



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 15, Issue 3

Apr. 1, 2012



Eric Wood talks about new equipment for watergardens.

New pond equipment

Eric Wood gave an informative talk about the leading edge of water garden equipment at the TAWGS March 21 meeting.

New items that he talked about were:

- Pondbuilder Corner Falls, which fits snugly into any corner and the Pondbuilder 20" mini cascade falls
- Oasis series pump vault and fastfalls
- Eco-Rise water feature riser. The extremely strong radial structure handles the weight of heavier statuary, vases and columns.
- Pondbuilder fountain basins with easy pump access
- Artificial rock bubbling features which are less expensive than real rock. Available from Kip Walker, Jackson Greenhouse, Serenity Water Gardens (formerly Hericks)
- Atlantic colorfalls
- Electronic clarifier & algae control system called IonMate, which will safely and effectively eliminate algae, resulting in less maintenance and provide crystal clear water. And,

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m., Wed., Apr 18
Historic Old Prairie Town
124 NW Fillmore
Container Gardening Around Ponds
Marsha Henry

- Replacement LED lamps for landscape fixtures.

Eric said that most of these items can be found on their website: completeaquatics.com. He did warn members though, that the prices of pond equipment have jumped dramatically. Most raised about 25%.

TAWGS Minutes 3-21-12

President Don Taliaferro called the March meeting to order with self introductions.

Ray Schroeder announced that the tulips are blooming so they will open up Tulip Time this Saturday, March 23. If anyone can work at the gardens, (2 hour time slots) please call John Bell, 368-2437.

Ray said that the Garden Council project will be a volunteer program for work days at the gardens at Ward Meade Park. They will try to have two 1/2 days a month, 8:30 - noon, with one being during the week and one on Saturday. Carroll Morgenson will be calling when they get things going. It is the intent for TAWGS to work on the water features.

The annual plant sale will be a little different this year according to Carroll. It will be held at Ward Meade Park with strictly home grown plants. It will be held April 28th. TAWGS are invited to sell pond plants if they want to.

Tom Hammer, chief horticulturalist for Shawnee County said they are still learning about some of the gardens that the city had previously taken care of, such as: the rose garden, Gage park and the greenhouse. He said they will be asking for help from clubs on the area below the Carousel pond at Gage park.

The meeting resumed following an interesting talk given by Eric Wood, and refreshments served by Floyd and Diane Gruver. Tom Platis moved and Sandy Regier seconded that the February minutes in the March Lily Pad be approved. Motion carried.

Jim Green said that we have \$2,396.98 in the bank. The new checks with the new name of our bank have arrived so he is able to pay bills again. Jim Mowder helped Jim do the paperwork for the re-certification of the Not-for-Profit Corp. It cost \$220 to be re-certified. Jim volunteered to take a look at the letter from the IRS that said we have lost our non-profit status because we didn't file. Thanks for your help, Jim. Don Regier moved and Cheryl Saathoff seconded that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion carried.

Don Taliaferro thanked everyone who worked (building, manning and tearing down) the garden display at the garden show. he said that we received good comments about the display. Some said it was the best one yet.

Jim Green moved and Don seconded that we set June 30 and July 1 for the 2012 Pond Tour. Motion carried. So far no one has stepped forward to chair the tour.

A list was passed around for members to provide refreshments at the meetings. Jim and Sue Mowder will provide refreshments at the April meeting.

Don Taliaferro said that he would be the point person to call members to work at Ward Meade Park when a work day is scheduled.

Don will get prices on a banner with pictures of the ponds on the pond tour. This banner can be used at the garden show as well as other events during the year.

Tom Platis moved and Floyd Gruver seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Acting Secretary Diane Gruver

Spring cleaning your pond

The Pond Guy 3-15-12



Spring cleaning applies not only to the house, but your water garden as well. Here are 7 spring clean-out tips to get your pond off to a great start:

1.) Get a holding tank: Before you tend to your pond, have a holding tank ready for your koi and other fish. Make sure to house them using existing pond water and place a pond aeration kit in the tank to ensure oxygen levels remain high. Even though this is a temporary space for your fish, they may be startled by their new environment. It is always best to place some pond netting over the holding tank to ensure none of the fish jump out.

