



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.

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July 1, 2013



Ray Schroeder talks about the streambed that TAWGS built a few years ago.

Botanical gardens look great

Following a delicious fish fry and pot luck dinner, Ray Schroeder gave us a tour of the beautiful gardens at Ward Meade Park. Everything looked pretty nice good though we had an unusual spring. Ray said he thought the pondless waterfall really looked neat after it had finally filled in the last few years. TAWGS members built it as well as the winding streambeds which flow through the center of the garden. He said they have problems with people, especially kids, who stand on the rocks in the ponds which causes leaks.

Tulips lasted a long time this year, but Ray said they didn't have a very good turnout for the Tulip Time. Again, the cool and unpredictable spring probably contributed to the low attendance.

Pointing out a large bamboo grove along the north side of the park, Ray said that it makes a good sound barrier from the highway, but it is incredibly invasive. In your own yard, it needs to be in a contained area if possible.

Moving on to Anna's Pond, which is pretty well concealed by the huge grasses, etc. growing around the edges of the pond. It was cleaned out this spring so everything looked very good. He said the huge sycamore tree on the south side of the pond (about 120 years old) is very messy, but they hesitate to remove it because of its age. Ray said he remembered a group of TAWGS members helped build Anna's Pond several years ago

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m. July 17, 2013

Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore

Program given by TBA



Members gather around Anna's Pond to enjoy the pond that TAWGS built a few years ago.

when it was extremely hot. (I remember that very distinctively as I nearly passed out from the heat that day.)

A dry stream bed and bridge ambles through the garden with rocks and a bridge, all salvaged from Puddles and Pads when they went out of business. Several TAWGS members helped with that project as well.

Ray said at one time the fountain was one of the largest in the world. The problem was it was designed to be an indoor fountain so it didn't fare very well in the outdoors. There were lights around it that could be seen several blocks down Fillmore and it was something for the city to really be proud of. It was eventually removed and a smaller 3 tier fountain was put in with a big pond circling it. TAWGS members helped fill part of the large area of the fountain with dirt a few years ago because the concrete pond had a leak in it which couldn't be repaired. Now, the fountain sits in a much smaller area of water and is circled by a 3 foot area of dirt with blooming plants.

"Thanks to TAWGS, lots has happened here (in the gardens)," Ray said. "We really appreciate it. Water gardening is hard work but very rewarding."

Water plants

by Duane VanDolah

Water Crowfoot Ranunculus aquatilis

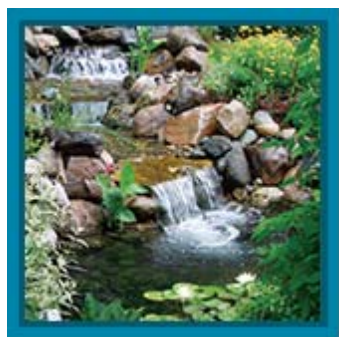
This plant comes from Europe and is a winter-hardy, submerged plant with floating leaves and flowers.



The submerged stems are slender, well branched and have a dark green color. Some consider the 1 1/4-3 inch underwater leaves deeply dissected. Just before flowering, it produces kidney-shaped to round leaves that are deeply divided and look somewhat like clover. The flowers that form in the early to mid-summer are bowl or cup shaped, with white petals and yellow centers, 3/4 inch across. This is a very free flowering plant. The plant needs sun to part sun, is hardy in zones 5-8, and can be submerged down to 3 feet. It is not considered invasive, but the spread is indefinite. Propagation is by removing cuttings in the spring and summer, and then planting them in bunches in a submerged container.

2013 Refreshments

July	Floyd & Diane Gruver
August	Jim and Sue Mowder
September	Tina Wesch
October	Amy and Phil Thompson
November	Potluck



How many plants?

The Pond Guy 6-22-13

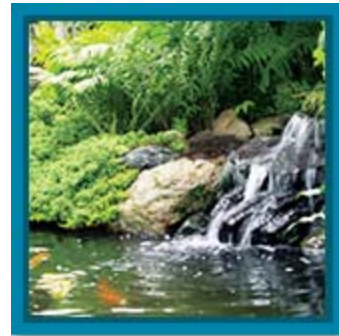
A good mix of aquatic plants does more than beautify your water garden. The marginal, floating and submerged plants, such as those found in our Aquatic Plant Packages, also

absorb excess nutrients in the water and shade the pond's surface, which can help prevent algae attacks and protect your finned friends from hungry herons and raccoons.

