



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

Thank you to all the volunteers to fill our Board of Director seats. Here is who we have to fill the seats: Deb Blaylock, President; Kristina Tornqvist, Vice President; Dorte Mobley, Secretary; Cathy Crew, Treasurer; and Sue Glenn, Member at Large. On page 3 is the list of the volunteers for our many standing committees. A big thank you to everyone for filling those positions as well. A few of the committees still need a chair or a few more volunteers to round out the committees. Please look through the list and consider which committee(s) you can help out with.

At our October meeting, the members present all voted to put off hosting the State Master Gardener Conference until either late 2021 or spring 2022. I informed our Cooperative Extension Service Advisor, Steve Brown, of the decision. Hopefully, we will see an end to the pandemic soon and we will be able to plan a great conference.

Our November meeting is scheduled for Nov 2nd ~~at the Lazy Mountain Bible Church~~ **is a Zoom Meeting – see email for link.**

~~Come a bit early to help set up chairs and/or tables. Please wear a mask if you're able. If you're sick, please stay home. We'll have hand sanitizer inside for your use as well.~~ The 2021 budget will be sent in an email with the newsletter email. Please look it over and send an email if you have questions. We will be voting on the 2021 Standing Rules which were published in the October newsletter. We'll also vote on the 2021 budget. Following the business meeting, Jeff Smeenk will speak on rhubarb.

Winter is here! I hope you all have your gardens harvested and perennials and beds tucked in for the winter. It's time to clean your tools and oil them up for the next season. What other tasks do you have left?

One final thing, it's time to renew your membership for 2021. You can either send in the form (page 7) or

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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, NOV 2ND, 2020, 7 P.M.

LOCATION:

ZOOM MEETING - SEE EMAIL FOR LINK
~~LAZY MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH~~
~~16005 SHAWN DR, PALMER, AK 99645~~

BUSINESS MEETING AT 7 P.M.

SPEAKER/TOPIC

DR. JEFF SMEENK, DISTRICT MANAGER, PALMER
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT WILL
~~GIVE A PRESENTATION ON RHUBARB~~

go online to our webpage to renew online.
 Thanks, everyone!

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

We have turned our thoughts and efforts to indoor gardening with the end of the outdoor growing season. There are ways to improve on our indoor environment to make plant growth satisfactory; most of our growing will be in ornamentals, although there are some edibles which are fairly easy to grow in our abodes.

The peasant has long been interested in constructing a growth chamber, but never quite got there. It does require some investment in time, finances, and sufficient room to accomplish this.

Far North Garden Supply, which has not been in operation for some years, had a display in a corner of their establishment in Wasilla which had always fascinated the peasant. The gardening store had a very comprehensive variety of items for all types of gardening. Containers, irrigation equipment, lighting, hydroponic supplies, timers, growing mediums, fans, predators for insect pests - they definitely had things covered for serious gardeners. Yes, the peasant misses them.

The growth chamber constructed by the garden supply store was quite sophisticated and designed to show the usefulness of some of the items they had for sale. The purpose here is to describe the setup and perhaps some of us could adapt features for our own use.

They began with a containment of six feet long and thirty inches wide and six feet in height. It was large enough to accommodate three or four tomato or pepper plants, which were invariably healthy and productive. The sides and back were covered with a highly light reflective mylar and the front was enclosed with clear vinyl for viewing purposes and could be opened for tending the plants. A high intensity grow light was used which traveled back and forth on a track above the plants. Along with the reflective mylar it served to reach more areas of the plants with light. Of course, the lights were timed to give the plants sufficient day length, although there was only an artificial light source.

The grow light produced excess heat which was vented by a small exhaust fan. To provide some humidity in an environment which would otherwise be extremely dry, the plant pots were set on a gravel-lined tray with the gravel submerged in water. Watering for the plants could

be done with an automatic system using a small pump, timer, and emitters. All of the equipment used in the growth chamber was available at the store, as were the containers, growing medium and fertilizer used. Lighting equipment was especially extensive.

No doubt many of you had viewed this setup at some point. Surely there are facets of the setup which could be useful without going to the expense of an exact copy. LED lighting and mylar are a couple of things that might be readily doable and not excessively expensive. Food for thought, at least.

Thanks, folks.



Poor man's growth chamber. This was used by the peasant for rooting tomato cuttings. The cuttings were taken from plants already growing in the greenhouse and are started for use by friends. The transparent material is food wrap. The box is used as bottom heat for germination and uses a 25-watt incandescent bulb which produces sufficient heat. The window blinds are opened to provide some sunlight and shop fluorescents not visible provide supplemental light. The water containers beside the cuttings provides some humidity. The peasant has since found a better rooting solution. The garage has a north window and the same setup without the supplemental light and water dishes are being used in that area. Air temperature in the garage is about 50 degrees F. The food wrap is given large openings to keep the heat down and still protect from drafts when the garage doors are being used. The secret is to keep the soil medium warm to enhance rooting but to keep the tops cool to prevent excessive wilt. One week is usually sufficient to establish roots, and blossoms left on the cuttings will usually produce tomatoes. It helps to crowd the cutting together to prevent wilt.

