

THE GARDEN PATCH



April 2009

Salt Lake Master Gardener Association

Vol. 11, No. 4

The Long Awaited Spring

Is Here!!

By Cheri Schulzke

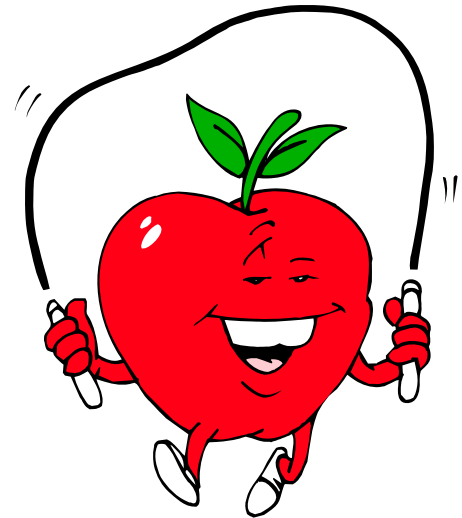
As soon as it starts to get warm and sunny we all want to get outside and into the garden. Start planting, digging, tilling, pruning, raking, lifting fertilizer, turning compost, lawn mowing, etc. etc. etc. But wait before going out and playing in the dirt (soil) did you warm up your muscles? After all, most of us have been sitting all winter long looking at catalogs. The most exercise we got was walking out to the mailbox to retrieve more catalogs and turning catalog pages.

Gardening can cause muscle strains and sprains and lead to spasms in the back and risk of rupturing a disc.

Remember to warm up your muscles for 5 to 10 minutes. Do a few jumping jacks, going up and down a flight of stairs or walking around the yard a couple of times.

Then S-T-R-E-T-C-H 5 to 10 minutes. Stretching will help relieve back strain and muscle soreness and avoid any injury. Remember to breathe while you stretch, holding your breath does no good. Do each set slowly and gently. Don't try to be a gymnast or yoga expert.

- Roll your ankles clockwise 15 turns the counter clockwise 15 turns.
- Roll your shoulders forward 15 times then backwards 15 times.
- Roll your head s-l-o-w-l-y. Start rotating clockwise 3 times and then counter clockwise 3 times.
- Kneel and slightly lean back, arms stretch out in front for balance. Lean until you feel a stretch in your front thighs. Count to 15 and repeat 3 times.
- Stand 2 –3 feet from wall. Place right leg back. Lunge forward with hand on the wall chest height. Keep back straight and don't sway your back. Keep right leg straight and right



heel to the ground. Count to 15 and alternate with left leg. Repeat each side 3 times.

- Stand and raise your arms straight over your head and reach for the sky. Count to 15 drop your arms and shake them. Repeat 3 times.

Now you are ready to go into the garden. Remember:

- Don't bend at the waist to pick up things, bend at the knees.
- Alternate your grip when raking, digging or hoeing. Use right-handed grip then switch to left-handed grip.
- Alternate your stance and motion as much as possible.
- If you start to hurt STOP! Continuing until you are done with the task will only injure you more and recovery time will take longer. Listen to your body.
- Remember RICE. Rest. Ice. Compression. Elevate.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

By Barbara Braeden

“Forsythia is pure joy. There is not an ounce, not a glimmer of sadness or even knowledge in forsythia. Pure, undiluted, untouched joy.”
(Anne Morrow Lindbergh)

Forsythia is blooming - Spring greetings!

Highlights from last week's MGA Board meeting:

The 2009 monthly meeting calendar is nearly set up: the Program co- Coordinators are still looking for a topic/speaker for November's meeting. I personally want to thank Jo Turpin for her creativity and attention to detail as she helps tailor our future events. Speaker requests are being filled. A big Thank You to Jennifer Knight (Volunteer Coordinator) and all who volunteer!

210 MG Association members have paid 2009 dues, but 113 still have not. Please send in your \$15 check ASAP so you can continue to enjoy: receiving *The Garden Patch* newsletter, the friendships, and the many educational & service opportunities afforded members.

Thank you to everyone serving on committees to plan the Utah Annual MG Conference June 12-13. Preparations are proceeding nicely.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the Plant Exchange on April 16 beginning at 6:30 pm @ the Murray Park Pavillion. If our kittens leave my tomato seedlings alone, I plan to bring some of them to share.

SLMGA is Looking for You!

We have great volunteers and project leaders, and there are two new opportunities to take on leadership in these projects. Wheeler Farms Herb Garden and Wheeler Farm Pumpkin Patch are in need of new project leaders and/or assistant project leaders. If either of these sounds interesting to you, please email Maggie Shao at maggie.shao@usu.edu and let her know of your interest.

Utah Dahlia Society

The next meeting of the Utah Dahlia Society will be Wednesday April 15th at 7 p.m. at the Garden Center and the sale will be Saturday April 25 at Millcreek Gardens Nursery (3500 So. 900 East). Contact Karen Crook if you have questions.

2009 Spring Tuber Sale

Have you been looking for a “special something” to add to this year's garden to

- brighten a forgotten corner of the yard?
- put some *pizzazz!* into your summer flower routine?
- challenge or expand your horticultural expertise?
- give the neighbors something to talk about?
- create a little healthy “garden envy” among friends?
- add to your cut-flower repertoire?
- earn a blue ribbon at the State Fair?
- * answer the soon-to-be-asked: What to get the woman-who-has-everything for Mother's Day?

The answers to all these queries and criteria can be summed up in just one flower: Dahlia!

