

President's Message by Susan Negus

Once again it has been a beautiful Fall. Hopefully the wind will stay away to keep the leaves on the trees longer. Today was a rather dreary day, so I walked the trails on lower hillside. The colors were spectacular. The trail was speckled with yellow leaves and the dogwood on the sides was bright red. All the shrubs and trees were different shades of golden yellow and bright oranges. I am left with a good memory of fall 2020.

Something I am sad to say, there will not be a 2021 Master Gardening Class. UAF/CES has been telling me all summer they were hoping to have classes in the fall, but once again, because of Covid-19 their minds changed. CES really wants in person classes and according to the recent health regulations, gatherings need to be less than 10 or 15 participants, which will not make it worthwhile for them to hold the classes. They will re-evaluate again in January. There is the on-line class taught by Heidi Rader that holds 25 people and is already filled for 2020. Registration for 2021 will probably start mid-April. www.uaf.edu

We do have the Advanced Master Gardening Class on "Permaculture" to look forward to. As of last week, it was almost filled up. We have Emily Becker and Fran Pekar to thank for all the work they have put into this. See page 4 of this newsletter, priority is given to AMGA members.

We had one brave volunteer for a Zoom Garden Tour. Thank you Linda McCarthy Beckworth for showing us your garden this summer. Fortunately, Ginger Hudson was able to film multiple gardens and put together some great Garden Tours and posted them on YouTube. You may think she is done but she still has several more to post, including one that discusses spruce bark

beetle killed trees and coping with the change. Thank you Ginger for doing such a great job. It really helped to make up for only one Zoom garden tour. Go to: <https://www.alaska-mastergardeners.org> and link to YouTube to see the videos.

I talked with Kathy Liska about the "Harvest Festival." It was a three-day event held over Labor Day weekend. Kathy had six volunteers helping her. The big news: there were five new State

records set. The whole event was held outside. Only 2,000 people were allowed in at a time. I was also glad to hear all the 4H kids were able to show their animals and get awards for all their hard work.

The New Native Plant Garden at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center seems to be completed. Paul Marmora did a great job of getting the rocks placed in such a way to have sun and shade. Unfortunately, children think it is a jungle gym. AWCC and organizers will need to figure out a way to prevent children from jumping all over the garden, maybe a rope fence(?) or just some signs. Great Job Paul, all the volunteers, and thanks to all the people that donated plants. Now all the plants just need to grow and prosper.

The October monthly meeting will go ahead with a different format since we cannot meet in person. You will need a google account to upload photos. It wasn't that hard, I did it! Then drag your photos to: <https://forms.glc/4iEubSEkqgX7DQ539> Please send us about 5 photos of your garden, so we can see all your hard work. If this seems too hard, you can just e-mail myself or Emily Becker, emilyandzeke@yahoo.com

The November monthly meeting has changed. We are working on getting a panel together for "Ask an Expert." Start thinking of questions for the Experts!

We are also looking for new Board members. We will have 4 or 5 positions to fill for 2-year terms. This is a great opportunity to create change in the organization and learn about the different committees. Don't be intimidated by the thought of being on the Board. This is a very organizational opportunity. If interested, contact me at senegus@gci.net or any of the other board members listed in the newsletter.

Time to renew your Membership. Go to the AMGA Website and click on the Renew or Join tab.

You can either print out the form and mail it in with a check or pay on line. In order to get listed in the Directory, we will need your membership to be completed by the second week of January. —Thank you!

Top: *Lilium longifolium* 'Flore Pleno', double tiger lily seen in Faye's garden. Photo by Ginger Hudson. Left: Gina said it was a great year for leeks! Photo by Gina Docherty.



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Longtime Extension Horticulture Agent Julie Riley Retires

[Ed. note: Most of us know and love Julie, and knew she was retiring, and many of us are familiar with her path. Yet she was ruthlessly relocated by UAF to Fairbanks a few years ago, and the pandemic this year compounded desires to attend (or even know about) a retirement party. The following is reprinted from the Tanana District CES Office.]

She has been with Extension in Alaska for 36 years, making her one of the longest-serving agents in Alaska Extension's 90-year history.

