

May Newsletter

Dear Ponders and Gardeners,

Happy May! We hope your ponds and gardens are thriving. A big Thank You to all who came to our April kick-off meeting at Red Butte. Rosie Cobbley led an informative tour of the daffodils and gardens. Julie Matis Flint presented information on how to grow both hardy and tropical water lilies.

For our May meeting, we will meet on **Wednesday, May 22nd** (instead of the usual Thursday) to accommodate our guest speaker and host. We will meet at the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's **Water Conservation Garden Park**, 8275 South 1300 West in West Jordan. (Note that, due to construction, you must access 1300 West from 90th South.) Mike Lorenc, who is the Lead Garden Horticulturist, will discuss water conservation. We will meet in the front building, with additional parking to the rear. Those parking in the rear can walk through the garden to the front education building.

This is a **plant exchange!** Bring any extra plants you have — all plants are acceptable, not just pond plants. Please label all plants. Hope to see you Wednesday, May 22.

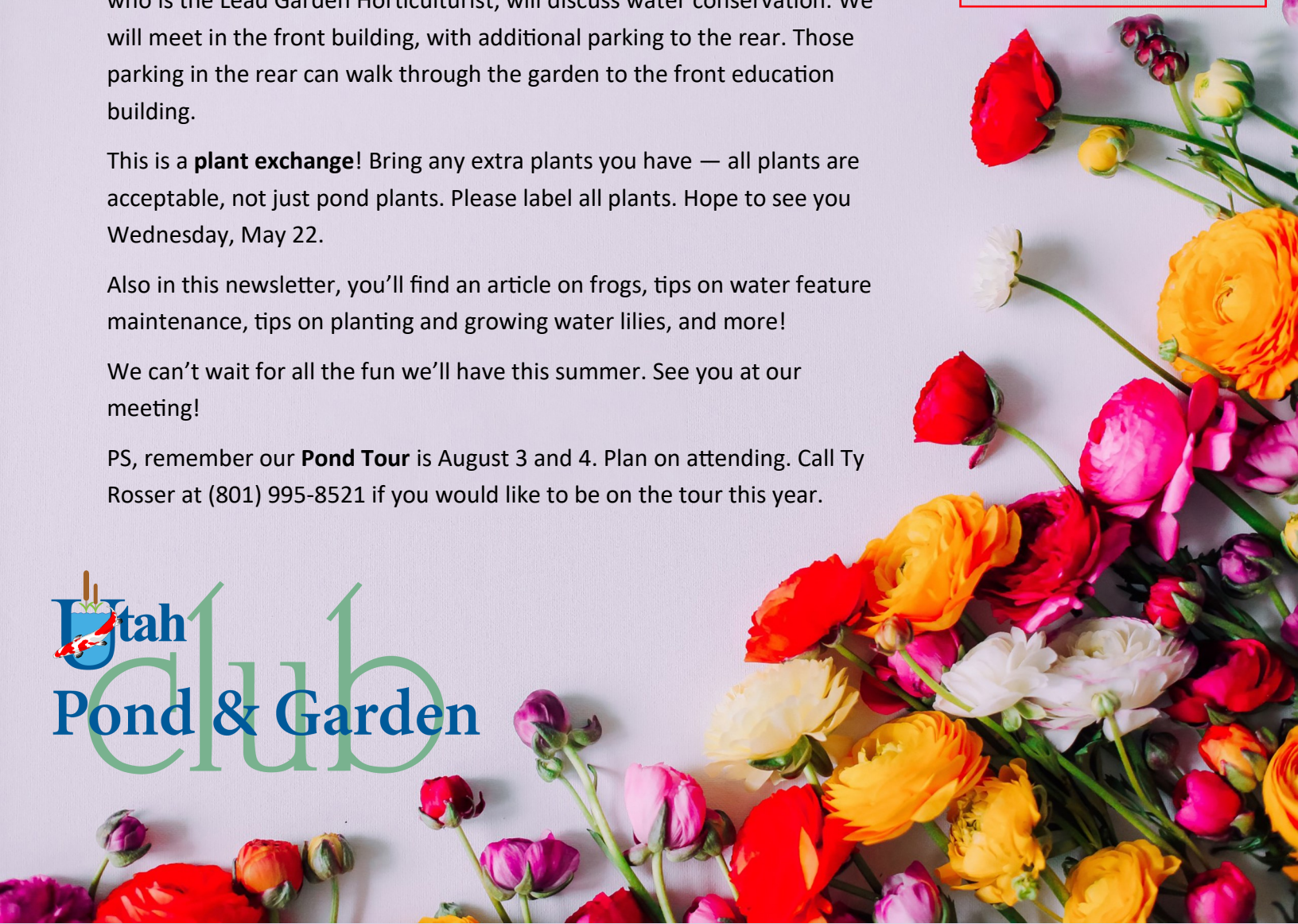
Also in this newsletter, you'll find an article on frogs, tips on water feature maintenance, tips on planting and growing water lilies, and more!

