



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 17, Issue 7

Aug. 1, 2014



A bubbling rock in the memory garden at Historic Old Prairie Town was built by Bob Saathoff and Ray Schroeder. Photo by Sherry Reed.

TAWGS Minutes July 16, 2014

President Tom Platis called the meeting to order. The scheduled speaker was unable to attend.

The treasurer's report showed a beginning balance of \$1692.51, inflows of \$160, and ending balance of \$1852.51.

A discussion of joining forces with Topeka Beautiful Association was again brought to the table. TBA's active membership is approximately four. They hold their meetings at members homes. It was discussed about combining the garden and pond tours, but questions were raised about dividing the profits made by the tours. After further discussion the majority of feelings were to leave the two clubs as they are and not join together.

John Guffy with Kansas Fish and Game notified Tom that they had lost their fish in the pond (constructed by TAWGS) due to muskrats. He was wondering if anyone had fish they would like to donate to restock the pond. It was decided to put out an e-mail asking for fish, which has been done. If there are no responses, Don Taliaferro made a motion to buy fish for the Fish and Game, setting a limit at \$100. Helen Platis seconded the motion.

The minutes from the June meeting was approved with a motion made by Don Taliaferro and seconded by Tom Routh.

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m. Aug. 20, 2014

Jim and Sue Mowder's home

3717 SE 31st ST

Speaker

Melody Weller - Wild Bird House

Bring lawn chairs

In a discussion of how to attract new members and keep them, a suggestion was made to have meetings possibly every other month at a member's home so members can learn more about ponds and get ideas. Jim and Sue Mowder volunteered to host the next meeting at their home at 3717 SE 31st Street. They will also provide the refreshments. We still need a volunteer to bring refreshments in September.

One person has received a membership from the card promotion. Sue Mowder will contact her and invite her to the next meeting.

It was suggested to be on the lookout for ponds for next years pond tour.

Don Taliaferro made a motion to adjourn and Jim Mowder seconded the motion. Sherry Reed, Secretary



Water plants

By Duane Van Dolah
Water Snowball

Gymnocoronis spilanthoides

When young, this herb is a marsh-growing perennial that forms a rounded

bush. As it becomes older, the stems become prostrate. The stems are pale green, scrambling and branching at the nodes. They get 3 feet long. The stems

are hollow and inflated, making them buoyant. The plant has leaves that are dark green, 5 to 8 inches long and 1 to 2 inches wide on short stalks. The leaves have serrated margins and are slightly waxy. Florets of white flowers are numerous and grouped into terminal heads 1/2 inch diameter.

This plant is a native of South America with hardiness in zones 9-11. It can be wintered over at the bottom of the pond in zone 5. Winter Snowball blooms in the summer and smells like baby powder. It grows in moist soil to up to 12 inches of water with a spread of 3 feet.

The Water Snowball is another excellent plant to attract butterflies to your pond. Plant in full sun or full shade.

Propagate by stem cuttings or by seed. *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides* 'Variegata' is another variety with white irregular margins on the leaves. Another cultivar has wine- red stems.



Lilies won't bloom

The Pond Guy 7-5-14

Those lily pads may provide much-needed shade and protection to your pond's underwater inhabitants, but if the plants lack those beautiful pink, peach, yellow and white flowers, that could be a sign

that something's amiss. Here, we've outlined some possible causes of your lilies' missing flowers:

- **Not Enough Nutrients:** Curling or yellowing of the leaves or flowers can be signs of nitrogen, iron and magnesium deficiency. Have you fertilized your lilies lately? If not, it may be time to give them a little plant food. Thrive™ Aquatic Plant Fertilizer Tablets slowly release nutrients for up to one month, providing your plants with what they need to flourish.
- **Insufficient Light:** Are your lilies getting six to eight hours of partial to full sun a day? Without that sunshine, the plant will appear weak and frail. If they're under a canopy or in a shadier part of your pond, move them to a sunnier location.
- **Overcrowded Plants:** Plants – terrestrial and aquatic – need room to stretch out their roots and grow. If they're placed in a tiny planter or there are too many packed in one area, this can stunt their development. Take some time to pull out those plant baskets from your pond and divide the lilies into separate pots.
- **Poor pH Levels:** Water lilies do best in water that's in the 6.2 to 7.4 pH range. Check pH levels frequently with a pH Test Kit to ensure the measurements are within that range and correct them accordingly.

