

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

Jan 2016



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

Did you have gardening items on your Christmas list this year? It is always a good idea to have a wish list created and kept current so that your family always knows what to get you for birthdays and other holidays! If you put your list in writing you won't be likely to forget to purchase those "must have" items when they go on sale or when you finally spot them. This could include handy tools or that special book which helps when you're planting seeds and misplace the seed packets or lose the identification tags for your bulbs.

If you have a fireplace or wood stove, are you collecting your fireplace ashes to use for mulch for your garden beds? Are you collecting creative planter ideas or ways to create memorable lawn art for your flowers and vegetables next summer?

Now is the perfect time to get the new planters drawn up so you can keep your eyes out for low-cost bricks folks are trying to get rid of prior to spring when everyone is on the lookout for them.

All the seed catalogs have the new items for 2016. It is so much fun to plan and select different varieties for next growing season. Right now you can plant an indoor herb garden and it doesn't have to take up a lot of room. It is so handy to have fresh herbs on hand to use in your cooking.

Keep your "To Do" list going! Don't forget that the Mat-Su Master Gardeners meet the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the MTA building in Palmer.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Chapter Meeting	1
Peasant's Perspective	2
Alaska Grown Source Book Info	3
Why Use Certified Potatoes?	3
Christmas Party Gift Exchange Photos	3
Rhodiola Workshop	4
Membership Renewal	5
Garden Links	6
Announcements/Volunteer Opportunities	6
Contacts	7
Calendar of Events	7

CHAPTER MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, JAN 4TH, 7:00 PM

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
- MINUTES
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS

TOPIC/SPEAKER:

ROB WELLS, THE PERSISTENT FARMER,
WILL SPEAK ON DAHLIAS AND TOMATOES.

HERE'S ROB'S WEB PAGE:

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

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos by the author

We have reached the winter solstice at last; and the nadir of our daylight, and the prospect of months of lengthening days. The peasant, in pondering the increasing celerity of the ebb and flow of the seasons, was reminded of a poetic effort by Oliver Wendell Holmes.

The Chambered Nautilus [final verse]

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last!
Shut thee out from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!

This thought may be proper at a time when we contemplate the beginning of a new year and our own efforts to change, not only to better ourselves, but to make ourselves better. May the New Year be good to you all, and where it is not good, may you accept that graciously.

Thanks folks.



*Let the Seasons
roll*



Alaska Grown Source Book applications are now being accepted for the 2016-2017 edition

The Source Book is a publication the State of Alaska Division of Agriculture creates every other year to help Alaskan farmers and ranchers connect with potential consumers. It is the most comprehensive list of Alaska Farmers and the go-to publication for consumers looking for farmers in their area.

Please note: Everyone MUST submit a new application to be entered into the 2016-2017 Source Book. Farm listings from previous editions will not be automatically entered into the new version.

To view the current listings in the 2014-2015 book, go to:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/sourcebookindex2014.html>

To enter your farm or venue into the 2016-2017 book, go to:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/index.htm> . You can either fill out an application online or print a hard copy application and mail it.

The deadline to apply is March 15, 2016.

Why Use Certified Seed Potatoes?

Alaska's potato crop is free from many serious pests and diseases that are common in the continental United States. Imported potatoes could introduce problems such as late blight, root knot nematode, viruses and other destructive organisms. Certification is designed to identify and remove from use those seed lots which have become diseased or are otherwise of reduced value for use as seed.

Alaska's Certified Seed Potato growers start with disease tested stock and increase this seed in accordance with the strict certification standards. Growers manage their seed production to limit the possible exposure to diseases, but re-infection can occur from soil or other sources. The procedures used by the seed growers enable them to supply end-users with excellent quality planting stock of named varieties. Only those plantings meeting the minimum disease tolerance are allowed.

Seed potatoes are regulated because the potato is vegetatively propagated and many afflictions can be carried in or on the potatoes used for planting. Excluding diseases from seed stock is critical. Diseases can travel long distances by the wind or insects or transferred onto contaminated equipment. Planting Certified Seed will help you produce a good crop and will help protect your neighbors too.

