



## President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

It's a wrap! The 2019 gardening season is in our rearview mirrors. Now it's time to plan and prepare for the upcoming 2020 season. Included in this edition is a compilation of some favorite seed companies. The list comes from a poll I took on Facebook asking folks which seed companies are their favorite(s). I plan to request a few catalogs from those which are new to me. Its always fun to try some of the new varieties each season.

With the close of the year, we say good-bye to our Secretary of the last two years – Dorte Mobley. Dorte is also a founding member to the association. Her assistance these past two years was very invaluable to the club. Along with her secretarial duties (which she did very well), she helped coordinate speakers and the summer garden tours. She was also a great help with the plant sale by doing various things. Dorte is very much involved in the gardening community and as well as her duties with the Matanuska Borough Emergency Services/Fire Department. Her plate is very full. We hope you continue to attend meetings and wish you luck!

The remainder of the board of directors have agreed to stay on for an additional year but you should all be prepared to step up to replace us at the next election. I understand we have a new member, Carolyn Johnson, who volunteered to fill the secretary vacancy. I have not met Carolyn but wish to extend my appreciation to her for volunteering. Without volunteers, our association would fail to function. We still have a few committees which need some assistance, so please think about joining one or more of these.

I challenge each and everyone of you to consider why you are a member and what you expect from the association? We all have some type of talent which would benefit the membership. Some of us who've been carrying the load are slowly running out of steam, though. We really could use some fresh perspectives and energy. Think about this during the holidays and consider what you could do to help the Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association.

Our annual Christmas party/dinner is coming up soon. Please note the time and location difference. We meet at Turkey Red in their banquet room. They have been our

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### GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

NOTE THE TIME!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 6:00 P.M.  
LOCATION: TURKEY RED, BANQUET ROOM,  
550 S ALASKA ST, PALMER, AK 99645

SPEAKER/TOPIC

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

BANQUET ROOM OPENS - 6:00 - 6:30 PM

DINNER STARTS - 6:30 - ?

AFTER DINNER, THERE WILL BE A SHORT  
BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWED BY THE GIFT  
EXCHANGE. MORE DETAILS FOLLOW IN THE  
NEWSLETTER.

location of choice the last few years and we really appreciate their service and hospitality. The doors open at 6 p.m. which allows us time to place our side dishes, meat and gifts for the gift exchange. We'll start eating promptly at 6:30 p.m. See you there! PS don't forget to RSVP to Marge Mueller.

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

Photo submitted by the author

What plants are hardy and will thrive in our Palmer area was brought up by a new member at our last MG meeting.

Certainly, this is a fair question and one we have all pondered many times when considering growing a new plant we may not be familiar with. We often would like to grow a favorite plant from an area in which we lived previously or have a desire to extend the list of herbaceous and woody perennials that thrive in our present area or perhaps a plant has caught our eye for its beauty or utility.

There are good sources of information among our club members, other gardening clubs, the CES, nurseries and commercial growers, friends, old-timers, the internet, publications on cold climate gardening; there is indeed a wealth of information available. Our own experiences and intuitions are invaluable.

The climate zone for the Palmer area is given as zone 4b. A low temperature of minus 20 F is given as a reason for this rating. We've not experienced a temperature this low in recent years, and the climate has changed and is changing. Most of us will agree that global warming is a fact and that it affects our gardening habits and methods.

Having zone 4b designated for the Palmer area can be a helpful guide in choosing what we wish to grow. Yet there are plants from higher zones which are hardy here and some from lower zones which struggle to survive. Also, conditions vary from year to year in our zone. Summer growing conditions, length of growing season, abrupt temperature drops when plants are

hardening off the season's growth, soil temperatures, winds that can desiccate new growth, depth of frozen soil, snow cover, the use of mulches, plant siting, drought, insect damage, fertilization, animal damage - these things and more are factors in the survival of our perennials and whether or not they will flourish.

We gardeners are not faint of heart. To experiment is part of the enjoyment of gardening. Challenges educate us. Knowledge is to be shared.

Thanks, folks.



**This English Primrose (shown in the photo) *Primula vulgaris* is one which likes winter cover, preferably snow. Somewhat hardier is the cowslip *Primula veris*. Many of the auricula primroses thrive and multiply in our zone. In the photo background is a trololius plant in bud.**

**Minutes of the 11 - 4 - 2019  
Mat Su Master Gardener Meeting  
Submitted by Mrs. Maria Cunningham**

Meeting was called to order by Gregory Kalal, VP, at 7:02 pm.

