



President's Patch

By President Dorte Mobley

Happy spring to all of you!

Well, it's officially spring by the time you get this. If you look outside, it's not totally here but subtle signs are definitely there. I see pussy willows along the roads and the snow is melting on the south-facing sides of the berms. I was just talking with Lars, my 22-year-old, and he said we will get one more big snow fall in March, another big one in April and a small one in May. I hope he is wrong! I am ready for not shoveling any bigger snowfalls this year.

The conference is going full speed ahead thanks to Deb's great leadership. We will have a full house – all 100 tickets are already sold so that is really great. A lot of interest for gardening information out there and we might get a bunch of new members out of it.

I know several members have their greenhouses up and running, and I do too. I have the overwintered fuchsia, pelargoniums, and lilies out there and I am enjoying hanging out with them – still with blankets wrapped around me, but soon new babies will move in, and the heat will be bumped up, so they and I won't need the blankets. If you are in the neighborhood, please feel free to come by and visit for a while. I have extra blankets.

We will finally have an in-person meeting! Our April 4th meeting will be at Aurora Gardens (4280 N Ryder Drive on the Palmer-Fishhook Road) where Julie Pollard will be talking to us about the coming season.



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GENERAL MEETINGS
FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
NEXT GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, APR 4TH, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

AURORA GARDENS, 4280 N RYDER DR., PALMER, AK (JUST OFF PALMER FISHHOOK RD)

MEETING AGENDA

BUSINESS MEETING 7:00 PM
GUEST SPEAKER 7:30 PM

JULIE POLLARD, AURORA GARDENS, WILL SPEAK ON THE UPCOMING GROWING SEASON. WE WILL MEET AT HER GREENHOUSE AT THE BASE OF HATCHER PASS.

HERE'S A LINK TO GOOGLE MAPS FOR DIRECTIONS: https://goo.gl/maps/UgvN6iNLfJKX75He9

PLANT LABELS AND PLANT SALE SIGN UP SHEET WILL BE AT THE MEETING.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

As this is written on Saturday, March 19, the sun is out in all its spring brilliance and temperatures will get to the high forties. With our abundance of snow, we are surely ready for some serious thawing. Sadly, when the top layers are gone, we will be reminded of the windstorm of the new year with its litter of twigs and branches and fallen trees in our yards. Cleanup is ahead of us, and it will be a formidable job.

Let's change the subject. The peasant would like to remind you folks about some ways to extend the season for edibles. Many of you are familiar with these methods and some may be newcomers to vegetable gardening, so I hope nobody's insulted by some reviews.

Selection of varieties is a start. Some varieties such as cabbage and cauliflower are available in varying maturities, and we can take advantage of that to extend the harvest. Cauliflower is available in 55 to 85 days maturity. Storage cabbage is available to 110 days and more and can stand in the garden and stay in excellent edible quality during hard frosts and can be stored in cool storage for some time after harvest. Staggering planting times works well with either starting transplants or direct seeding in the garden. A week or two can be of help in that regard.

Various methods of protection to promote growth is another factor. Of course, greenhouses work well and various fabrics for plant covers and ground cover to warm the soil can be a benefit. Red plastic laid beneath plants will encourage more and earlier production. Translucent red covering in a greenhouse to enhance the red spectrum is being experimented with and showing some real improvement in growth. Supplemental lighting works well in some situations.

The peasant likes to jump-start some plants by presprouting. You may first cut your seed potatoes and then place them in flats on a layer of medium and then cover them with more of the same medium. This can be lightly moistened, but not overly moistened. The flats are placed in a warm place where the cuttings will develop a rosette of roots after a few days. Meanwhile, the soil is warming in the garden and the potatoes will come up sooner than if planted in cold soil, and there will be no blank spots as only those that have formed a

circle of roots are planted. There is not a lot of extra labor involved in this, and it does work.

