



## AMGA NEWSLETTER

May 2015  
Volume 17, Issue 5

### Message from Barbara Baker Co-President of AMGA

Spring is here and it's time to freshen up the look of our newsletter. Gina Docherty put on her design cap and developed a new banner for it. Our new look continues our commitment to provide you new and informative articles, and a calendar of gardening workshops and events so you can plan your schedule. Consider becoming a part of our newsletter writers' group. If you or a group of you are testing different varieties of plants this year, testing different climates or amendments; record the results and write about it. One of the strengths of our organization is sharing the knowledge we've gained.

The Rose Garden centennial project is off to a great start. I joined one of the two master gardener work crews. We cleaned up about one-third of the internal raised beds, removing the winter mulch, dead wood and debris. There will be more work sessions throughout this month. Join us! It's a great way to spend an afternoon or evening gardening with fellow master gardeners and learning more about the hardy roses that grow in Anchorage. A special "shout-out" goes to Harry Deuber. He worked with both crews transmitting instructions from Debbie Hinchey on caring for the gardens.

At the April meeting, I handed out a plant list assembled by Ayse Gilbert of heritage plants grown in Anchorage, Mat-Su and other Alaska Experimental Stations around the early 1900s. (Do you need a copy of the list? It will be available at the May meeting). As part of the Anchorage Centennial, I hope you'll join me and other master gardeners in celebrating these flowers, shrubs and vegetables by adding them to your garden this summer. Consider making trellises and tripods out of branches and filling them with pole beans, peas or sweet peas. Plant window boxes with trellised nasturtiums or large pansies. Give your garden an old-time feel with weathered tools and wooden barrels. Let us know what you've created and we will feature a picture of your garden in the newsletter. If time permits,

perhaps we'll be able to take a tour of some of the heritage themed gardens this summer. Also, Alaska Mill and Feed will be sponsoring a contest for the best heritage designed gardens. Both Alaska Mill and Feed and Alaska Botanical Gardens will have heritage seeds and plants available for sale.

The count down has begun for our Summer Garden Tours, which begins June 1. The tour list will be available at our May meeting, but here are some tantalizing hints of what you'll see. There will be flowers imitating art, a primrose wonderland and a garden worthy of wine and cheese. We will visit gardens of the god, Apollo and wander through delicious garden patches suitable for a quick snack. Many other garden morsels are also in store for us. Be sure to mark your calendar for May 18. It's our final meeting until September, and also Arbor Day.



Happy Arbor Day!

### Inside This Issue....

Message from Barbara Baker  
AMGA April Meeting & Presentation: Lilacs  
From the "Ask a Master Gardener" Files  
Treasurer's Report  
Perennials Worth Trying: *Persicaria polymorpha* & *Dictamnus*  
A Few Words to add to your Vocabulary  
Growing Young Gardeners: Mini Greenhouse  
Good Bye Organic Gardening Magazine, Hello Organic Life Magazine  
Cucumber Types and Terminology  
A Better Berry?  
Dahlia Experiment Results  
Bird Chatter  
Onion Musings from Brenda Adams  
Herb Study Group  
Garden Event Calendar

**AMGA April Meeting & Presentation: Lilacs**  
**by Darryl Leiser from Dimond Greenhouses**  
**By Cheryl Shroyer**

**Announcements and Reminders:**

- \*Advanced Master Gardeners want ideas for new classes. Talk to Ginny Moore or Jane Baldwin.
- \*The state wide garden conference planning committee is asking for ideas on speakers or topics. Contact Sue Looney of Barbara Baker.
- \*UAF is offering soil testing for only \$25. Call 907-746-9450 in Palmer.
- \*UAA is partnering with the Muni to understand and strategize for community gardens. Please take the survey - just Google 'Anchorage Community Garden Survey'.

Barbara Baker handed out a copy of the plant list from Ayse Gilbert's Heritage Garden talk at the ABG Conference that was in such great demand. She mentioned Alaska Mill and Feed is sponsoring a Centennial Garden contest. Honor the Alaska Centennial by planting a commemorative garden.

