

# MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

Jan 2018



## President's Patch

By President Michael Kircher

Thanks to Deb Blaylock for reminding me that I actually have certain duties as President.

Phyllis and I returned on the 15th of December (at 1:00 am) from our great trip to Israel. We arrived in Tel Aviv on November 29 after about 32 hours of travel. We toured the city, ate at a bunch of local restaurants and walked and sat on the beach looking out at the sunset over the Mediterranean.

Yes, I know it was tough, but somebody had to do it. We moved on to Haifa on December 3rd for nine days of our Baha'i Pilgrimage. We photographed many garden design elements and plants while there and would be willing to show them to the club. The Baha'i gardens themselves are a World Heritage Site. Just like any Alaskan who travels, we were happy to be back home, but were thankful for both the profound spiritual aspects of our trip as well as the extra sunlight.

**Happy  
New Year!**

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### GENERAL MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

#### NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH AT 7:00 P.M.  
LOCATION: MATANUSKA TELEPHONE COMPANY  
(MTA) BUILDING, LARGE MEETING ROOM (IN  
THE BASEMENT), 480 COMMERCIAL DR.,  
PALMER, AK

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

#### MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MEETING MINUTES
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS

#### SPEAKER/TOPIC

DENISE BOWLAN OF PIONEER PEONIES AND  
THE ALASKA PEONY SOCIETY

PRESENTATION ON THE ALASKA PEONY  
SOCIETY AND GROWING PEONIES IN THE MAT-  
SU VALLEY

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

Photos by the author

This is being written on the day of winter solstice. We've completed another orbit and begin a new one. The cycle begins again, so chalk it up with whatever means with which you celebrate!

The peasant has been observing the quality of light whenever the sunshine hits the south-facing slopes of our mountains. It is a treat to the eye to see the ever-changing light show with the sun so low on the horizon; during the year the play of shadows from the peaks over the high valleys continues this treat. We are fortunate indeed to be able to view these phenomena. Alaska truly has much to offer in beauty!

Breathes there a gardener who doesn't welcome increasing daylight and its promise of another season of fruitful toil? Soon comes the springtime when all is new life, summer's endless days, and as they once again begin to shorten, the bounty of a fine harvest of our efforts and that which nature has provided to us; and at last to pause and reflect upon it all. So pass our years.

Marge and the peasant have been enjoying the daily company of a pair of Steller's jays. As they become accustomed to our presence while feeding they have become less skittish, to the point where they'll take a peanut held out to them in a hand. They make several false starts to accept it and then make a quick grab and jump back with it but do not fly away. At that point more peanuts are spread on the feeder and they fill their crops, and having accomplished that, they fly away with a beak-full to be stashed in a secret place. Chickadees and nuthatches will consume a few unsalted peanuts as well, along with their sunflower seeds and suet. Winter entertainment it is, to watch them.

May you gratefully enjoy the season and generously share with others who may have unfilled needs, and may we help make the world a better place for us all.

Thanks, folks.



Smart-looking birds, are they not? The one on the right is in the process of swallowing a seed. Sometimes if the seed is too big they'll drop it on the feeder surface and split it before they swallow it. Peanuts are by far their favorite, but they also eat suet and sunflower seeds. They announce their presence by loudly pecking on suet, at which time we can give them some peanuts. We show them the transparent seed container through

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

We hope you enjoyed the past year with the Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association. Its time to renew memberships for 2018. A renewal form is conveniently located on page 5. Please complete it and mail it in with your check (please don't send cash through the mail). If you would like to renew with credit or debit card, please go to our web site and visit the membership tab and follow the instructions:

<https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/>

This year, we're reviving the membership directory. Everyone needs to fill out a new form and answer the question about being included (or not) in the membership directory. To be included in the directory, please submit your membership form before the end of January.

Thank you!

## Recipes from the Christmas Party

### Copper Penney Carrots

From Marge Mueller

#### Ingredients:

2 lbs thin sliced carrots  
1 cup sugar  
1 small green pepper  
3/4 cup vinegar  
1 medium onion  
1 tsp mustard  
1 can tomato soup  
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
salt and pepper to taste

#### Directions:

Cook carrots in salted water until just done. Rinse in ice water. Drain.

Arrange layers of carrots, raw pepper slices and onion rings in 3 quart bowl.

Combine remaining ingredients in sauce pan. Bring to a boil, stirring until thoroughly blended. Pour mixture over carrots and refrigerate until flavor is absorbed, usually overnight.

