



2005 IWGS Waterlily Competition

“Best New Hardy Waterlily”



*N. 'Maria'*

hybridized by Andreas Protopapas

Second Best Hardy



*N. 'Shady Lady'*

hybridized by Hazorea Aquatics

Other hardy entries



*N. 'Jerusalem Dawn'*

hybridized by  
Hazorea Aquatics



*N. 'Thalia'*

hybridized by  
Andreas Protopapas



*N. 'Niki'*

hybridized by  
Andreas Protopapas

# Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

## "Wet -n- Dry" "News -n- Views"

Well, according to the calendar, we have started our spring season. The weather doesn't seem to be aware of this yet and we are currently starting on a colder trend with temperatures below normal. The weather forecasters are anticipating that this could be one of the more prolonged and colder stretches that we have experienced all season. This is most unfortunate, since the pond (lake) at Gardenscape really was an inspiration and a trigger to start making changes to our own gardens and possibly even opening them. It looks like these thoughts, however, will have to be placed on hold again until probably early to mid-April at best.

If you didn't get to see the pond at the Flower and Garden Show, the efforts of all associated with it really produced a great feat in creating and maintaining the huge pond, grotto and waterfall that Mike Tanzini told us about during his presentation at our February meeting. The landscape presentations merged nicely with one another so that the overall appearance was one of a continuous shore line. The downside was that it was sometimes difficult to evaluate the displays of the individual companies since they were not completely separated as in the past.

I must admit that I was more interested with the engineering and design efforts and may not have noticed the actual landscaping as much as other attendees. Aside from that, it was another great show, and there were a number of interesting ideas and concepts to put on file for later when we too can create our own versions of new garden changes.

I hope that everyone who attended

last month's meeting found something of interest in the video on "Dwarf Conifers for the Rock Garden." It was a little more technical than I expected, but it was amazing in the amount, beauty and variety that exists within this plant group. It is hard to believe that evergreens could take so many different forms with so many variations in color, texture and size. It was also interesting to note that some of them may change color during various seasons. There were a few things worth remembering for our fall meeting, when we will have a presentation on adding fall and winter color and interest to our ponds and gardens.

The botanical names for the plant materials were used throughout the video and are commonly used in the recommended books. This may have been a little difficult for us to understand. However, another book that I referred to following the meeting really re-enforced the logic behind this to an even greater extent than with our regular garden plants. The common names with which we are more familiar may vary by geographical region, may refer to entirely different plants or may be unknown or unlisted by that name. Furthermore, some of these unusual conifers can be quite expensive and if you want a particular specimen and cultivar, proper identification is most important. By using the proper botanical and cultivar name, you can be assured that you are purchasing exactly the plant that you want. This concept is true for any plant that you may purchase but, as the book advises, it can become even more significant as the price increases.

The video referenced gardens along the west coast, there is also a great collection that may be easier for us to see in the "Gotelli" and "Watnong" collections at the National Arboretum in Washington,

DC. I am also attempting to set up some off-site visits to see local sources and gardens with significant displays.

Our April 7th meeting will feature a demonstration by Jack Zelenz and John Roguski on mixing a hupertufa recipe and preparing castings and shaping them for use in the garden and around our ponds and streams. Please remember that these items can be quite alkaline and cannot be placed directly into the pond until they have been properly aged and/or sealed. The operation can be a little messy so it will not be possible for everyone to mix the materials and make their own casting. However, when this was proposed at last month's meeting, Jack and John felt that if there was sufficient interest, it might be possible to set up a workshop at a later date. In it, they would be available to help those interested in preparing an item of their own. To provide adequate ventilation and simplify the clean-up after such a workshop, it would be held in warmer weather and possibly in an open or other sheltered area in case of inclement weather.

We will also review some of the preparations and planning that might be helpful in preparing for opening the pond in spring. Since this is almost a yearly topic, we encourage membership participation and are hopeful that through it, the program will be a better learning experience with everyone adding comments and information on their approach and how their plans have worked.

A few points to consider in your spring cleaning plans are the possible vacuuming or other method of debris removal (higher winds may have added significant dust and debris to the pond) and an early treatment for algae (the ice free water

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has been exposed to more sun than usual).

We also need your input or volunteer status for some coming events. We still need members to help assemble hand-out packages at the May 12th NFKPC meeting, We have added a couple of additional volunteers to the schedule for the book sales area at the AKCA seminar event on Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24. The more volunteers that we have the more free time they will have to check-out the displays and learn from talking to others.

Regardless of whether Canandaigua/ FLCC complete their plans for the Garden Days exhibit, I would like to move forward with the arrangements for the off-site visit to Sonnenberg and Willow Pond Aqua Farm on May 14. Please let me know if you might be interested before April 15 so that we will have some realistic numbers to talk to these groups about our possible visit.