Hard to believe that all this – and more – awaits you in one (little) tuber. But it's true! Familiar yet elusive, it's no secret that the dahlia graces the most discerning of gardens. Not difficult to grow, but responsive to TLC, a dahlia may be in your future. If you'll forgive the simplistic, “if you can grow tomatoes, you can grow dahlias”, then many a gardener is in for a new floral treat.

From miniature (*Poppet*) to mountainous (*Vesuvius*), historic (*Erik the Red*) to hilarious (*Betty Boop*), mythical (*Prometheus*) to mysterious (*Who Dun It*), hero (*Robin Hood*) to heroine (*Scarlett O'Hara*), shy (*Bashful*) to shameless (*Bodacious*), dahlias have it all! Dahlias are great imitators, masquerading in many a garden as “cactus”, “orchid”, “peony”, and even “water lily”. But down to their tubers, they're dahlias all the same.

The best place to find the dahlia(s) of your dreams is at the **Utah Dahlia Society's first Annual Tuber Sale on Saturday, April 25. Mill Creek Gardens (3500 S 900 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84106) has graciously agreed to host this event, beginning at 10 a.m.**

Many Utah Master Gardeners have introduced dahlias to their gardens through the years via Mark Hurst's tubers at the SLMGA plant swap. Mark was sure to emphasize that he'll have no tubers at the swap this year; all his tubers are headed for the Tuber Sale!

While dahlia tubers are available to Utah gardeners from many sources across the country, one thing to note is that the tubers at the Sale have “proven” themselves (i.e. survived) in our Intermountain climate. As with other botanical species and cultivars, not all are viable in Utah's climate and conditions. We're expecting over 60 different cultivars to be available for the sale! Come chat with some of our local dedicated dahlia growers (our youngest enthusiast is 10 years old!) and see what delights are waiting for your garden this year.

EXTENSION

UtahState
UNIVERSITY

By Maggie Shao

First I want to thank all the volunteers who donated their time at the Tribune Spring Home and Garden Show. I always appreciate providing advice and information on gardening to the curious public. Greenband Media is now the organizer for this show. The Home and Garden Spring Festival has been generous to provide us a complimentary booth (no cost for booth rentals, table, and chairs). However, because we don't pay, they usually don't know where they will put us until the last minute, because they want to accommodate everyone who has paid and also fill in as needed. A special thanks to Heidi Wayman who had to wait around several hours until they decided where they were going to put the Master Gardeners. For those who were at the show, I'd like your feedback. I have worked at this show for the last six years either at the Utah Community Forest Council booth or Master Gardener booth. I've noticed a trend away from garden exhibits and more home gadgets, food, and retail booths. I want to make volunteer programs and efforts more meaningful for both volunteers and the public; I feel that Master Gardener booths at Conservation Garden Park Fairs and Pioneer Park Farmers Market have a greater appeal to the public attending and for those volunteering. Give me feedback.

I'm currently sitting by the pool in Las Vegas, after 3-1/2 days attending the International Master Gardener Conference. I believe there were over 650 Master Gardeners attending the conference. Honestly, this is the first chance to sit by the pool; I have a couple of hours after the end of the program and before my flight leaves this afternoon. The weather is cooler than normal, so it hasn't been pool weather anyway. The highlight of this conference for me definitely was a field trip to Springs Preserve, the site of the original springs that helped established a settlement in "the meadows", which is the literal meaning of Las Vegas. This is an excellent example of LEED Silver certification. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. This 180-acre attraction is about 5 miles from the strip and well worth a visit. The buildings are made of materials all local (within 500 mile radius) and are sustainable produced or recycled and the gardens are both educational and beautiful. Molds of rocks from Red Rock Nature area were used for the simulated rocks used throughout the gardens. Water wise and native plants are highlighted and the first impression upon arrival that was remarkable was the parking lot. It is shaded with a roof that supports many photovoltaic panels that produce 70-80% of the electricity needed for the buildings at Springs Preserve. So the cars get shaded from temps over 110 degrees, the large concrete pad is shaded and therefore not a heat island absorbing solar heat as well as providing 70-80% of electricity for the buildings onsite. So cool! One of our tour guides was a former Salt Lake County Extension Agent, Linn Mills. He noticed my USU Extension shirt and said likely no one from Utah still knows him, since he moved to Nevada in

1984. He has coauthored a book on Nevada wildflowers. I really recommend this excursion if you ever go to Las Vegas. For more information check out the website at <http://www.springspreserve.org>.

We had a great selection of speakers – the keynote speaker Jeff Lowenfels, who is an advocate and proponent for organic farming and improving our soils through recognizing and appreciating the soil food web. His book "Teaming with Microbes" explains how chemical fertilizers can damage and destroy many of the soil microbes that contribute to our soils structure and are partners with plants. Other speakers included Jim Zunino, a Landscape Architecture graduate from USU, who presented on Las Vegas landscapes and their evolution. Many speakers were so impressed with First Lady Michelle Obama's recent establishment of a vegetable garden on the White House grounds, not since Eleanor Roosevelt has the First family encourage the nation to have a home vegetable garden. One of the presenters, Dr. Marvin Miller of Ball Horticulture presented on Trends in Gardening, and cited a National Gardening Association survey that 37 million Americans would like to or grow fruits and vegetables and of those 19% are first time gardeners. He stated what a great opportunity for Master Gardeners to educate these first time gardeners how to plant a backyard vegetable gardeners and follow the example of Michele Obama.

