

Celebrating 40 years of Master Gardener Classes in Alaska !

President's Message: BE INSPIRED!



As we give Harry a month off his salutation in order to plant his own garden, volunteer at plant sales, at educational events, and organize the 2019 Annual MG Conference, we hope you will be inspired by our members' current projects.

This page features the 9,000+ square foot Harvest of Hope Memorial Gardens initiated by Master Gardener Don Bladow. Don is a member of the Lutheran Church of Hope on West Northern Lights. He and the Church have the vision to fill local food pantries. Don's giant garden has grown way beyond the raised bed boxes he presented to our group last year. The property features this garden, an orchard, decorative gardens, and even bee hives (space donated to bee keepers by the church), and of course his original raised boxes that will soon be bursting with chilis! You can keep up with Don's activities, garden experiments, and bounty through his blog posts: <https://harvestofhopememorialgarden.blogspot.com>



Above, a panoramic view of the new, awe-inspiring garden surrounded by moose fence, May 23.

In one corner a baby apple tree grows, May 23.
Photos by Ginger Hudson

Inside This Issue....

The Inspiration Issue
April Board Meeting Notes
Treasurer's Report
Herb Study Group
Bird Chatter
Bee Product Addendum
Volunteer Opportunities
Garden Event Calendar
More Inspiration

AMGA Board Meeting: April

Meeting Ranges from Russian Web Hits to Summer Break

With building flood damage mostly repaired, all Master Gardener Board members returned to CES offices on May 14 for their monthly meeting.

Treasurer Cindy Walker reported renewal of the state's biennial report, the document that will maintain Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage Inc.'s designation as a nonprofit corporation until July 2, 2020.

CES Urban Extension Director, DeShana York, warned that if the water-damaged elevator is still out of commission on July 31—the day the basement office must move—everything will have to be hand-carried upstairs and out. Options for a new office location are still being evaluated.

The annual Kids' Day/Teen City on April 12 at the Dena'ina Center and City Hall parking lot was well-attended, DeShana said. The volunteer-staffed "Ask a Master Gardener" table received plenty of attention.

Summer garden tours begin Monday, June 4, and are scheduled for the first and third Monday each month through August, said Marilyn Barker, Interim Field Trips chair. Garden locations will be emailed to MG members prior to each tour.

Harry, speaking as Volunteer Coordinator, noted that outside requests for MG volunteer help seems to have hit a lull this year. There are two requests of MGs outstanding: Covenant House which services homeless young people; and the refugee gardeners program administered through Catholic Social Services.

In a written report, website watcher Gina Docherty reassured members that purchase of an SSL certificate for the AMGA web page and removing the search feature had secured the site. The SSL certificate includes ongoing statistics such as a count of 463 visits in April 2018. She noted that "northern_gardening_tips.html" was the most-popular URL. Most hits were from the U.S., but others raised eyebrows a bit: 25 from Poland; 22 from the Russian Federation; 21 from Ukraine; 11 from China, which are most likely Web Crawlers like spiders and bots.

Discussions carried over from April's meeting concerning paid newsletter advertising ended with tabling the topic for now because it does not seem a continuing issue.

Fran Pekar, who rides herd on Constant Contact and Broadcast Email, pointed out new European Union internet privacy restrictions regulating how long database information on people can be kept, what is collected, how it can be used, how and when it must be disposed of, and conformity to people's desire to opt out. This, she said, will eventually affect U.S. internet data and suggested offering options for 2019, including opting out of the directory or including only specific information. The Board considered a printed directory versus a PDF and came down on the side of the traditional paper directory.

Because, as Fran pointed out, a PDF can easily be converted to an Excel file and sent anywhere.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Master Gardeners in Anchorage. Jane Baldwin suggested, and the Board concurred, folding this celebration into the August 11th MG Plant Sale adjacent to the Alaska Botanical Garden. Adding food and events were among possibilities mentioned. Fran Durner is the Plant Sale chair, and Harry said volunteers to help already had filled two pages.

