

LATE BLOOMERS by Brenda C. Adams

The fireweed is in full bloom. Soon their flowers will be gone while their leaves will have turned redder by the day. Along the road at higher elevations a few birch trees already have bright yellow leaves - not all of the leaves are yellow, but enough of them to send shivers down the spine of this summer lover. A brisk chill is in the air in both the mornings and the evenings, adding to the impression that fall is coming and fast. Fortunately for my sanity, my garden is still in bloom. It's alive with rich colors that give me a respite before the onset of the next season. The following are some of the dependable, late bloomers that will help extend your season:

Filipendula rubra venusta (Queen of the Prairie) is a stately plant with frothy pink blooms that are reminiscent of cotton candy. When mature, it will stand upright, without staking, at over six feet. Intermingled with it in my garden is a soft yellow *Aconitum lamarkii* (monkshood) that does need some help standing on its own, but the *Filipendula* seems quite content helping out. Another monkshood that has stronger, more self-reliant stems is the lovely *Aconitum* 'Bicolor'. Its interesting chartreuse buds open to reveal stunning blue and white flowers. Look at one of these closely and you'll see why the nickname for *Aconitum* is monkshood.

The Asiatic and LA hybrid lilies with their huge, showy flowers are finally popping open. Combining these with *Achillea* (yarrow) is a great late season duo. You can create beautiful combinations by choosing one of each in the same hue. The differences in foliage, bloom shape and size add vibrant contrast to the repeated color. Another super late option is *Chelone* (Turtlehead), up to four feet tall, pink with wonderful, shiny leaves.

Hostas that have provided beautiful foliage all summer are now adding to their display with tall spikes of soft lavender or white flowers. *Astilbe* is another elegant



Aconitum 'Bi-color' in full bloom. Notice the chartreuse buds. Brenda Adams photo.

IN THIS ISSUE

- » Treasurer's Report
- » Palmer Garden tour
- » AMGA Grant recipient reports
- » Plant Sale smashes record
- » Average Summer

continued on page 2

LATE BLOOMERS *con't from page 1*



Calamagrostis acutifolia 'Karl Forrester' with *Actea simplex*. Brenda Adams photo.

plant with frothy blooms and interesting foliage that can be burgundy as well as green. By the way, when you select *Astilbe*, check the bloom time. Some are much earlier than others.

One of my all-time favorites is the spikey, thistle-like (in looks only, not the nasty habit of mid-west thistles) *Eryngium* 'Sapphire blue'. It is loved even more by the bees that cover the flower cones in late summer. Last summer more than 150 bees were on each plant, often dozing off there and spending the night. Sadly, I lost all six of mine this past winter, along with nearly all of my thousands of daffodils. While I doubt I will replace all those daffodils, I am on the hunt for more of my beloved sea hollies.

Potentilla – both the shrub and the herbaceous perennial – are in full color as is *Geranium x magnificum*, which I tout frequently. It's in full bloom and covered in purple flowers with burgundy centers. This is one geranium you don't have to dead-head to keep in bloom or looking tidy. It takes care of itself quite nicely, doesn't self-sow and is attractive for a very long time.

The *Dicentra* 'Luxuriant' continues to add a nice rose color. *Veronica gentiana* that first gave forth its tall pale blue flower spires in early June often reblooms in late summer if deadheaded after the spring bloom. In fact, deadheading a spring bloomer often results in a late season, second flush of color.

Actea simplex 'Hillside Black Beauty' not only puts up its pale pink spires very late, it adds beautiful dark burgundy, some might call it chocolate, foliage all season long. The leaves are delicately cut and provide a perfect backdrop for other light hued flowers that may bloom earlier.

And then there are the grasses. They are glorious this time of year, especially the taller ones. Their full foliage waves in the fall winds and their elegant inflorescence stand like tall sentries in the garden. If you position your grasses so the sun travels behind them from your primary view point, they will positively glow in the early morning or late afternoon light. A wonderful plant that pairs well with grasses is *Coreopsis*. My favorite is *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Zagreb', with its delicate yellow flowers that are followed by chocolate seedheads.

Few, if any of these plants will be in bloom when you visit the nurseries in spring or even mid-summer so they don't jump out at you crying, "Buy Me!" In fact, some of them, like the *Coreopsis*, will be absolutely wimpy in early spring. But if you want to keep fall at bay in your gardens and enjoy color until the snow flies, you should definitely seek out some of these lovely, late-blooming plants.