Other events during the conference included many selections of field trips, evening entertainment, and trade show. Another nice recognition is the Search for Excellence Awards of Master Gardener projects around the USA and was impressed by the great work done around the country. I went to the State Coordinator's Meeting (because I was the only one from Utah attending) and Bill Hoffman, the representative from CSREES arm of the USDA that helps fund Extension programs presented on a survey conducted at the end of 2008. He showed that there are over 95,000 Master Gardener volunteers and they have contributed over 200,000 hours of volunteer time. I have met folks from Hawaii, Alaska, Texas, West Virginia, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and many Master Gardeners from other states came to be with other Master Gardeners.

Our 2009 training is finishing up April 9. I have been negligent in contacting some of the project leaders to start off our volunteer activities. I will do that first thing when I get back. I've been inspired and rejuvenated by attending this conference, and hope to bring back that enthusiasm.

Thanks always to all of our Salt Lake Master Gardeners!



Hummingbirds figure out their feeding patterns for the season by the middle of May, so fill your hummingbird feeder by May 1st so you will have visitors for the season.

Wow! Another month is here! They say time flies when you're having fun, but the old frog quotes it another way – time's fun when you're having flies. Either way you look at it, the days are really going by fast. I have been spending a lot of time pruning and doing yard work for some people who contacted me for some help with their pruning needs. This will be the second year I have worked for some of them. With the work I took care of last spring, this year the work goes a lot faster. When we do the job right the first time, it is easy to keep up or redo the following spring.

I have planted tomatoes in the garden protected with walls of water. The clear plastic is down as a mulch and the plants seem happy. I waited for the hard frost weather to pass but made a mistake of leaving my fertilizer injector bottle on the drip system and the bottom froze out of it. I have used some J.B.Weld on it and need to test it out with water pressure to see if it will work. I filled a lot of walls of water and have them on the lawn to see what tubes will fail and need to be replaced. When I find a lot of tubes that have failed in one water wall I save the good tubes by cutting them out and then I can insert them into tubes on the ones that only have one or two that have failed. You once could buy replacement tubes for them but I have not seen them in the stores.

I have repotted my tomatoes into 4 inch pots and moved them into the greenhouse. The 'Glacier' tomatoes I use as a teaching example have set a lot of fruit and soon will have ripe ones. The plants I cut back are setting fruit also and I hope I can get rid of them this weekend when the hobby greenhouse tour comes. I normally have plants that I can give away.

A few weeks ago I ordered some plants from the Michigan Bulb Company. They were such a good deal I couldn't pass it up. The order came in and every plant looked great, except the red miniature hollyhocks had been dumped out of their small pots but they are doing well in the greenhouse. The variegated Weigela, the 3-in-one Butterfly bush and the 3-in-one Rose of Sharon were really nice plants. Now all I need to do is find a place to put them when the weather warms up.

I looked out the window and what did I see? Snow had covered the neighbor's apricot tree. Spring has given such a nice surprise, snow is falling right before my eyes. The tree was in full bloom just yesterday. Just when you think you may be able to get some yard work done, winter returns. So this week I will need to keep a good watch on the plants I have in the garden to make sure they get through this cold period.

I planted some artichoke seeds for the Christmas Box House; they were seed that came



By Wm. Golden Reeves

from the Fair Park garden a long time ago. After leaving those on the seedling mat for a week only one seed germinated. I put the pot up close to the light and a week later I now have a whole pot full of plants. We sometimes think that old seed is no good but if weed seeds can survive in the ground for years and then germinate when they are turned and exposed to the right conditions, then the old seed we have may be okay also.

The 'Granny Smith' apples I picked 5 months ago have stored well in the garage but when we start to get the warmer weather they go downhill fast. I have been drying them and only have one more batch to go. I have not had anyone turn me down when I offer them a bag of dried apples. I was able to bribe a neighbor to do some welding for me with a bag of them.

I forgot I had planted spinach in February and when I installed the drip system in the garden I dug through that area. As I was covering up the tubing I saw some of the seed exposed. I decided to replant, and the second planting is starting to come up. I planted three varieties of peas, carrots, beets, and radishes, so with cabbage and cauliflower I have most of my early crops in. I have been looking for bok choy seeds and finally found them at Macey's grocery store. I need to get it planted along with some flower seeds.

The tomato propagation classes at Red Butte Gardens went great this year. We had to have three classes to accommodate everyone who wanted to take it. There was a lot of interest in it, and I had students come again for the second year. I asked them if they learned anything new and was told yes, but they now understand more fully what I was talking about last year.

Hey! Spring will be here eventually but get those plants started now so when spring finally arrives you will be ready.

SALT LAKE COUNTY FAIR

By Val Chatwin

Wed. Aug. 5, 6, 7, 8, County Equestrian Park, 11400 W. 2200 W.

www.countyfair.slco.org

**Wed. Aug. 5 7:30 am to 9:30 Check in vegetables, judging.
Fair opens 11am. Sat. Aug. 8, after 11 pm pick up ribbons and entries.**

Fair preparation has begun. I have seen the proposed entry book. It will be on the internet again this year. Utah State Fair did not have their correct copy posted till a week before the fair last year, which was too late.

I've added Eggs, You can bring a dozen multicolored and sized or another dozen that all look the same.

We will need Master Gardeners to help enter people, put out the produce, help the judges on Wed. between 7:30 and 11 as before. They give you lunch. The Master Gardeners who came last year made things go smoothly. Thank you so very much. I think they had fun. I did.

