

# MAY 2021 EVENT CALENDAR

## CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

**Saturday, May 8, 4-5:30 pm**

Alaska Botanical Garden: Mother's Day Spring Floral Design. Learn to work with spring seasonal blooms and foliage (all Alaska or US grown) to create an amazing floral work of art! Class taught by Greta Lewanski of Turnstone Farm. In person sold out, virtual only access. [Price/Registration details.](#)

**Monday, Aug. 23-Monday, Dec. 3**

The next Alaska Master Gardener Online Class will be Aug 23, 2021 - Dec. 3, 2021. Registration is now open for all students. The class fills up every year. The cost of the course is \$393. [Learn more/Register here.](#)

**Wednesday, May 5, 12-1 pm**

CES Anchorage Outreach Center: Amazing Annual Flowers. Join Gina Dionne for the center's *In the Virtual Garden* bi-weekly series, filled with tips for successful gardening in Alaska. [Register here.](#)

**Thursday, May 6, 5:30-8 pm**

The Anchorage Museum continues its Urban Harvest in-person workshops with "Building Your First Greenhouse." [Register here.](#)

**Thursday, May 11, 5:30-7 pm**

The Anchorage Museum continues its Urban Harvest in-person workshops with "Growing Fruit Trees in Your Backyard." [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.

**Tuesday, May 18, 12-1 pm**

CES Anchorage Outreach Center: Control of Bird Vetch. Join Gino Graziano, Invasive Plant Instructor, as he shares his expertise. [Register here.](#)

**Wednesday, May 19, 12-1 pm**

CES Anchorage Outreach Center: Perfect Perennials. Join Gina Dionne for the center's *In the Virtual Garden* bi-weekly series, filled with tips for successful gardening in Alaska. [Register here.](#)

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Monday, May 3, 7-9 pm**

Alaska Native Plant Society monthly meeting, featuring: "The western exploration of Alaska's flora; almost 300 years of adventures, discovery, and a few mishaps," presented by botanist Carolyn Parker. Contact [president@aknps.org](mailto:president@aknps.org) for meeting link.

**Saturday, May 22, 10am-5pm**

Midtown Mall Spring Garden Show, featuring AMGA and many other vendors. Masks are required.

## JOBS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

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

[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](mailto: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 [troydweiss@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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# CALENDAR, CONT.

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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

**Do it yourself** Shirley Kelly's niece noticed her tomato flowers weren't producing fruit and had a hunch that the flowers weren't getting pollinated. A light touch with her electric toothbrush to the plants started getting results, with many more flowers producing fruit!

**Sprucing up the neighborhood** Jan van den Top mentioned the Alaska Community Forest Council has grants available for tree planting projects in your neighborhood. [Find out more](#).

**Don't toss your food scraps** If you aren't able to compost yourself, people in Anchorage would love to take your food scraps. Go to [sharewaste.com](http://sharewaste.com), type in Anchorage, and drop-off locations will pop up. (You'll need to create a sign in to connect with the actual participants.) This is a way to connect people who need to feed their chickens/worm farms and compost heaps with people who don't have the time, space or energy for composting.

**Speaking of compost** Solid Waste Services is offering a curbside organics (food and yard waste) collection program for people who live in the SWS service area. If you participate in this new program, or if you have been taking advantage of SWS's Community Compost program, you will only be allowed to pick up finished compost on one day of the month at the two transfer stations. [Here is the schedule](#).

**Don't put this in your worm bin** Recent flooding in Australia prompted a giant earthworm to seek shelter in a motel, oozing under a closed door. The harmless Giant

Gippsland earthworm, a threatened species, averages 3.3 feet long and 3/4" in diameter. The worms are usually sluggish but when they move rapidly in their burrows, they create an audible gurgling or sucking sound.

*What's new, interesting, confounding and delightful?*  
Send your bits of interesting garden news to [birdchatter@alaskamastergardeners.org](mailto:birdchatter@alaskamastergardeners.org).



## ANCHORAGE PIONEER HOME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

AMGA has provided beautiful gardens for Anchorage Pioneer Home residents for almost 30 years.

Flowers are on order and garden cleanup and fertilizing will be the week of May 10th. Planting is scheduled for May 25-26.

During the summer 2 people sign up to maintain the gardens each week. You can sign up for as many hours as you like and work at times convenient for you. Training is available. We are looking for a garden designer to join our team.

To sign up, contact Julie at [jkginder@gci.net](mailto:jkginder@gci.net) or for more information contact Lynne at [Lynne.Opstad@gmail.com](mailto:Lynne.Opstad@gmail.com).

