



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

The garlic, tulips, daffodils and crocus bulbs are all tucked in for the winter. I saw some drop-dead gorgeous tulip bulbs on my Facebook feed and could not pass them up. One is a lovely double, called Ice Cream – we shall see if its as pretty as its picture! The other was a frilly yellow double with peach and pink overtones. It's always fun to be adventurous and test our growing zones!



Photo courtesy Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds

Winter is a time for gardeners to take a step back and contemplate the past growing year as well as plan for the future. What did you like in your garden this past summer? What did you wish went better? What are your plans for next year (or is it still too early for that?) I have grandiose plans to make some new wooden planters for my strawberries to replace the plastic tubs. The tubs which do their job well, are not as aesthetically pleasing as what I imagine some nice wood planters would be.

I also envision these planters with heavy duty rollers and some type of built in irrigation system. The tubs are bulky and difficult to move around. Endless hours were spent on the end of a watering hose making sure the berries didn't get splashed too much and the soil didn't dry out because of the extremely dry summer. Mr. B. will have his task cut out for him in building something wonderful!

We added some new raised beds to our herd of 20 something beds. The new ones are made of metal siding trimmed with wood. They proved to be very functional this summer, growing some huge quantities of pumpkins and zucchini. They are also being used for my fall planting of garlic. I was a bit worried about their insulation value, so a trip was made to procure some spoiled hay bales. The beds

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Meeting	1
Peasant's Perspective	2
Alaska State Fair Special Awards	3
2020 Committees	4
November Meeting Minutes	4
Draft 2020 Standing Rules	5/6
New Meeting Location	7
Garden Links	8
Announcements/Volunteer Opportunities	8
Contacts	9
Calendar of Events	9

GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM
AND EXTENSION CENTER, KERTTULA HALL,
"BLUE ROOM," 1509 S GEORGESON DR,
PALMER, AK

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

SPEAKER/TOPIC

ANNUAL MEETING - 7-7:30 PM

DISCUSSION TOPIC - 7:30 - 8:30 PM

THE MEETING WILL BE A ROUND ROBIN
DISCUSSION OF WHAT WENT WELL OR DIDN'T
IN YOUR 2019 GARDENS.

all have hay bales around them to insulate from cold and winds.

November 4th is our next meeting – hope you can make it! You won't see me as I'll be in Iowa celebrating my dad's 80th birthday!

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos submitted by the author



Earth, Life, Sun

**The land has earned a sweet and quiet rest;
Descending to profound and healing sleep.**

**The labors of the heady summers quest
Have given way to winter silence deep.**

**The sun dips low behind the southern peaks.
So short the days, so long the dark endures.
Life, at ebb, the springtime tide would seek.
Yet time delays the quickening sunlight's cures.**

**But yield time will, as always, in the years
Measured by eons; again, the earth awakes.
And all of life the welcome warming cheers.
New vigor, growth and children life remakes.**

**The land emerges once again to thrive
Amid the bounty, once again alive.**

There, kind folk, you have the peasant's offering for November in the form of a sonnet. Thank you.



Alaska State Fair is pleased to announce the:

**Mat-Su Master Gardeners Special Award
Winners - 2019**

First Entry Crops:

***Division 16, Class 01 Veg Heads, 6-12
years old***

Grant Lance
Wasilla, AK

***Division 16, Class 02 Veg Heads, 13-17
years***

Josephine Rempel
Palmer, AK

Division 16, Class 03 Veg Heads, Open

Elizabeth 'Libby' Senior
Palmer, AK

Second Entry Crops:

***Division 16, Class 01 Veg Heads, 6-12
years***

Emma Grace Saylor
Eagle River, AK

***Division 16, Class 02 Veg Heads, 13-17
years***

Arani Schauermann
Palmer, AK

Division 16, Class 03 Veg Heads, Open

Shannon Schauermann
Palmer, AK



Some of the Division 16 Veg Head entries

First Entry Flowers:

Division 5, Trees & Shrubs

Dawn Cowan
Wasilla, AK

Division 10, Collections

Marya Morrow
Anchorage, AK

***Division 13, Class 4, Artistic Design - Fair
Theme***

Rhonda Backingham
Palmer, AK

Second Entry Flowers:

Division 5, Trees & Shrubs

Andy Anderson
Anchorage, AK

Division 10, Collections

Serena Dubose
Palmer, AK

***Division 13, Class 4, Artistic Design - Fair
Theme***

Felicia Dock
Wasilla, AK

Thank you for your support and sponsorship
of the Alaska State Fair!

