

# Alaska Botanical Garden 2008 Annual Report



Alaska  
Botanical  
Garden

[www.alaskabg.org](http://www.alaskabg.org)

# Our Mission & Vision

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## *Vision*

To be a world class northern garden emphasizing wildflowers, woody and herbaceous perennials, annuals, agriculture, and riverine plants including native plants and non-native species that thrive in a sub-arctic or north temperate climate.

## *Mission*

The Alaska Botanical Garden is a public garden dedicated to enhancing the beauty and value of plant material through education, preservation, recreation, and research.

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*An image of the Alaska Botanical Garden Master Plan, prepared in March, 2002 by Carol R. Johnson & Associates, Inc. and Earthscape*



# Message from the President

In her 1987 book, *The Alaskan Gardener's Handbook*, Lenore Hedla wrote, "This book is written for Alaskan Gardeners, for both the Cheechako... and the seasoned gardener who looks for new plants to grow and better ways to grow them in the high north." I feel the same way about the Alaska Botanical Garden; this garden is for both Cheechkos and seasoned gardeners. It is a garden that makes progress in its growth and development to meet the needs and demands of Anchorage's gardening community. It is a garden that continues to expand its services for the potential gardener, the new gardener, as well as the seasoned gardener.

With the support of members, volunteers, and a very dedicated staff, 2008 brought both new and expanded services to the garden. My favorite is the new East Garden with the planting of our very first trees. Many of us have been waiting a very long time for this big step, a step that brings us a little closer to our vision as a world class garden. For the Cheechako, the new East Garden has already hosted an event which included planting a young tree - witnessed by over 30 potential gardeners, age 6 months to over 12 years old.

The tree planting ceremony included dancing, singing, holding hands and placing a handful of topsoil in the planting pit. These children are our future stewards, they will take care and be keepers of the land, they will learn and become aware, and ultimately they will assure that there is a good future for their children. They will begin to understand the earth, its plants, and the importance of watching things grow and becoming a part of a bigger system.

Most of the trees in the East Garden are fruit trees; many recommended by the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association, with input from a plant selection task force.

For me, planting trees at ABG is a big event. While this first planting is not the arboretum I envision, it is something big. I imagine a day when I will visit ABG and be able to compare an *Acer pseudoplatanus* with a *Platanus acerfolia* (ok, global warming may not allow that in my lifetime). I will read interpretive signs about the culture and needs of birch trees from their ethnobotanical uses, to how to deter birch leaf miners.

By the time all is said and done the East Garden will



*An edible pear such as this one growing in a local garden, may someday make an appearance in the East Garden where space still exists for several more trees. Fundraising continues to be important to complete the new East Garden.*

cost about \$350,000. That's a lot; raising the money has taken the efforts of many – as we sought grants, significant in-kind contributions, and cash donations (as completion nears, we will announce an event to thank the people who made the garden possible). However, when you compare this cost to the \$12.8 million spent on Portland's Chinese Garden, or the \$76.5 million being raised for expansion at the Denver Botanic Garden, it doesn't seem like much.

I look forward as we continue to link people with plants, leading Cheechakos down the path of the seasoned gardener.

*M. Elise Huggins*

M. Elise Huggins, ASLA  
President, Board of Directors

# 2008 Highlights: Master Plan Developments

## New "East" Garden

In 2008, construction was completed on a new "East Garden", where ABG's first tree planting took place (apples and crabapples). The garden was designed by renowned Landscape Architect Carol R. Johnson of Boston. Local plant experts, landscape architects, and a local design-build contractor developed the plans to address Southcentral Alaskan climate and site characteristics. Planting of this new garden continues, and is scheduled for completion in 2010.



*"Nature - the sublime, the harsh, and the beautiful - offers something that the street or gated community or computer game cannot. Nature presents the young with something so much greater than they are; it offers an environment where they can easily contemplate infinity and eternity."*

*Richard Louv, Author*

*"Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder"*

## 2008 Highlights: Community Partnerships

### Community Support, Service, and Outreach

The Alaska Botanical Garden has been working hard to develop and strengthen partnerships with other community wellness, social service, gardening, educational, and environmental organizations to serve a broad array of community needs and promote our shared values of education and stewardship.

