

The Garden Patch

SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



THE PRESIDENT'S SCOOP



Well, the cold and snow of winter are definitely here. After writing this article, I plan to check the air quality. I would actually like to build a fire and sit down and read a book. I should also sort through the gardening catalogs I have received. At least I will be able to see outside thru the French doors I put in a couple of years ago.

We had our first Executive Board meeting on January 4th. What a great bunch of people I get to work with for the next couple of years! Our first meeting as the new 2011-12 Board was very productive. Our new Volunteer Program Coordinators, Sara Anderson and Andi MacDonald, have many wonderful ideas for our meetings and activities for the coming year. They are working hard to make sure that we will have interesting, exciting and educational evenings to share together. We also will be spicing up our meetings a little with a few attendance incentives. Some randomly selected months, a lucky MG, attending the meeting, will win a nice door prize. You will just have to show up to find out what the prize will be...

The Board members also discussed the possibility of setting up a SLMGA Facebook page or blog. I am also thinking of setting up a MG Twitter feed. This would be a great way for MG's to share tips and advice, laugh and learn at each others garden problems and communicate messages to SLMGA Project volunteers. These additions ultimately will add another layer to the MG community.

During our meeting, we also formed a couple of for future events. Allison Topham will be chairing the August Summer Picnic committee. Andi and Sara will be assisting her. Cathy Miller has agreed to chair the December Annual Awards Banquet committee. Diane Curtz and Marilyn Jespersen have agreed to serve with Cathy. Karen Crook and Jane Kennedy will be serving as our refreshment committee. Mucho appreciation to these "volunteers". Of course, they would certainly be willing to accept the kind labors of a few more MG's. If you want to make sure that these events are the best ever, here is your chance. Just let me know and I will be happy to "appoint" you to one of these committees. My contact information is below.

The Executive Board also has decided that we will be instituting a "warrant" system for all expenditures of MG funds. We take our fiduciary responsibility very seriously, and want to insure accurate and transparent bookkeeping. If you wish to be reimbursed for an expense, you will need to fill out a warrant, sign it and attach the receipts (see warrant on page 10). Our VP, Diane Curtz, or I will review and approve then sign the warrant. Our Treasurer, Chris Palyka, will issue you a check.

I know this might seem a hassle, but this will make it much easier for our Treasurer to track Association expenses, and make sure that members are reimbursed for legitimate expenses correctly. A copy of the warrant we will be using is included in this *Garden Patch*. Please print some off for your use.

Now I think it is time for that fire and a good book....

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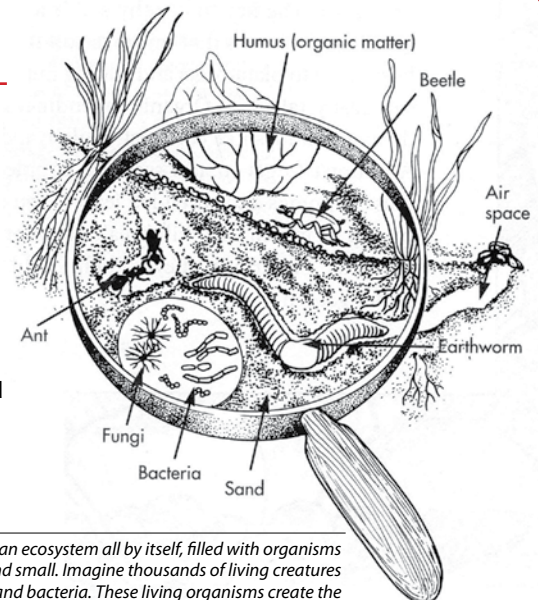
Feed the Soil Organic Matter

You may not be able to see it, but your soil is very much alive. It teams with living organisms, from earthworms to bacteria, that spend their lives feasting on any bits of organic material they can find. When the soil is richly supplied with organic amendments, the living community within the soil is happy and well fed, and the soil is better for it. These denizens of the soil turn that material into food for your plants. Successful gardeners adopt the motto "Feed the soil, not the plant" as the best way to a rewarding garden. Instead of constantly pouring money into chemical fertilizers to stimulate a rush of growth or bloom, spend time adding organic matter like manure and compost to your existing soil for continued payoff with a low initial investment. Organic matter literally "feeds" the soil.

