

THE GARDEN PATCH



April 2006

Salt Lake Master Gardener Association

Vol. 8, No.4

St. Patrick's Season in the Mantis Garden

By Catherine New

At dusk March 22nd two elementary age girls went out our front gate, each clutching a daffodil, several forsythia stems, and a couple of dried lambs ears seed stalks. I couldn't resist cutting the first two open daffodils just to see the girls grin from ear to ear; then the daffodil yellow prompted me to offer the barely budding forsythia. A bit surprised but not skeptical, they listened to my instructions to put the stems indoors in water with the daffodil and watch for the yellow blooms to open in a couple of days. I pointed out to the girls a few forsythia bushes that soon would burst forth like earthbound suns throughout the neighborhood---this one where we took the clippings, another across the street at the base of the utility pole, and yet another a few houses down the block at the southeast corner of a bungalow porch. "For-si-thee-a," they intoned several times, as if it were abracadabra magic.

And magic it is. Three yellow explosions herald our growing season: forsythia, golden chain tree, and Harrison's rose. While tree and rose are still bare limbs and canes, forsythia buds become distinct and readily persuaded to bloom indoors. Typically just before the Ides of March I harvest a bundle of stems for Saint Patrick's bouquets, and while harvesting I scan the forsythia's many branches for praying mantis oothecae which will be so hard to spot once the blossoms open. My scanning has been rewarded; I've usually seen at least one ootheca.

A little later, the golden chain tree and Harrison's rose will bloom at the same time and in the same color, a sixteen-foot pillar of yellow blossoms trickling down beside the six-foot cedar slat fence and a nine-foot fountain of yellow arching over the side gate. After the yellow blossoms have passed and leaves taken over, Virginia creeper will festoon the fence along the property line behind tree and rose. In Saint Patrick's season the creeper trunk remains bare. Relentlessly pruning all the creeper's branches in fall, I've collected several stems with oothecae and saved them to re-



install or pass along in spring. Above, when the golden chain tree drops its leaves in fall, more oothecae reveal themselves on the vertical limbs reaching into the winter sky.

Below the upstretched golden chain tree, an old steam radiator serves as a bench to relax while keeping fire safety watch on the flames in the grill. One spring I found the galvanized watering can next to the steam radiator bench and recalled the final grilling of last season, watering thirsty patio plants as I kept an eye on the flames and dinner. The weather changed, the can stayed by the radiator bench all winter, and in spring I found an ootheca on the inside edge of the watering can handle. Early winter 2004 I found an ootheca inside the coils of the radiator bench. Nooks and crannies of the slatted fence shelter oothecae.

Perhaps around ten, I saw my first ootheca. Skippers frequented a colorful lantana hedge against the south-facing stucco wall along our red cement driveway.

When we kids were attracted by the skippers sipping nectar, the mantises were there in the lantana; over the summer we observed female abdomens grow plump, then exude foamy oothecae onto twigs, stucco wall, wood window sill. So, it came as a surprise to me that mantis oothecae were often mistaken for spider or wasp nests, or some undesirable infestation to be excised and discarded. I much appreciated the March Garden Patch editor's note that an ootheca looks like it's made out of layers of paper: exactly! And the nymphs emerge head first between those layers, wriggling out long and sleek to dangle on filaments hanging from the ootheca; then joints angle out as the exoskeleton dries and suddenly the mosquito-sized nymphs are recognizable as mantises. It is a site worth seeing, abracadabra magic. I've seen hatches take several hours, and I've seen hatches stretch out over a few days. I understand that as many as 200 nymphs may emerge from between those papery ootheca layers, though I haven't counted.

If you have the good fortune to observe a mantis hatch, and have the patience to count the nymphs---tell us how many you counted!

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Traci Dahle

Hi Everyone,

We had another fun meeting in March. Etsuko Freeman talked about how we should do our flower arrangements for entering in the State Fair. She was very informative, entertaining and funny. One thing that she mentioned is that a lot of us have slowly found out is to not take it personally if we don't get blue ribbons. Your flowers could be very beautiful, but read the information book very closely. It could be a very minor point but if you don't go by the instructions your entry will be disqualified. Last year I took in six nice big well-rounded marigolds, intending to remove the extra one after I inspected them for travel damage. I forgot to take that extra one out, so the entry was disqualified. Go please go over your fair books very carefully. You can get a copy on line at www.utahstatefair.com

I enjoyed Etsuko, and I hope the rest of you did. We have a great upcoming year of talks and tours, so please read the newsletter carefully to stay informed. Also if you want to be informed of any last minute things coming up, make sure Amy Hargreaves has your e-mail address so she can keep you updated.

I want to thank everyone who visited the new classes. I think it is good to have them meet our blue badge Master Gardeners, and see who is active in our group. The new class is a great bunch of people, I met a couple of them a little more one on one at the Home and Garden Show, and I'm excited to get to know the rest of them through out the year. If any of the new class has any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if I can help you. And everyone else please make them feel welcome.

Speaking of the Home and Garden Show, I want to thank everyone who helped at the booth. I think it was one of our better shows. We were right in the middle of the building where people had to walk by us if they were looking at the gardens. We talked to over 600 people, sold some pamphlets and seeds. But more importantly there were hardly any problems, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We did have a couple of no shows which I know can happen once in a while, but please in the future, if you have signed up and can't make it please call the Volunteer Coordinator so they can make sure there is someone there. We had a wonderful new class member who had to sit alone. She said she had fun and thought things went well, but was more concerned because we told the new class people we didn't want them to be alone. Remember Blue Badge people, we want to be a good example to our new upcoming Master Gardeners.

