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AMGA NEWSLETTER

May 2014
Volume 16, Issue 5

Message from Barbara Baker Co-President of AMGA

Instruction Fees Increase for Master Gardener Class

Some of you may remember taking the Master Gardener class for free in the 1980's or more recently spending between \$100 - \$200. All that was asked in return for the science-based gardening education was to share your knowledge as a citizen volunteer for Cooperative Extension. In an effort to standardize fees around the state, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service recently announced a raise in fees to \$300 (\$375 for the online course); with the same volunteer requirements.



The AMGA Board contacted university administrators about the fee increase, since we were alarmed that fewer people and a narrower demographic were participating in the program, as the cost has risen. The Cooperative Extension administration recognizes that the increase may be "prohibitively expensive for some people", and will be offering a need-based waiver process. They are also piloting a partial rebate program to people who complete their volunteer hours.

We wanted you to be aware of the steep increase to registration fees and the potential long term impact to the Master Gardener program. This once affordable and cost effective program has provided education to thousands of Alaskans since it began in 1978. In return, well over 100,000 hours of volunteer gardening education has been provided to the public throughout

the state (according to data collected for a 2005 study conducted by the University of Minnesota). In addition, the program has been an important gateway to self-sufficiency and serving the diverse needs of Alaskans - from expanding the food security network, building stronger community bonds and community leaders, to developing future horticultural and agricultural entrepreneurs, for example.

Both Alaskans and government programs are facing budget challenges. However, potentially limiting access of lower and fixed-income Alaskans who may benefit the most from instruction is in contradiction to Cooperative Extension's history and stated mission of "reaching out" to solve public needs. It also erodes the extensive network of volunteers who have been a cost effective mechanism in delivering education to the public. During the nation's 100 year celebration of the USDA Cooperative Extension Service, AMGA will continue to monitor the impact of increased fees upon the integrity and availability of the Master Gardener program to all Alaskans and encourage Cooperative Extension to maintain its mission of service to the entire public.

Inside This Issue....

Message from Barbara Baker

Brenda Adams

Growing Young Gardeners: Seed Sewing

Growing Young Gardeners: Disney Edition

Herb Study Group Notes: Perilla

Skagway's Jewell Gardens

Why Use Certified Seed Potatoes

Gardener's Spring Time Lament: Broken Or Cracked Clay Pots

Potato Bash 2014 Results

Interesting Things about Ravens

Garden Event Calendar

Brenda Adams
by Sheila Toomey

The snow is mostly gone. Tiny crocuses are flashing color and wrinkled Lady's Mantle leaves poke through the last of the mucky slush. It's time to think about what to plant where in your garden.

That was the message delivered by garden designer, teacher and author Brenda Adams to a full house of Master Gardeners at their April 21st meeting.

Planning a garden is a continuing, creative process that should begin with the gardener choosing a personal goal, Adams said: What do you want your garden to be -- a place of peace or a place of sizzle (to use one of her favorite words). A party place or a retreat?

"A garden should please the person who created it."

Now, when all we can think about is cleaning up winter's mess and watering the starts in the garage, is when designing should begin:

Start by noticing bare spots -- spaces where a couple of bulbs would cheer you up next spring. Then write down the locations so you can find them under all the foliage that will obscure them in September when you have to plant the bulbs, said Adams.

(A hint for chronic note losers: draw a rough map and pin it to the September page of your 2014 calendar.)

The secret of combining plants to achieve one's design goals is to create a tension between contrast and repetition, Adams said. Explore contrasts in color, size, shape, structure, dimension and texture. Look at all these elements in flowers, stems and leaves -- even trees. Include garden ornaments and furniture in your design.

Repeat a color in different sizes or shapes. Alternate two colors over a large space. Pick up a bud color in the stem of another plant.

Consider planting food crops in a flower bed -- some of them have beautiful leaves. Think about grasses -- but be careful. Stick to clumping grasses. The rest are little terrorists that will delight in running wild through your careful plans.

Use rocks -- not just for a path or rock garden but as design elements among flower beds.

Keep in mind that plants change shape, color, size and form over the season. Consider buds, bark, stems, berries and seedpods when deciding on combinations. Be aware of subtleties: the seed pod of a poppy is the same color as the center of an Iris. And don't forget fragrance.

