

The Lily Pad

The Topeka Area Water Garden Society

Published Monthly – February to November

Volume 7, Issue 2

March 1, 2004



Workers at the TAWGS booth at the Lawn and Garden Show (l – r) Diane & Floyd Gruver, Don Taliaferro, Mary Bechtold, and Donnis & Gerald Hodges.

2004 Lawn and Garden Show successful

by Becky Coffman, Committee Chairperson

It looks like another year of the show has now come and gone. This year seems to have been a busier year than the last one. Could it be that we had great weather this year compared to last year's super cold weather? From what I heard, the little pond that Bob Coffman made for us was a big hit. I think it has found a permanent place at the show. I didn't hear whether my idea on showing people how to repot their water lilies was a good thing or not, so let me know.

This year there were a few new exhibits and the old standbys like us. Some of the big nurseries went all out for the theme this year.

I heard that a lot of programs and some pond applications were handed out, hope to hear from some of them. Hopefully we will get some new members from the show, time will tell.

I would like to give a big THANKS to my committee: Bob Coffman, Dean DeMoss, Duane & Mary Eberhardt, Jim Green and Mary Blubaugh, they were a big help to me. A special thanks to Larry Sheets who helped Dean get the pond to my house, to decorate, than to the expo for the show and picking it up when the show was done.

The committee would like to give a pat on the back to all the people who took time out of their busy schedule to help man the booth: Duane & Mary Eberhardt, Sheila Thomas, Don Taliaferro, Regina

Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m., Wed., Mar. 17, 2004 Opening your pond

By Deb Spencer, Waters Edge

Stock, Larry Sheets, Dick & Pat Rokey, Doug & Marikay Peterman, Lynn Pelton, Jeannine Miller, Betty Karnes, Dale & Earlene Jirik, Bob & Cheryl Saththoff, Tom & Helen Platis, Gerald & Donnis Hodges, Jim Green & Norma, Kent Hampton, Mary Blumbaugh, Sue Herd and Floyd & Diane Gruver.

Without these people this would not have happened, so thank you for your time. I hope that every body had a lot of fun and was able to look around also. Hopefully you had so much fun that next year you will volunteer again to do this or even be on the committee.

Thanks again.



Mary Blubaugh (in the pink sweater) watches as booth visitors examine up close the cut-away of a pond.

Plants in and around your pond

By Diane Gruver

"Make your pond relate to your yard," Vivien Smith told TAWGS members at their February meeting as she gave an informative program about plants in and around the pond. She discussed points such as light,

style, design and maintenance which all affect the outcome of our landscaping design.

Light – Vivien suggested that we sit in our yards and observe the sun and shade. The amount of sunlight will determine the types of plants used both in and around the pond. Pond plants bloom best if they have at least 4 – 6 hours of sunlight.

Style – Do you like a Japanese style of neatly pruned plants; a formal style with trimmed hedges and straight lines; or a cottage style with everything “just growing?” What colors do you like?

Design - Questions that need to be addressed are: Do you want a patio, a bench or a path? Do you need to screen off a dog run, a compost pile or an unpleasant view of the neighbor’s yard? The backbone of the garden is the big stuff that draws your eye like tall trees, hedges, a fence, arbor or trellis. The background is in between the backbone and the point of view (pond). It is the medium plants that fill in. One thing to remember is that plants with blue flowers make your yard look bigger, and plants with red flowers make your yard look smaller. Another consideration is to think of the texture and variegation of the plants and to space the bloom time so you’ll have things blooming spring through fall. Decide if you want your pond to be the first thing you see in your yard, or do you want it slightly hidden so it’s a surprise when you take a turn in the path. Other things to think about are seating areas or paths.

Maintenance – Decide how much time you want to spend in your garden. Annuals are easy – you plant and water them and they bloom most of the summer. Perennials need to be deadheaded and have a shorter bloom time. “Don’t forget to mulch,” Vivien stressed.

After her prepared remarks, Vivien asked if anybody had any questions. They did.

What are good plants for the stream bed that are not invasive and don’t cause wicking? “There are no plants for stream beds that don’t wick,” Vivien said. To keep plants from wicking, plant them in plant pockets *inside* the liner, she said. Siberian Pinks love waterfalls and might not be quite as invasive.

