



Flowers & Fins

Volume 16, Issue 3

Established 1995

March 2011

March 10 Members' Meeting

Location: Springfield-Greene
County Botanical Center at
Nathanael Greene/Close
Memorial Park

Address: 2400 S. Scenic
Avenue, Springfield, MO

Directions: East off Scenic
between Battlefield Road &
Sunshine. Take a right after
you cross the old RR track to
new parking lot on north side
of the Botanical Center.

What a shame that our February meeting had to be called off on account of snow! The good news is that our program with Ruby Miller and "papercrete" has been rescheduled for April!

Our March meeting is a presentation by Dr. Bill Roston for whom the Butterfly House at Close Memorial Park was named.

Dr. Roston will be doing a Powerpoint presentation on butterflies in general but he will also include the life cycle of butterflies from egg-laying all the way thru cocoon to sprouting wings and flying off in search of food. We will also learn the kinds of plants and flowers we should try to include in our gardens to attract them.



We will have snacks ready for you at 6:30. Try to get there as close to 6:30 as possible. We will start the meeting at 6:45. Remember, building closes at 8 p.m.

If you haven't visited the new Botanical Center yet or you haven't seen Close Memorial Park in a few years, come out early and look around. Also the Friends of the Garden board meeting is held at 5:00 p.m. in the same meeting room we have been using. They welcome the public to attend their meetings.

Needed.....Hosts

Would you like to host a meeting this summer? Bob & Donna Simpson have volunteered to host us in May and they will not only be showing us how to divide hostas, but will also be sharing them with us!

That leaves June, July, August, and September open. Please call Pat at 417-343-3878 or email springfieldwatergardensociety.com if you would be interested in hosting a meeting in your backyard!



Migratory Birds

We have been contacted by the Greater Ozarks Audubon Society to see if we might be interested in partnering with them to install a bubbler at Close Memorial Park as part of their efforts to create a refuge for birds during their migration seasons somewhat like Tower Grove Park has to offer in St. Louis. We will be learning more about this exciting project soon.

If it can be arranged, someone from their group will make a short presentation to us at our March meeting to give us an idea of what they have in mind.



Hands On Waterlily Dividing Clinic

If you are new to watergardening or you would just like to have a few more hardy waterlilies, here is your chance for a learning experience and some free lilies.

Alan & Pat Ware will host a hands on clinic at their home in Billings. We will be dividing lilies and potting them. Please bring your own containers. Lilies and dirt will be provided.

Tentative date will be Saturday, April 30, weather permitting. If it is too cold or is rainy then we will try for the following weekend. More details will be in next month's newsletter.



A healthy but overgrown lily rhizome.

We received the following letter from an SWS member from Mtn. Home, Arkansas. We wish to express our condolences to Nancy & her family.

To SWS,

Howard & I have enjoyed being a member of the SWS. We were able to attend a few meetings and especially enjoyed the water garden tours.

June 21, 2010 Howard passed away so I will not be renewing my membership.

Sincerely, Nancy E. Thoren

2011 MOGARDENS Series

Master Gardener Christine Chiu sent us this info on some upcoming opportunities presented by University Extension & Master Gardeners of Greene County. To get specific details on these classes and others being offered go to <http://www.swmogardens.com/fogcalendar/events/index.php>.



Monday, March 21, 2011 - Healthy Soil Yields Healthy Plants | Environmentally Sound Gardening

Monday, March 28, 2011 - Assess Your Landscape | Benefit from Herbs in Your Garden

Tuesday, April 5, 2011 - Intimidated by Pruning? | Find the Ideal Tree

Monday, April 11, 2011 - Create an Inspired Kitchen Garden | Grow Your Own Fruit

Monday, April 18, 2011 - Enjoy Flowers Year Round | Movable Gardens

Monday, April 25, 2011 - Tips for a Beautiful Lawn | Preserve Your Harvest

Monday, May 2, 2011 - Common Garden Insects & Plant Diseases | Rose Gardens Made Simple

Waterlilies! Royalty in Our Ponds

Waterlilies, the star attraction of our ponds are really easy to grow, but they can be daunting until you know just how to do it.

What kind of pot should you use for lilies? Well, there are different schools of thought on that. A plastic dishpan or something of similar size and shape is a good idea because the rhizome will have the room to spread out. A lily rhizome is a lot like an iris; it spreads or fans out in one direction. If you have it backed into a corner of the pot and have it pointed the right direction, then it can grow for a year or two in that pot easily. Also it only takes two or three inches of dirt in a dishpan, so the pan is not so heavy when you pull it out of the water. When the rhizome has grown to the edge, it will either push its way up or down. If it goes down, the growth will be stunted and it will actually grow under itself. If it goes up, it will jump the side of the pot. That is ok up to a point. When the roots grow outside the pan, just in the water, the lily really takes off. It will have huge leaves and blooms because it's taking nutrients directly from the water. Of course, the down side to this is that it will become so large and overgrown, it will be very difficult to handle when you do get ready to divide.

