

## President's Message by Susan Negus

Spring is around the corner or maybe around a couple corners. You just never know when spring will show up. It definitely has been a cold January. I must admit I am happy to see all the snow covered trees and shrubs. My garden looks great buried under snow with a few snow covered shrubs poking out. Need I mention the lighting this time of year is also spectacular.

So, if I haven't cheered you up over these long January days, maybe you need to go to a conference. There are three coming up in Anchorage: February 10-14 is the Alaska Forum on the Environment at the Dena'ina Center. CES will have a table there all week. Friday the 14th is "Free Friday" and AMGA will join CES at their table. I think it is a busy conference and worth having some exposure for AMGA. There will be a Sign-up Genius sent out for this day. Next, we have the "15th Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference" at the BP Center on February 20-22. Don Bladow said he went last year and it was a good Conference with good speakers. Maybe this is why he can fill the Food Bank with Vegetables. CES will have a table at this conference and people can volunteer for hours if they would like through Gina Dionne.

Unfortunately, the Ag Conference overlaps with the Alaska Botanical Garden Conference on February 22. AMGA will again join CES with a table at this conference. There will be a Sign-Up Genius for this conference also. This would be a great conference for the Master Gardeners to attend. The theme is "Seeing More in the Garden."

Of course, if you are looking for warmer weather you should go to Seattle to the Northwest Flower Festival, February 26-March 1.

If you are looking for Volunteer Hours, AMGA will have a table with CES at Fur Rondy at the Midtown Mall on Saturday, February 29 and March 7. Sign-up Genius will be sent out for this ahead of time. It should be busier than in the past with all the new stores in the Mall.

The days are getting a little longer and I am looking forward to the day I can turn the grow lights off my house plants. The seed catalogs and on-line sites are pouring in. Jeff Lowenfeld always has suggestions for his favorites. I usually just order from Territorial Seed Company. Not very exciting but their covers are

cute. I am not the best vegetable gardener, but I love my fresh salads all summer. All the different mustards are intriguing, especially the spicy ones. So many kales to pick from. Too bad I don't have enough room for all the seeds I always buy. I do like to plant my rows in swirls in the garden so it looks like I have a little Picasso thing going on with all the different colors.

This also means it is time for me to start thinking about cleaning up the spaces under my grow lights; I don't think I am ready yet. I had great plans to start a variety of herbs to sell at the Garden Show. It was great idea but I think I have been skiing too much to get that done. The Garden Show at the Midtown Mall is earlier this year, April 11th. AMGA members can sell plants. This is also a volunteer opportunity and we will send a Sign-Up Genius out ahead of time.

Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center has asked AMGA to help with one of their gardens. Paul Marmora has a plan and wants to use mostly Native plants. Paul also received a grant from the National Garden Club for this project. This is another volunteer opportunity and he has quite a few people signed up to help, maybe an April/May start.

Elaine and I had a meeting with Gina Dione from CES. There will be many opportunities for volunteering and working together. Did I tell you Gina loves her job? She has been great to work with. CES is already planning the next Master Gardening class. As you know, BP Energy Center has been transferred to another organization. No details available yet on how it will be handled. There may be changes or everything

will remain the same. We just have to wait until April for a decision. It has been a great place for our meetings.

I look forward to all the volunteers at the coming up events!

Above: Fresh sprouts with labels.  
Photo by Gary Bachman,  
Mississippi State University  
Extension Service.  
[extension.msstate.edu](http://extension.msstate.edu).

### Inside This Issue...

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## AMGA January Board Meeting

The AMGA Board of Directors (BoD) met on 13 January 2020 (Monday) for the regularly scheduled meeting. This was the first meeting with the new BoD members. New members include Emily Becker - Vice President, Jan Van Den Top - Member at Large, Fay Stiehm - Member at Large, and Beth Norris - Secretary.

The board discussed several topics including the 2019 Annual Report, the transition from the old board to the new, programming for the Advanced MG course, the 2020 budget and financial audit, upcoming pop-up tour at Anchorage Greens, and the many upcoming conferences being held in early 2020.

Broadcast emails will now be coming from Faye Stiehm who is taking over for Fran Peckar. Ginger Hudson will be stepping down from the monthly newsletter in 2021 and a new editor will be needed to fill that role. Several summer garden tours have already been scheduled and as always, BoD members are on the look out for future speakers for monthly meetings and future garden tour opportunities.

