

# The Garden Patch

SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



March

1

2010

## Notes from the Board

by Barbara Braeden, Vice President

Greetings from the SLMGA Board! Here is some news and information from our February 18 Board meeting:

- Thanks to those who have stepped up to fill the Speaker Requests that Jennifer Knight posts.
- Auditing of the SLMGA 2009 books is in progress. Thanks to Golden, Steven, and Mary Ann for their expertise and time.

There are many great activities that we have planned for Spring! The SLMGA meeting schedule is detailed on the SLMGA Upcoming Event page. Please note that planting of vegetables and herbs at the Utah Aids Foundation will take place on Friday, April 23rd at 11 am, weather permitting. Also, a service project is planned at Governor's Grove on Saturday, May 1st to plant native plants and clean up the grounds (more details to follow). Finally, a Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 12th. Jerry Milne, Kay Packard, Gigi Brandt, and Jane Kennedy's gardens will be on display. Watch for more details on these upcoming activities!

Many thanks, Cherie Schultze, for your informative and insightful rose presentation to the SLMGA Thursday evening.

"WHAT GROWS IN THE GARDEN, SO LOVELY AND RARE? ROSES AND DAHLIAS AND PEOPLE GROW THERE."

- Excerpt from the TV show "A Gardener's Diary" -

### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to correct an omission in the **Mincemeat Cookie Recipe** printed on the Pullout Section of the recent February edition of *The Garden Patch*. I left out the fact that Val Chatwin, who sent the recipe to me as part of her Val's View article, actually uses milk or fruit juice as a replacement for the coffee. She abstains from using coffee and the replacement works just fine.

I also would like everyone to know that the author of the **Spotlight** articles is Eva Jensen. She has contributed many informative and interesting "Spotlights" on a number of our members in the past but she wishes to not have her name listed by the article as to not take away from the information she collects about the highlighted member. Thanks Eva!

Thanks to all for the positive remarks about the new *Garden Patch* design, and I appreciate the excitement from members wanting to contribute articles and information for future editions!

Allison Topham, *The Garden Patch* Editor



## SPOTLIGHT ON Diane Curtz

"There were very few things we didn't grow", Diane Curtz says about her family's 4½ acre mini-farm in Murray. "Organic" long before the term became a household word, they canned or froze everything they harvested. She also added, "We raised our own beef, pork and chicken and bought very little from the store."

Diane attended the U of U but marriage took her to many states throughout the years. Diane and her husband lived in Michigan, Tennessee and Oregon, then returned to Utah for a short time before moving to Wisconsin. Finally coming full circle, they returned to Utah a dozen years ago.

Asked if she gardened in those different climates, Diane replies, "Actually, I didn't because I worked, except for taking time out to have my children." Her married son lives in Holladay, and a daughter is in New York. Diane now only works part-time as a realtor, leaving her mornings free for her golf leagues or browsing antique shops for glassware.

Residing in Utah again, Diane says, "I started an old-fashioned flower bed. But about five years ago I began to be concerned about water resources for my grandchildren." She decided to create a landscape different than the usual annuals. She became water-wise and started by taking out the park strip. At that time she realized how little she knew about gardening—for instance, how to prune. She signed up and became certified as a Master Gardener. Now Diane is currently serving as Historian on the Board of Directors.

Though they reside in Utah, Diane and her husband are still on the move. They've only been in their current home since last year. But the xeriscape is well on its way. Big areas of lawn have been pulled out and replaced by "less thirsty, native plants." Diane likes all kinds of unique plants, but says, "I guess penstemons are my favorites." Expect to see them included as she takes on the task of landscaping their front yard this coming Spring.





# Golden's Garden

by Wm. Golden Reeves



It's the middle of February and there is still some ice in the back yard on the lawn but I can see some of the raised beds in the garden starting to dry out. The shadows from the house do not cover the solar panels on the greenhouse in the afternoon. I have had to start the greenhouse up a little early this year because of the abundance of pelargonium that I started from cuttings. I also needed to relocate my Glacier tomatoes, which were getting too big for the growing area down in the basement. And, yes, I do have tomatoes set on them already. I have transferred the tomato starts into gallon containers and am hoping the containers will hold them for a while.

I started another batch of Glacier tomatoes and plan to have some to give away at the tomato propagation class I will be teaching at Red Butte Gardens the first weekend in March. I also started some Country Taste, Early Goliath, Cluster Grande, Sweet Chelsea Applause and a cherry tomato I grew ten years ago which we thought was tasty. I will try only one of these cherry tomato plants in the garden since I am not sure if the plant will grow from the seeds of the past crop.

