



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 13, Issue 2

Mar. 1, 2010



Historic Old Prairie Town was the inspiration for the 2010 Lawn and Garden Show display. Committee members did a fine job of replicating the park.

2010 Garden Show Poem

by Mary Weaver

"Would you be our leader?" Bob Saathoff did ask.
I replied... "What all is involved in this great task?
"Schedule some meetings, get people together...
Everyone will help in this garden endeavor...."

Reluctantly I replied; "this could be fun - I accept!"
And several weeks into it, oh how I wept...
You've done it now, bit off more than you could chew!
This project will require much more than just a few...

TAWGS members & vendors kept coming; and things
started to click..

I had no reason for my stomach to feel sick. :O)
We had things donated like pumps, rock & liner
Thank you Waterscape Concepts - you couldn't be kinder!!

Milk crates came from Roberts dairy...
And then we heard from the TULIP fairy!
Capitol Concrete gladly donated bricks & block
Many thanks to my brother.... - **MAN YOU ROCK!!**

Floyd provided much comic relief...
he should be in stand-up - that's my belief.
Often he had us doubled over chuckling...
All this as we felt our knees creaking & buckling....

Monthly Meeting

7:00 Wed., March. 17

Historic Old Prairie Town

(Formerly Ward Meade Park)

Plant filtration & gravel bog construction
Deb Spencer – Waters Edge

Allen Ellis was foreman & drove the fork lift..
Let's face it y'all - the man was a gift.
In case you don't know it - he's quite the joker...
and he was willing to give up a few rounds of poker!!!

Mary E .was often seen planting the flowers...
this was a task that would require a few hours.
With much patience, she carried out each task,
willing to do anything and everything we asked.

Many thanks to all the folks from Parks & Recreation...
If it weren't for them, I'd sneak off for a vacation!!!
Finally, with hard work, it all came together...
and we had several visitors - despite the bad weather!!

My sincerest **THANK YOU** to all who provided talent &
precious time...

So many to mention, and even more difficult to rhyme.
Seriously, rhymes were hard to find for Thompson,
Taliaferro & Platis...
Wait - I've got one...

They all worked hard, without any gratis.

Again, I must mention my dear brother Mark,
he was the one tirelessly fanning the spark.
He kept things going when I wanted to run...
his attitude was "c'mon sis' lets get-r-done!!!"

Without all of you who were willing to partake
the success of the outcome would be at stake.
It's difficult for me not to obsess...
without all of you there'd be no success!!

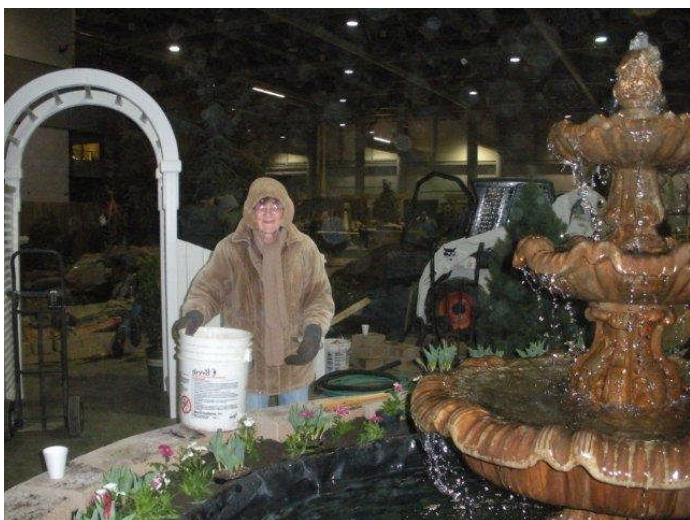
I tip my glass to all who helped in our booth
we all can relax with a glass of Vermouth.
Please mark your calendars now for FEB. Two-thousand
eleven
your help with this project would be **PENNIES FROM
HEAVEN!!**

THE END!!!

