



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 9, Issue 3

April 1, 2006

Binkley talks about tulips

Jerold Binkley, the King of Tulip Time, entertained TAWGS members at their March meeting with his knowledge about tulips and his quick wit. He said that Tulip Time has raised over \$50,000 in the last few years for the Topeka Beautification Assn. to spend on Topeka gardens and projects. The project they are focusing on now is Binkley Garden's at Lake Shawnee. Jerold said each year he keeps thinking this will be the last year for Tulip Time, but each year he continues to dig up half of his tulips and plant new ones.

"Tulips are annuals," Jerold said. "They usually only last about two years." He explained that their short life is attributed mostly to hybridization. He said that Blushing Lady is probably the best tulip to come back and bloom every year. He has had some for eight years. They are a late blooming tulip. "The more expensive the bulbs are, the less likely they are to come back," he said. Jerold said that if only one leaf comes up, the tulip will not bloom. It needs to have at least 3 leaves to bloom.

Jerold said that one of our problems in this area is our clay soil. Tulips need loose soil and lots of compost. He said the clay soil retains moisture which will cause the bulbs to rot, especially if they are in a flower bed where you are watering other annual or perennials. Still, he recommends planting annuals over tulips to cover up the yellowing leaves. Use natural fertilizer.

When asked how deep bulbs should be planted, Jerold quipped, "plant at the bottom of the hole." He said he usually plants his bulbs three to four inches deep. A bulb will still come up, even if you have planted it bottom side up. If planted too shallow they may get too hot.

When asked how to deter squirrels and other varmints eating the bulbs, Jerold said that Replex is a good spray that works pretty well. Another thing mentioned was cayenne pepper.

"It was a privilege to work with TAWGS members at the Lawn and Garden Show," Jerold said. There is some hope that the city will work with a couple of other garden clubs next year and do a large exhibit in the other end of the arena.

"We need to sell gardening," Jerold said. One of the big problems in gardening is trying to grow things that don't do well in our conditions. In Kansas, it can be too hot, too cold and too windy, all in the same day.



Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m. April 19, 2006
Historic Old Prairie Town
 (Ward Meade Park)
Program - Rain Gardens
 Eric Wood – Puddles-N-Pads



2006 Door Greeters and Refreshments

Month	Door Greeters	Refreshments
April	Fishers	Gnagy, Hodges
May	Sheets	Pot Luck
June		Pettermans, Sheets
July		Jiriks, Betty Karnes
Aug	Don Taliaferro	Taliaferros, Saathoffs
Sept.		Pot Luck
Oct.		Eberharts
Nov.		Pot Luck

As you can see, we need more door greeters so please contact Duane or Diane if you would like to be a greeter.

TAWGS Minutes, March 15, 2006

President Duane Eberhardt opened the March meeting with self introductions. We were pleased to have Pat Clyde as a guest. Jim Green moved and Dale Jirik, seconded that the minutes be approved as printed in the March newsletter. Motion carried.

Duane reported that he has been making contacts to encourage members to be on the pond tour. He is getting good reception and has eight ponds confirmed. He will continue to seek two more ponds.

Floyd Gruver asked members if they had received an e-mail from Diane that Roland Anderson had fish to give away. Several indicated that they had received the e-mail but no-one had contacted him. Floyd asked if anyone had any ideas on ways to recruit new members. He said that Lawrence and Garden City have both disbanded their pond clubs and he didn't want to see that happen to TAWGS. He said that Eric and Trina Wood had offered to let us put a poster at Puddles-N-Pads promoting TAWGS. He said that they also offered to put a membership brochure into one of their mailings to their customer base. Puddles has been very supportive of TAWGS and included our list of programs for the year and as well as advertised our tour dates in their 2006 retail catalog. Thanks Eric and Trina! Other ideas given were: compile articles from the newsletter for a booklet to hand out to new members or to sell; put posters in area nurseries, print TAWGS brochures on a colored paper so it would stand out more and hand out brochures at the pond tour. Floyd stressed that we need to increase our membership base and challenged members present to invite their friends with water gardens to come to our meetings.

Treasurer Jim Green reported that we have \$2,705.98 in the checking account and \$1,154.79 in the savings account for a total of \$3,860.77. He also reported that he had received a bill of \$177.61 from Bob Saathoff for costs of the lawn and garden show, coming in about \$1,000 under the amount voted to spend on the display. Michael Bradley moved and Donnis Hodges seconded that the treasurer report be accepted. Motion carried.

