


Waterlog



Newsletter of the Minnesota Water Garden Society
Nov/Dec 2016 • Volume Twenty • Issue 11 



Golden hosta leaves, well past their prime, still look good next to ligularia leaves tinged with purple hues and still green monarda leaves.



A clump of blue-eyed grass takes on amber tips amongst the fallen tree leaves.



Japanese maple "Sharp's Pygmy" was beautiful this year.



Buds on my Hydrangea won't open this year, but still look great against the color-tinged leaves.

Spectacular Fall

By Jan Schreier

Wow, have we had a great fall, or what? I have been enjoying the relatively warm temperatures so much, that I've been lulled into a false sense of complacency. It is November 11th, and I still haven't taken apart my containers nor winterized my pond. I know I am running out of time, but it is all still so beautiful. At least I have taken in all of my tropical plants, and as you can see from another article in this issue, I have winterized some of my hardy plants as well. As I walked around my yard, surveying the fall tasks yet to do, I could not help notice how beautiful the garden still looked in November, so I had to share some of the photos I snapped. ❄



Sunlight behind the golden flowers of well-spent hydrangea tree "Pink Diamond".



Many hues of red and purple decorate my smokebush.



Nothing more brilliant than the magenta blossoms of my aster "Woods Pink"



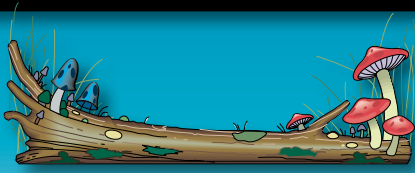
Still haven't had a hard freeze yet, so OK, I admit, this is from last winter. But it's still pretty, no?



Pumpkins on the vine from a volunteer not planted by me. Thank you squirrels?



Golden needles of a deciduous conifer, Japanese Larch, against the backdrop of still green foliage in the woods.



~ Waterlog ~

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Waterlog Submissions

Contributions to the Waterlog are always welcome and strongly encouraged. Please submit any proposals to Content Editor Jan Schreier at mwgs@comcast.net or call 612 865 0440

Deadline for next issue is December 11, 2016.

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.

Reeds and Rushes

a letter from the editor

By Jan Schreier

Well, I've enjoyed the extra time between issues this month, by combining the usually slow November/December issues into one. This was a request by the MWGS Board this year to control expenses, and as most of us are busy on other things besides our ponds these last two months of the year, I think it was a wise decision. So I have been a normal fall travelling fool. Each time I leave for a trip, I expect to come back to a full-blown winter. Vacation in Europe, wedding in Baltimore, Cubs game in Chicago, Sister weekend in Chattanooga. So far though, not so much winter. Which is really good, because I have been procrastinating on every level. Container water gardens still intact. Main pond still running (although, I did take in my tropical plants, and threw most of my waterlilies into the deep end. My plan is that I won't

have to put on my waders again to shut down the pond. We'll see...). I find that I am not the only one waiting this year. The last two weeks have been a busy phone request to Happy Ponds, my business, to shut down other people's ponds. Most of them, I have turned down, but luckily I have been able to find others willing to take on the task. Something psychological about declaring that the waders have been put away for the season. As every procrastinator knows, there's nothing like a big deadline to get off the bum and get moving, and I suspect this year it will be a looming blizzard or Thanksgiving holiday that will spur me on to finish the job. Meanwhile, I've been enjoying this beautiful weather gift every day, and am happy as a clam now that my favorite Cubbies have slaughtered the goat and won a World Series title in my lifetime. See? Miracles do happen. ✨



President's Pad

By Gary DeGrande

Hearthbreak. It looks like all 8 Koi in my front pond are dead. I had noticed a lot less Koi activity the last few weeks but I attributed it to the falling temperatures and the Koi seeking the pond bottom in preparation for winter. But then when I decided to clean out the pre pump filter in the skimmer box, I found 5 dead Koi in the skimmer box. I assume the other three are dead on the pond bottom. Thankfully, they were all relatively small (and cheap!) Koi but nonetheless, it was a major disappointment. I immediately suspected a high copper level from the IonGen system was the culprit, since this was the first year for my using this new algae control system. I again checked the copper level, using the kit supplied with the IonGen system, and found an almost undetectably low level of copper. I had been keeping track of the copper level all summer and never found it high and most of the summer I only had the IonGen system dialed to a low output (#2 - #3). There were no visible signs on the dead fish that would indicate a parasite or fungal disease. Thankfully all 15 of my large Koi in the larger backyard pond are healthy and in fact have grown considerably this year with the higher quality food I have been feeding them more frequently. But I was hoping to transfer some of them from the backyard pond to the front pond for the winter and see if I could winter them over outside rather than bringing them inside. I figured that the front yard pond (about 1500 gallons and four feet deep) would be as good or better than the smaller inside aquariums that I use to house my Koi in the winter, plus they would hibernate and not require as much care during the winter. But now I won't take the risk. I debated emptying

