



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 12, Issue 6

July 1, 2009



Dave Bartels explains how a bronze rabbit will face a boy and girl on the knoll where he is standing.

TAWGS tour Ensley Gardens

TAWGS members enjoyed a beautiful evening as they strolled through the Ensley Gardens after their June meeting. Dave Bartels, who led the tour, first thanked the TAWGS members for the many hours that they have volunteered at the gardens. He said everything was much appreciated. He said that there have been about 15 bus tours this month alone so the gardens are enjoyed by lots of tourists as well as local residents. "We should be proud of ourselves," he said.

Dave said the gardens are particularly intriguing when it is raining and invited everyone to put on a rain coat and stroll through the gardens during a rain.

WPA Stonework around a fountain that will be installed soon, took Dave eight days to build. He said that the park was built by the WPA and he wanted the stonework to match the existing work. He hopes to have the fountain running in about three weeks.

Other projects that are in the works are bronze statues of a rabbit, girl and boy on a knoll and a tea house with an oriental roof design with water trickling down rain chimes. He said that the paths have been built to be ADA approved so that even people in wheel chairs can enjoy the gardens.

Of particular interest to TAWGS members was the beautiful ravine below the TAWGS ponds and covered bridge. Led by Bob Saathoff and Gerald Binkley, the area, which was once brush and poison ivy, has been turned into a lush hosta and fern garden with interesting

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m., Wed., July 15, 2009
Historic Old Prairie Town
Landscaping your garden
 Deb Spencer
 Waters Edge, Lawrence

rocks and drift wood. Many hours have been spent there by TAWGS volunteers.

The ever changing gardens are a beautiful retreat for Topekans and are enjoyed by many people.



Members stand in the ravine below the covered bridge where Bob Saathoff, Jerald Binkley and TAWGS volunteers have planted rocks, hostas and ferns.

TAWGS Minutes 6-17-09

TAWGS members and their guests enjoyed a delicious fish fry and potluck dinner at the Ensley Garden House in Lake Shawnee for their June meeting. The fish were provided and prepared by Bob and Cheryl Saathoff, Don and Ruth Taliaferro and Connie and Allen Ellis. Thanks to all of them and to everyone else who brought delicious covered dishes to round out the feast.

Following the meal, President Duane Eberhardt called the meeting to order with self introductions. Duane announced that he, Bob Saathoff, Tom Platis and Floyd Gruver spent a day recently cleaning out the

pond that TAWGS built at the VA Hospital about five years ago. He said that in spite of the experience of the four guys, they managed to kill four of the five big koi and nearly all the gold fish.



Bob Saathoff, Duane Eberhardt and Tom Platis look the situation over at the VA Pond they cleaned recently.



Tom Platis took a nosedive into the yucky lilies at the VA Pond.

"We did one of the dumbest things," Duane said. "We took the big koi out of warm water in the holding tanks and put them into the fresh cold water in the pond." Not many of the fish survived the drastic change of water temperature. It was a good deed gone bad; a regrettable experience. If anyone has any large koi that they would like to donate to the VA please let Duane know.

Duane also announced that Amy and Phil Thompson will provide refreshments for the July meeting.

Tom Platis has agreed to chair, once again, the Apple Fest at Ward Meade Park, which is held the first Sunday in October. He will be unable to attend some of the organizational meetings in September, however and would like for someone to volunteer to attend in his place. There were no volunteers so Duane said the he would represent TAWGS at the meetings. Sandy Regier volunteered to help call for workers to help on the day of the festival.

Diane Gruver said that member Scott Nickel had contacted her and said he would like to host either a

TAWGS meeting or some TAWGS function at his place of business, Brickyard Barn, this summer. Diane said that she had suggested that it might be a good place to meet for the potluck following the Member Pond Tour. Regier's, Thompson's, Peterman's and Mark Weaver volunteered to be on the Member Tour. Doug said that he would plan the tour and get in touch with Scott to decide on the best Sunday afternoon in July to have the tour. (They later agreed on July 26th so mark your calendar for a fun afternoon!)

Jim Green gave the treasurer's report. He said that we have \$4,655.27 in the bank and \$1,522.37 in liabilities. He explained that there are two separate accounts for Lake Shawnee and he would like to merge them as the Lake Shawnee Pond Plants account has not been used since 2006. Michael Bradley moved and Mark Weaver seconded that we merge the Lake Shawnee (\$123.11) and Lake Shawnee Pond Plants (\$251.91) accounts to give a total of \$375.02 to be available to Bob Saathoff to spend for plants at Lake Shawnee. Motion carried. Dale Jirik moved and Don Taliaferro seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pond Tour Chairman Phil Thompson sent the list around for pond sitters to sign up to help with the pond tour. He said that he will be on Channels 27 and 13 TV the week prior to the tour to promote it. TV ads will start on Channel 13 the week of the tour. He thanked Hi Stockwell profusely for all the things that he has done for the tour, saying in addition to the great guide/ticket that Hi published, he has also made the posters, bookmarks, newspaper ad and many other things that have made the tour possible. He asked for applause for Hi for the great job he has done.

Diane reminded members that the Pond Host Reception will be held at Waterscape Concepts at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 24. Everyone is invited to attend that reception to meet the pond hosts. Mary Borough and Amy Thompson said that they would provide cookies for refreshments and Mary and Duane will provide punch.

Jolene Grabill, from TBA, said that she has some pictures from the Topeka Lawn and Garden display that are available for those that want them.

