

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Emily Becker

I know it's irritating to talk about silver linings, two years into a pandemic, but it can't be denied: online learning opportunities are here to stay.

The wide variety of garden education offerings is a huge benefit for Alaskans tucked away in their homes for the long winter, unable to dig in the dirt.

How many offerings? SO MANY. A friend and I recently discussed the distinct possibility of "death by webinar."

AMGA has jumped on the trend whole-heartedly, with two online courses underway this spring: "Mastering Garden Design" with Brenda Adams, and an "Introduction to Botany and Plant ID" with Dr. Marilyn Barker. And of course, our monthly member meetings have been online for about two years now.

With so much more to choose from, it's hard to know where to start. Fortunately, there are plenty of Alaska-specific offerings. For example, I watched and really enjoyed the AK Pioneer Fruit Growers ["Soil Basics"](#) program featuring our beloved Jodie Anderson.

A friend recommended the lecture series from the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, including one on ["Pollinators and Other Insects in Alaska's Gardens."](#)

Another friend is really enjoying the free course from UAF, ["Climate Change in Arctic Environments,"](#) about modern climate science and the impacts of climate change across atmospheric, marine, terrestrial and

human systems.

The offerings nationally are insanely good. The Ohio State University has a 6-part series on ["Tending Nature: Native Plants and Every Gardener's Role in Fostering Biodiversity"](#) that comes highly recommended by AMGA member Fran Durner.

I am currently enrolled in ["Teaching in Nature's Classroom,"](#) a free course on garden-based education from the Wisconsin School Garden Network, and it's excellent! They will open another free cohort in May.

The offerings are so limitless we really need curation, so please send along your recommendations and favorites to our Google group! 🌱

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FEBRUARY MEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS by Nick Riordan

For AMGA's February membership meeting, the club was joined by Robbi Mixon, the Executive Director of the Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC).

As the organization's name suggests, the AFPC works on policy issues related to Alaska's food system. This takes on many different forms, like city zoning, SNAP, school nutrition, environmental protection and land management (think farm runoff and soil erosion), and a lot more.

As Alaskans, we're in the habit of importing most of our food, and thus there's a huge economic opportunity to redirect those dollars towards food systems within Alaska. A dollar spent locally bounces around our economy, benefiting more Alaskans.

There are also many reasons to think that access to healthy, nutritious, affordable, and locally grown and harvested food would make Alaskans—out here at the end of a long supply chain—happier and more food secure. The AFPC envisions a strong workforce in AK food-related industries, safe and secure food supplies across the state, a more sustainable food system, and Alaskans engaged in their food system.

You can get involved in AFPC by joining one of the committees or working groups. Topics include advocacy, Indigenous food systems, communications, regional food systems, food waste, and the semi-annual food festival conference. Also, consider attending the AFPC conference which is scheduled for this spring and has a packed schedule, including 70—that's right, 70!—sessions. 🌱

JANUARY 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balances on 12/31/2021

Checking S-88	\$ 24,443.80
Savings S-1	\$ 5.25
Savings S-19	\$ 16,933.77
CD General 2 year 1.95%; 1/23	\$ 10,771.26

Total Assets \$ 52,154.08

Interest/Dividends \$ 2.88

This month's revenue

Membership	\$ 1,320.95
Donations	\$ 140.00
Fundraising/Plant sale	
Advanced M.G. course fees	\$ 400.40

Total revenue \$ 1,861.35

This month's expenses

Grants (scholarships)	
Hospitality	\$ 400.00
Operations	\$ 102.00
Website	\$ -
Plant sale	
Public Relations (State Fair)	
Newsletter	\$ 19.99
AMG speaker fee	\$ 1,250.00

Total Expenses this month \$ 1,771.99

BALANCES ON 11/30/2021

Checking S-88	\$ 24,513.16
Savings S-1	\$ 5.25
Savings S-19	\$ 16,936.65
CD General 2 Year 1.95%, (1/23)	\$ 10,771.26

Total Assets on 12/31/2021 \$ 52,226.32

Prepared by Jan van den Top on 2/10/2022

2022 AMGA GRANTS AVAILABLE

AMGA is offering grants up to \$500 to individuals and organized groups for gardening education or community garden projects.

