



ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

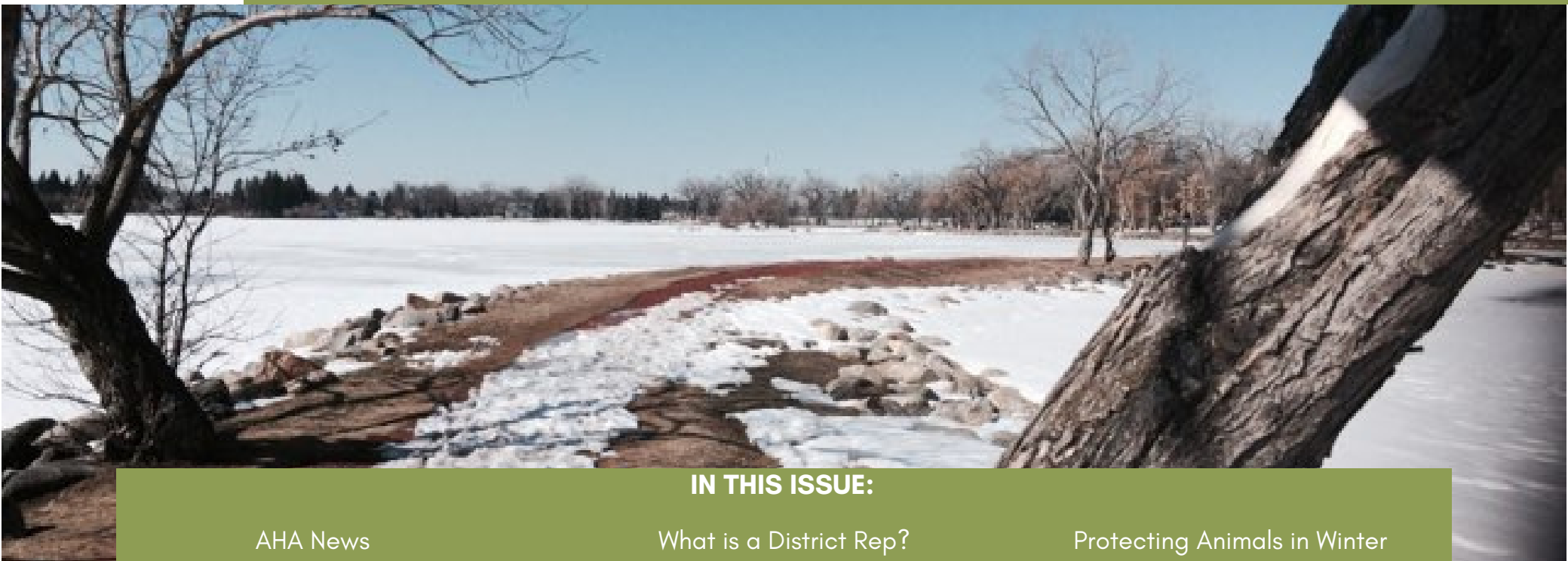
February

May

August



November



IN THIS ISSUE:

AHA News

What is a District Rep?

Protecting Animals in Winter

Judging Workshops

District 6 Update

AHA Board of Directors

Green Industry Show

For those who are unfamiliar with the Green Industry Show & Conference, it was held in Westerner Park in Red Deer on November 15 and 16.

The G.I.S & C is an event put on by staff and volunteers from the Nursery Trades Association - Landscape Alberta. The objective is to bring top industry speakers, information sessions, timely information, events, and the largest industry trade show on the Prairies.

The A.H.A. has taken the opportunity to participate as an exhibitor again this year. A great opportunity to bring awareness to the general industry about the A.H.A.

Thank you to Bob Cote and Lorraine Taylor for representing the A.H.A. on November 15 and to Marie Wenger for attending with me on November 16. A pleasure to attend and work with all of you.

Taking part in the Green Industry Show gives us exposure to the commercial , education, grower , community sectors that may not be aware of this organization.

Landscape Association provides the CiB (Communities in Bloom) with a free booth and CiB invites AHA to share it. This allows for a close partnership between the two organizations as they share complimentary objectives, one providing information to the gardening public and the other

promoting civic pride and community involvement and promotion and protection of green spaces, Most volunteers in the booth have some knowledge of both organizations and can provide information to visitor and other exhibitors.

