

# Utah Water Garden & Koi Club

## April Newsletter

### LONG LINES & TESTING & BEAR MARKETS, OH MY!

Hello fellow ponders. We hope this finds you and all yours safe and well. This year is shaping up to be memorable. Who knew even one month ago that the buzz words for 2020 would include “quarantine,” “abundance of caution” and “social distancing”?

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is also disrupting our plans for the year. Our March meeting at Glover Nursery, which had promised to be highly informative, had to be cancelled. Our April meeting at Red Butte Gardens will not take place as planned, as Red Butte is also closed. (We were particularly looking forward to enjoying their beautiful daffodil displays, and hope you are finding time to enjoy these early perennials in your own neighborhoods.) We are looking into the possibility of recording our planned presentation and posting it on our website. Stay tuned for more information.

We are hopeful that, with the coming of warmer summer months, the worst of the pandemic will be over and we can resume our usual schedule. We have some amazing activities planned! In the meantime, our club officers are getting creative and looking into ways to bring you online or “virtual” meetings and other content.

The bright side? More time for our gardens and ponds! Spending time out in nature is a great stress reliever. Remember that pond project that has been in the back of your mind for two years, waiting for your attention? Now might be the time. And when you move forward with your garden and other plans, please remember our sponsors. We are grateful for their support, and know many are suffering under current commercial restrictions. If we can,



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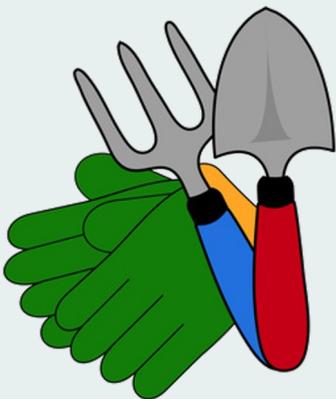
## OUR APRIL MEETING

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in keeping with Governor Herbert's Stay Safe, Stay at Home directive and various County orders, we have cancelled the April 16 meeting at Red Butte Gardens.

Please note that Red Butte Gardens is closed until further notice.

We're looking at options to hold virtual meetings or provide recorded talks. Watch your email and our website for updates and further information.

Stay Safe and Healthy!



## LONG LINES & TESTING (*continued*)

let's return the favor and support them where possible.

We are living in memorable times. But one thing is certain: As Voltaire concluded in the last sentence of his classic novel *Candide*, "Nous devons cultiver notre jardin" (translation: "We must cultivate our gardens").

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*"I think we're all going to be doing a lot of gardening this year."*

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## Sponsor spotlight: Plastic Specialties

Plastic Specialties (dba PSI Tops [www.psitops.com](http://www.psitops.com)) has always been a solid surface company and in fact, was the first in the state to offer Corian - still a mainstay for them today. The company does a lot of business with laminates including products from Formica and Wilson Art. PSI Tops is the current state leader in “Thinscape” countertops and you will begin to see hundreds of residential projects completed with the new HPL (high pressure laminate) 1/2-inch based countertop.

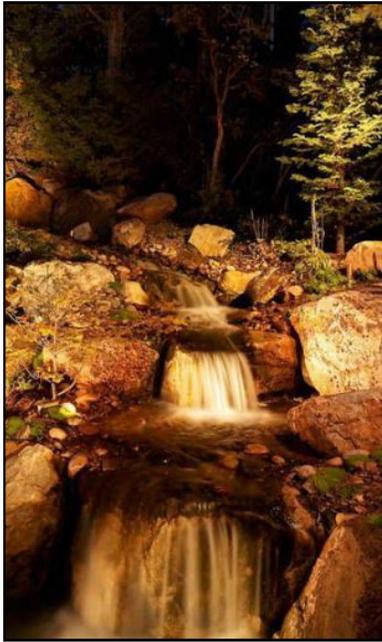
Under Kelly’s leadership, PSI Tops has been and always will be a leader in solid, highest-quality trends for beautiful commercial and residential countertops. Quartz and granite have also become mainstays in offerings both on the commercial and residential sides of the business. As you can see in the accompanying photos, the company is also expert in cabinetry.

Kelly has grown the company to 32 full-time employees and to her that means “my family is growing”. She is absolutely committed to the well being of every single employee and treats them just like she does each client! Her longstanding philosophy is simple and straightforward; ‘build and maintain relationships’. Kelly challenges her employees to really get to know each client; their wants and needs and then through follow up, creates a very comfortable long-term relationship with each.

