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I’ts here! I don’t just mean this exciting May/June issue — I mean SPRING! I live in the Midwest, where April and May can’t come soon enough. While many of our readers had from warmer climes, those of you who live in snowy states will share my anticipation and excitement for the long-awaited warmer temperatures.

What is it about spring? People’s spirits are lifted, birds are singing — and best of all, ponds are flowing. With that in mind, we have a great spring issue for you that will have you itching to get outside, shake off the winter chill and get PONDering again.

Spring is one of the most beautiful seasons in pond’s life, so the story that graces the cover of this issue is particularly timely. Benjamin Timmerman provides a wealth of info about taking great pond photography, with tips that will turn an average point-and-shooter into Ansel Adams in no time. Follow Benjamin’s advice, and you might just take the photo that ends up on the cover of our July/August issue!

Of course, no pond photo is complete without gorgeous foliage, and this issue definitely has you covered. Your pond will be brimming with new life after reading John Mark Courter’s feature on native shoreline perennials.

For many of our readers, ponding is not only a passion but a business as well. If you’re looking for ways to make your aquatic endeavors pay off in new ways this spring, check out “Small Business, Big Growth” to discover which type of loan will grow your business. Or, if all you need is some fresh creative ideas, look no further than “No Passport Required” to see how to turn a normal backyard pond into an aquatic wonderland.

Leo Tokstoy once wrote that “spring is the time for plans and projects.” While I’m not sure the novelist paid much attention to my ponding activities, I hope this issue brings you wisdom and inspiration that carries over into all of your aquatic endeavors pay off in new ways this spring, be sure to check out “Small Business, Big Growth” to discover which type of loan will grow your business. Or, if all you need is some fresh creative ideas, look no further than “No Passport Required” to see how to turn a normal backyard pond into an aquatic wonderland.

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No Passport Required
Journey to an exotic aquatic wonderland

by Jerry Romano, Liquid Designz

Imagine, if you will, a one-of-a-kind retreat. Huge boulders form breathtaking waterfalls and rushing streams. A pristine body of water emulates a serene, natural mountain spring. Arched water spouts grace the exterior, and a flat boulder serves as a table with crystal clear water bubbling up through a hole in the center. It is a refreshing and safe bathing experience that must be seen to be believed.

Sound dramatic? The end result certainly was, as you can see in the photos. But achieving this backyard paradise required a great deal of innovation and attention to detail. Follow along as we show you exactly how Liquid Designz turned a regular yard into a scene straight out of a travel magazine.

The objective
Our goal with this installation was to create a truly one-of-a-kind, functioning pond ecosystem that also served as a recreational pool. The installation would include a large boulder stream and waterfall, multiple exterior arched water spouts and a vanishing-edge skimmer area (which would double as a small kiddie pool area). A 30-foot by 15-foot sandy beach (which is 15 inches deep) would lead directly into the sandy-bottom pool, giving swimmers a safe, chemical-free bathing experience. Structurally sound and aesthetically beautiful, our design would be ideal for up-close and safe interaction. It would also be low-maintenance — much less so than any gunite or liner pool.

One of the most interesting features of our installation is the fact that it is all-natural. Why would anyone want to swim or let their loved ones go into water where burning eyes and chemical odors prevail? The purpose of the main chemical in most pools, chlorine, is to kill everything in its path. If you have ever enjoyed a crystal-clear lake or a mountain spring, then you can understand the growing trend in the U.S for this distinctive kind of pool.

The challenge
As you might imagine, a project of this scope presents significant challenges, and this installation was no different. The greatest of these was space: the location of the project required that it be constructed between a very steep hillside and an existing patio. It was an extremely tight area that included an array of large boulders from one to three tons in weight.

Filtration and aeration
With a blend of aquatic plants, assorted substrate and stone and beneficial bacteria, we utilized all-natural, chemical-free filtration the way Mother Nature intended. A natural wetland filtration system (which we call “Mother Nature’s kidneys” but is also often referred to as a “Regeneration Zone”) helps to create and sustain an environmentally balanced ecosystem. The result is a pristine body of water for all-natural and safe bathing that offers astounding savings where operational costs are concerned.

A clean-out port is located within the wetland filter to dispose of any anaerobic waste or debris that may end up there. Along with the wetland filter, we have two designated bog areas that are loaded with nutrient-hungry aquatic plants.

One of the chief concerns when installing a sandy-bottom floor is avoiding anaerobic bacteria buildup, and human interaction is a great help here. As swimmers enter and leave the pool, they assist by stirring up the sandy floor. Additionally, four submerged jets —
strategically positioned at floor level, mid-water level and just below the surface — provide extra aeration to keep bacteria levels in check.

Another unique design element is the location of the wetland filter. It is in the center of the main stream and waterfall. Due to the restricted area, we went 42 inches deep. It is filled with two small rain tanks and river rocks of assorted size. The rocks start at 5 to 8 inches around at the bottom and get progressively smaller as they get closer to the surface. At the surface, we used pea gravel and assorted aquatic plants with varying root system depths.

**Multiple pump advantage**

Aquascape’s 4,000 to 8,000 gallon-per-hour adjustable flow rate pumps were ideal for this particular project. We have one pump which runs to our waterfall box, main wetland filter and the hillside exterior arched water spout. It is ball-valved, so not only can we fluctuate the slow upward flow for the wetland area, we can also vary the strength of the main waterfall area.

Our second Aquascape pump runs the kiddie pool and patio-side arched water spout, along with all the submersible jets. The second pump also pushes water to the Bubbling Sunbather/Beach Table Boulder, which is the first of its kind.

The most practical attribute of this unique, multiple-pump system — along with the capability to adjust the flow (and also energy output) — can be seen when the pool/pond is not being used. In those times, one pump is off and the main waterfall/wetland filter pump is on but set to minimum flow setting, so the water is constantly being filtered very effectively and efficiently. (Plumbing

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**Green LED lights are used in the pond area for safety, as green is one of the colors required for navigation. These lights clearly outline the steps, seating area and entire perimeter of the pool area.**

**The soothing glow of night**

As darkness approaches, an amazing transformation occurs as the water of the pond begins to glow. A beautiful array of vibrant, marine-grade LEDs illuminate, casting cool green light over the sand and plants of the installation and turning the glistening beach paradise into an enchanting dreamscape.

Our principal goal for the nighttime features of the installation was, of course, safety. The second was aesthetics. Thus, green LED lights are used in the pond area for safety, as green is one of the colors required for navigation. These lights clearly outline the steps, seating area and entire perimeter of the pool area. We also used a blend of cool and warm white LEDs to illuminate some subtle sections of the aquatic plantings and the detailed, custom hardwoods.

At Liquid Designz, our unique, extreme installations are on the

---

A photo of the almost-complete “No Passport Required” project (above), minus the natural beach. Note the iongen sensor, located on the log at the far right, which helps prevent string algae. Below, the crew prepares the multifunctional center sleeve on the 3,800-pound pink bermuda sandstone boulder. The boulder accepts a patio umbrella for use as a beach-grade table, which also transforms into a bubbling boulder for sunbathing.
cutting edge of recreational pools and ponds. As this installation demonstrates, aesthetics are where Liquid Designz distinguishes itself from the competition, and our premier craftsmanship and artistry are on display in every project. Let the jaw-dropping moments commence as your guests look on in disbelief at the wonderland right in your backyard, and enjoy as your Liquid Designz installation whisks you away to another place.

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About the Author

Jerry Romano founded Liquid Designz LLC in 2005. Though his calling came later in life, he is so grateful that it did, as there is no doubt in his mind that this is what he was put on this Earth to do. Coming off of major back surgery in 2006 which was the direct result from punting footballs for over 20 years, Jerry reflects that moving boulders for a living may not have been the smartest choice at the time. Thankfully, he had a fantastic surgeon who fixed him up for the long haul.