Board members agreed on a pilot program from late May through the summer, sought by ABC Executive Director Mike Monterusso, that would see a staffed MG table at the garden's entry. MG volunteers would be present at least two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to answer gardening questions. Saturdays would also be a possibility if there is enough volunteer interest.

Given the number of pending projects and activities, the Board wound up its session by voting unanimously to keep meeting throughout the summer instead of taking its traditional three-month break.

—Cheryl Chapman, Board secretary

Treasurer's Report Balances 3/31/2018

Checking account	8,376.95
Savings account	<u>11,743.13</u>
	\$20,120.08

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

Revenue:	
Education/Fundraising	1,425.00
Interest	1.45
Membership Dues	<u>60.00</u>
	\$1,486.45

Expense:	
Education/Fundraising	975.75
Education/Programs	304.42
Operations	589.99
Website	<u>193.64</u>
	\$2,063.80

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

Herb Study Group: Spring Clean-up of the Herb Garden at ABG

Text and Photos by Elaine Hammes

May 4, 2018 was the last indoor meeting of Herb Study Group (HSG) this season. The group has quickly transitioned into the summer schedule of cleanup, planting and maintenance at Alaska Botanical Garden's (ABG) Herb Garden. First on the agenda, many thanks to Stacey Shriner, ABG Program Director and Volunteer Coordinator, for reviewing the updated ABC procedures for safety in the garden.

The HSG summer schedule began Tuesday May 8th, with volunteers first checking in at the ABG office. The group will be working in the Herb Garden from 1pm – 3pm, Tuesdays and Fridays. ABG procedures require at least two people volunteer at any time in the Herb Garden (and all ABG gardens) due to safety issues with wildlife—bears have already been seen.

Thanks to Will Criner, ABG Gardens and Facilities Manager, most of the winter mulch has been removed. This past season, an attempt was made to

winter over as many plants as possible. A thicker layer of mulch was applied and we waited until this spring to trim many of last year's plants. The Herb Garden displays a variety of known annual, perennial and biennials. In this climate, some perennials may not be expected to come back, depending on their hardiness and the differing weather from year to year. (Ed. note: For reference in planning your garden, ABG is now considered a 4b on the USDA hardiness zone map.

Not all plant descriptions on tags or reference material are up to date. In the past, ABG was considered zone 2 - 3, it is in one of the colder areas of Anchorage.)

So far, the Herb Garden is just beginning to show some new green buds and sprouts. Most robust is Angelica, up to six inches and growing fast. New leaves of Lady's Mantle, Caraway, Costmary, White Fireweed and more are being uncovered as the winter mulch is cleared out. Artemisia has been slow to show, but due to its previous years of vigorous growth, there may still be hope. Sweet Woodruff was new in the garden this last year, and while the original plants may have not begun greening up, there are many small seedlings. Tarragon and a few of the many mints are showing life. Chives have already been up for some time, competing fairly well with grass.

New in the Herb Garden this year will be Goldenrod, thanks to Gina Docherty. Many starts for this year are in ABC's nursery and high-tunnel awaiting better weather for planting—the next major Garden project. Thanks to Cathy Sage and many others, when some perennials do not survive the winter, there are Plans "B" and "C" each springtime. Research and planning for future varieties is ongoing. One planned addition may be more of the popular Kiwi vines that produce grape-sized fruits.

Right, Angelica,
Angelica archangelica.
Below, Caraway,
Carum carvi.



Left, A corner of the Herb Garden
at the Alaska Botanical Garden.



New and returning volunteers for the Herb Garden are welcome and all are encouraged to contact the HSG, anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or Mary at 907-345-1562 for current season information.

Please note there is required training at ABG prior to volunteering.

Contact Stacey, stacey.shriner@alaskabg.org or 770-3692.

For refreshers and additional bear awareness training, check with BLM, ADF&G, Eagle River Nature Center, REI and the Alaska Zoo.

