



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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Ken Mulder throws food to his fish during the member pond tour. Others enjoying the pond are (l-r): Mary Pat Fischer, Pat Routh, Tom Routh, Floyd Gruver, Nancy Mulder, Mary & Duane Eberhardt, Bob & Cheryl Saathoff and Stan Bechtold.

Member pond tour fun

by Diane Gruver

We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day, especially in August, for the member pond tour August 17th. We met at 2:00 at the home of Don and Ruth Taliaferro to enjoy their beautiful backyard setting with an upper pond, with several large koi, flowing into the lower pond with goldfish and lots of plants. One of Don's lotus was blooming (just for us, of course) and a pink bud was getting ready to open on another lotus. An arm of Shunganuga creek flows through their backyard which is landscaped with hosts, ferns, ginger and other shade loving plants. You can sit awhile in the swing and take in the beautiful setting.

From Taliaferro's we caravanned to the home of Kip and Paula Walker's where we enjoyed seeing a relatively new pond in their front yard. The water flows from a small waterfall at the upper end into the pond with a nearby bog and then disappears into a stone-filled catch basin. Kip demonstrated how he can control the sound of the waterfall by adding or subtracting a pump to increase or decrease the water flow. Many pretty small koi and several beautiful water lilies grace the pond area.

The next stop on the tour was at the home of Ken and Nancy Mulder in Auburn. In a relatively new development, their pond enjoys full sun since there aren't

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m., Wed., Sept. 17, 2008

Historic Old Prairie Town

(124 NW Fillmore – formerly Ward Meade Park)

“Getting ready for winter”

Deb Spencer – Waters Edge

many trees in the area. A beautiful deep pink crepe myrtle is in the front yard, dahlias grace the west side of their house and many other annuals thrive near the patio. Their pond is surrounded by tropical plants such as Hawaiian pulmanari (used in leis), a banana tree and several other tropical plants. Koi and goldfish enjoy the lily laden pond. We enjoyed a refreshing sip of ice tea while viewing their landscape.

The last stop on the tour was at the park-like setting of Bob and Cheryl Saathoff where we also enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner. Their ponds are mostly shaded with the top pond flowing under the walk area into a large pond below the patio. Floating pots of plants give the shaded pond some color along with several beautiful large butterfly koi, all of which have names, plus lots of smaller fish. The wooded landscape along the Shunganuga creek below the patio has many paths which meander through the trees and plants including pawpaw, Japanese maples, hostas, ferns, hydrangeas and many other shade loving plants. You can sit a spell to enjoy the Japanese garden or linger in the gazebo. It is a beautiful retreat where we know Bob spends many hours tending his plants.

Those enjoying all or part of the day were: Tom & Helen Platis, Doug & Marikay Peterman, Earlene & Dale Jirik, Don Taliaferro, Jim Green and friend Donna, Ken & Nancy Mulder, Mark Weaver, Stan and Mary Bechtold, Gerald & Donnis Hodges, Michael Bradley, Hi Stockwell, Bob & Cheryl Saathoff, Mary Pat Fischer, Kip & Paula Walker and family, including their foreign exchange student from Germany, Duane & Mary Eberhardt, Phil and Amy Thompson, Kevin & Mary Borough, Linda & Doug Reynolds, Don & Sandy Regier, Carol LaMotte, Joe Pelletier, Tom & Pat Routh and Floyd and I.

Many thanks to Don & Ruth, Kip & Paula, Ken & Nancy and Bob & Cheryl who so graciously let us invade their yards to view their ponds and landscapes. It was a delightful day to spend time with friends, enjoy great food and see beautiful yards.

Thanks to all who attended and made it a successful day.



Linda Reynolds (right) makes a note at the pond at Saathoff's. Other members enjoy looking over the pond and garden areas from the patio.



Kip Walker explains the vanishing edge concept to ponders including (l-r) Linda Reynolds, Mary Pat Fischer, Earlene Jirik, Hi Stockwell, Carol LeMotte, Joe Pelletier, and Phil and Amy Thompson.

