



October Meeting

2:30 pm

Westdale Elementary

2000 College Drive

The Water Spout

Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society Newsletter

October, 2001

Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society, Founded June 1993

Officers

President: Margaret Mercier,
Ph: 753-0880 (h) 926-5421 (w)
926-9885 (fax) mmercier@louisiana.com

President-Elect:

Secretary: Danna Spayde, Ph: 383-3554
orchidnut_2000@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Kathleen Smith, Ph: 275-8122

Newsletter Editor: Lance Beecher,
Ph: 769-0253 (h) 578-9172 (w)
578-8662 (fax) lbeeche@lsu.edu

Meeting Dates for 2001

October 28, 2001

December 2, 2001 (Christmas Party)

Keep these dates in mind and plan to attend the meetings. The Society can only get better if everyone participates, so get involved. Locations will be in the monthly Newsletter.

Minutes for August Meeting

President Margaret Mercier at the home of Don & Duffy Johnson called meeting to order, with a large number of members present. It was announced that we need volunteers are needed for Clegg's Open House on October 14. A sign up sheet was available. Membership directories were distributed. Pat and Rodney Adams were thanked for assembling the directories. The directories will be mailed as soon as possible to those who weren't present.

Charbel Harb offered to show his pond on the Tour. He lives only a few blocks from the Johnsons so we would have these two ponds close together. His offer was accepted. He also offered some financial sponsorship of the Tour, and these details will be worked out prior to the Tour. Danna will be on WJBO Garden Show with Harb on Sept. 8 to help publicize the Tour.

There will be no meeting in September because the Tour is on our meeting date. Volunteers are still needed to be at the sites, and a sign up sheet was provided. Danna reported that plans for the Tour are proceeding nicely. Members were urged to participate and publicize the Tour to their friends and family. Tickets are being distributed for advance sales, and we hope to have a large number of participants this year.

Don Johnson told us about their beautiful pond. He and Duffy, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, have been involved with designing and building their pond for twenty-five years. Their 5,000 gallon pond, the highlight of their back yard, is now of free form, irregular shape and 2.5' deep at its deepest point in the center. With sloping sides, it has planting shelves at the apexes of the curves and a waterfall made from laid up flat stones with rubber liner backing. The pond liner is EPDM rubber on vermiculite cement. A one hp swimming pool pump and main filter keep the pond water circulating. And clean. Filter medium is DVC rock and pea gravel. The intake filter is a 60 qt. crawfish boiler filled with lava rock. An 80-watt ultraviolet light system installed on the total return flow keeps the pond algae free and sparkling clear. The pond is stocked with goldfish and koi and planted with water lilies and other aquatic plants.

After hearing about the Johnson's pond, the meeting moved to the home of Rita and Don Sibley, who are also on the Tour. They are located on Keed Ave., just a short distance from Government St. It's hard to believe that the Sibley's beautiful back yard with pond is almost brand new. Last April they removed a deck and a big oak tree and installed a pond and arbor. The pond, in the corner of the yard, is 11' x 16' and is fed by a stream. It provides a

lovely home for koi, goldfish, and various aquatic plants. Landscape plantings of tree fern, persimmon tree, ginger, and other tropical type plants enhance the overall look of the yard, the design of which was a joint effort of the Sibleys and Harb's Oasis. The yard and architecture are unique and a pleasure to see.

Meeting adjourned after visiting the Sibleys.

Respectfully Submitted
Danna Spayde, Secretary

Pond Tour

The pond tour was a success. The weather held out for us and we had a wonderful crowd that came out to visit our ponds and water gardens. We had some wonderful people join the society that went on the tour and also had some lucky people win the prizes that were raffled off. The money is still being counted and the total donation to Volunteers for Public Schools will be announced at the Christmas Party.

