



Alberta Horticultural Association

March 2019
The official
quarterly newsletter
of the AHA

President's Message

Happy New Year! I've had a very busy summer, fall and, early winter; since I was planting and tending plants, I consider it a success.

Our annual conference and AGM were held in early June and it was a very enjoyable experience. For myself, it was a pleasure to show off my town and some of the horticultural endeavors and projects during our "Stettler Safari" tour. If you missed out and would like to make the trek to Stettler, I'm always happy to give you a private tour. During our

AGM we welcomed some new executive members and bid farewell to some dedicated long-time members.

Throughout the year our executive meet via conference calls and work on a variety of projects. Check out the website to see updated forms and brochures. You'll find more events posted on the calendar. We encourage you to jump into the mix and tell us about your events.

The Affiliate reporting has been revamped as we aim to get more



Stettler Safari bus tour, AHA conference 2018

Affiliate content in the newsletter and to make it easier for people to find horticultural and agricultural societies close to them. We feel that all of this will go towards the overall purpose of the AHA, which is to raise the profile of horticulture in Alberta.

Until the next time, on behalf of the entire AHA Executive, I wish you all the best.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Book Report- Growing Fruit | 2 |
| Prune Elm Trees- Oct. 1- Mar. 31 | 2 |
| AHA Conference- 2018 in Stettler | 3 |
| AHA Contacts | 3 |
| Judging Program- New Coordinator | 4 |
| 2019 Conference in Stony Plain | 4 |
| Memberships- Time to renew | 4 |


www.ABHortA.ca

Funding for guest speakers

Throughout the winter, we hope you have an interesting program lined up.

All AHA affiliates may apply to the Education Program for speaker fees and mileage.

Contact your Zone Representative for all of the details.

The Prairie Garden

One of the best bargains for gardening inspiration is The Prairie Garden. The publishers promote it as "a digest sized, soft-covered book published annually by a volunteer committee and is dedicated to the advancement of horticulture in the Prairie Provinces." Amazingly, 2019 marks the 80th edition. Published in

February, the theme is Growing Food- covering both food we grow in our gardens and food that can be foraged. Many readers appreciate the format of the articles, they are concise, present practical information, and are written by prairie gardeners.

Looking to get these information-packed books into the hands of their

members, four neighbouring horticultural societies place a collective order for each new edition. Heather Thompson, president of the Sangudo and District Horticultural Society explains, "Typically, we buy more than 60 copies and the volume discount drops the price per book by more than \$5.00- making a great deal even better."

Book Report- a comprehensive full-colour handbook

Growing Fruit in Northern Gardens by Sara Williams & Bob Bors Regina: I devoured this entire book during one wet weekend, enjoying the full colour presentation, the carefully chosen quotes introducing each chapter, the multitude of excellent photos (some from our own Robert Spencer) and the personal notes. However, it would be equally valuable as a resource where you simply consult the Table of Contents or Index to glean the needed information.

Sara Williams and Bob Bors have a wealth of expertise and experience. Williams is a retired Horticultural Specialist, Extension Division of the University of Saskatchewan and Bors is Head of the Fruit Breeding Program and an Assistant Professor in the Plant Sciences Department at the U of S and responsible for the Romance series of sour cherries, the Indigo and Boreal series of haskap berries, and several apple varieties. However, they are modest about their accomplishments and they give full credit to our other prairie breeders and list their locale for the parentage of nearly 200 varieties of more than 20 species presented.

Fruits have been divided into Tree Fruits, Shrub Fruits, Cane Fruits, Groundcover Fruit, and Vine Fruits with the addition of hazelnuts under Nuts. I like the division of apples into Summer, Early Fall, and Fall varieties. Shrub Fruits, the largest category, was the most valuable for me with information on Aronia, Goji, Lingonberry and Sea Buckthorn as well as nine other more common species.

We have now entered an era of edible gardening. All across the prairies, individuals and communities are planting orchards and growing fruits in cold climates. For many this is a new experience and particularly for them, this book will be a valuable resource. It covers pollination, propagation, pruning, pests and so much more. For added value and convenience, when you purchase the book, a free eBook edition is included.

Lorna McIlroy
AHA Past President



Published in Regina by Coteau Books 311 pp., soft cover, illus., \$39.95 each

Prune elm trees between October 1 and March 31

In 1976 the Government of Alberta (GOA) initiated the **Alberta Provincial Dutch Elm Disease Prevention Program**. Since 2005 the Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED) has taken a leadership role in the development and delivery of the program, in partnership with the GOA. The goal is to safeguard Alberta's elm trees from the Dutch elm disease (DED) pathogen and the beetles that vector the disease.

-Alberta has the largest stand of DED-free elms in North America.

-In 2017 the provincial American elm inventory was updated, finding at least 600,000 elms growing in Alberta municipalities, rural properties, shelterbelts and provincial parks, with a value of over \$2 Billion dollars.

-Up to 50% of the trees planted in municipal landscapes are elms.



Dead and dying elm branches and trees provide an ideal breeding site for the elm bark beetles that spread DED and must be removed. Because the beetles are attracted to fresh tree wounds, pruning must be done when beetles are not active.

Visit Alberta Agriculture's DED website for more information .