Applications Due April 15!

Three kinds of grants are available:

- A tuition grant for the CES Master Gardening class
- A community gardening project grant
- A continuing education grant

Visit www.alaskamastergardeners.org/grant-program.html for program requirements and grant application.

GROWING *RANUNCULUS ASIATICUS* IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

by Megan O'Mullane

I fell in love with ranunculus in the spring of 2020 when I was working for Greta Lewanski on her cut-flower farm, Turnstone Farm, in our Airport Heights neighborhood. The ranunculus was blooming ahead of everything else because she had started them so early. They had the same lush, romantic appeal as peonies but were blooming in a far wider range of colors, and I knew I had to try growing them for myself. Last year was my first season growing ranunculus in my own garden and although they took some work, it was worth the reward to see their happy blooms in June.

Ranunculus is a large genus consisting of around 600 species including several Alaskan native wildflowers such as snow buttercup and Lapland buttercup. The variety we are familiar with as an ornamental plant or cut flower is *Ranunculus asiaticus*, also known as 'Persian Buttercup'. They are a tuberous-rooted plant with semi-double to fully double blossoms with multiple layers of paper-thin, silky petals.

Ranunculus asiaticus is native to the Eastern Mediterranean, southwest Asia, and southwest Europe, and is only winter hardy in growing zones 8-11. If ranunculus plants or corms are exposed to temperatures below 25 degrees Fahrenheit, the plant will die, or the corm will freeze and then rot once thawed. In Alaska, ranunculus is an annual, and we need to treat it like a dahlia or anemone by planting the corms in the spring for summer blooms.

Ranunculus grow from corms which look like little octopus. The size of the corm indicates the number of flowers that will bloom, so if you have a choice, choose the biggest corms you can get. The best time to purchase



Ranunculus asiaticus, all photos courtesy Meg O'Mullane

corms is the fall because online stores typically sell them then, when folks in warmer zones are planting them directly outdoors with other bulbs such as tulips and daffodils. If you buy corms in the fall, you can store the corms over the winter and start them whenever you like in the spring. If you wait until spring to purchase corms you may have to wait until May for delivery because vendors may not be willing to ship them until the risk of freezing during shipping has passed.

To figure out what is the earliest date you should start your ranunculus in the spring, I suggest asking yourself when you can ensure your corms and plants will not be exposed to temperatures below 25 degrees. In my garden I use low tunnels over raised beds to get an early start on the season. I also have frost cloth (i.e., reemay garden cloth) that I can blanket over plants during the early season to buffer against cold frosts. This year, I plan to presprout my corms indoors around mid-April, and plant them out into my raised low tunnels at the end of April. If you live in Anchorage and you don't have any raised beds or protection against frosts, a safe bet for a planting-out date is mid-May. If you are curious about historical weather data for your area you can download datasets from NOAA's website for free.



A ranunculus corm looks a bit like a little octopus.

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IN MEMORIAM: BONNIE TISLER & GEORGE PATRAWKE

Two long-time AMGA members, 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award winner Bonnie Tisler and longtime member George Patrawke, have passed away.

According to Bonnie's [obituary in the Anchorage Daily News](#), she was a Master Gardener since 2013 and volunteered thousands of hours over the past decade as the Master Gardener for the Anchorage Senior Center Gardens, overseeing the design and transformation of the gardens into the tour-worthy space that it is today.

When she wasn't playing in the soil in a garden, she could be found playing in a creek, panning for gold.

George passed away at 90 years old, according to his [obituary in the Anchorage Daily News](#), which said he "enjoyed feeding birds around the city, had a vast stamp and coin collection, enjoyed gardening and adored his pet dogs." A U.S. Army veteran, he owned his own business in Anchorage and was a dedicated member of the Pioneers of Alaska. 🌱

Ranunculus, continued from previous page

Once you figure out a safe date to plant out ranunculus for your growing area, you can either wait for that date and plant the corms directly into the garden, or you can presprout the corms indoors two weeks before that date. Presprouting will allow the plants to flower around

moist soil. Leave the corms for 10-14 days. During this time check on the corms every few days to make sure the soil is moist but not soggy and remove any rotting corms. During this time the corms swell to about twice their original size and develop little white rootlets that resemble hair. At this point they are ready to plant in the ground.

