



# *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 8**

**September 1, 2012**



**President Don Taliaferro conducts a meeting pondside at the home of Phil and Amy Thompson in August.**

## **TAWGS 8-15-2012 Minutes**

Present: Don Taliaferro, Floyd Gruver, Diane Gruver, Phil Thompson, Amy Thompson, Jim Mowder, Sue Mowder, Doug Peterman, Marikay Peterman, Bob Saathoff, Cheryl Saathoff, Don Regier, Sandy Regier, Mary Weaver, Linda Reynolds, Mary Pat Fischer, Tom Platis, Helen Platis, Tom Rough, Pat Routh, Jim Green and new member Tina Wesch.

The August program was cancelled.

Treasurer's report:

Jim Green reported that the club has a bank balance of \$3,149. He also said he has not completed the IRS non-profit reinstatement documents, however, he e-mailed a copy of the paperwork to a few members. Jim anticipates having the documents submitted before the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mary Pat Fischer and seconded by Phil Thompson to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Other Business:

- Meeting refreshments - Don Taliaferro asked for volunteers to bring refreshments for the Sept. and October meetings. The Peterman's will provide snacks for the September meeting.
- Election of officers - Don Taliaferro noted that at the October meeting there will be an election of officers. He said he would contact members over

## **Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Historic Old Prairie Town  
124 NW Fillmore**

## **Speaker to be Announced**

the next month to identify potential officers.

- Apple Festival - Tom and Helen Platis agreed to identify volunteers for this year's festival, however they cannot be the chairs of the committee. any members wishing to be the committee chair should contact Don Taliaferro or Tom Platis. The Apple Festival is the first Sunday in October.
- MS 150 Bike Ride - Linda Reynolds announced that she is riding in the MS 150 and if anyone would like to sponsor her, please go to: [http://bikeksg.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/KSGBikeEvents?pg=pfind&fr\\_id=17894](http://bikeksg.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/KSGBikeEvents?pg=pfind&fr_id=17894)
- Members pond tour - Mary Weaver asked if there would be a members pond tour this year. It was noted that last year there was minimal participation and there were no plans for a tour this year.

A motion to adjourn was made by Floyd Gruver and seconded by Linda Reynolds. The motion carried.

The next meeting is 7:00 p.m., Sept. 19, at Old Prairie Town.

## **TAWGS 7 18-2012 Minutes**

Present: Don Taliaferro, Floyd Gruver, Diane Gruver, Phil Thompson, Amy Thompson, Jim Mowder, Sue Mowder, Tina West, Doug Peterman, Marikay Peterman, Bob Saathoff, Cheryl Saathoff, Don Reiger, Sandy Reiger, Mary Weaver, Linda Reynolds, Kent Hampton, Colleen Hampton and Mary Pat Fischer.

Guests: Clint Goodrich and Diana Lehmann

**July program:** Diana Lehmann and Clint Goodrich from

the Kansas Department of Health and Environment presented on types of algae and water bugs commonly found in this area.

**May Minutes:** A motion was made by Diane Gruver and seconded by Linda Reynolds to approve the minutes, the motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Don Taliaferro reported that TAWGS has approximately \$2900. The pond tour added \$1170 to the TAWGS account. A motion was made by Floyd Gruver and seconded by Don Reiger to accept the treasurer's report; The motion carried.

**Other Business:**

- Pond Tour – Approximately 150 tickets were sold for the tour. Special thanks to Don Taliaferro, Phil Thompson, Linda Reynolds the Peterman's and the pond sitters for their help. A follow up Pond Tour meeting will be held to discuss feedback, outstanding issues and enhancements for next year.
- Topeka Beautification Association – Jim and Sue Mowder won the TBA pond landscape award  
A motion to adjourn was made by Doug Peterman and seconded by Phil Thompson. The motion carried.  
The next meeting is at 6:30 p.m., Aug. 15 at the Thompson's, 1740 SW Seabrook. Please bring a potluck dish to share.

## Moisture loving plants

by Duane VanDolah

### *Beggar Ticks* *Bidens Frondosa*



This native annual is considered a weed. Other names for this plant are Devils Beggarticks and Stick Tights.

