

September Newsletter

Dear Ponders & Gardeners,

Is it really September already? It’s been a wonderful, if hot and dry, summer. Now fall is upon us. Leaves in the canyons are starting to change color, temperatures are dropping, and stores are full of Halloween goodies. And our Club’s season is coming to an end.

We hope you’ve enjoyed the summer and our Club meetings. We have **one more meeting this year**. It will be on **September 26 at 7:00 pm** in Daniel Peel’s and Lewis Wayman’s yard, at 11707 S. Thornberry Drive in Draper. They have a beautiful formal koi pond that you won’t want to miss. Our speaker will be Hunter Siggard, President of the Utah Pigeon Club, who will talk to us about show pigeons. Please bring your own chairs.

Our **closing banquet will be on Wednesday, October 23 at 7:00 pm** , at Toscanos in Draper, located at the 11400 South off ramp of I-15 (this is the same location as last year’s delightful banquet). The cost is \$45 for members (those who have paid dues this year), and \$70 for non-members. Plan now to join us in a fine dining experience and great company. Members, please watch for an email with a link to purchase tickets. Members can also purchase tickets at the September 26 meeting, as can nonmembers, or they can call Linda Pfafflin at 801-541-8880. Our menu is fabulous, and the Club is subsidizing all members’ dinners by \$25 (so members pay just \$45).

We’re always looking for more people to join the Club, and to get involved. We’ll hold our annual election at the banquet for to fill upcoming vacancies.

We need a new president, a new secretary and a new director for next year. If you’re willing to fill one of these roles, please call Julie Matis Flint (801-274-3040) or Michael Pfafflin (801-652-0386). We need members to step up. The Club can only continue if we can find people willing to help run it.

(continued on next page)

In this Issue

Fall Pond Aeration.....	2
2024 Meeting Schedule.....	3
August BBQ	4
Member Spotlight	5
Foam	7
October Annual Banquet	8
We need you!	8
Our Sponsors	9
Hand-feeding koi.....	10
Club Dues	12
About us	13



This is our last full newsletter of the season. We'll publish a short issue with photos from the September meeting and the banquet in late October. So read on for info on fall pond aeration, why your pond water may be foamy, and hand feeding koi.

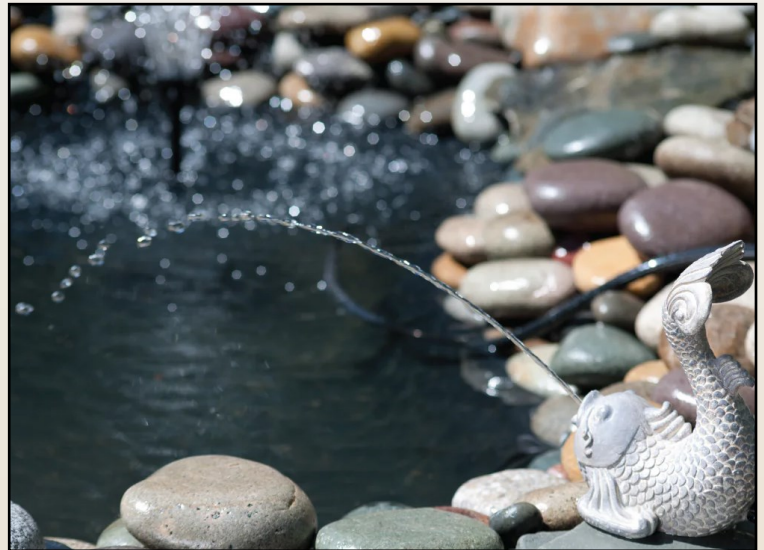
Hope to see you soon!

Fall Pond Aeration

While the warm spring and summer may seem like the obvious seasons to focus on aeration, fall and winter are just as important. Ideally, you can keep your pond water moving all year round, even in the coldest parts of winter. The fall season is all about getting your pond ready for winter shutdown. During this time, you want to keep your pond water moving so it has plenty of oxygen and good bacteria to help break down any debris that makes its way into the pond. The cleaner your pond is during the fall, the easier your winter transition will be. Learn more about the importance of aeration in the fall.