Like your roses or other plants in your flower garden, your water lilies will benefit from some regular trimming and dead-heading. Prune or trim any flowers or leaves that have turned

yellow or brown. This will encourage new growth – and hopefully some new blooms!

Icky fish problems

The Pond Guy 7-12-14

If your fish develops a red spot such as the one to the right, it probably has a parasite called anchor worm. They are no fun.



These copepod crustaceans from the genus *Lernaea* bury themselves into the muscles of fish where they live and grow for several months, transforming into an un-segmented worm-like protrusion. Once developed, they make their way out of the fish, leaving behind bad wounds – which is the red area you're seeing on your fish. Right before anchor worms die, they release their eggs and the cycle repeats over and over again.

A fish suffering from an anchor worm infestation will show the following signs:

- Frequent rubbing or 'flashing,' which is when it rubs its body up against objects attempting to dislodge the parasite
- Localized redness
- Inflammation on its body
- Tiny white-green or red worms in wounds
- Breathing difficulties
- General lethargy

Parasites like anchor worms can be introduced into the pond when new aquatic critters or plants are added to the existing mix. Unbeknownst to water garden hobbyists, the anchor worms hitch rides on the other fish or in the soil and roots of plants and establish themselves in their new home.

The cure for anchor worms is a pond-wide treatment with an anti-parasitic medication like KnockOut™ PLUS. As soon as you see signs of anchor worm, pour the recommended amount in your pond daily for seven consecutive days. When the infection clears up, continue treatment for an additional three days to ensure the parasites are gone for good.

If you plan to add fish or plants to your pond this summer, you can also use KnockOut™ PLUS as a preventive. It treats a variety of other fish ailments, including ich, fungus and flukes. Simply add it to the water when you introduce the new pond inhabitants.

Good luck getting those anchor worms under control. We hope your fish feels better soon!



String algae grows quickly

The Pond Guy 7-19-14

String algae. It seems to just grow and grow, leaving a tangled mess of green slimy stuff in your stream and water garden.

Like other types of algae, string algae thrives on sunlight and excess nutrients like fish waste and decomposing organic matter in the water. If you want to get rid of it, check out this five-step plan designed to get your string algae problem under control.

- **Add Plants:** Water lilies, water hyacinth, water lettuce and other floating aquatic plants look much nicer than algae, right? These ornamental plants will compete for the food source algae uses for growth, so plant away! A simple rule of thumb is to have 60 percent of your pond covered with submerged, floating and marginal plants.
- **Ration Fish Food:** Those pellets and sticks are necessary to feed your finned friends, but keep in mind that fish food adds nutrients to the water in two ways: as wasted food that the fish don't eat, and as waste after the fish digest it. Monitor how much your fish actually eat and cut back if possible.
- **Pump Up Filtration:** If your filtration system isn't powerful enough to handle your pond's total fish load, you'll wind up with burgeoning algae growth and, in worst-case scenarios, lethal levels of ammonia – neither of which you want. Many filters on the market are rated for ponds containing no fish or minimal fish, so get a filter that is rated for at least two times the water volume of your pond.
- **Turn Up Aeration:** Beneficial bacteria, like those found in the DefensePAC®, naturally break down fish waste, but they need oxygen to thrive and reproduce. By adding a PondAir™ Aeration System, you'll boost the oxygen in the water, increase your bacteria levels and reduce the nutrient load, thereby reducing algae growth.
- **Use Oxy-Lift Defense:** As needed throughout the season, use Oxy-Lift™ Defense® to lift string algae from waterfalls, streams and rocks. Simply shut down your waterfall, sprinkle the powder directly onto debris-covered areas and watch it instantly start foaming. In 24 hours, it will have removed the algae. Be sure to pull out any debris with a pond net.

String algae may seem like a never-ending battle, but you can manage it with these tried-and-true methods. Good luck!

