

THE GARDEN PATCH



February 2007

Salt Lake Master Gardener Association

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Murphy's Greenhouse

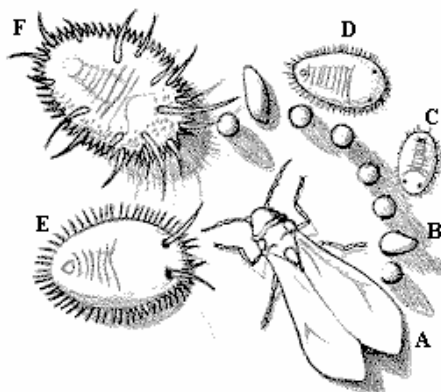
by Amy Hargreaves Judzis

When Chainsaw Bob and I were house hunting in Salt Lake, we had code names for most of the houses. Sometimes it was just the street name, "The Alton Way House"; sometimes it was a description, "The Pit on the Hill." The house we finally bought was "The Greenhouse House."

The Greenhouse House's best feature, in my opinion, is the 33' x 11' lean-to greenhouse that runs along the south side of the house. Sliding glass doors from the living room and master bedroom provide access to the greenhouse, and the wall between the greenhouse and the house is all window. There is a row of huge quokies right outside the greenhouse -- deciduous quokies which allow full sun in the winter and provide shade in the summer. Not only are they good for the plants, but they help with climate control in the house. In the winter, when the sun is shining, the greenhouse quickly heats up to 70 or 80 degrees, so we open both doors and the wonderful scent of greenery pervades the house.

It was work getting the greenhouse into condition to use. The folks who sold us the house had been sick and hadn't done any upkeep in years. They must have decided the wall of windows compromised their privacy, so they wired and taped black shade cloth over the bottom half of the greenhouse walls. They had a sprayer system along the outside wall and kept a couple of cat boxes for their several cats in the corner at the back right up against the master bedroom glass. When we removed the rotting shade cloth, the glass greenhouse walls were still black from the mold and mildew. The floor, which we had thought was brown, turned out to be white after three goings over with a commercial floor scrubber. We threw out the old 1 x 4 and hardware cloth benches, put in a glass table and cushioned outdoor chairs, I put together and finished two wood benches, and we were in business.

There were a few glitches along the way, like the time I tried to winter over some tomatoes. Amazing how whiteflies can multiply in a greenhouse. Did you know that they poo sugar water and have a special flicking structure on the end of their abdomens to ensure wide distribution. It's sticky as heck and grows black mold almost instantly. They're darned hard to kill too. We finally



Greenhouse whitefly. A, Adult. B, Eggs. C-E, Nymphs. F, Pupa.

ended up moving everything out of the greenhouse as soon as it was warm enough in the spring and scrubbing the whole greenhouse with pine cleaner. We blasted the plants with the hose many, many times over the summer and didn't bring them in until it was almost too cold in the fall. It worked.

Last winter we decided to remove the leaking flat roof from our 50 year old house and Marcia Sherry, who is not only the SLMG vice president but a darn fine architect, designed a stylish pitched roof for the house. Construction began in July and that's when Murphy moved in to stay.

You know Murphy's motto: "Whatever can go wrong will go wrong, and at the worst possible time." During the course of the summer and fall we had six floods inside the house, both the ground floor and the basement were saturated and during flood number two ("The BIG One") the living room ceiling crashed to the floor. It was the end of November before we finally achieved shingles and were waterproof.

Before we could put in the insulation, the city inspector came out to make sure it was all to code and copasetic. Everything was fine with one exception: the gas greenhouse heater was vented too close to the new roof line. He demanded it be disconnected immediately! Which is why when we had that real bad cold snap that took the temperature here on the East Bench down to



Present state of a 15 year old double salmon Hibiscus tree - may it rest in peace.

Continued on Page 7

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Stephen Le Cheminant

First of all, I want to thank Ann Scott and Julie Myers for taking on the challenge of making a presentation to our group. We can be an intimidating bunch, you know. They did a great job in reminding us to be water conscious in our gardening, and the slides on water-wise plants were well done. More water-wise planting is something I need to work on in my own yard. I also want to thank all of you for coming out on a cold January night. We had a good turnout. I hope you enjoyed and learned something from the evening's events. It's always nice when we can get together. **Remember this month (February) we will be meeting at the Columbus Center located on 500 East and 2530 South.** This class will be taught by our Program Coordinator, Cheri Schulzke, and will be on caring for our gardening tools. This is a hands-on class, so bring your pruners, shears, hoes, etc. There will be some sharpening stones available to purchase as well.

