



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 10

November 1, 2013

TAWGS minutes 10-16-13

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

Minutes: Jim Green moved that the September 2013 minutes be approved, it was seconded by Sandy Reiger, the motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Jim Mowder reported that there was minimal activity in the account leaving TAWGS with a balance of \$2,817.37. It was also mentioned that the IRS has not yet responded to the refiling information sent earlier this year. Phil Thompson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; it was seconded by Jim Green. The motion was approved.

2014 Officers:

The 2014 slate of officers was presented:

President - Tom Platis
Vice President - Floyd Gruver
Secretary - Sherry Reid
Treasurer - Jim Mowder

Jim Green made a motion to approve the slate of officers for 2014, Don Reiger seconded; the motion carried.

Garden Show:

The Garden Show's theme for 2014 is "The Sport of Gardening."

TAWGS Memberships

Don Taliaferro shared a draft of the punch card to be distributed to pond supply retail outlets. Anyone who completes a card (\$200 in purchases) is eligible for a free one-year membership to TAWGS. Don will continue to work on the card.

New Pond Liner

Don Regier reminded the group that the pond liner used in our Garden Show display has numerous holes in it and needs to be replaced. The members wish to acquire two new liners:

- 20' x 20' EPDM, .45 mil, fish safe liner
- 10' x 10' EPDM, .45 mil, fish safe liner

A request for bid will be sent to: - Water's Edge, Blue Acres, Waterscape, and Jackson's Greenhouse. Bids will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Everything Pond Discussion:

Phil Thompson suggested that during each TAWGS meeting that there be an opportunity for the members to discuss issues, ideas, suggestions, etc. with

Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. Nov. 20, 2013

Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore

Pot Luck Dinner

Bring a covered dish and your table service

other members.

Phil Thompson made a motion to add, "Everything Pond Discussion," as a permanent agenda item to the TAWGS meetings. Chris ?, seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Jim Green to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Sandy Reiger, the motion carried.

Thanks for great 4 years

By Don Taliaferro

As I close out my 4th year as president and Tom Platis takes over I would like to thank all of the members. With all the projects, garden shows, pond tours and volunteer hours put in by the members, it is hard to pick out a special moment.

No one person can do the things that this group is able to accomplish. The time spent other than at the meetings to plan and execute what ever project is done is great. I can't image a organization doing as many things that we have done with as few people. Hopefully in the coming years we will add more members and continue the work and have fun we have had in the past.

So I would like to thank everyone for a great four years.
Don T.

I'm still newsletter editor

By Diane Gruver

Well, I guess you are stuck with me for another year as the newsletter editor. Hope that you can put up with me. We are in Arizona for the winter so will miss several meetings. Will need some help in communications from officers and members. Thanks in advance for your help!



Water plants

By Duane Van Dolah

Dwarf Japanese Reedmace

Typha Miniuma

A hardy species from Europe, the Caucasus and,

Asia' this plant is a close relative to the cattails. But this miniature species has petite, narrow, needle-like leaves. They stand vertical at a height of 12 to 18 inches and a spread of 2 feet. Their color is green to bluish green. Round chunky catkins that are chocolate brown adorn the tips of the blades. Unlike most cattails this one is non-invasive. Perfect for a small pond or container garden, it will grow in water to a depth of 3-4 inches and in full sun to part shade. It thrives in zones 3-9. Propagation is by division in early spring.



Cold water treatment

The Pond Guy 10-26-13

Pond Logic®
Seasonal Defense®
contains aerobic bacteria

that's specially designed for cooler water. When used at this time of year, the waste-gobbling microorganisms break down dead foliage, fish waste and other sediment that have accumulated over the summer and fall. Seasonal Defense® gives you one last opportunity to clean up the muck before winter.

Switch at 50°F

Plan to switch to Seasonal Defense® once water temperatures dip below 50° Fahrenheit. Once the water falls to 40°F, however, discontinue using it until the spring after the spring ice melt, when the water temperature climbs back up to 40°F.

Spread the Love

Don't just pile the Seasonal Defense® packets in one place. Disburse the packets around your pond to ensure even spread of the beneficial bacteria and breakdown of accumulated muck. Add some to the filter to concentrate and accelerate new bacteria growth on the filter media. Distribute them evenly-but, of course, follow the package recommendations for dosage rates.

Supplement Seasonal Defense®

To help out the Seasonal Defense®, make sure you keep up on your fall chores. Regularly check and clean out your skimmer basket, and remove any leaves or large pieces of debris that blow into the pond. This will encourage the bacteria to focus their energy on the fine organic material and muck. And if you don't have one in place already, install some Pond Netting to prevent leaves from falling into your water garden in the first place. This

preventive maintenance step will save you time-and make Seasonal Defense®'s job easier.

What to do if there's a power outage



The Pond Guy 12-8-12

Power outages happen. Whether they're caused by Mother Nature, like hurricane Sandy, or the result of an accident or a blown transformer, chances are pretty good that you'll contend with at least one lights-out experience this winter—but your chandelier won't be the only thing not electrified.

Out in your lake or water garden, your aeration system will also shut down when the electricity stops. No aeration for an extended period of time means your pond's water quality could suffer and your fishes' health could be compromised.

