

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:  
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**AMGA**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
  
December 2014  
Volume 16, Issue 12

### **2014 in Review** **From Lynne Opstad, Co-President**

What a year of growth 2014 has been for the AMGA. We started out the year with our Annual Meeting where Cindy Walker gave us a detailed explanation of the finances of the AMGA. We welcomed a new board member, Sheila Toomey, and thanked our outgoing board member, Jill Shepherd, for her service. Julie Riley helped us start planning our gardens by explaining how the color of the year is chosen, and what the new flower color and vegetables were for 2014. Amy Olmstead updated our meeting check in with colorful signage and an improved organizational flow to accommodate the increase in attendance. 278 people were members as of March.

Spring brought not only flowering bulbs but presentations on how to attract birds, ways to add pizzazz to your garden and how make gardening a bit easier by installing a drip irrigation system. Behind the scenes the AMGA board and committees were working on establishing criteria for the Lifetime Achievement Award; Gina Docherty was granted the award for her many years of service to the AMGA.

The Grants and Scholarship Committee was formed in anticipation of receiving our 501c3 designation, which we received in August. Many thanks go to Cindy Walker who worked tirelessly to achieve this designation. The Advanced Master Gardener Class on Taxonomy in 2013 was so popular that a second section was offered in the spring. And unfortunately, due to rising costs we discontinued the paper newsletter and went to an electronic only newsletter.

With summer came our private garden tours: 16 private gardens were open to AMGA members over the summer, giving us many ideas for spring flowers, greenhouses, shrubs and trees, landscaping, urban food gardening, water features, communal neighborhood growing, and late summer gardens, ending with a potluck at the fabulous Lighthouse Garden. Master Gardeners were busy volunteering all around town, including at the Pioneer Home Service project, Senior Center and ABG.

The AMGA weighed in on several areas of concern to the gardening community. We shared our concerns about the raise in tuition for the Master Gardener course with UAF administration. We gave input on the tree cuttings in Town Square and the old Federal Building. Thanks to Barbara Baker and others, this led to saving the trees at the Federal Building.

Our first Fall Plant & Garden Art Sale was held on August 16th. Thanks to the many volunteers that helped with the sale, we raised enough money to offer a scholarship for the fall MG course.

Fall educational programs provided information about Anchorage's notable trees and how to preserve our harvest. The Advanced Master Gardener Class on Plant Propagation started in September, with two sections to accommodate 40 people. We ended the year with a packed house for presentations on high tunnels and greenhouses.

Looking forward to 2015, we are excited about offering another year of programs to satisfy the wide range of interests of our members. A book sale is planned in April to support the Grant and Scholarship program. Also in the works is a Volunteer Management System to allow Master Gardens to sign up for volunteer opportunities on-line.

I give thanks to all the wonderful volunteers that made this year so successful. Everything accomplished by the AMGA, and for many other gardening organizations around town, is done through the hard work and dedication of Master Gardeners. Your energy, ideas and dedication is appreciated!

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## AMGA November Meeting Recap

by Peggy J. Piper

Lynne Opstad greeted everyone for our last meeting of 2014 and the room was buzzing like bunches of bees looking for that last flower before sunset. Julie Riley had a bunch of heavy thinkers gathered around the computer up front so that there might always be a "doctor in the house" for system mysteries. They had no idea how soon they would be needed! Another bunch was circling around the wonderful snacks and still others conversing, for a total of 68 energetic gardeners participating in the final fling.

### Announcements and Reminders:

\*Membership early renewals were announced, applauded, and awarded prizes. Don't forget to renew soon and especially before DEC 31st if you want to be in the directory.

\*Board Member nominations are closed now (Nov. 18th). Bio information will be provided. Electronic ballots will come out Jan 1st and be due by the 15th. Watch your email for a link to Survey Monkey.

\*Opportunities abound for fellowship:

-sign up to provide refreshments at one of our meetings with another member. Nothing fancy, just delicious, right!

- get with Gina Docherty to help update the website  
- provide feedback on your feelings about the newsletter. Electronic delivery or mailed, does it make a difference in your enjoyment?

\*The 2015 Master Gardener Conference will be in Fairbanks - more information to follow.

\*The 2016 Master Gardener Conference will be back in Anchorage and it's not too early to let board members know you are willing to help.

\*Potato Bash is February 11, 2015.

