

APRIL 2021 EVENT CALENDAR

CONFERENCES

Saturday, April 3, 1-4 pm

Winter Plant ID workshop with Dr. Marilyn Barker at the Alaska Botanical Garden. By observing woody plants in their skeletal form, you will begin to identify familiar plants by their bark pattern, buds, habitat and more. Class size is limited to 10 people, pre-registration required. [Details.](#)

Friday, April 9, 8:45 am-5 pm

Alaska Farmers Market Summit. Program includes workshops and networking opportunities. Keynote speaker will be Qiana Mickie, a food systems and equity consultant based in Harlem, NY. [Registration is free but required.](#)

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, April 13, 6:30-7:30 pm

Yarducopia is hosting a Perennial Propagation Workshop. Cuttings and other materials available for pickup prior to the event. [Register here.](#)

Tuesday, April 6, 12-1 pm

Cooperative Extension Service: Soils: How better to celebrate Earth Day than to learn about earth? Come ask all your soil questions as you get ready to start your gardens and flower beds. [Learn more/Register here.](#)

Wednesday, April 7, 12-1 pm

UAF CES Anchorage Outreach Center: Spice Up Your Garden. Join Gina Dionne for the center's *In the Virtual*

Garden bi-weekly series, filled with tips for successful gardening in Alaska. [Register here.](#)

Wednesday, April 21, 12-1 pm

UAF CES Anchorage Outreach Center: Pollinator Gardens. Grab your lunch and join the center's *In the Virtual Garden* bi-weekly series, filled with tips and tricks for successful home gardening in Alaska. [Register here.](#)

Tuesday, April 27, 6:30-7:15 pm

Yarducopia is hosting a discussion on Neighborhood Composting Programs. On deck are local composting programs – old ones, new ones, and ideas for designing something in your neighborhood. [Register here.](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monday, April 5 @ 7-9 pm

Alaska Native Plant Society monthly meeting: "Verna Pratt's MA roots and their glacial connection to AK," presented by Ginger Brown. Also, Glenn Brown will give short introductions to Lovages (*Ligusticum calderi* and *L. scothicum*) and Podistera (*P. macounii* and *P. yukonensis*). Via Google Meet. Contact president@aknps.org for meeting link.

Thursday, April 8, 10 am-12 pm

Wildflower Garden Club Regular Meeting and Program: "Urban Wildlife: Both Sides of the Coin" by Donna Dewhurst; contact [Paul Marmora](#) for details.

Saturday, April 17, 10:30 am

Alaska Rock Garden Society monthly meeting via Zoom, topic TBA. [Get the link.](#)

Thursday, April 29 @ 7-8:30 pm

Alaska Common Ground's Climate Action Plan Series continues with Consumption and Solid Waste. [Learn more/Register here.](#)



In the Virtual Garden

Grab your lunch and join us for a bi-weekly series hosted by the UAF CES Anchorage Outreach Center filled with tips and tricks for successful home gardening in Alaska.

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CALENDAR, CONT.

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JOBS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

The Alaska Botanical Gardens is advertising for several 2021 garden positions. [Read more here.](#)

Anchorage Community Garden sign-ups are open for renewals until April 5, and will open for new gardeners on April 10. [More info on their website.](#)

The Alaska Native Plant Society has an online seed inventory including dozens of Alaska native plant species available for distribution. [Find out more.](#)

[Anchor Gardens](#) is recruiting neighborhood garden coaches. Coaches serve as community mentors for those interested in learning about growing food in their own neighborhoods and assist in linking people to resources. Reach out to anchorgardensanc@gmail.com.

AMGA is seeking program topics for future monthly member meetings. Most of the spaces are filled for 2021 but we are looking for 2022 topics. If you have ideas, please contact AMGA vice president Troy Weiss at troyd-weiss@gmail.com.

GARDEN TOUR HOSTS NEEDED!



With COVID-19 restrictions relaxing, AMGA is planning ahead for garden tours. Tours are Monday evenings from 7-8:30 pm. Tour gardens don't have to be perfect. We are looking for all types of gardens: old gardens, new gardens,

rock gardens, vegetable gardens, greenhouses, orchards, farms, nurseries, water features, oriental designs, permaculture, shady, sunny, natural, etc,

Tours are meant to share with other gardeners and get those creative inspirations going. If you can host a garden tour, please contact Vice President Troy Weiss at troydweiss@gmail.com.

Beth Norris is leading a group to develop COVID plans so all AMGA gatherings will be safe and fun!

BIRD CHATTER

Get hygge with it The New Yorker Magazine recently featured a tongue-in-check article "Beyond Hygge," with made-up Norwegian terminology to "make your sad pandemic life seem intentional." It got us thinking about a possible term for the trance induced by staring at seedlings growing (or not growing) under lights. Err, *grønntranse*?

Bee aware In various recent Zooms, local bug experts have encouraged gardeners to wait to remove the dead material from our perennial beds to protect emerging native pollinators. Also, apparently some native bees will lay their eggs in large hollow stems. Let's not throw our native bees away!

In case you missed it last month, please read now ... AMGA has a grant program that could help you improve our town. Last year we had some money left over. [Check it out on our website.](#)

Hipster houseplants Have you visited That Feeling Company on Dowling? If you enjoy shopping for tropical plants, macrame hangers, and nifty pots while waiting for a specialty espresso coffee drink order, this might be the Portlandia trip of your dreams. Next door is Johnny's Produce which has an assortment of Made in Alaska items (mostly shelf-stable) and some Alaska cookbooks sprinkled among the the produce counters.

What to do when you've planted all the seeds and the snow is still 4 feet deep We watched a few award-winning movies related to plants to keep us motivated for gardening. Highly recommended is *Minari*, a semi-autobiographical account of a Korean-American family starting a produce farm in the Ozarks in the 1980s Also recommended is *Farmageddon*, because ... it's funny. And it stars mischevious sheep and a cute baby alien.

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

