



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 10, Issue 3

April 1, 2007



Mary Bechtold visits with Jolene Grabill after Jolene's presentation on *Edging Around your Pond*.

Buy the right plant for the right place

Jolene Grabill of Grabill Garden Visions began her opening remarks by saying that she was thrilled to work with the TAWGS group on the Lawn and Garden Display. "It was a fun endeavor," she said. The display showed that water and the natural environment can work together and be very pleasing.

Jolene said that most water gardens have lots of rocks involved so the plants she brought to talk about were plants that work well in rock gardens. Most of them also were plants that grow well in our area.

"Spend at least 75% of your money on plants that will grow well in Kansas," Jolene said. "Don't buy what is blooming that day; buy what is good for your garden. Tuck plants into the corners of your water garden to make it look more natural," she said.

Useful websites that Jolene talked about were: bluebirdnursery.com – good plant descriptions; arnoldsgreenhouse.com – they also have a book on annuals which is one of the best; and thehenrysplantfarm.com – good information on annuals.

"Resources are getting richer and richer for those of us who love to put our hands in the soil," she said.

The type of soil is as important as the amount of sunlight a plant gets. Drainage can be a challenge too.

Some of the perennials that Jolene talked about

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m. April 18, 2007
Historic Old Prairie Town
(Ward Meade Park)
Pond Problems
Brad Cheney

and showed were: wild strawberries, geraniums, mount atlas daisy, ornamental oregano, shadow mountain penstemon, cardona salvia, wallflower, hen and chicks, crystal carpet, dianthus, tansy, thyme, hernaria, thrift, soapwort, strawberry seduction yarrow, golden oregano, red veined dock (sorrel) and sedum.

"Sedum is the closest thing to no maintenance in the garden," Jolene said, "and it comes in lots of colors." She suggested buying three plants and then planting them in different areas to see where they grow the best. "Buy the right plant for the right place."



Mary Pat Fischer, Marikay Peterman, Cheryl Saathoff and Hi Stockwell look at the plants that Jolene Grabill used in her program about edging around the pond.

TAWGS Minutes March 21, 2007

President Duane Eberhardt called the meeting to order with self introductions.

Vice President Floyd Gruver introduced Jolene Grabill from Grabill Garden Visions who gave a very interesting presentation on plants and ways to use

them as edgings around our ponds.

Refreshments were served following the program. President Duane called the meeting back to order thanking the Hodges and Gnagys for the delicious refreshments.

Bob Saathoff moved and Tom Platis seconded that the February minutes be approved as printed in the March Lily Pad. Motion carried.

Floyd thanked Jolene for her program. He also said that we will have a fish fry/potluck at the Ted Ensley house at Lake Shawnee May 16th. He is still working on the programs, but for the June meeting he has a tour beginning at Eberhardt's with a business meeting, then on to Cheney's and Hodges ponds; Kip Walker will talk on lighting in July at Puddles-N-Pads; Eric Wood will speak on the vanishing edge in August; Trina Wood will talk about fish health in September; Deb Spencer will talk about frogs, toads and tadpoles in October.

Diane reported that she had found a check she had misplaced for \$22.50 from Waters Edge which was a partial donation for membership in the International Water Garden Society. Jim Green moved and Mary Pat Fischer seconded that we send a check for \$45 to IWGS for an affiliated membership. Motion carried.

Discussion was held about the deteriorating condition of the fountain at Ward Meade. Floyd will call Ray Schroder to find out what it would cost to refurbish or replace the fountain.

Jim Green reported that the club has \$5,759.51 in checking and \$1,180.62 in savings for a total of \$6,940.13. Bob Saathoff moved and Carol Gnagy seconded that we accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Tom Platis, chairman of the Pond Tour Committee said that he wants to have a meeting soon. It was later scheduled for April 3, at the Classic Bean. Hi Stockwell reported on the ads that have been received so far and said he would call on the advertisers who would be selling tickets. He would like to have the posters distributed about April 1.

