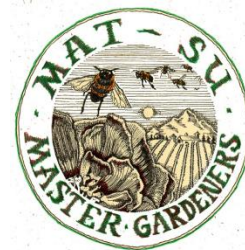




Jun 2019



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

We are well into planting season! Also plant sale season is upon us. Many local garden clubs will have lots of tempting goodies for sale. Let's get out there and support them. Our plant sale is June 1st and we always draw a good-sized crowd. Let's hope for good weather!

Our summer community service activities are also here. On May 30th, we will gather at the Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home to clean out and replant their three flower beds. Marge has purchased flowers, so we don't need anyone to bring any donations. Dress for the weather and bring some planting tools and maybe a bucket. We plant the Palmer Public Library beds on the following Monday, June 3rd. The time for this is 6 p.m., not our usual 7 p.m. Please bring your plant donations (annuals) as we will need them to fill up the beds here. Again, dress for the weather, bring some tools, and maybe a bucket.

We are waiting for details from Michael and Ginger for our other two projects for the summer. Michael has proposed we build an arbor and the initial beds for the Master Gardener plot at the Rebarchek Farm. The details will be shared as soon as Michael sends them in. Ginger is coordinating with the Colony House Museum in Palmer regarding some weeding and maintenance they asked for assistance with. Again, that information will be shared as soon as details are available.

There are details in this newsletter on volunteering at the June Tull 4H Building at the Alaska State Fair. Steve Brown, our CES advisor and mentor, has asked for Master Gardeners to help "man" the booth to answer gardening questions. On a side note, Steve stepped down as President for the Alaska State Fair but was voted in to stay on as a board member. Congratulations Steve! Kristy Bernier is the new president. Congratulations to both!

We expect to hear from Kathy Liska soon about details on volunteering in the Crops and Flowers departments at the State Fair as well. Stay tuned for those details. Also, we will

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GENERAL MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 3RD, 6 P.M.

LOCATION: PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 655 S
VALLEY WAY, PALMER, AK

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

SPEAKER/TOPIC

THIS IS ONE OF OUR ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS. PLEASE BRING ANY EXTRA ANNUAL PLANTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO THE PLANTERS AT THE PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY. DRESS FOR THE WEATHER AND BRING SOME GARDENING TOOLS TO HELP WITH BED CLEAN UP AND PLANTING.

hear more from Curt Mueller on what he will need for the MMGA float for the Alaska State Fair parade.

As you can tell, summer is never a dull moment for Master Gardeners! We hope to see you at all our community service events and the plant sale! Garden On!

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

It's planting and cleanup time for sure. It is indeed fortunate that in spite of cool nights the temperature has managed to stay above the freezing mark. As for cleanup, taking care of our yards is important, but our public roads are also a part of our responsibility. Let's make time to care for our whole environment, clean it up, and keep it clean. It is a satisfying practice to participate in cleanup of roadsides. Get rid of the cans and bottles and fast food wrappers and enjoy the bluebells and wild roses and greenery that Alaska offers. Busy as gardeners are taking care of our own this time of year, let's remember our whole community.

The peasant has been engulfed in making repairs to raised beds. Some damage over the winter may have transpired during our November 30th shake, and some is from aging structures. It has become obvious that the soil in the beds never froze over winter. A couple of potatoes that got missed when dug last fall were still in excellent condition as were a couple of carrots in another bed. If one thinks back, we had a mild fall until the last days of October. Then we got a very heavy snow which stayed with us during the winter, the snow serving as an excellent insulation to keep the soil from freezing.

Watch out for slugs early on, for the winter survival of their eggs was probably assured under our winter conditions. There are some non-toxic baits available that might be necessary to combat these pests.

We have the long daylight and we hope a great growing season before us. It is an exciting time to be a part of it. Enjoy!

Thanks, folks.



Primroses are a welcome sight as they start to bloom. On left is cowslip [*Primula veris*] and right is often called English primrose [*Primula vulgaris*].



Now is the time to sign-up to be a volunteer in the June Tull 4-H Building! Master Gardeners are desperately needed to answer gardening questions from the public. Volunteers are responsible for manning 3.25 hours slots and get a complimentary Alaska State Fair entry ticket.

Sign up here: <http://bit.ly/2VC8HkQ>

Select the time slot(s) you want and enter the submit button. A dialogue box will then appear that will allow you to enter your name. See you at the Fair...It's only 3 months away!

MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM AND EXTENSION CENTER

Jodie Anderson is the new Director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center. A little about her and her winding path to get here: She almost finished a PhD in soil biochemistry, she earned a Master of Arts in Teaching Biology degree, and also a Bachelor of Science in Biology for Secondary Education degree. She taught chemistry and biology (and many other life sciences, too) at the high school and college levels for 11 years in North Carolina. Her family moved up to Palmer in 2003, and she worked for the University of Alaska Fairbanks in both the Cooperative Extension Service and the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences for eight years.

While at UAF, she began and managed the Alaska Community Horticulture Program as well as research that focused on soil building, organic nitrogen soil supplements, compost development, and community gardening. In 2012, she went to work with an engineering and environmental consulting firm as a soil scientist

for five years and then in 2016 she took a position with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in the Division of Agriculture as the Alaska Farm to School Coordinator. Her work throughout Alaska afforded her many opportunities to travel around rural Alaska and develop collaborations and relationships with many teachers, growers, and communities. She looks forward to plugging back into many of those to continue the great work Alaska expects from the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center.