Some of ABC's safety measures include but are not limited to:

- ✿ All volunteers at ABG must check in with the office staff when they first arrive to make sure there are other volunteers already working in the Herb Garden, or wait until there are at least two people to work in the Herb Garden at all times.

- ✿ Upon arrival, volunteers should wear ABG volunteer tags located in the kiosk by the entry gate. Whistles may be borrowed that are also located in the kiosk.

- ✿ As volunteers depart, they should check out at the office and let us know they are leaving, enter their time in the volunteer time booklet that is now located in the kiosk and return volunteer tags and whistles.

Bird Chatter

ALL DONE. . . Right? You've got all your new plants in the ground, yes? All the ones you started and all the ones you bought over Memorial Day weekend after swearing you were NOT going to buy a bunch of new plants this year.

Yeah, right. BC too.

There are several "explanations" available for people rude enough to inquire after stepping over the still-in-nursery-pots collection at the edge of the back porch. The best—the one BC is using most—goes like this: "I'd love to have planted everything earlier but this spring was just so cold and sunless, I was afraid the plants wouldn't survive."

Also, the evergreen: "My (wife)(husband) didn't water them and they all wilted. I had to nurse them back to health before they could survive transplanting."

DON'T CALL IT GARBAGE. . . The Muni compost program is back this year. It's best you look up exact details, but briefly: You sign up and get a pretty 5-gallon lidded pail into which you toss your kitchen (NOT yard) scraps. When it's full, you take it to the Transfer Station in Midtown or the Regional Landfill and dump it. In return, you can scoop a gallon of compost. Last year, 650 people did this, so it's probably a pretty good deal.

Board Secretary Cheryl Chapman, a knowledgeable proponent, suggests you do this at the beginning of the two-week "cycle," meaning soon after the compost is delivered. It's good stuff and there's not always enough to go around.

Check compost@muni.org, <https://www.facebook.com/anchorageaws>; or just ask Cheryl.

PABLO, WHERE ARE YOU? . . Has anyone seen a Picasso petunia? BC fell in love with their green-edged purple blooms when they showed up several years ago but they seem to have vanished. Greenhouse interrogations across the Valley and in a few Anchorage outlets produced several stories: they're too leggy or in some other way botanically insufficient; Or a who-knows shrug; Or a tale about how the company that sells them allegedly makes greenhouses buy expensive support material—pots, etc., and that either annoys them or they have to raise the price too high.

Patti at Sutton's did whatever was required but said they could only get a few and sold out immediately.

So, what to do? Has anyone ever bothered growing petunias from seed?

AND THEY ALL FELL DOWN. . . Trees, roof shingles, and in member Jane Baldwin's back yard, the fence protecting her from five lanes of Lake Otis Parkway and a chunk of bike path. The big May windstorm blew down about 75 feet of that 8-foot fencing the Municipality put up to protect everyone from cars and crappy air.

Jane reports temporary cancellation of her nightgown-clad morning forays around the yard, coffee in hand. BC says, TS. Let 'em stare!

Board member Kathy Liska's camper shell jumped a fence and broke a neighbor's sliding glass door.

But, hey, the Big Wind blew most of the leaves off BC's garden path, so not all bad, right?

Jane: Think lemonade stand. Primula sales booth.

BEE BOP. . . Have you spotted dying bees in your garden—or no bees at all where there usually are some? A spokeswoman for the Southeast Alaska Beekeepers Association says the chilly weather has slowed their reproduction; 500 to 1,000 bees from each hive die daily, she said. But all should be well once it warms up.

YUM YUM? . . The following items are among delicacies currently being offered at some of the local farmers markets: Yukon Gold flavor ice cream, made with Alaska potato chips, toffee and fudge ripple. Chaga Chocolate Meringue ice cream, combining luscious chaga from Far North Fungi and steeped shiitakes. (Don't know what chaga is? Look it up. BC had to). And, for the pups, Drool Central Cohohitos—dried salmon skin with meat.

REMINDER. . . It's not too early to save perennial divides for the August 11th plant sale!



