



STONY PLAIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



down the Garden Path

S.P.H.S. 2009 Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President: Karen Berglund 780-963-6575
- Vice President: Ericka Unterschultz 780-963-6061
- Secretary: Janice Nickolson 780-963-8242
- Treasurer: Stephanie Camilleri 780-968-0780
- Honorary President: Barb Hutchison 780-962-8312

Newsletter details and suggestions:
diane@paragraphics.ca

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Meeting DETAILS

Monthly general meetings will be held in the **drama room of the Stony Plain High School, 50 Westerra Centre Doors open at 7:00 p.m.**, meeting takes place at 7:30 p.m. (look for our signs). Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month (except July, August and December). Membership is not required to attend a meeting but we do ask for a \$2.00 drop-in donation fee.

Message from the PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow gardeners! Spring is in full swing and I hope you have been enjoying seeding your annuals and perennials for this year. It is an exciting as well as a busy time for all of us. The ornamental pussy willow in my yard is lovely this year. It is finally big enough to cut a few branches for Easter. Things are starting to poke through the ground and show us that we will soon be getting our hands into the earth where we are most happy.

Our speaker last month, Dr. Ieuan Evans, provided us with a lot of information to digest. There were some handouts left on the membership table about growing apples and saving your own seeds. Dr. Evans was entertaining as well as informative. Hope those who attended enjoyed the evening.

A little spring idea: In a pot of your choosing, plant some oats. This is a project that I do each year for Easter but good for any occasion. It only takes about 10 days to have a lovely pot of greenery. Decorate as you wish but it does look great for Easter. I add a few pussy willow twigs, some silk flowers and a nice bow. Clay pots or anything decorative is always a good choice.

School is out for a week and I have had the kids cleaning their rooms, doing some yard work, greenhouse chores, – there is never a lack of things to do around the Berglund household.

The A.H.A. conference in Camrose is fast approaching, and I'm looking forward to seeing fellow gardeners from across the province. It looks like there will be a few from Stony Plain going. We are hoping to get some ideas for our own next year. Hope you all have a rewarding gardening season.

— Karen Berglund

ANNUAL SPRING plant sale

Spring is finally here! It's been a long winter. Seeds have been planted and now it's time to watch them sprout. I hope you remembered to plant some for our Spring Plant Sale. Any donation is welcome; plants, tools, books, magazines, etc. Anything related to gardening. The sale date is May 29 at the Heritage Farmers Market (old Exhibition grounds). And will be from 9am to 1pm. Please also consider volunteering. Any questions, please let Jo-Ann Lubbers know.

HORTICULTURE highlights

QUESTION of the month

Answer to March question

What is meant by the term “decurrent”? A base of a leaf, leaflet, or other plant parts that extends down from the point where it is attached to the stem. The base is adnate, meaning it is fused or nearly fused to the petiole (if there is one) and the stem. Bull thistle has decurrent leaf bases that are also spiny.

April Question of the Month – What is meant by the term trophism?

FLOWER AND COLOR of the year, 2010

Flower — Snapdragon
Color — Yellow



BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

April: Natalie Hay, Elaine Frankiw, Mabel Stanway, Ann Owens.

- **Mabel Stanway** will be celebrating her 80th birthday on April 19th.
- **Margaret Doige** celebrated her 65th birthday on March 28.

Congratulations to the both of you and a big happy birthday to those who are celebrating a birthday this month.

Mabel will be celebrating her birthday on May 1 at the Spruce Grove Pioneer Center. Time: 1 – 5 p.m.

DATES to Remember

April 24, 2010

2010 A.H.A. Annual conference to be held in Camrose – Mark this on your calendar. The guest speakers and topics will be Vicky Cole – “Water Conservation” and Jim Hole – “Living Green”.

May 4, 2010

Half Price Admission Day to the Devonian Botanic Gardens

May 29, 2010

Annual Spring Plant Sale at the Heritage Market Gardens

June 2, 2010

Half Price Admission Day to the Devonian Botanic Gardens

July 6, 2010

Half Price Admission Day to the Devonian Botanic Gardens

July 10 – 11, 2010

Martagon Lily Show at the Devonian Botanic Gardens

July 17 – 18, 2010

SPHS Yard & Garden Tour

NEW Members

A moment to welcome our new members. It is hard to get around to everyone at the meeting so I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the Stony Plain Horticultural Society. We have a great group of gardeners some with a lot of experience and some with just a few years under their belt. Either way we are all sharing and learning from our gardening experiences. It is a great place to meet new friends and get involved in the community — Welcome!

