

Celebrating 40 years of Master Gardener Classes in Alaska!

Reminder: There is no meeting in December. See you in January!

President's Message

I've always told anyone who would listen that the hardest part of being the president of AMGA is writing this monthly article. When I took on the position three years ago, I thought the tough part was going to be my discomfort with public speaking or my lack of experience in a leadership position. Nope- by a long shot, it has remained writing for this newsletter each and every month. Turning this part over to new management will be my biggest relief as I step down as president.

Otherwise, it has been a great honor to work with and get to know so many of you. I've yet to learn and memorize all of our members' names, but I'll keep working on that. What a nice group of people we gardeners are, always willing to share our time, knowledge and kinship. I look forward to years of continued involvement with our group.

We have faced a number of challenges and changes in the past few years starting with the loss of many of our C.E.S. staff and with several moves of the C.E.S. office and meeting space. We missed out on a couple of years of Master Gardener courses and the additional flow of new members into our organization. And amid all of the commotion and scrambling to regroup, we haven't had an advanced MG class in the past few years.

I believe we have reached a more stabilized environment now that C.E.S. is settling into their new offices (along with a new program assistant), we have assured meeting space for the coming year and a new MG class is almost ready to graduate. We will have a new mix of board members who will bring their ideas and energy to the group.

I have relied on the unbelievable support and good will from the board and our membership to run our large and active group. And I know that all of us will continue to support the new president and board as they take on their responsibilities in the new year. Remember, please, that they can't do it alone. There are standing committees and special projects that all need someone to lead or organize. Spreading the various tasks around sure helps us all, and the personal rewards are many.

Thanks again to you all, it's been a real honor for me. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and I will see you in the new year, thinking about the next gardening season, no doubt.
-Harry



Wishing everyone a healthy, warm, and safe holiday season.
Photo by Ginger Hudson.

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There is no
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Happy
Holidays!*

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AMGA Board Meeting: November

Don't Touch That Dial: That Voice May Be a Master Gardener's

As part of the Master Gardeners' continuing push to let the community know 1) how much MGs do and 2) how much fun they have doing it, Board member Don Bladow wants to take the group to the airwaves. At the Nov. 12 Board meeting of Alaska Master Gardeners, Anchorage, he floated options including gigs on Charles Wohlforth's "Outdoor Explorer" (KSKA-FM 91.1) and on Radio Free Palmer: Big Cabbage Radio (KVRP-FM 89.5) in the "Ag Matters" slot. An enthusiastic Board urged him to go for it.

Another first: Master Gardeners will be teaching in the OLE program (Opportunities for Lifelong Education, affiliated with UAA) on the University of Alaska Anchorage campus, as of January 2020, Board member Marilyn Barker announced. Four weeks of classes will include "Tabletop Gardening," "Herbs," "Seed Starting," and "Pruning."

With April closer by the day, plans are catching fire for the statewide 2019 Alaska Master Gardeners Conference hosted by Anchorage MGs. The one-day April 6 conference, expected to draw at least 200 attendees, will be in UAA's Lucy Cuddy Center. All speakers are confirmed and the budget is coming together, MG Board President Harry Deuber said, though volunteers will be key to setup and takedown for the event's success.

The number of Board candidates matched the number of spots open on the Board: five at year's end. It was agreed to move that the whole slate be approved by acclamation at the November 19 general meeting.

Anchorage MG finances are up for their annual audit in December, and a third current or new Board member should join the other two for the process, Harry said. The present Board will review and approve next year's budget at its December 10 meeting.

The CES office move to the Loussac Library's fourth floor has been completed and the staff is in the thick of trying to unpack and reorganize while carrying on with their daily duties. A new CES program assistant may materialize soon, Harry said; about four interviews have been conducted in recent weeks. The new hire will be the MGs' point of contact with the office.

Programs are in place already for all MG general meetings through January 2020, Marilyn Barker said, with topics ranging from Julie Riley's "Strange Things Done in the Midnight Sun: Gardening Oddities, Eccentricities and Bizarre Facts of Nature" (May) to Bonnie Lembo's "Making Your Yard a Wildlife Habitat" (September) to Rick Sinnott's "Butterflies, Birds and Spring" (April).

Since Nov. 1, there have been 1,749 hits on the MG website, with most hits on Wednesdays and most pages opened on Sundays, webmistress Gina Docherty reports.

