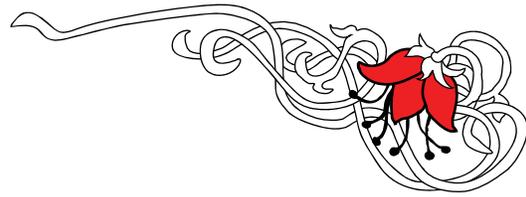


Anchorage



Volume 16, Issue 2

# ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS ANCHORAGE NEWSLETTER February 2014



## Message From Barbara & Lynne

In 2014 the AMGA will have two Presidents (Co-Presidents)- Barbara Baker and Lynne Opstad. Many thanks go to Nickel LaFleur for holding the job of President for the last two years. Barbara and I decided to share the job of President because we strongly believe in the goals of the AMGA and wanted to continue to serve the organization, but also want time to travel to "parts unknown". We will alternate conducting the Monthly Meetings and writing articles for the Newsletter, along with the Board of Director duties. Barbara and I are looking forward to representing the AMGA. We are excited about what the board and committees are working on to move the organization forward- such as the 501(c)3 non-profit designation, Lifetime Achievement Awards, Educational & Garden Grant program, and the Advanced Master Gardener classes.

We think everyone will be happy with the Monthly Meeting programs scheduled for the coming year. The Program Committee specifically designed the topics to appeal to the wide variety of interests of our members. Garden design, irrigation, trees & shrubs, preserving food, greenhouses, and roses are all on the program. Look for your 2014 Directory coming out soon for information about the programs, member information, and more!

The AMGA is a strong organization with many talented individuals. Barbara and I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of our members over the coming year and are proud to be members and to serve the AMGA!

## Changes to the Newsletter Coming in March

Starting in March we are converting over to an electronic only format for our monthly Newsletter. Very few organizations still produce a paper newsletter due to the cost of production. Our operating costs have exceeded our revenue for several years, and the Newsletter is the AMGA's highest expense. One of the goals of the Board is to balance our budget without increasing Membership Fees. In order to help keep Membership Dues down, the board has made the decision to convert to an on-line only Newsletter.

Aside from the reduction in costs, an electronic newsletter has several other advantages. The on-line Newsletter is in color so we can see our wonderful garden pictures in vibrant color instead of black & white. It

will be available earlier in the month since we don't have to mail it. We will also reduce paper consumption. Producing an on-line Newsletter also takes less volunteer time and gives our Newsletter Editor much more flexibility with the format and length.

We want to make it as easy as possible for our members to access the Newsletter. As soon as the Newsletter is posted on the AMGA Website, members will receive an email with a link that goes directly to the Newsletter. Just click on the link and read your Newsletter- in color. You can go in to the Newsletter through that link as many times as you would like. Although we know change can be hard, we've also had numerous requests from members for an electronic only newsletter.

Many thanks go out to Gina Docherty, our Newsletter Editor, who has spent an enormous amount of volunteer time over the years producing a first class Newsletter. Gina isn't going anywhere, she will continue as Editor and is looking forward to the ease and flexibility an on-line newsletter will bring.



## Treasurer's Report February, 2014

### Balances 12/31/13

Checking	2613.09
Savings	<u>12667.86</u>
	\$15280.95
Dedicated Funds	\$6425.05
Revenue:	
Conference	30.00
Donation	10.00
Interest	2.00
Membership	<u>1491.00</u>
	\$1503.00
Expense:	
Newsletter	742.84
Operations	<u>49.99</u>
	\$792.83

### Balances 1/31/14

Checking	3321.26
Savings	<u>12669.47</u>
	\$15990.73
Dedicated Funds	\$6425.44



## What's New for You in 2014?

### January AMGA Meeting Report

By Pat Anderson

50 Master Gardeners eagerly awaited the 'What's New' news from Julie's travels last year. She announced that the Internet has changed everything! We no longer look to magazines for garden trends, but go to garden and catalog sites to check it out - AND cooking is the trend. We need to present all those amazing vegetables and herbs we grow in artistic culinary ways.

