



## **AMGA NEWSLETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 2016  
Volume 18, Issue 9**

### **President's Message**

Although the lease agreement has not been signed as of today, I believe I can safely pass along some news regarding the status of the Anchorage C.E.S. office. Another space has been found that would allow the C.E.S. to maintain a presence in Anchorage. It will be co-located with another university department in the Chugachmuit Building located at 1840 Bragaw St. The staffing levels will most likely be minimal and it remains to be seen how various programs and services will be affected. There is classroom and meeting space available and AMGA has been told we are welcome to have our membership meetings there as well as storing our file cabinets there.

Partially due to the logistics of moving office space and loss of faculty there will not be a fall Master Gardener class this year. There is some discussion of having a class in early 2017 using a blend of on-line and classroom instruction. Our AMGA/C.E.S. transition committee is engaged with and working with UAF administration in trying to determine what exactly the plan and vision is for the future. What resources will be available and how AMGA fits into the new C.E.S. is part of what our committee is trying to determine. It's been a slow and somewhat frustrating process for both us and the local C.E.S. staff and faculty.

Our September board and general membership meetings will be held at the current location. If the C.E.S. office move is completed in time, our October meetings will be held at the new location. As a backup, we have reserved meeting space at the BP Energy Center building in mid-town to handle our needs.

I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who participated in helping to make our recent plant sale another successful, educational and fun event for our organization. It's been a pleasure to once again work with such a dedicated group of organizers, speakers, vendors, donors and volunteers. Everyone was so helpful and gracious with their time and energy. Special thanks go to the C.E.S. for use of their facilities and other resources. Our outreach to the general public is as important as ever and the funds raised for the AMGA will continue to support our goals.

I'd also like to thank the folks who opened their gardens for touring this summer. Many of us know how much work it can be to get ready for visitors, just know that we appreciate your efforts very much. Between the scheduled tours and the "pop up" events, it was a pleasure to see what other gardeners are growing and how they have designed their properties.

I could write an entire article just thanking all of our fellow Master Gardeners for everything you do. This includes our latest "crop" of Master Gardeners who are putting in their hours and otherwise participating but for now I do have one other group to thank and that is the Pioneer Home volunteers. The plantings are beautiful and the hardworking maintenance crew are doing a superb job. If you haven't been by there yet this summer, please take the time to do so.

It is time to be thinking about the upcoming election. No not THAT election. I'm talking about our AMGA board election. There are 4 open seats to be filled and we are seeking nominees willing to contribute their time, skills and energy to our organization. Please contact either Sheila Toomey or Jane Baldwin on our nominating committee if you would like to nominate either yourself or you have someone else in mind who you think would be willing to serve. Nominations close on October 5th. Please give serious consideration to joining our current team and in helping guide our organization through our upcoming changes, challenges and opportunities.

### **Inside This Issue....**

President's Message  
August AMGA Garden Tour and Plant Sale Photos  
Treasurer's Report  
Volunteers Help Community Gardens Grow  
Growing Young Gardeners: All about that Beet  
Blue Star Markers  
Bird Chatter  
AMGA Plant Sale Raises Funds & Educates Gardeners  
Volunteer Opportunity  
Garden Event Calendar  
Master Gardeners at the Fair

Photos from AMGA's Late Season Plant Sale and Garden Tours

Julie Riley's class on Late Season Vegetables  
Photo by Mike Baldwin



Several canopies were provided to help shoppers get out of the rain during the plant sale. Photo by Mike Baldwin.

A planting of Paris quadrifolia at the ABG -  
Photo by Jane Baldwin



Editor's Note:  
If you have photos from any meeting or garden tour, please send them to the editor via email:  
amga@alaska.net



More Tour Photos  
A little sun and a warm firepit greeted garden visitors.  
Photo by Jane Baldwin



September Treasurer's Report

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Balances 6/30/16       |                 |
| Checking account       | 12602.25        |
| <u>Savings account</u> | <u>11712.25</u> |
|                        | \$24314.50      |

Dedicated Funds \$8477.71

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Revenue:          |               |
| Interest          | 1.49          |
| <u>Membership</u> | <u>180.53</u> |
|                   | \$182.00      |

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Expense:          |              |
| 2016 Conference   | 1.49         |
| <u>Operations</u> | <u>49.99</u> |
|                   | \$52.80      |

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Balances 7/31/16       |                 |
| Checking account       | 12729.96        |
| <u>Savings account</u> | <u>11713.74</u> |
|                        | \$24443.70      |

Dedicated Funds \$8477.71



## Volunteers Help Community Gardens Grow

[This article was originally presented by Master Gardener Chris Wood (MG '15) as National Garden Clubs Pacific Region Community Gardens Chairman, and appeared in last month's newsletter. Julie Riley added specific information on community garden involvement by Anchorage Master Gardeners.]

