



## President's Patch

By President Kevin Johnson

I hope the sub-zero weather has left our area. We endured more this year than I can remember, and with the heavy snow fall, I do hope the perennials are doing well. I have a few areas around my house and in Palmer I watch. In one neighborhood, there was no snow next to homes due to the eaves. Then the sub-zero weather, then snow piles and now the snow was blown away by the winds. Only time will tell if the perennials survive.

By now, if you are starting seeds, the trays are cleaned, lights are in place, heat provided, and the anticipation is building. Time flies with starts going whether its time in a day, or days on a calendar with the estimated planting dates coming soon. I again look forward to seeing the "fruits of our labor."

### MMGA News

The committees are being assembled for the season. If you're interested in working on one or more, please contact us. The monthly meeting room has changed to being a classroom type environment on the second floor of the building. Please watch for signage to directions. The annual plant sale is set for June 1 at the Pavilion in downtown Palmer. The same location as in past years. With the repairs being done at the Palmer library, at this time the only location is the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home in Palmer for cleaning community beds and replanting. The MMGA plot at the Rebarchek Farm project area on the Fairgrounds has changed. There will be some changes needed to move a few beds and the entry arbor needs to be moved.

The Alaska Master Gardener (MG) presidents are setting a group meeting every two months, with next one in April. This is to discuss issues in each club, but good and

<b>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</b>	
<b>President's Patch</b>	<b>1/6</b>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Peasant's Perspective</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mat-Su Valley Rebuild</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>March Guest Speaker</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>AgrAbility and Arthritis Presentation</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>2024 Standing Committee Chairs</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>It's a Small World</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>UAF CES Self-Paced Learning Opportunities</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MEF&amp;EC Upcoming Classes</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>February Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Garden Links</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Contacts</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<b>10</b>

**REGULAR MEETINGS**  
**FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**NEXT MEETING**  
**MARCH 4TH, 7:00 P.M.**  
**LOCATION:**  
**MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM AND**  
**EXTENSION CENTER,**  
**KERTTULA HALL, ROOM 208, SECOND FLOOR**  
**1509 S GEORGESON DR, PALMER**  
**AGENDA**  
**7:00 TO 7:30 PM BUSINESS MEETING**  
**7:30 GUEST SPEAKER**  
**CEC ELLSWORTH, STUDIO ORCHARDS AND BOREAL**  
**COIR. SEE PAGE 3.**

struggling. Membership is always at the forefront of all the clubs - new members are not coming in as fast.

Continued on page 6

## PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE:

BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER – PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

What we know and purchase as amaryllis is actually *Hippeastrum*. The true amaryllis comes from South Africa, and what we purchase as amaryllis is actually *Hippeastrum*. It is a sub-tropical to tropical plant from Central to South America. We will continue to call it amaryllis and forget the confusion.

Probably most of us have grown these bulbs from kits which we have purchased or have been given to us. They may be kept and allowed to regrow and rebloom if we take the patience to do so. A kit consists of a bulb and a pot and [usually] a soilless mix to plant the bulb in. The first shoot after planting will be the flower stem, called a scape. The scape will be followed by leaves. If you plan to regrow the bulb, the leaves will provide the energy to fill out the bulb and allow it to rebloom.

Once the “amaryllis” has bloomed out with its showy flowers the flowering part should be cut off and the flower stem left to help with photo synthesis in replenishing the bulb. When the scape turns yellow it should be cut off at its base. The leaves, which are a rich dark green will feed the bulb and allow it to grow in size. A weekly feeding with an even ratio fertilizer is called for. The peasant likes to use a water-soluble tomato fertilizer with approximately equal amounts of NPK and a variety of micronutrients.

During the summer months the amaryllis may do well grown outdoors. Like greenhouse starts, it will need to be hardened off. It then can be grown in full sun. It cannot tolerate frost, so at the end of summer bring it in and allow it a dormant period in a cool dark place. A heated garage kept in the fifty-degree range is good. At this time withhold water. The leaves will die back and drop off. This is the time to repot the amaryllis. The amaryllis

does best when its somewhat root bound, so don't increase the pot size by too much.

When the bulb shows a new scape emerging it's time to bring the plant into the warmth and light of your home and allow it to go through its bloom cycle. The bulb has probably increased in size and may produce more and showier flowers than the first time around. The growth cycle, if continued in succeeding years, will allow the bulb to increase in size and produce additional flower scapes and sometimes a new bulb alongside the original.

