



AMGA NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017
Volume 19, Issue 5

Message From Harry

Ready. Set. Go! Ok, now we can finally, officially call the start of the 2017 growing season. If you live in the lowlands of Anchorage at least, our gardens are pretty much clear of snow and we can begin the long-awaited spring cleanup. What fun it is to wander around our gardens to see which plants are poking up and perhaps even blooming for us. After weeks of clear blue skies in April, I hope we haven't used up too much of our allotted number of sunny days and that there is plenty to come.

I continue to be amazed with how our membership always comes through when asked to volunteer for various events and projects. Recently we had a need for instructors for a number of workshops and help at the Sears Mall Spring Garden Show and we actually had to turn down offers of help. Sign-ups for the Pioneer Home gardens are going well and continuing, but there is still a need for some maintenance help over the summer. To paraphrase Julie Ginder, don't wait too long to sign up or we will have to turn you away at the garden gate!

This year AMGA has offered to assist our friends at the Alaska Botanical Garden by adopting the Heritage Garden. Although many of our members are already heavily involved at ABG in various roles, we felt this is a good time to have a more formal presence there as well as giving more of our members a chance to enjoy working with a great team of fellow gardeners. Working under the direction of staff, we will be planting and maintaining the Heritage Garden this season. If you enjoy annual flowers and vegetables, this is a gem of a garden. At our recent membership meeting, many of you expressed an interest in learning more about this new AMGA service project so stay tuned as we develop our plans. Please let me know if you would like to be involved in this effort. This year ABG is especially in need of our support and I know our expert and dedicated members are going to do a great job.

Speaking of the Alaska Botanical Garden, the new greenhouse is up and running. The official ribbon cutting

and open house was held on April 22 and an enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers enjoyed touring the latest addition to our ABG. The growing area is already brimming with plants and staff. Volunteers will welcome the indoor work space. No doubt the indoor restrooms will be very welcome as well to visitors. You can tell that real progress is being made when you can finally ditch the porta-potties!

Wishing you all a great month as we start our garden clean ups and planting. It is so nice to see our city start to clean up and green up, to visit with neighbors again after the long winter season. Before you know it, the various garden clubs will be having their spring sales. I know our friendly local nurseries are all set to go, chockablock with our favorite plants along with plenty of new ones awaiting discovery.



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They'll Know Our Name by Sheila Toomey

Flying tubers! That's what it felt like at our first big Outreach event of the 2017 season: the Sears Mall Spring Garden Show on April 15th, where plant-hungry shoppers were snapping up Marya Morrow's fabulous dahlia tubers.

The corridor between Sears and the empty space that used to be Carrs was lined with displays by local plant organizations and miscellaneous vendors hawking stuff from make-up to meat.

Thanks to some organizational heavy lifting by President Harry Deuber and Jane Baldwin, plus shifts of MG volunteers, our display was one of the busiest along the promenade.

AMGA had five tables, one devoted to CES publications and programs, the rest full of healthy looking reasonably priced plants. It was our first foray into the spring sales market and we were pleasantly surprised. Let's face it -- there was still snow on the ground. It was hard to think about planting. But the weather favored us and sunshine awoke the sleeping gardener in show visitors.

Best-sellers included African Violets (27 plants sold), Dahlia tubers (95 sold), and a variety of other specimens, including two-foot tall Cobea vines grown by Emily Becker's Airport Heights Elementary School students. When day was done, more than \$1,500 had been taken in, \$550 of it for AMGA.

It doesn't rival our end-of-season sale, but it's a start. Equally as important -- perhaps more so -- we debuted what might be called our new auxiliary mission: In addition to "educate" and "outreach," we want to make sure the people we serve know who we are.

To this end, volunteers who had them wore the new MG "volunteer" vests and a banner hanging from one of the tables said "Master Gardeners" instead of just "Cooperative Extension Service."

And we didn't just sell plants. We answered questions, encouraged people to check out the MG program and engaged anyone showing the slightest interest in "garden talk."