the front yard pond now, cleaning it and starting over but decided I would wait til spring as I usually do. I am perplexed by all this... a mystery to ponder over the winter and hopefully correct next spring.

On a brighter note, the great weather we have been experiencing this fall has been such a delight. The fall colors in my backyard are the best I can ever remember. My backyard Koi are still active and moving too fast to try to catch to bring inside. I've learned from previous years that it is best to wait til the water temperature drops to the point where the Koi are sluggish to try to catch them. I hate to bring them inside to a much more confined space. I dread the "sounds of silence" when I have to turn off the pump and lose the soothing sounds of waterfalls, which I can hear both outside and inside the house. But with this good weather and a continuing favorable forecast, I think I will make it to Thanksgiving this year....maybe even Christmas?!!

We had another good attendance at our last meeting of the year October 9th. I received many favorable comments about the presentation on "Common Gardening Myths and the Mayhem They Cause" by "The Renegade Gardener" Don Engebretson. We have an interesting lineup of presentations for 2017 also; check them out in your MWGS Membership Directory.

The Minnesota Water Garden Society has much to be thankful for this season of Thanksgiving. We continue to be blessed with an active group of volunteers, a sound financial base and many interesting programs and projects. Happy Thanksgiving to all! ✨

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*I received
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"Common Gardening
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Mayhem They Cause"
by "The Renegade
Gardener"*



Undercurrent

OFFICIAL MINUTES/ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MWGS BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2016

Board Meetings are always open to all MWGS members. The Board met on Thursday, October 6, 2016 at President Gary DeGrande's home. Board members present were: President Gary DeGrande, Vice President Ken Ellis, Treasurer Marv Platt, Secretary Lee Strong. Board Members Jim and Geri Claytor, Marty Barke, Pauline Danielson and Marla Davenport. Board members Star Platt and Bill and Dottie Lindblade were unable to attend.

President Gary DeGrande called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

DONATIONS

A donation of \$150 was made to MWGS to honor the memory of Marla Davenport's daughter. Board members had also voluntarily donated a \$200 Gertens gift certificate to Marla. Marla suggested using the donations to plant a flowering tree or shrub at the MWGS State Fair site. The Board agreed and further suggested that an engraved stone be included. The specifics will be determined next spring.

DISCOUNT TO MWGS MEMBERS FROM SUPPLIERS

Gary reported that three purchases were made from the discount offer from Hedberg Supply. A similar discount offer was also made from Mustard Seed Landscaping and Garden Center for this fall also. (Post meeting: only three purchases were made from the Mustard Seed offer as well.) The Board discussed the low interest that members have expressed in fall discount offers and concluded that this was typical of water gardening enthusiasts. Most water gardeners are occupied with shutdown and winterization of their ponds, gardens and fish in the fall with very little interest in product purchase. The success of the 2016 spring discount offer from Mustard Seed Landscaping and Supply for Ecological Laboratory products (e Microbelift) confirmed that spring is the preferred time for product purchase by MWGS members.

WEBSITE

Marla updated the group on the website redesign proposal by Bryan Bertz that had been previously presented at the July Board meeting. Specific timelines were added to the proposal as well as some additional detail of the work to be done. The total cost of the project was not changed. The Board unanimously approved the final proposal and Gary De Grande signed the contract. Work will begin immediately, with a projected finish date of December 1 and a training period for Marla to take over managing the website by January 1. The \$1200 cost of the project in 2016 will thus be offset by a savings of \$1020 in 2017 since the \$85 monthly charge for the previous website manager will be eliminated. Marla did emphasize that there may be an occasional need for help from Bryan Bertz in the future, with some potential costs involved, but that she felt the redesign was necessary to make the website more operational, manageable and user friendly.