We can't wait for all the fun we'll have this summer. See you at our meeting!

PS, remember our **Pond Tour** is August 3 and 4. Plan on attending. Call Ty Rosser at (801) 995-8521 if you would like to be on the tour this year.

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Dues Are Now Due

This year a membership in our Club is \$20 per person. The money goes to pay for refreshments, as well as other Club expenses such as state filing fees. 2024 dues are now due.

Please pay as soon as you can! We take cash or you can pay with a credit card at any meeting. Or you can pay online by [clicking here](#).

Members get access to all meetings and free admission for the pond tour (a \$20 value by itself). This members fee is as low or lower than most garden clubs in the valley. This year, for those not wanting to commit to membership, it will cost \$5 per person to attend each meeting. This will help offset the costs of ice, drinks and refreshments.

In the past we have been able to cover some of our expenses through sponsorships and pond tour revenue, but sponsorships are down, and rising costs for the tour are expected to equal or exceed tour income.

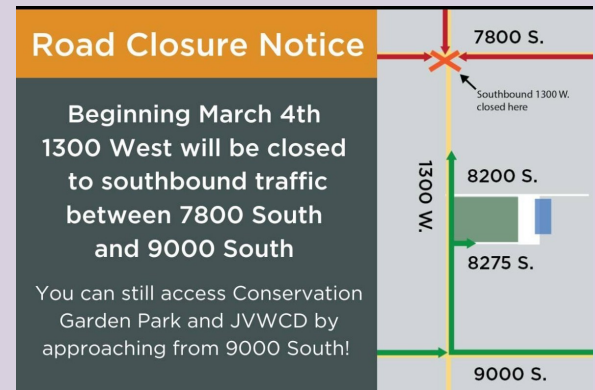
Thank you for your help! We are proud to a vibrant and educational pace to learn about ponds and gardening, and to socialize with like-minded gardeners. We're looking forward to a great year in 2024!



2024 Meeting Schedule

Note that we're moving some of our meetings this year to the fourth Thursday of the month.

◆ **May 22 (Note this is a Wednesday)** – Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's **Water Conservation Garden Park**, 8275 South 1300 West in West Jordan; meeting at 7:00 pm with a presentation by **Mike Lorenc** on water use and conservation, and our first **plant exchange** of the year. (Please note that, due to construction, you must access 1300 West from 90th South.)



◆ **June 27** – Pfafflins' pond

◆ **July 18** – Savilles' pond

◆ **August 22** – Annual BBQ and second Plant Exchange at the Cobbles' pond

◆ **September 26** – Julie Myer's pond

◆ **October Banquet** – date and location to be announced

2024 Pond Tour

We're excited for our 2024 Pond Tour, which will be on August 3rd & 4th. If you'd like your pond or water feature to be on the tour, please contact Ty Rosser at (801) 995-8521. It's lots of fun!

Get Involved!

We'd love for each of you to get more involved in the Pond Club. We *always* need more help. Opportunities are endless, and include recruiting new members, helping coordinate the Pond Tour, assisting with monthly meetings, helping with food, helping with our website and other publicity, and much more!

Frogs Are Just Cool!

