

# The Garden Patch

SALT LAKE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



## THE PRESIDENT'S SCOOP



### *A hotel room, Boise Idaho, a little after 1:00 a.m....*

I can't sleep so I might as well use the time productively. At the monthly Board meeting, the issue of the budget was discussed and debated. Regrettably, we will be running a deficit this year of about \$1700.<sup>00</sup>. This is mainly due to the impact of loss of revenue from our new Master Gardener class in 2010 and possibly 2011. Thankfully, previous leaders of the Association had the foresight to set aside any surplus funds, and guard them for a situation such as we face now. We will be able to fund all of our Projects and other activities adequately. We also will be carefully monitoring expenditures to insure that funds are spent wisely, and save money where we can without any negative impact to the Mission of SLMGA. With careful management, we hope to reduce the projected deficit.

The latest word on the hiring of a new Extension Agent is that USU will be conducting interviews of candidates for the position at the end of February, and hope to have someone in place by the end of March. I look forward to being able to introduce the new Agent, hopefully at the March meeting or at the Plant Exchange in April. Either way, the

Board is committed to moving the organization forward, planning ahead, and anticipating an exciting new relationship with the new Extension Agent.

I would like to thank our Vice President, Diane Curtz, for her excellent work organizing our refreshments and door prizes for our meetings. Diane's efforts, and those of her committee, make our meetings much more pleasurable.

The Board has also decided to start a new program—"Star Awards"—which is explained more thoroughly in the article below. I would like to thank our Program Coordinator, Andi Macdonald, for her idea to recognize fellow MG's for their work, and for putting the program together. She will also act as coordinator of the program. Our *Garden Patch* editor, Allison Topham, also has contributed her outstanding artistic skills designing a logo for these monthly awards.

I appreciate our Board members for their time and commitment to the activities of the SLMGA. The Board member contact information is located on page 3. Please feel free to contact any of us with suggestions or information relating to the Association.

*Anyway, I had better try to get some sleep...*

**Jeffrey D. Asay**  
**SLMGA Board of Directors President**  
**Cell Phone: 801-597-2380**  
**E-mail: jeffrey.asay@gmail.com**



**Congratulations to LeeAnn Ehrhart** for being the lucky winner of the **February General Meeting door prize!** LeeAnn took home a SLMGA logo tote bag full of gardening "goodies". Be sure to attend future meetings and events for other possible giveaway chances!

## Introducing the **Star Award** for Recognizing Performance to the SLMGA

Master Gardeners are a diverse group, whose common interests go beyond recognizing a peony from a pansy or a good bug from a bad bug. We freely share knowledge, and pass what we know to the general public. Because our mission is education, our knowledge and instruction help to make our communities a better place to reside.

As a general group, Master Gardeners are dedicated volunteers, but among us are those who go the extra mile. Some do this in big, obvious ways, while others are quiet, staying more behind the scenes. Regardless, these heroes deserve recognition. Hence, we are initiating a new recognition program—**Star Awards**—to celebrate those Master Gardeners who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Each month, several Master Gardeners will be formally recognized at the monthly meeting. Their names and performance will also be published in *The Garden Patch*. To do this, we will need nominations. If you know a Master Gardener deserving of a Star Award, please let us know. You can send an email to [andimacdonald@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andimacdonald@sbcglobal.net), or call (801) 964-4814 (leave a message). All that is needed is a name and a reason the Master Gardener you are nominating is outstanding.





# Golden's Garden by Golden Reeves



**MARCH 2011**.....Some changes in the house have made it easier for me to keep my garden and propagation area healthy. We put in a new water softener in the basement and had a tap installed. Now I will not need to transport water from the outside to the basement planting area. I have been doing this for the last 20 years and I do not think I will miss it at all.

I have started the pepper plants. The jalapeños were the first to come up, needing only a few days. The sweet bell peppers were a different story. After 10 days with no sign of germination, I decided to purchase new seeds. I gave the original plantings another two days before planting the new seeds and when I checked them again they had germinated and were growing. On the package, it indicates it may take 14 days or more for them to germinate. Starting them on a heated seeding mat normally shortens the germination process.

