



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

What a glorious summer! This is one to go down in the record books and I'm sure will stand out in our memories for quite some time! Record high temperatures combined with minimal rainfall have left most of us with carpal tunnel syndrome from holding hoses and watering wands. Curt Mueller has written some helpful tidbits on how to set up a drip watering system in his monthly column. I'm definitely going to be looking into setting up a better system.

The Alaska State Fairgrounds gave a tour of a few of their gardens to a group of MMGA members. We weren't allowed to see the greenhouse because of their top-secret projects to be revealed during the State Fair. I can't wait to see the wonders head gardener Becky has in store for fairgoers this year.

The flower beds at the Palmer Veterans and Pioneer Home and the Palmer Public Library are looking good but quite a bit of chickweed and some grass were hiding in there. Please make sure you're visiting both locations during your volunteer weeding week. At the Pioneer home, there are three beds to weed – one at driveway entrance, one at the flagpole and one by the building front entrance. Here's a photo of the main bed at the Palmer Library entrance with Steve Brown, our dedicated and hard-working CES advisor (photo by Eva Cohnen-Brown).



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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2019

DURING THE SUMMER, WE HAVE GARDEN TOURS FOR MEMBERS ONLY. AN E-MAIL WILL BE SENT OUT TO ALL CURRENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERS WITH DETAILS OF THE AUGUST TOUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE - BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR IT!

Curt Mueller is looking for two folks to ride on our float in the Alaska State Fair parade. They would need to bring lawn chairs to sit on. These two could also help with float assembly on the day of the parade, August 24th. He also needs a bale of Promix or coconut coir to display on the float. Curt's email is mueller@mtaonline.net if you would like to help out.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos submitted by the author

The peasant has been writing monthly articles for our newsletter for some years and thinks it's time for some help. It is certainly true that avid gardeners, such as we are, have had unique experiences that, if shared, will be of interest and benefit to all of us. So how about sharing some of your secrets and making our newsletter more interesting? In the past - sometimes at the end of the growing season - we made the rounds of the attendees at a meeting with each person sharing a success or anomaly that was experienced during the summer. Maybe relating our stories could replace having a speaker at a fall meeting. We could all be speakers. The point is to spread our knowledge and experiences. There is much accumulated knowledge and skill among our group. The dissemination of knowledge is a prime goal of the master gardener program.

The preceding paragraph was taken from a newsletter of some months ago. It still holds true, and our monthly newsletter would benefit from more input from members of our group. Help!

This has been a mighty warm and dry time, and to keep our plants growing and thriving has required much and frequent watering. The peasant would like to put forward a watering method that has worked very well. The main part of the system is 1/4-inch drip hose. The components of the setup were purchased at Far North Garden Supply, which unfortunately is no longer in business in our area. The producer of the various parts in the peasant's setup is Rain Drip. There are other manufacturers who produce some parts which are interchangeable with Rain Drip. Some of this is available locally and some can be found online.

The peasant has several years of experience using this small drip hose and is very pleased with the system. It is labor-saving once set up and allows for even watering in the vegetable garden. It puts the water where it's needed and is definitely thrifty with the water, especially when compared to a sprinkler system. There's not sufficient space here to go into all details of setting it up, but there is literature available

from the suppliers of the components. Some photos are included with this essay which will cover some of the main points.

The components are not super expensive but there is some cost involved. Some research on the internet will give one some idea of what to expect. The peasant feels that the investment is well worth the results. Thanks, folks.

Drip Irrigation Set-Up Information



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows some basic components of the drip system, beginning at top left. Short piece of feeder tubing, feeder line shutoff valve, pressure regulator, double loop for stubbing off feeder line, 90-degree ell, line coupling.

Top right is short piece of drip hose with tee inserted, two connectors to hook to feeder line or splice drip hose, tee, hole plug for feeder line or end of drip hose, hand tool for puncturing feeder line.



Figure 2

Figure 2 shows how water is fed into the drip system. It shows a garden hose and shutoff valve attached on the left side of the filter. Directly below the elbow is a black cylindrical object which is a pressure regulator. It drops line pressure to 25-30 psi and holds a steady pressure. It prevents over pressuring the system. The filter may not be necessary, but it prevents clogging the soaker hose with any sediment. To the right of the filter the plumbing is adapted to the feeder tubing.



