



President's Patch

By President Kevin Johnson

Well, I think summer is here as Summer Solstice is around the corner. My flowers are slowly moving in, and the perennials are blooming finally. I figure our flowers are about a month late. Facebook pictures from one and two years ago show large, beautiful dahlias, Himalayan Poppies, potentilla and much more. Iris are about three weeks late blooming. This year, they have barely grown and nowhere near blooming.

The City of Palmer is continuing their "Yard Beautification Contest" this year. There is now a Business Beautification Landscape Contest. The only criteria are the property must be in the City of Palmer. Check out their website and Facebook page for more information. Nominations are due by July 3, 2023.

The MMGA Annual Plant Sale was a huge success on the first Saturday in June. Sales were up, I think by almost 50%, customers were present in droves at 9:00 AM at the beginning and running past the 3:00 PM closing time. Think about joining us next year, Saturday, June 1, 2024, at the Palmer Pavilion in beautiful downtown Palmer. The event runs from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

At the last meeting we had a discussion on invasive plants. Evidently, a vendor was selling an invasive variety. So please, if you are going to sell, please check to see if anything you are selling is invasive to Alaska. The USDA and Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center supplies a list of invasive plants in Alaska. At a future meeting we will be looking for a speaker about invasive plants. We also discussed an information booth at the plant sale. This booth would supply information about membership, activities and more.

On Saturday, July 8 in Palmer we are taking part in the Midsummer Garden & Art Faire. This event is sponsored by the Palmer Chamber of Commerce. MMGA will have a booth alongside other local garden clubs supplying information and also some kids' activities. Be sure to attend. Fun for ALL.

This fall Dr. Steve Brown of the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center will be conducting Master Gardener classes in Cordova and Fairbanks. Please check with him through the Center for more information.

Membership in the Mat Su Master Gardeners Association is open to all plant enthusiasts. There is not a requirement to be a Master Gardener. See our

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REGULAR MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM AND EXTENSION

CENTER, KERTTULA HALL, "BLUE ROOM"

1509 S GEORGESON DR, PALMER

website to become a member: \$15 a person, or \$20 for an entire family.

With meetings, we take the summer off, so watch for meetings to begin again in September.

Again, have fun this summer and be safe! We want to see everyone in September, plus many new members.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE:

BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

r.

Some years ago, the peasant got a call from Dr. Steve Brown asking if he would have a look at a gardener's raspberry patch. The raspberry plants were not doing well, and the gardener wanted someone to assess what the problem was. Dr. Brown had other commitments and thought maybe an MG could figure it out.

Address in hand, the peasant found the place and was escorted across the gardeners weed-free lawn and past a bare chokecherry tree to the garden area.

The raspberry plants were in a single row starting a few feet from the lawn and running back forty feet or so at a right angle to the lawn. The plants closest to the lawn were extremely stunted and only about six inches tall. As the row progressed the plants became progressively taller but were still stunted. There would be no crop. The question, which you have probably already anticipated, was "Do you use weed-and-feed on your lawn?" The answer was in the affirmative, and the peasant tried to explain that it was the probable cause for the damage to the raspberry plants.

Calling Dr. Steve later to give him a report, he said "Good observation." He explained that raspberry plants are very susceptible to damage from broadleaf weed killers.

The weed-free lawn had cost the gardener a small tree and his raspberry crop. The use of chemical weedkillers is risky at best. For beekeepers, dandelions and clover are a source of pollen and nectar and are tolerated as such. Clover is a legume and can supply some nitrogen to the lawn. Bees are in a decline for several reasons, the use of insecticides being one of them. Go easy on the chemicals.

Thanks, folks.

Sign Up for Weeding Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home

If you would like to sign up for an unclaimed week or to help someone with their week, email matsumastergardeners@gmail.com with the date and your name.

