Our Members Pond Tour was a huge success and this year we had so many new ponds on tour. It is nice to see so many members wanting to be involved. While going to 15 ponds it was a full day but so well worth it. I’m sure there are going to be a lot of members who walked away with new ideas, not only from the ponds, but the gardens. It was a pleasant surprise of how many incorporated different pieces in their yards and around their ponds which was made during one of our many workshops.

Just a reminder, our August meeting will be held at the Stamp Store, located at 121 N.E. 40th Street. It is just west of Lincoln Blvd. Try to be a few minutes early as we need to start on time so that we will have time to see all that we can. Please note that there a stairs to the meeting room. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and basically the same format including refreshments, but just a change of location. Just think of it as a field trip.

Don’t forget if you would like to come to our Summer Social, the deadline to sign up is August 8th. You may call me at 947-6999 or email us at wgsomembership@gmail.com. It will be held Saturday, August 16th at 4:00 pm NOTICE: LOCATION CHANGED to Northwest Church of Christ at 4301 NW 23rd St. There are activities planned so be sure to come along with a side dish. It is a Luau themed party so come in your best Luau attire. There will be a prize given for best dressed. RSVP required - if you find you cannot attend please let us know.

Some of our workshops are nearly full so if you would like to reserve your spot to attend the one of your choice don’t wait. There are just so many spots for each one. Be sure to look for the list of workshops and the information needed is in this newsletter.

A big Thank You goes Minick Materials, from their newest location in the Moore/Norman area for donating a mossy rock boulder for our Members Tour as a door prize. It is so appreciated so when you are in there be sure to let them know.

Please think about putting your pond on the public tour for next year. This is the time of year to take the best pictures of your pond. Everything has to be turned in by April to get in the tour guide and if you wait until next year not much will be growing. If you don’t take good pictures contact Dennis Wagner as he has offered to take them for you.

Diane Clark
WGSO President
**Welcome WGSO Members**

**As of the 20th of the month**

**NEW MEMBERS:**
- Rick & Monica Allen
- Debbie Barrett
- Donna Gilchrist
- Brian & Kirsten Land
- Cindy McBride & Gary Harden
- James & Charlotte Wilson

**RENEWALS:**
- Nancy Fox
- Lonnie Strickland

**OPEN TO ALL WGSO MEMBERS**

**RSVP Required - Bring a Dish.**

**Tuesday, August 5 @ 6:30 pm**

**RSVP REQUIRED TO DIANE CLARK**

ldianeclark@yahoo.com 947-6999

Clarabel Collier

9425 W. Waterloo Road, Arcadia, OK
396-8074

North I-35 to Waterloo Road Exit, East on Waterloo Road the Collier’s house is about .7 miles east of Douglas Blvd on the North side

**There will be a WGSO Banner on the Fence**

**Board Meeting**

**WGSO AD RATES**

If you would like to place an ad in the *Pond Life*, the rates are as follows:

- Business Card $10.00
- 1/4 Page $25.00
- 1/2 Page $75.00
- Full Page $100.00

Ads are to be CAMERA READY PREPAID in advance. Send payment to the WGSO Treasurer, Jim Maida, 10612 Turnberry Ln, OKC, OK 73170.

Send ad to the newsletter editor, Paullei Mumme at wgsomembership@gmail.com.

Ad must be in editor’s possession no later than the 20th of the month preceding publication.

EX: August issue must be received by July 20th.
JULY RECAP

Our speaker for July was Jason from Minick Materials. He spoke about how to improve your lawn and flower beds without fertilizers by using their compost. By putting just 1/4 inch of their compost on your yard would improve it as if you used fertilizer. It could be used in your potted plants and also as mulch. When it was used as mulch it not only retained the moisture and worked as a fertilizer, it made the ground considerably cooler. As it turns out some of our members is using it in their yards, flower beds and their vegetable gardens with great results.

He also explained the difference between the different kinds of mulches by which type does best where. We found out if you used cedar mulch, even though it would repel some bugs, your plant growth would slow down wherever you used the cedar mulch. 😊

Minick Materials offers hundreds of products for commercial and residential applications. We offer a large selection of flagstone, premium screened soils, sands, soil enhancing products, building stone, landscaping stones, manufactured stone veneers, thin veneer stone, Belgard® pavers and walls, and much more.

