



# *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 9**

**November 1, 2008**



Gerald Hodges, (l-r) Michael Bradley and Hi Stockwell stir the sauerkraut at Apple Fest October 5. Volunteers that day were: Betty Karnes, Hi Stockwell, Mike Bradley, Gerald and Donnis Hodges, Joe Pelletier and Carol LaMotte, Floyd and Diane Gruver, Bob and Cheryl Saathoff, Tom and Pat Routh, Duane and Mary Eberhardt, Don and Sandy Regier, and Tom and Helen Platis.

## **How to take good landscape pictures**

*by Diane Gruver*

Steve Wilde, Vice President of Wolf's Camera Shop gave TAWGS a very interesting and informative talk about landscape photography and digital cameras at the October meeting. Steve said he has 38 years of experience in photography, starting with a job at the department of Kansas, where he worked for our own TAWGS member Bob Saathoff. From there he took pictures for Santa Fe for 20 years. When he left Santa Fe in 2003, he went to work for Wolfe's Camera. He said the most joy he gets from photography is when he is teaching others to take good pictures.

"I did not get into digital photography willingly," Steve said. He said the first digital camera's didn't have the detail that SLR camera's so he thought digital photography was just a fad and that it would go away. Obviously, that didn't happen and digital cameras have greatly improved. When he went to work for Wolfes, he

**Monthly Meeting**  
**6:30 p.m., Wed., Nov. 19, 2008**

**Historic Old Prairie Town**  
(124 NW Fillmore – formerly Ward Meade Park)

**Pot Luck**

**Bring a covered dish and table service**

found that 75% of digital camera buyers were second-time camera buyers who wanted to upgrade to a higher pixel and bigger zoom. Camera's rapidly improved and at the same time became less expensive. Extremely expensive and large at first, a 10 mega pixel camera with 7X zoom have now gotten small enough to fit into your pocket or purse and are in the \$200 range. He calls one of his cameras an Altoid Mint Tin Camera because it will fit inside the empty throat lozenge tin, which makes a great carrying case.

Hammering away at composition, Steve said it is just like location, location, location is to real estate, to take good pictures you must remember to fill the frame, fill the frame, fill the frame. By that he means to make sure the subject is close to you and fills the frame. He said for landscape pictures in general it is best to use a wide angle lens. He uses a backpack filled with various tools to help him take better pictures. The backpack should include knee pads, umbrella, clippers, and any equipment that will make you more comfortable so you can take good pictures. Other useful tools are a polarizer filter which will enhance the contrast, a macro which will let you get only inches from an insect, a camera cord instead of using direct flash, an auto windshield deflector to use like a mirror, a wire hanger and white trash bag which can be made into a diffuser, and always carry an extra memory card.

An important tip to remember is to take pictures at dawn or at sunset so the harsh sunlight will not blare down on top of the subject. The softer lighting results in a much more pleasing photo.

Steve said that 85% of bad pictures are the result of camera movement. Use a tripod or steady the camera on a close object.

Photographers are story tellers or historians. They can show the before and after of a project or show it in stages. Steve advises to get close up and try to tell the story by taking the pictures from the same angle each time. Find a location and repeat it.

Rules for good composition include:

- center (don't put your subject in the center)
- rule of thirds (divide your frame in thirds both across and up and down, place the subject on two dissecting lines)
- mergers (watch for trees or poles growing out of people's heads)
- frames (use a nearby tree, etc., to frame the subject)
- leading lines (draw the eye into the subject)

Other important things to remember are:

- contrast - light and shadow or difference of color
- change the camera angle – 95% of pictures are taken in the 4' to 6' range. Get down on the ground or stand on something higher off the ground
- depth of focus – the distance in focus in front of the subject and behind the subject. Use the Portrait mode – the camera is preset so you have a shallow depth of focus. Using the Macro setting will do the same thing.

The computer has given us the opportunity to control the data in photography. Steve emphasized that an image is not a picture until it is printed.

Probably one of the most important things Steve told us was to keep the resolution of our camera in the highest or next to highest setting. This will result in a sharper picture when the image is enlarged. "There is never a reason to set the camera on a low resolution," Steve said.

