



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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October 1, 2012



Deb Spencer shows a way to net a pond using a pole to make a tent.

Putting pond to bed

Deb Spencer from Waters Edge in Lawrence gave an informative talk at TAWGS September meeting. It was a good reminder for some of us who have had a pond for a long time and very helpful to those who are fairly new at water gardening.

September & October clean-up

1. Stop fertilizing plants about a month before the first anticipated freeze
2. Divide iris, reeds and rushes
3. Trim dying foliage before it falls to the bottom
4. Groom and refresh anacharis pots. Cut off summer's growth and plant in sand or dirt
5. Dredge/vacuum the muck (pond gold) off the bottom of the pond. The muck is great fertilizer for landscape plants
6. Check/adjust the Kh (alkaline) Use baking soda if low
7. Last application of sludge eating bacteria (Aqua One or One Fix)
8. Skim or net falling leaves

Fish care for early fall

1. Check for signs of disease
2. Switch to high carb/low protein foods (actually you can feed low protein food all year long - high protein food increases ammonia 10 - 20%)

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Oct. 17, 2012
Historic Old Prairie Town
124 NW Fillmore
Tom Garcia - Blue Acres

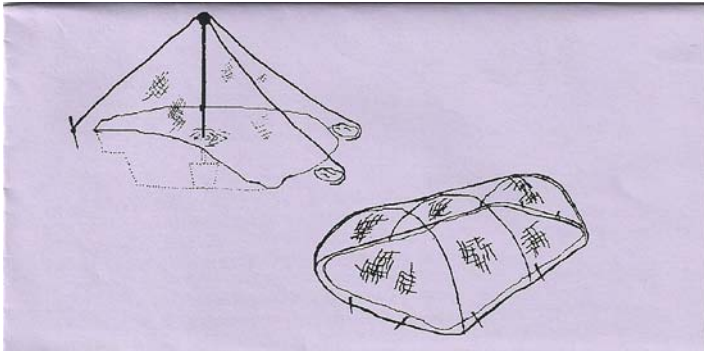
3. Stop feeding when water temperature drops to 45 or 50 degrees
4. Minimize debris/sludge
5. Clean pond or perform water changes
6. Add or adjust salt. Not everybody uses salt in their pond but it does help the slime coat. Salt does not evaporate so water changes will be necessary

After heavy frost

1. Trim all dead foliage and lower plants to the bottom of the pond.
2. Lower zone 6 plants with crown over 12 inches below water line. Lower lotus and other stiff stem plants first and then cut the stems above the water line.
3. Bring in tropical water lilies (it is easier to treat them like an annual and throw them away instead of trying to winter them over inside)
4. Stop feeding fish
5. Shut down and clean bio filters.
6. Turn off waterfalls, streams and fountains. You run the risk of damaging rocks, etc. when ice forms during the dead of winter if your waterfall is running.
7. Install a bubbler or air stone. Place the bubbler riser about 2 inches below water surface and put the pump on the shelf as you will need to clean it every so often. Keep air pump above water.
8. Put pond heaters in place to plug in when ice has formed over the pond for more than a week. Some heaters have thermostats that read the water temperature, while a thermo cube reads the air temp, making it more economical. Do not break ice with a sledge hammer!!!

Although it is tempting to just put the pond to bed when the weather gets cold, it is better for the fish if you clean your pond in the fall instead of waiting until spring. The fish are much healthier in the fall than in the spring.

Below are a couple of ideas of ways to net your pond to keep the leaves out.



Moisture loving plants

by Duane VanDolah

Sneezeweed

Helenium Autumnale

Also called the Common Sneezeweed, the Autumn Sneezeweed, or the Fall Sneezeweed, this perennial plant has an erect stem with a smooth-to-hairy surface. The stems are one to several and branched with leafy wings extending down from the base. The plant usually grows to a height of 3 to 5 feet in full sun. The leaves are lanced-shaped, dark green, and up to 6 inches long and 1 ½ inches wide with toothed margins. Clusters of daisy-like flowers are 2 inches across and are a bright yellow. The wedge shaped, drooping petals surround a dull yellow dome or ball-shaped center. It is often found in a large clump in damp-to-wet areas around rivers, streams, ponds, and ditches. The Sneezeweed is hardy in zones 3-8 with propagation from division and seed. The name Sneezeweed comes from its use in medicine. The dried leaves were used as snuff to cause sneezing to rid the body of evil spirits.



