



# ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ANCHORAGE

## AMGA NEWSLETTER

October 2019  
Volume 21, Issue 10

### Co-President's Message by Elaine Hammes

**Changing Seasons & Events:** AMGA's 2019 tours finished on high notes at the packed roof-top garden of the Hope Center's Downtown Soup Kitchen. The AMGA Membership Meetings have begun at the BP Energy Center with "Munch & Mingle" from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Members can catch up with other gardeners after our long hot summer and enjoy delectable food provided by the Hospitality Committee before the meeting begins at 7pm. Our thanks to Bonnie Lembo for providing this first season's presentation, "Making Your Yard a Wildlife Habitat" (refer to another newsletter article for details).

**New Master Gardeners:** We congratulate the 2018/2019 Anchorage-based Master Gardener class members who are working on and completing their volunteer work. We are also excited that the next 2019 Master Gardener class began in August and will complete this December. CES Program Assistant Gina Dionne is teaching the full-capacity class. A waiting list is available for those interested in future classes. Susan Negus, Fran Pekar and Marilyn Barker attended the first session to introduce the new students to AMGA and our programs. AMGA offers one year free memberships to new graduates for 2020 as well as tuition scholarships to eligible student applicants to partially offset the cost of the course. After class completion, graduates will complete 40 hours of volunteer work to be eligible for voting membership in AMGA. AMGA is an all-volunteer organization, that effort does not end with completing 40 hours. Volunteers keep AMGA running!

**October Meeting:** Remember that this meeting will be a photo recap of our summer gardens and activities. Please collect and email photos you may have of your own garden or from garden tours to Fran Pekar for her to compile into the correct size and format: [franpekar@gmail.com](mailto:franpekar@gmail.com). Or you may provide her a flash drive. This should be a fun meeting so hope to see you

there. One upside to photos is that weeds and extraneous "stuff" can be cropped out—that is, if there is a prized garden hiding in the image!

**2020 AMGA Elections:** AMGA is looking for you or someone you may know! We are recruiting for board members and will need to close the nomination period on October 14. Photos and bios of nominees are due to Newsletter Editor Ginger Hudson by October 20. There are four seats open for two-year terms beginning January 2020. The election will be held either by on-line balloting or at the November Membership Meeting, the method of voting depends on the final number of nominees. The newly comprised board will choose officers at the AMGA Board of Directors meeting held at the end of December, transferring duties to electees. If you or someone you know may be interested or have any questions, please do contact: Elaine Hammes at 275-4295, [marye.hammes@acsalaska.net](mailto:marye.hammes@acsalaska.net); Susan Negus at 227-6288, [senegus@gci.net](mailto:senegus@gci.net); or Fran Pekar at 433-9235, [franpekar@gmail.com](mailto:franpekar@gmail.com)

*continues on page 2*

Above photo: Faye Steihm may have an obsession with hostas, but she also has a talent for combinations like this striking silver pulmonaria under purple nepeta, a vibrant dwarf bleeding hart, and astrantia reaching out. Photo by Ginger Hudson.  
Inset: Uber-magenta senetti in Doug Morris's garden. Photo by Mary Contrary.

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**Volunteering:** AMGA is an all-volunteer organization and appreciates members who regularly volunteer for many events and educational activities. We have openings for members to assist with various committees and events such as Grants, Volunteer Coordination, Publicity, Proof-readers, Meeting Programs, Summer Tours, Hospitality, Olé and other 1-2 hour classes, newsletter articles, Fur Rondy, the Spring Garden Show, summer camp groups, "Ask A Master Gardener" at ABC, and the Late Summer Plant Sale. There are more opportunities that have yet to be organized such as gardening with staff

members at local schools. CES has events and tasks that can also use your assistance. There is a place for every type of talent and skill. When you find your niche or would like to try out any of these, please contact any board member listed in this newsletter.

**Cool Wet Autumn:** By the time you read this, we will have drained and stored hoses, mowed and trimmed, brought in tender plants to save for next summer, cleaned tools and mostly buttoned up our outdoor gardens for winter. Now is the time for planning AMGA activities for 2020!

