

# Utah Water Garden & Koi Club

March 2017 Issue



Our February meeting was so much fun to see each other again after our long cold winter season! Red Butte was a nice warm place to have our first meeting of 2017 and we can't wait to be pond side in a few months. We got to hear about growing Koi from Andy Moo owner of Andrew's Koi International, a very knowledgeable koi breeder and seller from Anaheim, CA. He talked about filtration, feeding, bring out koi colors, how to make them grow quickly and much more! He was pretty funny too!. Check out his web site at

Andrewskoi.com. We had a fabulous Q&A and we hope that everyone went away with new knowledge about their fish. We stuffed our faces with a wonderful assortment of fresh pies and flavored hot chocolates and coffee. All in all it was a very good evening.

### What's New?

**Membership dues are now due for 2017. Dues are \$40 for a couple and \$30 for a single.**

**THE CLUB WANTS YOU! POND TOUR HOMES FOR 2017. Be thinking about being on the pond tour for this year. We need pictures and description of your pond by the end of April. The tour is August 5-6 this year. If you have any questions or you feel your pond is not ready for pictures by April, use an old picture or we can send someone out to get some good pictures for you. If you have any questions call Shirley at 702-302-6315.**

**As of 2017, the Utah Water Garden Club is now called the Utah Water Garden and Koi Club. Please support our sponsors (see end of newsletter).**

**Anyone have a suggestion for a newsletter topic, story or have a fish recipe you would like us to include in a future newsletter? If you do, email us at [trout42@hotmail.com](mailto:trout42@hotmail.com) – we'd love to hear from you!**



### March

March 16, 2017, 7:00 pm  
Cactus and Tropicals, 12252 Draper Gate Dr.  
(1325 East), Draper  
*(Wheelchair accessible)*  
Topic: Koi, Protecting the Health of your Fish  
Speaker: Terry Maxfield

### April

April 20, 2017, 7:00 pm  
Utah Water Gardens, 3674 South 900 East  
Salt Lake City  
*(Wheelchair accessible)*  
Topic: Unique Marginal Plants  
Speaker: Botanist Sheida

### May

May 18, 2017, 7:00 pm  
Flint Home, 5310 Baywood Circle, Holliday  
Topic: Outdoor Lighting Design  
Speaker: Keith Rosser

### June

June 15, 2017, 7:00 pm  
Larsen Home, 1925 Spring Lane, Holladay  
Annual BBQ and Auction

### July

July 20, 2017, 7:00 pm  
Wagstaff Home, 2414 Granite Hills Circle,  
Sandy  
Topic: Bog Gardens and Bog Filters  
Speaker: Jim Purcell,  
Oregon Aquatic Nursery

### August

August 5-6, 2017  
2017 Pond Tour  
Various Locations, see Pond Tour book for  
locations



## Upcoming Events in our Area

**April 1-2, 2017 Zna Nor-Cal National Koi Show** at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. San Jose, California

**June 10, 2017, Tooele County Master Gardener's Spring Garden Tour.** Hosted by the USU Extension (Tooele) and the Tooele County Master Gardeners Association. Tour and event proceeds are used to promote annual Arbor Day activities and programs. Utah State University Extension is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educational institution. **We will have a booth at the Summer Blast at Benson Grist Mill on Hwy 138 in Stansbury Park to promote our pond tour! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MAN OUR BOOTH. Please call Shirley 702-302-6315 to help. It will be Friday, June 9.**

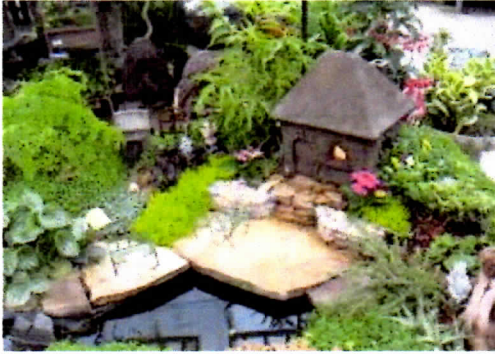
**June 17-18, 2017, Reno Nevada Water and Rails Pond Tour.** This is a unique tour that incorporates ponds and garden model railroads.

