

## Celebrating 40 years of Master Gardener Classes in Alaska!

### President's Message

May must surely be the busiest month by far for us Alaskan gardeners. After what seems to have been a long winter we are finally able to start working in our gardens again. It's always a pleasure to observe our favorite plants coming alive and looking about for those early bloomers.

Our local nurseries will soon be bursting with plants calling out to us, looking for a nice garden to call home and many of the garden clubs will be holding their own plants sales from members' gardens. In addition, don't forget to add the Alaska Botanical Gardens spring sale on May 19th to your calendar.

As part of our public outreach program AMGA joined up with CES/4-H last Saturday for the 35th annual Kids Day event downtown at the Dena'ina Center and City Hall parking lot. I had no idea what a popular event this was with thousands of kids and parents attending. We had our usual Ask-A-Master Gardener table setup but the real action was the transplanting activity that attracted hundreds of little ones and their parents. Jane Baldwin, Don Bladow and myself are now real experts in guiding the process of transplanting tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, dahlias and impatiens into containers for the youngsters to take home. Many thanks to Anna and Patty from Suttons Brown Thumb Greenhouse for donating most of the plants for our use.

Our 2019 Statewide MG Conference committee has been meeting on a monthly basis since January. Although we are a year away from the conference itself, early decisions are being made such as the venue, theme, speakers and topics. We still need and would much appreciate volunteers willing to lead or partner with others in the various committee positions.

Some of you may remember that last year AMGA made a commitment to the Alaska Botanical Garden to help plant and maintain the Heritage Garden. We had numerous volunteers for the planting days but the actual maintenance through the summer fell onto two individuals who were a bit weary by the end of the season. Many of our members already volunteer at ABC, the Pioneer Home and in numerous other ways not to mention wanting to have time for our own gardens so perhaps this particular project was never going to attract much support.

I know that many of our members are avid supporters of ABC and after discussion with staff we might have a role to play that better fits our mission of educational outreach to the public. We would like to ask MG volunteers to staff an "Ask-A-MG" table at the entrance and possibly answering questions about their nursery plants several days a week during their peak visitor periods (mid-day Tues, Thurs, Sat). This would be of great assistance to busy staff and a meaningful way to formalize our working relationship with ABC.

From my experience working as a docent at the garden I have to say what a pleasure it was to meet and talk with visitors from around the world, the lower 48 and locals alike. Most of the questions from visitors won't be too technical so don't feel intimidated, they want to know about Alaska and our gardening experience here and talk about where they are from. We would like to start in mid-May and we will be setting up a SignUp Genius schedule once details are settled. You can volunteer for as few or as many days as works for you. Let me know if you have any questions or comments before committing or if you would like to customize your participation schedule to fit your needs.

Happy gardening to everyone—lets all hope for the perfect Alaskan summer!

*Rhododendron*  
'English Roseum'  
By Gina Docherty

### Last Spring 2018 Program, May 21

Doug Tryck, owner of Tryck Nursery on Rabbit Creek Road presents "Rhododendron Growing." Doug is an expert on many plant varieties, including trees, shrubs, and rhodies which are displayed throughout his garden. He was an instructor in the Advanced MG class on Propagation. Doug helped students grow rhododendron successfully from seed.



### Inside This Issue....

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## AMGA Board Meeting: April

### Master Gardener Board Covers Eclectic Agenda

In response to the flood at CES offices, MG Board members decamped on April 9, 2018, to Lutheran Church of Hope for their monthly meeting, which opened with all Board members present except Marilyn Barker.

The Master Gardeners did well at the Sears Spring Plant Sale April 14, Treasurer Cindy Walker reported, with \$1,425 brought in (\$1,423 tags were counted, but one person said “keep the change”). The MG take was \$446.25, and all checks for the plant sellers were either already given or in the mail. From 10 a.m. to noon the day of the sale, things at the MG tables were “crazy busy,” she said, with people stacked and waiting to talk to the gardeners, pick up information or brochures, or purchase plants.