Lists of volunteer opportunities are circulating, online and at our meetings. Not everyone has time to be on the Board or manage a project, but everyone of our nearly 300 members can do a couple of hours a summer. And when you do, make sure the people you meet know you're a MASTER GARDENER.



President Harry Deuber as cashier at the Sears Mall Master Gardener/CES table with a nice new MG table cloth - photo by Mike Baldwin



Customers looking over the dahlias at the MG table - photo by Mike Baldwin



Sheila minds the dahlia tubers - photo by Mike Baldwin

Cook Inlet Chapter of the Society of American Foresters

Our annual tree seedling sale will be undergoing some changes for 2017. Our biggest change is that we are working with two new nurseries to source our tree seedlings and will have both a Spring and Summer distribution of pre-paid seedling orders. The order forms for both the spring and summer distribution can be found here:

Spring Order Form:
http://www.forestry.org/media/docs/ak/2017_Spring_Form.pdf

Summer Order Form:
http://www.forestry.org/media/docs/ak/2017_Summer_Form.pdf

For 2017, we will be providing 100% American grown seedlings. We are offering Siberian larch seedlings from a local Palmer, Alaska nursery and have contracted with a Minnesota nursery to grow the remainder of our seedlings:

Eastern Larch
 White Spruce
 Paper Birch
 Scotch Pine.

Due to the change in our seedling suppliers there will also be changes in the way our tree seedlings are bundled and shipped and the timing of seedling delivery. During our Arbor Day (May) seedling distribution we will have only White Spruce and Eastern Larch seedlings available with the remaining species shipped later in the summer to accommodate the growers' sowing schedules.

We are now taking orders for all seedlings but please remember; only White Spruce and Eastern Larch will be ready for May delivery. The remaining species (Siberian Larch, Paper Birch, Scotch Pine) will be available the latter part of July-early August. Keep in mind that shipping details for the Summer distribution are still being worked out with the suppliers. Be sure to provide a good phone, email address and pickup location selection on your seedling order form. To simplify the ordering process we are providing separate order forms for Spring and Summer delivery at the following web location:

www.forestry.org/alaska/treesale

As always, any questions pertaining to the annual seedling sale should be directed to the seedling sale coordinator (me).

Roger Burnside, Tree Seedling Sale Coordinator
 Alaska Society of American Foresters
 Cook Inlet Chapter
 PO Box 240432
 Anchorage AK 99524-0432
reburnsi@gci.net

Volunteer Opportunities



* **Pioneer Home:** Help plant and maintain front gardens of the Pioneer Home during the summer; Contact: Julie Ginder jkginder@gci.net or Lynne Opstad: lopstad@gci.net

(If you are interested in taking on the design for the gardens please contact Erma MacMillan, Harry Deuber, or Lynne Opstad for more information.)

* **Muldoon Town Square Park:** Help plan, build, maintain, and enjoy the Community Orchard and Community Garden. Contact Kristi Wood at 278-2453 or bikemoredriveless@hotmail.com for details.

* **Anchorage Senior Center:** Help plant and maintain gardens at the Anchorage Senior Center; Contact: Bonnie Tisler: 907-333-5452

* **Anchorage Rose Garden:** Help maintain the Alaska Rose Garden on the Park Strip; Contact Debbie Hinchey: dhinchey@alaskan.com

* **Alaska Botanical Garden:** Help adopt and maintain Heritage Garden - contact Harry Deuber: denali542@yahoo.com or 440-6372

* **Lutheran Church of Hope Garden:** Help plant and maintain gardens to donate fresh produce to local food pantries. Contact Don Bladow: dfbladow@gmail.com

Help one another; there's no time like the present and no present like the time. ~James Durst

Treasurer's Report

Balances 2/28/17	
Checking account	7726.86
Savings account	11724.06
	\$19450.92

Dedicated Funds	8530.28
Interest Bearing CD	10000.00
	\$18530.28

Revenue:	
Dedicated Donation	100.00
Education/Fundraising	20.00
Interest	56.97
Membership	280.09
	\$457.06

Expense:	
Directory	900.83
Hospitality	36.86
Operations	49.99
Website	750.00
	\$1737.68

Balances 3/31/17	
Checking account	6389.27
Savings account	11725.55
	\$18114.82

Dedicated Funds	8555.97
Interest Bearing CD	10029.79
	\$18585.76

Growing Young Gardeners: Break Up Beautification By Amy Reed

"Ugliness is so grim," Lady Bird Johnson once said. "A little beauty, something that is lovely, I think, can help create harmony which will lessen tensions."

