



The Lily Pad

The Topeka Area Water Garden Society

Published Monthly – February to November

The objective of the society is to encourage a greater appreciation and interest in water gardening and aquatic plants, to disseminate information about those interests and to help our members stimulate the study and culture of water gardens.

Volume 9, Issue 7

August 1, 2006



Jim Green (front) pulls a branch out of the ravine at Lake Shawnee. In the background you can see (l-r) Bob Saathoff, Bob Classen (TBA) and Dale Jirik.

Ravine cleared at Lake Shawnee

A ravine below the TAWGS pond at Lake Shawnee has recently been cleared of trees and branches by a hearty group of volunteers from TAWGS, TBA (Topeka Beautification Assn.) and Shawnee Co. employees. Hampered by heat and poison ivy, the group plowed their way down the ravine to the lake with chain saws, etc., and filled at least two dump trucks full of mulch

Workers included: Bob Saathoff, Dale Jirik, Duane & Mary Eberhardt, Pat & Dick Rokey, Jim Green, Tom & Pat Routh, Gerald Hodges and Floyd & Diane Gruver from TAWGS. TBA volunteers were: Jerold Binkley, Dave Hedstrom, Carroll Morgenson and Bob Classen. Bob Saathoff and Jerold Binkley spearheaded the project, with the help of 10 county employees.

Bob estimated that over 40 man hours were spent on the clearing. Thanks to everyone that helped!

Future work will include the removal of the parking lot to the east of the TAWGS pond. You'll be hearing more from Bob! ☺

The shrubs that the Rokey's planted still look pretty good in spite of the extreme high temperatures recently. The Rokey's are in need of people to help water in the next few weeks (Pat is going to have foot surgery) until the county can install a watering system. Presently the water has to be bucketed out of the pond and carried to the plants. Please call them at 785-357-4422 or e-mail them at PatRokey@cox.net if you can help.

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m. August 16, 2006
3119 SW Arrowhead RD
Don & Ruth Taliaferro's home
Bring your lawn chair
Kip Walker will talk on pond lighting

TAWGS Minutes July 19, 2006

President Duane Eberhardt opened the meeting with self introductions. Don and Sandy Regier, one of the pond hosts for the pond tour, were present and paid their dues. We welcomed them to the group.

President Eberhardt read an invitation from Ward Meade for their Summer Award and Recognition meeting to be held 4 – 5:30 p.m. on Tue, July 25th. It will be a wine and cheese buffet and they would like to have TAWGS represented. A few members indicated that they might be able to attend.

Betty Karnes told the group that TAWGS is to provide refreshments for the Garden Council meeting August 7th at 9:00 a.m.. She passed a sheet around asking for volunteers to provide the refreshments.

Hi Stockwell and Michael Bradley gave a very nice power point presentation on the ponds that were on the 15th Annual Pond Tour in June. Since we had some pond hosts say they would have liked to see the other ponds on the tour, we had invited them to attend the meeting so they could see the other ponds, but only 2 of the 10 couples attended. Hi commented that he thought we had a great group of pond hosts this year and a great group of ponds with a lot of diversity. We appreciate Hi and Michael's hard work to put the presentation together.

The meeting continued after delicious refreshments were served by Dale and Earlene Jirik and Betty Karnes. Jim Green pointed out that the minutes of the June meeting should be corrected to read that he paid \$250 for the club's liability insurance and \$42 for the corporation filing fee. He then moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Vice President Floyd Gruver reported that he and Diane have been checking the Ward Meade Fountain to make sure that everything looks okay. He has been in the fountain once to trim off old lily leaves

and fertilize them. He commented that although we thought we had put several colors of lilies in the fountain they all seem to be pink. Floyd congratulated Don and Ruth Taliaferro for receiving first place in the overall landscape category of the recent TBA Landscape contest and said that the Taliaferro's have offered to host the August meeting at their home at 3119 Southwest Arrowhead. We will meet at the usual time. Please bring your lawn chairs. Floyd also reported that members Larry and Barb Shipman received third in the shade category of the TBA contest. Congratulations to the Shipman's and Taliaferro's!

Treasurer Jim Green reported that we have \$5,921.03 in the checking account and \$1,160.59 in the savings account for a total of \$7,081.62. He reported that we sold 490 tickets for the pond tour. The net income, so far, is \$3,654.59. There is an outstanding bill for the printing of the guide and all of the ads have been paid for.

Bob Saathoff talked about future and current projects that he is working on. He has nailed down the same spot for us for the Lawn and Garden Show in February. The space might be a little larger than the 2,000 sq. feet we had last year.

