

Co-President's Message by Elaine Hammes

This is the time for spring planning, but maybe not a lot of gardening quite yet. Perhaps we can sneak in a few seedlings, hope for an early season and be ready to set already sprouted plants outside at the earliest moment. It is also time to “get out of the house” and volunteer for spring events such as Fur Rondy in February and March. We are also eagerly anticipating the 2019 Statewide Alaska Master Gardener Conference April 6, “Urban Gardening in the last Frontier.” Hopefully, you were able to attend the recent CES Open House at the 4th Floor of Loussac Library. AMGA looks forward to working with Gina Dionne, new CES staff member and contact for AMGA.

A lot of things are looking up besides increasing daylight! After the first MG class in several years was completed, we now have many new Master Gardeners and contributors to AMGA activities. Even before taking the class, the students were likely eager to garden and now as MGs will continue by volunteering which leads to teaching and continued learning. The specific objectives and purposes of AMGA include providing “educational opportunities for wide dissemination of gardening and horticultural information...” Completing the MG class is an introduction, while the AMGA continues everyone’s gardening education indefinitely.

Those who have been MGs for a few or for many years know that learning about anything is a life-long pursuit and that includes gardening-related. The avenues for learning are varied but similar to those for teaching: studying, researching, doing. An example of continuing the gardening experience in education includes teaching and exchanging ideas through the series of recent Olé classes, organized by Marilyn Barker. These were classroom style one-hour presentations with questions and answers. I know from experience that one of the better ways to learn is by teaching—by doing your homework both as teacher and student.

Other examples of learning and teaching include on-the-job activities such as volunteering with the Pioneer Home Committee/ Working Group. Through year-long efforts members have designed, built and maintained the wonderful gardens during the summer for many years. Both the residents and visitors enjoy viewing summer through the colorful varieties of plants and garden designs along the entrance to the home.

The Google Group Gardening Blog is for those specific e-mail questions and answers that provide interesting sparks to a short winter day or an “aha” moment. Last summer one “aha”

moment never made it into the blog. There were little globs on some concrete near flowers that looked suspiciously like slug eggs. Ewww. But upon further observation of the nearby Salvia, it became apparent that the “globs” were Salvia seeds that, with the recent rain, had expanded with a mucus-like coating. Maybe everyone but me already knew that!

What are your special interests and why? Think about it; take a little time! Marigolds? Birch trees? Tomatoes? Lavender? Lighting for plants? Cilantro? Lilies? Garden design? Hops? Greenhouses? Basil? Bugs & pests? Rhubarb? Composting? What else? What have you learned about this, what questions would you still have, even if you’ve spent years with the particular “obsession?” What could you tell people about this interest if they were to ask about it? Think about the kind of project or report you could complete and to whom and how you would present it.

Volunteer opportunities are many and varied. The Alaska Botanical Garden is always looking for volunteers in the gardens. AMGA would like to maintain the “Ask a Gardener” program and in doing so, to continue to promote the AMGA objectives and purposes. Grade school teachers have asked for MG assistance in teaching gardening units. So I hope each MG, future Master Gardener and garden enthusiast will find out how to contribute your knowledge and experience toward the purposes and objectives of AMGA in a way you will enjoy and that will also be educational for all, way beyond the 40 hours! Talk to other Master Gardeners at meetings, ask committee and board members questions.

I am appreciating the work of the 2018 Board of Directors more every day for the work they did then and as they continue to assist the 2019 board to keep AMGA vibrant and relevant. As Susan said last month, several of us were totally new to this but I think we are making headway with lots of help, and we hope to have an exciting year of AMGA activities and gardening, teaching and learning!

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AMGA Board Meeting: January

On Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, Co-Presidents Susan Negus and Elaine Hammes presided over Board members FX Nolan, Nancy Grant, Fran Pekar, Marilyn Barker and Marjorie Williams, plus Don Bladow by smartphone. Database custodian Jane Baldwin, past President Harry Deuber, past Secretary Cheryl Chapman and directory compiler Janice Berry also attended.

