May 2022





President's Patch

By President Dorte Mobley

Annnd we are off and running....

Blankets are off me - and the big bird. Greenhouse is packed full of the "old" plants plus many more little ones. I may have gone a little crazy last fall when I ordered plugs! But hopefully that means there will be some to sell at the plant sales. My dahlias didn't really like just hanging out in some crates in the garage over the winter, so I only ended up with around 35 (the rest dried out) - which probably is better than the 250 I had one year. It also made me "have to buy" a handful of new ones.

I looked at all the sadness at the box stores and I just can't believe the junk they are selling these poor unknowing, hopeful people out there. I can't imagine that more that 10-20% of all the tubers they sell will actually produce plants - if even that many. I hope people save their receipts, but if they are like me, they do save them and just forget where.

I got my new tubers from my favorite dahlia company, and they looked fat, happy, and ready to give me flowers this summer. Right now, tulips, daffodils and several other bulb plants are up, as are several of my peonies. Soon they will bloom, and we will forget the loooooonnng winter and just enjoy working the old muscles again. Happy spring to all of you.



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GENERAL MEETINGS
FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
NEXT GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY, APR 4TH, 7:00 P.M.
LAZY MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH
16005 SHAWN DR, PALMER, AK 99645

HTTPS://GOO.GL/MAPS/AWQ5GKA78JuPzWz58

PLEASE COME EARLY TO HELP WITH ROOM SET-UP

BUSINESS MEETING AT 7 P.M.

SPEAKER/TOPIC AT 7:30 P.M.
TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLANT LABELS AND PLANT SALE SIGN UP SHEET WILL BE AT THE MEETING. LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR THE ANNUAL PLANT SALE.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Surely we all enjoy the sunny weather we've been getting. Marge and the peasant still have some large snowdrifts on the property, but they're melting day by day. We've been getting hard frosts each night, so it takes much of the day for thawing to begin. Warmer nights are in the forecast.

What a pleasant place is a greenhouse on a sunny afternoon! How well the plants respond to the captured warmth and sunlight! Tomatoes seeded before the wind began on January first are loaded with green ones, and should produce a ripe one or two before the end of April.

In past years we've experienced problems some years with aphids on greenhouse tomatoes. They can be difficult to control. Insecticidal soap certainly helps, and you need to keep at it. Ladybugs and other biological controls also help, but it certainly works better to never give them a start. If everything in the greenhouse is started by yourself from seed, you shouldn't have a problem. We used to winter fuchsias and wake them up in our greenhouse. Even if they look clean of aphids, there's a good chance they can create an infestation. Likewise, on purchased plants. The best way is to grow your own from seed. More fun, too. We've also had problems with starting dahlias from our own tubers in the greenhouse. They can be started on a shelf in the residence instead.

An invasive pest that we seem to be stuck with is slugs in the garden. In a large vegetable garden, they can be very destructive. Their favorite food seems to be cabbage, but they're also fond of strawberries, carrots, potatoes and all cole crops. there's not much they won't eat or make inedible. If we get temperatures cold enough in autumn to freeze the soil a couple of feet down, it will slow them down the following year. Good snowfall before the soil freezes will allow the eggs to survive the winter and give slugs an earlier start.

The peasant receives a publication from UK. Their climate is often moist and overcast and slugs and snails are a problem to contend with. If we are fortunate here our damp and cloudy weather occurs later in the growing season. Nonetheless, slugs are a real problem to gardeners in our area as well. The UK magazine had an interesting article on controlling slugs and snails in a

recent issue. A beer trap was mentioned, and bread dough was considered a much better attractant when used in a slug trap. Yeast and its byproducts are apparently the big attractant, and the dough can be used for several days, according to the article.

For our rather large vegetable garden we don't rely on traps as a control, although we have tried them. A bait containing metaldehyde is toxic and a no-no to us. We use a bait containing iron phosphate which is non-toxic and quite effective. The UK article says it may be damaging to earthworms. We have an abundance of earthworms in our raised beds, so I don't think it's causing a problem in that respect. We have earthworms of all sizes, some of them nice and fat like we used for fishing bait in times past.

May our summer be a good one for happy gardeners! Thanks, folks.