Unlike chemicals, which are available to plant roots immediately, organic amendments depend on the microorganisms in the soil to break them down into a plant-usable form. Their effect is less immediately intense but they're sustained for a much longer time. You can't overdose your plants or burn them the way you can with chemicals.

You can't go wrong with organic matter. No matter what kind of soil your begin with, adding organic soil ammendments will only make the soil better. It is a no-lose deal!

(Copied from **Frugal Gardener, How to Have More Garden for Less Money** by Catriona Tudor Erler)



Soil is an ecosystem all by itself, filled with organisms big and small. Imagine thousands of living creatures and bacteria. These living organisms create the healthy, fertile foundation of your garden.



Golden's Garden

by Golden Reeves



FEBRUARY 2011.....It has been a long cold winter and I can't wait to see the warmer weather return. On January 12th, I was able to pick a few tomatoes from a glacier tomato plant located in the upstairs bedroom. I wanted to save a tomato plant from the garden last Fall, but with the abundance of white fly, I decided to start some plants from seed instead. The first set of blossoms appeared to set fruit, most of the next blossoms did not mature. I now have some blossoms that I have been able to get fruit set on them. I planted some tomato plants just before Christmas again and they are growing great.

Bart Anderson gave me some *Burpee* Long Keeper's tomatoes and I wanted to save seed from some of them. I used the same method I have always used. I ferment them after about a week and I found the seeds were starting to sprout with small tails on them. I started over by taking the seeds from the tomato and washing them in a strainer then putting them out to dry. This method seemed to work and I plan to plant some of them in late March.

Keep in mind that if you want to do some grafting this Spring, you will need to collect the scion wood in the month of February and put it in the refrigerator. This will keep the wood dormant until grafting time in late April. Bart and I will be having another grafting class this Spring so plan on attending to learn more about grafting.

During the second week in February, I will start the pepper plants in the basement. A few weeks later, the tomato plants will be seeded. There have been years that I have started so early that the plants become too big before I can plant them in the garden. When I have excess plants, there is usually no one that is ready to plant as early as I am so I just cut them back.

The leaves still remain on two of my apple trees. They are frozen brown and have not fallen. I am hoping when Spring arrives they will fall. There are a number of other trees that still have their leaves in my yard...the Bradford Pear being one of them. That is why there was so much damage on that variety of tree with this winter snow.

Patrick Newman called from *Red Butte Garden* and set up the tomato propagation classes for Saturday, March 5th. There will be two classes this year...the first from 9:00 am to 12:00 the other 1:00 to 4:00 pm. This year will be the fifth year I have taught these classes. There will be many different varieties of tomato seeds at the class for you to plant this Spring. I enjoy teaching this fun and informative class to others.

I had a small problem with white flies a month ago and found them on both our inside Verbena plant and also a Chrysanthemum my wife recently purchased. I moved both plants outside for the Winter. I also had some Verbena starts in the basement and thought I had seen some flies on them so I cut off all of the foliage outside then brought them back in to the house. So far, I haven't seen any of the pesky little bugs in the last month.

I had all of my neighbors laughing at me for using the snow blower on the lawn. As the thaw came, I wanted to get rid of the snow that had piled up on the lawn from shoveling the driveway. By spreading it out on the other parts of the lawn, I was able to have it all melt much quicker. I dislike snow mold on the lawn in the Spring when the snow finally melts away. By clearing it at times during the Winter, wzit gives the lawn a chance to breathe. I did get permission from *Joy in the Garden* to bring out the lawn mower to pick up the leaves that had fallen on the snow and were now on the lawn.

I sent my seed orders in before Christmas and the seeds arrived before the first of the year. The catalogs continue to come and it is fun to see what they are offering this year. If you can survive the next month the weather should start to warm up. But in the meantime, as the ground thaws out, go and look for those pesky weeds that have survived the winter and rid of them before they accumulate.

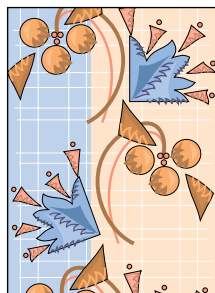
REMEMBER THE ANNUAL SEED EXCHANGE...

Thursday, February 17th at the SLMGA General Meeting

Bring all of your excess seeds to exchange with your fellow Master Gardeners. Exchanging seeds is a great way to experiment without the expense. Also exchange information about how to care for the plants and flowers that the seeds will produce throughout the season.