Deb Spencer announced that the Lawrence 2009 tour de fleurs will be held June 19, 20 and 21 and invited every one to attend. Floyd and Diane said they had attended last year and it had indeed been a fun time.

The meeting adjourned for a tour of the Ensley Gardens, led by Dave Bartels.

Water plants

by Duane Van Dolah

Morning Glory Bush

Ipomoea

About a month ago I was at a local nursery that sells aquatic plants and saw a plant that didn't look familiar to me, so I brought it home to see what it's



about. The tag said it was a new introduction for 2009! I've heard that before and it was usually only new to that distributor. But wait, in my library I've got 61 plant books and I could not find this plant. The Internet wasn't much help either! So it must be true!

This information is what I could come up with: The Morning Glory Bush is a relative of the common morning glory, in which it has long, narrow heart-shaped leaves. The leaves are a rich green and get 6-9 inches long. The plant grows to a height of 4-6 feet and produces clusters of 4 inch pink blooms that start in spring and lasts through summer. The blooms fade as the sun raises but the show of blooms in the morning is spectacular. The pictures show the plant having a scraggily, open look and there is some information that says that the plant needs to be stacked.

The Morning Glory Bush thrives in full sun to part shade and, as an aquatic, needs the crown of the plant just above or even with the water. But it can also be planted in the ground. If planted in the ground, with heavy mulch it will survive in zone 6. Otherwise it's for zones 7-10 and the top would probably winter kill unless a person over winters it inside. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Propagation is by seed taken in the late summer or fall and cuttings in the fall or early winter before frost. It's nice to see something new in aquatic plants and so far this plant really puts out the blooms. I'm going to try and winter it over so it doesn't die to the ground and see what height I can get. If it gets over 4 feet and blooms like it does now, it would be the most impressive plant in the pond.

Refreshments for 2009

July – Amy & Phil Thompson

August – Floyd and Diane Gruver

We still need hosts for September and October. Call Duane 785-246-0240 if you can help out.

The science behind barley straw

Parts reprinted from 6-20-09 The Pond Guy Blog

Barley straw is no magic bullet to rid your decorative pond of algae.



But when used as a preventive measure, barley straw offers pond owners an attractive option to chemical products to manage those dreaded green blooms.

Barley straw has been widely used for decades to control algae blooms in many bodies of water, including large reservoirs and canals. Researchers have yet to precisely pinpoint how it works, but generally, it is believed that the straw may alter the nutrient balance in the water, starving the algae to death, or the straw's decomposition may produce compounds toxic to algae.

Experts usually consider barley straw to be algistatic, or an algae preventive, rather than an algaecide, or an algae killer. It has not been found to harm fish, water fowl or pond inhabitants in any way and, in fact, some studies suggest the straw benefits fish health.

Using it in your pond:

Science aside, what's important to pond keepers is how to use it in their ponds. Currently, hobbyists can choose from three different types of barley products: barley straw in bale form, barley pellets and barley extract. When used correctly, each will work to suppress algae blooms in the pond.

Barley Straw Bales:

Typically available loose in a mesh bag, bales of barley straw should be placed in the pond several months before bloom conditions are expected to occur (around March or April, depending on your climate) as the straw must start to decompose before it releases its algae-suppressing substances. One pound of barley straw will treat a 1,000 gallon pond for approximately three months. Be sure to keep the straw well aerated, floating it near your water fall or stream or in shallow water, if possible. Besides the length of time it takes for bales to decompose, another downside is that they can be counter productive if left in the pond for too long. They can eventually become a nutrient source for algae as well.

Barley Pellets:

Compressed into a compact form, the barley pellets also contain all the beneficial algae suppressing substances found in barley straw without the unsightly look of bales, pillows or pads. They're designed to break down quickly, and produce phosphate-combating humic substances that suppress algae growth. The pellets may also buffer pH and control alkalinity in your pond. A 4.4 pound bag will treat a 150 gallon pond for up to one year or a 500 gallon pond for up to seven months; a 10.5 pound bag will treat a 1,000 gallon pond for up to nine months or a 2,500 gallon pond for up to four months.

Barley Extract PLUS:

Offering the benefits of barley straw without the mess or unsightly bale floating in your pond, barley extract contains the algae-suppressing substances in liquid form. Because you don't have to wait for the barley straw to decompose, it starts to work on contact. Another great benefit of Barley Extract PLUS is that it is enhanced with sludge-eating natural bacteria to also help reduce muck building on rocks, gravel and/or liner. An 8 ounce container treats up to 800 gallons for three months; a 16 ounce bottle treats up to 1,500 gallons for three months.



A view off the covered bridge at Lake Shawnee

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

Calendar of Events

July 11-12 – Kansas City Pond Tour
July 11-12 – Wichita Pond Tour
July 26 – Member Pond Tour
July 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Aug. 19 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Sept. 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Oct. 21 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting
Nov. 18 – Potluck

Pond Tip

You should always have any electrical device used in your pond, such as lights, pumps, de-icers, etc., plugged into a ground fault interrupter

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
5-09, 6-09 or 7-09**

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

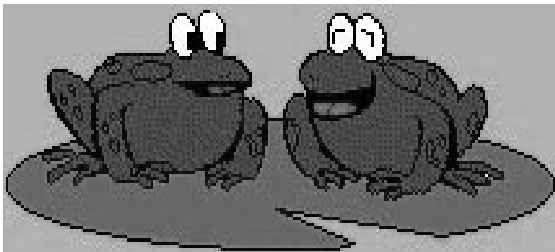
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

THE TOPEKA AREA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

2009 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 (note change)

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