2.) Drain the pond: Once the fish are safely housed in their temporary holding tank, drain the pond with a pond pump and drain hose.

3.) Power wash: Power wash the rocks and remove any algae, muck and other debris build up. For stubborn debris that just won't wash away, use Pond Logic® Oxy-Lift Defense® to take care the problem. Simply sprinkle over stubborn debris, wait 10 minutes and rinse away. We recommend rinsing and pumping out dirty water a few times

to ensure a good cleaning.

4.) Make adjustments: At this point in the cleaning process with no water in the pond, it's best to check for any rocks or plants that might need to be adjusted as some of the scenery may have been displaced during the power wash.

5.) Check the lights: This is great time to check any pond lights to ensure they are in working condition. Now is also a good time to add new pond lights if desired.

6.) Reconnect plumbing and filters: Reinstall any pumps, UV clarifiers, filters or spitters once the rest of the pond is clean, and get ready to refill and reintroduce your fish to your pond.

7.) Refill and re-acclimate: After you refill your pond, add Pond Logic® Water Conditioner to remove any chlorine and to detoxify heavy metals from the new water.

Re-acclimate your fish to the new pond water by slowly adding some to their holding tank. We recommend using Pond Logic® Stress Reducer Plus to your pond as well to help reduce any stress caused by transporting them.

Once done, congratulate yourself – you're finished, it's time to get back to enjoying your pond.



Using barley bales in your pond

The Pond Guy 3-12

Whoever thought of adding barley straw to a pond must've discovered its advantages either by accident or because they were very

clever. Because barley straw breaks down, it releases a byproduct and this byproduct is known to make the water conditions unfavorable for new algae growth without affecting any other aquatic life. Barley straw has been used in larger ponds and lakes for several decades and it was only natural for this method of preventing algae to spillover (pun intended) to water gardens.

When applying the bales to your pond, it's best to leave it in the mesh bag so that the straw doesn't float around everywhere. Also keep in mind that it will take roughly four to six weeks for the barley to start having an effect on your pond, so just add it early in the season and don't become impatient if you don't notice results right away. Remember, perfection takes time! Make sure as well to place the bales in an area that receives a good amount flow so all the pond water comes in contact with the barley. A waterfall filter box is a great choice to help spread the water.

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Filters that have been turned off for the winter should be cleaned well before turning them back on this spring. Cleaning will remove toxins that can develop from waste breaking down in the filter in the absence of oxygen. Once your filter is up and running, add a good bacteria to seed it with beneficial bacteria to get it started.

Water plants

by Duane VanDolah

Roundleaf Monkey Flower

MIMULUS GLABRATUS
var. fremontii



Other names for this plant are Yellow Monkey Flower, Monkey Musk, and Seep Spring Monkey Flower. It grows in western Canada, down into western North America. This species of Monkey Flower found in Kansas is only 2 to 12 inches tall, while the more common one found further west is up to 3 feet tall with larger flower blooms.

Roundleaf monkey flower is a creeping, low, aquatic perennial often tinged reddish and rooting at the nodes under the water. Hollow stems are one to several branches with fleshy, kidney-shaped leaves that are wider than longer up to 1 ½ inches wide and 1 ½ inches long. Flowers are single on the stalks up to 1 ½ inches long, growing from the bases of the upper leaves. The yellow flowers are often spotted with red spots. The small flowers are only ½ inch long.

Blooming is from May through August in zones 6-9. This plant enjoys part-to-full shade in moist soil or up to 1 inch of water. It can be found along still and slow moving, shallow streams, rivers, and ponds. Propagation is by seed and division.

No time to care for fish and plants?

The Pond Guy 3-27-12

A standard pond is not the best bet if you plan to travel or be gone a lot. Successful ponds require fish and plants to keep



the ecosystem balanced, and proper filtration and aeration to prevent algae growth.