If you get a chance, go to the tree grafting class giving by Bart and Golden. I went a couple of years ago and now have four different apples on my apple tree. It's a great learning experience. Besides, Bart and Golden are quite entertaining.

Are we all getting excited to start working in our yards? It is getting so close and yet so muddy. I found some of my early bulbs already bloomed, which was fun. I am hoping to till my gardens next month if it dries up a little, so I can start planting my spring garden. Last I heard is you got snow again, [Traci is hiding out in Arizona, poor kid. Ed.] I'm sure it will start getting better. I am writing this on the first day of spring, and the word *spring* is enough to get me excited.

My tomatoes down south are doing great. We (meaning Ken, me and my neighbors) are enjoying that fresh flavor every once in a while.

Take Care and Be Safe, see you at the plant swap!!!!!!
Traci Dahle smokil@smartfella.com

"It (service) is the dividing line which separates the two great groups of the world--those who help and those who hinder, those who lift and those who lean, those who contribute and those who only consume."
- - - Bryant S. Hinckley

WORRIED ABOUT TERMITE INFESTED MULCH?

Many of us have received emails this past month warning us about the dangers of mulches purchased at local businesses being made from shredded wood salvaged from the ruins of Hurricane Katrina. One of the huge benefits we reap as Master Gardeners in the Salt Lake area is that we have Extension Horticulture agents who can give us the authoritative information we need.

One of our Extension Horticulturists, Maggie Shao, has researched this problem for us. Here is her report:

Jenny asked me to address the concerns about an email message that has been circulating raising concern and alarm about the Formosan termite infested mulch from the downed trees from Hurricane Katrina. I have looked to experts including USU Extension Soils Specialist, Forest Health Coordinator for the State of Utah, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; all emphasize that the email is rumor and not fact. The following are excerpts from a news release from Louisiana.

The email warns consumers not to purchase "cheap" wood mulch at major home improvement chains because it may be infested with Formosan termites. Commissioner Odom of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry responded: "The email is not accurate and doesn't even mention the quarantines this department put in place last fall to keep Formosan termites from spreading,"

Odom said "In my opinion, someone is using the Internet to cause hysteria about a problem that doesn't really exist. If there are people out there who know about someone violating the quarantines, then they need to report it to us. We'll shut the culprits down real quick but it has to be reported," Odom said.

"I've had my people out looking into these claims to make sure there are no violations of the quarantine. I've also had our invasive pest expert contact the stores mentioned in the email and we've yet to find any validity to the claims in the email," Odom said.

E X T E N S I O N

Utah State UNIVERSITY

Changing Tracks from Grubs to Worms

By Maggie Wolf

Last week, a retired gentleman called to ask about killing grubs in his lawn. "Mr. X" explained that towards the end of last summer, he saw a lot of dead grass in his lawn, and had great concern that there might be trouble. He had just re-sodded a good portion of the lawn that spring, and with that expense still in mind, was wary of any dangers lurking in the soil. After digging around a bit, he found a one- or two-inch long, white wormy thing, curved into a "C" shape. He took it down to Rex at the Sandy Western Garden Center, who correctly identified it as a grub. Rex advised that Mr. X purchase and apply some Bayer Advanced Lawn product, and Mr. X obeyed. Through winter, Mr. X had recurring dreams of whirling C-shaped razors, whizzing down from above and grinding into the ground (just kidding).

Last week, Mr. X called our office to ask whether it was time to re-apply the grub control. Realizing that I've been working indoors an awful lot, I still thought it unusually early for grubs to show up. Mr. X described the problem, explaining that the grubs were now making the lawn "bumpy, with piles of dirt on the top". Knowing that soil is very wet with snowmelt, spring is the time for nightcrawlers to mate (they come up out of the ground to do this), and grubs are still deep in the soil this time of year, I realized Mr. X was on the wrong track. As the light bulb clicked on in my head, the task of turning Mr. X towards the light began. I talked with him about 30 minutes, and promised to send him some literature about both grubs and earthworms to convince him of my diagnosis.

Monday, I had a voice message from Mr. X. With a hint of desperation in his voice, he said he hadn't yet received the literature, and he needed to know how to proceed before these creatures destroyed his whole lawn. He was going out of town Wednesday and needed to know what to do before then. I agreed to visit his home. Once there, I could see that Mr. X has a very low threshold of tolerance for disorder. His landscape was immaculate. Nevertheless, there were, indeed, little bumps of earthworm middens across parts of the yard. There were also little holes, which I later discovered were from a core aerator. After digging and finding some earthworms (and no grubs), and trying to convince Mr. X that he should overseed with a shade-tolerant grass for better lawn vigor around the home, he finally asked, for about the 8th time, "so, how do I get rid of these earthworms?"

