

September



Hello fellow ponders!

It's been a great pond season. We've thoroughly enjoyed being able to meet with all the great members of the pond club. And we were excited to again hold a great pond tour. Thanks to all who've opened their yards and ponds to host meetings and be on the tour. And thanks to each of you for coming out and sharing our passion.

It's hard to believe the season is coming to an end. None of us (or at least few) look forward to shutting down our ponds for the winter. But check out the article on preparing for fall and winter in this month's newsletter.

And we still have our **annual banquet** to come! We're holding it this year at **7:00 pm on October 20** at **Per Noi Tratoria**, an excellent Italian restaurant. It's located at **3005 S. Highland Drive**. You can get tickets from any club officer or board member (see back page for contact info). Tickets are \$10 per person. The club will cover the balance of the cost. Tickets are available in advance by contacting a Club officer (contact info is on page 12).

Hope we see you there!



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September 2022

Simple Tips for Fall Pond Care

A nip in the air, shorter days, and soon the shedding of multi-colored leaves from the trees signify a changing of the seasons. Gardeners across the country take precautions to protect their landscapes from the harsh reality of winter.

Water features require special consideration when putting your pond to bed for a long winter's nap. Here are some basic guidelines to help your aquatic plants and finned friends weather the chill of Mother Nature.

Here's a handy check list to help ensure a healthy pond come spring time:

1. **Remove Debris** — Decaying leaves and foliage produce toxic gases that can harm your fish so you want to remove this debris before winter rolls into town. You don't need to remove every single last leaf, but try to remove the majority.
2. **Net the Pond** — Install Protective Pond Netting over your pond before the leaves started to fall and your maintenance will be much easier. Carefully roll up the net and discard the leaves that were caught.
3. **Remove Fallen Leaves** — If you didn't use a net over the surface of your pond, you'll need to remove the build-up of leaves from the bottom of the pond. Use a long handled pond net to scoop them out. Check your skimmer basket and remove any leaves that are still caught inside.
4. **Trim Pond Plants** — Trim back hardy marginal aquatic plants to 2" above the water to keep the dead foliage from drooping over into the pond.
5. **Trim Waterlilies** — Trim back waterlily leaves and stems to 2-3" above the base

of the plant. This keeps dead foliage from decomposing in the pond.

6. **Relocate Hardy Waterlilies** — If you left hardy waterlilies in their pot, drop them into the deepest part of the pond to over-winter. Do not bring them indoors as they need a period of dormancy.
7. **Move Tropical Waterlilies Indoors** — Bring tropical waterlilies indoors if you want to over-winter them. Keep the pot in 50-degree water or harvest the tubers from the pot and store in sand. Be advised, even trained horticulturists lose a lot of tropical waterlilies when storing them indoors, so you might simply want to treat them as annuals.
8. **Stop Feeding Fish** — Once temperatures drop to 50 degrees, stop feeding your fish. They need to get ready to hibernate and you'll want to avoid any metabolic complications. You can feed them Cold Water Fish Food until the temperature drops below 50 degrees.



Thanks to Aquascapeinc.com for these pond care tips

Know your water lilies: Rhonda Kay

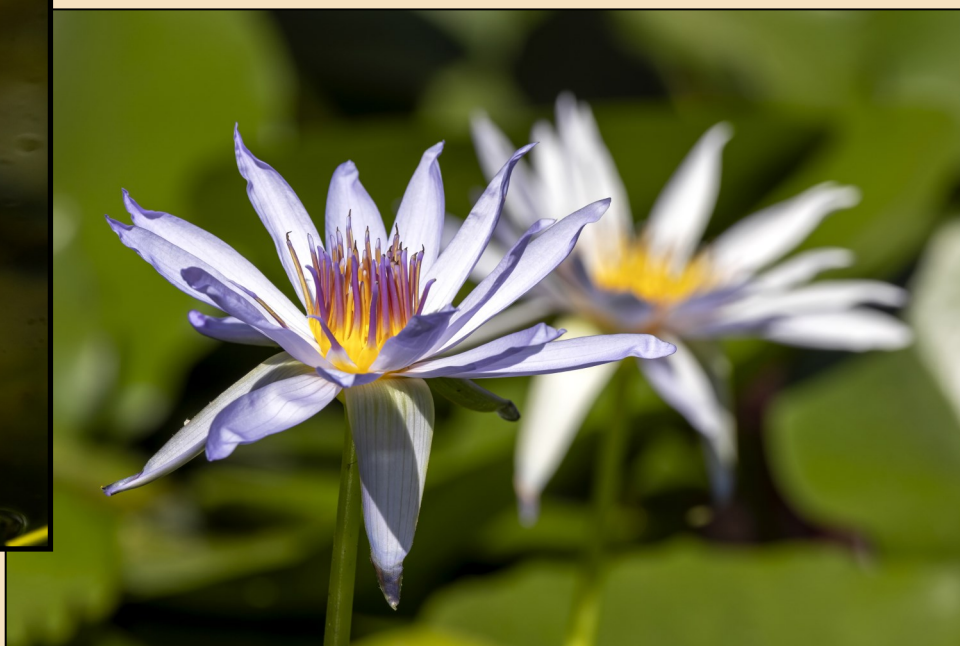
Nymphaea 'Rhonda Kay' is an excellent tropical waterlily with blue blossoms. This is an unusual tropical water lily created by the award winning famous hybridizer Kenneth Landon. It is one of the very few tropical water lilies that can handle cold climates — Zones 7b-10. One of the star varieties of tropical waterlilies, they are known for holding their flowers high above the water and having many flowers open at once. Most of the time the flowers are a saturated purple, but in warmer climates such as Utah the flowers can turn blue. Additionally, Nymphaea 'Rhonda Kay' is one of the first waterlilies to open in the morning. This is a great addition for a medium to large water garden or pond.