There will be plenty of upcoming volunteer opportunities for new and existing members as we get closer to upcoming conferences and annual gardening events.

## AMGA Treasurer's Report, December 2019

By Nancy Grant

### Balances 12/08/19

Checking S-88	\$15,244.35
Savings S-1	\$5.25
Savings S-19	\$16,863.25
CD-Education	
5yr 1.650% (12/20)	\$ 5325.98
CD- General	
2yr 1.95% (1/21)	<u>\$10,401.36</u>
	\$47,840.19

### Revenue:

Interest/Dividends	\$ 76.13
Membership	\$1583.08
Donations	<u>\$115.01</u>
	\$1,774.22

### Expense:

Operations	\$240.99
Donation ABC	\$200.00
Website	<u>\$95.00</u>
	\$535.99

### Balances 01/01/2020

Checking S-88	\$16,406.45
Savings S-1	\$5.25
Savings S-19	\$16,866.11
CD-Education	
5yr 1.650% (12/20)	\$5,348.13
CD- General 2yr 1.95% (1/21)	<u>\$10,452.48</u>
	\$49,078.42



## In Memoriam

Erna (Anna) Rousey was a long timemember of AMGA. After she moved out to the Valley, she made the effort to drive in to Anchorage for the occasional meeting, and to volunteer at the herb garden at the ABG. She had many friends, especially Margaret Love, who had recently moved to North Carolina to be near family.

Erna was originally from Germany, and had a lovely German accent. She married an American military man and immigrated to the US. Erna loved organic gardening, composting, trying something new, and using herbal remedies. She was a friendly soul and had an infectious laugh.

Her memorial was January 19th at the Wasilla Senior Center. Several members attended the service. She will be missed.

## Newsletter Notice

*Yours truly, AMGA's Newsletter Editor will be attending the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival in Seattle this month. Though the festival is from February 26 - March 1, I will be making a Seattle trip out of it and visiting early. As a result, March's newsletter may be a day or two late arriving to your email inbox. If there are regular meetings you attend, please check hosts' websites for current details. Thank you for your understanding. I will return with fountains of floriferous stories. - Ginger*



## AMGA January Presentation Summary: “A Flora Carnivora”

President Susan Negus opened the meeting by summarizing the 2019 Annual Report. She followed the summary with several announcements including the following:

- Issues with membership payments through PayPal have been resolved.
  - There is a winter popup tour scheduled for 3 February at 7pm at Anchorage Greens; new, local hydroponic business.
  - There will be another kokedama workshop on 8 February.
  - AMGA’s February presentation will be about the state fair.
  - There are several conferences and events upcoming
    - Alaska Forum on the Environment, 10-14 February
    - Sustainable Agriculture in Alaska, 20-22 February
    - ABC Spring Conference, 22 February, AMGA may have a table
    - Fur Rondy, 29 February – 7 March, AMGA will have a table
    - Southeast Alaska Garden Conference, 20-22 March, Juneau
- (See calendar pages for more details.)

Mike Baldwin gave the main presentation about carnivorous plants. Mike was the president of the International Carnivorous Plant Society (ICPS) for 5 years.

Carnivorous plants were scientifically described as early as 1753 by Carl Linnaeus in his *Species Plantarum* publication. Darwin was fascinated by carnivorous plants and studied Round-leafed Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). Studies of ethnobotany show that carnivorous plants have been used by humans as medications (analgesics), cooking vessels, and have been the subject of comic books, plays and movies.

There are approximately 750-850 species worldwide. Carnivorous plants occur on every continent except Antarctica. They tend to live in nutrient poor environments and they supplement their nutrient requirements with a diet of insects.

Mike explained that carnivorous plants have a diverse lineage but they have three attributes in common:

- Capture and kill prey
- Possess a mechanism for digestion
- Benefit from nutrients from prey

Some plants have one or more of these attributes but to be considered a bona fide carnivorous plant the specimen must have all three characteristics. Mike noted that the shape of a pitcher plant is shared by genetically diverse and geographically separated species such as

*Darlingtonia* (California/Oregon), *Sarracenia* (eastern North America), *Cephalotus* (Australia) and *Nepenthes* (Philippines).