Call or email me. I have a new email address:
valrayc@hotmail.com

VAL'S VIEWS

By Val Chatwin



they amazingly beautiful? I just love these bulbs that thrust their green swords up in the cold. You find them bravely crowding out of the soil when it is too cold for you to be outside. Then when the week comes when it is 60 degrees, my yard is still a big mess and the grass is still March 20 Friday. 55-60 degrees. I was out doing the first inspection after winter, seeing how things had survived, and raking fall leaves and dead stuff up to get it on the garden to get tilled in. Out front under the deck floor (it is high enough that you can stand up there) the red tulips that we brought with us from the other house and daffodils were blooming. I love those daffodils that turn that yellow trumpet to the sun and dance in the breeze. Then when the snow comes again they get pressed down, but it doesn't dampen their enthusiasm. I have a lot of this yellow and red mixture. These tulips aren't fussy. They take crowding and stay in the same spot for years without being dug up. When a shrub grows over them, they will try to reach through it and bloom anyway.

The forsythia is blooming, it is only half flowers and they are small. The neighbors' are the same. They aren't big and healthy looking. I wonder what happened? The roses made it and will need pruning soon. The chickens were glad to move the dried iris and lily debris around in the nests and make a pocket.

I kept finding walnuts. The neighbors have two trees and the magpies hide them all over the neighborhood. When I found one I would put it in my pocket to take inside and crack. I got in the house and put them on the sink. After awhile I had 30 big healthy blank ants wandering around. The ants had been living in one of the nuts. They love nuts. I wonder what happens to ants that are displaced like this. Can they find the way to their old hole? Sometimes it is miles away. Can they go to another nest hole and sleep? What happens to them?

Ray got the tiller out, put gas in it, changed the spark plug and gave it several jerks and it started. He tilled up the chicken coop ground. Monday I wanted to use it to do the garden (I don't let anyone else do it.) but I couldn't pull the cord strong enough. He came home from work and with one strong jerk it started. I worked around the garden. Tuesday I couldn't start it again. When it gets so I can't start it I get a new one. They only cost about \$400 and it works well for a couple of years. The gas tank lid on this one broke. Since it must have a tight lid, he fashioned one out of duct tape. (Another multiple duct tape use. What would we do without duct tape?) Two years ago a belt broke, but the replacement wasn't exactly the right length so the tines keep turning all the time instead of stopping when you let up on the gas lever. Now both belts need replacing. There was a lot to do out in that garden before it was ready for planting.

I went tiller shopping on my way home from another activity, dressed in a dress and pantyhose. Home Depot wanted \$700 for a front tine, and I didn't like the

looks of it. Every place had tillers with the tines in back. I need front tines so I can get right up to the fence and swing around the pear tree, Oregano clump, garlic row, and sage bush. I stopped at IFA. The parking lot was full of cars. I have never seen it like that. There was an article in the *Deseret News* about a lot more people buying chicks and garden stuff this year. It said IFA had run out of chicks each week. They had added more racks; the chicks were peeping like crazy. It's fun to walk in the store and hear the peeping. It means spring is coming. The manager was helping the overwhelmed clerks. He proudly took me to where the tillers were being displayed inside the store. All he had was a little one. This was his story; he didn't order any of the medium-sized tillers because the last two years they have been stolen from out of their outside back yard. It is completely surrounded by businesses and chain link. Last year the thieves went through the next door business, cut a gaping hole in the chain link and made two trips and took all the mid-sized tillers. The year before that, he had them stolen also. He said Riverton IFA had them.

I went to Steven Reagan's, a place the Master Gardeners praise (Tell them you are a Master Gardener and they will give you a discount.) I asked about tillers and was sent to the business directly behind them. They had a bunch of riding lawn mowers and a ditch digger in the front parking lot and one little garden tiller. He said to go to Lowe's, which was close. Outside in front they had some mid-sized tillers. The desk guy didn't know, I had to walk the whole length of the store and back, to find out that that was their all they had. I drove toward home on 1300 West. Traffic this time of day is heavy. I decided I needed the tiller for tomorrow, which was going to be another 60 degrees day, and in March there aren't many. The forecast had already warned of snow next week, so I just kept going to 12600 South.

Riverton IFA had several sizes out front chained together. One was just what I wanted; I went in and purchased it. It took two other young guys to load it into the back of my little red car. One had to go back in the store and get some cord, so it took awhile. The other chatted with me--a good customer relations guy. He worried about if I knew how to take care of it, needs oil in the gasoline; they had a bottle of oil taped to the tiller. What a nice feature. When I said I had a husband at home they were much happier about sending it with me. One finally asked where I had been? I didn't get it. Then I thought, "oh, yea, an old lady in a dress and hose purchasing a tiller. I told him I was a Master Gardener. He wasn't impressed; that still didn't explain it. Oh, the dress. Then I had to tell him about being a tour guide at the LDS Church Office Building every week. What happens when you get old, is you look in the mirror, and are surprised occasionally at the wrinkled face looking back, but inside you still feel the same, and since you are on the inside looking out and can't see yourself, you don't realize how old you look, until someone like this is surprised and you realize how old you are. That's why you

GARDENING CLASSES

The following classes are being offered through Salt Lake City School District Community Education. You can register at <http://www.slc.k12.ut.us/depts/commed/pdf/catalog.pdf> or contact Julie Myers for information.

Creating Year-Round Interest in Your Garden

Highland High School

Master Gardeners Ann Scott and Julie Myers

Thursdays, Apr 30, May 7, May 14

6:00pm - 7:30pm

\$20 (materials fee)

Create a year-round calendar for your garden. Learn to use annuals and containers for colorful summer displays. Plan now for fall plantings. Discuss design elements to enhance your winter landscape and spring garden.

