



The Story of David – My Waterlily

By Soni Forsman


There are two David's in my life. First is husband David and the second is a hardy waterlily, *Nymphaea* 'David.' My first David is why I have the second.

Several years ago, it was an auction item at an International Waterlily and Water Gardening symposium. The unknown-to-me waterlily was on the silent auction table but was moved to the live one as several bidders, including my husband, showed sincere interest in taking this waterlily home. The live bidding was active. How easy he (we) got caught up in the moment. I don't remember the final price, but I remember it was the most expensive in my collection at the time.

N. 'David' was sold bare root (tuber) with foliage still attached. It was in a self-sealing plastic bag wrapped in moist newspaper and labeled pink. It survived the handling at the auction and the journey to Minnesota. I planted it soon after arriving home.

The classic-shape flower bloomed light orange rather than pink. However, the first-day flower does have a hint of pink. The orange color deepens as it matures. The bloom measures about four-inches in diameter and has almost white sepals. It has bright green pads speckled with chocolate brown. It is a medium size waterlily, with a spread of four feet. To accent its light orange color, I place it near waterlilies that bloom in

shades of pink or red.

It is very winter hardy. Signs of new growth are visible with ice out. It does not produce an overabundance of new growing eyes but certainly enough. N. 'David' was hybridized in 1993 at the Latour-Marliac Nursery in France. 



Reeds & Rushes

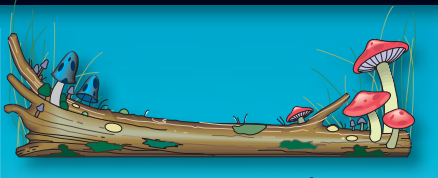
A letter from the Editor

The New Year is here and we can look forward to another season of water gardening with anticipation and high hopes. Each year seems to be better than the last one. Either it is or we are duped by our poor memory of the past. Despite the now cold temperatures there burns in each water gardeners heart a desire to visualize what the garden will be like at Tour time. Whether you are on the tour or not, Tour time is the height of the water garden season. Tour time is what every gardener measures the strengths and weaknesses of their garden against. We hope that everyone will realize the actuality of what they are now fantasizing about, and that their gardens will be better than last year with all elements at their peak performance.

This month we have a very fine article by Soni Forsman about one of her favorite lilies. Soni always has a great way of telling the story about the lilies she has in her pond and about

the ones she has seen in her travels. We deeply appreciate her contributions here. Timm Wiess has provided us an interesting tale about one of the gardens that they will have on display during the winter visits. John Draxton has a nice article about his Tour experiences and exposes a long held secret. And Michelle Chambers has an interesting picture collage of her December get-together. The club season starts off with a bang as evident in the many club news notes presented this month. Read on and join us at the Meetings.

Again I solicit your assistance in making this newsletter the wonderful informative piece that it has become. The editorial staff does not write much, but can help in many ways make your story great. Give us your ideas, experiences, dreams, and frustrations and we will turn them into a learning experience. This newsletter is all about you. ✨



~ Waterlog ~

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Waterlog Submissions

The deadline for the February issue is Thursday, January 17, 2013.

Please submit all articles for publication in the newsletter to the mailbox wgnews@mwgs.org. This is a new mailbox specifically created to handle the collection of publishable materials.

Contributions to the Waterlog are always welcome and may be submitted to the appropriate assistant editor by e-mail. Letters to the Editor will be printed in the Reeds & Rushes column as space permits.

The Minnesota Water Garden Society is a nonprofit organization. Our mission: to increase the enjoyment and enthusiasm for water gardening through promotion, education and shared experiences.



President's Pad

By Gary DeGrande

Winter has arrived and I hate to admit that it caught me unprepared. The lingering warmth of the fall lulled me into thinking I could keep my pond running into December, maybe even til Christmas. Wishful thinking, yes, but I so enjoy leaving my large Koi outside in the big pond as long as possible, delaying what seems like imprisonment in their cramped quarters inside. The rapid drop in temperature Thanksgiving Day, coupled with a busy time with family, resulted in my having to chop through the ice to get to them this year before they became frozen fish sticks! Thankfully they didn't move very much in the cold water and with the help of my patient wife and a lot of pushing of ice floes around, we managed to get them all inside without a major incident. I even pumped the water from the pond direct into several large aquariums this year, so I could net the fish and put them directly into the aquariums without worry over the possible negative effects of temperature shock. All 21 Koi seemed to make it OK, although 1 of them doesn't look like he/she enjoyed the transfer.

It is such an eerie calm in the backyard now, without the sound of the waterfalls and the sight of the Koi. But the big snowfall has made the backyard and pond a winter wonderland with a different type of visual pleasure than the rest of the year. There seem to even be more birds now on the feeders, or maybe I just notice them more now. Chickadees, nuthatches, junkos and finches are the most frequent. It was fun to see a large, pileated woodpecker visiting our backyard also.

What a fantastic MWGS holiday party we had on December 8th!! The "Jingle Mingle" at host Michelle Chambers' home is featured later in this Waterlog with a collage of photos. The festive holiday decorations as well as the enticing array of food and drink made for a very enjoyable evening. But most of all, it was a special treat for all of us to have some valuable social time together. We have such an interesting group of people of all ages and experiences that

goes well beyond a discussion of pumps and fish. Special thanks to Michelle and her husband Brian for organizing and hosting such a wonderful night!

And we have another party planned for February 23rd and 24th!! Be sure to check out the details in the accompanying article in this Waterlog. Space is limited so get your RSVP in now!

At the last Board meeting, we spent a considerable amount of time on the 2013 Budget, included in detail later in this Waterlog. As I mentioned in last month's column, we are in a financially secure position, with a surplus of funds to help further our mission "to increase the enjoyment and enthusiasm for water gardening through promotion, education and shared experiences". As in 2011, we again took in more than we spent in 2012. We currently have an amount of reserve funds approximately equal to two years operating expenses. The Board decided to utilize some of these excess funds in a number of ways to help promote the MWGS and hopefully increase membership. Two projects in particular are a redesign and update of our website and advertizing in selected media to target audiences. The Board is open to any suggestions from members in these areas, so please feel free to share your ideas.

