



The Lily Pad

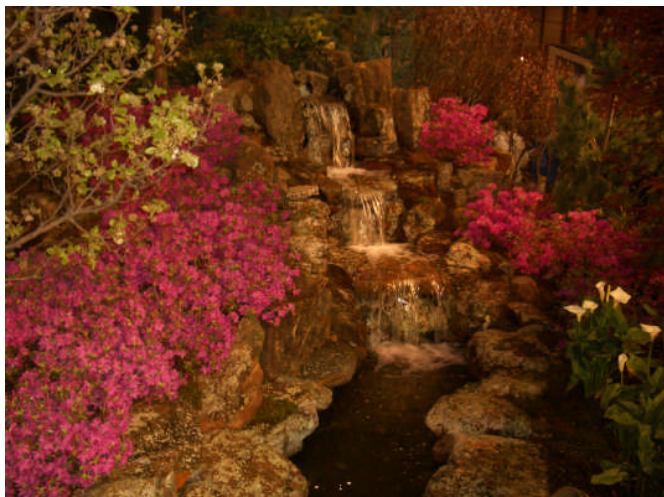
The Topeka Area Water Garden Society

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 12, Issue 3

April 1, 2009



Flowers surround waterfalls in a display at the Wichita Lawn and Garden Show. Photo by Bob Saathoff.

Cabin fever anyone?

by Bob Saahoff

January, February and March are usually pretty blah for gardeners in the Midwest. A couple of gorgeous days now and then but here in Topeka, you just know the weather will turn nasty in a heart-beat. After the mid-February Kansas Garden Show in Topeka what else is there for a gardener to do other than read garden books and magazines and watch the Home and Garden Channel on TV?

Well, within a relatively short distance, there are other Garden Shows to attend; Manhattan, Kansas City (they have three Shows), and of course the nationally recognized Wichita Garden Show. These are all worth attending but I always have a special desire to experience the spectacular garden displays in Wichita. Cheryl and I made our annual journey to Wichita on March 4th and although the displays were not quite as spectacular as in past years it was still worth the trip. The theme this year was "The Giving Garden".

You will find six large garden displays totaling over 20,000 square feet and valued at \$1/2 million (which is what I really wanted to see). Of course lots of rocks, logs, mountains of soil and mulch, trees touching the Century II ceiling and water features in all. Remote little garden rooms tucked away along side winding paths, large and small waterfalls, bridges over creeks and lots of flowers to trim out the displays. The experience will be an

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m., Wed., April 15, 2009

Snyder's Cabin, Gage Park

See directions on page 3

Doug Grimm, Grimm's Gardens, Hiawatha, KS
"The Kansas Record Tree Program, tree propagation and water garden construction"

inspiration to you.

Similar to the Topeka Garden Show there are hourly educational seminars, vendors displaying equipment, fencing, barbecues, rocks, etc. You will find the Wichita Show has a better selection of hand tools, specialty items, gardening and other books and pottery and baskets. You will get to talk with members of the Kansas Pond Society (they had a really nice display), the Wichita Hosta Society and members of many other local garden clubs. There are dozens of entries in a floral display contest where you can get lots of good ideas.

So if you are looking for something to help cure your cabin fever we highly recommend you attend the Wichita Garden Show next year. It is scheduled each year during the first week of March. You will be glad you did.

Jamie Hancock introduced

by Colleen Hampton

Bob Saathoff introduced our speaker for the evening, Jamie Hancock, who is the Shawnee County Extension Horticulture Agent. Jamie has a degree in landscape architecture. She has lived in Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas. She was previously in charge of the horticulture program at the women's prison for 10 years; then taught at the Kaw Area Technical School/College. Last July she was selected as Phil Sell's replacement.

