directions.

## Monday July 19th, August 9th Tour Openings

We now have openings for more MG garden tours. If you are interested in sharing your garden with other Master Gardeners on either of these dates, contact Jane Baldwin (562-5451) [jbaldwin@alaska.net](mailto:jbaldwin@alaska.net) or Robbie Frankevich (783-2382) [alyskagardener@alaska.net](mailto:alyskagardener@alaska.net)



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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Email: [amga@alaska.net](mailto:amga@alaska.net) (NEW EMAIL)

AMGA Web Site: [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://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

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For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:  
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Anchorage master gardeners gave gardening talks at the 1st Annual Festival of Flowers at Town Square on Saturday, June 5, 2010. The Festival of Flowers is a fundraising event to endow a fund to make up the deficit in the annual municipal budget for public gardens and flowers.  
Photo by Fran Durner

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Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Inc.  
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