If you would like to cut your ranunculus blooms to enjoy them inside, to maximize vase life they should be



Ranunculus shoots coming up three weeks after 'presprouting' commenced.

two weeks earlier than they would with planting directly. Either way you will first need to soak your corms for 3-4 hours in room temperature water. I leave the tap running slightly for the duration to aerate the water. Do not soak the corms longer than 4 hours because this may cause rot.

To presprout the corms you will need a space that is dry, dark, and minimally heated (between 40-50 degrees F). If you don't have a space like this then I suggest plant the corms directly into the garden. If you have the right environment for presprouting (often a basement, workshop space or arctic entry), you can go ahead and fill a flat-bottom seed tray half full of moist potting soil. Then place your pre-soaked corms onto the soil about 1" apart and finally cover them completely with more



This plant was blooming 12 weeks from the date Meg presprouted the corms indoors.

cut when buds are colored and squishy like a marshmallow but not yet fully open. If you cut the stem down at its base it will promote new blooms, and after all that honest hard work growing them, you deserve as many blooms as you can get. 🌱

HERB STUDY: SAGE by Elaine Hammes

The aroma of *Salvia officinalis* (common sage, garden sage, broadleaf sage or just sage”) is of Thanksgiving or other holiday stuffing and meats. It is used in many European cuisines, such as Italian, Balkan and Middle Eastern cookery. *Salvia officinalis* is the major seasoning for Lincolnshire sausages and Sage Derby cheese in England. For generations, sage has been listed as one of Britain’s essential herbs, along with parsley, rosemary, and thyme (as in the folk song “Scarborough Fair”).

Sage is often mentioned as the herb of immortality, domestic virtue, health and wisdom, and it was a sacred ceremonial herb of the Romans. *Salvia officinalis* L. and *Salvia lavandulaefolia* L. have a longstanding reputation as traditional herbal remedies, used in ancient Greek and Roman, Ayurvedic, Native American and Chinese folk medicines.

Several sages are used for smudging to heal and cleanse. These include *Salvia officinalis* and *Salvia apiana* (also called White Sage, California White Sage or Sacred Sage). Additionally, there are several *Artemisia* species termed as sage, including *Artemisia tridentata* (New Mexico Sage) and *Artemisia ludoviciana* (Grey Sage, Prairie Sage, Dakota Sage or Lakota Sage).

Another variety is Dominican Sage (*Salvia dominica*) whose branches are believed to have been a model for the form of the menorah. Menorah salvias available in North America are *Salvia pomifera* and *Salvia fruticosa*. *Salvia fruticosa* is sometimes used in the place of *Salvia officinalis* as a cooking herb.

Salvia is the largest genus of plants in the sage-mint-deadnettle family Lamiaceae, with nearly 1,000 species. Within the Lamiaceae family, *Salvia* is part of the tribe Mentheae within the subfamily Nepetoideae. Another species in this genus used as a culinary

herb is *Salvia Rosmarinus* (rosemary, formerly *Rosmarinus officinalis*).

Sage is a perennial, evergreen subshrub with woody stems, generally grayish, fuzzy pebbly leaves, and blue to purplish flowers. It is native to the Mediterranean region though it has been naturalized in many places throughout the world. *Salvia officinalis* cultivars differ in leaf size, plant habit and leaf color. The purple or golden varieties make good houseplants and are smaller than the green or gray varieties. but the flavor of the leaves is

just as good. Some common cultivars are ‘Berggarten,’ ‘Icterina,’ ‘Purpurascens,’ and ‘Tricolor.’

