

SUMMER 2007

# TAPS Reports

By Carl French, Austin Pond Society Rep

**San Antonio TAPS Convention, 27-28 July 2007 (See pages 6, 7 and 10)**

## **Busy, busy, busy**

This is probably the busiest time of the year for every club in Texas. Summer means pond tours and pond tours mean lots of planning and preparation. Their continued popularity is a testament to the work involved.

Therefore, some of the members of TAPS have not been able to find time to provide new information for this quarterly. They are still active, of course, and much of their information simply carries over from the last publication.

Across the state, *TAPS Reports* has garnered positive reviews and it is a huge relief to know that people are reading and enjoying this publication. It is our intention that it continue to provide timely information on our member clubs and activities, so let's get right to the news for the summer quarter.

## **TAPS Convention**

The TAPS 2007 Convention will be taking place in San Antonio this year and we are looking to try to put San Antonio on the map for all the ponders and fish aficionados living in and around that historic Tejano city.

Everyone is welcome to join in this annual get-together. For those of us who have participated in the past, we are again looking forward to meeting and greeting members of clubs from all over Texas. You'll have no idea how informative and entertaining it is until you take the time to participate personally. TAPS has tried to assemble a weekend's worth of learning opportunities in several fields of our hobby, along with several gustatory delights to while away the mealtimes.

More on this topic is available on page 6 and a registration form is provided on page 10 for all those who think this conference would be their cup of tea. Please consider joining us July 27 and 28.

Now, on with the club news.

## **Texas Roundup!**

*Again, here is what's on the menu around the state for water gardening enthusiasts. This information is presented alphabetically, club by club.*



### **Amarillo Koi Society**

Gary Floyd forwarded the following information pertaining to their current goals and activities:

- The Amarillo Koi Society "AKS" is still trying to get its 501c3 status. (LATE BREAKING NEWS: They officially have their new status, according to a new July first email: Editor)
- The BCS pond is finished but with a twist. They decided to make the water feature a fountain. It can be converted to a pond if they decide to do that later.
- Our club will be attending and entering fish in the Denver Koi show in August. We expect to enter five fish in various classes for size and variety. The club still would like to have a Koi show within the next five years.
- Some of us will be helping out with the OWG pond tour and will have ponds on the tour on July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- AKS will be changing the club meeting time to the first Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM. We will try this for a while to see if it will help the club grow. For more information about our club, contact me at [garydebbiel@amaonline.com](mailto:garydebbiel@amaonline.com) or call me at 806-353-4798.



### **Austin Pond Society**

*(Ken Harder has provided full details of the upcoming Austin Pond Tour.)*

This year's Pond Tour is shaping up to be one of the most exciting in recent memory. On Saturday and Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July we will showcase 30 ponds from a small DIY hardware store pre-fab up to a park-like nature center backyard and just about everything you could imagine in between. At selected ponds we will be joined by members of the Austin Bonsai Society. They will be showing some of their prized trees and demonstrating the art of Bonsai.

The northern segment on Saturday, from 9am to 5pm features 16 homes in Pflugerville, Wells Branch, Northwest Hills, Hudson Bend Area, Cedar Park, Leander, Round Rock and Georgetown among others. You'll want to see them all if you can, but to highlight some of our member ponds:

- Edmond (N3) and Kendall (N4) who live next door to each other in Wells Branch and have designed a continuous pathway from one house to the other. These two friends are expert Craigslist scavengers and have helped each other with the building of their ponds all along the way.
- Betty (N13) in Leander, maybe the most excited member to have their pond on tour, although nearby new members Kirk & Xenia (N12) in Cedar Park were like kids in a candy shop at the plant swap in May, has created a Texas Ranch feel to her backyard with the help of Ed (S12) out by the lake. Betty's use of limestone and cedar makes you want to hitch your horse, dust off your chaps and set a spell.
- In Round Rock, Fred, Peggy and their son Andy (N15) were inspired by last year's pond tour to add a stream and waterfall, which they did with a flair that complements their nature loving backyard.

