

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
Cooperative Extension Office
1675 C St, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 786-6300
Fax: 786-6312



AMGA NEWSLETTER

April 2014
Volume 16, Issue 4

Message From Barbara Baker

What signals the start of Spring? Is it the first crocus popping out of the snow, buds bursting into pussy willows, a blade of green grass peering up as the snow melts back, or watching those seedlings break through the soil in your plant room? For me, it was the Alaska Botanical Garden's Spring Conference. Gardeners from around the state were gathered to celebrate a new season of gardening. Master gardeners were out in force- volunteering as greeters and conducting workshops, in spite of the blizzard conditions and heavy snows. It was also a welcoming sight to turn in every direction of the audience and see fellow master gardeners taking notes, sharing ideas and buzzing about what's new for this year's garden.



Photo by Barbara Baker

We were inspired by Roger Doiron of Kitchen Gardeners International, who has been a national voice on the resurgence of kitchen gardening. Home kitchen gardens and community gardens remain relevant in modern times. They provide us with a direct link to our food, an opportunity to foster a sense of community, build a food safety net and encourage sustainability, especially in isolated locations, like Alaska.

Continued on page 5

Lifetime Achievement Award Presented By Sheila Toomey

Long-time activist, Webmaster, and AMGA newsletter editor Gina Docherty officially joined the ranks of our most appreciated volunteers at the March 17th meeting when co-President Barbara Baker presented her with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award, a stunning raven sculpture by Gunter Reimitz, was greeted with enthusiastic applause. It was hard to tell if Gina was surprised, as was intended, since she maintained her usual composure as she thanked the group. And let's face it, one of the things we count on

her for is knowing what's going on.

In making the presentation, Barbara noted how much we've grown in the nearly 30 years since we began. Gina has been one of the most effective engines of that growth. Since 1998, she's produced 195 editions of the newsletter. She's maintained the Website since 1999 and in 2013 presided over a complete re-design and update.



Photo by Barbara Baker

Through her "long-lasting commitment" Gina "has exhibited leadership, dedication and inspiration," Barbara said.

Continued on
page 2

Inside This Issue....

Message from Barbara Baker
Lifetime Achievement Award
March AMGA Meeting Notes: Bonnie Lembo
Treasurer's Report
Plant Virus Jumps to Bees - Does it Cause Colony Collapse?
Potato Yields
Herb Study Group Notes
Growing Young Gardeners: Bringing it into the Kitchen
Raven's Berry
Bird Chatter
Verna Pratt Inducted into the AK Women's Hall of Fame
Calla Lily Anyone?
Garden Event Calendar

March 17 AMGA Meeting - Bonnie Lembo
By Sheila Toomey



Our March meeting on St. Patrick's Day was strictly for the birds -- a tutorial on how to attract both long-distance travelers and the winter-over species to our backyards

Too many American homeowners have turned their yards into swaths of non-native grass soaked in pesticide, "a dead zone for wildlife," Anchorage attorney and super gardener Bonnie Lembo told an audience of 41.

We need to remember the word "garden" comes from the Persian word for "paradise," she said. And paradise includes birds, bees and butterflies. Even spiders and mosquitos.

Alaska is on the Pacific Flyway -- a major north-south path for migratory birds that runs from Patagonia to our backyards. But years of construction, logging, loss of wetlands, and poor farming practices are endangering the survival of nesting birds all along the route. The number of bird species is declining, Lembo said. Both necessity and pleasure should move gardeners to create bird-friendly spaces.

A simple starting point is a birdbath. It should be shallow, with the sides inclining gradually, Lembo said. Keep the water fresh and clean the bath when necessary with a plain brush -- no chemicals. (While you're at it, how about a bee-bath? Attract those valuable pollinators by putting a shallow dish of rocks and water near your plants.)

An obvious bird-attractant is food. Lembo emphasized that we need to feed birds in summer as well as winter. The best feeders are metal or plastic, she said. Wood is too difficult to clean. She recommended putting rocks at the bottom of the feeder so water can drain. Check the local Audubon Society website or a Northwest bird guide to find the best food for different bird species. Lembo said her favorite food to attract small song birds is peanut butter -- they love it.

