

PONDTRADE™

Water
Artisans
of the Year

Serving Professionals in the Pond and Water Feature Industry

*Water
Artisans
of the Year*

2022 Contest Winners p. 10

www.pondtrademag.com



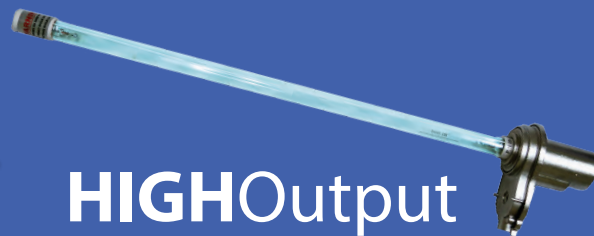
S A V I O
EXCELLENCE

SAVIO UVINEX®

EASILY REMOVE ALGAE FROM YOUR POND!

- Simple plug & play installation
- Easy to maintain
- Increases the effectiveness of your filtration
- 1 Year ballast warranty

UVinex
System



HIGHOutput



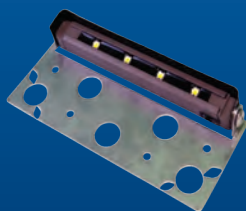
UPGRADE TO HIGH OUTPUT:
35% MORE EFFECTIVE!



IGNITE LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

Ignite Landscape and pond lights offer a fully customizable line of outdoor lighting supplies. Simply choose your lighting fixture supplies and transform your outdoor space into an elegant and gleaming wonderland.

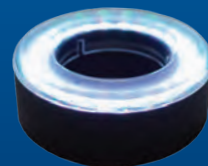
WALL LIGHTS



STRING LIGHTS



RING LIGHTS



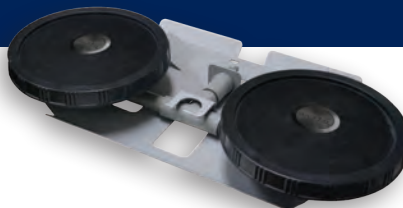
Protect Your Koi Fish - Help prevent fish kills from pond turnover



Improve Water Quality - Reduce green water & add oxygen to your pond



Built For Year-Round Use - Maintains a hole in icy water during winter





GRAND
KOI

**THE FINEST IMPORTED JAPANESE KOI
FROM THE BEST BREEDERS IN THE WORLD**

CALL : 1-844-GRANDKOI (472-6356), 1-201-245-9352.

WE ARE ONE OF THE LARGEST JAPANESE KOI INVENTORY
HOLDERS IN THE UNITED STATES. TO SUPPORT HOBBYISTS
IN USA, WE HAVE COLLABORATED WITH LEADING MANU-
FACTURERS OF AUTOMATED FEEDERS, CERAMIC MEDIA,
AND OTHER KOI ACCESSORIES "MADE IN JAPAN".

INFO@GRANDKOI.COM

USA | JAPAN

WWW.GRANDKOI.COM

3751 GA-166, DOUGLASVILLE, GA 30135, UNITED STATES

PONDTRADE™

Serving Professionals in the Pond and Water Feature Industry

WATER ARTISANS of the YEAR

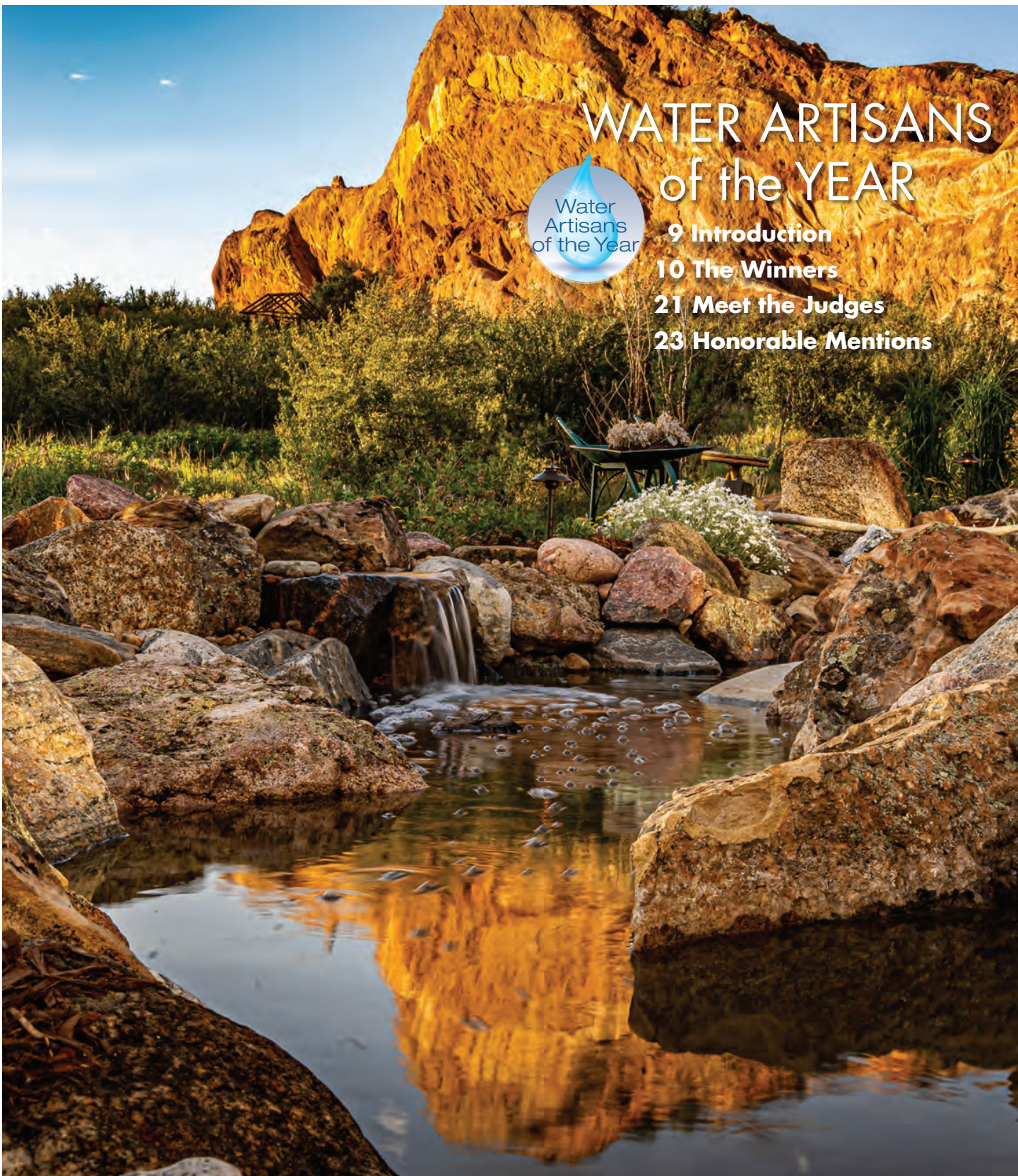


9 Introduction

10 The Winners

21 Meet the Judges

23 Honorable Mentions



FEATURES

28 Builders Without Borders POND CONSTRUCTION

When **Mike Gannon** accepted a pond build in Newfoundland, it was a milestone for his New Jersey-based company — it had gone international. Check out how he made it happen successfully.

37 A Koi Wearing Clothes? LANGUAGE OF KOI

The Koromo koi variety, which literally means "robed," adds color and personality to any pond. **Ellen Kloubec** introduces a few variations and explains what to look for during selection.

40 The Homeowner's Touch

Regardless of how custom-built a new water feature might be, it's up to the new owner to add their own personal touches and make it their own. **John Magyar** gives two prime examples.

46 Don't Wait. Automate.

Confusion, complication and expense are just a few reasons why business owners avoid new technology. But if you ask **Clayton Graba**, automating operations has never been easier.

49 All the Formalities

On the opposite end of the design spectrum from the naturalistic lies the formal. **Freddie Combas** takes a deep dive into the very popular trend of building formal koi ponds.

56 A Silver Anniversary Celebration

The International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS) New Waterlily Competition turns 25, and **Suzanne Boom** recaps the winners (with photography by **Kathy Cahill**).

60 The Road to Innovation

In an "updated flashback" from our January/February 2020 issue, **Kent Wallace** elaborates on the evolution of bottom drains, filters and other pond products since the 1960s.



DEPARTMENTS COLUMNS

6 Upcoming Events

66 Trade News

68 Marketplace

69 Advertisers' Index

7 Publisher's Perspective

Upcoming Events

2023

March 1 - 3

Water Garden Expo

Grand Casino Hotel & Resort

Shawnee, Oklahoma

www.wgexpo.com

March 10 - 12

Central Florida Koi and Goldfish Show

Avanti Palms Resort

Orlando, Florida

www.cfks.org

May 27 - 29

Greater Louisville Koi & Goldfish Society

25th Anniversary Show

Louisville, Kentucky

www.louisvillekoiclub.com

August 23 - 27

2023 IWGS Symposium

Vancouver, B.C., Canada

www.iwgs.org

October 18 - 20

Hardscape North America

Kentucky Exposition Center

Louisville, Kentucky

www.hardscapena.com

November 13 - 15

POOL | SPA | PATIO Expo

Las Vegas Convention Center

Las Vegas, Nevada

Are you attending an event that you think others should know about? Are you hosting an event and want more people to come?

Send event information to
llgelles@pondtrademag.com.



Moving? Let Us Know

If you are moving, please update your address with us so we can update our records.

Use the forms from the post office, or drop us an email at llgelles@pondtrademag.com with your old and new contact information.

POND Trade Magazine, ISSN 1949-0585 is a trade publication of LG Publishing, Inc. Material is selected for its interest to the koi, water feature and pond industries, and the publishers accept no responsibility for the accuracy of content. Reproduction rights by written permission only.

POND Trade Magazine is published bi-monthly, starting in January, for \$41.70 per year by LG Publishing, Inc., POND Trade Magazine, PO BOX 2721, Orland Park, IL 60462. Qualified applicants may subscribe at no cost at www.pondtrademag.com. Postage is paid at Orland Park, IL and additional offices. For new subscriptions, additional copies and address changes, please call 708/873-1921 or email llgelles@pondtrademag.com.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to POND Trade Magazine, PO BOX 2721, Orland Park, IL 60462
© Lora Lee Gelles, 2023

Advertising Policies: LG Publishing, Inc. reserves the right to refuse to publish any ad. Submission of an ad to LG Publishing does not constitute a commitment by LG Publishing, Inc. to publish it. Publication of an ad does not constitute an agreement for continued publication. LG Publishing, Inc. will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an ad. In the event of an error or omission in printing or publication of an ad, LG Publishing, Inc.'s liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error, with maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the correct advertisement. Under no circumstances shall LG Publishing be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

PONDTRADE™

STAFF

Publisher

Lora Lee Gelles 708/873-1921

llgelles@pondtrademag.com

Editor

Jordan Morris

jmorris@pondtrademag.com

Advertising Sales

Lora Lee Gelles 708/873-1921

llgelles@pondtrademag.com

Graphic Design

Gelles Graphics

llgelles@comcast.net

Accounts Receivable

Lois Spano

lspano@pondtrademag.com

Web Editor

Joanne Costin

jcostin@contentforbiz.com

Printer

Sutherland Printing

Montezuma, Iowa

For your
Free Subscription
see our

website www.pondtrademag.com

or call **708/873-1921**

Contact Info

POND Trade Magazine

P.O. Box 2721

Orland Park, IL 60462

708/873-1921

www.pondtrademag.com

Publisher's Perspective

Contest Palooza!

Phew! Another year, another contest put to bed. Let me tell you, this was a BIG year. We had a record number of entries — almost 90!

Since I get to see every single entry (lucky me!) I had a few observations. First off, you guys are really talented, but I think you know that. I also noticed there was a crossover factor. Many

rock artisan entries could have easily been best pondless entries. A few best pondless entries may have done well in the most naturalistic category. These blurred contest lines have upped the overall level of difficulty, since each project may only be submitted in a single category.

A few of this year's winners also placed second in other categories, meaning we were closer than ever to having our first "double winner." We

also awarded our second "triple crown" winner, Art of the Yard (Shane Hemphill and Heath Webb), which joins Tim Wood as our only three-time winners. I'm sure Tim, who served on this year's "Supreme Stream Court" and thus did not enter, is eager to get back into the fold next year!

I want to send out a big thank you to Tim and our other judges this year. (You'll find out more about them on pg. 21.) It's not easy to judge that many entries and narrow it down to just a few top choices. I'd also like to give a shoutout to my editor Jordan, who did a write-up on each project based on what each contestant sent in and took it to another level. When combined with the stunning photography of the winning projects, this year's Water Artisans of the Year section promises not to disappoint.

Somehow this packed issue still has room for seven additional features, including John Magyar's great story about some of his clients who jumped the gun and started planting surrounding water gardens while John was still finishing up their pond builds. Some happy clients can't wait to apply "The Homeowner's Touch" (pg. 40) and make it their own. Freddie Combas takes a closer look at the formal pond-building trend ("All the Formalities," pg. 49), and Suzanne Boom reveals the leading lilies at the 2022 IWGS New Waterlily Competition on pg. 56.

Happy PONDerIng!



PerformancePro
PUMPS



PERFORMANCEPROPUMPS.COM
503.356.5888

From Start to Finish, Planning is Everything.

Kelly Billing, Aquatic Plant Specialist, Consultant



over intent on:



changing the way
Water Becomes a Garden
-kelly



443-504-2345
nelumbo22@gmail.com
www.waterbecomesagarden.com

ULTRA BALANCE

PREMIUM KOI FOOD

- ✓ Available in Growth & Maintenance Formulas
- ✓ Helps koi achieve their ideal health, growth, and energy levels
- ✓ Nutritionally balanced with amino acids, vitamins & minerals, and natural color enhancers



For More Information:

✉ info@koifood.com

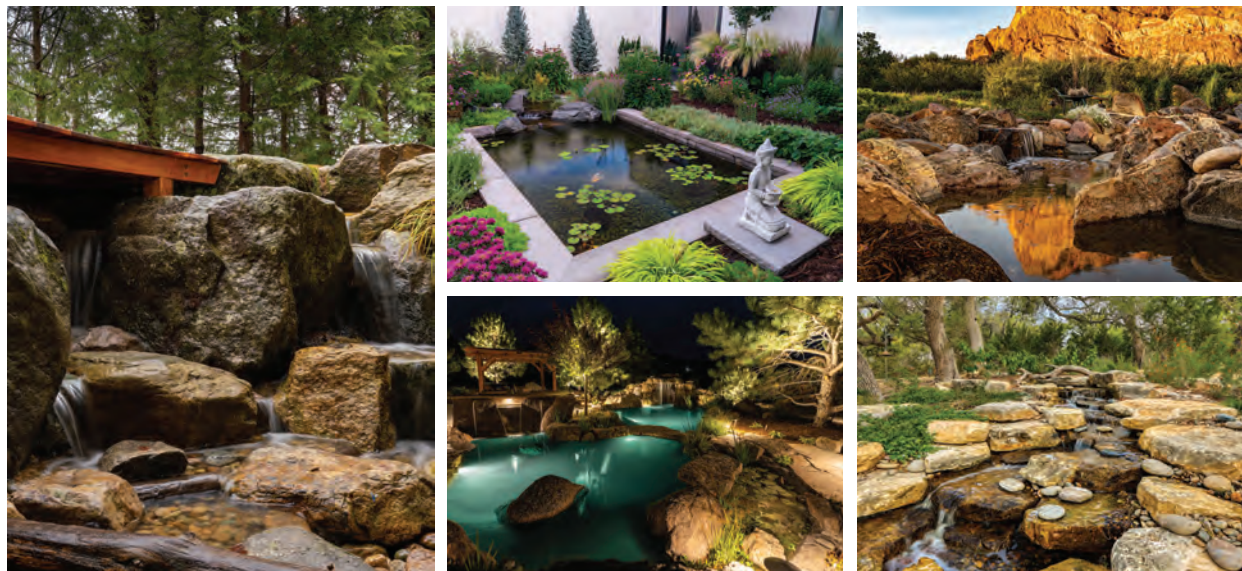
📘 [/ultrabalancekoifood](https://www.facebook.com/ultrabalancekoifood)

📷 [@ultrabalancekoifood](https://www.instagram.com/ultrabalancekoifood)

🌐 koifood.com

Manufactured by
Star Milling Co.
Made In USA





Water Artisans of the Year Winners

Water gardening's annual best of the best

by Jordan Morris,
POND Trade magazine

Now in its seventh year, the Water Artisans of the Year contest has opened the floodgates of water-feature-building talent in the industry, and the cream has risen to the top.


