



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

We're down to our last official meeting of the year. November 1st we will gather for our annual meeting. We'll be voting on the 2022 Standing Rules and the 2022 Budget. Both of these were sent to members for comment in October and were discussed at the October meeting. No changes or additions were brought up at that time.

We gave names for all five of our Board/Officer positions. Thank you to all who have stepped forward to lead our small group of merry volunteers! Its always good for a change in leadership as it provides some fresh perspectives on things.

Many of our 2022 committees also need chairs and members. Just as a reminder to folks, committees which do not have chairs will not be completed for 2022. For example, if we don't have a chair for the annual plant sale, we won't have a plant sale for 2022. I highly encourage folks to step up and volunteer for one or more committees. We exist as a club because of our volunteers and without our volunteers, we will cease to function.

We have a motto and theme for our 2022 State Master Gardener Conference, "We Want You! Alaska Master Gardeners" with the theme aimed at gardening basics. Think Rosie the Riveter as a logo model. Any artists out there who would like to design a logo with that theme and design in mind? We hope to entice new gardeners and seasoned gardeners as well with our guest speakers and topics. If you would like to serve on the conference committee, please join us on Nov 1st at 6 p.m. We will have a committee meeting just prior to our Annual Meeting.

Our year ends with our annual Christmas party which will be at Turkey Red in Palmer. We'll discuss this at the November business meeting. For new members, the party includes a pot-luck dinner with meat provided by the club and members bringing a pot-luck dish.

Hope to see you all November 1st!

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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2021, 7 P.M.

LOCATION:

LAZY MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

16005 SHAWN DR, PALMER, AK 99645

<https://goo.gl/maps/DFDjXbs6xddThg8a9>

PLEASE COME EARLY TO HELP WITH SET-UP.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT 7 P.M.

SPEAKER/TOPIC AT 7:30 P.M.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A FALL FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS. THIS CLASS IS FOR THOSE WHO PRE-REGISTERED BY OCT 20TH. FOR THOSE WHO SIGNED UP: BRING A SMALLISH VASE OR CONTAINER AND A PAIR OF SCISSORS OR A KNIFE TO THE MEETING. AN APRON IS DESIRABLE BUT NOT NECESSARY. BE PREPARED TO STAY AND HELP CLEAN UP AFTER OUR ACTIVITY.

NOTE! 2022 STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 6 P.M.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

The Roman god Janus is depicted as facing both forward and back. For our gardening season this is perhaps a proper interpretation of this time of year. We can look back on successes and we hope not too many failures over the past growing season and look forward to what we can do and grow in the next one. It is a relaxing time for outdoor chores right now as the snow is holding off so far on this October day and gardening chores are behind us for the most part.

The peasant is pleased with the progress of his burr oak, just planted in the soil after growing a couple of years in a container. It was laid on its side over winter while in a container and covered lavishly with leaves, especially the root zone. Potted perennials that are allowed to let the roots and soil reach winter air temperatures are likely to suffer if the roots reach a temperature much below freezing. Our soils tend to stay at about the freezing level, so a perennial stands a much better chance of healthy survival once it is planted out. Bare soil will tend to reach air temperature at the surface, but a mulch of leaves, grass, or snow will help mitigate that problem.

The peasant's burr oak made healthy growth of ten plus inches over summer and the leaves began turning color in mid-October; it appears to be

adjusting to our seasons. The top two leaves remained small, but they are also coloring so it is hoped there will be no winter die-back at its growth point. It is to be remembered that it got off to a slow start in spring after being buried in leaves until they thawed enough to liberate the tree and the tree was finally put into the soil.



The peasant's favorite burr oak beginning fall coloration. They are not known for bright color but turn a pleasing yellow-brown then completely brown before they drop. The protective fencing is necessary as it needs to be moose proof. Incidentally, the repellent Plantskydd has worked well for the peasant on common lilacs, but he's taking no chances on moose damage setting back his tree. A few mothballs scattered at the base of the trunk will deter voles. Once the bark roughens, vole and rabbit protection are not needed.

The leaves still remain on the tree, which brings to mind a saying from that part of the country where oaks are predominant species. Attributed to Native Americans, it goes like this: If the oaks hold their leaves over winter it is going to be a cold hard season. Come to think of it, when are our winters not such?

Thanks folks, and like Janus, look back and then look forward.

2022 membership renewal is now open. Use this form to renew - print and mail in your check or bring it with your payment to the November meeting. You can also renew online at: <https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/online-membership-application.html>



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 598, PALMER, AK 99645

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com

Email: www.matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

2022 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 2022: ___ Plant Sale ___ Rebarchek Farm
___ Planting Projects ___ Garden Tour ___ Guest Speakers ___ Midsummer Garden & Art Faire
___ Membership Directory ___ Conference Committee ___ Parade Participation ___ Xmas 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

Stay tuned to the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center Facebook page and website for updates to their scheduled classes.



The Matanuska Experiment Farm & Extension Center
November Theme is: Home Safety
Watch both our Facebook pages at
<https://www.facebook.com/matanuskaexperimentfarm/>
<https://www.facebook.com/MatsuExtension>
for additional safety classes like this one on
Safely Frying a Turkey throughout the month of November

Frying a Turkey Safely
November 2, 2021
12:00 pm

Jodie Anderson, IANRE Interim Associate Director

Frying a turkey safely: It's that time of year when fire departments get ready for increased calls for grease fires due to unsafe turkey frying.
Join Jodie to learn the safe way to end up with a delicious fried turkey for Thanksgiving dinner or anytime!!



