



## **AMGA NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2017  
Volume 19, Issue 8**

### **AUGUST 12th LATE SEASON PLANT SALE!**

Houseplants, garden art and classes!

Pay attention! It's at a new location this year: The Benny Benson School parking lot, next to the Alaska Botanical Garden on Campbell Airstrip Road, happening along with the ALPAR pot recycling day at the ABG

Bring plants to sell and keep 75% of the money.

It's our big annual fund-raiser, so dig up those thinned-out perennials, those annoying "volunteers," the flowers, herbs or shrubs you want to replace, and whatever you've propagated yourself; Bring them to the sale site before 9 a.m.

Check the AMGA Website for details, like how to mark and price your sales offerings, etc.  
Or call/e-mail Jane Baldwin, Sheila Toomey or Harry Deuber.

**TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS --**



### **Message From Harry**

If you haven't had a chance to visit the Anchorage Pioneer Home gardens in a while, you really owe it to yourself to check out this outstanding gem. Designed, planted and maintained by our fellow Master Gardeners, it is really quite stunning and well worth a visit. Another garden sponsored and maintained by our members is the Heritage Garden located at ABG. It is looking quite nice as well and our work is much appreciated by the staff and visitors.

The big news for this month is the upcoming AMGA plant sale on August 12th. Although this event is a great fund raiser for both AMGA and individual sellers, it has become one of those special events in the yearly calendar that many look forward to. Despite all the work involved, it has really become a fun social event for our members and the public. Many of us come for the sale but end up spending the day hanging out with friends and fellow gardeners. This is a new location for us and we thank ABG for the use of their parking lot and for lending us tables and chairs for the day. Their support is much appreciated.

Hope to see you all at an upcoming garden tour or at the sale. In the meantime, happy gardening to you all.

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

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July 10, Bioshelter Home in Eagle River



Left: photos by Gina Docherty

Right: Top 3 photos by Mike Baldwin

Right: Bottom photo by Gina Docherty

## Recycled and Ergonomic Beds

By Joni Bruno



Photos by Mike Baldwin

Continued on page 5...

### Treasure's Report

Balances 5/31/17	
Checking account	5522.15
Savings account	11728.48
	<u>\$17250.63</u>

Dedicated Funds	8555.97
Interest Bearing CD	10029.79
	<u>\$18585.76</u>

Revenue:	
Interest	58.89
	<u>\$58.89</u>

Expense:	
Operations	249.99
Public Relations (Volunteer Vests)	136.55
Website	135.00
	<u>\$521.54</u>

Balances 6/30/17	
Checking account	5000.61
Savings account	11729.93
	<u>\$16730.54</u>

Dedicated Funds	8582.15
Interest Bearing CD	10061.05
	<u>\$18643.20</u>

First, I want to thank everyone that came out to my home and wandered my little garden. Coupled with weird cool weather this season, I haven't had much time in the garden, and this left me feeling that I cheated my Master Gardener friends. However, I learned a lot from my garden visitors, so thank you again for coming! So many people, I apologize, I didn't get to speak to everyone. Most of our outer beds, including the ones down the property line in front, were constructed of recycled wood from pipe carrying ships that needed to have a slip for the pipe not to roll. Our "cabin" shed is also made of the recycled wood (The roof parts were purchased).

The raised beds were custom made by my husband Danny (no recycle). We have visions of funding our Gardening Club by building these for anyone that wants them, on site, fees vary on size and needs. The funds will purchase teaching materials, curriculums, soil, aprons and garden tools, for children, and hopefully adults. We are currently working with the Boys and Girls Club of Mountain View. We have assisted Neighborsworks Alaska with gardens for and with the children of Hampstead Health, and the adults of the Adelaide housing.

LUV Gardening Club (found on FaceBook - by same name), is a group that meets once a month. Members volunteer their expertise, and experiences with each other and out in the community. We need people like YOU to help us. One adult per 3 kids is rough... but much better than the 15 to one ratio we would have without YOU. See (and like) our page for more information.



Ergonomic raised beds  
Photo by Joni Bruner

## Plant Mystery Solved

By Gina Docherty

Several years ago a new plant appeared in my garden in the same location where a Gold Ninebark had been. The lovely chartreuse ninebark had been there for 5-6 years before it finally didn't come back one year. This new plant had very familiar looking leaves, and small white flowers. Verna Pratt looked at a photo of the plant blooms and leaves; she was unable to identify it. Marilyn Barker came over a year or so ago & looked at it. Unfortunately, it wasn't blooming. She thought it was perhaps a Phacelia, as the flowers in the photo were similar.

