

THE GARDEN PATCH



January 2003

Salt Lake Master Gardener Association

Vol. 5, No. 1

Annual Graduation and Awards Banquet

The annual graduation and awards dinner held Dec. 12th at Wheeler Farm was a great success. There was plenty of food, our new sound system worked very well, and most important, we have a good turn out of Master Gardeners, their guests, and other special guests. There was also a changing of the guard, as the outgoing board were recognized and thanked and the incoming board introduced.

*A new award was instituted -- the Executive Board Award. It is designed to recognize those Master Gardeners who have given continual, dedicated service to the Association over a number of years. A standing ovation accompanied the first presentation of this award to Don and Bev Sudbury, who have been exemplary volunteers over the years. Awards given at the banquet included:

Dale Hughes Award

Charles Freeman

Master Gardener of the Year

Eva Daniels

40 Hour Completion Certificate and Badge

Marie Burke	Eva Jensen
Doug Campbell	Sydney McDonald
Steve Clark	Teresa Rivera
Beth Dunston	Richard Saunders
Amy Hargreaves-Judzis	Karyn Smith
Jennifer Harrison	April Sokolowsky
Charlene Homan	Marcia Thomas
Jack House	Maretta Wight

50 Hour Certificate and Pin

Howard Andrews	Christina Gates
Barbara Ballingham	Janette Glover
Mary Barlow	Trudy Guest
Jenny Bennett	Diane House
Jeff Beck	Kari Kay
Karen Crook	Carol Lindsay
Peggy Call	Karen Matz
Val Chatwin	Pat Miller
Brenda Criddle	Barbara Peters
Ann Cullis	Virginia Sargeant
Mike Cullis	Ivana Thomas
Tracy Dahle	Bruce Winters
Cindy Deverall	

100 Hour Certificate and Pin

Jenny Bennett	Carol Lindsay
Sandy Burgess	Clyde Nance
Karen Crook	Peggy Nance
Tracy Dahle	Barbara Peters
Cindy Deverall	Beth Price
Gordon Evans	Barbara Watkins
Trudy Guest	Frank Wertman
Kari Kay	

250 Hour Certificate and Pin

JoDeane Condrat	Steve LeCheminant
John Dixon	Beth Price
Richard Hadfield	Margene Robbins

Continued on page 2

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Wm. Golden Reeves

As we begin with a new executive board to help in guiding the Association for the next two years, we would like to thank those who have guided us in the past years. With the vote of support from the members of the Association, the new board will try to continue giving great leadership.

We are open for any suggestions for meetings in the upcoming months. We hope to increase our knowledge and understanding of horticulture, have the opportunity to share it with others, and have a lot of fun doing it.

A few years ago, I came across this saying (I don't know the source.) "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help others." As a member of the Association for the past 10 years, my greatest joy has been sharing those skills I have learned and plants I have grown with others.

As your new president I will do all I can to advance the cause of the Association, to give my support to the Extension service, and to help the members to have a great time, learn, and get our hands dirty together.

Our first meeting in January will be to learn what this association has accomplished in the last few years and then ask ourselves, "Where can I help?" Let's pat ourselves on the back. Come join us for the January meeting.

Thanks to everyone who made the Graduation party at Wheeler Farm a success.

--Golden

Awards Banquet... Continued from page 1

Leslie Ann Hughes

Denise Ward

500 Hour Certificate and Pin

Jenny Allgrunn

Beth Price

Miriam Coons

750 Hour Certificate and Pin

Kay Packard

Dick Johnson

1250 Hour Certificate and Pin

Bart Anderson

Marlene Johnson

David Kempff

Bev Sudbury

The Silver Trowel Awards for 2002 will be presented at the January general meeting.

Recognition was given to those who worked on the Plant Lab, in Fresh From the Heart, and Gilgal Garden. In addition, members of the Friends of Gilgal Garden who were our special guests this year were recognized.

Congratulations to all those who received awards and welcome to our new certified Master Gardeners. Those of you in the last class who did not finish your first 40 hours yet, please don't give up. You can continue and receive your certification next year.

