



## *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 9**

TAWGS Minutes from September, 2016

President Chris Newell called the meeting to order in the beautiful backyard of Craig Dannenberg and Brad Williams.

A Big Thank You goes out to Craig and Brad for hosting the meeting in a wonderful setting and to Brad for presenting a fantastic program on “do-it-yourself” landscape lighting.



Cards were signed by members for Diane Gruver, who is recovering from surgery and Linda Reynolds on the loss of her mother. Love and blessings to both of you.

Tom Platis made a motion to approve the August minutes as they appeared in the Lily Pad. Don Taliferro seconded the motion.

Jim Mowder presented the treasurer’s report. Monies from the pond tour have

**October 1,2016**

### **Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 pm October 19, 2016**

Preston Hale Room  
Ward Meade Park Botanical Gardens  
124 N. Fillmore  
Topeka, Kansas 66606

## **Election of Officers**

been received from all advertisers but two. They are expected to be coming in soon.

Bob Saathoff had a short report on the progress of Anna’s Pond at Ward-Meade.



More fish have been put in the pond. There has been a lot of work done on the Asian garden around the pond. He asked for any volunteers who might be able to go

once a week and just check and do light maintenance on the ponds at Ward-Meade.

The Topeka Area Water Garden Society will be featured on KTWU's "Sunflower Journeys" on September 29, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Jim Mowder shared some ideas on keeping TAWGS a functioning group. He suggested the need to simplify some of the activities, such as, decreasing the number of ponds on the pond tour, therefore, cutting down on the need for so many pond sitters and saving monies on printing fees by using a smaller program with the possibility of members printing them. He also suggested having a smaller booth for the Kansas Garden Show. The idea of also meeting at different members ponds during the year may help cut back on finding as many speakers for our meetings. Other ideas thrown out by other members were to become a social club or join with other groups in the area that are declining in members.

Bob Saathoff nominated Craig Dannenberg for President of TAWGS for 2017. This will be voted on at the next TAWGS meeting.

Jill McCarthy made a motion to adjourn, Craig Dannenberg seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Sherry Reed , Sectetary



Jim Mowder, Sherry Reed

**DON'T FORGET  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
AT THE OCTOBER  
MEETING**



California Loosestrife

**Photos the Asian Garden**

Photos of September's Meeting



Chris Newell



Craig Dannenberg, Brad Williams





**Q:** This is my first winter with a pond. Do I need to bring in my plants?

You've been watching your aquatic plants flourish all year. Your water lilies and hyacinth put off big blooms, your irises and cattails became homes for frogs and dragonflies, and your submerged plants provided a home for your fish and snails.

With the cold weather on its way, now what do you do with them? Well, it all depends on where you live and what types of plants you have.

**In the Zone**

What's your hardiness zone? The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map will help you determine which plants will thrive in a particular location. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree Fahrenheit zones.

In general, if you live in a hardiness zone that's frost-free, congratulations! All you need to do is trim off dead foliage with your Scissors & Pliers, fertilize the plants as necessary and enjoy them all year round.

If you live in an area that freezes, however, you have some work to do.

Like terrestrial plants, aquatic plants – whether floating, marginal or submerged – are sensitive in varying degrees to freezing temperatures. Some species will overwinter just fine in frostier hardiness zones, while others will wilt and die at the slightest hint of ice.

So before you do anything, get to know your plants and identify which ones are in your zone and which ones aren't.

**Overwintering Your Plants**

Winter care of water lilies, marginal/bog plants and submerged plants will depend on if they're tropical (anything that likes temperatures above your hardiness zone) or hardy (anything geared for temperatures in your hardiness zone or lower).

- **Tropical Plants:** These sensitive beauties, including tropical water lilies and canna, will need to be removed from the pond and replaced next season, or removed and relocated to a warm indoor space for winter. Read about how to overwinter tropical water lilies in this recent blog post.
- **Hardy Plants:** These easy-care troopers, including hardy water lilies and submerged plants, only need to have dead foliage removed after the first hard frost. Simply use your AquaGloves™ and Scissors & Pliers to trim away any spent leaves, lily pads or flowers. Once trimmed, sink the plants to the deepest part of your pond. Hardy

**Photos of Apple Fest**



Sandy Reiger



Earlene Jirk , Tom Platis

**This is my first winter with a pond. Do I need to bring in my plants? | Decorative Ponds & Water Gardens Q & A**

plants will go dormant for the winter and re-grow in the spring.

Floating plants, like hyacinth and water lettuce, can be treated like an annual; they will die over the winter, so remove them from your pond once they begin to yellow. Luckily, they're inexpensive to replace and will grow quickly once re-added. Please note: hyacinth and water lettuce can be invasive so be sure to dispose of them properly and never release into public water.

Good luck caring for your pond this winter!



## Beneficial bacteria in winter

Many ponds in colder climates are dormant now with pumps and filters disconnected. What can you do if the pond becomes somewhat stagnant? One of the alternatives is to use a good cold weather beneficial bacteria product to help keep the pond working until warmer weather lets you put some movement back into our garden pond.

A couple of products that are favorites to use for this purpose:

-- Microbe-Lift Autumn/Winter prep for a bacteria specially formulated to work in colder water temperatures and

-- Aqua One is a good, all-around beneficial bacteria product that works in almost any temperature.

