

Celebrating 40 years of Master Gardener Classes in Alaska !

President's Message

Maybe it's the company I keep but I sure seem to run into a lot of my fellow Master Gardeners out and about the local community volunteering their time and knowledge. One of the things that I notice most is that everyone seems to be so happy and congenial. Maybe it's the combination of sharing the enthusiasm and passion for gardening that we have along with the personal satisfaction a person receives by the act of volunteering for good causes.

During a recent visit to the Alaska Botanical Garden (ABG) I ran into numerous people from the Alaska Rock Garden Society, the Wildflower Garden Club and the Herb Study Group who also happen to be Master Gardeners. They were all happily sharing their labors and comradery in maintaining the various gardens at ABG.

Many of you also share your time in our local parks, churches, schools and workplaces. I know the organizations and groups that we work with very much appreciate our efforts.

Our Pioneer Home garden service project is looking great once again and we have a wonderful crew of dedicated AMGA members maintaining the flower beds on a regular basis. Do yourself a favor, grab your camera and visit. Also, if you have summer visitors and are in the downtown area be sure to swing by the Pioneer Home and show them how the Anchorage Master Gardeners can do some serious gardening.

I'd like to thank those who have been helping out at our Ask-A-Master-Gardener table at ABG. Currently we are maintaining shifts

three days a week. But it's been a little slow some days, so we might adjust our schedule starting in July. We are always looking for help in staffing our table, please check out our "Sign-Up-Genius" to volunteer for a shift or two.

Our 2019 Conference committee is continuing to meet on a regular basis and we have most of our sub-committee leads in place. One particular area of expertise that we are lacking at this point is a graphic design artist who can help develop and design the various posters, advertising, logos and associated artwork needed for our conference. Please contact me if you have experience and would like to work with our team.

I hope folks get an opportunity to visit some of the gardens on our series of garden tours this summer. Its great fun to meet and visit with fellow Master Gardeners, view beautiful gardens and meet their creators. Its always a learning experience to discover new plants, design ideas and growing techniques. This year the tours are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Notice of location will

be sent via Constant Contact to our membership several days prior to the date of the garden visits.

Happy gardening to all and (note to self) remember to take the time to find a comfortable bench, relax and enjoy your gardening efforts.



Seasonal growth in the Herb Garden at the
Alaska Botanical Garden, June 5.
Photo by Elaine Hammes.

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Volunteer Opportunities

2019 Master Gardener Annual Conference: The state-wide conference will be in Anchorage next year. This is a one in three-year opportunity to show off your skills. We are in need of a graphic artist to create our logo, posters, and other materials to promote the event. Contact Harry Deuber denali542@yahoo.com

AMGA Calendar Events Coordinator: Gina Docherty would love to show someone how to do the monthly calendar. It's easy and only takes a couple of hours a month. The outline is there, you just need to do a little research and fill in the blanks. Please contact her at: docherty@alaska.net

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

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

AMGA Board Meeting: June, No Meeting

Master Gardener Board Meeting Pushed Forward

Summer-absent Board members, no pressing agenda items and Alaska's brief growing season combined to prompt postponement of June 11's scheduled Board meeting at Cooperative Extension Service offices. The gathering was advanced to July 9, 2018, at 6 p.m. at Lutheran Church of Hope.

—Cheryl Chapman, MG Board secretary



Borage seedlings, *Borago officinalis*. Photo by Elaine Hammes.

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. See the AMGA Constant Contact email dated May 21 for sign-up link. Or, Contact Harry Deuber: 440-6372 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

Instructors needed on topics such as Seed Starting, Organic Soil Amendments, Vegetable Gardening, etc. Contact Harry Deuber: 440-6372 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>

Treasurer's Report Balances 4/30/2018

Checking account	7,798.15
Savings account	<u>11,744.58</u>
	\$19,542.73

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

Revenue:	
Interest	1.50
Membership Dues	<u>20.00</u>
	\$21.50

Expense:	
Operations	74.99
Pioneer Home	463.31
Public Relations	245.75
Website	<u>55.16</u>
	\$839.21

Balances 5/31/2018

Checking account	6,978.94
Savings account	<u>11,746.08</u>
	\$18,725.02

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

Herb Study Group: June Gardening Parties by Elaine Hammes

The summer schedule of planting and maintenance at Alaska Botanical Garden's (ABG) Herb Garden is continuing in June and through the summer. One common question visitors ask is "What is an herb?" Merriam-Webster now includes three definitions, the first two of which are relevant at ABG's Herb Garden. Anyone can check these out anytime on-line!

