

State Fair Cancelled for first time since 1942!!!

President's Message by Susan Negus

May and June are busy months for gardeners. So much to do and so little time. Even with the pandemic I feel overwhelmed. It is nice to be outside and in the garden. Although I could do a little less weeding. I have spent a lot of time pulling grass. How does it get there? I have gravel around all my raised beds. That is one of the most commonly asked questions "How do you keep grass out of the garden?" If anyone has a good answer let me know. In the mean time I will just keep pulling it out. I get really excited when I pull out lots of roots, but I really don't think it makes that much difference because I did not get all of the roots.

Then there is the Equisetum. Marilyn Barker thinks it is a very interesting ancient plant. I would find it more interesting if it wasn't so thick in my garden. Then there are always other weeds that are trying to masquerade themselves as a real useful plant. Just all part of gardening.

The Covid-19 Virus continues to impact our lives and it looks like our Governor wants us to go back to business as usual. Things may be lightening up, but they can quickly revert back. Nothing is for certain these days. We have canceled the Garden Tour for June. We have some interest in doing Zoom garden tours. It won't be the same as everyone getting together, but I think it will be interesting listening to a gardener talking about their own garden. Everyone has their own ideas on what works and what doesn't. This will be another interesting experiment. These will be sent out on broadcast e-mails the week before.

There have been few plant sales. I have heard the nurseries have been doing really well this year. Seed companies have been running out of their stock. Some people have been innovative by selling plants on Facebook and Google Group. If you would like to sell left over plants on our Facebook page, contact me and I can try to help.

Paul Marmora has had a good May selling plants out of his yard. June 6, Anchorage Garden Club is having an innovative plant sale by offering plants over one week (with special precautions). ABG is selling plants on-line with curb side pick-up. I bought some plants from them, more than I should have. The plants were delivered to me by Will Criner, with mask on. Those plants exceeded my expectations. They were much bigger and healthier looking than I thought.

Selling plants is one of the few ways that ABG will gain income this summer. Maybe that is why I rationalized buying so many plants. Now I look at their web site and they have even more plants on sale. It is so tempting, and it supports the ABG.

Our AMGA Plant Sale is still scheduled for Saturday, August 8.

We will reevaluate at the end of June and make a final decision.

Volunteer opportunities may be slimmer this year due to the Pandemic. Someone could take over doing the monthly calendar and get volunteer hours. If interested, contact me, Susan Negus senegus@gci.net. The Ask a Master Gardener at ABC table is on hold until July; we will re-evaluate then. Emily Becker put a slide show together about the different volunteer opportunities. This was before the Pandemic, but I am sure groups still need help. The slide show is posted on CES Facebook for Volunteer hours, along with all the contact information. The Rose Gardens on the Park Strip need more volunteers. They meet on Tuesdays at 1-4p. If interested, contact Debbie Hinchey dhinchey@alaskan.com. She thought after the first meeting that you could make your own hours.

School Gardens have been approved and will need planting and prepping; contact Emily Becker, emilyandzeke@yahoo.com. I expect the Alaska Wildlife Center will need volunteers to build a native plant garden. Contact pmarmora@aol.com

IMPORTANT: *The State Fair has been canceled this year.*

Hope these opportunities give people ideas for volunteering. Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center and the Native Plant Society are requesting donations of native plants for the gardens they are working on.

We are planning on having the Advanced Master Gardening class on-line this fall. The topic will be Permaculture. We think we will be able to reach more people by doing it this way.

ABG is in a tight spot this year with not many options for income. Stacey has set up Sign-up Genius for the Herb Garden, 2 people at a time, 1-3p, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. To get the Sign-up Genius information contact peggye@gci.net. There are many openings so far. If interested in volunteering in other gardens contact

Stacey at ABC. You need orientation to work in the gardens. ABG will be open this summer but the public bathrooms will be closed.

I hope everyone is staying safe and enjoying being in their garden. Good luck with the weeding.

Top: *Pulsatilla*, pasque flower in the Herb Garden at Alaska Botanical Garden. Photo by Mary Contrary.

