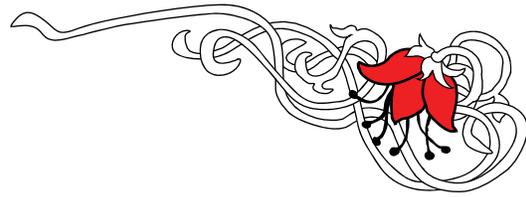


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 14, Issue 8

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER August 2012



A Nickel's Worth from Madame President LaFleur-meister

The past couple of days have been absolutely paradise and made me forget about working our way toward setting a record being the coldest July on record. I think we hold 2nd place now with less than a week to go in the month. I am okay with not setting the record on this, really!

I wandered past the strawberry patch in our backyard this afternoon and was able to pick our first ripe strawberries of the season. What a treat! If my berry patch is any indication of what is to come, this will be a fantastic year for berry picking.

Anyone else beside me dealing with a lot of slugs in our gardens? The slugs have been so bad that I've resorted to buying SLUGGO by the 5 gallon jugs. And I am currently working on jug #3 and don't know if I'm winning the battle. The slugs are everywhere in my world. What about yours?

What is up with the manifestation of spittlebugs on almost every plant we have? Seems to me that everywhere I turn there's evidence of it -ugh! It's the worst I've ever dealt with. I use my gloved fingers to squish them and if possible, use a high pressure water spray to knock them off the plant. I've read that they don't do a lot of damage to the plant but I don't like them in my landscape.

The aphids have been extremely hard to deal with as well. I have decided to grow egg plants next to my tomatoes and I'm continually scouting for aphids. I've been using a paint brush to whisk across the leaves of both the tomatoes and the eggplants and I've been surprised how easy it was to brush the aphids off the plant ... and lots of fun to see the leaves become aphidless, too. It's an ongoing battle as we well know. The bags of lady bugs I purchased for the greenhouse took flight and left me weeks ago. The praying mantis never bothered to come out of its cocoon so that was a failure this year. It has made me a more active pest-scout this season, for sure.

I've enjoyed this cooler weather to prune the trees and shrubs back to a more pleasing shape. I have been working away at cutting back the turf around the base of the trees hoping to expose the root-flare to ground level with 3-6" of sod being removed to help with the

weed whacking issue. My least favorite gardening tool is a weed whacker - 2nd is a hedge trimmer. So, take a look around the base of the trees in your yard and find yourself a sharp steak knife and carve away. Your trees will thank you for it.

The State Fair is coming up at the end of the month and I'm predicting a great year - both in the horticulture that is brought to the Fair as well as the fabulous weather we are getting! Think positive with me that we'll be enjoying the 'nicest August on record'. I believe in positive thinking ... and in volunteering! I need help with both of those from you. Get a hold of our wonderful Volunteer Coordinator Lynne Opstad and ask her how you can help. I know we do appreciate that.

Happy Gardening and I look forward to seeing you at our Garden Tours!

Treasurer's Report

Balances 5/31/12	
Checking acct	868.07*
Savings acct	9364.22
CD's	10459.35
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>20691.64</u>

Revenue:	
2012 Conference	5449.45
Donation	5.00
Interest	5.25
Membership dues	20.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>5479.70</u>

Expense:	
2012 Directory	888.22
Newsletter (May/June)	509.75
Operations	115.00
Pioneer Home	197.60
<u>Total</u>	<u>1710.57</u>

Balances 6/30/12	
Checking acct	4631.95
Savings acct	12127.70
CD's	7701.12
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$24460.77</u>

