Weeder's Digest

July 2024

A publication of the Kelowna Garden Club

www.kelownagardenclub.ca

KGC POTLUCK PICNIC

Tuesday, July 9 starting at 6:00 p.m.

Okanagan Mission Activity Centre (Sarsons Beach), 4298 Hobson Rd., Kelowna

Punch, Lemonade, and a Special Cake to celebrate our 100 Year Anniversary will be supplied.

This is a potluck picnic. Each person brings a dish (enough for 6) to share.
This dish can be a Main, Salad or Dessert, whatever you like.
Bring your own plates, cups, and cutlery.

GAMES, a prize for the best TABLE DECORATION and a DOOR PRIZE

If you wish to attend, please contact BEV THOMAS at cymru@telus.net so we can set out enough tables and chairs for all.

Our Commemorative Bench

in Guisachan Heritage Park

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

June 2024

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Kelowna Garden Club.

Since 1924, the Kelowna Garden Club has brought together members of the community who share a passion for plants, flowers, and gardening. This milestone is a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon your club's proud history and achievements, and to celebrate the ties of friendship and mutual interest that have been the cornerstone of its success.

I would like to commend everyone involved with the Kelowna Garden Club for their hard work and dedication. You can take pride in your contributions to the beautification of your community.

Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Kelowna Garden Club's 27th Annual Flower Show

Guisachan Heritage Park, 1060 Cameron Avenue, Kelowna

Saturday, June 29th, 2024

Entries Received - 8:00am to 9:00am *Open to Public - 11:00am to 3:00pm*

Awards Ceremony - 2:00pm *Pick up time - 3:00pm*

Rules and Regulations:

Everyone is welcome to submit entries.
Entries are not limited to Kelowna Garden Club Members.
There Are No Entry Fees.

Each entrant is responsible for completing their own exhibitor cards before submitting entries. Exhibitor Cards may be picked up at KGC Monthly meetings or can be requested by e-mail: FlowerShow@KelownaGardenClub.ca
Exhibitor cards will be available at the Entry Table for non-members.
There is no limit to the number of classes entered. Note: only one entry per class permitted.

Entries will be accepted between 8am and 9am. All entries will be placed into the Show Tent in the correct Class by a Show Clerk. **Entries not to be removed until 3:00pm.**

All flowers must be **from the exhibitor's garden**. Purchased flowers may be used only where stated in specific classes.

All exhibits are shown at the exhibitor's risk. The Show Organizers are not responsible for loss or damage. Make sure your name and phone number are on the bottom of each of your containers.

Judging will begin at 9:30am. Judges will consider the entries as seen at the time of judging and the judges' decision will be final.

Ribbons will be given for first, second, and third in each Class, if the judges feel such awards are warranted. Category winners will receive awards and rosettes.

A trophy is awarded to the aggregate winner. The winner's name will be engraved on the trophy, and the winner will receive an engraved medallion as a keepsake.

Categories and classes on page 9

Our Sponsors for our Centennial Year Flower Show are:

Art Knapp Plantland **Creations by Mom & Me Flowers**
The Greenery **Teaberry's Fine Teas**
Dogwood Nursery & Landscaping **Starbuck's Guisachan Village**
Bylands Garden Centre, Kelowna and West Kelowna

Grow and Show

5 June 2024

Trophy winners
Bev Akerlund (Iris Trophy)
And
Sue Shanks
(Challenge Cup for Peonies)

Keeping your Hanging Baskets and Containers looking great all summer

Proper Watering

From The Greenery's webpage

Proper watering, especially during the summer, is a must. Check out how much, how often, and when you should be watering.

When should I water them? The best time to water your containers is in the morning to give them enough time to soak up the moisture before the heavy heat of the day. Plants also absorb water faster during the morning.

How often should I water them? In the heat of the summer you should be watering your containers and hanging baskets every day. On hot, windy or humid days you may need to water more than once. And on rainy days you may not need to water at all.

How much water should I give them at once? Water your hanging baskets and containers until water begins to run out of the bottom of the container. If the soil is bone dry and the water runs through the bottom very quickly, repeat this process a couple times.

How do I know if I am over-watering or under-watering? This can be tricky since the signs of over-watering or under-watering are very similar (yellowing of foliage). The best thing you can do is use the finger test before watering. Stick your finger 1-2" into the soil…
If it is wet, wait to water. If it is dry, water away.