Kathy Liska
Crops Superintendent



Dawn Cowan's Division 5 entry

2020 Committees

Monthly Newsletter - Deb Blaylock

Website manager - Eva-Cohnen-Brown

Guest speakers - **Vacant**

Membership directory - Sue Glenn

Grants/Scholarships - **Vacant**

Rebarchek Farm project - Michael Kircher, chair

Annual Plant Sale - **Vacant**

Palmer Library & Pioneer Home plantings - **Vacant**

Midsummer Garden & Art Faire - **Vacant**

Summer Garden tours - **Vacant**

Alaska State Fair awards - Deb Blaylock

State Fair Parade - **Vacant**

2019 Christmas Party - Marge Mueller and Deb Blaylock

Secretary/Board of Directors - **Vacant**

We have lots of vacancies on the committees for 2020. Please sign up to work on one or more of the committees. They don't take much time and will really make our meetings and projects more enjoyable when they have some focus and leadership.

All of our current board of directors and officers have agreed to stay on for 2020 except for our secretary. The main duty of the secretary is to take minutes at the monthly regular meetings and send them to the newsletter editor to publish in the newsletters. Super easy to do!

Any of these will earn you hours towards your Master Gardeners volunteer hours and/or CEUs if you're in the Advanced Master Gardener program.

If you're interested or have any questions, send an email to

matsumastergardeners@gmail.com.

Minutes of the 10 - 7 - 2019 Mat Su Master Gardener Meeting Submitted by Secretary Dorte Mobley

Meeting was called to order by President Deb Blaylock at 7pm. 13 members were present.

Treasurer report was given by Cathy Crew and accepted without questions. We have \$6,119.41 in available funds and \$7,744.72 in checking. The draft budget for next year was presented. It will be voted on in November, members are encouraged to look it over before then. Discussion to include raising the dues.

Minutes were in September newsletter and accepted as written.

We still are looking for committee coordinators for next year: Speaker coordinator, Palmer Library and Palmer Veterans and Senior Home, Midsummer Garden and Arts Faire, Summer Garden Tours, State Fair Parade, Plant Sale, Scholarships and grants.

We also still need a volunteer or nominee for the position of Secretary. The other officers/board of directors have agreed to stay on for another year, Deb Blaylock, President; Greg Kalal, Vice President; Cathy Crew, Treasurer; and Marge Mueller, Member at Large.

Michael Kircher gave a report on the Rebarchek project. He will build a pergola at home and it will be hauled on Deb and Ken's trailer and secured with rebar. There are lots of other projects happening at the farm.

2020 membership forms are updated and need to be filled out by all when paying dues for last year. The forms will be available after the membership votes on the 2020 Standing Rules at the November annual meeting. Members will be able to join online after the November meeting using a credit or debit card or submit a paper copy of a membership form with their annual dues.

The Christmas party will be at Turkey Red on December 2. Marge and Deb will cook turkey and ham and everyone else needs to bring side dishes.

November 4th is the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27.

DRAFT 2020**Mat Su Master Gardener Association Standing Rules****Annual review:**

The board shall review these standing rules annually in September for presentation to the membership at the October meeting. The proposed standing rules will be published in the October newsletter for review by group members. The membership will vote on the new standing rules at the November annual meeting.

Amendments:

These standing rules may be amended by a majority of members present at a regular meeting after having been presented by the board.

Dues:

Yearly dues are \$15 for each member or \$20 for a household (more than one member in same household) membership and are payable December 1 for the following calendar year. If dues are paid by January 15, the member will be listed in the yearbook.

Expenditures:

The board, at its discretion, can spend up to \$100 per event/activity without vote of the membership for non-budgeted expenses for workshops, projects and supplies. There shall be maintained in the checking/savings accounts enough monies to fund the yearly budget. Reimbursed expenses are only paid from receipts submitted to the treasurer within 45 days of expense. Any purchases must be in the approved budget or pre-approved by the board for up to \$100.

Plant sale:

All Mat-Su Master Gardener Association members who have joined or renewed their membership AND signed up to participate in the plant sale by the May meeting can participate in the plant sale. The association will provide the members signed up for the plant sale with yellow labels for prices and white labels for plant names at the April and May meetings.

Standing Committees:

Newsletter - The newsletter committee shall prepare the monthly newsletter and send it to the web master to post it online and send an email with a link to the web page. This committee will also send out emails and other notices to association members and interested parties on various club activities and as requested by the association. Members without email will get a newsletter mailed to them after they provide the board with mailing address.

