



# *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 2**

**March 1, 2013**



**Don Taliaferro waters plants around the TAWGS and TBA pond at the 2013 Garden Show.**

## **Another successful display at the Garden Show**

*by Don Taliaferro*

The 2013 Kansas Garden Show is over and things went pretty well. The crowds were very good and matched last years record crowds. I would like to thank everyone who helped this year. The planners, Lee Schick, Bob Saathoff, and Jim and Sue Mowder. Also Jerold Binkely and Jim Herynk from TBA.

The builders, Lee Schick, Don Regier, Phil Thompson, Bob Saathoff, Ray Schroeder, Sherry Reed, and Bill Clark. Also David Hedstrom, Jerold Binkley and Cindy Rindt from TBA. The show workers, Floyd Gruver, Cheryl Saathoff, Tom and Helen Platis, Hi Stockwell, Michael Bradley, Bill and Susan Kraus, Jim Green, Dona Peterson, Don and Sandy Reiger, Jim and Sue Mowder, Linda Reynolds. The tear down crew. Bob Saathoff, Don and Sandy Reiger, Linda Reynolds, Phil and Amy Thompson. Also Lee Schick, Jim Herynk, David Hedstrom, Cindy Rindt and Jerold Binkley.

Thanks to all for all of your work!!

***Pictures at right: Neat waterfall and pond in the TAWGS Garden Show display.***

***Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, in keeping with the Jack in the Beanstalk theme. Photos by Floyd Gruver***

**Monthly Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m. Wed. Mar. 20**  
Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore  
**Scott Marsh**  
State of Kansas Weed Specialist  
Noxious weeds and other weeds in your yard



## 2-6-13 TAWGS Minutes

President Don Taliaferro called the February 6th meeting of TAWGS to order with self introductions. Present were: Don Taliaferro, Jim & Sue Mowder, Floyd & Diane Gruver, Phil Thompson, Jim Green, Cheryl & Bob Saathoff, Tom Garcia, Sandy Regier and Tina Wesch.

Lee Schick, leader of the display for the 2013 Garden Show explained what the committee has been doing for the display plans. He said that this year's theme is "Somewhere over the bean stock," so they have decided to feature Jack and Jill, Humpty Dumpty and Three Little Pigs in our display, along with a water garden. He told of how some of them have been busy building these characters and other plans for the display. Lee helped with the display last year and was previously a horticulturalist for the Topeka Parks and Rec. Brochures and pond tour applications were discussed and Don and Phil Thompson will have those available to give out at the Garden Show.

Snacks were served by Sandy Regier. Next month the snacks will be provided by Hi Stockwell and Michael Bradley.

Jim Green moved and Don seconded that the November minutes be approved as printed in the February Lily Pad. Motion carried.

Treasurer Jim Mowder reported that we have \$2,878.86 in the bank. He will file the KS annual report soon. He said we haven't heard back from the IRS yet. Bob Saathoff moved and Jim Green moved that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion carried.

Lists were passed around for those present to volunteer to sit at the Garden Show. He also passed the list of snack providers around to see if it could be completed.

Diane Gruver moved and Sandy seconded that we give a \$25 donation to Helping Hands in memory of Betty Karnes, who died recently. Motion carried. Betty was an active member of TAWGS and did many hours of volunteer work for TAWGS.

Floyd moved and Phil seconded that TAWGS give \$100 to sponsor a flower garden in the gardens at WMP, with the stipulation that it be near one of the water features. Motion carried.

Bob Saathoff said that they will probably break ground for a water garden at the Kansas Children's Discovery Center a week or so after the Garden Show. Don said that TAWGS only involvement in the project was to provide man power to help move rocks when they need us.

Floyd reported that TAWGS had given a \$100 donation to the Madison Taliaferro fund. Madison had a double lung transplant a few months ago. Don reported that his granddaughter had returned to Topeka February 3rd and is doing well. Don thanked the group for the donation.

Don suggested that a gift of some kind would be nice to give to Lee for his help on the Garden Show display the last two years. Cheryl Saathoff moved and Tom Garcia seconded that we give him a gift card for a dinner for two. Motion carried.

Phil moved and Sue Mower seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Don thanked everyone for coming

## Moisture loving plants

by Duane VanDolah

### Kyushu

### Meadow Rue

*Thalictrum Kiusianum*

Also called the Dwarf Meadow Rue, it is a mat-forming perennial that grows 6-12 inches tall and slowly spreads to a foot in width. It is a good plant choice in woodland garden settings because of its need for partial shade, cooler summer temperatures, and constant moisture. It will not tolerate getting dry. The plant's small columbine-like leaves are a dark bluish green with the flowers appearing from early through late summer. The small flowers are formed just above the leaves and are lilac-to-lavender in color. The zones it survives in are zones 4-8 and in places in the garden that will provide shade, moisture, and coolness in the summer.