There are many other closely related species of sage. Clary Sage, *Salvia sclarea*, has many herbal uses and is a biennial or perennial with tall spikes of white, purple, or blue flowers. Painted Sage, *Salvia viridis*, is an ornamental annual with bracts resembling flowers and excellent cut or dried flowers. *Salvia elegans* (pineapple sage) is an annual in Anchorage with pineapple-scented foliage and, in the case of longer seasons, spikes of red

flowers in late summer. Its leaves can be used for teas and in fruit salads. Meadow Sage (or Meadow Clary), *Salvia pratensis*, is native to Europe, western Asia and northern Africa and is widely grown in horticulture, especially *Salvia pratensis* subsp. *haematodes*, which is prized by flower arrangers as a cut flower. Some botanists consider it a separate species, *S. haematodes*.

The website for the National Institute of Health’s National Center for Biotechnology Information provides information on experiments and reviews of clinical trials of *Salvia officinalis* and *Salvia lavandulaefolia*. Comparisons with placebos have indicated significant improvement of cognition in healthy subjects and on patients suffering cognitive decline. However, these promising beneficial effects are inconclusive due to methodological issues, and sage’s promising effects need further standard clinical trials. 🌿



Huge pineapple sage at the Alaska Bontai Garden with golden feverfew and allium in September 2021. Photo courtesy Mary Contrary.

HERB STUDY: NASTURTIUMS & CANARY BIRD VINE

compiled by Debbie Hinchey with photos by Julie Riley

This is a short version of research presented to the Herb Study Group which meets virtually at noon on the second Friday in October through April. There are no dues, just people interested in learning more about plants that have culinary and or medicinal uses. This group is also the group that works in the Alaska Botanical Garden's Herb Garden. For brevity, I have not added the sources for this information so you may contact me if you need it.

The first search on the web for nasturtium came up with watercress! That is when I discovered nasturtium is the generic name for a different set of plants in the mustard family, noteworthy for a peppery, tangy (pungent) flavor and probably how the common name of my target plant was called "nasturtium."



The development of nectar spurs in nasturtium has been controversial.

The nasturtiums discussed in this article are in the genus *Tropaeolum* and are native to South and Central America. The most common are *T. majus*, *T. peregrinum* and *T. speciosum*. One of the hardiest species is *T. polyphyllum* from Chile, the perennial roots of which can survive the winter underground at altitudes of 10,000 ft.

Tropaeolum was first imported into Spain in the mid-1500s. Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus named the genus *Tropaeolum majus* because the plant reminded him of an ancient Roman custom. After victory in battle, the Romans erected a trophy pole (or *tropaeum*) on which the vanquished foe's armor and weapons were hung. The plant's round leaves reminded Linnaeus of shields, and its flowers of blood-stained helmets. (Ugh!)

Nasturtiums were once commonly known as "Indian cresses" because they were introduced from the Americas, then known as the Indies, and used like cress as a salad ingredient. Unlike the petals, the nectar in the spur is exceptionally sweet. Its sugar is especially concentrated and consists mostly of sucrose, instead of the fructose and glucose found in nectars of most species.

The development of nectar spurs in *Tropaeolum* has been controversial, with assertions that the spurs develop

from the receptacle at the base of the flower or from the sepal tissue alone. If the nectar spur of *Tropaeolum* develops from the receptacle, it would put *Tropaeolum* in the unique position of possibly having the only known receptacle-derived nectar spur in the flowering plants.

The most commonly grown plants are *T. majus*, *T. minus*, and *T. peltophorum*. What we call nasturtiums (*T. majus*) is easily grown from seed in sunny locations. It thrives in poor soil and dry conditions and will produce mostly leaves and few flowers in rich soil.

Julie Riley says she likes 'Empress of India' because of its darker green leaves with a slight reddish edge. It grows with a slight trailing habit and is not as floriferous as some of the mixed color cultivars. Julie says 'Alaska' is not as floriferous either but there are few annuals with variegated foliage. 'Milk Maid' is an odd-ball. Flowers are pale yellow, and the plant is a very long trailer. I don't like the 'Jewel' series because plants are too small and bushy. I start nasturtium seeds on May 1 for outdoor planting on Memorial Day or June 1st in colder areas.