We were treated to a lively and information filled talk focused on lilacs in Anchorage. Afterwards everyone was all smiles, energized by a good meeting. Having a nurseryman speak from his unique view presented a look into the commercial world. Anchorage nurseries buy from the same list of growers and seek plants that will succeed in our climate. We have a limited selection due to our unique niche. Darryl was quick to point out the multitude of microclimates in town each of which determines the plants you can grow. Check to see what your neighbors are growing

There are 4 types of commercial lilacs: 1. Dwarf lilacs, consisting of Dwarf and Dwarf Korean varieties that are lavender. 2. Common lilacs are white and purple. 3. French Hybrids which come in the most variety of colors and 4. Canadian lilacs are all fragrant and, drum roll here, moose don't seem to like them.

Darryl's big tip: lilacs like the heat of the sun. Sure they want a lot of light but they also want that heat on them. Remember to allow room for full growth. Lilacs like the pH above neutral, around 7.2. He recommended an 18-32-16 fertilizer pointing out the need for phosphorous for roots and blooms. When planting in this climate, roots grow out more than down. Dig wide not deep.

The talk concluded after a wide ranging Q & A session that was full of tips and knowledge from a wealth of experience.

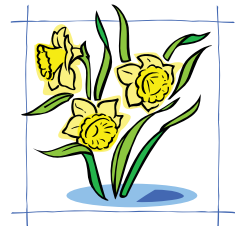
A big thank you was extended to June Juelson and Phyllis Rogers for the absolutely beautiful array of food they provided.

**From the "Ask a Master Gardener" Files**  
**By Rosemary Kimball**

The fun things about being on the AMGA's "Ask a Master Gardener" hot line are the questions we get asked. Mostly questions are from Alaskans regarding gardening in our locale, but sometimes they are from far afield. We got a query from someone in England wondering about his money plant. Money plant? Janice Chumley (Kenai Peninsula. IPM Program Aide) dug into that one and found out he was talking about *Lunaria annua*. Another was a query from Maryland asking about her magnolia tree. She was given the phone number of the closest CES office in her state.

The nicest one came in last month from Darryl Verfaille, director of Parks and Rec. for the city of Valdez. He wanted to know which bulbs we would recommend planting -- tulips or daffodils. The city was going to order 2,000 bulbs for their citizens to plant! The replies were 'moose eat tulips', and 'have a wide range of colors' and but 'varmints pretty much leave daffodils alone'. The city should be a pretty place to visit next spring.

He said "Folks are already getting excited and we haven't even advertised it yet."



**Treasurer's Report**  
**From Cindy Walker, AMGA Treasurer**

Balances 2/28/15	
Checking account	9343.48
Savings account	11688.81
	<hr/>
	\$21032.29
Dedicated Funds	\$6483.22
Revenue:	
Interest	15.91
Membership	160.00
Programs (Potato Bash)	500.00
	<hr/>
	\$675.91
Expense:	
Directory	53.63
Operations	74.99
Programs	290.00
Website	220.00
	<hr/>
	\$638.62
Balances 3/31/15	
Checking account	9364.86
Savings account	11690.30
	<hr/>
	\$21055.16
Dedicated Funds	\$6497.64

## Perennials Worth Trying: Persicaria polymorpha & Dictamnus

By Jane Baldwin

Did anyone else develop a severe plant lust looking at MG Marya Morrow's garden pictures at the January Master Gardener meeting? I've now added *Persicaria polymorpha* and *Dictamnus* to my list of 'need to have' plants!

*Persicaria polymorpha*: An online commentary described *P. polymorpha*: "4 or 5 feet tall, densely clothed in large, tapered, deep green leaves and practically smothered in panicles of tiny, creamy white flowers, like an oversize astilbe or a pumped-up goats-beard".



Tall spikes of white flowers make a big statement. *Persicaria polymorpha* in Marya Morrow's garden. Photo by Marya Morrow

*Persicaria polymorpha* is an herbaceous perennial so it dies to the ground each winter. Height is generally 4 to 6' (although known to reach 7-8' in Marya's garden). It handles full to part sun, needs well drained good garden soil and has moderate water needs.

