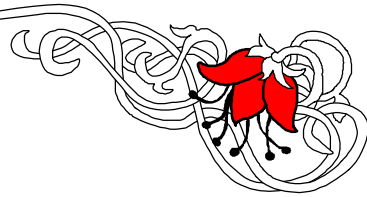


Anchorage Chapter



Volume 4, Issue 6

ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER May 2002

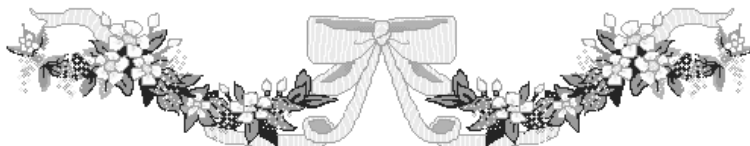
FROM THE PRESIDENT BY MARY SHIER

As I gaze out of the window trying to get my thoughts together, I see drips from the roof and the sun shining brightly as it warms the day. **Yes!** I am ready to observe the rest of the snow turning to water, revealing my gardens and yard again. Seeing the snow recede a bit each day is like watching a "spring" barometer. One day I see nubbins of spring bulbs peeking out of the soil where the snow has melted up against the greenhouse; the next day there are green leaves of strawberries in a nearby bed coming to life. I can behold this as the driveway and path finally give me access. Yet, in the back yard there is no entrance since no snow was cleared out over the winter. I can only view the progress from a house window as bed boarders, large rocks and various heat retaining objects radiate the warmth to the surrounding area of each. There, as well, are other familiar items making their appearance.

The pace of getting seeds started and nosing around the garden centers to see what tempting plants will be going home with me is rather comfortable now. I know what's ahead though: the race to get plants hardened off, beds cleaned up, worked and ready for planting, and then getting those plants in the ground in a timely fashion. The rush against the clock of gardening timeliness; of racing around, panting, thinking, 'I'll never finish in time before company arrives.' Panic sets in and we fly off into left field. Meals don't get to the table as usual. We leave the family to fend for themselves or try to enlist the help of not so willing family members. "Awe, come on guys, can't you help me out?" If they know what's good for them, they'll get with the program - right? "Well, yeah, but who's going to fix supper the way you like it, huh?"

Here's a suggestion: Tour the kids around the yard early on before the panic time sets in. Point out the tell-tail signs of the coming season. Show them the wonders of returning life. Give them an appreciation of how enjoyable the changing seasons can be. Give them their own space to grow a few plants of their own choosing. They'll be with you in the garden more than you ever thought possible. It'll be a rewarding experience for both of you.

HAPPY GARDENING 2002



!!! Newsletter articles / announcements are due by the last Saturday of the month !!!



THE APRIL MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION PROGRAM MEETING, APRIL 15, 2002

Announcements:

- Maynard Ness from The Society of American Foresters presented a proposal for a Memorial for Victims of September 11, 2001. This would be built in our city through volunteer effort. Master Gardeners are invited to participate.
- Maureen Pintar asked interested gardeners to sign up for food and a brainstorming project which will assist her with renovating her yard.
- Barb Holmes offered four gallons of high-nitrogen blood meal to interested gardeners.
- Michelle Campbell and Mary Shier distributed the membership directory to the association members.
- The Green Connection announced that a paid position was available for a master gardener at their nursery.
- Lenore Hedla is looking for a summer gardener for hire.
- The Anchorage Horticultural Coalition asks gardeners to contact their assembly representatives to express their opinion on the need to reinstate the \$265,000 taken from this year's budget.
- The Cooperative Extension Service is holding a "Hazardous Tree Workshop" on Saturday, April 20 at the CES Conference Room.
- A workshop sponsored by Cooperative Extension Service and taught by Julie Riley on HOME LANDSCAPE REVOVATION is scheduled for Monday, April 22 at the CES Conference Room.
- The 2002 City of Flowers flyers were distributed. The theme is:
Roses, Roses, Roses, Everything's Coming Up Roses.

MASTER GARDENERS TRAVEL TO ENGLAND'S GARDENS THROUGH SLIDE SHOW

A view of English Gardens was the focus of the presentation by Rita Jo Schulz of Fritz Creek Gardens at the April program meeting. Rita Jo drove from her home in Homer to share her experiences and slides titled: BEHIND THE SCENES of ENGLISH GARDENS. For two weeks in late August and early September 2001, Rita captured glorious pictures of England's gardening at its best. Sedums blooming late in the season and big, bold Gunnera, whose leaves are 4 feet or greater

across, were just a couple of plant varieties that caught our attention. Of course, those roses that are so typical of English gardens were represented, too. You could almost catch their fragrance. Sounds of admiration could be heard from the audience of gardeners during the slide show. The two feet of remaining winter snow could not dampen the gardening spirit on this night.