Present: 12 members and 4 guests. The MSMGA Meeting Sign-in Sheet was used to record attendance; Cathy Crew secured it for Deb Blaylock, President. Present were Maria Cunningham, Curt Mueller, Sue Glenn, Eva Cohnen-Brown, Julie Pollard, Lois Rockcastle, Carolyn Johnson, Marge Mueller, Lenita & Chuck Deda, Amie & Isaac Vaughan, Arlene & Wayne Bowman, Gregory Kalal, and Cathy Crew. Mr. Kalal asked for a volunteer member to take notes of the meeting in the absence of Secretary Dorte Mobley. Member M. Cunningham agreed to assist.

Copies of the Treasurer's Report, Cash Flow to Budget (Jan. – Dec. 2019) and Estimated 2020 Budget were distributed.

The treasurer's report was read by Cathy Crew. Presently, \$4,855.18 in available funds and \$4867.98 in checking. The treasurer's report was approved: (1) Wayne B. and (2) Sue G., and accepted unanimously.

The 2020 budget was reviewed and discussed. It was approved: (1) Wayne B. and (2) Sue G., and accepted unanimously.

Minutes published in the October newsletter were approved: (1) Wayne B. and (2) Julie P. and accepted unanimously.

Mr. Kalal spoke about the need for committee coordinators for next year: Speaker coordinator, Palmer Library and Palmer Veterans and Senior Home, Midsummer Garden and Art Faire, Summer Garden Tours, State Fair Parade, Plant Sale, Scholarships and grants.

Committee reports:

Mini Conference for the March Meeting. One Speaker has been secured. One more is needed. Suggestion (from the Floor) for speaker: Amy Pettit from The Alaska Farmland Trust.

Plant Sale Date: May 30, 2020 (suggested by Marge M.)

The Christmas party will be at Turkey Red on December 2, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Dining at 6:30pm. The Hall has been reserved. Bring a \$15 gift. Marge and Deb will cook turkey and ham. Everyone else needs to bring side dishes. Marge M. provided an attendance sign-in sheet for the event.

Eva C-B, mentioned the 501 c.

The 2020 Standing Rules were voted on: (1) Wayne B. and (2) Sue G. and unanimously approved.

Mr. Kalal addressed the need for a volunteer or nominee for the position of Secretary. Among those present, Carolyn Johnson volunteered for the position. It was voted on: (1) Curt M. and (2) Wayne B. and unanimously approved.

The 2020 updated MSMGA Membership Forms were distributed and filled out by all those joining/renewing their membership. Cathy Crew processed the completed membership forms as she received them.

Harvest Faire at The Senior Center on Friday 11/08/2019

Mr. Kalal called M. Cunningham to present/discussed the updated MSMGA Brochure. Mrs. Cunningham distributed to all present several color copies of the revised brochure for their review; additionally, she provided writing paper and pen on two clipboards for them to note any critiques, suggestions, etc. The brochure was well-received and positive comments were made.

Next General Meeting: December 2, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

## 2020 Committees

Monthly Newsletter - Deb Blaylock

Website manager - Eva-Cohnen-Brown

Guest speakers - **Vacant**

Membership directory - Sue Glenn

Grants/Scholarships - **Vacant**

Rebarchek Farm project - Michael Kircher

Annual Plant Sale - **Chair vacant**; Flyer Design, Maria Cunningham

Palmer Library & Pioneer Home plantings - **Chair Vacant**; Heather Kalxdorff

Midsummer Garden & Art Faire - **Vacant**

Summer Garden tours - **Vacant**

Alaska State Fair awards - Deb Blaylock

State Fair Parade - **Vacant**

2020 Christmas Party - **Vacant**



**15th ALASKA SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE**  
in Anchorage at the BP Energy Center  
February 20-22, 2020

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND  
REGISTRATION OPEN**

The 15th Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference and workshops will be held February 20-22 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage, Alaska. The conference, made possible by a grant from Western SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension), has developed an excellent reputation among farmers and producers. It is viewed as a truly unique opportunity to advance sustainable innovations to agriculture in Alaska.

This year's conference will feature a Plenary Session and Technical Sessions the first day of the conference (Thursday February 20), followed by two days of Technical Sessions and Workshops (Friday February 21 and Saturday February 22). There is a flat fee of \$100, which gains you access to any and all three days of the Conference and Workshops. We hope you will join us!

**Abstract Submission:** The deadline to apply to submit an abstract for a presentation at the conference is Friday January 24th, 2020. Link to submit abstract:

<https://form.jotform.com/93077022700145>

**Conference Registration:**

<http://bit.ly/2XsDjHr>

**Conference Hotels:**

Hotel Group Rate Event Summary

Start Date: February 19, 2020

End Date: February 22, 2020

Last Day to Book: January 27, 2020. Hotels offering your special group rate (code: Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference)

- SpringHill Suites Anchorage Midtown for \$119 USD per night  
Address: 3401 A St, Anchorage, AK 99503  
Phone: (907) 562-3247
  - Residence Inn Anchorage Midtown for \$125 USD per night  
Address: 1025 35th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508  
Phone: (907) 563-9844
- Hotel Reservation Link:  
<http://bit.ly/2CY8BgF>