Volunteers have been working intensely and rapidly in the Herb Garden this month. The main emphasis has been on planting new and replacement plants as well as trimming and relocating plants, seedlings and runners from last year. Initial planting was completed June 5 to the great relief of the volunteers. It was a bit sad to require "Plan B," for replacing the *Artemisia* from the last several years with Dusty Miller which now trim the east and west beds. The Dusty Miller is in great shape and looks wonderful already.

Adding to the Angelica, Lady's Mantle, Caraway, Costmary, White Fireweed and more that were coming up earlier from last year, the Pasque Flower has already been blooming, Borage seedlings and many other plants are growing quickly. Sweet Woodruff runners are prolific and will be relocated to trim the north and south beds as it did last year.

Some exciting additions to the Herb Garden include *Melianthus major*, Honey bush and *Lychnis coronaria*, Rose Campion. An interesting article on the *Lychnis coronaria* was written by Gerald Klingaman, Retired Extension Horticulturist, and published in University of Arkansas CES, Extension News, May 18, 2012. Refer to the webpage: <https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/resource-library/plant-week/rose-campion-5-18-12.aspx>

There may be a few more changes over the summer, but the garden is now looking complete, and is full of promise for a great growing season. Planting favorite kiwi vines at the east end and along the southern border are part of the new additions. The longer days mean lots of weeding and watering will be the major work for volunteers to continue through the summer.



New and returning volunteers for the Herb Garden are always welcome for, either or both, Tuesday and Friday activities (from 1 to 3 pm, or the amount of time volunteers are able to spend within these two-hour periods).

All interested are encouraged to contact HSG: anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or Mary at 907-345-1562 for current season information.

Many hands make light work, and volunteers can take time out for summer vacations as well! Before volunteering, please contact Stacey at stacey.shriner@alaskabg.org or the ABG office at 770-3692 for required ABG volunteer training.



Above: Arctic kiwi vines, *Actinidia kolomikta*, filling in over the arbors. Photo by Elaine Hammes.

Right: Volunteers at ABG's Herb Garden, June 5. L to R: Marjorie, Cathy, Shirley, Elaine, Carol (other volunteers not pictured). Photo by Will Criner, ABG Facilities Manager.

Bird Chatter

SERIOUSLY FOLKS . . . Isn't it bad enough we have to spend our days elbow-deep in large animal poop, old egg shells, coffee grounds and rotting vegetables? Now we have to deal with spittlebugs too? Everything about them is gross. Starting with their name—I mean, who calls them Cercopidae, their official moniker? Apparently “froghopper” is another option—because they sort of look like frogs and can jump higher than fleas. Lovely. Or how about yet another common name—“plant-sucking nymphs”? Talk about ruining the concept of “nymph” forever! Anyhow, a number of BCers are dealing with unusual infestations this year, so be on the lookout. Scary factoid: One on-line source claims there are 23,000 species. And they're not stupid bugs. For instance, some of them grow tails that look like heads so predators bite off the wrong end. (Maimed instead of dead?) When not covered with “spit”—gag—they're light green with big black eyes. They hide by encasing themselves in foam that some long-ago wise guy decided to call “spit”—because they weren't already disgusting enough. Question: Do you really want to know which end the “spit” comes out? Hint: No, you don't. Getting rid of them apparently involves having cleaned up your yard last fall (very helpful, thanks) or garlic and peppers—look it up. Fran Durner, who is fighting them, says there's only one effective weapon: Squish squish.

PRAYER HELPED. . . The sun stayed hidden but it didn't rain on the Botanical Garden's June 21st fund-raiser. It wasn't the much-loved “Fair” that used to be, but there was some art for sale — including several lovely Katy Gilmores — the regular selection of healthy, hardy plants and lots of food. Also lots of people. Mike says they raised about \$20,000. Way to go guys!

And btw, if you haven't renewed your membership yet, you can call and do it over the phone. 907-770-3692.

OH NO. . . Once again BC is on Jeff Lowenfels' poop list (They won't let me use the real word). The font of all garden wisdom is down on Forget-Me-Nots—little blue wonders that show up early and bloom all summer. (See his 6/22 column). His main complaint is that they run wild; but BC's little patch has remained in place for years, perhaps imprisoned by the neglected, undivided, hard-as-concrete iris roots surrounding it? (Sometimes sloth pays off.) BC hates to part with Jeff but—we LOVE Forget-Me-Nots.

IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY. . . Word drifted up to the nest that Doug Tryck was closing his wonderful nursery (aka the woods around his house). BC panicked. But not to worry. If his Facebook post is correct, he is closed the month of July and will re-open August 1st. Hours to be announced.