Also, as I am new at this President stuff, I forget some things I should have announced at the meeting. This month will also be our seed exchange night as well, so bring seeds if you have extras. Also, I forgot to mention that we need to audit our financial books and we need a committee of three people who are not on the board to do this. If you would like to volunteer to help us out with this, please contact me or any board member so we can get the audit taken care of.

Once again I would like to quote Lauren Springer, author of *The Undaunted Garden*.

"Whatever it is that calls the gardener to the garden, it is strong, primeval, and infinitely rewarding. A friend in her late seventies and wracked with crippling arthritis and back problems still spends most of her days in the garden. She crawls on her belly, drawing herself forward on her elbows since bending and kneeling are too painful. She says she sees things in ways she never saw before. The garden is transformed now that she experiences it at eye and nose level. At the end of the day, she is the filthiest, happiest old woman I know. Low maintenance? Why on earth would gardeners want to stay away from the very thing that calls them out?"

Sounds pretty extreme, but remember this quote next summer when we are asking for volunteer help on all the projects that we will have going on. It might be hard, it might be hot, or maybe even tedious, but it will be rewarding, not only for the things you accomplish on the projects, but also for the association of fellow gardeners and friends.



If You Enjoyed the January Meeting

Here are some more gardening classes taught by Julie Myers and Ann Scott. No charge, no advanced sign up required.

Riverton Library - 12877 South 1830 West
Tues. March 13, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Landscaping
Tues. April 10, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Plant Selection
Tues. May 8, 7 p.m. - General Garden Maintenance and Turf Selection

Herriman Library - 13011 South Pioneer Street (6000 West)
Thurs. March 15, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Landscaping
Thurs. March 22, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Plant Selection
Thurs. March 29, 7 p.m. - General Garden Maintenance and Turf Selection

Park Library - 4870 South 2700 West
Wed. March 7, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Landscaping and Plant Selection

Bingham Creek Library - 4834 West 9000 South
Series I
Wed. March 14, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Landscaping
Wed. March 21, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Plant Selection
Wed. March 28, 7 p.m.- General Garden Maintenance and Turf Selection
Series II
Wed. April 11, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Plant Combinations
Wed. April 18, 7 p.m. - Trees for the Wasatch Front
Wed. April 25, 7 p.m. - Garden Plant Diagnostics

West Jordan Library - 1970 West 7800 South
Thurs. April 12, 7:30 p.m. - Extreme Makeover Yard Edition: Re-Designing Your Yard

Holladay Library - 2150 East Murray-Holladay Road (4730 South)
Mon., April 23, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Plant Selection

Sandy Library - 10100 South Petunia Way (1450 East)
Tues. April 17, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Landscaping
Tues. April 24, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Plant Selection
Tues. May 1, 7 p.m. - General Garden Maintenance and Turf Selection

Whitmore Library - 2197 East Fort Union Boulevard
Sat. March 31, 11 a.m. - Re-Designing Your Yard
Thurs. May 3, 7 p.m. - Trees for the Wasatch Front
Thurs. May 10, 7 p.m. – Water-wise Plant Selection

Anderson-Foothill Library - 1135 South 2100 East
Sat. April 14, 10 a.m. - Trees for the Wasatch Front
Sat. April 28, 10 a.m. - Plant Combinations
Sat. May 12, 10 a.m. - Garden Plant Diagnostics

EXTENSION

Utah State
UNIVERSITY

By Maggie Shao

WOW! 2007 has started off with many new changes. Traditionally, one starts the New Year with goals and one of my goals this year is to try and keep you all informed. Utah State University Extension has updated the format of their website. I have learned some of the basics of updating our county website and plan to use the site to keep Master Gardeners current on upcoming events. One of the big changes from USU Extension that will affect us directly is the resignation of Debbie Amundsen. One of many roles she held was the State Master Gardener Coordinator. She has done a great job with USU Extension for 21 years and I know I will personally miss her experience with Master Gardeners and her easy and helpful personality. One of the immediate impacts of her departure is the Pacific Northwest Garden Tour is cancelled. I know there were several of you interested, but Debbie was coordinating that, so it most likely will not occur this year. Also, Debbie was the lead for the annual Master Gardener Conference (aka mini-college) that usually happens in June and is suppose to take place in Utah County. I'll keep you updated on the annual conference. On a brighter note, one of the new changes is working together with the new Salt Lake Master Gardener Board members and officers. I'm looking forward to working with this enthusiastic group.