We have an excellent speaker program for the coming months – see the article later in this Waterlog. I'm excited to hear Don Ingebretson's talk January 13. Don, the "renegade gardener", has given such interesting presentations in the past. Charles Beckjord has done a great job in speaker recruitment the past several years but is busy with other priorities now and is unable to continue. Thanks, Charles, for being such a dedicated volunteer. The Board will take over the task for now and we are very open to any suggestions for quality speakers from our members.

As 2012 comes to a close, I find it a particular time for reflection. On a personal note, this is now the eighth year since my loving wife Mary gave me the Gift of Life with a kidney transplant,

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without which I would not be writing this column, let alone digging in the dirt and wading in the pond most of the year. It was a particularly pleasurable year for our pond and garden; not all years are like that. 2012 has been another good year for the MWGS as well. Our Water Garden Tour was another success, the major upgrades to the State Fair Pond have been completed, we have had a number of good speakers at general meetings, the Arboretum Sale exceeded expectations, we continue to run a surplus of funds to give us flexibility in the coming years and we have a lot of exciting plans for 2013. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time and talents to make 2012 another good year for the MWGS.

Happy New Year to all!! ✨

Under Current

Official Board Minutes & Announcements

Board meetings are always open to all members interested in attending.

The board met on Thursday, December 6, 2012, in the Burr Oaks Room in Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Drive, Roseville.

Members present were Gary DeGrande, John Draxton, Marvin Platt, John Pritchard, Michelle Chambers, Tim Rick, Ralph Hogancamp, Jeff Graupmann, Marty Barke, Star Strane, and Bill Lindblade. Jim Claytor was absent.

Non board member John Scully, Waterlog editor and MWGS website manager, and Scott Flynn, a non MWGS member, were invited and attended the meeting.

President Gary DeGrande called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

New Website: Board member Tim Rick offered at the last Board meeting to look into a possible upgrade to our existing website. He invited one of his associates, Scott Flynn, from Marketplace Plus, to take part in the discussion on improving our Website. Non Board member John Scully, our current Website manager, provided valuable perspective on the history, cost and operation of our current website, as well as a recognition of areas for improvement and a cooperative spirit for change.

The consensus was that a newly designed website could make it more visually attractive and more convenient to use, hopefully enticing new viewers to explore the advantages of becoming

an MWGS member as well as making more complete info conveniently available for existing members.

In addition to an overall design upgrade, other ideas that were discussed included monthly updates, adding a search engine, making the site more educational, increasing convenient access to much more info and providing links to sites such as the MWGS Facebook page. It was pointed out that previous issues of the Waterlog include a large number of attractive photos of Water Garden Tours from the past several years that could be used to make the site more visually attractive and inviting.

The Board unanimously approved the creation of a committee to put together a proposal for a website update, including costs to implement it and maintain it. Board members Tim Rick (chair), Michelle Chambers, and Jeff Graupmann volunteered to be on this committee, as well as non Board member John Scully. Scott Flynn will also be involved as needed. Tim Rick will report on progress at future Board meetings.

Meet Your MWGS Member Feature in Waterlog: MWGS member Oralee Kirk kindly offered to reinstitute this feature that had previously been an interesting aspect of past Waterlogs. The first article in the January Waterlog will feature Vice President Michelle Chambers. Each month, future articles will feature other Board members as well as non-Board members. Bill Lindblade volunteered to be the next Board member to be featured, followed by Marv Platt. Oralee has also contacted non Board members for future articles.

Holiday Party: The MWGS holiday party, "The Jingle Mingle", will be held at Michelle Chambers' house on December 8 from 6pm to 9pm. MWGS members were informed by an attractive "Save The Date" invitation that went out by email and in the December Waterlog. Michelle indicated that 58 members signed up to attend.

Treasurer's Report

BREMER SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward.....\$43,994.74
Interest earned.....\$7.23
Balance as of 12/18/12\$44,001.97

BREMER CHECKING ACCOUNT

Bank Charge.....\$5.50
Credit Card Fee.....\$132.09
Newsletter.....\$561.69
Special Events (Jingle Mingle).....\$239.82
Web Expenses.....\$192.00

TOTAL EXPENSES.....\$1,131.10

Income 11/15/12 to 12/18/12

Interest\$0.05
Member Dues.....\$70.00

TOTAL INCOME.....\$70.05

Balance as of 12/18/2012\$4,716.11



It is sure to be a hit! Look for photos and highlights in the next issue of the Waterlog. The Board approved costs up to \$500, although actual costs submitted are expected to be significantly less. The Board applauded Michelle for her generosity in organizing and hosting this fun event.

Budget 2012: Marvin Platt distributed a detailed accounting of income and expenses budgeted and actual for 2012, and projected for 2013. Considerable time was spent on analyzing all of this data in order to finalize the 2013 budget. Each category was discussed at length and adjustments were made where appropriate. The final budget is included as an attachment to these minutes and will be published in the January Waterlog. Marv Platt agreed to use subcategories more extensively in 2013 to provide more accurate accounting.

In summary, expenses in 2012 were again less than income, as was the case in 2011 as well, increasing the surplus that has been growing the past few years. With this in mind, the 2013 forecast includes spending slightly higher than income. In addition, the Board approved using some of the excess

funds that have accumulated to help promote the MWGS and to hopefully increase membership. In particular, funds were dedicated to the following projects: a new projection system, bringing in quality speakers from outside our area, designing and distributing a MWGS brochure, two new banners for use at "outreach" events, updating our Website and advertising in selected media to target audiences.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

State Fair Adopt a Garden: Current State Fair chair Bill Lindblade is looking for someone to co-chair this project with him. We have a number of volunteers already committed to work on various aspects of the projected but Bill would like some assistance on overall organization and planning. This is a great opportunity for someone that wants to enhance their involvement in the MWGS and work with an experienced team. A major upgrade to the site was already completed last year, thus minimizing the time required to manage the project this year. Anyone interested in co-chairing, chairing or joining this team should contact Bill at bwl1939@gmail.com, or 651-245-9000.

