

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Emily Becker

Fall is my favorite season, so I really enjoyed those three glorious days we had from Sept. 17 to 19.

Sure, our first frost occurred at about the average time, but then that impatient rogue, Old Man Winter, arrived early with a snow dump that snapped branches on still-leafy trees.

In a lot of places, the snow didn't even melt. I'll be surprised if we top 50 degrees again this year.

I've been scurrying like mad to get fall chores done before the ground is completely frozen.

It would be nice to have some time to work in the garden without wearing five layers and a winter hat, but this is not our fate.

At least our friends at Yarducopia and Anchor Gardens have created the Midtown Garden Depot to make fall garden work a bit easier.

Located at 2930 Cheechako Street, the Midtown Garden Depot is a place to pick up or drop off pots, mulch and other soil amendments, and more. Check it out! As of now, it is open 24-7 and the signage is very clear, but if there are problems (ie, illegal trash dumping), they will put a padlock on the gate. More information can be found on the [Anchor Gardens Facebook page](#), or give Nick Riordan a call if you have questions.

While there is still much to be done before the season of rest, fall means the AMGA Board has been looking ahead.

First, we are looking for members who would like to join us on the Board! This is a good opportunity for

those who really enjoy being part of this group and have a few hours a month to give to the organization. Nominations are due on Oct. 20, the deadline for the November newsletter, and elections occur at the November meeting. Contact me if you are interested!

We are also planning our continuing education opportunities. We hope to have two spring classes: an Advanced Master Gardener class with Dr. Marilyn Barker on plant identification and a general interest class with Brenda Adams on garden design.

We hope to have more information on dates and times on these classes in a couple weeks.

Finally, we are also looking far ahead. Our Anchorage Master Gardener chapter will host the statewide conference in 2023, and we are forming the planning committee. If you love event planning, this is the job for you.

Our member meetings are back on Zoom. As you may have heard, the BP Energy Center remains closed.

Our October 18th meeting is the annual garden slide show! Submit up to 5 photos [using this link](#). We have space for about 15 contributors, so don't delay! 🌿

IN THIS ISSUE

- » Treasurer's Report
- » September Meeting Highlights
- » Community Grant Report
- » Herb Study: Joe-Pye Weed
- » Coyote Garden Tour
- » Bird Chatter
- » Event Calendar

SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS by Emily Becker

From farmer's markets to micro-farms, Anchorage's urban agriculture scene continues to grow, for the benefit of residents, refugees, entrepreneurs, and hungry people. AMGA Board members Keenan Plate and Nick Riordan gave members a local "urban ag" update at our September meeting.

Grow North Farm: Located in Mountain View, Grow North Farm is Anchorage's largest urban farm, and Keenan is the current program coordinator. The farm's roots can be traced to our now-retired, steadfast UAF Cooperative Extension agent, Julie Riley, who helped found Fresh International Gardens near Mt. View Elementary in 2007 with the cooperation of Catholic Social Services' Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services.



Grow North Farm in July 2021.

The goal of FIG gardens is building skills for new refugees, including entrepreneurship, language skills, and community integration. The program expanded in 2019 with new partnerships, including the Anchorage Community Land Trust, and an additional farm plot on an abandoned lot in the heart of the neighborhood.

The refugee farmers at Grow North now produce weekly veggie boxes by subscription, host a daily farm stand with additional food trucks and hot food to-go, and create and market value-added products, such as traditional spice blends. The program's metrics of success focus on well-being: safety, language practice, nourishment, earning money, and celebrating progress!

Yarducopia: Nick leads Yarducopia, a program of the Alaska Community Action on Toxics. The program matches landowners who have space to garden with people willing to labor for veggies; the participants share

the bounty.

Dozens of small Yarducopia plots are spread across Anchorage. One of the bigger ones, the Spenard Community Garden on W. 33rd, sits next to the Lutheran Social Services food bank, providing food all summer long. Yarducopia also assists Anchor Gardens with the free Midtown Garden Depot, where gardeners can drop off and pick up pots, soil amendments and more.

