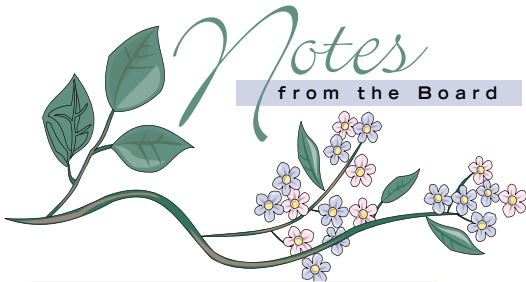


# The Garden Patch

SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



October  
1  
2010



## Notes from the Board

by Cathy Miller SLMGA Board Treasurer

October has always been one of my favorite months. The heat is over and the promise of winter is in the air. (I love to ski!) As a gardener, I also love that October gives our perennials a chance to recover from the hot and dry weather before winter sets in—iris have new growth, chrysanthemums and gaura just keep on blooming, asters give us a last burst of color and pansies planted now will keep blooming until a hard frost. (As I write this, however, it is 94°F outside, windy and smoky. I am definitely ready for October!)

This year, October also is the month for voting in the new Board of Directors for the Association. Your ballot is included in this *Garden Patch*. If you cannot attend the October General Meeting on Thursday evening, October 21st, when voting will take place, please use the enclosed ballot to vote and mail it by Friday, October 15th to ensure timely delivery. Your ballots will be delivered, unopened to the election committee at the October meeting where they will be opened and counted along with those voting at the meeting. YOUR VOTE MATTERS, so please consider the candidates and make your choice. Short, self-written bios of each candidate are enclosed with this newsletter.

Also by October 15th, please submit our report of volunteer hours to the Extension Office. A volunteer hour form was included in the September *Garden Patch*, and also in this issue. It is very important that you report volunteer hours so that our community can be aware of the value of the Master Gardener program. Without our volunteers, horticulture knowledge in our country would surely suffer.

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

## Getting to Know Master Gardener

### SPENCE MORTENSON



The third of nine siblings, Spence Mortensen was born in a small mining town in Idaho. He was delivered by his father, the town physician. "He delivered my brother, too," Spence says, "but did a better job with him." The family left Idaho and Spence attended the U of U on a four-year athletic scholarship. He continued swimming as a post graduate at Ohio State. He also competed in squash and racquetball and, unfortunately, somewhere along the line ruined his shoulder.

With swimming plans derailed, he went into private practice as an optometrist. Spence, who still loves sports, is responsible for the U of U athlete's eye care and also manages to compete in Master's swimming competitions. A couple of years ago at a Ft. Lauderdale meet, he took 2nd, 3rd and 6th place in various divisions but humorously claims, "It's only because some of the athletes couldn't get a hall pass from their convalescent homes."

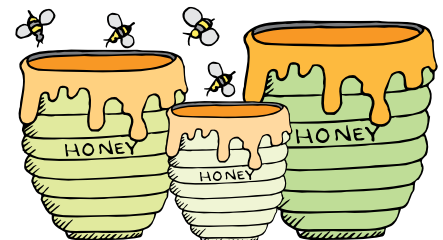
Spence has three daughters: a brunette in college, a redhead in high school and a blonde in junior high. He goes on to say, "My wife is the one you should interview." He proudly tells how she runs a youth summer camp where he helps entertain the kids with cowboy poetry and storytelling. Spence is a fisherman, one reason he shares his wife's love of Alaska, where she grew up. He ties his own flies, some which were used on a recent fishing trip up north. While there, he made it a point to check out the gardens, amazed at how twenty hours of light makes for huge cabbages, the size of beach balls.

As for describing Spence's four acres, he jumps from subject to subject. He has horses, chickens, dogs and cats. "I have four raised beds, square-foot style filled with everything you can think of," he says. He grows 20 varieties of hostas, an admirable feat considering how they're a perfect snail habitat. Other Master Gardeners rave about his fantastic berry patch. He also turns over space to neighbors "to grow vegetables and facilitate lean-on shovel conversations."