\*Alaska Botanical Garden is looking for speakers for their 2015 Conference.

Now we're ready for Michael Burke and Jeff Smeenk to put visions of warm-weather crops and longer growing seasons in our heads. First, however, a little computer issue - hmm!

Mike begins with the Mercedes approach to a greenhouse, starting, he says, innocently with a small ready-made version. This didn't last for long though especially with the goals of a 240 day growing season, only \$1/day cost to heat 192 s.f., play space in winter, storage, and seed starts in spring. Right! OK - start with a gambrel-style roof to set south facing glazing panels at 30 and 60 degrees to maximize light (true south, of course). (Also, might want to keep in mind buildings that are 200 s.f. or less won't require a building permit.) Supplemental light is needed for shoulder seasons in March and October. Mike uses LED lights because their wavelengths are superior. No doubt that supplemental heat is also needed so Mike has found a Super 5X Wall Storm Polycarbonate to use instead of vis-queen. This

material offers some structure as well as an R value of 2.78 which helps it hold onto heat better. After this we're off to challenge heat loss which involves an underground heat sink, under soil heat pump, air exchange shaft, and more details than your loyal note-taker could comprehend enough to write down. Finally, we have an individual watering system and some photos of cucumbers, tomatoes and hot peppers - punishment I tell you. My favorite part was Mike's wife's congratulation to him on growing the first magnificent \$600/oz. tomato. We did say Mercedes, right?

Next, Jeff presents us with an easier and dare we say more "Alaskan" type greenhouse. First, go to AIH and get their 8' x 20' garage kit, used mostly for storage by my neighbors. Discard beige vinyl cover and get some vis-queen, some 2x6 lumber, and some tack-strips. Use lumber at one end to frame in a "man-door" of your choice and on the base to hold legs in place. Add cross cables for rigidity and wrap with vis-queen using tack-strips to attach to lumber. Done! OK, so the season isn't extended too much, but I bet the tomatoes are only \$30/lb. and no MIT engineering degree required. Sincerely, thank you to both speakers.

### Treasurer's Report

Balances 9/30/14	
Checking account	9802.29
<u>Savings account</u>	<u>11681.56</u>
	\$21483.85

Dedicated Funds	\$6468.52
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Revenue:	
Donation	20.00
Interest	1.49
<u>Membership</u>	<u>340.00</u>
	\$361.49

Expense:	
Dedicated Donation	2000.00
Education	1300.00
Operations	49.99
<u>Website</u>	<u>45.00</u>
	\$3394.99

Balances 9/30/14	
Checking account	6767.30
<u>Savings account</u>	<u>11683.05</u>
	\$18450.35

Dedicated Funds	\$6468.52
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## Meet the Candidates for the AMGA Board

### Cheryl Shroyer



Cheryl's qualifications include accredited Flower Show judge by the National Garden Clubs Association, a Master Gardener speaker on compost at the Alaska Botanical Gardens Garden Fair and the Alaska Mill & Feed Garden Series, and past president of the Anchorage Garden Club. Her love of gardening started in suburban Philadelphia amid spectacular botanical gardens & arboreta. Primarily an organic vegetable gardener she started competitive gardening at the Philadelphia Horticulture Show winning top honors

including ribbons in preserving for creating her own recipes from the garden. Cheryl is especially proud of her work with the late Mardane Conner, creating the first private organic community garden in Anchorage. Cheryl enjoys working with the community and served as Oceanview Community Council president. She is a passionate gardener and attends educational seminars from the Rodale Institute, Longwood Gardens, Philadelphia Flower Show, Seattle Flower Show and attends the myriad of local educational opportunities.

### Harry Deuber



"After gardening in Alaska for many years I was finally able to attend classes and become a Master Gardener in 2011/2012. I garden in downtown Anchorage and met many of you when you visited my yards during this summer's garden tours. It's been a pleasure to become acquainted with the many dedicated and friendly members of the group.

I have served on the board of my local community council (Fairview) as secretary, treasurer and beautification committee chair for

many years, working with volunteers on many projects. I am a member and volunteer at the Alaska Botanical Garden and a few other gardening groups. I would feel privileged to serve as a member of the AMGA board."

