



## President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

Spring is in the air (or is it)? We passed the spring equinox a few days ago and there's been a bit of sunshine but this below zero weather at night needs to stop! Many of our spring seeds are planted and seedlings are filling the grow shelves. Some things are out in our greenhouse within a greenhouse, but the shelves are overflowing inside and soon the dining room may turn into a seedling area if things don't warm up soon. What do you have started?

Planning is underway for the annual plant sale scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. We received word that we won't be required to have any covid restrictions – which is great news. Individual tables can post signs if they want customers to wear masks, but the overall plant sale won't have any restrictions. There will be an online form to use for plant sale sign up as well as a sign-up roster at the at the May meeting. Plant labels will be available for those who have signed up for the plant sale. Please see pages 4 and 5 of the newsletter with this year's plant sale guidelines and instructions.

Our May meeting will be at the Lazy Mountain Bible Church. Eva Cohnen-Brown kindly coordinated the meeting location for us. We will publish directions in the May newsletter. Thank you, Eva, for coordinating the room!

A few of our members have been attending the online Advanced Master Gardener class which the Anchorage Master Gardeners hosted. We're three weeks into the course and I've learned so much already about garden design! Brenda Adams is an excellent teacher and I highly recommend looking for her gardening books to purchase.

Our next meeting will be a Zoom meeting. This will be a meeting you don't want to miss! Debbie Hinchey's classes are always a treat and full on so much great gardening information and tips! I can't wait to see what she has to say about summer bulbs. I hope to see you all there.

Happy spring gardening to you all!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Meeting	1
Peasant's Perspective	2
Minutes from March 2021	3
Upcoming Master Gardener Class	3
2021 Plant Sale Guidelines/Instructions	4/5
Garden Links	6
Contacts	7
Calendar of Events	7

### GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2021, 7 P.M.

LOCATION: ONLINE ZOOM PRESENTATION

BUSINESS MEETING AT 7 P.M.

SPEAKER/TOPIC 7:30 P.M.

DEBBIE HINCHEY, SUMMER BULBS.

SHE HAS BEEN A HORTICULTURIST (MOSTLY IN ANCHORAGE) SINCE 1974. SHE STARTED DEBBIE'S HORTICULTURE SERVICE, BUT NOW IS SEMI-RETIRED, GARDENING AT HOME AND AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE. DEBBIE HAS A MS IN HORTICULTURE FROM UAF AND IS CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN MANY GARDENING CLUBS IN THE ANCHORAGE AREA, INCLUDING SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THE ALASKA ROSE SOCIETY. DEBBIE WAS A FOUNDING MOTHER OF THE ALASKA BOTANICAL GARDENS.

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED OUT AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

## PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

No sign of a warmup yet, but it must surely happen sooner or later. We gardeners are always optimistic and get ready for the growing season even when mornings continue to get below the zero mark. The sunshine has been great, but no thawing taking place as of March 20. This has been a winter without any real thaws, and here we are at the vernal equinox, commonly referred to as the first day of spring. Chickadees and nuthatches abound, but we must wait for robins to show up. Surely, we'll get a break in April.

The peasant finds ultraviolet (UV) radiation to be an interesting and vital subject for gardeners. We're mostly interested in UVA and UVB, which are closest in the radiation spectrum to visible light. In our high latitude area, our amount of UV in sunlight is quite low. The sunlight is at an indirect level and must travel a greater distance through the ozone layer; this serves to effectively reduce the intensity of the UV received in our northerly latitude. Areas near the equator therefore receive much higher amounts of UV.

Nature has developed on our earth to adapt to the conditions as they are, so plants and animals are well prepared to accept conditions as they are, including UV. In plants it is useful for disease and fungus control and sometimes may help in drought or other stressful conditions. Well and good, but how does it affect gardeners?

Unless seed is direct sown outdoors in the garden, we all use plants that have been started indoors and then transplanted outside when the climate allows.

Window glass absorbs most UVB and a percentage of UVA, and the layers and composition of the glass may cause it to absorb UV almost entirely. UVB, by the way, is the type that can cause skin cancers.

