



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

Mar 2017



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

I can't believe how much snow we have had this winter and, quite frankly, I am tired of it. I was spoiled by the last couple of winters and now I am wishing for spring. I have been busy with my planning and I hear many of you have started seeds. So, it begins.

Once again, our thoughts are turning to the future and the upcoming Alaska Master Gardeners Conference on April 22. Preparations have been underway for some time and you can now sign up online. Seating is limited and you would not want to miss the speakers that have been lined up: The keynote speaker is Marion Owen, plus Stephen Brown, Ellen Vande Visse, Cindee Karns, Craig Smith, Jan Newman, Karen Ross and Rob Brown. Hope to see you there for this exciting and informative day!

We also need to volunteers for a committee to nominate new officers, and there's no point in hiding your many talents and your great ideas. Everyone needs to think about which members would provide our club with their great leadership and organizational skills.

Our summer tours are a highlight for club members and you can learn so much from our local talent! How about putting those coordination skills to use by volunteering to set up the tours for this summer?

There are a few classes on gardening and growing that you can take advantage of to improve your knowledge. These are held by the Palmer and Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Please check them out.

Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7pm in the MTA conference room. Please attend; you don't need to be a Master Gardener to come to our meetings.

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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 6TH, 7:00 P.M.

**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
- MEETING MINUTES
- CONFERENCE UPDATE/NEWS
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS
- GUEST SPEAKER

TOPIC/SPEAKER:

**JESSIE MOAN
STATEWIDE IPM TECHNICIAN
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**

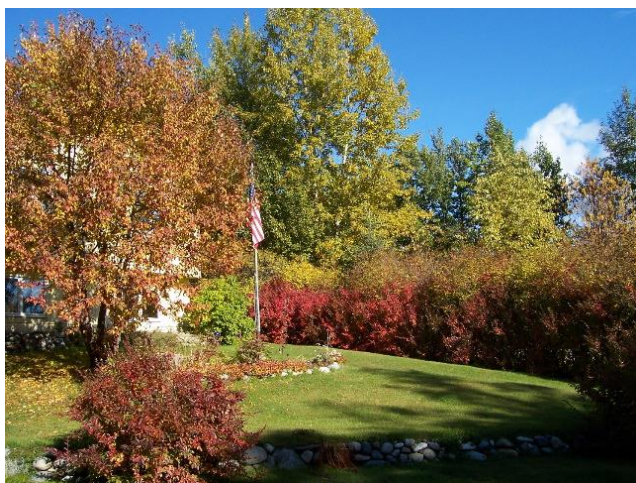
**HOW TO DIAGNOSE PLANT PEST PROBLEMS
AND COMMON GARDEN INSECTS AND
MANAGEMENT/CONTROL OPTIONS FOR THE
PESTS**

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos by the author

Some years ago, a good friend donated a bunch of villosa lilac and cotoneaster plants to the peasant. The peasant, who never looks a gift horse in the teeth, thanked him and proceeded to make them into a hedge. The villosa were planted five feet on centers with the cotoneasters planted on 30 inch centers five feet away from the lilacs.

Villosa lilacs are one of the few shrubs that moose do not feed on. They bloom well each year, though not with a very sweet fragrance, unfortunately. The *Cotoneaster acutifolia* are very hardy and bloom and produce fruit which hold until winter to help feed bird life. The cotoneaster also provides beautiful fall color in brilliant shades ranging from yellow orange to scarlet. In early years of the peasant's hedge they were eaten back to snow level a couple of times by big hairy critters. This caused the cotoneasters to branch out profusely and enhanced their beauty and function.



Autumn shot. Villosa/cotoneaster hedge is to right of photo

The hedge has reached a height of eight or nine feet, with the lilacs pushing the cotoneasters to one side, but not choking them. The net effect is a very dense hedge with the cotoneasters filling the space from ground level to about five feet and the whole making an impenetrable barrier to dogs and cats and moose, but making a fine hiding and nesting place for small birds and an occasional spruce grouse.

An unexpected benefit is that it functions as an excellent barrier for dust and noise from the gravel road to the east of the house and yard. It is dense enough that it serves this purpose even in the wintertime. It might be said of the peasant, "Eine blinde Sau hat eine Eichel gefunden!", that is, a blind sow has found an acorn.

The villosa lilacs have an interesting way of propagating themselves. They hold the seeds until about this time of year, at which time the pods open and the seeds fall to the snow. If you want to collect seeds it must be done before this time.

The peasant has grown new plants from the villosa seed after some trial and error. Leaving the seed on the plant to mature and collecting it before it falls off works well. Attempting to germinate seed at room temperature without stratification produced zero seedlings. Plan B was to seed into small containers and place those in the potato bin for some cold treatment. What happened was that the seed germinated at 37 degrees F in total darkness before it could be removed from the bin. Score another one for the blind sow.