We are proud to announce our second triple-crown winners — Shane Hemphill and Health Webb of Art of the Yard — along with two other winners who also placed second in other categories. It certainly seems that a few pondscaping powerhouses are emerging as consistent contend-

ers year after year. Turn the page, meet them and see what you'll be up against if you decide to enter the contest next year.

As in previous years, we collected project submissions in five categories and presented them to an independent judging panel with no brand names or contractors' identities revealed. (Meet the judges on pg. 21!) This year's categories were the same as last year, with a slight budget increase for our budget category to account for inflation — Best Pondless, Most Naturalistic, Best Project under \$20,000, Fountains & Formal Features and, back from

last year due to popular demand, Rock Artisans.

We required a \$25 fee with every submission, which culminated in approximately \$2,500 donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, an award-winning charity that provides cutting-edge treatment to children without requiring payment.

Now it's time for the fun part. We are proud to present your 2022 pond season Water Artisans of the Year! 

WINNER Under \$20k



Eric Arntson

Eric Arntson started Stonebridge Pond and Waterfall Company, a design-build landscape business in Austin, Texas, in 2003. An artist at heart, he followed his aquatic intuition and made the switch to strictly water features in 2018. This is Arntson's second win in the contest.

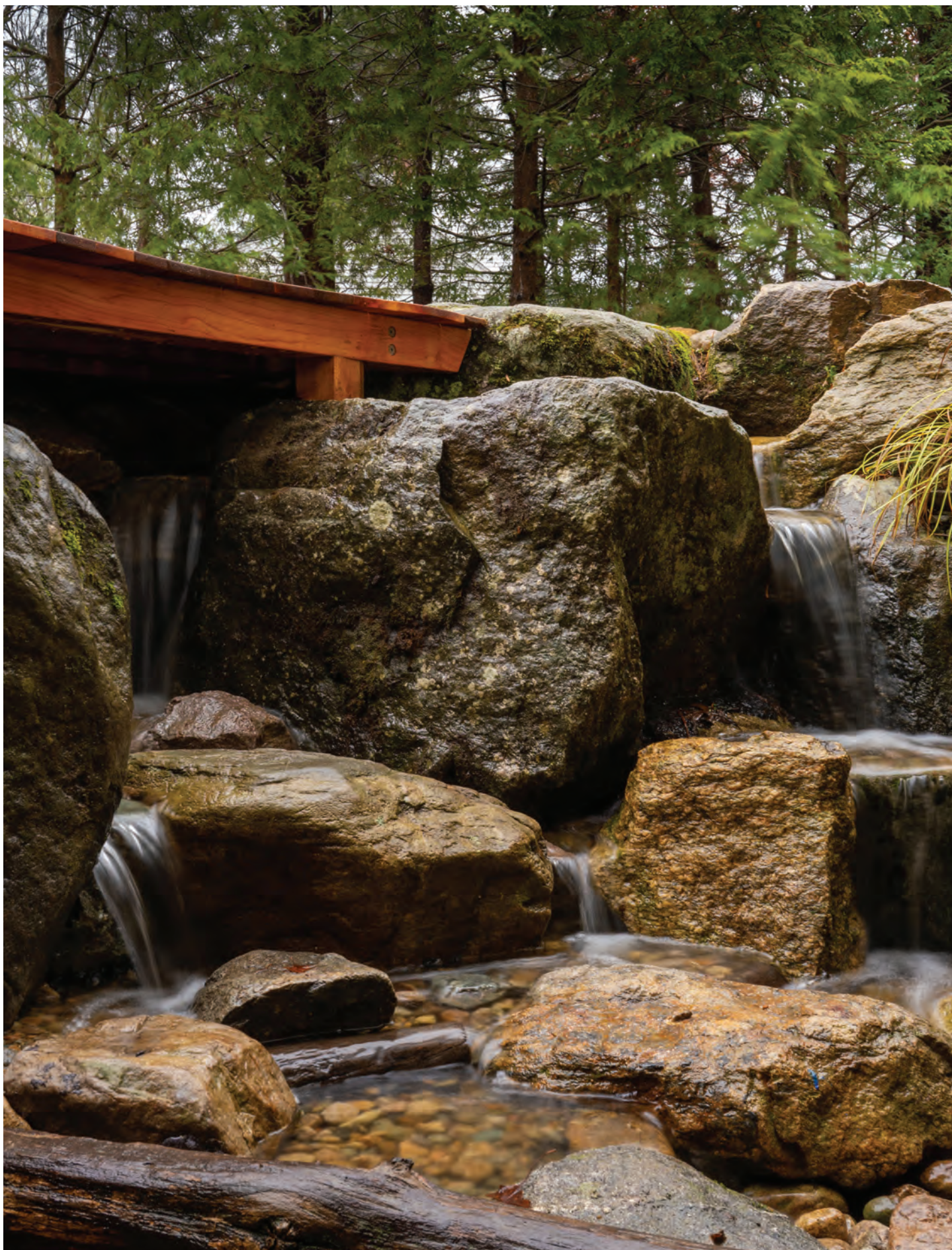
Ten tons of naturally weathered limestone transform this otherwise arid Texas Hill Country backyard into an aquatic playground. How mastermind and designer Eric Arntson pulled it off within a \$20,000 budget remains a mystery. With breathtaking views from the living room, dining room and patio of the home, the owners find themselves gazing and often losing themselves in the tranquil bliss, utterly in love with this skillfully carved work of outdoor art — as do the many inhabitants of the local ecosystem that have made a habit of stopping by.

"The client is thrilled with the visiting wildlife," Arntson said. "They plan to add a pond this coming year!"

We will be waiting for our invitation!









WINNER **Pondless**



**Jonathan
Marston**

Jonathan Marston built his first water feature at the age of 18 for his grandparents in Massachusetts. This is his second win in the Water Artisans of the Year contest. He is a Master Certified Aquascape Contractor and currently owns and operates FallingWater Scapes in Dover, Massachusetts.



It's not every day you hear someone boast about the view from a basement window. For Jonathan Marston, who won in last year's Best Under \$15k category, this view of his own personal multifaceted series of falls and spills has almost every element one could wish for in a water feature.

"It's located right outside my office window," Marston said. "I knew I couldn't spare any details — otherwise, I'd for sure notice!"

It's a view that will never disappear or disappoint. Fifteen distinct waterfalls cascade over large, mossy boulders and splash into and out of spillway bowls. A custom-made cedar bridge looms above an array of strategically placed driftwood and accent lighting. The 300-gallon reservoir allows for operation during wintertime, and a 115-foot-long, 5-foot-deep overflow pipe runs until daylight, reliably mitigating stormwater during the occasional downpour.





WINNER

Fountains & Formal Features



Matt Hiner

Matt Hiner founded Hiner Outdoor Living in Colorado Springs, Colorado in the winter of 2008 with \$300 and a dream. Today, his business has grown from a one-man owner and operator to a dedicated team of 18. He prides himself with a unique ability to blend modern amenities within a natural setting.

Infusing a hybrid element into a formal feature is a calculated risk for any waterscape designer, but in the case of this Zen-influenced koi pond with natural-style waterfall nestled into the Colorado wilderness, Matt Hiner really pulled it off (and then some).

The echoes from the 5,000-gph waterfall in this contemporary courtyard centerpiece have a surprisingly soothing effect from the adjacent patio, bestowing the homeowner with a place to unwind their body and mind with taste of nirvana. With panoramic views of the surrounding mountainscape, this is not your typical Zen Garden.

"We were able to create a one-of-a-kind backyard for this home," said Hiner, who celebrates his first win in the Water Artisans of the Year contest with an unheralded marriage between traditional and contemporary building styles.







WINNER Rock Artisans



Landon Malave

Landon Malave is the owner and creative lead at LCM Waterfalls & Ponds, a Colorado-based waterscape builder. He prides himself on making the customer a part of the process to ensure the highest level of satisfaction. This is his first win in the Water Artisans of the Year contest after placing second in 2018 and 2020.

If this natural swim pond with grotto and waterfall looks familiar to you, it might be because it was featured in our January/February 2023 issue (long after the judges had completed their review). Landon Malave credits his own patient planning and thoughtful reflection in pulling off this stunning behemoth of a water feature.

"I was able to sit on the overlooking deck and really think about how, where and why every rock is placed in this feature," he said.

Every single boulder was placed, directed and considered again in crafting all the possible vantage points around the property. From the vertical monoliths that crop the outdoor kitchen to the floating-rock bridge that transverse the middle of the grotto, the meaningful hand selection of each component of this project makes it one of the signature features in the growing portfolio of LCM Waterfalls & Ponds.



WINNER Most Naturalistic



Shane Hemphill & Heath Webb

Shane Hemphill and Heath Webb operate Colorado-based Art of the Yard LLC. With over 50 years of combined experience serving metro Denver and beyond, Art of the Yard strives to provide customers with the best in quality and service. Art of the Yard is the second ever threetime winner in the Water Artisans of the Year contest.

Shane Hemphill and Heath Webb are no strangers to the Water Artisans of the Year competition, and this towering, 95-foot pondless beauty has landed them their record-tying third win in the contest.

The primary waterfall and stream system boasts three additional entry points, giving the impression that the ancient springs below are coming up from beneath the stones to greet you. The finish of the feature is hidden in the distance, belying the endlessness of a Rocky Mountain stream.

Hemphill and Webb used a mixture of moss rock and granite to help the feature emulate its natural surroundings and look as though it has existed here forever. It's a true sight to behold for the homeowner, whose new backyard landscape is rivaled by no other in the area.







YOU BUILD TRANQUILITY

WE PROVIDE YOU THE
SUPPLIES TO CREATE IT



WHOLESALE PRICING AND SERVICE

We support your business with very competitive pricing and a large variety of equipment from multiple brands. Most orders ship the same or next business day.

EDUCATION

Our customer service representatives are always happy to help with any technical assistance and are able to provide professional advice on products, design & construction.

We also offer pond training & certification classes.

HUGE INVENTORY

We house over \$1,000,000 of inventory from over forty top manufacturers in our warehouse.

We handle most warranty issues for you, no need to contact the manufacturer.

WE SHIP EVERYTHING BUT THE WATER

WWW.PONDLINERWHOLESALE.COM

(866) 219-3561

An Eye for Excellency

Meet the 'Supreme Stream Court'



Meet our judges. Top row, left to right: Chris Hanson, Ellen Kloubec, Tim Wood. Bottom row, left to right: Chad Smith, Steve Sandalis, Larry Carnes.

by Jordan Morris & Joanne Costin,
POND Trade magazine

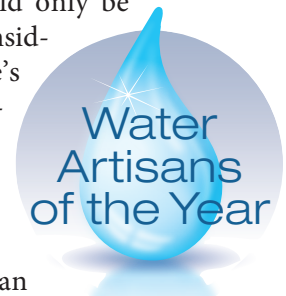
Known informally as the “Supreme Stream Court,” this year’s judges represent a true cross section of the industry, featuring a past winner, master pond builders, a wholesale distributor and koi farmer. Each judge reviewed blind entries and selected a winner and runner-up in each of the five categories — Formal Features & Fountains, Best Pondless, Most Naturalistic, Best Water Feature Under \$20,000, and Rock Artisans.

In order to be considered eligible, projects must have been completed between Nov.

1, 2021 and Nov. 1, 2022. We were happy to accept multiple entries from the same contractor; however, each project could only be submitted in one category for consideration. POND Trade magazine’s editorial staff then collected rankings for each of the five categories and calculated the winners.

The judges who served on this year’s panel were:

Tim Wood, a Water Artisan of the Year Award recipient in 2016, 2017 and 2021, gave up an opportunity to be the only four-time winner of the contest, and instead offer his expertise as judge. Known for his naturally inspired designs, Tim is a





DOLPHIN PUMPS

DISCOVER A NEW LEVEL OF QUALITY.



The premier manufacturer of external water pumps and products since 1978. A trusted brand known for reliability & efficiency.

WWW.DOLPHINPUMPS.COM


Master Certified Aquascape Contractor and founder of Aquatic Edge, a full-service water garden design, repair and installation company serving Western Pennsylvania.

As someone who raises and supplies koi throughout the United States and Canada, **Ellen Kloubec** knows the pond industry inside and out. Together with her husband and her son, she operates Kloubec Koi Farm, one of the largest and most trusted koi farms in the United States.

Steve Sandalis, owner of Mystic Water Gardens, is a Master Certified Aquascape Contractor with more than 17 years of experience creating innovative and ecofriendly water gardens in the Los Angeles area. In crafting designs for some of the biggest names in Hollywood, Steve gets inspiration from his travels to national parks and tropical islands.

Chad Smith is the owner and operator of WIM Supply, formerly known as Water in Motion, a wholesale distributor in Houston, Texas. The company provides both expertise and high-quality landscape lighting, outdoor sound equipment and pond and water feature installation products to landscapers and pond contractors. Since he built his first water feature in 1998, ponds have been his favorite part of any landscape project.

Known for his artistic ponds, **Larry Carnes** is the president of Reflections Water Gardens in West Dundee, Illinois, where he specializes in high-end residential and commercial projects with naturalistic watershaping. Larry is a student of Genesis 3 and Anthony Archer-Wills, one of the most foremost authorities in designing natural looking ponds and water features.