Try out your ideas in containers before committing to a big spread in the yard.

Adams' message could have been overwhelming, but she

illustrated everything with dozens of beautiful slides filled with familiar flowers and plants so it seemed doable. Ordinary gardeners can alternate apricot and purple flowers and remember that midseason Clematis tangutica is compact and yellow, but its late-season seedpod is white and hairy.

As a professional designer, Adams has to start from scratch and deliver a finished product to her clients. But designing a personal garden should be less daunting and it's never really finished. Amending, tinkering, changing your mind, finding new ideas for new plants year after year is what makes gardening fascinating and fun, as opposed to just work.

A helpful companion to any garden design project is Adams' book, "There's a Moose in My Garden," (University of Alaska Press, 2013). It's full of illustrations and includes chapters on all aspects of re-doing a yard, from dirt to decks, pergolas to ponds.

Advice from the book: "Regardless of the size of your project or whether it is complex or simple, starting the process by putting your thoughts and concepts on paper will help you see things much more clearly. This improved vision will guide you to greater success overall."



Treasurer's Report

Balances 2/28/14

Checking	1718.46
Savings	12670.93
	<hr/>
	\$14389.39

Dedicated Funds	\$6425.44
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Revenue:	
Education-AMG	903.25
CWSP-Potato Lover	390.00
Interest	15.57
Membership	171.59
	<hr/>
	\$1480.41

Expense:	
CWSP-Potato Lover	390.00
Operations	149.99
Website	105.00
	<hr/>
	\$644.99

Balances 2/28/14

Checking	2538.31
Saving	12672.54
	<hr/>
	\$15210.85

Dedicated Funds	\$6439.40
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Growing Young Gardeners: Disney Edition by Amy Reed, MG

Raise your hand if you haven't seen the new Disney movie, Frozen? If you haven't been dragged to the theater by your children or grandchildren lately, you have missed the latest installation in the Disney princess line-up. It seems everywhere you look, whether movies, books, clothing, even the fruit snacks in the grocery store, Disney has the Midas touch in merchandising. Having a three year old daughter who not only knows and will belt out the words to the Frozen hit song, "Let It Go", but also has declared herself to be a princess, I somedays curse the Disney franchise and the brain-washing it has done to our youngsters.

So, while perusing the garden section at Walmart last week, why would I not be surprised to find Disney paraphernalia on the shelves? Of course, Sydney beelines to the Minnie Mouse Daisy Grow Kit. "Oh Mommy, I HAVE to have this!" *Sigh* Yes, I digress that I caved. I know I was buying a "Made in China" plastic Minnie Mouse cup, soil wafer, and 20 daisy seeds for \$4.95. I could have made my own growing kit with a used yogurt cup, dirt, and a packet of seeds for under \$1.95, but it wouldn't have captured my daughter's interest in growing daisies as well as something touched by Disney.

We bought the growing kit and went home to plant Minnie Mouse daisies. I used the kit as a lesson as to what seeds need to grow. We soaked the soil wafer in water according to the directions and gently pushed the seeds down into the soupy dirt. I then discussed where in the house would be the best place to allow the most sunlight, and we set the Minnie Mouse cup in the front entry way where there is a bank of windows facing south.

Every day since has been an adventure in seeing how high the daisies are growing. We now have half inch seedlings peeking through the dirt! Sydney loves checking on their progress and giving a full report to myself and my husband.

Disney Minnie Daisy Grow Kit from Walmart: \$4.95. Experience of watching seeds grow: priceless.



Growing Young Gardeners: Spring Seed Sowing by Amy Reed, MG



By now, it seems like us SouthCentral Alaskans have had breakup three or four times this year alone! All around town, it seems like spring is in the air. The local home improvement stores are expanding their garden sections and offering seed packets and potting soils in their aisles. Greenhouses around town are offering gardening classes to those interested. I love this time of year!

For Christmas, I was given a Jiffy Greenhouse Kit. It included a large plastic tray with cover and over 50 soil pellets. This past week, my three year old daughter and I decided to experiment with this contraption. We tramped off to the store, and I allowed her to pick out three different seeds packets. She immediately chose oregano, basil, and hot peppers. I thought, "Boy, this should be interesting!"

