



# 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 10

November 1, 2007



Deb Spencer tells a frog joke at TAWGS in October.

## Frogs, toads and tadpoles

"Algae is a good thing," Deb Spencer said as she poked her finger into a big bowl with tadpoles swimming around in very green water. "Build it and they will come," she continued as she gave a very interesting program about Frogs, toads and tadpoles at the TAWGS October meeting.

Comparing frogs and toads, Deb gave us some interesting differences in the two species. Frogs are smooth skinned and are always around water, toads are rougher and wartier and are not typically around water except during breeding season. Their diets and breeding habits are similar although a bullfrog can spend up to two years as a frogpole before it metamorphoses into a frog, but toadpoles can become toads in two weeks! You can tell the difference between their eggs because toad eggs are long clear strings with black dots and frog eggs are stuck together like a ball. Neither has shells so they can not dry out. Even if you see thousands of long strings of toad eggs or lots of frog ball eggs, there are a lot of predators that feed on the tadpoles, including fish, so not very many survive. Tadpoles eat algae until they metamorphous into toads or frogs.

The breeding of frogs and toads starts in April with their croaking; most females do not call. Each species has a different sound/croak which identifies them. The female finds the male based on what she is hearing. Toads have a shrill voice while frogs have a deep croak. Tree frogs also have a shrill call and can actually change color depending on where they are. A

## Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m., Nov. 14, 2007

(note change of time and date)

**Historic Old Prairie Town**  
(Formerly Ward Meade Park)

## Pot Luck Supper

Bring covered dish and table service

group of frogs is an army. A group of toads is a knot. Quite surprisingly, females are larger than males. Green frogs and bull frogs look a lot alike.

Frogs and toads exist on every continent except Antarctica or the extreme north where there is permafrost.

Are they endangered? There are no studies about native frogs, but they aren't endangered in Kansas. Reasons that frog/toad numbers might be declining are: habitat encroachment, pollution, exhaust, pesticide and chemicals. There are some organizations that study frogs such as FrogWatch USA. Kansas also has a monitoring group where trained people listen for different species of frogs at certain times of the year.

Frogs eat live prey, such as bugs, small fish, anything that is moving - even small birds. They can not see in color, only black and white, so motion is what attracts them. They can eat 2/3 of their weight a day in bugs. An American bullfrog can get as large as 18 inches long and one and a half-pounds. The African Giant can grow to be 26 inches long and 10 pounds!

Many frogs produce glycerin in their internal organs (like antifreeze) and can survive even if they are 60 percent frozen. Toads burrow up to three feet down during the winter using their back feet to burrow backwards. Frogs burrow into the muck in the bottom of the pond or into pots filled with dirt. If the water temperature is below 40, they can stay below water but once it rises above 40 they have to come up to breathe every few days. Leopard frogs don't seem to make it through the winter as well as bull frogs.

Deb had some frog jokes – What makes frogs so happy? They eat whatever bugs them. What happens when two frogs collide? They get tongue tied. What happens when a frog has a broken leg? He is unhoppy.

Some people in the group had frog stories to

tell and some were glad to have frogs around their ponds. They eat lots of bugs and they keep the fish population down. Besides, they are just plain fun to watch.

"So," Deb said, "build more ponds and try to be more organic in the way you take care of your gardens." Another good reason to have frogs? As long as there are frogs on the lily pads you know that there aren't any snakes in the pond.

Deb, who is co-owner of Waters Edge in Lawrence, is a water garden expert who has been in the water gardening business for many years. She closed her talk saying that in Japan, the word for frog is "kaeru" and it means to return or come back home. Traditionally the Japanese carry a small ceramic frog in their purse so their money will come back home! Each person at the meeting was presented a cute 'little lucky frog' to take home with them. We also had the opportunity to leave the meeting with a tadpole, or two, for our pond. Thanks, Deb!