Finally, if you want birds to move in, not just visit, you need to provide housing.

Bird houses should be made of unfinished wood with a wide overhang and without a perch, she said. Perches are how those gluttony squirrels get in where they can feast on bird eggs. The best bird house looks "like a cavity in an old dead tree," said Lembo. If you want to help new inhabitants furnish their home, leave out a small pile of one-inch pieces of cotton string, straw, hay, even feathers.

Birds house-hunt in February and March, so leave the bird-house up year round. Put it where you can reach it in the winter snow. Put it where the debris -- yes there will be debris -- falls where you won't track it into the house. And put it where you can see it from a window, so you can enjoy watching birds thrive thanks to your efforts.

RESOURCES: For a great intro to getting bird friendly, check out www.getinfobirds.audubon.org. Also: "The Sibley Guide to Birds," \$24.39 at amazon.



Photo by Barbara Baker

com; \$32 at local Barnes & Noble before member discount.

"The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds: Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large & Small," \$18.36 at amazon.com. Lembo recommended this one. For general information and local events: www.anchorageaudubon.org.

Lifetime Achievement Award....cont. from page 1

The Lifetime Achievement Award is not given every year but reserved for those special occasions when the committee agrees it's time to "honor that passion to commit so much time" over so many years. Past recipients of the Award are: Frank and Verna Pratt (2009), and Judy Christianson, Sandy Harrington and Mary Shier (2012).

Treasurer's Report
From Cindy Walker, AMGA Treasurer

Balances 1/31/14	
Checking	3321.26
Savings	12669.47
	<hr/>
	\$15990.73

Dedicated Funds \$6425.44

Revenue:	
Donation	100.00
Interest	1.46
	<hr/>
	\$101.46

Expense:	
Directory	863.45
Hospitality	52.80
Newsletter -Jan	397.16
Operations	389.39
	<hr/>
	\$1702.80

Balances 2/28/14

Checking	1718.46
Savings	12670.93
	<hr/>
	\$14389.39

Dedicated Funds \$6425.44



In the News - Plant Virus Jumps to Bees - Does it Cause Colony Collapse?

Mike Baldwin

In the past few years there has been a lot in the news about honeybees and the collapse of bee colonies - both potential causes and alarming consequences.



Honey bees at a hive entrance; one is about to land and the other is fanning. Photo from Wikipedia

As part of their search for what is causing the honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), scientists regularly screen bees and their colonies for viruses. Recently, federal investigators found a potential candidate for the cause of CCD; they found a virus, Tobacco Ring Spot Virus (TRSV) that usually only affects plants, has been infecting and spreading among bees.

This is not the first virus that has been found in honeybees and their colonies; however it is the first evidence of a virus, such as TRSV, contaminating pollen which infects the honeybees that then become carriers transmitting it to other bees. While they've apparently known about the honeybee's transmitting the TRSV from plant to plant, it was the first time they realized it was able to switch from plant to animal hosts. Researchers found the Tobacco Ring Spot Virus (TRSV) have been infecting honeybees in both the United States and China. Apparently, the worrisome thing about a virus, such as TRSV, is that it can mutate easily and cause other infectious diseases to plants, and now honeybees.

Is this something that could affect our honeybee's here in Alaska? A quick internet search revealed that TRSV does occur in Alaska. For example, a 2010 annual report from the Palmer based USDA Agricultural Research Service Arctic and Subarctic Gene Bank reported finding TRSV in a dozen or so screenings of *Mentha* (mint) species that were sampled. While hypothetically there could be potential for some impact, since both occur in Alaska, it wouldn't be prudent to answer a definitive yes without further research. It sounds like a great project for a grad student!

This intriguing discovery will allow scientists to explore new avenues in the hopes of saving honeybee's and preventing future CCD and its potentially devastating impact on our agricultural system.

If you would like to read the journal article you may find it at: <http://mbio.asm.org/content/5/2/e00877-14.full.pdf+html>

Potato Yields By Greg Kalal, DDS

With the very dry and warm weather conditions last year much concern was voiced over how it would affect Alaska's vegetable crops. While relying on Mother Nature and a "rusty bucket" for irrigation, I felt that a good crop was only a dream in my mind. The "standard" yield for potatoes is generally given as ten pounds of potatoes per pound of seed. For those with smaller backyard potato patches, take the yield given divided by ten to give yield per plant. This assumes another "standard" of ten potato plants equal about a pound of seed.

