



President's Patch

By President Dorte Mobley, photo by the author

So, when I write this president's page, I look at the previous one and I cannot believe that I was talking about spring flowers - primulas and saxifrages - last month. Amazing that has only been a month. Seems like way longer. It has been hundreds of gallons of water later - both, that I have watered, but now we sure got some help in the watering department from Mother Nature. My trees are smiling. The blooms on my plants not so much. Deadheading is one of the chores that I like the least in the garden. And as usual, I am thinking that I should have put the tomato cages on the dahlias. I already have several with broken limbs. Oh, and next year I need to stake begonias too!!! I lost a few of those.

I got a new toy since the last note. I drove by a neighbor who had this little "chainsaw" with a 4" bar. It looks like a handheld drill. I saw what she did with it and had to have one. It is the sweetest thing - I know I wrote about my favorite garden tool earlier, but after having cut down a couple of ugly willows and numerous dead branches off my crabapple trees, this is my favorite. I stopped cutting since it was too dry to burn. Well, now I am waiting for it to dry up a little so it will burn. It is not always easy to be a gardener.

Please make sure you see all Becky's beautiful gardens when you go to the fair this year. Millie's Garden behind the lumber jack place is spectacular as always. That is one of my favorite places at the fair. I hope you have signed up to help with entries or judging. It is so much fun. It will be weird this year, though. I have heard they will not have any birds there due to the bird flu. They do not want to take chances and spread it. We will be able to hear ourselves thinking.

I am trying to work something out with the fair so we can see the fair gardens on the 5th of September. We will let you know as soon as I find out for sure.

For the regular meeting, we will meet at the Extension office meeting room at the farm on September the 12th. Last meeting, we talked about making it a potluck with produce from the gardens. Looking forward to tasting your yummy food.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Meeting	1
Peasant's Perspective	2
Rebarchek Project Barn Update	2
Alaska State Fair Tour Photos	2-3
4-H Spark Days	4
Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension	
Center July/August Classes	5
Garden Links	6
Contacts	7
Calendar of Events	8

REGULAR MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, SEP 12TH, TBD P.M.

MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM, 1509 S. GEORGESON
DR, PALMER, AK 99645

OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS NOT UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

WE ARE PLANNING A POTLUCK. BRING A DISH MADE
FROM SOMETHING YOUR GARDEN PRODUCED THIS YEAR.

WE'LL DISCUSS OUR 2022 GARDEN ADVENTURES.



Dorte's new favorite garden tool

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE:

BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Without a doubt we are all happy to see the end of our drought period. We have gone the other way completely, with enough rain to saturate the top layers of soil and begin to percolate downwards to replenish subsoil moisture. Do not ask what happens next. Our weather and climate can be very fickle, though late July and August can be quite wet.

The peasant and Marge have both been declared positive for the covid bug. We are progressing well, with Marge doing better than the peasant. At this point the peasant is not making any promises on doing a fair parade float. He thinks so but will need your help.

Gardens should thrive now if you have been able to keep them watered during the dry spell. Enjoy a bountiful harvest and share surplus to food banks and other people.

Thanks, folks.



Shaggy Mane fungus. Surely our saturated lawns and gardens will bring forth many fungi!

Rebarchek Project Barn Update

Submitted by Michael Kircher



Updated photo of barn, new roof, and siding. Electric, plumbing and heat are being installed. The barn will be used for meetings and animal projects. A restroom will be built and attached to the barn.

ALASKA STATE FAIR GARDEN TOURS

Eva Cohnen-Brown and Dorte Mobley snapped a few photos during the tour. In no particular order, here they are.



Continued page 3

Continued from page 2



Becky and MMGA Members



Pretty Poppies



Arlene and Leslie



Unknown Pretty Flower



Photogenic Borage



Becky discussing one of the many beds.



4-H Spark Days at the Farm - TRYING A NEW THING!!

The UAF Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center will be hosting monthly 4-H SPARK Days!

What are SPARKS?

Everybody has a skill, a talent, an interest, or a special quality that they are passionate about. We call these things SPARKS. They provide joy, purpose, and direction. Sparks are self-discovered and self-identified. They come from deep within and provide energy, joy, purpose, and direction in one's life.

<https://helping-youth-thrive.extension.org/what-are-sparks/>
[Adolescent Thriving: The Role of Sparks, Relationships, and Empowerment | SpringerLink](#)

When are SPARK Days?

One or more days a month we will invite an expert to come to the farm to share their SPARK with area youth. The theme of these days will coincide with the ME FEC monthly programmatic theme.

Who will be our experts?

IANRE personnel and community members

What will the 4-H SPARK Day look like?

Youth (target age is 8-13) will be invited to participate; sign-ups will be available. The location will be at our Farm (1509 S. Georgeson Rd. Palmer). This will be a 2-hour, hands-on learning experience.

- Experts will talk about their SPARK and

why they are passionate about it

- Hands-on activity, demonstration, and/or game
- Chance for discussion about the SPARK and questions on how they (the expert) got to this point!

SPARK Days in July!!

The first spark day was Wednesday, July 13. Wildlife Nutrition with Dr. Kristin Denryter, Director of Palmer Wildlife Nutrition Lab, AK Department of Fish & Game. Participants learned about wildlife nutrition as well as interacted with and fed baby caribou.

The next one is Tuesday, July 26. GIS Exploration with local GIS expert Hillary Palmer. Be sure to bring your iPhone or other mobile device as we venture outdoors to collect some data before coming back to the classroom to analyze our results.

Watch our Facebook page for future SPARK days on the following topics that are in line with our theme of the month.

- Nature crafts – Intersection of Science & Art
- Nature crafts – Bugs
- Harvest – Agronomy/Soils
- Harvest – Home economics
- Nutrition & Wellness
- Home Safety
- Holidays – Compassion/Companions/
Surviving the Holiday Season

Upcoming Spark Days

Visit the Alaska 4-H page for additional fun activities to do with your kids:

<http://www.alaska4h.org/>

If you are interested in joining 4-H or need to re-enroll, click on the link below:

<http://www.alaska4h.org/enroll-now.html>

If you have questions regarding local 4-H contact:

Ann Kowenstrot

4-H Program Coordinator

amkowenstrot@alaska.edu



Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center
CLASSES

July Theme: Enjoy the Outdoor Classroom

Watch our Facebook and Instagram page
as well as our website for additional info & registration links!

<https://www.facebook.com/matanuskaexperimentfarm/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MatsuExtension>

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

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|---------|---|
| July 26 | 4-H SPARK Day at the Farm: GIS Exploration (In-Person) |
| July 28 | Food Preservation: Making Jelly & More (Zoom) |
| Aug 2 | GPS Geocaching Adventure (In person & Zoom) |
| Aug 4 | Food Preservation: Canning Vegetables, Legumes, Meat & Poultry (Zoom) |
| Aug 9 | Weather in Southcentral Alaska (Hybrid) |

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The University of Alaska Fairbanks Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center strives to make our programs accessible for all individuals. If you or a family member who is attending a program needs accommodations to participate, please contact our office 5 days in advance to request services. This will give us the opportunity to provide assistance you require. (907)745-3360 or email Theresa Isaac tmisaac@alaska.edu

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.arboday.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 would like to share in the newsletter, please send to the MMGA email.

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2022 AND BEYOND

Aug 19 – Sep 5, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, "Experience the Wonder"

Sep 12, Palmer, Regular Meeting, Potluck

Oct 3, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

Nov 7, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

Dec 5, Palmer, Christmas Party

Do not 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 do not 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 needed 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: 20th day of each month -- Thank you--



August 2022



Like us on
Facebook

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Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
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