—Cheryl Chapman, AMGA Board Secretary

Volunteer Opportunities

Master Gardener Annual Conference 2019

Do you love to organize? The 2019 conference committee can still use some help in several areas of the planning process: help with data base/registration, publicity, and other planning tasks. Contact Harry Deuber: denali542@yahoo.com, or 907-440-6372

Other areas of expertise you have to offer? When you fill out our Google Form, it will be sent to the Volunteer Committee and you will be contacted when needed.

<https://goo.gl/forms/FutOWGNye9KPWKd63>



Salvia officinalis 'Beergarten' in the Herb Garden at ABC. Photo by Mary Contrary.

Treasurer's Report

Balances 9/30/2018

Checking account	5,603.68
Savings account	<u>10,757.76</u>
	\$16,361.44

Dedicated Funds	5,239.00
Interest Bearing CD	<u>16,219.51</u>
	\$21,458.51

Revenue:	
Donation	50.00
Interest	1.83
Membership	<u>293.57</u>
	\$345.40

Expense:	
Operations	<u>139.99</u>
	\$139.99

Balances 9/30/2018

Checking account	5,807.26
Savings account	<u>10,795.59</u>
	\$16,566.85

Dedicated Funds	5,239.00
Interest Bearing CD	<u>16,219.51</u>
	\$21,458.51

Herb Study Group: November Notes by Elaine Hammes

Lynn Hansen led the November Herb Study Group discussion of two topics, Lady's Mantle, genus *Alchemilla*, and culinary Sage, *Salvia officinalis*. Both plants grow in the Herb Garden. Thanks to ABG for again providing the room-with-a-great-view, greenhouse space for the meeting.

Alchemilla is an herbaceous perennial, and the name applies generically to the genus *Alchemilla* as well as specifically to *Alchemilla mollis* when referred to as garden plant. UAA Alaska Natural Heritage Program lists two species as having been established in Alaska: *Alchemilla mollis* (Buser) Rothm, Lady's Mantle, and *Alchemilla monticola* Opiz, Hairy Lady's Mantle. In an invasiveness ranking, Lady's Mantle is 56 out of a possible 100, with 0 representing no threat and 100 representing a major threat to native ecosystems. Lady's Mantle grows vigorously in ABG's Herb Garden with occasional seedlings in various unplanned locations.

Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) records show eighteen accepted species (plus other unaccepted botanical names) of Lady's Mantle. An International Plant Names Index (IPNI) website search results in 1,319 records for *Alchemilla*. London's Royal Horticultural Society identifies Dwarf Lady's Mantle as *Alchemilla erythropoda*, which hails from the Balkans. The European species *A. xanthochlora* and *A. alpina* are the varieties generally used for herbal remedies.

The common name originates from the general shape of the round pleated leaves resembling a lady's mantle—a sleeveless piece of clothing, generally decorative, worn over other clothes. *A. mollis* is native to Europe's Carpathian Mountains. People are also attracted to the distinctive water droplets of dew or rain on the leaves and the delicate sprays of tiny chartreuse flowers.

Lady's Mantle has been used since medieval times in extracts, decoctions, capsules and creams for numerous medical issues both external and internal, such as for skin and gynecological disorders. The tannin content may provide astringent, styptic and antidiarrheal uses. There is not enough reliable information about the safety of taking *Alchemilla* for women who are pregnant or breast-feeding. There is no known information for *Alchemilla* interactions. Be sure to consult your physician or other healthcare professional before using.

Salvia officinalis, the second topic of discussion, is commonly known as Sage or Garden Sage, and is used widely in cooking, as an ornamental and in herbal medicine. It has been grown for centuries in Africa, Asia and Europe for its food and healing properties. The name *Salvia* ("salviya") derives from Latin "to feel well and healthy, health, heal." The botanical name, *officinalis*, refers to the plant's medicinal use. The plants flower in late spring

or summer and grow up to two feet tall. The leaves are oblong, often rough grey-green on the upper side, and fuzzy underneath. Modern cultivars include leaves with purple, rose, cream, and yellow in many variegated combinations. *Salvia officinalis* is grown as an annual in the ABG Herb Garden although is a perennial in milder climates.

Culinary uses in British and American cooking include stuffing prepared with sage to accompany roast turkey or chicken at holidays. Sage is used in many European cuisines such as Italian, Balkan and Middle Eastern cookery.

In Mediterranean areas sage is commonly used as a flavor for hot black tea, or boiled and served as an herbal drink. Fresh sage has a mild, lemon zest flavor and can be frozen for up to two months. Numerous recipes using sage in beverages, meats, vegetables, breads and for medicinal abound.

