



Utah Water Garden & Koi Club

June Newsletter

Greetings Fellow Ponders!

First, a big “thank you” to Ken and Troy for hosting our June meeting in their beautiful backyard oasis. We all enjoyed their lovely ponds and horticulture, as well as great food.

This month’s newsletter features articles on building your own pond (see Ty Rosser’s *The Pit ‘O Despair*), environmental benefits of ponds (including water conservation), the ochibe shigure koi, and the Wanvissa water lily.

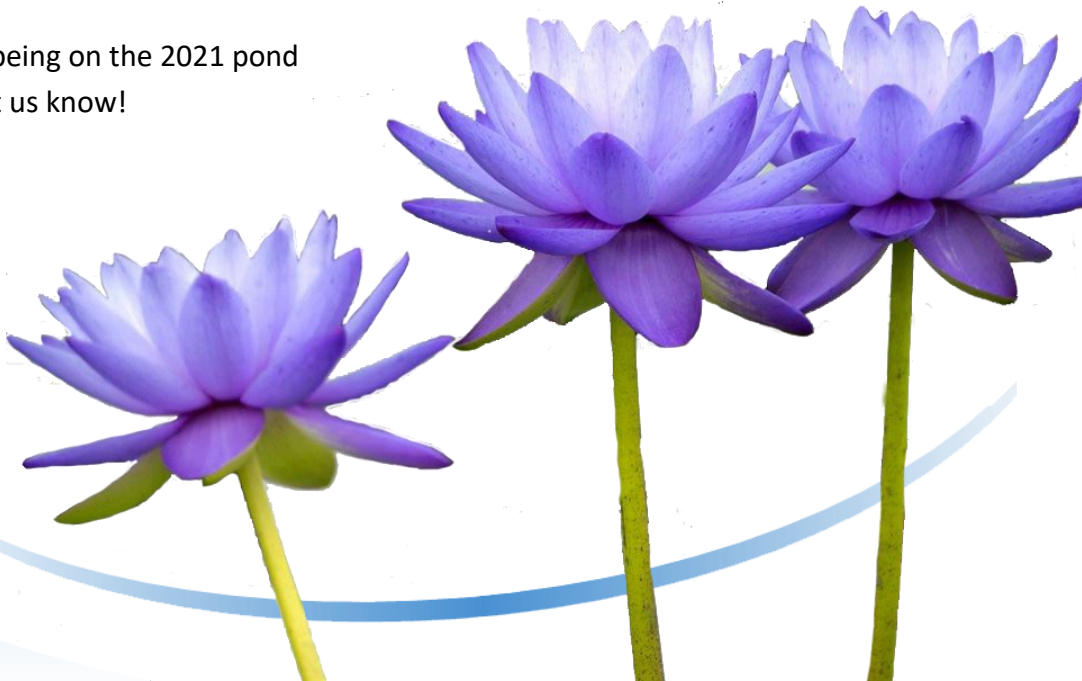
One big takeaway – our ponds can help conserve water (especially when there is about two-thirds surface coverage by water lilies or other floating aquatic plants, and if ponds are replacing lawn, which needs even more water).

We hope to see you in July at the Henrie pond, where our speaker will discuss drip irrigation (another water saving solution).

Thanks all! Hope you’re enjoying your beautiful ponds and gardens.

Happy Pondering!

p.s., if you’re interested in being on the 2021 pond tour (see page 3), please let us know!



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Know your water lilies – Wanvisa