Riley came to Anchorage in August 1984 as the newly hired "urban horticulturist." She said, "My first week here frost killed the zucchini and I thought to myself, 'What have I done?'"

Before coming to Alaska, the horticulturist had worked two years for a county Extension program in Wisconsin that encouraged the development of community gardens in inner-city Milwaukee.

She thought a lot of her work in Anchorage would focus on developing community gardens but discovered many already existed. Instead, she found what she calls a wave of interest in horticulture. "There was just this tremendous interest in gardening," she said.

Riley spent 32 years in Anchorage, where she trained more than 1,500 Master Gardeners and advanced Master Gardeners, and, after transferring to Fairbanks in 2016, continued her work with farmers and gardeners.

In addition to training gardeners, she worked with organizations to develop community gardens at churches, elementary schools, housing units, etc. She was also interested in horticultural therapy, and worked with entities including the Salvation Army, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, the Anchorage Pioneers Home, the McLaughlin Youth Center and many other institutions.

One of her best-known projects was a 10-year collaboration with Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services and Catholic Social Services. She coordinated the Refugee Farmers Market Project, providing horticultural and marketing education to Hmong, Bhutanese and West African refugees in Anchorage.

They grew vegetables and herbs on city parkland and sold their produce at a farmers market. Sales reached an all-time high of more than \$12,000, but it wasn't about the money, she said. The project introduced refugees to new vegetables and gardening techniques and got them out interacting with others in the community.

She has developed a loyal following among Master Gardeners. Anchorage retiree Jane Baldwin said becoming a Master Gardener was on her bucket list when she signed up for the training in 1999.

"I really, thoroughly enjoyed it," she said. Not only did she learn a lot more about gardening, "It taught me how to find answers."

Baldwin learned a lot about gardening and also found a community of like-minded people. She is the unofficial historian for the Anchorage Master Gardeners Association and has a whole new network of friends.

She said Julie was good at providing the training at a level people who were not grounded in science understood, and she was always accessible and approachable.

"She's certainly got a heart of gold," she [Baldwin] said.

Riley also became interested and informed about peony production and worked with peony growers. She consulted with them as well as hosted workshops. She also participated regularly in the Anchorage Herb Study Group and Rose Society. She and another agent, Leslie Shallcross, hosted a Potato Bash several years to introduce consumers to more than two

dozen specialty potatoes [grown in Alaska].

After coming to Fairbanks, she has become interested in insects because Fairbanks did not have an integrated pest management technician and she wanted to be better able to answer clients' questions.

Riley has received many recognitions for her work, including the Achievement and Distinguished Service Awards from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The Refugee Assistance and Immigration Service gave her the Guiding Star

(continues next page)



Top left: Julie in 1985, CES photo. Center: Julie pitches potatoes at her Haida potato trial bed in the Alaska Botanical Garden. Photo by Ginger Hudson. Left: Julie, center back leaning in, at the 2016 Alaska State Fair Crops Division (apologies to people who have been cropped out for space). Photo courtesy of Kathy Liska. Page 3 top: Julie receives recognition from the Municipality of Anchorage. Photo by Ginger Hudson.

(Julie, continued from previous page)

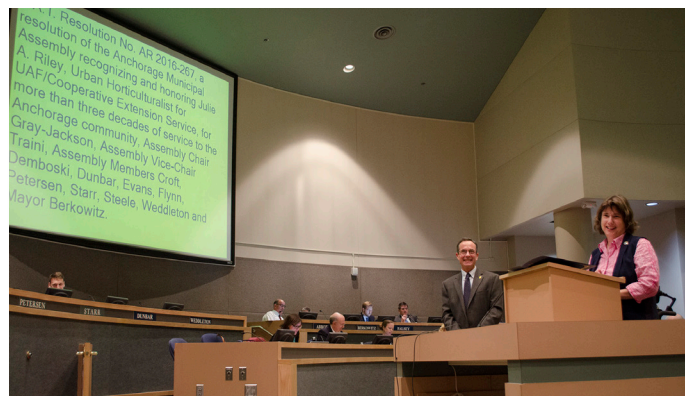
Award on World Refugee Day for her work with refugees, and Bhutanese gardeners honored her, along with the Municipality of Anchorage. The Anchorage Master Gardener Association gave her its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

“Working for Extension has been my life,” Riley said. “It’s been a very satisfying career. I’ve learned so much. I learn something every day.”