TAWGS Minutes 9-19-2012

TAWGS members met at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19, at Ward Meade Park. President Don Taliaferro opened the meeting with self-introductions. Bob Saathoff introduced Deb Spencer who talked about putting our pond to bed. As usual, she had a very informative and entertaining talk.

Delicious refreshments were served by Linda Reynolds and Marikay and Doug Peterman. Helen Platis will provide refreshments in October. The November meeting will be a pot luck dinner.

Jim Green moved and Floyd Gruver seconded that the July and August minutes be approved as printed in the

Sept. Lily Pad. Motion carried.

Jim Green said that he and Tom Platis had worked to get the forms ready to send to the IRS to reinstate our tax status. Jim said that the bylaws would have to be amended to update them to meet some requirements by the IRS. After much discussion Don Taliaferro moved and Tom Platis seconded to accept the bylaws as attached and give approval to send in up to \$400 to the IRS to be reinstated. Motion carried.

Jim reported that we have \$3,148.46 in the bank. Bob Saathoff moved and Tom P. seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted.

Bob reported that Tom Garcia from Blue Acres (formerly Herynks) will talk next month about developing coral, saltwater fish, etc.

Bob Saathoff moved and Jim Green seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Pine needles in your pond

The Pond Guy 11-12-10



Your evergreens may hold on to their color during the winter but they will have no trouble shedding a few pine needles. If your pond is pine tree adjacent you most likely have been dealing with the presence of pine needles in your water. Your pine trees can provide an excellent source of shade and privacy but do the negative effects of loose pine needles put your pond or fish in harms way?

As you already know, an abundance of organic debris in your pond can lead to algae blooms, turbid water and unbalanced water chemistry. Organic matter like grass clippings or leaves from nearby trees will eventually turn into an intimidating layer of muck if left at the bottom of your pond. Unlike leaves pine needles are not a huge contributor of tea colored water however, pine needles are acidic and can lower the pH of your pond water to an unhealthy level if left to accumulate. Because of their size, shape and density pine needles are a bit trickier to catch and clean out of your pond. They can easily fall through netting with larger openings and they tend to clog up pond vacuum hoses. To better protect your pond from fallen pond needles use Pond Netting <http://www.thepondguy.com/category/water-gardens-and-features-pond-netting> with smaller mesh holes. As pine needles tend to float for a while make sure your Skimmer is active and running to help catch as much debris as possible. Your skimmer may require more frequent cleaning to prevent loss of water flow. Any needles that venture to the bottom of the pond can be rounded up with a Skimmer Net and your Pond Vac or you can don a pair of Aquatic Gloves and scoop up any large deposits that form. While pine needles decompose a bit

slower than leaves beneficial bacteria products like Seasonal Defense will help break them down and remove any strays you might have missed.

To be fair to all of the evergreens out there, pine needles are not any more harmful than leaves; they just come with their own unique set of challenges. At the end of the day you treat them just like you would any other form of unwanted excess organic material. Keep your pond clean and it will keep you happy, whether you have pine trees, oak trees or no trees at all!

Choosing the right netting for your pond

The Pond Guy 9-22-12



There's no surer sign of fall than falling leaves. Unfortunately, when those leaves land in your pond or water garden, they can create a water-quality mess. As they break down and decompose, they can turn your water brown and leave behind muck and detritus.

Thank goodness for pond netting.

These temporary covers keep leaves, pine needles and other debris from landing in your water feature. You can purchase several different types—but which one is right for you?

To help you choose, ask yourself these three simple questions:

1. How long do you intend to use the netting?

Many of us are pinching our pennies these days, and so the less-expensive one-season-use net, like DeWitt Pond Netting, is an attractive option. The 3/4-inch black polypropylene mesh, which comes in a range of sizes to fit just about any pond, prevents debris (and predators, too) from getting into your pond without restricting air flow or views.