Fertilizing

Your store or garden centre bought container was probably given a slow release, granular fertilizer when it was planted but containers require frequent watering, and frequent watering leads to soil nutrients running out of the bottom of your containers over time. This is why it is important to replace these nutrients in your container by fertilizing throughout the growing season.
Try Miracle Grow Slow-release Fertilizer or Liquid Fertilizer – just follow the label instructions! If using a liquid fertilizer, water first, and then fertilize.

Deadheading, Pruning & Pinching Back

Is your hanging basket or planter looking sparse? Has it slowed down in producing blooms? Or is it growing unevenly?
This likely means your container needs a little haircut with a quick pruning. Pruning helps promote new blooms and well-rounded growth habits. Some popular flowers, such as Geraniums and Petunias require deadheading, or removing spent blooms.

https://www.prairiegardens.com/blog/summer-containers/

Protecting Your Soil and Perennials During the Heat of Summer – Marian Morry

With summer fast approaching and its typical hot and dry weather, here are a few suggestions to protect your soil and perennials. The real concerns here are to shade the soil and ensure it can retain water. If your soil is healthy and retaining water, your perennials will be fine.

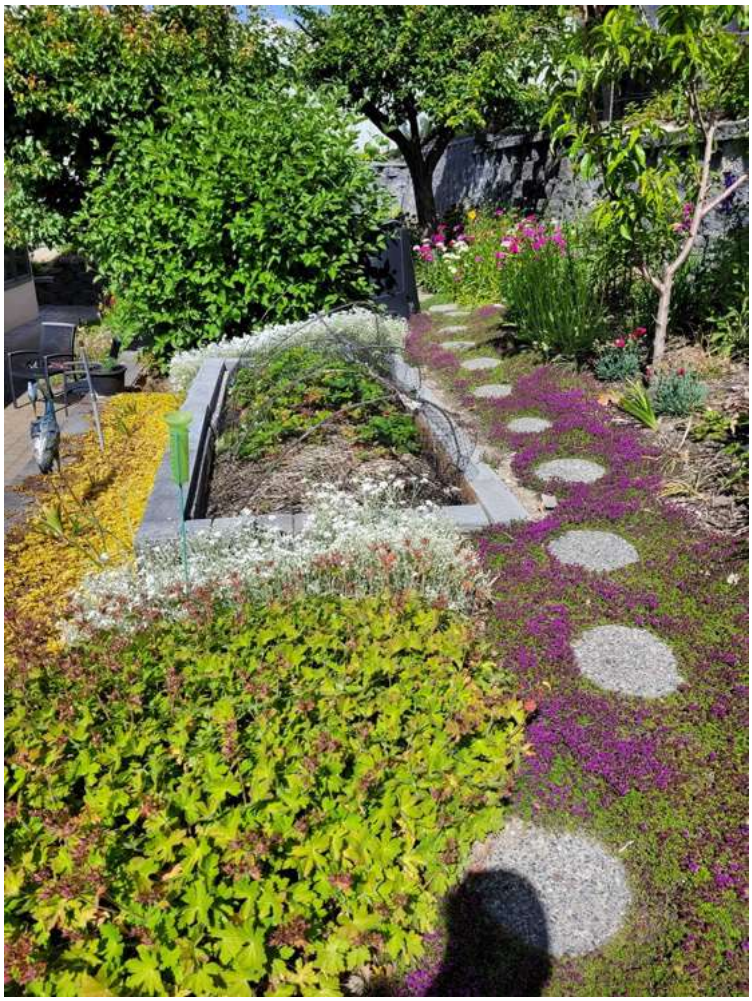
The most typical suggestion is to use 5 to 10 centimeters (2 to 4 inches) of mulch. A common mulch for perennial beds is wood chips and for vegetable gardens it is straw. The main purpose is to cover the soil so the sun can't dry it out too quickly and to suppress weeds. Over time it will compost and provide some nutrients to the soil as well. As a downside though, both are flammable, and straw attracts slugs and snails.

A second form of protection is to plant ground covers. Similar to mulch, this will protect against the sun and the shade from the plants will keep the soil a bit cooler. This is similar to how the air under trees is cooler than the air in the sunshine. In beds where I need to walk periodically, I have incorporated Creeping Jenny and Creeping Thyme. In areas where I don't walk, I have used Snow in Summer, Crane's Bill, Fern Leaf Bleeding Hearts, and Douglas Phlox. More recently I have planted mint and chamomile as ground covers with the bonus of having tisanes (herbal teas) this fall and winter.