### Melanie San Angelo



"I became an Alaskan Master Gardener in the fall of 2011 and in 2012. I then became an Advanced Alaska Master Gardener. Since then, I've been growing vegetables in a small downtown backyard, trying to spread the word that one doesn't need a lot of space to be sustainable. Instead, you just need a bunch of containers. My husband and I have entered our vegetables at the Alaska State Fair and have won the 2012 and 2013 Division Champion of Outdoor Crops for

our huge seeded Sunflower heads (stage 9). We have also won various blue, red, white & green ribbons for our various veg-

etables and canned goods over the years and this year Little Susitna Farms gave us a bonus award for our red Potatoes.

I started my interest in gardening as a young child, due to my grandparents owning a dairy farm in the Ohio River Valley. My grandmother had the most amazing vegetable and flower gardens and as a little girl I would go up in the summer to help them out with growing and canning crops. I think that had a major impact on my life although I strayed from my agrarian roots when I went off to college at the University of Georgia in the mid 80's.

At Georgia, I received degrees in Journalism and Political Science, which led me to D.C. where I worked for a while, but then I moved to Los Angeles to work in the Recorded Music Industry. In LA, I worked with many talented musicians and folks within the business and to this day, I am a voting member of NARAS (National Association of Recorded Arts and Sciences). They are the folks who decide who gets a Grammy or not, for the calendar year. Currently, I am voting on this years' artists' to be announced in February, 2015.

I went back to school in LA to get a M.B.A at Pepperdine University and graduated in 2005, when I met my future husband in Nashville. Mike and I were married two years later and hence why I now live in Anchorage.

I love it here. The people are what make this city and I have been volunteering at the South Addition Community Council, The Alaska Botanical Gardens and I hope to now help the Alaska Master Gardeners.

I have many skills including: computer, sales, editing, social networking, business, etc...I feel I can be an asset to your organization. Thanks for your consideration.

### Phyllis Rogers



Gardening and I got off to a rocky start. Weeding the family vegetable garden was not my favorite summer pastime. Things changed when I got older. I find weeding therapeutic now. Creating new gardens is my favorite, especially if it involves building rock walls or steps.

My current gardening goals are to make my gardens lower maintenance, have color throughout the summer and get back to growing vegetables. I gave up on the vegetable garden a few years ago when I realized the local moose population was benefiting from the vegies more than my family was.

When not gardening I enjoy hiking, biking, skiing, quilting and traveling - preferably not during Gardening season. I retired last May from the Alaska Department of Revenue where I had worked for many years as an Analyst. I became a Master Gardener in 2006. My volunteer work was primarily with Habitat for Humanity and the Alaska Botanical Garden. AMGA meetings and garden tours always inspire me and give me something new to try. I look forward to being more involved in such a great organization.

## Vertical Gardening By Sandy Harrington

Recently, gardening magazines such as *Sunset*, *Organic Gardening* and *Country Living* have featured Vertical Gardening which is a vertical arrangement of plants. *Interior Design* and *Architectural Magazine* have had articles which have taken the concept to a much larger scale both inside and outside of residential and commercial businesses. One of the most prolific and creative vertical gardeners is a Frenchman by the name of Patrick Blanc. In Paris, there is a living wall on the Quai Branly Museum and a project he has completed in Sydney, Australia which is the world's tallest vertical garden at 545 feet. The walls of the apartment building are planted with 250 native Australian species of flowers and plants. In Zurich, Switzerland there is a park with a Vertical Garden that is 330 inches long and 50 inches high planted with 1300 plants.

Vertical Gardens are designed using a modular system where each plant has its own cell. Size of vertical gardens can be as small as 10 by 10 inches and as tall as Patrick Blanc's 545 foot creation in Sydney. A couple of commercial companies that have kits for Vertical Gardens are Gravert and Flora Felt. Gravert can be purchased in Anchorage. The kits are designed so that no water or soil comes in contact with the walls on which they are mounted. Because of the increasing interest in Vertical Gardens, many new systems are becoming available using such different materials as: plastic, aluminum, stainless steel and felt.



Green wall at the Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana in the historic center of Mexico City.  
Source: Wikipedia

Each vertical garden has a different number of modules depending on the size of the unit. An added benefit to the modules is, if a plant dies or is not doing well, it can be removed and replaced with another plant. The vertical garden is living wall art based on the technical information of science in combination

with the knowledge of plants and their needs. Vertical Gardening is adaptable to most plants including herbs, vegetables, succulents and even ferns.

