



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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A picture of a disappearing edge on a pond.

Ponds disappearing edge

"A disappearing edge for a pond is a hard concept to grasp," Kip Walker told the group at TAWGS in August. He said it takes the place of a skimmer and there is no net or filters to clean or replace. It consists of gravel over a large basin filled with matrix units which act as filters and holds the gravel in place. There is very little upkeep or cleaning, Kip said, you can virtually use a leaf blower to clean the leaves out of the gravel. The rocks and plants serve as filters and keep the water extremely clear.

There are several things that need to be taken into consideration when building a disappearing edge. You will need to know how much water you are skimming off the top of the pond and the basin will need to be large enough to hold water in case of a power failure. You will need some professional help to calculate all the variables including the size of the pump, size of basin, etc.

"It works very efficiently and effectively, but it has to be built right," Kip said.

"What is the catch," was a question asked by one of the group. It is harder to build, it is more expensive because of the matrix blocks, it uses more rock and liner and it takes more space.

"It is not a first time project," Kip said.

Someone asked if a skimmer could be converted to a disappearing edge and the answer was yes. Another asked what happened to a fish that got caught in the gravel. "It flops for a little bit," Kip said grinning, "but they learn."

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m., Sept. 19, 2007

Historic Old Prairie Town

(Ward Meade Park)

Fish Health

Trina Wood, Puddles-N-Pads

Kip said that they have built ponds with disappearing edges at the Bass Pro Shop in Council Bluffs, IA and at the Omaha Zoo. They recently built a 40'x60' pond with a disappearing edge at the educational gardens at the Topeka City Waste Treatment Plant at I-70 and Macvicar.

Kip wholesales for Lily pads in Landscapes and has worked there for several years. At the conclusion of his program Kip provided two Koi Collectibles which were given as door prizes. The lucky winners were Linda Reynolds and Don and Sandy Regier.

TAWGS Minutes, August 15, 2007

President Duane Eberhardt called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone and our guests, Mary and Kevin Borough, Ron and Sharon Warman and Norman and Judeanna Simnit.

Floyd introduced Kip Walker who gave an interesting program on the disappearing edge. It is a fairly new concept that can be used in place of a skimmer.

Following the program, Linda Reynolds and Don and Sandy Regier served delicious refreshments.

Duane apologized for forgetting to bring the name tags. He said that Mary would like to make new name tags that would hang around your neck. There was no opposition. He also said that he has lots of koi and goldfish to give away this fall and has water lettuce, water hyacinths and anacharis available now for anyone that would like to have it. Call him at 246-0240.

Betty Karnes moved and Tom Routh seconded a motion to approve the July minutes as printed in the Lily Pad. Motion carried.

VP Floyd Gruver said that the program next month would be on fish health by Trina Wood. Deb Spencer will give the program on Frogs, Toads and

Tadpoles in October.

Diane asked if anyone would rather receive their newsletter by e-mail to help cut expenses on printing and postage. She said she notifies people by e-mail when the newsletter is posted on the website at www.tawgs.org. The advantage of it is that, in addition to saving money, the pictures are all in color. Several said that receiving the Lily Pad electronically was fine with them.

Treasurer Jim Green said that he has worked on the books to reflect money that has been earmarked for a project as a liability. He reported that we made \$2,213.85 on the pond tour (less about \$51 that he has not paid Puddles-N-Pads for taxes.) It was the consensus of several that TAWGS DOES pay taxes. We have \$6,962.86 in the checking account and \$1,191.84 in savings for a total of \$8,154.70 with \$3,208.90 earmarked to be spent at Lake Shawnee and Ward Meade Park. Bob Saathoff moved and Don Taliaferro seconded that the report be approved. Motion carried.

Joe Breitenstein thanked everyone who had contributed to the tree that was planted at Ward Meade, just south of the house in his honor. "I am glad it is in honor of me instead of in memory of me," he said. Joe also asked for volunteers to provide refreshments for the September 10th meeting of the Garden Council. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting which starts at 9:00 a.m., or they can drop their goodies off at his house at 2012 SW 30th the night before. Call Joe at 266-6618 if you can help out or for more information.

Bob Saathoff explained to the guests how TAWGS and other Topeka garden clubs are helping out with weeding, etc., at the Ensley gardens at Lake Shawnee. He said that he met recently with TBA representatives, Jerold Binkley, Jolene Grabill and Carroll Morgensen and Shawnee County employee Dave Bartles to develop a plan for the ravine below the TAWGS pond. Jolene and Carroll will design a plant plan. "I am convinced that it will be the best garden out there," Bob said. Julie Trowbridge from the county will be at the September meeting to talk about TAWGS working at the gardens in October.

