

For information about membership or upcoming programs, contact:  
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# ALASKA MASTER GARDENERS

## ANCHORAGE

AMGA  
NEWSLETTER

January 2015  
Volume 17, Issue 1

### Message from Barbara Baker, Co-president

Happy New Year! No doubt many of you are already pouring over catalogs and figuring out how to use those gift certificates from your favorite garden vendors.

I've decided to look over the heirloom collections, in celebration of Anchorage's 100th Birthday. I may plant nasturtiums that vine up my porch, like they did on the first frame houses in the city. I'm also considering adding giant delphiniums, rhubarb and Rugosa roses to reflect the character of Anchorage's first gardens. Early photographs also show the development of War Gardens (World War I). These gardens were created to supplement the scarce food supply caused by the war. Potatoes, large cabbages, broccoli, carrots and beans can be seen in the photographs. I plan to visit the Oscar Anderson house built in 1915 and the Heritage Garden at the Alaska Botanical Gardens to see what they've recreated from the past. As Master Gardeners, it will be exciting to blend what's best from our past with the collective knowledge we've gained from our continuing education and each other. I encourage you to celebrate the city's birthday, by joining me in planting heirloom varieties from Anchorage's past. Send pictures so we can display them in the summer newsletters!

Our new year will begin with the annual membership meeting on Monday, January 15. We will highlight the activities and financial condition of our organization, our plans for the New Year and announce the new board members. Following that, there will be a program on vertical gardening presented by Gretchen Fowler of The Green Connection. This is a program change, due to scheduling conflicts.

What a great "kick off" for what will be a fun, busy and informative year. We've lined up some great topics and speakers for 2015 and will begin planning for the 2016 Master Gardening Conference here in Anchorage. Every successful conference relies on good ideas for topics and speakers, and of course committed volunteers. I hope you will join us in making this our best conference ever. Look for upcoming information on how you can participate.

As 2014 comes to a close, I would like to say "thank you" to the board members who will be stepping down:

Nickel La Fleur,  
Greg Kalal  
and Amy Olmstead.

Their leadership has improved the operations of our organization, addressed issues of concern to Master Gardeners, and helped us create programs that you requested.

**Happy 2015!**



Snowman

Photo by Barbara Baker

### Inside This Issue....

Message from Barbara Baker  
200 Million Year Old Jurassic Seeds Discovered in Antarctica  
2015 AMGA Program Schedule  
Garden Trends for 2015  
Growing Young Gardeners: Winter Activities  
Therapeutic Garden Characteristics  
Horticultural Therapy  
On Cooking with Garlic  
Bird Chatter  
Herb Study Group: Aloe Vera  
2015 UAF/CES Master Gardener Online Course  
Garden Event Calendar  
Treasurer's Report



## 200 Million Year Old Jurassic Seeds Discovered in Antarctica

Scientists from the University of Lille, in France, discovered plant material buried in the permafrost of Antarctica in 2013. Surprisingly, this plant material contained intact seeds. This unknown species of palm tree is estimated to be 200 million years old, from the Jurassic period. Several months post

discovery, a team of paleobotanists attempted to grow these 200 million-year old palm seeds. To their disbelief, the seeds sprouted!

This is not the first time an extinct plant has been brought back to life. In 2012, Russian scientists successfully brought a plant specimen that had been extinct for 30,000 years, *Silene stenophylla*.

This experiment could shed some light on vital information about atmospheric conditions on Earth, specifically on the Antarctica continent 200 million years ago, such as oxygen and carbon dioxide.

"Several prior tests were inconclusive at first because levels of CO<sub>2</sub> were not proper for the micropropagation of the plant tissues. Current conditions on Earth are apparently extremely different from atmospheric conditions of the Jurassic period" explains lead team researcher Jean-Marcel DeKoninck.