It takes some patience to produce a really large amaryllis bulb, but there's not a lot of work involved and it's fun to see what it can do.

Thanks folks.



Amaryllis with five scapes. The three on the left are on a side bulb produced by the original. The side bulb could be separated from the original.

## Mat-Su Valley Rebuild

submitted by Jenny Weaver – photo from the author

As the weather slowly begins to warm up, our thoughts turn to gardening projects for the summer. We imagine new raised beds, planters, greenhouses, fences, garden gates; the list goes on and on! As you plan your summer's projects, consider a visit to Mat-Su Valley Rebuild. MVR is a local non-profit with the goal of keeping useful building materials out of our landfill.

MVR sells used, but sometimes brand new still-in-the-package hardware, assorted tools, fixtures, and accessories. Rebuild sells screws, nails, bolts, nuts, and washers by the pound. You can find all manner of Simpson strong ties, braces, and corners to reinforce raised beds or build greenhouses. Various latches, hooks, hinges, and tie downs are available in all sizes and shapes. Electrical and plumbing supplies abound.



Today I investigated garden-specific items and located a like-new seed/fertilizer spreader, multiple types of edging stakes, spike-type sprinklers, and a couple brand new black-coated steel gate latches. MVR does not sell dimensional lumber, but they do sell windows, doors, sinks, cabinets, and counter tops, perfect for your potting shed or greenhouse. Stop by and check it out before you build. The inventory changes every day as new donations arrive, so visit often! MVR is located at 12151 E. Palmer-Wasilla Highway and opens Wednesday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday noon to 5 pm.

## March Guest Speaker: Cecil Logan Ellsworth

Born and raised in Utah, I grew up on what had been the family farm that my Mormon pioneer great great grandfather had cut out of the desert sagebrush in the 1850s. I first came to AK in 1985 as a young Military Intelligence Officer in the US Army. I later returned to Utah as a high school Art teacher. In 2008 technology made it possible for me to have my office remain in the L48 and I moved back to Palmer AK with Nellie (my tractor).

I built a house on Rye Road, cleared a forest of trees, cobbled together some large, raised beds from birch logs and started gardening again. A few years later I put up three high tunnels through the USDA EQIP program and started Veggies on Rye. The total lack of topsoil in the high tunnels is what brought me to coconut coir. I priced peat, coir, and local compost. The math said coir was the most cost effective. I searched for a dealer, went to India, rolled the dice, dropped \$35K on my first shipment and I've never looked back.

I put up three high tunnels at my new Tolson Ave home and planted a few hundred fruit trees which have mostly done very well. The big snow weekend in December 2022 dumped about 40" of snow and I just couldn't keep it cleared off enough and those tunnels collapsed. Lots of my trees were broken and damaged. All but four were putting out shoots and new branches last summer. Alaska is always trying to kill ya. I hope to be replacing the high tunnels this year.

Cec is the guest speaker at our March meeting. He will talk about Boreal Coir (coconut coir) and tell us what it is, where it comes from, and how to use it in our gardens and elsewhere. Additionally, he'll talk about his adventures with high tunnels and his successes and failures with them. It is sure to be an entertaining and informative talk.

## **Agrbility and Arthritis; A Presentation by Julie Cascio**

Summary by Jenny Weaver

According to “Arthritis and Gardening; A Guide for Home Gardeners and Small-Scale Producers,” published by the National AgrAbility Project at Purdue University, “Arthritis refers to the inflammation of a joint and the surrounding tissue. The term is associated with over 100 diseases that are characterized by problems in and around joints. Arthritis is the number one disability-causing disease in America, affecting nearly 50 million people... Several risk factors are involved with the onset of arthritis. Some are out of your control such as age, gender, and genetic family history. However, other risks, like obesity, certain types of athletic activity, and occupational hazards can be modified to help prevent or manage the disease.”

As gardeners, we can do many things and make adjustments that allow us to work and remain active even with arthritis. Julie Cascio, Home, Health, and Family Development Agent at the Palmer Cooperative Extension Service spoke about Arthritis and Gardening at our February meeting. This article combines information Julie provided along with material from the Purdue publication (provided here in quotes throughout).

