



Meet here  
at 2:30 → **August Meeting**  
**Julie & John Newman's Home**  
12604 Country Ridge Ave  
753-6767

**Kathleen & Roger Dietrich's Home**  
647 Gloria Dr  
276-4161

**August 25, 2002 2:30 pm**

# The Water Spout

## Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society Newsletter

August, 2002

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Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society, Founded June 1993

[www.capwgs.org](http://www.capwgs.org)

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### OFFICERS

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### Meeting Dates for 2002

#### Monthly Meetings

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.

#### Tuesday Programs

October 8, 2002  
November 12, 2002

## July Minutes

### Opening & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. by President Margaret Mercier at Sherwood Manor Nursing Home. The nursing home's pond will be featured on our September 22nd Tour. This pond and waterfall occupy a large portion of the home's lobby area and is very pretty. A stream runs under deck areas where chairs are placed so guests can visit with friends and family by the pond and watch the fish. Our meeting was held in the dining room.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as published in The Water Spout. There was no financial report in the Treasurer's absence. However, our previous balance of \$2,230.92, as reported in June, has changed very little.

### Announcements

The Tuesday night meeting for this month will be on the 13th at James & Ruth Carter's home in Denham Springs. Program will be a demonstration by Bridget Hayes & Betty Klenke on how to build a home made skimmer.

We have learned that former member Sonny Rodriguez has been quite ill lately. Some of his friends might like to contact him.

Fundraising Event in September Lance reported on the plans for the September event as follows.

The Planning Committee meets every Monday evening and welcomes input from the membership. The Committee has named the event the South Louisiana

Water Gardening Clinic and Ninth Annual Tour of Ponds.

We are seeking sponsorships for the event, and we are asking members to assist in this effort. Sponsorship proposal sheets were available for members to take with them to recruit sponsors. Any kind of business is ok. It doesn't have to be a garden center or water gardening business. The sponsorship information and payments must be in by August 20 to give us enough time to prepare the ticket booklet and get it ready for distribution by Sept. 1.

Volunteers are needed for various jobs at the event. Sheets were put out for members to sign up. The various types of jobs were described.

It has been decided to include the jambalaya lunch in the price of the tickets for the event. Advance tickets will be \$20, and tickets bought at the door will be \$25. Members who volunteer and work at the Saturday Clinic can attend the sessions at no charge except \$5 for their jambalaya lunch. Members can attend the Tour on Sunday for free.

Tickets for the Tour will be available for persons who want to attend it only, and not the Saturday Clinic. These tickets will be sold only at the Newman's home for \$15 during the Tour hours of 1-5 p.m. The Committee is now recommending that scholarship funds not be limited to LSU students only but to make them available to students in aquaculture, horticulture, landscaping, and related fields at any college or university.

Society tee shirts are available, and we encourage members to wear them when volunteering at the Clinic and Tour. They

are \$15 each and can be ordered from Danna.

### Web Page

Bridget Hayes reported that she is working on a web page for us and hopes to have it up by next month's meeting. Once the web page is complete, the newsletter will be posted to it each month. Members who are currently receiving it by e-mail will need to check the web page to get it and will no longer get an individual e-mail. It can be printed off the web page. Those without computers will continue to get it by snail mail.

Margaret expressed our appreciation to Bridget for voluntarily taking this job on. It's something we've needed for a long time. Bridget is also considering taking over the job of newsletter editor.

### Program

There was no program presentation since we were visiting ponds today. Everyone present had the opportunity to take a good look at the nursing home's pond. The group then traveled to Keith and Shirley Baker's house on Shakespeare to see their pond.

Unfortunately, we had one of those famous "failures to communicate" and got to the Baker's to find no one at home, although we thought they knew we would be there today. The group went into the back yard and admired the pond and yard, which both looked beautiful, and left very soon. We later learned that the Bakers and the Emory's were on a three-week vacation together in Alaska! We regret the mix-up and will not let that kind of thing happen again in the future. We

appreciate the Baker's understanding of the situation.

