



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

Jan 2014



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

A new year is nearly upon us and I am sure that many of us reflect on our gardening activities with renewed hope of doing everything better this year. I sometimes feel that gardening is a lot like raising children. You make sure the little seedlings are given all the care and nutrition they need to grow and flourish. You often worry when the weather, often wind, beats them up and sometimes need to move them to make them successful yielding either beautiful blooms or large produce. And you pull out those bad influences, namely weeds, to prevent them from being choked. I've been looking over my new seed catalogs recently received in the mail and have been looking over my flower bed diagrams to see if I can fit additional plants or possibly make new flower beds! But don't tell my husband, he thinks he's got enough to mow around now and he's always talking about how my projects become our projects.

Since joining this organization I can't believe how much information is shared and has made me realize what a great group with a common goal can accomplish together. My gardening endeavors started off small at first and often when you have success it allows you to expand but I am amazed that the information shared regularly with you talented folks has helped me and made my gardening more successful. I hope you all find the same to be true for you with your interactions within our club!

Recently I went to Las Vegas and every year I love to visit the Bellagio Casino and walk through the Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. You can find gardening inspiration anywhere. They have five changes throughout the year and I was there during their Autumn Harvest. There were so many flowers in yellow, red and orange with an old-fashioned water wheel and pumpkins. I am always amazed how beautiful it is each time I go and it is amazing to see their vision brought to life and how

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CHAPTER MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: MTA CONFERENCE ROOM,
PALMER

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MINUTES
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS

GUEST SPEAKER

TO BE ANNOUNCED

calming it is surrounded by the hectic surroundings of a casino. If you get a chance please put it on your "must-see" because it is well worth it.

Thanks for all your help making our club a success and your willingness to share your knowledge. I appreciate your faith to lead you in the upcoming year.

PEASANTS PERSPECTIVE

By Curt Mueller, Master Gardener

Our entry for The Parade of Lights held as part of Palmer's Colony Christmas was awarded first place among the entries. The turnout for the parade was good and the weather was mild.

Thanks go to Jerry Story for his help in building the components, Chuck and Lenita Deda for the gracious use of their shop for assembly and disassembly, Wayne Bowman for the use of his truck and trailer as well as float assembly, Michael Kircher for his help in assembly, Doug Patrick and Leslie Scott for walking the parade route and passing out pencils, Marge Mueller for walking the parade route and putting up with the use of her parking slot in the Mueller garage for putting the pieces together.

Paul Wolski, our son-in-law, contributed the material for the project and helped with assembly and disassembly. Marta Mueller, our daughter, filled in for Santa. Paul and Marta are not MG members but their help was most welcome.

The float consisted of a replica of a log house as used by Palmer area colonists, the year 1935 was their first Christmas in the valley. Santa was there with his sled and reindeer. A replica of the old Palmer water tower was included.

Photos of our entry are by Sharon Story.



Outgoing President's Patch Curt Mueller

Our December meeting and annual party were well attended and much enjoyed. It was skillfully organized by Marge Mueller. Thank you Marge, for a great job!

Our slate of officers was accepted as well at the December meeting. There was only one candidate for each position and these were accepted unanimously by a show of hands.

Officers for the 2014 year are as follows:

President-	Rhonda Bowman
Vice President-	Hally Truelove
Second Vice President-	Curt Mueller
Secretary-	Jan Bass
Treasurer-	Cathy Crew
Member-at-large-	Marge Mueller

These officers will begin or continue their responsibilities on January 1, 2014.

Once again I thank all of our members for participating in the events which took place during 2013, especially our statewide convention. Deb Blaylock and Steve Brown deserve our special thanks for their guidance during the year. Thank you, Deb and Steve.

Let's give our new president, Rhonda Bowman, our whole-hearted support as she leads us with a new vitality! Go for it Rhonda!

House Plants are more than Decorations

Growing plants indoors is nothing new. People have enjoyed greenery in their homes for centuries. Houseplants bring a bit of nature and color into our homes and offices. We even place natural-looking, artificial plants in areas where live plants won't survive. Although artificial plants can be attractive, are much easier to maintain, never attract insects or shed leaves, they cannot fully replace the benefits of live plants.

Research has shown that plants can have a positive effect on our mood, can reduce stress and improve our attitude. An article published in Rehabilitation Literature by Dr. Diane Relf, Professor of Horticulture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, told of a major manufacturing company that incorporated plants into the interior design of its office space so that no employee in the office area was placed more than 45 feet from vegetation. Company administrators found that by adding plants to the work environment resulted in enhanced creativity and increased productivity from their employees.

New buildings are constructed and sealed to maximize energy efficiency causing gases and fumes to be trapped indoors. In 1984, a World Health Organization report suggested that one out of three new and remodeled buildings may have poor indoor air quality. They referred to these as "Sick Buildings" because prolonged exposure to the air in them resulted in symptoms of sickness, such as dry coughs, dizziness and nausea.