The bloom period can be from June into September. Flowers begin creamy-white, fade to a slight pink with age, and then become reddish-brown as the season ends. Both Zone 5 and Zone 4 hardiness ratings were found online.

Although a member of the knotweed family, this hybrid is not considered invasive as are many of its relatives. Apparently one needs not fret about its territorial ambitions! Marya confirms this assessment - she acquired her plant in 2003 and says that it "politely" expands its clump outward every year and doesn't run or reseed.

### *Dictamnus alba*

This is an herbaceous long-lived perennial which grows to 24-36" high. Blooming in early to mid-summer, the flowers form a loose pyramidal spike and may vary in color from a pale purple to pink to white. Hardiness factor is said to be Zones 3-9. It has full sun to partial shade requirements with average water needs.



*Dictamnus alba*'s showy display. Photo by Marya Morrow

Somewhat slow to establish, disliking being crowded by other plants and disturbed by transplanting, it's best that it initially be planted in its permanent location. *Dictam-*

*nus* is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. Reportedly easy to maintain, flowers give way to interesting star-shaped seed pods.

Although not affecting everyone, handling *Dictamnus* plants may cause skin irritation or allergic reaction known as phytophotodermatitis caused by plant produced chemicals reacting with UV rays.

*Dictamnus* is also known as the "gas plant" which comes from a flammable substance that can be briefly lit. The flame at the base of the flower stem ascends the stem but will not burn the flowers. View two videos showing the plant being "lit" - one shown in daylight and the other done when it's dark outside:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8yDWkwu5aI>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQTZyS7BKV8&feature=related>

## A Few Words to add to your Vocabulary

By Jane Baldwin

### *Autodidactic*

Nope, it's not an ailing human or plant disease or condition. It is a word that could easily describe many Master Gardeners and others with similar interests! It is the art of self education.

Word-a-holics might recognize the roots for this word: Autos or "self" comes from Ancient Greek as does didaktikos meaning "teaching". Thus we have the word autodidacticism meaning self-education or the act of self-directed learning about a subject or subjects where one has had little to no formal education.

*Autodidactic* is a good thing - the more you know the more you want to know!

### *Temperennial*

A *temperennial* is a non-hardy perennial plant usually treated as an annual during cold climate growing seasons. Most can be overwintered indoors. The term "temperennial" seems to be used more and more frequently. Some in the horticultural field describe a *temperennial* as any plant that is hardy in zone 7 or higher.

Remember your botany? Annuals complete life cycles in one season; biennials complete life cycle in two seasons; and perennials come back year after year.

The term "temperennial I" was created to cover that area between annual and perennial. For example: we grow petunias and impatiens as annuals. But, they are actually perennials if the growing zone is warm enough. The term "temperennial" is intended to cover those tender perennials that will generally not survive a hard freeze such as *Geraniums* (*Pelargoniums*), sweet potato vines, *begonias*, *callibrachoa*, *coleus*, *nemesia*, *ostespermum* - all perennials sold as annuals - thus they are "temperennials".

## Growing Young Gardeners: Mini Greenhouse By Amy E. Reed, MG

Greenhouses are a fantastic way to get a jump-start on planting seeds, maintaining fragile plants, and extending the growing season in our Alaskan climate. While I do not have the physical space in my yard for the greenhouse of my dreams, many area suppliers and home improvement stores offer a variety of sizes and shapes of greenhouses for any gardener's needs. In the meantime, I thought I would start small...very small...to show my daughter what happens when you plant a seed in a greenhouse environment. This craft is ideal for the preschool age; however it can be used for elementary school aged children to demonstrate how a seed germinates in a controlled setting.