As you can tell by the names this plant goes by, it gets no respect! The seed has two spines with barbs that attach to animal furs and clothing to aid in its distribution. Getting from 1-3 feet tall on a thin stem that usually branches halfway up, stems have a reddish color. A few white hairs that bore a single flower-head bloom on a long stem, sometimes 1-2 smaller flowers show on the lower branches. The leaves are in clusters, 3-5 in a group with the upper leaf a dull dark green and the lower part a light green. The pointed, serrated leaves are 3 inches long and 1 inch wide. Flowers are ¾ to 1 inch wide with a brownish center and golden yellow rays. These open in late summer to early fall and last a month. It grows in partial sun to full sun in moisture-retaining conditions, such as moist meadows along streams, ponds, rivers, and ditches



# Life cycles of a bullfrog

*The Pond Guy 8-25-12*

What would a pond or lake be without bullfrogs? These croaking amphibians – which can grow to 8 inches in length and weigh up to 1½ pounds – reside near water sources, like lakes, ponds, rivers and bogs. The brown-green frogs with the scientific name *Lithobates catesbeianus* prefer warm, still, shallow water.

Through their seven- to nine-year life cycle, bullfrogs pass through several stages of development. Ever wonder what happens during those stages? Keep reading, because here's what you need to know.

### **From Eggs to Tadpoles**

Bullfrog breeding, which happens externally, takes place in May to July in the north and from February to October in the south. The female adult bullfrog, which sports a white throat during the mating season, deposits as many as 20,000 eggs in a foamy film in quiet, protected waters; the male, which has a yellow throat during mating rituals, then fertilizes them. Four days later, tiny tadpoles emerge. The little guys are able to fend for themselves right away and will stay in their tadpole stage for almost three years before transforming into adults.

### **Pollywog Waltz**

While they're in their tadpole – or pollywog – stage, the tiny gilled critters live exclusively in the water and nibble on water plants for nourishment. At first, their bodies, which can measure up to 6¾ inches long, are long and narrow and include a tail where they store fat when food is in short supply during the winter months. After about one year, the tadpoles will start to grow legs. Shortly thereafter, they grow arms. And then, their tails shorten, they develop lungs, and their gills disappear. The tadpoles have transformed into froglets.

### **From Aquatic to Terrestrial**

After that two-to-three-year tadpole-to-frog developmental period, the bullfrog's final growth stage is when the froglet hops from the water to dry land. Thanks to its fully developed lungs, the now-carnivorous and aggressive frog can now breathe oxygen, and that gives it the freedom to emerge from its watery first home to the shore where it can hunt for anything that will fit in its mouth, including insects, small mammals, birds, fish and other frogs. The adult bullfrog rests by day, and defends and hunts its 3 to 25 meters of shoreline territory by night.

Finally, after three to five long years of growth and development, the tadpole has become an adult bullfrog and reached sexual maturity – and the life cycle begins again. Bullfrogs in the wild live to about 7 to 9 years old; in captivity, they can live as long as 13 years.

Now the next time you hear your bullfrogs

croaking, you'll have a new appreciation for them!

## Fertilizing your aquatic plants



*The Pond Guy 8-25-12*

If your aquatic plants look lackluster, aren't as lush as you'd like or are failing to produce those show-stopping blooms, they might need a little help – and that's where fertilizers come to the rescue.

Whether we're talking about plants in your water garden or vegetable garden, the soil they're living in provides them with nutrients that they take up through their root systems. If you have your plants in pots or if they've been in the ground for some time, the soil will need a boost of plant food. Adding fertilizer will encourage quicker growth in new and established plants, and it will deliver enough nutrients for the plants to form those colorful blooms.

So what kind of fertilizer should you use? There are three basic types to choose from:

- **Spikes:** Fertilizer spikes, like Laguna Plant Grow Fertilizer Spikes, slowly release plant food over the course of one year – making them super easy to use. The balanced nutrients in the spikes encourage both foliage and root growth and flower production, while the low phosphorous and no copper formula ensure no adverse effects on water quality or fish and plant life. You simply push the spike into the soil (one for every 1 to 2 gallons of planting container space) and forget about it until next year.