Week of:	Name
June 26	Tony Leoni
July 3	
July 10	
July 17	
July 24	Tony Leoni
July 31	Tony Leoni
August 7	Tony Leoni
August 14	Tony Leoni
August 21	
August 28	
Sep 4	
Sep 11	

MIDSUMMER GARDEN & ART FAIRE MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER BOOTH

Sue Glenn, Committee Chair

We are participating in the Midsummer Garden and Art Faire this year and will be set up like the last time with the other local garden clubs. We will be offering information to the public. We can offer some other activity if members propose ideas. It could be a short talk, a demo, or a craft for the kids, young and old. Please forward ideas to Sue Glenn at suzygardens@me.com.

We still need someone(s) for the Noon to 2 pm and 4 to 6 pm shifts. If you wish to sign up, send an email to matsumastergardeners@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Mat-Su Master Gardener Booth Shift Sign-up Palmer Museum Garden and Art Faire, July 8, 2023

Time:	Name
9 – 10 am Set-up	Craig Lisonbee Sue Glenn
10 am - Noon	Marge Mueller
	Dawn Wolski
Noon – 2 pm	Ann Eagerton
2 – 4 pm	Theresa Phillips
	Jennie/Todd Weaver
4 – 6pm	
6 pm Take down	Craig Lisonbee Sue Glenn

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center Perennial Bed Refresh

Photo courtesy of Dorte Mobley



2023 Standing Committees

- Monthly Newsletter - Deb Blaylock
- Website Manager - Eva Cohnen-Brown
- Guest speakers - Deb Blaylock
- Membership Directory - Kristina Tornqvist
- Rebarcek Farm Project - Isaac Vaughan
- Annual Plant Sale - Dorte Mobley
- Palmer Library & Pioneer Home planting - Dorte Mobley
- Midsummer Garden & Art Faire - Sue Glenn
- Summer Garden Tours - Dorte Mobley
- Alaska State Fair Special Awards - Deb Blaylock
- State Fair Parade - Jenny Weaver
- Nominations Committee - Vacant
- 2023 Christmas Party- Vacant

A few hours of your time will help all the committees meet their goals. Have questions or want to volunteer? Send us an email at matsumastergardeners@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Summer plans for MMGA Rebarchek plot

Project Chair Isaac Vaughan

Anybody who can show up for the following projects, please do! A few volunteers will be bringing supplies and materials, and we will be able to handle as large a work crew as would show up.

12-4 pm workday on Saturday, July 22nd

On this workday, the plan is to:

- 1.) Move the arbor to center it in the front of the lot, then plant kiwi vines on it.
- 2.) Construct a castle block raised bed in one of the plot's corners.
- 3.) Figure out what is going on with the handicap accessible raised beds; possibly set them up.
- 4.) Deliberate about and mark out where and if we want to put other future projects, e.g., perennial beds, hedge/shrub line/fence, educational plaque.