Bee hives on the property of
Luthern Church of Hope, May 23.
Photo by Ginger Hudson

Bee Products, Addendum to April's Bee Keeping Presentation By Beth Baker

After my talk I received two interesting questions to which I did not know the answer. I have since tracked those answers down. Think of these when planning to make space for your bee hives!

Propolis

Where does propolis come from? Propolis is the glue that seals all the cracks in the hive. "Many plants produce gums and resins at wound sites or around buds or newly emerging leaves. These substances waterproof the area and protect it from attack by potential invaders such as bacteria, molds, yeasts, fungi, insects, and other pests. Honey bees often collect these gums and resins and use them inside the beehive where they provide the bees and their nest the same protection the resins give the plants."

Beeswax

How is beeswax made? "The four pairs of wax glands on worker honey bees (drones and queens do not have wax glands thus do not produce beeswax) are found on the underside of abdominal segments four to eight. Each gland is made up of hundreds of adjacent cells. Opposite, or under, these glands are plates sometimes called wax mirrors onto which the wax is secreted as a liquid. The wax solidifies when it comes into contact with the wax plates and air and appears as scales. If wax is not needed immediately, a worker bee may pile one secretion upon another and the scale may become very thick and have a laminated appearance. No two wax scales are exactly alike in size or shape. Wax producing bees are usually 2-3 weeks of age. When they first emerge from their cells their wax glands are not yet developed. After bees become foragers and are older, 3 weeks, their wax glands degenerate. The bees engorge with honey which is a prerequisite to wax secretions."



These quotes are from the *The ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture* by A. I. Root and E. R. Root, first published in 1877. It is a bible for the beekeepers and is full of such factoids as I have presented here.

I enjoyed preparing this talk. I learned so much, including the answers to the above two questions. Thank you!

Ed. note: other classic bee keeping guides include:
The Hive and the Honeybee, L. L. Langstroth, first published in 1853
The Beekeepers Handbook, Diane Samataro, 1978
First Lessons in Bee Keeping, Camille Pierre Dadant, first published in 1917

See also:
Southcentral Alaska Beekeepers Association
<http://www.sababeekeepers.com>

Above, bee hive in Homer, garden tour, 2013.

Right, colorful hives in AMGA member's backyard, garden tour, 2015.

Photos by Ginger Hudson



Garden Event Calendar

PLANT SALES

Saturday, June 2

Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale– 9a - 5p, location TBA

Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale– 9a - 2p,
7435 Old Harbor Rd. off Muldoon, just north of Fred Meyers

Mat Su Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale– 9a – 3p, at the
Palmer Pavilion, across from the Palmer Visitor's Center,
matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

Saturday, June 9

Central Peninsula Garden Club Garden Club Plant Sale– 10a
until plants are sold out. Sale includes flowers, vegetables,
herbs, berries, rhubarb, trees, bushes, etc. New Location:
Peninsula Grace Church, 44175 Kalifornsky Beach Road
(mi. 19.5), Soldotna. This annual CPGC fundraiser is used
to support local agriculture, club presentations, youth projects,
prizes, etc.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday, June 3

Eagle River Nature Center: MORNING BIRD WALK (Regis-
tration required) 8a, Join avid birder Jamin Taylor on a 1-3 mile
walk to look and listen for birds. Register at www.ernc.org

Monday, June 4

AMGA Garden Tour – Members only; watch your email for
location and details.

Thursday, June 14

Third Thursdays with Extension: Pests in your garden– 6p-7p,
Matanuska Experiment Farm. Call 745-3360 for more details

Monday, June 18th

AMGA Garden Tours– Members only: watch your email for
location and details.

Thursday, June 21

ABG 25th Annual Garden Party– 5:30p - 8:30p
Please join us in celebrating 25 years of ABG!
The evening will include a fine art sale, live jazz and a light
dinner catered by SOUTH Restaurant + Coffeehouse. \$75 in
advance; \$90 at the door; \$500 Perennial level (includes two
tickets plus a gift basket of selected perennials from the Garden,
ready to plant)

WEEKLY GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES (to learn and socialize)

Alaska Rock Garden Society

Maintenance at the ABC Rock Garden– Every other Tuesday,
starting May 22nd, 11a – 1p. Stop by on your lunch break &
help out if you want a bit of fresh air and sunshine! Contact
Kathy Swick: swick@alaska.net for questions.

