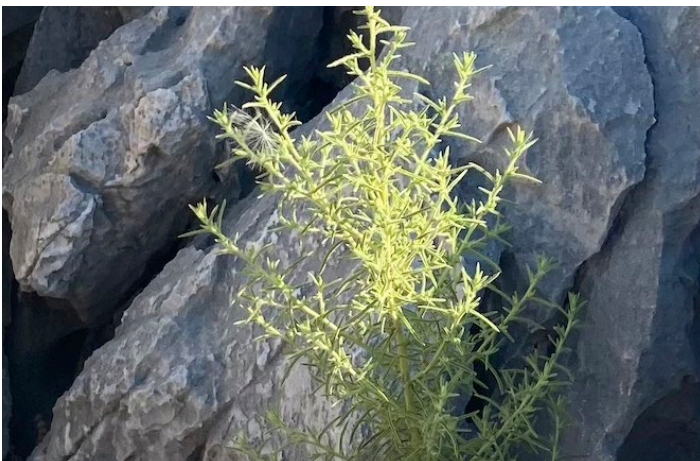


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Emily Becker

A solid freeze has finally arrived! We can finally get that last task done—piling leaves on our perennials to protect them from a deadly freeze/thaw cycle—and get some rest.

This fall was so rainy our record books needed major revisions. I can't really complain, since I was Outside soaking up sunshine for four weeks!



I was in Greece, where there was no rain at all!

Of course, that is normal for late summer in a dry season-wet season climate, but in recent years, the dry season has been much hotter and much drier, with wildfires and drought contributing to huge agricultural losses.

Water in the entire Mediterranean region is scarce and getting scarcer. Many places rely on desalination, powered by solar energy, for city water supply.

There is nothing like travel to remind this Alaskan how lucky I am to have abundant, clean, delicious water, with plenty for drinking and irrigation. Which is to say, I occasionally thought of my waterlogged Alaska friends while sunning in the Aegean!

I hope you will consider donating some of your time to AMGA this winter. We are excited to welcome new Board candidate Jamie Lang along with returning Board members Nick Riordan, Keenan Plate and Troy Weiss.

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- » AMGA Board Candidates
- » Sheila Toomey Inducted to Hall of Fame
- » Herb Study: Rosemary
- » November Event Calendar

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Top: Think gardening in Alaska is tricky? Terracing is common on rocky Greek islands. There is a lot of debate about how old these gardens are, but probably a few thousand years! Olive trees are a common crop.

Bottom: Thyme grows wild all over the Greek island of Symi. Beekeeping is also common, and thyme honey is delicious!

Cover: Winter squash curing indoors, photo courtesy Elizabeth Bluemink.

President's Message, from previous page

We need a volunteer to help us select our monthly program speakers. We will also need volunteers to help plan the Alaska Master Gardeners statewide conference, with an evening event on April 7 and all day Saturday, April 8. More info and exciting announcements to come! 🌱

AMGA BOARD CANDIDATES (2023-2025 TERM)



Jamie Lang

Through UAF, I finished my Master Gardener course and certification in the last year. Growing up in Wisconsin, farming and gardening was in my blood, and summers were filled with planting, weeding, farming and canning. When I moved into my first house, these skills were used to spruce up our lawn, plant trees and perennials; since moving two more times, perennials (and moving them with me from house to house) have been my passion. In the last year, gardening has branched out to beekeeping and chickens.



Keenan Plate

I am excited for the opportunity to remain on the AMGA board. I have been an Anchorage Master Gardener since fall 2019 after moving to Anchorage from Stockton, CA. I currently work as the refugee agriculture program manager for Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services at Catholic Social Services. I have enjoyed getting to learn about all the great work this organization does in the community and hope to continue being a part of its leadership.



Nick Riordan

I'm excited to continue serving on the AMGA Board. I grew up in Anchorage in the 90's (go Malamutes!) and currently live in Tudor Area with my partner and friends. I work as the organic gardening coordinator at Alaska Community Action on Toxics and play cello in the Anchorage Bowl Chamber Orchestra. I love the impacts this club has on our community, and look forward to the opportunity to support these efforts for another two years.

