



# *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 10, Issue 5**

**June 1, 2007**



**Jerold Binkley (standing left) accepts a plaque from TAWGS for his help building the display at the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show. VP Floyd Gruver (standing right) presented the trophy. Others in the photo (l-r) Betty Karnes, Donnis Hodges, Duane Eberhardt and Hi Stockwell. (Thanks to Jim Green for loaning me his camera to take pictures at the May meeting.)**

**Monthly Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m. June 20, 2007**  
**Member Pond Tour beginning at**  
**Duane & Mary Eberhardts's**  
**6023 NE Meriden ST**  
**East on NE 46<sup>th</sup> to Meriden ST then north.**  
**Following a short business meeting we will**  
**travel west on 46<sup>th</sup> to Brad & Amy Cheney's**  
**at 940 NE Brian and then to Gerald & Donnis**  
**Hodges, 4600 NE Kendall Wood DR**

**Minutes TAWGS Meeting 5-16-07**

About 40 people attended the fish fry/potluck meeting held at the Ensley House at Lake Shawnee on May 16th. Bob Saathoff and Don Taliaferro fried fish for the group and Cheryl and Ruth decorated tables and provided drinks and table service for the delicious meal. There was plenty of good food and fellowship. Guests attending were: Jerold and Joan Binkley, Bill and Janice Stumpp and Jolene Grabill, all from TBA and Regier's grandson, Todd, and Donnis Hodges's Mother.

Following the delicious meal, V.P. Floyd Gruver presented plaques of appreciation to Jerold Binkley (TBA), Dave Bartels (Shawnee Co. Parks & Rec.) and Bob Saathoff for their dedication and hard work at the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show. The group then took a walking tour with Dave Bartels and he talked about the work that has been done in the gardens since the tour last fall. The covered bridge is in place, many sidewalks have been run and the parking lot has been completely removed with the intention of putting a fountain of some kind in the center. The evening was perfect for a walking tour through the gardens by the lake.

Following the tour, President Duane Eberhardt called the meeting to order with self introductions. Jim



**Dave Bartels from Shawnee Co. Parks and Rec. accepts a plaque from Floyd Gruver from TAWGS for his work on the display at the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show.**

Green pointed out that the minutes of the April meeting had an error – we have \$1,182.84 in the savings account instead of \$2,182.84. The minutes stood approved as corrected.

Duane thanked everyone for their hard work on the garden show and the Ensley Gardens. Diane Gruver said that we need to be proud that our group had so many volunteers that worked at the gardens at the lake in April. Bob Saathoff said that TAWGS had worked over 90 hours at the gardens last month.

Floyd said that he had talked to Lasting Impressions in Holton about imprinting t-shirts for our group. He passed around a sheet with shirt color choices and asked for people to indicate what color shirt they would like. The shirts with a collar and pocket will run about \$27.97. Several people signed up for the shirts. Hats are also available for around \$10 plus the



**Bob Saathoff accepts a Thank You plaque from Floyd Gruver for his leadership and hard work on the display at the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show.**



**Dave Bartels shows the group where the fountain will take the place of an old parking lot at Lake Shawnee.**

cost of the hat. Diane reported that Puddles-N-Pads has extended their photo contest to May 24<sup>th</sup> if anyone is interested.

Treasurer Jim Green said that he had paid the bill of \$750 to Deggingers' Foundry for the refurbishing of the fountain at Ward Meade Park. Floyd reported that the fountain looks good! Jim said that we have \$1,184.99 in savings and \$5,669.56 in checking for a total of \$6,854.55. All of the ads for the tour guide for the pond tour have been paid.

Diane said that she had contacted WIBW-TV and KSNT-TV for ads for the pond tour. We need to fill out a credit report if we want to charge the ads or we can pay upfront. Jim moved and Dale Jirik seconded that we pay the \$250 to each station after we see their proposals and the ad prior to the them running. Motion carried.

