



May Meeting

Harb's Oasis

13827 Coursey Blvd

May 20, 2001

2:30 pm

The Water Spout

Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society Newsletter

May, 2001

Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society, Founded June 1993

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The President Elect position is still vacant.
Please help out and volunteer. Let any of the
officers know if you would like to volunteer.
Thanks.

Meeting Dates for 2001

May 20, 2001

June 24, 2001

July 22, 2001

August 26, 2001

September 23, 2001 (Pond Tour)

October 28, 2001

Keep these dates in mind and plan to
attend the meetings. The date for the
Nov/Dec meeting (Christmas Party) will be
determined later in the year. The Society

can only get better if everyone participates, so get involved. Locations will be in the monthly Newsletter.

Minutes for April Meeting

There is not much to say in the minutes for April because our meeting was held at our exhibit at Earth Day on North Blvd. A number of members spent the morning setting up our outstanding, beautiful exhibit. I'm not going to attempt to name everyone who helped because I'm sure I'd forget someone. Suffice it to say that we deeply appreciate all the help that we got. All the volunteers did an outstanding job. Without a doubt we had the best looking exhibit there!

Then, of course, there were those who helped us dismantle the exhibit at 5:30. We didn't attempt to stay until Earth Day ended at 8 p.m.!

A brief meeting was held at 2:30 with a few members present. Most of those who had worked in the morning left after the job was completed and they had wandered around and seen the other exhibits. We set up a membership table and handed out numerous brochures. Some former members came by and renewed their membership, and we got a few new members. We talked to a lot of people who expressed interest in ponds and water gardens, some of whom will probably join us in the future. Thanks to those who hung around under the tent in the afternoon and talked to the people who stopped by.

Special thanks to Mark Spedale for loaning us some of his koi for our pond and to Peggy Cox Reed, who for the second year

in a row, loaned us a truckload of plants to place around the exhibit. For those of you who didn't get to see it, it was a backyard habitat, complete with pond, patio chairs, and lots of beautiful plants.

Margaret Mercier, President, presided at the meeting and made several announcements about various events that might be of interest to members. It was noted, for instance, that the Master Gardeners' Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 12. Although we have not yet been invited to have a table, as in past years, there is a possibility that we will. If so, we will need help at the table throughout the day.

The May meeting will be held a week early – on the 3rd Sunday, May 20th – because our regular meeting day falls on the Memorial Day Holiday weekend. It will probably be held at Harb's Oasis so that we can learn about the "latest and greatest" in pond equipment and supplies.

Danna Spayde spoke briefly about our Pond Tour. We are looking into the issue of insurance for that event. We have no insurance a present and won't until we get our (c)(3) and join the Associated Koi Clubs of America. We are checking to find out if there is a reasonably priced type of one-time event insurance that we can get for the Tour or if the individual homeowners' insurance will be adequate to cover us. If we can't get this insurance issue resolved satisfactorily, we may not be able to have a Tour this year. Regardless of the outcome of the insurance situation, however, we plan to hold our meetings during the summer months, beginning in June, at the homes

of members who have said they would be on the Tour if we have it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danna S. Spayde, Secretary

A Big Thanks To...

We need to give a big thanks to everyone who volunteered for Earth Day. It was a huge success and by far we had the best booth. Once again, Peggy Cox and her husband, Doc, backed up the truck and unloaded a beautiful instant garden. Along with everything else we displayed a "backyard paradise" on North Boulevard.

Article

Information from Water Garden News
Watergarden.com

PEST CONTROL FOR AQUATIC PLANTS

Aquatic plants for the most part are very easy plants to grow. When properly planted and fertilized aquatic plants require little care. You never have to remember to water. Sometimes though we may have trouble with pest.

APHIDS

One of the more common pests is the Water Lily Aphid. They are generally pear shaped and very small, about 1/8" or less. Aphids come in many colors white, black, and even pink and orange. This aphid attacks not only water lilies but may also

attack any other aquatic plant. Lotus, taro, and water lettuce are the plants most affected by aphids. They weaken plants by sucking juices from the plant reducing its nutrients.

This weakens the plant making it more susceptible to diseases and molds.

The aphid lays her eggs in the fall on Plum or Cherry trees most often. This is the best time to get rid of them by spraying the trees with a dormant oil spray, which is available at most garden centers. Make sure that the trees are dormant before using this spray.

Aphids are more of a problem in areas of little or no wind. If you have only a few aphids on one plant then you may try crushing them by wiping them off the plant with a paper towel. If your infestation is too large for this type of treatment then you may need to spray your plants with an insecticide. The safest approach is to remove the plants from the pond before spraying with Malathion or Safer Insecticidal soap. Do not use too much spray, as this is likely to damage the plant as well. You should be able to place the plant back in the pond the next day, but first spray the treated plants with plain water.

