



Frog – Patient among the impatiens

Photo by Anne Flipp

Lake Owasso Garden Club

Meeting May 13th

Social 6:30 PM, Program 7:00 PM

Program

30 Plants for 30 Tough Places

Jamie L. Sledd and Marilyn Arnlund

Presidents Message

Dear Gardening Friends,

End of April finally hit 70 degrees and we have some hope for perennials to grow! My gardens have just tiny greens leaves pushing out of the earth. A few crocuses in the yard bloomed, but faded in the heat. Although the crocus couldn't take the heat, I'm enjoying it and have optimism that it will bring the perennials up quickly. Then I can divide my big clumps for the plant sale and my garden will be rejuvenated with the enriched soil I add.

The plants at the sale may look small this year, but all gardeners know that small is fine as long as the stems look strong. We'll just have to work extra fast to get them potted up quickly. I'll be making a trip to pick up free compost; it's great for plants at our sale. It'll keep them strong until the new owner finds a home for them. I know this is contrary to traditional wisdom, but it works extremely well. Also contrary to 'official' recommendations, I rake up thatch from vole trails as soon as possible. If it's removed quickly, the new grasses at the edge of the trail develop well.

Remember that funds we earn from the plant sale pays for our speaker fees and horticulture scholarships. We can make a difference in young people's lives.

Wendy Lucas

Secretary's Report

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Minutes of Meeting April 8th, 2013

28 members present

Wendy Lucas brought the meeting to order at 8:30.

Signup sheets were passed around to monitor the entryway door as members arrive for meetings.

Roseville Parade is scheduled for June 24th with Bev Montain, Kathy Day and Wendy Lucas in charge.

Our yearbooks were handed out and a huge thanks to Angie Hoffman-Walter for a task well done. Books are available thru Angie or can be picked up at our next meeting May 13th.

Ron Kvass sent around 2013 program sheets for the entire year with all the tours and excursions planned. It gets better and better every year.

With enough interest the LOGC will again be doing garlands with Evie Larson heading the group. If you are interested you may contact Evie at 633-4434. The federated garden club reimburses LOGC \$2.00 for every garland completed.

Patti Costello is again in charge of the Plant Sale. A 2:00 p.m. meeting was scheduled for April 11th to place the order to South Cedar Nursery. The plant sale is May 17th and 18th, with set-up on May 16th. Let's hope the weather cooperates and the plants are magnificent. Should we eventually return to our garden's and see the need to divide plants you can pot them and bring them to the plant sale to be sold. Wendy has medium and large size containers for members.

A display for the design of the arboretum garden was presented by Beth Oelke. Kathy Kress, Kirsten Engelbrecht, Claire Grubich, Char Ethen, Mary Fowler and Angie Hoffman-Walter and Beth made up the team and chose the colors, plants and design.

Charles Anderson moved to Adjourn and Mary Battee seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Lois Witzel, secretary

Our speaker for the evening was Prof. Bill Cook from SCSU speaking on Cacti and Succulents. It was very educational and entertaining with his stories of how he acquired some of his plants. He sold a variety of them to the members at a fraction of what they would cost at a nursery.

Member comment, Lois Witzel

Treasurer's report

The TCF balance was \$7,426.50 as of 4/22/ 2013

Kirsten Engelbrecht

Exciting news!

Member tours are coming back this summer. Please consider sharing your garden with your garden club friends. There will be a sign-up at the March meeting. We need two members for June, July, and August. The dates are same as our meetings, second Monday of each month. If another date works for you, let us know. See online schedule for time and address. See link at the bottom of newsletter.

Perennial Plant Sale

868 Cannon Ave, Shoreview, MN

Friday - May 17 -- 8 am - 6 pm

Saturday - May 18 -- 8 am - 12 Noon

Rain or Shine

Plant "Imagination"

This month we are fortunate to have an excellent article by Soni Forsman. Soni is a member of our sister club MWGS and has spoken at our club in the past. Soni, and her husband Dave have shared their beautiful gardens many times. When I asked if she would be willing to write an article for our newsletter she graciously accepted.



Hardy iris for wet sites

Text and photos by Soni Forsman (forslilly@aol.com), Minnesota Water Garden Society

Aquatic irises are not just for water gardens. They tolerate various depths of water – from about three inches over the crown of the plant to soil that retains moisture – making them good choices for rain and bog gardens and soggy areas of the landscape. If they are given extra water, they will even grow in perennial gardens. In addition to moisture, their only other requirement is lots of sun, six hours or more.

Available in many colors, water irises grow 18-inches to three-plus feet tall, depending on the variety. All are beardless. The erect center petals are called the standards, the outer petal-like sepals are the falls and the contrasting colored areas near the base of the falls are called signals.

