



Jan 2019



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

Soon, we will ring in a new year. Days are growing longer but we still have many months before the soil thaws and we can once again get our fingers dirty in our outdoor happy places. January is a time of new seed catalogs, and for some, starting those slow-growing seeds.

Our first meeting of the year brings a presentation by Lois Rockcastle and the gardens of New Zealand and Australia. It should be a great presentation! We will also have a business meeting before the presentation with discussion about vacant committee chair positions. The newsletter has information on which committees still need help. If people don't fill the positions, the only option will be to cancel the activities which are not filled with a volunteer.

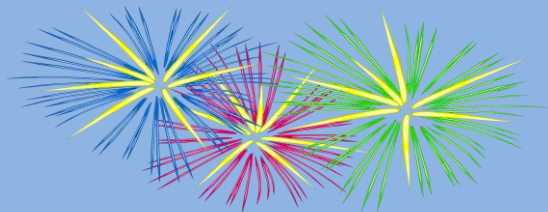
A big thank you goes to those who already volunteer. Without our volunteers, our association would not function and would slowly fade away. Please take a few moments to consider why you are a member of the Mat-Su Master Gardeners? We are a small but mighty club, but we are also an aging club. Our will to help is often bigger than our physical abilities. Please remember the adage, "Many hands make work light."

I would like to welcome all the new members who have recently joined – please join us at our monthly meetings and introduce yourselves. We welcome fresh faces and new ideas! To all the previous members who have renewed, thank you and welcome back. For those who have not renewed for 2019, please try and do so before January 15th. Our yearbook directory will be published shortly after that.

Our monthly meetings are a chance to share friendship with our fellow gardeners and learn new and interesting things. In this day and age of almost instantaneous access to the libraries and knowledge of the world, it's always nice to get out of the house, put down our computers, tablets and smart phones, and interact on a more personal level. We welcome members and non-members alike at our meetings.

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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

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

LOCATION: MATANUSKA TELEPHONE COMPANY (MTA) BUILDING, MEETING ROOM (IN THE BASEMENT), 480 COMMERCIAL 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

Master Gardener Lois Rockcastle will give a presentation on the botanical gardens of New Zealand and Australia.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

"A winter's day in a bleak and dark December" - so goes Paul Simon's song "I Am A Rock," popularized by Simon and Garfunkel.

One might say that applies to us lately, but we're made of stout stuff, and when we take a break from shoveling, we can appreciate the beauty of the snow laden trees and the muffled silence of the land. And when the sun breaks through, the glorious brilliance of the day is unsurpassed.

Yes, we've reached the winter solstice, and tomorrow we begin the phenomenon of increasing daylight, the night sky being brightened by the solstice full moon. Life here really ain't too bad.

Let us enjoy this time; the beauty, the promise of a new year, and the joy of the holiday season.

Thanks, folks.



High noon on Lazy Mountain. A photo doesn't do it justice, but we try.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE - IPM PROGRAM NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION

Submitted by Jessie Moan, Forest Health and Integrated Pest Management, CES

The Cooperative Extension Service's Integrated Pest Management program has a new employee, Matt Labrenz, to introduce to our community of gardeners.

As an Agriculture and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technician, Matt will be providing the public with recommendations of pest control options for gardens, farms, and forests. He will also support various programs of Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE). Matt's background includes farming, farm-and-conservation-based education for youth, and most recently he was a Forestry Technician on Joint-Base Elmendorf-Richardson. He enjoys using Interior Alaska wood products like birch and cottonwood in furniture-making, gardening and food preservation, fishing, and skiing. He is thrilled to be joining Cooperative Extension in a position that helps protect the integrity of Alaska's natural and cultivated landscapes.

Matt is based in the Anchorage Outreach Center and can be reached by email at mtlabrenz@alaska.edu or by phone at 907-786-6364.

PLEASE HELP YOUR MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

We are an organization of all volunteers. No one gets a paycheck and we all have other things to do in our lives. We have banded together to spread the word about good gardening practices in our niche of Alaska and to share our knowledge and teach others. Volunteering doesn't take much time and will make us stronger as an organization and help us help others.