Speaker Recruitment: Charles Beckjord is in the process of transferring this responsibility to Gary De Grande. Some ideas for a speaker for the January meeting were discussed and will be pursued post meeting.

Arboretum Sale: Marty Barke is looking for a co-chair for the Arboretum Sale. Anyone interested should contact him at 952-929-7359.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2013 from 7 to 9 PM at the community room, Byerly's, 5725 Duluth St, Golden Valley, MN (SW corner of Hwy 100 and Duluth St.) ✂

"The Board applauded Michelle for her generosity in organizing and hosting this fun Jingle Mingle event."

2013 MWGS BUDGET

INCOME 2013 Forecast

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Member dues | 5,800 |
| Tour | 10,800 |
| Arboretum Sale | 2,400 |
| Auction (May Picnic) | 1,500 |
| Promotional | 1,000 |
| Interest | 50 |
| Donations | 50 |
| Miscellaneous | 50 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$21,650 |

EXPENSES 2013 Forecast

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Newsletter | 6,000 |
| General Meetings | 5,000 |
| Tour | 4,200 |
| Publicity | 4,000 |
| Website | 2,000 |
| Celebration/recognition | 1,000 |
| State Fair Pond | 1,250 |
| Insurance..... | 1,000 |
| Operating expenses | 800 |
| Arboretum Sale | 500 |
| Neighborhood parties | 100 |
| Miscellaneous | 100 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$25,950 |

NET (INCOME – EXPENSES) -.....4300

(Excess spending to be taken from reserves)

TOTAL RESERVES ESTIMATED AT \$40,000 AS OF 12/31/2012

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES TO BE TAKEN FROM RESERVES IN 2013

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Projection equipment | \$1,000 |
| Membership recruitment programs | \$5,000 |

NET RESERVES PROJECTED TO BE APPROXIMATELY \$30,000 AS OF 12/31/2013 ✂



By Star Platt

Well we made it through another year. Marv and I went to the Holiday Mingle. That was one of the best holiday get-togethers I have been to in a long time. I would like to thank Michelle for all the hard work it took a lot to put the event together. I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays with their family and friends. I had a marvelous time with the grandkids.

During all the cooking I did for Christmas and holiday parties I made a lot of wild rice. So of course my subject for this issue will be wild rice. While I was looking up the history I did run across one very interesting story it was a thesis that was submitted by Elbert Ernest Jenks for a degree as Dr. of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin in 1899. The last printing was in 1901 and the name is the Wild Rice Gatherers of the Upper Lakes. You can read it at <http://www.archive.org/details/wildricegatherer00jenkuoft>. I really enjoyed it and I think you will too.



Did You Know?

Species: *Zizania palustris*
(in our area)

Wild rice is also called Canadian rice, Indian rice, and water oaks. There are three species of wild rice that are native to North America. *Zizania palustris* is the species name for northern wild rice. It is an annual plant native to the great lakes region of North America, the aquatic areas of the Boreal Forest regions of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in Canada and Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. *Z. aquatic* is an annual that grows in the St. Lawrence River and on the Atlantic and Gulf Coast. *Z. texana* is a perennial plant found only in a small area along the San Marcos River in central Texas. One species is native to Asia called Manchurian wild rice and *Z. caduciflora* is a perennial native to China.

Texas wild rice is in danger of extinction due to the loss of suitable habitats in its limited range and to pollution. The pollen of Texas wild rice can only travel about 30 inches away from the parent plant. If pollen does not land on the receptive female flower within that distance, no seeds are produced. Manchurian wild rice has almost disappeared from the wild in its native range, but has been accidentally introduced into the wild in New Zealand and is considered an invasive species there.

The species most commonly harvested as grain is the annual species *Zizania palustris*. Native Americans and others harvest wild rice by canoeing into a stand of plants. One person vans (or knocks) rice into the canoe with knockers or flails while others paddled slowly or use a push pole. The knocker bends the graying heads over the canoe and brushes the seeds into the canoe. The sizes of the knockers, as well as other details of wild rice harvesting are prescribed in state and tribal law. By Minnesota statutes, knockers must be at most one inch in diameter, 30 inches long, and 1 pound in weight. The Ojibwa people call this plant manoomin meaning (good berry) and consider wild rice to be a sacred component to their culture. For these groups, the harvest is an important culture and often economic event.

Many places in Illinois, Indiana, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Wisconsin are named after these plants including Mahnomen, Minnesota, Menomonie, Wisconsin and many lakes and streams bearing the name Rice, Wildrice, or Wild Rice.

For the Minnesota statute go to <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=84.111>.

For information on the Save Our Rice Alliance and wild rice harvesting in the Upper Great Lakes Region go to <http://www.saveourrice.org>. Other websites you can go to for interesting reading are <http://1854treatyauthority.org/wildrice/> and <http://1854treatyauthority.org/wildrice/biologyofwildrice.htm>



WILD RICE BROCCOLI BAKE

2 tablespoons butter
1 (10 ¾ oz) can cream of chicken soup
1/2 cup chopped onion
¼ teaspoon salt
1 (4.5 ounce) can sliced mushrooms, drained

1 (8 ounce) package shredded Colby and Monterey Jack cheese divided into 2 cups
2 (10 ounce) packages frozen chopped broccoli thawed
2 cups cooked wild rice
I added a tablespoon of poultry seasoning and salt and pepper



Heat oven to 350°. In large skillet, melt butter over medium heat sauté onions until tender about 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in mushrooms, broccoli, wild rice, soup, salt and 1 ½ cups of the cheese. Spoon into buttered 1 ½ quart glass baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Combine croutons and butter layer over cheese. Bake uncovered until heated through about 25 to 30 minutes.

This makes 6 to 8 servings. You can refrigerate several hours or overnight.

