



**STONY PLAIN  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**



# down the Garden Path

## 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  
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## Meeting DETAILS

Monthly general meetings will be held in the dramaroom 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, December and January). Membership is not required to attend a meeting but we do ask for a \$2.00 drop-in donation fee.

## Message from the PRESIDENT

Winter is still upon us and everyone I talk to is fed up with the ongoing conditions. The snow doesn't bother me that much but the cold is really getting on my nerves. Sarah and I went over to Payless Shoes to get warmer slippers - enough already! We should however see the brighter side of living where we do in that we do not have all the political unrest that so many parts of the world are faced with. As well, when I see places devastated by extreme weather I try to keep that in mind when I'm complaining about the cold.

Many of you would have ordered seeds and received them in the mail by now. That is one pleasant thing we can look forward to on these cold winter days. Looking at and starting seeds is an activity that lifts my spirits as I'm sure it does for anyone who enjoys gardening.

I had the opportunity go to Apache seeds again the other day, another uplifting thing to do when the weather is bad. Go to the garden centers to get in the gardening mood and forget about the weather outside. The garden centers are also great places for conversations with fellow shoppers who share the love of gardening.

My son Erik was in Arizona for a week and brought back some great photos of his travels. That was his first time there and he said he really enjoyed the trip. There must be something special about the place as so many people spend a lot of time there.

I do hope the weather isn't getting the better of you, it can't last forever.

— Karen Berglund

## MEMBER'S PICKS *Submitted by Marie Wenger*

**Favourite Flowers:** Durango marigolds 8-10"

**Favourite Vegetables:** Starship small squash — like Patty Pan but green and very prolific.

**Favourite Herbs:** Minette Basil — forms a mound about 12" in diameter. The leaves are small, excellent for clipping, milder than sweet Basil.

**Favourite Perennial:** Delphinium elatum — superb, about 6' tall — very fat spikes — little staking needed.

Centaurea Macrocephala (Lemon Fluff) — Definitely an attention getter. On our garden tour almost everyone commented about it — not spreading at all.

**Favourite Trees and Shrubs:** Dwarf European Cranberry — excellent border shrub. Keeps its size year after year.

**Garden Advice:** To prevent all bugs that eat delphiniums buds sprinkle the plant with dolomite lime just as plants come up in the spring.

## HORTICULTURE highlights

### QUESTION of the month

#### Answer to February question

What is meant by the term "cloche"?

A cloche is a cover, much like a small greenhouse. The purpose is to protect the plant or plants from cold weather. Looking back in history you would find that a cloche would have been made of glass. The plant covers all had to be placed and removed by hand to vent the plants. Covers made of glass were also easily broken. You can still buy the glass bell jar but most today are made of plastic and of course one can easily make them out of milk jugs. Adding this little bit of extra frost protection allows us to plant some of the more tender plants one to two weeks earlier.

#### March Question of the Month

What does the word "saccate" mean?

### FLOWER AND COLOR of the year, 2011

**Flower** — Marigold

**Color** — Lavender

### BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Ericka Unterschultz,  
Simone Demand, Charlene Rubik,  
Martha Gitzel, Barb Hutchison



### DATES to Remember

**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 28?** — SPHS Spring Plant Sale (exact date and location to be confirmed)

**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!

**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 conduct a presentation on the topic Invasive Plants of Alberta.

**September 13** — **Karla Rippen**, Organic Master Gardener, shares her passion in Building Communities through Gardening.

**October 4** — **Barry Greigg** of the Devonian Botanic Garden shares 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](http://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](mailto:info@sphsociety.ca), or call Ericka at 780-963-6061.

### AHA VOLUNTEERS Needed

We are desperately in need of volunteers to help man our "sale" table. One person would handle the sale of AHA related material, and the other the sale of our cookbooks, Chef in the Garden. This would be for the Saturday during open periods, such as morning refreshments, lunch time and afternoon break. Please talk to Ericka or Jo-Ann if you are able to help.

We are also looking for some donations of snacks, such as muffins, squares, etc. for the morning coffee break. If you would like to help, please talk to Lucy Holt, Mabel Stanway or Edie Schneider.

## 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:

What an amazing group of volunteers. A special thank you Ericka Unterschultz and Jo-Ann Lubbers and the great committee that is involved in planning the A.H.A. conference. Everyone has been working very hard to host the conference and showcase Stony Plain.



### SHOP talk

#### *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

#### *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.

#### *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.

#### *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](mailto: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:**

The best time to plant garlic is in late August, as this will help to ensure large bulbs the following year. Grow in a location where garlic and onions were not grown before. The planting site must be sunny and well drained. A little bone meal will help to develop strong roots. Covering the planted bulbs with a layer of straw will help to ensure their survival. Uncover in the spring when they no longer need the winter protection. Feed with a nitrogen fertilizer when the leaves appear. Snip off any flowers that form so the energy will go into bulb formation

*Forward your gardening-related questions to "Daisy". Email us at [info@sphsociety.ca](mailto: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.*

## 2 MINUTES a Day for...

### ... a GREENER PLANET:

Remember to take your own shopping bag to the store. Many places now encourage you to bring your own bag and many charge you to use theirs. Many local businesses will give you a discount on your coffee or tea if you bring in your own travel mug, and it saves a lot of Styrofoam and/or paper and your money.

