



# *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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*Rob Ladner makes a point at the August TAWGS meeting when he talks about predators around the pond.*

### **Managing predators at our pond**

Rob Ladner, NE Kansas Regional Law Enforcement Supt. for Kansas Dept. Wildlife & Parks gave a very interesting and entertaining program at the August TAWGS meeting. A man with a great sense of humor, Rob told many interesting stories about incidents he had encountered as a law enforcement officer for the KDWP.

Rob opened his talk with a big thank you to TAWGS members for building a water garden at the front door of the KDWP office at 300 SW Wanamaker a few years ago. He said that employees and visitors all enjoy it and they get many compliments on it.

"It is a great asset," Rob said. He said one of the neat things about the pond the first few years was a huge log that was laid in the water feature. Unfortunately, a raccoon shredded the log in an effort to extract all the insects that were in it and parts of the log ended up in the filter, pump and pond. "It was a mess," Rob said. "It (the log) was nice while it lasted."

Rob related a story that someone gave them a painted turtle which grew to a pretty good size in a few years. Visitors loved to see it sitting on a rock in the pond. Then, a snapping turtle appeared, laid its eggs and apparently drove off the painted turtle, because they never saw it again.

Moving on to predators, some named by the group were: snakes, muskrats, owls, raccoons, herons, possum and skunks. "Even eight year old boys can be a problem," Rob said with a smile.

### **Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 p.m., Wed., Sept. 16, 2009**

**Historic Old Prairie Town**

**"Self Sustaining Rain Gardens and Rain Harvesting"**

**Eric Wood**

#### **Birds:**

"Do not shoot a heron," Rob said. They are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a federal law that went into effect in 1972. This act offers protection to all wild birds found commonly in the United States, except the house sparrow, starling, feral pigeon and resident game birds such as pheasant, grouse, quail, wild turkeys, etc. Resident game birds are managed by separate states and may be taken during season.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes it unlawful for anyone to kill, capture, collect, possess, buy, sell, trade, ship, import or export any migratory bird, including feathers, parts, nests or eggs. Rob said if you find a blue jay feather it is technically illegal to pick that feather up and put it in your hat or use it in a flower arrangement or other decoration. Throw it away. If you find a dead heron, owl, etc. along the roadside, it is illegal to possess or have it mounted. Again, throw it away or call KDWP. Feathers found on Southwestern art such as skulls are usually chicken feathers that have been dyed to look like an eagle feather.

"Do not shoot more than you can pay for," Rob reminded everyone. Fines can range from \$500 to \$10,000.

Permits are obtainable which authorize the taking of migratory birds, and their feathers, parts, nests or eggs, for bona fide scientific or educational purposes. As a last resort, you may also obtain a permit to shoot a migratory bird that is eating your prize koi. Federal agent Tom Halstead, Manhattan, 785-537-6855 would be able to help you get a permit or help prevent depredation. Kenny Kessler in Topeka, 785-232-5149 is the Federal Law Enforcement agent and can help with questions concerning Federal Law.

Ideas given for deterring herons were: net over the pond, fishing line or Mylar tape around the pond, decoys and the Scarecrow motion activated water sprayer.

### **Mammals:**

"A live trap is the easiest way to handle mammals," Rob said. The KDWP has live traps available to borrow for up to two weeks. The rental is free, but they charge a refundable \$50 cash deposit if you return the trap in good condition. A homeowner can destroy any wild animal if it is causing damage. The City of Topeka prohibits the killing of wild animals in the city limits. Trapped animals would need to be released in the wild 10 miles out in the country with permission of the landowner or on KDWP Property. Rob said that skunks have to be able to stand up to spray so KDWP has two skunk traps that are narrow and short enough that the skunk can't spray.

Tips that Rob gave to help keep raccoons, etc., away from your yard is to not feed dogs and cats outside, especially do not leave the food out at night. Another tip is to be sure you have a chimney cap as raccoons love to nest in chimneys. He related an incident where a lady called because she heard noises in her chimney. Come to find out the raccoon had been nesting in there for several years from the evidence of hair and feces found in the chimney.

