

AMGA August Plant Sale cancelled

President's Message by Susan Negus

During this Pandemic it is a relief to spend more time in my garden. I don't need to go out to dinner with friends or go shopping. Just working in our gardens this summer will hopefully keep us all sane and safe. I regret that we had to cancel the Plant Sale. We thought things would be getting better, but they seem to be getting worse. Who knows what it will be like in August? Seems like every week there is a new mandate or new rule. If you need to sell plants you can contact me for some ideas.

Many people are anxious to go out and talk gardening with other gardeners. Many of the volunteer activities are great places to do this and maintain social distancing. Debbie Hinchey still needs help with the Rose Garden on the Park Strip. Contact Debbie at dhinchey@alaskan.com

Organizers at the Pioneer Home could use some more volunteers. Contact Julie Ginder at jkginder@gci.net

We are going to start up "Ask a Master Gardener at ABC" on Saturday, July 11. Visitation at ABC is down 50% from the usual summer. Saturdays are the busiest days. Masks are not required by the visitors, but all staff and volunteers need to wear masks. Look for a Sign-up Genius for this. If you have trouble finding the Sign-up Genius, you can contact me and I can put your name on the list. senegus@gci.net or 227-6288.

Paul Marmora needs volunteers with the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center Garden down in Portage. Have I mentioned what a beautiful drive it is? They have all the rocks positioned. It needs some weeding and then he will lay the ground work for planting. This project is a wildflower garden and he still needs donated plants for: full sun, part shade, shade and alpine plants. Contact Paul at pmarmora@aol.com Put AWCC in the subject line.

I am looking for someone to take over the calendar in the newsletter as a way to build volunteer hours.

I know everyone misses the Garden Tours. We are trying to re-invent the tours for this summer. It's a work in progress at this time. Ginger Hudson would like to film gardens and she can interview as she goes along or just film the garden without the gardener's participation. We are looking for volunteers to let us film their garden. Contact Ginger Hudson at growingtalllllc@gmail.com or Emily Becker at emilyandzeke@yahoo.com

The Calendar looks slim due to many cancellations. CES is planning a series of Harvest subjects for August and September.

Did you know CES is moving? They will be moving July 7 to 219 Airport Drive. They are moving in with Mining and Petroleum Training Services that is also a UAF program. CES is excited to have their own space and can make their own hours. There is also a small classroom. CES is still partners with the Library and we will still be able to use space for meetings. CES will probably be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Master Gardening class is still re-evaluating how to proceed. It may be a Zoom or webinar class. Nothing is final on that yet, but I think they will still have it in a different format from the past.

Nothing is final on the Advanced Master Gardening class at this time either. We are hoping to have it online this fall when we aren't busy with our gardens.

Please let Emily or Ginger know if we can film your garden.

We would love to know and see what you are growing. Show us your garden!!

Stay safe and sane in the garden!!



Top: The trollius cafe. Photo by Ginger Hudson. Above: Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center wildflower garden cleared by Master Gardeners. Paul Marmora will amend the bed in preparation for all those plants people will donate. The Wildflower Garden Club is looking for shade, full sun, part sun, and alpine plants. Photos by Susan Negus.

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The Masked Gardeners. Volunteers on planting day at the Pioneer Home near downtown Anchorage. Photo by Barbara Baker.

AMGA 41 year old Volunteer project: Pioneer Home Gardens by Lynne Opstad and Ginger Hudson

Imagine being able to look out your window, or sit on your patio amidst bunches of blooms and scents from flowers that someone else tends to. This is onw benefit brought to residents of the Anchorage Pioneer Home at 11th and I St. near downtown. The Anchorage Pioneer Home,

built in 1977, was the fourth of six homes developed by the state of Alaska to care for elders. Sitka claims the first

home, established in 1913 when Alaska was a territory. Sitkans realized a home was necessary to care for people who were unable to care for themselves. The Pioneer Home network maintains that mission today: “providing elder Alaskans a home and community, celebrating life through its final breath.”

Judy Christianson, a student in the first Master Gardener class in Anchorage of 78 /79 was the first to work in the Pioneer Home gardens. Judy became aware of budget cuts at the Home which eliminated the original maintenance crew that cared for the garden beds. She saw the opportunity not only to complete her class, but to keep the grounds cheerful for residents. Judy started that first summer on her own. Mary Shier, a student of the second Master Gardener class, 79/80, joined Judy in 1980.

