



ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ANCHORAGE

AMGA NEWSLETTER

April 2020
Volume 22, Issue 4

President's Message by Susan Negus

Today, March 20 is the first day of Spring. Doesn't really look like spring since I have 2 feet of snow in my yard, but it goes quickly and there is hope. I am starting to see the garden art slipping out of the snow.

A few weeks ago, I was walking through Costco and they had these glass vases filled with forced bulbs on the bottom that were close to blooming. I really thought they did not look very good but on a whim I bought it. Now I am very happy because I have a little bit of spring in my house, during our self-quarantine. I saw these at Costco last year and resisted buying it. This year I thought what a perfect receptacle for forcing bulbs. Of course, every fall I buy bulbs and about half the time I never get them planted; now I will have to challenge myself and force bulbs all winter long. Next year... maybe.

Everything is really complicated this spring. The Corona virus has really shut everything down. Just about everything I would normally talk about for April is probably going to be canceled, rescheduled or be on virtual/video.

We had a good February. AMGA had a table at the ABC Conference and it was well attended by Master Gardeners. We had a table at the Mid-town Mall during Fur Rondy, Feb 29th and March 7th. We had plenty of volunteers that interacted with the public about gardening and handed many CES pamphlets. Thank you to all who volunteered. On Feb. 21st there was a forum on "the Future of Trees and Forests." This was organized by Pat Ryan from ABC, AK Community Forest Council, and CES. This was a popular subject for the people of Alaska. There was a huge crowd. There is a plan to have another meeting with the State Association of Foresters in coordination with Arbor Day event with REL. It is tentatively scheduled for May 16, although this time may change due to current circumstances.

The Northwest Flower and Garden Festival was attended by some of our Master Gardeners and they are going to write about it in the next few issues of the newsletter. We made it through February, but March was full of cancellations. The Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners association State Wide conference was canceled, March 20-23. Our monthly meeting on "Yardocopia" by Nick Riordan had to be canceled. Nick Riordan has graciously agreed to write something in this newsletter about his talk. I fear the Garden Show at the Mid-Town Mall may be canceled or re-scheduled. I have inquired but there has not been a decision made at this time. Some of the Garden Clubs have already canceled their tables. The BP Energy Center is closed through April 15th.

Our next monthly meeting is April 20th. If Will Criner from ABC is agreeable we may

have it done online, so most can watch from home. There will be a broadcast e-mail explaining all of this. There is a plan for an Advanced Master Gardening Class taught by Saskia Esslinger, a certified Permaculture Designer and teacher residing in Homer. She believes in the transformational effect gardens can have on people and the planet, and she is doing her part to cultivate a garden revolution. Classes were to start in April and May, but are postponed for now. We will keep you informed of when we can try to have these classes. Thanks to Fran Pekar and Emily Becker for all their hard work in putting this together. Thanks to Saskia for understanding the difficulty with scheduling.

Elaine Hammes, Jan Ven Den Top and Elizabeth Norris worked together to make a new Grant and Scholarship application that will be put on the Web site soon.

There are classes and events still on the calendar. I am sure most of these will be canceled, rescheduled for another time, or done on-line. I noticed all the classes that Alaska Mill and Feed had scheduled are not there anymore. ABC is going to try to have classes on-line. Make sure you inquire before you try to attend any of these events or classes.

This is an unusual time in our lives right now. There may be people out there that cannot get to the store or don't think they should go to the store because of their health. We should remain vigilant with our friends and ask if they need help. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. We can all pitch in and go to the store and shop or pick-up medicine. Please ask if you need assistance. Stay healthy and Safe.

Top: Purple basil ready for harvest at Anchorage Greens. They continue to offer greens subscriptions or individual purchase during the Muni "hunker down" period. Check their website for ordering information: <https://www.anchoragegreens.com/> Photo by Emily Becker. Above: AMGA and CES table with volunteers at the ABC spring conference. Photo by Susan Negus.



Inside This Issue...

President's Message
March Presentation Summary,
Yardocopia with Nick Riordan
Herb Study: Perilla and Mayapple
by Elaine Hammes
Treasurer's Report
Bird Chatter
New Views of Garden Containers
by Ginger Hudson
Forestry Webinars
Volunteer Opportunity
Garden Event Calendar
Lend a Helping Hand

AMGA March Presentation Summary: “Yarducopia” by Nick Riordan

Ed. Note: The March general meeting was canceled due to COVID-19. The AMGA board made the decision to protect our membership, some of which are in high risk groups. Hopefully everyone spent the time combing the last pages of seed catalogs, planning their garden designs, and fluffing houseplants for summer. AMGA appreciates everyone understanding, wishes the best for all Alaskan's health and that of their families.