The number of community gardens in Anchorage has exploded and with Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage (AMGA) and Alaska Garden Clubs encouraging new gardeners to give vegetable gardening a try, more space in our city is being devoted to cultivation. A community garden survey conducted last season by the Municipality of Anchorage, in partnership with UAA, identified a need for additional community gardens. The city currently rents 183 plots in four Community Garden locations—McPhee, C Street, Fairview and Bragaw. During registration CES and Master Gardeners were on hand to answer questions from gardeners signing up for plots.

Many churches and faith-based organizations have developed community gardens and encouraging their parishioner's involvement as a way to help each other and give to those in need. New Master Gardener Don Bladow cleared two acres of woods this spring at Lutheran Church of Hope to grow food for Lutheran Social Services food pantry. MG Don Olson reported that Turnagain United Methodist Church grew 321 pounds of vegetables last summer that were donated to Beans Café and the Downtown Soup Kitchen (where MGs Martha Jokela and Susan Brusehaber have set up a community garden on the rooftop).

Minister of the East Anchorage United Methodist Church, Karen McCreia and church member Diana Kent, signed up for the Master Gardener course specifically because they were planning to develop a community garden. What they did was ingenious. They had a load of topsoil dumped on church property, staked out 4 X 10 areas and put up a sign that said, "Build yourself a garden". Over at Saint Anthony Church MGs Mike and Amy Reidell manage 40 community garden plots and continue to make improvements to the church's garden. Last year they received a \$25,000 Grant from the Rasmuson Foundation for extending the fence and building a shed for storage and shelter. This year, they are putting up a greenhouse.

With the help and interest of educators, schools have encouraged involvement of children to learn about gardening and have embraced hands on training to grow, taste and share their food with others. From elementary schools to high schools, kids are involved and excitedly participating. Schools have built greenhouses and many volunteers have helped educators teach our youth the principles of gardening. Alaska Botanical Garden staff (including MG Pat Ryan) meet regularly during the school year with 21st Century afterschool programs to teach kids how to grow food in the classroom under lights. This program was set up at schools for at risk children and has been very successful. Master Gardeners have also worked with Taku Elementary School's 21st Century program.

This spring new MGs Kathie Steel and Annie Brownlee worked with the Anchorage School district to pilot a new program teaching kids where their food comes. The plan is to replace the 4-H Talking Plant presentation on plant physiology and anatomy that Master Gardeners have been presenting to second grade classrooms for thirty years. The new curriculum will piggyback nicely with the many school gardens that have sprung up in Anchorage.

MG and Airport Heights teacher Emily Becker has had her

5th and 6th graders growing food in a raised bed garden at the school since 2010. The entire front of the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School was turned into garden space this spring with help from parents, the Alaska Botanical Garden and Cooperative Extension Service. The garden includes four beds for vegetables (including Haida potatoes) and five beds representing different regions of the state planted with wild plants utilized by native Alaskans.

Service High School's Green Thumb program has been growing transplants in their greenhouse for the Refugees Farmers Market project since 2009. It was Service High School mom and Master Gardener Mary Miner who first connected the students and teachers with the refugee gardeners growing vegetables on 8,000 square feet of city parkland in Mt. View. The food grown in this entrepreneurial community garden is sold at farmers markets from the end of June throughout Sept. This neat program is a collaboration between UAF Cooperative Extension Service and Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) and is well received by our community. It takes about 200 hours of volunteer assistance to get the gardeners and their produce to market. This year's refugee participants are from Bhutan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia.

Over the years Master Gardeners have assisted several facilities start community gardens. Master Gardeners and CES staff have worked with Highland Mountain Correctional Center, McLaughlin Youth Center and Salvation Army Clitheroe Center. This summer MG Joni Bruner is helping halfway house residents with their container and raised bed vegetable garden.

