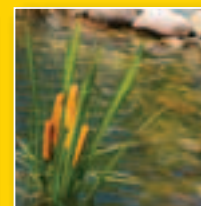




**STONY PLAIN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



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:
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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**

Dear Garden Friends:

Another month has past and still no precipitation. Things out my way (Rge. Rd. 22) are pretty dry. I don't know where the beavers have gone but I fear many of them have left our local ponds in search of wetter homes; good luck to them all. The garden produce should all be in storage for the winter by now. I told my family there are enough frozen or canned tomatoes to have them every night of the week. They weren't impressed by that. The same goes for the canned beans. The potatoes are stacked and labeled. The labels are for me to keep track of the spuds — I use certain potatoes for certain potato dishes. Also I like to keep track of the early, mid and late season varieties, red or white. My parents only grew Netted Gems and Pontiac. With so much variety available today why not have some fun with them?

The kids have been busy with school and sports but they also have to find some time to help clean up the greenhouses and put away the garden ornaments and trinkets that can't be left under the winter snow and out in the cold.

Our 2008 – 2009 year is rapidly drawing to a close. Memberships are due for the upcoming 2009 – 2010 year. We ask that you pay your membership before the annual meeting in November so there is a little less to do on that evening.

Thank you to everyone who has been a member this past year and also many thanks go out to all the folks who sat on the board and served on the committees. For the upcoming elections the president's position and the vice-president's are up for re-election. There is always room on committees for anyone interested in getting involved.

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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.

HORTICULTURE highlights

QUESTION of the month

**Answer to June question —
What is a potager garden?**

A potager garden is a garden with a formal design that combines vegetables, herbs, fruit and even edible flowers. Commonly these gardens are divided into a series of small beds separated by lawn or mulched path ways. The beds are either raised or at ground level.

**October Question of the Month —
What is a pomander?**

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Edie Schneider,
Diane Coulthard



DATES to Remember

November 27, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Party at the Stony Plain Legion Hall. Tickets will be available at both the October and November meetings at \$20 each. Contact **Sharon Sikkema** or **Mabel Stanway** for tickets or more information.

December 5 – 6, 2009

Luminaria at the Devonian Botanic Gardens. Luminaria begins at 5:00 p.m., with entry tickets sold until 9 p.m. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children age 6 – 12. Children age 5 and under are free.

April 24, 2010

2010 A.H.A. Annual conference to be held in Camrose — Mark this on your calendar. A.H.A. is asking for individual charitable donations to help out with finances.

Coffee MUGS

Thank you to everyone participating in our “bring your own coffee mug” campaign. This project is working out well in reducing our waste.

YARD and GARDEN TOUR news

Pat Munch and **Diane Coulthard** have agreed to continue to head the committee for one more year. Thank you to **Herb** and **Ericka** for joining this committee. The committee is always looking for yards so keep your eyes and ears open, even through the winter.

Cookbooks

Thank you to **Bernice Hennig** and **Phyllis Anderson** for supplying this month's recipes. September recipes weren't handed out so make sure you get your copy of Old Fashioned Cabbage Soup and Beet Leaf Holubtsi with Dill

Membership NEWS

Pat and **Diane** are requesting that everyone fill out new forms. Thank you to everyone who has already done so. It is much easier to start fresh rather than sort through who has rejoined and who has not. Try to get these forms filled out when you renew your membership. You will be issued a new name tag (yellow) for the 2010 year.

FLOWER Bouquets

A big hugs and thank-you go out to **Jo-Anne** and **James Lubbers** for setting up this year's fall plant sale. The weather was reasonable and we had a good

assortment of donations. There was only one big problem — the road being closed off for people turning off the 5th. Despite this setback we did quite well. Thank you also goes out to **Simone** from **Forget-Me-Not Greenhouse** for filling our “Ask the Expert” position. The day was well spent with fellow gardeners, members and non-members alike. There was even the opportunity to dig a few plants from the library garden and sell them. It was nice to be able to show people what certain plants looked like in the garden. One of our library plants, of which we had some small ones for sale, was identified by our expert. Originally this plant was donated by one of our members, **Beth Armbruster**. Simone identified this plant as a bedstraw. Many people have asked and up till now we have simply said, “Oh, it's a great ground cover, gets yellow flowers, is easy to divide and doesn't it look nice?” Thank you, Simone, for sharing your expertise and spending the day with us.

Thank you to **Lucy Holt** for the great suggestion of having a silent auction at the meeting. The evening went really well. We had a lot of donations. The items that the members brought were great, a real variety of things including a bottle of homemade wine (I have to wait till Stephanie has her baby so we can share the wine that I bought) The baby is due in December so we won't have to wait too long to pop the cork. There were flowers, bulbs, homemade ketchup, tomatoes, potatoes, a tea cup with tea bags, lily bulbs — something for everyone. Thank you, Lucy, for the great idea. The proceeds were split in a 50/50. **Barb Hutchison** won — congratulations Barb!