Yarducopia is an organic gardening program operated through Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT). Yarducopia, which began in 2013, emerged out of ACAT's mission and belief that everyone has the right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food. ACAT's first gardening project was a shared plot outside their 2nd Street office building in the early 90s. Today, Yarducopia supports dozens of community, school, and neighborhood gardens throughout the Anchorage municipality.

Our organic gardening program's bread and butter is pairing homeowners who donate yard space and tools with volunteers who want to learn organic gardening techniques. The produce grown is split between homeowner and volunteers, saving ten percent to be given to a charity of their choice.

One fun way to learn more about the program is to listen to some of Alaska Public Media's conversations with Yarducopia participants (<https://media.aprn.org/2016/ann-20160225-07.mp3>) and coordinators (<https://www.alaskapublic.org/2014/07/07/a-fresh-take-on-community-gardening/> OR, <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2014/11/07/more-about-food-security-in-alaska/>).

Yarducopia's model of gardening is not entirely a new idea. Land owners letting others garden their yards is similar to Neighborhood Supported Agriculture, and Yarducopia's neighbor-to-neighbor focus has a great deal in common with many community garden programs across the country. Some of the more unique aspects of Yarducopia are our focus on regenerative, organic gardening methods, and alternatives to the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Our program has gone so far as to organize and promote local and state-wide policy change

regarding pesticide use and the laws surrounding their application (e.g. the 2017 Pesticide-Free Anchorage Ordinance).

The program also focuses on supporting individuals who may not otherwise have access to or experience with gardening or fresh produce. This is built into the program with our pairing up of property-owning and property-less neighbors. We also are partnered with Lutheran Social Services' food pantry to help run the new Spenard Community Garden. As part of that project, Yarducopia hosts a weekly gardening-bee on Thursdays from 4-7pm, where volunteers join community members and food pantry patrons to grow and harvest food from the garden.

Yarducopia also endeavors to support the ever-growing number of school gardens in Anchorage and across Alaska. We're a community partner at Stellar Secondary School starting this spring. We're also especially delighted to have received a Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant for the upcoming summer's gardening at Tudor Elementary School, a five minute walk from our office. We'll be having regular gardening gatherings at Tudor as well, but times/dates are TBD (especially in light of the current health concern).

Please reach out if you are involved in a community or school garden that is in need of support or are wanting guidance on how to create a garden in your neighborhood. We don't have all the answers, but where possible, we're happy to help. For more details on the Yarducopia garden program itself or to sign up your yard or as a volunteer, check out our website at www.yarducopia.org or reach out to me directly.

We'd also love your support with donations. ACAT and Yarducopia are entirely run on local donations and grants. This spring, we'd also love seedlings or propagated perennials that we can plant in our many community gardens. You know what grows well here, so I'll leave

the varieties in your capable hands!

Nick Riordan
garden@akaction.org
907 717 4392

<https://www.akaction.org/>
<https://yarducopia.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Yarducopia/>

Above and left: volunteers and gardeners at the Spenard Community gardens, a Yarducopia project.
Photos courtesy of Yarducopia's facebook page.



Herb Study: Perilla (Shiso) and Mayapple by Elaine Hammes

Two of us were ready to lead discussions at the March 13 meeting, but were wondering if anyone would actually show up. Beginning the next day all meetings at the Loussac Library had been cancelled, and soon after that the Anchorage libraries were completely closed. Yes! About a dozen people did arrive and had an enjoyable discussion of Perilla and Mayapple, two interesting plants that grow in ABC's Herb Garden. The next meeting in April will likely not be held in-person, and we are hoping to arrange a video-conference meeting.

Email anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com for more information or to be included on the email list. Stay tuned!

Perilla/ Shiso (*Perilla Frutescens*)

Discussion began with Lisa Weikert introducing information on *Perilla Frutescens*, commonly called Shiso, Perilla Mint, Chinese Basil and also known as "the beefsteak plant" due to the deep red leaves resembling raw beef. Examples of the colorful varieties include plants with green leaves, red leaves and leaves with green on top and red underneath.