As for the current project, Bob said that he would like to see every garden club in Topeka take over the care of a part of the Ensley gardens at Lake Shawnee. Right now he and several others have been working to clear the ravine from the TAWGS pond to the lake. He said that eight TAWGS members and four TBA members have helped county employees with the clearing so far. He estimates that already over 40½ hours of volunteer time have been volunteered on that project alone. Bob also commented that one of the winners of the TBA landscape contest had returned their \$50 gift certificate to Jerold Binkley so Jerold gave it to TAWGS to be spent on plant material at the TAWGS pond at Lake Shawnee.

Someone asked if the pond at Midland Hospice is being cared for as it should be. Jim Green will check to see if anyone is maintaining it. Dale Jirik offered to help if something needed to be done. Tom Platis reported that the pond at the State Wildlife and Parks office really looks good.

Diane handed out the driving directions for the Member Pond Tour which will be Sunday, July 23. The tour will start at Hodge's and go to Eberhardt's in Topeka where people can car pool. We will caravan to the Gruver's in Holton and finish with a pot luck at the Routh's home near Havensville.

Diane commented that she thought we should set our dates for the pond tour next year. After discussion about the July heat that we have been having, it was the consensus of the group to leave the date at the last weekend of June.

Meeting adjourned.

String algae attacks America

By Carolyn Weise, Ecological Laboratories, Inc.

E-mail: carolynw@microbelift.com

Reprinted from Reflections, Water Garden Society of KC, 6-06

With the warm weather and hot spring this year, everybody is seeing things in ponds that they never saw before. I get calls everyday from people with algae problems and the ice has barely cleared from the top of

the pond. I also receive calls from people that are fighting water quality and other pollution problems that have their fish fighting for their lives. These are not brand new ponds. Well, some are, but most are established ponds that have been happy and healthy for 5 – 15 years.

The biggest common denominator in diagnosing callers' problems seems that most had used an algaecide just before the trouble started. Algaecides aren't a problem generally, unless used early before ponds are really up and running. This seems to have killed the early bacteria and left ponds with ammonia spikes, pH crashes and all sorts of mayhem this year. What I tell people who feel the need to kill that dreaded green scourge "before it takes over" since everybody is "algae-phobic" in America, is to go ahead and use an EPA-registered algaecide, but know what will happen and prepare for the negatives. Make sure to replace the deceased bacterium on the third day following an algaecide treatment. You can use Microbe-Lift/PL Gel to target the filter area. Add aeration and monitor the fish's behavior.

Those dead algae plants will fuel another algae bloom. Poor water quality means suffering and dead fish. And a dead fish in the system, even a wee small one, can really create an algae utopia. So, while we all know that clean is very important and organic debris is a no-no in our ponds, please do not overlook the tiny dead (barely visible) planktonic algae plants you just killed by the millions with the EPA registered algaecide. They are in there and they need to be taken out by your filter, your bacteria, or by hand, but by all means, get it out! It caused fewer problems while it was alive. It just didn't look so good. After killing the algae and 80% of the beneficial (nitrifying & denitrifying) bacteria, we have more work to do now. Please do not sit back and enjoy the clean slate you just created. I assure you it is temporary. May the force be with us all.

Selecting and placing pond plants

Reprinted from 7-06 Splash

There are some tips and tricks for correct placement of pond plants to insure maximum enjoyment and we would like to share them today:

Water lilies, usually the focal point of the deep water in ponds, do not like moving water and will disintegrate if splashed. Water Lilies should be placed away from water falls and fountains! If a deep water plant is needed for ponds with a fountain and/or waterfall where placement away from these features is not possible, a lotus may be a better choice.

Rapidly multiplying floating plants like water hyacinths and water lettuce are great for providing quick shade and helping with filtration, but they should not be used south of the Mason Dixon Line, because they are nuisance plants and choke water ways. North of Mason Dixon they are not that great a danger because they will die off during cold temperatures. Water hyacinth do great in moving water, as a matter of fact, they will positively explode in size if placed in a waterfall spillway or the top of a waterfall filter. Water lettuce does best in partial to full shade in warmer climate zones.

Marginal pond plants (shallow water plants) come in many varieties, some like to be submerged up to 6 inches (or more for large plants), but some prefer to only have their roots wet and the top of the container above the water line. Check the growing directions for the plant. A brick or upside down terracotta pot can be placed under the plants that need to sit higher on the marginal shelf.

