



## **AMGA NEWSLETTER**

**June 2015  
Volume 17, Issue 6**

### **Message From Lynne Opstad, AMGA Co-President**

I don't know about you, but I feel like I've been shot out of a cannon. That hectic summer pace came early this year due to the light snowfall and all the sunny days we've been having. So many things to do, so little time, even with our 18 hour days. I woke up at 2 am a couple of nights ago and the robins were singing away, they must be feeling it too.

My summer days are started with a hot cup of coffee and a tour of the gardens in the early morning light. With Bogs on my feet and my fluffy robe tightly cinched, I slowly scan the gardens to see what is in bloom, how the plants have grown since yesterday, and if those darn hostas have shown their heads yet. This morning I was greeted by yellow and purple primrose in full bloom, scenting the air with their sweet perfume and checkered lilies that always bring a smile to my face. Who can be mad at the world when there's a garden to satisfy your senses?

The AMGA summer service projects are off at a full run. As most of you are aware, we've adopted the Centennial Rose Garden as our Anchorage Centennial project. Master Gardeners have so far put in over 60 volunteer hours during seven work sessions cleaning out the gardens.

The Pioneer Home project is in full swing as well. The gardens have been weeded, fertilized, composted; perennials have been re-situated and we are already enjoying compliments from the residents. The full planting will be done on June 3rd at noon. Even if you can't help us plant, swing by the gardens after the 3rd to see the new design.

Summer Garden Tours will start on June 1st with our traditional visit to Forget-Me-Not Nursery in Indian and Robbie Frankevich's garden in Girdwood. AMGA Garden Tours are held exclusively for AMGA members but feel free to bring a guest. Sorry, dogs are not

allowed on any tour. Tours will be announced through Constant Contact emails to members only. If you are not a member it's not too late to join so you can enjoy touring some wonderful private gardens.

We've set the date for the AMGA Late Summer Plant Sale - August 8th. Mark your calendars and scan your gardens for any perennial plants you might want to sell. And of course, we need volunteers to help with the sale. I know it seems early, but planning for the sale begins very soon. Contact Sue Looney, our AMGA Volunteer Coordinator, if you are interested in helping out. Last year's plant sale was a huge success, a lot of fun, and raised enough money for several scholarships for the core Master Gardener class. As in the garden tours, to volunteer or sell plants, membership is required.

Just writing this made me realize again how much the AMGA does for our community. I am proud to be a member of this organization. I love seeing everyone's smiling faces at our events and hope to see you all in the gardens this summer!

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

Message from Lynne Opstad  
May AMGA Meeting Recap  
Airport Heights Elementary School reports their Dahlia Experiment  
Treasurer's Report  
Caring for your Peonies: Spring  
Growing Young Gardeners: Lawn Activities  
Making Sense of Primula Auricula  
Thank you, Aztecs: The Orchid Cactus  
Bird Chatter  
Herb Study Group: Olfactory  
Garden Event Calendar

**AMGA May Meeting & Presentation  
on Hardy Berry Shrubs  
By Peggy Piper**

Fifty-five decidedly dedicated Master Gardeners came inside from a gorgeous sunny May day in the height of garden preparation, not because we were crazy, but because we had the distinct honor of hearing a presentation on berries that can be found in Alaska, given by Verna Pratt.

Greetings, Salutations, Announcements and Reminders by Barbara Baker:

\*Today is Alaska Arbor Day and the last official meeting before we hit the gardens.

\* Phyllis Rogers and Melanie San Angelo presented the schedule of 2015 Garden Tours and it looks to be an exciting summer bumping into each other wandering around some beautiful Alaska gardens.

\* Wonderful refreshments provided by Dennis and Annie Ronsse & Fran Durner. The rhubarb crisp was to die for - my personal favorite, obviously.

\*More plant sales than you can shake a stick at or list here. Check the listings, empty the savings account and plan to be on the move the rest of the month and into June.

\*May 30th, 9:00 Wildflower Garden Club Plant Sale

Business concluded, our speaker began her presentation:

Verna Pratt shared slides that pictured the plant in bloom and berry, and spoke about where they could be found, and which ones were worth eating, and I wished I had known this ages ago when I actually did scramble up the sides of mountains looking for berries. The berry that seemed to generate the most excitement and audience participation was the Honeyberry. There is a Russian variety and it is apparently available in the Valley. It looks like a long oval fruit shaped much like a de-shelled peanut. Much excitement about who had which kind and how they were producing and I must confess it was all Greek to me, but I was awestruck by how much our speaker knew about it all. From wild roses, raspberries, salmonberries, to swamp gooseberry - everything you'd want to know, and a lot more I suspect, matter-of-factly, casually, presented by a master. I am so happy to have come inside from the sun.

