

**The Garden Patch**  
Salt Lake Master Gardener Association  
855 South 700 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SANDY, UT 84070  
PERMIT No. 56

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## GARDENING TIP OF THE MONTH



### A Message About Manure

Contributed by  
Debbie Stevenson

Recently, I was in a room full of master gardeners when the subject of manure came up. The topic generated a lot of interest, and there was a lively discussion. I would like to share with you my contribution to the conversation.

For several years now my husband and I have hauled in composted horse manure from the Salt Lake County Equestrian Center. Horse manure is plentiful there as evidenced by the "mountains" of the stuff! The manure is free if you load it yourself. For only \$5 they have loaded our half ton truck bed, and the driver has been very cooperative about loading from the well-aged pile. The Equestrian Center will also deliver, and depending on how far they have to travel, the fee is from \$32 to \$59.

They are located in South Jordan at 2100 West 11400 South, and can be contacted at 801-254-0106. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

### 2012 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 2012!*



## A Note from our President

by *Diane Curtz* SLMGA Board President



A very special thanks to Cathy Miller, chair of the 2011 Award's Banquet committee, those members who helped set up the beautiful tables and those who helped clean up after the banquet ended. Also, thanks to everyone who attended the banquet and brought the wonderful food we all enjoyed. It was a really fun event. Last, but certainly not least, and the reason we were all there, I want to especially thank those members we were honoring that evening who volunteered on SLMGA projects in 2011. You are an awesome group of individuals! You are what being a member of SLMGA is all about--providing service and education to make our community a better place.

For those of you who haven't yet renewed your annual membership for 2012, I encourage you to do so. The Board is in the process of planning another great year of interesting, educational and fun programs and activities. I know that there are still a number of you who are confused on how to proceed in 2012 with respect to the SLMGA and the USU Master Gardener Program. You can be involved in both entities. If you sign a letter of commitment with Katie Wagner, the USU Extension Agent, and volunteer 15 or more hours on USU approved projects, you will retain your active Master Gardener status with USU. Additionally, Katie and JayDee Gunnel, Salt Lake County Extension Director, are planning a number of hands on educational labs at different locations in Salt Lake County (such as a pruning). If you don't wish to retain your active MG status with USU but still want to volunteer on SLMGA projects, our Vice President Golden Reeves has arranged for you to submit your hours to Salt Lake County for credit (please see information on Page 2).<sup>1</sup> For those of you who wish to, you can volunteer on both SLMGA and USU projects. Information on the USU and SLMGA projects will be included in the April issue of *The Garden Patch*. For those of you who aren't able to volunteer but wish to attend SLMGA monthly meetings and other activities, we welcome you. Our association is made up of both active and inactive Master Gardeners.

I am proud to be your President, and I look forward to interacting with all of you in 2012.

Diane Curtz

### Getting to Know Master Gardener

## ANDI MACDONALD



"Oh, my gosh, gardening is so different here," says **Andi MacDonald**. She moved from California exactly two years ago when her husband's job with Union Pacific Railroad brought them to Utah. She found it quite a change from Fresno where it's cold at 43° and she could go outside every day and pick some sort of vegetable. Andi had to make another adjustment. "It's hard being away from family," she says. The MacDonald's have a daughter in Sacramento, and two granddaughters, ages six and nine, who they manage to keep in contact with via video computer chats.

A Master Gardener in Fresno for twelve years, Andi served as newsletter editor and devoted much of her time to their three acre demonstration garden. In keeping with her Tudor style home, she cultivated an English garden. Three different organizations chose her landscape as a stop on garden tours. These were fundraisers and each drew between 1600-2000 visitors.

Andi has a Bachelor's degree in English and taught elementary school for 20 years. She also managed a side business as a personal chef and caterer for small events. Andi says, "I was always cooking." She decided to follow her dream and earned her degree in culinary arts. After an audition she was chosen to intern at *Chez Panisse*, a top ranked restaurant and spent the summer of 2010 in Berkeley honing her skills.

"It's pretty exciting to be here starting all over again," Andi says. She's opened her own business "Andi's Magic Apron" where she caters to select clientele and teaches cooking classes. She's also excited for January when she will be an instructor at an international culinary school, the acclaimed *Art Institute* in Draper. The downside is she won't be available for SLMGA meetings and must step down as Program Coordinator.