The early part of the Alaska Master Gardeners, Anchorage meeting included a transfer of keys and tasks to the new Board from past officers. In the future, FX Nolan will file required nonprofit reports with the state.

Elaine and Susan briefed the Board on their meeting with new Cooperative Extension Service Program Assistant Gina Dionne. Elaine will be CES liaison. CES has scheduled an Open House for Wednesday, Jan. 23, from 3-7 p.m. with 5 to 10-minute presentations. AMGA is planning to provide a table with membership forms. Elaine said Gina can do shout-outs for AMGA events. She is also responsible for tracking volunteer hours from the recent Master Gardener class. Gina will be a good source of volunteers for AMGA if we give her advance notice of what we need. In addition to being available in the fourth-floor CES offices, CES publications can be found on the third floor of the Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.

Julie Riley sent a message that the Alaska State Fair is looking to train new judges. Specific certifications in Irises and Lilacs will be available. The first meeting for training through the Anchorage Garden Club runs June 15-16. Follow-up meetings are in October. Those wishing to take the course must be members of a garden club affiliated with National Garden Clubs.

AMGA insurance coverage for Fur Rondy and the Spring Flower Show may be needed, depending on CES participation.

AMGA will host the Statewide Master Gardener Conference, "Urban Gardening in the Last Frontier," in April in the Lucy Cuddy Hall at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Harry Deuber reported. Speakers are confirmed but topics are being refined. Garden author Robert Kourik of California joins eight speakers from Alaska. A nicely designed poster by CES graphic artist Susan Bybee will be ready by the end of January for publicity. Plans are for a larger conference with a capacity for 200. Costs have gone up on facilities and catering. The group consensus was to fulfill the MG priorities of spreading education while keeping costs down as much as possible, charging only enough to hopefully break even.

AMGA Annual Treasurer's Report 2018

Total Funds 12/31/17	\$39,342.82
Income	
Dedicated Donation	500.00
Donation	354.00
Education	7,810.20
Interest	269.81
Membership Dues	<u>3,829.61</u>
Total Income	\$12,763.62

Expense	
Awards/Recognition	0
Dedicated Donation	500
Directory	661.99
Education	6,891.45
Hospitality	0
Membership	0
Newsletter	0
Operations	2,509.88
Pioneer Home	22.86
Public Relations/Outreach	549.04
Website	<u>1,093.76</u>
Total Expense	\$12,228.98

Balances 12/31/18	
Checking	7,579.84
Savings	10,785.12
Dedicated Funds	5,260.79
General CD	<u>\$16,251.71</u>
Total Funds 12/31/18	\$39,877.46

New CES Program Assistant

The new location of the Cooperative Extension Service office is up and running in Anchorage. The office is located on the 4th floor of the Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St. Open hours are Monday - Friday, 10a - 4p.

Gina Dionne is the new Program Assistant who wears many hats. As far as the Master Gardeners are concerned,



she is the main point of contact for volunteer coordination, event and program planning, and general questions. She can be reached at: gddionne@alaska.edu or 907.786.6300 (Reception) or 907.786.6313 (Direct Line)

Herb Study Group: Anise Hyssop by Wendy Willey

The Herb Study group's meeting was on January the 4th at the Loussac Library. The fabulous herb for the month was Anise Hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*. Thank you Michelle Semerad for arranging the location for this meeting. The library is a great asset to the gardening community and is the new location for the Cooperative Extension Service office. If you have not yet gone to see their new location I encourage you to make a visit.

We were introduced to the new Program Assistant for the Cooperative, Gina Dionne. Gina comes to us from Florida and has a background in Arts and Education. Though a seasoned gardener she has had to educate herself on our unique climate. She has just completed the Master Gardener program and looks forward to supporting our community. Gina's contact information is gddionne@alaska.edu, phone 907-786-6313. As a side note she enjoys knitting and you may even see her modeling one of her creations. She also keeps chickens very close to the area of ABC so she could be a good resource for that as well. Welcome Gina.

