

The Volunteer Issue

Co-President's Message by Susan Negus

Well, it is November and everything looks bleak outside, except my Larch seems to be holding onto its yellow needles. Hopefully everyone has put their garden to rest. What do we do the rest of the winter? I know I will definitely be eating a lot of carrots and potatoes. Not like I need to be eating potatoes. I just like to plant different varieties and see how productive they are. This year my big winner was the "Viking." I had 15 potatoes from one plant and most were huge. I could not believe the ground wasn't erupting from displaced dirt. Fran Pekar said that the "Cal White" is supposed to be bigger and holds up better. I will try to find that one for next year.

Some of our Master Gardeners have some interesting blogs or sites to read in your spare time this winter. Don Bladow has a blog about the Lutheran Church of Hope's Gardens: harvestofhopememorialgarden.blogspot.com There is some good information on vegetable gardening. I think I will have to try leeks next year. Elizabeth Bluemink has a site called "Transcendental Gardening." There is a variety of information including recipes. You can read about chewing on Fireweed stalks, on her site. You should check it out.

Looks like Paul Marmora is off to a good start to develop gardens at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. They have a grant request in with the National Gardening Club. He has about 8-10 volunteers. There will be a variety of gardens, shady, sunny and a rock garden.

We will have new board members in 2020. Sadly, we will have four members leaving. We have four new applicants for these positions. I am excited about the new members. You can read their bios in this newsletter.

We have some holes to be filled on Committees. Marjorie Williams will be stepping down from the Hospitality Committee. This does not need to be a board member and could be more than one person. Another committee we will need filled is the grant committee. This has been three master gardeners in the past and they would only meet 2-3 times per year to review and approve grant applications.

Bird Chatter needs some help. Sheila cannot continue with this

column if no one gives her short information or funny things that have been happening in the gardening community. Please keep her going and I will try to find someone to fill the void, although I think her wit will be tough to replace.

The annual meeting in October "Show and Tell: Summer Gardens" was October 21. I enjoyed seeing how beautiful the Pioneer Home Garden was and how tirelessly the volunteers worked on it. It was interesting to see the roof top gardens at the Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center which helps to feed many needy families in Anchorage. Thanks to all that brought photos of their spectacular summer gardens.

We have had requests from some teachers about helping out in the gardens in the schools. It is not well defined yet. Emily Becker will be meeting with the Anchorage School Garden Network to figure out their needs from us. We'll report back next issue.

Hopefully it will snow soon. The gardens will look better and I can go skiing, to work off all those potatoes I have been eating.



Above: Cherry tomatoes, peas, and beans flourish in the Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center's rooftop garden in Anchorage. The center's chefs-in-training were harvesting tomatoes well into September due to Master Gardener John Hoersteatter's custom trellises and the south-facing aspect. Photo by Ginger Hudson. Inset: One of Harry Deuber's dahlias that he loans to the Pioneer home each summer. Photo by Lynne Opstead.

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October Limited Board Meeting Notes

Attending were Co-Presidents Susan Negus, Elaine Hammes; Vice President Don Bladow; Treasurer Nancy Grant; Marjorie Williams. Also present were 2020 BoD Nominees, Jan van den Top and Beth Norris. Absent were Marilyn Barker, FX Nolan and Secretary Fran Pekar.

Treasurer's report: A balance of \$48,149.55 was on hand on September 30, 2019. A donation of \$200 to the Alaska Botanical Garden was approved.

President's report: AMGA's 2020 budget should be ready for review and approval at the November BoD meeting.

Don Bladow is working on commitments and scheduling for the next year programs and garden tours.

The Grant Program was explained and application forms were handed out to current Master Gardener students. Tuition grants for \$150 each for three current students and a \$300 grant to Cook Inlet Housing were approved.

Alexis St. Juliana continues to update the Membership Database with new MG members.

A Volunteer Coordinator and volunteers are needed. Job descriptions need to be updated. The newsletter is looking for someone to continue "Bird Chatter" as Sheila Toomey really is retiring—many thanks to Sheila for all of the entertaining highlights. The "Ask A Master Gardener" for ABC and the 2020 Botanical Society of America conference will need volunteers.