The Bergen Swamp Preservation Society will have their open tours ( May Pilgrimage) on May 20th. The 2 hour tours will start at 9:00AM and/or 1:00 PM. Reservations are required and should be made before mid-May on line through the site bergenswamp.org or by calling Patti Coan at (585) 548-7304. This will be an on your own tour. We are providing this information just to keep you informed and to encourage you to visit this feature that other members enjoyed so much last year. We will provide additional information in next month's newsletter. There is also the possibility of scheduling a private group tour on an alternate date if there is sufficient interest. Please let us know if we should start planning for such an off-site trip.

Even though it is very early to start

thinking about our pond tour on July 29, I would really like to have an idea of how many member ponds we may have available and whether we may have to search out willing hosts from outside contacts or former members who might be willing to participate in this anniversary tour. So please help with your early commitment as soon as possible.

Last month, we mentioned that due to our highly variable temperatures and somewhat mild winter, the potential for fish health problems may increase. The *Mid-Atlantic Koi* magazine featured an article about Tom Holder the founder Koi Care Kennel and their line of Koi health products. Tom says that he is "a Koi hobbyist first, and a business man second --- a product that doesn't work in his pond won't be sold." As a speaker, he continues to gear his presentations toward education. He prefers to talk about caring for Koi rather than his products. He likes to address his experiences as a hobbyist and what he wishes that he was able to learn before and as he started in the hobby. Keeping Koi alive and healthy has been the direction that his company has followed.

The one secret that he insists on passing along to every Koi hobbyist is the importance of water changes. He prefers and still does a 25% (instead of the more common suggestion of 10%) weekly water change. He credits this for the fine growth and development of his Koi. He believes that it works because it not only lowers the nitrate levels but also because it removes the pheromones that tend to stunt fish growth.

Tom emphasizes that excellent physical filtration is just, if not more important, than biological filtration. His reasoning is that good filtration will remove the nutrients

from the Koi wastes that feed the pathogenic bacteria. Bottom drains and this improved physical filtration get these fish wastes out of the water and that is the biggest step toward keeping fish healthy. By removing these materials and coupling it with the use of beneficial enzymes, you can significantly lower to possibility and occurrences of bacterial infections.

As for parasite control, he is strongly in favor of following a preventative maintenance approach. This method not only hinders parasite attacks but also limits bacterial attacks. The bacteria tend to follow the parasites through the holes that they have created in the defensive mucus coats. Once the slime coat is compromised any bacteria can establish a foot hold and can start ulcers, fin, mouth or tail rot. Furthermore, once parasites are imbedded, it is nearly impossible to get 100% kill rate. The hardier ones will survive and reproduce and the problem keeps returning. His pro-active treatment recommends to treat for parasites 2-3 times a year. A spring and fall treatment is generally suggested with an additional summer treatment in warmer climates.

The Koi Care Kennel product line includes treatments for ulcers, parasites, broad spectrum disease treatments, ointments, medicated foods and water conditioners and clarifiers. They have developed these products to be highly effective, but remaining fish, wildlife and user friendly.

Hopefully, this information will help you avoid a larger problem and show the types of products that are available through them or other comparable vendors.

Since spring is coming, now is a good time to review our information on one of the most common and easily identified water-loving plants. Many people enjoy the fuzzy brown hot dog look of the

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flower spikes. In case you haven't guessed, I'm referring to *Typha latifolia* or common cattail. The *Typha* portion of the name comes from the Greek word *tuph* or *typhē* which means bullrush or cattail. The *latifolia* names from the Latin words *latus* (broad) and *folius* (leaf). There is another variety, *Typha angustifolia*, or North American narrow-leaved cattail. *Typha* grows almost anywhere there is shallow water or where the soil remains wet. It has representation in most of North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Although it normally is found in fresh water, there are some occasions when it will also grow in brackish marshes. *Typha* were an important food source for native peoples who harvested the rootstocks and rhizomes in the spring-time before other foods began to grow and ripen. These roots have a high nutritional value containing more starch than potatoes and more protein than rice. Cattails can also be used as craft and building materials. The leaves can be dried and woven into mats, chairs, baskets etc. Other fibers and the pulp from the plant could be beaten and made into string and paper like materials. The fluffy seed heads were used for padding, bedding, insulation, as an absorbent material and as a floatation aid. Wildlife appreciate and use *Typha* as much as their human counterparts. They provide nesting sites and materials. Various parts are used as food sources and are used as resting and hiding places as well. They can reproduce by means of their rhizomes but also produce an abundant number of seeds. This vitality also benefits the water areas that they inhabit. They act as a natural filter for run-off thus reducing the amount of mud and nutrients that enter the water and their utilization of these materials as they

