



**The Wetland Discovery Point** (Vol. 2) May - June 2008


Spring is always busy at the Utah Botanical Center's (UBC) ponds with the arrival of migratory birds, people armed with fishing poles, and children on field trips examining the plants and creatures that make the wetlands their home. This year there is a different sort of activity going on as well: construction of a new education center that will be among the most energy and environmentally sustainable buildings in the state.

Wetland Discovery Point will put visitors right in the UBC wetland to learn about these intricate ecosystems and the important roles they play in managing storm-water, providing habitat for animals and creating opportunities for recreation.

The 3,200 sq. ft. building, designed by Salt Lake City-based AJC Architects, is on track to qualify for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certification—the highest ranking awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council. There are currently just 73 Platinum Certified buildings in the United States, none of which are in Utah.

The building will use solar panels to generate electricity and its design maximizes use of natural light. The roof will gather rainwater and snowmelt for use in landscape irrigation and for flushing toilets. A bio-filtration system will handle waste-water onsite. The heating and cooling system is also environmentally friendly.

Many other features will make this an exciting example of sustainable construction and a great addition to environmental education in the state. Funding for Wetland Discovery Point comes from the Utah Legislature, various state agencies, and private donors. It is a big undertaking and there are still opportunities to make contributions that will make this project a reality. Work by Big-D Construction began in late April and we look forward to welcoming visitors this fall.

 David Anderson—Director, Utah Botanical Center

**Water-wise Annuals** By Jerry Goodspeed

When we think of annuals, we normally think of areas with spectacular colors that bloom all summer. We also think of high water usage to keep them looking their best. However, this does not always have to be the case. There are many annuals that are considered low-water use plants that still thrive and give that abundance of colors even in a water-wise landscape. The following annuals thrive in hot, dry locations and are some of my favorites.



*Globe amaranth blossoms*

Try them in a flower bed that gets full sun or in a spot where other annuals have collapsed from heat in the past. *Dahlberg daisy*. This is a low-growing annual. It has small, yellow flowers that cover the plant until the first freeze in the fall. *Creeping zinnia* (*Sanvitalia*). This is another low-growing ground cover type annual that fills in large areas quickly with yellow to orange, brown-centered flowers. *Globe amaranth* (*Gomphrena*). Amaranth reaches a height of 1 - 2 feet with red, pink, white, purple and yellow flowers shaped like a large clover. Great for using in dry flower arrangements. *Annual statice*. Statice comes in a wide variety of colors and is also great for drying. The flower bolts to about 18 inches, creating a spectacular show. *Madagascar periwinkle* (annual vinca). This works well



*Creeping Zinnia as a ground-cover*

in any annual bed. The vivid pink, rose, purple, white and salmon colored flowers last for long periods of time. *Cockscomb* (*celosia*). Cockscombs have plumed flowers that can look like something from a distant planet. Although the flowers are a little different, they are very colorful and large, sometimes reaching 18 inches in diameter. They are very showy in a landscape. For more information and other water-wise annuals go to: [http://extension.usu.edu/htm/faq/faq\\_q=160](http://extension.usu.edu/htm/faq/faq_q=160)

If it's lush, green, and thriving in the garden...it's a weed! — **Author Unknown**



To subscribe or unsubscribe, e-mail Davis County: [jayne.mulford@usu.edu](mailto:jayne.mulford@usu.edu) or Weber County: [kathy.bardwell@usu.edu](mailto:kathy.bardwell@usu.edu)

## Featured Tree

By JayDee Gunnell

### 'PRAIRIEFIRE' CRABAPPLE

**Type:** Medium-size flowering tree

**Zone:** 4 (-30 to -20°F)

**Size:** 20-25 feet tall and wide

#### Description:

The dark pink flowers of this ornamental tree give it a definite "show stopping" quality when in full bloom. The dark burgundy leaves give transition to a bronze-green color during the summer months. The 1/2" fruit is persistent, which means it "hangs" on the tree well into the winter, serving as a food source for song birds as well as adding aesthetic appeal to the drab, colorless winter landscape. This tree also has good resistance to disease and much like other crabapples, it is renowned for being extremely cold hardy and tolerant of just about any soil condition.