In 2008, ABG proudly hosted and / or collaborated with the following agencies and businesses to provide educational and work-service opportunities, outreach, and community service:

Alaska Children's Services, Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, ALPAR, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Alaska Division of Forestry, Alaska Master Gardeners Association - Anchorage, Kenai, & Mat-Su Chapters, Alaska Native Plant Society, Alaska Orchid Society, Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers, Alaska Peony Growers' Association, Alaska Primrose Society, Alaska Rock Garden Society, Alaska Rose Society, Anchorage Bear Committee, Anchorage Garden Club, Anchorage School District, Anchorage Waterways Council, Benny Benson School, BP Exploration, Camp Fire USA - Alaska, CANWIN, Commonwealth North, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, Get Outdoors Anchorage Coalition, Herb Study Group, Municipality of Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department, Ninestar Education & Employment Services, the McLaughlin Youth Center, Northstar Behavioral Health, U.S. Forest Service, United Way, University of Alaska Sustainability Council, Valley Garden Club, the Wildflower Garden Club

# 2008 Highlights: Education & Events



## Spring Garden Conference

The theme for the ABG 2008 Spring Garden Conference was “Sustainability”. This popular all-day series of lectures and workshops at the UAA-APU Consortium Library attracted a large and diverse audience of over 200 people. Guest presenters included experts from the Alaskan gardening community, as well as a nationally-renowned keynote speaker Lee Reich. Reich presented on “My Weedless Garden” and “Luscious Landscaping with Fruiting Trees, Shrubs, & Vines”.



## Junior Master Gardener Day Camp

Once again in 2008, ABG proudly hosted a children’s summer day camp, designed to ignite the flame of interest in nature, and modeled after the Cooperative Extension Service’s Junior Master Gardener Program. Led by Patrick Ryan, (a certified JMG Instructor, 1st grade teacher, and a 1999 BP Teacher of Excellence), these outdoor experientially-oriented classes taught young children about botany, soil science, ecology, nutrition, and gardening.

Thanks to support from Anchorage Sand & Gravel, the MDU Resources Foundation, and individuals, ABG was able to provide JMG scholarships to children from the Northstar Behavioral Treatment Center.



## Schools-in-the-Garden, Storytime, & Discovery Duffels

Despite some cancellations for construction, weather, and bear activity, ABG’s children’s education programs grew in popularity during 2008, leading to expanded offerings in 2009. Each of these programs “get kids into the woods” to explore the natural world and spark an interest in the environment.

ABG’s “Schools in the Garden” field trips teach elementary school children about plants, soil, and nature. The curriculum was formulated by an avid gardener who taught for years in the Anchorage School District. “Storytime-in-the-Garden” and “Discovery Duffels”, also remain popular programs for families with young children.

# 2008 Highlights: Education & Events - continued

## Workshops & Lectures



Like the children's programs, ABG's lectures and workshops for adults gained popularity throughout 2008. In February, Dana Klinkhart offered a workshop about using PowerPoint to develop presentations with garden photographs. In April, Patricia Joyner (Program Coordinator for the Alaska Division of Forestry Community Forestry Program) led a popular tree-identification snowshoe tour of the Garden.

ABG Staff and volunteers taught workshops about making concrete leaf impressions, wattle fencing, and Hypertufa troughs. In July, ABG hosted noted Horticulturist Dr. Alan Armitage for a lecture and "walkabouts", and Botanist / Illustrator Dr. Linda Ann Vorobik led a Botanical Illustration Workshop. Once again "mushroom walks" with local fungi expert, Diane Pleninger, were a hit in August and September as the autumn fungi bloomed. The popularity of all of these diverse programs prompted ABG to expand such offerings in 2009.



## Midsummer Gala & Garden Fair

ABG's primary fundraising event, The Midsummer Gala, continued to gain popularity in 2008, as the "buzz" spread about this refined event as a great place to preview (and purchase) the beautiful garden art and sculptures installed in the Garden for Garden Fair.

Despite the rainy weather, nearly 3,000 people turned out for the 11th Annual Garden Fair, "Bulbs to Favor & Savor", to enjoy the food, crafts, art, demonstrations, and an inspiring talk by Brent Heath of Brent & Becky's Bulbs.



# 2008 Highlights: Exhibits & Research

## Research

In the past two years, ABG has collaborated with a variety of agencies and experts on horticultural, botanical, and related research projects.

