



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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Nov. 1, 2009



Don Hutley, (r) tells the group to change to Spring & Fall fish food when the water cools off, as Adam Tucker (l-r) and Drew Tucker look on.

Fall pond projects

Don Hutley, Waterscape Concepts, with the help of Adam and Drew Tucker, Fantasy Falls, gave an interesting talk about products available for fall pond projects.

Don mentioned several things that pond owners need to do this time of the year:

- Nets - Ponds need to be protected from all the falling leaves this time of the year and there are quite a few sizes of nets available on the market now. In addition to the 1/2" and 3/4" nets, AquaScape has come out with a woven mesh that is more durable and will last several years. There are a few frames on the market but PVC pipe works well to design a frame.
- Fish – their metabolism is slowing down as the water temperature drops so they can't digest their food as well as in warmer weather. Change to a Spring & Fall wheat germ food for higher digestibility. Quit feeding when the water temperature drops below 50 degrees.
- Bacteria – There are several types of bacteria on the market and each does about the same thing. Aqua One is an all season bacteria that will work year round. Don't leave the jug where it can freeze because it will kill some of the bacteria. Winston One Fix is a new all season bacteria, but

Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m., Wed., Nov. 18, 2009

Historic Old Prairie Town

Pot Luck Supper

Please bring covered dish & table service

it is a little less expensive and has a two-year shelf life, where most are only one-year. AquaScape has two different treatments for winter and summer. Powder bacteria is also available with the advantages that is won't freeze and it has a longer shelf life. Waterscape Concepts carries all three brands and Don suggested looking at the price and directions of use and then calculate which brand is most economical for you.

- Sludge cleaner – This is a natural enzyme that feeds on solid waste. It won't hurt plants.
- Pond heaters – There are various types of pond heaters that can be plugged in during the wintertime to keep the pond from freezing over. Some have automatic thermostats and will only run when the temperature drops below a certain temperature. If you leave your waterfall running all winter be sure to watch that ice in the waterfall is not diverting the water out of the pond.

Don said if you remove floating tropicals in the fall, trim off all plants and keep the leaves out, you should only have to do a cleanout every couple of years or so.

Adam, who builds and maintains ponds, said that he has a pond owner that constantly battles green water. Generally speaking, causes of green water are: too many fish, feeding the fish too much fish food, improper filtration and full sun. Don said there is a new product on the market from AquaScape called IonGem. It is designed to remove green water by releasing copper into the water which creates a chemical change. It is easily hid and not as bulky as a UV light. Adam installed the IonGem in the customer's pond a few weeks ago and you can already see the bottom of the pond. Eric Wood said that it is necessary to clean

the pond every other year to eliminate a copper buildup. The results of the IonGem do look promising, however.

Thanks guys for giving us some good advice about things we need to do to put our pond to bed for the winter.

TAWGS Minutes 9- 21-09

Bob Saathoff introduced our guest speakers, Don Hutley from Waterscape Concepts and Adam and Drew Tucker from Fantasy Falls. They gave an interesting presentation on products available for our ponds.

Following delicious refreshments provided by Tom and Pat Routh, President Duane Eberhardt called the meeting to order with self introductions. It was nice to see such a good attendance.

Duane acknowledged the willingness of Phil Thompson to be chairman of the pond tour next year and Hi Stockwell agreeing to do the booklet again. He thanked them both for working on the project again next year.

Diane Gruver asked that people keep her updated if they change their e-mail address so she can keep the database current for member communications. She also reminded everyone to be sure to watch when their dues are due.

Treasurer Jim Green said that we have \$3,019.87 in the checking account and \$1,232.33 in the savings account, for a total of \$4,252.20. He said that \$638 is committed to various projects so we have about \$3,613 available to spend. Dale Jirik moved and Don Regier seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Bob Saathoff said that the slate of officers nominated for next year is: President – Don Taliaferro, Vice President – Bob Saathoff, Secretary – Sandy Regier, and Treasurer – Jim Green. Michael Bradley moved and Tom Platis seconded to accept the slate by acclamation. Motion carried. Diane Gruver will continue to write the LilyPad.

Bob Saathoff said that everyone he has talked to really wants to do the proposed project of building a streambed from the pondless waterfall that we built last fall to Anna's Pond. He said that he thought we could really enhance Ward Meade with the streambed. He passed out a report listing the available funds (around \$3,000.00) and said it is estimated the total project to cost about \$10,000. Ray Schroeder from the city's Park & Rec. Dept. said that they are so excited about the project that they would like to complete it in one phase, instead of two, as talked about last month at the TAWGS meeting. He said that the Parks and Rec. Dept. is willing to fund the part that TAWGS can't pay for this year. Then, if TAWGS is able to pay back a little each year after the pond tour, that is fine. If they can't, that is fine too. He said they have a Ruth Atchison Foundation that was willed to the city to be used for horticulture and the money will be taken out of that foundation.

After a lot of discussion, Doug Peterman moved that we approve \$2,960.00 for the purchase of rock and to go ahead with the project. There were about four enthusiastic seconds. Motion carried. Work on the project will begin tomorrow and run through Saturday. It is not expected that the project can be completed in three days, however.

Tom Platis said that the Apple Festival turned out swell and he really appreciated all the help. Sandy Regier attended a pre-meeting while they were gone and recruited the volunteers. Duane thanked Tom & Helen for chairing the event again this year.

Michael Bradley said that maybe we need to think about participating in the Council Plant Sale next spring to help replenish the treasury. He then moved that we participate in the sale. Motion carried.

