



# *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 2**

**March 1, 2015**



*Beautiful water fall at garden show display. Photo by Chris Newell.*

## **2015 Kansas Garden Show**

*By Bob Saathoff*

What a spectacular Display it was. This year The Topeka Area Water Garden Society (TAWGS) and Topeka Beautification Association (TBA) were joined by the recently formed group Friends of Ward Meade (FOWM). Members of each group met in December, January and February to brainstorm, plan and design this year's Display.

Since the Garden Show theme was "There's No Place Like Home" and since TAWGS and FOWM concentrate most of their efforts at Ward Meade along with TBA it was immediately determined that the Ward Meade Historic Site, which includes Old Prairie Town and the Botanical Garden, would be a good fit for a Display. We established that our main priority was to make people more aware of what the Historic Site had to offer so the Committee set off to showcase Ward Meade.

Knowing native stone would be needed for the Display, one relatively warm day, Jerold Binkley, Ray Schroeder and Bob Saathoff gathered and stockpiled "holy rocks" on pallets. Arrangements were made with Skinner Garden Center for plants, Capitol Concrete Supply for man-made stone, Patio, Pool and Fireside for use of table and chairs, Dennis Lowry for use of a bridge and arbor, Menard's for bagged mulch, Murphey Pallets for pallets used to build a platform that raised the main

## **Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 p.m.**

**March 18, 2015**

**Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore**

**Speaker**

**To be announced**

pool and set the stream flowing downwards, Waterscape Concepts for access to our pond building storage area at their facility and Shawnee County Parks and Recreation for a chuck wagon, stage coach, full-sized horse, windmill, concrete blocks and several loads of mulch.

As you can see in the photos the Display did illustrate both Old Prairie Town and the Botanical Garden very well. The large waterfall, pond with bubbler rock, long stream with bridge, and flowers, trees, shrubs, bamboo, grasses and native stone of the Garden accented the stage coach, horse, chuck wagon with a fire-pit and a life-sized photo of the historic cabin from Old Prairie Town. Several small signs provided "Did You Know?" bits of information relative to Ward Meade.

A big thank you to twenty organization members who were involved in constructing and tearing down the display; from TAWGS: Don Taliaferro, Jim Mowder, Bill Clark, Chris Newell, Don Regier, Todd Regier, Tom Platis, Sherry Reed, Linda Reynolds, Cheryl and Bob Saathoff. From TBA: Jerold Binkley, David Hedstrom, Jay Roberts, Don Katron, Don Wiltz, Steve Grenus, Tiz and Rich Connell. From FOWM: Gene Wansing.

I estimated that with the combined efforts of the three volunteer groups we had a collective 370 person-hours planning, building and tearing down plus 148 person-hours serving as display Docents during the Garden Show. In addition, a large crew from Shawnee County Parks and Recreation played a major role in making everything happen especially hauling mulch, concrete blocks, Old Prairie Town items, native stone we stored at their facility and loaner plants to and from Skinner Garden Store.

Again, many thanks go to everyone who helped in any way with the display. Special thanks to Tom Platis for all the phone time recruiting Docents, Bill Clark for leading the water feature construction, Jerold Binkley for supplying his truck for native rock hauling, Chris Newell

for offering many ingenious solutions and tireless effort, Phil Thompson for recording with time-lapse photography the entire week of display construction and teardown, Ray Schroeder, Gentry May, Chester Childs, John Bell and Tom Hammer for all their work and for arranging support and providing nearly anything we needed and Dennis Lowry for the two bluebird houses he built and donated for a drawing that allowed us to collect names from show attendees. This will provide a list of interested folks for each Organization. Hopefully we can use this list to increase and raise awareness of all three Organizations. Tom Platis and Chris Newell will sort through the names and invite those that showed an interest in TAWGS to the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

After the Garden Show I overheard several conversations relative to potential 2016 Garden Show Display ideas. It will be a good one. Anyone with ideas or who is interested in participating in next year's Garden Show should contact a member of TAWGS for more information.



2015 Garden Show. Photo by Bob Saathoff



2015 Garden Show. Photo by Chris Newell



A great group that volunteered to help at the garden show. Thanks to all! Photo by Chris Newell

## TAWGS Minutes February 4, 2015

President Tom Platis called the meeting to order. Chris Newell made a motion to approve the minutes in the last issue of the Lilypad. Tom Platis seconded this motion.

The treasurer's report showed a beginning balance of \$1908.26 as of November 30, 2014. There was a total inflow of \$20, and a total outflow of \$335, with an ending balance of \$1593.26 as of February 4, 2015.

The purpose of meeting early this month was to go over plans for the booth at the Kansas Garden Show on February 13, 14 and 15. Volunteers will begin start marking off the booth and start set up on Tuesday. Chris Newell found the least expensive mulch at Menard's. He will ask if we can return the bags after the show. Bob Saathoff will get plants from Skinners and return them after the show. Our display is being shared with Topeka Beautification Association and Ward Meade Gardens.

There will be charges for the electrical services for the waterfall in the booth of \$45. Tom Platis made a motion to take these funds from the TAWGS treasury. Bob Saathoff seconded this motion.

