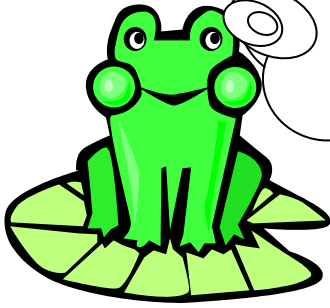


Highlights

Lochness Monster

Canoe Trip



I hope the folks are keeping the leaves out of their water gardens. Decaying debris promotes parasites that attack my finny friends. OHHH I'm still such a WORRY WART

Meeting

Come to O'Higgins Garden Center for this year's St. Patrick's Day party/meeting. 4650 W. 6th in Stillwater, between Sangre and Country Club Road. It is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 14th.

Bring something green as a gift to exchange.

Contact Information

President: Sharral Tye 743-1122 or 612-0698

Vice President: Kathy Peacock 377-2082

Treasurer: Sally Smith 377-1305

What's Up

UnderThe Lily Pad

What is lurking in your pond this winter??? The Lochness Monster perhaps???? It seems shortly after Christmas this thing showed up in my water garden. Have any of you had any sightings? Anything unusual lurking in your waters? Report!

Save the Date



Tuesday, March 14th The Annual SWGS St. Patrick's Day Party/Meeting 7 p.m. at the O'Higgins (now that even sounds Irish) Garden Center

Our theme at the party is "Behind The Garden Wall" So you want your garden to have a new look this year—how can you do that? While strolling through O'Higgins today, and remembering what I had read earlier in a magazine it came to me. Build a room within my garden, not with traditional walls, but unique natural looking ones. Much of the fun of this meeting will happen at 2:00. That is when we will create some garden room models at O'Higgins. If you

want to help, call Kathy Peacock to volunteer. The rest of you we will see you at 7:00 p.m. **This is a St. Patrick's Day party so bring a small "green" gift to exchange.** That was such fun last year. Green should not be hard for gardeners.

Water gardening is many things. It's gardening, fish keeping, bird watching, and nature and habitat restoration. It's part hobby, part educational, and part spiritual. Although it may be defined by the shape of a liner or the contour of the stone, it is ever changing. What you had last year may not be what you will have this year. Each day brings something that may surprise you, fool you, or make you laugh. **On Saturday, March 18th at 2 p.m., we have a real treat for you.** We will make our way up **Boomer Creek in canoes**, row boats, paddle boats, what ever we have on hand. Our guide will be Mary Frye. It will be about a 2 hour trip. On the trip she and I took together we saw Kingfisher, Coots, Mallards, Herrons, Crane, and watched an owl in a

Check out the web site... www.stillwaterwatergardens.org excellent pics, links, etc. will be posted there.

tree for 10 minutes. Bring your camera. See nature's waterway. You might see just what you need to make your water garden more natural looking or more attractive to birds and other critters you want to entice. **We will meet at the parking lot just north of the Airport Road bridge on the east side of the creek.** There is plenty of parking there and a place to launch our canoes. **We need to know how many are coming so we will have enough water craft. Call Sharral Tye (Hm 743-1122 or Cell 612-0698) by Friday noon to reserve a spot in a boat.** This is a wonderful experience. Don't miss it. P.S. If it rains, check the web site to see if we are still on. If not, the rain date will be the next Saturday.

Selecting the site for a water garden-is very important. We are so lucky in Oklahoma to have clay soil! Okay, it is a little hard to dig, but it holds its shape. It won't cave in like sand so you can use a flexible liner. Flexible liners allow you to create all kinds of interesting shapes and shelves.

Take an inventory of the sun and shade patterns in your yard. Remember 6 hours of sun makes Miss Lily happy. Wind can affect your water garden too. But if you have a spot all picked out and you realize the wind does get a little strong in that area, strong enough to disturb your lilies or break the stems of tender plants, consider erecting a wind break of shrubs, or use a fence as a back drop or a berm covered with rock. This may be a good excuse to build that "garden room" for more protection.

There is one thing that you can't fudge on and that is slope. **You can not fudge on slope.** The lowest spot may look like the best spot for a pond, but it is actually the worst. Rain water flows into a low-lying pond, muddying the water, flooding it with fertilizer from the area above. Rain water can get under the liner and it might just float right out of your hole. If your site slopes, it is a perfect place to have a waterfall, and you could have a stream that runs from an upper pond to a lower one. If the site you have picked slopes, you will have to put in some extra time preparing it for the water garden. You will need to level it, either by grading it and building a retaining wall or by building up the downhill side of the pond by adding soil or rock. Otherwise water will run out of your pond.

Pick a spot for your water garden so that it has a connection to the rest of your home. Do you want to look out your family room window and see the waterfall? Do you want it right off the deck so it looks like you are standing on a dock? If the deck is elevated, make sure the waterfall is high enough to be seen over the railing. Or perhaps you want the waterfall to be hidden and just glimpsed through an open gate that leads to the deck. Do you want your water garden to be the surprise at the end of a walking trail leading from your house? What is your vision?

Do your homework. Read some good books, ask an expert, attend SWGS meetings and talk to members. Check on zoning. Will it need to be fenced? Call the utility guys to mark where things are before you get your heart set on a particular site. Make sure you will have enough room to get the equipment you will need to work on your water garden, to the site. Make sure there is enough room to access your garden from all sides. If there is a fence near by, try to stay 5 feet or so away from it. You will be glad you did. Do the garden hose thing. Lay a garden hose on the lawn in the shape you want the garden to be. Then use some spray paint to replace the hose and you are good to go. Start

digging. ***Dues are due, \$10 per family.*** Membership form enclosed or will be sent to you soon. Please include your email address.

I noticed that many of our members do not have bog gardens. We will be addressing bog gardens at one of our meetings. All kinds of great information coming up. See you at the [St. Patrick's Day Party](#).....