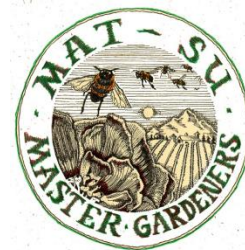




Mar 2019



## President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

Thank you to all our volunteers who help make our association what it is. Kristina is doing a great job with finding some great speakers as well as the 2019 Yearbook. Cathy works hard behind the scenes keeping our finances straight. Dorte has her fingers in many projects as well. We have many others who have volunteered to help with our upcoming activities for the year – the annual plant sale, the two community plantings, the Midsummer Garden and Art Faire and the State Fair parade. Arlene will have sign-up sheets at upcoming meetings for folks to sign up for maintenance on the flower beds. Deb Caillouet will also be looking for folks to volunteer for a slot in July. Curt needs some helpers for the float, and we hope to hear from him what plants he needs from members as well as our float theme. Marcia will be doing the advertising for our plant sale. Thank you all!

We are a bit behind on the budget due to no fault of the current board of directors. We plan on presenting the 2019 budget at the March meeting. We also intend to present the 2020 budget at the November meeting as directed by the standing rules.

The board of directors met on February 4th. We discussed the State Master Gardener Conference and have put forth the suggestion that we do not host a conference in 2020 but to host it in 2021 instead. We just hosted one in 2017. At one point, the conferences were supposed to be every other year but have become an annual thing. We're such a small organization and it puts a great strain on all involved to put one on every three years. This proposal will be given to Steve Brown at the Cooperative Extension Service to forward to the "powers that be." We will put it forth for members to vote on at the March meeting.

Many thanks to Curt Mueller for the new "banner" photo for the newsletter. He sent me several photos and I selected the colorful one you see now. He also graciously let me use some others on our Facebook group and page banners. If you're on Facebook, be sure and join our group or like our page.

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### GENERAL MEETINGS

#### FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

#### NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY, MARCH 4TH, 7:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION: MATANUSKA TELEPHONE COMPANY (MTA) BUILDING, MEETING ROOM (IN THE BASEMENT), 480 COMMERCIAL DR., PALMER, AK**

**DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND**

#### SPEAKER/TOPIC

**BUSINESS MEETING - 7-7:30 PM**

**GUEST SPEAKER - 7:30 - 8:30 PM**

**DAN MOORE FROM FIRE APPLE ORCHARD IN BIG LAKE. HE WILL SPEAK ABOUT FRUIT PRODUCTION IN ALASKA.**

#### SEED EXCHANGE

Our March presentation is by Dan Moore who owns Fire Apple Orchard in Big Lake. He will educate us on fruit production in Alaska. We will also have an informal seed exchange. Bring any extra seeds you want to trade or share with others. Please label the seeds legibly. We will have tables at the meeting for you to lay your goodies on.

## PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

As avid gardeners we develop our knowledge and appreciation of many species of plants, including those growing naturally in our abundant woodlands, wetlands, roadsides, river bottomlands, and arctic and montane areas. We have many different variations of habitat; each of these may support specific plant species. As the mountainous elevations increase and we go north to the arctic and beyond, the number of species of plants and animals steadily decreases as the rigors of climate become more extreme.

If you have had the good fortune to come across a moss campion in full bloom you have found a plant that thrives in mountainous windswept conditions to produce a breathtaking inflorescence amid the surrounding gravelly soil. At an elevation well above the stunted trees and brushy alders, it lives on ridges and open areas where the snow is often blown away during winter and soil moisture is sparse, necessitating the development of deep extensive roots. Adaptation to these harsh conditions allows this plant to do well here. The development of a myriad of tiny flowers is an adaptation. As the wind disperses the many hundreds of seeds produced, perhaps one falls into a favorable crevice that allows it to germinate and take root, thereby helping perpetuate the species. Another adaptation is its ground hugging mat form which helps to protect it from desiccation by the wind. The species name is *Silene acaulis*; *acaulis* meaning stemless, or without stem; from this feature comes the low-growing habit.

The peasant enjoys propagating wild plants from seed; one of which is meadow arnica. It can be found in moist roadside ditches competing with other species of plants; producing its golden daisy-like flowers in July and August. In our subdivision it was plentiful along Olympus avenue and was much admired in its bloom period. When Olympus was slated to be renovated the following year, the peasant gathered seeds from the meadow arnica and sprouted them the following spring. A thorough job was done of excavating the ditches along Olympus to the extent that all vegetation was removed, and the periodic water flow was rerouted to one side of the road where a bed of cobblestones was laid to help prevent erosion. This left the original habitat for the arnica in a dry condition which was not conducive to support the meadow arnica or other plants.

