

HAPPY
Memorial
DAY

Celebrate ★ Honor ★ Remember



May Newsletter

First, THANK YOU to all who supported our May meeting at Red Butte Garden. We had a great attendance, enjoyed their lovely gardens, and learned about landscape design principles.

Our June meeting will be at Kelly and Julie Flint’s home. Julie will talk about a new trend – patio ponds. Can you replicate many of the standard pond features (plants, moving water, etc.) in a small, contained space? Yes! Come learn how.

Finally, many thanks to Lewis Wayman for his amazing work in lining up sponsors! Please be sure to check out our sponsor page, and then support these companies. We appreciate them and their support of our club and water gardening in Utah.

See you in June!



Water Conservation tip of the month

Covering about one-half of your pond with water lilies and other aquatic plants such as water hyacinth greatly reduces evaporation.



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What is Algae?

Algae is a common nuisance to pond owners, especially in the summer. Sunshine, warm temperatures, reduced oxygen levels and an abundance of nutrients nurture the tiny organisms, and in no time, they may take over your pond.



Algae Explained

Algae does not have a defined root system and often floats on the pond's surface in mats, although it may emerge at the pond's bottom before floating to the surface or even turn the water green. Before treating, it is important to understand the varieties of algae and where they live in an aquatic ecosystem.

June Meeting

Our June meeting will be at 7:00 pm on June 16 at the Flints' pond — 5310 S. Baywood Circle in Holladay. Our speaker will be Julie Matis Flint, who will teach us about patio container ponds. We hope to see you there!

2022 Meeting Schedule

- **June 16** - Flints' pond – Patio ponds
- **July 21** - watch for details
- **August 18** - Annual barbeque at the Schrauf & Henrie pond
- **September 15** - watch for details
- **October 20** - Annual Banquet

The three most common types of algae found in large ponds or lakes are:

- **Planktonic Algae:** Floating microscopic plants that are suspended in the water column and can quickly alter the water different shades of green, blue-green, brown or variations in between. Commonly referred to as pea soup, planktonic algae can shade the pond's bottom, preventing subsurface nuisance plants from growing, but it can also be a great danger to fish, possibly causing a fish kill if the oxygen depletion is great enough.
- **Filamentous Algae:** Long threads that grow from the bottom up and intertwine to form mats. Most commonly called pond scum or string algae, the mats will often float to the surface of the pond and will not break apart in your hand. The floating algae can easily cover the entire surface of the pond if left untreated.
- **Chara:** An advanced form of algae and has gray-green branched multicellular algae. Chara has 6 to 16 leaf-like whorled branchlets that grow in spirals around the stem with thorn-like projections. Chara will not grow to the surface and is often mistaken for submerged plants like Naiad but lacks flowers, true leaves and roots. It is easily identified by its strong musky odor when crushed and its gritty texture due to calcium deposits on the plant.

Algae Pros and Cons

Surprisingly, algae has many benefits to a pond's ecosystem. The tiny plants feed fish and make great homes for micro- and macro-invertebrates like bugs and worms. But algae has its definite drawbacks. Besides being unsightly and odorous, uncontrolled blooms can cause oxygen depletion, uncontrolled blooms can cause oxygen depletion, affect fish, and in extreme circumstances, cause fish kills.

Proactive Approach

The best way to fight algae and weed growth is to be proactive about pond management. With the use of pond dyes to shade the water, bacteria augmentation and sub-surface aeration, you will be on your way to addressing the root of the problem — excess nutrients and sunlight.

Know Your Koi: Goromo



Of all the beautiful varieties of koi that have been developed over the years, to me the Ai Goromo takes the prize as the most amazing accomplishment by the breeders of Japan. Ai Goromo is easily recognized by the delicate blue edging, or reticulation, on each red scale on a pattern of what would otherwise be a kohaku. Its cousin, the Goshiki, is an interesting contrast with its typical blue edging on the white. These two varieties are frequently combined as a single variety for koi show purposes.

Two sub-types of Goromo, Sumi Goromo and Budo Goromo, are not as elegant or refined in appearance, and consequently don't generally compete very well in shows against a good Ai Goromo. Sumi Goromo has a much darker and heavier edging, and the Budo Goromo has "grape clusters" (translation of "Budo") mixed in with the normal reticulation. These two sub-types can sometimes be mistaken as shiro utsuri (black and white koi) due to the dark ai (blue) almost completely covering the red, but if you look closely you will see the red appear as a dark purple thru the almost black pattern.

Ai Goromo was probably developed by crossing an Asagi with a Kohaku. As a result of this cross, the Ai Goromo inherited a striking bluish-white background from its Asagi parent.

