

THE GARDEN PATCH



November 2009

Salt Lake Master Gardener Association

Vol. 11, No. 11

The Leaf Thief

By Cheri Schultzke

Some gardeners have a problem in the fall. That problem is that they steal bags of leaves from their neighbors' curbsides. They have even been found late at night at the County Leaf Collection Dumpsters stealing bags of leaves.

Why you ask? Because wise Gardner's know that there is treasure to be made from those bags of leaves. Come springtime they will have great compost to spread in their flower beds or garden. Do you want to know the secret of making this great compost? Well here goes.

1. Make sure you grab bags that are the thick dark bags. You don't want them to break.
2. Crush up the leaves by stepping or stomping on them. Best to dump out the bag of leaves and run the lawn mower over them a couple of times. The smaller the crushed leaves are the faster they break down. Put them back in the bag.
3. Shovel in 2 - 3 shovels full of good clean, weed free soil.
4. Throw in 2 good hands full of Nitrogen.
5. Mix up the leaves, soil, and nitrogen in the bag.
6. Place the bag in a place where it can get plenty of sun and weather (rain or snow).
7. Take a digging fork and stab the bag to make holes.
8. Throughout the winter once a month roll the bag to a new position. Give it a little shake up also. (This is why you want the thick tough bags. You don't want the bag to break in the middle of the winter!)
9. Come springtime you should have some great compost.



Winter Time Tips

Do not use salt or chemical products to remove ice on sidewalks and driveways. Salt and chemicals can leach into the soil, causing problems for your garden or grass. Instead use cat litter, birdseed or sand for traction on icy patches.



If you're shoveling the snow anyway, why not shovel some snow over the perennial borders and shrub beds to help protect them from repeated freezes and thaws. You have to put the snow someplace.

Thanks to all
our Master
Gardener
volunteers for a
wonderful year!



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

by Cathy Miller

We are just six weeks away from the Awards and Holiday banquet. We need volunteers to decorate, set up before and clean up after the December 3 dinner. Please sign up at the November meeting or just plan to stay after the dinner to clean up. Other event details are printed elsewhere in *The Garden Patch*.

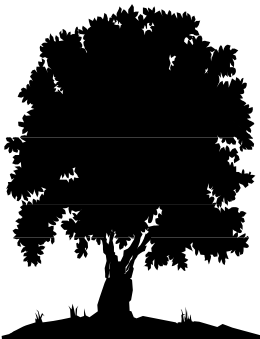
Kathy reported last month that we are moving the plant exchange and picnic meetings to different months. Some of you gave us feedback on that plan. We will revisit the timing of those meetings at our November board meeting. This is a special board meeting to discuss the budget and plan for the educational meetings, tours and events for 2010. If you have suggestions for topics, speakers or locations, please pass them along to Jo Turpin or to any Board member. Project leaders should send suggested budget amounts to me.

There were two meetings I attended this past year that were especially memorable and educational: orchids and canning! Your favorite meetings might have been hydroponics and bees. The point is that the Board looks for a variety of relevant topics presented by knowledgeable speakers. Some Master Gardeners have very broad interests; some of us have more specialized interests. We don't expect that all members will be interested in every topic, but that every member will find value in some of the programs. I believe we did that in 2009 and we will aim to do it again in 2010.

See you at the November 19 meeting. It will be a fun meeting, but if you don't want to come for the "Herbs for the Holidays" program, then just come for the snacks and socializing that begins at 6:30 p.m. We are back in our regular meet-

MURRAY PARK

By Becky Hansen



Snow's coming! Growing season is over - what a fast ride it was - can't believe summer is gone. I loved Tuesday mornings in the park - such nice volunteers always showed up.

Thanks to all - we had fun. Now it's time to look for the garden and seed catalogs in the mail and dream of next year. See you in the Spring.

Let Your Garden Save Your Bank Account – November Meeting

by Jo Turpin

Sticker shock.

No, not a new car, just a walk down the baking aisle at the grocery store. I like to stop at the racks of herbs and spices and imagine what good things I could make with a pantry that looked like the shelves in front of me. Then I look at the price of all those tiny little bottles and wonder if Fort Knox has relocated to my hometown! Like I said, sticker shock. But there is a way to stop the madness – *plant herbs*.