AMGA organizes the design, planting and maintenance of the Anchorage Pioneer Home gardens. Last year's design by MG Erma McMillan included 750 flowers that AMGA volunteers cared for from summer through fall to the delight and appreciation of the residents. As more and more local and state funding becomes tighter, volunteers are needed to step up and help out communities in caring for our public gardens to keep them looking great. Our garden clubs are in a perfect position to lead and encourage this participation.

Apartment buildings and condo associations have created gardens in which to grow food. Community gardens can be found in neighborhoods (Mardane's Garden in South Anchorage) and in housing complexes such as Loussac Place and NeighborWorks' Hampstead Heath. Several private senior homes have placed community gardens in the master plan for their residents and employees to participate in the love of gardening. The College Alps Condo Association turned an old, unused tennis court into a productive garden for its residents.

In the heart of Anchorage, the Centennial Rose garden is cared for by volunteers. Last year in celebration of Anchorage's centennial (and this year), Master Gardeners pitched in to help The Alaska Rose Society members prune and care for the roses.

What an amazing community we live in! All these individuals making a difference and sharing their knowledge for the betterment of our community. So exciting to see the passion for the love of gardening. As a new MG, I am so thankful the CES, through the Master Gardeners course, invested in me this past year sharing their knowledge of gardening. I look forward to being a part of this great group of individuals as I begin my journey to be a successful gardener in this land.

## **Growing Young Gardeners: All about that Beet**

**By Amy Reed**

Despite a vigorous scrubbing, I went to work this past week with my hands stained a muted purple. My daughter and I had spent the day before harvesting, washing, freezing, and pickling beets. It was an enjoyable and educational experience for us both.

Beets are a fantastic super food. They are an excellent source of nitrates that convert to nitrous oxide in the blood. This dilates and relaxes the blood vessels to lower blood pressure. There has also been recent research showing that endurance athletes that drink beetroot juice can sustain strenuous workouts up to 16% longer, again due to the dilating of blood vessels and reducing oxygen consumption (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19661447#>). Beets are high in immune-boosting vitamin C, fiber, and essential minerals like potassium (essential for healthy nerve and muscle function) and manganese (which is good for your bones, liver, kidneys, and pancreas). Beets also contain the B vitamin folate, which helps reduce the risk of birth defects.

Don't forget the beet greens! While we didn't save the tops of our beets, many people have found nutritional value in them. Beet greens actually have even more iron than spinach as well as a higher nutritional value overall than the beetroot itself. Beet greens have significant amounts of vitamin A, C, and calcium.

Boosting bone strength may ward off osteoporosis through beet green consumption as well as producing antibodies and white blood cells by stimulating the immune system. Beet greens can be eaten like lettuce, pulverized into smoothies, tucked into omelets, and used in borscht soup with the beets themselves.

We first noticed the beet shoulders were peeking out of the soil. Our beets were planted around the second week in May, making them around 90 days old. Beets can be harvested between 50-70 days gestation, all depending on the temperature they are growing. Beets tend to be a cool weather plant, and with our hot summer, we decided now was the time to harvest. Boy, did we find some whoppers! My daughter's favorite activity was pulling the beets out and comparing their size. I heard many times that morning, "Wow! Look at the size of this one!" She was having a ball. My daughter also helped with the very filthy task of washing of the beets in the garage sink. She took pride in all the dirt she was able to scrub off each beet into the sink basin. We then tackled the task of preserving our harvest.

I was hesitant to bring out my canning jars, as exploding applesauce in my childhood pantry traumatized me. The shuddering thought of scrubbing purple beets off my kitchen ceiling didn't exactly make me rush this task.

While my daughter played with dolls nearby and called out encouragement, I was able to successfully pickle beets for later consumption. I have to proudly say all jars are still sealed, and my ceiling is not purple! Here is the recipe I found was extremely easy for a first-time canner.