Blossoms of Eryngium 'Sapphire Blue' in their fall finery. Brenda Adams photo.

JULY 2026 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balances on 6/30/2026

Checking S-88	\$14,779.81
Savings S-2	\$ 5.25
Savings S-29	\$ 17,238.69
CD General 2 year mature; 1/3/27	\$ 11,793.18
CD General 1 year; mature 1/30/26	\$ 10,988.60
Total Assets	\$ 54,805.53

Interest/Dividends \$6.51

This month's revenue

Membership	\$231.22
Donations	\$436.60
Fundraising/Plant sale	
Palmer Garden Tour	\$809.33
Total revenue	\$1,477.15
fees included in revenue	\$ 74.85
Net Revenue	\$1,402.30

This month's expenses

NEON 1	\$125.00
Badges	\$337.00
Operations	\$ 134.13
Website Hosting	
Pioneer Home Garden	\$87.86
Postage/Box Rental	\$
Fundraising/plant sale	\$
Newsletter	\$39.99
Postage/Box rental	\$330.00
2026 Special Events	\$4,456.80
Total Expenses this month	\$ 5,510.78

Balances On 3/31/2026

Checking S-88	\$ 10,671.33
Savings S-2	\$ 5.25
Savings S-29	\$ 17,245.20
CD General 2 Year 2.71%, (1/23/27)	\$ 11,793.18
CD General 1 Year 4.07% (1/30/27)	\$10,988.60

Total Assets on 7/31/26 \$ 50,703.56

Prepared by Jan van den Top

Member Meetings Return!



"Growing Garlic in Alaska"

Will Criner

*Garden and Facilities Manager
at the Alaska Botanical Garden*

September 21

6:00 pm mix n' mingle

6:30 pm program begins

BP Energy Center

All are welcome.

After the program, seed garlic (**Music, German, Chesnok Red, Georgian Crystal, Montana Giant**) will be available for purchase. Bring cash! Proceeds benefit the AMGA grants program.



*Rich Ervin found a new friend, a black currant plant, at the garden tour of Gary Masog's orchard on Aug. 17th.
Roz Goodman photo.*

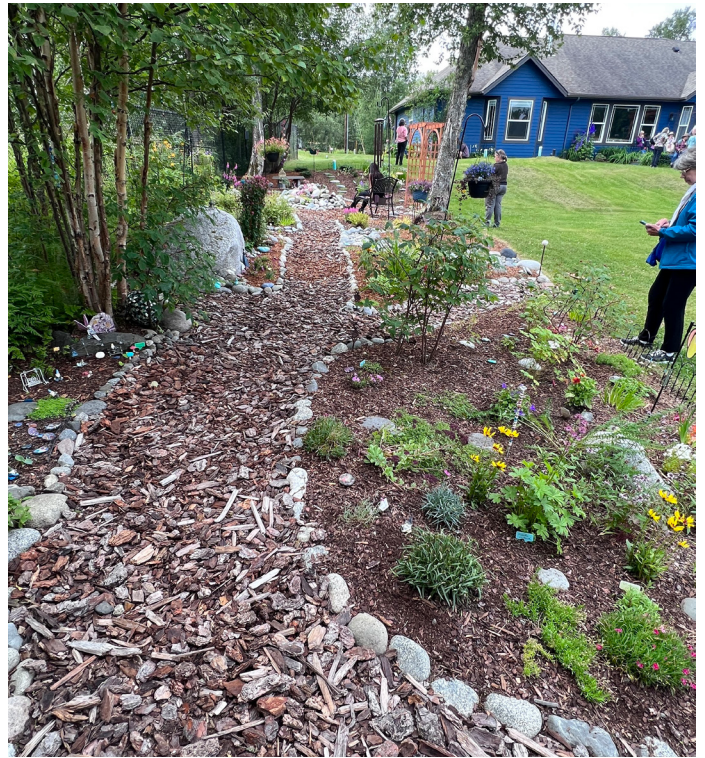
OUR VALLEY GARDEN TOUR by Nickel LaFleur

I was so excited to see the bus arrive at Matanuska Experimental Station on Tuesday when the weather was cooperative in the Valley. Aimee Young, Farm Manager, Chelsea San Roman, Researcher, and Bob Van Veldhuizen, retired Soil Scientist/Friend, were standing by to take the group around to the lower part of the farm for a quick tour. With so much to see and less than an hour on site, we didn't get to see the cows. Maybe next time.