Bart Anderson and I traveled to Erda for apple scion wood and will be teaching the **Grafting Class on Saturday, April 16th at 10:00 am**. The class will be taught at Bart's past home at 5340 West 3500 South on the north side of the road. It is an old red house. We have had some good groups attend over the years and find those taking the class have good results in grafting on their trees. Please come and join us. **(See more information about the grafting class on Page 7 in the SLMGA event section)**

As I study my rose hedge on the west side of the yard, I am not finding much green wood. About 20 years ago, we had a cold winter and I had to cut the rose hedge down to about 15 inches high. It looks as though it may need to be done again this year. This global warming has sure brought some cold winter weather and I will certainly be glad when it is over.

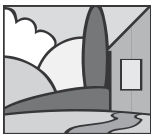
In the February *Garden Patch*, we were given some advice for putting our power tools away for the Winter. In the past, I have followed similar advice and still have had problems getting my equipment to start in the Spring. I now use a product in the gasoline called *STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer*. It stops the formation of gums and varnish in the engines and keeps the fuel fresh. I add it to the gasoline each time I fill up the gas can and only use gas from that can in my equipment. I try to keep the gas tanks in all of my power tools full. When other people borrow my equipment, I will not let them use their own gas. The pay off is that I have power tools that start all of the time even if it is the 27-year-old tiller I use only once a year. This product stops the gas tanks from rusting and keeps the carburetor from gumming up. Any auto store most likely carries *STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer*. It is a great product and keeps my repair costs down.

The Glacier tomato plant in our upstairs bedroom has been producing a few tomatoes that taste much better than store bought tomatoes. I have planted the Early Goliath, Country Taste, Cluster Grande and Applause tomatoes and they growing successfully. I will need to transplant them into larger individual containers in a few days. By this time, the sun will have moved north to the point that the solar panels on the greenhouse will have sun all day long. I can then move many of the plants from the basement to the greenhouse, creating more room in the basement for the smaller plants I want to place under the lights.

I have been drying many of my apples this year and as the weather warms up I need to finish this job before the apples spoil. They keep quite well in the garage during the winter but as it warms up, they can spoil quickly. I have a few boxes of Granny Smith apples left and at this point they have a natural waxing on them.

Spring is a fun time to see what the Winter Wind Gods have blown in to your yard.

## SLMGA Home Garden Tours



We are excited to announce that the SLMGA will again plan and organize **Member Home Garden Tours** to attend in Spring and Fall 2011. If you are interested in presenting your garden to the Association members please contact our Executive Board Vice President, **Diane Curtz**, either by phone or email:

**(801) 604-0808** [diane.curtz@utahhomes.com](mailto:diane.curtz@utahhomes.com)

## IMPORTANT!

Jan Konold is in the process of creating an email list comprised of all members so that mass email announcements can be sent to the membership. If your email has changed recently, please send an email to her so that you will receive informative association news - [mgvolunteers@comcast.net](mailto:mgvolunteers@comcast.net)

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Editor: Allison Topham  
Send address changes to:  
1124 East Range Road, SLC, Utah, 84117  
phone: 801.268.0077 or 801.486.2430 ext 30531  
email address: [gardenpatchstuff@yahoo.com](mailto:gardenpatchstuff@yahoo.com)

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



**Please direct all requests for Master Gardener speaker presentations to:**  
**[mgvolunteers@comcast.net](mailto: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. Jan can provide speaking tips and information if needed.



## READ THE LEAVES

*If your plants look healthy, grow well, and produce good crops, you're doing everything right. But, occasionally, a plant may cry out for an extra nutrient. It conveys the message of need primarily through the leaves. Here are some signs you can watch for to diagnose the problem before you lose your plant:*

### **MORE NITROGEN NECESSARY**

If a normally bright green plant begins to turn paler green, the lower leaves turn yellow, and the growth appears stunted, it probably needs additional nitrogen.

