

# June Newsletter



Hello Ponders and Gardeners!

We hope you're enjoying our first months of summer and the long hours of sunshine, even if its been so unusually hot. Peonies have been beautiful, roses are in their glory, and water lilies are in bloom.

Thanks to all who came to our May meeting at Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's Water Conservation Garden Park. Mike Lorenc gave us a great presentation on water use and conservation, and we held our first plant exchange of the year. A few photos of the meeting are on pages 6 and 7. We'll have another plant exchange in August, so begin planning now.

This month we'll meet on **June 27 at 7:00 pm at the Pfafflins' pond**, which is at 11459 S. Rockhampton Drive in Sandy. Our speaker will be Charlie Perington, arborist at Red Butte Garden. Home-made pizza will be served! Please come and join in the fun.

Thanks also to all who have paid their 2024 dues. The money goes to pay for refreshments, as well as other Club expenses such as state filing fees. 2024 dues are now due. If you haven't yet paid, **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](#). 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.

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In this month's newsletter, you'll find articles on shade trees and their roles in our landscapes and in fighting climate change, and this year's crazy infestation of aphids. Remember, you can find an archive of past newsletters on our website — [utahpondclub.com](http://utahpondclub.com).

Finally, a note that our **Pond Tour** is August 3 and 4. Please plan on attending. Paid members receive free admission. Public tickets are \$20 per carload, and are available at [utahpondtour.com](http://utahpondtour.com).



# Shade Trees: A Natural Way to Fight Climate Change

Shade trees are more than just leafy giants gracing our landscapes. They are silent benefactors, quietly working in the background to improve our lives in countless ways. From providing a refuge from the



scorching sun to filtering the air we breathe, shade trees are essential for a healthy environment and a comfortable quality of life.

One of the most noticeable benefits of shade trees is their ability to regulate temperature. On a hot day, the shade of a tree can feel like a ten-degree drop. This is because trees act as natural air conditioners. Their leaves absorb sunlight and release water vapor through transpiration, a process that cools the surrounding air. This cooling effect can significantly reduce energy consumption for air conditioning, leading to lower energy bills and a reduced carbon footprint.

**Combating Heat Islands:** Cities, with their abundance of asphalt and concrete, are particularly prone to a phenomenon called the urban heat island effect.

These surfaces absorb and retain heat, causing urban temperatures to be several degrees higher than surrounding rural areas. This temperature difference can exacerbate health problems, increase air pollution levels, and put a strain on energy grids.

Shade trees are a powerful tool in combating urban heat islands. By casting shade on buildings and streets, trees significantly reduce surface temperatures. Studies have shown that shaded surfaces can be 20-45 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than unshaded areas at peak temperatures. This translates to cooler air throughout the city, reducing heat-related illnesses and improving overall comfort.

I performed a test on May 29th using my paved patio being shaded by Zelkova trees. Using a infrared thermometer I recorded a temperature difference of 44.5°F between the shaded and unshaded surfaces. The ambient air temperature was only 80°F. Imagine the difference when the ambient air is 100° a cloudless day!



Large parking lots for shopping and commercial uses are a huge source of heat islands. Large shade trees can reduce the heat buildup in addition to keeping parked cars much cooler. City and County building ordinances need to include a minimum shade trees requirement needed per square foot of parking. A great example is

Sandy's newly redone amphitheater parking lot featuring fast growing Zelkova shade trees and electric car chargers as a bonus!

**Year-Round Temperature Moderation:** The benefits of shade trees extend beyond summer. In colder climates,



strategically placed trees can help reduce heating costs. Deciduous trees, which lose their leaves in fall, allow sunlight to reach windows, roofs, and walls during winter, providing passive solar heating for homes. Evergreen trees planted on the north side of a house can act as a windbreak, reducing drafts and heat loss.

**Natural Air Purifiers:** Shade trees are nature's air filtration system. Through a process called stomatal uptake, tiny pores on the underside of leaves trap dust, pollen, smoke, and other air pollutants. These pollutants become trapped in a sticky film on the leaves and eventually washed away by rain. In urban environments, trees can significantly reduce air pollution levels, leading to improved respiratory health for residents.

**Oxygen Production Powerhouses:** As they absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, trees convert it into oxygen through photosynthesis. A single mature tree can produce enough oxygen to support two people every year. By planting trees, we can help mitigate the effects of climate change and create a cleaner, healthier atmosphere for ourselves and future generations.