One thing she learned from refugee gardeners is that gardening and your approach to it is based on what you grew up with.

“Over the years, I’ve been able to see that there’s more to gardening than just planting vegetables and flowers,” she says. She is also helping to develop leaders. Master Gardener training requires gardeners to complete 40 volunteer hours in the community, and she has encouraged Master Gardeners to become involved with gardener or master gardener associations as officers and to stay involved in their communities. Many have.

Reflecting on her retirement, she writes, “My retirement dream was to be dropped off on an atoll 1,400 miles northwest of



Hawaii where I could pull invasive weeds for six months. I thought this would be the perfect way to decompress after working so long with the university, no Internet, no cell phone and 300 5-gallon buckets of food. Plus as a volunteer, I’d be helping to make Kure Atoll safer for seabirds who used the site UNESCO World Heritage Site for nesting.” Alas, she notes. She is not able to walk 10 miles a day and carry a 40-pound pack.

She wants to learn more about insects and volunteer with Derek Sikes’ team at the University of Alaska Museum of the North.

Herb Study: End of Season and Mulching the Herb Garden by Elaine Hammes

The first Herb Study Group meeting was held by Zoom, Friday September 11, 2020 at 12:00-1:00pm. Due to a required change in links to the Zoom room, the link was changed at the last minute. Please let the group know if the day and time for meetings does or doesn’t work for you, in case a different day and time may work better for most who are interested in meeting by Zoom this season. As in the past, meetings so far are scheduled for the 2nd Friday of the month (noon to 1:30pm) beginning in September and on through May.

The September meeting included a discussion of many garden issues and suggestions for more in-depth discussions: what grew well & what didn’t (especially tomatoes); what to do with old soil (i.e. mix with new soil for next year); garlic classes, planting and storing; collecting & trading seeds; how to use various herbs; using botanical names to clarify names of plants; culinary uses of nettles; and more.

A main topic of the day was mulching in the Herb Garden (more on that was discussed in Debbie Hinchey’s AMGA meeting presentation on mulching). Subsequent to the Herb Study meeting, planning for mulching has continued. ABC has obtained a mulching machine that can be used for leaves as soon

as they are provided for the Herb Garden. Debby Hinchey has a source that will hopefully provide as many clean leaves as needed in the Herb Garden. It is hoped that leaves will be available, mulched and put down on beds soon. Anyone who is interested in helping with this, please contact Elaine.

Barriers to volunteering in the garden this past summer was also discussed—partly due to Covid-19 concerns, to various body aches and pains, and possibly problems signing up using the Sign-Up Genius. If you had problems with signing up, please do let us know so we can get the sign-up process to work better next year. For those who were able to volunteer this past summer, the required masks and limit of two volunteers at a time in the garden seemed to work very well. Those who were able to work in the garden as well as visitors (many local folks) were impressed and thought it looked pretty good!

One decision at the September meeting was to wait until the October meeting to determine topics for the remaining season’s meetings. Please email or bring topics you may be interested in for further discussion and scheduling for each upcoming meeting this winter.

As in the past, the Herb Study Group is open to anyone who is interested in discussing herbs. There are no dues, no membership or other requirements, just your interest in the subject. The corrected Zoom link will be emailed to those on the email list for the next meeting on Friday, October 9. If you are or may be interested, have questions or are not receiving notifications of the Herb Study meetings, please email the Herb Study Group: anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com or call Elaine at 276-4295 and leave a message.