Many Olds College Horticulture students attend the event. This gives them first hand knowledge of the AHA and its role in the advancement and promotion of Horticulture in Alberta. One student was so interested in our booth, that she wanted to become an AHA member!

-Karen Berglund and Marie Wenger



Affiliate clubs are encouraged to keep in touch with their district representative about club activities.

District reps are encouraged to attend the annual meeting and present a report on their district activities.

AHA NEWS

2023 draws to a close and the A.H.A. is looking forward to 2024.

Things to keep in mind for the upcoming year are: The Annual General Meeting & Conference in June, Judges Training & Workshop in July, and don't forget to volunteer, participate and support horticultural bench shows.

We would like to remind affiliates and individuals that membership fees are due for 2024. Membership fees are payable to Sandra Murray - A.H.A. Treasurer. (Forms found at the end of the newsletter).

We encourage affiliate clubs to distribute the newsletter to its members and post the newsletter at your club meetings. Filling out your Affiliate Club Report Form helps the A.H.A. Board with planning and assisting clubs where need be. We encourage the membership to visit the website for A.H.A. news and forms or contact a board member for information and or forms.

We would like to welcome our new board members:

Sandra Murray - Treasurer

Sherry Cote - Secretary

Janine Carroll - District 3 Rep.

Bob Cote - District 4 Rep.

Thank you to Marie Wenger, Judy Bortnik and Doreen Broska for your many years of volunteer work as A.H.A. board members.

PROMOTE YOUR SOCIETY

The AHA website has a photo gallery to highlight your organization's work in your community.

Do you have a plant sale, town clean-up, flowerbed planting, drive-in movie, garden seed give-away? Include a description and send some photos.

We'd like to see what is happening across the province.

ab.hort.association@gmail.com



Judging Workshops and Training

2024 is just around the corner. The Judging Committee is looking forward to putting on a Judging Workshop again in July.

The location may depend on where we have the most interest in individuals wanting to join the A.H.A. Judging Program.

If you or your club are interested in learning more please contact Karen Berglund. Contact information can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

What is a District Representative?

Alberta is divided into 6 Districts.

There are six A.H.A. members who volunteer to be contact persons for Horticultural Societies, Garden Clubs, and Agricultural Societies and behalf of the A.H.A.

These representatives are there to provide information and support to the affiliate A.H.A. member.

If you are unaware which district you are in and who your contact is those questions can be addressed.



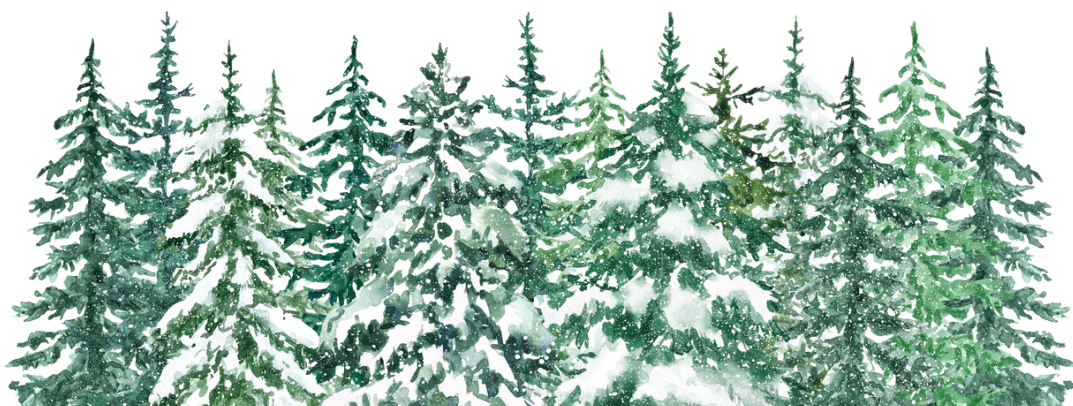
AHA News - New District 3 Rep - Janine Carroll

Janine gained a love of gardening while a small child, and remembers many special times with her mom and grandma amid rows of vegetable plants.

In retirement, her activities revolved around summer gardening and winter family history hunting. She's been a member of the Camrose & District for about 20 years, and the president for the past several years.

Janine attended an AHA judges certification course in 2023 and apprenticed for four flower shows over the summer and fall.

