



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 16, Issue 3

April 1, 2013



Members listen as Scott talks about weeds. Photo by Don Taliaferro

Know your weeds

by Amy Thompson

Scott Marsh, Weed Specialist for the KS Dept of Ag, presented to the membership information about noxious weeds: what are they, how they spread, and preventative measures.

He began his presentation with a definition of weeds and their typical characteristics.

Characteristics: Mature early, profuse seed production, roots or rhizomes with large food reserves, high photosynthetic rates and long seed dormancy.

How does it spread: Natural movements, humans and anthropogenic movements.

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m. Wed. April 17

**Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore
Program to be announced**

Types of water garden weeds: yellow floating heart, hydrilla, giant salvinia, curly leaf pondweed.

Landscape weeds: reed canary grass, purple loose strife, phragmites or common reed, salt cedar, giant reed

Other aquatic weeds: alligator weed, Eurasian water milfoil.

Ways to prevent spread: know what you're buying, clip seed heads, use certified seed for vegetation, clean aquatic equipment, etc.

Scott encouraged members to visit the website EDDMapsWest.org or download the app to their smartphone. This app/website helps you identify weeds as well as report them if found.

TAWGS Minutes 3-20-13

The meeting began with self-introductions by the members upon the President's request.

Guest speaker, Scott Marsh was introduced by Don Taliaferro.

Minutes: Sandy Reiger moved and Bob Saathoff seconded that the February minutes be approved as printed in the February Lily Pad. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Jim Mowder reviewed the past few months of expenditures. He stated that the current account balance is \$2229.64. Jim Green made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; it was seconded by Tom Platis. The motioned was approved.

New Business

Pond Tour: Phil Thompson began discussion of the 2013 Pond Tour by distributing a task list of activities. Instead of holding separate meetings for the Pond Tour Phil proposed integrating the meetings into the regular monthly club meetings. After discussion about the purpose and goal of the pond tour a few members signed up for tasks. At the next meeting additional tasks will need to be covered. It was decided that there would be a

maximum of 8 ponds in the tour. We will try the vouchers again, \$5 pre sale, \$7 tickets.

Tulip Time: Bob Saathoff said that they need docents for Tulip time beginning April 5. A sign up sheet was distributed.

Tom Platis moved and Michael Bradley seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.



Bob Saathoff and Ray Schroder clean the muck out of Anna's Pond at Ward Meade Park. Photo by Don T.

A Great Day to Clean a Pond

by Don Taliaferro

The day started out a little cool, but quickly warmed up to a very nice day. Bob and I started draining the lower part of Anna's pond with help from Ray Schorder and about 15 folks from parks and rec.

After most of the water was out we started using 5 gallon buckets to drain the rest and pick up the muck. The muck was moved to a pickup truck loaded into the bed. We filled it up twice. After that all of the limestone edging was removed from the pond and put where it went along the edge. Probably for the first time in a while it was clean down to the liner. While I was power washing, the stream from the top pond down to the bottom pond I let the hose hit the muffler! **Instant hole.** So we had to finish the rest with a regular hose. Did not clean as good, but wasn't too bad.

The pump needs a new impeller, which Ray said they would get. This will greatly improve the water flow.

After the pond was refilled and the fish put back in, everything looked pretty good. In about a half-hour you could see the bottom of the pond.

Big thanks to Bob Saathoff, Ray Schorder, John Bell and all of the people from Shawnee County Parks and Rec.

Moisture loving plants

by Duane VanDolah

Gelsemium Sempervirens

A couple of weeks ago I got a garden magazine and there was an article on vines.

One caught my eye in that the gardeners planted a vine in their bog which didn't meet the plant's growing needs. But it thrived, so I checked it out and this vine has a cousin that likes boggy conditions. So these two cousins might get along in a bog. It might be worth a try, considering it's a vine that there are few that can take boggy sites.

It's a Jasmine with legendary scents.