Related to using ground covers, density planting stops the sun from hitting the soil and keeps the soil cool. Density planting refers to putting your plants close together so they create shade. Using a diversity of plants also promotes healthy soil as some plants pull up nutrients from deeper in the ground (e.g., yarrow), add nitrogen (e.g., lupins), removes chemicals from the soil (sunflowers), etc.

Continued next page

Finally, drawing on regenerative gardening, is the practice of “chop and drop” or “composting in place”. When you deadhead a plant or trim some greenery, chop the material and place it over the soil. This is really another example of mulching but your using material from your own yard. What starts as mulch over time will compost and feed the soil. This material will eventually be incorporated into the soil as organic matter which enables the soil to retain water. It can look a bit messy though so use it at the back of your garden or between densely planted perennials.



In general, using multiple approaches is best. As you can see in the first picture, around my strawberry bed I have Creeping Jenny in front and Creeping Thyme in back so I can walk on them. To the sides are Snow in Summer and Rock Crane’s-Bill as both ground covers and density planting. In the strawberry bed is straw and in the background is density planting.

The second picture is an example of chop and drop (mostly grass and some iris deadheading) and density planting.

Kelowna Garden Club, Miracle Gro and Communities in Bloom

have joined forces to find the Best Garden Selections in Kelowna.

To accomplish this we need people to nominate their favorite garden, before July 1, in one of the following categories:

Tiny Garden – A very small yard such as a townhouse or a 4 plex. The total yard will be taken into consideration.
Medium Garden – An average sized lot, front, back and sides will be viewed and taken into consideration.
Acreage Garden – Larger than a town lot. The total yard will be taken into consideration.
Container Garden – The size or number of containers does not matter but they must all have bottoms.
Edible Garden – This can but does not have to include the complete yard. It does include gardens in allotments
Xeriscape – Yards that are designed to be attractive and minimize the use of water.
We ask that the gardens be maintained by the residents. Hired help to prune and help on occasion is acceptable.

The gardeners of the yards selected will receive a free 2024 Kelowna Garden Club membership, product courtesy of Miracle Gro, and a garden sign.

Selected gardeners will be asked to sign a waiver allowing Miracle Gro and Communities in Bloom the ability to use pictures of the yards.

Selection will take place the first week in July. There are enough judges in place to have 2 in each category but more are welcome. For those gardeners who have never judged, it is an opportunity to work with others that have.

Nominations can be sent to plantsale@kelownagardenclub.ca or dropped off at the Service Deck at Home Depot ,2515 Enterprise Way.

Best Garden Selection Kelowna

Name of the gardener(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

Category

_____ Tiny garden
_____ Medium garden
_____ Acreage garden
_____ Container garden — planted in any container with a bottom
_____ Edible garden — does not have to be the entire yard; can be an allotment
_____ Xeriscape

No commercially maintained gardens please

Name of the person who nominated (can be the gardener) _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

Email the form to plantsale@kelownagardenclub.ca

or drop it off at the Service Desk, Home Depot, 2515 Enterprise.

APHIDS AND ANTS (Linda Tomlinson)

Insects are a necessary part of the ecosystem. They pollinate plants, aerate soil, and decompose materials into soil and provide food for other creatures. Some insects are easily seen while others are not.

Aphids and ants are among the most noticeable, and often treated with pesticides. There are many different types and colors of aphids but they all feed on plants by piercing the skin and sucking out sap resulting in blotchy yellow patches and occasionally the death of a young plant.

Aphids are not firmly attached to the plants and can be dislodged with a strong stream of water. Most of the insects will be removed, some crushed, very few will return. Repeat the process if more insects hatch to form another mass of insects. Another method is to cut stems or branches to remove the infected area. Placing the infected material in the garbage or in a bag will keep them from returning to the garden.

You can spray insects with an insecticidal soap or an insecticide but both products will kill both harmful and beneficial insects. Soaps coats and smothers insects while the active ingredient of insecticides poisons them.

Adding beneficial insects is a good solution if there are enough predators to devour the problem insects. If the beneficial population needs time to build, the harmful insects will continue to damage the plants

Ants tend to make their colonies in dry soft soil or rotten wood. The tunnels or air holes within the ant hills dry out plant roots and can cause the plants to die. Colonies can undermine the stability of walkways and structures. Ants react to their home being disturbed aggressively by swarming and biting the perpetrator.

