



Sep 2022



## President's Patch

By President Dorte Mobley, photo by the author

Yikes. Someone on Facebook just informed us that in 18 days we are into the -ber months. September, October, etc. So that means that summer is over. I really have enjoyed it – well, maybe not having to haul hundreds of gallons of water to thirsty plants, but all that vitamin D was good for the old bones. I sat down a few times and tried to relax in the sun, but then I got to look at some stuff that needed doing, that I had not noticed from just going by it. I am not good at relaxing in the sun. When it is raining, though, that is a different story. I can nap both in the morning and afternoon if I do not have anything I have to do.

My garage is looking better though. I keep the door open so I can pretend I am outside and that makes it ok. I have started collecting all kinds of seeds from my plants. They can go into the collection from other years. Sometimes I get tired of them and throw them all out in the ditch. There must be some little birds that eat them because I have thrown pounds of seeds out there and there pretty much only is grass that grows. And the weeds! Trying to keep the bird vetch and butter and eggs from spreading into my yard is another chore. I have both in my rock garden and really am thinking hard about painting them with a little Round up, because pulling them does not seem to help much.

I was trying to work something out with the fair for us to see the fair gardens on the 5th of September, but they wanted us to buy tickets to go in for a couple of hours and I do not think that is something we want. Make sure you see all the beautiful gardens there if you go. Becky and her crew are doing an amazing job. I wonder if the Board knows what a treasure they have in her. If you know anyone on the Board, you should let them know.

For the regular meeting, we will meet at the Extension office meeting room at the Experiment Farm on the

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### REGULAR MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, SEP 12TH, 7 PM

LOCATION:

MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM, 1509 S.  
GEORGESON DR, MESS HALL BUILDING, PALMER, AK

MEETING AGENDA:

BUSINESS MEETING: 7:00 PM

ACTIVITY/GUEST SPEAKER: 7:30 PM

WE ARE PLANNING A POTLUCK FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. BRING A DISH MADE FROM SOMETHING YOUR GARDEN PRODUCED THIS YEAR. BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE.

WE'LL DISCUSS OUR 2022 GARDEN ADVENTURES.

12th. It will be a potluck with produce from the gardens as we talked about. Looking forward to tasting your yummy food. The club will provide plates and cutlery – individuals will bring their own beverages.

## PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE:

BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Alaska's summers are a wonder to experience! If this last bit of precipitation had happened as snow during the winter, we'd be shoveling to see out the windows. The peasant has hopes that we'll have a few days of sunshine to finish the summer season. We need more photosynthesis to help our garden crops to really yield well before freezing nights take over. We probably will have to take what we get, though. Amazingly, some plants such as beets showed signs of wilt the day after the last deluge and the sun came out brightly. Darkness and very cool are not conducive to healthy growth and when the sun showed the plants had adapted to dark cool conditions. Without a doubt, the slugs have been happy.

Today, August 10, there was a dusting of snow on Matanuska Peak, portents of things to come.

It has been interesting to see you folks' favorite garden tools. The peasant has given some thought to this, and the accompanying photo shows his idea of a favorite garden tool. Some of you might agree with this, but please keep on showing your choices of inanimate or animate tools.



The peasant's favorite gardening tool. Without this nothing else works.

Let's hope for good weather during the fair and beyond. It's bound to change again and go into another cycle, much as it did after a droughty spring and early summer. It has happened many times that we have had a prolonged cycle of a weather type only to have it change quite abruptly for something else.

Have a bountiful harvest and always share the surplus. Thanks, folks.

## MMGA Special Sponsor Awards Alaska State Fair 2022

Calling all elementary schools looking to raise funds for your classroom. There is a division and class (Division 16 Class 04) in the Alaska State Fair crops department that your elementary class can enter for a chance at a \$100 gift card. There are two entry days to enter an exhibit, August 24 and August 31st, noon - 9 pm. You can enter one or both days! The Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association is the proud sponsor of these special awards.

There are also classes for individual entries for ages 6-12, 13-17 and open adults which are \$50 each. Entrants can enter in one or both entry dates.