AMGA Treasurer’s Report, August 2020

By Nancy Grant

Balance 07/31/2020

Checking S-88	\$14,522.65
Business MBR Shares	\$5.25
Business Premium Shares	\$16,885.79
CD Education 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	\$5,392.22
CD General 2yr.	
1.95% (1/21)	\$10,554.36
	\$47,360.27
Revenue:	
Interest/Dividends	\$2.87
	\$2.87

Expenses:

Operations	\$160.89
	\$160.89
Balance 08/31/2020	
Checking S-88	\$14,361.76
Business MBR Shares	\$5.25
Business Premium Savings	\$16,888.66
I 60 Certificate 5yr.	
1.650% (12/20)	\$5,392.22
I 24 Certificate 2yr.	
1.95% (01/21)	\$10,554.36
	\$47,202.25

September AMGA Member Meeting Review

The first fall AMGA Membership Meeting was held September 21, beginning at 6:30pm online via Zoom. Gardeners enjoyed catching up with each other before the main presentation at 7p. There were at least 34 attendees, some of whom used sign-in aliases such as phone numbers, email addresses and first names only! It was great to see faces and names of fellow gardeners again after being busy gardening all summer. Hopefully we are all keeping covid-19 at bay.

Susan Negus, AMGA President, gave some announcements on upcoming events. The Advanced Master Gardener class “Permaculture for Alaska Gardeners” will give priority to AMGA members, and more virtual garden tours to come, provided by Ginger Hudson.

Next month the AMGA Membership meeting (by Zoom) will include summer 2020 photos from AMGA members. Each AMGA member is invited to submit five of their favorite gardening photos to the GoogleDocs address: <https://forms.gle/4iEubSEkqgX7DQ539>. Plan to explain your photos in five (5) minutes to allow time for everyone. See the President’s Message page 1 for more info.

Susan Negus introduced Debbie Hinchey who provided the evening’s presentation on mulch, summary here. Thanks to Debbie for sharing her very informative experiences and discussion. Many gardeners will soon be looking for autumn leaves as mulch.

“Mulching: Good for You and the Garden” Summary of Debbie Hinchey’s Presentation

Debbie Hinchey definitely made the case and stated arguments for mulching! She has an Interdisciplinary Masters of Science in Horticulture, and has been a horticulturist for 47 years. Mulching is not a new thing—it is happening in nature all of the time. Mother nature uses mulch in the woods, recycling nutrients from fallen leaves. We can bring this into our gardens.

Two main types of mulching materials are organic and inorganic. Organic mulch includes leaves and other material that has been alive (wood chips, garden debris, chopped stems, etc). Inorganic mulch includes plastic mulches, rocks and fabric.

- Pros:**
- 1) Mulching reduces moisture loss, thus less time spent watering and less water use.
 - 2) There is less splattering of soil-born diseases, and mulching keeps plants clean.
 - 3) Some (not all) mulches reduce weed establishment (weed seedling roots dry out & die before they get down to the soil).
 - 4) Mulch enriches the soil and less fertilizer is needed.

- Cons:**
- 1) Material is not available all of the time. Autumn is best for dry leaves.
 - 2) It takes time to acquire and spread materials.
 - 3) Planning is needed for storage with winter versus summer mulching.

Summer mulching differs from winter mulching, and Debbie refers to Lenore Hedla’s enduring reference *The Alaska Gardener’s Handbook*.

For summer mulching, Debbie mostly puts grass clippings and chopped leaves deeper (2-3 inches maximum) between plants and shallower close to the plant so none is touching the crown of the plant or the trunk of a tree. The mulch needs to be watered to get all of the benefits of nitrogen. Ammonia is the barnyard smell where nitrogen is being lost to the air instead of benefitting the plants.

For planting annuals in the spring, lay out the mulch first and water. Then put the transplants in through spots in the organic mulch layer. Using mulch also appears to keep moss and liverwort from becoming problems. There were photos of areas in the Herb Garden showing mulch used in the Chervil bed next to Chives without mulch and lots of liverwort.

Grass clippings are best for mulch only if there is no weed & feed mixed into the clippings. If weed & feed has been used, do not use clippings until the third week after use. Chopped leaves mixed with grass clippings are even better (both green and brown material). There doesn’t seem to be any difference between cottonwood and birch leaves. Debbie’s definition of “clean” mulch has no weeds or dog poop in it. Chopped garden debris also works for summer mulch.

Summer mulches include wood chips but they often host artillery fungus. Rocks used as mulch with fabric beneath eventually gets dusty, dirty and weeds begin to grow that are hard to remove. Speaking of fabric, Debbie detests landscape cloth! She showed photos and explained how some trees were brought back to good health (from near death) when she removed the cloth and began using mulch. Bark used as mulch is often an unnatural color, needs to be imported, and the small-sized bark blows or floats away.

