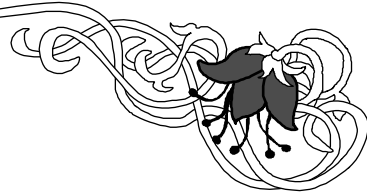


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 6, Issue 11

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER October 2004

From the President's Corner Dana Klinkhart

Last month I was making lists for the garden. Lists are good, but after looking at that list I decided there is more to life than long lists. So wherever I placed that list, it can remain. What gets done gets done and that's that. I plan to enjoy the lingering fall weather.

Remember my wishing for some scarecrows? Well, my wish came true! Those scarecrows kind of made their way to the yard slowly, piece by piece, from straw hat to bibbed overalls. Their friendly faces have button eyes and big smiles. The funny straw hats cover their bright red hair made of yarn. The first scarecrow kids were about kindergarten age and they looked pretty cute dressed in their size 18 month outfits from the good will store. The teenage scarecrows were a bit more reluctant to get fitted and poised but they finally submitted to my plan. Their stick constructed forms are now fully dressed in their gardening attire and positioned to add to the fun of the harvest season. Fortunately, they do not appear to be chasing away the crows or any other birds. That's just fine; the birds are welcome in the garden. It's particularly enjoyable to watch them forage for seeds throughout the yard now. They seem to relish that fact that fall is here and there is much to harvest. Do you suppose they've lost their chore list, too?

Your Master Gardeners Association met last month for the first time this fall. For the thirty seven of us that were able to attend the September meeting, the evening was full of ideas and energy. We hadn't met since spring so there was a lot of catching up to do. Julie Riley's program on 'Invasive Plants in the Garden' introduced the specific troublemakers and the consequences we face in planting and circulating invasive species. Gardeners can make a difference in our community by being proactive and responsible.

Members were eager to share ideas, plants and seeds. It's such a pleasure to belong to a group that actively listens to each other and finds solutions in gardening. Gardeners bring with them their humor while sharing their gardening experiences. These meetings are not only educational, they're entertaining. The monthly program meetings are a great place to gather. As our meeting dates approach, I hope that you will mark your calendar for the third Monday each month at 7 PM. Please join us. We want to your hear ideas and experiences, too.

Volunteer Opportunity

Our Master Gardener Association is looking for a Hospitality person/team to help out at our monthly meetings. Responsibilities: Arrive 10 minutes early to meetings to set out sign-in sheet, coffee, tea, napkins, etc. Also, put items away at the end of meeting. We meet Jan. - May, Sept. - Nov., 7:00 (so, 6:50 for you) in the Cooperative Extension building. We understand you can't make every meeting, so maybe a team effort might work, or we can fill in when needed. Not a big job, but we need your help! Please let me know if you or maybe you and a friend would like to help.

Contact: Linda Klinkhart, Volunteer Coordinator, email: gek@gci.net Phone: 345-2672

September AMGA Meeting Report

By Jo Anne Banta

Horticulturist Julie Riley, guest speaker at September's Master Gardeners' meeting, warned of the many garden perennials that we should not plant. Orange hawkweed, for instance, is now prolific in the Girdwood area. Creeping buttercup, sweet rocket, and even foxglove are aggressive in Southeast Alaska. Some other perennials that should be watched closely in your garden: sneezeweed, bishop's goutweed, chives, and cornflower or bachelor's button.

Julie also introduced her guest Irina Lapina, taxonomist with the UAA Natural Heritage Program, who serves on a committee working to rank the invasiveness of 50-plus species in Alaska.

Kenai Master Gardener guests Janice Chumley, Rosemary Kimball, and Barbara Jewell are enthused about holding the annual Master Gardeners' Conference on the Peninsula. They hope to hold the conference in March and invited all to come and stay.

Several gardeners happily took home starts from the plant exchange. Door prizes for the evening went to Judy Christianson, who won an Alaska Garden Guide written by Fairbanks gardener Ann Roberts; to Marj Jordan, who took home a picture frame; to Linda Klinkhart, winner of the floral note cards; to Nickel La Fleur, who won a Garden Journal by Flora; and to George Patrawke who took home a primula.