We all shared information and experiences with Anise hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*, at the meeting. This is a short-lived herbaceous perennial with fragrant foliage that can be used as an ornamental or in the herb garden. This plant likes full sun to partial shade. It tolerates a wide range of soils as long as there is good drainage.

Anise Hyssop is an upright, clump-forming plant that generally grows 2-4 feet tall. While being short lived, it self seeds. In Alaska it can grow to flowering size in one season. This plant is a native to prairies, dry upland forested areas, plains and fields in the upper Midwest, Great Plains and up into Canada. Hyssop is a plant that is in the mint family and is hardy in zones 3 to 8.

Please do not confuse this plant with *Hyssopus* spp. a European plant used as a healing herb; anise, *Pimpinella anisum*, from the carrot family (Apiaceae); or star anise, *Illicium verum*, commonly used in cooking. Julie Riley shared that the cultivar "Golden Jubilee" is a more hairy species.

Flower color varies from white to pale blue and lavender through blue-purple. Pollinated flowers produce smooth, oval shaped fruit or seeds that are technically nutlets. Deadhead spent flowers to promote additional bloom. The flower spikes are edible.



Anise Hyssop in the Alaska Botanical Garden's Herb Garden, *Agastache foeniculum*. Photo by Mary Contrary.

The use of this plant will win you over. It is a beautiful addition to your perennial border, herb garden or kitchen garden. The aromatic leaves have a licorice-like scent, and can be used in herbal teas, to flavor jellies or eaten fresh in small quantities in a salad with other greens.

The plant was used medicinally by Native Americans to treat coughs, fevers, wounds and diarrhea. It will heal bites, burns and stings. The plant is a great flavoring for soups, stews, and salads. When distilled in oil it can be used in liqueurs and perfumes. The flower is lovely used fresh or dried in arrangements. Anise hyssop attracts pollinators to your garden and what a joy that is. Leave your plants for winter food: the birds will love your commitment to their environment.

Please join us on February 1st for our meeting at the Loussac Library at noon. Plant focus is St. Johns Wort and will be presented by Elaine Hammes.

How to Easily Shred Leaves this Fall

Leaf Shredder

A few people asked at the last MG meeting about leaf shredders.

This particular shredder has been reliable for many years. It does best with dry leaves. It works like an electric weed eater with strings which are fairly easy to replace. An industrial extension cord is run from the power source so you can place the shredder near compost and leaf bins. It fits over a trash can, so chopped leaves are contained or bagged and easy to deal with.

The photo is from Amazon, it's called: Flowtron LE-900, The Ultimate Mulcher Electric Leaf Shredder, & lists for about \$165.

-contributed by Gina Docherty



AMGA 2018 Annual Report Submitted by Harry Deuber

2018 proved to be another year of change for AMGA. The C.E.S. Outreach office moved yet again from the last location of Bragaw St. This resulted in the loss of space for our various meetings. Beginning in September, the B.P. Energy Center became our new meeting location. The new office at the Loussac Library and its central location has positive aspects however and it will remain where AMGA maintains our official presence and hub of the AMGA-CES relationship. A new Program Manager and regular office hours for the public will allow for better interaction with both AMGA and the general public.

AMGA Membership numbers vary month-to-month but have decreased roughly 10% in the past year. The lack of MG classes for 2 years in a row with the resulting loss of new members has taken a toll on overall membership levels. The recent 2018 MG course and memberships offered to new Master Gardeners should result in a rebound in 2019.

Eight general membership meetings were held during the year with a wide variety of expert speakers and interesting topics. Programs included "Woodworking for Wildlife", "Soil Sample Interpretation", "Cool Plants for Cold Gardens", "The Joys of Being a Beekeeper", "Growing Rhododendrons in Alaska", "Peonies Inside and Outside the Garden", "Why Be Thankful for Insects" and a photo recap of members 2018 gardens and travels.

