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June 2022

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The Newsletter of the
Pikes Peak Water Garden Society
Colorado Springs, Colorado

A Peak at Ponds

The 3rd meeting of 2022 will be **IN PERSON** at the
Mountain View Church of Christ

On Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 7 PM

Pond Pumps and Plumbing

This meeting will be dedicated to what keeps the water moving.

“Pumps and Plumbing”

MDM Pumps (the maker of Sequence Pumps) will also be presenting information about pond pumps.

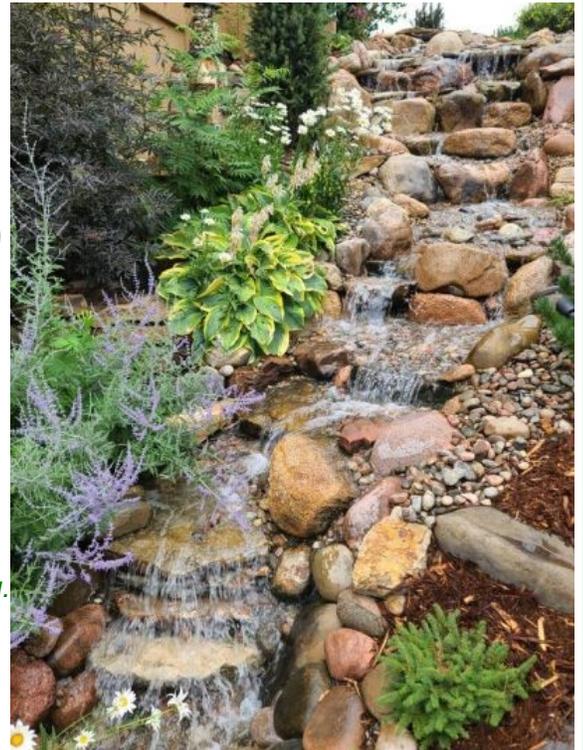


Masks are not required but, you can certainly wear them if you wish.

Please enter through the east door on the north side of the building.

The church is located at 1080 E La Salle St, Colorado Springs, CO 80907.

We hope to see you there!



Union Printers Home Bog Completed

On June 16th, Bob Oatman, Allen and Linda Burbidge, and Tony D'Amico completed the installation of the Union Printers Home bog filter by planting the bog.

We want to thank everyone who had a hand in planning, building, and planting the bog for the pond. If anyone has some goldfish they would like to donate to go into the pond, please contact Bob Oatman at president@ppwgs.org.

President's Ponderings



I've been asked, "How do I get my fish to swim over to me rather than run and hide?". It's simple, use food. Fish are no different than any other animal. They need to eat and find pleasure in doing so. Whenever you feed your fish, stick around to let them know it's you that's feeding them. Don't just throw some food in the water and leave. My fish are usually skittish each spring, but they soon realize that the sight of me means it could be dinner time. I usually start each spring by putting in a little food while standing back, intending to just get them to eat. Set a routine to feed at the same time each day and move a little closer each day until your toes are at the pond's edge while feeding them. By feeding them only a few pellets at a time they'll learn to rush in and get the food rather than waiting for you to leave. Now try sitting down on the edge followed by sticking your hand in the water while feeding. Once you've gained their trust, they'll be eating out of your hand and you may be able to pet them. This helps you bond with your pets and makes for a great party trick!

Summer is finally here! --- (Hopefully)

Bob Oatman, PPWGS President, (719) 465-6731, President@ppwgs.org

Our 33rd Annual Pond Tour

is on

July 30th and 31st.

If you would like to share your little bit of paradise with the rest of us please contact Bob Oatman at (719) 465-6731 or President@ppwgs.org.

We won't be able to have a pond Tour without exhibitors!



Fertilizing Your Aquatic Plants

Now is the time to be fertilizing your water lilies, lotus, grasses, and other aquatic plants in your ponds. The club has fertilizer for sale that is safe for your fish and will help your plants revive after a long winter's nap. Contact Allen Burbidge for more information at 719-574-5176.

My husband swears that the CIA put a listening device in our yard disguised as a tree!

I told him it's just a plant!



The Pikes Peak Water Garden Society 2022 Plant Sale



**This Year's
Pikes Peak Water Garden Society
Plant Sale on June 4th
is at
1263 Shrider Road, CS CO 80920**



Our [Annual Plant Sale](#) will be on June 4th with the [Plant Sale Workshop](#) on June 2nd.

You're welcome to browse through the plants and catch up will old friends.