Highlights of membership survey results were in April’s MG newsletter. Cindy said over 159 members responded—more than half the current membership. Implementing all their suggestions will likely take years.

The Master Gardeners’ fall Plant Sale will be August 11 in the parking lot at Benny Benson Secondary School, the same location as last year’s. Longtime MG-er Fran Durner is heading the sale committee. The first organizational meeting was April 25. The annual ALPAR plastic pot recycling day is Aug 18.

Water damage from a broken pipe in the Chugachmiut Bldg. made the elevator unusable and it was unclear when it would again be available. (Note for May meeting!)

May 21 is the last membership meeting before summer. Summer garden tours take place until meetings resume in the fall. Marilyn Barker is still looking for gardens for summer tours.

Harry reminded the Board, on behalf of Marilyn, Irwin and Fenja Brodo—lichen and crane fly experts from Canada, will be giving presentations at the Anchorage Museum, the Eagle River Nature Center and other venues.

World Naked Gardening Day, a global observance, will be May 1. The Board took no official position pro or con.

Volunteers are being sought for the 2019 Master Gardener Conference. Harry said both for the planning committee and to help with the conference, which is themed: “Way to Grow! Urban Gardening in the Last Frontier.”

Board member Don Bladow, the committee of one for the upcoming Advanced MG course, said so far “Soils” and “Vegetables” seem to be of most interest to potential participants.

This year’s Master Gardener course in Anchorage, after a hiatus of two years, will be taught by Agriculture/Horticulture Agent Steve Brown of Palmer and kick off after the Alaska State Fair.

In light of recent Facebook abuses, the Board voted to retain the Master Gardener web contact link but to delete individual contact information on the website.

Discussion of how or whether to continue with the AMGA Directory in its present form, or create a .pdf, was inconclusive and tabled for further consideration and membership opinion. Several members expressed concerns about confidentiality.

—Cheryl Chapman, Board secretary

### AMGA Treasurer’s Report Balances 2/28/2018

Checking account	8,891.53
Savings account	<u>11,741.63</u>
	\$20,633.16

Dedicated Funds	8,635.37
Interest Bearing CD	<u>10,124.55</u>
	\$18,759.92

Revenue:	
Interest	58.88
Membership Dues	<u>240.00</u>
	\$298.88

Expense:	
Directory	111.30
Education/Programs	100.00
Education/Grants	100.00
Operations	239.99
Public Relations-Rah-Rah	<u>203.29</u>
	\$754.58

### Balances 3/31/2018

Checking account	8,376.95
Savings account	<u>11,743.13</u>
	\$20,120.08

Dedicated Funds	8,661.54
Interest Bearing CD	<u>10,155.76</u>
	\$18,817.30

### *Wildflower Garden Club Grant*

The WFGC is offering up to \$2000 in grants for projects that encourage botanical education. Projects can include scholarly studies, scientific research, horticulture, agriculture, landscape design, and more. The smallest request considered is \$200.

Individuals are welcome to apply.

Organizations that apply must be 501(c)(3) nonprofits.

Application deadline is Nov. 1, 2018.

Contact [akwildflower@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflower@gmail.com), meetings are held second Tuesdays of the month at Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St., Anchorage.

### **Integrated Pest Management Program positions open**

One permanent: Agriculture and IPM Program Assistant. The others are seasonal IPM technician positions.

For someone who enjoys outreach, field work, insect and plant identification, working with the public, and a passion for invasive species issues.

Prospective applicants can contact Casey A. Matney PhD, Agriculture/Horticulture, UAF CES Kenai Peninsula District, 907-262-5824, [camatney@alaska.edu](mailto:camatney@alaska.edu), <http://bit.ly/k-ag-hort>

## Herb Study Group: Oregano, Including Marjoram, *Origanum* spp.

By Elaine Hammes

Very special thanks to Michelle Semerad and to AMGA President Harry Deuber for facilitating the one-time reservation at BP's Energy Center for April's Herb Study Group due to unforeseen issues at the regular CES meeting location.

