

KANSAS POND SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2015



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NO MARCH MEETING!!

Since our meeting coincides with the Outdoor Living and Landscape Show this year, we voted at the last meeting to cancel the meeting so our members could attend the show. The keynote speaker for the show is P. Allen Smith of TV fame. He will speak at 10:30 AM on Saturday. Our meetings will resume in April when we will meet Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 AM to divide Botanica's water lilies. Hope to see you then.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 6-8: Garden Show
Mar 21-22: Orchid Show
Apr 4: Divide Lilies at Botanica
May 2: KPS Meeting
May: 2 Herb Day
June 6: KPS Meeting
June 20-21: KPS Pond Tour
Jul 11: KPS Road trip
Jul 25: Tomato Day
Aug 1: KPS Meeting
Sept 5: KPS Meeting

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mike Kandt

Though plagued with technical difficulties, our February meeting turned out to be very informative. Mick Hilleary of Total Habitats talked about the design of the new koi pond in the Chinese Garden at Botanica. He described the unique filtration system, using expanded shale and under-gravel piping. For a relatively small water feature, this system is complex but should serve our small population of koi in crystal-clear water.

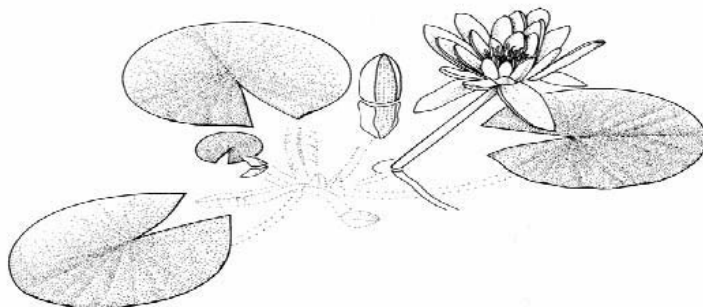
The Outdoor Living and Landscape show is being held the first weekend in March. So that you all can attend this show without a conflict with a KPS meeting, we voted in February to cancel the March meeting. So please attend the show and the seminars and we'll see you in April at Botanica. P.Allen Smith is the keynote speaker, so be sure to catch what he has to say.

Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 AM, we will meet at Botanica to divide their water lilies. This annual public service event generally lasts 'til noon or so. So come prepared to get dirty and help out. More about this next month. In May, we'll do our plant exchange. June's location is open, but in July, we are planning a road trip to Swan's Garden, Water's Edge and Green Fin Gardens. More about this later in this newsletter.

Still looking for pond tour hosts. This is your chance to show off that pond and garden you've worked so hard on. Contact Wanita Wright for more information: 733-6626, wrightd9@aol.com. Also, **if you would like to host a meeting in June or September this year, call me soon.** We are trying to fill out the schedule for meetings this year

I hope to see you at the show.

Mike



SWAP SHOP

If you have articles, plants or fish to sell or give away, let me know at 838-6681 or koikat@cox.net

PETS FOR SALE: Angelfish \$2.00 each, Guinea Pigs \$10.00 each, Parakeets \$10.00 each. Call John Byers - 838-5576, 838-4333

ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card Size Ad (about 2" x 3 1/2"): \$15 per 3-month period; \$50 per year

Quarter-Page Ad (about 3 1/2" x 4 1/2"): \$30 per 3-month period; \$100 per year

Half-Page Ad (about 5" x 7 1/2"): \$60 per 3-month period; \$200 per year

Full-Page Ad (8 1/2" x 11"): \$400 per year

WATER PLANTS

By Duane Van Dolah

(Duane is still out. Another reprise.)

Curled Pond Weed

POTAMOGETON CRISPUS

This hardy European species makes an excellent oxygenator that has naturalized across northeastern and north central United States. The wiry stems of this plant can reach over 13 feet with narrow 3-inch long and 1/4-to 1/2-inch stalkless leaves. The leaves are extremely decorative, being almost translucent and wavy-edged, green to reddish-brown in color. It grows even in the cold of winter and then goes dormant in the heat of summer. When the pond warms in spring, the plant produces a fresh flush of leaves that are wider and have wavy edges. Then when the water temperature reaches above 75 degrees, the plant goes dormant. It grows thick, fleshy sprouts with sharp, jagged edges in the foliage that fall to the bottom when the leaves decay. From these sprouts come new plants in the fall, which have flat, olive green, and narrower leaves. A cream to pinkish-colored flower spike is sent up on the surface in late spring. Curly

Pondweed is invasive in an earthen pond but is not particularly invasive in a garden pond. It grows in water 1-10 feet deep in sun to part shade. Grow in full sun for best color, but it can handle murky water better than most oxygenators. The spread is indefinite. Propagation is by division, sprouts {turions}, and stem cuttings. Curled Pondweed grows best in zones 3-11. Two notes of interest are that the submerged leaves make for great spawning grounds for fish, and it likes moving water.

