



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 19, Issue 7

From your President.

July's meeting was held in conjunction with our Post Pond Tour Party at the Heinemann's and as usual, we enjoyed the company and fellowship of other Ponders. With the 2016 Garden Show and the 25th Annual Pond tour completed and announcements that one of Topeka's vendors, Waterscape Concepts, is going out of business, we must set back and look at what's to come. Here is what I posted in last month's newsletter.

“So with this year's success comes next years' challenges. Like waterfalls with a beautiful crystal clear blue oasis below waiting for you to enjoy a swim, there is so much to do to get to the top before you jump. So it is with growing the club and bringing in new membership. The tour always helps

August 1, 2016

Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. August 17, 2016

Home of

Dave and Mary Horner

3912 SE Tomahawk Road

Guest Speaker

Dave Horner

Photographer Extraordinaire

bring awareness to the club and we have gained a few new faces, but there is a lot to do moving forward. The face of our two biggest venues are changing. First, we may be on our own for the 2017 Topeka Garden Show as I hear Shawnee County Parks and Rec may not be able to support us. Second, as large water features are being downsized to smaller more quaint and enlightening entertainment pieces and as the internet explodes with DIY YouTube videos, we need to be able to provide

incentive to join our club. That means more public appearances and more on-hands tutorials. So, I ask you to grasp this change and I encourage all of you to get behind your President and his successor. The waterfall is high but the pool is deep. The jump is still scary. Will you jump and join the party or climb down and set beside the stream? Your decision will make the difference.”

As a member for 3 years (your VP last year) and current President; I have seen the support and participation of club membership and am reflecting on my effectiveness, have come to the conclusion that it will take more leadership skills than I possess to move this club forward. The daunting task of herding everyone down the right path, building an advertising base and being the Editor of the Pond Tour Guide is no easy task that takes valuable time from other endeavors and so it's time to make change.

This month, August, according to By-Laws, we are to appoint a Nominating Committee. They are responsible for finding new officers for 2017. I encourage all of you to put your thinking caps on and be prepared to step forward. In September you will have to present a list of candidates and in

October, you will vote new Officers into the club. This is a very important pivot point for TAWGS and one that cannot be taken for granted. I'll see you through the close of this year and encourage you to try to find a path that will fit your desires.

In closing you need to ask this question. Will you be the working club that was originally chartered on July 30th, 1998 to constructing water features throughout the community through hard work and dedication while providing awareness of the club through community events like the Garden Show or shift your focus into a purely social club for a place to gather to eat, drink and tell grand stories of the past? That decision will determine the longevity and direction of the club of the future. It is a difficult decision, but one that must be addressed. I know what your hearts say, but your bodies are telling a different story. Be prepared to voice your comments during this next meeting. I know the right decisions will be made.

Happy Pondering,

Chris

Please RSVP for August Meeting

Chris at cnewll@cox.net

Or

Dave at dahorner@gmail.com

Moving day for the clubs supplies to the new location.

Tom's and Don's Bait and Tackle
2118 NE Meriden Road
Topeka, Ks 66608
785-861-7275



L-R Mary Horner, Kevin McCarthy, Dave Horner, Bill Kraus and Bob Saathoff. Not pictured Chris Newell (someone had to take the picture)

TAWGS Minutes July 2016

Chris Newell, President, called the meeting to order at the second annual post-pond party in the beautiful backyard of Dave Heinemann. A big thank you went out to the Heinemann's and the Horners' for hosting this fun get-together.

The 25th annual pond tour proved to be another successful venture for all involved as well as the community. The number of advertisers and ticket outlets were increased this year. We also had more media coverage, with TV, radio and newspaper. This along

with the hard work put in by the pond hosts and club members made for a wonderful weekend and increased profit for TAWGS.

There were sixteen comment cards returned. One of the suggestions was to add the gallons of water each pond holds. This will probably be added to the descriptions of the ponds in the program books.

The cost for printing the ticket booklets increased this year due to the fact that the booklets grew from 24 to 32 pages.

Linda Reynolds made a motion to reimburse Chris Newell and Don Taliaferro for expenses they encountered in preparation for the tour. Diane Gruver seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New business noted was to start considering new nomination for officers for 2017 at our next meeting. Also we need to start forming a Pond Tour committee for next year.

