



**STONY PLAIN  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**



# down the Garden Path

## Message from the **PRESIDENT**

Hello to all the members of the Stony Plain Horticultural Society and welcome back after the summer break.

This past week has sure been a hot one. I'm not sure I like this much heat all at once.

It is nice to see some summer weather even if it is in September. Sitting outside in the evening or walking around the yard on these warm nights reminds me of our family vacations to the prairies when I was growing up. We would go to Manitoba or to Alberta to visit family and friends before school would start. The fresh smell of hay and the sounds of the farm machinery are a big part of those summer memories. I brought some alfalfa home the other day (in my van) and I was thinking to myself how fresh it smelled and it occurred to me that I wouldn't mind that scent as an air freshener. The alfalfa brought back memories of the summer hay season on the dairy farm and the good times we had with a big crew in the summer till everyone went back to school and things would get pretty quiet again until spring.

Ericka and I were able to take in the events of this year's Yard and Garden Tour. It was a lovely summer day well spent with a friend and meeting up with fellow gardeners and community members as we toured around Stony Plain and area. Each yard was unique and there was information to be gathered at each location. For those who were able to attend I hope you enjoyed your day and for those who were unable to catch the tour this year keep it in mind for next year. The event is held the third weekend in July - the same weekend as the Moonday Soccer Tournament in Spruce Grove. My kids are in the tournament so it is easy for me to remember. I am usually running between yards and soccer game.

The flowers are still looking beautiful, but they do need a lot more water these days. The sunflowers and the corn have improved a great deal with the change in the weather. Even though the days are warm the nights do cool down quite a bit so it might be necessary to cover tender plants like basil. I have been doing this for about a week now and they do seem to be benefitting from keeping them a bit warmer a night. An old sheet will do or some commercial row cover is an alternative.

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## 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.

## HORTICULTURE highlights

### QUESTION of the month

#### Answer to June question

What is "vermiculite"?

Vermiculite is a mica-like mineral that is expanded at high temperatures to form lightweight pellet-like granules that retain water but also provide good aeration when added to potting mixes.

### BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

July — Pat Munch, Kathy Hargreaves, Marie Wenger

August — Connie Jump

September — Linda Lockwood, Janice Nickolson



### DATES to Remember

- ❖ **September 17 (Saturday) – SPHS Fall Plant Sale** — at the Rotary Park, from 9 am – 1 pm. Members to bring items by 8:00 am if possible. Contact Jo-Ann Lubbers, 780-963-7102.
- September 18** – Devonian Botanic Garden – 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.
- ❖ **November 25 — SPHS Christmas Party**, see Diane Fillingier (780-963-7912) or Stephanie Camilleri (780-968-0780) for tickets and information.

### FLOWER AND COLOR of the year, 2012

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

### 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!

October 4 – **Barry Greigg** of the Devonian Botanic Garden shares his knowledge of **Plant Propagation, Seed Collection and Storage, and All Things Related.**

### NEWSLETTER Change

It was decided at the last board meeting that a newsletter less often might be worth a try. Not only is a lot of the information repeated each month, it is also very time consuming as well as increasingly expensive to mail. We will be producing a newsletter for September, November, February, April and June. Members are phoned about the meetings to remind them, as well. If there are any changes to events you will also be contacted by phone. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call. Keep your newsletters handy for the calendar of events.

### 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 Marybelle and the volunteers of this year's picnic. It was great of you all to provide such nice weather this year. Thank you to Jo-Ann and Jamie Lubbers for providing Angie Bauer with a ride to the picnic. It was great to see you there Angie. Hope the new garden tools you got as a door prize come in handy.

A big bouquet of posies goes out to Jo Granger and the Yard and Garden Committee. Thank you for doing such a great job.

Thank you to Lorne and Phyllis Anderson for opening up their home to the executive for the monthly meetings. We have truly appreciated all the years you have volunteered to do this.



## Get your CHRISTMAS PARTY tickets

2011  
*Christmas Party*  
*and Silent Auction*

**November 25, 2011**  
**at Stony Plain United Church**  
**5012 – 51 Avenue**

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

tickets  
will be available  
at the Oct and  
Nov meetings

## 2 MINUTES a Day for...

### ... a GREENER PLANET:

Take your own ceramic or china coffee cup to work, to meetings or to a picnic. Keep one in your car. A few places even give you a discount on your coffee, and think of all the garbage it saves.

## Garden CHUCKLES

The nice part about living in a small town: When you don't know what you're doing, someone else always does.

– submitted by Marybelle Titcomb

## ODDS and ENDS

### *Library/Museum Update*

Thank you to Herb Erickson, Karen Berglund, Ericka Unterschultz, Barb Hutchison and Marybelle Titcomb for all the volunteer hours they spent at the library and museum this summer. I hope everyone had a chance to view these areas of town. The flowers turned out really well and I don't believe there were any obvious signs of vandalism. It was nice to see everyone on a weekly basis, working together and enjoying a cup of tea after the work was done - great job everyone.

### *Executive Meeting Room*

Needed - A new location to hold the Stony Plain Horticultural Society Monthly Board of Directors Meetings. If you have any suggestions please let me know. Karen Berglund – 780-963-6575

### *Alberta Horticultural Association News*

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](mailto:diane@paragraphics.ca).