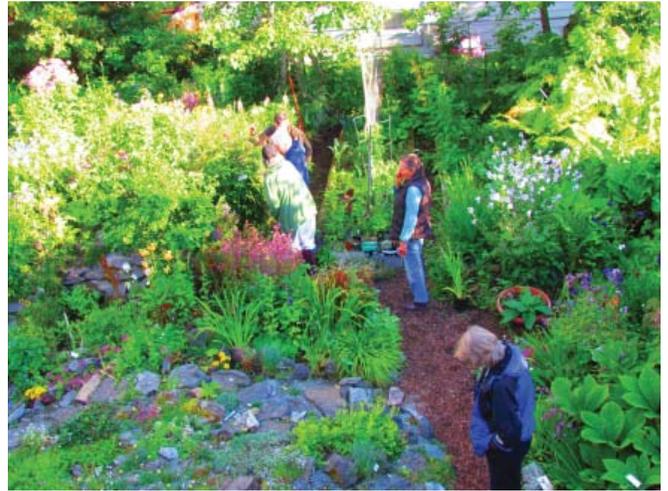
* corrected from July newsletter



Photos from AMGAA Summer Tours



June 18th - Colette Marshall shows her beehives to MGs
Photo by Joette Storm



July 16 - MGs enjoy Verna Pratt's garden
Photo by G.Docherty



June 25th - MGs tour Margaret Klatt's family homestead property with over 33 varieties of trees.
Photo by G.Docherty



July 23 - Cammy Oeschli Taylor shared her garden with MGs
Photo by G.Docherty



July 16 - Martagon Lilies at Annie Nevaldine's
Photo by G.Docherty



July 23 -MGs visited the Pioneer Home, with a tour led by Camille Williams, who designed the beds.
Photo by Jane Baldwin

Master Gardener Focus: Cindy Walker by Cheryl Chapman



From the Walker aerie the wild Chugach tumbles away, opening far vistas over spruce and wetlands, distant glittering Anchorage, the tidal pulse of Cook Inlet and, to the west, the Alaska Range's daily sunset theater.

Master Gardener and board member Cindy Walker and husband Jack already had bought an Anchorage lot and were poised to start building their dream home when they stumbled onto the

idiosyncratic Stuckagain Heights house and its sweep of a setting.

"We bought the view," Cindy says. "We decided we could always do something with the house."

The next 19 years saw the Walkers raise a son and daughter, gradually bring the home in line with their needs, and eventually, turn attention to their meadow.

"I've always, always loved flowers," Cindy says, "but my first baby word was not 'flower' and I never gardened as a child. I came to gardening only a few years ago, when we became empty nesters.

"Earlier, I was more involved with the children, and school and sports. I love travel and cooking, reading and now, my garden, but I love my family most of all, and they always come first."

But gardening is right in there, one of the Top 5, and Jack built shelves under a sunny south-facing window for Cindy to start seeds the first year they called the place home. Lots of seeds. Three thousand annual seeds for a blaze of hilltop color.

She planted the waist-high bed beside the driveway with 750 annuals, tall snapdragons in the back and dianthus in the front, "and I found I'd given myself a big deadheading job," she says. "I had 10 fuchsia baskets, and each one had to be deadheaded and took a gallon of water a day. We couldn't even go out of town for the weekend."

That was then. The demanding snaps and dianthus have been replaced by deep blue-green Nepeta, or catmint, raising purple spires against golden feverfew, a stunning and near-maintenance-free combination of colors and textures the length of the drive. You learn, says Cindy. Now she does perennials in the ground, a few annuals in containers for "welcome" at the front door, a masonry-terraced vegetable garden, gently curving rockeries ("They're not really rock gardens because some of the plants aren't alpine. Really, they're gardens with rocks") and, most recently, a tall three-compartment slatted compost bin at the foot of the lawn. Horizontal wooden slats slide easily up and down in slots so the bins can be made taller or shorter as needed.

"Jack designed the whole thing and rented an auger to set the corner posts 6 feet deep," says Cindy. "I was



the swamper. With more than an acre of grass, our bins are a good way to recycle the green, but we don't have nearly enough brown. In autumn, I'm going to offer to rake people's leaves if they'll let me have their brown.

"We've been keeping records, and our compost has been at a raging 160 degrees for days. The bins are by what we consider

the lower rockery. The moose consider it a moose buffet."

Moose aren't the only visitors. The Walkers share their neighborhood as well with lynx, porcupines, at least one red-backed vole who was sprinting down the side of their daughter's former playhouse, now garden storage — Jack built it as a scale model of the family home — and bears.

