



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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May 1, 2010



Annette Jackson points to a special plant as she talks to TAWGS members in April.

Plants in and around the pond

Annette Jackson informed and entertained TAWGS members about plants to use in and around the pond at the April meeting. Annette is a horticulturist and, with her husband Dave, owns Jackson's Greenhouse

Starting with aquatic plants, Annette showed an idea of floating a peace lily in a barley bale, which has a hole in the center for that purpose. She also talked about a lady that had thrown an elephant ear bulb in her pond and it grew very nicely. (I have had an elephant ear cutting planted in pea gravel in our pond for several years.)

Other plants that Annette talked about for pond or bogs were: reed grasses, water iris, hibiscus, houttuynia, ligularia, cannas and lobelia cardinalis. Some of these plants only want their feet wet and others can be submerged.

Moving to other plants in the landscape, Annette said it is good to have plants that touch all senses: hearing, sight, smell and touch. Try to have balance, proportion, rhythm, emphasis and unity. It is important to study your landscape and to know which plants grow best in sun and which grow best in shade. Remember that annuals are flowers that grow one season. They have flowers first, bloom most of the summer and then go to seed. Perennials grow for more than one season and don't have to bloom very much. They bloom for a short period of time and then go to seed. Often, some can be

Monthly Meeting

7:00 Wed., May 19, 2010

**Historic Old Prairie Town
(formerly Ward Meade Park)**

**"How to keep your fish healthy
and what to do if they aren't"**

The Fish Doctor

(Wendy Hicks from Overland Park)

deadheaded and will bloom again the same season.

Other suggestions from Annette were to plant three or five plants together for a more showy effect. Plant perennials that will bloom early, some that will bloom in the middle and some that will bloom late in the season. Aim for plants with different heights and a variety of foliage texture. Grasses will add height and interest.

Plant annuals for continuous color all season. "You have to have annuals to have color," Annette said.

Scented geraniums and citronella plants are popular for repelling mosquitoes. It doesn't help for them to just sit in their container though; rub a leaf on the skin to repel the pesky bugs.

Pond members took advantage of the plants that Annette brought to display and many of us walked out with a new plant for our landscape. (We paid for it of course.)

Jackson's have opened a satellite location at 61st and Fairlawn. Some of you might remember it from the pond tour last year where they had a water feature in front of a big white barn at Lynn & Cyndi Hultquist's home.

TAWGS Minutes 4-21-2010

President Don Taliaferro called the April meeting, which was at Snyder's Cabin in Gage Park, to order at 7:00 with self introductions.

Bob Saathoff introduced Annette Jackson from Jackson's Greenhouse as our speaker for the evening. Annette discussed plants for in and around our ponds.

There was a drawing for six door prizes provided by Kip Walker. Winners were Diane Gruver, Helen Platis, Bob Saathoff, Nancy Mulder, Sandy Regier and Marikay Peterman. The prizes were bags of pond tabs to be used

for feeding our pond plants. Thanks Kip!

There will be a plant sale at Fairlawn Plaza Saturday the 24th. Mary Weaver and Floyd and Diane Gruver will have a booth there selling pond plants.

Treasurer Jim Green reported that we have \$2,839.34 in the bank which is now in one account. This amount reflects \$1,730 in ad money taken in for the pond tour guide and \$1,000 paid to the city.

Bob Saathoff said we still owe the city \$6,000, but that amount could be less.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, 3-17-2010, as written in the April Lily Pad by Duane Eberhardt and seconded by Floyd Gruver. Motion carried.

Phil Thompson passed out pond tour ticket vouchers in booklets of 10. The price will be \$5 for each voucher rather than the \$6 that will be the price at the retailer selling tickets starting 6-1-10. The vouchers or the money has to be turned in at the May meeting. The vouchers can be exchanged for the pond tour booklet starting 6-1-2010 at the retailers selling the ticket booklets. Bob Saathoff said that for each voucher sold, a ticket will be put in a drawing for prizes provided by some of our local stores. Bob told us that Hy Vee will run the pond tour ad twice before the tour. In exchange for the free advertising, Bob and Mark Weaver and Hi Stockwell spent a few hours setting up a water feature in front of the store.