Julie recommended, *first and foremost*, that if you have achy and swollen joints, consult your medical professional. Much of the information Julie and the AgrAbility Project provides is really not new to us, is based on common sense, and is rather easy to implement. Hopefully, we are not too set in our ways or too complacent to recognize the need to protect our bodies while in the garden.

Proper clothing including sturdy shoes, boots, and gloves are necessary. Sun protection in the form of wide brimmed hats and long-sleeved shirts help alleviate over-exposure to sun.

Begin your day with stretching exercises to help your body prepare for the movements of lifting, hauling, digging, reaching, twisting, and turning associated with gardening. Don't underestimate the need to warm up your muscles and flex your joints as you start your garden tasks. Pace yourself. Alternate tasks and allow for breaks to ease fatigue. Stay hydrated. Plan your garden so

that there are spaces to sit in the shade, relax for a moment, enjoy the scenery, and refresh yourself.

Remember to lift with your legs and bend from the hips. Protect your back; avoid twisting. Wear a back brace. Carry loads close to your body and keep the weight of items in front of you, with thumbs up. Push vs pull whenever possible. Alternate legs when standing. If stairs are greater than 8", step down backwards.

Most of us have our gardens laid out already, but simple modifications can make a difference in how we move about our garden plots. Consider adding raised beds or tabletop planters to your garden. Provide comfortable heights and widths of planters for weeding, pruning, and harvesting. Adjust dimensions for you personally but consider 4' or less for widths of beds accessible from both sides; and 2' or less when only one side is available .

Arrange your garden beds with solid, level paths in between that allow you to walk easily through the garden and safely maneuver carts and equipment. Vertical gardens and hanging baskets with pulleys and/or wand waterers may help. Include archways and arbors.

Consider how far you must walk to retrieve your garden equipment, compost, water, etc., and implement ways to make that distance shorter. Perhaps move your garden tools closer to your garden in summer. Even an old mailbox can provide storage for smaller items like clippers, hand trowels, plant ties, and gloves. Carry smaller loads for shorter distances. Replace tall steps with ramps. Install handrails in key locations to help you stand after sitting or kneeling.

Use a garden stool/kneeler, design your own upside-down-bucket seat, or create a ledge around your raised beds to avoid constant up and down movements. Use a simple garden pad or strap-on pads to protect your knees.

Julie displayed many ergonomic tools that protect our hands and wrists from fatigue. “The best hand tools have handles designed to keep the wrist straight.” They feature curved handles and excellent grips and include “...spring-assisted handles, swivel grips, and ratcheting gears for pruning.”

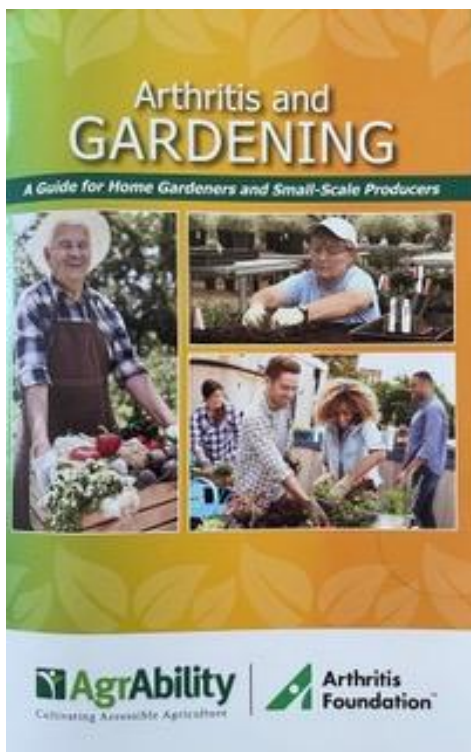
Continued on page 5.

Continued from page 4.

Detachable forearm braces and telescopic handles make using long tools easier and reduce fatigue. Many companies offer tools “especially designed for women. The tools are generally lighter and are equipped with smaller diameter handles.” Footplates on shovels protect your feet and arches. Two-wheeled wheelbarrows and carts provide for stable movement. Motorized carts and scooters help with accessibility.

After a long summer day working in our Alaskan gardens, a cool down is key. Instead of an abrupt stop to your activity, consider a short walk with nice deep breaths, before plopping down in that easy chair! “If you experience stiffness, soreness, swelling or pain, apply ice to the tender area for 15-20 minutes. Icing can reduce swelling and pain.”