The company has NEVER turned down a job because they couldn’t provide the anticipated finished product. And the jobs’ list is an impressive one. In addition to the many impressive undertakings in the last 18 months, PSI Tops has completed projects for many of the state’s top employers and businesses, including; Goldman Sachs, Nike, the Huntsman Cancer Hospital, Intermountain Hospital, McKay Dee Hospital, Boeing, Adobe, Swire Coca-Cola and over 200 public and private schools.

The company also maintains a great working relationship with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and has continues to complete projects in the church’s many new local temples and numerous local chapels. The company has completed jobs throughout Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, South Dakota and Nevada and Kelly Passey says; “We are willing and able to take on any job at any time in any location. This is our passion and we will always stand behind our initial bids, promises, quality and overall commitment to our clients.”





# POND LIGHTING

By Ty Rosser

Our ponds and water features bring us all so much joy. Watching our fish and aquatic plants is so tranquil. Many of us look for solutions to extend the enjoyment into the evening.

Low voltage submersible pond lights are a popular solution to help make your pond sparkle at night. However, with a market flooded with so many landscape lighting products to choose from, making an informed decision about which kind of fixture is best

be more prone to failure. The plastic housing can crack from temperature fluctuations and be damaged by UV rays. Below is an example of two failed composite fixtures that had to be replaced.

**Aluminum** - The problem with using aluminum for an underwater light is that it's a ferrous metal, and ferrous metals are susceptible to corrosion.

Most aluminum fixtures go through a special treatment process during manufacturing to

*“There are three things to consider when choosing a submersible fixture: longevity, lighting effect and (most important) safety of your fish.”*

## 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

- **May 21** - Plant & Fish Exchange Come learn about sprinkler systems Watch for location
- **June 18** - Summer Barbeque - watch for location
- **July 16** - Chili cook off - location to come
- **August 20** - watch for details
- **September 17** - details to come
- **October 22** - Annual Banquet

for your pond can be intimidating.

There are three things to consider when choosing a submersible fixture: longevity, lighting effect, and (most important) the safety of your fish. Let's get into it!

### Fixture Longevity

Your fixture's ability to stand up over time is crucial. Why spend the money on a fixture that isn't going to deliver a lifetime of performance?

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but there is no 100% bullet-proof underwater fixture. All submersible fixtures are susceptible to potential leaks. The likelihood of a leak depends greatly on how the fixture is built and engineered.

First, consider what kind of material the fixture is made from.

**Composite and Ceramic** - While composite (hard plastic) and ceramic fixtures tend to be more affordable, they also tend to



protect against corrosion. Powder coating is one common method.

However, even the smallest abrasion or nick in the powder-coated surface can leave an aluminum fixture susceptible to corrosion. Once a fixture begins to corrode, the integrity is compromised and it will continue to deteriorate.

**Stainless Steel** - Even though stainless steel is considered a ferrous metal, it is highly resistant to corrosion. Stainless steel is an iron alloy containing chromium which keeps iron from rusting.



## POND LIGHTING (continued)

So long as the fixture is well engineered with tight fitting gaskets to keep water from entering the housing, a stainless steel fixture is a great option for keeping your pond lit for the years to come.

**Brass** - Brass is a nonferrous alloy. This means that it will not rust or corrode, period. This inability to corrode is why brass is used in marine applications, the harshest environment for long term durability. Brass is by far the most durable option.

Here's an image of a discreet brass fixture that can be placed strategically between rocks or other places where it will be hidden from view. With lighting, it's all about seeing the effect, not the source.

**Pro Lighting Tip:** Underwater fixtures are designed to remain underwater. Letting one dry out after its been underwater can ruin gaskets, seals and other water proofing components. This leads to leaks. When adding an underwater light , be sure it's located where it will remain underwater year round.

### Lighting Effects

Landscape lighting does more than simply illuminate our properties at



night.

Proper lighting provides us with a real sense of serenity. Light creates an inviting warmth, a sense of



## PANDEMIC HAS LED TO A BOOM IN GARDENING

When David Blackley unlocks the doors at Renfrow Hardware at 8 a.m., customers are already lined up — six feet apart — on the sidewalk in front of the Matthews, North Carolina, hardware store with shopping lists of seeds and vegetable plants.