Rhonda Kay can get large and should be given at least a 5-foot grow area to spread out over. You can plant this lily in a typical 1-

5 gallon circular planter's pot. This lily will bloom with as little as 4 hours of sun a day, making it ideal for ponds that get minimal sunlight.



Rhonda Kay in a Utah Pond



Banquet

Our annual end-of-season banquet will be at 7:00 pm on October 20 at the Per Noi Trattoria, located at 3005 South Highland Drive. The cost to members is \$10 per person, and the club is picking up the rest. We'll also have a fun auction.

If you don't yet have your tickets, please contact any club officer or director (contact info is on page 12). Come and enjoy great food and wonderful company. Celebrate the end of another successful ponding season.

Per Noi Trattoria



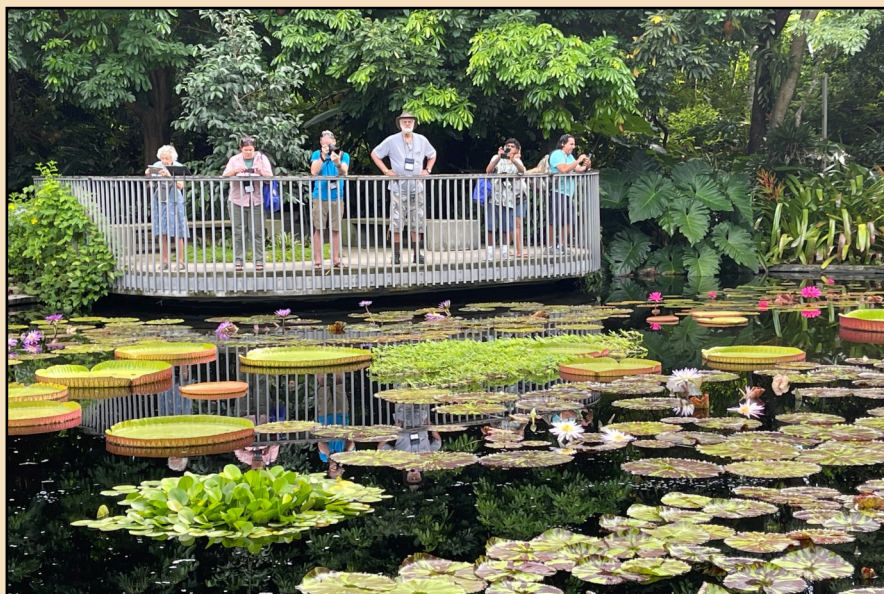
IWGS 2022 Annual Symposium



As many of you know, the International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society (IWGS) held its annual symposium in Naples, Florida this year. Most of the meetings were held at the Naples Botanical Garden. Construction on this lovely 170 acre garden began in 2008, and it opened to the public in 2009. It features a number of ponds full of lovely water lilies and lotus. It is also the site of the current world competition (sponsored by the IWGS) for “best new waterlily” of the year. Everyone who attended the meetings was able to peruse new varieties of water lilies that had been brought in from growers all over the world, and then vote for their favorite. A few are shown on page 6. Which would you choose? We will let you know the winner next month.

