June 2014



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

President's Patch

By Curt Mueller, Vice-President

Our president was called out of state to care for an ailing family member. Certainly we hope all turns out well, and that she will soon be back with us.

We have some important events coming up very soon. Saturday, May 31, is our annual plant sale. Let's make it a good one with lots of quality plant material to supply to our buyers.

Monday, June 2, is our monthly meeting, to be held at Palmer Library where we will decorate our planter in fine style. Bring your offerings and artistic talent to the meeting.

We may not have a person to manage planting our garden bed at the Experimental Farm. We can discuss this at our Monday meeting and come up with a volunteer for that worthwhile project.

Thanks for bearing with me as a sub for Rhonda.

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CHAPTER MEETINGS
FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 7:00 PM
LOCATION: PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY,
PALMER

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MINUTES
- OLD BUSINESS
- New Business
- PLANT LIBRARY PLANTER

SPEAKER:

Annual planting of Palmer Library Planter. Bring your extra plants for planting. Dress for the weather!

PEASANTS PERSPECTIVE

By Curt Mueller, Master Gardener

Each spring the peasant longs to see that first bit of color in the perennial flower beds. Surely we are all ready to see some green and some blossoms while the trees are still bare, the lawns still brown, and some vestiges of snow remain where it was piled up by wind or human removal efforts.

A very obliging plant for early color is the pasque flower, an Alaska native that is well adapted to rock gardens and other perennial beds, and indeed a favorite of the peasant. When the winter mulch is removed this beauty is ready to grow and produce its flowers. Indeed it is a pleasure to watch its progress day by day.

The demands of the pasque flower are not great. It will thrive in fairly thin and gravelly soil. Some winter protection in the form of a mulch will ensure its survival. It enjoys a location where it receives sun for a good part of the day. Competition from weeds or other perennials will prevent it from reaching its full potential. We've experienced grass, clover, ranunculus and Aleutian speedwell encroaching on the pasque flowers, due mainly to neglect. It then becomes necessary to lift the plant in the fall and remove all the aliens from the root ball and to keep some open space around the pasque flower when it is replanted.

The pasque flower is a pulsatilla, and there are several others available in varying colors and plant habits. One endearing quality is the attractive seed heads that follow the bloom period and remain on the plant for the summer period. Seed may be collected when mature. It will take a couple of seasons to produce a blooming plant from seed. Self-seeding in a flower bed is another possibility; again it will take several seasons of nurturing.

The native pasque has a more petite form from some other pulsatillas, and is certainly desirable for a bit of Alaska in your flower bed.

for a bit of Alaska in your flower bed.

Definitely worth a try, folks.

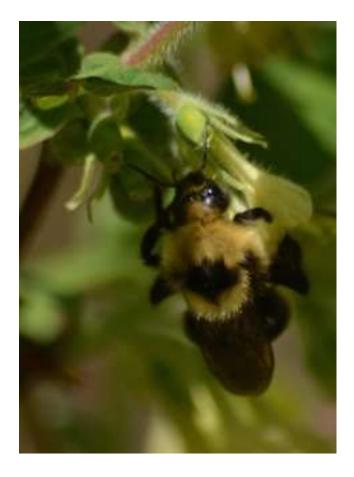




Pasque flower in early May. The peasant quit counting after twenty flower buds and blooms. Individual flowers will last a week or more. Please note the honeybee in the center of photo.

Photos of bee on honeyberry blossoms - photographer Sheri Walker.







Minutes of Mat-Su Master Gardeners Meeting 5-5-14

No Minutes available to publish.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS AT THE MAT-SU EXPERIMENT FARM

Interested in growing a garden this year?
Community garden plots are available at the Matanuska Experiment Farm, 1509 S
Georgeson Drive, Palmer (behind the hospital off old South Trunk Road). See the application form, garden rules and etiquette, and waiver forms at:

 $\underline{\text{http://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/hhfd/}} \;.$

For more information call Julie at 745-3677. The farm will plow the land when the ground is ready, for planting to begin June 3. The cost is \$25 per 10x20 foot plot.

LIST OF BLUEBERRY BUSHES AT FALTZ NURSERY IN ANCHORAGE

FROM MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM, MAY 2014

www.faltznursery.com

1401 Laban St., Anchorage

907-349-4382

All crops are edible.

Vaccinium corymbososum "Blue Crop" Container #2 \$25

Vaccinium corymbososum "North Blue" #1 \$26

Vaccinium corymbosum "Early Blue" #1 \$25

Vaccinium corymbosum "Jersey" #2 \$25

Vaccinium corymbosum "North Country" #1 \$25

Vaccinium corymbosum "Patriot" #2 \$25

Vaccinium corymbosum "Polaris" #1 \$26

Vaccinium corymbosum "St. Cloud" #1 \$26

Mat-Su Master Gardeners

Annual Plant Sale May 31, 2014 9 am ~ 3 pm Palmer Pavilion

A variety of annuals and perennials grown in members own gardens and greenhouses suitable for Alaskan gardens. Come early for best selection.



For more information on the plant sale go to: http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/annual-plant-sale.html

MATSU Master Gardeners' Newsletter

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 *NEW*

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 * NEW

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/

Announcements

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Know of an upcoming event or organization which needs our help? Let a board member know!

Eat Local Alaska

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

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 *Updated*

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

http://interiormastergardeners.org/

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

http://palmersoilandwater.org/

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

http://www.sababeekeepers.com/

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners

http://www.seakmg.org/

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/

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 and/or print 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: Jan Bass 373-6208 **Cathy Crew** Treasurer: 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: kdblaylock@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

JUNE

Jun 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Library Planter

Jun 6-8, Palmer, Colony Days

Jun 19, Anchorage (ABG), Midsummer Gala in the Garden

Jun 28-29, Anchorage (ABG), Boreal Garden and Art Festival

JUNE AND BEYOND

July 7, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Using plants as Dyes.

July 12, Palmer, Mid-Summer Garden & Art Faire

Aug 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Aug 21 - Sep 1, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

Sep 8, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Oct 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Nov 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Dec 1, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Dec 12-14, Palmer, Colony Christmas

Dec 13, Palmer, Colony Christmas Parade

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:

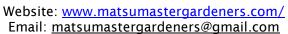
Articles, stories, poetry, upcoming events, and pictures (garden-related) are gladly accepted for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit pictures in JPEG format and other items in Word format with no special formatting other than paragraphs. When submitting pictures, please provide a brief caption 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~~









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