Mike showed several slides and pictures representative of global carnivorous plants.

Alaska has about 11-12 species of carnivorous plants, including sundews (*Drosera*) and butterworts (*Pinguicula*). Mike mentioned that carnivorous plants can be found in local bogs and marshes, and even at unlikely locations along the Seward Highway. He noted that because of their small size it can be difficult to find individual plants but that once you see one, you start to notice them all over the area. He showed pictures of sundews and Common Butterwort specimens which he found locally. He noted that the current range extensions of carnivorous plants in Alaska are different than those documented in Hulten’s *Flora of Alaska* and his other, less known publication, *Flora of the Aleutian Islands*.

Mike then gave very brief descriptions and showed representative pictures of many carnivorous plant families/

genera. He noted that many species, including the Venus Flytrap, are threatened or endangered in their native habitat and that for the Venus Flytrap more individual plants survive in cultivation than in the wild. He noted that plant poaching is a big concern for some species, again, including the Venus Flytrap. He noted that when buying carnivorous plants one should purchase from a reputable seller and be aware of certain online retailers which may not be compliant with CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).



The meeting ended with door prize giveaways.



Top: Butterwort, *Pinguicula vulgaris*.  
Above: Sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*.  
Photos by Mike Baldwin.

# Herb Study Group: Intro to Ginseng

## by Elaine Hammes

Ginseng was the topic for the January Herb Study Group. Some interesting features of Ginseng are its well-documented earliest medicinal history in China, its economic relationships between Asia and the US and its qualities as an adaptogen.

The FDA acknowledges its common use and has nonbinding labeling guides for dietary supplements. USDA has visual aids for ginseng roots that are “for reference only and not intended for official use.”

There are two main species of Ginseng (about 13 total species in *Panax* genus), each with its own variety of ginsenosides, the active compounds reported to have antioxidant and other health-related properties.

*Panax ginseng* is native to Asia. *Panax quinquefolius* is native to eastern parts of the US & Canada, also known as “American ginseng.” Other *Panax* species and some unrelated plants that have been considered by some as types of ginseng include Devil’s Club (Alaskan Ginseng, *Oplopanax horridus*) and Siberian Ginseng (*Eleutherococcus senticosus*).

The *Panax quinquefolius* is native to the hardwood forest areas of eastern Canada and US. It became an important export to China soon after a Jesuit priest found it growing near Montreal in 1716. American ginseng apparently became a major export to China partly due to higher amounts and more varieties of the effective saponins: ginsenosides. Harvest and trade between Canada and China migrated south to the US, particularly Wisconsin and other eastern states. Hong Kong and China continue to be the major importers of *Panax quinquefolius* from the US.

George Washington mentioned gathering ginseng in his diary. John Jacob Astor’s first fortune came from ginseng. Daniel Boone’s family traded in upper Ohio ginseng. The plant has been a part of Wisconsin’s economy since the late 1800s when it became a domesticated crop.

In 1975, wild ginseng was formally listed as endangered on Appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Increased harvesting, poaching (noted in reality shows, a 2016 Smithsonian and January 2020 National Wildlife Foundation magazines) have contributed to wild American ginseng’s vulnerability to extinction. USF&W has a webpage with an overview of harvesting requirements and other information for ginseng. Individual states that allow harvesting have additional requirements. The NWF article notes that ginseng is food for wood thrushes that help them make long flights to Central American wintering grounds.

In 1999, the World Health Organization reaffirmed the uses of ginseng to enhance concentration and for use during convalescence. Results of a Mayo Clinic Cancer Center-led study indicated high doses of the herb *Panax quinquefolius* reduced cancer-related fatigue in patients more effectively than a placebo. However, “Off-the-shelf ginseng is sometimes processed using ethanol, which can give it estrogen-like properties that may be harmful to breast cancer patients,” said Mayo Clinic Cancer Center researcher Debra L. Barton, R.N., Ph.D.

There are numerous endorsements of ginseng for medicinal uses as well as warnings and precautions.

As with other medicinal herbs, consultation with a health care provider is recommended. Ginseng has been used for thousands of years for treating cancer, heart disease, fatigue, erectile dysfunction, hepatitis C, high blood pressure, menopausal symptoms, and many other conditions. Ginseng is also regarded as an adaptogen allegedly helping

the body adapt to various stressors. Some of these uses are promising, although the evidence isn’t conclusive. Quality and active ingredients in supplements may vary widely from maker to maker.

