



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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Smoke rises from the pond that TAWGS built at the Topeka Lawn and Garden Show. Photo by Doug Peterman.

Soar into spring at garden show

by Doug Peterman

What a wonderful display! What a tremendous amount of work! I am sure any one involved in the planning, building, or hosting the 2008 TAWGS booth at the Kansas Lawn and Garden show would agree.

Marikay and I have had the privilege to work in one capacity or another on a number of booths for TAWGS thru the years and we knew each one took a lot of hard work, but we now have even greater respect for what Bob Saathoff has accomplished in making our club's display the [Premier] exhibit that people come to see each year.

Our committee grew as the late fall and winter planning progressed. We had a late November meeting at our home to get the ball rolling before the busy holidays arrived. We met at our home on January 7th and at Jerold Binkley's home on January 9th. We had a finalizing meeting at our home on January 28th. Various members met at the different meetings. The committee consisted of: Bob Saathoff, Jerold Binkley, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Allen Ellis, Don and Sandy Regier, Bill Clark, Kip Walker, Don Huntley, Brad Cheny, Don

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m., Wed., Mar. 19, 2008
Historic Old Prairie Town
(Formerly Ward Meade Park)
Bugs and Critters
Brad Cheney – ABC Ponds

Taliaferro, Betty Karnes, Tom and Helen Platis, Gerald and Donnis Hodges, Joline Grabill and Marikay and Doug Peterman.

With the enormity of the project it was obvious to me that I needed a lot of advice and help to maintain the good reputation and expectations of our club. I am grateful to all who served. I asked Duane Eberhardt to be pond foreman, Don Regier to be site foreman and Allen Ellis to be general foreman. They all performed beyond what anyone could have asked for and saved my butt many times. Joline Grabill, Bob Saathoff, Jerold Binkley, Marikay and I worked out the final design from visions we all brought to the table. Joline saw to the landscaping and plant design. All of the above persons along with Ken and Nancy Mulder, Phil and Amy Thompson, Joe Breitenstein, Kent Hampton, Mark Weaver, Mary Borough, Virginia Sommerville, Tom and Georgia Sirridge, Jim Green, Dale Jirik and at least 6 to 8 members of Topeka Beautification Association worked very, very long, hard hours to create the beautiful success of the booth. We worked from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday and 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday. Friday morning we touched up from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.. Many new friendships were made and I believe all had a good time. By the following Monday afternoon I am sure all would have agreed that the theme of [Soar into Spring] could have been changed to [Sore into Spring]!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We had so many people helping all the time that everything seemed to flow perfectly. With that many people there is the unfortunate possibility that I may have overlooked some great help, if so please forgive me as we could not have done it without all of you. Our Sponsors, whom we could not have done without were: A.B.C. PONDS, ALLEN & CONNIE ELLIS, CAPITOL CONCRETE PRODUCTS,

BACKYARD OASIS, DENNIS LOWRY, ERIC & TRINA WOOD, GRABILL GARDEN VISIONS, HEIFNER'S NURSERY, PATIO, POOL & FIRESIDE, SKINNER'S, WATERSCAPE CONCEPTS, WATER'S EDGE AND TOPEKA PARKS. DAVID BIPES provided a pallet jack and SHAWNEE PARKS helped by hauling soil and chips off for us on very late notice to them.

Thank you to all who hosted each day at the booth and Hi Stockwell for having the beautiful 2008 Pond Tour information ready for the booth. Marikay and I are so proud of all of your efforts and grateful for the opportunity to work with each of you.

Thanks again and [THINK SPRING]!



Water features and a fire pit round out the theme of Soar into Spring at the lawn and garden show. Photo by Doug Peterman.

Spring Start Up:

Deb Spencer, Waters Edge, tells how to do it by *Tiffany Mauer*

Deb began her presentation by complimenting the creativity of the display at the Expo. They have been receiving many calls about frozen and broken plumbing. because it's been damp, there is a lot of fracturing of stone, movement and heaving. So, do a visual inspection of your ponds. If you re-start your waterfall after a period of dormancy, stick around to verify everything is flowing well.