Perilla is an annual plant that can reach one to three feet high and is in the Lamiaceae, or mint family. Perilla is said to bloom with white flowers July through August and farther south into October; however, it was noted that no one has seen it blooming in the Herb Garden. The self-pollinating seeds can be planted directly or started indoors. The plants grow best in full sun in dry to medium soil and are heat and drought resistant. Tips of stems can be pinched to keep plants compact and to promote bushiness. It has also been observed that they are the first plants in the Herb Garden to wilt when the slightest frost occurs.

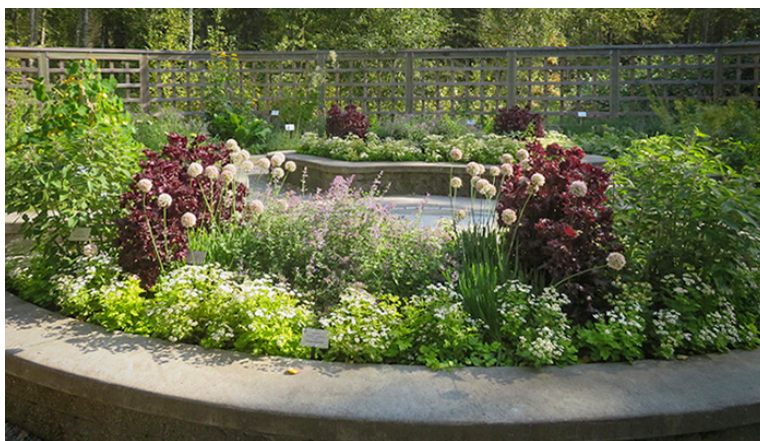
Caution should be taken when touching the leaves. A severe rash may occur to sensitive skin. It has been reported that people who

make perilla oil over time have developed dermatitis. Perilla is toxic to livestock, and goats, horses and cows have been found dead after eating perilla. It grows wild in Tennessee, Mississippi, Indiana and other states and measures are being taken to eradicate it from pastures.

Perilla leaves are used in Chinese herbal medicine to treat a variety of ailments such as asthma and seasonal allergies. Raw leaves are also used as a possible antidote for food poisoning after consuming raw fish. Perilla seed oil is said to improve heart health. The oil is also used commercially in varnishes, dyes and inks.

Shiso (another commonly used name for Perilla) is a culinary herb native to and widely used in Asia. The leaves and flowers are both edible, with a minty, basil-like flavor. Fresh leaves are used in salads, soups and garnishes. The leaves can be eaten raw with sashimi and barbecued meats or frozen for future use. It is also used as a flavoring in teas. The plant's powdered seeds add a nutty, milky thickness to soups, stews and vegetable dishes.

Perilla has been used successfully for several years in ABC's



Herb Garden as a contrast in color to a variety of other plants in the North and South Beds.

Herb Study group member Michelle Semerad evangelizes pesto made with perilla. She demonstrated her mix a few years ago at an ABC Harvest Day event.

Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

The second topic was the Mayapple plant, led by Elaine Hammes. It is an herbaceous perennial with other common names:

Top: Purple shiso/perilla. Above left: In addition to being useful, perilla makes a dramatic dark contrasting ornamental. Photos by Mary Contrary.

(Herb Study, Mayapple continues next page)

AMGA Treasurer's Report, February 2020

By Nancy Grant

Balance 02/01/2020

Checking S-88	\$17,083.96
Savings S-1	5.25
Savings S-19	\$16,868.97
CD Education 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	\$5,348.13
CD General 2yr.	
1.95% (1/21)	<u>\$10,452.48</u>
	\$49,758.79

Revenue:	
Interest/Dividends	\$2.68
Membership	\$363.02
Donations	<u>\$500.00</u>
	\$865.70

Expenses:

Operations	\$171.99
Outreach	<u>\$78.00</u>
	\$249.99

Balance 03/01/2020

Checking S-88	\$17,696.99
Savings S-1	5.25
Savings S-19	\$16,871.65
CD Education 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	\$5,348.13
CD General 2yr.	
1.95% (01/21)	<u>\$10,452.48</u>
	\$50,374.50

(Herb Study, Mayapple continued from page 3)

American mandrake, wild mandrake, and ground lemon. It is widespread across most of the eastern United States and south-eastern Canada. Though the common name is Mayapple, it is the flower that appears in early May, not the “apple”. The fruit or “apple” (about the size of a very small crabapple) is produced in early summer and ripens later in summer.