Once when their daughter had taken out Cindy's car, she heard a big thump in the garage and thought, "Oh, my. She's come back and run over the garbage cart," and flung the door open in the face of a black bear sow, who'd been shopping the shelves with her three cubs.

The Walkers and their gardens also cope with gale-force winds and bitter, biting cold, and they've factored these into their next project, a greenhouse. "It's colder up here than most places, and Jack is going to back the greenhouse into the hillside," Cindy says. He's designed a trapezoid-shaped structure reinforced to endure wind and snow and with utility lines. "Right now I'm not planning on using it year-round, but it will be ready to go if I ever do," she says.

Their gardens will never be finished. "My daughter and I visited European gardens last year but I'm a free-spirit gardener, not a formal gardener, and that stiff, classic style doesn't appeal to me," says Cindy. "Just look at Versailles. It's so manicured, you'd get bored looking at it after awhile. One of the things that excites me about my garden is that I never know what's coming next."

Her own approach to gardening evolves too. "Once, if it grew, I kept it, but now, if it doesn't make me happy, it's out," she says. "Last fall was transition time for the east bed. Everything I didn't really like, I dug up." Now the bed is filled with Alliums swaying on tall stalks; foamy Thalictrum or meadow rue; peonies; Astrantia "Ruby Wedding"; Primula alpicola, the moonlight primrose with its shyly tucked chin; its rosy cousin, Deodocatheon; a swagger of big-leafed Astilboidea tabularis; a couple of Ligularia przewalskii, the golden spire native to Mongolia; ruffled Lady's mantle; blue poppies and blue delphiniums spiked with orange poppies; and trollius.

Just around the corner in the south bed, hops scramble up two trellises. "I was inspired by (Master Gardener) Annie Neveland's talk on vertical spaces," says Cindy, "and Jack built me these for golden hops and Fuggle hops, but the Fuggles aren't doing so well." She grew the "Mammoth" sunflowers there from seeds started in her current basement seed set-up — two four-shelf grow lights, and heat mats. Painted daisies hem the front, and the perennial Rudbeckias are just coming into flower.

Continued on page 6

PAGE 3

Composting Tidbits

Police mistake compost bins for thieves and end up with egg on their faces

By Beth Jones

www.telegraph.co.uk > News > UK News Jun 19, 2005

For the police who smashed their way into a garden in search of two fugitives, it was not just a case of egg on their faces, but potato peelings, banana skins and coffee grounds too.

Mistaking two 3ft compost bins for thieves on the run, officers forced their way into the garden and caused almost £700 worth of damage.

Thermal-imaging equipment on board a police helicopter had told them that two heat sources in the undergrowth of a garden in south London were their suspected car thieves.

But once officers had traversed the trampolines and toys, all they uncovered were two steaming piles of rotting vegetable peelings.

"It was a complete joke," said Piers Smith, 41, a father of four and the owner of the house and garden in Furzedown.

J.R.R. Tolkien's Leaf Mold Metaphor:

"One writes such a story," said Tolkien, "out of the leaf-mold of the mind," and while we can still detect the shape of a few of the leaves — his alpine trek of 1911, the goblins of the "Curdie" books of George Macdonald, an episode in Beowulf when a cup is stolen from a sleeping dragon — this is not the essential point of Tolkien's metaphor. One learns little by raking through the compost heap to see what dead plants originally went into it. Far better to observe its effect on the new and growing plants that it is enriching. And in *The Hobbit* the leaf-mold of Tolkien's mind nurtured a rich growth with which only a few books in children's literature can compare.

Confessions of a Recycler:

When I was a kid I had my own recycling thing going. I used to hop the fence on Mother's Day and take one flower from arrangements on random graves and make a huge bouquet for my Mom. Now I just steal my neighbor's leaves when they put them out for collection for my compost.