The winners of the raffle are:
Cypress Glider- Hermine O'Quin

Garden Statue- Judy Sanchez

Tony Jr's Gift Certificate- Ellis Sisk

1 Year Society Membership- Ida Langlois

Mall of LA Gift Certificate- Frannie Easterly

Bird Bath- Lorraine Baca

Society Tote Bag and Koi Food- Louise Calloway

Welcome New Members

I wanted to take some time to welcome some of our newest members to the Society.

Glenda Fetzer of Jackson, LA
Angelle & Brad Chaney of Zachary, LA
Herb & Beverly Goodman of BR, LA
Philip "Blue" Bergeron of BR, LA
Ida Langlois of Bueche, LA

In Remembrance

Memories of Sarah Sue Goldsmith
by Danna Spayde

Some of you probably noted in the paper that Sarah Sue Goldsmith died of cancer on September 23rd. At the time of death she was Assistant Director of the LSU Office of Media Relations, a position she had held since 1997. Prior to that time she was Books Editor for The Advocate.

If you attended our June birthday meeting and heard me talk about the founding of CAPWGS, you may remember that I have always felt indebted to Sarah Sue for helping get the Society off to a good start. After several attempts over an extended period of time, I had been totally unsuccessful in getting a society started. It was an article by Sarah Sue about ponds and koi in the Sunday Magazine of The Advocate that gave us the impetus we needed to get started. At the end of the article she put a box stating that I was trying to start a club and asking interested people to phone me. The result was that I got numerous phone calls and was able to set up an organizational meeting at the home of the people who were featured in her article. And the rest, as they say, is history. I don't know if she ever realized how important she was to our beginnings, but because of her help in getting us going, the community has benefited in many ways, i.e. our financial donations to charity, our help with the Metamorphosis Garden, our educational programs at meetings, our efforts to educate the community about the fun and joys of water gardening. She gave us a good example of how activities that we might consider routine and "just doing our job" can have large repercussions. I'm sure we are just a small example of her many contributions to our community during her all too short lifetime.

Although I don't remember if Sarah Sue was a charter member of the Society, I do know that she was a member for two or three of our early years and was always very supportive. I didn't know her well personally, but I do know that she was a fine person and will be missed in the

community. We join her family and friends in mourning her passing.

Christmas Party

The Holiday Season will be upon us before we know it, and we have already started making arrangements for our annual Christmas Party. It will be on December 2nd, and there will be no Society meeting in November. We combine the November and December meetings because the Holiday Season is so busy for everyone. Our party will be at the same place at LSU as it was last year. Be sure to mark December 2 on your calendar now. You don't want to miss this event!

A Special Thanks

A special thanks to Bridget Hayes for helping out at Clegg's on Greenwell Springs and John & Julie Newman, Margaret Mercier, and Danna Spayde for helping out at Clegg's on Siegen Lane. The society appreciates the support and hopes that in the future others will lend a hand to help the society become stronger.

Article

Getting Ready for Winter

Here's a checklist of things to do to make sure that you and your pond are all set for the cold winter months ahead.

by Sue Speichert

Your Pond

1. Clean all the crud out of your pond. No algae. No fish waste. No leaves from trees or plants. All of this will decompose in the bottom of the pond during the winter. As it breaks down it will draw precious oxygen out of the pond water, robbing it from fish and other aquatic wildlife. Decaying organic matter is also prime ground for harmful bacteria, parasites, and protozoa to spend the winter. During a

warm spell, they can quickly attack your fish before your fish's immune system is prepared to fight them off. You'll have a pond full of stinky, slimy sludge as well as sick and poorly fish. Is this the way to you want to start your spring?

2. Consider whether you want to vacuum out the scum in the bottom of the pond, or whether you should drain and clean the pond instead. Generally, it's advisable to drain and clean the pond if there's more than 2 inches or so of debris in the bottom. Set up a kiddie pool with clean pond water to hold your fish and make sure to put a net over it to keep the fish from jumping out. You can use spare pond water to hold your water plants in temporary quarters, too. If you just vacuum out the pond and do a partial water change, or if you do a pond drain, clean-up and refill, make sure to add dechlorinator so your fish won't be harmed by the chlorine and heavy metals in the new tap water.