The 2007 Master Gardener Volunteer Training will have started by the time you read this column. There are 70 new trainees and I know they are eager and motivated. I'll be putting the schedule with topics and speakers on the webpage. The easiest way to get to the USU Extension Salt Lake Master Gardener page is going to <http://extension.usu.edu/saltlake> and click on the link for Master Gardener Volunteers. I've made the webpage hopefully more informative and am open to your input, corrections, needs. I understand not everyone is on a computer or may not be comfortable with this technology. However with rising postage costs and timeliness of events, it is one way to communicate. Another way is to maintain a phone tree where you pair yourself with a computer buddy. With the new training class, I am asking folks without internet access to buddy up with someone who is willing to telephone any new or relevant information as it comes up. Is someone willing to coordinate a computer buddy system with the established members of SLMGA??

Is anyone interested in speaking to caregivers on the health benefits of gardens? I was asked by Salt Lake County Aging Services who provide enhancement lunches to caregivers with a speaker. If you are interested in giving a half hour presentation on gardens promoting health with the caregivers on February 12 at 11:30am at Marie Callendars at 3900 South and 1100 East, let me know and I'll connect you with the contact at Aging Services.

I'm also asking if anyone is interested in teaching a class here. I know the Advanced Master Gardeners group was considering teaching a class on pressing flowers and associated crafts. If you would like to teach a garden or horticulture related class

here at the Extension office, I'd love to schedule you in. I need at least 2 months notice so I can reserve the room and advertise it in our newsletter. Give it some thought and let me know.

The Spring Home and Garden Show is coming up March 8 through 11 at the South Towne Expo. We always get lots of people stopping by the booth and Teresa Rivera asked about putting up more visual displays at the booth. We could definitely use something like landscape ideas, pictures of Master Gardeners' favorite plants. Anyone who wants to exercise their creativity with visual displays for the Home and Garden Show please let us know. I think it will be a great help. USU Extension will provide publications for sale (vegetables, turf grass care, etc.), but I think it would be nice to have some informative and educational visual displays. I can help out providing display boards if you provide the creativity. Contact Trudy Guest to sign up for shifts staffing the Master Gardener booth.

COOKING WITH EVA DANIELS

My granddaughter Maggie recently made this recipe for a family party. It is from her junior high TLC class. We enjoyed it, so I wanted to share it with you.

1 cup fresh broccoli, chopped
1 cup fresh cauliflower, chopped
1 cup or more of fresh carrot, chopped
2 packages of chicken flavored ramen noodles
1 2/3 cup water

Spray a frying pan with non-stick cooking spray. Put veggies in pan and stir-fry for 1 minute on medium heat. Break ramen noodles in small pieces. Add to pan along with the contents of the flavor packets and water. Stir well. Cover pan. Cook on high heat 3 to 5 minutes, stirring twice.

In the winter when the tomatoes are not at their prime, try this to help a salad along:

1 large tomato or 4 small plum tomatoes
1 clove garlic (Call Golden. He may have an extra clove. ☺)
1 scant T. olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

In small bowl, cut tomatoes into bite-sized pieces. Add crushed garlic clove, oil, salt, and pepper. Mix well. Allow to set on counter several hours to develop flavor. If time is short, one hour will work wonders. Add mixture to green salad of your choice and serve. Serves 2.

The tomato, oil, garlic mix is the basis for uncooked pasta sauce when summer tomatoes are wonderful. This makes it a year-round recipe.

Speaking of things in the kitchen - this past summer I was doing a chore that my kitchen scissors were not strong enough for, and the arthritis in my hands was not helping matters. I had just been given a new paid of Corona bypass pruners. The light came on! This pair of pruners will never go to the garden. They are staying in my kitchen. If your hands are weak or arthritic, give pruners a try!