"We've had to evaluate through trial and error what the proper dosage of oxygen, carbon dioxide and other elements were needed to make the plants thrive. Even though we have successfully brought back to life some strains of the specimens, it is not certain that we have reproduced exactly the conditions present at the time" he admits.

This plant material has been through the process of 'micropropagation', a method that multiplies stock material quickly to produce large numbers of progeny plants using plant tissue culture methods, and various trials prior to successfully being resurrected by the team.

"The present atmospheric conditions on Earth do not permit these once extinct species to live out of an artificial context. It is still a mystery to modern science how such species could attain such gigantic proportions compared to their modern relatives. Oxygen and carbon dioxide levels present at the time might have played a major part in the development of gigantic species of fauna and flora of the Jurassic period," explains PhD team researcher Jeanne Mancelot.

The research team is hoping to finance another trip to Antarctica in 2015-2016 which could reveal other remnants of extinct flora deep beneath the permafrost layer.

"It is a race against time as global warming, which is heating the permafrost with greater intensity every day, could damage potential specimens by bringing them prematurely in contact with the air, which could destroy specimens of great significance to further scientific research and which have the potential of increasing dramatically our understanding of ancient atmospheric conditions on Earth" concludes Dr. DeKoninck.

This unknown plant is thought to be of the Cycad family, and could stand 200 meters tall, and 6 meters wide, according to physical evidence gathered from fossilized remains.

[Source: <http://worldnewsdailyreport.com/french-scientists-bring-back-to-life-200-million-year-old-palm-trees/>]

## 2015 AMGA Program Schedule

### January 19

Annual Meeting & Vertical Gardening, with Gretchen Fowler from the Green Connection; learn about vertical gardening and how to build your own in- and outdoor

### February 16

Summer Photo Recap of Garden Tours and Seed Exchange; Annual Harvest Potluck

### March 17

Hardy Roses of South Central Alaska, Debbie Hinchey  
Best choices, planting tips and proper care of hardy roses

Topics for April - May & August - November, 2015  
[Dates have not been confirmed as of this writing.]

Lilacs of Alaska, Darryl Leiser  
Acquaint yourself with the numerous varieties of hardy lilacs found in Alaska, and how to properly care and prune them

Blueberries and other Luscious Berries, TBA speaker  
Choosing the right varieties, soil preparation and care for success

Plant Propagation, Advanced Master Gardeners (AMG)  
AMGs will share techniques learned from the recent AMG plant propagation class, taught by Doug Tryck

Outdoor Bonsai, Paul Marmora  
Learn the basics of bonsai for outdoor plants including plant selection, choosing containers, planting mediums and pruning techniques

Asiatic Lilies, Annie Nevaldine  
Selection considerations and care of the numerous varieties which are hardy in Alaska

The completed list will be available in the  
2015 Directory





## Garden Trends for 2015 (From Garden Media Group)

<http://www.gardenmediagroup.com/clients/client-news/435-gmg-releases-2015-trends>  
[Reprinted with permission]

Garden Media Group released its annual garden trends report for 2015. "Unearthing the Best Life" identifies nine consumer trends that will shape the garden and outdoor living industry and resonate in the coming year.

1. **The New Consumers:** The millennial generation makes up 25 percent of the population in the United States. This group - which is comprised of people ages 18 to 35 - is bigger than the baby boomer generation and continues to grow. In particular, young men are spending \$100 more per year on plants and garden products than the average consumer. Hispanics, the fastest growing segment of the U.S., have a cultural tradition of growing food for their family and sharing with friends.



2. **Wellbeing:** Consumers want to make the world a better place - and they want brands to help them do it. Products that are environmentally friendly and safe for pets and children reign supreme. And blueberry plants, like the BrazelBerries® Collection of edible berries, are good for health and wellness, ranking high on consumers' eco-scale.

3. **Garden-tainment:** People are estimated to spend \$7 billion on outdoor décor in 2015. They will use their outdoor spaces as an extension of their homes to entertain. By using ready-made containers, plants, and products like RESCUE!'s decorative OrnamenTrap® for flies and yellowjackets, consumers can quickly revamp before a party.

