



Anchorage Chapter



Volume 13, Issue 6

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER June 2011



Message From Jane

Up, down, on your knees, bend, stoop, kneel, crouch, stretch, reach, lift, carry, twist, turn, grasp, push, pull, shove, dig, divide, pot up, rake, grunt, groan, grimace, ache, stiffen, cringe, twinge, and then do it again and again - Smile! It's gardening time!

By the time the newsletter reaches you, most of us will have plants in the ground and in pots. They will have spent time outside, protected from direct sun and the irritatingly windy days. Mine have either sheltered under low hanging spruce branches or behind light shade. The ghostly looking apparitions in my back yard aren't spirits of gardens past come to haunt me, but are shade and wind screens artificially induced by draping old sheets from a couple of garden benches.

The knees are thinking more and more about raised beds - really raised beds. Don't these look really tempting right about now? Build your own salad bar!



SLUG ALERT! BEGIN SLUG PATROLS!

Tis the season to carry out search and destroy missions. Keep a look out for emerging slugs and clusters of eggs. Know that at least one MG found an active rather large slug that apparently overwintered.

Slug Nightmare: The following assumes perfect conditions and complete slug survival. This is not realistic, but it does make the point that every slug dispatched can make a difference in your slug population!

In a single summer season, if
1 slug lays 30 eggs = 31 slugs; and if
31 slugs lay 30 eggs each = 930 slugs.
It's a stretch, but 930 slugs could lay 30 eggs each in time to overwinter = 27,900 slug eggs.

ACT NOW!

MG garden tour season is starting. Yay!! Check your directory and watch your email for reminder notices. Take a look at the tour schedule in your directory. If you have a garden to share and your location is close to one already scheduled, check with Annie Nevaldine or Nickel LaFleur (MG directory for contact info) to see if we can add you to the schedule for the evening. MGs LOVE TO SEE GARDENS!



Treasurer's Report

Checking Acct. Balance 4/22/11	\$711.93
Expenses	- 9.80
To Savings	-40.00
Checking Balance 5/31/11	\$662.13



AMGA Program Report:
Wild at Heart by Sally Arant
May 16th, 2011

Variety is the Spice of Life, and Sally Arant certainly added some spice to our gardening wish list with her talk and very first PowerPoint presentation. Nicely done!

Sally has been in Alaska since 1984, and as she said, she has always been 'pressing the envelope' with plants in our zone. As a garden designer, artist, gardener, she brings imagination and research as well as an artist's eye to the table.

Besides a talk on some of her favorite partial shade perennials, she also brought a selection of her hand made artwork for sale after the presentation.

Sally provided a 7 page hand out to accompany her slide show that detailed plant descriptions, origins, and cultivation tips on some of her favorite native plants. The plants she detailed were definitely worth investigating, and hopefully finding a space for in your garden. They included:

- Anemonopsis macrophylla
- Astilboides tabularis
- Dactylorhiza majalis (Western March Orchid)
- Darmera peltata
- Diphylleia cymosa (Umbrella Leaf)
- Glaucidium palmatum (Japanese Wood Poppy)
- Hepatica nobilis and H. transsilvanica
- Mukdenia rossii
- Paris quadrifolia (Herb Paris)
- Podophyllum peltatum (Mayapple)
- Polygonatum x hybridum (Solomon's Seal)
- Prosartes lanuginosum (Fairybells)
- Rogersia aesculifolia, R. pinnata, R. podophylla and R. sambucifolia
- Smilacina racemosa (False Solomon's Seal)
- Soldanella montana (Mountain Snowbell)
- Uvularia grandiflora (Merrybells)

These plants Sally talked about may be available locally or available from outside sources. Other plants that have been 'imported' to Alaska and successfully grown here despite having a higher zone rating include Meconopsis, Primula, Paeonia, Hosta, Trillium, Thalictrum, Cimicifuga and Anemone. Although many of these plants are rated zone 5 or higher, with proper site selection and winter mulching, they may be perfectly hardy for you, as they are for her. Try some!