Salvia officinalis should not be confused with any of the large number of other *Salvias* including *Salvia viridis* (also grown in the Herb Garden), *S. sclarea*, *S. pratensis* (considered a noxious weed in other states), or "Russian Sage" (not a true sage, but *Perovskia atriplicifolia*).

The next Herb Study Group meeting will be December 7, noon-1:30 p.m., and the topic will be Goldenrod led by Michelle Semerad. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Meeting location to be determined will be announced by email. To learn more, contact the Herb Study Group, anchorageherbstudy-group@gmail.com or call Mary, 907-345-1562.

Herb Garden Update: Thanks to Will Criner, ABG Gardens and Facilities Manager, and Michelle Semerad, mulching in the Herb Garden has been completed. Straw mulch was laid on top of row cover material to make it easier to remove in the spring. Snow has since covered all of the beds and the Herb Garden will now join in ABG's Holiday Lights festivities.



Lady's Mantle, *Alchemilla mollis*, in ABG's Herb Garden. Photos by Mary Contrary.

Bird Chatter

CLOSE CALL... Did you write a letter about the proposed downtown flower kill? If not, go hide your head under the covers and be ashamed. Kudos to Emily Becker, Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar, and everyone who responded to the emergency.

Please forgive BC for enjoying the politically motivated backpedaling by certain Assembly members. All that really matters is how they voted in the end.

Please join BC in really enjoying Jeff Lowenfels' letter to the boys and girls of the Exalted Eleven. It read in part:

"I represent this city's gardeners. That is a lot more voters than any of your individual districts, and they can be even more vocal than your constituents. Let me assure you, they are pissed and they do not want this cut. Be very, very careful if you ever want to run for office again, I would suggest, or walk into a local nursery. Every time you folks try and cut some horticultural item or use a poison, I GET THE CALLS. Stop this nonsense. Fund these items or I will have to direct their anger at you so I can live in peace!"

Jeez, big guns have all the fun.

REPLY... Here's part of Assembly Member Suzanne LaFrance's response to Jeff: "Thanks for your email—and for the warning! I must say that I had not fully appreciated the power of the local gardeners until this budget cycle. Wow, not a force to take lightly!"

COCKROACHES AND. . .Nickel LaFleur offers the following depressing observation: "Did you notice that the last thing to stay green was the bird vetch?"

IT'S LIKE WE'RE TWINS!... Gina Docherty's husband happened on a Web site he thought we might want to check out: amga.net.

No, not Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage. amga.net is the home of the Alaska Machine Gun Association.

Hmmm, let's take a moment to think about this. . . Perhaps they share our interest in high-production fertilizer? amga.net membership benefits include being able to buy ammo at group rates and liability coverage during AMGA events. Think we can use their insurance for our speakers at the April conference?

OH SH-T... Nobody wants to talk about it, especially not BC. But there's no avoiding dark thoughts about what all this above-freezing weather is doing to our perennials.

Remember when Lowenfels told us to mulch, mulch and mulch some more? Yeah, yeah, we said. But surely the grass clippings and leaves from the yard were enough. Remember thinking mulching is so-o-o-o boring? Washing the potatoes is more fun. But. . . now there's a good chance inadequately mulched plants are coming out of dormancy—only to be frozen to death when the inevitable single-digits roll in.

Can thawed plants be saved? Probably not, but maybe says Jeff: "Sometimes the plant's antifreeze system works and all is well. Also, sometimes plants just start a second time in the spring."

Horticulture Magazine agrees: "There isn't much you can do. Once a plant breaks dormancy, it will not go back to dormancy, even if the temperatures return to normal. It also loses its ability to adjust to cold temperatures."

Meanwhile, Pray for snow??

HOLD ON, IT'S COMING... Friday, December 21st at 1:23 in the afternoon: The daylight starts getting longer!

BC wants to hear about all your New Year resolutions: stoomey@ymail.com



Downtown Urban Farm Project Initiated by Alaska Food Policy Council

Thanks to a small group of hardcore volunteers (plus someone who walked by and offered his carpentry skills all afternoon!), the beautiful raised beds

have been built!!! Attached It's wonderful to know these are waiting for us this summer!

The Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) with support from the Environmental Protection Agency's Local Foods, Local Places initiative will be managing an urban farm on a neglected parcel of land on 3rd Ave. The Municipality of Anchorage issued a two-year permit to AFPC to develop the Downtown Urban Farm Project.