AHA Contacts

President: Robert Spencer (Stettler) 403-742-4142
Vice President: Ken Jensen (Lacombe) 403-782-5095
Past President: Lorna McIlroy (Grande Prairie) 780-814-7946
Treasurer: Judy Bortnik (Calgary) 403-375-8780
Secretary: Marie Wenger (Edmonton) 780-438-4454
Newsletter Editor: Lorraine Taylor (Darwell) 780-892-2967
Zone 1 Rep: Marilyn Kusler (Medicine Hat) 403-529-0068
Zone 2 Rep: Paul Rishaug (Millarville) 403-931-3547
Zone 3 Rep: Doreen Broska (Millet) 403-783-2296
Zone 4 Rep: (interim) Lorraine Taylor (Darwell) 780-892-2967
Zone 5 Rep: Karen Berglund (Stony Plain) 780-963-6575
Zone 6 Rep: Sandra Murray (Grande Prairie) 780-539-0615
Judging Coordinator: Karen Berglund (Stony Plain) 780-963-6575
Education program: contact your AHA Zone Rep
Show Tags: Marilyn McArthur (Red Deer) 403-346-4902

2018 AHA Conference. Stettler, June 9

The snow is melting and our thoughts turn to the gardening season ahead and to our successes and challenges of the past year.

The annual conference is an opportunity to see our fellow members, exchange ideas, see different parts of Alberta, and learn something new from the guest speakers; 2018 was no exception.

Beth Fulton, from Echoglen Gardens, started the morning with "Garden Trends". She highlighted exciting color trends that plant breeders bring to the market for us to try. Beth also introduced us to miniature gardens for small spaces but also just for fun, try it. It gets a bit addictive. Christine Cornelius from Parkland Garden Centre

spoke about "Growing Fruit on the Prairies". She showed us an impressive list of fruits that individuals and plant breeders have brought to the prairie market. AHA President and Alberta Agriculture's Commercial Horticulture Specialist, Rob Spencer, spoke to the group on "Clever Ways of Overcoming Tree Challenges". With vast differences in soil, temperature, and moisture from one end of the province to the other it is important to know the factors we are dealing with before we spend money on plant material that just might not grow in our area.



One of many stops on the conference tour of Stettler

After being fed and watered we boarded a bus for the "Stettler Safari", our tour host was none other than Rob Spencer. We toured the Community Orchard,

Use this Newsletter

Many Horticulture societies publish a newsletter for their members. You are welcome to include content from the A.H.A the newsletters; please give credit to the source. Many local weekly newspapers accept submitted articles. They are an avenue to promote your organization's activities and to extend sound horticultural information to the gardening public.

Hort Snacks is a monthly newsletter from Alberta Agriculture. While it is targeted at horticulture crop producers, it is packed with information on coming events, seasonal tasks, and in-depth pest descriptions of interest to many gardeners. Check it out at [Alberta.ca 'Hort Snacks'](http://Alberta.ca/HortSnacks)

Community Gardens, Memorial Park, West Stettler Park and sites in between. There is a lot going on in Stettler in Horticulture. After the tour the bus returned to the Legion Hall we said good bye to old friends and new ones.

Those who attend the conference bring items for the silent auction. The auction is a lot of fun and helps to offset the cost of the conference. Members from the Stony Plain Horticultural Society kindly offered to take care of the paper work from the auction. A big thank you to everyone who helped organize the 2018 conference.

Visit ABHortA.ca for more photos
Karen Berglund, Zone 5 Rep



Stony Plain Horticultural Society members at the conference

Time to renew your membership

Please note that membership renewals are included with this issue of the newsletter.

AHA Affiliates enjoy these benefits:

- quarterly newsletter
- promotion of your organization and its events on the AHA website.
- Annual Conference
- funding for guest speakers
- funding for bench show judges
- Promotion of how horticultural groups benefit communities


www.ABHortA.ca

See you in Stony Plain, June 22, 2019

Over the years the Annual Conference has travelled to many locations across the province. This gathering provides great information on horticulture, is an opportunity for a get away to see another part of Alberta, and to catch up with your gardening friends. The 2019 conference is in the making for Saturday, June 22 in Stony Plain, AB. All members of AHA affiliate societies are invited to attend. Look for more details in the April newsletter and on the website.

Green Industry Trade Show, November

Several of our members attended the Green Industry Show and Conference at Northlands in Edmonton, to host an AHA showcase . Our display was one of more than 140 in the spacious Expo Centre. We partnered with Communities in Bloom and spent two days talking to people from across the horticulture industry.

The Conference includes many interesting speakers. Visit the Green Industry Show and Conference website to see Dr. Ken Fry's discussion on Emerald Ash Borer; History, Biology, and Risk to Alberta.

www.greenindustryshow.com

Look for the AHA at the **Calgary Horticultural Society Garden Show**, May 4 & 5, 2019 at the Max Bell Arena .

Judges/Judging School Coordinator

After 20 years as the go-to person for booking judges and setting up judging schools, Ann Owens is stepping down. Happily, newly certified judge Karen Berglund offered to fill the role. Karen was first introduced to bench shows when she attended Olds College and often entered exhibits at the Stony Plain Horticultural Society's show. As a judge, Karen is enjoying seeing people taking the time to participate and encouraging their children to get excited about the shows as well.

This position fulfills one of the major roles of the AHA in supporting bench shows. Thank you Ann and Karen.



Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticultural Shows is a comprehensive guide to both exhibitor and judge alike in preparing, staging, entering, and judging horticultural shows.

The 155-page book is available from the publications office of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry or online as free, digital version. To order a print copy call 1-800-292-5697 or visit [Alberta Agriculture's website](http://AlbertaAgriculture's website).