4. **Bite-Sized Decadence:** Small container gardens will pack a lot of punch in 2015. Fill containers with Million Bells® calibrachoa from Suntory Flowers or a variety of tropical plants such as elephant ear and caladium for the perfect combination of color and class. No-fuss cacti and succulents are also the ideal starter plants.



5. **Rebel-hoods:** Neighborhood residents are rebelling against and campaigning for the reversal of ordinances. They will work to transform the neighborhood to the agri-hood - complete with urban chickens, bee keepers and lawn-less landscapes.

6. **Color Pops:** This year, use trending color palettes - ranging from vintage to muted rustic to teal - to show off personality outdoors. Easy-to-grow flower bulbs

from Longfield Gardens inspire people to mix and match colors that express their personality.

7. **Portable Gardening:** The rise of "NOwners"- those who prize freedom over homeownership— is fueling modular flexibility that allows for unique design and personalization. They are renting, sharing and bartering and want their gardens to travel with them. Adaptable and flexible planters with wheels, handles or other movable parts or lightweight durable products like NativeCast's green concrete planters fit their needs.

8. **Bed Head Style:** Purposefully un-styled outdoor spaces are the result of intentionally working within the natural landscape. This casual landscape style expresses an effortless personality with an "anything goes" attitude.

9. **Smoke Your Garden:** With an increasing number of states decriminalizing marijuana, more people will begin growing their own and need seeds, plants and products. Garden Centers can capitalize on new laws by carrying products that help people cultivate these plants.

[All photos provided by Garden Media Group, with permission.]



## Growing Young Gardeners: Winter Activities

by Amy Reed, MG

With winter's darkness and cold also comes a child's unsettledness. "I'm bored!" echoes through the halls. Though the ground is covered in snow and ice, gardening doesn't need to be dormant during the winter. There are many activities we can do to cultivate a love of nature to our children and alleviate winter boredom.

1. Build a birdfeeder. Recycle a cardboard milk carton or plastic two liter soda bottle hung on a tree with holes for the seeds to be extricated by our feathery friends. Poke a dowel rod into the bottom of the feeder as a perch.

2. Make bird ornaments. Mix together 1 cup cornmeal, 1 cup ground suet or peanut butter, 1 cup sugar, 1/2 cup flour, 1/2 cup water, 1 cup bird seed

1. In a large bowl, combine cornmeal, suet/peanut butter, sugar and flour. Stir in water.

2. Microwave on HIGH for 3-5 minutes or until mixture is very thick.

3. Stir in bird seed. Cool.

4. Press into cookie cutters to mold. Press a looped string into the mixture as a hanger.

5. Put in the refrigerator to cool and harden.

6. Unmold and place outside on a tree for the birds to dine.

3. Become involved in the Great Backyard Bird Count February 13-16th, 2015.

Log onto <http://gbbc.birdcount.org> for more details.

This is an easy and fun to learn about birds. Count birds in your neighborhood for at least 15 minutes and log onto [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) with the results. Download the free application "Merlin" onto your smartphone to help identify the birds you observe.

4. Plan this year's garden with seed catalogs. Make seed catalog shopping for the summer's garden a family affair. Have children choose one variety of seeds they would like to try this year. After making inventory for the garden, don't throw away the catalog! Use the pictures of the plants in the catalog to make artwork, such as a collage or stationary. Make a pretend garden on the floor of the living room laying out the pictures of the flowers and vegetables in rows.

5. Plant a windowsill herb garden. All you need are containers, herb seeds such as dill, basil, rosemary, cilantro, and oregano, fertilizer, soil, and a sunny window. Herbs also grow well under grow lights. Have children prepare the well draining containers with soil and sow the seeds. Water enough to keep the soil moist and fertilize every two weeks. Cooking with the grown herbs is the best part! It teaches healthy eating and self-reliance on our food sources!

