



President's Patch

By President Kevin Johnson

The outdoor growing season has ended. Everyone is taking a deep breath and evaluating the great flowers and crops for the past growing year. Many are also thinking, what can I do better next year? Yes, we all do this one time or another. There are many other thoughts that go through our heads, "I'm getting too old for this," "why did I put xxx next to xxx," "I need to find a better seed supplier."

November is elections for Board of Directors/Officers. Please attend and place your name in the pool for a Board position. All positions are available each year. We are also scheduled to review the 2025 standing rules and budget. Following the annual meeting items, there will be the slide show about the fruits of our labor this season. It is always great to see what everyone has done.

December is our annual potluck holiday meal. There will be a White Elephant auction and a potluck with many items made from the vegetables our members have grown. The meat will be purchased by the club and side dishes furnished by members. It is a great event to attend with lots of fun. The White Elephant always produces a laugh or three.

For 2024, the speakers that Jenny arranged were fabulous and with a wide variety. Please watch the newsletter for speakers at next year's monthly meetings. They speak from about 7:30 to 9:00. There have been topics discussed for monthly meetings ranging from best seed

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Meeting	1
2024 MMGA Christmas Party	2
Peasant's Perspective	2
Houseplant Pests and Controls	3
October Meeting Minutes	4
MMGA Membership Renewal for 2025	4
Draft Standing Rules	5/6
Garden Links	7
Contacts	7
Calendar of Events	8

REGULAR MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

NOV 4TH, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

**MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM AND
EXTENSION CENTER,
KERTTULA HALL, ROOM 208, SECOND FLOOR
1509 S GEORGESON DR, PALMER**

AGENDA

**7:00 TO 7:30 PM ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
AND ELECTIONS**

7:30 SPEAKER:

**SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATION OF MEMBER SUBMITTED
PHOTOS FROM THE SUMMER OF 2024**

distributors to ways to expand the June plant sale.

Thank you everyone for your participation.

2024 MMGA CHRISTMAS PARTY



Hi All,

The 2024 MMGA Christmas Party will be at the Turkey Red Conference/Banquet Room on Tuesday, December 3rd. The room opens at 6:00 pm and dinner will begin at 6:30 pm.

The club provides the two meat dishes (turkey and ham). Members are requested to bring a side dish to share. We are looking for volunteers to prepare either the turkey or the ham. Be sure to save your receipt for the purchase for reimbursement. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jana Gooch by phone or text to 907-982-3244 or email to janahelp@sbcglobal.net.

There will be a brief business meeting after we finish eating and then there will be a Dirty Santa gift exchange which is usually lots of fun. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped item with a price limit of no more than \$25. One gift per participant. Please keep the gifts family friendly.

Please join in by wearing as many red items as you can. The person wearing the most red items get a special prize! This should be fun to see how creative we can get.

Family members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Jana Gooch by November 25th. You can call Jana Gooch at 907-982-3244 (or text) or email janahelp@sbcglobal.net.

Sign Up Genius Link for Potluck:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEA82FA3FECF8-52898304-2025#/>



PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE:

BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo by the Author

"Come Fly with Me!"



HOUSEPLANT PESTS AND CONTROLS

Excerpt from: Houseplant Pests and Controls, PMC-10073. Entire publication can be found here:

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/publications/databases/insects-pests/houseplant-pests.php>

There is an increasing interest in the use of foliage plants in our interior living and working environments.

If the indoor environment is regulated and managed for optimum growing conditions, a wide variety of plants can be supported. Environmental conditions also impact the presence and extent of pest problems. Many interior plants are tropical or subtropical in origin and undergo stress when placed in locations where light, temperature or humidity is not optimal.

Plants become more susceptible to insects, diseases, and other types of problems in less-than-ideal growing environments. Because interior conditions may be more suitable for various pests, they can easily multiply and quickly spread from one plant to another. Owners or plant maintenance personnel may encounter new or unusual pest problems that are not often seen in local outdoor plants.

Identification of the pest is the first step in an effective pest prevention and/or control program. Once a positive identification has been made, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program should be developed. The use of pesticides in interior plantscapes (interiorscapes) is often difficult and undesirable because of the proximity to living or working areas. Management of the environment and the use of biological or physical controls are more attractive and can be effective using early detection, close monitoring, and reevaluation.

