

The Lily Pad

The Topeka Area Water Garden Society

Published Monthly – February to November

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June 1, 2003



Thanks for the fountain

Dear TAWGS friends,

There is a real calming effect as one walks into the front door at the Ronald McDonald House and this is due to the generosity of water garden friends.

Thank all of you for this beautiful fountain.

Enclosed are pictures for the scrapbook.

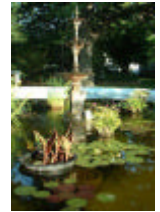
The Staff & Volunteers at RMH

Minutes for 5-21-03 Meeting

TAWGS members met at Skinners at 6:00 for a field tour of their nursery. Cameron Rees took members through their display area on the north side of the parking lot and talked about plants that would work well in landscaping around water gardens. Some low growing plants that would look nice around ponds are Veronica Water Perry and Veronica Patrea. They are not as aggressive as something like marsh marigold or creeping Jenny. Cameron suggested if you plant aggressive ground covers you could plant them next to dense taller plants to keep them from spreading. Others plants that he talked about were artimesia, silver mound and salvia. He said to try to mix and vary texture and leaf color, such as using low growing junipers and conifers. A tough groundcover is coral berry buck brush. A nice bush with blue flowers that could be used in the landscape is false blue indigo or the bush honeysuckle. Members had a chance to

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m., Wed., June 18, 2003

**Dedication of
Fountain at
Ward Meade Park**



Invited guests include David & Ruth Puff,
Garden Council Clubs and dignitaries

wonder through the grounds and ask Cameron questions about individual plants and problems.

Following the field trip, members went to Ward Meade Park where members introduced themselves after partaking in refreshments provided by Stan and Mary Bechtold and Donnis and Gerald Hodges.

The April minutes were approved as mailed in the May Lilypad.

Treasurer Jim Green reported that our current total for checking and savings accounts is \$5,101.30.

Becky Coffman reported that we made \$213.25 on the plant sale in April and thanked everyone that brought plants and worked at the sale. Thanks to Caryn and Larry Sheets who donated lilies for another individual sale, which brought in \$50.

Becky also reported that approval has been given for the fountain at Ward Meade to be re-named and dedicated as the David Puff Fountain. She and Mary Bechtold have talked to Ruth and David Puff and have decided to move the dedication to the June 18th meeting. Other garden clubs and dignitaries will be invited to join us at 7:00 p.m. for the dedication. Members are asked to bring finger food for the celebration, as well as to let Mary know if they have any nice serving dishes that could be used. Michael Bradley moved and Caryn Sheets seconded that we also spend up to \$200 to buy supplies and supplement the hors d'oeuvres the members bring. Motion carried.

Dean Demoss said that he has purchased supplies for the maintenance of the fountain at Ward Meade and he will keep the list for the maintenance this summer. Gerald Hodges helped him move the lilies to the

fountain from Ward Meade and it is up and running. He said Ray Schroeder said if anyone has extra fish they are welcome to put them in either pond. Dean passed around a list for people to volunteer to help with the maintenance of the pond.

Diane Gruver reported that we have 10 ponds for the pond tour in June and plans are coming along for the event. The reception for the pond hosts will be at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 19th, at Puddles-N-Pads. The next committee meeting will be June 4th at the home of Gerald and Donnis Hodges. Michael Bradley passed around a work sheet for volunteers to be pond hosts during the tour.

Jim Green reported that he has been in contact with Georgia Abbott at the VA Hospital. The VA has selected a suitable site and will do some of the rough digging. A pond design still needs to be done and then he will get bids on the materials needed. The construction will not be started in time to put the site on the June pond tour, however.

Under new business Jim suggested two changes in the bylaws that would make it easier for the treasurer. The first is to eliminate the petty cash fund and the other is to remove the requirement of two signatures on all checks. Michael Bradley moved and Jim seconded that we publish the changes in the June newsletter and vote on them at the July meeting. Motion carried. See the exact proposed changes elsewhere in the newsletter.

Earlene Jirik said that the Meade Garden Club has a bus tour going to Powell Gardens east of Kansas City on Saturday, June 7, 8:00 a.m. - 5: p.m. There are a few seats left and they are \$35 each, which includes transportation, ticket and lunch. Call her at 266-5492 if you want to go.

Becky said the program in July would be on small water garden containers and that she and Jeannine Miller will give the program. Volunteers for refreshments in July are: Caryn Sheets, Earlene Jirik and Betty Karnes.

Meeting adjourned.

Adding water to your pond can add chlorine

Reprinted from 5-03 Water Garden News

We all know that chlorine (Cl) is added to tap water and we also know that chlorine is toxic to fish. So why are we talking about it now? There are two reasons. The first reason is that many people still add water to the pond without dechlorinating. You may have often heard that it is safe to top off the pond with chlorinated water as long as you are not adding more than about 5 percent of the total pond volume. While this amount of chlorine will not kill your fish instantly, any chlorine exposure affects the fish's gills and can stress the fish. A stressed fish is a fish that is weakened and more susceptible to disease.

The second issue is in regards to evaporating

chlorine. Another common practice of adding water assumes that chlorine will evaporate from the water over a few days. Yes, the chlorine will dissipate on its own, the time it takes for this to happen depends on factors such as the amount the utility company adds and the weather. But, many municipalities are now also adding chloramines (NH₂Cl) to tap water. Chloramine is chlorine that is bonded to ammonia. Chloramines do not dissipate on their own. They should be removed by adding a dechlorinator that also removes chloramines.

The bottom line is that dechlorinator is not expensive and can be one of simplest things we can do to protect our aquatic pets.



TAWGS members help customers at the Garden Council Plant Sale. From left: Becky Coffman, Jeannine Miller, Gerald Hodges, Dean Demoss and Larry Sheets.

