



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

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.

Message from the PRESIDENT

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and with that our homemade pumpkin pie, potatoes from the garden and fall decorations. It doesn't take much to make our homes feel inviting and to give them the look and feel of fall. When I'm on holidays or just walking about on our local streets there are always things to add to my bins of decorations. One thing that I have collected over the years is an assortment of nuts. Some of the nuts in my collection have come from Ontario and others from B.C. The different colours, shapes and textures make a great fall display when put into a nice rustic pot or bowl. I managed to grow some lovely miniature Turks' cap gourds this year — add those to the table with the nuts and you are well on your way to a decorated Thanksgiving table. Over the years I have dried corn, collected knickknacks and made quite an assortment of fall and Thanksgiving items. Originally, the decorating was mostly for the kids' benefit, but now it is for my own enjoyment and for guests who come to visit.

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Get your CHRISTMAS PARTY tickets

2010 Christmas Party and Silent Auction

**November 26, 2010
at Stony Plain United Church
5012 - 51 Avenue**

**Doors open at 6:30
Dinner 7:00**

Tickets are \$20.00 per person, see Sharon Sikkema or Mabel Stanway to purchase.

Money raised at the silent auction will be donated.

HORTICULTURE highlights

QUESTION of the month

Answer to June question

What is meant by the term "runnel"?

Runnel refers to a tree that has been pollarded. Pollarding is the severe lopping of the tops of trees to reduce height. The practice is not approved by arborists, who prune for a well balanced form. Remember to keep in mind mature tree size when planting near buildings or overhead lines. Your tree may end up as a runnel victim — not a pretty picture usually.

October Question of the Month

What is meant by the term "phenology"?

FLOWER AND COLOR of the year, 2011

Flower — Marigold

Color — Lavender



BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

October: Diane Coulthard,
Edie Schneider

DATES to Remember

October 19, 2010 — Monthly Executive Meeting

November 2, 2010 — Monthly General Meeting, Annual Meeting and Pie Night

November 26, 2010 — Christmas Party — see Sharon Sikkema or Mabel Stanway for tickets.

November 26 – 28 Crafters' Christmas Sale — D.B.G.

December — S.P.H.S. Christmas break — no meeting

December 11 – 12 — Luminaria \$8.00 + GST for Friends (\$10.00 + GST public)

KEEPHILLS Grow Project

On September 21 we had our annual Soup Day. This is my twelfth year participating in Soup Day and I'm not sure what went on before my time at Keephills School. The kids seemed to really enjoy the soup, biscuits, lemonade, and chocolate zucchini cake. A big thank you to Sharron Sikkema, Mable Stanway, and Maxine Frank for the great job and effort. Parents who helped were Elizabeth Myers, Shirley Charlton and Laurie Wagner. Thank you to Chris Laing — new head custodian at Keephills — for pitching in to help clean up and serve juice to the kids at the end of the day. The grade five/six students helped to pick, chop, grate, stir and serve. Thank you to everyone for a job well done. G.R.O.W. only has a couple of weeks left. We are focusing on composting and what a valuable asset having a compost bin or pile can be to any yard and garden, big or small.



POTATOES, Potatoes, Potatoes!!!!!!!!!!!!

We hope you enjoyed your experience with a new variety or two. Next year we hope to focus on a different vegetable. Thank you to all those who participated and brought in and reported back on the fruits of their labour.

RECIPES

We are concluding our recipe collection and there were a few that were not signed. If any of these belong to you we would love to put your name on them and give you credit for your contribution to our collection. **Rhubarb Matrimonial Bars, Rhubarb Pie Squares, Rhubarb Squares, Zesty Lemon Bars, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Broccoli Orange Salad, Japanese Salad, Super Spinach Salad,** and **Cauliflower Puff.** Call Ericka at 780-963-6061

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:

A big thank you goes out to Ms. D. Murphy of the Memorial Composite High School for giving us some cupboard space at the back of the classroom. This storage space frees Barb up from hauling the coffee supplies back and forth. Barb looked pretty empty-handed when she left the September meeting. Our library books and resource material are stored there also.

Thank you to JoAnne Lubbers for another successful plant sale. The weather was a little on the poor side but we did manage to sell a lot of plant material and meet some fellow gardeners in the process. Thank you also to James Lubbers for the plant sale "coffee run", much appreciated on such a cold day. Thank you to Barb Hutchison for supplying a hot urn of tea as well.



