



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

Our March meeting will be one you don't want to miss! Dr. Patricia Holloway is our guest speaker. She is one of the most knowledgeable horticulturists we have in our state and she will be sharing some of that knowledge on seed saving techniques. I've taken many of Pat's college classes when she was a professor at UAF, and I was always impressed with her classes.

We will not have a business meeting at the March meeting but instead will devote the entire time to Dr. Holloway's presentation. Please arrive a bit early as the meeting will start promptly at 7 p.m. and we would like to avoid any interruptions to the presentation. You will not be disappointed!

The members-only summer garden tour looks to be exciting this year! We have lined up a tour of some high tunnels built by local farmer Cec Ellsworth, a visit to the beautiful Snowfire Gardens and a peek at their root cellar, and a visit to the Alpine Garden Nursery, filled with a vast array of alpine plants. It should be a great day. More details will be sent to current members as we draw closer to the event.

Just to refresh everyone's memory, to participate in the annual plant sale participants must be members of the association by the May meeting, and signed up for the plant sale no later than the May meeting. Sign-up sheets will be available at the April and May meetings. We will also have labels available to be signed out by members signed up for the plant sale. Plant sale instructions will be posted on the association web page in the near future. Please review them and let us know if you have any questions. Volunteers are needed for the following duties related to the plant sale: advertising, bringing the tables and chairs from the Extension office, putting up the banners around town and on the pavilion the morning of the plant sale, helping sort labels after the sale, and cashiers during the sale. We'll discuss these more at the April meeting, so please be consider helping out.

This is a call to folks to start thinking about my replacement. I will be leaving as president at the end of

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Meeting	1
Peasant's Perspective	2
12 Steps of an Alaskan Garden Addict	3
Curious Old Plant Names	3
Crossword Puzzle: Soils and Fertilizer	4
February Meeting Minutes	5
February Board Meeting Minutes	5
Garden Links	6
Announcements/Volunteer Opportunities	6
Contacts	7
Calendar of Events	7

GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 2ND, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION: MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM AND EXTENSION CENTER, KERTTULA HALL, "BLUE ROOM," 1509 S GEORGESON DR, PALMER, AK

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

SPEAKER/TOPIC

GUEST SPEAKER - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. PATRICIA HOLLOWAY, PRESENTATION ON SEED SAVING.

the year and someone will need to step up to take over. Think about it and let me know if you're interested. Also, we are scheduled to host the State Master Gardener Conference in 2021. Someone needs to lead that effort and we will need volunteers for conference committees. Think about what you would like to do for the conference! See you at the March meeting!

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

The Lamentations of an Impatient Gardener

The snow has snowed, the wind has blown;
My body's chilled clear to the bone!

This snow is tough, I shovel the stuff
'Til my backbone cries Enough! Enough!

I want to see the bumblebee
And feel the warm sun shine on me.

But I must wait, such is my fate.
February days should be twenty-eight.

Two months away before the day
Green leaves and grass again hold sway.

It ain't so bad, friend don't be sad
Those days are bound to make us glad.

We'll sprout our seeds; we'll hoe our weeds;
Old Sol will care for our garden's needs.

The endless days will fill our ways;
As the sunlight for hours and hours plays.

We're part of this, the dark and bliss,
The bite of winter, sweet springtime's kiss.

Life's but a joke to a happy bloke;
So, laugh away, kind hearty folk.



An early harbinger of spring, the pasque flower is a most welcome garden addition. Pasque refers to its Easter flowering period in more temperate climates. *Pulsatilla patens* is the name of this beauty.

12 Steps of an Alaskan Garden Addict

By Master Gardener Deb Blaylock

1. Admit you're powerless over the lure of seed catalogs.
2. Come to believe that seed catalogs can restore our sanity.
3. Decide to turn your life and will over to the garden/yard/orchard/greenhouse/etc. for the duration of the season.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of our seed collection.
5. Admitted to other gardeners, to us, and Facebook that we are addicts to seeds.
6. We're entirely ready to order more seeds and catalogs and plants and garden nick-nacks and
7. Humbly ask our spouses, children and friends to forgive us during the gardening season for not knowing what time it is when the sun is still up and there's one more weed to pull and one more bed to water and
8. Make a list of all our seeds and share what we don't need with our fellow addicts.
9. Gladly share the over-abundance of zucchini and kale.
10. Continue to inventory our seeds and peruse seed catalogs and web pages in search of that prize tomato or flower or fruit variety.
11. Seek to understand this addiction and through faithful searches, find the ultimate power to endure through the upcoming season.
12. As a result of these steps, we will carry our message to our fellow seed addicts and practice these principles in all that we do.