**June 24-25, 2017, The 11th Annual Purely Ponds Parade of Ponds, Colorado Springs, Colorado** and the surrounding area. Self-guided charity pond and waterfall tour with tour stops throughout. In benefit of the local Boys & Girls Club.

**July 29-30, 2017, Pikes Peak Water Garden Society Pond Tour in the Colorado Springs, Colorado area.**



## Down in the Garden with Rosie



By Rosie Cobbley

### Rock Gardens for Water Conservation

Rocks and water visually compliment each other. Why not take out some underused areas of lawn, especially close to a water feature, and expand the beauty of the pond into a larger, updated, landscape just by adding a rock garden. I don't mean the traditional, low rocks with tiny plants, which still have a place – No! Let's go bigger! Build a rock garden you can use as a destination, a flagstone path leading to a small sitting area, maybe add a bird bath for our feathered friends, if you have enough room, add a small flowering tree. Hey! Why not take out the front lawn while you're at it!



Look at how rocks are positioned in a natural landscape—larger rocks are buried to the fattest part, some have fallen at an angle, some are close, some have bigger pockets where a small tree can grow. Smaller rocks can be added to support planting areas on a slope, or you can build a substantial berm, and bury the bottom

part of all the boulders to form a crevice garden, planting in the small gaps between with succulents, alpines, and bulbs. Use a planting medium of sandy loam and organic compost, and if you are building the rock garden on top of a clay soil, you need to first break up the top layers with peat moss, vermiculite and organic matter, so that you can maintain good drainage.

**Watering.** Use a drip watering system, with small bubblers and sprayers, separate from your lawn sprinklers, as the needs of the rock garden are considerably less than lawn. By Hydrozoning this way, you will save water.

**Planting.** Think outside the box here! I like to use some dwarf conifers, small perennial grasses, sub shrubs like lavender and catmint, as these will remain the 'bones' of the rock garden all through the winter. In a bigger planting area, place a small flowering crab-apple, for the punch of color in the Spring. Many of the traditional rock garden plants are Spring-blooming- Rock Cress, Alpine plants, Lewisii, so it would be good to plant for summer and fall too. Our Nurseries are carrying a lot more native and adapted plants these days, with choices such as Zinnia grandiflora, a stunning yellow flowering ground cover, ice plant, hardy succulents, sedums both large and small, Sundancer Daisy, Penstemons, Chocolate Flower, Buckwheat, Scarlet Gilia, to name a few.

Your new Rock Garden will pay you back for all the hard work- all winter you can enjoy the view, knowing that not only are you saving water, you are going to spend less time maintaining it- hopefully more time relax in it during the Summer!



## *Are you just being Koi?*



### **Koi Behavior**

Knowing your koi fish and how they interact with the world around them is essential to koi keeping. Recognizing patterns of behavior through the different times of the year will provide you insight with your pond. It can also keep your fish healthier and happier and will allow you to more quickly diagnose any problem that comes up. Here's a guide to the many varieties of koi fish behavior!

### **A Friendly and Healthy Koi**

Koi are a friendly fish. Upon arrival in your pond, they may take time adjusting and familiarizing themselves. After quarantining your koi, set a feeding schedule and stick to it. Once these koi have become accustomed to their new environment and to you, they will get friendlier. When feeding them, make sure to sit by the pond so that they learn to recognize you. Koi that grow comfortable enough with their keepers will come to the surface and eat out of their hands. They may even leap out of the water as you walk by!



**FEED ME!**

### **Stressed Koi**

Koi act differently when they're stressed, which comes from new or unfamiliar situations. They also hate quick changes – especially when

being moved into a new pond or tank, or rapid temperature fluctuations. A stressed out koi may skip out on a feeding by hanging near the floor of the pond. They may become less friendly and more lethargic. Sometimes stressed koi will jump or rub against the edges of a pond. Stress also manifests itself in koi fins. They may look bloodshot or ragged at the edges. There are many factors that result in a stressed koi. They may be threatened by predators outside of the pond. The water may have been polluted by fertilizer run-off. Or, the problem could be inside the pond. Run a water test to make sure all chemical needs are being met. If the pond is overpopulated, this may also be stressing your koi out too. An over-populated pond may cause some strange behavior in your koi. Sick Koi  
A stressed koi will often become a sick koi, as stress weakens the immune system. While each sickness will have its own symptoms to watch for, there are a few major signs that signal your koi fish is ill. One indicator of sickness in your koi fish is their behavior. If they are speeding around the pond or acting sluggish, they may be sick. If their once-graceful swimming is now clumsy and uncoordinated, they may be under the weather. An isolated koi may be sheltering itself from predators.

