

# THE GARDEN PATCH



December 2007

Salt Lake Master Gardener Association

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## TUMBLE- WEEDS

By Val Chatwin

“Tumbleweeds - scientific name *salsola kali* - in the spinach family, also called wind witch, Russia cactus, buckbrush, and other nasty names. Intro-

duced here by Russian immigrants in 1877 in South Dakota, not on purpose because it is a scourge in Russia too. After 20 years it covered 14 states. Grows into a ball. The stem dries so that it breaks off so it can roll away in the wind scattering its 250,000 seeds for miles! Burns easily and has bounced over firebreaks and set fire to houses and crops. It also has very sharp points that stab horses' legs. Utah State University studied it and found it does improve the soil; other plants do better in its previous spot. At ground zero in Nevada, it was the first plant to start growing back.” This is from the informative internet. Isn't it a wonderful tool?

My experience with tumbleweeds was when we moved to this house and planted our first grass. In the spring all these lacey little plants grew amid the grass. They mowed nicely and added to the thickness of it so we didn't remove them. But in the fall, each lacey little plant produced a sharp barb. Walking across the lawn barefoot was painful. So the next few years whenever one would appear, it would be yanked out as though it were a noxious weed. And if I ever need to bring in a weed for some identification I can count on finding one up by the north fence still, 20 years later. So the seeds live a long time too.

Another incident: Several years ago, before

Eagle Mountain was built on the west side of the mountain by Utah Lake, we were driving home on Highway 6 in a dust storm. Except it was a tumbleweed storm. There were millions of them bouncing across the highway and fields. The fences didn't impede them at all. We traveled at a crawl and they scratching the car paint as they hit us. A diesel truck was stopped. I don't know how animals would be able to survive in it. It was very scary.

Now another true tumbleweed story. About 7 years ago, Kacy Carroll's sister got transferred here from Pennsylvania. She worked for the forest service. Kacy had retired early and decided to move out with her. They found a residence in South Jordan. After awhile their retired parents came out to visit and liked it so well that they went home to Pennsylvania, sold their house of 40 years, and moved here too. Back in Pennsylvania Kacy's cousin had a third grade daughter, Sara, who was in a wonderful public school. The teacher assigned them to find out what they could about another state and report on it in a couple of weeks. Sara chose New Jersey. Her mother was dismayed. They lived 6 miles from New Jersey and spent summers at the beach there. She suggested that since she knew a lot about New Jersey, she should pick another state. She remember she had a cousin out west in Utah. They actually didn't know them very well but maybe they would send something. Sara finally contacted the Carrolls, who said they would be glad to send her some information about Utah. The kids in the class drew a paper doll image of themselves and sent it to the people they contacted.

Well, you know Utah. These “transplanted” people are truly lovers of this western state.

Continued on Page 2

# NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Stephen LeCheminant

I want to thank Cheri Shultzke, our program coordinator, for last month's meeting. I found the information on the different web sites and catalogs very interesting. Cheri has a very challenging job to find subjects and people for our meetings each month. If you have any ideas for any of our meetings this coming year, I'm sure Cheri would like to hear from you.

Also, I want to thank all of you who served as our project leaders this year. From what I've seen and heard, the projects have been very successful. Thank you for your time and effort.

There is one more person I need to thank for her service, that being Lisa Chin. Lisa has served as our secretary for this past year and has done a great job for us. Due to other commitments and being a very busy mother, Lisa is unable to continue as our secretary. If any of you are interested in filling this position on the board, please contact me or any of the other board members. You can contact me at [garden-green53@yahoo.com](mailto:garden-green53@yahoo.com).

Remember this month's meeting is the holiday dinner and class graduation and awards. It will be held on Thursday, December 13th. I look forward to seeing you there.



