



**ALASKA MASTER
GARDENERS**
ANCHORAGE

**AMGA
NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 2016
Volume 18, Issue 10**

Message From Harry

Can it really be October already? In my neck of the woods we haven't even been close to a frost yet. There are lots of flowers still blooming and my lawn still needs to be mowed regularly. I'm just not ready to call it quits for the season. You would think that the white tipped mountains and falling birch leaves would be my clue to get on with the fall clean up. I know I will regret my delaying tactics when it



Cobaea scandens still blooming.
Photo by Harry Deuber

suddenly turns cold and I'm out there playing catch up with my frozen fingers, silently (or not) cursing myself. It really is time to start putting the hoses and lawn furniture away. It's time to drain the fountain, gather the fallen leaves, plant those bulbs and clean and put away the garden tools, etc. I just hope everyone else is further along in these tasks than I am.

As the season and the year draw to a close it starts to get busy for the AMGA. This is the time of year when your board and committee members really get to earn their keep. There is the upcoming board election to conduct, next year's budget to set, committee year-end reports, the 2017 directory to create and next year's programming to be considered.

Speaking of next year's schedule, we would like to hear from our membership about what types of programs that would be of interest to you at our monthly meetings. Are there particular topics that you would like to learn more about or speakers that you enjoy? How about our summer garden tours? Did we have enough sched-

uled this past summer and what did you think about the pop-up tours? Is there an interest in having special workshops outside of our regular meetings? We would appreciate your input. Please contact us at: amga@alaska.net and let us know your thoughts.

Due to the ongoing changes and uncertainties at the C.E.S., this promises to be an interesting period in the history of the AMGA. The UAF administration is still in the process of sorting out staffing and programming issues and at this point has been unable to or unwilling, to share with us what the overall plan is regarding the Anchorage C.E.S. office. We have offered our assistance in serving on a community advisory group related to the upcoming changes and await the opportunity to do so.

Our October membership meeting will be held at the new C.E.S. office at 1840 Bragaw St. on October 17th. It will be a good chance to check out the new office and meeting room. Rumor has it that there might be a special Halloween themed party for a certain person who shall remain unnamed. Hope to see many of you there.



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This 'n That: September Membership Meeting

AMGA held its last membership meeting at the C Street headquarters on September 19th, but by then we knew we had a new home to move to, so few tears were shed for the building. It was a different story when talk turned to what is now a depressing -- and infuriating -- fact: that Julie Riley is being transferred to Fairbanks right after Thanksgiving. In her usual clarion style, past President Nickel LaFleur demanded to know how we could stop this atrocity but so far, no solution. The Board and your reorganization committee haven't given up, so stay tuned.

As for what kind of staffing or educational opportunities will be available at the new digs, we're still "trying to pry loose information," said President Harry Deuber.

Our October meeting will be held at the new building, at 1840 Bragaw Street -- across from the old Alyeska building, now owned by UAA.

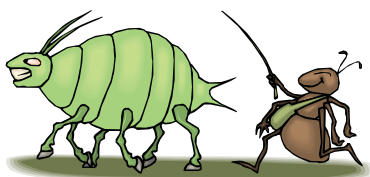
Harry also reported the August plant sale grossed more than \$6,000, with \$2,000 for AMGA. About the same as last year, which is good considering the crummy weather that day.

Julie said no regular AMG class will be offered this fall because of the move -- and because she'll be in Fairbanks and no one else is prepared to teach it. However, Julie will teach an Advanced MG course for three weeks in November on organic fertilizer. Watch for a notice of open registration starting the second Saturday in October. Current plans are for the class to meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at night, except for Election Day when it will switch to Wednesday.

Julie reported 13 new Level One AMGs this year. The AMG program is in its seventh year and going strong.

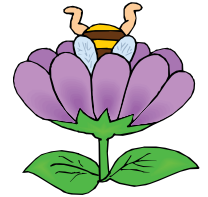
Julie Ginder was looking for volunteers to help with clean-up at the Pioneer Home last Wednesday -- Hope you showed up! There was general agreement that the APH grounds were fantastic this year.

