



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 14, Issue 2

Mar. 1, 2011



Waterfall in the TAWGS display at the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show. Photo by Bob Saathoff

Thanks to volunteers

By Don Taliaferro

I wanted to take the time to thank everyone who helped at the Kansas Garden Show. The weather was great and this made building the display a lot better than last year. Mark Weaver was the chairperson for TAWGS this year and did a great job.

Also I would like to thank all the people who spent most of the week building and fine tuning the display: Mary Weaver, Duane Eberhardt, Cheryl and Bob Saathoff, Don Regier, Ray Schroeder, Amy and Phil Thompson and Helen and Tom Platis. Also Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley and Marikay and Doug Peterman for equipment and signs for the display. A lot of product on loan from the following companies. Higgins Stone (fire pit

Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m., March 16

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

"Jackson Street Bio-retention Site"

By Vivien Smith, Horticulturist

Topeka Public works Dept.

Vivien will speak on how the City of Topeka uses Rain Gardens for water pollution control, specifically at the Jackson Street site. Construction, maintenance and plant materials used at the Jackson Street site will be discussed as well as how an individual home owner can develop their own Rain Garden to help alleviate water pollution and enjoy a beautiful flower garden as well.

TAWGS has enjoyed Rain Garden presentations in the past but this one you will find quite different. Please come to the March meeting to see Vivien's presentation.

and benches), Capitol Concrete (bricks and stone), Skinners Garden Store (plants and shrubs), Roberts Dairy, Fisher's Kitchen & Bath (granite), Waterscape Concepts (pump) and Whitestar Machinery & Supply Co. (bobcat).



Mark Weaver (l) watches people at the TAWGS Lawn and Garden display. Photo by Jolene Grabill

TAWGS Minutes 2-16-11

President Don Taliaferro called the February

meeting to order at 7:00 with self introductions.

Treasurer, Jim Green reported we have \$1,718.16 in our checking account. A motion was made by Mark Weaver to approve the treasurers report. Second made by Don Regier. Motion carried.

Jim Green made a motion to approve the minutes of our Nov 2010 meeting as written in the Lily Pad. Mark Weaver seconded, motion carried.

Mark Weaver said he still could use some help on Thursday for our area at the Lawn & Garden Show, but all was going well. We will need volunteers to tear down the display Sunday after the show and Monday morning. Also, Mary Weaver said she had a few spots to fill for sitters at the show to answer questions or just be there if there were any problems.

Bob Saathoff said he will have about 158 bags of cypress mulch for sale after the garden show. The cost will be \$3.00 for a 2 cubic foot bag.

President Don Taliaferro asked if anyone would be willing to be the chairperson for the pond tour this year. Phil Thompson offered to help the chairperson. No one volunteered. Phil Thompson made a motion to not have the pond tour this year, Mark Weaver seconded. Motion tabled until next meeting, but if no one comes forward to be chairperson it looks like there will be no pond tour.

Mary Weaver checked into the price to rent a bus and driver to go to a koi farm in Iowa. It would be about \$2,700. And we would want at least 20 people to make it cost effective. The motel and meals would be on top of this. We would leave on a Friday afternoon and come back Saturday. Depending on the interest shown, more details will follow.

Phil Thompson made a motion to have our first meeting in February next year the first Wednesday of the month instead of the third Wednesday. This would give more time to set up volunteers for Lawn and Garden Show and do any planning that needed to be done. Tom Platis seconded, motion carried.

We will pass around a sign up sheet at the next meeting for anyone willing to provide snacks at our meetings. Mary Weaver said she would do snacks for March. Bob Saathoff will do the fish fry in June.

If anyone has any ideas for speakers, let Don Taliaferro know. Doug Peterman suggested Rob Ferguson who builds indoor fountains out of Exotic Woods as a speaker and Doug also knows a photographer that we could probably get.

Mark Weaver will have some large koi to give away after June if anyone is interested.

A question was asked about who to call for pond maintenance. Backyard Oasis, and Fantasy Falls would be a couple of possibilities; also Kip Walker and Eric Wood.

Don Taliaferro thanked all who had volunteered their time and talent at the Lawn and Garden Show including: chairperson Mark Weaver, Mary Weaver, Bob & Cheryl Saathoff, Phil & Amy Thompson, Don Regier, Don Taliaferro, Ed & Linda Klem, Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, Doug & Marikay Peterman, Duane Eberhardt and any others that he failed to mention.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary Weaver. Jim Green seconded the motion; motion carried.

Secretary Sandy Regier

Water Plants

By *Duane VanDolah*

Emily Grant Hutchings
Nymphaea



This night blooming tropical waterlily was hybridized by George H. Pring in 1922. Pring was a great waterlily expert and grower that was the man in charge of the Missouri Botanical Garden from 1910 to 1963.