None of them are allowed in the store as a precaution during the coronavirus pandemic. So shoppers recite their lists to staff who pick the orders and leave trays filled with vegetable and herb plants and seeds in front of the greenhouse for customer pickup.

“People are buying plants and seeds a month ahead [of the regular planting season],” Blackley said. “It’s thrown greenhouse growers and bulk seed suppliers into overdrive.”

Even though food supplies may be currently secure, said Rose Hayden-Smith, a food historian and author of “Sowing the Seeds of Victory,” understocked supermarket shelves are forcing shoppers to think about the source of their food, especially fruits and vegetables, often for the first time. And their fears have led them straight to the garden center.

“It’s helpful to be productive and connect with nature and it’s something that’s within our control in a situation that feels entirely out of control,” she said.

Read more [here](#)

## ADDING PLANTS TO YOUR POND

Water lilies and lotus ... blue flag iris ... hyacinth ... so many aquatic plants, so little time. A pond full of these colorful beauties – along with the hardworking, submerged oxygenators – adds splendor and life to your waterscape. Not only that, but birds will visit, bugs will buzz through and aquatic critters will stop by, attracted by the blooms and foliage.

Like your terrestrial garden, a water garden needs some planning and forethought; without it, you could end up with an aquatic jungle. Here's what we recommend for adding plants to your pond.

### Choose Wisely

Before you get your feet wet (and your hands dirty!), first consider what types of plants you want in your water feature and how many you'll need.

Aquatic plants are typically categorized by their function in a pond. They include floating plants, like water hyacinth and water lettuce, that have roots that reach down from the water's surface; submerged plants, like vallisneria and hornwort, that live on the pond's bottom and release oxygen into the water; bog plants, like cattails and iris, that ring the perimeter of the pond; and water lilies and lotus, which provide dramatic surface color and underwater shade.

When browsing for plants, select a mixture of floating, submerged, bog and lilies/lotus, with the goal of covering about 60 percent of your water's surface. A sample plant shopping list for a 50-square-foot pond looks something like this:

- 6 to 12 floating plant
- Several submerged plants
- 2 bog plants
- 1 water lily

Don't forget to add aquatic plant media, fertilizer and containers, like pots, plant bags, planting baskets and floating planters, to your list. You'll need them when you transplant and care for the new greenery.

## POND LIGHTING (continued)

ambiance, and a feeling of security.

The affect lighting has on us and our state of mind is entirely dependent on the lighting effect. When it comes to pond lighting, the old saying "less is more" couldn't be more true. You don't want your pond to be seen from space. Soft, warmly toned lighting

about what we would like to see illuminated and what kind of lighting effect it should have. The fixture selection ought to be more of an afterthought. When you're focused on the fixture you want to use, you're not thinking about how to light the space.

When considering lighting for your pond, don't just think about

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*“Design with light, not fixtures.”*

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levels should be our goal. That said, there are three key components to consider when lighting your pond: Design, Kelvin temperature, and beam angle.

**Design** - Design with light, not fixtures. This simply means that when we are looking at lighting a space, we should be thinking

underwater lighting. First, ask yourself what you want to see lit and why. What is the best approach for casting light on my water fall? Did I consider lighting for the bridge that passes over my stream? Don't get tunnel vision. Ask yourself questions about lighting the things that make up your pond's entirety, not only the



## POND LIGHTING (continued)

water.

In the pond lit below, we can see how there is only one underwater light shining up onto the small waterfall to the left. Rather than light the pond with underwater lights, we chose to focus on accenting the plant material with a technique called down lighting. Throwing a soft wash of light over the water lilies, decorative grasses, hostas, and other plants, created a backdrop to frame the ponds shoreline.

Lighting the pond this way provides us with greater visual control over our surroundings and helps keep our eyes from focusing on any one object. Having the pond mostly dark here creates contrast. The contrast between the light and shadows pulls us into the scene visually.

**Kelvin Temperature** - Kelvin temperature (to learn more about kelvin temperature, [click here](#)) is a way to measure the character of light and how it feels in terms of color. We've all seen the cooler feeling of lights in a doctor's office vs. the warmer feeling of lights in a restaurant.

Selecting the right color temperature for your pond can truly make all the difference in terms of how you experience your lighting on a psychological level. To create a warm comfortable

feel, we recommend a temperature of 2700K - 3000K .