Most Invasive Plants at MG Meeting

Before her presentation at the September AMGA meeting, Julie Riley asked MGs to write their most invasive plant on a note card. Below are the 34 responses grouped into categories and slightly edited.

INVASIVE GARDEN PERENNIALS— (CES Do Not Plant list)

Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)-2 responses
False bamboo, Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum* its hybrids, syn. *Fallopia japonica*)
Butter & eggs, toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)-6 responses
Creeping Charlie, ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*)

INVASIVE GARDEN PERENNIALS

Bishop's weed, Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)-3 responses
Horseradish, (*Armoracia rusticana*)
Marshmallow, (*Althea officinalis*)
Perennial bachelor's button (*Centaurea montana*)
Clustered bellflower, (*Campanula glomerata*)-2 responses
Bellflower (*Campanula*, species not given. *Campanula rapunculoides* is on the CES Do not Plant list.)

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MG Email Survey Results

The following are replies to a recent MG Email/ Newsletter Survey that asked:

1. What was your favorite plant this summer?
2. How did the increased heat affect your garden?
3. Do you have any gardening tips or experiences to share?

Thanks to all who participated!

Favorite plant - *Dahlias*
Increased heat - *Bumper crop of garlic*
Dawn Page

Favorite plant - *A blue campanula whose name I do not know, about 18 inches tall in bloom, that a friend gave me several years ago and has blue waxy flowers. It bloomed all summer without fertilizer or water and didn't seem to mind. I used it at a cut flower and it stayed good for a long time.*

Increased heat - *Everything did better.*
Tip - *Don't forget to whack off the tops of your brussels sprouts around the first of August to direct the plant's energy into the sprouts. Ditto the flowers on the greenhouse tomatoes for the same reason.*
Rosemary Kimball

Favorite plants - *the artichoke that I allowed to bloom. It is still gorgeous in my vegetable garden. Of course we ate the rest of them. The sonata series cosmos were such huge plants that they had to be staked, first time for that variety.*

Increased heat - *Artichokes were really good sized. Raspberries were earlier and bountiful with lots of watering. The alтай bloomed all summer long which in my garden is a spring bloomer and then just ground cover foliage for the rest of the year. The asters bloomed 2 weeks earlier. Crab apples were larger and mature so had lots of seeds to remove to make pies. At the Pioneer Home the red avalanche petunias were really exceptional, large blossoms and self cleaning. The peonies were not as large as usual. The large nicotianas did not obtain the 5-6 foot height but seemed to stop at 3-4feet.*

Tip - *Be the ruthless gardener, clean and prune your plants for fall and winter. Move or discard those plants you didn't like. Water all your trees before the snow falls, especially the evergreens.*
Judy Christianson

Favorite plant - *I really enjoyed was the Castor Bean plant I bought from Annie Nevaldine. Beautiful red color, oddly tropical foliage, and unusual flower/seedpods*
Heat - *EVERYTHING WAS ABOUT 2-3 WEEKS EARLY. I had hollyhock bloom, as well as phlox, which is unusual in my garden. The delphiniums in Girdwood bloomed around the 1st of July, and usually they don't bloom until about the*



18th. Had to water more than I can ever remember. If it's like this next year, I'm going to try flowering shrubs, maybe take another run at wisteria.

Catherine Renfro

Favorite plant - Peony 'LaDonna'

Heat - The very early very hot and dry late spring -early summer compressed the peony bloom season from 6 weeks to 3 weeks 4 days. Only the very early peonies bloomed on target. Peonies that were harvested last year as cut flowers the last week of July were cut the 2nd week + several days in July.

Tip - Try planting by the moon, add more soaker hoses, move perennials as far away from tree roots as possible.
Judy Wilmarth

Favorite plant - Roses of course!!

Heat - Increased growth and blooming in most cases, however there was some drying out in shallow soil areas.
Tom Throop

Favorite plant - The lilies were awesome...

Heat - None of these is going to be a surprise...All the perennials with bloom "seasons" came and went much more quickly than normal, and faded in color more and more rapidly than normal. We had to water till we thought we'd never see the end of it! The extra watering we did was good for the trees, though...we did not see any leaf miners. However, aphids made sticky goo on pansies/violas and lupines something fierce, no matter how much water they got.