*There are many tired gardeners, but I've seldom met old gardeners. I know many elderly gardeners, but the majority are young at heart. Gardening simply does not allow one to be mentally old, because too many hopes and dreams are yet to be realized.*

--- Allen Armitage, as quoted in *Green Prints*, Summer 2007, p. 43

## Tumbleweeds, cont. from page 1

- They went to Kennecott and sent copper and a video and a picture of the doll on the edge of the hole. They knew a person, who knew a person, who knew a person who had won a gold medal at the Olympics. They sent a picture of the paper doll at the Olympic park with the gold medal draped around her neck.
- They contacted Morton Salt, who said if they would come to their guard shack out past Grantsville they would leave some stuff there for them. When they opened the box left for them they found rock salt in plastic bags, with information about salt and the Great Salt Lake, enough for all three of the third grade classes in Pennsylvania. The doll sat on the beach for its picture.
- They went to Temple Square, got literature and send a picture of the doll by the Christus statue.
- They went to Otto Jones' buffalo pens on 4000 West and 10400 South. He gave them buffalo memorabilia, and they sent a picture of the paper doll on the sturdy fences with real buffalo in the background.
- They went to Thanksgiving Point and got dinosaur fossils and a picture of the doll by the huge Tyrannosaurs out front. A year or so before Kacy's mothers, brother, and her uncle came to visit. He was thrilled to see the buffalo at Thanksgiving Point. One of the teen-age buffalo was teasing the adults in the herd persistently until they got annoyed and all of them started chasing him down. The Uncle couldn't believe that he would get to see a buffalo stampede.

One day Kacy and her sister were driving home on 1300 West and a perfect round tumbleweed blew across the street in front of them and lodged in some weeds. They looked at each other. "Sara!" they said and screeched to a stop, hopped out of the Blazer and retrieved it. They found a box that it fit in perfectly. and they found that UPS charges by the size of the box so it only cost \$14 to send it clear to Pennsylvania. They also got a recording of the "Tumbling Tumbleweed" song. On the box top was a warning, "Open this in your garage", remember the 250,000 seeds and lots of handling? The family took it into the garage and gingerly opened it. They couldn't believe their eyes. It had arrived in perfect condition and the paper doll was there too. No child in the class had ever seen a real tumbleweed and eventually everyone in the school came to see it.

And now the Carroll's are eagerly waiting to see Sara's family, next summer when they come to visit their cousins in far out west Utah.



## IPM in Schools: Protecting Children from Pest and Pesticides

By Maggie Shao

I was fortunate enough to go on a “pest detection” tour with Dr. Marc Lame, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) specialist who by training is an entomologist. It was a bit like the television show, CSI, where Dr. Lame turned off the lights in the Home Economics classroom pantry, turned on his portable black light, to look for evidence of mice urine that lights up under UV light or pulling out a refrigerator from the wall to check for bits of food and mice droppings. In 1995, Dr. Lame initiated a school Integrated Pest Management program with Monroe County Community School Corporation in Indiana. Not only has the “Monroe IPM Model” for schools proved to be sustainable in Bloomington, but it is also highly transferable. He and his colleagues have demonstrated and documented the effectiveness of this model in seven states over ten years, showing an average 71% reduction in pesticide applications and 78% reduction in pest complaints.

Salt Lake City School District has 34 schools. This past November in Salt Lake City, we visited Highland High, Dilworth Elementary, and West High, that have all adopted IPM methods. We visited with the custodians and kitchen supervisors to see how well the program has been accepted and evaluate the progress. Things taken for granted like Halloween candy in an open bowl on a teacher’s desk, is a smorgasbord for uninvited pests. One of the coach and team lounges we visited had an upholstered couch, a great place to sit and relax after a challenging game. We found mixed in with food crumbs and residues of pizza, chips, and cookies fresh mouse droppings. The couch was a nice dark nesting site that provided food as well. Another common place for mice and cockroaches is in the kitchen near the dishwasher. It simulates a jungle, warm, humid, and perfect environment inviting pests to visit. We need to look at our schools and homes as a pest and eliminate the environments that may promote invasion and infestation.