When do you cut back tall grasses? Cut them back in March, or when they aren’t pretty any more, like after heavy snow and ice that break them down. Leave six inches.

List 15 water plants that do well in a shaded pond. Forget-me-nots, taros, Queen Victoria lobelia, golden club, zebra rush, variegated sweet flags, bog bean, bog arum, lizard tail, Little Champion lily, duckweed, water lettuce, floating heart, snow flake and blue rush.

What is a good ground cover for dry shady areas? Aegopodium.

Vivien is the head grower for Lilly Pads & Landscapes, the wholesale side of Puddles & Pads. It provides plants to 13 states. Vivien earned her degree in horticulture at KSU, Manhattan, in 2002.

Minutes 2-28-04 TAWGS meeting

President Tom Platis welcomed everyone to

the first meeting of 2004 and asked for self-introductions. Vivien Smith, Lily Pads and Landscapes, gave a very informative program on plants in and around the pond. She also gave away 6 tickets for the Lawn and Garden Show.

Following the program we broke for delicious refreshments provided by Susan Kraus and Lynn Pelton. When the meeting resumed, Mary Bechtold moved and Duane Eberhart seconded that the October minutes be approved as printed in the November Lily Pad. Motion carried. There were no November minutes since it was a potluck supper with no meeting.

Newsletter editor Diane Gruver reminded members to check the label on their newsletter to see when their dues are due.

Treasurer Jim Green reported we had \$4,117.31 in the checking account and \$2,118.24 in the saving account for a total of \$6,235.55. He also reported that he had collected \$80 in dues and \$75 for an ad in the Pond Tour Map at the meeting.

Under committee reports, Jim reported that he would like to give the VA another chance to get authorization for a pond and to possibly build it in May. Larry Sheets moved and Mary Bechtold seconded to re-offer the pond to the VA. Motion carried.

Becky Coffman reported that the booth for the Lawn and Garden show will have an aquarium with a cutaway of a pond so that people can see how a pond is built and a clay lily rhizome to show how to repot a lily. Hand outs will include the membership brochure, a list of programs for 2004 and pond tour applications. Dean Demoss passed around the list of people that had volunteered to work 4 hour shifts during the show. Larry Sheets asked if anyone had an area where the club’s pond could be stored. The building where he has been storing it will be demolished sometime this summer so we will need to find another place to store it. If you have a place please let Becky Coffman (272-6568) or Larry Sheets (256-6182) know.

Pond Tour chairman Mary Bechtold said that we still need at least 5 ponds for the Pond Tour which will be held June 26-27. She also asked if there were any more volunteers to help on the committee.

Helen Platis and Donnis Hodges volunteered to bring refreshments next month. Meeting adjourned.

The importance of dividing

by Randall Tate

Reprinted from 3-02 *Watergarden News*

Some of our readers may still have ice covering their pond, however the spring thaw is fast approaching. With warmer weather we will soon experience the rebirth of the perennial plants in our pond. New shoots will soon be emerging and this is a good time to rejuvenate your plants. If you have had your water lilies and shallow water plants in the same container for more than a year or two you will want to inspect the container to see if the plant may be pot bound. Water lilies can spend one year in a two-gallon container and maybe two or three in a five to seven gallon container. After this they will need repotting. A pot bound water lily will have numerous shoots coming up from the rhizomes. The rhizome may

also be crawling out of the pot looking for a new place to root. When water lilies become pot bound they produce many small leaves. However, they don't produce as many flowers. The reason for this is that after a season of growth you no longer have just one plant in a pot, but rather many much smaller plants. All these plants are competing with each other for a limited amount of nutrients.

You will want to divide the plant to have one plant per pot. This will maximize your lilies' flowering potential. The extras can be given their own pot or just thrown out. Before dividing your water lily, you should obtain the proper size and type of container. A deep container is not necessary for water lilies; six or seven inches deep should be plenty.

Small water lilies can be potted in a 10" wide container. Medium to large water lilies should be potted in a 14" to 16" wide containers. The best containers to use are plastic no-hole containers or fabric pond pots. We have found that the best growth can be obtained by using fabric pots. A very useful feature of fabric pots is that the depth of the pot can be adjusted to whatever depth your plants require.