Winter Homework Assignment: II

By Catherine New

I received one "smelly anecdote" which appears below, and began my homework by recalling, trying to describe in my own words a mystery perennial from our front yard. To keep an open mind as I refresh my master gardener knowledge and vocabulary, I decided to simply call it a perennial, having appeared annually since our 1997 arrival a decade ago. Recall brought three words to mind: pointy, purple, and as my paternal grandmother would tease changing a soiled diaper, "poo-tinky!"

Pointy: Well camouflaged in the dappled southern sunlight under skirts of blue spruce, the green and purple mottled spears were virtually invisible. Oblivious, I was on my knees, gloved fingers plucking spring weeds from the many-year layer of faded spruce needles. Suddenly a startle reflex sat me back on my heels and made me catch my breath. A question thrust up in the rush of adrenalin. What had startled my peripheral vision? The green and purple mottled spears poked straight up, maybe three to five inches, diameter maybe somewhat thicker than my thumb. So pointy! I thought of sharpened sticks installed to deter intrusion or menacing eels lurching straight up from an alkaline lair.

Poo-tinky: One summer evening chatting about this, that, and the other, my spouse mentioned an awful smell by the raised culinary bed. I recalled the malodorous whiff I'd gotten working in that area and how quickly I'd dismissed the stink, continued engrossed with gloved fingers tending salad greens, fuzzy borage, free-range parsley. But we had both smelled a foul odor. Maybe from under the neighbor's porch, an animal retreated to die in the shadows? A breeze could easily waft odors from that porch under the spruce into the raised bed where I'd been working. Or maybe cat poop? Neighborhood cats toileted in the layers of old spruce needles. Next morning I investigated but smelled nothing. I walked between spruce and raised bed and on around the spruce intending to peer into the shadowy porch cavern. Rounding the spruce, I was stopped in my tracks by a dramatic flower whose form made the question, "insect trap?" pop into mind. Later, in the warm afternoon sunshine the bloom reeked and insects were flying around and walking on it. I recall wondering with my brother on the phone about whether the stench was insect corpses decaying in the chamber below the funnel? Or whether a nasty perfume was exuded by the plant itself?

Purple: The spruce's silver branches backlit the bloom's rich deep purples. A single membrane about the size of my hand half-encompassed a central spike. Although the bloom's shape recalled childhood "calla lilies" in the San Joaquin Valley, this regal wine-colored membrane surrounding the almost-black-eggplant-purple fleshy spike was very different from the calla's fuzzy yellow spike and ivory membrane that our early science experiments tinted with food coloring in a vase. While the mystery perennial's form was reminiscent of childhood callas, color was different: purple purple purple.

Anecdote~ At the plant exchange three or four years ago, a friend gave a little lily start and said to plant it away from a patio or other place where people congregate because although it was pretty, it smelled awful. It was already growing from the bulb. Planted it in full sun in the middle of a flowerbed with soaker hose that gave some water every five days or so in the growing season. It probably grew five or six inches high that summer, but no flowers. The second year it didn't show up. The third year it had a few leaves. Fourth year didn't see anything. Thought she said it was a Voodoo lily, but even that I'm not sure of anymore. (Jenny Allgrunn, SLMGA, emails October, November 2006)

Homework report: Jenny's mystery plant may not be the same as mine, but there are similarities in our stories. Jenny's email pointed out that it's hard to remember details over several years; and for me that's the fun of



Dracunculus vulgaris - It may be the one!

collecting anecdotes---what sticks in our gardening memories and why? Recalling the childhood calla sent me into Sunset Western Garden Book (second-hand 1973 edition, 1969 copyright). There "calla" referred me to zantedeschia, native to South Africa, and arum; and I chuckled at arum mentioned as an indoor plant---our mysteries' odors relegate them away from living space. Zantedeschia and arum leaf descriptions as arrow or lance or heart-shaped didn't match my impression of the mystery leaves as "tropical-looking," maybe palmate? And then it dawned on me I'd been going on impression, rather than studious examination of leaf nodes, petioles, veins, as set forth in my master gardener manual.

Conclusion: November 2006 my sister read the above, went on line, and sent me this link: <http://davesgarden.com/pf/showimage/125533/> to photos matching my mystery, with names: Dragon Flower, Dragon Arum, Voodoo Lily, *Dracunculus vulgaris*, Arum *Dracunculus*. Since *Dracunculus vulgaris* was the one italicized, I googled that to a list, visited a couple of the first ten sites, and was kind of bowled over to find so much information. So my winter homework assignment sent me into the Internet where there's a lot to sift through. Over winter's next few months before the mystery perennial emerges anew, perhaps I'll become comfortable calling it by name.

