



President's Patch

By President Dorte Mobley

It is 7 October as I am writing this, and I still have beautiful fuchsias, dahlias, and other flowers blooming. How great is that? Thinking back to last year in September when my husband was informing a new installation commander about how snow was going to fly soon. She did not believe him and then a week later, it snowed.

I am so thankful that winter is waiting a little longer this year – I still have stuff to get packed away and taken care of. Going away for a firefighter conference for a week at the end of September and then teaching and doing school fire safety assemblies is not conducive to getting stuff done around here. Oh well, if the perennials do not get cut down, I guess I can take care of them in the spring. I just do not like grabbing that wet, cold plant material, but I will survive.

We had an interesting talk by Will Criner from the Alaska Botanical Garden last meeting and in spite of having gardened for around 30 years, I still got reminded about a few tidbits of information (I remember hearing it but haven't thought of it lately): When you cut off stalks that are hollow, water can get in there and rot out the root. If you cover your grass with cardboard and piles of leaves, grass, etc., to make a new bed, the cardboard must be wet, or it will not break down. Mowed leaves and grass clippings have perfect nitrogen to carbon ratio. I hopefully will not be needing that last bit of information since I have enough beds, but if a beautiful peony happens to cross my path, I might need it.

And that is all I have for now – it's not raining, so I must get outside and work.

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REGULAR MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY NOV 7TH, 7 PM

LOCATION:

MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM, 1509 S.
GEORGESON DR, MESS HALL BUILDING, PALMER, AK

MEETING AGENDA:

BUSINESS MEETING: 7:00 PM

ACTIVITY/GUEST SPEAKER: 7:30 PM

THIS IS THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING. WE WILL HAVE THE 2023 BUDGET TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS. WE ALSO WE BE VOTING ON NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS/OFFICER AND THE 2023 STANDING RULES.

PLEASE REVIEW THE BIOGRAPHIES OF THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES PROVIDED. CATHY CREW WILL BE STAYING ON AS TREASURER AND DEB BLAYLOCK (PAST PRESIDENT) WILL BE JOINING AS THE MEMBER AT LARGE.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

PHOTO 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 summer's 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.

The peasant ran across this effort from 2017 and thought it fair to run it again since it is five years old. He would like to add some current information on our vegetable storage system.

In a corner of our garage, he built a storage bin in the ancient past. It has survived and serves well. The idea came from a neighbor who built a new house and created a similar system under an entry stairway which would have been unused space.

The storage built by the peasant is 96" long by 30" wide by 24" deep. One side is against

the north wall below grade level and is uninsulated. The other side and ends and covers are insulated with four inches of foam. A loop of two-inch PVC pipe is used to cool the storage bins. One end of the pipe goes through the wall to the outside and the other end terminates in the garage. The outside end is a couple of feet higher than the inside end. The cooler outside air is heavier than the warmer garage air and creates a small flow into the garage through convection. The cool outside air passes first through the storage and cools the bins.



This photo gives you an idea of the construction details. Four inches of foam is a good insulator. The lids are light in weight and can give access to the bin desired without removing the whole top.

The system is put into use when the vegetables are put into storage, at which time the outside temperature is cooling off. With the vegetables in storage a small squirrel cage fan is inserted into the pipe outside, forcing a greater flow to cool off the vegetables and the bins. The fan is removed after the bins have cooled sufficiently and convection takes over.

Continued page 5

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

President: Kevin Johnson

We are the Johnsons—Kevin and Cynthia. Today most of our gardening experience has been limited to buying early from a nursery and nurturing our flowers along in pots or flowerbeds for the summer, with some limited experience with vegetables. We have had our hits and misses as we have experimented with annuals and perennials, soils, and fertilizers. The bonus for our efforts has been a Beautification Award from the City of Palmer for the past two years. The satisfaction of seeing a seed grow into an impressive flower, or edible produce, is indescribable—there is just something about it.

This summer we decided to up our game. Being retired, we thought it was a wonderful time to build a backyard greenhouse and take our dabbling to the next level. By winter we should have our 10x30 structure enclosed, and in the spring, we will have our raised gardening beds in place. The idea of building our own hanging baskets and canning our own vegetables is very appealing. We have stocked up on plenty of gardening books for winter reading but welcome any wisdom or knowledge others must share.

We are extremely excited to be a part of the Mat-Su Master Gardeners group, and look forward to learning, sharing, and getting to know all of you fellow gardeners along the way.



Vice President: Lois Rockcastle

Lois Rockcastle is a Family Nurse Practitioner, working for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation the last 30 years as well as a faculty member for Simmons University. Lois has been a master gardener since 2013. She enjoys growing flowers in her greenhouse all year long as well as some two hundred peony plants and more in the summer. In addition, she has a booth for several weeks at the South Anchorage Farmers Market

as Mountain Haven Flowers. She and her husband, Eric Noble, and their two children live in Eagle River.