The 2020 Grant Committee needs members.

2020 AMGA Directory: Janice Berry will work on the directory in mid-December to be ready to send to printer the second week of February. Send names of any members who have passed away this year to Janice for the "In Memoriam" section.

Marjorie Williams plans to give the Hospitality Chair to someone else beginning in 2020.

Don Bladow, Fran Pekar and Marilyn Barker are working on curriculum for an Advanced Master Gardener program on vegetable gardening.

Don Bladow and FX Nolan have completed a 2018 audit review; the report remains to be completed.

Nominees for AMGA Board of Directors are Beth Norris, Jan van den Top, Emily Becker and Faye Stiehm. The election will be carried out by voice vote at the November membership meeting. AMGA documents will be provided to board nominees: By-Laws, Job Descriptions, Guidelines, Committees.

Our condolences to Harry, AMGA Past President Extraordinaire, whose mother passed away recently.

It was suggested to have a plant sale swap at the end of future AMGA plant sales.

The BoD will work with Fran for Sign Up Genius and emailing for next year.

— Elaine Hammes, AMGA Co-President

This month's issue highlights a few of the major projects carried out for the benefit of the community by Master Gardeners. Yes, some of us perform gardening tasks, but these are in locations that beautify the landscape for those who cannot or who are under-funded.

Our board nominees round out the issue. All of the positions listed on the last page of this newsletter, from board to hospitality, are volunteers—positions which do not require gardening experience! Please join the team in volunteering with your friends, or at least stop to thank them at the next meeting. Thank you!



AMGA Treasurer's Report, September 2019 By Nancy Grant

Balances 08/31/2019

Checking S-88	\$15,642.33
Savings S-1	5.25
Savings S-19	\$10,837.40
CD-Education 5yr 1.650% (12/20)	\$5,303.92
CD- General 2yr 1.25% (1/19)	\$10,350.49
CD-General 1yr 1.450% (9/19)	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
	\$48,139.39

Revenue:

Interest/Dividends	\$93.15
Membership	\$200.00
Plant Sale	<u>\$104.00</u>
	\$397.15

Expense:

Operations	\$144.00
Web	\$147.99
Plant Sale	<u>\$95.00</u>
	\$386.99

Balances 09/30/2019

Checking S-88	\$15,559.34
Savings S-1	\$5.25
Savings S-19	\$16,857.62
CD-Education 5yr 1.650% (12/20)	\$5,325.98
CD- General 2yr 1.25% (1/19)	<u>\$10,401.36</u>
	\$48,149.55

Chives in railing containers line the west edge of the Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center's rooftop garden in Anchorage.
Photo by Ginger Hudson.

Herb Study Group: October Meeting by Elaine Hammes

[Ed. note: The Herb Study Group is an off-shoot of Master Gardeners that is actively engaged in educating the public on the use of herbs in our gardens and kitchens. Members of the group volunteer each summer maintaining the Herb Garden at the Alaska Botanical Garden. The group holds meetings monthly in the winter that are free and open to the public.]

The Herb Study Group's first meeting of the season was held October 11. Observations in the Herb Garden and topics for the remainder of the winter meetings were discussed. At the last meeting in the garden, there were still a few plants hanging on, perhaps enjoying the recent rain after the hot dry summer. Much of the plant material in Alaska Botanical Garden's (ABC) Herb Garden was trimmed and remained as mulch or had been moved to the compost pile. Due to recent wintry weather, work in the Herb Garden has been suspended for the year and our monthly indoor meetings will continue until work in the Herb Garden can begin again.

Many thanks to Marjorie Williams who brought lots of 'Lollipop' Asiatic Lily bulbs for anyone who would like them! The flowers are pink with white in the middle. She has been growing them for a number of years and they have multiplied so much that she had to thin them out.

