

THE GARDEN PATCH



February 2008

Salt Lake Master Gardener Association

Vol. 10, No. 2

Sit Back, Have a Good Laugh, and Wait for Spring

The following were found at a website called "My Little Sister's Gardening Jokes."

<http://www.emmitsburg.net/humor/archives/gardening/gardening.htm>

Thanks to the Master Gardener who forwarded them to *The Garden Patch*.

Unwritten Rules of Gardening

by David Hobson

www.gardenhumour.com

The best way to garden is to put on a wide brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig.

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

Any self respecting rock will break at least one shovel before accepting its new home.

A good compost pile should get hot enough to poach an egg, but not so hot it would cook a lobster.

Gardening requires a lot of water most of it in the form of perspiration.

Every garden is unique with a multitude of choices of soils, plants and themes. Finding your garden theme is as easy as seeing what brings a smile to your face.

Submitted by [Master Gardener](#) Andy, Gettysburg, Pa.

You Know you're A Master Gardener When:

- * You rejoice in rain...even after 10 straight days of it.
 - * You have pride in how bad your hands look.
 - * You have a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.
 - * You can give away plants easily, but compost is another thing.
 - * Soil test results actually mean something.
 - * IPM rules!
 - * You'd rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothes store.
 - * You look for gardens open to the public whenever you go on vacation.
 - * Your non-gardening spouse is actually getting involved with your garden endeavors...digging ponds, building bird houses, watering, pruning, turning compost piles, planting...
- And you definitely know your a Master Gardener when...

You are surrounded by terrific people who share your passion!
Created by Audrey, Emmitsburg, Md.

A Week in the life of a Gardener's Spouse

She dug the plot on Monday, the soil was rich and fine
But she forgot to put the dinner on, so out we went to dine.

She planted roses Tuesday, she says they are a must.
They really were quite lovely, but she forgot to dust.

On Wednesday it was daisies they opened with the sun,
All pinks and whites and yellows, but the laundry wasn't done.

The poppies came on Thursday all bright and cherry red,
I guess she really was engrossed, she never made the bed.

It was violets here on Friday in colours she adores,
It never bothered her at all, the dirt upon our floors.

Saturday I hired a maid, I'd not admit defeat,
She can garden all she wants now and the house will still be neat

It's nearly lunchtime Sunday I cannot find the maid,
Oh I don't believe it. She's out there alongside my wife with her own spade!

Submitted by Lindsay, Blenheim, New Zealand

SPOTLIGHT

ON

Robert Moss



Some gardeners like to curl up with a good book after a hard day's work. Considering his efforts at Wheeler Farm this past year, Robert Moss would certainly be entitled to do just that. Instead, he has plans in the works to increase the harvest at the Master Gardener plot. Last season the ground became flooded and soil washed away. By filling in the low spots and adding lots of soil amendment he expects to double our donations of produce to the food bank.

Born near St. George, at Santa Clara, Robert learned gardening from his mother, and in spite of the weeding which he hated, he's stayed close to the soil. "We've always had a garden, except when we lived in Wyoming because it's too cold." Robert and his wife of 56 years dedicate two days a week to church service. Their family includes five sons, 31 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He spent 30 years in the U.S. Army Special Forces, 17 of it as a chaplain. Now retired, he supplements his income with sales, and teaching classes online.

Among many other responsibilities, Robert volunteers at Thanksgiving Point. When asked why he took on the Wheeler project, he replied, "Maggie asked for help and I have a lot of respect for her." (Anyone who knows Maggie will nod in agreement.)

This year Robert wants to try something different -- a flexible work plan. Weeds don't pop up only on Monday, ready to be pulled on Tuesday. And willing workers often find set times don't fit their schedule. Robert would like volunteers to call, arrange a meeting at Wheeler Farm and meet with him for a brief session of what needs to be done and where. After that gardeners can set their own hours for those tasks that are always waiting - whether it's tilling, planting, weeding or harvesting ripe produce.

As for that good book - you might consider reading, "Guts, but no Glory," the intriguing story of the Utah War. On the other hand, LDS readers might prefer to pick up one of the chronicles of Nephi. These writings are available directly through the author, our own Robert Moss, who at this time has a couple of other novels in the works.