During the winter months I got out my calculator and figured out some of my yields and I thought I would share the results. As some yielded what I would have expected, others truly surprised me. The winner of the yield championship was a brand new potato, so new that a common name has not been chosen, that goes by the number designation 29-6. Common names for this potato that I have heard include "Party" or "Fiesta". This potato yielded almost 37 pounds of spuds per pound of seed. I even double checked it and reweighed it. It did not yield any large tubers, most were the size of a "tennis or "golf ball" but still a very good yield. It was also generation One or the first year after germplasm. The potato has a dark red skin with white patches and a white flesh with red swirls.



Potato 29-6
Photo from Greg Kalal

Some other very good yielders were Caribe with nearly 29 pounds of spuds per pound of seed, Red Pontiac with 23, and Purple Viking and Shepody with 21. In contrast to 29-6, these all produced very large tubers with several weighing up to a pound and a half. King Edward yielded 21 pounds with respectable sized tubers. In the battle between German Butterball and Yukon Gold, the German Butterball slightly out produced Yukon Gold with a yield of fourteen and a half pounds of spuds per pound of seed, but with quite a few one pound plus tubers from Yukon Gold, German Butterball produced a more useful size.

All of these yields came from my field in Trapper Creek, Alaska and from certified seed produced by me with Generations One to Three seed. Your results may be different due to soil conditions and acts of Mother Nature.

Herb Study Group Notes By Sharon Schlicht

Growing Young Gardeners: Bringing it into the Kitchen By Amy Reed, MG



ABG Herb garden, spring 2013
Photo by G.Docherty

The Herb Study Group met on March 6 and learned about the history of the

Herb Garden at ABG from Cathy Sage. The presentation included photos of the garden under construction in the 1990s leading up to its opening in 1996. Mint beds were added in 2000. Drawings of the original herb garden designs by Sally Arant and Cathy Sage were available for everyone to view. These included details about herb varieties and their locations within the garden.

In the early days of the Herb Garden there were herb teas and herb luncheons. Plants were available to take home and chefs were on hand to recommend ways to use culinary herbs. The meeting included a discussion about herbs that do not overwinter well in the garden and replacements for them. ABG will be getting a new greenhouse for plant propagation, and they may be able to start herbs to transplant into the Herb Garden.

This was followed by Julie Riley's presentation on herbs of Iceland. She brewed reindeer moss tea for everyone to taste. In Iceland angelica is used to make a tea for health purposes. At least six species of Lady's Mantel grow there. One of them is a dwarf Lady's Mantel that doesn't spread as much as some varieties. Lovage is prominent and caraway is used a lot. Herbs that we do not use for tea are packaged and sold as tea in Iceland, e.g., thyme. Julie Riley and Annie Nevaldine were scheduled to present more information about their trip to Iceland on March 30 at CES.

The next meeting of the Herb Study Group is Friday, April 4 at noon at CES. Perilla (shiso) is the topic of the meeting.

Have there ever been days when you think about your child or grandchild's diet for the day and realized that it mostly was composed of artificial flavors, refined sugar, and starch? That the only true nutrition he or she received was from his or her gummy multivitamin that morning?

Childhood obesity rates continue to rise yearly despite First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" national campaign for sixty minutes of exercise daily. Between parents' busy work schedules and kids refusing to eat anything that resembles a vegetable, it is little wonder that children are not getting proper nutrition.

Now, I am not saying I don't have a Costco-sized pallet of macaroni and cheese in my kitchen. I am also not proclaiming to be Julia Child and whip up a gourmet meal. I work full time, and I struggle to get my preschooler to eat anything that doesn't resemble a princess, dinosaur, or have yellow #5 in it. I have found tried and true recipes that do incorporate vegetables that she will eat though, and I will share one below. I have also found that the real trick to getting my daughter to enjoy nutritious food is to involve her in the process of preparing the meal. One example is having her wash the carrots while I chop them. Nine times out of ten, she will get so excited to help, she ends up munching on a carrot slice or two. My daughter also likes to "toss" the salad by shaking the lidded container. Simple tasks that involve the child while instill pride at the dinner table and increase the chances he or she will eat that dish because "they made it".