The Herb Study Group enjoyed Elizabeth Blumink's very interesting and detailed presentation on oregano, including an important clarification that both oregano and marjoram are members of the genus *Origanum* and the family of mint. The principal groupings of *Origanum* are oregano (*O. vulgare*) and marjoram (*O. majorana*). The numerous species crossbreed easily and common names are used interchangeably, such as "wild marjoram" also be known as "common (or wild) oregano." The shape and form of the calyx (the swelling below the flowers) rather than the flowers or leaves is the principal way to differentiate between *Origanum* species.

The genus *Origanum* includes species native to rocky, mountainous soils of the Mediterranean and Eurasia. The growth of different varieties can be from only a few inches high to nearly three feet tall, trailing to erect. Flowers can be purple, pink or white. The bracts of some species look like hops (also in the mint family). There are approximately 44 species, numerous subspecies, botanical varieties and naturally-occurring hybrids, plus an unknown number of other hybrids.

Oregano has been called the "prince of herbs." The name *Origanum* is known to have been used by the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates (460-370 B.C.). It is thought to have originated from the Greek words for mountains (oreos) and brightness/joy/beauty (ganeos).

In general oregano is hardier, with a more pungent flavor, and marjoram is less hardy, with a more delicate and floral flavor. Oregano is used in many Mediterranean and Mexican dishes. Cooks often prefer the spicy flavor of *O. vulgare* subsp. *hirtum* (Greek oregano). Other culinary favorites include *O. majoricum* (Italian oregano, a cross of *O. majorana* and *O. vulgare* subsp. *virens*) and *O. syriacum* (za'atar). Oregano intensifies in flavor when dried and often preferred that way when added to certain dishes.

*O. majorana* is the species commonly known as Sweet Marjoram. The difference in aroma between oregano and marjoram was certainly exemplified by the "freshly" dried samples of each that Elizabeth passed around during the meeting. The more delicate aroma of fresh marjoram can easily replace basil in summer dishes and is best added at the end of cooking. When dried, marjoram can be a great substitute for dried oregano. The best culinary uses are a matter of personal taste.

In addition to culinary uses, oregano and marjoram have been used for other purposes including medicinal and health benefits, as floral arrangements, soaps, lotions, fragrances and more. The chemical carvacrol has antibacterial, antifungal, and antimicrobial properties and is highly concentrated in some *Origanum* plants while nearly absent from others. Some species also contain thymol (smells like thyme), which also has antibacterial and antiseptic uses. Cautions to medicinal uses include

Wild marjoram, *Origanum vulgare*  
Elizabeth Blumink



Left, Italian oregano, *O. x majoricum*  
Center front, Sweet marjoram,  
*Origanum majorana*  
By Elizabeth Blumink



Wild marjoram, *Origanum vulgare*  
By Elizabeth Blumink

allergic reactions and possible stimulation of uterine bleeding.

*Origanum dictamnus* known also as Dittany of Crete is grown and used in Crete for many ailments. It continues to be brewed in teas as a tonic, digestive aid, and as a topical treatment.

Ornamental varieties of oregano abound, including Kirigami Oregano, Golden Oregano (*O. vulgare* subsp. *vulgare* 'Aureum'), Kent Beauty, Mounding Marjoram (*O. majorana* 'Betty Rollins') and *O. rotundiflorum*. Many ornamental species are also used in dried floral arrangements.

The hardiness zones are generally 5-9, while some varieties such as "Hot and Spicy" have overwintered in the Anchorage area for years (in a mulched, sunny and warm location). Ornamental varieties and Sweet Marjoram are among the least hardy but Golden Oregano has overwintered a few years. Some culinary types seem to grow best on a deck or under eaves in full sun, drying out well between waterings. Common oregano/wild marjoram attracts many bees, butterflies and moths.