326 North Council Rd, OKC  ♦  14141 N Santa Fe, Edmond  ♦  6665 N I-35 Dr, Norman
405/789-2068  405/418-2209  405/329-2458

www.minickmaterials.com
DESIGN ELEMENTS OF THE POTTING BENCH

A potting bench is a specialized work table used for small gardening tasks like transplanting seedlings or potting plants. A basic potting bench has a work surface at a height that is comfortable for use while standing. Most designs will also feature storage for your potting soil, pots, and tools. Some benches are small and portable, while others can be fixed to the side of a greenhouse or the inside of a potting shed. The ideal potting bench keeps all your gardening equipment organized in one location by offering plenty of storage space. Look for a spot to hang hand tools, and for ample shelving above and below the work surface for stacking empty pots and containers, plant food and fertilizer (stored in airtight containers, of course), and bags of potting soil.

CONSIDER THE HEIGHT OF THE PRIMARY PERSON USING THE POTTING BENCH: A 5’ tall woman with a 6’2” husband would benefit from having two separate benches if both are avid gardeners. Aim for a bench that is waist-high so you won’t have to stoop down or reach up while you work. Your back will thank you, and you’ll be able to putter longer in your personal garden center.

CHOOSE THE DESIGN THAT BEST FITS YOUR NEEDS: Size your bench to your area. The amount of space you have available will dictate your size limitations. Even a narrow potting bench can be attractive and beneficial. There are also some wall mounted designs that can fold up to only 6” in depth. Upper shelves need to be high enough that you don’t know your head on it when you lift up, still need to at a height that is comfortable to reach. Shelves should be wide enough to store your pots but no deeper than 10”. Doors can be added if you want to store items out of sight. Lower shelves need to have enough height to hold the items you wish to store. One way to maximize lower storage is to split the area in half. One side would have a shelf to support the soil bin/sink and one or two lower shelves can either be left for open storage, have a door/drawer installed, or house a bin/basket. The other side can house a pull out bin for large soil storage or be left open for tall storage. A back will stop items from falling behind the bench and offer an area for additional storage with hooks. Don’t forget the sides of your potting bench. You can add bins, hooks, pop-up shelves, pull-out boards, or open slots for storage of long handled tools. A cover to keep your soil and tools dry while also offering shade while you work.

DETERMINE WHAT FEATURES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU: The bench surface should be solid and plenty deep, giving you room to work with your plants and write in your garden journal. A dry sink, bucket, drawer, or pull bin to store potting mix. Drain holes on the work surface so it can easily be hosed off. A raised edge on the work surface prevents dirt from spilling on the floor and creating a muddy mess but may some people prefer a smooth transition at the edge like a table. Buckets for garbage storage or compost bin collecting make recycling your scraps and debris easier. One often requested option is a sink rinse pots, tools, and hands. Even if it isn’t connected to plumbing but just drains on the ground or in a bucket, a sink is a convenient accessory. Adding a drawer or bin for gloves, twine, and small tools and easy to reach cubbies to store pencils, scissors, labels, zip ties, twine, etc., will prove to be a much appreciated time saver later.
WGSO Member Teresa Asbury’s Potting Bench

WGSO Member Andrea Farrister’s Farm Sink Potting Area

WGSO Member Andrea Farrister’s Potting Bench was made for her height.
WGSO has the opportunity to move the General Meeting Day from the second Wednesday of each month to the first Tuesday of each month. The board has been many times over the last couple of years to try and move the meeting day, however, Will Rogers Garden Center did not have any other day available until recently.

Until 2011, the WGSO Public Pond Tour was held in July and the Members Bus Tour was held in June. The change was made to switch the tours and have the Public Pond Tour in June due to the high temps in July and also to allow our advertisers extra exposure by having the tour guides out earlier. However, several people had requested that the Public Pond Tour be moved back to July.

We will be voting on these two issues this August. Only one ballot per membership will be allowed and you must write your name legibly on the ballot for it to be counted. If we can’t read it, we won’t count it. You can vote at the August meeting and at the Summer Social. If it is voted in favor of move the WGSO General Meeting to the first Tuesday of each month, it will not go into effect until January, 2015. If the Public Pond is voted to move to July, it will take effect in 2015.