### **PHOSPHORUS FEEDING NEEDED NOW**

A phosphorus deficiency generally is indicated by stunted growth accompanied by red, purple, or very dark green foliage. Manure and other organic fertilizers are excellent for providing phosphorus. The soil microorganisms that decompose the organic matter temporarily use the phosphorus and then release it back into the soil in a form that is accessible to the plants. Although phosphorus may be present in the soil, it isn't always in a form that is available to plants. It is most available to plants when the weather is warm and when the soil is kept moist. If phosphorus deficiency is an ongoing problem in your garden, check the pH level. Phosphorus is more available to plants in soil with a pH level between 6.0 and 7.8.

### **DETECTING OTHER DEFICIENCIES**

**Boron.** If new leaf growth is pale green at the base and twisted, the plant probably lacks boron. Add wood ashes or kelp meal.

**Calcium.** If new leaves and opening buds die back at the tips, the plant probably needs calcium. Apply lime to the soil to correct the deficiency.

**Copper.** Insufficient copper causes young leaves to grow pale and eventually wilt. At that point, the tips turn brown. A vinegar drench will provide a short-term solution.

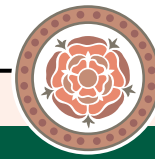
**Iron.** Iron deficiency is indicated by yellowing between the leaf veins and stunted growth. Choose a chelated iron, which maintains the iron in a nonionized water-soluble form so the nutrient can be absorbed by the plant.

**Manganese.** A lack of manganese shows up as yellowing between the veins on young leaves, with brown spots scattered throughout the leaf. Douse the plant with a tablespoon of Epsom salts diluted in a gallon of water.

**Potassium.** Weak stems and leaves with yellow tips and edges that eventually turn brown are the signs of inadequate potassium. Greensand and granite meal are good sources of potassium.

**Sulfur.** A lack of sulfur is indicated by young leaves that turn light green. Add organic matter to the soil in increase the sulfur content.

**Zinc.** A zinc shortage is recognizable by yellowing between the leaf veins, thickened leaves, and stunted growth. Again, a vinegar drench is helpful.



## 2011-12 SLMGA BOARD CONTACT LIST

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

### **President**

**Jeff Asay**

Phone: (801)597-2380  
Email: jeffreayasay@gmail.com

### **Vice President**

**Diane Curtz**

Phone: (801)604-0808  
Email: dianecurtz@utahhomes.com

### **Secretary**

**Diana Kassavetis**

Phone: (801)481-5901  
Email: taxonsrus@yahoo.com

### **Treasurer**

**Chris Palyka**

Phone: (801)321-7424  
Email: cpalyka@slco.org

### **Historian**

**Marilyn Jespersion**

Phone: (801)942-1217  
Email: urnslc@msn.com

### **Program Coordinators**

**Andi MacDonald**

Phone: (801)243-7242  
Email: andimacdonald@sbcglobal.net

**Sara Anderson**

Phone: (801)571-8970  
Email: oneoeight108@msn.com

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

**Jan Konold**

Phone: (801)572-4153  
Email: mgvolunteers@comcast.net

### **The Garden Patch Editor**

**Allison Topham**

Phone: (801)268-0077  
Email: gardenpatchstuff@yahoo.com

March

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2011



Check out the  
USU Extension Website

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

Follow the  
Master Gardener links



# Straw Bale Gardening by Debbie Stevenson

No, you can't spin straw into gold, but you can turn it into vegetables, herbs and even flowers! How? With straw bale gardening. This technique, being used successfully in Westminster College's organic garden, piqued my curiosity, and I decided to do a little research. To date, my only experience with straw bales has been as clean bedding for animals on the farm and as a porch decoration in the fall. Some creative soul decided to use a straw bale as a container and growing medium all in one. The basic principle is that the decomposition of the straw feeds the plants.

with plastic or wire, then lay the bale with the plastic/wire touching the ground on one side. Water will soak in and not run off as easily.