The night-blooming lilies open around dusk and close between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. 'Emily Grant Hutchings' is a profuse bloomer with dark, cup-shaped, pink flowers that are 8-12 inches across. The slightly scented flowers raise above the water and pads and is one of the earliest lilies to start blooming. The pads are bronzy green on top and olive green underneath and get 10-12 inches around. The spread of the plant is 6-7 feet but can be restricted in size by planting the plant in a 10 inch pot. Otherwise, it should be grown in a large container in medium-to-large ponds. Planting should be in late May and early June for zone 6 and early to mid June for zone 5. It's happy with full sun but can tolerate part sun. Propagation is by separating the tubers under the crown of the plant in the fall. It can be overwintered in its container in a frost free garage.

Does barley work

Reprinted from 2-25-11 The Pond Guy

Pond owners are intrigued by the prospect of being able to ditch chemical treatments for a natural means of algae control.



While it is true that barley straw is capable of helping your pond fend off algae it still comes with advantages and disadvantages.

Studies have shown that as barley straw decomposes it releases agents that inhibit algae growth with no adverse effects on your water garden plants or decorative pond fish. Originally customers would place bales of Barley Straw in their waterfall filter boxes, skimmers or waterfall areas where they would decompose over time. As barley straw treatments continue to grow in popularity new types of barley products have been made available. Barley Straw Pellets are available for a cleaner and easier way to implement barley treatments into your pond or for even faster results, Barley Straw Extract. Barley Straw Extract is basically barley straw already broken down into its beneficial byproducts.

While barley straw can help keep your pond less green this season it is not 100% effective on all algae that may form in your pond. One of the biggest

issues with using barley straw and pellets is that you have to put them in your pond early in the season as they will need time to start decomposing before providing any benefits. Some may also argue that you are also adding muck and nutrients to your pond in the process. You will gain some speed by using barley straw extract but it then becomes less convenient because you will have to continuously add it to the pond. Barley also does not directly kill algae so chemical treatments may still eventually be required.

Your best defense against algae has always been a good offense. Keeping your pond clean and balanced with adequate filtration, bacteria treatments, minimal fish loads and sun exposure you will reduce your dependence and need for algae treatments in general. It is when your pond is balanced and just needs a little extra kick to keep algae at bay that your barley treatments really begin to shine as their gradual release of anti-algae agents will help maintain clear water throughout the season with minimal or no additional chemical treatment.

Sidewalk salt hurts pond

Reprinted from 1-29-11 The Pond Guy

Nobody wants to worry about slipping and falling on icy driveways and walkways but is the salt you are using to keep you safe actually hurting your pond?

You have probably heard that salt is great for both your pond and the fish that dwell within. It is true that salt is an important part of maintaining a healthy pond but the type of salt you use and how much of it is in your pond is even more significant.

Quality salt designed for use in ponds like Pond Logic® Pond Salt consist of all-natural evaporated sea salt and are the safest bet for maintaining a balanced pond with healthy fish. Other salts have additives that are not intended to be put in your pond. Table salt for example can contain iodine and anti-caking agents, and common sidewalk salt can include materials such as chloride which can be harmful to your finned friends. An abundance of runoff into your pond from this salt may also be less than ideal.

Take caution when using salt around your pond avoiding banks of snow and salt nearby which will eventually melt and drain into your pond. If you suspect this to be happening you may want to consider a partial water change or pond cleanout once your pond has thawed to give your finned friends a more ideal environment

Clean filters this spring

Filters that have been turned off for the winter should be cleaned well before turning them back on this spring. Cleaning will remove toxins that can develop from waste breaking down in the filter in the absence of oxygen. Once your filter is up and running, add Microbe-Lift PL to seed it with beneficial bacteria. Filters with pads will benefit from the use of Microbe-Lift PL Gel.

More Pictures from Lawn & Garden Show



Photo taken by Bob Saathoff



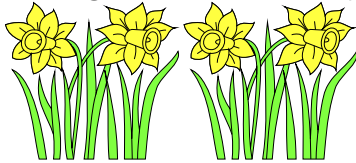
Photo taken by Jolene Grabill

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

2011 Calendar of Events

Mar. 16	Monthly Meeting
April 20	Monthly Meeting
May 18	Monthly Meeting
June 15	Monthly Meeting
June 25-26	Topeka Pond Tour
July 20	Monthly Meeting
Aug. 17	Monthly Meeting
Sept. 21	Monthly Meeting
Oct. 19	Monthly Meeting
Nov. 16	Monthly Meeting

Spring is on the way!



**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
 Anytime in 2010, 2-11 or 3-11**

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

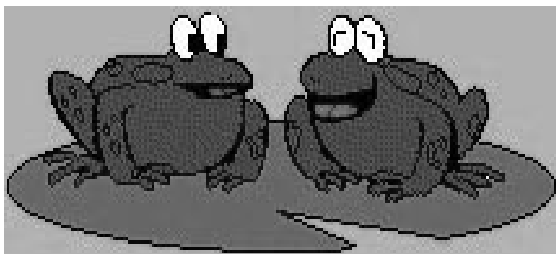
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW
 Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

2011 OFFICERS:

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

The Lily Pad

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
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 785-364-3046

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