



# *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 19, Issue 2**

**March 1, 2016**



## **Lincoln Speaks**

**Guest Speaker for  
February, 2016**

The Topeka Area Water Garden Society was honored to welcome this month's guest speaker to our meeting, President Abraham Lincoln, (via Dale Jirik).

President Lincoln said his family had ponds on their properties when he was a youth, but he took his baths in them.

His father taught him to work hard but not how to like it. His mother could read and she taught Abraham to read also, using the bible, which he said was his favorite book.

Mr. Lincoln started working in a law office in Salem, Illinois, when he was still a young man. Then he started his own law practice in Springfield, Illinois. He began giving speeches about the use of slavery in different parts of the country. Some of those talks were given in Doniphan County Kansas. Some abolitionist tried to persuade Mr. Lincoln to run for president. He did not desire to run under the abolitionist

## **Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 p.m. March 16, 2016**

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

**Guest Speaker:**

**Colin MacMillan**

**Adventurist - Photographer**

platform as they had no plans for what would take place after the slaves were set free.

He later served in Congress and then became president of the United States. At the time he became president, some of the southern states had already succeeded from the union. In his reading of the constitution, no state had the right to succeed from the union, so in trying to right this wrong the Civil War began.

Mr. Lincoln said the two biggest highlights of his presidency was writing the emancipation proclamation and presenting the Gettysburg address of 1863.

Unfortunately, Mr. Lincoln had to leave us as he and his wife had an evening planned at the Ford Theater. I wished I had warned him not to go!





## 2016 Kansas Garden Show

By Bob Saathoff

Another Garden Show is behind us and we have lots to be proud of. This year's Display was sponsored by three organizations; The Topeka Area Water Garden Society (TAWGS), Topeka Beautification Association (TBA) and Friends of Ward Meade (FOWM). All three groups were represented in the Display during the Garden Show and were able to discuss their organization with Show attendees.

Earlier in the year Don Taliaferro, Chris Newell and Bob Saathoff from TAWGS met several times with Ray Schroeder, John Bell and Lee Schick representing FOWM to discuss potential designs for our joint venture. TBA opted out of this design process. As is the case with many garden designs this one developed and grew as we went and turned out great. TAWGS portion of the Display was a water feature including



a waterfall and ten foot diameter pond. This was a smaller water feature than we have constructed in the past but I have to say that many more folks asked me how much a pond

like that would cost, how long would it take to construct in their back yard, etc. We

have always leaned more toward the "spectacular" water features in the past and may have not been appealing to the average home owner. In the future I think we should think about presenting several smaller examples of water features to show folks "how they

can do this at home." We retired the old TAWGS Display backdrop and replaced it with one donated by



President Newell. Its case is very compact, easy to set up, has alternate and much larger surfaces on which to attach photos and information and we received a lot of positive compliments on its look.

The FOWM portion of the Display featured the railroad portion of Old Prairie Town and three recently added gardens in the Ward Meade Botanical Garden. An Herb Garden, Butterfly Garden and Hosta Garden were all dressed with live plants from the County's Greenhouse. A lot of interest was shown in all four areas but

the Butterfly (Monarch Way Station) Display seemed to get the most attention. Chain



saw sculptures from the Garden were placed throughout all Displays.

TBA purchased many tulips, daffodils and hyacinths to feature Tulip Time at the Botanical Garden. Dennis Lowry provided an arbor that was used in the Tulip Time

Display along with two Bluebird houses that were given to lucky drawing winners. Steven Traw of Fifth Day Creations & Beyond of Iola, KS also provided a Bluebird house for the drawing.

