



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, 2008



Eric Wood talks about pumps at the July TAWGS meeting. (Photo provided by Bob Saathoff)

A bit about pumps

By Diane Gruver

A complicated topic, Pump Dynamics, was the focus of Eric Wood's talk at the TAWGS July meeting. Eric said that there has been a lot of misinformation about pumps over the years. Some of the first pumps used were for sewage treatment, swimming pools or other applications that had different requirements than a water garden. Consequently, there were pump failures because they were not designed for a water garden which runs 24/7. Fortunately, there has been an improvement in pumps for water gardens in recent years.

There are several classifications of pumps. A direct drive pump is one that pushes the water for waterfalls with higher head pressures. A magnetic drive pump is more energy efficient and is used for fountain pumps. An asynchronous pump uses less electricity, uses no oil and is low maintenance with a long life span: these are a great choice for about 90% of water falls being built.

There are many things to take into consideration when purchasing a pump. You need to consider the length of the streambed, the height of the waterfall and the size of the pond. Remember, the higher you push the water, the less water you get. Don't use too small of plumbing; if the pump has a 2" outlet, use a 2" or 3" pipe. Sometimes you might be able to use two small pumps instead of one large pump. The advantage of that is if

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m., Wed., Aug. 20, 2008

Historic Old Prairie Town

(124 NW Fillmore – formerly Ward Meade Park)

Photographing your landscape

Steve Wilde - Wolfes

one pump goes out, you still have a pump to keep water circulating. There is an online calculator available at www.pumpworld.com to help you figure what the true head will be for your application.

"Selecting a pump is not as simple as going in and picking one off the shelf," Eric said. "There is a lot of confusion. You get what you pay for. Look at the energy efficiency too. Electric efficiency is going to be more important as energy prices go up." Know what you expect of the pump before you purchase one.

On other topics, Eric said that pondless waterfalls are becoming more popular because they are easier to maintain and safer for people with young children. A new item available is a PondBuilder mini (4'x4') pond less waterfall kit that sells for around \$500.

Pond lighting is being dominated by LED & Fiber Optic technology now although it is much more expensive than halogen, Eric said, and the LED & Fiber Optic spectrum of light is different than halogen lights. A fiber optic light set consisting of one bulb that runs 16 lights costs about \$2,400, making it a little out of reach for many of us ponders.

A common mistake many water gardeners make when they put halogen lights in their pond is that they don't leave enough line to lift the fixture out of the water to change the bulb. Another downside to halogen bulbs is that algae likes heat so it grows fast on a halogen bulb.

Eric is currently working for Complete Aquatics and he wholesales water garden equipment in several states. It is good to see him still in the water gardening business where he can use the expertise he has gained over the last 20 years.

TAWGS Minutes 7-16-08

Thirty six TAWGS members gathered at the home of Linda Reynolds for an enjoyable evening in the Reynolds beautiful backyard. The meeting began

with self introductions.

Eric Wood gave a very interesting program on pumps and other new products available for the water gardener.



TAWGS members gather at the pond of Linda Reynolds for the July meeting. (Photo provided by Bob Saathoff)

Following the program, Tom and Mary Blubaugh served delicious home made ice cream and cake which everyone enjoyed. President Duane Eberhardt asked for approval for the June minutes as printed in the July Lily Pad. Mary Bechtold moved and Phil Thompson seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

The member pond tour was discussed and it was decided to have it Sunday, August 17th. We will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at Bob and Cheryl Saathoff's home for a pot luck. Kip Walker, Don Taliaferro and Ken and Nancy Mulder also volunteered to let us tour their ponds that afternoon. Diane will decide the route and publish it in the August Lily Pad. We will have a pot luck. Everyone needs to bring their lawn chairs, a covered dish and their own table service.

Diane reported that Treasurer Jim Green was vacationing and had told her that the treasurer's report was about the same as last month's with the exception of the pond tour income, which Hi Stockwell could report on. Hi complimented everyone who had anything to do with the pond tour and thanked them for their work. He said that we received \$2,571.00 from ticket sales, \$80 less than last year. We sold 458 tickets this year. We had fewer people but the tickets cost \$1 more. Hi said that everyone seemed to enjoy the variety of ponds.

Floyd Gruver proposed that our project for next year be the fountain at Ward Meade Park. He said that he had talked to Ray Schroeder and the concrete fountain is 30 years old and is always in need of repair. The suggestion was to take out the fountain and replace it with a water feature of some sort, incorporating the historical fountain that we paid to refurbish last year. Michael Bradley moved that the Ward Meade fountain/pond be our project for next year and to form a committee to meet with the city to participate in the design of the pond. Motion carried. Michael, Eric Wood, Amy and Phil Thompson, Don Taliaferro, Kip Walker and Floyd volunteered for the committee. Floyd will talk to Ray about setting up the meeting. Don said that Tulip Time is going to be held at the gardens next year so the

project either needs to be completed before then or not started until afterwards.

