



# Utah Water Garden & Koi Club

## June Newsletter



### Summer is Here!

Greetings fellow ponders! We hope you are enjoying the summer. As June comes to an end, our ponds and gardens are looking great, our pond tour is shaping up nicely, and we wish this happy time of year could go on forever.

Our June meeting was a huge success! Thanks to all who came, and to Julie and Kelly Flint for hosting. We learned about patio ponds, and the information from Julie’s presentation is on page 2. Our meeting in July will be on the 21st at Botanicals, which is at 8610 S. State Street in Sandy.

It’s no too late to enter you pond in this year’s tour! We have a number of great ponds so far, but could use more. Call Ty Rosser at 801-995-8521 for information on being in the tour or to sign up! And go to [UtahPondTour.com](http://UtahPondTour.com) for information on the tour and to buy tickets.

Read on for information on our Koi of the Month, our Water Lily of the Month, and for tips on mulching – a great way to conserve water.

Thanks all! We love our association with each of you, and love spending time together. See you on July 21st!



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# Patio Ponds

*[This article summarizes Julie Matis Flint's presentation from our June meeting]*

Patio ponds, also known as balcony ponds and miniature ponds, work well for small spaces and when playing with scale.

## Container:

Anything that will hold water:

- IFA black rubber rounds or ovals
- Stock tank
- Costco plastic plant containers (\$20) in spring
- Internet "patio pond" containers (Bonus here: sometimes the bottom or side will be ready for electricity)

If you want a true "pond" effect, helpful if the container is wider than deep. Aquascape makes a line of containers wider than deep and with adaptations for electrical lines, you can find other adaptive lines on the Home Depot website or on Amazon

## Water (and easy water source):

This can be a garden hose or water carried from house, but remember you will frequently need to add water, and sometimes you will need to be able to drain water (in the fall, and if you want to clean the pond), so place near a faucet. If setting up a new patio pond, add some of the water from your main pond.

An alternative is to plumb a line through the bottom or side of the container.

## Electricity:

Moving water will simulate the real "pond effect." It is necessary unless almost all of the surface will be covered. If 90% or more of the surface will be covered then you might be able to grow a lily or a pot of water hyacinth or water lettuce or a combination of these without moving water. I have seen it done in Vietnam, and I have done it with simple containers of azola or canna lilies here in Utah. But even then you should consider a source of moving water for

- mosquito control
- health of plants
- visual appeal
- sound

There really are only two sources of electricity. The container needs to be placed near an electrical outlet or there must be a solar option available. Solar options actually work quite well, but they do not provide as much movement, will not work at night or when the sun is covered (so consider this if you want to enjoy the sound of water at night) and they tend to be a bit more fragile (needing to be replaced every couple of years).



**Pump:**

This is what will provide the motion! Aquatic (submersible) pumps are available on Amazon, from Home Depot, from pond suppliers such as Pond Outlet, Webb's Water Garden Supply, etc., for around \$25 to \$35. Many of these pumps will include a couple of heads you can choose between for decorative water spray. The pump should be strong enough to provide a small current in the water, but not so strong that it will suck any small fish into the intake.

**Plants:**

Any small to medium sized aquatic plant will work well in a patio pond. Examples include:

- water hyacinth
- water lettuce
- water iris
- small water lilies
- aquatic mint, water hawthorn
- Watercress
- marsh marigolds
- Anacharis
- Lotus
- Thalia
- water celery or variegated celery
- dwarf cattails

Many other plants which we usually grow in soil also have very high water tolerances and make lovely specimens for patio ponds. Examples include:

- many canna lilies
- Impatiens
- some varieties of carex
- hibiscus mosheutos (rose mallow, swamp mallow, etc.)
- creeping jenny
- corkscrew rush
- potato vine

Remember that most plants will need protection during the winter – move them below the frost line in your main pond or (with plants which are not strictly aquatic) place them in a cool garage.

**Fertilizer:**

If you have plants, you will need to remember to fertilize them. Many plants in ponds become fertilized from fish waste, etc. However, this likely will not work in a patio pond. You can insert plant tabs (like Pondtabs) into the soil, or you can



fertilize the water directly (Hyponex liquid fertilizer, or Osmocot, or crushed fertilizer tabs. Or you can use water from your pond.

**Pest control:**

Unless you have a fair amount of water movement, you might want to add a piece of a mosquito dunk tablet. This will prevent mosquito larvae from growing into adults which can fly.

**Fish:**

Some people like to add several goldfish or rosies (fathead minnows) or even mosquito fish to their patio ponds. Whether this will work for you depends on the following factors:

- Temperature fluctuation during the day (if pond is in the sun 30 gallons or less of water heats up very quickly). Most fish cannot survive above 85 degrees Fahrenheit for very long.
- Oxygen levels in the water. Most fish will require a fair amount of pond aeration to ensure adequate oxygen.
- Size of pond. Is there really room for fish?
- Strength of pump. Too strong a pump may suck fish into the intake.
- Plans for the winter? If pond is outside for the winter, any fish will likely freeze unless pond is quite large or a heater is used to maintain temperature above freezing.

