Beginning Master Gardener Program

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener Program gives gardeners an opportunity to improve their horticultural knowledge and skills and serve their communities. “Helping people grow” is the motto of the program, and it is designed to meet the gardening information needs of the community. Aspiring Master Gardeners receive basic horticultural training on a variety of topics, and give back to their community through various kinds of service. *They also have a lot of fun!*

**2013 PROGRAM DETAILS**

- Classes will be held January 15 – May 7, Tue. Evenings 6-9 PM, *unless specified.*
- A fieldtrip to explore local horticultural resources will be scheduled at end of class.

**Course Instructor(s):**
Course sections will be taught by invited University faculty and community horticulture professionals.

**WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US**
- High quality, university level instruction in home horticulture topics appropriate for Alaska.
- A professional, inclusive, and welcoming environment for *all learners.*
- Respect for your valuable time. We will do our best to start and end class on time.
- Timely communication via email or telephone if there are any changes to the schedule.
- One-on-one mentoring/tutoring throughout the certification process.
- Flexibility! We understand that adult learners lead busy lives.

**WHAT WE’LL EXPECT FROM YOU**
- Learners who take responsibility for their own success in the program and complete the minimum requirements.
- Communication from you if you have special needs.
- Class members who abide by the University of Alaska policies of diversity and non-discrimination.
- Class members who maintain a positive learning environment for everyone.
- Learners who respect *our* valuable time. Please let us know if you’ll be coming late or leaving early.
- **CLASS MEMBERS WHO KEEP THEIR CELL PHONES QUIET DURING CLASS.**
- Class members who pitch in and help with set up, take down, refreshments and other classroom tasks.
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Attendance:
Attendance is expected for all classes and scheduled field trips unless otherwise arranged. Participants are responsible for arranging for missed notes or handouts if absent.

Reading Assignments:
Completion of weekly reading assignments before attending class is expected of all students. Reading assignments may also include publications from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service, Publications Catalog, http://www.uaf.edu/ces/pubs/catalog/

Field Trip(s):
We believe there is great value in direct, hands-on experience. We will schedule at least one field trip at the end of this course. We will give you plenty of time to prepare for the field trips.

Volunteer Service/Hands-on Learning: Each participant will be expected to complete 40 hours of volunteer service learning through University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service and on approved community projects by October 30, 2013. The majority of your time will be spent on designated activities, but you will have some choice in how you earn your hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service-learning opportunity</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Minimum hours required</th>
<th>Description of opportunity</th>
<th>Example Total Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help with MG Information booth at local community events</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Two 3-hour shift required (at least 3 hours)</td>
<td>Meeting the public, sharing information about the Master Gardener Program, answering questions with advisors and other Master Gardeners.</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extension Booth at local Farmers’ Market</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>One 3-hour shift required (at least 3 hours)</td>
<td>Help Extension staff set up, staff, and take down a Extension booth at the local Farmer’s Market! You’ll get to shop the market and meet our local growers and gardeners, too!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extension Booth at Ninilchik State Fair</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>Two 3-hour shift required (at least 6 hours)</td>
<td>Help Extension staff set-up, staff, and take-down Extension booth at State Fair. Talk to the public, and promote our program!</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Various</td>
<td>April – October</td>
<td>Up to 25 hours (optional)</td>
<td>Your choice! Volunteering with a school or community garden, teaching, assisting with Extension horticulture programs and youth activities, helping out in demonstration garden. Just ask!</td>
<td>25</td>
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Certification requirements met! 40