Bob Saathoff, chairman of the lawn and garden display, received a round of applause as thanks for his hard work on the project. Bob reported that the Friends of the Garden at the Lake have had one meeting so far and a few decisions have been made. The group of volunteers will work on Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning in April.

Mary Bechtold asked if others would be interested in having a group potting party to re-pot their personal pond plants; a few raised their hands. Duane Eberhardt volunteered to let them meet at his house and he will have the necessary ingredients to repot everything.

Being no further business, Michael Bradley moved and Marikay Peterman seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Fun (Pond) Fact

This time of year we find frog and toad eggs in the Pond! Frog eggs are found in one jellied mass about the shape of a ball while toad eggs are long strings of eggs.

Educational opportunities

Puddles-N-Pads 2007 Seminars

Call 785-233-3474 for more information

April 7	8:30 am	Caring for your pond
April 14	8:30 am	Pond installation
May 19	8:30 am	Pond installation
June 23-24	9 am-5 pm	Pond Tour
Sept. 15	8:30 am	Pond installation
Oct. 13	8:30 am	Winterizing your pond
Oct. 18	6:30 pm	Winterizing your pond

Waters Edge 2007 Class Schedule

Call 785-841-6777 for more information

Or check website at www.watersedge.com

Mar 31	10:30 am	The Rites of Spring
April 14	10:30 am	The Rites of Spring
April 14	11:30 am	Potting Aquatic Plants
April 21	10:30 am	Put a Gurgle in Your Garden
April 28	10:30 am	What's New in Water
April 28	11:30 am	Why is my Pond Green?
April 29	1:00 pm	Dividing and Repotting Aquatics
May 5	10:30 am	Put a Gurgle in Your Garden
May 5	11:30 am	Adding Aquatics to the Perennial Garden
May 12	10:30 am	Smart Ponds - the Truth about Filtration
May 19	10:30 am	Going "Pondless"
June 2	10:30 am	Native Plants and Rain Gardens
June 9	10:30 am	Early Summer Pond Care & All About Tropical Waterlilies
June 16	10:30 am	Smart Ponds - The Truth about Filtration
June 23	11:00 am - 1:00ish	Lotus: Myth & Mystique, Stop and Eat the Lotus - Come to our annual Lotus Party & celebrate the wonders of the Lotus! We'll have Lotus treats & other edible aquatics to sample!!
Aug. 4	10:30 am	Frogs, Toads and Tadpoles
Sept. 22	10:30 am	Getting Ready for Fall & Leaf Netting
Oct. 6	10:30 am	Bubbling Bird Baths and Fountains
Oct. 20	10:30 am	Winterizing Your Garden Pond

Volunteers for 2007 Refreshments

Month	Refreshments
April	Helen Platis, Tom & Georgia Sirridge
May	Pot Luck
June	Linda Reynolds, Stan & Mary Bechtold
July	Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, (could use one more)
Aug	Don & Sandy Regier, Tom & Pat Routh
Sept.	Jon & Mary Pat Fischer, Doug & Marikay Peterman
Oct.	Floyd & Diane Gruver, Betty Karnes

WATER PLANTS

By Duane Van Dolah

Water Hemlock

Cicuta maculata



While I was reading some of my plant books, I came across a plant that needs to be addressed. Some plant people I know sometimes happen onto an intriguing plant in the wild and take it home. A person should never take a plant from the wild. I'm just as guilty as anyone of doing this. The plant I want to talk about is the Water Hemlock. It can be found in Missouri, so it's close by. It resembles the water parsnip so misidentification can happen. This perennial native plant is 3-6 feet tall, with stout stems that are smooth and hairless. These stems can be green or purple with, at times, purplish lines or spots. The lower portion of the central stem is hollow and contains a very highly poisonous toxin, along with all parts of the plant. Foliage is formed of three leaflets that are lanced-like, sharply veined, and toothed. Each leaflet is 1/5 to 1/2 inches wide. The summer blooming flowers are white and are in a cluster that has 10-20 groups and each group has 12-15 flowers. Each group is about 6 inches across. The root system consists of several fleshy roots, not unlike those found on a dahlia. The plant spreads by reseeding itself. Water Hemlock grows in full or part shade, and moist to 12 inches of water and can tolerate seasonal flooding. It is hardy in zones 4-11. Water Hemlock is reasonably attractive and eloquent, and the flowers provide nectar to many insects. It is fairly easy to distinguish Water Hemlock from other members of the Carrot family, which it is a member of. Look for its double compound leaves and rather large leaflets that are rarely lobed. Many other members of the Carrot family have simple compound leaves, or the leaflets are much smaller and more lobed.