Fall maintenance refresher

During the fall season, you want to keep your pond as clean as possible. Fall maintenance is all about minimizing debris, breaking up sludge, and switching to a cold water fish feeding schedule. Once the water drops below 70°F, you'll want to start feeding less as their metabolisms begin to slow down. Any uneaten food will sink to the bottom of the pond and begin to decay.



Consider netting your pond in the fall to keep leaves out. But even if you try your best to keep out leaves and lawn clippings, and to scoop or skim any that gets onto the pond's surface, debris always seems to find its way into the pond. A sludge remover product can be a helpful treatment for the fall. It uses beneficial bacteria to naturally break down the layer of sludge and debris at the bottom of the pond. Using a pond vacuum can also help.

Winter prep

Putting extra effort into fall maintenance makes your transition into winter smoother. As the water temperature lowers, everything in your pond begins to slow. Since fish are cold-blooded, they need heat from their environment to power their metabolisms. During the late fall and winter, they're more vulnerable to sickness. The beneficial bacteria also slow down in the colder water, working less efficiently to break down any waste.

Aeration in the fall

Water features like fountains and waterfalls aren't just for decoration. Ponds need to have circulating water to release all of the gases created by the bacteria in the water from breaking down organic debris. The beneficial pond bacteria need oxygen to survive, too. When the pond water is still, only the surface water can oxygenate from wind and other natural movements. The middle and bottom water slowly have less and less oxygen, creating an environment that is toxic to the fish and other pond life.

During the fall, you want to make sure the deepest part of your pond is circulating and aerating so that good



bacteria can colonize and break down any debris. How much aeration you need depends on how deep your pond is. If you have a shallow pond, a single fountain like a spitter may be enough. Deeper ponds may need multiple water features like a fountain and a waterfall.

You can keep your water features running in your pond until the water temperature consistently drops below 50°F. Fish won't

need to be fed. Their bodies aren't able to digest anymore. You'll want to remove the water features at this temperature and move airstones to just below the surface to prevent overcooling. This happens when the surface water in the pond becomes very cold, and the water feature mixes the warmer water from the bottom of the pond. The overall temperature of the pond quickly drops, shocking fish and plants.

Fall is an important transitional season for pond owners. While you may not immediately consider aeration a vital part of your fall maintenance, it can help keep your pond clear for the winter. Having water features that aerate and keep the water circulating maintains oxygen levels. The beneficial bacteria that break down debris need oxygen to work and colonize. You want to have as many of these good bacteria in your pond to break down debris at the bottom of the pond before the water gets too cold in the winter.

