



The Reader Rock Garden

www.ReaderRock.com



Notes from the Board

By Diane M. Dalkin

Hello FoRRGS members & supporters!

Just like Spring sets the stage for Summer's succession, our Board of Directors has had a refresh at our recent AGM in May. We whole-heartedly welcome our new Board Secretary, *Catherine Ranger* and also other volunteers who had their new positions ratified: Treasurer - *Victoria Arling*; Membership Director - *Fabian Patino*; & Vice-President - *Sue Gryzenhout*. *Lindsey Boida* stepped into the Past-President role and I will be Interim President until a more permanent solution comes to pass. We are also very fortunate to have other long-serving volunteers that continue to support our team! Additionally, several new volunteers will be helping with Research, Content Providers for this newsletter, Tour Guides & hands-on volunteer gardeners. Bravo, the prolific seeds have been planted and new beginnings are sure to follow!

This would also be an ideal time to officially "thank" *Karen Hogan*, our former Membership Director. You may recall that for many years she coordinated all things related to membership, but she leaves this function in very capable, keen hands. Thank-you for your professionalism, expertise, dedication and friendly flair. You'll truly be missed, yet our paths will surely cross again. Until then, happy trails on your new adventures & best wishes always!

The Garden too is blooming with new life and continuous enthusiastic efforts from Head Gardener, *Daniel & his team*. Spring cleaning, planting and copious planning are underway. Daniel will be travelling soon to secure more new plant material to add to the inventory onsite. We're excited to see the treasures he brings back with him and we'll share the news in our next newsletter. In the meantime, you'll see a glimpse of the *Eremurus himalaicus* - Foxtail Lily which over-wintered in the greenhouse, see page 3. Looks like an octopus at this stage; such an unusual plant!

As you may have heard, we having our first in-person [since Covid-19 curtailments] **Plant Sale & Garden Stroll** this month at **Reader Rock Garden: Sunday, June 12th 2022 at Noon-3:00 PM**. *Please note:* we've extended the timeline to *start an hour earlier* than originally advertised, just so that the plant sale is not too rushed for everyone. We also ask that you bring your own containers to transport your plant purchases safely home, just a responsible environmental consideration. We will also have Tour Guides stationed throughout the Garden to answer any questions you may have on a self-guided walk-about. It's a great opportunity to chat with friendly, like-minded, keen gardening aficionados. This coveted event is now *exclusive to FoRRGS members*, as we want to thank-you for your continuous support of the Garden. So, kindly make sure that your membership status is up-to-date prior to the event. Membership renewals and new memberships can be handled online to facilitate this process; it's really easy! See our website for more details. So, .. in a few days ... we're really looking forward to seeing you in-person once again!



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FoRRGS Team

President - Diane Dalkin
 Vice-President - Sue Gryzenhout
 Treasurer - Victoria Arling
 Secretary - Catherine Ranger
 Membership - Fabian Patino
 Website - Lillian Kasa
 Social Media - Julie Ma
 Directors - Bruce Dunlop, Colleen McCracken,
 Lindsay Orr, John Percic,
 Past President - Lindsey Boida

***Celebrating special things with our special team at
Reader Rock Garden:***

★★★ **Volunteer's Picks:** ★★★

Linda Wolfe's Pick: *Telekia speciosa*

Up in *Nana's Garden* you will find a bold and beautiful perennial plant that comes into its own as the summer wears on. *Telekia speciosa*, also called *Bupthalmum speciosum*, thrives in its spot by the Horse Chestnut tree, where it enjoys its preferred conditions of partial shade, adequate moisture, and shelter from the wind. It is native to much of Europe, including Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, and Slovakia, but has been cultivated in the UK since 1739, and introduced to numerous countries around the world.

William Reader brought it to Calgary as one of his horticultural experiments, and over the years it has proven itself to be a winner.



In addition to its scientific names, this plant has several common names, such as Heart-leaved Oxeye, yellow Oxeye, and Oxeye Daisy, all of which provide clues as to its appearance. The yellow blooms resemble large daisies or small sunflowers, though the flowers have a shaggy appearance with thin, spidery petals. The serrated, heart-shaped leaves are large, some up to a foot long, and are hairy on the underside. With its ragged flowers and coarse leaves, *Telekia* is not a refined-looking plant, but it is a stately one, growing up to six feet high in a single season.

Although the plant already had a scientific name, it was given another one by Johann Christian Gottlob Baumgarten (1765-1843), a German medical doctor turned botanist. His work took him to Transylvania, where he studied the local flora and presented his findings in a four-volume work published in 1816. Along the way, Baumgarten came to know Count Sámuel Teleki de Szék (1739-1822) and gave Teleki's name to the plant we now call *Telekia*.

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The count deserved the honour. Teleki was a Hungarian aristocrat who served as Chancellor of Transylvania, but his true passion was books. Over the course of six decades, he collected 40,000 books, which he housed in a family-owned building and eventually opened for public use. This was no small gift, but his philanthropy also extended to providing financial support to scholars whose efforts advanced scientific knowledge and the appreciation of the arts. Baumgarten acknowledged Teleki's generosity by enshrining the patron's name in botanical classification.

So Teleki's name lives on, both in the library that still operates in his homeland, and in the rugged plant that has found a home in many countries. If you are in the Reader Rock Garden in late July or August, take a moment to admire the *Telekia* and



discover a little bit of Transylvania in the Canadian West. *PS: Telekia is expected to be @Plant Sale!*



Did you know ...
***Memberships can
now be purchased
and renewed
online***
See our website:
WWW.ReaderRock.com
or
 Email us at info@ReaderRock.com
 And we'll fill you in *how easy this works.*



Updates From Daniel:

By Daniel Walker

This is the most recently purchased *Eremurus himalaicus* aka *White Foxtail Lily* or *Himalayan Desert Candle*.