Canary Bird Vine (Canary Creeper, *T. peregrinum*) is a vigorous, annual climber that grows to 10 ft. tall. It is hard to keep the plants from tangling with anything close, so seeds should not be started too early before set in their final location, or

else you may need to transplant the whole mess into one spot. There is conflicting information online about the need to scarify or pretreat seeds before sowing and the length of time before frost-free days arrive. Julie Riley says she does not presoak her seeds before sowing.

Tropaeolum species that originated from the coastal



Climbing nasturtiums at Denali Village outside Denali National Park.

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BIRD CHATTER

Last to know...So, did everyone in the nest but BC know that AMGA Treasurer Jan van der Top is a super celebrity in the UAA/engineering world? Probably.

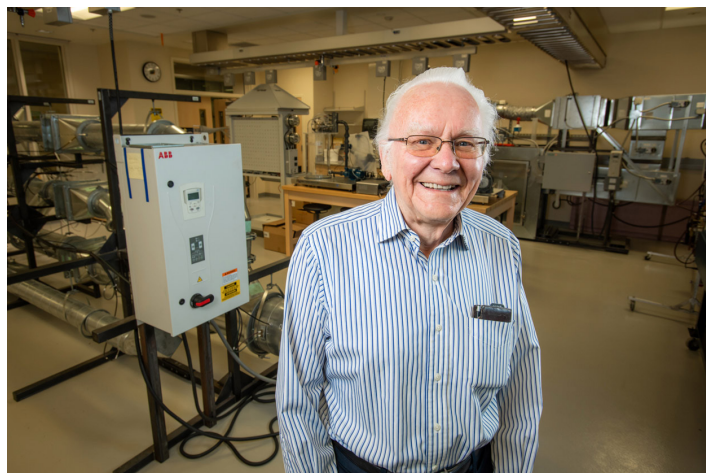
Jan, who sold his company, The Superior Group, Inc., to his employees when he retired, has endowed the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Lab at UAA's College of Engineering to such a nice degree that they've named the lab after him.

Although the only thing BC knows about engineering is when you turn the key in the Honda, the engine comes on, BC is incredibly impressed.

There's a [great article on Jan's life and adventures](#) that you'll want to read. Computer illiterate BC could get it by googling: "uaa and joe selmont and jan." Sigh.

Grow, darn it! Terry is about to start her "garden starters of arghhh." In other words, Four O'Clocks. The dark side of Hiland Mountain creates the most coddled and coached plants she's ever had. She asks, 'Anyone else have those plants that any success is a success?'

Rounding up fer Rondy Help! Just a few more volunteers are needed to help out at the Midtown Mall Fur



AMGA Treasurer Jan van der Top pictured at the HVAC lab recently named after him at UAA's College of Engineering. Photo by James Evans/ UAA.

Rondy event on March 5. [Sign up here.](#)

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



Nasturtiums, continued from previous page

Herb Study Group Meetings

- March 11: Native plants for ABG's Herb Garden
- April 8: Herb Garden Plans for 2022
- May 13: Yet to be determined

Anyone interested in learning about herbs is welcome to send an email to the Herb Study Group at anchorageherb-studygroup@gmail.com to receive our notifications. There are no dues or membership requirements.

Monthly meetings are via Zoom, noon to 1:30 p.m. on the 2nd Friday of each month, September-May. We also volunteer in ABG's Herb Garden during the growing season.

areas and the lower foothills make most of their growth in winter whereas the true alpine species are summer growers. This is probably why hot parts of the U.S. have trouble growing them and they do well in Alaska.

Nasturtiums are used as companion plants for biological pest control, repelling some pests, acting as a trap crop for others and attracting predatory insects. All parts of *Tropaeolum majus* are edible. The flower has most often been consumed, making for an especially ornamental salad ingredient; it has a slightly peppery taste reminiscent of watercress and is used in stir fry.

Online there are recipes for the flowers, leaves, leaf petioles, and seeds from pesto to caper substitutes. It is warned several places that the pesto may overpower more delicate flavors, so use it sparingly unless you love a little kick!