Chris Hanson is the head foreman at Aquascape, the largest water feature design and installation company in the world, based in Chicagoland. Chris takes a holistic approach to water feature design, using his landscape background to ensure the water and surrounding landscape interact perfectly with each other. 



koismart.com
(561)408-2739



LARGE INVENTORY
FULL WAREHOUSE
We Stock Thousands of
Items Ready-to-Ship

POND DESIGN
TECHNICAL
QUESTIONS
COMPETITIVE
PRICING

Our Experienced
Staff Members are
Here to Help You

SAME DAY SHIPPING
2pm EST Shipping Cut-Off
Nationwide

   
West Palm Beach, FL




Second to One

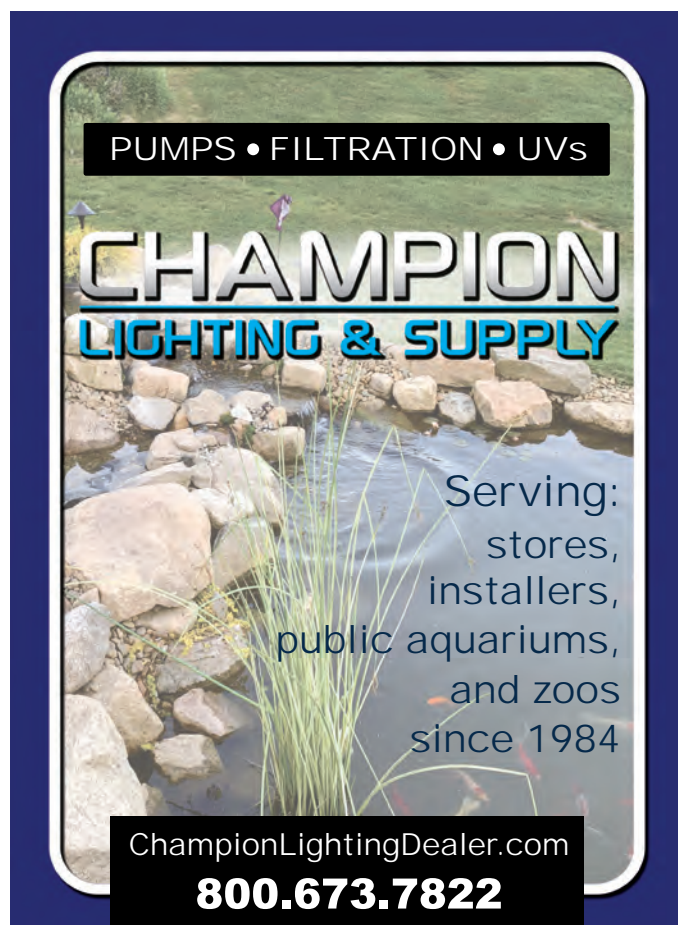
Check out these
respectable runners-up

by **Jordan Morris**,
POND Trade magazine

For the first time in the contest's history, two runners-up also won first place in a different category. We're thrilled to see our first female finalist from last year place second in the same category again this year. In our humble opinion, second place never looked so good!

POND Trade magazine hosts the independent, unsponsored Water Artisans of the Year contest on an annual basis. This provides a level playing field for all contractors, regardless of company size or affiliation, and recognizes the year's most impressive projects that set the bar in pond construction. We'd like to send a huge thanks to all our judges who presided over this year's contest. We were also proud to donate more than \$2,500 to St. Jude Children's Hospital on behalf of some of the most elite talent in the pond and water garden industry.

Now in its seventh year, the Water Artisans of the Year contest has become a staple in the pond and water-gardening industry. As you peer down your 2023 project pipeline, be sure to document and photograph your work as you go, because we'll start accepting entries for this year's contest later this fall. We'd love to feature your artistry on the pages of this magazine next year! 



PUMPS • FILTRATION • UVs

CHAMPION

LIGHTING & SUPPLY

Serving:
stores,
installers,
public aquariums,
and zoos
since 1984

ChampionLightingDealer.com
800.673.7822



CasCade 5000 1hp

Floating Pond Fountain Aerator

100 ft Power Cord • Light • Timer • EZ Installation!

10-15' high!

www.fishpondaerator.com
Fish people since 1955

\$869.95

- Pre-Assembled, Installs in Minutes!
- 1 Year Warranty
- 220/230 Volt commercial model also available.
- **\$SAVE HUNDREDS!!**

Call 7 days/week • Fast UPS Shipping! • 608-254-2735



Runner-up Under \$20k

Stan Suh

Flow Landscape / Flow Aquascapes
www.flowlandscape.com

Expectations are generally low when you consider an apartment complex's shoestring budget. In this case, the community not only got a big bang for their buck, but it might even save money in the long run with the integration of an adjustable-flow pump. This overhauled water feature features a 25-foot pondless stream, multiple waterfalls and three bubbling urns with LED lighting that promotes enjoyment around the clock.



Runner-up Fountains & Formal Features

Erick Santana

Bella's Aquatic Gardens
www.bellasquaticgardens.com

Talk about maximizing your HOA's value! This dedicated indoor koi pond was installed as part of a multi-million-dollar lobby renovation at a Fort Lauderdale luxury condominium building. Its consistently crystal-clear serenity is made possible by multiple 3-Horsepower pumps, bead filters, UV sterilizers and an ozone sterilizing system. Nothing says, "Welcome home" quite like a custom-made stainless steel waterfall and water wall percolating in your building's common area.



Runner-up Rock Artisans



Jonathan Marston

FallingWater Scapes
www.fallingwaterscapes.com

Sometimes the best rocks are only a stone's throw away. The large, beautiful slabs of earth seen here were actually harvested on property at this British Columbia residence and were the perfect specimens for creating waterfalls and various visual points of interest around the pond. The ledge outcropping behind the feature serves as the perfect backdrop for a stone lover's oasis.



Water
Artisans
of the Year



Runner-up Most Naturalistic

April Dugan

American Waterscapes
www.americanwaterscapes.com

Channeling Mother Nature, this network of towering waterfalls is encapsulated by unusually verdant moss, fern fronds and native woodland vegetation. A cacophony of sound reverberates like a bass drum off the lichen patina rocks as pristine water flows through at 6,500 gallons per hour. Formidable granite boulders blend perfectly with the existing boulder wall on the property to render a seamlessly integrated feature.





Runner-up **Pondless**

Shane Hemphill & Heath Webb

Art of the Yard LLC

www.artoftheyard.com

Nestled into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, this majestic pondless water feature is fed by two separate streams that meet and diverge throughout 50 feet of natural hillside. Strategically placed moss rocks were leveraged to successfully blend the awe-inspiring, 25,000-gph feature into the existing landscape to take full advantage of the unmistakable surrounding Colorado canvas.



Water
Artisans
of the Year

Kloubec Koi Farm

YOUR TRUSTED
SOURCE FOR
USA BRED KOI

Koi Health is
our top priority

Year-round
availability

Over 300,000
gallons indoors

80 acres of
outdoor ponds

kloubeckoi.com
319.846.2077

*Beautiful
wholesale
koi and
goldfish
that sell
fast!*



Beautifully simple water gardening



To learn more, contact our Dealer Support Team at **800-353-3444**
or email us at newcustomers@rchagen.com



HAGEN
GROUP

© 2022 by Rolf C. Hagen Inc. Laguna is a registered trademark of Rolf C. Hagen Inc.

Builders Without Borders

Forging a newfound
pond in Newfoundland



| Pond Construction |

by Mike Gannon,
Full Service Aquatics

Many have done it, and many will do it — taking your pond construction company international. Going international is certainly something to feel great about; however, taking your show on the road can be a challenge that is out of your comfort zone. Additional risks may pop up for your company as well as your clients. This dream could easily become a nightmare.

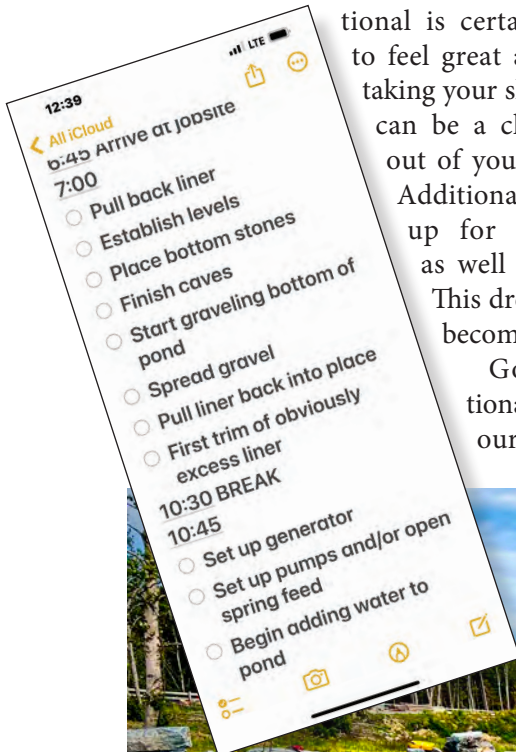
Going international had appeal for our company, Full

Service Aquatics. With close to 30 years' experience building ponds, waterfalls and water features all over New Jersey, with several successful inter-state pond projects in our wake, an international project seemed like a natural next step. When we received a pond-construction inquiry from Newfoundland, Canada, that opportunity presented itself.

Vetting the Client

The first step in going international is to debunk the lead. In this particular case, after fully vetting the potential client, the design request was legitimate. After finding some of our video content online, the client liked our work and asked us to design and install their dream.

The client was interested in a pond as the centerpiece for their new property — a picturesque location fronting the Humber River, a world-class



Day one saw excellent progress in finalizing the excavation and installing the polypropylene liner material.



All hands are on board (above) and ready to start receiving the first of 400 tons of stone. Beautiful, native armor stone (top, right) was harvested from the local quarry. The international dream team (bottom, right) from left to right: Tim Dille, Mike Gannon and Joe Brenner.



fishing spot. Upon entering the property, one is greeted by the encompassing backdrop of steep, rocky, mountainous terrain and blue sky. The clients' homestead featured a farmhouse, a "chandelier barn," several horse paddocks, a private trotting track and a private horse arena.

Newfoundland is only accessible by air or boat. The ability to source materials and equipment was a priority before scheduling the on-site consultation. The Aquascape Canada distributor could get everything we needed to the location in the time frame required. Knowing this kept moving things in the right direction.

With their curiosity piqued, the first order of business was to talk the client out of working with us. They were strongly advised to find a pond professional about 1,000 miles closer — within the same time zone, at least. The increased expense of "importing" pond builders was presented, but to no effect. Our curiosity was now provoked.

Phone and email consulting, which included viewing photos, video and property specs, all took place, but the site visit would truly determine the feasibility of the project. Although the criteria seemed positive, the end result might be that the project could not be done. We made sure that the client understood

the risk. The desired outcome for both parties would be to liquidate that risk, literally.

North of the Border

The goals of any on-site consultation include meeting the client and breaking down the technology barrier used to communicate to date. Then, walk the terrain, shoot levels, formulate a general design plan, and take photos and videos of everything. Get a feel for the travel, so that when a group of pond builders makes the trip, it goes smoothly. Locate accommodations, transportation, food sources, and even entertainment. This is the baseline for the human-resources concerns of an on-the-road project.

The originally proposed plan was for a 90-by-60-foot pond that was 3 feet deep, with a waterfall stream coming into and leaving the pond to drain down into the nearby river. The pond would be fed with on-site spring water captured and directed into the pond. The constant feed of fresh, clean mountain water eliminated the need for pumps and plumbing.

During this consultation, we were introduced to a local landscape contractor who had been working on the property. This ended up being a key introduction. The contractor, Devin

Nisi from Twin Mountain Contracting in Newfoundland, expressed an interest in learning pond construction, and a collaboration was underway. Devin generously shared his resources for the 400 tons of rock and gravel needed for the project. He also agreed to provide all the equipment needed for the project — from hand tools and transits to a shiny new 16-ton excavator and even a port-a-john! This connection boosted the feasibility factor.

Following the consultation, the design came in downsized, with new dimensions of 65 by 45 by 4 feet, with a 30-foot waterfall stream coming into the pond and a 90-foot stream leaving the pond.

The consultation successfully checked off the criteria — a positive client interaction, excellent site conditions and accessibility, water availability, design approval, travel plan, lodging, food, equipment, supplies and materials. We had some positive momentum, so it was time to schedule the project.

Mobilizing the Team

Landing back in New Jersey, a 90-day window lay ahead to organize, refine and realize the plan to bring our company international. All our projects, whether in West Virginia, Massachusetts,

Pennsylvania, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Georgia, or home in New Jersey have been handled in-house by since 1995, back in the one-man-operation days. The prospect of taking our hard-working team international was a thrill.

Announcing the project was exciting, but not one team member could make the trip. So like that, the thrill was gone, the thrill was gone away. The reality of 10 days on the road, strict Canadian vaccine protocols, wives and kids at home, passport issues and other very understandable considerations eroded our team back to a one-man international operation quickly. We got the project back on track by reaching out to the network of Certified Aquascape Contractors, or the "Tribe." After just one social media post asking for help, two amazing pond professionals joined the team.

The company's international collaboration team had grown to four. I was the lead designer and project leader, proud to work with Devin from Twin Mountain Contracting, the man with the



Joe Brenner straps boulders while Devin Nisi waits on the machine, ready to set them.

connections. Joe Brenner from Arizona Aquascapes in Gilbert, Arizona, and Tim Dille, a seasoned pond professional from Garden State Koi in Warwick, New York, came on board, too. While on location, additional support came

from our friends Tyler Young and Jim Parsons, who helped move things along on the job site.

With the team established, the work of remotely organizing everything from New Jersey began. Scheduling the project for early August promised optimal weather conditions. Routing and confirming flights, hotel accommodations and car rentals had to be done. Tracking the arrival of all equipment and materials to the job site was ongoing. Lots of communication took place so that the team could walk onto a fully stocked, ready-for-work job site on Aug. 1.

O Canada!

When Day 1 began, stacked piles of armor stone were present, an abundant mountain of gravel was ready, lots of shiny machinery was eager to work, and all liner and supplies were on hand — it was beautiful. Most of the pond basin had already been dug out. The concrete vault to capture the spring water was

TSURUMI PUMP™

4PN

Tsurumi pumps are constructed with the highest quality materials and components to ensure maximum performance and durability.

- Versatile pump for ponds, fountains, and waterfalls
- All non-corrosive materials construction
- Optimal operation ranges of 11-36 FT of head and 840-4,260 GPH
- 2 - Year manufacturer warranty

(630)-793-0127
info@tsurumiamerica.com
www.tsurumipump.com



The pond is in the process of being filled with mountain spring water (left). There is some serious 'horse power' (middle) in the fore and background of the newly established pond. The beautiful project site backdrop (right) is Newfoundland's Humber River Valley.

also already installed.

The team jumped right in, establishing depths and elevations, refining the shape of the pond and bringing materials into place. The excavated base of the pond was too soft for the large boulders, but this was quickly remedied. Geotextile material was installed and covered by a thick, firm base of bank run delivered by slinger truck. By end of the day, we had made amazing progress. The 80-by-100-foot polyethylene liner was completely installed. Several tons of boulders also installed and a huge fish cave built. The team ended Day 1 energized and confident in the project's momentum.

Over the next five days, we relentlessly set all the boulders and applied the gravel. These 14-hour days with few breaks and full exposure to the sun during an unusual heatwave were grinding! But the dusty job site was alive — moving and shaking, lifting and spinning, strapping and setting, and rinsing and draining. Lots of monolithic rocks were installed. Ample and inviting fish caves were created. We put in stone stairway accesses along with some rocky outcroppings and sitting stones along the shoreline. Each day brought the 65-by-45-by-4-foot body of the pond into focus.

Waterfall Time

After the rocks were set, we began

the waterfall construction phase of the project. The waterfall area was a 30-foot sloped run with overall elevation change of only 40 inches. The lack of elevation would not allow for large, dramatic drops, so the design would have to feature several smaller cascades running over very choppy drops to give a white-water-type presentation and allow for visibility from a distance. The final drop into the pond would be a sheet or curtain-type of drop to allow for eye-catching sunlight to sparkle and reflect off the clear mountain water.

