



## **AMGA NEWSLETTER**

**August 2015  
Volume 17, Issue 8**

### **Message from Lynne Opstad**

Summer is certainly in full swing now, with more than enough to do to keep us all busy and happy. I've noticed the trees have taken on that fully saturated deep green color and although I love that color it also brings to mind that we are half way through our summer. The weather has been just right. It's been warm enough to not take a coat, although I still do, a fact that my relatives in the Lower '48 always tease me about. Eighty degrees with 50% humidity and I still carry a coat, but that's the Alaskan in me.

If you haven't had a chance to swing by the Pioneer Home to view the gardens, make it a point to do so in the next week or two. The gardens are in full bloom and look lovelier every day. And the Centennial Rose Garden is looking very elegant, with many roses in bloom. Thank you to all the volunteers that have worked so diligently to make both of these gardens a thing of beauty. In particular, thanks go out to Erma MacMillan, Julie Ginder and Joyce Smith who took on designing and organizing the volunteers at the Pioneer Home this year, and Debbie Hinchey, Harry Deuber and Sue Looney who have coordinated volunteers and lead work parties at the Rose Garden.

Our second AMGA Late Season Plant Sale is coming up quickly. This year we've added garden tools and other gardening related items to the sale. We already have some people lined up to sell but can use more. And we still need quite a few volunteers so please consider lending a hand, if even for a couple of hours. Sale Guidelines are on the website; Jane Baldwin is coordinating with the Sellers. Sue Looney can be contacted about volunteering to help with set up, checkout, or take down in the afternoon.

A goal of the AMGA is to supply expertise, help and assistance to the public by providing training and education. One of the great features about this sale is having Master Gardeners available to answer questions such as "what plants will grow well in the shade?" We need Master Gardeners available during the sale to advise buyers. Don't worry, you are not expected to be an expert on all gardening topics. CES will be open and there will be references available to refer to. We also plan on having demonstrations throughout the day so if you have a gardening skill you would like to teach others please let us know. Contact Sue or Jane to sign up. Proceeds from the sale help fund scholarships for the Master Gardener class.

Whether you participate by selling, volunteering, buying or come to visit with your fellow Master Gardeners we hope to see you August 8th at the CES.

See you at the Monday Garden Tours or the AMGA Late Season Plant Sale.

### **Inside This Issue....**

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# July AMGA Garden Tours

Anchorage Pioneer Home July 13th  
(Photos by Nickel LaFleur)



International Gardens July 20th  
(First photo by Nickel LaFleur)



Anchorage Centennial Rose Garden July 13th:  
(Photos by Nickel LaFleur)



Bottom 2 Photos by Barbara Baker

## Tour notes for International Garden

The International Garden has provided refugees an opportunity to develop a microenterprise, learn effective organic gardening techniques, and how to grow vegetables that are sold locally through farmers markets in Muldoon and the Northway Mall.

Located in Mt. View, the garden has been supervised by Julie Riley, UAF Cooperative Extension Agent. She is currently working with refugees from Nepal and also utilizes master gardeners in assisting the gardeners, as well as constructing the fencing and shed and painting the garden's sign.

The needs and success of the garden have relied upon generous community support both from businesses and volunteers.

The garden includes salad vegetables, potatoes, various root and cold weather vegetables, as well as some specialty plantings of Perilla-Sesame Leaf and Orach. It's worth a stop at the farmers market for these delicious and yummy vegetables.



### August Treasurer's Report

Balances 5/31/15	
Checking account	10480.66
<u>Savings account</u>	<u>11693.23</u>
	\$22173.89

Dedicated Funds	\$6497.64
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Revenue:	
Interest	16.06
<u>Membership</u>	<u>191.06</u>
	\$207.12

Expense:	
Education (AMG)	1265.00
Directory	77.73
Operations	245.99
<u>Pioneer Home</u>	<u>759.65</u>
	\$2348.37

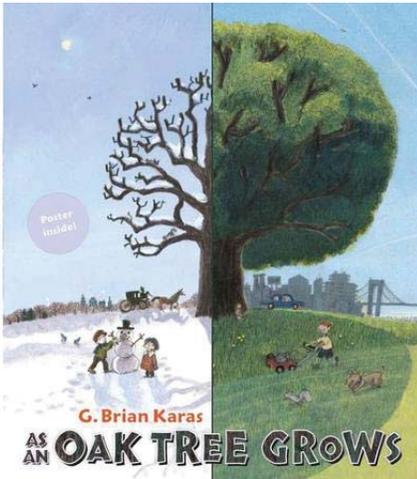
Balances 6/30/15/15	
Checking account	8323.35
<u>Savings account</u>	<u>11694.67</u>
	\$20018.02

