



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 18, Issue 6

July 1, 2015



Ray Schroeder points out one of the hosta beds where WMP hopes to get a national certification. Photo by Diane Gruver

TAWGS tours new features at WMP

Ray Schroeder gave TAWGS members an informative tour after a wonderful fish fry/pot luck dinner before the July meeting. Several new flower beds have been added with some waiting for national certifications, including hostas and daylilies. The gardens are beautiful and thanks goes to Bob Saathoff and Ray and his helpers for doing a fine job.

TAWGS June 2015 Minutes

It was a pleasure to welcome our pond tour hosts and sponsors to the annual fish fry for the TAWGS June meeting. The fellowship and food were tremendous as usual. Thank you once again to the Saathoff's and Taliaferro's for preparing the fish.

Ray Schroeder gave an interesting tour of the new things in the gardens at WMP.

Vice-president, Chris Newell called the meeting to order. Don Taliaferro made a motion to move directly to the discussion of the pond tour and forgo any other reports for this month. Motion carried by club members.

Each pond site will be provided a cash box with tickets, flyers, money for making change, a list of pond sites and sitters with cell phone numbers and etc.. Jim Mowder is preparing the boxes. The boxes will be left with the pond hosts both Friday and Saturday evening.

Monthly Meeting
7:00 p.m.
July 15, 2015
Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore
 Speaker to be announced

Chris went over the assignments for pond sitters. Tickets will be sold at each pond site. If all of the tickets are sold out at one site, guests will be given a flyer with the map on it and told they will be able to get a book at the next pond they visit. If one site is getting low on tickets they may give the guest one ticket booklet for two people or more. If a site has no flyers or ticket booklets, contact Chris.

A survey for pond visitors will be prepared and passed out at each Pond by the pond Sitters.

Don Taliaferro made a motion to adjourn, Jim Green seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.
 Sherry Reed Secretary



Chuck and Sharon Tracy) enjoying their pond during the 24th Annual Topeka Pond Tour. Photo by Chris Newell

Pond Tour wrap-up

By Chris Newell

Sunday was a wrap for the 24th Annual Topeka Area Pond Tour and it was a big success. This year's tour included 9 residential ponds, 2 of our Sponsors and Old Prairie Town at Ward-Meade. Our weather was perfect both days and the touring guests had plenty of hospitality from our Pond Hosts. The Pond Sitters were magnificent and greeted each visitor with a smile and helpful instructions on where to go. Some of the Pond Hosts even provided chilled lemonade, water with citrus and one offered (if you were daring) their home grown chili peppers which they had dehydrated, crushed and ground. Wow! I dared, my tongue lost. It was hot-hot-hot and only for the true culinary extraordinaire!

Every water feature was unique and offered a personal story that was interesting, enlightening and so much fun to explore. From front yard gentle flowing stream/bogs to multi-tiered streams and casual ponds surrounded by plush seating. All provided eye candy that took your breath away. Our Pond Hosts were so gracious and eagerly greeted their visitors explaining how the feature came to fruition. Some were a labor of love by the home owners themselves while others were constructed from one of the many pond erectors we have in the Topeka area. It was obvious the hosts enjoyed explaining the process and some ended up offering to visit the guests' home to discuss options for their new found hobby. I even witnessed a Host providing a starter plant the guest took home.

Who would have thought just months after being elected as your VP, I'd be directing this year's Pond Tour. I had no previous experience with anything of this nature and was so pleased with your vote of confidence and all the support received from the committee and other TAWGS members. You all really rallied together and stepped up after we knew we had 9 Pond Hosts and though it was unfortunate we had to turn 1 away because of a late interest, we'll get you next year.

Honestly and sincerely, I went into this blindly with enthusiasm and without the support and the help of two very valuable members, Hi Stockwell and Phil Thompson, I'm not sure I could have pulled it off in such a short time. So it's to these two folks that prevented me from pulling my hair out and throwing in the towel having to re-create the Tour Guide, technical forms, posters, ad layouts and website modifications. I just can't thank you enough.

But the special thanks don't stop there. They also go to the original committee members Don Taliaferro for securing all the Pond Hosts applications and some of the advertisers and for an adventurous ride driving around setting flags and signs. Sherry Reed for listening and confirming that everything will be fine.

Then there are the others that became (unofficially committee members). Bob Saathoff for locating a few advertisers and getting them to suggest a Pond Host. Jim Mowder for talking with Cameron Rees (twice) on Garden Talk and Sue Mowder for getting us exposure in the local papers and on Air. And of course the rest of you too many to mention. I was impressed at how you came together and volunteered to sit for 2 days. It was your long 4 hour shifts

of sitting and greeting that helped each guest start off their experience with a smile and warm welcomed feeling. Let's not forget Diane Gruver, for the multiple emails I asked her to send out.

With a little creative thinking outside the box and veering away from traditional sponsorship I was able to get some sponsors to donate food for the Pond Sitters, land a new landscaper and even assist with changing their printed advertisement. So that meant a lot to me and I thank you for the vote of confidence to help resurrect the tour from a 2014 hiatus. I believe we can increase this ad base and membership base for next year and look forward to getting an earlier start. Perhaps before the Garden Show in 2016.

In conclusion, I received so much praise and so many compliments that I'm speechless (well not really speechless, you know me). But I am humbled and extremely honored to have found such a gracious and warm group of friends in an association like TAWGS. You and our Pond Hosts went the extra mile to make sure everyone was pleased. But then, that's what the Topeka Area Water Garden Society is all about... people sharing and enjoying the beauty of ponding.

Thank you again for your vote of confidence.

