



# 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 4**

**May 1, 2012**



Marcia Henry talks about adding containers around your pond. Photo by Phil Thompson.

## Adding excitement to the water's edge

by Amy Thompson

Marcia Henry, Henrys' Plant Farm, brought several annuals to show that grow well in this area.

She began her presentation by explaining the importance of planting in a larger container; the bigger the container the better for the plant. Pots that are too small can get hot and dry out quickly.

Pots should be 16" in diameter or bigger. Clay pots won't blow over easily, but they tend to dry out quickly. Resin pots are lightweight, but subject to spilling. Wood will not dry out but it will rot. Her recommendation was glazed pottery.

Next she covered what goes in the pot. Don't use

**Monthly Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m., Wed., May 16**  
**Historic Old Prairie Town**  
**124 NW Fillmore**  
 Program to be Announced

dirt from the garden; it will get hard and chunky. She recommends using a soilless potting mix with a container that drains well. Use liquid fertilizer every two months.

Put fresh potting soil in your pots every year and don't allow the soil to freeze and thaw.

Marcia then displayed and discussed each of the following annuals:

1. Angelonia Serena Blue
  - a. Non-stop purple flowers all summer.
  - b. Thrives in heat
  - c. Grows 10-12"
2. Begonia Dragon Wing
  - a. Morning sun only
  - b. Bright red flowers, glossy green foliage
  - c. Grows 18" tall
  - d. Blooms a lot
  - e. Part shade to shade
3. Coleus Colorblaze Dipt in Wine
  - a. Smooth, shiny, rounded leaves are crimson with a lime-green edge
  - b. Grows to 24-36"
  - c. Sun to part shade
  - d. Easy no dead heading needed
4. Coleus Colorblaze Sedona
  - a. Unique rusty orange foliage
  - b. Grows to 24-30"
  - c. Sun to part shade
5. Coleus Wasabi
  - a. Brilliant chartreuse leaves with serrated edges
  - b. Very heat tolerant
  - c. Grows 18-28"
  - d. Sun to part shade
6. Cuphea Totally Tempted
  - a. Also known as bat-face flower
  - b. Compact, well-branched beauty with brilliant red flowers with lavender throats

- c. Grows to 10-12"
  - d. Sun to part shade
  - e. Angles outward
7. Euphorbia Diamond Frost
    - a. Clouds of airy dainty white flowers all season
    - b. Heat and drought tolerant
    - c. Grows 12-18"
    - d. Sun to part shade
    - e. No need to deadhead
    - f. Can winter over cuttings
  8. Evolvulus Hawaiian Blue Eyes
    - a. Ocean-blue flowers on this vigorous trailing plant
    - b. Heat tolerant
    - c. Closes at night
    - d. Grows to 8-12"
    - e. Sun
    - f. True blue flowers the size of a nickel
  9. Homalocladium platycladum Ribbon Bush
    - a. Long wands of flat-pressed leafless stems that are ½" side and jointed
    - b. Grows to 18-36"
    - c. Sun to part shade to shade
  10. Ipomoea Illusion Emerald Lace
    - a. A vigorous grower with delicate chartreuse foliage
    - b. Grows 6-10" sun to part shade to shade
  11. Lantana Bandana Lemon Zest
    - a. Best in hot containers
    - b. Blossoms emerge brilliant yellow fading to creamier shades of yellow to white.
    - c. Grows to 18-24"
    - d. Sun
    - e. Bandana series stay small and bushy
  12. Lobelia Laguna Sky Blue
    - a. Brilliant blue flowers cover this compact, heat-tolerant spreader
    - b. Grows to 10-12"
    - c. Sun to part shade to shade
  13. Pelargonium: scented geranium
    - a. Very ornamental in value
    - b. Wide variety of scents available
    - c. Add great texture and form to container gardens
    - d. Grows to 2'
    - e. Sun to part shade
    - f. Does not bloom like traditional geraniums
  14. Lotus Flashbulb
    - a. Delicate silver foliage with brilliantly-hued flowers that look like flames.
    - b. Grow to 6-8"
    - c. Sun to part shade
    - d. Doesn't like really hot temperatures
  15. Petunia Supertunia Vista Bubblegum
    - a. A top performer with attractive hot pink flowers
    - b. Grows to 5-7"
    - c. Sun to part shade
    - d. Don't need to dead head
    - e. Will spread like wave petunias
    - f. Wants to be fed