Techniques for producing and harvesting domesticated ginseng in the US can be divided into categories of “woods grown” and “field grown,” depending on source of shade utilized. Woods grown can be further differentiated into “wild simulated” and “woods cultivated” techniques. Some of the differences in these methods are whether plants are grown in forest or field soils, tilled or untilled beds, natural (under forest canopy) or artificial shade, number of years grown, types of mulch. The method of growing and age of roots harvested affect the weight of harvests per acre as well as the price per pound of the harvested roots. *Panax quinquefolius* prices can range from \$500-\$750 or more for wild roots to as low as \$10 for cultivated roots.

Ginseng is a long-lived, deciduous forb. In the first year of growth, seedlings with three serrated leaflets develop on a two to four inch purple colored stem. Seedlings emerge in middle to late April, about the same time as mature ginseng plants.

*continues next page*



Top: Wild American ginseng fruit. Photo by Eric Burkhardt from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services website. Left: Cultivated ginseng root. Photo from Cornell website.

The above ground stem and leaves grow to their maximum size in early summer. This above ground portion dies back between August and October. In subsequent growing seasons, the plant's annual stem begins to fork and additional "prongs" develop with palmately compound leaves of three and then five leaflets. Additional leaves or leaflets are only added annually with a new season's growth. The plant generally takes four years to mature with berries, generally the minimum age for harvesting the roots.

Ginseng grows under tall canopy trees that maximize air circulation, and light levels around 25 percent sunlight. As long as understory plants do not overtake the site, they should be left to grow alongside the ginseng, with an exception of ferns that may kill adjacent ginseng plants with toxins. Viable seeds must be stratified. Before planting, seeds should be stored in a refrigerator between 36 and 50 degrees, kept moist, and aerated.

Much more detailed information on ginseng can be found on numerous websites including other extension office sites such as Iowa State University Extension, Virginia Tech Extension Service and Penn State Extension.

A nod to December's Rubus discussion and thanks to Denise who brought yummy raspberry squares! All are invited to February 14th Herb Study Group's discussion of Mulch.

#### References

<https://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2017/11/29/Working-Together-to-Ensure-Healthy-Ginseng-Populations>

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2015/10/ginseng-production/>

<https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/2015/10/ginseng-production/>

## Bird Chatter

**9:10 a.m. to 5:13 p.m.** ... January's the worst month, isn't it? Especially the final week of January. That's when you know for a fact winter will never end.

That's when it becomes obvious Game of Thrones' three-year winters are now a fact of life in Alaska. Those mountains of snow in vacant lots around town are obviously the beginnings of The Wall. The thousands of lights headed toward us every morning from The Valley are the Wildings coming for us. Wasillans..... Wildings, what's the diff?

**STOP!** Get a grip. It's almost over. If it's February 3rd, we have passed the eight-hours-of-light mark, proof that spring will come again this year. And, a reminder that it's time to get serious about what bulbs and seeds you will start indoors.

Really. The Territorial seed catalog has arrived. So, check the plant lights, wash the pots or trays you put away dirty, clear the shelf or windowsill, stir up the planting mix (or buy some) — the countdown has begun.

And to those skiers, snowboarders and mushers among the populous who pray for more snow, more winter, we can only say: #@%&#!!

**THE GREEN PARTY...** If you missed the pop-up tour of Anchorage Greens, do check it out on your own. Trevor Kirchhoff, who runs the 54-bed hydroponic garden on East

73rd, is justly proud of the beautiful "greens" his crew produces for sale to (mostly) subscribers who pick up weekly bags of just-harvested salad and herbs for \$15.

Anchorage Greens is an extension of Juneau Greens, which Trevor started in 2017 with partner John Krapek, originally to supply local markets with live basil.

At the moment, the Anchorage subscription list is full — but Trevor's people are planting up new beds and he expects subscriptions to re-open the last week in February.

If you're not up for a subscription, Anchorage Greens sells what's left after each harvest on a first-come basis. It's definitely worth the trip. The day BC visited, a box of the most beautiful basil ever was sitting on the counter. Just sayin'.

Check details at [anchoragegreens.com](http://anchoragegreens.com).