Living plants incorporate beauty, function, and a sense of calmness into homes and offices. Reducing the impact of pests will ensure the plants continue to add quality to our living environments.

Contents

Diagnosing problems in the interiorscape
 Aphids
 Fungus gnats
 Mealybugs
 Scale insects
 Whiteflies
 Spider mites
 Thrips
 Cyclamen mite
 Occasional pests
 Gray mold (*Botrytis* spp.)
 Powdery mildew
 Water mold rots
 Pythium
 Phytophthora
 Root and stem rots
 Rhizoctonia
 Fusarium
 Fungal leaf spots
 Acremonium
 Alternaria
 Cercospora
 Colletotrichum
 Gloesporium
 Coniothyrium
 Curvularia
 Fusarium
 Helminthosporium
 Leptosphaeria
 Systemic bacterial infections
 Erwinia
 Bacterial leaf spots and wilts
 Pseudomonas
 Xanthomonas
 Virus diseases
 Noninfectious, abiotic plant disorders
 Integrated pest management
 About pesticides
 The pesticide label
 Pesticide formulations
 Five steps to safe use of pesticides
 References
 Sample label

Meriam Karlsson, Professor of Horticulture. Originally written by Wayne Vandre, Extension Horticulture Specialist, Lois Bettini, Land Resource Program Assistant, and Mary Comeau, Agriculture Research Program Assistant.,
 Revised July 2021

MMGA Meeting Minutes Monday, October 7, 2024 Submitted by Secretary Georgiana Gooch

Members present: Georgiana Gooch. David Thompson, Deb Blaylock, Sandy Bohling, Kevin Johnson, Theresa Phillips, Greg Kalal, Todd Weaver, Cathy Crew, Craig Lisonbee. GUESTS: Margaret Leifer, Rebecca Emerson.

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm

May meeting minutes: Jana Gooch motioned that we accept the minutes as written. Craig Lisonbee seconded the motion. The motion passed.

September meeting minutes: There was a correction noted: Deb Blaylock did not offer to put together the PowerPoint for the next meeting. Craig Lisonbee motioned that we accept the minutes with the correction noted. Todd Weaver seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jana Gooch offered to put together the PowerPoint slide show for the next meeting. Everyone who is submitting a picture for the slide show should submit them no later than October 21, 2021, to janahelp@sbcglobal.net.

Kevin Johnson recognized our two guests: Margaret Leifer and Rebecca Emerson. Welcome!

Elections next month: if anyone is interested in holding one of the board positions, please contact Kevin Johnson. Kevin's email address is 907johnsons@gmail.com.

The By-Laws: one of the revisions has to do with the State Fair Parade that will no longer be held before the state fair. Proposed revisions are in the newsletter and the highlighted areas are the proposed changes (or additions). It was suggested that we table the review of the By-Laws until next month. Deb Blaylock moved that we table the By-

Laws to next month and Cathy Crew seconded. Motion passed.

No VP Report today.

Treasurer report by Cathy Crew: This is the first report since June. It was explained that the plant sale expenses were for Square. The 28¢ expenditure was so Cathy could verify that Square will work. State Farm Insurance does not get invoices to the club in a timely manner. State Fair expenses were \$450. There were 81 members in 2024. There are membership forms available on the website at www.matsumastergardeners.com.

No New Business.

We watched a Zoom presentation by Sam Knapp, Offbeet Farms, Fairbanks. The presentation is being recorded and an email will go out to the membership as soon as possible with the link to the meeting. The subject of the presentation was Storing Vegetables Through the Winter. You can view Sam's website at www.offbeetalaska.com. Also, Sam has written a book, "Beyond the Root Cellar" and can be preordered at www.growingformarketing.com/store.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm

MMGA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2025

Many thanks to our 2024 members! We hope you enjoyed the monthly presentations and other club activities. We look forward to another great year of guest speakers and club activities.

The 2025 MMGA Membership Form is now available for you to renew your membership. You can download a form from the webpage – please print it out and mail it in or bring it to a meeting. You can also use the convenient online renewal form and payment. Thank you for renewing early!

