



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:

PresidentVice PresidentSecond Vice PresidentSecretaryTreasurerMember-at-large
Rhonda Bowman
Hally Truelove
Curt Mueller
Jan Bass
Cathy Crew
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.

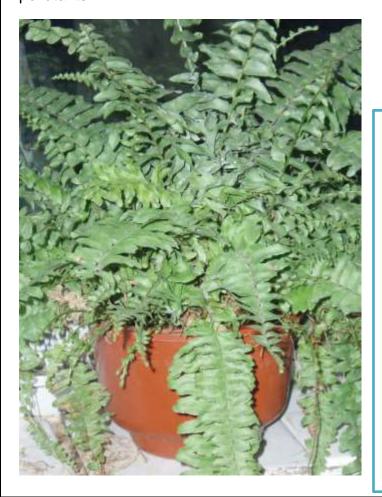


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You may be wondering whether it is necessary to turn your living room into a jungle in order to obtain the benefits of cleaner air. According to one study, one, six-inch houseplant per 100 square feet of living area will do a fairly good job of filtering 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	Aglaonema spp.
English ivy	Hedera helix
Gerbera daisy	Gerbera spp.
Corn plant	Dracaena deremensis 'Janet Craig'
	Dracaena marginata
	Dracaena deremensis 'Warneckii'
Snake plant	Sansevieria trifaciata
Florist mum	Dendranthemum spp.
Peace lily	Spathiphyllum 'Mauna Loa'
Philodendron	Philodendron spp.
Pothos	Epipremnum aureum
Fern	Nephrolepis spp.
Rubber plant	Ficus elastic
Weeping fig	Ficus benjamina
Spider plant	Chlorophytum comosum
Arrowhead plant	Syngonium podophyllum
Schefflera	Brassaia actinophylla
Dumb cane	Dieffenbachia spp.
Palms	Chrysalidocarpus, Rhapis, Chamaedorea

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/

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.

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 GardenCost Share Program

http://www.matsugov.us/planning/environmental-division/raingardens

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/

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 Cathy Crew Treasurer: 632-4401 Member at Large: Marge Mueller 745-6144

If you have gardening news, photos or information you'd like to share in the <u>newsletter</u>, please contact: Deb Blaylock @Email: <u>djblaylock@alaska.edu</u>

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

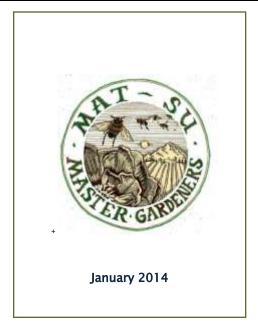
How and what to Submit for the Monthly Newsletter

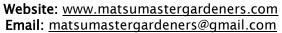
Your submissions are greatly appreciated and make our newsletter what it is - so don't be shy about submitting items for publication. However, there are a few rules which we all must pay attention to:

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~~











Matsu Master Gardener's Club PO Box 598 Palmer, AK 99645