

Lake Owasso Garden Club

APRIL



Sunset is special when shared

Lake Owasso Garden Club - Meeting: Monday, April 11,

6:30 Social

7:00 Speaker, "Small Space Vegetable Gardening" -- Presented by Jennifer Porwit, Ramsey County Master Gardener

Presidents Message

Sunrise is now the same time as the last week of September.

So many perennials are up, I don't have enough material to cover them all if we get a hard freeze.

Saw a pair of swans in Grass Lake, Red Wing blackbirds have been here for two weeks, daffodils are four inches high, saw a native queen bee and ornamental grasses are growing.

by, Ron Kvass

Treasurer's report

March balance \$8,487.39

Audit report

The findings of the audit of the LOGC 2015 Financial Records are that the TCF statements, LOGC check register, and expense documentation all agree and are accurate and complete.

Mary Fowler

Secretary's Report

Minutes of Meeting March 14th, 2016

28 members and guests present

Ron Kvass brought the meeting to order at 8:35

Ron ordered 122 plants from the Hosta Farm and will be delivered the last week of April. If you have any 4" pots, please let Ron know. There will be a potting party at his home, with a date to be announced. Stay Tuned.

Call Ron Kvass if you are interested in purchasing plants from the Hosta Farm at a 30% discount. He has joined the Hosta Club and in doing so he will give them your e-mail and they send you a coupon code and the club receives 360 points or \$15 credit. Go to www.hostaclub.com to check on shipping.

Patty Costello and Rose Diestler have agreed to Co-Chair the Flower Show, scheduled for July 29th. There will be more to follow once the show schedule is printed.

For those of you who are registered for the lunch or dinner, the Spring Garden Gala is April 1, @ the Vadnais Heights Commons on County Road F between Rice St. and Highway 35. Starting at 11:00 a.m.

The Federated Garden Club of Minn. will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary Party, April 16th, in Chaska. To secure your reservation fill out the form on the FGCM website by April 6th. Cost for program and luncheon is \$28.00.

Our speaker for the evening was Charles Hezesely at chezesely@gmail.com on mobile photography. Very interesting, also one of the categories in the flower show is 4x6 outdoor print, sharpen your skills now.

Respectfully submitted

Lois Witzel

Secretary

A Special Tribute and a very good story

About the Author,

Paul Taber passed away in March 2016. Paul was a dear friend and long time member of the Minnesota Water Garden Society. I spent many hours working alongside Paul helping him maintain the State Fair site for MWGS. He was so delightful to work with and willing to share his vast knowledge not only with me but all he touched. I think you will see what kind of man he was by reading the story he wrote below.

Reprinted from May, 2005

It's a Stick, It's a Thorn,



It's a Hummingbird

By Paul Taber

It was the first weekend in May and I had decided the time had come to clean out and refill the pond for the coming summer. All day Saturday was spent draining the pond and power washing the winter accumulation of string algae, fish poop and other debris from the rocks and gravel. Then the pond was refilled with fresh water, de-chlorinated and the pump was restarted, ready to take on another ponding season.

On Sunday, the water had cleared enough and I was returning the water lilies and other plants to the pond. As I crawled out of the pond for the umpteenth time, I spotted what appeared to be a thorn, about 2 inches long, on the small drain grate next to the pond. Now, I'm not an expert in horticulture but I have a pretty good working knowledge of the plants and bushes around my yard, including their characteristic leaves and seeds, and thorns – if they have them. This seemed very strange to me.

I picked up the thorn to examine it closer. It was stiff and it had a fuzzy wet gob on the other end. To my utter amazement, when I held the thorn in my fingers, IT MOVED!! As it turned out, I had picked up a soaking wet baby hummingbird - by its beak. It must have been knocked out of the air or off of a branch with all the hosing and spraying I had done over the last couple days, washed to the drain and was trapped by the weight of its wet feathers amidst the other debris that had accumulated there.

In amazement, I carried the soggy little bird up to the house to show my wife and had her bring a handful of Kleenex to blot the water from its soaked feathers. As it happened, the clothes dryer was running in the rear entry, which provided a warm environment for the little hummer's recuperation, so I left him there, atop the dryer, and wrapped in tissues while I went back to my final pond task, moving the fish from their temporary tubs in the garage back in to the pond.

That job took about 20 minutes so then I went back into the back entry to see how the patient was doing. To my continuing surprise, the tissues were empty, the hummer was gone! Then, to my great relief, there he was down on the floor in the corner, having dried out enough and regained enough strength to launch himself off the dryer but no further in the confines of the entry. So, now what to do?

