



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

August 2015



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

It is hard to believe that summer is half over. The weather has been so nice but a little too warm for this Alaskan gal. My flowers are looking good this year. Some are done blooming while others are starting to bloom now. I am glad that there is always something blooming all summer.

I want to thank Mark Oathout at Mid-Valley Greenhouse for his hospitality for the Tomato Tasting held July 9. He provided a lot of information and samples of the different varieties of tomatoes.

I attended the Mid-Summer Garden and Art Faire in Palmer on July 11 and there was a lot of participation as well as a variety of vendors and demonstrations.

We will meet at the Babb Arboretum, S. Gulkana St & E. Fireweed Ave., Palmer for our August 3 meeting. Our September meeting will be a produce tasting inspired by the Tomato Tasting and everyone can bring whatever they've grown to sample during that meeting.

If you need to get some volunteer hours or have some free time don't forget the Palmer Library planter and the planter at the Experiment Farm can always use some weeding. Also, the Grow Palmer Initiative said on their Facebook page that they are not getting people to harvest some of the items behind the Salvation Army.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on August 3.



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CHAPTER MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD, 7:00 PM
LOCATION: BABB ARBORETUM, S. GULKANA
ST & E. FIREWEED AVE., PALMER, AK

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MINUTES
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS

TOPIC/SPEAKER:

**TOUR THE BABB ARBORETUM AND DISCUSS
OPTIONS FOR THE CLUB SUPPORT.**

PEASANTS PERSPECTIVE, BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos by Curt Mueller

The peasant and his better half set out to do their weeding stint at the MG bed at the Experimental Farm. Thanks to the efforts of those who preceded us in weeding, there weren't a lot of weeds to contend with, unlike most of the other beds in the area. The peasant and his wife then set about doing other things.

Repairs were made to the bed where it was coming apart at two corners, the long grass around the bed was trimmed, and a columbine that was being covered by the rhubarb was moved closer to the outside of the bed. Then some marigolds were purchased in order to provide some color and fill in some of the bareness, as there are not enough perennials to make a full bed.

All of this prompted some discussion between the peasant and Marge as to what could be done to remedy the situation. Marge had some excellent suggestions for what plants could be added, as she has grown some very attractive perennials which would fit in well. Some of these are spreading plants which cover the ground and make weeding much easier, as they outcompete the weeds.

Some of the perennials Marge suggested are trollius, pussy toes, phlox, Iceland poppies, edelweiss, Alaska poppies [native] Aleutian speedwell, baby's breath [the low-growing kind] silver mound and artemisia. Certainly there are others.

The peasant thinks we should make a plan for the bed. Some plants could be started from seed and others could be supplied by MG membership. The peasant has rescued a number of trollius from a borough road project. Seed is available for edelweiss, baby's breath, and the poppies mentioned.

Perhaps a well-planned and attractive bed could provide an incentive for other people to take better care of theirs. The sign on the bed indicates it is done by

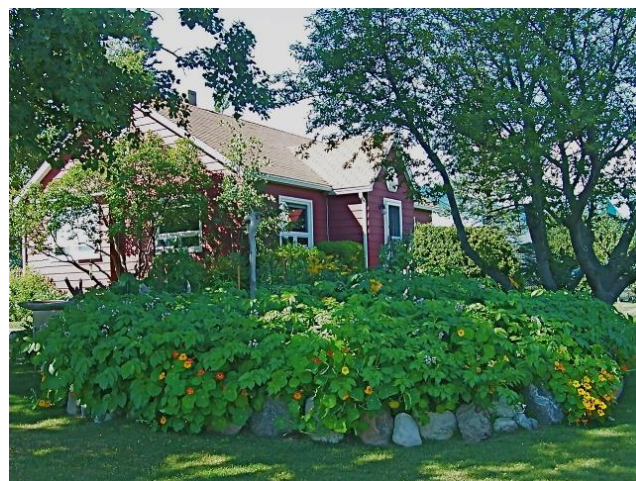
Master Gardeners. It needs to show this ability. Thanks folks.



Master Gardener Bed at the Experiment Farm



Marge Mueller adding marigolds to the bed



This is a nice example of combining beauty with producing edible vegetables. The potatoes, interspersed with nasturtiums, are a lush green and just beginning to flower. The property, located on Palmer's main street, belongs to Joseph Brenner, a physical therapist.

Tomato Tasting and Greenhouse Tour, Mid-Valley Greenhouse, July 9th, 2015
Owner and our tour guide, Mark Oathout – Photos by Eva Cohnen-Brown



"Grape"
tomatoes



Pat and Mark



Juicy tomato -yum!



Mark adjusting tomato plant
height in the greenhouse



Green peppers!



Mark making a point at the outdoor garden

Volunteers Needed at the State Fair

Fair time is just around the corner and I am seeking out volunteers to help in the Alaska State Fair Crops Department on **Wednesdays, August 26 and September 2 from 5-9 PM as Entry Clerks, and on Thursdays, August 27 and September 3 from 8 AM-Noon as Judges Clerks.** No prior experience is required.

I am also looking for a couple of people to help with take downs on **Tuesdays September 1 from 4-7 PM and September 8 from 9 AM-Noon.** This will be taking ribbons off entries and alphabetically sorting them.

Be a part of the largest garden exhibit in Alaska! Entry and judging days at the Alaska State Fair's Crops Dept. are a fun environment to meet new people, catch up with old friends, and a great opportunity to learn something new and/or share your own gardening experiences. You can enter your own vegetables & flowers too!

Entry Clerks will help Exhibitors fill out entry forms correctly, help guide the entrant in the preparation of their entries for judging and place entries in the correct display area.