When planting aquatic plants in and around your pond, you should ideally have 40 to 60 percent of your water garden's surface covered with floating aquatic plants, like hardy water lilies, water hyacinth and water lettuce. This allows for enough nutrient absorption and shading to prevent algae from gaining a foothold in your pond.

Just like the plants in your vegetable garden, those lilies and bog plants need some nutrients added to their soil to thrive. Here's what we recommend. Tabs, like TetraPond® LilyGro™ Aquatic Plant Food, are formulated for use during your aquatic plants' growing season. As with the spikes, the nutrients in the fertilizer encourage greenery and bloom production, but the tabs need to be added to the soil monthly for best results. Using one tablet per gallon of potted soil, push it deep into the soil 3 inches from the crown of the plant and pack the hole with dirt to prevent the fertilizer from being released into the water.

During the growing season, plan to fertilize your water lilies and marginal plants once per month. Floating and submerged plants should have plenty of nutrients in the water to feed them. Enjoy your blooms!



Fish under waterfall

The Pond Guy 6-8-13

On hot days, who wouldn't want to hang out near a waterfall! For humans, the water pouring into the pond cools and;

hydrates the air for fish, that action acts as a giant aeration system, infusing oxygen into the water beneath the waterfall.

But that raises a valid question: If your fish spend a lot of time near the waterfall, does it mean they're not getting enough oxygen? Yes, it's possible. Here are some questions to ask yourself about your pond's aeration situation.

Is It Getting Full Aeration?

If you're running your waterfall 24 hours a day, your pond is likely getting full aeration. If your pond is more than 24 inches deep, however, and you have a skimmer/waterfall system in place, more aeration may be necessary. Why? Because the oxygenated water will circulate across the water surface, leaving the water at the bottom of the pond stagnant. Adding an aeration system will prevent stagnation by raising the bottom water to the surface.

Do You Have Many Plants?

Plants may release subsurface oxygen to the water during the day, but at night those plants take in oxygen, which means your fish may be gasping for air. If you have quite a few plants and your waterfall is off—and you experience an algae bloom—you should definitely think about adding some aeration.

Do You Have Many Fish?

The more fish in your pond, the more oxygen you'll need—which means you'll need more aeration. If your pond has a high fish population, consider adding some more aeration. For comparison, we recommend one 6- to 8-inch fish per 10 square feet of surface area.

How's Your Muck Level?

Another clue that your pond is insufficiently aerated is the amount of muck that has accumulated at the bottom of your pond. When your pond is properly aerated, muck naturally breaks up thanks to the healthy and growing population of gunk-gobbling beneficial bacteria.

Low-Cost Aeration

If any of these scenarios apply to your pond, we recommend adding the energy-efficient Pond Logic® PondAir™ Aeration System for ponds up to 2,000 gallons or the Pond Logic® KoiAir™ Aeration System for ponds up to 8,000 gallons. They help to circulate the water and add valuable oxygen providing the best possible environment for your fish.

Before you rescue

It's only natural for people who care about birds to want to help them when they are injured or abandoned. Unfortunately, these good intentions aren't always the best for our feathered friends.

By caring for needy wildlife, people often create a much greater problem for the animals they are trying to help. So before you take matters into your own hands, remember these few tips.

Out of Sight, Not Out of Mind

People often make the mistake of assuming a lone baby bird (like the eastern bluebird, above) has been abandoned and needs help. This usually involves a fledgling, found alone on the ground or in a shrub, begging for food. It has its mouth open and is flapping its wings, but there are no parents in sight.

It's logical to think the baby bird is lost or abandoned. But this is rarely the case. Chances are, the parents know where the fledgling is, but they are hiding to keep from drawing attention to their offspring. If the parents are not nearby, they might be off gathering food or feeding a sibling. Rest assured, the baby bird has not been forgotten. Any fledgling that calls for food (like the young eastern kingbird, above right) will be heard and cared for.