The Cole crops—cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower—are doing quite well. I started them a few weeks ago and have transplanted them into six-pack containers. If the plants start to out grow these containers before I can get them in the ground, I will find some larger containers for them. The peppers that I planted in mid-January are really doing great and I look forward to putting them in larger containers also. The problem with using larger containers is the amount of room they take up and the cost of so much planting medium. My wife found the receipt from Steve Regan Co. and said "you spent that much on dirt?" I feel the correct soils are important in the growth process of the healthiest plants. I use some of the compost from my pile to extend the soil and cut down on the cost. I screened the compost late in the fall and have it stored in the green house in plastic bags. I add some water and close the bag up. This helps to break it down and by spring it is ready to use.

With some of the days starting to warm up, I was able to get the pruning taken care of on my apple trees. I need to do that early and clean and sharpen my tools before I start working on other yards. I have a problem on my apple trees and I do not want to spread the disease to other places. I was able to get all of the grasses cut back and the straw covering the Strawberry plants removed. I have a little more cleaning work to do on the mow strip on the west side of the lot. I have found some Burr Butter Cup weeds growing there and some weeds starting to go to seed already.

I have been working with the crop of Granny Smith apples from last fall, making applesauce, pie filling and drying them. I have the excess apples stored in the garage and soon it will be too warm for them and they will start to rot. Granny Smith apples have a self-waxing process that helps to preserve them. I am usually asked how to remove the wax when I give the apples to others. They cannot believe the wax is created through the natural growing process.

Bart and I made our trip and gathered scion wood for our grafting class scheduled for April 17. I also picked up some more variety of apple wood to use during the class. I have recently responded to some emails I received with questions about grafting. There is an arborist in Ogden that would like me to do some grafting of an old apple variety on to new apple trees. The old tree is dying and they want the apple saved. We have been communicating for the last year and it looks like this is the year we can get it done because he has been able to save the scion wood.

I can tell Spring is on it's way because I am getting calls to teach classes, work on pruning and to do other yard work. I have gathered some good gardening books this year and think I am ready to redo the landscape in our front yard. Deseret Industries is a great place to find great gardening books for just a few bucks and if you get tired of them you can just give them back for another gardener to buy and enjoy. It is time to start celebrating Spring...it may be just around the corner.



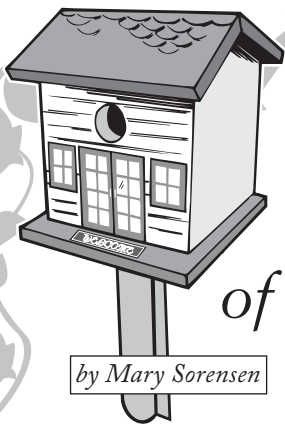
## Remember...

to wear your name badge to SLMGA meetings and events to make it easier to identify you in the crowd!

Please direct all requests for  
Master Gardener speaker presentations to:

[mgvolunteers@hotmail.com](mailto:mgvolunteers@hotmail.com)

or phone Jennifer Knight if you don't have access to email.  
Please also contact Jennifer if you are interested in speaking during the year and would like to be added to her contact list.



# The PROMISE of Spring

by Mary Sorensen

we understand what it is to be happy? To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose. There is a duality in humans that is necessary for us to live. The contrast helps us to appreciate the good things.

I love this time of the year. Winter always hits me hard and when spring comes it always brings me a sense of relief. Last week, I could smell spring in the air. Even though it is still winter, there was a smell of moist earth, of green growing things and the smell of frosty, chill air was lacking. I was even so hopeful as to check to see if my bulbs were coming up. They weren't, but it gives me something to look forward to. The seasons changing give us contrast in life. If we were never sad, how could

Yesterday I was working on my pond and I stepped on some chamomile. It is a little straggly in its current winter state, but it is still bright apple green and smelled as wonderful as ever. I tend to forget that there are things we can appreciate in the garden even in the winter. A lot of my herbs remain green in the winter and they still smell great.

The cedar waxwings came through the University campus a few weeks ago en masse and were fun to watch as they picked the dried berries from all the trees. They have a black mask that is defined with a white stripe and I don't remember noticing them here before. They are very social little birds and a flock of them entertained me over the lunch hour one day in January. Birds really like my garden. In this season, I commonly see doves, chickadees, robins, and other little birds that I have not yet identified. I hear birds singing even though it is winter. I would really miss the birds if they weren't there, so every once in a while I try to take some time to notice them and listen to their song.