Faye Stiehm, vice-president of the ABG Board, announced the herb garden is being put down for the winter, providing lots of herbs for the taking. Better call to see if any are left before showing up with a plant carrier bag. Faye also let us know about an ABG travel fund-raiser -- a trip to Ireland. Two tickets will be raffled off. Check the ABG Web site for info.



After completing business matters, Harry turned the meeting over to Julie and a group of bug buffs for a program on "Bugs in the Garden,"

also the topic of the last Advanced Master Gardeners course. Entomology students and teachers extolled the virtues of most insects, from beautiful butterflies, to aphid-eating wasps to the educational value of the Bee Butt Chart. There was a lot of information about who eats what.



Bugs are beautiful was the message. Except thrips. They couldn't make thrips anything but nasty.

2017 AMGA Board of Directors Election

Nominations for vacant AMGA Board of Director positions will be accepted through October 5th. Please consider actively participating in AMGA by self-nominating or nominating someone (with their permission). Contact Sheila Toomey, AMGA's Election Chair to submit your nomination.

Please don't be intimidated or fearful you won't "win" the election. Rest assured that by stepping up and volunteering to participate AMGA has plenty of other opportunities for you to serve. There are committees and projects to fill - which provide the opportunity to become acquainted with the Board's organization - and learn first-hand how much AMGA values your willingness to participate.

October Treasurer's Report

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

Dedicated Funds \$8477.71

Revenue:	
Education/Fundraising	6958.85
Interest	1.49
<u>Membership</u>	<u>20.00</u>
	\$6980.34

Expense:	
Education/Fundraising	4941.08
Operations	94.30
<u>Website</u>	<u>135.00</u>
	\$5170.38

Balances 8/31/16	
Checking account	14538.43
<u>Savings account</u>	<u>11715.23</u>
	\$26253.66

Dedicated Funds \$8477.71



Observations From MGs' Summer Gardens

1. Did you learn something new with your garden this year?
2. What was your best success?
3. What was your worst mistake?
4. Was this gardening year different from any other for any particular reason?

*Due to having 2 batches of summer visitors I was not able to deadhead as much as I liked. Even so, my hardy roses, heirloom sweetpea (especially! It is still blooming) and others kept blooming and blooming.

*The heirloom delphiniums put out a record number of offshoots and kept blooming for about 5 weeks! I used a natural 5-6-6 fertilizer early in the summer.

Stupice tomatoes ripened early on the patio, where I usually grow them. Blooms have slowed way down but the plants have a lot of tomatoes on them.

I tried a transplant "tonic" of liquid kelp and fish emulsion (recommended by a tomato expert), both mixed according to directions in the same watering can. The tomatoes and roses didn't miss a beat when I moved them.

Burnout (a clove oil spray) kills invasive harebell. It was sprayed on a sunny day when the plants were small and so far those have not come back.

I always look forward to the newsletter! **Shirley Kelly**

*I learned that I do not need to water as heavily, because the gardens and all my potted plants were kept much drier this year (although I did water every day).

*Things grew phenomenally, so I kept potting up as things grew bigger.

*The sunshine was a huge plus for plant growth.

Paul Marmora

*Beets, I happened to run into Julie Riley at Cooperative Ext this spring. I asked her about beets by chance. Pull all but one set of leaves, there are up to 3 seeds in one planted seeds and that will reduce growth. So many times I had one good beet and then numerous beet greens with a pea at the end. Lesson learned and best success.

*Worst mistake, not staking the raspberries earlier and not thinning them quite enough.

*Good grief it was hot this summer and for so long! The things that grew were phenomenal and the cool weather crops suffered til August. **Erika Kienlen**

* Started gardening in middle of May, so that's new for me. Discovered that compost isn't completely adequate for strong plant growth, they need potassium too. Will require minerals. Mustard spinach bolted badly this year but good snail-bait. Good year for beets.

