



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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Deb Spencer talks about the various marginal plants that she brought along to display.

Landscaping your garden

Many people do not do their homework when they build their water gardens. Deb Spencer told TAWGS members at their July meeting. "People build their ponds before planning their plants," she said. Using a slide show to demonstrate her points, Deb showed various ways to landscape in and around the pond. She said you get great landscaping ideas on pond and garden tours.

Several years ago, Deb went to France, the water lily Mecca of the world. She toured the farm of Latour-Marliac, who was the most influential grower of water lilies in the world in the late 1800's and early 1900's. He even provided the water lilies for Claude Monet's garden, which would become the most famous lilies in the world as Monet painted the masterpieces of his ponds. While in France, she also had the great privilege to meet Perry Slocum and Kirk Strawn, two of the great hybridizers in the water lily world.

You need to try different plants, Deb said, because ponds change over time (for example - more shade as a tree gets bigger, less shade if something happens to the tree). Lotus, thalia and tropical water lilies are bonuses to the pond. There are also many, many marginals to choose from. Deb had an array of various plants on display for everyone to see as she told about that particular plant.

Forget-me-nots are a favorite of Deb and they can be used in the pond, stream bed or around the pond. Other marginals that have some height to them are red

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m., Wed., Aug. 19, 2009

Historic Old Prairie Town

"Predator control around our ponds"

Rob Ladner

NE KS Regional Law Enforcement Supt. For KS Dept. Wildlife & Parks

rice and reed rush. Low growing plants, such as brass buttons (like a sedum), look good around the base of a lotus. Deb gave a word of caution about pennywort; "watch out, watch out!" she said.

Floating plants like water hyacinths like to be crowded so you can make a ring out of plastic tubing to keep them together and keep them out of the skimmer. Another floating idea is bark-looking cork which has holes to slip pots into.

If you are still planting your lilies in pots, Deb said that you should have at least a 16" pot to have the best looking lilies. It is best to re-pot lilies in the spring but any time in the growing season is okay. Don't do it too late in the season though; the roots need to have time to re-establish before the water gets too cold.



Doug Peterman closely examines a plant as (l - r) Pat Routh, Marikay Peterman, and Helen and Tom Platis check other plants on the table.

Deb gave each couple/member in attendance a helpful booklet entitled "Water Garden Guide & Plant List" which contains very valuable information on all

aspects of water gardening.

Deb is co-owner of Waters Edge in Lawrence, and has been in the water gardening business for many years. She is a wealth of information on ponds and is a member of TAWGS.



Amy and Phil Thompson built this beautiful pond themselves, including digging, plumbing, electrical and planting.

Pond tour recap

by Phil Thompson, Pond Tour Chairman

It's always hot at the end of June, but the weather for the 18th Annual Topeka Pond Tour was extreme. The event weekend (June 27 & 28) was preceded by six consecutive days with the temperature reaching at least 93 degrees - one day even hit 100. That's the hottest lead-in to the tour in over five years*, and it's likely that the high temps kept a few people from attending: ticket sales were down about 13% from 2008.

Encouraging news is that people definitely responded to cooler temperatures on Sunday. We welcomed 50% more visitors the second day than we did the first, so I think it's safe to say that the interest still exists in our pond tour - we just need to figure out how to keep the temps a bit cooler!

This year we welcomed three new advertisers in the tour book: Westlake Hardware, Patio, Pool & Fireside, and Roundabout Café, with the last two also helping with ticket sales. Overall, advertising space was down by just a single unit, which I feel is a strong response during a recession. Also new to the tour book was a section highlighting past TAWGS projects, thanks to the efforts of Hi Stockwell. Hi once again did an amazing job with the tour book design and layout, along with detailing the pond locations, and producing a bookmark, postcard, poster, and point-of-purchase displays. Hi also distributed the posters and the ticket packets to each sales location, and then made follow-up visits to retrieve the proceeds. He also stepped in at the last minute and made a TV appearance! I can't thank him enough for everything he did to make this event a success.

Thanks go to Floyd Gruver and Tom Platis for scouting the 11 pond locations, none of which had

previously been on the tour. Fortunately, this didn't interfere with their golf schedule.

Special thanks to Diane Gruver for keeping me on track for six months. Her emails were always friendly reminders that it was time to take care of some detail I had forgotten.

And thanks to Don Hutley at Waterscape Concepts for hosting our pond owners reception Wednesday night before the tour.

As always, TAWGS members were ready to sign up for pond sitting duties. Thanks to Linda Reynolds, Floyd & Diane Gruver, Joe and Mary Pat Fischer, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Tom & Pat Routh, Mary Borough, Earlene Jirik, Bob & Cheryl Saathoff, Tom & Helen Platis, Jim Green, Don & Sandy Regier, and Doug & Marikay Peterman.

I also want to thank my gardening mate and partner for life, Amy. She provides me with continuous encouragement, endless patience and incredible tolerance. Thanks for all the work you did to get the yard ready for the tour while I obsessed with the brick sidewalk. Now, for 2010, I have a few ideas...

Note: Be careful if you step out of the room during a TAWGS meeting. While I was gone, it took our president only a few minutes to railroad me into serving as the 2009 Pond Tour Chairman. How appropriate that a train station sits at Old Prairie Town. Well, Duane, thank you for having faith in me. It was a rewarding experience.

