



**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:
Lorne and Phyllis Anderson 780-963-4848

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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 (5116 – 55 Avenue). Membership is not required to attend a meeting but we do ask for a \$2.00 drop-in donation fee.

Message from the PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Gardeners: I am much better at gardening than I am at using a computer. All the information I was to send to Ericka for review for this newsletter was lost in cyber-space this morning. I find myself a tad bit upset about that but all I can do is re-write the information and beg Ericka and Diane their forgiveness for it all being a bit last minute on my part.

There have been a few good weather days where I managed to work in my own garden. I tell you, I've gotten pretty good at weeding over the years. I worked in a yard today and weeded for most of the four hours I was there. I went off to Stony Plain and did a bit there. After supper a bit more weeding was done at home. I have been a bit reluctant to put any bedding plants too far from the house. We had frost a few nights go at our house on Rge. Rd. 22. A few large marigolds and some tomatoes that were in a cold frame were touched a bit by frost. It didn't kill them but their counterparts that were still in the greenhouse look much happier. Despite the frustrating weather, I'm sure everyone has been busy in their yards, big or small. It is a very busy time of year and here in Alberta there is no time to waste. In only a few short weeks the days will be getting shorter again – let's not think about that yet.

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GARDEN tour tickets

Tickets for the 2009 Yard and Garden Tour are now **FOR SALE.**

Please bring your \$10.00 (per ticket) to the General Meeting in case the good garden fairies bring us the tickets. We would like to see all the members buy a ticket for themselves and one for a friend.

A Garden Tour Committee is only as good as the Society behind it — PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR YARD AND GARDEN TOUR.

Information:

Phone: Diane C., 780-968-1889
Email: ndcoulth@telusplanet.net



HORTICULTURE highlights

SELL trade

QUESTION of the month

Answer to May question — What is meant by the term “espalier”?

A tree or shrub that has a vertical central trunk and horizontal branches that have been trained to grow in a single plane. Espalier patterns can be simple or complicated. All espaliers require constant maintenance. The plant will require pinching, tying, and pruning to keep the pattern visible and to keep the plant from overrunning its space.

June Question of the Month — What is a bryophyte?

BIRTHDAYS & anniversaries

June — Rhonda Stevenson

60th Anniversary — A very happy 60th Anniversary to Lorne and Phyllis Anderson, and many more.



Cookbooks

Please bring us your great recipes. We would love to add them to our cookbook. Remember, they should include some type of fruit, vegetable or herb.

DATES to remember

June 7 — Japanese Garden Spring Festival — Devonian Botanic Garden

June 28 — Rhubarb Festival — Devonian Botanic Garden

July 3 – 5 — Martagon Lily Show — Devonian Botanic Garden

July 18 – 19 — Yard and Garden Tour, 10 AM – 4 PM

August 23 — SPHS Family picnic. Stony Plain Museum Grounds. Open at 12:00. Lunch at 12:30. Bring a salad or dessert. Everything else, including hot dogs, supplied by SPHS.

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

S.P.H.S. Clothing

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

Coffee MUGS

Thank you to Stephanie Camelleri for organizing our “bring your own coffee mug” campaign. This project is working out well. Thank you, as well, to all those who have been participating in reducing our waste.



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, contact Karen Berglund.

MEMBER picks

I was a bit remiss in asking a member to submit their picks for this month. If anyone would like to share their favourite flowers, fruit trees, vegetables and herbs with the members we would love to hear from you. Just some interesting facts about what folks tend to purchase from me. The Manitoba, Starfire and Celebrity tomato still seem to be the best sellers. Gardeners still like Sapphire lobelia, Snow Crystals alyssum, Outdoor snapdragons, and of course all sorts of petunias. I have enjoyed the taller hybrid marigolds — Inca orange

and yellow (12 inches). I try to get taller ones but this year I was only able to get the 20 inch Royals in orange. Apparently, due to a crop failure, none were available. The past few years I have been growing Pony Tail grass. It has been a nice substitute for the good old “Spike”. Please let us know what your good old favourites are so we can share.

— Karen Berglund

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



ODDS and ENDS

100TH ANNIVERSARY flower and vegetable show

August 29 – 30. Hosted by the Edmonton Horticultural Society. Show books available at the meeting or by contacting the Edmonton Horticultural Society at www.edmontonhort.com or President Lucy Chang 780-461-0757 (New President)

LIBRARY and MUSEUM Gardens

Join the Society on Wednesday mornings for coffee and a bit of garden work. We are focusing on putting in more perennials, Keep in mind our color for this year is pink and our focal flower is the zinnia. If you are interested in more details about the work we do at the garden or would like to help please talk to Herb.

YARD and GARDEN TOUR. July 18 – 19.

The summer Garden Tour is fast approaching. Keep July 18 – 19 open on your calendar so you can participate in this very worthwhile learning experience. Many of our members go every year, as do many members of the community. Bring your family and friends and spend an afternoon enjoying what we like best — gardening. The committee is always looking to add to their list of potential gardens for upcoming tours. Keep this in mind as you are out and about in Parkland County.

SHOP Talk

If you would like to borrow the SPHS's copy of the Edmonton Horticultural Society Newsletter or the one from the Devonian Garden, talk to Karen. We have many past issues as well. We would like to encourage you to read them. Please feel free to pick them up at the meeting.

