



**STONY PLAIN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



down the Garden Path

Message from the **PRESIDENT**

February is now upon us and the days are definitely getting longer, and some of them warmer. These past couple of months have been busy. With all the snow we've received, my husband and I have been very busy with our snow removal business. There has been more than the average amount, for sure. My hope is that this will help the ponds, the trees and the environment in general. Every summer we see increasingly drier conditions, and with that the challenges of gardening on the prairies. We are reminded to plant more drought tolerant plants, conserve water, and in general be more aware of our own environmental footprint. Whether or not this is an imminent necessity, it is always good to be aware of what we are doing to the world around us and do our best effort to conserve and protect it for the future.

A couple of weeks ago I was on the phone with the folks at Apache Seeds in Edmonton and had a lovely chat with the lady on the other end. They are getting their seeds in now so I suspect that many of the other greenhouses and retail outlets will be doing likewise. It is a busy time of year for us garden folk. There are a lot of things to consider. We need to sort out seeds, clean the greenhouse, plan our garden plots, and budget on how much to spend on our yards and gardens.

Often people ask me what I do all winter. Sometimes I think that the winter just isn't long enough. I'm always busy trying to keep up with the kids, getting the closets, nooks and crannies cleaned and working in a garage that is a space constantly needing attention, doing a bit of sewing, mending and tool repair, ordering seeds and of course seeing to the duties with the Horticultural Society.

continued on page 4

S.P.H.S. 2010/11 Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Karen Berglund 780-963-6575
Vice-President: Ericka Unterschultz 780-963-6061
Secretary: Linda Piskunowicz 780-963-1126
Treasurer: Stephanie Camilleri 780-968-0780
Honorary President: Diane Coulthard 780-968-1889

Newsletter details and suggestions:
 diane@paragraphics.ca

CONTENTS

HORTICULTURE highlights 2
 ODDS and ENDS. 3
 GREEN thumb 3
 MEMBER'S PICKS. 4
 HISTORY and Trivia. 4
 Testing Your KNOWLEDGE 4

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.

MEMBER'S PICKS *Submitted by Linda Lockwood*

Favourite Flower: All varieties of pansies — Blue Morpho, Fizzy Lemonade; all double datura

Favourite Vegetables: Sugar Snap Peas, Nantes Coreless Carrots, Straight and Narrow Green Beans, Purple Haze Carrots.

Favourite Herbs: Variegated Sage, Rue, Minette Basil

Favourite Perennial: Red Charm Peony

Favourite Trees/shrub: Sensation Lilac

Garden Advice: Make sure you use a good permanent marker on your labels (old blind slats work well).

HORTICULTURE highlights

QUESTION of the month

Answer to November question

What is meant by the term "chitting"?

Chitting is the sprouting of seeds prior to sowing. I use this method on corn. Chitting the seeds gives me an advantage of at least a week. The seeds are scattered in a seeding tray about a week before I wish to plant them. This allows them to absorb enough water to sprout and be in a warm environment to get them going, as opposed to putting them in cooler, drier conditions in the garden. This one-week advantage can be a very beneficial thing with our often early frosts.

February Question of the Month

What is meant by the term "cloche"?

FLOWER AND COLOR of the year, 2011

Flower — Marigold

Color — Lavender

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

January — Linda Piskunowicz, Marybelle Titcomb

February — Barb Tinney, Maxine Frank, Phyllis Anderson, Beth Armbruster

If there is a special date we should know about please let us know so we can put it in the newsletter.



DATES to Remember

February 15 — Board of Director's meeting, at the home of Lorne and Phyllis Anderson

March 1 — General Meeting. Ice Breaker — Photograph — Bring one picture (with your name to identify it) of a Winter Garden (5" x 7" maximum)

March 20 — Seedy Sunday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Alberta Avenue Community League, 9210 – 118th Ave., Edmonton

April 5 — General Meeting. Ice Breaker — Bulbs and Tubers — Bring your extras, clearly identified, to exchange.

