

POND LIFE



Water Garden Society of Oklahoma Newsletter: *Pond Life*

July 2014

Volume 28 Issue 7

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, was our 2014 Pond Tour busy and ever so successful. The weather could not have been any better. Even though we had fewer ponds on tour, most people I have talked to had larger groups this year. And the public seemed more interested in ponds instead of just looking for something free to do. We had so many people by the end of Sunday I had a dirt path instead of grass. Oh well, it was worth it and it will grow back. I want to thank every member that put your pond on tour because without you we would not have had a pond tour. So THANK YOU!!!! People like you are what keep our club thriving.

I hope everyone who wanted to reserve a seat on the charter bus to go on our members tour got one, because we are now sold out. We will be going to 15 members homes to see their ponds, which 9 of those are new ponds so it will be a really fun day. Remember to show up by 8:15am, July 12th and be ready to board the bus with your packed lunch and your folding chair. We leave promptly at 8:30am, not 8:31am. We will be having lunch at Doug and Connie Kaye's home. We have a lot to see so don't forget to bring your cameras and sunscreen.

WGSO was at another meet and great at Pond Pro June 7th. We have had new members join our club at every one we have had this year. And we learn so much at each of the classes it's so worth going, if not just for that.

The first workshop of the year was held Saturday, June 14th and we painted bowling balls. They are so cute. Some of our members now have the best looking bumblebees and ladybugs around. The next workshop will be at Jim & Mary Garrett's home Saturday, July 26th to learn how to make vertical gardens. Don't wait to reserve your spot. There are only a few spots left.

Be sure to sign up for our Summer Social that will be held Saturday, August 16th. We are having a Luau themed party so get out your Luau outfits as you are in for lots of fun and surprises. Let your creativity shine with your luau outfit and you might win a prize for best costume!

If you have an opinion on possibly moving our meeting night to the first Tuesday instead of the second Wednesday, be sure to make a point of coming to our July meeting. We will have a short discussion on it and then we will be voting on it in August.

Lastly, 2014 WGSO Membership Cards will be available at the July meeting, so if you want to get your discount at participating retailers pick up your card when you sign in.

See you at the July meeting.

Diane Clark
WGSO President



"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."

- Gertrude Jekyll (Horticulturist)

NEXT MEETING

2nd Wednesday of the Month

July 9, 2014

Doors Open at 6:30 pm

Bring Snacks To Share

WILL ROGERS EXHIBITION CENTER
3400 N.W. 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK

PROGRAM:

Water Sustainability and the Benefits of Compost

PRESENTED BY:

Minick Materials

WELCOME WGSO MEMBERS



As of the 20th of the month:

NEW MEMBERS:

- Paula Davis
- Braven & Joni Dyer
- Lynne Hardin
- Mike McKaig
- Mary Merrill
- Chad & Ellie Miller

RENEWALS:

- Nancy Fox
- Lonnie Strickland

If you paid your 2014 Membership Dues last month and DON'T see your name, contact Patty Smith at soonerpattywgso@cox.net

A MESSAGE TO ALL WGSO MEMBERS

This message was paid for by Jim Connor

As you all know WGSO publishes our annual Pond Tour Guide, which is paid for by advertising dollars from our sponsors. However, after the book was printed, Tony's Tree Plantation refused to pay for their ad.

I ask you to join my personal boycott of Tony's Tree Plantation and support those sponsors in our tour guide who paid for the advertising they received.

Jim Conner



Did you know who the person was who had the brain storming idea of having workshops to get more people involved in our club? It was Pallei Mumme, she was the one who started these classes three years ago. Who knew the workshops would be such a success and still has such a high demand. We have started the third year and to date we have held 13 workshops.

The workshops have been held at five different homes since the beginning. WGSO had the first workshop of 2014 last Saturday and have five more planned for this year. The smallest class was held for eight people, but the largest single class was a leaf casting class which we had 23 people attend. Who would have thought we had so many extremely crafty people in our wonderful club?

Gardening... My Kind of Therapy

BOARD MEETING



Open to all WGSO members - RSVP Required - Bring a Dish.

Tuesday, July 1 @ 6:30 pm

RSVP REQUIRED TO DIANE CLARK
ldianeclark@yahoo.com 947-6999

Jim Conner
 17304 Toledo Dr. OKC 73170
 801-2891

POTTING SHELF



Need some extra space for outdoor entertaining or even potting plants? You could easily make this folding shelf unit to attach to the side of the house or shed in one weekend.



Tickets are \$1 @ Meetings & Club Events.

WGSO AD RATES

If you would like to place an ad in the *Pond Life*, the rates are as follows:

Business Card	\$10.00	1/4 Page	\$25.00
1/2 Page	\$75.00	Full Page	\$100.00

Ads are to be **CAMERA READY PREPAID** in advance. Send payment to the WGSO Treasurer, **Jim Maida**, 10612 Turnberry Ln, OKC, OK 73170.

Send ad to the newsletter editor, **Pallei Mumme** at wgsomembership@gmail.com. Ad must be in editor's possession no later than the 20th of the month preceding publication.

EX: August issue must be received by July 20th.