Main sources of information:

*An Herb Society of America Guide to the Genus Origanum* (2015), *Essential Guides: Oregano and Marjoram Guide*, HAS Publications, (60+ pages), <http://www.herbsociety.org>  
Madison, Deborah. *Vegetable Literacy*. 2013  
*An Alaska Herb Garden*. UAF Cooperative Extension Service.  
Publication No. FNH-00026. <https://uaf.edu/ces/pubs/catalog/detail/index.xml?id=594>

Herbalpedia: <http://www.herbalpedia.com>

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

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

The Herb Study Group meets during non-gardening months (generally October through April or May). Meetings are informal, free and open to the public. HGS members provide volunteer work in Alaska Botanical Garden's Herb Garden during the gardening season. HSG is connected with Master Gardeners. For more information, email: [anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com)

## Bird Chatter

**HANGING OUT...** If you're reading this after May 5th, you've missed it—again! World Naked Gardening Day. Yes, it's been an official "Day" since 2005, sponsored by the Body Freedom Collaborative (shades of the '60s!)—the first Saturday in May. Supporters (no jokes please) cite Adam and Eve and, oddly, Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Do you really need to know any more about it? Well, the photos accompanying the Wikipedia article actually are worth a gander. And, let's face it, it's probably less painful than the also-real World Naked Bike Ride Day.

**ABOUT TIME...** Have you been downtown lately? Does something sound funny? It took a minute for BC to figure out what it was: The caw-caw of winter ravens scolding from the tops of light poles has been replaced by the spring-y scream of seagulls. The snow and ice are gone—although not in BC's yard (Airport Heights), and it's time to start raking—very gingerly so as not to hook those primula already growing.

**NO-O-O-O...** Another bit of greenery is showing in BC's yard, pushing its way through the leafy mulch. How lovely! What could it be? A tough little crocus? No, it's a #@\*# little dandelion!! Really MGers, it's not fair.

Board Secretary Cheryl Chapman offers the following on the subject: "As it happens, the French for dandelion is 'le pissenlit.'" (Pronounce it any way you want. BC knows how she's going to say it).

According to Cheryl, the word breaks down to several words that mean "really bad stuff in the bed." Make up your own joke.

**NO NEWS...** is what we, in Alaska's largest city, get these days about CES offerings. So it has come to our attention somewhat late that CES is offering free workshops—out in the Valley of course—on subjects of interest to us. It's a program called Third Thursdays with Extension.

The May 17th program is on raised bed and container gardening—a very timely subject. The June 21st program is on garden pests (presumably bugs, not dandelions). And July 19th is on wild berries.

Hey, it's summer. An 80-mile round trip is no big deal, right?

The workshops are held at the Mat-Su experiment farm from 6 to 7 p.m. You should reserve a seat, call 907-745-3360.

**EAT YOUR HEART OUT...** AMG-er Fran Durner is visiting gardens—in Ireland.

**SORRY...** A vote was taken on whether to include the following in this column. BC lost.

Thought for the day: Lettuce romaine calm and carrot on while visualizing whirled peas.

Know something educational, fun or just interesting? Share it with Sheila at [stoomey@gmail.com](mailto:stoomey@gmail.com)



## Volunteer Opportunities

**2019 Master Gardener Annual Conference or Conference Planning Committee:** The state-wide conference will be in Anchorage next year. This is a one in three-year opportunity to show off your skills for master gardeners who will be here from all parts of Alaska. Contact Harry Deuber [denali542@yahoo.com](mailto:denali542@yahoo.com)

**AMGA Calendar Events Coordinator:** Do you have a couple of hours to research and jot down all the local gardening events for the AMGA Newsletter? Your fellow garden friends who have children or work full time will love you for it! Contact Harry Deuber [denali542@yahoo.com](mailto:denali542@yahoo.com) or Ginger Hudson, [newsletteramga@gmail.com](mailto:newsletteramga@gmail.com)

**AMGA summer 2018 Garden Tours Coordinator**  
Do you like finding special gardens and helping to showcase them? Do you have friends whose gardens you want to bring some attention to? It's fun to meet new gardeners and get the first look at their creations! Interested? Contact [amga@alaska.net](mailto:amga@alaska.net)