Yesterday, Sydney and I decided to pull out the Jiffy Greenhouse Kit and plant our seeds. She went as far as putting on her kitchen apron over her clothes, because "this is serious work!" According to the directions, each pellet was supposed to get 50 mL of water. I carefully used a measuring cup, filled it to the 50 mL mark, and gave it to my daughter. She promptly watered over all the pellets in the tray. Sigh. Seeings how this wasn't going to be scientific, I just allowed her to continue pouring until the pellets started to expand. That was magical to her! We then opened the seed packets and realized the oregano seeds were tiny black dots in which there was no way going to be planted 2-3 seeds per pellet as per the directions. Sydney spread them with abandon all over the pellets, saying "I can't tell if they are dirt or seeds!" Sigh. Lucky for us, the oregano packet did say to "directly sow" with minimal dirt coverage.

We finished planting the seeds (thankfully, the hot pepper seeds were large and white), and I followed the directions of covering the greenhouse and placing in indirect sunlight. On our evening walk with my husband, we were relaying our day's activities. I thought Syd was asleep in her stroller, but as I was mentioning the seed planting, she immediately perked up and added, "Daddy, the oregano seeds were so small, I couldn't tell if they were dirt or not!"

I love watching my daughter get excited and becoming involved in gardening projects. I hope to made this an annual tradition we share together. While we await the basil, oregano, and hot peppers to germinate in the little greenhouse, she and I continue to monitor her Minnie Mouse Daisy Grow Kit she planted over a month ago. The seedlings continue to thrive, and it has become a daily ritual to run into the front hall to check their progress.

Happy Spring!

Herb Study Group
Perilla frutescens
By Sharon Schlicht



[photo from Wikipedia]

Perilla has several common names such as shiso, beefsteak plant, Chinese basil, and purple mint. It is a traditional crop of several Asian countries and superficially resembles basil and coleus. In the US it is infrequently used as an ornamental bedding plant with green or brightly colored red foliage. Perilla oil can be used for cooking, as a drying oil (similar to tung or linseed oil) and as a fuel. Seeds are eaten by people and used as birdseed. Foliage is used as a potherb, for medicine and for coloring food or dyeing fibers. Ethnic stores that cater to Asian populations carry some Perilla products such as fresh greens in season, seed oil, pickled plums, plum sauce and other condiments.

Perilla is an annual from the mint family that grows in warm, humid climates. In the southeast US it is a common weed of pastures and roadsides. Although cattle ordinarily avoid it, it has been implicated in cattle poisoning. In Alaska it is planted each year in the ABG Herb Garden. Fresh leaves were passed around at the meeting for everyone to see and taste. Pickled leaves were also available for tasting and received mixed reviews.

The Herb Study Group will be volunteering in the Herb Garden at the ABG on Tuesday and Friday afternoons starting at 1:00 p.m.

The next and last indoor meeting for this season of the Herb Study Group is at noon Friday, May 2 at CES. Chef Jamie Walker will present "Cooking with Herbs."

Skagway's Jewell Gardens
By Janice Berry



In March I traveled to Juneau and picked up a copy of their free weekly paper, The Capital City Weekly. I found an article written by James Brooks that I wanted to share with my fellow Master Gardeners. It's about the "Garden City of Alaska" and one of its most ardent gardeners, Charlotte Jewell.

Excerpts follow...

The first certified organic show garden in the U.S. according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture happens to be right here in Alaska, in Skagway, known as the "Garden City of Alaska." [Sidenote: The phrase was first coined in 1902 by the city's Chamber of Commerce to entice more tourists. Skagway's residents were known for planting both large scale market farms as well as flower gardens. It is home to the world's largest dahlia, according to the book Garden City of Alaska written by Frank Norris in 2003. Charlotte Jewell, a longtime resident of Skagway founded the city's Garden Club and served as its president for many years]

Charlotte Jewell was a featured speaker at the Juneau Garden Symposium in March, where she discussed how she turned her garden into a business. She says she started working on her garden as a hobby and has never used an herbicide or pesticide on it. She grows both flowers and vegetables but still manages to create a spectacle that's been repeatedly labeled a favorite of cruise ship visitors.

