



Sep 2021



President's Patch

By President Deb Blaylock

Fall is in the air. The Alaska State Fair is in full swing and termination dust has been spotted already! Well, truthfully, it's been happening periodically ever since Summer Solstice. There've been frost warnings and reports from north of the Range (Fairbanks/Interior regions), and northern areas of the Mat-Su Valley have reported temps dipping down in the 30s. Keep an eye on night-time lows in the coming weeks if you've got unharvested tender vegetables in your gardens. Have some Agribon or other material at the ready if you've still got things on the vine which need a few more days.

Unfortunately, we've run into a snag or two in resuming our meetings at the Matanuska Experiment Farm. The re-appearance of Covid restrictions have made things difficult and the Board of Directors decided to move our remaining meetings to the Lazy Mountain Bible Church. We couldn't secure their meeting room for September, so we will do a Zoom meeting instead. This is actually fortunate, because our guest speaker is Marion Owens, who lives in Kodiak. October and November meetings will be at the church. The address will be in the October newsletter.

The State Fair started on Friday and runs from August 20th through Labor Day, September 6th. Please note the daily hours have also changed. Daily hours are 11 a.m. through 10 p.m., weekdays as well as weekends, and the Fair is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The giant pumpkin weigh-off day of week has changed to Monday, August 30th, at 2 p.m. and the time for the giant cabbage weigh off is now at 6 p.m. on Friday, September 3rd. Entry days for Crops and Flowers are still on Wednesdays, from Noon until 9 p.m., August 25th and September 1st. Hope to see a bunch of your flower and crops entries there! It's always a fun event!

A survey was emailed out to all members a few days ago regarding interest in being on the Board of Directors or a Committee Chair or Member for next

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GENERAL MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2021, 7 P.M.

LOCATION:

CHANGE! WE WILL BE DOING A ZOOM MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER. AN EMAIL WILL GO OUT TO MEMBERS WITH THE ZOOM LINK WHEN ITS AVAILABLE.

GUEST SPEAKER

MARION OWEN LIVES AND GARDENS IN KODIAK. SHE IS AN AVID ORGANIC GARDENER, COOK, PHOTOGRAPHER, HIKER AND SCUBA DIVER. SHE ALSO HAS AN ONLINE BLOG ON GARDENING AND LIFE IN GENERAL. ADDITIONALLY, MARION IS THE CO-AUTHOR OF CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE GARDENER'S SOUL.

year. Please complete the form and either mail it in or complete it online by the end of September 2021. Thank you everyone!

The Zoom link will be emailed to members prior to the September meeting. "See" you all there!

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

The theme for the Alaska State Fair for 2021 is "Seeing is Believing." Our club expanded on this a bit with Bigfoot who had grown a giant pumpkin. Lo and behold! We won the overall award in the fair parade! Chalk up one for Master Gardeners!

We have become an asset to our community, and we must continue to be of service. In past years it has become difficult to select people for the leadership positions in our club. Again, this year we are faced with choosing new officers, and indeed the future of our organization is in jeopardy. Do we want to be a dynamic club? Do we want to let it die? It is time for new people to take over and keep our club going and make it even better. That is our challenge. We have the talent. Do we have the willingness?

The peasant thinks we can and will make our club a viable entity for ourselves and for the community. There is much at stake. We can continue to set an example in community service. We need YOU to step forward and lead.

The peasant has been a member since the 1980s, and it has always been difficult to secure leaders. Somehow, we've always been successful, and our club has prospered, and we have prospered as individuals. We all have our personal responsibilities, and yet we must make time to become of service to our community. Indeed, we are all in this together.

Think about it, folks. Our club needs YOU! We need YOU to make our community a better, happier, more effective place. WE can do it! Thanks, folks.



Our club has participated in Fair parades and Colony Christmas parades. We have benefitted from many, many presentations at our meetings. We have helped beautify the Palmer Library and Pioneer Home. We have set up educational booths at the Garden and Art Faire. We have served the community with our annual plant sale, an event that has been well received by the public. We have set up scholarships for high school graduates. These things and more have been done by our organization. Let us keep it up and do more!

Sponsored by Matanuska Susitna Borough's Solid Waste Division

FREE COMPOST CLASSES

Trainings & Dates Autumn 2021

Choose among these repeated courses. Note the two days in which both vermi-and backyard classes are offered on the same day. We'll offer more again in the spring!