Think about what you do now to help ease the aches and pains you experience at the end of your gardening day? What changes included here could you make easily and immediately to help? What long-term plans might you implement to ease the stress gardening puts on your muscles and joints so you might gain more enjoyment and less physical pain from gardening?



Link to download a pdf copy of this publication:

<http://www.agrability.org/resources/arthritis/>

Link to the AK AgrAbility Program:

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/agrability/index.php>

Link to the nation-wide AgrAbility Program:

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

### 2024 Committee Volunteers

Newsletter	Deb Blaylock
Website Manager	Eva Cohnen-Brown
Guest Speakers	Jenny Weaver
Membership Directory	Dorte Mobley
Rebarchek Farm Project	Isaac Vaughan
Annual Plant Sale	
Palmer Veterans & Pioneers Home Planting & TBD	
Midsummer Garden & Art Faire	
Summer Garden Tours	Dorte Mobley
Alaska State Fair Awards	Deb Blaylock
State Fair Parade	
Nomination Committee	Kevin Johnson
2024 Christmas Party	Jana Gooch
Meeting Space/Equipment Coordinator	Jenny Weaver

We rely on volunteers to run our committees and activities. Please consider one of the committees, activities, or board positions. Most committees or activities are something which can be as little as two or three hours to accomplish – some are a bit more involved but so rewarding to be involved in. See the Standing Rules for detailed information on what each committee involves.

## It's a Small World

By Dorte Mobley

As you probably all know, I am from Denmark, which is a small country - only 40,541 square miles. Well, on June 26, 1851, a boy was born on one of the 1,419 islands called Langeland. Charles Christian's parents both died but a stepdad paid for him to attend school. At the age of 14, he got a "job" as a gardener apprentice at a manor called Steensgaard. After three years there he got a position at the Glorup Manor, a more famous manor, and he stayed there until his apprenticeship was finished. He worked at different estates until he was 23 when he immigrated to the US to go to college at Michigan State College and he finished there with a masters in 1882 and a doctorate in 1916.

He spent 3 years as a professor in Tokyo, Japan and after his return to the US, he was appointed Professor of Agriculture. Later he was appointed Special Agent in Charge of US agricultural experiment stations, and guess where that brought him! Yes, to Alaska where he among other things developed the Sitka hybrid strawberry. His last name might ring a bell for you - it's Georgeson! So here we are now with the Georgeson Botanical Garden in Fairbanks and Georgeson Road here by "our" Experiment Farm.

In Denmark they have always talked about the "rich uncle in America." So, as small as Denmark is (in 1860 there were a little under 1.7 million people living there), I kind of almost had an uncle in America - not sure if he was rich, (and no, he couldn't really be related to me since I know who I am related to many generations back) but it still is fun to think about how small the world really is - I could have ended up all kinds of different places when I came over to be with Mark, but I ended up in Alaska and have visited the beautiful garden they named after him. I think that's pretty cool.

Oh, and I found out about him from Dr. Pat Holloway, who is reading a document about his life with some Danish writing in it. I know her from being involved with growing peonies that she promoted here in Alaska. As I said - "It truly is a small world!"

Continued from page 1.

One issue brought up at the April meeting was tracking volunteer hours of MG members. These hours are used for certification as MG after the class is completed, but also would be used to present information to UAF the importance of the Extension service is to the State. They provide training classes and certify MG volunteers. Also, if the MG clubs could provide, for example 50,000 volunteer hours to UAF, maybe this will encourage them to seek additional funding for the program. The form is being finalized for MMGA and each month will be seeking members to report their hours. This will be compiled and reported monthly through the newsletter. The form will have examples of hours that can be reported.

I know last year a tour of the botanical gardens in Anchorage was being set up, but due to low interest, it was canceled at the last minute. This tour will probably be looked into again. So please, if you're interested, let us know. No date has been set for this time.

Each month the meeting minutes are published in the newsletter, please look them over and feel free to attend the meetings. We normally have a short 20-to-30-minute meeting and then a guest speaker. Last month, a member of the Cooperative Extension Service and AgrAbility program spoke on using ergonomic tools to garden, with minimal pain due to arthritis or other physical issues. She also spoke of stretching prior to gardening and keeping hydrated.