New Members:

Eileen Campbell: 780-968-290
Natalie Hay: 780-459-6546
Patrick McAleese: 780-968-6712
Hans Zurcher: 780-418-4267
Annette Savard: 780-968-1332
Theresa Steckhahn: 780-963-6862

Please add new members to your S.P.H.S. phone list. Remember that we are sharing phone numbers so the members can keep in touch, This list is not to be used for other purposes.

POTATOES, Potatoes, Potatoes!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Stony Plain Horticultural Society has ordered some seed potatoes from Eagle Seed Farm in Bowden. The spuds will be shipped at the beginning of April and we will have them for our May meeting. Anyone interested in getting a few is welcome to do so. We are doing this to help introduce you to some different varieties that are available in the market place We ask that you sign up for these spuds under the understanding that we would like some feedback on how they grew in your location and what you thought of the varieties you choose to grow.

RECIPES

Our recipe book has been an ongoing project for the several years now. The board has discussed putting them into a book for sale. 2010 will see the conclusion of the recipes each month. If you would like to contribute anything to the book, a recipe, a garden tip or a joke we would like to have them as soon as possible — the meeting in June will be the deadline. Thank you to those who have contributed to our cookbook.

Need a RIDE?

If you are unable to make it to a meeting because you need a ride, give me a call and we can find someone in your area to pick you up — call Karen 780-963-6575

Door PRIZES

Put your name in each month for a door prize. Paper and the door prize box are located on the membership table.

Coffee MUGS

Please remember your travel mug. This cuts down on the garbage. Feel free to bring something for the refreshment table – cookies, squares.

50/50 TICKETS

Stephanie has your 50/50 tickets — look for her at each meeting.

FLOWER Bouquets:

Thank you to Mabel Stanway and Ericka Unterschultz for manning the S.P.H.S. table at the Alberta Avenue Community League Seedy Sunday on March 21. The day was very busy as the weather was much better than last year. Thank you Ericka for the information on the Seed Exchange Directory — www.seeds.ca (Canada's Heritage Seed Program).

Thanks to Barb Hutchison for the great job as coffee coordinator.

Thank you Phyllis for your donation of a couple of door prizes.



ODDS and ENDS

SHOP Talk

Tea in the Garden

Special Event to be hosted by the Stony Plain Horticultural Society. For many years now our members have been traveling to different locations around Edmonton to promote our club. Great thing to do, but it was thought we should do a bit more in our own community this year. Simone and Paul Deman from Forget Me Not Greenhouse have kindly invited us to their greenhouse on Sunday – April 18th, from 1 – 4 pm. The objective is for the society to be more visible in the community and to help answer any gardening questions to help get gardeners on their way for spring. We will be serving coffee, tea and juice, and squares and cookies. If you are able to help at the event or are able to bake a plate of squares or cookies, please add your name to the sign-up sheet.

St. Albert **BOTANIC PARK** News

Once again the Park is selling roses. There is quite an extensive list of roses. If you are interested in any we will be ordering the second week of April. Sign your name to our list at the meeting, or let Karen know. Most roses on the list run about \$26.00.

SPHS Library

Check out our supply of gardening books. Members may sign the books out for a month at a time.

Feel free to donate any extra books you may have.

If you would be interested in managing our library, please see Karen.

Community NEWS

Keephills School Lasagna Supper

April 16th Call 780-731-3965 for more information. Doors open at 5:30; Supper at 6:30. Tickets \$6.00.

DEVONIAN Botanic Garden

Get a Jump on Spring May 1st. Essentials for the eager gardener! For information on events call **780-987-3054** or visit www.devonian.ualberta.ca

Master Gardener Program at the Devonian Botanic Garden

Be the gardener you have always wanted to be. Call 780-987-3054 ext 2229 or email dbg.mastergardener@ales.ualberta.ca.

Available at www.devonian.ualberta.ca.

GUEST SPEAKERS for the year

May 4

Kim Neill, Town of Stony Plain –

Communities in Bloom Program – A discussion explaining the program, its history, and what is has meant to the town of Stony Plain.

June 1

Ron Berezan, The Urban Farmer –

Permaculture Gardens – Creating Abundance for People and the Planet. Permaculture is an approach to designing beautiful living systems that provide food (and other essentials) for people in sustainable ways, and Mr. Berezan is an ardent advocate of this practice.