April 29 – 30 — AHA Annual General Meeting and Conference, St. Matthew Church, Stony Plain

May 3 — General Meeting. Ice Breaker — Garden Inspired Handicrafts, for Show and Tell

May 3 — Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

May 7 — DBG Plant Sale Opens (runs daily until late July)

May — SPHS Spring Plant Sale (exact date to be announced)

June 7 — General Meeting. Ice Breaker — Plants left from Plant Sale will be brought in.

June 7 — Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

June 19 — DBG — 3rd Annual Rhubarb Festival

July 2 – 3 — DBG — Martagon Lily Show

July 5 — Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

August 7 — Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

August — SPHS Family Picnic (exact date to be announced)

September 6 — Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

September — SPHS Fall Plant Sale (exact date to be announced)

September 13 — General Meeting — Ice Breaker — Silent Auction (garden related items)

September 18 — DBG — Fruit Grower's Festival

October 4 — General Meeting. — Ice Breaker — Pumpkins, Squash and Potatoes, for Show and Tell

November 1 — General and Annual Meeting. — Pie Night.

GUEST SPEAKERS for 2011

For this season we have an exciting line-up of speakers that cover a wide range of topics. Be sure to share this information with friends and family and encourage them to come and learn!

March 1 — **Yolanda Stark** speaking about the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) and Shares in the Garden

April 5 — **Annette Anderwald** will be talking about growing 2 or 3 crops of garden greens in one season, followed by a discussion on dehydrating in her session Growing and Preserving.

May 3 — **Brenda Mark**, from 3B Flowers, will be putting on a Flower Arranging talk and demonstration.

June 7 — **Virginia Batiste**, from the Alberta Invasive Plant Council, will be conducting a presentation on the topic of Invasive Plants of Alberta.

September 13 — Speaker pending.

October 4 — **Barry Greigg** of the Devonian Botanic Garden will be sharing his knowledge of Plant Propagation, Seed Collection and Storage, and All Things Related.

2011 Alberta Horticultural Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and CONFERENCE

The Stony Plain Horticultural Society will be hosting the Alberta Horticultural Association's 2011 Annual General Meeting and Conference at St. Matthew Church in Stony Plain, on April 29 and 30. The theme of the conference is "Honouring our Heritage", and as well as celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the AHA, we will be featuring two guest speakers on the morning of April 30. **Kathryn Chase Merrett**, a local historian who has published two books, is featuring "**Why Grow Here? Horticultural Beginnings in the Edmonton Area**". She will be followed by **Lorraine Taylor**, a local horticulturist, with a presentation on the **George Pegg Botanic Garden**. After a light lunch, we will conduct the AHA Annual General Meeting, and wrap up with the Silent Auction.

The evening of the 29th will feature a supper, followed by two short historical presentations.

Pre-registration is required (download our registration brochure from our website www.sphsociety.ca, or talk to Ericka or Jo-Ann) with the deadline being April 22, 2011. We can be contacted at info@sphsociety.ca, or call Ericka at 780-963-6061.

KEEPHILLS Grow Project

In December I was fortunate enough to have twenty students sign up for a work shop on making your own table centerpiece. We used candles, fresh cedar and white pine along with pine cones, walnuts, bows and a few other assorted decorations to help make our arrangements festive. Thank you to Simone Deman for helping to get the supplies. The kids and I had a great time and the parents were pretty impressed with the arrangement. These budding florists really did a great job.

ODDS and ENDS

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 Linda Piskunowicz for stepping into the position of Secretary — Welcome!

Thank you to Diane Fillinger for the outstanding job on the brochures for the 2011 A.H.A. Conference.



2 MINUTES a Day for...

... a GREENER PLANET:

Chives planted at the foot of the apple tree helps to drive away scab. The less chemicals on the fruit the better.

To enrich plant soil: Save crumbs left over at the bottom of cereal boxes and sprinkle into your garden soil. The sugar coating feeds microorganisms that add nitrogen to the soil, and the cereal adds nutrients such as potassium.