Riordan highlighted other urban ag projects: the city's traditional community garden plots, the orchard and gardens at the new Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, Stickleback Park on 3rd and Ingra, and more. 🌱

AUGUST 2021 AMGA TREASURER'S REPORT

Balances on 08/01/2021

Checking S-88	\$18,505.84
Savings S-1	\$5.25
Savings S-19	\$16,919.59
CD General 2 year 1.95%; 1/23	\$10,714.47

Total Assets \$46,145.15

Interest/Dividends \$2.87

This month's revenue

Membership	\$100.28
Donations	\$4.86
Fundraising/Plant sale	\$8,281.51

Total revenue \$8,386.65

This month's expenses

Grants	\$0.00
Operations	\$132.00
Website	\$52.99
Plant sale	\$5,255.25
Pioneer Home plants	\$0.00

Total Expenses this month \$5,440.24

BALANCES ON 8/31/2021

Checking S-88	\$21,452.25
Savings S-1	\$5.25
Savings S-19	\$16,922.46
CD General 2 Year 1.95%, (1/23)	\$10,714.47

Total Assets on 8/31/2021 \$49,094.43

Prepared by Jan van den Top on 9/12/21

GRACE CHRISTIAN 2021 COMMUNITY GRANT REPORT

Dear Alaska Master Gardeners, in honor of the grant you provided us with, here is a report of what we were able to do with the generous funds you granted to us.

The soil we had to work with was of very poor quality, filled with rocks, and infested with the dreaded bird vetch. Our garden beds are located on the south side of the school with full sun, far away from the water spigot, so there was very little water pressure for sprinkling. This posed a problem for care of the young plants with all-day Alaska summer sun.

This is why we hired Green Lawn Services to trench a pipe from the spigot to the garden beds and place a permanent drip irrigation system into the beds for us. We thought this was going to be very simple but it was not! Since this building was built in four separate phases and has several energized outbuildings that draw

sifted to take out the larger rocks and hidden trash, and applied compost, organic fertilizers, and mycorrhizae (as well as plenty of turning and raking by my trusty companions) to improve the soil. We got the beds in tip top shape for spring planting.

The seeds, whose cost had been covered by donations from our local Rotary Club, had been growing in our Germination Station in my classroom, and faithfully tended to by our Advanced Placement Environmental Science (APES) Students, who had learned earlier in the year how to appropriately tend seedlings under UV lamps.

We carried the seedlings down for several hours a day until they were hardened off, and planted them May 30. This was a bit earlier than usual but we wanted to be sure that our graduating APES seniors could join in.

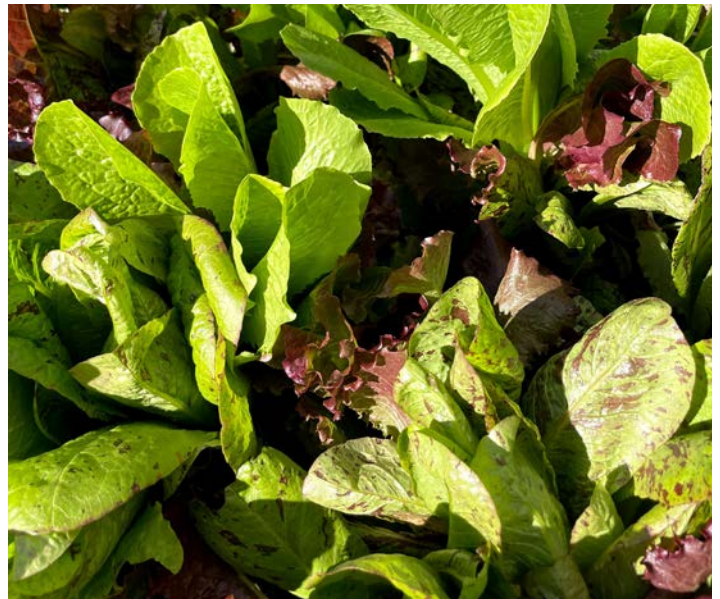


Photos courtesy Heidi A. Tauschek.

power from the main building, there were a plethora of seemingly random energized cables running underfoot that needed to be avoided in the trenching process. We dug here and there only to uncover cables (whoops!) and nobody on site seemed to know exactly where they had been laid.