Saturday night, three spectacular ponds will open up for a glimpse of how inviting a water feature can be with landscape lighting. Liz & John (N16 & NT1) in

Georgetown, Gary (NT2 & S4) featured as the cover story in the summer issue of Austin Monthly Home and our own Naomi & Bobby (NT3 & S1) the opening segment for Central Texas Gardener's show on the Pond Tour this year. All three are also on during one of the days too, so go twice, it's all included in the price of admission.

Get up early Sunday, because you won't want to miss any of these ponds. Quite a few are large and you may want to linger, so make a day of it to get to all 14 including our special guest, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and their many water features. A few of our member ponds on Sunday include:

- Long time members Jim & Eileen (S9) in South Austin have built a gorgeous water feature with waterfall, stream and pond that most people would die for. Perfect for a suburban home.
- And only a couple miles away are new members Bridgette and John (S8) in Sunset Valley with their converted swimming pool and *Skippy* filter. It's always fun to see brand new ponds get started.
- Recent transplants from California, Andy & Cynthia (S6) have a quiet mountain stream in their hilly backyard. Very nicely done.



*Ken & Diane's pond, 2005 Austin Pond Tour from the Austin Pond Society web site. See more great pictures on [www.austinpondsociety.org](http://www.austinpondsociety.org)*

Of course, there are many more member ponds, such as George & Leanna (N11) under the shade of a big old Oak tree, Steve's & Janet's (N14) sprayed-in beauty designed by Steve and installed by members Janet & Eric of Mermaid Waterscapes and Marc (S2) in Westlake who has added more of everything this year to his canyon estate. Out by the "Y" two 2<sup>nd</sup> year members and returning ponds are Jim & Anna (S10) and Todd &

Monique (S11) who made special plans to *not* be on vacation so they could host visitors to their yard this year. Like all homeowners on tour, they will have one of the best weekends imaginable, it is so much fun to be a pond on tour.

Tickets this year are going to be wristbands. This should help to make it easier showing your paid admittance to each pond and lets everyone walk away with a souvenir of the event. Austin Pond Society members who are current on their dues can purchase 2 wristbands at half price (\$7.50) at our June 18 regular meeting.

Advance wristbands go on sale June 19 on our website, [www.asutinpondsociety.org](http://www.asutinpondsociety.org) and at Hill Country Water Gardens, Emerald Gardens and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for the discounted price of \$12.50 through July 13<sup>th</sup>. Wristbands purchased the day of the event are \$15.00. All wristbands get the wearer admission to all ponds Saturday and Sunday, including the Saturday Night Tour and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on Sunday from 12pm – 5pm.

Watch for the special Pond Tour 2007 section online which will include maps to the homes, wristband sales, T-shirt information (shirts will be sold on the tour) and the exciting new design by member Lonnie Wormley combined with the artistic contribution of member Alisan Clarke. These will be in the colors we selected after polling the members at the May meeting. There will also be an interactive internet map of the tour so, if you have mobile Web connections that weekend, you can get driving directions and descriptions right to your mobile device.



### **Greater Texoma Water Garden Association**

Nothing to report this quarter.



### **Houston Pond Society**

Nothing to report this quarter.



### **Koi and Water Garden Club of North Texas**

*The following report was provided by Arley Hulstrand of KWGCNT:*

The club held a very successful pond tour May 19-20. While some hosts had very few coming through, others had a hundred or more. 14 ponds were open this year.

Instead of the May meeting being in a home, the group met May 12 at the Fair Park Lagoon to continue cleanup work and to place plants in the water. The plants were furnished by the Lewisville Aquatic Research Center. Some plants were caged for protection, others uncaged for an experiment to see which plants fish and turtles eat. Members of the public, Fair Park staff, and even a fourth grade class assisted this day. Lunch was barbecue for 40, and 39 attended. Talk about expert planning!