*Tom Platis, (l-r) Joe Breitenstein, Marikay Peterman and Diane Gruver stir the roasters of beans and sauerkraut at Apple Fest.*

## Apple Fest goes enjoy nice weather

Tom and Helen Platis did a good job of organizing TAWGS for their part on the Apple Fest at Ward Meade Park October 7<sup>th</sup>. After a bumpy start with problems with the electricity, the sauerkraut and beans were warm and ready to serve to the crowds when they started arriving about 10:30.

The weather was near perfect with a gentle breeze to help cool off the vendors, servers and attendees. Many thanks to Tom and Helen and their volunteers: Betty Karnes, Carol Gnagy, Joe Breitenstein, Doug and Marikay Peterman, Jim Green, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Floyd & Diane Gruver, Don and Sandy Regier, Dick and Pat Rokey, and Cheryl Saathoff.

## TAWGS minutes October 17, 2007

President Duane Eberhardt opened the October meeting with self introductions of the group. We were pleased to see some members who had not attended for awhile and welcomed several new members: Richard & Betty Oliva, Bill & Kellie Clark, Ken and Nancy Mulder, and Don and Sharon Hutley.

Deb Spencer gave a very interesting program on

Frogs, Toads and Tadpoles before refreshments were served.

The meeting resumed after refreshments with President Duane thanking the hostesses, Betty Karnes and Floyd & Diane Gruver for providing the goodies. President Duane announced that the November meeting would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, because the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday was the day before Thanksgiving. It will be a potluck and will start at 6:30 p.m.

Bob Saathoff moved and Betty Karnes seconded that the September minutes be approved as printed in the October newsletter. Motion carried.

Tom Platis reported on Cider Days and thanked everyone who volunteered to make it a successful event. Thanks Tom for chairing the committee.

VP Floyd Gruver reported that they didn't get to net Anna's Pond on the 13<sup>th</sup> as they had planned because of rain so they would try again at 9:00 a.m. on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. Those volunteering to help were: Don Taliaferro, Tom Platis, Duane Eberhardt, and Brad Cheney. Ray Schroeder will also provide two employees.

Diane Gruver reported that most of the members should have received an e-mail from her recently that Puddles-N-Pads would appreciate some help from our members as they are having a liquidation sale the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup>. She said that Puddles-N-Pads has always been a strong supporter of TAWGS and she hoped that we would be able to return the support when they are going through a difficult time.

Treasurer Jim Green reported that we have \$6,921.56 in the bank and \$1,196.41 in savings for a total of \$8,117.97. He said that we have liabilities of \$3,000 to Lake Shawnee for money earmarked for plants for the garden, \$251.91 for plants around the TAWGS pond and \$128.78 for netting Anna's Pond. He also reported that he had spent \$40 to file our not-for-profit corporation annual report to the state. Kip Walker moved and Debbie Dunkin seconded that we approve the treasurers report. Motion carried.

Tom Platis reported on the slate of officers that have been nominated for 2008. He moved to declare by acclamation that the slate of Duane Eberhardt - president, Don Taliaferro - vice president; Diane Gruver - secretary and Jim Green - treasurer be elected. Jim seconded the motion and it carried.

Duane reported that Bob Saathoff and the Gruvers will not be available this year to help at the Lawn and Garden Show in February so he asked for a volunteer for chairman. Doug Peterman said that he will head the committee. Volunteers for the committee were: Don Taliaferro, Allen Ellis, Don Hutley, Bill Clark and Brad Cheney. Deb Spencer from Waters Edge said that they would be happy to provide the equipment for a pondless waterfall and anything else that we needed. Brad said that he would provide the liner and Allen said that he would buy the dirt and provide a bobcat. Don Hutley said that they have ample storage space to store whatever we need to store after the show. Floyd Gruver moved that we allow Doug to spend up to \$1,500 for materials for the display. Don Taliaferro seconded the motion and it carried.



Don Taliaferro reported that he had talked to the Tennis Association about their request for TAWGS to build a pondless waterfall at Felker Park. He said that they would commit to the maintenance. They do not need a commitment from TAWGS to build the pondless waterfall now but it is something for the club to be thinking about for next spring.