Master Gardeners are welcome to join this exciting venture. For more information:
Raised Bed Working Group, Micah Hahn, mbhahn@alaska.edu
Heritage Land Bank Plan Working Group, Liz Snyder, ehodges4@alaska.edu

General information: Elizabeth Hodges Snyder, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor of Public Health, 907-786-6541
ehodges4@alaska.edu
<https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org>

Raised bed box photo courtesy of Liz Snyder.

Cole Crops for Cold Pickin'

Cauliflower 'Sno-ball,' turnip trials by CES Hort. Agent Julie Riley, and Cabbage 'Early Jersey.' Photos by Ginger Hudson

Adapted from: "Cole crops and its Diva, the Cauliflower,"
October 10, 2018 - Author: Ronald Goldy
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/cole-crops-and-its-diva-the-cauliflower>

Cole crops are some of the easiest grown vegetables in our state. They are highly versatile in appearance—some even used ornamentally—and are full of vitamins and nutrients.

The plant family Brassicaceae is also called Cruciferae because their four petalled, yellow flowers resemble a crucifix. Edible members are referred to as cole crops and contain several of our better-known vegetables such as turnip, kale, cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower. The physical appearance of these crops vary, as does the plant part we eat. We eat the root in radishes, turnips and rutabaga; the leaves in kale, collards, arugula and cabbage; the swollen stem in kohlrabi; and immature flowers with broccoli and cauliflower.

Some members of the family are annuals (planted every year), others are biennials (planted one year and flower and fruit the next) and some are perennials. Some are problematic weeds. However, most are edible to some degree.

Cole crops have been food crops for thousands of years. Prior to modern transportation and storage techniques plant parts were easily stored for winter consumption or as a fermented product (sauerkraut.) In northern climates they provide necessary vitamins and nutrients when fresh vegetables are not available.

As diverse as the genus is, they all have a common center of origin, the Mediterranean region. That provenance gives an indication of growing conditions in which they do best. A Mediterranean climate has warm (not hot), dry summers and cool (not cold), wet winters. Cruciferae primarily like growing temperatures between 55 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Many are frost-tolerant and will withstand temperatures in the mid-20s, but will freeze when conditions reach the lower twenties. In Alaska, this means we can leave some plants, such as the kales, in the ground through the first snow. Leaves can still be tender and picked until a hard freeze.

Temperatures above 75 F will slow growth and cause other potential quality issues such as bolting (going to flower), loose head leaves or sprout leaves, and stronger flavor. This can be a concern for those who grow their cole crops in a greenhouse. You might think you are extending your season, but beware of warm summers—especially in the valley.

Because the coles like cool temperatures, plant as early as possible to harvest by late June. Most varieties, except radishes, transplant well so seeds can be started indoors.

After harvest, they should be quickly cooled using forced air—for commercial operations—or refrigerated and should not be stored or shipped with any ethylene generating fruits (apples, bananas.)

So, what is the "diva" thing? The prince/princess/prima donna or the diva, if you will, amongst cole crops is cauliflower. It takes a little pampering to get high quality cauliflower. Growing conditions have to be just right. Too hot, or too many hours of sunlight (protect from afternoon sun) and they bolt before

making a firm head. They cannot be over watered or fertilized or they "rice." Not enough results in small heads. The rice effect does not refer to the popular culinary procedure, but rather to the small protrusions that give the "curd" a fuzzy appearance. They do not change flavor, only appearance. However, we have the problem that before food goes into our mouth it has to get past our eyes. Therefore, if it does not look as expected, we do not want it.

Mark Twain once said, "Training is everything. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education." He did not say this to belittle cauliflower, but to indicate the extreme effort in his day that went into cultivating one to the other. Thankfully Alaska is blessed with healthy soil, just about the perfect temperatures, and usually the best water on earth for enjoying cauliflower and all of its relations. Really, the worst we have to look out for is protecting our crops from becoming a moose salad bar!