Spence's favorite flower is the dahlia and he contributed with Mark Hurst in founding The Utah Dahlia Society. He makes a sizable donation of tubers for the annual sale but hasn't found the time to enter any dahlias in competition. He does like to surprise people by picking some AA dahlias (dinnerplate size) and dropping them off to be enjoyed at offices and lobbies in public places.

Currently, Spence says he's into "Graft and Corruption." The Graft refers to ongoing experimentation with his 67 fruit trees and invites everyone to help him prune. As for Corruption? "Every Master Gardener should do it," he says. He's referring to composting, downstairs, in your home. "There's no smell. No mess. And it never burns." He tosses egg shells, peelings, coffee grounds, etc. in a blender, then takes the concoction and adds it to buckets with shredded paper and worms. The red wigglers turn it into castings, a perfect potting soil that can be added to any plant but is especially great for the greenhouse.

On a sweeter note, about 20-25 years ago Spence went into beekeeping, simply for pollination. He's moved on to harvesting honey from the six hives and any Master Gardener who drops by can have a free jar.  
**What a GREAT guy!**



# Golden's Garden

by Golden Reeves



The month of September was spent at the Utah State Fair. Now that the Fair has concluded, I can get back to taking care of my garden at home. It is sometimes necessary to put your life on hold for two weeks while working at the Fair and when it is over, it is great to get back to a normal life. There were fewer entries this year than in the past, probably because of the short growing season this year. A pumpkin at the Salt Lake County Fair was larger than any entered in competition at the State Fair. The prize went unclaimed because no pumpkin entered weighed over 100 lbs.



My apples trees are loaded this year and I finally have some new variety from grafts attached over five years ago. Three trees with fourteen varieties of apples..what a sight to view! The birds got most of the L-Star apples and now they are starting to enjoy the Golden Delicious. Fortunately, I have an abundance of Golden Delicious and don't mind losing a few to the birds.

The tree I cut down last fall is still sending up shoots all over the lawn and the amongst the new planting area. I poisoned the tree stump by cutting the cambium layer and pouring in full strength Round-Up but this did not seem to work. I have to dig the shoots up along with taking up some of the weed matting to cut the shoots off that are growing underneath.

A few years ago, when we were re-landscaping at my son's place, I planted a Hibiscus I had purchased from the Willard Bay Gardens. Over the winter, I housed it in a pot in my perennial garden, planning to plant in the spring in my garden. It ended up being planted in my son's garden. My wife has bugged me for the last few years wanting the same type of plant in the front area at our home. Since I did not know the variety of this particular Hibiscus, I did some research and discovered that it is a Lord Baltimore Hibiscus. I could tell by the leaf structure, which looks like a mulberry leaf. We purchased this type of Hibiscus and I will be able to get it planted in the raised bed area when I change the bed over this fall.

Now is the time to start working to get rid of the pesky morning glory or bind weed. I have been working on it for a while and found one way that has been successful for me. I understand the same method has been used by the Jordan River Temple Grounds crew for a few years. Untangle the bind weed from the other plants trying not to break the stems. Place the untangled plant, still intact in the ground, in a plastic bag. Then spray with a Round Up or 2-4-D without getting it on the surrounding plants. Leave the weed in the bag until it is dead. I had some bind weed in the front ivy patch that had a lot of growth on it and by utilizing this method, it has all been destroyed. In the Fall months, the bind weed takes nutrients down in to the root system to be stored for the winter. By applying poison this time of the year, we can start to get the upper hand on this pesky weed.

I planted a green bean called Jade this year. It is a bush bean and has produced abundantly the whole season. I am still harvesting beans about once a week and have given much of my crop away. When I take the stems off, my dogs pay plenty of attention to what I am doing. They really enjoy the beans, and when one falls from my hand, they grab the tasty prize.

