



Jun 2024



President's Patch

By President Kevin Johnson

June is here!!

The temperatures have now stayed in the high 30s, low 40s at night, so I do believe summer has arrived.

Make sure you stop by and check out the MMGA Plant Sale on Saturday June 1, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Pavilion in downtown Palmer. All the vendors are members of MMGA and will have great plants for your yard and garden. Arrive early as many items sell out quickly.

Wednesday, June 5, 10:00 am, MMGA will be working on our annual project cleaning and planting at the Alaska Veterans & Pioneers Home in downtown Palmer. Some of the plants will be donated by members from their leftovers from the Plant Sale, with others purchased. Due to their scheduling this is the only day available. I'll be meeting with the staff soon when all the planters have been placed around the grounds. The City of Palmer will be watering the plants with their schedule. We need to provide volunteers to weed the beds. A weeding schedule has been started by Deb. The schedule will be available at the planting for folks to sign up for a weekly slot.

This month's meeting will be held Monday, June 10, 7:00 pm at the Rebarchek Farm on the Alaska State Fair grounds. During this meeting we will be working on our area and Cathy will have checks for the members that were vendors at the plant sale. So, everyone please bring your work clothes and tools to join in the community project at the Rebarchek Farm. Isaac is our point of contact for the project. The Farm is located on the right-hand side of the road next to the Mat Su Miners ballfield, along Rebarchek Road, Red Gate of the Fair.

Remember, please track your volunteer hours. Last I heard, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, or others involved in the Master Gardener program, are developing a way to track this

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REGULAR MEETINGS

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT MEETING

JUN 10TH, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

REBARCHEK FARM PROJECT, MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER PLOT

SEE PAGE 4 FOR A MAP AND INFORMATION

AGENDA

7:00 TO 7:30 PM BUSINESS MEETING

7:30 SPEAKER:

WORK PARTY AT THE MMGA PLOT

information online. I'll be checking on the progress.

June is a busy month with MMGA and our local projects.

PEASANT'S PERSPECTIVE:

BY CURT MUELLER, MASTER GARDENER – PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

Over the years the peasant has tried growing some plants that are marginally hardy, some successful others that are not. This brings up one plant that should not fail for anyone in our area. That plant is *Rosa spinosissima*, known more easily as Scotch rose. It is rated as hardy for zone 3 and will definitely thrive well here. The moose won't bother it much as it is very thorny.

There are several varieties of Scotch rose; the one the peasant grows is a single white flowered type which is as hardy as a wild rose. It blooms heavily once a season and is very fragrant and attractive to pollinators. It will spread if left to its wiles but is easily contained with a mower.

Because of its spreading habit it is easy to produce a hedge that will not allow encroachment by woodland plants and makes a buffer between woods and lawn. It is propagated by digging side shoots.

It's nice to have a plant which requires so little care, and the peasant has a particular liking for this one. Perhaps the best availability is to acquire side shoots from a friend who grows this plant. It is easiest to control in a lawn area where side shoots can be cut down with the grass. Thanks, folks.



This Scotch rose is performing its function as a buffer between the woodland and the lawn area.

MEETING MINUTES**Mat-Su Master Gardeners Association
May 6, 2024**

Submitted by Kay Fyfe, member

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. In attendance were the following members and visitors:

Deb & Ken Blaylock, Isaac Vaughan, Amie Vaughan, Gideon Vaughan, Cathy Crew, Theresa Phillips, N. Thompson, Todd Weaver, Allison Fiscus, Dawn Wolski, Marge Mueller, Curt Mueller, June Liu, Bonnie Hager, Leslie Scott, James Patrick, Craig Lisonbee, Ginger Sweeney, Lee Henrickson, Lynn Fuller, Zoe Fuller, Laurel Flynn, Michael Bridges, Gregory Kalal, Kathy Kalal, Joseph Maestas, Marleen Maestas and Kay Fyfe.

Kevin Johnson reported on Zoom meetings. Ken Blaylock made a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting and Laurel Flynn seconded the motion and the minutes were passed.

Cathy Crew, Treasurer, provided the Treasurer's Report. Not much of a change from the April report. There is \$7,395.00 in the Checking Account and \$7,772.00 in the Savings Account. The \$3,000.00 for CDs has not been done yet but the money will be moved out of the Savings Account. She also discussed the year-to-date expenses and budget. Curt Mueller moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Ken Blaylock seconded the motion and it passed.

The annual plant sale was discussed. Membership in the Association is required to participate in the plant sale.

The June meeting will be held at the Rebarchek Farm on June 10, 2024, at 7:00 pm. The eighty-acre Rebarchek farm at the fairgrounds is an Agricultural Park that allows clubs to showcase their abilities. There were questions from attendees about prepping the garden beds for summer.

