



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 1

February 1, 2007

Fish care tips for winter



Cold temperatures suspend many activities in the pond. Hibernating pond fish have to cope with many problems.

Wound healing, for example, is slowed significantly and may even stop altogether. Cuts or bruises may not heal until the water warms up, leaving the fish vulnerable to bacterial and/or parasitic infection.

The immune system of pond fish is also significantly reduced in water temperatures below 63 degrees Fahrenheit.

It is extremely important to keep the water quality good during cold weather, especially for Koi.

It is best to act fast if you notice the water quality is deteriorating during the winter because too many leaves got in the pond or other outside influences. Cold weather bacteria can help improve water quality, so can adequate oxygenation.

Ugly, stringy stuff growing in the pond

That "stuff" is called by many names: String Algae Hair Algae Blanket Weed...etc... This time of year (winter) it can grow at amazing speed! The cause is a low concentration of beneficial bacteria due to the low water temperatures and simultaneous over-abundance of nutrients (sludge in the bottom of the pond, decaying leaves and other organic matter).

This algae growth can take vital oxygen away from the fish, especially if the pond gets covered by ice and snow.

There are remedies available that work even in colder temperatures:

- "Aqua One" beneficial bacteria is not temperature sensitive and will help get rid of excess nutrients in the water.
- "PondMarket Restor" will clean off the stuff coating the rocks in the pond
- "Pond Balance" will dissolve the long strings growing so profusely!

Fun (Pond) Fact

The growth hormone produced in a Koi's body is partially controlled by the amount of sunlight he is exposed to. The amount of growth hormone produced directly influences the size and body shape of the Koi.

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m., Feb. 21, 2007

Historic Old Prairie Town

(formerly Ward Meade Park)

Bob Saathoff and Gerald Binkley



When will spring get here

Burr, after a beautiful and mild fall and early winter, old man frost set in and hasn't budged for several weeks! I guess we were told that we would pay for the nice weather early on and we certainly are.

The cold has especially been harsh for Floyd and I because we have just returned from a wonderful 6 week trip to the south and west. Arizona had the coldest temperatures they've had since 1979, but they certainly seemed warmer to us than what we kept hearing about northeast Kansas.

Bob Saathoff and his committee have been busy while we were gone making all the arrangements for the Lawn and Garden Show in Topeka this weekend. Now the nasty weather seems to threaten their efforts, but hopefully it will all fall into place by Friday. We certainly hope so anyway. Thanks to all of you that have volunteered to help with the display.

See you at the meeting on the 21st! We hope that all of you have had a good winter. Spring surely can't be too far away!

Pond Fun Fact



Frogs cannot survive the winter buried in mud at the bottom of the pond - their need for oxygen is too high. They will lay on top of the mud. You may even see them swim around a little on warmer days.

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

Calendar of Events

Feb. 16-18 – Topeka Lawn and Garden Show
Feb. 21 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
Feb. 28-Mar. 4 – Wichita Garden Show
March 21 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
April 18 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
May 16 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
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 Meeting date to be determined later

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

Your Dues are Due if your label reads
anytime in 2006 or 2-07

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

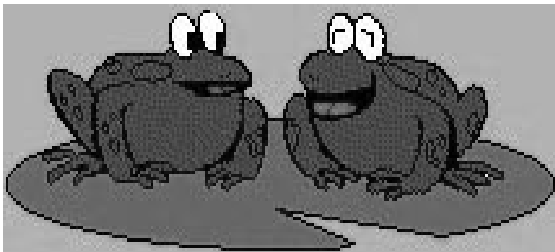
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

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

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