Speakers at the symposium included Raymond Jungles, who is a world-famous landscape architect, Laura Bancroft, who runs a large lotus operation in North Carolina and ships more than 100 varieties of lotus all over the world, and Brandon McLane, who runs Florida Aquatic Nurseries, the largest

water garden nursery in North America, and the hybridizer of many award-winning new water lilies. Participants were also



able to visit other botanical gardens, including Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden and the Kampong National

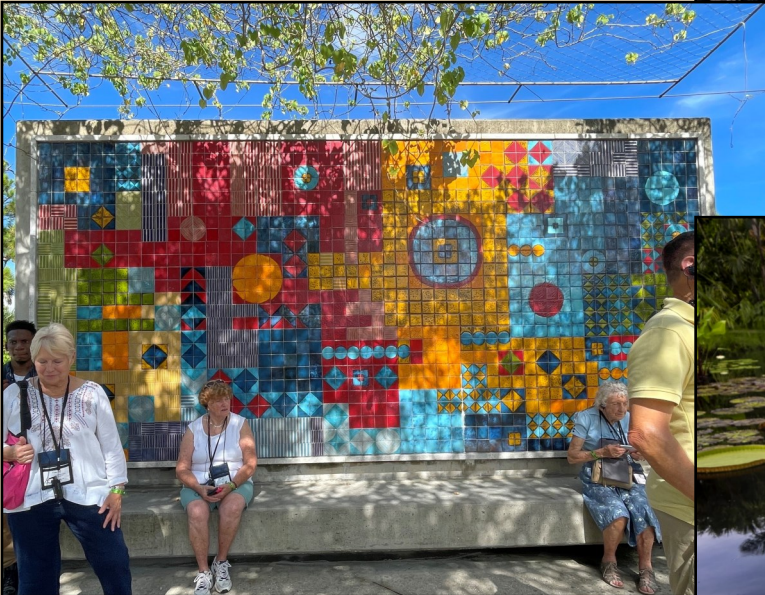
Tropical Botanical Garden. Thank you IWGS for an educational and fun symposium.

The IWGS symposium for 2023 will be held in British Columbia, Canada (possibly in Vancouver), in August or September. Participants will tour the world-famous Buchart Garden as part of the symposium. Please consider attending! We'll let you know more details as we get them.

This year, Julie Matis, Kelly Flint, and Sandra and Ferron Stokes from our club attended. Feel free to ask any of them for more information.



Naples Botanical Garden



Some of this year's new water lilies.
Which is your favorite?



Know your Koi: ages of koi — tosai, nisai, sansai, yonsai, gosai

Japanese Numbers Represent Koi Age

You may have heard these terms bandied about when discussing koi. The popular terminology comes from variations of Japanese counters, and are used to represent a koi's age. Here are the words to use from ages one to five:

- Tosai
- Nisai
- Sansai
- Yonsai
- Gosai

Don't Koi Live to Be 1,000 Years Old?

Not quite. Though we might wish these wonderful fish could live forever, in reality, they have an average lifespan of 25-35 years. They also don't grow forever to accommodate the size of their ponds. We're sorry to be the one to rain on everyone's parade.

It's also worth knowing that Japanese koi tend to live much longer than "domestic" koi (roughly 40 years compared to 15.) What accounts for this difference?

Japanese breeders have rigorous quality standards they've maintained for generations. Consider that the highest quality koi wasn't exported from Japan when they first hit the international market.

Japanese koi have different diets and genetics. Their breeders also ensure their maturation process occurs naturally, instead of forcing them to reach larger sizes prematurely.

Size and Age

The size of a koi fish impacts its price more than any other variable. Just like with any other animal, size increases with age, at least up to a point.

If you're trying to go easy on your wallet, consider limiting your search to Tosai or Nisai koi. One word of caution — it's difficult to determine the quality of a koi until it reaches maturation. You may want to steer clear of younger koi if you aspire to breed or enter your fish into a competition.

How Can I Tell My Koi Fish's Age?

As a general rule, larger fish are older fish. Nevertheless, you have to be careful about using size as the sole determinant in gauging a koi's age.

Koi from different geographical regions have significant differences in breeds, genetics, environments, and diets. These changes all influence how fast koi mature.

Getting a precise age requires examining the fish's ear bone. In practical terms, it's best to stick with a rough estimate. You can obtain an age range by measuring your fish or checking with your supplier. The majority of koi online seem to sell in the one to five-year-old age range.



*This koi is mature, but hasn't been
around for 1,000 years!*

Thanks to KoiPondHQ for the info in this article

September Meeting

Thanks to the Maxfields for hosting our September meeting in their beautiful yard! All who came were richly rewarded.



Member Spotlight: Dave Decoursey



Pond Club Member, Dave Decoursey has been gracious enough to open his backyard and pondless water feature several times on the Utah Water Garden & Koi Club Pond Tour. His beautifully landscaped front yard is the first thing you notice when you visit. His back yard is a lovely and serene oasis of beautiful native flowers, plants and natural wood accents that make his yard look like a part of the Utah backcountry.

