



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 11, Issue 6

July 1, 2008



Dave Bartels sits on a bridge that the county built while he tells everyone about the work that has been done in the gardens at Lake Shawnee. Front row, (l-r) Gerald and Donniss Hodges, Mrs. Nordyke, Rob Nordyke, and Tom Platis. Back row: Karl Purvis, Duane Eberhardt, Doug and Linda Reynolds, Hi Stockwell, Eric Wood and Pat Routh.

Walk through gardens at Lake Shawnee

Dave Bartels gave a walking tour to TAWGS members and guests at the June meeting held at Lake Shawnee. It was a perfect evening to walk through the beautiful gardens and enjoy the lake setting.

Dave thanked everyone for all their help volunteering at the lake gardens and for the money that TAWGS has given to the project. Dave listed all the areas that the county is responsible for maintaining and said that his employees could never keep up taking care of the gardens without the help from TAWGS and other garden clubs. He said they have 11 full time staff and they take care of 5,000 trees, among other things. When the weather is bad they are able to build things inside, such as one of the new bridges over a stream connecting two of the watergardens.

Walking down the new sidewalks to the water's edge, Dave said that they re-shaped the slope and lined the edge with geo web (plastic weave), rebar and then dirt. Then they planted perennials in the webs to help hold dirt in place and protect the bank from erosion. To

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m., Wed., July 16, 2008
Home of Linda Reynolds
 2511 SW 35th Terr. – From 29th or 37th, take Randolph (about halfway between Oakley and Macvitar) to 35th Terr. Take 35th Terr east up the hill to 2511. Tan ranch style house, south side of the street – **BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR!**
Eric Wood will give the program

save money, they saved the rock taken from the old spillway to build the rock walls in the new area. Dave said they try to recycle things when possible.



Bob Saathoff points to a slope in the ravine where they have planted hostas and bushes. (l-r) Rob Notdyke, his wife, Bob (pointing) Linda Reynolds and Floyd Gruver.

The ravine is barely recognizable now after the brush, poison ivy, and trees were removed by TAWGS volunteers and a stone creek and waterfall were built by the county. Now a covered bridge spans the ravine and the area is graced with unusual rock formations and lots of hostas and other shrubs that volunteers have planted. Dave said that there is still a drainage and erosion problem which they will address soon, hopefully before July 4th. They also need to remove a tree that died. The old parking lot is gone and is replaced with grass, plantings and plans for a fountain in the future.

As the tour ended, Michael Bradley thanked Dave for all that he has done for the gardens at the lake. They truly are a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy.



Michael Bradley (l) thanks Dave Bartles (r) for all his hard work in making the gardens at Lake Shawnee beautiful. Others are (l-r) Annette Jackson and Don Taliaferro.

TAWGS Minutes 6-18-08

The June TAWGS meeting began with a delicious fish fry and pot luck dinner at the Ensley Garden House at Lake Shawnee. Bob and Cheryl Saathoff and Ruth and Don Taliaferro were the hosts for the evening. The weather was perfect and the food was great!

Following the good food, Bob Saathoff recognized the guests and vendors by asking them to stand up and thanked them for coming. He said that the fish fry was a way of expressing thanks to the vendors who helped TAWGS with their display at the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show in February. Bob explained to everyone how TAWGS spends the money from our Pond Tour on community projects, such as the new pondless waterfall at Felker Park where TAWGS built the pond and TBA planted the flowers. Another project has been working on the ravine at Lake Shawnee where volunteers have worked over 156 hours planting 72 shrubs, 11 Japanese maples and many, many hostas. About \$6,000 has been spent on the ravine project so far, with TAWGS and TBA donating the money.

Hi Stockwell, in turn, thanked Bob for being the good fisherman that he is and for providing the fish for the fish fry. He also thanked Bob for the many hours that he volunteers at the lake.

The meeting was suspended while Dave Bartles from Shawnee County Parks and Recreation took everyone on a walking tour of the beautiful gardens.

When the meeting continued, president Duane Eberhardt asked for approval of the minutes of the May meeting as printed in the June Lily Pad. Ken Mulder moved and Tom Platis seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

Duane explained that we are not able to use the Preston Hale meeting room at Ward Meade next month so we need to find a meeting place for July. Linda Reynolds agreed to host the meeting at her house at 2511 SW 35th Terrace. Vice president Don Taliaferro announced that Eric Wood will be the speaker for the July

meeting. He also thanked everyone that helped build the pondless waterfall at the tennis courts at Felker park.

Treasurer Jim Green reported that we have \$4,002.89 in the checking account and \$1,212.79 in the savings account for a total of \$5,215.68. A little over \$1,400 of that amount is allocated to various uncompleted projects. Michael Bradley moved and Tom Routh seconded that the report be approved. Motion carried.

Pond tour chairman Tom Platis reported that the pond tour plans are pretty well completed and the tour should be successful if everything goes as planned. He invited everyone to the Pond Tour Hosts Reception which will be held at Waterscape Concepts, 715 NE Highway 24 (Across from Tractor Supply) at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 25. Helen Platis said that she about had enough volunteers to pond sit but if anyone else wanted to volunteer she would be able to find a place for them. The hours we are providing sitters are 9-1 and 1-5 Saturday and 9-1 on Sunday. She distributed the free tickets to the pond sitters who were in attendance.

Hi Stockwell reminded people that there is a survey card in the pond tour guide and he would appreciate if even the members would complete the survey and return it to the committee to help with planning future pond tours.

President Duane asked for a volunteer for Apple Fest which will be held in October. Tom Platis said that he would chair the event again this year. Thanks Tom!