Here's a link to the crops department exhibitors guide with more information: <https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibits/crops/>

Please share with any elementary schools in need of raising funds.

### Division 16: Veg Heads

Transform any vegetable into a character using this year's theme, "Experience the Wonder." Creativity and theme representation are encouraged.

#### Class:

- 01 Junior (ages 6-12) state age on entry form
- 02 Junior (ages 13-17) state age on entry form
- 03 Open
- 04 Classroom - Elementary only, state grade on entry form



## A Day in Sutton

By Kristina Tornqvist, photos by the author

On July 11, 2022, our garden tour in Sutton was a pure delight. We started in Laurel Flynn's incredible garden where berry bushes, peonies galore, and vegetables live in complete harmony in a wonderful setting flanked by big trees and giant ferns. In her greenhouse, Laurel even grows grapes along with tomatoes and other edible goodies.

Down the hill from Laurel, we went to see Ruth Olin's garden. She has about 800 peonies as well as an amazing vegetable garden with raised beds. Her husband devised an ingenious cold frame cover for the raised beds and the vegetables were impressive both in size and vigor. On top of all this, we each went home with a bundle of amazing peony flowers!

Next, we stopped at the Sutton library. Great care has been taken to beautify the area around the building. Flower beds are in the front, and in the back there is a vegetable garden taken care of by local youth.

Our last stop was the Alpine Historical Society Museum. The gardens need more volunteers for upkeep but were nevertheless interesting and worth seeing. In addition, the buildings and plaques explaining the history were of great interest.

It was a great day in Sutton. The sad part was that only two garden club members plus one guest attended this tour. Will garden tours become a thing of the past due to lack of interest?



Laurel's vegetables



Bartzilla peony in Laurel's garden



Laurel in her peony garden



Asiatic lilies in Laurel's garden



Bearded iris in Ruth Olin's garden

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3



Ruth Olin sorting cut peonies for us to take home



Ruth Olin with a bucket of peonies



Ruth's cabbages



Vegetable bed behind Sutton library



Cold frame covers stored on a shed wall



Sutton library flower bed



Plaque in flower garden at the Sutton library





## Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center

**Watch our Facebook and Instagram page**  
**as well as our website for additional info & registration links!**

<https://www.facebook.com/matanuskaexperimentfarm/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MatsuExtension>

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

### **Join Us at the Alaska State Fair**

Aug 19 – Sept 5

June R. Tull 4-H & Extension Building

Hoskins Building

Farm Exhibits Building

**Aug 27 – 2:00 pm**

Alaska State Fair GPS Adventure (meet at 4-H June Tull Bldg)

**Sept 4 - Noon**

4-H/FFA Junior Market Livestock Auction

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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 [tmissac@alaska.edu](mailto:tmissac@alaska.edu)

## Garden Links (updated Apr 2022)

**Alaska Botanical Garden**

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

**Alaska Center for Conservation Science**

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

**Arbor Day Foundation**

[www.arborday.org](http://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 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 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/>

**Georgeson Botanical Garden \*New\***

<https://georgesonbotanicalgarden.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](http://www.alaskaplants.org)

**Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program**

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

**Mat-Su Master Gardener Website**

[www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://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**

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

**Palmer Soil & Water Conservation**

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

**Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter**

<https://forestry.org/alaska/>

**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](http://www.fruit.usask.ca)

**USDA/NRCS Plant Database**

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



## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Dorte Mobley</b>	<b>907-232-5422</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Kristina Tornqvist</b>	<b>907-795-6393</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Isaac Vaughan</b>	<b>dnavon@msn.com</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cathy Crew</b>	<b>907-632-4401</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Sue Glenn</b>	<b>907-671-0252</b>

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/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)

Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2022 AND BEYOND

**Aug 19 – Sep 5**, Palmer, Alaska State Fair, "Experience the Wonder"

**Sep 12**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, Potluck

**Oct 3**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

**Nov 7**, Palmer, Regular Meeting, TBD

**Dec 5**, 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, 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 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: 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month -- Thank you--**



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