



# August

Goodbye to Summer  
August 2021 Newsletter

## Fall is on its way

Hello ponders!

It's hard to believe the kids are back at school and fall is on its way. The temperatures are beginning to fall, and the evenings are so nice. September in Utah is wonderful.

We've loved the rain (after such a dry spring and summer). But we're sorry we had to cancel the August meeting. The Flints' yard was so wet, and it continued to rain that evening. We'll look to have a meeting at their home next summer.

We hope you all enjoyed the 2021 pond tour! Thanks to everyone who shared their yards and ponds. And thanks to all who attended. This is one of our favorite events of the year. We're so glad we were able to hold it this year. We'll start planning for 2022 soon. If you'd like to participate, please let us know.

Our September meeting will be at the Avellar's. Check out the story of their new pond in this newsletter, and then come see their pond in person. It will be at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 16. Their lovely home is at 626 E. Pheasant Haven Court in Draper. This will be our annual potluck BBQ. The club will provide the BBQ meat. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Come and enjoy a great evening!

And speaking of food, our banquet will be on October 21 at the Asian Star Restaurant in Sandy. Join us for great food and great company as we end our season. You can purchase tickets at the September club meeting.

Be safe, and enjoy the fall!



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# The Avellar Pond Adventure

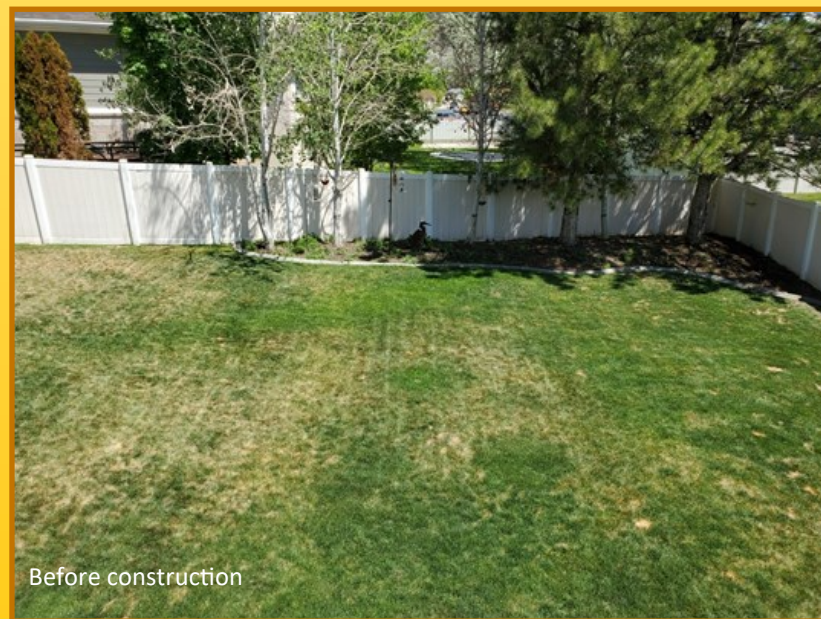


Gil and I are pretty steady, somewhat boring, and live a rather unexciting life. We built our house in Sandy and lived there comfortably for 35 years. We put in the yard, we finished the basement and did a few other minor upgrades, but nothing fancy. We built our small pond and enjoyed it and our mature landscaped backyard for 17 years.

Then we did something completely nuts. We bought a bigger house on a much bigger lot that had virtually nothing but grass in the backyard. What in the heck were we thinking? Beats me, but in October of 2020 we packed up 44 years of stuff and moved a couple of miles down the hill to Draper. If that crazy decision wasn't enough of a challenge, we started a major remodel inside the house that winter. (Wait, there's more...) If that four-month project wasn't enough stress and disruption, Sherry had a knee replaced in April, so she was out of

commission for a while. Of course, there was Covid too. But all those things really aren't what this article is

all about. The final piece of the Avellar adventure is the new total backyard redo with a larger pond that we decided to contract out.



We started the process in the fall 2020 when we made a list of what our ideal backyard would include. We had to think about where we wanted to hook up the hoses, where we might need electrical outlets, and how would we get into our new pond to plant and maintain. We decided on a budget. We then identified a handful of potential landscapers to come look at our yard. We looked at websites and reviews of contractors that were specifically skilled at backyard pond construction. We asked people for recommendations. We selected a couple of likely candidates and invited them to come out last fall and meet with us. We told them what we

wanted and we listened to their suggestions. One of the landscapers wasn't a good listener and we felt that our thoughts weren't heard. We were uncomfortable with them and eliminated them from our selection. We got bids and drawings from the remaining contractors and made our selection. We really wanted the project started as early in the spring as was possible so we made our decision and provided a percentage deposit to hold our project in the landscaper's queue. Each of the landscapers we met with told us that because of the pandemic, they had been super busy as it seemed everyone wanted a new backyard to quarantine in. We selected Cottonwood Landscapes and the owner told us he could not have a schedule set up until after the first of the year, 2021.

