

Mar 2016

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

Are you wondering how you can get your volunteer hours to be a Master Gardener? Well, we have some projects this summer for planting and maintenance at the Palmer Library, Pioneer Home and Experimental Farm which could use some volunteers! Be sure to keep track on the website, our Facebook group and the newsletters for the dates of these activities so you can join in the fun. There are also volunteer opportunities at the Grow Palmer Project this summer and you can check them out on Facebook for dates to volunteer. You can help out during the Alaska State Fair at the Cooperative Extension 4-H building, but make sure you keep in contact with them because those spots fill up fast.

Our next meeting will be held on March 7 at 7pm at the MTA conference rooms. Our speaker for this meeting will be Stephen Brown from the local Cooperative Extension office. Our plant sale will be held on June 4 at the covered pavilion area in downtown Palmer.

You should check out our discussion forum on Facebook. We have had some great questions and interaction that I have enjoyed reading. It is always nice when we are able to share information and knowledge. (photo courtesy Rhonda)



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CHAPTER MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 7:00 PM

**LOCATION: MATANUSKA TELEPHONE
COMPANY (MTA) BUILDING, CONFERENCE
ROOM (IN THE BASEMENT), PALMER, AK**
DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- **TREASURER REPORT**
- **MINUTES**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**

TOPIC/SPEAKER:

**STEPHEN BROWN WILL PRESENT A SLIDE
SHOW ABOUT INUVIK IN THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES OF CANADA AND THE
GARDENING CONFERENCE THE INUVIK
GREENHOUSE SOCIETY CONDUCTED FOR
VILLAGES ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE.
INUVIK IS HOME TO AN 18,000 SQUARE
FOOT COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE AND IS THE
MOST NORTHERN GREENHOUSE IN NORTH
AMERICA.**

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos by the author

Winter, such as it has been, still holds sway in our latitude, but we must prepare for the season to come. The peasant has started some tomatoes and has peppers and artichokes seeded and ready to poke through. Selecting start times for seeding vegetables is of prime importance. The start times given here have worked well for the peasant. Celery, parsley, celeriac and leeks can be seeded now and onions by March first.

Many of us grow onions from starts grown outside and shipped to Alaska or from sets available at most gardening suppliers. The peasant grows starts from seed and has settled upon that method. Onion seeds are scattered a few to a cell in 32s; that is, 32 cells per 10"x20" perforated flat. After the seeds have germinated and are well up they are thinned to one plant per cell. They are then grown in the cells until ready to transplant to the garden.

Seeding directly into cells saves the work of separating small onion plants from one another. At early stages of growth there is considerable transplant shock and the plants take several days to recover. Seeding directly into cells eliminates that transplanting step. By the time the garden is ready for planting, the onions have begun to form a small bulb and a good root ball. With care in removing the onion plants from the cells they can be transplanted with the medium clinging to the roots, and little transplant shock takes place. As the plants develop in the greenhouse or other favorable growing areas, they may be trimmed with a scissors to about 4" in height, allowing them to stay upright.

Favored varieties are Patterson, a yellow storage onion, Redwing, a red onion that stores well, and Ailsa Craig, a large onion that for us has stored well into January.



Ailsa Craig onions at harvest time.

Patterson and Redwing show no signs of sprouting or spoilage and should be good into the summer. They are stored in mesh bags or mesh bins in a cool garage, above freezing. It is important to allow air circulation around the bulbs. At harvest the onions are spread out in a single layer on a mesh laid on top of a garden cart. On sunny days the cart is moved outside to permit drying of the stems, and on rainy days it's left inside. When the tops are dry they can be put into storage. Marge says leave the dried stems on and store the bulbs upside down for best results.

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Drying onion stems prior to storage.

About April 10 is a good time to start cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and other cole crops. Brussels sprouts could be started earlier, but if started at this time they will mature at a time when the weather is cooling; improving the flavor of the sprouts. Again, we use 32s for their larger cell size, helping to prevent plants from becoming root-bound before they go to the garden. Severely root-bound plants may never recover. A somewhat later start time may work better for plants grown for our plant sale. The peasant likes to start a few early maturing cabbage plants about two weeks earlier to get an early crop. For this purpose, a variety with a maturing time of about 50 days works well. These seedlings are grown in four inch pots, and will become quite large before time to plant in the garden. A favored variety is Parel for early cabbage. It has a maturity of 50 days and is available at Territorial Seed Company.

More comprehensive seeding times are sometimes available from seed companies. Generally, they give germination times, growing on temperatures and seed to sale times which corresponds quite closely to planting time. The peasant will bring some copies of Harris Moran suggestions to our March meeting for those who are interested.

Thanks folks.



Alaska Botanical Garden

Annual Meeting & Reception - March 2nd
10th Annual Spring Garden Conference
Thyme for Gathering - March 19th



Join us on March 2nd for our Annual Meeting & Reception at the BP Energy Center, 900 E Benson Blvd, 7 - 8:30 pm. At this free event we will share 2015's accomplishments and challenges, including fiscal, program and garden specifics. See future plans and the current Master Plan. Attendees will be invited to share their ideas and thoughts for the Garden. An informal reception will follow.