Having frogs in the garden is definitely a worthy goal: frogs will help keep down insect populations as well as serenade you with their songs. However, the best way to share your garden with frogs is to simply build a frog-friendly pond. Re-creating their natural habitat is the best way to attract frogs (toads are good, too) and keep them from wandering off in search of more frog-friendly surroundings. Keep in mind that if you live in an area or climate where frogs are not often seen, the chances of attracting them are obviously slim. It probably would not work to bring them into these areas either as it would be under conditions in which they do not naturally thrive.

Why Native Frog Species Are Best

By building a frog-friendly pond, you will be limited to native species, and this is for the best. Non-native species pose a problem in two ways: they will either not survive, or they may survive and establish a local population, which could be disastrous for the local ecosystem. Either way, they can spread diseases, such as the devastating Chytrid fungus.

It is also relatively effortless to meet the needs of a native species, especially when it comes to dealing with local weather conditions.

The best way to attract frogs is to find out what kind of habitat your native frogs like and try to recreate that habitat in your yard. You may be able to get information on native frog species from your state or provincial wildlife or natural resources department. In Utah, we have several native frogs:

Northern Leopard Frog

Northern Leopard Frogs prefer the water. However, these types of frogs in Utah can also be found on land during the breeding season. They live for about 4-5 years and mate in mid-May or June. Their young are born from July to



August, with an average of 20 eggs per female. These types of frogs in Utah eat insects and other small animals (typically) and grow to around 3-4 inches long. The Northern Leopard Frog is one of three types of frogs that doesn't require a pond to lay its eggs. Instead, it will dig a hole close to water sources where it lays its eggs and covers them up again; water isn't required for tadpoles until they undergo metamorphosis into adult frogs.

American Bullfrog

The American Bullfrog is native to North America. It is a large aquatic frog reaching 5–10 inches (130–250 mm) in length. Adults have coarse dark brown or grey skin with irregularly-shaped spots and fully webbed hind feet. These frogs in Utah have a large head, eyes set close together above their nose, and an unwebbed mid-dorsal ridge that may be continuous or broken into distinct knobs. The belly is whitish to light yellow with dark speckling, extending onto the legs and back as irregular longitudinal streaks (on thighs). They usually prefer slow-moving waters such as



ponds, lakes, reservoirs, marshes, and sloughs. They will eat birds and mice as well as insects. They have a loud voice that sounds like an old truck trying to start!

Boreal Chorus Frog

These tiny guys can be spotted for a few days during mating season, typically between June and August. Boreal chorus frogs have golden-brown skin, under which these types of frogs in Utah have dark blue/black marbling to protect them from UV rays. Like many other types of frogs in Utah, they lay their eggs in shallow ponds or marshes. Female boreal chorus frog tadpoles grow to about three inches long before transforming into juveniles and hopping into nearby bodies of water. Males do not undergo metamorphosis when changing into the juvenile stage and die shortly after their first molt, typically at around nine months old.

Columbia Spotted Frog

The Columbia spotted frog is a small, dark-colored frog with yellow and black spots on its back. It has long legs and large toe pads that help it climb rocks and stay out of water. This nocturnal species eats insects and spiders at night. The Columbia spotted frog requires permanent pools for breeding. These types of frogs in Utah can tolerate some habitat disturbance as long as there is good water quality, vegetation cover, and a source of natural food available nearby.

Canyon Tree Frog

These types of frogs in Utah are crazy-colored (reds, oranges, yellows, greens) and easy to spot, which is awesome because you can't miss them when you're out hiking or strolling along a road. Try planting wildflowers to attract Canyon Tree Frogs to your backyard or garden. They like those!

Pacific Tree Frog

Found throughout Utah and many states beyond, Pacific Tree Frogs (*Pseudacris regilla*) prefer habitats that provide abundant cover. Unfortunately, these tree-dwelling frogs

spend much time hiding in trees and bushes, so finding them can be difficult. The Pacific Tree Frog is usually green with a white stripe running down its back. These types of frogs in Utah tend to be smaller than other tree-dwelling species, such as Northern Cricket Frogs. Males call during warm months between April and October. As its name implies, they're commonly heard at night during the breeding season, but if you want to see these little guys, check out a local pond or lake after dark!