Quickly, Judy and Mary realized they would not be able to maintain the garden beds on their own. At minimum, the nine beds required water every-other day. They called on the Master Gardener membership for summer volunteers. More volunteers meant more happy conversations with residents—sometimes at-length. Though conversations delayed volunteer work, Judy reflects on how nice it was to hear how the flowers brought joy to those living in the Home.

Residents *and* staff love the flowers. Sometimes the plants received a little too much love and occasionally plants were lost. But Judy and Mary knew the healing effects flowers and colors had on the elders. For Judy it was very emotional, she felt many of the people living in the Pioneer Homes are forgotten, or don't have family nearby.

Every February, Judy recalled the mantra: “Let's get busy at the Pioneer Home!” She and Mary planned what colors, what textures, and anything else the gardens needed. They grew most of the flowers from seed on their own at the Pioneer Home greenhouses on the 5th floor roof. At that early stage in the Mas-

ter Gardener organization, it was too expensive to buy flowers. Today the roof contains private gardening areas for residents where they can enjoy a sweeping view of Cook Inlet, downtown Anchorage, and the Chugach Mountains.

Judy organized Master Gardener volunteers to help weed, plant, and water—similar to the process now. She doesn't remember how many years she and Mary worked in the gardens: nineteen or twenty? For all of their time given brightening the lives of others, Judy and Mary received a Presidential Citation in 2010 from President Obama.

Lynne Opstad started working in the gardens around ten years ago after she retired and became a Master Gardener. Lynne moved into a more active management role about eight years ago when Judy and Mary decided to retire from Pioneer Home work. All during Judy's time at the Pioneer Home, she and her husband ran a family landscape business. They both needed to sit back and relax.

Julie Ginder came on shortly after Lynne and remains active in the management and volunteer coordination. Julie is part of a committee of 3-5 people who manages the Pioneer Home project. Erma Macmillan, 00/01 Master Gardener, served as designer from 2015 to 2017. Erma passed the pencil to Ginger Hudson, 12/13 Master Gardener, who has been involved since 2018. Over twenty volunteers work throughout the summer to plant and maintain the gardens.

Design work and ordering from local growers is completed in early winter when orders are required. Materials are gathered beginning in late May and, after hardening off, planted in early June. Although, with the warming climate, the planting date has moved up to the end of May in recent years.

Vivid colors and scents are appreciated by the residents. Over 400 annuals were used this summer with bunches of argyranthemum, cosmos, sinetti, snapdragons, nasturtium, and swaths of lobelia. Tubers of dahlias and begonias donated by Master Gardeners bring pops of color.

The plantings of the Pioneer Home have evolved due to many lessons learned through trial and error. Here's who brought some of those trials to Anchorage. Judy Christianson's father moved to Alaska in May 1951. Judy's mom and five girls flew up in September 1951. Her mom brought two peony roots from Wisconsin. Everyone told her: “They will NOT grow here.” Today Judy has over ten peony varieties in her yard.

Warming weather trends and education through the Master Gardener program has really changed the things gardeners can grow now. The Shamburgs, and the Shiers, owners of DeArmon Greenery, tested plants and gave some away to others to try. Then Sally Arant brought a lot of new products to Anchorage, the most famous being primula. Mile 5.2 greenhouse introduced more new things, especially Asiatic and Oriental lilies.

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The introduction of more perennials has helped reduce the purchases of annuals for the gardens each year. Established plants include several Peonies championed by the early growers; a fat display of Asiatic lilies; anemones, artemesia, astrantia, dianthus, filipendula, grasses, hosta, iris, Maltese Cross, catmint, delphinium, primula, and trollius.

In the summer of 2019, small rock gardens were started in the corner gardens of the driveway. The style should allow some maintenance on these little hot spots for years to come.

This summer permanent timers were installed to maintain a regular watering schedule. Volunteers now focus on weeding and deadheading with only spot-checks for watering. An educational component was added with plant labels this year. Perennial and annual plants are marked throughout the gardens. The labels were the volunteer project of, Lisa, 19/20 Master Gardener.