SHOP talk

Elections and Committee Positions

Our November Annual Meeting was a great success. All the positions were filled by the end of the evening. A reminder that all committees are to fill out and hand in an annual report and budget. This report is due in October so the board has time to do up a budget for the following year. Four copies of the report should be done. One is to be kept in your committee file, one to the treasurer, one the president and one to the vice-president. A new budget form will be forthcoming. If you have any advice on how to improve the budget form, let me (Karen) know. Our new committee members are:

Yard and Garden Chairperson — Jo Granger

Christmas Party — Diane Fillinger and Stephanie Camilleri

Alberta Horticultural Association News

The Stony Plain Horticultural Society is a member of the A.H.A. We buy an annual membership which is based on our membership. The newsletters are available at the meetings to view or borrow. Speak to Simone if you are interested. There is a lot of great information on gardening as well as information from other clubs and what they are up to. The A.H.A. Newsletter Editor is Arnold Pittao. 5405 29 St. Lloydminster, AB. T9V 1N2 Ph: 780-875-7123; Fax 780-875-0444; e-mail apittao@telusplanet.net.

SPHS Library

Along with books we are collecting for our own garden library, there are also copies of past newsletters, past recipes, Edmonton Horticultural Society Newsletters and information from the Devonian Botanic Garden. We would like to encourage our members to use this source of information. We invite you to donate any extra books you may have. Talk to Simone Deman for further information.

Helpful Suggestions and Comments

As an executive we are always looking for ways to make the society better, moving forward and looking to the future. There is a suggestion box at the membership table to voice your opinion or please feel free to call Karen 780-963-6575.

Newsletter

We welcome all our members to add tidbits, helpful hints, and local points of interest to our newsletter. Send information to Diane Fillinger at diane@paragraphics.ca.

ask DAISY



Is there a special way to grow garlic for the prairie conditions? The garlic in the store always looks great; can I expect mine to look the same?

— A. Raddichi, Stony Plain.

Answer in next month's edition.

Forward your gardening-related questions to "Daisy". Email us at info@sphsociety.ca, phone one of the members, or drop your question(s) in the suggestion box at the door. There is always someone who can help you with your gardening questions, and we will do our best to help.

COMMUNITY and AREA news

While looking through the Reporter I spied a picture that caught my eye. *Pet of the Week*. While the pet may not be directly garden related it does remind me that a home where there is a balance of family, plants and animals is a good thing. The breed was a Terrier cross, male, colour of tan and white, file # 2011 - 0021. Adoption fee — \$139.90. Call 780-968-8888.

Message from the **PRESIDENT**

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The Christmas party was well attended. It is always nice to see everyone outside the meetings. Meeting nights are often quite busy and there isn't much time to get to know the members. To those who attended I hope you enjoyed your evening and to those who were unable to attend we hope to see you next year.

On the fifteenth of January I was off to B.C. for a week. Campbell River was where I spent my life till I was twenty-one. Going there in January is a nice break from the cold and snow. I must confess that it rained a fair bit but that was to be expected. There were a few sunny days, some with just drizzle but none that stopped me from walking to the beach. It is only a short walk from my Dad's house to the Oyster River where there is a trail that winds along the river's edge and then down to the beach where it continues along the beach front. There is quite nothing that compares with seeing swans and ducks in the Woodhouse Slough in January. The slough is a place where my friends and I spent many hours when we were young. It has grown in a lot now and the ocean no longer flows in at high tide. I'm not sure why that entrance was filled in. Sometimes we should leave nature to itself but whatever the reason it is still a beautiful place to visit, summer or winter. If you need a place to stay while you are in Oyster River, the Salmon Point Resort is right next to the slough and the ocean, and the Saratoga Beach Resort is just on the other side of the river. It was wonderful to see fresh fruit and vegetables on benches at the Willows' Market in Willow Point, plant material at the garden center and fresh flowers outside store fronts. The sidewalk planters contained vinca and heather. There were even a few petunias left from last year. It certainly does the soul good to see things so vastly different from here in Alberta right now.