Someone asked how to control moles and, other than cats and dogs, Rob suggested a metal mole trap that you stick in their run. He said the hardware store also carries poison peanuts to put in the runs.

### **Snakes:**

Other than a glue board, Rob didn't have many suggestions about how to catch a snake in the pond other than to physically remove it by hand. Allen Ellis suggested putting a small goldfish on a fish hook hoping the snake would take the bait. Apparently it has worked for Allen. Floyd Gruver suggested putting lava rock around the pond which might keep snakes from crawling over the rough lava.

If you have questions or need help with a predator problem you can call the KDWP, 273-6740, for assistance.

## **TAWGS Minutes 8-19-09**

President Duane Eberhardt called the August meeting to order with self introductions. Following the introductions, Bob Saathoff introduced the speaker, Rob Ladner, who is the NE KS Regional Law Enforcement Supt. for the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks. Rob gave a very entertaining and informative talk on managing predators at our ponds.

Floyd and Diane Gruver served refreshments following the program. When the meeting resumed, Duane thanked the Gruvers and said that Linda Reynolds and Don and Sandy Regier will provide refreshments in September.

Treasurer Jim Green said that we have \$3,043.34 in checking and \$1,231.38 in savings for a total of \$4,274.72. \$823.54 has been designated for various projects, leaving us with a total of \$3,451.18 spendable funds. It looks like we made about \$1,600 on the 2009 Pond Tour; however we still have a couple ads that haven't been paid for.

Tom Platis reported on Apple Fest which will be

held Sunday, October 4. He passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to indicate their choice of hours worked on that Sunday. Sandy Regier volunteered to coordinate the volunteers.

Duane asked for volunteers for the nomination committee. Volunteers were: Bob Saathoff, chairman, Don Taliaferro and Tom Routh. They will report the nominations at the September meeting.

Bob Saathoff said that he, Tom Routh and Floyd Gruver had cleaned out the TAWGS ponds at Lake Shawnee last month and they look very nice. He has not had a chance to get estimates for the proposed streambed project at Ward Meade Park but will try to have it to present in September.

Diane thanked Doug Peterman for chairing a very enjoyable member tour last month. Members showed their appreciation with applause.

Cheryl Saathoff moved and Marikay Peterman seconded that we adjourn. Motion carried.



*Members gather around Doug and Marikay's pond and gardens during the member pond tour.*

## **Member Pond Tour held**

Perfect weather made for a perfect member pond tour July 26<sup>th</sup>. Members gathered around the pond at Phil and Amy Thompson's at 2:00 to visit and enjoy the wonderful weather. Huge hyacinths caught the attention of several people and Phil went to the compost pile to dig out the mounds of hyacinths that he had thrown away on Saturday. When they ran out, he allowed members to pull more plants out of his pond. Thanks Phil and Amy!

The next stop on the tour was at Mark and Kim Weaver's where visitors admired the pond and eyed the beautiful tomatoes in the vegetable garden nearby. Huge hyacinths almost totally covered the top pond at the Weavers so it was a bit difficult to spot their pretty koi that live underneath the plants. It must be a good year for hyacinths! The koi in the lower pond were clearly visible as their daughter fed them while we were there.

Doug and Marikay Peterman were the next stop for the tour goers. Everyone was impressed with their vegetable garden as well as their pond. The Peterman's squeeze a lot into a small space, but they raise nice veggies in the small garden. A plant that caught people's attention in the flower garden was tansy, a fernie type plant that is very interesting.

Traveling to northwest Topeka, we enjoyed visiting Don and Sandy Regier's pond and all held our breaths while their cat chased a baby bunny into the bushes. We never learned the fate of the bunny but we suspected it wasn't a good one. Don attributes his crystal clear water in his pond to the few black walnuts that he put into his skimmer. (A tip suggested by Doug Grimm, the speaker in April, from Grimm's Gardens in Hiawatha, who said he had found that a few walnuts sure cleared up the water.)