After about 45 minutes, I left Mr. X with the following advice: go trade in the Bayer Advanced for some shade grass seed - and get cash back to boot. Leave the worms alone, and call me when you find some grubs. I drove away, wishing I could move all his earthworms into my garden, and worrying a bit that he might still decide to find a way to kill those good creatures. Change is hard - especially changing a mind. Thanks for all of you who sow the row and hoe the

Notes From Maggie Shao

I wanted to thank all the volunteers who worked at the Spring Home and Garden Show March 9 - 12. Our publication specialist, Sarah Peterson, did an outstanding job in producing bold and beautiful cover sheets for our packets that were sold at the show. Education is an ongoing process, and packaging information in an interesting way can only improve our ability to reach out to the public. Thank you also for keeping track of contacts. From the tally sheet, over 700 people stopped at the booth and spoke with Master Gardeners. Thursday - 200 people, Friday - 170, Saturday - 277, Sunday - 63. The busiest times appeared to be Thursday evening between 4 - 8 pm and Saturday between 11 - 4 pm. I really appreciate all your help.

We had a field trip to "This Is the Place Heritage Park" with the Master Gardener Training class to practice some fruit tree pruning. Lynn Horth, the grounds manager, needs our help with pruning the apple orchard. Unfortunately they don't have the staff to care for the trees, so they have been neglected. I will be working with Lynn to arrange some volunteer tree pruning by Master Gardeners hopefully before bud break. Let me know if you are interested not only for this year, but for next year as well.

↑↑↑↑

*Start building those needed
hours early in the year!*

Nancy S adler

1949-2006

"The world's gardens will be exceptionally beautiful this spring. Our Master Gardener passed away on March 20, 2006 from complications following heart surgery. . .

"In lieu of flowers please plant something beautiful in Nancy's memory. . .

*"If I should die and leave you here awhile,
Be not like the others, sore undone who keep long vigils by
the silent dust, and weep.*

*For my sake turn again to life and smile,
Nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do
Something to comfort those dear unfinished tasks of mine
And I, perchance, may therein comfort you."*
— Deseret Morning News, March 21, 2006

Nancy is fondly remembered by many of us as a great Master Gardener and a good friend.

DAHLIA DIARY IV

TO PLANT TUBERS OR USE STARTER PLANTS?

A long-time grower, who shall remain unnamed,* is proof that one can't ever take expertise for granted. He claims he isn't obsessed like others he knows – but always has far more tubers than he can use. His favorites are long-stemmed dahlias in a variety of colors to cut for flower arrangements. A couple of years ago he watched in dismay as flower after flower began to bloom – into a mostly white garden. “I'd messed up,” he admitted. He hadn't labeled the tubers correctly when he put them away and he's much more careful now.

This shows why the most difficult part of explaining how to grow dahlias is deciding what information is essential, especially when those reading the material have a wide range of gardening experience. Hopefully, novices won't panic at the technical terms, the proficient can review what they know, and everyone will pick up something new.

PREPARATION

- Soil. If you like to test, ideal pH is 6.5 to 7.
- While the dahlia will tolerate a wide variety of soil types and pH levels, if I had to use just one sentence it would be, “Plant in rich, rich soil with good drainage.”
- Dahlias are heavy feeders. The shallow roots will reach out horizontally for several feet to find needed nutrients. Mulching the flower bed is very helpful – for all the reasons that mulch is good to use.
- Raise the beds if possible. While dahlias demand a lot of water, the tuber will rot in continually wet soil. Humus is great to improve growing conditions.

DIRECT PLANTING

- Depth is determined by the soil type and temperature. Plant deeper in warm, sandy soil than in cool or heavy soil.
- Soil temperature should be 50° or higher.
- Dig the planting hole about 6” deep.
- Add supports as for tomatoes, cages, etc. To keep stakes from sticking out above the plants, tamp a pipe into the ground and change heights as the plant grows.
- Tie an identification label to the support. The label should include the dahlia name, variety, bloom size, form and color.
- Place the tuber horizontally in the hole with the end containing the eye pointing up and next to the stake. If the tuber has sprouted the shoot may break off. Not to worry, it will grow a new one.



- Cover the tuber with only about 2” of soil. This thin layer will allow the tuber to warm more quickly and start growing faster than when it is buried deeper. Later, fill in the soil around the plant as it grows.

STARTER PLANTS (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH TAKING CUTTINGS FOR PROPAGATION.)

Those who prefer to transplant can start tubers inside on a flat or in pots and move the growing dahlia into the garden much the same as a tomato or pepper. This should be done about six weeks before the frost free date for your area

A one gallon pot works well. Fill part way with potting soil. Place the tuber inside and cover with soil, a little over two inches. Give ample light and be sure to harden off before planting outside.

PLANTING TIME

Of course, planting dates vary from area to area. Even in your own yard there are microclimates. South side, warm. North side, cold, etc. In general, planting directly into the soil can be done earlier than setting out a growing plant. As mentioned previously, follow the same practice for transplants as for other warm weather plants like tomatoes and peppers. In either case, do not overwater.

Whether planting or transplanting, the same caution applies. Don't let those slugs or snails get to the tender shoots!

NEXT MONTH: Tying, Stopping and Disbudding During the Growing Stage

*This excellent series of articles are co-written by Eva Jensen and Mark Hurst, who requested no by-line. She is too modest to admit to her excellent writing skills and he is too modest to admit to being a Dahlia expert. Ha! Ha! Gotcha, guys! This isn't a byline!

