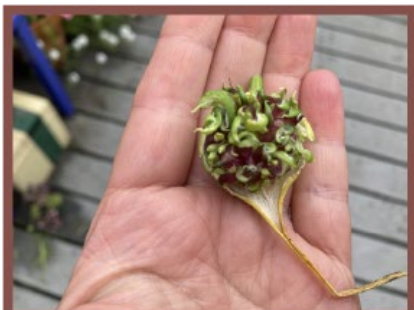


## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Emily Becker

Garlic has become a very popular crop in Alaska, and fall is the time to plant it. Of course, I am assuming we will eventually have a killing frost and the rain will stop. This will happen, right? Right?!

At any rate, the UAF Cooperative Extension has an excellent publication on growing garlic, and there are now several Alaska sources for seed garlic, including the Alaska Botanical Garden, Synergy Gardens in Homer, and numerous other small growers.



Expert garlic growers abound, and I'm not one of them, but I had some fun this year with garlic bulbils, and thought I'd share my experience.



I've found that most people haven't yet heard of bulbils. Bulbils are tiny bulbs that develop in the garlic scapes if you forget to cut them! So it was a happy accident that in late summer of 2021, I neglected to cut a delicious scape and ended up with a

flower filled with 30 bulbils.

Even though they come from the garlic flower, bulbils are not the result of pollination and are actually small clones from the mother plant. But their small size makes them almost like little garlic "seeds."

I planted my bulbils in March of this year in small pots under indoor lighting. All of them germinated and grew green leaves, similar in growth habitat to chives but with delicious garlic flavor. I planted them outside, let them grow, and then dug them up in late summer and

let them dry out. Each of the bulbils had enlarged to about the size of a quarter and were spherical in shape. I suppose I could have left them in the ground to continue growing next summer, hopefully to a bigger bulb, but in this weather they would have rotted, and I wanted them in a different place anyway. I plan to plant them at the same time I plant my regular seed garlic.

Why bother with bulbils? Well, if you are cheap like I am, it's an inexpensive way to get lots of seed garlic, although it takes an extra year! One scape had 30 bulbils, and it's not uncommon to have more than 100,

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- » AMGA Grant Report
- » Herb Study: Winter Schedule
- » October Event Calendar

Above: Bulbils from infancy to maturity, photo courtesy Emily Becker.

Cover photo: Perilla and lemon verbena growing at the Alaska Botanical Garden, photo courtesy Mary Contrary.

*Continued on next page*

*President's Message, from previous page*

depending on the types of garlic.

In addition, the bulbils do not harbor or spread any soil-borne diseases, although thankfully this is not a big problem in Alaska (yet.)

Experts also say growing from bulbils can help the plants adapt better to the local climate, although the

mechanism for that escapes me since they are apparently clones of the mother plant.

The downside to growing from bulbils is time. It can take two or more years to get your bulbils to grow into mature, full bulbs.

If you've had some experience with bulbils, please drop me a note and share your knowledge! 🌱

## AUGUST 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

### Balances on 8/1/2022

Checking S-88	\$ 18,718.76
Savings S-2	\$ 5.25
Savings S-29	\$ 16,953.47
CD General 2 year 1.95%; 1/23	\$ 10,827.42

**Total Assets** \$ 46,504.90

**Interest/Dividends** \$ 2.88

### This month's revenue

Membership	\$ 49.00
Donations	\$ 2.14
Fundraising/Plant sale	\$ 5,903.80
Advanced M.G. course fees	\$ -
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 5,954.94</b>

### This month's expenses

Grants (scholarships)	\$ -
Pioneer Home Plants	\$ -
Operations	\$ 175.92
Website	\$ -
Plant sale	\$ 3,260.34
Public Relations (State Fair)	\$ -
Newsletter	\$ 244.99
AMG speaker fee	\$ -
Lifetime achievement	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses this month</b>	<b>\$ 3,681.25</b>

### BALANCES ON 8/31/2022

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 on 8/31/2022** \$ 48,781.47

Prepared by Jan van den Top

**WE WANT TO SEE YOU ...  
AND YOUR GARDEN PHOTOS!!!**

**The next AMGA Meeting is  
in person at the BP Energy Center!**

**“Picture Sharing from  
Summer 2022”**

**Please mark your calendars  
with the special date/time.**

**Monday, October 24, 2022  
SPECIAL TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

## AMGA BOARD RECRUITMENT

Interested in serving the Anchorage gardening community?

