

THE GARDEN PATCH



March 2008

Salt Lake Master Gardener Association

Vol. 10, No. 3



Lavandula – The Amazing

By Jo Turpin

Mint

Lavender: the little shrub that could. From its 'small town' origins in the western Mediterranean this aromatic shrub, a member of the mint family, has spread its roots worldwide. Lavender production now reaches from the provinces of China into New Zealand, France, and England. Lavender traveled to America with the early Quakers who grew it for commercial purposes. Sooner or later, no matter where you garden, lavender will find you.

The history of lavender goes back into the depths of time, documented use going back over 2,500 years. It is mentioned in the Bible under the name '*spikenard*' and early Christians thought that its origins went back to the Garden of Eden. Ancient Greek physicians and writers noted the many healing benefits of lavender while the ancient Egyptians used the herb in their embalming practices and cosmetics.

The name lavender may have been introduced by the Romans from the term 'lavare', a Latin verb that means 'to wash'. Early Greeks and Romans used lavender oils as scents in their baths, perfumes, and massage oils. Lavender has a long history of other aromatic uses including being strewn on floors to freshen the air and fumigate sick rooms, added to linen chests and laundry for its scent and as a deterrent to insects. It was also hung on walls as a decorative incense to cleanse the air; a forerunner of today's scented diffusers!

Lavender's popularity continued into the Middle Ages where it was a staple of herb and medicinal gardens and gained a permanent place in the monastic physic garden. The local apothecary used this all purpose herb for insomnia, migraines, easing the itch of insect bites or stings, to relieve the pain of burns and as an ingredient in smelling salts. Herb pillows containing lavender, roses and other scented herbs became popular as a sleep aid, and clothes chests continued to contain lavender sachets to ward off foul odors, moths and lice.

Through the Renaissance and Victorian era lavender, with other aromatic herbs, was used in wonderful scent and herb gardens, prized for their beauty *and* usefulness. Nosegays included lavender to ward off evil odors and, hopefully, plague. Lavender was used to wash walls as well as laundry, as an ingredient in soap and was even used in furniture polishes. Medicine cabinets of the time held lavender, considered a virtual cure-all, for various ailments.

Continued on Page 6

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Stephen LeCheminant

Wow! What a winter this has been. I've slipped and fallen on the ice three times, landing flat on my back each time. The last time I sprained my ankle and I'm still limping around a bit after that one. The older I get, the longer it takes to heal. Then, on one of those snowy mornings, which we have had our share of this year, I was involved in an auto accident. Fortunately, there were no injuries. To top it all off, the week of our general meeting I caught a bug that kept me down for a few days. I wanted to be there, but Cheri, our Program Coordinator, called my wife and told her not to let me come to the meeting. I don't think she wanted to get my sickness, and it was good advice.

I understand the meeting went well. I was truly looking forward to Howard's presentation. When I was volunteer coordinator, he would help out regularly by doing presentations for me, and I always heard good reports about what he did. So Howard, thanks.

With the temperature getting up into the forties the last couple of weeks, the snow around my house has melted, and sure enough, the daffodils are breaking through the soil. After the winter we have had, it sure is nice to see some sign that spring is on the way.