My best producing tomatoes this year have been the Country Taste and Applause. Country Taste is an indeterminate large oval tomato that has a good taste and continues to set fruit the whole season. The Applause tomato is a determinate that has early fruit and is large with a great taste and lots of meat inside. I plan to plant these two varieties again next year. Also, the Glacier tomatoes are still producing very well as the cooler weather has arrived

The Fair is over with, enjoy the harvest. Oh yes, I had frost on the 5th of September in my back yard!



## Volunteer Project Information

(Project Information is voluntarily written and submitted by the Leader of each Salt Lake Master Gardener Project)

**Farmers Market** Many thanks to all the folks who volunteered at the MG booth at the Farmer's Market this Summer. We were able to answer many, many questions, handed out many information sheets, and added about 75 names to the USU newsletter mailing list. A special thanks to Andrea Berman, who was there each Saturday from beginning to end. I was eager to oversee the MG booth but knew I did not have enough knowledge to handle it alone. Andrea is a brilliant Master Gardener! None of the questions stumped her and she very knowledgeable in many other areas. Plus she is so fun to spend time with! Thanks also to Karen Ober who was also there each week, bringing great energy and enthusiasm. We are already planning for next year and hope to add more Saturdays! **Marilyn Jespersen**

**Gilgal Garden** A BIG THANK YOU FROM GILGAL GARDEN! Thanks to those of you who came to the Gilgal Garden Party on September 12th. We had an absolute ball...we estimate there were approximately 1,000 people who attended during the afternoon. I'd like to extend and extra thanks to those of you who came for the garden "tune-up" before the party to help us "whip" the grounds into shape. Everything looked gorgeous and we received many compliments. Many of the attendees had not visited Gilgal Garden for years and were amazed at they beauty of the garden...no more overgrown rocks or vines! We could not have done it without your help!

The gardening will be winding down in a few weeks, depending on the weather. If you would like to volunteer after October 1st, please call me at 801-487-7387 to see if we will be working or not. Regular hours are Tuesdays from 8:00-11:00am and 3:00-6:00pm. **Judy Short**



# Volunteer Project Information

**Tracy Aviary** Here at Tracy Aviary, the volunteer sessions on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings will end on Sunday, Oct 17th. Throughout the winter, there will be volunteer sessions that will meet on the third Sunday of each month until we resume our regular weekly meetings in March of 2011. Thank you for all of your hard work and attendance during the volunteer sessions this season. Remember to check [Tracy.Aviary.org](http://Tracy.Aviary.org) for upcoming volunteer events, such as our *Tool Cleaning and Repair Workshop*. **Matthew Utley**

**Utah Aids Foundation** Welcome to October. It is a puzzlement to me that the 2010 gardening season whizzed by so quickly! I totally forgot to weigh the produce from the UAF raised box garden, however, we gathered approximately half of a standard orange box each week once the tomatoes and other produce became ripe. I THANK each of you who donated plants to UAF and those who planted them. Because of the donations and the time spent plant, caring and picking the produce, along with the UAF staff devotion by watering and protecting the plants from the frost, we had a bountiful first year harvest for the UAF food pantry. This is a great example of teamwork of Master Gardeners with agency staff and clients, the kind Maggie Shao always encouraged. **Kay Packard**

**Wheeler Farm** As a (previously frustrated) project leader for Wheeler Farm, I went into the project this year with the idea of spiffing things up as best I could under the conditions we had there, then promptly turning it over to someone else as quickly as I could! Things have gone so well this year, I'm encouraged, even happy to keep the project for at least another year. The gardens at Wheeler aren't quite as colorful and lush as I'd envisioned, but it's not for lack of vision and help - it's because the geese and chickens tend to overrun the smaller flowers!