Tip - We should have staked our -only 36-42" high—delphiniums even though they looked fine at full height—when the rains finally came, the blossom heads got water logged and the top-heavy weight broke the stems.
Cindy Kinard

Favorite plant - Love Lies Bleeding Shirley gave me some seed and every one of them germinated!! They grew many new shoots from the branches and were loaded with flowers. Were quite impressive. Seed came from Jeffersons Monticello home. I bought, what I thought by the picture to be, a zucchini squash this summer but when it started growing it looked flat. Then it started growing and it was yellow in color, and grew long until it was kind of round with a smaller point at one end where the stem was. Very good and tastes like a yellow zucchini but didn't look like one! And there were LOTS of babies all summer!!

Heat - Had some plants bloom profusely that I usually have a hard time getting any flowers from normally. I think the one I'm referring to is a Perennial Phlox.

Tip - I was given two Grape Vines this year (Valiant), zone 3 plant. The vines grew well and the grapes started forming right away. They continued growing and did turn slightly blue before the 3rd frost hit. It was fun to grow

them but there wasn't much flavor this year. I look forward to another season of their growth and hopefully more mature fruit.

June Juelson

Favorite plant - Nugget Tomatoes as usual!!

Heat - Definitely made things grow faster.

Tip - Hanging Baskets - Grow nicer and larger plants with the increased soil capacity. This year I took quite large plastic containers and large wire for the hangers and was amazed at the increased productivity.

Dick Juelson

Favorite plant - My favorite plant at ABG was the (newly planted this year) Euphorbia 'Fen's Ruby.' A marvel at adding texture to the planting scheme, its small and slim leaves contrasted handsomely with it's neighbor, Pulmonaria. It is also very soft to the touch. It is spreading happily in the demo north bed. From my own garden, the award goes to Calamagrostis 'Overdam', also known as Feather Reed Grass. It is a clumping, variegated grass that is lighting up it's planting partner, the dark leaved Sambucus 'Black Beauty' also known as 'Gerda'.

Heat - The hot summer really sped up the bloom for many plants. I would say that the whole season seemed to compress, a lot of plants petered out early. A few plants seemed to vastly enjoy it, such as daylilies and my maroon hollyhock.

Christine Bingham

Favorite plant - Apple Tree was my favorite

Heat - Increased yield due to the heat

Tip - A raindrip irrigation system with timer was well worth the expense in caring for my tubs and potted plants.

Jim Roberts

Favorite plant - Each month provides a favorite perennial and the several annuals are on my list season. Wave petunia, Dwarf Cosmos and Little Gem Marigolds enter the favorite annual list. The Oriental Lilies top the list as a favorite bulb and cut flower and the Peonies would be my favorite perennial. The choice is difficult though. Love 'em all.

Heat - Our garden developed faster and the bloom time was shortened with the increased heat. Garden growth was phenomenal. The peonies didn't last as long and the violas were spent in a heartbeat. However, oriental lily bulbs planted directly into the ground in late May were highly productive bloomers. Living Wreaths were a challenge to maintain with their rapid maturity and watering requirements.

Tip - Regardless of their awkwardness, soaker hoses were a tremendous help. I also love the self-winding garden hose. Double potting our container plants saved them from the non-stop heat.

Dana Klinkhart

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...



EMAIL SURVEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Favorite plant - New-for-me plant this summer perhaps was Veronicastrum virginicum — gorgeous leaves whirling around the plant, and nice spikes of purple-pink flowers.

My primroses were in rare form this year — lots and lots of flowers, that between the various kinds bloomed from early spring until freeze up. Every Alaska garden should include primroses. The lilies were also very happy this year, and put on a gorgeous display. Fritillaria meleagris made me happy in the spring, and I need to plant a lot more of them — it looks sort of a like an upside down guinea hen on a stalk. For pot plants, I tried colocasia (taro), and was quite impressed with the giant size and beautiful deep green of the leaves. But I planted them in late Feb., and it took quite awhile for them to get going. I'll do these again next year, but start them in January so that I get an earlier display.