Duane congratulated Joe Breitenstein who will celebrate his 80th birthday on March 19th. Joe reported that the Council Plant Sale will be April 29th at Fairlawn Plaza behind Wallgreens. He asked if TAWGS would have water plants for sale but no action was taken.

Pond Tour Chairman Mary Ann Bechtold reported that almost 1,000 bookmarks advertising the Pond Tour that Hi Stockwell made were passed out at the lawn and garden show. She asked Hi to make more to be handed out at the Council plant sale and possibly tulip time. She wasn't sure when the next committee meeting would be held. She again asked for volunteers to make a CD of ponds on past tours which we could sell at this year's pond tour. Don Taliaferro volunteered to work on something for next year if nobody would do it this year.

Bob Saathoff reported on the lawn and garden display at the Topeka show. He thanked everyone that worked on it. "It proved that the three groups (TAWGS, TBA and County) could work together," he said. Members who had worked a shift at the show said it was gorgeous and they got lots of compliments on it. Bob said that one of the benefits of doing the show is working with other members and learning to know them better. He said that he thinks that people come to an organization for the knowledge, but they stay for the people. If you don't get involved in a project, you don't really get acquainted with other members.

Under old business, Duane asked for a volunteer to chair the committee for maintaining the fountain at Ward Meade. Floyd Gruver volunteered to head the project. He will also head the project for repotting the lilies and the potting party is scheduled for Saturday, April

22nd. Dale Jirik, Michael Bradley and Don Taliaferro volunteered to help with the project. All members are asked to come to Ward Meade that morning to help with repotting the lilies for the fountain and Anna's Pond. We will also pot some for Lake Shawnee water gardens.

Don moved and Joe seconded that the meeting adjourn for refreshments, which were provided by the Eberhardts. He announced that Fishers are signed up to be the door greeters in April, and Hodges and Gnagys will bring refreshments.

Following refreshments, Jerold Binkley gave a very interesting talk on tulips and other plants around the water garden.



WATER PLANTS

By Duane Van Dolah

Chinese lizard tail, *saururus chinensis*

A pond plant with heart-shaped leaves, the Chinese lizard tail has white splotches on the topmost leaves with the rest of the foliage being bright green, giving the plant ornamental value even when not in bloom. The white flowers are graceful arched spikes 4-6 inches long and fragrant. The plant grows in sun and part shade in moist soil or water up to 6 inches deep. Its height is 18- 36 inches with a running spread. Another selection that is showy but slow to grow is 'Oregon Gold', an all-gold variety. The Chinese lizard tail grows in zones 4-11 with planting in 2-5 gallon pots. Propagation is by division of clumps in spring until summer.

2006 TAWGS programs

Speaker	Topic
April 19 - Eric Wood	Rain Gardens
May 17 - David Bartels	Pot luck at Ensley Garden House at Lake Shawnee – What they have done and what they plan to do
June 21 - Brad Cheney	Problems around ponds – Container gardens
July 19 - TBA	
August 16 - Kip Walker	Pond Lights and new products
Sept. 20 David Bartels	Pot luck at Ensley Garden House at Lake Shawnee and tour of

gardens
Oct. – Deb Spencer
and waterfalls
Nov 15 - No Program

Disappearing fountains
Pot Luck



Spring was everywhere at the Wichita Garden Show.

Countdown to spring

by ERIK TATE

Operations Manager, The Water Garden
Reprinted from 3-06 Water Garden News

This is the time of year when many of us are seeing hints of spring, while a few are just getting their first glimpses of winter. Whatever your weather may be like now, spring will be here soon. This means that our water gardens will be springing back to life. It is with this in mind that we offer our "8 Steps for Springing Your Pond to Life."

1. Inspect the pond
Take a careful look around your pond. Make sure there has been no winter damage to the pond or any of the components. Repair or replace as necessary.
2. Clean the pond
No matter how much preparation you have done, winter has likely left the pond in less than perfect condition. Even with leaf netting, you probably have had a few leaves settle to the pond bottom. Any plants that were not completely cut back will usually leave a settlement of organics in the pond bottom. Manually scoop out as much of this as possible or use a pond vacuum if you have one. You can also use bacteria to help this such as Microbe Lift Spring Summer Cleaner or Microbe Lift Sludge Away. Use the latter for more serious accumulations.
3. Start pump
If your pump has been off for the winter, spring is the time to start it back up. Most people do this when the water temperature increases to around 50 degrees. Do not start the pump and then leave. Start the pump back up when you will be spending time around the house for several hours. This way you can keep an eye on everything and make sure that all the water is still going where you want it to go (back in the pond).
4. Start filter

If the pump and filter system has not been running for awhile, you will want to give your filter media a thorough cleaning prior to starting the system backup. Next, or if your pump has run all winter, it is time to give the bacterial colonies a boost. There are many products that accomplish this like Microbe Lift PL or Bio-Filter Booster.