Bob Saathoff reported on the ravine, which is part of our garden, at Lake Shawnee. He said that the dead tree has been taken out. He and Jerold Binkley have watered the new plants but he needs volunteers to help with the watering. Kevin & Mary Borough offered to help. If anyone else who lives in that area is able to help water please contact Bob at 272-7125.

Eric Wood said that the water gardening industry may be under attack by the EPA who is considering regulating the water usage in water gardens. He said that he would send some information to Diane for distribution in the newsletter.

Diane commented that several of our members won awards in the Greater Topeka Landscape Contest. Linda Reynolds won first in the shade garden category and Virginia Summerville won second in the sun garden category. Mark Weaver won third in the water garden category. Congratulations to all of them.

Kip Walker moved and Eric Wood seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

We want to thank Linda for letting us meet in her backyard. Next month the meeting will be back at the Preston Hale room at Old Prairie Town. The speaker will be Steve Wilde from Wolfe's who will tell us how to take great photos of our pond and landscape.



An interesting plant in the Reynold's pond was a spider lily. (Photo provided by Bob Saathoff)

Pond tour successful

by Diane Gruver

From all reports, it looks like the 17th Annual Topeka Pond Tour was a success in spite of higher gas prices. Sales of the advertising in this year's pond tour guide were close to last year's sales and ticket sales, although down a little, totaled nearly the same as last year because of the \$1 increase in ticket price. We couldn't have asked for better weather – it was nearly perfect the two days.

We can't say thanks enough to chairman Tom Platis and to Hi Stockwell for the outstanding job he did on the pond tour guide, newspaper ads and various other jobs as needed to be done. Thanks also goes to Helen Platis for securing volunteers to work as pond

sitters the two days. I handled securing the advertising, TV ads and communication with the pond hosts. We had a great team effort.

Thanks also to these pond sitters: Doug and Marikay Peterman, Earlene Jirik, Jim Green and friend, Hi Stockwell, Bob and Cheryl Saathoff, Allen and Connie Ellis, Mike Bradley, Betty Karnes, Phil and Amy Thompson, Mark Weaver, Jon and Mary Pat Fischer, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Tom and Helen Platis, Stan Bechtold, Gerald and Donnis Hodges, Colleen and Kent Hampton, Linda Reynolds and Floyd and Diane Gruver. If I have left anyone out I do apologize.

Since we had 12 ponds, we thought it might be nice to feature a pond a month in the upcoming newsletters.



Pond # 1 was Anna's Pond at Old Prairie Town. The pond and gardens were a great showplace for Topeka. The pond was partially paid for and built by TAWGS volunteers in Anna Riphan's memory in 2000.

Call to action to save our ponds

by Diane Gruver

Eric Wood called to our attention at the July TAWGS meeting about a proposal of EPA to make new restrictions about water features at new single family homes. It is important that we ponders express our opinion about this ridiculous proposal of the EPA by e-mailing or calling with our comments. I don't think that it needs to be a lengthy comment but we need to let them know that water gardens take less water to maintain than it takes to water our grass, gardens or flower beds, it enhances the environment by cooling outside areas and provides water for wildlife, etc. I'm sure that we can all come up with other reasons our water gardens are important.

Eric received the following call to action from the IPCC (I don't know what that stands for but it sounds pretty official.)

"The IPPCA Legislative Action Team is calling for everyone in the Pond and Waterscape Industry who is a professional, as well as the proud owners of ponds and waterscapes to take action. Let the EPA Water Sense committee know what you think of the following "proposed" new EPA Water Sense requirement:

"Ornamental Water Features 4.1.4 This specification establishes that builders shall not install or facilitate the installation of ornamental water features. Ornamental water features are defined as fountains, ponds, waterfalls, man-made streams and other decorative water related constructions provided solely for aesthetic or beautification purposes. Because these water features serve no functional or practical purpose their water use is not considered efficient.

"We here at the IPPCA are outraged and truly offended by this blatant lack of pursuing and proposing standards that ignore scientific data and promote half-baked and incorrect perception in its place. Please send an e-mail or make a phone call to the following people to let them know your feelings.

"Send e-mails to: flowers.john@epa.gov or call John Flowers at 202-564-0624.

"For those of you that choose e-mail, it is a MUST that you CC: the IPPCA at info@IPPCA.com. We will save these e-mails in a file and re-send them in the file form the day before the deadline to let them know that this can't be swept under the rug or ignored by them. We have to stop this now, before it is enacted in all 50 states.

"Please forward this on to your customers and everyone you feel that will be affected by this senseless proposed requirement. Thank you all in advance for your participation in this vitally important time and action in our industry's history and on its behalf.

