



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

I'm not going to write much.

We need several folks to volunteer and step up to be the President, Vice President and Secretary for 2021. We do have one person for the Member at Large vacancy.

If no one steps up, we will have to look at how to dissolve the Association. We cannot continue to be an organization without a Board of Directors.

The proposed standing rules for 2021 are attached. As soon as Cathy Crew sends me the 2021 budget, I will be sending that out for review. We will be discussing both at the October meeting which will be a Zoom meeting. The final vote on those will be before the November meeting – which will also be a Zoom meeting. A form will be emailed for you to vote on the proposed 2021 standing rules and budget. Any volunteers for the Board of Directors will be on that form as well.

It doesn't look promising for having a Christmas Party meeting at this point. But if someone wants to step up and volunteer to take the lead, maybe it could still happen.

Anyone interested in becoming a Board of Directors member or taking the lead on the Annual Christmas Party, send an email to matsumastergardeners@gmail.com.

Our October meeting will be via Zoom. We will have a discussion on what went well or didn't for our 2020 gardening year. Please send in a few photos of your yard, garden, orchards, flowers, veggies, fruit, etc. Please provide a brief description of each photo sent in. If you have any gardening questions, we'll try to answer those as well. We'll fit as much as we can into the time we have (about 45 minutes).

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far.

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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, OCT 5TH, 2020, 7 P.M.

LOCATION:

ONLINE ZOOM MEETING. INFORMATION WILL BE EMAILED OUT WITH THE LINK AND CALL-IN PHONE NUMBERS.

BUSINESS MEETING AT 7 PM, FOLLOWED BY A MEMBER/ATTENDEE DISCUSSION WITH Q/A.

SPEAKER/TOPIC

THE OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE A COMPILATION OF GARDEN PHOTOS AND/OR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE 2020 GARDEN SEASON. PLEASE EMAIL PHOTOS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE FROM YOUR 2020 GARDENS, ORCHARDS, GREENHOUSE, ETC. PLEASE INCLUDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH PHOTO.

IF YOU HAVE GARDEN QUESTIONS, YOU CAN EMAIL THOSE IN FOR DISCUSSION. PLEASE TRY AND INCLUDE DETAILS AND PHOTOS IF NECESSARY.

EMAIL PHOTOS AND QUESTIONS NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD TO matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photo submitted by the author

Autumn is upon us, and we're still experiencing nights without frost, although we had a few of those a couple of weeks ago and without a doubt we'll be getting some again soon. Some of us may have had a killing frost, but on Lazy Mountain it was very light and didn't touch the dahlias or strawberry blossoms. At our elevation on Lazy Mountain the first frosts are usually lighter than those experienced near the river bottomland. It has to do with cold air sinking from gravity's effect. Typically, there comes a frost and then a period of milder weather such as we're having now. As of today, the 21st, there is a bit of snow at about 4,000 feet.

Most garden stuff has done well this year. The peasant has yet to harvest potatoes, carrots, parsnips, and some others. Broccoli still keeps producing satellite heads. Late cabbage has formed large heads. Extra carrots and cabbage will go to the food bank and still leave us plenty for storage. We store carrots in our makeshift potato bin. We've found they store well in clean sand and will keep into May.

Our grower of certified seed potatoes, Greg Kalal, should have a good crop this year. Our favorites are Shepody, German Butterball, and Nordonna. Greg has many varieties; enough to please everyone. One that is a bit of a novelty is Fiesta. It is quite beautiful with red and yellow mottled color and produces well.

It's time to get things harvested and gardening tools put away for the winter. A word of caution here. Disconnect hoses from their spots when a frost threatens. Spigots can freeze and burst and if they come out of a house wall replacement can be difficult and costly.

It is the peasant's hope that all had a good growing season.



This photo was taken September 16 after several mornings of light frost. Surrounding the potato fork is the Fiesta variety of potatoes. The vines continue to grow and spread and blossom. There are still some flowers visible in the photo. The dahlias behind the spuds were severely crowded by the Fiesta potatoes. They still haven't frozen as of September 21. Other potato varieties have completed their growing season and the vines have begun to lose their green color.



Fiesta potatoes. The interior of the potatoes colored the same as the skin for some distance. The potatoes vary in size, probably because of the growth habit of the vines which never seem to stop growing. Crop yield is actually quite heavy if the plants are allowed to grow full season. Planting was done about May 15. These were harvested in mid-September.

Thanks, folks.

Draft 2021**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 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 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 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 work-days 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. 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.

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4. Provide sign-up sheet for sellers at April and May meetings.
5. Send reminders to members to save boxes for the plant sale.
6. Get table and chairs from the CES office.
7. Oversee operation of 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. 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 web site 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 man the booth throughout the Faire.

Guest Speakers for September through November and January through May meetings. Coordinate with a variety of individuals to provide educational presentations for regular 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. If Zoom meetings are being held, get the Zoom meeting information to the speaker.

Meeting Space Coordinator – Coordinate meeting space (if needed) for regular 2021 meetings.

NEW - If there are no volunteers to coordinate any committee, the project or committee will not be completed for 2021.

Garden Links (updated Nov 2019)

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

Arbor Day Foundation

www.arborday.org

Alaska Division of Agriculture

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

Alaska Farm to School

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

Alaska Garden Clubs

<http://www.alaskagardenclubs.org>

Alaska Grown

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

Alaska Grown Source Book (online)

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

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

Alaska Master Gardener Blog

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

Alaska Native Plant Society

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

Alaska Orchid Society

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

Alaska Peony Growers Association

<http://alaskapeonies.org>

Alaska Peony Society

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

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rhodiola

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Good Earth Garden School

<http://ellenvandevisse.com/>

Grow Palmer

<http://growpalmer.org/>



Integrated Pest Management Program

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

Junior Master Gardener

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

Landscape Plants for Alaska

www.alaskaplants.org

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

www.matsumastergardeners.com

Master Gardener Research Link (Extension)

<http://search.extension.org>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners Association

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

Sustainable Agriculture – UAF

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

UAF Cooperative Extension Service

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

UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications

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

UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

<https://pestreporter.alaska.edu/>

UAF Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF Herbarium

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

UAF Alaska Master Gardener Program

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

UAF School of Natural Resources & Extension

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

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

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

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Deb Blaylock	746-6045/kdblalock@ak.net
Vice President	Gregory Kalal	339-1966
Secretary:	Carolyn Johnson	619-857-6614
Treasurer:	Cathy Crew	632-4401
Member at Large:	Marge Mueller	745-6144

If you have gardening news, photos, or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please send to the MMGA email.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2020 AND BEYOND

Oct 5, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Member Garden Discussion and Q & A (Zoom meeting)

Nov 2, Palmer, Annual MMGA meeting, Dr. Jeff Smeenk, Rhubarb, (Tentative Zoom meeting)

Dec 7, Palmer, Christmas Party (Tentative)

Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$15 and family memberships are \$20. Family memberships are only for family members living in the same household. The deadline to join is January 15, 2020 to be listed in the annual membership directory.

Join or renew online

Thank you

How and What to Submit for the Monthly Newsletter

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

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

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

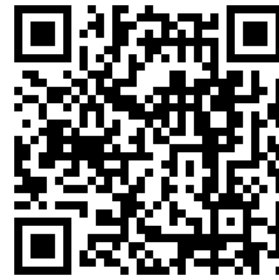
If you are not the author or photographer, please ensure you have permission of the author or photographer to use their material in the newsletter. The newsletter publisher is not responsible for obtaining this for you.

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

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



October 2020



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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
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