



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 15, Issue 5

June 1, 2012



Kip Walker talks about landscape lighting at the May meeting.

New products in pond lighting

Kip Walker gave a very interesting program on the new products that are available for pond and landscape lighting. He said there are a lot of changes happening in the industry right now. There will be huge changes in the next few years. Prices are coming down.

The new LED lighting is much more dependable, cooler and longer lasting than the old types of pond and landscape lighting. The housing in older lighting causes the bulbs to get hot and burn out. He said that can even happen with interior lighting if the bulb is too confined.

"LED's stay nice and cool," Kip said. "Most LED's work on 12 Volt DC. A good LED bulb starts at about \$75," he said. "Yellow and true whites are the most expensive."

Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m., Wed., June 20

Historic Old Prairie Town

124 NW Fillmore

Fish Fry

Bring a covered dish and table service

Ray Schroeder will give us a tour of the gardens, mansion, etc.

There is a large range of colors of LED lights and they can be programmed to give a light display like some of us have seen in Christmas light displays.

Kip is the owner of Professional Aquatic Designs and Supplies (PADS). He has been working with concert lighting since 1980. He also worked at Puddles -N-Pads for several years.

"I think there are exciting things in the future of LED lighting," Kip said. "I look forward to showing you what we can do."

Kip will demonstrate some of the things that he can do with pond lighting at the August meeting which will be held at the pond of Amy and Phil Thompson.

TAWGS Minutes 5-16-12

Present: Don Taliaferro, Amy Thompson, Jim Green, Dona Peterson, Cheryl Saathoff, Bob Saathoff, Sue Mowder, Jim Mowder, Don Regier, Sandy Regier, Pat Routh, Tom Routh, Michael Bradley, Hi Stockwell, Mary Weaver, Doug Peterman, Marikay Peterman, Diane Gruver, Floyd Gruver, Susan Krause, Bill Krause, Kent Hampton, Colleen Hampton, Linda Reynolds, Mary Pat Fischer, Tom Platis, Helen Platis and Phil Thompson

Don Taliaferro, president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by self-introductions by the membership.

May program presentation – Kip Walker presented on LED lighting

April Minutes – A motion was made by Tom Routh and seconded by Sandy Regier to approve the minutes, the motion carried.

Treasurer's report - Jim Green reported that TAWGS has \$2,615.35 in assets. The Peters, Weirs, Mulders and Sherry Reed paid their membership dues.

Jim reported he is continuing to work on the IRS non-profit reinstatement for TAWGS and promised to have it completed by the June meeting. Mary Pat Fischer made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; Bill Krause seconded it. The motion carried.

Other Business:2012 Pond Tour – Don Taliaferro said no one from the membership has agreed to be the Pond Chair.

- Don provided a brief overview of the Pond Tour's status:To be held June 30 and July 1, (the TBA tour is the weekend before)
 - \$5
 - There are five pond owners who said they would offer their ponds for the tour plus one bonus pond.
 - Parkers (their pond was built on the tour last year)
 - 45& Croco
 - Hwy 24
 - Meriden Rd (Jeff Whitley)
 - Jamie Hawk – Sherwood
 - Washburn University – Bonus pond. Hi said they requested pond sitters for both days
 - Potential ponds: Peterman's and Reynolds'. They will contact Don Taliaferro if they are able to commit.
 - Diane Gruver contacted Waterscape to confirm the number of signs and flags in storage there.
 - Kip Walker and the Parkers both have signs and flags from previous tours
- Don asked that all the pond descriptions be sent to

him

Phil Thompson recommended that if the TAWGS business meeting concluded early, a pond tour meeting should be held immediately following.

TAWGS Banner – During the Flower, Lawn and Garden show earlier this year a few members were discussing the need for a new TAWGS banner. Don Taliaferro reported that a 3' x 8' banner would cost approximately \$150 - \$210. Images would need to be submitted in pdf or gif formats, and it would take 3-5 business days to process. It was determined that the banner would feature ponds and would be used to identify TAWGS at events.