Calendar of Events



Board Meeting	July 1	State Fair Demo <i>Need Volunteers</i>	September 13
Members Helping Members: <i>Gerrard</i>	July 5	Leaf Casting Workshop	September TBD
General Meeting	July 9	Members Potluck Night Tour Caravan	September 27
Members Bus Tour <i>Bus Sold Out</i>	July 12	Board Meeting	October 2
Vertical Garden Workshop	July 26	General Meeting <i>Board Elections</i>	October 8
Board Meeting	August 5	Wine Bottle Rain Chain Workshop	October TBD
General Meeting	August 13	Cookout & Redeem Pond Dollars	October TBD
Summer Social Luau <i>RSVP Required</i>	August 16	Board Meeting	November 4
Faux Boulder Workshop	August 30	General Meeting <i>Annual Chili Cook-off</i>	November 12
Board Meeting	September 4	Board Meeting	December TBD
General Meeting	September 10	WGSO Christmas Party <i>RSVP Required</i>	December 10

2014 WGSO BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICER*/ COMMITTEE CHAIRS	NAME	CELL	OTHER	E-MAIL
*President	Diane Clark	802-6200	947-6999	ldianeclark@yahoo.com
*Vice-President	Tonah Tharp	973-4209	340-6495	tonah@classicprintinginc.com
*Secretary	Teresa Asbury	659-2595	755-8090	teresa.asbury@sbcglobal.net
*Treasurer	Jim Maida		691-7630	etsubguy59@cox.net
*Historian	Dennis Wagner	550-8923	265-3996	dwagner35@cox.net
*Past President	Jim Conner	317-6016	801-2891	jim@vidtag.com
Newsletter / Activities	Paullei Mumme	642-4767		paullei.mumme@gmail.com
Membership	Patty Smith	717-9995	694-0886	soonerpattywgso@cox.net
Plant Sales/Tour Guide Sales	Gary Guild	397-5758	390-8112	gguild2@cox.net
Programs	Connie Fisher		350-3378	grannyfisher@cox.net
Refreshments	Claribel Collier	396-8074		N/A
Refreshments	Phil & Sarah Grissam		454-3571	sgrissam405@gmail.com
Tour Guide Publication	Tom Thompson	693-5098		tom@dsrt.org
Website	Alex Philbrick	812-5876		aaphilbrick@gmail.com
Tour Guide Ad Sales/Members Tours	Diane Clark	802-6200	947-6999	ldianeclark@yahoo.com
Entertainment (<i>Summer Social & Christmas Party</i>)	Diane Clark	802-6200	947-6999	ldianeclark@yahoo.com
Librarian	Alex Philbrick	812-5876		aaphilbrick@gmail.com



Add a holder for scissors on your potted herbs for easy trimming.



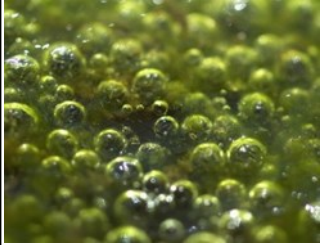
Keep your lawn from becoming a water hog by setting your lawnmower blade a bit higher - 3 inches is ideal. Longer grass keeps the ground shaded which means water loss is reduced. It needs less water to recover in dry spells.



Unless a shrub has specific pruning needs, prune some of the oldest wood each year. This opens the plant's center to more air and light which will encourage new growth.

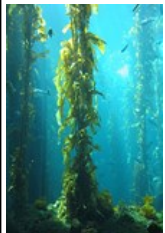
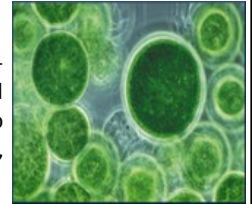
for more gardening tips, join The Garden Geeks on facebook

THE POND ALGAE TRILOGY By: Mike Gannon



PART ONE: It grows almost everywhere on the planet. It provides food and shelter. It can live in peaceful symbiosis or quickly kill its host. It can reproduce at stunningly fast rates turning the surrounding environment red, blue, brown, and green. It can glow at night. It can float freely and sporadically or attach itself to a surface; overwhelming every square inch of it. It can stand taller than a building or be microscopic in stature. It can appear as a primitive animal type or as a plant. It has numerous genus and species that have been around 400 million years. It is in our oceans and our freshwater systems. It is in our drinking water, swimming pools, and our backyard ponds and water gardens. All pond owners have to deal with it at some time or another, in some way or another. **"It"**, is algae.

There are hundreds of types of pond algae that can occur in koi ponds and water gardens. Even though many pond algae types can actually be beneficial to have, not ONE of them is ever a very welcomed sight. So when the perennial question is asked, 'How do I get rid of pond algae?' The quickest answer may not be the right answer. The pond pro trying to help you answer this question may have a few questions to ask of you, before accurately dispensing advice. So, a pond owner needs to know some basic info on algae if they want the quickest resolution to the problem.



A pond owner should be able to give at least a very basic description of the type of pond algae they are trying to deal with. The different types of pond algae can typically be described in 3 categories as: "green water", "string/hair algae", or "floating algae". These key basic descriptions can help formulate a realistic plan to *control* algae issues in your koi pond, natural pond, farm pond, or water garden when consulting your local pond professional. Note the term 'control', not eliminate; a little algae is good, natural, normal, and inevitable. The 3 types of pond algae can occur on their own or in any combination of the 3 types.

See more at: <http://fullserviceaquatics.com/natural-pond/the-pond-algae-trilogy-pt-1/#sthash.3YfJwLqE.dpuf>

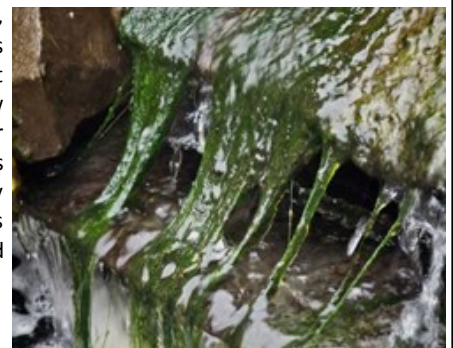
LET'S GO DEEPER...PART TWO OF THE ALGAE TRILOGY

Green water*, is probably the most common pond algae issue that pond and water garden owners face at sometime and thankfully one that can be eliminated! Green water is not necessarily bad for fish or the overall health of the pond, but it sure is not what we're hoping for when our ponds were installed. The shades of green water can vary from a deep green/black to a bright lime green color. Green water is created by planktonic algae cells suspended in the water. The green water condition in backyard koi ponds and water gardens is typically a symptom of an under filtered pond. The nutrient levels (a.k.a algae food) in your pond are rising faster than the filter system can break them down. This excess of nutrients gets consumed by the planktonic algae, they become fat and happy pond algae cells and turn green. And in turn your pond water turns green. These little tiny floating plants are just doing what plants do, and turning green by producing chlorophyll. Temporary greening may occur from heavy rains that are rich in nutrients (nitrate) or water changes which sometimes contain phosphate. This temporary greening will usually come back into balance in a short time. Chronic green water lasting 3 weeks or more, needs to be addressed.