Jerry takes an enormous amount of pride in his business and in the pond industry as a whole. “As true artists and craftsmen,” Jerry says, “we are always thinking of new ideas and concepts to better ourselves in all aspects. From design and construction techniques to prompt and courteous customer service, Liquid Designz is one of the best of the best in our field and very proud of it.” Special thanks to Duane Traxel from Tranquility Water Gardens for his time and effort, as well as a group of Certified Aquascape Contractors.

Nothing tops a day of swimming and relaxing. This bubbling boulder also transforms into a beach grade table.
Native Plants

Make a Splash with Native Shoreline Perennials

Maintaining a balanced ecosystem with native plants

by John Mark Courtney, Aquascapes Unlimited

Plants are a key element of a balanced pond ecosystem. No matter how big or small the body of water may be, plants play an essential role in maintaining good water quality and a healthy, balanced habitat. Some of the functions plants perform include bank and soil stabilization, nutrient uptake from the water column and providing a habitat for everything from beneficial microbes, insects, fish and amphibians to ducks, small mammals and songbirds. Plants also provide us with visual aesthetics, with their showy flowers and blocks of texture and color throughout the seasons.

For inspiration, look to natural ponds and lake shores. Take note of natural meanders, curvilinear lines and subtle transitions. Observe interactions between plant groupings and their dispersal. With a keen eye, notice the influence of seasonal high and low water on the various plants and where they occur. It is important to not “box a design in” and only focus on what will grow in the water. A fully encompassing design begins well above the water and takes into consideration every step of hydrological influence approaching the water’s edge and down three feet into the pond. Each zone plays an important role in the fabric of a healthy pond.

Zonation of aquatic plants

Dry Meadow/Upland

Perhaps the most overlooked and underappreciated zone around a pond is the high meadow zone. This is the “buffer zone,” the first area through which runoff must flow to reach the pond. For this zone to function as part of the whole, taller grasses and some trees and shrubs would be recommended. More often than not, this area is mowed turf grass, essentially rendering it non-existent. It is in this zone that runoff water will be slowed down and sediments and debris will be trapped before reaching the pond.

Wet Meadow/Saturated Soil

The wet meadow or high marsh zone around a pond functions as a buffer, much like the high meadow zone, but is hydrologically influenced during times of flooding or seasonally high water. The soils in the zone tend to be saturated for part of the year and support more traditional wetland vegetation and moisture-loving wildflowers.

Marginal Aquatic Vegetation/Low Marsh (0-6 inches)

Enter the zone where the water meets the land. This is a dynamic area, very sensitive to erosion from wave action, foot traffic and grazing. It is here that aquatic perennials such as sedges (Carex spp.), soft Rush (Juncus effusus), Swamp rose-mallow (Hibiscus moscheutos) and Spadderdock (Nuphar lutea) all emerge from the bottom sediments with a petiole stretched to the surface leaves. These are the true aquatic plants. The Water lily (Nymphaea odorata), American lotus (Nelumbo lutea) and Pickerel rush (Punnetedera cordata), Bullrushes (Schoenoplectus spp.), Lizard’s tail (Saururus cernuus) and Burreed (Sparganium spp.). A few clump-forming perennials that occupy this zone and spread only by seed include Arrow arum (Peltandra virginica), Golden club (Orontium aquaticum) and Water plantain (Alisma spp.). These plants help break up wave action before it reaches the marginal zone, provide excellent cover for wildlife and aid in nutrient uptake from the water column.

Floating Leaf Aquatics/Open Water (12-24 inches)

These are the true aquatic plants. The Water lily (Nymphaea odorata), American lotus (Nelumbo lutea) and Pickerel rush (Punnetedera cordata), Bullrushes (Schoenoplectus spp.), Lizard’s tail (Saururus cernuus) and Burreed (Sparganium spp.). A few clump-forming perennials that occupy this zone and spread only by seed include Arrow arum (Peltandra virginica), Golden club (Orontium aquaticum) and Water plantain (Alisma spp.). These plants help break up wave action before it reaches the marginal zone, provide excellent cover for wildlife and aid in nutrient uptake from the water column.

Emergent Aquatic Vegetation/Shallow Water (6-12 inches)

The shallow water zone is teeming with abundant aquatic life like spawning fish, toads and frogs as well as dragon-fly larvae and other macroinvertebrates. The plants that occupy this zone tend to be colonizers spreading with modified roots called rhizomes. Examples of colonizing perennials include Pickerel rush (Punnetedera cordata), Bullrushes (Schoenoplectus spp.), Lizard’s tail (Saururus cernuus) and Burreed (Sparganium spp.). A few clump-forming perennials that occupy this zone and spread only by seed include Arrow arum (Peltandra virginica), Golden club (Orontium aquaticum) and Water plantain (Alisma spp.). These plants help break up wave action before it reaches the marginal zone, provide excellent cover for wildlife and aid in nutrient uptake from the water column.

Submergent Aquatic Vegetation/Open Water (24-36 inches)

Submergent aquatic (SA) form the foundation of a balanced aquatic ecosystem, playing a vital role in nutrient absorption, particulate filtration and oxygenation. They function as a biological particulate and chemical filter while providing critical cover and oxygen for countless invertebrates and the predators that consume them. Often referred to as “oxygenators,” most water gardeners consider them essential to a balanced aquatic ecosystem. Many native options are available that can provide interesting forms as well as function. These include Water-celery (Valisneria americana) and Floating leaf pondweed (Potamogeton nodosus).

Design Process/Site Analysis

The first step in formulating a good plants provide essential shade and cover for deeper water where algae and other potentially undesirable species would otherwise dominate.

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The first step in formulating a good

Pickerel rush forms a beautiful colony of blue flowers blooming June and frost

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Design Process/Site Analysis

The first step in formulating a good
For Smaller Ponds

Clump Forming Plants
- Alisma plantago-aquaticum
- Carex sp.
- Hibiscus moscheutos
- Iris versicolor
- Juncus effusus
- Oenothera biennis
- Peltandra virginica

Larger Ponds

Colonizing Plants for Larger ponds
- Acorus americanus
- Decodon verticillata
- Dulichium arundinaceum
- Menyanthes trifoliata
- Pontederia cordata
- Sagittaria latifolia
- Schoenoplectus spp.
- Sparganium americana
- Sparganium eurycarpum

Clump Forming Plants for Smaller Ponds
- Alisma plantago-aquaticum
- Carex sp.
- Hibiscus moscheutos
- Iris versicolor
- Juncus effusus
- Oenothera biennis
- Peltandra virginica

Implementation/Planting

When planting in an earth-bottom pond, plants native to that region should be used. Most all-aquatic plants are opportunistic in nature and can be aggressive in certain situations. That’s not to say every plant has that potential, but special consideration should be taken in the plant selection.

Always work backwards in the mud to minimize foot traffic in the soft sediments, smoothing out any footprints as you go. To minimize disturbance, open up the smallest hole possible to plant; unconsolidated mud cannot be compacted and should not be dug like normal garden soil. Most importantly, never step at the waterline — always step over it when entering and exiting the water. This practice will help maintain the integrity of the bank.

After planting, protection from predation in areas of high goose pressure is a must until the plants are established, which can take up to three years. Techniques to keep the geese out range from black plastic-coated wire fencing at the shoreline and in the water to mono-filament line strung across and around a pond to prevent landing. Once the plants are established and the exclosure comes down, special attention should be paid during nesting season and fall migration times. Geese can also be prevented from landing through either human or canine harassment.

For swimming will have a completely different plan than a pond that is to be used for maintaining a fishery. A good planting plan takes into consideration the primary objective and balances it with the need for aquatic vegetation to achieve a functioning, healthy ecosystem.

