

The Garden Patch

SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



THE PRESIDENT'S SCOOP



As I sit here a few days before the Christmas holiday, I can't quite figure out how I ended up in the position of President of the Salt Lake Master Gardener Association for the next two years, but here I am. I hope that all of you have the merriest of holiday seasons, and Santa brings a toy or two to play with in the garden.

I believe that the SLMGA should look forward to an exciting and energetic next two years. If you don't believe this, I had better get to work on fixing your believer. One thing I always have faith in is the membership of this organization. As members, you have placed your faith in me and the other newly elected members of the Executive Board. You have placed your faith in us to act in the best interest of the organization and the membership. I will do my best to insure that the Executive Board truly represents the members of SLMGA. The President of any organization must take this as their primary responsibility.

I am a firm believer in openness and transparency. The Executive Board will be meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at the County Government complex. If you have a suggestion, a concern, an idea for a new Project, or would just like to observe the "sausage making", the opinion and dissent, and the consensus that leads to good decisions, I would encourage you to attend. A schedule of the next month's meeting will be published in each issue of *The Garden Patch*. Have an idea for a General Meeting? Let me hear it. Got a problem at a Project? I can't help if I don't know about it. Want to discuss our participation (or lack of) in the County or State Fairs or Home & Garden Shows or some other opportunity that you believe SLMGA should lend participation to? Then approach me and let us have the discussion. Have an article or information you need published in *The Garden Patch*? Send it in. I want everyone to have an opportunity to participate. My contact information is at the bottom of this article. Use it. I am one of those Smart phone guys and I will respond as soon as I am able. The lines of communication are and will be open to every SLMGA member.

With the conscious thought of this type of openness in mind, I will be begging your indulgence at the February General Meeting and be taking a little time to present the budget. It is your dues money, after all, and you should have an opportunity to see where it will be spent. We will also be having the Annual Seed Exchange, so bring those seeds and let the fun begin. I will also be asking all Project leaders to be ready to make a short presentation about their SLMGA Project. This will give an opportunity for everyone in attendance to be energized about the exciting projects SLMGA lends support to, to build enthusiasm for the Projects that a member already participates in, and maybe get many

of the members who, for whatever reason, have not been actively participating for a while, to be re-energized and become involved in either a Project they once fondly participated in, or choose a new Project to lend their talents and labor to. I hope so.

Speaking of attendance, I have had a chance to review the records of this previous year. We average just slightly below fifty members in attendance at the monthly meeting. Here I must take a "mea culpa" of my own. All too often during the past year, I had some excuse (some quite legitimate, some just flat out dumb) not to attend. I guess now I am out of excuses. But my point is that those of you that turn out every month probably are friendly with at least a few fellow MG's who didn't show. What I am asking you to do is what is known in the sales business as "making the ask." Ask this MG friend to join you at the next meeting. Speak enthusiastically about the quality of the presentation. If you know that one of the upcoming meetings might be of particular interest or passion to this MG, remind them. This is the tried and true method of building participation in any organization. I could type exhortations in *The Garden Patch* until I had no fingers left and not be anywhere near as effective in encouraging participation as a single member speaking to a MG associate, reminding them of the spirit of gardening and associating with friends of similar interests who brought them to the SLMGA in the first place.

I look forward to a year of challenges and rewards. In the not to distant future, there should be a new Extension Agent in place. I will look toward building a successful, engaging relationship with whoever this may be. Hopefully, in the not to distant future, a new MG class will be joining us, lending their vitality, knowledge and experience to ours. I would also like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all of those in the Extension Office who have worked so diligently on our behalf. A special thanks to Katie Wagner, who has given me a great deal of assistance during this period of transition.

I would like to thank all of those who have given so freely of their time and talents to make SLMGA a success. I would especially like to thank the outgoing officers, who have earned our sincerest "thank you". The new Executive Board stands on the shoulders of our predecessors. It is not a burden that I will bear in taking up this position but a joy that I am allowed to serve.

Now as the weather has cleared a bit, there are some leaves that need raking, a branch that that was broken in a storm that needs attention. Now, if I can get that @#%^! chipper / shredder to start...

See you in the garden!

Jeffrey D. Asay
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Salt Lake Master Gardener's Association
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January

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2011

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



Golden's Garden



by Golden Reeves

DECEMBER 2010...As I put my garden to bed for the winter, I normally bring bags of leaves home to fill the walkways. This year, with the trees holding their leaves on longer than normal, I decided to empty my compost area of material I have been storing for a few years. I had leaves that were not broken down yet. This helped to fill the walkways along with some of the neighbors grass clippings, rose cutting and other debris I put through the chipper. With the compost area cleaned out, I was looking for more material to put in the area for the Winter.