Countdown to spring

by ERIK TATE Operations Manager
Reprinted from Water Garden News 3-06

This is the time of year when many of us are seeing hints of spring. 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. Until the water temperature is consistently above 50 degrees, continue to not feed the fish. 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. Their 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!

Work schedule set for Friends of the Gardens

TAWGS voted at their February meeting to participate with a new group being formed called the Friends of the Gardens by the Lake and Bob Saathoff agreed to represent TAWGS at the monthly meetings of the group. Following is a work schedule provided by Bob which will be the guidelines for the first summer. We hope that those that signed up to help at the gardens will be able to carry out the commitment of TAWGS.

Work Schedule
LAKE SHAWNEE

FRIENDS OF THE GARDENS

April	Meade Flower and Garden Club Topeka Area Water Garden Society
May	Topeka Beautification Association Topeka Daylily Society
June	Gardeners of America Queen of Spades Topeka Rose Society

We would like to have a total of 5-7 people work on the scheduled days from the two clubs. The scheduled days are every Tuesday and Thursday morning every week from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

If volunteers would like to come on other days of the week they are welcome. If they wish to work during months when not scheduled, they are welcome.

Friends of the Gardens caps, visors and mesh vests have been ordered for all volunteers to wear for identification.

The meeting place each morning will be at the trailhead parking lot/restroom just north of 37th St. and West Edge RD.

Thank you very much for your participation and we think this will be a successful, as well as fun, volunteer program to be involved in.

(The Master Gardeners will be maintaining the woodland area just north of the Garden House when needed and Keep America Beautiful will provide volunteers to work two hours one Saturday and two hours one Sunday each month.)

Wichita Garden Show pares down

While TAWGS, Topeka Beautification Assn., and Shawnee County Parks and Rec. have been working to improve the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show, the Wichita Garden Show has had to pare down their "great gardens" which have been a major draw for one the top rated

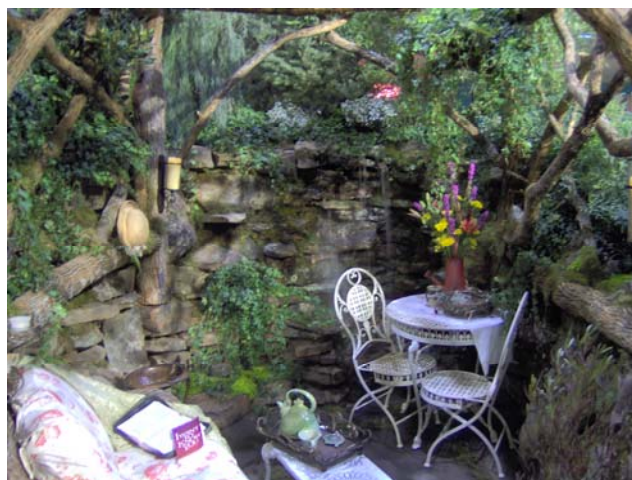


Imagination runs wild with the "Vacation in your own Back Yard" theme at the Wichita garden show.

garden shows in the nation. A low attendance at the show last year resulted in a \$63,000 deficit from which the organizers are trying to recover. Higher ticket prices and reduced subsidies to the Great Gardens were just part of the action taken to recover expenses. With a budget of \$500,000 to \$600,000, the show is totally funded by rental of booth space, sale of tickets at the gate and the generosity of sponsors who believe in the show.

