



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.

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The Wichita Pond Society has a nice display at the Wichita Garden Show. (Photo by Bob Saathoff)

2008 Wichita Garden Show inspires

by Bob Saathoff

In early March Cheryl and I took our annual pilgrimage to the Century II building in Wichita to attend the Wichita Garden Show. This is where we go to get part of our inspiration for improving our own garden and to raise our level of expectation for what a garden can be.

To experience the seven world-class indoor gardens (valued at ½ million dollars) is worth the trip. These displays all demonstrate landscaping ideas that can be used in your own garden and are a big part of the reason the show is considered to be one of the nation's top ten garden events. 195 commercial exhibits, along with educational exhibits and experts to answer questions are located throughout. There are amateur and professional flower arrangement shows and always a large orchid show. Educational seminars, covering many various gardening topics, are scheduled every hour during the show. We attended a seminar on tree and shrub pruning techniques and learned quite a lot.

Water garden features are always a big part of the Wichita Garden Show. The Wichita Pond Society always has a fabulous display. Some of the displays have as many as five different water features. If you are looking for ideas to improve or add to your water garden(s) this is the place to go. Large and small waterfalls and streams, ponds, pondless features, fountains, bubblers, etc. and in settings that are simply awesome.

This is a "must-see" Garden Show, especially for

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m., Wed., Apr. 19, 2008

Historic Old Prairie Town

(Formerly Ward Meade Park)

Landscaping around your pond

James Widman, Skinners Nursery

water gardeners. Watch for the 2009 Wichita Garden Show schedule and make this one of your annual pilgrimages also.



Volunteers work at the Gardens by the Lake in 2007.

Work at the Garden by the Lake

By Bob Saathoff

I keep hearing people say, "Warmer weather is just around the corner". I have been around a lot of corners and have yet to experience it. With warmer weather comes the anticipation of getting out into our gardens to clean, weed, plant, fertilize, etc. After we get our own gardens off to a good start I hope some of the TAWGS members will volunteer to help get The Garden by the Lake off to a good start.

This year TAWGS' scheduled month to work at the Lake Garden is May. Along with Gardeners of America garden club members, we will have the opportunity to clean, weed, plant, fertilize, etc., 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in May at the

Lake Gardens. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer some of those mornings. 640-1482. There will be a few Saturday work opportunities this year for those who work during the week.

Work on the ravine north of the bridge continues with the planting of rocks, shaping banks and installing water hydrants. Planting in the ravine should begin in mid-April. TAWGS has purchased Japanese Maples, ferns, Nandina, and various other shade tolerant perennials. When this ravine project is finished it will be one of the most memorable views at the Garden by the Lake.

Hope to see you there soon.

Critters and bugs around ponds

by Pat Routh

Brad Cheney gave an interesting program on Critters and Bugs at the March meeting. Some of the things he talked about were:

1. Aphids
 1. Blow through the air
 2. Can be treated with insecticide with no damage to pond or pond life
 3. Can be washed off with high water pressure
 4. Sugar water or corn syrup mixture can be sprayed on them
2. Mosquitoes
 1. Don't find any in well circulated water – find most often in grass or puddles of water and mud
 2. Donut dunks work well – replace them once a week
 3. Purple martins and bat houses (with bats) do a good job eating mosquitoes
3. Dragon flies and larva
 1. Not harmful – they eat a lot of mosquitoes
4. Frogs
 1. Eat a lot of bugs
 2. Frogs are laying eggs now – fish will eat frog eggs
 3. It takes 8 days for frog eggs to hatch
 - i. eggs are a ball
 - ii. each frog lays about 2,000 eggs
 4. Tadpoles eat a lot of algae
 4. Frogs are noisy this time of the year
 5. Frogs will leave a pond if snakes are present
5. Toads
 1. Eggs are in strings
 2. Snakes, kids, raccoons and herons are predators to toads and frogs
 - i. Blood meal can be put out to help prevent predators
 - ii. Strobe lights can keep away raccoons
 - iii. Decoys do help keep herons away, but must be moved every day
6. Fish lice
 1. Biggest problem seen in Topeka

- i. Treat with salt or anti-bacteria
7. Water bugs
 1. Not harmful – fish will eat them
 8. Termites
 1. Won't hurt liner; treat around pond when treating for them
 9. Slugs
 1. Treat with beer

Brad owns A-B-C Ponds and has part interest in Waterscape Concepts, a retail watergarden store located on the south side of east highway 24 across from Tractor Supply. They offer a discount for TAWGS members.