President Duane said that it is time to elect new officers in October. He asked for volunteers for the nomination committee. Volunteers Helen and Tom Platis and Doug Peterman will present a slate of officers at the September meeting. Please let them know if you are interested in running for an office.

Floyd asked for volunteers to help put the net over Anna's Pond. Don Taliaferro, Tom Platis, Jim Green, Duane Eberhardt, Allen Ellis, Don Regier and Bob Saathoff all volunteered to help. They will meet at Ward Meade, Saturday, October 13th.

The meeting adjourned for everyone to go outside to look at the temporary lights that Kip had installed in the fountain.

Pond Tour Committee follow-up meeting

Tom and Helen Platis hosted a delightful evening with delicious Greek appetizers and meal at their house on Saturday, July 7th for a follow-up committee meeting on the 2007 pond tour. Those attending were: Jim Green, Michael Bradley, Hi Stockwell, Floyd & Diane Gruver and Tom and Helen Platis. Committee members not attending

were: Allen and Connie Ellis, Donnis and Gerald Hodges, Stan and Mary Bechtold and Duane and Mary Eberhardt.

Everyone agreed that the pond tour this year was very successful and needed only a little fine tuning. About 545 tickets were sold and another 100 were given away for workers and radio and TV giveaways. The ticket guide cost about 94 cents to print because of the extra color. A price raise for ads was discussed but no decision was made on how much to raise the cost. Maybe only \$5 or so. It seems to work well to give a discount for paying by May 1st.

We are still having a problem with commercial advertising at pond sites by pond builders. Not sure what can be done about that. Maybe it is not the problem that we think it is. The previous complaint several years ago was about someone promoting an advertising product which had nothing to do with ponds. The pond tour is a good way for pond builders to show off their work and promote their business, and after all, our objective is to promote water gardening.

Ticket price was discussed and it was the general consensus to raise them to at least \$6 and possibly \$7. The exact price needs to be set by the end of the year so that advance advertising can indicate that cost. We generally agreed that advance sales of over 10 tickets would qualify for a group rate of \$5 each.

Instead of giving a \$25 gift certificate to the pond hosts, give a marble marker like the one that Laser Art Creations donated to pond hosts this year. It would be a long lasting gift that they can place by their pond with pride.

An eastern location needs to be obtained for ticket sales. Possibilities discussed were: Ace Hardware on 29th and California or setting up a sales location at Lake Shawnee near the TAWGS pond. We would need to check with the management of Lake Shawnee to see if that would be possible. Ticket sales on Sunday morning were a concern so we need to advertise who will be open on Sunday morning. P & P was open this year but we did not promote that in our advertising so they weren't very busy. We probably need to do that so people from out of town know where to get tickets on Sunday morning.

It was felt that the \$750 that we spent on TV ads and the Make Mamma Happy insert were beneficial and that we need to continue to do that. Also the radio ticket give-aways.

Other ideas discussed were:

- Contact Sr. housing/assisted living/nursing homes to see if they would like to use their bus to take residents on the tour.
- Contact the city to see if there is a possible way to use a city bus for transportation.
- Contact Sr. Centers, organizations and garden clubs to promote the tour. Does anyone know how to get a list of these organizations?
- Contact the Topeka Tourism and Convention Center to promote the tour to tourists who walk through their door.
- List the sales locations in the guide.
- Include a survey with the guide for comments,

feedback on advertising, etc. to help with future planning.

Volunteers for 2007 Refreshments

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

Water Plants

By Duane Van Dolah

Curly Water Thyme *Lagarosiphon major*



There are nine species of this tender, submerged plant. The one I'll talk about is the one that is most available in the trade, *Lagarosiphon major*. It is native to central Africa and Madagascar, but has moved into Europe and New Zealand. It is listed as a noxious weed in the United States but still is sold in pet stores for aquariums. In England it is the most widely used submerged plant. The single leaves are flat spirals and strongly re-curved. The fragile stems that easily break are up to 3 to 6 feet long and are very dark green. It has a spread of 12- 24 inches. If they reach the surface for very long, white tiny flowers float on the water. It is a very good oxygenator but hard to keep growing with koi that love to eat it. *Lagarosiphon* tends to break down and die after awhile, so replacing it with new cuttings in a few years becomes necessary. It is hardy to half-hardy in zones 5- 11. The plant grows in sun or shade in clear water to up to 10 feet and can grow in flowing water. It stays evergreen below the ice in winter. Propagation is by stem cuttings.