## TAWGS 4-18-2012 Minutes

Present: Don Taliaferro, Amy Thompson, Jim Green, Dona Peterson, Cheryl Saathoff, Bob Saathoff, Sue Mowder, Jim Mowder, Don Reiger, Sandy Reiger, Pat Routh, Tom Routh, Michael Bradley, Hi Stockwell, Mary Weaver, Doug and Marikay Peterman and Phil Thompson.

Guests: Marcia and Roy Henry

Don Taliaferro, president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by self introductions by the membership.

**April program presentation** – The Henrys' Plant Farm. Marcia Henry presented on the annuals to plant next to water features. She brought examples of several types of plants that grow well in both sun and shade.

**March Minutes** – A motion was made by Jim Green and seconded by Mary Weaver to approve the minutes, the motion carried.

**Treasurer's report** - Jim Green reported that TAWGS has \$2,545.77 in assets. The Petermans renewed their membership for two years; Heinemanns and the Saathoffs each paid for one year. Jim also reported that Wildcat Landscape (Rob Nordyke) paid \$80 for his pond tour ad of 2011. TAWGS also incurred \$.52 in bank charges and \$10.69 in newsletter printing fees.

Jim reported he is continuing to work on the IRS non-profit reinstatement for TAWGS. He also recognized Jim Mowder for his assistance in locating the proper paperwork to complete. It may cost up to \$400 for reinstatement. Michael Bradley made a motion to authorize up to \$400 to be paid to the IRS for the application, Don Reiger seconded, the motion carried.

TAWGS is in good standing with the state of Kansas.

Hi Stockwell made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, it was seconded by Tom Routh. The motion carried.

### Other Business:

- 2012 Pond Tour – Don Taliaferro asked if anyone present was interested in chairing the 2012 Pond Tour committee. He stated that there will be 10 houses on the tour, four of which have already been identified. The price will remain the same. If anyone wishes to chair the committee they are to contact Don.

Hi Stockwell mentioned that Washburn University has a water feature by the football stadium and might be interested to being a bonus pond. He will contact Washburn about the opportunity.

Doug Peterman recently purchased from a friend a variety of pond supplies that he is donating to TAWGS. He is donating a pump, matrix, hose, liner patches, etc. a complete list is on file. Hi Stockwell made the motion to accept the donation, Bob Saathoff seconded; the motion carried.

Doug said he would deliver the items to the TAWGS storage space at Waterscapes.

A motion to adjourn was made by Cheryl Saathoff, Phil Thompson seconded; the motion carried.

The next meeting is May 16, 2012 at Old Prairie Town.

# Water plants

by Duane VanDolah

Floating evening primrose  
*Ludwigia peploides*



This plant is native to North America, Central and South America, and the West Indies. Also called the Smooth Water Primrose, Floating Primrose Willow, and the Creeping Water Primrose, this Kansas wildflower can be found in shallow water and in ditches, streams and ponds. The plant is a floating, aquatic, perennial with branched stems that grow 6-48 inches long that root from the stem nodes when in contact with earth. Dark green leaves are lance shaped, ½ -4 inches long and 1/4-1 ½ wide. Single flowers are formed on stalks held up 2 ½ - 6 inches tall with yellow flowers that are 1 -1 ½ inches across. Blooming is May into September in zones 7-11 and in full to part-sun. This Primrose will grow in moist soil and up to 3 inches in water depth. In the wild it is considered invasive, as it can plug water ways, irrigation ditches, and harbor disruptive insects. In other words, care is needed to introduce this plant in a garden pond.