Welcome back to everyone. The Board of directors is looking forward to a productive year. There is a lot that the society is working on but that shows that we are growing and it is a great way to meet members of both the society and the community that enjoy gardening. Thank you to our new board members. If you are looking to get involved in a small way or a big way you are always welcome. Have a great gardening year.

— Karen Berglund

BOARD of DIRECTORS Meetings

This is usually held the third Tuesday of each month at the home of Lorne and Phyllis Anderson. If you are interested in receiving a phone call about this meeting let Karen know, or phone Phyllis for any changes to the meeting night.

SOMETHING NEW in the Kitchen.



As we plan our 2011 gardens let's keep in mind the herbs to grow to keep our food tasty. Many of the herbs we buy in the store can easily be grown in our home gardens. Two of the big advantages of growing them ourselves are taste and freshness.

One of my favorite herbs is basil. Basil can be added to almost any dish but is especially useful with any dish containing tomatoes.

Chervil has a flavour that might not be for everyone but it is easy to grow and readily self-seeds and provides a licorice flavour to food. It also is lovely when you brush up against it while working in the garden. The leaves are great for pressing for card making.

Fresh dill is a must in the garden. Fresh leaves can be picked and added to salads, potatoes, dressings and are a must for making dills. The leaves can be dried or stored in the freezer for use all winter long.

My garden would not be complete without a huge patch of oregano. Again, this herb

is very useful with tomato dishes, salad dressings, and Mexican sauces.

One of the most useful and versatile herbs is parsley. Even if you are not growing it for its flavour or health benefits, it always adds a splash of colour which in my mind makes most food look a bit better.

Rosemary is a pretty new introduction to my cooking and to my garden. I have managed to overwinter this plant in my kitchen which gives me fresh rosemary all winter long. Many herbs that are brought inside become leggy or bring in the garden pests but so far my rosemary has been a success story.

Last but not least is sage. Sage is highly aromatic and is used to flavour sausage and other preserved meat. Because of its strong flavour it should be used sparingly. Sage works great with poultry. Make your own poultry seasoning with a combination of your favorite herbs, but don't forget the sage.

HISTORY and Trivia

Information taken from the July 1968 issue of "The Bud"

Floral Tubs

At the July meeting of the Chamber of Commerce the Society received a note of thanks for placing the floral tubs on Main Street. The businessmen present felt it added a great deal to the improvement of the street. Many were most willing to give then an occasional watering when the weather did not favour good lush growing conditions. By this project I feel we have certainly made our presence felt in the community besides making people aware of our efforts to beautify their own property with attractive plantings.

It's not too early to give some thought to a similar project for next year.

TRIVIA

Did You Know?

Say "NO!" to mulching with plastic — Topsoil is 50 percent air and the soil actually inhales oxygen and exhales carbon dioxide down to several feet of depth. The top 5 inches of soil is completely renewed every hour by this process. (Covering soil with plastic suffocates the tiny critters and blocks all-important sunlight).

According to the Feb. 2009 HARROWSMITH COUNTRY LIFE, there are 25 words for snow!

"Who says the English language only has one word to describe a blanket of winter precipitation? Here are some variations on the theme:

Flurries, Scattered flurries, Flakes, Drifts, Banks, Sleet, Slush, Freezing rain, Blizzard, "Atmospheric vapour frozen into ice crystals and falling to earth in light white flakes*", Deluge, Ice pellets, Whiteout, Packing snow, Fluffy white,

Winter wonderland, Powder, Deep powder, Carumphs (cakes of snow that accumulate in the wheel-wells and along the fenders of a car), White stuff, Winter storm warning, Squall, The impenetrable bank left behind as the plow passes the end of your lane, Punishment, Bane of our existence.

*Canadian Oxford Dictionary