



# *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 1**

**March 1, 2009**



***Phil Thompson provides a bird's eye view of the TAWGS and TBA Japanese Garden display at the 2009 Topeka Garden Show.***

### **Grow Green display is great**

*by Bob Saathoff*

Thank you to all those who took part in this year's Kansas Garden Show. What began as just a dream back in October became a reality in February. At the very first planning meeting I told the Committee that we could build any quality of Display we wanted and that no idea should be held back because it seemed too difficult or even impossible. And first and foremost a requirement was established that we were going to have fun doing it. What developed from there did seem impossible at times. The visions developed because someone always came up with a solution. It was "synergy" at its finest and truly was fun.

*Grow Green* was this year's Garden Show theme. Both the arbor and pergola were constructed from recycled electric power poles, most of the materials were brought in from local sources which reduces the amount of transportation energy, and the water gardens are certainly an example of many savings over a similar size grassed area. Visitors were able to view five different Japanese style gardens which made the Display area rather intense. Most local gardeners want to have at least a touch of Japanese style in their gardens and from the comments I heard, many ideas were going to be added this spring.

One of the goals that has helped drive me to see that our organizations provide a "spectacular" Garden Show Display is that it will tend to motivate other

### **Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 p.m., Wed., Mar. 18, 2009**

**Historic Old Prairie Town**

(Formerly Ward Meade Park)

**"Meet Jamie Hancock and the Shawnee County Extension Services"**

**Jamie Hancock**

organizations and vendors to develop better Displays also. This should increase attendance to the Garden Show which in turn should result in more individuals being motivated to develop their own personal gardens. I feel we are succeeding at that.

I wish to thank TAWGS members \*Mary Borough, \*Michael Bradley, Brad Cheney, Bill Clark, Duane & Mary Eberhardt, \*Allen Ellis, Don Hutley, Rob Nordyke, \*Doug & Mary Kay Peterman, Tom & Helen Platis, Don and Sandy Regier, Todd Regier (their son), \*Bob & \*Cheryl Saathoff, Hi Stockwell, Don Taliaferro, \*Phil & \*Amy Thompson, Kip Walker, \*Mark Weaver and Jim Roberts (Mark's neighbor) for their dedication and willingness to see this project to fruition. Also, from Topeka Beautification Association, \*Jerold Binkley, \*Jolene Grabill, Dave Hedstrom, Gary Cool (Dave's Son-in Law) and Carroll Morgenson. (\* indicates those on the Display Planning Committee)

The Docents that tended the Display during Show hours were: Dale and Earlene Jirik, Tom and Helen Platis, Don Taliaferro, Mark Weaver, Stan and Susan Wilch, Tom and Georgia Sirridge, Bill and Susan Kraus, Mary Borough, Joe Breitenstein, Kent and Colleen Hampton, Larry and Barbara Shipman, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, Jim Green, Doug and Linda Reynolds, Allen and Connie Ellis, Doug and Marikay Peterman and Bob and Cheryl Saathoff.

We are grateful to our supporting businesses. Without their donations of materials, supplies, plants and vast knowledge this quality of Garden Display wouldn't be possible. Thank you to Capitol Concrete Supply, Grabill Garden Visions, Skinner Garden Store, Sunrise Garden Store, Veteran's Administration Horticultural Center, Water's Edge Water Gardens, Waterscape Concepts, White Star Machinery & Supply Co. and the Westar Energy Green Team.

A special thank you to Allen Ellis and Mark Weaver who, trust me, can build anything and make it work. The use of Allen's building facility and Mark's ability to acquire items made the Display possible. Also, to Jolene Grabill who went the extra mile in vision and design. Jolene did have to be told a couple of times, "that won't work".

Again, thanks to the volunteers for all their sincere hard work. I'm sure the experience will forever be a fond memory.



One of the water features at the Japanese Garden display. Photo by Phil Thompson.

## February 18, 2009 TAWGS minutes

The February TAWGS meeting was called to order by Duane Eberhardt at 7:06 p.m. Those in attendance were: Jim Green, Duane & Mary Eberhardt, Donna Pederson, Don and Sandy Regier, Kent & Colleen Hampton, Julie Trowbridge, Joe Breitenstein, Cheryl Saathoff, Mark Weaver, Michael Bradley, Hi Stockwell, Melvin Snook, Allen & Connie Ellis, Doug and Marikay Peterman, Phil and Amy Thompson.

