



## June 2007 Issue

### NEW YORK BUS TRIP

#### **Information for those signed up for the Bus trip to New York on Sunday, June 3rd:**

The bus will leave promptly at 9 am. It is important that those who signed up for the bus trip plan to arrive promptly by 8:45 am.

The bus will leave from the Municipal Parking Lot, in Wayne, Pa.

Please contact Rose Ball if you have any questions or need directions.

**Have a great trip!!**

### ANNUAL POND TOUR

**The annual DVWGS Pond Tour is scheduled for Sunday, July 15, 2007.**

Alan Letofsky with the help of Charles Pierro are diligently working on the plans for this years pond tour.

**More information will be coming soon!**

### 2007 Calendar

#### June 4, 2007:

*New York*

Bus trip with boat cruise

#### July 15, 2007

*Pa*

DVWGS Annual Pond Tour

Looking Back Pitcher Plants	2
Looking Back Miller's Greenhouses	3
Members Bulletin Board	4
How Many Fish? Leak check-List	5
Knock-Out Water Lilies	6
Advertisements	7

## LOOKING BACK

### Pitcher Plants

*The following is from our Garden Accents workshop on March 25th.*

#### What's The Pitch On Pitcher Plants???

*Article from rare FIND nursery*

**Pitcher plants** (*Sarracenia* spp.) and their friends, the sundews (*Drosera* spp.) and the Bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.) are the most common insectivorous plants in North America. Insectivorous you say? That's right. *Sarracenia*s have evolved to catch insects to supplement their diet. This is to take advantage of the wet, low nutrient and mineral content of the acidic bogs where they can be found growing. These herbaceous perennials have modified leaves, resembling tubes or pitchers, that allow for insects to fall in, become trapped and ultimately, digested. What a wonderful evolutionary strategy. It's no wonder Darwin loved these amazing plants. *Sarracenia*s are native to the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern U.S. with *S. purpurea* extending well into Nova Scotia, proving their hardiness for almost anyone's garden.

All that being said, *Sarracenia* are very easy to grow. They can be grown outside year round as long as they are able to go dormant and rest for the winter. Large plastic or ceramic pots are my favorite way to garden with *Sarracenia*. This actu-

ally allows for you to include many companions of *Sarracenia*, which include Mosses, sedges, and orchids. If you are lucky enough to have the space, an in-ground bog is the ultimate sanctuary for them.

#### **Cultivation:**

**Soil:** *Sarracenia* typically grow in very moist sandy and peaty soil. Typically close to a 50/50 ratio of sand to peat moss is appropriate. Mix the soil in a bucket or wheel-barrow using plenty of water to ensure that your mix is completely saturated. If the weight of your container is a concern, perlite can certainly be used in place of sand, with peat moss being the critical ingredient. Any of these three ingredients are readily available at your neighborhood garden center.

**Light:** *Sarracenia* are happiest in full sun. I would recommend at least 6—8 hours of full sun daily. Although shade won't hurt them, the boundless array of colors of the pitchers would not be nearly as spectacular, nor would the plants flower in the shade.

**Water:** Water and water quality are possibly the most critical factors for your *Sarracenia*. All carnivorous plants require constant moisture, low pH, and mineral free water. Rain water is gener-

ally your best friend. Without rain, a common occurrence here in NJ, distilled water is your next best bet. I have killed many a *Sarracenia*, not knowing anything about what was in my tap water. Public water, 9 times out of 10, will do in your pitcher plants. Testing your water is an inexpensive way to be safe and sure. Test kits are sure to be available at a hardware store or again, at your local garden center. Absolutely, under no circumstance, should you allow your bog or your plants to dry out. *Sarracenia* and other carnivorous plants do not recover from drying out!

#### **The Don't's of Bog Gardening:**

Over the years, the bog men have developed the don't's of gardening with carnivorous plants.

Don't fertilize your plants! Fertilizer kills carnivorous plants. Don't ever allow them to dry out. Ample moisture is their primary growth requirement. Don't use tap water unless you know what is in it.

#### **References:**

**The Savage Garden by Peter D'Amato (cultivating carnivorous plants)**

**Water Features For small Gardens by Ethne Clarke (how to on aquatic gardens)**

## LOOKING BACK

### VISIT TO MILLERS GREENHOUSES WALLINGFORD PA. ON APRIL 22, 2007

A picture is worth a thousand words!



We were welcomed once again for our annual Spring visit to to Miller's Greenhouses..