The most dreadful time of year in Alaska has arrived; Break-up. Everything is covered in grime...the lingering snow banks, the roads, windows, and cars. Nothing burns me more than seeing cardboard, trash bags, mattresses, and tire debris lining the Glenn and Seward Highways. Why can't people keep Alaska beautiful?

Over a decade ago, we lived in San Antonio, Texas. This was the land that Lady Bird Johnson beautified the highways with wildflowers. Bluebells, Phlox, Indian Paintbrushes, and Bluebonnets lined the highways. It was her vision to see the color rather than billboards and junkyards in the landscape. It wasn't unusual to see parents plop their teething infants down in their Sunday best amongst the highway median's bluebonnets to capture an epic Easter picture.

My family attempted to recreate the highway beautification vision along our road one year by dumping over 20 bags of Alaska Wildflower Seed. While we have a plethora of fireweed along the roadway, no other flowers have emerged.

While I feel that us Master Gardeners beautify our yards and landscapes, we might give a hand to bring Lady Bird Johnson's vision of beautification here to Alaska. That can be in the form of volunteering on Citywide Cleanup week April 29- May 6. Information can be found at <http://anchoragechamber.org/events/citywide-cleanup/faq>. Last year, my family collected over two filled wagons of litter from one street alone. It was a great lesson for my child about anti-littering and protecting our environment. There are also many volunteer options for flowerbed maintenance that were listed in last month's newsletter; Pioneer Home, Anchorage Senior Center, Muldoon Town Square Park to name a few. Not only will we clean our city but enhance the gorgeous landscape in which we call home.

Let's leave the grim ugliness of Break Up behind and beautify Alaska!



Some Old Slug Tidbits Compiled by Jane Baldwin

PAM Away Your Slugs

If slugs are munching your Hostas, try spraying them with an Olive Oil & Garlic spray such as PAM. . . (Kalamazoo Co. MG 2008 newsletter). Somebody try it this year and report results. . .

Caffeine Repels and Kills Slugs

<http://environment.newscientist.com/article/dn2470>
(News service June 2002)

Extracts from article, which references: Nature (vol 417 p 915)

"Diluted caffeine solutions repel and kill slugs, say researchers in Hawaii." . . . Agricultural Research Service in Hawaii were field-testing caffeine as a toxin against a non-native frog. But they discovered that 95 per cent of large slugs were killed by a spray containing two per cent caffeine.

The team then tested lower concentrations of caffeine on cabbage leaves. At a concentration of just 0.01 per cent, caffeine reduced slugs' feeding by one quarter. A cup of instant coffee contains about 0.05 per cent caffeine. . . . The researchers say that they do not know why caffeine killed the slugs. But they suggest it may act as a neurotoxin, since sprayed slugs fell to "uncoordinated writhing" before dying. . . . Caffeine is present in coffee and cocoa beans to protect the plant against insects, but it is pure chance that it has a toxic effect on molluscs. It could be very useful because coffee is not likely to harm people. . . "

Hmmm. Spray my plants with instant coffee and it's supposed to deter slug feeding. . . but will it hurt my plants 'tis the question?