5. Test water
Begin testing the pond water again. Of particular importance are ammonia and nitrite levels. Both of these should be zero. Perform partial water changes if either test gives a reading other than zero.
6. Condition fish
Spring is the time of year when fish are most susceptible to developing health problems. There are a few things that can be done to help protect the fish. Gram-negative bacteria can cause severe infections. These infections can be prevented by use of KoiZyme but are very hard to eliminate after the fish has become infected. Debride DW is a medicated fish food that will help protect fish from internal worms. For general protection, pond salt can be an easy way to help the fish ward off disease and pathogens.
7. Feeding
Warm weather means your fish are now or soon will be ready to start eating again. Do not feed the fish until the water temperature is consistently above 50 degrees. Once the water temperature is into the 50s you will want to feed a food designed for spring and fall like Microbe Lift Cold Weather or Pond Care Spring and Autumn food. As the water temperature reaches into the 60s it will be time to feed your regular summertime fish food.
8. Plants
Also as the water temperature reaches into the 50s it will be time to get the hardy plants that survived the winter ready for a great year ahead. This is the time we begin fertilizing the plants. Also, for maximum performance, it may be necessary to divide some of these plants. If the plants are too crowded in their pots, they will suffer and their growth and flowering potential limited. Simply thinning these out will provide you with more from your plants.

Is your pond a good home for koi?

Reprinted from 3-11-06 Splash

Pond Owners love adding fish to their Pond and the colorful and playful Koi is certainly a favorite! They are not suited for every Pond, though... There mature size of 2 1/2 - 3 feet dictates that they have some space and filtration requirements that surpass those of Goldfish!

Koi need at least 750 gallons per fish and a minimum Pond size of 1000 gallons. The Pond must have a good filtration system (bigger fish=bigger poop) otherwise the water quality and fish health will suffer.

Koi live a long time (25 years on average in a garden pond if well cared for) and need the commitment of their owners like any other pet to keep them healthy!

Koi will reward you with exceptional tameness -- they will easily learn to eat out of your hand and will greet you when stepping up to the pond and their spectacular colors and patterns are certainly nothing short of wonderful!

How to (gently) wake up your pond fish

Reprinted from 3-11-06 Splash

All of us are waiting for the signs of spring and the pond is no exception! There are some pre-cautions to take with your pond pets, though:

1. Clean and start your filter before resuming feeding of the fish!
2. Add beneficial bacteria to the filter and the pond to jump start the "waste disposal machine" (Microbe-Lift has a new GEL that clings to the filter pads and makes inoculating the filter with bacteria much easier).
3. Start feeding VERY SLOWLY! Koi and Goldfish do not have stomachs, all their digestion is done in the intestine. Since they are cold water fish (they do not have warm blood like humans) their digestive tract is rather sluggish and needs food that is very easily digested and adds vitamins and immune system stimulants to help them recover from the stress of winter and prepare them for the upcoming spawning season!
4. Feeding time is a good time to inspect each fish to make sure they did not pick up parasites or other ailments during the winter - take the time to look closely!

Disappearing waterfalls and fountains

by Randall Tate, Chief Manager

Reprinted from 3-06 Water Garden News

Sometimes it may be desirable to have a waterfall or a fountain without the pond. Someone with small children or someone who only wants a water display without fish or plants may prefer this approach to having an open pond. What is visible is an area of water worn pebbles with the fountain or waterfall disappearing into them. The pump and water are below the pebbles eliminating the danger of open waters.

The process is fairly simple. A reservoir is constructed either by digging in the ground or building up with a lumber or masonry structure. Depending on the size and length of the waterfall a shallow basin may be sufficient. You only need to build the reservoir large enough to hold sufficient water to keep the pump below water when the system is running. Unless you install an automatic water supply you may want the system to hold

a little more than necessary to allow for evaporation. Most water basins for fountains are about one foot deep while those for waterfalls should be one and one half to two feet deep. This is because a waterfall generally uses more water within the system and the evaporation is greater.

After the reservoir is dug, you will then line it with underlayment and rubber pond liner just like a regular pond. The pond can't just be filled with rocks. It needs a void space for the pump and easy access to service the pump. There are a couple of ways to accomplish this.

