



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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April 1, 2016

TAWGS March 2016 Minutes

President Chris Newell called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made.

Treasurer's report was made by Jim Mowder, Treasurer.

The Kansas Garden Show was once again a success for TAWGS. Along with Shawnee County and Friends of Ward Meade, 256 hours were spent on building and 84 hours dismantling the display. Volunteers from the three organizations donated 160 hours of their time to man the booth during the three days.

The pond built by TAWGS seemed to bring in more questions this year of how the visitors could do something like this at home. It was discussed that perhaps next year we could feature smaller ponds, pond less falls, streams, fountains, bubblers, etc., and have some of the equipment to make these features on display.

Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m. April 20, 2016

Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore

Guest Speaker:

Le Ann Oblander

The Benefits of

Tower Gardening

It was suggested that we needed more flyers or literature to hand out to visitors. Also, have a scrapbook showing the steps involved in building a pond from the past ponds TAWGS have completed.

The new display board donated and designed by Chris Newell and Don Taliaferro was very helpful and well received. Chris made a motion to reimburse him for the materials used on the display board (mostly for printing fees). Sandy Reiger seconded the motion; motion carried.

Don Taliaferro made a motion to pay Waterscapes for materials used at the

Kansas Garden Show. Sue Mowder seconded the motion; motion carried.

There were 289 entries for the birdhouse drawings at the Garden Show. Fifteen people indicated an interest in TAWGS on their entry. Chris called them to thank them for the interest. The winners of the three birdhouses were Wayne Peterson, Allison Lehmann and Brenda.

The next project for TAWGS will be the expansion of Anna's Pond at Ward-Meade. This will probably take place mid-April, after Tulip Time. Volunteers will be needed for cleaning the existing pond, building the new pond, taking photos and getting food.

The water feature in conjunction with the Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners is on hold until next year.

The door prizes were won by highest scores thrown at a dart board! Winners were Dave Horner won first prize with 93 points, Sandy Reiger came in second with 66 points and Cheryl Saathoff won third prize with 55 points.

Thank you again to Mary and Dave Horner for the wonderful treats! Dave has some of his beautiful photos on display at the Classic Bean downtown.

Don Taliaferro made a motion to adjourn; Doris Hammond seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Sherry Reed; Secretary



Why Goldfish change color

The Pond Guy, August 8, 2009



Whether you have a traditional goldfish in your pond or one of the many fancy varieties, you may notice their colors change over time - don't worry. It doesn't necessarily mean your fish have some sort of disease! In most cases, it's normal for goldfish to change color. So before you start dumping antibiotics in your pond, first consider these possibilities:

Genetics

Goldfish naturally change color as they age. Though most do so during their first year or two of life, others change throughout their lifetime. Fish experts have identified two different types of color changes in fish: physiological and morphological. Physiological changes occur when the pigments in the cells either spread out, which makes the colors more pronounced, or when the pigment clusters in the center, which makes the colors more muted. Morphological changes occur when the actual number of pigments in the cells increase or decrease. An example of a morphological change is when a black goldfish starts to turn orange or a young goldfish loses its black markings as it ages. In this case, as the fish matures, it's losing its black pigment cells. How and when their colors change really depends upon their individual genetic makeup. Inexpensive goldfish whose parents are unknown can change in unpredictable ways, while expensive show-quality fish will be a bit more predictable.



DON'T ADJUST YPU COLOR!

Color-Enhancing Foods

Certain types of food, like Pond Logic Growth & Color Fish Food, can accentuate subdued colors in goldfish, too. Sometimes, a dull orange goldfish can be made a deeper shade of red with these specially formulated diets, which contain natural color-enhancing supplements like spirulina, beta glucan, vitamin E and vitamin C. Keep in mind, however, that some of these color-enhancers may affect other colors, too. White areas on calico orandas, for instance, may take on an orange hue - which may not be the look you're going for.

Illness, Poor Water Quality

If your goldfish's color becomes very dull or it starts to become inactive, that could be a sign of illness or poor water quality. Use a test kit, like the Pond Care Master Test Kit, to check your water quality, including your pH, ammonia and nitrite levels. Then, if necessary, add a broad-spectrum medication to treat parasites or bacterial infections your fish may have.