Slugs To Inherit The Earth

Slugs are hermaphrodites - so it doesn't take two to tango. All by itself, one slug can produce 2 to 3 dozen eggs several times a season. Eggs can hatch in 10 days. Sluglings can mature and begin to lay eggs in 6 weeks. Given optimum conditions (each slug lays 36 eggs, 100% hatch, no predators). imagine this:

May 10th: one slug lays 36 eggs; 10 days later:

May 20th: You now have 37 slugs eating your plants; 6 weeks later:

July 1st: 37 slugs lay 36 eggs each. You now have 37 slugs eating and 1,332 eggs waiting; 10 days later:

July 10th: You now have 1,369 slugs eating your plants; 6 weeks later:

Aug 21: 1,369 slugs lay 36 eggs each.

You now have 1,369 slugs eating your plants and 49,284 eggs waiting; 10 days later:

Aug 31: You now have 50,653 slugs eating your plants
DECLARE WAR ON SLUGS! DESTROY EVERY SLUG AND SLUG EGG YOU FIND!

Are Slugs Good for Anything? Maybe.

"Slugs . . . are also good at removing burned-on food. I once left some potatoes to boil dry. The smell was nasty, so I dumped the pan upside down in the garden. It remained there for a few weeks and when I decided to have a go at cleaning it I found that slugs had already done the job. (Note: the pan was subsequently washed.) Since then I have often used this method of cleaning. It is particularly good for ovenproof glassware that has burned-on brown marks." Yuk.
(New Scientist magazine, 12 August 2000, page 52)

Yet Another Slug Trap Idea

6-8" pieces of black plastic pipe, put in slug bait, place in garden under plants & near slug hiding places. Keeps pets, animals and birds out of the bait and protects bait from rain. BUT keep the pipe pieces baited or remove after achieving slug control objectives otherwise slugs begin using them for hiding places. (APS Primrose Quarterly Spring 1996).

Slugburgers - a Mississippi Tradition

From: <https://foodiescore.wordpress.com/2015/05/02/the-slug-burger-a-mississippi-tradition/>

Ingredients

1 pound ground meat (we used ground turkey)
1/2 cup cornmeal (you can also use soy meal, grits or another filler)
Flour to coat burgers
Salt
Vegetable oil
Desired burger toppings
Sandwich buns

Step one:

Thoroughly mix meat with cornmeal or other filler substance and a pinch of salt.

Step two:

Patty out burgers and coat with flour for frying.

Step three:

Place burgers in the pan and fry until meat is brown and crispy on the outside. Because of the consistency, the meat will still be softer on the inside when done.

Step four:

Drain grease from burgers, place on buns and top with onions, pickles and mustard.

The original slugburgers included those toppings, but you can modify the recipe to fit your taste.

I'll bet you thought there were slugs in this recipe...

Ten Things to Know about Trilliums Reprinted with permission from the Native Plant Herald. By Prairie Nursery.

1. There are 39 native trilliums in the U.S. All trillium species belong to the Liliaceae (lily) family. Native to temperate regions of North America and East Asia, the genus 'Trillium' has 49 species, 39 of them are native to various areas across the United States.
 2. The plants are extremely long-lived. Trilliums are relatively easy to grow from their rhizomatous root but slow to develop and spread. To make up for it, the plants can live for up to 25 years.
 3. Early season sunlight is needed. Even though it is a woodland species, the dormant plant needs to be warmed by the early spring sun. It's best to avoid planting them in a location that never gets sun (such as the north side of a building).
 4. Trilliums are either sessile (the flower sits directly on top of its whorled leaves) or pedicellate (the flower is raised on a short stalk). Sessile trilliums usually have mottled foliage, while pedicellate trilliums have showier flowers.
 5. Traditional names for trilliums: Toadshade (for its resemblance to a toad-sized umbrella), Wakerobin (for its appearance with the first robins), and Birthroot (for its medicinal uses during childbirth).
 6. Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*) has no nectar and is pollinated by flies (Diptera) and beetles (Coleoptera). The petals of the flowers exude an odor that attract carion flies and beetles which pollinate the flower.
 7. *Trillium grandiflorum* is pollinated by Hymenoptera insects, including honey bees, bumblebees, and wasps.
 8. Trilliums are not very competitive. It's best to avoid planting them with very aggressive species.
 9. Seed germination is 'a process'. The trillium flower produces a fruit, the seeds of which are spread about by ants and mice. Through the summer the seeds is kept warm and moist for 90 or more days. This conditioning is followed by germination when a root will emerge from the seed. In general, trillium seedlings do not produce a green leaf during their first season. The sprouted seeds are then kept damp and cool for 90 to 120 days. The seedling develops in the dark, underground, for almost a year before sending a green leaf up to find the light.
 10. Trillium may die-back in the heat of summer, but don't cut them back. Picking a trillium flower does not kill the plant but damage can result if the green leaves are taken as well. If the leaves are taken you won't see renewed growth until the following year - which may not happen at all depending on the size of the rhizome. This fact makes the colonies susceptible when they are heavily browsed by deer. Plants will die out after several years of repeated browsing.
- Bonus #11! For best results, mulch with leaf litter. This woodland native loves a leaf covering that replicates its forest home and keeps the ground temperature and moisture 'just right' (one more reason to keep those leaves in your yard).



