



President's Patch

By Sheri Walker

How is it that yard clean up is always so much more enjoyable than house cleaning? As I was out the other day in the sunshine cleaning up fallen twigs, branches, fertilizer pellets (aka moose nuggets) and grass clippings from the vole tunnels I felt a lightness of mood and clarity of mind that I've not felt for a few months. It occurred to me that every mental health facility should have a garden! It just does something for us to dig in the dirt and witness the miracle of new life protruding through the ground even if there is still snow laying around. Maybe if everyone had a garden it would eliminate the need for mental health facilities?

Speaking of cold soil, I have read a certain Anchorage garden columnist a few years ago suggesting that one could pour hot water on the garden to warm the soil. I poo poed this as being way too much work. However, I discovered last fall that the garden hose attaches directly to the hot water heater in my garage so my newly revamped vegetable garden has twice been the recipient of warm water and is now quite diggable. We were reminded at our recent conference that there are as many ways of composting as there are gardeners who compost. I have taken the liberty of doing it my way and we'll see what happens. Rather than fill the new raised beds with truck loads of purchased topsoil, I have partially filled them with the bags of chopped leaves from last year, goat manure and barnyard straw and kitchen scraps. Then I hope to prevail upon my husband to get me one or two truckloads of topsoil to spread on top. Hopefully the lakes stay frozen for a little while longer since he is already frantically building my greenhouse to have it done before fishing starts. I'm afraid that he's made it quite clear that once fishing starts, I'm on my own in the garden. Oh wait, my almost five year old son will help me. He

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Chapter Meetings First Monday of the Month

Next meeting
Monday, May 3, 2010, 7:00 pm
Location:
MTA Conference Room
Palmer, Alaska

Agenda:

Scholarship
Distribution of Plant Sale Tags
Library Planter - Discussion of what plants people will likely be donating
Volunteer opportunities

Guest Speaker:

Catherine Inman, Rain Gardens

has been bugging me for weeks to plant carrots.

I have been greatly inspired by Annie Nevaldine's presentation at the conference regarding interplanting vegetables, herbs and flowers. Perhaps it is the latent artist in me that abhors straight lines and solid colors causing an aversion to vegetable gardens. That and the fact that vegetable gardening is high maintenance.

Con't on page 3

Plant Nutrients

By: Master Gardener Cynthia Hardy, Tanana Valley MG

N (Nitrogen)—Promotes leaf growth

Deficiency or excess symptoms:

- (-) Yellowing of lower leaves
- (+) Dark green leaves, cupping, or halo (yellowing on edges of leaf)

Organic Sources:

Compost
Manure
Teas (compost)
Fish Meal (fish fertilizer)
Kelp
Green Manure (leaves, grass clippings)
Bonemeal
Coffee Grounds

P (Phosphorous)—Promotes root and flower growth

Deficiency or excess symptoms:

- (-) Reddish leaves
- (+) No greening up
- (+) Blue green coloration

Organic Sources:

Bonemeal
Fish meal
Rock phosphate
Granite dust
Kelp
Glacial silt

K (Potassium)—Promotes stem growth, disease resistance, overwintering

Deficiency or excess symptoms:

- (-) Scorched on edges
- (-) Yellowing between leaf veins

Organic Sources:

Wood ash (1qt/100 sq ft)
Manure
Green manure (leaves, grass clippings)
Granite dust or greensand
Kelp
Coffee grounds

Mg (Magnesium)—Promotes photosynthesis

Deficiency or excess symptoms:

- (-) Slow growth
- (-) Leaves pale yellow on outer edges
- (-) Dark spots on leaves

Sources:

Epsom salts
Dolomite lime

Boron—Promotes seed and fruit development, production of sugars and carbohydrates

Deficiency or Excess symptoms:

- (-) "Hollow heart" in root crops
- (-) Terminal buds die
- (+) Toxicity

Source:

Borax (1T/1 Gal/100 sq ft 1X/3 yrs)

Ca (Calcium)—Promotes cell structure

Deficiency or excess symptoms:

- (-) New leaves hook shaped
- (-) Blossom end rot

Source:

Egg shells
Dolomite lime

S (Sulfur)—Promotes protein growth, chlorophyll, and flavor

Deficiency or excess symptoms:

- (-) Small spindly plants
- (-) Young leaves light green/yellow
- (-) Light colored veins
- (-) Leaf spotting

Sources:

Manure
Compost
Rainwater

Con't from page 1

So I am determined that I will succeed this year with a larger palette of color that will also satisfy the palate. Long time member Hazel Koppenberg also gave us food for thought at the April meeting with her presentation on soaps and ointments. So many plants that we call weeds that have many uses. I think that I shall like to try making some ointments since I have ready access to many of the ingredients right in my yard. Soap making on the other hand I think will need to wait a few years when I am not interrupted frequently by little ones and not so concerned about them getting into the lye. Two great books that Hazel suggested: *The Art of Soapmaking* by Marilyn Mohr and *Discovering Wild Plants* by Janet Schofield.

The garden is not the only place that I've witnessed new growth. The Mat-Su Master Gardener Association has seen a steady increase in membership and interest. I am very excited about the Home, Garden and Outdoor Living Show that we were invited to participate in. By the time this goes to print it will most likely be past tense. The organizers kindly donated the space to us as a non-profit. What a great opportunity to increase awareness in the community. I expect we'll be getting a lot more gardening questions and traffic through the website as a result. Who knows, maybe we'll score a few more members to help us with our projects.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sherrod School will mark Alaska Ag Day on Wednesday, May 5. All of the students at the school will rotate through 35-minute sessions from 9:20 to 11:25 in groups of about 30 kids at a time. To cover that, we need at least 15 presenters. Even if you cannot devote 2 hours that morning, if you can take an hour off work to do one session, it will help. We want it to be as fun for the students as possible, so consider bringing something for "show and tell" or do a little activity with the students. In 2008 we had a great line up, from bees to alpacas to soil. Let me know if you need ideas!

Let me know if you can help. Raising kids' agricultural literacy is something we can all do, and have fun doing!
Thanks so much,
Jade Rutledge
APU Spring Creek Farm
Americorps Farm Education Coordinator
907-746-2714
jrutledge@alaskapacific.edu

Original newsletters have surfaced and need to be archived. Please contact matsumastergardeners@gmail.com if you are interested in this project.

Nomination Committee still needed to lead recruitment process for vacating board positions. Please contact matsumastergardeners@gmail.com if you are interested in this committee.

Donations of plants and time for Children's Garden at Spring Creek Farm. Contact Michael Kircher 745-1459.
SpringCreekFarmAK.org

Garden Links

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley:

<http://interiormastergardeners.org/>

**Alaska Master Gardeners Association,
Anchorage Chapter:**

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

Alaska Botanical Garden:

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

**Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley Monthly
Newsletter:**

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/newsletters/mastergardeners/2008/0812tananamgu.pdf>

Alaska Peony Growers Association:

<http://alaskapeonies.org/index.html>

Alaska State Federation of Garden Clubs:

<http://www.gardencentral.org/asfgc/homepage/>

UAF, CES Palmer Website:

<http://mat-suces.weebly.com>

UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications:

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

Alaska Plant Materials Center:

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_pmc.htm

Master Gardener Research Link:

<http://search.extension.org>

Matsu Master Gardener Site:

www.matsumastergardeners.org

Announcements

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2010:

May 3, 7:00 pm, Katherine Inman, Rain Gardens, MTA Conference Room
June 5, 9am-3pm: Plant Sale, Palmer Pavilion
June 7, 7:00 pm: Library Planter, Palmer Library
July 12, TBA
August 2, TBA
September 13, 7:00 pm: Native Trees and Shrubs for the Landscape, Patricia Joyner, MTA conference room
October TBA
November 1, 7:00 pm: Fungi for Gardeners, AKA Mushrooms, Diane Pleninger, MTA Conference Room
December 6, 7:00 pm: Christmas Party and Elections

PLANT DONATIONS NEEDED

Member Pat Tremaine is taking donations of plants and money for the Heartreach Pregnancy Center in Wasilla on Leatherleaf Loop again this year. Donna Embree, Christine Ashurst, and Pat will be planting and maintaining it this summer. They plan to have pots of flowers as well as perennials from last year and annuals. Contact her at 907-746-4623 or email: tremaine@mtaonline.net .