I want to thank Hampton Inn for their corporate volunteers early in the spring who helped kick off our project and from our Master Gardener group, many thanks to Jo Turpin, Sara Anderson, Becky Hansen, Terry Curling, Jan Konold, and Stanna Headden for their help through the weekday/night sessions. The water situation at the Farm was much better this year so it was nice to show up to work in a garden that was green and growing rather than dead and dying. Much better for the frustration level!

In mid-October, I will need volunteer help putting the beds away for Winter. Plan to help at the regular Wed. morning and Thurs. evening times. **Sandy Burgess**

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## Garden Reflections

by Vivia Baldwin

*"Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow cycles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace."*

-May Sarton

### October Journal Entry

*The call to gardening is so varied from person to person. My dearest friend Lynn decided on the first day of her marriage she would not be the gardener. Her husband took the job and grows breathtaking Dahlias. Lorena, a master gardener, says that as a child her family did not cultivate anything but food. Gardening was a necessity...now she harvests flowers for joy. Christeana, who grows amazing flora, offered today to share some starts from her garden, evidence of a gardener's generosity.*

*Grandmother Vivia and her exquisite garden influenced my life as a gardener. Her landscape was both practical (with a large vegetable plot) and beautiful, walking paths, rose arbors, ponds, Horse Chestnut and Magnolia trees and Lilies that gave fragrance to the entire neighborhood.*

*There is a sense of feeding the body, soul and mind in this garden journey. Growing food to feed the family always gives nourishment. Do you remember the first time you thinned the carrots with your tiny, two-year old fingers? Although we now only grow herbs, tomatoes and chard because of space and shade, we relish their freshness and flavor. I love the artistry that is required to create beauty and harmony in the plan and feel a close relationship to all the growing plants. Choosing their colors, size, hardiness and tending to their needs as they flourish is a nurturing connection. They fill me with a quiet presence as I care for them.*

*Right now I am completing a plant list of the garden with common and botanical names. It is stretching my mind with the science of the nomenclature. We have counted 200 different varieties! Knowing the plant names, both common and Latin, seems to me a sign of respect for their life...it gives integrity to our relationship. I have a tiny paper book of plant names printed in 1939, used by Grandmother Vivia, with her notes on the pages. There is a reverence in reading thoughts from my gardener grandmother. And I have written this journal for you that is a compilation of gardening knowledge, reflections, and poetry about the beloved pleasure. Don and Bev Sudbury gave me a hardcover book, Dictionary of Plant Names that is more extensive, yet easy to use. I reference it often with deep fondness for the gift and the gift givers. In gardening we are related to those who teach us and to the garden plants for which we care. A lovely intertwined family of living, vibrant beings in the ongoing circle of life.*

*What was Paradise? But a Garden, an Orchard of Trees and Herbs, full of pleasure, and nothing there but delights... What can your eye desire to see, your nose to smell, your mouth to take that is not to be had in a Garden?"*

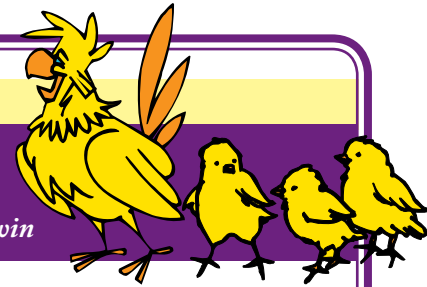
-William Lawson



A Final Article in a Memorable Series

# VAL'S VIEW

by Val Chatwin



It surely was good seeing so many of you at the summer party. The food is always plentiful and exotic, by that I mean people spend time making things which are different and delicious. This will be my last article so I wanted to tell you why and what is happening to us.

