

SPHS General Meeting MINUTES

May 2, 2023

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM (doors open at 6:30) **Location:** Kinsmen Room, Stony Plain & Parkland Pioneer Museum

Reminder: Gates to the Museum will be locked after the icebreaker activity (approximately 7:20 pm)

Time	Item	Action
7:00	1. Meeting called to order Kathryn Frechette @ 7:02 pm. Housekeeping details reviewed for members in attendance.	
	2. Welcome members and guests to Bring a Friend Night! Members and their friends introduced themselves. At the end of the meeting, a draw was held for a gift basket. The winner was Liz Moores.	
7:10	3. Icebreaker (15-20 min): Members tested their plant and SPHS knowledge with Garden Trivia	
7:25	4. Order of Business	
	4.1 Errors or Omissions April 4, 2023 minutes: (Michele Stanley)	approved
	4.2 New Business: 4.2.1 Alberta Horticultural Association 2023 Conference in Olds Alberta - Becky Nickurak, Penny Fedoruk-Brettelle and Kathryn Frechette will be representing the SPHS at the conference.	
	4.2.2 Promotion Manager position filled - Katherine Chomyn has stepped forward and volunteered for this position.	
7:35	5. Committee Updates	
	5.1 Vice President (Kathryn Frechette) 5.1.1 No report	
	5.2 Treasurer (Kathy Loughlin)	

Stony Plain Horticultural Society: General Meeting Minutes May 2 2023

	5.2.1 No report	
	5.3 Recording Secretary (Michele Stanley) 5.3.1 No report	
	5.4 Fundraiser Coordinator (Kathy Loughlin) 5.4.1 No report	
	5.5 Membership (Penny Fedoruk-Brettelle) 5.5.1 We have 62 members now!	
	5.6 Social Media (Dana Paterson) 5.6.1	
	5.7 Promotions (Femia Streefkert) 5.7.1 Welcome Kathryn Chomyn! 5.7.2 Newsletter will be distributed in the summer; please provide feedback. 5.7.3 Looking for feedback on activities, speakers, events, etc. Survey will be distributed electronically via email.	

Stony Plain Horticultural Society: General Meeting Minutes May 2 2023

	<p>5.8 Community Gardens: Pioneer Museum (Holly Thompson)</p> <p>5.8.1 Holly displayed the volunteer resource binder and reviewed volunteering tips.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The binder will be in the office, where you will pick up your name tag. ● Log your name, hours and where you worked, in addition to any issues noted. ● Members were asked if they agreed to have phone numbers on the schedule so people could contact each other to arrange to volunteer together if they wish. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteer schedule circulated for signup, some spots still remain open ● There is a museum map in the front of the binder to identify gardens. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tools are located in the shed in the far south corner of the museum and will be identified on the map. ● The Museum staff will bring the tractor and trailer for weed disposal; please request this at the front office. ● Please contact Holly via email: sphortsociety@gmail.com for any questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If you wish to volunteer outside of museum hours (10 am- 4pm) this can be arranged. ○ Additional orientation to the museum can be arranged. ● If you are unable to make your shift, please contact Holly. Contact information will be emailed to members. 	
	<p>5.9 Plant Sale Coordinator (Kevin Loughlin) Report given by Kathy Loughlin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you're going to divide perennials now is the time so they can settle into pots ● Sign-up sheet circulated for volunteer positions at the plant sale. ● Advertising cards are available for members to hand out. ● Plant pots are available for members if needed. ● If people know what they are bringing to the sale, please let Penny know, or email sphortsociety@gmail.com so signage can be made. It's important to let purchasers know what is available ● Kathy discussed planting potatoes (Earth Apples). Members can find these at Co-op, Kiwi Gardens, Aspen Grove and Peavey Mart. 	
7:45	<p>6. Question & Answer Period or Move & Mingle</p> <p>Femia provided some information on companion gardening. Presentation attached to minutes.</p>	

Stony Plain Horticultural Society: General Meeting Minutes May 2 2023

8:00	<p>7. Guest Speaker: Chad Ritter from Parkland County Chad provided an overview of noxious weeds and the <i>Alberta Weed Control Act</i>. He provided visuals of some common noxious weeds Scentsless Chamomile, Tansy Ragwort and Canada Thistle and how to remove/control them. A review of prohibited noxious weeds and their control was also presented. For additional information, please see: https://www.parklandcounty.com/en/live-and-play/weeds.aspx.</p>
	<p>8. Next meeting: June 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm</p>
9:00	<p>9. Meeting Adjournment @ 9:00 pm</p>

COMPANION GARDENING

According to Wikipedia; “Companion Planting in gardening and agriculture is the planting of different crops in proximity for any of a number of different reasons, including pest control, pollination, providing habitat for beneficial insects, maximizing use of space and to otherwise increase crop productivity”.

Companion Gardening has a long history and how plants interact is still not well understood. The bottom line has always been that certain plants can help other plants.

DOES COMPANION GARDENING HAVE A SCIENTIFIC BASIS?

No, not really. Some investigations have been done but...

Most information comes directly from the gardeners! Their Experience has been spread by “word of mouth” for centuries, and that is the basis of companion gardening!

1) NITROGEN FIXATION – Legumes, such as peas, beans and clover, can convert atmospheric nitrogen for their own use and to benefit neighbouring plants.

Nitrogen (N₂) can't be used by most living things. Plants do not have the required enzymes to make use of Atmospheric nitrogen. Therefore it has to be converted or "fixed" to a more usable form through a process called 'fixation'!!

2) NATURAL PEST REPELLENT – Some plants give off chemicals from roots or aerial parts that repel pests and protect neighbouring plants. The African marigold, for example, releases thiophene, a nematode repellent, making it a good companion for several garden crops and reputedly attracting hoverflies, which prey upon aphids. African Marigolds are quite large and very poofy!

3) SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS – Spatial relationships. Tall-growing, sun-loving plants may share space with lower-growing, shade tolerant species, resulting in higher total yields.

A good example of these relationships is growing cabbages with some cucumber plants nearby. By the time you plant cucumber seeds, the cabbages will have a good start. On hot days, the cucumber vines can 'hide' from the hot, wilting sun under the cabbage leaves.

COMMON COMPANION PLANTINGS

Basil with tomatoes – “tomatoes have a love affair with basil”

Beans with corn, cucumber, beets and cabbages - Beans enrich the soil and corn, cukes, beets and cabbages are all heavy feeders.

Dill with lettuce, cabbage, cucumbers and onions – Said to improve the growth and flavour of cabbage. Lettuce grows well next to it, but keep it away from carrots. (the carrots will be smaller)

Garlic with roses – Repels aphids.

Marigolds – Excellent reputation as a pest deterrent, so plant freely throughout the garden.

Mint with cabbage and tomatoes – Repels white cabbage moths, rodents, ants, flea beetles and aphids. Improves health of cabbage and tomatoes. (mint plant is invasive, so plant in containers in your garden)

Nasturtiums – Plant as a barrier around cabbage, tomatoes, fruit trees and cucumbers. Good plant for trapping certain pests such as aphids. Deters whiteflies and cucumber beetles.

Visit <https://www.heeman.ca/garden-guides/companion-planting/> for a companion planting guide for beginners.