The bus took off for the next garden stop located off Palmer-Fishhook Rd. I was sure I had the bus driver on the right track so didn't follow along and heard later that they called from Lazy Mountain looking to see how close they were to their destination. Apparently, the driver took Palmer-Wasilla Hwy??? I'm not sure why but it makes me laugh!

Of course, this put the Tour a little off schedule for the next couple gardens but everyone hustled and had a quick lunch at my house before moving on to a working farm and friendly neighbors that grow everything from seed (except the lobelia). Our hosts were "world-reknowned scientists," I'm almost sure.

We made our way into town to the darling place off Bailey Street, an old revamped cabin they brought in from Chickaloon & the most engaging gardener, Ann. Our final stop was the State Fair, and my guiding the bus to the wrong RED entrance and having them park in a bogus spot was par for the course. Dear Becky Myrvold was there to share the horrors of her winter: coming in and finding everything in one of the greenhouses dead. We all took a deep breath and enjoyed all the horticulture that did make it through as well as the glorious annuals. Did you know Becky doesn't as a rule use dahlias in her designs?



Inspirational design elements were abundant on the Palmer garden tour. Tony Flores photo.

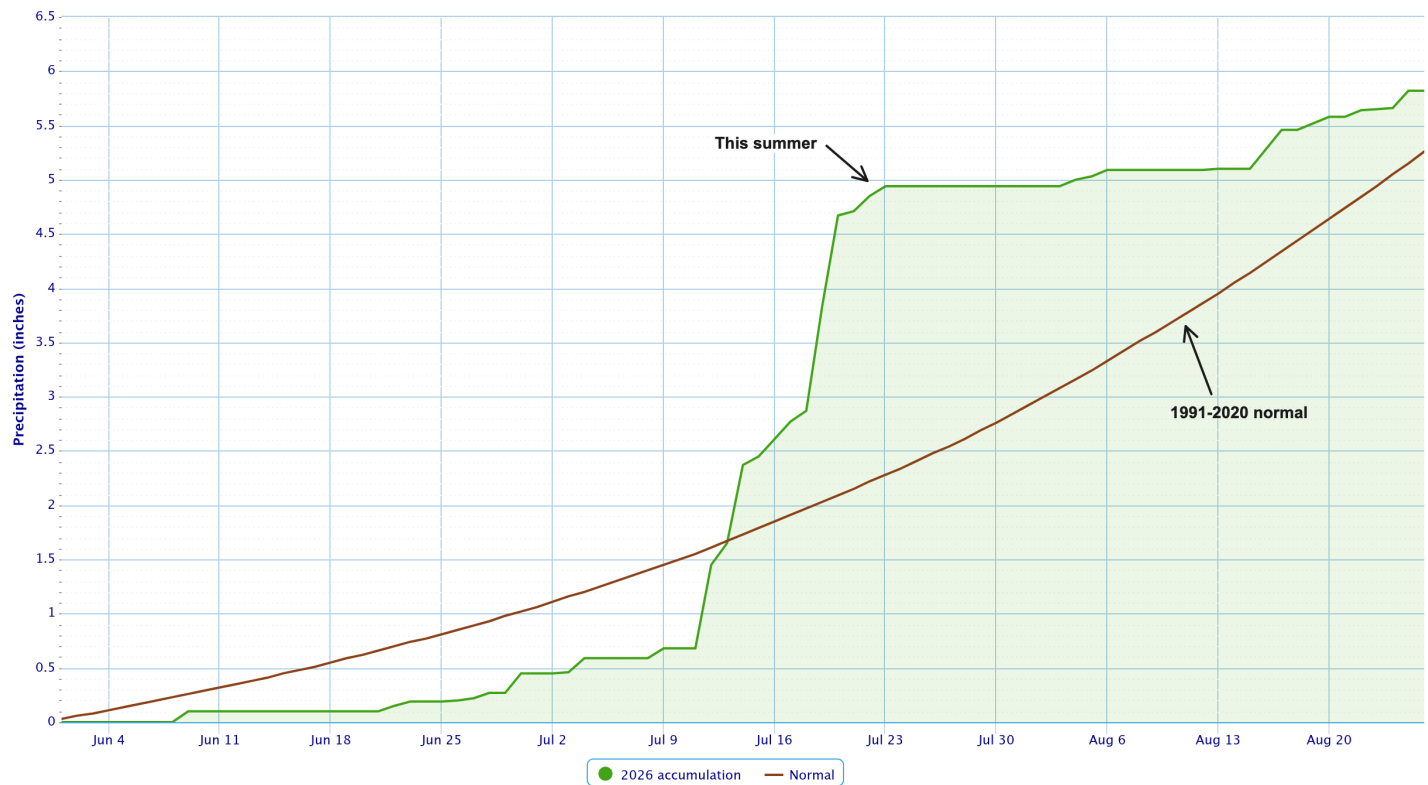


Sunflowers at the Matanuska Experiment Farm. Tony Flores photo. Make sure to attend the October member meeting for lots more of Tony's wonderful photos!

The bus loaded up the group to head out of the correct red gate and return to Anchorage. I trust the ride back to town was smooth. Huge thanks to Amy Olmstead for writing thank you cards to our Valley hosts/hostesses!! If you enjoyed the two bus tours this year – or even if you didn't participate, we need your help to make future tours better. No doubt I learned lots about all the work Janie & Dawn put into these tours before I came along. We need better involvement of our membership to make this work. I'm willing to help Janie O. (President Dawn does way too much already) get a booklet organized on what it takes to make AMGA tours successful. What about you, can we count on you? My email: TagalakAlaska@MTAonline.net

IN THE END, AN AVERAGE SUMMER

Accumulated Precipitation – ANCHORAGE TED STEVENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AK
June 1 to August 26, 2026



Powered by ACIS

2026 summer rainfall is likely to end up "near normal," the result of a dry June and August sandwiching a near record wet July. *Map and caption courtesy Rick Thoman, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Preparedness, International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.*