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



Please direct all requests for Master Gardener speaker presentations to:
mgvolunteers@comcast.net

Also, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, **Jan Konold**, if you are interested in speaking during the year and would like to be added to her contact list.



Garden Reflections

by Vivian Baldwin

FEBRUARY JOURNAL ENTRY

"To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds and watch the renewal of life... this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do."

- Charles D. Warner

I began a new garden remodel project. The herb garden does not receive enough sun now, so the vegetables and herbs have suffered. That section of the garden has gone through amazing transformations. First it was a trampoline center, then a large vegetable and raspberry patch, then the herb garden and now a simple Zen bird sanctuary. Tara, Buddha of Compassion blesses the birds and all who enter. We spent several months refinishing Tara, who is carved wood and six feet tall, and she looks radiant. Watching the sanctuary from the bedroom window, a robin perched on Tara's slim finger, as though he was on one leg. Then he flew to the birdbath and passionately took his morning dip.

February is a great month for pruning, cutting out the dead limbs of trees and shrubs and trimming the ground cover and perennials that were missed in fall cleanup. I like starting Spring cleanup now so that mulch can be spread in early March, as soon as the snow melts into the earth and before early Spring bulbs peek up. The term mulch can mean anything from a black plastic tarp, rocks, bark, and so on. Mulching is a good thing in our hot climate because it protects the earth from drying out and also protects the roots of the plants from stress. However, in my opinion, there is only one satisfactory mulch, and that is composted manure. This organic mulch is a nutritious additive to the soil and will keep the plants healthy as well as feed the earth. If the soil is healthy, the plants will be healthy.



*"Shed no tear! O shed no tear!
The flower will bloom another year.
Weep no more! Weep no more!
Young buds sleep in the root's white core."*

- John Keats

GETTING TO KNOW SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER

ALEXA BAXTER



Master Gardeners can understand the contradiction in what 1997 graduate, Alexa Baxter says, "Wow! I feel like I don't know anything. But I've learned so much." Another way Alexa is at odds is with her love of pets. She has lots of them but the pets don't necessarily love each. It takes some maneuvering on her part, and very good latches, to keep her cats, birds and rats separated.

Born in Sydney, Nebraska, Alexa didn't stay there long enough to become a 'Cornhusker'. She grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming and was a teen when the family moved to Salt Lake. She attended Horace Mann Junior High which no longer exists. Alexa and her future husband both went to West High but didn't start dating until after they graduated and married when Don returned from serving as a Marine in Viet Nam. She's worked for many years as a legal secretary for a corporate law firm. As a member of the Salt Lake Legal Secretary Association, she has served in executive positions including Treasurer and President.

Alexa's volunteer efforts extend to Master Gardeners. "I didn't realize I'd accumulated that many hours," she says about her recent 300 hour recognition. "What I give up in time is returned by tremendous experience." Alexa's favorite project is Tracy Aviary. In fact she credits Matthew Utley, the Project Manager, as well as her mentor, for help in overcoming a big gardening hurdle. Once she planted something and it grew, it stayed. He gave her what she calls "gardening confidence." She watched him collect plants, preserve them for later use and move them from area to area. Now she's not afraid of pulling out and moving around those precious plantings.

"I like to experiment and my gardening has evolved over the years," says Alexa, "Such as putting in native plants to get rid of the water-thirsty lawn." As for a low-maintenance, drought-resistant landscape, she says, "It's so totally not true." She adds that she actually enjoys the weeding and upkeep. "It keeps me in tune with what the garden is doing. What works and what doesn't." The result of some twenty years of diligence is a fairly mature garden that includes Tufted Primrose and Apache Plume, named for its resemblance to tufts on war bonnets. A favorite is the surprise of Mountain Marigold, a perennial, not by root stock but through reseeding. This makes it likely to pop up any place producing golden blooms from spring until frost and past. She also likes roses and grows heirloom varieties specifically for Utah climates.

Alexa says her husband isn't a gardener but she appreciates everything he does to back her efforts. When the Baxter's did some serious remodeling Don became Alexa's personal landscape architect. He realized pouring cement would mean a shrinking yard. He plotted the land to allow her plenty of choice garden space, even if it meant moving a lot of soil. He also built raised beds for her to start growing vegetables.

