



# President's Patch By Rhonda Bowman, President

Photos submitted by the author

It seems like there is now a little bite in the air first thing in the morning and you know what that means? Summer will be leaving us soon. I love seeing all the pictures on Facebook of everyone's flowers, fish being caught and their harvest of vegetables. At this time of year I notice that we are seeing game taken, and it reminds me how much Alaskans are in direct contact with our food. There are pockets of the country in the lower 48 that do this, but this option has been a normal way to feed Alaskans. Many folks use their hunting, fishing and growing as a means to off-set the high costs of groceries, but many more are interested in being directly involved in the food that our families eat. I have heard it said many times that they don't buy hamburger in the grocery store but grind their own mooseburger because they are much more satisfied with the taste and quality of the end product. Many of the rural villages have the means to have folks hunt for their seniors so that they can continue to eat the food that they have eaten all of their life. It is always good to appreciate the good things that come from our land and water.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
President's Patch	1
Next Chapter Meeting	1
Peasant's Perspective	2
Free Gardening Pots and Trays	2
Composting Courses	3
Master Gardener Conference Planning Notes	3
Evans Cherry Tree	4
2016 Alaska Invasive Species Workshop	5
Garden Links	6
Announcements/Volunteer Opportunities	6
Contacts	7
Calendar of Events	7

**CHAPTER MEETINGS**  
**FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH**

**NEXT MEETING**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 7:00 PM**  
**LOCATION: MTA BUILDING, CONFERENCE ROOM (IN THE BASEMENT), PALMER, AK**  
**DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND**

**TOPIC/SPEAKER:**  
**GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**



## PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE: BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER

Photos by the author

At the time of this writing, the cruise vessel Crystal Serenity has arrived in Nome, en route through the Northwest Passage to New York City. This has caused the peasant to reminisce and ponder the climatic changes that have occurred in the short 45 years that he has been a resident of our fair state.

Beginning in the mid-1970s seismic exploration was being done offshore in the Beaufort Sea. The purpose was to tie in collected data with what had already been done and was ongoing on land in the Prudhoe Bay and surrounding areas. The discovery had been verified and the oil pipeline was being built. The peasant was an employee of a seismic company in the capacity of purchaser/expediter. One facet of the job was to supply day by day information on the extent of the pack ice to the shallow draft exploration ship as well as up-to-date weather forecasts. Satellite images provided the ice picture and weather forecasts indicated its probable movements. There was no open Northwest Passage and the icepack was close offshore and could be pushed by the wind all the way to the beaches, making it necessary for the seismic ship to seek a place where the water would remain open, thereby curtailing the gathering of seismic data.

Today the situation is such that a pleasure ship is offering a cruise through the Northwest Passage. Gone are the days when winter temperatures on the North Slope stayed in the minus sixties for weeks on end and dropped to minus seventy on occasion. Closer to home, in our area sub-zero temperatures were common and stayed with us for extended periods. Remember the Siberian Express? It dropped temperatures to extreme lows

all the way through Alaska and the western United States to the Mexican border.

The safe time for planting your garden was always Memorial Day weekend. In 2016 you could have planted any time after April first and a late snow or frost was not a factor. What happens next? What will our winters be like? What will be our precipitation patterns? Will we revert periodically to past extremes? Will we have to change our gardening practices to accommodate climate changes? Will we experience new insect pests? Droughts? What about our wildlife? Plant species? There are many more questions to be considered.

Change is upon us; more so since we live in a high latitude area.

The peasant expects the Crystal Serenity to have a successful trip and perhaps create a precedent. How could all this change so quickly?

Thanks, folks.

### Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS)

The VCRS has been collecting discarded gardening pots and trays and graciously offered them to the Mat-Su Master Gardener's Association. Members Ken and Deb Blaylock have been picking them up and storing them for the last few months. There is quite an assortment and will be available for paid members to pick up on a first come, first serve basis at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The items have been sorted but have not been washed or cleaned. You may want to bring a box or basket to carry some home. They will be outside in the Blaylock's vehicle and folks can look at them after the meeting.



### Certified BACKYARD COMPOSTER

#### 2 Hour Training

- Successfully compost manures, yard wastes and food wastes
- Remedy a pile that's too hot, too slow, or too stinky
- Produce a matured, high-quality, horticultural product

Thursday, Sept. 15, 6pm-8pm  
 Saturday, Sept. 17, 10am-noon  
 Saturday, Oct. 8, 10am-noon  
 Saturday, Oct. 15, 10am-noon

### Certified VERMI-COMPOSTER

#### 2 Hour Training

- Successfully start and manage a worm bin
- Avoid flies and stench
- Utilize finished vermi-compost

Saturday, Aug. 20, 2pm-4pm  
 Saturday, Oct. 15, 1:30pm-3:30pm

### Certified MASTER COMPOSTER

#### 2 Day Training

- Blend a wider variety of feedstocks for proper C:N ratios
- Trouble-shoot piles for moisture, temperature, aeration & odor
- Manage worm bins (vermi-composting)
- Process larger volumes of compost with static & thermal pile methods
- Test for maturation... Is it done yet?