If new bales were purchased, they must be preconditioned before planting. This process takes approximately two weeks and involves applying a nitrogen-rich fertilizer to the bale at regular intervals and keeping the bale wet until it retains a temperature that is fairly constant three to four inches inside the bale. This process is detailed in several of the reference articles (listed below). Preconditioning is very important. If the bale is planted without completing this step, nutrients will be robbed from the seedlings or plants for the startup of the decomposition process. Furthermore, heat produced from the initial decomposition will harm the plants.

When bales are ready to be planted, make pockets in the straw and insert the plant along with compost to fill the hole or by putting several inches of compost on top of the bale as a seed bed. If plants require staking, it is best to drive stakes into the ground against the short side of each bale and run wire or netting between the stakes. After planting is complete, watering and fertilizing are the main concern. From what I've read, one drawback of straw bale gardening is that it requires a lot of water. Consider drip irrigation or a soaker hose or even bottles or jugs with "slow leaks" placed on the bales. It is recommended that plants be fertilized weekly with compost tea or fish emulsion. Finally, straw bales should generally be used for just one growing season. After the harvest, the leftover straw makes great compost or mulch.

So there you have it—the basic steps for straw bale gardening. Maybe we can't spin straw into gold, but vegetables grown in the straw bales may be worth their weight in gold given the predicted rise in the cost of food in 2011. So plant some vegetables, herbs and maybe even a flower in a straw bale and work some magic that will rival Rumpelstiltskin.



Besides the novelty of it, there are some good reasons for considering straw bale gardening. Plants are within easy reach for anyone who has difficulty bending over. Weeding is greatly minimized. Since vegetables are off the ground, they are kept clean and also safe from damage by ground-crawling insects. It's a good alternative if poor soil is a problem, or there hasn't been time to develop a good garden spot. Planting can take place earlier in the Spring and continue later into the Fall because of the heat being produced by the decomposition process.

If straw bale gardening sounds appealing, the first step would be to purchase the straw. Old bales that are still tightly held together with baling wire or twine are more desirable than new bales because the decomposing process has already begun. New bales must be treated to accelerate the decomposition process as described below. The next step is bale placement. Be sure to choose a location with easy access to water and at least 6 to 8 hours of sunlight. Bales can be laid out in any configuration. They can even be used to shore up a terraced area of your garden. Bales with biodegradable twine should be placed on their sides so that the twine/string is running around the sides of the bale and not touching the ground. This ensures that the bales won't fall apart over time. The ends of the straw stalks will be pointing up. This arrangement makes it easier to plant by parting the stalks, but water will drain through the bale much faster. If the bale is held together



## Article References:

- *Straw Bale Bed: A Way to Garden While Building Soil*, <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7191/PSS-2264web.pdf>
- *Straw Bale Gardening*, <http://www.no-dig-vegetablegarden.com/straw-bale-gardening.html>
- *Straw Bale Gardening* by Dennis Doncastor, [http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/sweetwaterces/County\\_Info/Sweetwater/Newletters/Over%20the%20Garden%20Fence-Spring%202008.pdf](http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/sweetwaterces/County_Info/Sweetwater/Newletters/Over%20the%20Garden%20Fence-Spring%202008.pdf)
- *Hydroponics in the Garden*, <http://www.co.clay.mn.us/Depts/Extensio/ExAPHydr.htm>
- *Straw Bale Gardening*, <http://strawbalegardens.com>
- Karsten, Joel. *Guide to Growing a Straw Bale Garden*. Pamphlet.



# RON JONES

Born in Penaca, Nevada, Ron has gardened all his life. He learned from his grandpa who had a farm. Ron started with vegetables, his first love. He says he got brave when he was six and asked, "Could I have my own ground?" His grandpa struck a deal with Ron. "I'll give you one row. If you do good I'll add another next year." This went on for ten or so years until his grandfather died in a tragic accident. Ron, only a teenager, then took over the entire farm.