HIGHLIGHTS of PRESENTATION:

Jamie explained the land grant university system:

- In the 1860s Congress allocated land in each state to be used for the purpose of an agricultural university
- any of the profits from the sale of any of that

- land had to go towards building that university
- the focus of the land-grant university broadened out from agriculture to include home economics (now called family and consumer science), 4-H, and horticulture
- since not everyone in the state could attend the university to learn the new methods/research/etc., the Extension program was developed at each of the counties to bring the knowledge to the local people where they lived
- the 4-H program was initiated because many of the farmers were "hard-headed" and weren't receptive to the new knowledge. Therefore, the extension personnel decided that they would have a program for the youth to learn the "new ways" instead!
- Jamie's position is part federal (some money comes from the Federal Gov't), part state (the land-grant state university), and part county (Extension is considered a county program)

Jamie said that she had lots of community connections prior to this position, so that made it easier to take on the position, especially being in charge of the Garden Show.

Jamie's thoughts on the Garden Show:

- attendance was way up this year, possible due to the nice weather (at least compared to last year!)
- according to the vendors, this was their best year ever for sales
- reasons for the renewed interest in gardening this year:
 - the economy
 - food safety concerns (last year's tomatoes, peppers, etc.)
 - there is renewed interest in community gardens across the nation
 - the 2009 focus on gardening centers on supplementing food for families, while also producing healthier food, BUT we're using more chemicals to do it

Jamie also talked about the Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program:

- EMGs will be having a Vegetable Growing seminar on April 25. In the morning, they will talk about site selection, how to grow and harvest vegetables. In the afternoon, it will be hands on as the participants will help plant vegetables at the Extension Office
- EMGs will also have a Plant Sale on May 9th. The plants they will sell will be grown by EMGs, and they will dig, divide, and sell some perennials also
- EMGs will man a hotline this summer from 1 - 4:30 pm to answer people's questions
- first Monday following July 4th: Sick Plant Clinic
- there may be a fall gardening series this fall

Next, Jamie discussed the Earth Kind Roses program:

- Texas A & M researchers pick roses that survive with no additional water, no fertilizer, no pesticides, no pruning

- attention is paid to the soil at planting time (amendments added)
- there is a list of these Earth Kind Roses available

Other topics Jamie discussed:

- landscaping for conservation purposes
- soil testing - how to take a soils test: dig down 4-6 inches at 10 different spots in the garden/yard and collect about a tablespoon of soil at each site; mix together well, and then take about a cup of soil from that to the Extension Office. They will send the sample to K-State for analysis. You will receive the results, along with recommendations. Right now, a grant covers the \$10 cost of the test. Now is a good time to get your soil tested.
- nationwide, seed companies are getting many more orders than usual
- in Emporia, seed potatoes were all sold out earlier this week

Finally, Jamie told a story of how her sister thought she would save her new tree from deer damage: Her sister put a chain-link fence with razor wire around the tree, only to come home one day to find that a beaver had hauled off with the tree.

Some questions from the audience:

- 1) Is lead in the soil from paint scrapings safe to grow tomatoes? Jamie said she wouldn't eat the tomatoes.
- 2) Do those upside-down tomatoes really work? (We didn't come to a definitive answer to this one!)

TAWGS Minutes 3-18-09

Duane Eberhardt called the March meeting to order. Bob Saathoff introduced the speaker, Jamie Hancock, Shawnee County Extension Horticulture Agent.

Duane passed around the refreshment list again as there are a few months that we still need volunteers for refreshments. No one signed up for the April meeting so we might not have refreshments next month. Call Duane 785-246-0240 if you can volunteer. Bob mentioned that there will be a fish fry at the June meeting so the Ellis's might not need to bring refreshments that month. Allen said that he would work with Bob.

It was reported that member Ken Mulder, from Auburn, has been diagnosed with cancer. No other information was available.

Duane reported that the April TAWGS meeting will be held at Snyder's Cabin in Gage Park due to the Tulip Festival which will be going on at Historic Old Town. Directions should be in the April newsletter.

Jim Green reported that he had forgotten the treasurer's report but it is the same as last month, with the addition of \$35 in dues income. He will try to let Diane know the figures for the newsletter. He also reported that TAWGS had recouped about \$500 of the \$1,500 allocated for the Garden Show.