What is done with the herbs in ABC's Herb Garden? Generally, at the end of the season when there is an excessive amount of any particular culinary herbs, they may be taken to one of the local soup kitchens. Some of the culinary herbs may not be well-known to some chefs. However, a number of chefs are happy to receive the fresh herbs. Apples and rhubarb are also appreciated and can be used by several of the kitchens. In the future, for other than well-known herbs, it may be a good idea to provide identification of each and examples of their culinary uses.

Using Mulch and No-Till methods: Debbie Hinchey noted that in other gardens the use of mulches of chopped leaves and grass clippings has been successful. This helps in keeping weeds down (including moss and liverwort) and reducing the amount of water needed. She also recommended a No-till technique that increases the amount of water that infiltrates into the soil, the soil's retention of organic matter and its cycling of nutrients. An example of No-till procedure in the Herb Garden is cutting annual plants to ground level but not pulling them out. Volunteers may discuss no-till in the Herb Garden in the future.

2019 Herb Garden Notes:

Lovage in the Southeast Bed was moved about a foot during the growing season and did not do very well for the remainder of the season. However, it lived(!) and was recovering before the end of the season. It is expected to do much better next year.

Some of the Golden Feverfew that had been overwintered in the hoop house apparently did survive, but to get the edging to look healthier earlier in the season, some more mature Golden Feverfew plants were bought and planted in between some of the smaller seedlings. It did not take long for the seedlings to catch up to complete the borders around the North and South Beds.

Many of the Feverfew flowers have developed seeds and it is assumed there will be more seedlings in the next growing season.

The Chervil, one of ingredients in the Fines Herbes mix, had a rough season. Perhaps it was the extraordinary heat or perhaps it does not transplant very well. However, by the middle of the summer, most of the chervil had died. One plant persisted a bit longer that was located next to and under some of the Canary Bird Vines, but it also finally turned brown and dry. Then, after all of that, some small chervil seedlings were found recently where the original plants failed to thrive, perhaps a bit late for this season but there is hope for next summer.

Parsley has been grown in the West Bed at least for the last two years. And both years it has been munched and crushed. The top guess as the culprit is a porcupine since a couple volunteers had previously seen one in the Herb Garden. The good news was the remaining parsley continued to do well.

2019-2020 Herb Study Group Schedule

Topics are always subject to change. Meetings are scheduled at Loussac Library Learning Commons, 4th Floor Noon to 1:30 pm on the second Friday September through May.

Nov 8 – Onions, Garlic and Leeks

Dec 13 – 2020 Herb of the Year Rubus (eg. raspberries)

Jan 10 – Ginseng

Feb 14 – Mulch

March 13 – Perilla and/or Mayapple

April 10 – Basil

May 8 – Plans for 2020

Our deepest gratitude to Michelle Semerad for managing the Herb Study Group email communications for many years, and to Peggy Cobey for now volunteering to take over this role.

The Herb Study Group is an informal group open to anyone who is interested in discussing and learning about herbs, and/or who enjoy volunteering in ABC's Herb Garden during the growing season. There are no membership requirements and no dues. If you have any questions, please email the anchorageherb-studygroup@gmail.com .



One bed in the Herb Garden at the Alaska Botanical Garden. Photo by Mary Contrary.



Anchorage Pioneer Home Garden Service Project by Lynne Opstead

Alaska Master Gardeners have been designing, planting and maintaining gardens along the front of the Anchorage Pioneer Home on 11th and I Street for over thirty years. A committee of 3-5 people manages the project. More than twenty volunteers work throughout the summer to plant and maintain the gardens.

Design work and ordering from local growers is completed in early winter. We start gathering all materials in late May and, after hardening off, plant in early June.