In the winter, the fish pond is usually as clear as crystal though mine can be murky at the bottom. It is really nice to be able to see my fish sparkle in the sun. The best time to watch them is around 10:30am when the sun shines into the pond. I can count all the baby goldfish (there are over 50 and I'll be giving some away come spring... I have too many). I can see that there are new tiny babies that must have been born in the fall. They are orange, black, or white and flit back and forth between the bigger fish. I have one large black fish (Blackie) that is almost impossible to see unless he swims over the top of another fish. In the winter, I can see him in the clear water. He has beautiful long fins. The fish are torpid in the winter, and don't really eat or move much, but they aren't really hibernating. They are still fun to watch.

My yew trees, spruce, mahonia and holly in the front yard are always green, creating a permanent "frame" for my home. As I walk up to the front door, the wonderful vanilla smell of the sweet woodruff around the side of the house wafts up to me if the ground is moist. At times I take it for granted, until I see a house that doesn't have landscaping and I notice how naked it looks. We moved here over 4 years ago and I realize that someone who cared about gardening has lived here in the past. The clay soil of Rose Park has been replaced and about the first foot of soil in my yard is really good dirt. I really appreciate whoever that person was in the past that took care with the trees and the plants in what is now my garden and made it possible for me to have such a wonderful retreat and grow such healthy plants.

This fall, I laid down newspaper and mulch over my parking strip to kill the grass. I'm looking forward to planting the strip with herbs and flowers that don't need as much water as the grass. My neighbors have all shown appreciation for my garden, and I am looking forward to putting plants in a more accessible area, so people walking by can smell the thyme or chamomile that grows at the edge of the sidewalk, and perhaps lean down and pick a sprig of lavender. I am hoping the grass will die within the two months before it is Spring and time to plant new herbs and flowers in the area. Right now, I am becoming impatient to work in the yard.

Every year, as the earth renews itself, we can renew as well. It gives us a yardstick to measure our lives by and a feeling that life will go on. No matter what problems we may encounter, it will always be Spring again one day.

The Garden Patch is published monthly by the Salt Lake Master Gardener Association.  
Editor: Allison Topham  
Send address changes to:  
1124 East Range Road, SLC, Utah, 84117  
phone: 801.268.0077 or 801.486.2430 ext 30531  
email address: [gardenpatchstuff@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenpatchstuff@yahoo.com)

Past issues of *The Garden Patch* may be found at <http://www.slmga.org/gardenPatchTOC.html>



## *Lewis James Rushton 1919-2010*

We are very sorry to announce that one of our SLMGA members recently passed away. A lifetime farmer and Master Gardener, Lewis was known as "Farmer Rushton" by all the kids in the neighborhood. He loved his family and was dedicated to them. We will miss Lewis as a member of the SLMGA.

# Gardening by the Moon

by Jenny Rogers

March

4

2010

**For centuries**, tillers of the earth were influenced by the stars, and especially, the moon. I think they felt it was natural and in harmony with the earth's own rhythm. The very regular, repetitive motion of the moon in the heavens was predictable and reliable, unlike frost dates and rainfall. Just as there are phases of plant growth, from seed to fruiting, so there are natural cycles that the earth observes. While you may or may not believe that the moon or stars impact the success or failure of your gardening efforts, I thought an examination of the fundamentals of lunar gardening would be an interesting exercise during this "off season" (off season for most of us, but not for Golden Reeves, who seems to engage an unending number of gardening tasks all year long!).

Many scientific experiments have been conducted to prove that our forefathers' practice of planting and harvesting by the moon was agriculturally sound. Today, the consensus appears to be that the success of lunar phase gardening has to do with the moon's influence on the flow of moisture in soil and plants. Just as the moon affects the tides, its gravitational force affects movement of water in our soil and in the plants themselves. So the general rule to plant from new moon to full moon is based on the fact that water levels and flow are at their peak during this period. Conversely, the best time to till your soil, prepare a new bed, or cultivate is during the last quarter of the moon when water tables have dropped and the soil is dryer.