Be mindful of your koi's coloration when selection a kelvin temperature. If you have white koi in your pond, you may want to consider a slightly cooler color temperature. If the underwater lights shining on your koi are too warm (2200K) your white koi's coloration can look dull and off-white or yellow. If you want their coloration to be more crisp, use the kelvin temperature between 2700K and 3500K. Avoid going any cooler than 3500K unless you want your koi to look like ghostly apparitions.

**Refraction** - If you're lighting a waterfall or other object with a submerged underwater light, remember the light will refract or bend. If you're trying to light a waterfall with a submerged fixture, aim the light at the base of the fall as refraction will cause the beam of light to bend upward and hit the waterfall in the center.

### **Fish Well Being and Piece of Mind**

The safety of your fish should take precedence over any lighting aesthetics. Quickly, let's go over lighting with your fish's wellbeing in mind.

**Copper Fixtures** - You should never use copper fixtures as a submerged light fixture. While

## DIVVYING PLANTS IN THE SPRING

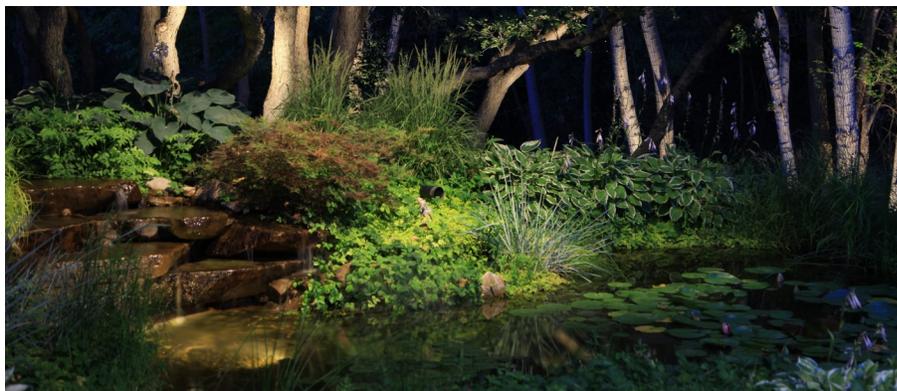
When the ice starts to melt, it means that spring is just around the corner. Start the pond season off by thawing your green thumb and dividing your aquatic plants so they have some room to stretch their roots.

In general, bog plants should be divided every one to two years. Below is a simplified how-to guide, so grab your pruning tools, gloves, extra planting bags, planting media, and garden hose and let's get to work!

Bog plants include species like Corkscrew Rush, Dwarf Cattail, and Blue Flag Iris. These types of plants have clumping roots, runners, or rhizomes and the dividing process will vary slightly based on which type of root mass the plant has. Here's what to do:

1. Lift the pot out of the water and gently remove the root mass.
2. Wash the soil off the mass with your hose and trim any dead foliage.
3. Divide the root mass depending on the type of root system. For plants with clumping roots like corkscrew rush, separate the roots into sections with some roots intact in each section. Dwarf cattails have runners, so cut the runner and leave the root base with each section of the plant. For rhizome plants like irises, simply divide them into sections.

Replant each section in its own container and dispose of any overgrowth.



## TURTLES

A sign of late spring and early summer is seeing turtles emerging from the water and perching on sunny rocks to warm themselves. Being reptiles, their body temperature varies with the temperature of their surroundings. Warm sun helps increase their metabolism. Sunbathing is about more than catching rays, it's essential to their ability to function.

A turtle that you are likely to see soaking up the sun is the Red Ear Slider. Like all turtles throughout the world, the carapace is made of 13 scutes or plates on the outside and fused ribs and spine on the inside, so they can't crawl out of their shell, it's part of their body.

Red Ear Slider turtles can grow to be about 12 inches, with the mature females being larger than the males. The eggs are incubated by the sun throughout the summer. The temperature of the nest influences the sex of the hatchlings. Females are formed if the temperature of the eggs is high but when the temperature is regularly below 81 degrees, males will develop. Because eggs at the bottom of the nest may be a different temperature than those at the top, a single nest can produce both male and female young. Turtle nests are nearly impossible to see because the female covers them so it looks like she was never there. However, predators such as skunks, and raccoons use their sense of smell to find them and frequently dig up and consume the eggs.

Egg predation is only one of the challenges that turtles face. During their journey on land, the adults are also vulnerable to predators. Their webbed feet make them adept at swimming, but awkward out of the water.