**Substrate:**

A few small rocks or crushed clay bits at the bottom of the pond can add a home for beneficial bacteria, and can help anchor pond plants.

Patio ponds are a fast growing trend and a lot of fun to play with.

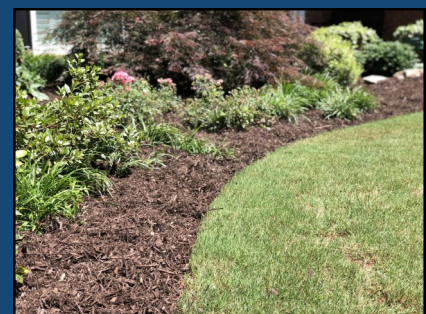
**Happy ponding!**



**Water Conservation Tip of the Month – Mulch**

One of the best methods of growing healthy plants and conserving water is to use mulch in the landscape. Mulch is a protective ground covering that saves water, reduces evaporation, prevents erosion, controls weeds, and in the case of organic mulches, enriches the soil.

Mulching reduces soil moisture loss through evaporation. Mulch also reduces the soil's exposure to wind which also reduces water loss through evaporation. The insulating quality of mulch helps to keep the soil cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. By maintaining more even soil moisture and temperature, mulch promotes better root growth and plant health. Mulch also helps to reduce rain splash and runoff, which can help to prevent erosion in steep areas.



# Know Your Koi: Soragoi

Soragoi (SOH-roh-goi): The Soragoi koi fish is a solid gray-colored or silver koi fish known, like the Chagoi koi fish, for being fast growers and particularly hungry feeders. Also like the Chagoi, Soragoi koi fish are closely related to the wild carp and can grow to be very large, with full-grown adult Soragoi commonly reaching over 30" in length. It is also due to their close relation to the wild carp that Soragoi are known for being calm and docile fish, especially as they grow older. While it may take time and patience, the Soragoi is one of the koi fish breeds known for being trained to feed from the hand of their owners.

Although many people think that finding a high-quality Soragoi koi fish is an easy task due to the fact that they are only a solid color, this isn't necessarily the case. In fact, finding a truly quality Soragoi specimen can actually be quite difficult. Since this fish has no pattern, you'll want to pay extra attention to the arrangement of the fish's scales. Look for a uniform reticulated pattern and be wary of missing scales as this will disrupt the pattern of the scales.



## July Meeting

Our July meeting will be at 7:00 pm on July 21 at Botanicals —  
8610 S. State Street in Sandy.  
Come and join in the fun!



# Our June Meeting



# Our June Meeting



# Utah Water Garden and Koi Club

# 2022 Pond Tour

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.



# August 13-14



# Know Your Lilies: Texas Dawn

Everything's bigger in Texas – including this beautiful yellow lily!

Texas Dawn shows off its bright blooms with gusto all summer long, often producing clusters of medium to large flowers that fill the pond with a yellow glow. These flowers span an impressive 6 to 10 inches across and can rise up to 10 inches above the water's surface.

Like a dawn sky, the petals will sometimes display hints of pink.

Texas Dawn has received all kinds of accolades since its creation in 1985, including designation in 2011 as the official state waterlily of Texas.

## 2022 Meeting Schedule

- **July 21** - Botanicals, 8610 S. State Street, Sandy
- **August 18** - Annual barbeque at the Schrauf & Henrie pond – 3413 Evergreen Place, Salt Lake City
- **September 15** - Maxfield pond – 1128 N 20 W, Farmington, UT
- **October 20** - Annual Banquet



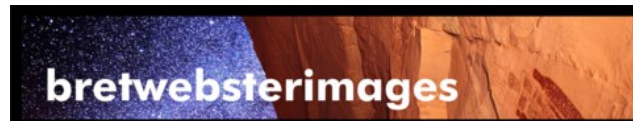
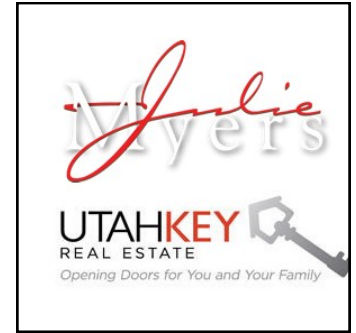
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*Designs of  
the Heart*



BE SEEN.



## 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 again hold our tour last year, and are looking forward to this year. See page 6 for details, and check out the Club's website at [UtahWaterGardenClub.org](http://UtahWaterGardenClub.org)



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