

# MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

Feb 2017



## President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

We are well into winter and I can't wait for warmer weather and much longer days. The seed catalogs have been coming in and it certainly gets you to thinking about what you can do different or even better this summer.

We have lots of planning going on for our Master Gardener Conference which will be held on April 22 in Palmer. It should be quite an event with a variety of speakers! Our Annual Plant Sale is always a local favorite and will be held downtown on June 3. You can't miss the variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers for sale. We will have some new guidelines in place so be sure to read over the guidelines on our website mid-March.

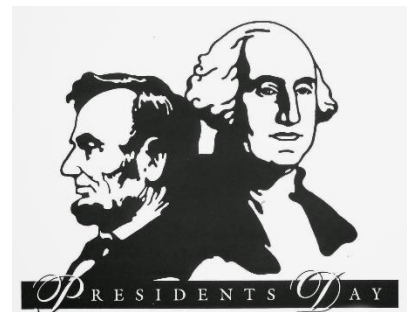
We would like to make sure that we have agenda items ready to talk about at our next meeting, so if you think of any topics, please share prior to our regular meeting so that we can be ready to discuss and make a better use of our time.

Hope to see you on February 6 at 7pm for our next meeting.



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### GENERAL MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

#### NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 7:00 P.M.**  
**LOCATION: MATANUSKA TELEPHONE  
COMPANY (MTA) BUILDING, CONFERENCE  
ROOM (IN THE BASEMENT), PALMER, AK**  
**DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND**

#### MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MEETING MINUTES
- CONFERENCE UPDATE/NEWS
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS
- GUEST SPEAKER

**TOPIC/SPEAKER:**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**

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

Photos by the author

When the days begin to get longer, the winter begins to get stronger. This old saying may not always hold true, but it seems to be accurate on this January 19th. The peasant has just retrieved from storage some pots to be sterilized for transplanting tomato seedlings and to bring in a bale of Sunshine Mix to thaw out for the same purpose. It's -20 F and the sun made it over the mountains to the south at 10:30 a.m. We're gaining daylight and the snow and temperature certainly indicate that this is a winter day. So be it.

The peasant is checking out his seed inventory and perusing seed offerings in catalogs and online to see what's new and what old favorites need to be ordered for the approaching growing season. February is a month for starting some flower and vegetable varieties that require considerable time to develop before transplanting to the garden. Over the years, Marge and the peasant have kept track of starting dates with the help of a comprehensive list from Harris-Moran which gives seed to transplant time, germination and growing temperatures, light or dark to germinate, and other useful information. All of this for vegetables and flowers, annual and perennial. The peasant will make some copies and bring to the February master gardener meeting for folks to help themselves to.

The peasant has some favorites for the vegetable garden. Ailsa Craig onions get to be a large size and store well. They are still in fine shape now. He also grows Patterson and Redwing which will store until a new crop is ready. Utah 52-70 is an old standby for celery. Parel hybrid is a favorite for very early cabbage. February is too early for starting cabbage unless you're trying to grow a giant one for the fair. The peasant likes Kabocha type squash for winter squash. Cha-Cha and Winter Sweet are very tasty. There are not so many choices for annual artichokes, but Imperial Star is reliable.

Ailsa Craig Onions



We are fortunate in having so many choices in flowers and vegetables available. Many of the old favorites continue to do very well and new hybrid varieties also. A beef the peasant has with some seed companies is that they'll come out with a new variety that does extremely well and then suddenly it's no longer available. There will be a replacement that will require a trial and it may not do as well. Johnny's is noted for that, but they do have a tremendous selection. Denali Seeds carries many varieties that fit Alaska's growing season. Pine Tree, Territorial, Stark, Park, Burpee, Veseys, Stokes, and more, are good suppliers, online or by mail order or call-in. The peasant likes Stark for high quality strawberry plants. Sharing an order with a couple of friends reduces the cost per bundle and shipping too. A ship date may be requested.

Growing vegetables is the peasant's forte, and he certainly encourages everyone to do more of it. For our own health and the flavor and freshness of the product, our home gardens are without equal.

Thanks, folks.

**Minutes from Meeting, January 9, 2017  
Submitted by President Rhonda Bowman**

14 present on sign-up sheet

Recommendations were made for sending a card to Vera Pratt's family. Service announcement will be coming soon.

**Treasurers report:**

- checking: \$3145.55
- savings: \$3733.70
- Total: \$6879.25

Need to have Board meeting to determine the budget for this year.

Reminded everyone about the new rules regarding the definition of family for membership. Adult children must live in same home as original member. It was going to be placed in the newsletter so everyone can note this change.

Plant Sale: No items marked in cents, must round up or offer two or three for dollar; only take cash and checks. Discussed using Square, but not sure if it would be beneficial or too time-consuming.

Reminded everyone about the new change that members must be paid up prior to sale. No memberships purchased on day of sale.

Briefly discussed conference: \$75 open registration fee and after April 1<sup>st</sup>, the fee will be \$100. We will have on-line registration forms and lunch will be provided by Turkey Red. I am assuming Lois will provide minutes from Conference discussion.

Speaker: Craig Smith, Agronomist from Natural Resources Conservation Service to discuss the NRCS program for High Tunnels.