Two important things that I learned is that you want to buy name brand Gold CD's to store your photo images, because it isn't really known yet what kind of shelf life a CD has. Also, never use a Sharpie to label your CD because it is not acid free and will eventually burn into the data. Do not use a ball point pen either. You need to pay a little extra to buy pens specially made to label CD's.

## TAWGS minutes 10-15-08

President Duane Eberhardt opened the October TAWGS meeting with self introductions.

Julie Trowbridge from Lake Shawnee Parks and Recreation told the group that their shipment of tulips from Michigan has arrived and they will be planting them soon. As soon as there is a frost they will need to pull out 70,000 annuals and begin planting the tulips. She said they are asking for help 8 – 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays but if you can't come then, the park employees are there five days a week so you can help anytime. She said that Michelle will be having her baby in a few weeks.

Steve Wilde, VP at Wolfes Camera gave a very interesting program on digital cameras and how to take good landscape pictures.

Donnis and Gerald Hodges served refreshments after the program and Duane thanked them when the meeting resumed. He said that next month will be a pot luck.

Diane reminded the group that she will be gone this winter and needs somebody to take minutes and send them to her so she can do the newsletter. Nobody stuck their hand up so Duane said that they would find

somebody when the time comes.

Jim Green reported that we have \$3,578.34 in the checking account and \$1,219.56 in the savings account for a total of \$4,797.90. He said that we have about \$1,237.00 committed to projects so we have approximately \$3,000 not allocated to anything. He said that our bank had gone under but was bought by another bank so we were not affected since we had under \$100,000. ☺ Ken Mulder moved and Allen Ellis seconded that we approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried. Ken moved and Don Regier seconded that the minutes be approved as printed in the October newsletter. Motion carried.

Tom Platis reported that Apple Fest went very smoothly and that we ran out of food early. He thanked all the volunteers that worked that day. Thanks Tom for chairing the project.

Floyd Gruver reported that the pondless waterfall has already been built near the arbor at Ward Meade Park, thanks to the efforts of Bob Saathoff, Eric Wood, Rob Nordyke and Don Taliaferro. He said the fountain is empty and Allen Ellis is going to make the new stand for the fountainhead. Eighteen people have signed up to help work on the fountain Saturday morning, October 18, at 8:00 a.m. Since the pondless waterfall is already done, he hopes that there will be enough time and volunteers to clean and net Anna's pond that morning too.

Bob Saathoff and his helpers (Hi Stockwell, Tom Platis, Linda Reynolds, and others) have been working at Lake Shawnee and they have planted six pickup loads of trees and shrubs. It is still a work in progress.

The group agreed to set June 27-28, 2009 for the annual pond tour. Mark Weaver said that he would like to be on the tour this year.

Duane said the officers need to be officially elected. Motion carried. The officers will remain the same as last year and Bob Saathoff will be the program director.

Bob reported that the 2009 Topeka Lawn and Garden Show will be February 13 – 15.

Meeting adjourned.



**Don Taliaferro, (l-r) Eric Wood, Rob Nordyke and Ray Schroeder work on the new pondless waterfall at Ward Meade Park. Photo submitted by Bob Saathoff.**



**Phil (on ladder) and Amy Thompson work with Allen Ellis to remove the fountainhead.**

## Water features built at WMP

by Floyd Gruver

On Saturday morning, October 18, about 12 TAWGS members again showed their enthusiasm for water gardening by volunteering at Ward Meade Park to finish work on the pondless waterfall, re-build the fountain area and clean and net Anna's Pond.

Volunteers on Saturday were: Helen and Tom Platis, Amy and Phil Thompson, Don and Sandy Regier, Allen Ellis, Nancy and Ken Mulder, Eric Wood, Bob Saathoff, Duane Eberhardt, city employees under the leadership of Ray Schroeder and myself. I am sorry if I left anyone out.

A special thanks to Eric Wood for his guidance and directions to make the project successful. Special thanks also goes to Bob Saathoff and his crew of Eric Wood, Don Taliaferro, Rob Nordyke and Ray Schroeder for building the pondless waterfall. Another special thanks goes to Allen Ellis for designing and constructing the stand for the fountainhead and the crew who cleaned and netted Anna's Pond. A lot of work was done that day and I think everyone found it rewarding. Thanks so much!

