



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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August 1, 2007



Kip Walker, left, talks about pond lighting at the July TAWGS meeting. (L-R) Bill Clark, Dale Jirik, Mary Eberhardt, Eric Wood, Cheryl and Bob Saathoff, Barrie Gnagy, Donniss Hodges, Hi Stockwell and Michael Bradley look at the lighting that Kip is explaining to the group.

Lighting your landscape

Kip Walker gave an interesting program at the July 18th TAWGS meeting, which was held at Puddles-N-Pads so he could show the group what he was talking about.

“How many people have lighting in their pond?” Kip asked. A few hands went up. “How many HAD lighting in their pond?” he asked with a big smile on his face. Lots more hands went up. He said most people have trouble with seals that have gone bad or bulbs that have burned out, but a new LED light is now on the market that eliminates those problems. He said that a LED bulb will last for 10,000 hours, compared to a regular pond light that might last 2,000 hours.

“There is no filament to burn out,” he said, “and the wattage is very low. One and a half watts verses 20 watts with a regular bulb.”

Kip advised using silicone filled wire nuts or liquid electrical tape to connect the wires as they won’t short out as easily. He said when buying a transformer be sure to buy one with a higher voltage rating than you think you will need. Use only 80% of what the transformer is rated. He also advised to make a loop from the transformer back to the transformer so that the lights will all burn the same brightness. He said if you don’t do that, the first

Monthly Meeting
 7:00 p.m., August 15, 2007
 Historic Old Prairie Town
 (Ward Meade Park)
The Vanishing Edge
 Eric Wood, Puddles-N-Pads

light will be the brightest and each light thereafter will be a little dimmer. It is also a good idea to try to centralize the transformer.

Another tip that Kip gave was to be sure to leave plenty of cord on an underwater light. Wrap the cord around the light and place it in the water. Then, when a bulb burns out you won’t have to drain the water down in the pond to be able to replace it. “Ask me how I know that,” Kip again said with a smile. Experience is a good teacher. Kip also said that it is best to not put a light half in and half out of the water as it can cause breakage.

“Pick out focal points,” Kip said. Then place the lights to highlight what you want to see. He demonstrated this by placing a light behind the waterfall in one of the ponds, then in front of the waterfall and then underneath the waterfall. Don’t place them where they will glare in your eyes, either. Trees, shrubs, rocks or a statuary can also be highlighted with a soft light focused on them. It was easy to see what Kip was saying when he could show us what he was talking about.

Kip, who wholesales for Lilypads in Landscapes, said he covers four states and has a 25 year background in stage lighting.

“Lighting excites me,” he said.

Volunteers for 2007 Refreshments

<u>Month</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
Aug	Don & Sandy Regier, Linda Reynolds
Sept.	Jon & Mary Pat Fischer, Doug & Marikay Peterman
Oct.	Floyd & Diane Gruver, Betty Karnes
Nov.	Pot Luck

Water Plants

By Duane Van Dolah

Buttonbush



Cephalanthus occidentalis

The Buttonbush is a native of North America and can be found in the eastern three quarters of Kansas. It is in the same family as the Coffee Tree and is usually found in wet open areas, along edges of streams, ponds, lakes, and in swamps and drainage ditches. It will grow in any type of soil but dry ones. It grows to 6-8 feet with the same spread. The open, course habit produces leaves that are ovate to elliptic, glossy bright green and 3- 6 inches long, 2-4 inches wide. Tiny, tubular, 5-lobed, fragrant white flowers appear in dense, spherical, long-stalked flower heads up to 1-1 1/2 inch diameter. A pincushion-like appearance occurs because of the long, projecting styles. They are very attractive to bees and butterflies. The flowers bloom in July-August and are a good source of honey. The flower heads mature into a hard round 1 inch fruit, consisting of multiple tiny two-seeded nutlets. The fruits remain until late winter, providing seeds for birds. They like to grow in full sun to part shade, zones 5-9. The buttonbush will only grow in moist soil and up to 18 inches of water.

A few interesting things about the bush are that the Native Americans used it for medical purposes. The root and bark were used to treat eye disorders; the bark was chewed to relieve toothaches and was boiled and used to treat headaches, dysentery, fevers, and stomach aches.

I found one cultivar, 'Sputnik', that is pinkish-white and is supposed to have a longer blooming time and larger flowers.

TAWGS Minutes, July 18, 2007

TAWGS members met at Puddles-N-Pads July 18th. President Duane called the meeting to order with self introductions. We welcomed two new member couples, Amy and Phil Thompson and Dan and Tiffany Mauer. Bill Clark from Backyard Oasis was a guest.

Jim Green moved and Don Regier seconded that the June minutes stand approved as printed in the July Lily Pad. Motion carried.

Duane thanked Donnis for calling for the volunteers for the pond tour. He also thanked everyone who helped make the tour successful. Floyd Gruver gave a report on a follow-up pond tour committee meeting recently hosted at the home of Tom and Helen Platis. (See committee minutes printed elsewhere in the Lily Pad.) He said that Tom had done a great job as chairman and Hi Stockwell had done a wonderful job on the tour guide.