The peasant's original intention was to write about using a stratification technique to aid in germinating certain seeds. Indeed, a cold treatment is beneficial for many seeds, especially wildflowers. Consider a wildflower plant that drops its seeds in fall while the weather is still warm. If the seed falls on bare soil and germinates immediately, the seedling is vulnerable to hard frosts and frozen soil and will probably die out. If the seed is programmed to not germinate until it is subjected to some cold temperatures for a period of time, it will remain dormant until conditions are favorable for survival. That's what stratification is about, and we as gardeners can mimic those conditions.

Thanks, folks.



2017 Alaska State Master Gardeners Conference

Saturday, April 22, 2017

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Palmer Community Center
(The Depot)

610 S. Valley Way, Palmer, AK 99645

The Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association is proud to sponsor the 2017 Alaska State Master Gardeners Conference. We have an exciting and full slate of speakers, programs and vendors sure to titillate your gardening senses!

Lunch is included -
a delicious variety of soups and salads
provided by Turkey Red



Speakers

Key Note Speaker: Marion Owen – *Author, Gardener and Photographer*
Ellen VandeVisse - Mat-Su Borough Solid Waste Division
Craig Smith - USDA-NRCS
Karen Ross - The Foundation for Functional Fermented Food
Rob Brown - Flattop Farm
Cindee Karns - Alaskan Cold Climate Permaculture Institute
Jan Newman - Grow Palmer
Stephen Brown - UAF Cooperative Extension Service

There will be vendors on site selling a variety of items. There are door prizes galore with drawings throughout the conference for these goodies!

Early Bird Registration is \$80 through March 31, 2017. On April 1, 2017, registration is \$100 per person. *Registration is limited to the first 100 people. Cancellation Policy: a full refund will be applied until April 15th.*



Visit the Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association webpage for more conference information and registration details:
www.matsumastergardeners.com
Contact: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com



Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order

What Is Parliamentary Procedure?

It is a set of rules for conduct at meetings, that allows everyone to be heard and to make decisions without confusion.

Why is Parliamentary Procedure Important?

Because it's a time-tested method of conducting business at meetings and public gatherings. It can be adapted to fit the needs of any organization. Today, Robert's Rules of Order newly revised is the basic handbook of operation for most clubs, organizations and other groups. So, it's important that everyone know these basic rules!

Organizations using parliamentary procedure usually follow a fixed order of business. Below is a typical example:

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call of members present.
3. Reading of minutes of last meeting.
4. Officers' reports.
5. Committee reports.
6. Special orders --- Important business previously designated for consideration at this meeting.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Announcements.
10. Adjournment.

The method used by members to express themselves is in the form of moving motions. A motion is a proposal that the entire membership take action or a stand on an issue. Individual members can:

1. Call to order.
2. Second motions.
3. Debate motions.
4. Vote on motions.

There are four Basic Types of Motions:

1. Main Motions: The purpose of a main motion is to introduce items to the membership for their consideration. They cannot be made when any other motion is on the floor, and yield to

privileged, subsidiary, and incidental motions.

2. Subsidiary Motions: Their purpose is to change or affect how a main motion is handled, and is voted on before a main motion.
3. Privileged Motions: Their purpose is to bring up items that are urgent about special or important matters unrelated to pending business.
4. Incidental Motions: Their purpose is to provide a means of questioning procedure concerning other motions and must be considered before the other motion.

How are Motions Presented?

1. Obtaining the floor
 - a. Wait until the last speaker has finished.
 - b. Rise and address the Chairman by saying, "Mr. Chairman, or Mr. President."
 - c. Wait until the Chairman recognizes you.
2. Make your motion
 - a. Speak in a clear and concise manner.
 - b. Always state a motion affirmatively. Say, "I move that we ..." rather than, "I move that we do not ...".
 - c. Avoid personalities and stay on your subject.
3. Wait for someone to second your motion
4. Another member will second your motion or the Chairman will call for a second.
5. If there is no second to your motion it is lost.
6. The Chairman states your motion
 - a. The Chairman will say, "it has been moved and seconded that we ..." Thus, placing your motion before the membership for consideration and action.
 - b. The membership then either debates your motion, or may move directly to a vote.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

- c. Once your motion is presented to the membership by the chairman it becomes "assembly property," and cannot be changed by you without the consent of the members.
7. Expanding on your motion
 - a. The time for you to speak in favor of your motion is at this point in time, rather than at the time you present it.
 - b. The mover is always allowed to speak first.
 - c. All comments and debate must be directed to the Chairman.
 - d. Keep to the time limit for speaking that has been established.
 - e. The mover may speak again only after other speakers are finished, unless called upon by the Chairman.
8. Putting the Question to the Membership
 - a. The Chairman asks, "Are you ready to vote on the question?"
 - b. If there is no more discussion, a vote is taken.
 - c. On a motion to move the previous question may be adapted.

