



**STONY PLAIN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



down the Garden Path

S.P.H.S. 2009 Board

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Meeting DETAILS

General meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month (except July, August and December) at 7:30 pm, usually in the cafeteria of the Memorial Composite High School. Membership is not required to attend a meeting but we do ask for a \$2.00 drop-in donation fee.

Message from the PRESIDENT

Welcome Spring! The weather is warming up and gardening season is just around the corner. For those of us who are lucky enough to have a greenhouse the season has already started. The kids are on spring break and I've had them working in the greenhouse and cleaning the rabbit pens (we have 6 rabbits). The manure is good for the garden so who can complain about that? This past month has been very busy with soccer provincials, soccer tryouts for outdoors, music, work, housework and the greenhouse. Our three cats enjoy the time I spend in the greenhouse. They find a nice warm spot on the bench and sleep the day away. Charlie, the male, doesn't get to spend much time in there because if I don't keep a really good eye on him he tends to lie on the plants, not very good greenhouse etiquette.

My neighbors have been asking a lot of questions about gardening lately, so I thought I would share some of them with you. One neighbor wanted to know what the white cloth that I had draped over my plants was for. The cloth was covering the small cucumbers when I put them in the garden. I start my cucumbers in the greenhouse, in small pots that I make out of newspaper. The extra growing time in the greenhouse gives them a good jump on getting them germinated. Covering them protects them from the wind and the direct sun. I start uncovering the row when the days get too hot and take the cover off completely when the plants are well under way. The other question I had this year was how to grow nice cabbage without the cabbage butterfly turning them into Swiss cheese. Chemical spays are usually used on store bought cabbage but I'm sure that can't be good for us and I do enjoy the challenge of growing my own cabbage and taste of it afterwards. When you grow your own you have the option of growing the varieties you want, and of course the flavor can't compare to store bought. The cabbage butterfly lays her eggs on the cabbage, the eggs hatch and the larva then chew, chew, chew. You have to prevent them from laying the eggs on the cabbage in the first place. I have PVC hoops that go over the row and fine screen that I recycled from an old screen house. The screen is small enough that the butterflies can't get through.

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HORTICULTURE highlights

QUESTION of the month

Answer to March question — what is a wattle fence?

A wattle fence is a temporary fence constructed by weaving young, straight, pliable stems of shrubs between upright posts. At Keephills, the kids and I have built one of these behind the herb garden to give the plants a nice background feature. We used willow stems.

April's Question of the Month — What is meant by the term sericeous?

SEED collecting

Thank you to those members who brought their seeds to the February meeting. It is always fun to share our knowledge and experiences with fellow gardeners. The seeds that were left at the end of the evening are being packaged and sold at special events, such as the Seedy Saturdays.

BIRTHDAYS

April — Elaine Frankiw, Mabel Stanway, Ann Owens



DATES to remember

April 7 — General Meeting

April 18 — Seedy Saturday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm Devonian Botanic Garden. Admission \$2.00. Guest speakers

April 24 – 25 — A.H.A. conference 2009, in Lethbridge Alberta. "Gardening for a Greener Future". Lethbridge Senior Citizens Centre April 24 and Saturday April 25. The convention coincides with the Lethbridge Horticultural Society's 100th anniversary. Mabel Stanway has offered to drive to Lethbridge and has said there is room in her car for a couple of extra members. If you are interested in going and need a ride, talk to Mabel.

May 1 — Forget Me Not Greenhouse opens.

May 5 — Guest Speaker - Lorraine Taylor, Horticulturist – "George Pegg Gardens"

May 23 — Spring Plant Sale, to be held at the Stony Plain Country Market. From 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

June 2 — Guest Speaker – Gail Rankin, Horticultural Consultant – New and Upcoming Bugs in Your Garden.

July 18/19 — Yard and Garden Tour, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

August 23 — Members Family picnic. Stony Plain Museum.

August 29 – 30 — Edmonton Horticultural Society Bench Show. Blatchford Hanger. Fort Edmonton Park www.edmontonhort.com

100TH ANNIVERSARY flower and vegetable show

August 29 – 30. Keep this date on your calendar. It is always fun and educational to attend a bench show but it is also great to be a participant. There are show books available on the membership table. This event is hosted by the Edmonton Horticultural Society.

Cookbooks

We have some up-to-date books made up. If you are a member and haven't received a book, please help yourself. We are always looking for recipes to add to the collection.

HISTORY and trivia

Testing Your KNOWLEDGE

Where was the Stony Plain Horticultural Society's last Flower Show?

Where was the 2008 conference held?

Who is the A.H.A. Historian?