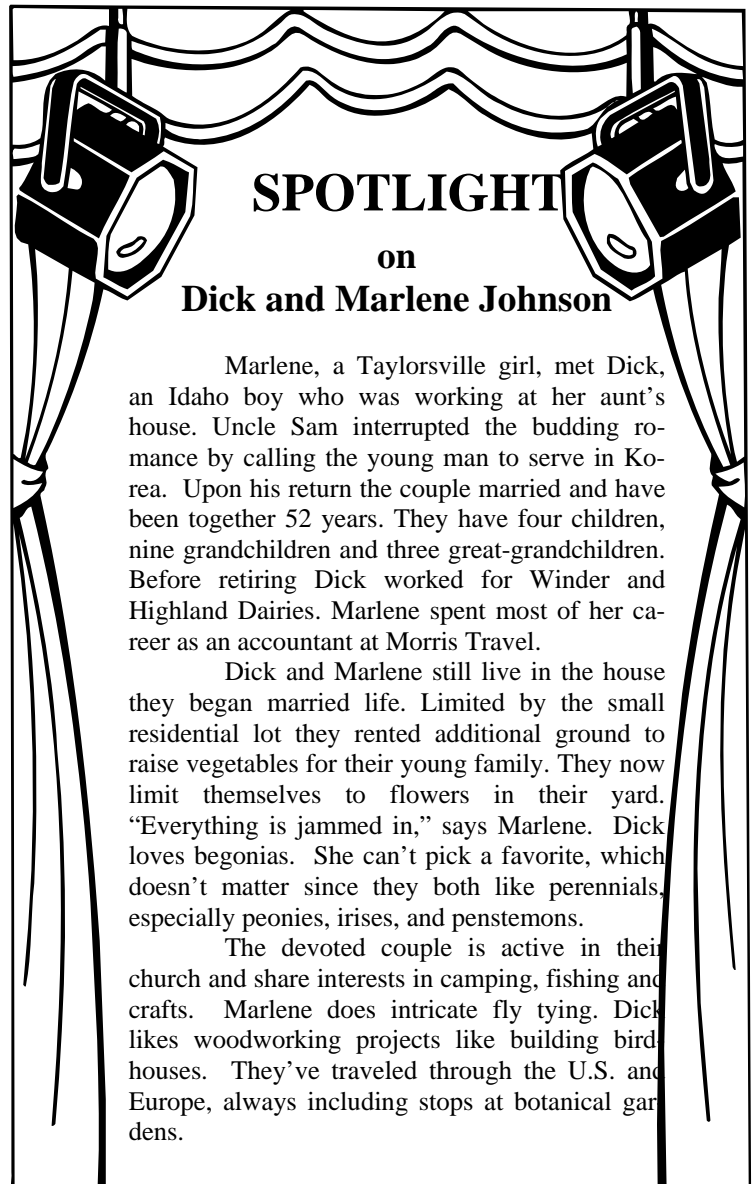
I hope to see all of you all at our next meeting when Golden will be talking on propagating seeds. That should be fun and interesting. Also, remember that April is our plant exchange. It's not too early to be thinking about something you want to share with other gardeners. I remember years ago, maybe ten or more, that Nina Johnston talked me into taking home some *Amaranthus* 'Perfecta' plants. I didn't have any idea what they were, but I took them anyway. I liked them enough that I've been growing them ever since and I have found different varieties which are fun to grow. They are all annuals, and I start them from seed every year. There are no flowers, but the leaves are very colorful and are sometimes referred to as a summer poinsettia.

I hope you all have a prosperous spring.

Thanks,

Stephen LeCheminant

**Thanks
to Howard Andrews
for a fun and informative
meeting on
gladiolus!**



SPOTLIGHT on Dick and Marlene Johnson

Marlene, a Taylorsville girl, met Dick, an Idaho boy who was working at her aunt's house. Uncle Sam interrupted the budding romance by calling the young man to serve in Korea. Upon his return the couple married and have been together 52 years. They have four children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Before retiring Dick worked for Winder and Highland Dairies. Marlene spent most of her career as an accountant at Morris Travel.

Dick and Marlene still live in the house they began married life. Limited by the small residential lot they rented additional ground to raise vegetables for their young family. They now limit themselves to flowers in their yard. "Everything is jammed in," says Marlene. Dick loves begonias. She can't pick a favorite, which doesn't matter since they both like perennials, especially peonies, irises, and penstemons.

The devoted couple is active in their church and share interests in camping, fishing and crafts. Marlene does intricate fly tying. Dick likes woodworking projects like building bird houses. They've traveled through the U.S. and Europe, always including stops at botanical gardens.

About ten years ago Marlene wanted to add a small 6x8 hobby greenhouse and applied to take the class from Larry Sagers. At the time Master Gardener membership was not through open enrollment and she was flattered to be accepted. Dick followed her lead by later joining the select group. Both became Advanced Master Gardeners.

What a treasure the pair has proved to be. Dick has served as project manager for the State Fair Park and as SLMG Treasurer. Marlene worked on the Speakers Bureau and Mini-College. We are most indebted to her as the originator of the Wheeler Farm Project. The popular effort started with a trade off - Marlene needed a hall to hold the Christmas party and in exchange volunteered some gardening. She went on to become a docent at the farm. SLMG participation gradually increased and continues to provide valuable service at the historical site, having served several years as project manager of the House Gardens.