During June, July and August our members had the opportunity to tour many private gardens along with a nursery twice each month during the growing season. We are fortunate to have so many willing to host and share their gardens and knowledge.

AMGA published 12 monthly newsletters in 2018. Newsletter editor Ginger Hudson along with many others contributed garden related articles, a calendar of events, newsworthy announcements and our ever popular "Bird Chatter" column. In addition to our newsletter, outreach efforts included maintaining a Facebook page, a Google Groups forum and regular email announcements and reminders via Constant Contact.

Our annual membership directory was updated, published and distributed in January.

The AMGA Grant committee offered 2 types of grants in 2018. One was a grant program for small projects in the community and the other was for tuition assistance for several students of the 2018 Master Gardener class.

A committee was established in early 2018 to begin the planning for the 2019 Statewide Master Gardener Conference to be held April 6th 2019 in Anchorage. The theme chosen is "Urban Gardening in the Last Frontier".

AMGA sponsored several outreach events to the general public that included Fur Rondy in February and the Spring Garden Show in April, both at the Sears Mall (now Midtown Mall). A new volunteer management program called "Signup Genius" for the scheduling of volunteers was initiated and was used successfully for several events.

A new event for us this year in April was teaming up with C.E.S. and the 4-H program at the Kids Day/Teen City event downtown. AMGA Master Gardeners offered advice and assisted with potting up plugs and other transplants for several hundred enthusiastic youngsters.

AMGA held our Late Season Plant Sale in August at the Alaska Botanical Garden. In addition to a parking lot full of plants and happy gardeners, free classes and demonstrations were offered.

The AMGA teamed up with ABC during the summer to staff an "Ask-A-Master-Gardener" table several times each week on days in which volunteers were available. In addition, we participated in the Harvest Day activities at ABC.

AMGA members once again planned, planted and maintained the flower beds at the Anchorage Pioneer Home. This is our primary service project and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated crew of volunteers. Our efforts have provided much pleasure to the residents and staff at the Pioneer Home for many years.

A new MG course was offered in Anchorage starting in September and 50 newly trained Master Gardeners are set to begin their 40 volunteer hours in the coming year. All new Master Gardeners have been offered free membership for 2019 and it is hoped that many will continue to be involved with AMGA.

The election for the 2019 AMGA board was conducted at the November membership meeting. Marilyn Barker was reelected for a 2nd term and 4 new members, Nancy Grant, Elaine Hammes, Susan Negus and FX Nolan joined Don Bladow, Fran Pekar and Marjorie Williams to form the 8-member AMGA board for 2019. At the December board meeting, new officers were chosen and areas of responsibility were determined. The AMGA operating 2019 budget was also approved at the meeting. The financial audit for 2018 has been scheduled for January 2019.

Submitted by Harry Deuber, AMGA President 2016-2018

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>

Bird Chatter

STIR CRAZY... All February is good for is—well, nothing. Those of us with OCD have begun reading the seed catalogs and planning for spring, which officially arrives in March. (Pause for hysterical laughter). So let's settle for St. Patrick's Day as something to look forward to. Time for a store-bought cabbage and the following helpful suggestion from Cook's Illustrated (via Jane Baldwin):

"Use a power drill to core your cabbage"

Use a 1" spade-tip drill bit. Drill right through the core of the cabbage until it's gone. "Then cut the cabbage as needed."

Yeah, BC is going to rush to do this. And what comes next? Throw out the wooden cutting board you accidentally cored? Fill the new hole in the counter with putty? Sweep up the glass when the drill cord sent your measuring cup flying?

Never mind.

A REAL TOOL... Here's some actually useful information for a change. To find out if a particular plant—or just a particular species—will work in your garden, plug into a great hardiness checking tool, apparently from Germany but based on USDA info. Go to www.asklepios-seeds-de/gb/usda-plant-hardiness-testing-tool. You don't even have to know how to spell all those latin names—it's a check-off choice thing. Easy to use.

It probably doesn't have all our weird Arctic plants listed, but it's still useful.