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AMGA May Meeting Notes: Tough Turf with Steve Brown, CES

AMGA President, Susan Negus opened up the meeting which was held via Zoom due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. She mentioned that there are still volunteer hours for the new MG class and for existing members, for a list see her President's Message on page 1 of this newsletter. Volunteer opportunities may be modified to meet current CDC, state, and local guidelines regarding the pandemic. She also mentioned that a decision will be made soon whether the 2020 State Fair will proceed this year. Known cancellations due to the pandemic are the June 2020 garden tours. The Alaska Botanical Garden will be open but the bathrooms will remain closed and it will be treated as a "trail head" with a fee box and self-guided. The Advanced Master Gardener course will likely be held online in the form of Zoom or other remote access tool; details are being discussed soon. Susan then turned the meeting over to the presenter:

Mr. Steve Brown with the Cooperative Extension Service.

The presentation was divided into four main topic areas:

- (1) What to Plant, (2) Establishing a New Lawn,
- (3) Lawn Maintenance, and, (4) Lawn Diseases.

What to Plant

Luckily in Alaska we have a limited selection of varieties which will successfully grow in different regions of the state. The two most common grasses are Kentucky Bluegrass and Red Fescue. These two are often blended together in mixes at different ratios in order to adapt to a variety of growing conditions.

Kentucky Bluegrass is a turf forming, sun loving, high traffic grass which tolerates acidic and alkaline soils. It does have high nutrient requirements and needs to be fertilized annually. Recommended varieties include "Nugget", "Merion", "Park", "Fylking", and "Common". Nugget is the most coveted, can often be hard to find, and buyers should read labels carefully because Nugget is also a brand name. It is often not planted alone because it is not very shade tolerant.

Red Fescue is moderately tolerate of shade, requires good drainage, lower fertilizer requirements, moderately drought tolerant, and cheap; however, not the best for high traffic areas. The most recommended variety is the "Arctared" which is cold tolerant and hearty.

Another variety seen in the state is Perennial Ryegrass, which acts as an annual in Alaska. It's often used as a "nurse" grass as it will germinate rapidly and provide protection for Kentucky Bluegrass and Red Fescue seeds which take longer to germinate. Compare the germination times between the three: Perennial Ryegrass germinates in as few as 7 days; Red Fescue germinates in 2-3 weeks and Kentucky Bluegrass germinates in 3-4 weeks.

Kentucky Bluegrass and Red Fescue are often mixed into recipies suitable to different regions of the state. In general:

- 40% Kentucky Bluegrass & 60% Red Fescue (shadier lawn locations or North of the Alaska Range)
- 60% Kentucky Bluegrass & 40% Red Fescue (sunnier lawn locations or South of the Alaska Range)
- No seed blend should contain more than 25% Perennial Ryegrass

Establishing a New Lawn

All good gardeners know to test the soil! Testing the soil allows you to determine the type and frequency of amendments to help build up fertility and structure of the soil underneath your new lawn. Surface preparation may include loosening compacted soil; removing gravel, rocks and roots; fill in low spots; slope/grade away from the house

1-2-inches; rake the surface.

Note, if bringing in manufactured top soil, it often has poor soil structure and will settle. At a minimum you need 4-6 inches of healthy topsoil underneath a lawn.

When seeding, broadcast 50% of the seed first and then broadcast the other 50% at a 90° angle to the original broadcast direction, then lightly rake into the top quarter inch of soil. Mulch with certified weed-free straw or burlap mulch. Water daily for the first 10-20 days and don't let the top of the soil dry out before seeds start to germinate. A light application of water multiple times a day is the best when first establishing a lawn. Once the lawn is established it's best to water infrequently but deeply.

General seed application rates include the following:

- Kentucky Blue Grass – 2.5 to 3lbs / 1000 ft²
- Red Fescue – 3.5 to 4lbs / 1000 ft²
- Kentucky Bluegrass 40% / Red Fescue 60% – 3.5 to 4lbs / 1000 ft²
- Kentucky Bluegrass 60% / Red Fescue 40% – 3 to 3.5 lbs / 1000 ft²

Lawn Maintenance

In terms of mowing, its best to never cut more than 1/3 of the leaf blade during each cutting as a way to minimize stress to the plant. Blades should be clean and sharp as to minimize leaf blade damage and introduction of disease elements. Kentucky Bluegrass can be trimmed to about 2.5 to 3.5 inches and Red Fescue to 2 to 3 inches.