The Botanical Inventory of the flora of the Bering Glacier Region, conducted with a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, was completed this season. Final reports were shared by the Botanists in early 2009, beginning with a presentation by Dr. Marilyn Barker at the Spring Garden Conference.

The study of biological controls for the Amber Marked Birch Leaf Miner, conducted by the U.S. Forest Service in conjunction with the Alaska Cooperative Extension Service (with ABG as a test site), produced fascinating results which point to the efficacy of parasitic fungi as an alternative to toxic chemical controls of this exotic invasive pest (this study is still in progress, with preliminary results published in the March 2009 issue of ABG's newsletter, *Gardens North*)



## Preservation / Conservation

In 2008, ABG maintained membership participation in the American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. These leading public garden networks promote the "Global Strategy for Plant Conservation" and encourage and assist Botanic Gardens worldwide to conduct research and educate the public about biodiversity preservation and sustainability. ABG continues to incorporate this guidance as we develop educational offerings for Plant Conservation Day, naturalist tours, Spring Conference, and Garden Fair.

## Exhibit: An Alaskan Kitchen Garden

In 2008, ABG began hosting (with volunteer support from the Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage Chapter), an edible landscape exhibit in the front entrance beds to educate and inspire gardeners to grow a "biodiverse" array of vegetables, herbs, and fruit. This exhibit seeks to convey a "sense of place" and information about Alaskan agricultural plants, as well as to promote the Garden Writers Association's "Plant-a-Row-for-the-Hungry" program.

In 2008, ABG and the AMGA harvested over 72 pounds of produce from this exhibit, which was donated to the Food Bank of Alaska.



# 2008 Volunteers

Alaska Bonsai Society  
 Alaska Children's Services  
 Alaska Rock Garden Society  
 Alaska Master Gardeners  
 Association (AMGA) -  
 Anchorage Chapter  
 AMGA - Kenai Chapter  
 AMGA - Mat-Su Chapter  
 Alaska Native Plant Society  
 Alaska Orchid Society  
 Alaska Peony Society  
 Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers  
 Michael Ableman  
 Alex Albright  
 Kalli Albright  
 Kelsey Albright  
 Kris Albright  
 Joann Ames  
 Jason Anders  
 Carol Anderson  
 Leisha Anderson  
 Patricia Anderson  
 Sara Anglen  
 Sonja Arduser  
 Jane Asay  
 Barbara Atcheson  
 Dr. Marilyn Barker  
 Jeff Barnes  
 Jim Barnett  
 Hope Basinger  
 Jim Basinger  
 Peter Basinger  
 Dr. Alan Batten  
 Sarah & River Bean

Elizabeth Bella  
 Susan Bergquist  
 Janice Berry  
 Alice Bethka  
 Todd Biggins  
 Christine Bingham  
 Dawn Bishop-Kleweno  
 Dave Black  
 Martie Black  
 Jackie Bowling  
 Jack Bowling  
 Les Brake  
 Michele Brewer Walker  
 Janet Brower  
 Susan Brusehaber  
 Don Brusehaber  
 Travis Buckmeier  
 Kim Burgess  
 Sarah Burkeholder  
 Marsha Burns  
 Mary Jo Burns  
 Rebecca Burns  
 Tonia Burrows  
 Ann Butcher  
 Joan Marie Callens  
 Alice Campbell  
 Rodney Campbell  
 Maren Carey  
 Susan Carey  
 Arva Carlson  
 Holli Carlson  
 Carol Chamberlain  
 Cheryl Chapman  
 Gail Charles