## SOMETHING NEW in the Kitchen

Have you ever tried kohlrabi? This lovely vegetable was never on our dinner table when I was growing up. It has only been a few years since I've been growing kohlrabi and I have become quite fond of it. This is a great vegetable for children to grow. It is fairly trouble free and has a very unusual appearance which makes it a conversation piece in the garden.



In cooking this vegetable, you will find the best flavour of cabbage and turnip combined. When kohlrabi is eaten raw it has a flavour and texture similar to water chestnuts. Kohlrabi can be peeled and eaten like an apple or served on a vegetable platter with other vegetables and dip. This vegetable comes in purple and white. It is also a welcome addition to any stir fry and I have even grated it into a salad or anywhere a little crunch would be useful.

## GREEN thumb

### *Amaryllis (Hippeastrum hybrids)*

The amaryllis is a plant native to the Peruvian Andes. The bulbs are available in garden stores and flower shops, as well as box stores. There are a wide range of colours available today. Colours range from white, rose and red through carmine, crimson and candy-striped flowers. Bulbs that have been "prepared" are imported from Holland and will flower in the Northern Hemisphere for Christmas. Allow about eight weeks to flowering.

Seed pods develop quickly after pollination. They are mature within 4 – 5 weeks. Pods should be picked as soon as they turn yellow and begin to split open. The seeds should be removed from the pod and allowed to dry for a few days. The seeds are then ready to plant. They require shade for them to germinate. Then increase light to full strength to develop the seedling bulbs. Transplant into individual containers as soon as the seedlings are large enough to handle.

**Light:** Indirect sun is needed when the bulbs start to flower. Partial shade helps to bring out the brilliant colour of the flowers.

**Temperatures:** A warm temperature is needed for forcing into flower; cool temperature help the blooms last longer.

**Moisture:** Water well after potting, then keep on the dry side until root growth has started. Keep moist while in leaf.

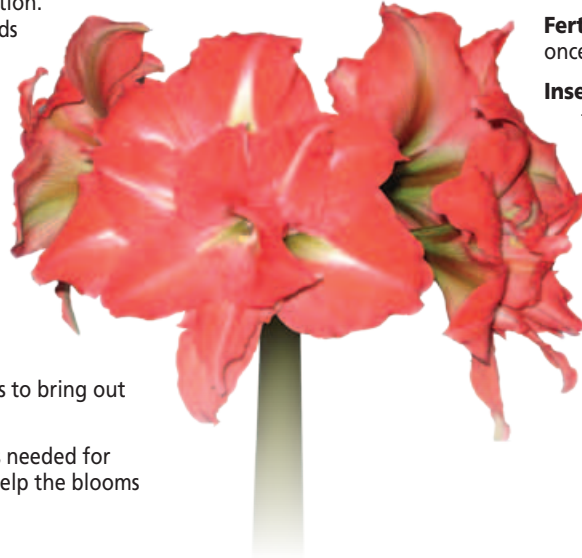
**Propagation:** Propagate from seed (three years to flowering) or offset bulbs at potting time (two years to flowering).

**Potting:** A well drained potting mix is required. The bulb should be set into a five - seven inch pot. Allow one inch of mix around the bulb. The bulb is set into the mix to leave the top third above the potting mixture.

**Fertilizer:** Apply water-soluble fertilizer once a month during the growing season.

**Insects:** These beautiful flowers are subject to mealy bugs and spider mites.

**Additional Information:** Once the bulbs have finished flowering they can be placed outside in a semi-shaded location for summer growth. In the fall, when the leaves are down, they need to be stored in a cool, dry location until there are signs of new growth. The new growth will appear in late fall or early winter.



## HISTORY and Trivia

Did you know that in January 1956 the Canadian Department of Agriculture put out a publication on perennials? The publication number was 968. The publication is titled "Descriptive Notes on Herbaceous Perennials for Canadian Gardens" by Canada Department of Agriculture. This publication was printed again in 1959, 1962, 1968, 1970 and 1972.

### TRIVIA

#### *Did You Know?*

Did you know that a beet (whole, in skin, and about 2" in diameter) contains folic acids: 13% RDA, magnesium: 12% RDA, Vitamin C: 9% RDA, Potassium: 312 mg, has only 31 calories, and is a good source of dietary fiber: 2.1 grams. There is no fat, no cholesterol and it is low in sodium!



### *Poet's Corner*

#### *Amaryllis Pride*

*When Amaryllis fair doth show the  
richness of her fiery glow,*

*The modest lily hides her head; the  
former seems so proudly spread*

*To win the gaze of human eye, which  
soonest brightest things doth spy.*

*Yet vainly is the honour won,  
since hastily her course is run;*

*She blooms, blooms, - she fades,  
- she dies, - they who admired,  
now despise.*

*Anonymous*

### Taken from **JIM HOLE'S NOTEBOOK** February 4, 2011

#### *Bouncing Fungus Gnats*

Who knew? Bounce fabric softener sheets can repel fungus gnats, those annoying tiny flies that inhabit potting soils. HortScience reports researchers at Kansas State University tested and proved the repellency of the dryer sheets. The researchers believe it's the chemical called linalool, which is used in the sheets and other perfumed products to give a flower-like odor, that plays a role in the repellency. The sheets tell the bugs it's time to leave...just like any good bouncer.