



April Meeting

Earth Day Celebration
North Blvd

April 21, 2002
2:30 pm

The Water Spout

Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society Newsletter

April, 2002

Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society, Founded June 1993

OFFICERS

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Meeting Dates for 2002

April 21, 2002
May 19, 2002
June 23, 2002
July 28, 2002
August 25, 2002
September 22, 2002
October 27, 2002

December 1, 2002 (**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.

March Minutes

The March meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. at the Goodwood Library with President Margaret Mercier presiding. We had been invited to meet at the Library as a part of its special Garden Month schedule for March. The Library publicized the event to the public, and fifteen guests were present, along with 16 members.

Prior to the start of the meeting Margaret showed a Power Point program about the Metamorphosis Garden at Westdale Elementary School. This program showed Society members helping to clean out the pond at the Garden on March 9, as well as other Garden related activities.

Program

Because we had many visitors, the program was presented before the business meeting. Margaret discussed the Society's purpose and activities and invited the guests to join us. Membership brochures were distributed to each guest, and guests were invited to give their names and tell us something about their experiences with ponds. These ranged from not knowing what to do with a pre-formed pond sitting in a garage to a finished, landscaped pond - and everything in between.

Lance Beecher gave a talk on pond construction and water gardening basics, emphasizing areas of consideration prior to building a pond. Mike Christensen then discussed koi for the pond. Both speakers showed interesting slides to make their points.

After the presentations guests were invited to remain for the business meeting and again invited to become members.

Minutes & Treasurer's Report

Minutes of February meeting were approved as published in newsletter. There was no Treasurer's report. Danna reported that several renewal memberships have come in since last meeting, and that money has not yet been turned over to Treasurer. New members include Debbie Lillo and Tommy Daigle.

Announcements

1. Regretfully we have accepted the immediate resignation of Don Johnson from the position of Vice-President. We would like to have a volunteer for that position. Taking the position does not mean that the incumbent will automatically become President next year. We are very sorry to see Don go.

2. **On April 6** the Botanical Garden will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale. For the first time this year we will sell aquatic plants at our table. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Margaret will be in charge of our participation. Hours are 8 to 2.

3. **On April 6 & 7** we will have a table at the Mall of Louisiana Plant and Landscape Festival. Hours are noon to 6, with set up time starting at 10 a.m. Danna will lead our participation in this event, for which volunteers are needed.

4. **April 13** is the date of the Seed and Plant Swap at Westdale Elementary. Members were invited to come and bring seeds and plants.

5. **April 21** is Earth Day, and we will hold our April meeting at that event that afternoon at 2:30. We will set up our large pond exhibit, and we need many volunteers to help with this effort. Those

who can help should meet at Westdale Elementary at 7 a.m. to load all our paraphernalia and proceed to North Blvd. Contact Margaret if you can help. After the set up we can relax in the Earth Friendly Habitat exhibit and/or visit the other Earth Day exhibits. Help will also be needed to take down the exhibit at 5 p.m. Please note that this date is the 3rd Sunday of April, not our regular meeting date of the 4th Sunday

6. On **June 1 and 2** we will participate in the Tour for the Cure. We will need volunteers to be at the homes of our members who are on the Tour to recruit new members. There may also be other ways that we can help make this Tour a success. All proceeds will go the Woman's Hospital Cancer Research.

7. We will have some kind of event on the **4th Sunday of September**, but it may be something besides a Tour or in addition to a Tour. The Executive Committee is working on ideas for an event. Suggestions from members are very welcome.

Newsletter Report

Lance asked for suggestions for newsletter articles. Pat and Rodney Adams requested information on leeches, as they recently found some on a plant in their pond. Lance will try to find information on this subject for the April *Water Spout*.

May Meeting Date

Members were reminded that our May meeting will also be on the 3rd Sunday, as the 4th Sunday falls on Memorial Day Holiday Weekend. We voted to make that change at the February meeting.

Other Business

There has recently been some informal discussion among members about the possibility of having two Society meetings per month so that there would not be such a gap in contact if one misses the regular 4th Sunday meeting. Margaret asked for some discussion on this subject. While it seems to be a good idea, the major problem would be whether or not people have time for two meetings. It was suggested that a second meeting, if held, should be scheduled at some other day and time rather than Sunday. Perhaps an evening meeting on a weeknight would work, maybe even a dinner meeting. Nothing was decided on this issue today, but the Executive Committee will look into the matter and bring it back to the membership for further discussion and action at a meeting in the near future.

Keith Baker announced that he had fertilizer tablets available.

