



Feb 2022



President's Patch

By President Dorte Mobley

Wow, what a beginning of a new year.

Since I wrote last, we have had freezing rain that was enough sideways and hard that it "ice blasted" the doors to my chicken house and my shed. In some places the boards look like they are brand new! Pretty crazy. Especially since it is on the west side that normally doesn't get much wind.

And then the wind came... I hope your places are still standing without too much damage. I can't believe some of the pictures that I saw on Facebook. Driving a firetruck around in it for 24 hours, I was glad we had 2,000 gallons of water in it, so it was pretty steady even in the gusts. I did decide to take some small roads instead of the Parks to one call, though. I didn't want to get flipped over. I was sitting at one place waiting for my guys to come out after checking a house for CO and was filming the whirling snow out the window when a trampoline blew up to the right side of the truck. I hurried to move the truck and when the guys came out just a few seconds later I was going to ask them to see if we could tie it off to something, but it had already blown away out into the night.

Now the days are getting longer, and I have ordered more seeds than I need and then some more. I even ventured out in the greenhouse and, wrapped in blankets, I sat there trying to do a mental reminder on how nice it will be in just a few short months. Looking at the summer pictures from our January talk, that sure gave me a boost of garden energy. I hope you find some energy of your own and look forward to seeing you all sooner than later.



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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

THE FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE A ZOOM ONLINE MEETING. A LINK WILL BE EMAILED OUT WHEN AVAILABLE.

MEETING AGENDA

BUSINESS MEETING 7:00 PM

GUEST SPEAKER 7:30 PM

DR. PAT HOLLOWAY WILL BE SPEAKING ON PEONIES.

PAT HOLLOWAY IS PROFESSOR EMERITA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS WHERE SHE WORKED FOR 30 YEARS SUPPORTING THE HORTICULTURE INDUSTRIES IN ALASKA. SHE NOW HAS A PRIVATE RESEARCH AND CONSULTING BUSINESS. SHE IS ACTIVE IN GRANT WRITING TO SUPPORT ALASKA'S PEONY INDUSTRY AND HAS BEEN INDUCTED INTO THE ALASKA INNOVATOR'S HALL OF FAME FOR HER WORK WITH PEONIES, AS WELL AS HER WORK AS FOUNDER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS GEORGESON BOTANICAL GARDEN.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

The start of the new year's not really a happy one. Seems Old Man Winter needed to show us who's boss. Woof! We'll be cleaning up wind damage for a long time.

But better days shall prevail. Our day length is increasing rapidly now, telling us that there is another growing season ahead. Planning and planting are de rigueur for us. It's time for us to get busy! Starting our own transplants is a way to get our own choices of varieties out of the plethora of those available from the various seed sources. We can time our plantings to suit our own schedule so the transplants will be ready at the proper time to go into our gardens. Moreover, we can give them proper care that doesn't always take place at the big stores, and we can harden them off so they're healthy at transplant time. The peasant shudders when he sees how the stores display their plants into direct sunlight with no attempt to accustom them to outdoor conditions.

We have varying facilities for starting plants, but there are some things that we can do to help in germination and growing. Bottom heat will help to germinate many plants, although some prefer cooler temperatures. We need to research what a particular variety requires for germination. Some, especially perennials or wildflowers, may require some stratifying, such as exposure to cold treatment, and some germinate best in darkness at cool temperatures. Supplemental lighting is helpful for most germinating and especially growing on in indoor conditions and short days. Incidentally, the distance of the plant from the light source is a factor. The intensity of light decreases with the square of the distance (formula: $1/d^2$). That means a plant six inches from the light source receives four times as much intensity as that same plant twelve inches from the source. Of course, the light source will have to be raised as the plant grows. Most plants do best with higher intensity light, but there are exceptions. Your own experience is vital in this respect, but the majority of what we grow needs good lighting.

