



## President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

This will be my last President's Patch. It is a bittersweet moment but also one I am thankful for. It's been great helping out the last three years and often times, fairly difficult as we navigated through the strange new world filled with COVID 19. It seems these might be the norm for some time to come. Please continue to be patient and supportive of our new slate of officers and board of directors.

Next month, we welcome Dorte Mobley as our new President with Kristina Tornqvist taking on the Vice President duties. Cathy Crew will continue as Treasurer and Sue Glenn also continues as Member at Large. We'll welcome Isaac Vaughan, the youngest member of our association, as the new Secretary. Isaac recently joined us and is a newly minted Alaska Master Gardener having just completing the class this past year as well as his 40 volunteer hours. That's a huge accomplishment! Congratulations to Isaac! Many thanks to his supportive family as well.

If any of our members has any ideas of a good location for our first Monday night of the month regular meetings, please let Dorte or Kristina know as soon as possible. We won't be able to meet at the Lazy Mountain Bible Church and need a new location for our upcoming January through May meetings.

We also need someone to work on coordinating speakers for those same meetings and a coordinator to put the 2022 membership directory together. I could use some folks to help with the 2022 State Master Gardener Conference. Please see page 6. See me at the Christmas party if you're interested in helping with a committee or send an email.

Thanks to all and please send in your membership renewal if you haven't already! Wishing you all

**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
and Happy New Year!

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### GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2021, 6:30 P.M.

LOCATION:

TURKEY RED RESTAURANT

BANQUET ROOM

550 S ALASKA ST, STE 100, PALMER, AK 99645

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

ROOM OPENS AT 6 P.M. – DINNER BEGINS PROMPTLY  
AT 6:30 P.M.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE PARTY



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

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Some clouds have moved in this morning, so perhaps we'll have some temperature moderation at least for a few days. It is after all, winter in south central Alaska. We still have an hour of daylight to lose before the solstice. The inexorable ebb and flow of sunlight, so much more noticeable as latitude increases is a fact of life to be enjoyed or endured as our minds perceive it. Let us enjoy it then, along with the winter holidays and subsequent increasing sunlight. The gaily colorful seed catalogs should soon be forthcoming as well, always welcome to get us thinking about plans for a new gardening season.

The peasant could use some ideas as to what will make good table decorations for next April's Master Gardeners Conference. The decorations are to consist of plants which can be grown over summer and will be dispersed to the conference attendees in a drawing. The peasant will be in charge of these centerpieces and is certainly open to suggestions as to what to provide that will be well accepted by people. Any of you who would like to grow some favorite plant starts will surely be welcome to do so. Perennials can be a part of it as well as annuals for the growing season. A little help will be greatly appreciated.

The peasant has noticed a neat idea in building raised beds. A neighbor has used galvanized corrugated roofing to hold the soil in place. Treated lumber is used to strengthen the metal on the outside and does not contact the soil. It looks like a great idea to build beds that will last for a very long time. A bit costly perhaps, but something that could last a lifetime. There are also some ideas to be found online using galvanized metal that look very interesting.

Let us remember people who need help at this time of year or at any time for that matter. There are many good charitable entities that can make good use of contributions. Sharing is the word. Thanks, folks.



These are table decorations that we did for our last Mat-Su MG conference. Drink containers were binned from McDonalds to hold three-inch pots. Some colorful mesh plastic baskets are available at a low price that would be more attractive. Centerpieces can hold differing plant starts.

## MEETING MINUTES: DORTE MOBLEY, SECRETARY

### Minutes of the Nov 1, 2021 Mat Su Master Gardener Meeting

Present were Deb and Ken Blaylock, Kristina Tornqvist, Sue Glenn, Cathy Crew, Marge and Curt Mueller, Greg Kalal, Isaac Vaughan, Eva Cohnen-Brown, Bonnie Hager, Theresa Ruzek and Dorte Mobley

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Deb Blaylock who welcomed all members.

Minutes were emailed out. Nobody had any corrections, and they were approved as written after a motion by Kristina that was seconded by Sue.

Cathy Crew presented the treasurer report. We have \$4,504.88 on the checking account and \$7,755.34 in savings. Kristina motioned to accept, seconded by Sue, and passed.

2022 budget was presented and discussed at the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and also in the newsletter. Ken motioned to approve, Sue seconded it and it passed.

2022 standing rules were emailed out. Kristina motioned to accept them, Sue seconded that, and motion passed.