Steve noted that he's often asked about mulching or bagging the leaf blade clippings and his advice is to mulch the cuttings North of the Alaska Range and to bag the clippings South of the Alaska Range.

One pro-tip was is to let the grass grow longer in the Fall and then trim to normal height during the last cutting before the snow falls. Another pro-tip, if you do mulch, don't mulch the last cutting/mowing of the season; rather, leave a clean top to the lawn.

Lawns require regular fertilization, often with commercially available fertilizer formulas. Steve recommended the following generic fertilization schedule:

- May – 5 lbs / 1000 ft² of 22-11-11
- June – 5 lbs / 1000 ft² of 22-4-4
- July – 5 lbs / 1000 ft² of 22-4-4
- September – 5lbs / 1000 ft² of 8-32-16

Thatch control is a real issue. Thatch is a layer of living and dead grass stems, roots and leaves which develops underneath the grass blades and above the soil surface. A small layer of thatch is normal but anything greater than 0.5-inches is considered excessive. Causes range from too much nitrogen, not enough nitrogen, taller mowing height, and poor aeration. Thatch can be treated/prevented by proper aeration, power rake and hand raking to break up the thatch layer. Weed Control – a vigorous lawn will out compete weeds! That said, there are alternative to treating a lawn for weeds including reducing compaction of the soil underneath the lawn, increase mowing height, pulling weeds by hand and by using herbicides. There are a variety of pesticides on the market with the three main types being "broad/wide spectrum", "germination inhibiting", and "non-selective." Treatment with herbicides depends on the type of weed and site specific condi-

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tions for your lawn. Do some research and consult a professional as needed to determine the type of herbicide to safely treat your situation.

Lawn Diseases

Lawns are susceptible to many plant diseases and Steve discussed a few of the most common encountered in Alaska.

- Powdery Mildew – this appears as a white powdery growth on the leaf blades. It often occurs in humid and shady areas of the lawn. It doesn't overly adversely affect the grass but it unsightly. This is often cured by improving drainage and air circulation.
- Gray Snow Mold – this is a form of blight. It causes dead areas and often occurs in areas with cold, wet depressions. Preventative measures include mowing in the fall to remove excess vegetation and don't provide nitrogen after 15 September.
- Fairy Ring – fungus! This is a nitrogen fixing fungus which is unsightly but won't kill your lawn. The best defense is camouflage..... fertilize the rest of the lawn and the fairy ring will blend right in!

- Leaf Blight – causes the leaf tips to turn brown and can kill large patch of lawn. There is a granular lawn fungicide which can treat this.
- Red-thread Fungus – happens when there is too little nitrogen in a lawn.
- Dog Urine – not a disease but does kill the grass and is un-sightly. Perhaps a sacrificial corner of the yard for the pooch to do their business?

With no significant comments or questions the meeting was adjourned. *Thanks to Beth Norris for transcribing the meeting.*

CES Publication contains Steve's presentation "Establishing and Maintaining a Lawn in South Central Alaska" Pub. no. HGA-00045

Download is free:

<http://cespubs.uaf.edu/?subtopic=Horticulture%2520and%2520Home%2520Gardening>

Herb Study: Summer Plans with Will Criner of ABG by Elaine Hammes

The scheduled Herb Study Meeting was held May 8 through Zoom with many thanks to Gina Dionne, CES Program Assistant for setting it up. Will Criner, Horticulturist at ABG, provided an overview of the current status at ABG. Subsequent to this meeting, ABG has announced summer hours at the gate and on their website at www.alaskabg.org beginning May 30.

ABG has already received some plants that were ordered for the Herb Garden. There are some new additions! Our many thanks to Cathy Sage for her volunteer work beginning with the Herb Garden design through annual planning and generally managing many Herb Garden activities over the years. We wish her the best of retirement.