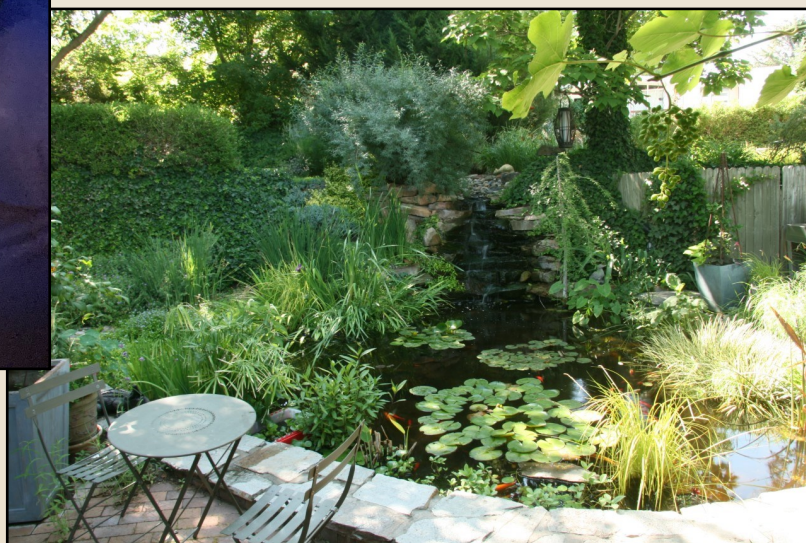
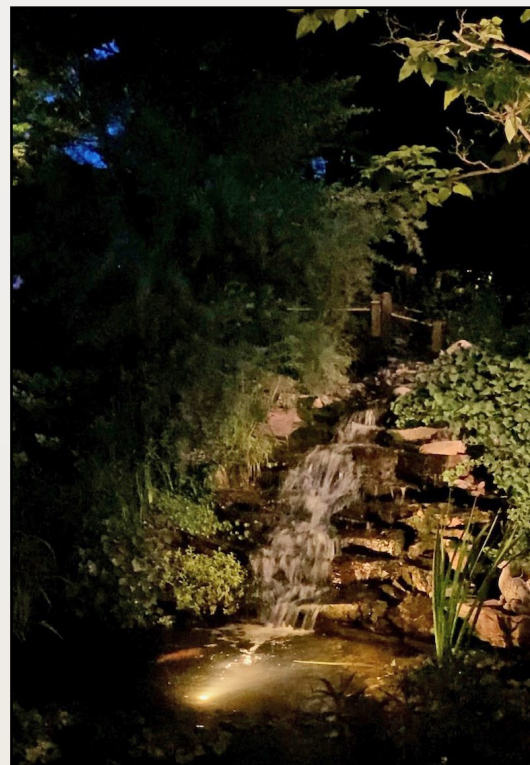
Adapted from thepondguy.com

2024 Meetings

- **September 26** – Our last meeting of the season will be at 7:00 pm at Daniel Peel's and Lewis Wayman's pond, located at 11707 S. Thornberry Drive in Draper. Please bring your own chairs. Hunter Siggard, President of the Utah Pigeon Club, will be our speaker. Come join us for the last meeting of the year. You can learn more about the Utah Pigeon Club by clicking [here](#).
- **October Banquet** – 7:00 pm, Wednesday, October 23 at Toscanos, which is located in Draper at the 11400 South Off Ramp of I-15. The cost is \$45 per person for members and \$70 per person for non-members. Plan now to join us in a fine dining experience and great company. Our menu is fabulous, and the Club is subsidizing all members' dinners by \$25, so members pay just \$45 instead of \$70.

August BBQ

A big thanks to Richard and Rosie Cobbley for hosting our August meeting and annual BBQ, and cooking the burgers and brats. And thanks to everyone who came out and brought pot-luck dishes. We had a great turnout and a wonderful time. We also had our second plant exchange of the year. Thanks to all who contributed. And we had several new members join the club. Welcome!



Apologies from your humble editor, who forgot to take photos of the August BBQ meeting. Thanks to those who did.

Member Spotlight: Jan & Lyle Wilde

This month's member spotlight is shining on Jan and Lyle Wilde and their amazing and magical pond and garden. Back in 1893 (long before Jan and Lyle were walking this earth), a two-room school house was built in Bluffdale, actually it was the first school house in Bluffdale. The building was used for 30 years as a school house, a church for 10 years, apartments, and finally a single-family home. Jan fell in love with the building and knew one day she and Lyle would buy the place and make it their own. It took some time, but about 19 years ago, they moved in.

The building was a mess and the yard was completely full of weeds and hopelessly overgrown and neglected. Their children told them they were insane to buy this ramshackle house and overgrown yard. They had a lot of work to do and then Jan made a suggestion (more like an edict!) to put in a pond, creating even more work for the two of them. Lyle knew Jan would get what she wanted so he started digging.

They found out about the pond club listening to "Joy in the Garden" hosted by Joy Bossi and they went to a meeting. There they heard about Josh Pendelton who designed and constructed ponds. They had boulders delivered and that's when they realized that they would not be able to place them so they called Josh and their dream pond became a reality. Josh finished the dig, installed liners and set the boulders to complete a natural looking pond that is just what Jan and Lyle envisioned.