So what do you need to know to plant and harvest by moon phases? Well, first you need to be able to identify the phases of the moon as you watch its progress over its 29-day cycle. The two basic progressions of the moon are:

(1) **New moon (also called the "dark of the moon") to full moon**

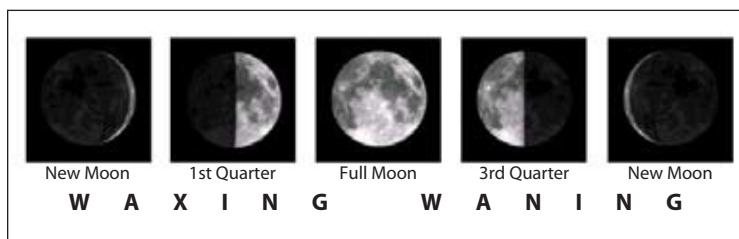
This is the phase of increasing light, so it starts with essentially no moon in the sky, then increasing in size until the moon is full; this general period of increasing light is also referred to as the "waxing" of the moon.

(2) **Full moon to new moon** This is the phase of decreasing light, so it starts with a completely full moon that decreases over time to no moon in sight – the dark of the moon; this period of decreasing light is also referred to as the "waning" of the moon.

Next time you buy a calendar, consider getting one that shows the phases of the moon. Most almanacs also tell you what phase the moon is in and may speak in terms of quarters of the moon. First quarter means a moon increasing from new (dark) to half-full; second quarter means a moon increasing from half -full to

completely full; third quarter means when the moon is decreasing from full to half- full; and fourth or last quarter means a moon that is decreasing from half-full to new or dark.

If you haven't been watching the progress of the moon to determine if it is increasing (waxing) or decreasing (waning), here is a simple trick I learned from Louise Riotte's book, *Astrological Gardening*: Think of the shape of the moon during its monthly journey as "DOC." When the crescent is forming a curve like a capital "D," the moon is increasing (or waxing). When the crescent moon has a curve like a "C," the moon is on the wane or decreasing. So over the course of 29 days, "DOC" means first the "D" curve, then the full moon or O, and then the "C" curve when the moon is decreasing.



Now that you know how to determine what phase the moon is in, here are the basics of lunar gardening and some harvesting tips as well. Naturally, you do have to use good common sense. If there is a hard frost at the time the moon would suggest sowing seed or transplanting your seedlings outside, you would be silly to proceed.

**Basic Rule One:** Plant annual seeds and transplants that fruit above the ground during the increasing light of the moon – from new moon to full moon.

**Basic Rule Two:** Plant biennials, perennials, bulb and root crops during the decreasing light of the moon – from full moon through third quarter.

Breaking the two basic rules down into moon quarters yields these additional guidelines to follow:

**First quarter (new moon to second quarter increasing)** Plant leafy annuals that produce seed outside the fruit, grains and cereals that produce their fruits above the ground, and plants harvested for their leaves (i.e., herbs). Examples include cabbage, spinach, lettuces, celery, cauliflower, herbs and grain crops. Cucumber seems to be an exception to the rule and does best planted in first quarter despite the fact that its seed is within the fruit. This is also a good time to apply fertilizer and add amendments to the soil.

*(This article is continued on the following page...)*

# Gardening by the Moon

by Jenny Rogers

(Continuation of article on preceding page...)

**Second quarter (half moon to full moon)** – Plant annuals that produce their seed inside the fruit. Examples include beans, peas, peppers, squash, tomatoes, melons, garlic, and also grains and cereals. This is also a good time to graft fruit trees and re-pot houseplants.

*NOTE: First quarter versus second quarter guidelines are not hard and fast; most of these plants can be satisfactorily planted in either quarter.*

**Full moon** This is the time to harvest. Some believe that plants, especially herbs, are at the peak of flavor and nutrition during a full moon.

**Third quarter (full moon to half moon decreasing)** Plant biennials, perennials, bulb and root plants, trees, shrubs, berries and grapes. This is considered the best time to plant root crops such as beets, carrots, onions, and potatoes, and also a good time to harvest them if they are ready. Canning of fruits and vegetables is also best done during this quarter as it is thought to enhance preservation.

**Fourth quarter (half moon to new moon)** This lunar period is viewed as one of destruction – the moon waxing to dark – and no planting should be done during this phase. This is the best time to do garden maintenance, including removing weeds, getting rid of unwanted garden pests, and cultivating the soil in preparation for planting. Pruning is also recommended during this phase. Some say that mowing your lawn during the new moon (dark of the moon) keeps growth down.

Some years ago, I briefly followed these principles, but confess not having done so lately. For those of you who keep detailed journals of each year's gardening adventure, perhaps you should consider applying these guidelines and journaling the results. That is what I plan to do. Be sure to share your observations and tips with us!



## SLMGA 2010 Dues are now past due!

If your membership dues have not been paid at this time, please send \$15.00 to SLMGA Board Treasurer, Cathy Miller at the address listed below. Payments should be made as soon as possible to retain your membership and continue to receive SLMGA information and The Garden Patch.