#### Committee reports

Speaker/meeting location coordinators needed

Newsletter: Deb B reminded us to submit an article, a recipe or information about favorite garden tool with a photo or a garden tip.

Webpage: Eva mentioned that we will need to beef up the web site next year for the conference. It was put in the budget already.

Christmas party: Room is reserved for the Christmas party at Turkey Red. We will have the room open at 6, with eating at 6:30 followed by a gift exchange. Club will have meat and everyone else should bring a side dish. If you want to participate in a gift exchange. \$20 limit on gift (typically a garden thing). Bring a wrapped item to participate in the exchange. **Please RSVP to Marge by November 30 via email:** ([mueller@mtaonline.net](mailto:mueller@mtaonline.net))

2022 State Master Gardener conference will be Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Evangelos Restaurant in Wasilla. Deb is the chair, and the theme is (so far) "We Can Grow It!" Our target audience will be beginning gardeners. Evangelos was chosen because of location,

low cost, they cater, and they do set-up and take-down/clean up, etc.

#### Old business

Volunteers or nominees for 2022 officers are:

President: Dorte Mobley

Vice President: Kristina Tornqvist

Secretary: Isaac Vaughn and Deb Blaylock

Member at Large: Sue Glenn.

Since there were two members running for secretary, we had election and Isaac won.

Committee volunteers are needed for the 2022 Standing Committees. Important to fill soon are the Membership Directory and the Meeting Coordinator.

#### New business:

We need to decide on a meeting location for 2022. The Experiment Farm has new rules: we will have to present proof of insurance, wear masks inside and have to keep track of who are at the meetings for "contact tracing" for Covid. It was decided that if we can't keep meeting at the church, we will try to find a different place to meet.

Next meeting is the Christmas party on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Turkey Red Conference Room in Palmer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

#### Speaker/Activity

The business meeting was followed by a floral arranging class. Tonja Hall, owner of Fleurish floral shop in Wasilla, was our guest speaker at this very informative and enjoyable class. She shared how to create lovely arrangements with flowers and grasses, including baby's breath, lilies, Chinese lantern flowers, eucalyptus, rosemary, and several other varieties of plants. Many lovely bouquets were created by club members, all to be taken home for continued enjoyment!

You can view a few photos at:

<https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/photos.html>  
courtesy of Eva Cohnen-Brown.







Join us this year for a virtual version of our Holiday at the Farm celebration!

On-line contest for kids and adults.

December 1st- December 14th in conjunction with Colony Christmas.

Friday, December 10th we will have a Facebook Live tree lighting and free giveaway!  
More details to come.

Prizes include gift certificates from local Palmer gifts shops, MEFEC apparel and other fun stuff!  
Winners will be announced on Facebook Live at Walkabout Wednesday Dec 15 starting at 2:15 pm

#### **Contest Categories**

##### **Kids 18 and under**

1. Cookie Decorating
2. Gingerbread Houses
3. Local Harvest Dish (Must be locally grown, foraged or hunted)

##### **Adults**

1. Food preservation (Most interesting way to preserve your harvest)
2. Local Harvest Dish- Sweet and savory. (Must be locally grown, foraged or hunted)

Enter in the comments section of each category on our Facebook page at  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/402414001624242>  
starting on Dec 1st!

\* Limit 1 entry per category per person

\*Prizes need to be picked up locally at the Experiment Farm

Link to Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/1c00VSjo8>

### Pumpkin Crunch Cake submitted by Lenita Deda



(Photo from the internet)

#### Ingredients

1 box yellow cake mix  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 4 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice  
 1 can 16 oz pumpkin puree  
 ½ cup chopped pecans  
 1 can 12 oz evaporated milk  
 ½ cup chopped walnuts  
 3 eggs  
 1 cup melted butter  
 1 ½ cup sugar  
 whipped topping

Heat oven to 350.

Grease bottom of 9x13 inch pan.

Combine pumpkin, evaporated milk, eggs, sugar, pumpkin pie spice, and salt in bowl then pour into pan.

Sprinkle the dry yellow cake mix over pumpkin mixture.

Sprinkle pecans and walnuts over the cake mix.

Drizzle melted butter evenly over everything.

Bake for 55 minutes or until top is turning golden brown.

Cool completely, cut and serve with whipped topping. Refrigerate leftovers.

