



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 7

Aug 1, 2013



One of Lee Williams ponds that he shared on the pond tour.

Great weather for pond tour

We couldn't have asked for more perfect days for the pond tour this year. It is usually very hot or very rainy, not that we couldn't have used the moisture. We had 7 private ponds on the tour, a pond at the Kansas children's Discovery Center and a pond building demonstration at Blue Acres. Hours were shorter this year – 9 – 3, but they seemed to work well for everyone.

Thanks so much to all of the people who volunteered their time to make the pond tour successful. Thanks also, to the pond owners who so graciously shared their ponds for the tour.

TAWGS July 17, 2013 minutes

Guest speaker: There was not a guest speaker at the July meeting.

Minutes: Sandy Reiger moved that the June 2013 minutes be approved, it was seconded by Pat Routh, the motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Jim Mowder reported that we had a beginning balance of \$1581.70. Jim then reviewed the revenues and expenses associated with the pond tour giving the club an ending balance for the month of \$2,314.32. Phil Thompson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; it was seconded by Michael Bradley. The motion was approved.

The club president thanked those who helped

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m. Aug 21, 2013
Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore
Program to be announced later

with the pond tour and those who volunteered to help plant at the Kansas Children's Discovery Center.

New Business

- Don will be contacting members to serve as part of executive council in 2014. Elections will be held in October.
- Sherry Reed has agreed to be the new newsletter editor for the club. She will begin her duties in September.

The membership discussed ways to increase membership. Two ideas were proposed.

1. Collaborating with local business who sell pond supplies and offering free membership to customers who purchase a certain amount of product from the business. Don Taliaferro, Jim Mowder, Sandy Reiger and Floyd Gruver will meet with the identified businesses and report their findings at the next meeting.

2. There were also discussions about inviting the Topeka Beautification Association to work with TAWGS on future projects. Don Taliaferro will talk to the TBA president and invite him to a future meeting to discuss further.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Floyd Gruver to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Kent Hampton. Motion carried.

Amy Thompson, Secretary

Is it a leak or heat?

The Pond Guy 7-13-13

What a conundrum! Determining whether you have a leak in your liner—and then finding and fixing it can be a daunting task.

But with a little detective work and these step-by-step instructions, your pond will be holding water again in no time.



A Leak or the Heat?

Let's determine if you have a leaky pond in the first place. How much water are you losing per day? And what's the temperature outside? On hot days, it's common to lose up to an inch of volume from your water garden—but if it's more than that, you may have a leak.

Finding the Leak

Common places for leaks to spring include around the pond's perimeter, the area around your waterfall and pump, and your liner. When looking for the leak's source, follow these steps:

Step 1 – Search for a Wet Spot: First, look for wet areas around the perimeter of your pond. Is water pooling somewhere? Are the weeds thicker or the grass lusher in one area than another? Check the low-lying areas where the liner may not be properly supported. If nothing looks amiss, head over to your waterfall pump.

Step 2 – Leak Check: The easiest way to determine whether the leak is in your liner or in your waterfall box is to turn off the waterfall pump (but keep your aeration going so the water stays aerated) and leave it alone for a few hours. When you come back:

- a. Is the water level the same? If so, your liner is not the culprit so you'll need to check for problems with your waterfall box.
- b. Has the water level dropped? If so, you have a leaky liner. Jump to step 4.

Step 3 – Waterfall Worries: If your waterfall or waterfall box is the source of your leak, follow these steps to determine where the water could be escaping:

- a. Connections: First check the connections from the pump to the box. Are they loose and dripping, or are they tight?
- b. Cracks in the Box: Next, take a look at the waterfall box itself. Are there any cracks? Is the liner properly attached?
- c. Stream Leaks: Finally, inspect the rocks and liner around the waterfall and stream, making adjustments are needed. Try using some Waterfall Foam to stop water from flowing behind the rocks.