What's in a Name?

A Guide for the Waterlily Buyer

Printed with permission from Water Gardeners International

Since the waterlily is the highlight of your pond, and not inexpensive, it is essential that you get what you pay for. When you purchase a particular color, shape or type and it turns out to be something else, you have every right to be disappointed. Even worse, when you buy a waterlily with a well-known name on its label and it proves not to be the one you've selected, you're not just disappointed but possibly defrauded. You've been subjected to a case of waterlily identity theft.

Perhaps you're satisfied with any waterlily even though it isn't labeled correctly, as long as it's pretty -- but you shouldn't be. Would you be happy if you received a garment in the wrong color or size? No! You'd take action! You would return it and, at the least, you'd expect an apologetic attitude together with a prompt exchange or

refund. If a seller made errors repeatedly, would you continue to buy there? Why should it be any different with your waterlily supplier?

When you buy a waterlily labeled "yellow", it should bloom yellow. If you buy a named waterlily, you may pay a slight premium for it but there are good reasons why. A named waterlily has characteristics that are specific and unique, special qualities that made it worthy of naming. No other is quite like it, but each plant that carries the name must be identical. New plants are created by dividing the original or by growing them from tubers of the original, assuring exact duplicates.

Many excellent waterlily sellers provide only plants grown as described above. If you are reading this, you are probably dealing with one of them or are about to do so. Unfortunately, many uninformed and/or unscrupulous and/or downright dishonest sellers tempt water gardeners with knockoffs or incorrectly labeled waterlilies at cheap prices. They attach well-known plant names to unknown or less popular varieties, sometimes through ignorance but usually for profit.

Beyond the fact that this is wrong, consider some practical aspects. Knowing the correct name of a lily allows you to obtain information about its habit and cultivation. Is it suitable for your climate? Is its size right for your pond? Does it require any special care to do its best? Is it notoriously difficult or especially easy? Correctly named waterlilies have a history and a proven track record.

Truly Named WGI ©, the truth-in-labeling program of Water Gardeners International, provides you with a Directory of growers, wholesalers and retailers who pledge to sell true to name waterlilies. Many provide images and provenance linked from the Directory. See additional resources for determining if your waterlily is correctly named in the encyclopedic waterlily Image Galleries and the extensive lists of Named Waterlilies on WGI's partner web site Victoria-Adventure. Both sections are continually updated and reviewed by recognized experts.

You, the buyer, are the force that can stop waterlily identity theft. By learning as much as you can about the lilies you have and those you want to have, by insisting on correct labeling and complaining when you don't receive it, by letting WGI know about your experiences whoever the seller, you benefit yourself and all of water gardening.

Water Gardeners International www.watergardenersinternational.org



The red flare is a popular tropical night blooming lily. We loved the one we had one year and would be outside by the pond before bedtime with the flashlight to enjoy it.

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

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 19 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting
- Oct. 7 – Apple Fest, Ward Meade
- Oct. 13 – Net Anna's Pond at Ward Meade
- Oct. 17 – TAWGS Monthly Meeting– election of officers
- Nov 14 – TAWGS Pot Luck & Monthly Meeting
(Note change of date)

Summer is the time when oxygen deficiencies are most likely to occur. Obviously fish need oxygen, and insufficient aeration may result in dead fish. In very hot weather fish are using more oxygen and the water is holding less. If you have a heavy fish population or low circulation in your pond, consider supplementing with extra aeration. This can be in the form of a waterfall, fountain, or simply an air pump.

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 7-07, 8-07 or 9-07

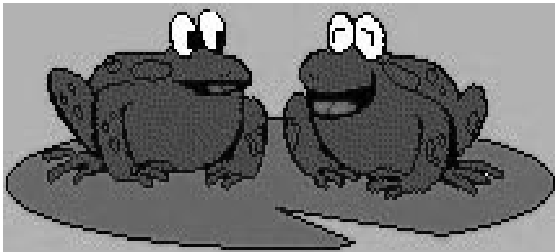
Please renew as soon as possible to continue receiving the newsletter.

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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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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fdgruver@embarqmail.com (note change)

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