

September 2024 NEWSLETTER

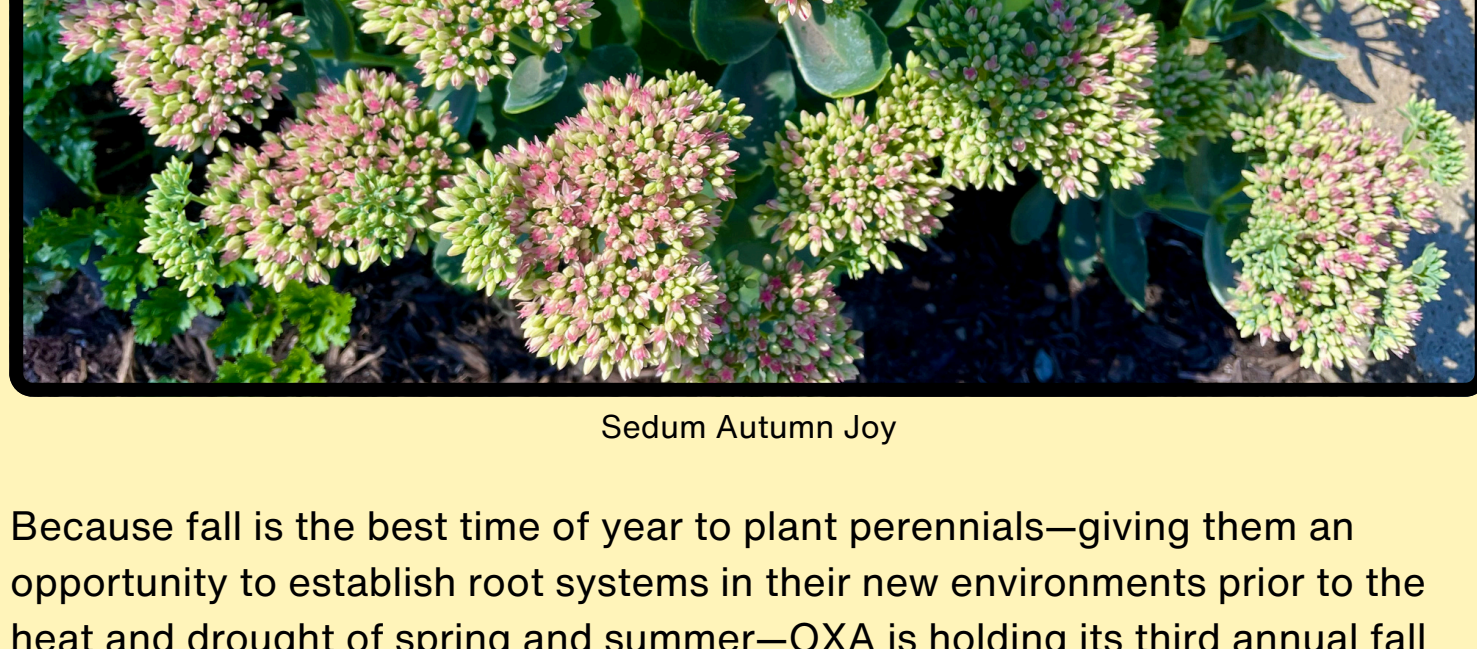
OXA AGM set for September 21st



OXA co-founder Gwen Steele, working in her garden about the time she envisioned a xeriscape association 15 years ago.

There will be some new faces around the board table following this year's Annual General Meeting. OXA President Joan Byrne is stepping down after two years in the post and Vice-president Sharon Spring will move into the top spot, after serving as the director responsible for jump-starting our social media presence in the past couple of years. Treasurer Amanda Price has welcomed a new little Price into her household, so is taking a leave of absence from the board and Secretary Lisa Masini, also one of the association's founders, is stepping down from that role but continuing as a director. Thanks to the efforts of a board recruitment committee, several OXA members have stepped up and offered to fill some of the vacancies on the board. They include Kyla Fortushniok of Penticton who is a recent arrival in the valley and passionate about gardening and eager to learn more about xeriscape. She has a background in education and a sound knowledge of social media. As well, Shauna Burnell of Waterkind Consulting Services, who has a contract with the City of Kelowna to deliver the Water Smart program, has offered to serve as Secretary on the board. A regular volunteer with OXA, Jacqueline Gullion, known to most of us as Jax, is a keen xeriscaper in her own yard, as well as a software designer and community volunteer. OXA is still on the lookout for a volunteer to serve as Treasurer to oversee the bookkeepers' work and help guide the board through financial waters. The AGM will be held at 1 p.m. at the UnH2O Garden, 4075 Gordon Drive, Kelowna, following the plant sale, which begins at 10 a.m. in the garden. The meeting agenda is at the bottom of this newsletter, as well as on our website: www.okanaganxeriscape.org Special guest speaker at this year's AGM, which is a celebration of OXA's 15th anniversary, will be co-founder of OXA, Gwen Steele, who will give us a bit of a history of OXA and its beginnings. Please confirm if you plan to attend the AGM so we can make sure there's enough space: admin@okanaganxeriscape.org