For their dedicated and diligent work on the Lagoon, Laura Adams and David Jones were honored with certificates of appreciation from Fair Park. Their many volunteer hours of labor, along with those of club members, amounted to a huge dollar value to the Park. Park visitors and staff are thrilled to be able to see into the Lagoon now. There still is much to do, and the project will be on-going.

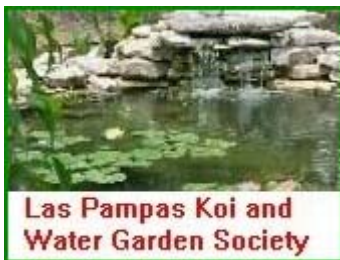
On Saturday, June 2, the club staffed an information table at the Dallas Koi Kichi Group show. Copies of the pond tour booklet and other handouts went quickly. Due to all the rain this spring the weekend was fairly pleasant “under the big top.”

David Jones and Arley Hulstrand attended the Phoenix AKCA conference. David, a well known KHA, gave one of the seminars. David also did a wet lab at the club’s June meeting, and he writes extensively on water quality and koi health matters. The club is fortunate to have access to his knowledge and willingness to help.

Last year, Dottie Hyatt, a bat rehabilitator, gave a program about these marvelous creatures and brought some for us to admire. Now being summer, we are well into “baby bat season.” Several club members became

intrigued with bats, and made themselves available to transport injured bats when possible. The rehabilitators are greatly appreciative, and members really enjoy being able to help. The club has had many wonderful programs about wild animals, large and small. There's a big wide world out there of fascinating garden visitors, and members love to learn about them to understand them better.

Normal meeting times are 11:00 a.m. the second Saturday of each month in members' homes. First comes a business meeting, then a program, then a potluck lunch. At almost every meeting are newcomers who have found the site [www.kwgcnt.org](http://www.kwgcnt.org) and enjoyed the newsletters on site. The club is growing by leaps and bounds, and sometimes it's difficult to squeeze everyone into one house! A fun club!



### Las Pampas Koi and Water Garden Society

Nothing to report this quarter.



### North Texas Water Garden Society

Nothing to report this quarter



### Ogallala Water Gardeners (Amarillo)

*Renee Pate, Secretary of the OWG, provided copies of their minutes from the April and May meetings so other interested ponders can keep up-to-date on the club's activities.*

April 17, 2007

### OWG MINUTES

(website: [www.owg-amarillo.us](http://www.owg-amarillo.us))

#### **Guest Welcomed!**

Gary gave a great **presentation** on ponds, filters and pumps.

**Meeting called to order.** Minutes read, motion made/seconded and minutes accepted.

**TAPS:** Texas Association of Pond Societies sent out a very nice newsletter about the clubs. You can read it at: [www.texaps.org](http://www.texaps.org).

TAPS conference is scheduled for July 27-29<sup>th</sup>. Our club is donating door prizes. Members can bring prizes to June meeting and they will be taken to the convention. The TAPS logo is dragonflies.

**Koi Club:** (<http://webpages.acs.ttu.edu/jonelong/>)

Working on form for IRS

**Pond Tour** is July 14<sup>th</sup>. **WE NEED MORE PONDS ON THE TOUR.** Last year's times:

Day 9 am – 4 pm

Night 9 pm - 11pm.

1. Gary
2. Brett
3. James???
4. Jerry?

Master Gardners will help with the Pond Tour.

**Door prizes** given out.

Move made/seconded to adjourn.

**Meeting adjourned.**

May 15, 2007

### OWG MINUTES

(website: [www.owg-amarillo.us](http://www.owg-amarillo.us))

#### **Guest Welcomed!**

Rhonda gave a great presentation on plants for your pond.

**Meeting called to order.** Minutes read motion made/seconded and minutes accepted.

**TAPS:** Texas Association of Pond Societies Conference is scheduled for July 27-29<sup>th</sup>. Our club is donating door prizes.

**Koi Club:** (<http://webpages.acs.ttu.edu/jonelong/>)

NO REPORT

**Pond Tour** is July 14<sup>th</sup>. Need more ponds on the tour. Going to contact Kimbra, and some of the other garden centers to see if they know of anyone who would like to be on the tour.

