

Utah Water Garden & Koi Club

October End of Year Banquet

This year's Annual Banquet was held at Celeste Ristorante in Murray. We had booked the entire restaurant so we had it all to ourselves which worked out quite well. We all had a wonderful time socializing and enjoying our last meeting of 2019. We had such a good time that we forgot to take a few pictures!

We had some cute bird feeder giveaways for everyone that were provided by Choice Hardware (Daniel Peel), and two yummy food baskets as raffle drawing gifts.

However, the best gifts were handmade baby clothes that Maria Sawdey donated. They were so cute! Doug and Ann Elmer had the winning number for the sweater and they sent a picture of the lucky and very happy baby that got to wear this cute sweater. Thank you Maria for donating these wonderful items, we are so grateful for your support!



The folks at Celeste provided a wonderful buffet dinner that included steak, salmon, pasta and ravioli. It was all absolutely delicious. If you missed the banquet, give this lovely little restaurant a try, you won't be disappointed.

Meet the new officer board

Elections were held at the banquet for open positions in club leadership. The open positions were President, Secretary and a Board Member. The only nominations were Daniel Peel for President, Zoe Godbois for Secretary and Gil Avellar for Board Member. A verbal vote was taken and each of these individuals were approved to accept their new positions. As a result of Daniel moving into the President spot, it left one year of his obligation as Treasurer open and Lewis Wayman was approved to complete the one year tenure as Treasurer. Below is the list of new Officers for 2020. Congratulations to all!

Club Officers 2020

President: Daniel Peel 435-660-0784
(danielpeel@me.com)

Vice-President: Kelly Flint 801-274-3040
(kflint3040@msn.com)

Secretary: Zoe Godbois 435-623-5100
(zoecast@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Lewis Wayman 801-916-2500
(lwayman@stylecraftframes.com)

Board Members

Ty Rosser 801-995-8521
(ty@utahlights.com)

Gil Avellar 801-572-0853
(trout42@hotmail.com)

Nancy Aoyagi 801-712-9484
(avon_naoyagi@hotmail.com)

Richard Cobbley 801-641-0179
Past President
(randrcobb@comcast.net)

Please welcome the new officers and please thank Richard Cobbley for his long support of the club. He has been an active and engaged member and supporter for many years and deserves some recognition for helping the club be successful. Thanks King Richard for being our President these last two years!

The officers will be working over the next few months to put together some exciting events for 2020. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact President Daniel Peel.



*"As board members, we need to speak with one voice.
I'm suggesting Donald Duck."*



Coming Soon!

Big News!



If you want to continue the fun times as a member of the club, pay your dues now for next year. We have some exciting ideas for 2020 that you won't want to miss. Annual dues are \$35.00 for singles and \$45.00 for couples. Contact Lewis Wayman at 801-916-2500 to purchase your membership today.

IHOP The Ponder Frog...



Ponders: A look back at 2019

This is the time of year when the club officers and board members ask ourselves how did we do in the past year?

Like algae in a pond, we were disappointed in some outcomes this past year that we need to improve for 2020.

Did we do everything right? Nope, not at all. We had some meetings that didn't go as well as we would have liked. We will try harder next year.

Were the speakers all fascinating? Not all of them were and perhaps we can do better, or try something completely different.

Did the pond tour go perfectly? While the weather cooperated and we had some nice ponds, we did hear that some folks missed having a book of locations (more about this later), and a few of the ponds did not meet some of our member's higher expectations.

We wanted to increase membership and that has been a challenge and somewhat of a disappointment. This will be a goal for 2020.

We wanted to recruit some additional volunteers to help with various activities and efforts. Sadly, we did not achieve this goal. It will remain a focus for 2020.

Now we can look at some of the bright spots:

The major accomplishment this year was developing an app that would help the club in the long term with administration of club activities, communications, memberships, and financials. The primary goal was to cut back on the expense and huge effort required to produce the tour books. Producing the books took a tremendous amount of time, were quite expensive to produce and it became an un-sustainable effort to continue given the volunteer resources we have. In addition, the books were distributed to members and sponsors but were hard to control to ensure that what had been distributed was ultimately paid for, something we were never able to reconcile accurately. We will investigate if a short, printed list of addresses might be an option for next year that could be emailed to members.

