

The Reader Rock Garden

www.ReaderRock.com



NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF READER ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

Reader Rock Ramblings



President's Message

By Diane M. Dalkin

Hello FoRRGS members & supporters!

Feels like summer has arrived already, even though officially it starts on June 20th here in the Northern Hemisphere. Birds are serenading us with their chorus, busy bugs have lots of things to do, as other wildlife are also getting on with their seasonal routines. The landscape's vibrant color palette has blossomed and intoxicating fragrances fill our outdoor spaces. Nature sure has a lot to teach us that *Change is in the Air*.

Our recent AGM was on-trend too. We are delighted to welcome a new Director-at-Large, *Marcy Carlson - Thanks for stepping up!* We are also very fortunate to have other long-serving volunteers that continue to support our team, *cheers to all them too !!* But, as you know, many hands make work lighter; so, ... we're always looking for additional help. At this time, we still have two current vacant roles on our Board: *Social Media & Webmaster* assistance. Both these communication roles don't require gardening mastery and are flexible to fit to the convenience of most schedules. We'd be delighted to hear from you! Fresh ideas and new skills are encouraged and so important for healthy succession planning, especially for a Non-Profit organization. Send us an email and we'll start the conversation.

This would also be an ideal time to officially "*thank*" *Susan Gryzenhout*, our former Vice-President. She did not stand for Board re-election this year, but has offered to volunteer with us as her busy schedule allows. Did you know that over many years, she has held virtually every position on the Board with the exception of one, President. Besides her professionalism and numerous contributions to the team, her personable, friendly nature brought good synergy to all; we are so very grateful for this legacy. But, it's simply farewell, for now. I'm guessing our paths will cross again.

You may have also heard that there are more changes. Our "Garden Hero", the Head Gardener at Reader Rock Garden, *Daniel Walker* has accepted a new role with City Parks. While we will miss him incredibly and his ginormous efforts at the Garden, we also wish him much success with his growing career. There will be more to chat about this in the coming pages and we hope to introduce the new Head Gardener soon. Stay tuned...

Our "*Volunteer Spotlight*" on page 4 introduces another special long-standing member of our team, *Glynn Wright*. This seasoned professional has "rocked" our team for many years; we are so fortunate for his expertise!

And lastly, here's hoping the city-wide water restriction is rectified quickly. Still, we need to be aware of this precious resource and responsible usage.



Inside this Issue	
President's Message	1
Daniel's Update Out On A Limb Notice	2 - 3
Volunteer Spotlight What's In Bloom	4 - 5
Our Partners & Gratitude	6

FoRRGS Team

President - Diane Dalkin
 Vice-President - *Vacant*
 Treasurer - Victoria Arling
 Membership - Lena Cordell
 Secretary - Catherine Ranger
 Webmaster - *Vacant*
 Social Media - *Vacant*
 Directors - Marcy Carlson, Bruce Dunlop,
 Colleen McCracken, Magdalena Muir,
 John Percic



Daniel's Update:

By Daniel Walker

Hello FoRRGS members:

I am sure you have heard through the grapevine that I have made the decision to leave the Garden and move forward with my City career. This was a long hard decision to make as my heart definitely found a home at Reader Rock Garden.

In the fall of 2016 I had the privilege to become the Head Gardener at Reader Rock and it was a dream come true. A magical place where I could continue to test my plant ID knowledge as well as perform all of the teachings from my college days. I was nervous, a little bit scared of the challenge and expectations that came with working in such a prestigious setting. The Garden is known to some as the "Jewel of the City" so the pressure to maintain the integrity and historical significance of this garden seemed daunting at first. I quickly absorbed and dove into learning as much about the garden's array of unique plants, this is where I knew I had to be.

Over the next 7 and a bit years I took it upon myself to reintroduce as many of the plants as possible and continue to bring the garden back to its former glory. I followed in the footsteps of my mentor the previous Head Gardener Janet who left some big shoes to fill. I could not have accomplished what I have done without all the support behind me. I want to give a big thank you to all of the City of Calgary staff who gardened alongside me as part of the Reader Rock Crew. To my supervisors who supported me in my endeavours over the seasons. Thank you to FoRRGS who have been key advocates of the Garden and supported my ideas that I brought forward. Together we created a garden community that involved the many dedicated volunteers via the volunteer program. I have no idea how I would have kept up with all of the pesky weeds 😊 without their help. From this initial start the program grew to include students from the Master Gardener program and in future years evolved to include all sorts of volunteers working on various projects for the Garden. It made me so happy each day that I got to work with such unique, talented people on a daily basis and together we achieved so much. I'm truly blessed to have met every single volunteer that has come and gone through the garden, I love the stories you've shared and the laughs that were had. I will miss these moments.

