

Co-President's Message by Susan Negus

Walking through the forest in June and July is one of my favorite times of year. The blue bells, wild geraniums, and wild roses are in full bloom. Usually they will all group together, but sometimes you can find them intermingling for a spectacular show. Although, I admit my favorite is the dogwood. You come upon a section of forest that has a carpet of dogwood flowers that vein into the trail on roots. Sadly, it will all change back to green. I walk my dogs a lot (not sure they appreciate the flowers) and it is so uplifting to me to see all the different colors in the forest at this time of year. I highly recommend a walk in the forest while the colors are brilliant.

June was a busy month with plant sales, volunteer events, and garden tours. I volunteered for the Campfire program. The first day was at Denali Montessori School on Cordova with about 50 children of all ages. Melissa Hayes made a great

drawing of seed development (see photo). Each student planted a marigold, then as a group planted cabbage.

We also covered composting and played a composting game—all in less than an hour. Needless to say, it was a little crazy. The next day Fran Pekar joined us at Abbott Elementary. We were supposed to have less children, though given the opportunity, all the kids would rather go outside. I think this went a little better. The big hit was Fran's grandson who brought a bag of worms for the compost. Thanks to Fran, Elaine, and Melissa for helping set this up. I tagged along as an assistant.

Garden Tour kick-off was at Forget Me Not Nursery in Indian. This was my first time to visit and I really enjoyed it. Courtney, the owner, gave us a tour and talked about the different plants she has growing. Now I have new plants for my wish list: "David Ward Pulmonaria" and a fern-leaf Peony, which is supposed to be hardier than a regular peony. I like hardy.

Gina Docherty held a pop-up tour of her garden and it was spectacular. Now I have more for my wish list, maybe an Azalea.

Then we had Don Bladow's huge vegetable garden, raised beds, and orchard. Now I have a "Prairie Magic" apple tree on my list. These garden tours are becoming dangerous for me. In July we have three garden tours starting July first and they will be every two weeks. Pay attention to your e-mails to learn where they are.

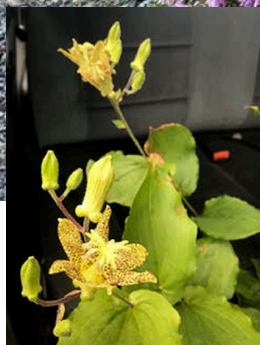
I have many hardy perennials in my garden and I usually end up dividing them and putting them somewhere else in the garden—that means I have a lot of the same plants all over the garden. Well last year I had another wish list. I started some *Astrantia*, (Masterworts) and it is actually blooming. I was a little worried about its hardiness so I planted it next to the house and it was a success, so far. The other new plant I tried was Toad Lily or Hairy Toad Lily, *Tricyrtis hirta*. This species of hardy perennial in the Lily family is found growing on shaded rocky cliffs and stream banks in central and southern Japan. There are two reasons I really was interested in this lily: first, it likes shade and minimal light; and second, it blooms late summer adding some color to the shade garden. So far it is growing well. I have a lot more plants than I put in the ground (should I be worried?). The one I procured from ABG is yellow with speckles. If you look on the internet they come in a variety of colors, purple, pink, and blues with speckles on them.

They are adorable. Maybe the other colors aren't as hardy? I will be willing to try, since they are so cute.

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Top: rhododendrons in full bloom at MG Gina Docherty's pop-up garden tour in June, photo by Mike Baldwin. Center: Toad lily, *Tricyrtis hirta*. Above, Susan Negus, Melissa Hays, and Fran Pekar. Center and above photos courtesy of Susan Negus.

Co-President's Message cont'd

We started the "Ask a Master Gardener" at ABC on June 20th. Volunteer days are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 11:30 am-3:30pm. It can be a 4-hour shift or a 2-hour shift. The Sign-up Genius is sent to us via email. There will be a box in the shed on the right as you walk into ABC; it has everything you need. ABC provides a table and chair. Sometimes they have a tent up. Set up and break down is easy. If you are the last one there, please put everything back where it belongs. This is a good op-

portunity for new Master Gardeners to get volunteer hours and familiarize yourself with the ABC gardens. We need to fill more spots and this is an easy project: ABC provides all the supplies, it's a beautiful location, and we supply the conversations! This is our chance to shine as gardeners in what many consider a "foreign landscape." I found it fun talking to people from different places in the US, and from other countries.