The advantages of the app are:

- The app administers all aspects of the pond tour and allows last minute additions or deletions of tour locations which was not possible after the books of past years were printed.
- It provides a GPS map of each pond with directions to each location that is easily retrievable on a smartphone.
- It provides much improved and accurate tracking of tour revenue over the old book distribution process.
- It electronically retains past tour locations, photographs, addresses, directions, parking information, and other information that could be easily retrieved for use in the future.
- It keeps track of paid members, past members and those interested in possibly joining and allows for expanded communications capabilities via email, text and social media.
- It keeps track of all sponsor information, contacts, logos and financial information.
- It has the capability to summarize financial information as well.

- It allows for easy uploading of photos, videos and other information needed for the pond tour.

In short, the app has accomplished a great deal to cut future expenses and save time in developing future pond tours and other club activities as well as having a central location to maintain membership information, sponsor contacts and communication activities. The officers, board members and volunteers spent considerably less time and money this year by making the change allowing us to focus on other activities. Hang in there, like a good wine, it will improve with age!

One of our big successes was incorporating the use of a credit card reader for our members to pay for membership and extra activities, such as the banquet and evening pond tour. This is much more convenient than remembering to bring cash or a check. Thanks to Daniel Peel who was instrumental in setting up the club to accommodate the card reader.

We increased the number of ponds on the tour from a total of 15 ponds on the tour in 2018 to 23 in 2019.

King Richard was able to encourage some past members who had let their membership lapse to re-join and we are grateful for his efforts in this regard. Our board meetings have improved by keeping better notes to track tasks and commitments as well as having a clear picture of the club finances.

A new club event was developed this year-the evening “Light Up the Night” pond tour. Our first effort at this type of event was very successful. We have identified ways to improve this event and we may attempt an improved version for 2020.

The club website was greatly improved by adding the current newsletter and past issues to review or download. We have done a much better job keeping our website up to date with meeting and tour information. We have a lot to thank Kelly Flint for in being so instrumental in improving our website.

A significant accomplishment this year was the big increase in the number of paid sponsors. Next time you see Lewis Wayman, please thank him for his outstanding efforts in this regard.

2017 – 12 sponsors

2018 – 13 sponsors

2019 – 32 sponsors!!

In 2019 the club started a food drive as a club service project resulting in a donation to the Utah Food Bank of 221 pounds of food and \$285 in cash donations.

Let’s try to beat those numbers in 2020!



The Koi Spot - On Winter Vacation



Fill the pond food drive



This year, our club sponsored a year-long food drive in support of the Utah Food Bank. Thank you to all of our members, sponsors and friends for this successful effort.

End of Year Tally:

221 pounds of food!!

\$285.00 in cash donations!!

Thanks to all of our members for all your generous donations of food items and \$'s.

Random Thoughts



More pics on www.imfunny.net



Cat snowball fight



Click on their logo to check out their web sites!

Support our Sponsors!



Elizabeth Kimberly Design





Aaron Gardner

Craftcenter Of Fine Stitchery



Contact- Russ- 801-592-3636
Custom Stained Glass and Picture Framing
Email- Peacockstudios@hotmail.com

Designs of the Heart
Contact: Cindy Cima – 801-860-7773
Email: Ccima19@msn.com

Sherrie Theobald Art
Contact: Sherry Theobald 801-899-5273
Email: Shertheo@gmail.com

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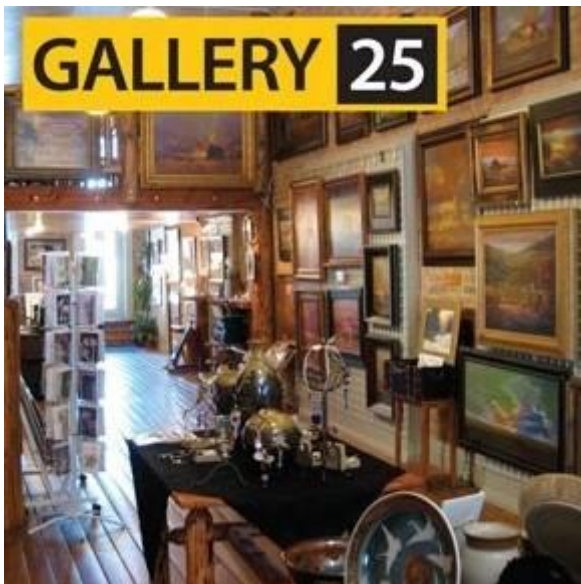
Don Polo
Photography by Adilfa

OWEN MORTENSEN

Exploring the Art of Nature



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