Join us on March 19th for our 10th Annual Spring Garden Conference - Thyme for Gathering at the BP Energy Center, 900 E Benson Blvd. Doors open at 8:45 am and sessions begin at 9:30 am. Cost \$85 Student, \$105 Early Bird Member, \$120 Early Bird Non-member (rates increase March 1st)

Some Speakers & Topics Include*:

Tim Meyers - Organic Gardening & Season Extension in Bethel
Julie Riley - Propagating Herbs and ABG Herb Garden
Mary Kate Reeder - Growing Garlic in Alaska
Ellen Vande Visse & Michelle Wilbur - Teas to Nourish Your Plants
Cathy Sage- Herb Garden Design
Jason Smith & Pat Duttle- Hydroponics
Leslie Shallcross- Herbs as Medicine
Mary Goddard & Lauren Fetzer- Dining with Delicious Local Edibles

*Topics and speakers are subject to change.
Check our website for the most current information: www.alaskabg.org.



Alaska Master Gardeners Conference 2016

Grow Your Own

from the soil up

April 16, 2016
UAA Lucy Cuddy Center



8:00- 9:00 a.m.	UAA Lucy Cuddy Hall- Registration	
9:00- 9:15 a.m.	Welcome Annie Nevaldine, Mistress of Ceremonies	
9:15- 10:00 a.m.	<i>"The Rejuvenated Garden & Restored Gardener"</i> Marianne Binetti - Keynote Speaker	
10:00- 10:20 a.m.	Break- Visit the Garden Market & Silent Auction	
	Lucy Cuddy Hall	Rasmuson Hall
Session 1 10:30- 11:15 a.m.	<i>"New Twists in Cooking from the Garden"</i> Paul Marmora	<i>"Organic Fertilizers: Getting Closer to the Science"</i> Julie Riley
	Lucy Cuddy Hall	Rasmuson Hall
Session 2 11:25-12:10 p.m.	<i>"Designing a Haven for Birds, Bees and Other Pollinators"</i> Brenda Adams	<i>"Plant Propagation Techniques and Seed Storage"</i> Pat Holloway
Lunch 12:20-1:10 p.m.	Lunch & Garden Photo Presentation	
	Lucy Cuddy Hall	Rasmuson Hall
Session 3 1:20- 2:05 p.m.	<i>"Primroses: from Seed to Sale to the Garden"</i> Ed Buyarski	<i>"Urban Food, Growing More in Small or Unusual Gardens"</i> Dohnn Wood
2:05- 2:35 p.m.	Break- Visit the Garden Market, Silent Auction closes	
	Lucy Cuddy Hall	Rasmuson Hall
Session 4 2:35- 3:10 p.m.	<i>"Growing Haskap Berries in Your Back Yard"</i> Brian Olson	<i>"Lessons Learned on Eating from the Garden Year Round: It Begins with the Soil"</i> Dennis & Annie Ronsse
3:20- 3:40 p.m.	Lifetime Achievement Award Harry Deuber, AMGA President	
3:40- 4:25 p.m.	<i>"The Lazy Gardener"</i> Marianne Binetti	
4:25-4:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks Door Prizes	
5:00- 6:30 p.m.	Reception in Lucy Cuddy Hall ~ Network with the Presenters	

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

<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

<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 Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

<http://plants.alaska.gov/>

Alaska Rhodiola Products Cooperative

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Eat Local Alaska

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

Good Earth Garden School

<http://ellenvandevise.com/>

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

<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

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

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 Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

UAF School of Natural Resources ***New***

<http://www.uaf.edu/snre/>

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/>

Announcements

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The club is desperately in need of someone to coordinate speakers for our meetings.

We have many volunteer opportunities coming up this year.

We could use a volunteer coordinator to help track volunteer opportunities and schedules.

Please let Rhonda know if you're interested in any of these jobs. Thanks!

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Co-VP	Hally Truelove	376-0909
Secretary:	Joan Redlin	206-604-4676
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 @Email: kdblalock@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2016

Mar 7, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Stephen Brown,
Presentation on the most northern greenhouse
in North America

**Mar 13, Daylight Savings Time – Spring
Forward**

Mar 19, Anchorage, Alaska Botanical Garden,
10th Annual Spring Garden Conference – Thyme
for Gathering, <http://alaskabg.org/>

APRIL 2016 AND BEYOND

April – National Gardening Month

Apr 4 Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

**Apr 9, Anchorage, Mall at Sears Spring Garden
Show, <http://mallatsears.com>**

**Apr 16, Anchorage, State Alaska Master
Gardener Conference, Grow Your Own, from the
soil up.**

[http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org/AMGA-
Conference.html](http://www.alaskamastergardeners.org/AMGA-Conference.html)

April 22, Earth Day

May 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Jun 4, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale (Tentative)

Jun 6, Palmer, Annual Palmer Library Planter

Jul 11, Palmer, Spring Creek Farm Tour

Please let Rhonda know if you have any ideas for future
meeting topics. Members are welcome to offer to speak or
reach out to speakers of interest to the club's
membership. The club would welcome a speaker
coordinator – if interested contact Rhonda. Our club is
only as good as we the members make it!

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 on the
club's website, www.matsumastergardeners.com

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 2016



Like us on
Facebook

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

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB
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