Makeover Your Landscape, Part II

East High School

Master Gardeners Ann Scott and Julie Myers

Wednesdays, April 29, May 6, May 13

6:00pm - 7:30pm

\$20 (materials fee)

Coordinate annuals and containers for spectacular summer displays. Learn good planting and maintenance practices that will protect your landscape investment. Understand garden plant diagnostics and learn to identify common garden diseases and pests. Plan now for a colorful fall garden display.

Through the Salt Lake City Public Library

www.slcppl.lib.ut.us

Annual and Container Gardens

Anderson-Foothill Library

Saturday, May 2, 2009

10:30 a.m.

Learn to coordinate annuals and containers for spectacular summer displays. Slide show of containers and annuals included.

Trees for the Wasatch Front

Sprague Library

Saturday, May 30, 2009

10:30 a.m.

What trees flourish best in our Utah landscapes? Find out how to purchase and plant trees for your own landscape needs.

The following classes are being offered through Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District www.jvwcd.org

Master Gardening Series. This series will teach you everything you need to know about creating beautiful landscapes and how to help them survive in Utah's sometimes-difficult climate.

Taught by Ann Scott and Julie Meyer of SLMGA

Hosted by Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District

8215 South 1300 West

Session 1 "Creative Landscape Design" Get the most out of your design. Learn to use color, shape, scale and other artistic principles to create beautiful outdoor spaces. See photos of successful landscape designs.

Tuesday, April 28

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Session 2 "Simply Waterwise" Saving water in your yard doesn't have to be complicated. Learn how to save water in your landscape in simple yet effective ways.

Tuesday, May 5

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Session 3 "Wonderful Plants for the Wasatch Front"

See examples of plants that will work great for any Utah landscape. A tour of the Conservation Garden Park will be held.

Tuesday, May 12

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Session 4 "Diagnosing Plant Problems" Need help finding out what is wrong with your landscape? Learn about plant problems common to Utah and how to diagnose them. Bring samples of plant problems from your landscape to have them diagnosed in the class.

Tuesday, May 19

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

GARDEN ACTIVITIES

The following activities are offered through Wasatch Community Gardens.

Plant Sale - May 9

Tour de Coops - Backyard Chicken Coops - June 27

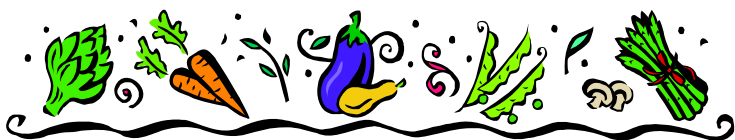
Salsa Party - Aug. 14

Tomato Sandwich Party - Sept. 12

Pumkinfest - Sept. 26

<http://www.wasatchgardens.org/> You can also get their 2009 Workshop Schedule.

Wasatch Community Gardens • P O Box 2924, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-2924 • (801) 359-2658



May General Meeting Come to Gilgal Garden Garden Party and Picnic

Thursday, May 21, 2009
6:30 to 8:00 PM - Gilgal Garden 749 East 500 South

The SLMGA Board would like to invite all of our Master Gardeners, Project Leaders, and Apprentices to a Meet & Greet Social in the Garden. A picnic will be served under the canopy. Water will be available, or bring your own drink. Retired Utah Symphony cellist Ruth Ann Spangler will supply some wonderful classical music for ambience and a Scavenger Hunt for information will be held. Participants will be entered into a drawing for a great prize! This is a good time to meet new members, re-connect with friends, sign up for this year's projects and have fun. If you plan to attend, bring a lawn chair and car pool if you can. Bring an extra camp chair if you have one. Anyone who likes to walk and has a small, easy to carry chair can take the Trax Train to the Trolley Square Station, on the University Line, at 625 East 400 South.

TRACY AVIARY

Monday April 6 from 5:30 to 7pm, Tracy Aviary Volunteer Orientation – 569 East 1300 South

If you have wanted to volunteer at Tracy Aviary, Matthew Utey will be holding a brief orientation and tour of the Aviary for potential volunteers. I just walked through the Aviary and it has some great changes coming up including a new exhibit that will need landscaping and the native plants attracting urban wildlife will begin construction soon. Save the date and arrive at the gate at 5:30pm if you are interested. The time at this orientation will count as volunteer hours also only if you volunteer hours at Tracy Aviary later.

GRAFTING WORKSHOP

**Saturday April 18 starting at 10 a.m .
Apple Grafting Workshop, Bart Anderson's ,
5340 West 3500 South**

Did you ever want those fruit trees with several different varieties grafted onto one tree. Come to the grafting workshop and Golden Reeves and Bart Anderson will be teaching how to graft scions onto established trees. Grafting scions for apples varieties will be available. Any further questions you can call Bart .

PURGE THE SPURGE!

Trade a bag of spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) for FIVE FREE NATIVE PLANTS on Saturday May 9 10am to 3pm – Purge Your Spurge Weed Cleanup and Native Plant Exchange, REI 3285 East 3300 South

Fresh From the Heart

By Jennie Gibson

This year's training meeting for anyone who would like to teach classes on vegetable container gardening this spring will be held on Tuesday, April 28 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the USU Extension classroom at 2001 South State. Refreshments will be provided to tide you over. Those who complete this one hour training will be able to help teach any of the three sessions that we will provide to educate people served by the food pantries to grow veggies at home in pots. At the workshop they will be provided with a pot and plant(s) to take home. As a trainer, you will be provided with the training script and handouts, and we will work together to provide all the supplies needed for each workshop. Volunteer hours can be earned in all aspects of this project. To receive volunteer hours for the training meeting, you will need to also help teach one of the workshops. Please direct any questions about volunteer hours to Maggie Shao.