### Materials you will need:

Green construction paper  
Zip-locked plastic bag  
Seed (preferably bean—they germinate fast)  
Wet paper towel  
Tape or Stapler  
Ruler and Marker

### Instructions:

- First, cut out the shape of a greenhouse structure (see picture).
- Then, have your child decorate the greenhouse.
- Use a ruler and mark off inch marks on the side to help them measure the size of the plant as it grows.
- Take a paper towel and make it wet...not sopping wet, but very damp. Fold it down to fit in the zip-locked bag.
- Place the paper towel and the seed (can be presoaked overnight to expedite the germination process) in the zip-locked bag. Staple it to the backside of the greenhouse.
- Place in a sunny window and monitor its growth!



For older children, you can use this project as an experiment by making multiple greenhouses and placing them in different locations. Place one in a dark area, one in very sunny window, and one in a partial sun window. The children can monitor the differences in growth based on the greenhouses' location.

Adapted from [www.teach-preschool.org](http://www.teach-preschool.org).

## Good Bye Organic Gardening Magazine, Hello Organic Life Magazine By Cheryl Shroyer

No more Organic Gardening magazine. Arghhhhh!! A subscriber for over 25 years, I learned all my organic basics from the magazine; it was my teacher, my friend and I eagerly read each issue- over and over. I used to drive up to Rodale Institute farm in Emmaus, Pa. for summer educational festivals. All the cutting edge organic innovators would mingle, lecture and tell stories. OG pioneered the organic gardening movement in the United States but that was long ago.

Suddenly it is 2015. Better gardening through chemicals is so outdated. Organic food is no longer a niche market. Trending in the 21st century are smart food gardens, reducing the carbon footprint, eating for health, sustainability and creating personal environments.

Just like a butterfly, Organic Life has emerged from the faded pages of OG. In the first issue Editor-in-chief James Oseland writes "At some point, like many of our readers, my values around growing organic began to extend to other parts of life. Those values seemed to touch on everything I could think of: how we raise children; where we buy the food that we feed loved ones with; how we exercise; how we discover a sense of wellbeing and harmony with nature; how we maintain and celebrate home."

Visit the new magazine online at [RodalesOrganicLife.com](http://RodalesOrganicLife.com). You will find an amazing movement looking at living life with an organic mindset. I devoured this visually stunning publication. I can't wait for more.

### Cucumber Types and Terminology

(From <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/assets/information/cucumbers-types-terminology-8989.pdf>)

Of primary importance in all cucumbers is whether or not they require pollination to produce fruit. Varieties that don't need pollination are referred to as parthenocarpic.

Parthenocarpic - does not require pollination to produce fruit. If you are growing in a hoophouse or greenhouse, where there are few bees or other pollinating insects, parthenocarpic varieties are strongly recommended.

Gynoecious - mostly or only female flowers (the ones that make the fruits). In a regular cucumber plant, the first 10 to 20 flowers are male, and for every female flower, 10-20 male flowers are produced. Plants with all female flowers are earlier and have higher yields.

Some varieties are both gynoecious and parthenocarpic, meaning you get the high yields of all-female flowers without the need for pollinator plants.

## A Better Berry? By Rosemary Shinohara

Many Southcentral Alaska gardeners are discovering a new type of berry that tastes like a blueberry but shrugs off killer cold: the honeyberry, or haskap.

"Honeyberries are a big deal because they're so successful in Alaska," says Marian Elliott of the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association, a nonprofit group. "They're like a blueberry except they bloom very early in the spring."

The berries are actually blue honeysuckles, native to Russia, Japan and elsewhere in Asia, according to international expert Bob Bors at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. The Saskatchewan university began testing and breeding them in the 1990s.

The Japanese name for the berries - haskap - has caught on here and in Canada. A big advantage of these haskaps: They take fierce cold and live to tell about it. The description on two haskap varieties I saw at Mile 5.2 Greenhouse in Eagle River in mid-April said they're good to -40 to -50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Highbush blueberries grown domestically are more prone to dying off, or not producing fruit, in the cold of a Southcentral Alaska winter. A few people in Southcentral have been growing haskaps for years. Others of us are just learning about their potential.

Kevin Irvin of Wasilla is one of the longtime growers, with about 18 years' experience. He advertises on Craigslist when the bushes are ready, around the first of May. He also runs a U-Pick operation for haskaps around the end of June or first of July. His web page is [alaskahoneyberry.com](http://alaskahoneyberry.com).