Mayapple plants are common in moist shady situations. They have been used medicinally and are also grown as ornamental plants for their attractive foliage and flowers. Flowers are quite showy, but usually hidden by the umbrella-like leaves. They are woodland plants, typically growing in colonies with several stems growing from a single creeping underground rhizome; some stems bear a single leaf and do not produce any flower or fruit, while flowering stems produce a pair or more leaves with 1–8 flowers in the axil between the apical leaves.

Mayapple grows in average, medium moisture, well-drained soil in part to full shade. It prefers rich, moist, humusy soils. As with many of the early spring wildflowers, it goes dormant in summer. Seeds should be planted immediately or they will need to be treated (cold-moist stratification for three months). Seedlings take several years to mature. The easiest way to propagate is by root division while the plant is dormant. Divide the rhizomes in fall with at least one bud. Mayapple is one of the understory species that indicates a habitat suitable for ginseng.

The unripe green Mayapple fruit is toxic. The ripened yellow fruit is edible in small amounts, though when consumed in large amounts the fruit is poisonous. The rhizome, foliage, and roots are also poisonous. Mayapple contains podophyl-

lotoxin, which is highly toxic if consumed, but can be used as a topical medicine. The rhizome of the mayapple has been used for a variety of medicinal purposes, originally by indigenous inhabitants and later by other settlers. The drug has long been used by the Native Americans as a vermifuge and emetic.

Podophyllin, a crude resin obtained from the rhizomes and roots, was subsequently employed as a purgative, but usage declined, until in 1942 podophyllin was recommended for the treatment of venereal warts. Since then, extensive research has led to an appreciation of podophyllum’s antitumor properties, and the development of successful anticancer agents.

In 2018, the Mayapple plant in the Herb Garden produced one stem with two attractive leaves hiding the one lovely white



flower. In 2019 two separate stems with one leaf each was produced but no flower. Shirley Mathews planted this Mayapple that was brought to the Herb Garden in approximately 2013. We look forward to seeing how it grows in 2020.

Resources:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/podophyllum-peltatum/>

<https://wimastergardener.org/article/may-apple-podophyllum-peltatum/>

Top: Green shiso/perilla.

Below: Mayapple growing under angelica.

Both images taken in the Herb Garden at the Alaska Botanical Garden.

Photos by Mary Contrary.



Perky Costco forced-bulb tulip package. Get the story on page 1, “President’s Message.”
Photo and grown by Susan Negus.



Providence hospital mask guide:

<https://www.providence.org/lp/100m-masks>

Alaska Native Medical Center will accept homemade masks to hand out to visitors and low-risk patients. “Some barrier is

better than no barrier.” ANMC will launder the masks before use. Accepted at 4315 Diplomacy Drive from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday. Learn more and find a link to a mask-making video: <https://anthc.org/homemademasks/>

Home made masks as seen on an ANMC facebook post:
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/ANMCtoday/posts/>



Bird Chatter

COPING. . . Well...FERTILIZER!! (Ginger won't let me say what I really mean) There isn't anything new to say about what we're all going through. "This too shall pass" about covers it. Just a couple of thoughts:

There is still a need for face masks – including ones that don't meet medical staff specs but work well for cashiers in stores, delivery people, Jane Q. Public who needs to pick up a prescription or restock food (using curb service, we hope). There's a massive organized effort on Facebook called Alaska Mask Makers. You can find out how and what to do through them. A better way to go is to call Gina Docherty, who as of today is having some success getting supplies and coordinating efforts. Call – or e-mail her at docherty@alaska.net.

These masks are easy to make. If BC can do it, anyone can.

Most of us are probably doing this, but if not, make it a point to call or e-mail members you know – even slightly, just to check in and see that no one has been dangerously (or depressingly) isolated by the hunker-down. A lot of us are in the dangerous age zone and should be taking serious precautions. People who are used to being self-reliant don't easily ask for help. Let's keep an eye on each other!

