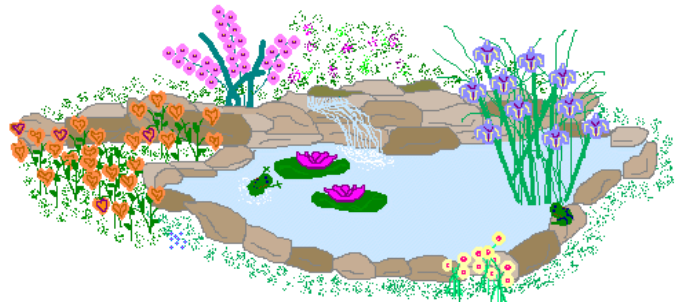




The Lily Pad
The Topeka Area Water Garden Society
Published Monthly – February to November
The objective of the society is to encourage a greater appreciation and interest in water gardening and aquatic plants, to disseminate information about those interests and to help our members stimulate the study and culture of water gardens.

Volume 11, Issue 4

May 1, 2008



Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m., Wed., May 21, 2008
Historic Old Prairie Town
(Formerly Ward Meade Park)
Question & Answer Time
Ask any question about your pond, etc.
Bring gadgets you use to make your work around the pond easier

Widman talks about plants

Landscaping around your pond was the focus of James Widman's talk at the April TAWGS meeting. A K-State graduate, James has worked for Skinners as a landscape designer for six years. Prior to working at Skinners he worked for a nursery in Manhattan. James said he does anything from quick landscape sketches to detailed master plans; simple plantings to complete landscape renovations; little designs to full blown designs.

"I enjoy what I do because I get to work with all sorts of plants," James said.

"Water gardens are a specialty," James said, "and not everyone wants a water garden." There are other ways to incorporate water into the landscape such as fountains and tubs. He said he does not put a water garden into a landscape unless the client specifically asks for one.

When James asked the group what they liked about water gardens, he got several reasons: fish, frogs, sound, reflection, flowers and the wildlife that is drawn to the water. It is a connection with nature. Some landscapes mimic nature and others manipulate nature – such as topiaries, hedges, etc.

He said some of the principles of design are color, texture, form, repetition and unity. Things to consider when planning a pond in a landscape design:

1. Function
2. Placement, such as near a window where you can see it or near a seating area
3. Interaction
4. Balance
5. Feeling of space
6. Work with what you have using existing boulders or woods. Use native plants which require little care or water. Low maintenance is a no brainer in today's world.

James likes to use woody plants, such as trees and

shrubs that remain constant around a pond and perennials which are ever changing. It is okay to correct a mistake with a perennial because it is easy to move it. Perennials are a neat way to explore a garden.

There are different shapes and forms of plants that can be used around a pond.

1. Weeping or cascading plants make good accent plants around the water garden
 - a. Weeping Japanese Maple is one of James favorite plants.
 - b. Weeping Norway Spruce – an irregular evergreen with short needles which will creep over boulders
 - c. Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar - a pretty steel blue and you can maintain the size
 - d. Weeping Bald Cyprus – throws up knees. You can see one at Gage & 6th Street.
 - e. Cranberry Cotoneaster has pink flowers in the spring and berries in the fall
 - f. Coral berry has a loose hairy growth habit but is not much on flowers
 - g. Gold tide forsythia which grows flat against the ground
2. Spiky plants
 - a. Ornamental grasses are very naturalistic and blend right in around a pond
 - b. Switch grass
 - c. Prairie drop seed is a dwarf fountain grass with a strong potent odor
 - d. Little blue grass does well in bad soil and has good fall color
 - e. Yucca has an architectural form that nothing else has

- f. Iris
- 3. Perennial flowers make good fillers
 - a. Sun and drought tolerant plants
 - i. Bee balm with its fantastic blooms
 - ii. False blue indigo which has nice flowers
 - iii. Butterfly weed which has orange flowers that are very vibrant
 - iv. Rudbeckia and coneflowers
 - b. Shade plants
 - i. Variegated Solomon's Seal – bright pink flowers
 - ii. Lenten Rose – evergreen quality that blooms early spring
 - iii. Autumn Fern – tough plant with evergreen quality

A good book that James recommends is "Garden Master Class" by John Brooks.