Peas and beans can be pre-sprouted as well in flats. A moist kitchen towel is laid in the flat and the seeds are laid out in a single layer on the towel. The varieties are separated and marked. A moist towel is laid over the seed. The top towel will need to be kept moist and will need to be removed every day or so to keep the seed moist. Any seeds that are allowed to dry out during the germination process may not germinate at all. That holds true for seeds that are planted directly in the garden as well. When peas and beans have produced a visible rootlet, they are ready to be seeded in the garden. They may not all germinate evenly and there will be some that do not germinate at all. The presprout method allows you to discard the ones that don't sprout, and you will be rewarded with an earlier and 100% stand of peas or beans.

Extending the late summer or fall season can be accomplished by using covers, although most of the vegetables we grow can manage some frost. Tomatoes will need protection as well as peppers, cucumbers, and squash. These are greenhouse plants for the most part in our area, although there are some which will thrive outdoors but will not survive frosts.

The peasant hopes you find this useful. Thanks, folks.



Warming the soil for beans in a raised bed.

CHEAPER FOOD CROP:

By Isaac Vaughan, Master Gardener

Duckweed is an aquatic crop in the calla family, *Araceae*. The plant grows floating on the surface of still or slow-moving water, serving as a source of food for fish and waterfowl, a method of nitrate removal, and also a bothersome weed. A compound called calcium oxalate exists in the leaves of some species in trace amounts. This mineral compound is what makes buttercups inedible when raw, and what gives the Dumb Cane its power. As some may know, with a boiling and change of water, this particular toxin is easily cooked off if the duckweed is going to be dried for human consumption.

However, un-steeped duckweed can safely be made into livestock feed. Dried, it is about 35% protein. And as we livestock raisers know, that is a fair amount of protein (commercial chicken feed runs at around 15%-20% protein). As it is not likely to become a staple food source, it can be sustainably grown on a small-scale to supplement (dried and ground) chicken, horse, cow, or rabbit feed.

Duckweed culture is simple - put it in water in a well-lit location, and when the water is no longer clear, rinse and replace it with very, very lightly fertilized replacement water. To prep it for animal feed, rake up a large pile off the surface of the water, lightly spread it over a window screen or fine sieve, and let it dry in a sunny, well-ventilated area. Once it is completely dried, it can be ground in a gristmill and mixed with the animal food. If it is intended for human consumption, it must be steeped before it is dried. This is done in following steps - rinse, put in mesh bag, tie, boil the mesh bag, change the water, boil again, rinse, then dry.

2022 Standing Committee Volunteers

- Monthly Newsletter Deb Blaylock, publisher
- Website Manager Eva Cohnen-Brown
- Guest speakers & meeting space coordinator for monthly regular meetings: - Vacant
- Membership Directory Kristina Torngvist
- Rebarchek Farm Project Michael Kircher, chair
- Annual Plant Sale Isaac Vaughan
- Palmer Library & Pioneer Home Planting Sue Glenn
- Midsummer Garden & Art Faire Chair: Craig Lisonbee
- Summer Garden Tours Kristina Tornqvist and Dorte Mobley
- Alaska State Fair awards Deb Blaylock
- State Fair Parade Vacant
- Nominations Committee Vacant
- 2022 Christmas Party Vacant

As you can see, some of our 2022 Standing Committees still need volunteers. Please contact one of the board members if you would like to fill one of the vacancies. Thank you!



We are looking for a student worker to join our team this spring!

Horticulture Assistant - Palmer

Do you love to play in the soil? Do you get excited when the seeds you started sprout? Do you have a curious mind and want to learn what affects the growth of specific plants?

If you are you a goal-oriented and self-motivated person join our team of professionals at the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center. You will work hands on with agriculture research!

This office serves the Mat-Su Valley through outreach, education, and continued research collaboration. This student position includes various duties, some including preparing seed, planting, maintaining and harvesting research plots in the summer and various indoor research projects during the winter.

Must have excellent communication skills and bring a positive approach.

This is a great opportunity to work with a dedicated team while continuing your education and completing classes.

Please help spread the word!