If anyone would like to start plants to donate to this project, we would really appreciate it. The plants need to be of compact types that do well in pots. Especially popular are tomatoes, peppers, hot peppers and cilantro. They should be timed to be ready from around May 15 to the first week in June. We could also use donations of 3 gallon sized pots if you have some you don't need. If anyone has a great source of high quality potting mix for free or a low price, also let me know.

This is a really fun activity when you see how excited folks become over learning this information and receiving the supplies. Last year we had one group of over 30 people, none of whom had ever planted anything before. Some did not even know that you needed to water the plants. That's how basic it was. We expect to have three training opportunities this year, probably either in the daytime or possibly one in the early evening. To sign up for the training class, please contact Jennie Gibson at gib-songg@earthlink.net

Plant An Extra Row to help the Hungry

Once again we will have arrangements with food pantries around the valley where you can donate any extra produce that you raise. In future issues of the Garden Patch and on the website we will publish the list of the pantries and the times when they are open to accept donations.

This may be the year when our efforts will really be needed more than ever. Let's all figure out where we can slip in more wonderful vegetable plants. I'm going to plant fewer flowers and more squash this year. Encourage your neighbors and friends to plant extra, and whenever you give a talk, remind the people you talk to that if we plant a little extra, we can bless many people with our bounty of nutritious, delicious veggies and fruits.

With the advent of gardening season, comes the physical challenge of getting it all done and keeping yourself in one piece. Thanks to Cheri Schultzke for finding these articles to help us keep healthy outdoors this year.

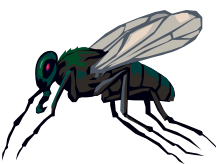
Practice Prevention

When you plan to play outdoors, practice prevention. Avoid wearing perfume or other fragrances because they attract bees and wasps. Wear gloves, shoes and a hat to protect yourself from cuts, punctures, stings and sunburn. Apply sunscreen and repellent as well. When treatment is needed, first use clean, cool water and a little soap for cleaning the affected area; apply ice to reduce swelling. Seek medical treatment for serious injuries or if you have allergic reactions.

Simple Solutions

Plagued by bees or wasps when you eat outdoors? According to Dewey Caron, Ph.D, of the Lanacane Sting Forecast, you can use a "decoy plate" to keep the insect from hassling you. Before you begin your picnic, put out a plate of whatever you'll be serving. Once the bees and wasps discover their dinner, carefully move it to a location away from where you'll be entertaining. The insects will continue with their meal, leaving you to enjoy yours.

Get too close to a cactus or rosebush or have a splinter under you skin? Try applying white school glue (Elmer's) with a cotton swab and top it with a layer of gauze. Let the glue dry and pull off the gauze: the prickly offenders will come with it.



Are you protected?

(Better Homes and Garden 2004)

Many gardeners are unaware that they face an increased risk for tetanus, a potentially fatal disease cause by bacteria found in dirt, potting soil and manure. According to the 2004 National Garden Survey, 80 percent of gardeners say they get cuts and scrapes while working around the yard, garden or home – which is how tetanus enters the bloodstream.

The survey also revealed a general lack of protection among gardeners, with more than 40 percent reporting that they are not vaccinated against tetanus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a combined booster vaccine known as "Td" once every 10 years to protect against tetanus and diphtheria, another infectious disease.

"Every time you work in the dirt you expose yourself to tetanus – so it is important to get your Td booster shot before you dig in," urges National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) Medical Director Susan Rehm, MD. "Call your doctor today to see if you are due for your 10 year Td vaccine."

According to Dr. Rehm, tetanus is a very painful disease, and can prove challenging to diagnose. As many as 20 percent of tetanus cases result in death.

Spotlight

On Becky Hansen

Always one for the long haul, Becky Hansen spent all her young life in Holladay and graduated from Olympus High. She attended the U of U where she met her future husband. Becky says, "I've been married to the same wonderful man for 30 years." The newlyweds took up residence in Murray, where they raised seven children and are now visited by eight grandchildren.

Even as a child Becky could be counted on to do certain things. According to her mom Becky always had to be outside. She still is - whether it's walking, hiking, or yard work. The garden is a joint project with her husband. They start early, planting peas, radishes, and spinach in warm spells between snowstorms.

Becky says her yard is small. But whose isn't compared with Murray Park where she's a full-time gardener. She says, "I just fell into the job." With her youngest in kindergarten she stopped by Murray Park to check on openings. An employee happened to be leaving that week. Becky has been on the staff for fifteen years and in the process earned an Associate degree in Horticulture from USU. Continuing education has earned her a string of credits such as Certified Arborist and membership in The Utah Nursery and Landscaping Association.

Working at Murray Park is a dream come true for Becky. She's paid for gardening and has lots of interaction with people. She supervises plantings of annuals and perennials as well as instructing in the care of roses and trees. "There's always something new happening," Becky says. A current major project is restoration work on the Jordan River that includes tearing out tamarisk and replacing overgrowth with native plants.

"We have lots of different projects," Becky says. This means coordinating efforts of high schools, scouts and other service organizations. "And I truly want volunteers to enjoy themselves as they learn." She might start them off with a tour of the park, showing them the variety of trees or pointing out the current bloom.

Becky, a long time Master Gardener, had been a project manager at *This is the Place State Park*. As that undertaking was phased out, Wade Bitner approached her about heading a proposed Murray Park Project. "But I'm an employee," she protested.