Advantages of Raised Bed Gardening
By Jane Baldwin

Raised bed gardening has many advantages over gardening in our cold, native soils. Here are some of the benefits:

- Easier control over soil texture and amendments
- Soils warm quicker in spring
- Better drainage and easier weed control.
- Soil doesn't compact
- Easy to amend the soil
- PVC pipes or other material can be used to support row covers; soaker hoses can easily be laid in beds.

Installing raised beds:

Select your site: A flat, level area is important with at least eight hours of sun per day if possible.

Determine the size:

Length: Any length will work. Width: 4' width will allow you to reach the center from either side. If placed against a fence or wall, keep width to less than 3'. Depth: Some plants grow well in a bed that is six inches deep, but 10-12" is better. If your soil is bad, or you are planning to grow crops like carrots that need a deeper soil, you should aim for at least 10" on top of your subsoil.

Prep Your Site: If building upon existing sod, you can use about 15-20 layers of newspaper or cardboard to cover and smother the sod and/or weeds (dampen newspapers to keep them from blowing around), then put your soil and amendments right on top. With more work you can remove the sod first, and have access to loosened subsoil. The newspaper/cardboard barrier will, however, kill most of the sod and weeds and will eventually decompose.

Construct the bed: Choose from a variety of materials to construct your raised bed: wood, concrete blocks, natural stone, brick or even bales of hay. By googling "building raised beds" you will find many pictures, plans and directions available for constructing the different types of raised beds.

Add your soil, compost, amendments and plant! Another option for the soil-challenged gardener is to use the layering or lasagna-style method: Fill the bed with dried leaves, layering in some compost (finished or unfinished); layers of grass clippings can be added (thin layers so you don't start a hot composting cycle and burn young roots!) or shredded paper. Empty in the soil from previously used garden pots or add a little garden soil to introduce the microbes and fungi that will eventually break down your layers. Water. Gently part the soil & leaf layers and insert plant! If you are planting seeds, you may want to insure a 2-3" top layer of soil is present.

Some folks recommend letting the bed settle for a few days or even a season, but putting plants directly in the bed the same day it's constructed works well too. Caution: Layered beds will settle by about one-third as they compost so the bed should be initially built deeper than your targeted depth: layer beds to about 15-16" depth initially to eventually end up with 10-12" of growing depth.

**Master Gardener Focus:
Amy Olmstead
By Cheryl Chapman**

According to the Book of Genesis, the Good Lord Himself gardened to create the best possible place for His children, but then there was that little lapse with a reptile and all the "sweat of thy brow" stuff ensued that some people argue is good for us spiritually. These people have simply not figured out a way to get out of it. These people have not met Master Gardener Amy Olmstead, one of the Apollo Drive gardeners, who has.

For some years now, Amy has been putting in automatic drip and spray irrigation systems at her home. The water comes on when needed and goes off when individual plants have had enough. She's a devotee as well of no-dig organic lasagna gardening, what Patricia Lanza, author of the eponymous book "Lasagna Gardening," calls "a gardening system that works so you don't have to." As a result, Amy's gardens are deep-soiled and rich and just moist enough, and her flowers look like seed catalog photos: On May 24, the bleeding heart in her north-facing front bed next to the house was a little over 3 feet tall.

Though intelligent automation handles many of her chores, there are challenges, of course. The front yard drops so steeply to the street that passersby can't easily appreciate the gardens, and the front west-side slope is so inhospitable that even Amy's last-ditch ground-cover choice of Bishop's Weed, that runaway scourge, dwindled and died in a season. Now there's a fall of turf grass there that sets off rugosa roses bedded with deep pink lupins and purple-flowering chives next to the house, at least in memory. They're not up yet, though the roses look restless.

"I try not to get crazy until July 1," says Amy. "That's when I know for sure what's not coming back."

A mailbox built by David Junge, Amy's father, next to the street looks like a child's drawing of a house circled by rugosa roses and *Campanula glomerata*, a bellflower with a free-spirit reputation checked here by snow mountains dumped on it by the plows.

The Olmsteads' first fountain is on the front porch, a gentle splasher beneath hanging baskets of neon pink petunias, dusty miller and violas. A trail of urbanite, pieces of broken concrete salvaged from a friend's project, leads under an arbor ("There was a garden tour the next day. I had to have an arbor. Lowe's was open late.") and down the east side of the home past the friendship bed where plants from friends are parked before placement. They're thriving.