Keith reported that they had a great vacation trip.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danna S. Spayde  
Secretary

## Tuesday Night Meetings

Thanks to James & Ruth Carter for hosting the Tuesday night meeting on August 13. Bridget & Betty did a great job showing us how to build a skimmer, and we were able to tour the Carter's ponds and see how he built his waterfall. Eighteen members attended and many of us took home a new plant or two.

There will not be a Tuesday night meeting in September because we'll be so busy getting ready for the Clinic and Tour.

The October meeting will be on the 8th at Sandy Lux's, 6935 LaSalle Ave. At that meeting Sandy will demonstrate how to build rocks.

There are no definite plans for November yet. If you'd like to host the meeting on November 12, please let Danna know. Also we need ideas for a program for that meeting.

Remember, there won't be a Society meeting in November because of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Our Christmas party will be on December 1.

## Feature Article

### HOT WEATHER POND TIPS

By Ray Jordan  
TKFGS member

I have had several phone calls recently about pond problems that were directly related to our summer heat. It is *the "Dog Days of Summer"* already and the heat can be a real problem for you, your pond, and your fish. So what are some of the things you need to know and can do to help your pond and its inhabitants thrive during the summer?

**1** The biggest hazard to your fish in the warmer months is low oxygen levels. Air breathing creatures like us live in an oxygen rich environment that is about 21% oxygen. However the amount of oxygen dissolved in water is so small it is measured in parts per million. At 90 degrees Fahrenheit only about 7.0 parts per million of dissolved oxygen can be maintained in fresh water. It would take a lot of aeration to get your ponds oxygen to near saturation levels. 7.0 ppm is about 50,000 times less oxygen than found in the air we breathe. At elevations above sea level the amount of oxygen would be even less. There is really very little cushion when you consider that koi and goldfish become stressed at oxygen levels of 4.0 ppm and start dying at 3.0 ppm. Hopefully, this gives you some appreciation of how important aeration is to your fish.

Also, remember that the beneficial bacteria that live in your filter are dependent on the amount of oxygen in the water to thrive and do their job of converting ammonia to nitrites and nitrates. Therefore low oxygen levels would suppress the "good" bacteria and let ammonia levels increase to potentially dangerous levels.

Finally, the aquatic submerged plants in your pond are both beneficial and detrimental to oxygen levels. During the day green plants produce oxygen. However, at night, these same plants consume oxygen and compete

with your fish for the limited supply of oxygen in the water. This is why fish kills usually happen in the early morning hours. For this reason you should measure your oxygen levels in the early morning.

Sadly, I have had several calls already this year where pond owners have had fish die because of low oxygen levels. As you can guess these fish kills are a cascade of events that can finally result in a disaster. A combination of warmer water, faster plant growth, and a growing biomass of fish finally cause the oxygen level to drop to the point where fish are stressed enough to get sick or start dying.

OK! Now you know the problems of low oxygen levels. So how do you measure your pond's oxygen level and correct it if needed. The easiest method is to buy an oxygen test kit. Be sure to get one for fresh water. You fill a test tube with pond water to a predetermined level and then add a reagent and match the color to a chart. You also, need to know your pond's water temperature to determine how "saturated" your pond is with oxygen. The goal is to approach the saturation point at a given water temperature. Also, you should place additional air stones in your pond during the hottest summer months. If your current air pump does not allow you to add more air stones consider buying another small two outlet air pump to allow you to add more air stones for the hottest summer months. Remember, if your electricity goes off for some reason during the hottest summer months you will have much less time before the oxygen is depleted from your water if the oxygen level was not at maximum saturation already.