We enjoyed refreshments with club members and friends.!



We shopped and bought from the wonderful selection of blooming flowers!



We returned home with our cars stocked with colorful blooms of all varieties to brighten up our patios and gardens!

**Many thanks to Chuck and Rosemary Miller for inviting us once again to this yearly extravaganza Spring fever event.**

## MEMBERS BULLETIN BOARD PAGE

JOKES *compliments of the internet.*

### Only in America:

can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

do people order double cheese-burgers, large fries, and a diet coke.

do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

### Ever Wonder? .....

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the

headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why is it that to stop Windows 98, you have to click on "Start"?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

When dog food is new and improved tasting, who tests it?  
*Perhaps Victor can answer that one?*

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

### Slogins:

Local ad for a Plumber: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On the trucks of a local plumbing company in Pennsylvania:

"Don't sleep with a drip - call your plumber."

Pizza shop slogan: "7 days without pizza makes one Weak."

Door of a plastic surgeon's office: "Hello, can we pick your nose?"

At a Towing Company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

On an Electricians truck: "Let us remove your shorts."

On Maternity Room Door: "Push, Push, Push."

At an Optometrist's Office: "If you don't see what your looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a fence: "Salesman Welcome, Dog food is expensive."

On a desk in a reception room: "We shoot every 3rd salesman and the 2nd one just left."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes, Sit ! Stay! "

At the Electric Company: "We would be de-lighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't you will be."

On the door of a Computer Store: "Out for a quick byte."

**Take some time to send in your pond stories, tips, jokes or photos for the members bulletin board pages.**

**It is always nice to read stories written by other pond club members. Tell us about your past years ponding experience, or any tips you have learned along the way.**

If you want to submit an article or a story for the newsletter, please submit them to Connie Snyder 1255 Buck Lane, West Chester, PA 19382.

Or send them by email to [ccsnyder@comcast.net](mailto:ccsnyder@comcast.net). All photos will be returned unharmed.

# YOUR SLEEPING POND IS AWAKE! CHECK OUT THESE TIPS!

## How Many Fish??

We have been asked many times how many fish to stock in their ponds. To ensure their health and optimize enjoyment of their company, our DVWGS members need to plan their pond environment carefully.

Koi should be stocked based on a reasonable estimate of their full growth, not on their size at purchase. Most well-maintained ponds will support 1" of fish per ten gallons of water. Though some Koi in the largest ponds will grow to 36", we recommend using an average of 21". The following chart will help estimate the number of fish your pond can support. If you choose to

"overstock" your pond with smaller Koi, or if fish grow beyond the 21" estimated average, it may be necessary to remove fish to maintain a healthy balance.

### What Koi need:

**Lots of water** - The ideal set up for Koi is a pond of at least 1000 gallons with a smooth gravel substrate, rocks, and hearty plants. Koi are moderately cold tolerant, well suited for ponds in most climates. One of the keys to their popularity is their rate of growth and size at maturity. Koi can grow to eight inches in length in their first year, and twelve to sixteen inches by the end of their sec-

ond year. Under ideal conditions - perfect pond size, temperature, water quality, and food availability - they will grow as long as thirty-six inches and weigh over forty-five pounds. Due to the size limitations of most household or corporate ponds, however, Koi seldom achieve this size. An average mature length of twenty-one inches is more common.

In addition to adequate surface size, a good pond for Koi will be at least three feet deep. Here Koi will find the cooler water they need during the warm summer months.

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## Easy Leak Checklist:

Double check to make sure it's actually a leak by comparing the amount of water lost to the appropriate evaporation rates in your area and for the season. Evaporation can mean as much as 1 inch of water loss each week during the summer. If it's greater than expected, it's safe to assume that a leak is the cause

Check the area around the stream and waterfalls for wet soil or mulch. This is where 99 percent of all leaks occur.

If that fails, turn off the pump that runs your waterfall and keep an eye on the water level. When it stops dropping, you'll have a good idea whether it's in the plumbing, filter, or liner.

Focus your investigation on the area where the water level stopped dropping



## YOUR SLEEPING POND IS AWAKE! CHECK OUT THESE TIPS!

### The Three Essentials for Knock-Out Water Lilies

#### Water Lily Maintenance *By Steve Stroupe*

To grow knock-out, drop dead gorgeous water lilies in your pond, three very important cultural requirements are necessary:

#### **Full Sun**

This means *at least* seven or more hours of unobstructed sunlight per day. While some varieties will tolerate less and still bloom to a degree, full sunlight is a mandatory requirement for truly awesome plants.