It's a zone 5. So technically this tuber should be lifted and stored in a cool dry area. Then replanted for the season. Some of this spe-

cies cousins that get yellow flowers are a bit hardier and can be overwintered outdoors next to a west or south facing foundation.

In the greenhouse, there are three others, all in various stages of growth. I have successfully overwintered the *E. bungeii* in the holding beds and will let that smaller one grow on for the season. Once I get a substantial sized root I'd like to try and overwinter them outside along the south side of



Café where the extra warmth from the building should help pull them through. This tuber in the picture, I recently got from Phoenix perennials and it is currently potted and we hope for a flower as the root is quite large and should see a beautiful white spike later this summer. It will go back into Beds B or E as they get lots of the later afternoon hot heat that these lilies seem to enjoy and will most likely leave them in their well drained soil pots for the season as well. *Hopefully it will bloom this year and produce these impressive white tails!*

As mentioned in the Intro Pg.1, soon I'll be heading out to Eastern Canada on a shopping jaunt for "unusual plants" that Reader had on his original plant list. My goal is to annually re-introduce more of these specimens to increase the plant diversity back to the Garden. I'll provide an update upon my return, in the next issue of the newsletter.

For now, please just *mark your calendars*; see you at the **Plant Sale & Garden Stroll!**

Coming Soon!!!

In just a few days ...

FoRRGS
Plant Sale

June 12, 2022

Noon - 3:00 PM

For
Members-Only



Don't delay ... buy your membership now ...
to partake in this annual opportunity to take some special plants from **READER ROCK GARDEN** to your home garden! Sign up on our website: www.ReaderRock.com

For environmental consideration

Please bring your own containers to transport your plant purchases. Your assistance would be most appreciated!

Just a Historical Nugget to share with you from simpler times...

By Diane M. Dalkin

Interesting how the postal services of years-gone-by would have delivered these international letters, *noted below* in the photo, with such minimal information contained herein; with no comprehensive address & no postal codes. And yet, somehow they successfully made their way to the intended recipient, *Mr. William R. Reader (WRR)* in 1938 & 1939. It's a somewhat unattainable concept now with modern advances in Snail Mail.

Karen Reader inherited a philatelic collection from her Uncle (Roland Reader) many years ago; it was handed down from *WRR* originally. I'm not surprised that Mr. Reader collected stamps, given his attention to details. These are a tiny glimpse into the historical record of the time and demonstrate how *WRR* communicated with his peers in the horticultural world. No email, no online meetings, nor texting interrupting his days. Instead, the mail was the main resource to share information and exchange seeds.

Stamp collectors covet these "First Day Cover" postmarked envelopes for many reasons, including the stamp's artistic renditions, the elaborate cachets, commemorative purposes, rarity and the historical significance of the address. I'm certainly no expert in this field, but I think they also place perspective on our own present day conveniences and appreciation for the elaborate designs of the past. Thanks to Mr. Reader's extended family for sharing this with us. 🌿



Staycations are still the safest way to
 enjoy this summer!
 Re-discover
 the treasures in our city.
 Start by Visiting
Reader Rock Garden




High Tea
Reader's Garden Cafe

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022
 AVAILABLE SEATING TIME 3-3:30PM
 RESERVATION REQUIRED

BEAUTIFUL AMBIENTE - VINTAGE CHINA & SILVER
 WE SERVE EXQUISITE TEA SANDWICHES, HOUSE MADE SCONES, CLOTTED
 CREAM & JAM AND MINI PASTRIES, MIGHTY LEAF TEA OR COFFEE INCL.
 \$ 45.00 / PERSON

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION LATEST BY JULY 30TH



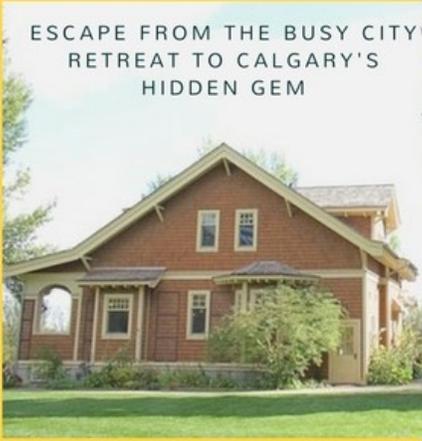
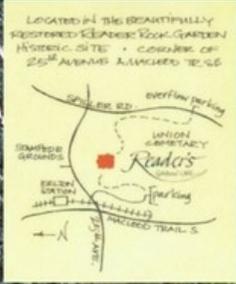
Advice from a
STRAWBERRY



*Blossom where you're planted ☼ Be tasteful ☼
 Drink in the sunshine ☼ Keep close to the earth ☼
 Savor life's sweetness ☼ Jam with your friends ☼*

Now Open for the Season—With Safety as a priority

ESCAPE FROM THE BUSY CITY
 RETREAT TO CALGARY'S
 HIDDEN GEM

Coffee & Tea Specialties
 Pastries, Sweets & Sundaes
 Lunch Specials
 Brunch

Open from Mid April to mid October

 Wednesday to Sunday
 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
 Monday, Tuesday Closed

 Weddings & Functions

*Reader's
 Garden Cafe*

The **Calgary Rock and Alpine
 Garden Society (CRAGS)**

Mark Your Calendars

CRAGS Annual Plant Sale:
 Saturday, **June 4, 2022**
 From Noon until 4:00 PM
 Will be outdoors for everyone's safety.

**See their website for more up-to-date
 happenings**

www.crag.ca/events

Lakeview Community
 Association Hall
 6110 - 34 Street SW



Call 403-234-0065 or see their website:
www.readersgardencafe.ca