



# JULY NEWSLETTER

Hello Fellow Ponders!

Summer is indeed upon us, with record heat and little rain. We hope your you're enjoying your yards and that they're surviving the summer.

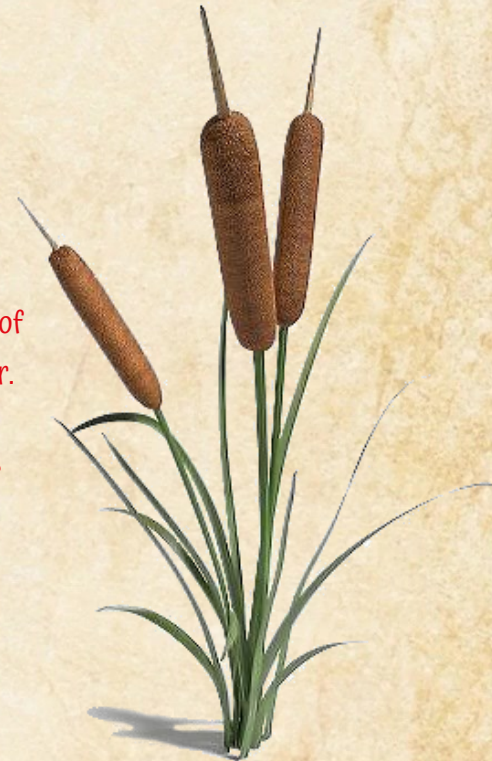
We extend a big thanks to the Cobbles for hosting our July meeting and arranging for the speaker – Mark Ahljanian. Richard has twice been president of the Club, and has long been its champion. Rosie is a gifted gardener and designer. They hosted the meeting despite Rosie falling and breaking her hip just days before. We wish her a speedy recovery. Mark is a certified arborist and some of his vast knowledge about trees.

We have several great events planned for the remainder of the season. Our August meeting will be at Horrocks' Pond. They're hosting our annual summer Bar-B-Que and a plant exchange. You can find more details on page 10 of this newsletter.

Our last regular meeting will be on September 28 (*note the date change*) at the Larsens, and will be followed by our annual end-of-season banquet on October 26 at Toscano. You won't want to miss this; get your tickets now. Details are on page 11.

We'll hold our regular elections for officers and directors at the banquet. Please consider running for office. We'll provide more info at the August meeting.

Happy ponding, and read on!

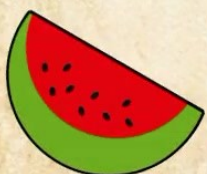


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# Utah Water Garden & Koi Club



# DUCKS IN YOUR POND

Spring brings many reminders of the beauty of mother nature: the birds are chirping, flowers are starting to bloom, you see your pond fish are looking friendly and pretty hungry, and wildlife is starting to visit you again. Like ducks. Ponds and ducks, they are perfect together.

Or are they?

Most man-made backyard ponds are designed and built with the intention of keeping fish and plants, not ducks. Even their filtration systems are not designed to keep up with ducks in the long run (or should I say the short run) of a few weeks. So what do we do when a pair of local ducks decides to make our pond their home?

We haven't found a sure way to discourage wild ducks from setting up home at our pond. Sometimes your only choice is to enjoy it for a while, show them to the neighborhood kids, take lots of photos for the memories and then discourage the ducks from staying.

## Cons to having Ducks

Ducks do not know that the backyard paradise they've found exists for your pure enjoyment of peace and



tranquility, and the aesthetics that come along with it. Ducks are there to survive off of your offerings .

While cute, some of the negative impacts of ducks include the following:

- Ducks tend to enjoy aquatic plants as not only a food source, but also for entertainment and an escape



from boredom. They can very quickly destroy the water garden that we have invested so much time and money on. Lilies will quickly get shredded, submerged plants uprooted, and marginal plants trampled.

- Smaller fish and invertebrates can become sources of protein for the backyard duck. What a snack!
- Ducks spend a lot of time out of the water too, and will impact the surrounding area and landscape. From trampling on and tearing up your favorite garden flower to pooping all over your deck and patio, ducks get into everything.
- Ducklings – a pair of ducks can quickly become 5 or 6, or even 12 ducks!
- Water Quality – where there is wildlife, you'll find waste! Is your filtration system up to par?

