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### The President’s Message

We had the 3rd Annual Sweets for the Sweet Contest in February and as usual our members showed they know what it takes to make great deserts. Congratulations to all of our winners. Once again we had a tie in our contest as two members tied for third place who split the prize. Next year hopefully I will remember to eat before I come to our meeting, so that I won’t be up most of the night from eating too much sugar. Although with everything being so tasty it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Before the start of our meetings and during refreshments we are now able to view pictures of member’s ponds, gardens, parties and different club functions. Watch for yours as we are trying to put all of the pictures we take throughout the year up for all to see. If you have any pictures of the Christmas Party or of any ponds on tour that we can share, please let us know. You can email them to us and we will add them to what we have.

Mary Garrett seemed to start celebrating Valentine’s Day a couple days early as she won the 50/50 drawing. No one else got a chance to try for the pot since her ticket was the first of the evening to be drawn. Lady luck certainly was on her side last month. We will be starting a new pot in March.

During our meeting, Dennis Wagner had a video he shared with us on how to build a pondless water feature. The instructions took you through it step by step which made it not so intimidating. It seemed much easier than what I had thought. I can’t wait to make one.

We NEED YOUR PONDS AND WATER FEATURES for our 2014 Public Tour. The tour will be the same as last year with having the day tour and if you would like to have your pond on the night tour you may do that also. If you would like a chance for your pond on the cover of the 2014 WGSO Tour Guide this year, get all of your information to Tom Thompson postmarked by March 1. The pond cover will be voted on at our March meeting. All others pond information needs to be turned in by April 1. We nearly had 40 ponds on tour last year, so let’s try to go over the 40 this year or at least hit it. We were so close and because we are such a great club I know we can do it. We have some of the most talented and best builders of ponds and water features in Oklahoma in our club. Everyone needs to see them. And YES, mine as President is already signed up to be on our tour.

Just a reminder, if you have not renewed your membership, please do so now so that you don’t miss your next newsletter. Hope to see you at the March meeting.

Diane Clark,  
WGSO President

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### Next Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the Month  
March 12, 2014  
Doors Open at 6:30 pm  
WILL ROGERS EXHIBITION CENTER  
3400 N.W. 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK

**PROGRAM:**  
Winter Cold/Drought

**PRESENTED BY:**  
TLC GARDEN CENTERS

**SPEAKERS:**  
Brandi & Cindy
Did you know by members showing their ponds and water features on tour, we average 44.8 ponds on tour year since the first pond tour? However, that average was made possible from when we started having public tours back in the 80’s. Our pond count stayed high and consistent until 2007, since then our average has plummeted severely. Since then we only average 29 ponds and water features on tour each year.

We should be showing the public what a great club we are by having more ponds for them to check out. By providing education and helpful hints to the public may be what it takes for a guest to get inspired to build a water feature of their own. Who hasn’t visited a pond and not seen something they want to incorporate into their landscape? Or seeing something they were thinking of doing then changed their mind after checking into it. There are always so many questions to be answered. 😊
Deadline for Tour Guide Cover Contest | March 1
Board Meeting | March 4
General Meeting | March 12
Meet & Greet | March 15
  Spring Start Up Class @ Pond Pro
Meet & Greet | March 29
  Pond Filtration Class @ Pond Pro
Deadline for Pond Tour | April 1
Board Meeting | April 1
General Meeting | April 9
Spring Fling | April 27

2014 WGSO BOARD

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<tr>
<th>EXECUTIVE OFFICER*/COMMITTEE CHAIRS</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<th>OTHER</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Diane Clark</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Gary Guild</td>
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<td>Claribel Collier</td>
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<td>Phil &amp; Sarah Grissam</td>
<td>396-8074</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tour Guide Publication</td>
<td>Tom Thompson</td>
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Bend a post-it note to catch dust from drilling
2014 OKC Spring Remodel and Landscape Show

WGSO was presented the opportunity to participate again in the 2014 OKC Spring Remodel and Landscape Show at Cox Convention Center as a non-profit club for the third year in a row. We wanted to capitalize on the momentum we had from the OKC Home & Garden Show and use the materials we had from that show as well. As you can see, WGSO volunteers once again put together a display that proudly represents the unique talents of our group. All items either belong to WGSO or our members.