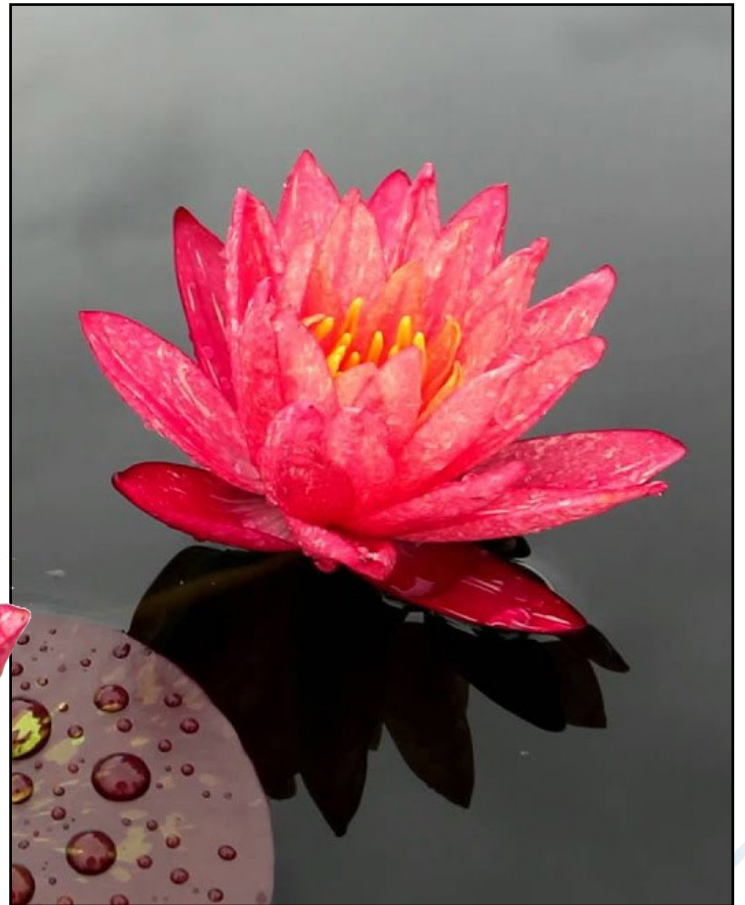
Welcome to our new monthly column: Know your water lilies! We'll feature water lilies that can be grown here in Utah.

We're starting with a favorite. Wanvisa is an award winning hardy water lily. It was voted 2010's best new water lily of the year. Wanvisa is a fast grower and great bloomer, showcasing features that have never been seen in a hardy water lily before. The leaves feature splashes of multiple shades of red and green color throughout the pads, and the blooms feature a speckling throughout deep peach/pink flowers. Wanvisa is sure to be a pleasing lily for any water garden enthusiast, as it is one of the most unique hardy water lilies available at this time.

SIZE: MEDIUM/LARGE (3' to 6' Spread)

LIGHT REQUIREMENTS: FULL SUN

WATER DEPTH: 18" TO 36" (deeper depth is for



Occasionally, a Wanvisa blossom will have split colors
This photo is from Julie Matis Flint's pond

Utah Water Garden and Koi Club

2021 Pond Tour August 14th & 15th

Information and tickets at
UTAHPONDTOUR.COM

Bring your family on this self-guided tour which includes some of the most beautiful ponds, water features and gardens located throughout the Wasatch Front.



The Pit 'O Despair: A Pond Build Update !

Hello,

My Name is Ty Rosser! My wife, Sarah, and I have been a part of the pond club since 2017 and in all that time we have not had a pond. However, that is changing. We are currently in the thick of building our pond: The Pit of Despair!

The Pit of Despair is what we've fondly been calling this project since we started it in early 2020.

But I'm sure you might be wondering: If we didn't have a pond, how did we get involved with the pond club? Well, I've always wanted to build my own



pond since I was a teenager.

My first experience with ponds was when I helped my dad build his pond.

When I was a teenager my dad participated in the pond club while he was building his own pond. Well, let me make a

small correction to that statement about my dad being the one who built his pond: I, being the oldest and only son in our family, was naturally told to start digging. With shovel, axe, and pick in tow, I spent the better part of my high school summer vacation removing the dozen or so stumps that needed to be cleared so the pond could be dug.

Funny side story about how all those stumps got there in the first place. My dad did not tell my stepmom that he was going to build a pond. He decided to just go for it without telling her and grabbed his chainsaw to clear the area. When she came home that day to nearly all their scrub oak trees cut down, my dad... well, lets just say he got in trouble.

It was at this point that I was enlisted to start clearing stumps.

It wasn't all bad! My dad paid me \$50 per stump I removed. By the end of that summer my back was broke. But between digging up stumps and my summer job, at 16 years old I entered my junior year of high school with enough money to buy my first car.

I've always enjoyed my dad's pond. Even now, 13 years later, I love hanging out by the pond when we visit his house for barbeques & family stuff.

How Ty & Sarah Got Involved With the Club

Let's fast forward to 2017 when I was invited to come speak to the pond club about landscape & pond lighting design. My wife and I had a lot of fun chatting with everyone in the club after my lighting presentation and decided we'd come to the next meeting. We've been a part of the club ever since.