West High, a school that is 115 years old, adopted the program two years ago, and proud to report a 90% reduction in pesticide use and pest complaints. All the

schools have Pesticide Monitoring logs, so even the students can write in any pests issues. Some of the other methods they adopted to reduce pests included putting food into sturdy plastic bins with tight fitting lids, using open ventilated shelving for storing plastic bins, eliminating cardboard, eliminating upholstered furniture from break rooms, installing door sweeps and weather stripping around doors, using an elastomeric silicone-based sealant around vents and pipes that open to the exterior. Well Done Salt Lake City School District to adopt and implement this type of program to provide a safer, healthier environment for our children.

So how does it work? People are under the false impression that pesticides prevent pests. Pesticides kill pests, but misuse and overuse is unfortunately very common in schools and in homes due to improper pest identification and this assumption that pesticide residues will kill pests. A safe and healthy environment for our children includes reducing pesticide risk and exposure to children. Asthma, allergies, autism have all been correlated to exposure to pesticides. The most common pesticides used in spray programs in schools are also know to be respiratory irritants and carcinogens. IPM is a safer, and usually less costly option for effective pest management in a school community. Many simple steps implemented at the schools which one can adopt for their homes.

### EASY IPM STEPS

- Monitoring and scouting for pests
  - Proper Identification of pest before taking action
  - Food-contaminated dishes, utensils, surfaces are cleaned by the end of each day
  - Litter is collected and disposed daily
  - Vegetation, shrubs and wood mulch should be kept at least one foot away from structures
- Cracks and crevices in walls, floors and pavement are either sealed or eliminated.

For more information on IPM in Schools there are several resources available:

#### Websites:

PEST PRESS fact sheets on common pests and methods for managing them <http://www.sl.c.k12.ut.us/depts/facilities/news.html>

EPA – IPM in Schools <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/>  
IPM in Schools brochure <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/brochure/>

Schools Without Pesticides <http://www.schoolswithoutpesticides.com/>

#### Books:

A Worm in the Teacher’s Apple by Marc L. Lame ISBN 9781420839357

The holiday season is here. What is the flower that really represents this time of the year? The poinsettia with its many colors, sizes, and shapes is what I think of. Over the years I have had a lot of them. Most of them would last until mid January and then I would throw them out.

At work we had a red poinsettia in a 4-inch pot that sat on the counter for about 4 years. Each year I would re-pot it and then watch it grow. About December of each year it would start to turn color and by mid February it was in full color. We closed the store at 5:00 p.m. and closed the curtains. It was able to get the right amount of darkness to trigger the change of color. We got a lot of compliments on it.

Over the years we have had many poinsettia plants and I have found out the best way to select the plants. Do not buy them from a retail outlet; you do not know how they have been taken care of. If they get a shot of cold weather it puts them into shock and they will drop leaves. At a grocery store a while back I observed a large selection of plants displayed in a cold area and most of them had all ready dropped a lot of leaves. Most stores like to display them in the front of the store where they get a lot of drafts and the poinsettia dose not like that treatment. When you purchase them, you haul them from the store to your car with no protection then haul them home. They look good in the store but they soon start to loose their leaves. We had a neighbor bring us one in a 4 inch pot with no protection on a freezing cold day. At the end of two weeks all of the leaves were gone.

Last year we got our poinsettia plants at Quality Flowers and Plants on 3300 South. We selected the plants we wanted. They bagged them, and we moved them to a warm car. At home we put them in the house until we could deliver them. We bought a large one for our dining room table and used it as our Christmas decoration. All we needed to do was to keep it watered for the next 4 months. I would use my finger to test the soil to see how



## By Wm. Golden Reeves

damp it was. I also lifted the plant to determine if it needed water. I would put it in the sink and run water through it, then let it drain. That is all the care it needed. It dropped just a few leaves in the six months it stayed on the dining room table. After moving it outside it grew all summer long. I hated to throw it out when the frost came.