Over the coming days, Mike and Devon worked on the waterfall construction, edge work and rocking out the surrounding landscape. Tim and Joe began working on the simple gravel stream leaving the pond. Tim took creative license, adding a nice waterfall and artfully wandering stream with intermittent boulders and gravel washouts.

The main waterfall boasted large boulders, framing and punctuating the meandering 30-foot run. A series of small, choppy cascades gave great visibility to the waterfall as it descended through the terraces and gave off an awesome sound quality, too. Large boulder outcroppings flanked the waterfall design to give a weightier visual presentation and allow for future landscaping opportunities. It looked great.

As a final touch, a large stone bench was installed on the far side of the pond across from the waterfalls for a peaceful viewing spot.

Breaking Points

When week two of the project began, the stress of the project was starting to take a toll on the team's psyche. Four contractors were working together for the first time in intense and, at times, brutal site conditions. All of us had strong personalities rubbing against each other 14 hours plus per day, with a strict project timeline ticking down. No one wanted to leave this job incomplete. The client certainly wanted a finished project. The project must be completed.

Day 8 ends early and abruptly, a breaking point met, with cooler minds gone. The project is not quite finished, with our flights home only 18 hours away. Day 9 was supposed to include a relaxed departure with downtime by the new pond to take in our accomplishment. However, the Day 9 reality began at 4 a.m. with a trip to the airport to drop off Joe, who had an early flight back to Arizona. We picked up Tim at 6 a.m. to help us put in the final hours to get everything just right before heading back.

Those hours were well invested. Heads were cooler on that rainy morning. Our focus was back, and



the final touches of the pond were completed with just minutes to spare before we caught our flights back home. Four guys, 400 tons, eight days — we were exhausted!


Achieving Our Goals

We finished the project with a very satisfied client. That goal was achieved and surpassed.

Taking Full Service Aquatics international successfully was a professional goal, and this was also achieved. In consideration of all the things that could have gone wrong — change orders, staffing issues, weather delays, travel delays, delivery delays, payment issues, difficult site conditions, materials unavailable, machinery failure, on-site injuries, difficult clients, difficult neighbors, difficult officials — this project would qualify as wildly successful.

If a company is considering taking

on the international (or even interstate) status, there are many things to consider. It may just be another pond job, but it may be your entire professional reputation on the line as well. Make sure you are very comfortable with your client. We were very fortunate to have such skillful and dedicated professionals on the job — a somewhat rare find. Take extra time to be sure you're happy about who you will be working with, and utilize professional networks for additional help. Be sure to stay within your comfort zone regarding project complexity. Make plenty of lists and check them thrice. Research the location you will be traveling to. Stay on top of travel requirements and restrictions for your intended location. Communicate and document everything.

And, of course, be sure to try to talk them out of hiring you before you commit! 

About the Author



Mike Gannon is the owner of Full Service Aquatics based in Stewartville, New Jersey. Mike has been a lifelong pond enthusiast and fishkeeper. Mike began Full Service Aquatics after working as a fish importer/dealer and time at the New York Aquarium. FSA has been specializing in koi pond, water garden, and water feature design and services since 1995; and more recently Mike opened a destination pond retail location called THAT POND PLACE also based in Stewartville. Mike is also the author of the Love Your Pond blog found at www.fullserviceaquatics.com.

Bassinger Fisheries Koi & Goldfish Farm



Healthiest Koi and Goldfish in the USA!

- 100% Ulcer Free Farm
 - 100% Virus Free Farm
 - No New Fish Introduced in 17 years
- 100% Satisfaction Guarantee**



Rated Best All Around American Koi by International Koi Judge

- Brilliant Colors
- Stunning Patterns
- Great Selection of Different Koi and Butterfly Koi



One of two locations

Visit our new website at:

www.BassingerKoiFarm.com

817-366-1746

325-728-4237 Fax

thekoiman@sbcglobal.net

New Customer Special!

50%^{off}

(on first \$500 order)



Innovation,

H2O'h Yeah!

Get the the natural, ecological balance needed for clean, clear water



DEFEND
your pond all season long!



New!

**AQUA
DEFEND**

Breaks down waste
and sludge buildup

Helps prevent buildup on
rocks, waterfalls and streams

Controls phosphates

Contact us for
special introductory
discounts!



Solutions for early every water issue

Simple dosages and applications



All natural Eco-Friendly labeled products are safe for use around pets, fish, plants and wildlife.



Made in the USA Proudly manufactured in the USA.

Retail ready Full color packaging unites our products as a family brand. Solid margins are built in to our products with the value of a lower "cost-per-treatment" on the entire EasyPro® Water Treatment lineup.

800-448-3873

Quality, Experience

800-448-3873
www.easypro.com
info@easypro.com



We Can Help You Get Clarity

EasyPro has the solutions you need for clean, clear water!

New! PRO-CLEAR™ UV ULTRA Stainless Steel UV Clarifiers

High strength, stainless steel construction.
Engineered for maximum flow rate, ultraviolet efficiency and long life.



- Polished stainless reflector increases light reflection up to 35% for a more efficient _____
- Dual inlets & outlets for multiple plumbing options
- Weatherproof transformer with 16' cord
- UV-C grade bulbs have 9000 hour life rating
- Six models available for ponds up to 24,000 gallons

FILTRATION SOLUTIONS

Pressurized Bead Filters

Mechanical and biological filtration for water gardens, koi ponds, formal ponds and hybrid ponds

- Six position control head
- Strong, heavy-duty polyethylene filter body
- Clear section to monitor cleaning cycle
- Ultimate Tube Media included for maximum filtration and minimum back pressure
- Simple set up and assembly
- Free plumbing unions
- Models for ponds up to 10,000 gallons



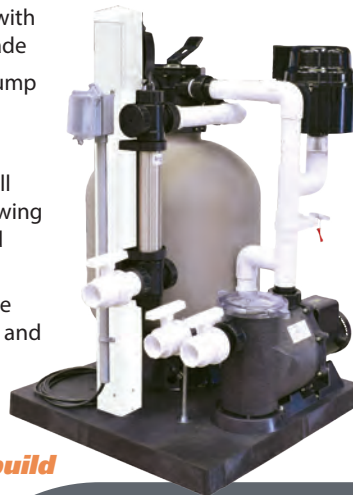
Backflush blower upgrade available for all models to supercharge cleanouts!

Deluxe Skid Mounted Pond Filtration Systems

Complete PLUG AND GO filtration systems!

Systems feature:

- Pressurized bead filter with backflush blower upgrade
- External self priming pump
- UV clarifier
- Completely plumbed. All unions included at all connection points, allowing for easy installation and maintenance.
- Electrical post complete with 115v power outlet and 15' power cord
- Models for ponds up to 10,000 gallons



We also custom build to your specs!

Request Your 2023 Catalogs Today!

Visit our website to find a distributor near you & to request our catalogs.

800-448-3873 easypro.com



Let our decades of experience help you sell your next project!



EASYPRO.COM

POND MICROBE-LIFT®

FRESH NEW LOOK!



MADE IN
THE USA



MICROBE-LIFT POND IS EXCITED TO INTRODUCE OUR BRAND NEW LEGACY KOI & GOLDFISH FOOD & SPRING/SUMMER CLEANER PACKAGING!

Our latest eco-friendly redesign helps to reduce plastic waste.

— THE MICROBE-LIFT DIFFERENCE —
**SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY.
RELIABILITY.
UNMATCHED PERFORMANCE.**



Ecological Laboratories INC.
Providing Aquatic Solutions Since 1976

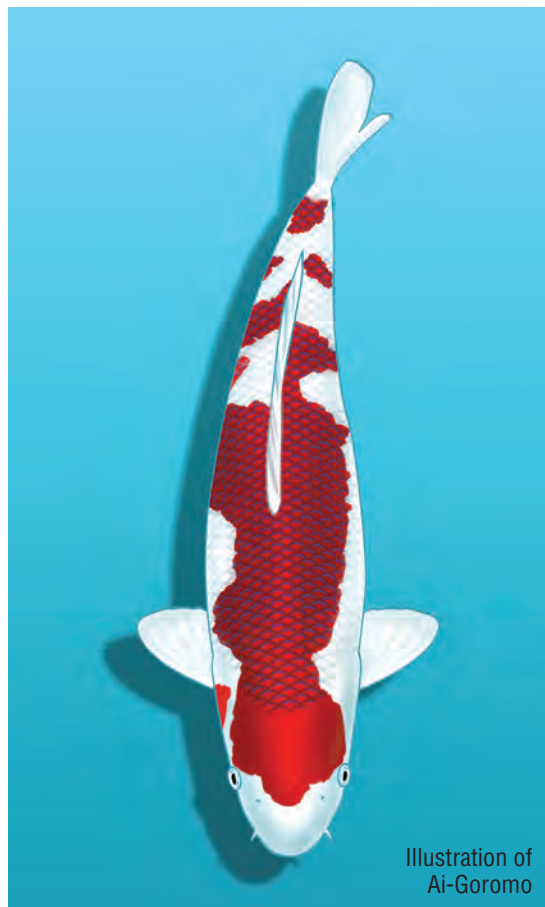


MicrobeLift.com

| Language of **Koi** |

A Koi Wearing Clothes?

Meet the
'robed' koi variety



by **Ellen Kloubec,**

Kloubec Koi

The Koromo variety of koi is fairly new. It is said to have been developed between 1945 – 1950 in Japan and emerged as a by-product of Goshiki breeding. Both varieties, Koromo and Goshiki, are grouped together for judging purposes and compete against each other at most koi shows.

Koromo are white, non-metallic koi having a red pattern and blue or black reticulation. Similar to other koi varieties with hi plates (red markings), the red pattern should be pleasing and well balanced over the entire body of the fish. However, on Koromo, the hi plates will have a very unique feature — the addition of blue or black pigment draping the red. This overlay, an unusual characteristic, is why Koromo are referred to as robed koi. The word *koromo* literally means “robed” in the

Japanese language.

The indigo-colored overlay may be faint on young Koromo and easily overlooked. Reticulation, or netting, will gradually increase in intensity as the koi grows. Therefore, the blue color of a seemingly perfect tone on a small koi may become too dark when the fish matures. A blue color of the perfect tone on large koi was in many cases a very light hue when the fish was small.

Water quality may also play a part in its development. A koi fish with this unexpected and unique pigmentation is sure to be a great addition to any koi collection.

Popular Variations

The group or class for Koromo includes several types within this major variety class. Ai-Goromo and Budo Goromo are the most well known in America.

When the unusual and interesting blue

Your fish called...

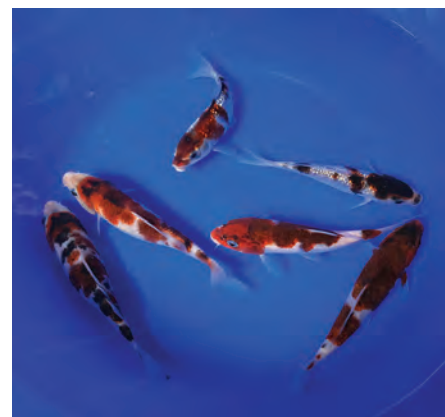
THEY WANT BETTER FILTRATION!!!



Ellen Kloubec, co-owner of Kloubec Koi Farm, measures a gin-rin Goromo prior to listing it online for sale.

coloring appears exclusively on the *beni* (red) markings the fish is named Ai-Goromo. The blue pigment may lightly cover the beni on young koi prior to concentrating on the scale edges, forming reticulation. A textbook example of a fully finished adult Ai-Goromo may exhibit a blue-indigo color on the outer edge of all scales on the hi plate. Koi with these distinct blue crescents arranged in a very orderly manner are highly valued.

If the overlying color on the beni is black or purple-like, the fish becomes a Budo Goromo. It frequently appears with a burgundy or deep-plum tint, making it a very popular variety. The word *budo* translates to "grape,"




Many Koromo variations are produced at Kloubec Koi Farm. Can you identify each type in this viewing bowl?

which refers to both the pattern as well as the color. Often the pattern markings have an irregularly shaped edges that can resemble clumps of grapes.

Rare Variations

Koromo Sanke and Koromo Showa are quite rare, especially in the United States. They have very complicated patterns that are not easily identified. Both Koromo Sanke and Koromo Showa will have the traditional beni pattern cloaked with sumi. Each will have the addition of sumi spots patches. The specific type of the sumi helps us differentiate between the two rare and exciting types of Koromo.

Even more variations are possible. Koromo can be produced with butterfly fins, sparkling gin-rin scales or Doitsu scales. Each dazzling feature enhances an already beautiful specimen and moves the fish to an alternative classification for judging.

Note that Goshiki and Koromo are very similar. They are nearly identical when young, as both generally display a faint blue coloring. But when the indigo color intensifies and extends beyond the hi plates to cover the white ground, the koi it is technically a Goshiki. Often, these fish are inadvertently mislabeled as the other variety. As the koi age and the indigo pigment fully emerges, their true identity and correct variety will become evident. 

About the Author

Ellen Kloubec and her husband

Myron began their aquaculture business in 1981, and their farm consists of 80 acres of mud ponds. Together with their son Nick, they raise and supply healthy and hardy koi to wholesale customers throughout the USA and Canada. Ellen loves all things koi.



www.kloubekoi.com

zeigler
nutrition through innovation

SCIENTIFICALLY FORMULATED BY AQUACULTURE NUTRITIONISTS

Also available in 5 lb. and 33 lb. bags

Product of USA

Koi Grower
Complete High Performance Diet for Koi & Goldfish
3.0 mm

Pond Fancier
Complete Cool Weather Diet for Koi & Goldfish with Wheat Germ
5.0 mm

Koi Fancier
Complete Color-Enhancing Diet for Koi & Goldfish
5.0 mm

contains Vpak
SUPPORTS IMMUNE ENHANCEMENT & GOOD HEALTH

For more information about Zeigler products, please visit our website zeiglerfeed.com or call 800-841-6800.

Zeigler Bros., Inc.
400 Gardners Station Road
Gardners, PA 17324 USA

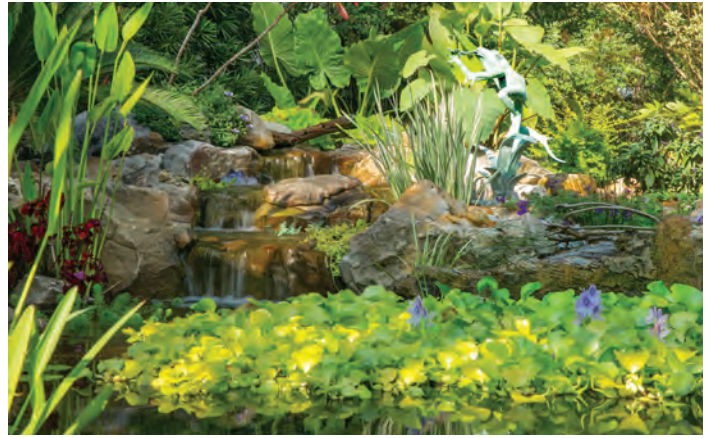
www.zeiglerfeed.com
info@zeiglerfeed.com

717-677-6181
717-677-6826 fax

Global Aquaculture Alliance

GLOBALG.A.P.

