



## President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

Winter is finally here. This time of year we are thinking about Fall, Thanksgiving and wondering why those Christmas decorations are already up at the stores. It seems like it is earlier every year.

I saw on the national news about the huge pumpkin in Oregon that was 1,719 pounds and I remembered that we had one that weighed 1,789 pounds but was disqualified due to a hole in it at our State Fair. Alaska

We have now got my flower beds covered and are ready for the cold temperatures to come. It is sad to cut back all the flowers and bushes, mow the lawn for the last time and put all our summer equipment away just to drag out the winter stuff.

Don't forget to renew your memberships! It is very reasonable, just \$10 for individuals and \$12 for a family. You can renew on-line or send in a check to our mail box. Master Gardeners just now taking the classes are welcome to attend our meetings and we meet the first Monday of every month except for December which will be our Christmas Party at Turkey Red.

The Department of Agriculture has a program called 'Know your Farmer, Know your food' (FYF2) which wants to ease the process of bringing local and regional food to communities and has set up an initiative with a checklist for purchasing local food. There are various grants set up for Farm to School, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and Farmers Market Promotion Program to name a few. You can explore more information on the USDA website under Department of Agriculture [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov). It is a large part of the movement for local produce that has hit a large number of restaurants all over the country. Many eating establishments see the upside of growing their herbs and vegetables just outside of the restaurant and using local farmers to bring upscale good food to residents of an area. An example of this is the PBS show called "A Chef's Life" which explores a North Carolina restaurant owner of Chef and the Farmer and how they utilize local ingredients as well as local cooks to provide dishes for their restaurant. Just think by putting up our vegetables and fruits we have been doing this on a much smaller scale to provide good food for our family!

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### CHAPTER MEETINGS

#### FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

#### NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD 7:00 PM**  
**LOCATION: MTA CONFERENCE ROOM,**  
**480 COMMERCIAL DR., PALMER, AK,**  
DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

#### MEETING AGENDA

- **TREASURER REPORT**
- **MINUTES**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**

#### TOPIC/SPEAKER:

**Matt Franke from Alaska Hydroponics**

Our next meeting will be held at the MTA conference room at 7pm on November 3. See you there!

## PEASANTS PERSPECTIVE

By Curt Mueller, Master Gardener



. It'll be a good long while before we enjoy scenes like this pasqueflower again, but gardening encourages patience in its practitioners.

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Meeting Minutes

Minutes for MG meeting October 6th, 2014

None available at time of publishing.

Want to see minutes? The club is in need of a secretary who records the monthly meeting minutes and forwards them to the newsletter editor/publisher. This is a good way to earn some hours towards Master Gardener certification. Contact Rhonda Bowman at [rbowman@gci.net](mailto:rbowman@gci.net) if you're interested in volunteering.

Thank you!

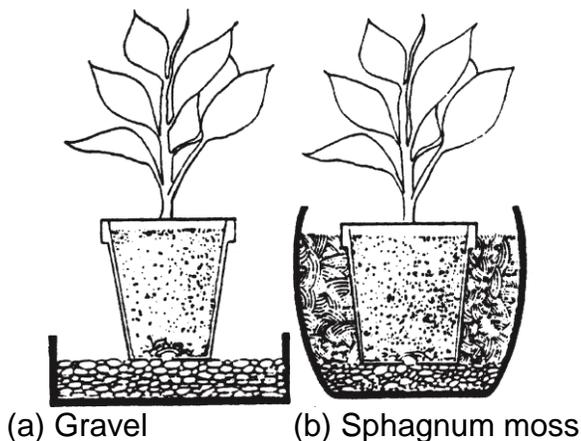
## WINTER INDOOR HUMIDITY

By Stephen Brown, Mat Su/Copper River District Ag/Hort Agent

Alaska's indoor winter environment is really a desert environment that calls for houseplant gardeners to pay special attention to the humidity. If the humidity levels are too low and the plants are stressed, then it is more likely that insects will attack them. Insects tend to pick on the weak, and if a plant is struggling with its environmental conditions the insects know it.

Many plants require a more humid climate than the average Alaskan home. Ferns, ivies and other humid-climate plants may grow best in bathrooms or kitchens where the air usually is more humid.

You can increase relative humidity around a plant by placing its pot on a shallow tray of moist gravel (Figure 1a). The gravel will evaporate water into the air around the plants.



*Figure 1 (a) Two ways to increase humidity around a plant: (a) a layer of moist gravel or pebbles in a tray beneath the pot; (b) a pot inside a large planter filled with moistened sphagnum peat moss.*

Damp sphagnum moss packed between pots in planters also evaporates water into the air (Figure 1b). Moss has the added advantage of acting like a wick to draw up and dispose of excess water in the bottom of the planter box.