TAWGS Minutes 4-16-08

President Duane Eberhardt called the meeting to order with self introductions. We had two guests – Julie Trowbridge from Shawnee County Parks and Recreation and James Widman, Skinners Nursery.

Julie Trowbridge thanked everyone for the hours they had volunteered last summer for the gardens at Lake Shawnee. She said that the gardens cover about 20 acres and the help from various garden clubs was appreciated. This year TAWGS has been assigned to work Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., during the month of May. It will be a month of mulching, weeding and planting and she hopes that people will come out and help again this year. "Thanks for your help," she said.

James Widman, landscape designer at Skinners Nursery gave an interesting program on landscaping around a pond. Following the program Joe Breitenstein reported that the Garden Council will be conducting their annual plant sale at Fairlawn Plaza on April 26. TAWGS was invited to sell water plants if they wanted to. He said the money goes back onto the community – mainly to Ward Meade Park. We took a short break from the meeting and Bill Clark and new member Rob Nordyke served refreshments.

The meeting resumed with the approval of the March minutes. Jim Green moved and Don Regier seconded they be approved as printed in the April Lily Pad. Motion carried.

Bob Saathoff reported that the original schedule of the May meeting being a fish fry at the Ensley House at Lake Shawnee has been re-scheduled for the June meeting. Connie and Allen Ellis have agreed to provide the refreshments at the May meeting and Taliaferros and Saathoffs will host the June meeting. Everyone will bring a covered dish to the June meeting.

The fountain at Ward Meade was discussed and it was decided that since there wasn't any water in the fountain yet, we couldn't repot the lilies in time to have them for the plant sale. They will have to be repotted at a later date. It was decided not to participate at the plant sale since we wouldn't have any lilies to sell. Bill Clark and Rob Nordyke volunteered to clean the fountain this

summer. Thanks guys.

Don Taliaferro reported that the project at the tennis court at Felker Park has been re-scheduled for Saturday April 26th. Please bring a couple of wheelbarrows. Don also announced that the May program will be a question and answer period for people to ask questions about their water gardens. Also, please bring gadgets that you have made to help make your pond maintenance easier for show and tell.

Linda Reynolds said that she would like to see another member pond tour this year. She agreed to put something together for a Sunday afternoon in August.

Diane Gruver thanked Tiffany Mauer and Pat Routh for taking the minutes while she was gone this winter and Doug Peterman and Bob Saathoff for providing stories for the newsletter. She also said that TAWGS is responsible for providing refreshments for the Garden Council meeting in September.

Treasurer Jim Green reported that we have \$4,872.91 in the checking account and \$1,209.21 in the savings account for a total of \$6,082.12. \$3,844.04 of that amount has been committed to various projects, leaving a not-allocated total of \$2,238.08. Michael Bradley moved and Tom Routh seconded that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion carried.

Tom Platis reported that he officially has one pond for the pond tour but that he has several others that have committed but not sent in their applications. He still needs more ponds. Hi Stockwell reported that we have a total of 14 ads sold for the pond tour guide, with all but two of them already paid for. President Duane said that arrangements have been made through the Topeka Travel Bureau to have a bus load of about 50 people tour three ponds on the Thursday before the tour with each person paying \$4.00.

Bob Saathoff reported that several TAWGS members have worked at the lake this month moving rocks, etc. He asked if any of the members that have a day job would be willing to come out and work in the evenings. Several indicated that they would be willing to do that.

Phil Thompson said that he has offered to re-build the web site, making it easier for a few selected people to update information on the site and even allow some videos. The software that he would use is not compatible with the web host that we are currently using for \$10 a month. He said he has found a host that would cost \$20 a month and asked if TAWGS was willing to spend that additional amount. Michael Bradley moved and Pat Routh seconded that TAWGS spend \$20 a month for the new web host. Motion carried. We thank Jim Haugh, who has served as our webmaster for the last several years. Phil took over posting the newsletter with the 2008 February Lily Pad.

Tom Platis moved and Jim Green seconded the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Saturday schedule for work at gardens

Julie Trowbridge presented a Saturday schedule for those people that are not able to work during the week but would like to lend a hand at the gardens at Lake Shawnee.

The schedule is as follows: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00

a.m., Saturday May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23 and September 27. Meet at the Trailhead shelter and restroom just north of 37th and West Edge Road at Lake Shawnee.