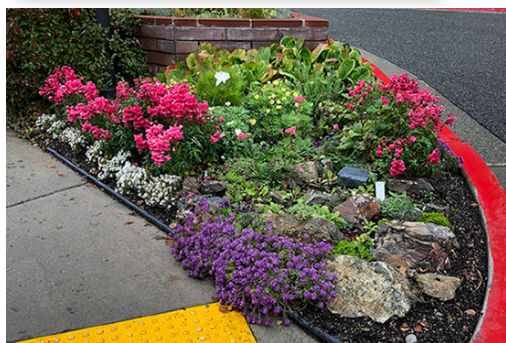
Vivid colors and scents are appreciated by the residents. Over 500 annuals were used this summer with swaths of Argyranthemum, Cosmos, Lobularia, Osteospermum, Verbena, Snapdragons, Curled Parsley, Geraniums, and Nasturtium. Perennials in the gardens include Achillea, Anemones, Artemesia, Astrantia, Dianthus, Euphorbia, Filipendula, various Grasses, Hosta, Iris, Joe Pye Weed, Lilies, Maltese Cross, Monarda, Nepeta, Peony and Trollius. Tubers of Dahlias & Begonias bring pops of color. More perennials were added this summer towards our goal of reducing expenses and work for our volunteers.

As you can imagine, watering was a big challenge this summer. "Weekend Waterer" volunteers supplemented watering done by the two weekly maintenance volunteers. A new project this summer was the addition of rock gardens at the tips of several triangular gardens to add plant diversity and help with erosion. Plans for 2020 include adding hose timers to provide easier watering and placing educational plant labels throughout the gardens.

The gardens require many hard working, dedicated volunteers. This summer our volunteers worked over 270 hours on the project. Hours can be used towards the volunteer requirements for new Master Gardeners and Advanced Master Gardener classes.

The Pioneer Home gardens mean so much to the residents and their families. For many residents viewing the gardens is one of the brightest spots in their day. Employees, neighbors and tourist enjoy them too! Every time a volunteer works they receive thanks and appreciation from numerous people. It is a good learning site for volunteers, there are many micro-habitats with varying amounts of sun. Gardeners can glean ideas for plants to add or move in their own gardens.

We love this project and we love our seasoned and new volunteers! Garden orientation, preparation, and planting parties are held in late May so new volunteers can meet those with experience in the gardens. Volunteers work in teams of two every week throughout the summer. You can sign up to help with planting, weekly maintenance, or weekend watering in 2020 by contacting Julie at jkginder@gci.net or Lynne at Lynne.Opstead@gmail.com.



Top: Peonies and pink dianthus greet those entering the drive of the Pioneer Home. Above: comparison of east corner bed at the drive-thru at planting time and in August. Center: Catmint corner along front sidewalk. Above top right: Deschampsia grass makes a textural backdrop to begonias and geraniums. Below right: If anyone knows the name of this peony, please email the newsletter: newsletteramga@gmail.com. Photos by Ginger Hudson and Lynne Opstead.

The Hope Center Rooftop Garden by Ginger Hudson

Everyday of the year the Downtown Soup Kitchen Hope Center's rooftop garden serves four to five hundred people at lunch. Those hungry clients receive fresh-picked, fresh-cooked vegetables as side dishes, salads, and seasonings. After they have eaten, the clients have access to showers, and the volunteer staff does laundry for those in need. .

The site was acquired by the Hope Center in 2013; in 2014 the garden was started; by 2015 the facility addened nightly women and childrens shelter services.

In the evening the dining room is turned into a sleeping room exclusively for women and children due to the lack of other facilities in the area—every night, all year. The women receive hot dinner and breakfast. The Hope Center has served the maximum number of women and children they are allowed: seventy, every day of the year.

The garden grew out of the idea of helping the AlaskaNative homeless. Though they have access to land in their communities, many have never grown gardens, and when they become stranded in Anchorage, the Harvest of Hope shelter and garden shows all clients what they can do with fresh plants.

Harvest of Hope runs a culinary program, for any client, that lasts sixteen weeks. Clients work in the morning during the first eight weeks learning basic skills. Weeks seven through sixteen build on skills to advanced training during the dinner shift. Part of the training involves harvesting from the garden, this in turn gives clients understanding of how to select foods in their personal life. For instance, dinosaur, or Tuscan kale, is grown because it is more nutritious than Russian kale.

In addition, the trainees learn skills that help them stabilize their lives. The church has an eighty-five percent success rate placing culinary students in life supporting jobs around the city.