REVIEW OF PLANT AND FISH SALES

Marty provided a detailed financial review of plant and fish sales for the four year period of 2014 -2016. In general net income from plant sales has significantly increased over this period, from \$1377 in 2013 to \$2741 in 2016. Although plant sales from the Arboretum sale were decreased this year from last year (\$1979 in 2016 vs \$2317 in 2015), the spring picnic sales more than made up the difference (\$1366 in 2016 vs \$410 in 2015), in large part due to the great response from members to donate plants this year, partially helped by the early spring warmth allowing earlier work this year in the division of water lilies.

Fish sales have had a more variable history over this four year period. Fish sales at the Arb sale were especially down this year (\$403 in 2016, \$1543 in 2015, \$1867 in 2014 and \$1593 in 2013) due in large part to the problems noted in past Board meetings with the unusually large Arboretum sale traffic this year presumably discouraging some of the "big fish buyers" from attending the Arb sale. However, Marty has had success with sales from his home, particularly using Craigs list. (\$2335 in 2016, \$2499 in 2015, \$994 in 2013 and \$718 in 2013). Spring picnic fish sales this year were also higher than past years (\$838 in 2016, \$481 in 2015, \$491 in 2014 and \$300 in 2013). Expenses have remained relatively constant at about \$800 per year. Total net income from fish sales have thus been relatively constant with the exception of a banner year in 2015 (\$2763 in 2016, \$3737 in 2015, \$2592 in 2014 and \$2524 in 2013).

The Board thanked Marty for this careful analysis and encouraged him to pursue options for further improving fish sales, such as maximizing our contact with the "big fish buyers" as they emerge so we can establish a steady stream of return customers. In particular, Marv

agreed to help Marty explore additional options for maximizing online sales through appropriate internet sites. Some felt that we could significantly improve our sales by selling directly to the buyer, thus avoiding the 20% payment that we must make to the Arboretum at the Arb sale and avoiding the problems we encountered at the Arb sale this year.

The Board also thanked Jan Schreier (in absentia) for her excellent work on plant sales

Gary adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the home of Gary De Grande on Thursday, December 8, 2016 from 7 – 9 PM. Gary encouraged Board members to come to the meeting prepared to discuss the 2017 budget as well as to present ideas to encourage active volunteering by more members.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

In addition to our usual general discussion of MWGS issues and the presentation by speaker Don Engbretson , Gary De Grande presided over the “formal” aspect of the October

9th Annual Meeting. A headcount was taken to affirm that a quorum of members was present to qualify the meeting as the “official” Annual Meeting. Gary encouraged members to voice any concerns or issues that they felt the MWGS Board should address. Marla Davenport took the opportunity to inform members about upcoming changes to the MWGS website (see Board meeting minutes for details) and encouraged members to provide input to her regarding what members wanted to see on the website. In particular, she passed out a questionnaire and asked members to fill it out and return to her.

Gary then pointed out that Board member Geri Claytor had reached the end of her three year term and had generously volunteered to be nominated for another three year term. All other Board members are continuing their existing three year terms. Gary asked for any member who wanted to be nominated for Board membership to step forward. A motion was then made and seconded that Geri Claytor be elected and she was unanimously approved on a voice vote with no objections. ✂

Treasurer's Report

BREMER SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward.....\$29,147.00
 Interest Savings\$4.40
 Balance as of 10/30/2016\$29,151.43

BREMER CHECKING ACCOUNT

Bank Charges.....\$5.50
 Meeting – Refreshments.....\$21.96
 Meeting – Room Rental\$50.00
 Meeting – Speaker Fee.....\$150.00
 Meeting – Door Prizes\$45.07
 Membership Expense.....\$45.34
 Newsletter\$701.32
 Pond Parties – Paid Out\$216.00
 Pond Tour – Misc.....\$128.27
 Society Memberships.....\$125.00
 State Fair Pond Supplies.....\$9.63

TOTAL EXPENSES.....\$1,497.09

Equipment Sales\$50.00
 Fall Hedberg Promotion.....\$147.19
 Insurance Refund.....\$152.00
 Interest – Checking\$0.09
 Logo Merchandise Income.....\$70.50
 Membership – Cash-Check.....\$600.00
 Memorial Fund\$150.00
 Pond Parties – Paid Out\$155.00

TOTAL INCOME (CHECKING)....\$1,591.48

**Checking Account Balance
 as of 10/30/2016\$10,875.52**



Welcome

On Membership Pond

By Geri Claytor

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION UPDATE:

As of September 10, 2016 we had a total of 359 members with 207 paid household memberships; for the period of September 11, 2016 through November 9, 2016 we gained 9 members with 5 households because of new memberships and renewals and we lost 14 members with 8 household because of non-renewal/non-payment. As November 9, 2016 we have 354 members with 204 paid household memberships.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:



Lauren Culbert and Sharleen Stueland

4122 Upton Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55412
612-432-0759
Email: lauren.c.culbert@gmail.com

JoAyn Dana

1865 White Bear Ave N
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-983-5365
Email: jdana@umn.edu

Tom & Jeanne Mork

17016 Huntington Path
Lakeville, MN 55044
952-891-5668
Email: tmork@charter.net

Bruce & Jane Schnabel

463 Hawthorn Rd
Lino Lakes, MN 55014
651-481-9551
Email: bruceschnabel@cs.com
Email: janeschnabel@yahoo.com

WELCOME BACK:

Todd and Jody Rosedahl
47675 160th Ave
Zumbota, MN 55992
Email: jsroosedahl@aol.com ✂

Please check out the emails we send you with the upcoming events or information. Also I send out Membership reminders via email.

Please send Memberships/Renewals along with your check for \$35.00 to:

MWGS MEMBERSHIP

c/o Geri Claytor
15496 Dresden Trail
Apple Valley MN 55124

Or payment can now be made on our MWGS Website under Join Today Tab, click on Membership, at the bottom of the page click on Pay Online.



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. ✂



Thanksgiving Beets

"A delicious side dish that can be frozen and used later, if you like. Just cook them, then bag them up for the freezer. You can cut this recipe in half if you like with no problem. You can also use canned beets, substituting the beet juice in the can for the water. This is one of my favorite beet recipes."

INGREDIENTS 2 pounds beets, peeled and sliced 3 tablespoons brown sugar 3 tablespoons vinegar 1/4 cup water 1 tablespoon cornstarch 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves 2 tablespoons butter

DIRECTIONS

1. Place the beets into a large saucepan. Pour in enough water to cover the beets by 1 inch. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer until the beets are easily pierced with a fork, about 10 minutes; drain.
2. Whisk together the brown sugar, vinegar, water, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves in a saucepan. Add the beets and the butter, turn the heat to medium, and cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture comes to a boil. Cook until the sauce thickens slightly, about a minute or two. The sauce will not be sticky-thick, but will still pour nicely. Serve beets hot or cold



Christmas Eve Bouillabaisse

"This is my mom's recipe, she would serve it the night before Christmas and sometimes New Year's Eve it was a treat. Most everyone wants second helpings (and even thirds)! For this recipe, a little saffron goes a long way and one can never have too much fennel; the seafood is suggested but you can change this recipe according to your taste."

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup olive oil
 2 stalks celery, chopped
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 3 leeks, sliced
 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
 1 bay leaf (optional)
 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes
 2 (8 ounce) bottles clam juice
 2 3/4 cups dry white wine

2 teaspoons fennel seeds, crushed
 salt and ground black pepper to taste
 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
 1 pound red snapper fillets, cut into 2 inch pieces
 1 pinch saffron
 24 sea scallops
 30 small mussels, scrubbed and debearded
 1 pound cooked lobster meat, cut into bite-size pieces

DIRECTIONS

Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Stir in the celery, garlic, leeks, thyme, and bay leaf; cook and stir until the vegetables have softened, about 5 minutes.

Stir in the diced tomatoes, clam juice, white wine, fennel seed, salt and pepper, and parsley. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add the snapper and cook for an additional 10 minutes.

Gently mix in the saffron, scallops, and mussels. Cook until the scallops are no longer translucent and the mussels have opened their shells, about five minutes. Add the lobster pieces and cook until heated through, about one minute. Ladle the bouillabaisse into serving bowls, making sure each portion contains 5 mussels, 2 to 3 sea scallops, fish, and a piece of lobster.

I buy cooked shrimp to save time. If you want to add shrimp to you bouillabaisse, stir it into your soup just long enough to rewarm. ✂

Café Corner

By Star Platt

Editor's note: This is the last café corner written by Star Platt. She found some wonderful volunteers, Steve & Jody Stoltz to take over her refreshments duties. Thank you Star (and Marv) for all the years of refreshments for our club! And a big welcome to Steve & Jody.

