



**ALASKA MASTER
GARDENERS**
ANCHORAGE

**AMGA
NEWSLETTER**

*December 2015
Volume 17, Issue 12*

Message from Lynne Opstad, Co-president

It's hard to believe that 2015 is drawing to a close. It's been a very busy year with lots to offer for AMGA members. As of November, our membership was 281 people interested in all aspects of gardening in Alaska. Eight monthly educational programs were held in 2015 including "Hardy Roses" with Debbie Hinchey, "Lilacs and other Shrubs" by Darryl Leiser, "Wild Alaskan Varietals of Berries" with Verna Pratt, "A Summary of Plant Propagation" by Julie Riley and assorted advanced master gardeners, "Outdoor Bonsai" with Paul Marmora, and finishing the year with "Asiatic Lilies" by Annie Nevaldine.

The garden tours in the summer were a mix of the new and familiar. There were visits to retail greenhouses and businesses, our adopted gardens at the Centennial Rose Garden and the Pioneer Home, an orchard, and the beloved 12 home gardens that were graciously opened for AMGA perusal. Many thanks go to the members making the summer garden tours special by opening their gardens, offering treats and patiently explaining their gardening techniques to us.

In addition to the Educational Meetings and Garden Tours, a sold out Potato Bash was held in February. We conducted a member survey and redesigned parts of the newsletter to better focus on membership interests and updated the header with a fresh look. A redesigned AMGA brochure and new business cards were printed to help promote the organization. A gardening book sale and our second annual Plant Sale were held. The plant sale was a great success, a lot of fun, and raised enough money to sponsor three scholarships for the new Master Gardener class.

Members pulled together at the Pioneer Home & Centennial Rose Garden service projects to produce an outstanding display at the Pioneer Home and get the Rose Garden in proper shape. Many thanks go out to everyone involved in these projects as well as all the other volunteers that put in many hours all across town to promote the values of master gardeners.

Thanks are also due to the AMGA board members (Harry Deuber, Phyllis Rogers, Melanie San Angelo, Cheryl Shroyer, Sheila Toomey and Cindy Walker) and other members that consistently give their time for the AMGA and to produce the Newsletter and Website, (Gina Docherty), the Membership lists and much more (Jane Baldwin), the Directory (Sandy Harrington) and Elections (Mary Rydesky), Calendar (Martha Ferris) and Advanced Master Gardener (Ginny Moore) and of course, Julie Riley.

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**Wishing you a
Joyous Holiday
Season!**

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November AMGA Meeting: Asiatic Lilies

By Francine Schilmoeller Larsen, MG Student



Photo by Barbara Baker,
edited by Gina Docherty

Forty eight robust Alaskan gardeners who ventured out in the chilly 2°F temperature for AMGA's November meeting were rewarded by Master Gardener, Annie Nevaldine, as she enlightened the group about the equally hardy, Asiatic Lily. Annie, who has 28 years of experience raising lilies, and no less than 300 named cultivars in her collection, is passionate about this beauty. She readily and generously shares her vast knowledge and experience. Some wonderful refreshments were provided by Kathy Liska

and Martina S. and were enjoyed by all.

True lilies are of the genus, *Lilium*, and are not to be confused with similarly named flowers from other genera, such as Lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus*), Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*), Calla Lily (*Zantedeschia*), Chocolate Lily, native to Alaska, (*Fritillaria*) and the most frequently erroneously named, Day Lily (of the genus *Hemerocallis*). Tongue in cheek, Annie refers to these as "untrue lilies".

A common mistake of gardeners, and lily enthusiasts alike, has to do with our habit of referring to all spotted orange lilies by the name, "Tiger Lily". Annie offers help to correctly identify *L. lancifolium*, aka *L. tigrinum*. It will always have a hairy stem, and will develop black-brown axial bulbils that drop to the ground, producing roots for a next generation. Look for these very specific attributes.

Asiatic lilies are one of a number of species of the genus, *Lilium*. Annie tells us the terms Asiatic and hardy are redundant. So when selecting lilies for your garden in Southcentral Alaska, an Asiatic lily (hardy in zones 3-10) is a safe choice. Lilies are classified by aspect (up-facing, down-facing, or out-facing); form (bowl, trumpet, flat, or recurved); dwarfed (i.e. 12" height or less); double; and by pollen color (an interesting characteristic easily overlooked).