Hopefully these are a few activities to enjoy and stave off winter boredom!

## Therapeutic Garden Characteristics

By Teresia Hazen, MED, HTR, QMHP

Reprint permission has been given by the American Horticultural Therapy Association

Therapeutic gardens are being built with increasing frequency in health care settings. Among these new gardens, there is a high degree of correlation in physical design and programming intended to improve therapeutic benefits to garden visitors and participants including patients, residents and clients. Characteristics of therapeutic garden were initially developed in 1993 by an American Horticultural Therapy Association (AHTA) work team based on best practices and evidence based design principles. More recently the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and other bodies have contributed to the understanding of design elements for therapeutic landscapes. AHTA's Board approved the document, Therapeutic Garden Characteristics, which still stands today as the benchmark for HT, landscape and health practitioners. Citing this AHTA resource, the following elements represent current practices for therapeutic gardens:

1 "Scheduled and programmed activities: A horticultural therapy program guiding and promoting a program of activities and experiences in the garden is ideal. However, even in gardens designed for the passive/independent enjoyment by visitors, special events increasing the number of visits, classes encouraging routine garden tasks, and publicizing activities of all kinds familiarize special populations, facility staff, families of clients/patients/residents and nearby community residents with the garden.

2 Features modified to improve accessibility: Garden elements, features and equipment are all selected or modified to provide accessible places, activities and experiences to the greatest extent possible. Each modification to the therapeutic garden environment eases the task of gardening and or enhances the horticultural experience for the visitor/gardener enabling them to see and even to study plants, to touch or smell them, to encounter the luxuriant garden growth in their own way, on their own terms and at their own pace

3 Well defined perimeters: Edges of garden spaces and special zones of activities within the garden are often intensified to redirect the attention and the energies of the visitor to the components and displays within the garden.

4 A profusion of plants and people/plant interactions: Therapeutic gardens introduce individuals to planned, intensive outdoor environments in which the conscious provisions of spaces and places for restoration, horticulture education, therapy, and for social exchanges are organized into legible and verdant, plant-dominated open spaces with simple patterns of paths and workplaces. The garden promotes four seasons of sensory stimulation.

5 Benign and supportive conditions: Therapeutic gardens provide safe, secure and comfortable settings for people. The avoidance of potentially hazardous chemicals such as herbicides, fertilizers, and insecticides, the provision of shade and other protective structures, the flourishing plants, and the protected and protective nature of the therapeutic garden offer personal comfort and refuge to the garden user.



6 Universal design: Therapeutic gardens are designed for the convenience and enjoyment for people with the widest possible range of conditions. As practical and pleasurable landscapes for people of all ages and all abilities, these gardens commonly stimulate the full range of senses including memory, hearing, touch, smell and sometimes taste as pleasurable alternatives to the visual experience of gardens. The therapeutic garden exploits the most complete range of people/plant interactions and experiences possible within its enclosures.

7 Recognizable placemaking: Therapeutic gardens are frequently simple, unified and easily comprehended places. An intensified recognition of garden patterns and garden experiences enhance the unique identity of a garden as a special place for the people it serves. Placemaking, an important strategy in all landscape design efforts, heightens the visitor's focus on plant-related sensuality, comfort, and independence experienced within a therapeutic garden."

#### Conclusion

Understanding the characteristics of therapeutic gardens is pertinent to every clinician and student's professional knowledge base. The periodic review of AHTA's standards of practice re therapeutic garden characteristics helps to address practices to meet healthcare's changing expectations for improved patient care and efficient and effective resource management. Continued research studies will help contribute to evidence based research and further implementation of best practices.

## Horticultural Therapy

<http://ahta.org/horticultural-therapy>

### History and Practice

Horticultural therapy (HT) is a time-proven practice. The therapeutic benefits of garden environments have been documented since ancient times. In the 19th century, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and recognized as the "Father of American Psychiatry," was first to document the positive effect working in the garden had on individuals with mental illness.