The Johnsons were recognized in 1999 as Master Gardeners of the Year, and in 2002 were Salt Lake County Volunteers of the Year, an award presented by the mayor. As for these and other honors, the best part for the Johnsons is, "We've come to know the nicest people through Master Gardeners." Tallying up nearly 3000 volunteer hours together, the couple has had ample time to meet those they claim as best friends.

EXTENSION

UtahState
UNIVERSITY

By Maggie Shao
Extension Horticulturist

Happy Leap Year! To make our calendar match up, every four years we have to add an extra day – February 29 - to get back on track. We also live with Daylight Savings Time to adjust to our work week, that is ideally suited to maximize daylight hours for our working life, I believe first proposed by Benjamin Franklin.

In this highly technological world with emails, Wi-Fi, and cell phones, has our life really become better? Things can happen faster, but the things that truly give satisfaction aren't necessarily tied to technology. Gardening is one of them. Some of the things I miss living close to the land while serving in the Peace Corps for two years with no running water, no electricity, no phones, and my bicycle as my means of transportation is the awareness of the cycles of the moon. Today, I rely on looking it up on the Internet or checking the newspaper to find out when we have a full moon. The street lights and a comfortable house are convenient and I appreciate them, but I didn't think it would interfere with my knowledge of the weather or phases of the moon. I find myself checking the TV for the weather forecast instead of sitting on the roof of my village mother's house to see the stars and moon. In northern Ghana, in the village of Kandiga, the language is Gurune. Only about 30,000 people in Ghana speak this tribal language and I loved what the stars were called in Gurune. The stars were called "waray bia". Waray is the Gurune word for moon and bia is the world for children. So the stars were the moon's children. I think of gardening in the same way, as a way to stay connected to our environment. By watching the buds swell, the crocus forcing their way through the snow, we are becoming aware of nature, a restorative connection that is essential to life. I guess this short essay to me is that I can see living without a cell phone, email, or wireless connections, but I hope that those technological advances do not prevent me from appreciating and being in touch with the wonders of nature.

March is a big month, the big kickoff for gardening. It is also the beginning of opportunities for volunteering. The Spring Home and Garden Festival will take place Thursday through Sunday, March 6-9 at the South Towne Expo Center. Those who would like to volunteer, please contact Teresa Rivera to sign up for a shift. I am also getting lots of calls for gardening talks and groups who would like Master Gardeners to give community talks. Please let me know if you are interested in giving general gardening talks so we can help others enjoy gardening by giving some sound advice. I'm also looking for anyone who has an indoor light garden or space in their greenhouse who would like to get volunteer hours by starting tomatoes, peppers and herbs for the Fresh From the Heart vegetable container gardening workshops at food shelters. One of

the expenses is buying the starts and not always getting the right varieties. If there are those interested, I will get seedling trays, potting mix, and seeds if you provide the warmth and light to start and care for the seedlings for transplant in late April and early May. People Helping People Garden Tour is also coming up in June, and we have a request for 25 Master Gardeners to serve as experts at stops along the garden tour. The proceeds from this garden tour goes to a worthy cause of helping single women get up on their feet and give a hand up. Lots of volunteering coming up and I would like to meet with project leaders and anyone interested in being a co-leader or assistant project leader to come to a meeting on March 12 at 6 pm at the Extension office to discuss plans for projects in 2008 for coordination of leaders and projects.

I apologize I had a typo in last month's column. If you have any questions about any of the above, please call me at the correct number (801) 460-3178 or email me at maggie.shao@usu.edu.

**Plan to plant an extra row for
Fresh From the Heart**

**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. 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

This is the last part of February. The January thaw that came in mid-February has been replaced with another foot of cold snow. The weather report has more snow arriving in the next few days. So what has the weather got to do with my garden? It sure makes it hard to get excited about going out and getting the spring clean up and pruning taken care of. I have trimmed the rose hedge. There was only a foot of snow to wade through. I have taken care of the apple trees with some pruning of the peach tree that still needs to be done. Our dog Willey is absolutely thrilled with all of the trimmings to chew on and drag around the lot. I have run the trimmings through the chipper shredder to eliminate the derby and got 4 large wheelbarrows full of mulch to add to the compost area.