**We can complain because
rose bushes have thorns or
rejoice because thorn
bushes have roses.**

-- Abraham Lincoln

**There is one good thing about snow. It
makes your lawn look as nice as your
neighbor's.**

--- Clyde Moore

Master Gardener Training Sessions Open to Certified Master Gardeners

If any of you certified Master Gardeners would like to audit a class or two from the following schedule, you are welcome to do so. Classes are 1-3:30 p.m. and 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. The first few classes (through the end of February) will be at the Pioneer Craft House (NE corner of 3300 South and 500 East). The rest will probably be in the classroom. Check with Maggie on location.

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| Tues., Feb. 5 | Plant Science | Maggie Shao USU Ext. Salt Lake County |
| Thurs., Feb. 7 | Soils | Dr. Grant Cardon USU Ext. Soil Specialist |
| Tues., Feb. 12 | Nutrients | JayDee Gunnell USU Ext. Davis County |
| Thurs., Feb. 14 | Vegetables | Dr. Dan Drost, USU Ext. Vegetable Specialist |
| Tues., Feb. 19 | Small Fruits | Dr. Brent Black, USU Ext. Small Fruit Specialist |
| Thurs., Feb. 21 | Irrigation & Waterwise | Maggie Shao USU Ext. Salt Lake County |
| Tues., Feb. 26 | Turfgrass | Dr. Kelly Kopp, USU Ext. Water Conservation Spec. |
| Thurs., Feb. 28 | Tree Fruit | Michael Pace USU Ext., Box Elder County |
| Tues. Mar. 11 | IPM | Maggie Shao |
| Thurs. Mar. 13 | Herbaceous Ornamentals | Heidi Kratsch, USU Ext. Herb. Orn. Specialist |
| Tues. Mar. 18 | Class Presentations | |
| Thurs. Mar. 20 | Entomology | Dr. Erin Hodgson, USU Ext. Entomology Specialist |
| Tues. Mar. 25 | Class Presentations | |
| Thurs. Mar. 27 | Weeds | Dr. Steven Dewey, USU Ext. Weed Specialist |
| Tues. Apr. 1 | Landscape Design | Maggie Shao USU Ext. Salt Lake County |
| Thurs. Apr. 3 | Woody Plants | Dr. Mike Kuhns, USU Ext. Forestry Specialist |
| Tues. Apr. 8 | Plant Pathology | Dr. Kent Evans USU Extension |
| Thurs. Apr. 10 | Houseplants | Taun Beddes USU Ext. Cache County |



By Maggie Shao

I am attending the Utah Green Industry Conference at the South Towne Expo January 28-30. You may wonder, How does this affect me as a gardener or as a Master Gardener volunteer? This annual conference is where over 800 people who work as professional in the green industry (irrigation technicians, turf grass growers, landscape designers, arborist, greenhouse growers and nursery producers) come to classes, workshops, and those ever important continuing education units (CEUs) to not only maintain their licenses or certification, but more importantly to keep abreast of current technology, to gather information from vendors, and to provide better service and products to consumers – which is you. This year's theme is Thinking Green: The Business of Sustainability. One of the interesting things about the green industry is that you as customers can have influence and direct what local businesses offer. Drip irrigation is becoming more and more available because the demand is greater. What always comes to mind is the selection of plant materials - from annuals to vegetable varieties to native plants and tree species. One of the ways of getting around it as far as annuals and vegetable varieties is you can germinate your own at home, but that's more difficult with native and woody plants. Usually they are more difficult to propagate and honestly, most of us don't have the patience to grow a tree from seed. Realize that the green industry needs to know what you would like as a consumer but it may take time for what you want to plant and what is available in the nursery. Many woody and native plants take several years before they are plentiful and large enough for sale.

Planning and time is also required for projects and programs to become strong and I am looking this month to work with project leaders and anyone who is interested in taking on a more active part in projects, possibly as an assistant project leader. Of the many boards and groups I work with, one of the most desired situations for development of an organization is to foster and mentor growth of the members. This is done by offering opportunities to develop skills with the support of the mentor. I encourage anyone interested in project leadership to start as an assistant leader. As time and situations occur, a project leader may move on or be drawn away as was the case with Wheeler Veggie Garden. Ron Jones was called to a mission in New York state and without an assistant to take over, there were gallant and brave volunteers who did their best -- Karin Douglas and Bob Moss. How much nicer it would have been for them, if they had some experience prior to taking on this project. I would like to hear from you if you are interested in, considering, or wondering about improving your leadership skills by being an assistant project leader. In case you need my contact info, I have a new email (however the one you may have already should still forward mail to me). Email: maggie.shao@usu.edu or phone 801-368-3178.