Duane



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ORCHID SHOW

KANSAS ORCHID SOCIETY

presents

Spring into Orchids.

March 21-22, 2015 at Botanica, 701 N. Amidon, Wichita, KS.

Show Admission Free.

Show Times: Saturday, March 21, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sunday, March 22, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Hobbyists will exhibit their finest orchids. Exhibits and plants will be judged for OAS awards, trophies and ribbons. Vendors will offer orchid plants for sale. Species and hybrid orchids, growing supplies, and culture tips will be available.

For more information, contact:

Sarah Pratt, Show Chair svcsjp@gmail.com 316-772-0321

Max Thompson, KOS Vice President maxt@cox.net 620-221-1856

Karlene Sanborn, KOS President ksanborn@prairieorchids.com 316-202-2101

IT'S POND TOUR TIME!

Now's your chance to show off that pond project you've slaved over and are proud of! And share your hard-earned knowledge and the resulting beauty with others!

The Kansas Pond Society tour is June 20 and 21. We need ponds for our tour. This will give you an opportunity to share your expertise and the beauty of your pond with people interested in building their own.

No pond is too big or too small for our tour. People are interested in seeing examples of all sizes of water features. Some folks want a modest-sized pond, so don't feel that your pond may be too small to qualify for the tour. The same goes with big ones. Variety is what we're looking for in our tour, so we welcome all comers!

Please consider showing off your pond in June. You may contact either:

Wanita Wright at (316)733-6626 or email wrightd9@aol.com

or

Susan Kandt at (316)838-6681 or email koikat@cox.net

We'll be happy to answer any questions you may have about being on the tour.

KPS ROAD TRIP

JULY 11TH

Join us for a Saturday excursion to Swan's Water Gardens, south of Kansas City, Water's Edge in Lawrence and Green Fin Gardens in Manhattan.

Swan's Water Gardens - a full-service water garden company doing business in the Kansas City area for 20+ years. Also caters to the DIY individual. Carries a full line of pond building and maintenance products, along with aquatic plants. See ads in the KPS newsletter.

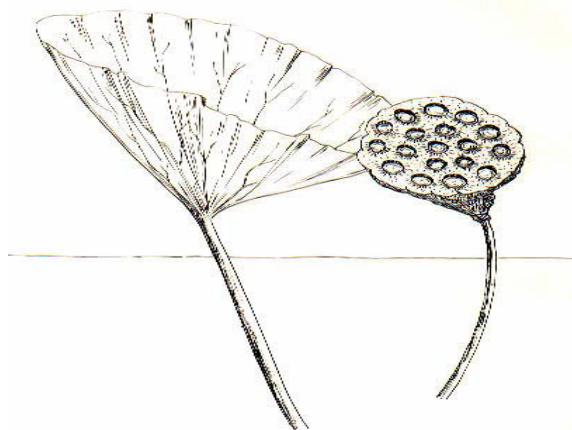
Water's Edge - a small shop with very unique pond products, both decorative and utilitarian. Great displays and lots of good ideas.

Green Fin Gardens - This gentleman talked to us at the January meeting. This is an opportunity to see how he grows figs, bananas, and other food products using Tilapia to provide nutrients. It promises to be very informative and provide good insight into aquaponics gardening.

We will take a KPS-provided bus, leave early Saturday, have lunch in Lawrence and dinner in Manhattan. Your only expenses are meals and any cool products you buy! If you just can't take the camaraderie of a bus ride, you are welcome to drive your own vehicle and meet us there. We would like to fill up the bus, though.

We would love to have you on the road trip. Contact Wanita Wright, 733-6626 or at wrightd9@aol.com or Susan Kandt, 838-6681 or at koikat@cox.net . We would like to get a head count by May 1st to reserve appropriate transportation.

- 7:30 Meet in the extreme southwest corner of Towne East Square, 7700 E Kellogg, Load up
- 7:45 Depart for Swan's Water Gardens
- 10:15 Shop at Swan's Water Gardens
- 11:45 Depart for Lawrence, Kansas
- 12:45 Lunch in Lawrence
- 1:45 Shop at Water's Edge
- 3:00 Depart for St. George, Kansas
- 4:15 Tour Green Fin
- 5:30 Depart for Manhattan
- 5:45 Dinner in Manhattan
- 6:45 Depart for Wichita
- 8:45 Arrive in Wichita @ Towne East Square



HOME-MADE CARAMELS

from Floanna Crowley

(Floanna makes thousands of these for Botanica at Christmas. They are fabulous.)

