

## President's Message by Susan Negus

### Season's Greetings!

Winter is here and fortunately we have good snow cover so far. Hopefully by the time you read this we will still have snow, maybe even more snow without rain.

This is the time of year to start forcing bulbs and get the grow lights going. Amaryllis are also a good option. I am so used to getting amaryllis at the box store for \$5 with mixed results, although usually satisfying. If one looks at the different flower companies online there are some spectacular choices. There is actually a site called amaryllis.com and another option is whiteflowerfarms.com. Even Amazon Prime has a wide choice of amaryllis. What a great present to cheer people up this Covid-19 winter.

We have had some great monthly meetings on Zoom with good attendance. The Zoom sessions begin a half-hour early so members can chat. It is great to actually see people and hear their voices. I am sure some people are tired of Zoom, but it is all we have for now. You can even use your smart phones to attend the meetings. If anyone is having trouble attending let me know. We can try to see what the problem is.

We were able to record the "Stump the Expert" meeting in November so people could watch later. Just click to open the Zoom meeting at [https://alaska.zoom.us/rec/share/gLAUK-MobQ\\_wcteQM0SK6k-7WYIWArgM2Hqh-3cVNV7P-7dl1D-a9Xj4iol-S5OsGz.Dm6BokZOKh\\_Rsq03](https://alaska.zoom.us/rec/share/gLAUK-MobQ_wcteQM0SK6k-7WYIWArgM2Hqh-3cVNV7P-7dl1D-a9Xj4iol-S5OsGz.Dm6BokZOKh_Rsq03). The pass-code is !5!h\$!H0. The recording will expire in mid-December.

November's meeting featured Master Gardeners Julie Riley and Debbie Hinchey with Mark Wolbers, of the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association. AMGA members posed many interesting questions. It was fun to hear what our experts had to say on topics ranging from artillery fungus to how to get more growth and production from apple trees. All well done.

It is that time of year where it is out with the old and in with the new in many ways. At our last meeting, members elected four new board members, Troy Weis, Kathleen Kaiser, Keenan Plate

and Nick Riordan.

Leaving will be Elaine Hammes, Nancy Grant, FX Nolan and me (Susan Negus). Some of the board members will be moving into different positions. New officers will be elected by the Board at the December Board meeting. As usual, any members are welcome to attend Board meetings, which are the second Monday of each month.

Elizabeth Bluemink is taking over from Ginger Hudson as editor of the newsletter. I think you can expect changes to the format (change is good), but nothing too dramatic. Having said that, I am sincerely sorry to see Ginger leaving Anchorage. She has been very valuable to the Anchorage Master Gardeners organization in many ways. I am happy for her new opportunity to manage the Jensen-Olson Arboretum (JOA) in Juneau.

This will be my last President's message. Thank you to all volunteers and members over this term. Last year was great, working with and meeting all the Master Gardeners at all the different events. This year started out well, but we reluctantly canceled all gardening season activities due to Covid-19. Then, we had to get the hang of Zoom. I suspect we will have to continue Zoom meeting through the winter into spring of 2021, unfortunately. I wish we could have the spring flower show this year. It is one of my favorite events. Another favorite is the Plant Sale in August. That may be possible.

I will remain active in the AMGA. It has been a joy to meet and work with everyone in this organization.

Please be safe in this Covid-19 time. I hope everyone can manage to have a safe and merry Christmas!

Top: Ursus Botanicus at Alaska Botanical Garden, Winter 2018. Photo by Elizabeth Bluemink

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# Newsletter Transition by Ginger Hudson

Creating the AMGA monthly newsletter over the past three years has been a fun, rewarding, and educational volunteer project.

I have talked to many gardeners I might not have met otherwise, I have learned techniques on composting, seed starting, and more that will further my garden skills in life.

And now, a fortuitous confluence of events is coming to pass. Earlier this year Elizabeth Bluemink agreed to take on the Newsletter Editor position as I retooled my career as a writer and educator.

Well, something funny happened on the way to the forum, a wonderful job opportunity appeared in my virtual inbox. This is now a story of a new editor, and the relocation of an AMGA member to SEAK-MG member. In November I accepted the offer to become the second Manager of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum in Juneau.

Stewarding this garden—a nationally recognized arboretum with an internationally recognized primula collection—places me in a new world and a thrilling opportunity. Living in the Southeast Alaska rainforest will be magical and educational. I will make new garden, and garden supporter, friends, learn firsthand the interconnections between the land and sea, and help a new audience experience the beauty and importance of natural and cultivated gardens.