In the 1940s and 1950s, rehabilitative care of hospitalized war veterans significantly expanded acceptance of the practice. No longer limited to treating mental illness, HT practice gained in credibility and was embraced for a much wider range of diagnoses and therapeutic options. Today, HT is accepted as a beneficial and effective therapeutic modality. It is widely used within a broad range of rehabilitative, vocational, and community settings.

HT techniques are employed to assist participants to learn new skills or regain those that are lost. HT helps improve memory, cognitive abilities, task initiation, language skills, and socialization. In physical rehabilitation, HT can help strengthen muscles and improve coordination, balance, and endurance. In vocational HT settings, people learn to work independently, problem solve, and follow directions.

## On Cooking with Garlic

By Jane Baldwin

Reference: Cook's Illustrated magazine; Issue: Nov/Dec 2014; pgs 12 & 30

How much garlic to add to your cooking is not the question! Nor is the question necessarily which garlic cultivar is the best. If you want to learn way more than you even knew you needed to know about cooking with garlic, the Nov/Dec 2014 issue of Cook's Illustrated is a great starting point.

Garlic cells do not develop the garlic flavor and smell we associate with garlic until the garlic cells are ruptured by cutting or smashing. At that point garlic cells begin to produce the flavorful, aromatic compound called allicin.

The first consideration for the intensity of flavor depends on the size of the cut: the finer the cut the more "broken" cells and the greater the allicin production. The greater the allicin production, the sharper the taste. Slices and siivers (thick or thin), dices, minces & smashing (fine or coarse) will pack more or less of a punch - thicker slices less than finely minced.

The second consideration is how or if the garlic is cooked. Per the Cook's article: the fiery punch of raw garlic is tamed by heat. Cooking whole, uncut cloves of garlic? Allicin is never produced and a sweet, mild taste emerges (think roasting whole bulbs).

In different cooking scenarios preparing garlic-parmesan mashed potatoes, different tastes resulted. Adding whole roasted garlic cloves added a "pronounced sweetness". Simmering whole cloves while boiling the potatoes only added a "very faint sweetness". Adding minced sauteed garlic provided "middle-of-the-road" garlic flavor. Adding raw minced-to-a-paste garlic resulted in garlic's "signature assertive taste".

Perhaps most surprising to me were the results using garlic powder. It's a given that garlic powder is made by grinding and then drying garlic cloves to remove moisture. Garlic powder contains allinase, an enzyme responsible for producing the flavorful allicin. However, the dehydration process deactivates this enzyme. Rehydration will reactivate this enzyme. Stay with me here - it gets complicated!

Adding garlic powder directly to mashed potatoes (which contain moisture) reactivated the production of the flavorful allicin, but the taste testers described the results as "harsh tasting".

Rehydrating the garlic powder by stirring close to equal amounts of garlic powder and water together and letting it sit for a minute and then sautéing it in butter before adding it to the mashed potatoes, brought the garlic powder to life with the full garlic flavor expected. The heat from sautéing the garlic powder in butter without rehydrating it first destroyed the allinase enzyme before it had time to produce the flavorful allicin.

Who knew? Additional googling also found much more detail on tricks and tips of cooking with garlic.



## Bird Chatter

## Herb Study Group: Aloe Vera From Sharon Schlecht

### Continuation of last month's article "Vertical Gardening" By Sandy Harrington

(This part was unintentionally left out last month.)

There are many sites on the internet and some stunning images of Vertical Gardens. Patrick Blanc has his own site that is awe inspiring. Others are Nedlaw Living Walls, Flora Felt and ELT Easy Green. If you Google Vertical Gardens, you will be introduced to a new gardening challenge. The sites are informative and the photographic images can seem a bit "other worldly". These Vertical Gardens soften, enhance and filter pollutants out of our environment. There is an interesting article on a site called Living Walls and Vertical Gardens that addresses using bio-filters in our working and living spaces. The possibilities of this type of gardening, I believe, could be limitless.