"Composting in Alaska" is an excellent publication offered by CES, available for downloading from the internet:

www.uaf.edu/files/ces/publications-db/catalog/anr/HGA-01027.pdf



Birds That Make Compost

by Nancy Trautmann
<http://compost.css.cornell.edu/birds.html>

In Australia, there is a bird called the Brush-turkey (*Alectura lathami*) that builds compost piles to incubate the eggs so

that they won't have to sit on them! They build mounds of decomposing vegetation, and the heat produced by the microbial decay maintains the eggs at about 33°C (92°F), 15°C warmer than the ambient air temperature. Because each nest generates more than 20 times the heat production of a resting adult Brush-turkey, many more eggs can be incubated this way than if they relied on warmth from the parent birds. Initially the adult birds tend the composting nest, occasionally mixing and either adding or removing vegetation as needed to regulate the temperature, which they sense through their bills. After this initial adjustment, the nests require little attention, and larger ones can stay warm for several weeks without tending.

The largest nests are on Kangaroo Island in South Australia, where the average mound measures about 12.7 cubic meters (16.6 cubic yards) and weighs about 6,800 kg. (nearly 1500 lb.) Scientists have constructed a computer model using data on mound size, ambient temperature, and the nest's rate of heat production, water content, dry density, and thermal conductivity. The model predicts that as little as 1 cm of litter added to the mound will raise the core temperature about 1.5°C. Experiments indicate that the composting nests require (1) a critical mass of fresh litter (ca. 3,000 kg), (2) sufficient water content (> 0.2 ml/g dry material), and (3) occasional mixing of the litter.

Compost Yourself!

These are the words to a song written by Lee Hays, a member of the Weavers, a folk group who sang in the 1940's and 50's and were blacklisted during the McCarthy era because of their "unAmerican" ideas.

If I should die before I wake,
All my bones and sinew take;

Put me in the compost pile,
And decompose me for a while.

Wind, water, rain will have their way,
Returning me to common clay!

All that I am will feed the trees,
and little fishes in the seas.

On radishes and corn you munch--
You might be having me for lunch!

And then excrete me with a grin--
Chortling, "There goes Lee again!!!"



Central Peninsula Master Gardener News By Rosemary Kimball

There's nothing like July to concentrate the mind on the blessed garden quiet of October. Things are humming down here. I got a wry e-mail from Don St. John (the

guy who introduced me to the chocolate cherry tomato which has become my all-time favorite). He said the Anti-grow solution (see the recipe below) is what he and his wife Janet "planted" this year and they've gone through about 30 gallons so far this summer. His garden is small, everything was late and cold. He grew red celery last year and this and his grandson voted it the celery of choice award for flavor.

Margaret Simon in Nikiski with the new greenhouse said that the temperatures and rain have produced forty shades of green but at least she doesn't have to drag hoses around as much. Her slugs are really enjoying her forty shades of green as expressed by the Napa cabbage above all else. But she's eating BLTs with a side of green onions even if her peas are a disgrace.

Kathy Wartinbee writes, "We are testing Fritz Miller's compost tea. If I had been smart, I would have done a non-tea patch and a tea patch. I intended to do that but have been squirting everything. As a testimonial, if Fritz starts a "tea" delivery service, I'll sign up for it. Things are looking better than ever. The veggies are tall, green, and wonderful." Her husband has adds: "Fritz Miller is a long-time welding and fabrication instructor at Kenai Peninsula College. Over the past couple of years he has been working on creating a commercial composting facility using horse manure, coffee grounds, fish waste, and some chicken manure. He has been mixing his compost in a huge cement mixer with thermometers inside so he can tell the mixture has reached high enough temperatures. Those who have seen the compost want as much as he can produce. (us included) Currently he is fabricating a mechanical mixer so he can create even large batches.

In addition to making compost, he has recently been experimenting with making compost tea. He has a large tank he makes it in and several smaller tanks for transporting the tea to sites/gardens. We are one of the "beta-testing" sites with a 500 gallon tank near the gardens. Inside the tank is a pump that feeds the tea to a hose for application. It is really easy to simply water/tea your plants with a hose. This summer we have been using this tea mixture on virtually all of the gardens... veggie & flowers. Kathy has watered the gardens first and then added the tea. (this summer she has been applying tea after the rains.)" Happiness for a plant is a foliar feed!

