

Highlights

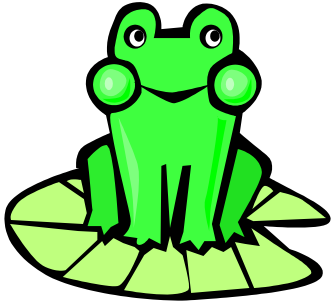
Pg. 1 A New Kind of Filter??

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Meeting

August 10th at 7:30 P.M. at Gene & Camilla Satterfield's Garden 524 N. Skyline Lane Stillwater, OK

From 6th & Perkins, go north on Perkins to McElroy, turn east on McElroy to Skyline Lane, turn right (south) on Skyline Lane, 524 is on the east side of the street.



What's Up Under The Lily Pad

Such a nice time—we had at the Harland Wells garden. The food was great, even folks who were on the South Beach Diet found plenty of “Pot Luck” to satisfy their appetites without resulting to contraband. Thank you so much Harland and friends for all your hospitality.

We will be at the garden of **Chris and Camilla Satterfield on August 10th**. Their garden is pictured below. We will start a half hour later (at 7:30 p.m.) to accommodate the program on “Lighting To Make Your Garden Glow” by **Prairie’s Edge**



Landscaping. Our president said a lot of folks are looking forward to this program. So be one who comes to see how Mira Weeks can put a little light on the subject.

See pg. 2 for even more August activity.

Dues R Due \$10/Family. Send to Sally

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Our Phoenix Friends give us new insight. Article submitted by Dan Stough, President, Greater Phoenix Pond Society for the Stillwater Water Garden Society.

For the last 5 years my wife Caryl and I have been building and keeping 3 ponds in our Arizona back yard. This last winter I enlarged one of my ponds making a number of changes.

The pond liner was replaced with a new EPDM 45 mil liner sized for the new dimensions. The volume was doubled to almost 500 gallons, the depth was increased to almost 3 feet and a long overhanging shelf was placed over the water surface to provide much needed shade for the 10 medium sized goldfish. This above ground pond now had approximately 40-percent of the total volume below ground to help modulate the daily temperature fluctuations we see here in Phoenix.

I used the same bio-filter, which was a 3-year old Cyprio-Hozelock Green Machine 1000.



pictured here www.pondsonlinecanada.com/filter3b.htm

The filter had worked fairly well in the past in this same location. This is a trickle down filter comprised of a spray bar, brushes, and bio-foam sleeves over 4 vertical perforated stand-pipes. The water then passes downward to a separate lower chamber and passes through bio-balls and then out to the pond. The more sludge that builds up on the vertical risers, the

more efficient the bio-filtration becomes. I added an off-the-shelf bio-starter solution made for aquariums.

We had two water lilies in the main part of the pond and blooming water iris' in baskets nested in long plastic planters positioned on the overhead shelf. Some pumped water was diverted through the iris planters and it drains straight down to the pond from there. This provided additional vegetation filtration through the iris roots.

In the past, we had encountered some algae problems briefly in the early spring each year. Usually it was filamentous algae or some cloudiness. We have come to find that this is a common occurrence, and the water usually clears up when the plants get going.

Everything was nice and clear for two months until the end of March. Then a nearby olive tree started to bloom. A couple of days of stiff winds managed to blow a modicum of pollen into the pond and within four days the pond turned bright green. The blooming process continued until a mysterious accident happened to the limb that overhung my fence. Pity, I would miss that limb.

I then proceeded to do a 50-percent water change and added some Ammonia Fix to completely eliminate any possibility of ammonia or nitrite in the pond. This had no effect on the algae though, which was still solid green.

I then added some AlgaeFix. This product was touted by other GPPS club members to eliminate Chlorella (green water algae) and Cladophora (string and hair algae) without hurting plants or fish. I continued this for about 3 weeks and there was no sign of clearing up. I even tried another 50-percent water change and there was still no end to the green pea soup. AAARGH.