TAWGS Minutes 3-19-2008

The March TAWGS meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. on March 19, 2008 by president Duane Eberhardt.

Introduction of officers.

Introduction of members and guests. Several visitors were present and had heard about TAWGS through Brad Cheney and the internet. The guests later joined the club and put their pond on the pond tour.

Brad Cheney gave the program on Critters and Bugs.

Refreshments were served after the program and the meeting resumed.

Bob Saathoff made a motion to accept the minutes as written in the TAWGS newsletter. Tom Rough seconded it. Approved.

Vice President Don Taliaferro said everyone should meet at 8:00 a.m., April 12, at Felker Park tennis courts at 25th and Gage to build their water feature.

Treasurer's report: checking - \$5,942.21; savings - \$1,207.54; money for projects \$5,043.34. Hi Stockwell made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Don Regier seconded the motion. Approved.

Bob Saathoff talked with Friends of the Garden and we will work the month of May on Tuesday and Thursday. The project at the stream is going slower than they thought it would; one year later than was expected. \$3,000 was allocated for the stream project. Some plants were purchased at the Wichita Garden Show for this project.

Tom Platis, pond tour chairman, will be calling a meeting before the next TAWGS meeting. Still need more ponds for the tour. We have 4 or 5 as of now. A bus tour (50 -55 people) wants to tour several ponds on Thursday before the pond tour. President Duane Eberhardt will check in to it.

President Duane Eberhardt will have koi, ½ inch to 5 inches, by next month. Also, some lady has many big gold fish.

Hi Stockwell made a motion to adjourn. Tom Routh seconded it. Meeting adjourned.

Pat Routh, recording secretary

Clean filters in spring

Filters that have not had water circulating through them for the winter should be cleaned well

before turning the pump back on this spring. Cleaning will remove toxins that can develop from waste breaking down in the filter in the absence of oxygen. Once your filter is up and running, add Microbe-Lift PL to seed it with beneficial bacteria. Filters with pads will benefit from the use of Microbe Lift Gel Bacteria to help get the bacteria established quicker.

Water Plants

By Duane Van Dolah

Bacopa

Water Hyssop



A genus of about 56 species of mostly aquatic or semi-aquatic plants, they are found in shallow water, marshes, pond margins, and slow moving streams of warm-temperate and tropical regions in Asia, Africa, Australia, and North and South America. Low, spreading to upright, often succulent stems, these plants bear opposite, toothed, ovate to spoon-shaped leaves. The leaves are fragrant when crushed. Grown as a ground cover in bogs, or near the edge of the pond, or trailing from the lip of a waterfall. Flowers bloom in summer and range in color from white to pink to purple. Flowers are borne in clusters of 1-3 and are bell shaped. It thrives in sun or shade with the stems reaching 2-4 inches and spreading 24 inches. It needs moist soil or water 1 inch deep. Fully submerged, it will grow but not flower. Propagation is by cuttings. Three inch cuttings can be brought into the house in early fall and put in a container of water and should be placed in a sunny warm window where it will root out for next year. Most grow in zones 9-11 and one species in 6-11.