The current plan is to have volunteers, two at a time, to address both Covid-19 and possible wildlife issues. The next Herb Study Group meeting will have a volunteer orientation from Stacey Shriner, Education Coordinator at ABG. All who want to volunteer should contact ABG for orientation if they were unable to attend the Herb Study meeting on May 22. Volunteers who have completed ABG orientation should schedule their days and times on the Sign-Up Genius list through the Herb Study email.

ABG volunteers (with their masks) will meet a staff member at the entrance at their scheduled volunteer time to check in, borrow a radio, and for any other needs. Volunteer times that can be scheduled through Sign-Up Genius as of this writing are MWF, 1-3pm. ABG will let the Herb Study Group know of any updated methods for volunteers to sign up and schedule work times in the Herb Garden.

The main task for volunteers has been cleaning up winter debris from the Herb Garden: cutting down any remaining dry plant material from last year, cleaning up other debris and taking compostable material to a tarp for ABG staff to pick up. Weeds and non-compostable materials should be bagged separately and eventually put in trash. Watering has already been necessary and depending on weather will be needed throughout the summer. Volunteers should bring their own tools as much as possible for Covid-19 reasons: gloves, trowels, cultivators, whisk brooms, bags for trash, buckets to hold compostable material (to

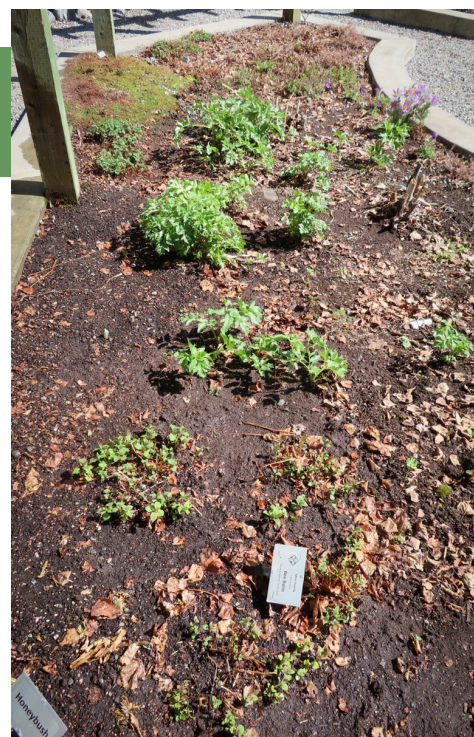
dump on tarp), rakes, pruners, etc.

More about planting will be discussed at future meetings. The same Herbes de Provence and Fines Herbes combinations are planned for the round (East and West) beds as last year. Anyone who has plants to give ABG for the Herb Garden should email Will Criner.

Herbs from the Herb Garden such as chives may be used in CSA boxes and/or for food banks as available. The CSA program currently has 12-15 signed up and is nearly full at this time. Lindsay Clark, ABG, will appreciate recipes using foods (including herbs) that are provided for CSA and food banks.

Debbie Hinchey's green-stalked rhubarb (from Spenard) may be a different variety than can be used at ABG. A variety of recipes were noted that could use allspice, cardamom, rather than just cinnamon, and combined with blueberries... mmmmm!

It was decided that the Herb Study Group will have more Zoom meetings due to changing situation with Covid-19. The next two meetings are planned for May 22 and June 5. The need for more meetings will be re-assessed as needed. Anyone who has not seen the Sign-Up Genius list for volunteering or for any other questions should email the Herb Study Group at herbstudygroup@gmail.com and to be included on the email list. Thank you Peggy Cobey for emailing reminders.



Above: Beds greening up in the Herb Garden at the Alaska Botanical Garden. Photo by Mary Contrary.



Centennial Rose Garden: Easy Peasy 1,2,3 Mulch by Elaine Hammes

Abstract:

- 1) Rake out the winter leaf mulch
- 2) Run over the leaf mulch with the mower a few times
- 3) Put the summer mulch back around the rose bushes.

Methods:

Once you have removed the winter mulch that was placed around and in the rose bushes (genus *Rosa*), you should find the black plastic edging around the beds and pull the weeds and grass inside the bed. Prune the bushes back to the line of the edging and put the chopped up mulch back into the beds to improve the water holding capacity, add nutrients, reduce future weed seeds from being established, and easier to pull existing weeds. That's all there is to it!