So, we waited. In the meantime, we reviewed the contract, made some early product selections and dreamed of our new backyard. Our project was to build a pond with a stream/waterfall, build a paver patio next to

the pond with a wooden pergola, put in a kennel for our dog with a cement pad and fencing, an additional cement pad for a future shed, stair step a side yard with block walls and crushed gravel pathways, put in a new gate in the existing fence, eliminate much of the existing grass and plant trees and perennials throughout. We wanted the pond and stream to resemble the rivers we love to flyfish. A priority was to

be able to hear the water sound from our back deck which overlooks the pond. In short, it was a big project which encompassed virtually the entire backyard and Cottonwood Landscapes predicted a 4-5 week build time.

The first start date we were given was May 12. A few days before, we got a call from Dan, the owner of Cottonwood Landscapes that the job they were currently on required additional work due to the home owners submitting change orders. We understood that this can happen, and would likely happen with our project and we would want our job completed as well. So, we waited.



Under construction

Then on May 25 with only a quick heads up, several large pieces of equipment were dropped off in our driveway and the next morning, work got underway.

What we experienced was incredible to watch and absolutely overwhelming. Just the delivery of a bobcat and a backhoe was intimidating. When they started digging up the yard, we really felt we were on our way to our new backyard. The demolition work seemed to take forever. The contractor experienced some equipment breakdowns. The sodcutter broke down and the bobcat was as temperamental as, well, a bobcat. The result of tearing everything out was a dirt

back yard for the majority of the project. This resulted in a tremendous amount of dirt and dust finding its way onto the deck and into the house. The wind brought it in, we brought it in and the dog brought it in.

Weather was definitely a factor on our project. While there was virtually no rain to slow down the job, the heat was frequently at dangerous levels. One day, during some of the heaviest work of moving and placing rocks and setting pavers, the temperature was 105 degrees. Still the workers pressed on. We set out our cooler with ice and water in it for them which they very much appreciated. One day, we bought them lunch since they had worked so hard in such difficult conditions.

The crew was wonderful. They showed up like clockwork every morning at 7:00 am and left every evening at 5:30. They took an hour for lunch, and kept the work site clean. They made sure the temporary fence was erected every evening so we could let the dog out. They worked closely with us to make sure we were satisfied as the project moved along. Did everything go smoothly? No, it did not. However, we are happy with the outcome. The boulders that were

delivered appeared to us to be too big which was a major concern. In the end, however, they worked out perfectly.

The pond pump was turned on to run the waterfall for the first weekend and by Sunday, we had identified some areas at the top where the water was wicking over the liner. It was a quick fix. We were not satisfied with the first attempt at the top water fall area. We had a chat with the foreman and he fixed that issue relatively easily. It was nerve-wracking because, while we had a conceptual drawing of the project, it was still somewhat of a design build. In the end, the total job took 6 weeks. There were two holidays the crew did not work. There was a delay in delivery of concrete, something everyone was having trouble getting during this time. We are still short a gate for the kennel area.

If you are going to undertake a project of this type, regardless of size, we have some suggestions:

Set a budget but add some cushion. Change orders will most definitely happen, so be prepared.



Finished stream

Be kind to the workers on the job. Provide cold water. Buy them lunch. Greet them with a smile. If there are existing plants in your yard that are to be removed, ask if they want to take them home for their own yards. Have a good relationship with the crew.

Have a clear idea of what your final product should look like. Provide the contractor with pictures and videos of ponds, waterfalls, streams and landscape that

you like early on as they are designing your project. Do sweat the small stuff.

Stay involved with your project. Ask questions, especially if you aren't sure about what you see. Try and stay home as much as possible during the project so you are available to answer questions or make decisions. If you see something you don't like, speak up as quickly as possible.

Know what words mean. For example, know the difference between a pergola and a gazebo. Understand how those structures are measured so you know exactly how big your structure will be.