Welcome also to the new students. We look forward to working with you in the Salt Lake Master Gardener Association.

JANUARY WORKSHOPS

Indoor Light Garden

Thursday, January 16, 2003. 6:30 - 8:30PM. USU Extension training room, S-1007-1008. \$125. All materials and most tools provided to construct your own indoor light garden. Made of PVC with sheetmetal pan at base. Register by calling (801) 468-3179. Taught by Maggie Wolf.

Starting Seeds Indoors

Thursday, January 23, 2003. Noon - 1:30. USU Extension training room, S-1007-1008. \$5.00. Learn the 'secrets' to starting your spring seedlings indoors. Every participant will take home containers, seed, and media to practice with. Taught by Maggie Wolf.



Guess Who*s Coming to Dinner?

By Kathy Lillywhite



Dinner for two in the tree tops? Lunch for four in the rose garden? Have you thought of planning a garden party for your

feathered friends? Birds need shelter, a safe place to rest as well as fresh water, but what*s on the menu is equally important.

There*s more than one reason to entertain our little friends. We all know that birds are the best bug catchers that we can attract to our gardens, but a garden with a song bird is a treasured place. Of course in winter months birds will call or send alarms but the songs are saved for spring mating season and for training their fledglings to sing. In winter months birds are most entertaining. They are a delight to watch.

Pine Siskin, Goldfinches, and Chickadees are some of my favorite birds to watch. Serving black Oil Sunflower seeds out in feeders is a sure way of attracting the greatest variety of birds to your garden in the winter. If you want to attract ground feeding birds such as quail, you*ll also get jays, magpies Oregon Juncos and woodpeckers feeding at your ground level platform feeders. If you hang suet feeders you*ll attract Chickadees, Woodpeckers, Magpies and Flickers. If you want to snub a few feathered creatures (such as magpies and jays) don't put out people food. They will eat fruit, nuts, meat and practically anything you*d eat. But these very birds although noisy, sometimes messy, are the most entertaining!

All birds are bug eaters and since the insects are all in hiding right now, birds will go were they can get food. It isn*t the cold temperatures that drive birds away or draws them to our gardens. It is the abundance (or lack of) seed heads, flower blooms, insects and water sources.

Water sources are rare in the winter because of the freezing conditions. Establishing a drinking and bathing station can attract a great variety of birds, even more than the feeder in your garden. Water in a birdbath or pond should be only ** to 1 ** deep. Any deeper and the little guys won*t be able to use it. Fresh clean water is attractive to birds, not algae filled water basins. The more natural the

water feature looks the more it will be used by birds. Birds are rather vulnerable while bathing. Their take-off time is slowed considerably when their feathers are wet. Cats in and around your yard will ambush a bathing bird. A bird of prey will attack from above if there is no cover overhead. Taking precautions when placing a water source will serve your guests that come to dinner well!





This winter might be wetter than last year. Let's hope

so. But in the event that the rain and snow levels aren't quite what the Western garden expects or needs, then you're looking at doing some supplemental watering over the winter.

Amazing as it is, plant loss in the winter is more commonly caused by lack of water than by freezing temperatures. If properly cared for, cold-hardy plants can make it through brutally cold weather. They are adaptable. But they can't go without water.

Even dormant plants still need moisture to maintain their physiological and biochemical changes that make them tolerant of the cold. The rule of thumb is to water thoroughly once every 2-3 weeks through the fall. Then depending on the amount of precipitation and severity of cold temperatures, keep up this watering schedule throughout the winter months. In some places the ground is often too solidly frozen in late December and January to water, but begins to thaw enough by mid February to resume supplemental irrigation.

Though it may look like nothing is really happening in the garden, plants are busy producing high concentrations of dissolved sugars, amino acids and other soluble organic molecules. Within cells a higher concentration of chemically-bound water is essential for these processes to occur. This chemically bound water also helps maintain the elasticity of the protoplasm, or the liquid interior of a cell. And this is what makes a plant remain resilient during freezing temperatures

Yes, it's all very detailed and scientific, and botanists continue researching the cold-hardy factor in plants. But for us common backyard gardeners, all we really need to know is watering is one way to assure that roots won't try out.