Voting on a Motion:

The method of vote on any motion depends on the situation and the by-laws of policy of your organization. There are five methods used to vote by most organizations; they are:

1. By Voice -- The Chairman asks those in favor to say, aye, those opposed to say no. Any member may move for an exact count.
2. By Roll Call -- Each member answers "yes" or "no" as his name is called. This method is used when a record of each person's vote is required.
3. By General Consent -- When a motion is not likely to be opposed, the Chairman says, "if there is no objection ..." The membership shows agreement by their silence, however if one member says, "I object," the item must be put to a vote.
4. By Division -- This is a slight verification of a voice vote. It does not require a

count unless the Chairman so desires. Members raise their hands or stand.

5. By Ballot -- Members write their vote on a slip of paper. This method is used when secrecy is desired.

There are two other motions that are commonly used that relate to voting.

1. Motion to Table -- This motion is often used in the attempt to "kill" a motion. The option is always present, however, to "take from the table," for reconsideration by the membership.
2. Motion to Postpone Indefinitely -- This is often used as a means of parliamentary strategy and allows opponents of motion to test their strength without an actual vote being taken. Also, debate is once again open on the main motion.

Parliamentary Procedure is the best way to get things done at your meetings. But, it will only work if you use it properly. Allow motions that are in order.

1. Have members obtain the floor properly.
2. Speak clearly and concisely.
3. Obey the rules of debate.

Most importantly, ***BE COURTEOUS.***

Borrowed from <http://www.robertsrules.org/>



Hedge - February 20, 2017. Cotoneasters are on right with most snow, still holding some fruit. Seed pods on villosa just beginning to open. Difficult to make out in photo. Bottom right shows thickly branched lilacs.
Photo courtesy Curt Muller

Minutes submitted by Arlene Bowman

feb meeting.txt

MAT-SU MASTER GARDMERS
FEBRUARY MEETING
February 6, 2017
15 members attended

A topic for discussion on the projects the club would participate in this Summer.

It was decided that the club would do:
THE PLANTERS AT THE LIBRARY
PLANTER AT THE FARM
THE FLOWER BOXES AT THE PIONEER HOME

The materials needed to complete those jobs is:

2 BALES PRO MIX FOR LIBRARY
5 BALES OF PRO MIX FOR PIONEER HOME
\$300 OF PLANTS FOR PIONEER HOME (USING SAME PLANTS AS LAST YEAR)
\$25 WATER BEADS (TO KEEP PLANTERS FROM DRYING OUT AS BAD)
\$700 BUDGETED FOR THE PIONEER HOME PLANTING: (Flowers, pro mix,
water beads)

Kurt said: Experimental Farm did not need any Plants, or Pro Mix.

Grow Palmer attended the meeting and will submit a written request for a donation for their gardens.

Heart Reach representative attended the meeting and requested a donation for the planting of their new facility.

After the discussion of their needs and applying with a written request the club voted and budgeted:

\$500 FOR GROW PALMER TO HELP WITH THEIR PLANTINGS
\$500 FOR HEART REACH TO HELP WITH THEIR PLANTINGS
\$1,000 FOR FFA SCHOLARSHIP

Plant Tags : it was decided the Club has enough for this plant sale.
State Fair awards; more information needed : WAS TABLED
as per Membership a decision to increase early bird Conference Fee to \$80

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:14

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/sourcebookindex2016.html>

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://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

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

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 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

<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

Need volunteer hours? The Association has committees which need members and/or committee chairs. Some require very little time – just a bit of coordinating on your part. If you're interested, send an email to matsumastergardeners@gmail.com or rbowman@gci.net

Thank you!!

Committee Chairs/Members Needed

Nominations
Summer Garden Tours
Summer Weeding/Watering Schedule
Speakers for Meetings
Christmas Party

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 at her email: kdblalock@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2017

Mar 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Jessie Moan, Statewide IPM Technician, Cooperative Extension Service
Mar 12, Daylight Savings Time – Spring Forward!
Mar 20, Spring Equinox – First day of Spring!

APRIL 2017 AND BEYOND

Apr 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, 2017 Conference Preparation – All Hands-on Deck!
Apr 22, Palmer, Alaska State Master Gardener Conference
May 1, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Jun 3, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale
Jun 5, Palmer, Palmer Library Planter Planting
Jul 10, Palmer, MMG Mtg TBD
Aug 7, Palmer, MMG Mtg TBD
Aug 24 – Sep 4, Palmer, Alaska State Fair
Sep 11, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Oct 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Nov 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD
Dec 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Annual Christmas Party

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. Family memberships are only for family members living in the same household
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 2017



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION
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