Mix the following in a pan and bring to 238 degrees

- 2 cups Dark Karo Corn Syrup
- 2 sticks of butter (not margarine)
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

Then take the hot mixture off the stove and add

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

Bring mixture to 240 degrees

Pour into a 9"x13" buttered pan

When cool, cut and wrap

PLANNING A MULTI-LEVEL POND

By Mike Kandt

As I look out the window at the cold grey sky and icy landscape I can only think of working in the garden on a warm spring day. Well, I guess that is why February is for planning all those spring projects. If you are thinking about a new pond, one with an upper pool and stream, there are a few things to consider in your design plans.

Generally, the lower pond or pool is larger than the upper one. This is not always the case, but it does make things easier. When you shut off the pump, water in the system seeks its natural level. Water in the upper pool that is not dammed up and water in the stream all flow to the bottom pond. The water level in the bottom pond rises. If the top of the liner at any point or if you have an overflow drain (frequently in the skimmer), water will flow out of the system. When you start the pump again, the level of the lower pond will be down. Many people think they have a leak, but the real problem may be the overflow of water.

In the construction of a normal upper pond, the liner normally is laid just under a flat rock at the weir or dam. Water can flow an inch or more over this flat rock. When the water is shut off, the top pond will flow out to the level of the liner. The flat rocks rarely are a perfect seal. Therefore, depending on the thickness of the flat rock, the water can go down 2-4 inches in the top pond, releasing 6-7 cubic feet of water in a 20-square-foot pool.

The stream can also hold a lot of water, but this really is hard to figure and varies with your stream bed design. In a stream without pools, I would figure the width of the lined stream x the length x an inch or two deep. Add to this the volume of the pools. In a 3-foot wide x 10-foot long stream, you could easily hold another 50 gallons of water.

In this example, the surface of a 200-square foot lower pond would rise about an inch. I like to plan an overflow for the pond a couple of inches over this. An overflow can be simply a dip in the upper edge of the liner under the edge rocks. Many will use an opening in the back of the skimmer. However you do it, consciously plan where the water will overflow.

If your plan is have a smaller lower pond, then be sure to calculate the overflow. You can simply raise the liner around the pond edge and raise the overflow to where it needs to be. Try to not let the level rise above the skimmer opening, or you'll have lots of other problems. If you do lose water to an overflow, just be sure to dechlorinate any water you use to refill. If you go with an automatic refill, be sure to connect it to well water, not chlorinated city water.

If you do have a new pond project in the plans for this year, I hope this helps. Stay warm.

Mike

Did you know...

A female koi of 15 years, if fed adequately, will weigh approximately 11 pounds..... wcw





Swan's Water Gardens

4385 W 247th St
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swanswatergardens@gmail.com
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Swan's Water Gardens is now celebrating our 21st year in business at our brand new location. The buildings will house our General Store, DIY Pond Supplies and Fish Shack. We will hold classes in the Barn Loft. The "Man Cave" Pavilion will be used for meetings, classes and just a place to sit and relax with snacks and refreshments. We are rebuilding our greenhouse South of the Pole barn and building a new Container Pot Shed and Potting Arbor for re-potting plants. Come and watch us transform our new farm into a water garden paradise. During the season on Saturdays you can watch our crew build water features, patios, walls and much more.



Visit our on-line store: www.swanswatergardens.com

DUES ARE DUE

Dues for the Kansas Pond Society were due January 1. We do not send out invoices, so just send a check for \$20 to Larry Determann, 1508 N Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS, 67203 with the form below. Your dues are important to cover our costs for this newsletter and other club expenses. Many members find that this cost is more than redeemed through the year. **If we don't receive your renewal before the March meeting, we must take your name off our mailing list.** So send in your dues as soon as you can.

KANSAS POND SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Renewal for one year (January thru December) \$20.00

Name or Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please indicate how you would like to receive the newsletter: Web-site? Mail?

Detach or print out and send with your renewal check to Larry Determann, 1508 N. Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS 67203
Please make check payable to "Kansas Pond Society", not to Larry Determann.



SO...HOW MANY CATS DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A CLOWDER?

Nope, I'm not talking about CHOWDER here. So all you cat lovers out there, stand down. I'm not advocating the making of cat stew.

Some background: I decided to write about our resident cat colony this month. Some of my faithful readers come up to me at meetings now and again and ask how our various critters are doing here at the ol' ranch.