Board candidates, continued from left column



Troy Weiss

Troy is a retired engineer and avid gardener who completed the Master Gardener program in 2017. He and his wife Janet have ~200 peonies in their garden and expect to have around 3,000 blooms in 2023. Troy served as AMGA's VP in 2021 and 2022, scheduling garden tours and 2022 speakers. His main job is being an Opa to his 5-year-old granddaughter Juliet. 🌱

SEPT. 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balances on 9/1/2022

Checking S-88	\$ 20,992.45
Savings S-2	\$ 5.25
Savings S-29	\$ 16,956.35
CD General 2 year 1.95%; 1/23	\$ 10,827.42

Total Assets \$ 48,781.47

Interest/Dividends \$ 31.44

This month's revenue

Membership	\$ 38.90
Donations	\$ 38.90
Fundraising/Plant sale	\$ -
Advanced M.G. course fees	\$ -
Total revenue	\$ 77.80

This month's expenses

Grants (scholarships)	\$ -
Pioneer Home Plants	\$ -
Operations	\$ 127.00
Website	\$ -
Plant sale	\$ 981.74
Public Relations (State Fair)	\$ -
Newsletter	\$ 19.99
AMG speaker fee	\$ -
Lifetime achievement	\$ -
Total Expenses this month	\$ 1,128.73

BALANCES ON 8/31/2022

Checking S-88	\$ 19,941.52
Savings S-2	\$ 5.25
Savings S-29	\$ 16,959.14
CD General 2 Year 1.95%, (1/23)	\$ 10,856.07

Total Assets on 9/30/2022 \$ 47,761.98

Prepared by Jan van den Top

SHEILA TOOMEY INDUCTED TO HALL OF FAME by Cheryl Chapman

Decades of poking into other people's business has landed Master Gardener and Pulitzer-winning journalist Sheila Toomey a spot in the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame. The Anchorage primula-fancier was among 10 women—in education, advocacy, community development, healthcare, Native culture, mushing and philanthropy—[inducted Oct. 18](#) for making differences that mattered.

The Alaska Women's Hall of Fame began as a collaboration among the Zonta Club of Anchorage, the Alaska Women's Network, YWCA Anchorage, Alaska Women for Political Action, the Anchorage Women's Commission, the University of Alaska Anchorage, and numerous individual women. Among the 200-plus alumnae, you'll find legendary gardener Verna Pratt.

The young Sheila growing up in New Rochelle, NY, did not dream of journalism. She didn't dream of anything. "My parents were Depression children and worked very hard," Sheila says. "I was the oldest of four so took care of the others but was first in my family to finish high school and first to graduate from college (liberal arts B.A., history/English), thanks to a high school history teacher who got me into a free program at City College of New York.

"There was no plan. I've been a union organizer, a library assistant, a market research field director on Madison Avenue, a bookstore clerk, and for seven years worked for the New York City Welfare Department in the South Bronx. In all of them, I ran into the most interesting people, had the most amazing experiences ..."

But in her late 30s, she hit a lull. One morning on her way to work as a university graduate student advisor in Economics, she turned obliviously left across oncoming traffic. Once safe in her office with a trembling cup of coffee, she thought, "I need a change."

And it was a big change: co-managing a friend's health food store outside Juneau. Alaska was lonely. Cold. Sheila volunteered to catalog records at the local radio station, KTOO. In short order, Alaska Public Radio

Network had her covering the Legislature, and then posted her in Anchorage, where the Anchorage Daily News snapped her up.

"My first day," says Sheila. "I knew nothing. Never had a journalism class. First assignment was to write a little brief from a GOP meeting at the Hotel Captain Cook, and I was poised, ready, when the chair stood up, said, 'I can't lead a party taken over by the Christian right wing,' and quit. My first story led Page 1 on Sunday."

She wrote and edited for the Anchorage Daily News and was a bulwark for the paper's Pulitzer Prize-winning



Sheila Toomey, photo courtesy Stan Jones

1988 series, "A People in Peril," a comprehensive look at alcoholism in rural Alaska. "It was the most important thing I ever did because it opened a conversation on a topic that had been stonewalled—and that opened a floodgate of money to address it," she says.

