



# MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER



## President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

Can you believe how fast the summer is speeding by? I have noticed that the flowers and gardens in everyone's yard is popping great colors this time of year. It is so exciting that folks do this every summer without a lot of feedback. How many of us do notice but drive or walk on by without letting the person know what a great job they've done and how breathtaking their yard has become? You know you just don't know how your flowers look until you go out into the street to look from another perspective. You are focused too closely on the weeds or that special plant that is not doing what you hoped it would or hasn't gotten as full as it should have. You should also take the time to take pictures of your garden or flowers so that when you are planning your garden or flower bed so that in the dead of winter you remember what plants took over or crowded the others so you can divide them in the fall or spring so that look even better next year. You should also take notes of what flowers disappointed you so you don't grow or buy them next year and it also gives you time to research an alternative that will make you be more successful in your gardening endeavors.

The local farmer's markets have had great looking produce and now have so many opportunities get them in Palmer at the Friday Fling or the Monday Produce Growers Coop at the Palmer Depot. If you aren't sure how to use a vegetable, don't be bashful just ask. I have gotten some of my best tips on preparing them from the people growing the vegetables. It is a great way to move produce by providing cooking methods or recipes to the people buying their items.

Hope to see you at the next meeting on August 4 at the Fairgrounds for a garden tour.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Chapter Meeting	1
Peasants Perspective	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Volunteer at the UAF CES Volunteer State Fair Booth	3
Garden Links	4
Announcements/Volunteer Opportunities	4
Contacts	5
Calendar of Events	5

### CHAPTER MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

#### NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 3:00 PM**

**LOCATION: ECKERT GARDENS, ALASKA**

**STATE FAIRGROUNDS, PALMER**

**DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND**

#### MEETING AGENDA

- **TREASURER REPORT**
- **MINUTES**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**

#### TOPIC/SPEAKER:

Tour the Alaska State Fair Ground  
Gardens.

Park in the Orange Lot and meet at  
Eckert Gardens.

## PEASANTS PERSPECTIVE

By Curt Mueller, Master Gardener

It is a mixed blessing when the snow comes before the ground freezes hard, and then stays on, as happened last winter. It is a benefit to perennials and earthworms, but it also allows the eggs of slugs to survive the winter. It appears that we'll have a heavy infestation of this garden nemesis, as the slugs have been present for some time and will probably explode in numbers if we get a rainy season in August as often happens.

An effective bait for slugs is Sluggo. It contains iron phosphate as the effective ingredient; the rest is bait and inert substances. It is non-toxic to pets and wildlife and people. Baits containing metaldehyde are toxic if consumed. Another bait very similar to Sluggo is Natria. Both Sluggo and Natria contain one percent iron phosphate. Natria is a product of Bayer, a respected producer of medications and other products, aspirin being one of their mainstays.

The peasant has used both these slug baits with good results. Their pellets last well even during prolonged rainy periods. They work well if scattered at the base of raised beds or other places where slugs like to congregate. If slugs are in the beds the bait may be scattered on the soil surface below the canopy of the plants. In that situation the leaves of the plants will help to keep rainwater off the pellets, helping to lengthen their effectiveness.

It wouldn't be a bad idea to stock up on slug bait to have on hand. It stores well from one season to the next. Sometimes the stores and garden centers run out just when you need the stuff.

On a more pleasant note, we've been having a good growing season and have enjoyed our ornamentals and should expect a bountiful harvest of vegetables. Rains have come at opportune times and the sun has appeared most days. Daytime temperatures to seventy and

nighttime temperatures in the fifties promote good growth.

Thanks, fellow gardeners.

The photo doesn't have a lot to do with gardening. The eagles have a nest downhill from our cabin on Lake Louise, and we've been fortunate to sit on the cabin deck and look into the nest. There are two young. Both parents participate in raising the eaglets. We look forward to seeing the young ones develop and soar.