Consider applying to serve on the AMGA Board of Directors.

Directors serve two years. The minimum time commitment is an hour per month for board meetings, but directors also help organize various volunteer projects.

Contact any current board member for more information.

## AMGA SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS by Nick Riordan

For our September Membership Meeting, AMGA was joined by Will Criner, the Garden and Facilities Manager at the Alaska Botanical Garden, for a presentation on Plant Division.

ABG's Zoom presentation setup is noteworthy, with a camera, microphone, and worktable setup, offering viewers the feeling of front-row seats at Will's division table without leaving their homes. Demonstrations included the division of three different root types—the bulb of a Martagon lily, the tuberous roots of a peony, and Meadow Rue with a fibrous root system.

During the demo, we watched Will separate scales from the lily bulb and pack them into peat moss or coconut coir to be set aside for 3 months before being potted. The peony's tuberous roots were washed clean and examined for any stowaways (e.g. grass or horse tails) and the best lines to break the root system along that would minimize root damage while still providing a large enough root chunk for a vigorous plant the following summer. Lastly, several hunks of the fibrous root system of the *Thalictrum* were unceremoniously pulled off from the crown.

The question on everyone's mind was the ideal timing of plant division. As a rule of thumb, Will recommends dividing plants which flower in the fall in early spring, and dividing plants which flower in the spring in mid- to late summer. If the division is well timed, the plants might not even miss a beat and flower well the following season. Alaska's cool soil also allows gardeners the opportunity to successfully divide plants throughout much of the summer, but be careful not to expose roots to the sun or air for any longer than needed.

Will recommends that being a little more forceful when dividing plants—people are often overly gentle—with a strong preference on tearing rather than cutting. Tearing is more likely to break the plant along cell walls and heal better in the long run.

Keep in mind that division (especially for fibrous root systems) can invigorate the plant and promote flowering (e.g., iris). Division is also a good opportunity to weed and address overcrowding in your garden. Most importantly, Will encourages everyone to learn through hands-on experience and go divide some plants! 🌿

## AMGA GRANT REPORT: RurAL CAP SITKA PLACE by Susannah Deeds

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to bring gardening into the lives of the folks at Sitka Place through the Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage grant program. During the Summer of 2022, Sitka Place's gardening project continued to grow and thrive.

Sitka Place clients had the decision-making ability and freedom to “play in the soil” and beautify their home in the ways they wanted. They filled nearly every available space with a plant and piled leaves together to create even more growing space. Clients made the most of recycled materials by using old stone countertop pieces to create a raised bed.

The greenhouse was a great success, the tunnel of greenery was the talk of the program all summer long. Expectations were set high, but many plants did not generate consumable produce as hoped. The clients were still delighted by the natural beauty of the plants along with the fun they had and education they received along the way. 🌿



*A creatively-designed raised bed created by clients at Sitka Place.*

*Sitka Place is a permanent supportive housing property for Anchorage's homeless population. It is one of five organizations awarded an AMGA grant in 2022.*

# HERB STUDY: WINTER MEETING TOPICS by Elaine Hammes

During our first fall Zoom meeting on September 9, we set the topics for the Herb Study Group's winter meetings (see schedule in right column).

While people have volunteered to lead discussions for each of these meetings, everyone is encouraged to offer subject matter experiences and knowledge. Types of information shared in the meetings can include history, propagation, growing conditions, harvesting, storing, uses (medicinal/contra-indications, culinary, dyes, ornamental, etc.), and anything else interesting.

Some plants in this year's Herb Garden ended their season earlier than usual this summer, perhaps due to the odd weather. Even so, some such as chervil (*Anthriscus cerefolium*) generally died back earlier than others. Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) grow robustly all summer, year after year, regardless of the weather.

Several garden beds provided bright color spots of the 2022 International Herb Association's Herb of the Year, Viola (*Viola tricolor* or spp.) cultivars 'King Henry' and 'Bambini.' These violas grew well and will likely self-seed next spring. Some perennials over-expanded their territory, such as the Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria* 'Variegata'), so this group has been partly dug and trimmed back for next year. Several aggressive patches of Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*) will continue to be trimmed back as well.

Some yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and many Costmary (*Tanacetum balsamita*) plants were a bit bedraggled by the lengthy rainy weather. The Canary Bird Vines (*Tropaeolum peregrinum*) in the West Bed did not thrive

## IN MEMORIAM

Leonard Grau, Jr., a lifelong Alaskan who studied to become a Master Gardener in Anchorage in the late 1990s, passed away in July. Leonard was an active member of many civic organizations, and attended many AMGA meetings even after moving to Wasilla.