**Vegetables:** Kale is the trend-setter as well as mustard greens, chard and collards. Not just greens, but super greens: the colored flower-power cauliflower, apples and beans. Julie showed the magazines she had picked up, but spent the most time on the internet. Beets were brought up: start beets indoors and transplant into garden. Johnnies seed catalogs offer cylindrical and round beets and beet greens. Names of great beets are Red Ace, Bolhardy, and Egyptian Flat. AAS (All American Selection) winners are Bean Mascotte, Cucumber 'Pick a Bushel', and others. Mother Earth News is a bi-monthly American magazine that has 1/2 million circulation, and promotes self-reliance, eating and growing your own. Lamb's Quarters is an Alaskan weed that has medicinal purposes. It has farina, and grows up to 6" tall; the stems have red veins, you cook it like spinach, and tastes like green beans and spinach.

**Herbs:** Hemp is a commonly used term for high growing varieties of the Cannabis plant and its products, which include fiber, oil, and seed. Hemp is refined into products such as hemp seed foods, hemp oil, wax, resin, rope, cloth, pulp, paper and fuel. Chia seeds provide healthy and nutritional protein. AAS winner Basil, 'Bam', a new variety resistant to bolting, doesn't mind heat. Start in greenhouse by April 15th. Artemisia is the herb of the year being studied by the MG herb group, the first Friday of every month.

**Flowers, perennials:** Gardeners are always looking for something new. Who are Alaska's gardening greats that grow new and exciting plants? Who are we watching? Madge Oswald, Debbie Hinchey, Verna Pratt, Robbie Frankevich, Cindy Walker and Les Brake. They all experiment and try new and exciting plants. Madge Oswald's garden has Gillenia; the first & second year she wondered why she let it take up space but the third year she had beautiful, showy white flowers. The plant grows about 2' tall. Also seen at Anne Dawson's gardens on tour, the plant wants full and/or part sun. Cindy Walker is also growing Gillenia in her yard. Rodgersia pinnate is also grown by Madge Oswald. She has two, one bronze-leafed and one green. There is a large variety of Rodgersia on the internet. Korean Violet, Viola koreana, a Cyclamen-leaved Violet and is grown by Madge Oswald, Jane Baldwin and Robbie Frankevich. This is the outstanding gem of the viola family, bearing the most beautiful foliage of all violas. Some got it at Les Brake's greenhouse. It is a hardy perennial. Bergenia grown by Debbie Hinchey is another perennial that has different cultivars: Dragonfly, Sakura, Cordiflora, Rodblum. Moose here in Anchorage have developed quite a taste for Bergenia, but on the Kenai Peninsula the moose leave them alone, according to Jane Baldwin.

**Grasses:** On the net, 'Beyond the Blue' Festuca, Panicum virgatum "Northwind", erect grass, prairie grass of the year. Elijah Blue grows well in Anchorage.

**Flowers, annuals:** Penstemon arabesque, All American Selections has chosen this as an award winner. Gaura is related to the Fireweed, a light and airy plant. Petunia 'African Sunset' a true orange national winner, which mounds and spreads, is compact up to 20".

The Flower color of the year, pantone, radiant orchid, is also in fashion.

**Trends:** Anti GMO is organic food produced without GMO. But if you want new, GMO's the way to go. Delphiniums, Maltese Cross and Tall Trollius are still good. Chickens are still hot: 4 -5 hens, no roosters.

Remember the Spring Conference of Alaska Botanical Garden, March 14 and 15. And remember, if you grow veggies, you need to cook - with inspiration!



### Master Gardening Class: One Student's View

By Sharon Schlicht

It's been a couple of decades since I took a university course with homework and testing so it was time to see if I could still do it. I wanted to take the Master Gardener (MG) course for a few years, and when I retired this fall it finally fit my schedule. Things have changed since I was previously a student, notably in technology and testing.

Students were encouraged to bring smart phones, laptops, tablets and other electronic devices to class. I'm in the slow lane when it comes to technology, but I appreciated having classmates who are not. When a question was posed that no one could answer, someone would look it up on the internet. We got answers immediately.

Testing was much less stressful than I remembered; quizzes and the final exam were multiple choice and open book. Quizzes were not graded and we were encouraged to work with our classmates to find answers. The final exam was graded but not timed. We could take all day if needed.