## September Presentation Summary "Making Your Yard a Wildlife Habitat" by Bonnie Lembo

Bonnie Lembo presented "Making Your Yard a Wildlife Habitat". Bonnie is a retired attorney who has spent 30 years gardening and inviting wildlife into her yard.

Bonnie began by explaining: even if you do not garden, the act of buying non-organic produce threatens migrating birds that rely on insects for prey and may be harmed by chemicals used on those insects, as well as limit food availability. She discussed keeping cats in screened in porches or decks to prevent their predatory instincts for the sake of baby birds and to limit diseases they carry to litter boxes. Roaming cats need to be socially unacceptable.

Her gardening methods create an island of habitat that is favorable for wildlife. Birds need uncontaminated food and water and a place to raise their young. Having foliage levels for birds to go from tree, to fence or shrub, and then to a birdbath are an example of enhanced habitat. This provides safe refuge and lookouts for predators.

Birdhouse designs should be specific to the native birds you want to attract. All should be made of rough wood not plastic so fledglings can climb out. Roosting boxes can create a warm winter habitat with offset levels of perches for multiple birds sharing body heat. Roof overhangs on the front and sides prevent water leaking in. Holes in the floor allow any moisture to drain out. Ventilation holes should be high to release heat. Outer perches are an invitation for predatory squirrels and birds to prey on the eggs and young birds. Openings should face away from prevailing winds. All birdhouses need to be cleaned annually with non-soap cleaner such as vinegar. Mounting of birdhouses and roosting boxes

are specific to bird species. Check the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Notebook series for specifics.

Planning a landscape for wildlife requires consideration of native habitats. The BP Energy Center landscaping is ideal. It has a mixture of native trees and shrubs from tall to ground level. The ground undulates and has water available. Keep in mind that many species require dead trees for food and shelter so leaving some may invite wildlife. Brush piles in your yard create habitat for insects which can be food for wildlife; and the piles prove shelter from predators and weather. Leaving flowers that have seed heads through the winter will provide food for wildlife.

References provided by Bonnie:

Pratt, Verna. *Wildflowers Along the Alaska Highway*  
— *Wildflowers of Denali National Park*

*New York Times* "Did Your Shopping List Kill a Songbird"  
3 Mar 2008

*New York Times* "The End of the Outdoor Cat" 23 Mar 2014

National Wildlife Federation Habitat Certification

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Notebook

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

*National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies*

"The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Bird: Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large and Small"

Sibley, David. *The Sibley Guide to Birds of North America*  
—summary compiled by Fran Pekar



Despite a smoky summer and tinted skies, tours were awe-inspiring.

Gobs of hosta, then a little education, and dramatic layouts, but it's also about the camaraderie! Faye Steihm's garden tour. Photos by Mike Baldwin.

## Herb Study Group: Lemon Verbena by Elaine Hammes

Now that the Alaska Botanical Garden's Herb Garden is ... well... let's say maturing for this season, many of the culinary herbs such as chives, mints, parsley, savorys, oregano, perilla, sorrel and lemon verbena are being harvested for several soup kitchens in Anchorage. The chefs' eyes light up seeing many of these, but some herbs such as Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia citrodora*) are not so well-known. At least one chef and some Herb Gardeners would like to know more about it.

Lemon Verbena has been grown in the Herb Garden for a number of years with its graceful long thin leaves on two to three foot tall singular stems. It is a perennial herb in zones 9 and 10 but can be grown as an annual in Anchorage. Lemon Verbena can form a shrubby plant with regular pruning. It is in the verbena family Verbenaceae, a native of South America. The Spanish and the Portuguese brought Lemon Verbena to Europe in the 17th century. It was cultivated for its oil that was steam-distilled from the leaves for use in the perfume industry. US FDA recognizes Lemon Verbena oil as generally safe when used for flavoring. The leaves are also used in potpourri, to make herbal teas and as a liqueur flavoring.

Lemon Verbena leaves are used to add a lemon flavor to fish and poultry dishes, vegetable marinades, salad dressings, jams, puddings, Greek yogurt, and beverages. It is considered to be the most lemon-flavored of the non-citrus herbs. To use, strip

the leaves from stems and use whole or chopped. Remove the rough-textured leaves from marinades, beverages and dressings before serving. The Cooperative Extension Service Publication FNH-00026 "An Alaska Herb Garden" includes recipes and information on growing and preserving many herbs including Lemon Verbena.