While Don is a planner - Alexa is not. "I'm really good at planting," she says, countering with, "But I'm not a great farmer." She goes on to explain that she hasn't mastered the harvest. Venturing into starting her own vegetables and fearing all the tomatoes wouldn't germinate, she planted double what she needed. With still too many starter plants after sharing, she couldn't throw the extras away, so she put them in the garden. "I really over-planted," she says, "and there's just so much you can give away." Same thing happened with the new herb garden. Lucky for Alexa, it's easier to fix an out-of-control garden than one that doesn't produce.



A Bit About Broccoli by Debbie Stevenson

There are two types of people in the world—those who love broccoli and those who hate it. I've discovered this fact based on how people react when offered some freshly harvested broccoli. Recently, I realized this phenomenon is much more widespread than my small circle of acquaintances. Case in point: In 1990, a regular passenger of Air Force One was quoted as saying: "I do not like broccoli. And I haven't liked it since I was a little kid and my mother made me eat it. And I'm President of the United States and I'm not going to eat any more broccoli!"—George Bush, U.S. President. Can you hear the strong emotion behind the words? And yet a diary entry by Thomas Jefferson in 1767 shows that he, "(the third U.S. President) was an avid gardener and seed collector and grew broccoli at his Virginia home, Monticello, prior to taking office in 1801."



Broccoli fit for a President

In recent history, broccoli has received much praise for being a superfood. In fact, broccoli consumption has increased over 940% worldwide in the last 25 years. It has an interesting history, and here are a few details:

- Broccoli has been around for 2,000 years and is native to the eastern Mediterranean.
- Known as the "Crown Jewel of Nutrition", broccoli is a member of the cabbage family and contains Vitamins A, C, and K, potassium, folacin, iron, calcium, fiber, and anti-cancer nutrients.
- California's commercial broccoli market was established in 1925 by the D'Arrigo brothers who were the first produce growers in the West to successfully grow and ship broccoli.
- According to the USDA, 115,000 acres of broccoli were harvested in California in 2009 (total U.S. harvest was 124,000 acres).
- Ninety percent of fresh broccoli sold in the U.S. comes from the Salinas Valley in California. It is grown from March to December.
- Broccoli is usually grown from seed planted in the field. Over 30,000 broccoli plants can be grown on one acre of land.

My husband and I were unaware of all this broccoli history, but we are part of the "pro-broccoli party", and were delighted when we grew our first broccoli crop. As you know, every year is a unique gardening experience because of variable conditions such as the weather. Spring temperatures play a huge part in the success or failure of our broccoli crop. We've learned a bit about growing broccoli through the years, and we'd like to share a few tips we've found to be successful.

The broccoli garden spot needs to be fortified with manure the previous fall. Buy small broccoli starts and plant them around March 14 here in the Salt Lake Valley. Plant the starts deeply, and protect from hard frost in order to prevent setback. Water deeply and infrequently. When heads start to develop, side-dress with a heavy solution of fish emulsion. It's time to harvest when the heads are large, compact, and before flower buds open. For detailed growing instructions, refer to the Utah State Extension article "Broccoli in the Garden" at:

extension.usu.edu/htm/publications/publication=5290

In 2010, we planted the Premium Crop variety, and it was ready to harvest in early June. Unfortunately, the season is short for eating broccoli fresh from the garden. It is a cool weather crop, and heat can make the broccoli bolt. Last year just as our broccoli was close to harvesting, daytime temperatures began to soar. My husband came up with a great idea that helped protect and extend the harvest. He used a frost blanket as a canopy over the rows of broccoli. We made sure to keep the plants well-watered and sprayed down the frost blanket every morning and afternoon to keep the plants cool. This worked well and gave me a longer timeframe to harvest the broccoli and freeze it. With this technique we also had good side shoot development, which meant more broccoli! I also used another technique that makes for better frozen broccoli—after blanching and then cooling it in ice water, I used my salad spinner to spin off all the excess water from the broccoli before vacuum sealing it in bags for the freezer



Canopy keeps premium broccoli crop cool

Now we need a variety of ways to serve all this broccoli. Would you believe there are cookbooks filled with broccoli dishes? *The Dreaded Broccoli Cookbook* and *The Enchanted Broccoli Forest* are two such cookbooks with a bounty of broccoli dishes. I'm also including my own favorite broccoli salad recipe for you to consider (following page). Chicken Divan and Chicken Pasta Primavera are also family favorites.