When selecting a young Ai Goromo, look for one with an attractive kohaku pattern and with reticulation that is barely visible if at all. This is why this variety is such a challenge to collect. You must be sure of the parentage, and even then there can be no guarantee that the reticulation will come, or that it will be even. The reticulation tends to darken and thicken with age, so if you buy a young (one or two years old) Goromo that appears to be a nearly finished Ai Goromo, the chance is very good that it will darken and become either a Budo or a Sumi Goromo. If, on the other hand, you are lucky enough to find one that develops into this most rare beauty, with each red scale outlined in a thin crescent-moon of blue, it will take your breath away.



Ai Goromo



Budo Goromo



Sumi Goromo

Why is my water foamy?



Is foamy water making your pond look more like the inside of a washing machine than an aquatic oasis? All that bubbly white or gray buildup is likely being caused by an excess of organic material in the water.

Accumulation happens when too many fish are living in the pond, you're overfeeding them, filtration is inadequate or there's runoff seeping into your water garden. Then, as the water flows down your waterfall, air and water collide, causing the proteins and other organics to be trapped inside bubbles rather than turning into ammonia and nitrites. Air-water collision is why the foam forms, particularly the base of your waterfall.

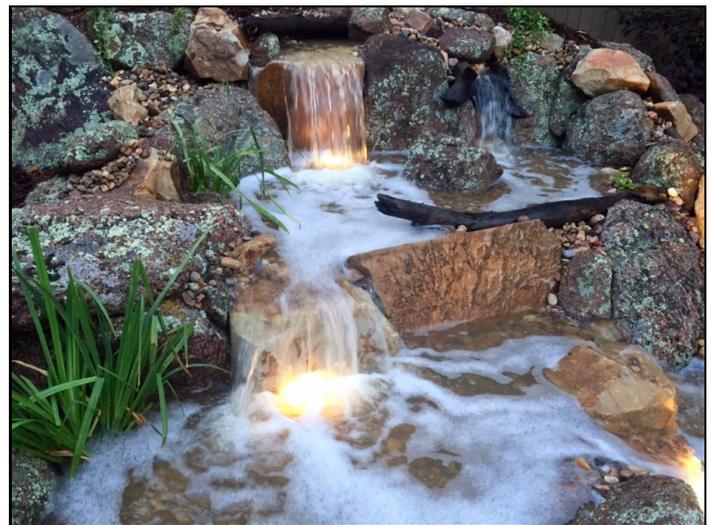
What's the solution?

Short-term, you can change out part of the pond's water to remove the foam. When you do, be sure to add some antichlor or water conditioner to the fresh water. In addition, defoaming chemicals, like Defoam, RapidClear and Foam-B-Gone are available commercially that you can use to treat your water.

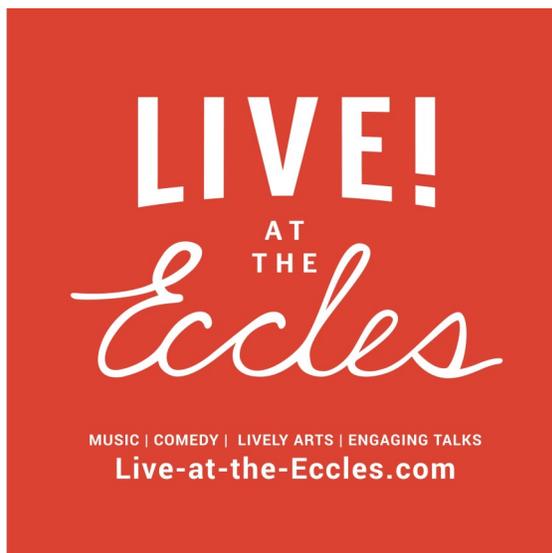
Long-term, you have several options:

- **Increase Filtration:** Boost your filtration by adding plants to your pond or increasing the capacity of your existing filtration system.
- **Relocate Fish:** Too many fish will produce excess waste, which means more foam. The rule is to allow 1-2 koi or 2-3 goldfish per 200 gallons of water, so if you have too many koi or goldfish in your pond, you might want to think about finding new homes for some of them.
- **Cut Back on Meals:** If you're feeding your fish too much or too often, the excess food adds to the extra organic material in your pond's water. Only feed your fish an amount they'll eat in a few minutes.
- **Add Nutrient-Eating Bacteria:** To help break down the nutrient load in the water, add beneficial bacteria. They digest the dead organics in the pond, making the water crystal clear and foam free.
- **Aerate the Water:** **Aeration** will also help reduce the nutrient load by circulating the water column and feeding fresh oxygen to the busy bacteria.

Foamy water can be a nuisance, but once you achieve some balance in your pond's ecosystem, those bubbles will disappear in no time.



Thank you to our sponsors!