**Airport Heights Elementary School  
reports their Dahlia Experiment  
By Janice Berry**

EAST vs. WEST: Which is best for dahlias? Students in two classes at Airport Heights Elementary planted 24 dahlia bulbs on March 16. Each pair of students (older student with younger buddy) planted the same type of bulb in the same kind of pot with the same kind of soil. Ms. Becker's classroom faces west. Ms. Jasper's classroom faces east. They wanted to determine which plants would grow faster. In a truly scientific fashion, the students recorded emergence dates and measured the growth of the plants. The older students analyzed the data and wrote a report. Below are the results of the number of plants that emerged for each week:

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Not Emerged
East	9	5	3	1	6
West	8	7	6	1	2

There was no clear winner for East vs. West for emergence after 4 weeks. Then the students compared total growth. At first, the East's dahlias were in the lead to being tallest, but the West overtook them! On 3/25/15, the East started in the lead at 29 cm, and West was at 28 cm. Then West was at 144 cm and East was at 137 cm on 4/1/15.

Continued on page 5

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

Balances 3/31/15	
Checking account	9364.86
Savings account	11690.30
	<hr/>
	\$21055.16
Dedicated Funds	\$6497.64
Revenue:	
Interest	1.44
Fundraising	423.00
	<hr/>
	\$424.44
Expense:	
Operations	244.21
	<hr/>
	\$244.21
Balances 4/31/15	
Checking account	9543.65
Savings account	11691.74
	<hr/>
	\$21235.39
Dedicated Funds	\$6497.64



## Caring for your Peonies: Spring

By Sue Lincoln, Giggly Roots Gardens

Peonies are one of the most beautiful flowers known. They come in all sorts of petal shapes and sizes and have been cultivated for centuries. The most wonderful thing about them is that they are very easy to care for. Spring care consists of fertilizing and applying fungicide as they emerge from the soil.

All cultivars of peony are subjected to the fungus disease Botrytis. For this reason, it is a widely accepted practice of spraying the peonies with a fungicide on a regular basis throughout the growing season for healthy beautiful blooms that last for weeks. A typical spray schedule would look something like this: upon emergence - chemical; 2nd spray - biological; 3rd spray - botanical. I then repeat the sequence every 10 days or so for the season.

Botrytis is a soil-borne pathogen that becomes airborne and infects all parts of the peony. Good air circulation is a must in the growing of peonies just for this reason. Allowing the air to circulate will help to keep the above soil plant parts dry, thus not allowing the fungus to take hold.

The reason for switching out the categories of fungicides is to help prevent pest tolerance. It has been found that when a pesticide of the same mode of action is used exclusively, the pesticide will kill all of the pests that do not have a natural resistance to the mode of action. This leaves a strain of the pest/pathogen that is resistant to the pesticide hence, the pesticide 'stops working'. By switching out the mode of action, you are less likely to leave resistant strains to multiply. Remember to read the entire label of your pesticide prior to using and to follow the recommendations for protective gear. Although 'organic' or 'OMRI listed' makes us think 'harmless', some of the organic/botanical pesticides require/suggest gear such as respirator and goggles. Peonies are very forgiving plants but do best when planted in a heavy soil that is high in organic matter. There doesn't seem to be a consensus on what percentage of the soil the ideal organic matter is as references range from 2-10%, so try for 6%. Your garden still needs the minerals that soil provides and the peony likes to have a solid footing so it doesn't sink as the soil settles.

Research so far has indicated that peonies need the same nutrients as other flowering/fruited plants. There are a lot of products available to use to provide your soil with the proper amount of nutrients that your plants

need. Since most soils are rich in minerals, products that contain these are probably not needed unless your plants are displaying signs of a deficiency. There is a product available locally labeled specifically for peonies. The world's foremost expert on peonies is our own Dr. Patricia Holloway at UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden in Fairbanks. Here is the link to her blog on what she discovered about this product.

<https://alaskapeony.wordpress.com/>  
scroll down a bit to 'Fertilizer Overload' for her findings on the product.