"Last fall I took a page from (Master Gardener) Amelia Walsh and spread 2 inches of rotted steer manure over everything, then put a blanket of leaves over that," Amy says. "The plants have never been so happy."

A clump of *Bergenia* there from MG Pat Anderson has fallen into a natural GDS cycle: grow-divide-share. "I've given it to many, many people," says Amy.

The Olmsteads started sharing their backyard, too, in a manner of speaking, with their two black Labs after Elsa and Abby invented the pull-out-the-copper-plant-tags game.

"That's when they got their own yard," says Amy - a little less than half the area, fenced, grassy and with a small personal dogpool.

She's working on another fountain, a cobalt blue one that matches containers on the back lower deck, a welcoming spot for people and plants alike. There's room here now since the greenhouse went down like the wonderful one-hoss shay and was replaced by a cold frame-cum-greenhouse against the home's warm south wall. Her father built it after considerable thought to trapping heat for Amy's seedlings, "and I cooked them all," she says. Now there's a fan for ventilation and a tiny space heater for need, and she starts her seedlings in mid-April. Soon the seedlings will come out, the tomatoes will go in, and she'll stretch interlocking plastic panels across the front, "with a bungee cord over them for when the wind comes up."

Her father built the snug tole-painted steep-roofed potting shed, too, with big windows, a cushioned chair, a potting table, and garden fork and trowel door handles. He built a raven arbor in the human Olmsteads' half of the backyard on a path that loops past birches to an angel surrounded by ferns, impatiens, red dogwood and *Bergenia*, and a sitting area with a purple glider. It's a new bed. The city cleared a 10-foot easement behind the Olmsteads' property that took out the one tree holding up the back fence. Now there's a new fence, a new bed, new plants. Amy, a preschool teacher, is philosophical about it.

"Without attrition, there's no point in shopping," she says.

She has used a long bed of mixed annuals and perennials down the side to teach others lasagna gardening. This bed had six peonies once "but they weren't doing at all well. There was a garden workshop on peonies and the speaker listed 10 things NOT to do with peonies," she says. "I was doing eight of them."

A rose is doing better than the two surviving peonies. Amy has woven its limber branches sideways through netting, like an espalier, and it blooms in a curtain of blossoms.

For nippy weather, there's a heater on the upper deck, comfortable seating, a fountain, containers and a *Cobaea* or Cathedral Bells vine whose flowers bud pale green, then deepen to pink and finally deep purple. It's a relaxing place to be if you don't have to spend that time dragging hoses.

"After a day in the garden, I love to sit on the upper deck with tea, or dinner, or a glass of wine," Amy says. "I love to listen to the fountain, and just be."

Blue Poppy Seed? Nope, Blue Colored Poppy Seeds! Mike Baldwin, MG

Advanced Master Gardener News From Dana Klinkhart

Recently while visiting Summit Spice & Tea, a great local spice emporium in Anchorage, I noticed a small 4-5 inch jar, and 16 oz bag, labeled "Blue Poppies" in a refrigerator. I was both excited and curious - blue poppies are one of my favorite flowers, and I didn't realize people ate the seeds or used them in cooking!

As every MG would probably do, I wondered if they were viable, and if I could grow them. When asked about how they were processed, the store staff reported they weren't sure, but thought that the seeds were just washed and rinsed and packaged. So, curiosity piqued, I decided to buy some and try to see if they would germinate.

In a small clear, closable salad container (top and bottom connected - like you can get at some salad bars), I sprinkled a big pinch of seeds on the surface of some seed starter mix. Using a spray bottle, I thoroughly wetted the surface of the starter mix and closed the container. Even though the seeds had been stored in a fridge, I figured they probably still needed some cold stratification, so I put the container in my fridge for a week.

After talking with my Mom (Jane Baldwin, MG) about my "blue poppy" experiment, she became curious about the blue poppy seeds also - and did a little searching on the internet. It turns out that the blue poppy seeds I bought probably weren't the blue poppies (*Meconopsis*) that so many people like and grow here. The 'blue' in the name on the "blue poppy seed" label referred to the seed color (the seeds are blue-ish) and not the flower color - and happen to be used in cooking and baking.

