



OCTOBER

Newsletter

Hello friends!

Can you believe the pond and gardening season has come to an end? It's been a wonderful summer. We've had great attendance at our meetings. Thanks to all who opened their gardens and ponds to host. We also held a most successful pond tour, after taking last year off.

We had a delightful end-of-year banquet at Fratelli Ristorante. Check out the photos on pages 2 and 3.

We held our annual elections at the banquet. We thank those whose terms have come to an end, including our out-going president Julie Matis Flint, our long-serving secretary Zoe Godbois, at-large director Gil Avelar, and past-president Daniel Peel. Welcome and thanks to those who have stepped up. You will find our new officers on page 4. We're working on a meeting schedule for 2025, and have some exciting things in store!

We also want to thank everyone who contributed to making our year so successful, including those who opened their yards to host our monthly meetings and be part of the pond tour. Thanks to those who planned meetings, picked up refreshments, lined up speakers, and offered support. And thanks to our 2024 season sponsors.

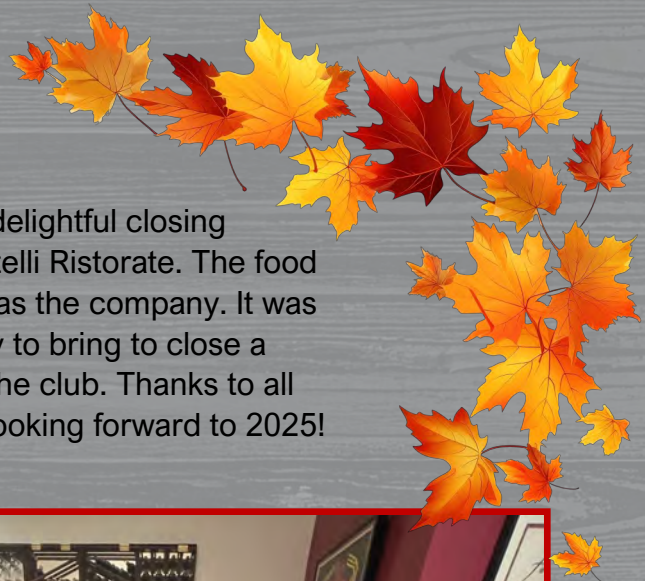
Have a happy holiday season. We'll reach out again in the spring, and plan to hold our first meeting in April. Stay safe and dream of bigger ponds, happier plants, and long, sunny evenings.

See you next year!

In this Issue

October Banquet.....	2
2025 officers & directors	4
Pond Netting.....	6
Winter Pond Aeration	6
Our Sponsors.....	9
About us	10

October Banquet



We enjoyed a delightful closing banquet at Fratelli Ristorete. The food was good as was the company. It was the perfect way to bring to close a great year for the club. Thanks to all of you. We're looking forward to 2025!





Utah
Pond & Garden
Club

Officer and Director Elections

The Club held its annual election at the October banquet for open officer and director positions, in accordance with the Club's Bylaws. Our officers and directors for 2025 are:

Officers

President — Michael Pfafflin

Vice-President — Jeremy Adamson

Secretary — Carlee Christy

Treasurer — Linda Pfafflin

At-Large Directors

David Hales

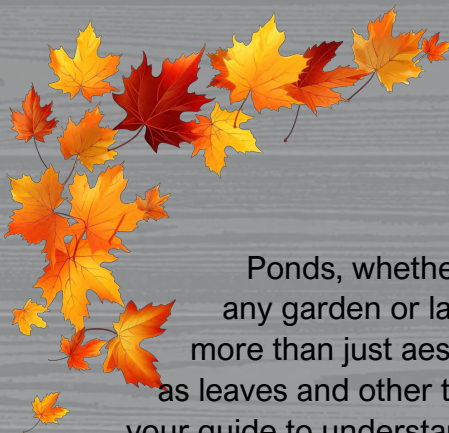
Greta deJong

Betsy Shelton

Past President

Julie Matis Flint





Pond Netting

Ponds, whether natural or man-made, are dynamic ecosystems that bring life and beauty to any garden or landscape. However, maintaining the pristine condition of a pond involves more than just aesthetic care; it requires strategic protection against environmental debris such as leaves and other threats such as predators. This is where pond netting comes into play. Here's your guide to understanding, choosing, and using pond netting effectively.

What is Pond Netting?

Pond netting is typically made from materials like polypropylene and polyethylene, designed to withstand outdoor conditions. It comes in various mesh sizes, strengths, and forms such as domed cover tents with fiberglass poles for support.

Why Use Pond Netting?

Debris Management: Leaves, twigs, and other wind-blown materials can quickly accumulate in ponds and waterfalls, leading to water quality issues. Netting prevents these materials from entering the water, reducing the workload on filtration systems, and maintaining water clarity and quality.