Thank you to FoRRGS for helping to send me to Ottawa to connect with the Central Experimental Farm for lilac cuttings. For all of the fun at our now famous Plant Sales, the creation of the native plant bed and for the amazing nomination of "Garden Hero". Words cannot explain the amazing feeling it was to experience all of those moments.

I was truly blessed.

As I embark on my new journey with City Parks I do leave behind the garden in new hands, and with this comes new connections and a new page in the Garden's history.

I do look forward to seeing you all at future plant sales and gardening events around the city.

Gardening is my passion and I was extremely fortunate to have been one of Reader Rock Garden's stewards.

See you around, *Daniel Walker*

Email: daniel.walker@calgary.ca

Farewell, But Not Goodbye!

By Diane M. Dalkin

Yes, *change is in the air at Reader Rock Garden.* Just like the seasons change, so too does life's journey.

We are saying "*farewell to Daniel Walker*" our cherished "*Garden Hero*".

As of June 1st, he has followed other opportunities at Calgary's Parks. While we will clearly miss him at the Garden, we totally understand that career development is also very important. So, we wholeheartedly support Daniel's move and of course wish him only the very best in his new adventures.

This is not goodbye, just fond farewell for now!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, **Thank-You, Daniel**, for all you have done for the Garden and for our group. We hope this has been an enjoyable and memorable time for you at the Garden, because we certainly appreciated ALL your efforts! No doubt we'll see you again someday soon. All your hard work over many years has contributed to the Garden's success, and it has not gone unnoticed. You've treaded in Mr. Reader's footsteps and surely made his legacy proud. 😊



Au revoir & take a bow Daniel.

Bloom where you are planted!





Out On A Limb

By Diane M. Dalkin

As you may recall, last summer’s feature article was an “Intro to Orchids & Cyripediums”. While this was well-intended to educate and highlight the unique plant inventory of **Reader Rock Garden**, I am sad to report that a large clump of these beauties was stolen very soon after that article appeared. Coincidence perhaps? Yet, I’m still perturbed about this selfish, unscrupulous theft. So, to err-on-caution and be on the safe-side this time, I’m going to share a glimpse into two marvelous, large, mature trees which are somewhat rare for Calgary: 1 - the Horse Chestnut - ‘*Aesculus hippocastanum*’ (Nana’s Garden) and 2 - the Ohio Buckeye - ‘*Aesculus glabra*’ (across from the Triangular Bed, at the base of the driveway). Plus, *they’re in bloom right now*, a perfect opportunity to view them in the flowering stage!

Both deciduous trees are slow-growing and closely related, in the *Aesculus* family. They have palmately compound leaves (which means that the leaflets radiate from a single point) and erect showy candelabra-like flower clusters, often in the shape of an inverted cone.

The *Horse Chestnut* has prickly green husks when ripe and split in Fall to release one or two shiny mahogany-brown nuts, with a spherical shape. Its leaves are usually larger than the Buckeye, divided into 7-leaflets.



Buckeye leaves are narrower and finely toothed, divided into 5-leaflets. The name refers to the resemblance of the nutlike seed, similar to a buck’s eye. These dry nuts have hard leathery husks that are smooth to weakly spiny. They turn brown in Fall and split into three parts to release one to three



glossy brown inedible seeds.



Both these stately trees are valued in the landscape for their early, showy spring flowers, as well as for their striking orange and yellow color show their foliage produces in Autumn or late Summer.

However, please note that the young leaves and seeds are poisonous. Given this toxicity, its best to leave them for the wildlife - the squirrels luv them! At best, consider the

nuts solely for good uses in crafts or for the traditional children’s game of conkers.

Important Notice:

This is the **first time** we’ve had to do this in **21 years** and it isn’t done lightly ... But at our recent AGM, the Board of Directors presented a new Motion, which was unanimously approved, to increase our **Membership Fees**, effective **January 1, 2025**.

As you can appreciate, over two decades, keeping pace with technological advances and other operational expenses have risen for everyone, including Non-Profit Organizations like us. The new increase of \$5.00 will hopefully cover our costs for many more years to come.