When the soil is workable, apply your amendments (e.g., fertilizer, lime, compost, etc.) according to the recommendations made by your Extension agent or USDA NRCS agent from your soils analysis. Gently work the amendments into the top 2-4" of soil approximately 4-6" from the crown. Peony roots are shallow so you need to be gentle but thorough. Peonies develop very fine fibrous roots that grow from the tubers. These roots are the workhorse of the plant that seek out and absorb nutrients and moisture from the soil. They are very fragile and begin developing soon after the shoots emerge in the spring. You need to find a happy balance between cultivating in the amendments and the risk of destroying some of the fibrous roots.

Peonies love water but will not survive soils that are not well-draining. They should be watered at the rate of one inch per week. This measurement includes rainfall, so subtract the amount of rain and supplement with water to achieve the one inch measurement.

If a soils analysis is out of the question for you, remember that, IN GENERAL, peonies need the same nutrition that your other flowering perennials need. Coupling that with the high percentage of organic matter, your peonies will be happy for a lifetime or more.

## Legends of the Peony

C.S. Harrington's Peony Manual, 1907

The name reaches back into the myths of history. It is said in the days of Troy there lived a physician by the name of Paeon, who first used the roots on his patients, and these were the descendants of gods. So our favorite ministered to the ills of the immortals. The name has clung ever since. It should be Paeony yet. The writer clung to the old way of spelling as long as he could and didn't propose to change it till the old doctor changed his, but the peony society and the lexicons were against him so the "a" fell out in this edition.

## Growing Young Gardeners: Lawn Activities by Amy Reed, MG

Do you remember that movie from 1989, "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids"? Rick Moranis plays a dad that invents an electromagnetic machine that malfunctions and shrinks his children to 1/25 their size. They are accidentally thrown out in the trash and must navigate the backyard to get back to their house. To the miniscule children, the grass blades are as big as houses, ants are larger than horses, and flowers are trampolines. This movie gives viewers a new perspective of the activity in our lawns.

Children are naturally curious, and what better activity on a sunny day than to take a close-up look at our lawns. Give children a magnifying glass and get down on your hands and knees to observe what lies within the yard. Point out plants and insects together. Compare leaves and stems, and try to identify flowers together. An older child can make a nature journal and write down their observations. A younger child who is unable to spell may like to draw their findings in the book. All ages can collect leaves and press flowers into their journal to save.

Another activity to do in the yard with children is have a scavenger hunt. It can be tailored to any age and is fun and relatively easy to do. Give each child a list of items in the yard to find, a clipboard and pencil to check off the items as they are found, a bag or bucket to use for collection and/or a camera to take a picture. Some ideas of items to use for the scavenger hunt are:

- A pointy leaf
- A pinecone
- A round stone
- A seed
- Signs of a squirrel or mouse
- A bird
- Grass blade longer than your fingers
- A twig longer than your arm
- Signs of a spider (i.e. a web)
- Plants growing in the sidewalk or driveway cracks
- Moss
- Tree bark
- Signs of a larger animal (i.e. moose scat)

The children can check off on the list, collect, or take a picture of each item as it is found. An incentive for the end of the scavenger hunt is a picnic on the lawn to celebrate nature!



## Making Sense of Primula Auricula By Gina Docherty [with a lot of help from Jane Baldwin]

<http://southernauriculaprimula.org/Auriculas.aspx>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primula>  
<http://www.barnhaven.com/auriculas/>

There are so many different types of auriculas - different flower colors, leaf shapes, leaf edges, heights, meal, no meal; it can be very confusing.

The word primula is the Latin feminine diminutive of primus, meaning first (prime), applied to flowers that are among the first to open in spring. The name auricula means "ear-shaped".

Cultivated Auriculas are thought to be descendants of primulas that grew in the mountains of southern Europe at up to 9000 feet. Today's auriculas are probably crosses between P. auricula, which has a scented yellow flower and a white powdery deposit known as meal or farina on the leaves, and P. hirsute, which has no farina resulting in the introduction of the red color which has since produced various shades from red to purple to white.

Auriculas appeared in European gardens toward the end of the 16th century. The first "Florists' Feast" took place in Norwich, England, in the 1630s. A "Florist" in this sense means someone who raises & grows plants according to a set of standards. There are more than 2000 different varieties of auriculas today, broadly split into two categories: Show auriculas and Garden auriculas. Show auriculas are split into 5 distinct types: self, fancy, green edged, grey edged and white edged. Garden auriculas include alpine, border, doubles and striped.