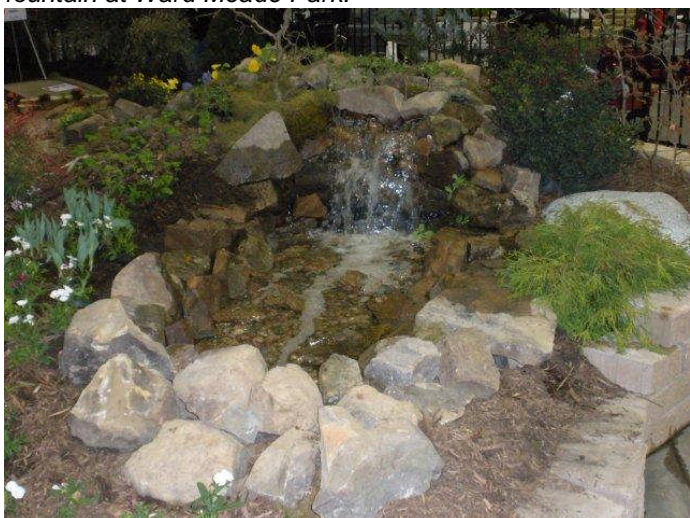
My sincerest thanks go out to **all who helped out this year** (Planning Committee Members, Set-Up Crew, Booth Sitters, Tear-Down Crew). Many of you served on one or more of these tasks. I plan to have a follow-up meeting to discuss what we can improve upon for next year. I tried to mention as many of you as I could in the poem above, however, it was nearly impossible without rambling on for too long. Please know that if your name wasn't mentioned, it wasn't that your hard work went unnoticed. **I appreciate everyone who helped!! THANK YOU!!!!**

Again, many, many thanks to everyone.

MARY



Mary Eberhardt plants tulips around the replica of the fountain at Ward Meade Park.



A disappearing waterfall was built to look like the one at Old Prairie Town.

TAWGS Minutes 2-17-2010

By Sandy Regier, Secretary

Don Taliaferro called the TAWGS meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with self introductions. Don passed around the sign up sheet for refreshments for the upcoming months. Owners, George & Rita Arnold from Arnold's Greenhouse, Leroy, gave a slide presentation.

Mary Weaver and Floyd & Diane Gruver provided our delicious refreshments.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of our last meeting of 11-18-09 as written in the Lily Pad by Mary Weaver and seconded by Amy Thompson. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Jim Green reported that we have \$2,404.39 in the checking account and of that amount, \$1,760.00 is allocated to other projects. Mark Weaver moved and Tom Platis seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion carried.

Phil Thompson, our pond tour chairman reported that there would be a drawing at the Lawn and Garden Show for some prizes donated by our local stores. There will be a box at the TAWGS booth for people to put their name and e-mail address in. One person would get all the prizes, which totaled in value around \$100. Later, we would use the e-mail addresses to notify people when tickets were available for the pond tour. Hi Stockwell said that he had printed some postcards and posters about the tour to be distributed at the Lawn and Garden Show

Mary Weaver said she still needed volunteers to help with the Lawn and Garden Show starting 2-19-10. She thanked everyone who had already been helping.

Duane and Mary Eberhardt thanked everyone for the plant that we had sent after the death of their son.

Jim Green moved and Mark Weaver seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.



Rita Arnold (r) visits with TAWGS visitor Zekiel Munoz after her perennial presentation.

New sun perennials for 2010

Rita Arnold gave a very interesting talk and slide show on sun perennials at the February meeting of TAWGS. Her slide show had beautiful pictures of sun perennials that will grow well in this area.

The 2010 Perennial of the Year is *Baptisia australis*. This low maintenance plant has an upright spreading habit. It reaches 3 – 5' tall. It can be used in borders or as a specimen plant and is hardy Zones 3 – 9.

Rita said that we are in Zone 5, but you can grow plants up to 2 zones colder than 5 if you wrap them in bubble wrap or mulch them well during the wintertime. This is no guarantee, but is worth a try.