The watering process can be as easy as using a watering can to an elaborate recirculating irrigation tank which can be controlled by a remote. The company Gravert has a small water reservoir at the top of a plastic unit that is hidden behind a frame similar to a picture frame. This is filled with water or a combination of water and fertilizer. After approximately a one hour wait, there is a plug at the bottom of the plastic unit which is pulled and any excess water is drained into a container, a convenient and easy to use system.

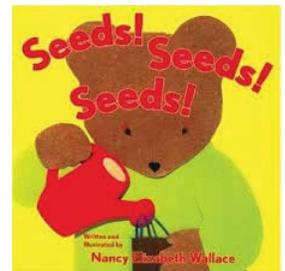
## Growing Young Gardeners: "Seeds Seeds Seeds" Book Review with Activity Ideas By Amy Reed, MG

My four year old and I recently borrowed the book, *Seeds, Seeds, Seeds* by Nancy Wallace, from the local Anchorage library. It is a fantastic book to introduce young gardeners to the life cycle of a plant seed. It also entertains children with activities the main character, Buddy Bear, does with the seeds he collects.

The book begins with Buddy Bear receiving a large package from his grandfather. Inside were five bags with instructions to open one each day. The first bag contained different types of seeds: pumpkin, radish, peas, corn, etc. Buddy was instructed to sort and identify the seeds. Another bag contained laminated cards with pictures of the life cycle of a seed for Buddy to put in order. Buddy also received a bag containing a photo frame, in which he was directed to decorate with dried bean seeds. Another day contained sunflower seeds with the coat still attached along with a bird feeder. This bag also had sunflower seeds without the coat for Buddy to eat. Each day Buddy also noticed that his afternoon snacks were foods that contained seeds i.e. apples, pears, and strawberries. The final bag contained a pot to decorate and seeds to plant. Once the seeds had sprouted, Buddy sent his grandfather a package containing the decorated photo frame with a picture of him and his plant.

My young gardener and I really enjoyed the book because it entertained while it taught how seeds grow and are used for so many purposes. We had just read the book before we carved our Halloween pumpkin. Low and behold, some of the pumpkin seeds had sprouted embryonic roots, which were illustrated in the book. My daughter immediately recognized them!

If you have young gardeners in your life, I highly encourage you to read this book with them and do some of the activities together. It is a great way to introduce children to the seeds around us and how we can use them for so many purposes.





## CES Unable to Provide Information on Growing Marijuana

The University of Alaska's general counsel issued the following statement regarding university faculty and staff being able to provide information on growing marijuana.

UAF School of Natural Resources and Extension (SNRE) and the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) cannot provide any information regarding the cultivation, processing, or other aspects of producing marijuana. Possession and sale of marijuana remain illegal under federal law and both SNRE and CES receive substantial federal funding.

### Marijuana Legalization & Extension: A Growing Dilemma

Kathryn E. Dodge, Ph.D.  
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#### Background

A United States Senator recently asked my colleague "if pot is legalized, will Extension provide support to Alaskans?" My colleague answered, "We already are. I've been answering calls about growing 'tomatoes' hydroponically for years" (personal communication, S. Brown, June 27, 2014). It is almost certain most of these clients were not growing tomatoes.

As of July 2014, medical marijuana was legal in 22 states and D.C. (22 legal medical marijuana states, 2014), is being considered in an additional 16 states, and another five states are considering decriminalizing it (Ross, 2014). Clearly, legalizing medical marijuana is picking up momentum.

Legalization of recreational marijuana is also gaining speed. Colorado and Washington legalized recreational marijuana in 2012 (Garvey & Yeh, 2014), Alaska and Oregon are voting on it November 2014 (Knickerbocker, 2014), and another 11 states are considering following their lead (Ross, 2014).

Reinforcing these claims are polls that report public opinion supporting legalizing medical marijuana growing from 12% in the 1970s to 58% in 2013 (Sacco, 2014); another survey of polls between 1999 and 2010 found between 60% and 85% of respondents supported medical marijuana (Eddy, 2010). A 2010 ABC News/Washington Post poll reported 81% of Americans support making medical marijuana available to terminally ill patients (Eddy, 2010).

All of this adds pressure on state and federal legislators, federal agencies, and federally funded institutions to support the patients, consumers, and business owners involved in supporting this change.