String / Hair / blanket algae blooms can occur for much longer periods of time than the issues of green water or floating algae. Its appearance is long hair like strands growing on the surface of liner, equipment, rockwork, and/or plants. It can grow in dense matting or have sparse growth; but this type of algae is always attached to a surface. It is the most common algae that occurs in stream and waterfall areas of your pond or water garden. String algae blooms are a common (normal) occurrence in early winter and early spring/late winter, but can persist year round in problem cases. String algae in small blooms do not cause any immediate health issues to the livestock in your pond or water garden, but long lasting blooms are highly undesirable and can cause pond issues as serious as livestock loss if not addressed. The early winter bloom likely occurs around the time that the aquatic plants in your pond have stopped "eating" and are getting ready for dormancy, microbial processes within the pond

have slowed, Mother Nature is raining down all the leaf and plant debris she can into your pond, and materials are not breaking down efficiently which raises nutrient levels. The pond suddenly has a nice glut of food (nutrients) on the market and algae are willing to exploit that. With an abundant food supply and no other plant competition, the string algae bloom is underway! Typically in a few weeks it lessens or clears up. In early spring the aquatic plants have not woken from their winter slumber, most filters have not been serviced all winter, old man winter has dumped several months worth of debris into your pond, temperatures start rising and again algae finds a huge food supply all to itself this time of year. BAM! String algae bloom underway. Many pond pros are proponents of the "let it bloom and fade" method. For others the pond algae bloom can be manually removed and treatment applied.



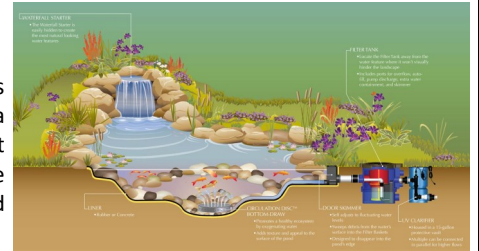
**NOTE: Green water caused by blue/green algae, cyanobacteria, is harmful and toxic to humans and wildlife. The information discussed here does not apply to Cyanobacteria blue green algae blooms.*

Continued on Page 5



Floating algae is the least common algae that occurs in most koi ponds and water gardens; especially ponds that use skimmers as a part of the filter system. It appears as a “puffy” type of pond algae with a brown/green color and is of course, floating. The floating algae that we see in our koi ponds and water gardens usually occur in “dead zones” of circulation, very shallow areas, and ponds that are in real need of cleanout. Like string algae, floating algae can occur in green water conditions or when pond water is very clear and otherwise healthy looking. Floating pond algae in natural ponds, and farm ponds is a much more common occurrence and is often accompanied by string algae growth and green water conditions. Floating algae is very unsightly, but also the easiest to get rid of.

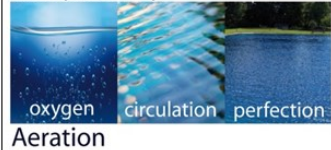
- See more at: <http://fullserviceaquatics.com/koi-pond/the-pond-algae-trilogy-pt-2/#sthash.B0w8TItv.dpuf>



LET’S FIGHT BACK...PART THREE OF THE ALGAE TRILOGY

For all these types of pond algae that we have to deal with there are solutions. Some solutions are very general and will help work on all 3 pond algae types, while other issues may require a very targeted solution to the issue. There are not many treatments or types of equipment that will eliminate algae growth in your koi pond or water garden; and those that can eliminate algae growth may not be very healthy for your fish or desirable aquatic plants. A naturally balanced pond through proper filtration and management will have clear water on its own.

A Simple Concept



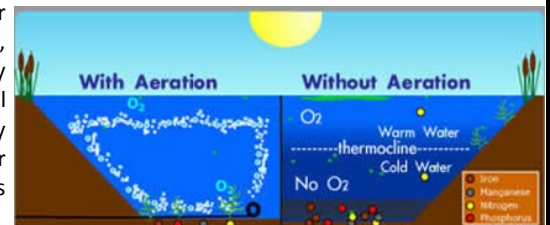
Some simple treatments for any type of pond algae discussed that any pond owner can easily apply are: increased aeration by installing an air pump and diffusers, increased circulation by adding a small pump or a decorative spitter/fountain, addition of aquatic plants, the use of beneficial bacteria treatments, and liquid barley extract. These are chemical free solutions that are widely available and reasonably economical. A good pond cleanout works wonders, and an honest look at how the pond is being cared for is critical. For tougher pond algae problems there are very targeted solutions as well.

Persistent green water, generally caused by nitrogen related issues with the pond water, will require a bit more than a shot or two of bacteria. A filter system upgrade and/or UltraViolet lighting should be a serious consideration. UV lighting really works, and will eliminate green water rapidly with the correctly sized unit. The upsides to UV filtration is that it is relatively inexpensive compared to filter upgrades. UV can be easily installed as an “add-on” to existing filter systems. And UV does not have a detrimental effect on livestock that chemical treatments can have. The down sides is that UltraViolet lighting hides the issue of the under filtered pond and does not address it. This may require the pond owner to deal with green water again down the road a ways. UV lighting does NOTHING for the other types of algae. For minor green water issues the use of beneficial bacteria can go a long way.



