



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 2

Mar. 1, 2012



Lee Schick shows members a drawing of the display at the Garden Show.

Feb. 8, 2012 Minutes

Present: Don Taliaferro, Amy Thompson, Dona Peterson, Diane Gruver, Floyd Gruver, Cheryl Saathoff, Bob Saathoff, Sue Mowder, Jim Mowder, Tom Platis, Helen Platis, Linda Reynolds, Don Reiger, Sandy Reiger and Phil Thompson

Guests: Lee Schick, Rita and George Arnold

The meeting was called to order by Don Taliaferro, president, at 6:30 p.m. with self introductions

Kansas Garden Show: TAWGS and Topeka Beautification Association are once again combining efforts into one booth at the show. Lee Schick of TBA and chair of the Garden Show subcommittee, shared with TAWGS members the schematic for the booth. The booth, located on the east wall of Exhibition Hall, will feature a backyard setting to fit this year's theme of "Garden Party." There will be four water features, a deck with a lattice privacy fence, a vegetable garden and a variety of flowers and shrubs.

Don Taliaferro encouraged members to help setup the display. Construction of the display will be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday (Feb. 14-16). He also asked the members to represent TAWGS at the show by working a shift at the booth during the show. A sign up sheet was passed around.

The Garden Show is Feb. 17, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Feb. 18, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Feb. 19, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

February program presentation – Arnolds

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m., Wed., Mar. 21
Historic Old Prairie Town
124 NW Fillmore
New Equipment for Water Gardens
Eric Wood

Greenhouse

Rita and George Arnold presented to the members information about native plants as well as the new perennials and annuals they are featuring this year. Presentation hard copies were distributed.

The November minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Jim Green reported there is \$2,711.66 in the TAWGS checking account. Tom Platis made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, it was seconded by Floyd Gruver. The motion carried.

Bob Saathoff asked if the Garden Show committee could be approved to spend up to \$300 for this year's show. Diane Gruver made a motion to accept this request, Phil Thompson seconded, the motion carried.

Jim Green reported that Jim Mowder helped complete the paperwork requested by the Secretary of State's office to reinstate TAWGS as a non-profit organization. Green will deliver the paperwork next week to the secretary's office.

Bob Saathoff shared that he has secured program presentations for the meetings through the summer. Eric Wood – new water garden equipment, Marsha from Henry's Greenhouse - container gardening and Deb Spencer – new water garden systems, are just a few.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Platis, seconded by Cheryl Saathoff, motion carried.

The next meeting is March 21, 2012 at Old Prairie Town.
Amy Thompson, Secretary

Pond Tip

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 Microbe-Lift PL to seed it with beneficial bacteria.

Filters with pads will benefit from the use of Microbe-Lift PL Gel.



Bill Clark built a beautiful water garden for the TAWGS/TBA display. Photo by Don Taliaferro



A bubbling rock was installed in the show garden. Photo by Don Taliaferro.

Garden Party theme at the TAWGS display at the Kansas Garden Show

A lot of hard work turned the northeast side of the Expo Center into a beautiful walk-through garden for the Kansas Garden Show. Three water features, blooming trees, evergreens, grasses, rocks and flowers filled the area. A small area even had rocking chairs on a patio. The display seemed to attract a lot of admirers and good comments.

Lee Schick, a former city employee, chaired the project with help from TBA members Dave Headstrom, Jerold Binkley and Jim Herynk and TAWGS members who helped build the display: Phil & Amy Thompson, Kent Hampton, Don Regier, Bob & Cheryl Saathoff, Mark Weaver, Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, Bill Clark, Duane Eberhardt, Ray Schroeder, Jim Mowder, Tom & Helen Platis, Floyd Gruver and Don Taliaferro. Volunteers that worked during the show included: Don Taliaferro, Hi Stockwell & Michael Bradley, Floyd & Diane Gruver, Bill & Susan Kraus, Jim Green, Dona Peterson, Don & Sandy Regier, Jim & Sue Mowder, Amy & Phil Thompson and Linda Reynolds.

Suppliers that contributed materials were: Capitol Concrete, Wild Bird House, Kansas Fence, Patio, Pool and Fireside, Waterscapes Concepts, Skinner Garden Center, Jackson's Greenhouse, White Star Machinery and Supply Company.



Bill Clark deciding where to plant some native grass in the display. A small water feature is behind him. Photo by Don Taliaferro.



Tom and Helen Platis plant a vegetable garden for the display. Photo by Don Taliaferro.



A patio area was incorporated into the garden theme. Photo by Don Taliaferro.

