



**STONY PLAIN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



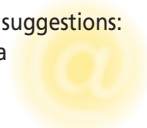
down the Garden Path

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
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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**

The year is well underway and the weather has set me back a bit in thinking that spring was not far away. It has been a tough week for my husband and I — having a snow removal business has kept us pretty busy these past few days. My daughter had a High-Q game the other day and one of the questions was how do seeds get dispersed/travel. I thought for sure she had that one in the bag but no one on her team knew, and neither did she. I guess she missed that lesson from Mom. However it is now time to start thinking about seeds and when to plant them. It is important to know seeding times. Too early or too late will not produce the desired results. The plants, if started too early, will likely be overgrown and leggy by the time we have frost free days and if they are started too late, the plants will not have time to produce flowers, mature fruit or seed.

Last week I started a few tomatoes, peppers, petunias and begonias. I have them under grow lights in the living room. You have to be careful not to start plants and then have no room to transplant them. Fifty tomatoes in a seed flat soon turn into a living room full of 4 inch pots.

At the beginning of March I start up my greenhouse and move the seedlings out there to continue on. There are many seed houses out there that provide a wide range of seeds and plant material. The prices, taxes and shipping costs vary so be sure to always read the fine print. This year Stokes is charging 8% on anything over a package. If you are looking for some unusual seeds our seed exchange is always a good place to start. Many of our members have been trying this and that for years and are always willing to share their experiences. Local greenhouses usually have knowledgeable staff, a great source of information on what works well for our area.

I have always had good luck ordering from Stokes, Alberta Nursery, Eagle Creek Seed Potatoes, Veseys Bulbs, Thompson & Morgan, West Coast Seeds, Prairie Seeds, Dominion Seed House, William Dam Seeds, Lindenberg Seeds Ltd.... the list goes on and on.

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HORTICULTURE highlights

QUESTION of the month

Answer to February question — what is winnow or winnowing?

Using air to separate seeds or grain from chaff. The chaff is the thin, dry scales or bracts that surround the seeds. The seeds are placed in a shallow container and tossed gently into the air. This action carries the chaff away. The seeds may need to be rubbed together to separate the seed from the chaff. It takes some practise to get the swing of things. If it is too windy the seeds will also be carried away.

March's Question of the Month — What is a wattle fence?

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 will be packaged and sold at special events.

BIRTHDAYS

March — Ericka, Simone, Martha, Charlene, Margaret



DATES to remember

March 17 — Executive Meeting
7:00 pm, Anderson Home

March 22 — Seedy Sunday —
11 – 4 pm, Alberta Avenue
Community Hall, 780-465-2099

April 7 — General Meeting

April 18 — Seedy Saturday —
11 – 3 pm, Devonian Botanic Garden
\$2.00 admission — Guest speakers

May — Plant sale

July 18/19 — Yard and Garden Tour —
10 – 4 pm

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.

100TH ANNIVERSARY flower and vegetable show

August 22 – 23. 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.

Newsletter ELECTRONICALLY

We would like to know if you would rather receive your newsletter through our website. Let your phoning committee representative know so we can get on this as soon as possible.



Zero WASTE

In an effort to reduce waste in the community, the Town of Stony Plain has created a ZERO WASTE EVENT PACKAGE for event organizers in the community. Visit the website to download your copy of the "2009 Zero Waste Event Package" www.stonyplain.com.

Zero Waste is an attempt to limit, if not eradicate, waste generated from events. The Town will be incorporating waste minimization strategies in Town events such as the Farmer's Days Pancake Breakfast.

The town has donated several reusable mugs and water containers, if you want try and get your hands on one, be seen bringin your own travel mug/reusable container when attending one of our meetings (supplies limited).

ZERO WASTE Did you knows!

On average, 20 metric tonnes of paper are recycled each month through the town's waste management program. One tonne of paper saves 19 trees. It is estimated that in one month, 380 trees are saved through our waste management program.

Recycling a tonne of glass: saves 1,330 lbs of sand, 433 lbs of soda ash, 433 lbs of limestone, and 151 lbs of feldspar. It also reduces air pollution by 14–20%.



THINK Green

We encourage all our members to bring a travel mug to be used at refreshment break during our meetings. This will help us reduce our Styrofoam cup waste.

ODDS and ENDS

A.H.A. Conference 2010 — We have had some interest from our members on hosting a conference. It will likely be the conference for 2011. There are several members who have expressed an interest in this activity. There will be a meeting set up and some decisions made from that meeting. The conference is another way for us to work together and to bring visitors to Stony Plain. This activity also benefits the Alberta Horticultural Society. According to the October A.H.A. Newsletter they are urgently looking for a host for 2010

A.H.A. Raffle — The Alberta Horticultural Association is asking its members to sell raffle tickets again this year. We have put in our request. The ticket are \$1.00 each.

Prizes: 1st Prize – Afghan, 2nd Prize – Cross Stitch Picture, 3rd Prize – Swag Hanging

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

Buck Godwin — On October 23, 2008 at the age of 79 Buck Godwin passed away. Buck was very involved in horticulture his whole life. My husband, Kevin and myself were fortunate to have had Buck as an instructor while we attended Olds College from 1984 – 1986. Many of our members knew him well and we recognize his tremendous effort in promoting horticulture wherever he went. There is an article on the life and times of Buck Godwin in the January issue of the A.H.A. Newsletter.

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

Ericka visited Phoenix — we hope you enjoyed your trip Ericka. The weather must surely have been better in Phoenix than it was here.