A beautifully planted shoreline adds texture and habitat while providing a natural barrier to geese.
Nothing excites a pond lover quite like clear, sparkling water. Regardless of the size of an architectural water body, if the water is murky or cloudy it makes for a poor impression. In contrast, clear water tends to be more enjoyable. However, clarity is only one variable that makes up the general quality of your water. While murky water does not necessarily mean poor water quality, it may be a precursor to quality problems.

Balancing Act

Water quality is a balancing act involving a number of important factors. For live systems, the balance between beneficial and harmful bacteria is one factor. The right amount of aquatic plant life is another. Taking nature into consideration is paramount; even a heavy rainfall can shift the balance of the water.

Maintaining your water quality can seem a daunting task. Water features make up one of the most diverse and profitable categories in the green industry today! There is no other type of landscaping that makes as dramatic of an impact on an outdoor living space. With three different types of basic water features to choose from there is certainly a style that will fit your customer’s taste, as well as a size that fits into their landscape.

Fountainscapes
- Fountainscapes are the easiest and most economical way to add the sights and sounds of water to the landscape without the big investment or the space needed for a larger water feature.
- A fountainscape consists of a decorative fountain positioned atop an underground reservoir that stores the water. A recirculating pump located in the reservoir pumps the water up through the fountain where it bubbles over the top and cascades back into the reservoir.

One Kit . . . 1/2 Day Installation

Pondless® Waterfalls
- Waterfalls and streams are undoubtedly the most aesthetic and favored feature of a water garden.
- The name basically explains it all. A Pondless® Waterfall is a waterfall and stream, without the pond. A pumping system recirculates the water over the waterfall where it disappears into an underground reservoir.

One Kit . . . 1 Day Installation

Ecosystem Ponds
- An ecosystem pond is truly the gem of the water feature category. A pond will delight your customers with aquatic plant varieties that they never knew existed.
- Nature lovers simply can’t go wrong, as water features attract wildlife of all kinds.

One Kit . . . 1 Day Installation

by Damon Roberts,
EI – Engineer / Project Manager
Allen Clawson,
PE – Principal / Vice President

The Clean Water Mystery

Three keys to maintaining the quality of your water

Lake Malaren, Shanghai, China

Visit us at www.aquascapeinc.com or call 866.877.6637
Request info at www.pondtrademag.com/infocard
But it doesn’t have to be; with these three critical keys, you can ensure your water will always be in great health.

1. Circulation and Filtration

Circulation and filtration make up one of the most effective mechanisms in your arsenal. Together, they keep water from stagnating and remove unwanted particles from the water body.

**Circulation** - When a water body is not circulated, stratification and anoxic conditions can result. As the oxygen levels are depleted, anaerobic bacteria processes replace aerobic processes. The water becomes murky and begins to produce an undesirable smell. The smell is a byproduct of anaerobic processes. This condition can be avoided by keeping the water moving.

**Filtration** - There are many types of filters available at various price points, two of the most common being sand filters and biofilters.

Another good filter application for architectural water bodies is a Horizontal Sub-Surface Flow (HSSF) wetland. This is a constructed wetland where water is passed through a course gravel filter bed that’s planted with wetland plants and grusses. The gravel filters out particulates and also provides a large surface area for beneficial bacteria to grow, providing biofiltration. In addition to removing particulates, the wetland plants also remove nitrogen and phosphorus. By removing nitrogen and phosphorus, the available food source for algae is reduced.

Another important aspect of circulation and filtration is skimming the surface of the water with pond skimmers. Skimming provides a mechanism for removing floating debris, oils and algae. By removing this debris, you can reduce the workload of the microorganisms that would otherwise have to break down these materials once they sink to the bottom of the water body.

2. Aeration

Aeration assists in maintaining the proper level of dissolved oxygen (DO) and oxidation reduction potential (ORP) to reduce and break down excess organics. Aeration can be accomplished in several ways. Two of the most common ways include an aeration unit (i.e., a pump or blower) that can be used to introduce a column of micro bubbles to the water body; and a cascading waterfall, which introduces air as the water bounces around the rocks and falls into the pond. These mechanisms provide the added benefit of removing nitrogen and phosphorus, the booster for algae growth. Runoff can introduce nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers used on adjacent landscapes. It can also wash in organic material and dirt particles, which have a tendency to alter the balance of the water. By utilizing the HSSF wetland filtration system, pond owners can manage the additional nitrogen and phosphorus invited by these types of situations, limiting their impact on the overall system.

3. Water Management

The final key to water quality is the management of the water as it enters and leaves the water body. Most water leaves the system by evaporation. Therefore, in most architectural water bodies, the biggest long-term factor affecting water quality is the buildup of precipitates of salts and other elements left behind when the water evaporates. Some of these elements can be removed through filtration, but in severe situations the only way to remove them is to replace a volume of water. A regular schedule of replacing the water is the best method for maintaining the level of these elements. This can be accomplished by providing an overflow stream that dumps to a storm drain. If the water body is large enough, overflow could be used as a source for irrigation, as opposed to allowing the water to go to the storm drain.

Precipitation and Runoff

Two other important factors to keep in mind when designing water features are precipitation and runoff. Precipitation can introduce additional nitrogen when accompanied by a thunderstorm, and this nitrogen is the perfect booster for algae growth. Runoff can introduce nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers used on adjacent landscapes. It can also wash in organic material and dirt particles, which have a tendency to alter the balance of the water. By utilizing the HSSF wetland filtration system, pond owners can manage the additional nitrogen and phosphorus invited by these types of situations, limiting their impact on the overall system.

Final Thoughts

By designing, engineering and applying these keys correctly, you can unlock the ability to create and maintain a high level of water quality in any size or type of architectural water body. Each of these systems can be scaled to match...
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About the Authors
Damon Roberts, Engineer / Project Manager
Mr. Roberts is a senior member of a staff of talented engineers and designers. He has been involved with a wide variety of projects, from life support system design for aquariums to hydraulic flow conditions for golf course streams and lagoon systems to filtration systems for water parks and resort swimming pools.

Allen Clawson, PE – Principal / Vice President
Mr. Clawson brings 18 years of experience in Global Engineering, Project Management and Design and Planning of Aquatic Systems and Facilities to the Cloward H2O team. Mr. Clawson’s expertise is in the design and engineering of water quality technologies and their successful implementation in aquariums, zoos, resort hotels, theme parks, water parks, aquaculture facilities, government research, agri-food, private developments and public facilities throughout the U.S. and in more than 20 other countries.

At Cloward H2O, water is our passion. It’s what drives us, moves us, inspires us. Founded in 1977, Cloward H2O is acknowledged as a global leader in design and engineering of aquatic water features and environments. At the core of this success is our finely tuned attention to detail. Cloward H2O has been privileged to participate in the creation of many of the world’s most iconic aquatic environments and attractions. Our commitment is the same on every project: get it right, and make it great.

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Sandy Gate, Provo, Utah. Designed/Engineered to ensure natural aeration and movement of water.

the appropriate environment and application. While putting these systems in place can incur some additional upfront costs, that money can be recovered in operational and maintenance costs during the years to come.

Planning, designing and engineering with these three critical keys in mind right from the start will ensure that you have a pleasing water feature that will provide value to both owner and visitors. If you are planning a new pond, lake or stream and would like to discuss these critical keys in more depth, please give us a call or send an email.
Project Complete

Does your customer know what to do next?

Erik Tate, The Water Garden

We have some seriously talented pond builders in our industry. Much of the work you guys do is amazing and sets you apart as true artisans. This sets a fantastic groundwork for a happy customer. And, as the focus of this column continues to suggest, happy customers are the key to a thriving business as well as a thriving industry. But, having a happy customer on day one is simply not enough. You want and need a customer that is happy on day 10, and day 100, and day 1,000. How do we do that?