Deb Spencer said that Lawrence is trying something new this year, a tour des fleurs, Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22. It is sponsored by several garden centers/nurseries in Lawrence and is in place of the Lawrence lawn and garden show which was not held this year. She distributed postcards to everyone and invited them to come to Lawrence to walk through private gardens, get tips from professionals, enjoy local food and enjoy discounts at the sponsoring businesses.

Everyone thanked Duane and Mary Eberhardt for the new name tags that they made recently.

Diane asked if Tom Platis had checked with our insurance company about our liability insurance. She also reminded everyone that we had talked about a member tour some Sunday afternoon in August. So far, nothing has been planned.

Don Taliaferro moved and Jim Green seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Water Plants

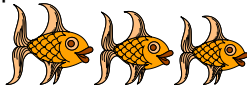
By Duane VanDolah

Skunk Cabbage *lysichiton*



There are two plants of this group that I'll describe. They both are hardy relatives of the arum lily

but with much larger flowers. *Lysichiton americanus* is called the American skunk cabbage or yellow skunk cabbage. The "hood" of this cabbage is bright yellow with the flower being 10 inches tall and 3-5 inches wide. Large cabbage-like leaves appear later after the flower starts to fade. They can reach up to 4 feet if conditions are right. They like being grown in deep, rich soil, with constant moist conditions and protected from wind and late frosts. The plant is best grown in part-shade in zones 4-7 and can tolerate seasonal flooding. *Lysichiton camtschatcense* is the white flowering skunk cabbage. Its needs are similar to the yellow skunk cabbage but it is shorter, broader, and more rounded. The leaves are 3-3 1/2 feet tall with a spread of 3-3 1/2 feet. Cold tolerance is less at zones 5-7. As the name implies, the flowers have a distinct, unpleasant smell.



Bad spring for losing fish

by Diane Gruver

We have never had much of a problem of losing fish before, but this spring has been an exception. We have lost six fish, ranging from a few inches long to a foot and a half long. Some of the deaths were freak accidents, some by suicide and some just by disappearing.

The most upsetting loss was our beautiful "Jaws," an 18 inch black/white butterfly koi that we have had for several years. He just didn't show up for feeding one morning. No goodbyes, no explanations, just gone. We continue to mourn his loss and are wondering if we should ring the pond with fishing line to keep out a heron or spread moth balls around the pond to keep out a raccoon. Wish we knew what the culprit was.

Two of the fish were small comets who just decided to jump out of the containers. One was in the inside pond and one was in the whiskey barrel on the deck. They were pretty crisp by the time I found them. I told them they should have hollered "help", but it was too late.

One comet swam into the skimmer and found he was not up to swimming back out. By the time I found him, he was, well, lets just say, past tuckered out.

Another small gold fish stuck his nose into the intake of the spitter pump and couldn't back out. And last, but not least, was the large goldfish that we inherited from the lawn and garden show a few years ago. He looked pretty sick and hung off to himself for several days before I could finally net him and try to treat him. Since his symptoms really didn't match anything on the internet, I decided to give him "the works." A little salt, some melafix and some stress coat sounded like a good idea to me, but I guess it wasn't. He was dead the next day – I guess I killed him.

Anyway, we don't seem to have a problem of a fish explosion this year. Guess there are more ways than one to keep the fish population under control.

P.S. I just fished another dead little guy out of the whiskey barrel on the deck. Guess this just isn't our year!

Saturday schedule for work at gardens

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., July 26, 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

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

What causes fish to bump

Reprinted from 6-13-08 *The Pond Guy*

Q: I have koi in my pond and one of them is constantly chasing the other fish by bumping and nuzzling the other fish on their bottom side in front of the tail and behind the ventral fin. Is there a reason for this behavior?

A: Yes there is a reason for this. The fish getting bumped into is a female carrying eggs, while the fish doing the bumping is the male. The male fish is trying to knock the eggs out of the female so it can fertilize them. This is very common, but it is best to keep an eye on the fish during these times to make sure no injuries happen. Also, if you would like the koi to have babies, I would suggest making sure you have a sufficient amount of bog and submerged plants. Koi are known to eat their own young and adding aquatic plants will create hiding spaces for the babies to allow them time to grow.

Amazing discovery made

Floyd made an amazing discovery when he noticed our liiac bush had cherries on it! Further examination revealed an 8' cherry tree growing inside the liiac bush. Wonder why we never noticed it before??

Miss Kitty needs 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. Please help out the Woods, and Miss Kitty, by giving this nice cat a new home.

9900 SW K-4 Highway
Topeka, KS 66614

Calendar of Events

July 12-13 – KC Pond Tour, Kansas City
July 12-13 – Kansas Pond Society Tour, Wichita
July 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Aug. 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Sept. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Oct. 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Nov. 19 – Potluck

Ants are really bad this year and people are wondering how to kill them (especially fire ants) near their water garden or koi pond but have concerns about accidentally poisoning their fish. Diatomaceous earth (DE) has proven to be an effective and natural ant control. If a little gets in the pond water there should be no harm done. DE is commonly available at many garden centers. Follow the label's instructions for use.

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 5-08, 6-08 or 7-08

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

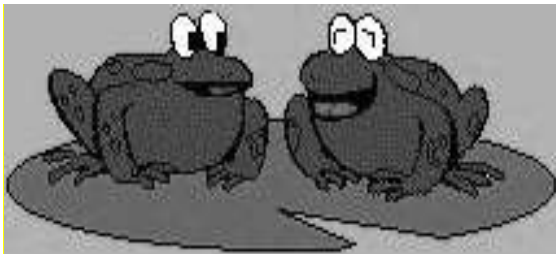
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

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

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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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785-364-3046
fdgruver@embarqmail.com

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