



**STONY PLAIN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



down the Garden Path

Message from the **PRESIDENT**

As I prepare to put together my first newsletter, I glance out at the thermometer – minus 28°C. – and I yearn for my garden. I always find that the best cure for the winter doldrums is to plan for the upcoming summer. So with seed catalogs at hand, and flipping through my seed stash, I can see it already – warm sunshine, lush plants, just enough moisture, no weeds or mosquitoes ... yes, this year will be perfect I tell myself.

But all kidding aside, it will be an interesting year. With this being my first year at the helm of the SPHS, I know I have a lot to learn and much to look forward to. With the support of the executive and our many members, I hope we will have an exciting and successful future.

My hope is that we can continue with the growth that we have experienced in the last few years. Our membership has doubled, participation is increasing and we have become more involved in our community. Members are enjoying the education provided by a variety of speakers, and the interaction at the meetings and other events, such as the yard and garden tour, the plants sales, and the social events. And by bringing along friends and guests, we can continue to grow and spread our influence. This is beneficial to all, for the sharing of knowledge and friendship enriches the lives of everyone touched.

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S.P.H.S. 2011/12 Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President: Ericka Unterschultz 780-963-6061
- Vice-President: Karen Berglund 780-963-6575
- Secretary: Linda Piskunowicz 780-963-1126
- Treasurer: Stephanie Camilleri 780-968-0780
- Honorary President: Angie Bauer 780-963-6285

Newsletter details and suggestions:
diane@paragraphics.ca

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Meeting **DETAILS**

Monthly general meetings will be held in the Luther Room, in the basement of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5021 – 52 Ave., Stony Plain, AB, Please use the doors on the North Side. 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.

Yard and Garden Tour
July 21 and 22, 2012
10 am – 4 pm

Please put this date on your calendars, or websites.

Seedy SUNDAY

Alberta Avenue Community Hall (9210 – 118 Ave.)
11 am – 4 pm on Sunday March 18th,

The event is free to the public, with a donation box, and there will be door prizes, so if you have anything you'd like to donate for this, let Ericka know.

We are looking for volunteers to help at our display table.

HORTICULTURE highlights

QUESTION of the month

Answer to November question

What does the term "flocculation" mean?

Flocculation is the joining of fine particles of silt or clay into larger soil particles.

February Question of the Month

What does "ester" refer to?

FLOWER AND COLOR of the year, 2012

Flower of the Year — Bachelor's-button
Colour — Red

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

January – Linda Piskunowicz, Marybelle Titcomb

February – Barb Tinney, Maxine Frank, Phyllis Anderson, Beth Armbruster



If there is a special date we should know about please let us know so we can put it in the newsletter.

2012 DATES to Remember

- ❁ **February 21** – Board of Director's meeting, at the home of Linda Piskunowicz
- ❁ **March 6** – General Meeting Ice Breaker – Bring 2 garden photos, one from Alberta and one from somewhere else. Please label, with your name, the date and location.
March 18 – Seedy Sunday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Alberta Avenue Community League, 9210 – 118th Ave., Edmonton
- ❁ **March 20** – Board of Director's meeting – Location TBA.
- ❁ **April 3** – General Meeting Ice Breaker – Bring your tubers, extra house plants and cuttings.
- ❁ **April 17** – Board of Director's meeting – Location TBA
- ❁ **May 1** – General Meeting Ice Breaker – Sunflower discussion and seed give away. We are asking members to plant a few sunflowers to be used in the fall as a promotional item for the club. Simone Deman to discuss growing tips for sunflowers.

May 1 – Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

May 4 – 5 – AHA Annual General Meeting and Conference, St. Albert Inn, 156 St. Albert Trail, St. Albert, AB

May 12 – DBG Plant Sale Opens (runs daily until late July)

❁ **May 15** – Board of Director's meeting – Location TBA.

❁ **May 26** – SPHS Spring Plant Sale

❁ **June 7** – General Meeting Ice Breaker – Garden inspired handicrafts

June 5 – Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

June 17 – DBG – 4th Annual Rhubarb Festival

July 3 – Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

July 7 – 8 – Martagon Lily Show at the Devonian Botanic Garden

July 15 – Rose Day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

❁ **July 21 – 22** – SPHS Annual Yard and Garden Tour

August 7 – Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

❁ **August** – SPHS Family Picnic (exact date to be announced)

❁ **September 4** – General Meeting Ice Breaker – Silent Auction (garden related items)

September 4 – Half-price admission day at the Devonian Botanic Garden

❁ **September 15** – SPHS Fall Promotion

September 16 – Fruit Grower's Festival at the Devonian Botanic Garden

❁ **September 18** – Board of Director's meeting – Location TBA.