The tomato plant in the photo is the variety Fourth of July. They are prolific producers of small- to medium-sized tomatoes. Our tomatoes were seeded on January 1, just before the wind started. Our generator powered the furnace but not bottom heat and lighting for germinating tomatoes. They languished for 88 hours until the power came back on.

MIGHTY MOSS:

By Isaac Vaughan, Master Gardener, Photo by the Author

How much do you like moss? Why? I love it. Not only does it provide a moist, fertile environment below perennials and weeds, shrubs, suppresses beneficial organisms, and looks pretty. In a rock or water garden, moss can even be a main star. Mosses can be found on every continent and every country worldwide, including Antarctica. These mosses grow in the highest elevations on earth Himalayas), right down into Death Valley. The sphagnum moss is the main producer species of fossil fuels. It has been used to save thousands of lives, being used as a wound dressing (I wouldn't try it, though), and even as the very soil some of your seedlings are growing in.

Down and dirty, moss is a low-growing, nonvascular plant that reproduces by means of spores. Because it absorbs water and nutrients through its above-ground parts, it generally needs a moist environment (except a few xerophilic species, who only activate during the rainy season). Moss is a very large and ecologically important order of plants containing a recognized 12,000+ species (there are 22 families of moss, excluding clubmosses). In the lawn, mosses love the moist, nitrogen-rich environment and will try to take over. Is this bad? Well, in the words of Steve Brown, Master Gardener professor, "Hey, it's green!" Lawn purists may hate it, but personally, I think it should be given its own area of the lawn or garden: it is softer than even the softest of lawn grass, has practically no pests, it requires nothing of you, and it doesn't thatch!

But even if you don't know or care much about this order of plants, they need no

more care than a dandelion if the habitat is right. It provides erosion control, weed barrier, mulch, and soil conditioner in any shaded, moist corner of the garden. Mosses of the appropriate species are easily introduced to a garden: In spore season (when the spore cases go horizontal), go to a location related to the climate of the part of the garden that needs the moss, pick spore cases along with the moss below them, blend in buttermilk (wash the blender thoroughly afterward!), and pour this mixture in the place where you want it to grow.



A picture of some common native mosses (with a rather conveniently placed mushroom). These are Brachytheceum and fork moss.





Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center CLASSES

April Theme is: Earth/Eco Friendly May Theme is: Alaska Agriculture

Watch our Facebook and Instagram page and website for additional info, added classes & registration links!

https://www.facebook.com/matanuskaexperimentf.arm/ https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/

April 21	Creating a Nature Journal - Molly Gillespie
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April 26 Composting Basics (In-person & Zoom) - Jodie Anderson

April 27 Walkabout Wednesday-Jodie Anderson & Ann Kowenstrot

May 3 Food Dehydration Basics - Sarah Lewis

May 5 An Overview of Alaskan Agriculture - Steve Brown

May 10 Bird Vetch - Gino Graziani

May 24 Wild Harvesting in the Boreal Forest - Tikaan Galbreath

May 25 Walkabout Wednesday - Jodie & Ann

May 26 Alaska Farmers Market Seasonis Here

Can't attend Register to get the recorded link

The University of Alaska Fairbanks Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center ms accessible for all individuals. If you or a family member who is attending a program needs accommodate participate, please contact or office 2 days in admine to request services. opportunity to provide assistance you require. Contact Theresa I saic at <u>missac@in.laska.edu</u> or (907)745-336







Or check out our website for monthly updates: https://uaf.edu/afes/places/palmer/index.php

JOIN us for monthly guided tours the last Wednesday of every month.

Watch our FB page for other Walkabout Wednesday and in-per son class apportunities!

LEARN and GROW in a Community Garden plot or our Garden-to-Heal program. Do you need a space to grow produce or flower? Are you a mon-profit organization who would like to participate i Garden-to-Heal program? Are you mere seed in asstrang with the gardeners in these two area? If so, please como Theresca at 74-33600 r <u>instance discipate ed</u>.

VOLUNTEER with us in a variety of ways.