ANOTHER REASON BC is glad we don't have snakes in Alaska: The recent headline reading, “Woman swallowed whole by 23-foot-long python.” Sources no less sacred than the Washington Post (and, at the other end, the N.Y. Post) reported the story of a 54-year-old Indonesian woman who went to check the corn in her garden—to make sure wild hogs hadn't ravaged it—and got swallowed. By a snake. The positive angle in the story was how she didn't have to suffocate in the snake's belly since it probably bit and crushed her to death before eating her. For the record, BC doesn't believe the story, and has cancelled plans to plant corn next year.

Got Chatter? Send it to stoomey@ymail.com



You are invited to a garden party!

Alaska WildBird Rehabilitation Center

invites you to enjoy

“Birds and Blooms”

Hosted by

Snowfire Gardens

3379 S Inlet Vista Circle

Preview the gardens at www.Snowfiregardens.net

Local artists painting on-site & live music wafting through the air

Silent auction, with unique gifts and activities for you to bid on

-Delicious lunch provided
-Scrumptious “no-host” desserts : buy one serving, or the whole dessert

And, of course, meet our distinguished Ambassador Owls!



July 14, Noon to 3 PM

Tickets \$40

Tickets available at:

Non Essentials (728 S Alaska, Palmer); Steve's ToyoStove (mile 3.4 KGB Rd, Wasilla); or contact Carol at 355-4123; or check our website: www.akwildbird.org

Mugo Pine Candling, Special Pruning for Overall Shape

By Paul Marmora

Candling is the process of pinching back the new growth of conifers to keep the growth more compact, dense, or to encourage the tree to fill-in a bare area. The new growths are commonly called candles because of their visual resemblance to waxy candles. Pinching the new main candle promotes back-budding—the plant grows new shoots to the side and/or behind the pinched bud anywhere down the branch.

Pinching, or selectively trimming the candles, gives a nicer aesthetic. There are no stubby ends to the branches as would be if you hacked off the end of a branch with shears or by random pruning. There are also other methods to pruning off branches of conifers that look more natural.

Candling is also a method used in bonsai.

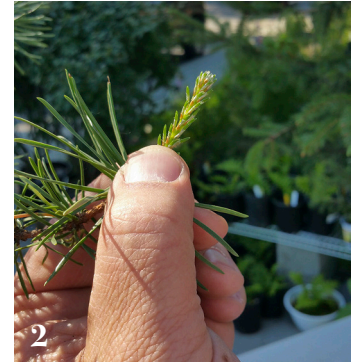
How To

You pinch the candle with one hand about a third of the way up the new growth and twist the bud, pulling away the top two thirds. This will cause the conifer to send energy to the dormant buds and will cause the growth to be more compact and profuse—the back-budding.

Ideally pinching is done while the candles are still soft and before they have separated into full needles.

This is a common method of pruning conifers, much like the trimming of deciduous trees and shrubs to keep them more compact and bushy.

Thank you Nickel for sending out a reminder!



Candling of a Jack Pine, *Pinus banksiana* 1. obvious candle protruding from center end of branch, it has shorter needles. 2. Hold firmly one-third of the candle and mature branch end. 3. With other hand pinch outer top two-thirds of fresh growth. 4. Twist or snap off end.

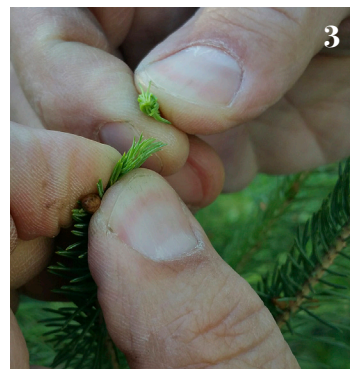
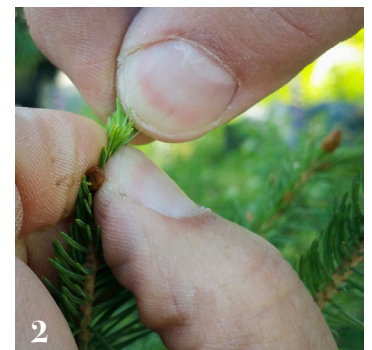


Right: Elongated spruce buds can also be candled, *Picea glauca*.

The whole length of the lighter green is the “candle.”

Demonstration photos courtesy of Paul Marmora.

Below: Mugo pine, *Pinus mugo*, in landscape. Photo by Ginger Hudson.



