



# The Prairieland Splash

**PKPS MEETING MARCH 8TH, 2008 —9AM**

## **KULL SCAPE — 1401 MEADOWS AVE, EAST PEORIA, IL**

The February club meeting was called to order at 9:06, and had an open forum. Ideas shared were problems that we all were having and ways to correct them. Why some members weren't having babies (the fish that is!), and ways to encourage it by using a floor mop head, or having more plants so the babies can hide.

Also, keeping oxygen flowing in your pond.

Tom and Joan Trotter spoke the meeting about an event at Wildlife Prairie Park on March 15th, 10-4PM.

This will be an informational booth to help expose our organization to the public that are unaware that we exists. If you are interested in helping, give Tom and Joan a call 309-565-7374.

We believe the exposure about PKPS will be a good thing.

Ron Carter  
Mary Depew  
Dave Rinaldo  
Larry Sauter  
Montey Collins  
Marshall Hopkins

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March, 2008

### **Special points of interest:**

- *Kullscapes meeting*
- *Club Dues are upon us again*
- *ALWAYS REMEMBER TO Bring LAWN CHAIRS, JUST IN CASE!*
- *Feel free to take a gander at our web site, Allan is trying to keep it updated.*
- *Wish our Birthday babies a Happy when you see them.*
- *Please submit your pond for the feature of the month.*

### **Inside this issue:**

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## **POND TOUR FOR JULY 2008—POSTPONED UNTIL 2009**

The volunteers needed to head committees for Printed Materials, sponsors, donations, advertising, signs and posters, locations and a

host of other details to pot on a "OPEN TO THE PUBLIC" function such as this just couldn't get organized for 2008. However, I think 2009

will be a great year to host the Pond tour. We will be able to get an earlier start on it. All of us need to help as much as we can. "Pond Tour 09"



## THROUGH THE FISH EYE

smarter water garden #63 submitted by Patty Kramer

### PROPAGATING PLANTS IN THE SPRING:

This is a great way to expand your water garden and pond plants. And to ensure the health of your plants. Plus it's easy to do as most plants can be propagated in the spring simply by splitting (dividing) them.

Each year pond plants grow back in their original pot, which is filled with the previous year's root system and foliage. Over time this can lead to root rot and a pot bound root system. You can remedy this problem in your plants by propagating them every few years.

#### TOOLS:

- More Pots
- Pruning shears
- Small shovel
- Fertilizer
- Gravel
- Aquatic plant soil

#### PRUNING:

Before you propagate thoroughly examine the root system of your plant. Examine the roots for decayed areas, and hollow root sections. Prune them: they are not helping the plant. A healthy root will show thin, white shoots or small rootlets coming off a main

tuber, indicating new growth for the season. Try not to be overeager in your pruning. You can actually prune too much and the plant won't be able to support its beautiful foliage or it could even die on you.

#### PROPAGATION

Look for an area of new growth on your plant's root system. Some plants will be tubers and you'll easily be able to split the plant where the new tuber is connected to the old tuber. Most aquatic plants will have two types of root systems, roots that only grow in one direction and roots that grow in all directions. The ones with root systems that grow in one direction tend to be tubers. If you are propagating a plant with a root system that grows in all directions you can cut the root system right in half. Place one half back in its original pot and the other in a new pot. You can also look for small rhizomes which are knotty and elongated and place the rhizomes in separate pots to start a new plant. One rhizome per pot, please.

#### PLANTING

Before putting your plants back in their pots fill the containers about a third of the way with soil. If you are planting a tuber that grows in one direction place it so the end of the root with new shoots is point-

ing toward the middle of the pot, with the root bulb towards the edge of the pot. Rest your plants roots on that bed of dirt and fill in more dirt around them. Be careful not to create air pockets around the roots which can dry them out or expose them to too much water. Gently tamp down the soil.

You can add two tablets of slow release fertilizer to the soil as you are filling the pot; just make sure that the fertilizer doesn't touch the roots. The concentrated chemicals can also harm your plant roots.

Tamp down the soil when the pot is completely filled in to help keep it from floating away in the water. Place a good layer of pebbles or gravel on top of the soil as well to keep it in place. Now with your plants freshly split and placed in their new roomier pots they are ready to be placed back in the pond. Or you can trade the extra little plants with another water gardener for a new species for your pond. Whatever you choose have fun and good splitting.