The importance of fertilizing and manicuring lilies

Reprinted from 8-01 Water Garden News

Some water lily hybrids will bloom better than others but if your water lilies are not blooming as well as you like, the problem is most likely one of three things. They are not getting enough sunlight (five or six hours of sunlight is required for most water lilies), your plant is pot bound and needs repotting, or there is a lack of fertilizer. Water lilies are heavy feeders and require regular feeding to bloom well (especially if potted in a small pot).

When to feed aquatic plants

Tropical water lilies can be fed as often as twice a month. They will utilize the fertilizer to reward you with more and larger flowers than under fertilized plants. Tropical water lilies are such fast growers that it is difficult to over feed them.

Hardy water lilies should be fed monthly during the growing season to help the plant produce the greatest number of blooms. Flowers are also larger on plants that are well fertilized.

It is important to use the proper composition of fertilizer for your aquatics. It is ok to use a fertilizer high in nitrogen (the first number in the analysis) when feeding a marginal plant that is grown for foliage and not for its flowers. But, when fertilizing water lilies and other plants that we grow primarily for flowers it is important not to use too much nitrogen. You should select a fertilizer that has approximately twice as much phosphorus (the middle number) as nitrogen.

Applying too much fertilizer at once can burn (or damage) plants. A means of feeding plants for long periods without the danger of applying too much fertilizer is available in the form of Aquatic Tabs.

Aquatic Tabs are easy to add to your plants, simply push one or more tablets into each pot. Once there, it will slowly release fertilizer into the potting soil without the danger of burning the plant or escaping into the water where it would contribute to algae growth.

You should begin fertilizing your aquatic plants as soon as you see new growth in the spring. Then continue to feed then until about one month before a killing frost is expected.

When to repot hardy lilies

If your water lily has spent two or three years in a five gallon or smaller pot, then it is time to divide and repot the plant before you can expect good flower production.

Water lilies can be divided anytime during the active growing season. Once it is in a new larger pot, it will only take two or three weeks for your hardy water lily

to begin active growth again. Since hardy water lilies spend more than one year in a pot, be sure to choose a large diameter pot for the best growth results.

Water lilies do not need more than six or seven inches of depth since the roots are shallow and new growth is along the surface. A pot that is 14" to 18" in diameter will provide room for about three years of growth.

Unlike hardy lilies, it is not necessary for tropical water lilies to be in a large container if they are kept well fertilized. However generally speaking, the larger the pot the larger the plant will grow.

Remove dead and dying leaves

As water lilies grow older leaves turn yellow and begin to decompose. These dead and dying leaves as well as spent flowers should be removed. If they are left in the pond to decompose, they will only serve to feed the algae and pollute the water.

Here, fishy fishy

Pond owners' pet names are as colorful as the fish

Reprinted from 7-04 Water Garden News

A koi named Quasimodo? Goldfish called Larry, Moe and Curly? Fish names go beyond the standard Goldie and Spot, according to a recent online survey conducted by The Water Garden.

Respondents to the poll submitted the names of their fish, which ranged from the cute - Nemo and Dory from the animated underwater film "Finding Nemo" - to the wacky - Big Rhoda and Monterrey Jack.

We wondered if water gardeners named their fish the way people name cats and dogs. We found that not only does it seem that people give their fish names, but they're pretty serious about it - one pond owner has 130 fish and has named every single one of them! While Goldie and Spot were the overwhelming favorites among those polled some of the names submitted, like Filet O. Sole, were decidedly unique.

The movies provided many fish names, like The Soggy Bottom Boys, who were inspired by George Clooney's musical group in the film "O Brother, Where Art Thou." A Western-loving water gardener in Canada called his goldfish Butch and Sundance after the characters played by Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Even fast food commercials influenced the monikers chosen by some people, like Crunchy, Chewy and Cheesy, owned by a woman who let her youngest son name three of her fish after the Taco Bell ad.

This same pond keeper also has a fish she calls Not For Sale - "When we first tried to buy it, that's what the salesman told us," she said.

Some pond owners went for themed names for their fish, like Liberty and Justice for a pair of koi acquired over Independence Day weekend.

Several water gardeners took the Japanese heritage of their koi seriously, coming up with names they felt honored the origins of their fish. "We have a 3-year-old male koi who's named 'Toshi' ," wrote one respondent, "short for Toshiro Mifune, the '60s movie star of Japanese samurai films."

Fish were also frequently named in honor of favorite celebrities, including Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Prince Charles, and even Mary-Kate and Ashley after the Olsen twins.

While many water gardeners name their fish for fun, one respondent noted a more practical reason for christening his fish: "We find names extremely helpful when noting the different habits and problems a fish might have."