*Used too much lime and turned my squash light yellow. My best success was with using kelp meal that I bought from a guy at the Central Farmer's market-plants responded well. Fish fertilizer is loved by dahlias too,

although they should have something to build stronger stalks. Big mistake made was not getting soil tested. Weeds were really bad this year-worked my fingers to the bone! Yes, they are bony now. **Joanna Littau**

*I learned several things this year: Ligularia either doesn't like being crowded, or they don't like blue poppies. Aluminum sulfate is a great fertilizer for onions and rhodies. Corn grows better when planted close together, like at least 2-3 stalks per planting hole - they won't blow over in a big wind.

*My best success was my Passion vine - they are heavy feeders so I fertilized every time I watered, & it had hundreds of blooms this year! Plus I also harvested 7 pounds of corn kernels.

*I made a mistake by not purchasing my own broccoli & cauliflower seeds; I purchased 4 packs & none of them did well. Plus I didn't use anything to prevent onion maggots, so lots of onions, lots of maggots.

*This was the first time we didn't have aphids in the greenhouse! **Gina Docherty**

*I have a cat who keeps my garden free of rodents. I found out that dead rodents are also great slug bait. His half eaten catch was laying in the garden and was covered with slugs multiple times. I know what I'm using for slug bait next year.

*I also had wasps sucking the liquid out of my raspberries. Of course they chose the biggest berries to attack.

Not sure this is worth printing, but I found it amazing that slugs like both plant and animal and I've never seen wasps on my raspberries in years past. **Faye Stiehm**

* I learned *Cosmos bipinnatus* can reach 6 feet tall with 3-5 inch daisy like flowers. (Ladybird series is a dwarf variety). They tolerate dry soil even in hot sun, and bounce back from dehydration surprisingly well. Mine were staked in long narrow boxes and whiskey barrels. The bees love them! Less fertilizer and deadheading promotes flower production.

* My best success was transferring hanging basket annuals from Costco into larger deck pots and whiskey barrels, which doubled the size of the plants. VERY showy this year.

* I planted way too much kale!! Four instead of eight plants would have sufficed, but I'm learning. I also had to divide and relocate variegated grass to a whiskey barrel to prevent it from choking out my flowerbed.

* This year's gardening experience was similar to last year's heat but our season was earlier by 2 weeks it seemed. Too dry and then too wet - hard to keep the growing conditions and garden maintenance balanced.

Judy Weidemeyer

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Growing Young Gardeners: Mud, Moose, and Mushrooms By Amy Reed

My weekly hiking group recently met up on an over-cast Monday. With school having an in-service day, my daughter decided she wanted to join the group as we converged at Little Campbell Lake in Kincaid Park. It wasn't raining at our house, but when we got to the destination, the skies opened up a deluge that was reminiscent of the Noah's Ark flood. The song, "Should I Stay or Should I Go" by the Clash rang in my ears. Peer pressure from our group won, and we geared up for a very soggy but scenic hike.

The path became a muddy, soggy mess of puddle-filled ruts in no time. The dogs were loving it, but my six year old was becoming increasingly whiny. One of my friends saved the hike by pulling out her miniature magnifying glass for my daughter to hold. We instantly turned this jaunt into a mushroom hunt. As most of you know, this has been an incredible summer for fungus growth. It seems everywhere we turn in the woods and garden a mushroom is sure to be spotted. This friend had recently completed the Alaska Geographic's Course, Mushrooms of Denali, where she spent a few days at Murie Science and Learning Center in Denali learning to recognize a variety of fungal friends and foes. Using this

newfound knowledge, she guided all of us in finding spores and mushrooms along Little Campbell Lake. My daughter's personal favorite mushroom was the "puff ball" mushroom, which instantly turned into a cloud of dust when trampled upon. We also found "turquoise mushrooms" or *CHLOROCIBORIA AERUGINASCENS*, which pigments rotten tree branches, the most beautiful gorgeous blue/green color. The most abundant and personal favorite of most of our group was *Amanita muscaria*, or the red mushroom with the white dots that is deemed most likely to be chosen for a fairy house.



We learned from our exploration of mushrooms how to look at the gills on the underside using the magnifying glass. My daughter touched bumpy, slimy, waxy, and smooth caps. We also found mushrooms that had "teeth". While we weren't interested in eating any,



my friend emphasized extreme caution when identifying edible from poisonous mushrooms.

