

The Garden Patch

Salt Lake County Gardening Association



June 2018

From the President

Hello!

If you weren't at last month's meeting, you probably don't know that we had a little building scheduling problem. We were told that another group booked the government building for the rest of the year on the same night we use. However, I have good news! The building scheduler checked with the other group and it turns out they don't need it so we're back in business!

On another note, we are struggling a little to find monthly meeting topics and presenters. We would really appreciate input from all of you. Is there a topic you want to know more about, a presenter we had in the past you really liked and want to hear from again? Don't be shy! Send us your ideas! We are lining up field trips for our July & Sept. meetings and we will let you know as soon as it's all set.

We are still focusing on growing our membership. We have created a Meetup group (online platform for finding people who share your interests) and we currently have 232 people signed up. The interest is there, we just need to figure out how to get them to join us at a meeting. Please continue to spread the word through your circles. Thank you for your support. See you soon!

Wendy

Upcoming Meeting

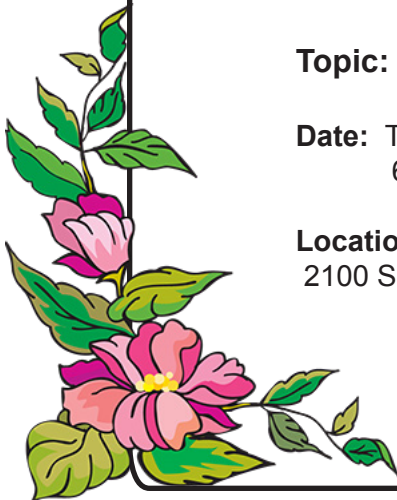
June 2018

Topic: To Be Announced

Date: Thursday June 21, 2018
6:30 PM Social / 7:00 Meeting

Location: Salt Lake County (North Building)
2100 S State. Room 4N850

** remember to sign in/out with
security in north building **



2018-2019 Board Members

President – Wendy Brown

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Vice-President – Marlene Johnson

marlenemg1936@yahoo.com

Past President – Peggy Call -

pccall@comcast.net

Secretary – Gigi Brandt

gigibrandt@xmission.com

Treasurer – Amy Hargreaves Judzis

cliz@juno.com

Historian – Open

May Meeting:

Circumstances made it necessary to change at short notice the location of our May meeting which was held at the Whitmore Library.

Cyndi Norris gave a short report on gardening and the crops grown by the first pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley.

Some of the first crops planted were potatoes, corn, turnips, beets and other medicinal plants. Trees planted were Walnut, Hickory, Cottonwoods and Honey Locust along with many different fruit trees. Popular flowers and shrubs being Hollyhocks and Lilacs.

She explained that growing crops here was no easy task. The Salt Lake Valley was described at that time as a “sterile waste place, glistening with beds of salt, soda and deadly alkaline.” Mountain Man Jim Bridger reportedly offered Brigham Young \$1,000 for the first bushel of corn produced in the valley. Frost, Mormon crickets and other problems made the early years very precarious.

If we think it is hard to grow crops nowadays we can only imagine how it would have been back then!

Our Guest Speaker was Gina Cornia from ‘Utahans against Hunger’

Gina said UAH works with elected officials and policy makers to protect, strengthen, and improve federal nutrition program policies, in order to increase access to these programs and give voice to the people who use them.

There is a great need for supplementary food programs in our state as 1 in 9 households experience food insecurity. Of these 1 in 6 are households with minor children, and 1 in 7 with seniors.

She said state run food pantries are not that efficient when it comes to supplying emergency food due to high distribution costs, limited food choices and the struggle to provide fresh food.

UAH is also heavily involved in **federal nutrition program advocacy**; for example, defending SNAP from potential cuts, and promoting school meal programs that serve low-income children. They also offer **trainings for organizations** interested in learning more about food programs.

As gardeners we can also help out by donating excess fresh produce from our gardens to local food pantries. Here is a listing of those in Salt Lake County.