I was itching to start building a pond right after we joined the club, but I'm thankful we waited. The pond club is a true wealth of knowledge and experience. I was fortunate that it took me so long



to get started, because it gave me time to soak up all that information and really process it. In short, it gave me the chance to really figure out what I want to get out of my pond. I honestly changed my mind on the design several times over the last 4 years.

The 6 Biggest Takeaways I Learned From My Time in the Club



We've learned a lot during our time in the club. But here are my biggest takeaways that I felt I needed to weigh heavily in my pond's design and build.

- Build it bigger than you think you it needs to be.
- If you can put in a bottom drain, it will make maintenance far easier.
- Really think through the mechanics and the filtration systems to ensure you'll have a happy and healthy pond.
 - Get a UV Sterilizer to keep algae down.

- Don't compromise on the vision you have for your pond, you'll always regret it.
- Have an detailed plan and vision (I learned this the hard way)

All this said, its important to remember that my 6 biggest takeaways probably won't match up with someone else's. Everyone's yards and gardens are unique and we all have different goals we are trying to achieve when we set out to build a ponds. So long as it works for you and your space and it brings you joy, that's really all that matters.

Our Pond Build So Far

March of 2020, when Covid-19 first came about, I was stuck at home all the time. Like many people, I started staring at a home project I'd been meaning to do and finally decided it was time. Like my father grabbing his chainsaw, I grabbed my shovel and set to work. The only problem was I was trying to work off a rough idea in my head, not an actual plan.



I dug for the sake of starting the pond, feeling like I had at least broken the surface. Then the pond sat



there unfinished for the better part of the next year. Finally, in mid-March I actually took the time to put a real plan together. I completely changed the design and went in an entirely different direction: one that I thought would give us better viewing angles of the pond and allow us to increase our future patio space.

Even if this plan didn't show the mechanical side, I at least now had a blueprint for the pond's footprint to work off



of. Soon after this I took my tape measure and chalk spray to the backyard to start marking roughly where I needed to dig. Then I dug a shallow trench along that line to better



define the space that needed to be dug out.

Then it was time to rent the excavator and start digging.



If you are wondering what we did with all the excavated dirt, its all piled up in the back corner of our yard. When our friends have asked us what we plan to do with all the left over dirt, I answer honestly: "That is future Ty's problem".

After getting the rough hole dug out, I had to start digging things out in better detail for the footings. The footings were challenging because they had to be as close to perfectly level as possible. Luckily I had the

help of some friends who where able to help me get the footing just right.

Next it was time for rebar. The rebar had to be placed in the footing to reinforce the cement that was going to be poured later. The rebar was probably the most fun to do. Which was good! Because the next step in creating the footings was not so fun.

I ended up carrying in 165, 80 lb. bags of cement to be mixed in my cement mixer for my footing. Why didn't I just order a ready mix cement truck? I decided to do it myself because ordering ready mix cement was looking Impossible. There is a shortage of ready mix cement. A lot of contractors are having cement brought in from Idaho right now. I called several cement companies and was quickly led to conclude that if I wanted to make cement happen this summer, I was going to have to make it happen myself.

After a very long and hot Saturday, the footings were pored and finally complete. A couple of very good friends came over to

help me and we made it happen.

This is currently how far along my pond build has made it. I have a lot more work left to do, but it will all be worth it in the end.

Its been a lot of work so far to get to this point, but I'm just grateful to my wife for supporting me and wanting to make this pond happen as badly as I do.

If anyone new to pond building ever feels intimidated to start a pond project, just remember, there are all sorts of different ways to build a pond. And no matter which way you decide will work best for you, just remember, there is a wealth of experience within the pond club. If there is a question you have, chances are someone in the club will have the answers. Thank you everyone who helped inspire us to finally take the plunge to begin building our dream pond.



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Know your koi: Ochibe Shigure

Ochiba Shigure, or Ochiba, are koi that combine the brown or copper color of Chagoi with the silver or grey color of Soragoi to form a two-color pattern.

Ochiba (which means “autumn leaves on water”) are the result of a crossing of Chagoi and Soragoi brood stock.