New Location: Valley Community for Recycling Solutions

Backyard Composter Outdoors (Build a demonstration pile)	Vermi-Composter Indoors (Worm Bin Management)	Master Composter Training (Two full days)
	Saturday September 4 Noon-2pm	
Wednesday September 15 2:30pm-4:30pm	Wednesday September 15 6pm-8pm	
Friday September 17 1pm-3pm		
Friday September 24 2pm-4pm	Friday September 24 10am-Noon	
Saturday October 2 Noon-2pm	Tuesday October 5 2pm-4pm	Thursday-Friday October 7 & 8 10am-5pm
Friday October 15 Noon-2pm		

To Register:

Call 907 745-0758

Email compost@matsugov.us

WINTER PREPARATION & RUSTY TUSSOCK MOTH INFO

BY JOEY JOZEF (JOEY) SLOWIK, IPM TECHNICIAN, UAF COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

It's hard to believe but another fall is upon us. As we put our garden beds to rest there are some actions we can do that will help keep next year's pest populations down. Insects have diverse ways to beat the cold of winter. Some have evolved the ability to synthesize antifreeze so they can tolerate sub-freezing temps. Others have evolved the ability to tolerate the shock of being semi-frozen. And others have evolved to find safe places where the cold isn't so bad. Many have evolved to overwinter at a life stage where the cold doesn't affect them, like as an egg or pupa. For persistent pests, like root maggots, who get established in a bed and are hard to control, one of the more effective control techniques is winter or fall tilling. Root maggots overwinter as a pupa. So, stirring up the soil will expose those pupae, which are usually a few inches down in the soil hiding from the cold to the harshness of winter. Winter tilling also works great to control slugs who overwinter as an egg usually but sometimes as a slug. Slugs are moisture dependent, so tilling the soil exposes the eggs and slugs to the dryness of winter. This winter tilling will also expose other pest species of moth or sawfly which overwinter as pupa.

We have many other pest species from caterpillars to weevils, and even some sawflies, which overwinter as eggs laid on their host plant. These species assume, and usually rightly so, that what grew somewhere one year will grow there again. So, cleaning a bed of any vegetative refuse will help keep those eggs out of the bed. This is why crop rotation helps keep pests at bay. Composting will kill those eggs and most other pests if done correctly, so the waste can be used. For those, like my own father, who like to compost in the fall this can still be done. After harvest, remove this year's vegetation and lay down fresh processed compost. Having vegetation in the soil does provide some cover and insulation for those hoping to overwinter

there. But there are also nutrient benefits which have to be weighed. There isn't a cure all for pests; some beds may need different treatments based on what pests are there and how bad the problem was. But a cleaning and stirring up the soil when it's good and cold, but not frozen yet, will do good to kill lots of pests trying to hide out from the cold.

For those of you in Talkeetna down to Wasilla this has been a pretty bad Rusty Tussock Moth year. If you're not familiar with them the caterpillars have those distinctive tufts of hairs forward and back, and three to four yellow tufts on their backs. Rusty Tussock Moth females don't have wings, so after mating they climb back onto the plant they fed on and lay eggs for next year. They have evolved to have eggs which tolerate the cold and dryness of winter fairly well. Populations are usually limited by the weather more than anything. If it's cold and dry more eggs are exposed and less survive. If it's warm and snowy the snow will insulate more eggs and more will survive. They eat pretty much anything so they are rarely food limited but they can eat themselves out of food, especially if it was a poor growing year where they are feeding. Because the females don't fly, they don't expand their extent very quickly and outbreaks are usually local. About the only thing you can do is to kill those you see and hope for a harsh winter, but remember the hairs of the caterpillar are an irritant so wear gloves if picking them off plants.

You can contact Joey at:
UAF Cooperative Extension Service,
jaslowik@alaska.edu.

You can also submit unknown pests (plants, insects, diseases, etc.) through the UAF Citizen Scientists Monitoring Portal:
<https://pestreporter.alaska.edu/>.



Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center

CLASSES - August Theme is: Let's Get Crafty

September Theme is: Harvest

Watch our Facebook page for additional info & registration links!

Aug 19	Canning Tomatoes
Aug 23	Potato Possibilities! 4-H Summer Series
Aug 24	In the Garden with Theresa: Let's Garden to Heal
Aug 25	Walkabout Wednesday: Farm tour
Aug 26	Preserving Pickles & Sauerkraut
Sept 1	Walkabout Wednesday
Sept 2	Canning Vegetables and Legumes
Sept 7	After the Markets & Farms Close
Sept 8	Walkabout Wednesday
Sept 9	Canning Meat & Poultry in Jars
Sept 14	Putting Your Garden Tools to Bed/Lawn Mower Maintenance
Sept 15	Walkabout Wednesday
Sept 16	Seed to Vase with Brown Dog Farm
Sept 20	Summer Harvest! 4-H At-Home Summer Camp Series
Sept 21	Ticks in Alaska
Sept 22	Walkabout Wednesday
Sept 23	Extending the Growing Season – Energywise
Sept 27	In the Garden with Theresa: Let's Garden to Heal
Sept 29	Walkabout Wednesday
Sept 30	Put Your Garden to Rest