One thing: you must have two different varieties to produce berries. They cross-pollinate. Irvin says he has about 37 varieties. Aurora and Borealis are two varieties new to Alaska that go together. Irvin hasn't tasted an Aurora yet but says his favorite haskap berry is Indigo Jim.

Haskaps are multi-flavored, says Brian Olson, a Soldotna grower. "People describe them as eating a blueberry, strawberry and raspberry all at once," Olson says.

While these growers are haskap pioneers in Alaska, recently the bushes have become more widely available in Southcentral nurseries. For example, Alaska Mill, Feed & Garden Center and Mile 5.2 Greenhouse say they'll have haskaps for sale this season.

But call ahead if you want some - not all major greenhouses stock haskaps. Sutton's Brown Thumb Greenhouse on East Tudor Road usually sells haskap bushes, but this year their supplier in Canada wasn't able to get them any, says Anna Sutton. Her sister Patty Sutton says she heard about haskaps from a customer several years ago. "If you like berries, they're great," she says. "Besides producing tasty berries, the haskap is a good-looking bush."

She and her sister have a couple of them in their yard. Patty Sutton and her grandkids just eat the berries - there aren't any left for making jam, she says.

In Soldotna, Olson says he has been breeding haskaps, and will sell plants through his company newsletter for the first time this year. He does not call them honeyberries, though he says they are similar to honeyberries. He only calls them haskaps, because, he says, the name honeyberry was coined by a grower who used Russian varieties. Olson's berries come from a Japanese variety. Olson's company is Alaska Berries.

The Alaska Berries web page says haskaps thrive in rich, well-drained soil. While full sun is best, partial sun works too.

## Dahlia Experiment Results

By Nickel LaFleur



In November's AMGA newsletter, I wrote about my plan to over-winter dahlias in my heated greenhouse. Once the neighbor's tubers were dug up & rescued, there were around eighty dahlias to work around.

Due to knee surgery in early December, it wasn't until late February that I felt good enough to delve into my experiment. The tubers in a cardboard box with only soil were dried out and mostly unusable. Ones stored in peat moss were shriveled up and ones in closed plastic totes were moldy. Of all the 'methods' used, the best results came from tubers nestled in clean saw dust stored in plastic coolers.

After dividing-up some of the dahlias, there were 110 tubers to pot up. OMG! After washing-up the mother-lode of 3-5 gallon pots, I used Pro-mix BX (by the bales) and set them around the greenhouse to await green shoots. It didn't take long before the greenhouse was exploding in dahlias and a panicked look appeared on my face. Luckily, Verna Pratt stopped by for a visit with a reminder that after the true second leaf, it was time to pinch them back for better growth. That was the secret as they responded nicely.

With so many dahlias, more room was needed to give them proper airspace to avoid the problems that poor circulation causes. A plastic greenhouse was set up and twenty of the nicest dahlias were put in it. The next morning the temperatures hovered in the low 30's and the show was over for those beauties. Or is it? An update will be forthcoming when the fate of the frozen dahlias is determined. Stay tuned and have fun gardening, too.



## Bird Chatter

## Herb Study Group By Leisje Lehman

**\*DON'T NEED NO MASTER GARDENER . . .** A local lawyer, spouse of a nascent Turnagain gardener, is the owner of a beloved cactus -- a plant not always happy living in sub-Arctic Anchorage. How, for instance, does one decide how much water it needs this far from its native desert? Simple. His wife tells Bird Chatter that each morning her husband goes online to check the weather in Tucson, Arizona. If it's raining there, he waters the cactus. So far, so good.

**\*MIZUMA ENVY . . .** New Master Gardener Manuel Bautista-Garcia (2014) went for broke with mizuma and radish, planting outside way earlier than is advised. Julie Riley reports he now has both plants merrily flourishing, against all odds. Talk about lucking out with micro climates. In case Bird Chatter isn't the only avian who had to look up "mizuma," Wikipedia describes it as a green with a "piquant, mild peppery flavor -- slightly spicy but less so than arugula."

