



Nov 2015



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

Are you ready for winter? We have had a great fall, which gives us more time to get those chores completed prior to winter. It is a great time to harvest and collect the seeds from the annuals that you want to start indoors next spring.

In some areas you might need to cover the perennial flower beds if the snow cover is not sufficient to protect them from extreme cold temperatures. Some people use straw or evergreen branches over the beds as insulation from the cold. It really depends on your environment. Long standing water in the spring before the soil has had a chance to unthaw can harm your flowers as well. It is important to pay attention to these clues and document what you notice because it provides a good check to look back so you can do some preventive measures next summer. French drains or building up the soil in low spots can keep runoff from collecting in your yard.

During our last meeting we discussed great buys available at the end of summer on gardening items because stores want to get their inventory cleaned out. Items such as gardening utensils, gloves, watering timers, hoses and containers are often reduced in price.

With the temperatures dropping, now is a great time to make jellies and jams to give out as holiday presents. Also use the vegetables and fruit you harvested to make quick breads and can fruit for pies or cobblers. I took advantage of the great buys on corn on the cob and put up lots of ears to enjoy this winter.

Summer was very busy but the fall can be equally busy getting ready for the holidays and preserving what you've grown all summer.

The next meeting is November 2nd at 7 pm. See you there.

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CHAPTER MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, NOV 2, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: MTA CONFERENCE ROOM,
PALMER, AK

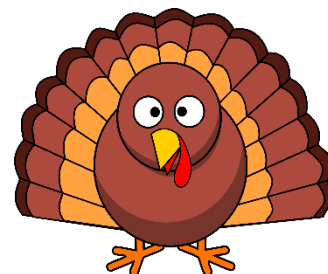
DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MINUTES
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS

TOPIC/SPEAKER:

TBA



PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE; BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos by the author

A goodly number of years ago, the peasant built a bin in a corner of our heated garage, the purpose of which was and is to store potatoes and other vegetables during the winter months. Sort of a poor man's root cellar. The sides and end which are exposed to the heat in the garage are insulated with four inches of foam. One side and the bottom are not insulated, taking advantage of a below grade north wall and cold floor to help keep the temperature in the bin at a level which would be conducive to storing vegetables.

It worked to some extent, but not as well as hoped. Wintertime garage temperature would be about 50F, and bin temperature was not always cool enough.

When a builder constructed a house for his family just across the street from us, he showed me how he planned to store his produce. He used the space under his entrance stairs as vegetable storage, insulating it from interior heat. He then ran a loop of two inch PVC plastic pipe through the storage. The pipe was open to the outside on both ends and could be closed off if the temperature in the storage dropped too low.

The peasant is not averse to using someone else's idea, so he copied the system, using some modifications to suit a somewhat different situation. The pipe was installed with one end open to the outside but at a higher level than the bin. Where it exited the bin, that end emptied into the garage. Colder and heavier outside air would circulate and flow into the garage, but slowly enough to have a negligible effect on the garage temperature, and keeping the bin temperature at a good storage level. If the bin temperature dropped too low the pipe could be plugged off, stopping the circulation.

The system has worked quite well. Vegetables are harvested and put in the bin at a time when the ambient outside temperature is dropping. A small blower is used to push air through the pipe and reduce the bin temperature faster until it has reached the right level. Vegetable quality and length of storage has been satisfactory. A plus is ease of access to the bin. The bin has three lids,

each with four inches of foam insulation. The family dog makes his comfy bed on top of a lid.

The photos may make it easier to understand the system.



This photo shows the storage which has been divided into separate bins. Note the thermometer for temperature monitoring by the parsnips and carrots. The blower for initial cooling down has been laid atop the pipes to show its size. The output end is pushed into the pipe outside and forces a flow through the pipes. After the initial cooling the blower is removed and it becomes a passive system operating by gravity as the colder outside air is heavier than that inside. One of the covers has been set on top of the pipes.



This is Lutzi's favorite spot to bed down. Note the foam insulation on the cover; four inches of blue-board.

Thanks folks.

FAVORITE FALL RECIPES

Rhubarb Crisp Dump Cake

Submitted by Rhonda Bowman

Put ingredients in a buttered 9x12x12 pan in even layers in the order they are given. Do not mix. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Delicious served warm and with vanilla ice cream.

Ingredients

- 4-5 cups of cubed raw rhubarb
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 3-oz package of strawberry Jello (could be sugar free)
- 1 box white cake mix
- 1 ¼ cup of water
- ½ cup of melted butter

Red Cabbage Casserole

Submitted by Marge Mueller

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon shortening
- 8 cups shredded red cabbage
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup lemon juice or vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 or 2 medium apples, chopped
- 1/4 cup red currant jelly
- 1 teaspoon salt

In Dutch oven, melt shortening, add the cabbage, onion, lemon juice or vinegar, sugar and salt. Mix well. Cover and cook over medium heat for 10-15 minutes stirring occasionally. Add apples, cook 10-15 minutes longer. Stir in jelly until melted.

8 - 10 servings. This freezes well.

Fall Soil Test Time!

Now is the perfect time to take soil samples in your yards, gardens, orchards, fields and flower beds. Taking soil samples is a very easy chore and can reap lots of benefits for you next summer. The UAF Cooperative Extension Service has a publication, Soil Sampling, FGV-00044, which you can download at this website: <http://www.uaf.edu/files/ces/publications-db/catalog/anr/FGV-00044.pdf> or stop by the Mat-Su/Copper River District office at 1509 S. Georgeson Drive, Palmer and pick up a copy. This publication has all the information you need to take a soil sample and how to submit it. Some great news is the Matanuska Experiment Farm's soil lab recently reduced the price of a standard soil test analysis from \$40 to \$25! That is pretty awesome! Steve Brown, the Agriculture/Horticulture agent, will receive a copy of your results. He will review them and the information you provided with the soil sample and will contact you with recommendation on what nutrients (and amounts) you should apply. His consultation is provided free of charge! It's a great service and one everyone should take advantage of.

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 **UPDATED**

<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 Rock Garden Society

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

Eat Local Alaska

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

Good Earth Garden School

<http://ellenvandevisse.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 **UPDATED**

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners

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

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/>

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 in desperate need of someone to coordinate speakers for our meetings. Please let Rhonda know if you're interested. Thanks!

BOARD MEMBER OPENING

The position of Club Secretary is still open. The job involves taking minutes at meetings and attending board meetings. If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Bowman for further details and information.

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

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Co-VP	Hally Truelove	376-0909
Secretary:	Vacant	
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: kdblayment@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2015

Nov 1, Daylight Savings Time Ends

Nov 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Nov 26, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2015 AND BEYOND

Dec 7, Palmer, Annual Christmas Dinner

Jan 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Feb 1, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Feb. 22-26, Anchorage, 2016 Alaska Sustainable Agriculture Conference,

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/conference/>

Mar 7, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Apr 4 Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Apr 16, Anchorage, State Alaska Master Gardener Conference,

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

May 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Jun 4, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale (Tentative)

Jun 6, Palmer, Annual Palmer Library Planter

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!

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--



November 2015



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Facebook

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

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB
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