The species of poppies the blue-colored seeds come from isn't clear to me at the moment. My Mom's detective work revealed that Holland and Canada are likely the main producers of the blue-colored poppy seed (with the primo seed coming from Holland). There was also some suggestion that blue-colored poppy seeds are often hard to find in local stores because of government's close monitoring of the cultivation of these plants - which suggests they think it might be seeds from the opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum*). Hmm, I wonder, primo seed from Holland and government monitoring; a coincidence?

But for now -- BACK to my seed experiment: After a week in the fridge I pulled the container out and put it in on my windowsill. After two days on the windowsill, VOILA - germination!



Now, I'm curious... what will the color of the flower be from this blue-colored poppy seed... I can't wait to see!

There are many opportunities that will qualify for CEU's or Volunteer Hours to fulfill your CEU requirements, such as the scheduled summer tours. The months of June, July and August are full of inspiring weekly tours this year. Look in your directory and watch your email for times and places. Check your monthly newsletter and your Google garden group, too. Summer labs in June and July are scheduled. Reservations are required as there is limited enrollment. These labs can serve as CEU's for 'Soils' or for the fall AMG program 'Plant Physiology'. Contact Dana Klinkhart [or Jane Baldwin] to register, \$5 at the door. Class size is limited.

The Volunteer Hours can also be filled in many ways. Articles written for our AMGAA newsletter will qualify. Call Gina Docherty at 345-4099. A report on the summer garden tours would meet the criteria. Julie Riley and her staff at the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension are also available for ideas on volunteer opportunities.

Reminder: The deadline to complete the CEU's and volunteer time is September 1st and in order to maintain our Advanced Master Gardener status, we are required to serve 10 hours volunteer time or 10 CEU hours every year. Questions? Call or email any member of the education committee.

MG Help Needed

Booth Memorial Home garden

The Salvation Army Booth Memorial Home would like to have a garden and incorporate the vegetables into the meals at the facility. Booth serves adolescent girls, age 12-18. The nearby Serendipity Adult Daycare plans to collaborate in Booth's gardening efforts. Serendipity has a greenhouse. If you think you might like to work with this group or at least help them get planted, please get in touch with Julie.

Festival of Flowers

MGs are needed to set up and staff a booth at the Festival of Flowers on Saturday June 4 from 12 noon - 6 p.m. This is a fund raising event for the city's flowers. Last year was a lot of fun, especially the delphinium and dahlia stilt walkers! Call or email Julie if you can help, 786-6300, 230-7339; afjar@uaa.alaska.edu.

Alaska Botanical Garden Fair

This year's fair is early, June 11 & 12. MGs are needed to staff a booth with the IPM staff in the rock garden next to the presentation tent. Hours are Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. If there is enough help, shifts can be only two hours long. Call or email Julie if you can help.

AMGAA Newsletter Columnist

Earn Master Gardener volunteer time by writing up a summary of the spring/summer field trips. Two or three MGs are needed to share this task. Please get in touch with newsletter editor Gina Docherty to express your intent, amga@alaska.net and let me know that you're planning to help write the column. Copy is due to Gina the fourth week of the month. To get an idea of what the column has looked like in the past, check out old issues of AMGAA newsletters on the website, www.alaskamastergardeners.org/.



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

I knew when May arrived because when I slammed the front door the Christmas wreath shed even more. Time to move on.

MG Margaret Simon, our gold standard gardener from Nikiski, said she has wee green tomatoes and is doing the hardening off shuffle. She also said she lost her blue poppies. She and MG Marion Nelson did a class on Recycled Glass Garden Totems for the Garden Club down here. This is the month that the Club goes wild with presentations. Then summer guests start arriving...

Marion Nelson is doing an annual container planting for a 90-year-old. She said her garage has "a Dr. Seuss look with grow lights swinging from chains and bungee cords for quick adjustments".

MG Janice Chumley who is our MG ramrod and also the IPM bug scout had some frightening news. A slug came in on some grocery store kale and is being used as a "teaching tool". And, she added, it's time to start watering your dearest trees.

I walk over to my neighbor MG Mark White's on week days and his seed potatoes have disappeared so I'm assuming they've been planted. I know his dad's have. They always grow so many potatoes, I think I will offer Mark root cellar space and just mooch.