During the last week in October we had a wind storm that took down a large limb of one of my neighbor's trees which ended up blocking the street. I was asked to help clean it up, which I accomplished. I then put all of the small limbs and leaves through the chipper shredder. I ended up with mulch, enough to fill three wheel barrows. When I arrived home and was cleaning up from the chore, I received a telephone call from my wife's cousin. She had four large limbs blow off of a large silver maple tree in her front yard. I spent five hours the next day cleaning that mess up and added another six wheel barrow loads to the pile at home.

The snow had also caused some problems to my rose hedge so I decided to trim it back some for the Winter. With a heavy coat and welders gloves for protection, I was able to trim the hedge back then run all of the material through the chipper shredder with out shedding any of my own blood. This is a first for me.

The Ravenna grass on the west side of the lot has grown to a height of 13 feet. The seed heads were getting ready to cast the seeds into the wind so I cut them off. We have enough weed seeds blowing around all ready. The neighbor was glad when I cut the stalks down. Now he can see the traffic coming up the street.

Probably the best thing that has happened this Fall is the removal of some large trees from the property across the street. They were Chinese elm trees that covered my front yard with seeds in the Spring and leaves in the Fall. Now I have a few more minutes of sun light in the afternoon. I also removed a large tree in my front yard a year ago. The extra sun helped the Zebra grass in my front yard to finally bloomed fully for the first time in over 12 years.

I picked the Granny Smith apples from my tree and had about 470 lbs. from the one tree. At my sons residence, his Granny Smith tree produced only 275 lbs. of fruit. I was able to leave the apples on the trees longer this year and the taste was much better.

JANUARY 2011...The snow and cold weather in the later part of November was destructive to many trees in the West Jordan area. The Globe Willow and the Bradford Pear trees were hit the worst - since they were late shedding their leaves. the heavy snow stayed on the trees, causing many limbs to break and fall. At my home, the leaves had not yet left the apple trees when the real cold temperatures hit and they now are now frozen and brown on the trees. I have had to use a long pole to get the snow off the limbs to keep them from breaking.

The gardening catalogs are starting to arrive and I have an order ready to be sent to *Totally Tomatoes*, completed after researching what types grew the best last year and evaluating what to plant this year. Keeping records helps me to only order the seeds that I have proven in my own garden. The best tomatoes from my garden last year were the *Country Taste*, *Applause Hybrid*, *Cluster Grande Hybrid*, and the *Early Goliath* types. I normally try a few new varieties. The *Ananas Noire Tomato* looks interesting this year; it is a black pineapple type tomato. My wife likes only the red looking tomatoes so that one may be a stretch for her. I am going to try the *Amish Paste* and an *Oxheart Giant* this year. I have about forty varieties of tomato seeds on hand and may select some of those to plant also.

Last year, I planted some seeds I saved from a tomato I did not plant in 1996; it was one of those surprises I did not knowingly plant it in my garden. Where it came from I still do not know. It was a cherry tomato and very sweet. It made great tasting tomato juice. It did very well this year and we could not keep up with the production. For cherry tomatoes, I will plant it again along with the *Sun Sugar* variety.

A friend of my wife gave her some tulip bulbs she collected while visiting Holland this year. With all of the snow and cold weather we have had, I was wondering if I was going to be able to get them planted in the garden in time. To my surprise, under the snow the ground was not frozen and I was able to get them planted before it was too late.

When all of the snow finally cleared in December, I was able to rake up the leaves that had fallen, but many are still frozen on the tree and probably will not come off any time soon. So what do I do when the gardening comes to an end because of inclement weather outside? I start working inside. I wanted to take some cuttings from the *Glacier Tomato* plant in the garden, but there were too many white flies on them so I decided to plant some seeds instead. I wanted to see if I could grow some tomatoes in the south facing bedroom. When the tomatoes were about eight-inches high, I planted three of them in a large pot and put them in the bedroom in front of the window. I have some tomatoes set on the blossoms that were on the plants at the time of transplant. The new blossoms coming on are not maturing and are falling off. I have come to the conclusion that there is not enough light for them to mature. I will keep the experiment going anyway.

As the basil was dying in the garden and my wife was lamenting the loss, she wanted to know if we could grow it in a pot in the house. I have four pots growing in the basement from seed I took this fall from the dying plant. I have seen Basil for sale in some of the stores we have visited. It certainly makes a nice addition to the smell of the home.