Ron met Nancy, his future wife and sweetheart of 55 years at Lincoln County High School. They have seven children, 25 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Happily, the majority of them live nearby. He attended the University of Nevada and later BYU where his ROTC experience led to a military career. Ron's 30 years in the Army Medical Service Corps included flying helicopters and fixed wing aircraft as well as two tours in Viet Nam. In spite of this transitory life, Ron says, "I had a farm everywhere I traveled in the military."

After retirement from the Army, Ron began his second career working for LDS Military relations and later in the medical health field. As a project manager he supervised new buildings and upgrading of existing facilities. He always found time for other interests, such as collecting coins, guns and knives. A dedicated scouter of 55 years, he also has all sorts of Boy Scout paraphernalia.

Ron signed up with the SLMGA, "To see if I was doing things right – or what I could do better." A December 2005 graduate, he was honored as "Most Promising Apprentice of the Year." His reward? He became Project Manager for the new Wheeler Farm demo garden. Not one to rest on his laurels, Ron has accumulated almost 600 volunteer hours to date.

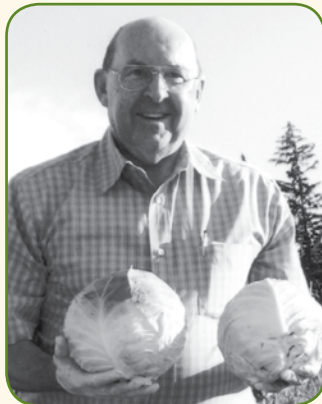
In 2006, Ron was called out of retirement for volunteer service in the presidency of the Palmyra New York temple to officiate in a religious capacity. But the Master Gardener saw additional duties of a more earthly nature. Ron, the farmer, looked around and thought, "These people haven't yet caught the vision of what temple grounds should look like." This was verified when he learned a paltry 8,900 plants had been ordered. He set about to create what he calls, "Wow!!! Flower beds. The kind that people would exclaim when they saw them." He had his work cut out for him. Much of the plantings had to be changed out, especially the deer-friendly shrubs and highly allergenic low-growing cedars. He also had to adjust for watering needs. "It was nice not to have to water your garden most of the time," he says, "but it's not wet enough in the Spring and we had to carry water to the plants until they grew."

Ron learned he had to work with different growing seasons than Western gardens. Ron started with the staples. Going for a burst of colors, mid-May plantings included begonias, petunias and pansies. Gorgeous mums flourished during September. Preparation for the Spring garden meant planting interesting varieties of tulips, daffodils, crocus and other bulbs in mid-October.

Prolific sedum and lantanas were added to beds as filler. Ron starts to rattle off the flowers he used for drama. "Crown Imperial. A stately lily with beautiful bells, but an awful smell. Heliotrope, cosmos, salvia, poppies, delphinium." He stops with, "I could go on and on." No wonder when Ron left three years later the plant order had increased to 24,000. The amazing part is his crew usually consisted of only 4-5 volunteers, a dozen at the most. A youth group added a rose garden and they, like other helpers came back multiple times to check on what they planted.

Official duties notwithstanding, Ron never took a break from Master Gardener's during this time. He met the group out of Cornell University. Listed on the speaker's bureau, he became in demand to teach classes throughout the area and he says some did very well.

Released in November 2009, Ron and his wife returned to Utah. "We're barely getting our yard back to the way we want," Ron says. Trying new flowers led him to join the Utah Dahlia Society and he raves about a favorite, Island Dynasty, AA yellow. Of course he's growing vegetables showing that no matter the climate or country, "You can take the boy out of the farm but you can't take the farm out of the boy."



## THE MEANING OF ROSE COLORS

Historically, the color of a rose has a special meaning.

**RED - LOVE & ROMANCE:** One of the most universal of symbols, the red rose represents true love. It has also appeared throughout history and across cultures as a political and religious symbol.