When I registered for the MG class, I thought I had a basic knowledge of gardening. I'd been planting, watering, weeding and harvesting since I was a child and my mother made me help in our family garden. As an adult I continued gardening because I enjoyed it. After the MG classes began, I quickly realized that I knew very little. I learned new concepts in every class as Julie Riley shared her wealth of knowledge and brought in guest speakers with expertise in gardening-related fields.

I met many nice classmates and learned from their gardening experiences too. I'll miss spending time with them twice a week and hope to see them at future gardening events. Now I'm working on my volunteer hours and looking forward to advance MG courses. I give this MG course two (green) thumbs up!



## Passionate about Passion Vine

By Gina Docherty



The Passion flower lasts only for a day or two but there are usually many flowers to enjoy.

Photo by Gina D.

A few years ago I picked up a Passion Vine - *Passiflora alata-caerulea* "Vine Blue" at Suttons. My intention was to have a nice annual vine growing up a little trellis in a pot on my deck. However, it ended up in my greenhouse some-

how, and did well. It has some very good qualities, notably its flowers, and is easy to grow. It will produce lots and lots of

flowers during the summer season, but did not produce fruit however. Wikipedia says that they need 'a large bee to pollinate', which are few & far between in my greenhouse.

An interesting fact about *Passiflora* from Wikipedia: "The leaves are used as food plants by the larva of a number of lepidoptera (moths & butterflies). To prevent the butterflies from laying too many eggs on any single plant, some passion flowers bear small colored nubs which resemble the butterflies' eggs and seem to fool them into believing that more eggs have already been deposited on a plant than actually is the case. Also, many *Passiflora* species produce sweet nutrient-rich liquid from glands on their leaf stems. These fluids attract ants which will kill and eat many pests that they happen to find feeding on the passion flowers."

The Royal Horticulture Society has this to say about *Passiflora*:

"*Passiflora* (passion flower) is an evergreen climber with exotic looking flowers, sometimes followed by brightly coloured fruits. Suited to a sunny sheltered spot in mild regions of the UK, in colder areas it can be grown under cover of a greenhouse or conservatory."

"Although *Passiflora* is a self-clinging tendrill climber, it benefits from fan-training, which produces a more attractive plant than if left alone to scramble."

**Cultivation:** Grow in a moderately fertile well drained soil that also stays reliably moist. It isn't fussy about soil pH. Provide full sun to dappled sunlight, protecting it from drying winds. Water it freely during the summer, as they don't like dry soil. It can grow up to 30 feet & will need a trellis or structure for support. In the fall, cut the stems down to about 1 foot or so & bring it in the house for the winter & water sparingly.

The "Passion" in "passion flower" refers to the passion of Jesus in Christian theology. In the 15th and 16th centuries, Spanish Christian missionaries adopted the unique physical structures of this plant, particularly the numbers of its various flower parts, as symbols of the last days of Jesus and especially his crucifixion:

- The pointed tips of the leaves were taken to represent the Holy Lance.
- The tendrils represent the whips used in the flagella-

tion of Christ.

- The ten petals and sepals represent the ten faithful apostles (excluding St. Peter the denier and Judas Iscariot the betrayer).
- The flower's radial filaments, which can number more than a hundred and vary from flower to flower, represent the crown of thorns.
- The chalice-shaped ovary with its receptacle represents a hammer or the Holy Grail
- The 3 stigmas represent the 3 nails and the 5 anthers below them the 5 wounds (four by the nails and one by the lance).
- The blue and white colors of many species' flowers represent Heaven and Purity.

This last summer, with all the heat, my *Passiflora* was infested with spider mites. I treated it with a spray, & gave it several showers. It flowered but not vigorously. The old leaves were speckled with yellow & dropped off. The new growth was green, but way at the top where the blooming was taking place. I decided I could live without it & was going to throw it out. But just in case, I cut off all the stems down to about 1 foot, picked off all the infected leaves & brought it in the house. If it grew, it would be saved, otherwise, compost. Low & behold, it has started growing & even put on some nice new leaves in cool temperatures & very low light, and no more spider mites - yet.

## The Rare and Beautiful Feijoa

By Gina Docherty

[From Wikipedia]



The Feijoa (*Feijoa sellowiana*, synonym *Acca sellowiana*), also known as Pineapple Guava or Guavasteen, is an evergreen shrub or small tree, 1-7 m in height. It comes from the highlands of southern Brazil, parts of Colombia, Uruguay, Paraguay and northern Argentina. They are also grown throughout Azerbaijan, Georgia and New Zealand.