The Rose Garden was started in 1967 and has had many volunteers supporting it over the years. Debbie Hinchey has been volunteering in the Rose Garden for umpty-ump years (1995) and isn't done yet in the approximately 100 x 120-foot garden. A few years ago, an Eagle Scout candidate built wooden arbors at the north and south entrances. Recently, a grade school aged gardener came to rake leaves and plans to be back again next week. Another garden visitor plans to be back during her lunch hour to help.

Tuesdays from 1 to 4 pm are most likely when you will find Debbie Hinchey mowing mulch early in the season. She also appreciates help from volunteers and enjoys conversations with volunteers and visitors. The garden is large enough that social distancing is not a problem.

Observations:

When the roses are just beginning to bud out as they are now, it is easy to see what is alive and what is not. Also, the weeds are easier to see and grab.

Even if the rose bushes are just leafing out, you can already enjoy another variety of roses



you might not have thought about: primroses (genus *Primula*). These primroses were donated and later divided by Jane Baldwin.

You never know what else you may find when you visit the Rose Garden. One day, hoagie bread loaves were scattered throughout. The same day, divots were found, cut into the lawn between the beds, possibly by someone looking for buried treasure with their metal detector. There may still be a soda can tossed so far into the center rose bed that it will be another day before someone can pull it out from among the thorny branches.

Conclusion:

You are welcome to join in the fun. Wear your long sleeves and bring heavy gloves, pruners, rake, small broom, trash bag, dandelion pullers and bring your gardening tool bucket to enjoy Tuesday afternoons at the Rose Garden. You can also go at other times when you and your own crew want to help maintain this almost "secret garden" on the Delaney Park Strip. You might want to contact Debbie to let her know your intentions and she can help you help our town.



Top: Volunteers perform spring maintenance on a gorgeous May day in the Centennial Rose Garden at the Park Strip in downtown Anchorage. Center three photos: Debbie Hinchey brings last fall's leaves into the paths to mow; mowing leaves to mulch; the fine results. Left: One rose bed before cleaning; above: tidy rose bed after cleaning and mulch. Photos by Elaine Hammes.

Bird Chatter

TRYING FOR NORMAL... BC's annual Valley plant-buying trip happened late last month – despite the general world shut-down. All masked and gloved of course but still a great way to get back in the garden after our endless winter (They're not really eight months long, are they?).

Every nursery and greenhouse we shopped at – Palmer, Wasilla, Chugiak – had the same story to tell: hordes of buyers snapping up everything they had. Still, we were unhappily surprised the following week, during the in-town period of plant-buying, to discover no one had any seed potatoes left.

Mill & Feed said they bought out their supplier and had sold everything. Happily, Dimond was able to re-order but we had to buy 5-pound bags, all the same variety. For those of us who grow spuds in containers and like to buy a few of several varieties, it was a disappointment.

At this dark moment (OK, maybe BC is getting a little dramatic), MG Greg Kalal came to our rescue – luckily he still had several interesting varieties available so all is well. Why, you ask, weren't we smart enough to start with him? Hmmm. Must have been Covid's fault.

THANK YOU... Former MG president Nickel LaFleur, who now lives out in the boonies between Palmer & Wasilla, marked Arbor Day by planting a larch tree to honor long-time member Marge Olson, who died April 12th at age 84.

SAD DUTY... It's horrible to have to recommend killing something as beautiful as a May Day tree in full bloom – as they are now. But it's time to remind ourselves that the *Prunus Padus*, or European Bird Cherry, is an invader, dangerous to our native plants and animals. And they reproduce like rabbits. So please, if you have one in your yard (more likely three or four by now), please get rid of it.

WOW... Queen guitarist Brian May says he hurt his butt gardening. Who knew he was, like, you know, a normal human being?

FUN FAD... In Europe, a "force of rebel botanists" is on a crusade to raise awareness of wild plants growing in urban areas by chalking the plant names on nearby walls, buildings and sidewalks. The often illegal graffiti is meant to highlight the importance of "the downtrodden flora growing in the cracks of paths and walls in towns and cities across Europe," according to one account. The crusade, which began in France, has gone viral – of course. Famous people are posting videos of themselves chalking up names of street flowers, according to The Guardian.

