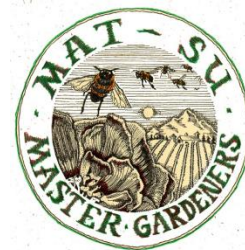




Dec 2018



## President's Patch

By President Michael Kircher

Congratulations and thanks to our new and returning officers for 2019:

**Deb Blaylock** for stepping up to be the new President. She is already busy with the newsletter, so we should all help her with that by contributing information and articles. We all have something to share about gardening and upcoming events. Also, we can help her with the new tasks as president by sending suggestions for the agenda, and not talking all at the same time at the meetings (who, me?, you might say?) Remember Deb, you can still attend the meetings and have your vice-president preside, especially if you need to concentrate on, and present information, concerning another topic. I should have done that on occasion.

**Greg Kalal** as our new Vice-President. It's nice to have some new blood in that office. Greg, we'll try not to spill any.

**Cathy Crew** as our returning Treasurer. Whew! We dodged a bullet on that one. I don't know anyone who could fill that position and do such a great job. Thanks, Cathy.

**Marge Mueller** returning as Member at Large of the Board of Directors. We need you, Marge - thanks.

And last but certainly not least is **Dorte Mobley** as our returning Secretary. Dorte has often kept me on track when things got a little chaotic.

What I see as our greatest challenges moving forward are:

- To inspire more members to take a greater part in our activities. The board might even consider that as a requirement for continuing membership. For example, we can ask someone who wants to contribute, but is unable to do so because of time constraints, to write a column for the Frontiersman. That can be done according to one's own schedule and at home.

Continued on page 3

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### GENERAL MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

#### NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AT 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: TURKEY RED RESTAURANT,  
CONFERENCE ROOM, 550 S ALASKA ST,  
PALMER, AK 99645

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

#### SPEAKER/TOPIC

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

PLEASE RSVP TO MARGE MUELLER BY  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS ON THE PARTY AND  
HOW TO RSVP TO MARGE.

## PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos submitted by the author

There is an interesting arboretum across the street from the MEA administrative building. The peasant, who hails from an area that has several varieties of native oaks and holds fond memories for the sturdy trees, has admired for some years the bur oak growing and apparently thriving in the MEA planting. Thus it was that in the spring of 2018 he ordered five bur oak seedlings from a reputable grower in the lower 48. For northern adaptation the bur oak is the hardiest of the oaks and might thrive in this part of Alaska if given a good site.

The order came in and contained eleven healthy bare root seedlings of varying sizes, all of them having long tap roots. It is recommended to leave the tap roots intact to prevent possible loss of the trees. It became necessary to improvise by planting some of the trees in the cardboard tubes ordinarily used for pouring concrete pillars. The peasant cut the tubes long enough to accommodate the tap roots. Others were planted in various containers to suit the tree size. All survived and grew well during the summer. The peasant was concerned that the leaves had sharp pointed lobes; not the rounded lobes characteristic of bur oaks. Perhaps, he surmised, this was a subspecies with pointed leaves.



Fall foliage on container-grown northern red oaks.

The bur oak leaves turn a pleasant yellow-brown in the fall. Lo! These turned a red! It was then that the peasant took photos and emailed them to the supplier, who confirmed that indeed these were northern red oaks and that they

would replace the order. They went on to say that the red oaks are only slightly less hardy than bur oaks. When one considers that bur oaks are marginally hardy here, this could be a big factor.

The peasant went on to plant one of the red oaks, gave three to friends who were impressed with the leaf color, and laid the others, still in containers, on their sides and covered them with leaves for the winter. The peasant plans to plant one more of the red oaks and has another person who wants a couple. That leaves three or four that are not spoken for, and if anyone is willing to try one, they are up for grabs. Meanwhile, the peasant will get some bur oaks and make a comparison with red oaks as to how well each thrives.

If anyone wants to experiment and grow an oak that has brilliant red fall foliage but may or may not make it in Alaska, the peasant has some to give away that have a good start. Incidentally, it is worth a few minutes to wander through the MEA arboretum and have a look at the trees.