Reflecting this pressure is the Obama Administration's directive to U.S. Attorneys that they should use their

limited resources to focus on issues other than individuals that are complying with state sanctioned medical marijuana programs and recreational laws (Garvey & Doyle, 2014). Additionally, a recent congressional action prohibited the Department of Justice from using appropriated monies to prevent states and the District of Columbia from "implementing their own state laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana"

(<https://beta.congress.gov/amendment/113th-congress/house-amendment/748>). Clearly this movement is picking up momentum.

#### The Legal Theory

The legal theory that allows states to approve legislation that appears to be in conflict with federal legislation is called the "supremacy clause (Garvey & Doyle, 2014). The supremacy clause "elevates the U.S. Constitution, federal statutes, federal regulations, and treaties above the laws of the states" (Garvey & Doyle, 2014 p. 6). Therefore the federal laws about marijuana trump the state laws (Garvey & Doyle, 2014).

Resolving conflicts created by differing state and federal regulations is addressed through "preemption," which is a matter of Congressional choice. When Congress prefers that the state and federal laws co-exist, state law only gives way when it is directly in conflict with the federal law (Garvey & Doyle, 2014).

When Congress prefers preemption, state law must give way in one of two ways:

- 1) "impossibility preemption" which means it is "physically impossible" to comply with both federal and state laws
- 2) "obstacle preemption" where the state law "stands as an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of the full purposes and objectives of Congress" (Garvey & Doyle, 2014 p. 6).

The Controlled Substances Act controlling marijuana at the federal level declares a preference for allowing state and federal laws to stand together. The courts have fairly consistently found that since states don't require residents to violate federal law and consume marijuana they are not in conflict (Garvey & Doyle, 2014).

However, that does not nullify the federal laws. Therefore, people can still be prosecuted for marijuana cultivation, distribution, or possession (Garvey & Doyle, 2014). These violations carry penalties that range from a misdemeanor for possession to a felony and incarceration for cultivation (Federal laws and penalties, 2014).

#### A Growing Dilemma

Different states have different growing and distribution systems. These range from patients or caregivers growing their own marijuana to large-scale growers and processors selling to for-profit dispensaries. So we have patients and caregivers, as well as businesses struggling to grow and process a finicky plant that is prone to mildew and molds (Hallowell, 2013).

Continued on page 6



## Bird Chatter

*"Gardening is an exercise in optimism. Sometimes, it is the triumph of hope over experience"*

~Marina Schinz

*"Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries not Included."*

~Author Unknown

*"I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, toys not included."*

~Bernard Manning

### Herb Study Group - November Meeting By Sharon Schlicht

Sage was the topic for discussion at the Herb Study Group (HSG) meeting on November 7. The generic name for sage, *Salvia*, means "to heal" or "savior" which is reflected in its many medicinal uses.

Historically it was believed to increase longevity and enhance mental capacity. Sage has been used to treat snakebites and epilepsy and to cure warts. It is used to prevent perspiration and reduce night sweats in menopausal women. Sage has been studied for use in treating Alzheimer's disease and shows benefits better than a placebo. Volatile oils in sage make it a good digestive remedy. American Indians mixed it with bear grease to make a salve for skin sores. It was a highly prized item in East-West trade with one unit of sage tea trading for four units of Chinese green tea.

Sage was introduced to North America in the 17th Century. It is grown in well-drained, moderately-rich soil and is hardy to zone 4-5. Plants should be replaced every three to four years. Some HSG members have been successful in keeping it through the winter in Anchorage. It can be propagated through direct seeding or from cuttings. Germination takes 18-21 days and seedlings can be transplanted after one month. Plants are mature in 50 days. HSG members in attendance had an opportunity to taste sage tea and snacks made with sage.

Another topic was what to plant in the ABG herb garden in 2015. This discussion will continue at the December meeting. Come prepared to offer suggestions on what worked and didn't work this year. In addition aloe will be the monthly topic. The next meeting will be held Friday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. (new time for December only) at Cooperative Extension Service, 1675 C Street, Suite 100. If you would like to receive information about HSG meetings, please contact Julie Riley at jariley@alaska.edu.