Sheila semi-retired from the ADN in 2009, continuing to pen its beloved, scandalous and truthful Ear column, until 2014.

"When you figure out what it is you do—for me, writing—you have an obligation to do it as well as you can," she says.

Always a Sunday gardener, she became a Master Gardener after an encounter with the Cooperative Extension Service's Julie Riley. "I traded the newsroom for Master Gardener activities and MG friends," says Sheila, who served as AMGA secretary, parliamentarian, summer field trip organizer, and Bird Chatter columnist.

"I think what I may enjoy the most is volunteering to answer gardening questions from the public, like when we have a Master Gardeners table at a Midtown Mall event," she says. "Everybody's got a story."

There will be yet-unknown choices. She isn't planning.

"My guide is Robert Frost's poem, 'The Road Not Taken,' " she says, "The ending stanza, 'Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.' " 🌿

HERB STUDY: ROSEMARY by Marjorie Williams

Salvia rosmarinus, commonly called rosemary, is a fragrant shrub native to the Mediterranean region, Spain and Portugal, brought to Britain with the Roman armies and spread widely from there.

Rosemary is an evergreen shrub 15 inches to 6 feet tall in climate growing zones 6-8, mostly in upright forms but also in a prostrate form that drapes over rocks and wall. Leaves are narrow, leathery and deep green on top and white, slightly fuzzy underneath. Some varieties have yellow stripes that give them a golden appearance. Flowers are usually pale blue but also come in white, pink and purple, blooming most of the summer and into the fall. In Alaska, it is an annual or potted and brought inside before frost. I keep mine in cool location, near the glass of my south window to give the most natural light and prevent spindly growth. Make sure to rotate regularly, if not see the picture of my plant I forgot to rotate.



A two-year-old "Barbecue" rosemary plant grown by Marjorie Williams

Historically, rosemary was a symbol of remembrance, friendship and love. Ancients said rosemary had a reputation for strengthening memory. It was used at weddings, funerals and sprigs are worn on Anzac Day (Australian) and Remembrance Day honoring World War 1

veterans. Students

used rosemary oil on their foreheads or sprig in their hair for exams. In a 16th century herbal book, it was described as an important medical herb and air purifier.

Rosemary has been used as medicine but its effectiveness is not scientifically proven. Phytochemical compounds in rosemary have been used as an astringent, tonic, anti-inflammatory, digestive remedy, nervine, carminative, antiseptic, diuretic, promote sweating, promote bile flow, antidepressant, circulatory stimulant,

HERB STUDY GROUP Winter Meeting Schedule 2nd Friday of the month, 12-1:30 pm, via Zoom

October 4: Rosemary (Marjorie)

November 11: Bay Leaf (Rebecca)

December: No meeting

January 13: Ginger (Susan)

February 10: Oregano (Debbie)

March 10: Nigella (Elaine)

April 14: Poppies (Shirley)

Request Herb Study notifications by emailing
anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com.

antispasmodic, restorative tonic for nervous system, cardiac tonic, and inhibitor of stones in the kidneys and bladder. Rosemary is used in teas, tinctures, essential oil, steam distillation, and compresses. Care must be taken as therapeutic use interferes with some medicines for blood disorders and diabetes. In normal amounts found in food, this is not a problem.

Rosemary is used with meat, eggs, vegetables and stuffings. Because of its strong flavor, it should be used sparingly, especially if dried. If using dried on uncooked food, rosemary should be soaked in hot water before adding. When used in cooked food, add rosemary at the beginning so the flavor permeates the food slowly. The flowers have a milder flavor and are used in dishes, desserts, candies, honey, vinegars and wines. Rosemary oil is used to flavor candies, baked goods and liqueurs.

Other uses of rosemary are in cosmetics, in hair conditioners, shampoos and replenishing hair mask to stimulate the scalp and some say to stimulate hair growth. It also darkens hair so should not be used by blondes. It is used in herbal wreaths, candles, strewing herbs, furniture polish, and perfumes. Rosemary is also used as an insect repellent, especially for moths.