Judges Clerks will record winning results as well as set up and place ribbons for the final display.

Tickets for Fair entry and parking will be provided for your help.

Participate in our state's biggest grower's get-together ... "Dig In" ... Volunteer!

If interested, or if you have any questions, contact Kathy Liska (Crops Superintendent) at 337-2196 hm, 301-0317 cell, or email at akliska@aol.com

Thanks much ... happy gardening!

Kathy



ALASKA AGRICULTURE APPRECIATION
Day at the Farm
 Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015
 12 to 5 p.m.
 Matanuska Experiment Farm
 1509 S. Georgeson Road, Palmer

Free!

- Agriculture presentations
 - soils 101 with testing demonstration
 - controlling the high tunnel environment
- Cooperative Extension Service cooking demonstrations
 - millet, beets, kale & rhubarb
- Live music 4-7 p.m.
 - Colony Middle School steel drum ensemble
 - Ken Peltier
 - jam session
- Kids activities
 - veggie harvest, veggie bobbing, gold rush, dunk tank
- Reindeer & porcupine from the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
- Sheep-to-shawl demo
- Goat milking
- Self-guided trail tour
- Hay wagon rides
- Farm equipment displays
- Bug identification
- Live animals
- Greenhouse tour
- Vendors, exhibits and MORE!

100 years!
 Celebrate the anniversary of the site selection for the Matanuska Experiment Farm!

For more information, contact Theresa Isaac at 907-746-9450.
www.uaf.edu/snr • 877-520-5211
 UAF is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.

Dan Hinkley Presentation

Saturday, August 1st (1:30 - 3:30 p.m.)
 Willow Community Center, Mile 69.5, Parks Highway
 Entrance Fee: \$12, For tickets go to:
<http://willowgardenclub.blogspot.com/>

Willow Garden Club is honored to host Dan Hinkley, the well-known American horticulturalist, award-winning author, plant explorer, and lecturer. He is best known for establishing Heronswood Nursery and Windcliff, near Poulsbo, Washington. For the past twenty-five years he has traveled to all corners of the world searching out rare plants that would be suitable new introductions for the temperate climate found in the Northwest. Dan will share stories from his most recent adventure searching for rare plants in China, Vietnam, and Myanmar. He will also highlight examples of plants found on his trip, some of which could be grown in Alaska's garden zones. This is a presentation that every gardener or armchair traveler in Alaska will enjoy. Tickets available at danhinkleyinwillow.eventbrite.com



Photo of Dahlia by Rhonda Bowman

2015 Mat-Su Master Gardener Class

Location: Matanuska Experiment Farm, 1509 S. Georgeson Dr., Palmer (Old Trunk Road)

Dates: Wednesdays, 6-9 pm, September 2 - December 2

Cost: \$300 with \$150 refunded if required 40 hours of community service are completed by September 2, 2016.

The Alaska Master Gardener course will cover subjects such as botany, Integrated Pest Management, soil science, organic and conventional gardening practices, fast composting, lawn establishment and maintenance, fertilizer fundamentals, how to give gardening advice and much more. The course will be taught by Dr. Steve Brown and a variety of guest lecturers who are horticulture experts. Course fee includes *The Alaska Master Gardener Manual: Sustainable Gardening* and many other supporting University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service bulletins and publications.

For more information, contact instructor Steve Brown at 907-745-3639 or scbrown4@alaska.edu

To register and pay online,
visit: <http://bit.ly/ces-workshops>

Sign Up for Weeding Mat-Su Experiment Farm Demonstration Bed

E-Mail Deb at kdblalock@ak.net if you would like to sign up for a future vacant slot.

Week of :	Name
August 3	Carol Halsey
August 10	
August 17	
August 24	
August 31	

Sign Up for Weeding the Garden Bed at the Palmer Public Library

E-Mail Deb at kdblalock@ak.net if you would like to sign up for a future vacant slot.

Week of :	Name
August 3	Carol Halsey
August 10	
August 17	
August 24	
August 31	

Garden Links

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Community Agriculture

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

Arbor Day Foundation

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 **UPDATED**

<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 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>



Good Earth Garden School

<http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

Integrated Pest Management Program

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

Junior Master Gardeners

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

Landscape Plants for Alaska

www.alaskaplants.org

Local Alaskan Plants Clearinghouse

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

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

www.matsumastergardeners.org

Master Gardener Research Link

<http://search.extension.org>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley **UPDATED**

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners

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

Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

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

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

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

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

Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation

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

Announcements

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are still a few vacancies for weeding the Demonstration Bed at the Mat-Su Experiment Farm and the Palmer Library Garden Bed. Feel free to sign up for a week – it only takes about an hour to complete for the week. Take an hour and support your club – Thank you!

BOARD MEMBER OPENING

The position of Club Secretary is still 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 on the club's website, www.matsumastergardeners.com

thank you

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Co-VP	Hally Truelove	376-0909
Secretary:	Vacant	
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 @Email: kdblaylock@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2015

Aug 1, Willow, Dan Hinkley Presentation
Aug 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg., Babb Arboretum
Aug 6, Palmer, Alaska Agriculture Appreciation Day at the Farm
Aug 27 - Sep 7, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

SEPTEMBER 2015 AND BEYOND

Sep 14, Palmer, MMG Mtg., Harvest Tasting and Sharing
Oct 5, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Nov 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Dec 7, Palmer, Annual Christmas Dinner

Please let Rhonda know if you have any ideas for future meeting topics. Members are welcome to offer to speak or reach out to speakers of interest to the Club's membership. The club would welcome a speaker coordinator - if interested contact Rhonda. Our club is only as good as we the members make it!

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~~



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August 2015



Like us on
Facebook

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

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB
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