Door Greeters and Refreshments

Month	Door Greeters	Refreshments
Aug	Don Taliaferro	Taliaferros, Saathoffs
Sept.		Pot Luck
Oct.		Eberharts
Nov.		Pot Luck

WATER PLANTS

Water Shield, Dollar Bonnet, Water Target

Brasenia schreberi



By Duane Van Dolah

Water-shield is a plant with floating leaves somewhat like a water lily. It is native to Africa, Asia, Australia, and North America. It has naturalized throughout the southern states. Water-shield is identified by the thick coating of gelatinous slime covering the young stems, buds, and the undersides of young leaves. The leaves are oval and shiny, 4 ½ inches by 2 ½ inches wide, and float on the water. The long reddish leaf stalks are attached to the center of the leaf, rather than the edge. The underside of the foliage is dark red or maroon. The flowers are small at less than ½ inch tall and wide. Each bears a single purplish flower that is elevated above the water.

The plant is grown more for its foliage than its flower. The rhizomes and leaves have been used for food and medicinal purposes by Native Americans. The Japanese use the young leaves and stems in salads. The plant is often confused with the Fragrant Water-lily and Floating Heart plant. This confusion can be eliminated by observing the colors of the flowers and the slimy coating of the Water-shield. The water-shield grows in sun and part shade in water 6-24 inches deep. Propagation is by division in zones 4- 10.



TAWGS members gather around the Eberhardt's pond on the recent member pond tour, including (l-r) Don Regier, Mary Eberhardt, Tom Routh, Bob Saathoff, Earlene Jirik, Helen & Tom Platis, Sandy Regier, Joe Weir, Cheryl Saathoff, Duane Eberhardt, Donnis & Gerald Hodges.

Member pond tour enjoyed

By Diane Gruver

About 30 TAWGS members enjoyed a perfect afternoon July 23 while they toured ponds at four homes in Topeka, Holton and Havensville. The group met at 1:30 in the back yard at Donnis and Gerald Hodges' home where they admired the manicured yard and beautiful waterfall and pond. The Hodges' have a way of planting their anacharis in a pot in the bottom of the pond and it just mushrooms to fill the pond. Very nice.

From Hodge's we caravanned to the home of Duane and Mary Eberhardt. Talk about a pond full of lilies! They have lots of everything - fish, blooming lilies, hyacinths and water lettuce. Makes me very envious, since we have a mostly shaded pond where we are lucky to have two or three lilies bloom at the same time. They also have a rose garden and gazebo for added interest.

Heading to Holton, we landed at our house where members gathered in the shade in the backyard to enjoy the pond and flower gardens. Luckily, we did have a lily blooming, the evidence left that we had previously had two lotus blooms and the promise of a future bloom on the Momo Botan lotus. As I said, the pond doesn't get enough direct sun to produce very many blooms on anything.

Driving west out of Holton past the intersection of Highways 16 and 63, the group was awed by the shaded, beautiful and interesting yard at Hidden Hollow Farm owned by Pat and Tom Routh. Stepping stones made from tree trunks meander through the shaded area with hostas, ferns, tropical plants, yard art and other interesting items. "Petey," their multi colored macaw shrieked and said "hi" from his huge cage under the trees. Further back, exotic birds squawked as we passed the rows and rows of cages where many birds are raised from incubation. Llamas in various colors and sizes live in the barn,

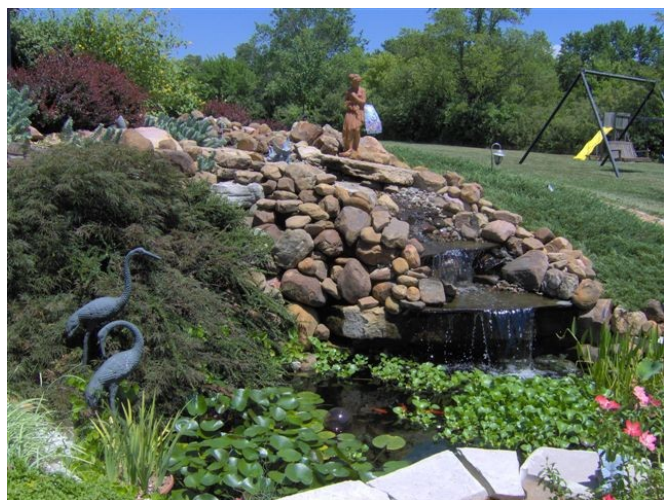
corals and pastures at the farm. They looked so regal and proud as they strutted past the intruders in their space. The beautiful white male and the brown soft-looking fuzzy baby were my favorites. What a treat!



Tropical water lilies bloom in one of the ponds at the Routh's farm.

