



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 4

May 1, 2014



Donna McNicholas shows the protection she wears to keep bees from stinging her.

The bees knees

by Sherry Reed

Beekeeper Donna McNicholas from Holton, Kansas spoke to us about her 22 years of experience raising bees and harvesting their honey. When not tending her bees, Donna grows many, many vegetables in her one acre garden and two greenhouses, and numerous fruit and flowers which she sells every Saturday at the Holton's Farmers Market.

A bee hive is constructed of two or three boxes with nine frames in each box where the bees deposit the honey. Twenty-thousand bees are needed to start a new hive. There is one queen bee for each hive. The female bees are called worker bees and the male bees are called drones. The queen bee can lay 1,000 eggs per day. It takes 21 days from the time an egg is laid until it becomes a working bee. The worker bees help the hatchlings out of the egg. The young bees will work within the hive before they leave to forage. They clean the cells within the hive, feed other hatchlings, clean the hive, and protect the hive. Then they have to learn how to forage. They will go out and back just short distances and eventually increase the distances they will travel for the pollen.

A good hive can produce seventy-five pounds of honey in one season. The honey is extracted from the

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m. May 21, 2014

Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore

Speaker

To be announced

hive on or before August 10. The honey can be used raw or it can be pasteurized, which will extend the freshness.

To keep the bees healthy and producing, medications are introduced into the hives before the honey flow in the spring and again in the fall. The bees should also be protected from cold winters by relocating their hives on the southeastern side of trees or buildings.

TAWGS Minutes April 16, 2014

Welcome back to Diane and Floyd Gruver and Pat and Tom Routh. President Tom Platis called the meeting to order.

Our guest speaker, Donna McNicholas of Holton gave a very interesting talk on raising bees.

The treasurer's report showed a beginning balance of \$2,257.55, an inflow of \$55.00 and ending balance of \$2312.55. TAWGS is in good standing with the IRS.

Old Business: There are 4 or 5 ponds that are definite participants for the pond tour. We would like to have 3 or 4 more for the tour. Don Taliaferro will help organize the tour.

The pond at the Midland Hospice has been taken care of by the Midland staff. Ward Meade is planning to build a memorial garden on the west side of the mansion, hopefully with a bubbling rock feature. Funds for this project will be raised by selling bricks to be laid in the new garden.

Dedication of a new plaque recognizing clubs which have helped with developing and maintaining the Ted Endsley gardens at Lake Shawnee will be this Friday, April 18 at 2:00. Members of TAWGS are welcome to attend.

Bob Saathoff made the motion to adjourn, Don Taliaferro seconded the motion.

Sherry Reed, Secretary



Pat Routh checks out a peony type tulip before the TAWGS meeting at Ward Meade.



Waterplants

By Duane Van Dolah
Eichhornia

This free floating plant comes from South America and is considered one of the most useful plants to have growing in your pond.

Care must be used in how to utilize them, though. Hardy in zones 9-11, they must have warm water temperatures above 65 degrees to start actively growing. Because of their fast growth, careful planning is needed. The benefits are shading the surface of the pond, which reduces algae, and the reduction of nutrients in the water from the water hyacinths' heavy feeding helps keep the water clean and clear.

The dark green, round fleshy leaves stand 4-10 inches above the water but get taller when the plant is crowded and starts to mound up. The plant free floats on spongy, inflated leaves at its base. The spread of the Water Hyacinth is indefinite, so it might be necessary to contain it in a floating ring made out of a hose or keeping it in a corner of the pond by a heavy fishing line. The one-day-lasting, lavender-blue flowers appear on 12-inch stalks in late summer if the hot season is long enough and they are crowded. The yellowing of the leaves or stunted growth is usually caused by a lack of warmth or lack of food. In small water gardens, it is best to rotate half the plants into a container of water soluble fertilizer for a week or if a vegetation filter is used, put the plants in it.

The long trailing roots are a source of food for the fish and for the females to lay their eggs in. There are several cultivars that are found for the water hyacinth: "Major", a slightly larger plant with pinkish-lilac blooms and 'Aurea', a yellow blooming variety. It is illegal to put them in waterways and in some states they can't be sold at all.