My neighbor Mark is starting two more specialty gardens! I asked him WHY? He gestured to a whole bunch of plants in pots with the repost, "that's why". You know, he had a good point. In his cucumber temporary-greenhouse he ended up with pretty pink slugs. He was talking about moving his 25 Brahma banties out to the animal shed and I suggested he move them to the greenhouse and "learn them" to eat slugs. When I had banties I didn't have slugs in the raspberry slug refuge and hardly any lettuce damage from the chickens. The ducks were another case. For them I put down small pieces of 3/8-inch plywood in slug heaven then turned them over for the ducks who cleaned off the boards

in just a few seconds. That must be why slugs were invented.

Soldotna's Fred Meyer's landscaped area by the entrance was completely devastated by the moose this winter so they took every stump out, laid down rock and planted picnic tables. When it isn't raining, they are well used. An inventive solution to the problem!

I've seen a lot of spittle bugs in the Anchorage area but none down here. You guys keep them up there. I don't know how much they eat but they sure are uncouth on a stem!

Being a foodie of sorts I get Lynn Rosetto Casper's Weeknight Kitchen recipes on Wednesdays. This one came in a couple weeks ago and seemed perfect for Alaskan gardens. Go here: http://www.publicradio.org/columns/splendid-table/recipes/beets_with_greek_garlic_sauce.html and drool. Then get into the kitchen and cook.

Barb Jewell writes about the rain--who hasn't--and the fact that her grass is growing green. I finally mowed mine and got three bales to the acre. But if you think I'm going to fertilize it to increase the yield, you have another think coming. I like my grass lean and not so green.

Anti-Grow Solution

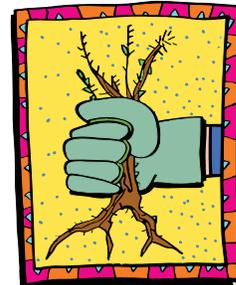
I found this herbicide recipe, or some version of it, in several places on the net.

~1 gallon Vinegar 5% White Distilled (cheap - \$5.25 for 2 gallons)
~ 1/4-1/3 Cup Dawn Blue dish soap
~ 1/8-1/4 Cup Salt (cheap)



Mix and apply to what you want DEAD. DO NOT add water. You can apply with what ever you have... sprinkle can, Hudson Sprayer, squirt gun...

Apply when plants are dry. It kills everything! Use with caution around anything you want to live. I have had killed Orange Hawk Weed, grass in walkways and other weeds I don't know the names of, even Horse Tail to some extent.
Don St. John





Bird Chatter

- Julie Riley is back in the saddle full time.
- Camille Williams (MG 02/03) is selling her garden and house and plans to move to Boise, Idaho. Rumor has it she has a garage sale every day.
- Steve Seefeldt has joined UAF Cooperative Extension Service as district ag/hort agent in the Tanana Valley office in Fairbanks.
- Julie Riley's residence now sports a door colored 'Herbal Garden' instead of 'Orchid Purple'.
- At a gathering last month, Annie Nevaldine (MG 94/95) served a beautiful plate of nasturtiums filled with chevre, lime juice and garlic-- an incredible mingling of flavors.
- Thank you Pat DeRoche (MG 98/99) for passing along your plant lights and timers. Verna Pratt (MG 86/87) your fertilizer donation will be put to good use.
- Remember Sharon Davies (MG pre-84) garden is open Tuesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. It's been beautiful (and different) every week.

Ag Appreciation Day

August 9, 2012, 12 noon - 6 p.m.
Palmer Center for Sustainable Living, Matanuska Experiment Farm, 1509 S. Georgeson Drive (formerly S. Trunk Road) Hosted by UAF School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences and CES.

Celebrating 150 years since the Morrill Act created the land grant university. Activities to include games, hayrides, goat-milking demonstration, sheep-to-shawl demo, GPS and precision agriculture demonstrations, tours of research labs and fields including an alternative grain experiment, barley cooking demo and music by the Air Force Band Alaska Brass. Contact for more information is 907-746-9450.

