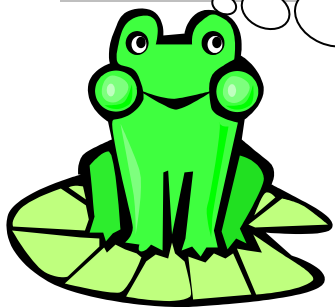


Highlights

- Elections
- Lights Camera Click Photo Contest

Meeting

Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Joe & Betty Mize's garden. Rain or shine. 1511 N. Glenwood. in Stillwater.
 From Main (Boomer) and Husband, travel north on Husband to Georgia. Turn east on Gerorgia to Glenwood. Then south on Glenwood to the last house on the east side of the road.



We have a slate of officers for next year. However, nominations can still be made from the floor at our September meeting.

What's Up Under The Lily Pad

Look out; a lightning strike to your computer while logged on can be dangerous to its health.

I speak from a very painful experience. Praise the Lord; I still have my email address book. I just hope nothing else goes wrong with my CPU and you all get this E-mail. I hope you saved the date for **next Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m.** That is our next SWGS meeting at the garden of **Joe & Betty Mize, 1511 N. Glenwood in Stillwater.** They have a wonderful water garden in a beautiful setting. Few members have seen this garden. Don't miss it.

We will have elections. We will be nominating and voting on the following: President, Vice president, Secretary /Treasurer. We do have a slate of officers to present.

At our September meeting many of us will also be presenting our photos to be judged. In the past this has been a wonderful learning experience as well as another way for us to share the beauty of our water gardens. Read on for some basic rules or log on to our website www.stillwaterwatergardens.org.

Contact Information
President: Sharral Tye
612-0698
Treasurer: Sally Smith
377-1305

Photo Contest

Better be snapping those pictures. Stuart Harrison of the Stillwater Art Guild will be our judge again this year. He said he is really looking forward to it. I believe him too. He is so enthusiastic. This is a friendly competition so just have fun with it.



Here are the rules: Stuart said "digital" is fine. Film and even slides made in to pictures are fine. You can use any tool or software at your disposal to enhance or improve your picture. **The subject material must have water in it somewhere.** Only SWGS members can enter. Print outs should be 8x10 size or close to those measurements. They must be 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, photo name or caption, 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 or Human Interest, 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 there is no need to bring it to me sooner unless you are unable to attend, but still want to enter your photo.

Ada Davis took the following notes at the August

2004 meeting. Maybe these would be helpful this year for those of you who do more than set your camera on automatic. Unfortunately, I am not one of those, but doing that does look like fun. I may try it some day.

When shooting water photos, two things are important—shutter speed and reflections.

Shutter speed: higher speeds stop action (125-800). Lower speeds (100) allow water flow (appears out of focus).

Reflections:

Use a polarizing filter to

- 1. Remove reflections. That makes it possible to photograph fish in the water.**
- 2. Saturate colors**

Other hints:

Get low to the subject. Try to shoot the photo while level with the subject. Don't center your subject. It's ok to have it slightly off center.

Tripod use is necessary when shooting with slower shutter speeds (100 or less).

“Hyperfocusing” technique is done using a tripod where both the foreground and background are in focus.

Film to use: Use slide film when making big enlargements. It is possible to enlarge to 30” x 40” without appearing grainy, by using slide film.

Speed of film affects how big enlargements can be made without grain. The higher the film speed (400, 800, etc.) the harder it is to enlarge without getting

a grainy look. For an 8 x 10 photo, use 200 speed film for the best results. Use the highest resolution with a digital.

What does it all mean??

I religiously read “Pond Happenings”, a newsletter put out by the Greater Phoenix Pond Society. Don Stough is the editor and writes many of the articles. He wrote a wonderful article that addressed the problems I was having with my fish last month. I lost 4 or 5 at my main pond at Early Autumns.

If your fish are gasping for air (it might look to you like they are trying to drink up all the water that is falling down your water fall) you must get them more oxygen quickly. Here are a few pointers that I gleaned from Don's article:

Oxygenating plants do add oxygen to the water during the daytime hours, but also start using it and giving off carbon dioxide when the sun goes down. This leaves your pond's oxygen level at its lowest point just before dawn. Big swings in O2 and CO2 are bad. To prevent this we must turn over our water several times throughout the night and into the morning. CO2 is released on any open or agitated surface. This is a good thing. Tips: Try to have your waterfall across from the skimmer for best circulation. A waterfall that has a sheeting action that plunges into the pond is better than one that splashes over several rocks and trickles into the pond below. (Mine at EA trickles.) Large falls that cascade into the pond are best. Have a diffuser, air-stone, or other aeration unit that will produce a steady column of air bubbles near the pond's center. What diffusers do best is to create a steady movement of water in-between the bubbles. This gently pulls the water up from the bottom and mounds it on the surface. The surface agitation finds its way across the pond to the sides where it dives down again. This circulation also helps keep heat under control. This is especially helpful in our hot Oklahoma summers. The deeper you can put the diffuser the better, however the deeper the diffuser goes the more power it takes from your air pump to drive the same volume of air per

minute. Check out www.aquaticceco.com for more

helpful information.