Jewell arrived in Skagway in 1976 to work at a gift shop. She started selling bedding plants as a sideline and it eventually became her main line of work. It takes a lot of hard work, as gardener knows, to keep a garden growing. One of the biggest challenges in Skagway is the wind. "That wind is just vicious and just dries everything out," she explained. While Juneau growers may have the edge in spring and early summer, Skagway blooms in middle and late summer when Juneau is usually socked in by rain.

In July and August, thousands of visitors walk Jewell's gardens on culinary tours. They pick fresh vegetables and an on-site chef turns them into snacks. Jewell said her goal is to stay organic and healthy. "I'm very much into sustainable agriculture, and that's very important to me, to be able to show you can grow a beautiful garden with organics," she said. She's spoken at garden clubs across Alaska and last year hosted the Southeast Garden Conference.

Cont. on page 5

Gardener's Spring Time Lament: Broken Or Cracked Clay Pots By Jane Baldwin

Sidenote: Jewell Gardens (<http://jewellgardens.com>) is part of an organization called WWOOF, short for Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms. Volunteers come from all over the world to work in the garden and are provided room and board in exchange for 25 hours of work per week.

Why Use Certified Seed Potatoes

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/akpmc/potato-program/>

Alaska's potato crop is free from many serious pests and diseases that are common in the continental United States. Imported potatoes could introduce problems such as late blight, root knot nematode, viruses and other destructive organisms. Certification is designed to identify and remove from use those seed lots which have become diseased or are otherwise of reduced value for use as seed.

Late Blight



Characteristic leaf discoloration is a sign of late blight

Alaska's certified seed potato growers start with disease tested stock and increase this seed in accordance with the strict certification standards. Growers manage

their seed production to limit the possible exposure to diseases, but re-infection can occur from soil or other sources. The procedures used by the seed growers enable them to supply end-users with excellent quality planting stock of named varieties. Only those plantings meeting the minimum disease tolerance are allowed.

Seed potatoes are regulated because the potato is vegetatively propagated, and many afflictions can be carried in or on the potatoes used for planting. Excluding diseases from seed stock is critical. Diseases can travel long distances by the wind or insects or transferred on contaminated equipment. Planting Certified seed will help you produce a good crop and will help protect your neighbors too.

Potato Late Blight Still a Threat to Global Food Security (Dec 28, 2012)

The James Hutton Institute (United Kingdom).

A study by scientists has warned the organism responsible for the Irish potato famine is still a major threat. The team said the results showed the need for strategies to protect potatoes from disease. Phytophthora infestans is a fungus like organism that causes late blight in potatoes. It infects leaves, stems and tubers and can cause devastating crop losses.

Yes, we know that clay pots filled with wet soil will probably freeze and crack with our winter temperatures if stored in outside areas. Yet I continue to store clay pots with soil over the winter in outside storage, rationalizing that if the soil is totally dry, they will be fine. And they are - most of the time - but not always. No guarantees. Every now and then, one will crack. That's the price I pay for eeking out the last possible pleasure in the fall viewing a late blooming annual and storing the pot with wet soil. Not nice when it's a favorite pot. What's a gardener to do? Google mending clay pot: Gonna try this before tossing it:

If it's in pieces, try gluing it back together. Those who have succeeded offer suggestions. Many say super glue (various brands) may not be the best investment for very porous surfaces. Plus, you stand a good chance of gluing your fingers together. The prevailing advice seems to be to use Gorilla Glue or one similar that works well on porous surfaces, expands as it dries and doesn't set or stick instantaneously. The expansion feature and a little time to dry, works to your advantage if you need a bit of time to align the broken pieces with precision.

Before tackling, be sure to read the glue's instructions - and set your scene before you start: glue, water, gloves, goggles, newspapers to protect work surface, etc. Before you begin, you might take a trial run at the order you would re-piece the pot.

The instructions will probably tell you to slightly dampen one surface and apply the glue to other DRY surface. Begin assembling the pieces, gluing as you go. Probably not in the instructions, once the pot is back together, you might apply yet more glue along the surface of the crack seams to reinforce the mend. If you're concerned about appearance, do this on the inside seam only. If needed, you can bind the pot with garden twine, string or wire to hold it until set.