So when buying that poinsettia this year keep in mind: buy it from a grower, do not let it get cold, keep it out of drafts, water when needed, do not fertilize, and just enjoy.

I have most all of the fall work completed -- just a few more leaves to come off the trees to add to the walkways of the garden. I hauled a few loads of bagged leaves from Midvale to fill the walkways and had enough to start a compost pile cooking. I had a small pile cooking that was able to heat to 160 degrees. That ran out of water real fast and I had to turn it more often. When the right amount of carbon material along with the green mater and water is added it works real fast.

The tree in our front yard has grown so tall that I have to clean the rain gutters every year. I also need to wait until the tree has dropped all of its leaves before I can do that. I like the tree and the shade in the summer time but cleaning up the leaves is beginning to be a chore.

I picked up a lot of acorns from a White Swamp Oak tree on the Jordan River temple grounds and need to plant them before the real cold weather starts. The cuttings I have in the basement are in need of repotting and I will probably sneak in a few tomato seeds in the next few days. Now is the time we can take a rest from the garden chores and expand our understanding. Grab a book on gardening and plan to try something new next year.

## Free Advice

A reliable 20 year old gardening reference has now become even more accessible. The free on-line version of "The Ortho Problem Solver" available at: [www.ortho.com](http://www.ortho.com), offers advice on a plethora of gardening problems including bugs, weed, and plant diseases as well as simple maintenance tips for all types of flowers and vegetables.

Did you enter flowers or produce in either the County or State Fairs? If so, please let us know how you did. E-mail your results to [gardenpatch2@juno.com](mailto:gardenpatch2@juno.com) or snail mail to 4545 West 3100 South, West Valley City, UT 84120.

We aren't trying to brag - we just want to encourage others to support these fairs by showing them positive results.

Thanks for your help.

# Notes From the Past President

By Traci Dahle

Hi everyone, I hope all is well in cold country. We have been very busy in our park this past two months. We were in charge of four Happy Hours serving approximately 110 people every night. Halloween was a ball. We had more people in costumes this year than ever. We served about 140 that night, dancing away to great music. I brought about 25 spaghetti squash down here in October, and I cooked about 16 of them for the food for Halloween. We called them monster brains. I didn't know if anyone would eat them, but we ran out.

We also brought back 47 gourds that I grew in my garden for our friend down here in the park. He loves to decorate them, but not what you would think. He is a wood worker and uses wood working tools to carve pictures and designs in them. Then he sews real gold string or stained leather around them in different designs. Then he stains the outsides and insides different colors. I was lucky enough to win one with a raffle ticket I spent \$30 for this year. He put about 47 hours of work into it. (He will not give them away, not even to his family. He figures they will get them when he dies.)

We have been enjoying the tomatoes from the plants that Golden gave me since about the middle of October. The 'Celebrity' tomatoes I planted in September in the planter that Golden gave me are about 2 ½ inches around already.

We are planning on putting in another flower bed in the pool area with a slow growing palm tree in the bigger area along with a statue. We also took out four dead trees and planted a ruby grapefruit, orange, lemon, and lime tree in the park. Ken is now the new chairman of the landscape committee and I am the secretary so we are planning some big clean ups and beautification projects this year.

We went home for the great talk by Esther Davis, the Compliance Coordinator of the Trans Jordan Landfill. She did a great job on telling us the right way to recycle. I have worked with Jim, her husband, at Gilgal for three years, and they are great people for our county.

We also came back again for our regular board meeting every month and the talk given by Cheri Schultze on places to look for gardening information and what to do while it is cold outside. She gave us great info on web pages and magazines to look for during the summer. I was a little disappointed by the lack of Master Gardeners at the meeting. I hope it was because our Thursday was so much earlier in the month.

Hope to see you all at the Holiday/Graduation/Awards party. If I don't see you one way or the other, I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season with you family and friends.