Ray and I have moved into Legacy, a retirement facility on the street that goes to the S. Jordan Temple. We are on the third floor. We have two bedrooms, one is my office, a living room/kitchen combined, with stove, frig, counter, [no dish washer, you don't need one] and a balcony that looks down on the S. Jordan Gale History Center, where we have been docents for all its life--about 4 years. Some of you know that I have been having problems with my legs. The muscles are getting weak and it is hard for me to get up, bend over and pick things up. I used to be so limber I could put my hands flat on the floor. Gardeners spend a lot of time bending down and picking stuff up. I am to the stage where I will be grateful when I get a walker with a seat. I have been to about 14 Drs. The last one, last week, up at the U of U clinic. I have had MRI's, X-rays, blood tests, and a muscle biopsy. This week's appointment wasn't what they specialize in so they got me an appointment with someone else. That will make 15 doctors. I got so I was sitting in my house being unhappy at what I couldn't do.

My Father had lived in this facility a few years ago so I told Ray, "Let's move to Legacy. We visited other places like this all over the valley but this is close to our house and Ray can get their quickly to clip, mow, and repair. He's in good shape but enjoys living here. This facility does everything for you, 3 delicious meals a day. I like to cook and the house is full of canning and frozen stuff but I have really enjoyed the food here. They have good soup and a plentiful salad bar with many choices. Facilities like this keep people if the food is excellent. There are people that have been here for 5, 9, 14 years. They also provide transportation to Drs. Stores, mall, and scenic stuff, so you don't need a car. We still have our two cars but few people do. Many of the people here are put here by their children. They lose the car and can't live alone. A few, like us, chose it.

Our children and siblings were shocked when we announced we were moving. They've visited and checked it out and decided we made a good decision. Our daughter is becoming a gardener quickly, out of necessity. I planted a patch of corn, pole beans, broccoli, some squash first thing this spring. We bought some tomato plants. It struggled along. I'd go over to the house and she would want to go right out to the garden. Wow, what a change in her. The corn showed pretty soon but stayed tiny for ages and the weeds thrived so she would ask me which was corn and which was weed. She kept it weeded and threw on some nitrogen a month ago. Surprising to her, she has been getting delicious 8 in. ears of corn for a couple of weeks. She is suddenly interested in my method of planting a 16 X 16 hill patch first thing in the spring, when it is still too cold for corn, then when those plants are up, plant another, when those are up plant another, and so on so you have corn all summer. She says, "Now I know what you were talking about."

The Irises were spectacular this year. I coordinated them into matching colors. I took home many from the Iris exchange. Thank you.

There are only five chickens left, a neighbors dog got in and destroyed three of them. Saddy and Maude, the Seabright Banty hens, survived (both are little mothers who raised chicks last year). They lay an egg occasionally. Other survivors are Charles, the black crested Polish rooster, one Aracuna hen who should be laying and isn't, and an old Rhode Island Red who hasn't laid anything for years. They are pets and pretty.

Thanks to the Master Gardener's for helping us out at the County Fair. I'm supervisor over Agriculture and John Kalasky is my assistant. During the four days, he had samples to give away and spent hours giving lessons on how to grow garlic. Thanks to Golden Reeves and Bart Anderson for coming and judging. Despite the season being a month late, we had more entries and more people than in the past. Our most often asked question at the Extension booth was "why is my stuff so little, not ripe, late, or has little or no fruit"? Thanks to the Master Gardeners for being so knowledgeable. We counted about 1,500 attendees who looked at our display, and about 160 who talked to the Master Gardener volunteers. A man brought in a pumpkin that weighed 550 lbs.! We had to find forklifts to get it off the truck and they had to take out the center post in the door to get it inside the building and then remove it to take it home. I was surprised it was so unmarked and beautiful...no slits, no dings; except for the kid who tried to stab it with his pen. Sara Anderson jumped between him and the pumpkin and had to threaten him with the police before he stopped. Every kid patted it. Lots of parents took pictures of it and the kids were laying on it or tried to put their arms around it. The man who grew the pumpkin is a member of the Pumpkin Society and is cultivating another pumpkin that could be 900 lbs. by the State Fair. He was saving his largest for the Pumpkin Society weigh off where they win money.