Our design team - Phil & Sarah Grissam, Terry & Connie Fisher, Claribel Collier, Diane Clark, and Konrad & Paullei Mumme, who not only organized the booth but also supplied the man power to make it happen. Special recognition is due to Michael Benson for his technosavvy skills that turned my slide show into a DVD on very short notice. THANK YOU to all WGSO volunteers who worked the booth - Freddy Hill & Peggy Holland, Jim & Donna Tinsley, Diane Clark & Mary Scott, Kim & Heath West, Doug & Connie Kaye, and Dennis & Elynn Wagner. Hat’s off to the WGSO members who demonstrated DIY Garden Accents - Sarah Grissam, Claribell Collier, Diane Clark, Paullei Mumme, and Connie Fisher, these ladies demonstrate more than just a craft, they demonstrate one of the most important components of WGSO - the willingness to share our knowledge with others. Last but not least, we’d like to recognize our members who helped tear down after the show - Phil & Sarah Grissam, Diane Clark, Konrad & Paullei Mumme.
2014 PUBLIC POND TOUR ♦ June 20 and June 21, 2014

DEADLINE TO ENTER PUBLIC POND TOUR IS APRIL 1, 2014

Members Exhibiting Their Yard MUST Have an Adult On Site During WGSO Public Pond Tour Hours.

9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday*
1:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Sunday

*NIGHT TOUR OPTION on Saturday ONLY: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM

IT’S TIME TO START PLANNING FOR THE 2013 PUBLIC POND TOUR!

Applications are now being accepted for any WGSO members who want to showcase their water features (not limited to ponds) on our annual Public Pond Tour. An EXHIBITOR ENTRY FORM is on page 6 of this newsletter and will be available at the February and March General meetings. If you are new to WGSO and have questions about participating in the Public Tour or want a form sent to you, please contact Tom Thompson at 693-5098 or tom@dsrt.org!

All WGSO Members with WATER FEATURES are eligible to be on the Public Pond Tour. Pondless waterfalls, bubbling rocks, fountains, container water gardens, small ponds, big ponds - We Want Them All! We’ve continued the PUBLIC NIGHT TOUR option on Saturday. If you opt to be included on the Night Tour, you will be open on Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm and then again from 9 pm to 11 pm. This gives you a reason to install those lights you’ve been wanting. Please make sure your have a well lit path for visitors.

April 1 is the deadline for all entries to be submitted, with a completed Entry Form, Water Feature description, and high resolution digital photos to: Tom Thompson. If you cannot send in an email, your application can be turned in at the February or March meetings or mail to Tom at the address listed below.

RETURN COMPLETED ENTRIES BY DEADLINE TO:

Tom Thompson
9009 NW 84th Terr.
Yukon, OK 73099
693-5098
tom@dsrt.org

HELP MAKE WGSO PUBLIC POND TOUR A SUCCESS!

Below are a few ways you can help:

- Share your hard work and enter your yard on the Pond Tour.
- Spread the news about the Pond Tour and invite friends to attend with you.
- Encourage fellow WGSO members to open their yard for the Public Pond Tour.
- Volunteer to man a Public Tour member’s yard for a few hours while they take a break.
- Volunteer to hang out during Tour hours with a member who is on the Public Pond Tour (especially helpful for our single/elderly members).

2014 WGSO PUBLIC POND TOUR GUIDE COVER CONTEST

WARNING:
DEADLINE APPROACHING

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS MARCH 1, 2014

Only WGSO members who have entered to be on the Public Pond Tour are eligible to be on the cover. If you would like your water feature to appear on the cover, check the appropriate box on the entry form and have your completed entry postmarked by March 1. WGSO members will vote for the best photo at the March General Meeting.

COVER PHOTO ENTRY MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

♦ Good lighting and in focus
♦ Portrait orientation (like the photo to the right)
♦ A minimum resolution of 600 dpi in TIF or JPEG format only
2014 PUBLIC POND TOUR EXHIBITOR ENTRY FORM
June 20 and June 21, 2014
Members Exhibiting Their Yard MUST Have an Adult
On Site During WGSO Public Pond Tour Hours.

9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday*
1:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Sunday
*NIGHT TOUR OPTION on Saturday ONLY: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM

DEADLINE TO ENTER PUBLIC POND TOUR IS APRIL 1, 2014

COMPLETED ENTRY FORM MUST INCLUDE DIGITAL PICTURE (MINIMUM 600 DPI) AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WATER FEATURE. EXHIBITOR ENTRY FORMS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY E-MAIL, IN PERSON AT THE WGSO MEETINGS, OR US MAIL.