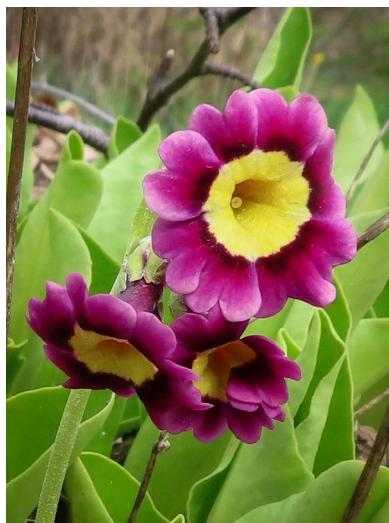
About 55% of the world lives in urban areas, where green is an endangered color. (but not in Alaska – and let's keep it that way!)



The Alaska State Fair is canceled this year—But activities on the grounds continue

The Alaska State Fair in conjunction with CES has made the tough decision to cancel the state fair for 2020. The decision came down to crowd safety. There were just too many choke points, i.e. narrow paths, to meet the state's mandate for distancing, and to keep attendees safe.

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/>



Primula aricula. Photo by Mary Contrary.

AMGA Treasurer's Report, April 2020

By Nancy Grant

Balance 04/01/2020

Checking S-88	\$16,695.70
Business MBR Shares	5.25
Business Premium Share	16,874.51
CD Education 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	5370.13
CD General 2yr.	
1.95% (1/21)	10,503.30
	\$49,448.89

Revenue:

Interest/Dividends	\$2.77
Membership	86.07
Donations	\$88.84

Expenses:

Operations	\$149.99
Website	56.32
	\$ 206.31

Balance 05/01/2020

Checking S-88	\$16,575.46
Business MBR Shares	5.25
Business Premium Shares	16,877.28
CD Education 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	5370.13
CD General 2yr.	
1.95% (01/21)	10,503.30
	\$49,331.42

June 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. Mayor Berkowitz is relaxing regulations, but be mindful of daily changes. Remember to follow Muni and State regulations for travel and meetings.

Meetings and Events

June 4, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club, no time posted. "Decorative Clay Pots, Hands on-Call for material list. Pioneer School House, 437 E. 3rd Ave. alaskagardenclubs.org

June 8, Monday

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association, Palmer Public Library Planting (Note date change)(On Hold). Please check web site for changes. matsumastergardeners.com

June 14, Sunday

Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, 1p. "Saikai." At Paul's house or Zoom pmarmora@aol.com; Put "Bonsai" in subject line or check Facebook for details. alaskabonsaiclubs.org

June 20, Sunday

Alaska Rock Garden Society. Tour of Anchorage Rock Gardens Canceled. Maintenance on Tuesdays-Volunteers needed throughout summer. Contact Kathy Swick for details of how this is going to be done this summer: swick@alaska.net

SAF tree distribution. The 2020. Society of American Foresters Tree Sale distribution date has been tentatively moved back to Saturday, June 20, due to the Covid-19 Virus. This could change. To order trees, go to: Alaska.forestry.org/TreeSale

June, Thursdays

Alaska Rock Garden Society/Palmer. Clean up Palmer Visitor Center Garden, Palmer. Maintenance on Thursdays- Volunteers needed throughout the summer. Contact Jaime Rodriguez to see how this will be done this summer: jrtinker@mtaonline.net

June 5, Friday

Herb Study Group, Noon-1:30p. Topic is "Assessing the ABC Herb Garden". Will be a Zoom Conference. If not on Herb Study email list or for questions, send e-mail to anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or call Elaine Hammes at 276-4295

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

Classes /Workshops

June, 2, Tuesday

"Preparing Your Garden for Soil Planting and Warming Your Soil," 5:30p-6:30p. Webinar Presented by Kenai District Agent Casey Matney. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/200634904076149>

June 3, Wednesday

"Local Wildflower Class". Presented by Marilyn Barker for hands on class learning to identify common plants in Anchorage. Check Web site for more details. 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. alaskabg.org

June 4, Thursday

"Direct Seeding and Transplanting into the Garden," 5:30p - 6:30P. Presented by Kenai District Agent Casey Matney. Webinar, register at <https://form.jotform.com/200634904076149>

June 14, Sunday

Zoom: "Canning Wild Berries," 11a-12p Taught by Sarah Lewis. Zoom: <https://bit.ly/canningwildberries>

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

Dates TBA: Birds of Wonder Lake

Dates TBA: Birds of Denali

Dates TBA: Wildflowers of Denali.