2025 Mat Su Master Gardener Association Standing Rules

Draft September 2024

NOTE: Suggested changes were compiled from notes taken from meetings throughout the year by Deb Blaylock. Kevin Johnson added new addition regarding social media and email.

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. If dues are paid by the February meeting, 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.

Social Media/Email Account: Minimum of three members have access to all Mat Su Master Gardener social media and group email accounts.

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. **The deadline to submit items for the newsletter will be the 20th of each month. The July and August newsletters will be combined into one newsletter.**

Rebarchek Farm – The committee will make recommendations and submit plans to the MMGA members for approval and participation. **This project will be the focus of the June meeting in lieu of the Palmer Library project. The meeting will take place on the second Monday of June at the MMGA plot on the Rebarchek Farm. The committee shall buy plants or other needed supplies in accordance with the annual budget for the project. The committee will coordinate a weeding and maintenance schedule with Association members which will be published in the newsletter and website.**

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. **(Remove or do we want to do Colony Days or Christmas parade? In the past we have participated in the Colony Christmas parade.)**

Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home (PVPH) and a project to be determined – 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 planting on the first Monday in June; however, due to the closure of the building, another project will be determined for the June meeting.** The committee will coordinate a weeding schedule with Association members which will be published in the newsletter and on the website.

Plant Sale – **The plant sale happens on the weekend after the Memorial Day holiday.** 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.
11. Set up an informational table about the Association.

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. Traditionally, the summer garden tours have been in the months of July and/or August.

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. Deadline to join is the February 2025 meeting.

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. This project is subject to the event happening in 2025.

Guest Speakers for January through May and September through November meetings - Coordinate to provide educational presentations for regular meetings. Provide a written synopsis of the presentation to the newsletter editor for publication. Speaker stipend will be \$75 for 2025. – one per meeting. If a speaker declines their stipend, the money will stay in the educational/community resource fund balance.

Meeting Space/Equipment/Zoom Coordinator for January through May and September through November 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 and the newsletter editor for distribution to members well in advance of the meeting. 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 2025.

Garden Links (updated March 2024)

Alaska AgrAbility Program ****New Mar 2024****

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/agrability/index.php>

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

Alaska Community Forestry

<https://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index>

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 Native Plant Society

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

Alaska Non-Native Species List

<https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/invasive-species/non-native-plant-species-list/>

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/>

Flora of North America

<http://floranorthamerica.org/>

Good Earth Garden School

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

Georgeson Botanical Garden

<https://georgesonbotanicalgarden.org/>

iNaturalist *****New May 2024*****

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

Integrated Pest Management Program

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

IPM Alaska Pest Reporter

<https://plw.man.mybluehost.me/>

Junior Master Gardener

<http://www.jmgkids.us/>

Landscape Plants for Alaska

<https://visionplusapps.com/alaska-plants/>

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)

<https://extension.org/search/>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

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

Mat-Su/Copper River Cooperative Extension Service

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

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Services

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

National AgrAbility Program ****New Mar 2024****

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation District

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter

<https://forestry.org/cook-inlet-seedling-sale/>

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 Herbarium

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

UAF Alaska Master Gardener Program

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/mastergardeners/>

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Database

<https://plants.usda.gov/home>

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

<https://wildflowergardenclub.org/>



BOARD OF DIRECTOR CONTACT INFO

President:	Kevin Johnson	907 775 2808
Vice President:	Jenny Weaver	907-982-5446
Secretary:	Jana Gooch	907 746-2891
Treasurer:	Cathy Crew	907-632-4401
Member at Large:	Deb Blaylock	907-746-6045

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 2024 AND BEYOND

Nov 4, Palmer, Annual Meeting/Elections, Members' Photo Garden Tour, and Summer Activities Recap

Dec 3, Palmer, Christmas Party, Turkey Red

Jan 6, Palmer, Regular Meeting, David Ianson, Mycorrhiza

May 16-18, 2025, Juneau, State Master Gardener Conference

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 **February 3, 2025**, 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 2024



Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
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PALMER, AK 99645