"The Land Grant University System is being built on behalf of the people, who have invested in these public institutions their hopes, their support, and their confidence." -- Abraham Lincoln

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to staff the Cooperative Extension Service Information Booth at the 2012 Alaska State Fair.

The dates for the 2012 fair are Thursday August 23 thru Monday September 3, 2012.

Shifts are as follows:

M-F (except Labor day): Noon - 2:30 pm; 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm; 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm and 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
Sat-Sun, & Monday, Labor day: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Online sign-up form: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/calendar/2012-fair-volunteers/> or you can send an email back or call us.

907.745.3360 E-mail: djblaylock@alaska.edu

MG Focus: Cindy Walker Cont. from page 3...

The beds are immaculate. "I'm a very tidy gardener," she says. "I'm very careful about what I bring in and from where. I sterilize my pots. We don't have a lot of bug problems, and no slugs, knock on wood. And I always buy locally."

The Walkers' tomatoes are in big pots that they move to follow the sun, and they protect their vegetable beds from bugs and birds with wooden hanging baskets of marigolds. "They seem to be working," says Cindy, who has planted, among other things this year, leeks and watercress, arugula, Swiss chard, Mesclun, spinach, lettuce, shallots, onions, radicchio, radishes and carrots. "Always, too many carrots," she says. "I really like carrots, but at the end of the season, there are always too many carrots. They say if life gives you lemons, make lemonade, so when I'm given that many carrots, I make carrot cakes and give them away."

As she weeds and waters, amends the soil and plots colors and shapes with an artist's eye, she often thinks, she says, of her companion, the miniature poodle Whitesox, who gardened alongside her for 18 years. Whitesox's memorial stone anchors the upper rockery with the opening of the e e cummings' poem, "i carry your heart." "Whitesox was my favorite garden helper," says Cindy.

"When it comes to my plants, I always want more," she says. "I'm always adding. It's true, gardening does take time and expense — especially if you have no control — but I don't really have any regrets.

"The only bad thing I have to say about Alaska gardening is that the season seems a little short."



Condolences to the family of Richard Sanders. Richard passed on June 27th. MGs visited his garden in August, 2011, and he was the featured MG in Cheryl Chapman's article from November, 2011. His brother notified the MGs in a note from the Google Group, stating that being a MG was a big part of Richard's life. He and his gardens will be sorely missed.

2012 Master Gardener Class

Tell your non MG gardening friends about the UAF/CES 2012 Master Gardener class. This year's class will be held Wednesdays & Fridays, 4:00-7:00 p.m., starting October 10th and ending December 12.

To be put on the interest list for the fall 2012 class, call 786-6300 for more information. Those on the MG course interest list will receive an email when on-line registration opens in September.

For more Master Gardener information, visit the CES Anchorage website and click on Anchorage Master Gardener Program.
<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/anchorage/>

Advanced MG Class 2012:

Coming Soon: Strange and Bizarre Lab

Tuesday, August 21, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

A two hour lab for Master Gardeners and anyone interested in freaks of nature and unusual specimens. Come see real live examples of witches' broom, slime mold, black knot and MORE! Bring specimens from garden or yard. Can anyone find a viviparous grass like we saw at the Plant Materials Center last month? Viviparous plants produce seed that germinate while still attached to the inflorescence.

This year's class will be a little different from last year. Participants will not independently rotate from station to station. There will be a mini presentation on each item for the entire group. No registration necessary. This class will count as 2 CEU credits for those who enroll in the Advanced Master Gardener course to be held in October. The lab 'Strange and Bizarre' has been rescheduled for August 21, 10:00-12:00 a.m. at CES. Questions? Contact Dana klinkhart@gci.net

It's About Plant Pathology!

The Advanced Master Gardener course in Plant Pathology is scheduled in October. Mark your calendars for the 15-hour core course in the study of plant pathology (diseases) for:

October 6, 2012 - Saturday, 9-12 pm, 1-4 pm (6 hr.)
October 11, 2012 - Thursday, 4-7 pm (3 hr.)
October 18, 2012 - Thursday, 4-7 pm (3 hr.)
October 25, 2012 - Thursday, 4-7 pm (3 hr.)