**Pioneer Home:** Help plant and maintain front gardens of the Pioneer Home during the summer.  
Contact: Julie Ginder [jkginder@gci.net](mailto:jkginder@gci.net), Joyce [haljoy@gci.net](mailto:haljoy@gci.net), or Lynne Opstad: [lopstad@gci.net](mailto:lopstad@gci.net)

**NEW: Ask A Master Gardener at the Alaska Botanical Garden** Answer plant and gardening questions from visitors from around the state, country, world. Our knowledge and time helps alleviate pressure on ABG staff.  
Contact Harry Deuber: 440-6372 [denali542@yahoo.com](mailto:denali542@yahoo.com)

**NEW: Covenant House** on topics such as Seed Starting, Organic Soil Amendments, Vegetable Gardening, etc.  
Contact Harry Deuber: 440-6372 [denali542@yahoo.com](mailto:denali542@yahoo.com)

A volunteer interest form is online. When you fill out this Google Form, it will automatically be sent to the Volunteer Committee and you will be contacted when needed.

<https://goo.gl/forms/FutOWGNye9KPWKd63>

## Cold Composting is Easy By Gina Docherty

What is cold composting? Cold composting is the easy way to compost. It is a ‘hands off’ method, no turning or temperature monitoring required. It is a great way to recycle kitchen wastes. It takes longer than the alternative, but the benefits are the same. This is perhaps the simplest composting option available.

### Cold Composting Explained

Composting allows you to create nutrient-rich soil amendment for your garden. Compost isn’t a fertilizer in itself, but helps the soil get nutrients to your plants. Remember: fertilizers feed the plants, compost feeds the soil.

The most common and fastest method of composting is hot composting. Layers of greens and browns are stacked, and then flipped, creating heat, which kills pathogens and weed seeds, and increases the speed of the composting process. You need the entire ‘critical’ mass to get the pile working, which is roughly 4’x4’x4’. It doesn’t work adding small amounts at a time. Cold composting works for that.

There are some drawbacks to using the cold composting method. The compost does not reach the same temperatures as a hot compost pile, which means that seeds and even pathogens from diseased plants are not killed. If you don’t add these things, you don’t have to worry. You know exactly what goes into your compost if most of it comes from your kitchen.

Another potential drawback is the fact that it can take a long time. It takes about a year, depending on the size of the item added, before materials are composted completely. The smaller the particles, the faster they decompose. The larger the particles, the longer they take to break down. Avocado seeds can take a couple of years, unless you cut them in half. Anything that doesn’t compost all the way gets poked back into the ‘working’ compost.

One year I used a garbage can outside the back door with a lid on it to collect kitchen scraps. This was a great way to save kitchen scraps for the compost, and the can was full by spring. The contents froze solid, but thawed out in the spring. The problem is that the can gets very heavy after 8 months of adding kitchen scraps and consequently hard to move. It’s also messy & smelly to deal with.

We bought a snow blower a few years back. Now my husband clears a path to my compost bins in the winter. No more messy garbage can!

### Here is my 3 bin method:

Three compost bins are used: one for shredded leaves, one for ‘working’ compost, and one for ‘finished’ compost. Old squares of plywood work for lids, weighted down with a concrete block to keep from blowing off.

Leaves are collected in the fall from local landscapers, already shredded is best, but if not, some should be shredded and stored in a covered bin to be kept dry. (It’s really hard to get a pitchfork through a mass of frozen leaves.) Keep the bagged leaves dry until they can be shredded. Shredders don’t do well with wet leaves.

The working compost bin starts with a 2-3” layer of chopped leaves. Kitchen scraps are added to the top of the leaves and spread out evenly with the pitchfork. When there is about a 2 inch layer of kitchen scraps, cover with a 2 inch layer of chopped leaves.

Continue this process all through the winter. It helps to keep the path out to the compost bin cleared of snow, as well as the tops of the bins.