NAME_____________________________________________________________________________________
PRIMARY PHONE #________________________________________ALT #______________________________
PHYSICAL ADDRESS________________________________________________________________________
CITY__________________________________________________________, OK ZIP____________________
E-MAIL____________________________________________________________________________________

[_____] I want to be included in the *NIGHT TOUR. I confirm that my water feature and yard will have lighting during the night tour. I understand that my yard will be open on Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm for day viewing and then again from 9 pm to 11 pm for night viewing and will be open Sunday from 1 pm to 6 pm.__________________

[_____] I am entering the TOUR GUIDE COVER PHOTO CONTEST. Contest DEADLINE is March 1st. I understand that I must be on the Public Tour to be eligible to enter the Tour Guide Cover Photo Contest. I also acknowledge that my photo must be portrait orientated, meet the minimum resolution of 600 dpi, and be in focus.__________________

All entries shall accompany a brief description of the water feature entered. Each entry is subject to minor editing for space purposes or similar instances for the Tour Guide. Digital Pictures MUST be submitted with the application. Digital requirements are a minimum resolution of 600 dpi in TIF or JPEG format only. If you need help with a digital picture, contact Tom Thompson.

WGSO MEMBERSHIP DUES MUST BE CURRENT TO BE ON PUBLIC POND TOUR

_____________________________________________________________       _____________________________
Member Signature                                                   Date

RETURN COMPLETED ENTRIES BY DEADLINE TO:

Tom Thompson
9009 NW 84th Terr.
Yukon, OK 73099
693-5098
tom@dsrt.org

There is NO CHARGE for WGSO members to be on the Public Pond Tour. If you are a business owner and would like to purchase an ad, please contact Diane Clark at 802-6200
MOLE CONTROL IN LAWN AND GARDEN

HOLE IDENTIFICATION: MOLES VS. VOLES AND OTHER RODENT PESTS

By David Beaulieu

Why is mole control necessary? Because, mole holes are unsightly on lawns and can be disruptive to the root systems of garden plants. These pests lurk in their subterranean fortresses throughout the year. But gardening and lawn-care enthusiasts are made acutely aware of them mainly during the spring and fall, especially after periods of rain, when they push mounds of dirt up to the ground surface. The mole's preferred diet is a carnivorous one: insect grubs, adult insects and earthworms. Neither the eastern mole nor the star-nosed mole is a rodent, and therefore any gnawing damage you detect on plants is unlikely to have been caused by moles. Rodents do, however, make use of mole tunnels to attack plants underground -- making moles accessories to the crime!

Moles produce two types of tunnels, or "runways" in your yard. One runway runs just beneath the surface. These are feeding tunnels and appear as raised ridges running across your lawn. The second type of runway runs deeper and enables the moles to unite the feeding tunnels in a network. It is the soil excavated from the deep tunnels that homeowners find on their lawns, piled up in mounds that resemble little volcanoes.

Mole Control: Pest Identification: Since moles are not the only animal pests responsible for runways in lawn and garden areas, they are often confused with these other pests -- the pocket gopher and the vole -- and you must learn the difference between them. Because these lawn and garden pests are rarely seen, it makes more sense to base identification on the signs they leave behind, rather than on how the animals look. After all, you may never come face to face with these subterranean foes! And proper pest identification is the first step in effective mole control.

Whereas mole mounds, as stated above, are volcano-like in appearance, pocket gopher mounds are different, being horseshoe-shaped. Voles, meanwhile, leave no mounds at all behind. Instead, voles construct well-defined, visible runways at or near the surface, about two inches wide. Vole runways result from the voles eating the grass blades, as well as from the constant traffic of numerous little feet over the same path. And if any of these lawn and garden pests can literally “beat a path” through the grass, it is the voles. Rabbits do not have anything over this prolific rodent!

The best bets for getting rid of moles are traps, but many people are reluctant to use them. There are also poisons and mole repellents available. We will look at the repellents first. The formula for commercial mole repellents, such as Mole-Med, is based on castor oil. An example of a commercial mole poison is Moletox. When using mole repellents or mole poisons, you must often water the area where you'll be applying them, so that the repellent or poison will permeate the soil. Water the area well both before and after applying the mole repellent or poison, if instructed to do so on the package of the particular product that you choose. Re-application may be necessary.