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- Bruin Campus Cupboard
 - Crossroads Urban Center
 - Ebenezer Church
 - Granger Community Christian Church
 - House of Prayer
 - Iglesia De Jesucristo
 - Jewish Family Service Pantry
 - Kearns First Baptist Church
 - Mesopotamia Community Pantry
 - Mosaic Interfaith Ministries
 - Mt. Calvary Food Pantry
 - Murray Park Church of Christ
 - Nueva Esperanza Community Service
 - Redeemed Church of God - House of His Glory Pantry
 - Redwood Community Action Program
 - Rescue Mission
 - Salt Lake City Mission
 - Somali Community Self-Management Agency Pantry
 - South County Community Action Program
 - St. Andrew's Pantry
 - St. James Episcopal Church Pantry
 - St. Joseph the Worker Pantry
 - St. Marks Hildegard's Pantry
 - St. Paul's Food Pantry
 - Taylorsville Food Pantry
 - Templo Elohim Pantry
 - The Adventure Church - Jesus Feeds
 - The Church at Liberty Park
 - The Concern Center
 - The Salvation Army Family Services
 - University of Utah - Feed U Pantry Campus Store
 - Utah AIDS Foundation



An organic method of controlling earwigs.

Oil pit traps are a great remedy for earwigs. Combine equal parts soy sauce and olive or vegetable oil, put it in a small plastic container, and secure the lid. Punch holes in the top of the container, near the lid. Make the holes large enough for the earwigs to get in.

Do You Have a Favorite Tool?

by Judy Short

I ordered a wonderful shovel in late fall of last year, and didn't really get a chance to use it before it got too cold and wet. It is called Root Slayer: <https://radiusgarden.com/products/root-slayer>. Now that I have had a chance to use it, and others have used it, I thought I would tell you what I think of it.

My front yard is filled with fine tree roots from my Honeylocust tree, and my neighbor's Zarahemla. Man, is it hard to dig a hole. Consequently, it is hard to put in new plants, because I can barely get a hole big enough for the root ball, much less twice as big so I can amend the soil as I plant. However, I found that with this shovel, I can dig a hole easily, the first holes I dug were 2' deep for roses, and I didn't have to ask Wade to come dig the holes for me. The shovel has wide shoulders (5") so it is easy to step on and put your weight behind it. And the mouth is about 10" long, but only 2" wide at the bottom. (This isn't a shovel that will remove a lot of soil as you dig, you need a regular shovel with a wide mouth for that) This is for loosening the soil.

I brought it to Gilgal last week, and Terry used it to work on all the Elm tree stumps that have been hiding in the perennials, and got a bunch out. We decided I should bring this shovel every week. Those elm trees have been hiding for a long time, we've been chopping them off, thinking they were gone, but they weren't.

As we all get older, good tools are important. Check this one out, it will make gardening easier for you!

P.S. Don't try to save money and buy another lookalike. I saw one of those at a local store we all frequent here in town. It is not the same quality, and you won't be happy. Most have a shorter mouth, no wide shoulders to step on, and probably won't do a good job. And this has a lifetime guarantee!



Projects

Gilgal Garden	Judi Short judi.short@gmail.com 801-487-7387	Tuesday mornings at 8:00	Maintenance and education
YMCA	Wendy Brown 1savvyshopper2@gmail.com 801-870-5222	Thursday mornings 8:00 - 9:00	Maintenance and education
Garden Patch Newsletter	Terry Curling terryc@digis.net 801-967-1807	Varies	Writing articles, assist with production & mailing
Little Confluence Open Space	Jerry Milne jerrymilne@comcast.net 801-268-4163	Tuesday Mornings at 8:00	Maintenance and education

Gilgal Garden: Spring 2018

Every week when we go to Gilgal Garden, there is something new to see.

The forsythia and lilacs have been cut back. Most of the iris have bloomed. The salvia have just begun, and the lavender is ready to bloom. The Brunnera has finished blooming. The Persicaria is just starting to bloom, if you haven't seen that plant, you should stop by. A real workhorse that doesn't need anything but water until Halloween, blooms from now until then. No dead heading!! The rose garden looks terrific, lots of blooms, we can't wait.

