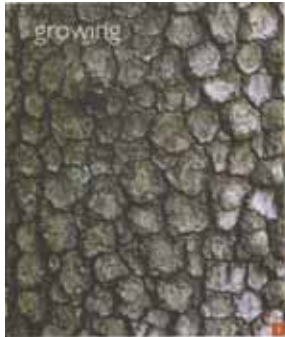


Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 1

January, 2007

Bark can Add Interest to the Winter Pond



[1] *CORNUS FLORIDA*
(Dogwood)



[2] *ACER X CONSPICUUM*
'PHOENIX' (Snake Bark Maple)



[3] *HALESIA TETRAPETALA*
(Carolina Silverbell)



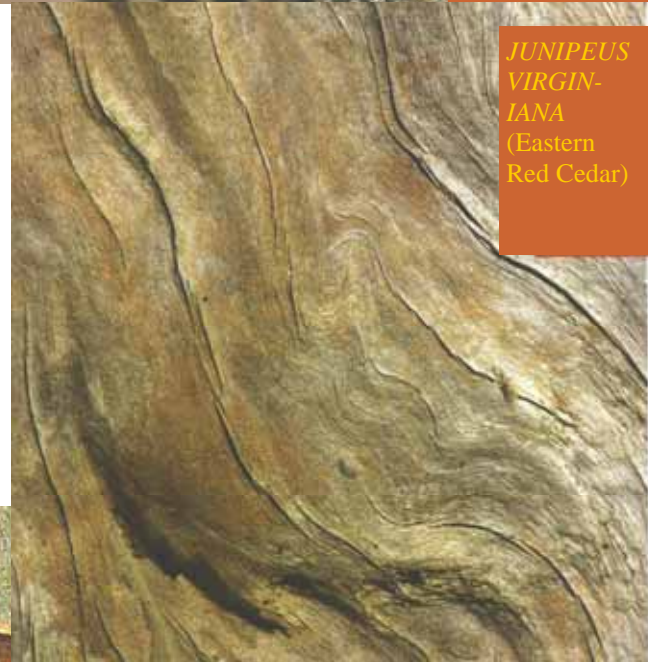
[4] *CARYA OVATA*
(Shagbark Hickory)



EUONYMUS AMERICANUS
(Hearts-A-Bustin)
A wispy multi-stemmed shrub 5-6 feet tall.



PRUNUS SEROTINA (Black Cherry)



JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA
(Eastern Red Cedar)



PLATANUS OCCIDENTALIS
(Sycamore)
A striking tree often seen along streams.

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

Last Month

From our point of view, the Christmas Party became the fitting end for our tenth anniversary year. The social hour, before dinner, was filled with many happy conversations, while the continual slide presentation of the various pond photos of our and the Niagara Frontier pond tours provided a bright spot in comparison to the overcast and dreary day that preceded the party.

Attendance was good and it was especially nice to see many of our newer members mixing with the past members to re-affirm the social enjoyment that the club can provide. The foods that were provided for the pot luck dinner were as great as ever. Plus, there were plenty of desserts to enjoy and sweeten our dispositions after a very close game of pond jeopardy.

I want to thank Bob Wheeler for his work in setting up the Jeopardy answers and categories. The music and graphics that headed helped to keep the excitement and fun going. The material seemed more player friendly than usual and there were only 3 answers that were not recognized by the players. The winners of the game were team one that consisted of members of the Albers, Parrone, Saiers, Zelenz, Wheeler and Roguski families.

As the president of this fine group, I want to thank all of you for making not only this event, but the entire year so successful and enjoyable. On behalf of myself and the Board members we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous, enjoyable and Happy New Year.

Dues

Unfortunately, it is that time of year again and we have to start collecting the annual membership dues. The dues are still only \$25.00 and include the monthly newsletters and free pond tour, picnic and Christmas Party. Time is getting short so please consider renewing now while it is fresh in your mind. If we haven't received your renewal by the time of this mailing, a short form renewal blank has been included with this newsletter for your convenience. Since there is no January meeting, you will have until the end of February to complete the renewal process. However, we would appreciate your early renewal so that we can provide information regarding our club status and membership to our affiliated organizations as early as possible in the new year.

Member to Member

Bob and June Amies are in the process of down-sizing and moving to a more carefree apartment life-style. They currently are asking if anyone might be interested in some of the cut-down (1/2 size) 55 gallon plastic drums. These can be very useful as quarantine or treatment tanks, water aging/storage tubs, planting containers for special need plants or they could become part of your filter or waterfall system.

If you are interested, you can contact them at 334-5088. They live at 39 Blue Avocado Ln.

They may have additional items or their fish to offer at a future time. This will depend on the interest of the new owners in maintaining the existing ponds and water gardens. Please help them with these and their concerns for the future.