## Best time to plant heron decoys

The Pond Guy 4-22-2012

Pond owners everywhere use Heron Decoys to protect their fish from becoming a quick meal. While using heron decoys can be a very useful tool for keeping herons at bay, knowing when to actually place them pond-side makes the difference between deterring a predator and attracting unwanted attention.

In the northern hemisphere the heron mating season generally lasts from April to May but can sometimes extend into early June. If used too early, your decoy will actually attract a heron or two as they will be searching for potential mates. Use your decoy at the end of the mating season to give herons the impression that your pond is already claimed. Since herons are territorial they will try to find a pond of their own and move on.

Placement is also important to consider when using the decoy. Herons are smart and patient animals and may investigate your decoy if they find it suspicious. For best results place your decoy at the edge of the pond and move

it daily. Make sure the decoy is standing upright and not in any unnatural poses.

## Why ponds turn green

The Pond Guy 4-20-2012

Green water is a form of algae called planktonic algae and there are quite a few factors



causing your water to be clear during the winter and green as the weather warms up. The main reason is the interruption of the nitrogen cycle.

In order for algae to grow, it needs a food source (nutrients) and sunlight. During the colder winter months of the year, nutrients within the water are less likely to increase due to the fact that the digestive systems of fish have slowed to a point where little, if any, nutrients (fish waste) are being added. Also, during the colder months, algae and aquatic plants are not as active at consuming nutrients.

As the weather warms up, fish become active, digestive systems kick back in and nutrients begin pouring in and if not held in check using aquatic plants, natural bacteria and filtration, green water will develop.

If you have chronic green water and still can't keep it in check, consider a UV or Ion clarifier.

## Dividing water lilies

The Pond Guy 4-27-2012

Dividing lilies may seem somewhat complicated, but our step-by-step process will explain exactly what you need to do. Try to plan it so you divide them during your spring cleanout, which would give easy access to tubers. Dividing is necessary every two to three years, and it is helpful if you notice the lily grew mostly pads and few lilies over the past season.

**Step 1:** Remove lilies from pond or container and rinse off. Plant baskets are ideal containers until they are ready to be moved to the pond.

**Step 2:** Trim away root growth and old foliage.

**Step 3:** Cut the tuber down to size. You can safely cut the tuber down between two to three inches on the growing part with a sharp knife. This can be increased to five to six inches on longer plants. Remember to also cut off new buds and older leaves, so that the new root system has a chance to grow.

**Step 4:** Plant each tuber separately or discard if you wish to reduce the lilies' quantity in your pond. Use pond plant fertilizer and pond planting media or top soil for best results and a continuing healthy pond.

**Step 5:** Replant them shallow in the pond until new growth begins.

**Step 6:** Upon new growth lilies can be moved deeper into the pond.

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

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

## 2012 Refreshments

May	Don & Sandy Regier
June	Fish Fry and Pot Luck
July	Kent & Coleen Hampton

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads  
Any time in 2011, 4-12 or 5-12  
Please renew as soon as possible to continue  
receiving the newsletter.**

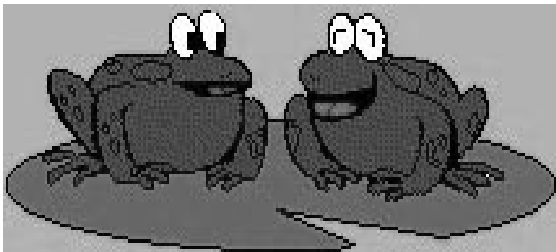
Send dues to Jim Green, 5701 SW  
Arrowhead CT, Topeka, KS 66614

### 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](http://www.tawgs.org)

### *The Lily Pad*

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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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