Bob Saathoff reported that TAWGS volunteers have been working Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Lake Shawnee in October. So far we have worked about 60 hours in October.

Mary Blubaugh said that she had some umbrella plants to give away after the meeting. The meeting adjourned.

## Water Plants

By Duane Van Dolah

### Water Hawthorn

#### *Aponogeton*

I saw a pond club member recently and she told about a plant that was bought at Water's Edge in Lawrence. My two ladies sold her a plant that's just right for the season. It is the Water Hawthorn, *Aponogeton distachyos*. It is one of the best deep-water aquatics. Native of South Africa, it has naturalized in Australia, New Zealand, and South America. The floating strap-like leaves are up to 8 inches long and 3 inches wide, green with occasional mottling and purple tinge. The 2 to 3 inch flowers are borne on spikes, which float on the surface and have waxy white petals and black anthers. Some can even be found with lavender or pink flowers. The flowers have a vanilla-like fragrance like the hawthorn, hence its common name.

The Water Hawthorn likes cold water and will go dormant in the heat of the summer, only appearing in spring and again in fall with water 6 inches to 2 to 4 feet over it. Plant it in full sun to part-shade and even in moving water. It is hardy in zones 5-11, with no pests or diseases to bother it. Propagation is by division or sowing the bulb-like seeds. This is a good plant for the fall or the early spring season, before the hardy water lilies start to grow.

## Plants that can not freeze solid in the winter time

*Information provided October 1999 Reflections – Reprinted from October Lily Pad for the benefit of our new members*

Lower semi-hardy marginals to the bottom of the pond to assure that they live through the winter. Some winters you might be lucky enough for them to survive on the shelf, but don't count on it being a sure thing!

Plants that can't freeze solid in the winter time are: hardy water wisteria, golden buttons, melon sword, houttynia cameleon, New Zealand jumping rush, azure carpet, cardinal flower and the lobelias, water clovers, parrot feather, water parsley, pickerel plant and lizard tail.



Cheryl and Bob Saathoff, (l-r) Floyd Gruver, County employee Pat and a Gardeners of America volunteer spread mulch at Lake Shawnee recently.

### Volunteers work at Lake Shawnee

Bob Saathoff reports that TAWGS volunteers have donated over 60 hours at Lake Shawnee in October. We won't need to go back until after a freeze he reports.

Volunteers have been: Bob and Cheryl, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Tom and Helen Platis, Dale Jirik and Floyd & Diane Gruver.



Duane Eberhardt, Floyd Gruver and Bob Saathoff haul mulch at Lake Shawnee in October.



A waterfall and pool below the TAWGS pond at Lake Shawnee is taking shape and looking good.

9900 SW K-4 Highway  
Topeka, KS 66614

## Calendar of Events

Nov 14 – 6:30 - TAWGS Pot Luck & Monthly Meeting  
**(Note change of time and date)**

2008

Feb. 16-18 – Topeka Lawn and Garden Show

Feb. 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

March 19 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

April 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

May 21 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

June 14-15 – TBA Garden Tour

June 18 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

June 28 – 29, 2008 – Annual Pond Tour

July 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

Aug. 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

Sept. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

Oct. 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

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*If you turn pumps and filters off for the winter, be sure to drain all the connected plumbing. External filters, UV's, and external pumps will also need to be drained to prevent damage.*

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads 9-07, 10-07 or 11-07**

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

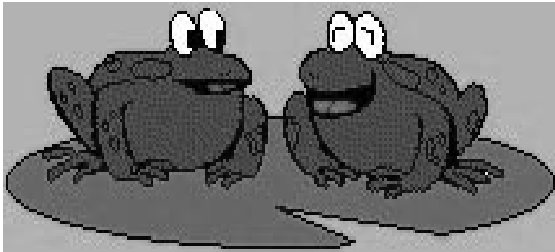
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

## 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](http://www.tawgs.org)

## *The Lily Pad*

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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@embarqmail.com](mailto:fdgruver@embarqmail.com) (note change)

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