



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.

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July 1, 2006



A double waterfall accents the formal owner built 5,000 gallon pond at Dave and Kristine Heinemann's.

Beautiful days for pond tour

By Diane Gruver

We had one of the most beautiful weekends for the pond tour June 24 and 25, that I can remember. No rain, cool and comfortable, great weather! Not a description that has fit the tours in the past. There was a lot of diversity in the ten ponds; formal, informal, owner built and professionally built. Take your pick – there was something for all.

Four of the ponds were offered by our TAWGS members, Richard and Debbie Dunkin, Tom and Mary Blubaugh, Dave and Kristine Heinemann and Larry and Barb Shipman. Thanks to all of you who shared your pond. I hope that you found it to be a pleasant experience.

We need to thank Duane Eberhardt for doing such a fine job of lining up the pond hosts and looking good when he appeared on Channel 13 noon news, Mary Ann Bechtold for chairing the committee which managed to pull everything off without a hitch, Donnis Hodges for securing the volunteers to pond sit and Hi Stockwell for handling a lot of the advertising and designing the ticket/guide. (I think Michael Bradley probably got roped in a little bit on some of those activities.) I handled most of the correspondence, advance publicity, news releases, some of the advertising and collection for the ads.

Thanks too, to everyone who volunteered to sit at a pond including: Tom and Pat Routh, Audrey Bosley, Trudy Weir, Helen Platis, Duane and Mary Eberhardt,

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m. July 19, 2006

Historic Old Prairie Town
(formerly Ward Meade Park)

Program – Pond Tour Pictures

Power Point by Hi Stockwell and Michael Bradley

Mary Ann Bechtold, Stan and Susan Wilch, Michael Bradley, Hi Stockwell, Carol Gnaggy, Bill and Susan Kraus, Jim Green, Dale and Earlene Jirik, Larry and Caryn Sheets, Linda Reynolds, Doug and Marikay Peterman, Kent and Colleen Hampton, Bob and Cheryl Saathoff, Gerald and Donnis Hodges, Allen Ellis, Cella Ault, and Stan Bechtold as a standby. Floyd and I sold tickets at Puddles-N-Pads all day Saturday and until 1 on Sunday. (We finally got to tour on Sunday afternoon.) We appreciate the help of each and every one of you. We could not pull off this project if we didn't have the help of all our members. Preliminary reports that we sold just under 500 tickets.



Richard and Debbie Dunkin's pond is a two level one with a 20 foot stream in between.

June 21, 2006 TAWGS Minutes

President Duane Eberhardt called the meeting to order with self introductions. It was nice to see so many familiar faces this month. Welcome to all and

thank you for coming! Dale Jirik moved and Stan Bechtold seconded that the May minutes be approved as published in the June newsletter. Motion carried.

Duane said that he had been contacted to see if TAWGS would help, like we had in the past, with the beans, kraut and coleslaw at Apple Fest, Sunday, October 1. Earlene Jirik moved and Donnis Hodges seconded that we help the same way we have in the past. It is estimated that they will need six volunteers for three hour shifts. Motion carried. Please mark your calendar and volunteer to help. It really is a lot of fun.

VP Floyd Gruver reported that he has checked on the fountain at Ward Meade a couple times and so far it looks pretty good. He has talked to Eric about buying a large container of pond tabs and will start fertilizing the lilies in July. He asked for volunteers to help maintain the pond in September and October when he will be on vacation. Michael Bradley, Hi Stockwell and Gerald and Donnis Hodges volunteered. He requested that they especially check it before Apple Fest so it will look nice for the large crowds that will be at the historic park that day. Floyd also reported that he had checked the pond at the Kansas Wildlife and Parks office and it looks really nice.

Secretary Diane Gruver said that there had been a suggestion that we change our dues to a calendar year instead of 12 months from joining. After much discussion it was decided to leave the dues structure as is.

Treasurer Jim Green reported that we have \$3,415.22 in checking and \$1,160.59 in savings for a total of \$4,575.81. He said the he had paid the \$250 corporation filing fee to the Secretary of State. Mary Ann Bechtold moved and Dale Jirik seconded that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion carried.