Well it is the Holidays again, and I have no idea what I am going to cook. All of us are so busy this time of the year even so I hope everyone has a great holiday. This has been one of the hardest decisions I have had to make in a long time, but October was my last meeting doing the refreshments for MWGS. I have enjoyed doing refreshments for you these past 6 yrs. and will probably miss it. I am sure Jody and Steve Stoltz will do a good job they are really excited to start and I am happy they offered to take it over. Happy Holidays! Both recipes are from www.allrecipes.com

Member Spotlight

Kathy Gray and Dawn Bradshaw

Why did you join the MWGS? We had enjoyed previous pond tours, and had talked to Ken Ellis at the State Fair site, so we decided to join to learn more about ponds, and making the best of the ponds we had. We enjoy sharing our pond and garden with others.

Tell us about your home, family and pets. We live in Bloomington. We have a small 5 lb. teacup Yorkie named Franklin, who rules the yard.

What hobbies or interests make your day? We love sitting in the backyard watching the birds and butterflies. We both love to sing, enjoy working in the garden, reading, bird watching, traveling, photography (especially the birds and flowers in the garden!)

What was the most interesting job you ever had? Dawn delivered balloon bouquets in her college years, and was a bartender at a Red Lobster. Kathy enjoyed teaching in the English department for 34 years, especially Art of Film, Video Production, and Greek mythology.

What do you do now? Dawn is a veterinarian and a writer, Kathy is a

retired high school teacher.

Where would you love to go on vacation again? Why? Kathy would love to travel to Greece, Fiji, or Australia again. Both Dawn and Kathy would love to take another cruise to Alaska, or to a warm destination. We both like driving trips.

What book or movie touched you in a special way? Why? The Star Trek books, TV series, and movies because they show a hopeful future.

What holiday do you enjoy the most? Why? Kathy loves Halloween and Christmas, especially all the decorations and being with family. Dawn likes Christmas when the family can get together, and because the days start getting longer!

If you won the lottery tomorrow what would you do with that? Travel and write without worrying about money. Give a lot of it away to family and worthy causes.

What childhood memory makes you smile? Dawn smiles at family vacations, especially playing on the boulders in the surf along Lake Superior as a kid. Kathy smiles at her father's stories, and memories of canoeing in Northern Minnesota.

What do you wish you knew before you built your first pond? How addicting ponds can be! When you have one, you want more or bigger! Buy the professional grade liner, don't get the cheap stuff.

What are you most proud of in your yard or garden? How welcoming and peaceful it is.

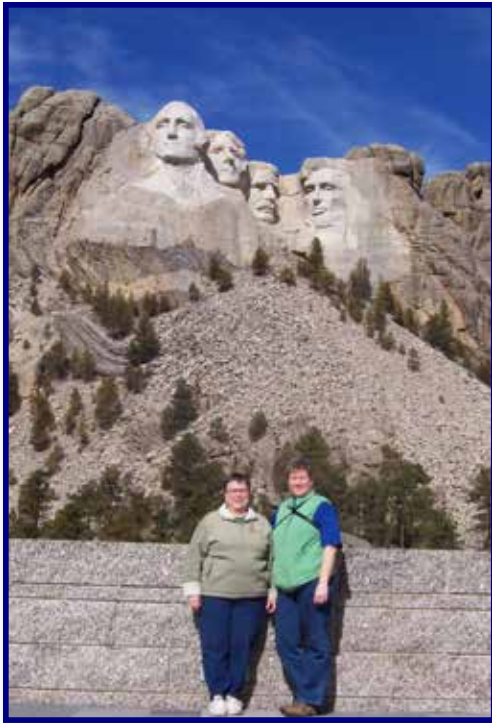
What was the most gratifying moment or compliment that you had from someone seeing your pond? A lot of people commented on our beautiful water lily. If only we knew what it is called!

What would you rather do than go to work? Anything. Birdwatching on a beach. Photograph hummingbirds. Go camping (after the bugs are gone, but before it is too cold).

What is your favorite saying? Dawn's favorite saying is "That would be logical and efficient, therefore it cannot be done." Seems to be the way things work! Kathy's is "Live long and prosper."

Tell us something about yourself that not too many people know. We sing in the Twin Cities Show Chorus, a Sweet Adelines a cappella barbershop singing group. We also sing in a women's quartet, named 3 Nice Girls. ✂





Pond Party History

By Timm Weiss



In the beginning of the MWGS (August 1997), we were originally called MAPE (MN Association of Pond Enthusiasts) then renamed to MWGS. We began by meeting at our homes so we had the benefit to see different ponds and yards. It was great fun.

