



Oct 2019



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

Fall is officially in the air and the termination dust is moving down the mountains. Its time to get those fall chores done in preparation for freezing temperatures and Mother Nature's lovely mulch, snow. We've made some headway in fall yard prep but still have lots to do. It seems when one thing is taken off the list, two or three things are added. The garlic beds are prepped and waiting for a hard frost and sunny day to finish planting.

On my list is to take some soil samples from my potato beds to send to a soil laboratory to find out how the pH is as well as baseline nutrients like nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus. I'll take about 6 representative samples from the two potato planting areas (I rotate beds every year). These will go into two buckets and come into a warm area in the house to dry. Sticks and rocks and other large organic matter will be removed. Once dry, I'll package them in some sturdy zip lock bags and send them to an out of state soil testing laboratory.

The Cooperative Extension Service has publications on how to take soil samples if you need more detail. You can find more information on soils at their webpage, <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/soil/>. There is a link to taking a soil sample as well as choosing a soil testing laboratory. The site also has information on fertilizer recommendations, managing Alaska soils, and even composting. Be sure and check it out! Fall is the perfect time to do your soil samples and get ready for next year's gardening season.

A big shout out to the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center for opening their doors and allowing us to have our monthly meetings at their facility. It is more centrally located for many of our members, with easy access for those who may be commuting from Eagle River or other areas.

Nearly half of our committee positions are filled but we need a few more folks to volunteer to help out. Two positions which we need soon is the Guest Speaker committee and the position of Secretary for the officers/board of directors. Please consider gathering together a friend or two and volunteering to find some good program ideas for the upcoming year.

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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!!

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

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

SPEAKER/TOPIC

BUSINESS MEETING - 7-7:30 PM

GUEST SPEAKER - 7:30 - 8:30 PM

PAUL MAMORA OF THE COOK INLET BONSAI
STUDY GROUP WILL GIVE A PRESENTATION
ON BONSAI.

The draft 2020 standing rules are published in this newsletter. Please review them before the next meeting. We will be discussing them as well as the 2020 budget. See you at the October 7th meeting!

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos submitted by the author

Summer brought a mix of good and bad, and most of us would probably prefer some of the cool damp summers we've had in the past. For those who lost homes and valued possessions it was a tragedy for certain. None of us really enjoyed the heat and smoke and drought. How welcome are the autumn rains we are now experiencing? What is coming next, we might ask?

For those of us who were able to keep things watered, garden yields responded well to the warmth. Without water, many crops withered and produced poorly or not at all. Areas where subsoil moisture is plentiful were able to produce good crops of berries or tree fruit. Deep rooted plants fared well, and it became evident which ones were able to reach moisture at greater depths. Gardening will always be a learning venture.

Strawberries were very productive for Marge and the peasant this year. For one, they survived the winter well, so instead of replanting to grow as annuals we were able to tend the survivors. With enough water they produced an abundance of berries of high quality and flavor. Winter kill on strawberries is usually high in the raised beds where we grow them. Therefore, we had been growing them as annuals, replacing with new plants each year. With day neutral strawberries the first flush of blooms from bare root plants will produce a small crop and subsequent production can be outstanding with quality berries.

The development of day neutral berries has been a real boon to Alaska strawberry growers. The peasant has been asked many times what is meant by the term "day neutral." Most Master Gardeners understand that typically strawberries set flower buds during decreasing day length. June bearing varieties set buds within the plant in late summer and bear one heavy crop the following summer. Everbearing varieties such as Ozark Beauty bear a crop in early summer and set buds again as the daylength decreases, bearing a second crop in late summer. Day neutral varieties set buds throughout the growing season, allowing them to produce a constant crop of berries. They are not

dependent on decreasing daylength. There are several varieties of day neutral strawberries which produce excellent crops in our growing season.

June bearing and everbearing types of strawberries may suffer winter damage in our climate. The more desirable varieties are often less hardy in that regard. It can result in a severe or complete crop loss. Hence the reason for growing day neutral types as annuals or being prepared to replace those plants which were stunted or killed by winter exposure.

