



# The Lily Pad

The Topeka Area Water Garden Society

Published Monthly – February to November

Volume 7, Issue 5

June 1, 2004



*Volunteer pond builders at the VA Hospital Pond Project May 15 include: back row Bob Whitehead, Jim Green, Mary Eberhardt, Dick Rckey, Pat Rokey, Marykay Peterman. Second row: Dale Jirik, Diane Gruver, Helen Platis, Dean Demoss, Mary Ann Bechtold, Kent Hampton, Becky Coffman, Bob Coffman, Doug Peterman. Front row: Donniss Hodges, Gerald Hodges, Duane Eberhardt, Brad Cheney, Vicky Walters and Scott O'Shea.*

## VP Pond project completed

*By Diane Gruver*

One rock short. One pizza slice left. Planned to a Tee! That's about how you could describe the VA Hospital Pond Project that took place the second week of May.

The big dig took place on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, in spite of nearly an inch of rain that morning, so the hole was ready for the twenty some volunteers that converged on the scene on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Georgia Abbot, the horticulture therapist at the hospital, had coffee, bananas and muffins ready for us when we got there. She also provided water, restroom availability, etc. We were treated royally. TAWGS provided pizza at noon for a welcome break. Finally at about 3:45 the pumps were turned on and the first water spilled over the huge waterfall, accompanied by claps and shouts of joy.

Chairman Jim Green and his committee consisting of Doug and Marikay Peterman, Don Tallifero and Becky Coffman did a great job of planning and carrying out the project. Co-foreman Doug managed to get volunteer help from Bob Whitehead who also donated many nice rocks and his time and

### Monthly Meeting

**7:00 p.m., Wed., June 16, 2004**

**Xeriscaping – Pat Shaw,  
Master Gardener, Topeka**

tractor to help us move rocks and dirt on Saturday. It took Bob and his tractor and 6 men to handle the big rocks in the waterfall. Oooo, too scary to even watch!

Many thanks to pond installers Scott O'Shea and Brad Chaney, who volunteered their time and expertise, and to Vicky Walters who just heard about the project and wanted to learn how to build a pond. Thanks go to Eric and Trina Wood who donated six boulders for the landscape, Brad Cheney who donated lilies and to Alice Eberhardt-Wright who donated several marginals and lilies.

Thanks also go to ALL of the volunteers that participated – some for a few hours, some for all day, including: Jim Green, Doug & Marikay Peterman, Don Tallifero, Becky & Bob Coffman, Betty Karnes, Dean Demoss, Mary Ann Bechtold, Duane & Mary Eberhardt, Earlene & Dale Jirik, Gerald & Donniss Hodges, Kent Hampton, Pat & Dick Rokey, Bob Whitehead, Vicky Walter, Scott O'Shea and Brad Cheney. (And me, of course.) Also thanks to: Georgia Abbot, Erin & Dale Bremer and Pat Smith from the VA staff.

### TAWGS Minutes May 19, 2004

The May meeting of TAWGS was a little unusual in that the speaker canceled at the last minute so we had lots of time to visit and discuss committee projects. Following self-introductions we discussed the upcoming Pond Tour to be held June 26-27. Mary Ann Bechtold reported that the committee has been meeting informally by phone and e-mail. Ponds have been visited and we have 10 ponds on the tour. The waivers are ready to be mailed and need to be signed and returned soon. She has contacted three radio stations and they requested 10 free tickets each in return for advertising. Don Taliaferro moved and Jim Green seconded that we donate 30 tickets for free radio advertising. Motion carried. Jim moved and Janet Nyfeler seconded that we let members sell tickets in advance. Tickets will be checked out to members who will be responsible for either returning the

ticket or paying the money. Motion carried. Mary Ann will be in charge of checking out the tickets. If you want to sell tickets in advance, please contact Mary Ann at 267-1611 evenings. Advance tickets will be available for sale at retail outlets after June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Jim Green said that the VA Pond project had been completed the prior weekend and he thought the project went very well. He said that he thought that we spent around \$3,720 and came in about \$500 under budget. He stated it was the first pond we had built without the help of Eric Wood or the late David Puff and he was a little nervous about it at first but with the fine help of Doug Peterman, Kent Hampton, the committee and the many others who helped it all turned out fine. He thanked everyone that worked so hard to help make the project a success. Marikay moved and Dave Heineman seconded that we give a \$50 gift certificate and a years TAWGS membership to Bob Whitehead for his donation of rocks and to help pay for the gas and use of his tractor all day. Motion carried. Don Taliaferro moved and Marikay Peterman seconded that we buy a plaque to put at the pond. Motion carried. It will state something to the effect that the pond was built and donated by the Topeka Area Water Garden Society to honor all veterans. Jim will check into getting the plaque.

Refreshments provided by Marikay Peterman and Mary Ann Bechtold were enjoyed during a break. When the meeting resumed President Tom Platis thanked Marikay and Mary Ann and asked for volunteers to provide refreshments next month. Becky Coffman and Carol Gnagy volunteered.

