



President's Patch

By President Kevin Johnson

Well, the end of the outdoor growing season is here. This year was very wet, and I heard many gardeners complain their plants were about a month behind. Facebook is good and bad as I take pictures each year and for 2021 and 2022, the blooms were beautiful, but this year had no blooms at that time. Of course, a month later, I had beautiful blooms and plants everywhere. Then in June, more rain, and winds. For 2024, making some changes and utilizing more of our completed greenhouse. Soon will be time to order seeds and other supplies. Catalogs are arriving in mass.

I have utilized a few applications for the phone to assist my identification and needs of new plants of ours. The best I found is Picture This. It's made by Glority LLC, with its primary purpose to identify plants. You take a picture, and it names the plant. Out of the maybe 40 plants I "identified" to test, all were correct but one. I then retook the picture at a different angle and it was identified correctly. This has worked well throughout the spring and summer.

I hope many had the opportunity to attend the Rebarchek Harvest Days. It was held on Saturday, September 23. The Antique Power Club provided demonstrations and activities for all ages.

Want to show off your gardening activities? September 30 is the deadline for Deb to create a slide show. She asks for no more than 10 photos per household. If you headed up an event for MMGA, provide pictures of the event and background. This is the time for us to show our activities.

Our October meeting will be a bit busy with the slide show, then going over the budget

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REGULAR MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 2, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM AND EXTENSION CENTER, KERTTULA HALL, "BLUE ROOM"
1509 S GEORGESON DR, PALMER

MEETING ACTIVITY:

MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR AND MMGA SUMMER ACTIVITIES SLIDE SHOW (SEE PAGE 3)

and standing rules for 2024. Also, if you have a sampling of your gardening to serve to other members, that will also be done at the October meeting. Please bring utensils to serve and a plate and utensils to eat with.

We look forward to seeing everyone's pictures of their gardens at the next meeting.

See everyone in October.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE:

BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

We have certainly had a different summer, as evidenced by its effect on some of the peasant's trees and I expect other people's as well. Spring came late and then much cool weather and overcast with minimal sun. We had a brief respite in early August which appears to have triggered an interesting effect on the peasant's bur oak. At the end of August, a growth spurt took place on the tree. Surely this is going to have an adverse effect when it's time for it to leaf out next spring.

Some photos will be included here with captions explaining what they're about.

Thanks, folks.



Photo 1

Aug 29, 2023

Photo 2

Sep 25, 2023

Photo 1. This photo was taken August 29, 2023. It shows a spurt of new growth on the peasant's bur oak. It was likely triggered by a two-week period of good weather at the beginning of August and is not typical. The pale-yellow green is the growth spurt.

Directly below it is the darker green normal growth which ended in June. That ended in a cluster of buds which leafed out and produced a new stem in August but should have remained in the bud stage until spring of 2024. Growing conditions this late in the season will probably not allow the August growth to mature. It will most likely die back to the nearest viable bud on the June growth. All branches on the tree developed the growth spurt. If there is no viable bud on the June growth that will probably die back as well.

Photo two. This photo was taken September 25 of the same branch as in photo one. You can see that it has made some progress in that period of time but not much. It is unlikely to produce any buds this late in the season, so this growth is expected to completely die back on this branch and similar late growth on the rest of the tree. The peasant keeps his hopes up.

Continued on page 3.

Some Gardening Grammar

Stock or Stalk - They Sound the Same - Butt...

How many of you put celery stocks in your soup? This time of year, many a gardener turned hunter, are out stocking those moosies. (Dastardly devils who ate our gardens this summer) Should we even mention the stalk market?? I think that is a topic none of us want to really think about these days. But - are we using incorrect words (homonyms sound the same, are sometimes spelled the same, or can have different spelling, but have different definitions)?

The correct wording is to use celery stalks in your soup, hunters stalk the moose and investors check the stock market. Maybe we should take stock of the use of the word butt; but is the conjunction (conjunction junction - get that song out of your head) to use - not the noun, butt.

October Meeting Activity

Members and Committee Chairs are invited to share up to 10 photos of their yards, gardens, or garden related activities this past summer. Please email your photos with a brief caption for each photo to:

matsumastergardeners@gmail.com. I have to warn you, if no one sends in photos - you may end up with a slide show of Deb's choosing! (Remember those old boring vacation slides your not-so-favorite uncle would share?)

Everyone is also invited to bring a small snack to share. It should be from something you grew or made this summer. Please bring a serving container and utensil for your shared item and your own plate and utensils for eating samples. You may also want to bring your own beverage.

