



**STONY PLAIN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



down the Garden Path

Message from the **PRESIDENT**

Looking back over the past few weeks and thinking about the weather I am very pleased that the last couple of days have shown some improvement, with signs of better things to come. The snow is really melting today and the greenhouse is very warm. I only have the fan running this afternoon. There are a lot of things poking up through the soil. The Inca marigolds that I started in the house some time ago are well on their way to looking like marigolds. These marigolds are earmarked for the A.H.A Conference as table center pieces.

Erik returned from his school trip to England and Ireland. He said it only rained about a day and a half while he was away. He enjoyed his trip but slept for about fifteen hours when he got back home.

In watching the news these past few days I heard talk of the soccer and baseball fields being two weeks late getting underway this year. It will be interesting to see what the gardening season will bring. Anyone who works outside and has the weather to contend with sure has their work cut out for them this year.

While talking to my family in B.C. last night, my sister Lise said her family was cleaning out the raspberry patch, cleaning off the picnic table and getting ready to plant a few early potatoes. Doesn't that sound strange? My family in Denmark mentioned they had started golfing and Jette said she was planting pansies. Our time will come — we just have to be patient.

An apology for no meeting in March. In the fifteen or so years that I have been a member I don't think we have ever cancelled a meeting because of the weather. We usually tough things out and get together anyway. Hope everyone got the message and was not inconvenienced in any way. If you need information about meetings or events please get in touch with your phoning committee person. If you are not getting a monthly phone call about meetings and events, we would be happy to get you on a phone list and keep you up to date.

Happy Gardening in 2011.

— Karen Berglund

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
- Honorary President: Diane Coulthard 780-968-1889

Newsletter details and suggestions:
diane@paragraphics.ca

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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.

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 28
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sale location: SW Corner of
50 Street & 52 Avenue, Stony Plain



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Information:
Jo-Ann, 780-963-7102



HORTICULTURE highlights

QUESTION of the month

Answer to March question

"Saccate" means pouch- or bag-shaped. The lip of many orchids, including lady's slipper orchids, are saccate.

April Question of the Month

What does the term "jardinière" mean?

FLOWER AND COLOR of the year, 2011

Flower — Marigold

Color — Lavender

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Natalie Hay, Elaine Frankiew,
Mable Stanway, Ann Owens



DATES to Remember

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 — Spring Plant Sale to be held at the park on the SouthWest corner of 52 Avenue and 50 Street in downtown Stony Plain from 9am to 1pm. Please remember to plant extra for the sale or to think of what you need to divide or no longer want in your garden. We also accept other items related to gardening for the sale, eg., gardening tools, etc. Please also consider volunteering for that morning or a part of it. Many hands make light work. If you wish to volunteer or want more information, please call Jo-Ann at 780-963-7102.

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

July 13 — DBG Garden Clubs Night from 5 to 8pm. Half price admission, free garden tours, free presentation on Feng Shui Gardening by Kevin Napora, door prizes, complimentary refreshments and more. RSVP by July 6, 2011 780-987-3054 ext. 2259

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!

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.

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.

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, or talk to Ericka or Jo-Ann) with the deadline being April 22, 2011. We can be contacted at info@sphsociety.ca, or call Ericka at 780-963-6061.

AHA VOLUNTEERS Needed

We are still 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 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

FLOWER Bouquets:

A big bouquet of posies go out to Mable Stanway and Ericka Unterschultz. Mable and Ericka were able to join me this year at Seedy Sunday, held at the Alberta Avenue Community League Hall. The day was well attended despite the cool weather. We have been to some of these events in snow storms so we can't complain too much about the weather that day.

There were guest speakers, seeds to buy and exchange and magazines to pick up as well. There was something there for every type of gardener. If you have never been to one of these events mark it on your calendar for 2012. With the increasing cost of everything, more people are planning to grow food at home to keep their grocery bill down a bit. Seedy Sunday is a great place for both beginners and experienced gardeners to get information. The Horticultural Society has been participating in this event for many years. We use this opportunity to promote our club and visit with fellow gardeners. Our display included our cookbooks, yard tour information and information about our club in general.