You laid the foundation for this with a gorgeous pond and a (hopefully) well-designed filter system. However, all of the effort you put into building the feature is meaningless if the customer is not able to care for the pond. And we are right back to education. Will you be on contract to do the maintenance for your customers? If not, find them someone who can be, and show them how to do it themselves. Even if you are, you still need to show customers how to do maintenance themselves. And I think most of you are already doing that. But, when you are telling them all about the boring little details, they are enamored with this beautiful new water feature in their yard. How long do you think they remember what you tell them? In one ear, out the other.

Providing them with all the necessary resources that they may need now or over the coming years. A folder with all the product manuals and other reference material will be greatly appreciated by your customers. Do you plan on consulting with them over the long haul? Should they call you if they have fish problems, etcetera? If not, refer them to a local retailer or expert where they can get the information they may need.

Did you leave them with a supply of dechlorinator or bacteria? Make sure they know how and when to use it. They also need to know what to do when they run out.

I consult with pond builders and pond owners every day. The biggest thing that I wish every pond builder would do to help their customers is meter the water as the pond is filled. A garden hose-attached water meter can be obtained inexpensively. By letting your customers know exactly how many gallons are in their ponds, you will make any treatment dosing easier and more accurate and likely prevent someone from killing fish with an overdose of an algaecide.

These extra steps may take a little more time, but it shows your customers that you care. It helps them maintain a water feature with greater ease. In turn, that makes for customers that love water gardens and love your company.

Erik Tate operates The Water Garden, LLC. The company was started in 1987 by his parents, Randall and Karen. Having grown up in the pond industry, a passion for water gardening became ingrained in who Erik is. Based in Chattanooga, Tenn., The Water Garden is a distributor of quality pond supplies.

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PONDer This!

POND Trade Magazine
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Floating like a Waterlily
The IWGS Symposium Rides the Waves in 2013

by Jim Purcell,
President, International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society

For 2013, the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society decided to have a different Symposium. Instead of our standard fare of talks and tours in late July, we went for a Caribbean cruise in February! Most members live with cold winter weather, and we thought they would enjoy the chance to get away to a warm climate and network with pond lovers amidst the many amenities of a large cruise ship. (Our ship of choice was Liberty of the Seas with Royal Caribbean.)

And that’s exactly what happened. This was more of a mini-symposium, with only three speakers and much less face time with ponds — we had a lot of fun on the cruise and hanging out with each other.

As a kind of pre-Symposium, Brad and Brandon McLane of Florida Aquatic Nurseries invited us to tour their facility. They took special care to have a great selection of tropical waterlilies in display greenhouses, including a number of their new hardy-tropical hybrids. (By the way, they anticipate having their first purple “hardy” available for distribution in 2014.) It was a great way to kick off the Symposium and helped satisfy our plant addiction.

The next day, we boarded the ship and began acquainting ourselves with the many amenities. Room accommodations were pleasant as well, although Mike Swize of Nelson Water Gardens had a small bump in the road (or should I say, a small pea under his mattress). He was rooming with me, and the look on his face was priceless when he walked into the room and saw there was only one double bed for the two of us. I believe his exact words were, “This isn’t gonna work.” I was a little offended, as my cuddling skills are legendary, but after a few beers we reached an accommodation and found a workable solution.

The talks went well and held people’s interest. Brandon McLane spoke on hybridizing hardy waterlilies with tropical waterlilies (he prefers calling them ISH, an acronym for Inter-Subgeneric Hybrid, rather than the more commonly used ISG acronym, so be ready to line up behind one acronym or the other). He revealed many hybridizing secrets that I am not at liberty to divulge, as they were intended for participants only.

Nopchai Chansilpa gave a presentation of his facility and hybridizing accomplishments in Thailand. In addition to bringing us Mangkala Ubol and Wanvisa in the past, he has succeeded in some great new hybrids, including some ISH/ISGs.

Carlos Magdelina gave a very entertaining presentation (with his usual energy and enthusiasm) about Kew Gardens and his research and hybridizing there. In the sixth grade I learned about electrons having an “excited” state and a “resting” state.

We also held several mini-topics of interest in a kind of round table format, which was very successful. We did also manage to conduct our Annual General Meeting, with budget and offer approvals, et cetera. A vote was taken on whether the members present would prefer the next Symposium to be in Denver or exploring the Amazon river system in Brazil (the two leading candidates). Denver received the most votes. While that process is still in the information-gathering stage, it gave us some input.

I enjoyed this departure from our usual venue, and I think we proved that a Symposium is more about the people than about the plants.

Jim Purcell is co-owner of Oregon Aquatics, Inc. and Southwest Aquatics, LLC.
Hidden Features

The Axiom skimmer from EasyPro provides the pond installer with an easy to install and versatile pond skimmer at an excellent value. Creating and maintaining water gardens is made significantly easier with the installation of an Axiom pond skimmer.

All black tubs that skim pond water are not the same. Let’s take a look at six hidden features of the Axiom skimmers that set these units apart.

1. Fast and secure liner attachment. With most skimmers multiple steps are required to ensure the liner hole is cut and lined up properly to finish pond liner attachment. With the Axiom skimmer the faceplace is secured to the unit first and then the liner hole is cut out. No additional realignment of liner and faceplate is necessary.

2. Integrated UV option. The 5000 gallon Axiom skimmer model can be fitted with an integrated UV option. This UV option installs inside the skimmer to provide a convenient way of implementing copper-free algae control.

3. Extended inlet flange. Concealing the inlet at the pond edge is made easier with the extended flange. Rocks can be stacked along and on top of the flange to create a more natural looking connection at the pond edge. BONUS: Axiom skimmers are compatible with EasyPro’s patented 24’ extension tubes. This allows the skimmer to be set back as far as desired from the pond edge for creating natural looking ponds.

4. Adjustable overflow. Axiom skimmers come with pre-installed “spinweld” fittings that create a sealed tub. This allows the overflow to be adjustable with an elbow fitting. Ponds with extensive stream systems can use this feature for accommodating the “water in transition” these systems must account for.

5. All-in-One option. The All-in-One Axiom skimmer and filter combo is an excellent way to provide filtration without the need for a typical waterfall filter box. With a biological media chamber filled with EasyPro ultimate tube media, this Axiom unit can provide biological filtration for ponds up to 4000 gallons.

6. Compatible with submersible or external pumps. Submersible or external style pumps can be used with the Axiom skimmers. With larger pump chambers a single or dual submersible pump setup can be used. External pumps can be used in a suction lift or a flood ed suction configuration.

Additional information on the six hidden features of the Axiom skimmers can be found at our website: easypropondproducts.com/axiom

Check out Tranquil Décor’s newest styles and colors for 2013

With more than a dozen additions to the Tranquil Décor collection this year, selecting the perfect water feature is made even easier. New larger features up to 45” tall provide a striking appearance, and new self-contained basin options allow more versatility for outdoor or indoor features.

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Contact EasyPro for your free 2013 catalog at 800-448-3873 or www.easypropondproducts.com
Language of Koi

Taisho Sanshoku
Learning the art of Sanke appreciation

by Taro Kodama,
Kodama Koi Farm

Have you ever heard of “Sanke Bim bou”? No, it is not bimbo. It is “Bim bou.” In Japanese, it means “the poor.” “Sanke Bim bou” means Sanke breeders are always poor. Why are they poor? It is because it is very difficult to breed nice Sanke and make money. Of course, they are not necessarily poor, but that is how breeders in Niigata, Japan described the challenges of Sanke breeding. You might understand how difficult it is to come across a nice Sanke even from your experience. Let’s discuss this variety that is often difficult to breed.

What’s in a Name?

“Sanke," "Taisho Sanke” or “Taisho Sanshoku”?