**\*HOT POTATOES . . .** Meaning, get them while they're available: Greg Kalal will be selling seed potatoes at the May AMG meeting for \$3 a pound, with \$.50 of that going to AMG. According to Greg, there's a shortage of seed potatoes this year due to an attack of Leaf Roll virus that caused about 20 percent of the seed potatoes in the state to fail certification. Greg and his spud buddies think the virus came in on tubers from Outside. Imports have to meet certification standards in the exporting state, which tend to be less stringent than Alaska standards, he said. Some states allow contamination as high as 5 percent. Alaska allows only 1 percent. Some varieties will probably be sold out by the meeting, Greg said.

**\*SAVE THE DATE . . .** The Downtown Partnership's newly re-named spring festival is set for Saturday, May 16, from noon to 6 p.m. in Town Square Park. Now christened "Petals and Spokes," the free event will feature a wine garden, live music, bike workshops, a giant kayak pool, art vendors and a silent auction -- plus lots of other stuff. As usual, they'll be selling flower baskets with the proceeds going to the city Flower Endowment Fund. We chose to boycott this event last year because of the city's attack on downtown trees that was playing itself out then. Sounds like it could be fun this year.

### Onion Musings from Brenda Adams

*I just reread a piece Jane B. had put into Bird Chatter about Ailsa Craig onions. Some of the sources she quoted said this variety could get quite large especially if you "pump these up with lots of nitrogen" but that the shelf life is quite short.*

*Interestingly I have been eating my Ailsa Craig's all winter and just had one yesterday (April 25th!) There are still two firms ones left in the larder. I think I'll keep them into May just for fun. After drying I hang my onions in a citrus fruit net bag in a dark room at about 40 degrees.*

*On the other hand I have never grown any to the size of basketballs or even to eight inches for that matter as described in the article. I wonder if "pumping them up" has anything to do with reducing shelf life. Or said from another perspective, I wonder if harvesting them at around three to four inches which I have done helps increase their storability. I'm curious if anyone has tested this theory or anything similar.*

This month the herb study group focused on Lavender: the different varieties, how to grow it, how to propagate it, and its uses.

**How to Grow:** Lavender needs a good 8 hours of sunlight daily and does best in a warm, dry environment. A sandy and well-drained soil, with a pH between 6.5 and 7.5 works best. If you don't have a warm area in your yard, it often helps to put it next to a large rock (which helps absorb some heat) or a protected side of a building. Although lavender does best in zones 5-11, many people have had success with it here, and some were even able to over winter it.



**Varieties:** There are 39 species and 400 varieties of lavender. Two varieties that are known to do well in our area are Munstead and Hidcote. Munstead is a bushy plant with medium purple flowers. Hidcote has dark purple flowers that dry well.

**Propagation:** It is easiest to propagate lavender from cuttings, using seeds is possible, but not recommended. When transplanting, it is recommended to water well at least an hour before replanting and letting it drain well before the transplant occurs. Also, pruning your lavender before transplanting helps with air circulation and encourages new growth. Lavender is low maintenance and should only need a light top dressing of compost and bone meal to fertilizer it once a year.

**Uses:** Most of us knew about the decorative uses of lavender, so we looked more at the culinary aspect of it this month. Several ladies including Sharon Schlicht and Michelle Semerad made wonderful scones, jelly, brownies, chocolate chip cookies, lemonade and tea all made with lavender. If you are going to cook with the lavender, you want to make sure that you buy culinary lavender. It can be found online, or it was suggested that Capriccio Specialties out of Girdwood often sells it at the Sears Mall market.

May 1st will be our last meeting at the Cooperative Extension before we move over to the Botanical Garden for summer planting and maintenance. Join us for our discussion on Olfactory, Friday, May 1st, 12 noon to 1:30 at the Cooperative Extension Services, 1675 C. Street, Suite 100.