Some of the new delphiniums are a little more hardy and have a full stem flower. *Delphinium grandiflorum* butterfly rose also tolerates heat well.

Enchinaceas will perform better if you remove all blooms in the fall. That will force the energy into the roots instead of the blooms.

The new Stella in Red is a daylily that has ruby red flowers. The petal bases and tips shade to near black. It re-blooms in color from early to late summer.

Arnold's Greenhouse is located 4 miles west of Leroy, KS, off highway 75. Owned and operated by Rita and her husband George, it has more than 80,000 square feet of greenhouses and additional growing areas outside for retail and wholesale production. It offers perennials, annuals, herbs, vegetables, vines, ornamental grasses, roses, trees, shrubs and aquatic plants. The display garden lets visitors see new and recent varieties first-hand.

A new children's garden includes a grass maze, tricycle track and a chicken coop (with chickens) with a living green roof.

Handouts of the new sun perennials and annuals were provided to those in attendance. A complete list of plants (with pictures) can be found at www.arnoldsgreenhouse.com.

Water plants

by Duane Van Dolah

Red Root Floater



Phyllanthus fluitans

This tender floating plant is native to southern Mexico on into Brazil. It belongs in the Spurge family of plants that are mainly from the desert, but this species has adapted to aquatic life. It has small round leaves that are 1 inch in diameter that grow in two rows. The overlapping leaves float on the surface of the water by puffed up sections on either side of the midrib of the leaves. The young leaves start out a bright red and become paler till on maturity they are soft shades of green. The plant's height is about 2 inches and it spreads 5 inches and more on its horizontal stems. The more sun the plant receives, the hanging roots get a darker color of red. The white flowers that it bears are very small and are very insignificant, if at all. It needs full sun to part sun and little water movement. So a container pond or glass aquarium would be good for it. Koi and goldfish enjoy eating it and with its spread, you should treat it like you would do with Duckweed. Surviving in zones 9-11, it will not winter over outside like Duckweed, though. Propagation is by separating the mother plant from the off

shoots and wintering them over in a warm place with high light till spring.



Bob Saathoff proudly shows off the beautiful plaque that TAWGS received at the Old Prairie Town Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Banquet.

TAWGS receives award from Old Prairie Town

Members of the Topeka Area Water Garden Society received recognition at the Old Prairie Town Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Banquet February 23, for their efforts in building the new streambed at the park last fall. Calling it a "rivlet" Ray Schroeder said that the streambed connects the pondless waterfall that was built last year and Anna's Pond. The 220 ft. streambed has seven waterfalls and several pools.

Eleven TAWGS members, including Jim Green, Dona Peterson, Mark Weaver, Mary Weaver, Joe Breitenstein, Don & Ruth Taliaferro, Bob and Cheryl Saathoff and Floyd and Diane Gruver, enjoyed the delicious candlelight meal provided by Old Prairie Town.

Beneficial bacteria in winter

Many ponds in colder climates are dormant now with pumps and filters disconnected. What can you do if the pond becomes somewhat stagnant? One of the alternatives is to use a good cold weather beneficial bacteria product to help keep the pond working until warmer weather lets you put some movement back into our garden pond.

A couple of products that are favorites to use for this purpose:

- Microbe-Lift Autumn/Winter prep for a bacteria specially formulated to work in colder water temperatures and
- Aqua One is a good, all-around beneficial bacteria product that works in almost any temperature.

Anytime a pond starts to smell even just a little bit it is a sign that things are not well. This circumstance should be avoided at all cost and remedied at once if it occurs. Cold water bacteria will help keep the pond healthy so it comes back to life in record time and as healthy as possible.

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

Calendar of Events

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
July 10-11 – KC Pond Tour
July 10-11 – Wichita 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
2-10 or 3-10**

**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

2010 OFFICERS:

Don Taliaferro Topeka	President 785-272-8348
Bob Saathoff Topeka	Vice President 785-272-7125
Sandy Regier Topeka	Secretary 785-286-9998
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.