WILD RICE, TOMATOES, HERBS AND NOODLES

2/3 cup uncooked wild rice
1 tablespoon fresh mint chopped
2 cups Fontana cheese shredded
3 medium tomatoes diced salt to taste
4 cloves garlic minced
¼ teaspoon hot pepper flakes
½ cup chopped fresh parsley
½ cup olive oil
½ cup chopped fresh basil
1 10 ounce package noodles
½ teaspoon fresh ground pepper
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Cook wild rice as indicated on package. In a medium bowl, mix rice with tomatoes, garlic, parsley, basil, pepper, meant, salt, pepper, and olive oil. Let mixture stand at room temperature for 30 minutes to four hours for flavors to blend. Cook noodles as directed. While noodles are still warm blend with cheese. Then turn noodles into shallows serving dish and top with wild rice. Serve at room temperature. Serves 6

RATATOUILLE WITH WILD RICE

2/3 cup uncooked wild rice
3 medium zucchini sliced thin
¾ cup olive oil or salad oil
1 small eggplant diced
2 medium green peppers sliced
4 tomatoes wedged
½ pound mushrooms sliced
2 teaspoons salt
1 cup onions thinly sliced
¼ teaspoon pepper
2 cloves garlic minced
¼ cup fresh parsley chopped

Cook wild rice as indicated on package. Heat ¼ cup oil in skillet or wok. Add green peppers, mushrooms, onions, and garlic. Sauté 5 minutes. Remove to large bowl. Sauté zucchini in 2 tablespoons oil on high heat for 10 minutes until tender. Put into bowl with vegetables. Sauté eggplant in remaining oil 5 minutes over high heat. Return all vegetables to skillet. Toss in cooked wild rice and half of the tomato wedges. Season with salt and pepper and sprinkle with parsley. Top with remaining tomato wedges. Serve hot or at room temperature. Serves 12 to 16.

SPICY EGGPLANT AND WILD RICE

2/3 cup uncooked wild rice
6 tablespoons peanut oil
14 teaspoon powdered ginger
1 medium eggplant about
1.5 pounds
½ teaspoon salt
1 medium onion
½ inch slices
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
2 teaspoons curry powder 2 tablespoons
mango or other flavorful chutney

Cook wild rice as indicated on package. Cut eggplant into 1 inch cubes and place cubes in a bowl. Add onions, curry powder and ginger. Toss to mix. In deep skillet or wok heat oil over high heat. Add egg plant and sauté and toss for three minutes. Reduce heat and cook eggplant until tender and browned about 25 minutes. Add salt, lemon juice and chutney. Fold in Wild rice. Serve hot or chilled. Serves 4 to 6. ✂

Welcome On Membership Pond

By MaryJo Scully

The wonderful Holiday Season has already flown by us, but I still want to wish each and every one of you a very Happy New Year. It is always hard to write about the New Year when I have been typing 2013 for membership expiration dates on our MWGS data base for a year. Now I need to shift gears and remind myself that 2014 is just around the bend, as well. The years go by entirely too fast.

I'm looking forward toward to a busier year at the MWGS membership desk. The only months it has been busy this year were June, July and August. otherwise it has been very slow and I am looking forward to getting much busier again. Let us set our goals to letting others know that MWGS exists and welcome them to a free meeting. Usually when they come to a meeting they discover that we have more to offer than mere friendship. It is always nice to have new members in our club.

Once again, I have no data to update the membership with, so let us welcome in the New Year!

Please send Memberships/Renewals along with your check for \$35.00 to:
MWGS Membership
2500 Flag Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55426-2336

You may also renew your membership using our website www.mwgs.org by selecting "Join Us" and continue by paying using any one of the four major credit cards.

For any questions send them to:
wntdame@comcast.net or
952 546-0861



NOTE: We no longer send out the membership cards, so please pick them up at one of the meetings you attend, they are available at the membership/welcome table. ✨

Privacy Information: Please note that membership information may be used ONLY by members of MWGS for personal, non-business networking purposes. Use of this information for sales or business solicitations or the like, by or for commercial entities or interests is strictly prohibited. Use of member's addresses for the purpose of mailing sales or business solicitations through the US Postal service is prohibited unless previously approved in writing by the MWGS and the member has not requested his/her address be deleted from the mailing list. The MWGS Board reserves the right to telephone, mail or e-mail solicitations that are deemed necessary for the operation of the MWGS. ✨



My Backyard

By Al G Strings

The mild temperatures continued well into December, making the seasonal transition a pleasant affair. The pond has frozen and thawed several times now as the warm and sunny days continued to grace this northland. The back yard waited for some time in a state of suspended animation for the inevitable snow cover that eventually arrived with finality and unmistakable depth. What we waited for with bated breath is here and here to stay. One can only guess what the rest of the winter will bring.

The pond lies buried under the snow. The bubbler pumps are keeping a small hole open in both pools. The open water attracts the birds and at

any one time you can see one or two drinking at the opening, while others wait for their turn. The open water also attracts other animals. One morning I noticed that a couple of deer had been into the yard and refreshed themselves at the pond. There does not seem to be any evidence that they might have broken through the thin coat of ice on the pond. Other tracks attest to visits of some squirrels, coyotes, and raccoons. It looks like it might be a busy winter season at the pond.

The squirrels are busy at the bird feeders. The cardinals, chickadees, sparrows, and finches have learned that to get something from the feeders, they have to be first in line. They have also

learned that to keep their place at the feeder, they need to throw some seeds to the ground to keep the squirrels there. It is only when the squirrels have exhausted all the discarded seeds that they attack the feeders directly and drive out the birds from their perch.

The ornamental crab trees in the front yard are a favorite feeding place for the squirrels. The wondrous bounty of berries held by the trees this year has been nearly stripped to nothing by the host of squirrels and birds seeking this fruit. Some years the berries remained on the tree all winter so that in the spring, those who dined on them got a good shot of alcohol and had some difficulty navigating back to their roosts. This year as was true last year there will be no berries to ferment during the cold months. ❄️



Member Spotlight: Michelle Chambers

Full name and board title?
Michelle Christine Chambers-Blair,
Vice President of the Minnesota
Water Garden Society.

Why did you join the MWGS? A shared passion in very sweet people that I knew we could learn SO much from.

