



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

First my apologies, this month's newsletter will be short and to the point. It's a busy month for me with harvest and the Alaska State Fair. Curt has submitted his Peasant's Perspective but that is the extent of our newsletter. He's considering retiring his column. Is there anyone interested in writing a monthly column? Input from our members would be gratefully welcomed to be included in the monthly newsletters. Please note photo submissions are very time intensive.

Phyllis Kircher, who had been coordinating our meeting locations at the MTA building in Palmer, informed me that we could no longer meet there. Apparently, they have closed their meeting rooms to the general public. Our September meeting will be at the Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center. There is more information on page 3 with a map. We will discuss other options for future meeting locations at the September meeting.

Our annual meeting is coming up soon and we need to have names of committee chairs and volunteers firmed up by that meeting. Here's a list of the vacancies with a few names filled in hopes these folks will continue as a committee chair.

2020 Committees

- Meeting room coordinator – Phyllis Kircher?
- Monthly Newsletter - Deb Blaylock, editor
- Website manager - Eva-Cohnen-Brown, chair?
- Guest speakers - Vacant
- Membership directory - Vacant
- 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, chair
- State Fair Parade - Vacant
- Nominations Committee - Vacant
- 2019 Christmas Party - Vacant

Most of the current board members/officers have agreed to continue on in their position for 2020 with the exception

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Patch	1
Next Meeting	1
Peasant's Perspective	2
New Meeting Location	3
Garden Links	4
Announcements/Volunteer Opportunities	4
Contacts	5
Calendar of Events	5

GENERAL MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH NEXT MEETING

NOTE THE NEW LOCATION!!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 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

MASTER GARDENER DEB BLAYLOCK WILL GIVE A PRESENTATION ON GROWING GARLIC IN ALASKA.

of our Secretary. Please think about which committee you would like to be on for 2020 and also consider volunteering to be nominated for Secretary.

I hope your harvest season is bountiful and your larders are well filled from our unusual summer. We will be talking about the summer of 2019 for years to come, I'm sure!

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos submitted by the author

Rabbits around a garden or fruit trees have never been favored by the peasant. Whether they are running loose from the people who raise them or are domestic rabbits that have become feral is a question. At any rate, since they are accustomed to being around buildings and to some extent people, their destructive qualities go beyond being just a nuisance. My good neighbor lost her valuable and much prized apple trees to extreme girdling; they were already beginning to bear. The peasant had sprinkled moth balls around the base of his young apple trees to prevent vole damage, and it seems to have worked for rabbits as well.

This spring the peasant had set his flats of cole plants in the garden area, to be planted when the soil was ready. Indeed, the rabbits got into the transplants and ate all the leaves off some of them. Three rabbits developed a fatal condition brought on by a .17 caliber rifle borrowed from the peasant's son-in-law.

That brings up a more interesting topic. Left in the flats, the leafless plants began to form a new small leaf in a few days. The peasant, always a bit frugal, decided to see if any were salvageable. Two Packman broccoli plants and two Snow Crown cauliflower plants were transplanted to a space where they wouldn't be crowded by other plants. The broccoli never developed a nice central head but did make a few satellite heads. The cauliflower made almost full-sized heads, but it took until mid-August for it to happen. The Snow Crown plants that escaped the rabbits were harvested in early July. While the peasant doesn't recommend the appetites of rabbits to be used as season extenders, perhaps some judicious pruning

by the gardener might delay the harvest for some plants so they don't all mature at once. It might be an interesting experiment.

The peasant wrote earlier about varying maturities among cultivars. Corona cauliflower, a new variety tried by the peasant, held true to its 30-day maturity but was disappointing in its appearance and flavor. The old standby, Snow Crown, produced well at 50-60 days and Callisto much later at 90-105 days produced very large heads of tasty cauliflower. White Amazing, at 68 days, came on at almost the same time as Snow Crown.

There you have it. We live and continue to learn. Thanks, folks.