**Alaska Master Gardener  
Conference  
April 22, 2017  
Palmer Community Center  
Train Depot**



- We will have exciting and informative speakers on a variety of topics.
- A delicious lunch is included in the conference price, catered by Turkey Red.
- Vendors will offer gardening information and products.
- Registration begins in March and space is limited so register early!
- A fun-filled and educational day and celebration of Earth Day!
- Speakers are all chosen and will cover a variety of topics.
- We still have a few vendor spaces available if you know someone or a business that might be interested.
- Donations for door prizes are coming in and more are welcome from individuals and businesses.

Look for more details soon on our webpage, [www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com)

You can email us at [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com) for more information on the conference; information on vendor space; or if you would like to provide a door prize.





**13th Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference**

# Save the Date

**February 21-23, 2017**  
Fairbanks Westmark Hotel

Join us for the SARE conference and workshops

- Feb. 21 - preconference workshops
- Feb. 22 - conference
- Feb. 23 - postconference workshops

This conference provides opportunities for members of the agricultural community to learn about key sustainability challenges and opportunities.

- › Growing fruits and vegetables
- › Reindeer and livestock ranching
- › Birch syrup
- › Farming and gardening in rural Alaska
- › Marketing and sales

Contact Darcy Etcheverry at [ddetcheverry@alaska.edu](mailto:ddetcheverry@alaska.edu) or 907-474-5107 for more information.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

WESTERN SARE  
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education



## Organic Gardening The Five-Session Comprehensive Course

Mat-Su College Campus, UAA, Five Fridays + Field Trip

Agri 138 section 37078 - afternoons, 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Agri 138 section 37079 - evenings, 6 pm to 8:30 pm

Five Fridays: February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, and a field trip on Saturday, March 4th from 3 pm to 6 pm

Chugiak-Eagle River Campus, UAA, Five Saturday mornings

AG138 section 30094, 10 am to 12:30 pm, February 4, 11, 18, 25, and March 4

Learn how to:

- Compost successfully
- Fertilize organically
- Build powerhouse soil
- Manage pests & weeds non-toxically
- Pack nutrient density into your food

### To Register:

Unless you are a full-time student, it is easiest to register by stopping by or by calling Mat Su College - - 907-745-9746 or Chugiak-Eagle River - - 907-786-7613  
1 credit, audit, or senior waiver

Once a year, I offer this foundational training. You go home with an armload of practical knowledge to grow delicious vegetables, fruits, flowers, herbs, and grains on any scale of production. You'll learn how to put all the parts of sustainable growing together. If you're ready to grow more food organically, this is the comprehensive course to take. Come join the fun!

Instructor Ellen Vande Visse

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

## Garden Links

### Alaska Botanical Garden

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

### Alaska Community Agriculture

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

### Arbor Day Foundation

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

### Alaska Natural Heritage Program – Botany

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

### 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 Chapter

<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 Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

### Alaska Plant Materials Center

<http://plants.alaska.gov/>

### Alaska Rhodiola Products Cooperative

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

### Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

### Eat Local Alaska

<http://akfood.weebly.com/index.html>

### 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.org](http://www.matsumastergardeners.org)

### 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 Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

### UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

### UAF School of Natural Resources

<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/>

### Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation

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

## Announcements

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The club is in need of someone to coordinate speakers for our meetings.

Need volunteer hours? Volunteer to help with the 2017 State Master Gardener Conference. Send an email to the club and we'll add you to the list of helpers!

### ITS THAT TIME!

Its time to renew your annual association membership. Dues are \$10 for an individual annual membership and \$12 for a family membership. We've clarified what a family membership means. **A family membership is for family members who live in the same household.**

We also have a gift membership available for gift giving! Forms are available at:

<http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/forms.html>

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Rhonda Bowman</b>	<b>746-2948</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Curt Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Hally Truelove</b>	<b>376-0909</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Joan Redlin</b>	<b>206-604-4676</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: [kdblaylock@ak.net](mailto:kdblaylock@ak.net)

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2017

**Feb 6**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Feb 21-23**, Fairbanks, 2017 Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference:

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference/>

### MARCHs 2017 AND BEYOND

**Mar 6**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Apr 3**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Apr 22**, Palmer, Alaska State Master Gardener Conference

**May 1**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Jun 3**, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale

**Jun 5**, Palmer, Palmer Library Planting

**Jul 10**, Palmer, MMG Mtg TBD

**Aug 7**, Palmer, MMG Mtg TBD

**Aug 24 – Sep 4**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

**Sep 11**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Oct 2**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Nov 6**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Dec 4**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Please let Rhonda know if you have any ideas for future meeting topics. Members are welcome to offer to speak or reach out to speakers of interest to the club's membership. The club would welcome a speaker coordinator – if interested contact Rhonda.

Our club is only as good as we the members make it!

## Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$12.

Membership forms are available to download on the club's website, [www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com)

*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.

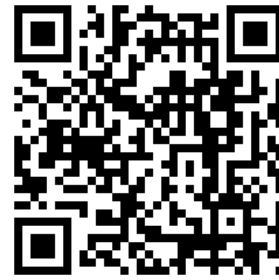
If you are not the author or photographer, please ensure you have permission of the author or photographer to use their material in the newsletter. The newsletter publisher is not responsible for obtaining this for you.

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~~**



February 2017



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**Facebook**

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS  
ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 585  
PALMER, AK 99645**