This bur oak grows near the MEA complex in Palmer. It's a thriving specimen. Some top pruning was done because a power line is near the tree. This does distract from the natural beauty of the tree, and further pruning will become necessary as the tree continues to grow.

Thanks, folks.

Continued from page 1

- Bringing in more young people. I've found in working with kids that they have a great interest in growing things. We could do presentations on various topics in the schools, or hold meetings for a young master gardeners' club, after school. We just need to contact teachers and let them know we exist. One example might be to teach students in an art class how to design a garden. They are always looking for projects.
- Expanding community involvement. We need to be seen and heard more. Over the years, I've given presentations to organizations on topics as diverse as food storage, garden design, and root cellars. Everyone in our group has certain skills that they can present to outsiders. This is one reason I pushed for involvement in the Rebarchek project.

I just threw out a few examples for people to think about. All of these and more will require expending energy and involvement. We have the brains and experience; let's put them to work.



## ELECTION RESULTS

All positions are for one year:

President - Deb Blaylock  
 Vice President - Gregory Kalal  
 Secretary - Dorte Mobley  
 Treasurer - Cathy Crew  
 Member at Large - Marge Mueller

## COMMITTEE HEADS

2019 Guest Speakers - Kristina Tornqvist  
 2018 Christmas Party - Marge Mueller  
 Newsletter - Deb Blaylock  
 Website - Eva Cohnen-Brown  
 State Fair Sponsored Awards - Deb Blaylock  
 Rebarchek Farm - ?  
 Grants/Scholarships - ?  
 2019 Plant Sale - ?  
 2019 Palmer Library Planting - ?  
 2019 Palmer Veterans & Senior Home Planting - ?  
 2019 Midsummer Garden & Art Faire - ?  
 2019 Summer Garden Tours - ?  
 2019 State Fair Parade - Curt Mueller  
 2019 MTA Room Coordinator - Phyllis Kircher (?)  
 2019 Nomination Committee - ?  
 2019 Association Director - Kristina Tornqvist

## CHRISTMAS PARTY!

The annual Christmas party will meet at Turkey Red's Banquet/Conference Room, 550 S. Alaska St, Palmer. The room will open at six and dinner will start at 6:30 pm. The association will provide meat (roast turkey and ham). Members are asked to bring a side-dish or dessert. After dinner, we will have the usual Chinese auction gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift (\$20 maximum). Please RSVP to Marge at 745-6144 or email: [mueller@mtaonline.net](mailto:mueller@mtaonline.net) by Friday Nov. 30.





## Minutes of Master Gardener Meeting, Nov5, 2018

Submitted by Secretary Dorte Mobley

Meeting was called to order by President Michael Kircher at 7:01.

Treasurer report was given by Cathy. No questions. Report was approved.

Minutes from last meeting were in the November newsletter and were approved as written.

Deb has spoken with Kathy Liska, and Kathy suggested that if we want to change from giving a prize to grand champion for the trees and shrubs to give it for lilies. Deb made a motion that we change it to lilies, but after some discussion it was decided that we will give to both lilies and trees and shrubs, in addition to the veg heads class. This is what we will donate to:

### Crops Department

Veg heads, Division 16, Class 01, Junior (ages 6-12), first place winner - \$50

Veg heads, Division 16, Class 02, Junior (ages 13-17) first place winner - \$50

Veg heads, Division 16, Class 03, Open, first place winner - \$50

Veg heads, Division 16, Class TBD by Fair (Elementary School Group), first place winner - \$100

### Flowers Department

Trees & Shrubs, Division 5 Champion - \$50

Lilies, Division 8 Champion - \$50

Artistic Design, Division 13, Class 4, Fair Theme Design, first place winner - \$50

A draft of the standing rules for 2019 were emailed out to members for review. Ken made a motion to approve them; the motion was seconded and passed. None opposed.

The Association Christmas party on December 3 will be at Turkey Red again. The MMGA will provide the meat and members are asked to bring side dishes or desserts. We will have a gift exchange with a maximum of \$20. Information to RSVP to Marge will be emailed out later.

Deb is gathering names for members needing an Alaska Master Gardener nametag. Steve from the Corporate Extension office will have them made.