When left to their own devices, ants eat small insects, remove and consume dead material and food bits or garbage. They are the garden's janitors.

Ants, like aphids, are part of the food chain. They are food for birds, insects, spiders and some animals and reptiles.

Often the easiest solution to keep ants and other crawling insects out of areas is to put down a chemical or material that will discourage the insects from entering. To kill an ant colony one must kill the queen, who is usually hidden deep within the colony. Poison kills the ants that guard the doors as they taste food before allowing it to enter.

Sap-sucking aphids on rose buds can deform the flowers and weaken the plant.

Ants do not harm peonies.

The sugary droplets at the base of a bud are a food source for them, and they protect that food source by removing other insects that may cause damage to the bud.

Categories and classes for the Kelowna Garden Club's Centennial Year Flower Show 2024

THEME OF THE YEAR - 100 Years of Growing **COLOUR OF THE YEAR - Peach Fuzz**

CATEGORY 1 - BENCH - CUT FLOWERS

If entry calls for a single bloom**, all side buds must be removed.**
Flowers must have a stem with its own foliage, unless otherwise stated.
Vases will be available for Classes 1 thru 5 if needed.
Heavy flowers on a long stem must be placed in a sturdy container.
All roses and cut flowers should be named if possible.

Class 1 Hybrid tea rose – one bloom, two thirds to three quarters open with own foliage. Red or Peach.
Class 2 Hybrid tea rose – one bloom, two thirds to three quarters open, with own foliage. Any colour except Red or Peach
Class 3 Floribunda rose - one spray, any colour.
Class 4 Miniature rose - one bloom, any colour.
Class 5 Miniature roses - three miniature blooms, may be different colours.
Class 6 Most Fragrant Rose - a single rose in a bowl that has been covered with plastic to hold the aroma.
Class 7 Perennials – three different perennials with their own foliage arranged together.
Class 8 Begonia - one single bloom, any colour, floating in a shallow dish of water.
Class 9 Clematis - one single bloom, any colour, with its own foliage.
Class 10 Shasta Daisies - any type, five stems of the same variety.
Class 11 Lavender - ten stems in a suitable container.
Class 12 Delphinium - one stem, any colour, in a sturdy container for the Jillian Reid Cup for Best Delphinium.
Class 13 Annual Sweet Peas - five stems any colour, in a vase, for the Amateur Sweet Pea Association Challenge Cup.
Class 14 Lilium - one stem, multiple blooms, any colour of the true lily (Lilium) in a sturdy container for the Kelowna Garden Club Lily Award,
Class 15 Open Class – any flower not included in the above classes, with or without its own foliage.

CATEGORY 2 – EXHIBITS - FLORAL ART
Class 16 Fabulous Foliage – an exhibit of different varieties of foliage.
Class 17 Just Peachy – a monochromatic exhibit of flowers in shades of peach with your choice of greenery.
Class 18 A Bouquet of Roses – an exhibit of various roses with any foliage.
Class 19 Tea Time – an exhibit of flowers and greenery in a tea cup and saucer.
Class 20 Tea for Two - matching arrangements in two mini teacups, each teacup design to be no more than five inches in height and width
Class 21 Name that Song – an arrangement representing a song title. Accessories allowed. Please name your song.
Class 22 From Grandma's Attic - an exhibit of flowers and greenery in a vintage container
Class 23 Hydrangea Bouquet – an exhibit featuring hydrangeas and any greenery. May include other flowers.
Class 24 Oriental Simplicity – an exhibit of up to three flowers with greenery, all of which may be purchased. Accessories allowed.
Class 25 Let's Get Started – an exhibit of summer flowers and greenery by a Novice Exhibitor.
(A novice exhibitor is a person who has never won a blue ribbon in a flower show)
Class 26 Woven Wonders – an exhibit of flowers in a basket with a handle. May include foliage and grasses. Must be easily lifted by the handle.

CATEGORY 3 – POTTED PLANTS AND CONTAINERS
All entries MUST be planted in a light weight easy-to-lift container.