Mat-Su Master Gardener Booth Shift Sign Up Palmer Museum Garden and Art Faire, July 13, 2019	
If you would like to sign up for a vacancy, contact Deb Caillouet at twistedbirch@gmail.com	
Time:	Name
9 – 10 am	Deb Caillouet
Set-up	Marcia Clemons
10 am - Noon	Laurel Flynn
Noon – 2 pm	Michael Kircher Phyllis Kircher
2 – 4 pm	Arlene Bowman
4 – 6pm	Marge Mueller Curt Mueller
6 pm	Deb Caillouet
Take down	

MMGA Minutes, May 6, 2019 - Minutes submitted by Dorte Mobley, Secretary

26 members and 1 guest present

Treasurer report was given by Cathy Crew. We currently have \$4,632.07 in the checking account and \$7,743.18 in savings. No questions from the members to the report. We currently have 56 members.

Minutes were in the newsletter. Nobody had corrections to them, and they were approved as written.

Rebarchek ideas were presented by Michael Kircher. We have to establish something this summer. We can make an arbor for the entrance to our lot and a maze with raised beds. If we start in the middle, we can expand as we go along. It would be nice if the beds can have edges that you can sit on. Michael will play with numbers to see what we can do for the money budgeted.

Pioneer home workday will be May 30 at 1:00. Marge will pick up our flowers and harden them off before the planting date.

No news on garden tours, newsletter and web page.

We will not meet at MTA for the rest of the summer. We will meet and plant at the library in June, go on the tour in July and do another outdoor place in August.

Plant sale: We still need helpers. Kristina and Dorte will tally the yellow tags after the sale. Deb reminded everyone to bring boxes and to not set up in the space the cashier/check-out area usually sets up. Also, no vehicles are to be parked in the plant sale area. Vehicles can be in the sales area only for loading/unloading – but not during the plant sale hours of 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. If you intend to sell plants, you must be signed up

before the meeting closes and you must be a current member. Also, do not just drop off your plants. You need to be present to sell your plants.

501c3 and insurance will happen after summer is over.

We still have 2 open slots for people to work our booth at the Palmer Midsummer Garden and Arts Faire on July 13.

Deb has received emails asking if we are interested in having a booth at the "Music in the Park" and at a Wasilla Museum day. Nobody spoke up and said yes.

Ginger will find a date for the Palmer Museum to have their garden cleaned up. She will also find out how much needs to be done. She'll email the info to Deb who will send out an email with further details.

Eva informed us that there is a new Jewish Center that is looking for donations of garden stuff. Deb will send out an email with information.

Next meeting will be June 3 at 6 p.m. at the Palmer Library. Bring tools and extra plants you might have for planting in the Palmer Public Library planters.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25.

The meeting was followed by a very informative presentation of how to create a rock garden by Jaime Rodriguez, owner of Alpine Gardens and Nursery.

A NOTE FROM OUR WEBMASTER:

Check out the newly added "Gardening Articles" tab on the MG website, featuring Marion Owen's gardening know-how from her blog.

Sign Up for Weeding Palmer Library & Veterans and Pioneers Home

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

Week of:	Name
June 10	Arlene Bowman
June 17	Clint Rayback/Laurel Flynn
June 24	Rhonda Bowman/Sue Glenn
July 1	Anita Chace/Deb Caillouet
July 8	Hazel Koppenberg/Sally Sonichson
July 15	Laurel Flynn/Cathy Crew
July 22	Marge and Curt Mueller
July 29	Marcia Clemons/Sally Sonichson
August 5	Maria Cunningham
August 12	Deb & Ken Blaylock
August 19	Courtney Osmanson
August 26	Danielle Simoni

Garden Links

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 Farm to School

<https://www.farmentoschoolalaska.org/>

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

<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 Peony Society

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

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rhodiola **New**

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

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.com

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 CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF Herbarium

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

UAF School of Natural Resources & Extension

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

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Submit an article to the newsletter
- Volunteer to chair or help a committee – Curt needs help with the State Fair float; Michael needs ideas for the Rebarchek Farm project.
- Sign up to work at the June Tull 4-H Building during the State Fair.
- Opportunities to work at the Flower and Crops Department at the State Fair will be forthcoming.

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblayment@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Dorte Mobley	232-5422
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: kdblayment@ak.net

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY & JUNE 2019

May 30, Palmer, Palmer Pioneers and Veterans Home Planting

Jun 1, Palmer, MMGA Annual Plant Sale

Jun 3, Palmer, Palmer Library Planting

Jun 8, Palmer, Backyard Composting Class, email compost@matsugov.us or call 745-0758.

June TBD, Palmer, Rebarchek Farm

June TBD, Palmer, Colony House Museum

JULY 2019 AND BEYOND

Jul - TBD, Garden Tours

Aug 5, Palmer, Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center Tour

Aug TBD, MMGA State Fair Float Assembly

Aug 24, Palmer, Alaska State Fair Parade

Aug 22 - Sep 2, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, "Crazy Good"

Sep 9, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, TBD

Oct 7, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, TBD

Nov 3, Day Light Savings time ends

Nov 4, Palmer, MMGA Annual Meeting

Dec 2, Palmer, MMGA Annual Christmas Party

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. The deadline to join is January 15, 2019 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 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--



June 2019



Like us on
Facebook

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

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