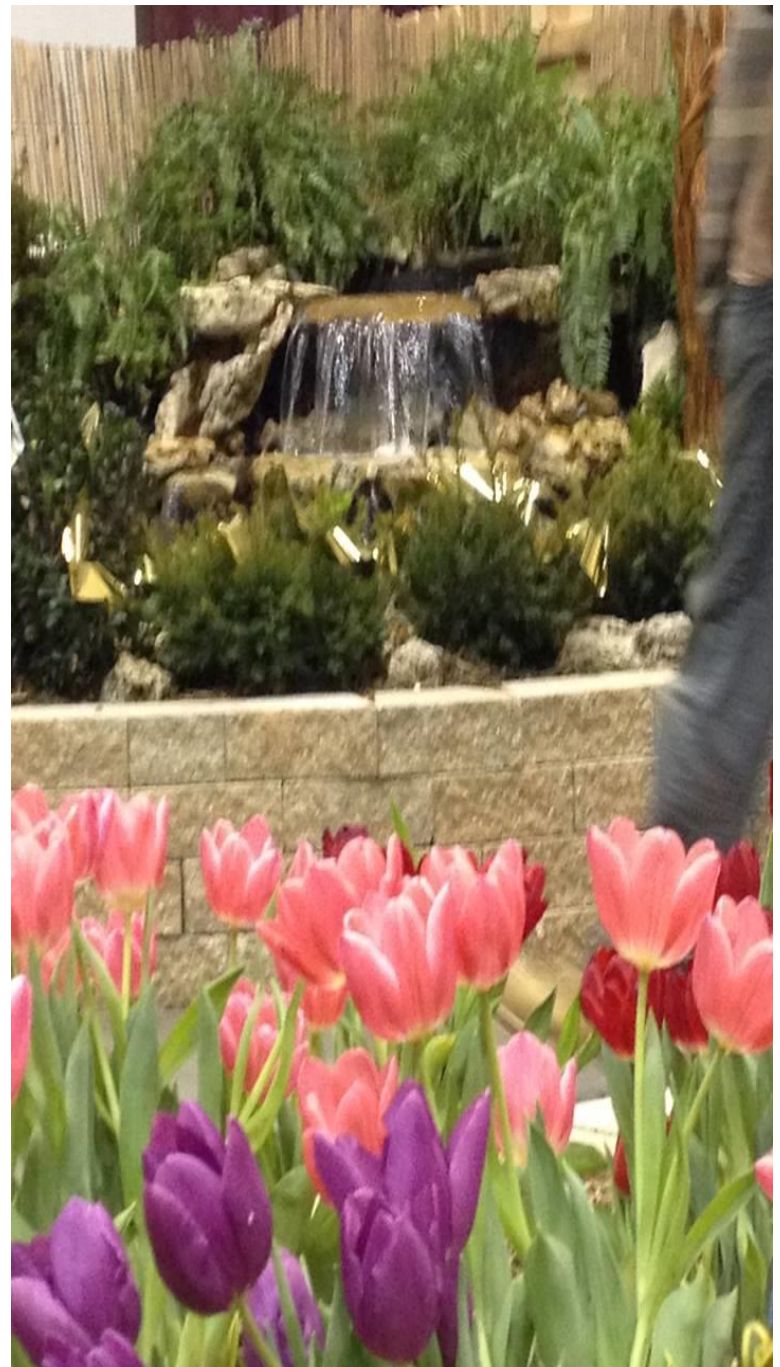
Arrangements were made with Skinner Garden Store for plants, Capitol Concrete Supply for man-made stone, Waterscape Concepts for access to our pond building storage area at their facility and Shawnee County Parks and Recreation staff for delivering a railroad hand car, baggage car, windmill, concrete blocks and several loads of wood mulch as well as help to construct the Displays.

A big thank you to twenty Organization members who were involved in constructing and tearing down the Display; From TAWGS: Don Taliaferro, Jim and Sue Mowder, Chris Newell Linda Reynolds, Don, Sandy and Todd Regier, Tom Platis, Sherry Reed, Jim Fry, Doris Hammond Dave and Mary Horner and Bob and Cheryl Saathoff. From TBA: David Hedstrom, Don Katron, Don Wiltz and Steve Grenus. I estimated that with the combined efforts of the three Volunteer groups we had a collective 380 person-hours planning, building and tearing down plus 160 person-hours serving as Display Docents during the Garden Show.

Again, many thanks go out to everyone who helped in any way with the Display. Special thanks to Sherry Reed for all the time recruiting Docents, 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 Lee Schick for

all their work and for arranging support and providing nearly anything we needed.

Photos by Bob Saathoff and Chris Newell



# Minutes for February 2016

President Chris Newell called meeting to order.