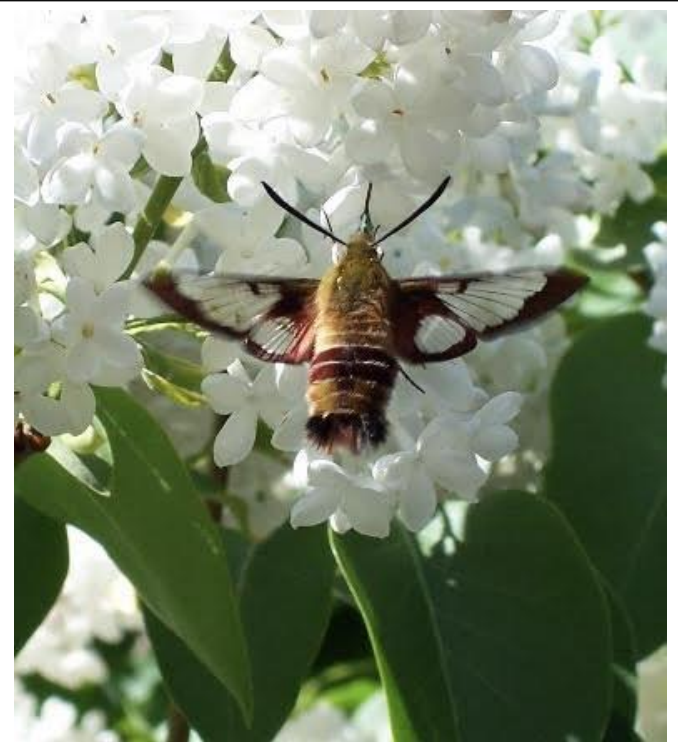
12-4 pm workday on Saturday, August 5th

Here, the projects are mainly to be determined (or finish what was not accomplished at the July workday). At the July workday, we could decide on any projects we would like to accomplish on the August workday. An example would be to fill the raised beds with soil or plant some perennials at selected locations.

If you are going to attend one of the workdays, please send an email to:

matsumastergardeners@gmail.com.

Work can be counted towards master gardener volunteer hours.



Sphinx moth, alias hummingbird moth. on white lilac. Formidable looking but it will not sting you. Photo by Curt Mueller

The MMGA Planting Crew at the Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home

Photo courtesy of Dorte Mobley



Minutes of the June 12, 2023, Mat Su Master Gardener's Meeting
Submitted by Member Dorte Mobley

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Kevin Johnson

Present were Kevin Johnson, Ken and Deb Blaylock, Kristina Tornqvist, Theresa Phillips, Sue Glenn, Cathy Crew, Eva Brown, Isaac Vaughan, Sandy Bohling, Ann Eagerton, Todd Weaver, Pearl Weaver, David Thompson, Dorte Mobley. Having over 10 members constitutes a quorum.

Treasurer's report was presented by Cathy and approved (motion by Ken, seconded by Kristina). We have \$ 8,530.80 available in checking and 7,762.90 in savings. She brought checks and yellow labels for sellers.

The plant sale went well, and we took in \$13,665. \$10,991,20 went back to the members for their share.

There were no minutes from the last meeting.

Kevin informed us that he has reserved the pavilion for 2024,2025 and 2026 for the plant sales.

Some discussion was had on invasive plants sold at the plant sale and that we need to make some decisions before next year regarding how we inform members what they should not sell.

Label counting went well even though Dorte forgot to get names of the people that signed up to Kristina so they could help. 27,000 labels were counted and thanks to Cathy's extra checking all members were paid the right amount (she found a mistake). Kristina informed us that only 13 members sold items at the sale, and that it would be nice to have more members participate.

Cathy suggested that we let some food truck owners know they are welcome to "share our space" without us guaranteeing them a certain amount of money.

David suggested we have a "membership table" with information on how to sign up to be a member and Todd suggested having a list of the plants you are selling at your "table" (especially vegetables and herbs). Kristina added that sellers should go around and see what everyone else is selling so they can help the buyers find stuff and that having pictures of flowers with plants that aren't flowering yet also helps sell your plants.

We still have some open slots open for helping with the Midsummer Garden and Art Faire. We still need

to find speakers for little talks and if anyone has ideas for activities we can do with kids and wonderful childish adults. Jenny Weaver has suggested doing a seed recognition "game."

Pioneer Home planting went well and about 12 members helped. We had enough plants for the three beds, but we also had enough to plant 5 planters.

Isaac informed us the Rebarchek Farm committee will have workdays July 15 (Isaac changed the date after the meeting to the 22 due to a schedule conflict) and August 5 from 12-4 both days. The arbor will be moved to the center of our plot, and we will try to define new corners and produce a plan for the future. Isaac is looking for a male Kiwi plant and it was suggested to buy it from Jim Tapley. Theresa mentioned that she could help with getting a soaker hose with a timer on it so plants can be watered automatically. Deb has donated some castle blocks for the making of a raised bed and Isaac will purchase lumber for the bed sides. We still need to consider soil to fill the beds and the beds that Art Nash built on our plot last summer. Isaac suggested making a hedge border. Several members had plants to donate for that.

