

North American Water Garden Society South Central PA

An organization of pond lovers dedicated to the enjoyment, education, promotion, and protection of the water garden hobby

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Mark Your Calendars for the 2006 Parade of Ponds

We are busy getting ready for our 3rd Annual Parade of Ponds. This is going to be our best tour yet! The dates for this year's event are Saturday, June 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 25th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Parade of Ponds is a self-guided tour throughout York County. Local homeowners have agreed to open their backyard retreats for public viewing. You can get a glimpse into the wonderful world of water gardening.

There are a few changes to this year's event. The Parade of Ponds is a wonderful opportunity for the public to raise money for a local charity. This year we have partnered with **Olivia's House**.

A few weeks ago we had the honor of touring this amazing facility. From the moment you walk through the doors, it is evident that incredible things happen there. Dedicated to providing a safe environment for children and young adults of all ages to come and work through their grief with the support of a dedicated volunteer staff and surrounded by peers who are there to share their own loss. As a volunteer facility, they count on donations and contributions to keep their doors open. And they have agreed to open their doors to us on Pond Tour day. An opportunity to see what Olivia's House is and learn about how they help the youngest members of our community and their parents get through their most difficult days. Whether it's the loss of a family member, friend, or a pet, they are there to help. Because they also know the healing power of nature, they have a healing garden complete with its own water feature. You will be able to visit this peaceful space on Pond Tour day and walk along the dedicated pavers - honoring friends and family.

Another change to this year's event is that the ticket price is \$10.00. We have partnered with many local businesses that have generously agreed to sponsor our event. Included in the list of sponsors is Sweet Woodruff Farm; Stoner Lawn & Landscaping; Moonlight Café; Horticultural Services; Polly Beckner—Coldwell Banker Bob Yost; Daniel M. Fennick, Esquire; Brown's Orchard; Miller Contracting; Harvey's Rent-All; The Green Pen; The Pond Shop and The Garden's Edge.

To make ticket purchasing easier we have several options. You may buy them in person at The Pond Shop, 1100 South Pleasant Avenue, Dallastown. You may contact The Pond Shop at 717-246-4710 or The Garden's Edge at 717-747-9266 to order tickets by telephone. You may also purchase tickets on-line at www.NAWGSofPa.org. Our Web site also will have up to date information on the event as well as a complete list of our sponsors.

ORDER YOUR TICKETS ON-LINE

Our Web site has all the current information on this year's tour including a link to Olivia's House and the ease of ordering tickets on-line!



There is still time to sign up to be a HOST on the pond tour. Please contact Rebecca Willoughby at 717-246-4710 for more information.

We thank everyone in advance for your support of this great event benefiting Olivia's House.

Are You Ready to Build-A-Pond! Mark Your Calendar!

Have you heard the buzz? Everyone is talking about our **Pond Builder's School!** It's an exciting opportunity to learn from the experts while actually working on a pond. You'll build a complete pond in just one day!

An affordable, comprehensive, training event designed to give you the first hand knowledge you need to get started. Perfect for the home-owner or contractor! Join our expert installers as they show you how to transform an ordinary lawn into an aquatic work of art! There's no better way to learn something than by



doing it yourself, with your own two hands! You'll build a beautiful, natural, ecosystem pond in less than ONE day! Bring a shovel and your work gloves! Come prepared to get dirty! That means, you'll take a green grass lawn and excavate it, build berms, place skimmers and BIOFALLS® filters, fill in with rocks & gravel, and install the pump. You'll witness the birth of a new

waterfall, in just one day at Pond School!

Upcoming Build-A-Pond Class Date-

May 13th

Registration is required, class size is limited.

Don't delay! Pond School fills up quickly!

Cost: \$34 per person or \$49 per family

NAWGS Members Discount: \$29/\$39

Register by calling **717-246-4710**

☛ For more information, go to www.NawgsofPa.org.

With Spring in bloom we need your help planning our next **Pond Builder's School** ...

Currently we are accepting applications for host sites willing to sponsor a Pond at their location. Local businesses can have a wonderful, peaceful, water-scape for all to enjoy right outside their door. These ponds can also be featured on our Parade of Ponds in 2007! For more information about how you can sponsor a Pond Builder's School, contact us at 717-246-4710.

Thinking about a new pond? Sign up for our Pond Builder's School and you will see how easy it is to Do It Yourself!



Pond Myth of the Month Pond Water Must be Tested Daily...

This myth has been circulated by the Aquarium Industry. An aquarium is a smaller body of water which makes it more difficult to maintain a healthy balance so it should be tested and monitored. But a properly installed and functioning water feature should be able to maintain a healthy balance with little monitoring or testing. Remember to do your normal cleanings and check your filters as recommended. If you have questions about what your pond may need, contact the professionals at The Pond Shop. Remember, Mother Nature doesn't test her water, and her ecosystem does just fine—and your's will too!

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Pond Patience Please!

That title is a tongue twister of sorts, but I can't begin to tell you how important it is during the month of May. One of the biggest myths in water gardening is that algae thrives only in hot weather. Well let's add a new twist to "April Showers Bring May Flowers" and include algae in the mix.