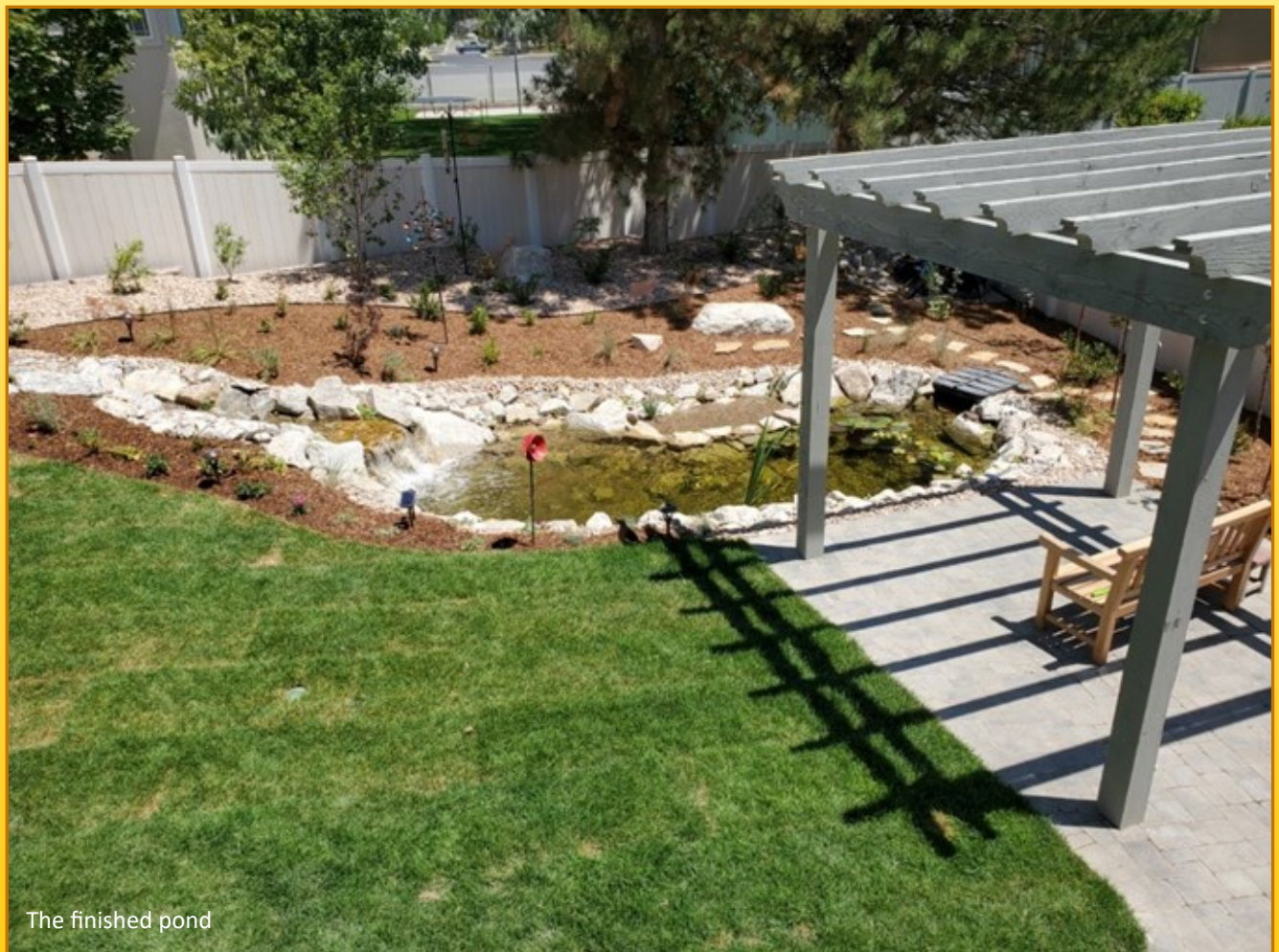
If the contractor is providing plants, make sure you ask for the specific plants you want. Find out about warranties for the plants.

Ask for training on new pond pumps, sprinkler system, and electrical equipment.

If paint is used for any structure, ask for the leftover paint or at least get the manufacturer, name and number of the paint used.

Don't worry too much and set realistic expectations. Your new pond will not look like a mature pond, it will take time. Be prepared for green water, our pond was crystal clear for about 6 days, then it turned green. We're working on ways to clear that up, but green happens.

Enjoy the end result, although you will always see something you would have done differently - Gil and I have. We will look forward to seeing you all at the September Pond Club Meeting at our house in Draper.



The finished pond

# Intermountain Stone & Marble

We are a local family-owned company that was started up in 1954. We've been going strong for 66 years. With years of hard work and dedication focused on perfect this dying art, Very few people are able to fabricate what our skilled Stone Craftsman can. Kitchens, Bathrooms, Fireplaces, Wall Faces, you name it, we can create your stone masterpiece. Email us at [Debbie@intermountainstone.com](mailto:Debbie@intermountainstone.com)



# Know your koi: Ginrin

Ginrin indicates the group of koi varieties that have diamond scales on the entire body. These scales are different from metallic and platinum koi due to their scales being reflective and shining in the light in a miraculous way.

These incredible koi date back to the early 1900s, first bred by Mr. Eizaburo Hoshino. Since the mid 1900s there have been four variations of Ginrin that may appear on koi. Beta Gin is when the entire scale is shining, whereas Kado Gin has a reflective surface only on the edges of the scales. There are also Diamond and Pearl Ginrin.