Product of USA



The Homeowner's Touch

Adding plants can personalize each pond build



Troy and Tom's backyard tropical oasis comes to life with some sweat equity shortly after the completion of their water feature.

| Personal Touch |

by John Magyar,

Universal Aquatics

Plants, both terrestrial and aquatic, are a huge part of naturalizing a newly constructed water feature. Not only do plants help soften up the hardscape, but they also help tie everything together. After the chaos of the construction phase has come to an end, all the dust has settled, and the machine fleet has been put to bed, this is when a feature starts to come alive, and the next phase of the project begins — the planting phase.

When it comes to our water features, homeowners often like to tackle this aspect of the design themselves. This way, they are able to put their own special touch on the new area. They often call water feature specialists to help create their vision and use plants to put their own fingerprint on the design.

In this article, we'll look at two different features that stand out because of the homeowner's excitement to get started on the landscape. They both actually began the plant design before their features were even completed!

Tropical Paradise

For this first project, the homeowners wanted a tropical paradise in their backyard. We were tasked with coming up with a style and design that would both complement the backyard and create another canvas for all the tropical plantings they wanted to admire. With goldfish in mind, we set out to create a destination location in their backyard that would allow them to plant several different types of aquatic and terrestrial plants after our initial work had been completed. They got to work on the landscape immediately after the pond portion was finished.

These new pond owners already had the footprint of a tropical oasis established on the property before we put the first shovel in the ground. A few months before construction began, they installed some mature palm trees around the pond area. This wasn't ideal for building because they were always in the way, but they set the tone for the desired overall feel of the new space.

A multitude of color can be found at Troy and Tom's pond — from sago palms to canna lilies, you can pretty much find it all here. Reds, yellows, greens, purples, pinks and just about every color in between can be found in this tropical landscape around the pond.

Defying the Weather

Troy loves tropical plants and gardens, but as he lives in zone 7B, the weather can be too cold for some tropicals. However, he figured that if they managed to have tropical gardens when they lived in the United Kingdom, why couldn't they do it in Atlanta?

He paid a local nursery that specializes in palm trees to install massive, mature, cold-hardy palms to give the area the biggest bang for the buck. The palms not only shelter the pond on hot summer days, but they also help hide the pond from the local blue herons!

A variety of plants brings the tropical color to

We were tasked with coming up with a style and design that would both complement the backyard and create another canvas for all the tropical plantings they wanted to admire.

the space. Most come back every year, even after a brutally chilling winter. This past winter, the temperature dropped to 7 degrees Fahrenheit, burning leafage on everything from tea olives to gardenias and azaleas. (They will all drop the burned foliage and spring to life when temperatures warm up.) The huge cold-hardy banana plants, basjoo, lost their huge 12-foot stalks, but they too will come back in the spring, from the ground up.

Planning for Planting

A beautiful pond is always evolving year to year. The pond matures with age, and it's fun to



For more information &
informative videos.



Grown in our state of the art nursery in
southern New Jersey.

We have an extensive selection of plants
ready to plant or market.

- Marginals
- Water Lilies
- Lotus
- Floaters & Oxygenators
- Combination Planters



Whether you have a retail store or do installations exclusively, we have solutions for both. From pre-planned assortments to customizable solutions, we can help take the guess work out of assembling a healthy balanced mix. Contact us for a catalog or to schedule a salesman visit.

1.800.788.8547 • www.netherlandbulb.com • contactus@netherlandbulb.com



Netherland Bulb Company
Plant Happiness



add new plantings. Troy planted a huge sago palm by the water. It's not a true palm, but it's been around since the dinosaur age. Troy used canna lilies, variegated ginger, Hawaiian ginger, Hawaii ti plants, elephant ears, Florida Sunshine anise and a variety of ferns. The variegated crotons add great color, but he doesn't expect them to come back in zone 7B.

No garden pond is complete without a diverse range of plants and insects. A healthy ecosystem exists when nature is interactive. It's a great teacher for children, too. Catering to the bees and butterflies, Troy planted some lantana and verbena for their drought tolerance during the hot summers.

Bee balm plants are to bees what catnip is to cats, so it's a great plant to attract bees. And let's not forget, a miniature butterfly bush is great around ponds. Keep in mind, though, that the larger variety does need a lot of space to grow.

When they thought about their plant selection, they considered all four seasons. What will that Japanese maple look like in the fall? Troy's miniature nandinas turned red in the winter. The Florida Sunshine anise turned gold-yellow but managed to survive the 7-degree temperatures. The miniature gardenias are evergreen, and snap dragons were planted along with ornamental cabbages and pansies in the colder months. This helps them enjoy their pond year round!

"A Spiritual Exercise"

Troy has his own philosophy when it comes to gardening. Although time may not always allow, Troy prefers planting all the plants himself.

"It feels like a spiritual exercise when my hands and knees are in the dirt," Troy said. "It's very grounding. To hold a small plant in your hands and dig a new space for it to flourish is rewarding."

He opted for no irrigation system in his tropical garden because he bonds with each plant when he waters it himself. Troy said it was not a monetary decision. "Our lives are like gardens. We have a choice to nurture the Garden of Eden or let it grow into a Garden of Weedin'!"

Some folks just like to get their hands dirty, but the impact that a homeowner makes on the landscape can be truly remarkable. The amount of work and dedication put in to enhance the space and truly create a one-of-a-kind destination area in such a short amount of time is remarkable.

Mother-Daughter Ponding

Our second stop is a pondless waterfall project we completed in 2020. We were finished putting the final touches on the feature around 3 p.m., and by the end of the day, most of the initial landscaping had been completed. Ellen and her daughter Catherine got to work soon after we did, putting all of the plants in their right place. The mulch soon followed. Ellen truly has an artist's



Ellen (top) and Catherine (bottom) are putting the finishing touches on their new pondless waterfall (above, left) that was completed earlier that day.



WHY NOT PUMP PERFORMANCE THAT STANDS OUT FROM THE CROWD?



Amidst the crowd of ordinary pumps, one stands apart as exceptional—Nitto Kohki LA Series blowers provide unparalleled performance for koi pond and water garden applications. This is why they're the professional choice:

They last longer, especially in hot, humid climates.

Nitto Kohki aerators have one moving part per piston. Properly installed and maintained, they have an expected service life of 6+ years.

They run quieter, supporting the natural design of ponds.

Listened to a diaphragm pump lately? In contrast, linear-piston LA aerators have about as much ambient noise as a light ballast.

Their cost-of-ownership is lower.

LA Series blowers consume far less energy— have only 50-60% of the line current requirements of diaphragm pumps.

Nitto Kohki aerators better leverage filtration capability, increase the fish handling capability of existing ponds, and minimize the risk to valuable koi collections. They're the best selection when building a new pond – as well as when you're looking to add quality and reliability to your existing pond. When it comes to selecting the best, it's as simple as 1-2-3.

Call **800 843 6336**, e-mail info@NittoKohki.com, or visit NittoKohki.com for more on LA Series blowers.





Ellen's pondless project comes alive with the addition of several species of aquatic and terrestrial plants.

touch when it comes to design and plantings around the rest of her property, so she felt right at home getting to work on the new pondless feature.

She originally had a formal concrete pond with a large, three-tiered fountain in the center that was there when she purchased the property. We started discussing the idea to convert it into a pondless waterfall. They ended up seeing another water feature while on vacation that inspired them to go ahead and create a more natural water feature on their property. Ellen is an avid gardener with one of the best manicured properties in town. The rest of her property looks like a resort!

Ellen likes being able to design with the various sizes and textures of the plants and to be able to arrange and rearrange them to her liking. She decided to go with several types of plants around the waterfall, including creeping juniper, creeping jenny, creeping phlox, carex, small Japanese maple and coral bells.

Ellen was thrilled to work with her daughter Catherine to create the newly landscaped space — another memorable mother-daughter landscaping project to look back on with fondness down the road.

Don't forget that water features look their worst when they are initially installed. Sure, you get the excitement of seeing the waterfall flow for the first time, but the overall state of the feature is still a bit raw. This raw state brings a thrilling opportunity for plant enthusiasts to create something beautiful.

I'd like to send a special thank-you to Troy, Tom, Ellen, Paul and Catherine for helping make this article possible! ☞

About the Author



John Magyar, owner of Universal Aquatics LLC in Atlanta, Georgia, is a biologist with more than 15 years of experience in pond design and installation and maintenance of koi ponds, pondless waterfalls, water gardens and water fountains. His expertise stems from years of work in the zoo and public aquarium industry throughout the United States.
www.universalaquatics.com

Toledo Goldfish

GOLDFISH, KOI & MORE



Use discount code
PONDTRADE
for 15% off all
orders over \$100

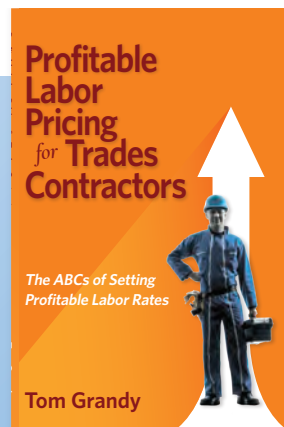
FROM OUR FAMILY FARM TO YOUR DOORSTEP



TOLEDOGOLDFISH.COM

NEW BOOK!

Your guide to setting profitable labor rates



"Tom Grandy has consistently set the standard for contractor pricing. His easy writing style walks you through a logical and clear path to this complex issue. Any contractor wanting to avoid a cash flow disaster by pricing themselves profitably should read this book."

— Adams Hudson, Founder of Hudson Ink

The book is available at
www.GrandyAssociates.com
and Amazon.com

Don't Wait. Automate.



Automation technology can save time and money

by Clayton Graba,

A Frog's Dream Aquatic Services

The idea of integrating automation into your pond business and administrative processes may seem daunting. You might even ask yourself, “Why not just do it manually?”

Of course, any task on hand can be completed manually. Manually is how everything has been done for centuries. However, would you ever knowingly waste time and money? Current technology allows us to utilize tools that save us time.

Specifically, automation allows certain repeatable tasks to be completed efficiently, effectively and without mistakes. This means you can focus on what's important — growing your business and spending more time with your family.

Quote Follow-ups

At some point in time, you will have to either present or send out a quote for services. Maybe you have a process in place already. But did you know that the entire quote process can be automated?

What if the client never received your quote? You'll never know if you don't follow up. Automation greatly increases receiving a yes or no response. We all want a yes, but a no is better than crickets!

Automation also enables you to send personalized messages and texts to allow clients to easily accept your quote. All our lives are busy, and we all get sidetracked — make it easy for your client to find and accept your quote!

Quote automation will allow you follow up with clients without adding another task to your plate. Automating this administrative process will allow your quote follow-ups to send consistently without taking any of your time.

Web Forms

If you are using a form on your website to collect customer information, it only makes sense to automate this data entry task.

Why, you ask? Form automation reduces inaccuracies and completely eliminates the manual entry of lead information into a customer relationship management (CRM) or email marketing software.

It also allows you to improve your response time to prospective clients. It's a fact, the faster the response to a client, the higher your chance of converting them. Form Automation can send personalized email, text or even voice-mail messages specific to customers interests based on form entries.

The possibilities are endless with form automation. It gives you the ability to set up numerous other automations that can represent a powerful addition to your company.

Data Entry

If you're using any kind of online software to help manage your company, the most mundane task is entering all this data. It can haunt any business owner or administrator. Some companies utilize multiple software platforms, which translates to repeated entries of the same data.

Automating your data entry between software platforms will eliminate data-entry errors that can occur during manual entry, save time and provide consistent and accurate information across all software platforms you might be using.

Automating data entry is so relieving. Someone, whether it's you or your staff, spends countless hours tied up entering data. Free up this time so your focus can be directed at more important tasks within your business. Instead of repeated data entry, complete it once and allow technology to repeat it for you.

Do the Math

So, how much time are we talking? Let's break this down considering only data entry. Sooner or later, if not already, you've implemented something similar to Mail Chimp, QuickBooks or Jobber. A new client either calls or fills out the form on your website for a consult to build them their dream pond.

What happens now? You know all too well. All that information needs to be entered into MailChimp, and then QuickBooks, and then Jobber.

**Get a FREE Listing with a
ONS Network Services or
50% Off Setup Fees by
Using Code **PondTradeMag****

**Get Listed on the
1st Page of Google,
Instantly with a
New Website**



Join **FREE
Contractor Directory**

www.outdoor-network.services

Pond Liners and Water Gardening Supplies

We offer the finest water gardening products and accessories to qualified dealers who insist on the best for their customers.

Our suppliers include:



PerformancePro
PUMPS



AKT Specialty
www.aktspecialty.com
1-800-627-6213



LINDLEY STONE

We are a wholesale stone supply company with 27 years experience specializing in moss boulders. We offer nationwide delivery.

918 429-3191
Shaun Lindley McAlester, OK
www.lindleystone.net



That's three different data entry points. Quickly and efficiently, this is going to take three to five minutes. Multiply that by 100 leads. That's 300 minutes — at least five hours of data entry!

How many times a week are you entering data repeatedly? How many hours are you and your staff dedicating to data entry?

This scenario is only one task, multiply this by 3, 4 ... maybe even 10 tasks, and those minutes and hours add up really quickly! Implementing and automating only three data entry tasks could potentially save you and your company up to 15 hours of time. What would you do with an extra 15 hours a week?

Don't Wait. Automate.

Technology can be frustrating at times, but don't be afraid of it. Automation can drastically improve your efficiency and save countless hours throughout the days and years.

Take the time to navigate this yourself or find someone who is knowledgeable and can help you create automated processes within your business. Change is tough, but you'll be saying to yourself, "Why did I wait so long to do this?"

Of course, time is needed to implement and properly create all these automations. I think you'll find that the time gained outweighs the time invested exponentially. ☞

About the Author

Clayton Graba, otherwise known as "Clay," currently resides in New Jersey with his extremely supportive wife and amazing two sons. He owns A Frog's Dream Aquatic Services, which has been operating since 2006. Having dived into the automation and software world, he really wants to help other contractors realize the potential of embracing technology to stimulate company growth.





Formal koi pond designs have limitless exterior finish options along with many possibilities for integrating additional features.

All the Formalities

The flourishing favor of formal koi ponds

by Freddie Combas,
FWG Designs

As I wrote this article, I found myself using the term “traditional” to describe koi ponds with clean lines and more of a geometric design than those natural koi ponds seen in beautiful Japanese Zen gardens. This made me pause to consider my choice of words.

As Steve Urkel would say, “Did I do that?” From where or whom did I pick up this term? How did I conclude what signifies “traditional?” I have no idea, but I have since gone through this article and replaced “traditional”

with “formal,” as this best describes the type of pond design I’m referring to, without infringing on koi pond history, tradition, etc. (I’m trying to be Switzerland here, people!)

‘Formal’ Education

These past few years, I have noticed an increase in the demand for formal koi ponds. More and more clients are asking for geometric-designed ponds with cleaner lines and more refined finishes. Many are opting for a pond design that better matches the home’s design, whereas in past years, clients tended to lean toward tropical getaway backyard water features.



Siting formal ponds is more critical, as the viewing angle drastically changes when a pond is built above grade.

Once we crunched the numbers, we decided that smaller ponds would be built using concrete block and liner, and all larger ponds would be built from gunite.