Dedicated Funds	\$6512.26
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## Growing Young Gardeners: Book Reviews

By Amy E. Reed, MG

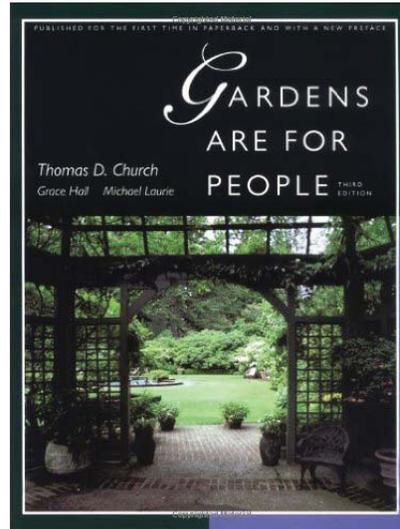


I recently stumbled upon two great books to read this summer. The first one, "As An Oak Tree Grows", by G. Brian Karas, is a fantastic depiction of an oak tree's journey through history to read with your children

or grandchildren. Thomas D. Church, an internationally acclaimed "modern design" landscape architect, writes the second book, *Gardens Are For People*. He describes how gardens should be a reflection and extension of our homes and personalities.

*As An Oak Tree Grows* story begins with a Native American boy planting an acorn in the ground outside his wigwam in the year 1775. Each page fast-forwards the acorn growing into an oak tree in twenty-five year increments. The reader not only sees the progress of the tree's growth but also the house and town around it. A colonial house replaces the wigwam, and the town expands further around the countryside, gaining electricity, modern cars, and amenities. Meanwhile, the oak tree continues to expand its branches and holds tire swings for occupants and then tree forts. Two hundred and twenty five years later, the oak tree finally is stressed under a large thunderstorm and must be cut down. The author describes how to age an oak tree by looking at its rings. Fun facts about acorns and oak trees complete the book, along with activities for families to learn as they read. My daughter and I enjoyed reading about the oak tree's progress during each era and pointing out changes to not only the tree, but also the environment around it.

The second book, *Gardens Are For People*, was recommended to me during a recent visit to the Robert Hunter Vineyards in Sonoma, California. The impeccable gardens and terrace at the Vineyards was a reflection of the work of Thomas Church. Curved hedges lined the terrace overlooking the property, and century old wisteria scaled the arbor leading from the patio to the residence creating an outdoor living extension to the house. While the book directly references California landscapes and gardens, many concepts Church described can be utilized anywhere. He strived for functionality and purpose with garden designs, such as orientation of the home in regards to sun, views, and exposure, defined



edges and borders, designated working spaces—garden, garage, tool shed, dog house, and direct connections between house and garden so they were cohesive. "A garden should have no beginning and no end," he wrote in *Gardens Are for People*, "and should be pleasing when seen from any angle, not only from the house." Church also described in the

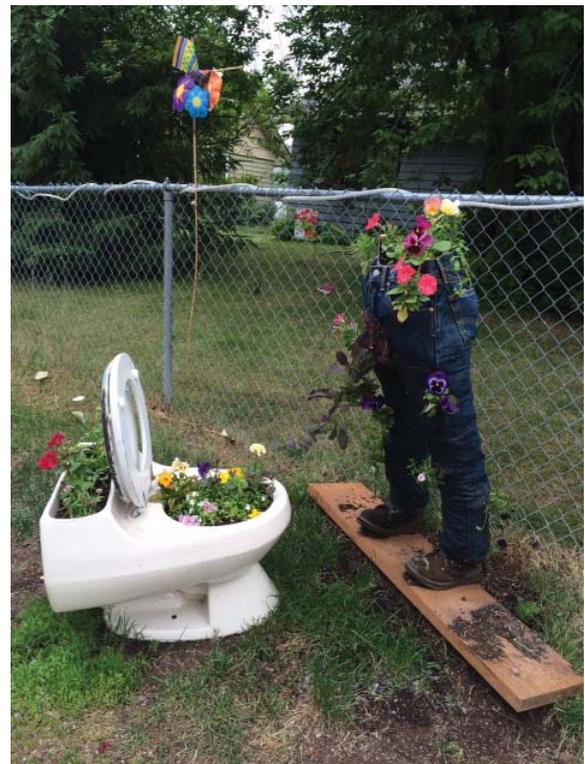
book how preserving trees on properties could make the garden feel older and more established. I highly recommend this book for those who are building properties and desire landscaping design ideas and those who want to enhance their existing gardens.