This year, when it was in bloom, I called Marilyn. She & another botanist graciously drove over and took a branch home to look through their books with. Lo and Behold! They identified it as a hydrophyllum or waterleaf plant.

It was later confirmed by a 3rd botanist (from the east coast) to be *Hydrophyllum virginianum*.

My biggest fear with this new plant was whether it was a weed, and should I get rid of it. I do not need any more weeds to deal with at the moment! The answer was no, this is an understory woodland plant. In the early spring there are spots on the leaves that look like water spots, hence the name "Waterleaf"; the spots disappear as it ages into the summer. There are nine species of hydrophyllum, all native to North America. They like moist soil and shade.

These two waterleaf plants look very much alike, except for perhaps the size of the leaves, and differ mainly in their native habitat:

Virginia Waterleaf or Eastern Waterleaf, *Hydrophyllum virginianum* is native to Eastern North America.

Pacific Waterleaf, *Hydrophyllum tenuipes*, is native to western North America from British Columbia to northern California.

I mentioned this story to Jaime Rodriguez, rock garden expert & owner of Alpine Garden Nursery out in Palmer. He also has this plant; he believes his also 'hitchhiked' in on another plant that he had.

So far, it does not seem to be invasive. But it will be deadheaded just the same.

The moral of the story is to watch for these hitchhikers in plants purchased from out of state, like most everything you get in big box stores, or even local nurseries. They might be good guys, or they might be thugs. Either way, it pays to find out.



*Hydrophyllum virginianum*

If you look closely at these leaves, you can see the 'water spots' along the inner part of the 'saw tooth' edge.

From: Great Lakes image collection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, [http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/image/viz\\_native4.html](http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/image/viz_native4.html) (wikipedia)

*Hydrophyllum tenuipes*



Taken in the woods behind The Evergreen State College

### Pennsylvania Dutch Hot lettuce dressing

- 3 slices bacon, crisp and chopped
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 1 1/2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- salad greens (lettuce, endive, spinach, plantain or dandelion)
- 6 Hard Boiled Eggs
- chopped onion (optional)

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Cook bacon until crisp; remove and chop.
2. Add to greens.
3. Add all other ingredients to the beaten egg and pour into the hot bacon fat and cook until thickened.
4. Serve over greens, and add a little bit of chopped onion to salad, if desired.
5. Add chopped hard boiled eggs

[Everything's better with bacon!]



Photo by Mike Baldwin



Middle and bottom photos by Gina Docherty

## Recent MG Passings

AMGA acknowledges the recent loss of 2 long time Master Gardeners and their contributions to our community:



Jane W. Hafling (1923 - 2017) - Jane was the master gardener and artist that designed AMGA's first logo.

A quote from her obituary:

*Jane was an avid gardener, spending countless hours in her greenhouse and garden. She especially enjoyed her 70-year-old peonies and growing tomatoes with her husband's assistance. A master gardener, she later judged many flower shows and often had her home on the summer garden tours.*

Sandra (Sam) Anderson (1951 - 2017) passed away May 27, 2017. Sandra was in the first class of master gardeners taught back in 1978. From her obituary:

*She loved Alaska as most Alaskan's do. Sam graduated Dimond High in 1969. And, in 1978, she became one of the first Master Gardeners in the state of Alaska. Happily guiding the community, her friends and keeping her mother's house alive with wonderful displays of flowers ever since.*

These Anchorage Master Gardeners helped form the group we are today. Our hats go off to these women, and acknowledge their contributions. Rest in Peace.



## Accessing the AMGA Google Group Made Easy

If you are like me, & have had problems accessing the Google Group, there is an easy solution. Here it is:

1. Go to the AMGA website
2. Put your cursor over the "AMGA" link on the top left
3. Scroll down to the "Anchorage AMGA Google Group" link & click on it.
4. BOOM! You're there.

Once at the Google Group site, click on "NEW TOPIC" at the top left. This will open up a new email where you can send your message.  
Easy Peasy.



## Bird Chatter

**JUST SAYIN' . . .** It seems that Anchorage is in the throes of a gardening renaissance.

The proof? A local construction company owner, looking for space to lease, told BC he's going to have to build something new because all the old warehouses in town have been snapped up by pot growers. Yes! Go gardeners!