TWO MINUTES a Day for a GREENER PLANET:

- Photocopy both sides of the page
- Start composting today
- Use borax or washing soda instead of bleach

PLANT SALE — Flower Bouquets

A big "Thank You" goes out to Jo-Ann Lubbers for heading up our Spring Plant Sale. The day was a great success. The weather was great, there was a steady stream of customers and we had almost nothing left at the end of the day. A special Thank You to Jo-Ann's husband, James, for helping us out for the day and also for supplying the morning coffee. Thank you to all who supplied the plant material and to those who supported the sale — great job!

GARDENING recipe

(From a letter to Farmlife)

Dear *Farmlife*,

I am sending you a tried-and-true idea, that costs nothing, on how to beat blossom end rot in tomatoes.

The night before you are going to plant your tomatoes, fill a large container (like a tub) with water. Add all the newspaper it will hold and be sure to submerge paper under water (no colored pages).

Next day, dig your holes for your plants, fairly deep, then put one or 2 large handfuls of this mashed paper in the hole. Cover with a little dirt and plant. Apparently the newspaper mush provides all the extra moisture for the roots — I never had blossom end rot after I used this method. It does not replace tap watering of plants, but it sure works. A friend of mine told me to do this 25 years ago and I still use this method.

Ruth Machan, Rosetown, SK.



— Submitted by Lucy Holt

a bit of HUMOUR

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL GARDENER?

A reporter asked a successful gardener, "What is the secret of your success?"

"Two words," the gardener replied.

"And, sir, what are they?"

"Right decisions!"

"And how do you make the right decisions?"

"One word."

"And, sir, what is that?"

"Experience."

"And how do you get experience?"

"Two words."

"And, sir, what are they?"

"Wrong decisions."

— Submitted by Lucy Holt

Message from the **PRESIDENT**

continued from cover

Just a reminder that our June meeting — June 2, is our last meeting till September. We all need to work in our yards and go on a holiday. Don't forget about the **Yard and Garden Tour** — July 18 – 19 and our **Annual Picnic** on August 23 at the Exhibition Grounds in Stony Plain. Check the "Dates to Remember" list for other items of interest.

I wish you all a great summer and hope to see you at the summer events.

– Submitted by Karen Berglund

GARDENER'S Classroom

PEPPER pointers

- The chemical in peppers that causes them to be hot is called capsaicin. Most of this is stored on the ribs inside the chili pepper. As most peppers mature, the amount of capsaicin increases. This chemical is tasteless and odorless. The flavor of each kind of pepper comes from other chemicals inside the pepper walls and seeds.
- Capsaicin has many other uses. It is an important component in pepper spray used by police, liniment rubs for rheumatism, and throat lozenges, just to name a few.
- Capsaicin can still be detected by humans when diluted 17 million times.
- The degree of "heat" in a pepper is measured in Scoville heat units, named for Wilbur Scoville, the pharmacist who developed the heat grading system. The hottest pepper currently known is the Mexican Habanéro, which produces 350,000 Scoville heat units. By contrast, the Cayenne pepper generates only 20,000 units.
- Use extreme caution when handling very hot peppers (wear disposable gloves – the first time I seeded a large quantity of jalapenos with my bare hands, I suffered such severe burns, it took a week for my hands to stop hurting). Be careful not to touch your nose or eyes with your gloved hands, as the extreme discomfort you will create cannot be relieved by water.
- Capsaicin is a powerful and stable alkaloid that is somewhat soluble in water, but very soluble in fats and oils. That's why it stays with a person after eating.

— Submitted by Ericka Unterschultz



HISTORY and Trivia

Testing Your **KNOWLEDGE**

Who started to G.R.O.W. Project at Keephills School?

Who was Eugene Fox?

Who was our President in 2003?

Answers to last months questions:

Who is the A.H.A. Treasurer? Mary Lawrence

Who is the Honorary President for the S.P.H. for 2009?
Lorne and Phyllis Anderson

What year did the Lily Society have their Diamond Jubilee Show? Held July 11 – 15, 2007

LOOKING into the **PAST**

Stony Plain Flower and Garden Show August 19, 1981.

Flower of the year — Snapdragon

Honorary President — Mrs. C.R. Wood

President — Mabel Stanway

1st Vice-President — Mr. L. Proudfoot

2nd Vice-President — Mrs. B. Miskey

Secretary — Mrs. Irene Bakker

Treasurer — Linda Pincock

Directors — Mr. Henry Googing, Mrs. Theresa Goebel, Mrs. Viola Irwin, Mrs. Evelyn Hohnstein

Show Chairman — Mrs. Lucy Holt

Show Executive — Mrs. Maxine Frank, Mrs. Bernice Hennig, Mrs. Martha Gitzel, Mrs. Stephany Proudfoot, Mr. Dan Dale, Michael Woods

a bit of **HUMOUR**

(Answers to May's Riddles)

Gardeners' Riddles — *Can you name the flower?*

1. How you might describe a silent person – *Mum*
2. Name for a lady who weds for riches – *Marigold*
3. Everyone has these on their face – *Tulips*
4. You might find these on a safari – *Tiger Lilies*
5. An appropriate gift from a banker – *Money Plant*
6. Unmarried male fasteners – *Bachelor Buttons*
7. Good name for a guy's bike club – *Cyclamen*
8. He's an awfully sugary Bill – *Sweet William*
9. They're the dairy best blooms – *Buttercups*
10. A peevisish fairy-tale creature – *Snapdragon*
11. A woman's nightly footwear – *Lady's Slipper*
12. They hate to wait – *Impatiens*
13. A fine-looking jungle ruler – *Dandelion*
14. Cross between a violin and a clarinet – *Violet*