Wade said the experience would be invaluable to Master Gardeners, giving them the opportunity to learn about every aspect of gardening. Becky agreed. SLMGA workers can drop in on Tuesday mornings, starting at 8:00 for now, and as it gets hotter at 7:00 a.m. Murray Park is a large territory to cover so Becky says, "Stop by the office. They can always find us." If nothing else you'll learn that "Gardeners are the nicest people." That's a quote from Becky's daughter who's earning a degree in Landscape Management and is much like mom.



Perfect Pumpkins

By Jo Turpin

It may be too early to plant pumpkins, but it's the perfect time to plan for them. Pumpkins are members of the cucurbit family (Latin for gourd) that includes summer and winter squash, zucchini, cantaloupe, cucumbers, watermelon, gourds and pumpkins. Early Americans and our early settlers cultivated pumpkins, native to Central America.

There are as many varieties, colors, textures and sizes of pumpkins as there are uses for them. They provide pie filling; cookie, muffin and bread ingredients; hardy winter soups, tasty pumpkin seeds and endless decorative ideas. To really make an impression at a fall or winter gathering try pumpkin soup served in small pumpkins or from a large pumpkin – tasteful in more ways than one!

First decide how you would like to use your pumpkins; Jack 'O Lanterns, pumpkin pie, or both and choose your seeds. Pumpkins require room so if you want to plant different kinds of pumpkins you may want to trellis them. A strong frame made of pipe with a nylon net attached for the vines to climb will work. After choosing your seeds things are simple.

Pumpkins like warm sunny spots (65 degrees to plant) and well drained soil enriched with organic matter and fertilizer before planting. If you start with seeds, place 4-6 seeds, 1-2 inches deep in mounds approximately 4 feet apart, thin to 2 plants per mound once they sprout. If you are using transplants place your starts 2-3 feet apart. After the vines develop side runners, and the first flowers appear, apply a side dressing of additional fertilizer. Water deeply, but not too often, use 1-2 inches per week, soaking the soil to about one foot in depth. Pumpkins do well with drip irrigation systems and black plastic mulch in place of organic mulch like bark, which can harbor pests.

Once established you can control some of their vigorous growth, (and produce larger, sweeter fruit) by thinning or pinching back the vines after the fruits have set. Be careful when you thin vines; if there are not enough leaves left to supply the fruit with sugars the fruit will not be as sweet as it could be.

Harvesting your pumpkins is always a fun time. Pumpkins take 50 to 60 days, depending on variety, *from flowering, not planting, to mature*. Full color, vine die back and the hardness of the rind are good indicators of maturity. The rind should withstand light pressure from a fingernail. Mature fruit should be harvested with at least 2 inches of the stem still attached. You may want to cure, or harden, the rind before storing by leaving the fruit out for several days in 85 to 90 degree temperatures, then move it to a cool place (55 degrees) with 50-75% humidity. Fruits should last for several months.

Pumpkin pests include aphids, squash bugs and cucumber beetles. Aphids can be controlled with insecticidal soaps or strong sprays of water. Squash bugs should be hand picked as adults and removed from the underside of leaves in their egg and juvenile forms. Cucumber beetles require chemical applications at the first sign of infestation. The larvae from these beetles will bore into the roots and stems of the plant causing them to wilt and die. Cultural practices, such as avoiding organic mulch, can leave these pests without a good place to congregate.

Common diseases are powdery mildew, wilt disease and virus. To avoid powdery mildew choose resistant varieties and promote airflow through the vines. Wilt diseases need to be properly identified and treated, usually with chemicals. Virus is an infection transmitted by aphids; control the aphids to control the virus. Always remove and destroy plants that are severely infected or infested to protect the rest of your plantings.

If you are planting pumpkins for use as jack-o-lanterns you can prop your pumpkin upright with cardboard or newspaper underneath. This helps your pumpkin have a nice round shape for carving and a smooth bottom for sitting upright. Wait until your pumpkins are well set before you attempt to move them to avoid breaking them off the vine.

Some choices for pumpkins are the *Cucurbita maxima* varieties *Atlantic Giant*, *Prizewinner*, *Big Max*, *Big Moon* and *Mammoth*. These varieties can reach 200 pounds and more! Try the *Cucurbita pepo* pumpkins like *Howden Field*, *Small Sugar*, *Baby Pam*, *Trickster* or the Heirloom varieties *Winter Luxury* and *Cinderella* for baking pies, making soups and cooking activities. *Jack Be Little* is a small single serving sized pumpkin great for decorating and eating. For edible seeds try a hull-less variety such as *Triple Treat*.

Connecticut Field or *Spooktacular* are perfect pumpkins for carving or try *One Too Many*, a white variety with red veins resembling bloodshot eyes. *White Lumina*, *Orange Smoothie* and *Cotton Candy* have smooth surfaces great for painting and carving. The choices for pumpkins are amazing and seemingly endless. And if you are at a loss about which to choose, ask a child's advice, they always know the best pumpkins.

Christmas Box House

By Peggy Call

Thanks to everyone for their wonderful support and massive donations of seeds for Christmas Box House. The big and unusual ones are especially loved

Gilgal Garden

By Bev Sudbury

WE ARE BEGINNING OUR SPRING CLEAN-UP AND SUMMER PROJECT WORK ON TUESDAY APRIL 7, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you are able to help this year be in touch with Bev Sudbury by e-mail at beverlysudbury@yahoo.com. As we do not have tools at the garden, please bring anything you have for general clean-up. We will also be taking part of the time to discuss general plans for what we can do for this season. All of your input is appreciated. If you need to negotiate times for working, we can do that, but I do have to say it is more fun to be here at least part of the time the "crew" is on duty. Great group. Thanks

Val's View, continued from Page 5

need to go to things weekly or monthly so some one isn't surprised that you've aged so much.