However, if you’d like to take advantage of some savings, we will continue to offer a 3-year membership deal.

Also, you may want to renew your membership *prior Jan. 1, 2025* to benefit from the old pricing, if this new increase stresses your budget.

The old category of “Family Membership” will be discontinued too, for a variety of reasons. Going forward there will only be an “*Individual Membership*” option.

Either way, we **thank-you** for your continued support of the Garden!



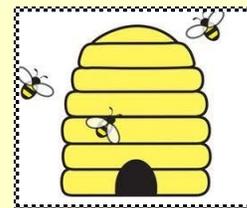
**New Membership Pricing
Coming Jan 1, 2025:**

Individual :

\$15.00 / annually

\$30.00 / for 2-years

\$40.00 / for 3-years / savings here!





Volunteer Spotlight!

By Diane M. Dalkin

Once again, in keeping with FoRRGS' focus on our fascinating volunteers that have contributed to all the successes along the way ... *may we introduce you to:*

Glynn Wright – Tour Guide/ Newsletter Contributor/ Mapping Lead/ Master Gardener/ Geologist

Question: Your hometown?

Middlesbrough, on the border of North Yorkshire and Co. Durham, UK.

Question: When did you arrive in Calgary?

September 2, 1965

Question: Favorite Book[s]/ movie[s]?

RHS 'The Garden', and AHS 'The American Gardener' magazines.

Question: Have a favorite saying or perspective?

Succession planning for the coming five to ten years.

Question: Hobbies or non-work related interests?

Hiking, Skiing, occasional gardening in the UK (zone 8).

Question: Career paths/work experience?

Thirty-five years of hydrocarbon exploration and production geology, geophysics and petrophysics ... survived and benefitted from several mergers !

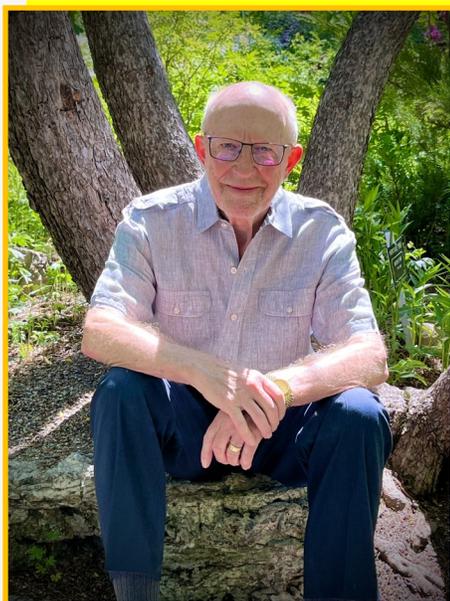
Question: Where & what did you study as an adult?

“At my father’s knee” – his work in the gooseberry capital of England, (and neighbour of the Guinness record holder), and success with all his caged fruits intrigued me. Master Gardener graduate 2002; U of C, and commercial courses on energy exploration techniques and management.

Question: Previous/current work experience?

Garden design & consultation, greater Calgary area.

Question: Professional affiliations or publications?



Author of critical chapter of the “Atlas” produced by the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (now the Canadian Energy Geoscience Association), former president of the Canadian Well Logging Society, similarly, also now part of the CEGA) . Publications include over 35 gardening articles for the Calgary Horticultural Society, and the Master Garden course, climate section. More than 100 community newsletter gardening articles, including Scarborough’s landscape history.

Question: What do you do at Reader Rock Garden [RRG] & how long have you volunteered?

Act as a Tour Guide. Initiated, directed and edited the current series of four digitized maps identifying the locations of the beds, trails, and historical structures. Member for approaching 10 years.

Question: Best thing[s] about RRG?

The company of inquisitive and informed people enthusiastically working and volunteering for the good of the garden, Calgary’s residents, and visitors.

Question: Most challenging thing about RRG?

Identifying plants throughout the four seasons.

Question: What have you discovered at RRG, learnings?

There’s always more to learn from guests, colleagues, and capable staff – and the plants themselves!

Question: What would you like the public to know about this special place?

That we provide an understanding of the tremendous pioneering abilities of William Reader, and of the continuing accomplishments of the Parks department over the last century. We see the future potential for the garden, with its vital contribution to the gardens of Calgary.

Question: Must-see highlight[s] onsite?