Kaila Donnelly  
 Ruth Doubek  
 CJ Douglas  
 Kathleen Douglas  
 Liz Dowler  
 Carmen Dunham  
 Marie Dryden  
 Fran Durner  
 Brenna Egeland  
 Terry Eng  
 Dan Elliot  
 Marian Elliot  
 Linda Ewers  
 Linda Farr  
 Alli Faulk  
 Adele Fetter  
 Mary Fisher  
 Larry Foster  
 Robert Fowlkes  
 Ruby Fraiser  
 Kent Fransene  
 Paula Frisby  
 Joy Fuller  
 Alice Galvin  
 Larry Gaylord Jr.  
 Ayse Gilbert  
 Charles Gilbert  
 Otto Gilbert  
 Debbie Gillham  
 Kati Gilson  
 Julie Ginder  
 Bonnie Schrader Godfred  
 Linda Goentzel  
 Christie Goodwin  
 Jemma Goodwin  
 Judy Green  
 LB Gregory  
 Lynden Grothe  
 Donna Hackenberger  
 Lois Hall  
 Elaine Hammes  
 Dave Harrington  
 Sandy Harrington  
 Mary Ellen Harris  
 Elizabeth Harps  
 Leah Hataria  
 Peerooza Hataria  
 Leah Hardenburg  
 Susan Hardenburg  
 Joanne Herring  
 Dave Herrington  
 Sandy Herrington  
 Susann Hicks  
 Debbie Hinchey  
 Annie Hoefler



Tom Choate  
 Charlu Choate  
 Alan Clark  
 Mary Claussen  
 Carolyn Clift  
 Karen Coady  
 Deborah Cologgi  
 Mayanne Colson  
 ConocoPhillips, Alaska  
 Jerry Conrad  
 Pam Conrad  
 Ellen Cordes  
 Cindy Cowling  
 Gretchen Cuddy  
 Etha Cyckowski  
 Susan Dabelsteen  
 Katie Dahl  
 Angelina Dahl  
 Amy Demientieff  
 Joan Diamond  
 Stephanie Dix

# 2008 Volunteers - continued



Gail Hoefler  
 Janey Hoefler  
 Judith Hoersting  
 Trish Hollstein  
 Robin Holm  
 Beth Holt  
 Home Depot  
 Hotel Captain Cook  
 Mary Hudson  
 Elise Huggins  
 Janet Hulbert  
 Rachel Hull  
 Kailey Ibsen  
 Imaginarium  
 Kevin Irvin  
 Marnie Isaacs  
 Judy Jett  
 Paula Johnson  
 Kristin Jensen  
 Kim Johnson  
 Martha Jokela  
 Brett Jokela  
 Steve Jordan  
 Jane Jordan  
 Patricia Joyner  
 Joan Marie Kallens  
 Sally Karabenikoff  
 Kate Kaufman  
 Danielle Kemp  
 Charlie Kempton  
 Ann Kessler  
 Madeline Kessler  
 Shirley King  
 Patricia Kinnven  
 Karen Kirby

Marilyn Klawunder  
 Janet Klein  
 Dana Klinkhart  
 Dolores Kulik  
 Carol La Rose  
 Susan Lang  
 Audrey Larsen  
 Linda Lasota  
 Markus Lee  
 Elaine Leibert  
 Donna Lind  
 Susan Loos, CPA  
 Penny Loos  
 Victoria Lord  
 Margaret Love  
 Jeff Lowenfels  
 Shirley Luedke  
 Dr. John Lundquist  
 Monica Lyall  
 Jeanine Lyerly  
 Carole McDonald  
 Paul Marmora  
 Linda Maxwell  
 Mary Maurer  
 Deborah McGee  
 Mary Morehouse  
 Jessica Morehouse  
 McLaughlin Youth Center  
 Emily Meinel  
 John Metzler  
 Maggie Metzler  
 Susan Miller  
 Mary Miner  
 Laura Minski

Mel Monsen  
 Ginny Moore  
 Eric Morey  
 Jo Morman  
 Elizabeth Motley  
 Ellen Newkirk  
 Steven Nickel  
 Gin Nguyen  
 Carol Norquist  
 Janice Nyman  
 Marge Olsen  
 Brianne Olson  
 Iyllumae Olsonoski  
 Lynne Opstad  
 John Oswald  
 Madge Oswald  
 Joyce Palmer  
 Barbara Pargeter  
 Bill Pargeter  
 Mike Peters  
 Mia Petersburg  
 Diane Pleninger  
 Verna Pratt  
 Garret Prokosch  
 Gary Prokosch  
 Herb Putney  
 James Rademaker  
 Victoria Radonich &  
 Family  
 Michael Rasy  
 Cathy Robbins  
 Anna Rousey  
 Vicki Radonich  
 Dr. Anton Reznicek  
 Brigitte Ressel  
 Julie Riley  
 RIM Architects  
 Joan Rogers  
 Greg Romack  
 Corlene Rose  
 Bette Ross  
 Erna Rousy  
 Pat Ryan  
 Mary Rydesky  
 Susan Saltmarsh  
 Annelise San Martin  
 Beth Schlabaugh  
 Sharon Schlicht  
 Phyllis Schmidt  
 Jackie Schoppert  
 Paul Seibel  
 Michelle Semerad  
 Cindy Shake  
 Carol Sheridan  
 Michael Sherk  
 Mary Shier