In reflecting back on how "Golden's Garden" got started, we need to go back to 1992. Robin Coffey was the secretary of the SLMGA. She had an article in *The Garden Patch* on her garden and some successes and failures she had experienced. I remember she was talking about her tomatoes and that the 'Siberian' tomatoes had not produced very well that year. She was asking for gardeners to write articles to go in the newsletter. I had to chuckle over her troubles with the 'Siberian' tomato. At this time in world history the Soviet Union was breaking up and that part of the world was in turmoil. So in my article I explained that 'Siberian' was a poor choice of tomato variety to plant because of all the problems in that part of the world. Needless to say Robin was very offended over my remarks, but it got published. One month later after most of the Master Gardeners had a good laugh, Robin found the humor in it and asked me to write an article monthly for the newsletter.

In school the teachers asked me to print because they couldn't read my cursive hand writing. So the first articles were printed and, with my spelling, it is a wonder they got in to the newsletter. Then came a computer and I could at least make them look better but my spelling was still atrocious. When my hard drive failed, I had to go back to hand writing them again. With a new computer with spell check and a dictionary to see if the word I am spelling is the one to use and then being able to e-mail them to Jenny, what a difference the process has been. Who would of thunk it? [Thunk misspelled on purpose] Sixteen years later I am still at it. Thanks to the all of the editors who have published my article even with all of the problems it has presented them.

In the Spring of 1992, I went to help till the garden at the State Fair Park. When we had it tilled and ready to plant, Jerry Goodspeed (originally SL County Extension agent in charge of the Master Gardener program, now in Ogden Extension program.) wanted to go to another garden to till it also. This was my first introduction to the 4th East garden. When Jerry found out that I worked just around the corner, I became the project manager. When we closed that down because of a disagreement with the Wasatch Gardens' directors, I moved to the pumpkin patch at Wheeler Farm. It has been a lot of work but also a lot of fun with the people I have met and the friendships I have made.

I have tried to keep this article focused on what I am doing in my garden or on the projects I am working. My yard is not the show place for great landscaping or fantastic gardening beds, but I try my best to produce great plants, to propagate by seed or from cuttings or division. Producing compost is another great love. Either sheet or hot composting will work for me. My grafting has proven to be one of my strong points, also, especially on apples. I am now growing 21 varieties on three apple trees. By the way, the month of February is the time to save scion wood for grafting in late April or the first part of May. A Grafting class will be announced soon. Don't know what scion wood is? Feel free to ask.



By Wm. Golden Reeves

So now to the meat of the article - what is going on in my garden now? The 'Glacier' tomatoes planted before Thanksgiving are in bloom and have some pea-size fruit set already. I need to transplant them into larger pots. I have planted some 'Stupice' tomatoes also which will soon be ready to put in pots. The 'Glacier' tomatoes I planted in early December are starting to show blossom growth and are about 4 inches high.

The cold weather in January has been a really an eye opener. In the greenhouse I have a gallon bottle with 4 inches of water in it. With the cold weather it froze solid each night and by late in the day it had melted back to liquid. I have never had 5 gallons of water stored in the garage freeze, but this year it has. The 'Granny Smith' apples stored there were starting to freeze also. I had them boxed up and covered with a lot of blankets. I will know later if they have survived. I have had apples fall on the ground and spend the winter there and still be good come spring, so we will see.

The rosemary cuttings are starting to show signs of rooting with small white strands showing. I try to start the cuttings early because they take up room on the seeding mat that I need later on in the growing season. I will start most of the tomatoes in mid February. I have started them a little early other years but have had problems and run out of room in the basement. I have received both of my seed orders and started some of the seed already.

Hopefully by the time this article goes to print we will have shed these sub-zero temps and get back to normal winter weather - cold but not bone shattering. The seed catalogs are still coming and I am still in need of a few seeds for the garden. Keep warm and enjoy!

February General Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 15

**Location: Columbus Center
2530 South 500 East, Room 106**

Sharpen Up!!

How to care for your tools. Bring your pruners or loppers. Learn how to sharpen, clean, and oil.

Also, bring your excess seeds to donate or trade for other seeds.