Kitchen scraps are collected in a 3-gallon bucket with a lid on it, and carried out to the compost bin, once or twice a week. I have a leaf shredder, but it only does leaves. I don’t use garden wastes, only kitchen wastes that can be chopped up for faster composting. In the summer if the compost bin gets too dry, I rinse my bucket out and pour the rinse water over the pile to add moisture. It should be damp throughout. (Mice love dry compost and will move in.)

Here’s a short list of things that go into the compost: coffee grounds (filter and all), tea bags, leftovers, vegetable trimmings, houseplant droppings, old stuff from the refrigerator, old bread, hair, the occasional shredded paper; anything that was once living can go in there. I don’t put meat in there as a rule. My motto is: “Feed the family, feed the dog, feed the earth”. In other words, any leftover meat the dog gets and some of the vegetables. Little bits of meat might end up as compost, but fats and oils go to the garbage. A curious bear tipped the leaf bin over once, but didn’t touch the compost.

If you have a lawn, you can also add cut grass to your working pile. Just make sure you don’t put in more than a couple inches at a time, covered with a couple inches of chopped leaves.

Your finished compost can be used as is, or screened. Screening is the tedious part of this process—scraping the rough compost over a piece of ½” fencing wire over a wheelbarrow. There is probably an easier way to do this, but I haven’t found it yet. I store the finished product in 55-gallon barrels. Last year I used a lot but still stored over 100-gallons.

When your finished compost bin is emptied and the working compost bin is full, fork the ‘working’ compost into the empty ‘finishing’ bin. Nitrogen rich organic material can be added at this point: composted steer manure, blood meal, alfalfa meal, etc. This becomes next year’s finished compost. Start a new ‘working’ compost pile in the freshly emptied bin. Then you will have beautiful compost year after year.



Cold compost bin. By Gina Docherty

## Garden Event Calendar

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Thursday, May 3

Anchorage Garden Club–**DIY Projects for the Garden**, 7-9pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage

Friday May 4

Herb Study Group will discuss plans for work at ABC's Herb Garden this coming growing season. All who are interested are welcome to attend; 12pm–1pm at Anchorage Cooperative Extension Service, Chugachmiut Building, 1840 Bragaw Street. Contact: anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or Elaine Hammes, ehammes@hotmail.com

Monday, May 7

Alaska Native Plant Society–**Non vascular vegetation research, across Alaska's National Parks**, 7pm, Campbell Creek Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive  
<http://aknps.org/Pages/Meetings.php>

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Program: **Espaliering Trees and Why** - Dan Elliott & Debbie Hinchey, APFGA - Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA) Headquarters building, 480 Commercial Drive, Palmer. Classroom in the basement of the building. [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

Tuesday, May 8th

Eagle River Garden Club Monthly Meeting 2nd Tuesday - Chris Wood@chriswood\_ak@yahoo.com

Saturday, May 10th

Wildflower Garden Club Service Project: **Alaska Botanical Garden Wildflower Trail Maintenance**, 10am at the ABC. Bring clippers, rake, gloves, bucket, kneeling pad, a few trash bags and bug dope. [www.alaskagardenclubs.org](http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org)

Saturday, May 12th

Alaska Rock Garden Society meeting: Clean up and volunteer orientation at the rock garden at the ABC, 10am-12; bring gloves, lunch, buckets, tools. If you plan on volunteering to do maintenance at the rock garden this summer, you should be there. Garden tour to follow clean up.

Thursday, May 17

Third Thursdays with Extension–**Raised Garden Beds, Container Gardening**, 6-7pm, Matanuska Experiment Farm 1509 S Georgeson Road, Palmer, 745-3360 for more details.

Monday, May 21

Alaska Master Gardener Program–**Rhododendrons**, with Doug Tryck, 7pm, CES, 1840 Bragaw St., Chugachmiut Bldg, Ste 100

Alaska Arbor Day, <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/news>

Sunday, May 27

Homer Garden Club Meeting–**Soils and Composting**, featuring Dr. Jodie Anderson from Fairbanks, Baidarka Inn.