Cathy Miller, 8819 Blue Jay Ln., SLC, UT, 84121



## THE GARDEN SEASONS

by Jo Turpin

I'm planning on all of 2010 being a 'growing season' for me. Most of us are seasonal thinkers. February is the **Fruit Tree Pruning Season**, April and May the **Seeds and Starts Season**, May and June the **Planting Season**, and on through the year to **Harvest and Seed Catalog Seasons**. My favorite season is the **Good Book by the Fire Season**.

This year I want to grow more things in my greenhouse. I want to grow more herbs and I want to try growing things I've left out of the garden before. I want to try the *Farmer's Almanac* methods for growing things. This long-time gem of a book was one of my 'Books by the Fire' discoveries this past catalog season.

I have not paid a lot of attention to this book before, but my brother (NOT a gardener) insisted I give it a try. And I admit that my interest was piqued at the June Conference where I attended a presentation on Garden Folklore, so I bought a *Farmer's Almanac*, Western Edition, naturally. I've had hours of sheer fun from this small tome and recommend it for both fact and fiction and some of the most outrageous ads I've seen in a long time.

The *Farmer's Almanac* lets me know when and where to expect the next eclipse, how to determine twilight (there's an equation), that August 1st is Lammas Day or the beginning of harvest. It gives me a few recipes to try and also provides me with a 'Manure Manual'. But best of all, the book tells me when the best time is to plant things that grow above ground or under ground and how (and what) to plant by the Moon's phase.

For centuries farmers planted by the seasons and used the positions of the moon and stars to determine when, and what, to plant and harvest. Over the past few years I have gained a real respect for any and all successful farmers and I am willing to give the age-old practice of planting by the moon's phases a try. It certainly can't hurt and I hope it will be educational, fun and possibly reward me with a bountiful harvest.

I'm not sure how well I will stick to this new plan, but I will try to take note of how this experiment turns out and write again during the Thanksgiving Season – that is when my family raises a toast to 'Family, Friends and All the Farmers' for what they bring to our lives and the Thanksgiving feast. Meanwhile, I am off to read up on the best fishing days and times for 2010, a sort of insurance against starvation if my plan should fail.





## PROJECT NEWS

### Wheeler Farm

Over the last few years, Wheeler Farm's house gardens have not lacked for volunteers. People have shown up week after week, worked hard and, it seems, to no avail. The gardens always seem to be lacking life, color, and water. (Not so of the herb gardens; there the work is put into thinning and controlling; life and color are not lacking there.) In rethinking the project, I've come to realize that the most lacking feature of all has been management. With that in mind, I have come up with a plan I'd like to implement at Wheeler this spring that would include installation of a dripper system around the house; soil amendment; planting LOTS of annual color and integrating shade-tolerant perennials; and finally top-dressing the beds with good mulch. If I can get help from Salt Lake County, I'm hoping they can spiff up the lawn around the house (though officially, the lawn is not our problem). The iris beds inside the hedges need major thinning; the little gardens in front of the summer house need some good weeding, too.

Water has been a major issue at the Farm and I intend to work with the Wheeler board of directors and/or the County to see what can be done to remedy that problem. I'm hoping that this plan will spark some enthusiasm in you and that when you're planning your volunteer hours this spring/summer, you'll try to include a few hours at Wheeler Farm. It is a charming, beautiful place that COULD be a real showpiece and a credit (rather than an embarrassment) to our Association.

Another thing to keep in mind: the north side of the house is shady most of the time and I think hostas and perennial ferns would be nice in that area. If you have either of those plants (or other shade-tolerant perennials) that need thinning, please let me know. I'll help you thin and repot them for placing at the Farm.

In the past, Wednesday evenings have been the regular work night at Wheeler and that will probably be continued. With the extra work I'm intending to get done this season, I'll be going over more often, and earlier in the day. I'd like to hear from other potential volunteers about times and days that will work for you and, if possible, set up a second or third regular time to meet.

I'll keep you posted via e-mail notices and this newsletter about upcoming needs as we get this project underway. -Sandy Burgess

## Garden Reflections

by Vivian Baldwin



"HAPPINESS IS A BARE BLACK STUMP  
SHOWING A SPEC OF GREEN."

- Pam Brown -

Several years ago, my beloved daughter Danica requested I write down some thoughts about my love of gardening...she also asked for gardening tips. The result was a small book titled, *A Garden Lovers Reflections*.

Taken from this book, the excerpt below is a reflection on my daughter's thirtieth birthday.