Step 4 – Your Leaky Liner: Finding a hole in a liner isn't easy. But with a little perseverance, you can locate it and repair it. Here's how:

- a. Track the Leak: Use Pond Logic® Pond Shade to visually track the leak. Simply add a few drops on the side and watch it as it finds its way to the leak. This will take some time, a few attempts—and patience.
- b. Let It Be: If you have trouble finding it with Pond Shade, let the water slowly go down. (Depending how low it goes, you may need to temporarily relocate your fish.) The water level should stabilize, which will allow you to visually inspect the first few inches of liner above the water surface for the hole.
 - c. Repair the Leak: Once you find the hole,

patch it up with self adhesive Liner Patch or use some Gold Label Pond Sealer.

Good luck with your search!

2013 Refreshments

August
September
October
November

Jim and Sue Mowder
Tina Wesch
Amy and Phil Thompson
Potluck

Water plants

by Duane VanDolah

Florida Anise

Illicium Floridanum



This medium-sized, evergreen shrub or tree is native to the southeastern United States. Other common names for this plant are Purple Anise, Star Anise, and the Florida Anise. It forms a multi-trunk base that can be cut and limbed up to form a tree or left as a mounding shrub. The height is from 8-10 feet and has a width of 6-8 feet across. Shiny dark green, leathery leaves are lance-shaped with a length of 2-6 inches long and a width of 1-2 inches. When rubbed or crushed, the leaves emit an anise scent. I'm not sure what that is but some people say it's pleasant and the other half say it's not. The reddish-to-maroon color flowers appear in mid-spring. These are 1-2 inches across and have 20-30 slender, narrow petals that form a star which also produces a star-shaped seed pod. Some parts of this plant are poisonous. The Florida Anise grows in zones 7-10 and in semi-shade to full shade. It tolerates consistently moist soil and can never be allowed to get dry. Planted along a stream or next to a splashing waterfall would keep this plant happy. Propagation is by seed or cuttings. The Florida Anise is deer-resistant. There is a white flowering form and a named cultivar called 'Pink Frost', that has variegated leaves that have pink edging instead of the normal white edging. In the fall, the whole leaf turns pink.

Koi and goldfish differences

I remember when I first got into water gardening not only did I not know what the heck a water garden was, but pretty much every koi or goldfish I saw in a water garden was a goldfish to me. So how do you tell the difference? Is it by size? shape? Hopefully the following will be able to help you become a basic koi and goldfish identifier!

Koi and Goldfish are related but not closely. Colors, patterns and body structure are the most distinctive differences between the two fish types.

Colors & Patterns: Did you know that koi varieties are named by their color patterns?

Here are some of the most common koi varieties.

Kohaku, white koi with red patterns;

- **Sanke**, white koi with red and small black “stepping stone” patterns;
- **Showa** White, red and black patterns fit together;
- **Bekko** Solid color koi with black spots;
- **Ogon** Solid color in with regular or metallic scales just to name a few.

Just like koi there are many varieties of goldfish.

Common goldfish found in water gardens are:

- **Sarassa**, red and white patterns;
- **Shubunkin**, “Calico colored” bluish tint with red and black spots;
- **Commons**, Orange, yellow, red, brown, or black

Body Structure: A koi’s body is tapered at each end with pointy noses, barbells/whiskers like a catfish and flat bellies. Koi fins can be well defined (called standard koi by retailers) or long fins (called butterfly koi) shown in the pictures on the left. Scale quantity and placement may vary on a koi as well. Some koi have scales on just a few parts of their body while some may have no true scales at all.

Goldfish tend to be more rounded with a blunt nose and do not have barbells. Goldfish may also have butterfly fins or fan tails. Fan tail fish have divided tail fins that form a triangle shape or fan shape when viewed from above. Scales on a goldfish are more evenly distributed and located all over the fish.

If you would like to know more information about these and other fish types check out the Book *The Hobbyist’s Guide to Pond Fish*. It’ll make you an expert in no time!



Why have submerged plants?

The Pond Guy 7-7-13

Sure, floating and surface plants, like water lilies and hyacinth, add pops of color and beauty to your water garden, but

those underwater cultivars deserve some love, too! Just like a rock concert’s or theatrical production’s support crew, subsurface plants play a critical role in the health and wellbeing of your pond.