Temperature for growing on also varies with varieties. Most garden vegetables will do well at 55 degrees F. Keeping them cool helps prevent leggy transplants. Others, such as tomatoes, cucumbers and winter squash prefer warmth in the 80-degree range. For tomatoes a two-week period of cooler growing temperatures will help trigger the blossoming period. Growing a variety of plants can be somewhat more difficult because some require different temperatures. Bottom heat for warmth loving plants will help to mitigate that problem. The nighttime temperatures are the ones that have the greatest effect on growth. Sunny days will increase daytime temperatures, which will not cause the plants to grow spindly. There again, the light intensity becomes a factor.

Tempered water is best for the starts we grow. Some tepid water does not create a shock to the plant like cold water does, but don't make it too warm.

Those are a few things to remember in growing our own stuff. Your own experiences become very important over time. Grow good plants and enjoy the results. Thanks, folks.



During an extended power outage this little gem was our best friend. It powered our furnace and water system for three-and-a-half days at the beginning of January. The furnace and pump are both wired to plug into a regular outlet. They can be unplugged during an outage and plugged into a cord from the generator and run happily. This system prevents feeding power into the line and endangering the folks making line repairs.

MORE THAN ORNAMENTAL: BY ISAAC VAUGHAN, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

There are many diverse views on houseplants. Some gardeners are “done with it” once the first killing frosts come, and some (like me) “need a little green” all year round. I like low-maintenance plants, so I could take a little bit of a break throughout the winter. Cacti and succulents are two examples. Though all plants produce oxygen, studies show plants that use more water, like Monstera and Peace lily, will filter more contaminants out of the air. NASA studies show that Sansevieria and Spathiphyllum plants filter out contaminants such as formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide (Houseplant Survival Manual).

It is also possible to grow food indoors. Besides the windowsill herbs, many people also grow tomatoes, citrus, shiitake mushrooms, coffee beans, banana (most often inedible when house-grown), pineapple (also inedible under the same conditions), Swiss cheese plant fruit (it is reportedly delicious, though vines need a 10' moss stick to get to get to fruiting size), eggplant, peanuts, strawberries, and sometimes figs. Although far from self-sufficient, it is a fun experience and takes little more effort than growing any other houseplant.

As for herbs, some of us don't have enough south-facing window space (Or we just fill it with cacti!). I found an ingenious way of solving this dilemma: A light hut! It's just a wooden box with all the inside surfaces covered in a reflective material and an LED lamp fixed to the ceiling. I have a 2-year-old mint plant in mine that takes up a 12x4" tray and is nearly 6" tall, cascading and trailing far and wide. Anytime anyone needs

fresh mint, the plant gets a well-needed pruning. I have yet to try my other favorite herbs: Basil, which will reportedly do well, cilantro, which could bolt early, lavender, and rosemary.



Isaac and his light hut



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Spring 2022 In-Person Alaska Master Gardener Class

The tentative details on the upcoming spring Alaska Master Gardener Class:

Tuesday 6-9 p.m., March 1st - May 24th, at the Experiment Farm.

Cost is \$300 but includes all materials and a \$100 rebate if community service hours are completed one year from class start date. The registration website will be up soon, but people can email Stephen Brown at scbrown4@alaska.edu and he will put them on a registration notification wait list.



Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center
 CLASSES - January Theme is: Organization
 February Theme is: Preparedness

**Watch our Facebook and Instagram page
 as well as our website for additional info & registration links!**

<https://www.facebook.com/matanuskaexperimentfarm/>

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

Jan 25	How to Organize a Presentation – 4-H Programming
Jan 26	Walkabout Wednesday – Farm Tour
Jan 27	Radon in Alaska – Art Nash
Feb 1	Backup Generators Purchase, Prep & Use – Art Nash
Feb 3	Chainsaw Use & Safety Fundamentals – Glen Holt
Feb 8	What to Do Before, During & After a Natural Disaster – Art Nash
Feb 9	Food Storage and Store Grain Pests – Alex <u>Wenninger</u>
Feb 15	Preparing for Emergency Wind Events – Art Nash
Feb 17	Emergency Supply Checklists & Food Safety – Julie Cascio
Feb 22	Preparing Your House for Extreme Cold & Emergencies – Steve Brown
Feb 24	Prepare your Pets for Disasters – Steve Brown