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The University of Alaska Fairbanks Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center strives to make our programs accessible for all individuals. If you or a family member who is attending a program needs accommodations to participate, please contact our office 5 days in advance to request services. This will give us the opportunity to provide assistance you require. (907)745-3360 or email Theresa Isaac tmisaac@alaska.edu

2021 Alaska State Fair Parade "Seeing is Believing" Mat-Su Master Gardener Float Wins!

Photos by Eva Cohnen-Brown and Deb Blaylock

Once again, Mr. Curt Mueller knocked it out of the ballpark with a first-place win for our Alaska State Fair Parade float! He and his crew of float elves, Marge, Marta, Dawn and Sara, worked very hard to design a winning entry! Additional help came from Big Foot aka Ken Blaylock, Deb Blaylock (signage), Eva Cohnen-Brown (photos and errands), Debra Caillouet (flowers), and Chuck and Lenita Deda (trailer). Big thanks and kudos to all! Below are a few photos – you can see more on the Facebook page.



Alaska Top Crop Contest 2021

Join us for a virtual contest to see who grew the tallest, longest, biggest crops!
Anyone and everyone in Alaska can participate. Show off what you grew!

10 CATEGORIES

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED IN EACH CATEGORY

-**TALLEST PLANT:** 1. Tomato 2. Sunflower 3. Corn

-**CIRCUMFERENCE:** 4. Tomato 5. Potato 6. Pumpkin

-**LONGEST:** 7. Carrot 8. Corn 9. Bean

-**BONUS:** 10. Weirdest Looking Veggie

Contest will run
September 20th - October 1st



More details on our Facebook Event Page

Click HERE



<https://fb.me/c/4zslVFbXs>

Submit photos via email to tmisaac@alaska.edu

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center



Matanuska Experiment Farm & Extension Center

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ADA Inquiries: 907-745-3360



**Community Service
Fellowship
Teach Future Generations
Help New Gardeners
Mentorship**



**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION 2022
OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS SURVEY**

Please choose at least one of the duties below in which you would like to either be a board member or a committee you would like to chair or help with. At the bottom, you can also share any other ideas you might have to help the Association with if it's not listed or to bring to the attention of the current Board of Directors. Thank you!

PLEASE SELECT FROM BELOW WHICH POSITION YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE IN FOR 2022

- ☐ PRESIDENT
- ☐ VICE PRESIDENT
- ☐ SECRETARY
- ☐ TREASURER
- ☐ MEMBER AT LARGE
- ☐ COMMITTEE - CHOOSE ONE OF THE OPTIONS IN THE NEXT SECTION

WHICH COMMITTEE DO YOU VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON?

- ☐ GUEST SPEAKER & MEETING LOCATION COORDINATOR
- ☐ MONTHLY COLUMN FOR THE NEWSLETTER
- ☐ MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
- ☐ REBARCHEK FARM PROJECT
- ☐ ANNUAL PLANT SALE
- ☐ PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PLANTING
- ☐ PALMER VETERANS & PIONEERS HOME PLANTING
- ☐ PALMER MIDSUMMER GARDEN & ART FAIRE
- ☐ 2022 SUMMER GARDEN TOURS
- ☐ ALASKA STATE FAIR AWARDS
- ☐ 2022 ALASKA STATE FAIR PARADE MMGA FLOAT COORDINATOR
- ☐ 2022 STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIR
- ☐ 2022 STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER
- ☐ 2022 CHRISTMAS PARTY COORDINATOR
- ☐ Other: _____

Please use this space to add any ideas or projects you might have or options for the Board of Directors to consider. Thank you for your time and helping to make our organization better for everyone.

NAME AND CONTACT INFO (please print clearly):

Garden Links (updated Mar 2021)

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

Arbor Day Foundation

www.arboday.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 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://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/>

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/>

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Services

New

<https://www.uaf.edu/afes/places/palmer/>

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter *New*

<http://www.alaska.forestry.org/alaska/chapters/cook-inlet>

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 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:	Kristina Tornqvist	795-6393
Secretary:	Dorte Mobley	232-5422
Treasurer:	Cathy Crew	632-4401
Member at Large:	Sue Glenn	671-0252

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

SEPTEMBER 2021 AND BEYOND

Aug 20 – Sep 6, Palmer, Alaska State Fair
Sep 13, Palmer, MMGA meeting, Zoom Meeting, Marion Owen
Oct 4, Palmer, MMGA meeting TBD
Nov 1, Palmer, Annual MMGA meeting, TBD
Dec 6, Palmer, Christmas Party

Don't 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, 2022, 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 2021



Like us on
Facebook

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

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