Moisture loving plants

By Duane VanDolah

Bloody dock

Rumex sanguineus



Also called Bloodwort, other common names include Bloody Wood Dock, Red-Veined Dock and Sorrel. I've always called it Dock. This plant comes from the Mediterranean region and Africa. The plant gets its name for the green leaves or fronds that are veined in reddish-purple. It grows to 15 inches tall and 15 inches wide. With flower stalks that reach 2 feet tall that have loose star-shaped blossoms that begin pale-green, then turning to brown.

I have found that if you cut the flower stalks off

the plant it puts more energy into leaf production and gives you a bushier plant. Last week at the Kansas Pond Society pond tour I saw several Docks planted in water. They were submerged just to the crowns. I've got mine planted next to Wally, my walrus spitter, so my Dock stays moist but not in water. I don't know if it will come up every year in the water. Mine dies to the ground in winter then comes up in the Spring. Its foliage is quite fantastic. I've let some go to seed and now have three groups of plants. But I wouldn't call it invasive, though, one type of Dock is.

The Dock is hardy in zones 5-8 and will grow in part shade and sun. It forms a taproot, which usually means that it doesn't like to be moved. So propagation is by seed. Then move new plants by lifting a plug of dirt with the plant. The younger leaves are edible with a taste like spinach or chard with a great color for your salad.

TAWGS Minutes, August 20, 2008

President Duane Eberhardt called the meeting to order at 7:00 with self introductions. He said the scheduled speaker from Wolfes had called in the afternoon to say that he would not be at the meeting so we would have time to field questions about people's ponds. He said that about 45 people enjoyed the member pond tour on August 17th, and he thanked Saathoffs for letting us have the potluck in their backyard and the Taliaferro's, Walker's and Mulder's for letting us visit their ponds.

Some of the pond problems we talked about were:

- What causes green water? Suggestions were: too many fish and feeding them too much, not enough filtration, not enough plant coverage, especially in full sunlight, use bacteria to help balance the pond, and keep leaves and deteriorating plant debris out of the pond.
- How many fish? There is a formula of 1 inch of fish per 1 cubic foot of surface water, but sometimes that doesn't always work. Fish grow and koi are dirtier than goldfish so there are always variables.

Duane said that he had a letter from Keep America Beautiful to invite someone from TAWGS to attend their appreciation dinner at noon, Sept. 9th to accept a certificate of appreciation. It will be held at the shelter house at Gage Park. Betty Karnes and Mary Pat Fischer said they would attend.

Diane read a letter from Lisa Sandmeyer requesting anyone to submit pictures of anything unusual in their gardens to be published in the newspaper. Pictures need to be .jpeg format and at least 1 MB in size. Her e-mail address is lisa.sandmeyer@cjonline.com.

Jim Green said that we have \$5,781.83 in the checking account and 1,216.37 in the savings account for a total of \$6,998.20. Of that money, we have money allotted to various projects in the amount of \$1,410.40, leaving us \$5,587.00. He reported that we made \$2,446.64 on the tour and we are still waiting for payment from the bus tour. Tom Platis will follow up on collecting that from the travel bureau. Michael moved

and Dale Jirik seconded that the report be approved. Motion carried.

Dale moved and Donnis Hodges seconded that the July minutes published in the August Lily Pad be approved. Motion carried.

Floyd reported that the committee of Michael, Don Taliaferro, Kip Walker, and Phil Thompson met with Ray Schroeder and Bill Riphan at Ward Meade to discuss what to do about the 30 year old fountain that is leaking. They decided to fill in part of the fountain and have a waterfall fall into four catch basins. The fountain that we had refurbished would be placed in a different location. When Kip presented the plan to Eric Wood, who could not be at the meeting, Eric said that he didn't think the plan would look right and it would be very expensive. Floyd met with Eric and Ray the following Monday and they agreed on a plan that would raise the existing fountain and have a small reflecting pool 12 – 15 feet in diameter. The remaining space between the old fountain wall and the new one would be filled in with dirt so plants could be planted in that area. Floyd said he had e-mailed the new plan to the committee and had not received any objections to the changes.