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

The Pioneer Home gardens mean so much to the residents and their families. For many residents viewing the gardens is one of the brightest spots in their day. Neighbors, and tourists enjoy

AMGA Treasurer's Report, May 2020

By Nancy Grant

Balance 05/01/2020

Checking S-88	\$16,575.46
Business MBR Shares	\$5.25
Business Premium Share	\$16,877.28
CD Education 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	\$5,370.13
CD General 2yr.	
1.95% (1/21)	\$10,503.30
	\$49,331.42

Revenue:

Interest/Dividends	\$2.87
	\$2.87

Expenses:

Grants	\$700.00
Operations	\$149.99
Website	\$175.17
Pioneer Home	\$23.20
	\$1,048.36

Balance 05/01/2020

Checking S-88	\$15,527.10
Business MBR Shares	\$5.25
Business Premium Shares	\$16,880.15
CD Education 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	\$5,370.13
CD General 2yr.	
1.95% (01/21)	\$10,503.30
	\$48,285.93

them too! Every time a volunteer works, they receive thanks and appreciation from numerous people.

We love this project and we love our seasoned and new volunteers! Join us in bringing moments of calm to elders and their families despite the erratic behavior of the state's funding. Volunteers work in teams of 2 each week throughout the summer. Contact Julie at jkginder@gei.net or Lynne at Lynne.Opstad@gmail.com.



The Centennial Rose Garden in the Park Strip, downtown Anchorage. Photo by Ginger Hudson.

Herb Study: Corrections and Volunteer Opportunities

by Elaine Hammes

Mea culpa. I will write the correct email address for the Herb Study Group 50 times. Here are three times because that is how many email addresses for the Herb Study Group were incorrect in June's newsletter.

anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com
anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com
anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com

I'm doubly sorry because the Herb Garden is in need of volunteers to weed and water. The good news with Covid-19 is that we can still play in our gardens. The Pioneer Home downtown and the Centennial Rose Garden on the Park Strip are two other gardens that are in need of volunteers. Even volunteering on one day or one week would be a big help to any of these gardens.

The Herb Garden at the Alaska Botanical Garden has openings for two people on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1-3 p.m. If you do not have an email with the Sign Up Genius for Herb Garden volunteers, please email the anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or call Elaine at 276-4295 (and leave a message if no answer).

The Centennial Rose Garden is in need of volunteers to check on the roses that are beginning to bloom and to continue spiffing it up. Generally speaking, you should be able to find Debbie Hinchey there on Tuesdays from 1-4 p.m. Don't think your time is not going to be noticed—Debbie was working by herself today. Go keep Debbie company! You are welcome to email her at dhinchey@alaskan.com.

The Pioneer Home gardens are planted and ready for volunteers to keep weeds at bay. Check out the gardens at 11th Avenue and I Street to see what kind of fun you can get into. And please do contact Julie Ginder at jkginder@gei.net. There are still openings to sign up for two people for a number of weeks this summer.

There are many more gardens in the Anchorage area that could use your volunteer time as well. Check through the past AMGA newsletters and other gardening organizations to find more gardens you can help out.

And thank you to all volunteers!

Alaska Community Forestry Grant Program Invasive Species Removal



The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the DNR, Division of Forestry, Urban and Community Forestry Program (CFP) have grant monies available to local governments and non-profits to reduce the impacts of invasive tree species in community forests statewide.

Approximately \$20,000 is available for 100% cost-reimbursable grants. Applicants may apply for grants up to \$5,000. These funds will be granted to awardees who have knowledge and commitment to controlling invasive tree species in their communities.

Please submit proposals by July 2, 2020. Please note that these grant monies are intended for tree species other than *Prunus padus*, commonly known as European bird cherry (EBC), chokecherry or mayday trees, and *Prunus virginiana*, commonly known as Canadian red and chokecherry. CFP has a separate grant program available for *Prunus padus* and *Prunus virginiana* control. Eligible costs include activities that demonstrate management options to reduce the impact of invasive tree species in community forests:

- A. Hiring crews or contracting work to treat or control invasive tree species with Integrated Pest Management techniques.
- B. Purchase of materials and supplies for IPM
- C. Tree plantings or other restoration activities.
- D. Using remote sensing methods such as Treeworks, iTree or other GIS methods to map areas of invasive tree species.
- E. Purchase of computer software which will aid in the mapping and reporting of the project.
- F. Equipment rental or lease (leases must be specified in the grant proposal and agreement).

G. Organizing community volunteer tree control events.

H. Other items as determined by the grant review committee.

Grant applications that include partnerships between local governments and local or regional non-profits are encouraged. Grant applications that leverage additional work through in-kind services, volunteer labor, and cash contributions are also encouraged. Management of the grants will be conducted by the CFP. Grants will be awarded for up to three years. Grant awardees will be responsible for submitting a final report.