Hi Stockwell reported that he had written a letter to the mayor of Topeka asking that the week of June 18 – 24 be proclaimed as Topeka Area Water Garden week. The mayor will sign the proclamation at 6:00 p.m., June 19<sup>th</sup>. Hi requested that the officers and the pond tour chairman, Tom Platis, be in attendance. Other members are also invited to attend to show support. Hi also reported that the pond tour guide is about ready to take to

the printer. He hopes to have them ready to deliver to the nurseries who will sell them about June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Duane said that there was a misunderstanding at the last meeting about volunteering to maintain the fountain at Ward Meade. Kip Walker and Brad Cheney didn't understand that it was something that needed to be each month. Floyd told Kip it usually took about an hour once a month to trim and fertilize the lilies. Kip then agreed to the job and Hi said that he would be able to help him after the pond tour. The meeting adjourned.



**Dave Bartels explains to the group how they are going to build a waterfall coming off the TAWGS pond at Lake Shawnee which will pool under the new bridge.**

## Sun or shade ponds

*Reprinted from 6-30-02 Splash*

What is better: pond in shade or pond in sun?

We get asked this question very often! There is no definite answer one way or the other! Both have advantages and disadvantages:

Ponds in shade: Will have less algae growth, but most plants will not bloom.

Ponds in sun: May have more problems with algae, but will also produce spectacular blooms on everything from water lilies, to lotus and marginal plants!

## Volunteers for 2007 Refreshments

<u>Month</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
June	Tom & Pat Routh, Stan & Mary Bechtold
July	Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, )could use one more)
Aug	Don & Sandy Regier, Linda Reynolds
Sept.	Jon & Mary Pat Fischer, Doug & Marikay Peterman
Oct.	Floyd & Diane Gruver, Betty Karnes
Nov.	Pot Luck

## Fun (Pond) Fact

This is spawning time for Koi! Koi only spawn once a year...but the amount of eggs produced is enormous! They will eat their own eggs and small fry (baby fish), so be sure to provide lots of hiding places with plants.



# WATER PLANTS

By Duane Van Dolah



## Fiber Optic Grass

*Isolepis Cernua*

It looks like fine grass or an optic fiber lamp, but it really is a sedge. This plant comes from the British Isles, Europe, and Northern Africa. The plant's height is 6- 12 inches with a 20 inch spread. It forms a dense tuft of bright green, arching thread-like stems that get silvery flower heads that gives it the optic fiber look. It needs to be kept moist to just submerged in water and grows best in sun to part shade. This sedge is listed for zones 6 -11, but most people bring it indoors and winter it over in a tray of water. One text has it listed as not soundly perennial. Propagation is by division in early spring.

## Educational opportunities

### Puddles-N-Pads 2007 Seminars

Call 785-233-3474 for more information

June 23-24	9 am-5 pm	Pond Tour
Sept. 15	8:30 am	Pond installation
Oct. 13	8:30 am	Winterizing your pond
Oct. 18	6:30 pm	Winterizing your pond

### Waters Edge 2007 Class Schedule

Call 785-841-6777 for more information

Or check website at [www.watersedge.com](http://www.watersedge.com)

June 2	10:30 am	Native Plants and Rain Gardens
June 9	10:30 am	Early Summer Pond Care & All About Tropical Waterlilies
June 16	10:30 am	Smart Ponds - The Truth about Filtration
June 23	11:00 am - 1:00ish	Lotus: Myth & Mystique, Stop and Eat the Lotus - Come to our annual Lotus Party & celebrate the wonders of the Lotus! We'll have Lotus treats & other edible aquatics to sample!!
Aug. 4	10:30 am	Frogs, Toads and Tadpoles
Sept. 22	10:30 am	Getting Ready for Fall & Leaf Netting
Oct. 6	10:30 am	Bubbling Bird Baths and Fountains
Oct. 20	10:30 am	Winterizing Your Garden Pond

#### Pond Tip

A dirty filter can cause the flow in a pond's water feature to slow. If this occurs, the filter should be cleaned as soon as possible to prevent possible damage to your pump.