The Herb Study Group has no membership requirements; anyone who is interested is welcome. Herb Study Group meetings are scheduled on the second Fridays from October through May or until further notice. Our next meeting is October 11, noon - 1p in the Learning Commons at the CES office in the Loussac Library. This month we will review the ABG Herb Garden's 2019 season. Please bring your comments and observations for review and discussion of this year's Herb Garden. This will help in planning for the next season 2020. Topics will be discussed and determined at this meeting.

For comments or questions regarding the Herb Study Group or if you would like to be included in updates, send an email to anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or call Mary at 907-345-1562.

Faye Steihm's garden featured this dramatic pairing of lush lilies against a backdrop of calamagrostis grass. Photo by Ginger Hudson

### AMGA Treasurer's Report, August 2019 By Nancy Grant

#### Balances 07/31/2019

Checking S-88	\$14,138.15
Savings S-1	5.25
Savings S-19	\$10,835.56
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)	\$6,000.00
	\$46,633.37

#### Revenue:

Interest/Dividends	\$1.84
Membership	\$81.14
Donations	\$110.00
Plant Sale	\$5,915.11
	\$6,108.09

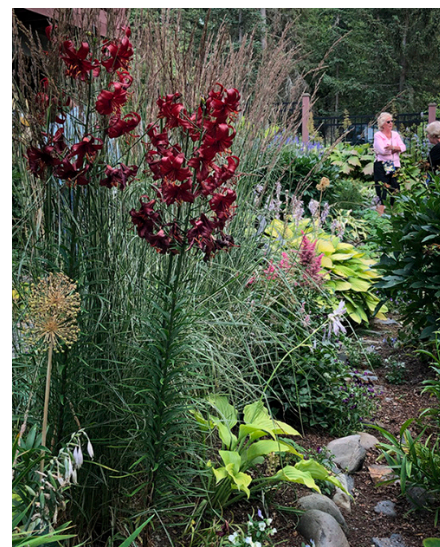
#### Expense:

Operations	\$247.64
Plant Sale `	\$4,251.44
Web	\$52.99
Donation State Fair	\$50.00
	\$4,602.07

#### 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)	\$6,000.00
	\$48,139.39

Nancy Grant 09/08/2019



### In Memoriam

Follow-up to the memorial of Garnett Morrow printed in the September newsletter.

Garnett left an endowment for awards at the Alaska State Fair's berry division. This year's winners were: 1st Entry, \$25, Garnett Morrow Jr. of Anchorage (note: judges are independent of endowers!);

2nd Entry, \$25, Colter Anthony of Anchorage.

Congratulations gentlemen on your fine collections of blueberries!

Announcement and photo courtesy of Kathy Liska.





## July Limited Board Meeting Notes

Attending Board members: Elaine Hammes, Co-President, Vice President Don Bladow, Treasurer Nancy Grant, Secretary Fran Pekar, Marilyn Barker, Marjorie Williams, FX Nolan, and database custodian Alexis St. Juliana.

*Treasurer's report:* All conference bills have been paid.

*President's report:* Elaine Hammes noted that the March 2020 meeting reservation space is for the upstairs rooms at BP rather than the large conference room. It is being noted that the general public's perception of Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage is that they perform garden work for the public. Elaine is working on a standard response to those requests. AMGA has signed the University of Alaska Co-operative Extension Service Non-discrimination Clause paperwork.

*Committee reports:*

*Programs/ Field Trips,* Don Bladow: Garden tours are nearly all filled for next year. Faltz Nursery was suggested as a possible tour as part of their public outreach.

*Google Group:* Mary Rydesky will be invited to speak on the Google Group access for members at the October meeting when the slide show "Recap of Summer Gardens" program is held.

*Grant program:* Marilyn Barker: There are no applications for small grants <\$100.00 for the board to review. The board brainstormed ideas of possible funding of a program meeting, educational programs at the ABG, or Advanced Master Gardener tuition payback. Agreement was reached to distribute tuition grant forms at the first Master Gardener class in August. The grant budget is \$2000, allowing other options for our own projects to be considered at a later date.