These are the positions which are filled for 2019:

Guest Speakers: Kristina Tornqvist

Website: Eva Cohnen-Brown

State Fair Sponsored Awards: Deb Blaylock

Newsletter: Deb Blaylock

State Fair Parade: Curt Mueller

MTA Room Coordinator: Phyllis Kircher

Association Yearbook: Kristina Tornqvist

Committees which need a volunteer(s):

Christmas Party – Coordinate a location, get a price, find 2 volunteers to cook the turkey and ham, be the point of contact for RSVP and let the chosen venue know how many people will attend. We've used Turkey Red in the past with great success and they only need to know the date and number of people attending.

Rebarchek Farm – Coordinate with the State Fair and the MMGA Board of Directors, determine our 2019 mission.

Plant Sale – See the 2019 Standing Rules for major duties. This project could use several volunteers to make it successful.

Grants/Scholarships – Coordinate with individuals and organizations on grant or scholarship requests, present information to membership.

Palmer Library Planting – Determine a planting theme, present the theme at the April meeting, coordinate planting at the Palmer Library.

Palmer Veterans & Senior Home Planting – Determine a planting theme for the three flower beds, coordinate with the staff at the home for a date, coordinate volunteers to help plant and coordinate a schedule for summer weeding and watering for Library and the Home.

Midsummer Garden & Art Faire – Coordinate with the event organizers, make a volunteer schedule and coordinate volunteers, coordinate with the CES staff to get our tables, chairs and CES table cloth, publications, coordinate set-up and take down of the booth on the day of the event. Provide (borrow) a 12x12 or 10x10 canopy for weather protection.

Summer Garden Tours – During July and August, we traditionally do garden tours of member gardens and a field trip to a garden related business. Coordinate a tour of 3 to 5 gardens during July, coordinate a schedule.

Nomination Committee – At the September meeting, gather a committee of at least one other member to query the current membership for volunteers to serve as officers/board of directors for the 2020 membership year. Finalize the list by October 20th and send a list of potential candidates to the newsletter editor to publish in the November newsletter. Present the candidates to the membership at the November 2019 Annual Meeting for voting.

If you're interested in serving as a chairman or just as a member of any of the committees, please send an email to matsumastergardeners@gmail.com.

Thank you! We appreciate your help with keeping our association functioning.

Garden Links

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.farmentoschoolalaska.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

<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 **New**

<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 Gardeners

<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

<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 CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF Herbarium **New**

<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/herb/>

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

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Submit an article to the newsletter
- Volunteer to chair or help a committee – See page 3 for committees/projects which need someone to take the lead.

Its time to renew your membership for 2019. The deadline to renew and be listed in the 2019 Membership Directory is January 15, 2019. You have two options for renewal: print a hard copy form and mail it in or bring it to a meeting with a check or cash - or you can renew online at: <https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/online-membership-application.html> and pay with a credit/debit card.



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

2019 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 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.

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

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblayment@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Dorte Mobley	232-5422
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

JANUARY 2019

Jan 7, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, Lois Rockcastle, The botanical gardens of New Zealand and Australia

Jan 24-27, Homer, 2019 Alaska Peony Conference, <https://bit.ly/2QHIS6a>

FEBRUARY 2019 AND BEYOND

Feb 4, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

Mar 4, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

Apr 1, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

Apr 6, Anchorage, State Master Gardener Conference

May 6, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

Jun 1, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale

Jun 3, Palmer, Palmer Library Planting

July - TBD, Garden Tours

Aug - TBD, Local Business Tour

Aug, Palmer, Alaska State Fair Parade

Aug/Sep, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

Sep 9, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

Oct 7, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

Nov 4, Palmer, MMGA Annual Meeting

Dec 2, Palmer, MMGA Annual Christmas Party

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

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. The deadline to join is January 15, 2019 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--



January 2019



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 598
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