I had to start the greenhouse the last week in February. The 'Glacier' tomato plants needed to be moved into gallon containers, and there was no room in the basement for them. I picked the first ripe tomato from them on the 11th of March; Bart indicates that it doesn't count unless it is picked out of the garden. So on the 13th of March I transplanted one of the plants with a water wall and picked a ripe tomato from the plant a few minutes later. :)

The varieties of tomatoes I have planted are 'German Johnson,' 'Early Goliath,' 'Pink Brandywine,' 'Cal Ace,' 'Roma VF,' 'Sugary,' 'Sweet Chelsea,' 'Sun Sugar,' 'TMKT H002,' 'Bart's Best,' 'Glacier' and 'Stupice.' This is a lot fewer varieties than I have tried to grow other years. The 'Early Goliath' was my best producer last year, so I will plant more of them this year. Most of the time my tomatoes are in water walls in the garden; this is the third week in March, and it is not so this year.

The first week of March was warm, so I was able to till the beds and get the drip header hose in place. I did plant the Cole crops in water walls at that time but by the following day the weather had turned cold, and I had to keep them covered at night with blankets. After two weeks the weather has modified some, but more snow is on the way. Needless to say, the tomatoes are not in the garden yet but I do have them planted in larger containers so when the weather changes I can get them out.

With the abundant crop of 'Golden Delicious' apples last year and most of them on the small side, I decided to trim out a lot of the fruiting spurs on the inside of the tree. I was able to take a lot of wood off and let sunlight in to the middle of the tree. It is a standard tree and has grown a lot over the past 20 years. I don't think I went too far, but only time will tell.

With a large pile of limbs from the apple tree, I needed to run them through the chipper shredder. I had a friend ask for some chipped apple wood for use in his smoker. I took some of the larger limbs, skinned the bark from them and started to put them through. One of the sticks jammed and shut the machine down. So I had to take it apart and clear it out. At the same time I put a new set of blades in. With the chipper back to running in great shape, I soon finished the stripped limbs. It turned out a great product. I then started to chip the rest of the debris from the tree when it swallowed my right glove, shutting it down again. So back to the garage, tear it apart, clear the glove, put it back together. Then with a new pair of gloves I went back to work and finished the pile. What should have taken just a little while seemed to take up the whole morning.

I had grass growing from the lawn into some of my chives plants, so I had to remove the chives and clean all the grass from the area. I potted some of the chive plants and put them in to the green house where they are growing fast. When I need chives the next time, I will get a pot and just trim off what I need right at the table. I have also potted some blue fescue grass (the type that grows in small mounds). It should do okay. I have potted my cannas also and they are starting off quite fast. Sometimes I have had them overwinter on the south side of the house. They are



By Wm. Golden Reeves

the 'Wyoming Yellow' and do not produce the large tubers like some of the others.

I cut all of the ornamental grasses down and cleaned up the flower beds. In doing so, I cut one of the drip lines going to some of my plants in the parking strip. I had to take it out and redo the end fitting, then rebury the tubing. I will be a little less aggressive when clearing it next year. The garlic planted in October is growing good along with some rose cuttings I took in August. They were put under plastic gallon milk bottles and I can check on them through the top lid of the bottle. The pine nuts planted in the fall have not yet shown any signs of growing, but it is still too early to tell. I have some prune trees and one grafted apple that I have removed from the ground and placed in five gallon containers. So slowly the spring cleaning and work is getting finished. I still need to prune the peach trees though, and should be done by the first of April.

The narcissus have their heads bowed because of the cold weather and snow we have been getting. The calendar indicates that it is spring, and with the wet weather we are having, the worms came out only to be trapped in the snow. Spring must be just around the corner. I see the Bleeding Hearts are growing rapidly, the neighbor's apricot tree buds are swelling, and my tomato plants are ready to be planted. I will carry my cell phone so if I get stuck in the mud I can call for help. See you at the Grafting Class on April 22nd.

GARDEN TOURS

See some fabulous gardens of your fellow Master Gardeners on this year's series of garden tours. See page 8 for specific details.

If you would like to open your yard for one of these tours, contact Kevin and Faythe Adams at kadamsflk@hotmail.com

They are particularly hoping to get a few more for July.

Looking for a good deal on garden equipment?

Check our new "Garden Talk" bulletin board, where there are topics for General Discussion, Swaps, For Sale, For Free, and whatever else tickles your fancy. If you have any questions, feel free to drop your trusty WebWench an e-mail at: webwench@slmg.org

You can access the Web Bulletin Board at <http://www.utahmastergardeners.org/forum/index.php>

HAVE YOU CHECKED THE BY-LAW CHANGES?

Last month's issue had the SLMGA Bylaws with several changes for members to read. You can find the changes highlighted in red on the web site at

<http://www.slmg.org/Bylaws2006.pdf>

Changes are basically to make clarifications that will enable SLMGA to get non-profit status. If you cannot access the web site, please contact Jenny Allgrunn at gardenpatch2@juno.com and she will mail you a color copy so you can see the changes.

The vote to approve the changes will be held at the April meeting.

GENERAL MEETING LOCATIONS

Please note that, as usual, we will have a variety of locations for our general meetings in the next few months.