Danna asked for help in getting some Society tee shirts made and keeping us supplied with membership brochures for the various events we participate in. She has always done these things but now needs some help. The two Christensen families volunteered to take on these responsibilities.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danna S. Spayde
Secretary

Interesting Info

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/waterres/Bugs/Leeches.htm>

At the last meeting Pat and Rodney Adams and some others wanted some info on leeches. Occasionally you will find one in your pond, if the fish didn't find it first. They are part of the ecosystem and a sign of a balanced system. Here is some info and interesting facts on leeches for you to read.

Habitat

Primarily fresh water

Marine

Terrestrial

Locomotion

Leeches can swim using undulations of the body. They can also move along a substrate by attaching and releasing their anterior and posterior suckers (see diagram below).

Feeding

Leeches prey on other small invertebrates, and parasitize larger vertebrates. Leeches generally attach themselves to their meal with their anterior sucker, and some may evert a protrusible proboscis from their mouth into their prey. Others may use strong jaws to cut into through the tissues of their prey. Most leeches secrete an anti-coagulant into the wound to prevent the fluids (i.e. blood) from clotting. The anti-coagulate is "hirudin", and has been studied extensively for medical purposes.

Leeches will pump the fluids from their prey until they are gorged (swelling 2 to 10 times their normal size). After a full meal, some leeches can fast for up to several months.

Circulation and Gas Exchange

Circulatory fluids carry nutrients and wastes and hormones throughout the body sinuses of the leech (some leeches have

some vessels). No respiratory pigments are found in the blood, thus most gas exchange occurs across the body wall.

Reproduction

Leeches can only reproduce sexually, and are not capable of regeneration (unlike some other worms). Leeches are monoecious, that is they have both male and female sexual organs. Mutual sperm transfer occurs between different individuals (usually through a penile organ), with sperm being stored in a special organ called seminal receptacles until fertilization occurs. Copulation may last for several hours. Afterwards, both individuals deposit their eggs and partner's sperm into a cocoon, where fertilization occurs.

Leeches breed in the spring, and young leeches break out of their cocoons within several weeks. Leeches grow for a season, and are mature by the following spring.

Ecology

Leeches usually stay near the shallow regions of their aquatic habitats. They also tend to swim near the substrate to avoid risk of predation.

The main predators of leeches are fish, turtles, possibly some birds. As mentioned, leeches also prey (parasitize) numerous species of fish, reptiles, and mammals.

Evolutionary Perspective

Of the three Classes that compose the Phylum Annelida, the Class Hirudinae (leeches) diverged from primitive Oligochaetes (Earthworms) after the ancestor branched from the more primitive Class Polychaeta (Polychaetes) ancestor.

It is generally believed that an ancestral freshwater Oligocheate gave rise to the early leeches. While many leech species remained in fresh water habitats, others invaded both marine and terrestrial environments.

Facts

Did you know that leeches like garlic ? A scientific study that used leeches as a model of vampire feeding

Did you know a leech has 32 brains! Actually, these brains are suprpharyngeal and suprpharyngeal ganglia.

The word "leech" came into use early in the history of the English language and for most of its history has had two distinct meanings: the blood-sucking worm often used for medical purposes, and a physician (for using these worms I guess...).

Leeches were originally used by "doctors" in bloodletting their patients, whose disease could best be described as having "bad blood".

Today, leeches are used extensively in "biosurgery"...where patients may have the chance to get skin infections due to bad circulation to the area in question.

If you find a leech on you, the best thing you can do is let it finished feeding. It will "let go" by itself then. Some people pull them off, or try to burn them off with cigarettes...this may lead to an infection, and anyway - smoking is bad for you.

A Special Thanks

We need to thank all the volunteers who worked on the Westdale cleanup, the Botanical Garden, and the Mall of Louisiana.

Westdale

Danna, Lance, James Carter, Don Johnson, Mary Beth Guidry, Margaret, Keith Baker, Kiwanis Club volunteers

Botanical Gardens

Margaret, Danna, Lance, Rodney & Pat Adams, Bridget Hayes, Nellie Carter, Jilyana Cazarán, Betty Klenke

Mall of La.

Danna, Mary Beth Guidry, Kathy Christensen, Rodney & Pat Adams

Remember this Weekend

Earth Day is scheduled on April 21, and we will set up our big pond exhibit like last year. We need several volunteers to help with setting it up in the morning. We will meet at Westdale Elementary Sunday morning at 7:30 am to help load up and then head over to North Blvd.

Since Earth Day falls on our regular meeting date for April, we will have our meeting there - on North Blvd under our tent at 2:30. The educational program will be Earth Day. Baton Rouge has one of the nation's largest Earth Day events with many educational exhibits for us to enjoy and learn from. Our exhibit will be under a 20' x 20' tent. Check out the flyer included in the newsletter.

Happy reading.

**Lance Beecher
Newsletter Editor**

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