A pondless waterfall is one option to consider. A Pondless Waterfall has no standing water. All of the water that splashes down the rocks is contained within an underground basin. There is no pond ecosystem to maintain. Simply flip a switch to enjoy the sounds of a waterfall and turn it off when you are done to save electricity.

Another option is a Disappearing Fountain. Despite their name, disappearing fountains are very visible. They are made out of fiberglass to resemble decorative urns, pouring vases, or natural rocks. They also feature below-ground basins to house the water. Simply flip a switch to start the pump and the soothing sound of water is yours.

Introducing new fish

The Pond Guy 4-22-11

So you've made the decision to invite a few new friends to your home, but are you getting more than you bargained for? As is true with any purchase, you want to make sure you are getting quality before you hand over your hard-earned dollars. Inspect the fish you intend to purchase for symptoms of illness or poor health. Look over their fins, mouth, and gills for blemishes, discoloration, or signs of fin rot and check their body for growths, loose or missing scales, or other blemishes as they may be an early indicator of disease or parasites. Take a few moments to observe your prospect's behavior to make sure they are active and having no mobility hindrances.

Your newly purchased fish are typically handed over to you in an oxygenated plastic bag or container to allow adequate time to transport them to their new home. While it may be tempting to just dump them into your water garden upon your return home, you will want to make sure your pond is ready to accommodate its new inhabitants before you begin their acclimation process. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

Make sure the water in your pond is free from potential fatal heavy metals and chlorine and replenish the protective slime coating of your fish by adding Pond Logic Stress Reducer Plus during your water changes.

To help prevent disease and reduce fish stress in your new tenants, add Pond Salt to the water between your water changes. To ensure the well being of your Aquatic Plants, only add 1 ¼ cups per 100 gallons of pond water.

You can purchase a Master Test Kit to verify acceptable pH and Nitrate levels in the pond. You can prevent many potential health issues throughout your fish population by simply maintaining a clean and healthy pond. You can read more about pond maintenance here.

Now that the pond is ready for the addition of fish, it is time to get your finned friends ready for the big show. You will want to gradually equalize the temperature of the water your fish are currently occupying with that of the water in your pond. If the container carrying your fish floats, go ahead and place it in your pond. As the bag bobbles around in your pond, the water inside will start balancing with the outside water temperature. This process should take no longer than 30 minutes.

During this time frame, slowly add small amounts of water from the pond into the container which will allow your new fish time to acclimate to the chemistry of your pond water. Most of us have, at one time or another, jumped into a pool too early in the summer only to find that the water is unimaginably cold. Those of you who've been in that situation understand why you will want to take your time with the acclimation process. Now that the water on both sides of the container is the same and the fish have had time to try out the make up of the water in the pond, you are clear to release them into their new environment! Take a few moments throughout

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

Mar 24 - ????	Tulip Time in Topeka
April 18	Monthly Meeting
May 16	Monthly Meeting
June 20	Monthly Meeting
June 22-23	TBA Garden Tour
June 30-July 1	Topeka Pond Tour
July 18	Monthly Meeting
Aug. 15	Monthly Meeting
Sept. 19	Monthly Meeting
Oct. 17	Monthly Meeting
Nov. 14	Monthly Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Continued from Page 3

the day to check in on the pond and monitor the behavior of the newly introduced fish. Active and curious fish are happy and healthy fish.

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
 Any time in 2011, 3-12 or 4-12**

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

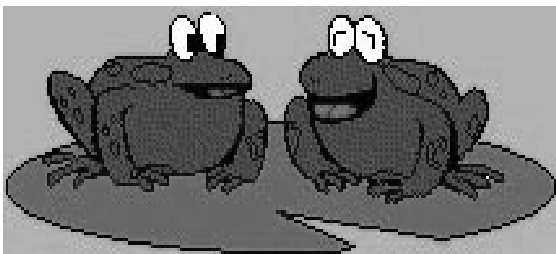
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW
 Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

**THE TOPEKA AREA
 WATER GARDEN SOCIETY**

2012 OFFICERS:

Don Taliaferro Topeka	President 785-272-8348
Bob Saathoff Topeka	Vice President 785-272-7125
Amy Thompson Topeka	Secretary 785-273-7005
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.