



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 8

Sept. 1, 2011



Alice Brooks shows a rain chain that she made to funnel rain into a rain barrel.

Rain barrels conserve water

Alice Brooks from the Shawnee Country Extension Service gave a very informative talk on rain barrels at the TAWGS August meeting. Alice is the County Master Gardener Coordinator and is a Master Gardener.

"It is estimated that 40% of water used in a household in the summer is for lawns or ponds," Alice said. She said her rain barrel goes into a big concrete pond that was built 30 years ago. The overflow goes into a flower bed.

"You don't need a 55 gallon barrel to have a rain barrel," Alice said. There are all kinds of ways to save water. A trash can, whiskey barrel, urn or any another vessel that will hold water and can have a spout attached to it can be used as a rain barrel. You don't have to hide it because it can be made to look attractive. Some people paint their barrel or put a flower pot on the top of it. A bamboo screen or lattice work could be used to conceal the barrel.

A lower drain spout needs to be high enough from the barrel's bottom that the drain hose won't kink. Some people set their barrel on a cinder block to raise it off the ground. Be sure to anchor the barrel well because it weighs a lot when it is full of water.

An overflow outlet needs to be put near the top of the barrel, or about 2/3 the way up if you are ganging two barrels together. A common problem is for people to make their overflow hose too short. Make sure it doesn't

Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m., Sept. 21
Garden House at Lake Shawnee

East 37th and West Edge Road

**Bring a covered dish
and table service**

drain too close to the house or it could damage the foundation.

Cover the top of the barrel with screening that is held on with a bungee cord. This keeps debris out of the barrel. If you can't connect the down spout directly to the rain barrel, you might use a rain chain to funnel the water into the barrel. You can pay up to \$80 for a fancy rain chain or you can make your own out of a clothes hanger with chain hanging from the center of it.

Disconnect the rain barrel before winter and store it upside down until spring when the danger of freezing is past.

In addition to the conventional reduction of water usage for landscape use, rain barrels can prevent erosion due to runoff and reduce water that enters the storm water drains. Also, rainwater gathered in rain barrels does not contain chlorine or other chemicals that are added to city water.

An easy way to figure the rain you can harvest from your roof is for every square foot of roof that drains into the down spout, you will collect one-half gallon for each inch of rain that falls.

TAWGS Minutes 8-17-11

Don Taliaferro called our meeting to order with self introductions.

Our speaker for the evening was Alice Brooks from the county extension office. She is the master garden coordinator and a master gardener. She gave a very interesting talk on rain barrels.

We thank Hi Stockwell and Michael Bradley for providing the delicious refreshments.

Phil Thompson's name was drawn as the winner of a compost bin provided by Don Taliaferro.

Diane Gruver made a motion to approve the minutes as written in the Lily Pad. Bob Saathoff seconded, motion carried.

Jim Green, treasurer, reported that we have \$2,429.52 in the bank. Bill Kraus made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Tom Routh seconded. Motion carried.

Bob Saathoff suggested we have a pot luck at our Sept. meeting at Lake Shawnee in the garden house. A motion was made by Don Taliaferro to go ahead with this and Floyd Gruver seconded. Motion carried. We will meet at 6:30. Bring a covered dish and your table service. TAWGS will provide the drinks.

Ray Schroeder thanked all who helped put in the dry stream bed. The bridge taken from Puddles and Pads will be used at Old Prairie Town and some new sidewalks are going to be put in.

Don Taliaferro said he would try to line up some ponds that had been on the pond tour six or seven years ago for next year's tour. There will be more discussion on that at our next meeting. TBA will have a garden tour next year on June 23-24.

Don Taliaferro asked if there was anyone willing to be chairperson for the Apple Festival in October, but nobody volunteered, so if anyone is willing to do this they can call Don. Also, Don passed out a sheet showing names and addresses and map for our members pond tour Sunday, 8-21. It will end up at Brickyard Barn Inn for a potluck.

Bill Kraus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Klem seconded. Motion carried. Sandy Regier, Sec.

Moisture loving plants



by Duane VanDolah

American Potato Bean

Apios Americana

Also called by the names Groundnut, Water Wisteria, Wild Bean and Indian Potato, this native North American perennial plant is found mainly in the eastern part of the United States. It is also found in the eastern half of Kansas. A major food source for the Native Americans, it gets its name from the bulb-like tubers that can be the size of a person's fist. It is a trailing vine plant that is more happy climbing 6 to up to 20 feet than spreading on the ground. Hairy, dull, green leaves are 3-4 inches long and have five to nine leaflets that resemble leaves of the wisteria. That and the flowers with colors from brick-red to pinkish brown on top with a whitish color underneath in 3 to 4 inch clusters give it one of its common names of Water Wisteria. Flowers form in mid-to-late August. Sun to part shade with wet and annual flooding is its growing conditions. It is found along riverbanks, moist woods, and streams. It is hardy from zones 3-9 with propagation by seed or by dividing the tubers off the roots and planting them individually.