Church, Thomas (1955). *Gardens Are For People*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Karas, G. Brian (2014). *As An Oak Tree Grows*. New York, NY: Penguin Group.

### More photos from AMGA members:

Unusual Yard Art noticed by Janice Berry, while riding her bike to work....



Baby Moose - submitted by Sandy Harrington;  
photo by Andrew Renkert

**We are All Winners!!!  
The Voting Is Over -  
The Planning Begins  
By Nickel LaFleur**



On July 14, 2015, the Anchorage Assembly voted 10 -1 to change the zoning from Business to Parkland on the old Alaska Greenhouse Property located on east side of Muldoon Road across from Debarr.

Funding has been acquired from the Legislature to start the park planning process early this fall. MOA has a Request for Proposal (RFP) out for landscape architects to bid on this project and a Citizen's Advisory Committee will be appointed as well.

At the time of this writing, the Chester Creek Realignment Project is moving along with the majority of the trees and shrubs planted on the east side of Muldoon with the west side to be planted before the end of July. The exact date the Creek will be rerouted keeps getting adjusted as trees and shrubs are taking a bit longer to be placed than initially anticipated.

All the trees and shrubs used are native to south central Alaska and were purchased locally. The trees are planted at grade-level and appear to have good root structure. With them living next to a creek bed, they have a better chance of moisture, too.

The photo was taken on July 21st looking west across the new realigned creek bed on the eastside of Muldoon. The top soil has been applied and the 'random rocks' placed strategically for the salmon. The whole project has had a multitude of agencies overseeing its development and I've enjoyed providing my arborist-voice in the landscape adjustments.



*Late Season Plant Sale Plus\**  
*Plant now for spring bloom!*

Saturday, August 8  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cooperative Extension Service  
16th Ave., between A & C Streets

\*perennial flowers, fruit, garden art,  
used garden books, plus more!



Photo by Nickel LaFleur



## Bird Chatter

## Volunteer Opportunity - Alaska State Fair Crops Department From Kathy Liska

LOOK MA, NO LEGS. . . Cheryl Chapman spotted an honest-to-god hummingbird in her garden last week, doing its classic hummingbird hover. And what flower attracted this magical mystery critter? A Maltese Cross, according to Cheryl.

Who says Muldoon ain't got no class. And yes, Bird Chatter is only kidding. Myths notwithstanding, hummingbirds do have legs, and feet. They just don't use them much.

SPACE TRAVELER. . . A local gardener, enjoying summer pleasures in Whittier, was approached by an otherwise sane looking tourist just off one of the cruise ships: "I need to take a cab to Vancouver," he said. "Where can I get one?"

ATTRACTIONS COMING . . . The storms cleared out just in time for last weekend's garden tours. On Saturday, Les Brake opened his fabulous Willow spread to admiring visitors, including Fran Durner and the Avian Blabber. Fran was doing advance work for C. Colston "Cole" Burrell's guided tour to Alaska next summer. Burrell is a famous garden designer and author -- who doesn't have his "Perennial Combinations?" He leads tours all over the world and is bringing a group to Alaska next August. Fran is helping line up destinations for him, including Brake's Coyote Garden.

AND GOING. . . The rains also spared the Anchorage Garden Club tour on Sunday. Kudos to AMG member Cheryl Shroyer who included two Outside-the-usual-box gardens on Dorbrandt St. on this year's route. The AGC tour normally offers nicely manicured House Beautiful sites, which tends to eliminate us chickweed infested less beautiful dirt diggers. Dorbrandt is a -- shall we say, appearance challenged? -- block. Passing through the front yard and into the back gardens of the two featured homes there was like going through the looking glass -- yards full of lovingly lush flowers, vegetables, vines, art, unexpected decks and weird little paths -- lots of surprised wows were heard. Some age-intensive tourers might have gulped a bit while walking past the Hell's Angels clubhouse, but hey, they're old now too.

