



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

Garden fever has started! Many dormant Facebook groups are springing to life and the seed catalogs are flowing in non-stop to the mailbox! My January seed orders have been placed and most have been received. Now to dig out the required supplies to begin the process of starting seeds! Its an exciting time of year.

During the process of updating our 501 (c) (3) status with the Internal Revenue Service, we discovered the need to update our articles of incorporation and by-laws. Please review both of the documents and if you have any input, please attend the February 3rd meeting. We will be discussing and voting on these during the business meeting. This has been quite a struggle to get to this point, so membership support is greatly appreciated!

I need to point out that the June meeting date was changed. Our treasurer reminded me we had discussed changing the date at our June 2019 meeting and had agreed to move the Palmer Library planting back a week to allow the treasurer and plant sale committee time to process labels and income without having to rush through. Our June meeting is now adjusted from June 1st to June 8th.

I hope you attended our January meeting because our guest speaker, Rob Brown, did a very informative presentation on some of his garden and farming practices. I encourage you to check out his webpage, <https://flattopfarmak.wordpress.com/>, where he freely shares a lot of his information and techniques. He's done some highly innovative techniques with gardening and growing at our high latitude and cooler temperatures. Rob gladly shares his information and you will find him as a frequent contributor on many Alaska farming and gardening Facebook groups.

Our February speaker also brings a wealth of knowledge and factual information regarding pest management for indoor growing. We will also do an informal seed exchange during our February meeting. Please bring any extra seeds you would like to trade or share. See you then!

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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM
AND EXTENSION CENTER, KERTTULA HALL,
"BLUE ROOM," 1509 S GEORGESON DR,
PALMER, AK

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

SPEAKER/TOPIC

BUSINESS MEETING - 7-7:30 PM

GUEST SPEAKER - 7:30 - 8:30 PM

GUEST SPEAKER: CHARLES STILLMAN,
OWNER OF ADINAS ACRES. INTEGRATED PEST
MANAGEMENT FOR INDOOR GROWING

WE WILL ALSO DO AN INFORMAL SEED
EXCHANGE. THERE WILL BE A TABLE TO LAY
OUT YOUR EXTRAS FOR TRADING OR GIVING
AWAY.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

January, the opening month of the year, gets its name from the ancient Roman god Janus, who was the god of beginnings, gates, traditions, doorways and such. Typically Alaska's coldest month, it has certainly lived up to that reputation this year. The subzero temperatures and bitter winds that can desiccate exposed growth of perennials that may be marginally hardy or subject to dieback under adverse conditions will undoubtedly cause some winter damage. We were fortunate in getting a good snowfall just before the coldest weather began, snow cover being a great help for survival of many perennials. Periods of freezing and thawing, a condition we had prior to the beginning of the year, can also damage many plants. Winter was ever thus.

We'll have to wait and see how well our perennials have fared, but January is a good month to get ourselves organized for the new growing season. The supply of seed catalogs has been more than ample, welcome as they are. We really have an excellent variety of flower and vegetable varieties to choose from. The peasant firmly believes that gardening is conducive to a lengthy and happy life. The outdoor exercise and quality garden vegetables surely contribute to good health. The beauty created by all we grow is a priceless factor, and the satisfaction of gardening as well.

The peasant would like to throw in a couple of suggestions at this point. Being one who craves early tastes of garden stuff after a long season without the incomparable produce of Alaska gardens, the peasant grows a few plants of cabbage Parel. This one produces small solid heads of tasty cabbage. If seeded about April first and grown in four-inch pots before setting out in the garden one can get a very early and welcome cole slaw. Two other similar varieties are Katarina and Earliana.

A really excellent tomato to grow outdoors is Polar Baby. This is a determinate variety, very prolific and well flavored. The peasant seeds this one indoors

about March 20. It is not to be pruned and will grow to about four feet. Heavy bearing as it is, a stake or two will be of help. Grown in five-gallon containers in full sun and against a south facing wall they will produce well even in cool summers.

The peasant seeded tomatoes on January 2, 2020 to be grown in the greenhouse when it is heated. The goal is for ripe tomatoes in May and by using season extenders make them last until Thanksgiving.

Tomato cuttings are a good way to get quality plants in a short time. Cuttings are available from commercial growers or anyone who grows early seedlings. The peasant did a comparison several years back whereby he took cuttings and seeded tomatoes on the same day. Those grown from cuttings rooted in less than a week and had blossoms when the cuttings were taken. Some of the blossoms bore normal sized fruit. Needless to say, the cuttings produced plants that were several weeks ahead of those grown from seed.

There you have it.