Secretary: Jana Gooch

I am Georgiana Gooch. I go by Jana. I am 70 years old. I work as an administrative assistant for Bright Horizon Homes (a residential care facility for the autistic). I have two children who have gifted me with a total of four grandchildren. My husband and I are Missy Gooch's persons (Missy is a Rottweiler). I love canning produce from the garden and tell my grandchildren I am a preservation specialist. I am teaching my Alaskan grandsons many things, including canning, herbalism, how to make salves, and other fun things. I am not a master gardener, but I am a gardener that loves to pick the brains of my bestie, Linda Watson, who is one. My favorite thing to grow is sugar peas. I love eating them off the vine. Attached is a picture of me with the biggest fish I have caught so far this year.



October 2022 MMGA Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Isaac Vaughan, Secretary

Present: Kenneth and Deb Blaylock, Kristina Tornqvist, Dorte Mobley, Georgiana "Jana" Gooch, Will Criner, Isaac Vaughan, Amielyn Vaughan, Sue Glenn, Cathy Crew, Kevin Johnson, Curt and Marge Muller, Michael and Phyllis Kircher, Steven Spurger, Helen Wiggins, Sandra McMillian

Meeting opened by Pres. Dorte Mobley.

Previous Minutes: Kristina Tornqvist motioned to accept; Sue Glenn seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Correction: A plant sale vendor was overpaid by \$1,304.

Holiday Banquet: Marge Muller is organizing, no fresh news. At Turkey Red again?

Newsletter: Deb Blaylock is staying on as the editor/publisher.

Nomination: Kevin Johnson is taking up the position of President. Lois Rockcastle is stepping up as Vice President. Georgiana "Jana" Gooch is stepping up as Secretary, freeing Isaac Vaughan to accept the responsibility of the Master Gardener plot at Rebarchek. Deb Blaylock recorded the following:

- Monthly Newsletter - Deb Blaylock
- Website Manager - Eva Cohnen-Brown
- Guest speakers - Deb Blaylock
- Membership Directory - Kristina Tornqvist
- Rebarchek Farm Project - Isaac Vaughan
- Annual Plant Sale - **Vacant**
- Palmer Library & Pioneer Home planting - **Vacant**
- Midsummer Garden & Art Faire - **Vacant**
- Summer Garden Tours - **Vacant**
- Alaska State Fair awards - Deb Blaylock
- State Fair Parade - **Vacant**
- Nominations Committee - **Vacant**
- 2023 Christmas Party- **Vacant**

Palmer Plantings: Still blooming beautifully, clean up in October? Sue Glenn steps down as (PWIC) but will be available to assist the next nominated.

Rebarchek: UAF got a grant and built accessible raised beds on our plot.

Speaker coordinator: Deb Blaylock says she may be available to take that up but will not do room coordination.

State Fair: All matters settled.

Webpage: Eva Cohnen-Brown not present; nothing new.

Elections in November. Kristina moves to accept standing rules "as is" in newsletter, Sue Glenn seconds. Constance Zellweger volunteered for garden tour organizer – need to confirm.

Eva Cohnen-Brown not present, assumed she will retain position. Steve Brown is improving at home after his recent hospitalizations.

Budget for next year will be settled at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Deadheading by Member Kevin Johnson

I am sure we can all agree that deadheading is a chore. As a disabled veteran with back issues, I can say it is a pain. Every two or three days I go through the flowers and deadhead the spent blossoms. Some of our plants are thick; of course, the ones to clip are in the middle. To minimize back strain, make clean up afterwards a breeze, and eliminate having to look or bend down for a receptacle as I work, I came up with a simple solution:

I get a tall kitchen garbage bag and tuck one side into my waistband, leaving the bag open and easily accessible at waist level. Then with thin shears I can separate the live stems, prune, and place clippings directly into the bag as I work, with little effort. Now, deadheading is more an experience than a chore. Happy deadheading!

Change - for Better or Worse

By Master Gardener Isaac Vaughan

Climate change is real, but is it all as bad as it is talked up to be? There used to be trees on the frozen continent of Antarctica. We could blame climate change on any number of things, but what if climate change were a constant on this planet, and we constantly are shifting to and from hot and cold spells? What if we are recovering from the last ice age, getting warmer and warmer, only to cool down again in a few millennia? In the words of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, "Perhaps change is the only constant." The only thing that will stay the same is that things will change.

Global warming, the rising of temperatures around the globe, has received a bad rap for pushing creatures toward the poles and efficiently endangering wildlife populations. But warm may not be *too* bad... Especially here in Alaska. Warming trends allow for the development of hardy crops for Alaskan food security. The most promising of these include grains, fruit, and tree nuts. Many of us have apple trees in our landscapes, but in the case of a supply line closure or food shortage, what our trees provide will just not be enough. An apple a day may offset our needed nutrition, but it is not a livable diet. If every other household grows as much tree nuts, grains, berries, apples, vegetables, and livestock as they will need (or as space and climate provides), there will be more than enough Alaska-grown food to go around.