Our "go-to" recipe for our vegetables that my daughter will eat is called "Easy Garden Bake". It is adapted from the Bisquick website (www.bisquick.com), and I have tweaked it over the years to use whatever vegetables I have on hand.

Easy Garden Bake

1 cup chopped zucchini
1 large tomato chopped
1 medium onion chopped
1/3 cup Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup Bisquick baking mix
1 cup skim milk
1/2 cup egg substitute or 2 eggs
salt/pepper
handful of chopped chives for garnish

My husband raves when I add a 1/2 cup of chopped smoked salmon

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Grease a 9" pie pan. Sprinkle the zucchini, tomato, onion, cheese, and salmon (if used) in the dish. Stir the remaining ingredients in a mixing bowl and pour over vegetables/cheese. Bake 35 minutes and enjoy!

Raven's Berry

By Marylynn L. Kostick

I am humbled by native perennials and I often pay special attention to those present year-round for enjoyment. Juniper, of the Cupressaceae (cypress) family, is found as many species throughout the world. Juniper plants can be experienced as trees reaching up to 30 meters or as shrubs that serve as groundcover. Many of these evergreens are incorporated into domestic landscape projects. I remember the border of my grandparents swimming pool and natural pond alike being made up solely of juniper shrubs - one placed with purpose by my folks, the others setting forth the example for incorporating the natural landscape into a manmade one. The most common juniper plant in northern regions of the world is *Juniperus communis*, or as the Iñupiat of Northwest Alaska may refer to it, Tulukkam asriaq or "raven's berry". *Juniperus horizontalis*, or creeping juniper, is also found in the southern regions of Alaska.

Juniper plants have evergreen needle- or scale-like leaves that grow in helices of two to three around the plant's narrow red-brown woody branch. The plant has a very distinct, somewhat 'piney', 'woody', or 'turpentine-like', scent that occurs due to the oils contained in all parts of the plant. Juniper berries, which are actually a modified cone, adorn the branches in colors of light green-blue-grey, blue-purple, and black. The color of the berry gives insight to its stage of life with lightest in color enjoying its first year on the scene, the blue-purple in transitioning between its first and second year, and the darkest and ripest potentially reaching the age of three. It is this berry and the seeds that flavor the Dutch alcoholic beverage gin, which in my experience, is what juniper is most commonly associated with when mentioned in conversation.

Due to the common association between juniper and gin, I seek to bestow to others the many additional uses of this smelly and pokey plant. The second most discussed use of juniper, in my experience, is that of its oils that can be extracted from any part of the plant; however, most medicinally used oil



J. communis ss. *alpina* (common alpine juniper)
Photo by Marylynn Kostick

is extracted via steam distillation of the juvenile berry. The oil has been and is still used by many externally as treatment for skin conditions, arthritis and sore muscles, and cleansing of wounds and is also often inhaled via steam to remedy colds and headaches.

Consumption of juniper can involve tea preparation using any part of the plant - historically used as a diuretic, to nurse a cold or sore throat, and to fight inflamma-

tion. Juniper can also be used to add flavor to foods. The entire plant can be utilized, but often protocol is to slightly crush the aged berries prior to cooking with them. My favorite is pairing the plant with wild game meat, such as elk or moose, for a hearty stew or dusting salmon or other fish with the ground berry. The berries are also often chewed on to help fight illnesses and improve digestion and can be enjoyed while tending your garden or while you are out on the trails. Additionally, the leaves can be used to smoke fish or other meat and have traditionally been burned in rooms to help prevent the spread of illness.

Always note that it is important to identify the species prior to picking any of the plant for consumption as some species such as *Juniperus virginiana* and *Juniperus silicicola* should not be used.

Sources:

- Alaskool. (n.d.) IñupiaQ to English.
<http://www.alaskool.org/language/dictionaries/inupiaq/nat-words.asp?lookup=tu>
- Gray, B. (2011). *The Boreal Herbal*. Aroma Borealis Press, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.
- Jones, A. (2010). *Plants that We Eat*. University of Alaska Press, Fairbanks, Alaska.
- Viereck, E. G. (1987). *Alaska's Wilderness Medicines*. Alaska Northwest Books, Portland, Oregon.