Pissabed, mare's fart, dead man's fingers: Curious old plant names

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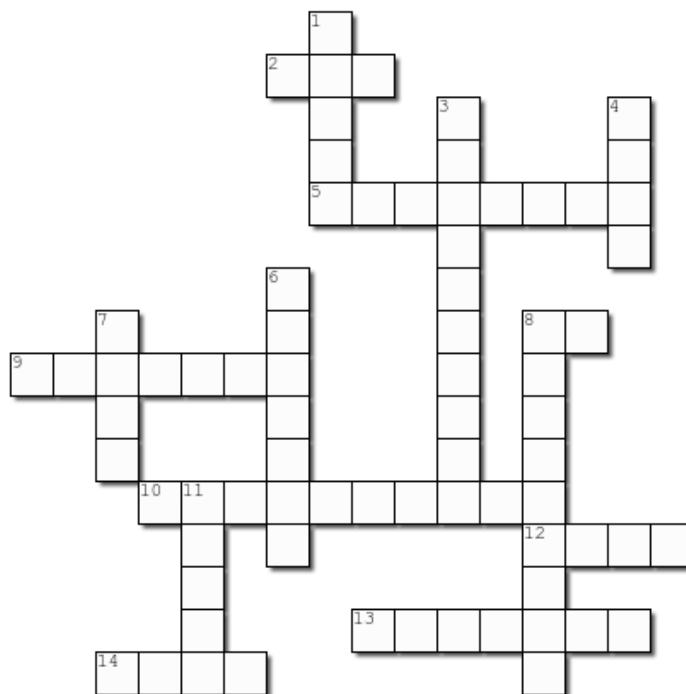
Pissabed; mare's fart; dead man's fingers. Three of the hundreds of traditional English plant names which, once ubiquitous but now little-known, have been replaced by the much more prosaic *taraxacum*, *jacobaea vulgaris* and *xylaria polymorpha*. A victory for scientific categorization, perhaps, but arguably a loss for colorful English folklore. Before the professional standardization of botanical terminology in the 18th and 19th centuries, England was full of such plant names, boasting a huge regional diversity. Some, such as Old Man's Beard, are still in widespread use, but many are not, and it is the Latin terms which are largely used in scientific circles. Yet these names are colorful and funny and curious and deserve to be remembered.

Medieval and early modern plant names had strong visual, emotional and human connotations, fitting into popular cosmology and reflecting the dominant anthropocentric worldview. Many were influenced by religion. Christ's tears, Star of Bethlehem, Jew's ear, Solomon's seal, Jacob's ladder and St John's Wort are just a few examples. The centrality of Marian devotions to popular medieval Catholicism meant that plenty of plants were named after the Virgin Mary. Conversely, there were over fifty supposedly ugly or unpleasant plants whose names began with "Devil- ". Religious plant names, especially those alluding to saints or the Virgin, were particularly distasteful to Puritans, so they tended to be discouraged from the 16th century onwards.

MARCH CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Soils and Fertilizers

Questions and answers to this puzzle were taken from the April 2011 edition of the Alaska Sustainable Gardening, The Alaska Master Gardener Manual, HGA-00339.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

2. An atom or molecule with either a positive or a negative charge.
5. Often listed as the first major plant nutrient on fertilizer packages.
8. A measure of soil alkalinity or acidity.
9. An important secondary nutrient - often deficient in Alaska's acidic soils.
10. Listed as 'P' on the periodic table.
12. The second largest (or smallest) soil particle.
13. Soil _____ is how coarse or fine the soil is (percentage of sand, silt and clay particles.)
14. A soil ____ is important to determine levels of nutrients and soil pH.

Down

1. Too much of this micronutrient is toxic to plants.
3. A natural or synthetic product added to the soil to supply plant nutrients.
4. The coarsest/largest soil particle.
6. The product created by the breakdown of organic waste under conditions manipulated by humans.
7. The smallest type of soil particle.
8. Listed as 'K' on the periodic table.
11. The end product of decomposed animal or vegetable matter.

Answers to February 2020 Puzzle

Across

1. Connects the stigma to the ovary. (**style**)
5. The pollen sac on a male flower. (**anther**)
7. Having only a stamen. (**imperfect**)
9. The top of a female flower part; collects pollen. (**stigma**)
12. Can be dispersed by the wind or the birds and bees. (**pollen**)
13. Highly colored portions of the flower. (**petal**)

Down

1. The male reproductive flower part. (**stamen**)
2. Holds the anther in position. (**filament**)
3. The female reproductive flower part (**pistil**)
4. Reproduction is their sole function. (**flowers**)
6. A flower with functional stamens and pistils. (**perfect**)
8. Where seeds develop after pollination. (**ovary**)
10. Plays an important role in pollination. (**insect**)
11. Small, green, leaf-like structure. (**sepal**)

MMGA Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2020

Submitted by Secretary Carolyn Johnson

Meeting was called to order at: 7:00 PM by Deb Blaylock; Attending: 18 members and 3 guests.

Treasurer's Report:

The 02/03/2020 Treasurer's report was handed out and reviewed; motion to approve was taken and approved. Non opposed. Deb asked if anyone had bills to submit. No one had any. MMGA currently has 48 members.

Secretary's Report:

January's meeting minutes were published in the February 2020 newsletter. Motion to approve was taken and approved. Non opposed.