There was also discussion about a meeting to plant flowers at the Veterans and Pioneers Home in Palmer on Thursday, June 6th. No time has been set yet. Kevin Johnson will send out information on time.

The next topic for discussion was the Plant Sale. The Treasurer will have checks from the Plant Sale at the June 10th meeting. The Treasurer, Cathy

Crew, discussed the following regarding the annual Plant Sale:

She read the rules: Boxes needed for customers to take their plants home; Cathy will have the credit card reader; table and chairs are needed for cashiers; signage is needed; President Kevin Johnson will man the membership booth; everyone is required to provide their own tables.

There was discussion about the Midsummer Garden and Art Faire and the Summer Garden Tours. Deb Blaylock discussed the State Fair awards and parade.

NEW BUSINESS

Mat-Valley Rebuild wants to plant a community garden in front of their business. \$75.00 was donated to them. There was a lot of discussion about paying the stipend to speakers but not for a garden for the business. The \$75.00 was offered to Mat-Valley Rebuild but no vote was taken. Treasurer Cathy Crew moved to give the \$75.00 to Mat-Valley Rebuild. Isaac Vaughn seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Deb Blaylock stated that the donation is not in the standing rules and not in the budget so it would have to be a grant because it is not educational. Cathy Crew, Treasurer, thought it was educational. Deb Blaylock stated that it would be a grant that would require them to do specific things. Cathy Crew, Treasurer, stated that it's for the community. It was put to a vote with seven members voting "No" and nine members voting "Yes." Deb Blaylock made a motion that he be required to make signage and submit a grant application. Bonnie Hager seconded the motion. The members voted and the motion passed.

A letter was read from Jenny Weaver, Vice President, about her absence and about Zoe Fuller and Singing Nettle Farms.

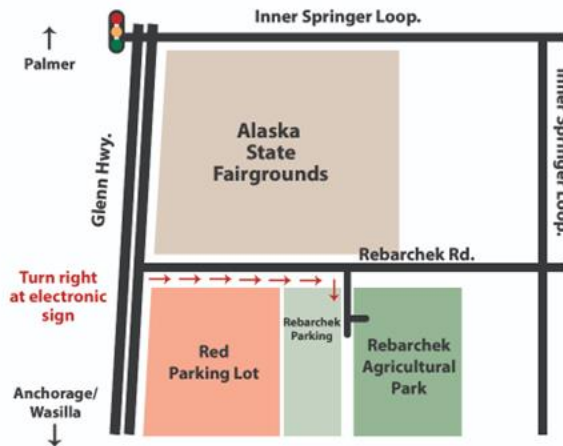
Zoe Fuller from Singing Nettle Farms did a presentation about her farm and her family's mission. Her contact information is:

zoe@singingnettlefarm or
www.singingnettle.farm or
www.matanuskacommunityfarmersmarket.com

Kevin Johnson, President restated upcoming events.

The meeting was adjourned.

JUNE MEETING INFORMATION REBARCHEK FARM PROJECT, MAT-SU MASTER GARDENER PLOT



Location: Rebarchek Farm is located adjacent to the Fairgrounds. Turn into the red parking lot off the Glenn Hwy (entrance with the flashing electronic sign) and follow the signs with event arrows. The Mat-Su Master Gardener plot is marked by the arbor at the entrance to our plot. We will gather there.



Reminder: Dogs are not allowed at the Rebarchek farm.

We will have a brief business meeting. If you participated in the plant sale on June 1st, checks and plant labels will be available for pick up. Part of the agenda will be to discuss establishing workdays at the plot for the summer of 2024.

After the business meeting, Isaac will direct us to the projects and work needed to be completed on our plot. Please bring some garden tools and a bucket or two for collecting debris. If you have some leftover plants from the plant sale to donate and plant in our beds, please bring them with you. Dress for the weather and work gloves are advised.

JUNE 1, 2024 - ANNUAL PLANT SALE

The annual plant sale kicks off at 9 am on June 1, 2024. We are located at the Palmer Pavilion which is directly across the road from the Palmer Visitor Center.

There will be a wide variety of plants grown by members of our Association. If you have a need to fill up blanks in your yards and gardens, please stop by and see what there is!

Members who are participating as vendors are welcome to come and help out. The check out area is always in need of extra hands to pull tags and help customers with their purchases. Customers always have gardening questions which many of you experts can help answer. If you have been saving boxes for the sale, drop them off between 8 am and 1 pm on the day of the sale. We seem to always run out!