OK, it's tough finding a cool, consistently moist place in the garden. It's Kansas--not the Pacific Northwest, so deal with it. We're gardeners from Kansas, not Eden and look at me. I garden in the semi-arid high plains of southwest Kansas. People here have been high jacking Culligan water trucks for their bottled water. Oh, does anyone need some empty 5 gallon water bottles? I happen to have a few around out in the garden. Darn wind blew them in the yard! Anyway this plant would be well used as a ground cover to fill in bare spots and to keep weeds down. Propagation is by seed and dividing the rhizomes in early spring. Be sure to stratify the seed before planting in the ground.



## Right pond filtration tricky

The Pond Guy 2-25-13

Pond filtration can be tricky—and confusing. Mechanical filtration is designed to remove solid matter from your pond's water, but because there are different types and sizes of filters, determining whether you have the right one can be a challenge.

In general, pond product manufacturers offer three types of filters:

- Waterfall or BioFalls box filter, which works in a 1,000-plus gallon pond

- Pressurized filter, designed for ponds up to 5,000 gallons
- In-pond filter, ideal for smaller ponds up to 1,200 gallons

If your filter is correct for your pond's size but you're still not achieving crystal clear results, something else could be happening below the surface.

When most people install a pond in their yard, they add a few goldfish or koi for fun and color. The filtration system included with the pond will work just fine—for a while. But before long, Mother Nature will do her thing, and those "few fish" will multiply into a pond full of fingerlings!

All those fry are a sign of a healthy pond, but they produce a lot of waste. In fact, 40 1-inch fish equal one 12-inch fish in terms of waste production. So if that pond is going to be home to all those fish, the old filter will need a little help. It's time to upgrade to a larger filter or add a second filter.

Pressurized filters are an easy way to add to an existing filter. They're easily buried in the ground for minimal visual impact, they can be run in line with your existing plumbing if you have a small waterfall, and they come in a range of sizes to fit any size pond. Plus, many models have the option of an ultraviolet light to help fight green water.

Of course, filtration isn't the only answer. Natural bacteria and aeration greatly help water quality, too.

## What filter media is best

### *The Pond Guy 2-19-13*

There is an assortment of filter media out there in the pond world from filter pads to bio-ribbon to bio-balls.



Knowing when to replace it or clean it is critical to keeping your pond in tip-top shape. Spring is the perfect time to inspect and, if necessary, replace filter media in the following 4 areas.

**Skimmers:** Your skimmer is the first line of defense in collecting debris and protecting your pump. Most skimmers have a filter pad to remove finer debris. Check the media for frayed edges or tears and replace it needed. Most skimmer manufacturers offer replace filter pads but if you're like me and like to save a little money, it's much easier and economical to cut your own. Check out our 1" and 2" filter media pads that you can purchase by the foot.

**Waterfall Filters:** If you have a waterfall filter, this is the main filtration area of the pond. Most standard filter media pads in the waterfall filter should be replaced once each year. You can get a little more life out of filter pads by going with Matala Filter Pads. These filter pads are built to last and can last usually 2 to 3 seasons. Also, the waterfall filter is a great place to add additional media such as bio-ribbon or bio-balls. These types of media rarely need replacing.

**In-Pond Filters:** If you have an In-Pond Filter, such as a

Pondmaster Pond Filter or ClearSolution, have their own types of media. For instance the Pondmaster Pond Filter contains not only a filter pad, but also a carbon pad that should be replaced each season. The ClearSolution contains bio-media rocks that should be inspected and replaced every couple of seasons.

**Pressurized Filter:** This is similar to the In-Pond Filter, Pressurized Filter Media should be replaced each season to ensure the best possible filtration.



*Bubbler keeps the water open in the Gruver's pond.*

## Winter finally arrives

*by Diane Gruver*

Winter finally arrived recently, and the Gruver's decided to finally take the net off the pond. The snow was so wet that it was a good thing we did, because it would have weighed the net down and probably torn it. Our pond has a leak in it so the water level is extremely low this winter. The bubbler is doing a good job of keeping a hole in the ice open though. So far the fish seem to be doing okay in the smaller amount of water.



*Winter scene in the Gruver's back yard.*

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

**2013**

March 20 -	Monthly Meeting
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

*Ambient temperature\* affects the pond, but water temperature is the gauge for what to do and when to do it in regards to your pond. Avoid feeding your fish until the water temperature is consistently above 50 degrees Fahrenheit.  
 \*Ambient Temperature - the air temperature surrounding the pond.*

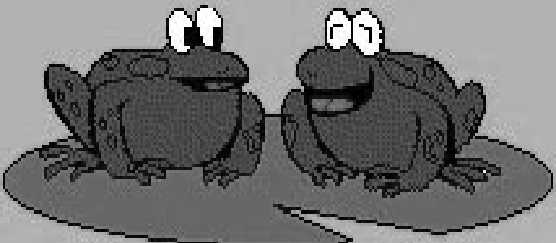
**Your Dues are Due if your label reads 2-2013, 3-2013 or anytime in 2012**  
 Please renew as soon as possible to continue receiving the newsletter.  
 Send dues to  
**Jim Mowder, 3713 SE 31st ST, 66605**

**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](http://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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 408 Emerald, Holton, KS 66436  
 785-364-3046  
[fdgruver@embarqmail.com](mailto:fdgruver@embarqmail.com)

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