Thanks, folks.

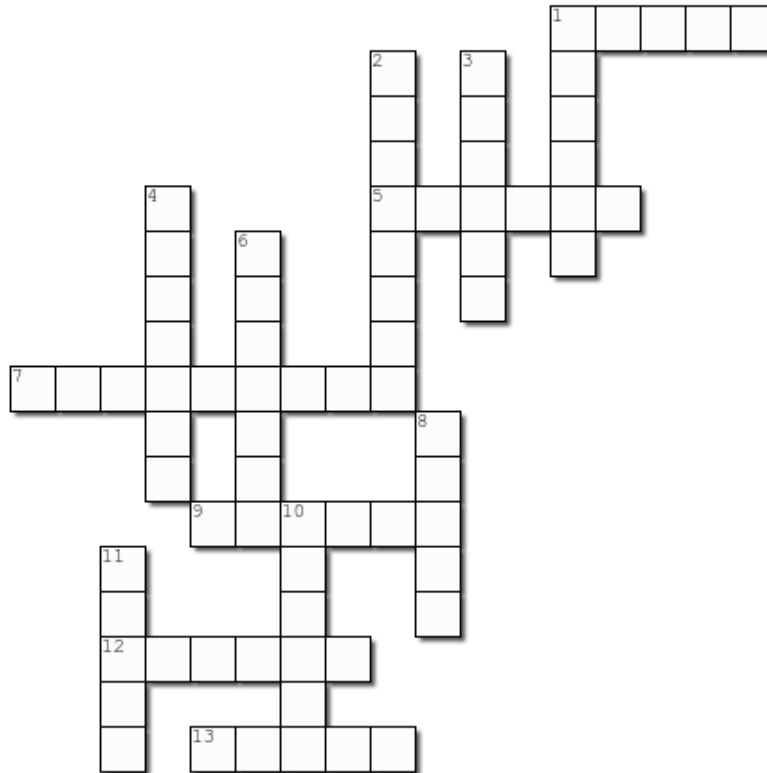


Some of the peasant's 2020 tomato crop. These were seeded on January 2nd and transplanted to four-inch pots on January 18th. Photo taken on January 20th.

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Botany Basics - Flowers

Questions and answers to this puzzle were taken from the April 2011, Alaska Sustainable Gardening, The Alaska Master Gardener Manual, HGA-00339.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. Connects the stigma to the ovary.
5. The pollen sac on a male flower.
7. Having only a stamen.
9. The top of a female flower part; collects pollen.
12. Can be dispersed by the wind or the birds and bees.
13. Highly colored portions of the flower.

Down

1. The male reproductive flower part.
2. Holds the anther in position.
3. The female reproductive flower part
4. Reproduction is their sole function.
6. A flower with functional stamens and pistils.
8. Where seeds develop after pollination.
10. Plays an important role in pollination.
11. Small, green, leaf-like structure.

Answers to January 2020 Puzzle

Across

1. An area on a plant stem where buds are located. (**node**)
7. Having one seed leaf. (**monocot**)
8. The female flower part; consists of a stigma, style, and ovary. (**pistil**)
9. An often overlooked but crucial plant part. (**roots**)
11. The stalk that attaches a leaf to a stem. (**petiole**)
13. A plant which goes from seed to flower to seed in one year or growing season. (**annual**)
15. Water- and nutrient-conducting plant tissue. (**xylem**)

Down

2. Having two seed leaves. (**dicot**)
3. The basic structural and physiological units of plants. (**cells**)
4. The pollen sac on a male flower. (**anther**)
5. The first leaf that appears on a seedling. Also called a seed leaf. (**cotyledon**)
6. The male flower part; consists of an anther and a supporting filament. (**stamen**)
10. The top of a female flower part; collects pollen. (**stigma**)
12. An undeveloped shoot from which leaves or flowers grow. (**bud**)
14. Principle function is to absorb sunlight and make sugars in a process called photosynthesis. (**leaves**)

**MMGA Meeting Minutes
January 2020**

Submitted by Secretary Carolyn Johnson

Meeting was called to order at: 7:00 PM by Deb Blaylock

Approximately 18 attendees

Treasurer Report: Cathy Crew was absent and attending her dad's 90th birthday out of state. The 1/2/2020 treasurer report was handed out and reviewed; motion to approve was taken and approved. None opposed. Request to submit any outstanding bills at next meeting.

Secretary's Report: New secretary Carolyn Johnson was welcomed. November minutes were approved as written in the December 2019 newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Speaker Coordination: Speakers have been planned for February, March and April. Still need a coordinator for the remainder of the year.