Difficult string/hair algae is caused more by phosphate than nitrogen issues. It should be manually removed and then treated with directly with the powdered treatments that are on the market. Beneficial bacteria treatments can help clear string algae, but only to a minor degree. A great remedy from back in early Europe is to use barley straw. Today, liquid barley extract is readily available and convenient to use. A weak hydrogen peroxide (H2O2) solution can be applied pretty effectively, but measure carefully! Equipment such as the IonGen by Aquascape Inc, targets a wider range of algae issues but is very effective at targeting string algae issues. The IonGen is reasonable priced and has installation options that do not require professional install, however, professional installation will yield the best results. The IonGen is extremely low maintenance as well and easy to control.

Control of floating algae in natural ponds and farm ponds is similar to how we treat our koi ponds and water gardens. Typical protocol would be increase aeration and circulation, removal of excess debris and sludge, and strong beneficial bacteria treatments. Barley treatments work on floating algae too. Some natural pond owners may resort to chemical treatments. Sometimes with minor adjustments floating algae clears easily, especially when it is not accompanied by string algae and green water conditions. A strong aerator placed on the bottom of the pond during warmer months will help floating algae issues and create many other benefits for the quality of your pond as well as the inhabitants!



Algae is everywhere, really everywhere. It is crucial to our lives. It is the most basic and yet perhaps the most fascinating plant on *this* planet. But like all things good and bad; moderation is the key; and excess algae growth should be addressed. As you leave this ALGAE TRILOGY, take a better understanding and appreciation of algae with you. With this new found information maybe when algae makes it’s presence known your approach to it’s management will be less frustrating, confusing, time consuming...and less expensive!

- See more at: <http://fullserviceaquatics.com/koi-pond/the-pond-algae-trilogy-pt-3/#sthash.O8A2RZP8.dpuf> ☺

Free! **Class on Controlling Algae at Pond Pro Shop in Shawnee, OK**
Saturday, July 19th @ 10:00 am
 Earn \$10 Pond Dollars for attending the class.
 All WGSO members receive 10% discount. - See store for details

TIPS TO CONTROL GARDEN PESTS WITHOUT HARMING THE SOIL

By Glenn Mitcham

Controlling invasions of pests isn't an easy task. Taking the health of your soil into consideration adds an entire new level of difficulty. Here are some tips that will help you rid yourself of garden pests while continually managing and improving the health of your soil.

A Dangerous Journey: Don't make it easy for pests to waltz right up to your plants and destroy them. The more effort they have to put in, the more likely they are to give up. Making the ground near your plants unpleasant to be on is a great way to deter many different types of pests. You can use woodchips or even rock. However, the most effective ground barrier is Diatomaceous Earth. Many insects/pests have sensitive abdomens. Diatomaceous Earth is a super-fine dust that kills by abrading and dehydrating crawling insects. It controls slugs, ants, cockroaches, earwigs, fleas, and other crawling insects without the use of chemicals. Place around the base of your plants.



Hippodamia convergens, the convergent lady beetle, is commonly sold for biological control of aphids.

Predator Versus Prey: Every pest that could possibly cause a problem in your garden has a natural enemy. They all have predators constantly seeking them out. The key to this method is research. It is important to not only know your pest, but also to know its predator. After you know which predator you will be recruiting, you will need to find out what is going to attract your ally to your garden. Generally speaking, plants like mint, fennel, basil and citronella attract many predators that will not harm your garden and rid you of pests quickly. If you

can handle having a few parasitic wasps around, this is an effective and easy way to get rid of various pests.

Traps: Another way to achieve a pest free garden is to utilize traps. They are non-toxic and extremely effective. The concept is simple: pests wander into the trap, become stuck and aren't able to free themselves. This is a very basic and efficient method of pest control.



Weeding: If you were trying to seek something out and get rid of it, would it benefit you to give it a place to hide? I doubt it. It is important to not help your pests out! Keep your garden free of weeds and other objects that an insect or pest could hide behind. This will not only make your garden more aesthetically pleasing, but it will also make getting rid of your invaders easier.

Getting rid of pests without harming your soil isn't necessarily the easiest task to accomplish. However, with these tips, you should have some new knowledge that will aid you in the battle that is keeping your garden pest free and having the healthiest soil possible. ☺

Source: www.motherearthliving.com/in-the-garden/control-garden-pests.aspx#ixzz33rwnkOou

The Can't Miss Six

6 Easy to grow plants for your garden



Zinnia



Rudbeckia

Echinacea



Achillea

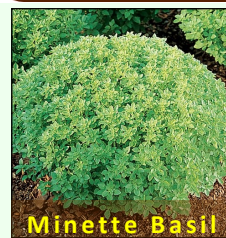


Cosmos

Salvia



www.GrowingTheHomeGarden.com



Minette Basil

Minette is one of the most eye-catching basil you will ever see! It creates perfect 10-inch spheres of bright green that stay compact and uniform all season. Minette is perfect for edging, miniature knot gardens, or in containers.

Pick the flavorful leaves and use fresh or dried in tomato dishes, pasta sauces, vegetables and soups. You can also use it in the garden as a companion plant to repel aphids, mites, and tomato hornworms. ☺

We may think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it's our garden that is really nurturing us.