For a little more money, however, you could purchase a higher-quality net/pond cover system, the Nycon Big Top Pond Cover, which can be used year after year. Also available in a range of sizes, this pond cover features a netting with a hemmed, fray-resistant border; center pole(s); brass stake grommets; and aluminum stakes that can weather years of use. The net is made with 1/4-inch black nylon mesh, which keeps some of the smallest debris from entering your pond.

2. What types of leaves will be landing in and gathering around your pond?

Look around your yard. What kinds of trees do you (and your neighbors) have? If you have trees with larger leaves, like maple or oak, you can easily rake up the blowing leaves from around your pond, scoop them out of your pond with a portable pond net or skimmer, and prevent them from landing in there with a basic 5/8-inch nylon mesh netting, like The Pond Guy® Pond Cover Net.

If you have pine needles and smaller leaves around, however, you'll need to cover your pond or water garden with a tighter-weave mesh, such as The Pond Guy® Fine

Mesh Cover Net. This clear, heavy-duty, 1/8-inch mesh netting prevents stubbornly small debris from landing in your pond while still allowing light to shine through. It includes plastic stakes to secure the netting.

3. What is your main goal?

Are you a no-muss, no-fuss kind of water gardener who avoids pond chores like the plague? Then you should invest in a tent-type netting system with a center hub, like the Pond Logic® PondShelter™ Net Kit. This fully adjustable unit with an aluminum frame will fit most pond configurations. It supports a swath of durable, black 1/4-inch mesh, which keep debris from entering the pond. And the kit includes 30 metal stakes to ensure the unit stays in place.

Pond stratification

The Pond Guy 10-13-11

If you were scientifically inclined, you could spend a lot of time considering the complexities of a backyard pond. Despite their apparent simplicity, there's a lot more going on in your pond than you might suspect.

The water in most ponds is stratified into different layers. While this effect is more pronounced in ponds with depths of eight feet or greater, even a shallow pond will demonstrate some degree of layering. The layers are generally defined by differences in temperature. In summer, the stratification is at its most pronounced, with lower temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels at the lower layers. In fall, the levels tend to equalize. In winter, the layering reverses, with cold water on top and warmer water at the bottom. Spring mirrors fall, with temperatures equalizing again before summer turns the entire process on its head once again.

Because dissolved oxygen levels vary according to water temperature, different layers are more attractive to different organisms. Some plant life, including algae, thrives in warmer, more oxygen-rich waters. Fish prefer consistency, and will gravitate toward water that balances cool temperature and an adequate supply of oxygen. Different types of bacteria – both beneficial and otherwise – will choose their own level. And frogs, cold-blooded creatures that they are, seek out warmth all year 'round.

External conditions can significantly impact stratification. A heavy rain or an extended period of unseasonably cool weather, for example, can temporarily cool upper layers during summer months. This process can stress fish stocks.

Fortunately, aeration solutions go a long way toward reducing the impact of layering in a backyard pond. When water is aerated, temperatures and oxygen levels stay uniform – making the pond safe and healthy for fish, beneficial bacteria and friendly plant life.

While they're invisible to the eye, beneficial bacteria are a form of life every pond needs to stay clean, clear and healthy for fish and plants. With the regular use beneficial bacteria, you'll enhance the natural decomposition process that eliminates pond debris and fallen leaves – and increase the healthy oxygen levels necessary to sustain fish and plants all season long.

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

Oct. 7 Apple Fest
Oct. 17 Monthly Meeting
Nov. 14 Monthly Meeting &
 Potluck Dinner

Be sure to check your label to see when your dues are due. September is our charter month so we have a lot of people with dues due in September.



**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
8-12, 9-12 or 10-12**

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

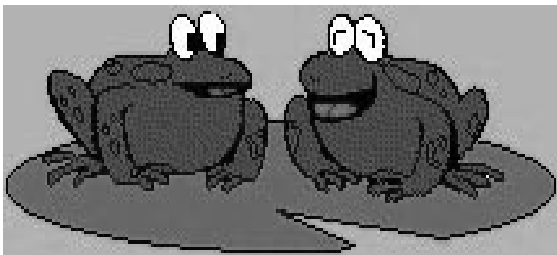
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

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:

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.