WGSO would like to thank our members who put their pond on our 2014 Tours. By putting your pond on tour promotes interest in what WGSO is all about - water gardening. We want you to know your hard work is very much appreciated by the club and those who visited your yard. GREAT JOB to the WGSO members who opened their yards for the 2014 Tours:

**PUBLIC TOUR**
- Teresa Asbury
- Gilbert & Kris Bley
- Dick & Sandi Caldwell
- John & Diane Clark
- Larry & Barbara Davison
- Terry & Connie Fisher
- Jim & Mary Garrett
- Freddy & Shela Hill
- James & Degeta Huffman
- Mike & Rita Hurst
- Bill James
- Bob & Sue Jones
- Jay & Trayce Jones
- Dode Jordan
- Doug & Connie Kaye
- Orin & Barbara Kimball
- Mary Merrill
- Mike & Robin Perry
- Mary Scott & Karen Beeman
- Dennis & Elynn Wagner
- Kim West
- Karen Wolf

**MEMBERS TOUR**
- Teresa Asbury
- William & Nancy Burns
- Jim & Mary Garrett
- Phil & Sarah Grissam
- Lynne Hardin
- Freddy & Shela Hill
- Bill James
- Doug & Connie Kaye
- Orin & Barbara Kimball
- Alan & Marilyn Knol
- Coy & Tasha McBraye
- Jim & Leah Maida
- Mary Merrill
- Mary Scott & Karen Beeman
- Steve Spitz & Steve Thomson
ARGULUS or FISH LOUSE: This parasite and its eggs are commonly introduced by Frogs and Toads. It is easy to detect, especially on the fins or light coloured areas of the Koi as this shows up clearly. The size of this parasite vary between 1mm to 5mm in the adults, and is one of those that can be seen with the Naked Eye. They are greenish brown and they attach themselves to the Koi by the suckers they use to hold onto the body of the Koi - they also inject a poison into the Koi which causes inflammation and possibly bleeding from the wound. Dimlin Powder can also be used to eradicate this parasite very successfully ...

LERNEA or ANCHOR WORM: This parasite can be very troublesome if left unchecked, with the adults reaching 12 mm in length - it is grayish white in colour and attaches itself to the Koi by using hooks, or anchors as the name applies, boring into the skin tissue by first getting under a scale. Only the tail of the anchor worm is visible and looks like a short length of cotton. A nchor Worm needs treating quickly before a secondary infection. Method of Eradication: The only known method of killing this parasite, without killing the Koi is DIMLIN POWDER which can be used safely at any water temperature and has an action of sterilizing the adult and larval stages of this parasite which insures that all eggs produced, after the application of Dimlin, will not hatch. Dimlin Powder at the rate of 1 gram per ton of pond water. Measure out the quantity required and mix in a plastic bucket with pond water ensuring that the powder is dissolved then add to the pond in the previous manner. A second dosage may be needed to ensure that the life cycle of the Anchor Worm has been halted. After this second application the dead adults, which will still be hanging from the Koi, can be removed using tweezers but making sure that the hooks, as well as the tail of the Anchor Worm are removed and then apply a proprietary Topical dressing to prevent a secondary infection.

GYROACTYLUS (Skin fluke) and the DACTYLOGYRUS (Gill fluke): Flukes cause Ulcer Disease. Other parasites can transmit and cause ulcerations, but none so effectively as the pathogenic trematode, or FLUKE. Assume that if you’re treating bacterial infections, you also have concurrent infection with Flukes. The flukes are easy to diagnose with a microscope. However, they are also easy to treat using Malachite Green and Formalin - Potassium permanganate is also excellent and used at the rate of 1.5 grams per ton (220 Gallons) - but it is even more important to ensure good volumes of water changes after using this medication.