*"Lavender, sweet lavender;  
Come and buy my lavender,  
Hide it in your trousseau, lady fair.  
Let its lovely fragrance flow  
Over you from head to toe,  
Lightening on your eyes, your cheek, your hair."  
Cumberland Clark, Flower Song Book, 1929*

# Garden Event Calendar

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

### Friday, May 1

Herb Study Group, Topic: Olfactory: Using Our Senses to Enjoy Herbs. 12:00pm - 1:30 pm at Cooperative Extension Service, 1675 C Street, Suite 100, Anchorage.

### Monday, May 4

\*\*Alaska Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting: Ethnobotany: On Both Sides of the Bering Strait by Dr. Kevin Jernigan. Mini-Botany: Alder, Horsetail by Anjanette Steer; Plant Family: Saxifraga oppositifolia and Eritrichium arctoides by Glenn Brown. 7:00 pm at Campbell Science Center, Anchorage.

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

\*\*Meadow Lake Bloomers Monthly Meeting: Plant Sale Planning and Potluck. 10:30 am at Meadow Lake Senior Center.

### Tuesday, May 5

Valley Garden Club: Fertilization: Where, When, How for Lawns, Trees, Shrubs, Flowers and Gardens by Steve Brown, Mat-Su Cooperative Extension. 10:30 am at First Baptist Church, Bogard Road, Wasilla. Details: <http://www.valleygardenclub.com/>.

### Thursday, May 7

Anchorage Garden Club monthly public meeting: Growing and Enjoying Herbs, by Julie Riley, Anchorage Cooperative Extension Service. 7:00 pm at Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

### Friday, May 8

National Public Gardens Day: Join Alaska Botanical Garden to celebrate the nation's public gardens day with a free day at the Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/>.

### Saturday, May 9

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers: Peter's Creek Pruning Demo and Orchard Pruning party. Members only. Join at: <http://www.apfga.org/membership/>

### Thursday, May 14

Wildflower Garden Club Meeting: ABG Wildflower Trail Maintenance. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Gardens, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/>.

### Monday, May 18

Anchorage AMGA Meeting: Growing Blueberries in Southcentral Alaska, with Verna Pratt . 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Cooperative Extension Service, 1675 C Street, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org/>.

### Tuesday, May 19

Anchorage Museum: Alaska Arbor Day: Society of American Foresters Share Knowledge of Forestry in Urban and Natural Settings, Outside, Rain or Shine. 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Anchorage Museum 625 C Street, Anchorage. Details at: <https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/exhibits-events/calendar/details/?id=20804>.

### Saturday, May 23

Alaska Public Gardens Day: Join Alaska Botanical Garden to celebrate the Alaska's Public Gardens Day with a free day at the Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/>.

### Tuesday, May 26

Alaska Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Sphagnum Moss by Dr. Marilyn Barker. 6:30 - 9:00 pm at the BP Center at Old Seward Hy and Benson Blvd. Details: <http://www.akorchid.org>.

### Thursday, May 28

Willow Garden Club: Learn to Plant, Care for, and Prune a Tree followed by a Discussion of Hardy Trees and Shrubs in Southcentral Alaska by Patricia Joyner. 1:30 pm at Willow Library Garden. Details at: <http://willowgardenclub.blogspot.com/>.

## PLANT SALES

### Wednesday, May 6

King Career Center Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at 2650 E Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage. Call 743-8916 for information.

### Saturday, May 16

\*\*Society of American Foresters Cook Inlet Chapter Annual Arbor Tree Seeding Sale. 9:00 am - Noon at REI in Anchorage and at Sportsman's Warehouse, Wasilla. Order and Prepay at: <http://www.forestry.org/alaska/treesale/?year=2015&month=5#1>.

\*\*Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at Snowfire Gardens, 3379 Inlet Vista Circle, Wasilla.

### Tuesday - Friday, May 19 - 22

Hiland Correctional Facility Plant and Craft Sale. 9:00 am - 6:00 pm at Parking Lot, 9101 Hesterberg Road, Eagle River.

### Friday - Saturday, May 22 - 23

Meadow Lake Bloomers Garden Club Plant Sale. Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 - 6:00 pm at Meadow Lakes Community Center, Parks and Pittman, Wasilla.