Old business mentioned was that TAWGS will be creating our booth for the Kansas Garden Show 2017 on our own without Shawnee County Parks and Recreation, Friends of Ward Meade or Topeka Beautification Association. So this committee needs to be formed soon.

Bob Saathoff made a motion to have the August TAWGS meeting at Dave and Mary Horners' home. Don Reiger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Another motion was made by Phil Thompson to have the **September TAWGS meeting at the home of Craig Dannenberg and Brad Williams, at 1143 SW Wayne.** Floyd Gruver seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned. **Sherry Reed, Secretary**

WATER PLANTS
By Duane Van Dolah

CHINESE LIZARD TAIL



SAURURUS CHINENSIS

A pond plant with heart-shaped leaves, the Chinese lizard tail has white splotches on the topmost leaves with the rest of the foliage being bright green, giving the plant ornamental value even when not in bloom. The white flowers are graceful arched spikes 4- 6 inches long and fragrant. The plant grows in sun and part shade in moist soil or water up to 6 inches deep. Its height is 18- 36 inches with a running spread. Another selection that is showy but slow to grow is 'Oregon Gold', an all-gold variety. The Chinese lizard tail grows in zones 4-11 planting in 2-5 gallon pots. Propagation is by division of clumps in spring until summer. with

RACCOONS

No pond is safe from raccoons

Reprinted from Doug Green's

Build your pond deeper.

This animal doesn't swim for their fish food and unless your fish come right up to the edge to be scooped out, a raccoon will not swim in to "harvest" lunch.

Build fish refuges in the bottom of the pond.

This is as simple as laying a two foot long section of six or eight inch drain pipe on the bottom of the pond for this fish to hide in. Cover this section over with gravel or larger stones so it will not shift and will seem part of the natural bottom of the pond. The fish will learn to hide there quite quickly. Make two – they are cheap to construct.

Get a dog and leave it out at night. This one needs no explanation. :-)

Electronics

Use an electronic scarecrow or pest ultrasonic sound blaster (or both combined). These gizmos are controlled by a motion detector and when it detects motion (you have to remember to turn it off when you go out to the pond) it activates the device. Similar to the driveway light controllers for your house, these motion detectors run either a water sprinkler (excellent for cats) and/or a pest ultrasound device.

The ultrasound devices are common on some overwintered boats where the animal breaks into the boat and lives aboard for the cold months – leaving the interior of the boat a shambles. Be aware that this device will bother dogs and cats as well. It is also recommended that you put it on a timer of some kind as the animal may become used to it if it runs constantly.

If the animal is not bothering your fish but digging up your plants, you'll find the electronic devices to be your best remedy.

There is no fence they can not climb and literally no other deterrent (short of a totally electrified fencing system) that will keep them out of your garden.

Topeka Area Water Garden Society
3119 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66614

| | |
|--------------|---|
| August 17 | Monthly Meeting |
| September 21 | Monthly Meeting |
| October 2 | Apple Fest |
| October 19 | Monthly Meeting |
| November 16 | Monthly Meeting Pot Luck Dinner |

RENEW YOUR DUES THIS MONTH

Larry Leinwetter

Linda & Doug Reynolds

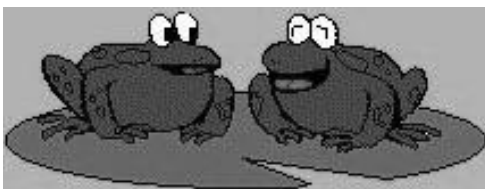
Send dues to

**Jim Mowder, 3717 SE 31st Street,
Topeka, KS 66605**

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY 2016 OFFICERS

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Chris Newell | President |
| Topeka | 785-633-4854 |
| Open | Vice-President |
| Sherry Reed | Secretary |
| Topeka | 785-408-5060 |
| Jim Mowder | Treasurer |
| Topeka | 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 Street, Topeka, KS 66605



The Lily Pad

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 submissions 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:

Don Taliaferro, The Lily Pad Editor
3119 SW Arrowhead Rd. Topeka KS 66614

dontal@swbell.net

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