Depending on where and how they are planted in your garden, Asiatics are reliably perennial. In addition, they are generally excellent choices for the garden, requiring little staking, and serve as good companions to a host of other garden favorites. Lilies make great cut flowers. Keeping in mind that perennial gardening in Alaska, as Annie puts it, is not unlike legalized gambling, even novice gardeners can diminish losses by employing her take away tips.

Lilies, like any other plant, have their own set of cultural requirements. Minding these is important. In particular,

lilies require excellent drainage, sunny exposure, and good air circulation. An ideal soil pH is 5.5-6.5. Plants that diminish in size or 'move' in the garden, may be falling victim to voles, shrews or other burrowing rodents that peel away layers of the delicious bulb to store elsewhere. To this, Annie suggests, "Get an ermine!"

Lily bulbs, which are traditionally planted in the fall in the Lower 48, can be planted in the spring in Alaska. Remember, however, that the first year cycle will be off track. Following the first winter rest, the plant will reset its clock, and behave normally. Also, when reading the plant label, add a full month to any bloom time expectation. If the label says it blooms in early June, expect flowers around July 4. Similarly, planting instructions should be altered for Alaska. If the label instructs to plant 4"-5" in depth, double it to 9" for additional protection from cold. Mulching is generally not required.

Propagation can be achieved by a number of methods, including dividing the parent bulb (so long as some root is attached to each cut); scaling the parent bulb, which is to peel off and plant scales of the bulb; harvesting offsets of the bulb; planting bulbils (like those of the Tiger Lily); and seed propagation from ripe, brown seed pods. Lilies are slow to develop, so consider your investment in time when propagating your own plants.

After all your hard work, the last advice comes from Annie's own mother, who wisely told her, "There is no point to having a garden if you will never cut some of the flowers and bring them into the house".

So, enjoy your lilies!

2016 AMGA Board of Directors Election Results

Three new board members and one incumbent were elected to the 2016-17 AMGA Board of Directors. AMGA would like to welcome **Kathy Liska, Fran Pekar, Marjorie Williams and Sheila Toomey**. Final election results were reported to the Board on November 9th, and the new Directors were announced and welcomed at the November 16th monthly meeting. Ballots were provided to 253 AMGA members eligible to vote and 55% of the eligible members voted their ballots. The Board will now meet and determine their executive officer positions. You can anticipate hearing the Board's results in the January newsletter.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Board members for their outstanding service to the AMGA: Co-Presidents Barbara Baker and Lynne Opstad, and Treasurer Cindy Walker. AMGA has made tremendous progress in the last few years thanks to their diligence and dedication. They will be missed.

AMGA's Early Membership Drive Results

Thank you, Thank you to the 48 AMGA members who are now current in their dues through AMGA's 2016 Early Membership Drive! A drawing for eight prizes for early renewals (received or postmarked by November 14th) was held at the November 16th AMGA monthly meeting. Winners were Marilyn Barker, Robbie Frankevich, Sandra Harrington, Sue Looney, Margaret Love, Dennis Ronsse, Erna Rousey and Sheila Throckmorton. Winners not present at the meeting should contact Jane Baldwin (562-5451) to make arrangements to pick up their prize. Prizes not claimed within the next couple of weeks will be re-purposed as future door prizes.

If you haven't done so already, be sure to renew your AMGA membership. Renewals received on or postmarked by December 31st will ensure listing in the new 2016 AMGA Directory.

Planting Peas

The ancient Chinese poets used to say that at some point in each poem the poet ought to lift his (or her) eyes, ought to look beyond the surface of the present into something deeper and more meaningful. Here is just such a poem by Linda M. Hasselstrom, who lives in South Dakota.

Planting Peas

It's not spring yet, but I can't
wait anymore. I get the hoe,
pull back the snow from the old
furrows, expose the rich dark earth.
I bare my hand and dole out shriveled peas,
one by one.

I see my grandmother's hand,
doing just this, dropping peas
into gray gumbo that clings like clay.
This moist earth is rich and dark
as chocolate cake.

Her hands cradle baby chicks;
she finds kittens in the loft
and hands them down to me,
safe beside the ladder leading up to darkness.

I miss her smile, her blue eyes,
her biscuits and gravy, but mostly her hands.
I push a pea into the earth,
feel her hands pushing me back. She'll come in May,
she says, in long straight rows,
dancing in light green dresses.

www.americanlifeinpoetry.org.
American Life in Poetry: Column 490
BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Message from Lynne Opstad...cont. from page 1

Special thanks go out to those who helped make the newsletter happen: Sheila Toomey, Amy Reed, Peggy Piper, Jane Baldwin, Sharon Schlicht, Martha Ferris, Brenda Adams, Cheryl Chapman, Nickel LaFleur, Leisje Lehman, Julie Riley, Cheryl Shroyer, Rosemary Shinohara, Janice Berry, Sue Lincoln, Sandy Harrington, Mary Rydesky, Kathy Liska, Sue Looney, Marylyne L. Kostick; and to all those who submitted photos - Thank you!

