

Highlights

- 📁 Roger & Liz Whitaker host the June meeting
- 📁 May's meeting
- 📁 Gardenfest

June Meeting is Monday June 21st at 7:00 p.m.

- 📁 From 6th & Country Club, travel north 5 miles to McMurtry Road (asphalt going east and west) Turn left (west) go 2.5 miles to a "T" in the road. Turn right (north), go ¾ mile. The driveway is on the left. Mailbox is marked and there is a white vinyl fence at the entrance.



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stye@suddeinlink.net. Because we have some new members who have water garden plans in their future, we thought it would be timely to talk about the dos and don'ts of putting in a water garden. You will hear information about pumps, filtration, things that have worked well for members, and what is special about water gardening in Oklahoma. I think we all will be better equipped after attending the June meeting. So please come and take advantage of members' experience.

The July meeting will be a pot luck at Ernie & Sharral Tye's house. That is a change from what was previously announced.

Gardenfest was Saturday the 12th at Oklahoma Gardening. It was great. I did a Q&A at their water garden with the help of member Wanda Shipley. I met quite a few people and saw some old friends I had not seen in a while. The theme this year was water conservation. The keynote speaker told us about rain gardens. That would be a good topic for a meeting. The gardens were the most beautiful I have ever seen them. The succulent garden was quite innovative. Amazing what you can do with repurposed items. I was struck by the neat pathways. The Japanese garden has been extended. There was a crepe myrtle tree in full bloom. Many native flowers and plants took

May meeting--a huge success: A couple of our new members attended and everyone there found the information presented by **Pond Pro of Shawnee** quite helpful. Our group tries to have Pond Pro down every year because they have so many new products and equipment to tell us about. I remember when I first was thinking about putting in a water garden, I could hardly wait to attend water garden meetings and talk to members and to hear the presenters. The Cramers were the May hosts. They have a brand new water garden, but they have water gardened before, in another state. Therefore some of the steps they took to put their water garden in this time were at least more familiar. Experience in water gardening is valuable.

Our old friend, Mike from Pond Pro, gave our group a lot of information about plants for the water garden. He also talked about the twenty steps to koi health by Dr. Eric Johnson. We are grateful to Bob and Glenna Cramer and Pond Pro for the great May meeting.

The June meeting is coming up quickly. It is Monday, June 21st at 7 p.m. at Roger & Liz Whitaker's garden. It is out in the country so check out the directions above. If anyone wants to carpool, send Sharral an email at

SWGS meetings are open to the Public

center stage. Pond Pro was there showing folks how to put in a disappearing waterfall. There was a hands on project to build a rain barrel. All and all it was a great day. I heard so many people talk about Jane Carter. I first met her through Stillwater Water Garden Society. She was an integral part of the success of the Gardenfest, Oklahoma Gardening manage, and a really hard worker. Several of our members are Oklahoma Gardening ambassadors. We are proud of you all.

Keep that water moving

Hearing and seeing moving water does something to your endorphins. That's why it feels so good; it soothes you. But let's move on to the nuts and bolts of moving water. **As a general rule of thumb, move no more than twice the number of gallons in your pond per hour.** So when buying a pump, to move water over a waterfall for instance, check the gph. If you have a 1000 gallon pond you need a pump that will move no more than 2000 gallons per hour. This tends to keep the waterfall in scale, minimizes suspended particles, and probably leaves a quiet space for water lilies. Your water lilies will not be happy if you put them too close to your waterfall. Although, you don't want to spend money unnecessarily on too large of a pump, when in doubt, a more powerful one than you need is better than the other way around. Most pumps will have a way to reduce the outflow, but never restrict the intake of your pump.

Moving water helps with **filtration** - To reduce algae, waste and decaying debris, and provide for higher fish stocking levels. **For filtration, pump the number of gallons in your pond from once every four hours to twice an hour.** Slower rates of flow allow bio-filters ample dwell time to work most efficiently.

There is more to sizing a pump for your needs, but it gets a little technical. Come to the next meeting to hear about "rise" "run" "pressure head", etc. Or if this is too much for you, armed with some basic information, a reputable dealer can help you select the proper pump for your pond.

Determine the ideal flow rate for your waterfall:

Sill: The width (in inches) of the waterfall. For a sheer fall over a clean edge, allow 100-200 gph per inch of sill... less for a broken fall. This determines the "look".

FILTRATION

Mechanical Filtration: Removes particulates from the water. It's usually positioned before the pump intake, e.g. skimmers & foam filter boxes, also preventing damage to the pump. The surface area and density of the materials in the filter directly affect the cleaning frequency.

Biological Filtration: Converts toxic ammonia and nitrites generated by fish waste and decaying debris to non-toxic nitrates, by passing water over filter media harboring nitrifying bacteria. The amount of biological activity taking place is directly related to the flow rate of water and the amount of surface area provided by the media.

Plant Filtration: Minimizes nitrate buildup in the pond by use of plants in the water garden and biofilter. Passing nutrient-rich water over, around and through the roots of plants causes a rapid uptake of nitrates and starves single-cell algae out of existence. Plants at the top of the biofilter help reduce pea-soup algae. This is a good place for purple water hyacinth. They look good there and you will be amazed how much is caught in their roots.

UV Sterilizers: Provide a sure cure for the green water blues! Water is pumped through a sealed chamber where harmful waterborne micro-organisms and free-floating algae are exposed to radiation emitted by a UV lamp. Proper flow rate is key to success.

Keep those hands wet!!!!