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The University of Alaska Fairbanks Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center strives to make our programs accessible for all individuals. If you or a family member who is attending a program needs accommodations to participate, please contact our office 5 days in advance to request services. This will give us the opportunity to provide assistance you require. (907)745-3360 or email

Theresa Isaac tisaac@alaska.edu

My Favorite Garden Tool by Master Gardener Dorte Mobley

Well, I can't really decide which tool I like the best, but I do have three tools that are my go-to tools always. I really like the Korean hand plow that Kristina mentioned before. It is very usable for all kinds of tasks - weeding, digging, making a small or larger trench for planting seeds or small plants, and if it is kept sharp, you can use it to whack off small tree seedlings.



<https://www.kinsmangarden.com/category/Korean-Hand-Plows>

My other two are my long-handled trowel and three-pronged hand rake. I use those all the time also. The little "shovel" can be used for weeding and digging holes for plants up to a 5-inch pot. Any bigger than that, and I will go to a regular shovel.



<https://www.leevalley.com/en-us>

The trowel can fit between plants that I like to pull up weeds or to just clean up in there. You can get the long-handled tools from Lee Valley Tools and the Korean hand plow from Kinsman Company.

2022 Standing Committee Volunteers

Monthly Newsletter - Deb Blaylock, publisher

Website Manager - Eva-Cohnen-Brown

Guest speakers for monthly regular meetings & meeting space coordinator - **Vacant**

Membership Directory - Kristina Tornqvist

Rebarchek Farm Project - Michael Kircher, chair

Annual Plant Sale - **Vacant**

Palmer Library & Pioneer Home Planting - Sue Glenn

Midsummer Garden & Art Faire - Chair: Craig Lisonbee

Summer Garden Tours - **Vacant**

Alaska State Fair awards - Deb Blaylock

State Fair Parade - **Vacant**

Nominations Committee - **Vacant**

2022 Christmas Party - **Vacant**

2022 State Master Gardener Conference Committee: Deb (Chair) & Ken Blaylock, Cathy Crew, Craig Lisonbee, Curt Mueller, Steve Brown, Eva Cohnen-Brown, Sue Glenn, Katie Hurley, Dorte Mobley, Debra Austin,

As you can see, many of our 2022 Standing Committees need volunteers. Please contact one of the board members if you would like to fill one of the vacancies.

Thank you!

Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Kristina Tornqvist, Vice President

President Dorte Mobley called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm, January 10, via zoom. Twelve members were present with a few more coming and going.

Kristina Tornqvist moved to approve the November minutes, Ken Blaylock seconded, and the motion passed.

Cathy Crew gave the Treasurer's report. Kristina moved to approve the report as presented with Sue Glenn seconding the motion. The motion passed.

Dorte thanked the previous board members for their work, with a special thank you to the previous President, Deb Blaylock.

Dorte asked what kinds of programs members would like. Lenita Deda will help compile the comments from the membership forms, and we will go from there. We still need a speaker coordinator.

Kristina Tornqvist reported that she has the main part of the membership flyer done. She will wait till January 20 for last minute members to sign up so that they are included in the flyer. So far, we have 36 members.

We need someone to chair and organize our plant sale. Date and place are already set and reserved for June 4 at the Palmer downtown pavilion. We will need to have someone in charge of sign-ups, labels, tables/chairs/awning and signs and advertising.

Michael Kircher reported on the Rebarchek project - not much happening. The possibility of making an MMGA sign for our plot was discussed.

The club is having a hard time finding a physical meeting place. Next month's

meeting is also via zoom. If anybody has ideas for a place, please let the board know.

The members liked the pop-up tours we had last year and would like to do that again. We can also tour local greenhouses (Ken's, Fresh Starts and Mid-valley were mentioned and Grow North Farm in Anchorage.)