For winter mulch, wait until the ground freezes before putting leaves on to keep it frozen all winter. The winter mulch can be supplemented with Christmas tree boughs, especially in areas that get less snow or more wind. In spring, take off winter mulch as it melts every few days. Then when the mulch is just dry enough (damp) it can be chopped for use in summer mulch.

Mulch has been used in the Rose Garden since 2009 and the garden has now not needed watering or fertilizing in five years. Mulch can be flattened out and watered in to tidy it up if it looks messy. Grass takes about 21 days to produce seed so grass seeds should not be an issue in grass clippings if the grass is mowed every week. Grass clipping mulch turns brown and looks better than dry soil with weeds or poorly performing plants. There seem to be no more slugs in mulch than without mulch.

Debbie reminds gardeners to pay attention to what works and what doesn’t work in different parts of the garden. Overall, she finds that the pros of mulching greatly outweigh the cons.

Bird Chatter

NEVERMIND... To members fretting over the destiny of edible vegetables planted in the muni beds around City Hall: BC is on the job.

Among the ornamental cabbage etc., members noticed some edible kale in the city garden. When summer fell off a cliff and muni workers started pulling up flowers around town, a couple of MCs wanted to organize volunteer harvesting crews to save the veggies and donate them to the Food Bank. An excellent idea, right?

So BC called muni horticulturist Sandy Potvin, just to clear it. (It's never a good idea to swarm public property and just take stuff. Cops get called).

Sandy was sympathetic to the eco-charity urge, but "No, no," she said. "I don't permit that."

"Harrumph," said BC disapprovingly. "And whyever not?"

"We have no way of knowing what has been deposited in those beds," she said "Let me put it delicately – I know what we have found there and I would starve to death before I ate anything from them."

"Oh, right." said BC. "Good point!"

BEWARE MONSTERAS!...Do you have a *Monstera* filling a pot somewhere around the house? You might want to check it out. The Wall Street Journal says the pandemic (maybe has given rise to an insane rare plant market, where certain varieties are being sold and traded for thousands of dollars – sometimes just a single leaf.

Alas, not the ones we have. Our shiny green leaves – either split or with holes in them, are probably *Monstera deliciosa*. Or another relatively common variety. However, a Portland couple claims to be getting \$4,990 for a Variegated (meaning green and white) *Monstera Adansonii* – four leaves and root!

Ever the skeptic, BC checked Etsy (where anybody can sell anything for whatever) and easily found a claimed *Monstera*

obliqua – a single rooted leaf – for \$2,000. Pardon BC's doubts, but experts say only 17 *obliquas* have ever been spotted in jungles anywhere.

Hey, if you buy this, BC's got a bridge in Brooklyn for sale.

LEAF THEM ALONE... Did you ever wonder who waters the Centennial Rose Garden down on the Park Strip? Or did you prefer not to think about it because then you might feel like you should volunteer to help. Connectees at the September AMGA Zoom meeting were happy to learn the flowers didn't need a hosing. Garden Goddess Debby Hinchey reported she collects leaves, chops them up with her mower, and dumps them on the rose beds. VOILA! The gardens have not needed people watering in years.

GONE BUT NOT... Fans of the Catholic Social Services refugee farm/produce stand in Mountain View will lament its vanishing for the (long, long) winter. But cold weather is time for cooking and CSS is offering a special book of recipes from the gardeners and their friends. "Berbere & Beets: Recipes from Alaska's Refugee Community" includes "62 recipes from 13 countries. Whether it is Somali sambusas made with salmon, Burmese mohinga with halibut instead of catfish, or Nepali curry with foraged fiddle heads, this cookbook tells the story of recipes shaped by the Alaskan lifestyle," says the pitch.

It's due out in late November. Not sure how to get one. Check with CSS.

And btw, how many of you had to look up Berbere (pronounced bear-ber-ay)? BC certainly did. Braggarts who didn't will explain that it's a mixture of Somali spices.