Are you ready to give broccoli a try in your garden? I hope you are more flexible in your thinking than Mr. Bush, at least where broccoli is concerned. When attempts were made to convince him of the nutritive benefits of broccoli, he replied that it "tastes like medicine". Remember that Hippocrates, a famous Greek physician and medical writer, said "Let food be thy medicine."

Article References: harvestofthemonth.com/download/Broccoli • healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/hsmrs/NJ%20Quick%20Steps/NJ_Qk_Steps_Participant/Broccoli.pdf
www.foodreference.com/html/artbroccoli.html

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

Got Broccoli?

Recipe submitted by
Debbie Stevenson

HERE'S A TASTY & NUTRITIOUS RECIPE TO TRY...

Broccoli Salad

SALAD INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large head broccoli
(break the florets into pieces)
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/3 cup red onion
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
(Newman's Own preferred)

SAUCE INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
(NOT Miracle Whip)
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 Tablespoon apple cider vinegar



Mix sauce ingredients and refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight. Combine the salad ingredients. Add sauce to the salad and toss. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes before serving to the lucky recipients.



"Free Range"
Gardeners

THANK YOU FOR AN EXCELLENT PRESENTATION...

At the January General Meeting on Thursday, January 20th, the members enjoyed an interesting and educational presentation on "Shade Gardening". The speaker, SL Master Gardener Christena Gates, was exceptional. She presented information on Shade and Semi-Shade Plants, including Perennials, Ground Covers, Grasses, Ferns, Evergreens and various Trees. Her visual slide show include many visuals of her own garden. This lady really knows her stuff! We appreciate the time and effort she volunteered to educate us all on producing plants that grow in the shade, something that probably frustrates many of us in our own yards.

Also, thank you to our new Refreshment Committee for the very tasty snacks, adequate enough to substitute for dinner that evening. We all know gardener's love to eat!

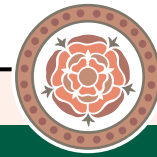
BEAST AMONG THE BEAUTY...

submitted by Cheri Schulzke

Gardeners beware! The dirt you work in to produce such beauty can be full of ugly tetanus bacteria.

This bacterium forms a spore that is almost impossible to eliminate from the soil, making this germ pretty much a permanent resident among the roots. Tetanus, or lockjaw, is a serious condition. If bacteria enters the body through a break in the skin, it can eventually cause intense muscle spasms throughout the body. **The best defense is a good offense. Make sure you are immunized once every 10 years.**

Any deep scratch or wound you get working in the garden should be evaluated immediately by a doctor who can determine where the immunization is needed. To be safe, always wear sturdy gloves while gardening, and wash your hands when your gardening chores are finished.



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Please contact your Executive Board members with questions, concerns or ideas for the SLMGA.

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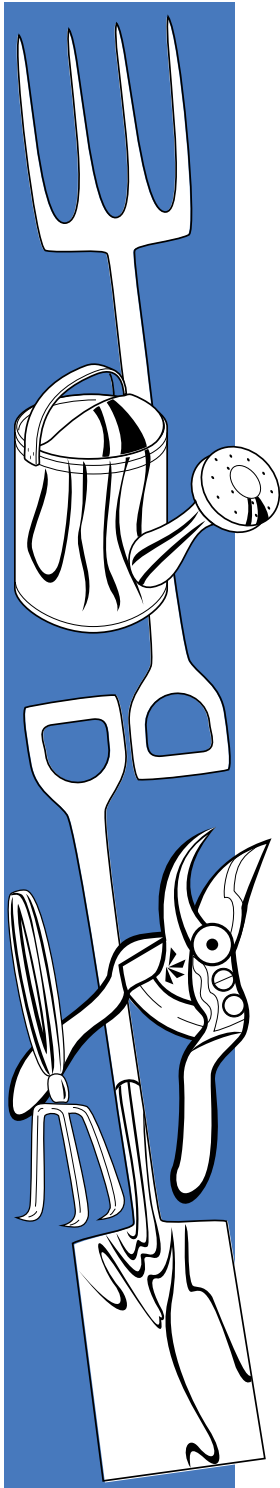
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WINTER...time for Gardener's to Relax? by Cheri Schulzke



Aaah... Wintertime a restful season for gardeners. Time to dream and plan for all the new catalogs arriving daily. Just sit back and relax, waiting for Spring to come. **Wrong!** Wintertime is the perfect time to get your gardening tools and equipment in tip-top shape. Preparing you tools and equipment for Spring will make your work a lot more efficient. A sharp shovel, hoe, spade and rakes make gardening more pleasant. Plus, sharp pruners make cleaner, faster healing cuts so plants stay healthier.