April 20 - Plant Exchange
USU Extension Classroom

May 18 - Cactus and Tropicals
2735 South 2000 East

June 15 - Wasatch Community Gardens Straw
Bale Greenhouse 600 East 800 South

Last month Eva Daniels told us how to make applebutter out of our storage apples. Here's a recipe to use with the applebutter

Applebutter Bars

Mix together and set aside:

- 1 cup minus 1 T. whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda

In a separate bowl, combine:

- 2 T. milk
- 1 egg
- 1 cup applebutter
- 3 T. cooking oil
- 2 tsp. vanilla

Combine the two mixtures and stir in 1/2 cup chopped nuts. Mixture will be thick. Spread into 7 x 10 inch baking pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Cool. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Cut into 12 bars.

This is not a very sweet bar as it has no added sugar. You may want to serve it with a small scoop of whipped topping or ice cream. It is also nice plain with a cup of milk, tea, etc.

USING UP THOSE DRIED HERBS

By Eva Daniels

Spring is nearly here. Now is the time to plan for next winter's herb mixtures. My herb mix never tastes the same from one year to the next. It depends on what grows well over the summer.

I start with this recipe, which I got years ago from the USU Extension Service. All herbs are used dried:

Better-Than-Salt Herb Blend

Created by Portia Meares

- 2 bay leaves, finely chopped
- 4 T. oregano leaves
- 4 T. onion powder (not onion salt)
- 4 tsp. marjoram leaves
- 4 tsp. basil leaves
- 4 tsp. ground savory, preferably winter savory
- 4 tsp. garlic powder (not garlic salt)
- 2 tsp. rosemary leaves
- 1 tsp. thyme leaves
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 T. lemon zest (the yellow part without the white pith. Grate and let dry before mixing)

Mix the herbs and crush to a coarse powder with a mortar and pestle, an electric coffee mill or a food processor. The herbs should be fine enough to go through a large-holed shaker.

The Herb Blend is delicious on salad greens, sliced tomatoes and cucumbers, fish, hamburgers, meat loaf, steak, omelets, etc. Try mixing it with a softened stick of butter or margarine. Let stand in the refrigerator for a day or two for good flavor. Use herbed butter on vegetables, breads, meats, fish, etc.

I always add at least 2 cups of dried parsley, 1/2 cup or more of dried lovage, and 1/2 cup of dried sage leaves. I have also tried dried lavender flowers, dried carrots, paprika, and additional rosemary. Whatever I harvest from the herb garden is fair game.

I usually dry garlic and onions in a small electric dehydrator on the deck. (My neighbors get a jar each fall for putting up with the smell of the garlic and onions). The rest of the herbs are dried on a plate on the kitchen counter throughout the growing season. Just cover loosely with a paper towel to keep the dust off. They crisp up in a day or two. Sometime in late fall the mixture goes into the blender. Pulse until a fine powder forms. Transfer to jars with shaker tops. I might add some salt for friends who are not on a salt restricted diet. With a label and small bow, these jars make lovely gifts from the garden.





CATCHING THEM

Val Chatwin

The telephone rang.

“There’s some chickens out on 104th South!”

We hurried across the grass; the chickens in the yard accompanied us, as usual. We opened the car gate that goes out to the sidewalk. Sure enough, Goldy and Clara Bell [yes, I’ve named some of them, except Goldy is the name of both gorgeous gold hens, the buff Orpingtons, and Clara Bell is all four of the Rhode Island Reds]. They were busily scratching up the neighbor’s dirt between the sidewalk and his cement border wall. It is dirt with large mulch, weeds, and trash. The street was four feet away, with hundreds of vehicle tires two feet further than that. It is a dangerous place.

A few years ago the city sent us a letter asking if we wanted them to take care of the strips outside our fences. Of course! On the opposite side they dug a sprinkling system, sodded it with Kentucky Blue and planted Golden Rain trees. On our side they haven’t done anything. When the weeds get high, we go out and mow it. The reason for the discrimination is that they are going to widen the road, and it was suppose to be on our side only.

The chickens were having a delightful time. They had found new untouched, at least by a searching hen, territory. They had worked nearly to the next street and had done such a thorough job that mulch was all out on the sidewalk. I called them, and they ignored me. I had to walk all the way down there and shoo them back in the gate. We put bricks along the bottom to prevent that from happening again.

Well, I finally got to see the movie the chickens and I were in. [Joseph Smith at the Joseph Smith Memorial Bldg.] It is so hard to get tickets, and they no longer offer stand -by seating. I told one of the hostesses, “I would really like to see it. My chickens and I were in it.” She produced a ticket immediately. The scene that I was an extra in wasn’t there. It must have ended up on the cutting room floor. I did see two chickens.

We have done a cowboy movie since then. Shooting movies takes all day so you start early. I just plucked them off the roost while they were still asleep to catch them.

The chickens got to go to Cub Scout Roundtable. The theme was “Our Feathered Friends.” I had a hard time catching them. My legs aren’t working as good as they used to. Most of the hens walk right around me when I am outside, but the little ones don’t want to be trampled, so they stay further away. The roosters are on the next fringe. Ray helped me and we finally got three roosters and a little hen plus the Aracuna hens [they are different colors].

Faith Adams said she had seen a chicken catcher in an antique store in St. George. That is what I need. We will try to find one. We tried to create one from a hanger but it was too limber.

I’m trying to get the Sedgwick and Saddy [the Seebright rooster and hen] to come to the slider and eat out of my hand, and then I can catch him easily. He has been to all our showings. He is getting on to it. I see him out there, get some treat, and quietly open the door a little. He comes right over and takes bites. The big hens have sharpened their ears for it too, though and pretty soon they are there grabbing for their share. They are perfectly willing to come in

anytime for a treat. Yesterday, Sedgwick and Saddy both came in the door and could have been easily caught. I will work on it, especially when it is stupid Utah weather, and you can’t go outside and garden.