There has been an invitation to TAWGS to sponsor a flowerbed at the Ward Meade gardens. Bob Saathoff made a motion to sponsor this flowerbed, Helen Platis seconded the motion.

Chris Newell made a motion to adjourn and Cheryl Saathoff seconded the motion..... Sherry Reed Secretary



## Setting Pond Resolutions

*The Pond Guy 1-3-15*

If you were one of the many pond owners plagued by algae, muck, excessive weeds or green water last year one of your 2015 New Year

resolutions may revolve around your pond or water garden.

### Evaluate

The beginning of the new pond season is the perfect time to evaluate and tweak your pond maintenance practices and take inventory of leftover pond supplies from last year. Since pond maintenance begins once the ice thaws from your pond, there is no better time to start planning for the upcoming season than now.

First, before you buy new pond maintenance products, recall your pond issues from last season. Were you continuously fighting algae? Unsure the last time you applied your beneficial bacteria? Do you have out of control cattail growth? After you identify your issues, pick one or two items to tackle in 2015.

One great product for any pond (earth bottom pond or water garden) is aeration. Aeration is always a great way to keep your pond water balanced and healthy. Installing an aeration system in your pond will circulate the entire water column and keep oxygen plentiful. Aeration systems help reduce pond muck formation and weed growth while keeping your fish safe and comfortable.

If your pond receives constant sunlight, consider shading the water with pond dye. To keep your pond water clear and remove accumulated pond muck treat your pond with beneficial bacteria. Airmax® can help you eliminate the guesswork when choosing the appropriate pond maintenance products by providing the most effective pond care products in one kit. Use the ClearPAC® to treat earth bottom ponds and lakes or the DefensePAC® for water gardens.

### Make a Plan

Next, make a plan. Check over any unused pond products from last season. Create a list of any supplies you are low on or anything you are out of. If you are having trouble calculating how much product you will need for season long treatment or have any questions on a particular product you can always call a Pond Guy or call toll free at 866-766-3435.

If you don't have a pond, water garden or water feature yet you can start researching and designing the pond of your dreams now. There is a wide variety of information available on our blog that explain the differences between various water features and ponds. Pond kits are available for purchases that contain all of the items you need to build a water garden. If you prefer something less time consuming, maybe you would like to consider a pondless waterfall. Whichever the case, early planning will help make your pond project a success.

## Determining sex of koi

*The Pond Guy 2-24-15*

If only koi were as easy to sex as a pair of peacocks! Like those fanciful birds, koi are sexually dimorphic – meaning the males and females look and behave differently – but it's not an easy distinction to discern. They grow to roughly the same size and they both have colorful scales, yet there are subtle differences if you know where to look. With these clues, you'll know whether to name your finned friends Fred or Frieda.



### Clue #1: Age

Koi are easier to tell apart when they're mature, and so your first clue will be age – which is related to their length. They're considered mature (3 years old) when they're about 10 inches long. If they're between 3 and 10 inches, they're still juveniles and may be difficult to sex.

### Clue #2: Body Shape

Immobilize your koi by capturing it in your Collapsible Fish Net and take a look at it from above. A mature male koi will have a slender looking body, while a female koi will have a rounded body, particularly when it's spawning season and she's carrying a nest full of eggs!

### Clue #3: Fin Shape

Next, examine your koi's fins. A male koi's pectoral fins, the ones near his head, will appear pointed and solid in color. In addition, the first ray of his pectoral fin may be more substantial when compared to his female counterpart, which will display rounder fins.

### Clue #4: Tubercles

During breeding season, you may see little white growths, called tubercles, on male koi's heads and pectoral fins. They're perfectly natural and will disappear once the fish have finished getting frisky. Females don't develop these protrusions.

### Clue #5: Behavior

One final – and obvious! – clue: amorous behavior. When they're not mating, they behave very similarly, but during mating season, the male koi will chase the female, encouraging her (sometimes enthusiastically) to release her eggs so he can fertilize them. After all that frolicking, the happy pair will benefit from some Pond Logic® Stress Reducer Plus, which will help heal any damaged tissue.

It's not easy to distinguish the male and female koi, but with these tips and clues, you'll know your Freds from your Friedas in no time!

## Congratulations

to Don Taliaferro who received the Joe Breitenstein Memorial Garden Award at an awards dinner at Historic Old Prairie Town recently.

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March 18	Monthly Meeting
April 15	Monthly Meeting
May 20	Monthly Meeting
June 17	Fish Fry at Saathoff's
July 15	Monthly Meeting
August 19	Monthly Meeting
September 16	Monthly Meeting
October 4	Apple Fest
October 21	Monthly Meeting
November 18	Pot Luck

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**Your Dues are Due if your label reads 4-15, 5-15 or anytime in 2014**  
 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	President
Topeka	785-478-9514
Chris Newell	Vice President
Topeka	785-633-4854
Sherry Reed	Secretary
Topeka	785-408-5060
Jim Mowder	Treasurer
Topeka	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](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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