**Show auriculas** often need a little more attention to produce top quality flowers.

-Green, gray or white edges - Flowers have a golden center or 'tube', surrounded by a white ring of 'paste', then usually a background color within the outside edge.

-Show 'selfs' - petals are plain, without any shading, around a central white 'paste' and golden central 'tube'. Usually, but not always - the leaves and stem have a dusting of meal.

-Show Fancies -This section is a wide grouping of show auriculas which don't quite fall into the other categories whose body color is other than black. They may have green, grey or white edges which do not fully meet the edge criteria for show edged auricula.

**Garden auriculas** are intended for the garden and are fully hardy.

-Alpine auriculas—flowers are often slightly larger than show types; petals (corolla) are gradually shaded from darker color near the center to lighter colors towards the edge. The centers may be either gold or light col-

ored (cream to white). There is no 'paste' (aka 'meal' or 'farina' on alpine flowers or foliage. Gold centers generally have petals in the red-brown color range. Light centers tend towards the purple, pink and blue shades. -Double auriculas—first cultivated in the 17th century, but fell out of favor with the advent of show auriculas prominence. In the 20th century, interest in doubles rekindled with much work done by American growers. Doubles now come in many colors and forms and most are robust and flower well.

-Border auriculas - no rigid set of standards for Border auriculas. They should, however, be strong growing plants, able to stand up to all weathers in the garden, and ideally have a sweet scent. Flowers come in an incredible range of colors and forms. Because of Border auriculas' mixed cross and back crosses' ancestry, some border auriculas may have 'meal' on leaves and flowers. -Striped auriculas - are making a comeback after being lost to cultivation for more than 100 years. Some stripes consist of farina on colored petals. They are usually vigorous plants and flower easily.

Are you confused yet? Never mind. It's best to just call them 'Auriculas' and grow and enjoy them in the garden with the other early spring flowers.

## Airport Heights Elementary...cont. from page 2

On 4/8/15 the dahlias' growth on the West was 339 cm and the East was 293 cm. West's dahlia growth on 4/15/15 was at 550 cm and East was at 506 cm. The conclusion was clear that the West had more plant growth in centimeters. But there is only a few centimeters' difference between them, so the difference is not significant.

In essence, each side is good for plants as long as you take care of your plant. There is not a big difference between the two sides, East or West. (What this gardener would like to know is, how soon the plants will bloom! Alas, school is not in session by then.)

In May, the plants will be sold to raise money for other gardening projects at the school. The students can keep their own plants for a small amount and sell others to the public. Students were allowed take the plant home and watch its further growth over the summer.

The project was supported by a grant from the Wild-flower Garden Club and support from The Persistent Farmer, Rob Wells.

We love to see children taking an interest in gardening! For further details about the experiment, to view charts and statistics, see <http://airportheights.org/2015/05/the-results-are-in-east-v-west-the-dahlia-experiment/>

## Thank you, Aztecs: The Orchid Cactus By Cheryl Chapman



Photo by Nickel LaFleur

The knock-down drag-out between the Cobaea and the Orchid cactus, which lashed the strangler vine mercilessly with its ropy stems, ended with death on the part of the Cobaea and the Orchid cactus' triumphant flowering, a victory lap around the pot after six years of ennui.

And the blooms are stunning, five of them now 6 inches or more across and as deep, in the key of rose and springing from the ends of matured stems. Those juvenile ropes seem gradually to take deep breaths, flatten and expand to 2 to 3 inches wide with wavy gravy margins and an aureole with a cute little spine, like the single thorn on the Little Prince's rose, at every alternating indentation.

The stems themselves are brilliant green with the gloss of well-tended leather and flopsy as the ears of Belgian lop rabbits. This particular Orchid cactus is in a knee-high terra cotta pot where its stems finger passing britches legs; its next incarnation will be as a hanging basket.

The name of this marvelous plant is in dispute. Generally, they are called "Epiphyllums," "epis" for short, and some gardeners may have experience with the striking white, sweetly scented Epiphyllum oxypetalum, the night-blooming cereus. The day-bloomers, the pinks, reds, whites, purples, bicolors, and most recently, yellows, tend to be hybrids whose seeds don't come true, but the plants are easy enough to multiply from cuttings.