I took some cuttings from my Pelargonium plants this year and did not have the best luck in getting them to root. Only 50% of the cuttings actually have survived. I saved one cutting from each of the mother plants so I can try again later this month. The Bronze fountain grass seems to be surviving the transportation into the house. I cut it down to about three-inches, then cut the plant into four pieces and planted them into gallon containers. This system has worked for me in other years. The bottom cut from a gallon plastic milk container works well as a dish to place the planted pot.



Westminster's Organic Garden

Written by *Debbie Stevenson*

There aren't any horticulture classes in the course catalog, but that doesn't mean that students at Westminster College in Sugar House don't have the opportunity to learn about gardening. In 2009, as part of the college's commitment to campus sustainability, a 1,500 square foot space on the west perimeter of campus was dedicated to growing an organic garden.

On a blustery day in November, I met with Meghan Johnston, an Environmental Studies major, who is the Campus Garden Coordinator. While viewing the garden beds that were neatly mulched over and awaiting Spring, she explained that they have a Garden Steering Committee of six people—three faculty members, one staff member and two students who make all the decisions jointly concerning the garden. Meghan heads the committee. She went on to say that she uses Adobe InDesign software to create the bed layouts for each season. Work parties are held every Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. during the growing season where on any given night there are 10 to 20 volunteers and plenty of time for socializing. Produce is sold to students once a week in the Westminster Commons. Money from the sales funds the garden project.

As we moved around the garden, Meghan showed me the mulched over bed with garlic and rhubarb, a bed with carrots, spinach and radishes still being harvested, and the spot where watermelon and cantaloupe were grown using vertical supports to make the most of the available space. She also pointed out a terraced area with straw bales being used to hold soil in place. As befitting the college environment, an experimental technique was used to grow zucchini and Patty Pan summer squash in the straw bales this year. The straw bale serves as a container, holds water, provides nutrients, and allows good root development. Meghan said a product called Happy Frog was used to add additional nutrients. She said the straw bale gardening technique was successful, and that the bales must be replaced after two years. A list of all the herbs and veggies grown in the garden each year is on Westminster's Organic Garden link:

www.westminstercollege.edu/environmental_center



The Westminster campus greenhouse

Two fruit trees border the garden. Peaches were sold to students this fall at the campus farmstand, and apples were used to make cider. Next to the apple tree sits a chicken coop housing five healthy hens—Silver Laced Wyandottes, Ameraucana and a Plymouth Barred Rock. The chickens became campus residents during the spring of 2010 and were part of Wasatch Community Gardens Tour de Coops. With over 100 visitors, the design of the chicken coop received much praise for its simplicity and practical design. The chickens are cared for by the Chicken Cooperative Club which is comprised of faculty, staff and student members. Eggs are sold to students to fund the garden endeavor.

Cold winds were blowing strongly as we finished our visit to the campus garden and the forecast was calling for snow, but students are not waiting for spring to continue their gardening education. Inside the campus greenhouse, flats of veggies such as green onions, beets and radishes were growing. The greenhouse was the last stop on our tour of interesting discoveries at Westminster College, which is a liberal arts college founded in 1875. Westminster College certainly lives up to its motto: "A unique environment for learning."

A QUICK TIP

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

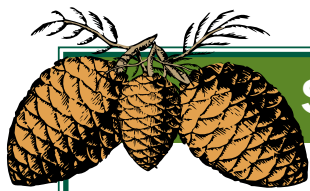
GROW YOUR OWN PESTICIDE - The dried, powdered flowers of easy-to-grow pyrethrum daisy contain an active ingredient called pyrethrin, which kills insects on contact, particularly chewing and sucking insects such as mealybugs, thrips, aphids and scales. Pyrethrin breaks down quickly in sunlight and heat, so you can spray and harvest on the same day. The benefits of this insecticide have been known since the late 1800's. You'll find the same active ingredient in many commercial insect sprays, but making your own, will help you save money and avoid additives in the commercial formulas.

Volunteer Projects



Utah Aids Foundation SURPRISE, I'll bet that you thought that I would not be writing again until Spring 2011. First, I want to send a December THANK YOU to each person who contributed plants and/or garden work to the Utah Aids Foundation (UAF) Food Pantry garden in 2010. With a little more experience in working more closely with the clientele at UAF, I am making a much more specific request than was made last year. Will you PLEASE contribute plants to UAF for the growing season in 2011. I totally enjoyed the variety of plants we received last year. However, the clients were more likely to select tomatoes that were close to Celebrity size tomatoes or larger. I am still not certain why that was the case, unless it is because many come to the food pantry via bus, and they don't want the smaller tomatoes to get crushed as they return home on the bus. However, they expressed much gratitude for the produce. Please come again in 2011 with your plants and help us get them planted the Friday after the Plant Exchange similar to the way we did the planting in 2010.