# SPOT- LIGHT



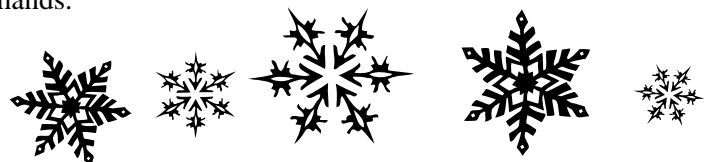
"I've wanted to garden since I'd visit Grandma in Midvale," says Karen Crook. "The house is no longer there but I loved those pretty light purple petunias that re-seeded themselves." Sadly, the gardening gene seemed to have skipped a generation and her parent's yard never measured up. Nevertheless, after Karen's father died she felt Mom needed something to fill the empty hours. With Karen's prodding, assistance and contagious enthusiasm, her mother became hooked and now has a gorgeous yard.

Karen and Gary, her husband of 35 years, have mostly lived in Utah except for time broken up by four years in California and eight in Saudi Arabia. While in Saudi she worked as an assistant at the US Embassy, where she enjoyed applying her calligraphy artistry to official certificates. Another of her interests is photography and Karen has scrapbooks featuring two favorite models; her dogs, a fluffy white Bichon Frise and a rescued terrier mix.

Home to stay, Karen wanted to pick up some basics before she retired and could devote lots of time to the yard. Little did she know what she was getting into when she took an Adult Ed gardening class and the instructor suggested an advanced course. "I hadn't even heard of Master Gardeners," Karen says. "But my time freed up sooner than expected so I signed up."

Karen is now the Farmer's Market Project Manager which has required her to dedicate every weekend for the past two summers at Pioneer Park. Quick to give credit, Karen insists it's a team effort. Her husband starts before daylight, loading a cooler and the information booth. She packs items like waterwise gardening pamphlets.

"I like to get the word out about Master Gardeners," Karen says, making certain the organization is very visible as she explains about the group and answers gardening questions. She's also SLMGA's Historian and wants any gardening pictures you might like to share, especially those taken at projects. Never missing an opportunity to praise others, Karen says, "The new class is tremendous. Twenty volunteers showed up at Wheeler Farm to put in pansies. They were done in a flash and only two six-packs were left for me to plant." Sounds like we're in good hands.



# Fall Reflections

By Jo Turpin

I sit here enjoying a beautiful fall day, my thoughts taking to the air like the last leaves on my cherry tree. It has been such an interesting year and I have learned so much, what will next year bring and how soon will spring arrive? Already I am planning changes and additions to my gardens when I haven't even finished fall clean up chores!

I have been thinking about all of the things I have learned over the past few months. As a Master Gardener Apprentice I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people, to gain so much knowledge, to ask so many questions and to finally get some good answers. The way I look at the art of gardening has changed.

I have gained a new perspective on the parks in our city – they do not take care of themselves. Those enormous old trees in the Avenues blow over in the wind because they *do not* have a tap root that goes on forever. Then there are those seedy trees that everybody seems to think are Chinese Elms but are really Siberian Elms. Fruit trees that are properly trimmed actually produce more and better fruit, leading to better jams and jellies.

I find myself worrying about bee colony collapse and the consequences for my garden and our planet. I took the time to read an article in the June 2007 National Geographic about Linnaeus and his quest to bring order to the chaos of the plant world. (Note to self, taking Latin in high school **does not** help me figure out what the Latin name of a plant means.) The folks at the local book store think I am a botanist and I had to build an additional shelf for my bookcase.

Compost is a wonderful thing and I know how to make it now. As a matter of fact most of my neighbors and family members know how too. They also know to keep their lawn mowers at a proper height in case I show up with my tape measure and that more water is not always a good thing, but proper watering is a must. Weeds fear me, spurge runs from me. And for the record, it is *soil not dirt*, except for a few spots in my yard that just insist on being dirt regardless of my feelings on this topic.