CHILONONELLA: Chilodonella - this is the one parasite that kills so many fish so fast in the Springtime. Chilodinella is one of the hottest fish killers there is. Under the scope you may see a heartshaped organism, or a large round organism full of tiny bubbles. Alive, the Chilodinella resembles a heart shaped onion, with a fuzzy end where you could imagine the onions roots would be. These are actually cilia. Dead, Chilodinella are motionless round balls full of tiny bubbles. They may resemble Ich but they do not have a crescent nucleus nor do they move in their dead, rounded state. Chilodinella clears EASILY with salt. Leave the salt in for 14 days, and be sure to supplement aeration, as gill damage d/t Chilodinella may be severe in the survivors. Chilodinella should be suspected anytime large numbers of fish are dying on the surface, or who roll over on their sides except when disturbed, the Koi dash madly. Method of Eradication: Treats easily with salt at the dosage rate of 3/4 ounce per gallon (0.75 percent). Clears almost overnight, so immediate salting can save a lot of fish.

Hand Feeding Koi

In addition to the peace and tranquility of Pond Keeping, spending time with your Koi can be equally rewarding. Koi are very sociable and love a crowd of friends. They are less apt to shy when they are in a large group.

Your Koi will eat from your hand, provided you have the patience to earn their trust and friendship. Here are a few helpful hints:

- Feed them in the same place every time.
- Drop a small handful of pellets and stay there to observe.
- The bravest or hungriest will start to eat and the rest will follow.
- They must see you when they eat.
- Don’t walk away from the pond before they start to eat.
- Withhold food for a day if they won’t eat in front of you.

Gradually, the Koi will equate you with food. This usually takes about 3 to 5 days. Tease them closer with small sprinklings of food. Put your hands in the water while they eat. The Koi will learn that food comes from your hand. Start with just a few pellets. The bravest Koi will soon be nudging your hand. It is only a matter of time and all of your fish will swimming, jumping and splashing toward you every time you walk by the pond.
This year’s tour included 15 ponds and most of the ponds had never before been on the members’ tour. So it was really a treat to see so many new ones. We started out at 8:30 in the morning with a full bus and a caravan following behind. We did go to the majority of the ponds before having a late lunch to try to beat the heat. Lunch was at Doug and Connie Kayes’ home where we had plenty of shade and lots to see. I’m sure most still didn’t see half of it. Oh, and she made the best cookies for us too. Not one, but two kinds. So THANK YOU Doug and Connie for hosting our lunch! Throughout the tour we had five door prizes, which one was a mossy rock boulder that was donated by Minnick Materials that is located on I-35 just north of Indian Hills Road. So be sure to go check out their new place. Congratulations to all of the winners who won door prizes. Unfortunately no one won the 50/50 so everyone still has a chance at the August meeting.

We returned shortly before 6:30 after having a full day of fun. We had no accidents and we didn’t even run over anyone’s mailbox this year so it was a great day. Good thing Bill James was standing guard at his mailbox this year to keep it safe.

**FAVORITE KOI TREATS FROM YOUR KITCHEN**

**Grapefruit** Cut the grapefruit on it’s equator (widest latitude) and then again cut those halves into halves. So you have quarters. They float. The fish will be attracted at once. Watch out the skins don’t jam up a pump or clog your skimmer. Fed too much, the vitamin C acid will scorch the lips of your fish to a pale pink color, no harm - just back off. Once per week is plenty.

**Watermelon** They liked it but not as much as Grapefruit. It doesn’t supply much nutrition so I have not done this as much as grapefruit.

**Orange slices** Big fish will earnestly take Mandarin orange slices right out of your hand. Very cool, delicious to the fish, I guess, and loaded in Vitamin C. Larger seedless oranges can be cut as Grapefruit [above] and will do as well.

**Peas** The pain in the neck to me about these was that they sank fast. And if the Koi didn’t see them go in, they miss them on the bottom. So there’s the chance of wasting the peas and polluting the pond. So be careful to let the fish know you’re there, and “here come the peas” and all that. They say that the peas could be skinned. Yeah, sure, I have time for that, how about you? My Koi liked the peas quite a bit, when they realized they were there. I had a Tancho Goshiki that especially liked the peas which showed me that not all fish are alike, personality-wise.

**Romaine** Nutritionally invisible, but perhaps the least messy of “greens” for the fish to munch on if you like them to have something to eat like that. Don’t bother with Iceberg lettuce. Get the darkest Romaine you can and cut it into six-inch strips of the thinness suitable for your fish. They will chomp on the thick centerspines of the leaf later.

**Cheerios** ANY time of year, Koi will appreciate Honey Nut Cheerios as a treat. It is low residue and low nitrogen, what’s not to love?