As you're dividing and repotting your plants, please save your unwanted plant trimmings to donate to the plant sale. Our plant sale is our major fundraiser for the entire year and the donated plants that we receive are where we make the most money. Sure, we sell hundreds of small potted plants which we purchase and resell for a small markup, but it's the donations from members like you that make the sale a success. Bring them by Bob Oatman's house on June 2nd after 6:30 pm so we can get them organized and priced for Saturday's sale. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the workshop and plant sale. You can sign up for the plant sale workshop by logging into our website, going to the workshop from the calendar page, and clicking Sign Up for Workshop --- or you can just come on over.

If you have a pond, it is quite likely that at some point you will see a snake in it. Although a snake in a pond does not pose an immediate problem, it must be dealt with to prevent more serious issues. Snakes may breed and create a larger population of snakes. They can also eat fish and other animals in the pond, or bite humans who inadvertently get near them. The best way to get rid of snakes in a pond is to make the area undesirable for habitation.

1. Cut the grass surrounding the pond with a lawnmower on a regular basis. Some people like to allow the grass around ponds to grow tall for a more natural appearance.
2. Use a weed trimmer to cut back tall shrubs and weeds. Snakes often hide in weeds, so cutting these back makes the area unattractive to them.
3. Move all woodpiles, rock piles, compost piles, mulch, and tarps far away from the pond area. These items provide a great place for snakes to nest, and removing comfortable nesting areas will drive them away.

PPWGS Important Dates for 2022

Board Meetings are held on the Thursday after club meetings.
You are welcome to join us. Ask any board member for more information.

Special Dates are highlighted and linked to the website

[Jun 2, 2022 - Plant Sale Workshop](#)

[Jun 4, 2022 - Plant Sale](#)

[Jun 9, 2022 - June Meeting](#)

[Jul 14, 2022 - July Meeting](#) (Annual Koi Auction and Pizza Party)

[Jul 30, 2022 - PPWGS 33rd Annual Pond Tour](#)

[Jul 31, 2022 - Final Day, PPWGS 33rd Annual Pond Tour](#)

[Aug 11, 2022 - August Meeting](#)

[Sep 8, 2022 - September Meeting](#)

[Sep 10, 2022 - Union Printers Fall Workshop](#)

[Sep 24, 2022 - Humane Society Fall Workshop](#)

[Oct 13, 2022 - October Meeting](#) (Annual BBQ Picnic)

Just a reminder that Board Meetings have been changed to the Thursday after the regular monthly meeting. Everyone is welcome at the board meetings. Ask a board member for more information.

Print out this page and post it somewhere so you can keep track of our events!



Koi Food For Sale

The Pikes Peak Water Garden Society is once again offering Koi food as a fundraiser. We will be selling Foster and Smith Super Food which is almost identical to Blackwater Creeks Gold-N. Unfortunately, the cost of the food nearly doubled, so we will be increasing the cost of each 3 lb. bag to \$15. This is still cheaper than purchasing small quantities of this high-quality food anywhere else, and it will raise some funds for our Club.

If you are interested in purchasing some please contact
Allen Burbidge at 719-574-5176.

Water Hyacinths and Water Lettuce

In my opinion, no Pond is complete without Water Hyacinths and Water lettuce!

Come to the Plant Sale on June 4th and buy some for your pond! Both of these aquatic plants produce shoots that become a second plant and multiply until your pond is beautiful with them floating around and providing shade for your fish.

You will be glad you did and your fish will thank you too!

Club News



Our club now owns an Oase PondoVac 4 which is available for paid club members' use. So if you want to clean out your pond and do not own a pond vac, borrow this one and it will make your life easier!

Please contact Allen Burbidge if you would like to borrow it at 719-574-5176.

Pikes Peak Water Garden Society Facebook Page: Check it out!

Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PPWGS>. Let's get more interaction on the page and post interesting photos and articles when you find them. Go to the page, LIKE the page, and share it on your Facebook feed. If you find a photo or article you would like to share on Facebook, you can either message us and we will post it for you or you can post it yourself. This will help get the word out about the club and let people find out what a water garden is all about!

Plant Trimming Reminder!

Please remember to bring any plant trimmings you might have after cleaning up your pond this Spring to the Plant Sale Workshop!

We could use some of the trimmings from your pond plants for the Plant Sale this year!



Once again, this year we will be having a Midget Market Table at our meetings. This is simply a table where members can place pond or gardening-related items for sale, trade, or free!! Members can bring in items they no longer need, but other members might be able to use. All negotiations are between the buyer and seller. PPWGS is not liable in any way. Please

take your un-traded items home with you.

We have a door prize rule that anyone that brings a guest gets two door prize tickets for themselves.