The 'Glacier' tomatoes have not done as well this year. I realized that I had not been fertilizing on a regular basis, so I have large plants with just a few blossoms on them. I started another set of tomatoes for my class at Red Butte garden the first of March. I have about 6 other varieties of tomatoes planted and have transplant them in to larger containers.

I had to start the green house up a little early this year because I was running out of room in the basement planting area. The heater I have had for over 19 years finally would not start up for me this year. Around Christmastime Home Depot had space heaters on sale for \$19.95 and I decided to buy one at that time. Then just two weeks ago they had reduced the price by half and had a larger one for a few bucks more, so I am back in business again. With a 1500 watt heater I can maintain the greenhouse between 45 and 50 degrees during the cold nights.

The Rose of Sharon cuttings I have had on the heating mat for the last two months have finally set roots. I have 15 plants that I planted in 4 inch pots. I am still maintaining them in a large plastic bag to control the growing conditions. I have started a few other cuttings but will need to wait for a while for them to heal over and sprout roots. I have planted some Angel's Trumpet 'Ballerina' - the yellow and purple double blooms. Last year Bart gave me some purple and I am going to mix them in a large tire pot, should look good.

I have ordered 300 ground cover plants from Miller Nurseries for my son's place the Pachysandra for a deep shady area. Some Thorndale Ivy called 'Baltic' for some sun and shade area and some Cor-



Golden's Garden

By Wm. Golden Reeves

onilla with pink and white flowers for the sunny area. The Coronilla is a crown vetch. This is to plant a large area with a hill and sloping beds that should control the weeds. We took out a jungle of overgrown plants last summer and have killed the weeds. It will need some soil amending work before the plants arrive this spring. I checked the list on www.davesgarden.com/gwd to see what the track record was on this nursery before ordering. It looked good so will give it a try.

In the comic strip *Hagar the Horrible*, Helga is talking to Hagar and says "you have something EXTRA to look forward to this spring. As soon as the snow melts you can rake the leaves you FORGOT to rake last fall". I am finding some of the same conditions in my yard, the leaves from the rose hedge need to be raked up from the lawn.

I have tested the light candle power on the growing benches in my basement, when the plants are with in 3 inches of the light source. They are getting 70 candlepower. If I leave them at the bottom of the bench, 12 to 14 inches from the light source they are only getting 30 candlepower. That makes a big difference in how they grow. The further from the light the longer and leggy the plants are. Some of these facts and tricks on propagating I will share at the next meeting in March. I am looking forward to March. The weather should warm up, and the snow should leave, Then we can get out and play in the soil (as true gardeners would say) or dirt to the rest of humanity.

The hobby greenhouse tour is coming to see my greenhouse on March 15th between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. An one wanting to come, you are welcome. 2682 West Harvest Lane (about 7300 South and 2700 West)

Leek and Cabbage Soup

3 leeks, sliced and using only the white parts
Salt and pepper to taste
4 cups chopped cabbage
3 Tbsp flour
2 potatoes finely diced
1 cup cream or Half and Half
1 medium carrot sliced thin
6 cups water or broth

Cook vegetables and seasonings in broth (or water) until tender. Mix the flour into the cream and stir into the vegetable mixture. Simmer until the mixture is slightly thickened, stirring constantly. Turn off the heat and allow to stand for 10-15 minutes before serving.

Serve with Crusty Irish Soda Bread.

To make this recipe Vegan, substitute unflavored Rice or Soy milk for the cream and add 2 Tbsp olive oil to the cooking vegetables.

--- Submitted by Ethel Olson

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR M G 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 commit-

Annual People Helping People Garden Tour

The 4th annual PHP Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th in the Avenues. We will need about 24 master gardeners to staff the gardens - 12 each for morning and afternoon shifts. They will receive a free ticket to the tour, an event T-shirt and lunch.

Contact Barbara Larsen if you are interested in doing volunteer hours at this event. Contact her at 569-2737 or endlesspromos1@msn.com

You can also just enjoy the event without volunteering. Tickets will be \$10 this year. All proceeds support the Successful Employment Program, helping women earn a living wage.