**YELLOW - FRIENDSHIP, JOY & GET WELL:** Throughout history, yellow has been associated with the sun, making these roses excellent for cheering people up. Yellow roses send a message of appreciation and platonic love without the romantic subtext of other colors. The color also represents feeling of joy and delight.

**PINK - LOVE, GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION:** Pink has a connotation of grace and elegance, as well as sweetness and poetic romance. Dark pink roses are symbolic of gratitude and appreciation, and are a traditional way to say thank you. Light pink roses are associated with gentleness and admiration and can also be used as an expression of sympathy.

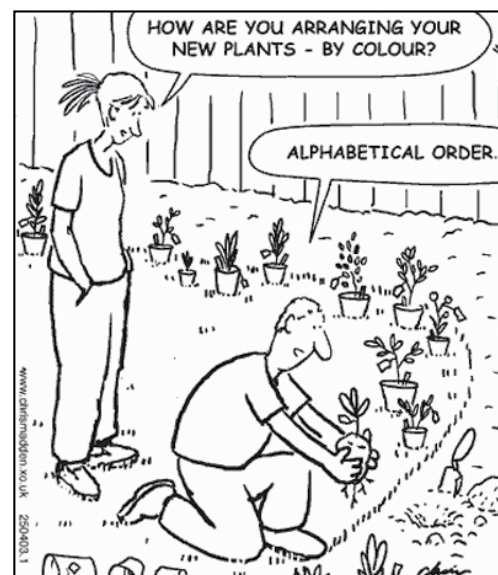
**WHITE - PURITY, INNOCENCE & SYMPATHY:** In early traditions, white roses were used as a symbol for true love, an association that would later become a hallmark or the red rose. Also known as the bridal rose, the white rose is a traditional wedding flower. It represents unity, virtue, and the pureness of a new love. White roses are also associated with honor, reverence and sincerity.

**ORANGE - DESIRE, ENTHUSIASM & PASSION:** Orange roses are viewed as a bridge between friendship (yellow) and love (red). They can also say "I am proud of you."

**LAVENDER - ENCHANTMENT, LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT :**

The color purple has a traditional association with royalty. In this regard, shades of lavender roses suggest an air of regal majesty and splendor.

From <http://shine.yahoo.com>



# THE CLEMATIS



Clematis is a genus of about 300 species within the buttercup family *Ranunculaceae*. They are popular among gardeners with more cultivars being produced constantly in all regions.

## ETYMOLOGY

The genus name is from Ancient Greek klématis, a climbing plant, probably Periwinkle. There are over two hundred species and cultivars, often named for their originators or particular characteristics.

## BOTANY

The genus is composed of mostly vigorous, woody, climbing vines / lianas. The woody stems are quite fragile until several years old. Leaves are opposite and divided into leaflets and leafstalks that twist and curl around supporting structures to anchor the plant as it climbs. Some species are shrubby, while others are herbaceous perennial plants. The cool temperate species are deciduous, but many of the warmer climate species are evergreen. They grow best when their roots are shaded but their tops are in full sun. They are generally acid-intolerant calciphytes that grow on limestone and other basic soils.

The timing and location of flowers varies; Spring-blooming clematis flower on the previous year's stems, Summer/Fall blooming clematis bloom only on the ends of new stems, and twice-flowering clematis do both at the respective times. Clematis species are mainly found throughout the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, rarely in the tropics. Clematis leaves are a popular food for the caterpillars.

## HISTORICAL USE AND TOXICITY

Clematis was called *Pepper Vine* by early travelers and pioneers of the American Old West and used as a pepper substitute to spice up food since true black pepper was a costly and rarely obtainable spice. The entire genus contains essential oils and compounds which are extremely irritating to the skin and mucous membranes. Unlike black pepper or Capsicum, however, the compounds in Clematis cause internal bleeding of the digestive tract if ingested in large amounts. The plants are essentially toxic. When pruning them, it's a good idea to wear gloves. Despite its toxicity, Native Americans used very small amounts of Clematis as an effective treatment for migraine headaches and nervous disorders. It was also used as an effective treatment of skin infections.