Chilly Conditions

Yes, algae loves this time of year, the time when it's just starting to warm up outside, but the pond water is still a little chilly. Why would a sun-loving green monster like algae like cold water? Because it's arch-nemesis, beautiful pond plants, are just trying to get started but it's also a little too chilly for them to do a lot to help battle algae. Another major player in the good fight against algae – beneficial bacteria – has a hard time getting started in cooler water. So the algae is thriving and has the run of the pond.

What To Do

In my pond the iris are coming on strong and the native bog bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata* L.) is in full bloom. The cattails and giant rhubarb (*Gunnera manicata*) and about a dozen other marginals are just starting to wake up from the winter. The beneficial bacteria are slowly picking up steam, but with the temps dropping pretty low at night the biological fiesta isn't in full swing. Even your fishy friends are contributing a bit as their waste slowly turns into plant fertilizer, a.k.a. algae food. This is the time of year when I often get frantic calls from homeowners asking me what exactly they can do about this algae problem.

My answer? Talk to Mother Nature. Plants compete with the algae for the same nutrients. But algae being a simpler species is able to take the advantage. Plants, Plants, Plants ... ADD more Plants! A beautiful variety of marginal or bog plants, will do more to balance your ecosystem than anything else you can do. It's important to keep in mind that ponds are living, breathing ecosystems and they aren't always going to be clear. Algae is a natural part of Mother Nature's recipe. It helps feed and shade fish in natural lakes, ponds, and streams and it's just a part of the circle of life.

There is a low temperature bacteria available on the market that can definitely help you out in these cases, and I sometimes prescribe that to panicked pond owners, but it's not a quick fix or a guarantee.

It's All About Nature

Pond owners who have been around the block a few times understand the role of algae in the pond puzzle. They've come to grips that it comes and it goes. "Patience is what will get you through May" is a favorite phrase I hear from one of my longest running pond owners. Some even comment that it makes them appreciate the summer months even more.

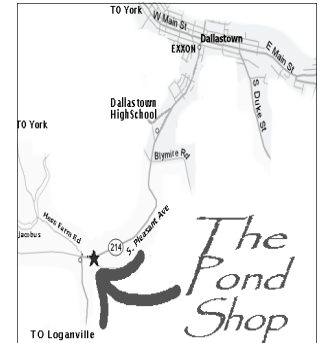
Regardless of how you view algae, keep in mind that it's only here to stay for a little bit. It won't be long until the bacteria fires up, the plants start to feed on those nutrients, and May algae blooms are a thing of the past. Until then, let's just practice our new mantra, "Pond Patience, Pond Patience, Pond Patience ... Bring on June!"



Located at:
1100 South Pleasant Avenue
Dallastown, PA 17313
Phone: 717-246-4710

Spring Hours:
Thursday, Friday,
Saturday
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

(5% NAWGS
Member Discount)



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N.A.W.G.S. NEWS

Do you want some new fish for your pond? Before going out to your local Pond Shop to purchase fish, why not attend our Pond Fish 101 Seminar to learn how to care for your fish. Please join us on Saturday, May 20th at 1:00 p.m. at *The Pond Shop* where we will be offering a 'bird's eye view' of the components of pond keeping, which are necessary for successful fish keeping. We will introduce some basic ideas like water quality, fish types, common fish illnesses, common treatments, pond types, and the ten rules of successful fish keeping. We will discuss the most common day-to-day causes of pond failure and fish disease.



So whether you are a beginner or you are an experienced fish owner, everyone can learn something new about their fish.

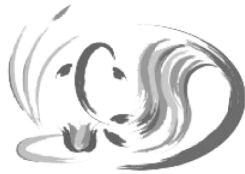
Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 17th to Rebecca Willoughby at (717)246-4710.

North American Water Garden Society
South Central PA

1100 South Pleasant Avenue
Dallastown, PA 17313
Phone: 717-246-4710
Website: www.NawgsofPa.org

Our Mission...

To be an organization that will unite clubs across the country in the common pursuit of the water gardening hobby.



Where Everyone is Welcome

Visit us on the Web

www.NawgsofPa.org

NAWGS Calendar of Events

NAWGS Local Chapter Meeting

May Meeting - Pond Fish 101! Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

Members & Non Members Welcome

R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, May 17th at (717) 246-4710.

Watch Future Newsletters for More Information

About these Events -

May 13th - Build-A-Pond

May 20th - NAWGS Chapter Meeting - Pond Fish 101

NAWGS of South Central PA 2006 Parade of Ponds- June 24^h and 25^h

July 22nd - NAWGS Chapter Meeting - Aquatic Plants 101

September 16th - NAWGS Chapter Meeting - Lily Pad Hop

November 18th - NAWGS Chapter Meeting - Fall Shut Down

All Chapter Meetings begin at 1:00 p.m. and are held at *The Pond Shop*, 1100 South Pleasant Avenue, Dallastown, unless stated otherwise. Please contact Rebecca Willoughby at 717-246-4710 for more information.



About our Newsletter:

This newsletter is published six times each year as part of the North American Water Garden Society, South Central PA Chapter.

Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors:
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