"I envisioned judging to be complicated and difficult, but once into it, I realized that it's simplified by assigning the same standards to all flowers and vegetables - and quite enjoyable."



District 6 Update

The Spring of 2023 started out with record high temperatures, below average rainfall, followed by wildfires burning hectares of land, alerts, evacuations and low air quality levels that continued well into the summer months. Despite all the challenges, the Affiliates in the Alberta Horticultural District 6 Region continued to plan and host their meetings and events throughout the year as much as was possible.

Of note, the North Peace Horticultural Society experienced the passing of Ellen Fox, who was the original founding member and first President of the Society back in the fall of 1987. Ellen spearheaded many wonderful initiatives that the NPHS continue to participate in and was generous with her knowledge and friendship. A plaque to honor her was hung at the Cultural Centre where they continue to host their meetings and a moment of silence was held for Ellen at the A.H.A. Annual General Meeting in June. In response to a community need, the members of the North Peace Horticultural Society stepped forward this year to assume the management of the Community Gardens, with a goal to keep the program going. They were also able to host a Garden Tour in July featuring various gardens in Ft. St. John, Baldonnel and Charlie Lake; always a pleasurable event for all who participate. In wonderful fashion, they rounded out the year with a Christmas Potluck recently, providing the turkey and ham while the members brought various dishes to complete the menu.

In Dawson Creek, the South Peace Garden Club hosted their Annual Tea and Tour in July, visiting gardens within the city and outside as they headed to the Tea that was hosted at the Bonanza Hall. Always a great event to attend. As well, the South Peace Garden Club was involved in organizing and hosting the Horticulture Section of the South Peace Fall Fair. I had the privilege of accompanying A.H.A. Judges Lorna McIlroy and Irene Yarham to this year's Bench Show in an apprentice capacity that was a great learning experience for me. I appreciated seeing the wonderful layout, creative displays, and interesting entries as well as the opportunity to meet some of the Club's members.

The Growing Pains Horticulture Club meet at the library in Beaverlodge and were able to host a Salves and Tinctures workshop this year which was greatly enjoyed by those attending. Their meeting agendas include talks from local experts and members along with plant sales, exchanges and potluck/tour events at their homes throughout the summer. Future plans for 2024 are a possible bus tour which will be an enjoyable experience for those who can join in. Continue to think big and we hope it all comes together for you!

The Grande Prairie Garden Club has experienced a change in the Executive Committee, continuing growth in membership and many varied and interesting speakers and topics throughout this year. The club participated in the Seedy Saturday event at nearby Sexsmith in the Spring, and held their annual fundraiser Plant Sale at the Farmer's Market in May. The addition of updated branding with banners and sandwich board to attract customers had excellent affect. The GP Garden Club was also able to host a Permaculture Design Workshop by Wendy Smith of Heritage Farm. Registration for this workshop was opened to the public and has resulted in new members joining from those who attended. Amongst the monthly meetings and garden tours was an additional project to assist the Camp Tamarack facility (a barrier free wilderness camp) with establishing a 'Teepee Garden' that features native and medicinal plants. More challenging than thought but there has been a good start.

Thank you, District 6 Affiliates, for all your efforts to promote horticulture and friendships in each or your locations. Visit these groups on their Facebook page to enjoy their ideas or venture this way to enjoy their communities with them.

-Sandra Murray



Protecting Trees and Shrubs from Animals in Winter

Alberta has a diverse range of mammals, from tiny shrews to massive moose. Many of us choose to live in places where we get to see these animals. Gardeners often manage their yards to attract wildlife for closer viewing. However, with the onset of winter, when summer food sources are no longer available, our woody ornamentals often become the next best choice for some of these animals. Young trees with thin outer bark often are badly damaged and will die when their stems are girdled. This article lists the kinds of animals rural and urban gardeners in Alberta can expect to see; briefly describes their preferred winter habitats and foods; and outlines a range of management strategies.

Ungulates: deer, elk, & moose. Preferring young wood, these large animals feed on the tips of stems, reaching whole shrubs and high into trees. Bucks also do a lot of damage when rubbing their antlers on tree stems and branches during rut in November. Deer are often attracted by bird feeders, becoming quite bold and coming close to houses.