Figure 3

Figure 3 is a closeup of the drip hose as it connects to the feeder line. The feeder line is punctured with a hand tool and a small fitting is stabbed into the hole and the drip hose pushed onto the fitting. Please note the beads of moisture on the drip hose. There is no spray as the water oozes out through the porous hose. The hose is made from recycled rubber. The raised bed is twelve feet long and the feeder line is located in the center of the bed with six feet of drip hose going either direction. By keeping the drip hose short a more even watering is achieved. On a 12-foot run the flow begins to lessen at the end farthest from the feeder line. To the left of the photo is a protuberance on the feeder line. This is a plug to patch a previous outlet on the line. This type of plug is used on the far end of the drip hose.



Figure 4

Figure 4 shows hookup for watering beans. Bottom left is shutoff valve for feeder line which is ½-inch tubing. Drip hose is connected to feeder line and runs next to row. There is no need to soak the whole bed as the water soaks into the root zone of the beans. By keeping the rest of the soil surface dry there is less necessity for weeding that area.



Figure 5

Figure 5 shows watering setup as used for onions. Soaker hose runs between every two rows, with rows being eight inches apart. A similar setup is used for strawberries. The spray from a sprinkler system on strawberries in bloom tends to wash some of the pollen off the flowers, resulting in partially pollinated berries.

In center bottom of this photo is shutoff used on the end of a supply line. It has a double loop which is slipped over the tube and the tube is then doubled back to pinch it off and slipped through the other part of the loop. Simple but effective. When the supply tube is run from one bed to another it is buried shallowly in the soil. Each bed has its own shutoff valve so beds may be watered individually. Lines are not drained for winter as there is enough flexibility in the lines, so they don't burst. Note the conduit clips used to hold the feeder line in place at the edge of the bed. The drip system lends itself exceedingly well to raised beds.



Now is the time to sign-up to be a volunteer in the June Tull 4-H Building! Master Gardeners are desperately needed to answer gardening questions from the public. Volunteers are responsible for manning 3.25 hours slots and get a complimentary Alaska State Fair entry ticket.

Sign up here: <http://bit.ly/2VC8HkQ>

Select the time slot(s) you want and enter the submit button. A dialogue box will then appear that will allow you to enter your name. See you at the Fair...It's only one month away!

PALMER GARDEN AND ART FAIRE



Many thanks to all who "manned" our booth at the Faire on July 13th. It was a lovely day for the event. Thank you to Eva for the photo of a few of our volunteers talking with a booth visitor.

Master Gardener Class Registration Open

This 40-hour Master Gardener class provides a broad horticultural background and includes the topics of botany, soils, vegetable production, using organic and conventional techniques, Integrated Pest Management, greenhouses, lawns, houseplants, trees/shrubs, flowers and invasive plants. The Alaska Sustainable Gardening/Master Gardener textbook is included in the class fee of \$300.

The Palmer Master Gardener class begins on Tuesday, September 3rd and will run until December 10th. An Anchorage Master Gardener class is also available that meets on Mondays beginning August 26th.

To earn the title "Alaska Master Gardener," participants must complete 40 hours of community service involving horticulture. Those who complete their 40 hours of community service within one year of class start will get a \$100 rebate. Those who just want the information are welcome to enroll but will not receive the title or the rebate. For more information contact Steve Brown at scbrown4@alaska.edu or 907-745-3639.

Deadline to enroll is August 9th, but class always fills well before deadline. To register, go to: <https://bit.ly/2a5Q0Q7>

ALASKA STATE FAIR EXHIBITORS' GUIDES

How many of you wander through the Crops and Flowers departments in the "Barn" at the Alaska State Fair gazing at all the awesome entries? Have you wanted to enter something of your own? It's very easy to do. The State Fair has Exhibitor Guides online which have instruction with "What, When, Where and How" to enter flowers or vegetables or fruits or mushrooms (the list goes on). Here's a link to the general information on entries: <https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibits/>. Scroll down and click on Crops and/or Flowers to find out more specifics on each department. It is highly recommended to print out the general entry requirements as well as the department info you're interested in entering items into. Each is available in an easy-to-print PDF file. Still have questions? Each department has a contact person to help answer questions. Come on out and show off your prize carrots, giant cabbage or even a huge turnip!



LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Be part of the largest garden exhibit in Alaska! Entry and judging days at the Alaska State Fair's Crops and Flowers Departments are a fun environment to meet new people and catch up with old friends.

A great opportunity to learn something new and/or share your own gardening experiences.

You can also earn some credit for Alaska Master Gardener volunteer hours!

~ Entry Clerks ~

Wednesdays, August 21 & August 28

Three shifts available ... 12-5 PM, 3-8 PM and 5-9 PM

Duties: Help exhibitors fill out entry forms correctly and assist the entrant in the preparation of their entries for judging by showing/teaching how to follow the guidelines of the Exhibitor Guide, and placement of entry in the display area.

~ Judges Clerks ~

Thursdays, August 22 & August 29 from 8 AM-Noon

Duties: Record winning results, set up and place ribbons for the final display.

~ 1st & 2nd Entry Take down ~

Tuesdays, August 27 from 4-7 PM & September 3, from 9 AM-Noon

Duties: Looking for a few people to help with 1st and 2nd entry take down and ribbon sorting.

"Crazy Good" memories & fun times! Volunteers make it happen!

For more information contact Kathy Liska at (907) 337-2196, (907) 301-0317 or akliska@aol.com.

Sign Up for Weeding Palmer Library & Veterans and Pioneers Home

If you would like to sign up for an unclaimed week, email matsumastergardeners@gmail.com with the date and your name.

Week of:	Name
June 10	Arlene Bowman
June 17	Clint Rayback/Laurel Flynn
June 24	Rhonda Bowman/Sue Glenn
July 1	Anita Chace/Deb Caillouet
July 8	Hazel Koppenberg/Sally Sonichson
July 15	Laurel Flynn/Cathy Crew
July 22	Marge and Curt Mueller
July 29	Marcia Clemons/Sally Sonichson
August 5	Maria Cunningham
August 12	Deb & Ken Blaylock
August 19	Courtney Osmanson
August 26	Danielle Simoni

Garden Links

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 Farm to School

<https://www.farmtoschoolalaska.org/>

Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

Alaska Grown Source Book (online)

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/sourcebookindex2016.html>

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://alaskapeonysociety.wixsite.com/alaskapeonysociety>

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rhodiola **New**

<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 Gardeners

<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

<http://search.extension.org>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Association

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

Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/>

UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Palmer

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

UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

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

UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF Herbarium

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

UAF School of Natural Resources & Extension

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

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Submit an article to the newsletter
- Curt needs help with the State Fair float – he's looking for two folks to ride on the float.
- Sign up to work at the June Tull 4-H Building during the State Fair.
- Opportunities are now available to work at the Crops or Flowers Departments at the State Fair.

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblayment@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Dorte Mobley	232-5422
Treasurer:	Cathy Crew	632-4401
Member at Large:	Marge Mueller	745-6144

If you have gardening news, photos or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please contact Deb Blaylock at her email: kdblayment@ak.net

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2019

Aug 5, Palmer, Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center Tour – Members Only

Aug 24, MMGA State Fair Float Assembly

Aug 24, Palmer, Alaska State Fair Parade

Aug 22 – Sep 2, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, "Crazy Good"

SEPTEMBER 2019 AND BEYOND

Aug 22 – Sep 2, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, "Crazy Good"

Sep 3, Palmer, Alaska Master Gardener Course starts

Sep 9, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, TBD

Oct 7, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, TBD

Nov 3, Daylight Savings time ends

Nov 4, Palmer, MMGA Annual Meeting and TBD

Dec 2, Palmer, MMGA Annual Christmas Party

Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$12. Family memberships are only for family members living in the same household. The deadline to join is January 15, 2019 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: 20th day of each month -- Thank you--



August 2019



Like us on
Facebook

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Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

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