In the end, we hired GeoTek Alaska to come mark every pirate line found, which left the entire south and southeast lots covered in pink paint.

With heavy weeding, we dug out the roots of the invasive vetch and other unwanted organisms. We



We removed our pests by hand (because beer is not allowed on the school campus, even for beer dishes!) and planned to use Neem oil to combat any other pests, which proved unnecessary.

With help from your grant, we were able to provide the Children's Lunchbox with 50+ cubic feet of harvested produce to feed our city's hungry children. Thank you!

- Heidi A. Tauschek

HERB STUDY: JOE PYE WEED by Elaine Hammes

Eutrochium is a North American genus of herbaceous flowering plants in the sunflower (*Asteraceae*) family. They are commonly referred to as Joe-Pye weeds and are native to the United States and Canada.

Where the name originated and if there was a person named Joe Pye are questions that seem to have no solid answers. Statements on many Internet sites appear to provide unsupported and conflicting information on history and naming.

One of the more detailed references is Pearce, Richard B & Pringle, James S. (2017), titled “Joe Pye, Joe Pye’s Law, and Joe-Pye-Weed: The History and Eponymy of the Common Name Joe-Pye-Weed for *Eutrochium* Species (*Asteraceae*),” published in *The Great Lakes Botanist*, 56(3-4):177-200. ([View article.](#)) *The Great Lakes Botanist* is the peer-reviewed, quarterly journal of the Michigan Botanical Club.

Joe-Pye weeds were previously assigned to the genus *Eupatorium*. Several revisions later, the species are now designated in the genus *Eutrochium* as noted by the Biota of North America Program (BONAP).

The three listed species below are shown on BONAP maps as occurring in more eastern and northern areas of the U.S. and into Canada. These are listed with some common names as identified by Wikipedia:

- *Eutrochium fistulosum* (Barratt) E. E. Lamont - hollow Joe-Pye weed
- *Eutrochium maculatum* (Linnaeus) E. E. Lamont - spotted Joe-Pye weed
- *Eutrochium purpureum* (Linnaeus) E. E. Lamont - sweet Joe-Pye weed, green-stemmed Joe-Pye weed, queen of the meadow, gravel root, kidney root, purple boneset

Eutropium purpureum, *Eutrochium fistulosum* and *Eutrochium maculatum* all appear to have many similar characteristics. *E. purpureum* and *E. maculatum* are often confused or treated interchangeably in the gardening world.

Eutropium purpureum is easily grown in average, medium moisture soils in full sun to part shade. It prefers moist, fertile soils which do not dry out and is

found in open woods, woodland edges, wet meadows and ravines. Plants may bow a bit under the weight of



Joe-Pye weed at the ABG Herb Garden. Photos by Mary Contrary.

the large flower heads, especially after a heavy rainfall. They can be propagated by stem cuttings.

Eutropium purpureum is an erect, clump-forming perennial which typically grows 4-7' tall and features coarsely-serrated, lance-shaped, dark green leaves

Continued on next page

2021 SUMMER GARDEN TOUR Les Brake's Coyote Garden



In July, AMGA members were invited to tour Les Brake's famous Coyote Garden. Photos courtesy Troy Weiss.



Herb Study, continued from previous page

(to 12" long) in whorls of 3-4 on sturdy green stems with purplish leaf nodes. Tiny, vanilla-scented, dull pinkish-purple flowers in large inflorescences bloom in mid-summer to early fall. The seed heads persist well into winter. It is a substantial plant which needs space and when planted in groups or massed can provide spectacular flowering and architectural height such as at borders, in cottage gardens, meadows, native plant gardens, wild/naturalized areas or water margins.

The Cherokee used the ash of purple Joe-Pye weed roots as salt for flavoring foods, and used tea from the plant roots for numerous medicinal treatments. The Ojibwa used a strong tea made of the root as a strengthening wash for infants. The ABG Herb Garden has a flourishing stand of 6-7 feet tall Joe-Pye weeds in the NW bed. 🌿

THE AMGA NEWSLETTER NEEDS EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES THIS FALL! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A SHORT ARTICLE, PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR AT NEWSLETTERAMGA@GMAIL.COM.

