

AUGUST 2021 EVENT CALENDAR

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, August 3, 12 pm

Mat-Su Experimental Farm & Extension Center: Garden Journals and Designs. Many of the best note takers and journalists I know are gardeners. Let's talk about some great ways to plan for a crafty garden journal and other great ways to document your amazing gardening ways! Led by Jodie Anderson. Via Zoom. [Register here.](#)

Thursday, Aug 5, 12 pm

Mat-Su Experimental Farm & Extension Center: Dehydrating Fruits and Vegetables (including Herbs). Methods of dehydration, steps in drying fruits and vegetables, fruit leather, equipment, storage, rehydration and use of dried foods. Making jerky and smoking fish will be reviewed. Safety and storage of non-preserved foods will also be discussed. Via Zoom. [Register here.](#)

Tuesday, August 10, 5:30-7 pm

Urban Harvest: Creative Uses for an Abundance of Kale, hosted by the Anchorage Museum. Late-summer gardens are bountiful, and greens like kale provide for warm-weather eating and storing for winter. Take a look at objects in the Anchorage Museum collection aiding in harvest and food storage, then learn from Edible Alaska contributor Jonathan Bower as he describes some methods of using and preserving summer greens. Make a kale recipe and take home your own portion. Registration required; materials provided. \$10, \$9 members. [Read more/register.](#)

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Tuesday, August 3, 7-7:30 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden: Verna Pratt Wildflower Trail Dedication. The community is invited to join ABG for a formal dedication of the Wildflower Trail to Verna Pratt, local Alaska wildflower expert, educator, author and ABG volunteer and friend.

Saturday, August 14, 10-3 pm

AMGA Plant Sale at the Benny Benson School on Campbell Airstrip Road.

Tuesday, August 17, 6-7 pm

Alaska Botanical Garden: Walking Tour of the Garden. Make the most of our short growing season, learn to identify Alaskan plants and find out what's blooming in our collections with one of our monthly walks in the Garden.

Be sure to dress for the weather (good walking shoes or boots, rain layers, bug spray, hat, sunglasses, water). Space is limited; pre-registration is encouraged (space will fill up quickly). No refunds for cancellations made with less than 48 hours of the tour. \$8 for Members/\$10 for Non-Members. [Register here.](#)

JOBS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

The Grow North farmstand along Mountain View Drive is open 4-7 pm, Mondays to Fridays. selling fresh produce picked onsite that day. Food trucks on site 4-7 pm on Thursdays. Contact Nick Bachman for more info at 865-5213 or nbachman@anchorageandtrust.org.

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 troydweiss@gmail.com.

Check out a wide range of volunteer opportunities with local garden projects at [Volunteers 4 Anchorage Gardens](#), a list compiled by AMGA and the Alaska School Garden Network.

Did you miss Brenda Adams' "Mastering Garden Design" class? AMGA will offer it again in the fall. Date/time TBA. [Sign up here](#) to make sure you get the first notice. Please note that this class will not be offered for an Advanced Certificate and will be open to all gardeners.

AMGA is surveying members on topics for the next Advanced MG class. Give your input by filling out [our online survey](#).

BIRD CHATTER

Jeff Lowenfels in the New York Times! You'll probably need to create a login/password to read it, but the New York Times published an extensive interview with our local newspaper garden columnist on June 28. It's a fascinating read, telling the strange path of how he became a garden writer, how his views on gardening changed, and how his weekly columns provide a record of climate change in our region.

Ginger Hudson in the Juneau Empire! Former AMGA Newsletter editor Ginger Hudson was featured in a recent Juneau Empire article introducing her as the new Jensen-Olson Arboretum manager. Read the article and check out the photos [here](#).

Trouble overwintering foxgloves? Heather Tauschek writes that she finally got foxgloves to overwinter in her Anchorage Hillside garden. Every year they would make it through the winter until the snow completely melted, but they would die off with the first hard frost after the snow melted.

"This year I put propagation domes/cloches over them as soon as the snow melted, and they made it!!!" Heather said.

All about roseroot Ever wanted to know more about growing your own rhodiola? Janice Berry wrote that Alaska Rhodiola (www.akroseroot.com) has a series of new YouTube videos on their own channel. The videos helped clarify and identify if it was a thug or a valuable medicinal plant, she said.

You say potato... Alaska gardeners on social media have been spreading the word about determinate versus indeterminate potatoes. It matters in deciding whether or not to hill them and which potatoes are better suited to grow in pots or bags versus the ground. For example, Red Norland is described by the Extension Service at North Dakota State University as a determinate potato (plants stop producing new growth after tuber initiation) and Russet Burbank is described as indeterminate (plants continue producing new growth indefinitely). An example of an Alaska indeterminate is Magic Molly.

Apparently, the determinate potatoes are faster growing and don't need to be mounded, whereas the indeterminates grow over a longer season and should be mounded. Growing them in a bag makes it easy to do that. The indeterminates are known for producing larger crops, which would be even larger if our growing season lasted longer.

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



AMGA Summer Garden Tours
Updated 7/26/21

- 7/31/21 Les Brake, Willow, Noon
- 8/2/21 Roof Top Garden, Hope Center
- 8/9/21 Faye Stiehm Garden
- 8/16/21 Carrol Samuelson Garden
- 8/23/21 Pioneer Home Garden
- 8/26/21 Grow North Farms, 6-8 pm

7:00 PM start time unless noted differently