The first meeting was at a very nice house with a cool pond and yard. Think Janet and Mark. The second meeting was at an elaborate home and extraordinary yard with several grand ponds. It was impressive. The third meeting was at our home, interesting house and yard with a small affordable pond. It took an act of courage to have it at our home after seeing the first 2 wonderful homes and yards. We were over crowded inside on a rainy October day, stuffed inside like sardines.

In January we met at an interesting old farm house home. The many attendees were scattered into different rooms to "hear" the speaker. Some people could even "see" the speaker. After the meeting came the coolest experience. We got to go down to the basement. I was not prepared for what we saw. This single lady had several large stock tanks with many large koi and goldfish. And she knew what she was doing. Most of us had never seen anything like this before and never such large koi and up close too. A very memorable experience. Thank you Mary Susan.

Anyway as we grew and the presenters needed a screen for slides or power point presentations we met at garden centers, factories, a few more homes and then the libraries became the norm. We missed seeing people's homes, especially on a lingering casual time, different from the pond tour or bus tour. So Pond Parties evolved.

So now here is my pitch to have a Party at your home. Sure we like to admire elaborate homes. But please know that we, MWGS "Ponders" admire your effort without judgement. Some have more and do more to their home and yard or pond. We all respect, admire and cheer for those with a humble budget or simple pond or if you are just getting started. Pond Parties are a way to enhance getting to know each other. So let your home become part of our history. How about your place in February or March or April? It is not about the home it is about the get together.

We have one party scheduled for:

Saturday Jan 7th at 4:00pm at Pat and Wally Nelson's. 6921 Magda Drive, Maple Grove, MN 55369. (Some GPS say Osseo due to the Zip code).

Pat loves to decorate and cook. You will want to be there. Please let me know soon.

Timm ✂

"But please know that we, MWGS "Ponders" admire your effort without judgement."

Variety Water Lettuce, a Blend for the Water Garden

by Soni Forsman

Jurassic, rosette, ruffled and variegated are varieties of water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) that topped my water gardens the past few summers.

Jurassic is the largest and most common variety. It is a good choice for a larger water garden. The other varieties are smaller, maybe half the size of their bigger cousin, and display better in a small pond or a container.

The rosette variety is round and looks compact. The leaves have smooth edges. Ruffled is also round but the leaf edges are rippled. The variegated variety has foliage with lighter green areas. The lighter color deepens in full sun but it variegates again when moved into partial shade.

Water lettuce is a tropical plant that floats on the water's surface. It prefers still water. The foliage appears velvet-like. Inconspicuous white flowers are visible at the base of the leaves.

These floaters are more than ornamental. The dangling roots take up nutrients from the water, helping with algae control. They also give goldfish a habitat for spawning then protect the newly hatched fry. Water lettuce is a salad bar for Koi. (editor's note: and also raccoons!)

In my water gardens, none of the varieties like full sun; they just 'melt away.' However, they all thrive in dappled shade or with protection from direct afternoon sun.

Water lettuce does not grow well in a new pond or one just cleaned. There is no nourishment present. During this time or anytime it begins to look gaunt, remove from the water garden for a feeding. Float it in a bucket of water enriched with a few drops/granules of fertilizer. After a few hours or overnight, rinse well and drop back into the water garden.

Offsets or new plants grow from the base of the parent plant, attached by short stolons. Water lettuce multiplies rapidly. When thinning excess plants during the season or dumping all at the end, add to the compost pile. Never discard any aquatic plant in natural waterways.

Water lettuce is a prohibited plant in states where it is considered an invasive plant, mostly those with warmer winters. Minnesota's neighbor to the east, Wisconsin, added it to its prohibited plant list in 2015. It is an unlisted nonnative species in Minnesota but still illegal to put it into natural bodies of water. ✂



A tiny, white water lettuce flower is visible at the base of the leaves - just right of center. Jurassic variety.



A display of three varieties of water lettuce - ruffled, left, the larger Jurassic in the center with rosette right.



Water lettuce - rosette variety with young plants.



Water lettuce - variegated variety.



Water lettuce, ruffled variety.