(This tip thanks to Gina Docherty.)

THE COLOR OF NOW... Speaking of winter blues, BC, a pathetic glutton for punishment, paid a visit last week to the ghost of Sutton's Brown Thumb Nursery. When Anna and Patty sold gardening's Funk Central last fall, rumors floated that maybe the new owners might keep it as a greenhouse, a training program of some sort.

But, maybe not. The piled-up stands and equipment, the notes on the door to customers with phone numbers for questions and envelopes for honor payments are all gone. There's nothing but the bare buildings, blank facades with their painted yellow tulips and blue forget-me-nots one winter more faded than when the Sutton sisters left.

NEVERMIND. Did you see the notice from the Botanical Garden about their new "guided gardening" program this summer? The way it works is, you get a plot of land at the Garden to plant your own veggies. Staff will be there to teach you how to mix the best soil, choose the best seed and demonstrate the best growing and harvesting practices.

This is a great idea—people who live in rented apartments with no land can learn from the best, and get fresh, healthy vegetables for the family table. What wonderful outreach, a terrific way to turn people on to gardening. BC decided to volunteer to help.

BC changed her mind. Turns out it's another "fund-raiser," not meant for folks like BC. The "fee" is \$750.00.

Have something to share: stoomey@ymail.com



Plant Societies of Note, *plants that grow well in our gardens*

I'd like to bring attention to three plant societies—Hosta, Daylily and Lilac—that I've gotten knowledge and pleasure from joining. The annual membership fees are about \$35, and their journals are informative. Maybe not of interest to everyone, but if you grow any of those plants, the societies are worth a look.

If you have a passion for hostas, it could be worthwhile to join the American Hosta Society. I joined in 2005 when I was creating my Lilac-Hosta Dell. It is a pleasure to get the journals just for the beautiful photos of hostas and gardens. Most of the content seems to be about hybridizing. However, in the first year or so there was an article about Virus X, with photos, that proved very helpful. I realized a hosta I'd just planted had Virus X. I dug it out before the virus could spread. And there was an article about sun tolerance in quite a few varieties. The author had lost some large trees and kept careful note of which Hostas fared best in the increased sun. There have been other helpful health and maintenance tips since.

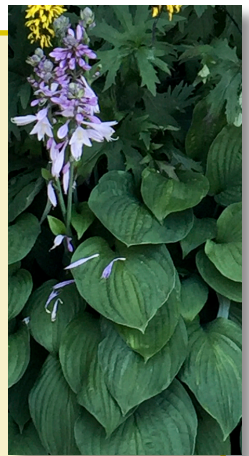
If you grow daylilies you may enjoy the American Hemerocallis Society. Again, the journal is full of gorgeous photos. The content leans toward hybridizing; but there have been several useful articles about diagnosing and fighting diseases and bugs. They have quite a large and active Northwest region which includes Alaska, Washington, Oregon, western and north Canada. Society membership includes the region.

If you are interested in lilacs, you might enjoy the International Lilac Society, ILS. The ILS journal has fewer pictures, but has gotten more colorful in recent years. It seems to lean more toward planting lilacs and where collections are being developed. It has featured some good articles about how to plant and prune, identify pests, etc. The society is truly international. They had a meeting in France some years back. It has an especially active contingent in Russia. Sadly, I missed a great chance to travel to Russia for a meeting there last year.

Each of the organizations has an internet site and members-only blogs. They also have annual meetings with tours of fabulous gardens, speakers, and more.

I've only attended a few ILS meetings: in Michigan, Minnesota, and Vermont. They happened early enough in May that I didn't mind leaving Alaska and my garden. Since the daylily and Hosta meetings happen in June or July, I've just salivated over the photos of the gardens toured at those annual conventions.

