



MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

Sept 2014



President's Patch

By Rhonda Bowman, President

It is time for the Fair! I love and hate this time of year because it means that summer is almost over and I haven't done half the things I planned on getting done. Summer sure flies by in Alaska. I have some flowers that are now blooming and others that have finished blooming. It is always good to see your efforts show beautiful displays in flower beds. We were graciously given a tour of the fair-grounds earlier in August and they've got a special surprise for fair-goers in store. I can't wait to see the displays.

My husband has been a real vigilante keeping his lawn lush and green. He is constantly removing any dandelions that dare to show themselves on HIS lawn. He recently aerated it and fusses over it. Soon enough that cold weather will come and turn it brown. Hopefully we will have more snow on it than we had last winter.

I hope all your summer efforts have been fruitful this year. Hope to see you at our next meeting on September 8 at the MTA conference room at 7pm.

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CHAPTER MEETINGS FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 7:00 PM
LOCATION: MTA CONFERENCE ROOM,
480 COMMERCIAL DR., PALMER, AK,
DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND

MEETING AGENDA

- **TREASURER REPORT**
- **MINUTES**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**

TOPIC/SPEAKER:

**AT THE TIME OF THE PUBLISHING, NO
SPEAKER INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE.**

PEASANTS PERSPECTIVE

By Curt Mueller, Master Gardener

Our summer has been good for growing things, and the peasant hopes good for all our area gardeners. Bountiful crops are a feast for the eye as well as tasty and healthful sustenance for body and soul. A favorite part of the day for the peasant is to graze in the garden and sample here and there what is offered.

Especially abundant this year are peas, carrots, and beans. Also pleasing are the 'Golden Globe' turnips. They seem to have a natural resistance to root maggots. Quite tasty. The turnips, that is. The turnip seed is available at Denali Seeds. Denali Seeds, as you no doubt have discovered, no longer has seed racks in the stores but sells from their website. They are a great source for varieties adapted to Alaska. They ship promptly, with an order placed one day often in the mailbox on the following day.

Some time back the peasant wrote about his system for growing strawberries as annuals. The season has been kind and the crop plentiful and of good quality. As the accompanying photo shows, they still have many blossoms. They should continue to bear well into September. Problems to be encountered are cool temperatures, frost, and much moisture. Under these conditions berries ripen more slowly and some rot can occur. The peasant is contemplating a system to protect strawberries from the rain and cool temperatures that happen in late summer and fall.

Any system that is used needs to be cost effective. Structures may be used for a number of years, and if it qualifies as an experiment that may justify some of the cost. Stay tuned.

The question has often been asked if horse manure is OK to use on strawberries. The answer is no. It's OK to use horse manure on rhubarb, but it's better to use sugar and cream on strawberries.

Thanks, folks.



Let there be peas



Provider Beans



It's the berries

**Mat-Su Master Gardeners Meeting
Minutes**

No minutes from the last meeting.



Curt and Marge's Onions

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/index.htm>

Alaska Master Gardeners Association, Anchorage Chapter

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

Alaska Master Gardener Blog

<http://alaskamastergardener.blogspot.com/>

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 Assoc..

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center

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

Alaska Rock Garden Society

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

Cooperative Extension Service, Palmer

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



Eat Local Alaska

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

Integrated Pest Management Program

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

Junior Master Gardeners

<http://www.jmgkids.us/>

Landscape Plants for Alaska

www.alaskaplants.org

Local Alaskan Plants Clearinghouse

<http://www.localplants.org/Home>

Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program *Updated*

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

Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

www.matsumastergardeners.org

Master Gardener Research Link

<http://search.extension.org>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

<http://interiormastergardeners.org/>

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

South-Central Alaska Beekeepers Assoc.

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

Southeast Alaska Master Gardeners

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

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/>

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

Know of an upcoming event or organization which needs our help? Let a board member know!

BOARD MEMBER OPENING

The position of Club Secretary is once again open. The job involves taking minutes at meetings and attending board meetings. If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Bowman for further details and information.

Club Membership

The membership year runs from January to December each year. Annual individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$12.

Membership forms are available to download and/or print on the club's website,

www.matsumastergardeners.com

thank you

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Rhonda Bowman	746-2948
Co-VP	Curt Mueller	745-6144
Co-VP	Hally Truelove	376-0909
Secretary:	Vacant	
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 @Email: kdblalock@ak.net

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

SEPTEMBER

Sep 8, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

OCTOBER AND BEYOND

Oct 6, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Nov 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Dec 1, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD

Dec 12-14, Palmer, Colony Christmas

Dec 13, Palmer, Colony Christmas Parade

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 editor 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~~



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Like us on
Facebook

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

MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER'S CLUB
PO BOX 585
PALMER, AK 99645