Board members and myself reached out to Elizabeth, and we are grateful that she reached back. Elizabeth is a student of the natural world interested in how plants keep us healthy and connected to our environment. We first met a number of years ago when I was working at the Alaska Botanical Garden and she was volunteering with plant sales and helping in the shop on weekends. In recent years, she has been active with various groups, including the Herb Study Group, and is in the current Advanced Master Gardener course.

Elizabeth hasn't stopped with the plants we talk about, she also recently accepted the President position of the Alaska Native Plant Society (AKNPS). In addition to all of that, she holds a daytime job in public relations, so please tread lightly on her deadline responsibilities.

Our transition could not have been more serendipitous. We planned for Elizabeth learning the newsletter ins-and-outs by the end of the year, and I move to Juneau the first week of January. I plan to maintain my membership in AMGA, AKNPS, ARCS, and ABC while becoming active in the Southeast garden groups. Though my focus will be on the arboretum, I hope to strengthen the connections of our Southcentral groups to the Southeast's.

The Jensen-Olson Arboretum is open all year, Wednesday to Sunday. Please know that I will be more than happy to welcome AMGA folks, families, and friends at the arboretum once you feel comfortable traveling. In the meantime, watch for the last few AMGA garden videos, then new videos from the lovely JOA nestled on the coast of the magnificent Inside Passage.

This is a time of transition from the newsletter. Sheila Toomey is retiring from Bird Chatter. While many members appreciate this feature—which began even before Sheila compiled it—we are looking for a new volunteer willing to collect interesting news tidbits from our membership.

The newsletter also seeks a new calendar editor. This is a great option for someone who needs to fill volunteer hours in the coming year.

In closing, with my move to Juneau, the Pioneer Garden volunteers will need a new garden designer. If you are interested, I'm happy to fill you in on all the details. Email me at [growing-tallllc@gmail.com](mailto:growing-tallllc@gmail.com).

## AMGA Treasurer's Report, October 2020

By Nancy Grant

### Balance 10/01/2020

Checking S-88	\$13,361.47
Business MBR Shares	\$5.25
Business Premium Shares	\$16,891.44
CD Education 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	\$5,414.65
CD General 2yr.	
1.95% (1/21)	<u>\$10,606.24</u>
	\$46,279.05
Revenue:	
Membership	\$163.04
Perm. Class	\$2,185.57
Interest/Dividends	<u>\$2.87</u>
	\$2,351.48

### Expenses:

Operations	\$149.99
Perm. Clas	\$53.00
Membership	<u>\$15.00</u>
	\$217.99

### Balance 11/07/2020

Checking S-88	\$15,492.09
Business MBR Shares	\$5.25
Business Premium Savings	\$16,894.31
I 60 Certificate 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	\$5,414.65
I 24 Certificate 2yr.	
1.95% (01/21)	<u>\$10,606.24</u>
	\$48,412.54

Join Permaculture class participants on Zoom!

Curious what the "Permaculture For Alaskan Gardeners" class has been up to? Drop in and listen to instructor Saskia Esslinger give feedback to student plans for a garden space designed with permaculture principles. Watch your email for an invite to the feedback sessions, delivered over Zoom.



## In Memory: Mary Shier

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Mary Shier, who served as a dedicated volunteer, leader, and mentor to many AMGA members.

Mary gardened as a child on her family's farm in Virginia. She brought her love for farming to Alaska in 1968. "Tomatoes were my favorite vegetable," she told AMGA in 2009. She built a 3-foot tomato box along the front walk to her apartment in Anchorage. When her husband Glen bought their Hillside property in 1971, she grew 'Tiny Tims' in milk jugs at their temporary trailer's south window. She and Glen built their log home, even peeled the logs. During construction, she gardened in an A-frame greenhouse. Later, they built a 14' x 20' greenhouse.

Roses, honeysuckle, and golden hops cascaded off a pergola and the tall wooden fence surrounding her vegetable garden. Gravel paths dotted with containers spilling with flowers led to outdoor sitting areas. Mary was known to use vegetables as ornamentals and flowers as edibles: calendulas, nasturtiums, dill, fennel, marigolds. "I mix annuals in with the

vegetables to perk them up," she'd say.