Over the years, I've written about Rocky and the gang (our raccoons), Jerry, et al (we never see more than one possum at a time, but whenever we see one, it's always "Jerry" to us), and our group of assorted cats. This month, I figured I'd catch you all up on how the cat menagerie is doing.

But as is often the case, once I decide to write about something, it almost ALWAYS requires research. And once I get enmeshed in research, I get off on a tangent and it takes me forever to get the column written. This is an idiosyncrasy of mine that drives my editor slash husband stark raving nuts. He just doesn't understand why I can't simply decide on a topic, sit down, and start writing. Ha! Anyone out there who understands the process of writing, be it for creative fun or profit (!), will thoroughly understand the "Ha!".

So. Once I decided on the topic of our cat colony, I of course had to find out the accepted nomenclature for a group of cats. And in case you hadn't already figured that out, the most commonly accepted noun is "clowder." I like the word. It sounds very old-world. I can well imagine Shakespeare referring to a clowder of cats sunning themselves outside his window as he penned a masterpiece. (Surprisingly, though, I didn't find the word in my 1934 Webster's unabridged dictionary when I was searching for its origin. So I checked the Oxford English Dictionary and found it's a variant of the late 18th-century word "clodded", which means clotted or coagulated. Apparently, somebody along the way decided that cats don't just gather together – they coagulate. See how much fun research is?)

Other sources in my research revealed alternate names for cat groups: a "pounce," a "glaring," or a "clutter" for adults; a "kindle," a "litter," or, intriguingly enough, an "intrigue" for a group of kittens. All these names do a good job of describing feline behavior – including the intrigued look in their eyes as they watch you do something they consider...well, intriguing.

Yeah, I know. I digress.



Junior

The clowder of cats currently residing here has been calling this place home for the past seven years or so. At least, a couple of them have. Alpha and Beta have been hanging around that long, but Catsper and Junior were born in the garage just over five years ago. All four of these guys have been trapped, neutered, and vaccinated, so they won't be making any MORE cats, fortunately. (Junior didn't have to be trapped – I domesticated him when he was four weeks old, so I can handle him. The other three are ferals.

"Feral" in the cat world means they weren't handled by humans in their first three months or so of life. So although they may eat, sleep, and live on our grounds, they're technically wild and run if we try to pick them up.

(Beta actually has developed a love of being petted, but only when he comes up to eat.)

Spook was a stray who wandered up maybe eight years ago and took up residence. ("Stray" means she was handled by humans when young, but has since been kicked out onto the streets or wandered off and gotten lost

from wherever she came.) Spook has become a house cat with visiting privileges outside. She arrived already spayed, thanks, I learned later, to one of our neighbors. More about her later.

During the past couple of years, two more feral cats have decided to hang their hats here. Jonesey, a big solid black panther-looking dude, shows up for breakfast and dinner, then slinks away to live the life of a hobo God knows where. I winterized an old canoe that leans up against a fence in our backyard for him, with straw inside and a big tarp over the whole thing. It's waterproof and looks cozy enough, but I have no idea whether Jonesey calls it home or not. He's plenty paranoid and disappears after eating – mainly because the Big Four (Alpha, Beta, Catsper, and Junior) have made it clear he can eat here but he can't hang out with them. I like Jonesey and would love to make him more comfortable, but the Four make the rules outside, not me. I had him trapped and neutered within months after he started showing up, so he's free to be, as far as I'm concerned.

Within the past year, a big yellow guy has shown up and seems to have been taken in as one of the gang. Mike and I have decided it's because he has tiger stripes, which makes him acceptable. (Alpha, Beta, and Junior are all gray tiger-striped cats. Catsper is gray but didn't get the stripes. The rest seem to accept him, however, as one of them, so we all turn a blind eye and pretend he has cool striping. He'd be devastated if he ever saw himself in a mirror and realized he doesn't.)

We've dubbed the new yellow guy "Richard Parker" after the tiger in the book and movie "The life of Pi." He hasn't been neutered yet, because he's wild as a March hare and totally unpredictable as to if and when he shows up for meals. Sue with Friends of Felines, the group who's been trapping all my guys and hauling them down to the Humane Society for neutering over the years, swears she can trap him come spring. In the meantime, he sleeps in a cat bed under the house with the rest of the clowder. (They have their own cat door down there.) They seem to think he's pretty cool – probably because he HASN'T been neutered. But the house rules specify, "you're welcome to hang here, but only



Richard Parker

if you don't reproduce," so his days as a bad-ass are numbered.