Common Brassica vegetable crops

<i>Common name</i>	<i>Scientific name</i>
Horseradish	<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>
Mustards	<i>Brassica juncea</i>
Rutabaga	<i>Brassica napus</i> var. <i>napobrassica</i>
Kale and collards	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>acephala</i>
Cauliflower	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>botrytis</i>
Cabbage	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>capitata</i>
Portuguese cabbage	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>costata</i>
Brussels sprouts	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>gemmifera</i>
Kohlrabi	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>gongylodes</i>
Broccoli	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>italica</i>
Savoy cabbage	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>sabauda</i>
Bok choy, Pak choy	<i>Brassica rapa</i> var. <i>chinensis</i>
Mizuna	<i>Brassica rapa</i> var. <i>japonica</i>
Kotasuma	<i>Brassica rapa</i> var. <i>komatsuma</i>
Chinese cabbage, nappa	<i>Brassica rapa</i> var. <i>pekinensis</i>
Turnip	<i>Brassica rapa</i> var. <i>rapa</i>
Rapine, Broccoli-raap	<i>Brassica rapa</i> var. <i>ruvo</i>
Arugula	<i>Eruca vesicaria</i>
Garden cress	<i>Lepidium sativum</i>
Watercress	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>
Radish	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> <i>Radicula</i> group
Daikon	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> <i>Daikon</i> group
White mustard	<i>Sinapis alba</i>
Wasabi	<i>Wasabia japonica</i>

For more information on cold season gardening and winter harvesting:
The Winter Harvest Handbook, Eliot Coleman
The Year-round Vegetable Gardener, Niki Jabour



December Garden Event Calendar

MEETINGS and EVENTS

AMGA, Alaska Rock Garden Society—No meeting in December—Happy Holidays!

Monday, December 3

Alaska Native Plant Society meeting: Jeff Mason—Highlights from Interior Chapter Field Trips; Mini-Botany: Joan Tovsen, What a plant smells; Plant Family: Beth Baker, Aruncus; 7 pm, Campbell Creek Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive, Anchorage, AK.

Mat-Su MG meeting: Christmas Party—Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA) Headquarters building in Palmer, AK, 480 Commercial Drive, Palmer, AK. We meet in one of the classrooms in the basement of the building.

Eagle River Garden Club: Members only field trip to P&M Greenhouse for a Christmas Wreath and Center pieces workshop, December 3 at 7-9 pm.

Thursday, December 6

Anchorage Garden Club: Christmas Party—7 pm; Meets at the Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue; voice mail: 907-566-0539.

Friday, December 7

Herb Study Group: discussion topic will be Goldenrod (*Solidago*). Meeting location will be Loussac Library, Learning Commons 4th Floor, adjacent to CES Office; email will be sent to those on the mailing list below. For questions or to be included on the email list, contact Herb Study Group at anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or call Mary at 907-345-1562.

Tuesday, December 11

Central Peninsula Garden Club meeting: Gardening With Moose, presented by Rosa Meehan, retired biologist and Master Gardener. 7p, Peninsula Grace Brethern Church, Soldotna, AK

Thursday, December 13

Wildflower Garden Club Annual Christmas Luncheon: 11a - 1p
A long-standing Wildflower Garden Club tradition is our Annual Christmas party. And what would a Wildflower Christmas party be without a spirited Chinese Auction Gift Exchange? If you'd like to participate, bring a wrapped garden-type gift, valued at \$15.00 to exchange. Parties are also about good food, so please bring a dish of your choice: salad, appetizer, main dish, vegetable or dessert.
1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage, AK

Sunday, December 16

Homer Garden Club meeting: 2 p, Bidarka Inn, Homer, AK

Tuesday, December 18

Alaska Orchid Society: Annual Holiday Party and Meeting, 6p - 9 p. PLEASE NOTE: Our December meeting is a week earlier than normal to avoid some of the holiday issues. We will be meeting at a private home this month. Details will follow at a later date.

WORKSHOPS

Thursday December 6

Wildflower Club Workshop: Fresh Holiday Centerpieces—Instructor: Daryl Leiser; 10 a - 12 p, Dimond Greenhouses, 1050 W. Dimond Blvd. Note: This is a members-only activity. Daryl will once again instruct us in the art of shaping fragrant boughs to create something special for the Christmas holiday. For membership information: www.wildflowergardenclub.org

ONGOING

Wednesday, Fridays, and Saturdays

Winter Farmers Market, The Center Market, at MidTown Mall (formerly the Mall at Sears): Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. For more information: <https://centermarketak.com/calendar/>



Wreath making with recycled and locally harvested materials at ABC's workshop. Photo by Ginger Hudson.

Alaska Botanical Garden Happenings

NEW this year, Holiday Lights

Nov 29-Dec 29 + New Year's Eve
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 5-8pm
Members: \$5/person
Non-members: \$7/person
4 and under: Free

Thursdays are for Stargazing at the Alaska Botanical Garden! Tim Taber, our resident NASA Solar System Ambassador, will guide us through the night sky on clear evenings.