There are three species suitable for pond use. One type to look for is Bacopa caroliniana, lemon bacopa, which is an easy-to-grow ground cover. It has lemon scented leaves and bright blue flowers. It will grow fully submerged. Another type is Bacopa lenagera 'Variegata', variegated lemon bacopa. It is called lemon bacopa but has no scent but it does have distinctive gold veining on fleshly, green leaves with pale blue flowers. Bacopa monnieri, water purslane, is a bacopa with light green leaves and nearly ever-blooming white flowers striped in pink, lavender, or blue. It is tolerant of seasonal flooding in clear water that can get 4-12 inches deep during that period. It can also take light foot traffic and mowing in zones 6-11.

Refreshments 2008

April	Bill Clark
May	Don Taliaferro and Saathoffs
June	Connie and Allen Ellis
July	Mary and Tom Blubaugh
August	Tom and Pat Routh
September	Floyd & Diane Gruver
October	
November	Potluck

It would be helpful if we could have at least two couples for each month so that it isn't such a burden on one. Also, as you see, we still need volunteers for October. Please call Duane Eberhardt at 785-246-0240 if you can volunteer.

Use Listerine to kill mosquitoes

(TAWGS member Kay McFarland sent me this tip and I thought it was worth passing on, considering the fact that we will soon be facing the West Nile Virus threat again.)

I was at a deck party awhile back, and the bugs were having a ball biting everyone. A man at the party sprayed the lawn and deck floor with Listerine, and the little demons disappeared.

The next year I filled a 4-ounce spray bottle and used it around my seat whenever I saw mosquitoes. And voila! That worked as well. It worked at a picnic where we sprayed the area around the food table, the children's swing area, and the standing water nearby. During the summer, I don't leave home without it.

Other comments:

I tried this on my deck and around all of my doors. It works - in fact, it killed them instantly. I bought my bottle from Target and it cost me \$1.89. It really doesn't take much, and it is a big bottle, too; so it is not as expensive to use as the can of spray you buy that doesn't last 30 minutes. So, try this, please. It will last a couple of days. Don't spray directly on a wood door (like your front door), but spray around the frame. Spray around the window frames, and even inside the dog house.

Need e-mail address for some

I have had several e-mails come back to me as undeliverable when I send e-mails to our members or for the newsletter. I need new addresses for Tom and Georgia Sirridge, Mary & Gayle Gordon, Debbie & Richard Dunkin, Joe & Trudy Weir, Janet Nyfeler, Mike & Janet Cool, Lynn & Keith Pelton and Linda & John Donnelly.

Also, with postage going up again in May, if you would consider receiving your newsletter electronically, please let me know. You will be notified each month when it is available on the website.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the help that I received from Pat Routh, who took minutes and notes on the program at the March TAWGS meeting and Bob Saathoff, who wrote articles about the Wichita Garden Show and the Gardens by the Lake.

As I said last month, we have many talented people in our TAWGS group and it certainly became evident this winter with all the help to cover the meetings and provide information for the newsletter.

Thanks so much to all!
Diane Gruver, Secretary and Newsletter Editor

9900 SW K-4 Highway
Topeka, KS 66614

Calendar of Events

April 12 – Build pond at Felker Park
April 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
May 21 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
June 14-15 – TBA Garden Tour
June 18 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
June 28-29 – Topeka Pond Tour
July 12-13 – KC Pond Tour
July 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Aug. 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Sept. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Oct. 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Nov. 19 – Potluck

During this period of transition as your pond begins to warm, parasites become more active. Monitor your fish for unusual behavior to catch this potential problem early



Your Dues are Due if your label reads 3-08 or 4-08

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

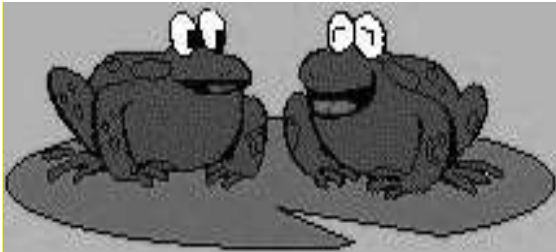
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

2007 OFFICERS:

Duane Eberhardt Topeka	President 785-246-0240
Don Taliaferro Topeka	Vice President 785-272-8348
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.tawgs.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:

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