Bird Chatter

April Herb Study Group Meeting: Anise Hyssop and Yarrow By Elaine Hammes

THE OLD MADE NEW . . . Fans of Gray Owl Farm in Palmer were distressed to learn Kathy and Craige Baker are coiling their hoses after 19 years running one of the most popular greenhouses in the metro area. Gray Owl has been a must stop on BC's annual Valley plant shopping expedition forever.

But not to worry: Their daughter Jenny is continuing the family tradition with a new greenhouse on Inner Springer Loop, near the fairgrounds. Gray Owl will remain a sod farm and Kathy will be the basket lady at Jenny's new place, aptly named Fresh Starts Farm. It opened, as scheduled, on April 15, Jenny told BC, so make the necessary changes to your Valley itinerary.

To get to the new location at 1505 S. Inner Springer Loop, take the Glenn towards Palmer, turn right on Inner Springer Loop just before the fairgrounds. The greenhouse is three-quarters of a mile, on the right.

FLORAL FACTOID . . . How do you tell the difference between a rhododendron and an azalea? AMGA member (and Newsletter Goddess) Gina Docherty visited Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden in Portland, Ore., recently and learned the answer.

Crystal Springs is a magical retreat from the city with more than 2,000 kinds of rhodies in every possible shade of purple, yellow and orange. Also 80+ species of birds if that's your thing. It's been maintained for more than 60 years primarily by volunteers, especially Master Gardeners.

So, how do you tell a rhodie from an azalea? If you're BC, you read the label.

Sorry, just kidding. You count the stamens. Rhododendron have 10 stamens; azalea have five.

IMAGINE THIS. . . Our demure, shrinking-violet former president Nickel LaFleur is joining the homeowners' association that rules the tony development where she and The Banker bought their new Valley home. Nickel has reportedly been told she can't put a greenhouse or apple trees on her property without permission. Oh oh. Friends are collecting bail money.

NO NO NO . . . That rumor about Faltz Nursery closing is definitely NOT true. Kara, at the South Anchorage fixture for landscape needs, says they are just moving their equipment storage to a different part of the property. But the nursery with all its lovely shrubs and rocks and whatnots is staying right where it's always been.

Sue Looney discussed Anise hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*, also known as licorice mint and blue giant hyssop. Hyssop has spikes of lavender blue edible flowers with an anise flavor. Hyssop is hardy to USDA zone 4a, prefers full sun, blooms in late summer and early fall and reseeds freely. Hyssop has been grown successfully in the Herb Garden of Alaska Botanical Garden (ABG).

Hyssop can be used for bouquets, culinary seasoning, potpourris and as tea. It can replace all or some of mint in recipes, including in muffins, jams, sauces and more. The flowers have historically been used for a "dispirited heart." It has had other uses including as a digestive, a cold and cough remedy, and a poultice for burns.

The yarrow presentation began with Barbara Baker showing some healthy live yarrow plants from a local greenhouse, a welcome sight while there was still snow on the ground. Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*, is hardy to zone 2, tolerates poor soil and is drought resistant. Yarrow is more often grown from rhizome or stem cuttings, and should be divided every few years. The name originates from Achilles who is said to have used yarrow to heal wounds in the Trojan War.