As 2015 draws to a close so does the tenure of Barbara Baker and my term on the AMGA Board of Directors and as Co-Presidents. It's been an honor for us to serve but it's time for us to step aside and let others take up the leadership roles of the organization. Anyone that has served on a non-profit board knows that at times it can be a pretty wild ride. Varied opinions, accomplishing organizational goals while keeping membership dues down, and maintaining the energy and consistency needed to keep an organization vibrant and relevant to its constituency can be a real challenge. Let's just say there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes to make the AMGA the organization that it is.

We feel honored that we were allowed to lead the organization for a short time and hope our vision and leadership was appreciated by the membership. Both of us will continue to be involved with the AMGA and are working hard on the 2016 Statewide Master Gardener Conference. We hope to see you all at events in the coming year.

Treasurer's Report for December 2015

Balances 9/30/15	
Checking account	9648.04
Savings account	<u>11699.09</u>
	\$21347.13
Dedicated Funds	\$6527.48
Revenue:	
Interest	1.49
Membership	<u>20.00</u>
	\$21.49
Expense:	
Fundraising	71.97
Operations	49.99
Programs	<u>90.00</u>
	\$211.96
Balances 10/31/15	
Checking account	9456.08
Savings account	<u>11700.58</u>
	\$21156.66
Dedicated Funds	\$6527.48

Growing Young Gardeners: Starting the Christmas List...

By Amy Reed, MG

Every year around Christmas, I wish I had started my shopping just a bit earlier. While I am not last minute Christmas Eve shopper, I don't start New Year's Day hoarding away presents for the next year like my mother. I begin to think about people's gifts sometime around November 1st, but by December 10th, I am cursing the Amazon website that has yet to promise a delivery date. This year is going to be different...

Gardening with children creates wonderful memories and lessons. There are so many opportunities to discover plants, bugs, exercise, and the great outdoors while digging in the dirt together. One thing I have found is that not having the proper sized gloves or tools for children can turn a fun garden activity into a tear-streaked meltdown fast. Heaven forbid we can't find the Dora trowel, and you have to use Mommy's!

This year, I sat down early and came up with a list of Christmas ideas for stocking stuffers or gifts for the young gardener to excite their interest in the next growing season.

1. **Child sized garden gloves.** In my daughter's case, a cartoon character must be prominently displayed somewhere.
2. **Child sized gardening tools.** A trowel, cultivator, and small rake can keep a child occupied for hours. Many are made of plastic so they don't have sharp edges and will not rust.
3. **Colorful plant stakes.** On-line there are a plethora of plant stakes to choose from Hello Kitty to Darth Vader, to plastic white ones to decorate. Pinterest also has pages of activities to make your own plant stakes.
4. **Garden Stepping Stone Design Kits.** I made one of these a few years ago from cement, glass stones, and my daughter's handprint. It was a fun snowy day activity, and we even regifted it to Daddy for Father's Day when it was completed.
5. **Seeds of a different name.** Unicorn plants (Martynia), Strawberry Popcorn, Money trees (Lunaria) can grow a child's imagination while they plant these seeds. My Grandma Jean had a money tree plant in her Arctic entry during my childhood, and we used the "money" for currency when we played store. I don't think she appreciated it too much, but I have wonderful memories of that plant.

There is a terrific website <http://kidsgardening.org> that not only give tips and lessons for gardening with little ones but also has a wonderful retail shop with child-sized activities, tools, and toys. Proceeds from the on-line store benefit grants for "A Garden in Every School" with the National Garden Association.

Happy Holidays and keep growing the next generation of gardeners!

Dedicated Volunteers



Photo by Harry Duber

Debbie Hinchey, Jane Baldwin (shown here in the photo) and Harry Duber work on mulching the Centennial Rose Garden at the Park Strip in Anchorage on a cold November day. Note Momma and baby moose foraging for food near by; they were keeping close tabs on each other.