### Hori-Hori Knife By Sue Glenn

This is my most used hand tool that I can't live without in the garden. I have had this one 10-15 years with no problems. It is sturdy has a nice grip with rounded edges. I use it to weed, dig holes or plants, form a trench for seeds, pry up rocks, roots etc. It will cut through smaller roots and sod using the serrated edge. The only difference from most Hori-Hori knives is the straight side is rather dull which in my case is a good thing or I would be cutting myself with it. It comes with a case to protect it and can be hung on a belt. Just a very versatile tool for all gardeners.



(Photo submitted by author)

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Its time for our annual holiday get-together! We meet Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Turkey Red conference room in downtown Palmer. The room opens at 6 pm and dinner will start promptly at 6:30 pm. The Association will furnish turkey and ham and members should bring a covered side-dish. Dinner will be followed by a white elephant gift exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gardening themed gift, valued at no more than \$20. Please RSVP to Marge Mueller no later than Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. Phone: 745-6144 or email: [mueller@mtaonline.net](mailto:mueller@mtaonline.net).



## My Favorite Tool Submitted by MG Joe Moore

Photos by the author

A triangle hoe quickly became my favorite gardening tool. It probably has a more formal name, but it is shaped like a triangle. The working surface is about a ¼ inch thick and 6 inches across. It is sharpened on all three sides. The hoe is worked by “shuffling” it back and forth across or just under the soil surface. This will quickly remove any shallow rooted weeds and clip off those that root deeper. It is easy on your back and allows you to quickly weed a large area and loosen the surface soil.

In terms of drawbacks: as a tall person, I wish the handle angle was a little steeper. Also, if you are too enthusiastic, you may end up removing a few plants you want.

I purchased mine from Johnny's Seeds, although I'm sure they are available elsewhere.



## 2022 STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Please consider which committee you would like to help with for the conference next year. We need your help to make the conference a success. Several more volunteers are needed to help with the conference committees. See below and let Deb Blaylock know if you can help ([matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)).

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- DOOR PRIZES - contact local companies to donate items for door prizes or to put in the goodie bags.
- VENDORS - contact local companies to set up a business table at the conference.
- ADVERTISING/PR - contact local news outlets and get the word out about the conference.
- GOODIE BAGS/REGISTRANT FOLDERS - order bags and get folders from CES. Put together the bags and folders for each conference attendee.
- SPEAKER THANK YOU GIFTS - Purchase thank you gifts for each of our guest speakers.
- SET UP AND ATTENDEE SIGN IN - Help Saturday morning of the conference to sign in attendees and hand out goodie bags.
- TABLE DECORATIONS - Help Curt Mueller grow some plants.
- PROGRAMS/REGISTRANT NAME TAGS/ETC - put together conference programs and other products.

## Garden Links (updated Mar 2021)

### Alaska Botanical Garden

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

### Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

### Arbor Day Foundation

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

### Alaska Division of Agriculture

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>

### Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

### Alaska Grown

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

### 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://www.alaskapeonysociety.com/>

### 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 Gardener

<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 (Extension)

<http://search.extension.org>

### Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

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

### Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Services

\*New\*

<https://www.uaf.edu/afes/places/palmer/>

### Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

### Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter \*New\*

<http://www.alaska.forestry.org/alaska/chapters/cook-inlet>

### South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

### Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Association

<http://seak-mastergardeners.org/index.html>

### Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/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/>

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	Deb Blaylock 746-6045/kdblalock@ak.net	
<b>Vice President:</b>	Kristina Tornqvist	795-6393
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dorte Mobley	232-5422
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Cathy Crew	632-4401
<b>Member at Large:</b>	Sue Glenn	671-0252

If you have gardening news, photos, or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please send to the MMGA email.

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

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DEC 2021

**Dec 6**, Palmer, Christmas Party, Turkey Red Conference Room

### JAN 2022 AND BEYOND

**Jan 3**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD  
**Feb 7**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD  
**Mar 7**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD  
**Apr 2**, Wasilla, (Evangelos), State Master Gardener Conference  
**Apr 4**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD  
**May 2**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD  
**May TBD**, Palmer, Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home Planting  
**Jun 4**, Palmer, Palmer Pavilion, Annual Plant Sale  
**Jun 13**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, Planting at Palmer Public Library  
**July TBD**, Palmer Garden & Art Faire  
**July/August**, TBD, Summer Garden Tour(s)  
**Aug 19 - Sep 5**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

Don't forget to check out the photos tab on our webpage! Eva updates it periodically from activities our association participates in.  
<https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/photos.html>

## 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, 2022, 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 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.

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 2021



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**Facebook**

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

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