Sometimes an infant bird (also known as a nestling) gets out of its nest before it is old enough to fly. When this happens, the best thing you can do is simply place the baby back into its nest.

Now one of the great birding myths claims if you do this, the parents will then reject the baby. This is not true! Birds have a poor sense of smell, so putting the nestling back in its nest is fine.

If an entire nest falls out of a tree or shrub and the young or eggs are still in it, secure it to a location as close to its original position as possible. There is a good chance the parent birds will accept it, especially if the young are still there.

The same is true of larger birds such as hawks and owls, but in this case, it's best to leave the birds alone altogether. Raptors may pose a danger to humans who attempt to handle them. Even the babies have sharp talons and beaks that can cause serious injury

Home Remedy

An injured or sick bird is another matter. Our natural instinct and compassion tells us to help a suffering animal, so many people want to take an ill bird home, confine it to a

cozy box or cage and attempt to cure it. But by taking a sick or injured bird into captivity, a well-meaning person is violating federal and state laws. It is illegal to keep native species in captivity or disturb them in any way, even those that are sick and injured.

Besides, caring for wildlife requires extensive knowledge in wildlife nutrition and natural history. If it has a broken wing or leg, only a licensed rehabilitator should treat it.

Further, if a bird is sick, it's nearly impossible to know why. It could be the West Nile virus, pesticide poisoning or a number of other things. Treatment by a layperson almost always ends with the death of the animal. The stress of capture by humans is usually too much for the ill animal to handle.

When you find a sick or injured bird, the best option is to leave it alone. If necessary, you can call a local wildlife rehabilitation center, which often operate through local humane societies or nature centers.

Another rescue challenge arises when a bird hits a window, stunning it or knocking it unconscious. The best care to give a bird that is stunned is to leave it where it falls, and cover it with a colander or large sieve. This will contain the bird and protect it from predators. It should recover within 20 or 30 minutes, and then you can release it.

Overall, the first year of life is difficult for young birds, but the best thing you can do is let nature take its course. So use your good intentions to build a birdhouse or fill a feeder, and then sit back and watch your feathered friends do the rest.



6-19-13 TAWGS minutes

The June meeting was the annual fish-fry meeting.

Guest speaker: The pot-luck dinner was followed by a tour of the Ward Meade grounds.

Minutes: Jim Green moved that the May 2013 minutes be approved, it was seconded by Jim Mowder, the motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Jim Mowder reported that we had a beginning balance of \$2,041. A payment was made for the liability insurance and income was received for the pond tour pre-sale tickets. Dona Peterson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; it was seconded by Ruth Taliaferro. The motion was approved.

New Business

Pond Tour: Phil Thompson wrapped up the final tasks of the Pond Tour with the membership.

Adjournment: Bill Kraus moved and Tom Platis seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Amy Thompson, Sec.

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

July 17	Monthly Meeting
August 21	Monthly Meeting
September 18	Monthly Meeting
October 16	Monthly Meeting
November 13th	Monthly Meeting

If you have trouble with your underwater plants breaking out of their bunches, try placing groups of bunches in a pot of pea gravel to hold them in place.

Goldfish and koi normally spawn in the warming water of spring. If you want to help ensure survival of some of the baby fish, provide a place for the eggs as well as fry (baby fish) to hide from the larger fish. This can be the roots of plants like Water Hyacinth, or a soft filter material. Caution: too many fish can lead to poor water quality.

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 5-13, 6-13 or 7-13

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

Send dues to

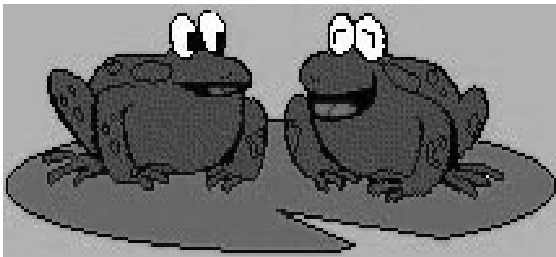
Jim Mowder, 3717 SE 31st ST, 66605

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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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:

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