Glenn Shier  
 Linda Slack  
 Joyce Smith  
 Julianne Smith  
 Karen Smith  
 Ann Spohnholz  
 Janice Spray  
 Graham Stahnke  
 Mark Stasik  
 Faye Stiehm  
 MaryLee Stiehr  
 Griff Steiner  
 Nancy Sullivan  
 Donna Swenson  
 Kathy Swish  
 Barbara Symmes  
 Kathy Tarr  
 Cammy Taylor  
 Scott Taylor  
 Suzanne Taylor  
 Jeff Taylor

NanThompson  
 Tina Thompson  
 Kathy Tiede  
 Heather Todd-Rice  
 Diane Toebe  
 Cynthia Tomlinson  
 TOTE  
 Carmel Tysver  
 Annmaria Umholtz  
 Ian Umholtz  
 Cheri Utsler  
 James Vail  
 Iris Vail  
 Craig Valentine  
 Sandy Villar  
 Maria Viteri  
 Rita Wade  
 Brooks Wade  
 John Walsh  
 Sue Ward  
 Eric Ward  
 Lupita Weese  
 Brad Weese  
 Allison Wieland  
 Pete Wikoff  
 Anita Williams  
 Tammie Wilson  
 Mark Wohlgemuth, CPA  
 Mari Wood  
 Kelsey Young  
 Kathy Zins  
 Troy & Lori Zaumseil  
 Wildflower Garden Club

# 2008 Gifts & Donations

## FOUNDATION & BUSINESS

### DONORS /SPONSORS

#### **Birch**

(\$10,000+)

Rasmuson Foundation  
Atwood Foundation  
BP Exploration  
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust  
U.S. Dept. of H.U.D.

#### **Rose**

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Earthscape  
Green Acres Landscaping,  
Construction, & Aquascapes

#### **Orchid**

(\$2,500 to \$4,999)

ConocoPhillips Alaska  
Faltz Landscaping & Nursery  
First National Bank of Alaska  
MDU Resources Foundation  
Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc.

#### **Lupine**

(\$1,000 to \$2,499)

BP Foundation (Corporate Match)  
Exxon Mobil Corp.  
McKinley Capital Management, Inc.  
Northrim Bank  
Northwest Landscape, Inc.  
Spennard Builders' Supply  
Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc.

#### **Violet**

(\$500 to \$999)

AHQ, Inc.  
BP Fabric of America Fund  
GCI  
Green Engineering, Inc.  
IBM Corporation  
Rulien Whitlock & Associates  
Schneider & Moad, PC  
USKH, Inc.

#### **Primrose**

(\$100 to \$499)

Ayse Gilbert Design  
ECI / Hyer, Inc.  
Far North Tree & Seed  
Peaches by the Beach

## INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

#### **Birch**

(\$ 10,000 +)

Jeff Lowenfels & Judith Hoersting  
Greg & Patsy Romack

#### **Rose**

(\$5,000 to 9,999)

#### **Orchid**

(\$2,500 to 4,999)

Anonymous  
Marsha & Jim Fergusson  
Cammy & Scott Taylor

#### **Lupine**

(\$1,000 to 2,499)

Anonymous  
Jeff Barnes & Barbara Symmes  
Les Brake & Jerry Conrad  
Susan Loos  
Marnie & Jon Isaacs  
Jo, Dale, & Brett Morman  
John & Madge Oswald  
Jay Schoonmaker & Gerry Sahagun  
Daniel Samelson  
Mary Ellen Segelhorst

#### **Violet**

(\$500 to \$999)

