



# 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 6

July 1, 2007



*TAWGS members stand in line for refreshments at the home of Donnis and Gerald Hodges. (L-R) Helen Platis, Dale Jirik, Tom Platis, Joe Breitenstein, Sandy Regier, Gerald Hodges, Donnis Hodges, Stan Bechtold, Duane Eberhardt, Allen Ellis, Connie Ellis, Earlene Jirik, Tom Routh, Pat Routh, Jim Green and Floyd Gruver.*

### TAWGS Minutes June 20, 2007

TAWGS members met at the home of Duane and Mary Eberhardt for their June meeting. Everyone enjoyed visiting around the Eberhardt's pond before the short business meeting. Duane opened the meeting with self introductions. Mike and Eileen Joost were guests. Dale Jirik moved and Stan Bechtold seconded the motion to approve the May minutes as printed in the June Lily Pad. Motion carried.

Duane informed the group that several TAWGS members gathered at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Topeka City Council meeting for the Mayor's Proclamation of Topeka Area Water Garden Week, June 18 - 24. Duane thanked Hi Stockwell for writing to the mayor to request the proclamation and for writing the proclamation.

Vice President Floyd Gruver reported that he and Diane had worked at the fountain at Ward Meade Park prior to the meeting, removing spent blooms and yellow pads from the lilies and fertilizing them. He asked for volunteers to work at the fountain each month, saying that it usually only takes about an hour. Donnis and Gerald Hodges volunteered for the month of July and Duane Eberhardt and Floyd will work in August. We still need volunteers for September and October. Floyd also reported that he had talked to Ray Schroeder and that

### Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m.

### Puddles-N-Pads

4111 NW 16<sup>th</sup> Street

### Landscape Lighting

Kip Walker

Please bring your lawn chairs

Ray agreed to have Anna's Pond at Ward Meade on the 2008 Pond Tour. He also thanked everyone for all their help on this year's pond tour and said that he already has a list of ponds started for next year.

Secretary Diane Gruver read a thank you from Sara Leeth thanking TAWGS for the money to refurbish the fountain at Ward Meade Park. The letter said: "Thank you so much for donating the funds for the restoration of the fountain at Old Prairie Town! Degginger's Foundry did an amazing job in restoring it to its original beauty. We could not have done that without you. The fountain is such an important part of our gardens at the park, and we appreciate all the work that your group does to keep it looking beautiful. On behalf of the entire staff at Old Prairie Town, we thank you for your support and generosity in beautifying the fountain and water garden for our visitors and the community to enjoy!" Sincerely, Sara Leeth, Executive Director, City of Topeka, Parks and Recreation, Old Prairie Town at Ward Meade Historic Site.

Treasurer Jim Green reported that we have \$5,060.96 in the checking account and \$1,187.44 in the saving account for a total of \$6,248.40. He said that he had paid \$250 for our insurance policy, \$174 to Bob Saathoff for expenses at the Lawn and Garden Show, \$120 to Phoenix Engineering for hosting the web site and \$500 for TV ads for the pond tour. Carol Gnagy moved and Dale Jirik seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Tom Platis, chairman of the 2007 Pond Tour said that everything was on schedule and thanked everyone for their help on the project. He also thanked Hi Stockwell for the great job on the guide.

Hi showed the group the very nice marble markers that Laser Art Creations, Topeka, gave to the pond tour hosts this year. Thanks to them for donating

the markers. The reception for the pond tour hosts and volunteers will be held Thursday at Puddles-N-Pads. Mary Eberhardt will provide the drinks and cookies.

Earlene Jirik announced that the Meade Garden Bus tour to Powell Gardens will be on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. It will cost \$80, which will include two meals and the entrance fee to Powell Gardens. Call Earlene for reservations, 785-266-5492.

Betty Karnes moved that the meeting adjourn. The group then drove to the home of Brad and Amy Cheney to see their pond and then on to Donniss and Gerald Hodges' home for refreshments provided by Mary Ann and Stan Bechtold and Pat and Tom Routh. It was a beautiful evening to be outside, tour the ponds and sit around to visit and get better acquainted. Thanks to the Eberhardt's, Cheney's and Hodges' for sharing their ponds with our group. The July meeting will be held at Puddles-N-Pads where Kip Walker will give a program on landscape and pond lighting.