The nominating committee presented a list of five names for president. However, none of the people

on the list had been contacted and all withdrew their names. After some talk, Deb Blaylock said she would do it for one year. Dorte will continue as secretary and Cathy will continue as treasurer. Marge (at Large) will be the Member at Large again next year. Gregory Kalal is the new Vice President.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32.

A presentation about composting with worms by Ellen VandeVisse followed the meeting. She informed us that around 40% of all the material that goes in the landfill can be composted. If you want to compost with worms, you should get the Red Wigglers and not just worms from the garden. Those will eat the food scraps more so than the garden worms. There are 13 different species of earthworms in Alaska now. If you collect scraps in a large yoghurt container and put it in the freezer for three days, it will kill the eggs from flies and fungus gnats. You can also use an electric fly swatter or take the bin outside when it is freezing and lift the lid there so the flies fly away. You can add a little meat, fat or salmon. The worms will eat that. Don't put in bouquets from the florist since the flowers are sprayed heavily with all kinds of chemicals. The worms like temperatures between 58 and 77. You can use their droppings or tea for fertilizing your plants. Use 4 parts water to 1 part "worm tea" or if you have a sick plant, you can spray it with undiluted "tea." Feed the worms about once a week after they get established and sprinkle some stale flour, moistened lightly, if you are going to be away for a few weeks. Brands of worm bins: Can of Worms, Wormfactory.



Ellen VandeVisse showing the various vermicomposting systems she uses.

Photo by Deb Blaylock

**Mat Su Master Gardener Association Standing Rules 2019****Voted on and approved at November 5, 2018 meeting****Annual review:**

The board shall review these standing rules annually in October for presentation to the membership at the November meeting.

**Amendments:**

These Standing Rules may be amended by a majority of members present at a regular meeting after having been presented by the board.

**Dues:**

Yearly dues are \$10 for each member or \$12 for a household (more than one member in same household) membership and are payable December 1 for the following calendar year. If dues are paid by January 15, the member will be listed in the yearbook.

**Expenditures:**

The board, at its discretion, can spend up to \$100 per event/activity without vote of the membership for non-budgeted expenses for workshops, projects and supplies. There shall be maintained in the checking/savings accounts enough monies to fund the yearly budget. Reimbursed expenses are only paid from receipts submitted to the treasurer within 45 days of expense. Any purchases must be in the approved budget or pre-approved by the board for up to \$100.

**Plant sale:**

All MMGA members who have joined or renewed their membership AND signed up to participate in the plant sale by the May meeting can participate in the plant sale. The association will provide the members with yellow labels for prices and white labels for plant names at the April and May meetings.

**Standing 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:

1. Arrange for location (see below\*)
2. Arrange for supplies and advertising (see below \*\*)
3. Provide sign-up sheet for sellers at April and May meetings.
4. Send reminders members to save boxes for the plant sale.
5. Get table, chairs, and plant sale signs from the CES office
6. Oversee operation of the day of sale
7. Tally yellow plant price labels
8. Take money to the bank
9. Arrange with treasurer for checks to be written to selling members
10. Give yellow plant labels back to selling members

\*Request the Palmer Downtown Pavilion a year in advance. Here's the link to the website:

[http://www.cityofpalmer.org/index.asp?Type=B\\_BASIC&SEC=%7B33AA5BDC-87DF-4232-9E01-028A3196D555%7D](http://www.cityofpalmer.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7B33AA5BDC-87DF-4232-9E01-028A3196D555%7D)

The president fills out the request right after the plant sale, so we get it reserved for the following year.

\*\* 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 Superintendents on which Division and Class the Association will sponsor for each year's Alaska State Fair. The committee will 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.

