

July 2024

NEWSLETTER

Glad to garden in a drier climate



Hello, my name is Roni (they/them), guest editor for the July edition of the OXA newsletter. I'm from Kamloops but I'm a recent Okanagan transplant, having spent more than a decade in Vancouver trying to convince myself that the perpetually waterlogged rosemary in a planter on my balcony wasn't really dead, it was just sleeping. Water conservation is a challenge to be sure, but I can't tell you how exciting it is to look for plants that need full sun and low moisture, to not desperately search for shade-loving plants that can stand up to way too much of nature's overwatering.

Now that I've bought my first home in Vernon and I'm faced with my first yard —two ugly patches of prickly lettuce, bindweed and dandelions—I'm thrilled to have found the OXA and its wealth of knowledge, experience and inspiration. I get to start from scratch building a beautiful xeriscaped garden, and it begins this summer. Yards (weeds?) to kill and soil to till, as a first step to get ready for a fall planting. I'm excited to get to know the OXA's membership and learn about the ins and outs of gardening with nature from so many passionate, knowledgeable gardeners. Nice to meet you!

-- By Roni Simunovic, Guest Editor.

Join the OXA Board

OXA is looking for 2-3 new members to join our board for a two-year term and take on the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, or Social Media Director! We're a group of upbeat, driven individuals who are passionate about gardening, sustainability, water conservation and education. We meet monthly, usually virtually. We're a working board, so preference will be given to applicants who have time to contribute.

If this sounds like an exciting opportunity, please let us know:

- About your background and experience
- What you feel you can offer to support the OXA's mandate
- Which skill sets you would bring to the role
- Any experience with other charitable organizations or digital media production (that would be an asset, but is not required)
- Your contact information

Please note: we have a bookkeeper, so the Treasurer's role involves planning and oversight of finances, not bookkeeping.

If interested, please respond by July 31 to Mark Godlewski at:

director_technology@okanaganxeriscape.org



We want your feedback on Dig with Sig



One of the most fun and educational activities OXA members are invited to join in is our weekly Dig with Sig sessions, usually held in one of our demonstration gardens.

These are opportunities for volunteers from our membership to work with, learn from and ask questions of our own Master Gardener and xeriscape specialist, Sigrie Kendrick, who writes the Gardening with Nature column and doubles as OXA's executive-director and gardens manager. It's a great opportunity for new and longtime members alike, and it keeps our demonstration gardens well-maintained and inspiring.

We're looking for members to give feedback on Dig with Sig—whether you have attended in the past, or this is your first time hearing of it—to guide us in making some updates to the program (such as day of the week, time of day, etc.) Please take a moment to fill out this quick survey by July 15th and let us know what you think.

[Dig with Sig survey link](#)

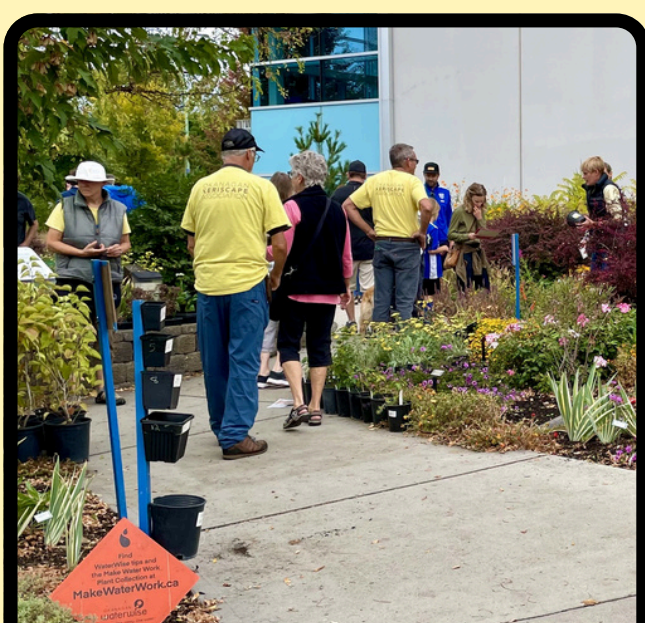
Dig with Sig

Fridays

9am - 11am



Fall Plant Sale and AGM



Save the Date: Sat., Sept. 21 for fall plant sale and AGM. OXA's annual fall plant sale will be held this year on Sat., Sept. 21, followed by the annual general meeting, at the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, 4075 Gordon Dr., Kelowna. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the AGM will follow featuring a guest speaker and the annual election of officers, as well as refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend, but only members will be able to vote. If you are not yet an OXA member,

join us (<https://okanaganxeriscape.org/about-us/join-oxa/>) and enjoy the many benefits of membership, including discounts on classes and at most nurseries in the valley; access to the member-only page on the website and to resources such as xeriscape specialists. Members are also members of Mediterranean Gardening International (mediterraneangardeninginternational.org) and its benefits, workshops, garden tours and conventions around the world.

Xeriscape Comments or Questions?

If you have experienced a great success or a bit of a failure in your xeriscape efforts, feel free to help fellow xeriscape enthusiasts by sharing your experience.

Please go to the member section of the OXA website. There you can fill in a request form to comment or ask questions about xeriscape issues you've come across. You will notice the other exclusive member opportunity in this section - you can request a visit to your home using our Garden Mentor program. <https://okanaganxeriscape.org/about-us/member-area/>

All of us can learn so much from each other, so sharing our successes and disappointments helps everyone.

Join us on social media on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates about all things of interest to gardeners interested in xeriscape.

The blog on our website is also regularly updated and includes a wide variety of information about gardening.

There are lots of perks to membership in OXA. Read about them by going to our website: www.okanaganxeriscape.org.

[Visit our Website](#)

[OXA Membership](#)

Feel free to share this OXA newsletter with friends and family, co-workers and neighbours and encourage everyone you know to support OXA by becoming a member. Everything we do depends on your support. Contact the editor at: judiesteeves49@gmail.com if you have questions.

The Okanagan Xeriscape Association is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2009 to provide information on gardening with nature, or xeriscape, for those living in the Okanagan.

In collaboration with the Okanagan Basin Water Board

Make Water Work Program

[Visit our Website](#)

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