I have loved Master Gardeners! I have loved the people that I have been able to get acquainted with. I was surprised that there were so many people who liked to get their hand dirty and still looked clean and tidy. I found there was so much to learn I couldn't learn it all but I have enjoyed being able to share with what I have learned. Thank you so much for the kind and complimentary words about my articles in the past. I really enjoyed writing about the chickens, my farm, and family and am delighted people liked it.



# SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER EVENTS

MAKE A NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR TO ATTEND THESE FUN AND EDUCATIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS!



## October Events

### Thursday, October 21st at 6:30pm / General Meeting

#### **"Water Wise Landscaping"**

Location: Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District / 8215 So 1300 W / Main Building / Office

The gardens will be open for a pre-meeting stroll to see the Fall colors and new plantings. The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District improves and updates the gardens as funds and time permit, so if you have not visited for awhile, it has probably changed.

Our meeting will start at 6:30pm with SLMGA announcements and elections for the 2011-12 Board of Director positions. After the elections, Clifton Smith, the JVWC Garden Manager, will be our guest speaker. Cliff has a BA in Horticulture and a Masters degree in Water Efficient Landscape Design. He will discuss designing a waterwise landscape with a focus on Utah native plants. He will speak than answer any questions about the water-wise subject.



It is important that **if you cannot attend the October General Meeting**, please review the SLMGA 2011-12 Board of Director candidates on the additional pdf. Then, fill out your choices on the included ballot, clip it out and send it by mail to: **The Garden Patch Editor, 1124 Range Road, SLC, UT, 84117**. The ballots should be mailed by Friday, Oct. 15th to ensure delivery by the General Meeting when actual voting will take place.

**ONLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENERS MAY VOTE and YOU MAY ONLY VOTE ONCE...BY MAIL OR AT THE GENERAL MEETING!**



## November Events

### Thursday, November 18th at 6:30pm / General Meeting

#### **"Wasatch Wildflowers"**

Location: USU Training Room S1008 / 2100 So State Street

Be sure to attend this fun evening, our last regular SLMGA General Meeting for 2010. Our speaker will be Steve Hegji, author of **Wasatch Wildflowers: A Field Guide**, a book that describes and helps identify over 200 indigenous wildflowers in the Wasatch region.

Steve is a member of the Utah Native Plant Society and an avid Wasatch range hiker who hikes over 250 trail miles per year in search of native wildflowers. We hope to see you there!

## December Events

### Thursday, December 9th - Social time 6:00-6:30pm / Dinner served at 6:30pm

#### **"SLMGA Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet"**

Location: Wheeler Historic Farm / 6351 South 900 East

Our final Master Gardener event for 2010 will be our traditional **SLMGA Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet**, which will be held, as is the custom, at the Wheeler Farm Activity Barn. The Association will provide the meat, rolls and beverage to all members and their guest. We ask that each attendee bring either an appetizer, salad, side dish or a dessert to share. Food assignments will be divided and assigned according to the first letter of last names. (More information on assignments in the November edition of *The Garden Patch*.)

We do not have a graduating class of apprentices to honor this year, but there will be many Master Gardener's to thank for their volunteer work during 2010, and the customary awards will be presented to those who have gone above and beyond providing volunteer work and time to the community.

*We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up before the Banquet and Clean-up after the banquet. You may sign up to volunteer at the September, October or November General Meetings, or contact Charlene Homan at [mhcharlene@yahoo.com](mailto:mhcharlene@yahoo.com). Time spent may be counted at volunteer hours.*



**SLMGA Volunteer hours for the period of November 1, 2009 through October 31, 2010 are due for recording by the USU Extension Office. Use the additional pdf *Volunteer Hour Form* to fill out and send to the office.**

*(To send, the address and FAX information are located on the form.)*

**Be sure to turn it in by the deadline, October 15th!**