Candling of a tight spruce bud, *Picea glauca* 1. Very short candles, commonly seen on native spruce in our region. This is also a great way to collect spruce tips for food use. Hold firmly base of the candle. 2. With other hand pinch outer top two-thirds of fresh growth. 3. Twist or snap off end.



Garden Event Calendar

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

No indoor AMGA meetings until fall.

Thursday, July 12th

Storytime in the Garden, 11am-12:30 pm, Alaska Botanical Garden, “Little Bitty Friends” by Elizabeth McPike - FREE

Beer in the Garden, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Alaska Botanical Garden. Mark your calendars, we are doing it again! Come and enjoy some fun in the Garden with local breweries, food vendors, and live music. Must be 21 or older to attend. We sold out last year so get your tickets early!
Advance Beer Ticket- \$45
At the Door- \$55
Designated Driver Ticket- \$20

July 13 - 15, Adult Bug Camp, UAF, 216 Eielson Bldg
6pm - 8pm Friday; 1pm - 6:15pm Saturday and Sunday
Learn to collect, identify, and prepare insects, spiders, and their relatives in the Boreal Forest. Instructed by Derek Sikes, see next page for more information. 866-404-7021

Saturday, July 14

“Birds and Blooms” Fundraiser, 12pm - 3pm, Beautiful Snowfire Gardens, located off Fairview Loop, Wasilla, will host Alaska WildBird Center. Listen to entertaining musicians, watch talented artists painting birds and blooms while wandering around spectacular gardens, munch on a tasty lunch, and visit with wild BIRDS! Tickets are available from Non Essentials store in Palmer, Steve’s ToyoStoves on KGB in Wasilla or visit akwildbird.org for more details and to purchase tickets.

Saturday & Sunday, July 28 & 29

Garden Tour and Inaugural Plant Sale, Willow Garden Club,
July 28: 10am - 3:30pm (all gardens including Les Brake’s Coyote Garden)
9am - Meet at Willow Community Center, Mile 69.8 Parks Highway, Inaugural WGC plant sale 9:50 am,



Rose campion, *Lychnis coronaria*, rosette. Photos by Elaine Hammes.

Pick up maps and directions outside the library entrance (Willow tour cont’d) 11:45-1:00 pm Lunch, Bring a brown bag lunch and something comfortable to sit on as you tour the garden and eat lunch at the home of George and Mary Howard. Willow Garden Club will provide drinks.
Need more info?? Call 907-244-0830.

Sunday, July 29, 2018: 12 pm - 5 pm

ONLY Les Brake’s Coyote Garden

The fundraising tour at Coyote Garden is 26 years old!! Coyote Garden just gets better and continues to receive many kudos from well-respected garden publications all over the U.S. Their garden was featured in a recent issue of Garden Design. This year’s fundraiser (\$7 donation) will once again benefit The Georgeson Botanical Garden and Willow Garden Club.

June 28-29 Homer Garden Tour, Including two presentations by Brent Heath of Brent and Becky’s Gardens. Tours on Sunday. Tickets required and limited for the tours. See next page for more information.

Sunday, July 29

Anchorage Garden Club Annual City Garden Tour – TBA

OTHER WEEKLY EVENTS

Alaska Master Gardener Anchorage, Garden tours every first and third Monday, throughout the summer
Members only–watch your email for details and directions.

Audubon Society

EARLY MORNING BIRD WALKS - Thursdays, 6:30am till 8:30am, BLM Campbell Creek Science Center Parking Lot

Gardening Activities

Alaska Rock Garden Society

Maintenance at the ABG Rock Garden: Every other Tuesdays, through summer, 11am-1pm. Stop by on your lunch break and help out if you want a bit of fresh air and sunshine! Contact Kathy Swick: swick@alaska.net for questions.

Herb Garden volunteer maintenance at the ABG, Tuesdays and Fridays, 1 - 3 pm.

Volunteers do not need to work any set number of hours, many come one day a week. Some volunteers can only work part of the two-hour schedule. All are welcome. Make sure to sign in at the ABG office and be sure there are at least two people working in the garden. Contact: anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or call Mary at 907-345-1562.

Fresh International Gardens Seeks Volunteers to Assist with Market Days

Summer is here and most of the refugee garden Fresh International Gardens, FIG, is sown and planted. As many of you may know, the Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services, is creating an urban farm with Anchorage Community Land Trust called Grow North Farm. GNF will be located at the Mountain View Farmers Market site, 3543 Mountain View Dr.