❁ **October 2** – General Meeting Ice Breaker – Bring in your pumpkin, squash, gourds, potatoes

❁ **October 16** – Board of Director's meeting – Location TBA

❁ **November 6** – General and Annual Meeting Ice Breaker — Pie Night.

❁ **November 20** – Board of Director's meeting (if required) – Location TBA

❁ **November 30** – Annual Christmas Party, Stony Plain United Church.

December 8 – 9 – Luminaria at the Devonian Botanic Garden

GUEST SPEAKERS for 2012

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!

March 6 – **James Leskiw** on garden pests and rodents.

April 3 – **Brad, of Downunder Landscaping**, talking about ponds and retaining walls

The remaining speakers have yet to be confirmed.

2012 ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION Annual General Meeting and Conference

The St. Albert and District Garden Club will be hosting the Alberta Horticultural Association's 2012 Annual General Meeting and Conference at the St. Albert Inn on May 4 and 5, 2012. Friday night will consist of an afternoon tour of the Hole's new Enjoy Centre and an evening banquet followed by the theme presentation: "Now For the Future" which includes history of the St. Albert & District Garden Club and photos of the 2011 Harrogate Flower Show in England. On Saturday morning two guest speakers will be featured — **William Shoty** on "*Soil and Water: Our Key to Survival*", followed by **Michiel Verheul** with "*Flowers in Plugs and Pots*". After a light lunch, the AHA will conduct their Annual General Meeting, and wrap up with the Silent Auction.

For more information, contact Derrick at 780-458-7430 or by email at SAGC@stalbertgardenclub.info (Website: www.stalbertgardenclub.info)

Door PRIZES

Put your name in each month for a door prize. Paper and the door prize box are located on the membership table. This year our door prizes include some exciting garden books – be sure to be there!

HORTICULTURE highlights

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. This helps our coffee fund.

FLOWER Bouquets:

Flower Bouquets to **Diane Fillinger** and **Stephanie Camilleri** for a job well done with the Christmas party. Those who attended enjoyed a delicious supper, followed by fun games, and best of all the company of our fellow gardeners and friends.

Once again, many thanks to those who have joined the board of directors and to those who continue to work to keep the society growing.



ODDS and ENDS

Alberta Horticultural Association News

If you are an A.H.A member your memberships are due. They are looking for area reps for zone 2 and 4, and are requesting items for the silent auction.

Thank you to Arnold Pittao for being such a big part of the A.H.A. for the past 15 years. Good luck with your new adventures, Arnie.

We have received the A.H.A. raffle tickets. There are some great prizes this year, including a rescued wood corner cabinet (\$250.00 value), Iron and Stone "Bird and chicks" (\$200.00 value) and a Dehydrator and two cookbooks (\$150.00 value).

Organic Master Gardener Program

The Multicultural Heritage Centre of Stony Plain is once again offering its very successful Organic Master Gardener program, beginning in February, 2012. Partnering with Gaia College of Victoria, B.C., the MHC has designed a certificate program for adult learners with instructors who are well-known and very well-respected in the organic and horticultural community across the province. More information is available on-line on the MHC website ... www.multicentre.org (under the "Agriculture" pull down menu), or by contacting Judy Kesanko ... judyk@multicentre.org Registrations for the new year are being accepted right now!

In Memoriam

Clara Montgomery and Gloria Chorney, both long-standing members of the A.H.A. passed away last fall.

Forget Me Not Greenhouse

The greenhouse is offering a 10% discount on plant material to the Stony Plain Horticultural Society. Please show your membership card before your purchase is rung in.

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.

5th Annual Sangudo Garden Club Day

On January 28 Karen Berglund was able to participate in this event. The activity was very well attended. The Key note speaker was Rob Spencer from Alberta Agriculture, on the subject "Fruit and Vegetable Growing". Denise O'Reilly spoke on Seed Saving and Karen spoke about Community Gardens. This is an event that our members could well look forward to in the next year as there is always a lot of great information. It's a good way to get in the garden spirit in January.