Possibly the best website for epi information and care comes from Marina Welham, [www.theamateursdigest.com/epis.htm](http://www.theamateursdigest.com/epis.htm).

The blooms on this epi look like those of Nopalxochia phyllanthoides, the pond lily cactus from the realm of the Aztecs. True, they ripped the living hearts out of thousands of sacrificial victims for religion's sake, but they did love their posies and had what may have been the first botanical pleasure gardens. Our gardens and homes today are all the richer for the Aztec flowering plants: the marigolds, cosmos, lantana, dahlias and morning glories.

Continued on page 6



## Bird Chatter

**DEEP THOUGHTS . . .** Are you in danger of being seduced by above-ground warmth into planting seeds etc. earlier than is -- shall we say -- optimum for germination? Well, take a clue from Mary Shier. She has a soil thermometer with a 12-inch probe. On May 5th, three inches down, the ABG herb garden beds topped out at 48 degrees. But at 12 inches down, the same soil was only 38 degrees.

**BANQUET PLATTER? . . .** Dinner Plate Dahlias not big enough for you? One of Rob Wells' dahlia-start customers picked up her annual spring selection last week at the Cordova/15th Avenue market. It included an Emory Paul, a lavender variety that won a People's Choice award last year. It's described as the biggest ever dahlia bloom.

Bird Chatter can't wait to see if it lives up to its press -- and guesses some serious staking is in order

**RATHER SEE ONE THAN BE ONE . . .** Have you ever seen an acrobatic moose? Not even in a circus, right? Well, a local gardener says there's a Mom and calf that can jump through the open circle beneath the arch in her garden gate.

At the other end of the scale, Rosemary Shinohara and her husband Vincent, along with several other residents in their South Anchorage cul de sac watched with growing anxiety last week at a mother and baby moose that had become separated by a fence too high for either to jump over. Baby cried and Mom desperately tried to find a way through. Finally, a neighbor risked getting way closer to a Mamma moose than anyone should and opened a gate that let the mother into an adjoining yard with a lower fence. She jumped it and all was well.

**CAN'T WAIT? . . .** Martina started Austrian field peas in March for Julie's Girdwood vegetable class. This is a pea grown primarily as a green manure crop and for fodder; but, because it can withstand such cool temperatures, Austrian field peas can be planted very early and the shoot tips harvested and added to salads for early spring pea flavor.

## Herb Study Group: Olfactory By Leisje Lehman

This month the Herb Study Group focused on the Olfactory, which is everything relating to the sense of smell. The sense of smell has the most direct path of all the senses to the brain, taking only 2-3 synopsis for your brain to register it. Our responses to each smell and taste however can be vastly different for each person. After testing a couple different tastes in our session, it was amazing how many different opinions there were about the exact same sample.



We also discussed the 5 elements of taste. Bitter, sour, sweet, salty and the newest umami. We spent the most time on Umami, because so few of us were familiar with it. It is a Japanese word, used to describe a savory taste that can create a smooth, coating sensation, and is mostly associated with fermented foods.

We had several experiments, one of which was licorice root powder. Some found it sweet, and some didn't like it at all. Even those who found it sweet the first time it was tasted, on a second taste it had a more sour or bitter taste. Showing that as your body gets the spice it needs and is satisfied, your taste for it will change.

The most important thing I learned, is the need to listen to what your body is telling you. It has the ability to tell you what it needs. If you are observant, it will tell you when you have had enough or need more of a herb/spice, and it often lets you know by cravings. As your body gets the missing needed spice your taste for it will change.

There will be no study group next month as we are moving into the garden. Feel free to join us Tuesdays and Fridays at 1pm at the ABG.

### Thank You Aztecs.....cont. from page 5

An Aztec transcript from the Florentine Codex sums it up:

"I offer flowers. I sow flower [seeds]. I plant flowers ... I pick different flowers ... I seek flowers ... I arrange flowers ... I thread a flower. I string flowers. I make flowers. I form ... round bouquets of flowers. I make a pendant of them ... I offer flowers to one ... I provide him a flower necklace. I place a garland on one ... I cover him in flowers." (from [www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/aztefacts/aztec-pleasure-gardens](http://www.mexicolore.co.uk/aztecs/aztefacts/aztec-pleasure-gardens))

# Garden Event Calendar

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

Monday, June 1

**\*\*Mat-Su Master Gardener's Monthly Meeting:** Palmer Library planting. MTA building, Palmer.

**\*\*Meadow Lakes Bloomers Garden Club Monthly Meeting:** Identifying Wild Edibles by Julie Casico, Cooperative Extension Service. 10:30 at Meadow Lakes Senior Center, Parks and Pittman, Wasilla.