**Break** for cookies and drinks

Members who won **door prizes donated them to TAPS for use at the upcoming convention.**

Very short meeting, low attendance.

Volunteers noted to bring cookies and drinks for the next meeting to be held at the Botanical Gardens.

**Meeting adjourned.**



### **Southwest Koi and Pond Association**

*The following article by John S. Manns, the club's Pond Tour Committee Chairman, was provided by Don Harrawood, Treasurer of TAPS and member of SKAPA:*

Members of the Southwest Koi and Pond Association here in El Paso are currently planning for the big fund raising event the year, our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Parade of Ponds tour to be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we will feature eight ponds on the East side of El Paso to be shown on Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, with another eight ponds shown on Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup>. The hours for both days will be from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. One of the big challenges every year for the Pond Tour Committee is rounding up enough volunteers from our 100 family membership roster to properly staff the sixteen pond locations.

We try to provide the pond owner with four additional people at each location to properly handle ticket sales in front, and crowd control and the questions, questions, questions we always get in back by the pond. With attendance now exceeding over 500 each day, it is just too much to expect the pond owner couple to handle the crowd by themselves. We work our volunteers in two shifts of four hours each, which means we need to field a team of 64 people each day of our tour. Fortunately, we have a solid core of about 45 regulars who return every year for active duty, many working both days, and a few dedicated souls who work both shifts on both days. But, that still leaves us about 20 people short that we have to plead with to help us out. So recruiting volunteers remains our biggest headache when trying to pull all the loose ends together as show time approaches.

In addition to fund raising which happens spontaneously as a result of putting on the tour, we try to focus our attention on fishing for potential new members who come out in droves to attend the Parade of Ponds each year. Toward this goal we display story boards showing SKAPA's various civic improvement activities as well as pond construction and koi/water/plant care displays. These always generate a lot of interest from non-members and kind of set the hook for reeling them in.

This year as an added attraction, we will be promoting attendance to an open SKAPA meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, just two weeks after our pond tour. To help bring the new members on board, we are showcasing Carolyn Weise, the Consumer Relationship Manager for Ecological Laboratories Inc. as a guest speaker at our open meeting. Carolyn, a long-time koi and water garden hobbyist, has authored many articles for the best known trade magazines on all phases of pond keeping. She has furthered her reputation while being promoted on the *microbe-lift.com* web site by clicking on, "Ask Carolyn." During our two day event we will be distributing informational packages and free tickets to attend Carolyn's featured presentation concluding with an "Ask Carolyn" segment. We hope to fill all the seats with a boat load of potential new members so that next year we will have a larger membership body from which to recruit eager volunteers.

John S. Manns  
SKAPA Pond Tour Committee Chairman



*Remember six months ago? Remember when it was cool outside? This should help you remember. From the Ogallala Water Gardeners web site where you can find more of this scene and many other pictures at [www.owg-amarillo.us](http://www.owg-amarillo.us).*



**WATER GARDEN SOCIETY**  
of Greater Fort Worth

**Water Garden Society of Greater Fort Worth**

Nothing to report for this quarter.



**International Water Lily and Water Gardening Society**

Nothing to report for this quarter.

**Pond Tour Coordinators**

The following is a list of the contact names for the pond tour coordinators of the TAPS member clubs:

Southwest Koi and Pond Association

SKAPA  
John Manns  
ehengen1@elp.rr.com

Ogallala Water Gardeners

OWG  
Carolyn Wade  
swade2@sbcglobal.net

Austin Pond Society

APS  
Ken Harder  
vp-pondtour@austinpondsociety.org

Koi and Water Garden Club of North Texas

KWGCNT  
Laura Adams  
lbtrfli9@msn.com

Houston Pond Society

HPS  
Dan Cook  
dcook1830@aol.com

North Texas Water Garden Society

NTWGS  
Kevin Wright  
pondtour@ntwgs.org

**Watergardening organizations for Texans in other areas of the state are as follows:**

- Austin** - Austin Koi Society  
<http://www.austinkoiclub.org>
- Dallas Metroplex** - Dallas Koi Kichi  
<http://www.dallaskoikichi.org>
- Pasadena** - Lone Star Koi Club  
<http://www.lonestarkoi.com>
- San Antonio** - Texas Koi & Fancy Goldfish Society  
<http://www.lonestarkoi.com>
- San Antonio** - Water Garden Club of South Texas  
<http://www.southtexaswgc.org>
- Waco** - Waco Pond Society  
<http://www.wacopondsociety.com>



*2005 TAPS Conference, at the Maxwell backyard just before the Friday evening social in Amarillo. These and many more photos are available on the Ogallala Water Gardeners website at [www.owg-amarillo.us](http://www.owg-amarillo.us).*

**Wrapping it up**

Admittedly, the material in this quarterly is less in quantity than in the Spring edition. It is, however, just as high in quality and, we hope, value to all who receive a copy.

The summer season of each year is usually a very active time of the year, usually finding pond and fish enthusiasts either fully occupied putting the final touches on an upcoming pond tour or fully occupied getting away from it all with a well deserved vacation. To all these hobbyists, in either category, we wish you success in achieving your goals again this year and we pass on our hopes that, no matter what you are attempting, it ends up providing you with another season of enjoyable memories.

This is a good place to provide further information on our 2007 TAPS Conference. So far, we have chosen different areas of Texas to highlight for each of our conferences. San Antonio is a logical choice this year because of its central location and because a population that size will have a large number of people either familiar with water gardening or people curious to learn more of what the hobby has to offer.

Starting with Friday evening, an apology is offered to everyone looking for a map to use to get to the private home and pond sanctuary of Dale and Julie Jordan at 8702 Rain Valley Street. No software could be found that would translate the web site map format to one this publication software would accept. It is possible, though, to provide the text portion of that file:

STARTING AT THE INTERSECTION OF LOOP 1604 (ANDERSON LOOP) AND BABCOCK ROAD,

1. Head north on Babcock Road for about 4.5 miles or about 10 minutes;
2. Turn right at Cielo Vista Drive and continue for 0.6 miles or about 2 minutes;
3. Turn left at Monarch Pass Drive and continue for 0.3 miles or about 1 minute;
4. Turn left at Vale Pass Drive and drive 0.1 miles to a
5. Slight left at Rain Valley Street.

When you get to Rain Valley, look for the big, white, two-story house with a tile roof at #8702. The fence out front is stone and wrought iron. You can park with the front of your car to the fence along the street on the grass.

The gathering is for everyone interested in water gardening. Don't hesitate if you enjoy our past-time. The cost is eight dollars and covers the food and drinks for the evening.

On Saturday, the venue switches to Water Garden Gems, a family owned, full service koi and water garden center located in Marion Texas, just 18 miles east of downtown San Antonio. Driving east on Interstate 10, WGG can be found halfway between Exits 593 and 595 on the north side of the interstate at 3136 Bolton Road.

Two speakers will be featured Saturday morning. Dr. Patricia Varner, DVM, PhD, will discuss a wide range of diseases affecting the lives of both koi and goldfish. Anyone attempting to keep koi healthy and happy has, at one point or another, come face to face with the problems of disease and Dr. Varner has seen them all.

Ray Jordan will also share his knowledge and experience with koi with his talk on the history of koi. They have been around for centuries and the knowledge base on this type of carp is indeed extensive.



*San Antonio has ponds that compete with the best of them, as can be seen in this photo from the San Antonio Pond Tour. This picture can be found on the Austin Pond Society web site along with many others at [www.austinpondsociety.org](http://www.austinpondsociety.org)*

In the afternoon, two more speakers are featured. Malcolm Johnson, Johnson Lake Management, has had years of experience with fish as well, except his specialty is with our own native fishes. He will cover many of them along with the pros and cons of incorporating them in our personal water gardens.

