



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 9

Nov. 1, 2010



Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m., Wed., Nov. 17, 2010
Historic Old Prairie Town
(formerly Ward Meade Park)
"Election of Officers"
Pot Luck

Please bring a covered dish and your table service.

Keep hole in ice

Reprinted from 10-26-10 The Pond Guy

You already know that it is important to keep a hole open in the ice that forms over your water garden during the winter months. This provides an outlet for harmful gases and an inlet for new oxygen-rich air. The question now is which device do you choose to get the job done. The good news is if you have already made your purchase for the season either one will perform excellently. Both a heater and aerator will maintain a hole in the ice but unlike a pond heater, this is only one of many tasks an aeration system performs for your water garden.

When we talk about pond heaters we are referencing units like the Pondmaster Floating Pond De-Icer which does not heat the water in the pond but instead keeps a ring of water open allowing gas to escape through the vent in the top of the unit. Since most ponds deeper than 18" do not freeze solid this is all that is needed to allow oxygen exchange while the fish are dormant. When running a pond heater periodically check in on the pond to make sure ice does not form over the vent hole. To reduce electrical expense most pond

heaters are thermostatically controlled to run only during a given temperature range, but they are measuring water temperature instead of air temperature. This means it is unlikely that the water temperature will raise enough to ever shut off the heater. To save some extra money on energy bills use a Thermo Cube in tandem with your pond heater as it will determine when your pond heater should run based on the ambient air temperature.

Aeration keeps a hole in the ice during the winter by producing bubbles and water motion to slow the ice from forming. This allows for the same gas exchange created by a pond heater, however your Aeration System will circulate the entire pond volume and infuse it with dissolved oxygen making it more efficient at oxygen/gas transfer. People will sometimes run pumps beneath the ice trying to create this same effect but it is the tiny air bubbles that boost dissolved oxygen levels and create the friction that prevents ice from forming. Your pond benefits from aeration year round making an aeration system a helpful and highly functional tool regardless of the season. The installation process is simple and straightforward and aeration systems are available in various sizes and shapes allowing you to select a system that best fits your pond. When selecting a system make sure you purchase a unit that is rated for your ponds volume in order to provide enough outlet for proper gas exchange.

The performance of both pond heaters and aeration systems vary depending on how cold it gets in your area. Even when vented properly, layers of ice appear may over when temperatures dip well below freezing. If this only occurs temporarily, and is short in duration while the coldest temperatures and wind are present, there should not be any cause for concern, as a calm or sunny day will give the pond the help it needs to re-open the hole in the ice. If it is necessary to manually

reopen the air vent do not try to break through it by hitting it with hammers or heavy objects as this creates vibrations that can harm your fish. If necessary pour a bucket of warm water over the vent hole to melt it back open.

Whichever unit you choose to use will perform to keep your fish safe for the winter months and ensure that they will be healthy, happy and ready to go in the spring.

TAWGS 10-20-2010 Minutes

President Don Taliaferro called the October meeting to order at 7:00 with self introductions. Don then announced our speaker for the evening – Deb Spencer, co-owner of Waters Edge.

Deb talked about things we need to do to get our ponds ready for fall and winter.

These tasks include:

- Not fertilizing our plants after August
- Trimming plants back and dividing plants
- Vacuum bottom muck or use fine fish net
- Testing KH of pond water (should be 140-220 ppm)
- Check fish for signs of disease
- Switch to high carbo/low protein foods
- Stop feeding at 45 – 50 degrees
- Add/adjust salt to 0.1 ppm (this should not have to be done in a planted pond)
- Clean pond or do water changes
- Bring in vertical tropicals before first frost
- Net for leaves (1/2" to 3/8" mesh recommended)
- Best cleaning time is after leaf fall
- Shut down/clean bio filters
- Turn off waterfalls, streams and fountains
- Install bubblers/de-icers. If bubblers are installed the top of the bubbler should be about 2 inches below the surface.

Two major points that Deb stressed were: stop feeding fish when water temperature reaches 50 degrees and dirty ponds cause fish death and water quality problems.

Don Hutley made a motion to approve the minutes of our September meeting as written in the Lily Pad. Don Regier seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer, Jim Green reported that we have \$1,557.29 in the bank. Dwayne Eberhardt made a motion to approve the treasurers report. Pat Routh seconded, motion carried.

Don Taliaferro suggested that we think about a chairperson for the pond tour next year. (Might be looking at having less ponds that are more centrally located.)

Next meeting will be nominating of officers for next year.

Mary Weaver reported that a lot of work was recently done on Anna's pond but more will be done next spring. She reported that all of the food was sold out at the Apple Festival and that everything went well. Mary told us that she would not be able to do the Garden Show next year.

TBA would like to be involved with us for the 2011 Garden Show.

Next month's meeting will have a pot luck dinner here starting at 6:30 p.m.

Don Hutley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Routh seconded. Motion carried.

Sandy Regier, Secretary



Where frogs and toads go during the winter

Reprinted from 10-20-10 The Pond Guy

As the temperatures continue to drop you will begin to notice that your pond, once full of life, is now starting to look like abandoned arctic tundra. Gone are the cool summer nights spent on your patio and deck watching fireflies tastefully illuminate your lawn while being serenaded by a choir of frogs and crickets.

While you are inside cuddled under blankets for the season where do your web-footed friends spend their winter? The winter retreat of choice will depend on the type of frog you have hanging around your pond. You will commonly find either some variety of frog frequenting the shallow areas or shoreline of your pond and toads farther inland rummaging about your gardens or front lawn. Both are very similar but can usually be identified by a few visual characteristics. Frogs tend to have smooth glossy skin that feels slimy to the touch while toads have dry lumpy skin. The eyes of a frog tend to protrude further from its head than those of a toad. A toad will usually have poison sacks located behind their eyes which help prevent them from becoming a snack for larger predators.