### **Pickled Beets**

Ingredients:

10 pounds of beets, stems removed  
2 cups of sugar  
1 Tbsp. pickling salt  
4 cups of white vinegar  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup whole cloves

- Place beets in a large stockpot with water to cover. Bring to a boil, and cook until tender, about 15 minutes depending on the size of the beets. If beets are large, cut them into quarters. Drain, reserving 2 cups of the beet water, cool and peel.
- Sterilize jars and lids by immersing in boiling water for at least 10 minutes. Fill each jar with beets and add several whole cloves to each jar.
- In a large saucepan, combine the sugar, beet water, vinegar, and pickling salt. Bring to a rapid boil. Pour the hot brine over the beets in the jars, and seal lids.
- Place a rack in the bottom of a large stockpot and fill halfway with water. Bring to a boil over high heat, and then carefully lower the jars into the pot using a holder. Leave a 2-inch space between the jars. Pour in more boiling water if necessary until the water level is at least 1 inch above the tops of the jars. Bring the water to a full boil, cover the pot, and process for 10 minutes.

This recipe was found on <http://www.allrecipes.com>

### **Have an overload of berries? Try this recipe: Berry Kissel**

Ingredients:

1/2 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons cornstarch  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 cups water  
5 cups blackberries [red or black currants, or blueberries]  
4 cups raspberries  
1/2 teaspoon fresh lemon juice, or to taste

Method:

Whisk sugar, cornstarch, and salt until combined well. In a saucepan simmer water and 1/8 cup each type of berry 2 minutes. Drain mixture in a sieve set over a bowl, reserving liquid. Transfer cooked berries to a large bowl and stir in remaining fresh berries. Gradually whisk reserved hot liquid into sugar mixture until smooth. Transfer mixture to pan. Bring mixture to a boil, whisking, and simmer, whisking, 3 minutes. Immediately pour mixture through sieve into berries and stir until combined well. Stir in lemon juice. Chill kissel, covered, at least 2 hours, or until cold.

<http://www.ruscuisine.com/recipes/beverages-and-drinks/n--433/>

## Blue Star Markers

By Chris Wood



Have you ever seen a Blue Star Memorial Marker and wondered what it was? Alaska has several and they are all associated with a garden.

The Blue Star Memorial Marker program was adopted in 1945 by the National Garden Club's Inc. (formerly, National Council of State Garden Club Inc.), to honor the men and women of the armed forces after WWII. This beautification program was the first taken on by the National Garden Clubs. Highways were dedicated as Blue Star Memorial

Highways with a marker surrounded by gardens along thousand of miles throughout the United States.

This national program was later expanded in 1951 to honor "all who have served, are serving, and will serve." These memorial signs may be placed at Veteran's facilities, national cemeteries, parks, and many other civic locations.

The Blue Star Memorial Program has been in existence for over 70 years and has a rich history. The history of this marker is well worth your time to investigate and too detailed to mention here.

Garden clubs around the state have stepped up and planted, weeded, watered, and nurtured the gardens around these markers. In Anchorage, the Anchorage Garden Club cares for the marker garden at the split of 5th and 6th Avenue by the insurance company and Alaska Sales and Service. Each club member who participates takes a week or two in the summer months and cares for the garden. The insurance company owns the water spigot and kindly provides the water and we bring our own hoses and tools. As I take my turn next week, I wanted to learn more about what this marker represented and the significance associated with the blue star. I learned that the blue star was associated with the Blue Star Banner that is displayed generally in the front window of a home who has a family member serving in the armed forces. Also known as the Service Flag, the blue star stands for hope and pride. When a service member lost their lives, the blue star was replaced with a gold one representing the sacrifice.

In Alaska we have 7 Blue Star Memorial Marker gardens. As you drive around the state, I hope you will take time to look for them. Here are the locations of Alaska's Blue Star Garden Markers:

- In Anchorage's at 6th and Juneau was first dedicated on 6/19/74 and then rededicated in 1984 by The Anchorage Garden Club.

- In Fairbank's, at Week's Field, 5/30/02, with the original location at mile 344.2 about 20 miles west of Fairbank's. The Fairbank's Garden Club.
- In Juneau, 6/1/1990, at the public library triangle junction of South Franklin and Marine Highway. Juneau Garden Club.
- In Ketchikan, 6/4/74, at the Alaska Marine Highway Terminal. The Ketchikan Garden Club.
- In Tok, 8/15/73, at the visitors center, Jct. SR 1&2. The Fairbanks Garden Club.
- In Wasilla, 9/16/10, at Nelson Street, The Valley Garden Club.
- In Anchor Point on the Sterling Highway, 7/22/70, Placed by the Kenai Garden Club.