From 1978 to 1994, she and Glen, along with neighbors and partners Brock and Janice Shamberg, owned and managed

DeArmoun Greenery. Judy Christianson, friend and landscape designer recalled: "One of the nicest things they did was bring in new plant material, things nobody else had. They'd give it to people for free or at very low cost for feedback, to let them know if it died, survived or thrived." It's rumored that one way Mary interviewed people for DeArmoun Greenery was to walk around the nursery with them to see if they could keep up with her. She was very no-nonsense, but she had a sense of humor and was very well mannered. One of Mary's most famous employees was Sally Arant, author of *The Alaska Primrose Primer*.

When the Herb Garden was constructed at the Alaska Botanical Garden, Mary was there, and she continued to volunteer at the garden, planting, and weeding until her final year. She was instrumental in starting the Herb Study Group

(Mary Shier, continues on page 7)



Mary Shier (left) with Cathy Sage (right) in the ABC Herb Garden in 2016.

## Indigo: True or False? by Lisa Weikert

Two different kinds of Indigo were discussed at the November Herb Garden Study meeting. Only one of them grows at the ABC Herb Garden.

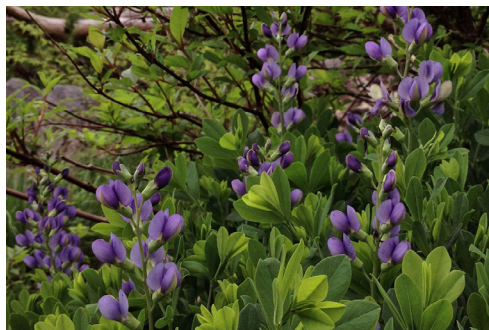
In late summer, Herb Study volunteers found *Baptisia australis* known as Blue Wild Indigo or False Blue Indigo, under *Inula helenium*, a larger leaved plant, in the herb garden at ABC. The False Blue Indigo had returned from rhizomes from the previous year. *Baptisia australis* is in the legume family and grows in USDA hardiness zones 3-10. It adapts quite easily to areas outside of its native habitat and is hardy to -30 degrees. False Blue Indigo can grow over four feet tall and requires no maintenance. The flowers range in color from light blue to deep purple and produce 1 to 3-inch seed pods. False Blue Indigo is deer and rabbit resistant and poisonous to dogs. Native Americans used the leaves for making

blue dye and the plant was made into eye wash.

True Indigo, known just as Indigo or by the genus *Indigofera*, is originally from India and was introduced to South Carolina and Georgia in the mid 1700's and quickly became an important crop because of the blue dye that is made from the leaves. Several species, especially *Indigofera tinctoria* and *Indigofera suffruticosa*, are used to produce the indigo dye. Did you know it takes 100 pounds of leaves to make 4 ounces of blue dye? Indigo is also used in crayons, cosmetics and paints. The entire plant can be used in teas. Indigo grows as an evergreen in USDA zones 9 and

warmer. Unlike False Blue Indigo, True Indigo prefers fertile well drained soil and moderate moisture. It grows in bushes 2-3

(Herb Study, continues on page 5)



False Blue Indigo growing wild in Fairfax County, Virginia. Photo source: Wikimedia Commons

## Design Your Garden Using a Base Map by Ginger Hudson

Feeling disconnected from the garden as the deep freeze sets in? Steep some tea and make a base map of your garden for next spring. Creating a plan, with a drawing to scale, will help you accurately estimate materials, cost, and installation time for a new garden design. Best of all, you will be a huge step ahead in what we know is a short gardening season.

A base map is easiest to create if you have a site plan or plat of your property. Either document includes measurements but they are rarely provided in the correct scale. Usually they are usually shrunk to fit on legal or letter-size paper.

For each method, collect the following tools: good mechanical pencil, or standard pencil with spare eraser (white architect type recommended), tracing paper, and an architect's scale—or ruler with 1/8" tick marks. Optional items: triangles, circle templates, protractor, and compass.

## Method 1: Use a Site Plan or Plat

The site plan or plat is an overhead view of your property or area of land you wish to landscape. It should have property lines, easements, streets, sidewalks, and the outline of your house. Every element except the street and sidewalk should have measurements.

Have your site plan enlarged for ease of use. A minimum scale of 1/4" equal to 1' is a convenient size, easy to read and draw on. The challenge in enlarging will be figuring out the scale of your original site plan. Places like Digital Blueprints can help you scale your image up. If you know the scale of your plan, and know how large to expand it, FedEx Kinkos and some Office Max stores have oversized duplication machines. The reason you need to work within a scale, any scale, even if you want to use the original small site plan, is so you can accurately measure spaces to calculate compost, sand, mulch, etc., and draw in plants based on their mature sizes for accurate counts.