Every hike at Kincaid is always at risk of running into moose, and this hike didn't disappoint! We carefully took a side trail around a mama and her baby, along with spotting two other moose during our jaunt.

We ended the hike completely covered in mud—my child's shoe was sucked off in a deep section at one point, which induced peals of laughter. This hike was officially christened, "The three M's---Mud, Moose, and Mushrooms."

Alaska Geographic Society hosts a myriad of classes throughout the year at Denali and Chugach State Forest. Last year, Verna Pratt led a course on identifying Alaskan wildflowers. Go to <http://akgeo.org/field-courses/> for more details and upcoming classes.

Fall Bulbs

[Paraphrased from 'Planting Depth - Breck's']
www.brecks.com/how_to_planting_care_of_bulbs_depth

The general rule of thumb for planting spring bulbs is to plant two to three times as deep as the bulb is tall. This means most large bulbs like tulips or daffodils will be planted about 6 inches deep while smaller bulbs will be planted 3-4 inches deep.

There are two basic methods of planting: individual holes or whole bed planting. Dig the hole several inches deeper than the recommended planting depth and fill to base level with a mixture of loose soil and food for bulbs. Then place your plant in the hole and cover it with loose soil; push the soil into position around the plant so there will be no air pockets where water can collect.

Soil Prep

If water has a tendency to stand in the planting area, you'll want to break up hard sub-soil and put in a layer of drainage material such as coarse gravel, broken stone or sifted cinders below your surface soil.

Summer-blooming Dutch bulbs and perennials are not fussy about soil - provided it is not too heavy and sticky. If soil is heavy, loosen it with lots of humus, sand, gypsum, etc. If very light, add moisture holders - humus, peat mold, etc. If you have a soil with a high clay content, it can be improved by adding compost, peat moss

Continued next page

Fall Bulbs... cont. from page 4...

or some other source of organic material. The organic material should be worked in the top twelve inches of soil (eighteen inches is even better).

Fertilization

Mix bulb fertilizer with the loose soil at the bottom of your planting; never apply fresh or half rotted manure on bulbs or perennial. Fertilization can be done when the first shoots appear and then monthly up until the bloom begins; never fertilize after they start flowering as this may rot the bulb. [Breck's recommends their fertilizer, 5-10-5, of course, but similar bulb fertilizers can be found locally.]

Which End is Up?

One of the most frequently asked questions about planting bulbs is, "Which end goes up?" Most true bulbs, such as Tulips and Daffodils, have pointed tips which should point upward. Corms, tubers and rhizomes usually show sprouts on their upper sides, and these should be on top when planted. Some of the smaller bulbs, such as Poppy Anemones, look like small dried peas or small stones and can be planted in any direction - their shoots will find their way toward the sun.

Observations From MGs' Summer Gardens...cont. from page 3

A first for me: Planting outside April 23! My biggest "find" this year was Sustane, a composted fertilizer (I think it's goat poop?), which flowers and vegetables responded well to, in my garden and in the Soup Kitchen roof garden. Found it at Mill & Feed and learned it's what Will at ABG favors, too. Also, what a year for outdoor tomatoes! Patio Princess and pearl varieties did well and we have about 50 green ones on the counter ripening slowly. Saw my largest slugs ever this year-- even climbing up my outside walls when the rain really grew intense in July. Yuckola. Finally, the giant sunflowers lived up to their name - three grew to 9 feet! We'll have some happy birds this winter feasting on those seeds. **Martha Jokela**

*Something learned: If we continue to get warmer and earlier summers more plants with consideration for interesting foliage, color and texture need to be added to the landscape. My garden started 3-4 weeks earlier. When I compared photos from previous years of the same garden, same location this year's crocus were over 3 weeks earlier and so went all the flowering plants witch meant they crapped out in late August instead of September.

*Best Success, Hydrangea paniculata "Quickfire" Still blooming and has been since July 10th. See posts on Glacier City Gardeners Facebook page. Also under success is the fact I didn't lose any perennials. Even things left to overwinter in a 3.5" pot survived.