**2** You need to do what you can to keep your pond water temperature from getting above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. You can assume your fish are stressed if your water temperature goes over 90 degrees or your pond temperature changes by more than +/- 5

degrees during the day. Find a way to shade your pond from the hottest part of the afternoon sun. Plant a tall hedge on the west side of your pond or place some tall pot plants to help provide some relief. Consider building an arbor over your pond or a trellis to help provide some shade. If you have water lilies try to get about 50% - 60% of the water surface covered. Increase your water circulation. Also, if you have an outside filter system for your pond try to create some shade for it as well. Perhaps you could build a trellis or plant a hedge that could act not only as a sunscreen but also hide the filter from view for the rest of the year. If you have a waterfall or fountain increase the water flow if you can. If your fountain can be adjusted try for a fine mist type effect. Maybe this is the time to consider getting a larger water pump. This will promote evaporation, which will have an additional cooling effect. Another method to cool the area around your pond is to use one of the "mist-er" products you might have noticed at some restaurants and amusement parks. We have one that we bought at Home Depot for about \$13. You hook the mist-er to a garden hose and it has several tiny outlets that create a very fine almost fog like mist that can cool the immediate area by up to twenty degrees. This mist-er could be placed on a timer to come on for an hour or so every afternoon in the hottest part of the day. A side benefit to this is you can be more comfortable and able to enjoy your pond on even the hottest afternoons. Several years ago we went on a summer pond tour in Florida and every backyard used these misters to cool the area. The amount of water they use is very minimal. Perhaps a few gallons an hour at most.

**3** Reduce the amount of food you feed and also reduce feedings to only once or twice a day. Try to feed in the morning or late evening when the water temperature is lower. Remember optimum water temperature for koi and goldfish is between 74 and 78 degrees. Once your water temperature goes above that level

over feeding your fish can cause additional problems with ammonia levels and oxygen depletion.

**4** Warmer water temperatures can also mean increased parasites. Just like fleas prosper in warmer weather fish also can be infested with parasites such as anchor worms, fish lice or flukes. Anchor worms and fish lice can be seen without a microscope but flukes cannot. Just be aware that this is the prime time of the year for those pests to appear and torment your fish.

In spite of the heat with the proper attention to details the summer months can be the most enjoyable for the year for your pond. The lilies are in full bloom, dragonflies and other critters abound. ***(Remember to fertilize your lilies every 2-3 weeks to get maximum blooms)***

I hope that this article will help you have a problem free summer. I guess the heat is the price we pay for our wonderful snow free winters. As far as I know no one has ever had to shovel sunshine.

## Exciting News

Ah, got you again. Once again, we will be discussing the September event that the society will conduct. Betty, Bridget, Danna, Mary Beth, and myself have spent a lot of time on planning this event. I think it will be very successful and received well by the public. We still need more volunteers and if you know anyone that would be willing to donate a door prize that would be great. We will have sign up sheets so that members can volunteer. We hope to get the help of the society so that this can be a wonderful event. So come out Sunday and hear what is going on. Thanks and have a good day.

Ok, I do have some good news. Bridget has put together a web page for the society. The address is [www.capwgs.org](http://www.capwgs.org). It has all the info you ever wanted to know about the pond society at your fingertips. So go ahead and bookmark it to have handy. Bridget would like you to go explore and give her some feedback. Use the contact button for your feedback

## Internet Interests

<http://www.koivet.com/>

Info on disease topics for aquatic animals

<http://www.pondkeeper.com/>

Pondkeeper Magazine

<http://www.watergardening.com/>

Water Gardening Magazine

<http://www.stretcher.com/stories/01/010625b.cfm>

Money Saving Tips for Ponds

\*\*\*\*If you know of any interesting web pages that will benefit other society members, please let me know and I will post them in this section. Thanks.

Happy reading.  
Lance Beecher  
Newsletter Editor

## Driving Directions:

Here is a map that shows the location of the Newman's home. Country Ridge Ave is located off Stumburg Lane. Stumburg lane runs between Coursey and Old Jefferson. See you there.



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