"This past summer is the first I've spent in Utah," Andi says, and she's grateful for helpful neighbors. "They've passed along tips I never would have thought of, like unhooking hoses for the winter." She's in the process of planning next year's garden, taking into consideration things like the sun on different areas. Like a homesteader she plans to clear the land, mostly to take out what she calls 'parking lot plants' like shrubs. "Turf uses a lot of water," she says, "and in Fresno I took out the lawn. When asked if she would do that here, she answered an emphatic, "Yup." The sprinkler system has to go as well, replaced by irrigation. Somewhere in the future, she also expects to add a greenhouse to extend the growing season.

Andi took an advanced Master Gardener class to help her prepare to garden in our climate. Living near San Joaquin Valley she easily had 200 varieties of roses to choose from. Although those are somewhat limited by Utah weather she's eager to put in new plants. "I could not grow peonies," Andi says. "And I can finally grow apples which I couldn't because we didn't have the chilling hours they needed."

All in all, the MacDonald's are enjoying their whole new experience. They explored Utah this summer, driving and hiking the canyons. Andi says, "I can't ever look at the mountains enough." Now unable to garden year round, winter is all freed up so the couple can take advantage of winter sports, like snowshoeing.



by Golden Reeves



# Golden's Garden

**JANUARY 2012**.....As Fall came to my garden, I found I had a problem with an abundance of aphids on the tomato vines. I was going to spray them but, in looking at the Malathion label, I needed at least 7 days after spraying before the fruit could be harvested. Frost was coming, so thought it best to leave the aphids alone. I covered the tomatoes a few times and found the ladybugs were at work; by the time I took the tomatoes down, all of the aphids were gone.

The apple trees also had some woolly apple aphids on some of the branches, mainly where a limb had been cut off. I have had this problem in the past and it has been hard to get rid of the pest. By using some Malathion in a spray bottle and soaking down the area, then using a tooth brush for scrubbing, the aphids were destroyed. As Spring arrives, you may need to check your apple trees for this pest that appears over the Winter. Look for a white cottony substance around the areas where limbs have been cut off or around some of the leaf nodes.

In the basement, I was able to take some Verbena cuttings and have them growing without white flies or aphids showing up. The Pelargonium cuttings that were taken this past Fall are beginning to bloom. Last year, I had a Pepper Mint Patty and as I would take cuttings from it, the blossoms did not develop. I am happy to report that I have three of them blooming and they look great.

I planted some tomatoes in early November and by January they should be in bloom. Last year, I had a pot of tomatoes growing in the south bedroom window that were doing well until the sun traveled north. I plan to try them again this year because I need tomatoes in bloom when teaching the tomato propagation classes in March.

With the longer Fall and the nice weather we have had this year, I was able to get all of the leaves harvested for mulch in the garden. Last year, one of my apple trees held it's leaves until Spring, this year most of the leaves have fallen.

Since it is now 2012, it is important to start thinking about if you would like to do any grafting. If so, February is the time to save scion wood. So what is scion wood? To most of us it is the fast growing water sprouts we see growing in our fruit trees. This is what we save in February by storing it in the refrigerator in a plastic bag until time to graft in April or early May. For grafting success, dormant wood is very important to use in the process. In the April *Garden Patch*, we will list the date and time our annual grafting class will be scheduled.

It is also time to inventory our seeds for the new growing season. Do some research to see if you have enough stored seeds to plant this year and make a list of what you need to reorder. I try to keep enough seed on hand for two years. Currently, I have two orders ready to send off. The Country Taste Tomato is one I found two years ago. It has performed very well in my garden. The fruit grows to a good size on large indeterminate healthy plants and the taste is great. Many gardeners ask me what my favorite tomato is to grow. Most of the time, I tell them it is the ripe one, straight out of the garden. The Glacier tomato is still the earliest and will last for the longest time so for me it is a type that I always plant. This is the variety I am growing in the basement now.

I will be teaching the tomato propagation class at Red Butte Gardens in March and also presenting information at our monthly Master Gardener meeting the on March 15th (see SLMGA activities on page 4). Please plan to attend so that we can all learn from each other.

I hope to survive the Winter tending to my garden in the basement and other plants in the house that are being protected from Old Man Winter's cold blast. Grab a good gardening book and plan for the Spring that will arrive before we know it.

Winter: Jan/Feb/Mar  
2  
2012

## SLMGA Volunteer Hours



There have been many questions about where the SLMGA members will report their volunteer hours for the current year. Golden Reeves has contacted Sheryl Ivey, who is the Volunteer Service Program director for Salt Lake County. She will be happy to set up an account for the SLMGA where our volunteer hours can be recorded. The SLMGA year runs from October 15, 2011 to October 14, 2012.

Hours must be submitted to Sheryl Ivey by October 15, 2012 to be recorded. A volunteer hour form will be sent in the Sept/Oct 2012 *Garden Patch* for your convenience. It is advisable to keep track of your personal hours on a regular basis to be added to the form when you receive it.

