



Utah Water Garden & Koi Club

March Newsletter



Welcome!

I hope everybody's pond has wintered well this past winter. While my fish are still at the bottom of the pond wishing for warmer weather, 2020 is going to be an awesome year for the Utah Water Garden and Koi Club!

I'm Daniel Peel, and I'm the club's new president. Just a little background on myself – I developed my love for water gardening and koi fish when I purchased a house with an existing pond. I made lots of mistakes learning how to care for the pond and fish, which eventually led me to constructing a brand new pond. My husband and I love to sit out in the evenings and listening to the water and watching our beautiful fish swim around in our new pond. This is one of the most relaxing activities when enjoying a backyard water feature.

I invite to everyone to join us in our monthly meetings. Feel free to bring friends, family and anyone who loves water features as much as we do. I'd love for this club to grow and expand its horizons. One of the ways we can do this is by getting more people to attend our meetings and join the club. Let's all reach out to our neighbors and friends and invite them to attend.

We have some great plans for this upcoming year. Our first meeting will be on **March 19 at Glover Nursery**, inside their nice warm building or greenhouse. The club's monthly meetings will then continue with the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm, through September. We are already excitedly planning our year-end banquet which will on October 22, 2020.

We've many other exciting things on the calendar. The **April meeting is at Red Butte Garden**, just in time to see all the spring buds and blossoms appearing. In May, plan on getting some training on sprinkler systems as well as a drip system to keep our beautiful plants alive. We're also planning a fish and plant exchange. If you have any fun plants or fish that you would like to trade, watch for more details to come on this exciting event.

Inside this issue

March Madness.....	2
Spring is Almost Here	3
2020 Meeting Schedule.....	3
We're Online	4
IWGS	4
Waterlilies	6
Q&A	7
Our Sponsors.....	8
Who We Are.....	9

Dates of interest

- Our first meeting is March 19 at Glover Nursery
- The first day of summer is Saturday, June 20
- 2020 Pond Tour will be August 8 - 9
- The annual banquet is on October 22



Welcome! *(continued)*

June will bring our annual barbecue, which is always a hit. Come enjoy great socializing and food. In July and August, we'll be hosting our meetings and trainings in members' backyards. If anyone is willing and excited to host at their pond or backyard this year, please let me know. Coming up in September we would like to have a fun Club event – something fun, new and big this year. Finally, wrapping up our monthly meetings will be our annual October banquet.

Another date for your calendars is the **annual Pond Tour on August 8th and 9th**. The Board is looking for ponds for the tour; let us know if you would like to host your pond this year. Last year we had a great success with our first-ever evening pond tour. We traveled as a group and visited these beautiful yards with water features in the evening light, followed by a wonderful dinner. The evening pond tour will be September 19th, with more details to come.

With all these fun activities and events we have planned, it's going to be an awesome year for the Utah Water Garden and Koi Club. My goal this year is to

“We have many exciting things on our calendar for this year!”

March Madness!

Our first meeting of the year will be at 7:00 pm on March 19 at Glover Nursery – 9275 S 1300 W in West Jordan. Our speaker will be George McGuiness from Monrovia Nursery. He'll talk about recently developed plant varieties. Come and renew old friendships and make new friends!



have fantastic educational and social events. I want everyone to know they can reach out to me personally and give me feedback or about the club or suggestions to make it a better club. My personal cell phone is (435) 660-0784. Please call or message me. We are always in need of ideas for meetings and training. If anyone has any ideas or would like to suggest a topic, please reach out.

Thank you for letting me introduce myself this year as well. I look forward to socializing with you this year!

Thank You,

Daniel Peel



Spring is almost here!

Getting your pond ready

Spring is almost here, and we're all excited to get our ponds going. But spring can be the most dangerous time for your koi. If you do it wrong, your koi can get sick. If you do it right, they will thank you; and you will enjoy the rest of the Koi season with peace of mind.

Monitor water temperature

This is critical. Don't do anything until the water temperature is stable from 50–55° F. Get a good floating pond thermometer for your pond. Koi are cold-blooded animals; they cannot control their body temperature. Rather the water temperature determines koi's body temperature and controls their behavior. Knowing water temperature is essential throughout the season because it guides us on what to do.

Treat your Koi pond

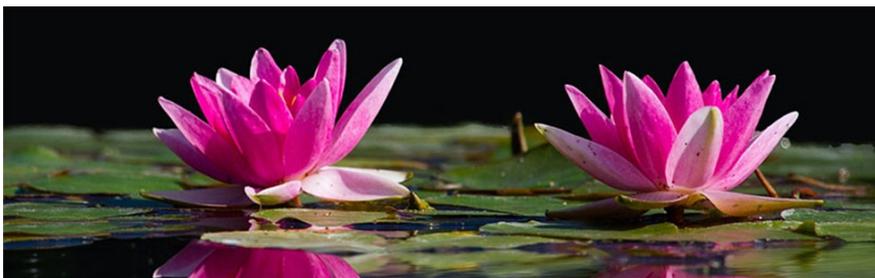
Once the water temperature is stable at around 50–55° F, your koi will be active and start looking for food. BUT wait. You cannot feed them yet. After long fasting season, Koi are weak. Their immune systems are very low. We need to take care of any potential parasitic and bacterial issues first. Parasites are in virtually all ponds, and can attach to your Koi before they are active and ready. Try products like Proform C and Koi Prazi because they stop most parasite problems. Use this at season's beginning and end—only twice a year.