SHOP talk

Alberta Horticultural Association News

Raffle Tickets For Sale — Tickets are available for \$2.00 each. Tickets must be sold by April 15th, 2011.

Pictures of the prizes are on the display board.

First Prize: Framed cross-stitch "Gardeners Prayer". Second Prize: Gardeners Journal and \$100 cheque. Third Prize: Decorative Wreath, Heritage Tree Book.

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.

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.

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.

SEEDY SUNDAY – speaker's corner

Another Seedy Sunday has come and gone, and again I learned some new facts.

I had the opportunity to sit in on one of the presentations offered — Growing Fruit in Central Alberta. There were two speakers for this session, the first being Amanda Chedzoy talking about fruit trees, followed by Thean Pheh, discussing the small fruits.

Ms. Chedzoy, who owns Sprout Farms Apple Orchards, discussed the fruit trees she felt were both the best and the most readily available for our area. She grows over 200 varieties on her farm. As well as being an apple farmer, she is also a professional arborist. Her picks were as follows:

Apples: Norland, Goodland, Parkland, Harcourt, Heyer #12, and Norkent to mention a few of the old favourites. She did mention that the new Honeycrisp was not nearly as hardy and that while it might survive in the city, chances for it in the country were low, as she had lost all 50 that she planted.

Plums: Brookgold was her #1 pick, Brookred, #2 on her list and Mount Royal, a Japanese plum, came in #3, as it is not as hardy as the others, though it is a self-pollinator.

Pears: Ure

Cherries: Evans, and the new Romance series – Romeo, Juliet, Carmine Jewel, Crimson Passion and Cupid. One must remember when planting cherries, that they will not tolerate wet soil. As well they do best in poor soil, as they tend to winter kill on very fertile soil which promotes more active growth.

Thean Pheh, specializing in the small fruits, listed a wide variety of fruits, with many recommendations as to what he considered the best cultivars.

Saskatoons: Northline and Honeywood, but for flavor, you can't beat Pembina. According to Thean, saskatoons should be considered the best fruit in Alberta, as they far outrank blueberries in antioxidants and nutrients.

Black Elderberry: Adam, John's

Cherry Plum (Plum x Sandcherry): Sapa, Manor, Sapalta for jam and canning. Opata for eating.

Raspberry: Primocane – Autumn Bliss; Floricane – Boyne, Red Mammoth, Red Bounty; Thornless varieties – Chief, Algonquin.

Black Raspberry: Wyoming

Blackberries: Not recommended – too hard to overwinter

Currants: Red – Viking; White – White Imperial and Blanka; Black – Ben Nevis, Ben Corran, or any other of the Ben Series (out of Scotland)

Blueberries: Native ones are plentiful anywhere north of Legal. To grow domestic varieties, it is recommended that they be grown in a pot, where soil conditions can be controlled more effectively. They need sulphate of ammonia or an acid fertilizer. He said that, once a year he waters his well with Coca Cola Classic, and they love it, though he isn't sure why!

Mongolian Cherries: An aggressive spreader, but great for jam, juice and wine.

Grapes: Valiant (hardest). Others may be grown, but must be planted in a very warm and sheltered spot, such as against the south side of the house or garage. Very important to remember is that in our climate, grapes need to be cane-pruned.

Gooseberries: Hinnomaki or Hinnomaki Red, both European in origin.

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GREEN thumb

Peas

Plant peas as early as possible. They do better with longer, cooler days. A 10 foot row will yield about 10 pounds of peas. Plant peas thickly, to the depth of your first knuckle, along a single row. Staking will help with ease of picking. Many people use inoculants on peas. Inoculants are naturally-occurring materials that contain soil bacteria. They help pea plants extract nitrogen from the soil. This dry sooty powder is mixed with the seeds before planting. A thicker coating will help to increase yield. If you have any inoculant left over just work it into the soil. Fresh inoculant should be purchased each year. If you are planting your seeds very early it might be a good idea to use treated seed. These are treated with a mild fungicide to prevent the seeds from rotting in cool soil.