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.

Needed

A Master Gardener Volunteer to teach pruning at a home with a lot of trees in Taylorsville. Contact Barbara Larsen if you can do this. at endlesspromos1@msn.com



Spring is coming !

Hurray!



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

Lavandula - The Amazing Mint, continued from page 1

Lavender also has a long history in the kitchen. It is a staple ingredient in Herbs de Provence (popular in French cooking), can substitute for rosemary and can be added to vanilla ice cream or sprinkled into cream and strawberries. A sprig of lavender is perfect in a glass of white wine or added to lemonade-made even better if a few mint leaves are tossed in with the lemons! Included in a favorite short-bread recipe lavender creates a flavorful *and* colorful cookie. Many gourmet shops carry lavender honey, a wonderful treat worth searching for. If you are tempted to try cooking with lavender, use English or True lavender; the sweet, light fragrance will enhance flavors. Other lavenders may contain too many of the plant's 'dangerous' chemicals.*

Today lavender is celebrated in festivals and events around the world. In Provence, France, a world leader in aromatic lavender production, an entire week is devoted to all things lavender. Here in Utah the Young Living Farm near Mona, Utah, hosts Lavender Days in June where you can bury yourself in the heady aroma of these purple beauties. The possible uses for lavender are limited only by your imagination. Found in soaps, lotions and oils of various kinds, in potpourri, incense, linen sachets and water, dried and fresh floral arrangements, the possibilities are endless. It continues to be used medicinally and has both antibacterial and antiseptic qualities.

So, all that being said, what are the particulars of growing lavender? Well, it's simple!

First, decide why you want to grow lavender. For the aroma or the interesting colors and contrasts it can add to your garden; to fill a spot where nothing else seems to flourish? There are choices for almost all situations. There are at least 25 species of lavender and more than 200 varieties. English lavender (also called True or Common lavender) has over 40 named varieties itself. Lavender comes in almost as many color variations as varieties, deep purple to white.

Basically, lavender is a woody perennial shrub consisting of several upward reaching branches with needlelike silvery-green leaves. Flowers are produced in terminating spikes on long stems and will re-bloom throughout the growing season if harvested on a regular basis. (For a vigorous plant prune in the spring, once new growth is seen, cutting back old growth by about one third.)

Lavender prefers a sunny location with good air-flow between the plants and well drained soil; damp conditions can lead to root or crown rot. A lighter, well draining soil can be prepared by adding compost to the initial planting site, but regular fertilizing is not necessary for good plant growth. The conditions lavender thrives in make it ideal for rock gardens, borders, the edges of walkways, and any location that needs a drought resistant plant that can

tolerate a little neglect. Any place you grow it will attract bees, butterflies and birds so keep the potential impact of the local 'wildlife' in mind when you choose a site! (*Bee stings can be soothed with lavender.*)

Big drifts of lavender can be a stunning sight in the landscape, but so can a few well-placed plants. There are several cultivars of English Lavender that can do well in Utah and have a hardiness rating of 5 to 8. Because of Utah's winters many of the tender lavenders should be considered annuals, but can still be worth planting depending on your intended use or need. French (*L. stoechas*), Spanish (*L. stoechas subsp. pedunculata*) and Fringed Lavender (*L. dentate*) are all tender, but their beautiful floral bracts and aromas are hard to ignore.

Hardy cultivars of English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) include: 'Munstead,' blue-purple flowers, approx. 18" tall; 'Hidcote,' dark purple flowers, approx 24" tall; 'Jean Davis,' pale pink flowers, approx 18" tall; and the white dwarf cultivar 'Nana Alba'. Another pink variety is 'Rosea' and for lavender-blue flowers there is 'Irene Doyle' or 'Gray Lady.' The *Lavandula intermedia* varieties, 'Provence' and 'Grosso,' are also hardy enough to be successful in Utah.

Once lavender is established it requires little care. Pests are not attracted to the plants, they do not need fertilizers or frequent watering, pruning and harvesting chores are minimal. If you want to expand your plantings, propagation is fairly simple. Softwood cuttings, root division or layering are all successful methods of propagation. Lavender can also be grown from seed, but germination can be slow and often unproductive.