Treasurer's report was read and approved. It was brought to the attention of the group that \$100 is usually used to sponsor a flower bed at Ward-Meade each year and it was time to do this again. Bob Saathoff made a motion to make this contribution and approve the treasurer's report, this was seconded by Jim Green. Motion carried.

Bob Saathoff reported on the Kansas Lawn and Garden Show. The committee has met and laid out a design for the booth. Topeka Beautification Association has given monies for flowers. TAWGS has a large area for a pond and waterfall. Friends of Ward Meade will feature their train depot. Butterflies and other pollinators will also be featured in their share of the booth. There is need for lots of volunteers to work the booth and in setting it up.

The pond tour committee will be meeting soon. We need to start contacting sponsors for the pond tour and talk to some big box stores (Lowe's, Menards, etc.) to see if there are ways to promote TAWGS in their venues.

A project that TAWGS will be involved with this spring is expanding Anna's Pond at Ward- Meade. This will probably take place in late April after Tulip Time.

Dona Peterson and Tom Platis won the door prizes.

Cheryl Saathoff made a motion to adjourn, Doris Hammond seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned. Sherry Reed, Secretary

## **7 Spring Clean-Out Tips For Your Decorative Pond | Decorative Ponds & Water Gardens Q & A**

by the pond guy

### How Should I Go About Performing A Spring Cleanout In My Water Garden?

Spring cleaning applies not only to the house, but your water garden as well. Here are 7 spring clean-out tips to get your pond off to a great start:

1.) Get a holding tank: Before you tend to your pond, have a holding tank ready for your koi and other fish. Make sure to house them using existing pond water and place a pond aeration kit in the tank to ensure oxygen levels remain high. Even though this is a temporary space for your fish, they may be startled by their new environment. It is always best to place some pond netting over the holding tank to ensure none of the fish jump out.

2.) Drain the pond: Once the fish are safely housed in their temporary holding tank, drain the pond with a pond pump and drain hose.

3.) Power wash: Power wash the rocks and remove any algae, muck and other debris build up. For stubborn debris that

just won't wash away, use Oxy-Lift to take care the problem. Simply sprinkle over stubborn debris, wait 10 minutes and rinse away. We recommend rinsing and pumping out dirty water a few times to ensure a good cleaning.

4.) Make adjustments: At this point in the cleaning process with no water in the pond, it's best to check for any rocks or plants that might need to be adjusted as some of the scenery may have been displaced during the power wash.

5.) Check the lights: This is great time to check any pond lights to ensure they are in working condition. Now is also a good time to add new pond lights if desired.

6.) Reconnect plumbing and filters: Reinstall any pumps, UV clarifiers, filters or spitters once the rest of the pond is clean, and get ready to refill and reintroduce your fish to your pond.

7.) Refill and re-acclimate: After you refill your pond, add Water Conditioner to remove any chlorine and to detoxify heavy metals from the new water. Re-acclimate your fish to the new pond water by slowly adding some to their holding tank. We recommend using Pond Logic® Stress Reducer Plus to your pond as well to help reduce any

stress caused by transporting them. Once done, congratulate yourself –



you're finished, it's time to get back to enjoying your pond.

**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

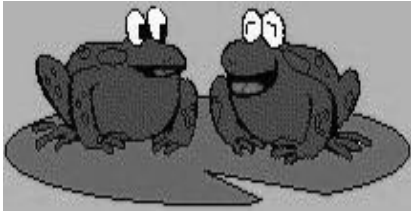
March 16	Monthly Meeting
April 20	Monthly Meeting
May 18	Monthly Meeting
June 15	Monthly Meeting
	<b>Fish Fry</b>
June 25&26	<b>Pond Tour</b>
July 20	Monthly Meeting
August 17	Monthly Meeting
September 21	Monthly Meeting
October 2	<b>Apple Fest</b>
October 19	Monthly Meeting
November 16	Monthly Meeting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

**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:**

<b>Chris Newell</b> Topeka	<b>President</b> 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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Published Monthly February to November by The Topeka Area Water Garden Society (TAWGS), a non-profit organization. TAWGS does not warrant the information in this newsletter. The opinions expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Topeka Area Water Garden Society.

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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