### **Leaping Koi**

If your koi are taking leaps or gasping at the surface of the pond, this may mean there is too little oxygen in the water. Consider various oxygenating options. Perform a partial water change, clean the filters, and vacuum out any debris. If the pond is very deep with little surface area, enough oxygen may not be entering and circulating through the water. You may want to consider expanding the pond or even installing a waterfall or fountain to naturally aerate the water. Oxygenating pond plants will also naturally add more oxygen to the water. Other signs that your koi pond is oxygen deficient are excessive algae growth and strong odors.

Learning to recognize the different koi fish behaviors in your pond is an essential part of koi keeping. With a little familiarity you could be fixing problems in your pond in no time!

## Ihop The Ponder Frog



### *Ponders to turtle or not to turtle*

It's a love hate relationship with our friends the turtles. They are fun to watch and feed, but they have some bad habits that include eating pond lilies, taking long walk-about, and, of course, pooping! Red Eared Sliders can grow up to 12 inches and can live over 20 years so it is a serious commitment to decide to turtle! Ponder thought he should provide some information for those thinking about getting a turtle, or for those of us that already have one (or more!).

**The Pond:** The depth of a turtle pond will vary a bit depending on the species, but should have a relatively large surface area (which provides better oxygen levels in the water). Red Eared Sliders and some other turtles can handle a deeper pond, while some turtles prefer to be in shallower water, so again consider the natural habits of the turtle species when planning your pond. Try to have varied levels of water with slopes between them. A shallow area where the turtle can sit in the water with its head out of the water is desirable as well. You can use a preformed pond liner, a flexible pond liner (get the heaviest one, as turtles have fairly sharp claws), or any large water vessel such as a plastic kids pool sunk into the ground.

**Basking Area:** This is very important. You must provide a log, plank, bricks or rock for the turtle to get out of the water and bask in the sun. Arrange your basking area so it is partially submerged so your turtle can easily get out of the water onto the basking area. The basking area should get sunlight for a good portion of the afternoon.

**Land Area:** Turtles do like to get out for a stroll, so include some land around the pond in your fenced area. Provide hiding spots and shaded areas both in the water and out of the water. Large leafed plants (aquatic or on land) work well, as do clay plant pots placed on their sides.

**Plants:** Keep in mind turtles can do a lot of damage to aquatic plants (both by eating them and swimming around them), so if your pond plants are a source of pride, adding a turtle to your pond might not be the best idea. However, water plants provide shade and shelter as well as extra food so they are a great addition to turtle ponds. Water lettuce, water hyacinth, fairy moss, anarchis or fish weed (sometimes called Elodea), Cabomba, and tape grass are recommended. Marginal plants like dwarf cattails, dwarf rushes and dwarf papyrus also help naturalize the pond edge.

**Oxygenation:** The levels of oxygen in the water can be improved by the addition of waterfalls, fountains, external filters and airstones. This is especially important in cold weather.

**What About Fish?** One great advantage to larger ponds is that you can add feeder guppies and goldfish and your turtle can keep busy hunting. However, if you prefer ornamental fish like koi, caution is warranted. Some turtles are quite avid hunters and may even try to nibble on larger fish which can cause injuries to them (especially fins and tails). It is somewhat individual, as some well-fed turtles won't bother chasing fish, while others have a stronger hunting instinct. Also, water quality can be harder to control with turtles in the pond, which can affect the fish.