The resources for additional information on lavender uses, varieties and growing requirements are enormous. Depending on how you word your search phrase you can gain access to thousands and thousands of sites through the internet. If you're serious about wanting to know more, pack a lunch! A good extension site is <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/jmdavis/lav.html>

So, go ahead, plant something that's *really* old fashioned. Mix different types of lavender together in a big display of purples, greens and greys; border your front walk with fragrant 'Hidcote,' put some 'Jean Davis' in a large pot on your patio, plant 'Munstead' under your bedroom window. Add some aromatic beauty to your life and just say **yes** to lavender.

* Camphor, eucalyptol, coumarin (an anticoagulant), and linalool (a neurotoxin) are all found in lavender. With the exception of English lavender



Lavandula comes in many varieties, with several different types of leaves.

Do We Have Your Address Right?

Please remember that if you move, we will not have your new address. The Post Office does not forward *The Garden Patch* and does not let us know you have moved. Every year we lose track of a few Master Gardeners that way. So, please, if you are moving or if you change your phone number or email address, please let us know the new information.

VAL'S REPORT

By Val Chatwin

The meeting was very interesting. Howard Andrews really did a good job on Gladiolas. He is a fun and interesting teacher. He sells the gladiolas at his place from July on. (3643 S. 2200 W. if you want to go see.) They also sell them at Pioneer Park at the Farmers Market. Wow, Gladiolas are way too hard for me. He wins at the Fairs with them also.

They are putting a fence around Pioneer Park right now, I don't know how that will work. It is an amazingly busy place on market day. It opens June 14th.

Dick Johnson was at the meeting and looks good. He mentioned that I had not written about the chickens last month. Ethel Olson also told me she likes to "hear about the girls". Hmmm, okay.

Ann Scott and Julie Myers have published a Wasatch Garden Calendar they are selling for \$3. It is very informative and interesting. Get one if you can.

Thank you Sandy Burgess for the darling Chicken calendar!

ADVANCED MASTER GARDEN CLASS taught by Larry Sagers is good. He knows everything and does power point presentations really well and takes thousands of pictures to illustrate every point. Two Mondays ago I was snowed in at my place but they still held the class. Did you know fellow Master Gardener Spence Mortensen developed a white apricot?

CHICKEN MISSING

By Val Chatwin

Tina is missing and we can't find her anywhere.

She is the Fair blue ribbon prize winning Chabo Japanese Banty. She is white with black upright tail and the smallest one of all. Last winter I came out into the back yard and had a tasty tidbit to share with them. They were in the garden, and there was lots of snow in between. The Banties are so little that deep snow is difficult to cross so Tina just launched herself aloft and flew over, nearly hitting me on the landing. This year she is older and I haven't seen her fly at all. The other Banty hens fly across the snow.

She has always been the smallest and white, which is colder and not as robust. She would lean against the light bulb we put in their box for warmth the longest when they were chicks. When the rest would be outside running around, she would seek out the sun to get warm. She and Jacko, the Japanese Rooster always liked to have warm hands around them.

Once, when we had put them outside in a temporary pen made of bird net to get them used to outside, they loved being outside, however it was still cold and we were testing the sprinklers to see if they still worked since fall. That area turned on and sprayed right on the chicks. I screamed when I realized it; we shut off the sprinklers and ran to rescue them. They were completely soaked, with their new feathers all plastered to their bodies. She and Jacko looked dead, laying on the wet, dirty ground with their eyes closed. We ran them into the house. The inside of the house was cold too. We got towels and laid them out on them. We got hair driers and started blowing hot air on them. I held Jocko and Tina in my warm hands, pretty soon I could feel a heart beat. Slowly but surely they got dry, opened their eyes, and got on their feet. They all survived and didn't seem to have any residual affects from their dip in the cold 'lake' of sprinklers.

I saw recently an article in the paper where the Polar Bear Club had their annual dip in the Great Salt Lake. The water temperature was 27 degrees and the air temperature was 29! I thought of when the chicks got doused and nearly died and wondered about the things that some humans choose to do.

Our yard has had snow, quite deep in it, constantly for a long time.