TAWGS members sit in lawn chairs at the home of Duane and Mary Eberhardt for the June meeting. (L – R) Betty Karnes, Allen Ellis, Connie Ellis, Dale Jirik, Donniss Hodges, Earlene Jirik, Gerald Hodges, Pat Rokey, Tom Routh, Dick Rokey, Pat Routh, Tom Platis, Helen Platis, Don Regier, Stan Bechtold and Sandy Regier.



Members gather at the pond of Brad and Amy Cheney at the June meeting. (L - R) Sandy Regier, Doug Peterman, Mary Ann Bechtold, Pat Routh, Tom Routh, Gerald Hodges, Stan Bechtold, Donniss Hodges, Connie Ellis, Hi Stockwell, Carol Gnagy, Barrie Gnagy and Helen Platis.

## Volunteers for 2007 Refreshments

Month	Refreshments
July	Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, Carol Gnagy
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



### Lesser water-plantain

#### *Baldellia ranunculoides*

Also known as Siberian pink cups, this plant is native to Europe and northern Africa. It is very popular in Europe for use in small water features, such as container gardens. This plant has arching stems that root wherever they touch moist ground. The three-petaled flowers are pink with yellow centers, ½ inch wide. Borne on stems that are 6-12 inches high, 20 long-stalked flowers can grow at the stem's end. The plants spread out in all directions in summer through fall. The dark green leaves are narrow elliptic and pointed. The rosette plant has a spread of 18 inches and grows best in shallow water that is just moist to ½ inches deep. This adaptable plant is best in sun and part shade in zones 6-11. Propagation is by division, seed, and pinning the stems to soil till rooted.

## Photo contest winners



By Trina Wood

A lotus picture tied for 2nd

Puddles N Pads Water gardens is pleased to announce the winners of the 1st Annual Photo Contest.

1st Place-Gay Schneider

2nd Place (tie) Diane Gruver

2nd Place (tie) Bob Good

Photos will remain on Display at Puddles N Pads Water Gardens

We hope to have more photos entered next year.

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While beneficial bacteria can establish naturally in your filter, using a packaged bacteria will get the colony started quicker and keep the beneficial bacteria population high.



*Floyd Gruver, Tom Platis, Diane Gruver, Jim Green and Duane Eberhardt listen to Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten read the proclamation. (Photo taken by Michael Bradley.)*

## Mayor proclaims Topeka Area Water Garden Week

Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten proclaimed June 18 – 24 as Topeka Area Water Garden Week at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Topeka City Council meeting. The Proclamation, which was written by Hi Stockwell, read as follows:

“PROCLAMATION by the Mayor

WHEREAS, The Topeka Area Water Garden Society is a not-for-profit organization, led by volunteers, that encourages a greater appreciation of the beauty and wonder of water gardening; and

WHEREAS, the Water Garden Society volunteers have contributed to the beauty of Topeka and the enjoyment of its citizens and its visitors by creating water features at Topeka Hospice, the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and the Ronald McDonald House, in addition to gifts of many volunteer hours and money to the Old Prairie Town water features at Ward-Meade Park and the Ensley Botanical Gardens at Lake Shawnee; and

WHEREAS, the organization is sponsoring its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Topeka Area Pond Tour on the weekend of June 23-24, that is made possible by businesses who advertise in the Tour Guide, the businesses that sell these guides and the generous Topeka citizens who have opened up their gardens to be enjoyed by individuals from Topeka and the surrounding communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William W. Bunten, Mayor of the City of Topeka, Kansas, do hereby proclaim the week of June 18-24, 2007 as TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN WEEK in the City of Topeka, Kansas, and urge the citizens of Topeka to recognize the past and ongoing contributions of the Topeka Area Water Garden Society volunteers when they view the Water Garden Society’s contributions to the beauty of Topeka.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, William W. Bunten, Mayor of the City of Topeka, Kansas, do hereby affix my official signature and the Official Seal of the City of Topeka, Kansas, on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007. William W. Bunten, Mayor.”



*Diane Gruver, Bob Saathoff and Floyd Gruver (front left) pose with Shawnee County employees when they moved the shed used at the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show to a new location at Nexus Photography. Proceeds from the sale of the shed will go toward the gardens at Lake Shawnee. (Photo provided by Nexus Photography.)*

## Add dechlorinator when topping off pond

Heat and wind mean a great deal of evaporation and we have been topping off our ponds more. This warrants mention of the importance of dechlorinating tap water. You should always add dechlorinator (Dry or Liquid) when topping off the water level of a pond. Any amount of chlorine (such as that found in treated water) can be harmful to your fish. Even if it is not enough chlorine to mean immediate death of the fish, this chlorine can still cause harm to proper gill function.