## GARDEN BEAUTIES

Many of the most popular garden forms are cultivars belonging to the *Viticella* section of the subgenus *Flammula*. These larger-flowered cultivars are often used within garden designs to climb archways, pergolas, wall-mounted trellis or to grow through companion plants. These forms normally have large 12–15 cm diameter upward-facing flowers.

(From **Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia** - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clematis>)

Encourage Natural Predators to Rid of

# SNAILS & SLUGS

**FROGS** They require: ponds & streams with access. Low dense vegetation or cover to lay-up in during the day (they are mainly nocturnal). Their predators are: owls, seagulls, grass snakes, cats, crows, weasels, stoats, foxes, rats, hedgehogs, pike etc. They hibernate so must have: hole in the ground under tree or rocks, tree root, old log, stone wall, compost heap etc. In a very good hibernation location, frogs, newts, toads, lizards and snakes may overwinter together. Large frogs eat large slugs & snails; smaller eat smaller. They eat snail shells too. Slugs are a very high proportion of diet. Frogs can live for 10 years.

**HENS** Small breeds only. Large strong hens are very destructive - lumps of vegetation go flying. They can be trained to come when called to strategically placed pieces of carpet or wood, to eat hiding slugs & snails & woodlice. When confined, they will clear the ground of slugs & snails & of most vegetation! Maybe introduced into gardens for short periods or given very extensive range. Some plants such as soft fruit or lettuce must be protected so hens will not eat them.

**DUCKS** Especially Indian runner (which can't swallow frogs & toads, Harlequin, Kharki Campbell have proved successful. Types of duck which naturally have a low vegetable diet, or are natural mollusc feeders. They should at first be carefully observed to ensure they are eating slugs and snails and not damaging garden plants. Strawberries will need to be netted. They may be introduced into the garden only for short periods when there are slugs about, or given a very extensive range to forage in. They should be allowed access to their preferred green foods (if any) at all times; and not at the same time allowed to feed in deep water, where they will prefer to forage.

**GROUND BEETLES** Energetic hunters of slugs and other creatures. Breed more slowly than slugs & can't keep up with sudden slug increases. They require Summer nesting sites: stones or logs etc. Many species are active for only a few weeks in Spring & Summer before entering a resting period before laying eggs in Autumn. Require cover while hunting: under plants, debris, mulches, etc. Most species prefer moist shady conditions & feed mainly at night. A few are active in the day & prefer more open ground.

**SLOW WORMS** They require: an undisturbed spot, a compost heap is ideal. Vegetation, a sunny spot: woodland clearing, old ivy covered wall, hedge bank, railway embankment, corrugated iron sheet laid on the ground etc. Eat especially small white slugs, also other slugs & some snails. They are more effective after rain. They can live 30 years.

**COMMON SHREW** They require: Cover, especially long rough grass. Undisturbed site for nest, especially a hole or burrow in the ground. Their diet consists of earthworms, beetles, spiders, woodlice & many slugs & snails. They remove the slime from slugs first. They hunt especially at dusk, night & dawn.

**OTHER PREDATORS OF SNAILS & SLUGS** Though snails and slugs are only a small part of their diet, encourage song thrushes, redwings, rooks, jackdaws, jays, magpies, starlings, blackbirds (eat snails in winter), fieldfare, gulls, owls, robins, toads (they were once commonly kept in greenhouses to control slugs & snails), moles, common lizard, foxes, mice, and rats.