The soil was gravelly and dry, but fortunately the subsoil moisture was fairly close to the surface.

Of course, the peasant replanted a number of the meadow Arnica plants back in the ditch from whence had come the seed. They have struggled but survived and bloomed and are slowly being surrounded by other species as those move in. Perhaps in time it will regain a semblance of its former glory.

The peasant had a few meadow arnica plants left and planted them in a more favorable spot in the roadside near his home. Indeed, they thrive there, and one plant in a couple of years became twenty or more, amazingly pushing through in an area of dense sod and raising their flower heads above the grass as they spread by rhizomes. They have found a happy home and will continue to grace the spot; we hope in an undisturbed condition.

Getting back to plants of northerly regions, a good number of those we commonly see, and use are circumpolar. A circumpolar plant is one which can be found throughout the northern tier of countries around the world. Fireweed fits the description as well as our tasty lowbush cranberry also known as lingonberry. Lo and behold, the common chickweed is also circumpolar. There are many other species that fit the circumpolar description, including a number of non-vascular plants.

There you have it. Our native plants are to be enjoyed and encouraged to fill the habitats they have adapted to thrive in.

Thanks, folks.

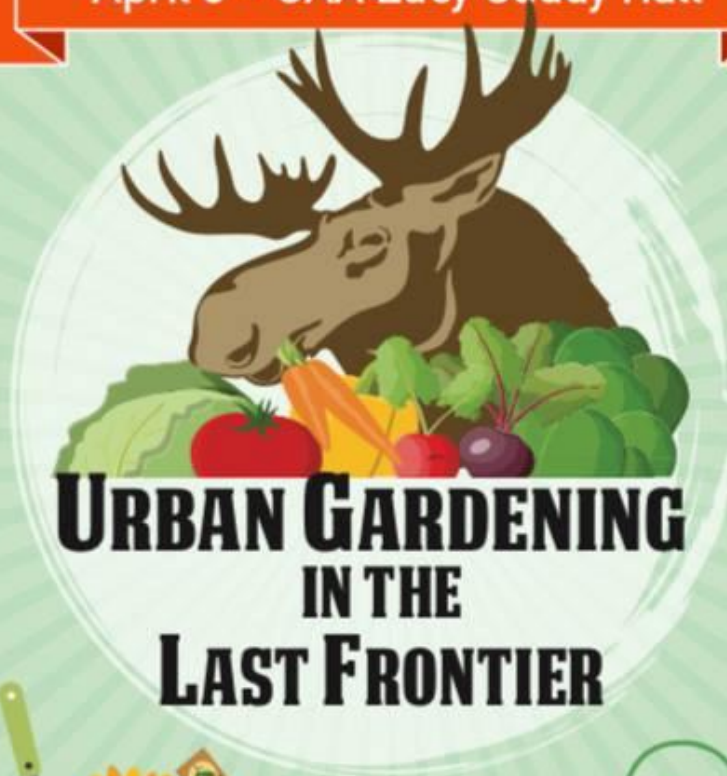


**Meadow arnica growing among other plants in moist roadside ditch.**



# 2019 Alaska Master Gardener Statewide Conference

April 6 • UAA Lucy Cuddy Hall



Garden Market  
Silent Auction  
Door Prizes

Robert Kourik, keynote speaker

Early Registration (Before March 15).....\$85

Registration.....\$95

[www.alaskamastergardeners.org](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org) • Lunch included

Major Sponsor



UAF is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination).

**2019 Alaska Master Gardener Statewide Conference • Saturday, April 6, UAA Lucy Cuddy Hall**


8:00-9:00 a.m.	UAA Lucy Cuddy Hall - Registration Visit the Garden Market and Silent Auction	
9:00-9:15 a.m.	Welcome: Julie Riley - Mistress of Ceremonies Mayor Ethan Berkowitz	
9:15-10:15 a.m.	"Understanding Roots" Robert Kourik - Keynote Speaker Door prizes	
10:15-10:30 a.m.	Break- Visit the Garden Market & Silent Auction	
	Lucy Cuddy Hall	Rasmuson Hall
Session 1 10:30-11:15 a.m.	"The Secrets Behind Compelling Combinations" Brenda Adams	"Fruit for the Urban Garden" Debbie Hinchey
11:15-11:30 a.m.	Break- Visit the Garden Market & Silent Auction	
	Lucy Cuddy Hall	Rasmuson Hall
Session 2 11:30-12:15 p.m.	"Just Say Grow! Raised Bed Gardening in South Central Alaska" Deb Blaylock	"Small Spaces, Big Gardens- Using the Design Process to get the Most from Your Outdoor Spaces" Elise Huggins
Lunch 12:15-1:30 p.m.	Lunch (slide show) Visit the Garden Market, Silent Auction Door prizes	
	Lucy Cuddy Hall	Rasmuson Hall
Session 3 1:30-2:15 p.m.	"Small Plants for Small Spaces: Alpines and Hypertufa" Jaime Rodriguez	"Vegetable Container Gardening" Rob Carter
2:15-2:30 p.m.	Break- Visit the Garden Market Silent Auction closes 2:30 p.m.	
	Lucy Cuddy Hall	Rasmuson Hall
Session 4 2:30-3:15 p.m.	"Insects in the Garden: Friend or Foe?" Janice Chumley	"Fast Composting" Steve Brown
3:15-3:30 p.m.	Break- Visit the Garden Market	
3:30-4:30 p.m.	"The Good, the Bad, and the Unbelievable" Robert Kourik	
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks Door Prizes, Service Awards	