Rebarcheck Farm - Rebarchek planning committee will make recommendations and submit plans to the MG members for approval and participation.

Parade participation - The committee shall arrange to sign the association up for parades if requested by the membership, and for a float to be made if desired. The committee will coordinate workdays and a location to build the float if needed.

Palmer Veterans and Pioneer Home (PVPH) and Palmer Library Planting - The committee shall buy plants in accordance with the association's budget and arrange for a planting date for the PVPH to be announced to the members. If soil in beds needs amending the committee will arrange for amendments to be donated or purchased. The association traditionally does the Palmer Library on the first Monday in June. The committee will coordinate a weeding schedule with association members which will be published in the newsletter and on the website.

Plant Sale - The committee shall:

1. Arrange for location (see below*)
2. Arrange for supplies and advertising (see below **)
3. Provide sign-up sheet for sellers at April and May meetings

4. Send reminders to members to save boxes for the plant sale.
5. Get table, chairs, and plant sale signs from the CES office
6. Oversee operation of the day of sale
7. Tally yellow plant price labels
8. Take money to the bank
9. Arrange with Treasurer for checks to be written to selling members
10. Give yellow plant labels back to selling members

*Request the Palmer Downtown Pavilion a year in advance. Here's the link to the website:

https://www.palmerak.org/sites/default/files/forms/pavilion_downtown_reservation_request.pdf

Usually, the president fills out the request right after the plant sale, so we get it reserved for the following year.

** We have signs to hang on fences to advertise (this is usually done a few weeks ahead of time). There is also a sign to hang up on the shelter at the Pavilion.

State Fair - The committee shall coordinate with the State Fair Flower and Crops Department Superintendents on which Division and Class the association will sponsor for each year's Alaska State Fair. The committee will purchase gift cards and take them to the main office at the fair with labels indicating which winners the prizes are for. The State Fair representative will mail the cards to each winner. The board decides how much to give for each prize.

There are fourteen prizes: seven first entry winners and seven second entry winners in the following divisions/classes (total \$800 budget estimate):

Crops Department

- | | | |
|-------------|--|-------|
| • Veg Heads | Division 16, Class 01, Junior (ages 6-12), first place | \$ 50 |
| • Veg Heads | Division 16, Class 02, Junior (ages 13-17), first place | \$ 50 |
| • Veg Heads | Division 16, Class 03, Open, first place winner | \$ 50 |
| • Veg Heads | Division 16, Class 04, Classroom, Elementary only, first place | \$100 |

Flowers Department

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|------|
| • Trees & Shrubs | Division 5 Champion | \$50 |
| • Collections | Division 10 Champion | \$50 |
| • Artistic Design | Division 13, Class 4, Fair theme design, first place winner | \$50 |

Summer Garden Tour - The committee shall arrange for garden tour/events that may occur on dates other than monthly meeting dates, announce the dates at the meeting and submit the information for inclusion in the newsletter the month before the event.

Web Master - The web master shall keep the Mat Su Master Gardener website up to date with association activities and information. Each Planting Committee Chair will provide a summer weeding and watering schedule to the webmaster to post on the website for members to sign up