Answers to last months questions:

Who is the President of the Edmonton Horticultural Society?
Maggie Easton

Who is the President of the A.H.A.? *Ron Erickson*

A.H.A. stands for *Alberta Horticultural Association*

D.B.G. stands for *Devonian Botanic Garden*

The George Pegg Gardens are located on
Highway 43 past Onoway at Glenevis

The A.H.A. has the Stony Plain Horticultural Society listed in zone *5*

Our A.H.A. representative is *John Henderson*

MEMBER picks

Ericka's picks

- Carrots – Touchon Deluxe
- Peas – Green Arrow
- Spinach – Correnta
- Potatoes – Norland
- Tomatoes – Basket Vee, Beefmaster
- Lettuce – Prizehead

We are always looking for new picks or suggestions. Please submit your picks to Karen Berglund.

Message from the PRESIDENT

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The light, air, wind and rain go straight through. Try growing one or two heads for yourself. You could make small boxes that are covered with screen to go over one or two heads. It is worth growing just to enjoy garden fresh cabbage.

– Submitted by Karen Berglund

ODDS and ENDS

A.H.A. Raffle — Last chance to buy a ticket, April 7 meeting. Draw date - April 25 at the convention.

Prizes: *1st*: Afghan, *2nd*: Cross Stitch Picture, *3rd*: Swag Hanging, *4th*: Quilted Wall Hanging

Stony Plain Horticultural Society Clothing – The shirts and jackets were purchased at Lusha Designs Sportswear in Stony Plain, 5012C – 50th St. 780-968-2537

Saskatoon Valley Orchards – If you are in need of some frozen saskatoons, give Karen or Keith a call 780-963-8311

Karen Berglund — Tomato plants for sale, as well as assorted other annuals and perennials.

Keephills School G.R.O.W. Project

The garden program will be starting up again right after Easter. The squirrels and the birds have been well fed out in the Keephills area. Thank you to the grade 5/6 students for filling the bird feeders each week. Some of the birds that we see out at Keephills are: Downy Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Bluejays, Black-capped Chickadees, Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls and the Bohemian Waxwings. These birds are a delight to watch and a great source of entertainment for these long winter days.

SHOP Talk

Last week I, Karen, had a chance to speak to Arnie Pittao from Lloydminster. Arnie is the secretary for the A.H.A. and also in charge of the Audio Visual Library. We had a great chat, and I thank him for his encouragement and all the work he has done and continues to do for the A.H.A. It was great talking with you, Arnie. Hope to see you at the conference at the end of the month.

SEEDY Sunday

Thank you to Mabel Stanway and Ericka Unterschultz for attending Seedy Sunday on March 22. As usual there was a timely dump of snow to make the day interesting. Each of us was able to attend one of the guest speakers' lectures. (I wasn't able to stay for the whole day because my daughter was in the gold metal match at soccer provincials. They won!!!!) The day was well attended despite the weather and the speakers were full of good information. The one I went to was representing USC Canada "Seed Saving in East Timor". The challenges people face there is to grow food, store seeds and store food. There are no seed companies to order the seeds from and certainly no money even if there were. I encourage all of our members to attend these worthwhile events. The folks who come to represent their businesses or interest groups have a lot of good information to share. It is always good to see old friends and to meet new ones.

LIBRARY and MUSEUM Gardens

Stony Plain Library and the Stony Plain Museum work will soon begin again. Herb Erickson has suggested we put in more perennials where needed. Focus is on our color theme – pink - and zinnias in our "Plant of the Year" focal area. Wednesday mornings worked well in 2008 to get together to work in the garden. If you would like to get together on Wednesdays to help, and join us for coffee, talk to Herb.

Yard and Garden TOUR — July 18 – 19.

The committee is always looking for yards to add to the list of potential yards. They need not necessarily be for the present year. We ask our members to keep their eyes and ears open to ensure the tour continues. It is a fun and educational way to spend a weekend. Remember to put these dates on your calendar. If you would like to get involved on the committee, speak to Pat M or Diane C.

PLANT Sale

Our annual spring plant sale is fast approaching. All garden related items are welcome. Annuals with some color are a good draw. We ask that all donations of plant material be potted, and labeled. If you can help with the sale please talk to Jo Ann. The date is set for May 23, 2009. Stony Plain Exhibition Grounds.

Gardening RECIPE

Insecticidal Soap

2 tbsps true soap*

4 liters water

A few drops of cooking oil

Combine well.

*To make your own insecticidal soap, use true soap, not detergent. Examples of true soap would be Ivory Liquid Soap or Murphy's Oil Soap.

What Do You Get WHEN....

You cross a petunia with a million bells? A Petchoa!!!!