Committee Reports:

- Speaker Coordination: Potential speaker for May - Kathy Liska, State Fair Judging and Entry
 - Rebarcheck Farm: no report.
 - Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home, and Library: Julie Pollard - Need to get the flower order in soon.
 - Midsummer Garden & Art Faire: NEED a committee chair.
 - Summer Garden Tours: NEED a committee chair.
 - State Fair Parade Float: NEED a committee chair.
 - State Fair Awards: Deb Blaylock - nothing to report till later in the year.
 - Newsletter: Nothing to report.
 - Web Page: Eva Cohnen-Brown: No updates.
 - Plant Sale: NEED a committee chair. The pavilion has been reserved. Need someone to take on ordering plant labels and distribution, someone for advertising, someone for putting up the banners around town and at the plant sale, someone to get the tables and chairs, folks to help with the check-out area and a few folks to help count the cash and plant labels.
 - Christmas Party: NEED a 2020 committee chair.
 - Membership Directory: Sue Glenn - Sue announced she had 10 copies of a draft directory for folks to review. There were a few corrections noted. Folks will get with Sue after the meeting to let her know of all corrections noted.
 - Scholarships & Grants: NEED a committee chair.
- Old Business:
Still NEED people for committee chairs LISTED ABOVE. 501-C IRS application almost ready to submit. Need to redo Articles of Incorporation and by-laws. Pay.Gov account was created. (short form for non-profit - it will be \$275). Alaska Peony Society, a presentation

from Pat Holloway of Fairbanks, meeting at Evangelo's Restaurant Conference Rm. Wasilla, on February 29, 2020, 10:am-4:pm; Alaska Peony Society members are free

New Business:

Updated Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws - published in the February 2020 newsletter. The Board of Directors met at 6:00PM to review the updated Articles of Incorporation and possible insurance needs. An overview of the meeting and cost of insurance was presented. A vote to approve the Board's recommendation to oppose the insurance coverage at this time. Vote: 5 in favor, rest opposed. Articles of Incorporation and updated By-Laws Vote: All voted in favor, none opposed.

Seed sharing at the back table after the guest speaker presentation.

Next Meeting: March 2; Dr. Patricia Holloway will present on Seed Saving. There will be no business meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:15 pm, by Deb Blaylock

Guest speaker: Charles Stillman spoke on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for indoor growing/gardening. Very informative overview of the IPM process.

MMGA Board Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2020

Board Meeting was called to order at: 6:00 PM by Deb Blaylock. Attendees: Deb Blaylock, Marge Mueller, Greg Kalal, Cathy Crew, and Carolyn Johnson.

Meeting Report:

The board reviewed the two (2) insurance quotes for a Business Owners Policy; discussion was held regarding need vs. cost. Discussion held that Anchorage does not have it; there's no stipulation from the Extension office or Pavilion to carry insurance. Annual Plant Sale could fall under Educational umbrella as a Fundraiser. Decision was to present the information to the membership of the insurance facts and the updates to the Articles of Incorporation to include how the MMGA would dissolve as needed for the 501C, and no changes to the By-Laws from 2018. Board Vote: all agreed, none opposed.

Cathy raised concerns about the annual Plant Sale possibly needing insurance coverage and meeting the 501C requirements due to the fact that we pay the members a percentage of the sales which is documented in the November Standing Rules. Discussion was had regarding Cathy's concerns and was agreed that maybe further research from other 501C organizations could be gathered but to move forward presenting the insurance coverage and costs, updates to the Articles of Incorporation to the membership for a vote.

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:50PM.

Garden Links (updated Nov 2019)

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.farmtoschoolalaska.org/>
Alaska Garden Clubs
<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>
Alaska Grown
<http://www.buyalaskagrown.com/>
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
<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 Gardener
<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 (Extension)
<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
<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 Georgeson Botanical Garden
<http://www.georgesonbotanicalgarden.org/>
UAF Herbarium
<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/herb/>
UAF Alaska Master Gardener Program
<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/mastergardeners/>
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
<https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors for 2021.
- Volunteer to chair one of our committees or serve on a committee. There are several vacancies for chairs and most all will need members to help.
- Volunteer as the State Master Gardener Conference Committee chair.

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblayment@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Carolyn Johnson	619-857-6614
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

MARCH 2020

Mar 2, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Dr. Patricia Holloway, Seed Saving

APRIL 2020 AND BEYOND

Apr 6, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Basic Seed Starting, Deb Blaylock, Mat-Su Master Gardeners

May 4, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Kathy Liska, Fair Entries

May 30, Palmer MMGA Annual Plant Sale

Jun 8, Palmer, Palmer Public Library Planting (Note date change!)

Jul 11, Palmer Midsummer Garden and Art Faire

Jul 22, Summer Members-Only Garden Tour, High Tunnels, Gardens & a Root Cellar and Alpine Plants.

Aug 27 - Sep 7, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, "Seeing is Believing"

Aug 29, Palmer, Alaska State Fair Parade

Sep 14, Palmer, MMGA meeting

Oct 5, Palmer, MMGA meeting

Nov 2, Palmer, Annual MMGA meeting

Dec 7, Palmer, Christmas Party

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 is January 15, 2020 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--



March 2020



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
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