These are all names of this variety. You may wonder why this variety seems to have several names. The most appropriate name is Taisho Sanshoku. Some call this Koi “Taisho Sanke” or just “Sanke.” It got shorter simply because the original name is a bit long. I, therefore, would assume Sanke is probably the name you hear the most.

Sanke means three colors, obviously because this variety is a Koi with three colors: red, white and black. Sanke is a shorter version of the three colors. Now, what is “Taisho”? In Japan, we have two calendars. One is the Western calendar we use here, and the other is the Japanese calendar. In Japan, we have the emperor system. Each emperor has his own era, which is named after him on the calendar. For example, the era of the reign of the current emperor, Akihito, bears the name of Heisei. 2014 is Heisei 25. Taisho is the name of the era when emperor Taisho reigned in Japan from 1912 to 1926. From this, you can tell Taisho Sanke is a tri-colored Koi created in the era of Taisho.

Sanke Appreciation

Do you remember when I discussed that Kohaku was the foundation of Koi appreciation? Sanke is basically a Kohaku with a sumi (black) pattern. At first, it must be good as Kohaku. Then, we need to see if the sumi are located in the right positions.

This two-year-old female has a beautiful Kohaku pattern. The sumi is gradually coming out, with more to come. The sumi in circle 1 shows you the quality of sumi she has and the same quality sumi will definitely come out over time in circle 2 and 3.

1. Kohaku

In the previous chapter, I discussed the importance of quality and pattern. Just like that, we would like to see snow-white shiroji (white ground) and bright hi (red). We would like to see the beautiful hi design. It is as if we would appreciate an art of beautiful red expression with deep and bright red ink on pure white canvas.

2. Sumi

Sumi is a term that originally came from calligraphy. Sumi means black ink in calligraphy. So the quality of the color needs to be as thick and deep as the sumi ink. Assuming the sumi is of excellent quality, position is critical. It is not too much exaggeration that the difficulty of sumi position created the term, “Sanke Bim bou.” Unlike bim bou, the area of sumi is
to balance with the Kohaku base.

When you look at Sanke, check the following:
1) Kohaku
2) Sumi
3) Breeders

1) Last longer, especially in hot, humid climates.

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Aerators leverage filtration capability and increase the overall fish handling capability of ponds and water gardens. They’re an excellent reason to revisit existing clients and open the conversation to how value can be added to their current pond, while protecting their investment in koi. Medo’s extremely reliable design is a signature reason that Medo aerators are number one in Japan.

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very small — yet such a delicate positioning is required to keep the balance with the other colors. On the other side of the coin, it means it is very easy to ruin the beauty if sumi is located in the wrong positions. “Tsuke Zumi” is the term to express a sumi that exists at the perfect spot. We use this term only for this variety. Unless it is important, we do not usually create a special term.

Unlike Kohaku, sumi is not usually all up when they are babies. They come and go before the color is stabilized. So it is very important to determine or estimate what kind of quality sumi appears where.

3. Breeders

I have heard some dealers in the U.S. tell their customers, “You do not need to know breeders to buy Koi. Good Koi are good Koi.” I disagree. I must say, “How can you buy Koi without knowing the breeders?!” Koi is a living jewel, not a piece of jewelry that does not change its form of beauty. Without knowing the bloodline, it is very difficult to predict if the Koi has a promising future or not. I do my best to share the breeder information with my hobbyist customers and dealer customers. I also encourage my hobbyist customers to ALWAYS ask about the breeders whenever they buy Koi at any Koi store. There are many famous Sanke breeders. But you may want to know at least the following: Marudo Koi Farm, Yamamatsu Koi Farm (aka Matsunosuke) and Oya Koi Farm. I recommend you read “Koishi: Koi Breeders-Creators of Living Jewels,” a book by Mamoru Kodama, to study these bloodlines. It is also good to know the bloodlines that built the foundation of modern Sanke development, such as Torazo line, Jimbei line, Matsunosuke line and Sadazo line.

Selling Sanke is not easy. It is simple, but not as simple as Kohaku. Besides, it is not easy to come by a Sanke of breathtaking beauty. To sell Sanke, I always try to explain the difficulty of Sanke breeding. “Sanke Bim bou” is always a good story. I add information about breeders’ characteristics. I try to teach how to appreciate Sanke. It is also important for you to know that sumi of Sanke will not settle until it matures, around three to five years of age. It could come and go, so please let them know. Best of all, as I recommended in the Kohaku article, try several breeders’ Sanke by yourself. No study is better than raising them yourself.

About the Author

Taro Kodama is President of Kodama Koi Farm. It is the largest importer and distributor of quality Japanese Koi in the U.S. With locations in Japan, Hawaii and New Jersey, Kodama Koi Farm carries 35,000+ Japanese Koi from the top breeders in Japan. Taro Kodama, along with his father, Mamoru Kodama, provide not only winning show Koi, but they also conduct many Koi seminars.
Tips for gorgeous water feature photography

by Benjamin Timmermans,
President/Lead Designer for Liquid Landscapes, Inc.

I have been building water features for several years now and have come to realize that no matter how well you describe a water feature, you can only convey the art and feeling with photographs. That is, if you have great photos that are able to capture those feelings with artistry. It was a few years ago, when a local pond builder showed me some pictures that he had taken of his work, that something clicked. One of the pictures he showed me happened to be of a water feature we service yearly and the picture, though nice, did his work no justice at all. It was at that point that I realized that capturing the beauty and optimal photographic potential is a skill.

I began to look at photos of water features and try to determine if the picture was as effective as it could be at representing the feature. Through the years I have seen hundreds and hundreds of waterscapes that could have been represented better if some proper equipment and simple photography skills were utilized. Photography is an art and skill in its own right and can take years of practice to hone, just like building water features. I am by no means an expert in the field of photography, but I hope that some of these basic principles and tips can help capture the photographic potential of your water feature.

Composition

Simple and direct compositions with two or three key picture elements usually create the most powerful and captivating photographs. Composition is the key to successful water feature photography, and if you don’t know where to start, use the “rule of thirds” to get things going.

Break your frame into imaginary thirds on both the horizontal and vertical axes. Place areas of interest at the points at which the lines intersect or along one of the lines. The key is to keep the composition clean and not cluttered with subjects. There should be no question as to what the focal point of the photograph is. To make certain you have accomplished this, it is best to always remember the rule of thirds. This is particularly helpful when composing shots of streams, waterfalls and cascades, as they are often surrounded by a horizon of foreground.

Keep in mind that sometimes this rule can be thrown away. You shouldn’t be afraid to disregard the concepts of composition on occasion. Simplicity is key. Some of the best stream and waterfall shots are made at close range and do not incorporate the whole water feature. You should also be using the rocks, trees, plants and foliage surrounding your water feature; they can add dimension and depth to your photo. When photographing streams and watercourses, look for winding “S” curves and diagonal lines that will carry you through the photo. Whether a moss-covered rock, twisted driftwood or flowering plant is in your photo, make sure a line of water is the focal point.

Lighting

Beautiful water feature photos are often defined by the quality of the light in which they were taken. As a consequence, I tend to shoot early in the morning or during late afternoon when the sun is lower, or even on an overcast day. For this reason,
the hours after dawn and before dusk are known as the “magic hours.” I have taken some of my best shots as the sun was setting and small rays of light penetrated the canopy. Finding the time to get out at dusk or dawn can be a challenge, as can trying to visit two sites in the same day. While you might end up with some unusable photos, you also might create an original and striking masterpiece. Be bold and experiment.