Get into your pond in waders and raise your plants, get a net and scoop as much goop as possible. Don't throw it away - it's like gold - use it for composting. You can use a product like Aqua One, dose when ice is gone from your pond. If your liquid Aqua One container (and contents) have frozen, it's probably no longer good and you should throw it away. There are dry bacteria dechlorinators on the market and those are freeze resistant. Regarding double dosing and frequent dosing, it depends on the nature of the pond. If it's hazy, treat once a week. If the water quality is usually good, a few times a month is fine.

Ice got to be 4 inches thick on ponds this winter. It can be a good insulator. Some people have been seeing algae. Deb says you should scoop it out and remove it but warns against using chemicals to do it. There are natural barley products now available in pellet

form, she recommends. Bill Clark asked what spraying hydrogen peroxide on a waterfall does, Deb said it's an oxidizer. She reminds us that fish are at their weakest in the Spring. In late March and early April, you can divide and repot you lotus (March) and lilies (April). A nice early season plant is a water hawthorne.

We saw a Matala mat, available in 4 different thicknesses, they are good skimmer mats, and should last 5-8 years. We discussed plants and fertilizing bloomers with heavy soil in a no-hole box. Reeds, rushes, filter plants go in pea-gravel, no soil. Maybe an artificial media, no need to fertilize.

Deb introduced a guest who accompanied her that evening, Joe Summers, who had worked at the Missouri Botanical garden. She reminded us to test our water. Heavily stocked fish ponds in Spring and every few weeks for carbonate hardness and stabilize Kh and Ph. Due to heavy spring rains, we may need to check the Kh and bump up alkalinity. You can use baking soda for this purpose. She provided a sheet with dosage suggestions, or check their website. For Koi ponds, keep it very high. Check it monthly. Wait till the pond temperature hits 50 degrees before feeding your fish. She introduced a thermoplanter (a heated planter) that allows you to put your lilies out sooner. There was brief discussion about Duane's Victorian lilies.

Don't forget to clean out your pump. Pull off the screws and clean it all out. If you have spitters, run water through them to clear them out as well.

Water Plants

By Duane Van Dolah

Curled Pondweed

Potamogeton crispus



This hardy European species makes an excellent oxygenator that has naturalized across northeastern and north central United States. The wiry stems of this plant can reach over 13 feet with narrow 3 inch long and ¼ to ½ inch stalkless leaves. The leaves are extremely decorative, being almost translucent and wavy-edged, green to reddish-brown in color. It grows even in the cold of winter, and then goes dormant in the heat of summer. When the pond warms in spring, the plant produces a fresh flush of leaves that are wider and have wavy edges. Then when the water temperature reaches above 75 degrees, the plant goes dormant. It grows thick, fleshy sprouts with sharp, jagged edges in the foliage that fall to the bottom when the leaves decay. From these sprouts come new plants in the fall, which have flat, olive green, and narrower leaves. A cream to pinkish colored flower spike is sent up on the surface in late spring. Curly Pondweed is invasive in an earthen pond but is not particularly invasive in a garden pond. It grows in water 1-10 feet deep in sun to part shade. Grow in full sun for best color but can handle murky water better than most oxygenators. The spread is indefinite. Propagation is by

division, sprouts {turions}, and stem cuttings. Curled Pondweed grows best in zones 3-11. Two notes of interest are that the submerged leaves make for great spawning grounds for fish and it likes moving water.



Dale Jirik, Floyd Gruver and Bob Saathoff spread mulch in a flower bed at Lake Shawnee last summer. Photo by Julie Trowbridge.

Appreciation lunch held for workers

Friends of the Gardens and Shawnee Co. Parks and Rec. held a luncheon at Reynolds Lodge at Lake Shawnee November 15th for everyone that had volunteered at Lake Shawnee during the summer. John Knight and Commissioner Ted Ensley both briefly thanked the group saying that the beautiful gardens would not have been possible without all the volunteer hours that had been given during the summer. Garden Clubs participating donated over 300 hours. Julie Trowbridge, the person in charge of "Friends of the Garden" gave a power point presentation showing the many beautiful flower beds and all the workers.