I drove into the garage, and Ray and Luke, our grandson, lifted it out. Ray gassed it up, adding the oil. It was too late to do anything more than that. Ray got it running and carefully told me what to do to start it. It was too late to try it.

The next morning, another 60 + degree day, it started with one pull on the cord. Hurray!! The chickens gathered and fell in behind. You'd think they would be afraid of the noisy things. Got the whole garden done, twice. This is a Honda Cub Cadet, 3 ½ horse power, \$486. It's yellow! One new feature to me is it backs up. It doesn't reverse so that it goes back but helps you and stops when you do.

When I took the Master Gardener course, our lovely teacher was Maggie Wolf. We were told not to plow our ground as it breaks down the soil faster. However, I put all the chicken manure, leaves, grass, kitchen garbage on the ground and turn it under a couple of times.

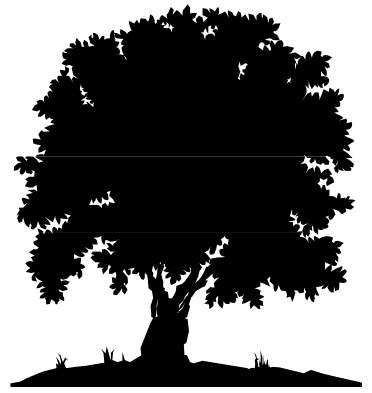
My mother in Arkansas had enough leaves that she would pile them on a foot deep and dig a hole and plant the seeds down in the mulch, no weeding. That was the best. Then they moved to St. George. She made compost by blending up all the kitchen garbage in her Oster and pouring it out on the soil. After awhile the soil improved. My Dad's teeth were bad so he would blend up his food. One day he came home and saw the jar of blended stuff on the counter and drank it. It was the compost. There were no ill affects.

Having a compost pile is the best way but I don't have one. I would love it but it is too much work for me with the amount of ground I have.

MURRAY PARK

By Becky Hansen

Welcome to a new season. Signs of spring are everywhere. This is such an exciting time of year - so much is happening in the gardens. We will be working in Murray Park on Tuesday mornings again this year. For the months of April and May, we will start at 8:00 a.m. then change to 7:00 a.m. in June, July, and August when the temperatures heat up. I look forward to meeting the new master gardeners and as always enjoy the return of the seasoned gardeners. If you have questions - contact me - Becky Hansen at hansenpollei@mstarmetro.net.



PIONEER PARK FARMER'S MARKET

By Karen Crook

Even though there is snow on the ground as I look out my window, we are fast approaching gardening season again. With that comes many questions from the area residents and the need for our information booth at Pioneer Park. This year's dates are: (All Saturdays) June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22, September 5

We are starting a little later this year due to the mini college. I usually have two shifts, 8 until 10:30 and 10:30 until 1:00. I am totally flexible so will be happy to work with your schedule. Many people come for the entire 5 hours. I am looking forward to meeting this year's class and hope to see many of my "old" friends. I will certainly appreciate your help. For those of you that have never been to Pioneer Park's Farmer's Market you are in for a treat. It is a vibrant, eclectic event in downtown Salt Lake. It is both entertaining and a wonderful source of the best local produce and crafts along with delicious food for every taste. Please contact me at garykarencrook@comcast.net to sign up. You can also sign up through the extension office.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER PHONE LIST IS NOT TO BE USED TO PROMOTE A BUSINESS OR OTHER CAUSES.

PLEASE RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF YOUR FELLOW MASTER GARDENERS BY KEEPING THE LIST ONLY FOR MASTER GARDENER USES.

Calendar

**THURSDAY, April 16
Annual Plant Exchange
Murray Park Pavilion #5**

Bring your extras. If you don't have any, come anyway. We always have plenty.

Saturday, April 18

Grafting Class with Bart and Golden

10 a.m. at Bart's

5340 W. 3500 South

Bring scion wood if you have it, but you can come without. We will have extra.

May General Meeting will be at Gilgal Garden
SEE PAGE 7

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please send a check for \$15 made out to SLMGA to:

**Cathy Miller, Treasurer
SLMGA**

Be sure to include any change of address, phone number, or e-mail address

Check out the USU Extension Web Site
<http://extension.usu.edu/saltlake>
Follow the Master Gardener links

Bulletin Board



Find past issues on the web at:

<http://www.slmg.org/gardenPatchTOC.html>

Please note that the current year is the first column, not the third column.

Issues from previous years are accessible by clicking on "Older

**!!!!GOOD NEWS!!!!
YOU CAN NOW COUNT
YOUR ATTENDANCE AT
SOME OF OUR GENERAL
MEETINGS ON YOUR
HOURS! IF THE MEETING IS
EDUCATIONAL, SUCH AS
OUR JANUARY MEETING
ABOUT HOUSE
PLANTS, YOU CAN
COUNT IT!!!!**

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



April General Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2009

6:30 p.m.

Murray Park Pavilion - 5100 S State Street



Annual Plant Exchange

Exchange plants with other Master Gardeners. Come and share your bulbs, herbs, annuals, perennials, day lilies, tomatoes, grasses, cacti and anything else you have too much of, and pick up something new and wonderful for your garden. Please label the plants you are bringing (*care instructions are helpful* too!) and remember to bring something to take your new plants home in. After the exchange is finished refreshments will be served ,so please plan to stay and enjoy the great company!

**PLEASE NOTE WE ARE STARTING A HALF HOUR EARLY TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE DAYLIGHT**