In preparation for winterizing tools, remove all dirt and rust. Use a wire brush or S.O.S/Brillo pad water and a little "elbow grease". Once the tool is clean, use an all-purpose oil or clean motor oil (both will work well) and apply the oil all over the metal parts. Make sure you remove any existing rust before you apply the oil.

(Helpful Hint: In the summer after a long day of using your tools, try this for quicker summer cleaning of tools. Fill a bucket with a mixture of sand and clean motor oil. The sand should be damp, not wet with oil. Dip the metal section up and down in the sand mixture and this will clean and oil at the same time.)

Sharp tools are easier on plants and the gardener. It is advisable to have pruning shears, grass clippers, hedge shears done professionally. Unless you really know what you are doing on these items you could ruin the precise cutting angle. Here are some sharpening tips:

- Carefully examine the blade on each tool. If you find large nicks or the edge seems dull, it's time to get the whetstone or file out for sharpening.
- Always try to maintain the same bevel that was put on by the manufacturer. For just quick sharpening, use a whetstone and oil and glide the whetstone along the edge.
- If there are large nicks, use a medium or 8 inch flat file. Lock the tool head in a vice or you can sit on the handle and work with the blade between your legs. With both hands on the file, apply long, forward smooth strokes across the whole working edge. Lift the file and repeat. Do not back stroke.
- After filing, turn the tool over and remove the burrs you have just created on the back of the blade. With a whetstone and oil, use a circular motion over it until it is smooth. Be careful when rubbing your fingers along the edge. Those burrs can cut deep.

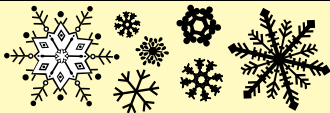
Fix splits or rough handles on your tools by smoothing the handles with sandpaper. Minor cracks can be repaired by tightly wrapping the cracked handles with hockey-stick tape. For severe splits, replace the tool handles as you don't want to risk hurting yourself if the wood snaps.

To keep the wood handles on your tools "healthy", rub the handles with boiled linseed oil and a rag to seal the wood. Or you can use paste wax that you use for your car. Rub wax into the wood then buff off excess. Treating your handles just once a year helps keeps them smooth and splinter free.

When it is time to put the power tools away for the Winter, remember to empty the gas from all the power tools (or allow it to run out). Gas left sitting over the winter will get sludgy or stale. Also remember to disconnect the spark plug wire and remove the spark plug from the engine. Place a few drops of oil into the cylinder and pull the starter rope a couple of times or crank the engine a few seconds to distribute the oil inside the cylinder. Replace the spark plug and leave the wire disconnected. Remember to reconnect in the Spring before use.

After all the tools have been cleaned, sharpened, repaired and oiled, take the time to store and organize them. Rather than just propping the tools in the corner, where their edges can get bumped and nicked on the concrete floor, make a special place for each tool. This is also a good time to take inventory of your tools. Make a wish list of what you need or want for the upcoming year. Let family and friends know of your wish list. You can also look at your list and watch for sales. **After the care of all of your tools is complete, sit back, relax and smile knowing your gardening tools are ready for Spring.**

Additional Helpful Tips WINTERTIME



by Cheri Schulzke

Do not use salt or chemical products to remove ice on sidewalks and driveway. Salt and chemicals can leach into your soil, causing problems for your gardens. Instead, use cat litter, bird seed or sand for traction on icy patches.

Prepare your snow shovel for winter with a coat of floor or car wax. The wax helps prevent the scoop from rusting and also makes the snow slide off without sticking. This procedure helps with plastic shovels also.

Remember to protect car locks from dirt and rust which cause unnecessary wear. Spray them occasionally with a silicone aerosol. After treating the lock, remember to turn the key in the lock to spread the lubricant.

Do you need a car window scrapper in a hurry because you can't find yours? A plastic credit card will work wonders. A "dollar store" metal spatula scrapes the ice better than some of the more expensive snow scrappers!

