



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 7

August 1, 2012



Diana Lehmann explains something about algae to Bob Saathoff at the July TAWGS meeting.

Things living in your pond

Two scientists from the Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment (KDHE) gave an interesting program at the July TAWGS meeting. Diana Lehman, an Environmental Scientist and Training Coordinator discussed various kinds of algae and Clint Goodrich, Environmental Scientist, talked about the various invertebrates that use our water gardens in the early stages of their lives.

Diana listed reasons that we have algae and how to get rid of it.

1. Decrease the nutrient input. Don't let fertilizers drain into your pond.
2. Don't overfeed your fish - that is the worst thing you can do.
3. Decrease the amount and size of your fish.
4. Shading - lots of lilies and other pond cover will help slow down the algae growth.
5. Use biological filters, mechanical filtration systems and/or skimmers. Water hyacinths are very good filters.
6. Keep down organic debris from plants falling to the bottom of the pond.
7. Barley straw won't eliminate algae, but it will help prevent algae growth after you once get rid of it.
8. Be patient - leave the pond alone and let it balance itself out.

Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m., Wed., Aug 15
Potluck at Home of
Phil & Amy Thompson
1740 SW Seabrook
Kip Walker will demonstrate pond lighting in Thompson's pond

Diana, who lives in Lawrence said she and her husband have an 11,000 gallon pond in their front yard. They have a bog that filters the pond and they don't like to use chemicals.

Clint used test tubes and slide pictures to show the various bugs, beetles and flies that live in our ponds. We were all surprised to see what all lives in our ponds that we can't see with the naked eye.

Both speakers gave beneficial and sometimes very technical information to us about the algae and bugs that live in our ponds.



Remove algae from your waterfall

The Pond Guy 7-21-12

Get out your hip waders. It's summer chore time in your pond! Getting rid of all that debris and gunk that has accumulated in your waterfall is probably one of the items on your to-do list, especially if you have patio and pond parties planned, right?

Don't worry: Waterfall cleaning isn't a backbreaking chore. And if you use a cleaning aid, like Pond Logic® Oxy-Lift™ Defense® Pond Cleaner, the task is made even easier. Here, we've outlined five simple steps for cleaning your waterfall using Oxy-Lift™.

1. Power down your pump. Before you begin, turn off your waterfall's pump to stop the water flow and allow it to drain from the feature. Oxy-Lift™ works best when it's undiluted and comes into direct contact with the gunk, so no-flow is the way to go.

2. Sprinkle Oxy-Lift™ over waterfall. Once the waterfall is drained, sprinkle some of the powder over the moist debris-covered rocks, using the amount recommended on the product label for your water feature's size and/or the area you're treating.

3. Wait 10 minutes. Go pour yourself a tasty beverage and enjoy it pond-side while the Oxy-Lift™ activates and starts cleaning. The bacteria-free product uses the fish- and plant-safe power of hydrogen peroxide to "lift" debris from pond liners, rocks, gravel and waterfalls – which means little or no work from you!

4. Add some elbow grease. For tough, stuck-on debris, you may need to lightly scrub the waterfall's surfaces to help loosen it. A pond brush, like the one that comes with The Pond Guy® 3-in-1 Combo Net, can help – particularly as it's attached to a telescoping pole that extends to 5 feet long. You can also use the net to scoop out larger chunks of debris.

5. Turn waterfall back on. When you're happy with your (and Oxy-Lift's) work, turn the waterfall pump back on and congratulate yourself for a job well done. If you use Oxy-Lift™ regularly as part of your pond maintenance routine, it will reduce or even eliminate yearly pond shut-down and clean-out.

A quick tip for those who spruce up their pond prior to a backyard shin-dig: Oxy-Lift™ will temporarily make the pond water cloudy, so do your chores the night before. That will give the product a chance to disperse and clear before guests arrive.

Note: if you can't find Oxy-Lift, spraying plain hydrogen peroxide on the dry waterfall will probably work just as well for you.



Jim & Sue Mowder's pond on the 2011 Pond Tour.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jim & Susan Mowder for winning the top prize for their water garden in the 2012 TBA Landscape Contest.