Saturday, Oct. 1, 9am-5pm  
 Sunday, Oct. 2, 10am-4pm

### GOALS

- Train & empower compost experts throughout the MSB to educate residents, businesses, schools, dog mushers, farms, stables & organizations to compost organic wastes.
- Provide expertise to entrepreneurs wanting to start innovative composting & organic waste reduction businesses.
- Provide Certified Composters with a supportive Compost Hotline.



**REGISTER NOW**  
 997.861.7605  
 compost@matsugov.us

*Look for more training dates in 2017*



## Become a Certified BACKYARD COMPOSTER, VERMI-COMPOSTER or MASTER COMPOSTER

### FREE to Mat-Su Borough Residents

Sponsored by Mat-Su Borough Solid Waste Division  
 Continual Trainings, Starting August 2016  
 Held at the Mat-Su Borough Central Landfill, Palmer



*Compost Happens!*

Mat-Su Borough's new program to keep organic matter out of our landfill!

### Notes from the State Master Gardener Brainstorming Session August 1st (from Rhonda Bowman)

One-day session (last year April 14) and our last one was April 6 but we decided on April 22. Glenn Massey is \$900 for the day (expensive!). Possibly the Railroad Depot or at Job Corp. Our last fee was \$75 per person.

#### TOPICS:

High tunnels, invasive plants, bees, propagating/grafting, compost/dirt & Global warming: effects on hardiness zones. Possibly have a panel discussion on a topic.

#### SPEAKERS:

Tim Meyers from Bethel, Les Brake from Willow, Marion Owen of Kodiak, Verna Pratt of Anchorage and Mark Oathouts from Mid-Valley Greenhouse, Arthur Keyes & Spring Creek Farm. Others mentioned: Steve Brown, Jody Anderson, Scott Robb, River Bean, Becky Mrywold, Dan Elliott, Joe Dunham & Jamie Rodriguez. Possibly invite the Borough or Palmer Mayor.

Silent Auction, Vendors to sell items, Giveaways & door prizes, raffle Seek donations from local nurseries, Lowes, Home Depot, Sea Ag & Denali Seed.

Theme discussed: "Every Day is Earth Day if you are a Master Gardener" since it will be Earth Day.

T-shirts, Hats and sweat-shirt sales were brought up.



Evans cherry. One must sample a couple of these each time one walks by. Fruit trees have done well this season. Fruit is plentiful and ripening early. Grafts have made phenomenal growth as well as older plantings. With a good fall all this growth will harden off in time for winter. Photo submitted by Curt Mueller, Master Gardener.

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2016 Alaska Invasive Species Workshop

Oct. 25 - 27  
Fairbanks  
Wedgewood Resort

Adapting to a  
Warming Environment  
Invasive Species  
in Alaska

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

CNIPM

For more information, visit [www.alaskainvasives.org](http://www.alaskainvasives.org).  
UAF is an AVEO employer and educational institution.

## Garden Links

### Alaska Botanical Garden

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

### Alaska Community Agriculture

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

### Arbor Day Foundation

[www.arborday.org](http://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](http://www.alaskaplants.org)

### Mat-Su Borough Rain Garden Program

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

### Mat-Su Master Gardener Website

[www.matsumastergardeners.org](http://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](http://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

The club is desperately in need of someone to coordinate speakers for our meetings.

We need a volunteer coordinator to track the many volunteer opportunities we have this summer. Duties would be to coordinate with volunteers and create an Excel spreadsheet to track volunteers. This will be posted on the webpage. Please contact Rhonda if interested.

Reminder that the 2017 State Master Gardener Conference is going to be held in Palmer. We would like to get a committee put together to get some planning underway. It seems like a long way from now but a little planning early can keep everything from snowballing to the last minute. Please let Rhonda know if you are interested in assisting with putting this big event together or sharing your ideas.

## CLUB CONTACT INFO

<b>President:</b>	<b>Rhonda Bowman</b>	<b>746-2948</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Curt Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>
<b>Co-VP</b>	<b>Hally Truelove</b>	<b>376-0909</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Joan Redlin</b>	<b>206-604-4676</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cathy Crew</b>	<b>632-4401</b>
<b>Member at Large:</b>	<b>Marge Mueller</b>	<b>745-6144</b>

If you have gardening news, photos or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please contact: Deb Blaylock @Email: [kdblalock@ak.net](mailto:kdblalock@ak.net)

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)  
Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2016

- Sep 12, Palmer, MMG Mtg, General Business Meeting  
Sep 15, Palmer, Certified Backyard Composter  
Sep 17, Palmer, Certified Backyard Composter

### OCTOBER 2016 AND BEYOND

- Oct 1&2, Palmer, Certified Master Composter  
Oct 3, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
Oct 8, Palmer, Certified Backyard Composter  
Oct 15, Palmer, Certified Backyard Composter  
Oct 15, Palmer, Certified Vermi-Composter  
Oct 25-27, Fairbanks, 2016 Alaska Invasive Species Conference  
Nov 7, Palmer, MMG Mtg, TBD  
Dec 5, Palmer, MMG Mtg, 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.

Membership forms are available to download on the club's website, [www.matsumastergardeners.com](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com)

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



September 2016



Like us on  
**Facebook**

Website: [www.matsumastergardeners.com/](http://www.matsumastergardeners.com/)  
Email: [matsumastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:matsumastergardeners@gmail.com)

**MAT-SU MASTER GARDENERS  
ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 585  
PALMER, AK 99645**