Message From Barbara...cont. from page 1

Our members led workshops on such topics as design considerations for the garden, including the best native plants and adding edibles; native orchids of Alaska and the basics of growing fruit trees. They also provided classes about enjoying the bounty of our gardens, covering topics on powerhouse veggies, and growing and using sourdough. We left filled with new insights and an eagerness to see the snow melt so we can get our hands in the dirt.

As we look ahead during April, the lengthening days and warming weather marks the start of our busy season. Many of us will be in our greenhouses and plant rooms nurturing our seedlings and transplanting them as they mature. We will be huddled over our tables refining our garden plans and orders, and studying our journals making sure we haven't forgotten anything important. It's also time to take stock of the neglected garden tools and pots, performing Spring maintenance on our garden pruners, shears, shovels, hoses and mowers. Be sure to watch for postings on Google Group, as our members search out all of the gardening locales for the best deals on potting soil, compost, vegetables and flowers.

And, don't forget the annual Spring Garden Show April 19 at the Sears Mall. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow gardeners, learn about various gardening clubs; and buy plants, seeds and other items from clubs and vendors. Cooperative Extension is always looking for Master Gardeners to staff the booth and answer gardening questions. Give Julie Riley a call and be a part of this Spring celebration.



Bird Chatter



Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. ~Doug Larson

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month. ~Henry Van Dyke

Verna Pratt Inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame

By Jane Baldwin

Our Verna (one name does the trick!) was inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame in the Class of 2014 induction ceremony held at the Wilda Marston Theatre, Loussac Library, February 28, 2014. In a standing room only crowd present to celebrate the Class of 2014, members of the local gardening, horticultural and botanical community were present to celebrate and honor Verna Pratt's generous contributions to our state. Verna's expertise and knowledge of Alaska native plants, wildflowers and berries is legendary as is her incredible generosity in sharing that expertise for more than 50 years. She is also a recognized and internationally known expert in Alaska's native plants, wildflowers and berries. Congratulations, Verna!

Verna and Frank Pratt were the first recipients of the Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009 in recognition of their knowledge and dedication in teaching others to appreciate and understand the Wildflowers of Alaska.

A collaborative effort begun in 2008, the mission of the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame is to honor, in perpetuity, women whose contributions have influenced the direction of Alaska in their community or the state. The Alaska Women's Hall of Fame is a place and way to remember and embrace the strong Alaska women who both came before us and walk beside us today. Read more about Verna's accomplishments and honors at the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame website. www.alaska-womenshalloffame.org

Calla Lily Anyone?

By Janice Berry



Calla Lily Turned Away
Georgia O'Keeffe, 1923

Photo submitted by Janice Berry

This year I'm going to try a new plant in my garden. I was inspired after listening to one of my favorite gardening podcasts, "A Way to Garden," with Margaret Roach. The consensus was that this is a very easy [key word] plant to take care of, even easier than begonias, and I have wintered over begonias somewhat successfully over the years in my unheated garage.

One other feature that drew me to try the calla lily is that the foliage is gorgeous. Its stems form large, waxy-finished trumpets and last from June through September. It does well in containers or in the garden, and grows in almost any kind of soil. It also makes a great long-lasting cut flower. You can grow it in full sun or part shade. They are sold as tuberous rhizomes, and if you buy them "pre-conditioned" you get twice as many flowers as regular bulbs which grow bigger as the years go by. The flower blooms from the top of a thick stem and resembles a trumpet shaped rolled paper, having a texture ranging from rather fleshy to wet autumn leaves. The rhizomes store easily indoors over winter in a cool, dry, dark place.