**What to feed?** Commercial pellets are fairly nutritious, are certainly convenient, and are beneficial since they contain a good mix of vitamins and minerals. However, offering a wide variety of foods is better than solely feeding a commercial turtle pellet, as a variety of fresh food offers a wider range of nutrients in different forms (which may even be absorbed better when fed in the natural state). Feeding a variety of items is also more stimulating to the turtle and a good form of enrichment. Live prey items are especially enriching, as they give turtles an opportunity to exercise by hunting as they would in the wild. Generally, try limiting pellets to about 25% of the diet, making up the rest with items from the following list:

**Prey items:** Earthworms, crickets, waxworms, silkworms, aquatic snails, bloodworms, daphnia,

shrimp, krill, and meal worms. For very small turtles, prey may have to be cut into smaller pieces. Larger turtles can be offered larger items like tadpoles or feeder fish, though some experts warn that feeder fish may be carrying parasites, etc. and some fish (like goldfish) are too fatty to be fed regularly.

**Leafy greens:** Collard greens, mustard greens, dandelion greens, kale, and bok choy. Head (iceberg) lettuce should never be fed as it contains very little nutrition but dark green leaf lettuces (e.g romaine) can be fed sparingly. Make sure you feed items with appropriate calcium to phosphorous levels.

**Aquatic plants:** Submerged plants like anacharis are often eaten as are water hyacinth, water lettuce, duckweed, azolla (fairy moss), and frog-bit and of course water lilies (grrrr..)

**Other vegetables:** Carrots (tops are fine too), squash, and green beans.



*The Turtle*  
*by Ogden Nash*

*The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks  
Which practically conceal its sex.  
I think it clever of the turtle  
In such a fix to be so fertile.*



*Submit a fishy recipe for our newsletter to [trout42@hotmail.com](mailto:trout42@hotmail.com)*

## **Asiago Parmesan Albacore Tuna Melt**

**Submitted by Shirley Simmonds**

Makes 3 sandwiches

- 1 7oz. can solid white albacore tuna, drained and broken up with a fork
- 6 slices bread, prefer 100% whole multigrain wheat
- 2-3 TBS mayo or softened butter
- 1-2 TBS grated Parmesan cheese
- 12 slices of Asiago cheese
- 3 TBS onion, diced
- 1 1/2 C fresh baby spinach leaves
- 3 TBS balsamic vinegar (optional)

Spread mayo or butter on one side of each bread, and coat with Parmesan cheese. Place face down on hot skillet or griddle. portion ingredients, layer with asiago cheese, onion, tuna, spinach and then again in the same order. Place other piece of bread on top with buttered side up. Cook both sides about 2-3 minutes each or until golden brown and cheese is melted.

Serve hot with a side of vinegar to dip if desired.



*Daniel's Photo Corner*



*Photos by our Historian, Daniel Peel*



## This Year's Pond Tour Sponsors

Please visit our merchants who have been so generous in sponsoring this pond tour. Without their help we would not be able to provide these quality tour books and put on as great a tour as people in the community have come to appreciate. Keep this book for future reference. If you are planning on building a pond the sponsors listed here will be glad to offer help and advice along with the best prices in town. This is also a handy phone book to many of the pond suppliers in Utah, as well as an address guide of your future friends, should you join our club!

Cactus and Tropicals	801-485-2542	2735 South 2000 East
Cactus and Tropicals	801-676-0935	12252 South Draper Gates Dr.
Glover Nursery	801-562-5496	9275 South 1300 West
Millcreek Gardens	801-487-4131	3500 South 900 East
Moving Water Landscaping	904-335-7656	
Pendleton Ponds & Landscaping	801-453-0067	
Printing Express	801-567-1888	9091 South 700 East
Steve Regan Company	801-268-4500	4215 South 500 West
Schmidt's Farm & Greenhouse	801-566-5735	9210 South Redwood Road
Utah Koi	800-270-4211	3494 West 6925 South
Utah Water Gardens	801-590-8516	3674 South 900 East
Wasatch Koi & Water Gardens	801-487-1363	1890 East Millbrook Dr.
Wasatch Shadows Nursery	801-566-0608	9295 South 255 West

Special thanks to our other club sponsors:

Parker and Robert Bautner

Last but not least, thank-you to all of our members and pond tour homes. Without all of your help we would not be able to put on such nice tours.

## Club Officers

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