The rooftop garden was a labor of love for Master Gardeners Martha Jokela and Susan Bruschhaber who nurtured the garden

from its inception through 2017.

This year Master Gardener John Hoersteatter reconfigured some space using his garden design and engineering skills to increase production and aesthetics. Some tips John shared for those who container garden: place large pots on pallets so water can drain properly; build planters with wheels so the boxes can be moved around easily; take advantage of vertical space using walls and trellises; and use spent pots to raise veggies off the ground that may otherwise rot.

When John is away, and during the busiest part of the growing season, Harvest of Hope employee Cindy helps with garden care. She can water the entire garden in one hour with two five-gallon buckets. Cindy uses a modified juice bottle—the top cut off, but the handle retained—to water the boxes and barrels. She says it dips into the buckets easy and works a lot quicker than a watering can.

Volunteers are always needed to help serve the people who rely on the meals each day. A friendly face and helping hand demonstrate to clients with nowhere else to turn that they are deserving and supported whether they are just in need of a warm meal, a shower, or help cleaning clothes. Executive Director Sherrie Laurie has embarked on a second career at the Hope Center. She says every day is a new day for the Center's clients, every day they are greeted with compassion, and she is constantly surprised by the reasons clients end up at the Center. They are not the typical reasons most people expect and that is why the Center is so important in helping those with disrupted lives get the nourishment and skills needed to get their feet back under them. Stop by the Hope Center and lend a hand: 240 E 3rd Ave, Anchorage; 907-277-4302; downtownhopecenter.org



Above: The herb wall pockets have a dripline water system. Main boxes are on rollers so the floor can be cleaned. Cindy with her efficient watering system. John tells Master Gardeners during the August 28 garden tour that aesthetics are as important to a garden as the food it produces. Chefs-in-training are taught how to best harvest plants to extend their use through the season. Barrel sized planters are raised on pallets to aid drainage and raise the work height. Photos by Ginger Hudson.

Board Nominees



Emily Becker

Emily Becker recently retired after 20 years of classroom teaching and is looking to re-wire for a different kind of community service. She is particularly interested in children's nutrition, food security and helping Alaskans adapt to climate change by growing food. She's also smitten

with dahlias. She became a Master Gardener in 2014 and an Advanced Master Gardener in 2017. She is grateful for all the knowledge and experience the group has given her and she is ready to serve others.

Faye Stiehm

I have been playing in the dirt as long as I can remember. We were a family of seven and Mom had a garden big enough to provide vegetables and berries all summer and winter. I learned from an expert who was an organic gardener before organic gardening became a growing goal.

When I moved out on my own, the first thing I did was buy a sewing machine, the second was to plant a garden.

I completed the MG training in the fall of 2014. I knew I was retiring that winter and had promised myself that I would complete that course when I left the work environment.

I served on the board of the Alaska Botanical Garden from 2011 through 2018 and have volunteered for both ABC and AMGA. I maintained the budget for the 2019 Alaska Master Gardener Conference held in Anchorage.

I firmly believe everyone needs green spaces to help maintain a connection with nature and the plant world and a grip on life. Master Gardeners occupy a special place helping others succeed in their gardening endeavors and promoting a growing experience.

Since leaving ABC's board, I have been looking for another opportunity to become involved in a community organization. AMGA seems like a good fit for me and Susan wouldn't take no for an answer.



Beth Norris

Hello! My name is Beth!

I completed the AK Master Gardener course in December 2018 and spent a wonderful Summer of 2019 completing my volunteer hours and meeting some wonderful and knowledgeable folks so passionate about the world of gardening and specifically gardening in Anchorage!

Cultivating and caring for houseplants and container gardening have had special place in my life since I was young. No matter where I have lived, I have always made a space for plants in my life and I rely on them for being an entertaining and calming force in my life! I have a BS in Biology and currently work as an environmental scientist conducting work all over the state of Alaska. I believe my background in science, combined with my passion for gardening, birding, and nature in general will be a positive asset to the board in whatever capacity I can serve.