As a National Garden Club member, I am so proud of our gardeners involvement around the state who care for these gardens. I agree with Mary Louise Michie, former National Garden Club's President who stated, "Each time a Blue Star Marker is dedicated, we show our love for this beautiful United States of America and our appreciation for the Armed Services of America."

Maybe you can think of a garden that could be dedicated to our men and women who serve. The National Garden Club's website has the history, more information, applications and guidelines for the Blue Star Marker Memorial Gardens. Check it out! [WWW.gardenclubs.org](http://WWW.gardenclubs.org)



Blue Star Marker maintained by Fairbanks Garden Club  
photo by Chris Wood



Blue Star Marker maintained by Valley Garden Club  
photo by Chris Wood



## Bird Chatter

**LIKE MAGIC.** . . Hey, a funny thing happened while I wasn't looking: A twig I stuck in a pail of old dirt turned into a lilac tree. Or maybe it's going to be a lilac bush. I don't know yet.

When BC went to Greg Kalal's house early this summer to pick up our seed potatoes, Greg was trimming his lilacs. They had just finished blooming, so, as we all know, that's the proper trim time. Anyhow, Greg handed us a twig -- really, just a totally bare, skinny brown twiggy thing. Stick it in dirt, make a tree, he said (or words to that effect). We laughed. It was a joke, right?

It took all summer but about two weeks ago, leaves began sprouting. Then, more leaves, and bigger. Now it's a little tree-like thing. Really, like so much that happens in the garden, it's magical.

**CONTROLLED CHAOS.** . . Yes, you're right. If it's controlled, it isn't chaos. But that's what our wonderful plant sale seemed like. Lots of people buzzing around the plants, joining the classes, totally unfazed by the occasional shower: Members with their big "AMGA Volunteer" buttons toting and lifting and answering questions; So many plants, such variety; And viewing it all with spooky calm, president and master organizer Harry Deuber; For all those who worked to bring the event together, it was a beautiful sight.

Then, a scant five days later, members who brought plants to sell got a check for 75% of the sale price in the mail -- thanks to our amazingly efficient treasurer Cindy Walker. BC only brought a few plants but welcomed her \$21 check. We can only imagine how much plants like the \$1 strawberries brought -- there were dozens and they flew off the table.

There was a run on the variegated iris -- by the cashiers -- after a customer plopped one down in front of them. Does that count?

The plant sale has become an annual fund-raiser, one we hope to repeat next year. However, as some of you know, our existence is precariously balanced. CES is moving to smaller (cheaper) quarters on Bragaw Street, so odds are we won't be able to use the big parking lot on 16th next year. The parking lot at the new building is much smaller. Your Board is absolutely determined to counter the destructive efforts of CES's UAF overlords, so start planning for next year's sale. Divide those perennials and over-winter them so they're ready.

**THANK YOU.** . . A big thanks is due to garden columnist (and author -- and lawyer) Jeff Lowenfels, who plugged the plant sale in his column with nice words and good wishes for CES in the current struggle for survival.

**AN EXPERIMENT.** . . A couple of AMGs bought miniature fuchsia's at the sale -- they were just so attractive -- irresistibly delicate. But it was already nearly fall so there ensued a discussion about whether they were a waste of money, being so very unhardy. Of course, one can always winter them over in the garage but . . . one isn't very reliable on that score. So, the question arose: Can they be a house plant? Several members are going to try and we'll see how it goes.

### **AMGA Plant Sale Raises Funds & Educates Gardeners**

The 'Late Season Plant Sale' held at the Anchorage District Cooperative Extension Service office on Saturday, August 13th, was a grand success. This is a relatively new event hosted by Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage (AMGA). When AMGA started in 1986, the group decided not to hold a spring plant sale like many of the other gardening clubs. However, three years ago when Cooperative Extension raised the registration fee for the Master Gardener course, AMGA decided to hold a plant sale to raise money for tuition waivers.

This year's plant sale brought in \$6,500. There were 835 plants sold with individual members receiving 75% of the proceeds and \$2,131 going to the association.