Hi Stockwell brought in pond tour posters for anyone to take to hand out to businesses to display in their store. These only cost us \$1 each and are done by Topeka Blueprint who will also be printing the ticket book.

Several of the pond club members took advantage of the free koi given away by Rodney Nelson. Mary Weaver took several koi to the VA pond to replace the ones that had died when the pond was cleaned last year.

Hi Stockwell reported that Joann Harrison, who is the driving force behind the Children's Discovery Center, is asking for the pond club's expertise at some point as they want to put in a Chinese water garden at the center in the future. There would be no cost to the club.

Bob Saathoff said the only thing going on right now at Lake Shawnee is the maintaining of the ponds and ravine. After Tulip Time is over the tulips will be replaced with shrubs and perennials. Bob suggested the club purchase a pump so we wouldn't have to borrow one all the time. Floyd Gruver made a motion to purchase an Aquascape 4,000 gallon pump, with a 3 year warranty, from Waterscape Concepts (the pump we are currently borrowing) for no more than \$450. Mark Weaver will get an invoice for the next meeting. Doug Peterman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kip Walker announced that he is getting back into the pond business and will be working out of his garage for now. The name of his business is PADS (Professional Aquatic Design & Supplies). Kip will carry basic supplies and will deliver for free. His phone number is 785-506-2858. Kip plans on getting into rain gardens and in the winter will do lighting projects.

Bob said our speaker next month will be Wendy Hicks, also known as the Fish Doctor. Doug Peterman moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael Bradley seconded and the motion carried. Sandy Regier, Secretary



Michael Bradley (2nd from left) helps a customer at the plant sale while (l-r) Mary Weaver, Amy Thompson, Hi Stockwell and Phil Thompson visit.

Plant sale stays dry

Although rain was in the forecast, the morning of the Council Plant Sale was very nice for a change. A bit cool with a stiff breeze, but no rain, thankgoodness.

Thanks to Bob Saathoff picking up some donated lily rhizomes and Mary Weaver cleaning them off, we had a pretty successful plant sale. Michael Bradley and Hi Stockwell, Pat and Tom Routh and Amy and Phil Thompson also donated plants for the sale, and Mark Weaver contributed two very unusual dried mushrooms.

Total intake for the morning was \$125.00.

Water Plants

by Duane Van Dolah

Yerba Mansa

Anemopsis californica

Also called Lizard Tail, this plant gets 12 to 18 inches tall. The spread of the plant is by rhizomes and could get invasive, so keeping it in a pot might be the wise choice. The plant has large, dull, gray-green leaves that can get 6 inches long. The flower heads are a greenish-white; cone shaped with 4 to 8, 3/4 inch long, petal-like bracts. The flowers open in late spring into summer. Within weeks after bloom, red spots start to appear on the flower and bleed into the white petals. Leaves develop a red cast, and by fall the whole plant is a brick red. Sun to partial shade is what this plant needs to grow and to be in water up to a depth of 3 inches in zones 5-9. Propagation is by seeds and division of the root ball or rhizomes in the spring. It has quite interesting virtues, which include the roots smell like a cross of camphor and eucalyptus, and the whole plant has a musty and spice scent. For medicinal purposes, the leaves were used



as a poultice to reduce swelling, the roots contain an antispasmodic, and the dried roots were chewed to relieve pain and is a anti-fungal for use against athlete's foot and diaper rash. As a tea, it is good for swollen gums, sore throat, gout, kidney stones, arthritis and some cancers. Using it in a sitz bath will help heal tearing or an episiotomy after childbirth.

Refreshments for 2010

We have a couple of months that we need someone to volunteer to bring refreshments. Also, it is nice to have more than one couple each month. If you would like to volunteer, please call Don Taliaferro at 272-8348 or e-mail dontal@swbell.net.

May	Tom and Pat Routh
June	Fish Fry – Saathoff and Taliaferro
July	
August	Tom and Helen Platis
Sept.	Floyd & Diane Gruver
Oct.	
Nov.	Pot Luck



Topeka Ambassadors and city officials cut the ribbon at the Tulip Time kick off.