2021 Committee Volunteers

Meeting Space Coordinator - Dorte Mobley; Kristina Tornqvist

Monthly Newsletter - Deb Blaylock, editor; David McCorkell

Website Manager - Eva-Cohnen-Brown, chair; KC Elliott; David McCorkell

Guest speakers for monthly regular meetings - Dorte Mobley; Kristina Tornqvist

Membership Directory - Kristina Tornqvist; Sue Glenn

Rebarchek Farm Project - Michael Kircher, chair; Deb & Ken Blaylock

Annual Plant Sale - Deb Blaylock

Palmer Library & Pioneer Home plantings - Sue Glenn, Marge & Curt Mueller

Midsummer Garden & Art Faire - Lydia Wood; Sue Glenn

Summer Garden Tours - Dorte Mobley; Kristina Tornqvist

Alaska State Fair awards - Lydia Wood

State Fair Parade -

Nominations Committee -

2021 Christmas Party -

2022 State Master Gardener Conference Committee

Willing to help on other committees or projects as needed:

Eva Cohnen-Brown

Deb Blaylock

Standing Committee Descriptions:

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.

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

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

Palmer Veterans and Pioneer Home and Palmer Public Library Planting - The committee shall buy plants in accordance with the Association's budget and arrange for a planting date to be announced to the members. If soil in beds needs amending the committee will arrange for amendments to be donated or purchased.

The committee shall arrange for members to donate plants or, if needed, buy plants in accordance with the Association's budget. The Association traditionally does this the second Monday after the Annual Plant Sale. If soil in beds needs amending the committee will arrange for amendments to be donated or purchased.

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Plant Sale - The committee shall:

1. Arrange for location (see below*).
2. Arrange for supplies and advertising.
3. Provide sign-up sheet for sellers during April and May meetings.
4. Get table, chairs, and plant sale signs from the CES office.
5. Oversee operation of the day of sale.
6. Tally yellow plant price labels and help Treasurer with the bank deposit.
7. Assist the Treasurer with payments to members.
8. Give yellow plant labels back to selling members.
9. Coordinate hanging the plant sale signs around Palmer and at the Pavilion.

*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.

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

Webmaster - The Webmaster shall keep the Mat Su Master Gardener web site 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.

Membership Directory - The membership directory committee shall compile, format, submit for printing and distribute the annual yearbook for the members.

Midsummer Garden and Art Faire - The MGAF committee will coordinate with the Palmer Chamber of Commerce regarding MMGA participation, submit an application as required, coordinate with the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center to arrange for publications to display and any other
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items from the MEFEC, coordinate with the MEFEC to pick up the MMGA table and chairs and items from the MEFEC to display, coordinate with MMGA members to staff the table and assist with the set up and take down of the MMGA booth.

Guest Speakers for September thru November and January through May meetings - The committee arranges for guest speakers on educational subjects related to gardening/agriculture/horticulture or other closely related topics. The committee will coordinate with the speakers on what they may need for the presentation - i.e., Audio/Video equipment, computer, or any other special needs for their presentation. In the event we are still under COVID restrictions, the committee will coordinate with Steve Brown to assist with setting up a ZOOM presentation for the Association. The committee will share the ZOOM information to the MMGA email account for further distribution to members and inform the guest speaker of the ZOOM information. The committee will inform the guest speaker that we can pay a stipend to cover their time and expenses.

Meeting Space Coordinator - Coordinate with the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center for meeting space for 2021. If this space is not available, find an adequate space centrally located in the Mat-Su Valley to hold our Monday night regular meetings.

Nominations - The committee will lead the recruitment process for the Board of Directors. Identify volunteers for each of the five Board positions - either incumbents or new volunteers.

Christmas Party - Committee will plan date, time, location, activities, and budget for the Annual Christmas Party. The club usually provides the meat dishes (ham and turkey), and members bring side dishes. Members RSVP to committee. A gift exchange is done after the dinner portion. Members who want to participate bring a wrapped gift. A price limit is usually set on the gift (i.e. \$15) The last few years, we've done the party at Turkey Red in Palmer. They have a banquet/meeting room and provide dinnerware and water/coffee/tea for a small fee.

2021 State Master Gardener Conference Committee - To Be Determined

Thank You

Message: We here at the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension would like to extend a huge Thank You to those who volunteered and assisted in sprucing up our facility this past summer. It is volunteers like you that help keep our facility looking great. It was especially appreciated that it was done during the challenging times of COVID. Have a wonderful Day.
Theresa



Extended Survey for Master Gardener Online Class Interest

Thank you to all who have participated in our Master Gardener class survey. We have had great feedback so far and plan to leave it open until the end of the month! We want to hear from you so we can tailor the class to your needs as best as we can.