Dates TBA: 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

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>

June 2020 Garden Event Calendar

Conferences

June 26 - 27

Taproot 2020, International Rock Garden Society symposium hosted by the North American Rock Garden Society. This will be a virtual conference held over Zoom. Registration required. <https://www.nargs.org/conference>

July 27 - 31

Botany 2020, Organized by the Botanical Society of America, will be in Anchorage, AK. In association with the American Fern Society, Society of Herbarium Curators, International Society for Plant Taxonomy and more. **NOTE: originally scheduled to be held in Anchorage, this is now an online event.* *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

June 6, Saturday

Wildflower Garden Club, **Note: has been cancelled.* Check web site or Facebook for other events. wildflowergardenclub.org

June 6 - June 13

All week: Anchorage Garden Club, 9a-5p. Check web site or Facebook page 1-2 days ahead for location or alternate details. alaskagardenclubs.org

August 8, Saturday

Anchorage Master Gardeners Fall Plant Sale, 9a-4p. Parking lot across from the Alaska Botanical Gardens. **NOTE: AMGA will assess health concerns in July and may change the plant sale.* alaskamastergardeners.org

AMGA Summer 2020 Grants

The AMGA Grant Committee is happy to congratulate Emily Becker and Don Bladow for AMGA Grant awards. Their applications were received by April 15, 2020 deadline. Emily received \$200 for the Waldorf School middle school students' gardening project to grow and donate plants to clients of St. Francis House food bank at Catholic Social Services. Don received \$500 to help sustain the mission of the Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden to provide fresh produce for Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry, Tudor Road Gospel Rescue Mission, and Bean's Cafe. Planning for another application period is underway will be coordinated with the next Master Gardener class.

Students in the 6/7 class at Anchorage Waldorf School learned how to grow vegetables and herbs from seed. They kept some for their own gardens and repotted others to donate to the St. Francis House food pantry. The plants, including container tomatoes and squash, are donated in pots and do not require transplanting; they are ready to live on a porch or patio! The St. Francis clients are given the plants, a small bottle of fish fertilizer, and care instructions. Members of AMGA donated pots for the transplanting. The \$200 AMGA grant paid for soil and fertilizer. The students also learned how to use straw and brewery waste to mix into their soil.

Don's progress, gardening tips, and more can be seen at his blog: <https://harvestofhopememorialgarden.blogspot.com/2020/05/alaska-master-gardeners-anchorage.html> According to his grant announcement post, the church plans to use some of the funds to construct a hoop house, thus extending their growing season.

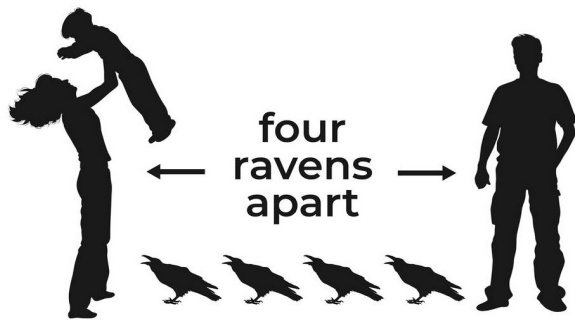
Congratulations to these ambitious gardeners, and know that your generosity is a valuable contribution to help a community in need.



Plants of the Waldorf School project; 7th grader Bryce Herda transplanting. Photos by Emily Becker.



What does physical distancing look like?



(or 2 metres/6 feet)

Based on an average raven's body length. Note that it's very hard to get ravens to line up like this. Add extra ravens if needed to ensure a two-metre distance.

Yukon

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



Primula aricula. Photo by Mary Contrary.

Winter 2019-2020 Meetings End

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

Summer Garden Tours

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



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