The temperature for the month of May has been cool. MG Barb Jewell is in a holding pattern. Ditto Kathy Wartinbee. She's doing the back and forth hardening-off shuffle too.

This has been a wretched hare-y year down here. There are way too many hares. I thought I was being facetious when I said the hare trapped in my garden used a ladder to climb and severely prune my cherry tree. Wrong. According to Janice, there have been reports on climbing hares from Nikiski, Ninilchik and Anchor Point. Let's add Sterling to that!

The hares did a number on my sea buckthorn trees. They are on their own roots and I am looking for the trees to resprout above the girdling. The hardy quince and the new Centennial crab are history (the root stock is alive and well). I invited a former bug scout friend of mine over to make cuttings. She did and she's a good horticulturist so she will get some. The hares seemed to pass up, for the most part, the edible honeysuckle

I got my raspberry rows straightened up by inviting another friend in for starts. She hauled off lots. I keep shovels and bags on hand for people who want do my work for me.

I'm not going to have a downhill garden this year and I've turned the ducks loose down there. There is a raven that patrols almost every day looking for eggs and

I've seen a couple being carried off. We watched the raven land one morning and the drakes came at him with their necks stretched out. He left.

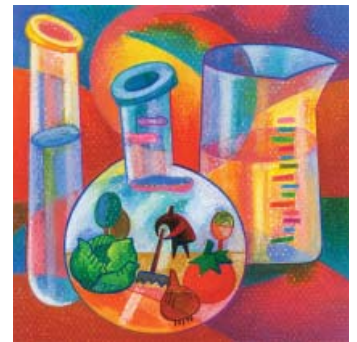
I will have stuff in the zucchini patch in front of the greenhouse including more dill. (Creamed salmon or chicken/grape salad with dill in it is wonderful and the dill is so easy to freeze.) I've got to reorganize the tomatoes in the greenhouse because of all the chicken "dressing" in the center growing bed. I think I will try green beans that will take more nitrogen. I dumped out the worm bin in there and there was not a worm in sight! The root cellar didn't get that cold, I thought, that it would kill them. I was counting on their activity to compost the "dressing". On to plan B.

And from Kathy Wartinbee, try these web sites:

www.vegetablegardener.com
www.sepdn.org/newsletter (Southern plant diagnostic network)
www.npdn.org (National plant diagnostic network)

Miracle Products You Don't Need By Julie Riley, CES Horticulture Agent

During her presentation on 'Meet Your Garden Soil' at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, Linda Chalker-Scott, Washington State University, pulled out a shopping bag full of items she says you don't need to waste your money purchasing.



Peat moss—unnecessary soil amendment. Seattle has a high percentage of peat in their 'designed' soils just like Anchorage. Peat deposits are not considered to be sustainable.

Mycorrhizal fungi—you don't need them. If your soil is aerobic you'll have mycorrhizal fungi, especially if it is well-mulched. If your soil is anaerobic, mycorrhizae won't live anyways.

Transplant fertilizer—is high in phosphorus. Linda hates 5-10-5. I can't imagine what she'd say about 8-32-16! Mycorrhizae don't like high P fertilizer either. Overuse causes chlorotic rhododendrons. If only this was a big problem for Alaska gardeners.

Gypsum—only works for really clayey soils such as Georgia red clay. Most people who think they have clayey soil, have compacted soil. Gypsum doesn't help an acidic soil become more alkaline.

Epsom salts—contain magnesium sulfate which is not necessary unless a soil test indicates Mg deficiency. (With our low pH soils Mg deficiency is sometimes a problem.)



Bird Chatter

-- Congratulations to Christine Sexton, first MG from the last class to complete her 40 hours!

-- Thank you Ellen Cordes for completing your hours by working on the hort calendar which was in the Anchorage Daily News and to Michael Baldwin who finished his time by compiling information for AMGAA's 2011 educational programs.

-- Horseradish may be the Herb of the Year, but 53 people showed up at the Anchorage CES office for a presentation on *Rhodiola rosea*.

-- Garden hose has been used in Mexico to fashion 35 inch long pointy toes on cowboy boots used for dance competitions.