## CHRISTMAS PARTY!



**Our annual Christmas celebration will be Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Turkey Red Banquet Room in Palmer. The room will open at 6:00 p.m. with dinner beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m.**

**The Association will be providing baked turkey and ham. Members are asked to bring a side dish to share. Following dinner, there will be a short business meeting followed by the gift exchange. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$15.**

**If you have not RSVP'd to Marge Mueller, please do so soon. Her email is [mueller@mtaonline.net](mailto:mueller@mtaonline.net) or phone 745-6144. Guests are welcome but please include them in your RSVP.**

# Favorite Seed Companies or Seed Catalogs

A poll was conducted on our Facebook group requesting people to submit their favorite seed companies or catalogs. You can find a current list on our Mat-Su Master Gardeners Facebook page. If you find we're missing your favorite and you're not on Facebook, you can send an email with the information to: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com). Here's a list of some the favorite seed companies and catalogs submitted in no particular order:

- Johnny's Selected Seeds: <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/>
- Victory Seeds: <https://www.victoryseeds.com/>
- Territorial Seed Company: <http://www.territorialseed.com/>
- Fedco Seeds: <https://www.fedcoseeds.com/>
- Pinetree Garden Seeds: <https://www.superseeds.com/>
- Seeds and Soil Farm - Palmer (Alaska company): <https://seedsandsoilorganics.com/>
- Best Cool Seeds aka Denali Seed Company (Founded in Alaska by an Alaskan): <https://www.bestcoolseeds.com/>
- Foundroot (Alaska company): <https://www.foundroot.com/>
- Veseys (Canada & US): <https://www.veseys.com/>
- Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds: <https://www.rareseeds.com/>
- Richters Herbs: <https://www.richters.com/>
- Row 7 Seed Company: <https://www.row7seeds.com/>
- High Mowing Organic Seeds: <https://www.highmowingseeds.com/>
- Strictly Medicinal Seeds: <https://strictlymedicalseeds.com/>
- Kitazawa Seed Company: <https://www.kitazawaseed.com/>
- Ohio Heirloom Seeds: <https://ohioheirloomseeds.com/>
- Renee's Garden Seeds: <https://www.reneesgarden.com/>
- Renaissance Farms: <https://www.renaissancefarms.org/>
- Eden Brothers: <https://www.edenbrothers.com/>
- Seed Savers Exchange Heirloom Seeds: <https://www.seedsavers.org/>
- Burpee: <https://www.burpee.com/>
- Park Seed Company: <https://parkseed.com/>
- Ed Hume Garden Seeds: <https://www.humeseeds.com/>
- Stokes Seeds: <https://www.stokeseeds.com/us/>
- Osborne Quality Seeds: <https://www.osborneseed.com/>
- Adaptive Seeds: <https://www.adaptiveseeds.com/>
- Sow True Seed: <https://sowtrueseed.com/>

The University of Alaska – Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service also has a publication for South Central Alaska which lists plant varieties known to be successful in South Central Alaska and a list of some seed companies. Here's a link to it: [http://cespubs.uaf.edu/index.php/download\\_file/1158/](http://cespubs.uaf.edu/index.php/download_file/1158/).

## Garden Links (updated Nov 2019)

**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**

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

**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**

<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,**

<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**

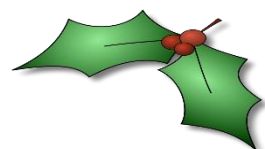
<http://www.uaf.edu/snre/>

**University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program**

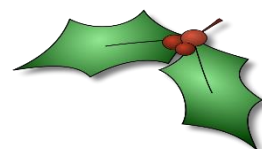
[www.fruit.usask.ca](http://www.fruit.usask.ca)

**USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base**

<https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/>



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



- Submit an article to the newsletter.
- Looking for someone to write a monthly column for the newsletter. Please contact Deb Blaylock if you're interested.

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Deb Blaylock</b>	<b>746-6045/kdblayment@ak.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Gregory Kalal</b>	<b>339-1966</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: [kdblayment@ak.net](mailto:kdblayment@ak.net)

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

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER 2019

Dec 2, Palmer, MMGA Annual Christmas Party

### JANUARY 2020 AND BEYOND

Jan 6, Palmer, Rob Brown, Flat Top Farm

Feb 3, Palmer, MMGA meeting

Feb 20-22, Anchorage, 15 Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference

Feb-Mar, Palmer, Organic Gardening Classes, <http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

Mar 2, Palmer, MMGA meeting

Apr 6, Palmer, MMGA meeting

May 4, Palmer, MMGA meeting

May 30, Palmer MMGA Annual Plant Sale

Jun 1, Palmer, Palmer Public Library Planting



## 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, 2020 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--**



December 2019



Like us on  
**Facebook**

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

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