Tell us about your home, family and pets. A busy home in Champlin that contains 2 sons, ages 16 and 18. A 7 month old English Cream Golden Retriever puppy named "Jag". A 4 month old Kitten named "Sushi" and my son's cat named "Topsy."

What hobbies or interests make your day? Gardening calms me. Designing and illustrating completes me. Keeping up with my sons keeps me young.

What was the most interesting job you ever had? Designing the products, packaging, promotions and illustrations for such companies as: Walt Disney, Disney Pixar, Lucky Charms, Snow Babies, Department 56, Tonka Toys, Golden Books, DC Comics, Steven Spielberg Productions, and Betty Crocker.

What do you do now? I have my own consulting & design firm. My primary focus is developing go-to-market brand strategy and managing all internal and external corporate communications, reputation management & social media, PR for B2B, B2C, and consumer product categories.

Who inspires you? My Husband and my brother. Two brilliant men who create calm out of chaos and are truly gifts from above.

Where would you love to go on vacation again and why? Rome. I absolutely love History. Every street corner, every structure echoes of the beautiful tradition of the Roman Empire. Wandering those endless streets gives visual testament to the artistic masters and forms of ancient design that we most likely will never see again.

What book or movie touched you in a special way and why? Family movies and family Album books through the years. I love being reminded "what was" and "what I have."

What holiday do you enjoy the most and why? Thanksgiving. It requires such little fuss to create the best memories. It is a perfect time to reflect and truly gather with those persons you love the most.

If you won the lottery tomorrow what would you do with that? Brand new cars would show up in about 25 unsuspecting driveways. Many mortgages would be suddenly paid off. My top 5 charities would be very, very happy. And I would build a home in Kauai, Hawaii with one heck of a waterfall and pond in the back yard!!

What childhood memory makes you smile? I grew up in southern Michigan and was blessed with grandparents on both sides. On one side, I had a grandmother and grandfather that let me ride on the fender of their tractors while pointing out every tree, flower and vine along the head-rows. And on the other side a grandmother who spent countless decades on her knees teaching me to garden and tend to the most beautiful flowerbeds, fruit trees and shrubs I had ever seen. My childhood shaped what I am today.

What do you wish you knew before you built your first pond? Just because I hit the water table, didn't mean I had to stop. I wish we had gone deeper.

What are you most proud of in your yard or garden? Every plant, every rock every design element" tells a story" or is an important little piece of history. 13 years ago my yard was: part farmer's field, part wetland, and part woods. The entire transformation, clearing, planting, and digging was done by hand with no professional guidance, machinery or mechanics. Shovels, rakes, and dragging boulders around on sheets makes for great exercise and a feeling of accomplishment!

What was the most gratifying moment or compliment that you had from someone seeing your pond? A young toddler in a stroller about 3 years old had asked her Mom to “please take her to the Bird House Lady yard” each week. She kicks and squeals when she arrives in her stroller and says it is her fairyland called “Narnia” When she grows up she states that she wants to live in my backyard one day so she never has to leave.

What would you rather do than go to work? Take refuge in the shade of my yard with my hands buried deep in the soil planting flowers!

Tell us something about yourself that not too many people know. I am an advanced scuba diver that has never drunk a can of soda pop or a cup of coffee in her life!

What is your favorite saying or inspirational quote? “If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost. For that is where they should be. Now put the foundation under them.”
-Henry David Thoreau.

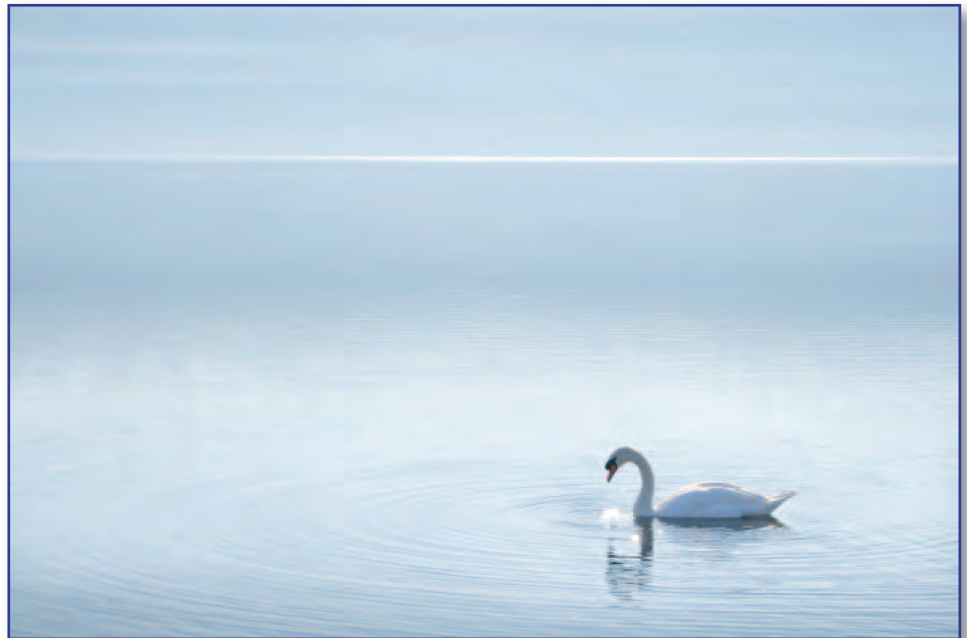
What do you feel are the strengths of the MWGS? When I look at the membership of this group, I see a total combined experience of over 1,475 years’ worth of knowledge. That is an amazing attribute that each of us can benefit from and be proud of!

What areas do you feel we need to improve? Increased membership, promote organizational awareness, strategically align ourselves with other organizations or sister groups. Explore sponsorship opportunities that have a strong footprint or impact in the Minnesota pond and gardening markets and communities.

What would you like to say to the MWGS membership about this club? Get ready for a really great New Year! We have SO MANY new ideas to create the aforementioned! We started working on your tour back in October! And that’s just the tip of iceberg! See you at the meetings! ✨



Brian and Michelle married in July 2011, standing along side their ponds and waterfalls. They were surrounded by over 100 family and friends.