OK, ENOUGH... Snow is melting – almost gone in places. The Earth is reappearing, and wow, do we need her! No one will be waiting until mid-May to plant. Since not all of us grow all of our own, BC checked with local nurseries to see what's germinating:

Bell's – expects to have most of the usual plants available by mid-April. BUT that depends on how Alaska Airlines is flying. Their supply of 4-paks comes in by air. Stefan said they'll try to shift to FedEx if necessary but nothing is certain. Good news is, their fuchsia and geraniums are ready, he said. As for "hunker-down" shopping options, they're going to see how things develop before attacking that problem. Check with them for updates.

P&M – Karen at the retail outlet reports they're on schedule with planting. Geranium, begonia and 4" fuchsia are ready and she anticipates the usual will follow as normal. "We're still getting all deliveries," said General Manager Deborah Bacho. They're doing spraying and bleaching but know some customers won't want to come into the greenhouses to shop so are planning an on-line ordering and pick-up service. "We are going to make it work," Bacho said.

Mill & Feed – They put out an announcement that includes the following:

- Call the store and pay ahead for curb-side pick-up. The Mill 907-276-6016.
- Order online for Home Delivery. www.alaskamillandfeed.com
- If you don't see something on our website, please call us! We are happy to help you!
- You can still come in and shop for the essentials!
- We are doing extensive cleaning multiple times a day.

See the rest of the announcement on their Website.

Perennial Gardens – Closed. Check Facebook or 688-2821 for new information.

Dimond Greenhouse – No response by deadline.

NORTHERN NOTE ... This from the much-missed Julie Riley, still in Fairbanks instead of here where she belongs:

**“Celebrate National Volunteer Week,
April 19-15, 2020.**

Pat yourselves on the back for all the great work you do. The Independent Sector, an advocacy group for the charitable sector, calculates the value of a volunteer hour in Alaska to be worth \$27.88. That tallies up to \$1,115 for 40 hours of Master Gardener time! Volunteers make a community a better place.”



Finally, BE WELL! BE SAFE!!!





New Views of Garden Containers

by Ginger Hudson

a row. Pat is obsessed with sedums and tufa troughs are a perfect container for the myriad species. He teaches tufa making workshops at ABC for adults, but mostly for the Junior Master Gardener program. Tufa is not hard to make because, as Pat said, “it’s not rocket science.” 1-part Portland cement, 2-parts each peat and perlite or vermiculite, then add water until squeezing a handful barely lets out a drop. Pat entertained and educated the crowd with tid-bits like: Portland cement is named after the man that discovered the use of the material; the tufa troughs have lasted through years of winters at ABC; and ended with his guitar serenade, “Dirt made my lunch.”

What could be an easier way to plant than keeping your plant in its nursery pot?! Cachepots have been utilized to hold planter pots since time immemorial. The concept is to place your potted plant inside another larger pot. Most of the time the outside pot is oversized so bricks or rocks are stacked in the bottom of the larger pot as a base for the smaller pot, raising the smaller one to the rim of the large one.

But let’s say you don’t want a single pot, you want a row of plants, maybe a border or something that can be assembled and moved easier. The wood “crate” planters in the photo here were made to accommodate 5-gallon nursery pots but could be made to hold any size—since you would be making them yourself. In traditional cachepots, the surface may be covered with green or Spanish moss to make a false soil level that spans the plant pot to the inner edge of the cachepot. In the sample seen at the NWFGF, the designer placed decorative river stones on the soil surface and didn’t hide the idea that they were not actually planted in the wood holders. The stones serve two purposes: aesthetics, and to shade the soil thus reducing evaporation.

(continues next page)



Sometimes, when you are so close to a subject it is hard to see the new. Yes the plants were fun to marvel at, yet knowing few on offer at the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival would grow in Anchorage, I sauntered on to search out other flashy items. Containers caught my attention partly because I knew Pat Ryan would be demonstrating tufa troughs, but also because there were some interesting uses of plants in nursery pots, and a new product stood out for its self-contained inventiveness.

Made from recycled plastic, the *vegepod* planting container is designed with a sort of perforated shelf. The soil with plants sit on top of the shelf, the water stays below—for long periods of time so watering is not a chore, and it has a mister built in. The sturdy hoop protects the plants from potential pests, as well as possible damaging frost to extend the growing season. As I stood listening to the young man pitching the show sale price, another viewer asked, “Is it bear-proof?” What are the odds? Apparently bears are an issue in areas surrounding Seattle. The vendor responded, with all his youthful knowledge, “In the years I’ve been selling them I have not heard of a bear getting in one,” matter-of-factly.

