

The Lily Pad

The Topeka Area Water Garden Society

Published Monthly – February to November

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December 1, 2003

TAWGS Minutes November 19, 2003

Mary Bechtold reported that 19 TAWGS members met for the November meeting and potluck supper November 19th. No official meeting was held since President Tom Platis and Secretary Diane Gruver were absent.

Jim Green reported that the club had a total of \$6,241.45 in the savings and checking accounts. He also reported that TAWGS gave \$100 to the David M. Puff Memorial.

The evening was spent eating, visiting and getting better acquainted.

The next meeting will be February 18th. Lynn Pelton and Susan Kraus will provide the refreshments.

Thank you letter from Ruth Puff

Editor's Note: I hope that Ruth won't mind me sharing this note she sent to me after David's death.

Diane,

Thank you for the nice article in The Lily Pad. David and I both have always felt you do a marvelous job with the newsletter. Probably not many people know the countless hours you spend doing this although it does show by the way the newsletter is always written so well so maybe they do.

We have met many wonderful friends thru the Water Garden Society, the Garden Council, and just thru gardening that our lives have been enriched immensely. It has been and will continue to be a blessing to us. I can't even imagine what the world would be like without all the gardeners who do so much volunteer work. David would correct me here and say it isn't work it is doing what you love. I hope the world knows how lucky it is to have all the Gardeners including all the garden business, Parks and Rec. and individuals on this earth. So many countless hours have been given by everyone without recognition but in our hearts we all know and what comes and goes from the heart is the most important asset in our lives.

I'm not good with words, but there is no doubt in my heart. I know what I feel. Please thank everyone for their friendship and thoughtfulness from David and I both. We know the fortune of having good friends.

Sincerely,

Ruth Puff

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m., Wed., Feb. 18, 2004

Program to be announced

Winter pitfalls

Reprinted from 11-24-03 Splash

We lost a whole pond full of pretty large Koi one year because of rapid temperature changes. The water was very, very cold after a prolonged and severe winter. Then, one day, the temperature suddenly spiked at 72 degrees Fahrenheit. This causes the upper layers of water to warm rapidly and because of the different density of the warmer water and the colder water, the pond "flipped" rapidly (the warmer water went down, the cold water rose).

Koi are very sensitive to sudden temperature changes and did not survive this upheaval. It was awful. I don't mind admitting that I cried for weeks every time I looked out of the window and was reminded of the catastrophe!

It is best to avoid this kind of disaster by letting a small pump bubble at the side of the pond, about a foot or so down to keep the water circulating just a little bit.

Another cause of fish loss is a pond covered in ice and snow. The snow darkens the pond and plants that may be left at bottom (oxygenators and even algae) will start taking already depleted oxygen from the water. Always sweep snow off the pond to avoid this common pitfall! (NEVER step on the ice, use a long handled broom to avoid falling in).

Winter pump care

If you turn pumps and filters off for the winter, be sure to drain all the connected plumbing. External filters, UV's, and external pumps will also need to be drained to prevent damage. Store pumps in water to prevent drying out.

Fun (pond) fact

Reprinted from 11-24-03 Splash

Goldfish have an acute sense of smell and hearing. They also have teeth, which are located far back in their throat and are used to crush food.

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

Calendar of Events

Dec.	No Meeting
2004	
January	No Meeting
Feb. 1 – 5	Flower Lawn & Garden Show, American Royal, KC
Feb. 18	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Feb. 20-22	Topeka Lawn & Garden Show*
February 27-29	Johnson Co. Lawn & Garden Show
March 3 – 7	Wichita Lawn and Garden Show
March 17	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
March 18 – 21	Kansas City Home Show, Bartle Hall
March 26-27	St. Joe Water Garden Seminar
Apr. 10 – 21	Binkley Tulip Days
Apr. 21	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
May 19	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
June 16	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
June 26-27	13 th Annual Topeka Pond Tour
July 10 – 11	Kansas City Pond Tour
July 21	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Aug. 18	TAWGS Monthly Meeting

*Note correction

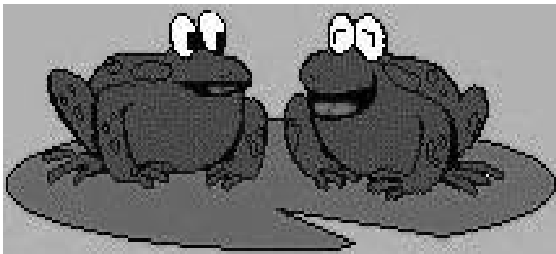
**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
 9-03, 10-03 or 11-03**

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

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

OFFICERS:

Tom Platis	President
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Becky Coffman	Vice President
Topeka	785-272-6568
Diane Gruver	Secretary
Holton	785-364-3046
Jim Green	Treasurer
Topeka	785-272-7139



Check it out - www.tawgs.org

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The Lily Pad encourages submission of articles pertaining to water gardening from the membership and other interested parties. Deadline is the last weekend of each month. Address input and/or questions to:

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