If you are shoveling snow, why not place the snow over the perennial borders and shrub beds in your yard to help protect them from repeated freezes and thaws during the cold Winter season? You have to put the extra snow somewhere!



ARE WE HEALTHIER?



Research at the University of North Carolina suggests that gardeners spent 17.2% less on health care services than their non-gardening counterparts!



Invest in TREES

February

7

2011

Money you spend on trees gives you a big return. These long-lived “plants” repay your investment with decades of cooling shade, visual beauty, and landscape value. Choose trees with more care than you choose other garden plants. For one thing, they obviously cost more. And, once you put them in the ground, they become a permanent part of your landscape.

Trees on the Cheap

The thicker the tree’s trunk the taller it is and the higher price tag hangs on its branches. Yet older trees take longer to establish their roots when transplanted. Many younger trees catch up to and even surpass older trees within a few years because they are quicker to establish enough roots to support more top-growth. And, the bigger the tree, the harder it is to transport home and plant it.

Scout out seedlings Seedling trees grow remarkably fast, so if you spot any desirables coming up in your beds, transplant them to an area that will be permanent in your yard.

Watch for end-of-the-season sales In summer, and then again in late fall, many nurseries try to entice buyers with rock-bottom prices to clear their stock. Watch for advertisements of such sales and become a regular at local nurseries and garden centers so that you can be first on the scene for the most desirable leftovers.

Trees for Fall Color

Spreading, deciduous trees that provide shade in summer and burst into a flame of color in the fall offer delightful possibilities. Clothed in greenery, they add visual weight because of their size alone. When they color in the fall, they become focal points in the garden.

Take Fruits Out of the Orchard

Opt for trees that produce flowers AND fruit. You will get a pretty floral display in the spring—plus a crop of fruit to enjoy! Cherries, apples, peaches, pears and plums are all attractive enough for any ornamental garden. Save space by choosing dwarf fruit varieties. Not only do they take up less room in your garden, it is also easier for you to reach the ripe fruit when it is harvesting time. You can save even more space and create a striking feature in your garden by growing fruit trees against a fence or wall.

Use Trees to Bring Blooms to Eye Level

Add a layer of color at eye level by hanging plants in baskets from tree limbs in your yard. Stagger heights for a fuller effect, and fill the baskets with shade-tolerant flowers, such as Impatiens.

Information from **Frugal Gardener, How to Have More Garden for Less Money** by Catriona Tudor Erler



ONWARD & UPWARD IN THE GARDEN

To my mind, there are two types of lady gardeners. There are those extraordinary women who not only know every flower, but know every flower by its Latin name. These women look as beautiful as the flora they nurture, gardening in wide-brimmed straw hats and pearls, trailing chiffon, and wearing Ferragamo shoes. They keep meticulous gardening journals, plot plant placements on graph paper, and never break a sweat when wielding a trowel and shovel.

“Grunge” accurately describes the other group. We are always hot, smelly, and sweaty in the garden, boasting not so much a green thumb as dirty fingernails because we forgot where we put our gardening gloves. We speak of “that little yellow flower” and point. We also tend to be manic about gardening, seize not only by the vision of earthly Paradise but also Kubla Khan’s Xanadu. How else to explain why it never occurred to me when I ordered fourteen rose bushes in April, they they would all arrive on the same May morning together, necessitating two days of frenzied labor? Before rose bushes can go into the ground, very deep holes must be dug. Still, into the ground they went. Miraculously, the gardener did not accompany them. Now they are the love children of my middle-age, conceived during passionate afternoon perusal of glossy gardening catalogs.

I think of my adventures in the garden as a trajectory of forward motion, an evolution of the soul. Gardening has become an unexpected instrument of grace, for I’ve discovered hours of inner peace on my knees, digging in the dirt. Here is the one place I don’t have to think about work or worry about whatever it is that I can’t control. The complete absorption, the sacrament or the present moment I experience when planting or weeding brings exquisite contentment. My mind is stilled and my heart expands. Now I know why the Great Creator intends for humans to flourish in the garden.

This article is from
the book
Simple Abundance
written by
Sarah Ban Breathnach.



SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER UPCOMING 2011 EVENTS



February 2011 Events

**General Meeting -
Thursday, February 17th, 2011
6:30 Social / 7:00 Presentation
"SLMGA Business & Projects &
the Annual Seed Exchange"**

Location: USU Training Room S1008
2100 So State Street

The agenda for the February General Meeting will include a presentation by our new Board President, Jeff Asay. The material presented will include information about the SLMGA annual budget and how our dues are utilized each year. The Project Leaders will also present information about each SLMGA Project to help you determine where you would like to volunteer during the upcoming gardening season.

The **Annual Seed Exchange** will also take place. Make sure to bring your extra seeds to share with your MG friends!

2011 Salt Lake Master Gardener Association Dues

2011 renewals for your SLMGA membership are now due. \$15.00 per year. Please use the form located to the right for address or email changes and send payments to our Board Treasurer, Chris Palyka, at the address listed on the form. Make checks payable to SLMGA. Please send dues as soon as possible to retain your membership in the SLMGA and GP subscription.

2011 SLMGA Membership Renewal

Please send this form with **\$15.00** payment to:

Chris Palyka
855 South 700 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Below, provide your name and any changes to your home address, phone, or email address below.

Name

Home Address

City, State, Zip Code

Preferred Phone Number

Preferred Email address

Checks should be made payable to: SLMGA

Please send your payment as soon as possible to retain your SLMGA membership status for 2011!



On the following two pages, there are two forms of interest to SLMGA members.

The first form is an **Activity Questionnaire**, submitted by our new Volunteer Program Coordinators, Andi MacDonald and Sara Anderson. They are interested in planning events for our Association that the members are interested in, and will likely attend. Please print out the form, fill it out completely and send it to the mailing address on the form. You may also bring the completed form to our General Meeting on February 17th and give it to Andi or Sara.

The second form, on page 10, is the **Warrent for Expenses** form which our Board President, Jeff Asay, describes in his article on Page 1. This form must be filled out which receipt attached for a member to be reimbursed for any expenses they pay for SLMGA activities or events.

The 2011-12 SLMGA Executive Board is in place and excited about working for the members to bring much success to the Association. Our new Program Coordinators, Andi MacDonald and Sara Anderson, and our new Volunteer Coordinator, Jan Konold, are interested in finding out a little about the membership...interests, who is a potential speaker, activities and information that would excite you to participate, meeting topics, etc...

Please fill out this form as soon as possible. Bring it to the February 17th General Meeting, or mail it to: **Andi MacDonald (2985 West 5685 South, Taylorsville, UT 84118) or email your preferences to andimacdonald@sbcglobal.net**

We need speakers for our monthly meetings. If you are willing and able, please volunteer. We have spaces for short talks (15 minutes) or longer ones (45 minutes).

In which of the following areas relating to gardening would you consider yourself knowledgeable?
(Circle ALL that apply.)

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| African Violets | Fragrant Plants | Plant Diseases |
| Annuals | Fruits & Berries | Plant Propagation |
| Arid/ Xeriscape Gardens | Garden Art | Poultry |
| Bees | Garden Structures | Pruning |
| Birds in the Garden | Grafting | Rock Gardens |
| Bonsai | Grasses | Roses |
| Bulbs | Green Houses/ Hot Houses | Shade Plants |
| Cacti | Ground Covers | Small Space Gardens |
| Color Gardens | Herbs | Soils |
| Composting | Indoor Plants | Succulents |
| Cooking | Pest Management | Trees |
| Cutting Garden | Irrigation | Vegetables |
| Deer Proof Gardens | Mulch | Vines |
| Diagnosing Plant Problems | Native Plants | Water Conservation |
| Espaliers | Orchids | Weeds |
| Fertilizers | Organic Gardening | Window Boxes |
| | Perennials | |

Did we forget something? Please tell us: _____

_____ YES! I would love to share my knowledge with fellow Master Gardeners!!!

_____ MAYBE! I might consider a short infomercial about something I know.

Name: _____

How can we reach you? _____

Can you recommend someone (Master Gardener or not) who might be available for a lecture? (include contact info)

Salt Lake Master Gardeners



UtahStateUniversity
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WARRENT FOR EXPENSES

Warrent #: _____

Date Paid: _____

Payee: _____

Payment Method: _____

Expense Amount: _____

Expense Type: _____

Description of Expense: _____

Payment requested by: _____

(signature)

Warrent approved by: _____

(signature)