We broke from the business meeting to listen to guest speaker Brad Cheney, who gave an interesting talk on container water gardening. Following Brad's presentation we enjoyed refreshments provided by Marikay and Doug Peterman and Caryn and Larry Sheets.

Continuing with the meeting, Mary Ann Bechtold gave a report on the upcoming Pond tour which will be this weekend. She thanked everyone who had helped with the tour and asked them to turn the bills in quickly. She said that she had given 30 tickets to the radio stations to give away in exchange for advertising. Hi Stockwell was given a hand of appreciation for his hard work on the advertising and the ticket/guide. It looks good!

Diane Gruver said that a few are working on a Member Pond Tour. It will start at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, July 23rd at Duane & Mary Eberhardts where people can leave their cars to car pool if they would like. The 2nd stop will be at Gerald & Donnis Hodges. From there the group will travel to the Gruver's in Holton and end at the home of Pat and Tom Routh for a pot luck supper. The Gruvers and Rouths will supply hamburger and buns for the meat course and others are asked to provide a covered dish and bring their table service and lawn chairs. Approximately 30 people indicated that they would attend the tour. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

Betty Karnes announced that the Topeka Day Lily Club will have a flower show at Fairlawn Plaza on

Sat., July 8th. Their plant sale will be Sat., August 12th, at the Farmers Market.

Donnis Hodges read the list of volunteers for the pond tour and handed out free tickets to the volunteers, thanking everyone for helping.

Dale Jirik moved and Cheryl Saathoff seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Thirty eight members attended the meeting. Thanks for the good turnout!



Container gardening is easy

Brad Cheney, A-B-C Ponds, gave an interesting talk on container water gardening at the June meeting.

"Container water gardens are pretty simple to set up," Brad said. People who live in apartments or have only a small backyard patio can still have a water garden.

Just about anything can be used for the container, Brad said. Whiskey barrels, and plastic, ceramic or terra cotta pots work well for containers. You will need to either line the pots or paint them with a silicone paint to make them waterproof. Fill the drain holes with a silicone caulking. Be sure to wash them well before filling them with water and adding plants and fish. The addition of a couple of small fish will help keep the water free of algae and mosquito larvae. Suitable plants would be a small water lily, lotus, water canna or almost any marginal plant.

A bubbler will help supply oxygen for the fish but is not absolutely necessary. A water change every month will help because fish waste, leaves and other debris can make the container water smelly. Also, the water can get very hot, which could kill the fish, if you place the container in direct sun.

Turning to traditional water gardening, Brad said that the trend of water gardening is getting bigger every year. There are a lot of do-it-yourselfers building their own water gardens. Some landscapers don't design a landscape without a water feature of some kind. The average pond now is at least 16' x 21' with many much larger than that, many times having two or three ponds. Streambeds are getting more dramatic. One caution about long streambeds is that you can experience more evaporation with a long streambed. Also, almost 90% of leaks are usually around the waterfall or stream bed.

Many water gardeners are turning to a pondless waterfall feature in their front yard to reduce the liability of an accident.

Brad gives TAWGS a lot of support offering his expertise at our display at the Lawn and Garden Show, helping with our projects such as building ponds at the VA and KS Dept. of Wildlife and presenting programs at our meetings. We appreciate his help very much. Brad and his wife Amy, recently became members of TAWGS. Welcome!

TAWGS pond at Lake Shawnee

By Pat Rokey

Should we call it the TAWGS Pond or perhaps some members could come up with another name?

I thought it would be a good idea to keep you informed of the plants we will be placing around this pond. And, if anyone wants to help us plant, just let Dick and I know by calling 357-4422 or e-mailing us at patrokey@cox.net. Also, if you have any suggestions for this project, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Our idea is to keep maintenance at a minimum as well as having a pleasant place for people to visit. Do we want a bench or two in that area?

We're concentrating more on shrubbery at this time as they are not as likely to be walked on and damaged. Today, I picked up 6 'Isanti' dogwood shrubs that will have very pretty clusters of white flowers in the spring and sporadically through the summer, white fruit and reddish-purple leaves in the fall and showy red stems throughout the winter. We've seen them near the roundabouts east of town and they really are quite spectacular! We also purchased two Viburnum fereri 'Dwarf' or 'Nanum', at 2-3' with fragrant pinkish-white flowers in the early spring and sometimes again in the fall. The leaves are reddish-purple in the fall and it does produce a light display of red to black berries in the late summer. I can't say enough about Viburnums; they always look good in any season and I've never noticed disease/insect damage on any of the 14 or so varieties we have in our own gardens.