Tuesday, June 2

Valley Garden Club: Monthly Meeting: Picnic at Phyllis Martin's Garden. Details at: <http://www.valleygardenclub.com/>.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 2 - June 25

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.

Tuesday, June 2, 16 and 30

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

Thursday, June 4

Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Public Meeting: Invasive Species, by Brianne Blackburn, State Plant Materials Center. 7:00 pm at Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage.

Wednesday, June 17

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.

Thursday, June 18

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

Saturday, June 20

Willow Garden Club: Summer Solstice Potluck Picnic: Celebrate 30 years of Willow Community Gardening Activities. 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Gonzalez Pavilion, Nancy Lake, Milepost 64.5. Details at: <http://willowgardenclub.blogspot.com/>.

Tuesday, June 23

Alaska Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Monthly Meeting: Field trip, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Details at: <http://www.akorchid.org>.

Thursday, June 25

A Midsummer Gala in the Garden: Annual Fundraiser for Alaska Botanical Garden: Art, Music, Food, Libations and Camaraderie. 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/>.

Saturday - Sunday, June 27 - 28

ABG Garden and Art Festival: Family Fun, Garden Art Show,

Craft and Plant Vendors, Demos, Workshops, Children Activities, Music and Food. 11:00 am - 7:00 pm, Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Saturday: ABG Members only 10:00 - 11:00. Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 children. Children under 5 years old free. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/>.

## PLANT SALES

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

Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, June 2 - July 31

Junior Master Gardener Day Camp: Experiential Program in Botany, Soil Science, Nutrition and Gardening for 2nd graders to 6th graders. 9:00 am - 12:00 pm or 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, once per week at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage. Cost: \$140/child. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/junior-master-gardener-2015-tickets-15934382166>.

Saturday, June 6 - 20

Anchorage Permaculture: Permaculture Design Course. 8:00 am - 6:00 pm at Spring Creek Farm, Palmer. Details at: <http://akpermaculture.ning.com/>.

Sunday - Wednesday, June 21 - 24

Alaska Native Health Consortium: Alaskan Plants as Food and Medicine Symposium. Alaska Pacific University Campus, 4101 University Drive, Anchorage. Details on Times, Costs and Registration at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/alaskan-plants-as-food-and-medicine-symposium-2015-tickets-15173251604>.

Mondays, June 22 to July 27

Beginning Floral Design: Learn the Basics of Floral Design and How to Create Beautiful Arrangements. Fee includes all materials and supplies. 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm. Cost: \$259. Location and other Details at [www.uaa.alaska.edu/continuinged](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/continuinged).

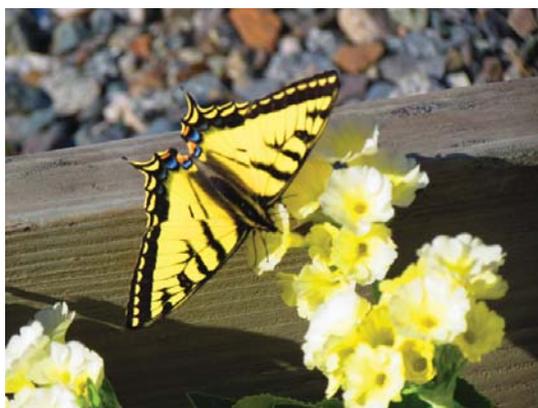
Friday, June 26

Anchorage Museum: Forest Insects of Alaska by Jessie Moan, CES IPM Technician, Outside, Rain or Shine. 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Anchorage Museum 625 C Street, Anchorage. Details at: <https://www.anchoragemuseum.org/exhibits-events/calendar/details/?id=20804>.

## SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST

Friday - Saturday - August 7 and 8

Alaska Rock Garden Society: Seed Collecting Trip Led by Verna Pratt. August 8 at MacClaren River. Drive to MacClaren River Lodge the night of the 7th, Camp or stay at the Lodge. Seed collecting will begin after breakfast on the 8th. Reservations at the Lodge: <http://maclarenlodge.com/index.html>.



Hungry Swallowtail  
[...I eat flowers...]

Photo by  
Gina Docherty



**Happy  
Garden Week!**



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