~ Jenny Uglow

PLANTS TOXIC TO FISH

Designing a garden around a pond or water feature involves more than using plants that thrive in those types of conditions. If you have fish in your pond, plant choices are even more important. Your fish may appreciate the shade cast from plants and trees. But if the leaves, fruit or bark of some plants containing toxic chemicals should fall into the water, they can poison the fish. For pondside plantings, here are some plants to avoid and which parts are toxic to fish:

Plant Name	Toxic Parts
Azalea <i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	Leaves
Black walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	Leaves, hulls
Bleeding heart <i>Dicentra</i> spp.	Leaves, roots
Caladium <i>Caladium</i> spp.	All Parts
Castor bean <i>Ricinus communis</i>	Seeds, leaves
Chokecherry/Cherry <i>Prunus</i> spp.	All Parts
Climbing nightshade <i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	All Parts
Daphne <i>Daphne</i> spp.	Berries
Brugmansia <i>Datura</i> spp.	Flowers, berries, seeds
Flowering tobacco <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Leaves
Foxglove <i>Digitalis</i> spp.	Leaves, seeds
Holly <i>Ilex</i> spp.	Berries
Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus</i> spp.	Nuts, twigs
Jack-in-the-pulpit <i>Arisaema</i> spp.	All Parts
Jasmine <i>Jasminum</i> spp.	Berries
Juniper <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Needles, stems, berries
Larkspur <i>Consolida ajacis</i>	Foliage, seeds
Lily-of-the-valley <i>Convallaria majalis</i>	All Parts
Mockorange <i>Philadelphus</i> hybrids	Fruit
Monkshood <i>Aconitum</i> spp.	Roots, flowers, leaves
Morning glory <i>Ipomoea</i> spp.	All Parts
Peony <i>Paeonia</i> spp.	All Parts
Pinks <i>Dianthus</i> spp.	All Parts
Ponderosa pine <i>Pinus ponderosa</i>	Sap
Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	Leaves
Snapdragon <i>Antirrhinum</i> spp.	All Parts
Sweet pea, everlasting pea <i>Lathyrus</i> spp.	Seeds, fruits
Tomato <i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>	Foliage, stems
White snakeroot <i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>	All Parts
Wisteria <i>Wisteria</i> spp.	All Parts
Yew <i>Taxus</i> spp.	Needles, seeds

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

Drought Tolerant plants are plants that once established can survive with less water than other plants. This is to say that the area in which they are to be planted is very sandy and well drained, they should do well once the establishment period has passed. (*None of these plants can be put in the ground and not watered.*)

PERENNIALS

- Artemisia
- Aster
- Baby's Breath
- Black-Eyed Susan
- Blanket Flower
- Butterfly Milkweed
- Catmint
- Coreopsis
- Coneflower
- Creeping Phlox
- Daylily
- Dianthus
- Gayfeather
- Heliopsis
- Hen & Chicks
- Lamb's Ears
- Lamium
- Lavender
- Ornamental Grasses var.
- Penstemon
- Russian Sage
- Salvia
- Sedum
- Veronica var.
- Yarrow

SHRUBS

- Barberry
- Chokeberry
- Cotoneaster
- Forsythia
- Hypericum
- Lilac
- Ninebark
- Potentilla
- Privet
- Shrub Rose
- Smoke Bush
- Spirea
- Sumac
- Viburnum var.

TREES

- Amur Maple
- Crab Apple
- Honeylocust
- Japanese Tree Lilac
- Linden
- Ornamental Pear

"var" = only certain varieties are included in this classification



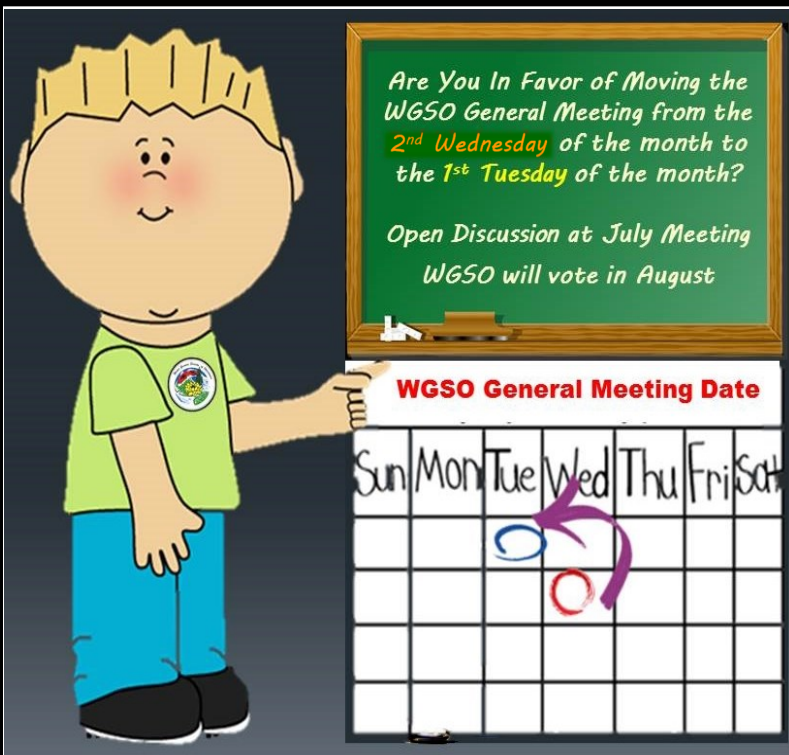
EVERGREENS

- Juniper
- Pine
- Wintercreeper
- Yew
- Yucca

Place a plastic kiddie pool in the ground and surround with pavers. It looks nicer, plus the support to sides will make it last longer. Take it out in colder months and have a fire pit.



The WGSO Members Bus Tour is the fastest way to get to know fellow members. By the end of the bus tour, you'll have met a good portion of the club, plus picked up landscape up ideas and maybe a plant or some seeds.

**WGSO GENERAL MEETING DAY:****2nd Wednesday versus 1st Tuesday of the Month**

WGSO has had several comments regarding our meetings being on Wednesday nights because it conflicts with church. Over the years we have been asked to look into to changing General Meeting to different day. It has been on Wednesday night for years because it was the only night that the Will Rogers Garden Center had available. I check with Will Rogers Garden Center again and discovered that the first Tuesday of each month has recently become available.

Please think about the possibility of changing of WGSO General Meeting from the 2nd Wednesday of the month to the 1st Tuesday of the month. We want all members input. Send me any questions, comments or opinions by June 30. It will be open for discussion at the July General Meeting and we'll hold a vote in August on changing the date to the first Tuesday. If it is voted in favor of move the WGSO General Meeting to the first Tuesday of each month, it will not go into effect until January, 2015.