MATSU MASTER GARDENER 2010 PLANT SALE INSTRUCTIONS

We have developed set of guidelines for the 2010 Plant Sale. They will be available for you to print on the same sight as the Newsletter. Members who receive a printed newsletter will also receive a printed copy of the plant sale instructions. Please note, to participate in the plant sale, you must be a current member with the Matsu Master Gardener's Club. If you aren't sure if you're a current member, please contact Michele Walker at 306-1188.

Mat-Su Master Gardeners Meeting Minutes

March 1st 2010

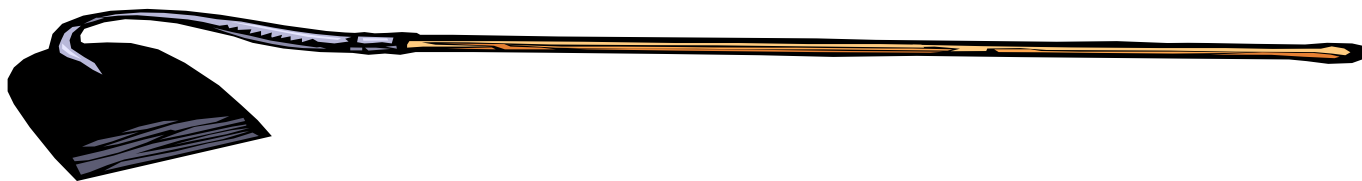
President Sheri Walker called the meeting to order with 20 people in attendance. Sheri Walker requested that the minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter, Wayne Bowman moved to accept, seconded by Deb Blaylock, and passed. Sheri then read out the Conference treasurers report as Arlene was unable to attend.

The Home and Garden show was next on the agenda. Marge Mueller stated that she and Arlene Bowman would be in charge of setup and take down, as well as gathering the necessary volunteers to man the booth. Marie Dommer offered to provide a talk as well as plants to decorate the booth as long as someone can be arranged to pick them up. Wayne Bowman brought up the purchase of the 6' folding table, by the club, for the Home and Garden show as well as other events. The table, costing 50.00 at Costco, was eventually voted upon as Warren Templin brought a motion to purchase the table, Marge seconded, and it was passed with the amendment of also purchasing 2 chairs. There were two who opposed the purchased, Marie Dommer and Jamey Duhmael, stating the Co-operative extension should be aiding the club with such items. Deb Blaylock agreed to re-do the Master Gardener brochure for the event as well as suggesting UPS as a printer of any posters or pamphlets regarding the Plant Sale which are to be used and given away.

Last on the agenda was the Plant Sale, to be held June 5th, 9:00 – 3:00 at the Palmer pavilion. The issue of having some Junior Master Gardeners become involved was raised and Hazel Koppenburg stated she would look into locating some willing individuals. Micheal Kircher stated he and his wife would be doing a publicity blitz for the plant sale and inquired as to who had the plant labels, Wayne Bowman indicated he had what was left from last year and would pass that information along. Lastly Micheal asked if any leftover plants from the sale could be donated to the Spring Creek Farms display and childrens gardens. He also asked that if anyone had any time or skills to donate to the project to please contact him. Wayne Bowman offered his thanks to all who organized and participated in the Conference for their hard work and time.

Wayne Bowman then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Warren Templin seconded and passed.

Michele Walker, Secretary



CLUB CONTACT INFO

President:	Sheri Walker	746-6772
VP	Wayne Bowman	745-3537
Secretary:	Michele Walker	306-1188
Treasurer:	Arlene Bowman	745-3537
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

Lassitude and Lamentations Curt Mueller

The snow has snowed; the wind has blown.
 It's chilled my bod clear to the bone.
 My soul far better times has known.
 To earn all this, what have I done?

I've paid my dues with winter blues.
 Yet still it comes; I did not choose
 These Arctic blasts, but can't refuse
 The season's wont for more abuse.

Bring on some heat; to heck with sleet.
 More profane thoughts I here delete
 While gobs of white upon me beat
 And frigid winds repeat, repeat.

The geese now fly; the robins sing.
 The wild critters have their fling.
 But winter hasn't lost its sting.
 Oh where, oh where, oh where is Spring?

My spirits sink; I'm on the brink
 Of ceding hope. I dare not blink.
 For all may change in just a wink
 And glorious days arrive. [I think.]



May 2010

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