The best news is that the 13 Hornbeam 'Frans Fontaine" are all doing very well, and we are trying to decide what small shrubs or large perennials we might plant in front of them. We especially are looking for something with some interest, like red or yellow-twiggged dogwood.

If you have great ideas, shoot me an email. In some places, we can put small shrubs. In other places, where the flagstone walkway is up close to the trees, we can only put small perennials.

We always have plenty of garden visitors. I am amazed at the number that come from out of state because they saw us in Travelocity or some other magazine or website. The word is out. And, we can always use extra help. If there are a few of us, we are there for three hours or more. But if there are lots of us, we are finished quickly. So, think about joining us on a Tuesday morning. Now that the weather has warmed up, we start at 8 a.m. every Tuesday. 749 East 500 South.

Judi Short judi.short@gmail.com -- 801.487.7387 h -- 801.864.7387 c



Fringe Tree
Chlonanthus Virginicus



Golden's Garden

by Wm. Golden Reeves



About the 10th of May, I had to pull all of the plants that were still in the greenhouse because it was getting too hot for them. This being the end of May, the garden is all planted and up doing well. I planted the carrots and radishes together and covered them with Remay. A lot of the time I have trouble getting the carrots to germinate, so by planting them together, the radishes shade the carrots. But this year, with the cover over them, no problem they jumped out of the ground.

My tomatoes are off to a great start with some tomatoes set on already. They are about three feet tall and that is a good height for the last part of May. I have broccoli heads starting to form and by the first of June I should have some ready to pick. The cabbage heads are starting to form and the cauliflower heads are forming as well. So my broccoliaholic dog will be in seventh heaven as soon as I start picking the broccoli.

The Mutsu apple tree had a problem with fire blight last year. I had trimmed all of the big branches and it looked to be recovering okay. This spring however, an old problem I have had on it for many years showed up. It had picked up a virus many years ago when I grafted scion wood from Mark Red apple trees onto it. It was so bad I decided to take it out. I had another Cameo tree I had grafted two years ago so I planted that in it's place. My Granny Smith apple tree was a flush bloom this year so I used a liquid seven to spray to try to get a lot of the fruit to fall with June drop. I will need to keep a good watch on it. I may need to do a lot of thinning to keep it from producing a ton of small apples.

My first compost pile this season has cooked out and I have put it in one of my bins to finish. The second pile is much bigger and I have been waiting for the green material to put it together. I cut down the daffodils and old tulip tops along with some weeds. I put them on the lawn, then used the lawn mower to chop them up with the lawn clippings. This makes great green material to add with the wood chips to get it to start cooking fast. It takes about a month for it to cook out but it needs to be turned, and watered when the temperature starts to fall.

The pansies I planted last fall are really blooming great and it is getting time to take them out, but my wife doesn't want me to pull them out just yet. I have some dahlias ready to plant there so I will try to keep them growing on the patio until the hotter weather arrives. I potted them up in the last part of February and they are in full bloom.

I talked with Bart Anderson a couple of weeks ago and he had planted corn. I planted corn the same day only I had made paper pots and planted them in the basement. In five days my corn was up ready to plant in the garden. My corn is up 6 inches and his hasn't come up yet. Checking with Bart, he thought his would be up in a few days. I have had problems in the past in getting the corn up with the paper pot method. I get a better start without having the problems when planted directly in the soil.

I had the best radishes this year and found out my dog likes radishes as well.

So far the weather has been great this season and I hope it will remain.



Association News:

It's a busy time of year for a gardener! Now that the weather has warmed up everything is growing fast including those pesky weeds. Remember to take some time to relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

The association welcomes anyone who is an avid garden, interested in increasing their gardening knowledge, or willing to share their expertise with others.

Is there a topic you are interested in learning about or that you would like to share with our group? Please contact a member of the board.

The Garden Patch

Salt Lake County Gardening Association's monthly vibe.

We welcome comments, suggestions, ideas and garden articles.

Editor: Terry Curling terryc@digis.net

Latest blog and past issues of The Garden Patch may be found at SLMG.org



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The Garden Patch
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