We DO have volunteer opportunities here at the Farm for the upcoming Summer of 2021! There are lots of ways to plug in here, from working with our amounts includes to the variety trads to helping with lows and events given are interested or know someone who may please reach out to us! We will send the necessary forms and see Ifyou qualify! Please email to the contraction of the contracti

RENT one of our classrooms, fields, or colony bldgs. for classes, weddings, or private events.







individual: www.alaska.edu/nondescrimination dation requests related to a disability should be made five business days in advance to jrbird@alaska.edu or triple

2022 Standing Committee Volunteers

- Monthly Newsletter Deb Blaylock, publisher
- Website Manager Eva Cohnen-Brown
- Guest speakers & meeting space coordinator for monthly regular meetings: - Vacant
- **Membership Directory** Kristina Tornqvist
- Rebarchek Farm Project Michael Kircher, chair
- Annual Plant Sale Isaac Vaughan
- Palmer Library & Pioneer Home Planting Sue Glenn
- Midsummer Garden & Art Faire Chair: Craig Lisonbee
- **Summer Garden Tours** Kristina Tornqvist and Dorte
- Alaska State Fair awards Deb Blaylock
- State Fair Parade Vacant
- **Nominations Committee Vacant**
- 2022 Christmas Party Vacant

As you can see, some of our 2022 Standing Committees still need volunteers. Please contact one of the board members if you would like to fill one of the vacancies. Thank you!

Rebarchek Farm Project **Photos** submitted by Michael Kircher



FFA Greenhouse



Barn being refurbished

2022 PLANT SALE PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES

The Plant Sale will be held on **Jun 4th, 2022,** from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Palmer Pavilion (across from the Palmer Visitor's Center). This is our major fundraising event for the year and members are encouraged to participate either by bringing plants to sell or helping out with the sale. It is a very popular event with members of our community and draws a large crowd.

- 1. All Mat-Su Master Gardener Association (MMGA) members who have joined or renewed their membership AND signed up to participate in the plant sale by May 2nd, 2022, can participate in the plant sale. Helpers are needed to help with checkout, help the cashier, sort tags, answer buyer questions, and direct buyers to the appropriate tables.
- 2. Plants should be brought to the Pavilion between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the plant sale. Please check in, sign your name, and verify your unique tag ID. No one may sign up on the day of the plant sale to participate as a vendor.
- 3. All plants for sale must be tagged with a white tag, showing the common name and/or botanical name of the plant. All items will have a yellow tag showing the item's price and the seller's unique ID. If there is no ID on the yellow tag, the item is assumed to be a donation to the Association. For all sales, the MMGA retains 20% from the sale of each item. The MMGA member will receive 80% from the sale of each item.
- 4. Native plants should be garden grown (PLEASE, no digging in the wild!). Please avoid bringing invasive plants like orange hawkweed, spotted knapweed, butter and eggs, etc. The Cooperative Extension Service offers a lengthy list and description of suspected invasive species.
- 5. Inspect all plants carefully to ensure no plants have evidence of insects or disease.
- 6. MMGA members may also sell crafts, arts, or garden-related items by providing and staffing their own tables. These items will also have the appropriate yellow price tag attached.
- 7. All sales will be made through the central check-out stand. Volunteers are needed to staff this.
- 8. There are some tables available at the Pavilion; however, it is recommended that you bring your own table. It is highly recommended that you bring items for your own comfort such as chairs, warm clothing, beverages, snacks, and a lunch.
- 9. All unsold plants need to be picked up after the sale. If you can't be there at 3 pm, please plan for someone to take your plants. Do not just drop off plants and leave them.
- 10. You may also donate your excess plants to the MMGA for the various Association planting projects. **Donations must be coordinated prior to the closing of the plant sale**.
- 11. Proceeds from the sale will be calculated after the plant sale has ended. Normally, our Treasurer will either mail each individual's 80% to their address on file with the Association or hand out checks at the following MMGA meeting. Please indicate on the sign-in sheet how you would like to receive your check.