**Is there anything I probably should NOT feed Koi as a treat?** I’ve heard that grapes can contain some oxalates and that apple seeds contain cyanide. The math on these says that if you got a Koi to eat a cubic meter of grapes or appleseeds in a day’s time, said Koi could perish from the crystallization of the oxalates in his kidney. For your information, a Koi that could eat a cubic meter of grapes in a day would measure about forty-two feet long and weigh in at 2,300 pounds. So I would say this:

**Dr Johnson’s Notes On Koi Treats:** “If you would eat it, and the fish can eat it without it dissolving in, or polluting the pond, try it, and see if they like it. Don’t feed any treat so much as to replace their interest in nutritionally complete staple food.”

Source: www.koifeeding.com/koi_feeding_koi_treats.html
State Fair Demos
Sept 13th - 2 pm to 4 pm
Support WGSO and watch us showcase WGSO workshops in the southeast corner of Oklahoma Expo Hall building.

Join Mary Garrett, Vickie Baker, Connie Fisher, Diane Clark, and Paullei Mumme as they demonstrate Vertical Gardens, Terrariums, Bowling Ball Yard Art, Faux Boulder Bubbler, Leaf Casting,

Want to volunteer? Contact Paullei Mumme at 642-4767 or paullei.mumme@gmail.com.

Faux Boulder Bubbler Workshop
Saturday August 30 @ 9 am
This workshop should take about 4 hours
Bring snacks to share

Limited Space Available
RSVP Required to wgsmemembership@gmail.com
Space Not Held Until Payment is Received
Payment due by 8/20 to purchase supplies.

Diane Clark’s House
3900 NW 35, OKC
947-6999

Material Kit is ONLY $15 includes Blue Styrofoam insulation sheet, spray adhesive, hypertufa mix (cement, peat moss, vermiculite) with select colorants, & pvc pipe. Finished size will be approx 16” x 12” x 6”.

You provide latex gloves (your hands will be colored and cement burns the skin after a while), dust mask, safety glasses, old or cheap serrated kitchen knife to form the styroam, spray water bottle to keep the hypertufa mixture moist, and a blow torch if you have it - to help form the boulder, and a large mixing container for the hypertufa and about a quart sized container to add the dry mix into the large mixing container.

You may want to bring some gold, bronze, or black glitter to mimic the shimmer in granite and sandstone. Texture can be added with a wire brush, cheap stiff paint brush about 1”-2” wide, stiff putty knife, and some crunched up heavy duty aluminum foil -- so feel free to bring those.

Any questions contact Paullei Mumme 642-4767 paullei.mumme@gmail.com

Workshop Sign-Up Sheet:

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<th>WORKSHOP</th>
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<td>Bowling Ball Yard Art</td>
<td>Diane Clark</td>
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<td>Vertical Gardens</td>
<td>Mary Garrett</td>
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<td>Faux Boulder Bubbler</td>
<td>Diane Clark</td>
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<td>Leaf Casting</td>
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RSVP is required on all workshops due to limited space. Waiting list will be started when spaces are filled. Please let us know if you can’t make it so someone else can join the fun.

All you have to do is pay for the material costs. Some workshops will have a flat fee for all inclusive material kits, other workshops will have a partial fee for bulk materials provided, and a few workshops will have attendees bring all of the materials.

Sign Up Sheets will be at the General Meetings
Got questions? Contact, WGSO Activities Chair, Paullei Mumme paullei.mumme@gmail.com or 642-4767
The 20th of each month is the deadline for articles/advertisements for next month’s issue of Pond Life. E-mail articles and advertisements to Paullei Mumme at wgsomembership@gmail.com.

The meeting will be still at 7:00pm, but try to be there early so we can begin at 7:00 sharp since there is so much to see. It really is a cool place to learn about what you can do with concrete and how you can finish it. This is where WGSO bought the colors for our leaf casting and several members purchased stain for their patios. For those who have asked about the refreshments they will be the same as any regular meeting, so please bring a snack to share. Any questions call Diane Clark at 947-6999.

Harry Asbury
Kathleen Gerrity
Phil Grissam
James Huffman
Dode Jordan
Richard Kienlen
Cindy McBride
Michael Perry
Robin Perry
Kathy Smathers
Heather Thompson
Ruth Turcotte