Native to the Southeastern United States and the state flower of South Carolina, this evergreen vine is also called Yellow Jasmine, Evening Trumpet Flower, and Poor Man's Rope. The glossy, green leaves are evergreen and narrow with pointed tips. They are 2-3 inches long and 1/2 inch wide. The vine is a reddish-brown and is very wiry and flexible which gives it the common name of "the poor man's rope." The vine stays compact with a width or spread of 6-8 feet, but without full sun it will climb up to 20 feet in height in part sun. Small clusters of bright, fragrant, tubular flowers form along its vines. The flowers are 2 inches long and 1 inch wide at their flared opening. It flowers from late spring to early summer. The vine grows in zones 6-9 and loves full sun but can handle part sun. Constant moisture is a must and cannot be allowed to dry out. Propagation is by seed or dividing the root ball.

All parts of the plant are poisonous, but the Native American Indians used the plant for reducing cramps and deadening pain and as a blood purifier. Some cultivars are 'Margarita', 'Butterscotch', and 'Lemon drop'.



2013 Refreshments

April	Tom and Pat Routh
May	Linda Reynolds
June	Saathoff's & Taliaferro's
July	Floyd & Diane Gruver
August	Jim and Sue Mowder
September	Tina Wesch
October	Amy and Phil Thompson
November	Potluck

Don't turn off aerator yet

The Pond Guy 3-13

Your aerator not only keeps a hole in the ice for gas exchange, but it also circulates the water beneath the ice. It keeps your fish happy and healthy through the icy winter months.

As springtime approaches and you notice that the ice covering your pond starts to recede, your fish may become more active. This indicates that your finned friends are no longer under threat from trapped gas—so it's logical to assume you can remove the aerator, right?

Not so fast.

Mother Nature has a way of teasing us with spring sunshine, so don't get too excited. In most places across the continent, it's still cold and your pond's ecosystem will remain dormant until water temperatures start hitting the 50-degree mark.

Your best bet is to keep the aerator running.

Chances are that you're not quite ready to get the filtration system up and running in your pond, so your aerator will continue to circulate the water and saturate it with oxygen.

Even when the water warms up, your aerator's added circulation is great for the pond and fish during the hot summer months. Plus, it helps stimulate filtration and beneficial bacteria. If you leave it running, you'll see that the benefits outweigh the nominal amount it costs to run it.



Fish hungry? Don't feed them yet

The Pond Guy 2-25-13

Fish sure seem to know when spring is coming. This time of year, your koi and goldfish that have been hibernating .

over the winter are waking up—and they're hungry!

Slow Eaters

When water temperatures dip below 45 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter months, your fishes' metabolisms slows down. They enter into a hibernation-type state, during which time they require little or no food. They literally live off the fat stores in their body.

As the water temperature rises above 45 degrees in the spring, the fish start moving. Their metabolisms turn back on, *and they need food to fuel their increased activity. To transition the fish from no food to daily food, fish experts recommend feeding a wheat germ-based diet when water temperatures are consistently between 45 and 55 degrees. A diet like Pond Logic® Spring & Fall Fish Food is quickly and easily digested by the fish.*

Summertime Bounty

In the warmer months when your water temperature tops 55 degrees, you can continue to feed the wheat germ-based diets, or you can choose to gradually re-introduce protein-based diets that help the fish grow quickly and show off their colors. Here's what we recommend:

- For your regular everyday diet: Pond Logic® Floating Ponstix Fish Food, which is nutritionally balanced diet that contains digestive enzymes and amino acids for optimal fish health.
- For color enhancement: Pond Logic® Growth & Color and TetraPond® Koi Vibrance® Fish Foods

each contain ingredients designed to enhance your koi's reds, deepen their black and highlight their whites.

- For rapid growth: Pond Logic® Professional Fish Food and TetraPond® Koi Growth formula help your koi develop strong bones and muscles during the growing season.

Choose the diet that best fits in with your goals for the fish. If you're not interested in growing your Kohaku into show-quality specimens, for instance, stick to the everyday or color enhancement diet.

Word of Warning

The weather may be warming up, but make sure the water temperatures are at a consistent 45 -50 degrees before you start feeding your fish. Feeding them before they're able to properly digest the food can lead to health issues.