Holding true to AMGA's mission to educate gardeners, nine classes and demonstrations were given throughout the day taught by Kathy Liska, Annie Nevaldine, Nickel LaFleur, Jane Baldwin, Debbie Hinchey, Gina Docherty and Julie Riley. Participation was good with 117 people attending. Master Gardeners were also available to answer gardening questions throughout the day and 43 soil pH tests were performed.

The AMGA Late Season Plant Sale took a tremendous amount of volunteer effort and extra CES staffing, but after its third season, it has become a perennial event.

### **Volunteer Opportunity from the "Ask a Master Gardener" Emails**

Question: I work with a population of recently homeless people who have been given housing and are trying to return to a "normal" life. One thing I believe is both practical and therapeutic is gardening (I do it myself).

I'm trying to find someone who would help us organize and use the planter's small heated greenhouse and available space here (community room) at our location to teach our residents to grow things for themselves.

Is there someone who might be able to help me do this? Please contact:

J. Craig Headley  
512-573-5324  
craigheadley@yahoo.com

# Garden Event Calendar

## CONVENTION

### MEETINGS and EVENTS

#### Thursday, September 1

\*\*Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Pruning: Plant Sculpture by Debbie Hinchey, Horticulturist and Anchorage Garden Club President. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

#### Tuesdays and Fridays, September 2 - September 30

Herb Study Group: Join the Herb Study Group in the Herb Garden at Alaska Botanical Garden. Learn to care for the 100 different species of herbs. Bring tools, kneeling pads and a bucket for weeds. 1:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage.

#### Tuesday, September 6

Valley Garden Club Monthly Meeting: State Fair Ribbon Winners: Sharing Your Ribbon Success. 10:30 am at the First Baptist Church, Leatherleaf and Bogard Road, Wasilla.

#### Sunday, September 11

Alaska Botanical Garden: Annual Harvest Day Festival: Celebrate Harvesting Produce, Fruit and Herbs from the Garden. Enjoy Samples, Chef Demos and Music. Donated Food Goes to Beans Café and Food Bank of Alaska. 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Cost: \$10 per person or \$5 with Donation of 3 Cans of Food per person. Members and Children Under 4 are Free. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/event/harvest-day/>.

#### Monday, September 12

\*\*Mat-Su Master Gardener's Monthly Meeting. Times and Details at: <http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/calendar-of-events.html>.

\*\*Meadow Lake Bloomers Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Overwintering Plants by Pat Tremaine. 10:30 am at Meadow Lakes Senior Center, 1210 N Kim Drive, Wasilla.

#### Thursday, September 15

\*\*Wildflower Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Seasonal Color in the Garden by Marsha Van Abel, Willow GC President. 10:00 am - 11:30 am at Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

\*\*Valley Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Annual Business Meeting, Harvest Dinner Potluck and Sharing the Best and Worst Gardening Experiences. 6:30 pm at Willow Community Center, Mile 69.5, Parks Highway. Details at: <http://willowgardenclub.blogspot.com/>.

#### Saturday, September 17

Alaska Rock Garden Society Monthly Meeting: Annual Plant Exchange. Bring Up To 5 Plants to Exchange. 2:00 pm in the Basement of the MTA Building, 480 Commercial Drive, Palmer.

#### Monday, September 19

AMGA Monthly Meeting: Bugs In Your Garden, Entomology: Learn and Apply by the Advanced Master Gardeners. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Anchorage Cooperative Extension Service 1675 C Street, #100. Details at: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/anchorage/calendar/>.

#### Tuesday, September 27

Alaska Orchid Society Monthly Meeting. 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm at BP Energy Center, Seward Hy and Benson Blvd. Details at: <http://www.wayne-toups.squarespace.com/events/>.

#### Saturday, September 10

Alaska Garden Clubs Convention: Sow Your Love of Gardening into the Hearts of Children. 9:00 am - 6:00 pm at 1420 Cordova Street. Cost: \$50. Information and Registration Form at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

### CLASSES

#### Saturday, September 3

\*\*Alaska Botanical Garden: Seed Collecting Workshop by Mike Monterusso, ABG Horticulturist. Learn Proper Seed Collecting Times, Techniques and Preservation. 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Cost \$35 - \$40. Preregistration is required. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/events/>.