In APPRECIATION! from Kay Packard (UAF Project Leader)



SLMGA Annual Banquet & Awards Summary

The SLMGA Annual Awards banquet was held on Thursday evening, December 9th, inside the Wheeler Farm Activity Barn. Attendees mingled while enjoying tasty appetizers and each other's company. At 7:00pm, we sat at the holiday decorated tables and feasted on deli meat and rolls, and numerous salads and side dishes, followed by some fabulous desserts.

As is the tradition, following the dinner, the Annual SLMGA Awards were announced and dispersed to the hard working recipients. Following is a list of the awards which were given to the very deserving Master Gardeners. It was a lovely, very successful evening. We thank everyone who participated in the planning and hard work to create a very successful evening for all who attended.

50 HOUR PINS

Glenda Evans
Rebecca Gough
Stanna Headden
Steven Stout
Winifred Woodford

100 HOUR PINS

Vivia Baldwin
Terry Curling
Janet Frick
Stanna Headden
Nano Podolsky
Mary Jane Teske
Judi Short

200 HOUR PINS

Diane Curtz
Cheryl Michaud
Judi Short
Sue Squire
Jo Turpin
Allison Topham

300 HOUR PINS

Jennifer Knight
Judi Short
Allison Topham
Barbara Braeden

400 HOUR PINS

Alexa Baxter
Virginia Sargent

500 HOUR PINS

Ron Jones

750 HOUR PINS

Sandy Burgess
Ann Scott

1,000 HOUR PINS

Peggy Call
Val Chatwin

1,500 HOUR PINS

Golden Reeves

2,500 HOUR PINS

Bart Anderson

2010 S.L. MASTER GARDENER AWARDS

Dale Hughes Award: Allison Topham

Executive Board Award: Jo Turpin

Cooperative Partner Award: Hollis G. Robinson (WF)

Master Gardener of the Year: Sandy Burgess

2010 SILVER TROWEL AWARDS

Christmas Box House

Julie Bryant

Diagnostic Clinics

Judi Short
Sue Squire

Farmer's Market

Andrea Berman
Karen Ober

Utah Aids Foundation

Nano Podolsky
Beth Rumpel

Fresh from the Heart

Lee DeNiro

The Garden Patch

Eva Jensen
Golden Reeves

Tracy Aviary

Alexa Baxter

Gilgal Gardens

Bev Sudbury

Wheeler Farm

Sara Anderson

We thank all Master Gardener's for the hard work and knowledge you committed to our communities in 2010.

We would also like to thank our partner's and friends who help make our Projects successful...

Jordan Valley Conservation Garden Park, Tracy Aviary, Downtown Alliance Farmer's Market, Gilgal Garden, Christmas Box House, Wheeler Historic Farm, Utah Aids Foundation and Murray Park.

We would like to thank our Executive Board and Volunteers who have diligently served the Association for the last 2 years.

Your time & commitment has been very much appreciated!



President: Kathy Dennis
Vice President: Barbara Braeden
Secretary: Allison Topham
Treasurer: Cathy Miller
Historian: Diane Curtz
Program Coordinator: Jo Turpin
Program Coordinator: Charlene Homan
Volunteer Coordinator: Jennifer Knight



We welcome our newly elected Executive Board and Volunteers who will be serving the Association for the 2011-12 term.

Thanks for committing to make a difference for all of us!

President: Jeffrey Asay
Vice President: Diane Curtz
Secretary: Diana Kassavetis
Treasurer: Chris Palyka
Historian: Marilyn Jespersion
Program Coordinator: Sara Anderson
Program Coordinator: Andrea MacDonald
Volunteer Coordinator: Jannette Konold





Garden Reflections

by Vivian Baldwin

January Journal Entry

"It is not graceful and it makes one hot, but it is a blessed sort of work, and if Eve had had a spade in Paradise, and known what to do with it, we should not have had all that sad business of the apple."

- Countess von Amim

The garden catalogs are arriving... blessed hope of Spring! It may be your preference to go online and peruse through the Web site catalogs. However, I so enjoy curling up with a cup of peppermint tea in front of the fireplace and browsing the photos and descriptions of plants in bud and bloom. (A few catalogs that I enjoy are: *Gardeners Supply*, for tools, *White Flower Farms*, *Wayside Gardens*, *Spring Hill*, *Gurneys*, *Park Seed*, *Heirloom Roses*, *Dutch Gardens*, *Dave's Garden* and *Jackson Perkins*.) Looking through the 'wish books' is especially uplifting after months of winter, cold and snow. Tuck the arrivals in a large basket so you can find them easily. I put Post-it notes on the pages that interest me and can return when ready to order. Remember the zone in which you are gardening and order plants by zone, size, color, etc. Having your garden plan and existing plant list in the 'wish list' basket helps in your shopping decisions.