### Saturday, May 23

\*\*Valley Garden Club Annual Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Boys and Girls Club, Bogard Road, Palmer.

\*\*Alaska Rock Garden Society and Alaska Botanical Garden Plant Sales. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. ABG members only preview 9:00 am - 10:00 pm. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/>.

\*\*MatSu Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale. 9:00 am- 3:00 pm at Palmer Pavilion across from the Palmer Visitor's Center.

### Saturday, May 30

\*\*Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at 7435 Old Harbor Road, Anchorage.

\*\*Anchorage Senior Center Plant Sale. 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at 1300 East 19th Avenue, Anchorage.

### Saturday, June 6

\*\*Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at 3734 W 35th Avenue, Anchorage.

\*\*Central Peninsula Garden Club Plant Sale. 10:00 am. Church parking lot, corner of Kenai Spur and Princess Rd, Kenai.

\*\*Homer Garden Club Plant Sale. 11:00 am at the Chamber of Commerce Parking Lot, Homer.

## CLASSES and WORKSHOPS

### Saturdays, May 2 - May 16

Alaska Mill and Feed Spring Classes: 10:00 am at 1501 East First Avenue. Classes are free. Reservations are required. Register at: <http://www.alaskamillandfeed.com/#!events/>. May 2: Organic Veggie Gardening and Growing by Ellen Vande Visse

May 9: Basic Garden Design by Marge Olson, Master Gardener

May 16: Anchorage Centennial Celebration Gardens

May 23: Anchorage Centennial Celebration Gardens

### Monday, May 4

Mat-Su Cooperative Extension Service: Chicken University. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Kerttula Hall, Room 208, 1509 S. Georgeson Rd, Palmer. <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/matsu>.

Continued on next page

## Tuesday, May 5

\*\*UAA Continuing Education: Container Gardening for Patios, Decks and Balconies by Paul Marmora, Master Gardener. 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at 707 A Street, Rm 210. Cost 69. Register at [www.uaa.alaska.edu/continuinged](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/continuinged),

\*\* Mat-Su Cooperative Extension Service: Introduction to Alaska Vegetable Gardening. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Kerttula Hall, Room 208, 1509 S. Georgeson Rd, Palmer. <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/matsu>.

## Wednesdays, May 6 to June 3

Local Wildflower Class: Learn about Local Plants, Identification and Uses by Verna Pratt and Dr. Marilyn Barker. Either 10:00 am to 1:00 pm or 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Cost: \$110 with \$20 cancellation fee. For more information call ABG at 770-3692. Register online at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/local-wildflower-class-tickets-15659521049/>.

## Wednesdays, May 6

\*\*Anchorage Cooperative Extension Service: Urban Farming: Explore information and tools for urban agriculture. 4:00 - 6:00 pm at 1675 C Street. \$10 per class or sign up for all 8 for \$50. Details and registration at: <http://bit.ly/1tmJpIp/>.  
Classes in May:

May 6: Preserving and Transforming Food with Fermentation.

## Wednesday, May 6

Vegetable Varieties for Four Valleys. 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Scott and Wesley Gerrish Branch Library. 250 Egloff Drive, Girdwood. Register at the library: 343-4024.

## Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 5 - 19

AK Division of Forestry Tree Stewardship Class. 5:45 pm - 9:00 pm at UAF Cooperative Extension Office, 724 25th Avenue, Fairbanks. Cost: \$25. Details at: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/news.htm>,

## Monday, May 18

Mat-Su Cooperative Extension Service: Alaska Lawn Care. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Kerttula Hall, Room 208, 1509 S. Georgeson Rd, Palmer. <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/matsu>.

## Wednesday, May 20

Mat-Su Cooperative Extension Service: Soil Science and Fertilizers. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Kerttula Hall, Room 208, 1509 S. Georgeson Rd, Palmer. <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/matsu>.

*I have rain in my heart  
Dirt in my bones  
And flowers in my soul.*

~Pavana



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:

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Phone: 345-4099  
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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.jbdwain@gmail.com](mailto:ak.jbdwain@gmail.com)

## **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

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