



July 2015



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

Well we have finally reached the middle of summer and time will be ticking away fast now! I could not believe how hot it has been here in Palmer. A friend of mine was in Mesa, Arizona and she was commenting on the 103 degree temperatures there and was shocked that we were 94 the other day at my house. I don't know where they take Palmer's temperature on the news but it hasn't been that cool at my house!

Seems like a lot more of my time has been spent watering and of course weeding but that is more the norm. I got my first batch of radishes and they were very tasty with a good bite of spice. My flowers are now blooming, or some soon to bloom, but my yard looks great and very lush.

What a great time we had at Colony Days this year! We watched the parade and took in the vintage motorcycles as well as the muscle cars. Folks have some amazing rolling stock and it is nice to see everyone out and about taking the local sights. The Palmer Chamber of Commerce did an outstanding job of getting everything organized and our town was so pretty with the flower and vegetable beds.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the hard-working firefighters battling fires in Willow, Sterling and in the Interior. It has been a hot, dry summer and they have been very busy.

I know how busy everyone is this time of year and I hope that you take time to enjoy the summer before it is long gone.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Chapter Meeting	1
Peasants Perspective	2
International Master Gardener Conf. Info	3
Experiment Farm Demo Bed Weeding Schedule	3
Garden Links	4
Announcements/Volunteer Opportunities	4
Contacts	5
Calendar of Events	5

CHAPTER MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 9TH, 10:00 AM

LOCATION: MID-VALLEY GREENHOUSE,
1346 S HYER RD, WASILLA, AK

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MINUTES
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS

TOPIC/SPEAKER:

Tour of Mark Oathout's greenhouse and tomato testing.

PEASANTS PERSPECTIVE, BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Back in the depths of winter, when a good part of gardening consisted of poring over the latest offerings in the seed catalogs, the peasant ran across several greenhouse cucumbers that were new to him. Beguiled by the photos and descriptions, the peasant ordered a couple of these fairly expensive seed packets. Now, at the summer solstice, the cucumbers are producing very well. The extra cost was worthwhile, it seems.



Fruit set on Katrina slicing cucumber.

A slicing cucumber, Katrina, with ten seeds at \$8.20, seemed a little pricy. A pickling variety, Excelsior, cost \$7.10 for a packet of 30 seeds. The Katrina is listed as parthenocarpic, which means it doesn't require pollination to produce fruit. It appears to be gynoeious as well, meaning all flowers are female and capable of producing fruit. Excelsior is listed as parthenocarpic and gynoeious. Both these varieties are producing early and heavily.

Another slicer cucumber the peasant has grown for several years is Diva, also one that does not require pollination but is a producer of both male and female blossoms. Still another slicer is Sweet Success, parthenocarpic and a good producer but more difficult to find seed for. There are several greenhouse varieties available that the peasant has not tried as yet. In recent years more varieties have

become available with various characteristics in fruit type and productive capability.



Fruit set on Excelsior pickling cucumber. There are eighteen fruits on a vine three feet long.

The peasant, under the influence of Rube Goldberg, some years ago developed a type of automated cold frame which opens and closes as the temperature varies. When open, it will admit pollinators for fertilizing warm temperature crops such as winter squash and cucumbers, which otherwise would need hand pollination. At present the structure houses three cucumber varieties. One that does well is Northern Pickling, a long vine type. Another is Bush Pickle, a very compact type that produces amazingly well for a very small plant. A slicer, Bush Champion, does well also. This one has previously been grown by the peasant in the greenhouse, pollinating done with a paintbrush from a watercolor set.

All of the varieties mentioned here, both greenhouse and outdoor, are grown in plastic bags. These varieties are ones that have done well; others have been discontinued for various reasons. Gardening has never ceased to be a learning experience. May it be ever thus.

Thanks folks.



horticultural horizons

IN THE HEARTLAND

International Master Gardener Conference
September 22-25, 2015

**International Master Gardener
Conference September 22-25, 2015
MID-AMERICA CENTER, COUNCIL BLUFFS,
IOWA, USA**

For more details go to the conference
webpage at:

<http://mastergardener.unl.edu/imgc2015>

PALMER GARDEN & ART MIDSUMMER FAIRE



July 11, 2015

Palmer, Alaska

The ninth annual Palmer Garden and Art Faire will take place on July 11, 2015 in downtown Palmer, Alaska, celebrating summer with gardening, gourmet food, fine art, music, and more. Our volunteer board is hard at work organizing this year's event, and applications for vendors at this premiere summer event are open now. For more info go to:

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

Sign Up for Weeding Mat-Su Experiment Farm Demonstration Bed

E-Mail Deb at kdblalock@ak.net if you would like to sign up for a future vacant slot.

Week of :	Name
June 8	Michael & Phyllis Kircher
June 15	
June 22	Rhonda Bowman/Cathy Crew
June 29	Curt & Marge Mueller
July 6	Wayne & Arlene Bowman
July 13	Lenita Deda & Ginger Sweeney
July 20	Steve & Eva Brown
July 27	Deb Blaylock
August 3	
August 10	
August 17	
August 24	
August 31	

Garden Links

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Community Agriculture

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

Arbor Day Foundation

www.arborday.org

Alaska Natural Heritage Program – Botany

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

Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

Alaska Grown Source Book (online)

<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 Orchid Society

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

Cooperative Extension Service, Palmer

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

Eat Local Alaska

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



Good Earth Garden School

<http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

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 Program

<http://www.matsugov.us/raingardens>

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

www.matsumastergardeners.org

Master Gardener Research Link

<http://search.extension.org>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley **UPDATED**

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners

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

Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/>

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

Volunteers are needed to weed Grow Palmer boxes behind the Salvation Army. Contact Winona Benson @ 745-3423 if you would like to help.

BOARD MEMBER OPENING

The position of Club Secretary is still open. The job involves taking minutes at meetings and attending board meetings. If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Bowman for further details and information.

Club Membership

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

Membership forms are available to download on the club's website, www.matsumastergardeners.com

thank you

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Co-VP	Hally Truelove	376-0909
Secretary:	Vacant	
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: kdblalock@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2015

Jul 9, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Tomato Testing and Greenhouse Tour, Mid-Valley Greenhouse

**** Note date change****

Jul 11, Palmer, Midsummer Garden and Art Faire, <http://www.palmergardenandart.org/>

AUGUST 2015 AND BEYOND

Aug 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Aug 27 – Sep 7, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

Sep 14, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Oct 5, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Nov 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Dec 7, Palmer, Annual Christmas Dinner

Please let Rhonda 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 Rhonda. Our club is only as good as we the members make it!

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 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.

Deadline for submission of articles and info:
20th day of each month -- Thank you--



July 2015



Like us on
Facebook

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

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB
PO BOX 585
PALMER, AK 99645

