



May 2017



## President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

If you missed the State Master Gardeners' Conference this year, you missed a great day full of lots of great useable information! I would like to thank all the speakers, door prize donors and vendors including our hard-working committee members who all helped to make it such a success!

We have an exciting summer coming up with lots of opportunities to get your hands dirty and make our community a more beautiful place. Our Annual MMG plant sale will be held June 3 in the Downtown Palmer Pavilion. Please make sure you stop by so you can get those flowers, vegetables and herbs that you can't buy at the big box stores. We will have something for everyone. On June 5, we will be planting at the Palmer Library and can always use extra help. We will be planting at the Mat-Su Experiment Farm and cleaning our demonstration bed in early June but a date has not been set yet. Once again, we will be sprucing up the Palmer Veterans and Pioneer Home with flowers so make sure you drive by to help water or weed these beds. It would be a big help!

Our next meeting is May 1 and we will be finishing details on the Plant Sale. If you need tags, this is the time to get them as well as signing up for participating in the sale.

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### GENERAL MEETINGS

#### FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

#### NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY, MAY 1ST, 7:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION: MATANUSKA TELEPHONE  
COMPANY (MTA) BUILDING, LARGE  
MEETING ROOM (IN THE BASEMENT), 480  
COMMERCIAL DR., PALMER, AK  
DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND**

#### MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MEETING MINUTES
- NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS
- HAND OUT PLANT SALE TAGS, SIGN UP FOR PLANT SALE

#### TOPIC/SPEAKER:

**THE MAY MEETING WILL FOCUS ON  
PREPARING FOR THE UPCOMING 2017 PLANT  
SALE AS WELL AS OUR SUMMER PLANTING  
PROJECTS. PLANT LABELS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP AT THIS MEETING.  
YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR THE PLANT SALE  
AT THIS MEETING.**

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

Photos by the author

The peasant hopes everyone is finding enough to do on this eve of our Master Gardeners Conference in Palmer. It is wonderful the way all the committee members have pitched in to make it a success, and at this point there is still work to be done. Getting the Depot set up in too short a time-period will surely be a scramble. We will make it happen.

There has been some discussion at our regular meetings as to member participation within our organization, Mat-Su Master Gardeners. Meeting attendance and joining in on the various projects and functions of our group is often left to a core of people who are willing to put in the time and work to make things go.

We have a good thing going with the training as Master Gardeners, the fellowship of our club members, our annual plant sale, and the opportunities to make our community a better place to live. Sharing our knowledge with each other and with our neighbors is an enjoyable aspect of being an avid gardener. Alaska has its own unique challenges in the world of gardening. We are still learning. Knowledge and experience are to be shared generously.

The peasant has been involved in the Master Gardener world since the early '70s and has thoroughly enjoyed the experience and benefits received. The sharing part is the most satisfying aspect of all. There is so much to be learned, and sharing benefits all parties concerned.

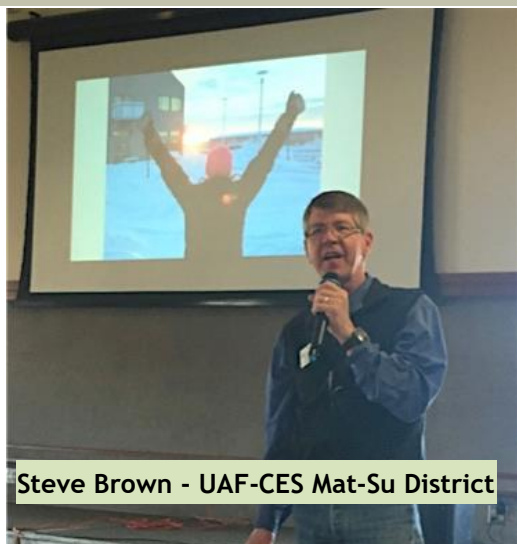
The peasant asks that all our club members really enjoy the satisfaction that full participation brings, for indeed it is a satisfying experience. We really need you all to make our club a more dynamic organization.

Thanks for lending an ear, folks.



Lest we forget during this warm and sunny April.