Try to water mid-day so the moisture has time to soak into the ground before freezing again at night. Even if soil is frozen, it will absorb water, often dissolving the ice enough to help aerate the ground.

Cindy Bellinger
Editor, High Country Gardens
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When watering woody plants that have been planted in the last two seasons, the most important area to water is away from the trunk. Find the distance halfway between the plant and the outer stretch of the branches to approximately one foot beyond the *drip line.* It's this area that needs to be kept moist, as the root hairs spread horizontally. Doing this also prevents water from building up near the trunk of the plant where it can freeze and damage the bark.

For those of us who have planted bulbs this fall or in past years, it is essential that we keep them well irrigated when the fall and winter weather is dry. This is when the root growth occurs and a critical time for adequate soil moisture. Occasional deep soakings during a dry spring when the flowers and foliage emerge is also necessary for a good show of flowers. Prolonged dryness from fall through spring will result in a poor showing of flowers the following spring.

In full sun flower beds, where moist soil repeatedly freezes and thaws, heaving of shallowly rooted plants will occasionally take place. Heaved plants can fracture taproots as well as lateral roots, sometimes resulting in elevated crowns that can quickly dry out a plant. When plants heave from the soil, push them back in and mulch generously to shade the soil and keep it frozen, thus preventing the freeze/thaw cycle.

But don't despair. It's not all gloomy. Just remember your garden is a living entity year round and if we get snow and rain this winter, great. If not, give your garden a touch of extra tender care and come springtime it will reward you with healthy, strong and happy plants.

Winter Watering by Cindy Bellinger editor. High Country Gardens has a full catalog of drought-tolerant plants for the Western garden. Visit their site at <http://highcountrygardens.com>. To subscribe to the free e-zine "Xeriscape Gardening News," send blank e-mail to join-gardens@lists.highcountrygardens.com.

With the election results from the October meeting in, I was going to end "Golden's Garden." At the meeting of the new board in November, I was asked, "Are you going to continue?" The statement was made, "How am I going to remember what to do next in my garden if not reminded of it in your article?" If you are tired of "Golden's Garden", let me know. If not, I will continue to write about what I am doing in my garden.

In late September Home Depot was selling daffodil bulbs 100 for \$16.00. By the time I decided to buy some, they were sold out. Fast forward to November 29th. The Home Depot in West Jordan had the same 100 bulb package on sale for \$8.45. With the ground frozen, I wondered what I would do with them if I did spend the money.

As a true gardener who cannot pass up something for free or at half price, I took them home. I found some areas that were not frozen in my flower beds, then potted the rest of the bulbs. I removed the frozen top layer of an area in my garden and buried the pots. I plan on taking them out sometime in late January. I don't plan on running over them with my truck as JoDeane did in Eva Jensen's article in the December newsletter. Hopefully they'll bloom anyway.

In the last few weeks I put all my extra bags of leaves through the shredder and piled them up to compost. The cooking process has started, but there isn't enough heat at this time — only 125 degrees. I will soon need to rotate the pile and add more water to it. I have finished cleaning up the leaves at home and made the decision not to work on my rose hedge until next spring.

I have sent off two seed catalog orders and both have already come in. The 'Sweet Chelsea' tomato is a great cherry tomato and sets fruit really early. I needed seed to get an early start. This was Bart Anderson's request. I have also ordered a new dehydrator. My old one is still working,



By Wm. Golden Reeves

but with all the apples I have, it will do a faster job. I use the money I make working at the State Fair to fund my garden projects. I'll also buy some wire for larger tomato cages.

In spending some time in my greenhouse, I noticed that it smelled like something had died inside. Was it the neighbor's cat? A rat? Or just some old dead mouse? So it was in need of cleaning. I wanted to go through all the containers and trays inside. With a nice Saturday and some sun, I was able to finish the job. I was disappointed — no dead animals inside. I found a lot of melted plant containers and was able to throw a lot out. Now I have a clean greenhouse to start a happy New Year with.