Eva reported from Dr. Steve Brown: we have 90 new master gardeners in Alaska and 30 each in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and the Valley. They all need to do 40 hours of community service.

It was decided that we would do a garden tour to Anchorage Botanical Garden and also pop-up garden tours. If you want to share your garden with members, or if you talk with a non-member who has a nice or special garden (and they agree to show it just to our members), please send an email to us (matsumastergardeners@gmail.com) and we will spread the word. It can just be for a few hours on a day that is good for you. And if you know of someone in the area that also has a nice garden, please let us know.

Deb informed us that besides the website, we have a Facebook page for sharing events and information as well as two Facebook Groups. Mat-Su Master Gardeners is open to the general public, while Mat-Su Master Gardeners 2023 is for current members only.

Kristina and Dorte dug up the plants at the library and brought them to plant at the farm with the exception of one peony that needs to live in a pot for the summer and get planted in the fall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Garden Links (updated March 2023)

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 Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

Alaska Grown

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

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

Alaska Native Plant Society

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

Alaska Orchid Society

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

Alaska Peony Society

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

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rhodiola

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Flora of North America

<http://floranorthamerica.org/>

Good Earth Garden School

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

Georgeson Botanical Garden *New*

<https://georgesonbotanicalgarden.org/>

Integrated Pest Management Program

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

IPM Alaska Pest Reporter

<https://plw.man.mybluehost.me/>

Junior Master Gardener

<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 (Extension)

<https://extension.org/search/>



Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

<https://fairbanksmastergardeners.wordpress.com/>

Mat-Su/Copper River Cooperative Extension Service

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

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Services

<https://www.uaf.edu/afes/places/palmer/>

Alaska Non-Native Species List

<https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/invasive-species/non-native-plant-species-list/>

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmeroilandwater.org/>

Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter

<https://forestry.org/cook-inlet-seedling-sale/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Association

<http://seak-mastergardeners.org/index.html>

Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/sare/>

UAF Cooperative Extension Service

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/>

UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/pubs/catalog/>

UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

<https://pestreporter.alaska.edu/>

UAF Herbarium

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

UAF Alaska Master Gardener Program

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/mastergardeners/>

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Database

<https://plants.usda.gov/home>

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Kevin Johnson	907 775 2808
Vice President:	Lois Rockcastle	907 632-1137
Secretary:	Jana Gooch	907 746-2891
Treasurer:	Cathy Crew	907-632-4401
Member at Large:	Deb Blaylock	907-746-6045

If you have gardening news, photos, or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please send to the MMGA email.

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2023 AND BEYOND

Jul 8, Palmer, Palmer Midsummer Garden and Art Faire

Jul 22, Palmer, Rebarchek Farm Workday, 12 to 4 pm

Jul/Aug, Summer Garden Tours, Pop-Up Garden Tours – send an email to

matsumastergardeners@gmail.com if you want to share your garden with members

Jul/Aug, Anchorage, Alaska Botanical Garden Tour (TBD)

Aug 5, Palmer, Rebarchek Farm Workday, 12 to 4 pm

Aug 18 – Sep 4, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

Aug 19, Palmer, Alaska State Fair Parade, 11 am – **pending more info from committee chair**

Sep 11, Palmer, Regular Meeting, Bob Van Veldhuizen, Soil Testing Basics w/hands-on demonstration

Oct 2, Palmer, Regular Meeting, 2023 Garden Year Recap Slideshow & Discussion and Potluck.

Nov 6, Palmer, Annual Meeting/Elections, Dr. Jeff Smeenk

Dec, Palmer, Christmas Party

Do not forget to check out the photos tab on our webpage! Eva updates it periodically from activities our Association participates in.
<https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/photos.html>

Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$15 and family memberships are \$20. Family memberships are only for family members living in the same household. The deadline to join is January 15, 2023, 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 appreciated and make our newsletter what it is - so do not 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 needed 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.

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--



July/August 2023



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

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