Tuesday, May 29

**“Diversity in the Natural World: What lichens and crane flies can tell us, and why we should listen.”** A talk by Irwin and Fenja Brodo, Canadian Museum of Nature, 7pm, Anchorage Museum Auditorium. Sponsored by Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage. Admission FREE.

Wednesday, May 30th

**“North and to the Sea: Lichens of the Pacific Northwest,”** Irwin M. Brodo, Canadian Museum of Nature; 7pm, Campbell Creek Science Center. Admission: FREE

### CLASSES

Tuesday, May 1

**Preserve Fish in Cans**, 6pm-9pm, Matanuska Experiment Farm, room 208 Kerttula Hall

Cost: \$25 Learn to seal metal cans to process fish. This class will discuss using a sealer for metal cans and steps for using a pressure canner for metal cans for fish and smoked fish. Lab: using the can sealer and determining correct seal. Registration is at <http://bit.ly/29vjcTE>

Saturday, May 5th

Alaska Mill & Feed: **Planting Your Lawn**, Instructor: Sheila Macias (Mill Employee), 10am-11am, Cost: FREE

Saturday, May 12

Alaska Mill & Feed: **Raised Garden Bed**, Instructor: Sheila Macias (Mill Employee), 10am-11am, Cost: FREE

Saturday, May 19th

Alaska Mill & Feed: **Vegetable Planting**, Instructor: Matt Hale 10am-11am, Cost: \$5

### PLANT SALES

Wednesday, May 9th

King Career Annual Plant Sale, 9am - 4pm, King Career Center, 2650 E Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage

Saturday, May 19th

ARCS and ABC Plant, 10am-4pm, Alaska Botanical Garden, [www.akrockgardensociety.org](http://www.akrockgardensociety.org), [www.alaskabg.org](http://www.alaskabg.org)

Homer Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, 11 am, Homer Chamber of Commerce

Sunday, May 20th

Anchorage Permaculture Club Seedling Exchange, 3-5pm, Woodland Park, 36th Ave, Spenard (across from Boys and Girls Club)

## Garden Event Calendar

Saturday, May 26th

ARCS Plant sale, 10am-4pm, 3379 Inlet Vista Circle, Wasilla

Valley Garden Club plant sale

Meadow Lakes Bloomers plant sale

Saturday, June 2

Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale, 9am- 2pm,  
7435 Old Harbor Road, Anchorage.

Mat-Su MG Annual Plant Sale, 9am- 3 pm at the Palmer Pavilion

Saturday, June 9

Central Peninsula Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, 10am, New Location! - Peninsula Grace Church, 44175 Kalifornsky Beach Road (mi.19.5), Soldotna

Third Thursdays with Extension

Each 3rd Thursday of the month, Extension offers a free workshop or program at the Matanuska Experiment Farm, 6-7pm. Call 745-3360 for more details.

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>



### WILLOW GARDEN CLUB

PRESENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 17  
6:45 PM  
(Program at 7pm)

WILLOW  
COMMUNITY CENTER

### GREEN HOUSES

STEVE BROWN, DISTRICT AGRICULTURE AGENT, UAF

This program will teach participants about the advantages and disadvantages of various greenhouse design. It will also share some the tricks on proper lighting systems and general greenhouse management.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

memberships available - \$10/year/per person

## Diversity in the Natural World

What lichens and crane flies  
can tell us,  
and why we should listen

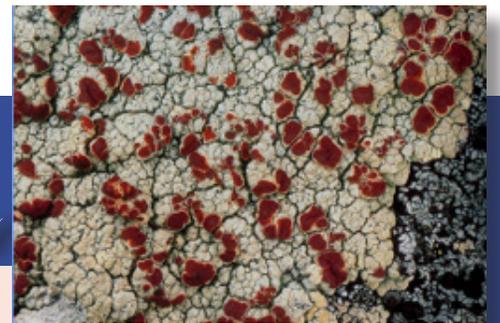
Tuesday May 29  
7pm

Anchorage Museum  
Auditorium



A talk by  
**Drs. Irwin and Fenja Brodo**  
of the Canadian Museum of Nature

Free admission  
Open to the Public  
Sponsored by AMGA



## *North to the Sea: Lichens of the Pacific Northwest*

A presentation by Dr. Irwin M. Brodo  
of the Canadian Museum of Nature  
Wednesday May 30, 7pm  
Campbell Creek Science Center

