



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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July 1, 2016

From your Pres.

The 25th Annual Topeka Area Pond Tour came to a close June 26th at 10pm after the last guest said good night to Craig and Brad at Pond Number 1. This year was special in that it marked the 25th time a Pond Tour had been held in Topeka and I was pleased with the turnout considering the public had other venues that weekend to choose from, blistering temperatures and some rain on Sunday. Overall, I would give us a Thumbs Up.

A lot of work goes into this event each year. Let me start by thanking the TAWGS Pond Tour Committee members Don Taliaferro who was responsible for finding ponds, distribution and retrieval of Directional and Host signs/flags, creating and having made the Host plaques, stocking our Ticket Outlets and moving Tickets around and in general being there as a sounding board for questions. He's a valuable asset to any organization. To Sue Mowder for taking on the role of Media

TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

Cordially invites You to a

**POST POND TOUR
POT LUCK PARTY**

LOCATION, DATE & TIME

Dave & Kristine Heinemann
3826 SW Cambridge Court
July 16th from 6:30pm - 9pm

Help us celebrate the success of our
25th Annual Topeka Area Pond Tour

Dave & Kristine will provide all the Burgers,
Brats, Buns, Condiments and cool drinks while
Dave and Mary Horner will add their own
splash of refreshments.

Bring a covered dish, plastic ware and a place setting
then set back and enjoy their new outdoor kitchen
while the sound of a water dances in the distance.

RSVP by Friday the 15th
cnewell@cox.net or daveh123@cox.net

Director. She worked hard at getting all this information out in a timely manner and making sure we had coverage and scheduled interviews with the local radio and TV. Great job Sue. To Sherry Reed for helping distribute

Tour Guide to various Ticket Outlets. Tom Platis for arranging all the Pond Sitters, always a daunting task asking for volunteers and finally, Jim Mowder for doing a couple of interviews, donating cardboard stands for the Tour Guides and of course, getting all the cash boxes ready and dealing with all the proceeds and invoicing of advertisers. With this said, let's not forget the real stars of the event.

To all the Pond Hosts that said yes and opened their homes to the public. I know it's a big decision, and scary one, but I also know you have a great time meeting all the people and sharing your dream.

To all our Advertisers, a gracious and well deserved thank you. Without you, our bottom line would be much smaller and funds raised for community events would be much less. As with any fund raising event, your contributions are a big help and greatly appreciated. We only hope that the return on your investment is rewarded many times over through our

community seeing your support and using your services.

Too the Pond Sitters, your dedication to give up touring the beautiful ponds and setting for hours on end counting visitors, marking guides, selling tickets, passing out corrections and this year, suffering through the heat. It's that type of commitment that makes our club a true family and this event a success.

With nearly 200 people attending, I will call the event a success even though I wanted 375. But there is always next year. Other than one directional mishap (a road closure) and an early morning scare on tickets selling out, the event went off without a hitch. This year we had 9 beautiful ponds and water features set in various landscapes taking in everything from a trickling stream to a water stone and weeping walls. From simple shubunkin and gold fish to Koi. From modern waterscapes to Shogun themed architecture built into a hillside and a even a timeless English Garden. Wildlife sanctuaries to backyard entertainment centers and with 3 hosts offering up evening entertainment, there was something for everyone.



One of the nicest and most appreciated happenings was when Sunflower Journeys contacted me and wanted to do a feature article. They met with Dianne, Don and I as well as several of the Pond Hosts.

Let's look for that to be aired late fall 2016. I'll keep you posted on the release when they notify me. But for



now, a special thanks to Scott Williams, his invisible assistant and KYWU for being as excited about filming the event as we are about hosting it.

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 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.

In closing. Thank you, each and every one of you, for being a part of this year's 25th Anniversary and allowing me the opportunity to be a Part of your family.

Time to rest up for next year.



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

July 16	Post Pond Tour
	Pot Luck Party
August 17	Monthly Meeting
September 21	Monthly Meeting
October 2	Apple Fest
October 19	Monthly Meeting
November 16	Monthly Meeting
	Pot Luck Dinner

Your Dues are due If your label reads

Any time in 2016

Please renew to continue receiving this newsletter

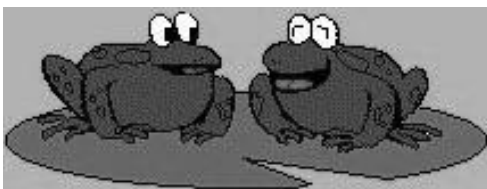
Send dues to

**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



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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
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dontal@swbell.net

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