The Late Season Plant Sale is on schedule for August 10th. Sale organizers are working on classes and other aspects for the event. Keep potting up those extra plants!

Alaska Gardens Love Blue Poppies by Janice Berry



Every summer visitors to Alaska marvel at the blue poppies (also known as Himalayan Blue Poppies or Tibetan blue poppies) ever-present in our gardens. Alaskan gardeners may be limited in plants we can grow being so far north, but we excel in some, and one of them is the blue poppy. They are noted for their hairy leaves, silky transparent petals and golden eyes.

Blue poppies grow quite tall—from 3-5 feet. While their striking large blue flowers resemble other poppies, unlike most other *Meconopsis* plants, these are perennials. *Meconopsis* is Greek: *mekon*= poppy, *opsis* = alike) and is a genus within the Papaveraceae or poppy family.

The blue poppy was first discovered by European explorers on the Asian continent in the Himalayan Mountains. The easiest to grow and most popular variety is *Meconopsis betonicifolia* (also called *Meconopsis baileyi*). A French botanist, Père Jean Marie Delavay, in 1886 noted them in the alpine forests within Tibet's Kham region. He sent them to the Museum of Natural History in Paris which named it *Meconopsis betonici folia*. The blue poppy was later labeled *M. baileyi*, after Lt. Colonel Frederick M. Bailey, a British spy, who brought back seeds in 1926 which resulted in the first cultivated plants.

Besides *M. betonicifolia*, there are three other popular blue poppy varieties: *M. horridula* (prickly poppy), *M. grandis* (a deep, almost purple-blue), and *M. Lingholm*. *M. Lingholm* is now probably the second most frequently sold form of *Meconopsis*. It tends to be more heat resistant and blooms earlier than *M. betonicifolia*. *Meconopsis* plants come in other colors besides blue, however some are biennials instead of perennials. There's a yellow variety (*M. integrifolia*); violet (*M. baileyi* 'Hensol Violet'), white (*M. 'Marit'*), and many more! Blue poppies have the reputation for being difficult to grow from seed, but if you are game, Plant World Seeds (www.plant-world-seeds.com) in the UK has a wide assortment.

Several Alaska gardeners have noted that from year to year their blue poppies appear lavender-colored, and some will even appear white. That is because most blue poppies are hybrids having occurred as a result of accidental cross-pollination

between species by bees and other insects. There are so many hybrids of the blue poppy that the *Meconopsis* Group (www.meconopsis.org) was created in 1998 to help distinguish them. The group is affiliated to the Scottish Rock Garden Club and enjoys the support of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

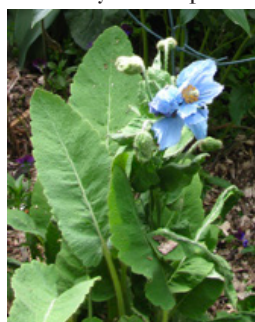
The blue poppy's original habitat consists of woodland, scrub, alpine meadows, screes, moraines, or cliffs and often grows in acid or neutral soils. Most of the precipitation falls as monsoon rains during the entire summer, and in winter they are blanketed under snow where they are dormant and relatively dry.

Choose a location in partial shade out of hot afternoon sun and protected from strong winds. Never permit the soil to get waterlogged. They prefer a rich well-draining soil that consists of one part compost or well-rotted manure, one part fine bark mulch, and two parts original soil. The book *Poppies*, by Christopher Grey-Wilson states, "...poppies can be greatly affected by soil alkalinity. More alkalinity turns the best blues more pinkish or purple; the more acid the soil, the better the blue."

Blue poppies are known to survive for many years in your garden under the right conditions, and will often spread from seed. Kay Sawyer, owner of The Blue Poppy in Palmer, wholesales blue poppies to the lower 48 and in Alaska. She said after her seedlings are large enough to transplant, they grow in 100% cow manure until they are ready to sell in 1-3 years. Over time blue poppies will grow into larger clumps that can be divided, which is the best way for them to stay true to color. [Ed. note: The Alaska Botanical Garden is now a member of The *Meconopsis* Group, and grows a recognized collection of *Meconopsis* species.]