Attending from TAWGS were: Bob and Cheryl Saathoff, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Tom and Helen Platis, Tom and Pat Routh, Hi Stockwell, Jim Green and Floyd and Diane Gruver.

TAWGS Minutes 2-20-08

President Duane Eberhardt opened the meeting and we went around for introductions. Deb Spencer from Waters Edge gave an interesting program on Spring Startup. Thanks to Water's Edge who provided the water statues for the Garden Show display at the Expo. Also to Bill Clark with Backyard Oasis who fixed the trailer flat tire so they could use it for loading.

We had a break for snacks after the program. Duane and Mary Eberhardt provided refreshments. There was a motion to approve the minutes: Tom Platis moved and seconded by Marikay Peterman.

Duane mentioned it had been a busy last 10 days, he thanked Doug and Marikay Peterman for all the work they did, especially the many truckloads they unloaded. Tiffany Mauer, filling in as secretary for the vacationing Diane Gruver, mentioned she enjoyed volunteering as a greeter with her husband Dan at the Garden Show.

Jim Green gave the treasurers reports. We had three people pay dues, he wrote one check for \$687.68 for mulch and another for \$230. We have \$5,301.80 in checking and \$1,205.82 in savings for a total of \$6,507.69. \$3,142 is already allocated, leaving us \$3,365.28 "to party." Michael Bradley moved to approve the treasurer's report, Don Regier seconded. Motion carried.

Doug Peterman gave a brief report on the garden show at the Expo center but said he's sending all the info to Diane for her to include in the newsletter. A gentleman from White Star volunteered the use of a Bobcat for next year's show.

Tom Platis wants 10 names of ponds to view and select, plus some extras. Tiffany Mauer again volunteered to help once ponds are lined up. There was no old business.

New business: Don Hutley with Waterscape offered current members 10% off retail store purchases. Hi Stockwell showed the pictures of Gay Snyder's lily in her pond on Croco that we are using for tickets and publicity for this year's garden tour. At 9pm, Michael Bradley moved to adjourn and it was seconded by Allen Ellis.

Recorded by Tiffany Mauer, Acting Secretary

Refreshments 2008

March	Don and Sandy Regier
April	Bill Clark
May	Don Taliaferros and Saathoffs
June	Connie and Allen Ellis
July	Mary and Tom Blubaugh
August	Tom and Pat Routh
September	Floyd & Diane Gruver
October	
November	Potluck

It would be helpful if we could have at least two couples for each month so that it isn't such a burden on one. Also, as you see, we still need volunteers for October. Please call Duane Eberhardt at 785-246-0240 if you can volunteer.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the help that I have received from Tiffany Mauer, who took the February minutes and wrote the story about Deb Spencer's program, and Doug Peterman, who sent me pictures and wrote the story about the display at the lawn and garden show.

We have many talented people in our TAWGS group and it certainly became evident this month with everyone stepping forward to help Doug make the wonderful display and help me with the newsletter information. Thanks so much to all!

Arizona snowbird Diane Gruver

9900 SW K-4 Highway
Topeka, KS 66614

Calendar of Events

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 – Topeka Pond Tour
July 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Aug. 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Sept. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Oct. 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Nov. 19 - Potluck

Got the String Algae Blues ??? What is that growing in your Pond this time of year? It's hairy, or bubbly, or sometimes just like a fuzzy carpet! In whatever form or shape it grows during the colder months, it is hard to get rid off! Most water treatments do not work well in cold water...but we will tell you a few that do: Restor will clean those rocks and the Pond no matter the weather! Barley Juice/Fusion will help prevent re-growth even in winter!

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 2-08 or 3-08

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

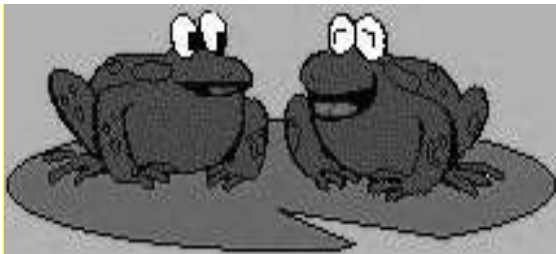
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

2007 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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We reserve the right to edit input to meet publishing requirements. Copy cannot be returned.