\*\*Eagle River Nature Center: Fall Mushrooms by Diane Plenenger and Chris Maack. Learn to Identify Mushrooms You Bring In, Collecting Practices and Etiquette. Includes 2 to 3 Mile Identification Walk. 11:00 am at Eagle River Nature Center, 32750 Eagle River Rd., Eagle River. Cost: \$5 for Parking for Nonmembers. Details at: <http://www.ernc.org/calendar/september.html>.

#### Saturday, September 10

\*\*Alaska Botanical Garden: No Yo Mama's Pesto by Michelle Semerad, Member of the Herb Society. Make and Taste a Variety of Herb Pestos. 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Cost \$35 - \$40. Preregistration is required. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/events/>.

#### Thursday, September 15

Backyard Composter- Certification Course Clinic A by Ellen Vande Visse, Good Earth Garden School. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Mat Su Borough Central Landfill's Classroom, at the end of North 49th State Street off Palmer - Wasilla Highway. Details at: <http://ellenvandevisse.com/classes/?ee=137>.

#### Saturday, September 17

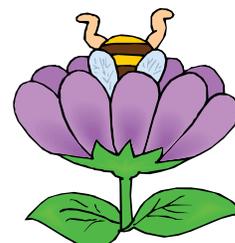
Backyard Composter- Certification Course Clinic A by Ellen Vande Visse, Good Earth Garden School. 10:00 am - Noon at Mat Su Borough Central Landfill's Classroom, at the end of North 49th State Street off Palmer - Wasilla Highway. Details at: <http://ellenvandevisse.com/classes/?ee=137>.

#### Wednesday, September 21

\*\*Alaska Botanical Garden: Planting Garlic. Learn Appropriate Varieties of Garlic for Alaska, How to Plant and When. Attendees Will Receive A Garlic Bulb to Take Home. 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Cost \$35 - \$40. Preregistration is required. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/events/>.

#### Wednesday, September 28

Alaska Botanical Garden Lecture: Sprinkle Flowers on Your Plate by Kitty Morse, Cookbook Author. 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at BP Energy Center, 900 Benson Blvd. Cost: \$30 - \$35. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/event/renee-shepherd-lecture/>.





### Anchorage Master Gardeners at the Alaska State Fair

Cindy Walker, volunteering in the Herbs section of Crops,  
Dennis Ronse with home grown flower entries, &  
Gina Docherty, volunteering in the Outdoor Crops section

Photos by Fran Durner



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 Center  
1675 C Street, Suite 100  
(access off of 16th Avenue)

Monthly educational programs are free and open to the public.  
Visitors and guests are welcomed and encouraged.

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

Mail: 14051 Fejes Road  
Anchorage, AK 99516  
Phone: 345-4099  
Email: amga@alaska.net  
AMGA Web Site: www.alaskamastergardeners.org

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)

#### AMGA Board of Directors

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Harry Deuber       | President         |
| Phyllis Rogers     | Co-Vice President |
| Melanie San Angelo | Co-Vice President |
| Cindy Walker       | Treasurer         |
| Sheila Toomey      | Secretary         |
| Cheryl Shroyer     | Parliamentarian   |
| Kathy Liska        | At Large          |
| Fran Pekar         | At Large          |
| Marjorie Williams  | At Large          |

#### Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

|  |   |
|--|---|
| CES Liaison:                               | Julie Riley                             |
| Broadcast Email:                           | Fran Pekar                              |
| Calendar of Events:                        | Martha Farris                           |
| Advanced MG:                               | Ginny Moore                             |
| Directory Editor:                          | Sandy Harrington                        |
| Field Trips & Programs:                    | Melanie San Angelo & Phyllis Rogers     |
| Google Group:                              | Mary Rydesky                            |
| Hospitality:                               | Kathy Liska & Marjorie Williams         |
| Volunteer Coordinator:                     | Sue Looney                              |
| Membership & Database:                     | Jane Baldwin                            |
| Newsletter & Website:                      | Gina Docherty                           |
| 2016 Statewide Master Gardener Conference: | Barbara Baker                           |
| Lifetime Achievement:                      | Lynne Opstad                            |
| Grants:                                    | Barbara Baker                           |
| Pioneer Home:                              | Erma MacMillan (design)                 |
|  | Lynne Opstad                            |
| Volunteer Coordinators:                    | Julie Ginder, Joyce Smith, Lynne Opstad |

#### 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.

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:  
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1675 C St, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 786-6300  
Fax: 786-6312