The sparkling scales should be even throughout the

body from the shoulders to the tails. Ginrin should have at least three rows of shimmering scales to be considered one of this variety. There should be no missing scales for a beautiful Ginrin koi to win a show.



Ginrin Showa



Ginrin Sanke

# Know your koi: Ginrin

## Upcoming Meetings

Did you enjoy the article about the Avellar's pond build? Come to our September Club meeting and annual potluck BBQ, and you can see their pond for yourself! Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 pm. Their address is 626 E. Pheasant Haven Court in Draper.. Please bring a side dish or dessert. BYOB

Our **annual banquet** will be on October 21 at the Asian Star in Sandy.

Find more info on the Club's website at [UtahWaterGardenClub.org](http://UtahWaterGardenClub.org)



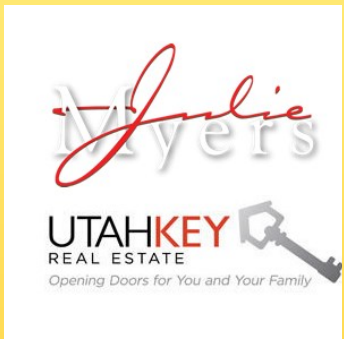
Ginrin Shiro Bekko



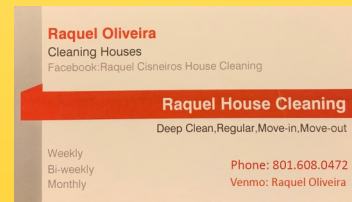
Ginrin Yamabuki



# Thank you to our sponsors!



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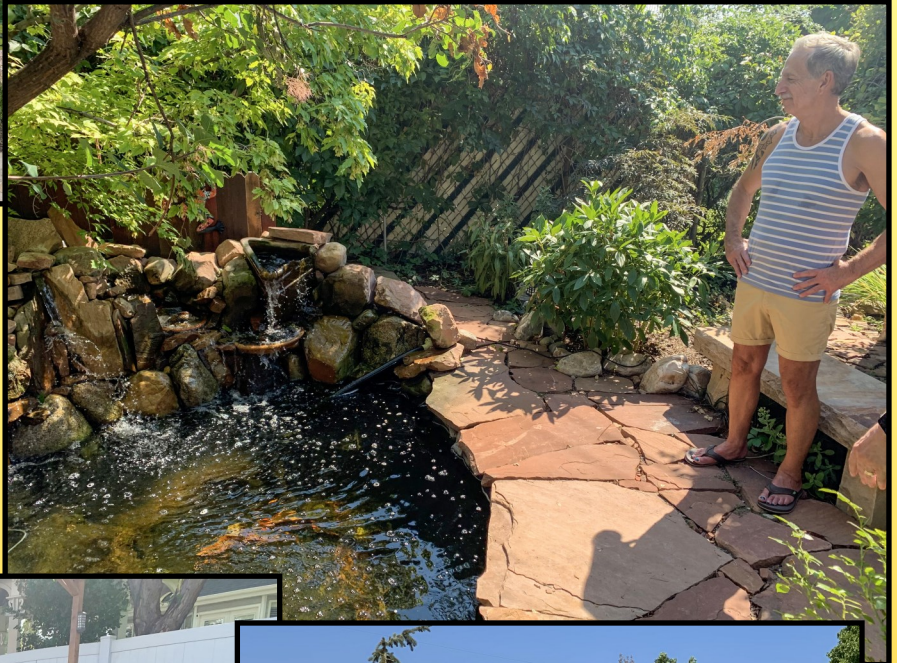


# 2021 Pond Tour



*Thanks to everyone who participated in our 2021 Pond Tour! And a special thanks to those who shared their ponds, yards and hospitality. We're looking forward to next year.*





# Know your water lilies: Joey Tomocik

The vibrant yellow color of the Joey Tomocik lily make others pale by coparison! It's no wonder the experts voted this "Hardy Waterlily of 20025." It wasd dedicat-ed by Dr. Kirk Strawn in 1993 to Joe Tomicik of the Denber Botanical Gardens who named it for his daugh-ter. Its flowers are held several inches above emerald green leaves. Hybridized by Dr. Kirk Strawn in 1993. Very flee flowering. Flower size is 4-5". Overall spread is 4-5'. Does well in full sun or part shade.





## August Meeting

**Sorry** EVENT  
**CANCELLED**

**Due to the rain and predicted colder temperatures, we had to cancel our August pond club meeting. We appreciate the Flints' willingness to host, and hope to see you at our next meeting on September 16th.**

 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, 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. Due to the pandemic, we held a "virtual" tour in 2020. You can view it on the Club's website at [UtahWaterGardenClub.org](http://UtahWaterGardenClub.org)



## Club Officers & Directors

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