You can also try this using waterproof silicone caulking, which might take longer to set up and will probably need to be bound with string or wire to hold until set. Peel excess silicone off after pot is set.

Another method for repairing cracks is to lace it together with wire. Drill holes with a rotary tool -- such as a Dremel fitted with a masonry drill bit -- on either side of the crack. With a pencil, mark the spot for drilling parallel holes on either side of the crack. Holes should be about 1/2" from the crack to prevent further cracking - spaced along the crack sort of like laces on a shoe. The size of the drill bit depends on the gage of wire used, but 1/8" too 3/16" would be typical. Cut individual lengths of wire, insert a piece into parallel holes from outside to inside, twist the wire ends together and push the twisted wire against the pot wall.



Bird Chatter

Potato Bash Results 2014 From Greg Kalal



February 25, 2014
Back, then left to right: Jeff Smeenk, Jane Baldwin, Manual Batista Garcia, Leslie Shallcross, Susan Miller, Julie Riley, Kathy Kalal
Photo by Tony Flores

The Potato Bash for 2014 was held on the 19th of February at the Viking Hall. The change in location was a big improvement in that Viking Hall had an in-house kitchen. Instead of matching all the potatoes against each other, it was decided to vary preparation methods of the potatoes and only to

compare two or three in each category. This was done to help allay the "death by potato" comments from last year. This year preparation was boiled, baked, roasted or mashed with butter and milk. Thus, it was very hard to pick an overall winner. Instead, a leading potato for each preparation will be noted.

Under the boiled preparation, three varieties came in very close. Red Pontiac, German Butterball and Yukon Gold all received very positive reviews with a very slight lead for Yukon Gold. Yellow Finn and 29-6 trailed these leaders.

Under roasted preparation, the three varieties tasted all came in very close. Magic Myrna, King Edward and Bush's Peanut were all statistically equal. When asked "Would you use this potato?" Magic Myrna had the slight lead.

Baked preparation produced equally non-specific winners. Rose Finn held a slight lead with Magic Molly, Purple Viking, Susitna Gold and Red Pontiac also drawing many praises.



February 25, 2014
In the kitchen: Leslie Shallcross, Health, Home & Family Development Faculty, UAF Cooperative Extension Service and Manual Batista Garcia, vegetable producer & Potato Bash volunteer. Photo by Tony Flores

The mashed preparation was a peeled potato mashed with milk and butter. The blue and red fleshed varieties were in one group with the gold fleshed varieties, German Butterball, Yukon Gold and Susitna

Gold in another. Magic Molly and All Blue trounced the red fleshed varieties in their class. As far as the gold fleshed varieties, German Butterball had a two to one lead over Yukon Gold and Susitna Gold.

In conclusion, the results show that the red fleshed varieties still are not the favorites for taste. They however remain popular in dishes where a red, white, and blue appearance is desired. The competition between German Butterball and Yukon Gold goes to German Butterball with the large lead in the mashed preparation and near equal results in boiled preparation. Magic Molly did very well in baked and mashed preparations making it a good all-around spud. Magic Myrna remains the taste favorite especially when roasted. Many thanks to the number of people who helped in the organization of this year's potato bash and especially to those who worked in the kitchen. The article from the Anchorage Daily News on March 2 in the Life section titled "Full-bodied with a hint of dirt" also provides insight as to what goes on in the background.

NOTE: I will be selling potatoes at the May 19 AMGA meeting for \$3/ lb with \$.50 of each \$3.00 going towards the AMGA. I suspect that I will be out of a number of varieties by then.