My Winter Experiment

By Jan Schreier

Back in the July 2016 issue of the Waterlog, I published a method for winterizing plants developed by the Missouri Botanical Garden. This winter, I am trying it out and I thought I would share some photos with you. I purchased the fungicide recommended by MBG called Banrot. I ended up buying it online since I could not find a local source for it. It happens to be what is called a 'wetable powder'. Practically, as I was to discover, this means that it will stick like glue to anything damp. So, to minimize that amount of powder I was inhaling (it recommended wearing a mask), I did this outside, and using a ziplock baggie, I utilized the "shake and bake" method. A little powder in a baggie, add the tuber, close it up, and then shake until tuber is coated. For the media in which the tubers would winter, I used sand, and as recommended by MBG, I went ahead and purchased pool filter sand, since it is sterilized. For the tubers that normally stay pretty dry, like my voodoo lilies, I did not wet the sand beyond a spritz with a mister. For the ones that I normally drop to the bottom of the pond, like hardy water lilies and arrowhead, I added a good amount of water. These will stay in my 45 degree spare refrigerator for the winter. Last year, when I experimented with dividing lotus in the fall (which worked really GREAT, by the way), I forgot to adjust the temperature and ended up freezing most of the lotus tubers. Thankfully, some survived and bloomed beautifully

this summer, but not enough made it to donate to the spring plant sale. So this year, I have a thermometer in the refrigerator and have already turned the temperature back higher, so I don't have to worry about the freeze problem. This method of storing the tubers in baggies in sand, I really like since they don't take up nearly as much space as either storing them in pots or in water. Take a look at the photos for a description of step by step instructions and look for another article this spring when I take them out to plant them. I utilized this method for several varieties of plants: Water Canna, Voodoo Lilies, Lotus, Hardy Water Lilies, Arrowhead and I even tried a non-tuberous perennial called water plantain. I am especially interested in how the arrowhead fares, as normally it breaks dormancy very late, and I can never get any of them started in time for the spring picnic. This way, I can pot some up early to get them leafing up for mother's day. At least, that is the plan. Since spring clean-up is always a particularly hectic time for me, I am very interested to see how some plants that I normally divide in the spring, like hardy water lilies and lotus, will fare with the fall division and storage method. It sure would make my spring a lot easier, and the pre-washed and divided plants could be taken directly to the picnic without more effort. If this works, it could be my new favorite way of winterizing plants. ✨



The voodoo lily is unpotted, washed off and left to harden off.



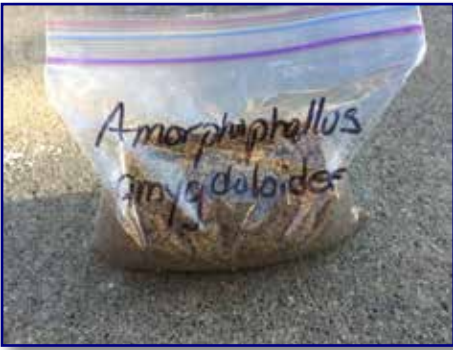
Stems and roots removed, the voodoo lily bulb is ready for fungicide.



The wetable powder, sure does stick to everything.



A little Banrot in the baggie with the bulb, and shake it up.



Sterile pool filter sand is used in a clean baggie marked with the variety name of the bulb. One quick spritz with a mister is all the water I need. Then it is off to the 45 degree refrigerator.



I'm also experimenting with three varieties of hardy water lilies. This is one variety. I cut off most of the roots, and cut the foliage down to about 1" from the tuber. Shake and bake fungicide and placed into ziplock baggies like the rest. This time, I added about 1/2 cup of water since I normally leave these under water all winter in the bottom of the pond. We will see this spring which ones get off to the better start.



I carefully unwound the lotus tubers trying to be very careful not to break any growing tips or tubers



I've been trying to harden off my water canna in the driveway for weeks, but the warm temperature, has it still growing nicely. I ended up cutting off the pot, cutting the growing stems down to about 2 inches, and dividing up the tubers. Then I used the shake and bake fungicide, and stored the pieces in two large gallon-sized ziplock baggies filled with sand enough to completely cover the tubers. Then a little water to dampen the sand.



Since I really liked dividing the lotus in the fall last year, I did this again. Empty out the lotus pot and start hosing down the lotus until I remove most of the soil.



This would have been one of my prized "keeper" sections of lotus except that...



Now you can see why they say to pot lotus in round containers. This lotus came from two small sections started last spring.