Deep spring cleaning for your pond important

The Pond Guy 2-19-13

Like it or not, deep cleaning your pond or water feature is one of those must-do chores in the spring. Though we could write an entire e-book on the subject, we've distilled the essentials into this handy step-by-step to-do list.

So pull on your waders and gloves. It's time to get dirty!

1. Create a holding tank for your fish. First, fill a blue tub, large plastic bin or even a child's wading pool with existing pond water, install a small aerator in it and turn the air on. Then, use a net to catch your fish and gently move them into the holding tank and cover with a net to prevent them from hopping out. This will be their home away from home while you're performing your cleanout.

2. Drain the pond. Use a pump and a drain hose to siphon all the water from the pond.

3. Get out the power washer. Once all the water has been drained, power wash your pond's rocks, decor—anything that has developed a layer of dead algae and/or accumulated debris. Scrub away stubborn debris with an oxygen-based cleaner like Pond Logic® Oxy-Lift™ Defense® Pond Cleaner.

4. Rinse, drain and repeat. As you power-wash off the debris and rinse the rocks and decor, pump the dirty water out of the pond. This may need to be repeated a few times, depending on how much gunk has accumulated.

5. Make rock, decor adjustments. With your rocks and decor sparkling clean, now is the time to adjust them and make sure they're still solidly in place. This is also a perfect opportunity to add more rocks if your gravel-bottom pond needs them.

6. Check pond lights, thin plants. In addition to adjusting your rocks, you should also take the opportunity to ensure your pond lights are working properly, and your plants are thinned and positioned on shelves as you want them.

7. Clean out and reinstall pump/UV/filter. Once your pond is thoroughly cleaned out, re-install any plumbing that was removed for the winter, such as your pump, aerator, filter and ultraviolet light (it's a great idea to invest in a new UV bulb at this time, too, as we recommend replacing it once a year).

8. Fill 'er up. Refill your pond with water and add necessary water treatments. If you have hard water or city water, add a conditioner like Pond Logic® Water Conditioner; if your water is still slightly murky, add some Pond Logic® Clarity Defense®.

9. Re-acclimate the fish. Finally, prepare your fish for their newly cleaned home by adding some of the new water to their holding tank so they can adjust to the new water chemistry. Be sure to slowly acclimate the fish back to the pond just as you.. **Continued on Page 4**

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

2013

April 5 - 25	Tulip Time
April 17	Monthly Meeting
May 15	Monthly Meeting
June 19	Monthly Meeting
June 29-30	Annual Pond Tour
July 17	Monthly Meeting
August 21	Monthly Meeting
September 18	Monthly Meeting
October 16	Monthly Meeting
November 13th	Monthly Meeting

would when first adding them. To help them over the hump, consider adding some Pond Logic® Fish Stress Reducer PLUS to make the transition smooth for your finned friends.

Take some time this spring to give your pond a good deep cleaning. It'll take some work—but your pristine, well-cared-for water feature will be a fantastic reward, particularly when you're lounging by it this summer!

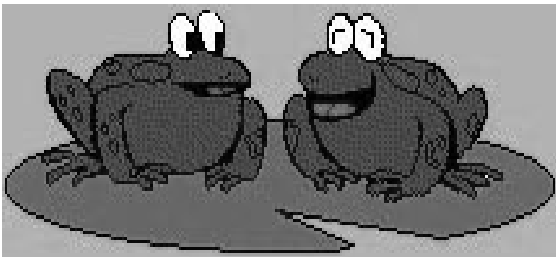
**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
 2-13, 3-13, or 4-13**
 Please renew as soon as possible to continue
 receiving the newsletter.
 Send dues to
Jim Mowder, 3713 SE 31st ST, 66605

**THE TOPEKA AREA
 WATER GARDEN SOCIETY**

2013 OFFICERS:

Don Taliaferro Topeka	President 785-272-8348
Open	Vice President
Amy Thompson Topeka	Secretary 785-273-7005
Jim Mowder Topeka	Treasurer 785-267-0672

Meetings are usually 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 Mowder, 3713 SE 31st ST, 66605



Check it out - www.tawgs.org

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