3. Clean up around the pond, too. Leaves and other plant debris that's left on the edge can make its way into the pond. Insects and other harmful organisms can overwinter in the dead vegetation and wreak havoc on your pond plants once warm weather returns.

4. If you're in an area with lots of trees, put netting over your pond to catch the leaves before they fall into your pond. Try to use the largest weave possible, so that frogs aren't suddenly left out of the pond or aren't caught in it. You can use a floating plastic ball to hold the net out of the water. For better support, use wooden planks or plastic rods to hold the netting. Clean off fallen leaves often. It's no use to have netting if the leaves are still going to lie in the water, steeping like tea leaves.

5. Take a weekly measurement of your water quality. If it's off, you'll want to fix it now. The last thing you want is green water in the fall going into winter. The algae will die and decompose in the pond during the winter, drawing oxygen that your fish and wildlife need to survive. Come spring, you'll have a real mess on your hands.

Pumps and Filters

1. Check your pump and clean it of any debris. Clean the pre-filter, and replace it if it's worn so you'll be ready for spring. Make sure the cord and plug are in good working order, and check your tubing and hoses too. Be sure the clamps are tight and the seals are secure and waterproof. Who wants to be out fixing a leaky hose in the middle of January?

2. Check your filters and filtering system and clean them out thoroughly. You don't need to store all that gunk during the long months of winter. It's fertile ground for a whole host of pests, parasites, and bacteria that can infect and harm your fish, especially when their immune system is reduced during the winter and spring. The decaying organic material also draws up important oxygen that would otherwise be used by your fish.

3. When to close down your pond for the winter is a matter of personal preference. In areas that have ice only occasionally, there may be no need to close down the pond at all. Simply turning off the pump to any fountains or waterfalls during very cold spells will be sufficient. The filtering system can be left intact, turned off during brief periods of very cold weather, and then restarted when the warm weather returns.

Fish

1. The best way to help your fish through the winter is to make sure they're well fed and healthy during the summer. Take stock of their appearance. Make sure they're free of disease and parasites. If they're ill, take care of it now. By winter it will be too late.

2. Switch to a low-protein, high carbohydrate food when the water temperature dips below 65 F. Low-protein food is good because it's easier for them to digest. It also helps them store up the body fat that they'll use to overwinter without feeding. Feed the fish a little less every day, gradually cutting back their intake. Once the pond temperature is consistently below 50F, cease

feeding them all together, regardless of how much they may appear to beg for food.

Plants

1. Trim back dead foliage and remove spent flowers. There's no reason to leave the debris to fall into the pond where it will rot for the winter.

2. Stop fertilizing plants about 3 weeks before the average frost date in your area. You want the plants to harden off for winter, which they'll do more readily once you withhold fertilizer. Even tropicals, which you're going to bring indoors, will benefit from a respite in food this time of year.

3. Take tender water plants indoors if you live in a winter-freeze climate. Before a hard freeze place tropical marginals in a warm, sunny room with their pots in a saucer of water, so that the water will wick into the soil and keep the plant moist for the winter. Tropical waterlilies will need supplement light and water that's at least 65 F for the winter, as will tender waterlily-like plants. Water hyacinth and water lettuce can be over wintered by keeping them warm (65F) and giving them supplemental light for 14 to 16 hours a day. Remove tropical oxygenators such as anacharis, since they will simply die and decompose in the depths of the pond during the winter.

let me know and I will post them in this section.
Thanks.

Happy reading.

Lance Beecher
Newsletter Editor

Internet Interests

<http://www.watergardening.com>

Water Gardening Magazine

<http://www.koi.com>

If you want to know more about koi this is the spot

www.pondguys.com

Info and supplies

www.clear-lake.com/family/pond1.html

***If you know of any interesting web pages that will benefit other society members, please

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