- **Tabs:** Tabs, like TetraPond® LilyGro™ Aquatic Plant Food, are formulated for use during your aquatic plants' growing season. As with the spikes, the nutrients in the fertilizer encourage greenery and bloom production, but the tabs need to be added to the soil monthly for best results. Using one tablet per gallon of potted soil, push it deep into the soil 3 inches from the crown of the plant and pack the hole with dirt to prevent the fertilizer from being released into the water.

- **Liquids:** Liquid fertilizers, like Microbe-Lift® Bloom & Grow Aquatic™ Plant Supplement, add micro- and macronutrients to plants through the water rather than soil. These supplements, which need to be added to the pond water once or twice a week during the plants' growing season, help produce brighter, faster blooms and healthier, stronger roots. The liquid fertilizers are safe to use around fish, but unsafe if the water is intended for human consumption.

No matter which form you choose, make sure it has no or low levels of phosphates, which fuel algae growth. You want your plants to grow – not the green water, right?

*Editor's note: You should stop fertilizing your pond plants about a month before the first freeze of the season.*

## What causes pond foam



*The Pond Guy 8-18-12*

Foamy pond? No, the neighborhood kid (hopefully!) hasn't dumped dish soap into your water garden or fish pond. The bubbly white or gray stuff you're seeing on your pond's surface is actually being caused by high levels of organic material in your pond. It's natural – but it indicates an out-of-balance problem in your pond.

### Question Your Water Quality

Foam forms when excess organic material has accumulated in your water garden. This happens when too many fish are living in the pond, you're overfeeding them, you have inadequate filtration or there's runoff flowing into the water.

When this nutrient-laden water pours down your waterfall, the air and water collide, causing the proteins and other organics to be trapped inside bubbles rather than turning into ammonia and nitrites. That air-water collision is why the foam seems to form at the base of your waterfall.

### Tips for Removing Foam

So how do you get rid of the white frothy stuff? You can remove the foam in several different ways:

1. **Use a defoaming product:** A temporary solution is to dissolve the foam with a fish- and plant-safe defoamer, like Pond Logic® Defoam™. You simply shake the can and pour its contents into the water. The foam will disappear in no time.

2. **Do a partial water change:** To reduce the overall amount of organic material in your pond, you should drain the pond halfway or so and add fresh water and the defoamer. This will remove some of the organic material, dilute what remains and prevent foam from forming.

3. **Reduce your fish population:** Too many fish will produce excess waste, which means more foam. Remember that the rule is to allow 1 inch of adult fish per square foot of surface area – so if you have too many koi or goldfish in your pond, you might want to think about finding new homes for some of your finned friends.

4. **Feed the right amount:** If you're feeding your fish too much, the excess food adds to the extra organic material in your pond's water. Only feed your fish an amount they'll gobble down in a few minutes.

5. **Beef up your filtration system:** A more powerful filtration system will remove those excess organics, so if you really want to erase foam, think about going bigger with your filter.

If you do suspect the neighborhood kids have dumped soap into your pond, your fish could be in danger. Do a water 90 percent water change before chasing the perpetrators down.



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

Sept. 19	Monthly Meeting
Oct. 7	Apple Fest
Oct. 17	Monthly Meeting
Nov. 14	Monthly Meeting & Potluck Dinner

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## 2012 Refreshments

Sept. - Doug & Marikay Peterman

Need volunteers for October

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads  
7-12, 8-12 or 9-12**

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

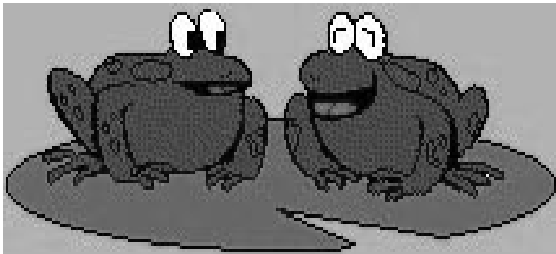
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW  
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

### 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](http://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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