Don't worry: If you're prepared, a power outage won't be a big deal at all. Here's what you need to know.

Your Fish will be Fine ...

As long as the water temperature remains cold and your pond is relatively free of dead or decomposing debris, your fish will survive the power outage without even blinking an eye.

Thanks to one of the many unique properties of water, cold water retains more dissolved oxygen than warm water. "Think about how much bubblier a cold soda is compared to a warm one," describes the United States Geological Survey. "The cold soda can keep more of the carbon dioxide bubbles dissolved in the liquid than the warm one can, which makes it seem fizzier when you drink it."

It's the same thing with oxygen. Colder water molecules are more densely packed and can therefore hold more oxygen, which your fish and other pond inhabitants need to survive.

In addition, the pond should not have a lot of dead or decomposing materials, like leaves and plant matter. All that breaking-down vegetation depletes the water of oxygen while imbuing it with harmful toxic gases like ammonia.

Bottom line: If your water is cold and your pond is clean when the power goes out, your finned friends will be just fine, short-term.

Service & Protect Your Aerator

After the power is restored and the candles are blown out, plan to head out to your aeration system and

assess the situation. Any built-up air pressure could prevent the aerator from turning back on, so you'll need to relieve the air pressure by pulling the relief valve or disconnecting the airline before you turn the system back on again. In addition, condensation could form on the motor, which will need to be wiped down to prevent rust from forming.

To protect your aerator from the elements—which could cause an isolated power outage in your pond or lake—make sure it's protected. Larger units, such as those for ponds and lakes, should be in a cabinet; smaller units, such as those for water gardens, should be hidden within a faux rock, like the Pond Logic® TruRock™ Small Boulder Cover. It's designed to blend into the landscape while protecting pond equipment.



Watch water level, even during the winter

The Pond Guy 12-15-12

Even when winter's chilly grip takes hold, your pond's water level will still fluctuate. It likely won't be as dramatic as summertime's evaporation rates, but you should definitely keep an eye on the amount of liquid stuff in your pond throughout the cold months.

Causes of Winter Water Loss

During the summer, the sun's warming rays heat the water in your pond and cause it to evaporate—and sometimes very quickly, depending on how warm the air and water temperatures get. But during the wintertime, water loss can be caused by:

- Dry air: Low humidity—which is when the air contains little water vapor—can increase evaporation rates as the dry air will absorb the moisture from your pond.
- Winds: Windy conditions can also escalate evaporation in your pond. A 5-mile-per-hour wind at your pond's surface, for instance, results in roughly three times the rate of evaporation on a still day.
- Ice expansion, formation: The liquid water will appear to dissipate in your pond as ice forms and expands.

A small amount of water level fluctuation is OK—but a few inches of water loss could leave your fish in ice, particularly if your pond isn't that deep to begin with!

Keep It Topped Off

To keep water levels steady (and your fish thawed and happy), you don't need to warm the water. Instead, you should plan to top off the pond when it dips more than an inch or two, just as you would during the spring and summer.

When you add water to your water garden, make sure it actually goes into the pond—not just on top of the

ice. Feed the water through a hole in the ice using a garden hose or a thermostatically controlled hose such as the K&H™ PVC ThermoHose™, which prevents ice from forming in your faucet or hose. The unit's built-in heating elements turn on automatically when temperatures dip below freezing so you'll have liquid water coming out of your hose.

If you need to put a hole in the ice that's on your pond, remember to never bust through it with a drill, hammer or other blunt object as the subsurface vibrations could harm your fish. Fill a bucket with hot water and pour it on one area of the pond to melt open a hole, preferably near the edge



TAWGS member Linda Reynolds pulls algae out of the streambed at Ward Meade Park in September while we were waiting for the fire department to search for the gas odor in the meeting room. Photo by Don Taliaferro

Beneficial bacteria in winter

Many ponds in colder climates are dormant now with pumps and filters disconnected. What can you do if the pond becomes somewhat stagnant? One of the alternatives is to use a good cold weather beneficial bacteria product to help keep the pond working until warmer weather lets you put some movement back into your garden pond. Cont. on Page 4

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

November 20th Potluck and Monthly Meeting

A couple of products that are favorites to use for this purpose:

- Microbe-Lift Autumn/Winter prep for a bacteria specially formulated to work in colder water temperatures and
- Aqua One is a good, all-around beneficial bacteria product that works in almost any temperature.

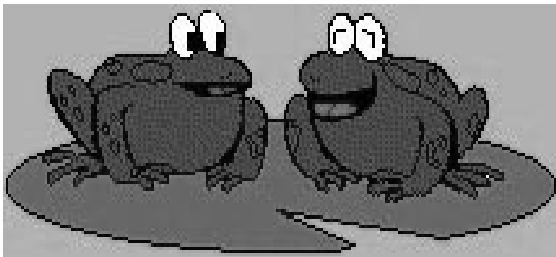
Anytime a pond starts to smell even just a little bit it is a sign that things are not well. This circumstance should be avoided at all cost and remedied at once if it occurs. Cold water bacteria will help keep the pond healthy so it comes back to life in record time and as healthy as possible.

Your Dues are Due if your label reads 9-13, 10-13 or 11-13
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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We reserve the right to edit input to meet publishing requirements. Copy cannot be returned.