Ornamentally, rosemary is grown in hedges and topiaries. The plant attracts a large number of bees and produces a fine honey. 🌿

NOVEMBER 2022 EVENT CALENDAR

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Fridays, Nov. 4 & 11, 6 am-7 am

Pollinator Habitat 101: A five-part weekly webinar series offered through Ohio State University. Webinars are free of charge and recorded. [Learn more and register.](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 10am-5 pm

National Drought Mitigation Center: Farming, Water and Drought in Alaska. The topics in this free workshop include: Alaska climate trends, U.S. Drought Monitor and drought designation process, agricultural impacts of drought, decision making during a drought, and resources for adaptation. [Details and registration.](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 3, 7 -8:30 pm

Anchorage Garden Club: Learn about primroses. Everyone is invited to attend. It is in-person/Zoom at the Pioneer Schoolhouse 437 E 3rd Avenue. Email anchoragegc@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Monday, Nov. 7, 7-9 pm

Alaska Native Plant Society monthly meeting, featuring "Ethnobotany in Alaska-Training, Knowledge and Applications," presented by UAF Ethnobotany instructor Lisa Strecker and students Ana Harrington and Oona Martin. In-person at the Campbell Creek Science Center and [via Zoom.](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 4-6 pm

Spring Creek Farm: Knowledge Exchange to kick-start your first Alaska farm project with NRCS Soil

Scientist Brad Pitcher. [Registration.](#)

Thursday, Nov. 10, 10 am

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska: "Members Summer Photo Share" hosted by Kathy Liska. We'll also have a Thanksgiving Potluck and Annual Food Drive (please bring a non-perishable item to share). [Contact club.](#)

Thursday, Nov. 10, 7-3:30 pm

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association: A discussion of the past growing season and election of new board members. [Zoom link.](#)

Friday, Nov. 11-Sunday, Nov. 13

Alaska Farm Bureau Annual Conference: If you are a current farmer, looking to get into farming or an advocate for local food security, this three day event is the perfect chance to learn more about farming in Alaska. Details and registration at <https://alaskaafb.org/conference/>.

Saturday, Nov. 12, 1-5 pm & Sunday, Nov. 13, 11 am-5 pm

61st Holiday Flower Show: The show is located at the Central Lutheran Church (1420 Cordova) and is free and open to the public. "Celebrate Fall" is the theme and four holidays will be featured. It is open to the public for viewing and anyone can enter. [More information.](#)

Saturday, Nov. 19, 1 pm

Alaska Rock Garden Society: Beginning Plants for Rock Gardeners with Florene Carney and Jaime Rodriguez. On Zoom. [Contact the club.](#)

JOBS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

AMGA Board elections will be held at the Nov. 21 member meeting held via Zoom. The two-year terms for incoming board members will begin in January 2023.

Homer Grown Radio: Mycorrhizae, Synthetic Fertilizer and Chemical Warfare with Dave Ianson, a soil conservationist for the USDA-NRCS. [Listen here.](#)

It's time to renew! Use our [online form](#) or [fillable PDF](#) to join or renew your **AMGA membership.**

VOLUNTEERS 4 GARDENS

Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage and the Alaska School Garden Network maintain a list of volunteer opportunities at public gardening projects in Anchorage.

[View the list/join a project.](#)

Next AMGA Meeting via Zoom

“Saskia Esslinger: Forest Garden”

Monday, November 21, 2022

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

Member Meetings: Unless otherwise specified, **7 pm every 3rd Monday** of the month, September through May (except December). 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.

AMGA Board of Directors

Emily Becker	President
Troy Weiss	Vice President
Jan van den Top	Treasurer
Nick Riordan	Secretary
Kathleen Kaiser	At Large
Keenan Plate	At Large
Kat Karabelnikoff	At Large
Meg O'Mullane	At Large

Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

Emily Becker	CES Liaison
Steve Brown, Gina Dionne	CES Master Gardener Program Liaison
Keenan Plate	Broadcast Email
Nick Riordan	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
Jan van den Top, Lili Naves, Sheila Toomey	Grants Program
TBD	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 an AMGA Member

Use our [online form](#) or [fillable PDF](#) to join or renew your AMGA membership. By joining, you support 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.