*Get excited for Fridays during
Holiday Lights in the Garden!*

We will have Chugach Chocolate's Hot Chocolate and a bonfire every Friday during Holiday Lights and live music in the greenhouse on these dates:

December 7th, 7-8pm // Turnagain Blues

December 14, 5:30-6:30pm //

Anchorage Mandolin Orchestra

December 28 //

Leigh Ann 5:00-6pm

Jennie Morris 6:30-7:30pm

*Saturdays are Craft Night during Holiday Lights
in the garden!*

Join us on the following dates for these fun activities:

December 1 // Bird Feeders (Please arrive between 5-7pm to participate in this craft)

December 8 // Gingerbread House Contest (Bring your creation to display!) while enjoying music from the AK Jumping Fleas!

December 15 // Glow in the Dark Scavenger Hunt

December 22 // Decorate a Felt Ornament

December 29 // Decorate a Mug (Bring a plain mug to decorate and we will supply the pens!)

www.alaskabg.org

907-770-3692

garden@alaskabg.org



Alaska
Botanical
Garden

Alaska Community Forestry Program



2019 Grants

Community Orchards or Food Forests

Forests are vital infrastructure, conveying many benefits to the humans and wildlife that occupy Alaska's communities. A food forest produces a variety of foods; improves the soil; attracts pollinators; and provides a diversity of habitat. If done properly, food forests become low maintenance, high value spaces that build community and increase local food security.

These grants will support the testing and demonstration of fruit trees (and possibly nut trees) that can be grown in Alaska. Applicants are encouraged to be creative when selecting tree species for their project. Trees may be planted in an orchard or in public landscapes throughout a community.

Requirements (for complete list visit website listed below):

- Applicant must be a government entity or nonprofit organization with a current IRS 501(C)3 status in good standing.
- Applicants may apply for up to \$2,000 to purchase trees. Approximately \$10,000 is available to fund projects.
- A one-to-one match is required, e.g., a \$1,000 grant requires a \$1,000 match.
- The match may be cash, volunteer time, or in-kind donations such as trees, shrubs, mulch, or water hoses.
- The match may not include federal funds or services provided by federal funds.
- Grant funds may not be used to pay wages and the match may not be wages.

For information and assistance

Please call if you need help with your proposal. We can help you write specifications to ensure that the trees you buy are of high quality, in excellent condition, and appropriate for your site. If you need help from an experienced fruit tree grower in your community, contact your nearest UAF Cooperative Extension Service office, the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association, a Master Gardener, or a local garden center.

- Division of Forestry Community Forestry Program:
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/news.htm>
- Landscape Plants for Alaska: <http://www.alaskaplants.org/>
- UAF Cooperative Extension Service:
<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>
- Cooperative Extension Service publication: Growing Tree and Bush Fruits in Alaska <http://www.uaf.edu/files/ces/publications-db/catalog/anr/HGA-00038.pdf>
- Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association:
<http://www.apfga.org/>



Proposal deadline: January 15, 2019



For more information and grant application:

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/grants>

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry,
550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1450, Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-8466
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index>

AMGA 2019 Winter Meetings

January 21: How to Lighten Garden Maintenance,
with Shirley Ryan

February 18: Water Features in the Garden
by Ben Brown of Faltz Nursery

March 18: Pruning 101 with Kathy Liska

April 15: Butterflies, Birds and Spring,
with Rick Sinnott

May 20: Strange Things Done Under the Midnight
Sun: Gardening oddities, eccentricities and
bizarre facts of nature, with Julie Riley

Membership Renewal Time!

Renew your membership now to stay on our mailing
list and ensure you are in the 2019 directory!
Contact Jane Baldwin: ak.jbaldwin@gmail.com

Welcome New Board Members!

A warm welcome and thank you to the following
Master Gardeners for volunteering their time to
help lead AMGA over the next few years:



Marilyn Barker
Nancy Grant
Elaine Hammes
Susan Negus
F. X. Nolan

Board members will decide amongst themselves
what positions to take. We all look forward to
hearing from them and benefiting from their
knowledge.



Thank you!



AMGA regularly meets at 7:00pm every third Monday of the
month, September through May (except for December).

Meetings are held at the B.P. Energy Center, 1041 Energy Court,
Anchorage, AK, 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, 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



AMGA Board of Directors

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Cindy Walker	Treasurer
Cheryl Chapman	Secretary
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)
	Lynne Opstad, Ginger Hudson
Volunteer Coordinators:	Julie Ginder, Joyce Smith, Lynne Opstad