*Mistakes??? No major mistakes that come to mind.

Unless you didn't water, it was hard to have mistakes.

*It was a different kind of year, Warmer, Earlier, Drier followed by Wetter. I will be adding a few more lengths of soaker hose next spring. **Robbie Frankevich**

*I was thrilled to have some of my strawberries - the Quinault berries - re-blossom and produce a second set of berries in early September. I planted the Quinaults last summer. The rest of my strawberries are really old and of unknown provenance. They all did well, but not like the Quinaults. The Quinaults were sweeter, bigger and redder. Of course the August rains rotted some of the second set of berries. If I'd known more berries were in the offing, I would have done something to protect them. **Rosemary Shinohara**

In my gardens most perennials arrived early due to low snow cover and sunny warm weather in April and May. With the sunny hot summer, the perennials went out of flower very quickly. I'm not complaining, but I rather prefer cooler temps so that the flowers linger longer. The slugs loved August. **Annie Nevaldine**

*I learn more about what and where I want to plant the following year. Next year I will not plant crookneck squash, not enough return for the space. I learned that having my peas on the west facing wall is not working... too hot. I'll try planting brussels sprouts in buckets along the fence to maximize space in my beds. I've started planting various fast growing things like greens in between squash and other slower growing plants and then pull them when the bigger plants start shading them out. This works really well as long as I pay attention to what is going on. I put onions in between zucchini and along the edge of the bed, then forgot about them. At the end of the season they were there and ready to eat, just small.

*BEANS! I picked baskets and baskets of beans this year. I planted Provider bush beans in a 4 x 8 bed as well as various pole beans around the perimeter of my garden, these included Scarlet Runner, Scarlet Emperor, (which are still producing as of this writing 9/14), Emerite Pole, Golden Gate Pole (a nice big yellow wax). I'm even collecting bean seed this year. I finally did a successful succession planting of greens. Got the seed planted at the right time, not too late.

*Mistake might be the little strawberry bed that is now throwing out runners all over the place into the other beds close by. Didn't get the cardboard laid down between the beds and now have a weedy mess.

*I started planting the first week of May! It was so warm I thought, what the heck, and seeded greens. When the sun came out for a few days they popped right up and were off and running. **Janie Taylor**

Aphids so large I considered selling them as shrimp to hipsters at the Farmer's Market.... **Emily Becker**



Bird Chatter

The chatter this past month seemed preoccupied with two questions -- Should we really tear down our gardens when they're still so green and even have flowers still blooming? And, what's life going to be like when we move to the new quarters on Bragaw Street? Sorry. There's no definitive answer to either question.

VERY SUB ARCTIC. . . As of this writing, September 27, the flatlands haven't had a killing frost. The Farmer's Almanac says there's a 50% chance we would have had our first real frost by September 23rd. Climate.com says there's a 90 percent chance of a killer showing up by October 7th.

Bill, over at the National Weather Service, (love those guys!) had some dates but pointed out what we all know: There are so many micro-climates in Anchorage that a single predictive date is impossible.

The average date for a first frost at Stevens Airport is September 20th. There have already been light frosts in the lowlands -- along Campbell Creek for instances.

It takes a dip to about 29 degrees to produce a killing frost, Bill said. The predicted date for that in midtown was September 29th. You'll know by now if it showed up on your block.

Bill confirmed what we all know -- it's been warmer this year.

Why is BC trolling through all this info? On paper it's time to tear down the huge green hops vine spread 15 feet along the shade garden fence. The one with tendrils still reaching for new purchase.

But BC just can't do it.

BC is not complaining about the warm fall, but it's tough to put the garden down for the winter under these circumstances -- to tear down plants that are still vibrant -- putting out new buds and leaves. Hops are not like kiwi. They don't grow on last year's wood, so they need to be cut back nearly to the ground or one ends up with slimy black stuff hanging from the trellis.

Still, perhaps BC will tempt fate and leave it for another week. Or two.

Stay tuned.