The chickens are out of the pen and have explored and scratched up every inch of their expanded domain. Except lately.

The stores sell organic eggs from 'free range' chickens, for a lot more money. These are truly 'free range' being able to go anywhere in the big back yard and having the lawn and garden to clean up, except lately. I would imagine commercial producers would have to have a lot of chickens in a space this size to label them 'free range' and still get enough eggs to make it pay.

The chickens' favorite place to stand when they are just standing around is on the south deck, right by the door we got outside to. It is sunny, warm, and usually sheltered from the wind. But we don't like them to be on it. Chickens are so charming that we would have them inside with us like dogs and cats except they poop --- a lot. That is the reason birds are in cages.

So I shoo them off and they know not to be on it.

However when snow is 2 feet deep and covering everything, it means they only have a small space that isn't covered with snow to stand around in, so the best place is on the deck. Part of it was deep in snow. It's a wood deck, hard to shovel. So they have spent a long time standing on the deck, examining the green and growing plants on the other side of the glass. They do well in cold but this winter they've about stopped laying. Of course the light out in the coop broke, so it is probably lack of light. They are also getting old. They lay less when they are old. I forgive them. I think they are trying hard to stay alive. The wind usually comes from the north or south, but not this year. They have gotten blown off the deck by the east wind at 40 mph.

When it is calm, it is warmer out there and they lean against the glass. Of course that's cute. You can really see them. Since they are tame. I get to see them close a lot. They cluster around so closely that I have to watch where I put my feet down. And occasionally I pick one up -- to care for it, not to pet it --- they don't like stroking. They do like scratching under the waddle. Some don't like being picked up at all, like Charles, the black crested Polish hates it, squawks the whole time. He has a bad habit of roosting in the nest. The nests stay poop free except if they sleep there, which he does unless I go out at twilight and put him up on a board.

I think we will find Tina's body when it thaws. She is the first of this batch to die. I used to have them killed before spring. Now they die of old age. They are spoiled brats. Right now they have a gallon of discarded potato salad I got free from NPC to munch on.



Calendar

Thursday, March 20
Learn Propagation from a Pro
W. Golden Reeves
South Building #1200
(the classroom)

April 17
Plant Exchange

May 15
Dr. Paul Zuckerman
Slide Presentation on the central
Wasatch range wildflowers

June 19
Photography in the Garden
With Amy Hargreaves Judzis
Location TBA

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

THE GARDEN PATCH
is ON THE WEB at
www.slmg.org

Bulletin Board



The annual SLMGA Plant Exchange will be held Thursday, April 17 in the classroom.

Grow some extra starts to share.

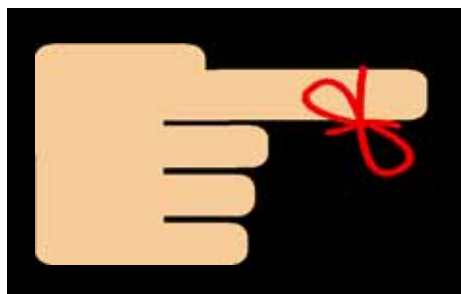


The Garden Patch is published monthly by the Salt Lake Master Gardener Association.
Editor: Jenny Allgrunn
Send address changes to:

e-mail: gardenpatch2@juno.com

The Garden Patch
Salt Lake Master Gardener Association
4545 West 3100 South
West Valley City, UT 84120

**NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SANDY, UT 84070
PERMIT No. 56**



If you have not sent in your renewal for 2008, this is the last issue of *The Garden Patch* you will receive.

**MASTER GARDENER
LOGO SHIRTS AND
BAGS FOR SALE**

You can see the various styles of shirts and their prices on the web at w.utahmastergardeners.org/logoShirts2005.pdf Also for sale are SLGMA logo canvas bags in four different colors for \$12.00. You can order from Barbara at 569-2737 or endlesspromos1@msn.com

If You Are Interested . . .

Would you like to “save a tree” and just receive an email each month with the link to the newest issue of *The Garden Patch*? If so, please let us know at gardenpatch2@juno.com. Please say whether you still want the paper copy sent to you or not.

Here is the link to the February 2008 issue.
<http://www.slmg.org/gardenPatch/2008/Feb2008GP.pdf>