Continued on next page

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLANT SALE

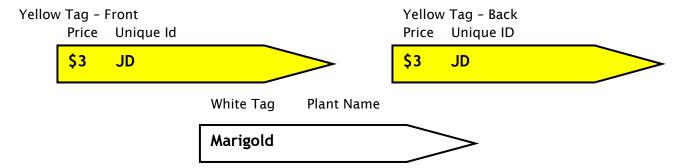
Each plant or item offered for sale is to be marked with two tags - a white tag and a color tag. Tags will be available only for members who have signed up for the 2022 plant sale and will be available at the April and May 2022 Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association meetings.

Choose an ID to mark your tags with. Most use their initials (two or three). Indicate your tag ID on the Plant Sale Sign-In sheet when you arrive at the morning of the plant sale. Please ensure your tag ID is unique. Remember, your ID tells who gets paid for the sale of the item.

Use permanent marker or #2 pencil to label the tags:

White tag has common or botanical name of plant and any optional information.

Yellow tag - the item price (in \$1 increments ONLY - please no 25¢, 50¢, 99¢, etc.) and your unique tag ID



The MMGA receives 20% of the sale from each plant or item and you receive 80%. If there is no yellow tag or the unique tag ID is unreadable, it is assumed that all proceeds go to the MMGA. (Thanks for the donation!)

Members often ask how to price plants, but you may want to price yours other than the suggestions below. Price them to sell. Plants that have not sold by noon may be reduced in price.

SUGGESTED PLANT PRICING (These are just suggestions – you may use any price for plants as long as it seems reasonable, and **prices are in \$1 increments** – **this is non-negotiable**)

Perennials, including herbs:	3" pot	\$3 - \$4
	4" pot	\$4 - \$5
	6" pot	\$5 - \$6
	gallon pot	\$6 - \$8
Annuals, including herbs	4/6 cell pot	
	3" pot	\$3 - \$4
Vegetables	4/6 cell pot	
	3" pot	\$3 - \$4
Tomatoes (plant size, variety, an	\$3 - \$10	
Strawberries (depending on pot	\$3 - \$4	
Raspberries, Currants, Rhubarb	gallon pot	\$5 - \$10
Shrubs trees	2-gallon pot	\$10 - \$15

April 4th Meeting Minutes Submitted by Secretary Isaac Vaughan

Present: Dorte Mobley, Sue Glenn, Kristina Tournqvist, Craig Lisonbee, Isaac Vaughan, Kenneth and Deb Blaylock, Michael Kircher, Eva Cohnen-Brown, Belinda, (I couldn't understand last name, maybe Lovejoy?), Phyllis Kircher, Pain Pianalto (I wasn't sure of this name either), Curt and Marge Muller, Ellie Hurley, Greg Kalal, Julie Pollard.

Opened by President Dorte Mobley.

Previous meeting minutes: Correction - we're *not* insured. Motion to accept by Deb Blaylock, seconded by Sue Glenn. Second correction: It was inadvertently omitted that Kristina Tournqvist had attended the March meeting. Kristina Tournqvist motioned to accept, Ken Blaylock seconded.

Conference: According to Cathy Crew, 115 people showed at the conference, but summed up with late registrations, as many as 130 people showed. The registration was organized and efficient, thanks to helpers and planners. (A few people signed up and paid for the MMG club, and the application forms that we brought to Evangelo's ran out.)

Meeting location: Craig Lisonbee is looking for another church to meet at where we don't need insurance. We can meet at Lazy Mountain Bible Church starting in May - which doesn't require we have insurance. Depending on how Covid goes, we may be able to meet at the Experiment Farm in fall. The Rebarchek barn can be used once it gets finished.

Garden tours: Jim Dalt? (I didn't catch the name) may host a garden tour. Catholic Refugee program may also host a tour of their premises.

Membership and flyers: Flyers were sent out to everyone who submitted a membership form.

Midsummer Garden and Art Fair: Craig Lisonbee paid for a spot at the Midsummer Garden and Art Faire, BUT, since we are a non-profit, discussion went around about boycotting and getting others to do so - to convince them that non-profits shouldn't need to pay. Roughly stated: We are a non-profit and we don't make any profit from this, so we shouldn't need to pay. People commented about how we're one of the only free "vendors" there, and there are a few other non-profit organizations who do not approve of this charge for non-profits who only provide free information to the community. Kristina Tournqvist motioned to accept the boycott, Sue Glenn seconded, and the motion carried. We will drop off the notice at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon on the 13th of April.