Growers of day neutral strawberries have no doubt observed the great flush of berries set in early autumn after the weather has become too cool to produce good berries. They must have retained a tendency to set buds on decreasing day length. It is unfortunate that we no longer have the warmth and long sunshine that help produce the sweet and tasty berries during high summer. The autumn berries have lost most of that quality, plus rain and cool temperatures cause considerable rot even in berries that don't touch the soil. The photo shows typical fall berries with the ripening ones being oversize and more berries coming on. They don't want to quit, it seems, but the first frost will stop all new berry production.

Thanks, folks.



These are typical fall berries. Many will be extra-large with a white core. It's a bit sad to see all the berries setting and knowing that they'll never be edible. The variety is Albion. Other varieties behave in a similar way. Containers moved into a greenhouse might help extend the season.

2020 Committees

Monthly Newsletter - Deb Blaylock

Website manager - Eva-Cohnen-Brown

Guest speakers - **Vacant**

Membership directory - Sue Glenn

Grants/Scholarships - **Vacant**

Rebarchek Farm project - Michael Kircher, chair?

Annual Plant Sale - **Vacant**

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

Midsummer Garden & Art Faire - **Vacant**

Summer Garden tours - **Vacant**

Alaska State Fair awards - Deb Blaylock

State Fair Parade - **Vacant**

2019 Christmas Party - Marge Mueller and Deb Blaylock

Secretary/Board of Directors - **Vacant**

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

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

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

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

matsumastergardeners@gmail.com.

ALASKA STATE FAIR PARADE FLOAT

Congratulations to Curt Mueller and crew for winning the Community Service Organizations category in the 2019 Alaska State Fair Parade. This year's theme was "Crazy Good." Curt expanded that theme into, "Gardening is Crazy Good!"

The riders on the float were friends of the Muellers' daughter, Marta, who helped finish up the float. The riders were Shannon Oelkers and her two sons Soren and Hakon Oelkers. Chuck and Lenita Deda loaned the trailer. Sarah Conkey did most of the artwork. Marge was a big help as well. Dawn Wolski (another Mueller daughter) helped with final assembly. It just worked out to be a family project.

Here's a photo of Curt towing the float with his great looking Farmall tractor:



Photo courtesy Dawn Wolski

The centerpiece of the float, the scarecrow, proudly wearing the first-place ribbon the float won. Looks pretty sharp!



Photo courtesy Curt Mueller

**Minutes of the 9-9-2019
Mat Su Master Gardener Meeting
Submitted by Secretary Dorte
Mobley**

Meeting was called to order by Deb Blaylock

Treasurer report was given by Cathy Crew and accepted without questions. We currently have 61 members. We have \$6,119.41 in available funds and \$7,744.72 in checking. The board is working on a draft budget for next year. It will be presented in October and voted on in November. Discussion to include raising the dues. Board recommends donating \$1,000 to Experiment Farm to spend it on trees and trails. Motion by Dorte was seconded and passed.

May minutes were in June newsletter and accepted as written.

Speakers for the next meetings are:

October Paul Mamora on Bonsai

November Jan Newman on Grow
Palmer

Marge suggested that we clean the beds at the Pioneer Home in the fall. Deb will send out an email with the date when Marge lets her know.

Our float in the State Fair Parade got a blue ribbon thanks to Curt and his helpers.

People need to submit articles for the newsletters.

Plant sale next year will be on May 30. We already have reserved the pavilion.

We need committee chairs for all the activities for next year.

MTA is not allowing groups to meet in their building in Palmer so for now we will meet at the Matanuska Experiment Farm on Georgeson Rd.

November is elections. We will need a new secretary. Rest of board is staying on for another year.

No action on the 501 (c) at this time. Deb is working with State Farm Insurance to get a quote for Board of Director insurance.

The 2020 budget will be presented at the October meeting and voted on at the November meeting. The board is recommending raising the dues to \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family membership.

The 2020 draft standing rules will be published in the October newsletter with discussion at the October meeting. They will be voted on at the November annual meeting.

Next meeting is October 7.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.