To meet this demand, we had break down the various materials and equipment that could be used, along with the construction methodology, in a manner that could accommodate different budget requirements. We figured that our construction options for the structural portion of the koi pond could be wood, concrete block or gunite. Since we are in Florida, we decided that with all the rain and moisture, wood ponds weren't for us, so we would focus on using either concrete block or gunite. Gunite is a mixture of cement,

water and sand that is pressurized and shot through a hose at high pressure to produce a very dense, hard shell.

Small vs. Large Ponds

Once we crunched the numbers, we decided that smaller ponds would be built using concrete block and liner, and all larger ponds would be built from gunite.

Small ponds would be excavated, and a footer would be formed and reinforced with steel rebar before pouring concrete. The footer would be drilled and rebar

High Quality Koi @ Wholesale Prices

Hand picked from Japanese Breeders

**Koda, Suda, Hiroi, Marusaka, Jirosuke, Kase,
Maruhiro, Miyatora, Ozumi, Yagenji, Yamazaki**

lagunakoi.com/wholesale



THOUSANDS OF BABY KOI!

Call for price

949 494 5107

2 Locations:

Newport Beach, CA

Laguna Beach, CA

Quarantined & KHV Free





Liner can be custom seamed (top, left) to fit into geometrically shaped ponds and eliminate all folds. Our first formal concrete koi pond (bottom, left) was built circa 2002. Formal koi ponds (above) can be built partially above grade, which allows for the installation of viewing windows.



epoxied to extend vertically at a distance of every other concrete block cell. The mechanical skimmers, plumbing for skimmers, water feature returns, mid-level drains, jets, conduits for underwater lights, etc., would be installed at this time before the concrete block.

Depending on the pond wall height, rebar would run horizontally through all the concrete block cells to tie them all together, and all blocks would be filled with concrete. Underlayment and liner would be placed inside the pond, attached and sealed to bottom drains, skimmers and jets, and anchored to the top of the pond walls. A tile band is then installed to allow for easy cleaning of the crud that will form at the waterline and is nearly impossible to clean off the liner. The liner and the tile band anchoring system on top of

the pond walls would then be covered once the decorative coping is installed.

Larger ponds, on the other hand, would be excavated, with all plumbing (bottom drains, skimmers, jets, lighting, etc.) installed and a steel rebar

the beneficial bacteria will grow on the interior pond walls and turn them a dark color anyway.

Design Considerations

So, when a client says they're inter-

There are different sealer types and colors that the client can choose from. We always recommend black, since the beneficial bacteria will grow on the interior pond walls and turn them a dark color anyway.

cage built and prepared to have the gunite applied to create the pond shell.

Once the shell has cured, a sealer is applied to make the pond watertight. There are different sealer types and colors that the client can choose from. We always recommend black, since

ested in a typical 11-by-16-foot, 2-foot-deep rock and gravel koi pond with a waterfall filter and liner, many of us know exactly to the penny what our cost, time to build and profit will be without asking any questions other than, "Will your deposit be cash, check

THE BEST TIME TO START MARKETING?

➤ **BEFORE YOU NEED TO.**

We do your marketing for you! Do you want to increase your pond maintenance and new build accounts? You need email marketing!

We handle all your email marketing writing, design and sending to all your clients AND potential clients on a consistent basis.

Here is what some of our current customers have to say:

"Pondtent has been great to work with. Laura is so attentive to my company needs in terms of marketing and online. I would definitely recommend Pondtent to anyone looking to improve customer retention and future business."

Geoff Brown
Paradise Falls Ponds

"We never have to worry about getting our weekly emails out with Laura in charge. We are able to send out our YouTube videos to thousands of our customers and potential customers each week, along with truly helpful pond tips. We love Laura's work and highly recommend her."

Joann Harju
Atlantis Water Gardens

"We have been using Pondtent for 4+ years to do all our weekly pond tips, blogs as well as post content on our social media pages and we couldn't be happier! Laura is a marketing genius and so easy to work with!"

Dave Misterly
AquaLife Ponds

Ready to learn more?

email Laura@mypondtent.com

call 215.805.8257

www.mypondtent.com

The logo for Pondtent features the word "pondtent" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. A blue water droplet icon is positioned above the letter "o". A thin blue horizontal line is located beneath the word "pondtent".

or credit card?” Then you have boulders delivered, and off you go to express your artistic abilities your way.

Am I right, or what? When you design a formal koi pond, there are a lot of decisions that the client has to make. Is the pond shape going to be round, square, rectangular, trapezoidal, etc.? Is the pond going to be built below grade, above grade, or half below grade and half above grade? Is the exterior wall finish going to be stucco, tile, stone, etc? Is the water being returned to the pond via a decorative overflowing bowl, one weir, two weirs, or three weirs off an elevated wall? Is that elevated wall going to be stucco, tile, stone, etc?

I have come to understand that deciding to have a formal koi pond is a very personal decision our clients make, and they need to be involved more so in the aesthetic design than with natural-looking ponds with rock waterfalls.

If tile, which tile? If stone, which stone? Are the weirs stainless-steel or copper, round, square or rectangular?

I can honestly tell you that I have fully renovated two bathrooms in my house that I took down to the subfloor and studs, and I didn't have to make as many design decisions as my clients have to make when we are designing a formal koi pond. I have come to understand that deciding to have a formal koi pond is a very personal decision our clients make, and they need to be involved more so in the aesthetic design than with natural-

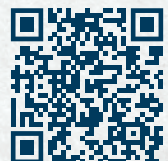


The Clear Choice for Ponds, Lakes & Water Gardens

Unrivalled Fountain, Aeration, and Water Treatments

- Aeration for All Seasons
- Industry-Leading Fountains
- Proven Water Garden Treatments

See our full catalog online!





After you install plumbing (top) for skimmers, jets and spillways, don't forget the electrical conduit in the pond walls prior to pouring concrete to allow for changing burnt-out underwater lights in the future. Installation of front access skimmers (middle) allows them to be hidden and eliminates the need for a circular lid to be cut into the coping for a clean, finished job. To keep the construction cost down (bottom) we modified and installed commercial precast-concrete stair treads for the coping.



looking ponds with rock waterfalls. I understand and am well aware that clients look to me to create a natural-looking pond with a waterfall and stream, and I will gladly take on the role of designer and builder, selecting each boulder and placing them as I see fit and wherever I want. With a formal koi pond, these aesthetic decisions need to be made by the client, and it is my job to listen to what they are saying and guide them in the materials-selection process to achieve their aesthetic goal. At the same time, when they want white tiles at the waterline or any other request that would be a maintenance nightmare, I have to step in and guide them to a better decision without destroying their overall vision.

Formal Filtration

So by now your client thinks you are about done designing their formal koi pond but *au contraire mon frère!* Now is the time to go over the filtration system design and equipment to distinguish yourself from the competition that doesn't offer formal koi-pond installations. Go ahead, don't be shy. Show your knowledge on external filtration systems and use some big boy and big girl multisyllabic words like ultra-violet sterilization, Nitrobacter, Nitrosomonas ...

I jest, but seriously, explain the need for external filtration and pumps. Make sure they understand how bottom drains collect waste, how aeration systems create the proper dissolved-oxygen levels throughout the entire water column, how UV lights aid in eradicating parasites, etc. There's absolutely nothing wrong if you only install waterfall filter-type ponds, but know

that you are leaving a huge chunk of change on the table, so I suggest that you go "get learned!"

Higher Value

All this considered, it is clear that one cannot take the easy cookie-cutter approach to build a formal koi pond. I feel that this is one of the reasons many pond builders stay away from building them. If you are currently approaching the building of ponds in a manner that keeps things simple, I suggest you look into the profits that can be generated by expanding your construction knowledge and abilities. More time and effort go into the design and build of a formal koi pond, so you should get paid more. There are fewer pond builders out there who build formal koi ponds, so you can charge more — it's a supply and demand kind of thing.


Then, there is the higher perceived value of a formal koi pond over the same-sized pond with naturally inspired aesthetics. I can tell you that in terms of materials, equipment and labor, a deep rock and gravel pond will cost you about half of what is required with a formal pond. However, you can charge up to three times or more for a 11-by-16-foot, 4-foot-deep formal koi pond, depending on which building materials, aesthetic finishes and construction methodologies you choose. The real opportunity for additional profits is in the details, and the more complex or different you make a design, the more profit you can generate. While you can charge more for using bigger boulders in a pond with natural aesthetics a factor of \$X, you can charge \$3X for installing a viewing window or a fire feature to a formal pond.



We built this pond with an integrated upflow wetland filter in the area above the three custom made spillways.

There's another \$3X! The design and finishes possibilities are endless!

I'll put it like this. There are two fishermen fishing off the shore. One has one fishing pole, and the other has two fishing poles. Which would you rather be?

Obviously, I don't want to be either of them — I want to be the captain of the boat with the large seine net! We are living in very uncertain economic times, so you might want to consider expanding your current offerings to clients. Challenge yourself and your crew. Change with the times or get left behind. No formality here; just keeping it real. 

About the Author



Freddie Combas has over 20 years of experience designing and building water features. He has been featured multiple times on Disney's HGTV show, "My Yard Goes Disney," as well as in national publications such as Florida

Design Magazine, Home Renovation, PondsUSA, Aquascaper, Ponds Magazine and Water Garden News.

Freddie's national and international water feature projects have been built as far away as Slovakia. His company's offerings include custom water feature and filtration consulting, design, construction, renovation, repair and maintenance.

FWG Designs LLC
www.fwgdesigns.com

**Wholesale Distributors
of Water Gardening
Products**

SERVING OUR
CUSTOMERS FOR
**30
YEARS!**





- Fully Stocked Warehouse
- Most orders shipped within 24 hours
- Competitive Pricing
- Nationwide Shipping

Order Fulfillment Services Available

**WHOLESALE ONLY to trade-related retailers...
we do NOT sell directly to YOUR customers.**









**Floating
Planters**







**BEST
SELLER**











DISCOUNT POND SUPPLIES

www.discountpond.com

800-979-0999 ~ sales@discountpondinc.com
P.O. Box 129 Lebanon VA 24266



Nymphaea 'Star White'

Photos by Kathy Cahill

A Silver Anniversary Celebration

The New Waterlily Competition turns 25

by Suzanne Boom,
IWGS

The International Water Gardening Society (IWGS) New Waterlily Competition enjoyed a special year in 2022. It marked the 25th anniversary of the first competition, which was held in 1997 at

Denver Botanic Gardens. We had the unique opportunity to celebrate this momentous occasion during this year's IWGS symposium held at the competition's current host site, Naples Botanical Garden (NBG). This means that in addition to the regular awards, we were pleased to present a People's Choice Award based on the actual votes of the symposium attendees cast



during the event.

In addition to viewing and judging the competition waterlilies, the symposium also featured a presentation by the winner of the first New Waterlily Competition, Brandon McLane of Florida Aquatics Nursery. Highlights also included a presentation on the 25-year history of the competition and a question and answer session with five former growers of the competition, Mike Swize, Tamara Kilbane, Tim Jennings, Danny Cox and Kathy Cahill.

For 2022, we accepted entries in each of the following five categories: hardy, tropical day blooming, hardy intersubgeneric, tropical intersubgeneric and miniature. The miniature category was successfully established this year, but only after much deliberation over specifics. The size characteristics for a miniature waterlily were determined with the help of a survey sent to the waterlily community on Facebook. Despite

considerable interest in this new category, the organization only received one entry and, unfortunately, the contestant grew considerably larger than the established size and had to be disqualified. Regrettably, the organization was not able to present an award in this category this year; however they look forward to seeing what exciting new plants will be developed in the future.

All entries were evaluated by an international panel of judges on the quality of the flowers and foliage as well as the general impression and uniqueness of the plant. These evaluations were made based on growers' notes and photos over an eight-week observation period at the NBG.

Among the judges were professional waterlily growers from botanic gardens and plant nurseries, as well as hybridizers and experienced hobbyists. Our 2022 judges were, in alphabetical order of first names:

CuiWei Yu (Zhejiang Humanities Landscape Co Ltd, China)
 Danny Cox (Longwood Gardens, USA),
 Farley See (Moore Water Gardens, Canada)
 Jon Sander (Glenstone Museum, USA)
 Kathy Sassoon (Leuca Creek, Australia)
 Kelly Billing (Water Becomes a Garden, USA)
 Rich Sacher (USA)
 Sander Dekker (Netherlands)
 Steve Hampson (USA)
 Escribano (Spain)
 Vicki Mills Aber (Colorado Water Gardening Society, (USA)
 Weerada Tanaakarapakin (Buafah Garden, Thailand)

The winners of the 2022 IWGS New Waterlily Competition were as follows:

2022 Best Overall New Waterlily and People's Choice Award

N. 'Star White' - Somchan Treesuwan



IWGS SYMPOSIUM

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA



SAVE
THE DATE

23-27
AUGUST
2023



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
IWGS.ORG





Nymphaea 'Diamond Crown'



Nymphaea
'Matthew Koch'



Nymphaea 'Yue Qing'

Hardy Waterlilies

- 1st place: N. 'Sri-Nuan' - Wipawan Sriuram
2nd place: N. 'Mali' - Potjane Thongbai
3rd place: N. 'Bangkok Sun Spark' - Jakkaphong Sangngam



Nymphaea 'Wode Xin'

Tropical Dayblooming Waterlilies


- 1st place: N. 'Star White' - Somchan Treesuwan
2nd place: N. 'Panyawee' - Arun Kobkaew
3rd place: N. 'Charoen' - Dachrat Wannaponpanich

Hardy Intersubgeneric Waterlilies

- 1st place: N. 'Diamond Crown' - Pornchai Sukkasemsamranjit
2nd place: N. 'Matthew Koch' - Florian Henaux
3rd place: N. 'Yue Qing' - Jialong Wei

Tropical Intersubgeneric Waterlilies

- 1st place: N. 'Wode Xin' - Tianlong Zhu
2nd place: N. 'Dongprateep' - Pongpan Bidkhuntod

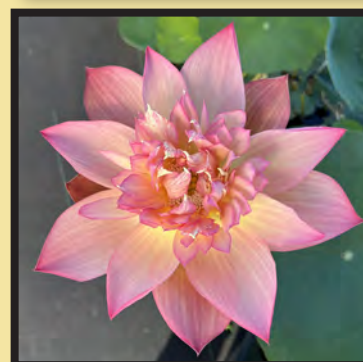
The IWGS would like to thank all the hybridizers who submitted their creations for evaluation as well as express our sincere gratitude to the judges who volunteered considerable time to examine these hybrids and make many tough decisions. Our thanks also goes out to those who made donations to the IWGS in support of the competition. Not least of all, we wish to extend our gratitude to the NBG for hosting both the 2022 competition and the IWGS symposium. Finally, we would like to especially thank Kathy Cahill for growing and documenting this year's competition and Isabel Soto for all her help before, during and after the symposium. 