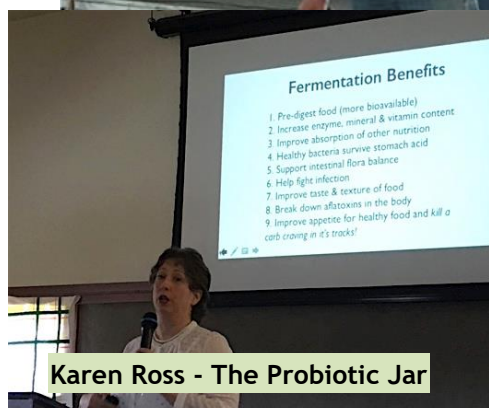




Steve Brown - UAF-CES Mat-Su District



Rob Brown - Flattop Farm



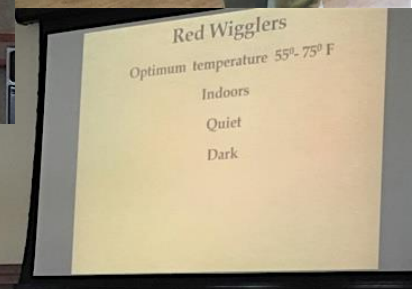
Karen Ross - The Probiotic Jar



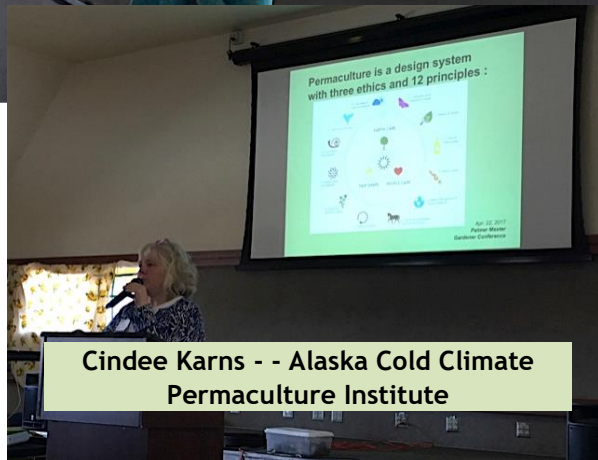
Marion Owen, Key Note Speaker,  
Author, Photographer, Gardener, &  
Fearless Weeder



Craig Smith - USDA NRCS



Ellen Vande Visse - Mat-Su  
Borough Solid Waste Division



Cindee Karns - Alaska Cold Climate  
Permaculture Institute

**2017 State Alaska Master Gardeners  
Conference**  
*"Everyday is Earth Day When you're a Master  
Gardener"*  
*Photographs by Eva Cohnen-Brown*

## Mat-Su Master Gardeners Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Joan Redlin, Secretary

April 3, 2017

All board members were in attendance. President Rhonda Bowman commenced the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Secretary's Report: Joan read the minutes from the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Crew reported that we are in good shape for the April 22 Statewide MG Conference. She circulated the treasurer's report with the various account totals. Cathy reported that we have 68 registered for the conference with 16 committee members and 7.5 vendors.

Heart Reach: We received a letter of intent from Heart Reach. We will vote at the next meeting whether to donate \$500.

Statewide MG Conference: All members spent the rest of the meeting stuffing the goodie bags for the Conference.

Conference Committee Meeting: The committee will meet April 10 at 7:00 pm at MTA.



### Mat Su/Copper River 4-H District 2017 Alaska Agriculture Day Multimedia Contest

Celebrating Alaska agriculture in a variety of expressive arts mediums. Open to all youth, k-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Limit 2 entries per person, must have been created within the last year. Drop off entries between 10 am-6 p.m. at 1509 S. Georgeson Dr, Palmer, by May 1. Judging and display will be May 2 (Alaska Ag Day) through May 4, with pickup May 5. Contact Lee at 745-3360 with questions.

Categories include:

2-D Art  
3-D Art  
Photography

Graphic Arts  
Video  
Writing

Fiber Art  
Other



The University of Alaska is an affirmative action / equal opportunity employer and educational institution.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN SPACE

Are you interested in growing your own food but don't have a space?

The Mat-Su District Cooperative Extension Service hosts a community garden at the Matanuska Experiment Farm. The garden plots are 10-by-20 feet and there is a \$25 fee for shared garden tools and well costs. Call 745-3360 for more information.

Forms are available online here:

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>  
(click on the Community Garden Link)





## Garden Links

### Alaska Botanical Garden

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

### Alaska Community Agriculture

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

### Arbor Day Foundation

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

### Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

### Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

[www.matsumastergardeners.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com) or [rbowman@gci.net](mailto:rbowman@gci.net)

Thank you!!

### Committee Chairs/Members Needed

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

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Rhonda Bowman</b>	<b>746-2948</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Curt Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Hally Truelove</b>	<b>376-0909</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Joan Redlin</b>	<b>206-604-4676</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: [kdblaylock@ak.net](mailto:kdblaylock@ak.net)

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY 2017

**May 1**, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Plant Sale  
Discussion/Sign-Up/Label Hand-out  
**May 1**, Palmer, Les Brake talk, 7:15, Turkey Red  
**May 2**, Agriculture Day in Alaska  
**May 15**, Arbor Day in Alaska

### JUN 2017 AND BEYOND

**Jun 3**, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale  
**Jun 5**, Palmer, Palmer Library Planter Planting  
**Jul 8**, Palmer, Palmer Museum Garden and Art  
Faire, <http://palmergardenandart.org/>  
**Jul 10**, Palmer, MMG Mtg TBD  
**Aug 7**, Palmer, MMG Mtg TBD  
**Aug 24 – Sep 4**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair,  
<http://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/>  
**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: 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month -- Thank you--**



May 2017



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

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