**HAVE SCABBY POTATO TUBERS
IN THIS YEAR'S HARVEST?**

The Integrated Pest Management Program at UAF in partnership with the Alaska Plant Materials Center is surveilling the most prevalent species of *Streptomyces* bacteria causing common scab lesions across the state. Send your samples to us and we will get back to you with the testing results.

What is common potato scab?

(<https://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/host-disease/potato-solanum-tuberosum-common-scab>)

Send us two or three representative scabby potatoes to:
UAF CES, 43961 K-Beach Rd, Suite A, Soldotna, AK 99669-9728

Wrap potatoes in DRY paper towels or newspaper and place in a small sturdy box (small flat rate box is recommended) to avoid crushing. Please include your name, email, phone number, location, and variety of potato with your sample. If you are in the Kenai area and would rather drop-off your sample, please call Vicki Heinz at 907-262-3442 to make an appointment.

Garden Tip of the Month



Dorte Mobley sent in this month's tip: When I store pots & buckets of dirt to use next year, I put a plastic bag in between. That way they don't stick together.

2022 STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Please consider which committee you would like to help with for the conference next year. We need your help to make the conference a success. We will have a planning meeting at 6 pm, prior to the November 1st meeting. We need several more volunteers to help with the conference. Please consider attending.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- LOCATION/VENUE
- DOOR PRIZES/AUCTION
- VENDORS
- ADVERTISING/PR
- CATERING/LUNCH
- COFFEE/TEA SERVICE/SNACKS
- SPEAKERS
- GOODIE BAGS/REGISTRANT FOLDERS
- SPEAKER THANK YOU GIFTS
- SET UP/TAKE DOWN
- TABLE DECORATIONS
- PROGRAMS/REGISTRANT NAME TAGS

Anthurium Rescue!

By Master Gardener-in-Training Isaac N Vaughan
Photo submitted by the author

I have a certain Anthurium that I bought from Lowes a few years back marked down from \$25.00 to \$12.50 because it had no blossoms attached. Since it was otherwise healthy, I snatched it up.

At home, after 3-4 months, it started growing again, surprising me with new blossoms. Anthurium andreanum is "more suited to the conservatory than the living room" and "[not] reasonably tolerant of ordinary room conditions" (According to a British houseplant manual, The Houseplant Expert). I give it the same treatment of its nearly indestructible relative, the Spathiphyllum, and it is flourishing with more than a couple blossoms at a time: Water once a week, fertilize 2-3 times a year with something roughly equivalent to 8/16/8, and pot up whenever seriously rootbound.

It is likely that it is a new, hardier hybrid, or maybe just a weird specimen. It may also have something to do with our Alaskan day lengths. Or possibly the humidity of the room. It could be any number of things, but it is by far my favorite flowering houseplant and, interestingly, my healthiest.



**Community Service
Fellowship
Teach Future Generations
Help New Gardeners
Mentorship**



**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION 2022
OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS SURVEY**

Please choose at least one of the duties below in which you would like to either be a Board member or a committee you would like to chair or help with. At the bottom, you can also share any other ideas you might have to help the Association with if it's not listed or to bring to the attention of the current Board of Directors. Thank you!

PLEASE SELECT FROM BELOW WHICH POSITION YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE IN FOR 2022

- ☐ PRESIDENT - filled
- ☐ VICE PRESIDENT - vacant
- ☐ SECRETARY - filled
- ☐ TREASURER - filled
- ☐ MEMBER AT LARGE – filled
- ☐ COMMITTEE - CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS IN THE NEXT SECTION

WHICH COMMITTEE DO YOU VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON?

- ☐ GUEST SPEAKER & MEETING LOCATION COORDINATOR
- ☐ MONTHLY COLUMN FOR THE NEWSLETTER
- ☐ MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
- ☐ REBARCHEK FARM PROJECT
- ☐ ANNUAL PLANT SALE
- ☐ PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PLANTING
- ☐ PALMER VETERANS & PIONEERS HOME PLANTING
- ☐ PALMER MIDSUMMER GARDEN & ART FAIRE – Chair filled
- ☐ 2022 SUMMER GARDEN TOURS
- ☐ ALASKA STATE FAIR AWARDS – Chair filled
- ☐ 2022 ALASKA STATE FAIR PARADE MMGA FLOAT COORDINATOR
- ☐ 2022 STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIR – Chair filled
- ☐ 2022 STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER –
- ☐ 2022 CHRISTMAS PARTY COORDINATOR
- ☐ Other: _____

Please use this space to add any ideas or projects you might have or options for the Board of Directors to consider. Thank you for your time and helping to make our organization better for everyone.

NAME AND CONTACT INFO (please print clearly):

Garden Links (updated Mar 2021)

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Center for Conservation Science

<http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/botany/>

Arbor Day Foundation

www.arboday.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 Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.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/>

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

New

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter *New*

<http://www.alaska.forestry.org/alaska/chapters/cook-inlet>

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 Data Base

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

CLUB CONTACT INFO

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| President: | Deb Blaylock | 746-6045/kdblalock@ak.net |
| Vice President: | Kristina Tornqvist | 795-6393 |
| Secretary: | Dorte Mobley | 232-5422 |
| Treasurer: | Cathy Crew | 632-4401 |
| Member at Large: | Sue Glenn | 671-0252 |

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 2021 AND BEYOND

Nov 1, Palmer, Annual MMGA meeting, Fall Flower Arrangement Class (Must Pre-Register)

Nov 12-14, Anchorage, Alaska Farm Convention and Trade Show, Egan Center,
<https://alaskafb.org/conference/>

Dec 6, Palmer, Christmas Party, Turkey Red Conference Room

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. 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 2021



Like us on
Facebook

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

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