*If it is an early Spring, I am outside looking for Crocus. The first exuberant color is such a joy after winter. There is a miraculous renewal in my soul when the earliest color sprouts up through the snow. It seems impossible that a Crocus comes from a tiny, half-inch dry bulb that was planted years earlier. Yet, that is the inspiration of being in a garden with the green-growing friends, the impossible becomes possible and color appears once again. March is a great month for pruning, cutting out dead limbs of trees and shrubs and cutting back ground cover and perennials that were missed in Autumn clean-up. If the leaves were not completely raked in the Fall, now is the time to remove them before the Narcissus and Tulip bulbs start sprouting. Otherwise they become caught in the dead leaves and you do not want to harm their delicate sprouts.*

*"So deeply is the gardener's instinct implanted in my soul, I really love the tools with which I work, - the iron fork, the spade, the hoe, the rake, the trowel, and the watering -pot are pleasant objects in my eyes."*

- Celia Thaxter -

March

6

2010



**Gilgal Gardens Project Work:** We will begin our summer clean-up beginning Tuesday, April 6th from 3pm to 6pm. Please call or email Bev Sudbury, phone 801-466-0121 or [beverlysudbury@yahoo.com](mailto:beverlysudbury@yahoo.com) for further information.

Bev would like to keep this project on Tuesday afternoon, but it is possible to adjust the time if necessary. We do not have tools available, so please bring what you might have for general garden clean-up. If the weather is really nice in March this year, we might be able to do some pruning. Please stay in touch with Bev. She is looking forward to having help from many of the members. Also remember that she welcomes any donations of plants from places you may have contacts. "Thank you all for everything you do. Love, Bev"

by Maggie Shao / Extension Horticulturist



March

7

2010

I remember when February had two Holidays, one for Washington's Birthday and one for Lincoln's Birthday. It was so nice when I was in school and you would get two days off in February. I guess even with one day off, February flies by and we are already into March.

Thanks to the program coordinators and the hospitality committee. At our January and February meetings, we've had nice turnouts in large part to those volunteers preparing well in advance for the meetings. Look forward to our March meeting with *Cactus and Tropicals* showing us how to make succulent wreaths. If you have not already heard, I will be leaving USU Extension in July to pursue studies in Traditional Chinese Medicine/Acupuncture at Five Branches University in Santa Cruz, CA. It's a four year program, which I hope to finish in three years (I'm no spring chicken anymore). I'm very confident that the Board of the Master Gardener Association will handle the transition between my departure in July and when the new horticulture agent is hired. I've talked to many of the project leaders and we still want you to volunteer, so keep an eye to the newsletter for volunteer opportunities.

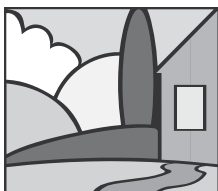
I have two opportunities coming up in May. **Farm Field Days** is a two-day event held at Butterfield Farms in Herriman at 13000 South 6225 West where school children get to experience the farm. They learn about where their food comes from (not in a cardboard box or plastic bag). There will be many booths, including the Dairy Council, pork producers and the Master Gardeners. We participated last year teaching children about wheat and letting them hand grind wheat into flour. Over 1,000 children come during May 4th and 5th. We need volunteers each day, and there are 3 shifts. The shifts are 9:30am to 11:00am, 11:00am to 12:30pm, 12:30pm to 2:00pm. There will also be a volunteer appreciation BBQ at 3:00pm for all volunteer teachers at the farm. Each presentation is about 10 minutes long to about 25 children at a time, and then the children rotate to another station. We'd like 3-4 people per shift. If you are interested in teaching and volunteering, please let me know. Another volunteer opportunity is the **Conservation Garden Park Fair** on Mother's Day, Saturday May 8 from 9am-5pm. Master Gardener volunteers will have a table in the garden and provide useful

resource materials while helping the public with their gardening questions. If you are interested in participating, shifts will be 2-3 hours and we'd like 3-4 people per shift. Please let me know if you are interested and available for any of these volunteer opportunities in May. Email me at [maggie.shao@usu.edu](mailto:maggie.shao@usu.edu) or call me at (801) 468-3178.

Conservation Garden Park has a great calendar of classes and events. Check out their 2010 calendar at <http://www.conservationgardenpark.org/events.aspx> and see if there is a class you might be interested in. If you attend one of these classes, you can count those hours towards your continuing education units (CEUs), as you are building your knowledge on gardening.