This is a new species of plant that was developed a few years ago by a breeding company called Danzinger. By crossing a petunia with a Calibrachoa, both of which originate in South America, the petchoa was discovered. It is excellent for pots, planters and hanging baskets due to its robust, compact composition. As well, it is "self-cleaning", needing no dead-heading.

With its groundcover-like habit, this sun lover is an ideal semi-trailer for containers. It does require a lot of fertilizer to keep it looking its best, though it is quite forgiving of drying between waterings. It also bears up well to both wind and rain.

Danzinger named their "offspring" Calitunia", but the species name is "Petchoa". Three promising varieties are "Neon Rose", with vivid magenta-fuschia flowers, "Velvet" with dark burgundy blooms and "Terra Cotta" with multi-colored flowers.

SELL trade

Small plastic greenhouse — Asking \$75.00.
Call Sheila Hardy, 780-484-4629.

If you wish to buy, sell or trade garden related items you are welcome to list them in the newsletter. Contact Karen Berglund.

SEEDY SATURDAY at DBG

Of special note to any fruit growers, the DBG Fruit Growers Group is holding a Spring Scion Wood Exchange. They are also planning a grafting demonstration, so if you are interested in that, bring some material along to practice with. So gather up and make a list of all your scion wood varieties and your wish list for easy reference, and join the group for the exchange about 10:30 a.m. The public opening is for 11:00 a.m., and goes to 4:00 p.m. Scions will also be sold, and the suggested price is \$2.00 for 3 to 5 buds. If you have rootstock for sale, bring that as well. There will also be a limited supply of apricot and black walnut seed.

Looking back ...

From the publication "The Bud" January 1968

The first meeting of the 1968 season was to be held on February 6th in the new M.D. building conference room at 8 PM sharp. Arrangements had been made with Mr. Earl Lowe, District Agriculturist, to show his collection of slides taken in the Stony Plain District, of trees and shelterbelts, homes and gardens and other items of general interest to the members. The members were also invited to view the tropical plant collection in the main entrance of the new headquarters.

Member of the Month — Mr. Allan Cumming. Mr. Cumming was the original secretary of this society when it was formed in September 1964. Although he is no longer active in the society and has retired and moved from the district, he will be constantly remembered for his generous donation of our first trophy. This trophy was donated for the winning arrangement of glads at the annual flower show. It has been won for the past three years by Mrs. Margaret Vanderwell, who after winning it outright, has donated it back to the society for continuous competition.

"At our April meeting we will be having another plant auction, so consider starting a number of slips and cuttings for this sale. It was certainly well accepted last year and members had a lot of fun buying extra plants. We were able to raise over \$10.00 this way."

Perma CULTURE



At the March Seedy Sunday in Edmonton, I had the good fortune to attend a lecture by **Ron Berezan**, owner of The Urban Farmer, a small, family-run business based in Edmonton.

The Urban Farmer is an organic

gardening and specialty landscaping service that has been in operation for about 15 years. Ron also conducts many lectures and workshops, and the topic nearest to his heart is Perma Culture, which approaches landscape designing as a way to create beautiful living systems that provide food and other essentials in sustainable ways.

Perma Culture is based on three ethical principles:

- Care of the earth
- Care of the people
- Sharing the surplus

Key principles:

1. **Observation** – Understand your immediate environment to create appropriate designs.
2. **Native plants** – Whenever possible choose plants best suited for our environment and purposes.
3. **Perennial plants** – These long term members usually cost less labor and resources than annuals. That is not to say we should not grow any annuals, however.

4. **Relationships** – Plants are selected and situated to best further their relationships with each other.
5. **Elements** – All elements will serve multiple functions. For example, a fruit tree can provide shade, a place for your hammock, fruit to eat, habitat for birds, screen undesirable views, and build the soil.
6. **Functions** – All functions are supported by multiple elements. Food comes from many plants. Water will be retained and harvested in a variety of ways.
7. **Zones** – A tool for site analysis, zone 1 being closest to the house (most readily accessible items) to zone 5 being the "wild land" left for birds and other local wildlife.
8. **Resource use** – Permaculture systems strive to minimize external inputs and waste. Natural inputs would include sunlight, rainwater, compost and mulch.
9. **Stacking** – Plants are chosen to occupy seven layers – below ground (root crops), ground cover, herbaceous plants, shrubs, small trees, tall trees, and vines.

Perma culture is not a passing fad. It is a lifestyle, and in our present day culture of built-in obsolescence and throw-away, it is a drastic change. But if we want to pass our world on to our descendants, we will need to implement many such changes, and take care of the world and people around us, for if we do not, this may all cease to exist.

NOTE: Ron Berezan may be contacted at 780-221-4800 or through www.theurbanfarmer.ca

– Submitted by Ericka Unterschultz