Dave A Jones, Executive Director and Chairman of the Board, IPPCA The Pond and Waterscape Industry's Trade Association
Dave@IPPCA.com"

You can get more information about these proposals by going to this website: www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/homes.htm. Some of the information on that website includes:

"Draft Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home Specification

"EPA released a draft specification on May 22, 2008 for water-efficient single-family new homes.

- [Draft Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home](#)

[Specification Cover Letter \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 84K, [About PDF](#))

- [Draft Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home Specification \(PDF\)](#) (8 pp, 85K, [About PDF](#))
- [Draft Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home Specification Supporting Statement \(PDF\)](#) (17 pp, 190K, [About PDF](#))

“EPA is interested in obtaining input from all interested parties on this draft specification. The public comment period for this draft specification has been extended 45 days and ends on September 4, 2008. EPA held an online public meeting to discuss the Draft Water-Efficient Single Family New Home Specification on June 18, 2008.

“Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this draft specification to <watersense-newhomes@erg.com>. All comments become a part of the public record.”

It is interesting to me that we recently received a Backyard Conservation brochure that recommends installing a pond for backyard conservation which was printed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, Wildlife Habitat Council and the National Audubon Society. One branch of the government is promoting water gardening while another is trying to take it away.

It does make a difference when we make the effort to contact our legislators, government agencies, etc. Please take the time to call or e-mail to express your concerns.

Member Pond Tour scheduled for August 17

It is always a great time when we have a chance to tour a few member ponds on a lazy Sunday afternoon. This year we will be featuring some ponds in the southwest part of town and end up at Bob and Cheryl Saathoff's for a potluck supper.

Please bring a covered dish, your table service and your lawn chairs. It will be a great afternoon to get better acquainted with other TAWGS members and to see some beautiful ponds.

The tour will start at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Don and Ruth Taliaferro, 3119 SW Arrowhead RD. To get there from SW 29th, turn south on Arrowhead RD (between Fairlawn and Wannamaker) and go to 3119 SW Arrowhead. We will end up back fairly close to Taliaferro's so if you want to car pool from there it would work fairly well.

The next stop will be at Kip and Paula Walker's. Go back to 29th and go west to Wannamaker. From 29th & Wannamaker, go west on 29th to Gainsboro. Turn left (south) on Gainsboro until it T's with Wentley Lane. Turn right on Wentley, the house is the 4th on the

right (North). The address is 6526 SW Wentley Lane, 66614. The pond is in the front yard.

From Walker's we will go to the home of Ken and Nancy Mulder, 160 E 7th ST in Auburn. From Wentley go west to Urish; turn right (north) on Urish to 29th. Continue west on 29th to Auburn RD. Then left (S) onto Auburn RD. From there, Ken says follow Auburn road south into Auburn. E 6th St is two blocks past the gas depot on the left. They are the first new house on the right after turning on to sixth. Gray house with green Toyota Camry and red Toyota pickup in drive.

Return to Topeka by way of Auburn RD to 29th. Then turn right (east) and cross Wannamaker Street to Wannamaker Drive. Turn right (south) and proceed to Turnberry CT. Turn left (east) to 5831 SW Turnberry CT on the south side of the street. Go around on the east side to their back yard. We will be able to enjoy a fun time and good food in a beautiful park setting. You won't want to miss it!!

See you at the Taliaferro's at 2:00 Sunday afternoon August 17th.

Water Plants

By Duane VanDolah

Violet

Viola



The violets have a group of species that can adapt to seasonal wet flooding. Out of 500 species there are a few that can grow around the pond. These plants all care more for the semi-shade in zones 4-7. Most have growth 4-6 inches tall and wide in wet to damp soil. Foliage and flower color gives its species its distinction. Propagation is by division and seed.

Viola cornuta. Horned violet is a native of the Pyrenees Mountains of Spain. This species grows 12 inches high with small green leaves covered with large lasting violet-shaped flowers in white, lilac-blue, and deep blue. *Viola cucullata* looks like a common blue violet and grows great in a wet shady bank or seasonally flooded woods. It can tolerate water over the crown for three to five days. *Viola labradorica* is from the far north of Canada, Greenland, and North America. It grows 1 ½ to 3 inches tall and has small violet flowers in white with violet-veined bases coming from a mound of heart-shaped leaves. A cultivar `Purpurea` is a good plant to find which forms a groundcover of dark-green to purple leaves with light purple flowers. *Viola lanceolata* is the best violet for water. Flowers are white with pale blue faces and darker stamens. *Viola macloskeyi* is very adaptable and heat tolerant. The flowers are a very pale blue. *Viola nephrophylla* is similar to *Viola lanceolata*, but

is two-thirds the size and a darker color of flower with a very tolerant of high pH in the water and soil. *Viola palustris* is the least heat tolerant of the violets listed here. It does not do well south of zone 6. It again is similar to *Viola lanceolata*, but the foliage is wider and the flowers a little bluer.