## Ducklings

The primary reason a pair or two of ducks want to settle in at your pond is to set up home; they're looking for somewhere safe to establish a nest. Ducks often get a bit territorial when nesting and they may even exhibit aggression when they feel threatened by people coming by the pond.

You may start with two ducks, but blink a time or two and you'll find many ducklings before you know it! Imagine the repercussions that so many ducks could have on your water feature.



## Filtration System

For the fish pond that most of us install, a duck or more can have a more dramatic impact on our pond than just the aggressive side shown to your favorite dog or 3 year old.

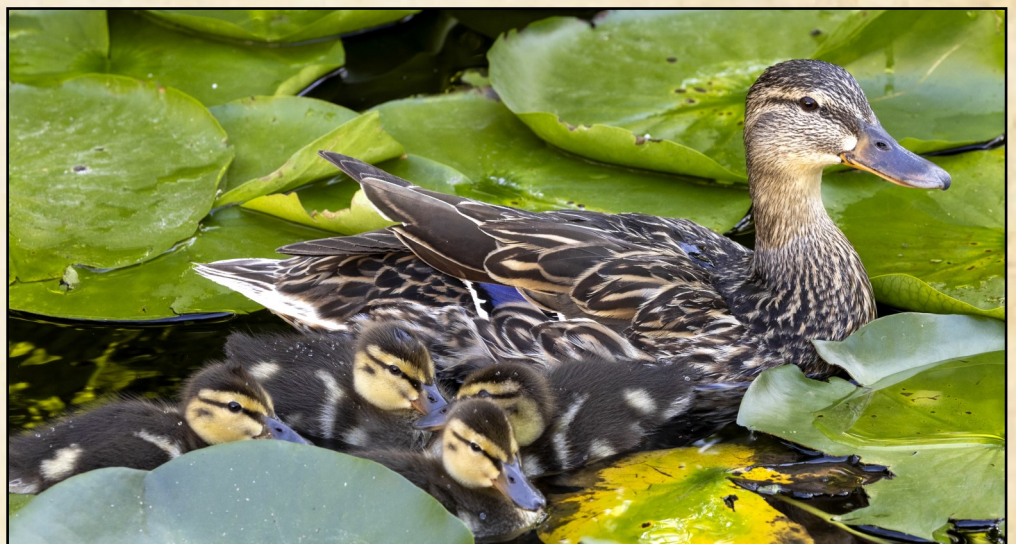
How? You ask?

Ducks poop!

One of the biggest impacts of ducks is the waste droppings that quickly become a big-time mess. Most backyard koi pond or water garden filter systems were not designed with this type of waste production in mind, and your pond water can become very foul, affecting both the color of the water and the smell. You remember that magic number of fish that your filtration system is capable of handling? Duck waste exceeds that number a million times over. You'll find that a whole lot of extra time for maintenance will become a necessity, which means increased costs for water treatments, cleaning, and filter materials.

Excess waste nutrients not only fertilize algae growth but also lead to spiked levels in your pond – such as ammonia – which is absolutely toxic for fish. Some have found their water goes from crystal clear to more of a muddy color within a week and was next to impossible to keep up with without dumping extra water treatments in on a daily basis.

So, all in all, finding that your pond suddenly is home to a gaggle of ducks is at best a mixed experience! For more info and suggestions, take a look at [dreamscapeswatergardens.com](http://dreamscapeswatergardens.com)



# OUR JULY MEETING

A big thanks to Richard and Rosie Cobbley for hosting our July meeting in their beautiful yard, and to everyone who came out. We had a great presentation about trees from Mark Ahljanian, who is a certified arborist. We extend our best wishes to Rosie, who broke her hip and had surgery just days before the meeting.



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# OUR JULY MEETING



## 2023 Meeting Schedule

- ◆ **August 17** – Horrocks' Pond – Annual BBQ and Plant Exchange. Please bring a side dish; the club will provide the main dish.
- ◆ **September 28** – Larsens' pond (please note the change of date)
- ◆ **October 26** – Annual Banquet and elections at Toscano's in Draper. Get your tickets now! Consider running for office!