Relict Leopard Frog

Relict Leopard Frogs occur throughout southern and central Utah. These small, brown, or greyish-colored frogs spend most of their time on land but return to water during mating season and to lay eggs. They feed mostly on insects and other invertebrates, preferring worms, spiders, and beetles. Despite their name, these frogs can be quite common in some areas; these types of frogs in Utah are very difficult to identify because they look almost identical to a frog called the 'lesser' leopard frog. However, if you hear one call, it will be easy to tell them apart as leopard frogs produce a loud bark-like sound while lesser leopard frogs produce a short trill or peep-like sound.

Green Frog

Green frogs can be found throughout most of North America. These types of frogs in Utah live near both fresh and saltwater, but they avoid areas where water is permanently frozen. They are excellent swimmers, with large webbed hind feet that help them move quickly through the water. Adult green frogs grow to be about three inches long; however, their legs make them appear much larger than they are. The name green comes from their dark green skin that fades to a yellowish color on their bellies and throat. Green frogs tend to live in open areas or along streams where there isn't a lot of vegetation to hide behind. Green frogs can be found throughout most of North America.

How to Attract Frogs

Here are some general tips to help you build a frog-



friendly pond:

- **Easy Access to the Water.** A pond with sloped sides is necessary to allow the frogs to easily get in and out of the pond. Using a flexible pond liner to build a frog pond that gradually slopes from shallow to deep is best. A pre-formed plastic liner can be used but you must place rocks or other items in the water in such a way as to make a ramp for the frogs to get in and out. The pond does not have to be overly large, though.
- **Skip the Aeration, Filtration, and Waterfalls.** Frogs like quiet, still water.
- **No Fish.** Fish are natural predators of frogs, especially eggs and tadpoles. (The Avellars did have a Bullfrog along with Comet Goldfish for many years without incident, so you can have both!)
- **Add Plants in and Around the Pond.** A variety of water plants such as water lilies help to provide cover, shade, and a more natural environment. Likewise, provide plants around the pond for shelter and shade (hostas, ferns, wildflowers, etc). In addition, let the grass grow longer around the pond for extra cover. Wildlife Stewards at Oregon State University recommend a mixture of Native plants that are submerged, floating and emergent.
- **Don't Keep It Too Clean.** Remember that most natural ponds are not sparkling clean. Organic matter in the water helps create natural conditions and feeds the natural prey for the frogs. Algae in the pond also nourish tadpoles.
- **Provide Extra Shelter.** Place a couple of clay plant pots, on their side and partly buried, to provide extra shelter and shade. Remember frogs like it damp and cool, and also need places to hide from predators.
- **Minimize Predators.** If you have dogs and cats, try to limit their access to the pond area. You may want to put a wire fence around the pond area to help keep

predators away.

- **Keep It Chemical Free.** Frogs are very sensitive to pollutants and you do not want to use garden chemicals in your yard that might ultimately hurt the frogs.
- **Patience.** Once you have built the perfect pond, it may take a while for it to become well-established and for local frogs to find it. Resist the temptation to catch frogs to put in your pond, as adult frogs have established a home and may try to return to it. If it is legal, you may try catching tadpoles to put in your pond, but check your local wildlife laws as collecting tadpoles is illegal in many places.
- **In the spring,** you can purchase tadpoles online from some of the pond supply companies that also sell fish.

So, frogs can be fun and beneficial to your pond and your pond enjoyment. Consider getting a frog. With the right habitat, you'll both be happy!



We need ponds for the **2024 pond tour**, and volunteers to help with meetings and other events! Please volunteer!

Call Ty Rosser about the Pond Tour at (801) 995-8521

Call Julie Matis Flint (801-274-3040) or Michael Pfafflin (801-652-0386) to get involved in meetings.

Scan this QR code to access our Pond Tour App, or [click here](#):



Please Welcome Our New Sponsor



Since 1998 National Pond Service has been helping people enjoy their ponds by providing restoration, maintenance and biological treatment services to improve water quality and aquatic ecology.