Sources:

www.meconopsis.org/tibettruth.com/2014/02/15/save-the-tibetan-blue-popy/
Poppies: The Poppy Family in the Wild and in Cultivation,
by Christopher Grey-Wilson



Top: Himalayan blue poppy at MC Gina Docherty's pop-up garden tour in June, photo by Mike Baldwin. Left, varieties of *Meconopsis* seen at the botanical garden, photos by Janice Berry.

Herb Study Group: Valerian by Elaine Hammes

When someone asked what I knew about valerian, my first thought was of the fields full of white-blooming valerian interspersed with chocolate lilies, yellow paintbrush, lupine, columbine, wild geraniums and blue bells that I had seen the day before on the Gold Mint trail. Other than generally identifying the plants with the heady odor of the flowers, I didn't even know which species I was enjoying, most likely *Valeriana sitchensis* or *V. capitata*.

A taller species, *Valeriana officinalis*, continues to grow easily in ABC's Herb Garden and is the variety known informally for its medicinal uses. A few years ago, Herb Garden garden volunteers determined it should be moved where it could be corralled a bit and would not fall onto the walking path. It now lives in a more southern location in the garden and so far it is looking good. It may still need to be staked as it is much taller than the native species in the Anchorage area.

Valerian is a perennial plant that grows wild in grasslands throughout North America, Asia, and Europe. It produces white, purple, or pink flowers in the summer. Herbal preparations are typically made from the rhizome root of the plant. *Valeriana officianis* is considered an invasive species in many areas including Connecticut, where it is officially banned, and in New Brunswick, Canada, where it is listed as a plant of concern.

As with many herbs, most medical or scientific resources state there are no proven positive effects. Even so, there may be benefits that have not yet been proven. Although valerian is a common traditional medicine used for treating insomnia, there is not good evidence it is effective for this purpose and is not helpful in treating restless leg syndrome or anxiety. There is insufficient evidence for efficacy and safety of valerian for anxiety disorders. Other unproven claims include its use for muscle spasms, lowering blood pressure, menstrual pain and migraine pain.

Yet valerian has been used medicinally since the times of early Greece and Rome. Hippocrates wrote about its uses. Historically, valerian was used to treat nervousness, trembling, headaches, and heart palpitations.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) within the European Union approved the health claim that valerian can be used as a traditional herbal medicine to relieve mild nervous tension and to aid sleep. EMA stated that although there is insufficient evidence from clinical studies, its effectiveness as a dried extract is considered plausible.

Side effects and interactions with other drugs are always possible. Because the compounds in valerian produce central nervous system depression, they should not be used with other depressants. Although no liver problems are normally encountered with valerian use, there have been case studies where hepatotoxicity has been observed in individuals following short-term use (e.g. one month).

As an unregulated product, the concentration, contents, and potential contaminants in valerian preparations cannot be easily determined. Because of this uncertainty and the potential for toxicity, valerian use is discouraged during pregnancy and not recommended for children.

I will be content to appreciate the varieties of valerian while walking along area trails and gardening. Daily exercise should also help aid sleep and other health problems.



Native Alaska valerian, likely *Valeriana sitchensis*. Top: flowers of valerian (large leaf in foreground is false hellebore, *Veratrum viride*, an extremely poisonous plant). Above, white flower heads of native valerian in the foreground in a natural setting. Photos by Elaine Hammes.

AMGA Treasurer's Report

Balances 04/30/2019		Expense:	
Checking account	\$15,523.61	Operations	228.69
Savings S1	5.25	Pioneer Home	509.65
Savings account	10,808.41	2019 Conference	88.00
CD-Education	5,282.19		\$826.34
Interest Bearing CD	<u>16,300.41</u>		
	\$47,919.87		
Revenue:		Balances 05/31/2019	
Interest	1.84	Checking account	\$15,035.17
Membership	111.90	Savings S1	5.25
Fund raising	<u>226.00</u>	Savings account	10,810.25
	\$339.74	CD-Education	5,282.19
		Interest Bearing CD	<u>16,300.41</u>
			\$47,433.27

Note: There is no AMGA board meeting held in June.

Cardboard for Mulch by Ginger Hudson

With this year's summer threatening record high temperatures, gardeners should be alert to conserving moisture in the soil. During long stretches of dry weather, the soil loses moisture to plant roots and to evaporation if the soil surface is not covered. The same weather conditions may cause plants to transpire more water than they have accessible in the soil. By covering the soil surface with mulch, gardeners can save time, water, and keep the soil cooler which keeps roots cool.