## Featured Perennial

By Richard M. Anderson

### UTAH SWEETVETCH

*Hedysarum boreale*

Legume Family

Do you need a source of reliable perennial color for the late spring and early summer garden? If you answered yes, you might consider giving Utah sweetvetch a try. This species will visually enhance any water-wise rock garden, perennial border or natural place. Magenta pea-like blooms appear in spring and last through mid-summer. Spent blooms will provide visual contrast to attractive grey-green season-long foliage or promptly dead-head to encourage new blooms. Utah sweetvetch prefers well-drained, infertile soils ranging from rocky, gravelly and sandy, to heavy clay. Because it develops a strong taproot, it is capable of extracting moisture deep in the soil profile. The result is a considerably drought resistant and winter hardy plant (-40°F). A number of variables, such as soil, water, exposure and elevation, will affect the ultimate size of Utah sweetvetch in the landscape. You can expect a plant from six to twenty-four inches tall and up to three feet in diameter. The Utah sweetvetch cultivar, 'Timp,' will be available for purchase at the Ogden Botanical Garden's Plant Sale on May 23-24, 2008.



## Codling Moth

By Jerry L. Goodspeed

Spring must be in the air - the birds are returning, the bees are buzzing, and the codling moths are circling our apples and pears and getting ready to inflict as much damage as possible. The larva of the codling moth is also known as that #%&##\*@!!# worm that gets into the apples and pears.

The first generation emerges in late spring based on temperature and soon lays its eggs on or near the fruit. It is critical for good control to kill as many of the first generation larva as possible. This is accomplished by properly timing the first cover spray.



For this reason, Utah State University has several monitoring stations throughout the northern Utah area to help all home owners and commercial growers time their sprays and control methods to reduce any negative environmental impact and still control the codling moth. This information is published at <http://utahpests.usu.edu/ipm/htm/advisories/treefruit>. You can also call the Extension Office horticulture help lines as we near the middle of May.

There are different options for control available to the home owner. These include the following sprays: *carbaryl* (Every 7 days), *spinosad* (7 days), *codling moth virus* (7 days), *esfenvalerate* (7 days), *malathion* (5-7 days), *pyrethrin* or *pyrethrum* (5-7 days), *azadirachtin* (5 days), or *Bt* (5 days) horticultural mineral oil, kaolin clay, or attract-and-kill (Last Call™) -suppressants only-

For reapplication intervals, always consult with the product labels.

## Spring at the Utah House

By Jayne Mulford

### RAIN HARVESTING: AN OLD IDEA WITH A NEW TWIST!

Rainwater has been collected for centuries. Historically, this water was used for drinking, but you can harvest your own rain water to irrigate vegetables, flowers or trees on your own property. The Rain Harvesting Workshop, held on May 7 and June 26, will introduce you to several rainwater collection options, with some examples of how to calculate how much water you can actually collect off of your roof.



You will also be able to learn firsthand about the two rainwater collection systems currently being used at the Utah House.

### AGGIE ADVENTURE CAMP FOR KIDS

Come explore the slimy, wet, and wonderful world of nature at the Utah Botanical Center this summer!

Each summer day camp in our series is designed for a particular age group and is full of fun, hands-on experiments to help kids investigate the natural world in which they live. Camps begin in June. For more information call (801) 544-3089.

Camps include...

*Slimy, Goopy, Gross & Owls, Spells and Potions & Wild Wilderness Art Camp & Energy Explorers & Water World & and more...*



## The GARDEN CALENDAR



- ▶ **Plant warm-season vegetables (about mid May):** Corn, beans, tomatoes, peppers, melons, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins.
- ▶ **Plant annual flowers:** For consistent color throughout the growing season.
- ▶ **Prune spring flowering shrubs (those that bloom before June 1st):** After they have bloomed. \**Forsythia, lilac, Mock Orange, Viburnum, Snowball bush, Cistena Plum, Flowering Almond, and Quince (to name a few).*
- ▶ **Control broadleaf weeds in the lawn.** Spray on calm days when the temperature is less than 85 degrees F.
- ▶ **Measure your lawn water:** Turfgrass only needs between 1/2" - 1 1/2" of water per week during these cooler months.
- ▶ **Try feeding the lawn with a slow-release fertilizer:** This provides an extended release throughout the summer.
- ▶ **Cut back spring flowering bulbs.** When the leaves die-back about two-thirds.
- ▶ **Call the USU Extension Offices:** To check on spray times for fruit tree pests or check out the updates at: <http://utahpests.usu.edu/ipm>.
- ▶ **Thin Fruit:** Apples, pears, and peaches to 1 fruit every 5-6" when they are the size of a dime.