Coming Events

The Board of Directors will be

meeting on Tuesday, January 16th to select the calendar dates and potential topics for meetings and events for 2007. This is your club and as such, we want and need to keep it interesting for you and the other members and supply you with the information that you need. The only way that we can really do that is by you becoming more involved and giving information to us about what you would like and need.

If you have ideas, suggestions or special events that you think might be of interest to you or the general membership, please call Larry Hursh at 473-6276 or Bob Wheeler at 461-5315 or e-mail us lkhursh@aol.com. We always appreciate your input at any time during the year, but for this particular meeting, we would like to hear from you by January 15th so that we can try work these ideas into our discussions and plans for the new year.

Our first meeting of the new year will be on February 2nd. I must admit that at the present time, I have no idea of what the exact topic will be. We do have some ideas, but it will be decided and finalized during the January Board meeting. We will advise you through the February newsletter what will be presented at that meeting. We will also supply the tentative schedule of dates and topics for remainder of the year in that same newsletter.

You will have the opportunity to review this material and then discuss it at the February meeting.

By the time you receive this, we should be into the start of our snowy season. We have many pictures of our members ponds in the summer. I would like to start collecting some similar photos of

(Continued on page 3)

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various member ponds in the winter to show that the ponds can also be interesting in the winter months.

We could use these, not only to expand our own ideas of winter interest around the pond, but to share with new or potential pond owners at recruitment displays or informational meetings.

Please help us by taking some photos, digital or regular film, at various times this winter. We will then try to assemble a display that we can review, either through the newsletter color pages or as part of a meeting presentation, sometime during the coming year.

Hopefully, something like this, will help everyone realize that we can appreciate our ponds as much during the off-season as during the active summer-time. If you light or decorate your ponds or water gardens for the holidays, these photos too would make a very useful addition to our photo album.

Night lighting is another idea for expanding or extending our enjoyment of water gardening. This would not only be true for summer nights, but also in the spring and fall seasons when the weather would allow us to enjoy them longer, but the earlier darkness muddies the view.

A threat to wetlands

If you are like me, after winter has set in for a few weeks, cabin fever will strike again. The usual response is to start thinking and planning the various gardens. We check the catalogs and dream of the many things that we would like to try. Unfortunately, the catalogs and nurseries do not necessarily indicate or list plants that may be or are becoming invasive.

A recent article, "Water Foul" by Madeline Bodin in *Wildflower* centered on interesting facts about invasive water plants. The follow-

ing are only some of the more readily available plants that have been classified in various states as invasive, noxious, prohibited or banned.

Cabomba caroliniana (Fanwort)

Egeria Densa (Anacharis)

Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth)

Hydrilla verticillata (Hydrilla or water thyme)

Iris pseudacorus (Yellow water iris)

Lythrum salicaria (Purple loosestrife)

Myriophyllum aquaticum (Parrot feather)

Nymphoides peltata (Yellow floating heart)

Phragmites australis (Giant reed grass)

Pistia stratiotes (Water lettuce)

Salvinia molesta (Giant salvinia)

Trapa natans (Water chestnut)

Typha angustifolia (Narrow leaf cattail)

These plants are a problem in aquatic habitats which provide them with a stable environment which is perfect for them to become established, reproduce and eventually take over all or part of the system. Fortunately, while many of them grow well in our area during the summer months, their hardiness may minimize their overall invasiveness in our area.

This does not release us from some of the precautions that will be listed later.

We are all aware that the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), a South American native, is one of these plants. Some interesting facts about this species are:

- an acre of this air-filled floating plant can weigh more than 200 tons.
- mechanical harvesting can reclaim about 2 acres per day, but in large masses the spread rate may be in excess of 2

acres per day.

- it alters animal communities by blocking their access to the water
- it alters submersed and immersed plant communities by limiting their access to light, pushing them away and in some cases by crushing them
- it may eliminate plants that are necessary for animal shelter and nesting.

Also, among the more widespread invasive aquatic plants are *Phragmites australis*, the giant reed grass and *Lythrum salicaria*, purple loosestrife. Both of these were Eurasian native plants. Loosestrife, as we have seen along many of our wetlands, spreads very rapidly. This is due in part to the fact that a single plant may produce as many as 2 million seeds.

In our Great Lakes region, *Typha angustifolia*, narrow leaf cattail is becoming a concern and is causing much trouble in the Midwest. One of the problems with this formerly Eurasian plant is its ability to form a hybrid with the native *Typha latifolia*, broadleaf cattail. The resulting hybrid, *Typha x glauca* is even more aggressive than the narrow leaf species.

