

## Highlights

- 📁 Last month's meeting
- 📁 This month's meeting
- 📁 What can you be doing in your gardens in August? It's hot out there!!!!

## August Meeting is Monday August 16<sup>th</sup>

at 7:00 p.m.

- 📁 At JC & Donna Thompson's water garden. From the Boomer Lake Dam, drive east on Lakeview 3 blocks to Glenwood. Turn right/south to Dells. Turn left on Dells for ½ block to 2010 Wildwood.

## Contact Information

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Last month's meeting at Ernie & Sharral Tye's water garden was our annual potluck. The food was great but **no one** "brought the rice"! I had a premonition that would happen so at the last minute I ran to the grocery store and picked up some of Uncle Ben's Converted Rice. I have not used it in years, but member Don Peacock said he was good at making that stuff. So our Korean Rib menu was complete. We had some good ole' American food too which was delicious. Fun was had by all.

**The August meeting is Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at JC & Donna Thompson's water garden.** The program will be presented by Andrine Shufran of OSU's Insectary. What is an insectary, you ask? It's all about bugs. If you are a gardener you have learned you have to know which ones are being naughty and which ones are being nice. The good news is if you have both kinds they kind of ride herd on each other and everything stays balanced. We will hear more about our little neighbors from Andriene.

**Folks, are you still taking pictures?** Insects and similar small critters are readily available to photograph, but they can also be challenging subjects that will test your

photographic skills. Here are some tips for your next backyard safari in search of life in a macro world.

1. **Insects are most active when it's warm.** This means you can more easily photograph them early in the day because they can be sluggish. On the other hand, they can also be harder to find.
2. **Always check out the flowers.** Lots of insects use flowers for food, both directly, through pollen and nectar, and indirectly, by eating the other insects that come to the flowers for pollen and nectar.



3. **Telephoto lenses can help.** Many insects are as wary as big wildlife and will not let you get close. In addition, some insects, such as bees and wasps, can sting, so having a little distance between you and them can be good.
4. Many telephoto lenses do not focus close enough for insects. **Extension tubes are a relatively inexpensive way to turn any telephoto into a close-focusing "macro" lens.** They also work with zooms. (A note on

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extension tubes: While they work with all normal and telephoto lenses, some lenses just don't do well up close.)

5. **Live view can help.** Sometimes you can get your camera closer to insects by extending it at the end of your arm than by putting your whole head and body in close as you look through the viewfinder.

6. **Stop and really look.** Many insects blend in with their surroundings, even if they seem quite colorful when you actually spot them. Pause at a clump of flowers and really look over the blossoms and all around them. You will often find some surprising insects there.

7. **Let companions know you are looking for insects.** When you are out on a hike with friends, have them be your extra eyes as you search for buggy camera subjects.

8. **Get to know your backyard and garden.** A plain grass yard is pretty boring as far as insect life goes, but if you have a lot of flowers, shrubs and trees, and a water garden, you probably have a lot of insects around, too. As a bonus, a garden with varied species of plants rarely needs insecticides (in fact, they can be counterproductive, as they also kill predatory insects).

I tried some of these hints. I really looked. I found several of the same kind of insect that were paying attention to zinnia only. Then I found a very pretty long skinny black flying insect with a strip of bright orange on its side. I only had my I-phone so the picture was not great. I used the extended arm trick and got as close as I could. Interesting.

**Attention all of you members** (you know who you are) who are intent upon replacing the common gazing ball with, you guessed it, bowling balls. This is for you.



**It's Hot Out There....**now that's the truth, and it is hard to motivate ourselves to step outside the door. Here are a few hints. Go to bed early and get up early. Water early and pick the coolest part of the day to do the yucky stuff, like weeding. Speaking of watering, **some of us are down to a trickle in the morning** due to the city painting the inside of the water tower on Range Road. Please water only

every other day and don't water from 5 a.m. to noon.

Press ctrl while clicking once on the address below. You will be taken to a nice article about fall gardening and a neat way to use "trenches" in your garden and save water. <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1114/HLA-6009web.pdf>.



This is what I call a refreshing dip....I like to get in and swim with the fishes at the end of my day. This is one way to clip off all the unsightly water lily leaves, and the pod heads that have slipped beneath the surface.

**Come to the August 16th meeting. Invite a friend.**

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