



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

Jul 2017



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President (photo by author)

What a busy time of year! There are fish to catch and plants to care for. Our activities can keep even the most active person on their toes this time of year. We have many events to attend in our communities as well as barbeques and other get-togethers that help us enjoy the great weather and abundance of daylight.

This time of year, there are many creative ideas to have an unusual garden if you don't have the space or you don't want to plant beds. Many folks use containers for flowers, vegetables or herbs. Still others use wooden pallets to plant vertically for added interest. I have also seen others utilize their old dog kennels to plant climbing beans and to protect their vegetables from moose. Stringing old PVC pipe (painted brightly) from rope on the side of a shed can make a nice pop of color to an otherwise plain area. If you have a balcony you can string multiple layers of pots with rods through them to hang and utilize a small space for quick harvesting herbs. I have also seen repurposed wheels to use as containers or to use old chairs with the seat removed to hold up peonies.

Be sure to check your social media sites as well as the events section of local papers to discover events to attend in your local area that may interest you. The local farmers markets will be in full swing soon and there are many in the Valley as well as Eagle River and Anchorage. So, if you aren't growing your own vegetables and herbs you can get your food locally and help keep our farmers in business. Keep on the lookout because there are local sales on perennials in July and that can save money.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Chapter Meeting	1
Peasant's Perspective	2
Volunteer Opportunities	3
Willow Garden Tour Info	4
Garden Links	5
Announcements/Volunteer Opportunities	5
Contacts	6
Calendar of Events	6

GENERAL MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NO MEETING IN JULY

NEXT MEETING
MONDAY, AUG 7 (TIME TO BE DETERMINED)
GARDEN TOURS (OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY)
MAP AND SCHEDULE WILL BE SENT OUT IN AN
EMAIL LATER IN JULY.



PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos by the author

Once again, we have reached the summer solstice and are enjoying the long days of summer. Today, June 20, we have received a half inch of gentle rain, a real boon to gardeners and growing things. The response of our gardens to a gentle rain seems always better than applying irrigation water.

Our vegetables are beginning to provide for the table and promising more to come. Surely what is produced by the sweat of thy brow will sustain you well. Fresh, crisp, tasty, healthful and satisfying produce are the rewards of a well-tended garden. Priceless, we might also add.

The peasant strives to lengthen the vegetable growing season on both ends. Timing of seeding transplants and choosing cultivars that mature early are a couple of ways to speed up an early harvest. A very early cabbage that is of high quality and one that the peasant has grown for several years is Parel. A few seeds planted in the latter part of March and grown in three or four inch pots until transplanting to the garden will then be mature in four to six weeks. The variety makes compact round heads of three pounds or so and four plants will hold without splitting and suffice until later varieties mature.



Parel cabbage as of June 20, 2017. Another week and it'll be ready for harvest. Note the close spacing of the plants, a condition the variety tolerates well, and becomes a real plus for commercial growers, increasing per acre yields.

It has been somewhat trying to the peasant that a variety that does well in our area often becomes difficult to find seed for in succeeding years. Parel is one of those. Territorial Seed Company is the only one that currently provides Parel seed out of

the peasant's array of catalogs. One may need to find a new variety with similar earliness and other characteristics. We need to bear in mind that new varieties are developed almost exclusively for commercial growers, and a variety for which the produce doesn't suit the market as well as expected will be superseded by a new one. Home gardeners will still have a wide selection and may choose one to try that fits their niche.

Marge is the expert on growing lettuce. She makes sure we have an abundance of various varieties to supply our tastes throughout the growing season. There is such a myriad of types and varieties available in appetizing colors and they all grow well in our climate. Marge starts lettuce transplants in the greenhouse and direct seeds in the garden during the growing season.



One of Marge's lettuce plantations. These were started in the greenhouse. Marge has already direct-seeded more in the garden. Once this bed is harvested it can be direct-seeded as well.

Broccoli is not everyone's favorite, but the peasant likes it and may be found grazing on satellite heads in the garden after the central head has been harvested. Broccoli is just beginning to form heads at this point, but it will come on fast. Cauliflower seems to mature all at the same time. The peasant tries to mitigate that characteristic by planting an early variety such as Snow Crown and later varieties such as Amazing and Artica.

These crops give us a good start on the season; others follow in due course. It is the peasant's hope that more people will grow vegetables and enjoy the satisfaction and health benefits of so doing.

Thanks, folks. Reap a good harvest.

Volunteer at the June Tull 4-H Building Alaska State Fair

Need volunteer hours to complete the required 40 volunteer hours to complete your requirements to become an Alaska Master Gardener? Volunteer to help at the June Tull 4-H building during the Alaska State Fair, August 24th thru September 4th. Shifts are 3 hours and 15 minutes long.