Heat - Everything bloomed earlier than normal with the increased heat, and I'm sure I lost some plants due to lazy watering practices — just not used to the need for so much water.

Tip - Not a tip, but a problem in finding decent topsoil now that McKinley is out of the dirt business. We got loads from two different vendors and were unhappy with both. Laurie Constantino

Favorite plant - My favorite plant this year was my John Davis rose; it was full of beautiful pink blooms.

Heat - My tomatoes did really well, probably partly because of the heat but I also used mushroom compost instead of steer manure this year. The plants were shorter with fewer leaves but they had LOTS more tomatoes, and they matured faster.

Shirley Kelly

Favorite plant - Magnificent Dalias and our Beans did great

Heat - Impossible to keep up with watering.

Bill & Carol Ross

Favorite plant - Ornamental tobacco.

This great giant of a plant rose over my annual bed like some wonderful green six foot tower. Each morning when I opened my bedroom curtains 'Only the Lonely' greeted me with it's huge green leaves and fragrant white topknot. Even now, though all around it has been pulled, OTL still stands tall and beautiful, the last remnant of a



magnificent summer. Annie Nevaldine offered N. 'Only the Lonely' and as well as N. 'Tinkerbelle' at her plant sale this spring. I bought her last OTL with a number of Tinkerbells thinking I would slip OTL into my perennial section. When

we planted I forgot about OTL and planted it as one of the Tinkerbells. Due to it's vigor it was placed in a corner of the annual bed where it happily grew as an green ugly duckling until July when it began it's upward development. This planting has been a serendipity of the first order - a real swan among ducks. Seed for N. sylvestris and for N.x hybrida Tinkerbelle F1 is available through Thompson and Morgan Seed Co.

Heat - Everything grew very well. Lilies bloomed several weeks early. With less rain I also did less frequent lower maintenance. Didn't see aphids until August and they were less of a problem than in past years. Slugs were at a low level for me too. All in all it was a pretty carefree summer with just a little more watering than usual. And I loved seeing all the Hover (Syrphid) Flies around my flowers at the end of the season - indicators that my low aphid numbers were probably do to their larval stages as well as to the bounty of Yellow Jackets this year.

Tip - For safe and easy slug control, bait with Sluggo several times from August to freeze-up. In the spring distribute Sluggo as soon as you see the first growth of perennials to dispatch any over-wintering slugs or those newly hatched. Another treatment when you plant should give you great control for the season. Sluggo is safe to use in your garden and harmless to children, pets and wildlife (other than slugs/snails). It is a biodegradable blend of iron phosphate and attractant. It can be purchase at most the local greenhouses.

Susan Miller

Favorite plant - Tierella / Foam flower

Heat - heat was definitely a big help, especially in the berry department.

Tip - Plantskydd!! It works

Eva Hancock

Favorite plant - delphinium

Heat - A great deal more water required, but I got two groups of blossoms from my delphiniums

Tom & Maye Johnson

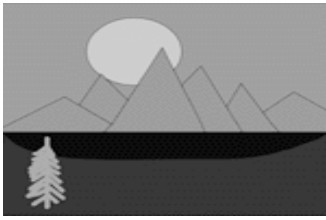
Favorite plant - My favorite plant was the eggplant plant. I'd never tried to grow it before. It had pretty leaves and lovely lilac colored blooms. I didn't get any fruit, but the plant was nice.

Heat - The heat really took it's toll on my vegetable garden. The broccoli and lettuce bolted, and my rhubarb dried up. I've rarely had to water it in years past, but not this summer.

Tip - My tip would be to pay close attention to watering when the weather is as consistently warm as it was this summer. Water, water, water and don't get too attached to your plants.

Linda Shafer

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Central Peninsula MG News by Rosemary Kimball

Whow! Still on the high from the trip to the first Master Gardener meeting of the year, our annual pilgrimage to keep our affiliation. This time we could only rouse three of us (quorum for our group down here!) but what a 27 hours it was! We started out in the rain and had lunch at the Princess Lodge. During the trip we started plotting and planning for our next Pad Thai (meeting). Went to the Alaska Botanical Gardens and oohed and ahhed our way through that. I noticed that the bear-in-the- vicinity signs were down. That's always reassuring. Their new signage with their logo on it is really neat. We had dinner out and made it to Julie's talk on invasive plants. This army travels on its stomach!