Diane Clark
WGSO President

**DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE STATE FAIR**

PROMOTE WGSO: Last year, WGSO performed several demonstrations of our workshop crafts throughout the state fair. WGSO has been invited back this year. As a club, WGSO has committed to perform demos on Saturday, September 13 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. We will pick 4-6 demos from a list of workshops we have done and demos from the Spring Flings.

At this point we are considering the following demos, but are open to suggestions: Leaf casting, hypertufa, faux boulder, faux bamboo, bowling ball yard art, mosaic stepping stone, miniature garden, vertical garden. We need volunteers to help with these presentations. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Paulei Mumme paulei.mumme@gmail.com or 642-4767.



PROMOTE YOURSELF: Additionally, the state fair has a lot of demonstrations slots to fill. If you have a hobby, crafts, or business that you can demonstration, please consider signing up to do you your own demo. Robyn Hicks is the contact for the Station Platform. Her contact information is below, as details on the demonstrations. Please contact Robyn directly if you wish to do your own demo. The link to the on-line application is listed below and will also be in the body of the newsletter e-mail for you to click. If you don't have internet access, contact Robyn.

Demonstration times are available from 1:00PM - 8:00PM daily with one hour time slots. Time slots are scheduled on a first come first serve basis, so be sure to go online and apply as quickly as possible.

The online application process is new this year and very simple. Please read the guidelines by clicking on the link at the bottom of the page prior to submitting your application. Please feel free to call or email me with any further questions.

<https://okstatefair.wufoo.com/forms/2014-station-platform-demonstration-application/>

What Could You Demo at the State Fair?

Any craft like sewing, knitting, crochet, quilting, decorating cakes, stained glass, ceramics, rubberstamping, or scrapbooking.

Specialized interest in plants like succulents, viola, hosta, herbs, etc.

Hand crafted business like jewelry, garden accents, woodworking, etc.



OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR
September 11 - 21, 2014

Robyn Hicks
Intern

Special Events & Attractions
Oklahoma State Fair, Inc.
3001 General Pershing Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73107
Office: [405-948-6724](tel:405-948-6724)
Fax: [405-948-6828](tel:405-948-6828)
entertainment@okstatefair.com
okstatefair.com



TIPS FOR WEEDING YOUR GARDEN

It's that time of year: summer and gardening season is in full swing. And with it, comes the weeds. And more weeds. And more weeds. Regardless of how diligent at preventative weed measures, if you have a garden, you will have weeds. The seeds from weeds can lay dormant for years. They are out there, just waiting to spring up one night!

I'd love to tell you that you can have a weed-free garden, but unless you have a full-time gardening staff, that is unlikely. Strive to keep your garden relatively weed free. Not only will your neighbors be happy with that, so will your plants. Remember, weeds can take over a garden, encroaching on your beautiful flowers, vegetables and herbs. With the end result of keeping your plants happy, here are some tips for weeding your garden.

- Mulch is your friend. A good layer of gardening mulch can help keep those weeds from sprouting. Keep your mulch about 2" deep the entire gardening season. This may mean adding mulch if it washes away. Mulch works to suppress weeds by limiting the amount of sunlight on your dirt; sunlight is necessary for weeds to become established. Mulching also can help retain soil moisture, reduce soil temperature and improve the soil.

- Preen when used correctly, is an effective weed preventer. Preen Weed Preventer stops weeds from germinating in flower and vegetable gardens, in ground covers and around trees and shrubs. Preen will not kill existing weeds. It will prevent new weeds from sprouting — eliminating the need for difficult and time-consuming hand-weeding.

Since preventatives are not fail safe, you will eventually have to pull a few weeds. Here are my tips for weeding your garden:

- Protect your back and knees . Get a good gardening kneeler or a garden scooter. Sitting to weed or kneeling on a soft pad is definitely better than bending over and straining your back.

- Invest in some stepping stone. Then, you won't squish and compact the soil when walking through the garden to get those weeds (or clip the flowers or harvest your vegetables and herbs).

- Invest in the correct weeding tools: an old kitchen knife, spoon or fork are not the correct tools – and I say this as someone whose mother kept an old knife handy in the milk box for weeding, and that I used many times growing up. Get a hand weeder a hoe or hand cultivator to get to the root of the weed before removing it.

- "Pull when wet, hoe when dry" – in other words, weed when the soil is damp. Yeah it can be messy on the gardening gloves, but weeds come out much easier when the soil is moist as opposed to dry.

- Weed often – daily if possible. Yeah, yeah, easier said than done. Still, it is much better on the back, knees and garden (younger weeds are easier to remove) if you can weed 15-30 minutes a day, and keep the weeds under control, rather than once a month for an entire day.

- Don't shake the weed to remove dirt. I understand you want to put the dirt back in the garden, but if you shake that weed to remove soil, the seeds (up to 200,000 per weed!) will become airborne giving you more weeds in a few days, weeks, months, even years down the road. Weed seeds are the "gift" that keep on giving.

- For weeds growing between cracks in driveways, walkways or around decks try pouring boiling water or vinegar over them if you don't want to use a commercial herbicide. You may need to repeat the process a few times before the boiling water or vinegar finally kills those weeds.

- Dispose of the weeds promptly to a compost heap (if warm enough) or curbside recycling pick-up. This will prevent their seeds from dropping giving you more weeds. We use the brown bags here for our garden recycling, and the bags help contain the garden debris when you fold the top of the bag down.