### Tie up your Tomatoes in Swim Suits?

In the November-December 2014 issue of "Swimmer," The Official Magazine of U.S. Masters Swimming, is an article on recycling and upcycling swimmers' caps, goggles, and suits. Among several suggestions was the following:

"Cut old suits into strips to use as plant stake ties in your garden. Your tomatoes will thank you."

### Finally! A Use for Horsetail!

In the 2015 Pinetree Catalog, on page 113, is a product I thought we'd never see: a use for Horsetail! Here is the entry:

#### HORSETAIL BUTTER

*This light green butter contains Sweet Almond Oil and horsetail Extract, which helps rebuild and regenerate damaged skin. It is also used for improving cuticles and nails.*

One wonders if the discoverer of this product had an over abundance of horsetail weed in their gardens too.

### Garden Quotes

"A Gard'ner's Work is never at an end; it begins with the Year, and continues to the next."

- John Evelyn (1620-1706) from *Kalendarium Hortense*

*Plant and your spouse plants with you; weed and you weed alone.*

Jean- Jacques Rousseau

*There is no gardening without humility. Nature is constantly sending its oldest scholars to the bottom of the class for some egregious blunder.*

Alfred Austin

*Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them.*

A. A. Milne

Aloe Vera was the topic at the December 5 meeting of the Herb Study Group. It is a succulent plant species that is hardy in Zones 8-11 and has more than 240 varieties. It has been widely cultivated throughout the world and used in herbal medicine as far back as 4000 years. Many cultures such as the Egyptians have elevated the plant to a "god-like" status. The fleshy leaves contain aloin, a substance which dissolved in water and added to myrrh was used in biblical times for their highly perfected art of embalming. Ancient Chinese and Egyptians used it to treat burns, wounds and reduce fever. In China the juice of aloe was used to wipe out all rashes. The Egyptians used the aloe vera plant to make papyrus-like scrolls and to treat tuberculosis. In more recent times Hawaiian people would mash the leaves and stems of aloe and make a poultice for arthritic conditions. Aloe vera also protects against radiation burns and is the only known remedy to heal atomic burns. In 1944, Japanese exposed to A-bombs applied aloe gel to their wounds and reported faster healing and less scarring.

The pulp works best when fresh. It lost its potency for healing when it was imported to areas where it wasn't grown, and Europe and North America's medical profession replaced it with drugs. By the 1970s new processing techniques were successful in stabilizing the leaf gel, and a new market for aloe vera was created. Gel extracted from the aloe plant contains more than 75 nutrients and 200 active compounds including 20 minerals, 18 amino acids and 12 vitamins.

Today aloe vera is used as a gel or juice derived from the plant. Aloe gel is used topically to treat cuts, wounds, blisters, burns, sunburns and even minor second-degree burns. It clears acne, skin allergies, dark spots and is effective in treating skin disorders like dermatitis and psoriasis. It can ward off wrinkles and age-related changes. Aloe vera juice is commonly consumed and it releases pepsin which aids digestion, soothes digestive tract irritations, colic pain and ulcers and heals heart burn. It acts as a general tonic, raises immunity, provides energy, acts as a restorative and is said to alleviate depression. It can minimize the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation. It reduces inflammation and infection of the eye and ear. PRECAUTION: It is essential to consult a medical practitioner before using aloe vera for medicinal purposes. It can interact with other herbs, supplements and medications. There can be side effects due to misuse such as blood sugar levels or potassium levels falling too low. It may cause increased bleeding during surgery. Pregnant women should never take aloe juice because it can trigger miscarriage. Effects and safety for babies and children are unknown.

There was also a discussion of the herb garden at ABG. Plans are underway for the 2015 garden, and plants will be ordered soon. Worksheets will be available at the garden this year for volunteers to record data such as date, quantity and number of each herb planted.