Message from the PRESIDENT

continued from cover

With the long winter months fast approaching I hope you all have some hobbies and activities to keep your mind and bodies fit. Though the winter seems long at times the gardening books, magazines, seed catalogues, and tropical vacations keep us looking forward to the upcoming season. The rest does my mind and body good, and I do enjoy the thought of trying some of my favorites again and not planting those that did not perform up to my expectations. (Perhaps I should try some of those things again just to give them a second chance). Often the weather and

water supply are the biggest influences on a plant's performance, and not their genetic make-up.

I hope to see everyone at the annual Christmas party which isn't really that far away — Christmas is just around the corner. Make some of your garden photos into Christmas cards. Show your friends and family what your garden looks like in the winter. The photos I have taken of the bird feeders, the grasses, the trees and shrubs all make lovely cards. A great craft idea and also a way to keep gardening on your mind through the winter.

Submitted by Karen Berglund

ODDS and ENDS

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.

LIBRARY and MUSEUM Gardens

As Herb and Ericka are looking to help more with the yard and garden tour we will need someone to be in charge of organizing things at the library. If you are able to help in this way talk to Herb, Ericka or me, Karen. This project has been going very well and would be worthwhile for us to continue to enhance the library, as helping to beautify Stony Plain can never be a bad thing. An apology to Jo Granger for missing your name on the thanks yous in the September newsletter. Thank you, Jo, for showing your support to the society and for helping out the library and the Town of Stony Plain.

E-MAIL Contact Person

Jo-Anne Lubbers has most kindly offered to sit as our e-mail contact person. This position was set up on the suggestion of one of our members. We are always looking for ways to improve the society and the work we do.

Keephills SCHOOL NEWS

These past few weeks have been spent cleaning up the garden — just like we must do everywhere else when fall is upon us. On September 23, Mrs. Myers, Lucas and I went to the school to work with the grade 3/4 class. The morning was spent picking corn, digging potatoes, harvesting pumpkins and pulling the remaining carrots and beets. Some of the students helped to wash the carrots and cook the corn for an afternoon snack for everyone at Keephills School. September 30th was spent with Mrs. Myers, her son Lucas and the grade 1/2 class. The flower pots had to be dumped into the garden, the flowers into the compost and the pots put into the shed for the winter. Before we went into the garden the

grade 1/2 class worked in the kitchen making scalloped potatoes. I had cut the spuds at home. They all helped layer the potatoes, make the sauce, grate and put on the cheese. What a great bunch of chefs they all turned out to be. The afternoon snack for the students and staff was homemade scalloped potatoes with veggies from their own garden. We don't have our own dairy so we had to buy the milk and the butter.

S.P.H.S.

We are trying something new. At each meeting there will be a selection of books for our members to borrow. All you need to do is sign the book out and return it to the next meeting. Books are expensive so let's share what we have. If you have some extra ones to donate or if you know of any that you think would be reference material let us know. A coordinator for this project would be welcome.

A.H.A. — SLIDE and PHOTO Competition

There are four classes:

- 1) Berries and bush fruit
- 2) Berries and bush fruit in bloom
- 3) Berry patches and bush fruit
- 4) Flower Beds Along Sidewalks and Pathways.

I would like to encourage our members to participate in the events and activities that the A.H.A. puts on for our enjoyment. Entries must be received by February 1, 2010.

Copies of the entry forms will be available at our meetings.

DEVONIAN Botanic Garden

Seed Catalogue — Now available on-line www.devonian.ualberta.ca The garden is getting greener! Call 780-987-3054 ext. 2234 or email lhewlett@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 dbgmastergardener@ales.ualberta.ca.

Application forms available at www.devonian.ualberta.ca.

"GROWING FRUIT

for a COLD CLIMATE"

Have you ever wished you could go and pick some fresh figs of grapes from your own garden? Well, I've been told we can! On September 26, my son-in-law and I attended a course hosted by the Devonian Botanic Gardens, featuring Dr. Ieuaun Evans as the lecturer. He feels that we can grow many fruits equal in quality to that produced anywhere in the world, as long as we keep in mind that the variety or cultivar is adapted to the Edmonton area, meaning that it can withstand minus 40 Celsius and be able to ripen before the end of our short summer.