Michael moved and Mary Pat seconded that we do the fountain as presented and put a pondless waterfall inside the new arch they are building this fall. Motion carried. Bob Saathoff said that TBA is getting involved in the plantings at Ward Meade. Don said that at least \$3,000 has been donated by TBA towards the tulips and other plants in the park.

Duane asked for volunteers for the nomination committee and no one volunteered. Floyd asked if the existing officers would be willing to serve another year and all agreed that they would. No nomination committee is needed in that case. Floyd moved and Tom seconded that we retain the existing officers for another year. Motion carried. The official election will be held in September.

Betty Karnes said that TAWGS is responsible for providing refreshments for the garden council meeting at 9:00 Sept. 8th. She passed around a sheet for people to volunteer to help but didn't get many volunteers. If you can help Betty that morning or at least provide some refreshments, please call Betty at 785-266-5620.

Tom Platis said that October Fest is Sunday, October 5th. He passed around a sheet for volunteers to sign up to work. He said people need to wear jeans and white shirts. They can pick up their badges at the gate when they check in and return the badges when they leave. Parking is available at the Judicial center where they will bus people to the park.

Duane thanked Tom and Pat Routh for the delicious refreshments and said that Floyd and Diane will provide refreshments in September.

Bob said that they will begin working again soon at Lake Shawnee. They had been waiting for a drainage problem to be corrected and that has been done. He will contact people when they are working.

Duane said that we need to start thinking about a chairman for the display at the Lawn and Garden show in February. Bob Saathoff agreed to chair the committee. Don Taliaferro, Phil and Amy Thompson, Michael Bradley

and Betty Karnes volunteered to be on the committee. If you would like to help with the display let Bob know.

Diane said that we need to be thinking about a chairman for the pond tour next year. Tom Platis indicated that he didn't want to tackle the job again so we are looking for someone to step up to the plate.

Diane also said that she had a request to publish recipes from the pot luck in the newsletter. She will put Earlene Jirik's corn casserole in the newsletter this month if there is enough space. Please send your recipes to Diane so she can have them ready to print when space permits.

Michael moved and Tom Routh seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

You are invited to a
60th Anniversary
Celebration
Casual Reception
for Dale &
Earlene Jirik
Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008
1.00 - 3.00 P.M.

Last Saturday scheduled for work at gardens at Lake Shawnee

The last Saturday scheduled 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 is 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. 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 bobsaathoff@yahoo.com) and he will notify you when they are working in the evening.

Earlene Jirik's Corn Casserole

Melt 1 stick of butter or oleo in a 9x12 baking dish. Add 1 can of whole corn, 1 can of cream style corn (do not drain liquids). Add 1 box of jiffy corn bread mix, stir all together well.

Beat 2 eggs and add to mixture. Stir in 8 oz. of sour cream, work thru like doing a marble cake. Sprinkle 8 oz. of grated sharp cheddar cheese over top. Bake at 350 degrees at least 30 minutes, or until it sets up well.

Refreshments 2008

September	Floyd & Diane Gruver
October	Gerald and Donnis Hodges
November	Potluck

9900 SW K-4 Highway
Topeka, KS 66614

Calendar of Events

Sept. 8 – Provide refreshments at Garden Council
Sept. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Sept. 28 – Jirik 60th Wedding Celebration
Oct. 5 – Apple Fest
Oct. 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Nov. 19 – Potluck

Draining a pond with green water is not a solution to an algae problem. A pond needs to develop into an ecosystem to create the best balance for long-term success. Draining the pond starts the pond over, delaying this process. The green water would return in a matter of days after the cleaning.

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 8-08, 9-08 or 10-08

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

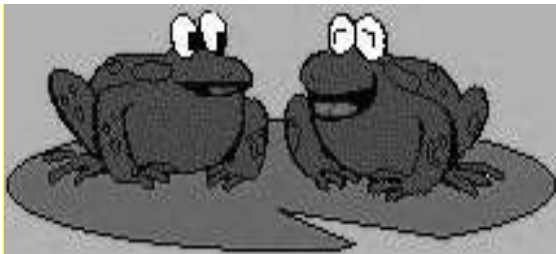
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

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

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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.