There are mathematical calculations for figuring how much material is required for construction. You can only accurately order materials if you know the exact size and volume of space you are building, and number of plants that fit within your site.

## Method 2: Draw Your Own

If you need to draw up your own site plan, be ready to spend

a good day measuring. You will need to measure all walls of your house in the areas you want to garden. You will need to notate the property borders, driveway, existing sidewalks, decks, sheds, and any other permanent fixture. A flexible measuring tape on a hand reel is most convenient for this process.

Start by making a rough drawing on any paper, your rough drawing does not have to be to scale because it is too difficult to make a fine drawing while you are outside. You will re-draw this on a new larger sheet of paper to whatever scale you chose to work with.

When you have finished measuring, transfer this data to an accurate, scaled drawing. You could use graph paper: one square equal to 1', or four squares equal to 1'. You could draw your plan on plain paper at 1/8" equals 1' (you could draw at 1/8" = 1' to fit your site plan on a paper, then take it to enlarge 200% and you have a 1/4" = 1' site plan). Or, if it's a small space you want to design, 1/2" equals 1'. Whatever size is easy for you to read, it's your choice.

### Method 3: Use Online Tools

The Advanced Master Gardener Course this year included some tips about creating a map using online tools. For

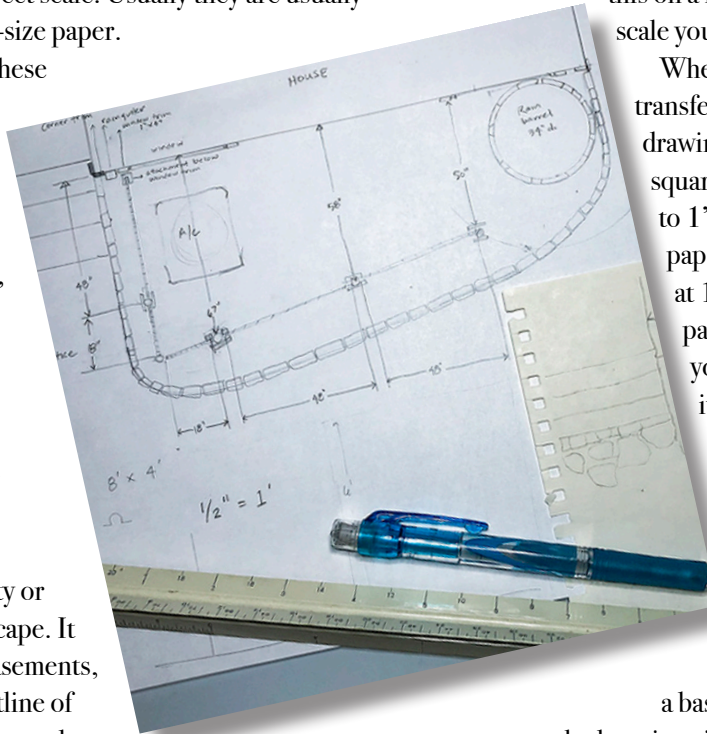
example, here is a video showing how to use Google Maps to generate a base map: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYkYkonjqos>. Also during the class, Emily Becker shared that she has success using a free software program called SketchBook. She learned how to use it through the Anchorage Library's resources page, where you can access the free training programs on Linked In Learning! She said it's a fantastic tutorial, easy to learn.

## Inventory Analysis

Once you have a base map to scale, and you have determined your areas to design, you need to make a site inventory analysis. Note all useful and fixed elements that are permanent. Measure where these items are located and mark them on your site plan.

The first item to indicate is North direction to assess of the sun's path across your property. Next notate all of your water faucets, and analyze how you want to access them. Is there is water runoff, creeks, or a septic system? Note where trees are on

(Design, continued on page 6)





# AMGA 2020 Grant Reports

AMGA's Grants Program awarded several grants to support community programs this year. We highlighted The Waldorf School grant in our June newsletter. In this edition we are reporting on two other fantastic projects.

## Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden

Don Bladow secured a \$500 grant this year to help sustain the Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden's mission to provide fresh produce for Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry and the Tudor Road Gospel Rescue Mission. The Memorial Garden is located on the property of the Hope Lutheran Church on W. Northern Lights. In addition to Don's hard work planning, sourcing, digging, and planting, many members of the church volunteer to grow and harvest. Beehives are placed on the property, providing a strong pollinator force to ensure productivity.