Nymphaea
'Dongprateep'

LOTUS

*More than 400 varieties,
proudly grown, harvested,
and packed in the United States.*



RETAIL

To The Public

www.tenmilecreeknursery.com

WHOLESALE

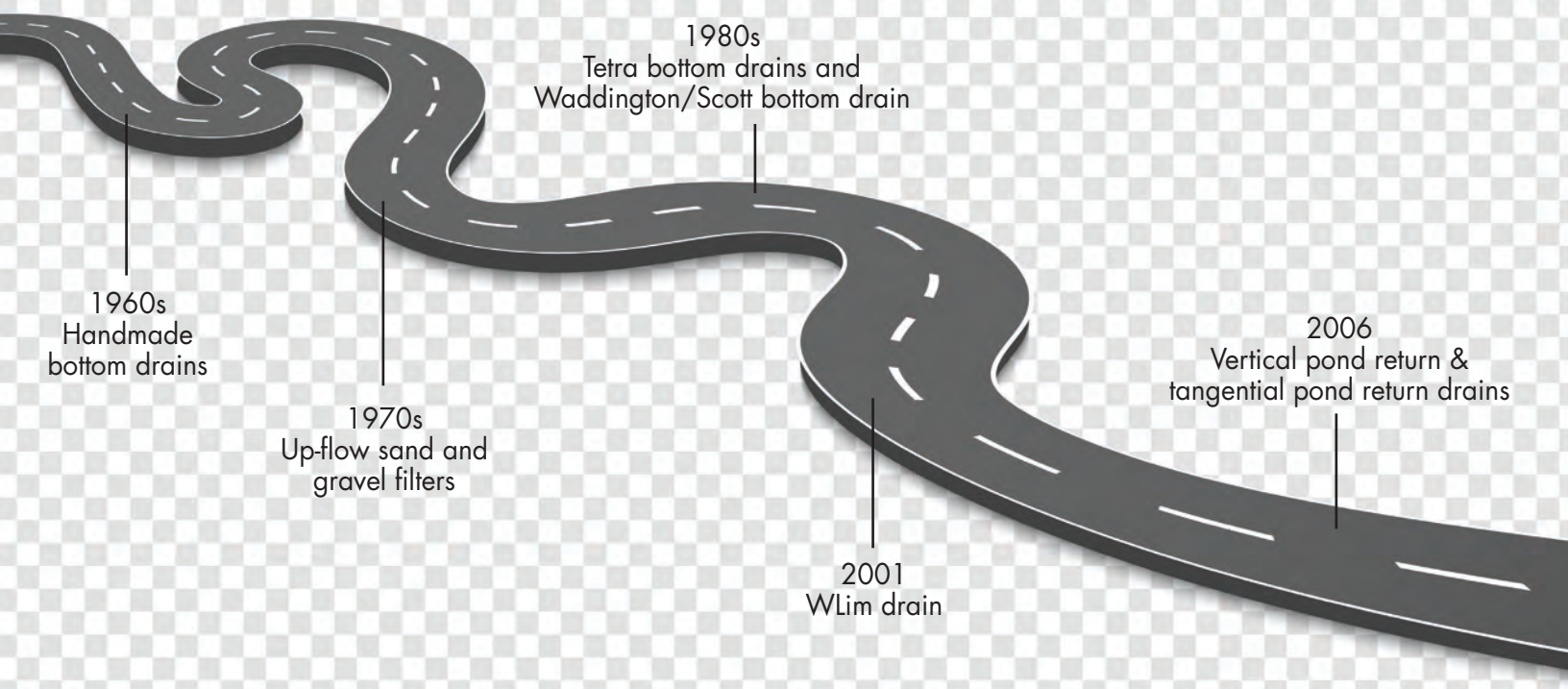
To Licensed Vendors

Live Plants for Pond Restoration

laura@tenmilecreeknursery.com

334-726-2492





| Best Practices |

The Road to **Innovation**

The evolution of pond product inventions

by Kent Wallace,
Living Water Solutions

Editor's Note: A previous version of this article originally ran in the January/February 2020 issue. Kent Wallace has updated the original piece with additional information and photos.

Enjoy this "updated flashback!"

SERIES:

Best Pond Practices

This is an installment of an ongoing, multi-part series. Be sure to watch for further installments in future issues!

After over 20 years in this industry, I have found that many products manufactured for pond construction are just new versions of components and methods that have been around for years. This begs the question, when did it all start? Who were the creators of our industry's components?

Most of us have no idea about the origins of the products in our chosen profession. I came from the koi world and had little knowledge

of the existence of the water garden industry. I started by going through the only information I had at the time — a stack of my father's KOI USA magazines. I pored through them, talking to every vendor who would speak with me and picking their brain about how to build a koi pond for my first client. All I knew at the time was that my dad's pond was a lot of work.

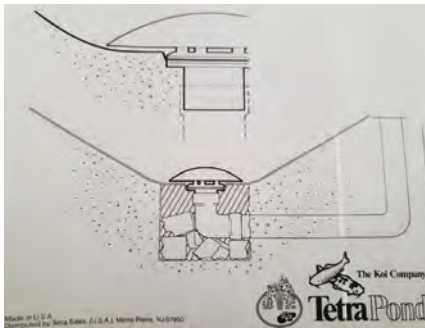
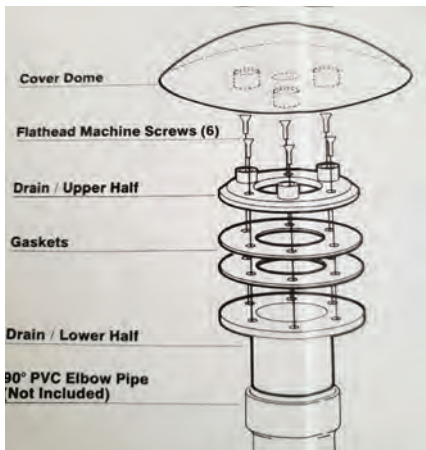
I was mentored early on by William Lim of the W. Lim Corporation. Later, I was officially introduced to water gardening by "The Pond Digger" Eric Triplett, who attended a talk I was giving to a koi club in late 2005. Up to that point, I had been heavily involved in some internet forums within the koi world and learned how to modify existing components to make them better adapted for koi ponds.

But where did all the stuff we were modifying come from? We must keep in mind that a product is rarely a standalone creation. We need to separate the idea (or method) from the product.

Filtration

The idea of bottom drains as a product came from the method of running a pond by gravity flow, which was developed in the late '50s and early '60s in Japan. This principle had long been used in Japan, but mostly from midwater feeds, from a side feed off the bottom, and finally a from a bottom pipe covered with a metal plate.

In the '60s, Seije Kaneshiro (E&S) and Mitch Nakamaru (Asahi Koi) started importing koi into the United States through California. They hand-built systems with bottom-drain piping leading to a settlement chamber, and then to square or rect-



We used welded TPRs (top) here on mid-water drains. These renderings (middle) and installation drawings (bottom) are for the Tetra bottom drain.



DEFEND your pond all season long!

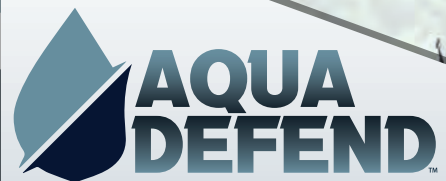
This unique water treatment is designed to help keep your pond water clean and clear.

AQUA DEFEND™ contains a proprietary blend of all-natural bacteria, enzymes and ingredients to buffer pond water and help keep rocks and waterfalls clean.

The strong combination of ingredients will help keep your water feature looking its best!



EASYPRO.COM



Breaks down waste and sludge buildup

Helps prevent buildup on rocks, waterfalls and streams

Controls phosphates



Available in 4 sizes

Contact us for special introductory discounts!

800-448-3873



WLim bottom drain (top) with a perfect shape. My Ultimate (above) 4-inch drain.

angular tanks filled with rock, gravel and sometimes lava rock. This version was very much a Japanese style of flow through filtration. The bottom drains consisted of a pipe coming through the floor covered by a concrete dome with small feet to support it above the surface.

During that same time period, another gentleman named Joe Zdeb was handmaking his own version of a bottom drain. However, he didn't sell them as a product; he just made them for his own projects. He modified the rock and gravel filter to an up-flow design of layered, rounded rock with a sand layer on top. This filter's best feature is the air blower, which cleans in a "forward wash," or in the same direction that it flows. The first of these filters was installed in San Francisco's Steinhart Aquarium around 1970. Zdeb was a well-known koi hobbyist and, along with Burt Ballou and others, promoted and built these filters for other koi hobbyists.

In 1980, Peter Waddington and Howard Scott, two koi hobbyists in

England, designed the first bottom drain with a sump area integrated into it as a product. They didn't invent the method, but they created a product that followed the method already in use to make the construction simpler. A few years later, Bob Spindola, a koi hobbyist in the United States, was speaking to groups of water garden enthusiasts and conveying the importance of pulling water from the bottom of a pond — not just the surface. The water gardeners in attendance weren't thrilled with the idea of digging up their ponds to install a bottom-drain system. Working as a consultant with Tetra, whose market was water gardens, Spindola designed the first retrofit bottom drain that sat on the pond floor with a pipe running up and over the side to a pump. Spindola also designed the first Tetra pond bottom drain to be installed under the liner, which is still sold today. His wife Pam found some original drawings of these and offered them to me for this article.

Since that time, bottom drains have

TURN YOUR DIRTY POND CLEAN

With Applied Polymer System's Environmentally Friendly Pond Products!

Remove nutrients, turbidity, & metals!

3 sizes treat ponds from 500 gallons to millions of gallons

www.siltstop.com

www.pondzinger.com

SAFE FOR FISH

DRINKING WATER GRADE

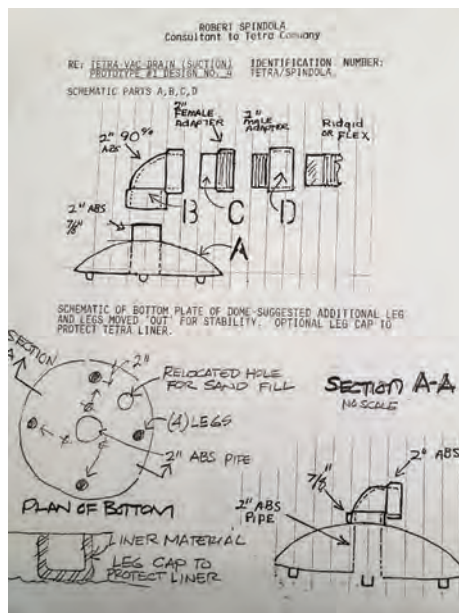
APPLIED POLYMER SYSTEMS
678-494-5998
INFO@SILTSTOP.COM

POND LOG
800 SERIES LOGS

POND ZINGER

evolved into 4-inch and 6-inch outlet versions with or without aeration. In 2001 William Lim introduced his molded bottom drain with a great shape. The bottom was curved like the inside of a Meerscham pipe so no debris could be trapped in a sump area.

A big advance came in 2001 when Lim started commercially manufacturing this filter with the molded tank. It had a step in the lower edge to support the perimeter of the divider plater and the enormous weight of the rock, gravel and sand media without it making it rest on the distribution ray assembly. At approximately 300 gallons of water plus media, the EZR, as it is called, weighs around 4,800 pounds when full and requires a good-sized concrete slab to support the weight. It is also custom made for projects constructed by The Pond Company in California as the Z-Biofilter. I (among others) make 55-gallon-drum kits, allowing these to be built on-site in a smaller version. The up-flow sand and gravel filter is one of the



This hand drawing shows Tetra's first retro drain. earliest filters and still one of my favorites.

Aeration

I'm not sure who decided to put the first air domes on the top of the drain cover, but hobbyists were already using

air sticks and air diffusers from the wastewater treatment industry in the '80s. This was a way to both aerate the water column and move water from the bottom to the top surface. This concept came about after the 1977 Clean Water Act, where aeration was one of the solutions used to prevent water stratification and stagnation in large ponds and small lakes. Bottom-drain dome aeration wasn't as much an invention as it was a refinement that followed an existing method. Placing the air disc above the drain dome creates a toroidal effect, lifting the water above the drain and sending it across the surface of the pond. As it reaches the outer edges, it travels downward and across the bottom toward the drain, creating a toroidal pattern of complete circulation in the pond.

In late 2006, a group of us industry types were having conversations about aeration and returning water vertically upward through the bottom of the



ShinMaywa

Brighten Your Future

- ✓ Widest Operating Range
- ✓ Highest Overall Efficiency
- ✓ Lowest Lifetime Cost

ShinMaywa pumps deliver best in class performance for your water garden project. Visit www.Shinmaywasales.com and see how.

Distributed Exclusively By

FieldingPump

www.ShinMaywaSales.com

pond instead of just through the sides. Michael Anderson and I were tossing around the idea of returning water upward through the center of a bottom drain, creating the toroidal circulation effect with water instead of air. I decided to integrate one on a pond build in spring 2007. It worked great, and over the next few years, I modified a couple of other manufacturers' bottom drains to do the same, and I was molding my own by 2017. I didn't invent the vertical pond return drain as much as I followed existing methods with a product.

Returns Through Liner

In the late '90s when I first started building ponds, pond returns through the liner were made of basically two types. The first was called a pipe boot, where you would cut a hole in the liner smaller than the pipe you were pushing through it. When the pipe was inserted, the liner would stretch and form a small shoulder of rubber that could be clamped to seal it. The second

method was to use a tank bulkhead to sandwich the liner between the nut and body. The clamp area was small so that plastic washers could be used on either side of the liner to spread out the clamping area. This was all sealed in place with silicone or polyurethane sealant. Terms like TPR (tangential pond return) for angled returns were used to describe an angled directional return. VPR (vertical pond returns) came up from the bottom of the pond, while GPR (ground pond returns) sent water through the gap between a pair of bottom drains.

In 2005, the concept of a 2-inch PVC pipe cut at a 45-degree angle and plastic welded onto the back of a piece of PVC plate as a TPR was conceived in England. Shortly thereafter, Dream Pond started molding straight and 45-degree fittings in 1 1/2-inch and 2-inch sizes for use in the pond industry, along with their own version of a bottom drain. I now make these in every size from 1/2 to 8 inches. These were all products developed from

methods already in use in our budding industry. Dream Pond's second drain adopted the curved internal shape of the W. Lim drain, as did mine later.

Other Pond Products

What we know now as vortex settlement tanks were originally a large rectangular chamber that slowed down the speed of the water enough to allow the settlement of any solids heavier than water. This process took up a lot of space, and round tanks circulating in a vortex pattern were shown to have more dwell time in a smaller space. At some point in the late '70s or early '80s, cone-bottom hopper tanks manufactured by companies like Polytank were adapted. The cone-shaped bottom collected the debris in a smaller area in the tank's center, making discharge and cleaning easier.

In my own designs, I originally used the Tetra bottom drain as a midwater drain, and later the original Dream Pond drain. I mounted them vertically

Your one stop solution for clear, healthy water and Great Profits



Our line of upper end filtration products is designed to give your customers clear, healthy water while using a minimal amount of electricity.

You'll love the profits that can be generated with our line of products.



Grand Champion Technologies

GC Tek

302 S. Sandy Lane

Chandler, Okla. 74834

866-712-7007 405-258-5551 Fax 866-728-0678

www.gctek.com info@gctek.com



From left to right: small pond drain, Q tank drain, rock bottom drain and the original 3" and 4" drains.

on the pond wall for several years until Dream Pond made a separate, screened cover to be used as a dedicated midwater drain. I have also made my version of a midwater drain using an approved grated swimming pool drain cover to comply with pool-industry codes. These are products based on the original method of removing water from a pond.