Late season plant sale smashes record!

Fantastic work, AMGA volunteers! Sales totaled \$10,802, the largest amount in recent memory. Sellers keep 75% and 25% goes to AMGA, helping to fund our grant program, our operations, and everything else we do. **Huge thanks to organizers Nancy Grant and Susan Negus, plus so many other volunteers!** Treasurer Jan van den Top, in blue shirt, left, and Sharon Schlict, in purple coat, were kept busy all day in the cashier tent, while customers clamored for plants from our beloved

Paul Marmora, in grey. Thank you to all the volunteers who make this fun event happen! Interested in selling plants next year? [Find all the details on our website.](#)

HERB STUDY RETURNS!

The Herb Study Group picks one herb per month for a deep dive and knowledge exchange. We'll have a planning meeting in person on Friday, September 11, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. Hope for nice weather, so we can meet in the backyard garden. Plus, we'll have a virtual option for anyone who can't make it in person.

Please bring a brown bag lunch and tell us what herbs you're interested in learning more about this season. Organizer Jerelyn Miyashiro will send you the meeting location address via email after you confirm you can make it, and the Zoom link will be sent out the day before the meeting.

Here are some herbs that haven't been studied yet and might pique your curiosity for topics this season:

- Korean angelica (*Angelica giga*)
- *Arnica montana*
- *Dianthus*
- Curry plant (*Helichrysum italicum*)
- *Artemisia* (wormwood, mugwort, and tarragon)

See previous winter newsletters for articles about studied herbs. All are welcome!

Email: anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com.



GARLIC DAY



tasting & sales kickoff



**Alaska
Botanical
Garden**

**Saturday
Sept. 19
11-6**



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
University of Alaska Fairbanks

4-H Open House

Saturday, September 12

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

UAF Cooperative Extension Office - Anchorage
219 E International Airport Road, Suite 100

Join us for a fun, hands-on afternoon designed for the whole family. Kids can explore interactive STEM challenges, local agricultural displays and natural resource projects, while earning stamps on a special event "passport."

Tip! Garlic was sold out by 2 pm last year. Why not volunteer and get first dibs!? Herb Study volunteers will help to serve Alaska-grown herbal tea at the event.