The *vegepod* seems like a convenient system for apartments, small houses, condos, limited spaces. Not only is it a sizable, light-weight system, when the optional legs are added, the planting area is brought up waist high—for most folks. With space underneath, like a table, there is room to sit, for walkers, and wheelchairs.

If you really want to get your hands dirty, try building tufa troughs. Pay Ryan, Education Specialist at the Alaska Botanical Garden (ABC), presented on the DIY stage for the second year in



Top left: vegepod, a self-contained planting unit for small spaces or to raise bed height. Left: Pat Ryan of the Alaska Botanical Garden on the DIY stage at this year’s Northwest Flower and Garden Festival demonstrates making tufa troughs. Above: Nursery plants in wood case containers cachepot style. Top right: Culverts made in Anchorage can be used as planters. Photos by Ginger Hudson.



For many years I have been admiring a collection of metal culvert planters on a certain corner in Airport Heights. One AMGA member has some in her garden which she opened up to a tour—back when Julie Riley was still in Anchorage. Culverts offer a variety of sizes and heights, you just order the size you want—and they are made in Anchorage! The folks at Contech Construction Products have been working with landscapers and gardeners for years and are quite friendly. Side note, the zinc used to galvanize the metal most likely comes from Red Dog mine located in north-west Alaska between Kotzebue and Kivalina. Supporting Alaska business all the way through the cycle.

Resources

vegepod, <https://vegepod.com/>

Contech Construction Products, <https://www.conteches.com/>

Alaska Rock Garden Society, also holds regular tufa making workshops,

<https://www.akrockgardensociety.org/>

Free Forestry Webinars by Emily Becker

Hi friends, with time at home, we have opportunities to expand our education in new ways. And guess what, there is more to be found on the interweb than facebook and youtube tutorials! Many states have robust extension services that post research, recipies, classes, and webinars. Recently I watched a great, free, live, online seminar on biochar!

Poking around the website, I found that they, Forestry and Natural Resources, Southern Region Extension from North Carolina, record these webinars and offer them free on-demand. There are over 700 right now! Lots of cool topics—most are forestry related but still lots related to gardening and ag science.

The seminars are usually an hour, and after watching you can print out a Continuing Education credit, CEU, certificate.

The most recent live webinar of interest to Alaskans was March 25, “Soil Management for Community Trees.” The next live webinar of interest to us is April 14, “Biochar Production Technologies.” It’s at 7am AKST, but seriously, what else do you have to do? The advantage to tuning in live is you can ask a question of the presenter.

Here’s a list of the previously recorded webinars:

<http://www.forestrywebinars.net/previous-webinars>

Check it out!

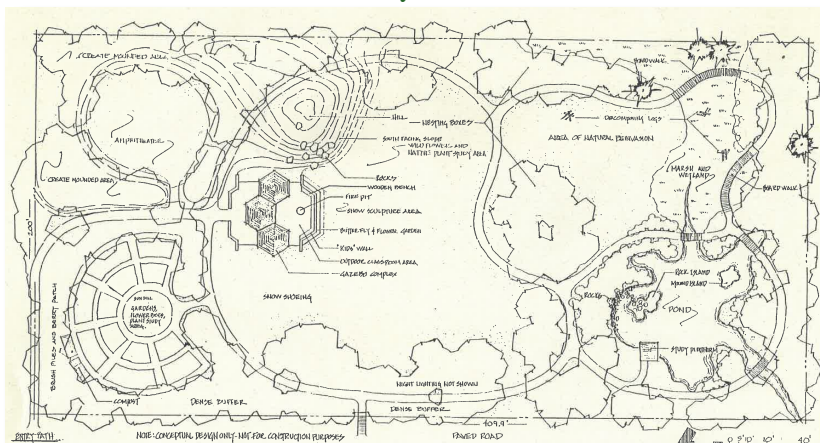
If you have any sources you feel of value to AMGA, send them to: newsletteramga@gmail.com



VOLUNTEERS 4 GARDENS

Polaris K-12 School is looking for a volunteer May 4-20 to help with their spring intensive classes.

Below is a sketch of their schoolyard habitat.



They are looking for people who can coach kids in plant spacing and soil dynamics, give their experiences with gardening, or just work side by side with students of all ages as they develop a plan for how to make the habitat beneficial and useful for all animals who saunter, fly, or run through.