Their pond is about 3,500 gallons and was completed in 2018. They stocked their pond with about a dozen goldfish. Ducks and water snakes come to visit. Jan feeds the ducks but not the snakes! The Wildes' love gardening and spend time each day working on it. Most of the trees have faces and they have names for sections in their garden – the Land of Left Behinds, Leaning Tower of Peacock, Butterfly Bed and Breakfast and the Fairy Zone. After working in their magic garden, Jan and Lyle sit by their beautiful pond, with a glass of wine, enjoying the music the pond creates. Jan and Lyle's children are now in love with the Wilde homestead and pond and said the house and yard should always be in the family to enjoy.

Jan and Lyle are fabulous supporters of the pond club. They come to nearly every meeting and they have put their pond on the tour many times, and each time there are new wonders to see. They have provided cookies and drinks, and this year (2024) they smoked and grilled about 200 hotdogs for the many visitors

to enjoy as they wandered the garden. It allowed people to linger, chat, and really enjoy the art and imagination that abounds in the wacky and crazy Wilde yard.

Jan and Lyle would like to invite anyone to stop by and take a tour of their garden. They are out there every day and would love to have you drop in for a visit and a tour. Do stop by, you won't be disappointed, and you may see something whimsical and wonderful!



Member Spotlight

Is there someone in the Club
you'd like to see spotlighted?
Let us know!

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, which will make tap water safe for them. Water conditioners (such as Pond Prime) also form a beneficial slime coat on your fish. In addition, add Defoam to your water. Safe for fish, plants and wildlife, you simply shake the bottle and pour the recommended dosage into the pond. The foam will disappear in no time.

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. A general 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.

Adapted from thepondguy.com

October End-of-Season Banquet

TOSCANO

THE SOUTH VALLEY'S FINEST DINING EXPERIENCE

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Our annual end-of-season banquet will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 23 at Toscano, which is located in Draper at the 11400 South off ramp of I-15. The cost is \$45.00 per person for members and \$70.00 per person for non-members. Plan now to join us in a fine dining experience and great company. Members, please watch for an email with a link to purchase tickets. Nonmembers and members can purchase tickets at the September 26 meeting, or call Linda Pfafflin at 801-541-8880.



We need you to get more involved in the Pond Club. Opportunities are endless, and include recruiting new members, helping coordinate the Pond Tour, assisting with monthly meetings, food, this newsletter, our website and other publicity, serving as officers and directors, and so much more!

We'll hold our annual elections at the October banquet for to fill officer and director vacancies. We need a new president, a new secretary and a new director.

The Club can only continue if members are willing to get involved.

Call Julie Matis Flint (801-274-3040) or Michael Pfafflin (801-652-0386)
for more info or to throw you hat into the ring.

Thank You

TO OUR SPONSORS

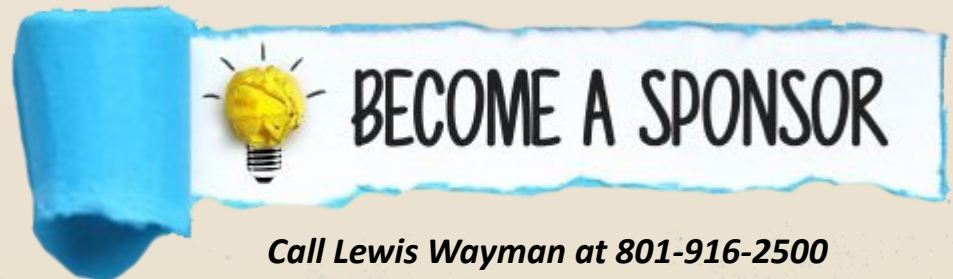
Click the logo or link to learn more!



[IFA](#)



[National Pond Service](#)



Call Lewis Wayman at 801-916-2500

Hand feeding koi

Do you dream of being a koi whisperer? Dream no more! Today we're sharing the secrets to transforming yourself from a pond observer into a koi feeding master.