## TID BITS OF INFO

Lori said she could make a DVD of the Banquet for anyone who wants one, a slight charge of \$5.00 will be needed, Just place your order with her.

Does any new member need a “Pond Member Handbook” If so please let Ron Kramer know so they can be made. I am going to make about 10 of them sometime in the near future.

Lori is looking into Polo Shirts with our logo on them.

Allan is looking into having a Bus Trip to Anderson Gardens I Rockford, IL I'll keep you posted.



Many thanks to Rick Moorland for the super donuts at the meeting, I felt as though I ate a dozen of them.

THANKS RICK

Does anyone have an update on Bev Thompson, how she is doing, ect???

DON'T FORGET, ITS GETTING CLOSE FOR THAT CLUB DUES THING,, it seems I just paid that last year!,,,,,,,,,DUH!!

Members, don't forget to tell Ron Kramer your birthday month so It can be splashed all over the newsletter.

Don't forget to give Ron Kramer information about your beautiful pond to be the feature of the month. Its not hard at all, just need a couple pictures and answer a few questions and it's a done deal. Hope to hear from a bunch of you this year. Don't be shy.

by Ron Kramer



Would you believe the frogs above were made from Bell Peppers?

Some Chef has lots of time on his hands.



# THE FUNNY SIDE

by Ron Kramer

Members, Let me know if you like this part of the newsletter.

YES——OR——NO



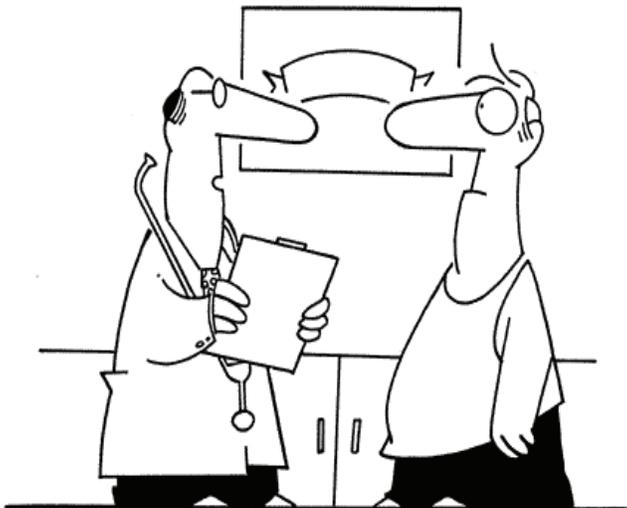
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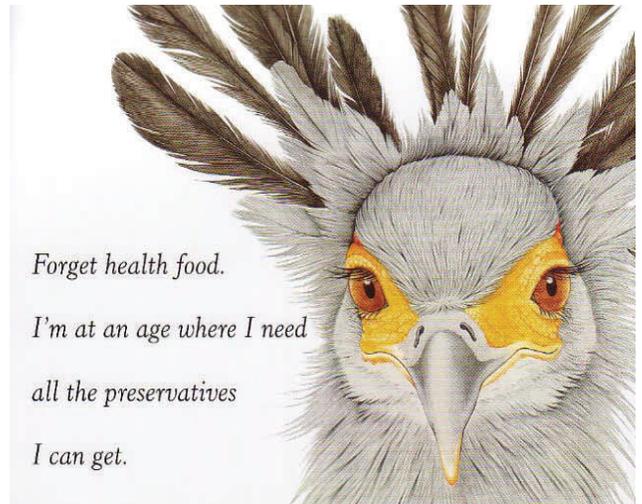
**"I'm going to order a broiled skinless chicken breast, but I want you to bring me lasagna and garlic bread by mistake."**



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**"The best way to lose weight is to have your stomach stapled...to your upper lip."**



*Forget health food.  
I'm at an age where I need  
all the preservatives  
I can get.*



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# PrairieLand Koi & Pond Society

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**We're on the web!!!**

[http://prairieland\\_pond.tripod.com/](http://prairieland_pond.tripod.com/)

*It's All For the Hobby*



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