**Mat-Su Master Gardeners Meeting  
Minutes July 7, 2014**

**Meeting held in the MTA conference room, six people present.**

**Items discussed: Need new secretary and recommendation was made to put in the newsletter for August.**

**Do we continue to meet in the MTA conference space or at the Cooperative Extension office?**

**Attempting to arrange a garden tour at the Alaska State Fair. It was recommended that if they could not do a tour at our regular meeting time that we have it during the day.**

**Speaker: Carol Johnson, club member who discussed using natural dyes from plants for yarn and fabrics.**

**August Meeting Info**

**Our August 4 meeting is a garden tour at the Fairgrounds. Meet at Eckert Garden and park in the Orange lot at 3pm.**

**Go in the Yellow gate to reach the orange parking lot (normally this is the vendors/exhibitors parking area adjacent to the big barn. The Gardens are #22 on the Fair Map (Next Page).**

**Questions? Call Rhonda Bowman.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE UAF-CES  
ALASKA STATE FAIR  
HOSPITALITY/INFORMATION BOOTH**

Dear Master Gardener:

Thank you for considering to volunteer your time and talent for the Cooperative Extension Service at the Alaska State Fair. We look forward every year to having volunteers, such as yourself, share your gardening experiences and knowledge with the community. In exchange for your help, you will receive a free entry and parking pass to the Fair for the day(s) you volunteer for.

**SHIFT INFORMATION**

Shifts are 2 1/2 to 3 hours in length:

Monday through Fridays (except for Labor Day): Noon to 2:30 pm; 2:30 to 5:00 pm; 5:00 to 7:30 pm and 7:30 to 10:00 pm.

Saturday and Sundays plus Labor Day: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm; 1:00 to 4:00 pm; 4:00 to 7:00 pm and 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

Shifts are filled by Master Gardener and 4-H family volunteers. We encourage you to sign up early so you get the shifts of your choice. Requests are on a first come, first serve basis.

**HOW TO SIGN UP**

- Send an e-mail to: [rrhall@alaska.edu](mailto:rrhall@alaska.edu)
- Fax this form to: 907-745-5479
- Or sign-up online at:  
[www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu)
- Or call our office phone number: 907-745-3360



## Garden Links

### Alaska Botanical Garden

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

### Alaska Community Agriculture

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

### Arbor Day Foundation

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

### Alaska Natural Heritage Program – Botany

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

### Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

### Alaska Grown Source Book (online)

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/index.htm>

### Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage Chapter

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

### Alaska Master Gardener Blog

<http://alaskamastergardener.blogspot.com/>

### Alaska Native Plant Society

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

### Alaska Orchid Society

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

### Alaska Peony Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.org>

### Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Assoc..

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

### Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

### Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

### Cooperative Extension Service, Palmer

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



### Eat Local Alaska

<http://akfood.weebly.com/index.html>

### Integrated Pest Management Program

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

### Junior Master Gardeners

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

### Landscape Plants for Alaska

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

### Local Alaskan Plants Clearinghouse

<http://www.localplants.org/Home>

### Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program \*Updated\*

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

### Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

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

### Master Gardener Research Link

<http://search.extension.org>

### Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

<http://interiormastergardeners.org/>

### Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

### South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

### Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners

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

### UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

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

### UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

### UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

### University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

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

### USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

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

### Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation

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

---

## Announcements

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Know of an upcoming event or organization which needs our help? Let a board member know!

### BOARD MEMBER OPENING

The position of Club Secretary is once again open. The job involves taking minutes at meetings and attending board meetings. If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Bowman for further details and information.

---

### *Club Membership*

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$12.

Membership forms are available to download and/or print on the club's website,

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

*thank you*

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Rhonda Bowman</b>	<b>746-2948</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Curt Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Hally Truelove</b>	<b>376-0909</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cathy Crew</b>	<b>632-4401</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Marge Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>

If you have gardening news, photos or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please contact: Deb Blaylock @Email: [kdblalock@ak.net](mailto:kdblalock@ak.net)

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)  
Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

#### AUGUST

**Aug 4**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Tour Alaska State Fair Ground Gardens

**Aug 21 - Sep 1**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

#### SEPTEMBER AND BEYOND

**Sep 8**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Oct 6**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Nov 3**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Dec 1**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Dec 12-14**, Palmer, Colony Christmas

**Dec 13**, Palmer, Colony Christmas Parade

## 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 editor 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~~



August 2014



Like us on  
**Facebook**

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)  
Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB**  
**PO BOX 585**  
**PALMER, AK 99645**