There are traps designed specifically for killing the pests, and they go by scary names like: Scissors mole trap, Choker mole trap, Harpoon mole trap. You can also trap moles using a small live-trap, such as is put out by the Havahart Company. The problem with Havahart traps, though, is that you still have to get rid of the live critter after you've trapped it. In some states animal relocation is even prohibited. Trapping in the early spring can eliminate pregnant females, effectively nipping in the bud what would be a greater problem later. Where you place the trap is critical to your success in trapping. You'll want to place your mole trap near active feeding tunnels.

Here's how to tell if a feeding tunnel is active: Using your hand or a trowel, flatten sections of the moles' raised ridges of soil. Mark these sections with something bright (perhaps some old ribbon that you can tie to a stick to make a little flag), so it will be easy to relocate them later. Check back within 12 to 24 hours, to inspect the ridges you've flattened. If the ridges of soil are pushed back up, you'll know that Mr. Mole regards this tunnel as an active tunnel. This is where you'll place your trap. Cut out the turf over the active tunnel, and remove the soil right down to where the moles have beaten their path. Moles don't see well, so they'll stumble right into the trap. While their vision is poor, however, moles are sensitive to the touch. This means you can't leave any loose soil in the path leading up to the trap, or the moles will detect it and back off.

Seek alternative methods for getting rid of moles, rather than using these dangerous poisons or killing traps, especially if you have pets or children. Mole-Med mole repellent is advertised as a safe alternative; but when you consider the likelihood of needing to reapply it, this method of getting rid of moles could be expensive. Many do-it-yourself mole control success stories focus on methods that involve planting barriers composed of certain plants whose smell moles find offensive. While this alternative way is probably less reliable than the use of traps, pesticides or repellents, it is also a lot more fun! In addition, these are visually appealing plants that are worth growing in their own right. So if you need to deal with these pests but are not desperate for immediate results, then using certain plants as a natural way to control moles may be the right option for you.

Continued on Page 8
Moles - Continued from Page 7

Several bulb plants are said to repel moles. One is the well-known daffodil. Two of the others are also classic spring bloomers, although not quite as widely known as the daffodil: Siberian squill (Scilla siberica) and crown imperial (Fritillaria imperialis). Squill bears pendulous bell-like flowers in shades of lavender, blue, white or pink. Over the years squill will multiply and fill in an area. Squill naturalizes in zones 4-8. Yellow crown imperials such as Fritillaria imperialis 'Lutea' bear six to eight pendulous yellow flowers. The scent of its bulbs is said to resemble that of a fox, which certainly would not be a pleasant smell for moles. These plants reach about 3 feet in height. Zones 5-7.

The Allium genus of bulbs comprises not only garlic, onions, leeks, chives and shallots, but also ornamental flowering onions, such as Allium schubertii. The latter are sometimes simply referred to as "Alliums." This unusual flowering plant ranges in size from about 6”-5’ in height. While garlic is also reputed to be a mole repellent, Allium is a better choice if you are seeking a living mole repellent strong not only in scent, but also in aesthetic qualities. Allium giganteum is one of the taller ornamental Alliums, reaching 3’-5’. Flowers are purple and form round clusters with a width of 4”-6”. As its leaves die back in early summer, you’ll want this plant to be screened from view. To accomplish this, simply plant Alliums behind other plants that will obscure them as Allium’s foliage dies. Bulbs can be planted in fall or spring, 6” deep. Cold hardy to zone 4.

The Mexican marigold (Tagetes minuta) is a malodorous plant widely used in companion planting for its ability to repel pests. Companion planting is an example of an organic control method. And adventurous landscapers desirous of controlling moles the organic way don’t have to settle for planting the commonplace marigold. A couple of “living mole repellents” have a decidedly exotic flair: namely, mole plant and castor bean.

That’s right: one of these plants has gained such notoriety as a living mole repellent that it is often referred to simply as “mole plant.” Also called “caper spurge” (Euphorbia lathyris), this plant is an annual but re-seeds itself readily. Mole plant has a striking architecture and is often grown as an ornamental, standing erect and bearing lance-shaped leaves. Its leaves are marked with an exquisite white vein running right down the middle. If you make a cut into a mole plant’s stem, a milky sap will ooze out, as when you break the stalk of a milkweed plant. It is apparently the smell of this poisonous, caustic sap that repels the moles.