**Exposure effects**

Water features in motion can be challenging subjects — as they are constantly changing, they can be difficult to photograph. I don’t do a lot of the soft, silky water effects that can be created with Digital Single Lens Reflex cameras (or DSLRs). But if not overdone, this effect can make a waterscape look magical. It creates a certain mood in your photographs, and is created by slowing down the shutter speed. The slow shutter speed will help blur the water and give it that “silky” look that helps show motion in the water. Usually, a shutter speed of a few seconds works well, but ideal speed varies depending on the speed of the water. (Slower water needs a slower shutter.) To help you get a slower shutter speed, try using the lowest ISO setting and a high f-number. Slower-flowing water requires longer exposures to obtain the silky-smooth look, while fast or cascading water can be blured with relatively “fast” shutter speeds. Pay careful attention to focusing your subject, specifically the surrounding foliage that might move with even the slightest of breezes. Long exposures require a steady camera, so you’ll need to bring a tripod when you set out to photograph water in motion.

**Filters**

I shoot a Canon DSLR and carry some filters in my camera bag. There are many uses for filters, but for water feature photography the two key characteristics are their ability to cut out reflections and glare from a scene and increased color intensity. A neutral density (ND) filter cuts down the amount of light entering your lens, allowing for longer exposures. A polarizing filter helps you in two very important ways: it reduces or eliminates the reflections in the water and on the wet rocks, and it helps you get a slower shutter speed (between one and two stops).

**Camera Options**

**Point-and-Shoot**

Point-and-shoot cameras are so named because the steps to use them are just that: point the camera at something and hit the button to shoot. The camera does all the work for you. The problem is, the camera is rarely as smart as the photographer so the results can be varied. Today’s point-and-shoot (often abbreviated as P&S) cameras are getting more sophisticated with options. While there are still some P&S film cameras, most P&S cameras today are digital.

**P&S Features:**
- Metering systems, which calculate the amount of light entering the camera
- Variable shutter speed
- Variable aperture
- Zoom lenses
- Automatic focus

Shot mid-afternoon, this 15-foot vertical waterfall and Buddha statue had been photographed several times — but never with a good result. This day, the bridge connecting to an upper deck allowed for some shade on the lower pond, which gave way to a great shot. Canon EOS digital DSLR, F-stop F/5, Exposure 1/60sec, ISO-speed 400, Focal length 39mm.
• Preset controls for various photographic situations, such as:
  1. Landscapes
  2. Nighttime
  3. Close-up or macro

SLR and DSLR Cameras
SLR stands for Single Lens Reflex and DSLR stands for Digital Single Lens Reflex. These terms refer to how the light enters the camera. With bigger bodies than most P&S cameras and changeable lenses, these are the cameras you see many pros and serious amateurs carrying around. They allow for great control over the photography process and allow the photographer to take images that may not be possible with a P&S.

SLR and DSLR Features:
SLRs and DSLRs allow for control over:
• Shutter speed
• Aperture
• Film speed
• Focus point
• Magnification (through the use of various lenses)
• Capability for add-on flashes
• Remote releases
• Filters

Smartphones
Despite the intense engineering focus that goes into a camera’s elements, it’s hard to over-stress the importance of convenience. Smartphones are absolutely the best option for quick uploads to social media and sharing with others. When it comes to producing top-quality photos, however, smartphones are just not there yet.

In a sense, smartphones are just slimmed-down P&S cameras. While many of them boast high megapixel numbers, megapixels alone are no guarantee of good performance. The light sensor, the image processing hardware and the software that ties it all together are what make a good camera. However, sometimes the best camera is the one you have on you.

Smartphone Features:
• Ease of use
• Availability

Get the camera that you have at your disposal and start experimenting with some of these simple tips. It’s important to learn to take pictures of other subjects in the landscape, so take pictures of plants and animals as well as water features. The great thing about cameras these days is that most are digital, so wasting film is a thing of the past. I have made it a habit to take a picture every day, no matter what type of camera may be with me, and some of my best photos were taken on days that were not planned as a photoshoot. Once you have caught the photo bug and have honed your photography skills, I recommend looking into investing in some equipment. The investment I have put towards my gear has given me a huge ROI. The other great thing I can say about photography is that it has now become another hobby for me. I find it an adventure trying to get the best shot of each subject, and the ability to do that is truly another form of art.

A pondless design, shot in late evening with a P&S camera. “I had forgotten to bring my DSLR when we went to wrap up this build, but I was happy to have my P&S in my console.” Sony DSC-WX9 (P&S) F-stop F/4, Exposure 1/60sec, ISO-speed 100, Focal length 10mm.

A large, pondless design and landscape, shot in early morning. Canon EOS digital DSLR, F-stop F/4, Exposure 1/1250sec, ISO-speed 100, Focal length 27mm.

About the Author
Benjamin Timmermans is the President/Lead Designer for Liquid Landscapes, Inc. located in Asheville, N.C. and has 22 years in the landscape and water feature industry. Benjamin focuses on a dedication to customer satisfaction through an emphasis on quality, workmanship, professionalism and meticulous attention to detail. He has great passion for the water feature industry and is consistently looking for ways to contribute to its betterment.

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Whether you are thinking of expanding your water garden or Koi business or starting a new water feature, getting a loan from a traditional bank might not be as easy as you think. Along with a thorough business plan and good deal of financial and tax paperwork, the application process requires assembling a loan application and approval. In addition, the loan approval process can be very time-consuming. For businesses seeking big loans, meaning that the loan amount is greater than $500,000, the process can take from 30 to 100 days can pass between loan approval and the funds being made available. In fact, it is not uncommon for big businesses in banks lending to small businesses to be turned down by a traditional bank, meaning that many small business owners are unable to do business as usual. They consider non-traditional factors for loan approval. Most cash flow lenders use an automated application process to look at factors such as online sales, social media rankings or even how your business looks on the Google Maps street view. Because they rely on automated technology and sophisticated algorithms, the turnaround time is fast and you can often get approval and cash in hand within days.

**Merchant Cash Advances:**

Merchant cash advances (MCAs) are actually not a loan in the true sense. An MCA is to provide collateral to secure a loan and are able to lend money. They are different from traditional bank loans in several ways:

1. **Alternative Lenders:**
   - They do not actually lend money.
   - They rely on automated technology and the second one is not. For example, they may not require you to provide collateral, something that many small business owners are unable to do.
   - Simply put, the cost benefit just isn't there.

2. **Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans:**
   - SBA loans are the next of kin to traditional bank loans. The SBA backs a bank loan and guarantees against default, allowing banks to take more risk. A common misconception about an SBA loan is rarely described as easy, fun but may not be a good choice if timing is important. The process of securing an SBA loan is rarely described as easy, fun or fast. It is more commonly referred to as painful, long and exhausting.

3. **Cash Flow Lenders:**
   - These lenders are established and generally staffed by well-respected members of the financial services community. They operate much like traditional banks but specialize in lending to small businesses and are much more flexible. For example, they may not require collateral to secure a loan and are able to lend money.

**What are the Different Types of Loans?**

**Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans**

SBA loans are the next of kin to traditional bank loans. The SBA backs a bank loan and guarantees against default, allowing banks to take more risk. A common misconception about SBA loans is that they are issued by the government. While the SBA provides a variety of tools for small business owners, they do not actually lend money.

For small business owners who have been turned down by a traditional bank, applying for an SBA loan may be a natural next step. An SBA loan is the best option for low rates and larger loan amounts but may not be a good choice if timing is important. The process of securing an SBA loan is rarely described as easy, fun or fast. It is more commonly referred to as painful, long and exhausting.

**Alternative Lenders**

Alternative lenders typically fall into two groups: those that make true loans based on cash flow and those that make advances against future sales. The first group is subject to state and federal lending laws and the second one is not — cash advances aren’t loans as defined by law; they are buying your future credit card receivables at a reduced cost now.

Let’s take a closer look at alternative lenders and the differences between the two.