**ADIEU...** Erna Rousey, a Master Gardener since 1996, died December 13th at her home in Wasilla. Erna (known as Anna) volunteered at the ABC herb garden for many years and was well known for eating almost anything green, urging others to do the same. At her memorial service on January 19th, floral arrangements featured kale in honor of her love of greens.

In addition to her gardens, Anna, who was born in Germany 83 years ago, leaves 26 great grandchildren!





# February 2020 Garden Event Calendar

## Classes /Workshops

### February 7 and February 19

Seed Starting Class, Feb 7: noon – 1pm; Feb 19: 6p-7p. Presented by Gina Dionne. Free. Seating limited, pre-registration recommended. CES office, 4th floor Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St., Anchorage. 786-6313 or [gddionne@alaska.edu](mailto:gddionne@alaska.edu)

### February 7 - March 20

Comprehensive Organic Gardening course, \$285 all tuition and fees. Students and professionals earn 1 Ag CEU. Mat-Su college. Full descriptions: <http://ellenvandevise.com>  
Contact: [information@goodearthgardenschool.com](mailto:information@goodearthgardenschool.com)

## Meetings and Events

### February 3, Monday

Alaska Native Plant Society, 7p-9p. Tim Nawrocki presents “Working towards an Alaska Vegetation Atlas.” Rosaceae: Joan Towsen presents Rosa (wild rose). Alpine Beringian Endemics: Mary Stella presents *Papaver alboroseum*. Campbell Creek Science Center, 5600 Science Center Dr. Anchorage. [aknps.org](http://aknps.org)

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association, 7p. Charles Stilman presents “IPM Strategies for Indoor Growing.” Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, 1509 S. Georgeson Drive, Palmer. The meeting will be in Kerttula Hall in the “Blue Room.” [matsumastergardeners.com](http://matsumastergardeners.com)

AMGA Winter Pop-up Tour 7p. The Anchorage Greens, a new Hydroponic Start-up. They will offer weekly subscriptions for fresh greens. 1207 E. 73rd Ave, Anchorage. [anchoragegreens.com](http://anchoragegreens.com)

### February 4, Tuesday

Valley Garden Club, 10:30a. TBA. Includes a potluck lunch. First Baptist Church of Wasilla on the corner of Leatherleaf Loop and Bogard Rd. Wasilla. [valleygardenclub.com](http://valleygardenclub.com)

### February 6, Thursday

Anchorage Garden Club, 7p-9p. “Alaska Blossoms.” Pioneer School House, 437 E. 3rd Av. Anchorage. [alaskagardenclubs.org](http://alaskagardenclubs.org)

### February 9, Sunday

Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, 1p. “Bonsai styling, sketching and vision development.” Dimond Green Houses. [pmarmora@aol.com](mailto:pmarmora@aol.com); Put “Bonsai” in subject line. [alaskabonsaiclubs.org](http://alaskabonsaiclubs.org)

### February 8, Saturday

Kokedama Workshop at 2p. \$30/person, 15 participant limit. Alaska Wholesale Flower Market, 7437 Old Seward Highway, Anchorage. Register with the Wildflower Garden Club, [akwildflowers@gmail.com](mailto:akwildflowers@gmail.com)

### February 13, Thursday

Wildflower Garden Club, 10a-12p. “What BioChar can do for your Gardens & the Environment,” presented by Mingche

Zhang, Professor, UAF. Become a member to attend. Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova St, Anchorage. [wildflowergardenclub.org](http://wildflowergardenclub.org)

### February 13, Thursday

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association. 7p- 9p. TBA. BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. [www.apfga.org](http://www.apfga.org)

### February 14, Friday

Alaska Botanical Garden “Valentine’s at the Garden.” Purchase tickets on line, reservations are required. 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. [alaskabg.org](http://alaskabg.org)

Herb Study Group, Noon-1:30p. Topic is Mulch. CES Learning Commons, 4th floor Loussac Library. For questions, e-mail: [anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:anchorageherbstudygroup@gmail.com)

### February 15, Saturday

Alaska Rock Garden Society, “Thinking Outside the Box—expand your definition of Hypertufa Troughs”. Check website for location. [akrockgardenociety.org](http://akrockgardenociety.org)

### February 15, Saturday

Southeast Master Gardeners Association, 1:30p-2:30p. “Seed Starting” Mendenhall Public Library, Juneau, Alaska. [seak-mastergardeners.org](http://seak-mastergardeners.org)