2008 Master Gardener Volunteer Training will begin Tuesday February 5. There will be both a day and evening class, and there are about 60 students in this year's training. I'm looking forward to another great year of volunteers.

Dear Master Gardeners,

We had a very nice Volunteer Recognition Dinner at Wheeler Barn last week. Our webpage has some of the photos from the celebration. Just click on the following link <http://extension.usu.edu/SaltLake/html/horticulture/mgprogram/mghistory> to see pictures from the party.

I have to make an apology for overlooking some Master Gardeners who should have been recognized at our dinner. We have a database that is outdated and although I reviewed everyone's hours as they came in, I failed to recognize a few people that deserved recognition that did not appear in the reports generated from the database and that I missed when reviewing volunteer hours as they came in. (A good reminder to keep a copy of your hours to verify with our records – we try our best)

50 Hours
Carmen Kaminski

500 Hours
Peggy Call

Volunteers Who Taught Children in 2007
Virginia Sargent

John Kalasky – I should have mentioned his great contribution to the CAP (Community Action Program) food pantry and his donation of over 2222 pounds of produce he donated. Thank you John.

My warmest wishes to you for the holidays and for a Happy New Year.

Peace and Joy to all.

MORE INFO ON BEES

How to build nesting blocks

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/Research/docs.htm?docid=10743>

Books

How to Manage the Blue Orchard Bee by Bosch and Kemp

Pollinator Conservation Handbook: A Guide to Understanding, Protecting, and Providing Habitat for Native Pollinator Insects by [Matthew Shepherd](#) (Author), [Stephen L. Buchmann](#) (Author), [Mace Vaughan](#) (Author), [Scott Hoffman Black](#) (Author)

Purchasing Bees & Materials

<http://www.beediverse.com>

http://www.territorialseed.com/prod_detail_list/176

Just before Christmas I sent off two seed orders and they both were delivered the same day just after the New Year. One was from Parks and the other was from Pinetree Garden Seeds, now I will check at WalMart to see what they will have that I want.

The 11 foot high grass I have growing in the mow strip was a hit with some of the neighbors. It is a hardy Pampas Grass called 'Ravenna.' I was going to move some of it up to my son's place in the spring. I cut some of the flowering stalks and saved them in the garage and decided to see if the seed would grow. I now have six pots growing in the basement and will use them instead of digging up my mature plants. I will have plenty of seed to share

Tomato update: the 'Glacier' tomatoes are five inches high and have started to bloom. As soon as the blossoms start to open, I will try to set fruit on them. I have some 'Greenhouse 761' tomatoes growing as well. I had the seed so decided to give them a try. I will not try starting my other tomatoes until the second week in February. At the same time I will start the pepper plants. It takes them a long time to produce.

The cuttings I took in the late fall are still doing well and the second set of cuttings that I have taken have set roots all ready. I have some hard wood cuttings on the heat mat at this time. They are from different colors of Rose of Sharon. They are showing some greening of the buds but I have not seen any roots yet. I have taken some hard wood cuttings from some forsythia as well but they have only been in for a short time. I want to try some blackberry cuttings as well, but that will come a little later.

For the last few years Bart Anderson and I have put on a grafting class at his place. This year we will do so again. It will be held on Saturday, April 12. Now is the time to save scion wood from the trees you want to try grafting. Water sprouts are scion wood. If

PLANNING TO GROW TRANSPLANTS?

If you have ever grown squash, cucumbers, and melon from transplants, you know that they resent transplanting. If their roots are disturbed, they pout all summer. Here is Golden's easy and inexpensive solution to avoiding transplant trauma and not have to spend money on peat pots.

Golden cuts strips of newspaper about 3 inches wide and the length of the newspaper top to bottom. He wraps a strip around a pint glass jelly jar (a drinking cup would work too). Wrap it so that the bottom inch hangs below. Turn the glass over, fold down that bottom inch to create a bottom. Use a little