Each iris variety has a relatively short bloom period, two to three weeks, in late spring/early summer. Growing several species and/or cultivars together may extend the bloom time of a grouping. When not in bloom, the stout sword-like foliage contrasts with the foliage shapes of the surrounding plants.

There are two general categories of iris that like to grow in moist conditions. The true water iris prefers very moist to wet growing conditions year around. The second group of iris like wet soil for part of the growing season but prefer drier conditions the remainder of the year.

Most familiar of the water irises are the blue flag (*Iris versicolor*), the southern blue flag (*I. virginica*) and the yellow flag (*I. pseudacorus*). Water irises that bear the ‘flag’ name grew (grow) in the shallow areas of streams, signaling where early travelers could safely cross. Japanese irises (*I. ensata*) and Siberian irises (*I. sibirica*) are in the second group – extra moisture in the late spring/early summer drier conditions later.

The **blue flags** are native to North America, growing from the northeast to the midwest and from Canada to Texas. *I. versicolor* is hardy to zone 3 while *I. virginica* grows to zone 4. The northern blue flag grows to 30 inches while the southern one can reach 36 inches. There are named cultivars of these species and most bloom in colors other than blue.

The **yellow flag** is native to Europe, the British Isles and North Africa but has spread worldwide. This non-native is a prolific seeder and should not be planted in or near a lake or stream and is probably not a good choice for a rain garden constructed to filter runoff before it reaches a city/county lake. It is hardy to zone 4 and grows up to four feet. There are also named cultivars of this species.

Water irises in rain or bog gardens require minimal care except deadheading to keep the non-natives from dispersing their seeds and removing any dying foliage. Iris growing in a ‘private’ bog or rain garden can be fertilized in the spring. Rain gardens near curbs are expected to take nourishment from the runoff.

Divide iris when they have either grown out of their assigned space or look in need of a makeover or both. This should be done after they flower and by mid-August. For the flag irises, dig up the clump(s) and separate the rhizome into fans of at least five leaves with roots. To help the new divisions reestablish, trim back the leaves to six inches and the roots to four or five inches. Replant! No special winter care is needed except to cut the foliage back when cleaning the rain or bog garden before the snow flies.

True water irises can be used in water gardens, adding color and height to the edges. They can be planted in the margins or grown in containers placed on a shallow shelf. Iris growing in containers will need to be repotted every few years, following the above directions. They can winter in their summer location.

Water irises emerge early in the spring, signaling winter is in retreat. *Thank you, Soni*



Taste That!

Puffcorn Recipe

Served @ the April Meeting

1 bag Old Dutch Puffcorn /Place puffcorn in grocery bag.

1 c. brown sugar

¼ c. white corn syrup

½ c. butter

1 tsp. vanilla

Bring to a boil stirring constantly. Boil 2 min. add 1 tsp. baking soda. Stir. Mixture will foam up so make sure you use a large enough sauce pan so it doesn't boil over.

Pour over puffcorn. Close grocery bag. Shake well. Microwave 1 ½ min, remove and shake bag again / place back in microwave for 1 ½ min. Shake again and repeat for another 1 ½ min. Put on cookie sheet and let cool and break apart.

It is very important that you shake the bag very well even though it is hot. Otherwise you will have some that are burnt. Good luck! Lois W.



The **new** website is up and running – please check it out!!

<http://www.crosspollination.weebly.com> Once there, you can go to our page 'LOGC'.

There you will find a link to the **new** Lake Owasso Garden Club website:

<http://www.lakeowassogc.weebly.com> From there you can click on a link to our **Facebook** site.

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

Sister Club

The **Minnesota Water Garden Society** has agreed to be a 'sister' club with us and we will begin sharing news of each other's events. They look forward to doing this with the **Lake Owasso Garden Club**. MWGS, meets the second Sunday of the month at 2 Pm at various locations. That is the day before ours if that helps make it easier to remember. The MWGS website is www.mwgs.org --- check it out for meeting locations and other information about speakers etc.

Address and directions for our meetings--

**Affinity Plus,
2750 Snelling Ave N,
Roseville, MN, 55117**

It is just north of County Rd C. on the frontage Rd.
Next to the old Fuddruckers restaurant. On the east side of Snelling.
Park in back and go up to the second floor. (Stairs or elevator) The room is to your left.

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.

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GOOGLE DOC for Lake Owasso Garden Club -- Check it out. This site has club information that is not open to the public.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvDTcsB_CgstdE81dUVQNEFrblNUSDBWd250QlpGYWc