Here's a list of what some of our vendor members will have: Ann: munstead lavender, French rosemary, eucalyptus, patchouli, imperial star artichokes (hopefully), lambs' ear, yarrow, creeping thyme, oregano, thyme, and toothache plant. Kristina: perennial flowers, annual flowers, rock garden plants, tomato plants, a few perennial herbs, larch trees, possibly berry bushes. Deb: many types of herbs, tomatoes and pepper, various vegetables, and bedding flowers. Ginger: perennial flowers, black currants, Matared strawberries, a few old fashion lilacs, a couple of extra cucumbers and tomatoes. Considering bringing a few stepping-stones from our concrete molds. Theresa will have tomatoes, peppers and other veggies, herbs, flowers, common purple lilacs, and strawberries. Leslie will have assorted perennials including delphiniums, lychnis, Oriental & arctic poppies, shooting stars, ladies mantle, some others (not sure yet), possibly strawberries.

COME AND VISIT!



Matanuska Experiment Farm & Extension Center Community Garden Expert Volunteers Needed

We are looking for some volunteers to join us at our
Community Garden Planting Days
to offer advice and guidance to new and experienced gardeners.
(you do not have to attend for the entire time)

Please contact Theresa Isaac at 907-746-9481 or tmisaac@alaska.edu

Thank you in advance for your support of our Community Gardens!!!!!!

May	Community Garden Planting Day May 29, 2- 6pm June 1, 2 – 6 pm Experts to answer questions: TBD	Community Garden Plots In-Person Only
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**Watch our Facebook, Instagram and website
for up-to-date info & registration links!**

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

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Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center Classes

May 21	Easy Perennial Flowers from Seed*	Class held in person	6:00-7:00 pm
May 23	Tractor Talk with Kirby Hull	Class held in person	6:00-7:00 pm
May 30	Lawn Care	Class held in person	6:00-7:00 pm
June 5	Tree Grafting 101 & Hazelnut Research	Class held in person	6:00-8:00 pm

*There is a fee for this class

We add more classes regularly!

Visit our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as our website for additional
information & registration links, or call us at 907-745-3360



<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/districts/matsu/>
<https://www.facebook.com/matanuskaexperimentfarm/>
https://www.instagram.com/matanuskaexperiment_farm/

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Garden Links (updated March 2024)

Alaska AgrAbility Program ****New Mar 2024****

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/agriculture/agrability/index.php>

Alaska Botanical Garden

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

Alaska Center for Conservation Science

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

Alaska Community Forestry

<https://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index>

Arbor Day Foundation

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 Native Plant Society

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

Alaska Non-Native Species List

<https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/invasive-species/non-native-plant-species-list/>

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/>

Flora of North America

<http://floranorthamerica.org/>

Good Earth Garden School

<https://www.goodearthgardenschool.com/>

Georgeson Botanical Garden

<https://georgesonbotanicalgarden.org/>

iNaturalist *****New May 2024*****

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Integrated Pest Management Program

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

IPM Alaska Pest Reporter

<https://plw.man.mybluehost.me/>

Junior Master Gardener

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

Landscape Plants for Alaska

<https://visionplusapps.com/alaska-plants/>

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)

<https://extension.org/search/>

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley

<https://fairbanksmastergardeners.wordpress.com/>

Mat-Su/Copper River Cooperative Extension Service

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

Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Services

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

National AgrAbility Program ****New Mar 2024****

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

Palmer Soil & Water Conservation District

<http://palmersoilandwater.org/>

Society of American Foresters, Cook Inlet Chapter

<https://forestry.org/cook-inlet-seedling-sale/>

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 Herbarium

<http://www.uaf.edu/museum/collections/herb/>

UAF Alaska Master Gardener Program

<https://www.uaf.edu/ces/garden/mastergardeners/>

University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program

www.fruit.usask.ca

USDA/NRCS Plant Database

<https://plants.usda.gov/home>

Wildflower Garden Club of Alaska

<https://wildflowergardenclub.org/>



CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Kevin Johnson	907 775 2808
Vice President:	Jenny Weaver	907-982-5446
Secretary:	Jana Gooch	907 746-2891
Treasurer:	Cathy Crew	907-632-4401
Member at Large:	Deb Blaylock	907-746-6045

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/
 Email: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2024 AND BEYOND

Jun 1, Palmer, Annual Plant Sale, 9am-3pm
Jun 5, Palmer, Palmer Veterans and Pioneers Home Flower Bed Planting, 10 am
Jun 10, Palmer, Regular Meeting, MMGA Plot at the Rebarchek Farm Project
July-August – Summer Garden Tours TBD
Aug 1, Palmer, Field Days, MEF&EC
Sep 9, Palmer, Regular Meeting
Oct 7, Palmer, Regular Meeting
Nov 4, Palmer, Annual Meeting/Elections
Dec TBD, 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 was **February 5, 2024**, 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: 20th day of each month -- Thank you--



June 2024



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