As with all koi, body conformation is of the utmost importance. The head should be symmetrical and proportional in size to the rest of the body. The body itself should also be symmetrical, with a torpedo-like shape, meaning thick behind the head, and tapering down evenly toward the back of the body and the tail fin. The fins should be full and symmetrical, with no deformities.

Typically, Ochiba have the grey of Soragoi as the base pattern, with the brown of Chagoi appearing as a pattern over top of the grey. The highest quality Ochiba have a Kohaku-like stepped pattern.

The edges between the grey and brown areas should be clean and sharp, with each color stopping at the edge of the scales that form the pattern. The color should not bleed over into a part of the adjacent scale, as this will create a blurred look to the pattern. Ideally, the scales of an Ochiba should display a uniform reticulated-net pattern. Beware of any missing or misplaced scales, as this will detract from the beauty of the koi. Additionally, look out for any blemishes or discolored scales. These will only become more apparent as the koi ages toward maturity.



Environmental Benefits of Ponds

Many pond owners enjoy the beauty and interest their water garden adds to their home landscape—not to mention the relaxing, soothing sounds of streams and waterfalls. But owning a pond is also beneficial to the environment. Here's how:

1. Water conservation

Lawns and soil-based plants require watering. Lots and lots of watering. In fact, regular lawn watering uses 750-1,500 gallons of water each month. (Source: Water Conservation Tips - <http://www.monolake.org/about/waterconservation>.) Conversely, ponds can be re-filled with rainwater, virtually watering themselves. Plus, once a pond is initially filled, owners need to “top off” the pond only occasionally, or perform an occasional water change. Ponds also offer a self-sustaining cycle of hydration that keeps plants alive without having to water them. Additionally, pond water can be used to water other plants throughout the yard—simply dip a watering can into the pond to care for other soil-based plants around your house. Finally, if you experience a lower-than-normal season of rainfall, you can always position drainpipes from your rooftop to empty directly into your pond, so it acts as a natural reservoir. All of this water conservation ultimately offers a side benefit: lower utility costs, especially in the months with hotter-than-usual temperatures.

2. Less mowing, fewer pollutants

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, each weekend about 54 million Americans mow their lawns, using 800 million gallons of gas per year and producing tons of air pollutants. A traditional gas-powered lawn mower produces as much air pollution as 43 new cars, each being driven 12,000 miles. Garden equipment engines—which also emit high levels of carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and nitrogen oxides—produce up to 5% of the nation's air pollution. Lastly, over 17 million gallons of gas are spilled each year refueling lawn and garden equipment—that's more oil than the Exxon Valdez spilled in the Gulf of Alaska.

3. Fewer pesticides and fertilizers

Pesticides and fertilizers for the lawn can be

harmful, creating runoff that ends up in our water supply. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that only 35 percent of lawn fertilizers applied ever reach the grass plant. The rest ends up in our air or seeps into groundwater. During a typical year, over 102 million pounds of toxic pesticides are applied in pursuit of a perfect lawn and garden. But adding a pond or water garden to your backyard not only can save you money on fertilizer—the sludge collected by your pond filter (which is filled with nutrients from fish droppings, excess fish food, and decaying leaves) is a natural fertilizer that can be used to feed your landscape.

4. Supports local wildlife

While ponds have always been a haven for beautiful fish, such as Koi and goldfish, they also attract and provide a sanctuary of breeding for indigenous wildlife in your neighborhood, like dragonflies, frogs, and birds. Baby frogs and toads (known as tadpoles) are generally a desirable pond inhabitant for their algae-eating habits. Adult toads are also beneficial to the garden for their aid in controlling insects.

5. Creates environmental awareness

Getting kids involved and thinking about nature early in life encourages them to continue their interest in the environment throughout adulthood. Planning, building, and maintaining a pond or water garden can teach children how a complete, natural ecosystem works. It can also help them understand the responsibility we all have for caring for our environment, which can ignite their interest in creating a better future for our planet.

(This story is from Tetra Pond's website)



June Meeting

We had a delightful June meeting. Ken and Troy opened their beautiful yard for us, and we enjoyed a taco bar with chips and a variety of Lewis' delicious salsas. Our knowledgeable and engaging speaker was Marvin Potter from IFA. He spoke about the use of chemicals around ponds, fertilization of water plants, and starting new ponds. He and his wife answered members' many great questions.