Anonymous  
Marsha Burns & Lynn Highland  
Larry & Wilma Carr  
Donna & Wayne Cherrier  
Karen & Steve Compton  
Ron & Mary Ann Cooper  
CJ Douglas  
Alice Galvin  
Ayse & Charles Gilbert  
LB Gregory & Griff C. Steiner  
M. Elise Huggins & Gary Prokosh  
Paul J. Marko  
Julianne McGuinness  
Ray & Barbara Miller  
Jan & Jeri van den Top  
Cindy & Dave Schraer  
Faye Stiehm  
Ruth Schmidt  
Sandy & Jim St. George  
Tay Thomas

#### **Primrose**

(\$100 to \$499)

Anonymous for JMG Scholarships  
Brandon & Sandra Allen

Mimi & Chris Beck  
Mary Weatherby-Berg  
Ray & Dyanne Brown  
Mike Zieserl & Louisa Castrodale  
Paul Chan & Beverly Luedke-Chan  
Mark & Debby Cruver  
Karla & Daniel Carpenter  
Helene Cartwright  
Nan Dietz  
Keith & Christina Dobson  
Jean Donatello  
Randy Simpson & Dana Fabe  
Jon & Lejane Ferguson  
Oliver & Helen Foreman  
Rita Goshorn  
LD & DJ Hagen  
Roger Holmes & Kay Packard  
Mike Huffman & Nancy Perry  
Charla & Steve Jones  
Diane Kaplan  
Peggy Kelly  
Linda Kumin  
Susan Lane  
Linda Lancaster  
Sandy & Marc Langland  
Cathy Lavender  
Bonnie Lembo & Family  
Caroline Lewis  
Carol Moonie & David Mannheimer  
James & Lynne Minton  
Diane & Mike Moxness  
John Murtagh  
Idonna Pieper Nelson  
Brienne Olson & Graham Stahnke  
Barbara & Bill Pargeter  
Claire & Ted Pease  
Michael Peters  
Margaret Petersen  
Barbara Jackson & Michael Philo  
Trish & Michael Redmond  
David & Bernie Ruskin  
Shirley Ryan  
Elizabeth Sabino  
Dirk Shumaker  
Nancy Stone  
Carol Sturgulewski  
Steve & Michelle Tierney  
TurnAgain Products  
Russ Webb  
Penny Wells  
Steven Williams  
Judy & Larry Wilmarth  
Mark Wohlgemuth, CPA

# 2008 Gifts & Donations - continued

## IN-KIND GIFTS:

### Business & Individual Gifts of Professional Services or Supplies

#### Birch

(\$10,000 +)

*Earthscape*

#### Rose

(\$5,000 to 9,999)

*Green Acres Landscaping,  
Construction, &  
Aquascapes*

#### Orchid

(\$2,500 to 4,999)

*Anchorage Sand & Gravel  
Central Paving Products*

#### Lupine

(\$1,000 to 2,499)

*Alaska Serigraphics  
Blooming Nursery  
Cruise West  
Evergreen Nursery & Garden Center  
Home Depot  
The Imaginarium*

*Lynden Transport*

*Barbara Miller*

*Rulien Whitlock &*

*Associates*

*Cindy Shake*

*Tudor Storage*

#### Violet

(\$500 to \$999)

*Fresh Ale Pubs, LLC.  
P & M Garden Services,  
Inc.  
Cammy & Scott Taylor*

#### Primrose

(\$100 to \$499)

*Alaska Distributors  
Blaine's Art Supply  
Carhartt Brothers Band  
Lee Valley Tools,  
Odom Corp.  
Renown Tours  
Uptown Blossoms  
Westmark Anchorage*



## TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

### In Memory of Janelle Cowan

*Sue Gilleland*

### In Memory of Joe Emmanuel

*Julie Dumoulin*

### Honoring Solange Gignac

*Annie Huggins  
Eve Huggins  
Joseph Huggins  
Pierre Huggins  
Solange Huggins  
Marie Orlin*

### In Memory of Alan F. Huggins

*Annie Huggins  
Eve Huggins  
Joseph Huggins  
Marie Orlin  
Pierre Huggins  
Solange Huggins*

### In Memory of Jesse Orlansky

*Susan Orlansky*

### In Memory of Joe Onaindia

*Anonymous*

### Honoring Cammy & Scott Taylor

*Brian Britt & Family*

### Honoring Della Redmond

*Mollie & Katie TeVrucht*

### In Memory of Leslie Viereck

*Cynthia Tomlinson*



# Treasurer's Report

2008 proved to be another successful, productive year financially as well as developmentally for Alaska Botanical Garden (ABG). Our net assets increased from \$506,829 to \$769,892. This increase was due in large part to two events. One, the very generous donation of \$100,000 from Lenore Hedla and the other was the receipt of a \$150,000 HUD grant. While the Board of Directors has not yet designated a specific use for the gift from Mrs. Hedla, they have "tucked" the money away in interest bearing accounts for safe keeping until such time a decision is made as to how best to utilize this gift. The HUD grant was used exclusively for the development of a new garden, currently unnamed but unofficially known as the East Garden.