There are many options for conserving water in the landscape: groundcover planting; investing in shade trees; watering in the cool of the morning—and deeply once a week; and mulching.

Alaska gardeners can make use of abundant leaf fall by saving those leaves to spread over landscape beds in the summer. Landscapes that feature rock gardens or hardy native gardens can spread small gravel as a topping in their beds. If a tree is being removed from the landscape, chip the tree on-site and use the shredded wood as a mulch. Mulch decomposes slowly in our climate so a good 1 - 2 inch layer will last up to three years. Do not spread more than 3-inches deep or the mulch will hold most of your water, keeping it from soaking deep into the root zone.

Mulch is commonly used for garden paths where it makes a clean delineation for walking around garden beds. Here is a recent question posed to the Sierra Club:

Hey Mr. Green,

Q: I would like to mulch paths in my vegetable garden with old cardboard that is too dirty to recycle. Are there dangers from the cardboard or printing ink to soil microorganisms etc.? Are some inks more problematic than others? How can I find out?

—C in Falls Church, Virginia

A: You can mulch your paths with old cardboard, but definitely check to see if it is printed with ink. If it is, you want to be sure it has only black ink. Most black inks are made from soybean oil. Only use the material for paths. Paper and cardboard printed with colored ink is another matter, as this ink may contain some toxic heavy metals. Avoid using cardboard or paper for mulch if it contains colored ink. Of course, if your cardboard is more than merely dirty and has absorbed oil or other chemicals, it should probably not be distributed onto the ground.

Mr. Green makes an important point about the toxic inks, automotive or industrial oil, and other chemicals. Alaskans prize our fish as much as our gardens and it is sensible to think about what we put in our gardens that could run off into streams, ponds, or rivers. An important thing to consider in our region of the world is the length of time for cardboard to disintegrate in our landscape. Cold winters and short summers prevent items like these from degrading as quick as they do in warmer climates with longer growing seasons.

It's ok to branch out in your landscaping efforts. Last year on a tour of the Fresh International Gardens in Mountain View, AMGA members received a jolt of inspiration from the garden's use of burlap coffee bean bags as mulch in the walking paths.

—*Inspired by a question in the Sierra Club newsletter, submitted here by AMGA president Susan Negus.*

Burlap bags as path mulch in the Fresh International Gardens in Mountain View. Photo by Ginger Hudson.



Anchorage Master Gardener Classes Starting August 26

Mark your calendar for the 2019 Anchorage Master Gardener Class. Classes will begin August 26 and meet Mondays through December 9 at the Loussac Library Learning Commons.

This 40-hour class provides a broad horticultural background and includes the topics of botany, soils, vegetable production, using organic and conventional techniques, integrated pest management, greenhouses, lawns, houseplants, trees/shrubs, flowers and invasive plants. The Alaska Sustainable Gardening/Master Gardener textbook is included in the class fee.

To earn the title "Alaska Master Gardener," participants must complete 40 hours of community service involving horticulture. Those who complete their 40 hours of community service within 1 year of class start will get a \$100 rebate. Those who just want the information are welcome to enroll, but will not receive the title or the rebate.

For more information, contact Gina Dionne at gddionne@alaska.edu or 907-786-6313

Find out more about the Master Gardener Program at
www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/mastergardeners/

All classes will be held from **5-8 p.m.** in the Loussac Library Learning Commons.

Registration Required. Cost is \$300 for the class.

Register at http://bit.ly/AK_MG19 and select the Anchorage Master Gardener Class



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Bird Chatter

THE BLUES... Do you grow *Meconopsis*—better known as Blue Poppies? BC tried for three years but finally gave up. They just don't like something about our Airport Heights location (that's our story and we're sticking to it!). Anyhow, our failure is probably why we were weak with envy at Gina Docherty's *meconopsis* on her pop-up garden tour last month. And now past President Nickel LaFleur reports from Wasilla that hers are beautiful and flourishing.

Nickel bought three plants at Ewetopia Greenhouse in the Butte. She did build a special garden for them so maybe that's the secret—they don't like neighbors. Anyhow, BC might try again—but not this year.