Causes of Fish Stress

Reprinted from The Water Garden

I'm sure that many of us have enough stress in our lives that we laugh off the thought of our fish being stressed. But a stressed fish is all too often a soon-to-be sick fish. A fish that is stressed has a weakened immune system and is thus much more susceptible to attack from parasites, bacteria, or other pathogens. Ensuring that your fish are under as little stress as possible is the best thing you can do to ensure a long and healthy life for your friends with fins. This list of the 10 most common causes of fish stress may help save your fish. (And if you still laugh off the thought of fish stress just remember that if your fish begin to die, that is one more stress factor in YOUR life).

1. Sudden changes in pH. pH will always fluctuate to some degree, but we want to have a pH that is as stable as possible. Ensuring that the buffering capacity (KH) will help keep a stable pH level. pH that is too high or too low can also cause stress, but stability is what is most important.
2. Sudden changes in water temperature. Goldfish and koi are cold-blooded and can tolerate a wide range of temperatures, but a sudden change in that temperature can cause undue stress. Proper acclimation when adding new fish is critical. Small, shallow ponds are more apt to have the water temperature change quickly. Providing good surface coverage will help keep the temperature changes slow.
3. Insecurity. Fish can be stressed if they are not comfortable in their surroundings. Clear water with little surface coverage will cause a fish to feel insecure. The fish are more susceptible to predator attack in clear water and the fish is aware of this risk. Providing surface coverage or an underwater hiding place can help. Extra stress will be caused if the fish have actually been visited by a potential predator.
4. Poor diet. Fish need a regular balanced diet. This is not as complicated as it may sound. While some packaged foods may have advantages over other, as long as they are getting a regular feeding of a seasonally-appropriate food labeled for koi or goldfish they should be getting the nutrient they need.
5. Poor water quality. Water quality is a broad term but is often referring mainly to the nitrogen compounds found in the water. Ammonia, Nitrite, and Nitrate are always going to be present to a degree in a pond with fish, but the levels need to be kept as low as possible. Good filtration is the key to breaking down ammonia and nitrite. Nitrate is used up by plants or should be removed with regular, partial water-changes.
6. Water toxin. There can be many, many possible toxins coming from many sources that can stress or directly kill fish. Chlorine and chloramines are common additives to tap water that if not removed can cause severe stress or death. Other common sources for toxins are lawn fertilizers or pesticides that may blow into the water or be washed in along with rain. If this type of toxin is suspected an immediate water change would be called for.
7. Lack of sufficient oxygen. Fish rely on dissolved oxygen in the water for respiration. Common causes of a low dissolved oxygen level are too many fish, not enough aeration, or a large algae kill.
8. Overcrowding. Keeping too many fish leads to many of the other issues addressed here including poor oxygen levels and buildup of nitrogen compounds.
9. Physical stress. Physical stress can be caused by an actual wound. A fish can be wounded by a predator or scrape against a sharp rock in the pond. Handling a fish also will cause stress. Avoid catching fish unnecessarily.
10. Infection. Stress may lead to an infection from some sort of pathogen, but an infection will also increase the stress level thereby making the fish more susceptible to further infection and limiting their ability to fight it off.

**Don't forget the
2016 Pond Tour**

June 25 & 26

If you know of anyone

That would like to be on the

Tour let us know

Topeka Area Water Garden Society
3119 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66614

April 20	Monthly Meeting
May 18	Monthly Meeting
June 15	Monthly Meeting
	Fish Fry
June 25&26	Pond Tour
July 20	Monthly Meeting
August 17	Monthly Meeting
September 21	Monthly Meeting
October 2	Apple Fest
October 19	Monthly Meeting
November 16	Monthly Meeting
	Pot Luck Dinner

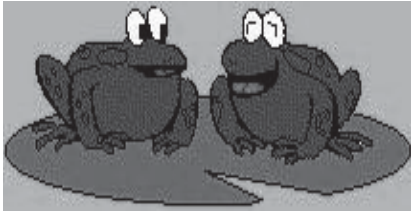
**Your Dues are due if your label reads
Any time in 2016**
Please renew to continue receiving this newsletter
Send dues to

Jim Mowder, 3717 SE 31st ST, 66605

**THE TOPEKA AREA
WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
2016 OFFICERS:**

Chris Newell Topeka	President 785-633-8454
Open	Vice President
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 Street, Topeka, KS 66605



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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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