Mary Ann Bechtold moved and Stan Bechtold seconded that the April minutes be approved as mailed in the May Lilypad. Motion carried. Diane said that several e-mail addresses are bouncing back as bad addresses and requested that anyone with a new e-mail address, or has changed their address, to please let her know. She also reminded everyone to check their label or watch the e-mail with their newsletter and to pay their dues when so noted.

Vice President Becky Coffman reported that the speaker for the June meeting would be Master Gardener Pat Shaw. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office at 1740 SW Western Ave. (north of the livestock barn at the fairgrounds - southwest of the Expo Center). She will talk about Xeriscaping.

Treasurer Jim Green said that we should have a total of about \$3,283.47 in the combined accounts after the outstanding VA pond bills are paid. He reported that we made \$192 on the plant sale in April.

Joe Breitenstein reported that there would be a 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration with a party at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at Ward Meade. There will be free tours of Ward Meade attractions that day. On Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, TAWGS is to provide refreshments for the Garden Council meeting at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers can leave the refreshments at Ward Meade after 7:30 that morning or at Joe's home at 2012 SW 30<sup>th</sup> prior to Monday. Helen Platis, Becky Coffman and Betty Karnes said they would bring goodies. Explaining that it was not a door prize, Joe's "Show & Tell" consisted of a beautiful calla lily that he had grown. He also said

that he still had some iris left from the plant sale.

Dean Demoss said that he would be in charge of the fountain maintenance again this year. He has leftover lily rhizomes to give away after the meeting.

Becky said that she would like to make a gazebo for the backdrop for the booth at the lawn and garden show but she would need a storage place for it and the pond. No volunteers came forward with storage space. The pond needs to be moved from Sheets storage building as soon as possible.

Becky said that she would like to suggest that the funds from the 2004 pond tour be spent on refurbishing the plumbing and fountain at Ward Meade. She will talk to Ray Schroeder about it.

Diane Gruver volunteered to organize a Member's Pond Tour for Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Hodges's, Peterman's, Blubaugh's, Gnagy's, Bechtold's, Eberhardt's, Fischer's and Janet Nyfeler volunteered to share their ponds. Diane will try to compile a tour map.

Jeannine Miller displayed a TAWGS T-shirt that she had machine embroidered and said that she is available to make one for anyone that needs one before the Pond Tour in June. Her phone number is 357-8840. Please don't wait until the last minute.

Meeting adjourned.

## The facts about UV

*by Randall Tate, Chief Manager, The Water Garden  
Reprinted from 5-04 The Water Garden News*

UV or Ultraviolet light has been used in many industries. It is used for sterilizing instruments in the medical field and for sterilizing drinking water. It has also been used for aquariums and ponds for several years for algae control. Basically there are four main components of the ultraviolet sterilizer: a germicidal lamp, a quartz sleeve to protect the lamp from the water, a ballast to provide the correct electrical requirements for the lamp, and the housing which holds all of the other parts and the water flows through it.

### **What UV does & doesn't do**

There are a lot of misconceptions regarding the use of UV in water gardens. One concern is that you will sterilize your pond and kill all of the beneficial bacteria. This is impossible. Not all of the water will pass through the UV in one circulation and there is always going to be beneficial bacteria inside your biological filter and on everything in the pond, including the liner. What the UV will do, when properly sized for your pond and flow rate, is reduce some bacteria, including harmful bacteria, as well as microscopic organisms that could be harmful to your fish. It will also destroy the DNA in single cell algae thereby killing it very efficiently. This will provide clear water when the turbidity is due to suspended algae. UV provides 100% success for achieving clear water from single cell algae in a pond.

### **UV is not a filter**

While UV will provide clear water it does not filter the pond water. One concern of using UV in a pond is that some people will look at their perfectly clear pond and think that the water quality must be good for the fish. You can have clear water and still have water that would

be detrimental to the fish. Always use good biological filtration along with the UV in your pond. You need the biological filter to break down the ammonia given off by the fish and to break down dead organics including the dead algae that is killed by the UV. If you don't have enough biological filtration then you may see one algae problem disappear (green water) and another one (filamentous algae) replace it.

#### **Clarifier, sterilizer...what's the difference?**

When shopping for a UV you may find some confusing statements. Some companies don't even call their UVs sterilizers. They call them clarifiers. Company X says that their 25 watt UV is for ponds up to 1200 gallons and company Y says that their 25 watt UV is for ponds up to 2300 gallons. What's the deal? There are actually two reasons for the discrepancy. When a UV is sized as a clarifier it may not provide crystal clear water and a large number of plants are required to assist with the clarity. If a UV is sized for sterilization then you can have crystal clear water even without plants in the pond, although the plants will certainly make for a healthier pond. Another difference you will see is the efficiency of a particular brand over another. Some companies use parts that may not perform as well as another brand. Some make claims that are not backed up by facts. As an example, one company states that because their UV is made from stainless steel you get reflected UV increasing the output. This claim is not backed up by scientific data. They base their information on data that is over 20 years old from experiments conducted with UV reflected through air not water.

Aqua Ultraviolet is one company (there are a few) that only uses the best materials available. In fact, based on independent test, their 25-watt UV produced more than double the output of another popular brand. This test compared a lamp from Aqua Ultraviolet that was 14 months old and the competitor unit was new.