Thank you to those who brought me egg cartons. I got about six at the meeting on Thursday.

Thank you, Tracy, for taking stuff to the Home Improvement Show and setting up the booth. I was on the first shift there and the booth was well thought out and attractive. She brought five potted plants from her greenhouse and had hauled all the other stuff there also.

Karen Crook oil painted a gorgeous painting of roosters and gave it to me. She is so talented and so modest! I wanted to show it all through the meeting, but she kept putting it down. I really treasure it! Thanks Karen.

MURRAY PARK

Oh where, oh where is Spring? Can you believe how cold and wet March has been? Maybe Spring will come with April. Here’s hoping. Starting April 4th, we will meet each Tuesday at 8:30 am. The address for the Murray Park Office is 296 E. Murray Park Ave. Questions? Becky Hansen hansenpollei@mstar2.net

FRESH FROM THE HEART

There will be a training session on Monday, April 24, for anyone interested in teaching container gardening for the Fresh from the Heart project. The training session will be in the USU classroom at 6 p.m. It should take about an hour. If you have any questions you can call JoDeane at 942-0562, or Jennie at 262-7640.

All Master Gardeners: Please save your empty 3-gallon plastic pots for the Fresh from the Heart container gardening program. (These are the pots that trees and sometimes shrubs come in.) Rinsing out the dirt would be greatly appreciated.

If you can bring them to the April Meeting/Plant Exchange, we will pick them up there. Thanks for helping!

Tree Tours of the State Arboretum of Utah

Come join us for a beautiful walk in the trees on the University of Utah campus. A master gardener tour of the State Arboretum of Utah is scheduled for **Saturday, June 24th at 3:00 p.m.** followed by a potluck at the home of Ann Scott. Look for additional information in future newsletters. If you have a group that would like to tour the arboretum please contact us. We would love to take you and your group on a tour of these magnificent trees. In addition, a guide book has been published to enhance your visit. Contact Julie Myers at jscott63@comcast.net

GILGAL GARDEN

749 East 500 South

On the North side of 500 South behind wrought iron fence

Hi! It's spring and time to start working in our yards and on our projects. We will start mid April at Gilgal Garden. Plan on Tuesday, April 18 at 3:00 p.m., depending on the weather. If the weather gets better, Bev might want to start the first of April. If you are interested in working April 4 and 11 if the weather is good, contact Bev Sudbury. We will still be working on Tuesday afternoon from about 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Some weeks we start earlier and some we end later, just depending on what we are working on.

Bev got some rose bushes donated from the old O.C. Tanner home. We dug up as many as we could get in the back of a pick up truck (about 40). We had enough volunteers so we also took them to Gilgal and got them planted the same day. Thanks to everyone who came to help. We need to do some spring cleaning. What is nice about Gilgal, once you have worked there you can work at your convenience. A lot of people like to work early in the morning, so once you know what we do in the Garden you can work anytime.

If you have any question contact:

Bev Sudbury beverlysudbury@yahoo.com or

Traci Dahle smokil@smartfella.com

Nominating Committee

If you want to run for office or know someone who wants to run please contact Jeff Asay jeffrey.asay@comcast.net or Cindy Deverall cddeverall@msn.com or Teresa Rivera teresa@sisna.com

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Part-time, temporary gardener position will be starting in mid-May at the Salt Lake County Government Building. Primary duties will be to tend the newly installed water-conserving demonstration garden located between the north and south buildings. Must be familiar with native and drought-tolerant species, drip irrigation, common weeds, and IPM best management practices. Perform or supervise basic landscape tasks such as pruning, weeding, watering, planting, deadheading, etc. Must be able to lift 50 lbs, bend over or kneel for extended times, and work in the heat. \$10 an hour. Contact Maggie Wolf, maggiew@ext.usu.edu, 468-3171 for more information.

Spotlight

On Sandy Burgess

Sandy Burgess' favorite flowers are those she calls "everlastings". This is a rather good description for Sandy as well. She's been in the area forever, having grown up in West Valley, graduated from Granger High and now with a home in Taylorsville. She's a long time Questar employee. An administrative assistant for 36 years she'll soon join her husband, a former educator, in retirement. They have a grown son.

Sandy's yard is planted with flowers like statice and strawflowers that can be dried for later use. She grows lots of globe amaranth and recently added a new strawberry-colored variety among the traditional white, pink and purple. Sandy says she's a crafter and uses the plants for "all kinds of junk." This is hardly what others consider her artistic creations and flower arrangements.

Her greenhouse is small, but Sandy puts it to good use, mostly starting everything from seed. She grows only a few vegetables, sticking to the standards, but doesn't plant ordinary annuals. She prefers unique plants like "Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate," a hot pink variety she tried last year. Also known as Lady Fingers, the polygonum orientale has drooping, catkin-like blooms growing on 5-7 foot stalks.

You won't find petunias in Sandy's yard, but she doesn't turn up her nose at zinnias. "They're reliable," she says, "and I like the burst of color." Those who visited during the garden tour know she enjoys experimenting with container gardening. But trying new things isn't limited to plants. Her latest venture is learning to knit and crochet.