The projects I worked on and the people I worked with this year were great. Becky Hansen at Murray Park had all of us planting things left, right and in pinwheel patterns. Wheeler Farm offered the opportunity to work in the herb garden and Lawana Kosel had everyone pitch in to produce a book about the herbs found in the house gardens. FYI, houseleeks, or "hens and chicks" are an herb and people used to plant them on their roofs to ward off lightning, thunder, fire and witchcraft.

The pergola my husband and I built this year, replacing grass with something more water wise, is the perfect place to sit and reflect on this past year and to make plans for 2008. It is also the perfect place to enjoy a glass of whatever you like best and to watch the leaves drift on by. Yes, life has a new perspective indeed.



## IF YOU MISSED OUR LAST MEETING . . .

Here are **some** of the Gardening Catalog websites that were discussed. SLMGA does not endorse or accept responsibility for their products or service.

### Heirloom Seeds:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds  
[Www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com)  
 Seedsavers/Heritage Seeds  
[Www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org)

### Organic Seeds and Products:

Home Harvest Seeds  
[www.homeharvestseeds.com](http://www.homeharvestseeds.com)

Gardens Alive!  
 5100 Schenley Place  
 Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
[Www.gardens-alive.com](http://www.gardens-alive.com)

Seeds of Change  
[Www.seedsofchange.com](http://www.seedsofchange.com)

### Native and Xeric Seeds & Plants:

High Country Gardens  
 2902 Rufina Street  
 Santa Fe, NM 87505  
[www.highcountrygardens.com](http://www.highcountrygardens.com)

Native American Seed  
[Www.seedsource.com](http://www.seedsource.com)

### All Purpose

Burpee Gardens  
[www.burpee.com](http://www.burpee.com)

Harris Seeds  
 P. O. Box 24966  
 Rochester, NY 14624  
[www.harriseseeds.com](http://www.harriseseeds.com)

Henry Field's Seed and Nursery  
 425 N. Burnett  
 Shenandoah, IA 51602  
[www.henryfields.com](http://www.henryfields.com)

George W. Park Seed  
 1 Parkton Ave.  
 Greenwood, SC 29647  
[www.parkseed.com](http://www.parkseed.com)

Johnny's Selected Seeds  
 955 Benton Ave.  
 Winslow, ME 04901  
[www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)

Territorial Seed Co.  
[Www.territorial-seed.com](http://www.territorial-seed.com)

### Short Season Specialties:

Vesey's Seeds Ltd.  
 P. O. Box 9000  
 Charlottetown, PEI, Can.  
 C1A8K6  
[www.veseys.com](http://www.veseys.com)

### Vegetable Seeds:

RH Shumway's Seedman  
 P. O. Box 1  
 Graniteville, SC 29829  
[Www.rhshumway.com](http://www.rhshumway.com)

Tomato Growers Supply Co.  
[www.tomatogrowers.com](http://www.tomatogrowers.com)

Tomatofest  
[Www.tomatofest.com](http://www.tomatofest.com)

Totally Tomatoes  
[www.totallytomatoes.com](http://www.totallytomatoes.com)

Vermont Bean Seed Co.  
 Garden Lane  
 Fair Haven, VT 05743  
[www.vermontbean.com](http://www.vermontbean.com)

### Unusual Flowers:

Seymour's Select Seeds  
 P. O. Box 1346  
 Sussex, VA 23884  
[www.seymourseedusa.com](http://www.seymourseedusa.com)

# Calendar

*Thursday, December 13  
Holiday dinner/Graduation  
Will be held at the:  
The Barn at Wheeler Farm  
6300 South 900 East*

*Thursday January 17  
General Meeting  
Guest Speaker  
TBA  
7 p.m.  
in the classroom*

*Thursday, February 21  
Howard Andrews will be sharing  
his expertise on gladiolus growing  
7 p.m. in the classroom*

# Bulletin Board



What this country  
needs is dirtier  
fingernails and  
cleaner minds.

*---Will Rogers*

To see the latest issue of The Garden Patch online, plus past issues, go to:  
<http://www.slmg.org/gardenPatchTOC.html>

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At the Barn at Wheeler Farm!