One option is to use a heavy-duty plastic grate that will support the weight of a layer of pebbles and anyone who might walk onto the pebbles. For most fountains a four-foot by four-foot reservoir works well. Plastic grates are usually sold two feet by eight feet or two feet by four feet. These can be easily cut with a circular saw or hand saw to fit the excavation. Place concrete block, or even a double layer of brick for small water features, every foot or so over the bottom of the reservoir to support the grate. Cut out a square of the grate large enough to be able to get the pump in and out. On top of the grate place 1/4 inch mesh plastic hardware cloth. This serves to keep smaller gravel from falling through the grate.

A fountainhead can be used with this type of set up. The sound will be different with water falling back onto stone instead of water but the visual effect will be the same. A brass decorative spitter such a pair of cranes can be used as well. Another popular option is to use attractive ceramic urns. One or more of these could be used. A nice orientation is an urn tilted on its side with water filling the urn and then overflowing to the unseen pond. This also produces a nice sound with a large volume of water spilling out. An urn can be placed level with the water overflowing evenly around the rim. If the urn does not have a hole in the bottom then it will be necessary to drill out the bottom with a glass or concrete drill bit. Rubber tubing is run through the hole and epoxy putty can be used to seal around the tubing. The pump and tubing is added after the pond and grate structure is finished. After hooking up your urn or fountain to complete your fountain just cover with a decorative gravel allowing the gravel to spill outside the reservoir to provide the finished shape.

The other option for constructing your reservoir is to use a waterfall well. A waterfall well is a strong plastic container with mesh openings to allow the water to enter freely into the chamber while offering support against the pressure of the stone. It also comes with a secure cover to allow easy access to the pump. This option will work better for large volumes of water such as large fountains or waterfalls. After the reservoir is dug and lined with underlayment and rubber pond liner place the pump vault on the rubber liner. Cut out an exit hole for the plumbing size that you are using and run the pipe or tubing. Fill the remainder of the pond with stone (irregular stone the approximate size of oranges is preferred) up to the top. A more decorative smaller stone can be used on top. Don't use small gravel as

a fill stone as it will not allow free movement of the water through the stone to the pump vault.

When constructing a stream with a disappearing waterfall purchase enough waterfall pond liner to line the length of your stream plus enough to overhang into the pond before placing your stone. Run your plumbing to the top of the waterfall and hook up a waterfall tank to fit the size of your project. You will most likely want all of the water running over your waterfall and stream to flow over stone placed in the stream instead of running under the stone. Use mortar or waterfall foam to seal any stone to the liner at the waterfall areas. Finish placing stone to fill the reservoir, add plants if desired, plug up the pump and enjoy.

Invitation to the Annual IWGS Water Garden Party

The International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society (IWGS) will enjoy their 21st annual Symposium on July 19-25, 2006 in the perfect State for aquatics, Florida. This educational and networking event will have a Main and a Post-Symposium, starting in Fort Lauderdale, then going to Vero Beach, and ending in Orlando. The numerous activities will include seminars, forums, and tours. International experts will present the sessions, covering topics as diverse as techniques for propagating aquatics, the artistic aspects of water gardens, tissue culture of aquatics, and predator control in plant ponds. Tours will visit wholesale aquatic growers, a retail water garden center, subtropical private water gardens, a koi farm, a large tissue culture grower, botanical gardens, and more. (Flexible registration options allow attendance for only a day or two.)

This Symposium is the only water gardening conference designed to educate and network all segments of the industry and hobby. A recent evaluation comment sums it up perfectly, *"The best part of the IWGS is the networking – sharing techniques, news, and advice from others around the world – many of whom are now friends. Symposia have played a vital part in this."*

The Society's annual symposia continue to provide education on aquatic plants and water gardening, while also serving as the glue that binds together a very diverse and international membership. Recent locations were Toronto (2004) and Pennsylvania (2005). Many attendees use the symposia as the base upon which to build their vacation. Of course, Florida will be perfect for that, too.

Some of the Symposium highlights promise to include an airboat ride in the Everglades, an in-pond comparison of blue waterlilies, playing on the beach, the informal forums, announcing the winners of our first Aquatic Art Competition, as well as the famous and entertaining fundraising auction.

Members, potential members, or those wishing to learn more about aquatic plants and water gardening (and have fun doing it) are encouraged to attend. Bring a bathing suit and come visit. More information is available at www.iwgs.org or call 941-756-0880 for a registration brochure.