"It is extremely interesting to work out gardens in which some special colouring predominates, and to those who, by natural endowment or careful eye-cultivation, possess or have acquired what artists understand by an eye for colour, it opens out a whole new range of garden delights. Arrangements of this kind are sometimes attempted, for occasionally I hear of a garden for blue plants, or a white garden, but I think such ideas are but rarely worked out with the best aims."

"It is a curious thing that people will sometimes spoil some garden project for the sake of a word. For instance, a blue garden, for beauty's sake, may be hungering for a group of white Lilies, or for something of palest lemon-yellow, but it is not allowed to have it because it is called the blue garden, and there must be no flowers in it but blue flowers. I can see no sense in this; it seems to me like fetters foolishly self-imposed. Surely the business of the blue garden is to be beautiful as well as to be blue."

- Gertrude Jekyll, 1911

Getting to Know Master Gardener

MARILYN JESPERSON



Although a fairly new graduate, after three years Marilyn Jespersen considers herself well entrenched in the Association. She says, "I haven't met a Master Gardener I don't like." She speaks from experience having first contacted the County Extension ages ago when they'd trouble shoot problems by making trips directly to the home. Marilyn began returning the favor last summer

by hosting the SLMG booth at the Pioneer Park Farmer's Market. "I couldn't have done it without Andrea Berman," she says. A little more comfortable now, she's looking forward to next year.

"I was never into gardening as a teen," Marilyn says. She tells of growing up in old South Salt Lake when homes had huge lots of up to an acre. This provided ample space for her parents to grow fruit trees, berries, and large vegetable gardens. Thanks to them, favorites like tomatoes and peaches magically appeared for her enjoyment.

Her parents gardening conjured up memories in Marilyn and so she grew flowers. "I wasn't really into vegetables until recently," she says. This explains the traditional cucumbers, peppers and zucchini. She prefers heirloom tomatoes and eats 'em as fast as they ripen. Melons didn't do too well, not enough sun. "I'll probably have to dig up some lawn," Marilyn says, "but I'm not quite willing to do that yet."

Marilyn found gardening magic on the east side where she now lives. "Until I became a Master Gardener I didn't know how lucky I was to have sandy soil instead of clay." But she has her own challenges. She loves living in an older neighborhood with tall shady trees. But struggles to find sunny spaces in her yard and confesses, "I haven't had the courage to approach my neighbors about cutting down trees."

A lot of Marilyn's gardening is experimental. "I put it in. If I like it, fine. If not, I let it go." Picking up some tubers at the plant swap proved to be serendipity. She had no idea what variety they were but ended up with some captivating blooms, including a 10" white dahlia. She loves the beautiful, constant color. Sandy Burgess easily enticed her to join the Dahlia Society and she plans on winning some ribbons next year.

Marilyn is a registered nurse. Three years ago she decided life shouldn't be consumed by constant rushing. She went from full-time to part-time at St. Mark's and is gradually phasing out to 'per diem' - which is whenever she feels like going in. "I always worked and never had time for hobbies," she says. Now she's taken up knitting and spends more time with her 3 1/2 grandchildren.

"I'm really into grasses," Marilyn says. This came about by chance when she dug up around the base of a pine tree and ended up with bare spots. This led her to put in clumps of grass and an oriental fountain. She became enchanted by the sight of the plants waving in the breeze. "They gave such a stately element to the landscape that I've added grass to other areas," Marilyn explains. "Now I have a very delightful view from my deck." Just one amazing example of the earth's surprises.

SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER UPCOMING 2011 EVENTS



January Events

**General Meeting -
Thursday, January 20th, 2011
6:30 Social / 7:00 Presentation**

"Shade Gardening"

Location: USU Training Room S1008
2100 So State Street

Take the doldrums out of Winter and attend an educational presentation on how to make the shade in your garden work!

Our speaker will be Christena Gates, who is an Advanced Master Gardener and previous Director of the garden tours at Temple Square. She is now a Garden Designer at Temple Square and was a designer for the Wildflower Garden on top of the LDS Conference Center. Christena also co-authored the book *Temple Square Gardening* with Diane Erickson, Shelly Zollinger and Larry Sagars. **Be sure to attend this fun-filled evening!**

Bargain of the Year...only 4¢ per day!

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.

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!