

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT by Emily Becker

My memory of the 2022 growing season: a warm, sunny, glorious June (glorious as long as you had access to watering infrastructure, of course, as it was the third driest June on record with less than one-tenth of an inch of precipitation!) And then it rained. In fact, August was the fifth-wettest month in Anchorage history, with 6.8 inches of rain, four more than average. Seed saving was very challenging. 2022 ended the rainiest year on record.

It's been another active year for our organization, supported as always by many hours of volunteer service. We began 2022 with an Advanced Master Gardener class: Botany and Plant ID with Dr. Marilyn Barker. Twenty-two students completed the class and we welcomed three new Advanced Master Gardeners: Amanda Jedlicki, Kristi Hooton, and Pat Hartman. Fifty students attended a Garden Design class taught by Brenda Adams.

We're ending the year with 311 AMGA members.

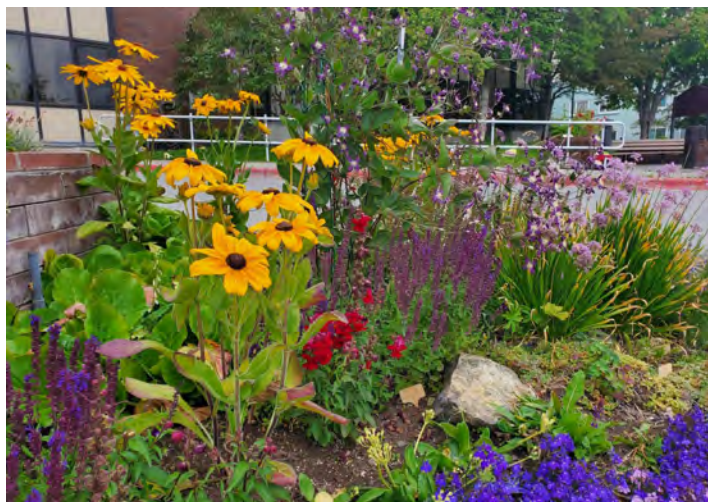
Close to 90 new students enrolled in the Master Gardener classes offered this year in Palmer, Anchorage, and online. AMGA awarded three student scholarships for these classes. We also awarded four \$500 grants to the following organizations: Bowman Elementary School, Yarducopia, Sitka Place, and Airport Heights Elementary School. AMGA also donated to the Alaska Humanities Forum's Black/Land Project.

We hosted nine educational member meetings, one of which we held in person: the photo-sharing event in October. We also hosted 14 fabulous summer garden tours. Each teacher or garden host received a small honorarium. Newsletter editor Elizabeth Bluemink produced 12 wonderful issues and Janice Berry once again created our member directory.

AMGA volunteers staffed tables to talk to the public and distribute information at the Intertribal Agriculture Council event in August as well as Fur Rondy in February. We hosted two plant sales, one in May at the Midtown Mall and the other in August in the ABG parking lot. Our members earned money selling plants and nearly \$1,900 went to AMGA. Huge thanks to Susan Negus for leading both plant sales!

### IN THIS ISSUE

- » Treasurer's Report
- » Anchorage SWCD Update
- » Grant Reports
- » Master Gardener Conference Update
- » January Event Calendar



Photos: Anchorage Pioneer Garden blooming in 2022, photos courtesy Lynn Opstad.

Your AMGA Board met 10 times this year. Welcome to new member Jamie Lang, and sincere thanks to outgoing member Kathleen Kaiser. Additional committees met to work on Advanced Master Gardeners, Grants, the Tech Committee, the 2023 Statewide Conference, and Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Our 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award winner Bonnie Tisler passed away in February. Her family continued her tradition of donating to the Pioneer Home gardens, and its flowers continue to amaze and delight us all. The Senior Center, where Bonnie led the garden for many years, has plans for some kind of tribute.

## ANCHORAGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWS

The Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District restarted in Nov. 2021 with a new volunteer board and a new vision. We hired a District Manager and Invasive Species Specialist, drafted a mission, set up financial and office systems, and began program development in key areas including invasive species and urban agriculture.

Our first grant received last spring—an Urban Agriculture Planning Grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts—enabled us to network, research, and plan for potential future projects relating to urban agriculture and conservation within the Anchorage Municipality.

If you are interested in becoming a member (called “cooperator”) or want to share your ideas for urban agriculture projects in Anchorage, reach out to us at [anchorageawcd@gmail.com](mailto:anchorageawcd@gmail.com)!—*Jessica Sharp, ASWCD District Manager*



ASWCD and volunteers helped with an apple tasting for students at the Government Hill Orchard. Photo courtesy Jessica Sharp.