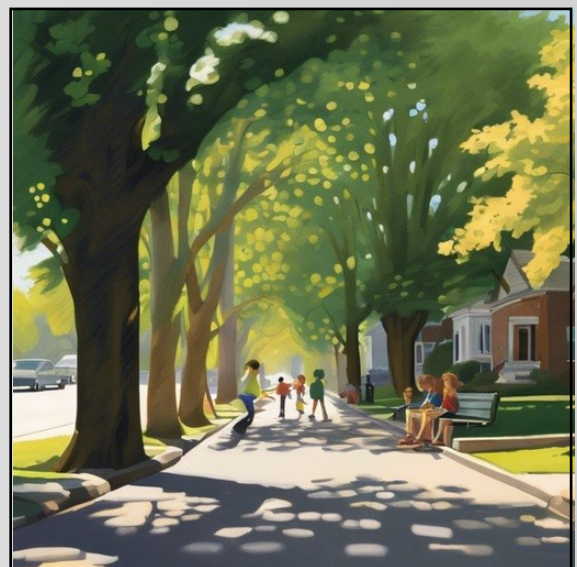
**The Enchantment of Forest Bathing:** Spending time immersed in nature, particularly among trees, has well-documented health benefits. This practice, known as forest bathing (shinrin-yoku in Japanese), originated in Japan and is gaining popularity worldwide. Forest bathing involves slowing down and mindfully connecting with the sights, sounds, and smells of the forest. Studies have shown that forest bathing can reduce stress, improve mood, lower blood pressure, and boost the immune system. Even a short walk under a canopy of trees can provide a sense of peace and rejuvenation.

The benefits of shade trees extend beyond the environment. They can increase property values by up to 20%, making them a wise investment for homeowners. Studies have shown that trees in neighborhoods can even reduce crime rates by fostering a sense of community and discouraging loitering. Shade trees provide a haven for recreation and relaxation. Parks with mature trees become natural playgrounds for children and peaceful retreats for adults. The sight of a lush, green canopy can reduce stress and improve mental well-being.

Planting shade trees is an investment in our future. They provide a multitude of benefits for generations to come.



Sandy Amphitheater Parking



Shade Trees increase home values

However, it's crucial to choose the right tree for the right location. Call local city services for the best trees to plant in parkways that will create shade, be drought tolerant, and will not damage sidewalks and curbs.

### Water-Wise Shade Trees for Utah:

Utah's climate presents a unique challenge for tree selection. Luckily, there are several beautiful and resilient shade tree options that thrive in arid conditions. Here are some excellent choices for Utah landscapes:

- **Pacific Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Pacific Sunset')** This fast-growing maple boasts dark green foliage that transforms into a vibrant display of yellow, orange, and red in fall. It tolerates heat and drought well.
- **Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*)** A native Utah tree, the Bigtooth Maple is perfectly adapted to the state's climate. It provides dense shade and can handle a variety of soil types.
- **Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambelii*)** Another Utah native, the Gambel Oak is a long-lived and drought-tolerant option. Its spreading canopy offers excellent shade.



Reducing the Heat Island Effect

## 2024 Meeting Schedule

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

- **June 27** – 7:00 pm at the Pfafflins' pond — 11459 S. Rockhampton Drive in Sandy. Our speaker will be Charlie Perington, arborist at Red Butte Garden. Home-made pizza will be served!
- **July 18** – Avellars' pond. Our speaker will be Frank Fink with Living Artscapes.
- **August 22** – Annual BBQ and second Plant Exchange at the Cobbleys' pond.
- **September 26** – Daniel Peel's and Lewis Wayman'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!





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](#):



### 2024 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. 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 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.

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.

## Please Welcome Our Newest Sponsor



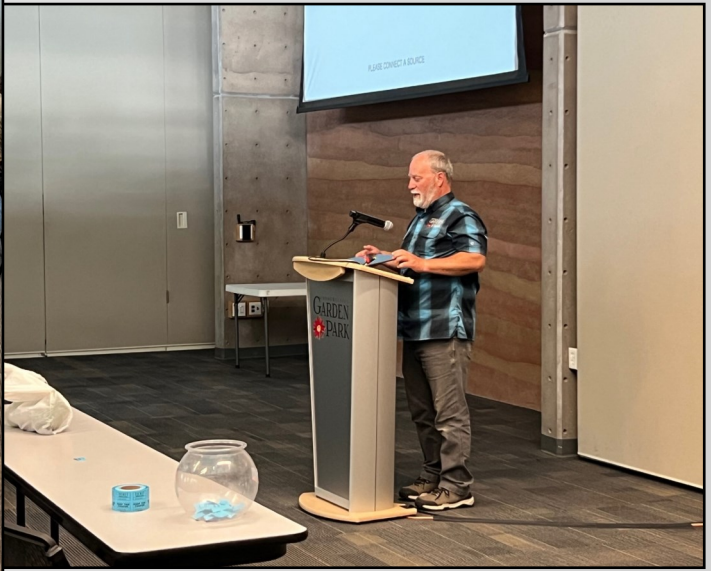
IFA is a locally-owned farmers co-op that proudly supports intermountain farmers, ranchers, gardeners, pet and law onwers to grow the things they love. IFA has long been a supporter of the Club, and this year they have moved to Diamond!