The evening concluded with door prizes of eight potted plants donated by Sally Arant. Lynn Wince and her husband brought Egyptian or 'walking' onions bulb-lets to share with master gardeners. Snacks and conversation followed the program. – by Dana Klinkhart



A GARDENER'S LIST OF BLOOMING TIMES SUBMITTED BY CAROL JOHNSON

The following lists were made in an attempt to get something blooming during as many months as possible. My site was in Eagle River on a south and west facing slope. I assumed that it was a zone 3, but it could have been even higher. Most of the plants were in shade part of the day, since I couldn't bring myself to cut down more trees. I don't know all the varieties, as many were planted years ago.

I hope this will help others plan for summer long bloom. I know it will help me, because we have moved and have an entirely new garden to plan.

First up in the spring:

Crocus, scillia, daffodils, tulip v. Tarda

Early June Bloom:

Lupine (Leguminosae – native)
Iceland poppy
Lilac
Iris
Cranesbill (native geranium)
Lewisia
Pansy
Bellis p.
Bleeding heart
Tulips

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



BLOOMING TIMES CONTINUED...

Late June Bloom:

Oriental poppy
Jacobs ladder (Polemonium)
Columbine (Aquilegia)
Shasta daisy
Painted daisy (Pyrethrum)
Coral bells (Heuchera)
Arctic aster (native)
Alyssum
Yellow rose (butter ball)

Early July Bloom:

Last of oriental poppies
Columbine (Aquilegia)
Pansies
Trollius (globe flower)
Delphinium
Shasta daisies
Iceland poppies
Flame lilies (unk. Variety)
Bellis p.
Petunias (v.wave - annual)
Lobelia (annual)
Begonia (tuberous – annual)
Alyssum
Pinks
Achillea the Pearl
Achillea v. Summer pastels
Jacobs ladder (polemonium)
Heuchera
Peonies
Chives

Late July Blooms:

Columbine
Pansies
Trollius
Delphinium
Shasta daisies
Iceland poppies
Lilies (all varieties)
Bellis p.
Petunias (annual)
Begonia (annual)
Lobelia (annual)
Pinks
Achillea (both varieties)
Heuchera
Allium
Meadow sweet
Annual poppies
Calendula (annual)

Peonies
Salvia v. Claryssa (annual)
Yellow succulent (golden acres?)
Campanula v. cashmeriana
Maltese cross
Chives

Mid August

Columbine
Pansies
Delphinium
Iceland poppies
Lilies
Bellis p.
Petunias (annual)
Lobelia (annual)
Begonia (annual)
Alyssum
Pinks
Achillea
Heuchera
Annual poppies
Calendula (annual)
Hardy glads
Salvia
Yellow succulent
Campanula
Aster (annual)
Pink rose
Thyme
California poppies
Flowering cabbage (annual)
Flowering kale (annual)
Ageratum (annual)
Lavatera v. silver cup

September Blooms:

Yellow columbine
Pansies
Iceland poppies
Bellis p.
Petunias (annual)
Lobelia (annual)
Begonia (annual)
Alyssum
Calendula (annual)
Hardy glads
Salvia
Campanula
Aster v. red mound (annual)
Pink rose
Flowering cabbage (annual)
Flowering kale (annual)
Ageratum (annual)



SEARCHING FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

In my never ending quest for articles for the newsletter, I had a wonderful suggestion from Rosemary Kimball, Soldotna MG. She suggested a "Been There Done That" column, where folks write a report or article on gardens they've visited. So, here's my contribution:

"BEEN THERE, DONE THAT" GARDEN –

NEW ZEALAND IN THE FALL

BY GINA DOCHERTY

Last February my husband & I traveled to New Zealand. Lucky for us, we were in Christchurch during their "Flower Festival". We happened upon the Children's Festival in the town square – kids from the primary schools were dressed up as flowers and paraded in front of a large crowd gathered on the grass beside the River Avon. Parents and teachers wore hats with foliage and flowers, herding their children around in an orderly fashion. Baby carriages were pushed forward with pride, all decked out in flowers and ornaments. Was there a baby in that pram? Who noticed!?