Rosemary is priced similar to diamonds; saffron is more expensive than 24 karat gold. But, rosemary is free from my backyard and the petals of marigolds can be substituted for saffron in many types of recipes. My nasturtiums spruce up my garden and my salad, my spearmint and peppermint make a great, inexpensive cup of tea. And Herbs de Provence is very affordable at Jo's Supermarket. Again, plant herbs - with a dash of flowers.

Then bring your herbs and flowers, and all the delightful things you make with them, to the November meeting. Do you make your own herbal massage oils, potpourri, teas, herbal breads and cookies, beautiful holiday wreaths or floral note cards? Maybe it's a yummy seasoning for poultry or lavender infused honey that will make a scone taste like heaven? Whatever it is, bring a sample and the instructions (with a few copies please) for making your specialty herb and floral items to the next meeting.

There are so many things herbs and flowers can be used for, things you could pay a small fortune for at most stores. We hope that everyone can pick up a new idea, new recipe or some inspiration from this meeting and add a few more herbs and flowers into their garden in the spring. Herbs are beautiful plants that can enhance your garden, your lifestyle and your pocketbook. And bees love flowers – let's all plant more of both.

Please remember to wear your name badge at the monthly meetings



By Maggie Shao,
Extension Horticulturist

There were about 50 Master Gardeners and Apprentices enjoying the last Master Gardener meeting in October presented by Hansen's Hives and Honey. They did an excellent job on the care of bees. If you are interested in trading, that is providing a good hosting site with plentiful blooms and flowers for the bees to forage through, the bees will provide pollination service while Hansen's Hives will provide the maintenance and upkeep. I particularly like their emphasis on keeping bees robust and healthy through good beekeeping. Yes, hives and honeybees can get pests and diseases, but their approach is to avoid using chemicals and medicines, preferring to use good cultural practices including providing good clean frames as the colony grows through the season, good air ventilation and access so bees can take a cleansing flight (defecate outside the hive) and fresh water (opposed to dog bowls and swimming pools). It is a good example of how we can maintain our gardens also through good cultural practices. Remember pesticide use will harm bees. In one study in Pennsylvania, where CCD, (colony collapse disorder) was first reported, up to 40 different pesticide residues were found in affected hives. This reminds me of a phone call recently, where an older client was trying to get rid of earwigs and was dismayed that chlordane was no longer available for use. I explained to her the reason chlordane was banned in 1978 on food crops and completely banned in 1988 by the EPA, was because it was found to be a carcinogen. Chlordane persists for a long time in the soil, and people would still be exposed to this carcinogen if eating foods, fish and meat that was contaminated by chlordane. For more information go this link from Cornell University, <http://envirocancer.cornell.edu/FactSheet/Pesticide/fs11.chlordane.cfm>.

Back to bees, if you are really interested and think you have a suitable site to host a hive, you can contact Hansen's Hives and Honey on their website (<http://www.hansenhives.com>) to set up an appointment to see if both parties can find a mutually beneficial agreement. They also provide other service like extraction services, collecting honeybee swarms (no wasps, hornets or yellow-jackets), and they sell their honey online. Thanks to Jo Turpin for finding and setting up this very popular talk. Please let Jo Turpin know if you have any ideas, topics, contacts for interesting Master Gardener meetings in 2010. The Board will be meeting November 10 and trying to set the agenda for next year's meetings and we want your input. You can contact Jo Turpin by email, lazydaisy09@hotmail.com with your ideas.