KUDOS... Member's report Don Bladow's Hope Lutheran Memorial Food Garden harvested 70 lbs of turnips – from a SECOND planting! Plus 40 lbs of chili peppers. Way to go guys!



Mock Orange are really getting settled in our region!



In recent years this large, multi-trunk shrub has showered gardens with fountains of flowers and fragrance. Below left: Standing on the second story deck was the only way to render the majesty of Paul Marmora's mock orange. Center: Visitors are greeted by



the slighty orange blossom aroma of mock orange along Faye Stiehm's entry. Photos by Ginger Hudson. Right: Nearly two-stories tall last year and Charles King said it was even taller this year! Photo by Charles King.

October 2020 Garden Event Calendar

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

Classes /Workshops



Tuesday-Saturday September 23-

October 24 @ 10 am – 4 pm Alaska Boo-tanical Garden, Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage Free for members and kids under seven; \$5 nonmembers. [Here is a link to the website.](#)

Mondays, September 30 – November 18 @ 6 - 8 pm
Registration is open for the Fairbanks gardening class. First Presbyterian Church, 547 Seventh Avenue, Fairbanks. [Here is a link to the website.](#)

Thursday, October 1 @ 1 – 2:30 pm

“Canning Meats and Poultry” Learn to use a pressure canner to process meat and poultry in jars. Heat processing low acid foods in jars, botulism, and use and care of a pressure canner will be discussed. Drying meat will be discussed; cutting meat for jerky, marinades, conditioning and packaging jerky, heat treatment methods, and general tips for freezing meat. To register for any of the Food Preservation classes follow this link <https://bit.ly/2CECoOs> Each registration fee of \$5 covers one Zoom connection. Registration closes 4 pm the day before class.

Thursday, October 8 @ 1 – 2:30 pm

“Making Fresh Sausage” Tasty all year round, sausages can be part of a main course or snack. Going through summer into fall brings the opportunity to grow and harvest produce, to fish and to hunt. Julie Cascio, Mat-Su/Copper River Valley District UAF Cooperative Extension agent, will share research-based information on ways to preserve food. Julie presents best practices for yummy products. Methods and supplies for making fresh sausage will be discussed. Offered via Zoom. Each registration fee covers one Zoom connection. UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made five business days in advance to Julie Cascio at jmcascio@alaska.edu.

To register for any of the Food Preservation classes please select this link, <https://bit.ly/2CECoOs> Each registration fee of \$5 covers one Zoom connection. Registration will close at 4 pm the day before the class.



Tuesday, October 13 @ 6 PM

“Virtual Urban Harvest: Earthquake Preparedness” Learn the science behind earthquakes and engage with museum experts who present the challenges of preparing for the unpredictable in Alaska. Refresh your knowledge of how to stay safe in the event of an earthquake and strategize your personal preparedness as it relates to food and supplies. Registration required. \$10, 10% museum member discount. Online class information included in confirmation email upon registration. [Here is a link to the registration.](#)

Monday, October 19 @ 7 PM

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage monthly meeting, members share photos of summer gardens. via zoom. Google email account required [to post photos here.](#) Or contact Emily Becker, emilyandzeke@yahoo.com

Meetings and Events

Thursday, October 1 @ 7 – 9 pm

“Sauerkraut/Fermenting,” Anchorage Garden Club Program. 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. [Here is a link to the website.](#)

Monday, October 5 @ 7 pm

Alaska Native Plant Society monthly meeting, winter announcements and member photo sharing. Via zoom, for information email: dennis.ronsse@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 6 @ 7pm

Monthly meeting of the Greater Eagle River Garden Club at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 18444 Old Glenn Hwy. [Here is a link to the Facebook page.](#) [Here is a link to the website.](#)

Thursday, October 8 @ 10 am - 12 pm

“Building a Water Feature” by Wildflower GC and presented by Marie and Blacky Black in their private home. [Here is a link to the website.](#)

Tuesday, October 20 @ 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Ketchikan Garden Club Program Meeting. Ketchikan Public Library, 1110 Copper Ridge Lane, Ketchikan. [Here is a link to the website.](#)

Wednesday, October 21 @ 12 noon - 2 pm

Fairbanks Garden Club Program Meeting. Members only. [Here is a link to the website.](#)

October 2020 Garden Event Calendar

Online

Garden Tours of Master Gardeners gardens on YouTube. Ginger Hudson is doing this and will keep adding more. As of this writing, there are eleven videos, and they are all wonderful! [Access the channel \(and subscribe\) here.](#)

If you know of events coming up or organizations not mentioned in this calendar, please contact Teresa Stephenson @ stephenson.teresa@gmail.com so she can add it to the list!