Predator Protection: Ponds with fish are particularly vulnerable to predators. Netting acts as a physical barrier against birds, cats, raccoons, and other animals that might prey on fish or disrupt the pond ecosystem.

Health of Aquatic Life: By keeping the pond clean, netting indirectly supports the health of fish and other aquatic life by maintaining optimal water conditions.

When to Use Pond Netting?

Autumn: This is the prime time for netting due to falling leaves. Installing netting before leaves start to fall can save hours of cleanup.



Winter: While some might remove netting after the leaves have fallen, keeping it on can prevent larger debris from winter storms. Also, since plant coverage is negligible, the pond becomes more susceptible to predators. You'll need to balance this against snow loads.

Year-Round: For ponds in neighborhoods with

aggressive predators, that are under trees or that experience frequent storms, continuous netting might be beneficial.

Choosing the Right Pond Netting

Mesh Size: Finer mesh like 3/8" is better for catching small debris but might obstruct views. Larger mesh like 1/2" or 3/4" is ideal for larger debris and predators while allowing visibility.

Material: Polypropylene is popular for its price and UV resistance. Woven polypropylene is most popular, offering better strength and UV resistance.

Size: Ensure the netting covers the entire pond with some overhang to secure it properly.

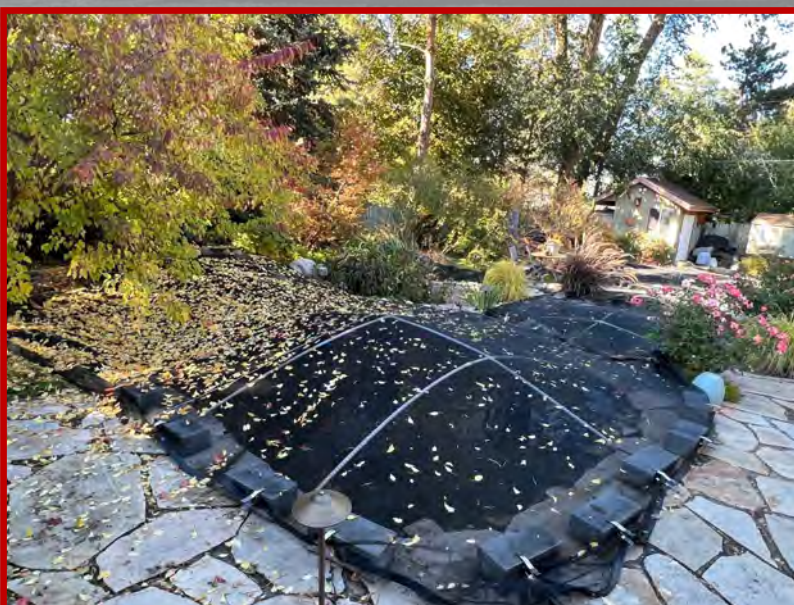
Installation: Look for netting with features like included ground stakes for easy secure installation. Some come with domed support structures for lower maintenance, allowing the leaves to simply fall off the sloped sides.

Installation Tips

Secure Properly: Use stakes, rocks, or specialized anchors. Ensure the netting is taut to prevent sagging under debris weight.

Visibility: If you want to keep the pond visible, opt for larger mesh or consider partial netting where debris accumulation is heaviest.

Maintenance: Regularly check for tears or debris accumulation on the net. Lift and shake off the net to clear leaves. Using a leaf blower works great.



Pond netting is not just about keeping your pond clean; it's about maintaining an ecosystem's balance, protecting investments in aquatic life, and enhancing the longevity of your pond's health. By understanding when and how to use pond netting, you're not only simplifying maintenance but also ensuring your pond remains a vibrant part of your landscape for years to come. Whether you're dealing with the first autumn leaves or year-round debris, choosing the right netting and installing it correctly can make all the difference in your pond's health and beauty.

Adapted from webbsonline.com

Winter Pond Aeration

Last month, we discussed the need for fall pond aeration. Aeration in the winter is equally important.

While many natural processes in your pond slow down during the winter months, some don't. As organic debris from the summer and fall decomposes and fish consume oxygen, byproducts are produced in the form of gases that are toxic to your pond's inhabitants. These gases can be especially harmful during the winter if your pond freezes over. With no way for the gases to escape or for fresh air to reach the water, oxygen levels decline and toxic gases build up in a potentially deadly combination for fish and aquatic plants.

Fortunately, there are several methods you can use for winter pond aeration that will help keep a hole open in the ice and allow gas exchange.

Using a De-Icer

Pond de-icers are not heaters, but are designed to maintain an open hole in the ice to allow for gas exchange. Heaters are more frequently used in aquariums, particularly those that house warm-water fish like tetras, danios, or angelfish. In your pond, fish will overwinter just fine without a heater, even if temperatures drop below freezing.