The longer it sets, the better.  
Makes 12 servings.

### Kale Salad, Festive Style

(loosely adapted from UAF  
Cooperative Extension)  
From Eva Cohnen-Brown

#### Ingredients:

1 bunch kale destemmed  
1 lemon, juice of, or 2 Tbs juice  
2 Tbs honey  
Salt - pinch  
1/4 cup olive oil (or less)  
Ground pepper, to taste  
Pomegranate seeds  
Apple, chopped  
Pumpkin seeds, handful - toasted

#### Directions:

Destem 1 bunch kale, chop and put in a bowl. Use 1/2 lemon juice or 1 Tbs., pinch of salt to 1/8 tsp, drizzle of olive oil over it. Massage 1-3 minutes to relax kale. Massage until it feels tender - different types of kale take longer or less time.

Next, in a bowl mix 2 Tbs honey, 1/2 of lemon juice or 1 Tbs., olive oil 1/4 cup (or less) and ground pepper. Mix well and then drizzle over kale and mix in. If you prefer more tartness, add more lemon juice.

Garnish with 1/2 pomegranate, chopped apple and toasted pumpkin seeds.



# Organic Gardening

## The Six-Session Comprehensive Course

### Mat-Su College UAA Six Fridays + optional Field Trip

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

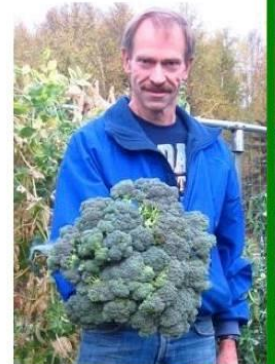
Agri 138 section 37079 -evenings 6pm to 8:30pm

Six Fridays: Feb 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 23, 2018

Optional Field trip on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 6pm

### Learn how to:

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



### To Register:

**1 credit, audit, or Senior Waiver**

**Mat Su College** - Unless you are a full time student, it is easiest to register

either stopping by or calling **907-745-9746**

1 credit \$202; please call **745 9746** about 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, & 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)



# **MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION**

**PO BOX 598, PALMER, AK 99645**

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

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

## **2018 MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

Membership is \$10 for an annual individual membership or \$12 for an annual family membership. **Family memberships are for family members who reside in the same household.** Memberships are for the calendar year – January through December. Please add [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto: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 (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing 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 \_\_\_\_\_*

*Do you consent to have your phone number and e-mail published in the Annual Yearbook? Please initial: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No \_\_\_\_\_*

*The newsletter is published monthly and is available to download and print on the association's website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://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**

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

### Alaska Natural Heritage Program – Botany

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

### Alaska Farm to School \*\*New\*\*

<https://www.farmtoschoolalaska.org/>

### 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://ellenvandevise.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/>

## Announcements

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Submit an article to the newsletter
- Volunteer to head a committee

### Committee Chairs/Coordinators Needed:

- Speakers for Monthly Meetings
- June Plant Sale
- Colony Days Parade
- Summer Projects
- Summer Garden Tours

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Michael Kircher</b>	<b>745-1459</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Curt Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Dorte Mobley</b>	<b>232-5422</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: [kdblalock@ak.net](mailto:kdblalock@ak.net)

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY 2018

**Jan 8**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Denise Bowlan, Alaska Peony Society, Growing Peonies in the Mat-Su  
**Jan 26 & 27**, Anchorage, Alaska Peony Growers Association, 2018 Annual Conference

### FEBRUARY 2018 AND BEYOND

**Feb 5**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
**Mar 5**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
**Mar 10**, Anchorage, ABG Spring Seminar  
**Mar 24**, Fairbanks, State Alaska Master Gardener Conference  
**Apr 2**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
**May 7**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
**Jun 2**, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale  
**Jun 8 - 10**, Palmer, Colony Days  
**Jun 9**, Palmer, Colony Days Parade  
**Jun 4**, Palmer, Palmer Library Planting  
**Jul 2**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
**Aug 6**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
**Sep 10**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
**Oct 1**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
**Nov 5**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
**Nov 5 - 7**, Anchorage, Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference  
**Dec 3**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Please let Michael 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 Michael.

## Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$12. Family memberships are only for family members living in the same household.  
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: 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month ~ Thank you~~**



January 2018



Like us on  
**Facebook**

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