Polycarbonates are popularly used in greenhouse construction as are fiberglass and other plastic glazing materials. All will absorb UV, some up to 100% of it.

For growers of indoor vegetables, supplemental lighting is used and may be designed to supply proper amounts of UV to promote growth and nutritional value of the plants grown.

The peasant has attempted to grow cabbage, cauliflower and carrots in the greenhouse and experienced failure of these plants to produce a crop under our long daylight hours. Others such as

tomatoes and peppers do very well and produce good crops. He attributes failure of some crops to a lack of UV in the greenhouse environment or perhaps other factors.

UV is a prime factor in hardening off plants that have been grown indoors. Wind and cold air are extremely important, but exposure to UV by plants that have not been previously exposed can be fatal unless mitigated. The peasant has grown numbers of plants outdoors and does not enjoy hauling plants back and forth to the greenhouse. Other ways, as long as temperatures are above freezing, is to put them in areas that are shaded most of the day, use dappled shade near trees or to use a device that receives its light through polycarbonate from the south and overhead and receives light [but not direct sunlight] from the north. That indirect light will allow some UV to reach the plants and accustom them to the UV in direct sunlight after a week or so, depending on the plant type, thus allowing them to thrive when moved into direct sun.

Thanks, folks.



The peasant's hardening-off table. Camera parallax makes it appear tilted. The open side faces north and is shaded by trees. It is useful for winter storage and works very well for preparing plants for the garden. It has hooks and a bar for hanging baskets and is a comfortable working height. Plants are left outside once moved out, with exceptions for very tender plants. This structure has saved much labor for the peasant and Marge.

## Mat-Su Master Gardener Meeting Minutes: March 1, 2021

Submitted by Secretary Dorte Mobley Deb and Ken Blaylock, Kristina Tornqvist, Curt and Marge Mueller, Cathy Crew, Gregory Kalal, Michael Kircher, Phyllis Kircher, Dorte Mobley, Craig Lisonbee, Sue Glenn, Eva Cohnen-Brown, Jim & Linda Myer-Steele, Brenda Luthi, Clint Rayback, Lois Rockcastle

Cathy provided the treasurer's report: We have \$4,217.61 in the checking account and \$7,751.45 in savings. Motion to approve was made and seconded by unknown. Motion approved.

The IRS "990 N postcard" has been filed by Cathy.

Minutes were in newsletter. There were no corrections and the motion by Kristina, seconded by Sue and approved.

### Committee Reports

Deb Blaylock reported on the plant sale: Wendel Lewis, a new member, will help with plant sale signs, tables and chairs for cashier/check-out area; Ann Eagerton, advertising, Cathy Crew, money. We still need 3-4 people to help with the check-out and Cathy. We may need to purchase sanitation supplies and probably will need to follow the rules for Friday Flings regarding Covid precautions.

Sue Glenn reported that the Mid Valley Greenhouse will be donating flowers to the library and Pioneer Home plantings - about \$300 worth. Sue will arrange what we need with them and planting dates will be: Pioneer Home - June 7 and Library - June 14.

Sue Glenn has mailed in paperwork for the Midsummer Art and Garden Faire. It is free for us because we are not selling anything, and we are a 501c3 organization.

Michael Kircher reported that he is looking at fencing for the Rebarchek garden. There

will be lots of things happening there this summer. The house has been remodeled and now has a meeting room for up to 12 people.

Membership directory has been mailed out.

We still don't have a name for the guest speaker for the April Zoom meeting.

May meeting will be in person at the Lazy Mountain Bible Church. More details to follow.

New Business.

Pat Holloway shared some Siberian Columbine seeds with the club. Info in an email sent on how members can request a packet of seeds. A few packets have been sent out to members. Seeds still available.

Theresa Isaac at the Matanuska Experiment Farm is looking for a few Master Gardener mentors for a project she is starting, called Healing Gardens or Gardens of Healing. Contact her at 745-3360 or email [tmisaac@alaska.edu](mailto:tmisaac@alaska.edu) if you're interested.

Mat-Su Farm Bureau is looking for someone to give a seed starting/saving presentation.