### *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 co-operation in this matter.

## SOMETHING NEW in the Kitchen

### *Horseradish Mustard*

Very Hot	1/2 tsp. salt
4 Tbsp. dry mustard	2 Tbsp. olive oil
4 Tbsp. cider vinegar	2 Tbsp. fresh horseradish or 1 Tbsp. dehydrated horseradish
2 Tbsp. sugar	

Make a paste by blending together the vinegar and mustard. Blend together sugar, salt, and olive oil. Beat the mixture together until it forms a thick paste. Add the fresh horseradish. If dehydrated horseradish is used, mix it with 1 Tbsp. of cold water before adding it to the mixture. An old German recipe.

## GREEN thumb

### *Potting Soil Fires*

Dry potting soil and heat don't mix. If you have a garden or potted plants, you likely have a bag of potting soil at home. While it helps to keep your plants healthy, potting soil also contains a combination of organic and inorganic materials that can lead to fire if it's not used properly.

Potting soil fires can start for a number of reasons, including smokers using the soil to put out cigarettes, or not watering the soil regularly. Even direct sunlight on dry potting soil can cause it to ignite and spread to combustible items around it.

Prevent potting soil fires from damaging your home by watering your plants regularly and providing a safe place for smokers to put out their cigarettes.

– submitted by Marybelle Titcomb

### *Seed Collection*

It is time to collect your seeds for next year. The weather is perfect for collecting and drying your favorite flowers but there are a few simple rules for this project to be a success. Remember that hybrids often can't be grown from seed. The resulting plants are usually inferior to the parent plant - if they produce viable seed at all. Collecting seed is a way to preserve heirloom varieties and pass them along to family and friends. Remember that labeling is very important - don't forget the date too. After collecting the seed, clean it and spread it out to dry. Store it in dry glass jars or other sealed containers in a dark, cool dry place.

What should you look for when on a seed hunt? You need to keep your eye on the flowers to start with. If they have been fertilized, they will quickly wither and fall away, leaving the seed head, pod, follicle, fruit or other container for the seeds. Some of the easiest seeds to save are four-o'clocks, beans, morning glories, and marigolds.

Moisture Alert! - Since seeds begin to germinate when they absorb water, you can see why moisture is the death of seeds in storage. Seeds are becoming increasingly expensive so saving your own is a great way to save some money. Make some special seed packages and pass them along to a friend.



## Message from the **PRESIDENT**

*continued from cover*

Sarah is back in school now and she said she was glad to go back because she was sick of domestic duties, picking beans, making apple sauce, chopping celery, and drying herbs. Really I think she missed her friends and the social life of school. Erik is working at the gas station at the Co-op in Stony Plain. He would like to go to University next year to work towards a science degree. This weekend he is at Brooks looking for fossils. I hardly see him anymore and people tell me that is normal.

It was great to see everyone at the annual picnic - the weather was lovely, the food was great and the company was fantastic.

Well wishes go out to Lorne and Phyllis Anderson as they have now moved into a condo in Stony Plain. Best wishes to you both. I know you are going to be buying red geraniums and planting them somewhere next summer and I'm sure you will miss your licorice vine. I expect to see your balcony a blaze of colour in 2012 if Lorne can get Phyllis out there on the fourth floor.

There are only a couple of months left in our year. Please keep in mind that memberships are due in September and October. It is much easier to get all the paper work done and keep in contact with everyone if our membership list is up to date as early as possible.

We hope everyone has enjoyed the meetings this past year. Mr. Battiste, who spoke on invasive weeds, brought quite a bit of helpful information. I've been busy getting rid of a few things in my yard. No easy task so I can see why some of these plants need to be controlled or eliminated all together.

Nominations for President and Vice-President are coming up in November. If you are presently on a committee or an executive member it is important that we have all the positions filled before the November meeting so please let me know if you need another board position or if you are staying on in your present one. Anyone interested in getting more involved with the society is welcome. We can find something for you, big or small.

We are looking forward to another productive and educational year thanks to great volunteers and great friends - welcome back!!

*- Karen Berglund*

## **HISTORY** and Trivia

### **HISTORY**

As the summer draws to a close we should be looking forward to the winter landscape. There are a lot of attractive shrubs, grasses, and seed pods that give it interest. As they ripen and colour, the fleshy fruit of many roses (hips) produce a vivid display in fall and winter. As a general rule, the roses that are single or semi-double are more likely to have hips. Single roses have an easier time self-pollinating. Species roses, single and semi-double gallicas, albas and damasks have some of the most beautiful hips.

Hips are edible as well as beautiful and a rich source of nutrition. During WW II, for example, when citrus fruits were scarce in Britain, rose hips were found to have a vitamin C content 400 percent greater than that of oranges! In 1941, over 200 tons of the bitter red fruit of the country's *Rosa canina* were collected and made into syrup for civilian and military consumption.

### **TRIVIA**

#### *Did You Know?*

In the "Language of Flowers" the Carnation changes its meaning according to its colour. A Striped Carnation means Refusal, the Yellow Carnation Disdain and the Red Carnation signifies the blood of Christ. The cultivation of these flowers goes back over two thousand years, and it is said that the plant came to England with the Normans.

Fall is here ...

... and it's a great time to plant perennials in your garden.

**Fall Plant Sale**

Where: Heritage Farmer's Market — located at the Rotary Park in Stony Plain

**Saturday, September 17**  
**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**



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Information:  
Jo-Ann, 780-963-7102 • [www.SPHSociety.ca](http://www.SPHSociety.ca)

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