

Highlights

- 📁 The meeting at the Cramer's last month
- 📁 May meeting with Pond Pro
- 📁 How to design a dry creek bed

May Meeting is Tuesday May 17th 7:00 p.m.

- 📁 At JC & Donna Thompson's water garden, 2010 N. Wildwood. From Boomer Road & Husband, (near the highschool) travel north on Husband to Dells. Turn east on Dells to the last house on the left.



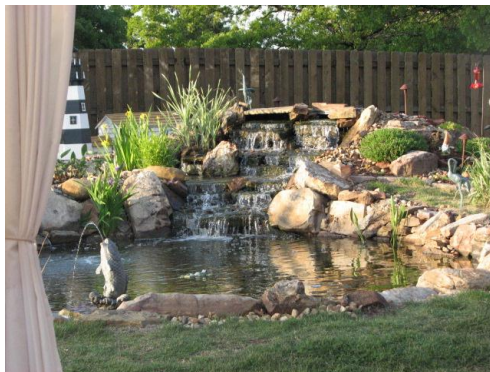
Contact Information

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www.stillwaterwatergardens.org

What a beautiful April evening we had for our last meeting at Bob & Glenna Cramer's and what great hosts.

We started the evening with a demonstration of dividing and repotting lilies (dirt and all). Dot Turman who prefers me to call dirt—



soil, got her gloves dirty and showed us all how to place the plant (lily) into the container. She said we could reuse the old soil if we wanted to save a little money. She uses plain clay kitty litter as a planting medium. There is a commercial planting medium for water garden plants; and some people just use the clay that is quite plentiful in Oklahoma.

Within a couple days I was replanting my lilies. I used the old soil out of a couple plants to save money. I added: top soil which I have used in the

past, then Osmocote, the slow release fertilizer Dot suggested, pea gravel was placed on top, and finally medium sized river rock finished my project. I washed off my gravel and rock first, and watered down the pot before putting it back into the pond. I had very little reaction, and my water remained clear.

I took another idea from our hosts and put some of my lilies in a separate container. My container is the cowboy bathtub that many of you have seen. I usually have it in part shade, and I have a few fish in it. This year I will have only lilies in it and I put the tub in full sun. I re-potted a few of those lilies in pea grave only. I still used the Osmocote. These for some reason have never bloomed in prior years. I had them on a shallow shelf. Dot said the depth is not a problem so I am expecting great things with all the sun and fertilizer. I will keep you posted.

Welcome new members Frank Cunningham and Jimmy & Wendy Johnson. We are glad to have you.

Our next speaker that evening was Jake Music of M & K Lighting. Jake's presentation on lighting in and around the water garden was great. The total effect of his lighting and what was already there was spectacular. Jake took his time and answered a

2011 Water Garden Tour Saturday June 25th.

lot of questions from the interested group. Jake can be reached at 372-4333



The **2011 Water Garden Tour is June 25th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Booklets will go on sale the first part of June. June 18th is Summer Fest at Oklahoma Gardening. We will have booklets for sale there. Oasis, Keathly's, Quality Plants, and Stillwater National Bank will sell them for us too. They also will be available at each tour site the day of the tour. It will be a big tour. We have 12 gardens already. There is still time to get your water garden on the tour. Just call Sharral at 612-0698.

I'll share a little secret. A member once told me they do better with their gardens if they have a date (some time in the near future) to show it off. I know that gets me in gear and I end up not only sharing my love of gardening and water gardening with others, but I have a longer season to enjoy the beauty in my gardens. The fish and plants are happier too. Works for me!