Herb Study Group 2021-2022 Plans

The Herb Study Group's current plans are to continue monthly meetings by Zoom at noon on the second Friday of the month, September through May. The following topics are planned with more discussion topics to be determined for the remainder of the season:

- October 8 - ramps, chives, allium coordinated by Marjorie Williams
- November 12 - violets, violas and pansies (The International Herb Association 2022 herb of the year).



Anyone interested in learning about herbs is welcome to send an email to anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com to join monthly (Zoom) meetings September through May, or volunteer in ABG's Herb Garden during the growing season. There are no dues or membership requirements.

OCTOBER 2021 EVENT CALENDAR

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, October 5, 12 pm

Mat-Su Experimental Farm & Extension Center: Let's Talk Potatoes: Are they really good for you? Join Jodie to find out all about potatoes and if they really are as amazing as everyone says!! Bring your potato nutrition questions and we will all find out together if you should eat the skins or not!! Via Zoom. [Register here.](#)

Wednesday, October 6, 12-12:30 pm

CES Anchorage Outreach Center: In the Virtual Pantry: Pickles, fermented foods and flavored vinegars. Grab your lunch and join this bi-weekly series designed for people interested in learning how to preserve their harvest, including canning, dehydrating, and freezing for extended storage. Via Zoom. [Register here.](#)

Thursday, October 7, 12 pm

Mat-Su Experimental Farm & Extension Center: Thermal Controlled Food Storage - Making the Harvest Last. How can you construct a storage area to keep fresh vegetables and fruits from freezing in fall/winter as well as from spoiling during the hot summer? This class will look at building materials for thermal moisture control, ventilation as well as pest control on helping your harvest to last. [Register here.](#)

Tuesday, October 12, 5:30-7 pm

CES Juneau's 'An Extension Kitchen Series: Winter is Coming: Canning Fruit & Berries. Learn to easily preserve high acid fruit and berries in jars, using the boiling water-bath method of canning. Whether it's a bumper crop of apples from your tree, wild berries from the forest, or in-season specials from the grocery store, prepare beautiful jars filled with healthy fruits to keep you happy through the winter. Classes are taught via Zoom by UAF Cooperative Extension Agent Sarah Lewis, from her home kitchen in Juneau to your home kitchen. [Register here.](#)

Tuesday, October 7, 12 pm

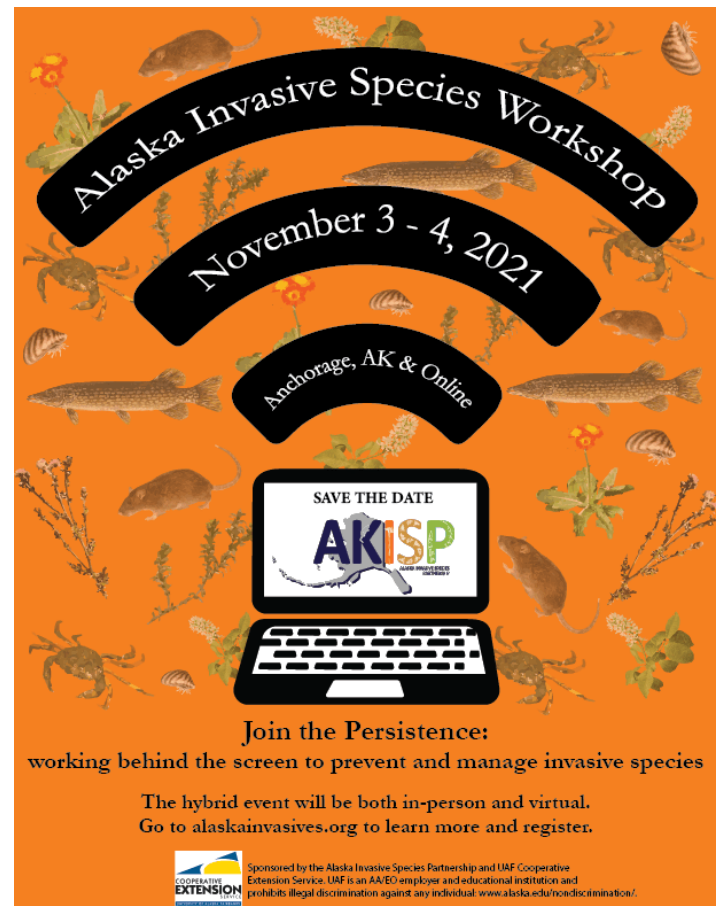
Mat-Su Experimental Farm & Extension Center: Spruce Beetle - Fall Tree Check-ins and Preparing for next season. With the arrival of fall, now is a good time