They are extensively used in some water treatment plants because of their heavy feeding, which purifies the water of contaminants.



Is your filtration system adequate?

The Pond Guy 3-29-14

Clean, clear water is a must-have in any water feature. It allows you to see those gorgeous koi

and goldfish swimming below the surface. It shows that you have excellent water quality, with plenty of oxygen for your pond's inhabitants—including the microscopic ones, like beneficial bacteria. And it puts off no offensive odors, which means you can host shindigs by your water garden without scaring off your friends.

When your water quality is suffering, your pond is telling you that your filtration isn't up to par. Here are four clear signs that say you need to kick it up a notch.

1. **Algae Blooms, Clarity Concerns:** If you have a filtration system in place but you still have water clarity issues and algae blooms, that's an obvious indicator that you need an upgrade. When selecting a more powerful filtration system, like our AIIClear™ PLUS Pressurized Filters with a built-in ultraviolet clarifier, make sure it's sized appropriately for your pond and its nutrient load.
2. **Fish Frenzy:** If your pond's resident fish have multiplied and grown over the years, then you're likely overdue for a more powerful filter system. Most filter systems are marketed for a minimal fish load, so too many fish producing waste will overload the system. Remember: The rule is to allow 1 inch of adult fish per square foot of surface area. If you have too many koi or goldfish in your pond, you should think about finding new homes for some of your finned friends or increasing your filtration.
3. **Toxic Test Results:** Test your pond's water with one of our Master Test Kits to find out what your ammonia, nitrite and phosphate levels are. If you see high ammonia levels or if your fishes' health has been suffering, the pond lacks proper filtration.
4. **Foamy Falls:** Have you seen foam build up at the base of your waterfall or stream? All that frothiness, which is caused by excess protein and oil excreted by fish and other pond dwellers, can be a sign of excessive nutrient levels caused by inadequate filtration. A higher-powered filter system can help remove and dissipate that foam.

If you have a waterfall filter box, you can easily boost your filtration system's water-cleaning power by adding Matala® Filter Pads. With four different densities—low,

medium, high and super high—you can mix and match them to suit your pond's unique needs.



Changing the UV bulb

The Pond Guy 4-19-14

Your UV bulb is an important component of your pond's filtration system. The bulb's ultraviolet rays destroy the ultra-fine planktonic

algae that cause green water by destroying the plant's cellular walls. The tiny dead algae particles are then removed by your mechanical filtration system, leaving behind clean, clear water.

UV Ready

For maximum effectiveness, you should change your UV bulb at least once a year, such as when you perform your pond's annual spring cleanout. If you've recently changed your bulb and your water is still turning pea soup green, you might need to simply clean off debris that has built up on the bulb itself.

Whether you have a standalone UV clarifier, like the PowerUV™ or one that's part of a filtration system, like our ClearSolution™, use a soft cloth when cleaning or changing the bulb rather than using your bare hands. The oils on your skin can actually shorten the lifespan of your bulb.

Unfortunately, a UV clarifier does not affect string algae at all, so you'll need to use AlgaeOff® or AlgaeFix® to rid your pond of it. But if your pond turns green from planktonic algae every year from full sun exposure or too many fish, a UV clarifier is an excellent solution.

Preventing Algae Growth

Though UV bulbs do a great job with green water, an even better solution is to prevent algae growth in the first place. Planktonic algae flourishes in ponds that have nutrient-rich water—meaning water that has lots of fish waste, leftover fish food, decomposing plant material and even fertilizer from your lawn.

You can tamp that green growth down by reducing the number of fish in your pond, minimizing the amount of food you feed them and cleaning up the waste they produce, as well as regularly removing the built-up detritus.

Consider using the Pond Logic® DefensePAC®, which uses beneficial bacteria to improve water quality throughout your water column, eliminate muck and built-up debris, and enhance fish health. With quick and easy application, you'll see noticeable results in no time.