If interested, contact Jessica Winn: winn_jessica@asdk12.org

You know you are going to want to get out and garden for your community after being inside so long!



April 2020 Garden Event Calendar

NOTE: All events subject to cancellation or rescheduling due to active Covid-19 threats. Please check group websites or other social media to find out if there are alternate arrangements to events. Mayor Berkowitz has extended the "hunker down" order through mid-April. Remember to follow Muni and State regulations for travel and meetings.

Meetings and Events

April 2, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club, 7p-9p. "Basic Soil Care." ***normally held at the Pioneer School House, Anchorage, cancelled***.
alaskagardenclubs.org

April 6, Monday

Alaska Native Plant Society, 7p-9p. Anjanette Steer presents "The Flora of Sheep Mountain." Rosaceae: Tom Choate presents Dasiphora (shrubby cinquefoil). Alpine Beringian Endemics: Beth Baker presents *Rumex beringensis*. ***Normally held at the Campbell Creek Science Center, this month's meeting will be virtual*** aknps.org

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association, 7p. "Basic Seed Starting" by Deb Blaylock. ***Normally held at Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, Palmer, cancelled***. See their website for current info. matsumastergardeners.com

April 7, Tuesday

Eagle River Garden Club, ***canceled*** See their facebook posts for tips and techniques during quarantine:
<https://www.facebook.com/greatereaglerivergardenclub/>
alaskagardenclubs.org

April 7, Tuesday

Valley Garden Club, ***Normally meets at First Baptist Church of Wasilla, cancelled*** See their facebook page for updates and tips: <https://www.facebook.com/valleygardenclub/>
valleygardenclub.com

April 5, Sunday

Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, ***Normally meets at Diamond Green Houses, cancelled*** See their facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/Cook-Inlet-Bonsai-Study-Group-297304983635946/> Email Paul for more info: pmarmora@aol.com; Put "Bonsai" in subject line. alaskabonsaiclubs.org

April 9, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club, 10a-12p. "What it Takes to Beautify the Alaska State Fair Grounds," by Becky Myrvold, State Fair Head Gardener/Horticulturist. ***Normally held at Central Lutheran Church, Anchorage, cancelled***
wildflowergardenclub.org

April 9, Thursday

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association. 7p-9p. ***Usualy at BP Energy Center, cancelled*** www.apfga.org

April 10, Friday

Herb Study Group, Noon-1:30p. Topic is "Basil". **CES Learning Commons, Loussac Library, Anchorage. **cancelled***
For info, e-mail to anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com

April 11, Saturday

Garden Show at the Midtown Mall. 10a-5p. ***cancelled, let's hope it's rescheduled!!!***

April 19, Sunday

Homer Garden Club, 2p-4p. Aspen Suites Hotel, Homer.
HomerGardenclub.org

April 20, Monday

AMGA Monthly Meeting at 7p. *No Munch and Mingle*. "Division, the long and short of it." by Will Criner from ABC ****May be an online meeting.**** Will be announced on Broadcast e-mail.
BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage.
alaskamastergardeners.org

April 22, Wednesday

Alaska Botanical Garden Annual Meeting with guest speaker Jeff Lowenfels. 6p-8p. ***canceled, will be rescheduled*** See their website for updates: alaskabg.org

April 28, Tuesday

Alaska Orchid Society, 6:30p-9p. The Basics of Growing Orchids with Wayne Toups. Location BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Ct., Anchorage. akorchid.org

May 7, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club, 7p-9p. "The Cooperative Extension service." Pioneer School House, 437 E. 3rd Ave. Anchorage.
alaskagardenclubs.org

May 10, Sunday

Mothers Day in the Garden, 11a-3p, Alaska Botanical Garden, Free to mothers and members, \$5 nonmembers.
4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd., Anchorage. alaskabg.org

April 2020 Garden Event Calendar

Classes /Workshops

April 3, Friday

CES First Friday Series, ****Canceled***, check uaf.edu

April 7, Tuesday

Alaska Botanical Garden. 6p, "Beautiful Bloomin' Bulbs" On-line class, registration required to get Zoom link. alaskabg.org

April 14, Tuesday

Alaska Botanical Garden, 6p - 7:30p. "Sow What? Seed Starting Workshop" Online class, registration required to get Zoom link. alaskabg.org