Sandy served several years at the Fairpark as a Co-Project Manager and then as an assistant. She's currently SLMGA secretary. In spite of all that, Sandy claims to be a last-minute person. Last fall she procrastinated before finally entering the Fair, just under deadline. Her African violet took a blue ribbon. Imagine what would happen if she put forth a real effort!

PLAN NOW TO HELP AT THE FARMER'S MARKET THIS SUMMER

The Farmer's Market at Pioneer Park will begin on June 10th. We will have a booth there beginning that day and every other Saturday thru October. We need volunteers to spend 2 hours either from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. answering garden questions from the public. Please come for some great people watching and easy hours plus an opportunity to sample some of our local produce and products. If interested please call Karen Crook E-Mail: garykaren-crook@comcast.net.

DON'T MISS STANSBURY ISLAND THIS YEAR!

Saturday, April 29 is our annual Stansbury Island Wildflower Tour. Wade Bitner and Sherm Brough are our guides. Meet at the Extension office parking lot if you want to carpool. We will leave at 8:00 a.m. from there. You can also meet us at the gate at 8:30 a.m. Take I-80 West exit 84 (north side). Contact Faythe or Kevin Adams at 262-5339 if you plan to go, as the date may change to get the best bloom time.

This is a great opportunity to see an area the general public does not have access to. You'll have two of the most knowledgeable tour guides in the West. Bring your camera; the views of the lake and the valley are beautiful. Bring appropriate attire, bug spray, and drinking water.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Saturday, April 22 - Fruit Grafting Class - 10:00 a.m. at Bart Anderson's yard 5340 West 3500 South. Now is the time to cut scion wood for this project. If you don't have any, still come. Golden and Bart will have extra. Questions: contact Bart at 968-2564 or Golden at 561-1766 or greeves28@msn.com

Friday and Saturday, May 5 - 6 - Red Butte Gardens Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 6 - Utah Iris Society Early Show at the Sugarhouse Park Garden Center at 1602 East 2100 South.

Thursday, May 18 - GARDEN TOUR: Dick & Barbara Hadfield: 6 - 9 pm. 1897 E. Claybourne Avenue. Open both before and after our General meeting at Cactus & Tropicals. See fabulous spring blooming perennials.

General Meeting at Cactus and Tropicals at 7:00 pm. It's time for our annual field trip to a local nursery to see what new and exciting plants have come out for 2006. Cactus and Tropicals is located at 2735 South 2000 East.

Saturday, May 20 - Utah Iris Society Big Iris Show at the Sugarhouse Park Garden Center at 1602 East 2100 South.

Sunday, May 21 - GARDEN TOUR: Faythe & Kevin Adams - 3663 South 1100 East
Karen Shurtz - 3744 South 2700 East
Noon to 5:00 or so.

TBA - May or June We are planning another field trip to Zebra Gardens in Fielding, UT. We will try to time it for the best iris bloom time. Check next month's issue of *The Garden Patch* for more details.

Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3 - Statewide Master Gardener Mini-College in Logan, UT. See www.utahmastergardeners.org/mg-mc.html for details. You should also be receiving information in the mail in the next month.

Thursday, June 15 - General Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Wasatch Community Gardens - 600 East 800 South. Come see and learn about the straw bale greenhouse. The designers and builders will be our tour guides.

Saturday, June 24 - U of U Tree tour (original State Arboretum). Julie Meyer and Anne Scott will be our tour guides. See page 9 for details.

Saturday, July 15 - Albion Basin Wild Flower identification field trip. Fellow Master Gardener Sherm Brough will once again give a class on identifying wild flowers. Join us and learn how to use a Dichotomous Key written by Sherm that will quickly help you identify that 5 petalled pink flower with 10 stamens and lobed leaves in a basal arrangement.

Thursday, July 20 - General meeting 7:00 pm: Alan Roe, the USU 'bug guy' will teach a class on Spider Identification.

Friday, July 21 - GARDEN TOUR:
Howard Andrews (gladiolas): 10 am to dark 3643 South 2200 West.

Saturday, July 29 - GARDEN TOUR:
Ann Scott 1749 Ft. Douglas Circle (195 North)
Julie Myers 951 Diestel Road (1730 East)
Time TBA

Wednesday, August 9 - GARDEN TOUR:
Cindy Deverall: 1075 E. Vine Street, Murray
Karen Crook: 622 Lincoln Place, Murray
5 - 8 pm

August 16 - 19 Salt Lake County Fair: Time to utilize the information learned from Etsuko Freeman, enter your flowers and take home the ribbons. Also another opportunity for volunteer hours.

August 17 - General Meeting 5:00 - 9:30 pm: **Annual Picnic/BBQ and Iris exchange** at Murray Park Pavilion #5 (same place as always).

PROJECTS

Christmas Box House

236 South 300 East

Peggy Call - pcall@xmission.com

Virginia Sargeant -

Fresh From the Heart

Jennie Gibson - gibsongg@earthlink.net

JoDene Condrat - condrata@comcast.net

Gilgal Garden

749 East 500 South

Bev Sudbury - beverlysudbury@yahoo.com

Traci Dahle - smoki1@smartfella.com

Hidden Hollow

1165 East Wilmington

Charlene Homan - or mhcharlene@yahoo.com.