## 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](http://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
Oct 20	10:30AM	Winterizing your garden pond



*TAWGS members Bob and DeLoris Mehlinger live on the bank of Lake Sherwood. They shared their pond on the Pond Tour and have two vanishing falls which tumble over natural rock to the edge of their patio.*



*Jeff and Cindy Whitley, who were on the pond tour, have a large pond with numerous water plants and fish. Mama Mallard watched as tour goers invaded her yard.*

## Annual pond tour successful

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Topeka Pond Tour was successful again this year. The weather was nearly perfect the two days, although it did get a little warm in the afternoons. Preliminary reports are that we sold around 540 tickets this year.

Pond Chairman Tom Platis and his committee did a great job of organizing the tour. The committee consisted of: Tom and Helen Platis, Mary Ann and Stan Bechtold, Gerald and Donniss Hodges, Allen and Connie Ellis, Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, Jim Green, Duane and Mary Eberhardt and Floyd and Diane Gruver.

Floyd Gruver worked on getting the ponds for the tour, with the help of Tom Platis and Hi Stockwell.

Diane Gruver and Hi Stockwell worked on the advertising for the guide and Hi did a wonderful job putting the map and guide together. Diane also handled the advance publicity and the TV and newspaper advertising. Tom Platis worked on the radio advertising. Many thanks to all of these people for their hard work.

Many thanks also goes to Donniss Hodges who organized the volunteers to pond sit, including: Betty Karnes, Tom and Helen Platis, Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Dale and Earlene Jirik, Kent and Colleen Hampton, Doug and Marikay Peterman, Clella Ault, Carol Gnagy, Stanley and Susan Wilch, Mike and Regina Stock, Don and Ruth Taliaferro, Tom and Pat Routh, Connie and Allen Ellis, Bob and Cheryl Saathoff, Larry and Barb Shipman, Don and Sandy Regier, Jim Green, Karl Von Feldt, Floyd and Diane Gruver and Gerald and Donniss Hodges.

We could not hold this tour each year without all the willing help from everyone. Again, thanks so much!!

## Water Garden Tip

Do you have trouble with fish rooting around in the soil of the potted plants in your pond? Fish, especially koi, will root in the soil and make a mess as well as uproot some plants. If you have had this occur, try placing potato-sized cobblestones on top of the gravel or aquatic potting media to discourage this behavior.



*The pond at Dale and Mary Clare Wilson's is in a wooded setting and has two waterfalls. Large native limestone rocks dominate the area around the pond.*

## Causes of Fish Stress

*Reprinted from The Water Garden*

I'm sure that many of us have enough stress in our lives that we laugh off the thought of our fish being stressed. But a stressed fish is all too often a soon-to-be sick fish. A fish that is stressed has a weakened immune system and is thus much more susceptible to attack from parasites, bacteria, or other pathogens. Ensuring that your fish are under as little stress as possible is the best thing you can do to ensure a long and healthy life for your friends with fins. This list of the 10 most common causes of fish stress may help save your fish. (And if you still laugh off the thought of fish stress just remember that if your fish begin to die, that is one more stress factor in YOUR life).

1. Sudden changes in pH. pH will always fluctuate to some degree, but we want to have a pH that is as stable as possible. Ensuring that the buffering capacity (KH) will help keep a stable pH level. pH that is too high or too low can also cause stress, but stability is what is most important.
2. Sudden changes in water temperature.

Goldfish and koi are cold-blooded and can tolerate a wide range of temperatures, but a sudden change in that temperature can cause undue stress. Proper acclimation when adding new fish is critical. Small, shallow ponds are more apt to have the water temperature change quickly. Providing good surface coverage will help keep the temperature changes slow.