# Our May Meeting!

We held our May meeting at Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's Water Conservation Garden Park. Mike Lorenc gave us a great presentation on water use and conservation, and we held our first plant exchange of the year.





# 2024 Pond Tour



August 3rd and 4th

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Information and tickets:  
[utahpondtour.com](http://utahpondtour.com)



Embark on this self-guided tour that includes some of the most beautiful ponds, water features, and gardens located throughout Wasatch Front.



# Ack! Aphids!



While your Midwestern cousins are complaining about the cicada apocalypse, Intermountain gardeners are dealing with an abundance of aphids this year, especially on roses, due to our long wet spring. “What can I do about aphids?” is currently one of the most frequently asked questions at the USU Master Gardener Help Desk (email [mastergardener@usu.edu](mailto:mastergardener@usu.edu) with other gardening questions).

If you’ve been to Red Butte Garden at the University of Utah in recent weeks, you’ll also notice that their roses are covered with aphids as well. What is Red Butte doing to manage them? “Nothing” according to the rose garden lead horticulturalist, Craig England. “We’re waiting for the beneficial predators [like ladybugs and lacewings] to take care of the aphids.” And in parts of the rose garden, you can already see that previously infested roses are now clear. “Most aphid damage on roses is cosmetic and minor and unless you’re growing show roses, you can just be patient.”

The white, cottony detritus left on plants is the excretions of certain types of aphids who have already come and gone. Other aphids produce a honeydew that ants feed on, but the honeydew can become a sooty mold on the underside of the leaves. In fruit trees, the honeydew often leaves a sticky mess that can drop on sidewalks or cars.

But for the impatient, here are some IPM (integrated pest management) solutions:

- With rubber tipped gloves, you can pinch them off (squishing obviously works, too)
- Wash off aphids with a strong stream of water using your garden hose (not recommended for vegetable plants) or a spray bottle. Once they’re on the ground, they usually don’t climb back up — the stream of water also probably damaged their sucking mechanisms as they were jettisoned.



- If you haven’t already used a chemical on the plants, you can buy ladybugs at local nurseries. Release them in the evening when it’s cooler and calm. But don’t be surprised if the ladybugs move onto something tastier in your yard.

- If available, praying mantises will also consume aphids.

- Don’t kill ladybug nymphs! Know what they look like — you want these guys to grow up into aphid



Aphids are the talk of the town – and not in a good way.

They are infesting flowers, fruit trees, and vegetables, causing major concern all over Utah. Here's the thing, though: they rarely cause major damage to the plant. Unless they are feasting on leaves you want to eat (like lettuce or kale), their activity shouldn't impact plant health.

If you want to do something, there are many choices. These range from spraying them off with water or insecticidal soap to applying a systemic pesticide (for non-edibles only). We recommend starting with the most organic method (water) and then moving to more aggressive methods as the situation requires.

WORD TO THE WISE WEDNESDAYS



munchers.

- Encourage other natural predators by planting yarrow, alyssum, and other plants with small attractive flowers that provide nectar and pollen to beneficial insects. Planting herbs will not deter aphids, but some herbs can act as “companion crops” that will draw the aphids away from infested plants to them.
- Predators will only show up if a food source exists, so there can be a lag time between the appearance of the aphids and the appearance of their enemies.
- Manage nitrogen levels with your vegetable plants. High levels of nitrogen fertilizers tend to encourage aphid reproduction. Use several staggered

applications of lower concentrations of nitrogen rather than a single high dose. Consider using delayed-release fertilizers.

### Chemical controls

- Apply insecticidal soap to aphid nymphs and adults. These soaps are made when the fatty acid portion of either the plant or animal oils are joined with a strong alkali. Commercial insecticidal soaps are a highly refined version of liquid dish soap. There are lots of DIY recipes on the internet, but there is a substantially increased risk of plant injury with them. ALWAYS read the label and follow the exact instructions on any purchased product.
- Apply a systemic insecticide (neonicotinoid — such as Bayer Advanced 3 in 1) in the spring.
- Apply a cover spray (pyrethroids — Pyrethrin) when aphids are present.
- Apply horticultural oils directly on aphids. Neem oil works by suffocating insects or disrupting how they feed. However, it will also kill beneficial insects such as bees or butterflies, so use with discretion. The aphids must be present when the oil is sprayed to be effective.

What's the next bug to bother your garden? Subscribe to Utah State University IPM Newsletter at <https://extension.usu.edu/planthealth/ipm/subscription/>. During the growing season you'll get advisories about pests and how to control them. The newsletter is especially valuable for fruit tree growers, advising exactly when to spray for whatever pest is in season.



# Thank You

TO OUR SPONSORS



Call Lewis Wayman at 801-916-2500



# JOIN THE CLUB

Scan this QR Code or [click here](#) to  
join the Utah Pond & Garden Club  
or pay your 2024 dues





## 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](http://UtahPondClub.com).

The Utah Pond & Garden Club is a Utah nonprofit corporation.

## Officers

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