



President's Patch

By President Kevin Johnson

Well, the months of June and July were busy months for the club, and also personally. We started off with the annual plant sale. The attendance was great, but the weather was not the best. We had such a long line that four other members jumped in to assist the checkout process. There were 30 people in line at one point. Cathy and I have talked about a better process, and we are still looking into options.

The Mat-Su Copper River Cooperative Extension Service office was in attendance with many of their flyers, handouts, and gadgets. In talking with the office later they were pleased with the attendance and with the number of questions from everyone.

If anyone has any comments, good or not so good about the sale, let me know. We want this to "grow" for the members selling items and for the club. Yes, pun intended. I spoke with many of the members selling and got some great feedback. Jenny (VP) and I spoke later and discussed a round table discussion about preparing for the plant sale at an upcoming meeting. This will help with club and members' revenue.

The Rebarchek Farm Project had a great group working on it. Issac, our April Fools guy, provided insight and others helped with the design and came through. We are looking forward to seeing the project in the end. Issac will probably be giving a recap at the next meeting.

We were at the Veterans and Pioneers Home in June, and planted eight half barrels, two square planters and one 20' long. One of the square planters is at the entrance and the other is near the base of the flags. Had a great turnout with I believe 10 members working. The city is watering the planters when they are watering their baskets throughout town. They said Fridays are normal watering days. But in the high 70s they watered three times a week. So, the first few weeks were tough on the plants. When in Palmer go through the circular driveway and see the planters. The long one where the sign is placed will need to be budgeted for more soil and then a method to conserve the soil. Talking with a few people, we have ideas. We are still looking for people to weed the barrels and planters.

Well, this past weekend, I saw my first grasshopper in Alaska. Was a shock to see. Hope they are eating all the unwanted bugs in my area.

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REGULAR MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

SEPT 9TH, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM AND EXTENSION CENTER,

KERTTULA HALL, ROOM 208, SECOND FLOOR

1509 S GEORGESON DR, PALMER

AGENDA

7:00 TO 7:30 PM BUSINESS MEETING

7:30 SPEAKER:

TO BE ANNOUNCED

I'm going to try something this winter: planting rhubarb, blue Himalayan poppies, local iris, and local lupine all from seed. I have never tried any of these from seed. My poppies have done well this year, and I learned about the two varieties, so we will see what happens. I'll only be planting the taller variety. The two wild varieties of lupine and iris are my favorite plants. Well, happy gardening for another month and see everyone at the September meeting.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE:

BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER – PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

As we recall the very cool and overcast summer we had in 2023, we may also remember its effect on fruit trees and ornamentals. The peasant's Siberian crabapple fruits were about half the size of normal, and chokecherries also. Then came August and we had two to three weeks of warm sunny weather. The peasant's burr oak responded as though spring had arrived and made new growth upon that which grew early in the season. This new growth was unable to harden off before winter and died back to the 2023 spring growth. That late season new growth should have been the spring growth for 2024. The cluster of buds that were at its base all died back as well. The peasant wondered what would happen and if there would be further dieback on the oak.

The burr oak is of course not native, and not adapted to our climate. Perhaps the peasant would lose the tree. The cool spring of 2024 slowed down new development on the oak, but when we got the recent warm sunshine it responded vigorously. Indeed, it is alive and well and compensating for last year's misfortune.

The peasant had a couple of Evans cherry trees in five-gallon pots, and they responded in a similar way to that of the oak. They also made good growth this spring although there was some dieback. It should be mentioned here that some trees complete their new stem growth by the summer solstice, after which the shortening day length begins. Flowering plants also respond to decreasing day length in various ways.

The accompanying photos may help to show what went on with the oak and what it is doing now.



Photo #1 shows late season growth, too late in season to mature before winter - Sept 2023.



Photo #2 shows extent of winter dieback, dead stem is reddish color. Top bud on live stem has begun to grow - June 21, 2024.

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Bear Mountain Forest Nursery Tour August 5th, 7 pm

Dorte has coordinated with Josh Smith for us to tour his plant nursery on Monday, August 5th at 7 pm.

Josh has quite an array of plants that he is experimenting with in his forest nursery. He is renowned for the native species he has been able to propagate from seed. Josh has many fruit tree varieties that he is trialing as well as some experimental nut trees. It will be exciting to see all of his goodies.

Josh is a wealth of information, and the tour will be well worth your time. He might even have some of his seedlings for sale. Bring some cash if you're interested in purchasing plants.

His plantings are on a lot with fairly narrow wood chip paths meandering through the forest going to his nursery. If members are not comfortable with that, maybe this isn't for them.

His address is 24947 Malcolm Drive in Chugiak. Directions from Palmer: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/9rHM4DqtxaJBztp7>

Parking might be limited. Members should try and carpool with a friend. Contact Dorte with any questions.

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Photo #3 Dead growth has been removed back to live wood. A short stub has been left to keep from harming the new growth - June 3, 2024.



Photo #4 shows vigorous new growth from top live bud. Next bud back is branched and smaller - July 16, 2024.

The burr oak has shown a remarkable recovery with new branches and many new leaves to provide photosynthesis for a stronger tree. Something to consider: Dormant season pruning is often done to encourage branching and vigorous growth the next growing season. Could limited winter kill have that effect?

PALMER ALASKA VETERANS AND PIONEERS HOME FLOWER BED PLANTING PHOTO UPDATE

Photos Courtesy of Eva Cohnen-Brown



Kevin Johnson and Jenny Weaver at the Pioneer Home sign, ready to plant loads of flowers.