For some time now, I've pictured a bright yellow Sumac 'Tigereye' with fern-like leaves on the north end of this pond. It will sucker, but supposedly not quite as much as the species. It's very tolerant of dry conditions. Cotoneasters always look good around ponds and waterfalls. We have a small one next to our waterfall and it has woven its way down around rocks and now dips its toes into the water. For once, something did what I had originally envisioned! We purchased two 'Tom Thumb' Cotoneasters that should look pretty draping down into the TAWGS Pond. They have tiny flowers and small red berries that the birds love and it is also evergreen, for winter effect. We also want to plant other small shrubs and perennials and perhaps a tree on the east side for shade. Creeping Jenny (the yellow-leaved variety that isn't as invasive as the green) would look pretty growing around the edges and perhaps a few other creeping perennials such as Sedums and Veronicas would do well there, too.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with ideas,

keeping in mind that the Park Dept. (i.e. Dave Bartels) doesn't want any invasive species that might take over and clog the other waterways.

WATER PLANTS

Foxtail

MYRIOPHYLLUM

By Duane Van Dolah



This genus of 40 species submerged plants is from the Southern Hemisphere. Only a few are considered non-invasive for the pond. The plant I will talk about is *M. heterophyllum* or commonly called Foxtail.

This extremely hardy plant is found wide spread in the United States in ponds and sluggish streams. It thrives submerged in 1-10 feet of water with sun to shade conditions. It has very thin, wispy leaves that are 3/4 inch long, coming from a stout central stem. In conditions of bright light, the foliage is dark reddish brown and appears bushy. Thus, the reason it received the common name Foxtail. If aerial leaves develop, they are lance-shaped and not divided. It produces no noticeable flowers. It spreads to 12 inches and produces stems about 6 feet long. It is hardy in zones 3-11. It over winters in the ponds with no special care and has even been known to freeze solid without damage. Propagation is by stem cutting in all but winter.



Mosquito season has arrived

Reprinted from 6-02 Water Garden News

Mosquito Dunks and Bits aren't just for ponds. City and state health departments from New England to Florida are recommending their use anywhere around the house that standing water may be found. They have proven to be a safe and useful weapon in the fight to control mosquitoes.

Mosquito Dunks & Mosquito Bits contain *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* (BTI), a bacteria that is deadly to mosquito and black fly larvae yet safe for pets (including fish), birds or other wildlife. Mosquito Dunks and Bits can be used in bird baths, ponds, flower pots or anywhere that water accumulates.



Door Greeters and Refreshments

Month	Door Greeters	Refreshments
July		Jiriks, Betty Karnes
Aug	Don Taliaferro	Taliaferros, Saathoffs

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

Calendar of Events

July 8-9 – Kansas City Pond Tour
July 19 – TAWGS monthly meeting
July 19-25 IWGS Symposium, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
August 16 – TAWGS monthly meeting
September 20 – TAWGS monthly meeting – Lake
Shawnee
October 1 – October Fest
October 18 – TAWGS monthly meeting
November 15 – TAWGS Pot Luck Supper

Pond Tips

Annual plants typically produce many more flowers than perennial varieties. So, if you want more flowers on your water lilies, you should choose plants from the tropical varieties.

Always remember, feed your fish only what they can eat in about 5 minutes. Uneaten food can reduce water quality in your garden pond.

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 6-06 or 7-06

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

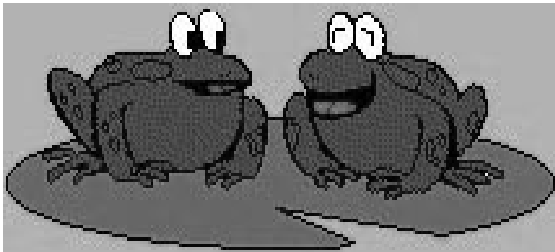
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

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

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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 third weekend of each month. Address input and/or questions to:

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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.