



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

We had a wonderful tour of some local greenhouses and gardens this past week. Many thanks to Cec Ellsworth of Veggies on the Rye, Doug and Florene Carney of Snow Fire Gardens, and Jaime Rodriguez of The Alpine Garden Nursery for allowing us to visit and walk through their lovely gardens. The weather gave us a break and we enjoyed sunshine and mosquitoes for most of our tour.

Cec's high tunnels were amazing and filled with an assortment of fruit trees and even some grapes! I can't wait to go back in a few years to see how everything will have filled in. He also reports a much-awaited Boreal Coir shipment has left Seattle and will be arriving in Anchorage in a few weeks.

Snow Fire Gardens was breathtaking and amazing! From flowers and vegetables to fruit trees, rock gardens and a hidden water feature – everything was absolutely amazing. We were even allowed to see the hidden-away "root cellar" which is actually a piece of local history. It was built by the Army Corps of Engineers back in the days of the pioneers, who used it to store potatoes. We can't thank the Carney's enough for the tour.

The last stop on our tour was to Jaime's Alpine Garden Nursery. He has an amazing variety of alpine plants, hypertufa troughs planted with small treasures, and his personal gardens filled with many surprises and delights. He has been to many places worldwide and has plants from England and even China.

On pages 4 and 5, you will find information on our Board of Directors and Committees. Take a minute and read through these. Think about which role best suits you and your talents. We are asking every member to choose at least one to volunteer for in 2021. As I have said before, many of the board members are stepping down after this year. It is time for others to volunteer and do something for the organization. I hate to say it, but if folks don't step

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GENERAL MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH NEXT GENERAL MEETING

LOCATION:
SPEAKER/TOPIC

THERE ARE NO GENERAL MEETINGS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST 2020.

AT THIS TIME, WE DON'T KNOW IF WE WILL HAVE IN PERSON MEETINGS FOR THE REMAINING REGULAR MEETINGS. WE WILL KEEP EVERYONE POSTED ON WHAT IS HAPPENING.

forward, our organization may have no choice but to dissolve. I know it's a dire statement to make, but it must be said. You will be receiving an email soon and I ask that you answer the call to duty.

There is no August regular meeting, and at this time, we don't know if we will be able to meet at the Experiment Farm. We will keep you informed via email on future meetings. Thank you everyone.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

We have memories of the heat and drought from a year ago, and the summer of 2020 is so vastly different. The trees have recovered from the brown leaves of last year. All is verdant and thriving. For vegetable growers among us it has been an excellent season and we hope for a surplus of quality produce. Marge and the peasant planted a number of Golden Acre cabbage with the intent of making a good batch of sauerkraut, but the plan has changed, and we have more cabbage than we can use.

The Palmer Food Bank was happy to take in our surplus for distribution to their clientele. It gives us much satisfaction knowing that this is being put to good use. Prospects for other crops such as beets, carrots, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, and many others are incredibly good, and many of us will have a bountiful harvest. There are several food banks and charities that will distribute food to those in need. For us, to share with others is a part of who we are. The people at Palmer Food Bank tell us that the fresh vegetables are very well received.

A varied diet with a goodly amount of vegetables and fruit helps promote healthy people. Let us share what we have with others, thereby helping to keep our population in good health.

Thanks, folks.



This photo is an example of a Golden Acre cabbage as of July 24, 2020. Sometimes considered an heirloom, it is a solid medium-sized cabbage of early maturity, forming tasty and attractive heads.

Charitable Organizations that Accept Donations of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

It's that time of year when we have extra veggies and fruit and might be looking for a good organization to donate to. Below is a list of some of them in the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage Bowl areas. If you know of any other organizations in our area, please feel free to send an email to matsumastergardeners@gmail.com. Please provide the organization name, location and phone number and a web page or Facebook link if possible. This list can be found year-round on our Facebook Group, Mat-Su Master Gardeners. Thank You!

Mat-Su Senior Services, 1132 S. Chugach Street, Palmer, Alaska 99645. Webpage: <http://www.matsuseniors.com/>

Mat-Su Food Bank, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 501 E Bogard Rd, Wasilla, AK 99654. Phone: 907-357-3769; Website: www.matsufoodbank.org; Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-1pm

Kids Kupboard, 3700 E Bogard Rd., Wasilla, Alaska, (907) 360-9476, Website: <http://www.kidskupboard.org/index.html>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kids-Kupboard-1533857823595450/>

Lutheran Social Services of Alaska-Direct Services, 1303 W 33rd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99503

Food Bank of Alaska, 2121 Spar Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501, [\(907\) 272-3663](tel:9072723663).

Catholic Social Services, 3710 E 20th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508, [\(907\) 222-7300](tel:9072227300).