You may want to try something a little safer than insecticides. In the case of an aphid infestation, a mix of one part vegetable oil and ten parts water with a drop of detergent will do the trick (do not spray in the heat of the day). Another treatment is to sprinkle diatomaceous earth on the plants. This dust destroys insects by drying them out. If you are lucky enough to have ladybugs in your garden then they will make a meal out of

the aphids and you will not need to resort to sprays and poisons.

CHINA MARK MOTH

The China Mark Moth is one of the most destructive of the insect pest. It is actually the larva of this small moth that does the dirty work. The moth larva is commonly known as the "sandwich man" because of its habit of cutting two small sections of water lily leaf and sandwiching itself between them where it is protected. Sometimes the larva will attach itself to the underside of the water lily leaf.

There is a close relative of this moth. Its larva enters the stem of the water lily where it completes its life cycle. Infected plants have a swelling in the stem and a tiny hole in the center of the leaf surface. If you only have a few plants that are affected then you can manually remove the larva and dispose of them. Another control that is effective is BT *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Mosquito Dunks are an easy way to add *Bacillus thuringiensis* to your pond. These work gradually over a period up to 30 days. Also the Mosquito Bits, which are good to use when there is a large population of mosquito larva and/or China Mark Moth larva already in a pond. This product works much faster for a quicker kill. After the existing population is killed, then use of the Mosquito Dunks in the pond will prevent a new infestation.

LEAF MINING MIDGE

The larva of the leaf mining midge and the false leaf mining midge can do a lot of damage to water lily leaves. The adult looks somewhat like a small mosquito and lays eggs in the water in the early evening. The tiny larva then burrows or partially burrows

into the leaf leaving a trail as they eat. This trail of dying tissue turns brown or black and then rots. The best control is to hand pick the larva off or use Mosquito Dunks and/or Mosquito Bits as described above.

GRASSHOPPERS

Grasshoppers can be a problem at times. They can do a lot of damage to a lotus, cannas, or a pickerel plant in a day or two. The best control for this large pest is hand removal.

JAPANESE BEETLES

In some parts of the country Japanese beetles are a problem. They mostly affect terrestrial plants but can quickly do a lot of damage to a pickerel or other large leaf aquatic plant. Again removal by hand is the best control for infestations in small areas. When an insecticide must be sprayed we have had success using 50% Malathion mixture. Using this, we can safely spray the plants in the pond as long as we limit the amount of 50% Malathion to 1/2 teaspoon per 1000 gallons of pond water. In other words, if we mix 1/2 teaspoon of Malathion with a quart of water then we should spray this entire amount into a 1000-gallon pond without hurting goldfish or koi. This would be deadly to some types of pond fish. As with all chemical, use care when spraying in, around, or near your pond.

LEAF ROLLER

The leaf roller is a medium size caterpillar that rolls up the leaves of cannas or *Thalia dealbata*. As it eats, it destroys the leaf in the process. Hand picking is the best control for this insect larva.

DUCKS

Ducks can be a problem. They may eat aquatic plants and or fish. A dog in the yard is the best deterrent.

DEER

Deer will wade into a pond to eat water lilies. The ScareCrow is a device that sprays a burst of water when a deer (or other animal) enters an area that is monitored by a motion detector. The ScareCrow has proven to be a very effective when it comes to keeping deer away from ponds.

RACCOONS

Raccoons usually go for the fish but will eat some aquatic plants. A dog or the ScareCrow is the best solution for keeping them away from a pond.

TURTLES

Turtles are sometimes kept as pets in a water garden. They are very nice animals to observe but do not mix well with fish and aquatic plants. Sometimes they can be tolerated when they are very small, but as they grow they can damage or destroy your plants and fish.

SNAILS

Some people recommend snails for algae control in ponds. They do very little in keeping the algae down and some spend most of their time eating your water lilies. Snails also serve as an intermediary host to some parasites that attack your fish. Snail eggs are deposited on the underside of water lilies and look like clear jelly. They get in your plumbing and filters and can clog both. Once established, snails are difficult to eradicate from a pond.

KOI

Koi can be a problem for some tender plants. We keep koi with our water lilies and most shallow water plants with no problem but we place cobbles or potato size stones in the top of the planting containers to keep the fish from digging out the soil while looking for worms and small crustaceans. If koi are nibbling on your plants then consider using our Plant Protectors to keep the fish away from the foliage.

Internet Interests

<http://www.koivet.com>

Info on disease topics for aquatic animals

<http://www.pondkeeper.com>

Pondkeeper Magazine

<http://www.watgardening.com>

Water Gardening Magazine

<http://www.koi.com>

If you want to know more about koi this is the spot

******If you know of any interesting web pages that will benefit other society members, please let me know and I will post them in this section. Thanks.**

Happy reading.

Lance Beecher Newsletter Editor

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