The green fruit matures in autumn, and is about the size and shape of an egg. It has a sweet, aromatic flavour. The flesh is juicy. The fruit drops when ripe, but can be picked from the tree before to prevent bruising. Feijoa fruit have a distinctive smell. The chemical methyl benzoate smells strongly of feijoas and the aroma of the fruit is caused mostly by this and other closely related chemicals.

A feijoa may be used as an interesting addition to a fruit smoothie, and may be used to make wine or cider and feijoa-infused vodka. The flavour is aromatic, very strong and complex, inviting comparison with guava, strawberry, pineapple, and often containing a faint wintergreen-like aftertaste. It also is possible to buy feijoa yogurt, fruit drinks, jam, ice cream, and vodka in New Zealand. It may be cooked and used in dishes as a stewed fruit. A popular ingredient in chutney, the strong, complex flavour can make using feijoas a creative and complex undertaking. The flower petals are edible, with a flavor that is slightly sweet with hints of cinnamon. The most common use is as an addition to salads. They regularly are consumed by birds.

## Growing Young Gardeners: Showing Love to the Birds

By Amy Reed, MG

Our family's goal is to get outside at least once a day to enjoy our Alaskan winter. Having a three year old, who would rather stay warm and cozy playing with her dollhouse or stuffed animals, does require some ingenuity to entice her into snow pants and boots. One thing we look forward to every week is a Monday hike with friends on a local trail. Just calling out, "It's time for our Monday hike!",

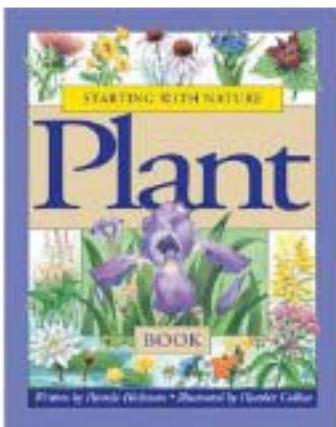


causes our daughter to scramble into her warm outdoor gear and race to the car.

This past Monday, our friends decided to decorate one of the evergreen trees on the path for the birds. Dried orange and pomegranate slices were hung festively on branches. Cranberries and popcorn were strung as well. We hoped not only to feed the birds' bellies during the winter, but also to bring a smile to other hikers on the trail as they come upon the tree.

One recipe for bird "ornaments" that we have found to be effective and fun for kids to make is peanut butter pinecones. All you need for this recipe is a big long pinecone, string, peanut butter, and sunflower seeds. First, take the pinecone and lay it on a baking sheet or newspaper to contain the mess. Then, tie the string at the top of the pinecone to form a hanger. Next--the messy part---coat the pinecone in peanut butter (preferably creamy) and roll it in sunflower seeds. Finally, place the pinecone ornament in the freezer for an hour to set. Now, it's ready to hang!

A side note: if you want to detract squirrels, sprinkle some chili powder on the pinecone.



### Growing Young Gardeners.. Starting with Nature

Book Review  
by Amy Reed, MG

I received the book, Starting with Nature Plant Book by Pamela Hickman (Kids Can Press, 1996) from a retired school teacher. Her second grade class utilized this book as a supplement

for their science lessons on nature. The author, Pamela Hickman, covers a number of topics in one or two page

summaries with terrific illustrations by Heather Collins.

A few of the subjects of the book are "What Plants Need to Grow", "Plants across America", "Pollination" and "Surviving Winter". The pollination topic introduces the young reader to the anatomy of a flower and why it relies on being pollinated to reproduce. It also engages the student with an activity of actually pollinating flowers with a paintbrush.

This book is geared towards children ages 7-11 and uses simple explanations to peak the interest of the reader. While most concepts are currently too complex for my three year old, I did use the topic, "A Garden for Wildlife" to explain why how butterflies and moose are attracted to certain plants and shrubs. I look forward to using other parts of this book to engage my future master gardener!

Starting with Nature Plant Book is available both new and used on Amazon.com. There are also copies to borrow at the Anchorage Public Library.