Email proposal to: communityforestry@alaska.gov

Mail or deliver proposal to:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry
Community Forestry Program
550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

For additional information contact: Josh Hightower Community Assistance Forester: josh.hightower@alaska.gov 907-269-8466 or Jim Renkert Community Forestry Coordinator: jim.renkert@alaska.gov 907-269-8465

Mission of the Alaska Community Forestry Program:
Help communities build effective, self-sustaining community forestry programs with strong local support.
Grants funds provided to the State of Alaska Division of Forestry from the USDA Forest Service.

There's a Lesson in Here Somewhere, Because Most Gardeners Like Birds Too by Marla Williams

A couple years ago, an American robin decided to build her nest on top of a bird house under the eaves of my home. The nest was beautifully woven and offered a commanding view of the backyard.

Interestingly, the bird house itself was occupied by chickadees. The female robin did not seem at all concerned with the smaller birds swooping in and out of their first floor apartment. The male robin, well, he was bothered by everything – including his reflection in my basement window.

The robins raised three clutches in their penthouse nest; four, three and two each. All of the fledglings remained in the nest between 14 and 18 days after hatching. The first nestlings were wing-to-beak for 16 days; by the end there wasn't enough room in the nest so they rotated sitting on the ridge-line of the birdhouse. One of them, I called Brutus, was always pushing and shoving and flapping its wings, sometimes sitting on top of its siblings.

When the foursome fledged, they took flight, one after another, swooping low across the lawn and then up, as if carried on the wind, to alight on a rhododendron.

The second brood stayed two weeks and then took flight. They stayed together in the backyard, sometimes appearing as a squabbling trio on the top tier of the fountain.

The last two nestlings were the most reluctant to leave. Maybe it was the rain that fell day after day. One left on day 17 and the other, after a long night of mournful chirps, left late on the 18th.

Sadly, my husband and I decided to do some research. We became convinced we needed to replace the bird house with a recommended "robin nesting shelf." So that's what we did.

The robins returned this April, flew over to where their penthouse had been, inspected the proper, mass produced shelf – and left.

I later saw them sitting on the railing of the adjacent deck, just staring at the place where their wonderful home had been. After a couple days, they threw a few twigs on the shelf but their hearts weren't in it. They soon abandoned their efforts – and the shelf – for a hanging flower box.

Marla Williams is an award winning Alaska filmmaker. She divides her time between Anchorage and Seattle.

Bird Chatter

BUZZ BUZZ ... Are there an unusual number of hornet infestations this summer? Or does having one just make it seem that way? Member Cheryl Chapman, who lives in East Anchorage, faced an invasion by “the sociable little stingers ... colonies of them had set up suburbs under the front porch next to the door.”

“I didn’t want commercial death sprays because children and pets play on that porch and the hornets do good garden work killing and eating pests,” said Cheryl. “If only they weren’t so hot-headed!”

The solution? An old-fashioned remedy: “A tablespoon of peppermint oil (She got hers at Natural Pantry) to three cups of water and a hand sprayer ... I sprayed down the area in the early morning cool while the myriads slept in,” she said.

“It turns out wasps and hornets really can’t stand it. They’re all gone, plus, the porch smells incredibly good” she said. But she warns: “This may not repulse all hornets at all times in all places. Be cautious.”

BARK BARK ... Last month’s warning about Mayday trees elicited a question: How do you tell a Mayday from other trees with green leaves and white flowers? So, back to arborist Nickel LaFleur:

Two types of Mayday, or European bird cherry, are the problem in Southcentral, says Nickel. They both have flowers shaped like lilac. Check the bark, she says. The *Prunus padus* has gray bark. Birds eat the cherries, then poop them out, all nice and fertilized and ready to grow. This is the most common variety.

The *Prunus virginiana*, aka red choke cherry, found along Lake Otis heading south near Abbott, gets pretty red leaves, kind of autumn-like.

Want a cherry tree? Nickel recommends an Evans Cherry – some believe Evans trees were handed out to Alaska pioneers. Nickel got hers at Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers. Also try Gary Masog, she says.

LICK LICK ... Well, not anymore, thank goodness. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a new stamp, featuring photographs of 10 great American gardens. The stamps are unusually lovely, given the panoramic views squeezed into the tiny format. Included are Winterthur, Dumbarton Oaks, some BC hasn’t heard of plus five botanical gardens, mostly from the East Coast.

Definitely worth asking for the next time you have to stock up.