We honored the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, Cindy Walker and Harry Deuber, at the ABG Conference in March. Both have given so much to AMGA. We continue to mourn the loss of our wonderful Harry, whose calm but vigorous service to our organization is still dearly missed. He shouldered so much and was loved by so many. Thank you to everyone who makes our work possible, and Happy New Year. 🌱

## NOV. 2022 TREASURER'S REPORT

### Balances on 11/1/2022

Checking S-88	\$ 19,476.28
Savings S-2	\$ 5.25
Savings S-29	\$ 16,962.02
CD General 2 year 1.95%; 1/23	\$ 10,856.07

**Total Assets** \$ 47,299.62

**Interest/Dividends** \$ 2.79

### This month's revenue

Membership	\$ 816.35
Donations	\$ -
Fundraising/Plant sale	\$ -
Advanced M.G. course fees	\$ -
Name Tags	\$ 59.26
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 875.61</b>

### This month's expenses

Grants (scholarships)	\$ -
Pioneer Home Plants	\$ -
Operations	\$ 107.00
Website	\$ -
Plant sale	\$ -
Public Relations (State Fair)	\$ -
Newsletter	\$ 19.99
AMG speaker fee	\$ -
Lifetime achievement	\$ -
2023 AMGA conference	\$ 200.00
<b>Total Expenses this month</b>	<b>\$ 326.99</b>

### BALANCES ON 11/30/2022

Checking S-88	\$ 20,024.90
Savings S-2	\$ 5.25
Savings S-29	\$ 16,964.81
CD General 2 Year 1.95%, (1/23)	\$ 10,856.07

**Total Assets on 11/30/2022** \$ 47,851.03

Prepared by Jan van den Top



**THANK YOU TO THE  
ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ANCHORAGE  
FOR SUPPORTING**

# **BOWMAN ELEMENTARY GARDEN**

**GRANT SUPPORT HELPED US PURCHASE STORAGE SOLUTIONS FOR  
OUR OUTDOOR GARDEN SHED AND INDOOR HYDROPONICS CABINET!  
THE INCREASED ORGANIZATION HELPS OUR MANY GARDEN  
VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES TO FIND THE TOOLS THEY NEED WITH  
EASE TO RUN OUR YEAR-ROUND GARDENING PROGRAM!**

**OUR NEWLY ORGANIZED SHED + HYDROPONICS CABINET**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[BIT.LY/BOWMANGARDEN](https://bit.ly/BOWMANGARDEN)**



Thank you, Alaska Master Gardeners!

Airport Heights Elementary was grateful to receive grant funds in Spring 2022 to help us fix up our greenhouse. Our PTA and community volunteers worked hard to replace the structural paneling during the summer. We've finally been able to create a secure and functioning space our school can use.

During Fall 2022, AmeriCorps & RurAL CAP volunteers focused on organizing the interior of the dome greenhouse. Our art teacher will work with students to design and paint the lower portions of the dome in Spring 2023. Thanks so much for helping us kick start the renovation of our school's dome greenhouse.

We appreciate your community support.

☺ The staff and students of Airport Heights Elementary School



Before

*You're Invited to a...*

**Friday, April 7**  
**Party with Garden Friends**  
 Herbal Syrups Demo · Auction · Appetizers  
 5:30-7:30 at The Nave  
 \$50

**Saturday, April 8**  
**Conference**  
 10 Speakers · Lunch  
 8:30-5:00 at UAA  
 \$120



**Party in the Garden**

**ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

APRIL 7-8, 2023



**MOLLY CERRIDWEN**  
 Traditional Healer



**ELLEN ZACHOS**  
 The Wildcrafted Cocktail  
 Backyard Foraging

*Sponsors*








**LES BRAKE**  
 The Coyote Gardener

**ALASKAMASTERGARDENERS.ORG**  
 REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 18  
 BOOTH AND SPONSOR SPOTS OPEN NOW

[SIGN UP AS A CONFERENCE SPONSOR OR VENDOR](#)

## HOW TO DONATE: SILENT AUCTION, SOCIAL EVENT

Master Gardeners and supporters are invited to help AMGA's April 7 social gathering and silent auction in the following ways:

- Individual, family, or company donations in any amount will be gladly accepted. Checks payable to Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage or AMGA can be sent to Troy Weiss at 6064 Kalmia Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507. Donations are tax deductible; AMGA is a 501(C)(3) corporation and our tax ID is 92-0118582.
- Gifts in kind—such as artwork, gift cards, items preserved from your garden, or apple pie—are also needed for our silent auction. To make a gift in kind, please contact Sharon Schlicht at 907-272-6670 or [sharon@alaskamastergardeners.org](mailto:sharon@alaskamastergardeners.org). Sharon aims to gather all items by mid-March. In-kind donors can request a donation statement for taxes.