By Wm. Golden Reeves

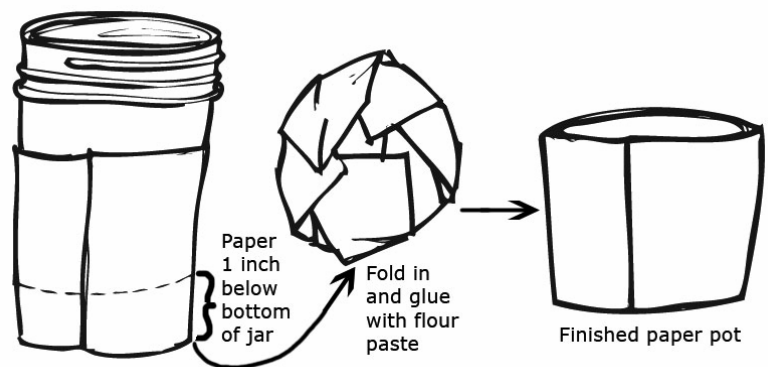
you have a question contact Bart or myself on what it is. Over the years I have taken scion wood from my apple trees, but they have contracted a virus that I do not want to spread. I will try to have other scion wood available at the class, so plan to attend.

I had to rearrange the plants in the basement and start up the last of the lighted beds. The tomatoes were getting too tall for the second level. I try to keep them about 1 to 2 inches from the lights. I use boards and other items to lift the plants up so when they get close to the lights. I can just remove some of the boards and lower the plants. I have planted another type of grass that needs light to germinate, so we will see how that turns out. Mixing the soil to transplant in to was a cold job, as all of the components were in the greenhouse. The cold weather and wind made it a little difficult to do.

Willey, our new puppy, has taken control of the back yard. He has found the ground too frozen to dig in, but he discovered the top of the planter barrels are a great place to dig in and he can play KING of the hill on top of them. It looks like I have two choices: I will need to build a run for him or not have a garden at all this year. He really has a good time dragging and chewing on limbs and the cold snow does not stop his activity.

I went through the new seeds and have pulled the ones that I can start early; these plants take a little longer to get started. Most seeds have a 4 to 6 weeks start time before you can transplant them in to the garden, and it is too early to think about those. If you can hold out a little longer spring might come; but it looks discouraging with the snow we have on the ground at this time.

Cheer up! The snow and cold weather is just the global warming effect.



flour and water paste to secure the corners of the fold. Turn the jar right side up and put pressure on the bottom. Remove the pot from the jar. It only takes a minute to make a nice biodegradable pot.

To plant in this pot, put it in a small flower pot or put several touching in a larger tray. Fill with planting medium, sow the seed, and water.

NEW STREET LIGHTS AND THE CATALPA TREE

By Val Chatwin

We have a new street light on our parking strip.

We are at the very end of a cul-de-sac, our parking strip is only 5 ft. wide and 30 ft. long and it has two Catalpa trees and a mailbox on a pole in it.

The Catalpa trees are the round ones you have to cut the branches off every year. I would have never chosen that tree but we are the second owners. And once you start doing that to a Catalpa tree, you have to continue. A full-grown Catalpa tree is huge and since this is on the parking strip, it has to be contained. They do look cute and I like them a lot.*

At first I couldn't believe they were Catalpas. The leaves, bark and trunk are the same but the others are so huge! Of course these don't bloom. Aren't the others gorgeous when they bloom? But then you have to put up with those long brown seedpods.

I used to take care of the pruning, cutting the branches off with the clippers in the Spring. They got big so now my darling husband gets his chainsaw out, starts it with a satisfactory roar, and goes to work. (He really hates any guidance I might dare to give. One tree is bigger and I think you could make it smaller by removing some inner area, but . . .

He fills up two of our dumpsters with the branches. I save some to use for tall sticks to mark things in the vegetable garden. (I need to mark where the banana squash and pumpkins plant site of roots entering the ground is. By that time of year the vines and large leaves are 2 ft. tall and I plant them close so can't see the ground at all. Even though I plant them in foot circles there is no indication where the plant comes out of the ground. Also there is black plastic under them or the red root weeds would be taller than the vines. So I put a tall stick where that site is and just water there with the hose. I have irrigation that comes out of a faucet and I have garden hoses all over.

I also put a stick at every seed site. I only have a few straight rows. I write the name on a white plastic marker made from cut up cottage cheese/sour cream cartons with a permanent marker. They certainly last, all the ones I printed up two Springs ago and left for some unknown reason were still out there and legible last spring. Maybe I thought I could use them again. Anyway, they are cheap too, Some markers you buy are pricey.