Lets try again!!!

by Floyd Gruver, Vice President

I haven't had an overwhelming response from TAWGS members about what kind of programs you would like to hear at our meetings.

Surely some of you have ideas about something that you would like to know more about. If you have an idea

please call me at 785-364-0684.

Fixing a leaky liner

The Pond Guy 4-26-14

Dropping water levels and wet patches appearing around your pond indicate one thing: a leaky liner.

Don't worry. It does not mean you need to rebuild your water garden from the ground up. You just have to patch the leak.

Your repair process starts with determining the size of the leak. Smaller holes can simply be patched; larger punctures or multiple tears need a bit more attention. Here's what we recommend based on the leak size.

For Smaller Holes ...

If you have a small hole in your liner that's 5 inches or less, you can use the EPDM Pond Liner Patch Kit. It contains everything you'll need to fix minor tears or holes, including a EPDM rubber patch, solvent wipe, a scrub sponge, seam roller and pair of disposable gloves.

To begin, make sure the surface is both clean and dry. If necessary, relocate your fish in a holding tank while prepping the liner and performing your repair. After the patch is in place, you can top off your pond's water level, and acclimate and return your fish to their home.

For Tears or Punctures ...

To repair smaller tears or punctures without draining your pond, you can use Underwater Pond Sealer. Remember, however, that it has to be beaded on, not smeared on, because it's a sealer, not an adhesive. When used as directed, it'll start to be tacky in two to three hours, and fully cured in 48 hours. The sealer performs best in water that's 60° Fahrenheit.

For best results, clean the surface and make sure it's free of grease and algae. If necessary, relocate your fish in a holding tank while allowing the repaired area to fully cure.

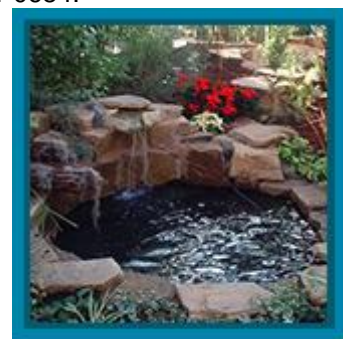
Then place sealer directly onto the surface you wish to bond/seal. Put two 5mm diameter beads of sealer 100mm apart on the overlap. Gently run your fingers over the line to make sure the sealer has connected both pieces of liner. Do not press it flat, and don't be tempted to pull it apart to see if it has stuck! Allow the sealer to fully cure before returning your fish to the pond.

For Multiple Tears or Large Punctures ...

Larger punctures of multiple tears will require some work. You'll need to put your fish in a holding tank, drain the pond and adhere a new piece of liner to the existing one. Here's what you'll need and how the process should go:

First, you'll need to purchase a liner seaming kit, a new piece of liner and have some protective gloves on hand. After you've repaired the tears and ensured that the adhesive had done its job, refill your pond, and acclimate and return your fish to their home.

Good luck repairing your leaky liner!



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

May 21	Monthly Meeting
June 18	Fish Fry at Saathoff's
June 28-29	Topeka Pond Tour
July 16	Monthly Meeting
August 20	Monthly Meeting
September 17	Monthly Meeting
October 5	Apple Fest
October 15	Monthly Meeting
November 19	Pot Luck

2014 Refreshments

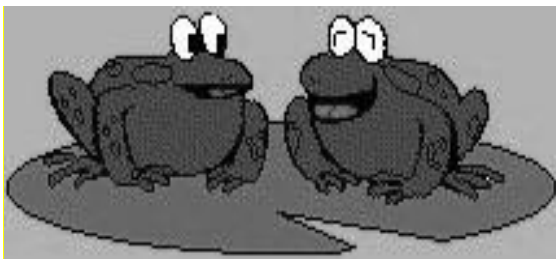
May – Sherry Reed
 June – Saathoff's and Taliaferros
 July – Gruvers
 August – need someone to volunteer
 September – need someone to volunteer
 October – Tom and Pat Routh
 November – Pot Luck

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
 4-14, 5-14 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:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor
 408 Emerald, Holton, KS 66436
 785-364-3046 or 785-364-0666
fdgruver@embarqmail.com

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