Please save the date for Thursday December 3, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Barn at Wheeler Farm for the Annual Salt Lake Master Gardener Holiday Graduation and Award Banquet. This is always a fun evening to socialize with your classmates and other Master Gardeners. USU Extension will provide the main course, rolls and butter, and sheet cakes. It's been traditional for folks to bring appetizers or side dishes to share. Thanks to everyone who volunteered this year and for submitting your hours report. We are working in the office preparing for the banquet and awards. A big thank you from me goes to Heidi Wayman, who has been tirelessly entering all the hours reported into our database. We are preparing certificates and ordering name badges for all the newly certified and graduating Apprentices who will "graduate". We will be also honoring and awarding those Master Gardeners who have reached

benchmarks like 50 and 100 hour pins (some Master Gardeners have donated over 2000 hours!). We'll also be presenting other awards including: Silver Trowel awards to project volunteers who have been especially helpful to the project and project leaders, Outstanding Mentor of the Year, and the Master Gardener of the Year awards.

I wanted this opportunity to explain why the volunteer hours and reports are so important. You'll see on the certificates that it is signed by me, our County Director, Mayor Peter Corroon, the State Master Gardener Coordinator, and the USU Vice President of Extension and Dean of the School of Agriculture. They all appreciate your volunteer service. On average the Salt Lake Master Gardener volunteers donate over 5,000 hours annually providing residents of Salt Lake County a value of over \$100,000 in volunteer labor. Your volunteer hours directly contribute to a higher quality of life through teaching and answering questions to help folks (from the children at Christmas Box House to Sunday Anderson Senior Center and everyone in between) grow vegetables, tackle their pest and disease problems, and by beautifying parks and gardens visited by the public like Gilgal Gardens, Murray Park, and Tracy Aviary. This year we partnered with Conservation Garden Park at Jordan Valley to broaden our educational outreach about water-wise gardening.

Your volunteer time is the cornerstone of the Master Gardener Volunteer Program and is recognized by federal, state, and county resources that support Utah State University Extension programs. Utah State University contributes by paying salaries of the agents and specialists who teach during the training. Salt Lake County provides office space and training rooms for us to teach and hold our meetings, as well as the salaries of support staff. The state and county appreciates the Master Gardener Volunteer program because of the value given back to the community by the Master Gardener volunteers through their donated time. We really do appreciate and value your continued association and donation of your volunteer time to the Master Gardener program.

One more announcement for those interested in Utah Urban Farming. There definitely is a growing interest in local growers and sustainability as a solution for our current production of food which is environmentally costly and unsustainable. There is a one day conference to support the growth and vitality of urban farmers working in Salt Lake County and the Wasatch Front. Experts from Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Montana will present information to the success of small and medium sized urban farmers and ranchers. This program is sponsored in part by the Western Rural Development Center and the conference will be on November 16th at the Cultural Celebration Center, West Valley and cost is \$25. Full conference and registration information found at the following link, <http://wrdc.usu.edu/urbanfarming>. Other sponsors of this conference include:

- Salt Lake County
- Southwest Marketing Network
- National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)

With the early frost that just hung around for about a week, my garden was frozen and ready to be prepared for the winter. I removed the drip tubing, rolled it up, and have it stored for the winter. I have all of the plants down and packed in the walkways. They will remain there for the next year and sheet compost to be ready for next year. The leaves I packed in the walkways last fall have turned a dark brown and have been placed on top of the beds ready to be tilled in.

The large tree on the front lawn has finally been removed. I have been working on it for the last month and a half. I cut down the limbs and made fire wood out of the larger pieces and chipped the smaller branches and composted them. I have my compost area about as full as it can handle. In checking to see how hot it was getting I was surprised to find it had reached 170 degrees. That is the hottest my compost pile had ever been so I used a pry bar and punched holes through it to let out the heat. It was funny to go out and see steam coming from the pile through those holes in the middle of the day.

I decided to have the main trunk taken down and the stump removed by someone else. It took them about three hours to get the job done. I used a lot of the shredded wood to place in the walkways of the garden. There was enough to fill most of them so I will not need to hunt for leaves this year. I busted the light pole so I had to replace that along with a new light fixture. The sprinkler pipe was ground up in that area also and had to be replaced. I was able to find one end of the pipe by turning the water on and then spent about ½ hour trying to find the other end. I thought, "How did I find the first broken pipe?" So I removed the spray head from one of the sprinkler heads and took the hose and back flushed with water and was able to find the other end of the broken pipe.