Numerous varieties of yarrow—native, introduced and improved are available. Most native yarrow flowers are white, rarely a light pink. Improved selections can be found in colors from yellows to reds, with larger corymbs of flowers.

The yarrow report continued with Elaine Hammes describing uses such as recipes, medicinal properties and others. Yarrow has been used in salads and added at the end of cooking for flavor. In the Middle Ages, yarrow was part of herbal mixtures of gruit, and more recently used in manufacturing some beers, liquors and bitters. Federal rules require beer to be free from thujones, a controversial ingredient said to have (unsubstantiated) mind-altering effects.

Few scientific studies have looked at yarrow as an herbal medicine; therefore, discussion with your health care provider is recommended. In addition to historical uses of yarrow to treat bleeding wounds it has also been used to help improve digestion, and to relieve stomach and menstrual cramps. Extracts of yarrow exhibit antibiotic activity. Yarrow also repels some pest insects while attracting some predatory insects and pollinators.

Remember that the next Herb Study Group will meet May 12 at the ABG Herb Garden!

Garden Event Calendar

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Monday, May 1

HAPPY ARBOR DAY!

**Alaska Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting: Barrow and Thermokarst Topography by Marilyn Barker. Plant Family: Menziesia, Chamaedaphne, and Andromeda by Ginger Hudson. Mini Botany: Douglasia arctica by Beth Baker. 7:00 pm at Campbell Science Center, Anchorage. Details at: <http://aknps.org/Pages/Meetings.php>.

**Mat-Su Master Gardener's Monthly Meeting: Wild Flowers of South Africa by Les Brake. 7:15 pm at Turkey Red Conference Room, 550 S Alaska Street, Palmer.

Tuesday, May 2

Valley Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Asiatic Lilies by Anne Nevaldine, Master Gardener. Business Meeting at 6:00 pm with Potluck, Presentation at 7:00 pm, at Lady Grey's B&B, 1151 E Glenwood Ave, Wasilla.

Thursday, May 4

Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Growing and Grafting Apples by Dan Elliott. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Pioneer Schoolhouse at 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

Friday, May 12

Herb Study Group Monthly Meeting: Presentation on Orientation to ABG's Herb Garden- Giving a Garden Tour. 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Herb Garden Work is scheduled for 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Tuesdays and/or Fridays beginning in May or June as the Herb garden becomes workable and continues through fall.

Monday, May 15

Anchorage AMGA Monthly Meeting: Edible Flowers by Ginger Hudson, Master Gardener. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Anchorage Cooperative Extension Service, Chugachmiut Building, Room 116, 1840 Bragaw Street. Details at: http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org/AMGA_Programs_2017-2018.pdf.

Wednesday, May 17

Willow Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Grass- As In Lawns by Dr. Stephen Brown UA Cooperative Extension. 6:30 pm at Willow Community Center, 23625 W. Willow Community Center Circle, Willow.

Tuesday, May 23

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, May 27

Alaska Public Garden Day: Free Admission All Day to the Botanical Garden at 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage.

CLASSES And WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, May 2

Composting 101: The How, What and Why of Composting in Alaska. 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm at Dr. Lydia Selkregg Chalet, Russian Jacks Park, Anchorage. Cost: \$5.00. Details at: https://apm.activecommunities.com/municipalityanchorage/Activity_Search/composting-101/5192.

Saturday May 6 - Sunday May 14

Alaska Mill and Feed Spring Classes. 1501 East First Avenue. Reservations are required. Register at: <http://www.alaskamillandfeed.com/#levents/>.

May 6: Lawn Planting and Care by Sheila Macias at 10:00 am - 11:00 am and 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm.

May 13: Raised Bed Gardening by Irene Fitzgerald, Master

Gardener at 10:00 am - 11:30 am. Cost: \$5.00.