DIGGING THE NEW DIGS. . . CES will be moving to 1840 Bragaw Street later this month -- actually, the file and furniture moving has already started. The new place is smaller, but it has way more character than C Street. For one thing, there's a live tree in the lobby!

You have to go down to get to our offices so, if you can't negotiate a flight of stairs, plan to arrive a little early and use the elevator.

If you get a chance to stop by and check out the place, introduce yourself to Shirley. She manages the guys we're sharing the space with, the Mining and Petroleum Training Service. And yes, they're all guys. They teach classes that involve scary machinery to people who work in mines and on the North Slope. They work during the day so we'll have place for our night meetings.

Landscape Design School in Fairbanks

The Fairbanks Garden Club invites you to attend the National Garden Clubs' LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL which includes four weekend courses (Oct 8-9, Oct 22-23, March 18-19, 2017 and April 1-2, 2017).

The curriculum covers a wide range of subjects including landscape design history, the design process, plant selection, working with the environment, redesigning areas, historic preservation and community gardens.

You can attend any of the four sessions. For a detailed description of each course's curriculum, click on the links above. National Garden Club members who attend all four courses and pass the exams receive a Consultant Certification Card. Non-National Garden Club participants receive a Certificate of Achievement.

Classes will be held at the Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street. The cost of each of the four courses is \$60 plus \$10 for the exam. For more details and registration information, contact Becky Hassebroek, 907-456-3066, <mailto:beckyhasse@aol.com>.

In Memoriam: Reginald O. Yaple (1942 - 2016)



There's a shadow in our gardens -- a hole in the local horticulture world. Reg Yaple died August 23rd at his Michigan home.

Teacher, author, newspaper columnist, television's backyard garden guru, plant lover and seed purveyor, there's no pocket of horticulture that escaped Reg's attention.

A graduate of Western Michigan University, where he also taught horticulture, Reg came to Alaska after a Vietnam combat tour as Medical Corpsman for a job as statewide horticulture specialist with the Cooperative Extension Service. In 1978, he wrote "Sixteen Easy Steps to Gardening in Alaska," a 22-page update of the basic CES guide. He also wrote a weekly column, "The Backyard Gardener," for the old Anchorage Daily News, hosted two gardening shows on PBS in Alaska and taught university classes on PBS television.

In 1983 Reg, along with the Alaska Horticultural Association, founded the Alaska Botanical Garden. His love of plants led to creation of Denali Seed Company in 1977, and later, the company's on-line component, bestcoolseeds.com. He will be missed in so many ways.

A full obit was published on August 30 in the Alaska Dispatch News and can be found on line.

Volunteer Scholarship Opportunity

Dr. James Matthews, former director of Alaska's Cooperative Extension Service, considered volunteers to be an extremely important part of the CES educational system. Upon his retirement he set up a scholarship fund that Extension volunteers can apply for.

"Volunteers have been an extremely important part of the Extension educational system throughout its history. It is hoped that this fund can be a catalyst to encourage them to take advantage of leadership training opportunities in which they otherwise might not be able to participate." —Dr. James W. Matthews

The next deadline is November 1st.

The latest application and information about the scholarship can be found by following the link:

www.uaf.edu/ces/info/volunteer/

Early AMGA Membership Drive - 2017

AMGA's 2016 membership stands at 320! Your continued 2017 membership, volunteer support and voices will help AMGA remain strong and functioning in the coming transitional year as AMGA works through the many changes and support degradation in the UAF/CES presence in the Anchorage area.

The 2017 membership year (January 1, 2017) is just around the corner. Renew your membership now - early renewals received on or before November 19th will be eligible for drawings for prizes held at the November 21st AMGA monthly meeting. Memberships and renewals received or postmarked by December 31st will also ensure listing in the 2017 MG Directory.

Renewal form can be found at:

www.alaskamastergardeners.org

(top menu--> AMGA, drop down menu--> Join/Renew)

Pay online or download renewal form, complete and mail with check (\$20/single; \$30 dual membership) to:

AMGA
POB 221403
Anchorage AK 99522

Garden Event Calendar

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Monday, October 3

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

**Meadow Lake Bloomers Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Planting Soil and New Planting Containers by Matt Franke of Alaska Jacks Garden Supply. 10:30 am at Meadow Lakes Senior Center, 1210 N Kim Drive, Wasilla.