CLICK CLICK ... The Facebook page for the Matanuska Experiment Farm promises something called “Walkabout Wednesday,” live every Wednesday at 2:15 p.m. Farm Director Jodie Anderson walks around a section of the operation and talks about something they’re doing. It’s unscripted and production values are selfie-like, but the one I saw featured what may be the biggest field of sprouting rhubarb, possibly, on the planet. Which really excited Jodie. Fun.

BYE BYE ... Stay safe!



Two of the new American Gardens photo stamps. Courtesy of Cheryl Chapman.



Mother Bee Hard at Work

Leaf cutter bumble bee, *Megachile* sp. Photo by Fran Durner.

Master Garder Fran Durner captured an image of one of Alaska’s native bumble bees in her garden. Bumble bees like this leaf cutter bee, possibly *Megachile latreille*, are solitary and the female may nest in the ground, in existing holes in trees, or in cavities of rotting plants. Pieces of leaves are used to line the nest and cap the larval cell. An internet search reveals photos of exquisitely crafted natural tubes. Bees are important pollinators, especially of Alaska’s native berries. There are believed to be forty-three species of bees in Alaska, several types are: bumble-bees, leaf cutters, sweat bees, mason bees, and carpenter bees.

Find more information from these resources:
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Council publication:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcseprd1361251.pdf

Research of species of bumble bees in interior Alaska:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4426341/>

Leaf cutter bees in North America:
https://www.natureserve.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/web_-_leafcutter_bee_report_brochure.pdf

An exhaustive paper on leaf cutter and mason bees of Canada and Alaska with species key and photos:
http://biologicalsurvey.ca/ejournal/srpg_18/srpg_18.pdf

July 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 daily changes. Remember to follow Muni and State regulations for travel and meetings.

Meetings and Events

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Thursdays this summer

"Thursday Picnic in the Garden," 6-8p. Registration and payment required, sign up on-line. starting at \$55. Catered by Middle Way Café. 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

Alaska Garden Club, annual picnic 6p-9p.
alaskagardenclubs.org

July 7, Wednesday

Wildflower Walk and Talk-Field Trip, 10a-12p. Field Guide is Amelia Walsh, Artic Valley. Members only, *Amelia is requesting a minimum of 10 people to hold the hike, join and register by July 1.* for info: <https://alaskagardenclubs.webs.com/wildflowerclub.htm>

July 11, Saturday

Palmer Midsummer Museum Garden and Art Faire, 10a-6p. Downtown Palmer. A fun event with live music, gardening, plants, nurseries, vegetables, arts and crafts vendors. Workshops and Garden tours. May be toned down this year due to Covid-19 palmergardenandart.org

July 12, Sunday

Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, 1p. "Nursery crawl and what to look for in pre-bonsai." Will be via Zoom. Info: pmarmora@aol.com; Put "Bonsai" in subject line, or check Facebook for details. <https://www.facebook.com/Cook-Inlet-Bonsai-Study-Group-297304983635946/>

July 19, Sunday

Homer Garden Club Tour **Cancelled**
<https://www.homergardenclub.org>

July 22, Wednesday

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Summer Garden Tour, members only. High Tunnels, Gardens & a Root Cellar and Alpine Plants. To join or for more info: matsumastergardeners.com

July 24, Friday

Alaska Orchid Society, 6:30p-9:30p. TBA, will be a Zoom meeting. akorichid.org

Classes /Workshops

July 1, Wednesday

Zoom: Sitka Outreach Center Garden Happy Hour, 7p-8p. Guest speaker Florence Welsh, topic TBA. 30-minute presentation with discussion after. To register, <https://mailchi.mp/767be0cd1e2e/onlinejune-4191974#SitkaGarden>

Summer Field Courses in Denali National Park

Alaska Geographic and National Park Service have *cancelled the remaining courses for the 2020 season.* For more information or to register please visit: <https://www.akgeo.org/field-courses/> or phone 907-683-6432

July 15, Wednesday

Zoom: Sitka Outreach Center Garden Happy Hour, 7p-8p. Guest speaker Andrea Fraga, topic TBA. 30-minute presentation with discussion after. To register, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/767be0cd1e2e/onlinejune-4191974#SitkaGarden>

August 5, Wednesday

Zoom: Sitka Outreach Center Garden Happy Hour, 7p-8p. Guest speaker Jessie Moan, topic TBA. 30-minute presentation with discussion after. To register, visit: <https://mailchi.mp/767be0cd1e2e/onlinejune-4191974#SitkaGarden>

August 1, 8, 15, Saturdays

"Botanical drawing at ABG," 9:30a-4:30p each Saturday. Join Ayse Gilbert along with ABG staff for an in-depth look at Botanical drawing. Sign up on-line. 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

Anytime: view Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association.