Treasurer Jim Green reported that so far it looks like we have cleared \$2,913.89 for the tour but we still have to pay for printing the guides. He also reported that we have \$7,699.12 in checking, and \$1,189.68 in savings for a total of \$8,888.80. Michael Bradley asked if there is

a way to track the money that has been committed to Lake Shawnee, etc., but that has not been spent. Jim will work on that report.

Bob Saathoff explained about the "Friends at the Lake" so that the new members would understand what it was all about. He said that TAWGS volunteers put in 100 hours at Lake Shawnee pulling weeds, etc., in May and at least 40 hours in July. He said they are going to try to make working hours more flexible next year so people can work when it is convenient for them. He reported that he, Duane and Floyd had met with Dave Bartels at Lake Shawnee recently to decide on the streambed that goes from the TAWGS pond to the lake. The foundation for the falls in the streambed has been laid and they will be laying rock from the lake to the TAWGS pond soon. Twenty thousand gallons an hour will fall from the TAWGS pond through the streambed to the lake. It should be impressive! The \$2,500 that we have allocated to Lake Shawnee will mostly be spent for plant material in that area. He said that he and Floyd deadheaded the lilies in the TAWGS pond after meeting with Dave.



Bob Saathoff (l) and Floyd Gruver deadheaded the lilies at the TAWGS pond at Lake Shawnee recently.

Hi Stockwell reported that Paul and Gay Schneider's pond, which was on the pond tour, was selected as the best water feature in the TBA contest this year. Don and Sharon Hutley's pond, which was also on the pond tour this year, was last year's winner.

Marikay Peterman said that she has a large TAWGS t-shirt that she would like to sell if anyone is interested. Contact her at 785-478-1988.

Dale Jirik said that there is still room on the Meade Bus Tour to Powell Gardens July 16, 2007. It costs \$80. Call Earlene Jirik at 785-266-5492.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments provided by Carol and Barrie Gnagy and Hi Stockwell and Michael Bradley. Kip Walker gave an interesting talk about landscape lighting in and around the pond, followed by a tour and demonstration of lighting at the ponds at Puddles.

Election of officers is in October. Please think about running for an office and let one of the officers know if you would be interested.



Gilbert Capoun, Jerold Binkley, Bob Saathoff and Floyd Gruver rest after loading three rocks for Lake Shawnee on Floyd's trailer. (Photo supplied by Carl Smith).



TAWGS recently paid to have the water feature in the fountain at Ward Meade Park refurbished.

When the power goes off

Reprinted from 8-05 Splash

How many fish can the pond hold? Have your fish multiplied this summer or you found some more that you simply could not resist buying? Or both?

We have had some severe storms here in St. Louis that left several hundred of our customers without power on hot and humid days. This produced a scramble in our retail facility for ways to keep the fish alive without pumps to oxygenate the water.

This is a rather common problem! In the summer time the oxygen content of the water falls as the water temperature rises. Most of the time this is not dangerous as the pump(s) replenish the oxygen, but when they fail....

The general rule of thumb is that a pond can safely support one inch of fish per square foot of surface area without pumps and filters running. If your pond has more fish than that, then it is best to make some provisions for potential problems such as a power outage.

Since most of us do not have a generator handy when these types of things happen, the next best thing is to keep a jar of Microbe Lift OX on the shelf. This is not a miracle cure but lots of times it is the difference between inconvenience and disaster!

Educational opportunities

Puddles-N-Pads 2007 Seminars

Call 785-233-3474 for more information

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

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



Fun Pond Fact

Are you watching those beautiful and colorful dragonflies around your pond? Dragonflies are not really flies, in fact, they EAT flies! They lay their eggs in the water where the nymphs mature (it can take up to 3 years). Once they crawl out of the water and turn into the dragonflies we see, they live only a few more months.

You are invited to an
Open House

To help Betty Karnes
Celebrate her 80th Birthday!
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Sunday, August 5th
2880 Mulvane

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

Calendar of Events

Aug. 15 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Sept. 19 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Oct. 17 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting– election of officers
Nov 14 – TAWGS Pot Luck & Monthly Meeting
(Note change of date)

Notice – no one claimed it yet!

I picked up a sack at the fish fry at Lake Shawnee that someone had left behind on a table. It has some orange plastic plates, two forks and two spoons. If it is yours, please let me know and I will TRY to remember to bring it to the next meeting! - Diane

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 6-07, 7-07 or 8-07

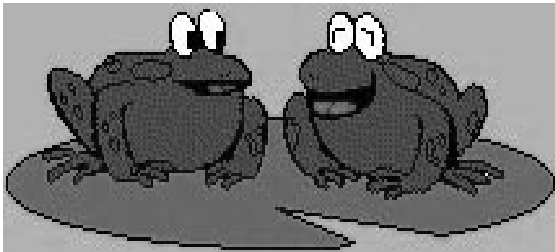
Please renew as soon as possible to continue receiving the newsletter.

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

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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:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor
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785 364-3046

fdgruver@earthlink.net

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