Dividing perennial lilies

Begin dividing your perennial water lilies by removing the soil from the water lily using a water hose to expose the rhizomes. Select the best looking piece of rhizome with good growth showing and cut to about three or four inches long. Discard the remainder of the plant. Trim away excess roots and any damaged foliage from the selected piece.

If the water lily is to remain un-potted for any length of time, keep it in the shade with damp paper towels or newspaper covering the plant.

Prepare the container by filling it about three-fourths full with a packaged aquatic planting soil or clay loam if available. Add ten grams of 10-20-10 Aquatic-tabs fertilizer for every gallon of soil. Mound some soil against one side of the container with the rhizome at a 45-degree angle, placing the cut edge against the pot. Add more soil until it is within a couple of inches of the top of the container making sure the growing point of the water lily is above soil level. Firm the soil in place and add about one inch of pea gravel to cover the soil keeping it from covering the growing point of the plant.

Gently add some water to the container and slowly lower the plant into the pond. As long as the weather is warm you will get faster growth by placing the plant just a few inches under the water for the first few weeks.

After this, place the plant at the proper growing depth (12 to 18 inches of water over the top of the plant for most). Remember to fertilize the water lily every month with Aquatic-tabs fertilizer to maintain good growth throughout the season.

Dividing and repotting shallow water plants

Shallow water plants can also become pot bound. Some aquatic plants grow so fast they fill up an average size container in one season. These plants should be repotted each year. If the top of a container is covered with mostly stems or stalks of foliage, with little room for new growth, the plant should be divided. Small plants can be potted in a 10" container. Use a

14" or 16" container for larger plants.

Begin the repotting process by removing the shallow water plant from its container and rinse all the soil and mud from the roots.

For iris, acorus and other plants, which reproduce on a horizontally growing rhizome, a wide diameter container is best for good growth. Cut the small rooted plants from the main growth and place them on top of a container filled with about 4-5 inches of heavy garden soil or packaged aquatic soil. Place the plant at the edge of the container so it can grow across the pot.

Be sure to fertilize the plant well using 10 grams of fertilizer per gallon of soil. Cover the rhizome with enough soil to hold it in place then cover the top of the soil with pea gravel. Slowly lower the pot into the water.

For shallow water plants with clumping type roots, such as cattails and rushes, divide the plant by cutting it into sections. Select a section that is approximately one third the diameter of the new pot. Put several inches of heavy garden soil or aquatic soil in a container (diameter is not as critical for this type plant although larger will be better) and place the section to be potted in the center of the pot. Fertilize with 10 grams of fertilizer per gallon of soil. Cover the roots with enough soil to hold the plant in place and then cover with a layer of pea gravel.

When potting tall plants that may be blown over by wind it is a good idea to place a heavy stone in the bottom of the planting container prior to adding the soil or potting medium. This is especially important when using artificial lightweight potting mediums. Fertilize the plants throughout the growing season (about once every month or two with 10 grams of fertilizer per gallon of soil). Flowering plants should be fertilized more often than plants grown just for foliage.

Most aquatic plants will suffer little shock in being transplanted. This is especially true in the springtime when plants will spring forth quickly to produce a wonderful display of greenery and color for the coming season. (Randall Tate is Chief Manager of The Water Garden.)

2004 Programs

- April 21 – Lighting your gardens – Ron Pinnell, Nightscaping Images, Kansas City
- May 19 – Taking care of your fish – Jeff Yeckel, River City Koi, Kansas City
- 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

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
Sept. 15	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Oct. 20	TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Nov.17	TAWGS Pot Luck Supper

Water Garden Tip

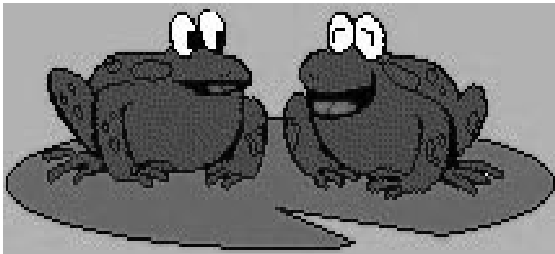
During this period of transition as your pond begins to warm, parasites become more active. Monitor your fish for unusual behavior to catch this potential problem early.

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
11-03, or 2-04 or 3-04**

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

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY OFFICERS:

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Jim Green	Treasurer
Topeka	785-272-7139



Check it out - www.tawgs.org

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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:

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