Don and the team harvested over 1,100 pounds of turnips, including their greens. The zucchini harvest weighed in at over 675 pounds. Potatoes rounded out the top three at 442 pounds. Carrots, normally a bumper crop for Alaskans, sadly fell victim to vandalism, yet still 289 pounds were collected. The garden's most remarkable harvest was 42 pounds of chili peppers of various cultivars. Green beans amounted to 134 pounds, and 24 pounds of dill. Don asks if we realize how much dill that is! In

all, 22 different fruits and vegetables were grown on the church property. The next step for Don and the team is building a hoop house to extend the growing season.

## Loussac Place Garden Boxes

This year was the eighth growing season in the gardens at the Loussac Place residences managed by Cook Inlet Housing Authority. Twelve gardeners returned to their plots and four

new gardeners acquired plots. This year 12 empty garden boxes were cleared by volunteers and became the Loussac Place Youth Garden. A grant of \$300 from AMGA allowed CIHA to purchase water hoses, garden fencing, soil, herbs, and vegetables.

Because of the hunker down orders this year, the gardens at Loussac Place were the most active they have been. Coordinators of the gardens encourage youth to pick as they work, and from the photos provided it is evident everyone enjoyed being in the gardens. The gardens are a mutual endeavor between the Municipality of Anchorage and CIHA.

Each organization strives to help residents feel food secure and comfortable

growing their own produce.

AMGA is humbled that our contributions have gone to improve the food resources of those who may have limited access to healthy produce. We are a little biased too, food grown in Alaska tastes the best, requires little-to-no artificial amendments, and has traveled less ensuring maximum vitality. Thank you to these local gardens and our Master Gardeners for caring for our community!



Giant turnips harvested from the Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden in 2020. Photo courtesy Don Bladow.

*(Herb Study, continued from page 3)*

feet tall and produces pink or purple flowers. Deer and rabbits love to eat this plant and it is not harmful to dogs. Indigo can be grown in colder climates as an annual but will need to be started indoors in late February.

Source: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/indigo-plant/growing-true-indigo-plants.htm>



### Contact the Herb Study Group

If you want to volunteer, have questions or you just want to receive notifications of the Herb Study meetings, please email us at [anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com) or call Elaine at 276-4295 and leave her a message.

## Bird Chatter

**TWO-WAY HARVEST**... Refugee garden projects have long benefitted from AMGA volunteers. Now it looks like we're getting something back (besides satisfaction and luscious veggies). One of our new board members is the RAIS coordinator for Catholic Social Services – they run Grow North Farms up in Mountain View. We all knew that, of course, but did we know Keenan Plate also was an honoree this past summer in the Anchorage Daily News "Achievement in Business" program?

Almost as great an honor as being elected to the AMGA Board, right?

And all this since landing in Alaska in 2018!

**BAD SAD NEWS**...A great person and a great, generous gardener, Mary Shier, died recently. She was one of the original MGs back in the '80s and a mentor to many. She helped start the Herb Study Group and the ABC Herb Garden. She helped start and maintain the Pioneer Home Gardens project. She did a lot of other stuff. Said one who knew her: "She was small and soft-spoken and got things done." She will be missed.

**TEACHABLE MOMENT**...BC is going to present this exactly as submitted by member Cheryl Chapman:

"I was in line at (a) grocery checkout this afternoon. An experienced checker was tutoring a nouveaux checker on vegetable differentiation:

'Zucchini? Got no nipples.'

'Cucumber? Got nipples.' "

**BAH HUMBUG**...Everyone knows the 2021 Northwest Flower and Garden Show originally set for February has been cancelled, right?

**GOTTA LAUGH**... Can we gardeners enjoy the sudden national prominence of the Four Seasons Total Landscaping company without getting political? We can if we get our gardening news from the British.

The English newspaper "The Guardian" reported the following bumper sticker was for sale on the now-famous Philadelphia firm's website:

"Make America Rake Again." Price is \$5.

**A GOOD GOODBYE**...A very happy, soon-to-be ex-newsletter editor, Ginger Hudson, is headed for her fab new job in Juneau, running the Jensen-Olson garden down there. (Yes, they call it an arboretum but, sorry, it's plants, not trees. Duh!). As much as we'll miss her here, think how nice it will be to find her waiting when we all visit the Jensen – post-Covid of course. Hey, they've got the largest collection of Primula species in the WORLD! Worth a short plane hop, no?