At our last board meeting, Allison Topham, both the Board Secretary and the *Garden Patch* Newsletter Editor, expressed how many folks are contacting her with interest in writing for the newsletter. I think this is wonderful, because you learn a subject well, not only listening, but then trying to explain that information to someone else. Remember your audience...other Master Gardeners, and make sure the information shared is good and sound information, preferably based on research based science. For example, if you've tried to find information on the internet by inserting a search for example on lawn pests on Google, you'll find lots of opinions or biased information wanting to sell a product. We are trusted and entrusted with a responsibility to provide a high standard of useful and good information that is reliable, non-biased, and proven by science. An example of unreliable information I consider would be something along the lines of popular gardening personality Jerry Baker's catalogs and books that have these homespun recipes that use whiskey, mouthwash and other household items to "feed" your plants or "control diseases". It may be entertaining, but many of his recipes are untested and often more expensive and not showing the miraculous results he claims. Gardening subjects will be the only articles printed, and your articles may be edited for correct grammar and spelling. In addition, please be aware that if there is an abundance of articles and information submitted for a particular month, your submission may need to be published in a future edition where there is adequate space.

## SLMGA Home Garden Tours

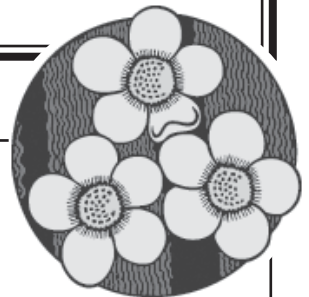


We are excited to announce that the SLMGA will again provide a **Member Home Garden Tour** activity which will be held on Saturday, June 12th.

We have four wonderful members who have signed up to show us their beautiful home gardens which they have worked so hard to create.

**Be sure to mark Saturday, June 12th on your calendar and plan to attend this fun event. More information will be made available in the April edition of *The Garden Patch*.**

**Check out the  
USU Extension  
Website**



<http://extension.usu.edu/saltlake>

Follow the Master Gardener links



## Our Pets & Our Plants

by Jo Turpin



It's Garden Planning Season and time to decide what and where to plant. When making decisions about what to plant, it is a wise idea to consider your pets. Many of our favorite plants are toxic for animals; cats and dogs in particular have many sensitivities. I love lilies, my cat does not. Actually, she does like them, but the feeling is not mutual.

According to the *Humane Society* and the *ASPCA*, some of the most poisonous plants for pets are: Autumn Crocus, Azalea and Rhododendron, Castor bean, Chrysanthemum, Delphinium, English Ivy, Foxgloves, Larkspur, Lupines and Yew shrubs. All members of the Lily family are highly toxic to cats; Tulip and Daffodil/Narcissus bulbs are toxic and bad news for any dog that likes to dig in the garden.

In the house, watch out for Amaryllis, Cyclamen, Dumbcane, Kalanchoe, Philodendrons, Pothos, Schefflera and Poinsettia. The *Humane Society* and the *ASPCA* have very helpful information on their websites, including the side effects to your pets from many toxic plants, and additional lists of plants you'll want your pets to avoid. You can also research additional information by logging into [www.healthypet.com](http://www.healthypet.com), a site from the *American Animal Hospital Association*.

Don't forget that animals are inherently curious and that open containers of pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides can also be a real danger to them. A good rule of thumb to follow is 'If it can harm you, it can harm your pet.' And if you have a cat, plant catnip; that will help to keep them out of the rest of the garden!

### POISONOUS PLANTS

#### OUTDOOR PLANTS

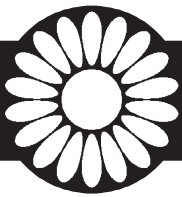
Autumn Crocus  
Azalea / Rhododendron  
Castor Bean  
Chrysanthemum  
Delphinium  
English Ivy  
Foxgloves  
Larkspur  
Lupines  
Yew Shrubs  
Lily family members  
Daffodil/Narcissus bulbs

#### INDOOR PLANTS

Amaryllis  
Cyclamen  
Dumbcane  
Kalanchoe  
Philodendrons  
Pothos  
Schefflera  
Poinsettia

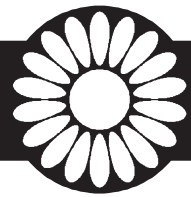
Beginning in April 2010  
the electronic version of  
The Garden Patch  
will bloom into  
**FULL COLOR!**





# UPCOMING SLMGA EVENTS

PRINT THIS OUT AND HANG IT UP TO REMIND YOU OF THESE FUN SLMGA ACTIVITIES!