April 22, Wednesday

CES. 6p-7:30p, "Gardens Gardens... Anywhere!" Presented by Gina Dionne. \$25 per person. Register <http://bit.ly/Garden-Anywhere2020> *Check to see if canceled or can view on video * CES Learning Commons, 4th floor of Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St., Anchorage. uaf.edu

April 16, Thursday

Walden Walk, with naturalists Beth Baker and Ute Olsson, Eagle River Nature Center, 11a. One mile walk with stops for reading. \$5 parking. Registration required. Meet at main bldg. 32750 Eagle River Road, Eagle River. ernc.org

Summer Field Courses in Denali National Park

Alaska Geographic and National Park Service will have invigorating field courses this summer. Courses include transportation, overnight accommodations and hearty meals. For more information or to register please visit: <https://www.akgeo.org/field-courses/> or phone 907-683-6432

June 8 -10: Birds of Denali

June 23 -25: Wildflowers of Denali.

June 26 -28: Paleontology in Denali"

July 8 -10: Wolves of Denali

July 29 -31: Denali Large Mammals

August 5 -7: Denali's Mosses and Lichens

August 7- 9: Denali's Alpine Wildlife and Climate Change

August 19 -21: Bears of Denali Conferences

Conferences

July 18-19, Saturday and Sunday

Family Fair in the Garden. Family Programs, games, food and frolicking in the Garden. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

July 18-22

Botany 2020, in Anchorage. Organized by the Botanical Society of America, In association with the American Fern Society, Society of Herbarium Curators, International Society for Plant Taxonomy, and more. ****According to the Botany 2020 website, as of March 25, the organizers are still encouraging attendance. Hotels and airlines have eliminated or made generous change options.* *** For more information: cms.botany.org/home.html

Lend a Helping Hand Editorial opinion

In the spirit of last month's Yardocopia presentation, now let's think of the same concept for those in need of assistance.

Are you healthy, economically stable, and active? Perhaps there is someone or some group to which you can lend your time and energy. Though some restaurants, grocery stores, banks, and pharmacies have set up special shopping, pick up, or delivery options, many in our community live in hard to reach places, live alone, or are unable to drive. Call those you know that live alone and offer to deliver goods to them. Children, grandchildren, and friends, now is a good time to help those access the internet who may have been reluctant previously.

Most health professionals are keeping appointments where needed despite the strain on protective equipment—elective procedures have been canceled. Maybe someone you know needs a ride to the doctor. Be sure to practice proper hygiene, and refrain from helping if you traveled out-of-state and haven't completed your two-week quarantine.

Those of you who may need a helping hand: if you need food, medicine, pet care, or cheering up, please call your friends or neighbors to help. Now is not the time to be stoic or stubborn.

AMGA is, after all, a volunteer organization. We may not be sowing squash or cabbage seeds, but delivering food and saying hello sows health just the same.

Mayor Berkowitz and the team at the Anchorage port have assured us that goods will continue to flow into the state, please heed his request to shop as normal.

Here are some resources:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>

The Muni has links to business open, transportation operations, and more:

<https://covid-response-moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/>

If anyone in your family is pregnant:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/03/22/817801475/pregnant-and-worried-about-coronavirus-how-to-stay-safe-and-make-a-game-plan>

A good video on how the COVid-19 virus hurts us:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOJqHPfG7pA>

If you have more time, the food bank needs help:

<https://www.foodbankofalaska.org/>



Wednesday
April 22, 6-7:30 p.m.
Loussac Library
4th Floor Learning Commons
Gardens, Gardens
... Anywhere
 How to create unique container
 gardens & grow your own food
 anyplace, in any space.

Winter Meetings 2019 - 2020

Watch your email, check our website
 or facebook page, or call a friend
 for meeting status.

April 20 Meeting

Division: The Long and Short of It
 Propagating your favorites
 with Will Criner,
 Horticulturist, Alaska Botanical Garden

May 18 Meeting

Tough Turf with CES Horticulture Agent
 Stephen Brown

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.



CANCELLED

The Spring Garden Show at MidTown Mall Saturday April 11

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

Membership Renewal

Memberships are based on calendar year.

If you have not renewed, bring your cash or check to the next meeting. Or, find a membership form in last November's newsletter and mail to the address below. Or, contact Alexis St. Juliana: astjuliana@hotmail.com

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 DenTop	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:	Susan Negus
Advanced MG:	Don Bladow, 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

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