Many thanks to everyone that contributed to making the beautiful display for the garden show. I hope we haven't left anyone out. If I have, we apologize for the omission.



Moisture loving plants

by Duane VanDolah

California Loosestrife *Lythrum Californicum*



California Loosestrife is a native perennial plant from the southwestern United States and is found growing in wet areas in tall grass and pastures, along ditches and streams, rivers and ponds. This erect plant grows 1 -2½ feet tall, with one to several stems that are slender and branched. The leaves on the branches are waxy, gray-green in color, lance-shaped, ¼ - 1 ½ inches long and less than ¼ inches wide. The many flowers form in single or paired from the base of the leaves to the end of the stems.

The dark lavender-to-purple flowers have 6 petals that are crinkled and about 1 inch across. Blooming starts in June and ends in September in full sun to part-sun. Propagation is by seed or root division in spring. Do not confuse this Loosestrife with Purple Loosestrife (*LYTHRUM SALICARIA*). This was brought in from Europe to the United States for the nursery trade business for ornamental use. The plant has now proved to be highly invasive and is considered a noxious weed in some states.

New plants for 2012

Rita and George Arnold gave a very interesting and informative talk at the February TAWGS meeting.

George opened the program with information about native plants and grasses. He said that native plants have very deep roots - sometimes 15 feet deep. Normally we only see about 20% of the plant; 80% of the plant is roots below ground. Native plants that George talked about were butterfly weed, aster, false indigo, partridge pea, prairie coreopsis, gaillardia, western sunflower, monarda, prairie coneflower, black-eyed Susan and goldenrod.

Native grasses mentioned were bluegrass, switch grass, little bluestem, big bluestem, Indian grass and prairie drop seed.

Rita's part of the program was about new perennials and annuals for 2012. She narrated a slide show which showed the various plants that she talked about, as well as provided detailed handouts about both perennials and annuals.

Rita invited members to come to Arnolds Greenhouse south of LeRoy, for their Open House, April 2 - 7. Plants will be discounted during those days.

Spring Garden Fair in Lawrence

The Douglas County Master Gardeners are sponsoring a Spring Garden Fair, Saturday, March 24, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, at Building 21, Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper Street, Lawrence, KS (785) 843-7058.

There will be vendors or programs including information on trees, healthy lawns, mulching, composting, water management, edible urban gardening, native plants, insect identification, tool care, attracting birds and butterflies and much more.

Admission is free.

Sick fish in spring

As we close in on spring and the ice melts off of our water gardens, our koi start to become lively again. This is a very crucial time for koi. When koi begin to awaken from their winter dormancy, they can show signs of weakness. This is because during the winter, not only do their metabolisms slow down, but also their immune systems can be affected. As the temperatures outside begin to rise above 40°F begin a Spring/Summer Prep bacterial application, like Seasonal Defense, and start to feed them Spring and Fall Fish Food. Keep an eye on the koi for any signs of excess slime, sores or lesions. Weakened fish are much more susceptible to bacterial and parasitic infections when the temps are just beginning to rise.

Here are few products to use if your koi happen to be sick: "

- If you spot a sore or lesion use MelaFix or Fungus and Bacteria Fizz Tabs.
- If you see white spots (ich) use Pond Ick Guard or Ick & Protozoa Treatment Fizz Tabs.
- If you see any visible parasites like anchor worm, fish lice or gill mites use Parasite Guard.

Using the products mentioned above you can be assured your fish will be lively again in no time. To help prevent koi sickness during the early spring, be proactive and ensure your koi are healthy in the fall time.

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

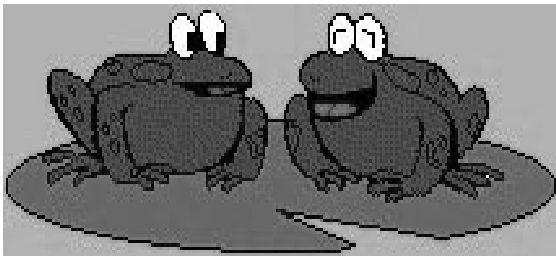
March 21	Monthly Meeting
March 24	Spring Garden Fair at Lawrence
April 7 - 23	Tulip Time in Topeka
April 18	Monthly Meeting
May 16	Monthly Meeting
June 20	Monthly Meeting
June 22-23	TBA Garden Tour
July 18	Monthly Meeting
Aug. 15	Monthly Meeting
Sept. 19	Monthly Meeting
Oct. 17	Monthly Meeting
Nov. 14	Monthly Meeting & Potluck Dinner

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
 Any time in 2011, 2-12 or 3-12**
 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:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor
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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.