MUST BE ENROLLED in at least 6 credits for the current semester to be eligible

Apply here: https://careers.alaska.edu/en-us/job/518957/horticulture-assistantpalmer

WHY I GARDEN: BY DORTE MOBLEY, MASTER GARDENER

When I was a young girl, only my grandmother on my dad's side had a car. Nobody on my mom's side of the family owned a car. Sometimes, she would come to Copenhagen and take my sister and me down to the little town she lived in. In the summer we would play in the woods around her apartment building and most times, we would do the drive out to her sister, who lived in an even smaller town out in the countryside. You would drive out this little country road that went between fields and the best – through the woods down there. The trees were huge old beech trees that in the later summer totally closed their crowns above your head, so you felt that you were in a beautiful green tunnel. After driving along more fields, you would arrive in her little town with the white church surrounded by the walled graveyard and the town's pond on the right.

"Moster (Danish for aunt) Anna" lived in a little house just on the other side of the pond. She had a little driveway next to the house that led to a small "garage." She didn't have a car either so instead it had shelves and benches full of wooden crates and containers that smelled lovely of the apples and other vegetables that she stored in them during the winter. My sister and I loved going there because it was such a different life from our city life. She had chickens, a huge vegetable garden with some flowers, cherry and apple trees and the best - in the far back was a whole row of big hazelnut bushes. Her whole back yard was fenced in by a big hedge and on the other side of the hazelnuts was an old wooden gate that led out to the fields where horses and cows grazed. What a wondrous place to explore!

Moster Anna didn't just grow all this yummy stuff, she also canned and stored it all. The basement

under her house had a huge built-in root cellar where shelves with jars and crates with apples, potatoes and other vegetables filled the walls. We were always going home with jam, potatoes, vegetables, or apples and in the summer a bouquet or two of flowers.

In the "garage" was an old scale with the different weights for it. There was also a small container with different coins. Perfect place to play "shop." We would spend hours harvesting some vegetables or fruits and then selling it to each other before we either ate it or packed it up to bring home.

You might be wondering by now why I am telling you this story. But this garden was my inspiration to become a gardener myself. I remember admiring the straight rows of vegetables and flowers without weeds (!!). She must have spent so much time there! I remember throwing weeds or vegetable scraps to the chickens and going on an adventure with her – we weren't allowed to go by ourselves - to look for eggs. If she found a chicken that wanted to sit in the nest and be broody, she fixed her all up by putting her in a small box with a rock on it in the little shop next to the garage. I still wonder how long the chicken had to be in jail before she was let back out.

When my boys were little, we also had a huge vegetable garden. Picking the peas, digging the potatoes, or harvesting a head of broccoli took me back to the warm, sunny days in Moster Anna's garden, playing with my sister and learning where food really comes from.

2022 PLANT SALE PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES

The Plant Sale will be held on **Jun 4th, 2022,** 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 a very 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 2nd, 2022, can participate in the plant sale. Helpers are needed to help with checkout, help the cashier, sort tags, answer buyer questions, and direct buyers to the appropriate tables.
- 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 plan for someone to take your 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 following MMGA meeting. Please indicate on the sign-in sheet how you would like to receive your check.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLANT SALE

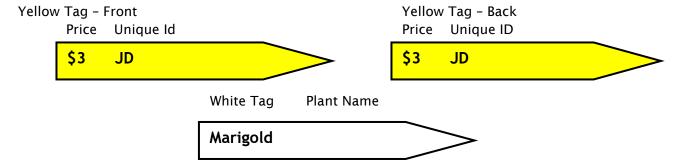
Each plant or item offered for sale is to be marked with two tags - a white tag and a color tag. Tags will be available only for members who have signed up for the 2022 plant sale and will be available at the April and May 2022 Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association meetings.

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. 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:

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



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
	gallon pot	\$6 - \$8
Annuals, including herbs	4/6 cell pot	
	3" pot	\$3 - \$4
Vegetables	4/6 cell pot	
	3" pot	\$3 - \$4
Tomatoes (plant size, variety, and post size determine price)		\$3 - \$10
Strawberries (depending on pot size)		\$3 - \$4
Raspberries, Currants, Rhubarb	gallon pot	\$5 - \$10
Shrubs trees	2-gallon pot	\$10 - \$15

March 7th Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Secretary Isaac Vaughan

Present: Isaac Vaughan, Mrs. Dorte Mobley, Mr. Craig Lisonbee, Mrs. Deb Blaylock Mr. Kenneth Blaylock, Mrs. Eva Cohnen-Brown, Mrs. Sue Glenn, Mrs. Cathy Crew, Mr. Curt Mueller, Mr. Greg Kalal, Mrs. Phyllis Kircher, Mr. Michael Kircher, Laurel Flynn

Opened by: Mrs. Dorte Mobley.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes: Mr. Kenneth Blaylock motioned, seconded by Mrs. Deb Blaylock

Treasurer's report: presented by Mrs. Cathy Crew, Mr. Curt Mueller motioned to accept, seconded by Mrs. Sue Glenn

Some people still need to sign up for conference before \$75 fee goes into effect.