Ideas for Meetings

If anyone has an idea or two for what they would like covered in the monthly meetings, please let Bob Oatman know and we will try our best to make it happen! You can send an email to Bob at President@ppwgs.org. We would love to hear from you about what you think we should present to the group.

Just hurt my wrists digging a hole between two koi ponds.

I think it's Carpal Tunnel!



Website Spotlight



If you scroll to the bottom of our [Plant Sale page](#), you'll find a wish list. This is a listing of some of the popular plants we hope to have at our plant sale. If you want particular plants, enter a quantity for that plant and press the Add To Wish list button. This does not reserve or guarantee that the plant will be available for you at the sale but it will give us a good idea of what plants are popular and how many we should try to obtain for the sale. Thereby increasing the chance that it will be available to you!

Peak at Ponds

Is published monthly during the summer months of the year and is the official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Water Garden Society (PPWGS)

PPWGS Board of Directors for 2022

President:

Bob Oatman 719-465-6731 President@ppwgs.org

Vice President:

Tom Taylor 719-444-8844 VicePresident@ppwgs.org

Treasurer:

Shirley Weaver 719-231-5567 Treasurer@ppwgs.org

Secretary:

Misty Rigdon Secretary@ppwgs.org

Member at Large:

Allen Burbidge 719-574-5176 Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org

Dixie Bickel 719-338-6261 Memberatlarge@ppwgs.org

PPWGS Coordinators

Fund Raiser: Allen Burbidge

Refreshments: Linda Burbidge

Membership: Allen Burbidge

Plant Sale: Bob Oatman

Door Prizes: Allen Burbidge

Koi Auction: Available

Pond Tour: Available

Webmaster: Bob Oatman

Newsletter Editor: Dixie Bickel

Social Media Coordinator: Dixie Bickel



Peak at Ponds Submissions

The deadline for contributions to the Newsletter is the **20th day of the month prior** to distribution. Please submit all articles for publication in the newsletter via email to:

editor@ppwgs.org

Your contributions are always welcome and encouraged. Editing of your submission may occur as content is reviewed and as space permits.

Plants are the best companions and friends to have! They always end up rooting for each other!



In the Midwest, we have a saying that "April showers bring May flowers!" We can't say that in Colorado. I miss those soft slow spring showers that we had in Illinois. They would gently fall against your window as you were sleeping. I'm hearing rain tonight outside my window but my daughter, Laurie, in Woodland Park has snow coming down!

I still haven't gotten used to high desert living. Pikes Peak has been white since last week and I had all of my tomato, pepper, squash, and onion plants inside my patio, garage, and house last week when it snowed! I was told when I started a garden in Colorado, that I shouldn't plant the garden until after Mother's Day. Well, I waited and it still snowed on my tomatoes! Thankfully, I only lost one tomato plant to frost but it had big green tomatoes on it already and I'm not quite sure what to do with it! My daughter told me to pick them and make Fried Green Tomatoes and maybe I will!

I put my turtles outside before it snowed and had to run out in the snow and pull them out of the pond and take them inside to a heated tank! They looked at me like I was the worst "Turtle Mom" in the whole world! I kept telling them that I was sorry, It's Colorado's Fault!!!

Please, I just want summer to be here. I will gladly take the hot weather over cold any day! I want sunshine, gentle breezes, and warm days and nights! I want to stop being afraid that my turtles and fish will freeze to death in May! I want to see my garden grow. I already have tomatoes, green peppers growing on the plants, and onions a foot high. I'm not bringing my garden plants inside anymore. If it snows in June, they will just have to make it or die. It about killed me carrying five-gallon buckets inside.

I take my hat off to those of you who have lived in Colorado for much of your lives and just roll with the punches with this Colorado unpredictable weather! If it wasn't for all of my children living in Colorado, I truly think I would be living somewhere in the south right now.

I finally bought a liner for our pond. I also bought a pump, filter, UV light, and skimmer. I have what I need for my bog too! Now, to get my children and grandchildren here one weekend to help get it all put together and laid out the way we want it to be. We still plan on putting our small boat next to the pond and having it for our turtles with a wharf built around it as if it's sitting in the water. I'm afraid we have bigger plans than we do energy and money, but we will see how it goes!!!

I encourage everyone to come out to the plant sale on Saturday, June 4, 2022. This is a fundraiser for the club. Last year we had some beautiful plants for sale. I bought several plants for my ponds and kept many of them alive all winter and put them out in my small ponds this spring. My water lilies are already up to the top of the water and the pads are so pretty. Come out and buy some water lilies, water hyacinths, water lettuce, grasses, etc. I love the plants in my ponds and can't wait to put some in my bog when it's done.

Dixie