All proceeds will be used for conference expenses or to support other garden education efforts. Thank you!





# JANUARY 2023 EVENT CALENDAR

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Thursday, Jan. 5, 7 - 8:30 pm**

Anchorage Garden Club: Birds in the Garden. How can we help our backyard birds? Louanne from Anchorage Audubon will give tips on how to encourage birds in the garden. At Central Lutheran Church.

**Monday, Jan. 9, 7 - 9 pm**

Alaska Native Plant Society Monthly membership meeting: Wildflower Meadow Plants and their Propagation presented by Patricia Holloway. [Zoom link](#).

**Thursday, Jan. 12, 10 am - noon**

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska: The Beauty of Gourd Art presented by Mardie Robb. Via Zoom. [Contact club](#).

**Friday, Jan. 13, noon - 1:30 pm**

Herb Study Group Meeting: Susan will present on ginger. [Request Zoom link](#).

**Various evenings through Jan. 21**

The Alaska Botanical Gardens 'Brighter Winter Nights' is open Tues-Sun, Jan. 3-8, from 4:30-8:30 p.m., and on Fri-Sat., Jan. 13-14 and 20-21, from 5-8 pm. This is an exciting winter walk amongst the glowing garden

featuring botanical-themed light displays, ice luminaries, fire pits to warm up by, a kiksled trail, and model train. Purchase tickets for \$10 on the [ABG website](#).

## JOBS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

**Alaska native wildflower seeds available:** The Alaska Native Plant Society is offering native seed via its [annual seed fundraiser](#), and AMGA member Lili Naves is offering seed through a [new Alaska native seed library](#).

**Catholic Social Services is hiring for three positions:**

- [To oversee the Fresh International Gardens expansion](#)
- [To oversee agriculture operations](#)
- [Client engagement and education support](#)

It's time to renew! Use our [online form](#) or [fillable PDF](#) to join or renew your **AMGA membership**. Note: If you would like to order an **AMGA name tag** (\$7), you will need to request one on the renewal form and submit the form by Jan. 15, the cut-off date for name tag orders. Tags should arrive by March.

## KNOW YOUR LAND - 2023

with Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) & Kachemak Bay Campus

*Every other Thursday,  
6-7 pm at Kachemak Bay Campus*

Free to the public. For more information visit <http://www.homerswcd.org/> or call (907) 235-8177 ext. 5

<b>JANUARY</b> <b>1/5/2023</b> HOW NRCS CAN HELP YOU BUILD YOUR FARM <b>1/19/2023</b> HIGH TUNNELS 101	<b>APRIL</b> <b>4/13/2023</b> THE INS AND OUTS OF SOIL TESTING <b>4/29/2023</b> HANDS-ON COMPOSTING WORKSHOP
<b>FEBRUARY</b> <b>2/2/2023</b> EXTREME MAKEOVER: HIGH TUNNEL EDITION <b>2/16/2023</b> IRRIGATION SYSTEMS FOR LARGE OR SMALL GARDENS	<b>MAY</b> <b>5/11/2023</b> CREATING A BACKYARD HABITAT: BIRD-FRIENDLY BACKYARDS <b>5/25/2023</b> GROWING FRUIT IN ALASKA <b>5/27/2023</b> ORCHARD FIELD TRIP
<b>MARCH</b> <b>3/2/2023</b> COVER CROPS & CROP ROTATION <b>3/16/2023</b> MINIMIZE FEED COSTS BY OPTIMIZING YOUR PASTURE <b>3/30/2023</b> SOIL HEALTH: MAGIC UNDER THE SURFACE	

All events are hybrid: offered in-person and through Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7151014697>

## Next AMGA Meeting via Zoom

**“Alaska’s New Crop: Rhodiola” by  
Stephen Brown**

**Monday, January 16, 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](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

### 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](mailto:newsletteramga@gmail.com)  
and send Bird Chatter items to [stoomey@ymail.com](mailto:stoomey@ymail.com).

## 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/  
UCvZehJprKkQzivQvNDKopQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvZehJprKkQzivQvNDKopQ)

Google Group: [https://groups.google.com/  
forum/?fromgroups#!forum/AkMGA](https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/AkMGA)

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 1 through December 31**  
**To ensure listing in the next Directory, dues must be received or postmarked by December 31**

Voting Membership: \$20

Dual Membership: \*\$30

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-voting Membership: \$20

Dual Member Name Tag: \$7

Print Directory (upon request only)

Name Tag: \$7

Last/First: \_\_\_\_\_ Day phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

MG Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_ MG Class Location: \_\_\_\_\_ 40 volunteer hours complete? Yes No

### **\*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 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.

We welcome your suggestions for educational program topics and speakers:

AMGA Use: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \_\_\_\_\_