#### **Adequately Sized Pot or Planting Pocket**

A minimum size pot or pocket for most hardy water lilies is approximately 16 inches in diameter and 7 inches deep. A commercial pot is readily available in this configuration. Anything smaller than this is simply inadequate for most varieties. A much larger pot will make the plant harder to manage (lifting comes immediately to mind) but will increase the intervals between the necessary re-potting/ dividing. A pot or pocket this size will accommodate most cultivars for up to three years before repotting/dividing is needed. The hardy water lily rhizome actually travels across the soil horizontally, necessitating the wide pot or pocket.

#### **Fertilizer**

Plants, like most living things, simply love to eat, and water lilies like to eat a lot. They are almost gluttonous in their appetites for food and should be fertilized generously according to the fertilizer directions. Water lily tablets offer a convenient form for fertilizing water lilies without the mess of granular fertilizers. Fertilizer tablets feed aquatic plants for 30-45 days and should contain a 15-5-10 nutrient ratio. Low phosphorus helps keep the water clear.

Maintenance on any water lily hardy or tropical is minimal. If the three simple cultural rules have been followed, then little else should be necessary to keep them healthy and flourishing. A couple things to keep in mind though; water lilies do not like moving water or water from a fountain or waterfall splashing on their leaves. They do not like to be harassed by chewing or sucking insects, so if any sign of insect infestation is evident, try to identify the offending pest and use appropriate treatment.

Also, water lilies are constantly producing new leaves throughout the season, and the old ones, like spent flowers, die. Removal of the spent flowers and leaves is desirable from an aesthetic and ecological perspective. It just looks nicer when yellowing leaves and decaying flowers are not present in your pond. And getting rid of any decaying plant debris is always good practice when maintaining a balanced ecosystem pond.

#### **DVWGS Officers and contacts:**

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If you're looking for the very best in premium grade Koi foods and pond supplies, look no further than **Buzzy's Bow WOW Meow**.

We feature some of the most innovative products in water chemistry available today, as well as the highest quality foods that your fish will love.

Whether you own a small water garden, a preformed pond, or a full-fledged ecosystem pond, our store is the source.

*If you don't see it on our shelves, let us know what you need and we will special order it for you.*

Eager to get your pond ready for spring or perhaps you need some information on a recurring problem with your water garden ... it's all here! Check us out today *for your one stop pond supplies. Mention that you are a member of the Delaware Valley Water Garden Society and receive a 10% discount on your first order.*

We also carry natural and holistic foods for companion animals. We have an adoption center for cats within Buzzy's and we have "Dog Adoption Days" for those who are interested in adopting shelter/foster dogs. Buzzy's is more than just a natural pet foods store. We are a community helping our neighbors in the care and nutrition of their water gardens and pets. We hope Buzzy's will become your best friend's best friend.

**Buzzy's BOW WOW MEOW**  
All your pet needs... Naturally!  
701 Montgomery Ave \* Narberth \* 610-617-3300  
**The Former Market at Albrecht's**  
OUR SELECTION AND PRICES ARE WOW!

Place your ad in the newsletter to reach all our pond members!

following rates per issue:

Full page.....\$100.00

Half page..... \$60.00

Quarter page.....\$35.00

Business card.....\$20.00

Members, Commercial or Non-Commercial businesses:

Send your "copy ready" ad, along with a check made payable to DVWGS and mail to Connie Snyder, newsletter editor. 1255 Buck Lane, West Chester, Pa. 19382

**Note: Members may still place a non-business notice (such as free plants, or fish) in the newsletter at no charge.**

**Don't forget to check our web page at [www.dvwgs.org](http://www.dvwgs.org)**

### **Sunshine Committee**

If you have any knowledge of club members in need of the services of the sunshine committee, please call Sharon Deutsch at 856-983-2729 or email her at [maggied989@yahoo.com](mailto:maggied989@yahoo.com)

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**DVWGS memberships are based on a calendar year  
beginning on January 1st.**

**If you are viewing this newsletter on your computer, and are not receiving a hard copy in the mail, your information may have been removed from our database of members addresses. If you wish to remain a member of DVWGS, please contact Connie Snyder at;**

**Email [ccsnyder@comcast.net](mailto:ccsnyder@comcast.net)  
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