Newsletter: Thanks for entries, tips, and recipes!

Palmer plantings: The Palmer Library planting is being held on the second Monday of June - the 13th - at 7:00 p.m.; bring extra plants! The Pioneer Home planting will be held on the Thursday before - the 4th - at 1:00 p.m. We will only be planting in front of the building, flagpoles, and parking lot.

Plant Sale: Will occur on June 4th - Isaac Vaughan volunteered to do that; thanks Deb Blaylock for helping. Blaylocks and Dorte Mobley brought plant tags. Sign-up sheet was passed around. Curt Muller will bring the table and two chairs stored at the Extension office. He will also put the signs up the three signs up for the plant sale. Request was made for people to write their initials and price on both sides of the tags.

Rebarchek Farm: Barn is being refurbished now. It only has a 20-person capacity so we can't meet there. We will get apple/crabapple trees to go on either side of the door. These will be equipped with fences to keep the moose away, maybe 8'x6' cement reinforcing wire? We also need a design and trees for the arbor, a volunteer to paint a sign, and a work crew to build fences and raised beds. The raised bed design is decidedly going to be the old castle cement blocks (blocks donated by the Blaylocks) with the two-by-fours. No old tires.

Speakers: Nobody to coordinate. Mr. Glenn may be able to give a presentation on photography.

Webpage: Eva Cohnen-Brown added pictures from the conference. Some of the speaker presentations will be on the MMGA website for a short period of time. Someone should take photos of upcoming events in early June for Eva Cohnen-Brown, as she will not be able to attend.

Old business: We can meet at the Lazy Mountain Bible Church starting in May. The Experiment Farm can start to be used to meet in the fall, possibly. Jessica wrote that we will need proof of insurance or an MOU for some locations. Insurance will cost \$425-\$842/year, depending on coverage. It would be good to have against the possible legal threats.

Kristina Tournqvist motioned to adjourn; Craig Lisonbee seconded.

*** Names that I didn't catch are in parenthesis. Please provide clarification at the next meeting.***

Garden Links (updated Apr 2022)

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 Garden Clubs

http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org

Alaska Grown

http://www.buyalaskagrown.com/

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 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/

Good Earth Garden School

http://ellenvandevisse.com/

Grow Palmer

http://growpalmer.org/

Georgeson Botanical Garden *New*

https://georgesonbotanicalgarden.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/

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Services

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

http://palmersoilandwater.org/

Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter

https://forestry.org/alaska/

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 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 Database

https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President: Dorte Mobley 907-232-5422
Vice President: Kristina Tornqvist 907-795-6393
Secretary: Isaac Vaughan dnavon@msn.com

Treasurer: Cathy Crew 907-632-4401 Member at Large: Sue Glenn 907-671-0252

If you have gardening news, photos, or information you'd like to share in the <u>newsletter</u>, please send to the MMGA email.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2022 AND BEYOND

May 2, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

May 2, 8:30 am, Palmer, Drive Your Tractor To

Work Day, Alaska State Fair Grounds

May 3, Alaska Agriculture Day

May - Jun, Palmer, Composting Classes,

https://ellenvandevisse.com/

Jun 4, Palmer, Palmer Pavilion, Annual Plant Sale

Jun 9, 1 pm, Palmer, Veterans and Pioneers Home Planting (Contact Sue Glenn to sign up)

Jun 13, Palmer, Regular Meeting, Planting at Palmer Public Library

Jul/Aug, TBD, Summer Garden Tour(s)

Aug 19 - Sep 5, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, "Experience the Wonder"

Sep 12, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

Oct 3, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

Nov 7, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

Dec 5, 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

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, 2022, 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 don't be shy about submitting items for publication.

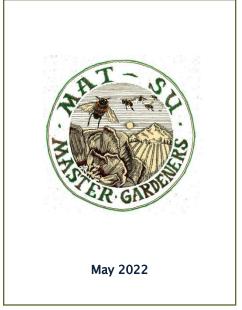
However, there are a few rules which we all must pay attention to:

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.

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^{th} day of each month ~~ Thank you~~









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

