



**STONY PLAIN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



down the Garden Path

S.P.H.S. 2009 Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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

Welcome back to everyone! The summer has gone by ever so quickly. I know there have been a lot of complaints about the gardening season but I do try to stay positive, due to the fact that we live in a part of the world that affords us so many opportunities and freedoms. My garden does not always produce the quantity or quality of food that I was hoping for but certainly there is always more than I need and I am fortunate to live in a place where I am always able to try again next year - if all goes well. The fall is such a great opportunity to reflect back on the season, to make notes of what grew well, what varieties was a success and which were not. One variety of cosmos that I grew this year was one that I will not be so willing to grow again. As we had yellow as our colour for this year, I thought I would order yellow cosmos. "Yellow Garden" was the variety name and I have yet to see any yellow flowers. My husband asked me why I planted all those green trees in the flower bed. That was not my intention but that is what I got, and not one yellow flower to be seen anywhere.

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PUMPKIN FAIR and Weigh-off

The 22nd Anniversary Great White North Pumpkin Fair and Weigh-Off in Smoky Lake — October 2, 2010

9:00 am FARMERS' MARKET OPENS —
 Beside Complex and Inside School Gymnasium

11:30 am DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION of pumpkin, squash, watermelon and long gourds

12:00 pm WEIGH-OFF BEGINS

3:00 pm PUMPKIN-SQUASH AUCTION

5:00 pm GIANT PUMPKIN DROP!

For more details and events listings visit www.smokylake.ca/Pumpkin-Fair--Weigh-Off or phone 780-656-3674



HORTICULTURE highlights

QUESTION of the month

Answer to June question

What is meant by the term farinose?

Mealy, granular, or powdery in texture, with surfaces covered with a mealy or powdery coating, called farina. Leaf surfaces and stems are most commonly described as farinose. Primula farinosa is one example, but auricula primroses often have farinose foliage and flowers.

September Question of the Month

What is meant by the term "runnel"?

FLOWER AND COLOR of the year, 2011

Flower — Marigold

Color — Lavender

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

July: Pat Munch, Kathy Hargraves, Marie Wenger

August: Connie Jump

September: Linda Lockwood, Janice Nickolson



DATES to Remember

September 17, 2010 – City Slickers at the Pioneer Museum

September 21, 2010 – Executive Meeting. Meetings scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month.

October 5, 2010 – Monthly General Meeting, with Silent Auction and Round Table Talks

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

November 26, 2010 – Christmas Party

JOIN US ON Facebook

A facebook group has been created for any members who wish to join and keep up to date on all the latest. You can link to the group through our website www.sphsociety.ca

KEEPHILLS Grow Project

We had a great time in the garden this year. Keephills students came during the summer to water, weed, make some snacks from the garden produce, and do some crafts.

On September 21st we will serve our annual Soup Day meal. This event is a free meal provided to the students and staff at Keephills as wind up to our G.R.O.W. season. Soup Day is always a lot of fun. Thank you to Sharron Sikkema and Mabel Stanway for volunteering to help with this year's soup day. October will see the end of our 2010 gardening season at Keephills. The year is finished off with our annual Pumpkin Festival. This year's festival is to be held on October 28th.

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

Potato Update: If you are a member who grew some of the potatoes the society provided in the spring we would love to hear back from you at the October meeting. A small written report would be great as we would like to be able to pass on your input to Eagle Creek Seed Farm, from where we purchased the potatoes.



RECIPES

Ericka has been working hard to compile the last of the recipes that were handed in at the beginning of the summer. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the S.P.H.S. Cookbook. We are hoping to have the book put together by Christmas. There are several recipes that were submitted without names on them. We would really like all the names to be on the recipes. Check with Ericka to see which ones need a name attached.

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:

Thank you to Diane Coulthard, Pat Munch, Edie Schneider, Diane Fillinger, Ericka Unterschultz, Barb Tinney, and Herb Erickson for a job really well done on this year's Yard and Garden Tour. Thank you for giving us better weather than last year.

Thank you to Marybelle Titcomb for another successful picnic.

If anyone has had a chance to visit the Stony Plain Library this summer you would have had an eye pleasing treat, The town was very generous in donating the majority of bedding plants to the library and to the museum. The flowers put on a great floral display for all visitors to the library and the town to enjoy. Thank you to Herb, Ericka, Mabel, Karen, Marybelle and Barb Hutchison for their ongoing volunteer work at the library and museum. We had a great time visiting with each other while helping to beautify the town.

Thank you to Anne Maze and Ericka Unterschultz for contributing to the door prizes for the picnic.



2 MINUTES a Day for...

... a GREENER PLANET:

Start your car two minutes later than usual. Wait until everyone is ready to go.

ODDS and ENDS

Volunteers, Please!

We need some volunteers to help clean up at the library later this month. If this is something you are able to participate in we would love to hear from you. Talk to Herb Erickson or Ericka Unterschultz.

2011 Memberships Due

Memberships are due in September and October. It is a big help to everyone on the executive if 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.

Silent Auction for October

As our September meeting seemed to be getting quite busy it was decided to move our silent auction to the October meeting. We ask that you bring a small garden related item to the meeting to donate to our silent auction. Thank you to Lucy Holt for putting this idea forward last year. Hope everyone will participate as it is a lot of fun. Last year I purchased a lovely tea cup with all the provincial flowers on it and containing some tea to drink as well. (Donated by Marybelle)

Reports and Budgets Due

Annual reports and budgets are due in October. If you were the head of a committee or were on the executive a report needs to be presented. On oral report is to be presented at the annual meeting in November. The budget is to be presented and voted on at the February meeting. **Written reports need to be done with three copies,**

one for your committee handbook, one to the president and one to the secretary. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Elections

The Treasurer 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 feel free to expand your horizons to a new position.