Nothing new on newsletter, Palmer plantings, or Rebarchek Farm.

I volunteered to take charge of plant sale; thanks, Mrs. Blaylock for the help!

Nothing new on speakers for the coming meetings.

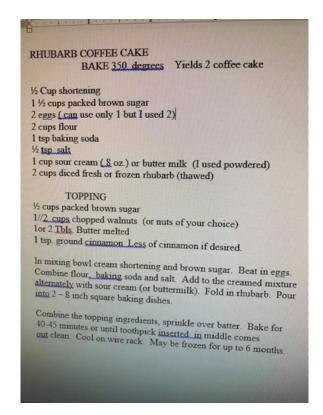
Possible that we can go back to the College or Valley Church of Christ building for a meeting location.

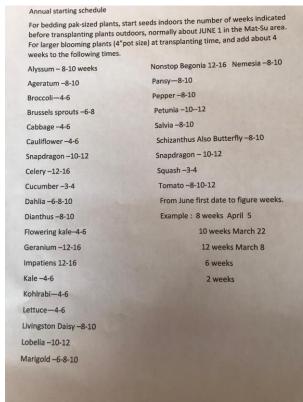
Still insured, \$1,000 yearly dues, somebody needs to contact State Farm to revive our policies.

Nothing new on the webpage.

Mrs. Sue Glenn motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Blaylock

Rhubarb Recipe and Seed Starting Schedule submitted by Lenita Deda





Garden Links (updated Apr 2022)

Alaska Botanical Garden

http://www.alaskabg.org/

Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

Arbor Day Foundation

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 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/

Georgeson Botanical Garden *New*

https://georgesonbotanicalgarden.org/

Integrated Pest Management Program

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

Junior Master Gardener

http://www.jmgkids.us/

Landscape Plants for Alaska

www.alaskaplants.org

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

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

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

http://palmersoilandwater.org/

Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter

https://forestry.org/alaska/

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

USDA/NRCS Plant Database

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



CLUB CONTACT INFO

President: Dorte Mobley 907-232-5422
Vice President: Kristina Tornqvist 907-795-6393
Secretary: Isaac Vaughan dnavon@msn.com

Treasurer: Cathy Crew 907-632-4401 Member at Large: Sue Glenn 907-671-0252

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

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/
Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 2022 AND BEYOND

Apr 2, Wasilla, (Evangelo's), State Master Gardener Conference, "You Can Grow It!", https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/2022-state-conference.html

Apr 4, Palmer, Regular Meeting, Julie Pollard, Aurora Gardens

May 2, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD May TBD, Palmer, Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home Planting

Jun 4, Palmer, Palmer Pavilion, Annual Plant Sale

Jun 13, Palmer, Regular Meeting, Planting at Palmer Public Library

Jul 9, Palmer Garden & Art Faire

Jul/Aug, TBD, Summer Garden Tour(s)

Aug 19 - Sep 5, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

Sep 12, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

Oct 3, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

Nov 7, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

Dec 5, Palmer, Christmas Party

Don't forget to check out the photos tab on our webpage! Eva updates it periodically from activities our Association participates in. https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/photos.html

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, 2022, 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 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:

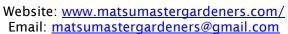
Articles, stories, poetry, upcoming events, and pictures (garden-related) are gladly accepted for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit pictures in JPEG format and other items in Word format with no special formatting other than paragraphs. When submitting pictures, please provide a brief caption or explanation as to who or what is in the picture.

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^{th} day of each month ~~ Thank you~~









MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION PO BOX 598 PALMER, AK 99645