## Utah Botanical Center Upcoming Events...

**COME VISIT THE UTAH HOUSE**  
920 South 50 West, Kaysville (801) 544-3089  
Monday—Friday, 1:00-5:00 pm  
Saturday, 10:00 am—2:00 pm



### **Rain Harvesting Class**—Wed., May 7 and June 26, 2008 (7 - 8 pm)

Extension Sustainable Living and Water Resource Specialist Mike Dietz teaches how to minimize your impact on local waters. Calculate how much water your home's roof could allow you to collect, and explore options for storing and using harvested water.

### **Merit Badge Classes:**

These classes include fun hands-on activities designed to cover the majority of the requirements for each badge during the class.

- Energy – Tuesday, June 3, 2008 - 10 am – 2 pm
- Landscape Architecture – Tuesday, June 17, 2008 – 10 am – 3 pm
- Bird Study – Tuesday, June 24, 2008 – 10 am – 2 pm

### **National Trails Day**—June 7, 2008 – 8:00am

Celebrate National Trails Day by walking a trail with Kaysville Mayor, Neka Roundy. Meet at the Utah House at 8:00 am to walk along the Utah Botanical Center Ponds trail. Enjoy viewing the many birds visiting the ponds this time of year.

### **Solar Living Class**—Thursday, June 12, 2008 (7- 8 pm)

A team of experts from *In Hott Water Heat and Power*, will discuss options for residential power and hot water systems in Utah, including state and federal tax incentives.

## Ogden Botanical Gardens Upcoming Events...

### **COME VISIT THE OGDEN BOTANICAL GARDENS!**

1750 Monroe Boulevard, Ogden (399-8080)  
Monday—Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm

### **Annual Plant Sale** – Friday, May 23 (4-6 pm), Saturday, May 24 (10 am-2 pm)

Purchase perennials, annuals, herbs, vegetables, and a few shrubs grown at the Ogden Botanical Gardens and Utah Botanical Center.



### **Landscape Design Course** (4-weeks) – Tuesdays, May 13, 20, 27, June 10 (9:00 -11:30 am)

Learn how to design your home's landscape from the experts. Fee: \$75 for Ogden Botanical Members, \$100 for non-members

### **Lunch in the Gardens with an Expert: Designing Gardens with Perennials & Annuals** with **Peter Lassig** (Former Temple Square Head Gardener) – Friday, May 16, 12-1 pm

### **Free Plant Diagnostic Clinics** – Wednesdays, 3-6 pm (May through September) We will help solve all your plant ailments.

### **A Lucky Day in the Gardens** – Friday, June 13, 9 am-6 pm

This is a great way to spend Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Join us at the Ogden Botanical Gardens for a casual Friday. Discover new plant materials and new design developments, visit the demonstration gardens and arboretum, enjoy a tour conducted by a Master Gardener, and just feel "lucky" to be in such beautiful surroundings.

### **Lunch in the Gardens with an Expert: Herbs—Grow, Cook, Enjoy Their Fragrance & Sense Their Power** with **Joy Bossi** (570 KNRS "Joy in the Garden") – Friday, June 20, 12-1 pm

## CONTACT INFORMATION

UTAH BOTANICAL CENTER—801-593-8969  
<http://utahbotanicalcenter.org/>  
GARDENING HELP LINE  
Phone: 451-3204 (M, W, F) 9:00am-12:00pm

OGDEN BOTANICAL GARDENS—399-8080  
<http://extension.usu.edu/weber>  
GARDENING HELP LINE  
Phone: 399-8080 (Mon-Fri) 12:30-3:30pm