Here are some interesting facts:

- The calla lily is not a lily at all, and although it is related to the calla genus, it is not really a calla either. Calla lily is actually the common name for the zantedeschia genus which is in the same family as Araceae - all are monocots. Some familiar house plants in this same family are the philodendron, dieffenbachia, and the peace lily.
- The calla lily, or zantedeschia, is a genus of 28 different species all native to the southern parts of Africa with a tropical climate, from South Africa up to Africa aligned with the northern point of Madagascar. [Note: we as Alaska master gardeners like to push the boundaries, so trying to grow a tropical plant outside will be the challenge.]
- The calla lily is a very hardy and strong genus that will grow in more or less any soil as long as the climate is humid enough. In some of the countries where the calla lily originates it is thought of as a weed and is ferociously cut down to make way for agriculture. Because

the calla lily originates from marshlands one needs to keep the soil damp at all times, but not too damp, as the bulb might rot.

•Calla lilies are sometimes also called trumpet lilies or Lily of the Nile.

•"Crowborough" is a more cold tolerant cultivar growing to 36 inches tall, suited to cool climates such as the British Isles and northwestern United States. It has a white flower, however, there are now many beautiful colors to choose from in other varieties.

I called around town to see if any of the local nurseries were going to carry this flower. Dimond Greenhouses, Bell's and Alaska Mill and Feed have no plans to carry calla lily bulbs. That's okay, there are plenty of online sources. The site that was featured in the podcast is www.gardenimport.com. However, they are in Canada, and I found out that it is tedious and expensive to order plants from outside the U.S. But I was able to place an order at www.AmericanMeadows.com out of Vermont with a very reasonable shipping charge. So if you're as curious as me to try this plant, there's plenty of time to order -- good luck!



A scan from *The Lilliput Pocket Omnibus* (1937)
From the Facebook Page: *The Haunted Garden: Death and Transfiguration in the Folklore of Plants*

AMGA MEETING:

April 21, 2014

"Compelling Combinations -

Creating Sizzle and Subtlety in Garden Design"

Speaker: Brenda Adams, Homer landscape designer and author of "There's a Moose in My Garden"

The presentation will focus on how to use design concepts to create successful and compelling combinations in the garden. It will look at the use of foliage, color and other plant attributes that make a combination of plants more interesting than the individual plants. It will also highlight how to create quiet, subtle combinations, as well as how to put things together for the most arresting effects (narrative provided by presenter: Brenda Adams).

Garden Event Calendar

April 3

Anchorage Garden Club: Public Program: "Try Something New" - 6:00 p.m. Pioneer Schoolhouse 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage
www.alaskagardenclubs.org

April 5

**AK Mill & Feed - "Fruit Growing in Alaska" - speaker Debbie Hinchey - 10 a.m.

**AK Mill & Feed - "Spring Chickens" Learn about raising happy, healthy backyard chickens. 1 p.m.

April 7

**Alaska Native Plant Society: "The Red Riddle: Fall leaf reddening in bearberry, fireweed and *Cornus canadensis*" with Margie MacNeille - Campbell Creek Science Center, 7 pm (Elmore Road and East 68th St.)

**Mat Su Master Gardener meeting: "Growing Berries" - 7 p.m., MTA Building - www.matsumastergardeners.com

April 12th and 26th

"Northern Garden Designs" with Brenda Adams - Where: Kachemak Bay Campus-Kenai Peninsula College. Fee: \$85. For more information: call Brenda Adams at 235-3763. www.gardensbybrenda.com

April 12

Alaska Mill & Feed: "Peonies" - speaker Julie Riley will teach how to grow these beautiful flowers. 10 a.m.

April 19th

**Garden Day at the Sears Mall -

**Alaska Mill & Feed - "Raised Bed Gardening in Alaska" 10 a.m. - with Leslie Hately - Get the most out of your veggie gardens. Warmer soils bring higher yield.

April 21

AMGA Meeting: "Compelling Combinations - Creating Sizzle and Subtlety in Garden Design" Speaker: Brenda Adams, Homer landscape designer and author of "There's a Moose in My Garden". Book signing following presentation. 7 p.m., CES - 1650 'C' St., Anchorage.

April 26

Alaska Mill & Feed: "Seed Saving and Heirloom Gardening" 10 a.m. - Found Root Seeds will teach seed saving techniques and the importance of heirloom gardening.