- Hire help. Seriously. I enjoy a (nearly) weed-free garden as much as the next person and I am not very fond of weeding myself. A lot of people aren't. Hiring out the weeding to a landscaping company can be money well spent for many people with gardens, either due to age, infirmity, allergies or any desire to weed themselves. ☺



JUNE RECAP

After requests on a meeting about skin cancer, Connie Fisher made it happen. A representative of the American Cancer Society was our guest speaker. She gave us a lot of tips of what to do to help protect our skin from over exposure. She also told of what type of signs to look for so that we could get treatment quickly before it became a more serious situation.

Now that summer is here, most of us are outside working in our yards and around our fish ponds we need to protect ourselves. I was surprised on how many in our group already had been treated for some type of skin cancer. We were also told to use spf30. Did you know that spf50 does not protect any better? So use your spf30 sun screen. ☺



HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN MOSS by Robert Muma

Would you like your garden to have that natural, aged look that only a velvety carpet of moss can give it? You may be fortunate, of course, and already have moss growing around the edge of rocks, or down a garden path, or beneath trees. But if not, and since you can't buy moss from a nursery, here's how to go about growing your own. The following instructions are drawn from a Sunset book called "Ideas for Japanese Gardens," page 34. First you will need a shallow box or nursery flat; two pieces of cheesecloth slightly bigger than the box; insect screening or newspaper; a good, fast-draining soil; and something called starter moss.

STARTER MOSS: Look for moss already growing on stones, eaves troughs, roofs, or in shaded areas. (It is probably a good idea to duplicate, as closely as possible, the habitat where you find your starter moss and where you plan to transplant it.) Lift some pieces of moss and let them dry inside until crumbly. Then remove as much of the soil from the moss as you can, and pulverize the moss by rubbing between your fingers. The fine, dry moss that is left is your starter moss.

Next, cover any holes or openings in your shallow box with bits of insect screening or newspaper. If you use newspaper, cut slits in it for drainage. Fill the box with about one inch of the fast-draining soil. You can also use a prepared mix of 50% fine sand, 50% peat moss or sawdust, but if you do, soak it first with a mildly acidic solution of 1 part skim milk to 7 parts water.

Then place one piece of cheesecloth over the soil and tuck in the edges. Sprinkle the starter moss evenly over the cheesecloth, and lay the second piece of cheesecloth on top, again tucking in the edges. Water well, but make sure no pools of water are lying on the surface. Then place the box in a shaded area free from wind, and keep checking to make sure the soil is moist but not saturated. Early morning or late afternoon sun is enough for most mosses. The cheesecloth will eventually rot away when you transplant your moss.

HOW TO USE YOUR NEW MOSS: In about eight weeks, you will begin to see the moss growing through the cheesecloth. In another month, the moss should totally cover it. Now you can lift this "mossy sandwich" out of the box, cut it into strips and roll. It is ready to be transferred to its new home. For the moss to adhere to a rock, you will need to prepare a growing medium. Mix equal amounts of dry clay soil and sifted peat moss with enough water to make a mixture the consistency of putty. Knead the mixture till it handles easily, then plaster it on the rock about 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick. Then fasten the strips of starter moss to it with short bits of bent wire. And, with a little bit of luck, that's it!

Try to provide the right amount of light and water. Filtered shade, or the early or late sun, is sufficient for most mosses, although some will thrive in full sun provided there is adequate rain. If you want your moss to stay green, it is important to keep it fairly moist. If it dries out, however, a good watering should revive its fresh color. ☺

MOSS GROWING ENVIRONMENT

The four factors that will most greatly impact the survival rate of re-located moss are:

- Adequate moisture
- Shade
- Humidity
- Soil pH/soil type

Moss is tolerant of temperature/moisture extremes and will go dormant until growing conditions return.

Obviously the most difficult to control is humidity (our misting kits will help). If, however, the other three conditions are satisfied, then there is a very high probability of survival. In order to stack the deck in one's favor, the following guidelines MUST be followed in order to successfully grow moss:

1. **Select the proper location for the moss garden(s):** This is by far the most important consideration. Most mosses prefer a medium to fairly dense shade. Direct afternoon sun should be avoided. Full sun locations will never work for Moss Acres customers, as the moss we harvest has been growing on shady, wooded hillsides. Northern or eastern facing slopes in the woods are by far the best choice for growing moss.
2. **Amending Soil pH:** Mosses prefer growing on firmly packed acidic soils with a pH between 5.0 and 5.5. To amend soil pH, Moss Acres offers easy to use pH testing kits and a liquid sulfur powder suspension that is mixed with water to the desired concentration, and then sprayed over the moss gardening area prior to transplanting.
3. **Regular Watering/Misting** This, with no question, is absolutely imperative if moss is to survive transplanting. The area must be kept moist at all times for at least the first three weeks following transplanting.



Use pond underlayment fabric as a base instead of cheesecloth, add your moss slurry, then top with cheesecloth.. Place fabric edge in pond water to keep your moss blanket moist.

(Hypnum)

Hair Cap Moss with Rocks

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.mossandstonegardens.com



Moss Plants, Design Ideas, Growing Information, and Propagation Supplies

www.mossacres.com

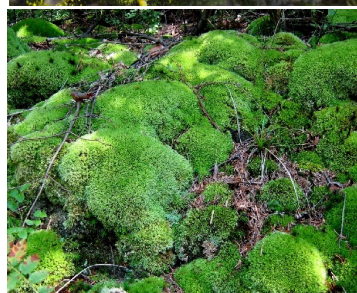
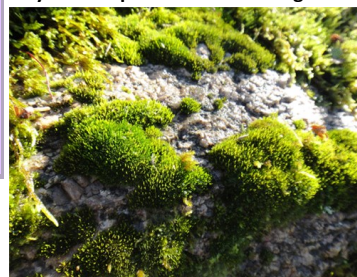
1-866-GET-MOSS (438-6677)

SHEET MOSS (Hypnum): A versatile, low growing moss / shade plant with a high transplant success rate. Sheet Moss thrives in shade, but will also tolerate partial/dappled sunlight – but not direct afternoon sun. This vibrant shade plants color is medium green. Sheet moss is ideal for filling in between pavers on patios and walkways, as it can handle a fair amount of foot traffic.