Spook

Spook, the stray I mentioned earlier, is a beautiful tortoiseshell female who has ensconced herself very comfortably in our house. She's thrilled to be a house cat, and she hates other cats with a passion, so there's no way she's lowering herself to the dubious company of the Big Four. She wants out only when it's warm, not windy, not wet, and when none of those booger boy cats are anywhere in sight. She hangs in the Secret Garden. That's her kingdom, and anybody who dares set paw in there gets growled and hissed at until they clear out.

Alpha and Beta are the Lords of All Outdoors. They make the rules that everybody else abides by (except for Spook), and they've divided our two and a half acres of yard up into quadrants and assigned everybody a job. Alpha patrols the front yard. He oversees his realm from the park bench sitting next to the front fish pond, and when he's on patrol, I regularly flush him out of bushes and flower

beds when I'm watering the front yard in the summer.

Beta's assigned territory is the back yard. I see him regularly patrolling the paths through the various gardens back there, and I suspect he's the reason we don't lose fish out of the back ponds. (Same goes for Alpha and the front pond.)

Catsper (so named because he's dark gray and disappears into the night and into shadows – Catsper the friendly cat ghost, get it?) is in charge of the driveway, garage area, and patio by the kitchen door. While the other boys bunk down under the house when they need to get warm, Catsper beds down in the garage. He has his own cat door, his own heated cat bed, and a cat tree that I've placed by the garage windows so he can keep an eye on his realm from inside when it's yukky outside.

Junior's the emissary between the outdoors and the indoors. He's in and out, in and out, dozens of times a day. He has a cat bed lined with one of my old wool sweaters in the living room and his own cat bed under the house when he wants to go out and hang with his bro's. He's been assigned the upstairs deck on the back of the house. Apparently, his outside job is to keep all invaders off that deck and to let Beta know if somebody's approaching the cat door that goes in under the house just beneath the deck. He's a bit of a slacker, though, and frequently when he's perched on the railing back there keeping guard over his assigned quadrant, I can entice him into abandoning his post and coming inside with promises of cookies (cat treats). I have no idea how this goes over with the rest of the group, but since part of his job is apparently to keep the gods appeased (that's Mike and me), all seems to be good. He also notifies us at 4:30 when it's time to feed the outdoor boys canned food. At that particular job, he's extremely dependable.



I haven't figured out exactly what Richard Parker's job is. The realm was already divided up by the time he came along. I'm guessing that, due to his unneutered status, he's the bouncer. The Big Four can call on him when they need serious muscle against some interloper. (I'm not sure how his status will be affected once he's neutered. I sure hope he doesn't lose his job over it. He'll probably figure he's already lost enough!)

I'm sure there are other cats that come and go, feeding from "The Lord's Diner" -- a feeder I keep in the alley between the garages. One of them is Delta -- Junior and Catsper's mother. All I ever see of her is a vague streak of gray tiger fur when she runs from the Diner. I don't know where she lives, but she apparently is strictly a transient. We were extremely lucky to get her trapped and spayed shortly after Junior and Catsper were born.

Alpha, Catspur, Beta

Mike and I tend to call our little group of felines "tigers." So, of course, I had to look up the name for a group of tigers. I found two names: "streak" and "ambush." Not sure I understand where these came from. Probably from the habits of tigers in the wild. Our guys would approve and certainly have no problem being called either one of these.

Another interesting tidbit that came out of my research: according to one source, a group of feral cats is called a "destruction." Well, come on now. That just seems judgmental to me. While the mice, squirrels, and moles that my guys regularly catch and leave on the top kitchen step as tributes to the gods may agree with the term, I think that, all things considered, we have a pretty peaceable kingdom out there.

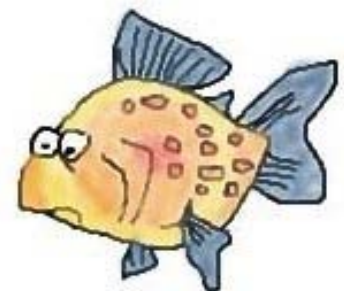
Well, there's my update on the resident cats. Clowder, pounce, glaring, streak, ambush -- call them what you will. When it's feeding time, they'll answer to anything. The raccoons and possums are keeping a low profile while it's winter, so no news to report yet on that front. I'm sure we'll be seeing them once it warms up. Stay tuned for updates on the wild bunch.

Oh, by the way. A group of raccoons? A "gaze." A group of possums? A "passle." But around here, they'll always be known as Rockies and Jerries....

See you at the show in March!

Peace,

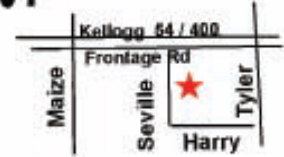
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