



Sep 2017



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

Wow - this summer has flown by and I don't know about any of you but I did not get everything done that I wanted to accomplish this summer. It always seems like that and we have goals set up and I seem to fall short due to time restraints or my own procrastination.

I am often reminded about this now that they are setting up to open the Alaska State Fair next week. There is lots of activity going on when you drive by and folks are getting everything set up to make an enjoyable experience for all the fairgoers.

Please remember that you can volunteer to work at the fair's Cooperative Extension booth to get some hours for your Master Gardener certification. Call the Cooperative Extension office and they will let you know what dates are not filled yet. You can also pull weeds at the Palmer Library, our plot at the Experiment Farm and the Palmer Veterans & Pioneers Home.

Last month we conducted a tour of gardens of our membership and it was so delightful. Each one was so unique and gave us great ideas on developing our own personal spaces. There were pictures taken so please take the time to look them over in this newsletter. I'd like to thank all the participants who shared their space with us!

When you attend the Alaska State Fair this year, please take the time to relax and take in the various gardens on the

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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, SEP 11TH, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION: MATANUSKA TELEPHONE COMPANY
(MTA) BUILDING, LARGE MEETING ROOM (IN
THE BASEMENT), 480 COMMERCIAL DR.,
PALMER, AK

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- TREASURER REPORT
- MEETING MINUTES
- NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS

SPEAKER/TOPIC TO BE ANNOUNCED.

fairgrounds. There is a lot of effort that goes into making it nice for fairgoers.

I am continually reminded how lucky I am to live in a great community such as Palmer. Hope to see you at our next meeting!

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos by the author

There is a violet which grows in our northeastern states and westward into Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota and northward into eastern Canadian provinces. This little gem sports a tiny white flower that is very sweetly fragrant. It is commonly called sweet white violet. Its habitat is moist shade in wooded areas. The peasant has a fond memory of them growing beneath a thicket of native plums. They were not overly plentiful in the area, growing as they do through the accumulated leaf mold only in choice locations. For those of you who are familiar with this violet, you will surely remember it by its unforgettable sweet fragrance.

After searching through the internet, the peasant identified this plant as *Viola blanda*. A further search found a seed source and germination information. Like many plants in northern areas, this one requires an extended period of cold stratification. The peasant purchased seeds and tried a couple of methods of germinating them. One involved digging a hole in the snow, placing the seeded container on the ground, and re-covering it with snow. When the snow melted the container was left in situ in hopes that fluctuating spring temperatures might facilitate germination. Alas, the peasant's second-best friend and the neighbor's dog, while frisking about, managed to upend the container and scatter soil and seed in the grass.

The other planting was stratified in the potato bin for two months and yielded but one plant in mid-May. The peasant surmises that the temperature for stratification wasn't cold enough or perhaps the steady temperature wasn't

what was needed. The single plant did grow slowly, and in late July was joined by another seedling. The second seedling was separated to its own pot and the root system checked on the first one. It was extensive and the seedling was moved to the center of the container. It was observed at that time that the plant had produced a couple of stolons.



Sweet white violet plant [*Viola blanda*]

At present, it appears that the peasant has one healthy plant; that may be enough to get *Viola blanda* established. The next problem is to get it through winter. It appears one stolon is ready to produce a new plant, albeit a tender one at this point in our Alaska season. The plan is to repot to a larger container and bury the container in the ground before freeze-up and mulch it with leaves, hoping to save stolon shoots and the plant itself.

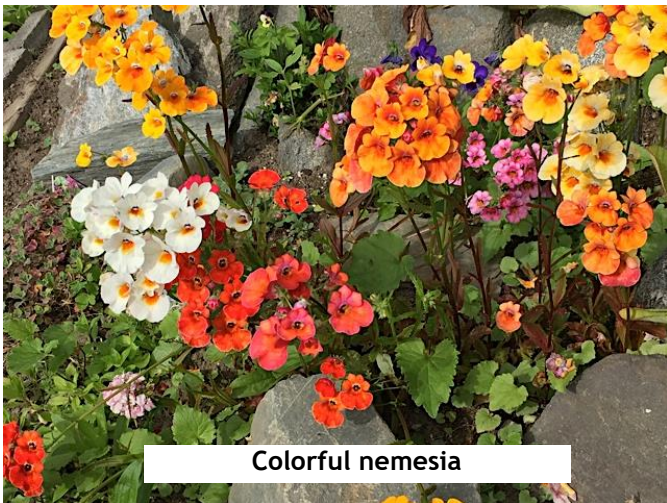
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SUMMER OF 2017 GARDEN TOUR

Monday, August 7th, was a beautiful day to tour the gardens of four members of our association. The tour began at Chuck and Lenita Deda's wonderful yard and garden, then went to Curt and Marge Mueller's lovely garden, continued to Michael and Phyllis Kircher's little piece of heavenly Palmer, and ended at Ken and Deb Blaylock's yard and garden. It was a great tour with lots of new things and ideas learned by all! Many thanks to all! Photos courtesy of Eva Cohnen-Brown. The photo tour starts at Chuck and Lenita's home up on Lazy Mountain.