Rodents: mouse, vole, & porcupine. Voles make nests in shallow tunnels underground. They feed on woody roots, stems, and twigs throughout the winter. Mice feed on woody plant stems as well as stockpiling food such as seeds and dog kibble. They prefer to find shelter in buildings. Both have an area of activity about 3 metres from the nest. Populations tend to have frequent highs and lows.

Porcupines are active during the day and night during winter. They feed on the inner bark of trees, evergreen needles, and fallen fruit. They feed around the base of large and small trees as well as climbing high into the branches, stripping the bark on the trunk and stems of all sizes. During the day they may stay in the tree or move to shelter on the ground. They choose places like hollow logs, rock clusters, dens abandoned by other animals, as well as culverts and under outbuildings. Typically they stay within 100 metres of their den.

Leporids: rabbit and hare. During winter both feed on buds, twigs, and stems of woody plants. They will stand up on their hind legs to eat. Rabbits shelter in underground warrens while hares use the shelter of bushes, stumps, and logs. They typically have a population cycle of about 10 years.

Strategies to minimize damage may have variable success. The size of the area plus the number and value of your trees often determine the best choices.

Food sources. clean up fallen apples

- manage bird feeders- hang them out of reach of deer, prevent accumulation of fallen seeds

Habitat. remove long grass and fallen leaves around the base of trees, at the edges of buildings, and in nearby open areas- mow, rake, string trim, or burn

- with each snowfall, pack the snow around the base of vulnerable young trees, blocking voles from tunnelling under the snow to reach the plants

Individual physical barriers. include wire mesh, sheet metal, and wrap around plastic tree guards. Consider the typical depth of snow when determining the height of the guard.

Fences. can exclude ungulates, leporids, and porcupines. A well built fence, of durable material and sufficient height, can be the most successful and long term strategy for yards with a lot of wildlife traffic

Repellents. There are many product formulations and modes of action, including taste and smell aversion. They are usually sprayed or painted on the target plants. It is important to follow the label information about best time for application and when to reapply.

Removal. trapping (live and lethal), toxic baits, and hunting can give some protection. However, more animals will move in as long as the attractive habitat remains. In many counties Agriculture Services and Animal Control staff can provide recommendations for management.

Regularly monitor your yard. Because feeding often happens under the cover of snow or at night, we might not see the damage for many days or until spring. Look for signs of feeding, watch for trails and exit holes in the snow, and remember to look up into the branches. Check to see that your management tools are still in place and working well.

Gardeners know that these animals play important roles in our natural ecosystems that we aim to support. We often consider benefits and drawbacks when choosing control measures, for example, a fence that excludes porcupine and hares also keeps out coyotes and foxes hunting voles.

For a list of online resources, visit the Resources tab at www.abhorta.ca

Lorraine Taylor, George Pegg Botanic Garden



AHA News - District 1 Rep - Marilyn Kusler

I was raised on an irrigation/mixed farm in southern Alberta, so have always been involved in raising and growing food. My mother always had a large farm garden but managed to have room for flowers too. I received my Diploma in Horticulture at Olds College and worked for the city of Medicine Hat Parks Dept for several years.

When I married my husband Murray, I moved to a ranch near the US border and we raised 2 sons, cats, dogs, and a big garden and yard there. We moved to an acreage close to Medicine Hat in 2001 to finish the boys education, at which time I went to work for Golden Acre Garden Centre. I worked there for about 14 years until it closed.

I have been involved with the Medicine Hat and District Horticulture Assoc. for quite a number of years and recently became President.

I have had many "deep dives" in Horticulture throughout the years growing many ornamental grasses, hardy shrub roses, clematis and peonies, but my latest passion is irises. I am presently growing about 450 named varieties as well as many unidentified historic irises. I call them the flower of the future (with a long past). They survive with very little moisture and thrive in our sun and heat.

-Marilyn Kusler




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(403) 782 5095
ambbowl@shaw.ca


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(780) 668 2967 (Cell)
lorrainetaylor543@gmail.com

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bbank@telus.net

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(780) 919 5534 (Cell)
bbank@telus.net

Newsletter Submissions - Emily Neis
neis.emily@gmail.com

Past President - Robert Spencer
(403) 323 2572
robertcjspencer@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, February 3, 2024, 10:00am. Join Dr. Doug Tallamy for a webinar on Nature's Best Hope.