Creation of the American Poinsettia Industry

Albert Ecke emigrated from Germany to Los Angeles in 1900, opening a dairy and orchard in the Eagle Rock area. He became intrigued by the Poinsettia and sold them from street stands. His son, Paul Ecke, developed the grafting technique, but it was the third generation of Eckes, Paul Ecke Jr., who was responsible for advancing the association between the plant and Christmas. Besides changing the market from mature plants shipped by rail to cuttings sent by air, he sent free plants to television stations for them to display on air from Thanksgiving to Christmas. He also appeared on television programs like The Tonight Show and Bob Hope's Christmas specials to promote the plants.

Until the 1990s, the Ecke family, who had moved their operation to Encinitas, California, in 1923, had a virtual monopoly on poinsettias owing to a technique that made their plants much more attractive. They produced a fuller, more compact plant by grafting two varieties of poinsettia together. A poinsettia left to grow on its own will naturally take an open, somewhat weedy look. The Eckes' technique made it possible to get every seedling to branch, resulting in a bushier plant.

In 1991, a university researcher discovered the method previously known only to the Eckes and published it, allowing competitors to flourish, particularly those using low-cost labor in Latin America. The Ecke family's business, now led by Paul Ecke III, decided to stop producing plants in the U.S., but as of 2008, they still serve about 70 percent of the domestic market and 50 percent of the worldwide market.

Source: Wikipedia

Holiday Plant History

By Jane Baldwin

Since ancient days certain plants have been associated with winter solstice, the cycle of life and the Christmas season to explain various religious teachings or spiritual beliefs.



new year.

Mistletoe: ancient Druids believe mistletoe protected one against evil. It was also used as an expression of love. Giving away branches of mistletoe symbolized the light of life during the dark winter. One popular tradition is that kissing under the mistletoe increased the possibility of marriage in the coming



didn't drop their leaves in the winter, they were thought to maintain the circle of life through the darkness of winter. With the passing of winter solstice, life would soon sprout again! With the spread of Christianity throughout Europe, eventually the evergreen tree was transformed into a Christian symbol: the triangular shape of evergreen trees was believed to help explain the trinity concept of God.

Greenery and candles: Early Romans celebrated with a 7-day festival in mid-December high-lighting winter solstice and the transition to the New Year. The festival, Saturnalia, was named for the Roman agricultural mythological deity, Saturn. Evergreens especially represented the perpetuity of life - since they



Evergreens trees popularly brought inside for Christmas has been attributed to 16th century Germany. Greenery joined in swags was used to promote the concept of God's eternal love for the continuity of life. In 1846, Queen Victoria and her German husband, Prince Albert, decorated a tree with ornaments.



Roman naturalist, wrote that holly planted near a home protected it from lightning and witchcraft. During the early years of the Christian religion in Rome, many Christians continued to deck their homes with holly to avoid detection and persecution by Roman authorities.

Holly: Once again, the ancient Druids used holly in their homes in winter, to invite nature spirits to dwell within during this dark time of the year. Romans used holly for gifts during their mid-December celebration of the transition to the New Year. Pliny the Elder, a first century

Holly gradually became a symbol of Christmas as Christianity became the dominant religion of the Roman Empire.



Poinsettia: Native to Central America and Mexico, after the Spanish conquest, legend has it that a poor

child walking to a Christmas Eve service did not have a gift for the baby Jesus and collected some wild growing plants, a bouquet of weeds. Even though humble, the gift was given in love and the weeds burst into brilliant color and were known as the Flores de Noche Buena or Flowers of the Holy Night.

Reference:

- (1) Dave's Garden weekly e-newsletter, December 22, 2014: "The History and Origin of Christmas Plants"; Damian Fagan, December 17, 2013. <http://davesgarden.com/>
- (2) The History of Traditional Holiday Plants; Alabama CES; <http://www.aces.edu/counties/Bibb/documents/12.17.08.pdf>

More Plants Associated with Christmas

By Gina Docherty

There are many plants used around the world during the festive season of Christmas. There are Christmas flowers, Christmas foods, and Christmas drinks that use traditional plants. Also a wide variety of plants include "Christmas" in their common name.