The 'Golden Delicious' apple tree had a good crop this year with about half of the apples being really large. It was probably the best crop I have had in a long time from that tree and only part of the tree had fruit on it. I still need to pick the 'Granny Smith' apples at my son's place. His tree was loaded as well, and the apples are larger than usual. The Italian prune tree at home was really overloaded this year; I took eight five gallon buckets from it and still had a lot of fruit that the birds got.

I have taken the seed heads off from the hardy Pampas Grass on the west side of the lot. The seed, if it gets a chance to fall, will grow and I do not need to have any more of it growing at my place or to start in lots up and down the street. Some of the heads had reached fourteen feet high; I think it may be too tall for the strip between the sidewalk and the curb and gutter.

This year I grew a climbing Black Eyed Susan. I used some of the pampas stalks in pot for them to grow up it looked great until the end of the summer



By Wm. Golden Reeves

when the plant became too heavy for the stalks to hold them up. I had a hard time trying to save seed from it but did save enough seed for next year. I have a fence I want to plant it on that should be able to hold it.

My new strawberry patch is doing great; I will expand it a little next spring. Out of 50 plants I ordered only 27 of them grew. Now with the new daughter plants I have no idea how many plants there are but will need to thin them out in the spring and this will provide enough plants for the expansion of the bed.

I have a number of pots that I will need to bury for the plants to go through the winter. I put them in the walkways off the garden and put soil around them. This is like the plant being planted and going through the winter the normal way.

It is time to put your garden to bed for the winter and start planning for next spring but enjoy the harvest this fall any way.

Utah Aids Foundation Gardens

Like many of the other projects, the Master Gardeners who have donated their service hours to the Utah Aids Foundation (UAF) during 2009 ended this gardening year by wrapping the roots of the plants with a blanket of composted mulch. In addition we put cover crop seeds into the newly constructed, raised grow box gardens in the west parking lot. We look forward to planting vegetables and herbs in the raised boxes next year for the food pantry at UAF.

On a negative note, UAF gardens was one of many locations in the area to be visited (and we hope only a temporary visit) by the Red Fire bug. We hope that no other SLMGA project was visited by this bug.

A HUGE THANK YOU to each person who donated their time, skills, effort and energy to UAF this year. It has been a pleasure and a learning experience working and talking with each of you. We look forward to cheering for each of you in December as you receive your certificate, SLMGA pin, and recognition for the hours you have donated in 2009.

We hope to see each of you again in the Spring maybe around May 15th in 2010. See you then.

Maggie, Continued from page 3

- Western Rural Development Center
- Utah State University Cooperative Extension
- USDA Risk Management
- USDA Rural Development
- Utah's Own
- Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED)

Calendar

REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE

Please note that our general meetings are starting at 6:30 rather than 7:00 now. Please check The Garden Patch or the current MG E-mail for the correct time and location for that month's meeting.

***Thursday, November 19
6:30 p.m. in the classroom
Herbs for the Holidays***

Thursday, December 3
Annual Holiday Awards Dinner
The Barn at Wheeler Farm

Thursday, January 21
6:30 p.m. in the Classroom
Accessible Gardening
Mary Jo Tedesco, MG and Certified Horticultural Therapist will discuss fun, safe, and comfortable methods of gardening. Tips and ideas for gardeners dealing with physical limitations and disabilities. Suggestions to address age-related issues and keep us gardening longer.

**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

**In counting hours for
attending
Continuing Education Gen-
eral Meetings, please count
1/2 hour for driving time and
1 hour for instruction time.**

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Gilgal Garden

By Bev Sudbury

After a successful summer at our Gilgal Garden project, I want to report that about 25 persons worked 500 hours and planted shrubs, trees, annuals, weeded, took out many weedy perennials, repaired irrigation lines and enjoyed each other. Good friendships developed. The Gilgal Board of Directors asked me to give a special thanks for the way the garden looks. They really appreciate all of you and invite you all back next season.

Thanks to all. Love to all. --- Bev



HOORAY
FOR MASTER
GARDEN-
ERS !!!

**Andrew Israelsen, a graduate of
our SLMGA program won the
Utah Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off
in October with a 919 pound pumpkin.
Congratulations, Andrew!**