May 1st

Anchorage Garden Club: Public Program: "Soils" - 6 pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage.
www.alaskagardenclubs.org

May 3

**Alaska Mill & Feed: Centennial Gardens 10 a.m. - In 2015 Anchorage turns 100! Local garden designer and artist, Ayse Gilbert, will talk about the early days of gardening in Anchorage and exciting designs to celebrate the centennial in your garden!

**Alaska Mill & Feed: 10 a.m. Worm Composting - Worm composting is easy to do year round.

May 5

Mat Su MG Meeting: "Propagating Blueberries" - 7 p.m. MTA Bldg, Palmer; www.matsumastergardeners.com

AMGA Summer Garden Tours

2014 Theme:

"Gardens in the Making"

The AMGA is looking for a few more gardens to tour this summer. No one has a perfect garden, so if you would like to show your garden to the group, finished or not, please contact Nickel LaFleur: tagalak@alaska.net or call 337-5651.

Wildflowers of the Chugach

Chugach National Forest July 12 & 13, 2014 (2 spots left) or July 19 & 20, 2014 \$189 Alaska Geographic Members \$210 Non-Members. Uncover hidden botanical gems of the Chugach on this two-day course (not over-night)

High Country Wildflowers: A Closer Look at Denali National Park & Preserve - June 13 - 15, 2014 - \$315 Alaska Geographic Members, \$350 Non-Members Explore Denali's tundra and taiga from deep in the park; room and board in cozy tent cabins included! Go to www.alaskageographic.org \ Education to Register Or Call: 907.771-8467 (Wildflowers of the Chugach) 907.683.6432 (High Country Wildflowers)



Alaska Geographic

AMGA Board of Directors

Barbara Baker	Co-President
Lynne Opstad	Co-President
Greg Kalal	Co-Vice President
Nickel LaFleur	Co-Vice President
Cindy Walker	Treasurer
Cheryl Shroyer	Secretary
Amy Olmstead	At large (Hospitality Chair)
Sheila Toomey	At large (Parliamentarian)

Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

- Broadcast Email Coordinator - Lynne Opstad
- Directory - Sandy Harrington
- Education/Advanced MG - Julie Riley, Ginny Moore
- Events Calendar - Cheryl Shroyer
- Google Group - Mary Rydesky - Administrator: Jane Baldwin, Gina Docherty, Nickel LaFleur - Managers
- Hospitality - Amy Olmstead
- Lifetime Achievement - Sandy Harrington
- Membership/Database - Jane Baldwin
- Newsletter - Gina Docherty
- Pioneer Home Gardens Coordinators - Camille Williams, Lynne Opstad
- Programs & Field Trips - Nickel LaFleur, Greg Kalal, Sheila Toomey
- Volunteer Coordinator - Sharon Schlicht
- Website - Gina Docherty

Bigger, Better, Lusher Gardens: Organic Growing through Soil Science April 26th and 27th, 10am- 3pm

Join us at the Russian Jack Chalet and learn how to manage your gardens the organic way. We have teamed up with the Cooperative Extension Service and local experts to offer a soil science intensive geared to Anchorage Gardeners. We will cover soil biology, texture, structure and composting. Learn through hands-on activities the science behind feeding your soil, not your plant. Suggested Donation \$50 Limited Space available. RSVP with ACAT at: garden@akaction.org (907) 222-7714 www.akaction.org



Newsletter Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting an item for publication in the following month's edition of the AMGA newsletter is the 20th of every month. Items arriving after this date may or may not be included.

Educational or garden related articles, Bird Chatter, calendar items and announcements are always welcome.

The Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. Contact the editor, Gina Docherty, at:

Mail: 14051 Fejes Road
Anchorage, AK 99516
Phone: 345-4099
Email: amga@alaska.net
AMGA Web Site: www.alaskamastergardeners.org

AMGA Google Group:
<https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/AKMG>

To send concerns or information to the AMGA directly, mail to:
AMGA
P.O. Box 221403
Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

If you have questions or want to make address or email corrections, please contact Jane Baldwin at: jbaldwin@alaska.net

AMGA regularly meets at 7:00pm every third Monday of the month, September through May (except for December).

Meetings are held at the
Anchorage Cooperative Extension Center
1675 C Street, Suite 100
(access off of 16th Avenue)

Monthly educational programs are free and open to the public. Visitors and guests are welcomed and encouraged.