January is a great time to inventory your seeds and plan for the new planting year. The seed catalogs have a lot of new plant variety in them, and I do like to try a few new items each year. My late orders this year did yield some free seed packets. The price of the 'Sungold' tomato seeds has really gone up. They raised the price and cut down the quantity. Don't get stuck in a rut and plant the same things year after year. We have a new year and a new gardening season ahead. Let's get out of the rut and do something new for 2003.

A Note From the Sudburys

"It is not often that someone gets a reward for doing exactly what they want to do, and that's how Bev and I feel about the award we received at the Christmas party. We were fortunate, years ago, to become acquainted with the Master Gardener program, and I should confess that at that time it was done with somewhat selfish motives. We had no great desire to help other people at that time but wanted to gain knowledge and information that would help us solve some of the problems in taking care of our own garden. As we continued our involvement, we realized not only the importance of the program but how much we enjoyed being involved--again somewhat selfishly. Now we have come to the conclusion that the people we have been involved with, the friendships made, have been a huge part of our life--something that is often left out in the later years of retirement.

We would like to thank the Board for this very-much-appreciated recognition and the positive response of all of you in the Master Gardener program."



Spotlight



On Barbara Watkins

I am a Utah native, born and raised in Salt Lake. I came from a long line of gardeners. Although I don't remember my father's parents well, he has mentioned how much his mother loved lilies (so that explains one passion.) I remember more about my mother's mother's garden -- forsythia in the front yard, basket-of-gold by the west wall, and peonies and bridal wreath in the back yard. My mother and both of her sisters were devoted gardeners, all of us focusing on perennials.

I can't remember how I first heard about the Master Gardener program, but it was relatively late in my gardening career. I'd been puttering about the yard for years and spent lots on mail-order bulbs, etc, before I decided to get "scientific" about it. I don't know that the education helped much. It certainly didn't stop my experimentation; but now I have more of an idea of WHY it died!

One of the things I love about my garden is so many plants are associated with friends and family. I have a gorgeous Hoop's blue spruce planted to honor my father, a white Rose-of-Sharon grown by my mother, a viburnum transplanted when a dear friend moved, a peony from my grandmother's garden, and the white lilies my other grandmother loved. I love the serendipitous successes of the garden. It's always a treat to see something very special in another garden and take that idea and develop it in my own. I also go through phases -- some years it's penstemons, some years it's lilies. Right now I'm looking into expanding my peony collection and I would love to find some Oriental poppies in yellow, lavender and mahogany. I also hope to someday get the big pond completely landscaped!

(Barbara will be serving as our Board Treasurer for the next two years. Please send her your membership dues if you have not yet paid.)

DON'T FORGET!

If you have not yet renewed, please get yours in the mail today. A membership, either single or a couple living at the same address, is \$20 and goes from January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003

Those who started Master Gardener training this past September are paid up for the coming year. All others need to renew their membership before the end of December.

To renew your SLMGA membership for 2003, send this form and a check for \$20 made out to SLMGA to:

Barbara Watkins, Treasurer



Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

The Garden Patch is published monthly by the Salt Lake Master Gardener Association.

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Send address changes to:

e-mail: gardenpatch2@juno.com

Calendar

**OUR JANUARY MEETING WILL BE
A GETTING ORGANIZED
MEETING, HIGHLIGHTING THE
VARIOUS PROJECTS. PLEASE
COME AND GET INVOLVED.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2003
7:00 P.M.
IN THE CLASSROOM**

Bulletin Board



*Happy
Holidays!*



USU Extension Salt Lake County Website:
www.usuextslco.org

Also check out the new Master Gardeners site:
www.ext.usu.edu/umg

The Garden Patch
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USU Extension

2001 South State S1200

Salt Lake City, UT 84190-2350

Fax - 468-3174

Please check back periodically with Bonnie to confirm that she has received your hours and has recorded them correctly.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please send it to our new treasurer:

Barbara Watkins

7606 Mary Ester Circle

Sandy, UT 84093

\$20 single or couple

Make check payable to SLMGA