Garden Show Committee Report: Bob Saathoff

thanked everyone who helped at the garden show display. He said that the booth was more costly this year because we usually have more items donated than we did this year. Bob wondered if TAWGS wanted to share some of TBA's loss. No action was taken. Bob said the goal a couple of years ago was to bring up the quality of the Topeka Garden Show. He feels the quality is up, while the quality of the Wichita Garden Show is down. To illustrate, Bob said several years ago, the Wichita Show paid \$100,000 to each of the Grand Garden vendors. Then the show went down to \$25,000 per vendor, and they currently are giving only \$10,000 to each. Someone wondered why it was reduced since they charge \$11 a head. It was explained that attendance used to be around 100,000 people. Now it is less than half of that. The Wichita show is having financial problems, it was reported.

Pond Tour Committee Report: The pond tour is progressing. Hi stockwell said that some ads have been sold. He said that Phil Thompson would like the guide to include the projects that TAWGS is involved in. Hi told him that he would have to sell more ads to cover the additional pages in the guide.

Allen Ellis said that he is having problems getting the newsletter by e-mail. Apparently he isn't getting the message that the newsletter can be viewed on the website.

There was no old or new business.

Duane asked if anyone was having problems with their water gardens. Someone said they were having problems with string algae already. Allen Ellis said that he has a lot of anacharis.

Everyone enjoyed a surprise birthday party that Kent Hampton held for Colleen, with her Mother and brother and girlfriend present too. Ice cream and cake, plus other goodies were provided while everyone enjoyed a slide show of Colleen's life that Kent had put together.

Cheryl Saathoff moved to adjourn the meeting. Kent Hampton seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes respectively submitted by Colleen Hampton

Treasurer's report

Checking acct	\$1,947.64
Savings	<u>\$1,228.44</u>
Total assets	\$3,176.08
Liabilities	
(reserved)	\$1,547.84
Equity	<u>\$1,628.24</u>
TOTAL	\$3,176.08

Directions to Snyder's Cabin for April Meeting

Off 10th Street, go west on 10th to the 2nd entrance west of Gage Blvd., turn left (west) at the 1st street, go past the Greenhouse and turn right (north) to

Snyder's Cabin. The Cabin is across the street from the model plane flying field.

Moisture loving plants

by Duane Van Dolah



Bugleweed Ajuga

Ajuga is one of the most used plants for ground covers. It is a member of the mint family, so rapid growth is to be expected. The leaves are oblong to spoon-shaped with a length of 2-3 inches. Colors of the leaves range from green to bronze to purple, depending on the cultivar. Short spikes of flowers are held on square stems 6 inches above the plant. Colors of the flowers are rose and white, with bluish purple being the most common. Height of the plant is 6-8 inches with an indefinite spread if planted in a moist, well draining soil. It will grow well in humus to clay soil. However, I have trouble finding good drainage in clay soil. It needs moisture but cannot stand in water. Planting close to a waterfall will give the plant the moisture it needs. Ajuga flowers in spring to summer. In full or partial shade it can be expected to grow in zones 3-9. Propagation is by root cuttings in spring or fall. Some of the cultivars are 'Metallica Crispa', 'Altopurpurea', 'Jungle Beauty', 'Purple Brocade', 'Chocolate Chip' and 'Burgundy Glow'.

Refreshments for 2009

April – Can you help? Call Duane at 784-246-0240

May – Don & Sandy Regier

June – Connie & Allen Ellis

July – Amy & Phil Thompson

We still need hosts for April, August, September and October. Call Duane 785-246-0240.



A Japanese Garden theme was carried out at the TAWGS & TBA display at the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show. Photo by Bob Saathoff.

Topeka Area Water Garden Society
9900 SW K-4 Highway
Topeka, KS 66614

Calendar of Events

April 10 – 26 - Tulip Times
April 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
May 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
June 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
June 27 – 28, 2009 – Topeka Pond Tour
July 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Aug. 19 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Sept. 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Oct. 21 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Nov. 18 – Potluck

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***Need volunteers to work at Lake
Shawnee Tuesdays in May, 8 – 11.
Meet at covered bridge near restrooms at
37th & West Edge Rd. Call Bob Saathoff,
785-640-1482, if you can help.***

**Your Dues are Due if your label
reads anytime in 2008 or 2, 3 or 4-09**

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 2009 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:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor
408 Emerald, Holton, KS 66436
785 364-3046

fdgruver@embarqmail.com (note change)

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