Dr. Tallamy is a professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology as well as the author of several enormously popular books on conservation and ecology.

Dr. Tallamy will give us concrete ways that we as gardeners in Alberta can make big contributions to biodiversity and the health of our local ecosystems through how we design and plant our gardens.

60 minute presentation plus Q&A with Dr. Tallamy, hosted by the Alberta Horticultural Association. Watch for more details to come, with registration on Eventbrite.

 = New to the Board of Directors



ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Revised December 2023

Year: _____

- New Member Renewing Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

Province/Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

- Contact me
for volunteer opportunities

- I consent to having
photos of me used in a
newsletter, print
material, and/or social
media

- I am an active
AHA Judge

- I am a retired
AHA Judge

Please make cheques payable to:

Alberta Horticultural Association

Mail cheques and registration form to:

Sandra Murray, AHA Treasurer

9406 70 Avenue

Grande Prairie, AB T8V 5W8

E-transfers can be made to **abhorta.finance@gmail.com**

MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$20

Sandra can be contacted at:

mursan9@gmail.com

780 518 5926

AHA Office Use Only:

Date Paid: _____

Amount: _____

Receipt No: _____



ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

YEAR

Name of Society/Group/Club: _____

President: _____ Email: _____

Secretary: _____ Email: _____

Treasurer: _____ Email: _____

General Date of Meeting (e.g. 1st Monday of each month): _____

General meeting location: _____

Name & address of person(s) responsible for handling correspondence:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov. _____ Post. Code: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

Secondary Contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

I give permission to post limited contact information (contact name, with email and phone number) for affiliate on AHA website

Number of Members _____ (Based on membership Dec 31 of previous year)

Fee: 30 members or fewer - \$30.00

Over 30 members - \$1.00 for each additional member to a maximum total of \$75.00

Make cheque payable to: **Alberta Horticultural Association**

*Mail completed form and remittance to:

Sandra Murray
9406 70 Ave
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 5W8

AHA Use Only

Date paid _____

Amount _____

Receipt No. _____

E-transfers can be sent to abhorda.finance@gmail.com

* **Bylaw Section 4.3** Affiliate membership is for one calendar year (January to December)
Bylaw Section 4.6 and is renewable no later than February 1 of the current year.

Form revised Dec 2023



Alberta Horticultural Association

Affiliate Club Member – Annual Report

Please complete this form and submit it to the AHA Treasurer

The information collected will be used to highlight the many activities of our horticultural societies, share ideas and promote affiliates across the province.

CLUB NAME:

GIVE A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF YOUR MEETING FORMAT (E.G. BUSINESS ONLY, SPEAKERS ONLY, COMBINATION OF BUSINESS, WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKERS):

SOURCE OF FUNDING (E.G. MEMBERSHIP FEES, SUPPORT OF MUNICIPALITY/AG SOCIETY, SPONSORS, FUNDRAISING – NOTE – DO NOT LIST AMOUNTS):

LIST ALL/SOME OF YOUR MEETING TOPICS AND SPEAKERS, AS WELL AS OTHER ACTIVITIES/EVENTS FROM THE PAST 12 MONTHS:

DESCRIBE ONE ACTIVITY THAT YOU ARE MOST PROUD OF FROM THE PAST 12 MONTHS:

AHA PARTICIPATION - DID YOUR CLUB:

- HAVE A DELEGATE ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/ANNUAL CONFERENCE? YES NO
- DISTRIBUTE THE AHA NEWSLETTER TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP? YES NO
- APPLY TO THE SPEAKER REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM? YES NO
- VISIT AND ACCESS INFORMATION ON THE AHA WEBSITE? YES NO
- SUBMIT CLUB EVENTS TO BE POSTED ON THE AHA WEBSITE? YES NO
- NOMINATE ANYONE FOR ANY A.H.A. SPECIAL AWARDS? YES NO

SEND IN YOUR COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES

TO: SANDRA MURRAY, AHA TREASURER
9406 – 70 Ave.

GRANDE PRAIRIE AB, T8V-5W8 mursan9@gmail.com

YOU MAY ALSO SAVE AND SUBMIT THIS FORM ELECTRONICALLY VIA EMAIL

E-transfers can be sent to abhorta.finance@gmail.com