FIG will be selling at three farmers markets this season and the gardeners are requesting two MG volunteers to help with the business day, including set-up and take-down:

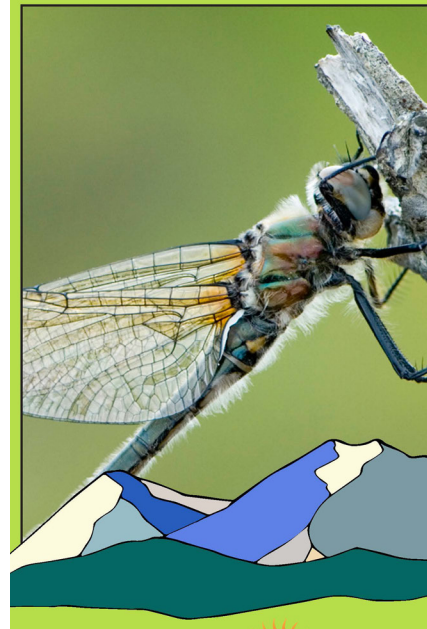
Mountain View Market,
Thursdays 3pm - 7pm
through September 27

Muldoon Market, Saturdays, 9am - 2pm
through September 29

South Anchorage Market off Dimond,
Wednesdays,
10am - 4pm, dates to be determined.

Megan, one of our JV's, is creating a Sign-Up Genius event to coordinate volunteers to work these markets. I will pass along the links for markets once they are finalized.

Participation gives the opportunity to learn new food plants and how to use them. Feel free to reach out. As always, thank you so much.
Jesse Richardville,
Refugee Agriculture Partnership
Program Coordinator,
(907) 222-7377,
jrichardville@cssalaska.org



ADULT BUG CAMP

July 13-15 (6-8 pm Fri, 1-6:15 pm Sat/Sun)
BIOL F040 F01 - CRN 52008 - 0 credits

Learn how to collect, prepare, and identify insects, spiders, and their relatives in the boreal forests, meadows, and wetlands of interior Alaska! Chase dragonflies and butterflies in the air, discover hidden dwellings of the denizens of soil, wood, and leaf-litter. Learn how to tell gardener's friends from foes! This weekend course will introduce students to the diverse and amazing world of our tiny, many-legged neighbors.

Taught by: Derek Sikes

Summer Sessions @UAF
& LIFELONG LEARNING

216 Eielson Building 907-474-7021
Toll free: 866-404-7021 summer@alaska.edu



Homer Garden Club Presents the 12th Annual GARDENERS' WEEKEND July 28 and 29, 2018



Featuring:

BRENT HEATH
of Brent and Becky's Bulbs

Saturday, July 28

5:45 pm

Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

"100 Years of Daffodils — and More"
~ Intermission ~

7:00 pm

"Bulbs as Companion Plants"

Sunday, July 29

10:00 am until 5:00 pm

Self-guided tours of five
exceptional gardens

5:00 pm until 6:30 pm

Reception at Bear Creek Winery
with wine tasting, light
hors d'oeuvres, door prizes
and music by Starlight

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD IN THE GARDENS THIS YEAR. PLAN TO BUY YOURS EARLY FROM THE HOMER BOOKSTORE OR FROM THE TICKET SALE TABLE AT THE HOMER CITY HALL ON SUNDAY. THE NUMBER OF TICKETS IS LIMITED.

Tickets for Brent Heath's talks, as well as the Garden Tours and Bear Creek Winery Reception, are available NOW at The Homer Bookstore through Saturday, July 28. Tickets for the Garden Tours and Bear Creek Winery Reception will also be sold Sunday July 29th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the City Hall.

Annual Plant Sale Preparation

As the summer season progresses and some of your perennials start taking over space, **please remember that AMGA's 5th Annual late-season plant sale is on the schedule for August again!**



Meadow Sweet, *Filipendula* spp.
Photo by Elaine Hammes

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 are available for purchase. Contact Fran Durner for more information: durner1@gmail.com

Call to Artists!

Garden art vendors!
Join us at the Aug. 11 MG Plant Sale: Interested?
email Fran:
durner1@gmail.com

2018 MG Directory Update

Current AMGA members: If you'd like an update to your 2018 MG Directory, you will receive updated pages only which include members added after the January 5th cut-off date and corrections. The update is a .pdf file that can be printed and cut in half to fit neatly in your directory. Contact Jane Baldwin: 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
Don Bladow	At Large

Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

CES Liaison:	Harry Deuber
Broadcast Email:	Fran Pekar
Calendar of Events:	Gina Docherty, Interim
Advanced MG:	Ginny Moore
Directory Editor:	Janice Berry
Programs:	Marilyn Barker
Field Trips:	Marilyn Barker, Interim
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

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
Facebook: 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

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:

Harry Deuber, President
denali542@yahoo.com
907-440-6372