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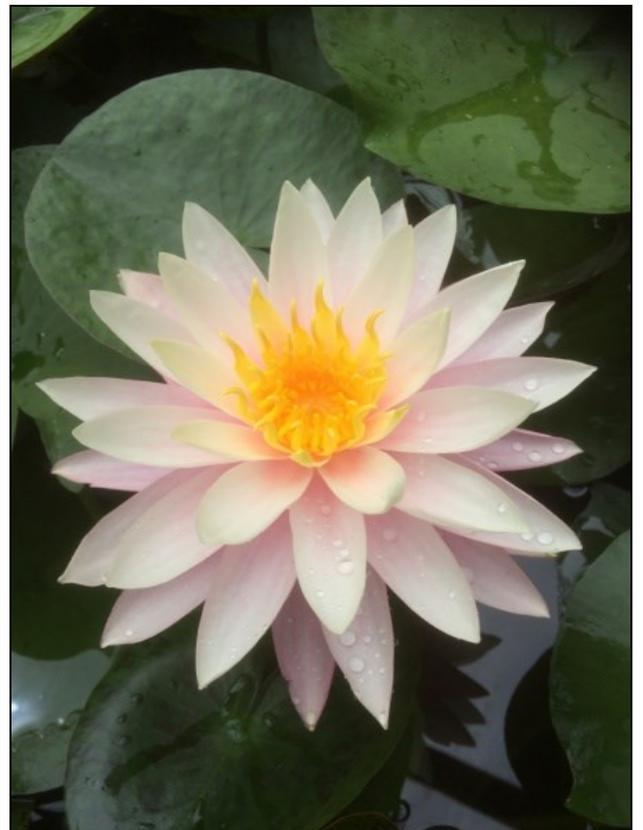
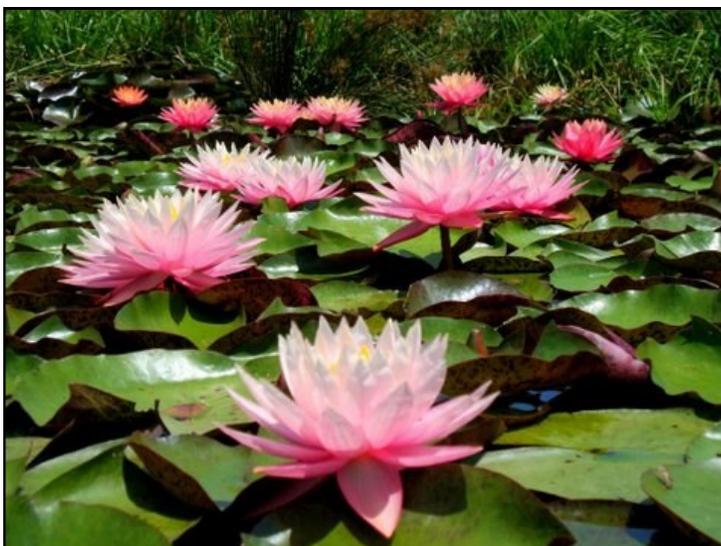
*Designs of
the Heart*



Know Your Water Lilies — Mayla

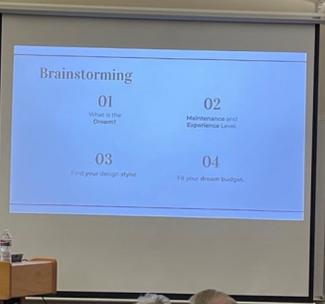


Nymphaea 'Mayla' is a hardy water lily and one of the most fragrant on the market. It displays a 6"-9" star shaped, hot fuchsia pink flower and green leaves. The flower floats unless it is in very shallow water, and has a sweet fragrance. Mayla is a good bloomer, spreads 5'-9' in 6" to 11' of water. Once established, it is very free-flowering. It is best suited for large water gardens, and is slightly shade tolerant.



Our May Meeting





WIFI:
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P: 1234567890
S: 1234567890
M: 1234567890



Who we are

The Utah Water Garden Club is a non-profit organization serving the greater Wasatch Front. We strive to foster an appreciation for and interest in the use of water in the landscape, through monthly meetings, educational programs, an annual pond tour, and sharing our water gardening experiences. We are a group of volunteers dedicated to water gardening, pond keeping, and koi. Our members range from novices to commercial professionals.

Our annual Water Garden Tour is a self-guided tour of outstanding local gardens. We were excited to again hold our tour last year, and are looking forward to this year. Watch for details in future newsletters and on the Club's website at UtahWaterGardenClub.org



Club Officers & Directors

Officers

President: Daniel Peel
435-660-0784
danielpeel@me.com

Vice-President: Kelly Flint
801-274-3040
kflint3040@msn.com

Secretary: Zoe Godbois
435-623-5100
zoecast@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lewis Wayman
801-916-2500
lwayman@stylecraftframes.com

Board of Directors

Ty Rosser
801-995-8521
ty@utahlights.com

Gil Avellar
801-572-0853
trout42@hotmail.com

Michael Henrie
435-565-1618
henrie.michael@gmail.com

Richard Cobbley
Past President
801-641-0179
randcobb@comcast.net

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801-916-2500