Stand back and appreciate the conversion from arid tree-less steep and sandy slopes into the glory of the present garden.

Question: Other things you’d like to share with us?

We broadcast the historical significance of the garden and Reader’s test-driving of thousands of plants to find the “right plant, right place” - the ideal location for each. We can help city residents find the right plant selection for every green area of Calgary.



What's In Bloom - As of June 8



Just a very small sample, a peek to entice a visit and whet your plant curiosity. So much more to take in; - gotta visit the Garden!!

Aesculus hippocastanum - Horse Chestnut in Nana's Garden. Other flowering trees are awesome right now too! E.g. Fragrant Lilacs

Unique *Arnebia pulchra*, aka Prophet's Flower in the High Rockery.



Delicate *Trillium ovatum*, aka Western Wake-robin, White Trillium in the Fern Walk near the Café.

Impressive *Polygonatum biflorum*, aka Giant Solomon Seal dotted throughout the Garden.



Please Consider Renewing Your FoRRGS Membership

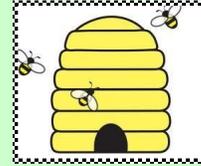
A three-year option offers savings and less annual work.

Plus it can be done Online for your convenience.

It's super easy, really!

See Our Website

<https://www.readerrock.com/>



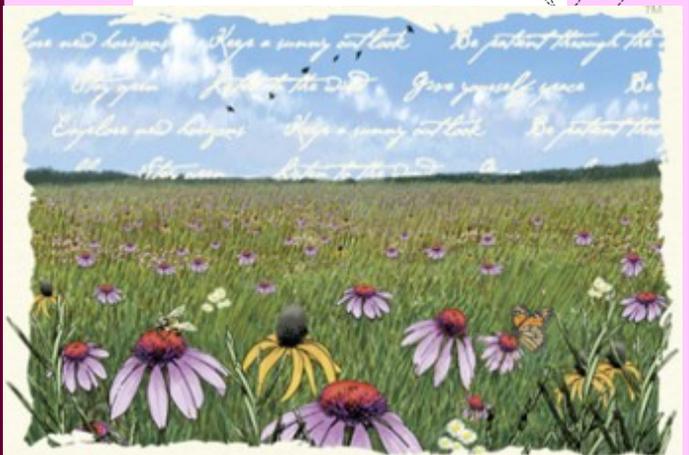
If you have any concerns

Please email us at info@ReaderRock.com

Thank-You!

Advice from the

PRAIRIE



Explore new horizons * Keep a sunny outlook

* Be patient through dry spells * Stay open *

Listen to the wind * Give yourself space *

Be natural *



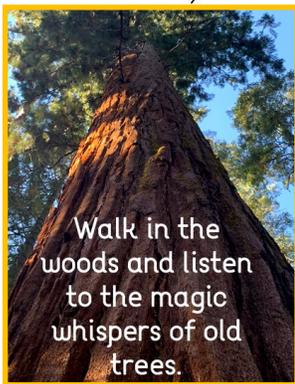
Please note that the ponds at the Garden will not be functioning while we adhere to the City's Stage 4 Water Restrictions.

Until further notice, ALL Calgarians must try to limit their non-essential water use and reduce household water consumption.

Every drop matters!



37 Silver Springs Dr. NW
www.bgss.ca



Walk in the woods and listen to the magic whispers of old trees.

GARDEN RETREAT
 6510 1a Street SW
 Calgary, AB

Website: www.gardenretreat.ca
 Email: sales@gardenretreat.ca
 Phone: 403-255-7097

Discounts available to FoRRGS members

ALCLA
 Native Plants

VISIT US BY APPOINTMENT

We're located in Carstairs, Alberta

EMAIL
info@alclanativeplants.com

PHONE
 (403) 889-4795

Discounts available to FoRRGS



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

LOCATED IN THE BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED KENNEDY ROCK GARDEN HISTORIC SITE - CORNER OF 25th ALPINE ALPACADO TRAIL

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

Reader's
 SWEDEN CAFE

Now Open for the 2024 Season.

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

Upcoming Event:
Laura Caddy - UBC Alpine Garden:
 Thursday, **June 20, 2024**
 At 7:00 PM
 Lakeview Community Association Hall

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

www.crag.ca/events

Lakeview Community Association Hall
 6110 - 34 Street SW

Call 403-234-0065 or see the website: www.readersgardencafe.ca
 Discounts available to FoRRGS members