Dr. Evans, a long-time fruit grower in this area, has successfully grown not only many varieties of apples, cherries, pears and plums, but has also raised grapes, edible mountain ash (rowan), hawthorn, honeyberry (Haskap), pin and chokecherries, black, red and white currants, gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons, apricots and kiwis. He also grows pomegranates at the Devonian, and figs at his home.

Most of the fruits that we grow belong to the rose family (take a good look at the blossoms) which originated in Northern China and adjoining countries, where wild pears, plums and cherries grow in dry windy areas subject to very cold winters. He thus advocates planting in poorer soils on northwest facing slopes, which are slow to warm up and not subject to the destructive frost pockets found in sheltered hollows. We were given a list of his personal fruit selections for this area, and he also brought samples of various fruits from his own orchard for students to sample. As well, he provided a selection of fruit trees and shrubs for sale at a nominal price.

Also touched upon was information for soil amendment to provide necessary nutrients for successful growing conditions. He supplemented his presentation with slides documenting some of his experiments and results.

All in all, it was a most enjoyable presentation, and his unique sense of humor kept things flowing very well indeed. He stated that he would enjoy coming as a guest speaker to our club if we were interested. If you would like to have him in as a speaker for next year, please let me know. (He also specializes in martagon lilies).

submitted by — Ericka Unterschultz

FREE SPUDS gold rush

Article Credit: RICHARD LIEBRECHT, SUN MEDIA

Turns out Edmontonians really dig their local spuds.

Organizers of a potato giveaway struggled to keep up with “overwhelming” demand yesterday as thousands flocked to the city’s northeast to pick their 50 pounds of free tubers off local fields.

“It was an adventure, and I love adventures” said third-generation farmer Gord Visser, owner of Norbest farms at 20415 – 33 St. drawing hearty laughs from fellow farmers gathered at his home after the half-day-long rush.

It was supposed to be an all-day giveaway starting at 9 a.m. About 100,000 pounds of potatoes would be dug out by machine, then picked by visitors.

But Visser and his tuber troupe were stunned with an unexpectedly huge turnout for the first-time event.

A line of cars kilometres long formed down the roads to the farm, spilling out onto Manning Drive for kilometres more.

Even after organizers hauled in an extra 20,000 pounds, they had to shut down about 1 p.m. -- three hours early.

“You might want to say it took on a life of its own,” said Visser. He described a scene as being akin to ants marching on the field.

“It’s like the whole city of Edmonton embraced it,” he said.

Visitors took away about \$20,000 worth of potatoes — about three semi-trailers full.

Visser and his fellow members of the Edmonton Potato Growers co-op simply wanted to show Edmontonians what’s growing in their backyard.

“Urban people don’t understand agriculture, where their vegetables come from,” said Visser. “I wanted them to see the soil, put their hands in the soil ... hopefully get a better connection to the land.”

He worries that developers will push into the area, paving over fields that are perfect for potato growing, he said.



2 MINUTES a Day for...

... a GREENER PLANET:

Make sure all your paint is used.

Look for natural paint, or failing that, use latex rather than oil based paint.

Keep solvents out of the water systems.

HISTORY and Trivia

Did you know that at our 1981 Flower and Garden Show the classes of 800 — 899 were reserved for seniors only?

Did you know that was the year I graduated high school in Campbell River B.C. I was 18 years old and had no idea where Stony Plain, Alberta was?

In 1983 the book “Perfect Plant, Perfect Place”, by Ray Lancaster was purchased by the Stony Plain Library with our memorial donation.

Testing Your KNOWLEDGE

In which house at the Muttart Conservatory will you notice the biggest change?

How many houses are there at the Muttart Conservatory?

Where is the Big Greenhouse located?

Answers to last months questions:

Where would you find Wagner Bog? Wagner Bog is located just outside of Spruce Grove on the Yellow head on the way to Edmonton

What Does G.R.O.W. stand for? G.R.O.W. stands for Greening and Renewing our World. This was a project that was started by the grade one teacher at the time (Mrs. Morrison) and Horticulturist Mrs. Lynn Dennis. This project has been at Keephills since 1996.

On what highway would you find the George Pegg Garden? The George Pegg Garden is on Hyw.43 just a little ways past Onoway.

GREEN THUMB

Potato Savvy

Five tips for picking, storing and preparing potatoes.

1. Choose firm, heavy, well-shaped potatoes
2. Potatoes are either high, medium, or low in starch, and different starches work better for different cooking methods.
3. Store potatoes in a dark, cool, dry spot, such as a pantry shelf. Keep separate from onions, which emit a gas that will age potatoes quickly.
4. If potatoes grow sprouts or green spots, cut them out prior to cooking (and cut away the surrounding area), as they taste bitter.
5. As you peel potatoes, place them in a bowl of cool water to prevent browning. Drain well and pat dry just before cooking.