Marge Mueller and Ellie planting the entrance beds.



Pioneer resident Rhonda, a Master Gardener from many years ago, with her son Paul. It was a perfect day for designing and planting the containers at the home.



Todd Weaver arranging one of several planters at the Home.



Patriotic and colorful planting at the flagpole.



Rhonda and Paul hard at work on one of the planters.

Photo Update on the MMGA Plot at the Rebarchek Farm

Photos courtesy Eva Cohnen-Brown and Deb Blaylock



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 10	Kevin Johnson
June 17	The Weavers
June 24	
July 1	Kristina Tornqvist
July 8	Ellie Hurley
July 15	Ken & Deb Blaylock
July 22	Eva Cohnen Brown
July 29	Theresa Phillips
August 5	Marge Mueller
August 12	Craig Lisonbee
August 19	
August 25	
Sep 2	
Sep 9	



Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center Classes

July 25	Food Preservation: Canning Fruit and Tomatoes*	In person	1-4 pm
July 30	Food Preservation: Pickles and Sauerkraut*	In person	1-4 pm
Aug 8	Food Preservation: Dehydrating Food*	In person	1-4 pm
Aug 15	Food Preservation: Canning Meat and Vegetables*	In person	1-4 pm
Aug 30	Mushroom Identification Lecture*	In person	6-9 pm
Aug 30-Sept 1	Mushroom Identification: Lecture, Field and Lab*	In person	6-9 pm

(Mushroom Id: Field & Lab days are Aug 31 and Sept 1, 9 am-4 pm)

*There is a fee for this class

We add more classes regularly!

Email: matsu.ces@alaska.edu
907-745-3360

Visit us online for additional information & registration links

Webpage



Facebook



Instagram



<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>
<https://www.facebook.com/matanuskaexperimentfarm/>
https://www.instagram.com/matanuskaexperiment_farm/

Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request to amorris2@alaska.edu. UAF is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, educational institution and provider and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination. UA is committed to providing accessible websites. Learn more about UA's notice of web accessibility.

More News from the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center

Hiring Director

We are hiring a Director for the Matanuska Experiment Farm & Extension Center located in Palmer.

Click on the link for more information or to apply:

<https://careers.alaska.edu/jobs/matanuska-experiment-farm-extension-center-director-palmer-alaska-united-states>

Fair Volunteer Sign Up

The AK State Fair is quickly approaching !!! We are looking for volunteers in the June Tull 4H building to share your amazing expertise with our community. We are especially needing volunteers for Labor Day Weekend. All volunteers will get 2 admission tickets into the fair that can be picked up at the green gate on the day they volunteer. Click on the link to sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054BA9A62AA2FF2-49982818-2024>

We are also looking for judges for the 4-H exhibits. Judging is August 21st from 10-7pm. To sign up for a judging slot, please click on this link: <https://forms.gle/RjppqKBv21kJNJKG8>

2024 Alaska State Fair Volunteer Opportunity



Entry & Judging days in the Alaska State Fair's Crops Department is a fun atmosphere to meet new people & catch up with old friends.

It is also a great opportunity to learn something new and to share your own gardening experiences.

You can even earn some credits for Master Gardener volunteer hours!

~ Entry Clerks ~

Wednesdays, August 21 & August 28
12-5 PM 3-8 PM (Full), a few shifts still available 5-9 PM

Help Exhibitors fill out entry forms correctly, explain the use of the Exhibitor Guide, assist with verbal direction on preparation of submissions for judging, and placement of entries in the display area.

~ Judges Clerks ~

Thursdays, August 22 & August 29 from 8 AM-Noon (Needed)

Record winning results, set up and place ribbons for the final display.

~ Extra Hands Needed ~

Tuesdays, August 20 & 27 from 10AM-2PM & September 3 from 9 AM-1PM

Looking for a handful of volunteers to help with 1st Entry set-up, 1st Entry take down & 2nd Entry set-up, ribbon sorting, and final shut down of department for the season.

~ Admission & Parking Passes are provided ~

For more information or to sign up contact
 Kathy Liska Crops Superintendent/Horticulture Manager
 (907) 301-0317 or akliska@aol.com

Garden Links (updated March 2024)

Alaska AgrAbility Program ****New Mar 2024****

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/agrability/index.php>

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

Alaska Community Forestry

<https://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index>

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 Non-Native Species List

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

Alaska Orchid Society

<http://www.akorcid.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

<https://georgesonbotanicalgarden.org/>

iNaturalist *****New May 2024*****

<https://www.inaturalist.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

<https://visionplusapps.com/alaska-plants/>

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/>

National AgrAbility Program ****New Mar 2024****

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation District

<http://palmersoilandwater.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>

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

<https://wildflowergardenclub.org/>



CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Kevin Johnson	907 775 2808
Vice President:	Jenny Weaver	907-982-5446
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 2024 AND BEYOND

- Aug 1**, Palmer, Field Days, MEF&EC
- Aug 5**, Chugiak, Bear Mountain Forest Nursery
- Aug 16 – Sep 2**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
- Aug 17**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair Parade, 11 a.m.
- Sep 9**, Palmer, Regular Meeting
- Oct 7**, Palmer, Regular Meeting
- Nov 4**, Palmer, Annual Meeting/Elections
- Dec TBD**, Palmer, Christmas Party

Don't 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 was **February 5, 2024**, 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 2024



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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 598
PALMER, AK 99645**