SELL trade

Forget Me Not Greenhouse

(780-963-8162) and **Grove Valley Gardens** (780-962-3783) are open for business. Show your S.P.H.S. membership card and get 10% off plant material. This applies to Forget Me Not Greenhouse — you must show your card before items are rung in at the till.

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

If you wish to buy, sell or trade garden related items you are welcome to list them in the newsletter. Give the information to Karen Berglund. We are encouraging our members to add to the newsletter. Helpful bits of information, comments on events, and upcoming events — we would love to hear from the members regarding these or other matters.

MEMBER'S PICKS

by Jo-Ann Lubbers

Favourite Fruit varieties — rhubarb and honey crisp apples

Vegetables — Try new heritage tomatoes each year

Flowers — Phlox, all varieties, but lilies are a close second

Herbs — oregano, garlic chives

Added Garden Tips — To always use sunscreen — makes for a better gardening experience.

2 MINUTES a Day for...

... a **GREENER PLANET:**

Buy bulk food whenever possible.

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 29
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

at the Stony Plain Market
(Exhibition Grounds)



STONY PLAIN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Information
at 780.763.3122

GREEN thumb

As spring is upon us and the snow melts away the issue of water continues to be on our minds. Reading through an article from the West Central Conservation Group got me thinking about the trees in my yard. Water is always a concern – hot dry summers with not much rain and minimal snow in winter – what will become of my trees?

Signs of drought stress: It is often difficult to identify the effects of drought on trees. Some trees produce smaller leaves; in others the result is death. Every species of tree reacts to drought in a different way. Even within the same yard or windrow you may see the same variety reacting differently. Another response that you might see is the branches dying back. Evergreens often delay their stress so it is difficult to make an accurate diagnosis. Each needle stores reserves that can last 3 – 4 years. You may not see damage for two years if the tree has died. Growing conditions also affect a tree's ability to withstand drought. Competition is a significant factor. In a shelterbelt there is significant competition for water. Poplar, willow and elm are aggressive trees and other species growing within 6 meters have a tough time competing. Trees growing on hills or slopes will have a tough time due to the wind they are exposed to and probably already existing on low levels of water. It is estimated that 1.5 meters of snow is needed to keep the moisture levels at 20 cm deep.

Watering trees in the early years is essential. Once they are 4.5 – 5m tall they are considered established and are able to make it on their own with a normal annual rainfall. A mature tree requires 5 litres of water for every 30cm of height. Watering at the drip line is where the tree will benefit the most.

Take time to look at the health of your trees as they are an essential part of our landscape and our daily life. It would appear that as the years are getting dryer, collect snow and rain water whenever possible, water your trees and keep them healthy. Healthy trees make a healthy biodiversified landscape.



HISTORY and Trivia

Information from "The Bud"

Publication of the Stony Plain Horticultural Society — February 1968

Flower — Marigold , Stony Plain's 60th anniversary flower

This publication was mailed out at a cost of 3¢ per copy

Membership \$1.00

Mailing address was Box 329, Stony Plain, Alberta

Member of the month — Stan Sharp

Joke of the month — Two Texas farmers were always trying to outdo each other. So, one of the farmers told his son, "Go over to Ezra and borrow his cross-cut saw and tell him I want to cut a watermelon." Returning, the boy said, "Ezra says he can't let you have his saw until this afternoon. He's only halfway through a cucumber."

Testing Your **KNOWLEDGE**

What is the official name of the Japanese Garden at the D.B.G.?

Answers to March's questions:

Who is the President of Olds College?

Dr. Tom Thompson

POET'S corner

April

April: still —
Until the wind awakens,
Tossing the trees
In whirling dance.

April: still —
Until the sky thickens,
Splitting the clouds
With brilliant light.

April: still —
Until the rain rushes,
Drumming the roofs
In savage joy.

April: still —
Until the earth answers,
Filling the fields
With newborn life.

— Unknown

Tea in the Garden
at Forget-Me-Not Greenhouse

Details: Come and join the **Stony Plain Horticultural Society**, and fellow gardeners, for "Tea in the Garden"

Where: **Forget-Me-Not Greenhouse**
(corner of Hwy 16A and Range Road 14)

When: April 18, 2010
Time: 1:00 – 4:00 pm

A photograph of a white ceramic cup filled with dark tea, sitting on a matching saucer. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white.