Notice

It is almost time to elect officers for next year , so we need people to volunteer to be on the nomination committee. Please call Don Taliaferro if you would be willing to serve on the committee! 785-272-8348 or e-mail dontal@swbell.net



Thanks to the volunteers that turned out to help pick up rocks at Puddles & Pads and then help build the dry stream bed at Ward Meade Park. **Volunteers were: Bob and Cheryl Saathoff, Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, Amy Thompson, Ray Schroeder and Don Taliaferro, plus city employees Gaylord Kelsey, Bill Riphian and Terry Bertels. (Photo by Don Taliaferro)**

Attention

Volunteers needed for Apple Fest

Tom Platis has agreed to chair the Apple Fest committee and he needs volunteers to work on Sunday, Oct 2. The shifts will be two hours beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. If you can help, please call him before Sept. 14 because he needs to turn the names into Ward Meade by that date. Please call him at 785-478-9514 if you can help him out.

Summer Pond Tips

McArthur Water Gardens 7-2011

Low oxygen levels kill fish

Use an oxygen tester and air stones to keep your available oxygen level to at least 7.0 parts per million of dissolved oxygen in 90 degree F. water. Koi and goldfish start showing signs of stress at oxygen levels of 4.0 ppm and will start dying at 3.0 ppm. The higher the water temperature goes the less oxygen that's available. Water temperatures over 90 degrees will also affect fish health so keep the temperature under control by providing shade during the hottest parts of the day.

It's parasite season

Warm water causes an increase in parasites such as anchor worms, fish lice or flukes. Some parasites such as anchor worm and fish lice are visible and can be treated with Dylox, Dipterex or Masoten.

Invisible parasites such as external protozoa and flukes can not be seen but they usually cause symptoms including extra thick mucus, constant scratching by rubbing against objects, flashing, or jumping. Some variations will cause a noticeable head shaking and yawning. Contact your pond specialist for treatments because different symptoms are indicative of different infections. Follow label instructions at all times or you could cause serious injury or death to your fish.

Summer koi feeding tips

If your water is between 70 to 85 F. then feed a low protein food in a quantity that is equal to 1.0% to 1.5% of total koi body weight in pond. Estimate total koi body weight in pond and feed recommended % of food daily based on season and water temperature divided into intervals of about 2-2-1/2 hours. Takes koi about 2- 2-1/2 to digest food in warmer water and 4-8 hrs in colder water when feeding is begun. So in warmer ideal water temperatures feed 5-8 times daily the individual portions totaling daily amount needed. In cooler temperatures feed 1-3 times daily.

Sunblock for your koi

Koi are not immune from sunburn, especially in shallow ponds that get direct sunlight. Provide shade such as water lilies or a rock overhang. Even a beach umbrella will do in a pinch.

Watch for Evaporation

Depending upon the surface area of your pond, you can lose several inches per day to evaporation. Monitor and adjust your water levels daily or as necessary. Remember, do not use water with chlorine in it if you have fish!

Five quick tips for healthy summertime water

1. Ensure that you have good mechanical and biological filtration and that your pump will turn the pond water over totally at least twice per day.
2. Operate the pump 24 hours a day.
3. Provide adequate shade by having 60 to 70% of the pond's surface area covered with floating plants or other types of shade.
4. Add water clarifiers and bottled bacteria like OneFix, or GEL if your water remains cloudy even when good filtration is present.
5. Test oxygen levels daily and add air stones if levels fall below 7 PPM.



TAWGS members view the new pond at the Parkers on the recent Members Pond Tour.

Members enjoy pond tour

by Don Taliaferro

A small group enjoyed a recent Sunday afternoon visiting member ponds on the Member Pond Tour. It was a beautiful day to see the ponds and get better acquainted with each other.

People attending were: Ed and Linda Klem, Bill and Susan Kraus, Bob and Cheryl Saathoff, Don and Sandy Regier, Tom and Helen Platis, Scott and Truanna Nickels, Jeff & Shelly Parker, Don and Ruth Taliaferro and Linda Reynolds. Dale and Earlene Jirik met us at the last pond. We had a very good potluck dinner at the Brickyard Inn. Thanks Scott and Truanna for letting us use your beautiful backyard.

Thanks to the Klem's, Kraus', Parker's, Saathoff's and Nickels for sharing their ponds with us.



Hyacinths are happy in Ed and Linda Klem's pond.

Pond Tip

Part of the cycle of water lilies and other aquatic plants includes foliage turning brown and then rotting off. This is normal as long as new foliage is emerging as well. To help reduce the amount of sludge build-up in your pond, remove dying foliage, including spent flowers, from plants before it has a chance to fall into the water and decay. Basic routine maintenance like this goes a long way towards keeping a healthy pond.

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

2011 Calendar of Events

Sept. 21 Monthly Meeting 6:30 at
Lake Shawnee
Oct. 2 Apple Fest
Oct. 19 Monthly Meeting
Nov. 16 Monthly Meeting



You should stop fertilizing your aquatic plants about a month before the first frost in your area. Even in areas that don't normally have frost, plant growth slows in the shorter, cooler days of the fall and winter months

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
7-11, 8-11 or 9-11**

**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 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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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

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