New Zealanders don't seem to have that same "zest" for gardening that we Alaskans have. They don't have to – they can garden all year long. Their winter is nothing like our winters. And their native plants are spectacular.

Native New Zealand plants generally have a Maori (the indigenous people) name as well as a botanical and a sometimes a common name. Most of their plants are zones 7-10, and don't do well here in AK. Like the blooming trees: the pohutukawa tree (po hu tu ka wa) is in the genus *Metrosideros*, commonly called the Christmas tree because of the time of its bloom. It has beautiful crimson flowers, spreading trunks, and attractive leaves - often seen on the North Island, overhanging a beach on a warm summer day. (sigh)

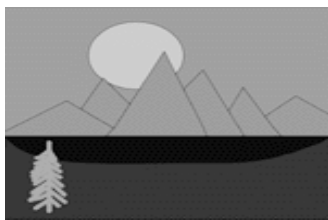
The Renga Renga Lily, *Arthropodium cirrhatum*, isn't a lily at all, but actually in the Cabbage Tree family, *Asphodelaceae*. It has broad green leaves and inflorescences of showy flowers: bright white petals, sepals that contrast with strange furry anther tails, purple at the top, white in the middle, and curled and yellow below. This plant was the only NZ native seed that germinated & grew for me, so I have one wintering over as container plant, or a pot plant, as they call them, to see if I can get it to bloom this year. (I'm sure the ones out in my garden are toast, but I had to try it anyway.)

Another plant that caught my fancy this trip was the tussock, *Chionochloa*, a native snow grass that grows in areas where it is too dry or cold for forests, like on the South Island around Central Otago. They can grow to be 3 feet or more high and wide, and probably live for a century or more. We passed miles and miles of these lovely, straw-colored bumps on the rolling landscape, aptly called tussock herbfields, or grasslands. These plants are actually protected in a tussock reserve.

I think I prefer to visit New Zealand in their late summer (February), as opposed to their spring (November). For then I don't have the long Alaskan winter to endure, waiting for the snow to melt before I can enjoy MY spring flowers and my special 3 months of gardening. But anytime is really good for a visit and a look around.

Have you visited a garden that you'd like to tell someone about?
Please send in your "Been There, Done That" garden article to:
gardener@corecom.net





CENTRAL PENINSULA MASTER GARDENER NEWS

BY ROSEMARY KIMBALL

It just seems like winter has lingered too long by mid-April. The snow is gone from the MG project, Pioneer Park, but it is the original definition of the word UGLY. There is road sand and gravel over the first six feet of the verge and we aren't even talking about the rocks that are there. They were manufactured from whole cloth as there is not a possible immediate source for them. The tree wrappings need to come off before the leaf buds start to swell too big but our Park Ramrod is cuddling grandkids. Kids are our future MGs...go to it, Barb.

One nifty thing about breakup is that the sides of the lanes and long driveways begin to flow and you can take a hoe or the foot of your boot and make ditches and dams and chase the water around. If the day is sunny when you do that, so much the better. The sunny, warm days and the 10°F nights that we've had in early April in Sterling means that we get a superb ice dam on the north side of our roof where none existed three weeks ago! My husband got elevated with a hammer and cold chisel and chipped some away and I scavenged the porch for ice chunks to use in the ice cream freezer.

More immediate, Rita Jo from Fritz Creek Nursery, (www.alaskahardy.com) spoke about her trip to English nurseries at a MG-sponsored talk. There were 67 people there which is some sort of a record for this area! She had with her a Siberian Iris, Baby Sister, that was only 14 inches tall. It has since moved in next door. The flowers were blue and whatever and it was drool material. Our first Park Ramrod says that I really ought to get her Baby Sister for her yard, considering that she took an Iris s. south to Yamhill, OR, with her and had to move it because it grew six feet tall. But remind me to remind Rita Jo that if she ever needs a porter, roommate, factotum, my passport is current...

And remember our park ramrod that said she wasn't going to start another seed for Pioneer Park? Soft touch that she is, she has her garage full of little green things under strange lights because she has so much invested in the beauty of the park.... Way to go, Barb.

SAVE THOSE SEEDLINGS!

BY JUDY WILMARTH

If you have lilacs in your yard, and you find small seedlings under them, don't toss them away.