For those that are willing to work in the evening, you can call Bob Saathoff (272-7125 or e-mail bojsaathoff@yahoo.com) and he will notify you when they are working in the evening.

Refreshments 2008

May	Connie and Allen Ellis
June	Taliaferros and Saathoffs
July	Mary and Tom Blubaugh
August	Tom and Pat Routh
September	Floyd & Diane Gruver
October	Gerald and Donnis Hodges
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. Please call Duane Eberhardt at 785-246-0240 if you can volunteer.

Water Plants

By Duane Van Dolah

Silene, Catchfly

Dioica



This plant is a semi-evergreen perennial that needs to be moist but in well-drained soil. It can never be allowed to dry out. It could be a useful plant close by a waterfall where it would benefit from the splashing off the rocks. Silene has 3 ½ inch long narrow leaves that are dark green with a broad gold edge. Flowers are 1½ inch across with a soft pink color. The Silene flowers in the summer in dappled shade. Its height is 18 inches with a spread of 18 inches. It's hardy in zones 5 through 8. 'Clifford Moor' is a cultivar with a paler pink flower.

Spring start up guide

Reprinted from 4-18-08 Splash

Are your pond and fish ready for spring? It's been a long winter and spring is finally here. Use the pond spring start-up tips below to help your get your pond in shape for many pleasurable days and nights ahead.

1. Remove pond netting or winter cover.
2. Remove debris from pond bottom with a skimmer or pond vac.
3. Skim off leaf debris off of the pond surface.
4. Test ph and adjust as necessary.
5. Assure removal of remaining pond bottom sludge by adding sludge digesting beneficial bacteria.
6. Clean/replace filter media.
7. Inoculate pond filter material with beneficial bacteria.
8. Test salinity - add pond salt if necessary.
9. Visually inspect pond fish for disease & parasites.
10. Inspect pond equipment for worn and/or unsafe

parts.

11. Replace pond uv. and pond light bulbs.
12. Add a barley product to prevent string algae.
13. Prepare plants by re-potting if necessary & adding aquatic plant fertilizer
14. Begin feeding pond fish appropriate pond fish food once water temperature reaches 50 degrees F.

How to determine the size of your pump

Reprinted from 4-18-08 Splash

What is more relaxing than listening to the sound of a waterfall? Move your chair closer....the positive ions produced by the falling water are good for you! Need to know how to determine the size of the pump to produce the waterfall you would like? Here is how: Decide how high and how wide your waterfall will be. You will need the waterfall pump to produce 100 gph for each 1 inch of width at the height at which the water spills out. For example: if you have a 10 inch wide waterfall that is 2 feet high, then you will need a waterfall pump that produces 1000 gallons per hour at 2 ft of head height.

Koi clay improves koi color

Reprinted from 4-18-08 Splash

In the wild and if raised in natural bottom pond, Koi will rummage around the pond bottom for food. When they pick up the food, fine clay particles are attached which provide needed grit to help with digestion as well as beneficial mineral which account for much of the very bright colors of Koi living in natural bottom ponds. These conditions can be reproduced to some degree by adding some Koi Clay to the Koi Pond. Watch the color of your Koi improve!

Still need e-mail addresses

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 and Linda & John Donnelly.

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

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Many thanks to Jim Haugh who has been our webmaster for several years and to Phil Thompson who has volunteered to take over the job and update the website.

We really appreciate the time that both of them have spent/will spend doing the website for TAWGS.

9900 SW K-4 Highway
Topeka, KS 66614

Calendar of Events

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

Clear pond water doesn't always indicate healthy water. Regular water testing can alert you to unseen problems before it is too late.



Your Dues are Due if your label reads 4-08 or 5-08

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

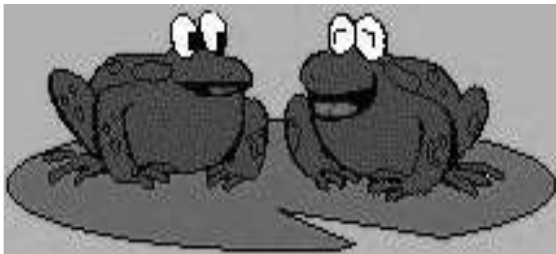
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

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

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@embarqmail.com

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