**Cash Flow Lenders:**

These lenders are established and generally staffed by well-respected members of the financial services community. They operate much like traditional banks but specialize in lending to small businesses and are much more flexible. For example, they may not require collateral to secure a loan and are able to lend money.

**Fixed or Variable Payments:**

Make sure you understand specifically how your loan is to be repaid. MCAs typically have variable payments and sell the variable payment option as, “If your sales have a good day, then more is paid back to your business. If sales have a slow day, less of your money is repaid.” This is great unless your business experiences a GREAT day, week or month. Fixed payment lenders typically allow slightly longer terms on...
average, therefore reducing your total repayment per month. And, the total cost of a loan from a cash flow lender is typically much lower than that of a merchant cash advance.

**Total Cost:** The first question from many small business owners is, “What is the interest rate?” That is the WRONG question. The right question is, “What is the total cost?” A 5% interest rate may sound great, but when you have an origination fee, loan guarantee fee, loan platform fee, servicing fee, underwriting fee and processing fee, a 30% rate deal may be a far better option. You have to compare the total cost and the repayment period offered. It is really the only way to understand and compare apples to apples. Our website (www.ioucentral.com) has a daily business loan calculator you can use to help compare options available.

**Type of Interest Rate:** Is the rate a simple interest or pre-computed? Simple interest loans let you save money by paying off the loan early, with real interest declining as the amount of the loan remaining is paid down. Pre-computed loans carry higher calculations and require payment of full interest regardless of when the loan is paid off, and may even charge prepayment penalties. Even if you’re not planning on paying off the loan early, it’s good to have that option should your cash flow support it.

**Repayment:** Some loans call for you to make a lump-sum payment at the end of each month, while others call for automated “micropayments” in the form of daily remittances based on the daily cash flow of your business. The latter can assist you with budgeting and managing cash flow rather than ending your month with a major expense.

If you don’t want to “go it alone,” find a good business loan broker. They are typically signed up with many lenders, know their guidelines and can recommend the best product. Find a loan broker that doesn’t charge “add-on fees” over and above lender fees. Look for a broker who has been around and who sounds knowledgeable and fair. Some lenders allow a loan broker to sell a higher rate to earn a higher commission. Others, like IOU Central, do not allow increased rates. You will also get the same loan offer through a broker as you would coming directly to a business loan broker and discuss your options.

The Bottom Line? Don’t get frustrated if you are declined by a bank. Do your homework and select the type of loan that matches up best to your needs. Look for a lender that can turn around funds in the timeframe that you need, is easy to work with and offers a low cost to borrow and low payments to help foster your growth.

Robert Gloer is the President and Director of IOU Central (www.ioucentral.com), a leading online lender specializing in helping small businesses with healthy cash flow. Prior to IOU Central, he worked as the director of the East Coast for First Franklin Financial Corporation, a subsidiary of Merrill Lynch.

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**The Nine-Day Water Garden**

Aquascape Designs creates “A Water Sonata” at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show

by Jennifer Zuri, Aquascape

Twenty gardens, hundreds of vendors and thousands of attendees composed this year’s Chicago Flower and Garden Show, named “The Art of Gardening.” For the 10th year in a row, Aquascape Designs of St. Charles, Ill. participated in this annual garden event that attracts visitors from Chicagoland and beyond. After nine days of construction, Aquascape Designs’ display garden, dubbed “A Water Sonata,” was ready for viewing.

When the Aquascape Designs construction crew arrived at Navy Pier’s exhibit hall on the first day, they began work on the water garden display by marking the floor for placement of key components such as ponds, walkways and more. Then four semi-trailer loads of brick, two and a half semi loads of plants, two semi loads of pond product and two semi loads of hand-selected...
pond boulders were emptied and painstakingly set into the 150-foot by 30-foot garden space.

The “Water Sonata” garden included a small stone cottage, which was placed first. The frame was constructed in the warehouse at Aquascape Designs, while the detail work was completed after its delivery to Navy Pier.

“Placement of our ‘man cave’ was critical,” explained Brian Helfrich, Construction Manager for Aquascape Designs. “If the house was even so much as 10 degrees off it would’ve thrown off everything else.”

Attendees were able to follow the garden path into the cottage where they could view waterfalls and fountains through the windows. Inside the “man cave” was a bar and game table.

“Our goal with the man cave was to recreate a rec room in someone’s home. We wanted them to experience the opportunity of viewing water features through a window from inside their own homes,” stated Helfrich.

After placement of the stone cottage, the team worked in a clockwise position to build the entire water garden display. Since the show’s theme revolved around fine arts, a piano and trumpets were used to create unique waterfalls at one of two entrances to the garden. A simple boardwalk wound its way through the garden, providing mystery as to what lay beyond the next turn in the path.

Several large trees were placed early during construction using machines to set the large root balls. And since the trees and water features created a significant weight load, pallets wrapped in fabric became the base for the entire garden for added support. The construction team worked with the show’s structural engineer to ensure a stable base.

In addition to using wrapped pallets for weight distribution, berms were created using this same technique, with no more than 20 inches of sand added on top near the ponds and waterfalls. Once the liner and rocks were installed for the water features, hoses supplied the 4,000 gallons of water required to run the display.

A favorite feature of Aquascape Designs’ garden each year is the colorful assortment of koi in the ponds. Children and adults alike enjoy interacting with the fish. Some are brave enough to dangle fingers near the water in attempt to pet the friendly koi.

“Iceberg” pond filter (left) used for pond's filtration system. 

The pond is positioned so that visitors can easily interact with the fish from the boardwalk.

Throughout the garden so folks can relax and get a feel for what it’s like to have a water garden in the landscape.”

The key to a successful water garden display, explains Helfrich, is to create vignettes that attendees can envision in their own backyards.

“Most garden designers take their entire display space and create one large and impressive garden, but it’s not a tangible option for most homeowners. We prefer to create several water feature options throughout our garden that are affordable for most people visiting the show.” Helfrich further explained that show attendees are typically looking for ideas for just one area of their yards, such as a 10-foot by 10-foot space, as
A Pondless® Waterfall tucked near a window of the man cave shows visitors what their views could look like from inside their own homes when they bring water features closer to the house.

Our goal with the man cave was to recreate a rec room in someone’s home. We wanted them to experience the opportunity of viewing water features through a window from inside their own homes.

A breathtaking view (right) of the Pondless® Waterfall from inside the man cave gives consumers an idea of the view they could have at home. A panoramic view (below) shows the twists and turns of the boardwalk that winds its way through the water garden displays.

A Pondless® Waterfall in Aquascape’s garden at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show. A trio of trumpets (above, right) becomes a whimsical waterfall enhancing the show’s “Art of Gardening” theme.

Colorful koi (above, left) are always a hit in Aquascape’s garden at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show. A trio of trumpets (above, right) becomes a whimsical waterfall enhancing the show’s “Art of Gardening” theme.

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Helfrich explained, “People want to continue the journey through our garden to see what lies around the next bend.” Along with the impressive water garden displays, Aquascape had a 20-foot by 40-foot vendor booth at the show.

To tie the vignettes together, Helfrich incorporated the boardwalk to wind through the garden, providing a new water feature at every twist and turn of the path. Garden seating, flowers and vertical elements like arbors populated the garden and helped provide creativity for attendees looking to add similar features to their homes.

“Our twisting boardwalk adds an element of mystery to the garden,” Helfrich explained. “People want to continue the journey through our garden to see what lies around the next bend.”

Along with the impressive water garden displays, Aquascape had a 20-foot by 40-foot vendor booth at the show.
where smaller features such as fountains and container water gardens were on display. Helfrich was pleased with the traffic at this year’s Chicago and Flower Garden Show, which was up from last year with approximately 45,000 attendees.