## Water in motion



Reprinted from 6-03 Water Garden News

A water garden brings to mind different things for different people. Whether it is the relaxing vision of koi swimming through the waters. The surface covered with foliage and flowers of all types, the fragrance of a tropical water lily, or the many ways that water can dance into the pond, the emotions of a serene garden can soothe us all.

The dance of water can be from just the movement of fish, the trickle of a waterfall, or the splash of a fountain. Fountains come in many different types and styles. But not all fountains will work in every pond.

A fountain head that creates a spray type pattern may be just what you've dreamed about, but if you also want a garden full of water lilies then a sacrifice may need to be made. Water lilies and many other aquatics with leaves that float on the surface will perform very poorly with the splash from this type of fountain. This doesn't mean that you have to choose one over the other. You can try a different type of fountain spray or position the fountain away from your plants with floating leaves. One of the Bell type fountain heads will create a bubble effect over the water. These do not disrupt the water surface as much as a spraying fountain.

You could also choose to add a spitter to the pond. Spitters usually sit on the edge of the pond and can be in the shape of a fish, a frog, or just about anything else. This type of fountain can add a different dimension to the water garden without being too disruptive to the plants. If you are still set on the spray of a fountain then you might wish to make it a small one that will only take up a small portion of the pond. There are sprays of all shapes and sizes. The Pirouette nozzle from Oase even spins around causing a display of dancing water that can really be a nice touch with underwater lighting for a nighttime visit to the pond.

It is pretty simple to add a fountain to your existing plumbing by installing a tee inline. Add a ball valve above the tee and one going to the fountain to control the flow. Convert to the plumbing size to fit your fountain. If you are hooking up a spitter just connect to the statuary and place beside the pond. If you are hooking up a fountain head to your existing system then you will want to make a fountain support with 3/4" PVC pipe to hold the fountain head level and secure in the pond.

## Pond Plant Tips

Reprinted from 5-11-07 Splash

This is the time of year to divide and re-pot your pond plants! Be sure to fertilize adequately with aquatic plant fertilizer (this is fertilizer specifically formulated to NOT feed algae, which is also a plant). It is also fish safe. Water Lilies and Lotus in particular are very heavy feeders...and will bloom much more profusely if fertilized adequately (every three weeks or so). Spikes are available for the other plants that will only need to be applied once and continue feeding all year. Fertilizer tabs such as Lily Grow by Tetra are more suitable for Lotus and Water Lilies to make more fertilizer available faster to these spectacular plants.

# Topeka Area Water Garden Society

9900 SW K-4 Highway

Topeka, KS 66614

## Calendar of Events

June 20 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting  
June 23-24 -Topeka Pond Tour  
June 23-24 – Lawrence Pond Tour  
July 7-8 – Wichita Pond Tour  
July 14-15 – Kansas City Pond Tour  
July 18 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting  
Aug. 15 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting  
Sept. 19 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting  
Oct. 17 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting  
Nov 14 – TAWGS Pot Luck & Monthly Meeting  
(Note change of date)

## Fun pond fact

*In very hot weather fish are using more oxygen and the water is holding less. If you have a heavy fish population or low circulation in your pond, consider supplementing with extra aeration.*

### Your Dues are Due if your label reads 4-07, 5-07 or 6-07

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

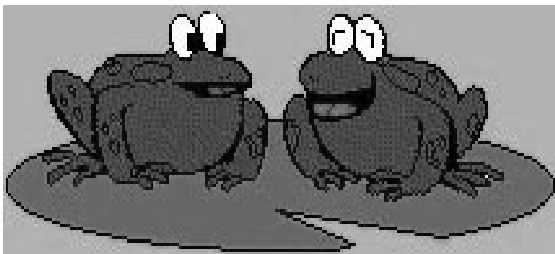
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

## THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

### 2007 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](http://www.tawas.org)

## *The Lily Pad*

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  
408 Emerald, Holton, KS 66436  
785 364-3046

[fdgruver@earthlink.net](mailto:fdgruver@earthlink.net)

We reserve the right to edit input to meet publishing requirements. Copy cannot be returned.