Tulip Time kicked off April 16

City officials, TAWGS members and other gardeners from Topeka attended the ribbon cutting at Ward Meade Park. Speakers for the event were Terry Bertels, City Park & Rec. Dept, City Manager Norton Boneaparte, Council Member Karen Hiller and Ray Schroeder from the City Parks and Rec.

After touring the gardens, refreshments were served in the Preston Hale room.



Tulips surround the new stream bed that TAWGS built at Historic Old Prairie Town last fall/this spring.

Pond Tip

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

Volunteer Work Schedule for Lake Shawnee Ted Ensley Gardens

Julie Trowbridge from Lake Shawnee has asked for help removing the tulips for spring planting of flowers and shrubs. Meet at the covered bridge if you can help.

Tuesdays – 9:00 AM To 11:30AM

Thursdays – 9:00 AM To 11:30AM

Thanks again and hope to see you this spring.

Questions or comments-JulieTrowbridge (291-2621) E-mail:julietrowbridge@snco.us

Keep tulips blooming year after year

Parts taken from Doug Green's Garden Newsletter

First - understand that a good life for a flowering tulip is 3-5 years - if you get longer than this, you're doing very, very well, If you're not getting this length of time, you need to look at your gardening practices.

Step One. As soon as the tulip "toes" -the green pointed leaf parts start to poke through the ground, you want to fertilize the bulb beds. This doesn't mean wait until the leaves start to separate and unfold (too late) but as soon as you see the green starting to poke through the ground. Organic gardeners are going to use either a liquid fish emulsion or pelleted soybean or alfalfa based fertilizers. The point here is to feed the bulb so when it gets to step 2 below, it has the food to do the job of bulking up. If you spread fertilizer after the leaves have opened, you risk getting fertilizer between the leaves and stems and "burning" the tender leaves or encouraging rot.

Step 2. Dead-head the spent tulip blossom. Do not allow the blossoms to set seed. This sends a hormonal signal to the tulip bulb to grow and put on as much bulk as possible. Certainly do not allow the flower parts to fall and land between leaves and stems to rot there. This is not good for the plant. At this point, you have a bulb that is well fed, and has been stimulated to mature. You're well on the way to having a bulb that will produce a large flower bud. Do not remove the foliage until it dies back.

Step Three. If you water your tulip beds, you're going to 1) decrease the soil temperature cooling it with colder water temperatures and 2) prevent the bulb from "baking" and going dormant in the dry soil. The trick here is to grow bulbs in an area that doesn't require much irrigation in the summer time.

Good luck!

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

Calendar of Events

May 19 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
June 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
June 26-27 – Topeka Pond Tour
July 10-11 – KC Pond Tour
July 10-11 – Wichita Pond Tour
Aug. 18 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Sept. 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Oct. 3 – Apple Fest
Oct. 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Nov. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

Goldfish and koi normally spawn in the warming water of spring. If you want to help ensure survival of some of the baby fish, provide a place for the eggs as well as fry (baby fish) to hide from the larger fish. This can be the roots of plants like water hyacinth, soft filter material, or a fish spawning basket.

(Caution: too many fish can lead to poor water quality.)

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
3-10, 4-10 or 5-10**

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

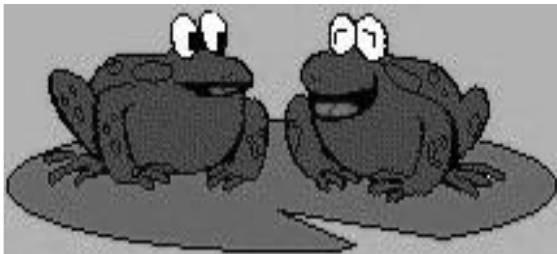
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

2010 OFFICERS:

Don Taliaferro Topeka	President 785-272-8348
Bob Saathoff Topeka	Vice President 785-272-7125
Sandy Regier Topeka	Secretary 785-286-9998
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:

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