



## *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 4**

### **TAWGS Minutes for April 2016**

President Chris Newell called the meeting to order. After self-introductions, Chris introduced our speakers representing Tower Gardens, Beth Jessop and LeAnn Oblander from Topeka and Kim Wells from Kansas City. Tower Gardening is a vertical aeroponic growing system. It allows you to grow 20 or more vegetables, herbs and flowers. Aeroponics is the process of growing plants in an air or mist environment without the use of soil. This way of gardening saves

**May 1, 2016**

### **Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 p.m. May 18, 2016**

Historic Old Prairie Town, 124 NW Fillmore

**Guest Speaker:**

**Colin MacMillan**

**Adventurist-Photographer**



resources, water and land. A mixture of water and liquid are put in the bottom of the tower base along with a pump with a timer. When the pump comes on, water is pumped up thru the center of the tower and then runs down thru the center of the tower and down thru pockets where the plants are planted, watering the roots. The towers can be placed indoors or outdoors. If used indoors you would use a cage around the tower where lights would be attached. You can get started with this system for about \$525.00.

The treasurer's report was given by Treasurer, Jim Mowder. The report was approved and accepted.

Chris Newell made a motion to move the time for the May meeting to 6:30, as we are going to have a photographer as our speaker. Motion was approved.

Bob Saathoff reported that work on expanding Anna's Pond will start May 2 and volunteers will be needed. On Saturday, May 7, Anna's Pond will be cleaned and volunteers will also be needed.

In June our meeting will be a fish fry/potluck and will be Tuesday, June 21 instead of June 22. It will start at 6:30. The pond hosts and advertisers will invited.

The club welcomed four new members,

Door prizes were won by Beth Jessop. She picked a potted plant donated by Helen Platis. Catrina Brunner picked a



gift certificate from Waterscapes.

We thank Dave and Mary Horner for the delicious refreshments and table decorations.

Also a BIG thank you to Sandy Reiger for taking notes for the minutes in my absence.



Motion was made and approved to adjourn meeting.

Sherry Reed; Secretary

### **Water Garden Tip of the Month**

Filters that have been turned off for the the winter should be cleaned well before turning them back on this spring. Cleaning will remove toxins that can develop from waste breaking down in the filter in the absence of oxygen. Once your filter is up and running, add some brand of it with. bacteria to seed

## MOISTURE LOVING PLANTS

By Duane Van Dolah

# Bloody dock

## RUMEX SANGUINEUS

Also called Bloodwort, other common names include Bloody Wood Dock, Red-Veined Dock and Sorrel. I've always called it Dock. This plant comes from the Mediterranean region and Africa. The plant gets its name for the green leaves or fronds that are veined in reddish-purple. It grows to 15 inches and 15 inches wide. With flower stalks that reach 2 feet tall that have loose star-shaped blossoms that begin pale-green, then turning to brown.

I have found that if you cut the flower stalks off the plant it puts more energy into leaf production and gives you a bushier plant. Last week at the Kansas Pond Society pond tour I saw several Docks planted in water. They were submerged just to the crowns. I've got mine planted next to Wally,



my walrus spitter, so my Dock stays moist but not in water. I don't know if it will come up every year in the water. Mine dies to the ground in winter then comes up in the Spring. Its foliage is quite fantastic.

I've let some go to seed and now have three groups of plants. But I wouldn't call it invasive, though, one type of Dock is.

The Dock is hardy in zones 5-8 and will grow in part shade and sun. It forms a taproot, which usually means that it doesn't like to be moved. So propagation is by seed. Then move new plants by lifting a plug of dirt with the plant. The younger leaves are edible with a taste like spinach or chard with a great color for your salad.

## WATER PLANTS

By Duane Van Dolah

# Aquatic or Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias

Pond owners that are interested in adding butterflies as visitors of their pond should start planting Asclepias, common name is butterfly weed and milkweed. *Asclepias incarnata* is a species that will reach a height of 24-36 inches and can tolerate up to 5 inches of water. It is a thick-stemmed perennial with dense branches and opposite, narrowly ovate, mid-green leaves. The leaves are 36 inches long with some fall color. Flowers are small and held in umbels at the top of each stem. They range in color from clear white to light pink to dark rose. Bitones are also possible. Seed heads are half-moon shaped with black seeds. This perennial blooms in late summer with full sun in zones 3-11.

A cultivar, *Asclepias incarnata* 'Ice Ballet', is known as the white butterfly plant. Pure white flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds and make great cut flowers.

*Asclepias lanceolata* is the coastal milkweed. It stands 24-36 inches tall with a pale pink flower. It needs moist soil or up to 2 inches of water over it in zones 6-8.

*Asclepias perennis*, the aquatic milkweed, is a small, compact, bushy plant with willow-like leaves and white to pale rose flowers. Grow this plant in sun or shade with moist soil to up to 6 inches of water. It grows 12-24 inches tall in zones 6-11. Propagation on all milkweeds is by cutting in spring before flowers set and by seed.

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

May 18	Monthly Meeting
June 21	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>

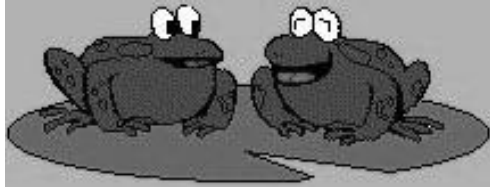
**DON'T FORGET THE POND TOUR  
WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS**

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 31<sup>st</sup> Street,  
Topeka, KS 66605**

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

<b>Chris Newell</b>	<b>President</b>
Topeka	785-633-8454
<b>Open</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Sherry Reed</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Topeka	785-408-5060
<b>Jim Mowder</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
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 31<sup>st</sup>  
Street, Topeka, KS 66605



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necessarily represent those of the  
Topeka Area Water Garden Society.

The Lily Pad encourages submissions 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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[dontal@swbell.net](mailto:dontal@swbell.net)

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