# CATTAILS IN YOUR POND

Pass by any lake, pond, river, or marsh that has been left to Mother Nature's discretion and you'll find cattails (*Typha latifolia*). Ask anyone responsible for maintaining these same areas as part of an artificial landscape (like a garden) and opinions on those cattail plants or cattail control will be either "Aren't they wonderful!" or "#@\*! weeds!" Unfortunately, both opinions have valid reasoning. When it



comes to landscaping a natural pond (any natural body of water within your landscape), be careful. Cattails for the pond can be both a headache and a delight, but learning how to control cattails can tip the scales dramatically in your favor.

## The Good Side of Cattail Plants

From a naturalist's point of view, cattail plants are a wonder of nature where every part of the plant can be used to benefit a variety of species, including humans. These perennials are tall sturdy plants that can grow to almost 10 feet tall (2 m.). They have heavy, rhizomatous roots, long, flat leaves, and long, cylindrical brown flower spikes that can add height and texture to the aquatic garden and will grow anywhere that supplies a constant source of water.

Underwater, they provide a safe haven for tiny fish and attract many of the smaller aquatic creatures that birds and other wildlife feed on. They create a

shelter from winter cold and wind for mammals and birds and a source of nesting material with their leaves and seeds. If you want to attract a wide variety of wildlife into your landscape, consider cattails for the pond.

In fact, humans have always benefited from the lowly cattail. The

plants have been used for rush bottom furniture, baskets, and mats. The downy seeds have been used to stuff pillows and mattresses and during World War II were used to stuff life jackets. Native Americans were experts in using every part of the plant, not only for stuffing or the waterproof qualities of the leaf, but as a reliable food source. All parts of the cattail plant, from the roots to the flower heads, are edible. The rootstock can be boiled, roasted, or dried and ground into a powdery flour. The center of the stalks is thick and starchy and the flower heads can be roasted for a nutty tasting treat.

Cattail plants have industrial uses as well. Plant parts can be distilled into ethyl alcohol for antifreeze or an inexpensive solvent. What a versatile plant! And yet...

## Tips on How to Control Cattails

Cattails for the pond come with a set of problems you may not want to deal with. Learning how to control

cattails is a must, as these hardy plants can take over a pond in a matter of a few years. The reason for this lies in the reproductive capabilities of the cattail.

Plants produce those wonderful, velvety 'tails.' These are the flower heads and each head produces around 300,000 seeds, each equipped with its own little parachute to be borne on the wind. On a calm day, these little fluffs will fall straight to the ground around the parent plant and germinate quickly.

Plucking those seed heads before they ripen won't help, however. Those rhizomatous roots produce their own sets of offspring, eventually forming dense mats. Cattail control, therefore, is essential to the health and well-being of your pond and landscape. The good news is there are several methods available to the home gardener for how to control cattails, so hopefully one of them will appeal to you.

The first method of cattail control involves the application of herbicides. There are two chemicals, diquat and glyphosate, that are both effective and approved for aquatic use. Diquat is a contact herbicide. It will kill the green part of the plant, but not the root. It's easy to use, but you'll have to use it every year.

Glyphosate is a systemic herbicide and will kill the root, although it may take several weeks to do the job. Your gardening or pond supply source should be able to help you find the brand names that contain these chemicals.



The next methods of how to control cattails are more mechanical. Choice one is to dig them up! This isn't as easy as it sounds. Those cattail plants have massive root systems. For larger areas of overgrowth, a backhoe may be needed. Another alternative is the drowning method, which can only be used if the plants' bases are completely submerged underwater. All you have to do is cut the plants off 2 or 3 inches (5-8 cm.) below the water surface. This deprives the plant of the air it needs and it will drown.