The other poppies (can we still call them Orientals?) present the opposite kind of problem—BC just can't control them. Prolific re-seeders, they are spreading way too far and too fast. They are beautiful—but only for about a week. BC has tried inter-planting a few iris but the bed still looks ugly after the poppies lie down and die. So now we're going to try digging up the bed and replacing the soil but—wanna bet they show up again next year?

Speaking of Ewetopia, with Sutton's gone, MGs report it's about the most interesting greenhouse around.

LET US REJOICE... Sorry for the pun, but this note from editor Ginger Hudson is to blame:

"At a recent Wednesday market at the Airport Heights Fire Island Bakery, a sweaty employee was weeding what once was their garden for fresh greens served on sandwiches, salads, and ciabattas. Only there were no rows of red leaf,

oak leaf, or endive. I asked what happened to Janice and Jerry's offspring who started the garden and was told they moved down the street. Seems 'someone gave them an empty lot to grow on' so they have a bigger plot for local-grown veggies and flowers to stock the shop."

SPREAD THE WORD... In case you missed the big CES announcement (yes, that's sarcastic), there are two basic Master Gardener classes scheduled in the near future: A Palmer Master Gardener Class will run on Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., September 3 until December 10th. An Anchorage Master Gardener class will meet on Mondays, 5-8 p.m., August 26th until December 9th at the Loussac Library.

We need to get the word to people we know who might like to join in our mission to turn the world into a giant garden—or normal people who'd just like to learn how to garden better. If we don't get the word out, who will?

BETTER SAY YES... Have you done two hours as a volunteer at the botanical garden's Ask A Master Gardener table? Sign up now.

Just do it!

FYI... BC is not a Facebook fan, BUT check out a public group called Mat-Su Valley Gardening, run by member Deb Blaylock and Wasilla gardener Theresa Amit. Great place to post pictures (plants only) and get questions answered.

Heard anything lately? stoomey@ymail.com



ABG Shuttle Up and Running by Sheila Toomey

It's a sad fact that the Alaska Botanical Garden is an under-used wonder of our city. One remedy—obvious for years—is to make it easier for tourists to get there from downtown.

Sounds like a no-brainer but, as ABG Director Mike Monterusso explained in his June newsletter, getting it done took years of fancy stepping through bureaucratic and financial minefields. (That's not exactly how he put it).

Free bus service from the Log Cabin downtown to ABG started June 17th and, as of late June, was going well, according to staffer Stacey Shriner. A good load so far is about two dozen tourists, she said, but that should increase as the service becomes better known.

Busses leave the Log Cabin Monday through Saturday on the hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for noon—there's no bus at 12 p.m.

Busses return from ABG to the Log Cabin on the half hour, starting at 9:30 a.m. but ending at 3:30 p.m.—yes, 4 p.m. visitors will have to make their own way back downtown,

presumably by cab.

ABG owns the bus and hires the drivers, efforts supported by the Rasmuson Foundation and Conoco-Phillips among others.

Nothing says you have to be from out of town to use the new service—letting someone else do the driving might be nice for a change.

And seeing the Garden from an Outsider's point of view could be interesting.



The Alaska Botanical Garden's new shuttle seen recently on Anchorage roads, courtesy of Ken Murphy.

July 2019 Garden Event Calendar

PLANT SALES

All Summer, on-going plant Sale at the Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd., Anchorage.

Saturday, August 10

Anchorage Master Gardeners Plant Sale, 10 a - 4 p in the parking lot across from the Alaska Botanical Garden.
www.alaskamastergardeners.org

WEEKLY GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES

Herb Study Group

Work on the Herb Garden continues throughout the summer at ABG, Tuesdays and/or Fridays 1 - 3p. All volunteers must first check in at the ABG office and take a radio with them. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd., Anchorage.
Contact: anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com

Alaska Rock Garden Society

Maintenance at the ABG Rock Garden, every other Tuesday starting at 10 a. 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage.
Contact Madge Oswald: johnmadge@chugach.net

Maintenance at the Palmer Visitor Center every Thursday, 9 a.
Contact Florene Carney: snowfire@mtaonline.net

CLASSES /WORKSHOP

Saturday and Sunday, July 20-21

Alaska Botanical Garden Classes, "Botanical Sketch books" by Ayse Gilbert. 9:30 a - 4:30 p both days, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd. Registration Required, 907-770-3692, or alaskabg.org