In Reponse to AI G Strings – One Thing Always Leads to Another

By Timm Weiss, Ph.D. (post hole digger)

As I was reading the December Waterlog, I had a realization. If AI G Strings had a leak in the pond that prompted immediate shutdown for the winter, what was I to expect from the problems I was experiencing in my front pond? My front pond water



level was dropping faster than could be attributed to evaporation. Could it be some other problem such as a mole digging into the lining? I didn't really relish digging through 3-4 inches of snow and mud to look for a liner hole. However, I thought I must do it because I so enjoy running the ponds and waterfalls all winter.

Well I calmed down and decided at 3:30 pm to at least look at the hose leading to the waterfall area. I thank AI again for motivating me. The leak was easier to locate than I feared. The problem was caused by some extra liner pieces that were needed to direct the waterfall forward that had settled and were now directed water outside of the liner. I verified this as I moved some rocks that cover the hose and liner and found the spot beneath wet and muddy. At least it was still 33 degrees as I got mud and snow up to my elbows while attempting repairs. Much better than ignoring the problem and having frozen ground and water loss all winter. It was easy to adjust the hose and to lift the settled edges of the liner. I also needed to remove lots of vine roots (the vine roots seek water, grow and then squish the liner down so there's more leakage). Unfortunately as I was doing this I splashed some mud over a few of my wife's white "store bought snow people" that she had arranged by the pond. Not good.

The next day she noticed and told me that the mole must have been digging by the pond and made a mess

and scattered mud and dirt over several of her special snowmen. While I did confess that I was the muddy mole, I had considered just letting her think it wasn't me.

During the repair work, I also learned I had not built this part of the pond as well as I thought I had. I was sure the hose was above the liner bowl, so any leaks would not leave the liner bowl. But I had done this part of the pond in a real hurry. The hurry was caused by the very inception of MWGS in August 1997. We had attended the Sept meeting. My wife, Oralee, in an act of courage, had signed up for the 1st Parade of Ponds. By January, she had changed her mind and sent me to the first committee meeting to tell them to take us off the tour list. I am not good at saying no and I ended up on the committee, something I hadn't planned on doing either. We ended up on the 1st Pond Tour, (folks if you want to get those projects done, sign up, a deadline does wonders). I stayed on the committee for 3 years and have always helped with something during each of the last 15 years of the Tour.

So here's the story on the front pond. I couldn't remember how the waterfall went together because it all happened in a hurry. Our back pond was built in 1980, modified in 1985 and updated in 2007. The front pond was dug and created 2-3 weeks before the 1st Pond Tour in 1998. Another committee member had offered to dig and install a pondless waterfall, but I

had to create the rock waterfall. My wife always complains about my doing too many things before a deadline, which makes her nervous that it won't get done, but this just gives me an extra shot of adrenaline to keep going. She really wanted the front pond for the birds to splash in and wanted it to look different from the back pond. These requirements meant removing the grass, and while I was at it, remove the front pavers from the entryway, which required removing the grape arbor. Then the entry way didn't look right to her, (you husbands understand) so I had to build a new pergola across the entire garage. That meant replacing 2 sheets of delaminated plywood siding, which required painting. But while I was at it, she wanted the other 5 sheets of deteriorated plywood siding replaced too. All the while I was doing last minute committee work so the siding was finally painted right between the Host Tour and the Pond Tour. By the way, in those days, the Host Tour consisted of a caravan of 15-20 cars following each other. And of course if the lead car made a wrong turn, we all did. The Bus Tour is a grand improvement.

Part of my job on the committee for site selection was to address safety. So after several other last minute home improvements besides what I had already done, I decided to replace the ground level patio that was decayed enough to be dangerous. I decked over it with 1x6 treated lumber on the Friday night before the Pond Tour and finished at midnight. My wife was saying, never again!!!!

Oh and on the Wednesday before the Tour, I put 11 new feeder goldfish in the new pond and 1 new gold fish in the back pond. Well, the lone gold fish had a disease and 40 large goldfish died on Thursday and Friday just before the Tour. At least none of them were floating on top of the water on Saturday and Sunday during the Tour. That sure would have gotten people's attention.

So no wonder, I didn't quite remember exactly how I did the front pond 15 years ago.

P.S. The front pond water level has remained the same for three weeks now. ✂



My Confession

By John Draxton

Following the 2012 Minnesota Water Garden Tour, I volunteered to pick up signs, left over handouts, and money from several sites. With this in hand, I motored over to MaryJo and John Scully's home to store the signs and assist with counting the two days receipts. It was during the tallying of cash and checks that MaryJo remarked about how much easier it was to count things this year. She said that last year everything just stuck together and was difficult to handle. Well, I finally have to confess.

In 2011, my pond was one of the sites selected for the Tour. Despite the passing of my Sister and having 30 yards of mulch sitting in the driveway when the Member's Bus Tour arrived, Michelle and I had everything in good order for the event. Saturday morning July, 30, 2011, it was very hot and humid. I scrambled to fill coolers with ice and bottled water for the vendor, general public, and monitors. My pond is in the back yard and the monitors needed to be out front to greet the public, so I picked a nice shady spot to put their card table and chairs. I placed them under a mature clump of River Birch trees near the driveway. I made sure there was a small cooler with ice and water along with small flower pots to hold down the papers, brochures, and handouts. The Tour began promptly at 9:00 AM. Everything was going fine until a monitor came around back and told me I had a problem out front. I quickly ran to see what was wrong. Well, up in the beautiful clump of

River Birch trees were thousands of Japanese Beetles just recently hatched and devouring the delectable leaves. What goes in must come out, and gravity brought a cloudburst of Japanese Beetle Poop to everything below. The white papers, brochures, membership applications, and cash box were dotted with the black sticky feces. Now, MaryJo knows what made things stick together.

I did move the Monitors table and chairs from the firing line and positioned them where they were safe, but Sunday's monitors, Jim and Geri Claytor, said they were sunburned and couldn't wait to get home and shower. I was saddened because I realized that it wasn't my Green Thumb that made the grass green under my shade trees.

