



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

We are now in the middle of the holiday season! Hopefully you are still enjoying your harvest from this last summer. Every winter once it snows, I always use the time to plan for planting for the next growing season and I am sure that everyone does the same thing! Checking out the latest seed catalogs, gathering information about new hybrid plants or researching plants that you've heard about over the summer and scribbled down to consider for your next year's planting – all these and more. Or are you still in the midst of making jelly or jam to give for gifts? I have been checking out recipes for bake sales or for the upcoming holiday season to use fruit or veggies that I preserved last summer. Every year there are always regrets of vegetables that I meant to freeze or can but did not get around to. Time is an elusive creature and sometimes you cannot fit everything into our short summer. I used to think when I retired I'd have lots of time to get everything completed but now I do not know how I had time to work! I still have half-completed projects, books waiting to be read and aspirations to do better soon.

If you have any ideas for speakers for our meetings please contact me so I can get them on the calendar. I am always amazed by the wealth of information that is available in our area. Or, if you are reading this and would like to share gardening-related information during one of our meetings, don't be shy.

I hope your family is safe and happy this holiday season, and come see us at our next meeting. Meetings are generally on the first Monday of every month at 7pm.

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CHAPTER MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, DEC 7TH, 6:30 PM

LOCATION: TURKEY RED PRIVATE DINING
ROOM, PALMER, AK

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MINUTES
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS

TOPIC/SPEAKER:

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND GIFT AUCTION

THE CLUB IS PROVIDING MEAT, PLEASE BRING
A SIDE DISH. RECOMMENDED PRICE FOR GIFT
IS \$10. COME AND ENJOY!



PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos by the author

Mark Twain has usually been credited with saying "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it." So far he has been mostly right. The peasant has been dealing with the accumulation of the last snowfall, but I guess that doesn't count.

Gardening is perhaps not the greatest of our interests at the moment, but the peasant confesses to going to the internet to find some items that are not often found in our seed catalogs. Said catalogs have begun to arrive, though.

As this is written, we're less than four weeks from the winter solstice and our shortest days. Longest nights if you prefer to reckon time that way. The peasant thinks it is very fortunate that we have the holidays to celebrate at this time of year. It is a time to enjoy the warmth of family and friends, to be thankful for our lot, and to consider the prospects of another year.

The peasant, being a bit facetious, is thankful for his snow blower.

Enjoy the holidays, folks.



12TH ANNUAL ALASKA SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

Getting Down to Business with Fibers and Foods February 23-25, 2016 Lakefront Anchorage Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska

Preconference Workshops - February 23

- Practical tools and solutions to connect fiber producers with processors, markets, and artists with Carrie Hull, founder of the National Fiber Producers Cooperative
- Budgeting for farm decision making: enterprise budgets, break even analysis, & partial budgeting with Gina Greenway, College of Idaho
- On-farm food safety & marketing with Barbara Hanson, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, & Johanna Herron, Division of Agriculture

Visit bit.ly/sareconf as plans progress to check for schedule updates.



12th Annual
Sustainable
Agriculture
Conference

Save the Date

February 23-25, 2016

The Lakefront Anchorage

Getting Down to Business with Fibers and Foods

Tuesday workshops will be followed by
two days of presentations and discussion related to farm
management, including a Thursday session on qiviut.

Tuesday Workshops:

- Budgeting for Farm Decision Making
Presented by Gina Greenway
- On-farm Food Safety and Marketing
*Presented by Barbara Hanson and
Johanna Herron*
- Connecting Fiber Producers to Markets
Presented by Carrie Hull

Contact Darcy Etcheverry at ddetcheverry@alaska.edu or
907-474-5107 or visit bit.ly/sareconf for more information.

UAF is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution.



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.akorhid.org/>

Alaska Peony Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.org>

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

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.jmgkids.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, Palmer

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

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

The club is in desperate need of someone to coordinate speakers for our meetings. Please let Rhonda know if you're interested. Thanks!

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: kdblayment@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2015

Dec 7, Palmer, Annual Christmas Dinner

JANUARY 2016 AND BEYOND

Jan 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Feb 1, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Feb. 22-26, Anchorage, 2016 Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference, <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference/>

Mar 7, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Apr 4 Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Apr 16, Anchorage, State Alaska Master Gardener Conference, <http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org/>

May 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Jun 4, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale (Tentative)

Jun 6, Palmer, Annual Palmer Library Planter

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--



December 2015



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Facebook

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

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB
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