Sue Glenn will be in charge of the plantings at the library and the Pioneer Home.

Currently the club has no insurance. Many places require insurance, so Sue will get more information for our next meeting. With our upcoming conference, insurance is a good idea.

Meeting adjourned.

Our guest speaker Keenan Plate from Grow North Farm then gave his presentation.

My Favorite Garden Tool

I must say my favorite gardening tool is one I just happened to run on to. It is an old flap jack turner. Chuck sharpened it on the metal front edge and sides, and it just sails down thru the weeds. You can lift dirt with it also. I wish I could give you a picture of it but can't get down to the greenhouse to get it to show you a pic. Way too much snow; will show you when spring gets here. It is on its way. Think positive, my gardening friends. Lenita Deda




January 18, 2022

Let's Get Growing!


Good Earth Garden School's
Courses for 2022
*****please watch for frequent updates!*****

To Register: Go to www.goodearthgardenschool.com
 Questions? Email information@goodearthgardenschool.com

Check back here often for added courses and info. Print this for your reference

Growing Organically---	Sustainably---	Regeneratively	
Organic Gardening <i>The Comprehensive Growers Course 2022</i> Mat-Su College course # Agri 138 -This is a 6-part class- Repeated in the evening section	Mat-Su Valley Mat-Su College Room: SNOD 118 <i>Note: live class in Double wide room for social distancing & masks</i>	Total of 6 Friday Afternoons 1:30pm-4pm Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11. Plus optional field trip on Sun Apr 10 2-5pm	1 credit + all fees= \$253 or Senior Citizen Tuition Waiver NOTE you must submit waiver applic by 1 st week in Feb. Senior citizens who are granted the senior waiver still pay estimated fees of \$45 <i>Instead of registering on line, you can stop in & fill out a 1-page form, pay, & you're IN. Or ask me to send you the 1-page form so you can mail in the registration. Or call 745 9746</i>
Organic Gardening <i>The Comprehensive Growers Course 2021</i> A repeat of afternoon section Mat-Su College course # Agri 138 -This is a 6-part class-	Mat-Su Valley Mat-Su College Room: SNOD 118 <i>Note: live class in Double-wide room for social distancing & masks</i>	Total of 6 Friday Evenings 6pm-8:30pm Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11. Plus optional field trip on Sun Apr 10 2-5pm 2-5pm	1 credit + all fees= \$253 or Senior Citizen Tuition Waiver (see info above) See registration options above Or call 745 9746

Save the Date!


You Can Grow It!
Alaska Master Gardeners 2022
Date: April 2, 2022

Location

Evangelo's Restaurant
 2530 E Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK 99654

Mark your calendars for the 2022 State Alaska Master Gardeners Conference

Speakers, Agenda & Registration
 information will be published soon at:
www.matsumastergardeners.com
 Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com



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 Gardeners Association and University of Alaska Cooperative
 Extension

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.arborday.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

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/>

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

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

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

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Dorte Mobley	907-232-5422
Vice President:	Kristina Tornqvist	907-795-6393
Secretary:	Isaac Vaughn	dnavon@msn.com
Treasurer:	Cathy Crew	907-632-4401
Member at Large:	Sue Glenn	907-671-0252

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/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 2022 AND BEYOND

Feb 7, Palmer, State Master Gardener Conference Committee Meeting – 6 pm - Zoom
Feb 7, Palmer, Regular Meeting, Dr. Patricia Holloway, Peonies – 7 pm - Zoom
Feb 4 – Mar 11, Palmer, Organic Gardening Course, <https://ellenvandevisse.com/>
Mar 1 – May 24, Mat-Su Spring Master Gardener Class
Mar 7, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD
Mar 11-12, Anchorage, ABG 2022 Spring Garden Conference
Apr 2, Wasilla, (Evangelos), State Master Gardener Conference, "You Can Grow It!"
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: 20th day of each month -- Thank you--



February 2022



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
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