There are fourteen prizes: seven first entry winners and seven second entry winners in the following divisions/classes (total \$800 budget estimate):

**Crops Department**

- |             |  |       |
|-------------|--|-------|
| • Veg Heads | Division 16, Class 01, Junior (ages 6-12), first place winner    | 50    |
| • Veg Heads | Division 16, Class 02, Junior (ages 13-17), first place winner   | \$50  |
| • Veg Heads | Division 16, Class 03, Open, first place winner                  | 50    |
| • Veg Heads | Division 16, Class TBD*, Junior School Group, first place winner | \$100 |

\*Exact wording still to be determined by the Alaska State Fair

**Flowers Department**

- |                   |   |      |
|-------------------|---|------|
| • Trees & Shrubs  | Division 5 Champion   | \$50 |
| • Lilies          | Division 8 Champion   | \$50 |
| • Artistic Design | Division 13, Class 4, Fair theme design, first place winner | \$50 |

**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.

**Web Master** - The web master shall keep the MMGA web site 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, print and distribute the annual yearbook for the members.

## Garden Links

### Alaska Botanical Garden

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

### Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

### Arbor Day Foundation

[www.arborday.org](http://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 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 \*\*New\*\*

<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 Gardeners

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

### Landscape Plants for Alaska

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

### Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

### Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

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

### Master Gardener Research Link

<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, Palmer

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

### UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

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

### UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

### UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

### UAF Herbarium \*\*New\*\*

<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/herb/>

### UAF School of Natural Resources & Extension

<http://www.uaf.edu/snre/>

### University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

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

### USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

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



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Submit an article to the newsletter
- Volunteer to chair or help a committee – See page 3 for committees/projects which need someone to take the lead.





Its time to renew your membership for 2019. The deadline to renew and be listed in the 2019 Membership Directory, is January 15, 2019. You have two options for renewal, print a hard copy form and mail it in or bring it to a meeting - or you can renew online at: <https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/online-membership-application.html>



### MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 598, PALMER, AK 99645

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

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

## 2019 MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Membership is \$10 for an annual individual membership or \$12 for an annual family membership. **Family memberships are for family members who reside in the same household.** Memberships are for the calendar year – January through December. Please add [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com) to your email address book so that club correspondence is not blocked.

### Mat- Su Master Gardeners Membership Application:

Please PRINT CLEARLY and complete **all** address fields to ensure that our database is current and accurate. Please indicate if this a

New Annual Individual \$10 membership ☐ OR a new Annual Family \$12 membership ☐

or if you are **renewing** an individual \$10 membership ☐ OR a Family \$12 membership ☐

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Street Address/PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone Numbers: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Gardening areas of interest: \_\_\_ annuals \_\_\_ perennials \_\_\_ trees & shrubs \_\_\_ vegetables  
\_\_\_ fruit \_\_\_ landscaping/garden design \_\_\_ other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Gardening information you would like to see in the newsletter or presented at a meeting:

*Do you consent to having photos of you participating in Association activities posted on the website? Please initial: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_*

*Do you consent to have your phone number and e-mail published in the Annual Yearbook? Please initial: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_*

*The newsletter is published monthly and is available to download and print on the association's website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com).*

Return your payment and the completed application/renewal to:

Mat-Su Master Gardeners  
c/o Membership Coordinator  
PO Box 598,  
Palmer, AK 99645

Visit our website for monthly meeting information

Lenita Deda, Membership Coordinator~ 745-3413



## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Michael Kircher</b>	<b>745-1459</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Curt Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Dorte Mobley</b>	<b>232-5422</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 at her 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

### DECEMBER 2018

**Dec 3**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Christmas Party -  
Note time: Room opens at 6:00 pm with dinner  
at 6:30 pm

### JANUARY 2019 AND BEYOND

**Jan 7**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, Lois Rockcastle,  
The botanical gardens of New Zealand and  
Australia

**Jan 24-27**, Homer, 2019 Alaska Peony  
Conference, <https://bit.ly/2QHiS6a>

**Feb 4**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

**Mar 4**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

**Apr 1**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

**Apr 6**, Anchorage, State Master Gardener  
Conference

**May 6**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

**Jun 1**, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale

**Jun 3**, Palmer, Palmer Library Planting

**July - TBD**

**Aug - TBD**

**Aug/Sep**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

**Sep 9**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

**Oct 7**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

**Nov 4**, Palmer, MMGA Annual Meeting

**Dec 2**, Palmer, MMGA Annual Christmas Party

## Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$12. Family memberships are only for family members living in the same household. The deadline to join is January 15, 2019 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: 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month -- Thank you--**



November 2018



Like us on  
**Facebook**

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

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