Matthew R. Fleischhacker

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- Attended Longwood Gardens' two-year Professional Horticulture Program with specialized rotations across conservatory operations, production greenhouses, plant health care, land stewardship and ecology, woody nursery, research, and outdoor landscapes
- Alaska Master Gardener with experience leading nonprofit garden restoration projects in Zone 4 climate conditions
- Earned 236 awards in horticulture competitions at Alaska State Fair over 10-year period, including 61 first-place recognitions
- Pennsylvania Certified Pesticide Applicator credential to execute compliant integrated pest management (IPM), greenhouse operations, and sustainable planting designs.
- Active in professional development through industry conferences and events regularly

EDUCATION

Professional Horticulture Program | Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA | August 2024 - July 2026

- Intensive two-year program integrating college-level coursework with hands-on training across garden departments
- Specialized rotations in conservatory operations, production greenhouses, outdoor landscapes, research, plant health care, stewardship and ecology, woody nursery, and customer service
- Educational travel to study horticultural practices at major botanical institutions locally and internationally
- Obtained Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator License

Bachelor of Science in Horticulture | Delaware Valley University | Expected December 2027

Alaska Master Gardener Certification, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Mat-Su Extension 2023-2024 | High School Diploma, Chugiak High School, Chugiak, AK, May 2024 | National Honor Society | Key Club | Founded Fine Arts Honor Cord program recognizing exceptional achievement in visual and performing arts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional Horticulture Intern | Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA | August 2024 - July 2026

- Execute daily horticultural operations, including planting design, installation, pruning, and pest management across a 1,100-acre property
- Design and implement seasonal garden displays utilizing principles of color theory, plant ecology, and sustainable practices in a variety of regions and climates
- Apply integrated pest management strategies and maintain regulatory compliance documentation
- Operate greenhouse climate control systems, irrigation equipment, and specialized horticultural machinery (scissor lifts, boom lifts, stick shift vehicles, tractors, tillers, 2-stroke engines, sprayers)
- Participate in plant propagation, production scheduling, and inventory management
- Collaborate on research projects and educational programming for public engagement

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

Garden Restoration Project Leader | Nonprofit building, Chugiak, AK | 2023-2024

- Managed comprehensive garden renovation, including site assessment, soil testing, and amendment application
- Designed and executed a planting plan appropriate for Alaska's growing conditions

Volunteer Horticulturist | Seeds of Change, Anchorage, AK | 2023-2024

- Maintained hydroponic growing systems, including planting, crop care, scheduling, and harvesting

Volunteer Horticulturist | Chanticleer Garden, Wayne, PA | 2025-2026

- Maintaining grounds including watering, weeding, planting, pruning and engaging with guests

TECHNICAL SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Licenses & Certifications: Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator License, Alaska Master Gardener
Horticultural Expertise: Garden design and installation • Integrated pest management • Soil science and fertility management • Hydroponic systems • Plant propagation • Greenhouse operations • Climate control systems • Irrigation management • Plant identification and taxonomy • Cold-climate horticulture
Technical Competencies: Pesticide application and record-keeping • Horticultural equipment operation • Production scheduling • Plant health diagnostics

LEADERSHIP & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Eagle Scout | Boy Scouts of America | 2022

- Planned and executed a service project producing 200+ pillowcases for the Providence Hospital Pediatric Unit
- Senior Patrol Leader: Led troop operations and mentored younger scouts | Earned 29 Merit Badges

Senior Projects Coordinator | Chugiak High School | 2023-2024

- Completed three separate 40+ hour community service projects totaling 166.5 hours

ACHIEVEMENTS

Alaska State Fair | Competitor 2013-2023

- 236 total awards across horticulture, in addition to fine arts, and crafts categories
- First Place: 61 | Second Place: 49 | Third Place: 49 | Giant Cabbage: 27.5 pounds, 18th place (2023)
- Categories of expertise: flowers, vegetables, berries, herbs, pottery, photography, quilting, painting

Academic Honors | National Honor Society | Golden Baton Award, Chugiak Orchestra | World Language ***Declamation*** | 7 awards in German | Varsity Tennis Letter

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- Community service: 700+ hours across horticultural, educational, and civic organizations
- Volunteer hours across 25+ nonprofit organizations, including Seeds of Change, Eagle River Food Bank, Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center, Wreaths Across America, etc.
- Event attendees, 2023 and 2024 Alaska Master Gardener Conference
- Event attendee 2025, Perennial plant conference, Woody plant conference, Galanthus Galla, Bank to Bend at Winterthur Museum and gardens and 2026, Philadelphia Flower Show
- Event volunteered 2026, Philadelphia Flower Show