Kristina motioned to adjourn the meeting and Sue seconded it. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:21

## UPCOMING ALASKA MASTER GARDENER CLASS

Steve Brown reports there will be an upcoming Alaska Master Gardener class starting in April.

The class will be open to the Valley and Anchorage. It be presented online using Zoom. The class is limited to 100 registrants and there are already 50 on the waiting list. Class will take place Mondays and Wednesdays, 1-2:30 pm. Start date is April 19 through May 19. Cost is \$200.

Registration details will be out soon.

### 2021 PLANT SALE PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES

The Plant Sale will be held on **June 5, 2021** from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Palmer Pavilion (across from the Palmer Visitor's Center). This is our major fundraising event for the year and members are encouraged to participate either by bringing plants to sell or helping out with the sale. It is an extremely popular event with members of our community and draws a large crowd.

1. All Mat-Su Master Gardener Association (MMGA) members who have joined or renewed their **membership AND signed up to participate in the plant sale by May 3rd, 2021** can participate in the plant sale. There will be an email with a link to an online sign-up form and a sign-up sheet at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
2. Plants should be brought to the Pavilion between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the plant sale. Please check in, sign your name, and verify your unique tag ID. No one may sign up on the day of the plant sale to participate as a vendor.
3. All plants for sale must be tagged with a white tag, showing the common name and/or botanical name of the plant. All items will have a yellow tag showing the item's price and the seller's unique ID. If there is no ID on the yellow tag, the item is assumed to be a donation to the Association. For all sales, the MMGA retains 20% from the sale of each item. The MMGA member will receive 80% from the sale of each item.
4. Native plants should be garden grown (PLEASE, no digging in the wild!). Please avoid bringing invasive plants like orange hawkweed, spotted knapweed, butter and eggs, etc. The Cooperative Extension Service offers a lengthy list and description of suspected invasive species.
5. Inspect all plants carefully to ensure no plants have evidence of insects or disease.
6. MMGA members may also sell crafts, arts, or garden-related items by providing and staffing their own tables. These items will also have the appropriate yellow price tag attached.
7. **All sales** will be made through the central check-out stand. Volunteers are needed to staff this.
8. There are some tables available at the Pavilion; however, it is recommended that you bring your own table. It is highly recommended that you bring items for your own comfort such as chairs, warm clothing, beverages, snacks, and a lunch.
9. **All unsold plants need to be picked up after the sale.** If you can't be there at 3 pm, please make arrangements for someone to collect any unsold plants. **Do not just drop off plants and leave them.**
10. You may also donate your excess plants to the MMGA for the various Association planting projects. Donations must be coordinated **prior to the closing of the plant sale.**
11. Proceeds from the sale will be calculated after the plant sale has ended. Normally, our treasurer will either mail each individual's 80% to their address on file with the Association or hand out checks at the June MMGA meeting.
12. Many helpers are needed to set up tables, arrange plants and boxes, receive money sort tags, answer buyer questions, and direct buyers to the appropriate tables. Please volunteer to help.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLANT SALE

Each plant or item offered for sale is to be marked with two tags - a white tag and a color tag. Sign up for the plant sale will either be by filling out an online form or at the May meeting. Tags will be available only for members who have signed up for the 2021 plant sale and will be available at the May 2021 Mat-Su Master Gardener Association meeting.

Choose an ID to mark your tags with. Most use their initials (two or three). Indicate your tag ID on the Plant Sale Sign-In sheet when you arrive at the morning of the plant sale. Members from previous plant sales will have priority for using previously used initials. Please ensure your tag ID is unique. Remember, your ID tells who gets paid for the sale of the item.

Use permanent marker or #2 pencil to label the tags (something which will not fade):

White tag has common or botanical name of plant and any optional information.

Yellow tag - the item price (**in \$1 increments ONLY - please no 25¢, 50¢, 99¢, etc.**) and your unique tag ID

Yellow Tag - Front  
Price



Yellow Tag - Back  
Unique ID



White Tag      Plant Name



The MMGA receives 20% of the sale from each plant or item and you receive 80%. If there is no yellow tag or the unique tag ID is unreadable, it is assumed that all proceeds go to the MMGA (thanks for the donation!)

