



*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 8**

**October 1, 2008**



*Deb Spencer (r) visits with Don Hutley before the September TAWGS meeting.*

**Monthly Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., Wed., Oct. 15, 2008**  
**Historic Old Prairie Town**  
(124 NW Fillmore – formerly Ward Meade Park)  
**“Photographing your landscape”**  
**Steve Wilde – Wolfe’s Camera**

**Getting pond ready for winter**

Deb Spencer from Waters Edge talked about fall activities around the pond at the September TAWGS meeting. President Duane Eberhardt introduced Deb by saying he loved seeing her in the spring, but he hated seeing her in the fall. ☹ I think he spoke for a lot of us when he implied that we are all excited about opening our ponds in the spring, but we hate to put them to bed in the fall.

Deb said that fall is her favorite time of the year and everything looks awesome this year. “There is no huge hurry,” she said; “we still have plenty of time to enjoy our ponds”.

Deb said there are a lot of neat things going on in our ponds this time of the year. We see bullfrog tadpoles who are part of our sanitation crew, and our ponds are naturally clearer because of the shorter days. Now is a good time to check our fish for sores or other problems because it is easier to treat them in warm water than in cold water. Fall is a good time to analyze our ponds and see what needs to be changed.

Things to do in early fall (Sept – Oct.):

- Stop fertilizing everything except tropical water lilies and water hawthorns
- Divide iris, rushes and reeds
- Trim dying foliage and keep deadheading
- Groom pots of anacharis so they won’t reach the surface
- Dredge the bottom to remove most of the muck –

- use a vac or small net
  - Check/adjust the KH
  - Last application of sludge eating products
  - Aqua One is particularly effective in cool seasons
  - Use barley and bacteria products
  - Skim/net for leaves – don’t stretch the net flat across the pond but use poles to make a tent effect. Roll the excess net under so it doesn’t collect leaves. There is a new fabric net that does not have to be replaced as often but is more expensive.
  - Bring in vertical tropical plants before the first frost
  - Install a pond thermometer at mid pond level
- What about the fish?
- When pond water drops below 60 degrees either quit feeding or switch to a wheat germ fish food which digests faster and fattens the fish up a little for winter
  - Use the five minute rule – if they don’t eat it in 5 minutes scoop the remainder out
  - Stop feeding at 50 degrees
  - Use salt to improve koi health unless you have plants, then use Melafix which helps heal sores and won’t hurt plants
- Things to do after heavy frost: (Oct. – Nov.)
- Trim dead foliage
  - Lower zone 6 plants (pickerel, parrot feather, thalia, pennywort, lizards tail)
  - Bring in and store tropical lilies in a glass jar filled with course sand if you plan to over winter them
  - Stop feeding fish
  - Shut down/clean biofalls
  - Turn off waterfalls, streams and fountains
  - Lower water level below stonework
  - Install a bubbler to help keep the pond open all winter – put the pump on the shelf where you

can reach it to clean the filter but set the bubbler in the center. Adjust the pipe just under the surface so the water rolls

- Put a pond heater in place to be plugged in when necessary

The best time to clean the pond is after leaf fall because there is less stress on the fish. Clean out skimmer and bio falls but replace the water – don't leave any holes empty in the wintertime. Pull the filters out and store in the garage. Most hardy plants can be left on the shelf. In our area the ice can freeze from 6 to 8 inches deep.

## TAWGS Minutes 9-17-08

President Duane Eberhardt called the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of TAWGS to order with self introductions.

Deb Spencer gave a very interesting program about what we need to be doing for our ponds in the fall and wintertime.

Following a break for cake and ice cream to celebrate TAWGS 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, Duane thanked Betty Karnes and Floyd and Diane Gruver for refreshments. Donnis and Gerald Hodges will provide refreshments in October.

Duane Eberhardt said that Bob Saathoff has agreed to be in charge of securing programs for next year. Don Taliaferro reported that next month Steve Wilde from Wolfes Camera will talk about taking great photos of our ponds and landscaping.

Diane explained that a small group of people first met in July in 1998 to start TAWGS and we officially began our charter year in September of 1998. Several charter members dues are due in September. She again asked if anyone would be willing to get the newsletter off of the website instead of being sent a hard copy. The advantages of that would be that it saves the club money in postage and printing and you can get the pictures in color.

Tom Platis said that volunteers for Apple Fest, Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, will receive a letter from Ward Meade with more information. If you don't remember what hours you volunteered to work, give him a call at 785-478-9514.

Betty Karnes reported that she and Mary Pat Fischer had attended the Keep America Beautiful luncheon and it was very nice. She also thanked Joe Breitenstein, Mary and Duane Eberhardt and Sandy Regier for helping with the refreshments at the September Garden Council meeting.

Floyd Gruver presented the bid from Eric Wood for the pondless waterfall and fountain at Ward Meade saying that it should be able to come in under the \$2,500 budget that was voted on last month. Allen Ellis said that he had re-bar and steel that he would donate to the project. Bob Saathoff and Don Taliaferro will be in charge of building the pondless waterfall and Eric will supervise the work of the other volunteers at the fountain. Everyone is to meet at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Bring shovels and other items necessary to help move dirt, etc. If it rains, the work day will be set back a week to October 25<sup>th</sup>. Floyd passed a sheet around for volunteers to sign up for the project.

Diane said that she would be willing to send out the letters to the advertisers for the 2009 Pond Tour booklet but that she needs to have an idea of what the committee wants before she leaves in November for the winter. Floyd moved and Tom Platis seconded that Phil Thompson be appointed chairman for the tour. Phil accepted the challenge and the motion carried. Thank you Phil, for your willingness to help. Other people volunteering to help include: Michael Bradley and Duane Eberhardt and Tom Platis and Floyd will get the ponds lined up. Others willing to help are encouraged to step forward and let Duane or Phil know soon.