As a follow up to the LED lighting presentation given by Kip Walker, it was decided that the August meeting would be held at the Thompson's home and a demo of the new lighting would be displayed. A pot-luck dinner will be served.

Michael Bradley announced that there is a motorcycle ride benefit for The Villages May 19. The Olive Garden is providing lunch and the band Revolver will provide the entertainment.

Don Taliaferro encouraged everyone to attend Glory Days in Holton on May 26. One of the booths at the event will serve homemade ice cream to raise money for Don's grand-daughter who is in need of a lung transplant. Funds raised will go toward the living expenses when the family moves to St. Louis for the surgery.

The next scheduled work day at Old Prairie Town is 8:30 – 12, May 26 and 8:30 – 12, June 5. Please bring your own tools.

A motion to adjourn was made by Phil Thompson, Diane Gruver seconded; the motion carried.

The next meeting is 7:00 p.m., June 20, 2012 at Old Prairie Town.

2012 TAWGS Pond Tour Pond Sitters list

These TAWGS members volunteered to pond sit at the May meeting. If you are not on the list and are able to help, please call Helen Platis, 785-478-9514.

1. Tom & Helen Platis
2. Hi Stockwell & Michael Bradley
3. Floyd & Diane Gruver
4. Linda Reynolds – her own pond
5. Don & Sandy Regier
6. Doug & Mary Kaye Peterman – their own pond
7. Jim & Sue Mowder – Sunday
8. Jim Green & Dona Peterson
9. Pat & Tom Routh (will sit at separate ponds if needed)
10. Mary Pat Fischer – in the shade only

Pick the right plants

The Pond Guy 5-5-12
**Know your
hardiness zone.**



The USDA publishes a hardiness zone map that shows in which areas of the country various types of plants can survive and grow. The majority of your pond plants should be from your hardiness zone because they are best able to tolerate the year-round conditions of your area.

Know your pond's depth. Some pond plants prefer deep water and some pond plants prefer shallow. Hardy water lilies prefer deep water, for example, while bog plants prefer shallow.

Know what type of sun exposure your pond receives. In addition to hardiness zones, plants also are categorized by the type of light they like to receive (full sun, partial sun, or shade). Marsh Marigolds yearn for sun, while Clyde Ikins Water Lily can tolerate the shade.

Know your pond's flow. This is a factor that water gardeners often overlook. Some pond plants love moving water while others prefer the water stand still. Dwarf cattails, for example, do well in streams because they enjoy moving water, but water lilies are not fans of being right underneath a waterfall.

**Don't forget the fish fry at 6:30 at
WMP on the 20th!**

Moisture loving plants

by Duane VanDolah
Plains Coreopsis



Coreopsis Tinctoria

This member of the Sunflower family is an annual that often forms dense yellow stands in wet ditches. Single, upright and multi-branched stems come off a deep tap root. They are 2-4 feet tall with slender upper leaves that are up to 6 inches long and ¼ inch wide. At the end of the stems, numerous short stalks produce flower heads that are ½ to 1 ½ inches wide. These flower heads are daisy-like with yellow rays, surrounding a reddish-purple center disk. The ends of the petals are toothed. The plant blooms in June through September in seasonally wet places and in wet ditches and fields. The plant dies at first frost. It grows in sun and part-shade, producing an abundance of seeds to form colonies. The Plains Coreopsis is used as an ornamental for gardening and was used by the Native Americans for a hot beverage. The early settlers placed the plant in their mattresses to repel fleas and bedbugs. It's also a source for yellow, brown, and reddish dyes.



Fish feeding tips

The Pond Guy 5-11-12

Train Your Fish - Fish need a schedule. Feed them in the same area at roughly the same time each day. Eventually, they will show you that they are ready for food by rushing to greet you at the edge of the pond with their mouths open.