Members often ask how to price plants, but you may want to price yours other than the suggestions below. Price them to sell. Plants that have not sold by noon may be reduced in price.

**SUGGESTED PLANT PRICING (These are just suggestions - you may use any price for plants as long as it seems reasonable and prices are in \$1 increments - this is non-negotiable)**

Perennials, including herbs:	3" pot	\$3 - \$4
	4" pot	\$4 - \$5
	6" pot	\$5 - \$6
	Gal. pot	\$6 - \$8
Annual Flowers, Vegetables, Herbs	4/6 cell pot	\$3 - \$4
	3" pot	\$3 - \$4
Tomatoes (plant size, variety, and post size determine price)		\$3 - \$10
Strawberries		\$1 - \$2
Raspberries, Currants, Rhubarb	gallon pot	\$5 - \$10
Shrubs trees	2-gallon pot	\$10 - \$15

## Garden Links (updated Mar 2021)

### Alaska Botanical Garden

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

### Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

### Arbor Day Foundation

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

### Alaska Division of Agriculture

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>

### Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

### Alaska Grown

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

### Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

### Alaska Master Gardener Blog

<https://alaskamastergardener.community.uaf.edu/>

### Alaska Native Plant Society

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

### Alaska Orchid Society

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

### Alaska Peony Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.org>

### Alaska Peony Society

<https://www.alaskapeonysociety.com/>

### Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

### Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

### Alaska Rhodiola

<https://www.akroseroot.com/>

### Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

### Good Earth Garden School

<http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

### Grow Palmer

<http://growpalmer.org/>

### Integrated Pest Management Program

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

### Junior Master Gardener

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

### Landscape Plants for Alaska

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

### Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

### Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

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

### Master Gardener Research Link (Extension)

<http://search.extension.org>

### Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

<https://fairbanksmastergardeners.wordpress.com/>

### Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Services \*New\*

<https://www.uaf.edu/afes/places/palmer/>

### Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

### Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter \*New\*

<http://www.alaska.forestry.org/alaska/chapters/cook-inlet>

### South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

### Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Association

<http://seak-mastergardeners.org/index.html>

### Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/sare/>

### UAF Cooperative Extension Service

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/>

### UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

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

### UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

<https://pestreporter.alaska.edu/>

### UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

### UAF Herbarium

<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/herb/>

### UAF Alaska Master Gardener Program

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/mastergardeners/>

### UAF School of Natural Resources & Extension

<http://www.uaf.edu/snre/>

### University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

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

### USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

<https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/>



## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Deb Blaylock</b>	<b>746-6045/kdblalock@ak.net</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Kristina Tornqvist</b>	<b>797-6393</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Dorte Mobley</b>	<b>232-5422</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cathy Crew</b>	<b>632-4401</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Sue Glenn</b>	<b>671-0252</b>

If you have gardening news, photos, or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please send to the MMGA email.

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)

Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL 2021 AND BEYOND

**Apr 5**, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Debbie Hinchey, Summer Bulbs

**May 3**, Palmer, MMGA meeting, TBD

**Jun 5**, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale

**Jun 7**, Palmer, Palmer Veterans and Pioneer Home Planting

**Jun 14**, Palmer, Palmer Library Planting

**May/Jun TBD**, Palmer, Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home Planting

**Jul/Aug**, Member-Only Summer Garden Tour(s)

**Aug 20 – Sep 6**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

**Aug 28, Palmer**, Alaska State Fair Parade (tentative)

**Sep 13**, Palmer, MMGA meeting, TBD

**Oct 4**, Palmer, MMGA meeting TBD

**Nov 1**, Palmer, Annual MMGA meeting, TBD

**Dec 6**, Palmer, Christmas Party

### *Club Membership*

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$15 and family memberships are \$20. Family memberships are only for family members living in the same household. The deadline to join is January 15, 2021 to be listed in the annual membership directory.

Join or renew online.

*Thank you!*

## 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 publisher 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--**



April 2021



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**Facebook**

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)  
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