## Fun Facts about the Red Breasted Nuthatch

By Gina Docherty

[From Wikipedia and other sites]



Red-breasted Nuthatches move quickly and in any direction across tree trunks and branches. When moving downward they typically zigzag, keeping their grip by relying on the large claw on their one backward-pointing toe on each foot. These Nuthatches are ag-

gressive birds that sometimes dominate larger birds at feeders. Most visit feeders in ones and twos, not large numbers. Feisty and aggressive, pairs generally defend a territory of 10 to 30 acres. They feast on seeds and insects found in trees, and many times will hide seeds from feeders in tree bark for a snack later.

The breeding season begins in late April or early May. Males court females by turning their backs to them, singing, and swaying from side to side with crest feathers raised, or by flying together in an exaggerated display of slowly fluttering wings or long glides.

Both sexes excavate the nest, but the female does more than the male. Nuthatches are among the few non-woodpeckers that excavate their own nest cavities from solid wood. Excavation can take up to 18 days and yields a cavity between 2.5 and 8 inches deep. The female then builds a bed of grass, bark strips, and pine needles and lines it with fur, feathers, fine grasses or shredded bark. Both males and females apply conifer resin to the entrance, sometimes applying it with a piece of bark, a remarkable example of tool use. This activity is thought to deter insects, small mammals, and other birds from entering the nest cavity. Several observers have noted that Red-breasted Nuthatches have a habit of flying straight into the entrance hole, without touching the outside of the cavity first, perhaps to avoid the pitch smeared around the hole.

## Start Your Artichoke Seeds Now!

By Cheryl Shroyer



February's here - time to start the artichokes. Don't dally. There are 2 facts we cannot escape about artichokes in Anchorage. The seed must be Imperial Star and the plants need 12 weeks of growing before they are transplanted in mid-May. Artichokes are perennials meaning those tasty thistle buds we love so much only start to grow in their second year. Imperial Star is the gardener's single season solution. We are saved.

We could start a long discussion on the process of vernalization, using cold to trick a young plant into thinking it had a winter already, switching into a reproductive stage and flowering. With effort one could recreate the 500 hours of vernalization other artichoke varieties require. Let's not even go there. Forget Globe and exotic Italian varieties unless you understand and commit to this precise process.

The seed starting is ordinary. Imperial Star artichoke seeds come in packets from 10 to 20 seeds but they have a 70% germination rate. Sometimes a seed does not run true to type. In warm soil they take 10 to 20 days to germinate. I start artichokes in 4 inch pots, after all they are my first starts so space isn't an issue. The seedlings require regular feeding of  $\frac{1}{4}$  strength organic fertilizer. Easy.

After 12 weeks, transplant the 8 to 10 inch plants into the garden. Here is the only trick: these artichokes need about 8 to 10 days of cold at 50 degrees; you can't frost them and you can't heat them past 70 or they won't bud. This is a simple mini vernalization that guarantees the Imperial Star will bud. We luck out again because mid-May temps average 50 degrees. Keep an eye on the forecast, keep a row cover handy and you can make it through that critical temperature period.

In a late or early spring adjust the planting time to hit the 50 degree window. Research seed catalogs on line for greater details but note most information is on globe varieties with different growing requirements.



Artichokes are visual architectural delights, enhance garden structure and are problem free. And for some reason I find them funny. Who first decided to eat one of these? You know they didn't have

hollandaise sauce. Perhaps a stegosaurus will stop by for a snack. Maybe the aliens left them behind...so much to ponder.



Bees enjoy the nectar of the artichoke blossom

Photo by G.Docherty

## AMGA Online Renewal/Memberships

Question: "Do I need a PayPal account to take advantage of online renewal/membership?"  
Answer: NO! You can bill directly to your choice of credit card (VISA, Mastercard, etc.).

The steps to final payment are somewhat confusing and may not seem necessarily intuitive since the online payment IS processed through PayPal.

From [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org), select AMGA - Join/Renew AMGA - and complete the Online Membership & Renewal Form.

Click on "Proceed to Secure Payment".

Next you will see highlighted in red (1) that there is an additional 3% processing fee added to your payment; and (2) "you do not need a PayPal account to pay with a credit card".