Newsletter Submissions

We welcome letters, opinions, public event announcements, articles, ideas and inquiries. The deadline for submitting an item for publication is the 20th of every month. Educational articles (400-600 words ideal), Bird Chatter, calendar items and announcements are always welcome. Contact/send items to the editor at newsletteramga@gmail.com and send Bird Chatter items to birdchatter@alaskamastergardeners.org.

Connect with AMGA

Website: www.alaskamastergardeners.org
Facebook: facebook.com/Alaska-Master-Gardeners-Anchorage
YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCvZehJprKkQzQivQvNDKopQ
Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/AkMGA>
Membership issues/address corrections: Alexis St. Juliana at astjuliana@hotmail.com.
Mail: AMGA, P.O. Box 221403, Anchorage, AK 99522-1403



SHARING KNOWLEDGE ON FARMING, WATER AND DROUGHT IN ALASKA

TWO FREE WORKSHOPS
MONDAY NOV. 14 – DELTA JUNCTION (IN-PERSON)
WEDNESDAY NOV. 16 – PALMER (IN-PERSON OR REMOTE)

10 AM – 5 PM
REGISTRATION BY NOV. 7 REQUIRED FOR
FREE LUNCH IN PERSON!

Workshop topics:

Alaska climate trends

**U.S. Drought Monitor & drought
designation processes**

Agricultural impacts of drought

Making decisions during drought

Resources for adaptation

REGISTER NOW:

[HTTPS://GO.UNL.EDU/AKDROUGHT](https://go.unl.edu/AKDROUGHT)



**TRAVEL FUNDS (IN THE FORM
OF MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT)
MAY BE AVAILABLE. CONTACT
TONYA BERNADT
(TBERNADT5@UNL.EDU) FOR
INFORMATION.**

SPONSORED BY UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS EXTENSION, THE NATIONAL DROUGHT MITIGATION CENTER AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NORTHWEST CLIMATE HUB. USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER.

ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS RELATED TO A DISABILITY SHOULD BE MADE FIVE BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE TO THERESA ISAAC (TMISAAC@ALASKA.EDU) AT 907.745.3360 OR MELISSA CLAMPITT (MRCLAMPITT@ALASKA.EDU) AT 907.745.3551. LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES, SUCH AS INTERPRETATION OR TRANSLATION OF VITAL INFORMATION, WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE TO LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT INDIVIDUALS UPON REQUEST. UAF IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND PROVIDER AND PROHIBITS ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL. WWW.ALASKA.EDU/NONDISCRIMINATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THERESA ISAAC OR MELISSA CLAMPITT.



ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ANCHORAGE

Membership/Membership Renewal Form for the Year _____

AMGA's membership year is January 1st through December 31st
To ensure listing in the next MG Directory, dues must be received or postmarked by December 31st

Voting Membership (\$20)

Non-voting Membership (\$20)

Dual Membership* (\$30)

MG Class Year: _____

MG Class Location: _____

40 volunteer hours complete? Yes No

Donation: \$ _____

Last/First: _____

Day phone: _____

Address: _____

Other phone: _____

City/State: _____

Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

**Dual Membership (Two current AMGA members living at same address).*

Last/First: _____

Day phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Other phone: _____

Voting Membership

Non-voting Membership

MG Class Year: _____

MG Class Location: _____

40 volunteer hours complete? Yes No

Cash and/or check payments can be made at AMGA meetings with completed form.

If paying by mail, send form & payment to: AMGA, P. O. Box 221403, Anchorage, AK 99522-1403.

Make checks payable to Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage.

Memberships, renewals and donations may also be submitted online at www.alaskamastergardeners.org

Gift membership forms are also available online.

AMGA runs on volunteer power!

Needs vary, and may include such tasks as writing educational articles or postings, presenting monthly programs, Pioneer Home gardens' maintenance, photography, social media, web design, annual plant sale, workshops, etc. Volunteer opportunities will be provided as they occur for which AMGA will very much appreciate your support.

Your suggestions for educational program topics of interest and speaker recommendations are also welcomed: _____

AMGA Use: Date: _____ Check #: _____ Amount: _____ Cash: _____ Donation: _____