The final living mole-repellant I’d like to describe is castor bean, also known as castor-oil plant (Ricinus communis). This one’s a bit of a no-brainer, since, as I have already mentioned, commercial mole repellent formulas are based on castor oil. Used in the old days as a laxative, there are still many folks out there who can attest to the repellent qualities of castor oil. And it would seem that moles do not like it any better than humans do! A word of caution: castor bean, like mole plant, is poisonous -- neither should be grown around small children. In temperate climates castor bean is treated as an annual. It grows quickly and can reach 15’ in height, suggesting another use for this plant as well: namely, as a privacy screen for those who don’t have time to wait years for a shrub to reach such a height. Castor bean bears huge, star-shaped leaves that make it a very attractive specimen, and thus desirable even on landscapes not plagued by moles.

Basic carpentry skills can transform a bland patio into an extraordinary outdoor room. The internet is full of ideas and how-to videos.
The 3rd Annual WGSO Spring Fling will be held at the home of Doug & Connie Kaye
4204 Leawood Place
Edmond, OK 73034

**SUNDAY APRIL 27**

Potluck Lunch starts at 1:00 pm.
First demonstration starts at 2:00 pm.
We have demos lined up at 30 minute intervals.

The WGSO Garden Themed Bazaar was a huge success last year, so we’re going to do it again this year. Any WGSO member can sign-up to bring new, gently used, or hand crafted garden related items to sell. You will need to register with Bazaar Coordinator, Tonah Tharp.

We need volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, direct traffic and to assist our demonstrators.

SignUp Genius invitation will be sent out and sign-up sheets will be at the March and April meetings for potluck dishes, volunteers, and the bazaar.

Do you have a folding table & chairs you can bring? Email wgsomembership@gmail.com and let us know.

Check Out TLC Garden Center Workshops
105 West Memorial Road OKC
(405) 751-0630

**Contact Store for Details or visit**
www.tlcgarden.com/upcoming-events/

**Saturday March 8**
9:30 am - 10:30 am Fruit, Nut, Grapes, and Berries

**Saturday March 15**
9:30 am - 10:30 am Tour of TLC Growing Greenhouses
9:30 am - 10:30 am Fairy Gardens Workshop
10:00 am - 11:00 am Organic Gardening
10:30 am - 11:30 am Kid Gardening Workshop
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Fairy Gardens Workshop
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Landscaping Your Home
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Kid Gardening Workshop
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Landscaping Made Easy
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Vegetable Gardening 101

**Saturday March 22**
9:30 am - 10:30 am Lawn Care

**WGSO March Meet & Greets**

at Pond Pro in Shawnee
March 15 @ 10 am - SPRING START UP CLASS
March 29 @ 10 am - POND FILTRATION

Pond Pro offers WGSO Members a 10% Discount - Plus earn Pond Dollars.

**WGSO Annual Members ONLY Plant Sale & Silent Auction**

**May 8, 2014**

Start thinning your PLANTS (Land & Water), Animal (Snails, Tadpoles, etc - BUT NO FISH!!) & Garden Related Items (White Elephant gifts & Door Prizes that aren’t your style) to donate to WGSO’s BIG EVENT! Plant Sale is indoors, so have your plants packaged and labeled in plastic cups or baggies to prevent any mess. All proceeds go to the WGSO General Fund.

More Details Next Month!

Contact GARY GUILD with any questions at 397-5758.
There is often a strong temptation to start removing winter mulches from your flower beds.... WAIT!!! Pull the mulch off gradually as the plants show signs of new growth.

The purpose of winter mulch is to act as a protector from sudden changes of temperature and chilling winds, so keep in mind that it is still winter.

Acclimatize your plants by removing the mulch over a period of days, allowing the light and air to reach the new growth slowly. It is much better to remove the mulch a little later than to remove it to early.

Repair damaged areas of the lawn.... Dethatch, rake or aerate. Apply Dolomite Lime to sweeten the soil if needed. Most lawns will need a spring feeding but if thatching or liming needs to be done, do those jobs first. If moss is a problem, a combination fertilizer and moss killer can be applied, to do both jobs in one easy application.

Over-seeding can be done as the last step, after the lawn has been fertilized.