*Volunteer Coordinator:* Vacant /

*Unfinished Business:*

*Audit:* 2018 Don Bladow and FX Nolan, Audit is still not complete, a meeting is forthcoming.

*New Business:*

a. Question re: verification of new AMGA members having completed the course plus required 40 hours for voting status. Fran Pekar suggested that with FERPA rules in place, new members should show a certificate of completion the first time they join.

b. Don Bladow is working on a new Advanced Master Gardener course for next spring: a six-week course on vegetable gardening. -Fran Pekar, Board Secretary.

## 2019 Anchorage Soil Temperature Query

Fascination with the early springtime soil warming this year led Master Gardener Jane Baldwin to make some astute citizen-scientist observations. She installed six soil thermometers in various beds during spring thaw. Jane "conveniently" (read: failed to retrieve them), left the thermometers in place all summer. In July she reports when her outside thermometer, north side, no direct sun, reached 95° F (no kidding—although the airport recorded a record-breaking 90°), two of Jane's soil thermometers read 72° and 70°, three had temperatures in the mid to upper 60's and one read 59° F (beds close to two very tall spruce trees). Although she has no past records to consult, Jane (as well as this editor) feels that surely is not normal!

Are there any "official" soil temperatures for past years to compare to this unprecedented hot summer? In some coffer somewhere there must be stacks of quilled-ink pages bearing intricately cataloged statistics. Google did not exactly answer your editor's query, but did produce some relevant side notes.

Research by Batir, Hornbach, and Blackwell published in *Science Direct* found that ground surface temperature change at Red Dog Mine (a region in northwest Alaska between Kivalina and Kotzebue) is warming at  $\sim 0.44 \pm 0.05$  °C (appx. 32.79° F!) per decade. They found that soils in eastern Alaska are increasing at a rate of  $\sim 0.36 - 0.71$  °C per decade.

In 2012 the Cold Climate Housing Research Center conducted a study on soil temperature for the Anchorage Foundation Insulation Study. The year long study on eight different houses throughout Anchorage found maximum soil temperatures ranged from 55 - 70° F.

Though these studies are for differing purposes: estimating loss of permafrost, and insulation requirements to avoid frost heave to crawlspaces, Jane is not alone in her query. The climactic conditions across the globe are changing and they are dramatic to severe in the northern latitudes. When our garden soils heat to higher temperatures for longer periods of time, it will take them longer to cool down which can affect the blanketing effects of snow. Gardeners who planted perennials late in the season should take caution to mulch those to protect against a cold air snap in the absence of snow.

On a related note, if you still have carrots or beets or kale or cilantro in the garden, don't fret, it can be harvested even after the snow falls. Harvest success is based on crops with a blanket covering them in case the cold snap comes before the snow.

According to the USDA, frost action occurs when moisture moves into the freezing zone of the soil. When that moisture freezes and expands, the soil 'frost heaves.' The same happens to vegetables: the water in them freezes and expands thus damaging cells. However, if the plants are protected from sub-freezing air by a blanket of mulch or snow, they can be harvested long into winter—provided you can find them.

Batir, Joseph F.; Hornbach, Matthew J., and David D. Blackwell. *Science Direct*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloplacha.2016.11.009>

<http://www.cchrc.org/sites/default/files/docs/AnchorageFoundationInsulation.pdf>

"Soil Survey of Anchorage Area Alaska". USDA. [www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_MANUSCRIPTS/alaska/AK605/0/Anchorage.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/alaska/AK605/0/Anchorage.pdf)

# Bird Chatter

**FAREWELL...** to summer, which was a bit too (weather gods, please forgive me) hot for our cool-preference plants. But didn't the dahlias really LOVE September? If you missed seeing Marya Morrow's dahlia farm this year, you missed a spectacular display of nature at her glorious best. Make a note: Marya usually sells some of her dahlia tubers at the spring plant sale.

**HELLO...** to Fall and the annual take-down of the Anchorage Pioneer Home gardens, which were particularly beautiful this year — thanks to Julie Ginder, Lynn Opstad and all the other volunteers who planted, watered (a serious concern this summer) and tended the beds in weekly shifts.