ABG's revenue for 2008 was \$646,034, an increase of \$270,369 over 2007. \$250,000 of the increase was due to the events mentioned above, i.e., the \$100,000 Lenore Hedla gift and the \$150,000 HUD grant. The remaining increase of \$20,369 was the result of general, overall increased support of our various programs, with the Spring Conference and the Midsummer Gala taking top honors for most increased support. Additional revenue items of note include:

- While membership revenue appears to be down, (\$42,745 in 2007 vs. \$29,445 in 2008), this is a function of timing (2008 memberships received & recognized in 2007), rather than a decrease in membership. Membership statistics



maintained by ABG staff indicate membership has increased over prior years. ABG's current membership is approximately 1,000, including both individual and business members.

- In-kind contributions increased \$41,782. This increase was, in large part, due to the generosity and support of the business community in providing goods and services for the new garden.

- ABG's investments decreased \$6,358 in 2008. Interest income for the year was \$3,269. However, the investment account with the Alaska Community Foundation decreased \$9,627, representing a 27% drop in value (\$7,290 of which is unrealized losses). This is a direct reflection of today's economy. At this time, the Board has made no decision regarding the fund's future.

ABG's program services expenditures (which represent core programs in the areas of horticulture, research and education) were \$318,351, an increase of \$113,481 over the prior year.

This increase in expenditures for program services reflects ABG's dedication and commitment to fulfilling its mission.

Support Services expenditures totaled \$64,620 for 2008. These expenditures include allocations for office rent, personnel and payroll, and general office and management expenditures such as insurance, postage, accounting fees, and association dues.

What's in ABG's future? The Board, Executive Director and staff are working diligently to promote and expand the Garden's programs and services, as well as expanding and improving on site facilities. While the Board has concerns with how the current economic climate may affect ABG, we feel confident that with the continued support of ABG's members, volunteers and community at large, ABG will be able to continue to grow and achieve its goals.

Susan Loos, CPA  
2008 Treasurer,  
Board of Directors

# Financial Statements 2007 - 2008

## ALASKA BOTANICAL GARDEN 2007-2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2008	2007
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH, SAVINGS, INVESTMENTS	281,260	148,879
PLEDGES & GRANTS RECEIVABLE	2,500	13,580
PREPAID EXPENSES/DEPOSITS	6,894	3,455
INVENTORY	15,868	11,180
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>306,522</u>	<u>177,094</u>
OTHER ASSETS		
REAL ESTATE - STEWART LAND	10	10
GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS & EQUIPMENT (NET OF DEPRE OF 42,545-2008; 36,068-2007)	466,822	348,444
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	<u>466,832</u>	<u>348,454</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>773,354</u></u>	<u><u>525,548</u></u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</u></b>		
LIABILITIES		
PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS	3,462	18,719
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>3,462</u>	<u>18,719</u>
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED	150,841	34,780
FIXED ASSETS (NET)	466,822	348,444
BOARD DESIGNATED	91,673	88,685
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	60,556	34,920
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>769,892</u>	<u>506,829</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u><u>773,354</u></u>	<u><u>525,548</u></u>
<b><u>STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
REVENUES		
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	169,235	53,594
GRANT REVENUES	227,571	111,858
CORPORATE SUPPORT	36,575	29,994
INVESTMENT GAIN (LOSS)	(6,358)	4,519
GIFT SHOP / PLANT /ART SALES (NET)	31,160	29,350
RENTAL & OTHER INCOME	18,157	20,305
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	58,733	16,951
MEMBERSHIPS	29,445	42,745
ENTRANCE DONATIONS	13,605	13,267
EDUCATIONAL/HORTICULTURAL PROGRAMS	67,911	53,082
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>646,034</u>	<u>375,665</u>
EXPENDITURES		
PROGRAM SERVICES	318,351	204,870
SUPPORT /FUNDRAISING SERVICES	64,620	88,358
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>382,971</u>	<u>293,228</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<u>263,063</u>	<u>82,437</u>
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>506,829</u>	<u>424,392</u>
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<u><u>769,892</u></u>	<u><u>506,829</u></u>