After Julie, Janice, our Ramrod, did confirm that we would be putting on the statewide conference in the spring; venue and date unknown at this time but it was said out loud and in public. And schmooze? She's a master! She started cruising for speakers, big time.

At seven the next morning we breakfasted sedately and went to Wasilla to Dan and Marian Elliott's apple farm. At the risk of repeating myself: **WHOW!** Dan gave us a tour through the back yard orchard whacking off bites of this apple or that apple for us to sample and then throwing the remains over the fence while we winced. Finally we started appropriating them and stuffing our pockets. Marian put on a spread with apple-blossom honey, apple jelly, apple butter and apple-cranberry jelly to spread on toasted muffins to eat with coffee. Don't you ANC people wish you lived on the peninsula now? Such good things happen to us when we come to visit you!

I tasted my first Centennial Crab apple in MG Barb Jewell's back yard and it is one of those apples for which you say, "WHOW"! It has a nice crisp texture, a very pleasing sweet apple flavor, and it is bigger than many crabs, although it still takes a bunch to make a dozen. I'd grow that tree just for fresh eating, forget the jelly. But back to Julie's talk. A noxious weed that is being seen here more and more is wild buckwheat, **Polygonum convolvus** which probably comes in with birdseed. Found this out when I sent a picture to our Ramrod, Janice, who is our IPM scout down here, thinking it was field bindweed except for the flowers being wrong. She steered me to the Canadian Ag web site for noxious weeds:

www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/weedguid. If you haven't been there go (and type in wild buckwheat) and find out more about this plant. It is considered noxious. I consider it obnoxious when I find it growing under the deck and at the base of the bird feeder. I also found it at my neighbor's who also has a feeder and heard about it at the home of a friend's friend so it is doing well here on the peninsula—never mind what it is doing in ANC! We are on the cusp of an outbreak of still-controlable noxious weeds in the state. Contact CES for the new pamphlet about Non-native Invasive Plants and you (pub # FGV-00142). It's free and has nice color pictures.



And remember last month my wondering if the first frost would coincide with the full moon? The skies cleared after 4 days of drizzle that gave us our record rainfall for the summer—a whole 1/2 inch of moisture—and a real good killing frost on the 29th!

FROZEN SPICED CRAB APPLES

16 small ripe crab apples (reds are gorgeous)
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup cold water
6 whole cloves
dash of salt
3 strips of lemon peel

Wash apples and remove the blossom end but keep the stems. Prick the apples in several places. Combine everything in a saucepan, placing the apples upright. Cover loosely. Place over low heat and cook 10 minutes. (Low heat prevents overcooked mush.) Remove from heat and set, still in the juice, to cool. Don't disturb the apples. Pick up the apples by the stems and carefully pack in a freezer container. Stagger them so the second layer fits between the stems of the first layer. Strain the pan juice over the apples, seal and freeze. Let thaw for an hour or two before using. Makes about one pint before sampling.

Source: *Farm Journal Freezing and Canning Cookbook*

Rosemary's notes: Don't waste time with just one batch. Double or triple the recipe and set some on the table tonight. I haven't tried it with Splenda but I don't know why it wouldn't work.



Bird Chatter

- Joanie Hill, MG class of '91, says that to ripen green tomatoes, put them in a bag with an apple.
- A CD of Extension gardening publications is available for \$5 by contacting the CES Statewide Publications office at 1-877-520-5211. All copy is in black and white as are all the publications in the latest edition of Extension's *Alaska Gardener's Manual*.
- The Kenai Peninsula Master Gardeners announced they will take the lead on planning a statewide Master Gardener Conference for 2005. Way-to-go!
- Poinsettias need a 12 hour dark period starting about October 1st. Remember to give them good light for the other 12.
- The most frost sensitive plants in the herb garden at the Alaska Botanical Garden were nasturtium, lemon verbena, perilla and the male kiwi plant. Go figure. The females showed no sign of damage on September 14, but succumbed to damage that night.
- A neat web site for spices and herbs:
unitproj.library.ucla.edu/biomed/spice



I love the fall. I love it because of the smells that you speak of; and also because things are dying, things that you don't have to take care of anymore, and the grass stops growing. - Mark Van Doren

INVASIVE PLANTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Shasta daisy (*Leucanthemum*; could also be oxeye daisy, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, which is on the CES Do not Plant list.)