Moisture loving plants

by Duane VanDolah

Sawtooth Sunflower

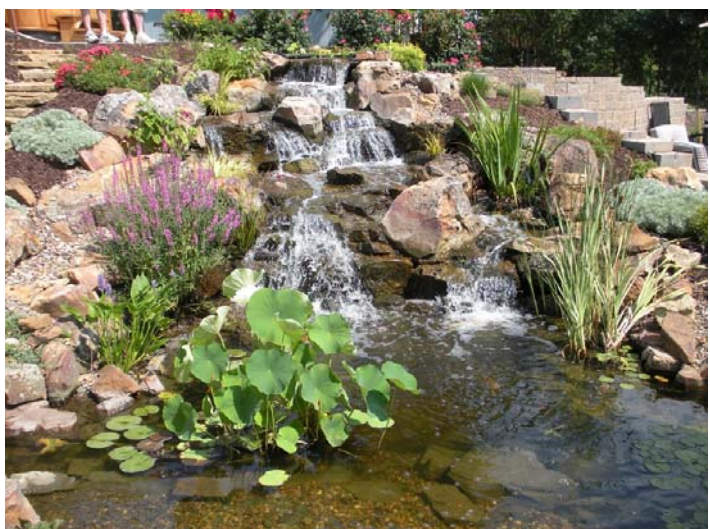
Helianthus
Grosseserratus
This erect perennial is called the Sawtooth Sun-



flower, but in truth there is just a little serration to the leaf edges. It forms large colonies that force other plants away and reduces the height of the Sunflower to 3-5 feet tall, but a single plant can reach 12 feet tall which is usually blown over in the wind. Wind, what wind? If you can't take the wind, don't grow so tall and show off. Or is it if you can't take the heat?

The heavy single or cluster stems are reddish to purple in color with very little side branching but for the flower stems toward the top. Leaves are short stalked, lanced-shaped, 8 inches long and 2 inches wide. They are medium to dark green with the upper side having a sandpaper feel because of the presence of stiff, fine hairs.

The abundance of flowers are 3-4 inches wide with 10-20 rays or petals. The flowers are bright yellow in color, and each has a center disc of dark yellow. The plant has a long blooming period of July through October in zones 4-7. This Sunflower likes to grow in full sun with



What a difference a year makes! Jeff and Michelle Parker's pond was featured on the 2011 Pond Tour as it was being built. This year highlighted the finished project in the 2012 Pond Tour and it looked wonderful! Thanks Parkers for letting us show it off again this year!

damp-to-wet conditions. You'll find it in ditches, along streams and ponds, and in low areas. Propagation is by seed or division in spring and fall. This Sunflower is similar to the Giant Sunflower and Maximilian Sunflower except the Sawtooth Sunflower has a hairless stem and longer leaf stems.



Getting rid of green water

The Pond Guy 8-4-12

There's nothing nice about a pea soup-colored pond. Just about every

water gardener dreams of a clean, crystal-clear pond – not an algae-filled eyesore. During the warmer seasons, what do you do to prevent and get rid of that unsightly green water? By making sure your pond is in balance.

For a stable pond that inhibits algae growth, you have to strike a perfect balance (or close to perfect, anyway) between fishes, aeration and filtration. And to keep it that way, you have to keep it well maintained. Here's what you need to know to get rid of that green water.

Watch Fish Load, Feeding

Yes, it's tempting to take home a dozen or more of those tiny koi from your favorite water garden retailer. But remember: those fish will grow and excrete nutrients that feed the algae. The rule of thumb is to allow 1 inch of adult fish per square foot of surface area, so don't max out your capacity with one impulse buy at the koi store.

Speaking of fish, take it easy with the food. Feed them a quality diet, like Pond Logic® Growth and Color Fish Food, once a day, and give them only what they can gobble down in a few minutes. Anything more than that just adds excess waste to the pond – which is food for the algae. You can feed your finned friends more often, but be prepared to do more partial water changes or add extra filtration to handle the job.

Add Some Aeration, Bacteria

When you circulate your pond's water with an aeration system, like the Pond Logic® KoiAir™ Water Garden Aeration System, you deliver oxygen to the bottom where all the muck – a.k.a. algae chow – sits. This oxygen helps all the beneficial bacteria, like Muck Defense® that's found in the Pond Logic® DefensePAC® Pond Care Package, break down and consume the material there and throughout the water column, resulting in cleaner, clearer water. Plus, the aeration is good for your fish's health, too.