grow helps to keep green water under control. An additional function for which they are noted is their ability to minimize or prevent erosion along the boundary areas where they grow. Cattail seeds will not germinate unless they are blown into an aquatic location. The seeds actually germinate under water and in the early growth stages survive through anaerobic respiration. They do not change to the aerobic respiration state until after the foliage penetrates the water's surface. Unfortunately, they may struggle and not survive if they try to germinate in a clay like sediment where they would have to deal with a lack of available oxygen. In a pond or water garden situation, *Typha* species get along well with other aquatic plants and make an interesting statement when planted in and among equisetum, rushes, irises and grasses. They can be a focal point on their own or act as a foil to water lilies. If you have been plagued with green water, try the natural filtering ability of these plants, coupled with other nutrient loving filter plants. This ability to use the materials that might promote an algae bloom makes it a valuable addition to your planting scheme. If you have limited space or have a small pond or water garden where these cattails would be overpowering or out of proportion, all is not lost. There is another variety, *Typha minima*, or miniature cattail. The foliage is smaller, about the size of a drinking straw and about 18-24 inches tall. While it doesn't have the hot dog shaped flower heads, it does have round catkins or flower heads that are round, ball-like that measure about one inch in diameter. This miniature version is hardy to zone 3 and will grow in sun or part shade. Since it is so much smaller, it will only do well

in water up to two inches deep. While nothing from the cattails may go to waste, they are still at times thought to be a nuisance. It sometimes becomes too happy in it's location and may become a bit aggressive. You can physically remove the plants that you don't want, but you must be sure that you remove the entire root system of the plants that you are removing. You can also discourage them by using a drowning technique once the leaves have gone aerobic. If you cut the leaves and stems off at about 2-3 inches below the water surface, this will cut-off the oxygen supply to the roots system and in a sense causes it to die. For this to be effective, you must maintain a constant water level that keeps the cut ends submerged until the plant has died. These plants can be the perfect effect for a more natural looking pond. Just remember that they can be prolific and that you may have to keep them under control. The softening effect that they provide is worth the effort if it allows you to enjoy more fully the beauty of your pond.

Finally, a couple of thoughts and quotes for spring.  
"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished"--Lao Tzu.  
Now that new growth has started  
"May all your weeds be wildflowers" -- Original author unknown.



# Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

## Board Members 2005

President: Larry Hursh

Vice President: Bob Wheeler

Secretary: Kathy Hursh

Treasurer: John Roguski

Pond Tour Chairperson: Brain Nagel

Refreshments: Yvonne Wheeler and Kathy Hursh

Newsletter Editors: Hursh, James, and Nau families

Mentor and Technical Adviser: Larry Nau

## Purpose of the Club

- To promote, create and enlarge the hobby of keeping, breeding, appreciating and exhibiting Koi and goldfish.
- To promote and appreciate the hobby of Water Gardening.
- To disseminate information about Koi, goldfish and Water Gardening.
- To socialize and have fun.

We meet in a very friendly atmosphere at 7:00 pm, the first Friday of every month, at the Rochester Civic Garden Center (the Castle), 5 Castle Park, off Reservoir Ave., in Highland Park. Parking is free. Anyone interested in water gardening and/or Koi is welcome to join us. We ask that you consider joining the club after your third visit.

For more information call Larry H. 473-6276 or e-mail [lkhursh@aol.com](mailto:lkhursh@aol.com) or visit the club website at

**[www.ggw.org/gvpakc](http://www.ggw.org/gvpakc)**

## Calendar of Events

**April 7, 2006:** Discussion and demonstration on making and shaping hypertufa rocks and troughs. We will also review some of the preparations for opening the pond.

**April 14, 2006:** NFKPC meeting

**May 5, 2006:** Guest speaker from NARGS on Rock Gardening Basics and how they can be used around ponds, streams and waterfalls for added interest and aesthetics.

**May 12, 2006:** NFKPC This is the date for assembling packages for attendees at the June Koi Over Niagara event. Please join us as a volunteer to assist them in completing this project.

**May 13 or 14, 2006:** Possible off-site to Canandaigua garden presentation with side trip to Sonnenberg and Willow Pond. You must let us know if you are interested.

**Please remember our commitment as a group to help support NFKPC at the AKCA Seminar in Buffalo, June 22-25, 2006**

**This is a first for our area and is a great opportunity to see great Koi and to learn more about them from the experts.**

**Plan your schedules now, so that we can not only staff the booksales area but attend some of the programs too.**

**“Naturally Green” - A live gardening show every Saturday from 9-10 am on WYSL 1040 AM.**