Call Luis Kennedy at 585-698-9731 (cell) or 585-394-5890 (office)

NationalPondService.com



Our April Meeting!





We kicked off the 2024 season with a great meeting at Red Butte Garden. Rosie Cobbley led a tour of the Garden. Julie Matis Flint, our club president, gave a fact-filled presentation on her experiences growing water lilies. Everyone enjoyed sandwiches and pies.



Growing Lilies Along the Wasatch Front

Julie Matis Flint prepared these tips on growing water lilies along the Wasatch Front for our April meeting:

Hardy Lilies

- Plant in spring
- Select container 6 or more inches deep, and preferably at least a foot wide
- Add aeration holes at bottom of container
- Line tub with one layer of newspaper
- Add 1 or two inches of peat moss at the bottom of container
- Mix in Osmocote
- Fill to within 3 inches of top with heavy garden soil (DO NOT use indoor plant soil, it will float away)
- Mix in Osmocote
- Fill additional 2 inches with heavy soil
- Plant rhizome at one end of tub, with growing tip out of soil and pointing toward the center of the tub
- Spread roots out in radial pattern and bury
- Add one pond tab or similar fertilizer for each gallon of soil
- You may need to stake roots down for a few days
- Wet soil until soaked
- SLOWLY lower container into the water with only about 6 inches between the soil and the top of the water (may need a support brick or two)
- Place in full sun or partial sun (more sun equals better flowers and better overall growth)
- Gradually lower plant into pond as pads reach the surface of the pond
- **Avoid moving water**
- For miniature lilies, keep depth at about **6 inches** between top of soil and surface of water (or risk die off as plant spends too much energy to reach surface)
- For larger lilies, keep depth at about **12 to 24** inches between top of soil and surface of water
- Really large lilies can handle depths of up to 4 feet, but this is NOT necessary. Longwood Botanical Garden uses ponds 3 feet deep. Naples Botanical Garden uses ponds less than 18 inches deep.
- Fertilize with a pond tab per gallon of soil **once each month**, stop fertilizing around the middle of August
- After first hard frost, remove dying pads and stems
At least every other year, remove tuber, select new growing tip and replant in Spring
- Use a deeper tub or pot, as roots will grow straight down and rhizome will grow up. Pots do not need to be as wide.



Tropical Lilies

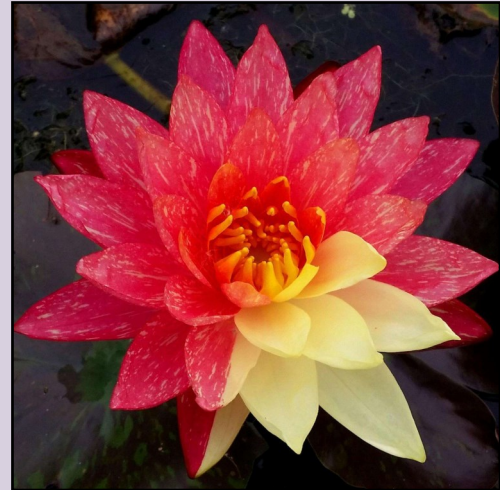
- Plant lily in center of the pot, with growing tip exposed
- You will need to order these lilies or else purchase from garden center, do not plant until water temperature is consistently at or above 70 degrees
- For me in Holladay, this is usually around July 1
- Fertilize the same as with hardy lilies
- Remove pads as they begin to yellow, remove spent flowers or they will sink to bottom and decay

ISGs (intersubgeneric) Lilies

- Repot every spring to prevent rotting and allow for continued flowering
- Don't give up if they break dormancy six weeks later than other hardies

Victoria Water Lilies

- Order small plant from a supplier (shipped with a small six inch pad) (shipping in late June or July poses problems)
- Plant in at least a 20 gallon tub
- Victoria lilies begin to die for each hour spent in water less than 72 degrees. Do not plant in pond if the water temperature drops below 70 degrees at night
- Fertilize heavily, at least every other week
- Victoria lilies grow in the Amazon, which has very few minerals. DO NOT add salt or other chemicals to your water
- Allow at least 15 feet of space for the lily