The next HSG meeting will be on Friday, January 9, 2015, at 12:00 noon in the Cooperative Extension Service office at 1675 C Street, Suite 100. Savory—the 2015 Herb of the year—is the topic. There will also be a recap of the 2014 ABG herb garden.



**2015 UAF/CES  
Master Gardener Online Course**

**Garden Event Calendar**

**MEETINGS and EVENTS**

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/gardening/mastergardeners/online/>

Course Dates: February 17 to May 18, 2015  
Register here for the Spring 2015 Alaska Master Gardener Online Course (Course Number: CEPD F001-UX1). The Alaska Master Gardener Online Course is an intensive, sustainable gardening class specific to Alaska growing conditions. This is a non-credit, self-paced, Online course offered through UAF eLearning using Blackboard Learn. The course fee is \$375.

**Online: Plant Propagation I**

Course Dates: Jan 15 to May 8, 2015  
Instructor: Pat Holloway - Credit: 1.00  
Principles and practices of plant propagation useful in horticulture, botany, forestry, agronomy, revegetation and land reclamation projects and plant research. Emphasis on seed and fern spore biology, seed dormancy mechanisms, germination techniques, and the seed industry of Alaska native and economically useful plants. UA eLearning & Distance Education  
<http://elearning.uaf.edu/course-details/?crn=38625>

**Online: Plant Propagation II**

Course Dates: Jan 15 to May 8, 2015  
Instructor: Pat Holloway - Credit: 1.00  
Principles and practices of plant propagation useful in horticulture, botany, forestry, agronomy, revegetation and land reclamation projects and plant research. Course will cover methods of vegetative propagation including cuttings; layering; grafting; bulb, corm and tuber propagation; and micro propagation through tissue culture. Emphasis will be on Alaska native and economically useful plants. UA eLearning & Distance Education  
<http://elearning.uaf.edu/course-details/?crn=38627>

UA eLearning & Distance Education Course fee estimates (subject to change): \$174 Resident tuition rate 000-200 level credit  
\$35 Standard Fees - eLearning fee \$25; Technology fee \$5/credit; UA Network fee 3% course tuition \$209

**Save the Dates**

ABG Spring Garden Conference:  
April 10th & 11th, 2015.  
No other details other than "Save the Date" and more info about the Spring conference will be coming soon.

Spring Garden Day at Sears Mall:  
Saturday, April 4th, 2015.  
(Easter is Sunday April 5th).

**Monday, January 5**

\*\*Alaska Native Plant Society Monthly Meeting: Plant versus Herbivores: How plants make a living without being eaten and how herbivores deal with chemical defenses of plants, by Ute Olsson, ERNC Naturalist; Mini-Botany: Willow, Yarrow by James Sowerwine; Plant Family: Cardamine bellidifolia and Oxytropis nigrescens by Glenn Brown, 7:00 pm. Campbell Science Center, Anchorage.

\*\* Mat-Su Master Gardener's Monthly Meeting: Getting Seeds Started for Summer Planting by Matt Franke of Alaska Hydroponics, 6:30 pm. MTA building, Palmer.

\*\*Meadow Lakes Bloomers Garden Club: Growing and Harvesting Potatoes by Ben Vanderweele of Vanderweele Farms, 10:30 am, Meadow Lakes Sr. Center, 1012 North Kim Drive, Wasilla.

**Tuesday, January 6**

Valley Garden Club: Susitna Organics by Mark Fisher, owner, 10:30 am, Baptist Church corner of Bogard Road and Leatherleaf Loop.

**Thursday, January 8**

Wildflower Garden Club Meeting: Wildflowers for the Southcentral Garden. Led by Verna Pratt. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova Street.

**Friday, January 9**

Herb Study Group, Topic: Savory, The 2015 Herb of the Year. 12:00pm - 1:30 am. CES - 1675 C Street, Suite 100, Anchorage.