Adding a UV to your pond can provide some real benefits but get the facts before making your purchase and be sure to include adequate biological filtration as well.

## **Frogs, toads, and tadpoles**

*by Randall Tate, Chief Manager, The Water Garden*

*Reprinted from 5-04 Water Garden News*

There are several types of frogs that may inhabit our ponds. Some frogs being aquatic will live a large portion of their lives in the pond while others will live nearby using the pond for breeding and for the food that it offers. Toads will also take up residence near a pond for the same reasons. Frogs and toads eat a lot of insects including mosquitoes. Their offspring, tadpoles, initially eat algae and as they grow they add insects to their diet. Some of these amphibians breed only in the spring while others will lay eggs several times throughout the year.

#### **Frog or Toad?**

"What's the difference between a frog and a toad?" you may ask. Toads are dry and have warts. Frogs are wet to the touch and have smooth skin. Toads hop as they have short hind legs. Frogs have

long hind legs and jump. Toads do not have teeth but frogs have tiny teeth. Toads lay eggs in long strands while frogs lay eggs in clumps or large globs. These eggs are enclosed in a jelly like substance.

Some people are concerned when they first see the large mass of eggs in the pond. After they hatch you may have hundreds of tadpoles in the pond. At this point we get a phone call asking, "what am I going to do with so many frogs, my pond will not support this many". There is no need to worry. A lot of the tadpoles will never make it. If the tadpoles are toads then they will leave and take up residence elsewhere helping to rid the area of unwanted mosquitoes and other insects. If the tadpoles are frogs they may not be a type of frog that lives in the water. As soon as they mature off they go looking for a home. Some of the frogs that live in water will choose your pond for home and a lot of them will look for new ponds to inhabit.

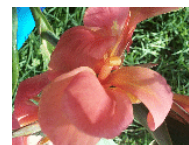
#### **What's in your pond?**

There are a lot of different species of toads and frogs that could be using your pond as a nursery. Depending on where you live in the US you could have American toads, Spadefoot toads, Fowler's toad or others. Common frogs that you are likely to see are Spring Peeper, Gray Tree frog, Green Frog, Leopard Frog, or Bullfrog. The Bullfrog is probably the least desirable species since they tend to dominate the pond eating the other species to extinction. They also will eat some fish. With amphibians being on the decline worldwide your pond may be the best hope of recovery for many species. Amphibians provide a necessary environmental benefit and we can help by providing shady cover and areas of moist mud or mulch for them to use for winter hibernation.

#### **Featured Aquatic Plant:**

## **Water Canna**

*Reprinted from 5-10-02 Splash*



A truly dependable bloomer! We have one in our pond under a huge tree. It gets virtually no sun and it blooms every summer! To be sure, it does not bloom as spectacular as if it were in the sun, but it does bloom continuously! The plant can easily reach 5 or 6 feet in height and will spread to fill as big a pot as it is planted in. This is a tropical plant and must be taken inside during the winter months in colder climates.

### **2004 Programs**

- June 16 – Xeriscaping – Pat Shaw, Master Gardener, Topeka
- July 21 – Building a bog and plants that go in a bog – Kip Walker, Puddles-N-Pads
- Aug 18 – Bring birds into your backyard – Paul Willis, Master Gardener/Audubon Society
- Sept. 15 – Closing your pond – Eric Wood, Puddles-N-Pads
- Oct. 20 – Different types of plants for your yard – Pat Rokey, Master Gardener
- Nov. 17 – Pot Luck Supper – no speaker

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

## Calendar of Events

June 16	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
June 26-27	13 <sup>th</sup> Annual Topeka Pond Tour
June 26-27	St. Joseph Pond Tour
June 26-27	Wichita Pond Tour
July 10 – 11	Kansas City Pond Tour
July 21	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Aug. 18	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Sept. 15	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Oct. 20	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Nov.17	TAWGS Pot Luck Supper

## Water Garden Tip

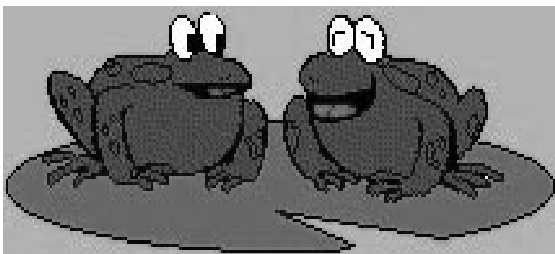
*For maximum plant performance, be sure to fertilize your plants regularly. Water lilies and lotus are heavy feeders and need to be fertilized every 3 to 4 weeks.*



**Your Dues are Due if your label reads  
 3-04, 4-04, 5-04 or 6-04**  
 Please renew as soon as possible to continue  
 receiving the newsletter.

## THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY OFFICERS:

Tom Platis	President
Topeka	785-478-9514
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](http://www.tawgs.org)**

## *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 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:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor  
 408 Emerald, Holton, KS 66436  
 785 364-3046 (w) 785-233-4085  
[fdgruver@holtonks.net](mailto:fdgruver@holtonks.net)

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