revision 2/10/19

2019 State Master Gardener Conference Website:

<https://www.alaskamastergardeners.org/conference.html>

### **MMGA Minutes, February 4, 2019 - Minutes submitted by Dorte Mobley, Secretary**

Present at the meeting Sue Glenn, Dorte Mobley, Greg Kalal, Deb Blaylock, Marge Mueller, Julie Pollard, Hazel Koppenberg, Eva Cohnen-Brown, Curt Mueller, Deb Caillouet, Rhonda Bowman, Cecil Ellsworth, Arlene & Wayne Bowman, Kristina Tornqvist, Marcia Clemmons, Ellen VandeVisse, Ken Blaylock

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

No treasurers report – Cathy was absent. The 2019 budget was not presented to the membership because the board didn't finish it due to Cathy's absence from the board meeting. Postponed until March meeting. Note: this should have been done at November 2018 meeting.

Secretary's report: Minutes were in newsletter. Kristina moved to approve them as written. Motion was seconded and motion passed.

#### **Committees:**

Speaker committee: Kristina informed us that tonight Cecil Ellsworth is talking about coconut coir. Kristina will check her notes for the March speaker and we also will have a seed exchange. The April speaker is Jill Parsons. She will talk about making your garden bird friendly.

Membership committee: Membership committee absent. Deb reported we have 44 members

Yearbook committee: Kristina handed out membership directories – a few corrections were to be made.

No Rebarchek report, committee head absent.

Note: We are combining the Palmer Library committee with the Pioneer Home committee.

Pioneer Home and Library planting – Marge: We will buy 14 flats total of flowers for planting both places. Sally will help. Arlene Bowman volunteered to be in charge of schedule for people to check on beds – apparently city waters them and we don't have many weeds to pull. Arlene will bring a sign-up list to the next meeting.

Palmer Midsummer Art and Garden faire – Deb Caillouet asked about getting a check to pay for our booth. Deb Blaylock told her to get in touch with Cathy Crew.

Garden Tours: Dorte will do July garden tour and

August outing – We would like to visit some new places in the Palmer area; please let Dorte know if you would like your home on the garden tour. Possible places for the club to visit in July/August: Spring Creek Farm off Farm Loop Road, Palmer visitor center garden, Matanuska Experiment Farm, Palmer State Fair gardens

State Fair Parade: Fair theme this year is "Crazy Good". Curt will be in charge of making a float, but he needs a helper. Please let him know if you would like to help.

Newsletter: Deb is still doing the newsletter. She could use articles to put in it.

Website: Eva reported no changes to the web page  
Old Business:

Plant Sale: The Palmer Pavilion is reserved for June 1st. Dorte will get labels (we need to order how many? Dorte will ask Cathy.) Curt will do an inventory at the CES office. Banners will be hung by Curt and Marge. Marcia will do advertising – Frontiersman, ADN, flyer (not needed)? People need to be signed up to sell by the May meeting. Labels need to be available at the April and May meetings. We still need someone to get the table and chairs from the CES office and 2 or 3 people to be cashiers at the checkout table.

Still no volunteers for the Grant/Scholarship or Nomination committees.

#### **New Business:**

If anyone is interested in getting seed potatoes, Greg Kalal has some. Contact him soon to place an order as he's running short on some types. His information is available on the webpage under for sale by members.

Next meeting will be March 4th

Meeting adjourned at 7:25





## MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

We are an organization of all volunteers. No one gets a paycheck and we all have other things to do in our lives. We have banded together to spread the word about good gardening practices in our niche of Alaska and to share our knowledge and teach others. Volunteering doesn't take much time and will make us stronger as an organization and help us help others.