*according to National Weather Service historical data



Mark Weaver and his brother and sister built these two 12'x15' ponds, with one spilling into the other. The ponds are home to several large koi and a few frogs.

TAWGS Minutes, July 15, 2009

President Duane Eberhardt called the meeting to order with self introductions. We were happy to have some new members, Ron Webb, Jim Roberts and Rod Peterson & Pam Kluck at the meeting.

Duane introduced Deb Spencer who gave an interesting talk about landscaping our gardens. Phil and Amy Thompson served an old fashioned ice cream social for refreshments. It really hit the spot!

When the meeting resumed, Duane thanked the Thompson's for the ice cream. He said that Floyd

and Diane Gruver will provide refreshments in August; Duane and Mary Eberhardt and Linda Reynolds in September; and Tom and Pat Routh in October.

Diane reported that Jim Green had sent her the treasurer's report but she wasn't exactly sure how to read it. She said that it looks like we made about \$2,278.67 on the pond tour but we still have to pay \$750 in advertising bills and we should still receive \$195 for two outstanding bills from advertisers in the guide.

Duane thanked everyone that worked on the pond tour to help make it another successful tour. He thanked Chairman Phil Thompson and Hi Stockwell for his work on the guide. We sold about 355 tickets, a little less than last year. Mark Weaver turned in \$44 from a bus tour from GoTopeka that visited his pond a few days after the tour.

Doug Peterman reported that the Member Pond Tour will be Sunday, July 26th starting at Phil and Amy Thompson's at 2:00 p.m. Others on the tour will be Doug and Marikay Peterman, Sandy and Don Regier and Truanna and Scott Nickel (Brickyard Barn and Inn). The tour will conclude with a potluck dinner at the Nickel's, who will provide the drinks. Please bring your lawn chairs, a covered dish and your table service. The 2009 Pond Hosts will be invited to go on the tour so a little extra food might be helpful.

Duane said that Betty Karnes had called to say that she still has an artificial plant that we have used at the lawn and garden show.

Bob Saathoff reported that a committee of Eric Wood, Rob Nordyke, Floyd Gruver, Ray Schroeder and himself, will begin making plans to construct a stream bed that will connect the pondless waterfall at Ward Meade Park to Anna's Pond. It will consist of a long stream bed with two or three ponding areas along the way. They won't be able to begin construction until after Apple Fest.

Doug Peterman moved and Joe Pelletier seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Water plants

by Duane Van Dolah

Albert Greenburg lily



Nymphaea

This tropical day-blooming water lily is one of my favorites of the autumn or sunset lilies, so called because of the shades of its colors and flowers opening from around 10:00 am to dusk. Monroe Birdsey introduced it in 1969, and it is a chance seedling with the parentage unknown. It is non-viviparous, which means that the lily does not produce plantlets along the pad edges or from the flower. The yellow flowers have orange to pink tips with a cuplike shape. The size of the flowers can be 6-8 inches across. Albert's leaves are green with heavily mottled purple on top, and the underside is pinkish red on the edge and green in the center, blotched a deep red. The leaves are typically 18 to 19 inches round with rounded notches and a wavy

edge. The spread of the plant is 6-8 feet, depending on the size of the planting container.

Albert Greenburg is for a medium to large pond. I've had this lily many times, and it is an outstanding water lily. It usually had about a ½ inch of nectar. While bending over to smell the flower, it would almost make you pass out from the sweetness of the scent.

Propagation is by harvesting the tubers that form under the crown in the fall and storing them in a cool place with slightly damp sand. When spring comes and the pond water starts reaching 50 degrees and over, it is announcing the time to propagate. It will still bloom with only 4 hours of sunlight.

Refreshments for 2009

August – Floyd and Diane Gruver

September – Duane and Mary Eberhardt and Linda Reynolds

October – Pat and Tom Routh



Tom Routh and Glen Caspers visit about the Casper's pond on the pond tour. A long 35 foot stream drops over seven small falls. A small bog garden at the top acts as a filter for the water.



New members Ron and Theresa Webb's shaded pond is just one feature in their beautifully landscaped yard, which includes many plants, flowers and grasses.

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

Calendar of Events

Aug. 19 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Sept. 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Oct. 21 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Nov. 18 – Potluck

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Pond Tip

Ants are really bad this year and people are wondering how to kill them (especially fire ants) near their water garden or koi pond but have concerns about accidentally poisoning their fish. Diatomaceous earth (DE) has proven to be an effective and natural ant control. If a little gets in the pond water there should be no harm done. DE is commonly available at many garden centers. Follow the label's instructions for use.

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
6-09, 7-09 or 8-09**

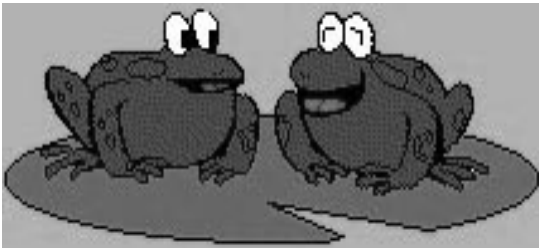
**Please renew as soon as possible to continue
receiving the newsletter.**

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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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
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785 364-3046

fdgruver@embargmail.com (note change)

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