Filtration – the Bigger, the Better

Go big with your mechanical filtration system. Make sure it's at least big enough to handle the amount of water in your pond. Manufacturers rate filters for minimal fish load, so if you intend to have a lot of fish, go even bigger.

Plants – floating, submerged, marginals and bog varieties – make excellent natural filtration systems that complement your mechanical and biological filtration. Plants

also shade the pond, keeping temperatures cooler and sheltering your fish. So try to cover 40 to 60 percent of your water with plants.

If you still have a pea soup colored pond after getting your fish load right, your feeding routine in check, your aeration system in place and your filtration system humming and growing, it's time for the big guns – an ultraviolet clarifier. A UV clarifier, like The Pond Guy® PowerUV™ Ultraviolet Clarifier, will help to bind the green water algae so it can be pulled out by your filter.

Keep It Clean...Kind Of

Normal maintenance, like regular partial water changes and debris removal, can go a long way to get rid of excess nutrient buildup. But don't overdo the filter-cleaning chores. Too much – meaning daily or weekly – washing of the filter media will wear the material down faster and wipe out the beneficial bacteria that actually clean the water. If water is unable to pass through the filter, simply rinse it lightly with water.

And if you don't already, it's always a good idea to do an annual spring cleanout of your pond to get rid of organic materials that feed the algae.

Dogs in our gardens

July Backyard Garden Club Newsletter

Most of us wouldn't include



both "dogs" and "garden" in the same sentence unless we were referring to problems that our dogs caused in the garden.

Whether we are upset about the newest hole that our dogs have dug or maybe it is those darn yellow spots in the lawn that are bothering us. Or maybe it is that newly planted garden that the dog will not leave alone.

Well, believe it or not, there are some easy things that you can do to minimize and sometimes even stop the damage that our furry friends do to our garden.

1. Yellow spots on the lawn from dog urine. Dogs tend to like to urinate frequently in the same spot(s). Since dogs rely on their sense of smell to discover their favorite 'spot' the solution is to deodorize the spot. This can be done by simply dissolving one cup of baking soda in one gallon of water. Apply this mixture every 3 days, to the yellow spots in your lawn. The deodorizing properties of baking soda will help to decrease the odor, making it hard for your dog to find their favorite spot. The baking soda also helps your grass to quickly regain its green color since it counteracts the acidity that is present in dog urine.

2. A general dog (& cat) repellent consists of a mixture of the following ingredients that you probably already have in your pantry – Tabasco sauce, chili powder and dish-washing soap. Combine 3 teaspoons of Tabasco sauce, 1 teaspoon of chili powder and 1/2 teaspoon of dish-washing soap with two cups of water. Add this mixture to a spray bottle and spray any areas that you want to keep dogs out of. Reapply as needed to keep dogs out of your new garden or any other area.

From my experience, there is no foolproof method for keeping dogs out of trouble in the garden. But, these tips can help prevent some of the damage from dogs, if not most.

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

Aug. 15	Monthly Meeting Pot Luck at Thompson's
Sept. 19	Monthly Meeting
Oct. 7	Apple Fest
Oct. 17	Monthly Meeting
Nov. 14	Monthly Meeting & Potluck Dinner

2012 Refreshments

August - Pot Luck at Thompson's
Need Volunteers for September &
October

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
6-12, 7-12 or 8-12**

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

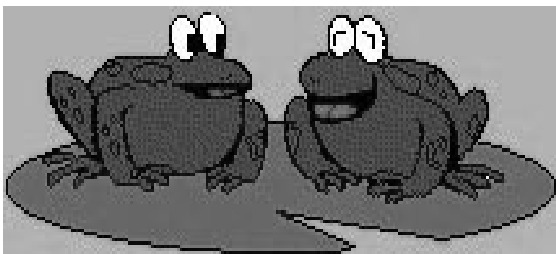
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

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

The Lily Pad

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:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor
408 Emerald, Holton, KS 66436
785-364-3046
fdgruver@embarqmail.com

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