### "Marijuana Legalization & Extension: A Growing Dilemma" cont. from page 5...

Studies reveal that growers are using pesticides to manage mold, mildew and bugs, with varying control and advice (Sullivan, Elzinga, & Raber, 2013). Research about how to best grow marijuana without pesticides, how to detect the presence of pesticides, and the best way to ingest medical marijuana to minimize the potential impact of pesticides is important information that Extension agents and specialists should be extending to their clients. A Pest Management Specialist from Maine acknowledged the challenge of growing marijuana, but it was a dispensary salesman that recommended growing it with chives or garlic to provide a natural barrier (Peeples, 2013).

With recreational marijuana, Coloradans can either grow their own marijuana or purchase it from large growers (Garvey & Yeh, 2014), raising the same issues. Since consumers can't call their usual sources, like Extension (Martin, 2014), for information like this, many private companies are providing training on cultivation, harvesting, processing, and managing the money to current and potential growers (Holthouse, 2014; Martin, 2014).

#### Extension's Role

All of these issues raise the question about Extension's role in helping patients, families, caregivers, large or small-scale producers, processors, or dispensaries.

Does advising people on how to grow marijuana put Extension agents and specialists at risk of being charged as a co-conspirator? Does it put one's federal funding at risk? These are questions that will be answered in court, and I presume most of us don't want to be that test case. In 2010 when legalizing recreational marijuana was being considered in Colorado, and medical marijuana was legal, people started contacting their Extension offices and asking master gardeners for advice (Roberts, 2010).

Here lies the growing dilemma for Extension agents, specialists, directors, and funders. Extension is a recognized resource for assistance in growing plants; they receive federal, state, and county funding for this and other services. Not surprisingly, both Colorado and Washington Extension developed policies forbidding Extension personnel, and master gardeners, from assisting the public by providing information about how to grow marijuana (Roberts, 2010), including informing Extension staff that they "assume personal liability for such action" (Roberts, 2010, p. 2).

USDA's NIFA program uses two mechanisms to accomplish their mission of advancing knowledge. One of these, the National Program Leadership, seeks to help: "States identify and meet research, extension, and education priorities in areas of public concern that affect agricultural producers, small business owners, youth and families..." (<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/background.html>, July 1, 2014). Clearly helping patients and small businesses grow marijuana falls within this mechanism.

# Garden Event Calendar

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

Others have written in the Journal of Extension about Extension's increasing role in helping communities deal with controversial issues (Patton & Blaine, 2001), conduct controversial studies (Bailey, 2002), and use "cutting-edge methods, equipment, technology, tools, and ideas to help address high priority issues of people in local communities" (Sobrero & Craycraft, 2008, p. 2).

How do we reconcile these goals to be relevant, cutting-edge, and helpful to communities with controversial issues with a directive to stand aside on this very important and controversial local, state, and national?

As an Economic Development Specialist, I teach and advise small businesses. Should I refuse to assist a student attending a "Writing Your Business Plan" class if she discloses that she is going to be a state sanctioned marijuana distributor, a registered caregiver, or producer? Shall I hand them a business plan for "growing tomatoes"? Ask them not to utter the "m" word in class?

What about my Extension Community Development colleagues that help counties with difficult conversations or zoning issues? Many counties must decide whether to allow marijuana growers in their counties, how to tax them, how to regulate them, what zoning they will and will not allow marijuana to be grown or sold in (Johnson, 2014). This would normally be a role for county Community Economic Development Extension agents. What if a county is negotiating an annual Extension agent contract, wants to include assistance with this issue, and to pay for it with county money?

What if a business or ag student wants to do a research project on the medical or recreational marijuana business? What about my researching the topic for this paper?

And what about urban extension? We have been working to be relevant in urban communities (Bull, Cote, Warner, & McKinnie, 2004). This certainly looks like an opportunity for Extension to look edgy and relevant, especially in urban environments.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, this is a complicated issue with a lot of moving parts and potentially a big upside and a big downside. I'm reasonably certain none of us want to find ourselves in federal court because we helped someone learn how to grow marijuana or how to put together a cash flow statement.

Alternatively, I don't think we should just run away because there is some risk involved. We have county partners that need our help. We have patients and caregivers that need our help to grow an herb that makes them more comfortable at a difficult time in life. We have small entrepreneurs that need our help creating and executing sound business plans. I look forward to a robust conversation.

### Monday, December 1

Alaska Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting: A Rose by Any Other Name, Plant Nomenclature in the age of Molecular Systematics, by Dr. Matt Carlson; Mini-Botany: Spruce, Sphagnum moss by Mel Langdon; Plant Family: Papaver alboroseum and Silene acaulis by Verna Pratt, 7:00 pm. Campbell Science Center, Anchorage.