We have transferred the questions to a new form and are sharing again so we can continue to collect more responses. Unfortunately, the last survey maxed out (although we are so happy to be hearing from so many of you!) We can no longer receive feedback from the last survey so please only use this new one! Please follow this **NEW** link to take the quick survey if you have not already and would like to: <https://bit.ly/349ucB3>

**Mat Su Master Gardeners Meeting
5 October 2020 Minutes**

Present were Deb and Ken Blaylock, Kristina Tornqvist, Eva Brown, Cathy Crew, Curt and Marge Mueller, Phyllis and Michael Kircher, Dorte Mobley, Greg Lisonbee, Laurel Flynn, and Isaac Vaughan.

At 7 Deb Blaylock welcomed members to the Zoom meeting.

There were no minutes from the last meeting.

Treasurer report was explained by Cathy. The Treasurer report was emailed out to club members.

We still need to have several positions filled - most importantly Vice President and Secretary. Deb said that if we don't get people to volunteer, we will have to dissolve the club. Kristina stepped up as Vice President and Dorte Mobley volunteered to be the Secretary. Sue Glenn has volunteered to be the Member at Large. Deb will compile a list of other positions that still are open. We have volunteers for the following committees: Website, Newsletter, Guest Speakers, Summer Garden Tours, Midsummer Garden and Art Faire, Alaska State Fair Awards, Membership Directory, Palmer Library and Veterans Home Planting, and the Annual Plant Sale (still need a few more for plant sale). We still need someone for the following:

State Fair Parade

Nominations

2021 Christmas Party

2022 State Master Gardener Conference

MG conference is supposed to be held by us next year. Due to coronavirus concerns, it was decided that we will inform Steve Brown that we will not host a conference until either the 2021 fall or spring of 2022. With everyone busy packing things away in the fall, a spring conference is preferred.

Michael Kircher volunteered to be the Rebarcheck coordinator. There was some discussion of getting a fence around the plot. Deb will try to get an estimate for us.

Deb informed us that the 2021 Standing Rules are in the October newsletter for all to see and we will vote on them in November.

October 20 is the deadline for submitting articles for the November newsletter. Submit any changes or corrections to the standing rules as published in the October newsletter by the November newsletter deadline.

The November meeting will be at the Lazy Mountain Bible Church. Eva will be there to help getting in and to the right room. Address is 16005 Shawn Drive (up Clark Wolverine Rd on the left after Bushes and Bunches). Masks are required if folks are able to wear one and to maintain social distances as much as possible. If you're sick, stay home. Jeff Smeenck will present on rhubarb.

Christmas party is cancelled due to covid concerns and the lack of volunteers to coordinate the party.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

After the meeting we watched pictures submitted by Deb, Kristina, Eva and Steve, Lois, and the Muellers. Huge thanks to them for submitting photos.



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

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

2021 MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Membership is \$15 for an annual individual membership or \$20 for an annual family membership. **Family memberships are for family members who reside in the same household.** Memberships are for the calendar year – January through December. Please add matsumastergardeners@gmail.com to your email address book so that club correspondence is not blocked.

Mat- Su Master Gardeners Membership Application:

Please PRINT CLEARLY and complete **all** address fields to ensure that our database is current and accurate. Please indicate if this a

New Annual Individual \$15 membership **OR** a new Annual Family \$20 membership

or if you are **renewing** an individual \$15 membership **OR** a Family \$20 membership

Name (s): _____

Mailing Street Address/PO Box: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Preferred Phone Numbers: Home: _____ **Cell:** _____

E-mail: _____

Gardening information you would like to see in the newsletter or presented at a meeting:

Please select the committees you can help with in 2021: ___ Plant Sale ___ Rebarchek Farm ___
Planting Projects ___ Garden Tour ___ Guest Speakers ___ Midsummer Garden & Art Faire ___
Membership Directory ___ Nomination Committee ___ Parade Participation ___ Christmas Party

Do you consent to having photos of you participating in Association activities posted on the website? Please initial: Yes _____ or No _____

Do you consent to have your phone number and e-mail published in the membership directory? Please initial: Yes _____ or No _____

The newsletter is published monthly and is available to download and print on the association's website: www.matsumastergardeners.com .

Return your payment and the completed application/renewal to:

Mat-Su Master Gardeners
c/o Membership Coordinator
PO Box 598
Palmer, AK 99645

**Visit our website for monthly meeting information
Membership Coordinator – Lenita Deda**

Garden Links (updated Nov 2019)

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

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

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

<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 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/>

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

<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 Data Base

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

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblalock@ak.net
Vice President:	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Carolyn Johnson	619-857-6614
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 send to the MMGA email.

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2020 AND BEYOND

Nov 2, Palmer, Annual MMGA meeting, Dr. Jeff Smeenk, Rhubarb

Dec 7, Palmer, Christmas Party (Cancelled)

JANUARY 2021 AND BEYOND

Jan 4, Palmer, MMGA meeting, TBD

Feb 1, Palmer, MMGA meeting, TBD

Mar 1, Palmer, MMGA meeting, TBD

Apr 5, Palmer, MMGA meeting, TBD

May 3, Palmer, MMGA meeting, TBD

Jun 5, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale

Jun 14, Palmer, Palmer Library Planting

Jun TBD, Palmer, Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home Planting

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, 2020 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 2020



Like us on
Facebook

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

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