Logs are used in the following Christmas traditions:

Yule log from the United Kingdom
Tio de Nadal from the Catalan region of Spain
Chichilaki from European Georgia
Badnjak or Veseljak from the Balkans

Plants used in Christmas celebration:

ivy (*Hedera helix*) because leaves symbolize eternity and resurrection;
mistletoe;
holly;
poinsettia;
radish: large radishes are carved and used for Noche de Rabanos in Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico;
olive branches for peace in the coming year (Israel);
cattail or bulrush for prosperity (Taiwan);
wheat sheaves for prosperity and plenty (Bulgaria);
opium poppy pods (dried, yet still full of seed) for prosperity (Eastern Europe);
pomegranates for prosperity (Middle East)

Plants with 'Christmas' in their names:

Christmas cactus
Christmas rose: *Helleborus* ssp., *Hydrangea macrophylla*

Christmas tree is applied to a number of plants:

Pōhutukawa tree in New Zealand, as its bright red flowers usually appear in December;
Nuytsia floribunda (Australian Christmas tree);
Fir, spruce, pine, or other evergreen tree decorated for Christmas.

Christmas bush is used for:

Correa, a genus of Australian plants with distinctive bell shape
Chromolaena odorata

Christmas bells is applied to:

Sandersonia ssp. A genus of South African plants.
Blandfordia ssp., including *Blandfordia punicea*, known as the Tasmanian Christmas bell.

Alstromeria pittacina, known as the New Zealand

Christmas bell.

Source: Wikipedia



Bird Chatter

MASTER GARDENERS RULE . . . Debbie Hinchey walked away with the top Horticulture award at the Anchorage Garden Club's annual holiday flower show last month. Called the Sweepstakes Award, it is given to the person with the most first place blue ribbons in horticulture. Go Deb!

At the same event, AMGA board member Cheryl Shroyer's artistry wow'd the crowd. She won the Sweepstakes Award for most first place blue ribbons in the Design Division.

Member Kathy Liska collected three blues -- two in horticulture and one in design -- plus two Growers Choice and three third place awards.

And these are just the ones who reported in to BC. Pardon us birds if we flap our wings and CROW!

DON'T PANIC -- YET. . . BC almost careened off the road at the sight of a "For Sale" sign outside Sutton Greenhouse on Tudor. No No, the cosmic center of plant funk cannot change hands. Or even more unthinkable, close.

BC immediately called Patti Sutton and caught her cruising down a sunny road in Arizona. (Sigh) Not to worry, she said. Not yet, anyhow. She and Anna are just "testing the waters." They've already bought plants for next year and plan to re-open the last weekend in February.

However, the work is hard and they're getting older, the sisters noted. One day they will have to lay down their trowels, "but probably quite a long time from now."

BUYING TIME. . . Gardeners who can't wait for global warming to improve the growing season can hurry things along with a high tunnel, according to a report from Oceanside Farms in Homer. Oceanside orients its high tunnels on a north-south axis, with a 5-to-8 degree slope to the south. This effectively changes the growing environment to that of a location 300 miles south of the actual location.

Thanks to the Homer Garden Club's November newsletter for the tip,

DECK THE HALLS. . . But be careful. When hanging mistletoe for the holidays, remember the berries are toxic. (Tree lovers remind us that Western hemlock dwarf mistletoe infects trees near Haines).

SPEAKING OF TREE LOVE . . . An early reminder: 2016 is the 50th anniversary of Alaska Arbor Day. Back in the '60s, Alaska was the only state without an official Arbor Day celebration. Some Kodiak high school kids brought this to the attention of the legislature and Gov. Bill Egan, who remedied the situation in 1966.

AMGA 2016 Speaker profile: BRENDA ADAMS

"Designing a Haven for Birds, Bees, and Other Pollinators"



Award-winning garden designer Brenda Adams knows what colors appeal to hummingbirds, which flowers a butterfly favors, and much more about birds and bees and other pollinators in your garden.

For instance, red and yellow flowers attract rufous hummingbirds - "about the only one you get up here," she said. Hummingbirds hover while they

feed, and like tubular flowers such as columbines, she said. The native Alaska columbine *Aquilegia canadensis* is a perfect fit.

Adams will speak at the Alaska Master Gardeners conference in Anchorage April 16, 2016.

Her topic: how to design a beautiful garden that also offers a haven to all sorts of critters.

Adams lives in Homer and is founder of a garden design firm, Gardens by Design, and author of the book, "There's a Moose in My Garden."

"There's a Moose..." lays out secrets of creating successful gardens in the far north.

Adams' designs have won three awards in the Perennial Plant Association's annual international competition, including an Honor Award in 2012, the association's highest.

She is a Master Gardener and teaches classes on design to Master Gardener classes, and Northern Garden Design for UAA. She is also a member of Alaska's Rock Garden Society, the Garden Writers' Association and the Alaska Botanical Garden. She is former president and current board member of the Homer Garden Club.