TIME TO GET SERIOUS

Since there was still some minor debris being blown into the pond, I decided to install an in-pond surface skimmer. I bought it from Aquatic Ecosystems for \$45

See also: www.aquaticceco.com

This skimmer is set up to adjust vertically with changing water surface elevations. I had to rig up a 2-inch diameter short vertical riser pipe to the bottom of the skimmer. The riser pipe connected to a tee on a horizontal 2-inch pipe with 500-gpm pumps on each end. The combined draw of the two pumps was 1000-gpm, which was enough to make the skimmer function correctly. Each pump discharged into different places at the other end of the pond.

I also placed an air-stone in the corner of the pond, just behind the skimmer. This served to draw water up from the very bottom and directly into the skimmer. I also added a UV clarifier just before the inflow connection of the bio-filter. This new 20-amp bulb was supposed to cause the single celled green algae to clump, which would make for more complete algae removal in the bio-filter.

I wanted to be sure that the filter got a good boost to consume the increased algae load. So I added some ABA, which is just a bacterial starter solution for the bio-filter. The difference between this product and the off-the-shelf bacterial

starter from Petco was that the ABA had a freshness date on it. This way I could insure that there was living bio-mass in the bottle.

Within a week of the skimmer, UV clarifier, and the ABA, I finally started seeing the bottom of the pond. As the water clarity increased, I noticed that there were 4 or 5 new little goldfish. A nice surprise indeed.

The things that I learned were:

1. Be sure to use a skimmer when there is blowing debris into the pond.
2. Be sure there is complete circulation of all the pond water through the bio-filter.
3. Be sure the bio-filter has fresh, living bacteria.
4. Be sure there is actually a bulb in the UV clarifier.



Photo Contest Have you snapped your picture yet? **Stuart Harrison of the Stillwater Art Guild will be our judge. He said "If you have a water garden you ought to be proud of it and photography is just another way of showing it off."**

Stuart will be at our August meeting to give a short presentation on what he looks for in a photograph. He said "digital" is fine. You can use any tool your software has or you can be a purist and not use any tools at all or use film. The subject material must be SWGS water gardens only. Print outs must be 8x10 size and either dry-mounted or framed. Dry mounted means it is attached to a foam board. Hobby Lobby uses a product called Fusion 4000 to do this. I don't know if you can do it yourself. I believe Kinko's does it too. Write your name, category, subject description, and any photographic information you wish to divulge on an index card taped to the back of the photo. Each photo will be marked with a number and the judge will refer to those numbers when voting. The photos will be judged for Composition, Clarity, Originality, and Subject Matter. The name cards will not be divulged until the votes are in. Best of Show will be voted on by the entire viewing membership at the September meeting. **The 3 categories will be: 1) Plant or Animal Life, 2) Humor, 3) Sculpture or Natural Landscapes.** Pictures may be in color or black and white. You may enter any category, but only one picture in each category you choose. Photos will be judged at our September meeting and must be in by 9 p.m. Monday, September 13th. to Sharral Tye 2412 Countryside Drive, Stw. **Our Tuesday, September 14th meeting will also be our elections. Please read on to the next page.**

Help us out.....We need some information....

Name: _____

Best Phone # to reach you _____

If you would like to help SWGS, tell us how you would consider doing that by clicking on the following choices.

Will you consider an office? Y ☺ N ☹

I prefer _____
Name of office

Will you consider being on a committee? Y ☺ N ☹

I prefer the following committee (s)/position (s):

Home Show Water garden tour Community project

Activity planning Newsletter Nominating

Committee Head

Committee Member

My forte is: Planning Mechanical pumps/filters/building Décor

Food Plants Fish Critters Water Quality Word

Processing Calling People Finding Prizes Other

Thank you for your information.

Click on submit to email this form to

lily@stillwaterwatergardens.org

Submit (for members)

Submit (for non-members)

Someone will contact you.