### Thursday, December 4

\*\*Anchorage Garden Club monthly public meeting: Christmas Party, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Pioneer Schoolhouse 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage.

\*\*Wildflower Garden Club Meeting, Fresh Holiday Wreaths. Instructor is Daryl Leiser. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Dimond Greenhouses, 1050 W. Dimond Blvd. Members only.

### Friday, December 5

Herb Study Group, Topic: Aloe and a discussion of what worked in the ABG garden last year and what to try next year. Time change for December only: 10:00 am - 11:30 am. CES - 1675 C Street, Suite 100, Anchorage.

### Monday, December 8

Mat-Su Master Gardener's Monthly Meeting Christmas Party: 6:30 pm. Turkey Red Conference Room, Palmer.

### Thursday, December 11

Wildflower Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Annual Christmas Luncheon, Bring a dish of your choice, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Central Lutheran Church, 15th and Cordova, Anchorage. Members only.

### Tuesday, December 16

Alaska Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Annual Meeting and Holiday Party, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Details at: [www.akorchid.org](http://www.akorchid.org).

## CLASSES and WORKSHOPS

### Saturday, December 6

ABG Workshop: Snowshoe Walk and Winter Tree ID. Learn about tree identification, plant pests and forest health, Led by Stephen Nickel and Jason Moan from AK Division of Forestry and Patrick Ryan of ABG. 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Space is limited to 15. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, Cost: \$5 for kids, \$7 adults, ABG members free. Visit [www.alaskabg.org/events](http://www.alaskabg.org/events) to register.

### Saturday, December 13

ABG workshop: Making Birch Birdhouses. Learn how to make beautiful birch log birdhouses, led by Mike Monterusso, ABG's Garden and Facilities Manager, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Space is limited. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, Cost: \$20 ABG members, \$25 non-members. Visit [www.alaskabg.org/events](http://www.alaskabg.org/events) to register.

### Wednesday, December 17

ABG Workshop: Ice Candles and Luminaries: A unique way to light your doorstep or driveway. Led by Mike Monterusso, ABG's Garden and Facilities Manager, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Space is limited. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, Cost: \$20 ABG members, \$25 non-members. Visit [www.alaskabg.org/events](http://www.alaskabg.org/events) to register.

## AMGA Membership Renewal: It's Time

Remember: AMGA's membership year runs from January 1st - December 31st. To ensure your listing in the 2015 MG Directory, dues need to be received or postmarked by December 31, 2014. Dues are still a reasonable \$20.

As of 11/20/14, 44% of AMGA members have renewed their membership for 2015.

Renewal forms are available on AMGA's website:

<http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org>  
AMGA/Join/Renew AMGA

Renewals can either be done online or you can download the pdf form, fill it out and mail it with your payment to AMGA, PO Box 221403, Anchorage, AK 99522. If you're uncertain when your membership expires, you can check with Jane Baldwin.

Writing in his 2012 book "Taste, Memory: Forgotten Foods, Lost Flavors, and Why They Matter", David Buchanon says:

*"We no longer live in an agrarian world. But if we're going to reach some new, better place, build on our newfound appreciation for good food, then we need to find creative ways to weave the best of the past into our lives...even the smallest garden can express something nearly forgotten, become a pocket of diversity in a world that looks and tastes increasingly the same."*

### AMGA Board of Directors

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 (Parliamentarian)

### Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

- Broadcast Email Coordinator - Lynne Opstad
- Directory - Sandy Harrington
- Education/Advanced MG - Julie Riley, Ginny Moore
- Events Calendar - Martha Farris
- Google Group - Mary Rydesky - Administrator; Jane Baldwin, Gina Docherty, Nickel LaFleur - Managers
- Hospitality - Amy Olmstead
- Lifetime Achievement - Sandy Harrington
- Membership/Database - Jane Baldwin
- Newsletter - Gina Docherty
- Pioneer Home Gardens Coordinators - Camille Williams, Lynne Opstad
- Programs & Field Trips - Nickel LaFleur, Greg Kalal, Sheila Toomey
- Volunteer Coordinator - Sharon Schlicht
- Website - Gina Docherty



**Happy Winter Solstice!**

### 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:

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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)

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.