**Saturday, January 17**

Alaska Rock Garden Society monthly meeting: 2 pm - 4 pm, CES - 1675 C Street, Suite 100, Anchorage.

**Monday, January 19**

Anchorage AMGA Meeting: Vertical Gardening, with Gretchen Fowler from Green Connection; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, CES - 1675 C Street, Anchorage. [NOTE CHANGE]

**Tuesday, January 27**

Alaska Orchid Society Monthly Meeting: Annual Meeting Party, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm at the BP Center. Details at: [www.akorchid.org](http://www.akorchid.org).

**CLASSES and WORKSHOPS**

**Saturday, January 10**

ABG workshop: Snowshoeing & Winter Tree ID, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, Cost: \$5 kids, \$7 adults, ABG members free. RSVP required. Visit [www.alaskabg.org](http://www.alaskabg.org)/events to register.

**Saturday, January 17**

ABG workshop: Building Birch Birdhouses. 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Alaska Botanical Garden, 4601 Campbell Airstrip Road, Anchorage, Cost: \$ 25 ABG Non-members, \$20 ABG members, \$50 birdhouse materials, \$80 fully built birdhouse. RSVP required. Visit [www.alaskabg.org/events](http://www.alaskabg.org/events) to register.

**Conferences**

**Tuesday, January 13 - Wednesday January 14**

Farm to School Conference: Learn how to help your school and community start and grow a farm to school program. Keynote speaker is Deborah Kane, the national director of the Farm to School Program. Register by December 29th. Registration and location information:

Continued next page

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/FarmToSchool/AKFTSConfReg.pdf>

**Friday and Saturday, January 30 and 31**  
Alaska Peony Growers Annual Conference, Westmark Hotel and Conference Center, Fairbanks. Register at: <http://www.alaskapeonyconference.com>

### ONLINE COURSES

#### January 15 - May 8

Plant Propagation I: Emphasis on seed and fern spore biology, seed dormancy mechanisms, germination techniques, and the seed industry of Alaska plants. Taught by Patricia Holloway, Ph.D., 1 credit, \$174. Register: <http://elearning.uaf.edu/course-details/>

Plant Propagation II: Principles and practices of plant propagation including vegetative propagation: cuttings; layering; grafting; bulb, corm and tuber propagation, and micro propagation. Taught by Patricia Holloway, Ph.D. 1 credit, \$174. Register: <http://elearning.uaf.edu/course-details/>

### January AMGA Program Change

For our January program, Gretchen Fowler from the Green Connection will speak about Vertical Gardening. A versatile type of gardening that can be used outside or inside to grow a variety of plants, vegetables, and herbs. Gretchen will introduce us to a few types of Vertical Gardening kits as well as show us how to make our own.



#### 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 - Cheryl Shroyer
- 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

### Treasurer's Report January 2015

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Balances 10/30/14 |            |
| Checking account  | 6767.30    |
| Savings account   | 11683.05   |
|                   | <hr/>      |
|                   | \$18450.35 |

Dedicated Funds \$6468.52

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Revenue:   |           |
| Donation   | 10.00     |
| Interest   | 1.44      |
| Membership | 1193.60   |
|            | <hr/>     |
|            | \$1205.04 |

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| Expense:   |         |
| Operations | 54.99   |
|            | <hr/>   |
|            | \$54.99 |

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Balances 11/30/14 |            |
| Checking account  | 7915.91    |
| Savings account   | 11684.49   |
|                   | <hr/>      |
|                   | \$19600.04 |

Dedicated Funds \$6468.52

### Newsletter Submission Deadline

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

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

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

Mail: 14051 Fejes Road  
Anchorage, AK 99516  
Phone: 345-4099  
Email: [amga@alaska.net](mailto:amga@alaska.net)  
AMGA Web Site: [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org)

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

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

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

AMGA 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.