Photo 3. This photo is to demonstrate how unusual our summer was. These crabapples are half the size of normal, and still not mature. The same is true of other bearing fruit trees. Cool temperatures and overcast skies as the fruits were developing definitely set them back. Also, at the time pollination should have been occurring, cool and rainy weather kept the pollinators away. This tree is losing its leaves now, with abscission being aided by morning frosts. These tiny crabapples are favorites of waxwings, pine grosbeaks and spruce grouse during winter and robins and other birds before migration. Marge and the peasant have more than a dozen of these trees. They were purchased in 1983 from Gurney's seed catalog which advertised hardy apples, 25 for \$11.95. How could anyone resist such an offer? They arrived as tiny six-inch bare root seedlings. All survived. The one in the photo is now a thirty-footer. All bloom and bear each year, some with white and some with pink flowers. Fruit is held all winter. Yes, they are hardy, but apples? That could be a bit of a stretch.



Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center CLASSES
Watch our Facebook and Instagram pages
as well as our website for additional information & registration links

September 13	Food Storage and Store Grain -Pest Prevention
September 19	Freeze Drying Basics
September 25	Gardening and Food Security
September 28	Ornamental Invasive Plants to Avoid and Some Alternative Options
October 2	Food Preservation Basics
October 3	Certified Food Protection Manager Training
Oct 3- Nov 7	Local Food Leader Courses
October 7	Canning and Preserving Meat (ADF&G-BOW Class)
October 11	Diabetes Prevention Program
October 16	Canning Foods
November 7	Eat Your Weeds
November 16	Invasive Bird Cherry and their Toxicity to Moose

Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request to amorris2@alaska.edu. UAF is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, educational institution and provider and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

SAVE YOUR SEEDS!

for the
2023 Alaska Native Plant Society
Seed Collection & Distribution Program

Our annual program will include an in-person pickup & educational event in early December!

People who...

- Donate Alaska native seed collected in 2021-2023
- Drop off the seeds by Oct. 15

Will qualify for...

- First dibs & extra seed packets!



Requirements: Drop off seed in bulk paper envelopes or small seed packets that are clearly marked with common & scientific name & year collected.
Optional: Include borough where seeds were collected & if seeds were wild collected or garden propagated.

Drop-off locations available in Anchorage & Wasilla.
Contact seeds@aknps.org for further instructions.

MMGA Meeting - Monday, September 11, 2023
Submitted by Secretary Georgiana (Jana) Gooch

Members present:

David Thompson	Sandy Bohling
Marge Mueller	Deb Blaylock
Curtis Mueller	Ken Blaylock
Dawn Wolski	Kevin Johnson
Georgiana Gooch	Bob Van Veldhuizen
Craig Lisonbee	Cathy Crew
Mary Lisonbee	Kathryn Kalal
Deb Benson	Gregory Kalal

Meeting opened at 7:02 pm

Ken Blaylock motioned to approve last month's meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Kevin Johnson discussed the disappointing gardening weather we had this summer, then reviewed the events the MMGA was involved in during the past 8-9 months:

-We planted and maintained the flower beds at the Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home.

-The library was not available this year for any planting/maintaining.

-Rebarchek Farm MMGA Plot was headed by Isaac Vaughan, and he headed up a couple of work dates and work partners.

-The June plant sale was good with excellent attendance of buyers and members. Sales went fast.

-We cleaned up the perennial bed at the Experimental Farm.

-We sponsored special awards at the State Fair.

-We worked with a couple of organizations at the Mid-Summer Flower and Art Faire.

-We took first place in the Agriculture/Animal category with our State Fair parade float.

There was no Vice President's report.

Cathy Crew presented the Treasurer's report. It was a combined three months' worth of

reports to include this summer's activities. At the last meeting in June, Cathy gave out information on the plant sale. There is \$7,220.32 in checking and \$7,765.22 in savings. We have not heard from Isaac Vaughan on Rebarchek. We paid the liability insurance for one year. We covered the State Fair prizes. There have been no new memberships for a while now. She requested we consider adding her address on the membership form so the memberships can come directly to her. Ken Blaylock motioned that we accept the Treasurer's Report with a second by Deb Blaylock. Motion passed.

We need to think about the vacancies for committees this year. There is a vacancy for the winter social. In the absence of someone volunteering for the position, Kevin Johnson offered that tomorrow he will reserve the Turkey Red venue for the Winter Social.