**YES YES YES**...In two weeks - a mere two weeks – the days start getting longer!

**ADIOS**...For those of you who have gotten this far, hopefully you'll be meeting a new BC in the new year. This is my last column. I hope those of you who have helped me so much over the past five years will help whoever takes over. Let's face it, there would have been lots of empty space if not for you all.



*(Design, continued from page 4)*

your property—the trunks and rough size of their canopy. Where are sidewalks, decks, sheds, and garages? Draw in existing planted areas you intend to keep.

Now you have a solid base map that will serve you well as you develop the outdoor area you desire. Take your base map to a print shop for enlargements made to scale. If your base map is already to scale, make a few spare copies for practicing.

Alternately, with one base map you can overlay tracing paper to brainstorm spaces and ideas. Tape the tracing paper to one or two sides of the base map to help hold it in place before drawing.

### Start Imagining Your Design

This is your landscape, your ideas, and your timeline. Relax into the drawing and visualization process, there is no test and

no grading at the end! And with a roll or pad of tracing paper, you can restart as many times as you want.

A good place to start is giving yourself space to work in and through the garden. Rough outline paths or places for stepping stones. How are you going to drag a hose through the property? How are you going to move bags of compost, wheel barrels, and plants? What is the path from the driveway/garage/shed/kitchen to the spaces you want to access?

Are you planning new beds or placing art? Look out your windows and determine what you want to see, or what you don't want your neighbors to see. Pencil these access lines and spaces on your tracing paper or base map, then the next time you are in the yard, walk the paths you image and see if they work.

Erase, re-trace, invent. The next steps are up to your vision.

(Mary Shier, continued from page 3)

through the Cooperative Extension Service. “We studied herbs, did things with herbs, and helped with the herb garden at ABC,” she told Cheryl Chapman in 2009. “When we cleaned up in the fall, we’d make use of what we cut back, sharing with Bean’s Café and with people at ABC.” “When we were doing herb teas at the ABC, we’d make calendula cookies. They were beautiful, and so tasty!”

Mary completed the new to Alaska Master Gardener class in 1979-1980. Retired Horticulture Agent Julie Riley said Mary “took her under her wing” and helped Julie learn what grew well in Julie’s new home state. Mary enrolled and nurtured countless Master Gardeners through her membership, service on the board, as president, and in friendship. “Mary was my introduction to the association,” said Dana Klinkhart and Gina Docherty. Both were nominated for board positions at their first meeting attendances. Each remembered Mary’s encouragement: “I’ll teach you, and I’m here to help.”

The AMGA volunteer project at the Anchorage Pioneer Home was initiated by Mary and Judy Christianson. When interviewed about the project in 2009, Judy said: “We’ve been doing that forever; we weren’t gray-headed when we started. . . I treasure her. She’s a friend you can laugh with and cry with.” Mary and Judy planned, started seed, planted, and maintained the gardens for years until organizing a volunteer committee. The Pioneer Home honored Mary and Judy in 2016 on the twentieth anniversary of taking care of the gardens.

Members recall Mary’s welcoming and open-hearted atti-

tude, not bothered by any gardening question. Though she did not officially teach classes, countless Master Gardeners learned from Mary’s success and experiments. Mary was featured in the Anchorage Daily News in December 2007 and September 2016 for her stackable compost bin system. She also was a judge in the market vegetable area of the Alaska State Fair 20 years or more.

As one of AMGA’s founders, Mary exemplified the best

of Alaska’s gardeners: a generosity in sharing her knowledge, her plants, and willingness to do whatever Master Gardeners needed doing. Mary’s early stewardship of AMGA helped build the organization we currently enjoy. Her botanical enthusiasm is present in the gardens at the Pioneer Home, the Herb Study Group, the Herb Garden, and countless home gardens in South Central Alaska.

Mary was honored at the November 2009 Master Gardener meeting for 30 years of contributions. A profile of her can

be found in the AMGA November 2009 newsletter.

Mary volunteered at her church, St. Mary’s Episcopal, maintaining flower beds, knitting for bazaars, and packing boxes of food for “FISH”. Cards may be sent to: Kathleen Gedeon, P.O. Box 515, Dryden, WA 99821. St. Mary’s is accepting donations for the Thomas Center Senior Residence garden: Mary Shier Memorial Fund, Thomas Center, 2190 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99507. All proceeds will go to the garden. Next summer a memorial will be dedicated to Mary in the garden.

-Compiled with contributions from numerous Master Gardeners



Mary in her greenhouse with Michelle Semerad.