SPOTLIGHT

ON
Lisa Chin

Lisa Chin has known great suffering. She's a Chicago Cubs Fan – with a life long motto. "There's always next year!"

Although born and raised in the Chicago area, Lisa's parents are from West Virginia and she inherited their gardener genes. At the tender age of 11 she received permission from the landlady for a garden of her very own and dug up an area for a few vegetables. That early failure did not faze her. The soil called to her and every spring as she tried to grow luscious peas and lettuce, delightful beans and corn, crunchy peppers and the ever-lusted-after home grown tomato.

As a young woman Lisa went to Jamaica to work as a nanny. Still dreaming of fresh vegetables, she smuggled in seeds. A local gardener looked on, laughing softly to himself as Lisa applied her newly acquired knowledge. She "thinned" her carrots by carefully digging up a tender plant and replanting each one, spaced precisely as instructed on the seed packets.

Although her vegetables did not flourish in Jamaica, young love did. Lisa met Gus Chin, a handsome returned missionary. They were to marry in Utah and move on to California. But alas, as they pioneered their way across the plains the car broke down in Salt Lake. Lisa and Gus are still here 23 years later – Red through and through. Lisa earned a degree in Journalism from the U in 1995, the same year Gus also graduated from law school.

During this time of school and work they brought a son and a daughter into the world. Seven years later (after all the baby things had been sold!) a wonderful surprise of twin girls completed the family. While living in University Student Housing Lisa immersed herself in gardening books, sure every spring that this would be the year she succeeded. Fortunately, the children, too, loved playing in the soil and they ended up eating more dirt than vegetables.

About four years ago, with the children all in school, Lisa took advantage of her new free time to chase after some of her dreams. She joined the Master Gardeners and enjoys her association among the experts within the group – as well as those who don't think they are, but are. Like any true Cub fan, Lisa never gives up. Her gardening mantra is a never-ending cry. "Next year I will get that bindweed under control!"

(Lisa is also our new Secretary on the 2006-2007 Board)



TOOLS

By Cheri Schultzke

Take stock of the tools you have to determine the need for replacements and any additional items you could use this year. Purchase new or replacement tools now so you will have them when you need them.

- **Garden Spade:** A short-handled, shovel-like tool with a flat, squared-off blade. Useful for digging out sod, edging beds, chopping and slicing roots, reaking up clumps and turning.
- **Shovel:** A long-handled version with a concave, round-tipped blade is essential for digging, throwing, and shoveling soil, sand, gravel, and other materials. It acts like a scoop.
- **Garden Fork:** A short-handled tool with heavy steel tines for turning and breaking up soil or working in soil amendments.
- **Hoe:** A square blade with a straight edge, attached perpendicularly to a long handle. Use it for digging out weeds, loosening clumpy soil, or digging a shallow trench for seeds.
- **Garden Rake:** (Also called a steel rake or bow rake.) It has a dozen or so short steel tines on a steel bridge, mounted on the end of a long handle. For spreading soil amendments, leveling, and smoothing soil, gathering up stones and other debris.
- **Leaf Rake:** (Also called a lawn rake or flexible rake.) Its long handle holds a fan or long flexible tines to rake up leaves and other debris from the lawn, paved areas, or the surface of planting beds.
- **Trowel:** A shovel-like hand tool for digging and planting. Many shapes and widths are available. Be sure you get one that feels comfortable and well balanced in your hand and has a sturdy blade securely attached to the handle.
- **Pruner:** (Also called a secateur.) The basic one-handed pruning tool. Several different types (bypass, anvil, ratchet) are available. Each type has advantages, but it is important to find one that is comfortable in your hand for long periods of use.
- **Loppers:** A long-handled pruner that requires two hands. Extends your reach and provides leverage for cutting thicker stems and branches (up to 3/4 inch).
- **Pruning Saw:** A compact saw with a sharp-toothed steel blade for cutting branches a pruner or lopper cannot handle.
- **Hose-end Sprayers:** Have one for plant food and another for weed killers, insecticides, and fungicides.

Having these tools will help you handle all the basic gardening activities, but don't be surprised if you find yourself staring longingly at chain saws, electric hedge clippers, and rotary tillers, etc. etc. etc.