## POND LIGHTING (continued)

copper is a nonferrous alloy like brass, copper will leach into the water and kill your fish. While copper is used in fish medications in very small doses to treat fish illnesses like ick, a copper fixture will kill them. We can't say this enough, do not place copper in your pond.

**Sleepy Time** - Your pond lights don't need to keep your fish up all

bed.

### Conclusion

Don't feel intimidated if you're not sure where to start. Adding lighting to your pond can be a lot of fun. The best thing you can do if you're not sure where to get started is to simply go out at night and experiment.

Where does it feel dark around the

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*“When considering lighting for your pond, don't just think about underwater lighting”.*

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night. Lighting systems can be set up with different on/off functions. Your underwater pond lights can be set on a timer so they only run from sunset to midnight.

They can also be controlled by a simple on/off switch. When you step out in the evening to check on or enjoy your fish, you can turn the lights on with the flip of a switch. Then when your done, simply turn the lights off and send them to

backyard? Is task lighting needed for a trip hazard between your backdoor and your pond? Where do you enjoy spending the most time around your pond? Thinking about these things can help you figure out where to get started.

Next, grab a flashlight and start experimenting to see how different features look when they are lit. Be sure not to submerge your flashlight unless its water proof!



Send us photos of your turtles!

## Sponsor spotlight: Intermountain Stone & Marble

We are a local family-owned company that was started up in 1954. We've been going strong for 66 years. With years of hard work and dedication focused on perfect this dying art, Very few people are able to fabricate what our skilled Stone Craftsman can. Kitchens, Bathrooms, Fireplaces, Wall Faces, you name it, we can create your stone masterpiece. Email is [Debbie@intermountainStone.com](mailto:Debbie@intermountainStone.com)



# EASTER LILIES

The Easter lily (*Lilium longiflorum*) is a perennial bulb with large, white, trumpet-shaped flowers and wonderful fragrance. Often known as the trumpet lily among gardeners, this plant is called the Easter lily in its role as a traditional Easter-time treat. Roughly 95 percent of the 11.5 million Easter Lilies sold each year are grown by one of a handful of growers located along the border of California and Oregon, an area labeled the "Easter Lily Capital of the World."

*Lilium longiflorum* is a true species lily, classified as a Division IX lily (not a hybrid or cultivar). Native to the southern islands of Japan and Taiwan, it has large trumpet-shaped flowers that face outward from the stems. The stems are 24 to 36 inches tall, with narrow, dark-green lance-shaped leaves that are 5 to 8 inches long. The fragrant flowers are typically 5 to 7 inches long, and they normally bloom in July and August when planted in the outdoor garden. Potted Easter lilies used in spring celebrations are "forced" into early bloom.

A World War I soldier, Louis Houghton, is credited with

starting U.S. Easter lily production when he brought a suitcase full of lily bulbs with him to the southern coast of Oregon in 1919. He gave them away to friends, and when the supply of bulbs from Japan was cut off as a result of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the rising price of the bulbs suddenly made the lily business a viable industry for these hobby growers, earning the bulbs the nickname "White Gold."

If you wish to continue growing your Easter lily and have it bloom again in the future, you may be able to transplant the



potted lily outdoors. Wait until all the flowers have withered and been removed from the plant. Keep the plant watered and in indirect sunlight until it is ready to go outside. When all danger of

frost has passed, find a sunny, well-draining spot in your garden. Lilies like full sun but cool soil. Soil pH should be a neutral 5.5 to 6.5.



Plant the bulb to the same depth it was in the pot. Add an additional two-inch layer of organic mulch around the roots. Don't pile the mulch against the stem, or it may rot. When the original leaves and stem will

start to brown, cut the plant down to a healthy, green leaf. New growth should soon emerge from the base of the plant. Let the plant grow foliage the first year; don't worry about flowering. The new growth will turn yellow in the fall and the lily plant can then be cut back to the soil level. At this point, top-dress the soil with bulb fertilizer or blood meal and work it into the surrounding soil, making sure not to disturb the lilies roots. Apply a few more inches of mulch to insulate the plant through the winter.

In the spring, remove the mulch as the weather warms. Begin applying a balanced fertilizer as soon as new growth appears.

Plan to be patient. It may take a couple of years for your plant to build up enough resources to set flower buds. Easter Lilies naturally bloom in June/July, so don't look for flowers next Easter.

# Thank you to our sponsors!



# Thank you to our sponsors!



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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 gardens and outdoor spaces that showcase unique water features.



## Club Officers & Directors

### Officers

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