As for tree nuts in Alaska, they are still a big question mark.... According to many, it cannot be done. But there are fruiting Siberian stone pines (*Pinus sibirica* - I can get seeds to anyone interested), bur

oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*), butternuts, (*Juglans cinerea*), and even a black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) in Alaska. If Alaskans started propagating these trees (and the climate stays steady), eventually we will have a good, Alaskan source of healthy protein and fat. I personally am growing these, and a few more. Let us start taking steps in the right direction by saving seeds, growing food trees, and spreading the word!

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The PVC pipe is at the back of the storage to allow easy access to the vegetables. At subzero temperatures it may need to be plugged to stop circulation and overcooling.

Temperature is monitored inside the storage and if it drops to 37 degrees F. the pipe is plugged with an old glove to keep the temperature above freezing. Please keep in mind that the pipe intake is on the shaded north side of the garage, a cooler area. Having a loop of pipe gives it a greater area for heat transfer. A couple of photos are included to help explain the system.

Thanks folks.



Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center

**Watch our Facebook and Instagram page
as well as our website for additional info & registration links!**

<https://www.facebook.com/matanuskaexperimentfarm/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MatsuExtension>

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>

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|--------|--|
| Oct 11 | Soil Testing 101 with Bob and Theresa – In Person |
| Oct 18 | Sunny Days: Solar Electricity – SPARK Day – In Person |
| Oct 27 | Firebreath: From Lungs to Campfire – SPARK Day – In Person |
| Nov 1 | Watt’s Up? With Electricity – SPARK Day – In Person |

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The University of Alaska Fairbanks Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center strives to make our programs accessible for all individuals. If you or a family member who is attending a program needs accommodations to participate, please contact our office 5 days in advance to request services. This will give us the opportunity to provide assistance you require. (907)745-3360 or email Theresa Isaac tmisaac@alaska.edu

2023 Mat Su Master Gardener Association Standing Rules Second Draft, November 2022

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 by December 1 for the following calendar year. If dues are paid by January 15, the member will be listed in the membership directory (if they agree.)

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 committee shall prepare the monthly newsletter and send it to the webmaster 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 their mailing address.

Rebarcheck Farm - The committee will make recommendations and submit plans to the MMGA 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 so desired. The committee will coordinate workdays and a location to build the float if needed.

Palmer Veterans and Pioneers 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. The Board of Directors – usually the President - will arrange for the Palmer Downtown Pavilion a year in advance.
2. Arrange for supplies and advertising.
3. Pick up and hang the Association's plant sale signage on fences around Palmer. Also pick up the large sign to hang up on the Pavilion the day of the plant sale.
4. Provide sign-up sheet for sellers at the April and May meetings.

5. Send reminders to members to save boxes for the plant sale.
6. Get the Association's table and chairs from the CES office.
7. Oversee operation on the day of sale.
8. Tally yellow plant price labels and assist the Treasurer in tallying cash receipts.
9. Arrange with Treasurer for checks to be written to selling members.
10. Give yellow plant labels back to selling members.

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. At the conclusion of the Fair, the committee chair will coordinate with the Superintendent to get the winner's name and address for each of the prizes to be awarded. These will be forwarded to the Treasurer who will mail out checks. 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.

Webmaster - The webmaster shall keep the Mat Su Master Gardener website up to date with Association activities and information. The 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 committee shall compile, format, submit for printing and arrange distributing the annual yearbook to members only.

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.

Midsummer Garden and Art Faire – Coordinate with the Palmer Midsummer Garden and Art Faire committee. Gather volunteers to help set up and take down the booth and staff the booth throughout the Faire.

Guest Speakers for September through November and January through May meetings - Coordinate to provide educational presentations for regular meetings.

Meeting Space/Equipment/Zoom Coordinator for September through November and January through May meetings - Determine any requirements the speakers may need – i.e., computer or audio-visual equipment. Coordinate with the UAF-CES folks if audio-visual equipment is needed and/or a Zoom meeting. If Zoom meetings are being held, get the Zoom meeting information to the speaker. Coordinate meeting space (if needed) for regular meetings.

If there are no volunteers to coordinate any committee, the project or committee will not be completed for 2023.

These are the second draft 2023 MMGA Standing Rules. Please review and let us know either by email (matsumastergardeners@gmail.com) prior to the November meeting of anything which needs to be corrected/updated/deleted/added. Thank you!

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 would like to share in the newsletter, please send to the MMGA email.

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2022 AND BEYOND

Nov 7, Palmer, Annual Meeting

Dec 5, Palmer, Christmas Party

Do not 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>

Membership renewal for 2023 is now available on the website!

Renewal is simple – complete the online form and then submit your membership dues using a debit or credit card – all on our website:

<https://www.matsumastergardeners.com/online-membership-application.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, 2023, 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 do not 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 needed 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: 20th day of each month -- Thank you--



November 2022



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
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