Wasilla Area Seniors, 1301 S. Century Circle, Wasilla 99654, 907-376-3104, <https://www.facebook.com/WasillaAreaSeniorsInc/>

Palmer Food Bank, 221 South Valley Way, Palmer 99645, 746-3565

Frontline Mission 2001 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Wasilla, AK, 357-8600

St. Francis House Food Pantry, 3710 E 20th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508, Phone 907-222-7323 (front desk), Chris Kukay, Program Director, ckukay@cssalaska.org. <https://www.cssalaska.org/our-programs/st-francis-house/>

The Alaska Zoo, 4731 O'Malley Rd, Anchorage, AK, 99507, (907) 346-2133, <https://www.alaskazoo.org/food-donations>

Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Mile 79 Seward Highway, Portage, Alaska 99587, phone: 907-783-0058, email them at: donations@alaskawildlife.org, website: <https://www.alaskawildlife.org/support/wish-list/>

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association Board of Directors Information & Committees

The Board of Directors shall consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary plus one Member-at-Large. All Board members shall be elected by the membership. The Board shall provide full direction to all business between general membership meetings, outline yearly goals and programs, and take action to assure that the records of the Treasurer are audited annually. The Board may further establish standing rules and revise as needed.

Officers

Officers: The officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The President shall preside at regular and Board meetings, call Board meetings when necessary, appoint chairs to standing committees and make other appointments as needed.

The Vice-President shall conduct the business of the Association in the absence of the President.

The Secretary shall record the minutes of the Board meetings and regular meetings, initiate, and respond to correspondence and assure that the general membership is informed of chapter activities.

The Treasurer shall collect all monies and dues, pay all bills, and retain records of receipts and expenditures and present a financial report to the Board. The Treasurer shall present the monthly bank statement to the Board for monthly audit.

The Member-at-Large serves as a liaison between the Board of Directors and the rest of the organization.

Election, Terms of Office: If more than one person is nominated for an office, the Officer shall be elected by ballot. If there is only one nominee for an office, a vote on that nominee may be taken by show of hands. If there is only one nominee for each of the offices, the President may ask for unanimous consent by show of hands. The Officers as well as the Member-at-Large shall serve a one-year term. The term of office shall begin the following January.

Committees

Newsletter - The newsletter committee shall prepare the monthly newsletter and send it to the web master to post it online and send an email with a link to the web page. This committee will also send out emails and other notices to Association members and interested parties on various club activities and as requested by the Association. Members without email will get a newsletter mailed to them after they provide the Board with mailing address.

Rebarchek Farm - Rebarchek planning committee will make recommendations and submit plans to the MG members for approval and participation.

Palmer Library Planting - The committee shall arrange for members to donate plants or, if needed, buy plants in accordance with the Association's budget. The Association traditionally does this the first Monday in June. If soil in beds needs amending the committee will arrange for amendments to be donated or purchased.

Parade participation - The committee shall arrange to sign the Association up for parades if so requested by the membership, and for a float to be made if so desired. The committee will coordinate work days and a location to build the float if needed.

Palmer Veterans and Pioneer Home Planting - The committee shall buy plants in accordance with the Association's budget and arrange for a planting date to be announced to the members. If soil in beds needs amending the committee will arrange for amendments to be donated or purchased.

Plant Sale - The committee shall arrange for the Palmer Pavilion reservation, supplies and advertising, provide sign-up sheet for sellers at April and May meetings, get table, chairs, and plant sale signs from the CES office, help the Treasurer tally yellow plant price labels, and give yellow plant labels back to selling members.

We have signs to hang on fences to advertise (this is usually done a few weeks ahead of time). There is also a sign to hang up on the shelter at the Pavilion.

State Fair - The committee shall coordinate with the State Fair Flower and Crops Department Superintendent on which Division and Class the Association will sponsor for each year's Alaska State Fair. The committee will coordinate with the Treasurer to purchase gift cards and take them to the main office at the fair with labels indicating which winners the prizes are for. The State Fair representative will mail the cards to each winner. The Board decides how much to give for each prize.

Summer Garden Tour - The committee shall arrange for garden tour/events that may occur on dates other than monthly meeting dates, announce the dates at the meeting and submit the information for inclusion in the newsletter the month before the event.

Webmaster - The Webmaster shall keep the Mat Su Master Gardener website up to date with Association activities and information. Each Planting Committee Chair will provide a summer weeding and watering schedule to the webmaster to post on the website for members to sign up

Yearbook - The yearbook committee shall compile, format, submit for printing and distribute the annual yearbook for the members.

Midsummer Garden and Art Faire – The MGAF committee will coordinate with the Palmer Chamber of Commerce regarding MMGA participation, submit an application as required, coordinate with the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center to arrange for publications to display and any other items from the MEFEC, coordinate with the MEFEC to pick up the MMGA table and chairs and items from the MEFEC to display, coordinate with MMGA members to staff the table and set up and take down the MMGA booth.

Guest Speakers for September thru November and January through May meetings. Develop a list of topics and guest speakers for the 2021 regular meetings. Coordinate with the guest speakers on what their equipment needs are and where and when to be at for the meetings. Let the guest speakers know the Association can pay them a small stipend for their time and expenses.