As usual, the gods made sport and it poured on take-down day — can you say bedraggled? (see photo). Many flowers were still in bloom and it was decided to leave them — especially the dahlias. Harry Deuber offered to take them down and save the tubers after they started to fade.



**A NOTE...** for next year if you are desperate over slug damage: August 31st was National Diatomaceous Earth Day (really!). As you may know (BC had to ask), diatomaceous "earth" is a powder made from the pulverized corpses of sea creatures with very sharp shells. When slugs crawl into it, they get cut to pieces, dehydrate and die.

Above: It's a dirty job, but some are happy to do it! These volunteers literally weathered putting the Pioneer Home gardens to rest for the winter. A round of applause for working in one of the heaviest rains this year; though maybe they danced since it broke the drought! Photos by Lynne Opstead.  
Above right: One might wonder: how the heck did moose survive before European gardeners showed up? Moose browsed kale. Photo by Diane Kaplan.

Sounds kind of gruesome, but is it any worse than drowning in beer or starving because you can't get past the copper barrier?

Well, actually, yes, it probably is. Best not to dwell on it.

BC has nothing against slugs: If they stay out of my garden, they won't get hurt!

Wear a mask if you use DE. You definitely don't want to inhale any.

## NO ONE TOLD THE MOOSE...

We all know moose are grossed out by marigolds, right? They're a great way to keep munching ungulates away from your chard, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kale and squash, correct? Just scatter some of the bright yellow flowers among the veggies and no more worries.

Well, not so much. Member Diane Kaplan returned from a business trip to find the pictured ruin. "They only left one kind of kale," she reported.

On the plus side, turns out it's true: they don't like marigolds. Notice the pretty yellow uneaten flower.



**SAVE THE DATE...** The Botanical Society of America has just announced it will hold its 2020 conference in Anchorage, July 18-22. Local organizations who care about plant survival (aka our survival!) will be expected to show the flag with displays, presentations, projects, etc. Presumably our Board will be putting something together. BC hears the Native Plant Society hopes to be the main Alaska connection.

**DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING...** you read about tree care, says member and arborist Nickel LaFleur after a course at Tree School. In spite of it being written in CES and Community Forestry publications, removing lower branches of spruce to stop the spruce beetle from attacking your trees is NOT recommended, says Nickel. What can you do? "Water, water, water was the universal recommendation," she said.

Also, trees should have "a single, strong leader (trunk). Don't buy trees that don't."

Got it!

## Have You Heard?

**NOW THAT SHE'S A LADY OF LETTERS...**

BC compiler needs to rest on her laurels. Maybe we'll receive dispatches from her speaking tours, maybe we will just yearn.

Surely there is someone in our midst that can take up the mantle, or something like it. For those that have dreamed of sharing your garden gossip, submissions are welcome to this newsletter. email: newsletteramga@gmail.com



# October 2019 Garden Event Calendar

## WEEKLY GARDEN OPPORTUNITIES

**Herb Study Group:** Through the fall, work on the Herb Garden at ABG Tuesday and /or Fridays 1-3p. All volunteers must first check in at the ABG office. A minimum of two people are required for working in the garden at any time. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd.

Contact: [anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com)

## CLASSES /WORKSHOPS

### Ongoing

Anchorage Master Gardening classes, Mondays, 5p - 8p, except holidays through Dec. 9. At the Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St. Anchorage. [www.uaf.edu/ces](http://www.uaf.edu/ces)

### Ongoing

Palmer Master Gardening class. Tuesdays, 6p - 9p, through Dec. 10. Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, 1509 S Georgeson Rd, Palmer. [www.uaf.edu/ces](http://www.uaf.edu/ces)

### October 9, Wednesday

Backyard Composting 1p-3p, by Ellen Vande Visse. Free. Registration is REQUIRED by sending an email to [compost@matsugov.us](mailto:compost@matsugov.us) or calling 907-745-0758. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Solid Waste Division, 1201 N 49th State St, Palmer. Class details at: [ellenvandevisse.com](http://ellenvandevisse.com)