Toxic vapors in our indoor environment, such as formaldehyde, benzene, xylene, toluene and ammonia come from many sources. Formaldehyde, for example, is found in foam

insulation, particleboard, pressed wood products and carpet backing. Benzene is a common solvent and is found in paints, plastics and rubber.



About the same time as the World Health Organization was reporting on indoor air quality, NASA scientists were studying methods to reduce indoor air pollution. Their research found that houseplants, when grown in a closed, controlled environment, were able to extract VOC's from the air. They also found that some plants are more efficient in filtering out toxins than others. For example, philodendrons, spider plants and pothos were found to be the most efficient in the removal of formaldehyde. Gerbera daisies and chrysanthemums were effective in the removal of benzene.



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You may be wondering whether it is necessary to turn your living room into a jungle in order to obtain the benefits of cleaner air. According to one study, one, six-inch houseplant per 100 square feet of living area will do a fairly good job of filtering pollutants from the air. Also, the more vigorous the plant, the more air it can filter. Unfortunately, plants do not do much to alleviate tobacco smoke in the air.

If you would like to learn more about how plants purify the air, check out a copy of *How to Grow Fresh Air: 50 Houseplants to Purify Your Home or Office* by B. C. Woverton from your local library. This book, based on 25 years of research by NASA, describes how common houseplants can combat sick building syndrome and cleanse the home or office of common pollutants.



The following plants have proven to filter volatile organic chemicals from indoor environments:

Common name	Scientific name
Chinese evergreen	<i>Aglaonema spp.</i>
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Gerbera daisy	<i>Gerbera spp.</i>
Corn plant	<i>Dracaena deremensis</i> 'Janet Craig'
	<i>Dracaena marginata</i>
	<i>Dracaena deremensis</i> 'Warneckii'
Snake plant	<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i>
Florist mum	<i>Dendranthemum spp.</i>
Peace lily	<i>Spathiphyllum</i> 'Mauna Loa'
Philodendron	<i>Philodendron spp.</i>
Pothos	<i>Epipremnum aureum</i>
Fern	<i>Nephrolepis spp.</i>
Rubber plant	<i>Ficus elastic</i>
Weeping fig	<i>Ficus benjamina</i>
Spider plant	<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>
Arrowhead plant	<i>Syngonium podophyllum</i>
Schefflera	<i>Brassaia actinophylla</i>
Dumb cane	<i>Dieffenbachia spp.</i>
Palms	<i>Chrysalidocarpus, Rhaps, Chamaedorea</i>

Adapted from Garden Column for the week of Feb. 13, 2004, by Linda Naeve, Extension Coordinator, ISU, Reiman Gardens

New Member Welcome

The following are graduates of the Fall 2013 Mat-Su CES Master Gardener Class and will be joining the club – congratulations all and welcome aboard!

Elizabeth Neakok

Wendy Wesser

Julie Martin

Lynn Fuller

Robin Houtte

Connie Egger

Jo Overholt

Carol Montgomery

Jennie Pearson

Carol Giese

Garden Links

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Community Agriculture

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

Arbor Day Foundation

www.arborday.org

Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC)

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

Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

Alaska Grown Source Book (online) ****New****

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/index.htm>

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage Chapter

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

Alaska Master Gardener Blog

<http://alaskamastergardener.blogspot.com/>

Alaska Native Plant Society

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

Alaska Peony Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.org>

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Assoc..

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Cooperative Extension Service, Palmer

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



Eat Local Alaska

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

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 Cost Share Program

<http://www.matsugov.us/planning/environmental-division/rain-gardens>

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

www.matsumastergardeners.org

Master Gardener Research Link

<http://search.extension.org>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

<http://interiormastergardeners.org/>

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners

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

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

Know of an upcoming event or organization which needs our help? Let a board member know!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again! Yes, it is time to renew your annual club membership. You can renew online at the club's website using the PayPal payment option or you can download a renewal form and send your payment in. If you do use the online PayPal option, please print a renewal form and mail it or bring it to the next meeting. We need to make sure we have current information on everyone.

Club Membership

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

It is easy to join or renew online, please visit:

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

Membership forms are available to download and print out - please send one in even if you pay with PayPal.

thank you

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Co-VP	Hally Truelove	376-0909
Secretary:	Jan Bass	373-6208
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: djblaylock@alaska.edu

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

JAN

Jan 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Jan 31 – Feb 1, Anchorage, Winter Peony Growers Conf

JAN 2014 AND BEYOND

Feb 1, Palmer, Produce Growers Conference
Feb 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Mar 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Mar 11-13, Fairbanks, Sustainable Agriculture Conference
Apr 7, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
May 5, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
May 31, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale – TENTATIVE
Jun 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Library Planter
July 7, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Aug 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Sep 8, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Oct 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Nov 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Dec 1, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

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. If you don't have computer access, please submit your article or item neatly and clearly written so the newsletter editor can easily read it. 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 editor 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. -- Thank you--



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