Happy Ponding,
Chris

Editor's note: Many thanks goes to you, Chris, for grabbing the ball and running with it. Great Job! Diane



Feed your fish by hand

The Pond Guy 6-15-15

Talk about a cool party trick! Feeding by hand is not only a fun way to show your friends how well-trained your fish are, but it

also gives you an opportunity to bond with your finned pals.

Teaching your fish how to eat from your hand starts with understanding the temperament of the fish themselves. Are your fish friendly? Do they swim up and say "Glub, glub, hi!" when you visit your pond? Or do they scatter when you approach and your shadow falls on the water?

Friendly fish are easier to train. They already associate you as an approachable face that brings them tasty food every day. Sketchy fish, however, can be more of a challenge. They might be newbies that don't recognize you or your feeding routine, or they might be spooked from predators visiting your pond.

If you've ruled out the possibility of predators (or put up some predator-control measures), follow these steps to help teach your fish to eat from the palm of your hand:

1. **Set a Routine:** Fish are creatures of habit. They're more likely to respond to something that happens the same way every day (or frequently, at least). To set a mealtime routine, visit your pond at the same location, at the same time of day, on a regular basis. They'll get to know your patterns

and learn to recognize you – and feeding time.

2. **Make Them Work:** Throwing a handful of Growth & Vibrance Fish Food into the water and walking away teaches your fish an easy snatch-and-run feeding style. Instead, toss them a few pellets at a time and wait for the fish to eat them. They'll rush to get the food first! Even the shy koi will get in on the action. This toss-and-wait style reminds them that you are hanging out and something exciting is happening.
3. **Get Brave – and Get Wet:** Once your fish are used to your feeding routine and race to the pond's edge to greet you, take the plunge! Hold a few pellets loosely in your hand just at the water surface without making any sudden or quick movements. It takes only one fish to act bravely and let the others know it'll be OK. Before you know it, they'll be racing to your hand to be fed!

Once your fish are trained to eat from your hand, you'll be tempted to keep offering them food. Prevent overfeeding them by measuring out a predetermined amount of food – and stop when it's all gone. If you can't help yourself (or you're sharing this cool new party trick with your friends), at least be sure to have some natural bacteria, like Nature's Defense®, on hand to help clean up the leftovers after dinner.



DIY pond lighting

The Pond Guy 6-20-15

Unless you're planning a Bellagio-esque display in your backyard, you can most certainly install some show-stopping lighting. It's

perfect for the do-it-yourselfer: A simple transformer and some quick connections allow any homeowner to take their water feature to the next level.

Layout Lighting Goals

Before you dive in, however, brainstorm what you'd like the lighting to do. What are your goals?

- If you'd like a few lights to mark the pond at night, check out our Floating Solar Lights. They're a great way to add nighttime illumination to any pond or water garden. The LED lights, which shift between pink, yellow and blue, are solar-powered and maintenance-free – making them an energy-efficient choice that will last for years.
- If you'd like to illuminate a waterfall or accent a small water feature, take a look at our waterfall lights and three-pack halogen mini lights. The Pond Guy® Waterfall Light highlights waterfalls via its submersible 10-watt halogen light. It's waterproof and includes a low-voltage transformer. The

LEDPro™ Rock Lights feature a realistic stone finish, allowing them to blend naturally with your landscape.

- If you'd like to light up your entire pond, try LEDPro™ High Output Lights. They can be used in or out of water and shine with the same intensity as a 50-watt halogen bulb but with a longer life span and lower energy cost.

Easy Installation

Installing these lighting systems is easy. If you're considering the LEDPro Rock Lights or High Output lights, there's virtually no work at all. They contain a photocell, so the light will automatically turn on when it's dark and turn off when the sun rises.

Most other pond lights offer have standard plugs, so there's no need for additional control panels or wiring.

Before installing them, check out these pro tips:

- To give you better access, partially drain the pond when installing the lights.
- Leave extra power cord wrapped around the light so you can easily access it for maintenance or cleaning without draining the pond.
- Position the lights so they shine out into the pond rather than facing you.



Mary Weaver enjoys sitting in her special place at her watergarden. Her dog enjoys walking on the stepping stones and also getting in the pond. Mary's pond was on the 24th Annual Topeka Pond Tour. Photo by Chris Newell

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

July 15	Monthly Meeting
August 13-16	International Water Lily and Water Gardening Symposium - Lawrence
August 19	Monthly Meeting
September 16	Monthly Meeting
October 4	Apple Fest
October 21	Monthly Meeting
November 18	Pot Luck

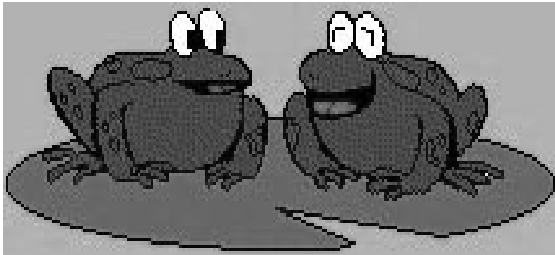
**International Water Lily
and Water Gardening
Society 2015 Symposium
August 13 – 16, 2015
Lawrence, Kansas
Information and registration forms
can be found at www.IWGS.org.**

**Your Dues are Due if your label reads
5-15, 6-15 or 7-15
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
2015 OFFICERS:**

Tom Platis Topeka	President 785-478-9514
Chris Newell Topeka	Vice President 785-633-4854
Sherry Reed Topeka	Secretary 785-408-5060
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, 3717 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:

Diane Gruver, The Lily Pad Editor
408 Emerald, Holton, KS 66436
785-364-3046

fdgruver@embarqmail.com

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