Magna Elementary

8500 West 3100 South

Peg Sudbury-Crowley - crowbaby@xmission.com

Mark Hurst -

Murray Park

5000-5300 South State

Becky Hansen - hansenpollei@mstar2.net

Pioneer Park Farmer's Market

400 South 300 West

Karen Crook - garykarencrook@comcast.net

Utah State Fair Park

200 North 1000 West

Cathy Miller - millercb2@aol.com

Utah Aids Foundation

1408 South 1100 East

Kay Packard -

Mike & Ann Cullis - annandmikecullis@comcast.net

Web Site

Amy Hargreaves Judzis - cliz@juno.com

Wheeler Farm

6300 South 900 East

Wheeler Farm Vegetable Garden

Wheeler Farm Herb Garden

Wheeler Farm Pumpkin Patch

Wheeler Farm Home Garden

Ron Jones - ronjon61@aol.com

Trudy Guest - trudyg1@msn.com

Golden Reeves - greeves28@msn.com

Marlene Johnson - marlene32936@yahoo.com

GARDENS NEEDED

In 2005 we had several gracious people volunteer their gardens for informal Master Gardener Garden Tours. We had great feedback from those who participated, and we have had requests to continue it this year. We want to see the garden that makes YOU HAPPY. Choose the season that your garden 'shines' and then share it. Pick a day and time that works best for YOU and allow your fellow Master Gardeners to visit. It doesn't have to be an all day commitment, just an hour or so that is convenient for you. To volunteer your garden, contact Faythe or Kevin, preferably a month in advance so we can get the word out.

We would like a third garden in the Murray area for August 9th and several more in July. See page 9 for current list. If you are willing to show off your garden, please contact Faythe or Kevin e-mail kadamsflk@comcast.net

Plant Diagnostic Training

Monday, April 17 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$10. Lunch provided. Limited to 20 Master Gardener participants. Come review or learn the right approach to plant diagnostics. You don't need to know everything to make a good diagnosis and recommendation, but you do need to know how to gather key information and where to find the answers. This day-long event is a good way to warm up your diagnostic skills for the upcoming clinics, phone line, and site consultations. We'll practice hands-on diagnostics and resource searches. After this day of sleuthing, you'll be spotting plant problems all over the place! Register with Sarah Petersen, 468-3187.

Calendar

**Thursday, April 20
Annual Plant Exchange
In the Classroom**

**Bring your extra plants and take
home a few that you just can't
live without.**

*Saturday, April 29
Stansbury Island Tour
see page 9 for details*

**Thursday, May 18
Our annual field trip to a
Local nursery
Cactus and Tropicals
2735 South 2000 East
7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, June 15
General Meeting at Wasatch
Community Gardens
600 East 800 South
The designers and builders will be
our tour guides.**



***THE GARDEN PATCH
is ON THE WEB at a
new, improved
(shorter) address
www.slmg.org***

Bulletin Board



**“Garden Talk” Bulletin
Board
On the SLMG Web Site**

You can now connect to the "Garden
Talk" bulletin board,
where there are topics for General Dis-
cussion, Swaps, For Sale, For Free, and
whatever else tickles your fancy. If
you have any questions, feel free to
drop

your trusty WebWench an e-mail
at: webwench@slmg.org

You can access the Web Bulletin
Board at

[http://www.utahmastergardeners.org/
forum/index.php](http://www.utahmastergardeners.org/forum/index.php)

The Garden Patch is published monthly by the
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Editor: Jenny Allgrunn

Send address changes to:

e-mail: gardenpatch2@juno.com

Thursday, April 20



Annual Plant Exchange



7:00 p.m. in the classroom

Bring extras from your yard or greenhouse. Plan on bringing home some fun new plants to try. We always have plenty. If you don't have anything to bring, come any way. We will have plenty, and every plant needs a good home! Also bring large (tree size) pots to donate to Fresh From the Heart.

SPRING BULB SHOW AND COMPETITION

Sat.—Sun., April 8 - 9, 2006 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Red Butte Garden

Competition entries accepted on SAT. 8 a.m. -10 a.m.

COMPETITION JUDGING SAT., 10a.m.-12a.m.

Bring in your showy flowering bulbs for display and judging in this Spring competition. OPEN TO EVERYONE. Categories featuring narcissi (Daffodils) will include trumpet, large, small, and double cupped flowers, cyclamineus and split corona blooms. Other gorgeous spring bulbs on display will include hyacinths, tulips, and minor bulbs such as galanthus, crocus, muscari, iris reticulata, and more. Ribbons awarded to the top entries. Timed to coincide with the thousands of daffodils blooming in the Four Season Garden, this bulb show is sure to be a spectacular way to welcome spring. For more information on the competition and judging please visit www.redbuttegarden.org. Regular garden admission will be charged. Members are free.

MASTER GARDENER SHIRTS AND BAGS FOR SALE

Master Gardener logo shirts are currently for sale. You can see the various styles of shirts and their prices on the web at

<http://www.utahmastergardeners.org/logoShirts2005.pdf>

Also for sale are SLMA logo canvas bags in four different colors. They will be handy to carry your books to Master Gardener booths when you volunteer and to carry tools when you go to volunteer project locations. They are \$12.00. Order from Barbara at 569-2737. Her e-mail address is endlesspromos1@msn.com (If you have questions call Barbara at 569-2737 or Traci at 261-1486 smoki1@smartfella.com)