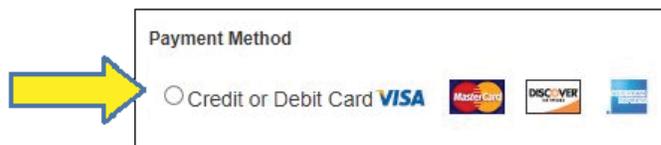
Click on the appropriate membership (individual or dual) to add it to your "Cart".



Click on "Check Out" and proceed to the next window: "Choose a way to pay". Options presented here are "Have a PayPal account?" -- and: "Don't have a PayPal account? Pay as a guest now, sign up for PayPal later." The second option is the one to choose to bill directly to your choice of credit card - YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SIGN UP FOR PAYPAL LATER!



Click on this option and complete the billing information; click "Continue".



Click on the credit card of your choice (such as VISA). Complete the information required for billing to your specific credit card (CC#, expiration date, etc.).

Next click on "Review and Continue" to complete the renewal process.



## Bird Chatter

### Movie Report: "Microcosmos" by Jacques Perrin & Kristin Scott Thomas

A good movie to watch is the French documentary: Microcosmos (found on Netflix.) Photographers used microscopic camera and special microphones to record the "fascinating world of insects and other minute creatures". There is very little talking, (and fortunately it is in English) and was a 'spell binding' hour and 15 minutes! Highly recommend for Master Gardeners.

### Arctic Tern Trivia

As soon as the young chick spreads its wings, it is able to join its parents on the world famous Arctic Tern migration. It has been determined, by ringing young hatchlings, that these remarkable birds fly approximately 35,000 kilometers each year. If you total up all its flying time over the length of a bird's lifetime, it could have flown to the moon and back.

### AMGA 2014 Election Results by Nickel LaFleur

Thanks to all who voted in the annual election. We had about a 45% response rate which I'm told is 'good'!

Thanks to Barbara Baker, Lynne Opstad, and Cindy Walker for serving their 2nd term and welcome to new Board member Sheila Toomey.

After the program meeting on January 20th, the Board got together to elect officers and some of the program chairs. Though all the positions are not filled at the time of this writing, here are the slate of officers:

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

Of course, many thanks need to be given to Jill Shepherd for her years of service on the Board. Jill will be helping out on the sidelines, so it's not good-bye but 'see you later, alligator'.

To Jane Baldwin who made the many trips to the mailbox to make sure our members who were responding by mail were never forgotten. Thank You!

And to Mary Rydesky who is constant in our AMGA world with her assistance on sending out the survey monkey and doing all the tweaks and reminders that goes with the job.

Thanks to Julie Riley for being our advisor and expert. We appreciate you.

Let it be known - elections for 2014 went smoothly and are now complete. We are ready to roll.

## Advanced MG Class Info

Plant Taxonomy, 16 CEUs  
Instructor: Marilyn Barker, Botanist

Mondays & Wednesdays, (10 AM-Noon)  
Feb 26, Mar 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19,  
Friday lab, Feb. 28

- Hone your plant identification skills
- Learn flowering characteristics for vascular plant families
- Refresh your knowledge of vegetative terms
- Come away with a new way seeing plants in your world

Cost: \$45, must be postmarked by Feb 14, 2014.  
Registration: Send check payable to AMGA to:

UAF Cooperative Extension Service  
1675 C Street #100  
Anchorage AK, 99501.

You may also pay with cash at the Anchorage CES office. Even though the registration deadline is February 14, please note that classroom space is limited.

Location:  
UAF Cooperative Extension Service  
1675 C Street, Anchorage.

Eligibility: Current Advanced MGs and MGs who have completed their 40 hours of service. Open to other MGs and non-MGs on a space available basis. You will receive confirmation of space availability by Tuesday, February 18.

If you took the class in Fall 2013, but were not able to attend every session you will be able to make up that class. Please contact Julie to determine which date would be the one you need to make up.

Master Gardeners who completed the Fall 2013 Taxonomy course are welcome to repeat the course (upon payment of the \$45 by the cutoff date).

### Some Irish Blessings for Master Gardeners

May your blessings outnumber  
The shamrocks that grow,  
And may trouble avoid you  
Wherever you go.

As you slide down the banister of life,  
May the splinters never point the wrong way.