Here’s just a few things they do:

Supply Oxygen: Underwater plants are called “oxygenators” for a reason. They naturally produce oxygen as a byproduct of photosynthesis – and oxygen is one of the best things for your pond’s health and vitality. When submerged plants like the colorful and fast-growing Red Ludwigia are used in combination with a sub-surface aeration system, you’ll wind up with cleaner water that supports your pond’s inhabitants.

Protect Fish from Predators: Sub-surface plants, such as the lush Red Stemmed Parrot’s Feather, also give your fish and other pond critters places to hide when predators stalk

or attack. Koi and goldfish will swim into the lush growth and hide out when a raccoon stops by the pond or a blue heron circles overhead. The greenery provides excellent camouflage for your finned friends.

Provide Spawning Areas: The leaves, stems and root systems of underwater plants give your pond life safe places to spawn and lay their eggs. And when those tiny fry hatch, the plants provide protection, food and a comfy place to call home. An excellent choice is the ribbon-like Vallisneria, which can create grassy meadows beneath your pond’s surface.

Submerged plants are easy to add to your water garden or fish pond. Simply fill planting baskets, like the Laguna Planting Baskets, with planting media, add some oxygenators, and place the planted basket on the bottom of your pond or on a plant shelf on the side of your pond. The planting baskets allow the plant’s roots to branch out and find nourishment while containing it and preventing fish from nibbling on its root system.

Don’t neglect your pond’s support staff. Add some plants to your pond today. You’ll be glad you did!

Some fish change colors

The Pond Guy 8-7-09

Whether you have a traditional goldfish in your pond or one of the many fancy varieties, you may notice their colors change over time – don’t worry. It doesn’t necessarily mean your fish have some sort of disease! In most cases, it’s normal for goldfish to change color. So before you start dumping antibiotics in your pond, first consider these possibilities:

Genetics

Goldfish naturally change color as they age. Though most do so during their first year or two of life, others change throughout their lifetime. Fish experts have identified two different types of color changes in fish: physiological and morphological.

Physiological changes occur when the pigments in the cells either spread out, which makes the colors more pronounced, or when the pigment clusters in the center, which makes the colors more muted. Morphological changes occur when the actual number of pigments in the cells increase or decrease. An example of a morphological change is when a black goldfish starts to turn orange or a young goldfish loses its black markings as it ages. In this case, as the fish matures, it’s losing its black pigment cells.

How and when their colors change really depends upon their individual genetic makeup. Inexpensive goldfish whose parents are unknown can change in unpredictable ways, while expensive show-quality fish will be a bit more predictable.

Color-Enhancing Foods

Certain types of food, like Pond Logic Growth & Color Fish Food, can accentuate subdued colors in goldfish, too. Sometimes, a dull orange goldfish can be made a deeper shade of red with these specially formulated diets, which contain natural color-enhancing supplements like spirulina, beta glucan, vitamin E and vitamin C.

Keep in mind, however, that some of these color-enhancers may affect other colors, too. White areas on calico orandas, for instance, may take on an orange hue – which may not be the look you’re going for.

Continued on Page 4

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

August 21	Monthly Meeting
September 18	Monthly Meeting
October 16	Monthly Meeting
November 13th	Potluck and Monthly Meeting

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Continued from page 3
Illness, Poor Water Quality

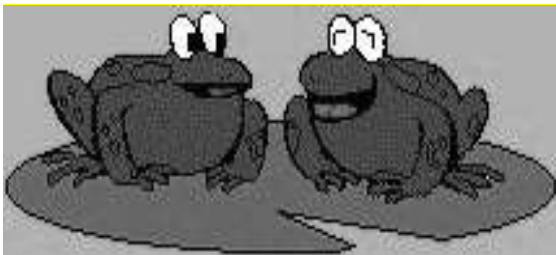
If your goldfish's color becomes very dull or it starts to become inactive, that could be a sign of illness or poor water quality. Use a test kit, like the Pond Care Master Test Kit, to check your water quality, including your pH, ammonia and nitrite levels. Then, if necessary, add a broad-spectrum medication, like Pond Care's MelaFix or PimaFix, to treat parasites or bacterial infections your fish may have.

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 6-13, 7-13 or 8-13
Please renew as soon as possible to continue receiving the newsletter.
Send dues to
Jim Mowder, 3717 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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