2 MINUTES a Day for...

... a GREENER PLANET:

Control pests with "good bugs" such as lacewings and ladybugs. Teach children, friends and family that if it moves we need not always have to kill it.

ODDS and ENDS

SHOP talk

2011 Memberships Due

Memberships are due by October. It is a big help to everyone on the executive if we can get the ball rolling on the paper work. Having the membership list up to date as quickly as possible is a great start to the new year. Thank you for your cooperation.

Elections

The Treasure and Secretary positions are up for nominations. Anyone who is presently sitting on a committee needs to let the president or vice-president know if you will be staying on in your position. We will be discussing this at the next executive meeting. We have had a great year and we welcome everyone to stay in the present positions but also fell free to expand your horizons to a new position.

Alberta Horticultural Association

If you have any questions about the Alberta Horticultural Association we have several members that are part of our society as well. Gail Kirk is our area representative and the executive have asked her to give us feedback from them to us and in turn we will do the same. We are trying to keep the lines of communication open. Call Gail at 780-962-1175 with your concerns or questions.

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.

If you would be interested in managing our library, please see Karen.

Newsletter

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

Ask Daisy

We would like to set up a gardening advice column for our newsletter, calling it "Ask 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

Danish Canadian National Museum and Gardens

Christmas lunch and craft sale. Spruce View Hall November 6th. Email: dcnms@telusplanet.net Talk to Fay Kjearsgaard.

The museum is located within a Danish garden setting on a 7 1/2 acre site at Dickson, Alberta.

Edmonton Horticultural Newsletter

The August 2010 issue has a great article on winterizing roses, growing clematis and an article on how the E.H.S. is Learning. Sharing. Beautifying. Enjoying! Please feel free to borrow these newsletters as they are sent for us all to enjoy.

"Alberta Gardener" magazine

The Growing 2010 issue is brimming with beautiful bounty! Check out the articles on Meadowsweet – The Fabulous Filipendula, Meadowrue, purple martins, how and why to deadhead, and a new, old iris – Iris spuria. This magazine is also definitely eye-candy for a gardener!

Message from the **PRESIDENT**

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The fall colours on the trees this time of year add to the closure of another gardening season. Whether you are a gardener or not, this time of year should be enjoyed to its fullest. The beauty that is in those fall hues should give everyone pause to enjoy the beauty of nature. Take time to go for a long walk or a leisurely stroll down the streets of Spruce Grove or Stony Plain, or in the field behind your house. What you will find there just might amaze you. If you don't have an Amur Maple, a Cotoneaster, a Green Ash, a Mountain Ash, or a Winged Burning Bush you should perhaps plan for some of this plant material. The fall colours on these trees and shrubs are outstanding and will add variety to any yard and garden. (Remember, though, to keep in mind when planting any trees and shrubs the mature size, as this may limit what material you are able to put in your planting space.)

My yard is well on its way to being cleaned up for the winter. It has been a challenge with the many rainy days that we have had. Dividing perennials, enlarging flower beds or adding extra mulch is a great way to spend a fall afternoon. Remember to get your fall bulbs planted. The bulbs need time to get established before freeze-up. Not everyone cleans up their flower beds in the fall but a bit of time spent this time of year could save you a lot of extra work in the spring when we really need to get things planted and time is at a premium. Cutting the seed heads off many of the perennials will prevent their unwanted spread. Removing some of the dead leaves and debris reduces the overwintering of insects and diseases.

Our September meeting was well attended and I hope that everyone's questions on growing lilies were answered. Dr. Ieuan Evans certainly has a lot of information to share and it was nice to see everyone asking questions and sharing their gardening experiences with him. Good luck to everyone who took home lily seeds and to those who purchased plant material. We would love to hear about your progress.

— Karen Berglund

MEMBER'S PICKS

Favorite Vegetable Varieties:

Carrots — Purple Haze and Crème Delite are the two novelty carrots that I grow. The Crème Delite looks pretty much like a parsnip in colour but it definitely tastes like a carrot. Having the assortment of colour on a plate does add interest and conversation. The purple carrots, however, do tend to fade when cooked or pickled. As for regular orange varieties I planted Maverick, Nantes Coreless, Sugar Snax 54, Coreless Amsterdam, Kurada, and Baby Sweet. These varieties are all a little different but for this year I will give the Mavericks the thumbs up.