To prevent this from happening again, I purchased some Grub Insect Control called "Milky Spore" and treated my whole yard. It was expensive to apply, but I don't want to attend MWGS meetings and have people point and say, "That's The Guy". I promise to keep you posted about the results from this application. Until then, I prefer to be out standing in my water garden and not lying in a hammock under my shade trees. ✂

ALL WAS MERRY & BRIGHT!



THE MINNESOTA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY FIRST ANNUAL

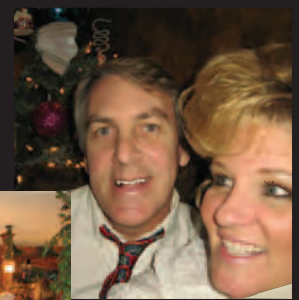
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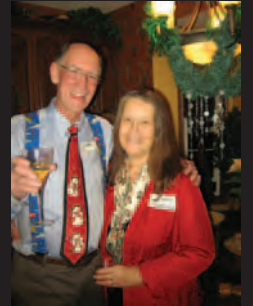
PARTY



14 2012



HOLIDAYS



Gary DeGrande,
MWGS President



MWGS

PONDER THIS!

Winter Pond Party!

2 Convenient Dates: February 23 & 24



Starts at 4 PM
Space is Limited

At Timm Weiss and
Oralee Kirk's Home in
Brooklyn Park, MN

\$5.00 Per Person
Non-Members-FREE



Address: 2500 Pearson Pkwy
Brooklyn Park, MN
55444-1629

- 2 Open ponds and running waterfalls
- Walk amongst young and mature Pine trees
- Spacious tree fort (for adults too) overlooking pond
- Walking paths to the outhouse and tent
- Campfire on the snow covered beach
- Lots of windows to view the yard
- Cool and comfy screen porch

Garden Party in February

You asked for it — so here it is!!

We're having a neighborhood party on Sat. & Sun. Feb. 23 & 24 at 4:00 pm. It will be at Timm Weiss and Oralee Kirk's home in Brooklyn Center. The Cost is \$5.00 per MWGS member and FREE to non-members. We'd like all of our members to invite interested water gardening people to this event. Who knows, we might recruit some new members and help answer their questions.

Each day will be limited to 20 people on a first come basis. Your "ticket" is guaranteed ONLY when we receive your payment (cash & checks only). You must tell us for those attending: date, name, phone, email, member or non-member. This will be a "rain or shine" event and refunds only if really terrible weather cancellation. That's why we need names, phones and emails for last minute communication. Reservations will be on sale at our Jan. and Feb. meetings or to Jim Kirchner thru Tues. Feb. 19.

This event will show 2 ponds with streams and waterfalls running (YES — in the winter). You'll be able to walk around in the gardens and woods by the ponds and Timm will be there to

tell you how he does it. He has run his ponds all year long now for 15 years and probably has learned a lot by trial and error. Pick his brains.

Your reservation includes: viewing the water features, talking to Timm and others, a hearty organic chili and wild rice turkey casserole dinner with beverages. If the weather permits, there will also be a campfire and lots of viewing from outdoors or from the spacious windows in their home. We'll provide more details at our meetings and the next Waterlog. Note: the ticket cost is only helping to defray the cost of food and beverages.

Contact your non-member friends and get your payments in to make your reservation. This is the first of many planned neighborhood parties for the coming year. Watch for announcements.

Last year's 2 neighborhood parties were huge successes — so — we're doing more.

Jim Kirchner, neighborhood party chair

5911 Independence Ave. N.

New Hope, MN 55428

Ph. 763-535-1149

email: js_kirchner@comcast.net ✉

"Contact your non-member friends and get your payments in to make your reservation."

FEBRUARY



Next Meeting

The January Meeting will be held on Sunday January 13, 2013 at the Hennepin County Library (Southdale) in Edina, 7001 York Ave. S., Edina, Mn. The library is located at the intersection of York Ave South and 70th St.

The meeting will be from 2-4 PM. And the topic for discussion is:

Perspectives on Gardening by the Great Garden Writers presented by Don Ingebretson, the "Renegade Gardener."

Don is a field editor, writer, and garden scout for Better Homes and Gardens magazine, writes the perennial column for Northern Gardener magazine, and is a contributor to numerous other publications. From 1999 to 2006 he was the garden editor and monthly columnist for Mpls.St.Paul Magazine, a gig he had to give up when his summer landscaping business morphed into a real business. Don appeared on HGTV for four seasons as the gardening expert on "TIPical MaryEllen," and has been the on-camera landscaping expert on PBS TV's HOMETIME program. He is a featured speaker at home and garden shows across the United States. In addition to a 1999 Minnesota Newspaper Publishers Award and a 2000 Minnesota Magazine Publishers Silver Award, Don is a six-time winner of the Garden Writers Association's national Garden Globe Award for excellence in garden writing. He has published four books on gardening and landscape design, and is a University of Minnesota Extension Service Master Gardener. In summer, he operates Renegade Gardener Landscaping in Minneapolis, Minnesota, specializing in residential landscape renovation and custom stonework.

DIRECTIONS TO SOUTHDALÉ LIBRARY

From Hwy 100 North or South – Exit Hwy 100 at 70th St. Take 70th Street east to York Ave. The library is the white building on tall round pillars.

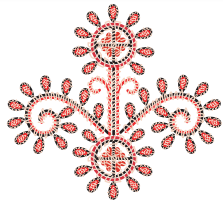
From I-494 East or West bound – Exit I-494 at France Ave. Turn north onto France Ave. Turn right onto 70th and continue to York Ave 🗘



2012 Meeting Calendar

The Calendar below represents the current status of the programming for the meetings scheduled. As we develop the Speakers Roster and the locations for the meetings we will post them here so you can plan your Sundays accordingly.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Jan 13 | General Meeting and Lecture |
| Feb 10 | General Meeting and Lecture |
| Mar 17 | General Meeting and Lecture |
| April 14 | General Meeting and Lecture |
| May 19 | Annual Spring Picnic and Swap Sale |
| June 9 | General Meeting and Lecture |
| Jul 27 & 28 | Annual Water Garden Tour |
| Aug 11 | General Meeting and Lecture |
| Sep 8 | General Meeting and Lecture |
| Oct 13 | General Meeting, Elections and Lecture |
| November and December | have no meetings scheduled. ✂ |



Rock Garden Club Events

By Shirley Friberg

Quote of the Month

One kind word can warm three winter months.

