

JULY 2021 EVENT CALENDAR

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Thursday, July 8, 12-1 pm

Mat-Su Experimental Farm & Extension Center: Bug Boxes with Joey Slowik. Ever wondered about ways to increase natural predators and pollinators in your garden? Have you considered a bug house? In this live stream event, we will be building a basic form, and discussing all the possibilities to provide a safe bug refuge in your garden. We'll cover the materials you need as well as the technical prowess to get it done, and start getting help in your garden from our six and eight legged friends. [Live on Facebook](#).

Saturday, June 17, 10-11:30 am

Alaska Botanical Garden: Join a unique workshop to learn how to create a beautiful, "overgrown" floral arrangement using flowers cut fresh from the garden. With simple supplies and cut floral and foliage varieties commonly found in Alaskan's backyards, you will be amazed at what you can create! \$55 fee. Pre-registration required. [Register here](#).

Tuesday, July 27, 12-1 pm

Mat-Su Experimental Farm & Extension Center: Chicken University teaches participants how to successfully raise a backyard flock in cold weather conditions. Topics include appropriate breed selection for Alaska, coop design, nutrition, disease identification/management and chicken psychology. Along the way will be sprinkled a few funny stories about raising chickens. [Register here](#).

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday, July 10, 9 am

Alaska Native Plant Society: "The Wildflowers of Craigie Creek" at Hatcher's Pass. Meet at 9 am at the Palmer Fred Meyer. Hike along an old mining road up a lush sub-alpine valley, about 2 miles with very little change in elevation. If time allows the group might stop at April Bowl on the way home for a look at higher alpine flora. More info: Beth Norris at enorris@aknps.org or call (505) 500-2142.

Tuesday, July 20, 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](#).

Saturday, July 24, 12 pm-TBD

Yarducopia is hosting a Garden Bike Tour to highlight some of the amazing things growing in Anchorage's many backyards. Visit the [event page](#) and reach out with ideas of gardens to visit at garden@akaction.org.

JOBS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

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](#).

AMGA Late Season Plant Sale

**SATURDAY AUGUST 14, 2021
10 AM – 3 PM**

**Benny Benson School and the ABG
parking lot
4515 Campbell Airstrip Rd**

A SignUpGenius will be sent out to member in mid-July and published in the August newsletter.

We will need more tents and tables. Let Sue Negus know if you can bring these to the pre-sale setup on the day before. Also put your name on the table and tents.

Start potting your plants!

Sue will try to attend the rest of the garden tours and carry the yellow tags with her for the potted perennials. She will also have yellow tags at her house 10201 Our Road (near the Zoo).

Perennials, house plants, fruit, trees and maybe garden art.

Setup the day before.
Volunteering for setup will also be on SignUpGenius.

Questions? Contact Susan Negus at 902-227-6288 or senegus@gci.net.

BIRD CHATTER

Need garden help of the “Zits” variety? Per Emily, the Facebook group Anchorage Teens for Hire is where everyone is finding their garden helpers this year.

Towering (but silent) magpies Fran encourages us to check out the new sculpture installation of magpies at the Alaska Botanical Garden called Night and Day, created by The Myth Makers out of locally sourced birch and willow saplings. At 20 ft tall and spanning the width of the trail midway between the lawn and the herb garden, viewers can amble underneath to admire from all angles. Andy Moerlein, one of the artists, grew up in Anchorage, but now resides on the East Coast. The Myth Makers have travelled the world creating ephemeral sculptures in botanical gardens and festivals. The idea is that the sculpture will slowly break down and return to nature in 3-5 years.

Garden tour intel The summer tours are a great opportunity to trade knowledge with other gardeners. A couple tidbits from the June 21 tour: Meg O’Mullane had outstanding ranunculuses that she started from seed indoors. Apparently some say not to do that? You can see Meg’s success in our front page photo. Also, Emily Becker and newer MG Lisa received expert advice from Debbie Hinchey on their lackluster “hardy” kiwi. As Debbie explained in the [January newsletter](#), sometimes the kiwi marketed as “hardy” are not the right kind to grow here. The one that flourishes in Anchorage is *A. kolomikta*.

Trouble with liverwort? After reading up on this, several AMGA members are using mustard powder to knock it down. Gina, who heard about it from Madge, sprinkled the powder on a bed full of liverwort, which “just dissolved.” Mustard powder has nitrogen in it, so it is actually somewhat of a plant fertilizer too, Gina says. She used it around primulas and they were unscathed, as were the horsetail. The powder did leave a ‘mustard’ residue on the top of the soil, but she turned the soil over and it looks fine now.

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