Interesting Things about Ravens

Excerpts from "10 Fascinating Facts About Ravens"

By Joy Lanzendodrfner, October, 2013

To read the entire article, visit:

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/53295/10-fascinating-facts-about-ravens>

- Ravens are one of the smartest animals: When it comes to intelligence, these birds rate up there with chimpanzees and dolphins
- Ravens can imitate human speech (just Google: Talking Ravens)
- Ravens do weird things with ants - they lie in anthills and roll around so the ants swarm on them, or they chew the ants up and rub their guts on their feathers. The scientific name for this is called "anting." Songbirds, crows, and jays do it too.
- Ravens use 'hand' gestures: they gesture to communicate with their beaks.
- Ravens are adaptable: they can live in a variety of habitats, from snow to desert to mountains to forests. They are scavengers with a huge diet that includes fish, meat, seeds, fruit, carrion, and garbage. They have few predators and live a long time: 17 years in the wild and up to 40 years in captivity.
- Ravens show empathy for each other: despite their mischievous nature, ravens seem capable of feeling empathy. When a raven's friend loses in a fight, they will seem to console the losing bird. They also remember birds they like and will respond in a friendly way to certain birds for at least three years after seeing them.
- Ravens roam around in teenage gangs: Ravens mate for life and live in pairs in a fixed territory. When their children reach adolescence, they leave home and join gangs like every human mother's worst nightmare. These flocks of young birds live and eat together until they mate and pair off.

Garden Event Calendar

PLANT SALES

Wednesday, May 7 - Thursday, May 8

**King Career Center Plant Sale 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, 2650 E Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage, call 742-8916 for information

Saturday, May 17

**Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, at Carneys, 3379 Inlet Vista Circle, Wasilla

**Cook Inlet Chapter Arbor Day Seedling Sale, by Society of American Foresters, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, near R.E.I.'s front entrance at W. Northern Lights Blvd and Spenard Road, Anchorage

Tuesday, May 20 - Friday May 23

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

Saturday, May 24

**Alaska Rock Garden Society Plant Sale, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage

**ABG Plant Sale 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, ABG members only preview 9:00 am - 10:00 pm

**Valley Garden Club Plant Sale, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, Boys and Girls Club, Bogard Road just past Seward Meridian

Saturday, May 31

**MatSu Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, at the Palmer Pavilion (across from the Palmer Visitor's Center) <http://www.matsumastergardeners.com>

**Wildflower Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, 435 Old Harbor Road, Anchorage

Saturday, June 7

**Homer Garden Club plant sale, starts 11:00, Homer Chamber of Commerce parking lot, 201 Sterling Hy, Homer

**Anchorage Garden Club Plant Sale, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, 3734 W. 35th Ave., Anchorage

**Central Peninsula Garden Club Plant Sale, 10:00 am, Corner of Kenai Spur and Princess (Church Parking Lot)

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Thursday, May 1

Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Meeting, Program: Soils. 7:00 pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse (437 E. 3rd Ave.)

Friday, May 2

Herb Study Group: "Using Herbs in Cooking" by a Restaurant Chef, 12:00 - 1:00 pm at CES

Monday, May 5

**Alaska Native Plant Society, Program: Far Northern Plants/Barrow & Atqasuk. Chasing plants in a strange and challenging environment, by Forrest Baldwin, 7:00 pm, Campbell Creek Science Center

**Mat-Su MG Monthly Meeting: "Propagating Blueberries", by Falz Nursery staff, 7:00 pm, MTA building, Palmer

Wednesday, May 7

Best Plant Picks: A Talk About Flowers and Vegetables for the Four Valleys, Master Gardeners Robbie Frankevich (Glacier Gardens), Courtney Ruckel (Forget-me-not Nursery) and Julie Riley, 6:00 am - 8:00 pm, Girdwood Community Room, Girdwood

Monday, May 19

AMGA Monthly Meeting: "Easy Solutions to Watering: Drip Irrigation for Gardens and Greenhouses by Amy Olmstead 7:00 p.m. www.alaskamastergardeners.org (ARBOR DAY!)

Saturday, May 24

ABG Public Gardens, "Free Day" at Alaska Botanical Garden,

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage

Monday, May 27

Wild Orchids Native to Alaska, by Dr. Marilyn Barker, 6:30 pm, BP Energy Center

Saturday, May 31

Festival of Flowers at Town Square, music, flower auctions, educational programs, vendors and more

Thursday, June 5

Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Meeting, Program: Trees of Anchorage. 7:00 pm, Pioneer Schoolhouse (437 E. 3rd Ave.)

CLASSES

Saturdays in May

Central Peninsula Garden Club conducts varied workshops in Kenai. Checkout their website (www.cenpengardenclub.org) if you are planning to be in the area.