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.

Check out the information from the Edmonton Naturalization Group - posted on the display board at the front of the room.

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)

Message from the **PRESIDENT**

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The kids are back at school, back to soccer and back to their music lessons. Fall is busy for us gardening types here in Alberta. There is such urgency to these last days of good weather. The dahlias need to be dug, onions hung to dry, begonias put into storage, herbs dried and put on the shelf for use in winter soups and stews. It is rewarding to see the fruits of our labour though, isn't it? The satisfaction of harvesting and preserving is not shared by everyone but we can try our best to show others that there is a great reward in doing it yourself.

My family was able to get away for a few days in August. We went to Jasper and to Banff. The flowers in both places were still very beautiful - that was nice to see. Four days of hiking and eating out and sleeping in hotels was about all we could take though. It was nice to get away but also nice to be back home in our comfy beds. One of the places that we ate at on our trip to Jasper was the L & W Restaurant in Jasper. The flowers outside were fantastic and inside it was full of tropicals and other indoor plants. The food and service were very good, and everyone said it was probably the best place we ate at on our trip. Gardeners and non-gardeners alike certainly would be able to appreciate the effort that has gone into the garden atmosphere of the place; it was a very enjoyable place to dine at.

— Karen Berglund

GREEN thumb

Planting Tips for Growing Begonias.

The season is well past for starting begonias but here are some tips to keep in mind for next year. Soon we will be putting the begonia tubers away for the winter. There are a lot of varieties on the market today and one might be inclined to throw the tubers away in the fall and purchase new ones in the spring. The cost of these tubers might cause you to think twice, and storing them from year to year makes better economic sense. From February on plant begonia tubers, hollow side up, just below soil level (1cm/1/2") in moist peat compost, using seed trays or small pots. Keep the soil slightly moist. Place in a spot

(window sill) where the temperature does not fall below 60°F (16 – 17°C). Once the shoots are showing, development becomes rapid. Give maximum light but shade from direct midday sun. Water regularly, never allowing the soil to become dry. As soon as shoots are well advanced height: (8cm) 3.5" and all danger of frost is past, plant (25cm) around 10" apart in a semi-shaded location with humus-rich soil. Water generously, especially during periods of hot weather. Fertilize every three weeks with a balanced fertilizer. Gradually harden off when leaves start to yellow, and store tubers cool in dry packing material such as peat moss.



MEMBER'S PICKS

Favourite Vegetable Varieties:

Carrots – Purple Haze

Favourite Flower Varieties

Pink Lavatera – Beauty Mix

Garden Tips

Grass clippings in the flower beds keep the ground moist, weeds down and add nutrients as they break down.

— by Diane Fillinger

POET'S CORNER

*Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall;
Count your days by golden hours,
Don't remember clouds at all
Count your nights by stars, not shadows,
Count your life by smiles, not tears.
And with joy, on every birthday,
Count your age by friends, not years.*

— Author Unknown

Something New in the KITCHEN

Parsley and celery are fundamentals in my kitchen. I use parsley not so much to add flavour but to add a bit of colour to scrambled eggs and rice for example. My kids are not too fond of celery chunks in their soup and other dishes. This year I managed to have quite a crop of celery so I had to get a bit creative with its usage. Have you ever made celery pesto? Works great to add the flavour without the chunks — no complaints so far. I put olive oil in the blender added celery leaves — voila! — pesto in no time. The pesto was put into a large glass baking dish and put in the freezer. Before completely frozen the pesto was taken out of the freezer, scooped out and put into freezer bags. I'm set for the winter. The stems were chopped and frozen separately for dishes where I would like some texture from the celery.



HISTORY and Trivia

Taken from the 20th Anniversary Celebration Flower and Garden show book — 1981

Cash Donors:

Altheim Realty, Little Dipper Coffee Shop, Northwestern Utilities, Stony Plain Agencies Ltd., Stony Plain Sheet Metal, Stony Plain I.D.A. Pharmacy, and Stony Plain Veterinary Clinic.

Meredian School of Music provided organ music for the show.

TRIVIA

Did You Know?

Helianthus annuus — Sunflower — Compositae Family:

From the Greek: helios- the sun, anthos-flower, and annuus, annual
The President of the Edmonton Horticultural Society is Jan Ogilvie

Testing Your KNOWLEDGE

Question for June

How much does an annual membership to the Edmonton Horticultural Society cost?

Single \$35.00, family \$45.00

TOMATO BLIGHT Strikes

If you've noticed your tomatoes turning brown and rotting, it is not hail or frost damage. Apparently tomatoes in the central Alberta region have been hit by a very virulent strain of blight more commonly associated with potatoes. This disease, called late blight of potato, is spread by a fungus that is airborne. People are being asked to dispose of all diseased plants promptly by placing them in a plastic bag, tying it shut and disposing of it in a place that will accept diseased plant material. This will prevent further transmission by not allowing yet more fungal spores to escape into the atmosphere.



The fungus can also affect other plants such as potatoes, peppers, eggplant and petunias. It won't survive on any existing vegetative debris in Alberta, because the fungus cannot survive frost, but could survive on stored potatoes, so care should be taken in storing potatoes, and they should be checked regularly for lesions or injuries. These should be disposed of promptly, or the disease could be re-introduced next year if they are used for seed.

Dr. Ieuan Evans, a forensic plant pathologist, says that for next year, green-house grown and Alberta grown tomatoes and seedlings will be free of disease, so do plan your next year's purchases well.