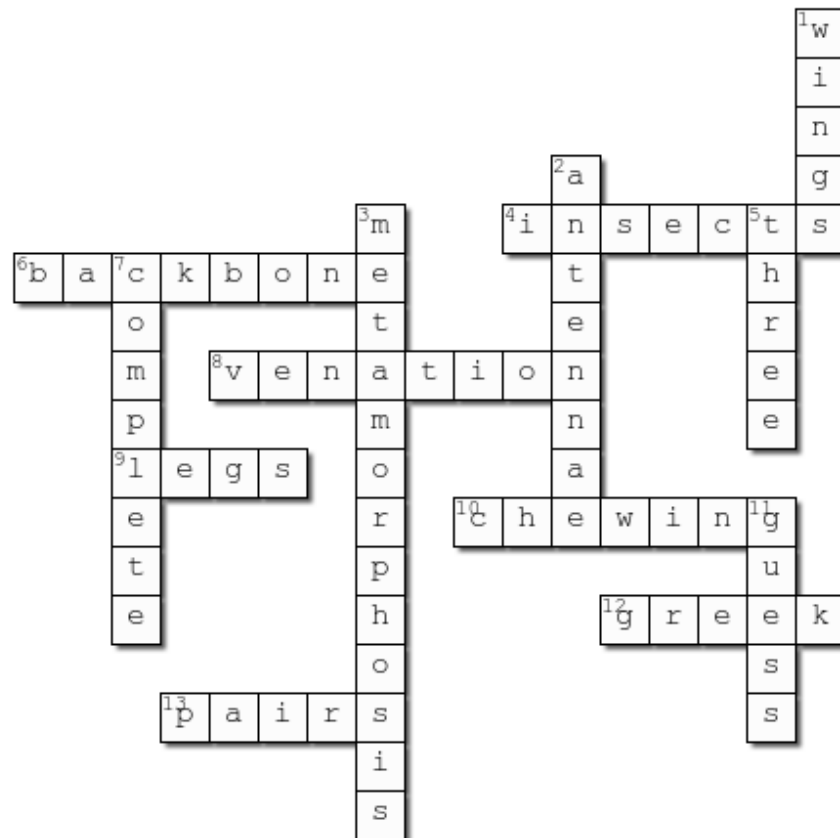
2021 State Master Gardener Conference. Coordinate with other Association members on the committees needed to put on the conference, determine a theme and location, guest speakers, etc. There is a lot of information available from past conferences to help the committee.

Meeting Space Coordinator Coordinate with the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center for meeting space for 2021. If this space is not available, find an adequate space centrally located in the Mat-Su Valley to hold our Monday night meetings.

Answers to July 2020 Puzzle

Basic Entomology

Questions and answers to this puzzle were taken from the April 2011 edition of the Alaska Sustainable Gardening, The Alaska Master Gardener Manual, HGA-00339.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

4. Knowledge of _____ classification, identification procedures and life cycles is of primary importance. (**insects**)
6. Insects are animals, but unlike many animals, they have no _____. (**backbone**)
8. _____ is the arrangement of veins in the insect's wings. It is different for each group of insects. (**venation**)
9. Each segment of the insect's thorax bears a pair of _____. (**legs**)
10. Mouthparts vary in form and function, but they fall into two basic types, _____ and sucking. (**chewing**)
12. The names of most insect orders end in the _____ word, 'ptera,' meaning wing. (**greek**)
13. Another important characteristic of insects is the presence of three _____ of jointed legs on the thorax. (**pairs**)

Down

1. Most adult insects have one or two pairs of _____. (**wings**)
2. One of the main features of an insect's head are its _____. (**antennae**)
3. One of the distinctive features of insects is the phenomenon called _____. (**metamorphosis**)
5. An adult insect's body is made up of _____ parts: head, thorax, and abdomen. (**three**)
7. _____ metamorphosis includes four stages: eggs, larva, pupa and adult (**complete**)
11. If you are uncertain of a pest's identity, do not _____. Insist on seeing the pest. (**guess**)

Garden Links (updated Nov 2019)

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

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

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

<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.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/>

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

<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 Data Base

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

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblalock@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Carolyn Johnson	619-857-6614
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 send to the MMGA email.

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2020 AND BEYOND

Sep 3, Palmer, Giant Cabbage & Giant Vegetables – Thursday, September 3, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm (Must pre-register),

<https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/harvest-fest/>

Sep 4-6, Palmer, Harvest Fest,

<https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/harvest-fest/>

Sep 14, Palmer, MMGA meeting, TBD

Oct 5, Palmer, MMGA meeting, TBD

Nov 2, Palmer, Annual MMGA meeting, TBD

Dec 7, Palmer, Christmas Party

Take a moment to enjoy some photos from the lovely July garden tour on the MMGA Facebook site – Mat-Su Master Gardeners. Thank you to Deb Blaylock and Eva Cohnen-Brown for sharing their photos.

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, 2020 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 2020



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
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