Betty Karnes moved and Don Regier seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.



*Nancy Mulder (second from left) and Amy Thompson (r) bend over to get a better look at Don and Ruth Taliaferro's pond at the Member Pond Tour in August. Others in the picture are: Dona Peterson, Ken Mulder and Phil Thompson.*



*Don uses fishing line attached to a welding rod to make a barrier around his pond to keep heron's from landing and walking into the pond.*

## Refreshments 2008

October Gerald and Donnis Hodges  
November Potluck

# Water Plants

By Duane Van Dolah

## Un-named new water lily

*Natural cross between nymphaea leibergii and nymphaea odorata*



The new species is a hybrid. It arose when two fairly common species of water lily, Leiberg's Water-lily and Fragrant Water-lily interbred. Although plant hybrids form regularly, they are usually sterile and unable to reproduce. It is the only documented population of this type of new water lily in Manitoba, Canada. It is a fertile hybrid that is reproducing. So it's considered to be a brand-new species. It is also quite rare. There are fewer than 500 of them in existence. A sample plant was found in an old water lily collection and documents showed it was taken in northern Manitoba at the Minago River, 100 kilometers north of Lake Winnipeg 60 years ago. The new species appears to have evolved within the last 2,000 years. **Source for this article comes from the Winnipeg Free Press, by Will Tremain, August 13, 2008**



**Pond # 2 on the 2008 Pond Tour was at Bill and Kellie Clark's home. The water feature has a small falls and stream that greets visitors to the Clark's front yard. The pondless waterfall shows what can be done in a small or limited space.**

## Your pond fish in fall & winter

*Reprinted from 9-16-07 Splash*

What happens to your koi and goldfish when the weather and the water get cold? Koi and goldfish are cold-blooded and their body temperature depends on their environment. They do not have the ability (like humans, for example) to keep an even body temperature. Consequently their metabolism slows down and they start swimming slower as well as digesting their food slower. They still have the need for good nutrition and adequate oxygen, however. For that reason it is important that they are fed an easily digestible diet that provides all the needed nutrients and that the pond is adequately aerated. Leaves falling in the pond and decomposing

contribute to lower oxygen levels.

Aquatic plants going dormant reduce necessary cover and protection from predators, so additional protection has to be provided. Pond netting fulfills that purpose as well as helping to keep leaves and debris out.

## Prepare for spring NOW

*Reprinted from 9-27-07 Splash*

Hate cleaning out the pond in the spring? Want to avoid draining and scrubbing as much as possible? The time to prevent lots of work in the spring is NOW!!

Decomposing leaves, fish waste, algae...a lot of the stuff making us shudder when looking at the pond in early spring can be prevented by proper winterization! Cover the pond with a pond net to catch leaves from blowing into it. Add a good cool weather beneficial bacteria to digest the decomposing leaves from plants and the fish waste (sludge) at the bottom and balance the pond water to prevent the stringy stuff from growing on the rocks. Your pond will be much, much easier to start back up in the spring!

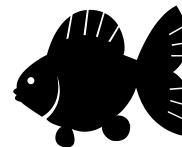
The same goes for your pond fish. Feed them a good cool weather diet to keep them healthy and cut down on waste (fish poopoo) that turns into sludge at the pond bottom. Add a de-icer and/or an air pump to ensure adequate oxygen and it will keep your pond AND your fish healthier and avoid trouble in the spring!

## Lack of oxygen #1 killer

*Reprinted from 10-27-07 Splash*

Snow and Ice are pretty, but.... dangerous for your pond fish! Lack of oxygen is the number one killer of pond fish in the winter (followed closely by predator damage). Let your fish breathe freely all winter with a de-icer and or air pump!

A one time investment will keep your pets safe for years to come!



One of the major areas of cooling for fish are the gills. Pond fish will breathe more slowly during the winter to help preserve body heat!

## Mary Ann Bechtold's Poppy Seed Slaw

1 pkg. slaw mix  
1 c. frozen peas, rinse with cold water and drain  
1 c. unsalted peanuts  
Poppy seed dressing  
Mix together and serve.

As requested, we are printing recipes that have been requested from TAWGS potlucks, etc. If you have a good potluck recipe to share, please e-mail to [fdgruver@embarqmail.com](mailto:fdgruver@embarqmail.com).

9900 SW K-4 Highway  
Topeka, KS 66614

## Calendar of Events

Oct. 5 – Apple Fest  
Oct. 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting – Election of Officers  
Oct. 18 – Work day at Ward Meade Park 8:00 a.m.  
Nov. 19 – Potluck

*Baby pond fish as small as 1 1/2" inch can survive the harshest winter in a properly prepared pond! All it takes is proper nutrition before they stop eating for the winter, protection from predators and adequate oxygen!*



*If you turn pumps and filters off for the winter, be sure to drain all the connected plumbing. External filters, UV's, and external pumps will also need to be drained to prevent damage.*

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads 9-08, 10-08 or 11-08**

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

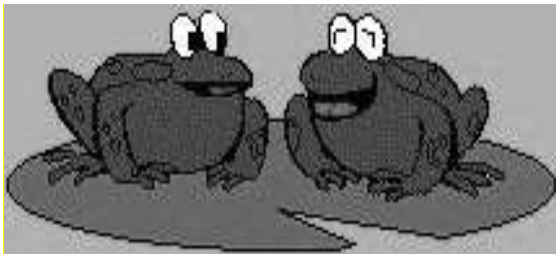
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

### THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

#### 2008 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](http://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:

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785-364-3046

[fdgruver@embarqmail.com](mailto:fdgruver@embarqmail.com)

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