If voted into office, I will be dedicated to the core mission of the Alaska Master Gardener program which is "to promote availability of gardening information to Alaska citizens as a result of University study and experimentation."

I believe I possess the organizational, scientific and communication skills necessary to be an engaged and productive member of the AMGA board.

Thank you for your consideration.



Jan van den Top

I was asked if I wanted to join the Board of AMGA.

The answer is: I could if you like me to. I currently serve on two other boards, but there is plenty of time available.

AMGA is an organization that I enjoy and have learned from, so it may be time for pay-back.

My wife Jeri and I arrived in Anchorage in 1969 (a beautiful summer, almost like 2019 by the way). And even though I had done some gardening for my parents in the Netherlands, as a mechanical engineer, I have no formal background in horticulture. I do believe that a home should have some flowers in the front and some vegetables and/or fruit in the back. That's what I usually had. How traditional can you get?

When I retired and the Master Gardeners course was offered it seemed like a good thing to do and so I completed that one in 2007/08 and have been moderately active since then.





ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ANCHORAGE

Membership/Membership Renewal Form for the Year _____

AMGA's membership year is January 1st through December 31st
To ensure listing in the next MG Directory, dues must be received or postmarked by December 31st

☐ Voting Membership (\$20) ☐ Non-voting Membership (\$20) ☐ Dual Membership* (\$30)

MG Class Year: _____

MG Class Location: _____

40 volunteer hours complete? Yes ☐ No ☐

Donation: \$ _____

Last/First: _____

Day phone: _____

Address: _____

Other phone: _____

City/State: _____

Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

**Dual Membership (Two current AMGA members living at same address).*

Last/First: _____

Day phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Other phone: _____

☐ Voting Membership ☐ Non-voting Membership

MG Class Year: _____

MG Class Location: _____

40 volunteer hours complete? Yes ☐ No ☐

Cash and/or check payments can be made at AMGA meetings with completed form.
If paying by mail, send form & payment to: AMGA, P. O. Box 221403, Anchorage, AK 99522-1403.
Make checks payable to Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage.
Memberships, renewals and donations may also be submitted online at www.alaskamastergardeners.org
Gift membership forms are also available online.

AMGA runs on volunteer power!

Needs vary, and may include such tasks as writing educational articles or postings, presenting monthly programs, Pioneer Home gardens' maintenance, photography, social media, web design, annual plant sale, workshops, etc. Volunteer opportunities will be provided as they occur for which AMGA will very much appreciate your support.

Your suggestions for educational program topics of interest and speaker recommendations are also welcomed: _____

AMGA Use: Date: _____ Check #: _____ Amount: _____ Cash: _____ Donation: _____

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November 2019 Garden Event Calendar

Classes /Workshops

November 3, Sunday

Eagle River Nature Center, 2p. "Zombies Among Us," By Samantha Blumenkonig, Naturalist. Host manipulations is a strategy many parasites use to survive, thrive and some infiltrate the minds of hosts to change their behavior's. Older children and adults, Main Bldg. Eagle River Nature Center, 32750 Eagle River Rd, Eagle River. ernc.org

November 5, Tuesday

"Wreath Making with Recycled and Natural Materials," **Sold Out* Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

November 6, Wednesday

"The Science Behind Plant Names," 6p-7:30p. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

November 7, Thursday

"Family Wreath Making Workshop" 6p-7:30p. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

November 9-10, Saturday and Sunday

Anchorage Garden Club Garden Show, 1p-3p, Annual Holiday Flower Show, "Past, Present, and Future." Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St Anchorage. alaskagardenclubs.org

November 21, Thursday

"Volunteer Thank You Dinner," 6p-8p. Volunteers and their family members are invited to join ABG for dinner, light refreshments and a sneak peak at what Holiday Lights has in store for this year! Please RSVP to Stacey, stacey.shriner@alaskabg.org Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

November 23, Saturday

Eagle River Nature Center, 2p. "Showcase of a Red-Tailed Hawk "by The Alaska WildBird Rehabilitation Center. All ages. Eagle River Nature Center, 32750 Eagle River Rd, Eagle River. ernc.org