In 1996, I potted up about 50-60 seedlings, placed them in an unused area behind a storage shed and literally forgot them until the summer of 2000. Several were planted in the peony field, two of which bloomed in 2001.

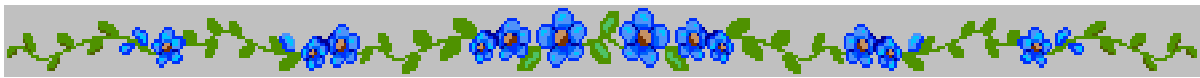
In 2001, I planted one that was about two ft. tall in a ceramic pot and it spent the summer near our back door. Last fall, about mid-November, I finally moved this pot to an unheated, glassed-in addition of the house, facing east, with the intention of transplanting it to a larger pot.

We all know how intentions go that time of year, what with the holidays, etc. The poor thing had no attention all winter. It went through many freeze & thaw cycles, and didn't get a drink until late March, 2002, and only then because I went to this area to install a maximum-minimum thermometer. The plant had begun to leaf out and now there are 10+/- blooms that are very fragrant.

FOR SALE: GARDEN / HOME

I would like to connect with other local gardeners looking to purchase a garden/home. I am selling my home in South Anchorage and want to pass it on to an avid gardener. I have had some offers on the home, but not from a gardener and that is my first choice. I have spent 10 years building and playing in my garden and I want to sell it to someone who has the time to work it to keep it thriving. We have a fenced 10,000 sq ft yard with mature ornamental trees, apple trees, lilacs, kiwi vines, clematis, rock gardens, raised veg, fruit and perennial garden boxes, and oh yes, a lawn. The moose have never gotten into our back yard to eat any plants!!! We have a beautiful Choke Cherry tree in the front that the moose also have avoided. I don't regret selling my home, but I do regret leaving my little garden space. I have lots of photos to share with anyone interested.

Sincerely,
Ann Rushing
345-5954
2530 Brandy Circle
karlann@alaska.net



Bird Chatter

Martie Black's husband, Les, made some nice cedar boxes that look like hand carts. The soil box is about 10" x 6" x 6" deep. The cost is \$15. Contact Martie Black: 248-0432

Correction to the Directory:
Anne Roberts address should be:
2821 Totem Drive

GARDEN EXPERTS NEEDED AT GREEN CONNECTION

I am hoping to find several people who would be interested in operating the information kiosk at our Green Connection Greenhouse. The kiosk will be set up to answer our customers gardening questions, hand out information sheets, etc. This would be a paid position, and could certainly be a part-time position. We can be very flexible, but would really appreciate weekend help; primarily in May and June.

This will not be a greenhouse laborer or sales cashier position. If there any questions, I can be reached at 276-7638, or contact Kim Davis at the same number. Thanks, Gary Schaefer

GARDEN JOURNAL UPDATE

We are working on an update for the Garden Journal for the 2003 season. After using the Journal over the past one or two years, you're bound to have noticed renovations you'd like to see implemented. Anything you've come across as an improvement to the Journal we would like to know about. Sometimes ideas come to light only after having experience with an item. Send in your suggestions for improvements or corrections/changes to:

AMGA
P.O. Box 221403
Anchorage, AK 99522



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Aster, Delphinium, Euphorba, Geranium, Geum, Iris, Ligularia, Lavatera, Lily, Lupine, Lychnis, Paeonia, Pansy, Phlox, Primula, Pulsatilla, Veronica

Circle each individual letter of the word - then spell out the remaining letters to see what the leftovers spell!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BY SUE LINCOLN



Many, many thanks to all Master Gardeners who have volunteered their time and expertise so far this year. I am continuing to receive requests for Master Gardeners.

Below is an update on what is upcoming this summer.

May 25

Garden Clinic at the Garden Expo for the Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation
from 11a - 4:30p

June - August

2nd Saturday in the Alaska Botanical Garden 10a - 4p
One all day shift or two shifts 10 - 1p and 1p - 4p with two master gardeners at all times. Every second Saturday of the months of June, July and August.

June 29 and 30

Alaska Botanical Garden Garden Fair
Two 4 hour shifts per day (times to be announced)

Hort Phones - Two shifts 9a - 12N and 1p - 3p
I still have several shifts available. You can volunteer for any shift any day. The days do not have to be consecutive. They can be one shift a week, one shift a month, one shift for the summer. They can be both shifts per day or any mathematical combination that exists! The goal is to have a Master Gardener on staff each day from 9a-noon and 1p-3p. This is an EXCELLANT opportunity to really learn ALOT! (as well as get your hours in).