Rebarcheck Farm: Michael Kircher - Photo of installed arbor was passed around the meeting attendees.

Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home, and Library. Julie Pollard graciously will chair.

Midsummer Garden & Art Faire: NEED a committee chair.

Summer Garden Tours: NEED a committee chair.

State Fair Parade Float: NEED a committee chair.

State Fair Awards: Deb B - nothing to report till later in the year.

Newsletter: Who has completed the new crossword puzzle? (Answers can be found in the Alaska Gardener Manual)

Web Page: Eva Cohnen-Brown, no updates.

Plant Sale: NEED a committee chair.

Christmas Party: NEED a committee chair.

Membership Directory: Sue Glenn - Deadline to be in membership directory: JANUARY 15, 2020.

Scholarships & Grants: NEED a committee chair.

Old Business:

Still NEED people for committee chairs LISTED ABOVE.

501 (c) (3) IRS application is waiting on Cathy Crew to set up account on Pay.gov so we can proceed with the application process.

We are still waiting on the State Farm insurance quote for Officers and Board of Directors insurance.

New Business: Overview and handout about the Alaska Peony Society - a presentation from Pat Holloway of Fairbanks, meeting at Evangelo's Restaurant Conference Rm., Wasilla, on February 29, 2020, 10:00 am-4:00 pm; Alaska Peony Society members can attend for free and others can attend for \$20. Membership in the Alaska Peony Society is \$10.

Next Meeting: February 3; Charles Stillman will present on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for indoor growing.

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:09 pm.

Guest speaker: Rob Brown of Flattop Farms, Anchorage, AK, gave an excellent presentation of "What Works for Him" including a great Power Point presentation detailing out what has worked for him at his farm. You can go to his Facebook page - Flattop Farm - to access more about Rob and his farm. The presentation was excellent and had a lot of great information for us gardeners!

His web page is:

<https://flattopfarmak.wordpress.com/> and you can find links to many of his past presentations.

In working through updating our 501 (c)(3) paperwork, it is necessary to update our Articles of Incorporation and By Laws as well. The Mat-Su Master Gardener Association was incorporated in 1998 and filed non-profit paperwork the same year with the State of Alaska. We are working to update our paperwork with the IRS to make sure we are fully in compliance. Please read through these prior to the February meeting. We will be voting on these at the February meeting. Thank you - Mat-Su Master Gardener Association Board of Directors and Officers.

Draft 2020 Mat-Su Master Gardener Association Articles of Incorporation
Domestic Nonprofit Corporation
Amended and restated

This document replaces the previous Articles of Incorporation in its entirety

Approved by membership on XXX xx, 2020

The undersigned, a majority of whom are citizens of the United States, desiring to form a Non-Profit Corporation under the Alaska Non-Profit Corporation Act, AS 10-20.005, et seq, do hereby certify:

Article 1: The name of the Corporation shall be Mat-Su Master Gardener Association

Article 2: The place in this state where the principal office of the Corporation is to be located is Palmer, Matanuska Susitna Borough.

Article 3: Said corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, includes but is not limited to

- a) enhancing and supplementing the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener Program;
- b) assuming responsibility of performing special tasks and engaging in continuous activities related to the Program;
- c) promoting a wide dissemination to Alaska residents of gardening information available resulting from University study and experimentation; and
- d) fostering, promoting and disseminating gardening information in and outside Alaska.

Article 4: The names and addresses of the persons who are the initial trustees of the corporation are as follows:

Name	Address
Debra Blaylock	[REDACTED]
Gregory Kalal	[REDACTED]
Cathy Crew	[REDACTED]
Carolyn Johnson	[REDACTED]
Marjorie Mueller	[REDACTED]

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Article 5: No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

If reference to federal law in articles of incorporation imposes a limitation that is invalid in your state, you may wish to substitute the following for the last sentence of the preceding paragraph: "Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation."

Article 6: Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the borough in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names this day of _____ 2020.

Debra Blaylock, President

Gregory Kalal, Vice President

Cathy Crew, Treasurer

Carolyn Johnson, Secretary

DRAFT 2020**BYLAWS OF THE MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**

Approved by the membership on XXX xx, 2020

The name of this organization will be the Mat-Su Master Gardener Association, a non-profit organization.

Article I. Objectives

This Association is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and includes, but is not limited to:

- a) enhancing and supplementing the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener Program;
- b) assuming responsibility of performing special tasks and engaging in continuous activities related to the Program;
- c) promoting a wide dissemination to Alaska residents of gardening information available resulting from University study and experimentation; and
- d) fostering, promoting and disseminating gardening information in and outside Alaska.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried out by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article II. Membership

Membership shall be open to any person or organization interested in the objectives of the Association. Membership shall not be transferable.