The morning was topped off by pizza served by Ray and Sarah Leith of Ward Meade Park. Thanks!

Ray Schroeder and his crew have now added the top soil to the fountain area and have planted 2,600 tulips in six different colors around the new fountain area. The fountainhead has been sent back to be re-coated as it was already beginning to show rust in only one year's time. There will be no charge for it this time.



**It took a crew to move the fountainhead so it could be re-furbished again.**

# Water Plants

By Duane Van Dolah

## Bog primula

This is a large genus of 400 species, but several of these species are considered bog plants. Some water gardeners even call the Primula the queen of the bog plants. Most of the bog species have candelabra or pendant flower heads. Primulas need rich and consistent moist, but cannot be waterlogged for any length of time. Most will grow in partial shade. Height is **generally 6 inches to 3 feet.**

By planting different species, flowering starts from early spring to late summer. Propagation is usually by division in early spring, when the leafyshoots are emerging. All are considered cold hardy.

Following are some of the Bog Primula species and some of their cultivars. *P.rosea* is a 6-inch Primrose-like plant with rose-colored flowers held above pale green leaves. The earliest blooming of the Bog Primulas, *P.denticulate*, is called the Drumstick Primula which blooms a month after the *P. rosea*. Producing round flower buds at ground level, the stem stretches to 9-12 inches. The globular flowers open in colors from lilac to carmine-red and purple. A white cultivar 'Alba' is available. *P.japonica* is a Japanese species, growing 2 feet tall, with white, pink, or crimson flowers. Two cultivars with yellow eyes are 'Miller's Crimson' which has dark red flowers. The other Japanese Primula, 'Postford White,' is white. *P.pulverulenta*, is one of the best of the candelabra Primulas. It has smaller leaves that are wrinkled with white powdery stems. The rich crimson flowers have a purple eye. *P.beesiana* reaches 2 feet tall and has rosy carmine flowers. *P. bulleyana* is considered the easiest Bog Primula to grow. It gets 1 ½ to 2 feet tall and has buff-orange flowers. Several cultivars are available when crossed with *P. beesiana*. Another group of Bog Primulas is the Cowslips. *P.sikkimensis* has soft-yellow flowers, reaching 2 feet in height, and has leaves 1 inch wide and 1 foot long. *P.florindae*, the Giant Himalayan Cowslip, is the most vigorous Bog Primula, growing to 3 feet in height. It's one of the last Primula to bloom in July and August. It produces several white powdery stems with large drooping heads of scented sulfur-yellow bells. The heart-shaped leaves can reach 8 inches long. All of the above species are good for waterside planting.

## Help Help Help Miss Kitty

Eric and Trina Wood are moving and must find a new home for Miss Kitty as she can't go along. PLEASE, doesn't somebody need a kitty? Call 785-478-9244 or e-mail [etstlwood@hotmail.com](mailto:etstlwood@hotmail.com).



9900 SW K-4 Highway  
Topeka, KS 66614

## Calendar of Events

Nov. 19 – Potluck 6:30 p.m.

### 2009

Feb. 13-15 – Topeka Lawn and Garden Show  
Feb. 18 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
March 18 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
April 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
May 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
June 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
June 27-28 – Topeka Pond Tour  
July 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
August 19 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
Sept. 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
Oct. 21 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting  
Nov. 18 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

### **Your Dues are Due if your label reads 9-08, 10-08 or 11-08**

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

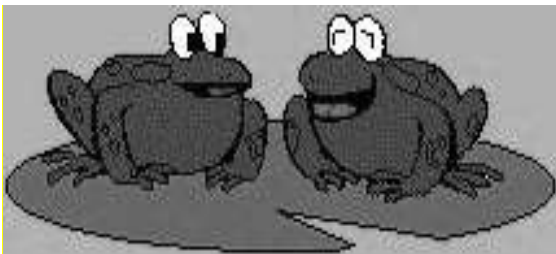
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW  
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

## **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](http://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:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor  
408 Emerald, Holton, KS 66436  
785-364-3046

[fdgruver@embarqmail.com](mailto:fdgruver@embarqmail.com)

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