Pioneer Museum

David from the museum contacted us and asked if we were interested in working with them on a flower show. He said he remembers his grandmother winning ribbons at the show. We have talked with the museum in the past about working on such an event so it is worth a discussion. We would appreciate your thoughts and ideas on what you would like to see for a show and display activity.

Luminaria in Stony Plain

Something to think about — a thought on working with Keephills students on a pumpkin display and luminaria in Stony Plain, in the park. Karen will talk a bit about this at the meeting.

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. 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.

POET'S corner

For Hamlet, and the trifling of his favour
Hold it a fashion, and a toy in blood:

A violet in the youth of primary nature

Forward, not permanent, sweet, not lasting,

The perfume and suppliance of a minute;

No more.

William Shakespeare – 1564 – 1616

Message from the **PRESIDENT**

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One of the regular events coming up next is Seedy Sunday, which will take place on March 18 this year, between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm at the Alberta Avenue Community League. I have attended this event every year since joining the society in April of 2007, and always look forward to the next session. Not only is it good exposure for our club, it also provides us with the opportunity to meet "like souls". We have actually recruited new members at some of these, as well as sold seeds and our cookbooks. Along with the "horticultural trade fair" type of atmosphere, every year the program features 3 or 4 excellent guest speakers on a wide variety of subjects, as well as a good selection of seeds, both common and unusual. If you would be interested in helping out, please let me know. If you just wish to go browse on your own, I encourage that as well. There is no charge to attend this event.

I would like to extend to everyone a personal welcome back after the Christmas break. I won't be present for the February general meeting as I will be on vacation, but Karen will be filling in for me. I hope everyone will have an enjoyable evening, and I hope to see you all in March.

— *Ericka Unterschultz*

HISTORY and Trivia

HISTORY

In 1979 the Stony Plain Horticultural Society held its Flower Show on August 14th. Parkland Garden Club held their show on August 18th.

TRIVIA

Did You Know?

Note: "spp" is the plural of "species"; and when used in lists it means that many, but not all, of the species in a genus meet the criterion of the list.

MEMBER'S PICKS and advice

Alfalfa Tea

This is a useful remedy for roses, clematis, ailing plants and plants with yellow leaves.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 10 cups | Alfalfa cubes
(better than pellets
– Spruce Grove
Feeds has these) |
| 2 cups | Epsom salts |

Put these items in an old pillowcase, tie shut, and then put into a large garbage can. Fill it with water, cover and let it stand for 3 days. Then give 1 ice cream pail (4 liters) to each plant. You may use the alfalfa mix again for a diluted mix, and after that add it to the compost or spread in on the garden.

Control whitefly with Listerine

My grapevines were covered with whitefly for several years and I couldn't seem to control them. I found this recipe.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 2 tsp | Listerine |
| 2 tsp | dish soap |
| 1 quart (L) | water |

Mix these ingredients and spray. Use it on a shady day and try it on a few leaves first, before spraying the whole plant.

My grapevines were destined to be destroyed, but I sprayed them with this mixture (ground and leaves) in 2010 and last summer there were no more whiteflies. This works on Virginia Creeper also.

– *submitted by Pat Munch*

GREEN thumb

Water Conservation

As the gardening season is fast approaching we are planning to beautify our surroundings. As water becomes an ever increasing issue we do need to consider water usage in our yard and our ever greater demand for it. What can each of us do to decrease our water usage? Consider using native, heat loving and drought tolerant plants. Rain barrels at every downspout are a great addition to any garden also. One of my neighbours who wasn't too fond of the assorted colours of his rain barrels made beautiful wood surrounds for them. A can of paint to use on plastic would work well, too.

One of the biggest influences on water in the garden is the addition of ornamental grasses. Over the years I have collected many from our members, plant sales, a speaker

or two and certainly from our local greenhouses. They have seldom received any water from me and they do add a special element to the landscape. Pests and diseases have never been a problem. Ask your local nursery about grasses hardy for this area. Blue fescue is quite popular for a shorter border grass and "Karl Foerster" is a beautiful tall grass that looks beautiful swaying in the wind in the winter. The only complaint I would have about the tall grasses is that our cats do like to play commando behind the grass and try their paw at bird catching. Have a great gardening season and do look into annual and perennial grasses to help enhance your yard and save water this gardening season.

– *Submitted by Karen Berglund*