Friday, May 2

Managing Landscape Trees, Ak Division of Forestry, Stephen Nickel Community Assistance Forester, Jessie Moan IPM technician, Gino Graziano Invasive Plants Instructor, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, UAF Extension Office, 1675 C St., Suite 100, Anchorage, or by webinar, Registration required, certificates of completion and ISA CEUs available, call Cooperative Extension Service 786-6300 by April 30, 4:00 pm

Saturday, May 3

Alaska Mill and Feed Classes: Centennial Gardens - Preparing for 2015 and history. 10:00am

Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4

Local Wildflowers - a class by Verna Pratt and Dr. Marilyn Barker, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, evenings: 6:00- 9:00 various locations, registration required

Wednesday, May 7

Food Preservation Series: Jam and Jelly, by Leslie Shallcross, Home, Health and Family Development faculty and dietician, 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Viking Hall 8141 Briarwood St, Anchorage, Register online: <http://bit.ly/ces-workshops>, Cost: \$25,

Wednesday, May 14

**Food Preservation Series: Canning Fish and Meat in Jars, by Leslie Shallcross, Home, Health and Family Development faculty and dietician, 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Viking Hall 8141 Briarwood St, Anchorage, Register online: <https://http://bit.ly/ces-workshops>, Cost: \$30

**Weed Free Forage and Gravel Inspector Certification Training by Division of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service staff, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Alaska Plant Material Center, 5310 S. Bodenbug Spur, Palmer, 907 745-4469

Saturday, May 17

Alaska Mill and Feed Class: Rain Gardens 10 am

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays May 20, 22, 24, 27, 28, 31 and June 3

Organic Food Gardening Course: 26 hour course to learn solid practical hands-on organic food gardening techniques, by Julie Riley, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturdays, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, Cost \$125 ABG members, \$150 non-members, 907-770-3692 or www.alaskabg.org for more information

Wednesday, May 21

Food Preservation Series: Pickled Vegetables, Chutney and Sauerkraut, by Leslie Shallcross, Home, Health and Family Development faculty and dietician, 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Viking Hall 8141 Briarwood St, Anchorage, Register online: <http://bit.ly/ces-workshops>, Cost: \$25

Wednesday, May 28

Food Preservation Series: Sausage and Jerky, by Leslie Shallcross, Home, Health and Family Development faculty and dietician, 5:30 am- 9:30 pm, Viking Hall 8141 Briarwood St, Anchorage, Register online: <https://http://bit.ly/ces-workshops>, Cost: \$30

Saturday, May 31

Food Preservation Series: Freezing and Drying Fruits and Vegetables, by Leslie Shallcross, Home, Health and Family Development faculty and dietician, 5:30 pm - 9:30pm, UAF Extension Office, 1675 C St., Suite 100, Anchorage, Register online: <https://http://bit.ly/ces-workshops>, Cost: \$25

Tuesdays, June 3 and 11

Barbara Falls: Geology and Botany, by Les Horn, Dr. Anne Pasch and Dr. Marilyn Barker, Hike the pristine canyon of South Fork, Eagle River and learn about its geological and botanical features, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, from the home of Les Horn: 21630 Falling Water Circle, Eagle River, OLA class, see registration and cost details at <http://www.oleanchorage.org>

June 2 - July 25, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday

Junior Master Gardener Program, Hands on Activities for children ages 7-11 learning botany, horticulture and ecology, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm or 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. once per week, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, Cost \$130/child

Saturday, June 14

Alaska Mill and Feed Class: Miniature Garden Class 10 am

GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN



Floral Collages, Paintings, and Photographs

Chris Zafren and Annie Nevaldine find inspiration for their artwork from local flowers and gardens. Watercolor gouache and

collage by Chris and Annie's photography capture flower portraits that reflect a garden's gifts. Warning: viewers may be infected with spring fever.

By Chris Zafren and Annie Nevaldine

First Friday opening
May 2, 2014,
4:30 - 7 pm

Show hangs all of May
Doriola's Cafe,
510 W. Tudor Road,
Anchorage, Alaska



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.

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/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:
jbaldwin@alaska.net

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