3. Insecurity. Fish can be stressed if they are not comfortable in their surroundings. Clear water with little surface coverage will cause a fish to feel insecure. The fish are more susceptible to predator attack in clear water and the fish is aware of this risk. Providing surface coverage or an underwater hiding place can help. Extra stress will be caused if the fish have actually been visited by a potential predator.
4. Poor diet. Fish need a regular balanced diet. This is not as complicated as it may sound. While some packaged foods may have advantages over other, as long as they are getting a regular feeding of a seasonally-appropriate food labeled for koi or goldfish they should be getting the nutrient they need.
5. Poor water quality. Water quality is a broad term but is often referring mainly to the nitrogen compounds found in the water. Ammonia, Nitrite, and Nitrate are always going to be present to a degree in a pond with fish, but the levels need to be kept as low as possible. Good filtration is the key to breaking down ammonia and nitrite. Nitrate is used up by plants or should be removed with regular, partial water-changes.
6. Water toxin. There can be many, many possible toxins coming from many sources that can stress or directly kill fish. Chlorine and chloramines are common additives to tap water that if not removed can cause severe stress or death. Other common sources for toxins are lawn fertilizers or pesticides that may blow into the water or be washed in along with rain. If this type of toxin is suspected an immediate water change would be called for.
7. Lack of sufficient oxygen. Fish rely on dissolved oxygen in the water for respiration. Common causes of a low dissolved oxygen level are too many fish, not enough aeration, or a large algae kill.
8. Overcrowding. Keeping too many fish leads to many of the other issues addressed here including poor oxygen levels and buildup of nitrogen compounds.
9. Physical stress. Physical stress can be caused by an actual wound. A fish can be wounded by a predator or scrape against a sharp rock in the pond. Handling a fish also will cause stress. Avoid catching fish unnecessarily.
10. Infection. Stress may lead to an infection from some sort of pathogen, but an infection will also increase the stress level thereby making the fish more susceptible to further infection and limiting their ability to fight it off.

# Selecting and placing pond plants

*Reprinted from 7-06 Splash*

There are some tips and tricks for correct placement of pond plants to insure maximum enjoyment and we would like to share them today:

Water lilies, usually the focal point of the deep water in ponds, do not like moving water and will disintegrate if splashed. Water lilies should be placed away from water falls and fountains! If a deep water plant is needed for ponds with a fountain and/or waterfall were placement away from these features is not possible, a lotus may be a better choice.

Rapidly multiplying floating plants like water hyacinths and water lettuce are great for providing quick shade and helping with filtration, but they should not be used south of the Mason Dixon Line, because they are nuisance plants and choke water ways. North of Mason Dixon they are not that great a danger because they will die off during cold temperatures. Water hyacinth do great in moving water, as a matter of fact, they will positively explode in size if placed in a waterfall spillway or the top of a waterfall filter. Water lettuce does best in partial to full shade in warmer climate zones.

Marginal pond plants (shallow water plants) come in many varieties, some like to be submerged up to 6 inches (or more for large plants), but some prefer to only have their roots wet and the top of the container above the water line. Check the growing directions for the plant. A brick or upside down terracotta pot can be placed under the plants that need to sit higher on the marginal shelf.

## Fun Pond Facts

Goldfish are born looking grayish or black while Koi are colorful right away (although they need to be at least 6 inches long before the true pattern establishes)

### The Fish Egg Hunt!

They are tiny, tiny, tiny! Can barely be seen! Lift up water hyacinth and check the roots, or feel along the liner toward the edge of the pond (very gently).

Sometimes you will see them: thousands of them!

They will not be there for long! Goldfish and Koi eggs hatch by "degree days", meaning: the warmer it is, the faster they hatch!

## New members welcomed

Welcome to four people who recently became members of the Topeka Area Water Garden Society by purchasing a \$1,000 pond kit from Puddles-N-Pads. Linda and John Donnelly, Jill Miller and Phil Thompson all received a free membership to TAWGS for one year. We hope to see them at our meetings!

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

## Calendar of Events

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)

## Notice

*I picked up a sack at the fish fry at Lake Shawnee that someone had left 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 5-07, 6-07 or 7-07**

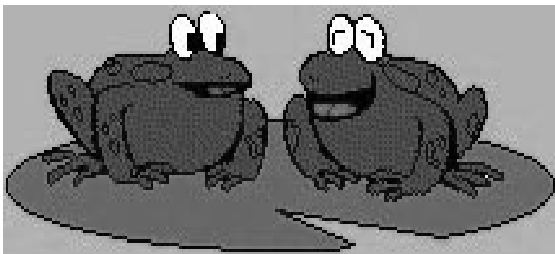
Please renew as soon as possible to continue receiving the newsletter.

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](http://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](mailto:fdgruver@earthlink.net)

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