Meetings and Events

November 4, Monday

Alaska Native Plant Society, 7p-9p. "Native Plants in Anchorage Gardens", by Ginger Hudson. Rosaceae: Glenn Brown presents "Sanguisorba", Alpine Beringian Endemics: Timm Mawrocki presents "*Aphragmus Eschscholtzianus*". Campbell Creek Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive. aknps.org

November 4, Monday

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association, 7p. Annual Meeting: Round Robin discussion on success and failures in out 2019 Gardens. Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, Kerttula Hall in the "Blue Room". 1509 S. Georgeson Drive, Palmer. matsumastergardeners.com

November 7, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club; "A Brief History of Garden Design" 7p-9p, at the Pioneer School House, 437 E. 3rd Ave., Anchorage. alaskagardenclubs.org

November 7, Thursday

Valley Garden Club. 6p-8p. Quarterly evening Mtg. "Rhodiola Rosea." First Baptist Church of Wasilla on corner of Letherleaf Loop and Bogard Rd., Wasilla. valleygardenclub.com

November 8, Friday

Herb Study Group, Noon-1:30p. "Onions, Garlic and Leeks," CES Learning Commons on 4th floor at Loussac Library, Anchorage. For questions, e-mail to anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or call Mary at 907-345-1562.

November 10, Sunday

Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, 1p. Topic TBA. Dimond Green Houses, 1050 W. Dimond Blvd., Anchorage. pmarmora@aol.com, please put "Bonsai" in subject line. alaskabonsaiclubs.org

November 12, Tuesday

Eagle River Garden Club program meeting, 7p-8p. 18444 Old Glenn HWY at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. alaskagardenclub.org

November 14, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club, at 10a-12p. "Which House Plants Make the Best Air Cleaners." Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St., Anchorage. wildflowergardenclub.org

November 14, Thursday

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association. 7p- 9p at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. www.apfga.org

November 16, Saturday

Alaska Rock Garden Society, 2p. Program TBA. Eagle River Elk's Lodge, 17111 Eagle Rd, Eagle River. akrockgardensociety.org

November 18, Monday

AMGA Meeting: "Landscaping with Alaska Native Plants," by Patrick Ryan from ABG. 6:30p for refreshments; program starts at 7p at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. alaskamastergardeners.org

November 2019 Garden Event Calendar

November 25, Monday

Southcentral Alaska Beekeepers Association, 6:30p- 8:30p.
VFW Post 9765, 10527 VFW Rd. Eagle River.
sababeekeepers.com

November 26, Tuesday

Alaska Orchid Society, 6:30p-9p at the BP Energy Center,
1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. akorchid.org

Late November-Early January

"Holiday Lights," Check ABC for more information. At Alaska
Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage.
alaskabg.org

Conferences

February 26-March 1, 2020

North West Garden Festival, Tickets available soon.
Washington State Convention Center 705 Pike St, Seattle WA.
gardenshow.com

July 18-22, 2020

Botany 2020, Organized by the Botanical Society of America,
will be in Anchorage, AK. In association with the American Fern
Society, Society of Herbarium Curators, International Society
for Plant Taxonomy and more. cms.botany.org/home.html

It's time to reevaluate and rejuvenate our commitment to the volunteer mission of the Master Gardener program!

Feel exhausted by the prospect?

Never fear, help is here!

UAA student Nicole Cabrera is completing her Master of Public Health degree under the supervision of Dr. Liz Snyder. Nicole's project will help organize and connect volunteers to community gardening projects.

Nicole's inspirations for the project include: FRESH (fresh.org), the Alaska School Garden Network, and AMGA, among others. Master Gardener Emily Becker is helping to organize this effort.

Emily and Nicole would like to host a meeting soon to get ideas and feedback on the purpose of volunteering, handling requests, barriers to participating, and ideas for efficient management.
Please contact Emily if you have input! emilyandzeke@yahoo.com

Thank You to our out-going AMGA Board Members

Anchorage Master Gardeners and the public are wiser and healthier due to your volunteerism.