Feed Pond Fish Slowly - At first, add only one or two pellets to the pond. This causes a ripple on the pond surface that will get the fish's attention. Once the fish begin coming up for food, you can increase the amount of food given.

Don't Over-Feed Your Fish - New fish may only be able to eat a small amount. Once they become more alert and accustomed to being fed, they may start to eat a little more. Don't offer any more food than what your fish can eat in about five minutes.

Use The Right Food - This one depends on what kind of fish you have. Some of the most popular pond fish for backyard water gardens are Goldfish and Koi. We

recommend feeding these fish either Pond Logic® Growth & Color or Tetra Pond™ Koi Vibrance.

The Ecosystem of the Garden

Birds & Blooms 6-9-11

Your wildlife garden is an ecosystem of interconnected parts. Everything is connected when you create a welcoming habitat for wildlife, the priority of your garden.

It's not just the birds and the blooms as two different subjects. It is that the birds are connected to the blooms, which are connected to the insects, which are connected to frogs, toads, and bats. It's a food web, a chain of events that all work together to create a total system.

The Five Pillars of Ecosystem Gardening

1. Sustainable Landscaping

Sustainability may be one of the most overused words in the gardening world right now, and there are long wordy definitions to attempt to clarify its meaning. But I break it down into two areas:

Manage your Inputs. A sustainable garden does not need all of those bags and bottles of stuff that you can find at the garden center.

Manage your Outputs. A sustainable garden will work to eliminate outputs from your property, such as managing storm water on-site, and managing your yard waste on-site through composting.

2. Healthy Soil

Ever heard that adage, "Feed the Soil, not the Plant?" Healthy plants need healthy soil. And wildlife gardeners know that there is more wildlife beneath the soil than there is above the ground. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides destroy these soil organisms, and these organisms are responsible for keeping your soil healthy.

3. Water Conservation

I don't know why we treat rain water as toxic waste to be rushed immediately off of our properties, but with good planning you can keep this valuable resource in your garden, reduce your water bills, and help stop flooding and stream bank erosion.

4. Remove Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are escaping from our gardens, and running rampant through our woodlands and natural areas. We as taxpayers pay \$138 BILLION every year trying to control these species. These plants are destroying wildlife habitat, so we can make a big difference for wildlife in our gardens by removing these plants.

5. Add More Native Plants

Native plants support local food webs. We have the power to really help wildlife when we add more native plants to our gardens. Every state has a native plant society that can help you determine the most appropriate plants for your garden. And these wonderful people are a great resource, not only about the plants but also where you can find them close to you.

When we follow these five principles, we will automatically begin to see more wildlife in our gardens.

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

June 20	Monthly Meeting
June 22-23	TBA Garden Tour
June 30-July 1	Topeka Pond Tour
July 18	Monthly Meeting
Aug. 15	Monthly Meeting
	Pot Luck at Thompson's
Sept. 19	Monthly Meeting
Oct. 17	Monthly Meeting
Nov. 14	Monthly Meeting & Potluck Dinner

2012 Refreshments

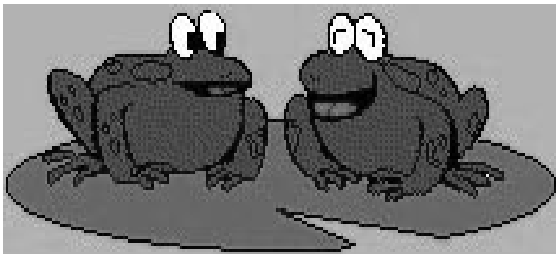
June Fish Fry and Pot Luck
 July Kent & Coleen Hampton
 August - Pot Luck at Thompson's

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
 Any time in 2011, 5-12 or 6-12**
 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 2012 OFFICERS:

Don Taliaferro Topeka	President 785-272-8348
Bob Saathoff Topeka	Vice President 785-272-7125
Amy Thompson Topeka	Secretary 785-273-7005
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:

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 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.