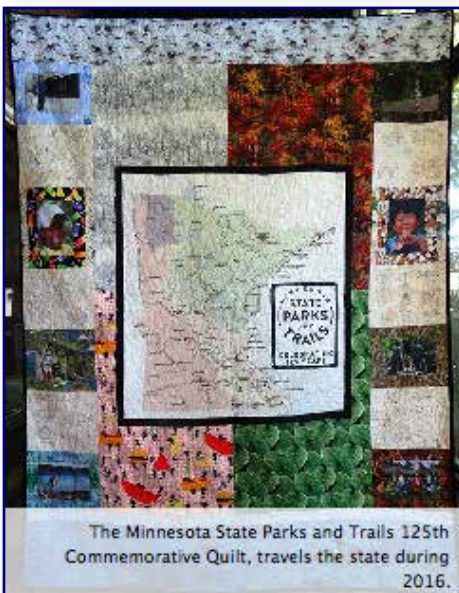
You can see that this tuber broke off prior to the root node. At the end, you can see the hollow nature of the tuber, which allows water to get inside and rot the tuber. This growing tuber will not survive, so unfortunately it goes into the compost heap. Guess I wasn't as careful as I thought. The remaining good tubers get fungicide and stored in damp sand in the refrigerator. I learned my lesson last year about ensuring the correct temperature prior to putting my tubers in.

Bonnie Ellis' Commemorative Quilt

Reprinted from MN DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/125/quilt.html>



Bonnie Ellis and Director Erika Rivers display the commemorative quilt at Itasca State Park.



The Minnesota State Parks and Trails 125th Commemorative Quilt, travels the state during 2016.

This work of art captures nature and activities that bond Minnesota state parks and trails visitors. It was unveiled to 500 guests at the 125th Anniversary "Happy Birthday Itasca! Picnic in the Park Festival" on July 31, 2016.

"Minnesota State Parks and Trails Sketchbook"

Quilt Designer: Minnesota Quilters Association 2015 president Bonnie Ellis, Bonnie is also the fabric artist responsible for the Centennial Quilt that hangs at Itasca State Park.

Sewing: Bonnie Ellis, Debra Svedberg, Faye Bodenhamer and Gayle Cmeil

Techniques Used: Patchwork, Photos on Fabric, Ink Drawing on Fabric, and Appliqué

Quilting: Page Johnson, The Quilted Page, Eagan, MN

Materials Donated: Bonnie Ellis -fabric, Pat Curtner -backing, Ann McCandless -batting

Quilt Tour

November, Tettegouche State Park
December, Fort Snelling State Park

"My specialty is Minnesota-themed quilts. Growing up, I spent many wonderful days in many of the parks. My husband and two boys camped in the parks, too. My father was the editor of Picture magazine on the Minneapolis Tribune and his magazine did in writing and photos what my quilts do in cloth.

The sketches represent birds, insects, plants, reptiles and amphibians, fish and animals. I think fabric tells a story. I chose pieces representing the four seasons behind the map. Each frame around the picture relates to that picture. Of course I had to add some humor so I used s'mores fabric as a frame for the little guy eating a s'more. (It made me want one!) I used fish around the fishermen and reeds for the headwaters. When choosing the summer fabric, I couldn't resist the picnic theme with the ants. We live with nature, especially when visiting the parks. I had lots of fun choosing fabrics for this quilt. I only had to buy one piece (winter trees).

This quilt is my gift to the Parks and Trails 125th Anniversary. I call it my Parks and Trails Sketchbook."

-Bonnie Ellis, Minneapolis, MN ✂



2016 MWGS Calendar



Jan 7, 4pm - ?, Pond Party, Pat & Wally Nelson, Maple Grove, MN

Jan 8, 2-4pm, General Meeting, "What the F-stop?" by Mark Schreier, Location TBD ✂

Pond Tip

By Bruce Burk

We always have a problem with netting that dips into the pond as it collects leaves. Here is a design I came up with for a frame to stretch my fall leaf netting over. ✂



Minnesota Water
Garden Society



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



c/o Gary DeGrande
4100 Oakmede Lane
White Bear Township, MN 55110

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Twin Cities MN



Next Meeting:

Sunday, January 8th
2-4pm

Ridgedale Library
12601 Ridgedale Dr.
Minnetonka, MN 55305



What the F-stop? By Mark Schreier

What the F-stop is the best choice for your camera needs? Mark Schreier, original member of MWGS (or MAPE, if you go way back) and longtime photographer, will give a humorous and informative presentation on photography basics and choosing the best camera for your needs. Are you shooting photos of your dear kids in the backyard or shooting photos of deer in your kids' backyard? How do you get the best photo of your pond, waterfall and fish? Mark will describe the benefits and limitations of expensive DSLR equipment, point and shoot cameras, smartphones or tablets. Which ones are right for you? You might be surprised! ✨