Thursday, July 18

Anchorage Cooperative Extension Service will be starting classes about Harvesting, Food Storage, and Food Preservation. There will be about 5 different classes, scheduled July through August. Located at the Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St., Anchorage. Check their web site for more information and class schedule: www.uaf.edu/ces

Denali National Park/Alaska Geographic: Class held at field camp located 29 miles inside Denali National Park along the Teklanika River. The Field Camp includes rustic tent cabins and a common dining yurt. All meals, accommodations, transportation, and instruction are included in the course fee. Professional development credit is available through UAA. For more information or to register, call 907-683-6432; email: courses@alaskageographic.org; akgeo.org/field-courses/

July 26 - 28 "Mushrooms of Denali" - \$432, Alaska Geographic Member Price (\$480 Non-Member Price). Join renowned mycologist Dr. Gary Laursen in Denali and learn various techniques for identifying native wild mushrooms. Taking clues from the landscape, we'll hone our observation skills to help recognize fungal friends and foes. We'll gain experience using field guides and learn how making spore prints

assists in mushroom identification. We'll learn about the many roles mushrooms play in Denali's vastly different environments as we gain an appreciation for wild mushrooms and how they influence our lives.

Thursday, August 1

Anchorage Garden Club, "Soils", 7 - 9 p at the Pioneer School House, 437 E. 3rd Ave., Anchorage. alaskagardenclubs.org

Friday, August 2

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, 6 - 9 p, "Mushrooms in the Mat-Su area," mycologist Dr. Gary Laursen will share his wealth of information on wild and/or edible mushrooms in Southcentral Alaska. Cost is \$20 for Friday evening only. 1506 S. Geogeson Rd., Palmer. www.uaf.edu/ces

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 2, 3, and 4

9 a-5 p, Dr. Gary Laursen, mycologist, leads participants on collecting and identifying wild mushrooms. Meeting at the Matanuska Glacier, Alaska. Cost is \$100 for all three days. www.uaf.edu/ces

August 26 - December 9

Anchorage Master Gardener class, 5 - 9 p, Cooperative Extension office, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St., 4th floor. Registration required, \$300. http://bit.ly/AK_MG19 and select the Anchorage Master Gardener Class

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Monday, July 1

AMGA Garden Tours-Members only; watch your e-mail for location and details

Thursday, July 11

"Beer in the Garden" at the ABG, 6-9 p; local beer, food vendors, and live music. Tickets on sale in June. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd., Anchorage. www.alaskabg.org

Saturday, July 13

Palmer Museum Garden & Art Faire, 10 a - 6 p, downtown Palmer. A fun event with live music, gardening, plants, nurseries, vegetable, arts and crafts vendors, workshops, and garden tours. www.palmergardenandart.org or follow on Facebook.

Monday, July 15

AMGA Garden Tour-Members only; watch your e-mail for location and details

Saturday and Sunday, July 27 - 28

13th Annual Weekend Gardeners Event in Homer. Fergus Garrett, former head gardener at Great Dixter in Sussex England, will be speaking Saturday at 7 p at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in Homer, his presentation is "Succession

July 2019 Garden Event Calendar

Planting in the Mixed Border". Garden tours on Sunday from 10a - 5 p. Tickets required and limited. homergardenclub.org

Saturday, July 27

Garden Tour, Willow Garden Club, 10a - 3:30p (all gardens including Les Brake's Coyote Garden). Meet at Willow Community Center, Mile 69.8 Parks Highway at 8:30a for plant sale or 9:50a to purchase maps and directions, \$10 includes membership to the club. Bring a brown bag lunch and a comfortable chair to sit in for lunch. Need more information? call 907-244-0830 or willowgardenclub.blogspot.com

Sunday, July 28

Les Brake's Coyote Garden only, noon - 5 p. The fundraising tour at Coyote Garden is 27 years old! Coyote Garden continues to receive many kudos from well-respected garden publications all over the U.S. This year's fundraiser (\$7.00 donation) will benefit the Georgeson Botanical garden and Willow Garden Club. Mile 7.5 Willow Fishhook Rd. Willow

Sunday July 28

Anchorage Garden Club "Annual Garden Club Tour" noon - 5p; check www.alaskagardenclubs.org for more details.