Our next meeting will be on July 15 at 7:00 pm at the Henrie Pond. Our speaker will be We had a delightful June meeting. Ken and Troy opened their beautiful yard. We enjoyed a taco bar with chips and a variety of Lewis' delicious salsas. Our knowledgeable and engaging speaker was Marvin Potter from IFA. He spoke about the use of chemicals around

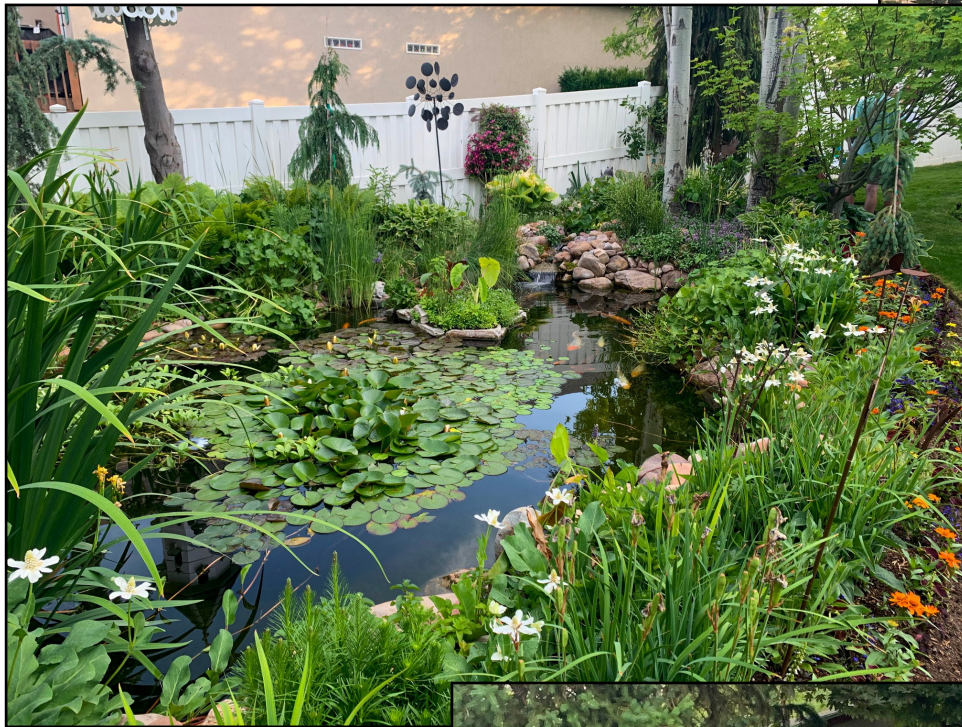


ponds, fertilization of water plants, and starting new ponds. He and his wife answered members' many great questions.

Our next meeting will be on July 15 at 7:00 pm at the Henrie Pond, located at 3413 Evergreen Place. Our speaker will be Andy Belingeri with Jain Irrigation, who will talk to us about drip irrigation and ways to conserve water. See you then!



June Meeting



Thank you to our sponsors!



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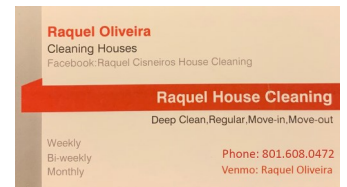
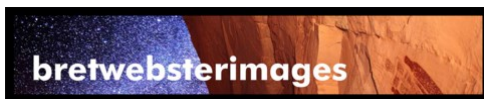


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Who we are

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 out-standing local garden. Due to the pandemic, we held a "virtual" tour in 2020. You can view it on the Club's website at

UtahWaterGardenClub.org



Club Officers & Directors

Officers

President: Daniel Peel

435-660-0784

danielpeel@me.com

Vice-President: Kelly Flint

801-274-3040

kflint3040@msn.com

Secretary: Zoe Godbois

435-623-5100

zoecast@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lewis Wayman

801-916-2500

lwayman@stylecraftframes.com

Board of Directors

Ty Rosser

801-995-8521

ty@utahlights.com

Gil Avellar

801-572-0853

trout42@hotmail.com

Nancy Aoyagi

801-712-9484

avon_naoyagi@hotmail.com

Richard Cobbley

801-641-0179

Past President

randcobb@comcast.net