"The Malus Domestica Detectives", Science Friday, "Apples to Apples." <https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/apple-history/>

* Check www.uaf.edu They are always adding more Zoom classes and webinars at the last minute

Conferences

July 25-26, Saturday and Sunday

Alaska Garden Clubs State Convention, online. Hosted by the Anchorage Garden Club. <https://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>

July 2020 Garden Event Calendar

July 27 - 31

Botany 2020, Virtual conference. By the Botanical Society of America, In association with the American Fern Society, Society of Herbarium Curators, International Society for Plant Taxonomy and more. **NOTE: originally scheduled to be held in Anchorage, it is tentatively rescheduled for 2022** For more information: <https://2020.botanyconference.org/>

September 12 - 17, 2021

International Master Gardener Conference 2021 in Norfolk Virginia. <https://www.internationalmastergardener.com>

Plant Sales

All summer: ABC Plant Sale. Order plants online with curbside pick-up or walk into the nursery. 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

August 8, Saturday

Anchorage Master Gardeners Fall Plant Sale, **Cancelled**
Contact Susan Negus for ideas of ways to sell or distribute your plants: senegus@gci.net or 227-6288

Weekly Gardening Opportunities

Herb Study Group: Work at the Herb garden at ABG throughout the summer. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, there is a sign-up Genius. If you don't have the Sign-up Genius contact Elaine Hammes, marye.hammes@acsalaska.net Check in at ABG office and take a radio. Two people at a time with social distancing and need to wear masks. 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage.
anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com

Alaska Rock Garden Society: Maintenance at ABG Rock Garden. 2 people at a time with social distancing and need to wear masks. Contact ARGS volunteer coordinator Kathy Swick, swick@alaska.net or 907-258-6678
4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

*Note: • To volunteer at ABG you need Bear Awareness training by Stacey Shriner

Palmer Visitor Center Rock Garden: Maintenance on Thursdays-Volunteers needed throughout the summer. Contact Jaime Rodriguez: jrtinker@mtaonline.net
907-355-2463

Accepted Materials ✓



Not Accepted



Reminder: The Alaska State Fair is canceled this year

However, the fairgrounds continue to offer pop-up drive-in movies (even in Alaska summer!) and food truck carnivals.

You can find more information on their website:

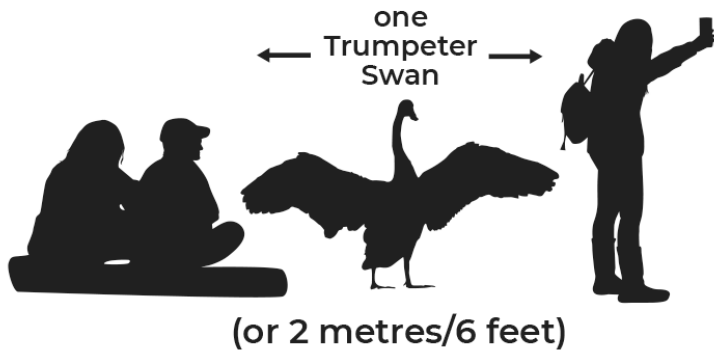
<https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/2020-alaska-state-fair-update/>

Community Compost is now Open!

Exchange your kitchen scraps for compost at Anchorage Solid Waste Services and disposal sites. For more information including types of materials to compost and hours of operation visit:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/SWS/Recycling/Pages/CommunityCompost.aspx>

What does physical distancing look like?



Please stay at least one Trumpeter Swan wingspan away from others, but also remember to physically distance yourself from all swans. In April, water birds need a safe place to rest and feed on their journey north. If they change their behaviour, you're too close.

Yukon



Volunteers get the added benefit of learning from each other as they spruce up the Pioneer Home Gardens. Photo by Ginger Hudson.

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.

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

Summer Garden Tours

Keep an eye on your inbox for notifications of tours: some virtual, some by invitation, or in person. We hope!

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

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

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

Email: newsletteramga@gmail.com

Newsletter Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting an item for publication in the following month's edition of the AMGA newsletter is the 20th of every month. Items arriving after this date may or may not be included.

Educational or garden related articles, Bird Chatter, calendar items and announcements are always welcome.

AMGA Web Site: www.alaskamastergardeners.org
Facebook: facebook.com/Alaska-Master-Gardeners-Anchorage

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