May your glass be ever full.  
May the roof over your head be always strong.  
And may you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead.

May you have:  
No frost on your spuds,  
No worms on your cabbage.  
May your goat give plenty of milk.  
And if you inherit a donkey,  
May she be in foal.

[And may all your plants survive this weird winter of 2014!]

## Herb Study Group Update From Sharon Schlicht

Julie Riley reports that she met with Kelly Campbell, Mary Shier, Debbie Hinchey and Susan Miller from the Herb Study Group on January 3. They looked at websites to check Artemisia hardiness zones and started a list of species to try at the ABG Herb Garden this year. They also went through the Nichols Garden Nursery online herb section and selected a few plants for their wish list. (Note: Owner Rosemary McGee Nichols has offered a 10% discount to those who mention they are Master Gardeners when placing an order.) Then they went to Green Connection and purchased two large containers for the center of the circle beds in the ABG Herb Garden. Look for them when you are at the garden this summer.

On January 10 the Herb Study Group held its regular monthly meeting at CES. Artemisia (2014 Herb of the Year) was the topic of discussion. Debbie Hinchey, Susan Miller and Jill Shepherd presented information about various species. Discussion of this herb will continue at next month's meeting followed by a short discussion of favorite seed catalogs. The next meeting is February 7 from noon to 1:30 at CES.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

The Anchorage Chapter of the Alaska Master Gardeners Association 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)  
(The Newsletter will be on-line in living color!)

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](mailto:jbaldwin@alaska.net)

## Garden Event Calendar

### **February 3**

Alaska Native Plant Society: Monthly Meeting first Monday of each month, October through May (with occasional exceptions due to holidays) 7 p.m. at Campbell Creek Science Center, Anchorage [www.aknps.org](http://www.aknps.org)

### **February 5-9**

Northwest Flower & Garden Show "Art in Bloom" Seattle [www.gardenshow.com](http://www.gardenshow.com)

### **February 6**

Anchorage Garden Club: Public Program Meeting 1st Thursday of the month 7:00pm Club Meeting at 6:00 p.m Pioneer Schoolhouse 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage [www.alaskagardenclubs.org](http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org)

### **February 7**

Herb Study Group: "Artemisia, Part II" Meets at the CES, 12-1:30 pm

### **February 13**

Wildflower Garden Club: Monthly Meeting Wildflower Garden Club meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Central Lutheran Church 1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage [www.alaskagardenclubs.org](http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org)

### **February 15**

Alaska Rock Garden Society: Monthly Meeting Regular meetings, which alternate between Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley, are held on the third Saturday of each month. <http://www.args.org>

### **February 17**

AMGA Monthly Meeting: Master Gardener's Summer Recap/Annual Potluck/Seed Exchange 7:00 p.m. [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org)

### **March 3**

Alaska Native Plant Society: Monthly Meeting first Monday of each month, October through May (with occasional exceptions due to holidays) 7 p.m. at Campbell Creek Science Center, Anchorage [www.aknps.org](http://www.aknps.org)

### **March 7**

Herb Study Group: "Herbs of Iceland: Wild Species and Garden Varieties" with Julie Riley Meets at CES, 12-1:30 p.m.

### **March 14**

Wildflower Garden Club: Monthly Meeting Wildflower Garden Club meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Central Lutheran Church 1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage [www.alaskagardenclubs.org](http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org)

### **March 15**

Alaska Rock Garden Society: Monthly Meeting Regular meetings, which alternate between Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley, are held on the third Saturday of each month. <http://www.args.org>

### **March 17**

AMGA Monthly Meeting: "Landscape Features for your Fine Feathered Friends" Presenter: Bonnie Lembo 7:00 p.m. Design considerations for the home gardener to attract birds. [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org)

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:  
Cooperative Extension Office  
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**Next AMGA Meeting:  
February 17th, 7 -9 p.m.  
(St. Patrick's Day)  
at the CES**

featuring:

**Potluck**

Bring your favorite dish to share

**Slide show:**

of garden tours, MG's summer gardens and harvests (15 photo limit per member, must be on a thumb drive or CD, arrive by 6:30 p.m. and check in with Julie Riley)

**Seed Exchange -**

bring your seeds to exchange and continue the bounty for next year's pictures

**See you there!**

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