Fran Pekar, Secretary

Fran has been crucial for outreach to members by e-mail and facilitating the Sign Up-Genius. She was indispensable as computer support for the Alaska Master Gardeners Annual conference, our October "Show Your Gardens," and many other meetings. Fran taught an Ole' class in 2019, volunteered for the Refuge gardens, and volunteered for Anchorage school district projects.

Don Bladow, Vice President

Don teamed up with Marilyn to organize out garden tours in 2019. He served on the Alaska Master Gardeners Annual Conference Committee helping to bring in speakers and helped arrange talks for our monthly meetings in 2020. Don taught an Ole' class last winter and a class at the summer plant sale. He maintains a blog about experiences of the Lutheran Church of

Hope gardens.

Marjorie Williams, Board Member at Large

Marjorie has been the friendly face of making sure our meetings stay well snacked as the Hospitality Host for about four years. She volunteers in the Herb Garden at ABC, and is involved in the Herb Study Group. Marjorie is one of our foremost expert on African violets.

Dr. Marilyn Barker, Board Member at Large

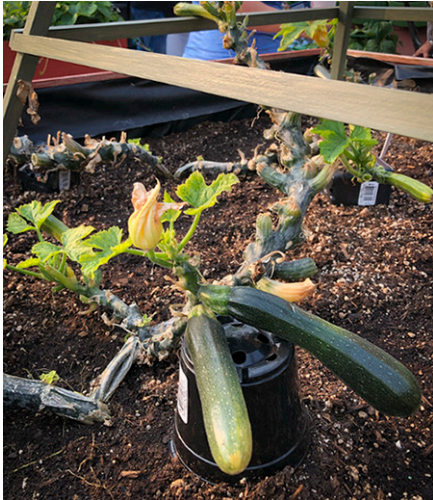
With her PhD in Botany, decades of teaching, research, and collecting experience, Marilyn is a wealth of knowledge. She teaches classes for ABC and organized the Ole' classes. Marilyn was our program coordinator for the 2019 monthly meeting season. Marilyn and Don worked together arranging the 2019 garden tours, and she has probably arranged tours for a few more years than her board term.

Winter Meetings 2019 - 2020

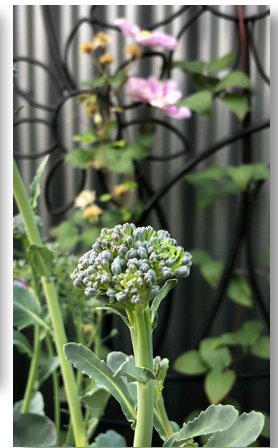
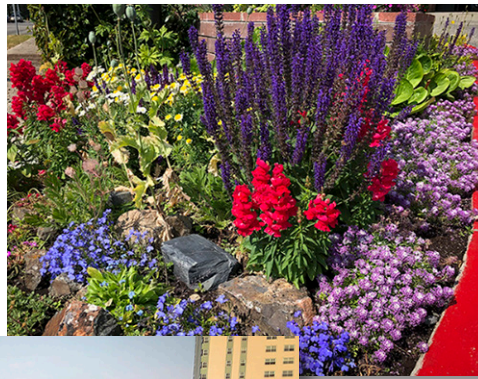
November 18 Meeting

AMGA Meeting: "Landscaping with Alaska Native Plants,"
by Patrick Ryan from the Alaska Botanical Garden.

**Reminder:
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!**



Left: John's technique to raise squash off the soil to avoid rot.
Above: John speaks to Master Gardeners during the August 28 garden tour of the rooftop garden.



Above left: Mid-summer color in the gardens at the Pioneer Home. Above right: Broccoli in the barrel pots at the feet of clematis. John learned the space he allotted to broccoli does not produce enough to make a side-dish for 400 guests at lunch at the Hope Center. Photos by Ginger Hudson.

Membership Renewal

Memberships are based on calendar year. Renew your membership early to avoid the holiday crunch!
Contact Alexis St. Juliana: astjuliana@hotmail.com

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

Meetings are held at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage, accessed through the BP tower parking lot, the Energy Center is just south of the main building. *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

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