### Share Your Knowledge in our Newsletter

In the upcoming year, the AMGA newsletter will include monthly educational themes. We are looking for people to write about things like:



- \* Best practices for using animal manure compost
- \* Seed tricks! How to boost your germination success
- \* Winter pruning
- \* And much more ...

Articles are ~400-600 words.

Just send a note to [newsletteramga@gmail.com](mailto:newsletteramga@gmail.com) if you'd like to contribute an article and/or photos.

### New YouTube Garden Tour Posted!

We've published the 14th virtual Summer 2020 Garden Tour on the [AMGA YouTube channel](#), featuring Sandy Harrington's delightful backyard garden. We hope you'll enjoy the video as much as we do!





# December 2020 Garden Event Calendar

**NOTE: All events subject to cancellation or rescheduling due to Covid-19 precautions. Please check group websites or other social media to find out if there are alternate arrangements to events. Be mindful of the Muni's health mandates.**

## Classes / Workshops

### December 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 6-7 pm

UAF Cooperative Extension. Food Security in Uncertain Times. Register once and attend any or all classes in this free online series. <http://bit.ly/AKFoodSecurity2020> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the class. The classes cover Chicken University, Gardening and Food Security, Smart Grocery Shopping, and Home Food Preservation Overview. Contact: Gina Dionne, 907-786-6313 or [gddionne@alaska.edu](mailto:gddionne@alaska.edu).

### December 13 @ 2 pm

Winter Birding 101 via Zoom from the Eagle River Nature Center. Naturalist and volunteer Liza Sanden will cover the basics of winter bird identification. It's free, but registration required. More information at [www.ernc.org/courses/zoom-winter-birding-101](http://www.ernc.org/courses/zoom-winter-birding-101).

### Saturday, December 19 @ 1-4 pm

UAF Live Workshop. Join Sarah in canning cranberry sauces. Before all of the fresh and frozen cranberries leave the stores, let's make some delicious cranberry condiments to brighten meals in the New Year. In this class we will water-bath process jars of cranberry delights. A list of supplies/ingredients and the Zoom link will be emailed to you upon registration. [Here is a link to the registration page.](#)

## Meetings & Events

### November 29-January 5 @ 4:30-8 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden's Holiday Lights in the Garden on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. \$6 members, \$8 non-members, children six and under free. **This opens on November 28 for members only.** Tickets are required and only a limited number of people are allowed in, so plan to arrive 30 minutes before your time slot ends to have sufficient time. Closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1.

### Monday, December 1

The Pioneer Home welcomes packets of Christmas ornament crafts for their residents. Please drop them off at the Rendezvous for Lee Skidmore. Each bag should have all supplies, a picture or diagram, or a sample.

### Thursday, December 3

The Wildflower Garden Club is hosting a wreath making

workshop. Contact [akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflowers@gmail.com) for more information.

### Monday, December 7 @ 7-9 pm

Alaska Native Plant Society. Justin Fulkerson presents "Pollinator Research in Alaska." Rosaceae: Joan Tovsen presents Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa*). Beringian Endemics: Beth Baker presents *Primula tschuktschorum*. Via Google Meet, contact [president@aknps.org](mailto:president@aknps.org) for more information.

### Thursday, December 10 @ 7 pm

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers. Washington State University Emeritus Professor David Granatstein presents on Sustainable Orchard Floor Management. Meeting via Zoom. Contact: Mark Wolbers, [mewolbers@alaska.edu](mailto:mewolbers@alaska.edu).

### Friday, December 11 @ 12 pm

Alaska Herb Study Group, Inula (Elecampane) and Betony. Meeting via Zoom. Contact [anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com) or call Elaine at 276-4295.

### Sunday, December 13 @ 1 pm

The Bonsai Group is having a meeting on Zoom. Contact: Paul Marmora, [pmarmora@aol.com](mailto:pmarmora@aol.com)

### Thursday, December 17

The Wildflower Garden Club is holding a Kissing Ball workshop via Zoom. Registration and payment required by December 7. It will cost \$35 and you will need to pick up a supply package before from Alaska Wholesale Flower Market, 7347 Old Seward Hwy. Contact: [pmarmora@aol.com](mailto:pmarmora@aol.com) or [download a flyer](#)