The tour also included two Yarducopia sites, which was interesting to those not familiar with the program: it pairs people with yards they're not using and wanna-be gardeners without yards.

Fair time is just around the corner and I am seeking out volunteers to help in the Alaska State Fair Crops Department on Wednesdays, August 26 & September 2 from 5-9 PM as Entry Clerks, and on Thursdays, August 27 & September 3 from 8 AM-Noon as Judges Clerks. No prior experience is required.

I am also looking for a couple of people to help with take downs on Tuesdays September 1 from 4-7 PM and September 8 from 9 AM-Noon. This will be taking ribbons off entries and alphabetically sorting them.

Be a part of the largest Garden Exhibit in Alaska! Entry & Judging days at the Alaska State Fair's Crops Department is a fun environment to meet new people, catch up with old friends, and a great opportunity to learn something new and/or share your own gardening experiences. You can enter your own vegetables & flowers too!

Entry Clerks will help Exhibitors fill out entry forms correctly, help guide the entrant in the preparation of their entries for judging and place entries in the correct display area.

Judges Clerks will record winning results as well as set up and place ribbons for the final display.

Tickets for Fair entry and parking will be provided for your help.

Participate in our states biggest growers get together ... "Dig In" ... Volunteer!

If interested, or if you have any questions, contact Kathy Liska (Crops Superintendent) at 337-2196 home, 301-0317 cell, or email at [akliska@aol.com](mailto:akliska@aol.com)

Thanks much ... happy gardening!



# Garden Event Calendar

## PLANT SALES

Saturday, August 8

Alaska Master Gardener's Plant Sale: Perennial Flowers, Berries, Trees and Shrubs. 10:00 am - 3:00pm at Co-operative Extension Office Parking Lot, 1675 C Street, Anchorage.

Saturday, August 15

Meadow Lakes Bloomers Garden Club Perennial Plant Sale. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm at Meadow Lakes City Center Parking Lot. Parks Highway and Pittman R.

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

Saturday, August 1

Willow Garden Club: Dan Hinkley, Renowned Speaker and Gardener Presents Slide Show and Discussion. 1:30 at Willow Community Center, Mile 69.5, Parks Highway. Cost: \$10.00. Tickets and details at: <http://willowgardenclub.blogspot.com/>.

Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2

Anchorage Garden Club 72nd Annual Flower Show: Anchorage Centennial Celebration. 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Saturday, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the Northway Mall, 3101 Penland Parkway, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

Monday, August 3

\*Mat-Su Master Gardener's Monthly Meeting. 6:30 pm at MTA building, Palmer.

\*Meadow Lake Bloomers Monthly Garden Club Meeting: Bev Marple Will Discuss "Upright Pallet Gardening". 10:30 at Meadow Lakes Senior Center, Wasilla.

Tuesday, August 4

Valley Garden Club Monthly Meeting: State Fair Entries by Michelle Deszko from the AK State Fair and Drying Fruits and Vegetables by Julie Cascio, Mat-Su CES. 10:30 at the First Baptist Church, Leatherleaf and Bogard Road. Details at: <http://www.valleygardenclub.com/>.

Tuesdays and Fridays, August 4 - 28

Herb Study Group: Join the Herb Study Group in the Herb Garden at Alaska Botanical Garden. Learn to care for the 100 different species of herbs. Bring tools, kneeling pads and a bucket for weeds. 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at The Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage.

Thursday, August 6

\*Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Cooking with Herbs by Allen and Peterson. 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage.

\*Alaska Botanical Garden Presents Lecture and Book

signing by Rosalind Creasy, Author of Edible Landscaping. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at APU Campus, 4101 University Drive, Anchorage. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/events/>.

Thursdays, August 6 and 20

Tragopogon Pull: Led by Verna Pratt. 6:30 pm at Potter Marsh Section House Parking Area. Bring garden gloves and dandelion digger, Adults only. Details at: 333-3212 or [verna@acsalaska.net](mailto:verna@acsalaska.net).