Finally, Chris Mills will tackle a subject near and dear to many of our hearts, keeping our ponds sparkling clean. Chris will explain a range of filtration systems and how each might fit ponds of different sizes and purses of different resources.

As to food for the day, Saturday's breakfast is left to the discretion of individual participants. There is no shortage of good breakfasts easily found in the area.

Lunch will be provided right on the site of the convention. It is a grilled extravaganza designed to save time and gasoline but everyone is reminded that many other choices are available in surrounding towns or back in downtown San Antonio.

Dinner will be the finishing event and gustatory interlude on the River Walk in central San Antonio. It will be hosted at Casa Rio, which can be found at 430 East Commerce Street near where the River Walk ducks under Commerce Street near Losoya Street. Even if you take your time with dinner, there will be ample time to stroll along the river and enjoy some of the tourist sights.

As in the past, we have tried to assemble a program that will delight and inform as many people as possible and we hope that many of the people who get this quarterly will be convinced to experience it with us. To make it official, use the official registration form provided on page 10. When it comes to water gardeners, the more the merrier.



A north Austin pond, “Mark’s pond”, on the 2005 Austin Pond Tour. More photos of this pond and many others can be found on the APS web site at [www.austinpondsociety.org](http://www.austinpondsociety.org)

## Closing

As a parting gesture, I offer another article that was written several years ago for the Austin Pond Society’s *Ripples*. It should be self explanatory.

### THE LIGHTER SIDE OF PONDING

By Carl French

Many beginners to ponding miss out on the wisdom of conversations swirling around them at our monthly meetings because they don’t fully understand the nuances of meaning to the words used by the more experienced ponder (see “Old-timer” below). The following list, not in alphabetical order, is designed to rip away the veil of obfuscation and provide meaningful definitions for our more common terms. Just so you know:

**Water** – The clear, sparkling medium that makes a pond possible. Initially, it is beautifully clear and sparkling. After that, it refuses to stay clear or sparkling or to support life. Or all three.

**Water feature** – anything you can think of, based on water, that you initially feel will beautify your property

and soothe your daily stress away. Also, see “Pond”, “Bog”, and “Container garden” below.

Exceptions: Normally, people with flooded cellars are not considered ponders. Despite the fact many cellars are enhanced when covered with water, they are not enhanced in value and do not beautify the property. A further complication is that wives tend to become very stressed during such times, further complicating matters. Besides, plants and fish refuse to live in a flooded cellar. And, no, placing a goldfish and a geranium in a toilet bowl does NOT qualify, either.

**Pond** – A body of water usually located near someone’s home which is supposed to be quiet, soothing and economical but proves to be noisy all through spring, stressful most of the year and way more costly during its useful lifetime than you ever planned. Ponds are usually separated into three categories; leaky, smelly or clogged with algae.

**Bog** – That neat area alongside your pond in which you intended to raise some neat plants but which turned out to be a not-so-neat pig wallow with an attitude. After awhile, even flies stay away and the neighbor is still upset about where her cat suddenly sank out of sight. Usually the best solution is to pour in a truckload of tar, put up a big sign advertising “La Brea – See the Pleistocene cat!” and charge admission.

**Container garden** – Any of a number of miniature water gardens built into anything that will hold water long enough to breed enough mosquitoes to cover an entire section of town. It is not uncommon for a container garden to end its existence when a raccoon, stray dog or neighbor’s cat tips the whole thing over.

**Fish** – That favorite first accessory to the pond that provides for one of two possible situations:

1. You’re driven crazy trying to provide all the equipment and services they require to survive; or
2. You’re driven crazy by the sudden arrival of a million offspring. If not, then you’re driven crazy by them not producing a single one.

**Predators** – Any one of several thousand other living things that swim, crawl, walk, slither or fly and which are capable of wrapping their jaws around a living fish. Predators are largely nonexistent in any given neighborhood until the evening after a pond is built.