How to Feed Koi from your Hands like an Expert

We have gathered these helpful tips from Koi pond owners in our networks, we hope they help you create a fun relationship with your fish, one that brings happiness to both you and your swimmers.

It's important to note that every koi is different, some may never want to eat out of your hand. Either way, your consistent attention to their comfort will increase their health and happiness.

The key to training Koi to feed from your hand is consistency in time and location of the feeding.

This serves a dual purpose, first you will earn their trust. By nature, they are suspicious of predators who approach from a different location at a different time. When you're consistent with feeding time and location the fish will begin to identify that it's safe because it's you.

First things first though, you will need to train them to swim up and then train them to feed from your hand next.

But how do I get my Koi fish to swim up to me AND eat from my hands?

You will need patience, consistency, and some great food!

If you want to pet and feed your Koi, but they always hide from you, than you will need to train your Koi to see you as a caretaker instead of a predator. This will allow you to get up close and personal with your pet friends.

To train Koi to swim to you upon sight, cut off feeding for 5 days!

Pick a spot at the pond you are comfortable with and on day 6, throw small amounts of food in one spot nearest to you. You can stand or sit. Wait until the Koi venture to the food. If they don't come to take the food after 10 minutes of coming out, you are done for the day. They saw you, believe me.

Repeat the process at the same spot daily with only small amounts of food. And not enough food to feed all



the Koi. In just a few days, you will have your Koi trained to see your face and go to that particular feeding spot.

To train Koi to eat from your hands, cut off feeding again and in next visit hold the food in hand under the water.

The Koi will be attracted to the smell in your hand and come near.

After a few days, they will begin to fight your hand to knock out the food, at that point, pinch food in your fingers or palm for the Koi to take.

Do this a few times in a row to develop consistency and soon the koi will feel comfortable eating out of your hand.

You should also feed from a deep area as this allows your Koi to approach vertically since they don't like shallow water.

There is usually a leader – if you train it, the rest will follow. Koi have routines, that when you are consistent, will feel more comfortable approaching you.

What's the Best Food for Hand Feeding Koi?

Delicious and nutritious food will keep your koi fish happy. A secondary purpose of having delicious food is to entice your Koi with the smell of food. Using koi treats will allow you to better reward them during the training.

So what makes food good and delicious? This is a good question, since “what type of food to buy” is a common question for many koi pond owners. We assure you that the higher quality koi food is generally worth every penny since your koi are what they eat. We recommend floating food for hand feeding.

With the right conditions in your pond, quality food, and a well trained Koi, we know that you will build a lasting friendship with your living jewels.

Common Questions about Feeding Koi

Keep these helpful tips in mind when you are feeding your Koi. Their happiness depends on how you feed them along with the quality of your water.



What are the safety precautions before interacting with my koi?

This is very important – before putting your hands in the pond, be sure to scrub off like a surgeon. You definitely don't want any suntan lotion, bug spray, cologne, lotion, or anything other than your natural skin oils to interact with the Koi or pond water as it could make your fish sick.

Can I hurt my Koi by touching their scales?

You may have heard that touching fish removes the important slime coat which is your fish's defense against bacteria. While it's important not to remove the slime coat from your fish, which is equivalent to our getting a scrape, you won't remove the slime coat simply from feeding them from your hand. You should still be careful and learn techniques to pick up your koi before you try it out.

Do Koi have teeth? Can they bite me?

Koi do have teeth, but they are too far back in their mouths to be felt by your hand. If their mouths close over your hand, it will feel like a strong grasp, but don't worry about losing a finger. They are harmless!

Fish are friends, so it's important to take the time ensure the quality of their food as well as their habitat.



Club Dues

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, and subsidizes the annual banquet. 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 free admission for the pond tour (a \$20 value by itself), and reduced admission to the fall banquet. 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.



Utah Pond & Garden Club

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 Water Garden 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 UtahPondClub.com.

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

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