### October 11, Friday

Backyard Composting , 3p-5p, by Ellen Vande Visse. Free. Registration is REQUIRED see above. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Solid Waste Division, 1201 N 49th State St, Palmer. Class details at: [ellenvandevisse.com](http://ellenvandevisse.com)

### October 19 , Saturday

Backyard Composting , 3p-5p. by Ellen Vande Visse. Free. Registration is REQUIRED see above. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Solid Waste Division, 1201 N 49th State St, Palmer. Class details at: [ellenvandevisse.com](http://ellenvandevisse.com)

### October 13, Sunday

Eagle River Nature Center, 2p. "Forest Mysteries: Lichens and Polypores." All ages and guided walk. Eagle River Nature Center, 32750 Eagle River Rd, Eagle River. [ernc.org](http://ernc.org)

### October 27, Sunday

Eagle River Nature Center, 2p. "The Witch and her Owl." Why are Owls associated with Halloween? ARC Great Horned Owl will be present. All ages. Eagle River Nature Center, 32750 Eagle River Rd, Eagle River. [ernc.org](http://ernc.org)

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### October 1, Tuesday

Valley Garden Club. 10:30a. First Baptist Church of Wasilla on corner of Letherleaf Loop and Bogard Rd. [valleygardenclub.com](http://valleygardenclub.com)

### October 3, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club; "The World of Worms" 7p-9p, at the Pioneer School House, 437 E. 3rd Ave. [alaskagardenclubs.org](http://alaskagardenclubs.org)

### October 7, Monday

Alaska Native Plant Society, 6:30p-8:30p. "Potluck and Photo Share." Campbell Creek Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive. [aknps.org](http://aknps.org)

### October 7, Monday

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association, at 7p. Meeting at the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, 1509 S. Georgeson Drive, Palmer. The meeting will be in Kerttula Hall in the "Blue Room". [matsumastergardeners.com](http://matsumastergardeners.com)

### October 8, Tuesday

Eagle River Garden Club program meeting, 7p-8p. 18444 Old Glenn HWY at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. [alaskagardenclub.org](http://alaskagardenclub.org)

### October 10, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club, at 10a-12p. "A Lesson on Flower Design Principles" by Paul Marmora. Central Lutheran Church. [wildflowergardenclub.org](http://wildflowergardenclub.org)

### October 11, Friday

The first fall/winter indoor meeting of the Herb Study Group Noon-1pm at the Learning Commons right next to the CES office at Loussac Library. Review of the summer herb garden at ABG. For more info: [anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com) or call Mary at 907-345-1562

### October 10, Thursday

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association. 7p- 9p at the BP Energy Center, 1014 energy Court, Anchorage. [www.apfga.org](http://www.apfga.org)

### October 10, Thursday

Anchorage Cooperative Weed Management Control Area, 3p-5p. "European Bird Cherry Search and Destroy." Upper Campbell Creek. Contact Tim Stallard weeds. Free. [ak@gmail.com](mailto:ak@gmail.com) or phone 339-0101.

### October 13, Sunday

Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, 1p, "Bonsai Fuchsias", Dimond Green Houses. [pmarmora@aol.com](mailto:pmarmora@aol.com), include "bonsai" in your subject line when emailing.



## October 2019 Garden Event Calendar

### October 20, Saturday

Alaska Rock Garden Society, 2p. Final program in our "Year of Honoring Verna Pratt"; "Hardy Plants for Alaska Rock Gardens"; Nominations of officers. Eagle River Elk's Lodge, 17111 Eagle Rd, Eagle River. [akrockgardensociety.org](http://akrockgardensociety.org)

### October 21, Monday

AMGA Meeting: "Show and Tell Summer Gardens" Coordinator is Fran Pekar. 6:30p for refreshments and programs start at 7p at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. [alaskamastergardeners.org](http://alaskamastergardeners.org)

### October 22, Tuesday

Alaska Orchid Society, 6:30p-9p at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. [akorchid.org](http://akorchid.org)

### October 28, Monday

Southcentral Alaska Beekeepers Association, 6:30p- 8:30p. VFW Post 9765, 10527 VFW Rd. Eagle River. [sababeekeepers.com](http://sababeekeepers.com)

## CONFERENCES

### July 18 - 22, 2020

Botany 2020, Organized by the Botanical Society of America, in Anchorage, AK! In association with The American Fern Society, Society of Herbarium Curators, International Society for Plant Taxonomy, and more. Call for proposals deadline October 23, 2019. [cms.botany.org/home.html](http://cms.botany.org/home.html)

## Volunteer Opportunity of Global Proportions!

The Wildflower Garden Club has entered into an agreement with the Alaska Wildlife Conversation Center to plant a native wildflower garden at the center.