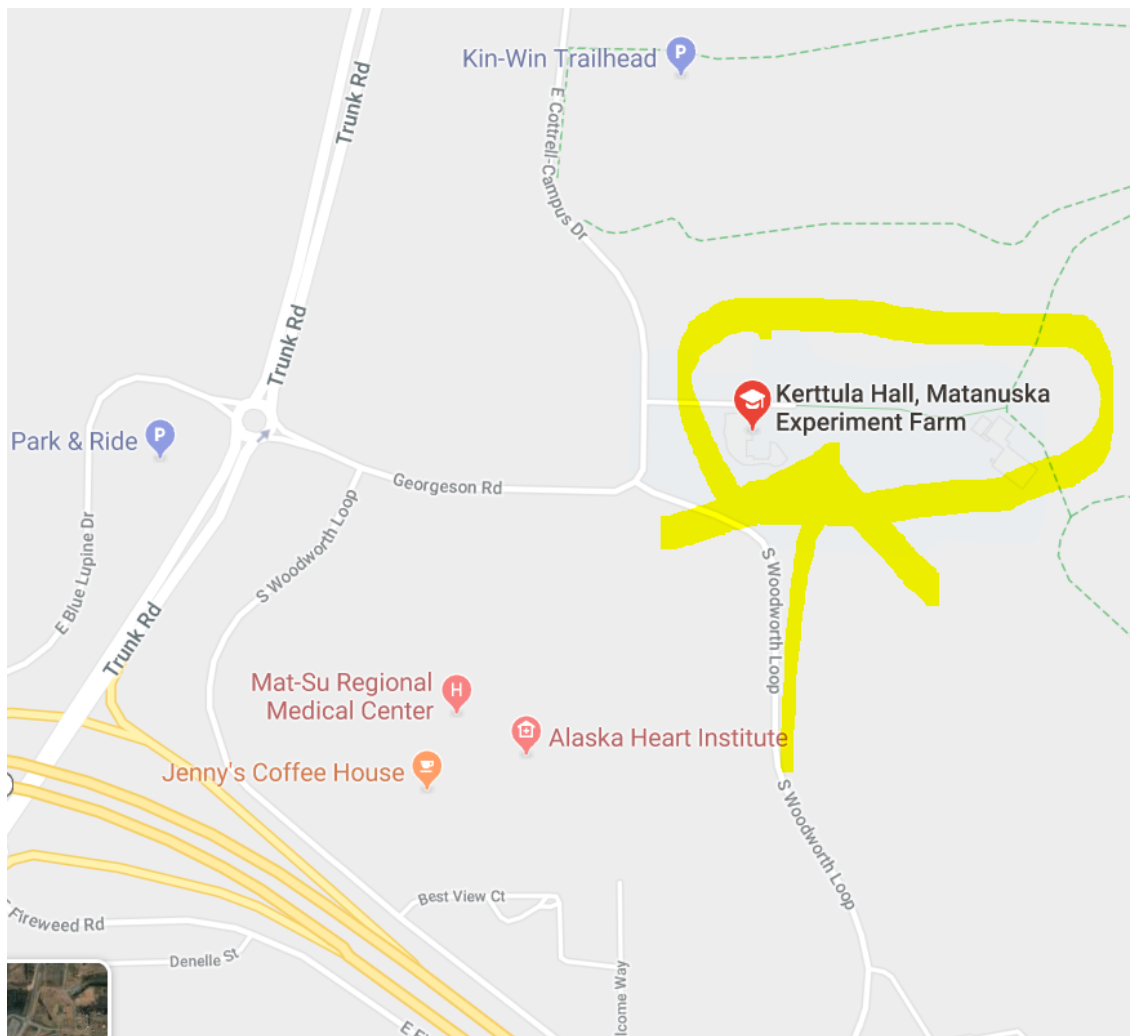
Yearbook - The yearbook committee shall compile, format, submit for printing and distribute the annual yearbook for the members.

Scholarship/Grant Committee – The committee will promote the MMGA Scholarship and Grant program, review applications and present qualified applicants to the membership for funding approval.

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to find a new meeting location for our monthly meetings, September through May. Our future meetings will be at the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center in the “Blue Room.” The “Blue Room” is on the first floor. It is the large area to the left of the main entry doors. Please arrive a few minutes early to help set up tables and chairs. We will also need to have folks put the tables and chairs away at the end of the meeting. We will discuss other options for meeting locations at the meeting. All suggestions will be welcomed.

Here is a map to the location. The address is 1509 S Georgeson Rd, Palmer, AK 99645. We will be in Kerttula Hall.



Garden Links

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 Farm to School

<https://www.farmtoschoolalaska.org/>

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

<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 Peony Society

<https://alaskapeonysociety.wixsite.com/alaskapeonysociety>

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rhodiola **New**

<https://www.akroseroot.com/>

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

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.com

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 CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF Herbarium

<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/herb/>

UAF School of Natural Resources & Extension

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

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Submit an article to the newsletter.
- Looking for someone to write a monthly column for the newsletter. Please contact Deb Blaylock if you're interested.
- We need someone to volunteer as Secretary for the association. Main duties are to take minutes at the monthly meetings and submit them in writing for the monthly newsletter.

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblayment@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Dorte Mobley	232-5422
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: kdblayment@ak.net

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2019 AND BEYOND

Nov 3, Daylight Savings time ends

Nov 4, Palmer, MMGA Annual Meeting and Round Robin Garden Discussion

Dec 2, Palmer, MMGA Annual Christmas Party



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. The deadline to join is January 15, 2019 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 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 2019



Like us on
Facebook

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

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

