



June 2014



## 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:

<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](http://www.faltznursery.com)

1401 Laban St., Anchorage

907-349-4382

All crops are edible.

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

Vaccinium corymbosum "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>

## Garden Links

### Alaska Botanical Garden

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

### Alaska Community Agriculture

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

### Arbor Day Foundation

[www.arborday.org](http://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/>



### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fruit.usask.ca)

### USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

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

### Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation

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

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## Announcements

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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### *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](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com)

*thank you*

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Rhonda Bowman</b>	<b>746-2948</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Curt Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Hally Truelove</b>	<b>376-0909</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Jan Bass</b>	<b>373-6208</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cathy Crew</b>	<b>632-4401</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Marge Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>

If you have gardening news, photos or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please contact: Deb Blaylock @Email: [kdblalock@ak.net](mailto:kdblalock@ak.net)

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)  
Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto: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: 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month ~~ Thank you~~



June 2014



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**Facebook**

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)  
Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

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