Tuesday, October 4

Valley Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Displaying Winter Potted Plants by Heidi Garditee of Aurora Flowers. 10:30 am at the First Baptist Church, Leatherleaf and Bogard Road, Wasilla.

Thursday, October 6

Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Everyone Can Bee a Wildlife Hero: How to Encourage Wildlife in Your Own Yard by Becky Hassebroek. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

Friday, October 7

Herb Study Group: Review of the Summer ABG Herb Garden and Discussion of Agenda for the Year. Pepper Growers, Please Bring the Results of Your Indoor and Outdoor Peppers. 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm at Anchorage Cooperative Extension Service, **NEW LOCATION: Chugachmiut Building, 1840 Bragaw St.**

Thursday, October 13

Wildflower Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Where is Fish Creek? Learn about the Creeks and Parks in Anchorage by Eric Larson, Anchorage Explorer. 10:00 am - 11:30 am at Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

Monday, October 17

AMGA Monthly Meeting: Firewise Landscaping, Creating a Safe Place Around Your Home by John See, Anchorage Fire Department Forester. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Anchorage Cooperative Extension Service's **NEW LOCATION: Chugachmiut Building, 1840 BRAGAW**. Details at: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/anchorage/calendar/>.

Tuesday, October 25

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/>.

Thursday, October 27

Willow Garden Club Monthly Meeting: (NOTE DATE & TIME CHANGE) Les Brake will do a presentation on the wild flowers and animals of South Africa. 7:00 pm at Willow Community Center, Mile 69.5, Parks Highway. Details at: <http://willowgardenclub.blogspot.com/>.

CLASSES, LECTURES and WORKSHOPS

Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2

Master Composter- Certification Course: Learn to Blend a Wider Variety of Feedstocks for Proper C:N ration, Trouble-shoot Piles for Moisture, Temperature, Aeration and Odor and Process Larger Volumes of Compost with Static and Thermal Pile Methods. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Mat Su Borough Central Landfill's Classroom, at the end of North 49th State Street off Palmer - Wasilla Highway. Free but Registration Required. Details at: 10:00 am - Noon at Mat Su Borough Central Landfill's Classroom, at the

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end of North 49th State Street off Palmer - Wasilla Highway. Details at: http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/Certified-Composter-1_2-pg-Flyer-VCRS.jpg.

Monday, October 3

Alaska Botanical Garden Lecture: South Africa's Namaqualand, Flowers by the Billions by Les Brake. 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at BP Energy Center, 900 Benson Blvd. Cost: \$30 - \$35. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/event/les-brake-south-africas-namaqualand-flowers-by-the-billions/>.

Saturday, October 8 and October 15

Backyard Composter- Certification Course: Successfully Compost Manures, Yard Waste and Food Waste. 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://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/Certified-Composter-1_2-pg-Flyer-VCRS.jpg.

Saturday, October 15

**Alaska Botanical Garden: Wreath Making by Will Criner. 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Class Will Be Held Outside, Dress Warm. Cost \$40 - \$45. Preregistration is required. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/events/>.

**Vermi-Composter Certification Course: Successfully Start and Manage a Worm Bin, Avoid Flies and Odors, Utilize Finished Vermi-Compost. 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm at Mat Su Borough Central Landfill's Classroom, at the end of North 49th State Street off Palmer - Wasilla Highway. Details at: http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/Certified-Composter-1_2-pg-Flyer-VCRS.jpg

Tuesday - Thursday, October 25 - 27

Annual Invasive Species Workshop in Fairbanks: Topics Include Invasive Species Management, Outreach Strategies and Success Stories. Wedgewood Resort. Cost: \$160. Details at: <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/pests/cnipm/annual-invasive-species-c/>.



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

1840 Bragaw St. [NEW LOCATION]

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

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:
Cooperative Extension Office
1675 C St, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 786-6300
Fax: 786-6312

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