## March Events

**Thursday, March 18th at 6:30pm / General Meeting**

***"Succulents & Making Succulent Wreaths"***

***by Cactus and Tropicals in SLC, Utah***

Location: USU Training Room S1008 / 2100 So State St.

*Cactus and Tropicals* will instruct us on how to make a succulent wreath from succulents and educate us on which cacti species can survive in our climate. *Cactus and Tropicals* is one of the areas best known establishments for information on cactus and succulent care and selection. Be sure to attend to expand your gardening knowledge and gain training on how to create beautiful succulent wreaths to give as gifts or use at your home.

*For this meeting, attending members can record one half-hour for travel time and one hour for education time as 2010 volunteer hours!*



## April Events

**Thursday, April 22nd at 6:30pm (Note! 4th Thursday)**

***"The Annual Plant Exchange and Earth Day Hazardous Waste Disposal"***

Location: Murray Park / Pavillion #5 / 5200 So. State

Please plan to bring your extra plants and starts to Murray Park for the Annual Plant Exchange. Come and share your vegetables, herbs, flowers, bulbs, day lilies, and anything else you would like to trade. Please make sure the plants are labeled and include planting and care instructions. Remember to bring something to transport your plants in such as boxes or trays.

Also, please remember to plant an extra few veggies and herbs for the Utah AIDS Foundation this year. The SLMGA will collect and transport the plants up to the UAF for planting the following day...see information at bottom of this column.

Since the Exchange is the 4th Thursday of April we will be meeting on Earth Day. To celebrate, we have made plans to help you clean up and properly dispose of the old, unused yard and lawn chemicals lurking in your sheds and garages. You may bring these items to the Exchange and they will be transported to a HHW facility for disposal. This is for pesticides, fertilizers and so on; we will not accept batteries, paints, tires, etc.

**Friday, April 23rd at 11:00am**

***"Service Project Planting"***

Location: Utah Aids Foundation / 1408 South 1100 East

This project is open to all members. The UAF is a pantry facility and they have received several large planters for growing fresh herbs and veggies for their pantry. We will also use this as a learning experience for the UAF people. Volunteers are needed to fill the planters with veggies and herbs. The UAF will provide a light lunch afterwards.

## May Events

**Saturday, May 1st (Time will be announced soon)**

***May Day SLMGA Service Project***

Location: Matheson Nature Park

Put Saturday, May 1st, on your calendar for a great volunteer opportunity. The Salt Lake Master Gardeners will be joining other volunteers at the *Matheson Nature Park*, just west of *This is The Place Monument*. This 14-acre nature area has gravel trails and is open to the public. The master plan is to reclaim this area (former pasture and ranch next to Brigham Young's house) and have Utah native species planted throughout the acreage. Within the park is *Governor's Grove*, where trees are planted and natural stone markers are engraved with the names of the last 17 Governors of Utah. Also historically important is that this site was part of the original railroad track that once linked Emigration Canyon with downtown Salt Lake City. We would like Master Gardener volunteers to teach the neighborhood volunteers some skills on pruning, planting (especially native plants), weeding, and general clean-up of the area so they may use these skills for upkeep in the future.

**Thursday, May 20th at 6:30pm / General Meeting**

***"Now I've Grown It, What Do I Do With It?"***

***by Merry Lycett Harrison, Owner of Millcreek Herbs***

Location: USU Training Room S1008 / 2100 So State St

Merry Lycett Harrison, a trained clinical herbalist, member of the American Herbalist Guild and a Master Gardener, will be our guest speaker. As owner of *Millcreek Herbs*, she will talk about growing and using herbs in the garden. Merry teaches classes in medicinal and culinary herbs and herb gardening and is a frequent guest on many radio and TV programs. Members are encouraged to write down questions before the meeting and Merry will review them and try to answer as many queries as she can. Come and learn more about growing herbs and creating something great with them at harvest time!

*For this meeting, attending members can record one half-hour for travel time and one hour for education time as 2010 volunteer hours!*

### VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

#### MISREPRESENTATION OF ASSOCIATION

*If anyone uses the association name or any of its member lists for monetary gain, they are guilty of misrepresentation of the association. At the direction of the executive board, the offender will be contacted through a letter informing them of the problem. Their membership will be revoked and the unused portion of their fees will not be refunded. The executive board will have the responsibility of publishing a statement each year in the month of March to the effect that each member is not to use the association name, the title of Master Gardener, or the mailing list for commercial or other gain.*

*These rules will also be discussed by the county USU Extension personnel in the first class of each session of the new MG class.*