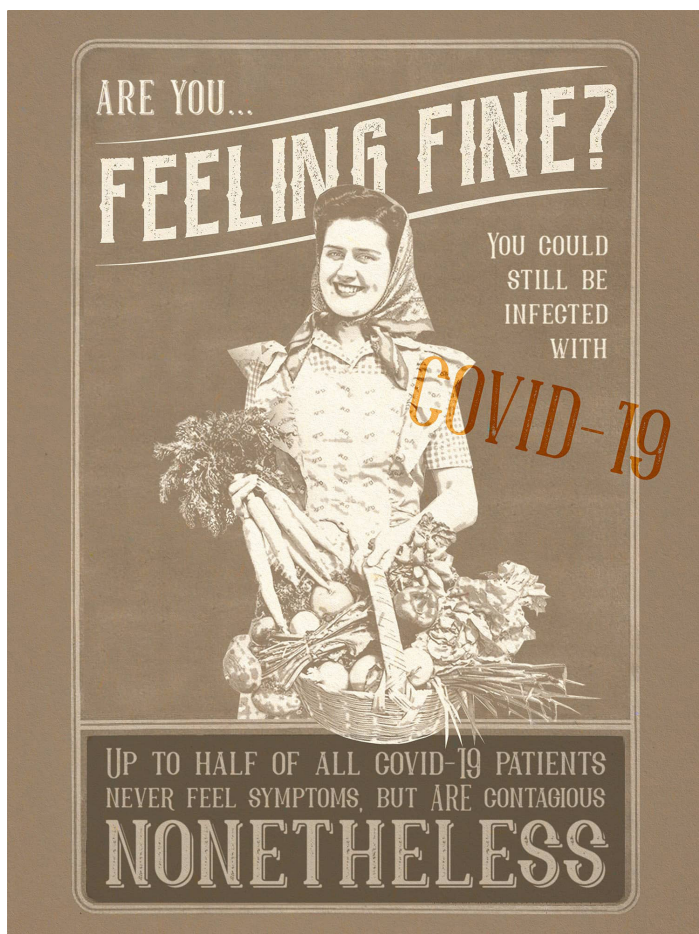
## Volunteer Opportunities

### December 13 - Deadline for submission

The Alaska Botanical Garden is calling for presenters via Zoom for March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 from 3-8 pm each evening. They are looking for lectures or workshops that last 30-45 minutes, shorter 15-minute sessions, or rapid-fire presentations lasting about 10 minutes. Contact: Stacey Shriner, [stacey.shriner@alaskabg.org](mailto:stacey.shriner@alaskabg.org).

If you know of events coming up or organizations not mentioned in our calendar, please contact [newsletteramga@gmail.com](mailto:newsletteramga@gmail.com) so they can be added to the list!





#### AMGA Board of Directors

Susan Negus	President
Emily Becker	Vice President
Nancy Grant	Treasurer
Beth Norris	Secretary
Elaine Hammes	At Large
F.X. Nolan	At Large
Faye Stiehm	At Large
Jan Van Den Top	At Large

#### Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

CES Liaison:	Elaine Hammes
CES Master Gardener Program Liaison:	Steve Brown or Gina Dionne
Broadcast Email:	Faye Stiehm
Calendar of Events:	Teresa Stephenson
Advanced MG:	Don Bladow, Emily Becker, Fran Pekar
Directory Editor:	Janice Berry
Meetings and other educational programs:	Emily Becker
Garden Tours:	Emily Becker
Google Group:	Mary Rydesky
Managers:	Gina Docherty and Jane Baldwin
Grants Program:	Elaine Hammes
Hospitality:	Lynn Hansen, Ruthe Rasmussen, Sharon Schlicht, and Wendy Willie
Membership & Database:	Alexis St. Juliana
Newsletter Editor:	Ginger Hudson
Website:	Gina Docherty
Lifetime Achievement and Grants:	Lynne Opstad
Pioneer Home:	Lynne Opstad, Ginger Hudson
Volunteer Coordinator:	Julie Ginder
Volunteer Coordinator:	Susan Negus

## Time to Renew!

**Memberships are based on calendar year.**

If you have not renewed, fill out the form on our website, or print and mail the membership form in this month's newsletter. Questions? Contact Alexis St. Juliana at [astjuliana@hotmail.com](mailto:astjuliana@hotmail.com)

### Next AMGA Meeting, online

January 18, 7pm. The Seedy Side of Gardening.

Watch your email, check our website or Facebook page for connection instructions.

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\***  
2020-2021 meetings currently being held online

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

The Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. Contact the editor at:

Mail: AMGA, Newsletter  
P.O. Box 221403  
Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

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)  
Youtube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCvZehJprKkQzQvNDKopQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvZehJprKkQzQvNDKopQ)

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)





## 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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_