TURKEY THRIFT

Val Chatwin

This month's General Meeting was good. Julie Myers and Ann Scott did the presentation when the person who was scheduled to come changed jobs and there was no one to come to our meeting. That took some scrambling. They really did a good job. When they did the U of U tour, it was outstanding also.

I am impressed with the landscape pictures Julie takes. She had the same house with all 4 seasons.

I've received 12 different companies garden seed catalogues this year, more than I have ever received before, and I didn't send for any.

I am taking the Advanced Class. Larry Sagers was the teacher for the first class on espalier trees and the second on small fruits. I learned that strawberry production by California farmers is 40 to 50 tons per acre. They pick them, clear the field, replant, and sometime get six crops a year off the same ground! We get cheap cases of strawberries here because they don't want to over glut the market, and we will buy cases of strawberries. He is a very good teacher; it is amazing all the things he is involved in. When does he have time to sleep?

I have never had chicken eat winter squash. They eat most everything else but leave it alone in the field and even when it is cooked, it is usually left. I grew several banana squash this year, and we have been eating them as much as we can. They are delicious, -- in my opinion the best of the winter squash. Banana squash keep in my garage for months. I had one that was still intact last fall when the others were ripe, I was going to take it to the fair as an 'oddy' then it suddenly rotted. I cut into one recently and cooked up a large chunk. We ate it every day. Then I notice it was getting old. I put it out on the deck, even though it was below freezing, expecting to get around to cooking it in a few days. It was especially yellow and delicious. The chickens have started eating it! They've pecked right through the rind. I am surprised, but it is okay.

You might not know, but I am the thriftiest person around. Frugal, parsimonious, careful with her money -- but I don't think I am chintzy. So this is a story for an economical person. This is about a turkey, not a Thanksgiving turkey (except I did buy it during Thanksgiving when Smith's had them for \$7.)

We called all our kids and told them to gather at our house for Sunday night turkey dinner with all the trimmings. You know -- peeled mashed potatoes (with a little of the peel on like they do it now) gravy made from the pan drippings (not that stuff they insert inside the turkey they label gravy. What is that stuff?), stuffing made with my own left-over crusts and dried out rolls. I didn't open a can of cranberry sauce, our son in St. George likes it a lot, the rest of us like one teaspoon at Thanksgiving. They ate gratefully, and left.

The next day we ate it again, 2nd meal.

Then I boiled the carcass and bones. I put all the trimmings in my large stainless steel pot and cover it with water and boil away. It smells as good as the day we roasted it. Finally I pour it into a large strainer and then take all the bones, cartilage, stuffing debris, and scraps that is drained off, and put it out in the garden, or if there is snow on the ground in a closer flower bed. The chickens think this is their special treat and pick everything clean. The

neighboring cat from down a couple of fences discovers it quite soon and enjoys it too. This doesn't count as another meal. It is kind of tacky to see bones all over the garden from a turkey or ham but when you pick them up, they are all clean. Then I put about half the broth in quart plastic containers and put them in the freezer. When it freezes the fat rises to the top so you can throw it away if you want low calorie broth. The chickens love that treat too. The fat. The broth is handy for casseroles, soups, or gravy.

To the broth left in the pot I add carrots, onions, a bottle of home canned beans, etc. and sometimes store noodles but this time homemade noodles, which are so easy. (One egg, 1 tsp. salt, about one cup of flour. Mix till you can handle the dough, roll it out. I like it as thin as I can get it. Then cut it into strips with a pizza cutter and immediately add to the boiling broth. Some recipes say to dry them, I never do.) Okay that's a 3rd meal and it really smelled the house up good.

Some soup is left over so a few days later I put it in a casserole and topped it with biscuits, except I do a muffin dough, because it uses eggs, baked it and there is the 4th meal. With only two of us it is actually the 5th meal, too.

Oh yes, there's the leftover stuffing. Put it into a casserole, cut up some of the leftover meat over the top, open a can of cream of chicken soup and pour over it. Bake for a while and you have the 6th meal.

In the meantime we are eating the sliced meat on sandwiches. 7th meal.

When you make another soup with the broth there is a 8th meal. Wow, now that is what I call thrift. Of course this is now, when our kids were home, or we have a crowd at Thanksgiving; it would be the main meal and the left over broth soup. About this time you are really hungry for spaghetti or pizza.

MURPHY'S GREENHOUSE,

Continued from page 1

five below, there was no insulation in the house roof and no heat in the greenhouse.