Section 1. Regular Members: Regular members shall consist of those members who have paid their annual dues. All regular members may vote and hold office. Each regular member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

Section 2. Honorary Members: Honorary members shall be those members who are given honorary membership by the Board and shall have no obligation to pay membership dues.

Section 3. Dues: Membership dues may be reviewed and approved at the Annual meeting. All memberships shall be effective for a period of one year.

Section 4. Membership Year: The membership year shall be the calendar year.

Article III. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary plus one Member-at-Large. All Board members shall be elected by the membership. The Board shall provide full direction to all business between general membership meetings, outline yearly goals and programs, and take action to assure that the records of the Treasurer are audited annually. The Board may further establish standing rules and revise as needed.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Officers: The officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The **President** shall preside at regular and Board meetings, call Board meetings when necessary, appoint chairs to standing committees and make other appointments as needed.

The **Vice-President** shall conduct the business of the Association in the absence of the President.

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The **Secretary** shall record the minutes of the Board meetings and regular meetings, initiate and respond to correspondence and assure that the general membership is informed of chapter activities.

The **Treasurer** shall collect all monies and dues, pay all bills and retain records of receipts and expenditures and present a financial report to the Board. The Treasurer shall present the monthly bank statement to the Board for monthly audit.

Section 2. Election, Terms of Office: If more than one person is nominated for an office, the Officer shall be elected by ballot. If there is only one nominee for an office, a vote on that nominee may be taken by show of hands. If there is only one nominee for each of the offices, the President may ask for unanimous consent by show of hands. The Officers as well as the Member-at-Large shall serve a one-year term. The term of office shall begin the following January.

ARTICLE V. Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings: The regular meetings of the Association shall be held on the first Monday of each month, September through May with the exception of December (holiday party), unless otherwise set by the Board. Whenever the first Monday is a holiday, the meeting shall be held the following Monday of the month.

Section 2. Annual Meetings: The regular meeting on the first Monday of November shall be known as the Annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of election of Officers and Member-at-Large, approval of the annual budget, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3. Quorum: Ten regular members present shall constitute a quorum for the Annual meeting or regular meetings.

Section 4. Voting: Approval of an action or choice requires a majority vote of those present. Voice vote or show of hands is the normal voting method on a motion. Voting by mail or email is reserved for important issues on which a vote of the full membership is desirable and will be determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

ARTICLE VI. Bylaw Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting of this organization by two-thirds vote of those members present, provided the proposed amendment has been introduced in writing at a previous regular meeting.

ARTICLE VII. Distribution of Excess Funds, Dissolution of the Association

Section 1. Excess Funds: Money not needed to meet normal operating expenses of the Association may be used for any of the following purposes: (1) to fund scholarships for qualified groups to study horticulture; (2) to be donated to non-profit organizations for the purpose of furthering horticulture; and (3) to help fund projects that contribute to the beautification of our communities.

Section 2. Dissolution: Money remaining in the treasury upon dissolution of the Association shall be donated to non-profit organizations operating under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code with the purpose of furthering horticulture.

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

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 Gardener

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

Landscape Plants for Alaska

www.alaskaplants.org

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

www.matsumastergardeners.com

Master Gardener Research Link (Extension)

<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

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

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblayment@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Carolyn Johnson	619-857-6614
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 at her email: kdblayment@ak.net

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2020

Feb 3, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Charles Stillman, IPM Strategies for Indoor Growing & Seed Exchange

Feb 8, Anchorage, Kokedama workshop, akwildflowers@gmail.com to sign up.

Feb 20-22, Anchorage, 15th Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference, <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/sare/conference/>

Feb 22, Anchorage, Alaska Botanical Garden, 2020 Spring Garden Conference,

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

Feb 26 - Mar 1, Seattle, WA, Northwest Flower and Garden Festival, <https://gardenshow.com/>

Feb 29, Wasilla, Alaska Peony Conference 2020 with Dr. Patricia Holloway, <https://www.alaskapeonysociety.com/>

MARCH 2020 AND BEYOND

Mar 2, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Dr Patricia Holloway, Seed Saving

Apr 6, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Basic Seed Starting, Deb Blaylock, Mat-Su Master Gardeners

May 4, Palmer, MMGA meeting

May 30, Palmer MMGA Annual Plant Sale

Jun 8, Palmer, Palmer Public Library Planting (Note date change!)

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: 20th day of each month -- Thank you--



February 2020



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION
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