When choosing a de-icer, check the maximum pond size that the unit is rated for. Manufacturer recommendations vary, but in general, de-icers with greater wattages can be used in larger ponds. Most are thermostatically controlled to turn on when water temperatures are around 35 degrees to help cut down on energy costs. However, cold water takes a long time to warm up, leading the de-icer to run more often than it needs to. To combat this, plug the de-icer into a thermostatically controlled outlet. The outlet activates based on air temperature rather than water temperature, helping the de-icer run only when needed.

While a de-icer is effective, it may not be enough during cold windy nights to keep a hole open in the ice. If the hole does freeze over, pour hot water on the ice where it once was to reopen it. Avoid using sidewalk salt or similar products to melt the ice, as many contain additives that can be harmful to fish or aquatic plants.

Using a Winter Pond Aerator

Winter is one of many times during the year when an aeration kit is an asset for your water garden. Aeration kits infuse oxygen into the water by releasing small bubbles from air stones or diffuser sticks





or pads, which move the water and allow for gas exchange. During the winter, we recommend moving the diffuser to no more than half your maximum depth. This will help reduce ice formation and keep a pocket of warm water for your fish at the bottom of the pond.

If you're planning to use a pond bubbler for winter, keep in mind that certain parts need to be maintained, especially if you've been using your aeration system throughout the summer or it has been dormant since last winter. Inspect the air stones or diffusers and install a maintenance kit to ensure the machine is working to its full potential.

Combining a De-Icer and a Pond Aerator for Winter

Given Utah's cold winters, your water garden may need a little extra help during the winter. In this case, a combination de-icer and aeration kit is a great solution. Using them together will ensure that a hole is kept open in the ice, water circulates properly, and dissolved oxygen levels remain high. Additionally, using a pond aeration kit during winter will allow you to use a smaller wattage de-icer, which could help you save money on your energy bill.

Choosing a Pond Aerator

So should you run a pond aerator in the winter? No matter the season, aerators help circulate water to improve gas exchange and limit algae growth, but they're especially useful if you live in an area that typically experiences freezing temperatures throughout the winter.

I Have a De-Icer, But My Pond Totally Froze Over.

When frigid weather persists for days on end – like way-below-zero temperatures at night or days that never get above freezing – a pond can completely freeze over, even if a higher-watt de-icer and aerator are used. The ice-melting combination works great in most scenarios, but it just can't keep up in extreme conditions.

Do keep in mind that pond de-icers are not meant to thaw the entire pond's surface or heat the water. Their primary purpose is only to keep a hole in the ice to allow gas to escape. With that said, if your pond has been totally frozen over for a day or so, your fish will be fine. But if it has been more than a few days or weeks, your pond pals could be at risk of oxygen deprivation or overexposure to dangerous gases trapped beneath the ice.

So what do you do?

Let's start with what not to do – and that's to try to smash the ice with a chisel or blunt object. The sound and vibration of that pounding on the ice amplify underwater, which can stress out or even concuss your fish. They're already unhappy, and so you certainly don't want to make them endure more trauma!

Instead, use a pot of hot water to melt away the ice. If it's particularly thick, you might need to repeat the process several times to open a complete hole in the frozen stuff. While the temperatures remain frigid, check on the pond every few days to make sure the hole is still open; if it freezes over again, use hot water to open the hole back up.

Adapted from thpondguy.com



Thank You

TO OUR SPONSORS

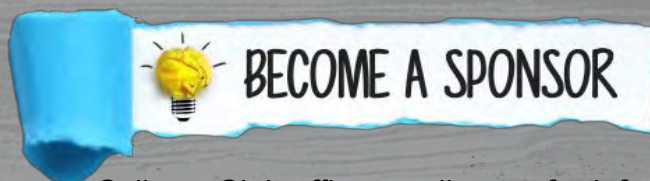
Click the logo or link to learn more!



[IFA](#)



[National Pond Service](#)



Call any Club officer or director for info



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.

We sponsor an annual Pond Tour – a self-guided tour of outstanding local ponds, water features and gardens. The 2024 Tour was a great success. If you'd like to be involved in planning or have your yard in the **2025 tour**, please let us know! Pond tours can only happen with your participation!

Check out the club's website at utahwatergardenclub.org.

The Utah Pond & Garden Club is a Utah nonprofit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) public charitable organization.

Officers

President

Michael Pfafflin
801-652-0386
michaelpfafflin@mac.com

Vice-President:

Jeremy Adamson
801-997-0706
jeremykadamson@gmail.com

Secretary

Carlee Christy
817-300-4333
carleedschristy@gmail.com

Treasurer

Linda Pfafflin
801-541-8880
lindapfafflin@gmail.com

At-Large Directors

David Hales
801-230-9050
dhales10@gmail.com

Greta deJong
801-815-2973
winkingi@gmail.com

Betsy Shelton
970-424-6434
sheltonbj10@gmail.com

Past President

Julie Matis Flint
801-680-1154
jam199@comcast.net