Submitted by Master Gardener Craig Kalal.
 Downloaded from
<http://www.plants.alaska.gov/PotatoSeedProduction.html>



Christmas Party Gift Exchange Photos by Deb Blaylock

RHODIOLA WORKSHOP

Growing and Processing *Rhodiola rosea* in Alaska

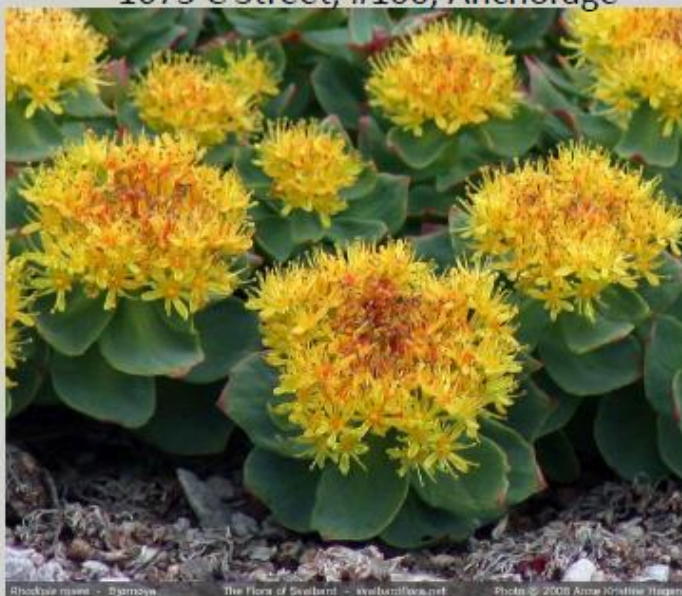
Sunday, January 10, 2016

10:00am—12:00pm

Presented by Petra Illig, M.D.

Held at the UAF Cooperative Extension Office

1675 C Street, #100, Anchorage



Hosted by the Alaska Rhodiola Products Cooperative

This workshop is open to the public.

The Cooperative's annual meeting will follow in the afternoon,
and is open only to active and new members.

For more information, email akroseroot@gmail.com

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of year! If you haven't done so already, please print out the renewal form and send it in or bring it to the next meeting. We hope you've enjoyed the past year with our club and hope to see you again next year! Membership gives you the benefit of participating in the club's annual plant sale.



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS CLUB
PO BOX 598, PALMER, AK 99645
Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com
Email: www.matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

2015 MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Membership is \$10 for an annual individual membership or \$12 for an annual family membership. Memberships are for the calendar year – January through December. Please add matsumastergardeners@gmail.com to your email address book so that club correspondence is not blocked.

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Membership Application:

Please PRINT CLEARLY and complete all address fields to ensure that our database is current and accurate. Please indicate if this a

New Annual Individual \$10 membership ☐ OR a new Annual Family \$12 membership ☐

or if you are renewing an individual \$10 membership ☐ OR a Family \$12 membership ☐

Name: _____

Street Address/PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Preferred Phone Numbers: Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Gardening areas of interest: ___ annuals ___ perennials ___ trees & shrubs ___ vegetables
___ fruit ___ landscaping/garden design ___ other (please specify) _____

Gardening information you would like to see in the newsletter or presented at a meeting:

Do you consent to having photos of you participating in Association activities posted on the website? Please initial: Yes _____ or No _____

The newsletter is published monthly and is available to download and print on the club's website: www.matsumastergardeners.com.

Return your payment and the completed application/renewal to:

Mat-Su Master Gardeners
c/o Membership Coordinator
PO Box 598,
Palmer, AK 99645

Visit our website for monthly meeting information or contact for more information:

Rhonda Bowman, President ~746-2948
Lenita Deda, Membership Coordinator~ 745-3413

Garden Links


Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Community Agriculture

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

Arbor Day Foundation

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/index.htm>

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 **New**

<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://ellenvandevise.com/>

Integrated Pest Management Program

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

Junior Master Gardeners

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

Landscape Plants for Alaska

www.alaskaplants.org

Local Alaskan Plants Clearinghouse

<http://www.localplants.org/Home>

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

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

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

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/>

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

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 desperate need of someone to coordinate speakers for our meetings. Please let Rhonda know if you're interested. Thanks!

BOARD MEMBER OPENING

The position of Club Secretary is still open. The job involves taking minutes at meetings and attending board meetings. If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Bowman for further details and information.

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Co-VP	Hally Truelove	376-0909
Secretary:	Vacant	
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 @Email: kdblalock@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2016

Jan 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, The Persistent Farmer, Rob Wells

Jan 10, Anchorage, Growing and Processing Rhodiola rosea in Alaska, email: akroot@gmail.com for more info.

Jan 28-30, Homer, Alaska Peony Grower's Association Winter Conference 2016 "As Far As You Can Go!"

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

FEBRUARY 2016 AND BEYOND

Feb 1, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Feb. 22-25, Anchorage, 2016 Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference, <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference/>

Mar 7, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Apr 4 Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Apr 16, Anchorage, State Alaska Master Gardener Conference,

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

May 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Jun 4, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale (Tentative)

Jun 6, Palmer, Annual Palmer Library Planter

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

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--



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January 2016



Like us on
Facebook

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

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB
PO BOX 585
PALMER, AK 99645