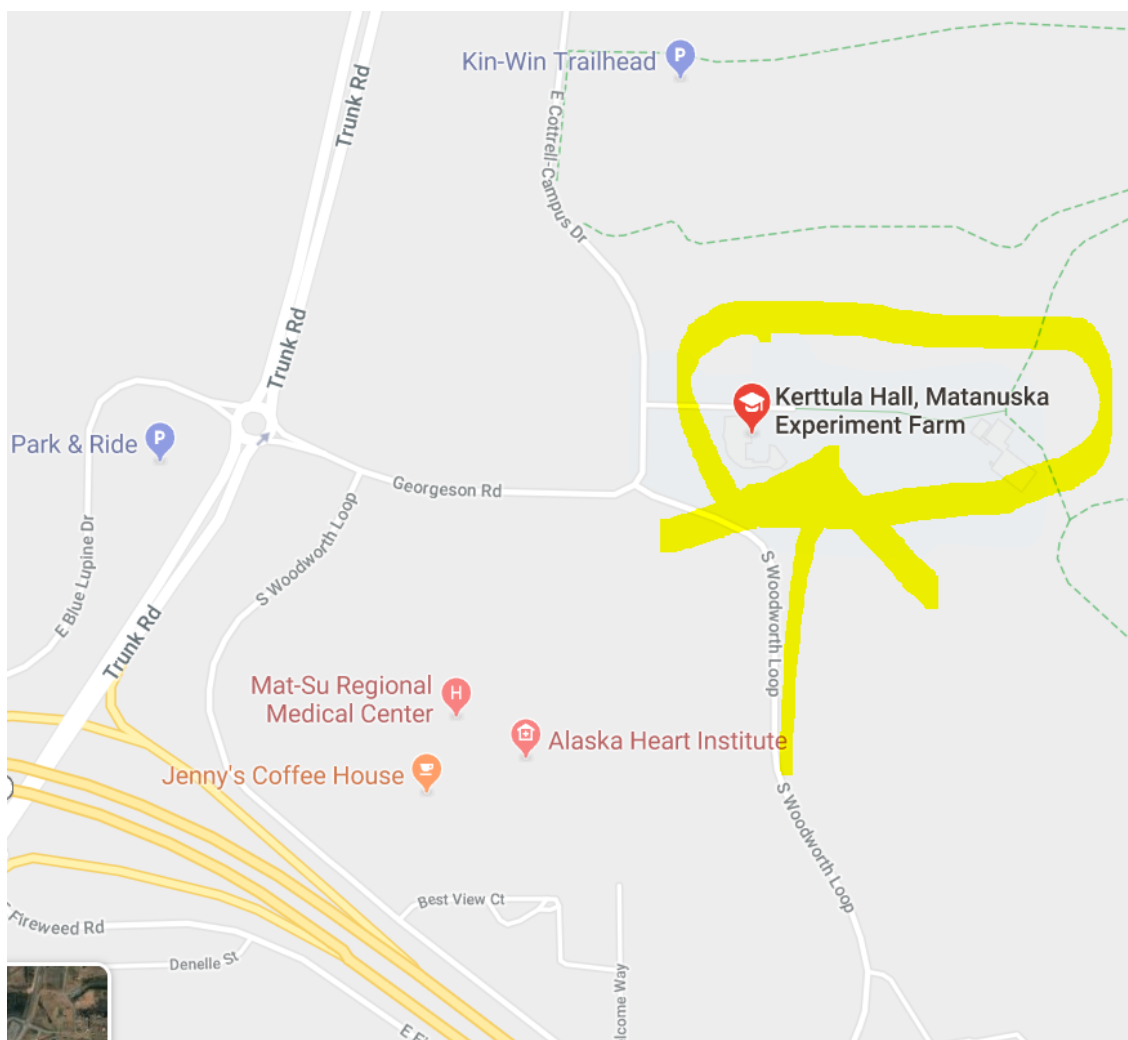


The photo of this nice head of Snow Crown cauliflower was taken August 8. Its start had been severely damaged by rabbits before transplanting, to the extent that all leaves were eaten off the transplant. The transplant recovered and produced a head six weeks later than the undamaged plants.

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 September 9th meeting 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.farmentoschoolalaska.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

SEPTEMBER 2019

Aug 22 – Sep 2, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, "Crazy Good"

Sep 3, Palmer, Alaska Master Gardener Course starts

Sep 9, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, Growing Garlic in Alaska, MG Deb Blaylock

OCTOBER 2019 AND BEYOND

Oct 7, Palmer, MMGA Meeting, TBD

Nov 3, Daylight Savings time ends

Nov 4, Palmer, MMGA Annual Meeting and TBD

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--



September 2019



Like us on
Facebook

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

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