**Disease** – What will polish off any fish that predators don’t get first.

**Plant** – One of those green things you can plant in water and which will die inside a week; or

- One of those green things you can plant in water and, as soon as you turn your back, invades the entire pond and half the yard; or

- One of those green things that's supposed to have pretty flowers you can plant in water and it just sits there and never develops a flower: or

- One of those green things you can plant in water which is immediately consumed by every six-legged creepy-crawly in the state of Texas. You can spray the new plants with insecticide but this will wipe out all your fish and any other vertebrate life in the pond. It's one or the other with insecticides so review your priorities.

**Bamboo** – an excellent plant, usually discovered early on by the beginner, which

- needs no care,
- needs no attention,
- needs no fertilizer

and which still insists on growing. Usually, bamboo can surround an entire neighborhood in six weeks. Not easily removed. Best solution: Sell your house and move to another house across town. Keep checking the local news in the newspaper and on TV; you may have to move again.



*Friday afternoon social for the 2005 TAPS Conference in Amarillo. Great crowd, great food, lots of fun. This photo is from the Ogallala Water Gardeners web site along with loads more at [www.owg-amarillo.us](http://www.owg-amarillo.us).*

**Water lily** – Usually, the first plant you always put in a shady part of the pond that refuses to put up even one decent blossom; or

- Usually, the only plant you can afford, which your favorite koi immediately eat for breakfast; or

- Usually, the one plant that finally grows and puts up beautiful pads on the water's surface and which the kid next door blasts full of holes with his pellet rifle because he can't find any fish at the surface; or

- The one type of plant that can be counted on to provide you an entire summer's worth of yellow, dying leaves full of brown-edged holes.

**Frog** – (see "Toad" below)

**Toad** – A small amphibian that you thought was a frog. As a matter of fact, you might STILL be claiming it's a frog. Frogs are too smart to put up with artificial ponds and therefore avoid them. Toads, on the other hand, are obviously fatter, can't leap as far and are therefore lazier and more willing to put up with the confusing conditions in your pond. Besides, they only need it for a week each spring, during which time they are capable of driving your family and several adjacent families to distraction. Although toads are loved most of the year, during the spring is when most people would like to see them croak. Once toads do use your pond in the spring, it is immediately reduced to a seething mass of brownish black protoplasm.

**Neighbor** – Anyone living adjacent to you who:

- says you're crazy when you mention your plans to build a pond;
- insists you must be out of your mind while you're building it;
- swears you've lost your sanity when you show it to him during the first six months; and then
- threatens to have you committed when his favorite cat drowns in it while trying to catch the fish.

**Old-timer** – Almost anyone of any age who has suffered most at the hand of ponding and who is no longer dismayed by ANYTHING! Whereas a novice will explode in a tirade of ranting when he or she sees a heron ingesting a beautiful and favorite koi, the old-timer just sits and grins. Many medical professionals refer to this frame of mind as "burn-out".

**Expert** – Usually an old-timer unfortunate enough to have accrued many years of misfortunes and misadventures in a specific field, in this case, ponding. The word consists of two parts; "ex" meaning roughly a has-been and "spurt", a drip under pressure. Does this clear things up any?

Have a great summer, everyone!

Carl L. French  
Editor

TAPS 2007 Convention  
 Registration Form  
 July 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Water Garden Gems  
 Marion, TX 78124  
 Just a few minutes from San Antonio

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Friday Evening</b>	Friday Evening Social & Bar-B-Que Dinner Dale & Julie Jordan
<b>Saturday Program</b>	Program and Lunch at Water Garden Gems
<b>Saturday Evening</b>	6:30 Saturday Night Dinner at Casa Rio on the River meal & beverage included in price - cash bar extra

*Please indicate number attending each function*

Friday Evening \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Program \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 12.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Evening \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form along with your check to be received by 7/20/07  
 Make check payable to **NTWGS** and mail to:

**TAPS**  
**c/o JMC**  
**2611 Perth**  
**Dallas, TX**  
**75220**