Fall Plant Sale of Xeriscape Perennials



Sedum Autumn Joy

Because fall is the best time of year to plant perennials—giving them an opportunity to establish root systems in their new environments prior to the heat and drought of spring and summer—OXA is holding its third annual fall plant sale Sat., Sept. 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. It will be held at the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden on Gordon Drive in Kelowna, in front of the H2O Aquatic Centre. It's called the UnH2O Garden. This is a great opportunity not only to purchase new, drought-tolerant plants and shrubs but also the perfect chance to ask questions of knowledgeable xeriscapers, Master Gardeners, specialists in native plants and even fellow gardeners. You will also have a chance to purchase native plants from XEN nursery and xeriscape and native plants from Wild Bloom Nursery. There will be a wide range of sedums available, from ground covers to tall varieties, and in lots of different leaf and flower colours. We will have both prostrate and upright sedums available which can easily be incorporated into any dry area of your garden, ideally sited in full or part sun. Sedums are not particular about soil, thriving in poor, dry, and rocky soil, but they are intolerant of winter wet which can lead to root rot. A little tip to avoid this is simply plant your sedums a bit higher than the surrounding soil, to encourage adequate drainage. We will have the tall sedums 'Autumn Joy' and 'Mr. Goodbud' available, both of which are coming into bloom now in shades of rosy-pink, and both provide late season nectar for a variety of pollinators. Of the lower-growing sedum, we have 'Angelina', 'Blue spruce', 'Lime twister', 'Firecracker', and Sedum stenopetalum all offering interesting texture and foliage colour even when not in bloom. We will also have a variety of grasses available, including Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal' and 'Blood Brothers' which offer fantastic visual interest in the garden as they reach up to five feet in height. Visit the demonstration garden now to see 'Heavy Metal' in bloom. 'Blood Brothers' transitions to a stunning bright red as the temperature falls. Also featured at the sale is the award-winning Shizachyrium scorparium 'Standing Ovation'. This cultivar of the North American native Bluestem grass ages to shades of maroon and red, retaining its colour into the winter months. We are urgently calling for volunteers to help run the plant sale, in roles such as at the tally desk, cash desk, and as garden ambassadors. We also need help to set up and clean up. Please email admin@okanaganxeriscape.org and indicate the area that you are most interested in volunteering for.

Win a Dig with Sig in Your Garden



OXA is offering a special perk for one lucky OXA member: their very own Dig with Sig, including the volunteer gardeners who will weed and maintain your space. Invite xeriscape expert and Master Gardener Sigrie Kendrick, the executive-director of the Okanagan Xeriscape Association, to spend a couple of hours doing some maintenance in your garden, along with knowledgeable garden volunteers from OXA.

Put your name in the hat for this free working visit to your garden and be eligible as well for some free xeriscape perennials OXA will add to your existing beds. The winning garden must be located in the Kelowna or West Kelowna areas. Only OXA members are eligible to win. To enter, email your name and contact information to admin@okanaganxeriscape.org, stating the reasons you feel you should be selected to host Dig with Sig, in 150 words or less. Include photos of your garden, which may be used on OXA's Social Media posts (without disclosing the location). The visit to your garden would be Fri., Oct. 4, 9-11 a.m. Contest closes Sept. 17 at midnight and the winner will be announced Sept. 21, at the OXA Fall Plant Sale.

Also: remember that Dig with Sig will be held on a Saturday instead of the usual Friday, Sept. 7 in the UnH2O Garden from 9-11 a.m. The regular Friday event will be cancelled for Sept. 6.

**OXA Annual General Meeting
Saturday September 21, 2024 @ 1 p.m.
Xeriscape Demonstration Garden,
4075 Gordon Drive, Kelowna, B.C.**

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Determine existence of quorum
4. Approval of agenda
5. Approval of minutes from last year's AGM
6. Executive-director's annual report/ president's report
7. Treasurer's Report and presentation of financial statements
8. Any other reports
9. Appointment of directors for 2024/25
10. Appointment of signing officers
11. Waiver of auditor
12. Adjournment

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 the 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**



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