The heater, all legally to code now, finally came back online yesterday, but not before we had the coldest winter in a coon's age and froze a pipe and had to cut off the water and, worst of all, not before almost all of my plants froze to death.

The five orchids that were in the kitchen are about all I have left now, so come the April plant exchange, watch out for me. I'm thinking about carrying a music player with me and blasting out the theme music from "Jaws" -- da dum, da dum, da dum -- so that everyone will scatter from my path as I scoop up plants to repopulate my empty greenhouse.

Beware, beware, the plant shark is coming!

PROJECTS

Christmas Box House
236 South 300 East

Peggy Call - pcall@xmission.com
Virginia Sargeant - 36dollis@utahweb.com

Fresh From the Heart

Jennie Gibson - gibsongg@earthlink.net
JoDene Condrat - condrata@comcast.net

Gilgal Garden
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Bev Sudbury - beverlysudbury@yahoo.com
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Hidden Hollow
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Charlene Homan - mhcharlene@yahoo.com.

Magna Elementary
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Mark Hurst

Murray Park
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Becky Hansen - hansenpollei@mstar2.net

Pioneer Park Farmer's Market
400 South 300 West

Karen Crook - garykarencrook@comcast.net

Utah State Fair Park
200 North 1000 West

Trudy Guest - trudyg1@msn.com

Utah AIDS Foundation
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Jeff Asay - Jeffrey.asay@comcast.net
Kay Packard

Web Site

Amy Hargreaves Judzis - webwench@slmg.org

Wheeler Farm
6300 South 900 East
Wheeler Farm Vegetable Garden
Wheeler Farm Herb Garden
Wheeler Farm Pumpkin Patch
Wheeler Farm Home Garden

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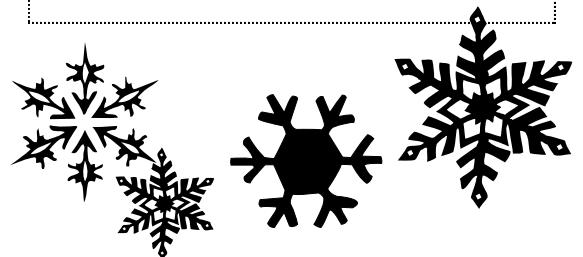
CHRISTMAS BOX HOUSE

We need someone to help on Tuesday nights. You will be teaching children about plants, vegetables, fruits, roots - things like that - with games for them to learn. There is also a little garden that they put in with the kids. Please contact Peggy Call or Virginia Sargeant (see above) if you can help. There is a background check that you will need to pass to do this.



Miss Mantis
says:

Go to <http://www.comics.com/comics/pearls/archive/pearls-20070126.html>



Calendar

Seed Swap and Garden Tool Care

Thursday, February 15

**Columbus Center - 500 East and 2530
South. 7:00 p.m.**

Bring your surplus seeds, pick up some you need. Also, bring your pruners and learn how to condition and sharpen them.

Thursday, March 15

Practice Prevention

Learn how to warm up your muscles and take care of your skin before you head out to work in the garden.

7:00 p.m. in the Classroom

Thursday, April 19

Plant Exchange and
Projects Night



THE GARDEN PATCH
is ON THE WEB at
www.slmg.org

Bulletin Board



“Swap and Shop”
and

“Garden Talk”
Bulletin Board

On the SLMG Web Site

You can now connect to the "Garden Talk" bulletin board, where there are topics for General Discussion, Swaps, For Sale, For Free, and whatever else tickles your fancy. If you have any questions, feel free to drop your trusty WebWench an e-mail at: webwench@slmg.org

You can access the
Web Bulletin Board at
[www.utahmastergardeners.org
/forum/index.php](http://www.utahmastergardeners.org/forum/index.php)

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

There is still time to renew!

The holidays are over and spring is hiding under freezing snow. Now is a great time to renew your SLMGA membership for 2007 if you have not yet done so. If you have the form, use it. If you can't find it, just send a check for \$20.00 made out to SLMGA

to:
Teresa Rivera

Contact her at
Rivera.sl@comcast.net
for a mailing address

Please include your current address



Annual Seed Swap

*Need to weed out your seed collection?
If so, bring your extras to the February
General Meeting Feb. 15 at 7:00 p.m.
at the Columbus Center 500 East and
2530 South.*