Our final stop was at the Brickyard Barn, owned by Scott and Truanna Nickel, where we enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner on their patio, looking at their pond and touring their bed and breakfast. The old barn holds a lot of history and Scott enjoyed telling us all about the barn and its previous owners. Scott and Truanna have been members of TAWGS since last August but we had not had a chance to meet them until the potluck.

Members who enjoyed the tour were: Duane & Mary Eberhardt, Mark & Kim Weaver & their daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Roberts, Allen & Connie Ellis, Don and Sandy Regier, Phil & Amy Thompson, Doug & Marikay Peterman, Pam Kluck & Rod Peterson, Tom & Helen Platis, Tom & Pat Routh, Kent & Colleen Hampton, Linda Reynolds & Floyd & Diane Gruver. Doug and Kim Young who were pond hosts for the public tour also accepted our invitation to join us on the tour.

Many thanks to Scott & Truanna Nickel for inviting us to have our potluck at their excellent facility. Also many thanks to Doug Peterman for organizing the tour and ordering the excellent weather.



Don Regier (c) tells members about their pond on the member pond tour.

## Bog plants

by Duane Van Dolah

### Siberian iris



*Iris sibirica*

The Siberian Iris is one of the iris family that tolerates some moist-to-wet conditions, as well as dry conditions. The dark green leaves are thin and grass like with a height of 24 to 36 inches. The leaves come

from very close-set, wiry rhizomes that form a colony of thick growth. In the water, growth can be twice as much than in dry conditions.

The flowers are on straight, hollow stems. The top of the stems produces 3 to 4 flowers and the side branches produce another two. The flowers come in shades of blue and white, as well as deep purple-reds to light lavender pinks plus yellows. Flowers are 2-4 inches across. Their rhizomes or roots can be covered in 2-4 inches of water when they are growing, but their pots must be removed in the fall and buried in the garden till next spring. They are sun loving and will grow in shade but with few blooms. Blooms start opening when the tall bearded iris are through with their blooming season. Some varieties re-bloom in late summer and early fall.

Propagation is by seed or division after blooming. There are so many cultivars that there has to be one that would strike your fancy.

## Zucchini Crisp

by Marikay Peterman

Filling: 3 medium zucchini

2/3 c. lemon juice

1 c. sugar

1/4 t. nutmeg

1/2 t. cinnamon

Peel, slice and seed zucchini as for apple pie. Cook zucchini over low heat in lemon juice until it gets shiny. Add sugar and spices and cook 2 more minutes.

Crust: 3 c. flour

1 c. sugar

3/4 c. margarine

1 t. cinnamon

Mix flour, sugar and margarine as for pie crust. (Take out 1/2 c. and add to zucchini mixture to thicken.) Press 1/2 of remaining crust mixture in bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Spread zucchini mixture on top. Add the remaining 1 t. cinnamon to remaining crust mixture and sprinkle on top of zucchini mixture – cover completely.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35 – 40 minutes until slightly browned and bubbly.

## Refreshments for 2009

September - Linda Reynolds & Don & Sandy Regier

October – Pat and Tom Routh



Members look at Scott & Truanna Nickel's pond.

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

## Calendar of Events

Sept. 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
Oct. 4 – Apple Fest  
Oct. 21 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
Nov. 18 – Potluck

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### *Pond Tip*

*A biological filter must have water flow 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to be effective. A lack of water flowing through a filter leads to a lack of oxygen that kills the beneficial bacteria in the filter*

*Clear pond water doesn't always indicate healthy water. Regular water testing can alert you to unseen problems before it is too late.*

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads  
7-09, 8-09 or 9-09**

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

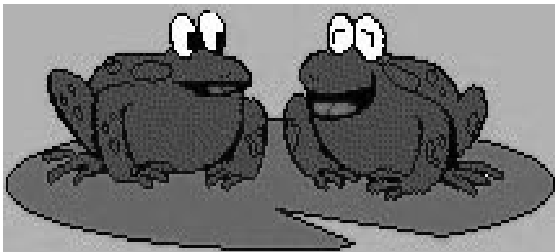
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW  
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

## 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](http://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:

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

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