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

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

Amendments:

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

Dues:

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

Expenditures:

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

Plant sale:

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

Standing Committees:

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

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

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

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

Plant Sale - The committee shall:

1. Arrange for location (see below*)
2. Arrange for supplies and advertising (see below **)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crops Department

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

Flowers Department

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

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

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

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

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

Charitable Organizations to Donate Extra Garden Produce

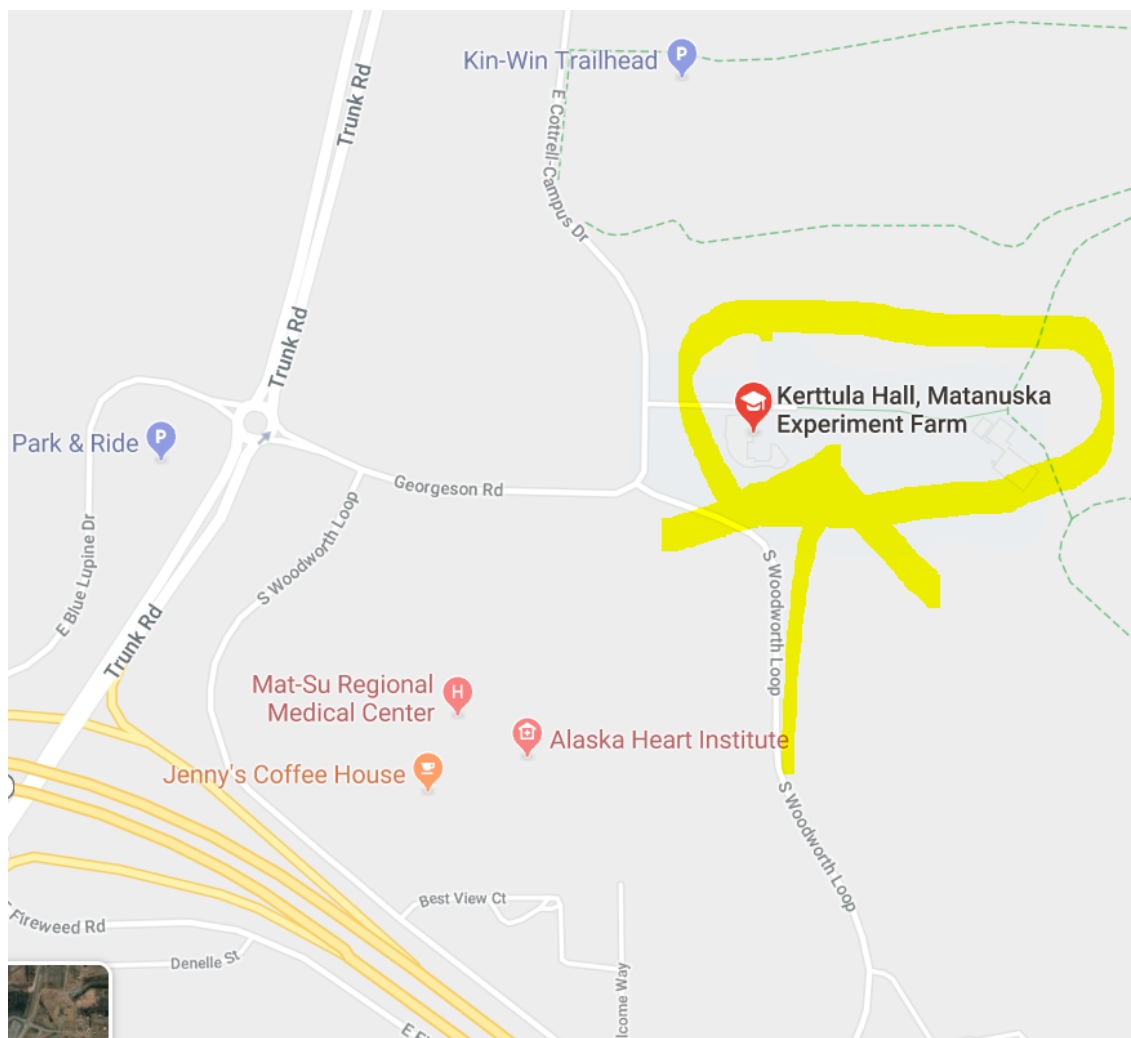
It's that time of year when we have extra veggies and might be looking for a good organization to donate to. This is a list from our Facebook Group. If you know of an organization which isn't listed, you may send an email to matsumastergardeners@gmail.com and we will add it the list. Thank You!