Some information was taken from Greg & Sue Speichert's Encyclopedia of Water Garden Plants. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, Inc., 2004, p. 282-283.

Evaluate trees damaged in recent storms



Reprinted from 7-08 Shawnee County Extension News

The recent parade of back-to-back, gully-washing storms tested the area's trees with unusually strong winds and frequent lightning.

For safety's sake, homeowners should evaluate any damaged trees for soundness, said Jennifer Smith, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension.

"By definition, a damaged tree is a weaker tree," Smith said. "It's also more susceptible to other problems, such as insects and disease and further weather-related injury. So, the first thing to think about is the outcome you'd have if a weakened tree were to fall at some time in the future."

"Tree species and condition are also important," she said. "A previously healthy oak tree is likely to have better odds for healing than a hackberry that already had some disease problems."

The type and extent of damage matter, although internal effects might not be obvious. Both relate to how much energy the tree will have to put into trying to heal its new wounds.

"Recovering from a lightning strike is much more stressful than recovering from wind damage, even if the outcome in both cases is a lost branch," Smith said. "If a tree has to compensate for a particularly severe injury, over time it may begin to lose some of its healthy branches, too – as if the tree is drawing in all of its resources for the fight of its life."

Illustrations and information about proper pruning techniques are available at any county or district Extension office, she said. Another good resource is on the web at: www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hort2/c550.pdf ("All About Pruning").

"If you're still unsure about what to do with a damaged tree, contact a certified arborist and ask for an evaluation," Smith said. "Or, if you're certain you're going to need help, get more than one evaluation and estimate for doing the work, because costs can vary greatly from company to company. Also verify whether the companies have liability insurance for their workers and your property."

"Yes, tree work can be expensive," Smith said. "But, hiring a professional can easily cost less than doing

the repairs needed after a damaged tree crashes onto your house – not to mention the cost of the hospital bills after your family's amateur arborist falls from a full-grown sycamore."

Seminars available at Waters Edge

August 2 – 10:30 – Frogs, Toads and Tadpoles

Sept. 20 – 10:30 – Getting ready for fall and leaf netting

Oct 4 – 10:30 Bubbling Bird Baths and Fountains

Oct 18 – 10:30 – Winterizing your garden pond

If you're new at ponding, or even if you aren't, you can always pick up some tips at one of these seminars. It will be worth the drive.

Call 785-841-6777 for more information.

Saturday schedule for work at gardens at Lake Shawnee

The Saturday schedule for those people that are not able to work during the week but would like to lend a hand at the gardens at Lake Shawnee is as follows:

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., August 23 and September 27. Meet at the Trailhead shelter and restroom just north of 37th and West Edge Road at Lake Shawnee.

For those that are willing to work in the evening, you can call Bob Saathoff (272-7125 or e-mail bobsaathoff@yahoo.com) and he will notify you when they are working in the evening.

Refreshments 2008

August	Tom and Pat Routh
September	Floyd & Diane Gruver
October	Gerald and Donnis Hodges
November	Potluck

Miss Kitty STILL needs a new home

Miss Kitty, who used to be the resident cat at Puddles-N-Pads, needs a new home immediately. After a recent injury, she is now in the Wood's basement and is not compatible with the other two animals living there.

Miss Kitty is used to being around people and would make a good pet for someone. Please call Eric or Trina at 785-478-9244 or e-mail them at etstlwood@hotmail.com. **Surely someone in TAWGS, or a friend of someone in TAWGS needs a new kitty.** Please help out the Woods, and Miss Kitty, by giving this nice cat a new home.

If you have trouble with your underwater plants breaking out of their bunches, try placing groups of bunches in a pot of pea gravel to hold them in place.

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

Calendar of Events

Aug. 17 - Member Pond Tour
Aug. 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Sept. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Oct. 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Nov. 19 – Potluck

Pond Tip

Summer usually means increased pond water loss due to evaporation, which of course leads to topping off our ponds more. This warrants mention of the importance of dechlorinating tap water. You should always add dechlorinator 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.

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 6-08, 7-08 or 8-08

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

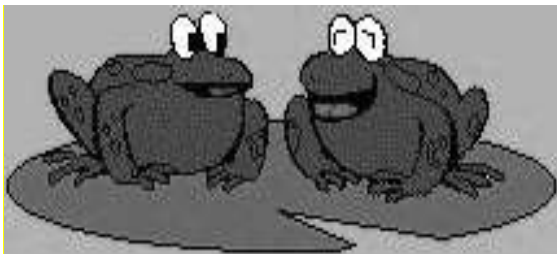
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

2008 OFFICERS:

Duane Eberhardt Topeka	President 785-246-0240
Don Taliaferro Topeka	Vice President 785-272-8348
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

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

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