Deb Blaylock has a pitch for the October meeting: Let us make this an opportunity to brag about our gardens and provide Deb with pictures and she will prepare a slide show for the October meeting. She asked that everyone bring a small dish to the October meeting that was created from the produce out of our gardens.

Cathy Crew proposed that we move \$3,000 from checking into savings. As a side note, we made \$3,000 on the plant sale. Kevin Johnson will talk with Cathy Crew about it and figure something out and discuss at the next budget meeting next month.

Afterwards, there was a special presentation by Bob Veldhuizen on Soil Sampling and Testing and Interpretation and why it is important.

There was a lot of information given, some highlights were:

Keep in mind that if you change one aspect of your soil's properties, you affect all other aspects of your soil.

Ideal soil properties: temperature, moisture, bulk density, structure, and texture.

Ideal chemical properties: Is it acid or alkaline, electrical conductivity, cation exchange capacity and macro nutrients (primary and secondary), and micronutrients.

Ideal biological soil properties: organic matter. Ideal environmental properties: weather. Remember that everything to do with soil takes time!

There is a soil sampling brochure available for free from the Cooperative Extension Service at <https://cespubs.uaf.edu/>.

You can get an interpretation of your soil test results from Bob. It takes time to analyze soil. Alaska has mostly acidic soil. So, it is important to use a laboratory that is familiar with Alaska's soils. Such as: Brookside Laboratories at 200 White Mountain Drive, New Bremen, OH 45869 (419) 977-2766. Fax (419) 977-2767. Website: <https://www.blinc.com/> It is about \$20 a sample. Take several areas for sampling.

Learn about gardening and soil in Alaska. Extension Service has a lot of free information. Also, the NRCS website has a free web soil survey (that is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service). Go to <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/data-and-reports/web-soil-survey>

For interpretation of the laboratory results use the soil calculator at <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/kenai/garden-calculator.php>

Bob wrote a book on Alaska's Agricultural Soils Sampling And Interpretation of Results and it is available on Amazon.com at <https://www.amazon.com/Alaskas-Agricultural-Sampling-Interpretation-Results/dp/0996783008>

Making organic matter recommendations, making lime recommendations, making

fertilizer recommendations. Fertilizer sources.

After the presentation, Bob offered to go outside and demonstrate by collecting soil samples.

BECOME A CERTIFIED BACKYARD COMPOSTER OR VERMI-COMPOSTER

Sponsor: Mat-Su Borough's Solid Waste Division

When: Continual trainings since 2016

Where: Next door to Mat-Su Borough's Central Landfill at Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS), 9465 E Chanlyut Circle, Palmer AK 99645

Our Goal:

Organic matter in the landfill takes up valuable space and creates greenhouse gases. The purpose of this Mat-Su Borough program is to keep this valuable material out of our landfill, reduce our carbon emissions, and save you money by reducing waste disposal costs. Our goal is to empower you to transform organic waste into beautiful and beneficial compost. We provide you free training and a Compost Hotline.

Backyard Composter Outdoors (Build a demonstration pile)	Vermi-Composter Indoors (Worm Bin Management)
Saturday October 7 2pm - 4pm	Friday October 6 2pm - 4pm
Wednesday October 11 Noon - 2pm	Saturday October 7 11am - 1pm
Tuesday October 17 2pm - 4pm	Tuesday October 17 11am - 1pm

To Register: Call 907 795 3722
Email compost@matsugov.us

Draft 2024 Mat Su Master Gardener Association Standing Rules

Approved by the MMGA Board of Directors: xx Oct 2023

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

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. 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 2024.

Garden Links (updated March 2023)

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 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/>

Flora of North America
<http://floranorthamerica.org/>

Good Earth Garden School
<https://www.goodearthgardenschool.com/>

Georgeson Botanical Garden *New*
<https://georgesonbotanicalgarden.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
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)
<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/>

Alaska Non-Native Species List
<https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/invasive-species/non-native-plant-species-list/>

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation
<http://palmeroilandwater.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>

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Kevin Johnson	907 775 2808
Vice President:	Lois Rockcastle	907 632-1137
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

OCTOBER 2023 AND BEYOND

Oct 2, Palmer, Regular Meeting, 2023 Garden Year Recap Slideshow and Sample Sharing

Nov 6, Palmer, Annual Meeting/Elections, Dr. Jeff Smeenk

Dec, 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>

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--



October 2023



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION
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PALMER, AK 99645**