The gals are all smiles :)



Colorful nemesia



Lydia and Phyllis checking out the cabbages



Mike, Chuck and Curt, all smiles



Inviting garden path

The tour continues to the Mueller's lovely home & gardens on Lazy Mountain.



Entryway



Beauties in the garden



Curt with rare white fireweed



Curt with squash plants



Marge in her element

Phyllis and Michael Kircher have a wonderful hidden garden in Palmer.



Ken at entrance to the front gardens



Phyllis pointing out a specimen



Phyllis with 3D printer garden tag



Snapdragons and impatiens border



California poppies with lobelia



Vigorous sweet corn in Palmer!



Mike with vent to hidden root cellar

Last stop on the tour - Ken & Deb Blaylock's garden and greenhouses.



Pickling cukes in the greenhouse



Kristina checking out the serviceberries



Deb and one of her garlic beds



Exterior of the dome greenhouse



Pepper plant in the dome



Deb explaining how she grows garlic

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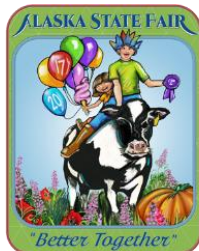
Next spring a permanent site will be chosen and the violet will receive a home. The violet will need to be protected from encroachment from other plants which are more vigorously adapted to Alaska. Perhaps a wood frame with a landscape fabric bottom can be set into the soil and the violet planted within; the frame would be large enough to allow the plant to spread. It can then be covered with leaves each fall, as would happen in its natural habitat. This violet should prove hardy here once it is established. Thus, the peasant indulges nostalgic urges.



Stolons on *Viola blanda*, at top left and center.

The stolon at center has been unearthed and shows new plants forming on tip [bottom right].

Thanks, folks.



City of Palmer Beautification Award 2017

This photo and information was provided by Curt Mueller.

The property belongs to Mary Boyd and the sign reads "City of Palmer Beautification Award 2017." The photo doesn't do it justice, but maybe some of our people would like to take a drive by to see it. Her place is on Rhonda Street and easy to find. Go south on Daron Street from McDonalds and turn left on the first street, which will be Rhonda Street. Mary is an exhibitor at the fair.



Update on Conference Supplies and Materials

The excess "goodie" bags from the 2017 State Master Gardeners Conference were donated to the Mat-Su Cooperative Extension Service office. Included were some of the excess items from the bags such as seed packets, pens, and a few other items. There were approximately 50 bags and a five-gallon bucket full of other items.

Additionally, excess paper goods and utensils were donated to the Boys & Girls Club of Wasilla.

Since the club has no storage space, most of these items were collecting dust and taking up space in member's homes. The conference committee voted to donate them to worthy organizations.

Garden Links

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Community Agriculture

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

Arbor Day Foundation

www.arborday.org

Alaska Natural Heritage Program – Botany

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

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 Chapter

<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 Pioneer Fruit Growers Association

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rhodiola Products Cooperative

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Eat Local Alaska

<http://akfood.weebly.com/index.html>

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.org

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 Georgeson Botanical Garden

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

UAF CES Citizen Pest Monitoring Portal

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

UAF School of Natural Resources

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

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Data Base

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

Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation

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

Announcements

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

None at this time.

Soon, the Nominations Committee will be actively looking for names to nominate for club officer and board member positions. If you would like to be considered for a position, please send an email to matsumastergardeners@gmail.com.

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Secretary:	Joan Redlin	206-604-4676
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: kdblalock@ak.net

Website: www.matsumastergardeners.com/

Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2017

Aug 24 - Sep 4, Palmer, Alaska State Fair,
<http://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/>

Sep 11, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

OCTOBER 2017 AND BEYOND

Oct 2, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Nov 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Dec 4, Palmer, MMG Mtg, Annual Christmas Party

Please let Rhonda know if you have any ideas for future meeting topics. Members are welcome to offer to speak or reach out to speakers of interest to the club's membership. The club would welcome a speaker coordinator - if interested contact Rhonda.

Our club is only as good as we the members make it!

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.

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~~



September 2017



Like us on
Facebook

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

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS
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