to check your trees for any signs of spruce beetle to help plan your spruce beetle management for this year and next. Join us October 19th for a webinar about how to check your trees for signs of spruce beetle activity and what to do with your infested trees if you find spruce beetle. Options for protecting your trees for next season and replacing removed trees will also be discussed. Visit [Facebook event page.](#)

Wednesday, October 20, 12-12:30 pm

CES Anchorage Outreach Center: In the Virtual Pantry. Dehydrating fruits, vegetables and herbs for long term storage. Grab your lunch and join this bi-weekly series designed for people interested in learning how to preserve their harvest, including canning, dehydrating, and freezing for extended storage. Via Zoom. [Register here.](#)

Continued on next page



The poster for the Alaska Invasive Species Workshop features an orange background with various illustrations of invasive species including mice, crabs, fish, and plants. A large black banner at the top reads "Alaska Invasive Species Workshop". Below it, another black banner says "November 3 - 4, 2021". A third black banner indicates the location: "Anchorage, AK & Online". In the center, a laptop screen displays "SAVE THE DATE" and the AKISP logo. Below the laptop, the text reads "Join the Persistence: working behind the screen to prevent and manage invasive species". At the bottom, it says "The hybrid event will be both in-person and virtual. Go to alaskainvasives.org to learn more and register." Logos for the Cooperative Extension and UAF are at the bottom left, and a sponsorship notice is at the bottom right.

Alaska Invasive Species Workshop

November 3 - 4, 2021

Anchorage, AK & Online

SAVE THE DATE

AKISP

Join the Persistence:
working behind the screen to prevent and manage invasive species

The hybrid event will be both in-person and virtual.
Go to alaskainvasives.org to learn more and register.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Sponsored by the Alaska Invasive Species Partnership and UAF Cooperative Extension Service. UAF is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual. www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination/

Tuesday, October 26, 5:30-7 pm

CES Juneau: An Extension Kitchen Series. Learn to dehydrate your garden and store harvested vegetables for winter soups and dishes. If you don't have a root cellar or room to store chilled vegetables, dehydrating is a great way to preserve your staple vegetables for cooking favorite meals. Classes are taught via Zoom by UAF Cooperative Extension Agent Sarah Lewis, from her home kitchen in Juneau to your home kitchen. [Register here.](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monday, October 4, 7-9 pm

Alaska Native Plant Society Meeting: 2021 Alaska Native Plant Photo Slide Show. Via Google Meet. [Get meeting link.](#)

Thursday, October 7, 7-9 pm

Anchorage Garden Club: Easy tips for hydroponics on a home gardener scale. Location: Pioneer Schoolhouse 437 E 3rd Avenue.

Thursday, October 14, 7-9 pm

Wildflower Garden Club: Regular Meeting and Program. Featuring a presentation, "Growing Dahlias the Alaskan Way" by Marya Morrow and Garnett Morrow Jr. Presented via Zoom. [Get details.](#)

Monday, October 18, 7-9 pm

AMGA Member Meeting: Member Slide Show: How Does Your Garden Grow? Via Zoom.

JOBS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

RurAL CAP is looking for a Gardening Program Specialist to help support a year-long project to build the capacity of rural AK community gardens. [Read more about the position here.](#)

Alaska Seeds of Change has many volunteer opportunities this winter. Many of their summer interns and employees head back to school in the fall/winter, so it's a good time to step up to help this great organization. Sign up for a shift using [Seeds Sign Up Genius here.](#)

or if it's your first-time volunteering, email volunteer@akseedsofchange.com for an orientation.