Beets — The beets that I grew this year were Crosby Egyptian, Rodina and I threw in some yellow beets just for fun.

Potatoes — The potatoes is where I really have fun with the family. We play potato I.D. but so far they aren't doing too well. Norland, Yukon Gold, Farmers' Market, Agria, Viking, Karla's, Pontiac, Superior, Bintje, Hertha, Sangre, Cherry Red, purple, Shepody, Kedtu, Banana, Caribe, Ruby Gold, Eramosa, German Butterball and Desiree are all part of my collection. The Farmers' Market potatoes are a bit of a mystery. I got them from a fellow at the market. They could be Yukon Rose or Rosara — I've been told. The Karla potatoes are ones I got years ago from a neighbour named Karla. There might seem to be a large number of varieties but believe it or not I choose which one for supper according to how I am going to prepare the "spuds". It is a lot of fun to try the different types and to see how they respond to the different growing conditions each year.

Favorite Herb Varieties:

Italian parley is always on the herb list as is marjoram, oregano, basil, thyme and sage.

Favorite Flower Varieties:

Some of my favorite flowers are "Carnival Mix" nemesia, "Foxy" foxglove, "Psych" cosmos, "Midnight Dream" petunias and lotus vine. This list could go on for quite a while.

Helpful hints would simply be to not give up if at first you are unsuccessful at growing a particular thing. Try again and/or ask a fellow gardener for advice.

— Karen Berglund



HISTORY and Trivia

Horticulture has been an ongoing process since the beginning of time. People have always been interested in the plants around them. These discoveries give us variety and colour, flower shape and form, height, cold tolerance and availability. Looking through an old Horticulture book, given to me by a gardening friend when he moved away, I discovered an interesting article. The book is "The Principles of Horticulture" and the article lists the best two new introductions for 1963 in the flower world. These were Impatiens "Tangerine" and the double multiflora petunia called "Riches Blend". Do any of you remember these introductions? I don't. I was born in January of that year.

TRIVIA

Did You Know?

Foxglove — the medical use of foxglove began as far back as 1000 AD. The English used it as a cough medicine, a treatment for epilepsy and a cure for swollen glands. Some suspect that Vincent van Gogh took digitalis for epilepsy and that the "yellow-blue vision" this drug creates may have influenced his art. After Withering's discovery, foxglove was widely used as a cardiac sedative and diuretic, but occasional overdoses and fatalities discouraged the ongoing use of the drug.

GREEN thumb

Our feature flower for 2011 is ... the **Marigold**. It is time to plan for next year and sooner is better than later!

Common name — marigold

Botanical name — *Tagetes* species

Seed Starting — Plant them on the surface of the potting soil. Cover them with no more than one-quarter-inch of fine compost or sifted soil, then press the surface lightly with the palm of your hand or a piece of wood (I use a tamper that I made out of a piece of wood with a handle put onto it — makes handling much easier). Place the seed trays in a warm location (22 – 24°C). Seeds should germinate in about 7 days. Growing on temperature should be about 18 – 20°C. When the seedlings are at the true leaf stage they will need to be transplanted to ensure adequate room for growth.

French Marigolds need 6 – 7 weeks for green packs and 8 – 9 weeks for flower packs. Marigolds are frost tender and need a full sun location. If you have saved your own marigold seed they will need to be stored in a cool, dark and dry location. Pinch off faded blooms to encourage denser growth and more flowers. French marigolds tend to be bushier, with finely dissected leaves. Flowers, single or double, are often bi-coloured. They make superb edging, as well as colourful beds. There are many varieties of marigolds. Heights range from 6" to 36". One of my favorites is the Inca series which are available from Stokes. These plants have large flower heads and are about 12" to 14" tall. Plants are sturdy and put on a great display right up until frost. If you are looking for something a little taller, the Royal series is a good one. Height on these plants is about 20". Crackerjack marigolds are open pollinated and are less uniform in height and flower form but put on a great display and reach a height of 24" – 36". Lemon drops are a triploid dwarf carnation type and reach a height of 8". The varieties go on forever.

Do try something new for 2011. There are plenty to choose from.