The 2016 AMGA conference theme is "Grow your own from the Soil up." It will take place April 16 at the Lucy Cuddy Center on the UAA campus. Nine speakers are scheduled, along with a garden market and a silent auction.

The Marianne Binetti Version of: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the yard,
not a gift was given, not even a card.

The tools were all hung, in the carport with care,
with hopes that St. Nicholas soon would repair,

The shovel with blade all rusty and cracked,
the pitchfork still shiny, but handle it lacked.

When out on my lawn, (it's brown and abused)
I could see poor old Santa, looking confused.

No list had been left for Santa to see,
no gardening gifts were under the tree.

But wait there's still time, it's not Christmas yet,
and gardening gifts are the quickest to get.

You can forget the silk tie, the fluffy new sweater,
give something to make the garden grow better.

If she wants a gift shiny, then don't be a fool,
it's not a dumb diamond, but a sparkling new tool.

If fragrance is listed you can forget French perfume,
it's a pile of manure that'll make gardeners swoon.

Give night crawlers, not nightgowns, the type of hose
that gives water.
(Anything for the kitchen is not worth the bother.)

Give a great gift that digs in the dirt,
it's better than any designer-brand shirt.

Now look quick at Santa, this guy's not so dumb,
Under his glove, he hides a green thumb.

His knees are so dirty, his back how it aches,
his boots stomp on slugs, (he gives them no breaks).

The guy only works winter, you can surely see why,
The rest of the year it's a gardening high.

Elves plant in the spring, pull weeds merrily all summer,
in fall they all harvest, but winter's a bummer.

And so Christmas gives Santa a part-time employment,
'Till spring when the blooms are his real life enjoyment.

So ask the big guy for garden gifts this year,
Seeds, plants and tools, Santa holds them all dear.

You see malls may be crowded, vendors hawking their
ware,
but visit a nursery, stress-free shopping is there.

Now Santa's flown off, to the nursery he goes,
and his voice fills the night with loud Hoe! Hoe! Hoe!
Hoes!

Merry Christmas from Marianne Binetti!

<http://www.binettigarden.com/christmas-poem.html>

Garden Event Calendar

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Thursday, December 3

Anchorage Garden Club Monthly Meeting: Christmas Party. 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Pioneer Schoolhouse, 437 E 3rd Avenue, Anchorage. Details at: <http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org/anchorageclub.htm>.

Friday, December 4

Herb Study Group: Adaptogens: Compounds That Increase Plants Adaptability to the Environment. 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm at Anchorage Cooperative Extension Service 1675 C Street, Suite 100.

Monday, December 7

**Ak Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting: Steller's Writings by Margritt Engle and Karen Willmore. Mini-Botany: Maianthemum by Anjanette Steer; Plant Family: Tolmieia by Mike Monterusso. 7:00 pm at Campbell Science Center, Anchorage. Details at: <http://aknps.org/Pages/Meetings.php>.

**Mat-Su Master Gardener's Monthly Meeting: Annual Christmas Dinner. 7:00 pm at MTA building, Palmer. Details at: <http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/calendar-of-events.html>.

CLASSES and WORKSHOPS

Saturday, December 5 and 12

Ice Candles and Luminaries: Learn How to Light Up Your Driveway or Doorstop by Mike Monterusso. 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Road, Anchorage. Cost: \$30 - \$35, pre-registration required. Details at: <http://alaskabg.org/events/>.

AMGA 2016 Conference Information:

Grow Your Own From the Soil Up

April 16, 2016
Lucy Cuddy Center on UAA Campus

Learning Opportunities
Silent Auction
Garden Market
Door Prizes



Happy Holidays



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.

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

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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

The Alaska Master Gardeners Anchorage welcomes letters, opinions, articles, ideas and inquiries. Contact the editor, Gina Docherty, at:

Mail: 14051 Fejes Road
Anchorage, AK 99516
Phone: 345-4099
Email: amga@alaska.net
AMGA Web Site: www.alaskamastergardeners.org

AMGA Google Group:
<https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/AkMGA>

To send concerns or information to the AMGA directly, mail to:
AMGA
P.O. Box 221403
Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

If you have questions or want to make address or email corrections, please contact Jane Baldwin at:
ak.jbaldwin@gmail.com

Newsletter Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting an item for publication in the following month's edition of the AMGA newsletter is the 20th of every month. Items arriving after this date may or may not be included.

Educational or garden related articles, Bird Chatter, calendar items and announcements are always welcome.

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:
Cooperative Extension Office
1675 C St, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 786-6300
Fax: 786-6312