Each volunteer receives an entry ticket and parking pass for the day they volunteer. Please call the Mat-Su Cooperative Service Extension office with any questions you may have - 745-3360. Here is the link to the online sign-up sheet:

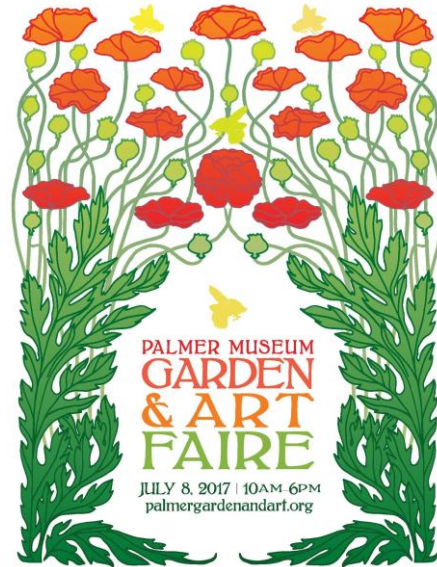
<https://tinyurl.com/junetullbuilding>

The link shows which shifts are available to volunteers.

Thank you for volunteering!



Photo courtesy Rhonda Bowman



Looking for Volunteers ... Be a part of the largest garden exhibit in Alaska!

Entry & Judging days in the Alaska State Fair's Crops Department is a fun environment to meet new people, catch up with old friends, and a great opportunity to learn something new and/or share your own gardening experiences. You may also earn credits for those required Master Gardener volunteer hours!

Entry Clerks - help Exhibitors fill out entry forms correctly, help the entrant in the preparation of their entries for judging by showing how to follow the guidelines of the Exhibitor Guide, and placement in display area.

Wednesdays, August 23 & August 30. Three shifts available - 12-5 PM, 3-8 PM and 5-9 PM

Judges Clerks - record winning results, set up and place ribbons for the final display.

Thursdays, August 24 & August 31- 8 AM - Noon

I'm also looking for a few people to help with take down and ribbon sorting on **Tuesdays, August 22 from 4-7 PM & September 5, from 9 AM - Noon.**

Join the Fun ... "Better Together" ... Volunteers make it happen!

For more information contact Kathy Liska at (907) 337-2196 or akliska@aol.com

Willow Garden Club Garden Tour 2017

July 22, 2017 10:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. (all gardens including Les Brake's Coyote Garden)

July 23, 2017 12:00-5:00 p.m. ONLY Les Brake's Coyote Garden

Meet at Willow Community Center -- Mile 69.8 Parks Highway



- Time to meet for map and directions: Willow Community Center outside the library entrance: 9:45 a.m.
- Lunch is from 11:30-1:00p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch and something comfortable to sit on as you eat your lunch at the home and garden of Lisa, Mark, and Kali Nuss. Willow Garden Club will provide water and juice. Tickets will be handed out at the community center to each person. **Don't** lose them as you could win a great garden plant at the luncheon.
- Need more info?? Call 907-244-0830.

The fundraising tour at **Coyote Garden** is 25 years old!!!! Hard to believe, but Coyote Garden just gets better and continues to receive many kudos from well respected garden publications all over the U.S. Their garden was featured in last year's fall issue of *Garden Design*. This year their garden will be profiled in the summer 2017 issue of a new magazine for the northwest, *Northwest Travel and Life*. This year's fundraiser will once again benefit The Georgeson Botanical Garden and Willow Garden Club.

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/sourcebookindex2016.html>

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage Chapter

<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 Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rhodiola Products Cooperative

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Eat Local Alaska

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

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.org

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 Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

UAF School of Natural Resources

<http://www.uaf.edu/snre/>

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

Need volunteer hours? There are vacant dates and times on the summer project weeding schedules.

To view the schedules, go to <http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/weeding-schedules.html>. To sign up for a vacancy, send an email to matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

Thank you!!

Don't forget to check the weeding schedules and make sure you do your part to keep our summer projects weeded and in tip top shape!

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Co-VP	Hally Truelove	376-0909
Secretary:	Joan Redlin	206-604-4676
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: kdblaylock@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2017

Jul 8, Palmer, Palmer Museum Garden and Art Faire, <http://palmergardenandart.org/>

Jul 22, Willow, Willow Garden Club Tour, <http://willowgardenclub.blogspot.com/>

Jul 23, Willow, Les Brake's Coyote Garden Tour (only)

AUGUST 2017 AND BEYOND

Aug 7, Palmer, MMGA Tour of Gardens (Members Only)

Aug 24 – Sep 4, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, <http://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/>

Sep 5- Dec, Palmer, Master Gardener Class, 6-9 p.m., www.uaf.edu/ces/matsu

Sep 11, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Oct 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Nov 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Dec 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Annual Christmas Party

We would like to do a garden tour of members' gardens for our August meeting. If you would like to volunteer to have your yard or garden on the tour please email:

matsumastergardeners@gmail.com.

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!

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.

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~~



July 2017



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 585
PALMER, AK 99645**