A reminder that CES has moved to a new office: 219 E. International Airport Road, Anchorage. CES is only seeing people by appointment during Covid. Check their web site for the schedule: www.uaf.edu/ces.

Warning to gardeners: those seeds arriving across the Lower 48 have gotten to Alaska, [see this article at Alaska Public Media.](#)

If you receive suspicious seeds, contact David Schade, head of the Alaska Division of Agriculture, 907-745-7200, in Palmer.



Visit the new [AMGA youtube channel](#) to see fellow gardeners' landscapes. We may not have been able to socialize in person, but we can still share and learn from each other.

Do you have a fabulous fall garden? Share it! Contact Ginger to arrange for a video walk through. Shy, no, you don't have to be on camera yourself! ginger@growingtall.llc

Community Compost still Open—for drop-off only!

Due to high demand, finished compost is no longer available this year.

Recycle your kitchen scraps at Anchorage Solid Waste Services and disposal sites. Remaining materials will continue to compost and be available in the 2021 season.

For more information, types of materials to compost, and hours of operation: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/SWS/Recycling/Pages/CommunityCompost.aspx>

Advanced Master Gardener Training Permaculture for Alaskan Gardeners



Details

Location: Online via Zoom
Tuesdays, 6-8 pm, Oct. 20th and ending Nov 24th (12 hours total instruction)
You must attend all 12 hours of class, and complete 15 hours of volunteer work to earn an Advanced Master Gardener Certificate. This course does NOT lead to a Permaculture Design Certificate. Class is limited to 50 students, so enroll today!

Sign up Here: <https://bit.ly/2G0Bkq1>

This intensive course will take you on a journey to understand the patterns and principles in nature, and how we can use them to create more abundant gardens that are less toil and trouble. By enlisting the help of nature as our ally, we can create more harmonious gardens that have natural beauty and productivity.

About the Instructor

Saskia Esslinger is a certified Permaculture Designer and Teacher residing in Homer, Alaska. Through her business, Teach Gardening, she has taught over 400 people how to grow more food with less work. A lifelong Alaskan, Saskia grew up in Anchorage eating garden veggies and wild game. 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.

Course Fee:

Priority registration for AMGA members

\$50 for AMGA members; \$70 for non-members

Questions?

Contact Gina Dionne, Program Assistant
Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage Outreach Center
907-786-6313 gddionne@alaska.edu



Summer whites. Left: *Venidium fastuosum*, Zulu Prince or Monarch of the Veld daisy in Catherine's garden. Center: A beauty in the Centennial Rose Garden. Right: *Philadelphus* sp., Mock orange seen in Fran Durner's cottage garden. Common species grown here are *P. coronarius*, and *P. lewisii*. One common variety is 'Blizzard.' There are native *Philadelphus* species across North America. Left and right by Ginger Hudson. Center by Mary Contrary.

AMGA regularly meets at 7:00pm every third Monday of the month, September through May (except for December).

Meetings are held at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage, accessed through the BP tower parking lot, the Energy Center is just south of the main building.

NOTE: meeting location may change

2020-2021 meetings currently being held online

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

Next AMGA Meeting, online

October 15, 7pm. Winter announcements and members share their summer photos. via zoom.

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

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:	Teresa Stephenson
Advanced MG:	Don Bladow, Emily Becker, Fran Pekar
Directory Editor:	Janice Berry
Meetings and other educational programs:	Emily Becker
Garden Tours:	Emily Becker
Google Group:	Mary Rydesky
Managers:	Gina Docherty and Jane Baldwin
Grants Program:	Elaine Hammes
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The Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. Contact the editor, Ginger Hudson, at:

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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.

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