The next meeting is on Tuesday, May 17th at 7 p.m. This will be the only time we will have a Tuesday meeting. We usually meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. Pond Pro from Shawnee, OK is coming to the May meeting. They will be showing us new products and talk about things important to you, including pondless water features. **The meeting will be held at JC and Donna Thompson's water garden. See page one for directions.**

How to Design a Dry Stream Bed

Jacob J. Wright became a full-time writer in 2008, with articles appearing on various websites. He has worked professionally at gardens in Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Wright holds a graduate diploma in environmental horticulture from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and a Master of Science in public horticulture from the University of Delaware. By Jacob J. Wright, eHow Contributor

The dry stream bed, the path of sand, pebbles and stones left after the water in a stream dries up, is both visually and architecturally interesting and useful in landscape design. Situating the dry stream bed properly to look natural and determining its course and rock layout are vital to its successful design. Utilizing the natural terrain and grade in a garden allows a dry stream bed to have a practical drainage use as well as providing visual beauty.

Instructions

things you'll need: garden hose, rope, marking paint, flour, pencil & drawing paper

1. Selecting the Site

1 Look for an area in the landscape that needs visual interest. Note the approximate area a potential dry stream bed project would cover.

2 Choose a swale or low part of the landscape for a stream bed to assist in natural water drainage. If a low elevation in a lawn always floods after rains, converting it to a dry stream bed eliminates maintenance issues associated with muddy lawns. Create a dry stream course for the bed guided by the current drainage plain in your garden.

3 Consider a flat area of the garden for a wide, meandering stream bed. A large sweep of rocks and pebbles can make a visual impact in either a snake-like course or as an irregular, amoeba-like dry pond bed.

4 Note the basic plant-growing conditions in the locale selected for the dry stream bed. Sun exposure and soil type are most important, as they guide what plants will grow best in the garden.

2. Creating a Design

1 Use a garden hose or brightly colored rope and mark out the edges of the stream bed. Move the hose around as needed to create the central course of the stream as well as the bed's edges. Alternatively, use marking paint or flour and sprinkle it like chalk atop the ground to mark the parameters of the bed.

2 Sketch on paper the base shape of the bed. Add measurements if desired. Drawing to scale does make material purchase easier once the project moves into its construction phase.

3 Expect to use at least two differently sized rocks or pebbles in the design to create the dry stream bed. The more variation in size, the better. In a real stream, the sand and smallest rocks occur in the middle of the stream, where the water flow is fastest. Larger accent rocks are found on the outer edges, on the stream bank. Mimic this effect.

4 Add circles to the drawing where larger rocks will anchor the stream bed edges. Very large rocks can stand alone and become major focal points. Cluster medium-sized stones in groups of three, five or seven for a natural look.

5 Create areas for vegetation in and/or along the dry stream bed course. A lone large rock may look nice with a clump of ornamental grass or a shrub next to it along the bank. Or, in the middle of the dry stream bed, a small sedge adds interest in a small rock cluster where moist soil may linger.

Tips & Warnings

- Seek out photos of dry stream beds, natural or artificially created, in books and on the internet for inspiration.
- Use stones and pebbles native to your area for the most realistic look and to ensure that the stone color looks natural with your native soil. The rock used should be in the same color family, such as all shades of white, beige and tan or gray, slate and black.
- Rounded stones will look more convincing if a naturalistic dry creek bed is desired. Water erodes rock, so coarse and jagged rocks may not look the best.

- Avoid using fine sand, as it shows debris quickly. Pea gravel is fine in texture but helps mask leaves and small twigs better than a pristine carpet of beach sand in the stream's central course.
- Note if any utilities are in the design area for the stream bed. Septic tanks, buried phone lines or a water meter can affect access points. If a large repair is needed on utilities masked or incorporated into a dry stream bed design, be warned that digging may be necessary

Read more: [How to Design a Dry Stream Bed | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/how_5635787_design-dry-stream-bed.html#ixzz1L9tbd9tH](http://www.ehow.com/how_5635787_design-dry-stream-bed.html#ixzz1L9tbd9tH)

I liked this article because it was pretty simple. You could also line your creek bed with landscaping material to prevent weeds. If you have a water problem you want to correct, there is a little more to it. One article had you mortaring in the rocks to prevent erosion, but the basic design is the same.

I hope to see you at the May meeting. Public is welcome to attend our meetings.

Get Those Hands Wet!

Sharral Tye,
President