A big problem with dishpans is that they have no drainage. Over time the anaerobic bacteria will grow from lack of oxygen and when you unpot the lily it will have a terrible smell. The longer it is left in the pot, the harder it will be to force in fertilizer tabs and lilies are heavy feeders.

Another option for a pot is to use old nursery pots. Many of them are too deep and not wide enough so are not a good choice. Mum pots or pots specifically made for lilies are ideal. They are no more than six inches tall and at least a foot wide. If you have anything like this, it will be great for lilies. Of course, you do have to keep the dirt in the pot when you first pot the lily. This can be done by lining

with landscape fabric, newspapers, coffee filters, paper towels, etc. Just something that will hold the soil in place for a while. Eventually the roots will fill up the pot and bind the dirt together. Over time the lily roots will push through the holes and into the water. Again, your lily will be huge with huge blooms but you will also have a mass of white roots free floating in the water.

What about fertilizer? Lily tabs are great, if you can afford them! If you want to have lots of pots of lilies but don't want to spend a fortune to keep them fertilized, there are other methods. For several years now, I have been using granulated time released fertilizers with great success. I buy whatever is cheapest while looking for a high number on the phosphate and low numbers on the nitrogen and potash (1st number low, 2nd number high, 3rd number low). When you pot the lily just cover the bottom of your container (an inch or less) with dirt and sprinkle generously with fertilizer. Put in more dirt and then your lily rhizome. My lilies are always full of blooms and I don't have to spend a lot of time or money on trying to poke in lily tabs.

Next month we will talk about potting and fertilizing tropical waterlilies. You do things much the same, but not quite.



Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand 01/26/2011 \$ 2,907.98

Balance on hand 02/24/2011 \$ 2,865.66



Buy or Trade?

Have you always wanted to try tropical lilies but just didn't want to spend a small fortune? We are working on opportunities to buy as a group and get some lower pricing. If you are interested, let us know. If you have a particular lily you would really like to have or if you have another kind of plant that you have not had any luck finding, let us know what you are interested in and we will be working to get some good deals for SWS members.

Also, if you have extra plants, pond plants or not, you can always feel free to bring them to a meeting to share or you can email us and we will put it in the newsletter.

If we trade our extra plants, we can all have a lot more plants without a lot of cost. Many of us got started because of members sharing and we will be happy to do that for new members now as well. This is one of the reasons we have a club, to help each other out!



Tropical lilies with a half opened hardy lily in front.

2011 Springfield Watergarden Society Officers

President:	Pat Ware	417-343-3878	patspetals@gmail.com
Vice President:	Bob Simpson	417-833-9455	dsimpson88@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Ken Grozinger	417-882-0528	kengrozinger@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Mimi Grozinger	417-882-0528	Mi2grozinger@yahoo.com

Board Members at large

Ian Donnelly	417-581-3709	sonoayr@juno.com
Rose Fuller	417-848-5592	Roseguffey@sbcglobal.net
Marilyn Myers	417-759-7702	marilyn@springvalleyexpressions.com
Jim Silzell	417-830-8381	
Donna Simpson	417-833-9455	dsimpson88@hotmail.com
Alan Ware	417-343-9273	bathtubracer@gmail.com
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Janet Wreath	417-885-1385	Wreathj@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Marilyn Myers	417-759-7702	marilyn@springvalleyexpressions.com
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**Board meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month.
Club members are always welcome to attend. Location varies.**

Website Address: springfieldwatergardensociety.com

Email Address: springfieldwatergardensociety@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

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| ★ March meeting | Thursday, March 10
Botanical Center
2400 South Scenic | Social Time: 6:30 pm
Meeting Time: 6:45 pm | Dr. Bill Roston
"Butterflies" |
| ★ SWS Board Meeting | Thursday, March 24
4908 Zoller Rd., Billings | Time: 6:30 pm | At the home of
Alan & Pat Ware |
| ★ April meeting | Thursday, April 14
Botanical Center
2400 South Scenic | Social Time: 6:30 pm
Meeting Time: 6:45 pm | Ruby Miller
"Papercrete" |
| ★ April Clinic | Tentative Date, April 30 | 10:00 a.m. til ? | At the Ware's |
| ★ May meeting | Thursday, May 12 | Social Time: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m. | At Bob & Donna
Simpson's |
| ★ Pond Tour | Friday, July 8
Saturday, July 9 | Time: Evening
Time: During the day | |
| ★ Tour of Tables Tea | Saturday, August 13 | Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | |

If you would be interested in hosting one of our summer meetings, please let Pat know. We all enjoy going to other member's ponds and gardens in the summer time. Depending on the



This is a picture from Mark Putman's pond while it was snowing on February 1st.



Mark Putman's pond on February 2nd. The waterfall was still working and the pond heater was doing its thing in the foreground.



Bill & Doris Brooks' small watergarden with just an opening where the bubbler is.



Bill & Doris Brooks' large watergarden with an opening in the ice and snow.

**Bablinbill's
Corner**

Bablinbill (Bill Brooks) sends out some of the coolest pictures and links. If you have never seen this, check it out. It is Frazil Ice in Yosemite.

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=9V9p4mFEYXc&vq=medium#t

**Have you renewed
your membership in
SWS?**