Early skimmers for ponds were pool skimmers modified for our use. A large basket with a lot of capacity wasn't available at the time. The bottoms were regularly cut off and adapted for 3-inch and 4-inch outlets, allowing gravity flow.

Bottom Drains

My evolution through the bottom drains I manufacture started with quarantine tanks and small ponds. There wasn't much out there for these systems, so I started making a small drain for these with a 3-inch tee. I could trim down the tee and get a very low profile since quarantine tanks are regularly set on blocks for some ground clearance. The tee gives an immediate 90-degree turn sideways, and the opposite end can be used for an airline inlet.

The air line comes in and turns upward through the center, and a 5-inch air disc can be used to hold down the legged dome. The connection to the tank is with a 3-inch shower drain trimmed to fit inside the 3-inch tee. The nice thing about this drain is that it has a very low profile.

After that, I started converting the Tetra and original Dream Pond drains into mid-water drains. Once I started using the 8-inch grated swimming pool drain covers to pass pool codes, I realized that these could also be used as a

bottom drain for rock-bottom ponds because the grating keeps the rocks out.


Next came my 3-inch and 4-inch aerated bottom drains that evolved from my modifications to the original Dream Pond drain that incorporated air using a DWV heel 90-degree bend. The heel connection is used to mount the airline inlet with the addition of my own molded flange, including a recess for the clamp flange. The new dome has a 5-inch recessed air disc, eliminating the disc as a protrusion above the dome. I also have threaded versions of these to allow for pressure testing during construction or for passing pool codes.

I wanted to deal with the angle of the inlet on 4-inch bottom drains with an angled outlet. This eliminates a fitting and smooths the flow out of the drain and under concrete. The Ultimate Drain has a threaded 22-degree downward outlet and comes with a 22-degree street or flange fitting to get you out efficiently, depending on the depth necessary to go horizontal. The clamp flange is recessed, and the 9-inch air disc is recessed into the drain dome for a flush top.

This mold also incorporates the ability to create the vertical pond return. This has become my favorite method of pond circulation, whether it be gravity-flow return or pumped. My early versions were with a modified air diffuser disc, but those were very difficult to make. My final design uses air diffuser tubing which surrounds the vertical return with a tubular column of air.

My latest drain is the 6-inch aerated drain. It too is threaded for pressure testing and has the recessed air disc

in the drain dome. This drain is made along the lines of my original drains with a DWV Tee as the body, and I have a 6-inch tank connector to complement it. I can also make this in an 8-inch version. All these drains are built on the successes and issues of those who came before me. I've learned something from every conversation and every product I deal with. I'm always excited to see what others create to solve the issues they deal with in our industry as time moves forward.

Special thanks to Burt Ballou, Pam Spindola, Mat McCann, Tim Waddington, Eric Triplett and others for their insights into this little history. 

About the Author

Kent Wallace was born and raised in Las Vegas.

Kent spent most of his adult life in the automobile industry at independent shops and dealerships, including his own shop as a race car fabricator at age 24. Then, in 2001 a neighbor asked Kent if he could build her a koi pond like the one Kent's father had.

From that point on, pond building became his new passion. That first pond he built was submitted to Better Homes & Gardens magazine and won Best Courtyard Nationwide in their special interest publication.

livingwatersolutions.com
702/845-6782





Largest Shipment of Koi to Enter U.S. Arrives at Fitz's Fish Ponds

On Jan. 18, 2023, Fitz's Fish Ponds received its largest shipment to date. It included 308 boxes with 2,992 koi. The shipment weighed 11 tons and contained some of the most beautiful koi the United States has ever seen. This is the single-handed largest koi shipment that has ever been brought over to the United States from Japan. To pull it off successfully, so many things, from paperwork and prepping the tanks to organizing team members, had to be done just right.

FFP arranged for six trucks and about 15 team members, customers and volunteers to receive the koi from JFK airport. Our friends from Garden State

Koi, who also had koi in this shipment, came with two trucks and four team members to help. Tim Waddington from Quality Nishikigoi flew in from the U.K. to be here for the shipment as well. Back at the farm, the Fish Care Team worked to ensure all the tanks were prepped and ready for the new shipment of fish to acclimate properly. We had approximately 35 people at the farm helping to unbox, organize and carefully get the koi into the correct tanks. The entire day took a true team effort.

This shipment included koi from the top breeders in Japan. We bought from Marusei, Shintaro,

Shinoda, Maruhiro, Iwashita, Marusada, Chogoro, Hiroi, Masaki Aoki, Marusho, Torazo, Hiroi Seji and more. The sizes ranged from as small as 30 cm to our largest koi ever at 105 cm— a beautiful Mukashi Ogon from Marudo Koi Farm.

Overall, the day was a great success. We were able to facilitate the import of all these beautiful koi, not only for our farm but also for the many customers that came to Japan with us in the fall and hand selected their own koi. It is very comforting to know that the fish are now stateside at our facility and that they all arrived in great condition.

The koi will now go through our quarantine process, which takes about 30 days. After this, we will open up our farm for customers to check out our amazing new stock. If you are interested in koi or want to come to the farm to see all these beautiful new koi, call AJ at 908/301-4722.

New Atlantic-OASE Contractor Rewards Program for 2023

Atlantic-OASE is proud to present the Contractor Rewards Program! This new promotion offers contractors a flat 10% rebate on all Atlantic and OASE products in 2023.



As simple as it is powerful, this sales tool will thrill contractors tired of jumping through hoops for their loyalty. Only three simple steps separate contractors from cold, hard cash — buy any Atlantic-OASE product (liner purchases excluded), register online, and submit your receipts to get paid.

Contractors will receive a 10% rebate at the end of the year for all Atlantic-OASE receipts submitted throughout 2023. That's it! Check out www.atlantic-oase.com/rewards for details, and then get installing!

Atlantic-OASE
www.atlantic-oase.com



EasyPro Releases 2023 Catalogs

EasyPro has some excellent new water features this year! Check out the new features along with EasyPro's new ultraviolet clarifiers, new compressor and pump models, and the new Aqua Defend water treatment that helps keep ponds looking their best. For more information or to request a full color catalog, call 800/448-3873 or visit www.easyprow.com.



SOLitude Lake Management Acquires Clarke Aquatic Services

SOLitude Lake Management (SOLitude), the nation's largest freshwater management firm, has acquired Clarke Aquatic Services, Inc. (CAS), a business unit of The Clarke Group, headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois.

Clarke Aquatic Services provides aquatic management services to customers in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Virginia. Through this acquisition, SOLitude welcomes nearly 50 new aquatic service professionals to its organization and expands its operations to 59 total offices across 41 states.

"We are excited to unite Clarke Aquatic Services and SOLitude Lake Management, further strengthening our position as the premier lake and pond management company in the country," said Mychal Manolatos, vice president of SOLitude Lake Management. "Clarke Aquatic Services brings a long reputation of sound service and expertise in the industry."

SOLitude and CAS find common ground in the mission to help communities and businesses achieve clean, safe and beautiful lakes, advance new industry technologies and support healthy experiences around the water.

"Merging with SOLitude supports professional opportunities for CAS coworkers and enhances the service portfolio and technologies available to aquatics customers," said J. Lyell Clarke, chairman, president and chief executive officer of The Clarke Group. "With the sale of our Aquatics business unit, Clarke intensifies its focus on its core business of developing and delivering the most environmentally responsible solutions for managing the public health impacts of mosquitoes around the world."

For additional information about SOLitude Lake Management, visit www.solitudelakemanagement.com.



A Colorful New Twist on the Sugar Kettle

Introducing one of our newest metal fountain kits — the Double Spillway Bowl Kit. It creates two different water movements in one awesome water feature! A beautiful aqua patina sets off two brass fountain bowls and pedestal. A spouted bowl sits on the pedestal, bubbling and pouring a perpetual little garden waterfall into the larger unspouted, sugar-style bowl, which overfills spills onto the ground below. It's so classically clever! As always, Blue Thumb kits come complete with molded basin, pump and plumbing for easy installation and minimal customer care.

See it at www.shopbluethumb.com/double-spillway-bowl-kit/

Blue Thumb
888/619-3474

Aquascape Dosing System SL

Maintaining optimum water quality for water features has never been easier with Aquascape's new Dosing System SL. The Dosing System SL is an electronically operated dispenser that accurately and consistently applies specially formulated water treatments, eliminating the guesswork and routine of manually adding treatments. The Dosing System SL is designed specifically for smaller water features as large as 2,000 gallons, including fountains, small ponds and waterfalls. Six different water treatments in 32-oz. treatment bottles are available for use with the Dosing System SL (treatment sold separately).

Visit www.aquascapeinc.com or call 866/877-6637 for more information.





IWGS Symposium Sets Sights on Vancouver in 2023

The International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS) Symposium is an in-person event scheduled Aug. 23 – 27, 2023 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.



The three-day event features educational seminars and opportunities to network and collaborate with fellow members. It culminates with the opportunity to take an excursion to Vancouver Island via ferry to tour the famous Butchart Gardens. The event will be hosted at the Coast Langley City Hotel and Convention Centre

located in Langley City. Symposium Registration will open in March 2023.

Visit www.iwgs.org/symposium for more information.



Pond Installation, Service & Retail Business for Sale

Oklahoma City, OK
\$1.5 million
Over 20 Years in Business

Contact Brad Troutman
405 831-2251
btroutman@apexma.com

Don't miss out on this
Market Place advertising opportunity.
See our website:

<http://www.pondtrademag.com/advertise-with-us/>



K LOUB EC
K OI F A R M

WE DELIVER MORE...

Family owned & operated,
3 generations of award winning
excellence in aquaculture

(319) 846.2077
www.kloubECKoi.com



IWGS SYMPOSIUM
VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA

SAVE THE DATE
23-27
AUGUST
2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
IWGS.ORG

IWGS

**Pond and Water Feature
Business Opportunity**

Online Business for Sale – 50,000 Customers

UNDERWATER
WAREHOUSE
PONDS • WATERFALLS • FOUNTAINS

215-244-4300 email: sales@underwaterwarehouse.com



HARDSCAPE
North America

**THE LARGEST HANDS-ON
HARDSCAPE EVENT IN THE U.S.**

OCTOBER 18-20, 2023
LOUISVILLE, KY • HARDSCAPENA.COM

Advertisers' Index

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Airmax | 53 |
| AKT Specialities | 48 |
| Anjon Water Garden Products | 2 |
| Apex Mergers & Acquisitions | 68 |
| Applied Polymer Systems | 62 |
| Aquacide | 68 |
| Atlantic / Oase | 72 |
| Bassinger Fisheries | 33 |
| Champion Lighting & Supply | 23 |
| Discount Pond Supplies | 55 |
| Dolphin Pumps | 22 |
| EasyPro Pond Products | 34, 35 |
| EasyPro Pond Products | 61 |
| Evolution Aqua USA, Inc. | 71 |
| Fitz's Fish Ponds, LLC | 71 |
| GC Tek | 64 |
| Grandy & Associates | 45 |
| Grand Koi | 3 |
| IWGS | 58 |
| Kloubec Koi Farm | 26, 69 |
| Koi Smart Pond Supply | 22 |
| Laguna Koi Ponds | 50 |
| Laguna Water Gardening | 27 |
| Lindley Stone | 48 |
| Microbe-Lift | 36 |
| Mount Parnell | 68 |
| Netherland Bulb | 42 |
| Nitto Kohki | 44 |
| Outdoor Network Services | 47 |
| Performance Pro Pumps | 7 |
| Pondliner.com | 20 |
| Pondtent | 52 |
| ShinMaywa | 63 |
| Ten Mile Creek Nursery | 59 |
| Toledo Goldfish & Koi | 45 |
| Tsurumi America | 31 |
| Ultra Balance | 8 |
| Underwater Warehouse | 69 |
| W. Lim Products | 38 |
| Water Becomes a Garden | 7 |
| Zeigler | 39 |

Extend your national visibility -
advertise in

PONDTRADE[™]

Call Lora Lee Gelles 708/873-1921
or llgelles@pondtrademag.com

FINAL THOUGHT...

Frog's-eye View





Interested in a Koi Buying Trip to Japan?

We provide you with access to the highest quality breeders in Japan! Inquire today by visiting KoiTrips.com or contacting us!



WHOLESALE JAPANESE KOI

CALL TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

HAND PICK FROM TENS OF THOUSANDS OF IMPORTED KOI FROM THE FINEST BREEDERS IN JAPAN. ALL SIZES AND VARIETIES AVAILABLE.

CONTACT US TODAY: MARKETING@FITZFISHPONDS.COM - 908.301.4722 - FITZFISHPONDS.COM

K+AdvancedFilter

Advanced Pressure Filters For Ponds Using K+Media



- Economical to run thanks to its unique design
- The filter has been engineered to maximise pump efficiency
- Pre-filled with advanced K+Media for improved filtration
- Easy to operate and clean
- One piece rotationally moulded filter body
- Built-in feet (no skirt) for additional durability
- Granite grey colour matches existing Evolution Aqua filters

| Model | Maximum pond size | Optimum flow rate | Quantity of K+Media included | Diameter | Multi-Port Valve | Pipework size |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------|------------------|---------------|
| K+AdvancedFilter 16 | 3,000 US gallons | 1200 - 1500 gph | 30 Liters / 1.06 cu.ft | 16" | 1 1/2" | 1 1/2" |
| K+AdvancedFilter 20 | 4,800 US gallons | 1600 - 2000 gph | 50 Liters / 1.77 cu.ft | 20" | 1 1/2" | 1 1/2" |
| K+AdvancedFilter 24 | 9,600 US gallons | 3200 - 4000 gph | 100 Liters / 3.53 cu.ft | 24" | 2" | 2" |
| K+AdvancedFilter 30 | 14,500 US gallons | 4800 - 6000 gph | 150 Liters / 5.28 cu.ft | 30" | 2" | 2" |
| K+AdvancedFilter 36 | 24,000 US gallons | 6000 - 7000 gph | 250 Liters / 8.83 cu.ft | 36" | 2" | 2" |

EVOLUTION
AQUA
INNOVATION IN WATER

THEY'RE BACK!

varipump

High Performance Controllable Pumps



- 2 models; 10,000 and 20,000
- Adjustable flow control – via wired controller
- Designed for use on large ponds
- Energy efficient pump
- Two year warranty
- 32.8ft cable length (control box to pump)
- 6.5ft cable length (mains to control box)

| Model | Max. Flow | Inlet / Outlet | Max. Head | Max. Watts | Voltage | Frequency | Dimensions |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Varipump 10,000 | 2,640 gph | 1" | 18ft | 90W | 110V | 60Hz | 10.5" (l) x 4.8" (w) x 6.3" (h) |
| Varipump 20,000 | 5,280 gph | 2" | 21ft | 190W | 110V | 60Hz | 12.6" (l) x 5.6" (w) x 7.1" (h) |

info@evolutionaquausa.com - evolutionaquausa.com - 888.417.5837



GET REWARDED!

Put cash back into your pocket!

Contractors get 10% cash back on all Atlantic-OASE purchases*

Simply submit your receipts and we send you a check at the end of the year!

Sign up for the Atlantic-OASE Rewards today! Scan the code or visit:



atlantic-oase.com/rewards



WWW.ATLANTIC-OASE.COM

* Excludes Liner purchases (EPDM & PVC)