Like many leafy greens and legumes, nasturtiums have oxalates, which cause issues for some people, so make sure to read about this before consumption. 🌿

MARCH 2022 EVENT CALENDAR

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Thursday, March 3, 12-1 pm

Mat-Su Cooperative Extension and Mat-Su Experimental Farm: Creative Alaskan Gardening. Learn how you can grow your own food in creative ways. Jodie Anderson will share creative growing solutions and ways to increase your use of local produce. [Zoom registration.](#)

Tuesday, March 8, 12-1 pm

Mat-Su Cooperative Extension and Mat-Su Experimental Farm Virtual Class: Encouraging Natural Predators in Your Garden. [More info here.](#)

Thursday, March 10, 6-7 pm

Homer Soil & Water Conservation District: How to Start your First Garden Part 2: Breaking Ground. [More info here](#) & [Zoom link.](#)

Friday, March 11, 5:30–7:30 pm

Anchorage Parks & Rec: Tool Selection and Maintenance at the Dr. Lidia Selkregg Chalet. Gardening can be made easier by using tools and a lot harder with broken ones. With proper tool selection and maintenance, the gardening season can be more enjoyable. BYOT: If you have loppers, pruning tools or smaller hand tools, bring them to class. Cost is \$15. [Register here.](#)

Friday, March 25, 5:30–7:30 pm

Anchorage Parks and Rec: Compost Made Easy at the Mann Leiser Greenhouse. Learn how easy it is to start composting from kitchen and gardening scraps. This class will cover how long it takes to compost and how it benefits your garden. Cost of \$15. [Register here.](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Thursday, March 3, 7-8:30 pm

Anchorage Garden Club: “Seeds, Winter Sowing, and Traditional Seed Sowing. Everyone is invited. Email anchoragegc@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Monday, March 7, 7-9 pm

Alaska Native Plant Society: “Towards a warmer, less frozen future Arctic: ecosystem impacts, drivers, and societal responses in western Alaska,” presented by Fairbanks ecologist J.J. Frost. [Get link.](#)

Thursday, March 10, 10 am-noon

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska: “A Virtual Tour at Jensen-Olson Arboretum – with Ginger Hudson.” The Jensen-Olson Arboretum is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Curator Ginger Hudson will lead a virtual tour of the grounds. [Find out more.](#)

Thursday, March 10, 7-8 pm

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association: “From Bud to Fruit: Surviving Cold - Requiring Heat” presented by club president Mark Wolbers. The program will be a ‘geek-fest on the mechanisms that lead to fruit tree flower bud initiation and cold survival, and an introduction to the heat-units needed to ripen fruit.’ [Website.](#)

Friday, March 11 - Saturday, March 12

The Alaska Botanical Garden’s 2022 Spring Garden Conference will be held virtually. [More info here.](#)

Friday, March 18 - Saturday, March 19

The Alaska Food Policy Council is hosting its Food Festival and Conference on March 18-19. The event is virtual and registration is open. [Read more.](#)

JOBS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

Catholic Social Services is hiring a new team member to work alongside its Refugee Agriculture Program Coordinator from April into October at the Fresh International Garden and Grow North Farm. [Read the job ad.](#)

The Microgrants for Food Security Program offered by the Alaska Division of Agriculture is accepting applications through March 30 ([more info on the website.](#))

The Harvest of Hope Memorial Garden is seeking to fill volunteer roles: a grant writer, blogger, and volunteer coordinator. If interested, please contact Don Bladow at (907) 830-5723 or email him at dfbladow@gmail.com.

AMGA is planning for the 2023 Master Gardener Conference, cooking up a fabulous theme and making plans for a hybrid live/Zoom conference. By the end of the summer, we need to fill these volunteer positions:

- Vendor Coordinator: Contact vendors, collect vendor

Continued on next page

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR APRIL 16 MIDTOWN GARDEN SHOW!

This is an opportunity to meet other gardeners and get volunteer hours at our AMGA/CES booth. Master Gardeners can bring up to 2 flats of plants/starts to sell. Plants need to be identified with a white plant stake. There also needs to be a yellow plant stake with the selling price and the seller's initials. The yellow plant stakes can be obtained from Susan Negus (907-227-6288 or senegus@gci.net) who lives near the Zoo, or Emily Becker (907-306-7011 or president@alaskamastergardener.org) who lives in Midtown. Yellow plant stakes will also be available at the March 5 Fur Rondy AMGA/CES Ask a Master Gardener table.