- Mat-Su Senior Services, 1132 S. Chugach Street, Palmer, Alaska 99645. Website: <http://www.matsuseniors.com/>
- Mat-Su Food Bank, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 501 E Bogard Rd, Wasilla, AK 99654. (907) 357-3769; Website: www.matsufoodbank.org; Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-1pm
- Kids Kupboard, 3700 E Bogard Rd., Wasilla, Alaska, (907) 360-9476, Website: <http://www.kidskupboard.org/index.html>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kids-Kupboard-1533857823595450/>
- Lutheran Social Services of Alaska-Direct Services, 1303 W 33rd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99503, Website: <https://www.lssalaska.org>
- Food Bank of Alaska, 2121 Spar Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501, (907) 272-3663
- Catholic Social Services, 3710 E 20th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508, (907) 222-7300
- Wasilla Area Seniors, 1301 S. Century Circle, Wasilla 99654, 907-376-3104, Website: <https://www.facebook.com/WasillaAreaSeniorsInc/>
- Palmer Food Bank, 221 South Valley Way, Palmer 99645, (907) 746-3565
- Frontline Mission 2001 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Wasilla, AK, (907) 357-8600
- St. Francis House Food Pantry, 3710 E 20th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508, (907) 222-7323 (front desk), Chris Kukay, Program Director, ckukay@cssalaska.org, Website: <https://www.cssalaska.org/our-programs/st-francis-house/>
- The Alaska Zoo, 4731 O'Malley Rd, Anchorage, AK, 99507, (907) 346-2133, Website: <https://www.alaskazoo.org/food-donations>
- Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Mile 79 Seward Highway Portage, Alaska 99587, (907) 783-0058, email them at: donations@alaskawildlife.org, Website: <https://www.alaskawildlife.org/support/wish-list/>

NEW MEETING LOCATION

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

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



Garden Links

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

Arbor Day Foundation

www.arborday.org

Alaska Division of Agriculture

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>

Alaska Farm to School

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

Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

Alaska Grown Source Book (online)

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/sourcebook/sourcebookindex2016.html>

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

Alaska Master Gardener Blog

<https://alaskamastergardener.community.uaf.edu/>

Alaska Native Plant Society

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

Alaska Orchid Society

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

Alaska Peony Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.org>

Alaska Peony Society

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

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rhodiola **New**

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Good Earth Garden School

<http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

Grow Palmer

<http://growpalmer.org/>



Integrated Pest Management Program

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

Junior Master Gardeners

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

Landscape Plants for Alaska

www.alaskaplants.org

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

<http://www.matsugov.us/environment/raingardens>

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

www.matsumastergardeners.com

Master Gardener Research Link

<http://search.extension.org>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Association

<http://seak-mastergardeners.org/index.html>

Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ah/sare/>

UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Palmer

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

UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/pubs/catalog/>

UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF Herbarium

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

UAF School of Natural Resources & Extension

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

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblayment@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Dorte Mobley	232-5422
Treasurer:	Cathy Crew	632-4401
Member at Large:	Marge Mueller	745-6144

If you have gardening news, photos or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please contact Deb Blaylock at her email: kdblayment@ak.net

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2019

Oct 7, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, Paul Mamora, Cook Inlet Bonsai Study Group, Bonsai Presentation

NOVEMBER 2019 AND BEYOND

Nov 3, Daylight Savings time ends

Nov 4, Palmer, MMGA Annual Meeting and Jan Newman, Grow Palmer

Dec 2, Palmer, MMGA Annual Christmas Party

Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$12. Family memberships are only for family members living in the same household. The deadline to join is January 15, 2019 to be listed in the annual membership directory.

Join or renew online

Thank you

How and What to Submit for the Monthly Newsletter

Your submissions are greatly appreciated and make our newsletter what it is - so don't be shy about submitting items for publication.

However, there are a few rules which we all must pay attention to:

Articles, stories, poetry, upcoming events, and pictures (garden-related) are gladly accepted for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit pictures in JPEG format and other items in Word format with no special formatting other than paragraphs. When submitting pictures, please provide a brief caption or explanation as to who or what is in the picture. I do not have a scanner to copy pictures, so I cannot accept hard copies.

If you are not the author or photographer, please ensure you have permission of the author or photographer to use their material in the newsletter. The newsletter publisher is not responsible for obtaining this for you.

Please do not provide magazine articles or pictures from the internet unless they are public domain items.

Deadline for submission of articles and info: 20th day of each month -- Thank you--



October 2019



Like us on
Facebook

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

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