**VALLEY POOP . . .** From Pat Tremaine: Susitna Organics ("humified compost") has a new owner; Mark Fisher moved to PA to care for his mother. The new owner is Randy Souhrada, along with his family. They will continue with a top product and even try to improve it. The website is [www.susitnaorganics.com](http://www.susitnaorganics.com).

**EVERGREEN. . .** Is BC the last person in Anchorage to discover the Arthur Campbell Nursery, located on Minnesota between the Shell Station and West High? The place is all perennials, all the time -- and just when it's time to consider what to plant now for next season? They've got shrubs galore, every berry known, weird shaped trees no one but Nickel LaFleur has ever heard of -- many of them with the word "weeping" in their name. And Samantha the saleslady says they've got perennial herbs this year -- an experiment. MG owned, BC hears.

Gina Docherty was blown away on her first visit -- and you know it takes a lot to impress Gina. BC is trying to recruit one of their people to teach a class on Plant Sale Day -- August 12th. We'll see.

**SAVING THE EARTH. . .** and eating good stuff while you do it. Cindee Karnes, who hosted our mind-boggling visit to her Bioshelter home last month, is running another Permaculture Design certification program, this one in Anchorage. Five weekends, 72 hours, between October and March. Check details at [alaskapermaculture.com](http://alaskapermaculture.com).

**FRENCH CONNECTION. . .** Speaking of the Bioshelter tour -- and poop -- member Cheryl Chapman brought two French visitors along. They were fascinated, she said. "Those fringes of healthy worms dangling through the bottom of the worm farm tray were pretty impressive, as was the information that what they eat determines what plants their poop will nourish: annuals or perennials. Perennials like newspaper-and-leaf poop. Annuals prefer the vegetable-fruit poop.

"They were also fascinated by the thick straw-and-clay construction ... and by the holstered, fingertip-ready canisters of bear spray throughout the whole property."

**YES!!!!** . . . There will be a 2017 Master Gardener course. As you know, we did not have one in 2016, thanks to the machinations of UAF. This is good news! (Check details in article below.)

**IT'S HERE . . .** Brenda Adam's new book, "Cool Plants for Cold Climates," is in at Barnes & Noble. It's gorgeous.

**ALONG THAT ROCKY ROAD . . .** The Rock Garden Society, Anchorage chapter, is recruiting new members. You know you've been planning to do something with that bare trouble spot in your yard, or the strip along the driveway. Now's the time to get into rock garden plants. (You don't actually need a lot of rocks) It's a whole new, fascinating world. Check with MG member Madge Oswald: [johnmadge@chugach.net](mailto:johnmadge@chugach.net).

## New Master Gardener Class Set by Sheila Toomey

Steve Brown has come through for us -- the 2017 Anchorage Master Gardener class will happen. Classes are set for Mondays and Wednesdays, 3-6 pm, beginning September 11th and ending mid-October. Classes will be held at the CES offices, 1840 Bragaw St.

The online registration site is up:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ybfh5y2c>

Registration is \$300, Steve said. That covers all course materials including the textbook "Alaska Sustainable Gardening Handbook." \$150 will be refunded if 40 hours of community service are completed within one year of the start of the course, he said in a written notice.

Registering as soon as possible is highly recommended as the course fills quickly. Steve said you can contact him at 907-745-3639 if you have any questions.



# Garden Event Calendar

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

### Tuesday August 1, 15 and 29

AK Rock Garden Society: Weeding and Cleaning the Rock Garden at Alaska Botanical Garden. 10:00 am - 11:00 am at 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.akrockgardensociety.org/calendar.html>.

### Tuesday, August 1

Valley Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Tips for the Alaska State Fair and Updates on Entering Crops and Flowers by Kathy Liska and Michelle Adezko. 10:30 am at the First Baptist Church, 900 Leatherleaf Loop, Wasilla.

### Thursday, August 3

\*\*Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Preserving the Harvest by Carol Ross. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

\*\*Alaska Botanical Garden: Wine in the Woods with Local Wineries, Hors D'oeuvres, and Music. 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Cost: \$75 for Drinking Ticket and \$40 for Designated Drivers. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage.

### Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6

Anchorage Garden Club 73rd Annual Flower Show: Anchorage Centennial Celebration. 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Saturday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

### Tuesdays and Fridays, August 1 - 25

Herb Study Group: Join the Herb Study Group during summer in the Herb Garden at Alaska Botanical Garden. Learn to care for the many 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, August 8

Greater Eagle River Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Tree Care and Pruning by Arborist Scott Gage. 7:00 pm at the First Baptist Church Annex Across the Street from 11149 Old Eagle River Road.

### Wednesday, August 9 and 23

Campbell Creek Science Center: Work Party to Weed the Wildflower Beds. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the East Entrance of the of the Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive, Anchorage.

### Thursday, August 10

Alaska Botanical Garden: Story Time in the Garden: Nature Stories and Activities for Children Ages 3-5. Must Be Accompanied by an Adult. 11:00 am - 12:30 pm on the ABG Lawn. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage.

### Saturday, August 12

Recycle Plastic Pots: Plastic Pots 2, 5 & 7. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell

Airstrip Road, Anchorage.

### Sunday, August 20

Alaska Botanical Garden: Annual Harvest Day Festival: Sample Produce, Fruit and Herbs from the Garden. Fresh Produce Harvested that Day and Donated Food Goes to Beans Café and The Children's Lunch Box. 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Cost: \$5 per person with Canned Box Donation. Members Free.

### Tuesday, August 22

\*\*L.U.V. Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Plant Propagation and Review of Boys and Girls Club Projects. 7:00 pm at 1710 Tammy Avenue, South Anchorage.

\*\*Dandelion Removal for the Lowenfels Trail. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Lowenfels trail, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Helpful tools to bring: Dandelion digger, kneeling pad and a 5-gallon pail or a plastic bag.

\*\*Alaska Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Private Tour of Alaska Botanical Garden. 6:00 pm at ABG Office Area. Details at: <http://www.akorchid.org>.

### August 24 - September 4

Alaska Fair: "Better Together", Palmer, Alaska.

\*\*Flowers 1st Entry: Wednesday, August 23, 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

\*\*Flowers 2nd Entry: Wednesday, August 30, 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Details at: <http://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/FLOWERS-2017.pdf>.

## CLASSES

Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26  
Master Composter Certification Class by Ellen Vande Visse, Green Earth Garden School. Friday, August 25 from 10:00 am - 4:15 pm, Saturday, August 26 from 11:00 am to 4:15 pm at Mat-Su Borough Central Landfill Complex, Palmer. Details at <http://ellenvandevisse.com/classes/?ee=151>.

## PLANT SALES

### Saturday, August 12

\*\*Alaska Master Gardener's Plant Sale: Plant Now for Spring Bloom: Perennials, Berries, Trees and Shrubs. Free Classes. Alaska Botanical Garden parking lot in front of Benny Benson School, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage.  
[See article on page 1] The Plant Recycling area will be in the upper parking lot, plant sale in the lower parking lot in front of Benny Benson School.

\*\*Meadow Lake Bloomers Garden Club Perennial Plant Sale. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm at Meadow Lakes City Center Parking Lot, Corner of Pittman Road and Parks Highway, Wasilla.



Some whimsical garden art on the summer garden tour in Seward.  
Thanks to all who shared their gardens: the Tarpeys, Kirstie Willen, and  
Judy Rough. A visit to the New Community Garden across from the  
SeaLife Center was also visited.  
Photos by Gina Docherty



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

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  
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AMGA Web Site: [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://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)

### 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:

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

### AMGA Board of Directors

Harry Deuber	President
Marilyn Barker	Vice President
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### Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

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Newsletter & Website:	Gina Docherty
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Grants:	Marilyn Barker
Pioneer Home:	Erma MacMillan (design)
	Lynne Opstad
Volunteer Coordinators:	Julie Ginder, Joyce Smith, Lynne Opstad



## Resurrection Bay Garden Club Summer 2017 Tour

By Gina Docherty

Photos by Gina Docherty

I had the pleasure of attending a great garden tour in Seward, Alaska. The weather was typical Seward, pleasant and overcast but not raining. The gardens were great, but a highlight of the trip was seeing a small black bear bolt across the highway and sail over the siderail without using any feet!

These gardens are all surrounded by lush rain forest flora. I don't know why, but those Cow Parsnips and Devil's Club even looked attractive! I guess it's all in the location.

Here are some photos of a few gardens in Seward:



Not everyone has a whale skull as garden art! Only in Seward.