### February 16, Sunday

Homer Garden Club, 2p-4p. Aspen Suites Hotel, Homer. [Homergardenclub.org](http://Homergardenclub.org)

### February 17, Monday

AMGA Monthly Meeting, 7p, munch and mingle 6:30-7:00p. The ins-and-outs of entering crops and flowers at the state fair, standards, tips, options with Kathy Liska. BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. [alaskamastergardeners.org](http://alaskamastergardeners.org)

### February 21, Friday

The Future of Anchorage’s Trees and Forests, 6p – 8p. AK Community Forest Council, UAF CES, landscape architects, and more discuss options for removal and replacement of dead spruce. Bring ideas and questions. BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. Contact: 269-8466, or: [josh.hightower@alaska.gov](mailto:josh.hightower@alaska.gov)

### February 25, Tuesday

Alaska Orchid Society, 6:30p-9p. Cameron Willingham will talk growing under LED lights. Location BP Energy Center. 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage. [akorchid.org](http://akorchid.org)

## Conferences

### February 10-14

Alaska Forum on the Environment. A statewide gathering of environmental professionals from government agencies, nonprofit, and for profit businesses, Alaskan youth, conservationists, biologists, and community elders. Den’ina Center, 600 W 7th,



**February 26 - March 1, 2020**

63 presenters, judges, and speakers—including Patrick Ryan of the Alaska Botanical Garden.

Workshops, seminars, show gardens, plant introductions, competitions, a large exhibition, children's activities, and much more. Registration now open; special rates at nearby hotels.

<https://gardenshow.com/>

AMGA would like to thank the Northwest Flower & Garden Festival for providing tickets to the 2019 Annual Conference's silent auction.

Anchorage. Friday will be Free and AMGA will have table and volunteers are needed. CES will have a table all week but volunteers will not be able to attend talks. [akforum.org](http://akforum.org)

### February 20-22

15th Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage.

<https://alaska.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=course.classin-formation&coursenumber=5200001>

### February 22, Saturday

ABC Spring Garden Conference. "Seeing more in the Garden." Speakers and hands on workshops. Registration required. At the Benny Benson Secondary School across from ABC. 4601 Campbell Airstrip Rd, Anchorage. [alaskabg.org](http://alaskabg.org)

### February 29 and March 7

Fur Rondy at the Midtown Mall. AMGA will have a table with CES. There will be volunteer opportunities to help at the table. AMGA will send out Sign-up Genius to members.

### February 26-March 1

North West Flower and Garden Festival, "Spring Fever"—Tickets available online. Washington State Convention Center 705 Pike St, Seattle, WA. [gardenshow.com](http://gardenshow.com)

### March 20 - 23

The Southeast Alaska Master Gardners Association will be sponsoring a conference at Centennial Hall in Juneau.

### April 11, Saturday

Garden Show at the Midtown Mall. 10a-5p. This is a great event where all the garden clubs have a table and many are selling plants for this spring. Our table will have members' plants for sale, limit 2-4 flats/person, tags required. Volunteer opportunities

### July 18-22

Botany 2020, Organized by the Botanical Society of America, will be in Anchorage. In association with the American Fern Society, Society of Herbarium Curators, International Society for Plant Taxonomy, and more: [cms.botany.org/home.html](https://cms.botany.org/home.html)

## February 2020 Garden Event Calendar

**SAVE THE DATE**

**ALASKA SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE**  
**FEB. 20-22, 2020**  
**BP Energy Center, Anchorage**

**February 22**

Speakers include:

- Breand Adams
- Tamas Deak
- Jeffrey Demain
- Ilona Farr
- Dawn Groth
- Debbie Hinchey
- Elise Huggins
- Claire Kaufman
- Cherie Northon
- Tim Pritchett
- Julie Riley
- Nick Riordan
- Jonathan Schwartz
- Ellen Vande Visse
- Christine Wilcox

Speakers • Workshops  
 Registration required

At the Benny Benson Secondary School, across the shared parking lot from Alaska Botanical Garden

[www.alaskabg.org](http://www.alaskabg.org)  
 907-770-3692

**The Urban Farmer** 



# Starting Seeds!

Learn how to grow healthy plant starts from seeds with this **FREE** companion class to the Urban Farmer Series.