BRYUM (CAESPITICUM) Sun Moss: This moss when wet or damp becomes a brilliant emerald green. Likes an alkaline soil and calcium, lime stone type substrate. This moss can tolerate some direct sunlight. A Clump moss that will grow to one inch or less in height.

HAIR CAP MOSS (Polytrichum): Hair Cap moss has soil anchoring structures that closely resemble and function like roots. For this reason, we ship this species in clumps with soil still attached. Hair Cap moss prefers medium shade to partial sun, and likes clay based and/or sandy soil.

CUSHION MOSS (Leucobryum): Prefers sandy soil, likes shade, but can tolerate partial sun. This moss is a lighter green color with a silvery-white cast to it. It grows in a round cushion shape, and is shipped in clumps.

Bryum Caespiticium a Sun loving moss

Cushion Moss



WGSO MEMBERS BUS TOUR

SATURDAY ONLY - July 12



Sunday July 5
2 pm
 RSVP to Johnny

Johnny & Martha Garrard
 624 E. Victoria Terr.
 Mustang 73064
 245-3819

New members Johnny & Martha Garrard need help figuring out their two waterfalls. They've had some problems getting it to flow right and are looking for solutions plus ideas on how to make the sides of the waterfall appear more natural.

Bring a snack to share and we'll put our brains and experience together to help out a fellow WGSO member.



see
 15 Ponds with
 9 New Ponds

Want on the Waiting List?
Contact Tonah Tharp 973-4209

Want to join the fun but didn't get a seat on the bus? Join the caravan behind the bus!

- Pack a lunch in an ice chest
- Don't forget extra water & soda
- Bring a lawn chair
- Wear a hat or sun visor
- Charge your camera / phone
- Remember the sunscreen
- Wear comfortable clothes & walking shoes
- Bring baked goodies to share in lieu of donuts



- ♦ **Bus loads at 8:15 am**
 South parking lot behind Will Rogers Center
- ♦ **Departs PROMPTLY at 8:30 am**
- ♦ **Returns at around 6:00 pm**

VERTICAL GARDEN WORKSHOP

SATURDAY JULY 26 @ 9 AM

Mary Garrett's House
 11205 NW 109 Yukon 73099

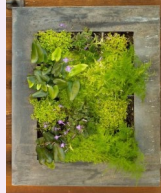
Material Kit ONLY \$8

includes container, potting soil, hardware cloth

You provide plants (*succulents, herbs, annuals, etc*) and decorative background under hardware cloth (*Spanish moss, sheet moss, burlap*).

Pay at the July Meeting and receive your container. You can paint/decorate the container anyway you want.

Contact Mary Garrett to reserve you spot - 373-2906



Almost Full!
373-2906
Call Now!
if you'd like to attend

Sign up at July & August General Meeting
 or Call Diane Clark @ 947-6999

You're Invited

WGSO Summer Social
 Saturday August 16 @ 4 pm
 Will Rogers Garden Center
 RSVP Required & Bring a Dish

WGSO Creative Sundays & WORKSHOPS
 Saturdays &
 SUNDAYS
 WANT TO HOST? - PICK YOUR PROJECT & DATE!

Are you ready to get creative?

WORKSHOP	HOST	DATE	Success
Bowling Ball Yard Art	Diane Clark	6/14	✓
Vertical Gardens	Mary Garrett	7/26	
Faux Boulder Bubbler	TBD	8/30	
Leaf Casting	TBD	Sept	
Leaf Casting Finishing	TBD	TBD	
Wine Bottle Rain Chain	TBD	Oct	

RSVP is required on all workshops due to limited space.
 Waiting list will be started when spaces are filled. Please let us know. If you can't make it so someone else can join the fun.

All you have to do is pay for the material costs.
 Some workshops will have a flat fee for all inclusive material kits, other workshops will have a partial fee for bulk materials provided, and a few workshops will have attendees bring all of the materials.

Sign Up Sheets will be at the General Meetings

Got questions? Contact, WGSO Activities Chair,
 Pallei Mumme pallei.mumme@gmail.com or 642-4767





- Herb Abts
- Robb Dubb
- Merilee Estes
- Peggy Holland
- Bob Jones
- Tracey Jones
- Dallas Lunski,
- Tasha McBrayer
- Dee McVay
- Chad Miller
- Carole Mobley
- Melinda Parsons
- Joy Patton
- Bill Reaves
- Jeff Strother
- Jan Woodson



Almost any garden, if you see it at just the right moment, can be confused with paradise.
 - Henry Mitchell

The 20th of each month is the deadline for articles/advertisements for next month's issue of Pond Life. E-mail articles and advertisements to **Paulei Mumme** at wgsomembership@gmail.com.

WGSO POND LIFE
Paulei Mumme
645 E Frolich Dr
Midwest City, OK 73110

WGSO THANKS THE FOLLOWING VENDORS FOR EXTENDING A DISCOUNT* TO OUR MEMBERS:

- * Buckley's Sticks & Stones - Stone & More 10%
- * Cupids - Statuary & Fountains 5%
- * E-Supply Depot - Little Giant Pumps & Lights 10%
- * Pond Pro Shop - Pond Equipment & More 10%

**See vendor for details. Discounts are a courtesy and are at the discretion of the vendor.*

Some WGSO members have received discounts at vendors not shown above by simply asking if a discount was available to WGSO Members. If you discover a vendor who offers a discount, please email wgsomembership@gmail.com.

If you are a vendor that would like to extend a discount to WGSO members, please contact Diane Clark @ 947-6999



2014 WGSO Membership Cards can be picked up at the July Meeting. One (1) card per membership.

Find us on **facebook**
www.wgso.org
wgsomembership@gmail.com

Mailing Label