From <http://www.haywardm.supanet.com/predators.html>

# Honoring Salt Lake Master Gardener **DICK JOHNSON** 1933-2011



(From the Salt Lake Tribune, Sunday, February 13, 2011)

Richard Lyman Johnson 1933 - 2011. Dick Johnson, a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and great-grandfather returned to his Heavenly Father on February 12 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Dick was born to Hyrum and Gladys Forsgren Johnson on May 27, 1933. He grew up in Fairview, Idaho. He married Marlene Sorensen in the Salt Lake Temple on April 20, 1956. He was an active member of the LDS Church, coached several sports teams, member of the Salt Lake Master Gardener Association, enjoyed fishing, building things in his shop, and was everyone's favorite milkman. Survived by his wife, Marlene, sons Ritch (Janie) and Phillip (Tammy) and daughters Lisa Probst and Amy Denning, grandchildren Cory, Todd, Devin, Randy, Tanner, TaylorAnne, Tyler, Whitney, and Justin, 5 great-granddaughters, sister Helen (John), Gallenstein, and brother Lynn (Sharon) Johnson. Preceded in death by his parents, brothers Virgil and Kenneth and sisters Gwen and LaRee.

With sorrow, we announce the passing of long-time Salt Lake Master Gardener Dick Johnson, and send our condolences to his wife Marlene, also a Master Gardener. They were together for 55 wonderful years. Dick was a terrific person and one of the finest of the "old guard" of Master Gardeners. Dick served on the Executive Board as Treasurer during the 2001-2002 term. He and Marlene spent time as Project Leaders at Wheeler Farm.

In 1999, Dick and Marlene were honored with the SLMGA *Master Gardeners of the Year* award. And more recently, in 2008, Dick and Marlene were presented with the *Sudbury Lifetime Achievement* award for their years of dedication and service to the Association and the Salt Lake community. They also won awards for their horticulture entries in past Utah State and County Fairs, especially for Dick's outstanding gourds.



## SLMGA UPCOMING EVENTS

### March Events

**Thursday, March 17th / General Meeting Social & Refreshments 6:30 / Presentation 7:00**

**"Growing Unusual Perennials in the Utah Climate" by Rob Larkin**

Location: USU Training Room S1008 / 2100 So State Street

Our speaker for this educational evening will be Master Gardener Rob Larkin. He will present information on growing unusual perennials in our Utah climate. This should be an interesting evening for those of us who tend to plant and have knowledge of the same types of flowers in our gardens.



### April Events

**Saturday, April 16th at 10:00am**

**"Grafting Scion Wood Class" (see Golden's article on Page 2)**

Location: Bart Anderson's past residence / 5340 West 3500 South, West Valley

Longtime Master Gardeners Bart Anderson and Golden Reeves will be teaching a Grafting class on Saturday, April 16th, 10:00am, at Bart Anderson's past residence. Please start saving your scion wood now so it will be ready to graft this Spring. The scion wood should be stored in a plastic bag in the back of the refrigerator to keep it dormant until it is ready to be used. Bart and Golden hope to have a good turnout to this class. Plan to attend this class taught by our experts!

**Thursday, April 21st / General Meeting...more details in the April newsletter!**

**"Annual Plant Exchange"**

Location: Murray Park

Please plan to bring your extra plants and starts to Murray Park for the **Annual Plant Exchange**. Share your vegetables, herbs, flowers, bulbs, day lilies, and anything else you would like to trade. Please label the type of plant and possibly include planting and care instructions. Remember to bring something to transport your plants in such as boxes or trays. **Bring extra vegetables for the Utah Aids Foundation grow boxes we will be planting this Spring, and for the Fresh From the Heart project!**



## Final call...Dues must be paid by March 31st!

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 and continue your GP subscription.

### **VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION! MISREPRESENTATION OF ASSOCIATION**

*If anyone uses the Association name or any of its member lists for monetary gain, they are guilty of misrepresentation of the Association. At the direction of the Executive Board, the offender will be contacted through a letter informing them of the problem.*

*Their membership will be revoked and the unused portion of their fees will not be refunded. The Executive Board will have the responsibility of publishing a statement each year in the month of March to the effect that each member is not to use the Association name, the title of Master Gardener, or the mailing list for commercial or other gain. These rules will also be discussed by the county USU Extension personnel in the first class of each session of the new MG class.*

## 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!*