Keephills School is offering a Silent auction and Lasagna supper on March 6, 2009. Supper at 6:30. Auction to follow. Call the school for more information or to purchase tickets. Supper: \$6.00/person.

A.H.A. slide show competition results are in. This was the 6th year for the competition. There were 60 photos entered by 6 competitors. Let's see if the Stony Horticultural society can bring these numbers up. Ericka and myself (Karen) entered and were given some good photo advice so thank you to the committee for your pointers and also for the great work the A.H.A. does on our behalf. Members can borrow the DVD or CD-rom from the AV library after the convention.

Testing Your KNOWLEDGE

Who is the President of the Edmonton Horticultural Society? Who is the President of the A.H.A. — What does A.H.A. stand for. What does D.B.G. stand for. Where is the George Pegg Botanic Garden? Last but not least — what zone does the A.H.A. have us in?

QUESTION PERIOD at meeting

There has been a request from one of our members to have more time for question and answers. Feel free to bring your questions to the meeting as we would love to hear from you. A good time for your questions would be after the announcements. We will try to fit in an evening for another round table discussion. Thank you for your requests. Feel free to put your comments in the comment box on the membership table.

PLANT Sale

Remember to start some extra perennials or annuals for our May Plant sale. Plants with colour sell really well at the spring sale. Annuals are always a good seller. Any garden related items are always welcome. Remember to pot up your perennials in advance to avoid wilting. A plant that is well labelled is more likely to find a good home. If you can help with the sale speak to Jo Ann. Date is set for May 26, 2009. Stony Plain Exhibition Grounds.

Yard and Garden TOUR

This years Yard and Garden Tour is fast approaching: Dates are July 18 and 19. This event is a great way for us to get to know our county as well as the towns and cities around us. There is always something new to see and something knew to learn. We have some very ambitious gardeners in our community. We encourage everyone to enjoy the event. It is always an experience. Take a friend or a car full.

The committee is always looking to the future for yards and gardens. We ask everyone to help support the tour by suggesting future yards and gardens for the tour. Talk to Pat or Diane.

WELCOME BACK Simone

It will be great to see Forget Me Not Greenhouse up and running again. Open May 1, 2009.

Message from the PRESIDENT

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We are encouraged to grow non hybridized open pollinated seeds — easier to collect your own seeds that way. Whatever seeds you purchase and no matter where you get them from, timing is everything. Seeds such as petunias take up to 16 plus weeks from seeding to flowering packs, plants such as tagetes take 8 – 9 weeks. Buy your seeds early, do your homework, set up a planting schedule, label your plants correctly and away you go.

There is great reward in starting your own plants. We often are able to grow plants at home that we might not otherwise see in the garden center. If you have had a real success story with something you haven't seen at a local greenhouse pass the information along and perhaps they will add it to their inventory for others to enjoy. Happy Gardening in 2009

— Submitted by Karen Berglund



GARDENER'S Creed

CARE for the flowers with patience and love.

APPRECIATE each blossom for its own beauty.

RECEIVE sunshine and rain with equal grace and gratitude.

REMEMBER each season with pleasure ... and

USE EACH DAY wisely and well.

HISTORY and trivia

Looking back ...

From the "Bud Publication" of the Stony Plain Horticultural Society Newsletter January 1969.

A New Partner. In an article the society had made arrangements with Sid Moore, Recreation Supervisor for the County of Parkland, to run off the stencils for the newsletter (photocopying of that era) on the county machine. He was most willing to co-operate with the society and was of the opinion that active gardening is one of the finest forms of recreation that can be enjoyed by every member of the family, fresh air and sunshine being the main benefit. Of course one cannot overlook the practical value of a good vegetable garden, as all forms of gardening are a good physical work out, as well as a great hobby. To Mr. Moore and his department — our boutonniere of the month.

Looking back at some of these old publications is an interesting insight into our history. It is fitting that we thank some of our members for keeping these publications. A bouquet goes out to Maxine Frank and Zen Haydey for passing them on to me. The show books go back to the early 1960's and we have a fair collection of "The Bud" as well. In the fall it is our hope to put together a display of our history at the Pioneer Museum, in conjunction with a small bench show. Look for updates in the upcoming newsletters.

MEMBER picks

Karen's picks

- Tomatoes — First Lady
- Potatoes — Herta, Sangre, Yucon Gold
- Pumpkins — Northern Spirit
- Beans — Nickel
- Chard — Bright Lights



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

a bit of HUMOUR

Gardeners' Funnybone

Commonly used catalogue descriptions are often open to interpretation so we need to read between the lines.. These are some tongue-in-cheek interpretations.

Disease-resistant — all the leaves drop off, but it will survive.

Easy to grow — quickly takes over your entire back yard.

Fast growing — similar to "easy to grow," but takes over your entire neighborhood.

Wildflower — a common weed.

New introduction — a less common weed.

Tough — squeezes out the other weeds.

Grows anywhere — there goes the lawn

Delicious — starving ruminants may deign to eat it only if their life depends on it.

Virtually Foolproof — the only plant in the catalogue you're likely to keep alive.

Hardy — can survive the coldest winter (in southern Florida).

Distinctive — uglier than sin.

Intensely Fragrant — you'll need a gas mask to tolerate the stench.

Long-blooming — can last for days — if you pickle it.

Good cut flower — it looks so insignificant in the garden you might as well bring it indoors.

SELL trade

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.