Grouping plants together in the same room raises the relative humidity for all. Plants transpire water continuously. The more plants you grow, the more water they transpire into the air.

A humidifier is another way to raise humidity. The higher relative humidity preferred by plants also is healthier for people. Misting plants does not significantly increase humidity. It may, however, help keep leaves clean, which also is desirable.

### IT'S ALMOST THAT TIME!

2015 is almost upon us! We hope you've enjoyed your last year of membership and look forward to "seeing" you all next year! Go to our webpage to download a membership form [www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com) . Thank you for your support!

## Garden Links

### Alaska Botanical Garden

<http://www.alaskabg.org/>

### Alaska Community Agriculture

<http://www.alaskacommunityag.org/>

### Arbor Day Foundation

[www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

### Alaska Natural Heritage Program – Botany

<http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/botany/>

### Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

### Alaska Grown Source Book (online)

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/index.htm>

### Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage Chapter

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

### Alaska Master Gardener Blog

<http://alaskamastergardener.blogspot.com/>

### Alaska Native Plant Society

<http://www.aknps.org/>

### Alaska Orchid Society

<http://www.akorchid.org/>

### Alaska Peony Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.org>

### Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Assoc..

<http://www.apfga.org/>

### Alaska Plant Materials Center

<http://plants.alaska.gov/>

### Alaska Rock Garden Society

<http://www.akrockgardensociety.org/>

### Cooperative Extension Service, Palmer

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>



### Eat Local Alaska

<http://akfood.weebly.com/index.html>

### Integrated Pest Management Program

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ipm/>

### Junior Master Gardeners

<http://www.jmgkids.us/>

### Landscape Plants for Alaska

[www.alaskaplants.org](http://www.alaskaplants.org)

### Local Alaskan Plants Clearinghouse

<http://www.localplants.org/Home>

### Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

<http://www.matsugov.us/raingardens>

### Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

[www.matsumastergardeners.org](http://www.matsumastergardeners.org)

### Master Gardener Research Link

<http://search.extension.org>

### Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

<http://interiormastergardeners.org/>

### Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

### South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

<http://www.sababeekeepers.com/>

### Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners

<http://www.seakmg.org/>

### UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/pubs/catalog/>

### UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

<http://www.georgesonbg.org/>

### UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ipm/cmp/>

### University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

[www.fruit.usask.ca](http://www.fruit.usask.ca)

### USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

### Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation

<http://www.wasillaswcd.org/>

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## Announcements

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Know of an upcoming event or organization which needs our help? Let a board member know!

### BOARD MEMBER OPENING

The position of Club Secretary is still open. The job involves taking minutes at meetings and attending board meetings. If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Bowman for further details and information.

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## Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$12.

Membership forms are available to download on the club's website, [www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com)

*thank you*

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Rhonda Bowman</b>	<b>746-2948</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Curt Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Hally Truelove</b>	<b>376-0909</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cathy Crew</b>	<b>632-4401</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Marge Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>

If you have gardening news, photos or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please contact: Deb Blaylock @Email: [kdblalock@ak.net](mailto:kdblalock@ak.net)

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)  
Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

#### NOVEMBER

**Nov 2 - Fall Back -Daylight Savings Ends turn your clocks back 1 hour!**



**Nov 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Alaska Hydroponics**  
**Nov 14-15, Anchorage, Alaska Greenhouse, Nursery, & Landscape Conference**

#### DECEMBER AND BEYOND

**Dec 8, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Christmas Party**  
**\*\*\*NOTE DATE CHANGE\*\*\***  
**Dec 12-14, Palmer, Colony Christmas**  
**Dec 13, Palmer, Colony Christmas Parade**

#### 2015

**Jan 5, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD**  
**Feb 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD**  
**Mar 2 Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD**  
**Mar 7, Fairbanks, State Master Gardener Conference**  
**Apr 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD**  
**May 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD**  
**May 30, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale (tentative)**  
**Jun 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Palmer Library Planting**

## How and what to Submit for the Monthly Newsletter

Your submissions are greatly appreciated and make our newsletter what it is - so don't be shy about submitting items for publication. However, there are a few rules which we all must pay attention to:

Articles, stories, poetry, upcoming events, and pictures (garden-related) are gladly accepted for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit pictures in JPEG format and other items in Word format with no special formatting other than paragraphs. When submitting pictures, please provide a brief caption or explanation as to who or what is in the picture. I do not have a scanner to copy pictures so I cannot accept hard copies.

If you are not the author or photographer, please ensure you have permission of the author or photographer to use their material in the newsletter. The newsletter editor is not responsible for obtaining this for you.

Please do not provide magazine articles or pictures from the internet unless they are public domain items.

**Deadline for submission of articles and info:**  
**20<sup>th</sup> day of each month -- Thank you--**



November 2014



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Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)  
Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB**  
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