Herb Study Group

Herb Garden volunteer maintenance at the Alaska Botanical
Garden (ABG) schedule: Tuesdays and Fridays, 1p - 3p.
Due to updated ABG safety procedures, all volunteers must first
check in at the ABG Office. A minimum of two people are
required for working in the garden at any time.
Contact: anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com
or call Mary at 907-345-1562.

Audubon Society

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

Eagle River Nature Center

June Programs: [https://www.ernc.org/documents/JUNE-
2018Programs_final.pdf](https://www.ernc.org/documents/JUNE-2018Programs_final.pdf)

CLASSES

Saturday, June 2

Good Earth Garden School: Backyard Composter- Certification
Course (clinic section L) - 1p - 3p, Location: Central Landfill's
Classroom at the end of North 49th State St. off the
Palmer-Wasilla Hwy between the Glenn Hwy and Trunk Rd.
Free but REGISTER by EMAILING:
compost@matsugov.us <http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

Tuesday June 5

Good Earth Garden School: Backyard Composter- Certification
Course (clinic section m), 2p - 4p. Location: Central Landfill's
Classroom at the end of North 49th State St. off the
Palmer-Wasilla Hwy between the Glenn Hwy and Trunk Rd.
Free but REGISTER by EMAILING:
compost@matsugov.us <http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

AMGA Grant Recipient Puts it to Work!



The Airport Heights Gardeners planted two apple trees (Parkland and a crab) this spring in the public space at the corner of 16th and Lake Otis. We'll be adding 6 haskap bushes this summer as well.

The goal is to increase locally grown food for the neighborhood.

The project is funded by the Alaska Food Policy Council, Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage, and the city of Anchorage.

AMGA member Emily Becker spearheaded the project.

Photos courtesy of Emily Becker.



Volunteer Opportunities

2019 Master Gardener Annual Conference or Conference Planning Committee: The state-wide conference will be in Anchorage next year. This is a one in three-year opportunity to show off your skills for master gardeners who will be here from all parts of Alaska. 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

Integrated Pest Management Program positions open

One permanent: Agriculture and IPM Program Assistant. The others are seasonal IPM technician positions.

For someone who enjoys outreach, field work, insect and plant identification, working with the public, and a passion for invasive species issues.

Prospective applicants can contact Casey A. Matney PhD, Agriculture/Horticulture, UAF CES Kenai Peninsula District, 907-262-5824, camatney@alaska.edu, <http://bit.ly/k-ag-hort>

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>

Wildflower Garden Club Grant

The WFGC is offering up to \$2000 in grants for projects that encourage botanical education. Projects can include scholarly studies, scientific research, horticulture, agriculture, landscape design, and more. The smallest request considered is \$200.

Individuals are welcome to apply.

Organizations that apply must be 501(c)(3) nonprofits.

Application deadline is Nov. 1, 2018.

Contact akwildflower@gmail.com, meetings are held second Tuesdays of the month at Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St., Anchorage.

Annual Plant Sale Preparation

No Indoor Meetings Until Fall

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!**



Lady's Mantle, *Alchemilla mollis*. 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

Thank you Marilyn Barker for rounding up some amazing presenters this year!

2018 MG Directory Update

For current AMGA members: If you're interested in updating your 2018 MG Directory, you will receive updated pages only which include members added after the January 5th directory cut-off date and changes discovered after directory mail-out. The update is a .pdf file that can be printed, cut in half and stapled to the inside back cover of 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.

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

Harry Deuber	President
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Cindy Walker	Treasurer
Cheryl Chapman	Secretary
Kathy Liska	At Large
Fran Pekar	At Large
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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