Your AMGA Dues in Action! Reports from Grant Recipients



*From Josh Smith, owner of **Bear Mountain Forest Nursery**:*

I appreciate the generosity so much of the Master Gardeners in supporting me! I used the funds to start building nursery benches, so we can have a Bear Mountain Forest Nursery storefront! I cannot thank the group enough, as your support means everything!

*Elaine Major led a team of gardeners in renovating the **Eagle River Nature Center** gardens. July rains really helped this garden flourish!*



*AMGA members celebrate Patrick Ryan, center, a beloved educator at the **Alaska Botanical Garden** for many years. Pat looks forward to time for writing and, of course, more gardening. ABG was also a grant recipient this year and benefits from many volunteer hours from our members and many others.*

AMGA is participating in ABG's scarecrow building event, a fundraiser for ABG. Saturday, Sept. 5th, 11 am - 5 pm. \$25. [More info and sign up here.](#)



FREE FARM STANDS

We share **FREE** produce on a first-come, first-serve basis.
We move locations, so check our website for updates:
www.anchorgardens.org

**SUN: 2-4PM
AUG 30TH**

Perseverance Garden: Corner of 14th & Ingra St.

**THURS: 2-4PM
SEPT 3, 10, 17, 24**

Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry
Parking Lot: 1303 W. 33rd St.

**SUN: 1-4PM
SEPT 6 & OCT 4**

MANA Free Store: 2522 Arctic Blvd.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Share Your Harvest: Bring your excess, clean garden veggies and fruit on the same day you harvest them.



Volunteer Your Time: Join a dedicated team of volunteers and help stock, maintain, and manage a Farm Stand.



Make a Donation: Your financial support helps sustain and expand the Free Farm Stands, ensuring fresh food remains available to those who need it most.



Contact **Theresa 907-947-8217** for pick up or alternative drop off options.



Dating apps suck.
So do invasive species. 
Dump both and have some fun.

Invasive plant pull for singles. Group facilitation, tools, and snacks provided. Adults of all ages, genders, and sexualities welcome.

More info



Mon. Sept 14, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Fri. Oct. 2, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Tikishla Park in Airport Heights



**Help Restore
Valley of the
Moon Park**
revegetate
with native
plants



sign up!

**Wednesday
Sept. 2
5 - 7 pm**



Join our Meetings

Member Mtgs: 3rd Monday of the month, 6:30 pm, September-May (except December), unless otherwise specified. Free and open to the public.

Board Mtgs: 2nd Monday of the month, 6-7 pm, all are welcome to observe. Email president@alaskamastergardeners.org for details.

AMGA Board of Directors

Dawn Groth	President
Troy Weiss	Vice President
Jan van den Top	Treasurer
Diane Peck	Secretary
Brenda Adams, Roz Goodman, Ellen Kirchner, Rich Ervin, Jerelyn Miyashiro, Nancy Tone	At Large

Committees, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

Casey Matney	CES Master Gardener Statewide Coordinator
Roz Goodman	Broadcast Email
Nick Riordan	Calendar of Events
Brenda Adams	Advanced MG Course
Kathy Liska, Cindy Walker	Facebook
Nancy Tone	Meetings/Programs
Janie Odgers	Garden Tours
Mary Rydesky	Google Group Manager
Jan van den Top, Nancy Tone, Rich Ervin	Grants Program
Merlin Hamre	Hospitality
Diane Peck	Membership Database
Emily Becker	Newsletter Editor
Vacant	Ask a Master Gardener
Board of Directors	Lifetime Achievement
Susan Miller	Pioneer Home Garden
Board of Directors	Volunteer Coordinators
Nancy Grant, Sue Negus	Plant Sale Coordinators

Renew/Join AMGA

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

The deadline for submitting an item for publication is the 20th of the month. We welcome educational articles (400-600 words ideal), calendar items and announcements. Educational articles qualify for MG volunteer hours. Please disclose use of AI. Contact/send items to the editor at newsletter@alaskamastergardeners.org.

Connect with AMGA

Website: www.alaskamastergardeners.org
 Facebook: facebook.com/Alaska-Master-Gardeners-Anchorage
 YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCvZehJprKkjQzivQvNDKopQ
 Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/AkMGA>
 Membership issues/address updates: rebecca@alaskamastergardeners.org
 General emails: AskMG@alaskamastergardeners.org
 Mail: AMGA, P.O. Box 221403, Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