Viola (Viola; species uncertain, could be a pansy too.)

WEEDS

Narrowleaf hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*)

Dandelion (*Taraxacum* sp.)

Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)-3 responses

Plantain (*Plantago major*)

Vetch (Genus/species uncertain. One of the most invasive is bird vetch, *Vicia cracca*)

Clover (Species uncertain, but gardener said it was in grass so perhaps it's white clover, *Trifolium repens*)

Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*)

Wild buckwheat (*Polygonum convolvulus*)

NATIVE PLANTS

Cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*)

UNKNOWN CATEGORY

Buckwheat (Species uncertain; this could be a weedy *Polygonum* species or the grain buckwheat)

Mullein (*Verbascum*; species uncertain; could be *V. thapsus* which is on the CES Do Not Plant list)

MG EMAIL SURVEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Favorite plant - *My favorite plants were the sunflowers, which I had several I did not plant. They were planted by the birds/sunflower head I left out last winter. I don't know if it was the mild winter or the hot summer, but I had 4 sunflower plants this year which I cannot take credit for. Also lobelia in the yard (under the deck railing where I had lobelia last year, and next to where the old wood pile was), and petunias, none of which I've ever had reseed themselves. Wonderful! My second favorite plants have to be the lilies which I propagated from bulblets, 3 years ago, and bloomed this year, yeah!*

Tip - *My only tip is boring and classic: don't let up on weeding. If you let a little chickweed go, it will go on and on and on....*

Linda Slack

Favorite plant - *Cobaea (cathedral bells) amazing annual Heat - More and earlier dahlia flowers*

Tip - *Tie and stake early on.*

Becky Fryzek

Favorite plant - *'Creme Brulee' Phlox*

Heat - *No kohlrabi—bolted. The heat caused everything (veggies & flowers) to exert themselves so much that they were spent/mature a couple weeks earlier. Seemed, too, there were so many more insects like currant worms that tried to demolish my currants.*

Tip - *Don't be afraid to experiment with unusual colors/ combinations; new varieties; hard-to-grow, etc.! It's what gardening's all about.*

Margaret Simon

Favorite plant: *Forsythia - cause I could see it bloom after taking out the false spirea. Was highlighted with the red tulips*

Heat: *affected my garden by cole crops not doing as well this year but apple trees produced like crazy.*

Tips: *Don't plant trees or shrubs closer than the recommended distance. They grow faster than you think!*

Mary Shier

Favorite plant - *I really enjoyed the clematis, deep purple and many blooms*

Heat - *I had an excellent tomato season, growing all outdoors in earthboxes and containers.*

Tip - *No, I GET all my ideas from other MG's!*

Sue Bailey

Thanks to Alaska Northwest Books

Free copies of **Alaska's Farms and Gardens**, a beautiful, 140 page book published by The Alaska Geographic Society in 1984, were distributed at the September AMGA meeting. If you were not at the meeting and would like a copy, please stop by the volunteer office at CES and pick one up.



Flower and Garden Photography Presentation

FREE! Friday, October 15th at 7 PM. Call to request space at: 561-7322. This program is sponsored by Evelyn's Florist on Benson Blvd. John S. Maciejny, teacher and nature photographer, will share techniques for using light, camera equipment and composition for more pleasing floral photography. A slide presentation, handouts and photographic tips will be included. Limited space.

Gardening Calendar

October 7, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club meeting, "Dried Flower Arrangements", a public education program open to all. Joan Brown will show how to make dried flower arrangements. Pioneer schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle, 7:30 pm - 9 pm. 566-0539.