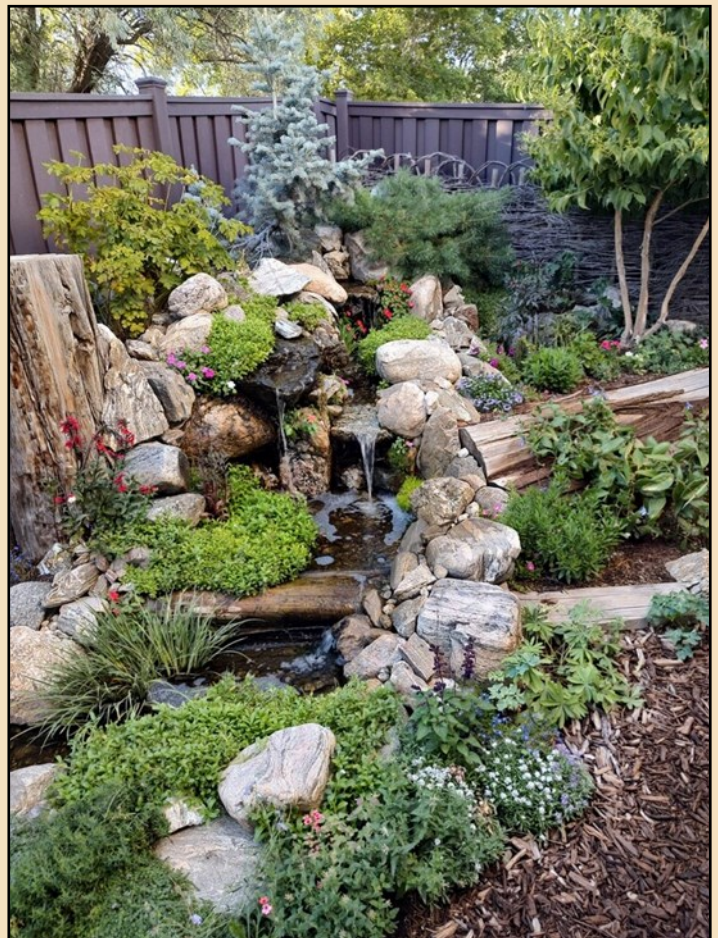
Dave always wanted a water feature to add to his beautiful garden, which he dearly loves, and he wanted to incorporate a mountain stream type feature. He did not want a large imposing system which would have overpowered his compact backyard. So, he designed and built his water feature about 4 years ago, spending six months working in the evenings and weekends to complete the project. His design is innovative and water wise since *the feature is completely supplied by rain water*. The rain water is collected from four corners of the roof of his house as runoff which is drained into a 1500 gallon tank. A mere ¼ inch of rain will fill the storage tank and any excess water gets drained into a canal that runs behind his property. He has only run out of water once a couple of years ago when our valley went eight weeks with no rain.

The water from the storage tank fills the 600 gallon bowl that feeds the 35 foot stream which contains some small pools as it flows down to be recirculated back up to the bowl. The stream flow is variable, anywhere from 5,000 gallons per hour to a dribble. He does wish he had made the bowl bigger to accommodate 1,000 gallons, but that is about the

only change he would made to his system. His feature attracts local leopard frogs, numerous birds who come to drink and bath in the shallow water, dragon flies and snails.

His feature is very low maintenance as there are no filters to clean. However, the water is usually high in nitrogen content so it does cause some algae, but that is a small price to pay for such a brilliantly designed system that utilizes rain water.

Way to go Dave for your fantastic DIY pondless water feature; it is a joy to behold!



Dave's Pond

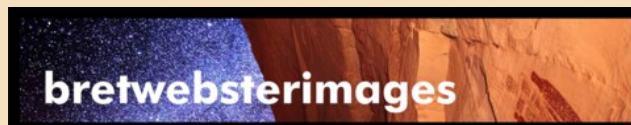
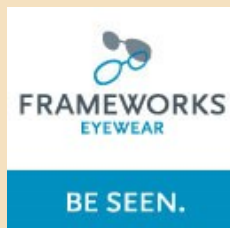
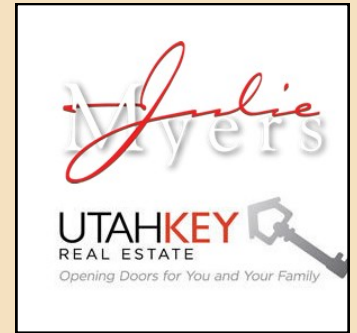
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Who we are

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. We were excited to hold our tour again this year, and are looking forward to next year.

Check out the Club's website at UtahWaterGardenClub.org.

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