Anytime a pond starts to smell even just a little bit it is a sign that things are not well. This circumstance should be avoided at all cost and remedied at once if it occurs. Cold water bacteria will help keep the pond healthy so it comes back to life in record time and as healthy as possible.

## [How do I prepare my fish for winter? Do I need to bring them inside? – Water Garden & Features Q & A – Week Ending September 26th](#)

by thepondguy

Allow harmful gases to escape by adding a diffuser.

## Water Garden & Features Q & A

### **Q: How do I prepare my fish for winter? Do I need to bring them inside? – Liz in Michigan**

A: As the temperatures fall, we may be pulling out our winter coats and goulashes, but your fish don't need them at all! In fact, pond fish, like koi and goldfish, do quite well in a pond over the winter – even if it freezes over – as long as your pond is at least 18 inches deep (though we recommend 24 inches to be certain the fish don't turn into popsicles). The fish will go into their annual torpor, or dormancy, and will require little more than clean, oxygen-rich water to survive.

To ensure they get that life-sustaining oxygen, you will need to do four things:

**1. Remove debris from the pond.** In the fall, before ice forms, give your pond or water feature a good cleaning. [Rake](#) out debris, trim dead leaves off plants, [net](#) floating leaves and remove as much detritus as possible so very little will be decomposing – and releasing harmful gasses – through the cold months.

**2. Add some beneficial bacteria.** Also in the fall, you may want to add some beneficial bacteria, like [Pond Logic®'s Seasonal Defense®](#). It accelerates the decomposition of leaves, scum and sediment that builds up during the fall and winter months. In the spring, it replenishes winter bacteria loss, jump starts the filter and breaks down unwanted waste, making your pond water ready for a clean spring and summer.

**3. Install an aerator or air stone.** Colder water holds more oxygen than warmer water, but you'll still want to inject air into the pond during the winter months, especially if your pond freezes over. One or two air stones or a [diffuser](#) placed in a shallow part of your pond will be enough to aerate



the water and keep a small hole in the ice, which will allow harmful gasses to escape and oxygen to enter.

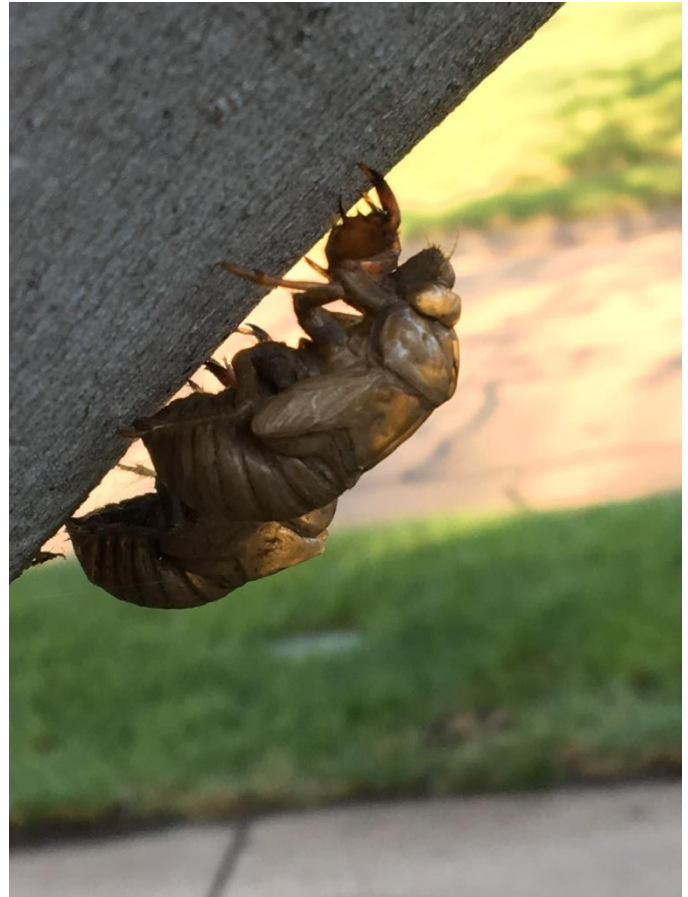
**4. Hook up a heater.** If you live in a frigid area where the ice on your pond builds to an inch or more, you can use a floating heater or de-icer, like the [Thermo Pond](#), that melts through the ice. Again, it's critical to keep an open hole in the ice to allow for gas exchange.

In most cases, your fish will be just fine through the winter months. When the water warms, you can begin feeding them again and enjoying them for yet another year!

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Fall Critters

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

October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Meeting
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Meeting
	<b>Pot Luck Dinner</b>

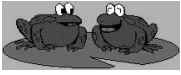
**Send dues to**

**Jim Mowder**  
3717 SE 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
Topeka, Kansas 666

**Topeka Area  
Water Garden Society**

<b>Chris Newell</b>	<b>President</b>
Topeka	785-633-4854
<b>Open</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Sherry Reed</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Topeka	785-408-5060
<b>Jim Mowder</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
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 31<sup>s</sup> 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 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](mailto:dontal@swbell.net)

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