Rita Arnold from Arnold's Greenhouse and Nursery gave an interesting talk on exciting new annuals for 2009.

Duane thanked everyone for working on the Lawn and Garden Show. He said that Bob Saathoff had sent an e-mail to him asking him to thank the committee and tell them he was very happy with this year's booth. He also acknowledged those who contributed to the display – plants, concrete, etc. He also thanked the TBA members.

Duane passed around a sign up sheet for refreshments for the year. Kent and Colleen Hampton will bring refreshments in March.

Julie Trowbridge, horticulturist from Shawnee Co. Parks & Rec. said the county is going to have a Tulip Time, April 10-26 at Ted Ensley gardens. There will also be tulip times at Old Prairie Town, Gage Park, and Matrot Castle. Shawnee Co. will be asking a suggested donation of \$5. She passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help work the table at tulip time, hand out brochures, ask for donations and give directions about planting in the spring and fall at Ensley Gardens.

Joe Breitenstein talked about Tulip Time at

Historic Old Prairie Town, which will also be April 10 – 26. He said Jerold Binkley helped them pick out 24,000 tulips and 7,000 daffodils, and women prisoners helped plant them. Topeka Garden Council helped pay for bulbs from their annual plant sale. (This year's plant sale will be at Fairlawn Plaza April 26, 8 a.m. – noon.) Volunteers are needed for Tulip Time at Old Prairie Town too and Joe passed around a sign-up sheet. He said there will be a training session at the end of March. Tours will be from 9 – 5. Tickets will be \$5 for the tour with an additional cost to tour the buildings. Parking will be in the parking lot west of Ward Meade. No other activities will be schedule at Ward Meade at that time. Money raised will go toward future projects of Old Prairie Town.

Jim Green gave the financial report. We have \$3,131.16 in checking, and \$1,227.04 in savings for a total of \$4,358.20. Of that amount, \$2,766.36 is allocated to various projects. Jim said that we are \$261 over budget on the second Ward Meade project (new fountain.) Michael moved to approve the additional expense. Allen seconded the motion which carried.

\$1,500 was approved for the garden show and most of that money has been recovered by selling things. The red Japanese arbor will be used at Gage Park. The pergula still needs to be sold for somewhere between \$2,500 and \$3,000. If it isn't sold it will be set up at Waterscape Concepts. Peterman's have the biofalls, Saathoff's have the bamboo fence and we still need a storage place for the pond liner.

Allen moved that Mark Weaver be reimbursed for all the driving that he did to help build the some of the display at Allen's building. Motion carried. Allen declined the offer to reimburse him for the use of his building.

Hi Stockwell said that he had several bookmarks available for people to take to distribute. Fourteen hundred bookmarks were distributed at the garden show.

The winners of drawings from Arnolds were: Petermans, Colleen Hampton, and Hi.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Amy Thompson and compiled by Phil Thompson and Diane Gruver*

## New plants for 2009

Rita Arnold from Arnold's Greenhouse & Garden Center gave an interesting program on exciting new annuals for 2009.

Cards were distributed asking members favorite plants and everyone was invited to enter a drawing for several gift cards to be given away at the end of the evening.

Rita presented a slideshow of annuals and perennials and offered everyone a handout that detailed each plant.

New annuals for sun that she talked about were:

- Patina Delft was new last year but they were unable to get it in
- Madeira white – spring bloomers, don't bloom



when it's hot

- Begonia – large bloom bigger than a golf ball 2 ½ inches across, hybrid angel wing and dragon wing, great for containers
- Callie mango – bloom a lot, great for hanging baskets, have less problems with iron uptake when cool.

Other sun loving annuals are:

- Petra – saw a lot of this in Chicago. Tropical house plant, companion plant, keep over winter, can get to over 5 feet tall
- Sun Coleus – universal (sun or shade) not shade coleus. Dark chocolate needs more water in the sun because of the dark foliage.
- Henna
- Indian summer
- Mint Mocha
- Paradise - center of containers, white flowers, over winter it will become like a palm tree
- Cuphea – great for butterfly gardens, great nectar, totally – don't have to deadhead
- Cyperus
- Gazania – unique color
- Geranium
- Hibiscus – tropical, come from Louisiana, from 6-7 inches blooms
- Lantana – comes from North Carolina, very broad foliage
- Oxalis – annual, not the weed!
- Pansy – they had these at the show - Matrix series does not stretch in heat
- Pentas – hummingbirds love these; grow all types in sizes and colors
- Ornamental Pepper – fruit is extremely hot, not recommended to eat
- Petunia – heavy feeders
- Phygelius – hummingbirds, butterflies like it, hearty in zone 6,
- Pseuderanthemum – three colors in foliage, nice compliment in containers
- Ptilotus – comes from Australia
- Rudbeckia – won awards, red coneflower annual
- Scaevola
- Stock – very fragrant, cool season annual
- Tradescantia – great in containers
- Verbena – put mulch over it and it will winter, don't take mulch off too soon, great for hanging baskets, mildew resistant,
- Vinca XP – extra productive, very disease resistant nirvana vinca, prairie star winner (k-state program), only grown from cuttings
- Zinnia -

Arnold's Greenhouse is located near LeRoy, and officially opens March 1, unless it is a Sunday (which it is this year.) They are open 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. daily, except Sunday when they are closed. Their annual open house is March 30 – April 4, at which time they have 10% off all purchases and serve cookies and tea. They have an online catalog available at [arnoldsgreenhouse.com](http://arnoldsgreenhouse.com).

Arnolds have a retractable roof greenhouse which is the size of a football field. In addition to all types of annuals and perennials they have trees, shrubs, and aquatic plants.

Rita said that Arnolds recommends Daniels Plant food, a liquid plant food, made from soybean seed. It is a concentrate and they use it on everything. You can use it on the foliage or in a root feeder. Easy to fertilize even in wet conditions. It can also be used for indoor plants.

## Water plants

by Duane Van Dolah

### Eel Grass

*Vallisneria Spiralis*

The plants in this genus of several species of submerged plants are often confused with other plants, such as *Sagittarias* or *Ottelia*. The difference being the parallel leaf veins and a tiny jagged edge on the tip of the leaf. Eelgrass is the shorter of the two *Vallisneria* used in the pond trade. The Eelgrass can also be identified by its stems that are corkscrewed flower stalks and not its leaves that are often thought of being spiraled. Ribbon-like leaves grow from rosettes and are 8- 32 inches long and ¼ to ½ inches wide. Eelgrass grows in zones 4-11 with full sun to shade. Plants grow from a water depth of 1 to 8 feet of water by runners with indefinite growth. So care must be used in the planting container, since the plant can cover the bottom of an earthen pond. Planting it close to moving water such as a waterfall or deep stream can cause one to enjoy the movement of the grass in the current.

The eelgrass has a unique way for pollination, having separate male and female plants. Male flowers are released underwater with each one enclosed in a bubble of air that causes it to float to the surface. The female's flower floats above the water hoping to make contact with the male flower. When this does happen, pollination occurs. Once fertilized, the female flower contracts the spiral stem under the surface of the water and sets seeds that ripen below the surface. Propagation is in the spring when the runners can be divided. Different cultivars are listed but are used for both the eelgrass and the other species, tape grass. So I'll go ahead and list them. 'Crystal' eelgrass has a green, glassy look, 'Red Jungle' eelgrass has broad burgundy leaves that are ½ inches wide, 'Contortionist' has very twisty and large 1/2-inch leaves, and 'Jungle' has broad, green foliage.

## Refreshments for 2009

March – Colleen & Kent Hampton

April –

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 if you can volunteer.



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

## Calendar of Events

March 18 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
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  
37<sup>th</sup> & 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 or 3-09**

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

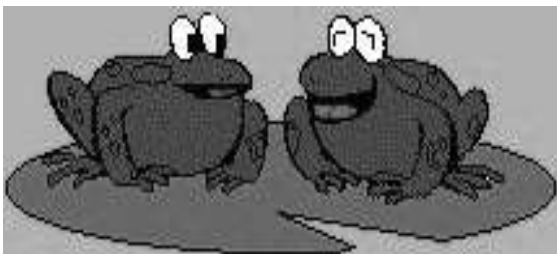
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW  
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

## THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

### 2009 OFFICERS:

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Duane Eberhardt<br>Topeka | President<br>785-246-0240      |
| Don Taliaferro<br>Topeka  | Vice President<br>785-272-8348 |
| Diane Gruver<br>Holton    | Secretary<br>785-364-3046      |
| Jim Green<br>Topeka       | Treasurer<br>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)

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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](mailto:fdgruver@embarqmail.com) (note change)

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