-- The Feb/March issue of *Birds & Blooms* included an article titled 'Secrets From a Master'. The article, written by Stacy Tornio who went through MG training at the University of Wisconsin, starts out—"I am a master gardener. I never knew those five little words would be so gratifying..."

-- Looking for a way to complete your Advanced Master Gardener hours? Help in the Alaska Botanical Garden herb garden on Thursdays and sometimes Fridays at 1:00 p.m.

-- The early bird registration deadline for the International Master Gardener Conference in West Virginia is June 9th. Is anyone planning to attend besides Martha Galbreath? The dates are October 11-14 in Charleston.

-- CES home economist Leslie Shallcross milked a goat in preparation for her Urban Farming class on making cheese.

-- Keven & Dawn Kleweno were brave enough to offer their garden for tour on May 16 for the Neighborhoods USA group. They have a cool place. Every inch and vertical space is planted with flowers and vegetables. They even plant dahlias in their neighbors' yard!

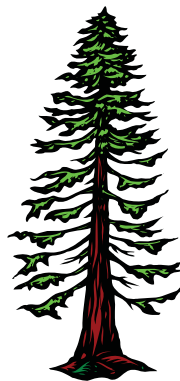
-- Look for Sexton Farms at the Spenard Farmers Market, MGs Christine and Trent.

-- MG Sandy Harrington is working at In the Garden Nursery this spring/summer.

Tip/Reminder When Buying Nursery Plants

"... don't forget to scrape off the top inch or so and the bottom inch of dirt from the pot on any plant you purchase. This is where diseases, pests and other 'bad' stuff will be living most likely. It's not an insult to me or any nursery to do this. You don't want to introduce anything bad into your garden that you don't already have. Slug eggs that have wintered over love to hide in the drainage holes of pots or under last year's dead foliage on top of the soil. Also weed seeds that may have blown in from where ever the plant lived for any extended time are just waiting for their opportunity to infest your beautiful weed free gardens."

- Rita Jo, Fritz Creek Garden, May 19, 2011 e-newsletter.
www.alaskahardy.com



Getting the "Big Picture" by Nickel LaFleur ISA Certified Arborist

When I turned 15, I took a Driver's Education class where 'getting the big picture' was drilled into my head on a regular basis. As a professional driver for a large package service, 'getting the big picture' meant the difference between being an accident-free driver or one with blemishes on their driving record. And now, as a gardener and resident of Alaska, I try to take this adage with me in whatever I do with the landscape.

Did you know that in Anchorage, when you wash your cars or hose down your driveways, all the soap, debris, water goes directly into our streams and does not go through any filtering process? Think about that when you are working in your yard. And please scoop the dog poop - especially when it is near a water source.

If you have lawn clippings, try to keep them out of the landfill and use them. Chop up all the garden debris from spring clean-up with your mower or chipper/shredder and reuse it for top dressing for shrubs, trees, raspberries, etc. And when you have grass clippings, spread them liberally in the flower beds (keeping it away from the plant stems) to help with weed and moisture issues. The bags of leaves and grass from last year will compost themselves and you can use them to grow some root vegetables in. It's a great economical way to try some of the certified seed potatoes we have available.

Remember to get the 'big picture': we'll all live healthier and happier because of your efforts!



Julie Riley to receive Distinguished Service Award

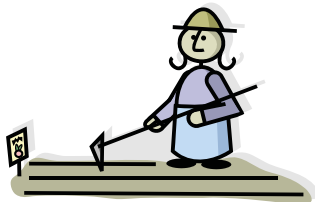
Julie Riley, the UAF Cooperative Extension Service horticulturist in Anchorage who is unofficially known as She Who Knows, or, alternately, She Who Helps, will be honored on Aug. 11 in Overland Park, Kan., with a Distinguished Service Award for 2011.

The award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents will be presented at their annual meeting and educational conference.

Only those who have served the CES for at least a decade, have organized outstanding programs, who are highly esteemed by fellow workers and who are approved for the accolade by the state Director of Extension are considered for this award.

Share Your Garden www.alaskacommons.org

The Alaska Shared Gardens Initiative allows people with unused garden space and people looking for garden space to connect. Members without the knowledge or time to garden enter into agreements with other members who are looking for a place to grow flowers, fruits, and vegetables. It's a great way to utilize unused garden space, make connections, and eat locally!