Oh, did I mention that the Routh's have a greenhouse, swimming pool and three water gardens? Well, they actually have four ponds, one that most people didn't even see that is hidden in the corner of their patio. Purple tropical water lilies were blooming everywhere (I'm so envious! But I did buy one to take home with me). Smack dab in the middle of the yard is Tom's favorite hangout – the horseshoe court, where he spends lots of time while Pat lounges in the hammock to relax, read and cheer him on.

The day culminated with a hamburger fry and a delicious pot luck dinner. Thanks to the Routh's for hosting the meal and to Tom for cooking the hamburgers. I think everyone enjoyed the beautiful day and the fellowship with other ponders. Members that attended were Dale and Earlene Jirik, Bob and Cheryl Saathoff, Debbie Dunkin and her mother, Tom and Helen Platis, Kent and Colleen Hampton, Don and Sandy Regier, Don and Ruth Taliaferro, Barrie and Carol Gnagy, Jim Green, Joe Weir, Betty Karnes and the pond hosts, Gerald and Donnis Hodges, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Tom and Pat Routh and us, Floyd and Diane Gruver. It was a lot of fun.



Water cascades down a long waterfall into a lily laden pond in Donnis and Gerald Hodges' back yard.



Cheryl and Bob Saathoff, Barry and Carol Gnagy and Donnis and Gerald Hodges select food at the pot luck supper at the Routh's. Don Regier is in the background (center).



Donnis Hodges, Helen Platis, Betty Karnes, Earlene Jirk, Don Regier (seated), Sandy Regier and Cheryl Saathoff gather around the pond at the Gruver's.

Educational Opportunities

Puddles-N-Pads, Topeka – 785-233-3474

Aug. 5 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
Aug. 31 - 6:30 p.m.	Installing a water garden
Sept. 9 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
Sept. 14 - 6:30 p.m.	Installing a water garden
Sept. 23 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
Oct. 5 - 6:30 p.m.	Fall shut down
October 7 - 8:30 a.m.	Fall shut down

Space is limited to 16 people per class so register early.

Waters Edge, Lawrence – 785-841-6777

Aug. 5 - 10:30	Frogs, toads and tadpoles
Sept. 16 - 10:30 a.m.	Getting ready for fall and leaf netting
Oct. 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Bubbling bird baths and fountains
Oct. 7 - 11:30 a.m.	Building a tabletop fountain
Oct. 21 - 10:30 a.m.	Winterizing your garden pond

Topeka Area Water Garden Society
9900 SW K-4 Highway
Topeka, KS 66614

Calendar of Events

August 16 – TAWGS monthly meeting
September 20 – TAWGS monthly meeting – Lake
Shawnee
October 1 – October Fest
October 18 – TAWGS monthly meeting
November 15 – TAWGS Pot Luck Supper

Pond Tips

TAWGS Member Joe Weir called recently to say that he had used Rid-X, a septic treatment which is loaded with bacteria and enzymes to try to combat the green water and string algae in his ponds. It is 100% natural and costs \$13 to treat 3,000 gallons. Joe reports that it took about a week to have a crystal clear pond. He said it controlled the green water but not the algae. We only pass this on as a suggestion, not as a recommendation. Use at your own risk.

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 7-06 or 8-06

Please renew as soon as possible to continue receiving the newsletter.

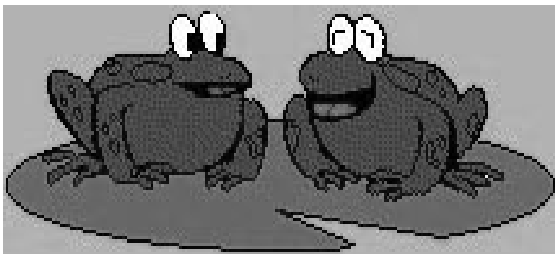
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

2006 OFFICERS:

Duane Eberhardt Topeka	President 785-246-0240
Floyd Gruver Holton	Vice President 785-364-3046
Diane Gruver Holton	Secretary 785-364-3046
Jim Green Topeka	Treasurer 785-272-7139

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at Old Prairie Town (Ward Meade Park) unless otherwise publicized. Dues are \$15 per single or \$20 per family and can be sent to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614.



Check it out - www.tawas.org

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Published Monthly, February to November by the Topeka Area Water Garden Society (TAWGS), a non-profit organization. TAWGS does not warrant the information in this newsletter. The opinions expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Topeka Area Water Garden Society.

The Lily Pad encourages submission of articles pertaining to water gardening from the membership and other interested parties. Deadline is the third weekend of each month. Address input and/or questions to:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor
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We reserve the right to edit input to meet publishing requirements. Copy cannot be returned.