October 12 - November 30, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Anchorage Master Gardener course, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Cooperative Extension Service, 2221 E. Northern Lights, #118, 40 hours of horticultural training in exchange for 40 hours of volunteer service. Registration materials will be mailed in September; call now to be placed on the interest list, 786-6300.

October 14, Thursday

"A Potpourri of Fruit for Southcentral Alaska", presentation by Julie Riley at the Wildflower garden Club meeting on , 10:00 a.m., Central Lutheran Church on 15th Ave.

October 18, Monday

Anchorage Master Gardener Association, Tropical Plants, Sue Lincoln, 7:00 pm, Cooperative Extension Service, 2221 E. Northern Lights, 786-6300.

October 20, Wednesday

A workshop on "Hazard Trees" will be presented in Girdwood, 6:30-8:30 p.m. by Dr. Bob Wheeler, CES Forestry Specialist. Fee: \$5. Call CES to register.

October 26 & 27, Tues-Wed

Noxious and Invasive Plants Management Workshop, Millennium Hotel, Anchorage; \$80 two days; \$45 one day. Preregistration required. For a brochure, contact CES at 786-6300 or ffmah@uaf.edu.

November 4, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club meeting, "Bamboo & Grasses Growing in Alaska", a public education program open to all. George Lyle will speak on tips for growing bamboo and grasses. Pioneer schoolhouse, 3rd & Eagle, 7:30 pm - 9 pm. 566-0539.

November 5 - 6, Friday-Saturday

Alaska Rock and Mineral Show, November 5th from 5 pm to 9 pm and November 6th from 10 am to 6 pm, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, 2nd floor, 401 East 6th Avenue. There will be vendors, displays, exhibits and a clown on Saturday for the kids. Its free and its fun. Sponsored by the Chugach Gem and Mineral Society and the Alaska MINers Association. For additional information contact sharon@alaskaminers.org

November 16, Tuesday

Anchorage Garden Club 44th Annual Holiday Flower Show, 7:30 pm - 9 pm, Wells Fargo Bank, C Street and Northern Lights Blvd, anyone can enter, a schedule listing the categories should be available in September. 566-0539.



Healthy Gardeners

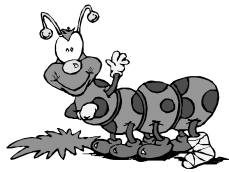
By C.J. Douglas (MG)

Tetanus is a serious bacterial infection and potentially deadly disease. Most people think of rusty nails when they hear the word "tetanus", but

in reality the tetanus bacteria (*Clostridium tetani*) is commonly found in soil - especially that amended with manure. Sound familiar?

From 1995-1997, 124 cases were reported to the CDC - 60% were ages 20-59 and 35% were 60 or older. Currently there are about 40 cases of tetanus per year in the United States. Half of the incidents that provoke tetanus occur indoors and whether it's indoors or outdoors, about half are punctures and the other half are cuts or abrasions. Tetanus can also occur from things like burns. Of the tetanus cases reported in the last two years, 31% were the result of gardening injuries, with gardeners over 50 at higher risk.

The bacterial spores can enter the body through simple wounds - small cuts, thorn pricks and scraped skin. Protecting yourself is as simple as keeping your tetanus booster shots up to date. You should receive a booster shot every ten years.



Happy and Healthy Gardening!

NEW CES LISTSERV

The Cooperative Extension Service has just established a new listserv which will be used to send out information on upcoming classes, timely tips and a notice when new issues of the CES newsletter, *Info & Ideas*, is published on the CES website.

To subscribe, go to the CES website at <http://www.uaf.edu/coop-ext/> and click on CESAnc-L. Please note that you will NOT be able to send messages to listserv members or have access to the e-mail addresses of subscribers.



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

Mail: 4006 DeArmon Road
Anchorage, AK 99516

Phone: 345-4099
Email: amga@gci.net

AMGA Web Site: www.corecom.net/~gardener
(The Newsletter will be on-line in living color!)

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:

Cooperative Extension Office
2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
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*Then summer fades and passes and October comes. We'll smell smoke then,
and feel an unexpected sharpness, a thrill of nervousness, swift elation,
a sense of sadness and departure.*

- Thomas Wolfe

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Photo of Dana Klinkhart's new Scarecrows

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