Mary Weaver said that the committee for the Lawn and Garden Show would meet Thursday, October 22 to begin working on the display.

Tom Routh said that he had brought trap door snails to give away after the meeting.

Someone asked about the \$1,500 credit at Waterscape Concepts. It is the result of the Hutley's purchasing the pergola that was built for the Lawn and Garden Display last spring. They paid part cash for the pergola and issued a \$1,500 credit for the rest. Duane said he wanted to thank Don and Sharon for their support and the group showed their appreciation with applause.

Duane reminded everyone that November 18 is our potluck at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and table service. Duane and Mary will provide the drinks.

Don Taliaferro moved and Dale Jirik seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.



Chairs Tom and Helen Platis under the serving tent at Apple Fest.

Apple Fest went well

Tom Platis reports that everything went well at the Apple Fest October 4. The only problem was that we ran out of food before we ran out of people! There seemed to be a larger crowd than last year so that might explain why the food ran short. The weather was also perfect which might have helped the attendance too.

Sandy Regier stepped in to help when she attended the pre-planning meeting in September while the Tom and Helen were gone. She also coordinated the volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who chipped in to help

make the festival a success. Volunteers were: Sandy & Don Regier, Duane & Mary Eberhardt, Tom & Pat Routh, Cheryl Saathoff, Doug & Marikay Peterman, Floyd & Diane Gruver, Carol LaMotte & Joe Pelletier, and Tom & Helen Platis.

Water plants

by Duane Van Dolah

Water Sprite



Ceratopteris pteridioides

Water sprite is just one of the names this fern goes by, the others are floating water fern, floating antler fern, or just water fern. It grows in most of the tropical regions including North and South America, South Africa, Eastern Asia, and Madagascar. It floats on the surface of the water but also can root in soil with a couple of inches of water. The color of the leaves is a pale green, forming a rosette with deeply cut and serrated leaves that look like parsley. These larger fronds grow erect to 16 inches tall. The leafy, oblong fronds that grow at the crown form air pockets in their stems to help the plant float. It is a non-flowering plant that has long feather-like roots that take up nutrients out of the water to help in the control of algae. It is hardy in only zones 9-11 with the water temperature at above 65 degrees to survive and 75 degrees to reproduce. Reproduction is by the plant being viviparous. Any part of the leaves that are touching the water will grow plantlets along the notches in leaf margins and will root to become new plants. They like part-shade to full shade in acidic, still or slow moving water. Propagation is by separating the plantlets from the mature leaves and planting them in soil or letting them float on the water. The foliage can be eaten, and in Japan it is cultivated as a spring vegetable. It spreads rapidly and should not be grown in lakes or ponds that cannot be controlled.



Workers roll out the flexible tubing on the 2nd day of work at Ward Meade Park. Photo by Don Taliaferro.

Leave pump running?

Reprinted from 10-3-09 Pond Guy

Q: Can you leave your pump running through the winter?

A: Who wouldn't want to enjoy their pond all year long? Whether you live in a warm climate or cold, you can relax to the soothing sounds of running water through the cold winter months; if you live in a region where your pond freezes over, you will need to take some precautions to protect both your equipment and your fish.

- Lower the pump: If you have a submersible pump, like a mag-drive pump, make sure that it's sitting beneath at least 24 inches of water, but not at the bottom of the pond. The water around it will remain fluid, while the water at the bottom – where your fish hibernate – will remain relatively undisturbed.
- Turn down the flow: Though it would be nice to have that waterfall thundering all winter long, turn it down to a trickle – or off completely. By leaving the flow high, you run the risk of super-cooling the water, which in very cold climates could turn your fish into sushi popsicles.
- Maintain the flow through your biofilter: Your fish will be fasting and not producing much waste during the winter, but it's still a good idea to keep oxygenated water flowing past the beneficial bacteria living in your biofilter, whether you're using a pressurized filter, like the Pressure-Flo 1400, or a box filter, like the Pondmaster Filter.
- Consider a back-up plan: If you live in a freezing climate and you keep your pond running, you run the risk of damaging your plumbing and filtration system if the water stops flowing. If your pond design allows the water to flow back into the pond in the event of a power outage, you can avoid the problem.

In freezing climates, certain water features, like disappearing or small table-top fountains, will need to be shut down until spring. Simply drain the water from the feature and remove the pump. Submerge the pump in a 5-gallon bucket filled with water (or per manufacturer's recommendations), and store it in a place where the water will not freeze. If you don't keep the pump submerged in water and it dries out, the seals inside the pump could crack, causing the pump not to work properly.

Pond Tips

If you turn pumps and filters off for the winter, be sure to drain all the connected plumbing. External filters, UV's and external pumps will also need to be drained to prevent damage.

Eberhardt's lose son

We were saddened to learn that Duane and Mary Eberhardt's son, Jerry, was killed October 25th. Our most sincere sympathy goes to both of them. The funeral service was held Friday, October 30.

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

Calendar of Events

Nov. 18 – Potluck & TAWGS meeting

2010

Feb. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

Feb. 19-21 – Topeka Lawn and Garden Show

Mar. 3 – 7 Wichita Garden Show

Mar. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

April 21 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

May 19 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

June 16 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

June 26-27 – Topeka Pond Tour

Aug. 18 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

Sept. 15 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

Oct. 3 – Apple Fest

Oct. 20 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

Nov. 17 – Monthly TAWGS Meeting

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
9-09, 10-09 or 11-09**

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