We will send out a Sign-Up Genius by e-mail mid to late March.

Calendar, from previous page

- forms, determine layout of vendor area and tables needed. Communicate with vendors on conference day.
- Gifts/Door Prizes Organizer: Select and solicit gifts for speakers and door prizes. Coordinate prize distribution during the conference.
- Silent Auction Organizer: Write request letters, coordinate donations, label and price donations, set up auction tables, supervise volunteers

Email president@alaskamastergardeners.org if you are

interested in these volunteer positions! The 2023 Conference Committee is currently meeting once a month.



The Alaska Botanical Garden's Spring Garden conference will be held March 11-12. [View agenda and register.](#)



You Can Grow It!

Alaska Master Gardeners 2022

2022 State Alaska Master Gardeners Conference

Saturday, April 2, 2022

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Evangelo's Restaurant,

*Conference entry is on the lower parking level
(back of the building)*

2530 E Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99654

The Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association is proud to host the 2022 State Alaska Master Gardeners Conference. We have an exciting and full slate of speakers and programs! The focus this year is on beginning and new-to-Alaska gardeners. We're sure even the most experienced gardener will learn a few things!

Lunch is included - a yummy variety of soups, garden salad, and rolls provided by Evangelo's

Speakers

Keynote & Capstone Speaker: Melody Rose, Tennessee Extension

Jeff Smeenck: Basic Soils for the Alaska Gardener

Leah Wagner: Best Practices to Cultivate Success in your Alaskan Garden

Dario Canelon: Indoor Lighting Basics

Gina Dionne: Perennial Flower Basics

Josh Smith: Growing Fruit in Alaska

Joey Slowik & Alex Wenninger: Integrated Pest Management

Theresa Isaac: CES: We Have Your Resources to Help You Grow It!

Stephen Brown: Gardening Apps

Local vendors will be on site with a variety of items.

There are door prizes with drawings throughout the conference for these goodies!

Early Bird Registration is \$60 through March 15, 2022. After March 15, 2022, registration is \$75 per person. *Registration is limited to the first 100 people. Cancellation Policy: a full refund will be applied until March 26th, 2022.*



Visit the Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association webpage for more conference information and registration details:

www.matsumastergardeners.com

Contact: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com



UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution
and prohibits illegal discrimination against any
individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination



Bonus photo: AMGA's Fran Durner and Ginger Hudson at the 2022 Northwest Flower & Garden Show. Photo courtesy Fran Durner.

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Troy Weiss	Vice President
Jan van den Top	Treasurer
Nick Riordan	Secretary
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Keenan Plate	At Large
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Meg O'Mullane	At Large

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Steve Brown, Gina Dionne	CES Master Gardener Program Liaison
Keenan Plate	Broadcast Email
Nick Riordan	Calendar of Events
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Gina Docherty	Website
Lynne Opstad	Lifetime Achievement
Lynne Opstad, Julie Ginder	Pioneer Home Garden
Emily Becker, Keenan Plate	Volunteer Coordinators

Become an AMGA Member

[Use our online form to join/renew and pay online or by mail.](#) Your membership supports AMGA and its mission of gardening education in partnership with the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service. We provide continuing education, grants for garden projects, garden tours, and more, all in service to the community.

Next AMGA Meeting via Zoom! March 21, 2022

"Invasive Plants in Alaska and How You Can Help"
Gino Graziano

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

Meeting Schedule

Member Meetings: 7 pm every 3rd Monday of the month, September through May (except December). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, AMGA meetings are currently being **held online via Zoom**. 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.

Newsletter Submissions

We welcome letters, opinions, public event announcements, articles, ideas and inquiries. 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 articles (400-600 words ideal), Bird Chatter, calendar items and announcements are always welcome. Contact the editor at newsletteramga@gmail.com and send Bird Chatter items to birdchatter@alaskamastergardeners.org.

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