Free admission • Open to the Public

It's spring and time to get back into our yards! As the summer season progresses and you're working your gardens, please remember that **AMGA's 5th Annual late-season plant sale is on the schedule for August again!**

Participation by you-our membership- has made our past four plant sales successful. As you divide, move, or remove some of your perennials and hardy plants, we encourage you to pot up excess plants for the August sale. Yellow plant tags will be available to for purchase at the May MG Meeting for anyone interested. Contact Fran Durner for more information: [durner1@gmail.com](mailto:durner1@gmail.com)



*Rhododendron catawbiense* 'Boursault' (purple) with *Rhododendron* 'Rosy Lights' of the Northern Lights azalea series (background pink). By Gina Docherty

Thank you Marilyn Barker for rounding up some amazing presenters this year!  
**May 21**  
**Rhododendron Growing**  
**by Doug Tryck**

## 2018 MG Directory Update

For current AMGA members: If you're interested in updating your 2018 MG Directory, you will receive updated pages only which include members added after the January 5th directory cut-off date and changes discovered after directory mail-out. The update is a .pdf file that can be printed, cut in half and stapled to the inside back cover of your directory. Contact Jane Baldwin: [ak.jbaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:ak.jbaldwin@gmail.com)



AMGA regularly meets at 7:00pm every third Monday of the month, September through May (except for December).

Meetings are held at the Anchorage Cooperative Extension Office Chugachmiut Building, 1840 Bragaw St., Anchorage, AK, 99508  
 Monthly educational programs are free and open to the public. Visitors and guests are welcomed and encouraged.

### AMGA Board of Directors

Harry Deuber	President
Marilyn Barker	Vice President
Cindy Walker	Treasurer
Cheryl Chapman	Secretary
Kathy Liska	At Large
Fran Pekar	At Large
Marjorie Williams	At Large
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### Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

CES Liaison:	Harry Deuber
Broadcast Email:	Fran Pekar
Calendar of Events:	POSITION OPEN
Advanced MG:	Ginny Moore
Directory Editor:	Janice Berry
Programs:	Marilyn Barker
Field Trips:	POSITION OPEN
Google Group:	Mary Rydesky
Hospitality:	Marjorie Williams
Volunteer Coordinator:	Harry Deuber
Membership & Database:	Jane Baldwin
Newsletter	Ginger Hudson
Website	Gina Docherty
Lifetime Achievement:	Lynne Opstad
Grants:	Marilyn Barker
Pioneer Home:	Erma MacMillan (design)
Volunteer Coordinators:	Lynne Opstad, Ginger Hudson, Julie Ginder, Joyce Smith, Lynne Opstad

The Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. Contact the editor, Ginger Hudson, at:

Mail: AMGA, Newsletter  
 P.O. Box 221403  
 Anchorage, AK 99522-1403  
 Email: [newsletteramga@gmail.com](mailto:newsletteramga@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting an item for publication in the following month's edition of the AMGA newsletter is the 20th of every month. Items arriving after this date may or may not be included.

Educational or garden related articles, Bird Chatter, calendar items and announcements are always welcome.

AMGA Web Site: [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org)  
 Facebook: [facebook.com/Alaska-Master-Gardeners-Anchorage](https://www.facebook.com/Alaska-Master-Gardeners-Anchorage)

AMGA Google Group:  
<https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/AkMGA>

To send concerns or information to the AMGA directly, mail to:  
 AMGA  
 P.O. Box 221403  
 Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

If you have questions or want to make address or email corrections, please contact Jane Baldwin at: [ak.jbaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:ak.jbaldwin@gmail.com)

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:

Harry Deuber, President  
[denali542@yahoo.com](mailto:denali542@yahoo.com)  
 907-440-6372