Friday - Saturday, August 7 and 8

Alaska Rock Garden Society: Seed Collecting Trip Led by Verna Pratt. August 18 at MacClaren River. Drive to MacClaren River Lodge the night of the 17th, Camp or stay at the Lodge. Seed collecting will begin after breakfast on the 18th. Reservations at the Lodge: <http://maclarenlodge.com/index.html>.

Tuesdays, August 11 and 25

\*Dandelion Removal for the Lowenfels Trail: Led by Verna Pratt. 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Lowndfels trail, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Helpful tools to bring: Dandelion digger, kneeling pad and a 5-gallon pail or a plastic bag.

\*Alaska Rock Garden Society: Weeding the Rock Gardens at Alaska Botanical Gardens. 10:00am to 12:00pm at The Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.akrockgarden-society.org/Calendar.html>.

Tuesday, August 11

\*Bird Cherry Pull: Join Muni Recreation Staff and the Anchorage Park Foundation To Pull Invasive Bird Cherry in Russian Jack Park. 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Selkregg Chalet in Russian Jack Park. Tools will be provided. Parents must accompany children age 6+. Register at: [www.muni.org/Active](http://www.muni.org/Active).

\*Reforest the Park: Join Muni Recreation Staff and Division of Urban Forestry To Plant Trees. Bring Your Shovel. 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm at Selkregg Chalet in Russian Jack Park. Tools will be provided. Parents must accompany children age 6+. Register at: [www.muni.org/Active](http://www.muni.org/Active).

Wednesdays, August 12 and 26

Campbell Creek Science Center Work Party: Join Verna Pratt to Weed the Wildflower Beds. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the East Entrance of the of the Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive, Anchorage.

Wednesday, August 19

Midsummer Night's Science Series: Mushroom Fair. Local Mushroom Enthusiasts Share Knowledge. 7:00 pm at Campbell Science Center, 5600 Science Center Drive, Anchorage. Details at: [http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sciencecenter/ccsc\\_calendar.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sciencecenter/ccsc_calendar.html).

Continued on next page...

Saturday, August 22

Recycle Plastic Pots: Plastic Pots 2, 5 & 7. 11:00 am - 5:00 pm at The Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/events/>.

Tuesday, August 25

Alaska Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Field Trip. 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Details at: <http://www.wayne-toups.squarespace.com/events/>.

Thursday August 27 - Sunday, September 7

Alaska State Fair, Palmer, Alaska.

\*\*Flowers 1st Entry: Wednesday, August 26, 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

\*\*Flowers 2nd Entry: Wednesday, September 2, 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Details at: <http://alaskastatefair.org/sites/default/files/flowers.pdf>.

## CLASSES and WORKSHOPS

Monday, August 3

Winterizing Your Gardens: Learn the Essential Tasks of Preparing Your Garden for Winter. Topics include Mulching, Fertilizing, Weeding, Dividing Plants and Protecting Bulbs. 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at University Center, 3901 Old Seward Highway, Anchorage. Details at: [www.uaa.alaska.edu/continuinged](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/continuinged).

### Blue Poppy

Photo by  
Gina Docherty



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.

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](mailto:amga@alaska.net)  
AMGA Web Site: [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org)

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

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:  
[ak.jbaldwin@gmail.com](mailto:ak.jbaldwin@gmail.com)

### AMGA Board of Directors

Barbara Baker	Co-President
Lynne Opstad	Co-President
Phyllis Rogers	Co-Vice President
Melanie San Angelo	Co-Vice President
Cindy Walker	Treasurer
Cheryl Shroyer	Secretary & Parliamentarian
Sheila Toomey	At large
Harry Deuber	At Large

### Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

CES Liaison:	Julie Riley
Broadcast Email:	Lynne Opstad
Calendar of Events:	Martha Farris
Advanced MG:	Ginny Moore
Directory Editor:	Sandy Harrington
Field Trips & Programs:	Melanie San Angelo & Phyllis Rogers
Google Group:	Mary Rydesky
Hospitality:	Harry Deuber
Volunteer Coordinator:	Sue Looney
Membership & Database:	Jane Baldwin
Newsletter & Website:	Gina Docherty
Member at Large:	Sheila Toomey
Lifetime Achievement:	Lynne Opstad
Grants:	Barbara Baker
Pioneer Home Design:	Erma MacMillan (design)
Volunteer Coordinators:	Julie Ginder, Joyce Smith, Lynne Opstad

### 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.

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