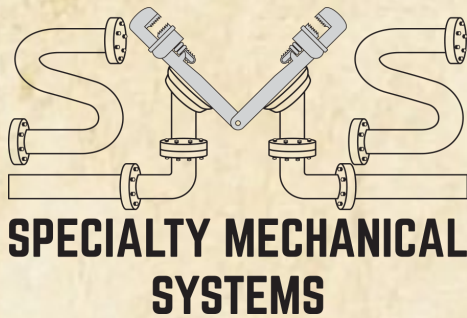
### **Growing Cattails in a Pot**

Growing cattails in a pot is another method to consider when deciding on how to control your cattails. This is particularly

suitable for the small natural pond or an artificial (plastic or rubber-lined) one. Growing cattails in pots eliminates root spread, keeping your plants in a confined space. Clay pots are ideal for this. They have the weight to keep them upright when submerged and can be partially buried in a boggy area. Their downside is they are susceptible to cracking in freezing conditions. Growing cattails in pots will not, however, totally eliminate propagation. Don't forget those fluffy little seeds! You'll still need to be vigilant in your cattail control.

Read more at [Gardening Know How: Cattails For The Pond - Tips On How To Control Cattails](#)

# THANK YOU SPONSORS!

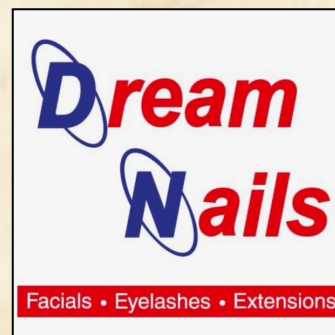
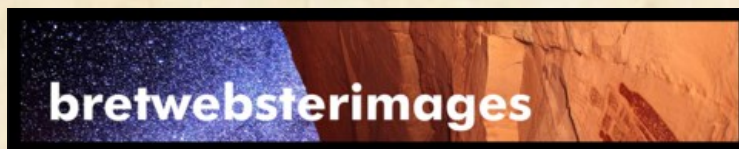
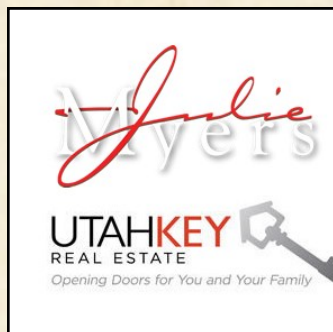


Draper Location





# THANK YOU SPONSORS!



# 2023 PLANT EXCHANGE



**Bring a plant,  
tuber or seeds  
to exchange  
for something  
new!**

**Thursday, August 17 at 7:00 pm at the  
Horrocks, 4109 Redtail Dr. in Riverton**

The logo for the Utah Water Garden & Koi Club. It features a blue stylized letter 'U' containing a red and white koi fish. To the right of the 'U' is the word 'Utah' in a blue serif font. Below this, the words 'Water Garden & Koi' are written in a blue serif font, and the word 'Club' is written in a large, light green, semi-transparent serif font in the background.

**Utah  
Water Garden & Koi  
Club**

# OCTOBER END-OF-SEASON BANQUET

# TOSCANO

THE SOUTH VALLEY'S FINEST DINING EXPERIENCE

[toscano-restaurant.com](http://toscano-restaurant.com)

*Our annual end-of-season banquet will be on Thursday, October 26 at Toscano, which is located in Draper at the 11400 South off ramp of I-25. The cost will be \$20 for members and \$50 for non-members. Plan now to join us in a fine dining experience, together with a silent auction. Tickets will be available at Pond Club meetings, and from any Club officer, so get yours now!*

The logo features the word "Utah" in a blue serif font with a small graphic of a water spout above the letter 'h'. Below "Utah" is the word "Club" in a large, light green, rounded font. To the right of "Club" is the text "Water Garden & Koi" in a blue serif font.

# Utah Water Garden & Koi Club

## 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, a pond tour, and sharing our water gardening experiences. We are a group of volunteers dedicated to water gardening, pond keeping, koi and other pond fish. Our members range from novices to commercial professionals.

Historically, we have sponsored an annual Water Garden Tour – a self-guided tour of outstanding local ponds, water features and gardens. Beginning this year, we're moving to a biennial (every other year) tour, and there will not be a tour in 2023. If you'd like to be involved in planning or be on the 2024 tour, please let us know! Future tours can only happen with your participation!

Check out the Club's website at [UtahWaterGardenClub.org](http://UtahWaterGardenClub.org).

## Officers

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*Call Lewis Wayman at  
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