For more information: internationallilacsociety.org americanhostasociety.org ; daylilies.org or daylilynetwork.org —contributed by Sharon Davies



February 2019 Garden Event Calendar

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Friday, February 1

Herb Study Group: “St. John’s Wort”, Elaine Hammes presenting; Meeting at 12 noon at the CES office, located at Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St, Anchorage.
anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com

Monday, February 4

*Alaska Native Plant Society meeting: “Newfoundland AKNPS Field Trip 2018” with Debbie Hinchey, 7pm; Plant Family: speaker needed, speaker’s choice; Mini-Botany: Glenn Brown – “What a plant feels” - Campbell Creek Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive, Anch. aknps.org/Pages/Meetings.php

*Mat Su Master Gardeners: “Boreal Coir” presented by Cec Ellsworth of Veggies on the Rye; Meets at 7pm, at MTA Headquarters building in Palmer, AK, 480 Commercial Dr, Palmer.
www.matsumastergardeners.com

Thursday, February 7

Anchorage Garden Club Meeting: “Microgreens”, 7pm- 9pm, at Central Lutheran Church 1420 Cordova St, Anchorage.
www.alaskagardenclubs.org

Thursday, February 14

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association Meeting: “Backyards and Co-ops: Glimpses of Agriculture in Central Europe” – presented by Judith James; 7pm in the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. www.apfga.org

Wildflower Club Meeting: “What Goes into the Planning and Growing of Flowers for Our City”, Presented by: Sandy Potvinsk; Sandy and her team are responsible for the colorful flower beds and baskets that beautify Anchorage each summer. As Horticulture Supervisor for the municipality, Sandy will detail the time and effort that goes into the design, planning, care and management of the city plantings that delight both tourists and residents. 10am – 12pm, Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St, Anchorage. www.alaskagardenclubs.org

Saturday, February 16

Alaska Rock Garden Society Meeting: “Starting from Seed” with Teena Garay. Teena went to China with the ARGS group, has a beautiful garden in Homer and is knowledgeable in all areas. Profile: *Cypripedium guttatum*; 2pm, Eagle River Elk’s Lodge, 17111 Eagle River Loop Rd., Eagle River.
www.akrockgardensociety.org

Monday, February 18

AMGA Meeting: “Water Features in the Garden” with Ben Brown; 7pm at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. www.alakamastergardeners.org

Tuesday, February 26

Alaska Orchid Society Meeting: Repotting demonstration to include, hopefully, repotting a *Cattleya* as well as a different group or two. We will begin gathering at 6:30 pm with the program beginning at 7pm. BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. www.akorchid.org/

CLASSES

Saturday, February 9

Alaska Botanical Garden program: ROYAL GARDEN PARTY, 12:30-3pm. Join the Alaskan Princesses for a fun afternoon of activities in the Garden. Read stories about forest critters, make bird feeders and join the Princesses for a scavenger hunt through the woods to look for birds. Members and adults are Free; Non-members \$5/child. All proceeds benefit the Alaska Botanical Garden. Please bring your own mug to enjoy some hot beverages. Princess Guided Scavenger Hunt through the Garden: 1pm, 1:30pm, 2pm. www.alaskabg.org

Thursdays, February 21st, 28th, March 7th

INSECT ECOLOGY, 3-DAY COURSE: Take a deep dive into some of the insects you may find in your gardens this summer. We will learn tips for recognizing common insects and learn about what different insects do and how they function in the ecosystems we create and tend. 6-8pm, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd. Registration required.

GUIDED GARDENING WITH ABG: The Alaska Botanical Garden is offering a unique comprehensive guided gardening program for the 2019 growing season. Start your garden off right this year by growing your very own vegetable garden at ABG. Garden staff will mentor and guide participants throughout an entire growing season on choosing plants that grow best in this northern climate, preparing a rich fertile soil, managing for pests and disease, watering, and harvesting and preserving your crops. All materials provided. Registration required.
www.alaskabg.org/workshops--classes.html

Register now for Summer 2019

GOOD EARTH GARDENING SCHOOL:
THE COMPREHENSIVE ORGANIC GARDENING COURSE
6 Sessions, Feb 1 thru March 8, 2019, Friday afternoon or evening options, A ‘once-a-year’ opportunity.
Learn how to:

- * Fertilize organically
 - * Manage pests & weeds non-toxically
 - * Build powerhouse soil
 - * Pack nutrient density into your food
 - * Compost successfully
 - * Put all the parts of sustainable growing together
- Call Mat-Su College, Palmer: 745 9746 - (ask for Bettina)

February 2019 Garden Event Calendar

EAGLE RIVER NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS:

Friday, February 1, 7pm

Astronomy Series: **OXYGEN ON EARTH: A Four Billion Year History** The air we breathe is 21% oxygen.

While we may take our air for granted, Earth was not always an oxygenated planet. How did it become that way? How did life come to depend on oxygen? Volunteer naturalist Beth Baker will try to explain this fascinating story in an hour.

Astronomy Series meets the first Friday from October to March. If skies are clear, be ready to go outside and view the night sky. Students ages 10 and up can earn their Jr. Astronomer certificate and astronomy supplies by attending 4 astronomy programs and writing brief synopses of what they learned.

www.ernc.org/programs/FEB2019Programs_final.pdf

SAVE THE DATE!

AMGA Annual Statewide Conference

April 6

UAA campus, Lucy Cuddy Hall

Urban Gardening in the Last Frontier

Keynote speaker Robert Kourik, Author of:

Understanding Roots;

Roots Demystified;

Garden Myths: The Good, The Bad, And the Unbelievable,
and others.

✧ Plus: Presentations, vendors, AND Julie Riley! ✧

Volunteer and get behind the scenes!

follow this link:

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



Organic Gardening

The Six-Session Comprehensive Course

Mat-Su College UAA Six Fridays + optional Field Trip

Agri 138 section 35812 -afternoons 1:30pm to 4:00pm

Agri 138 section 35813 -evenings 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Six Fridays: Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 2019

Optional Field trip on Sunday April 7th from 3pm to 6pm

Learn how to:

- Fertilize organically
- Build powerhouse soil
- Manage pests & weeds non-toxically
- Pack nutrient density into your food
- Compost successfully

To Register:

1 credit, audit, or Senior Waiver

Mat Su College - Unless you are a full time student, it is easiest to register

either by stopping by or by calling **907-745-9746**

1 credit \$212; please call **745 9746** about Senior Waiver.

Once a year, I offer

this foundational training. You go home with an armload of practical knowledge to grow delicious vegetables, fruits, flowers, herbs, & grains on any scale of production. You'll learn how to put all the parts of sustainable growing together. If you're ready to grow more food organically, this is the comprehensive course to take. Come join the fun! --Instructor Ellen Vande Visse

www.GoodEarthGardenSchool.com



AMGA 2019 Winter Meetings

February 18: TBA

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 Past Deadline!

If you have not renewed your membership, do it
now to stay on our mailing list.

Contact Don Bladow: dfbladow@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Fur Rondy
February 22 - March 3

Spring Garden Show

April 20

MidTown Mall

Talk to residents about gardening in
Anchorage, seed planting schedules,
compost, recommended varieties, and
your fabulous gardening experiences!

To Volunteer follow this link:

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



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 Don Bladow at: dfbladow@gmail.com

For information about membership or
upcoming programs, contact:

Susan Negus, President
senegus@gci.net

AMGA Board of Directors

Elaine Hammes and Susan Negus	Co-Presidents
Don Bladow	Vice President
Nancy Grant	Treasurer
Fran Pekar	Secretary
F.X. Nolan	At Large
Marjorie Williams	At Large
Marilyn Barker	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:	Nancy Grant
Membership & Database:	Don Bladow
Newsletter	Ginger Hudson
Website	Gina Docherty
Lifetime Achievement:	Lynne Opstad
Grants:	Marilyn Barker
Pioneer Home:	Lynne Opstad, Ginger Hudson
Volunteer Coordinators:	Julie Ginder, Joyce Smith, Lynne Opstad