Class 27 Tasty Herbs – a variety of three to six different individually labelled culinary herbs planted in a container. Maximum of six plants.
Class 28 Enchanted Garden – a miniature garden of small plants in a shallow container.
May include small figures and accessories.
Class 29 Can be Prickly – an assortment of cacti and/or succulents of any kind in a shallow planter. Accessories allowed.
Class 30 Centennial Celebration – a light weight patio container celebrating 100 Years of Growing. Accessories allowed. Must not weigh more than twenty pounds.
Class 31 Look What I Found! - Small objects found in nature displayed together with small plants in a shallow container.
Class 32 Garden Bounty – a minimum of three edible plants to a maximum of six plants potted in a suitable container. May include vegetables, fruit and/or edible flowers. Accessories allowed.
Class 33 Vibrant colours – an exhibit of vibrantly coloured flowers and greenery potted in a hanging basket.
Class 34 Home Sweet Home – your favourite house plant, small to medium.
Class 35 Dreaming of the Tropics – an arrangement of small tropical plants, which may be purchased, potted in a container. Accessories allowed.

CHILDREN'S CATEGORY - up to twelve years of age, cash prizes

Class 36 Child's Creation – a container of potted plants grown by a child.
Class 37 Flower Garden – an exhibit of cut flowers and greenery exhibited in a container chosen by a child exhibitor.

FLORAL ART TERMS

Exhibit - An exhibit is an entry made of plant material in a suitable container, with or without accessories. Plant material must predominate over all components of the exhibit.

Accessory - Any item other than fresh cut plant material which accents or adds feeling to the theme or purpose the arranger is interpreting. Accessories can be used only if stated in the schedule.

Spray - A stem with a cluster of blooms (florescence). A spray should have three or more open blooms. Note, a bud is not a bloom.

Stem - The major supporting part of a plant to which buds, leaves and flowers are attached

2024 Flower Show Schedule is also available on www.kelownagardenclub.ca

Summer is the Season for Open Gardens (Marilyn Degraw)

Our gardens are finally growing after a cool spring ! KGC members & friends would love to tour your garden.
There are many varieties of gardens & they all are interesting and educational. How do you open your garden?
If you live on the West side, phone Linda Edser-250 769 6893 or email - ledser@shaw.ca
If you live in Kelowna or area, text Marilyn Degraw at 250 317 6029 or email at degrawm@shaw.ca
Tell us date & time you prefer. We will be at your garden to welcome your guests.
You will tour them around your garden and enjoy sharing your garden progress.

Barb Hicks showing us a magnificent Daphne

A tiny piece of the Rampone's garden

Strolling through Bev and Wilf Akerlund's garden

See page 13 for photos from Margaret and Jim Finnie's Open Garden

Upcoming Events/ Workshops

Saturday, June 29: KGC's Annual Flower Show, Guisachan Gardens, Kelowna

Tuesday, July 9, starting at 6 pm: KGC Potluck Picnic, Okanagan Mission Activity Centre (Sarsons Beach), 4298 Hobson Rd., Kelowna

Sunday, July 21 at 10am: H2O Xeriscape Garden Tour, 4075 Gordon Drive, Kelowna

Speakers

September Dahlia lovin' members will speak about: Identifying Types, Pest Control, Storage Options along with a dividing demonstration.

October Matt Groening, Houseplants & Fall-Plant Parenting 101

Photos from the Succulent Living Wreath Workshop that was held June 1

H2O Xeriscape Garden Tour

Sunday, July 21 at 10am, 4075 Gordon Drive

Sigrie Kendrick, Executive Director of Okanagan Xeriscape Association & Master Gardener will show our members around this public garden which demonstrates the beauty and versatile range of garden styles that can be achieved using xeriscape principles.

Sigrie will talk about the drip system under the mulch which minimizes water use & supplies a small amount of supplemental water during dry periods. She will explain how the H2O Xeriscape garden is both a research tool & an outdoor classroom.