As I cupped the little guy in my hands, I remembered that, being the eternal optimist, I had put out the hummingbird feeders that week, the first of May, and wondered if he would feed himself if I got him close to the feeder. Well, as I held him there, it wasn't long before his little tongue began to dart into the opening in the tube and he began to drink the sugar water. Having tried to save baby robins when I was a kid, and having no luck getting them to eat while being held, I was elated to see this little hummer slurping up the sugar water in front of him. And he just kept at it!

His drinking went on for quite a long time, maybe for 20 minutes, when I started to wonder what kind of perch he might consider using – to relieve me of the statue-like pose I was forced to assume. We had a set of garden candle holders that I thought might do the trick so a trip to the garage and back and we had a made-to-order baby hummingbird perch. By instinct, when I released my grip of his body, his little feet, about size 00000, grabbed the holder ring and, with a little maneuvering, his beak was positioned even with the feeder tube opening. And the hands-free feeding continued!

The nicest part of his independent feeding was that it allowed me to get my camera and capture a few pictures of the “little soggy thorn” to share with you. Enjoy!

Epilogue: It was almost dusk by now. The fish were back in the pond, the plants had been replaced, the waterfall was falling, and the little hummingbird was still sitting and sipping. I poured myself a drink and sat on the patio, in amazement of nature, watching this little whisper of a bird knowing enough, instinctively, to drink this artificial nectar. I suppose another 10 or 15 minutes went by when, all the sudden, his little wings kicked into gear, he hovered over his perch for a moment and, with a swoosh, he flew by me and up into the woods for the night. After a very close call, I hope he had a good night and many happy landings, er, hoverings.



"First published in the May 2005 issue of The [Waterlog](#). The Waterlog is the monthly newsletter of the [Minnesota Water Garden Society](#)."

The Minnesota Water Garden Society website is <http://www.mwgs.org>

Or, you can find MWGS on <http://crosspollination.weebly.com>

The Korean Angelica featured this month is the most asked about plant at the State Fair. I am not sure who planted it there but Paul and wife Linda helped maintain the site for many years – Minnesota thanks you!

Plant "Imagination"



Angelica gigas "Korean Angelica"

Different looking plants with large leaves and umbels of dark purple-red flowers and stems, it flowers late in the year adding color and interest to the shade garden when other plants are past their prime. *Angelica gigas* has dark green foliage that is deeply cut. Plants grow 3 to 4.5 feet tall. Flowers look like red-maroon clubs as they form. Blooms in August and September. Plants have large attractive compound leaves. Grow in moisture retentive soils in part shade, dry soil produces smaller plants with less attractive foliage and less impressive flowers umbels. Deer do not eat *Angelica gigas* and some people are sensitive to its sap, which can produce a mild burning sensation. **Will flower the second year** if the seeds germinate in spring and early summer. Cut spent flowers before seeds begin to form to keep plants alive, or allow to self-seed. For extra flower production do not allow the plants to bloom for two or three years. Attracts bees and butterflies.

Surface sow the seeds and press firmly onto the soil medium, germination is spread out over many months, Keep medium moist at all times but not wet. Sometimes this seed needs two cold periods. Each lasting 6 weeks, with a 4-week warm period before each cold period. Sow in early spring for germination in a few weeks, surface sow the seeds, light needed for best results. Want to see this plant? Go to the Minnesota Water Garden Society site (under the tram next to Horticulture Bldg.) at the Fair during Fair Week. The plants at the Fair self seed then bloom the second second year. In other words the plants you see blooming were self seeded the previous year.

Taste That!

Boiled Potatoes with Chives

- Prep 15 m
- Cook 10 m
- Ready In 25 m

Recipe By:TerryWilson

"Simple but very good. Substitute new potatoes for the red if you prefer."

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 2 pounds very small red potatoes, scrubbed
- salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives

Directions

1. Place butter in a serving bowl.
2. Place potatoes into a large pot and cover with salted water by 1 inch; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Drain and cool until potatoes can be handled; cut potatoes in half.
3. Place potatoes into serving bowl with butter, season with salt and black pepper, and toss with chives until potatoes are coated.



<http://www.crosspollination.weebly.com> Once there, There you will find a link to:

The *Lake Owasso Garden Club* website: <http://www.lakeowassogc.weebly.com>

On our LOGC website you can link to our **Facebook** site

Or, you can start out at the LOGC website and go to crosspollination! It's so easy.

Our Google Doc

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvDTcsB_CgstdE81dUVQNEFrBINUSDBWd250QlpGYWc

OUR MEETINGS ARE HELD AT,

**Presbyterian Church of the Way
3382 Lexington Ave North,
Shoreview MN 55126**

Newsletter submissions

We welcome pictures (please title, include latin names of plants), news items, and commentary, preferably via email to raflipp@comcast.net **Deadline** is by the **25th of each month**. I will try to get the newsletter out on the first of the month.

Also, remember our club's [Facebook](#) page. It is a great place to post pictures and share what's in bloom.

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