Educational Opportunities

Puddles-N-Pads, Topeka – 785-233-3474

April 1 - 8:00 a.m.	So you are thinking about a pond
April 1 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
April 10 - 6:30 p.m.	Installing a water garden
April 22 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
April 29 - 4:00 p.m.	Installing a water garden
May 11 - 6:30 p.m.	Installing a water garden
May 20 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
June 10 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
June 24 - 10:30 a.m.	Fish 101
June 24 - 12:30 a.m.	Pond Plants
June 24 - 2:30 p.m.	So you're thinking about a pond
June 24 - 3:00 p.m.	Installing a water garden
June 25 - 12:30 p.m.	So you're thinking about a pond
June 25 - 1:00 p.m.	Installing a water garden
June 27 - 6:30 p.m.	Installing a water garden
July 8 - 8:20 a.m.	Installing a water garden
July 31 - 6:30 p.m.	Installing a water garden
Aug. 5 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
Aug. 31 - 6:30 p.m.	Installing a water garden
Sept. 9 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
Sept. 14 - 6:30 p.m.	Installing a water garden
Sept. 23 - 8:30 a.m.	Installing a water garden
Oct. 5 - 6:30 p.m.	Fall shut down
October 7 - 8:30 a.m.	Fall shut down
Space is limited to 16 people per class so register early.	

Waters Edge, Lawrence – 785-841-6777

April 1 - 10:30 a.m.	Opening your pond
April 15 - 10:30 a.m.	Opening your pond
April 15 - 11:30 a.m.	Repotting aquatic plants
April 22 - 10:30 a.m.	Disappearing fountains and waterfalls
April 29 - 10:30 a.m.	What's new in water gardening
April 29 - 11:30 a.m.	Why is my pond green
April 30 - 1:00 p.m.	Dividing and repotting aquatic plants
May 6 - 10:30 a.m.	Disappearing fountains and waterfalls
May 6 - 11:30 a.m.	Adding aquatics to the perennial garden
May 13 - 10:30 a.m.	Better filtration for your pond
May 20 - 10:30 a.m.	Bells and whistles (adding lighting, fogger, spitter, pump switch, auto-fill, skimmer)
June 3 - 10:30 a.m.	Rain gardens
June 10 - 10:30 a.m.	Early summer pond care and all about tropical waterlilies
June 17 - 10:30 a.m.	Go native
June 24 - 11:00 a.m.	Lotus – myth & mystique
Aug. 5 - 10:30	Frogs, toads and tadpoles
Sept. 16 - 10:30 a.m.	Getting ready for fall and leaf netting
Oct. 7 - 10:30 a.m.	Bubbling bird baths and fountains
Oct. 7 - 11:30 a.m.	Building a tabletop fountain
Oct. 21 - 10:30 a.m.	Winterizing your garden pond

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

Calendar of Events

April 8 – 19 – Tulip Time
April 19 – TAWGS monthly meeting
April 22 – Lily Potting Party, Ward Meade
April 29 – Garden Council Plant Sale
May 17 – TAWGS monthly meeting – Lake Shawnee
June 17-18 – TBA Garden Tour
June 21 – TAWGS monthly meeting
June 24-25 - Topeka Pond Tour
June 24-25 - Lawrence Pond Tour
June 24-25 – Wichita Pond Tour
July 8-9 – Kansas City Pond Tour
July 19 – TAWGS monthly meeting
August 16 – TAWGS monthly meeting
September 20 – TAWGS monthly meeting – Lake Shawnee
October 18 – TAWGS monthly meeting
November 15 – TAWGS Pot Luck Supper

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 3-06 or 4-06

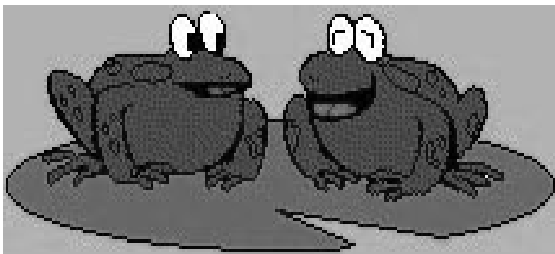
Please renew as soon as possible to continue receiving the newsletter.

Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY 2006 OFFICERS:

Duane Eberhardt Topeka	President 785-246-0240
Floyd Gruver Holton	Vice President 785-364-3046
Diane Gruver Holton	Secretary 785-364-3046
Jim Green Topeka	Treasurer 785-272-7139

Meetings are 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 Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614.



Check it out - www.tawas.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 third weekend of each month. Address input and/or questions to:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor
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785 364-3046

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