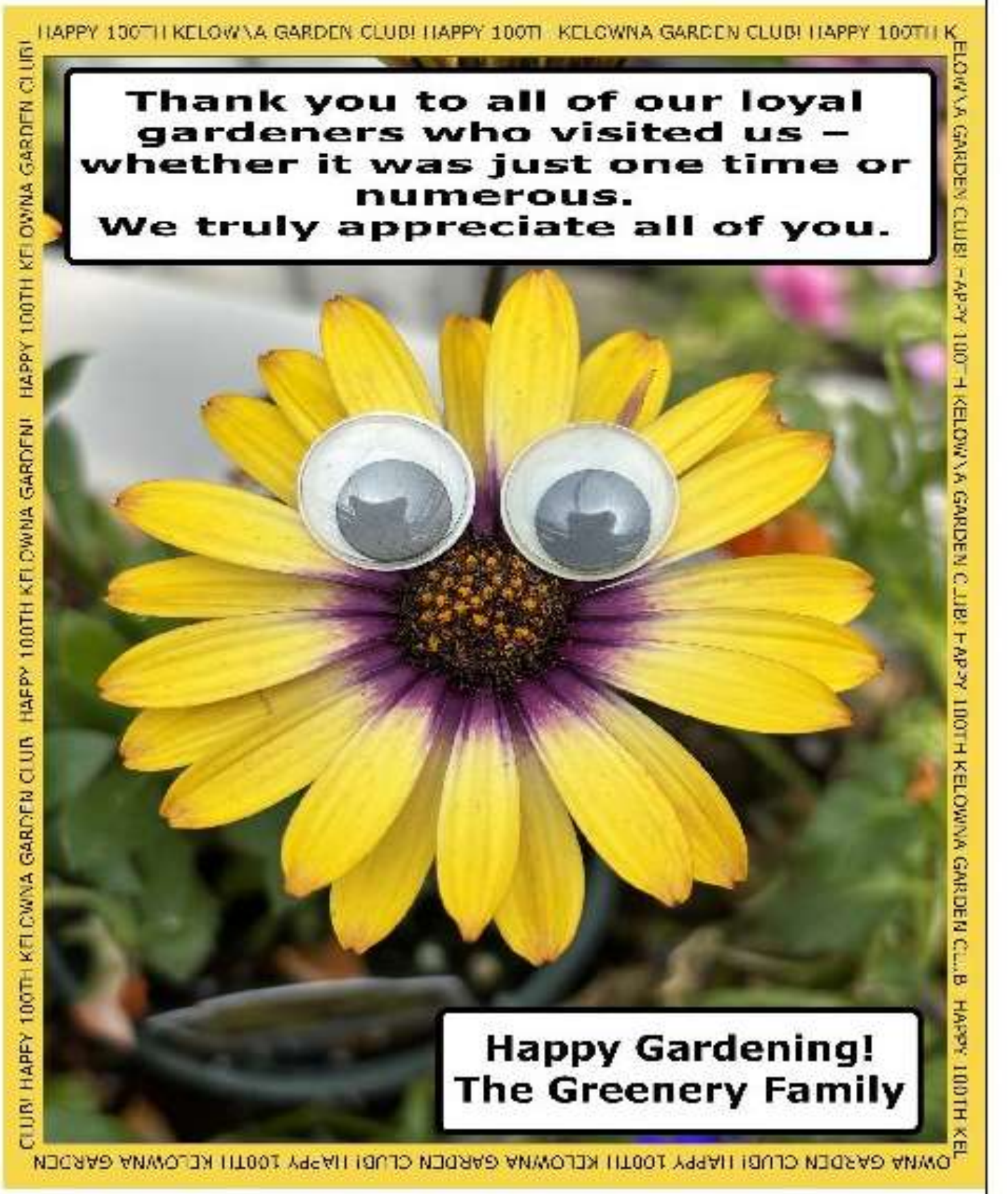
We hope you can join the garden tour and share OXA's passion for beautiful, water-efficient and regionally-appropriate landscapes & apply this in your own outdoor spaces!

The KGC Needs You

Newsletter Advertising/Director
Contacts companies to advertise in the Newsletter, emails their advertisements to the Newsletter Editor, issues invoices and collects payments.

Technical Assistant (shared position) facilitates Zoom, ensures (prior to every meeting) all technical components are present and in working order, and are compatible with the guest speaker's components: microphone, screen projector, computer, extension cords.

Open Gardens Coordinator – Kelowna.
Organizes Open Gardens for KGC members. Arranges dates with the garden's owner, requests the Newsletter Editor to send an announcement to all members and, on the given day, attends the Open Garden to assist the host.


HAPPY 100TH KELOWNA GARDEN CLUB! HAPPY 100TH KELOWNA GARDEN CLUB! HAPPY 100TH KELOWNA GARDEN CLUB!
Thank you to all of our loyal gardeners who visited us – whether it was just one time or numerous.
We truly appreciate all of you.
Happy Gardening!
The Greenery Family
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Open Garden at Margaret and Jim Finnie's on Friday, 21 June

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