Leonard's [Sept. 9 obituary](#) in the Anchorage Daily News has many great details about his life, career and interests. One of the highlights of his year was judging berries at the Alaska State Fair, according to the obituary.

### 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 1:** Ginger (Susan)

**February 10:** Oregano (Debbie)

**March 10:** Nigella (Elaine)

**April 14:** Poppies (Shirley)

**May meeting TBD**

**Request Herb Study notifications by emailing [anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com).**

well this year although most years they have been the first to flower and vine well up the obelisk long before the Nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum majus*) in the East Bed. As in past years, once the nasturtiums started filling out, they continued vining up the obelisk (with some assistance) as well as sprawling out over other herb areas of the bed. The Golden Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium* 'Aureum') edging at the north and south beds continues to re-seed each year and has been flowering nicely.

Discussion is ongoing about how to increase sunlight to many plants in the Herb Garden. This depends on weather, but could be enhanced by relocating some plants and/or addressing shadows from trees outside of the garden. Some other continuing activities are recommendations for any new plants and amending the soil in several of the beds.

Our sincere thanks go to Gina Dionne for continuing to host our winter Zoom meetings through the CES Anchorage Outreach Center. 🌿

## FEEL BETTER SOON!

Please send healing wishes to CES Horticultural Agent and longtime Anchorage Master Gardener class instructor Steve Brown, who has experienced some serious health challenges this summer.

# OCTOBER 2022 EVENT CALENDAR

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

### Wednesday, Oct. 5, 1:30-3:30 pm

Yarducopia hosts weekly composting workshops at the Midtown Garden Depot (2930 Cheechako Street). Learn how to manage compost piles at different stages of life and help create the free compost offered at the Depot. Accepting compostables. Contact Mary-Ellen with questions at 207-409-501.

### Monday, Oct. 10, 5:30-7 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden: Haunted Fairy Gardens. Spend an evening in the garden creating your own spooky or whimsical miniature garden in this hands-on, in-person workshop. [Purchase tickets.](#)

### Wednesday, Oct. 12, 5-6 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden: Mushroom Kit Workshop. Learn to grow your own mushrooms from the owners of Far North Fungi. [Purchase tickets.](#)

### Friday, October 14-Nov. 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 are recorded. [Learn more and register.](#)

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### Saturday, Oct. 1, 2-3:30 pm

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association: Final late

apple/fruit tasting. The event is free and open to the public. An enjoyable opportunity to share and taste some of the excellent fruit being grown locally. [Reach out to the club for more details.](#)

### Monday, Oct. 3, 7-9 pm

Alaska Native Plant Society: 2022 Plant Photo Sharing via Zoom and in-person at the Campbell Creek Science Center. [Contact the club.](#)

### Thursday, Oct. 13, 10 am

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska: It's All About the Seed with Jaime Rodriguez. Current meeting via Zoom. [Contact the club.](#)

### Saturdays, Sundays & Mondays, through Oct. 24, 10 am-4 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden: BOOtanical Garden. Members and Children 6 and under have free admission. Note that this spooktacular event starts early and ends before Halloween.

## JOBS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

Please take note: the **October AMGA meeting** will be in person at the BP Energy Center at a time and on a date that both different than normal! We will be meeting on Monday, Oct. 24 from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Interested in serving the Anchorage gardening community? Consider applying to serve on the **AMGA Board of Directors**. Directors serve two years. The minimum time commitment is an hour a month for board meetings, but directors also help organize various volunteer projects. Contact any current board member for more information.

The **UAF Integrated Pest Management Team** is conducting a **fruit tree pollinator survey** for 2022. This survey is anonymous and will help with development of outreach/educational resources and guide potential research to improve pest management in Alaska. [Fill in survey online.](#)

## 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.](#)

**The next AMGA Meeting is  
in person at the BP Energy Center!**  
**“Picture Sharing from Summer 2022”**  
**Monday, October 24, 2022**  
**SPECIAL TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**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](mailto: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
<b>Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators &amp; Volunteers</b>	
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](mailto:newsletteramga@gmail.com) and send Bird Chatter items to [birdchatter@alaskamastergardeners.org](mailto:birdchatter@alaskamastergardeners.org).

**Connect with AMGA**

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





## 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: _____		Donation: \$ _____
40 volunteer hours complete? Yes    No		

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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_