During this current time period, SLMGA members can report the hours for SLMGA projects that USU will not accept. If you have not signed the letter of servitude from USU as a Master Gardener, then all of your volunteer hours can be reported through the SLMGA. This will give credence to the continuation of our 22 years of service to Salt Lake County through our Association. If a service project we have had in the past has been dropped by the USU Extension, we will still count those hours for the SLMGA. If a service project is being supported by the USU Extension, those hours volunteered should be reported to USU, and not duplicated for the SLMGA. This will give the Association an opportunity for wider service to our county residents. The main goal of both organizations is to assist the community. In the April edition of *The Garden Patch*, a full list of volunteer projects will be available.

There are many members that belong to SLMGA that are not able to participate in service hours but still want to keep the friendships they have made through this organization. These connections have always been one of the main goals of the SLMGA—to bring like minds together to share experiences and to learn more about gardening while associating with one another. The major goal has always been to assist the USU extension agent in taking care of their responsibilities in Salt Lake County. By joining Jaydee and Katie, you may participate in the USU Extension volunteer project and activities. You may also stay a part of the SLMGA, which exists as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, thanks to the past efforts of Cathy Miller. We would also like to remind you to please remember to renew your membership by sending in your 2012 annual SLMGA dues. The cost is only \$15.00. You will find a renewal form on the back of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at the continued SLMGA General Meetings and activities the Board has planned throughout the year. Please refer to your *Garden Patch* newsletter and email correspondence for service project information and planned activities in 2012.



# Creativity in the Landscape

by Debbie Stevenson

It was Dale Carnegie who said "When fate hands you a lemon, make lemonade." This Missouri farm boy probably wasn't thinking about horticulture when he made this philosophical statement, but it applies equally well towards making the best of what happens in your yard or garden. For example, a number of years ago, we had to cut down a pine tree that had been planted too close to our house. My husband was concerned that the tree's roots would eventually damage the foundation. Our youngest daughter was very distressed about the "death" of the tree. In an effort to put a positive spin on the situation, my husband left eight feet of the trunk in place and positioned an ivy runner up the trunk, and today we have a very unique "tree" as you can see from the photo.

When a friend of mine saw our "tree" a few years back, it inspired her to think creatively for a solution to a similar situation in her yard. She and her husband had two spruce trees that were planted very closely, and had outgrown their area. The trees were leaning away from each other in an effort to gain space, and one spruce's terminal leader was dead. My friends were concerned about the potential for damage to the wall or the neighbor's covered patio if either of the trees should fall. With a bit of creative thinking, my friend came up with the idea to have the trunks carved into the likeness of an owl and a bear. After removing all but four feet of each trunk, they hired a wood carver, and "Screech" and "Boo-Boo" became a fun focal point in their front yard. The bear was carved onsite; the owl was carved in the workshop and then anchored into the hollow carved in the trunk. A bit of linseed oil applied once a year keeps them looking their best. With the massive trees gone, this corner of the yard is now a sunny spot providing the opportunity for growing plants such as Penstemon digitalis 'Husker Red' and Oenothera speciosus, some groundcover and a beautiful purple clematis. The wood carvings were a fun and creative way to resolve the problem of the trees outgrowing their corner of the yard and becoming a safety issue.

With December 1st's high winds, which downed hundreds of trees in Davis and Weber Counties, it seems like a good idea to be proactive like my friends—assess the potential for damage by large trees and take steps to protect your home and other structures. As you work to resolve issues in your yard, remember to think creatively about what could be done. In my neighborhood alone, I've seen a deciduous tree that died and is now completely covered in ivy with a birdfeeder hanging from a branch, and a very tall tree trunk with a carved eagle perched on top. These, as well as the solutions shown in the photos, are great examples of turning "lemons into lemonade" in the landscape.

*Debbie's husband left eight feet of the trunk of the tree in place and positioned an ivy runner up the trunk creating a very unique tree for the neighbors to enjoy.*

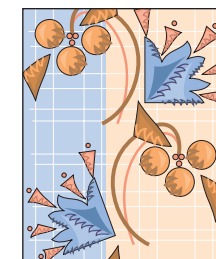


*Some friends were inspired by Debbie's unique tree. A few overgrown spruce trees in their yard were in need of being cut down because of potential damage. Leaving four feet of trunk on each tree, a wood carver was hired to create these unique personalities..."Screech" and "Boo-Boo" ... in their yard, bringing smiles to faces of those who pass by.*

Winter: Jan/Feb/Mar  
5  
2012

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