- Start thinking about Community School Classes for the Fall!
- Remember the Master Gardener State Conference May 10-11 2002 - Hawthorne Suites

Wishing you warm soil,
Sue

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

Mail: 4006 DeArmour Road
Anchorage, AK 99516

Phone: 345-4099

Email: gardener@corecom.net

AMGA Web Site: www.corecom.net/~gardener

Gardening Calendar

May 2

Anchorage Garden Club: "Container Gardening" by Irma Schreiner, Pioneer Schoolhouse located at 3rd and Eagle at 7:30 pm - Public welcome.

MAY 2 - 4 (Juneau)

Southeast Alaska Gardeners Conference (contact CES)

May 7

Community School Class: Vegetable Gardening 16 Easy Steps - Tami Schlies, 7-8:30p Creekside Park Elementary

May 9

*"Growing Tree Seedlings" workshop sponsored by Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District (contact CES for details)

*Wildflower Garden Club: "Local Butterfly Habitat and How to Attract Them", by Carol Lloyed of the Eagle River Nature Center; 10 a.m. at the Central Lutheran Church, at 15th & Cordova.

May 10 - 11

Alaska Master Gardener Conference, "Can You Dig It!" Contact Blythe Campbell, 345-1066, or Dana Klinkhart, 346-1631

May 11

Community School Class: Container Gardening - Sandy St. George, 10a - 12N Chester Valley Elementary

May 15

Community School Class: Garden Pond Construction - Dana Klinkhart, 7-8p Sand Lake

May 16

Community School Class: Container Gardening - Ali Fitzgerald, 7-9p Wendler

May 18

*Anchorage Garden Club: Lobelia Basket Workshop at TBA 10am-12pm \$45.00, Pioneer Schoolhouse located at 3rd and Eagle at 7:30 pm - Public welcome.

*Alaska Rock Garden Society: Annual Plant Sale - 7435 Old Harbor Avenue.

*Mat Su MG Plant Sale: Contact Dorte Mobley, 376-4002

May 20

*Trevor Parker from the municipal greenhouse just called. He will be doing the hands on Pruning on May 20th at 7pm at 2770 Scarborough. Everyone bring your pruning shears and pruning saws. This is the home of Beverly Hendricks of the Violet Society. He will talk about pruners and techniques first. Then will look at everyone's pruners and offer advise. We will be working on the trees in the front yard. Directions to Beverly's--east(toward the mountains) on Northern Lights boulevard, north (left) on Patterson, left on Scarborough, fourth or fifth house. Color is Brown. We begin at 7pm.

*Spring Wildflower Walk - Verna Pratt, 7-9:30p Meet at Potter Station House Must pre-register by May 13

*Alaska Arbor Day at school TBA

*Clare House Garden Party: BP Exploration Atrium, 5-9 p.m. - contact Karla Kolash, 248-3979

May 25

*Alaska Rock Garden Society PLANT SALE: Recluse Gardens in Wasilla

*Valley Garden Club PLANT SALE: Across from SBS in Wasilla.

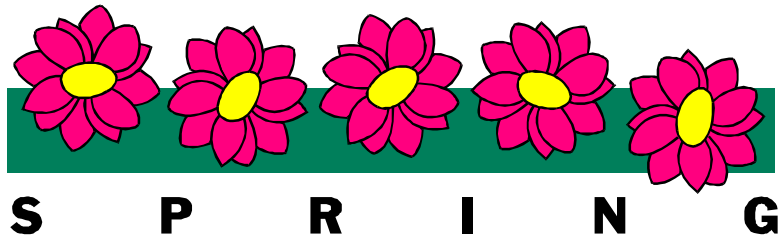
June 1

*Anchorage Garden Club: PLANT SALE- 5 p.m. at 3734 W 35 Ave.

*Wildflower Garden Club: PLANT SALE: 7435 Old Harbor Ave.

June 11-14

Alaska Rock Garden Society hosts "North American Rock Garden Meeting", Sheraton Hotel - contact Florene Carney: 376-5390 or Annie Nevaldine: 333-2100



Inside this issue....

A Gardener's List of Blooming Times
Been There, Done That Garden
Central Peninsula Gardening News
Garden Journal Update
Save Those Seedlings
Volunteer Opportunities

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:

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

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