Plant sale successful

by Diane Gruver

Weather was perfect for the plant sale for once! We had beautiful sunshine and no wind. It hardly seemed possible after the cold, wet and dreary days that we've encountered the last few years.

Even though we didn't have any water lilies to sell this year since we didn't re-pot the lilies at Ward Meade Park, we still made \$213.25 due to the generosity of members who donated plants and water plants. Larry and Caryn Sheets did donate some bare root lilies later to a pre-sale of lilies that Joe Breitenstein had arranged. Thanks Sheets!

Thanks to Becky Coffman who chaired the sale and to members who brought plants and worked. It's a fun time and a good chance to get better acquainted.

The importance of fertilizing and manicuring lilies

By Randall Tate, Chief Manager

Reprinted from 5-03 Water Garden News

We often get inquiries about why a water lily is not blooming well. There are many possibilities.

Some water lily hybrids will bloom better than others but if your water lilies are not blooming as well as you would like the problem is most likely one of three things.

- You are not getting enough sunlight (five or six hours of sunlight is required for most water lilies.)
- Your plant is pot bound and needs repotting.
- There is a lack of sufficient fertilizer.

Water lilies are heavy feeders and require regular feeding to bloom well, especially if potted in a small pot. If your water lily has spent two or three years in a five gallon or smaller pot then you will want to divide and repot the plant before you can expect good flower production. Water lilies can be divided anytime during the active growing season. It will only take two or three weeks for your hardy water lily to begin active growth again.

Tropical water lilies can be fed as often as twice a month and be able to utilize the fertilizer and reward you with more and larger flowers. Tropical water lilies are such fast growers that it is difficult to over feed them. Tropical lilies usually provide 5-7 times as many flowers as hardy lilies. It is not necessary for tropical water lilies to be in a large container if well fertilized.

Hardy water lilies should be fed monthly during the growing season to help the plant produce a lot of flowers. Flowers are also larger on plants that are well fertilized. Since hardy water lilies spend more than one year in a pot choose a large diameter pot for best results. Water lilies do not need more than six or seven inches of soil depth since the roots are shallow and new growth is along the surface. A pot that is 14" to 16" in diameter will provide room for about three years of growth.

As water lilies grow older leaves turn yellow and begin to decompose. These dead and dying leaves as well as spent flowers should be removed otherwise they will feed the algae and pollute the water. You can remove these simply by clipping them off as close to the pot as possible. For harder to reach plants, you can get in the pond or use a plant trimmer.

It is important to use the proper analysis of fertilizer for your aquatics. It is OK to use a fertilizer high in nitrogen (the first number in the analysis) when feeding a marginal plant that is grown for foliage and not for its flowers. When fertilizing water lilies and other plants that we grow primarily for flowers it is important not to use too much nitrogen. You should select a fertilizer that has more phosphorus (the middle number) than nitrogen. The third number represents potash content. The fertilizer should also have some means of feeding for long periods to keep you from burning the plants by applying too much fertilizer or having to feed the plants too often. We sell Pondtabbs, which are slow release tablets that feed for several weeks and are easily applied by pushing one or more tablets into the pot where it is slowly released to the plant instead of being released into the water contributing to algae growth.

Fertilizing your plants should begin as soon as you see new growth in the spring and end about a month before a killing frost.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

CURRENT: ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

- Sec. 1. Only duly authorized officers shall expend the funds of the society.
- A. A Petty Cash Fund of up to \$200 shall be available to cover expenditures between meetings. Expenditures may be made with the approval of three officers. Expenditures of over \$200 must be approved by the membership.
- Sec. 2. The incoming officers of the society will perform annual audit of the financial records of the society.
- Sec. 3. The Secretary, Treasurer, President or the Vice President must sign all checks. (Two signatures needed.) Signatories cannot be related.
- Sec. 4. A record and receipts of all petty cash expenditures shall be maintained.

PROPOSED: ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

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Keep aggressive plants in pond

Reprinted from 4-4-03 Splash

Aquatic plants are the crowning glory of garden ponds and many are available, but some are nuisance plants in some areas of the country! Water Hyacinths are unlawful in most southern states where they can survive the winter and clog waterways. Even yellow Iris are banned in some states and so are several others: Purple Loosestrife, Parrots Feather, Water Chestnut, Water Lettuce and the list goes on.... It is the responsibility of individual pond owners to keep the more aggressive plants strictly in the pond. They should never be disposed of where they could possibly thrive outside of the confines of the lined garden pond!

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

2003 Calendar of Events

June 7	Meade Garden Club Bus Tour
June 18	TAWGS Monthly Meeting Dedication of Ward Meade Fountain
June 21-22	Topeka 12 th Annual Pond Tour
June 21-22	Wichita Pond Tour
June 28-29	Lawrence Pond Tour
July 12-13	Kansas City Pond Tour
July 16	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
August 20	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Sept. 17	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Oct. 15	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Nov. 19	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
2004	
Apr. 10 – 21	Binkley Tulip Days

Pond Tip

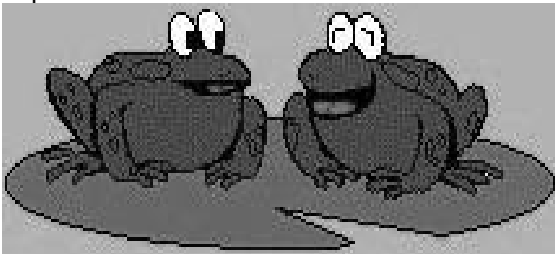
Try adding potato sized cobble stones on top of the gravel to discourage fish rooting around in your water garden plants.

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
4-03, 5-03 or 6-03**

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

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY OFFICERS:

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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.