Those of us who have attended and loved the show for quite a few years hope that the show will go on, but their future looks dim with the knowledge that, even if the show recovers financially, the 200 vendors and educational booths will have to move to a new location in 2011 because Wichita has already promised Century II to the American Bowling Congress for six months for a bowling tournament (can you believe that??).

While the show this year was still beautiful and interesting, it didn't have the "wow" effect that it has usually had in the past. Still, it is always great to get away and "rush" into spring with all the water features and blooming trees, shrubs and flowers.



A meditation room with a waterfall in the background was one of the Great Garden's idea of a "Vacation in your own Back Yard" theme at the Wichita Garden Show.

Conversion chart

It seems to me that a lot of liquids for water gardens are in metric and it is hard to figure out how much to use in the pond. Here is a conversion chart that might be helpful to you.

(APPROXIMATE) CONVERSION FACTORS CHART

For use when mixing or giving medications, salting the pond, dips, making a dechlor solution, translating koi length from meters to inches etc.

- 1 fluid ounce = 29.5 ml
- 1 cup = 8 ounces = 16 tablespoons = 236 ml
- 1 pint = 16 ounces = 2 cups
- 1 quart = 2 pints = 4 cups = 32 ounces = 0.945 liters
- 1 gallon = 4 quarts = 8 pints = 16 cups = 128 fluid ounces
- 1 gallon = 8.33 lbs. (pure water weight) = 3.79 liters
(Note : 1 English (Imperial gallon) = 1.2 U.S. gallons)
- 1 teaspoon = 5 ml = 100 - 110 drops (depends on dropper)
- 1 tablespoon = 3 teaspoons = 15 ml
- 1 ml water = 1 gram = 1 cubic centimeter
- 1 liter (l) = 1000 milliliters (ml) = 0.001 cu meters = 0.264 gal
- 1 micron = 0.000001 meters = 0.0001 centimeter
- 1 foot = 12.0 inches = 0.305 meters
- 1 yard = 3.00 feet = 36.0 inches = 0.914 meters
- 1 meter = 100 centimeters = 3.28 feet = 39.4 inches
- 1 centimeter = 10 millimeters
- 1 kilometer = 1000 meters = 0.621 miles
- 1 ounce (avoirdupois) = 28.35 grams
- 1 lb. = 16 ounces (avoirdupois) = 454 grams
- 1 kilogram (kg) = 1000 grams (g) = 2.20 lb.
- 1 cu in = 0.00433 gal = 0.0164 liters = 16.4 ml
- 1 cu ft = 1728 cu in = 7.48 gal = 28.3 liters
- 1 percent (%) = 10 parts per thousand (ppt) = 10000 parts per million (ppm)
- 1 ppm = 1 mg/l = 1 pound per 120,000 gallons = 1 ounce per 7500 gallons = 1 gram per 264.5 gallons
- Temperature: Fahrenheit to/from Centigrade:
 $0F = 9/50C + 32$
 $0C = (0F - 32) 5/9$

Improve your pond this spring

Reprinted from 3-05 *The Water Garden News*

With warmer weather approaching for most of us, we may be dreaming about days around the pond with the beautiful water lilies and peaceful sound of moving water. This dream is not far from reality and there are many ways we can improve on our oasis this spring.

It could be that you are not happy with the appearance of your pond. Maybe your waterfall is not what you had in mind. This is a good time to build a new waterfall that not only looks like the waterfall you want but also improves the water quality by adding additional filtration to your pond. Waterfall tanks, FilterFalls, and other external filters work this way. These products not only make building a waterfall easier but add more filtration as well.

Replacing some or adding to the plants in our pond could make a big improvement. Maybe a new

plant design that uses only variegated plants. There are several different plants that have variegated foliage in both water lilies and shallow water plants. Sometimes less is more. It is possible to have too many varieties of plants to make the pond attractive. It could have a hodgepodge look if you have one of everything. Groups of three or five of one type of plant can make the pond more appealing.