What can we do? If you have or are just starting a water garden, you need to be very attentive to and responsible for the ecosystem that you are creating. Planting only well behaved natives is a good start. Yet even natives may harbor inadvertent stowaways of invasive plants. The plant should be quarantined and inspected before it is placed in the pond or garden. This is best accomplished by examining it while it is in a white bucket. Remove any plants or plant fragments that you didn't order or don't recognize. Then

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wash the plant well again before placing it in the pond. The discarded plants or segments or any unwanted aggressive or fast multiplying plants should be killed by freezing or drying out the plants completely then discarding them in the garbage. (Composting is usually not recommended or successful because the seeds could survive)

Do not locate your water garden near a natural body of water. This should minimize the possibility of seeds or plant fragments accidentally escaping to the natural site. Also do not build in low areas that may be prone to flooding. The flood waters may carry the invasives away from your location to natural run-off areas where they could become a future problem.

It is understandable for some people to want to see and grow some of these plants. If you are one of them, the best thing is to grow them indoors and under tightly controlled conditions. This is a good neighbor policy that lets you enjoy them while still protecting the environment.

The final step, once you know the plants, is to advise your friends, nursery or other suppliers that they have a potentially invasive plant and how best to take care of it to prevent its escape or release into other areas.

By following good practices, we may be able to reduce the numbers and varieties of invasive that are being released. This in turn may allow us to continue to enjoy them in our homes and gardens and keep them from being placed on additional banned or restricted lists whether that may be on the local, state or national scale.

Q and A

Q: What is a Tancho?

What should I look for if I buy one?

A: A Tancho is a koi with a distinctive red (hi) mark on the head and that does not appear anywhere else on the body. The spot is usually round and the more nearly round the spot the better. The word is derived from the Japanese crane that we have seen pictured frequently in Japanese art work. It is basically a white bird with a red crest.

Any Koi variety is capable of producing a tancho, even those like Showa and Sanke, showing more than one body color. However, tancho Koi are usually associated with and more readily seen in the Kohaku version, which is a white bodied Koi, with the only red spot being located on the head. The other varieties having a tancho head pattern are classified with their basic variety. For example Tancho Ogon or Tancho Goshiki etc.

Tancho make an interesting addition to any pond or Koi collection. Furthermore, they are thought to bring "good luck" into the pond.

A: Look for the tancho marking to be as large as possible and it should cover as much of the head as possible without extending over the eyes or shoulders. Therefore, a Koi with a broad forehead would have a better chance of developing into a classic looking tancho. The color pattern should be round or nearly round, solidly colored and have clean, sharp edges.

The Koi that you select should also have the same body requirements and criteria of a quality specimen. It should show good conformation, alert deportment and a clear, unblemished, smooth, bright and lustrous skin. The color (s) should be well balanced, solid and clear edged.

If possible, consider buying a tancho that is at least two years

old. The tancho marking has often disappeared as the Koi ages from one to two years old. If you wish to start with a younger fish, the larger the marking the more stable it may be as it ages. The pattern in the younger fish may not have a sharp definition, but if it is large when the fish is small, it will often achieve the desired definition with time. The hi (red) of the young tancho must be thick (deep appearing) and even. The color should not be the deep crimson of a finished adult, but it is something that should develop and improve as the fish ages and with proper care and feeding.

(The basic information presented in this article is from a similar presentation by Bob Winkler in *Mid-Atlantic Koi*. He is a certified AKCA judge.)

I know what a pond is in the physical sense and how to install and maintain it. Now that that is done, what is a pond supposed to do for me?

A: The pond is something that can bring down your blood pressure by helping you to relax and provide soothing sounds. It can calm your nerves after a hard day at work or when everything goes wrong at home. It can be a place to entertain friends on a weekend. It is a definite conversation starter and can be a good introduction toward making new friends. Most of all, it can be an educational experience as you learn various aspects of biology, physics, chemistry, botany etc as you become more involved in understanding the environment that you have created. So now, just sit back, relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor and early struggles.



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Board Members 2007

President: Larry Hursh
Vice President: Bob Wheeler
Secretary: Kathy Hursh
Treasurer: John Roguski/Les Saiers
Pond Tour Chairperson: Norm James/Les Saiers
Refreshments: Yvonne Wheeler and Kathy Hursh
Newsletter Editors: Hursh, James, and Nau families
Webmaster: Norm James - gvpakc@attglobal.net

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. (585) 473-6276 or e-mail lkhursh@aol.com or visit the club website at www.ggw.org/gvpakc

Calendar of Events

January 5, 2007: There will be **no meeting** tonight or in the month of January. The Board will meet during the month to develop a tentative calendar of events and topics for the year. We welcome your suggestions to assist and guide us in selecting the proper topics and events. You can share your input with us at the Christmas Party or by calling Larry Hursh at 473-6276 or Bob Wheeler at 461-5315 before January 8, 2007

February 2, 2007: First meeting of the year. We will discuss the plans and calendar proposed by the Board. The topic for the meeting will be announced in the monthly newsletter. Please remember that membership renewals are due by the end of this month.

March 2, 2007: Based on the topics suggested by the Board the actual topic will be announced in the monthly newsletter. Some ideas might be a preview of the Gardenscape theme or new things to do in spring to improve or extend your pond and garden enjoyment.

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