Monday, July 29

AMGA Garden Tours-Members only; watch your e-mail for location and details

Monday, July 29

Fergus Garrett former head gardener of the Great Dixter in Sussex England. 6 p. Sponsored by the Alaska Botanical Garden, \$10 suggestion donation. BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage.

Audubon Society

All Monday evenings in July, bird walks, 7 p - 9 p at the Potter Marsh Boardwalk, Anchorage.

Be part of the largest garden exhibit in Alaska!

✿ Volunteer at the State Fair ✿

Earn credit for Master Gardener volunteer hours!

Entry & Judging days at the Alaska State Fair's Crops Department and the Flowers Department are fun environments to meet new people and catch up with old friends.

A great opportunity to learn something new and/or share your own gardening experiences.

**To sign up,
or for more information
contact Kathy Liska
(907) 337-2196, (907) 301-0317
or akliska@aol.com**

~ Entry Clerks ~

Wednesdays, August 21 & August 28

Three shifts available ... 12-5 PM, 3-8 PM and 5-9 PM

Responsibilities: Help exhibitors fill out entry forms correctly and assist the entrant in the preparation of their entries for judging by showing/teaching how to follow the guidelines of the Exhibitor Guide. Assist in placement of entry in the display area.

~ Judges Clerks ~

Thursdays, August 22 & August 29 from 8 AM-Noon

Responsibilities: Record winning results, set up and place ribbons for the final display.

~ 1st & 2nd Entry Take down ~

Tuesdays, August 27 from 4-7 PM & September 3, 9 AM-Noon

Responsibilities: Looking for a few people to help with 1st and 2nd Entry take down and ribbon sorting.



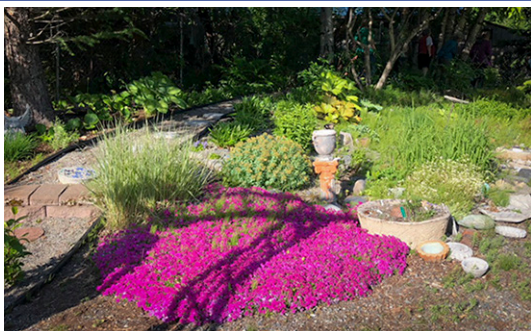
**"Crazy Good"
memories &
fun times ...
These volunteers
make it happen,
with a smile!**

No Indoor Meetings in Summer

Watch your email for garden tour locations

SUMMER GARDEN TOURS: Tours will be announced to AMGA members by email about a week ahead with dates and locations. We are always looking for more gardens to view, let us know of any that could be added.

GARDEN VIEWING ON YOUR OWN: Urban gardening is becoming more popular, and you may enjoy viewing public gardens in town. The Municipality has operated the "C Street Garden" in Midtown for many years, other vegetable gardens can be seen in Mountain View and Fairview. Be courteous and mindful of other peoples' properties.



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 *NOTE: meeting location may change*

Monthly educational programs are free and open to the public. Visitors and guests are welcomed and encouraged.

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:	Elaine Hammes
Broadcast Email:	Fran Pekar
Calendar of Events:	Susan Negus
Advanced MG:	Don Bladow
Directory Editor:	Janice Berry
Programs:	Marilyn Barker
Field Trips:	Don Bladow
Google Group:	Mary Rydesky
Hospitality:	Marjorie Williams
Membership & Database:	Alexis St. Juliana
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

SAVE THE DATE: August 10!

AMGA LATE SEASON PLANT SALE

Start dividing and potting up those plants, especially ones that are not growing where they are supposed to. Please read the rules for the plant sale on AMGA's website.

If interested in working with the plant sale, set up, or take down, please contact Susan Negus, senegus@gci.net, and/or Elaine Hammes, marye.hammes@acsalaska.net.

More information to come as details are firmed up for the second Saturday in August!

Talk about a POP of color! Though Gina Dockerty held a pop-up garden tour that showcased her fabulous rhodies, there were other beauties seen as well. Photo by Mike Baldwin.

Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed your membership, do it now to stay on our mailing list. Contact Alexis St. Juliana: astjuliana@hotmail.com

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](https://www.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 Alexis St. Juliana at: astjuliana@hotmail.com