As frogs are cold blooded they will begin to slow down as their body temperatures drop. When winter arrives they will go into a state of dormancy and wait out the cold weather. The hibernation strategy varies between species of frogs. Toads tend to bury themselves in leaves or mud while frogs can pass the winter at the bottom of your pond below the ice. Frogs produce a type of glucose in their bodies that will allow them to freeze solid and still be able to survive. As the temperatures begin to rise in the spring their hearts will begin to beat again and they will begin to thaw. When

they are once again mobile they will actively search for a place to mate.

Since frogs have an arsenal of survival skills to get them through the winter there is not much you have to do to help them survive the cooler months. Instead focus on keeping yourself warm and healthy and try your best to enjoy the snow and beautiful landscapes this winter brings

Moisture loving plants

By Duane VanDolah

Leopard lily

Lilium Pardalinum



This is a bulb, native to California, and is found growing in the forest along and in bogs, seasonal flooded meadows and sides of streams. It spreads by creeping rhizomatous bulbs, forming colonies. The height is 3 to 6 feet with a spread of 15 inches. Strong stems bear 7 inch, lance-shaped, dull, deep green leaves. In mid-summer up to 30, 31/2 inch, bright glossy orange-red, red tipped with maroon-spotted flowers appear on the stout stems. The downward facing trumpet-shaped flowers have recurved petals pointing back to the flower stem. In the dappled shade that it likes, it needs to be constantly moist and can never be allowed to get dry. It thrives in zones 5 through 9. Propagation is by collecting the seeds or dividing the bulbs.

Why fall food for fish?

Reprinted from 9-3- Splash

Special food formulations for the cooler water temperatures of fall and winter are available for the pond fish and we are asked often if it is really necessary to switch to this special food? Here is the reason:

Koi do not have stomachs and digest all of their food with their intestines. As the water cools, the koi's metabolism slows and with it, their ability to digest food. Fall/Winter food is formulated with more vegetable matter (which is easier to digest) than summer formulas.

It is equally important to stop feeding completely when the water temperature dips below 50 degrees F. because the food will no longer be digested at all, and will sicken the fish if it remains in the intestine.

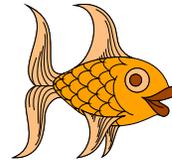
Tips for getting ready for winter

Reprinted from 10-15-01 Splash

Do not disconnect the pump and filter until about one week after all feeding of the fish has stopped, so the filter has time to take care of fish waste before being disconnected.

If the pump is moved inside, clean it well and store it in a container of clean water to keep seals moist. It can also be moved to the bottom of the pond where the water won't freeze.

Clean the filter well before storing it.
Ponds which are overcrowded with fish will need filtration all year.



How many fish safe for winter

Reprinted from 10-10-01 Splash

The most basic requirement for your fish during the winter months is oxygen! If there are too many fish in the pond and the water starts to freeze over, or there are many cloudy days in succession, the oxygen level in the pond can get dangerously low! The easiest way to prevent this is to make sure that there are not too many fish in the pond (this problem can be seen in reverse in the summer, when the hot still weather can cause drops in oxygen in the water.)

The general rule of thumb is one inch of fish per one square foot of surface area. More fish can be kept in the pond, but adequate measures have to be taken to make sure the pond can sustain them.

The easiest way to get oxygen into the pond is by letting a pump bubble. Set the pump on a plant shelf or on a couple of bricks so the warm water at the bottom does not get sucked to the top.

Plants that can not freeze solid in the winter time.....

Information provided in October 1999 Reflections

Marginal plants such as hardy water wisteria, golden buttons, melon sword, houttuynia chameleon, New Zealand jumping rush, azure carpet, cardinal flower and the lobelias, water clovers, parrot feather, water parsley, pickerel plant and lizard tail need to be placed on the bottom of the pond during the winter.

Just like me

Reprinted from October, 1999 Water Works, North Texas Water Garden Society, Dallas Texas

What kind of a society would this be if all of the members were just like me? Have you thoughtfully asked yourself that question?

You can sit in front of the TV night after night.

Find fault with officers; censure and gripe

Or be the one who is always on call

Both ready and willing to carry the ball.

To your fellow members you'll soon be known

As a genuine worker (else as a drone).

You could get a new member, or you can refuse

To take part in a thing beyond paying your dues;

You can stand on the sidelines or jump in and play
Attend every meeting or just stay away.

Whatever your talents, there's something to do.

So ask yourself this as the past you review:

What kind of society could this be,

If all the members were just like me.

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

Calendar of Events

**Nov. 17 – Pot Luck Supper &
Monthly TAWGS Meeting.
6:30 p.m., (note change of time)
Please bring covered dish and
table service.**

Work Days

**Julie Trowbridge is asking for volunteers
at the Ted Ensley Gardens at Lake
Shawnee to help plant tulips. Work days
are Tuesday's and Thursday's. Meet at
the covered bridge 9:00 – 11:30.**

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
8-10, 9-10, 10-10 or 11-10**

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

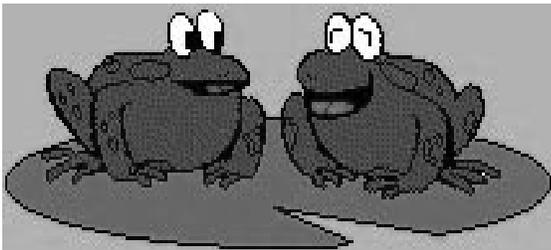
**Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614**

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

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