Japanese proverb ✂



Saturday, January 12, 2013 Rick Rodich, our member and horticulturalist, will speak on "Armchair Adventures for the Rock Gardener". The lecture will be held at Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park, MN. Room B 120 at 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. It is sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society. It is free and open to the public. For additional questions call Shirley at 651-631-2046 or e-mail: sjfriberg 60 @gmail.com.

Saturday, February 23, 2013 Betty Ann Addison will speak on "Rock Gardens in the Landscape". The lecture will be held at Hennepin Technical College, 9000 Brooklyn Blvd, Room B120, Brooklyn Park, MN. Room B 120 at 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. It is free and open to the public. For additional questions call Shirley at 651-631-2046 or e-mail: sjfriberg 60 @gmail.com.

Saturday, March 9, 2013 Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs a Bulb Nursery in Gloucester, VA will speak on "Lovely little Bulbs -Minor Bulbs with a Major Impact." Their nursery has been in existence since 1900. Brent will be speaking at the Minnesota Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society Annual Banquet. Social hour starts at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm and the program at 7:00 pm. Attendance by reservation only. A reservation form is located under the Schedule of Events on: www.mn-nargs.org. The banquet will be at Jaxcafe, 1928 University Ave. NE, Minneapolis, Mn 55418. PH: (612) 789-7238 ✂

Minnesota Water Garden Society



Visit our website at
[www.MWGS.org!](http://www.MWGS.org)



c/o John Scully
2500 Flag Ave. S.
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

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Twin Cities MN

Plant Profile

CREEPING FOXTAIL

Alopecurus arundinaceus Poir.

G rass Family (Poaceae). Creeping foxtail is a large, long-lived, rhizomatous, sod-forming, perennial grass introduced from Eurasia. The seed head of the plant is a spike-like, cylindrical panicle, typically 4 to 10 cm long and around 8 mm thick, turning purplish or black with maturity. It has a very similar appearance to the seed heads of timothy, but creeping foxtail heads turn to darker colors with maturity while Timothy seed heads turn a brownish – buff color. Anthesis occurs early in the season. Seed maturation begins at the top of the inflorescence and proceeds downward. Spikelets disarticulate below the glumes with the spikelet falling as a single unit.

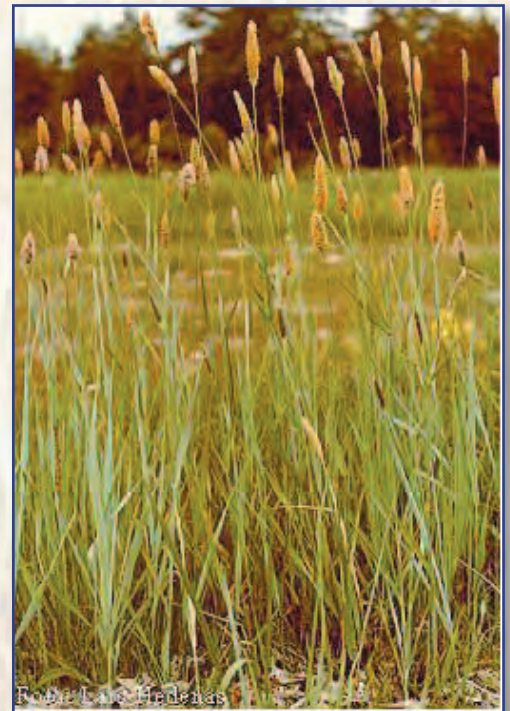
Creeping foxtail should not be confused with other grass species that share the common name foxtail. Creeping foxtail is a close relative of meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and can be distinguished by having broader leaves (8-12 mm vs. 4-8 mm) and a dark purplish inflorescence.

This species is well adapted to areas of high moisture typically too wet for good production of most forage grasses, i.e. brome (*Bromus* species) and orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*) and is a superior forage to other

semi-wetland grasses, such as tall fescue and other wetland grasses, such as reed canary grass, meadow foxtail and timothy. It usually occurs in areas receiving more than 18 inches of precipitation. It also grows readily along margins of ponds, lakes, bogs, ditches and in mountain meadows. It can withstand periodic flooding of 60 to 90 cm for up to 45 days. Some varieties are also somewhat drought tolerant, being able to survive in areas with widely fluctuating water levels and drought during later summer periods.

Creeping foxtail's vigorous rhizome production (up to 120 cm crown diameter/year) and water tolerance make it well suited to erosion control and stream bank stabilization. Creeping foxtail can tolerate both high water levels and periods of drought, it can be used on earthen dams where water levels fluctuate. It survives in a broad range of pH, making it suitable for mine spoils, saline seeps (tolerant to ECs of 12) bogs and acidic roadways. Because this species produces numerous aggressive underground rhizomes, the plant is long-lived and has the ability to recover quickly from grazing.

Because of creeping foxtail's tolerance to high levels of fertilizer, particularly nitrogen and water, it can be used in filter fields for liquid waste disposal. It can also be used in a variety of other water settings including sewage treatment, food processing and livestock waste removal programs. With suitable moisture, creeping foxtail can also be used as an excellent silt trap. This species is known



Lars Hedenäs

to tolerate up to six inches of silt per single deposition.

All manner of wildlife benefit from the forage and cover provided by creeping foxtail. Elk and deer eat the succulent forage in the spring and fall. The tender spring growth also provides forage for geese and other waterfowl. Numerous species of birds use the dense growth for cover and nesting habitat. Creeping foxtail has been used for plantings around ponds, lakes, grassed waterways and other waterways.

Courtesy of: USDA, NRCS. 2004. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>).

National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA
70874-4490 USA. ☞