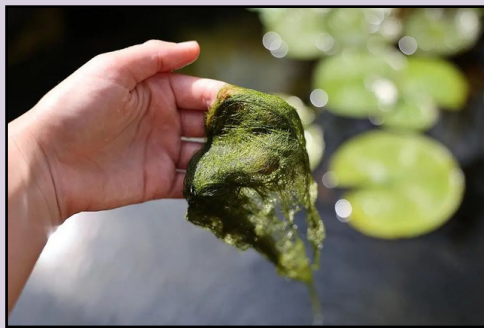


Five Tips for Your Aquatic Paradise

Here are five tips to keep your aquatic paradise thriving!

1. Inspect and Clean Filters

May is a good time to clean or replace the filters in your water garden. Take a moment to give them a good clean or swap them out if needed. This helps maintain water clarity and ensures that the filtration system is functioning optimally, keeping the water clean and healthy for your plants and fish. Your fish and plants will thank you for it! Need help choosing the right filtration for your pond? Check out our [Pond Filter Buying Guide](#) and [Pond Filter FAQ](#).

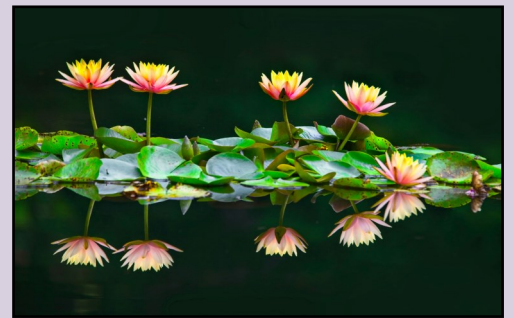


2. Control Algae

Ah, algae, the uninvited guest in ponds. As sunlight intensifies, algae growth may become more of an issue. Consider adding shade-providing plants or structures to limit direct sunlight on the water's surface. Additionally, you can introduce algae-eating fish or use algae-control products that are safe for aquatic plants and wildlife.

3. Fertilize aquatic plants

With the arrival of spring, aquatic plants begin their active growth phase. Provide them with the necessary nutrients by fertilizing them according to their specific needs. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can lead to algae blooms and other water quality issues.



4. Landscape Around the Pond

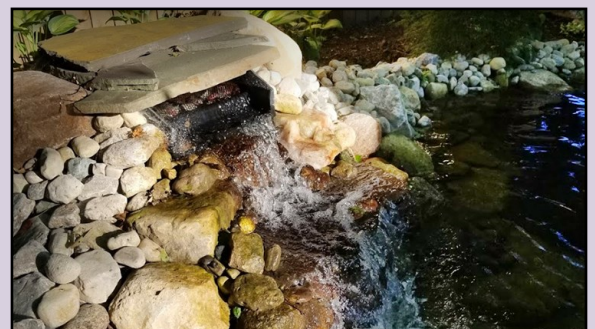


May is a great time to add landscape plants to complement your water feature. Ornamental grasses, colorful perennials and small shrubs can all help create a beautiful transition from garden to pond.

5. Inspect Rock & Stones Around the Pond

Freezing and thawing cycles during winter can cause shifting of stone that can result in possible leaks, esp. in the waterfall area. Readjust and position stone if needed.

Ponds are for peace, not stress. As you prepare your backyard oasis for the season, we are here for you. Visit our website for supplies, advice, or just a dose of inspiration.



Adapted from PondandGardenDepot.com





Who we are

The Utah Pond & 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, pond and garden tours, and sharing our experiences. We are a group of volunteers dedicated to gardening (and especially water gardening), pond keeping, and koi and other pond fish. Our members range from novices to professionals.

Historically, we have sponsored an annual Water Garden Tour – a self-guided tour of outstanding local ponds, water features and gardens. If you'd like to be involved in planning or have your yard in the **2024 tour**, please let us know! Pond tours can only happen with your participation!

Check out the club's website at UtahPondClub.com.

Officers

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