Hope to see many of you at the next meeting, Monday March 4 at 7:00pm at the Matanuska Experiment Farm in room 208 on the second floor of Kerttula Hall.

### UAF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE SELF-PACED LEARNING

Are you interested in learning more about invasive species in Alaska? There are several self-paced online courses you can take to broaden your knowledge base. They are free to the public but do not offer a course completion certificate or CEUs unless you pay the course fee. Courses include topics on plants, invertebrates, and plant pathogens.

To view more detailed information, go to this link: [https://alaskainvasives.org/?page\\_id=1133](https://alaskainvasives.org/?page_id=1133). You can view the general course information and view the course content for free at this link.



## Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center CLASSES

February 28	Intro to Alaska Gardening	Classes at 12 and 6pm in person
March 21	Winter Tree Identification	Class held via Zoom
March 25	Soil Sampling and Fertilizers	Class held in person
March 28	Grow a Giant Cabbage	Class held in person
April 16	Backyard Pollinators	Class held via Zoom
April 24	Alaska Gardening	Class held in person
April 30	Backyard Chickens	Class held in person

Visit our Facebook and Instagram pages  
as well as our website for additional information & registration links

Webpage



Facebook



Instagram



<https://www.facebook.com/matanuskaexperimentfarm/>  
<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>  
[https://www.instagram.com/matanuskaexperiment\\_farm/](https://www.instagram.com/matanuskaexperiment_farm/)

Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request to [amnorris2@alaska.edu](mailto:amnorris2@alaska.edu).

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made five business days in advance to Theresa Isaac at 907-745-3360 or [tmisaac@alaska.edu](mailto:tmisaac@alaska.edu). UAF is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, educational institution and provider and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination). UA is committed to providing accessible websites. Learn more about UA's notice of web accessibility.

## February 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Secretary Jana Gooch

Meeting opened 7:00 pm

Attendance: Members: Sue Glenn, Craig Lisonbee, Georgiana Gooch, David Thompson, Deb Blaylock, Ken Blaylock, Julie Pollard, Marge Mueller, Cur Mueller, Sandy Bohling, Dawn Wolski, Jenny Weaver, Todd Weaver, Pearl Weaver, Dorte Mobley, Kristina Tornqvist, Greg Kalal, Isaac Vaughan. Guests: Deb Steinbach, Al Steinbach.

Ken Blaylock motioned to accept last month's minutes. Craig Lisonbee seconded. Discussion to correct minutes: Ken Blaylock seconded the motion to strike the speaker presentation from the future minutes. This is correction from minutes that had Kristina Tornqvist as seconding the motion. Also, it was clarified that we will continue to hold future club meetings at the Experimental Farm rather than moving meetings to Rebarchek.

Jenny Weaver motioned to accept minutes with corrections. Kristina Tornqvist seconded. Motion passed.

Jenny Weaver shared that Teresa of the Experimental Farm said we are welcome to use their facility for future meetings forever. Dave Thompson inquired about Rebarchek. Can we provide services in exchange for room rental at Rebarchek? The higher ups at Rebarchek said no. They don't want the club to tie up their facility on Mondays.

Cathy Crew is out of town and will present two months of reports next month.

Committees:

- Monthly newsletter - Deb Blaylock
- Website manager - Eva Cohnen-Brown
- Guest speakers - Jenny Weaver
- Room/Equipment Coordinator - Jenny Weaver
- Membership Directory - Dorte Mobley
- Rebarchek Farm Project - Isaac Vaughan

- Annual Plant Sale - vacant
- Palmer Library & Pioneer Home planting - vacant
- Midsummer Garden & Art Faire - vacant
- Summer Garden Tours - Dorte Mobley
- Alaska State Fair Special Awards - Deb Blaylock
- State Fair Parade - Jenny Weaver will think about it
- Nominations Committee - Kevin Johnson
- 2024 Christmas Party - Georgiana Gooch

Isaac Vaughan said that Rebarchek was supposed to stake off an area including part of our plot and that didn't happen. Nonetheless, the club needs to move some plantings. It was suggested that June would be a good time to move the plantings to include a lilac bush.

Discussion ensued about whether we have enough plant tags for the plant sale, and it was determined that we are good on supply.