A HUGE thank you to our current volunteers!! These are the positions which are filled for 2019:

**Guest Speakers:** Kristina Tornqvist

**Website:** Eva Cohnen-Brown

**State Fair Sponsored Awards:** Deb Blaylock

**Newsletter:** Deb Blaylock

**State Fair Parade:** Curt Mueller

**MTA Room Coordinator:** Phyllis Kircher

**Christmas Party:** Marge Mueller

**Midsummer Garden & Art Faire:** Deb Caillouet

**Summer Garden Tours/Activities:** Dorte Mobley

**Rebarchek Farm:** Michael Kircher

**Palmer Veterans & Senior Home & Palmer**

**Library Planting:** Marge Mueller and Sally

Sonnichsen

**Association Yearbook:** Kristina Tornqvist

**Plant Sale:**

**Plant Labels:** Dorte Mobley

**Hang up Signs:** Curt & Marge Mueller

**Advertising:** Marcia Clemons

**Sign-up Sheet:** Deb Blaylock

**Reserve the Pavilion for 2020:** Deb

Blaylock

Committees which need a volunteer(s):

**Plant Sale** – We still need the following volunteers for the plant sale:

Someone to get the tables and chairs for plant check-out/cashiers

Two or three folks to cashier

Someone to help Cathy Crew count money

**Grants/Scholarships** – Coordinate with individuals and organizations on grant or scholarship requests, present information to membership.

**Nomination Committee** –September meeting, gather a committee of at least one other member to query the current membership for volunteers to serve as officers/board of directors for the 2020 membership year. Finalize the list by October 20<sup>th</sup> and send a list of potential candidates to the newsletter editor to publish in the November newsletter. Present the candidates to the membership at the November 2019 Annual Meeting for voting.

If you're interested in serving as a chairman or just as a member of any of the committees, please send an email to

[matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com).

Thank you! We appreciate your help with keeping our association functioning.

### Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center

#### Upcoming Events and Information

- Jan 30 Guided Walking Tour 2:30-3:30
- Jan 29-31 Pesticide Safety Education Program 9AM-5PM
- Feb 2 Making Yogurt Class 10AM- Noon
- Feb 2 Queso Fresco Class (cheese!) 1-3PM
- Feb 9 Making Fresh Pasta 10AM- Noon
- Feb 16 Making Fresh Mozzarella 10AM- Noon
- Feb 21 Third Thursday: Seed Starting
- Mar 2 Food Preservation Basics and Jellied Products 10AM-1PM
- Mar 9 Canning Low Acid Food: Fish 10AM- 1PM
- Mar 16 Boiling Water Canner: Fruits and Tomatoes 10AM-1PM
- Mar 21 Third Thursday: Spring Cleaning with Green Products
- Mar 30 Canning Low Acid Food: Meat and Vegetables 10AM-1PM
- April 6 Pickles and Sauerkraut 10AM-1PM
- April 13 Dehydrating Fruits and Vegetables 10AM-1PM
- April 13 Birch and Syrup Making 1-3 PM

Check out our Facebook page for more information or call us @ 907-745-3360

## 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](http://www.arborday.org)

### Alaska Division of Agriculture

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>

### Alaska Farm to School

<https://www.farmtoschoolalaska.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](http://www.alaskaplants.org)

### Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

<http://www.matsugov.us/environment/raingardens>

### Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

[www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://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 \*\*New\*\*

<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](http://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 – See page 6 for committees/projects which need someone to take the lead.

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Deb Blaylock</b>	<b>746-6045/kdblalock@ak.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Gregory Kalal</b>	<b>339-1966</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Dorte Mobley</b>	<b>232-5422</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 at her 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

### MARCH 2019

**Mar 4**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, Dan Moore, Fire Apple Orchard, Fruit production in Alaska. We will also do a seed exchange.

**Mar 10**, Day Light Savings time begins

### APRIL 2019 AND BEYOND

**Apr 1**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, Jill Parson, How to make your garden bird friendly.

**Apr 6**, Anchorage, State Master Gardener Conference, Lucy Cuddy Center, UAA

**Apr 20**, Anchorage, Spring Garden Show, Mid-Town Mall

**May 6**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

**May 6**, Deadline to sign up for plant sale.

**Jun 1**, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale

**Jun 3**, Palmer, Palmer Library Planting

**Jul - TBD**, Garden Tours

**Aug - TBD**, Local Business Tour

**Aug - TBD**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair Parade

**Aug 22 - Sep 2**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair

**Sep 9**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

**Oct 7**, Palmer, MMGA Meeting

**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: 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month -- Thank you--**





March 2019



Like us on  
**Facebook**

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

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