Koizyme is also an excellent product to prevent bacteria issues. It is not a chemical. It is beneficial bacteria that naturally eliminates bad bacteria like Aeromonas or Pseudomonas and minimizes the risk of ulcer problems in your pond. Using koi clay will also help reduce diseases.

Before dosing your pond, you need to know the capacity in gallons. You don't want to overdose or underdose .

Activate your filter

Whether you have mechanical or biological filter or both, you need to restart the nitrogen cycle each spring in Utah. If you shut the filter down for winter, begin by cleaning the inside. If there is any water or



2020 Meeting Schedule

- **March 19** - 7:00 pm at Glover Nursery, 9275 S 1300 W, West Jordan
- **April 16** - 7:00 pm at Red Butte Gardens, 300 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City
- **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

We're on line!

Check our website at utahwatergardenclub.org

We're also on Facebook [Utah Water Garden & Koi Club](#)

Do you have (or just like) Waterlilies?

The International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS) is the international registrar of waterlily hybrids, and conducts an annual waterlily competition. Their 2020 Symposium will be held in Naples, Florida July 29 –August 2, 2020. IWGS.org



Spring (continued)

wastes left, drain them out. Once its clean, you can start it up.

You may want to add beneficial bacteria to your filter or pond. After winter, you likely have little bacteria to help establish the nitrogen cycle. So, we need to seed the bacteria. There are many products available, such as Niigata Water Bio Balls. Each small tablet contains around 20 billion bacteria and the food form them to multiply. Since these bacteria can live in temperatures as low as 41° F, this is a perfect product for spring—when we want to establish the cycle as soon as possible.



Other products popular with Club members include Microbe-Lift's Bead Filter Bacteria, Koizyme, and Nualgi Ponds.

"You need to restart the nitrogen cycle each spring."

Feed the right food and right amount at the right pace.

We all enjoy feeding our koi. That is the best part of the hobby. However, please don't rush to feed them yet. While the water temperature may be good and your filter activated, your Koi are not as ready as you are. They're just coming out of a long fasting season. They're hungry, but their bodies' systems are not ready to digest normal food. When we're weak from sickness, we eat something soft like chicken noodle soup, don't we? Your koi need to start with something soft, digestible, and nutritious.



Spring *(continued)*

How often do we feed koi?

We can't rush. For water temperatures between 50 –55° F, feed spring food once every few days as it gets warmer. Then for 55° F and up, feed regular food like Kodama Koi Food All Season; and start with once a day.

Koi pond cleaning for spring

Some people have rocks at the bottom of their ponds. If you are one of them, you may need to move your koi temporarily and clean the pond even before you start treating and feeding your Koi. Otherwise, debris between rocks will create issues



“We all enjoy feeding our koi. It’s the best part of the hobby. But don’t rush to start feeding. Wait until the water temperature is 50° , and then feed spring (weat germ) food.”

and affect water quality and your koi’s health. Rocks are not the best neighbors for Koi because you have to move and stress your Koi almost every year; and they harbor a source of potential koi health issues. You might consider removing all the rocks from your koi pond at the end of the summer season. Ensure that you take your time in spring cleaning and be vigilante!

Keep all these tips in mind to help your koi have a safe spring. And enjoy this wonderful koi season!

Thanks to Gil & Sherry Avaral for this great article!



Waterlilies

Water Lilies are one of the classic freshwater floral species. These plants are so popular in part due to their pleasing looks and fragrant scent.

For most pond owners, the best time to divide waterlilies is in the spring after your spring cleanup. However, many plants can be divided up until the first few weeks of August.

Some people recommend dividing your water lilies every two to three years, while



Want to learn more? The Club's [website](#) has a wealth of information on pond construction, filtration, and maintenance, together with plants and fish.



This Month's Question

Q If I can't do a big spring cleanout on my pond, what is the best way to get the debris out of the pond?

A: An annual spring cleanout is an important chore when you own a backyard pond. It's when you remove all the decaying organics that collected over the winter, trim back dead foliage, kick on your filtration and aeration systems, and generally spruce things up around your water garden wonderland.

But what if your pond was well-sheltered and protected from leaves and debris, or you live in a temperate climate where a total pond shutdown was unnecessary? Or what if you simply don't have time to dedicate to all that cleaning and maintenance?

Well, we have some shortcuts for you. Though it may be better, in the long run, to do a thorough cleanout at the start of the season, these four tips will cut down the time it takes to do your spring chores.

- **Do a Partial Water Change:** To help remove some floating and suspended debris, do a partial water change. Let 10 to 20 percent of your water drain from the pond, and add fresh water along with some antichlor to remove heavy metals and prevent your fish from getting too stressed.
- **Vacuum Debris:** Use a pond vacuum to suck up gunk, sludge and decaying organics on the pond bottom.
- **Add beneficial bacteria:** To break down debris that your pond vacuum missed, add some beneficial bacteria to the water. The microorganisms, which are designed to work in cooler temperatures, will break down leaves and sediment that have collected over the winter. It also kick-starts your pond's biological filtration system, priming it for summer.
- **Rinse Your Filter Media:** Finally, remove your filter media and give it quick rinse with your garden hose to break up and wash away any accumulated gunk. No need to scrub it too thoroughly; the bacteria living in pads, beads or bioballs will come back to life once temperatures rise.



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.



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