When the nine-day show drew to a close, the Aquascape Designs crew had a mere three days to dismantle what took nine days to build. Each year Helfrich designs a one-of-a-kind waterscape display that has become a favorite feature of the Chicago Flower and Garden Show.

Jennifer Zuri is the Marketing Communications Manager for Aquascape, Inc. and author of “The Pond Builder’s Guide to Break Even.”

A favorite feature of Aquascape Designs’ garden each year is the colorful koi in the ponds. Children and adults alike enjoy interacting with the fish. Some are brave enough to dangle fingers near the water in attempt to pet the friendly koi.

Water Garden Expo

Pondliner hosts a grand event in Shawnee, Okla.

A large crowd of pond folks descended upon the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center in Shawnee, Okla., in February. Attendees were able to choose from three various seminar tracks to boost their water gardening knowledge. There were many booths to browse and great show specials too. Start planning your trip for next year. This event is not to be missed!

Clockwise, from top: Andreas Szabados explains the OASE BioTec 18000 pond filter to a group of contractors. Michael Hokanson demonstrates the Little Giant Waterfall weir. Rudy’s Rock, a bubbling rock with flames by 3R Manufacturing, was a huge hit. The Pondliner Wholesale girls taking names and orders. Demi Fortuna (above) plays to a packed house.
Atlantic Water Gardens introduces Stainless Steel Splash Rings

Stainless Steel Splash Rings: an elegant new way to control splash. Made from 304 stainless steel mesh, these rings tame errant droplets, eliminating splash and reducing the frequency between basin top-ups. Available in widths of 16, 28 and 40 inches, these splash rings complement all of Atlantic’s formal spillway sizes. And for a dramatic nighttime effect, simply add an Atlantic SOL Light Ring underneath the Splash Ring.

Atlantic Water Gardens
616/914-9953
atlanticwatergardens.com

G-Lux LED Landscape Lighting Professional Series

Super Bright LEDs, a global leader in LED technology, introduces G-Lux, a professional-grade line of LED plug n’ play landscape lighting. The series features include fixture housings made from solid brass, stainless steel and cast aluminum, with plug n’ play connectors that make installation and expansion easy for a pro or home owner. These versatile, heavy-duty fixtures are enhanced with a sleek design style and advanced optics for even greater energy efficiency. Each light is IP68 rated with fully potted and sealed fixtures featuring a range of color temperature choices and a variety of beam pattern options. The diverse collection includes a variety of fixtures for spot/ flood lighting, up-lighting and down-lighting applications.

www.superbrightleds.com

NYMPHAEA ‘PINK DAWN’ Named 2013 Collector’s Aquatic Plant of the Year

The International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS) announces Nymphaea ‘Pink Dawn’ as the 2013 Collector’s Aquatic Plant of the Year. This hardy waterlily boasts uniquely variegated blooms of pink and white held above leaves ranging from green to bronze in color. ‘Pink Dawn’ was introduced by Dustin Machinsky, a waterlily hybridizer and owner of Midway Water Gardens in Columbus, Texas. This noteworthy hybrid won First Place in the Hardy Waterlily category of the IWGS 2011 New Waterlily Competition. The IWGS will be the only source for limited supplies of N. ‘Pink Dawn’ in 2013. The Collector’s Aquatic Plant of the Year program provides a limited opportunity to purchase new and/or rare aquatic plants prior to widespread distribution while also serving as a fundraiser for the Society.

To purchase, visit the IWGS website at www.iwgs.org. Shipment dates will be as follows: April 15th, May 13th and June 10th.

If you have any questions, or would like to place your order over the phone, please call Tahi Folsum at 540/337-4507 or send an email to info@iwgs.org.

Integra Liner Now Available From EasyPro

Integra Liner is the first high-quality, economical EPDM solution to rising liner costs. Due to price increases in 45-mil EPDM liner, many customers are looking to other types of material such as PVC and HDPE for cost-saving measures. EPDM rubber has long been the staple of the water feature industry because nothing can compare with the quality and benefits. Integra Liner offers a high-quality material with an unmatched 25-year warranty:

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Fountain Bleu Now Offering Lease Program

Fountain Bleu, pond designer and builder, has developed the ultimate pond vacuum for the commercial client. The Water-Vac is portable, fast and efficient. No need to remove plants and fish. Continuous pond cleaning down to 100 microns at up to 3,000 GPH. Capable of removing 15 gallons of debris in its primary removable strainer. It comes equipped with a remote on/off switch, vacuum, pressure gauges and starter filters.

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KW Solutions, Inc. Releases New Mesh Fish Cage

Our newest product is a 3-foot by 3-foot by 2-foot premium mesh fish cage. The cage can be used in a variety of ways, such as an isolation cage or show cage. It’s great for separating different size koi and fancy goldfish in pond stores and pond show shop tanks. Each kit includes a sewn ¼-inch black mesh bag and a full 1-inch PVC frame with a removable top cover. This product is manufactured in the USA. It is very durable and easy to assemble. Custom-size kits are also available upon request. Extension legs are available for the mesh fish cages, which allow for extra water flow through the mesh cage and keeps waste in the cage to a minimum.

KW Solutions, Inc.
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Lifegard® Led Stream Fountain

Lifegard Aquatics has introduced their Multi Colored LED STREAM FOUNTAIN designed to add elegance and fun to any backyard pond or fountain by featuring a stream of color changing LED light inside an arc of moving water up to 13’ long. This compact s.s. unit can be installed and operated with most small pumps, either buried below ground or submerged in water. Contains sponge filters to protect from elements and includes a 16’ power cord and 12 volt, 3 x 3 LED. Available models include Multi-Color Changing Stream Fountain, Remote Controlled unit that locks on desired color or allows all colors to rotate and Complete Fountain Kit including Quiet One® 2200 Pond Pump, 20’ Cord, Sponge Pre-Filter, Hose and all fittings and valves.

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KW Solutions, Inc. has a New Place to Call Home

Ecological Laboratories, Inc. is proud to announce that we are still growing. In 2011, Ecological Laboratories, Inc. purchased its fifth building of 13,000 sq. feet, in the North Cape Industrial Park, in Cape Coral Fla. For close to one year, construction and modifications have been underway. Recently, the company launched production of its Microbe-lift and Microbe Life line of products in an updated HEPA air controlled facility. The newest manufacturing plant houses a state of the art laboratory with an anaerobic chamber and incubator, DNA sequencer, real-time PCR and a wealth of equipment that has advanced testing and research to new levels.

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Uniseals Positive Pipe-to-Tank Seal

Uniseals from TOPP Industries, Inc. are a positive pipe-to-tank seal for flat or curved surfaces, excellent for hydraulic accumulators, pond suppliers, and reef and marine industries. Designed for holding tanks, these uniseals work well in any application where pipe penetrations are required, including wastewater lift stations, valve boxes, sump risers and more.

TOPP uniseals are designed for pipes with standard outside diameters and are ideal for use with PVC, galvanized steel, copper, EMT, rigid conduit, fiberglass and polyethylene pipe. Features include easy installation, tight seal requiring no adhesive, hardware or threads and a tough, pliable thermoplastic material construction. Uniseals also provide resistance to most chemical compounds, petroleum products, methanol, ethanol and most soil compounds.

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New Mexico-Based Savio Engineering Expands Operation to East Coast

Savio Engineering will open a second location to better accommodate East Coast customers.

Savio Engineering announced that it is expanding and opening a second office in Paterson, N.J. The new manufacturing operation will better accommodate customers and expedite freight times on outbound shipments to distributors. The Albuquerque-based company will retain its corporate headquarters in Albuquerque.

Savio Engineering manufactures water feature and gardening equipment and materials that are used to create clean, healthy, low maintenance ponds. They’ve designed, developed and manufactured a number of precision-engineered components, which are specifically sought out by contractors and end users.

The New Jersey location will open in early April 2013.

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