May 14: Alaska Native Plants by Beth Baker at 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. Cost: \$5.00.

Saturday, May 6

Worm Bins and Vermi-Culture by Ellen Vande Visse. 10:00 am to noon at Mat-Su Borough Central Landfill Complex, Palmer. Preregistration required. Details at: Compost@matsugov.us.

Thursdays, May 11 to June 1

Alaska Botanical Garden: Local Wildflower Class by Dr. Marilyn Barker and Ginger Hudson. Learn about Local Plants, Identification and Uses. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm or 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm. First Class at BP Energy Center on May 11: Morning Class is 9:30 am - 12:30 PM, Evening Class is 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Cost: \$110 members, \$125 non-members. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/event/workshop-local-wildflower-class/>.

Saturday, May 13 and Tuesday, May 16

Backyard Composter Certification Class by Ellen Vande Visse, Green Earth Garden School, 2:30 pm - 4:15 pm, May 13 and 10:00 am - noon May 16 at Mat-Su Borough Central Landfill Complex, Palmer. Preregistration required. Details at Compost@matsugov.us.

Wednesday, May 24

Alaska Botanical Garden: Grafting Watermelons by Rob Brown, Flattop Farm: Learn How Grafting Watermelons May Increase Watermelon Production in Alaska. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Cost: \$40 members, \$45 non-members Preregistration required. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/event/abg-workshop-grafting-watermelons/>.

PLANT SALES

Wednesday, May 10

King Career Center Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at 2650 E Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage.

Saturday, May 20

**Alaska Botanical Garden and Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale: Plants from ABG's Garden and from AKRGS members. 9:00 am Admission for ABG members, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/event/plant-sale/>.

** Homer Garden Club Plant Sale: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm at Homer Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot, Homer.

Tuesday, May 23 - Friday, May 26

Hiland Correctional Facility Plant and Craft Sale. 9:00 am - 6:00 pm at Parking Lot, 9101 Hesterberg Road, Eagle River. Sale will continue on Friday if there are plants left to sell.

Saturday, May 27

**Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at Snowfire Gardens, 3379 Inlet Vista Circle, Wasilla.

**Valley Garden Club Plant Sale: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, at Boys and Girls Club, Bogard Road, Palmer.

Saturday, June 3

**Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale. 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Location and Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

**Mat Su Master Gardeners Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Palmer Pavilion across from the Palmer Visitor's Center.

**Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale. 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at 7435 Old Harbor Road, Anchorage.

Saturday, June 10

Central Peninsula Garden Club Plant Sale. 10:00 am until plants are sold out. New Life Assembly of God Church Parking Lot, Corner of Kenai Spur and Princess Rd., 209 Princess Lane, Kenai.



Photo from Wikipedia: "Hyssopus officinalis", Lamiaceae, Herb Hyssop, habitus; Botanical Garden KIT, Karlsruhe, Germany



From Wikipedia: Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) on top of Janče hill (800 m), Slovenia. Photo by Petar Milošević



Pacific Trillium, Wakerobin - Photo by Walter Siegmund

Trillium species have a hardiness range of Zones 4 to 9, which includes Alaska. They require full to partial shade and rich, moist, well-drained soil with a neutral to acidic pH. Read *Ten Things to Know about Trilliums* on page 5 to learn more.



AMGA regularly meets at 7:00 pm 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, Alaska, 99508

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.baldwin@gmail.com

AMGA Board of Directors

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Cheryl Chapman	At Large

Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

CES Liaison:	Harry Deuber
Broadcast Email:	Fran Pekar
Calendar of Events:	Martha Farris
Advanced MG:	Ginny Moore
Directory Editor:	Janice Berry
Programs:	Marilyn Barker
Field Trips:	Sheila Toomey
Google Group:	Mary Rydesky
Hospitality:	Marjorie Williams
Volunteer Coordinator:	Harry Deuber
Membership & Database:	Jane Baldwin
Newsletter & Website:	Gina Docherty
Lifetime Achievement:	Lynne Opstad
Grants:	Marilyn Barker
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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