Core course will be held at Cooperative Extension Service.

Registration Information for the 2012 Advanced MG Course:

On September 9th a survey monkey will be sent to all master gardeners to register for Plant Pathology (diseases) beginning in October. This is exactly how we registered last year. The registration will end on September 24th. You will receive an email verifying your registration status on September 26th. For those who do not have email, please stop by CES office for a hard copy after September 9th and prior to September 24th. Seating is limited to 40 students.

Plant Physiology credit deadline is September 1st!

Master Gardeners who attended the eighteen hours of the core course in plant physiology in November 2011 have until September 1, 2012 to complete and submit their CEU's and volunteer hours to meet the deadline to receive their certification. It is a good time to get those recorded now. Master Gardeners that do not intend to take the fall 2012 course can maintain their certification for 2012 by completing ten (10) hours of either volunteer hours or CEU's or, a combined total of ten hours.

If you have questions contact the Education Committee at: mgadvanced@gmail.com or Dana at Klinkhart@gci.net.

Garden Event Calendar

Saturday-Sunday, August 4-5

Anchorage Garden Club 69th Annual Flower Show, held at ABG. Open to the public. Hotline: 566-0539

Saturday-Sunday, August 4-5

Homer Garden Club - 'Gardener's Weekend' - Speakers, programs and private gardens open for touring.
<http://homergardenclub.org>

Monday, August 6

AMGAA Potluck and Plant Swap - Host: Amelia Walsh - 7 p.m., 12330 Lilac Dr.

Thursday - Saturday, August 9, 10 & 11

Alaska Peony Growers Conference - Palmer Depot; Thursday & Friday: presentations

Saturday: peony farm tours

For details and registration info: AlaskaPeonies.org
Home gardeners welcome!

Monday, August 13

AMGAA Garden Tour - Hosts: Beth Baker & Carol Comeau - 25344 Crystal Cr. Rd., Eagle River

Saturday, August 18

Residential Plastic Pot Recycling Day (ABG/ALPAR) 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., ABG-Benny Benson School Parking lot. Plastic pots accepted: type 2, 5 & 7

Thursday, August 23 - September 3

Alaska State Fair opens. Crops entries:

1st entry: Wednesday, August 22, noon - 9:00 p.m.

2nd entry: Wednesday, August 29, noon - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, August 31 - September 2

Girdwood Fungus Fair, featuring: Dr. Steve Trudell the PNW "Fungus Master" and co-author of the Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest; Dr. Else Vellinga, researcher at the University of California Berkely, specializing in fungal conservation and phylogeny, taxonomy and biogeography of lepiotaceous fungi. Also local experts including: Tanya Zastro (mushroom dye expert from Cordova), Dominique Collet (AK Naturalist), and Ken Gill (mushroom cultivation). <http://www.fungusfair.com/>



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 Kathy Munk at: munkster@hotmail.com

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage
University of Alaska Cooperative Extension
P.O. Box 221403
Anchorage, Alaska 99522-1403

Non Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #107
Anchorage, Alaska

For information about membership or
upcoming programs, contact:
Cooperative Extension Office
1675 C St, Suite 100.
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 786-6300
Fax: 786-6312



Inside this issue....

A Nickel's Worth
Photos from AMGAA July Garden Tours
MG Focus: Cindy Walker
Composting Tidbits
Central Peninsula MG News
Anti-Grow Solution
Bird Chatter
Ag Appreciation Day
Volunteer Opportunities
2012 MG Class Info
Advanced MG Class Info
Garden Event Calendar



A group of Master Gardeners went on a field trip to the Plant Materials Center in Palmer on July 26th in conjunction with the Advanced Master Gardener 2012 class. They were treated to an Ethnobotany Garden Tour by Peggy Hunt, Agronomist, Plant Ecologist & Educator; a talk by Bill Campbell, a Potato Disease Specialist, and a tour of the Tissue culture lab.