The AWCC is visited yearly by over 200,000 people from around the world. *This is an excellent opportunity to show our native plants to visitors.*

The garden will be physically set up this fall, and we will plant in the spring. After the initial planting, we will maintain the garden monthly with weeding, dead-heading, monitoring signage and thinning plants if necessary.

The signage will have zone and care requirements for the plants we display, and we will have three or four examples of types of garden habitat in the small space.

We would like to offer an opportunity to collaborate with other local garden clubs on this project. This would be a wonderful project to get various clubs working together to make something beautiful, educational and impactful.

Those interested in participating contact: Paul Marmora at [pmarmora@aol.com](mailto:pmarmora@aol.com)



**ALASKA WILDLIFE**  
CONSERVATION CENTER



**WILDFLOWER  
GARDEN  
CLUB**

## Board Elections This Fall, Only one nominee so far, DON'T LET HER STAND ALONE!

The Election Committee is seeking candidates for 4 Board positions for this fall's election. We will have four 2-year terms beginning January 2020. Please contact: Susan Negus 227-6288, [senegus@gsi.net](mailto:senegus@gsi.net); Elaine Hammes at 275-4295, [marye.hammes@acsalaska.net](mailto:marye.hammes@acsalaska.net); or Fran Pekar 433-9235, [franpekar@gmail.com](mailto:franpekar@gmail.com)

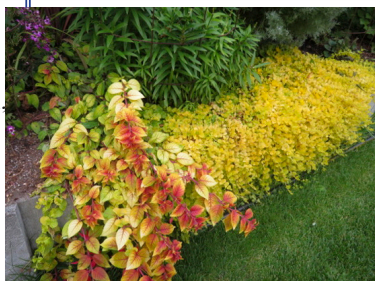
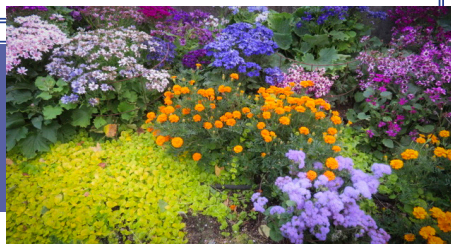
## Winter Meetings 2019 - 2020

### October 21 Meeting

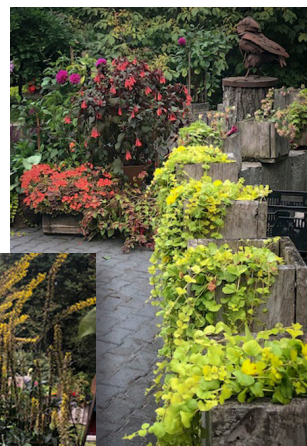
Prepare to share about 10 of your favorite pictures from the summer at our October show-and-tell meeting. Bring your images on a thumb drive for transfer to AMGA computer.

### November Newsletter: The Volunteer Issue

The next issue will list our board nominees, volunteer positions. This summer the Hope Center roof-top food garden was on our tour program, a labor of love for master gardener volunteers. Volunteers from our ranks keep residents of the Pioneer Home in good spirits by tending the vibrant gardens. Send your volunteer project stories to [newsletteramga@gmail.com](mailto:newsletteramga@gmail.com)



Amazing bright color to combat the smoky skies. From the August 19 tour of Doug Morris's botanical wonderland. Below left two photos by Elaine Hammes. Right two photos by Mike Baldwin.



### Membership Renewal

Memberships are based on calendar year. Renew your membership early to avoid the holiday crunch!  
Contact Alexis St. Juliana: [astjuliana@hotmail.com](mailto: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  
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Email: [newsletteramga@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:astjuliana@hotmail.com)

### 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
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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