Anchorage Master Gardener Events

Sunday, June 5, 1-4 p.m. MEMBERS ONLY

Clark Orchard tour to see over 200 apples, cherries and apricots in bloom. The Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers would like this to be a private tour for MGs only. Parking is limited and information on places to park along Rabbit Creek will be sent out via email. If you do not have email, please get in touch with Sonja Arduser, 345-4023.

Monday, June 6, 7 p.m.

AMGAA Girdwood Garden Field Trip. Alyeska Resort Spring bulb Extravaganza; 7 pm; host MG Robbie Frankevich. Optional: leave a bit early and swing into Forget Me Not Nursery on Indian Road.

Monday, June 13, 7 p.m.

AMGAA Garden tour. Camille Williams, 7049 Saturn Circle; 7 pm. Watch emails for directions, parking and other considerations.

June 20, 7 p.m.

AMGAA Garden tour. Lilac Time at Sharon Davies, 1510 P Street. Watch emails for directions, parking and other considerations.

June 27, Monday, 7 p.m.

AMGAA Garden Tour. Richard Sanders; watch for email notices and directions.



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@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

If you have questions or want to make address or email corrections, please contact Sandra Harrington at:
dsharr@ptialaska.net

Garden Event Calendar

Thursday, June 2, 7 p.m.

Anchorage Garden Club; Soil: the Root of All Great Gardens; Jeff Smeenk; Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E. 3rd Ave.

Saturday, June 4

- PLANT SALE; Wildflower Garden Club, 9a-4p; 7435 Old Harbor Road, Anchorage
- PLANT SALE: Anchorage Garden Club. 9am-5pm; 3734 W. 35th Ave., Anchorage.
- PLANT SALE: Homer Garden Club; Homer
- PLANT SALE: Mat-Su Master Gardeners; Palmer Pavilion, downtown Palmer

- Festival of Flowers

Anchorage Town Square Park, 12 noon - 6 p.m. Plants for sale, music, food, garden tours, gorgeous flower silt-walkers, and best of all, a MG staffed booth.

- Grasses, presentation by Christine Bingham, 10 a.m. at In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street, West of Lake Otis, off 72nd Street. Free but call In the Garden to register, 346 4247.

Saturday/Sunday, June 4-5, 1:00 p.m.

Spring Bulbs at Alyeska Resort, presentation on perennial flowers on Saturday by Julie Riley, tour of grounds and spring bulbs by Robbie Frankevich at 2:00 p.m.
- PLANT SALE: Mat-Su Master Gardeners; Palmer Pavilion, downtown Palmer

Saturday, June 11

PLANT SALE, Central Peninsula Garden Club, Kenai Spur Rd

Saturday/Sunday, June 11-12, 11am-5pm

Annual Garden Fair & Art Show, Alaska Botanical Garden; 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road. Visit website for parking, shuttle, admission and vendor information. Family fun, garden art show, craft & plant vendors, demonstrations, Children's Village, horticultural educational displays, music & food court.

Thursday, June 16, 11:00 a.m.

An Intimate Look at Plant Life, pre-Advanced MG session on botany. A look at Elodea and plant structures under the microscope. Everyone is welcome. Anchorage CES classroom. Contact Jane Baldwin to register, \$5 at the door. Class size is limited.

Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.

From the ground up: Organic basics for healthy soil and plants, presentation by Julie Riley at In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street, West of Lake Otis, off 72nd Street. Free but call In the Garden to register, 346 4247.

Wednesday, June 25th, 10 a.m.

Slugs and Mulch - presentation by Jane Baldwin on what she knows about slugs, and summer mulching at In the Garden Nursery, 7307 O'Brien Street, West of Lake Otis, off 72nd Street. Free but call In the Garden to register, 346 4247.

For more garden related events check out:

Garden Snaps Events Calendar:

<http://www.gardensnapsmap.com>

Alaska Master Website Calendar:

<http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org/calendar>

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
Cooperative Extension Office
2675 C St, Suite 100.
Anchorage, AK 99501
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Fax: 786-6312



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Amy Olmstead relaxes in the garden on a sunny day, as her drip irrigation system does the watering for her. Amy is featured in the Master Gardener Focus article on page 3.

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