Back to the street light. The first indication we had that South Jordan was going to put the light in was when a city truck stopped outside, and three guys in it asked where the electricity was for the subdivision. We showed them back in the corner of our yard. They sprayed the sidewalk and grass that was just greening up for the spring with spray paint and struck little flags in the ground. Then a cou-

ple of days later they dug a hole. Then a couple of days later they poured cement. Then a couple of days later they removed the cement form. Then a couple of days later they put in the stand. Then a couple of days later they put on the pole and light.

When we first saw them digging 24 inches away from the trunk of the tree we thought, "Why put it there? The neighbor to the north doesn't even have a mail box on their parking strip." Then we thought, "Can't they see that the branches of the tree are going to encompass the light?"

Fortunately, when they got the pole installed, we saw that it was very tall. The tree leafed out and wasn't even close to it. And now when you go into the living room in the middle of a dark night with the drapes open, you can nearly read in there. It's a good thing the bedroom we sleep in is in the back, facing the chicken coup. The neighbors porch and garage lights used to bother me. I thought it was light pollution. Now you can't even tell if they are on, so I can relax. The tree didn't seem to mind it either. The branches surround the pole and caress it happily.

Sometimes things work out.

*.Advice: As is the case with Christmas and Family traditions, don't start it because you will never be able to give it up. Once you start pruning and clipping a Catalpa, you will have to prune and clip for your whole life.

Years ago when our kids were tiny, we started going caroling on Christmas Eve with a couple of neighborhood families, took up time and got them tired. The kids all loved it. Then the neighbors moved away or were unavailable or something and so it became our families tradition. Would they let us quit? No. One year it was 8 degrees below zero. They still wanted to go, after all this was our Christmas tradition. We bundled up. No one opened their doors to invite us in, They couldn't believe anyone would be so crazy as to be out caroling when you could get frostbite instead of snuggled up by the blazing fireplace, sipping hot cider. Another year a Santa was driving by and stopped and talked to the kids. They were thrilled, he said he was about to go back to the North Pole and get in his sleigh. Actually he was out making bucks on Christmas Eve visiting kids houses that had hired him. He was also very tipsy drunk. The

Plan Now to Attend
Golden and Bart's annual Graft-
ing workshop
Saturday, April 12
More details to come.

We are still accepting Renewals for 2008

If you have not yet renewed, please send a check for \$20 made out to SLMGA to:

Teresa Rivera, Treasurer

Please include the form below, or the information asked for written on another sheet of paper (if you don't want to cut up your newsletter).

Thanks for Renewing!

SLMGA Membership Renewal

Name and Year Graduated

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone Number

Please add me to the e-mail updates list. My preferred e-mail address is

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNI-

Tracy Aviary Winter Volunteer Hours

You can get a head start on your volunteer hours for 2008 at Tracy Aviary. They are there every third Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. January through March, Liberty Park

Volunteers are working in the greenhouse germinating seeds and preparing for spring in the Aviary on the third Sunday of the month.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS

Cheri Schulzke is forming a program committee that will bring continuing educational programs to Master Gardeners. The programs committee will help plan, promote and contact interesting speakers and hosts for:

- Thursday evening Master Gardener monthly meetings
- Garden tours throughout the spring and summer
- Field trips: for example Wildflower identification at Albion Basin, Zebra Gardens and any other ideas the committee can come up with
- Summer party, Graduation party
- Seed and Plant Exchange

Contact Cheri Schulzke at coivacations@comcast.net to help with this fun

Calendar

Thursday, February 21



Howard Andrews
will be sharing his
expertise on
gladiolus
growing starting at 7
p.m.

Bring your extra seeds for the seed
exchange

Due to the elections, this Meeting will
be held in the council chambers in the
North building.

March 20
Propagation
W. Golden Reeves

April 17
Plant Exchange

Bulletin Board



The annual
SLMGA Plant Exchange
will be held Thursday,
April 17 in the class-
room.

Grow some extra starts
to share.



To see the latest issue of The Garden
Patch online, plus past issues, go to:

[http://www.slmg.org/
gardenPatchTOC.html](http://www.slmg.org/gardenPatchTOC.html)

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www.slmg.org

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Planning Ahead

Mark your 2008 calendar for:

Thursday, February 21 - Gladiolus Growing
Howard Andrews is going to tell us Everything about Glads
Seed Exchange

Bring your extra seeds to share.

Thursday, March 20 - Golden will talk about seed propagation

Thursday, April 17 - Plant Exchange



Note: Cheri Schultzke has 3 spoons left over from the December dinner. She will bring them to the February meeting, or you can contact her to get your spoon back. coivacations@comcast.net