Harvesting: Peas need to be picked while they are young and full of flavour. Snow peas can be eaten at any stage, pods and all, without removing the string. Be careful when you harvest peas as they are brittle and break easily. Pea should be stored in plastic bags in the refrigerator and are best used the same day they are picked. If you are unable to use them fresh, freeze them raw, with the shelled peas inside plastic bags. Use the frozen peas within a couple of weeks.

MEMBER'S PICKS

Favourite Flowers: Vintage stocks (double flowering) — great fragrance in the evening, plant under bedroom window

Favourite Vegetables: Green Arrow peas — bears lots of pods, sweet, resists downy mildew

Favourite Herbs: Thyme — perennial, dwarf, grows in most soils, also great for bees

Favourite Perennials: Morden Roses, any variety; fragrant and don't need winter protection, good for our climate

Favourite Trees/shrubs: Mountain Ash — colour for every season, great for waxwings in winter because of the berries.

— by Janice Nickolson

HISTORY and Trivia

From the Alberta Horticulturist Summer 1988

“New” Trees and Shrubs

Tower Poplar — Populus X canescens “Tower”

This very narrow poplar was bred and released by Dr. Wilbert Ronald while at the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Morden, Manitoba. It is difficult to transplant bare-root or even by tree spade, as it is unable to re-develop roots quickly enough to become established. It is tall — at least 10 meters and about one and a half meters wide, clean and fast growing. It can be propagated from root cuttings.

TRIVIA

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Greeks called the marjoram plant “joy of the mountains” and used it to cure rheumatism? Wreaths and garlands of it were used at weddings and funerals. They said it was precious to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, and that this was what made it so gentle — gentle enough to cure sprains, as well as to comfort the dead when it grew on their graves. Young Greek couples were crowned with it at their weddings. Legend had it that if you anointed yourself with it before sleeping, you would dream of your future spouse.

EGGCELLENT planters

These biodegradable eggshell planters are perfect for starting seeds. When the plants get too big for the shells, you can transplant them straight to the soil, shell and all.

We made springy planters out of egg shells this past weekend. Mine was in a vintage egg



holder (pictured). My daughters, Scarlet and Josie painted their egg planters and decorated the holders.

Not only are these seedling starter containers perfect for spring decor, they combine recycling and organic fertilizer. This is also a fun way to get kids involved with the garden!

— by Stephanie Camilleri

SEEDY SUNDAY

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Goji: No specific cultivar as of yet, and there can be a great taste variation between different plants. Again, they have more antioxidants than blueberries, and are very high in Vitamin A. They taste best in March, after having been left on the bush over winter to dry — if the birds haven't got to them first, as they love them, too.

Cranberry: Highbush – Green Island and Gerry's Pink

Nannyberry – also good, but no specific cultivar.

Honeyberry (or Haskap – Japanese x Russian cross): Borealis and Tundra, which are much sweeter than the Russian berries (the Blue series)

Lingonberry: Native – found in Newfoundland

European – Best cultivar is Stevens, but they like the same growing conditions as the blueberry, and as such, are best grown in containers.

Nanking cherry: Orient and Drilea. This is a good pollinator for the plum and cherry trees. Fruit is great for jelly.

Chokecherry: Michigan (red), Lee Yellow (yellow) and Garrington (black). High in antioxidants, these are great for jelly, syrup and wine. Freezing the berry before use eliminates the astringency.

Chokeberry (not cotoneaster): Autumn Magic. This plant has brilliant red foliage in fall, and the berries are very high in antioxidants.

Strawberry: June-bearing: Kent #1, Cavendish

Alpine: Rugen (Improved) – Great as is has no runners.

Day-neutral: TriStar and Seascape (the biggest berries and is the best for processing)

Strawberries need calcium once a year, and a dose of copper, to do their best.

What a wonderful, healthy selection we have here! And the best thing is they grow right here.

— by Ericka Unterschultz