**Where? Loussac Library  
4th Floor Learning Commons**

**Friday, February 7  
Noon - 1 p.m.**

or

**Wednesday, February 19  
6 - 7 p.m.**

Starting your own transplants indoors enables Alaska gardeners to grow warm-season vegetables to maturity outdoors, hasten maturity of cool-season vegetables and achieve a longer bloom period for many annual flowers. In this class, we'll talk about how to select the best seeds for our area, how to determine when to start your seeds, and other relevant topics such as transplanting and hardening off.

**Although these classes are free, seating is limited. Preregistration is recommended.**  
[http://bit.ly/AOC\\_SeedClass](http://bit.ly/AOC_SeedClass)

**For more information, contact Gina Dionne  
at 786-6313 or [gddionne@alaska.edu](mailto:gddionne@alaska.edu)**



*Gina Dionne* has been growing fresh, organic food in an urban setting for over 20 years. She specializes in container and indoor gardens and has grown everything from bountiful Chef Gardens on her back deck to fresh, juicy tomatoes in her kitchen windows. A member of the Alaska Master Gardeners in Anchorage and recent addition to the Cooperative Extension Anchorage Outreach Center, she looks forward to sharing her knowledge and experience with you.

**Cooperative Extension Service  
Anchorage Outreach Center**

Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St., 4th floor, Learning Commons



## AMGA Board of Directors

Susan Negus	President
Emily Becker	Vice President
Nancy Grant	Treasurer
Beth Norris	Secretary
Elaine Hammes	At Large
F.X. Nolan	At Large
Faye Stiehm	At Large
Jan Van DenTop	At Large

## Committee Chairs, Program Coordinators & Volunteers

CES Liaison:	Elaine Hammes
CES Master Gardener Program Liaison:	Steve Brown or Gina Dionne
Broadcast Email:	Faye Stiehm
Calendar of Events:	Susan Negus
Advanced MG:	Don Bladow, Fran Pekar
Directory Editor:	Janice Berry
Meetings and other educational programs:	Emily Becker
Garden Tours:	Emily Becker
Google Group:	Mary Rydesky
Managers:	Gina Docherty and Jane Baldwin
Grants Program:	Elaine Hammes
Hospitality:	Lynn Hansen, Ruthe Rasmussen, Sharon Schlicht, and Wendy Willie
Membership & Database:	Alexis St. Juliana
Newsletter Editor:	Ginger Hudson
Website:	Gina Docherty
Lifetime Achievement and Grants:	Lynne Opstad
Pioneer Home:	Lynne Opstad, Ginger Hudson
Volunteer Coordinator:	Julie Ginder
Volunteer Coordinator:	Susan Negus

## Winter Meetings 2019 - 2020

### February 17 Meeting

"My Fair Lady" by Kathy Liska, Learn the ins and outs of entering crops and/or flowers at the fair with standards, tips & options. A great educational opportunity and fun, with reasons why every gardener should be doing it!

### Reminder:

**Gather up your flats and seeds to start for the Spring Garden Show at MidTown Mall!**

AMGA regularly meets at 7:00pm every third Monday of the month, September through May (except for December).

Meetings are held at the BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage, accessed through the BP tower parking lot, the Energy Center is just south of the main building.

\*NOTE: meeting location may change\*

Monthly educational programs are free and open to the public. Visitors and guests are welcomed and encouraged.

## Membership Renewal

### Memberships are based on calendar year.

If you have not renewed, bring your cash or check to the next meeting. Or, find a membership form in last November's newsletter and mail to the address below. Or, contact Alexis St. Juliana: [astjuliana@hotmail.com](mailto:astjuliana@hotmail.com)

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

**Mail:** AMGA, Newsletter  
P.O. Box 221403  
Anchorage, AK 99522-1403

**Email:** [newsletteramga@gmail.com](mailto:newsletteramga@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.

AMGA Web Site: [www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/Alaska-Master-Gardeners-Anchorage](https://facebook.com/Alaska-Master-Gardeners-Anchorage)

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

To send concerns or information to the AMGA directly, mail to:  
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If you have questions or want to make address or email corrections, please contact Alexis St. Juliana at: [astjuliana@hotmail.com](mailto:astjuliana@hotmail.com)

