

## **Volunteer Opportunities for Master Gardeners**

The major part of being a Master Gardener volunteer is to serve as an educational resource to the community and also as a liaison between the University of Alaska and Cooperative Extension Service and the community. There are many ways volunteers can serve. Contact for projects are included.

### **Community-wide Projects**

#### **Denali Center Greenthumb program**

The residents at Denali Center are resuming their weekly Green Thumb gardening group. Residents enjoy planting seeds, transplanting houseplants, arranging flowers and easy gardening projects. We also have indoor planters in which we will be starting bulbs. We are looking for two or three Master Gardeners interested in helping us. Volunteers should be able to commit to two hours per week. We will have our first meeting this Thursday, March 4, at 3 p.m. and will be discussing what we want to grow this summer.

Denali Center is a residential nursing home facility in Fairbanks. The majority of the population is elderly. Master Gardener volunteers helped to design and implement a gardening program for residents. The goal of the program is to work with residents and involve them in planting and caring for plants throughout the growing season. Contact Carol Switzer at (link to [Carol.Switzer@bannerhealth.com](mailto:Carol.Switzer@bannerhealth.com)) 458-5107

#### **Animal Shelter, Fairbanks North Star Borough**

Volunteers are needed to help with the FNSB Animal Shelter landscaping project. IN the middle of May, volunteers meet to plan and design. In late May volunteers are needed to plant baskets, boxes and trees. There is also help needed for summer watering. For information contact Suzanne Summerville at [sing@mosquionet.com](mailto:sing@mosquionet.com)

#### **Golden Heart Plaza and the riverwalk gardens**

Festival Fairbanks, a nonprofit community service organization, has been the “caretaker” of Golden Heart Plaza. Master Gardeners donate one day to pruning and shaping trees and perennial shrubs in the park. Contact Michelle Calvillo at [festfbks@ptialaska.net](mailto:festfbks@ptialaska.net).

#### **Help Teach Kids Gardening**

The Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley have school gardening programs to provide funds to teachers in schools all over Fairbanks. Contact Virginia Damron (link to Virginia at [vld@acsalaska.net](mailto:vld@acsalaska.net)) to find a school that could use you.

#### **Hospice of the Tanana Valley**

Master Gardeners donated plants for the annual plant sale and helped with publicity. Proceeds from the sale help pay for programs for families with terminally ill members. Contact Nina Megyesi at [ninal@mosquionet.com](mailto:ninal@mosquionet.com).

#### **Walt Babula Children’s Garden at the GBG**

Establishing the children’s garden will require the talent and energy of many skilled and semi-skilled volunteers. You can help plant, seed and as general labors at the garden. Call George Wilson at 479-0738 or Jan Hanscom at 474-6921.

### **Tanana Valley State Fair**

Master Gardeners have had extensive volunteer activities at the fairgrounds including serving as judging superintendents in berries, fruits, vegetables, flowers and grains; display consultants; and grounds beautification. They have also spent hundreds of hours at public information booths. Since 1991 gardeners have designed and planted a display vegetable garden, "A Typical Fairbanks Garden," which is part of an educational display and used for tours at the fair in August. Contact Michele Hébert at [ffmah@uaf.edu](mailto:ffmah@uaf.edu).

### **Weeks Field Community Park**

Master Gardeners have been instrumental in developing and caring for a botanical park adjacent to the borough library. To volunteer, contact Joan Robson at [joanrobson@gci.net](mailto:joanrobson@gci.net).

### **Annual Master Gardener Tour and Barbecue**

More than 50 individuals attend the midsummer MG educational garden tour. This tour provides the community with a look at the premier gardens of Fairbanks and to see methods that do work. Contact Virginia Damron, president of the Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley, at 451-8478 or [vld@acsalaska.net](mailto:vld@acsalaska.net).

### **Kids' after school gardening program**

Anyone interested in working with children in a gardening class should call Becky Hammer at 907-488-1809 or email [wynkenblinken@yahoo.com](mailto:wynkenblinken@yahoo.com). Kids meet after school Wednesday in May and April from 3:15-4:30 at Joy Elementary School. About four fun activities are planned per session.

### **Dragon fly netters**

In an effort to increase our understanding of dragon fly biodiversity and distribution in Alaska, John Hudson would like to assemble a small army of volunteers to collect dragon flies across the state. If you would like to help with the survey please contact John at 907-790-2227

### **Georgeson Botanical Garden**

Activities include planting seeds, transplanting, maintaining the garden, harvesting vegetables, building a rock wall, working in the gift shop and fund raising. Check out the list of jobs (make list of job hot and attach to <http://www.uaf.edu/salrm/gbg/volunteer/volunteerjobs.html>) or contact the volunteer coordinator (make coordinator hot and link to <http://www.uaf.edu/salrm/gbg/volunteer/volunteer.html> or call 474-6921.

### **Musk Ox Farm**

Over the years, Master Gardeners have worked with Judy Carpenter at the Musk Ox Farm on a beautification program to design and plant perennial flower- viewing beds. The rewards of working at this site were the scenic setting and the mystique of the musk ox. For information contact Coral Howe at 474-5724.

### **Flower Bed Planting at UAF**

Master Gardeners instructed and assisted other community members in planting flowers. Planting is the last week in May. Contact Michele Hébert for information at [ffmah@uaf.edu](mailto:ffmah@uaf.edu) or 474-2423.

**Other Activity Ideas**

Assist with plantings at Fairbanks Pioneer Home

Write articles for the Master Gardener Update newsletter

Homeowner site visits

Planted flowers at the MUS downtown bus stop

Judged gardens in the 4-H garden tour

Start a 4-H gardening club

Helped plan garden activities at a local elementary school

And these are just the ones we are aware of!