Check out a wide range of volunteer opportunities with local garden projects at [Volunteers 4 Anchorage Gardens](#), a list compiled by AMGA and the Alaska School Garden Network.

Did you miss Brenda Adams' "Mastering Garden Design" class? AMGA will offer it again in the fall. [Sign up here](#) to make sure you get the first notice. Please note that this class will not be offered for an Advanced Certificate and will be open to all gardeners.

BIRD CHATTER

Garden book worms It's that time of year when we switch from gardening to reading about gardening ... right? Here are a few books recommended recently by AMGA members:

- *Pastoral Song: A Farmer's Journey*, James Rebanks
- *Gardening Under Lights*, Leslie Halleck
- *The Forager's Book of Flora*, Alan Bergo

Make way for mushrooms Terry Tarner shared that Matanuska Electric recently cleared a lot of brush in her neighborhood. The mushrooms were revealed and was amazing! Lots of shaggy manes this year; awesome to see the growth cycle!

From stem to pit Alan Bergo who wrote one of the books listed above has a blog called Forager Chef. He recently had [an interesting piece](#) about methods around the world for processing the pits and seed of cherries and other fruit rather than throwing them away.

Good news! The pot recycling event held in mid September by Anchor Gardens and Yarducopia at 2930 Cheechako Street will be continued "self-serve" for a few weeks into the fall. Drop off or pick up items you need for preparing your fall garden. Stop on by!

What's new, interesting, confounding and delightful?
Send your bits of interesting garden news to birdchatter@alaskamastergardeners.org.





Bonus photo: Garden art at Les Brake's Coyote Garden in Willow. Photo courtesy Troy Weiss.

AMGA Board of Directors

Emily Becker	President
Troy Weiss	Vice President
Jan van den Top	Treasurer
Beth Norris	Secretary
Kathleen Kaiser	At Large
Keenan Plate	At Large
Nick Riordan	At Large
Faye Stiehm	At Large

Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

Emily Becker	CES Liason
Steve Brown, Gina Dionne	CES Master Gardener Program Liaison
Faye Stiehm	Broadcast Email
Vacant	Calendar of Events
Don Bladow, Troy Weiss, Emily Becker, Fran Pekar, Gina Dionne	Advanced MG Course
Janice Berry	Directory Editor
Kathy Liska, Cindy Walker	Facebook
Troy Weiss	Meetings & Educational Programs
Troy Weiss	Garden Tours
Mary Rydesky, Gina Docherty, Jane Baldwin	Google Group Managers
Troy Weiss, Jan van den Top, Beth Norris	Grants Program
Lynn Hansen, Ruthe Rasmussen, Sharon Schlicht, Wendy Willie	Hospitality
Alexis St. Juliana	Membership Database
Elizabeth Bluemink	Newsletter Editor
Gina Docherty	Website
Lynne Opstad	Lifetime Achievement
Lynne Opstad, Julie Ginder	Pioneer Home Garden
Emily Becker, Keenan Plate	Volunteer Coordinators

Become a Member

AMGA memberships are based on calendar year. If you have not renewed, [you can pay online](#) or you can print and mail [the form on our website](#). Questions? Contact Alexis St. Juliana at astjuliana@hotmail.com

Next AMGA Meeting via Zoom!

October 18, 2021

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Member Slide Show

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

Member Meetings: 7 pm every 3rd Monday of the month, September through May (except December). Meetings are 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. **2021 meetings are currently being held online.** These monthly educational programs are free and open to the public. **Visitors and guests are welcomed and encouraged.**

Board Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month, 6-7 pm, anyone is welcome to observe. Send an email to president@alaskamastergardeners.org for the meeting link.

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

newsletteramga@gmail.com

AMGA, Newsletter

P.O. Box 221403

Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

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 (400-600 words ideal), Bird Chatter, calendar items and announcements are always welcome.

Connect with AMGA

Website: www.alaskamastergardeners.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/Alaska-Master-Gardeners-Anchorage](https://www.facebook.com/Alaska-Master-Gardeners-Anchorage)

Youtube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCvZehJprKkjQzivQvNDKopQ

Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/forum/!fromgroups#!forum/AkMGA>

Mail: 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