Adding Night Interest to Your Pond

Reprinted from Water Works, North Texas Water Garden Society, June 2014.

by Darren Lucas, Nature's Touch Ponds

New Jersey ponds look great during the day with the bright sun highlighting the glimmering waterfalls and catching the subtle sparkle of its fish, but what about at night when it is dark? Most people are missing out on how beautiful a pond and surrounding landscape can be with a professionally installed low voltage landscape lighting system. The art and science of low voltage landscape lighting has evolved to a point where it is possible to transform any pond and the surrounding property into a dynamic nighttime scene of breathtaking beauty.

Strategic placement and proper selection of lighting fixtures will ensure an elegant night-time scene. Properly sizing a transformer and wire is most important. Always consider the opportunity to add more lights. There are numerous methods to illuminating your pond. We do however discourage installing underwater lights in ponds. They will become covered with algae, can be hard to service, and are subject to corrosion. Also, for every foot of depth that the fixture is placed approximately 50% of the brightness or foot candles are lost. This lighting effect is murky at best. The following lighting design techniques will accentuate and enhance the natural beauty of any pond.

- **Reflective Lighting** – Select objects that can be seen reflecting on the pond surface, such as rocks, plant materials, trees, statuary and structural features. Then by up lighting or grazing these objects a beautiful reflection is seen in the pond.
- **Moon Lighting** – By installing fixtures in a nearby tree, a natural moonlight effect will create shadows from branches and leaves onto the pond. Remember to install the fixtures within the tree canopy to get the best shadowing effect.
- **Path Lighting** – Lighting paths around the pond defines the pond edges and creates reflections in the water. There are numerous path lights available from various manufacturers. Keep in mind the path lights should enhance the beauty of the pond and not clutter the scene we are trying to create.
- **Waterfall Lighting** – Bullet or deck lights that are strategically placed will make any waterfalls explode with sparkling dazzle and will complete the nighttime scene.

Additional advantages of Landscape lighting are:

- **Security** – High voltage floodlights leave dark shadows and unseen areas around a property. A better choice is strategically placed low voltage landscape lighting fixtures that provide proper levels of even illumination.
- **Safety** – Low Voltage lighting is the ideal choice for illuminating walkways and entranceways. This ensures that residents and visitors can safely navigate around the property.
- **Usability** – Illuminating the private areas of a property allow the evening enjoyment of decks, sitting areas, and recreational spaces. The flexibility of low voltage landscape lighting provides the opportunity to add, re-

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

August 20	Monthly Meeting
September 17	Monthly Meeting
October 5	Apple Fest
October 15	Monthly Meeting
November 19	Pot Luck

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locate and adjust fixtures easily and inexpensively.

- Beauty – Low voltage lighting accentuates the shapes and textures of a landscape and its structures. Lighting designers not only paint pictures with light, we create dramatic scenes that give the viewer a dynamic experience of their pond and property.

- Economy – Low voltage lighting consumes about 1/3 the electricity and costs about 1/3 to install and maintain as compared to high voltage systems.

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
6-14, 7-14, 8-14 or anytime in 2013**

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

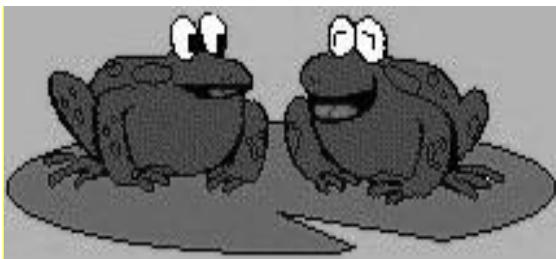
Send dues to
Jim Mowder, 3717 SE 31st ST, 66605

**THE TOPEKA AREA
WATER GARDEN SOCIETY**

2014 OFFICERS:

Tom Platis Topeka	President 785-478-9514
Floyd Gruver Holton	Vice President 785-364-3046
Sherry Reed Topeka	Secretary 785-408-5060
Jim Mowder Topeka	Treasurer 785-267-0672

Meetings are usually 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 Mowder, 3717 SE 31st ST, Topeka, KS 66605.



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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