# Board of Directors

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M. Elise Huggins, President

Ayse Gilbert, Vice President

Susan Loos, CPA, Treasurer

Jo Morman, Secretary

Jeff Barnes

Marsha Burns

Alice Galvin

Nancy Groszek

Jana Hayenga

Marnie Isaacs

Marge Kaiser, CPA

Jeff Lowenfels

Sue Marchant

Greg Romack

Cammy Taylor

Mark Wohlgemuth, CPA

## Staff

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Julianne McGuinness, Executive Director

Scott Brawner, Horticulturist

Carissa Eastham, Development Coordinator

Colleen Leibert, Development Coordinator

Megan Lillick, Education, Events, & Outreach  
Coordinator

Lacey Ott, Volunteer Coordinator / Retail Manager  
/ Nursery Horticulturist

Patrick Ryan, Junior Master Gardener Instructor

## Farewell & Thanks

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As 2008 drew to a close, ABG bid a heartfelt “farewell and thank you” to long time staff members Cynthia Tomlinson, Barbara Miller, and Donna Basinger. We are truly grateful for their efforts and dedication on behalf of the Alaska Botanical Garden, and wish them the best in their new endeavors!

We also thank 2008 employees Tim Alzheimer, Kimberly Blackstock, Michelle Brewer Walker, Jean Gilson, Kathy Kaulitz, Elaine Leibert, Jo Lorichon, and Megan Pfeiffer for their hard work during the busy 2008 season - we could not have done so much without them!



# Message from the Executive Director

2008 was a year of significant transition and growth for the Alaska Botanical Garden. We continued making progress on our “capacity building” efforts to develop a sustainable base of operating revenue. We also gained momentum on facilities developments and expanded program services.

While we do not yet have a mechanism for counting visitors to the Garden, it seemed that visitation and participation was notably “up” across the boards, from membership to tourism to educational program attendance. The Spring Garden Conference, lectures, and workshops in particular drew greater attendance than ever, attracting attendees from many sectors of the Anchorage and South-central Alaskan communities.

In 2008, ABG continued a major commitment to sustainable organ-

ic horticultural practices begun in 2007. We continue to strive to be good stewards of the boreal forest land with which we are entrusted, and to ensure that it remains a haven for biodiversity.

We also continued participation in ABG’s first-ever research program collaborations, begun in 2007. We will most certainly build upon these collaborations in 2009 and future seasons as we take our commitment to plant preservation and research seriously and these important aspects of our mission to heart.

In 2008, the ABG gift shop reopened with expanded hours and engaging new “botanically-inspired” merchandise. Construction of a new gift shop porch roof extended the sheltered space available for merchandising (and doubled as a fine place for volunteers to eat lunch out of the all-too-inclement weather of the summer of 2008.)

We added daily docent tours in 2008; as many of our 2008 visitors and volunteer docents requested, we are also developing plant lists and information brochures for specific gardens and trails.

Building upon this momentum and these successes, we begin 2009 with clear goals for continuing the next phases of our Master Plan developments and program and service improvements. We have expanded our staff capacity to in-

clude full-time summer hours and increased horticultural, facility, research, and conservation project responsibilities.

ABG is fortunate to be bolstered in these efforts by a strong base of support from the many dedicated members, volunteers, donors, and plant lovers throughout our expanding community, all of whom help to ensure that this cultural and community treasure continues to emerge as a world-class botanic garden.

Heading into 2009, we continue to work to broaden this relationship base – and to inspire a new generation of botanical garden volunteers to ensure that ABG’s preservation and education efforts can sustain this momentum for decades to come.

The Alaska Botanical Garden has been nurtured for nearly 25 years by dedicated members, volunteers, and donors like you. We are truly grateful for your support and commitment, and encourage you to remain involved in as many ways as you can to ensure that the Garden will continue to develop and thrive.

Thank you!



Julianne McGuinness  
Executive Director