It was suggested that we join the Valley Garden Club and the Alaska Peony Society at the Midsummer Garden & Art Faire. Kristina Tornqvist moved that we adopt this plan. Craig Lisonbee seconded. Discussion that we need a chairperson. Motion passed.

Dorte Mobley offered to buy the flowers for the Pioneer Home plantings. Deb Blaylock to schedule the weeding and watering. A committee chair is still needed to coordinate date/time with the Pioneer Home.

Regarding tracking our club-related hours: we need to have a constructive way to approach this. Dorte Mobley suggested we all write to Shelly Hughes asking her to support not cutting funding for the Extension Service and the Plant Material Center. Kevin Johnson and Dorte Mobley will make a template letter that can be cut and pasted. Kristina Tornqvist suggested that we send a letter on paper rather than an email. Deb Blaylock offered to create a form for club members to track their hours.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm



## Garden Links (updated March 2024)

### National AgrAbility Program **\*\*New Mar 2024\*\***

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

### Alaska AgrAbility Program **\*\*New Mar 2024\*\***

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/agrability/index.php>

### Alaska Botanical Garden

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

### Alaska Center for Conservation Science

<http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/botany/>

### Alaska Community Forestry **\*\*New Dec 2023\*\***

<https://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index>

### Arbor Day Foundation

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

### Alaska Division of Agriculture

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

### Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

### Alaska Grown

<http://www.buyalaskagrown.com/>

### Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

### Alaska Native Plant Society

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

### Alaska Non-Native Species List

<https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/invasive-species/non-native-plant-species-list/>

### Alaska Orchid Society

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

### Alaska Peony Society

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

### 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/>

### Flora of North America

<http://floranorthamerica.org/>

### Good Earth Garden School

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

### Georgeson Botanical Garden

<https://georgesonbotanicalgarden.org/>

### Integrated Pest Management Program

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

### IPM Alaska Pest Reporter

<https://plw.man.mybluehost.me/>

### Junior Master Gardener

<http://www.jmgkids.us/>

### Landscape Plants for Alaska

<https://visionplusapps.com/alaska-plants/>

### 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 (Extension)

<https://extension.org/search/>

### Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

<https://fairbanksmastergardeners.wordpress.com/>

### Mat-Su/Copper River Cooperative Extension Service

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>

### Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Services

<https://www.uaf.edu/afes/places/palmer/>

### Palmer Soil & Water Conservation District

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

### Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter

<https://forestry.org/cook-inlet-seedling-sale/>

### South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

<http://www.sababeekeepers.com/>

### Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Association

<http://seak-mastergardeners.org/index.html>

### Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/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 Herbarium

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

### UAF Alaska Master Gardener Program

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/mastergardeners/>

### University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

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

### USDA/NRCS Plant Database

<https://plants.usda.gov/home>

### Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

<https://wildflowergardenclub.org/>



## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Kevin Johnson</b>	<b>907 775 2808</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Jenny Weaver</b>	<b>907-982-5446</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Jana Gooch</b>	<b>907 746-2891</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cathy Crew</b>	<b>907-632-4401</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Deb Blaylock</b>	<b>907-746-6045</b>

If you have gardening news, photos, or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please send to the MMGA email.

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 2024 AND BEYOND

**Mar 4**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, Cec Ellsworth, Coir and High Tunnels Successes and Failures (Previously scheduled for Feb 5)  
**Mar 9**, Anchorage, Peony Convention  
**Apr 1**, Palmer, Regular Meeting  
**May 6**, Palmer, Regular Meeting  
**Jun 1**, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale  
**Jun 10**, Palmer, Regular Meeting  
**Sep 9**, Palmer, Regular Meeting  
**Oct 7**, Palmer, Regular Meeting  
**Nov 4**, Palmer, Annual Meeting/Elections  
**Dec TBD**, Palmer, Christmas Party

**Don't forget to check out the photos tab on our webpage! Eva updates it periodically from activities our Association participates in.**

<https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/photos.html>

**It's time to renew your membership! You can renew by printing out and mailing in a 2024 membership form. You can also renew online by completing the online form and submitting your payment online using the convenient credit/debit card option. [www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com) - look for the Membership Application tab.**

### *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 was **February 5, 2024**, 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 appreciated and make our newsletter what it is - so do not 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 needed 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.

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 2024



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

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