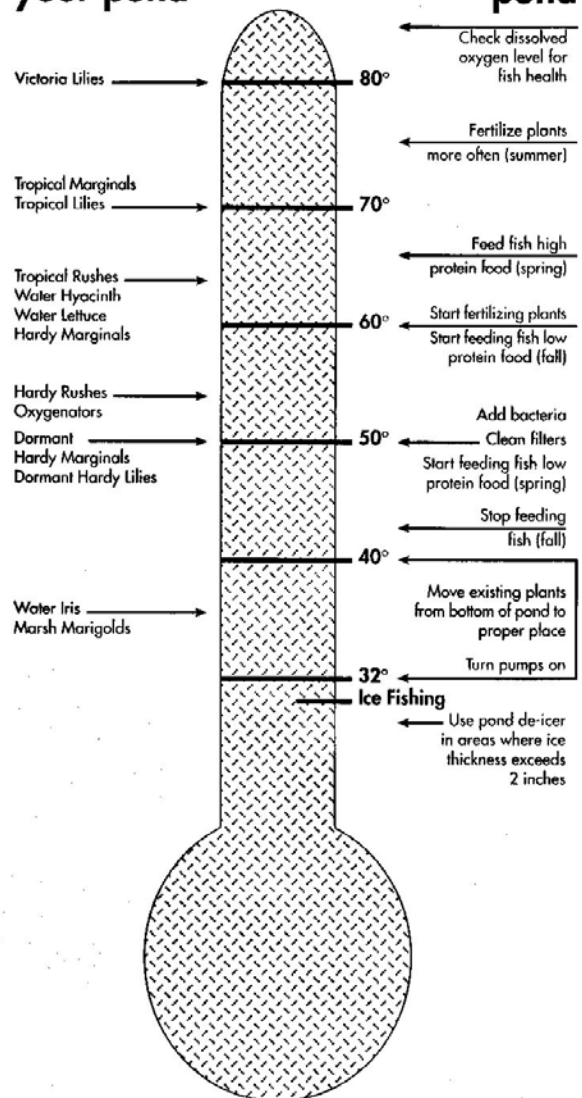
Ornaments can provide a new improved look to a pond. Statuary or spitters are an inexpensive way to make our pond more beautiful. Add a bench or bridge made of long lasting cypress or possibly an arbor to provide a place for vining or hanging plants. Windchimes not only look beautiful but the sound can add a wonderful atmosphere to our water garden.

Don't be content to keep the same pond year after year. As you can see there are several inexpensive ways we can make our ponds more exciting each season.

THE POND THERMOMETER™

When to put new plants in your pond

Taking care of your pond



Average Weekly Temperature of Pond Water

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

Calendar of Events

April 7 -18 Binkley Tulip Days
April 18 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
May 16 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting Fish Fry/Potluck
at Lake Shawnee
June 20 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
June 23-24 -Topeka Pond Tour
June 23-24 – Lawrence Pond Tour
July 7-8 – Wichita Pond Tour
July 14-15 – Kansas City Pond Tour
July 18 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Aug. 15 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Sept. 19 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Oct. 17 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Nov 14 – TAWGS Pot Luck & Monthly Meeting

(Note change of date)

Pond Tip - Increase the lifespan of your pump with routine care. Every time you clean your filter, inspect your pump and clear away any debris from the intake. The number one cause of premature pump failure is neglect. Clean away debris and check around the impeller to ensure that there are no potential blockages

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 3-07 or 4-07

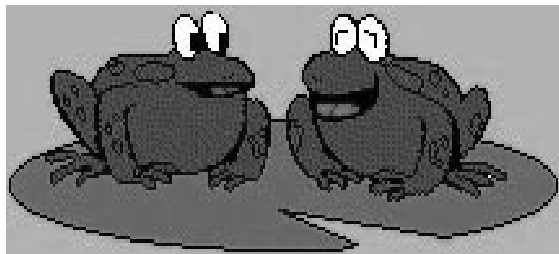
Please renew as soon as possible to continue
receiving the newsletter.

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

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY 2007 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
408 Emerald, Holton, KS 66436
785 364-3046

fdgruver@earthlink.net

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