



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 05

May 2010

Bog and Marginal Plants



Marsh Marigold



Bog Bean



Pink Butterfly Flower



Aquatic Forget-me-not



Pitcher Plant



Sensitive Plant

“News From Norm”

April Presentation

I presented “Taking Photographs of Ponds, Fish, Plants and Other Things.” I talked about equipment I used for taking pictures of plants, fish in show and aquarium tanks, and the fish in my pond. If you receive this newsletter via email, you will receive a list of tips that was handed out at the meeting. This list can also be viewed on the club website. □

Newsletter via email Option

Several people have expressed an interest in receiving the club Newsletter by email. Some people like to eliminate the extra paper in their household, some prefer to file their old newsletters on their PC and some would like to see all pages (with more color photos) in color on their PC monitor. The electronic version also allows the club to save money on copying and postage, which is a significant part of our club’s annual expense. If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please send your email address to:

newsletter@gvpakc.org, or call Norm James at 334-3536. You can send more than one address if you use multiple email addresses. Rest assured that this is an optional choice on your part. If you take no action, your newsletter will continue to be copied and mailed to you in hardcopy format. However if you wish to help the club reduce costs and receive your newsletter via email, just let us know. We appreciate your time in consideration of this option. □



Bog/Marginal Plants

While showy watergarden plants like Hardy Lilies, Tropical Lilies, Lotus and Water Iris steal the show above the surface of the water, a wonderful variety of bog and marginal plants can create a natural and beautiful setting around the pond. The following are some bog and marginal plants that you may want to consider.

Aquatic Forget-Me-Not (Myosotis Scorpiodes) - Blooms from June through to mid Autumn. The flowers are grey-blue and have five joined petals with a central yellow eye. Grows up to 2'.

Chameleon Plant (Houttuynia Cordata Variegata) -



A showy plant with heart-shaped leaves of crimson, green, cream and yellow. Plant 2" below water surface. Grows 12" high.

Lizard’s Tail (Saururus Cernuus) - The bright green foliage is accented with 4" - 6" long spikes of white flowers. Shade tolerant and very fragrant. It is easy to grow and winters well.

Arrowhead - Has arrowhead shaped leaves and produces a

white flower that blooms all summer long. It grows 2' to 3' and is suited for any water garden. There are several varieties of arrow head: Arrow Arum, Double-Flowering Arrowhead, Silk Stockings Arrowhead, and Variegated Arrowhead.

Blue Lobelia - The blue flowers are on spikes 2' to 3' high. This plant is a very good bloomer and easy to grow. It blooms mid to late summer and through the fall.

Bog Bean - An interesting marginal plant that can spread 3' to 5' out in the water. The olive-green leaflets will rise out of the water. Hardy to zone 3.

Cardinal Flower -



Enjoy intense red spikes of flowers during the summer. Grows 2' to 3' high. It is a very easy plant to grow and winters over easily.

Flowering Rush - The 3' green stalks are topped with many small pink flowers. Very winter hardy and a very reliable plant. Flowering Rush is restricted in MN, NH, and VT. Please make sure you know your states laws.

Lavender Musk - This plant produces many 1" lavender flowers on soft green foliage. It is

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a long season bloomer and gives nice late season color to the pond. Grows to 24".

Marsh Marigold - One of the first plants to bloom in the spring. This 6" to 12" plant does well in full sun or partial sun. It will wilt back when the summer is hot but will come back in the fall.

Obedient Plant -



The lavender flower spikes accent the water garden nicely. It is a very vigorous grower and gets 2' to 3' high.

Pickerel Rush - Enjoy purple blooms all summer long. Grows about 2' high and about 2' wide. Very easy to grow. To winter this plant set it deep enough in the water so the tuber doesn't freeze.

Pink Butterfly Flower - This plant is also known as the swamp milkweed. Butterflies are attracted to the fragrant pink clusters of flowers. It grows about 3' high.

Thalia Dealbata - The broad canna-like leaves accent the water garden. Attractive purple flowers. Gets 6' high. To over winter this plant drop it deep enough into the water so the roots don't freeze.

White Pickerel - The white

blossoms have a long blooming period and it is a profuse bloomer. Grow and winter this the same as the above pickerel.

White Water Hibiscus - Also called swamp rose mallow. Large 4"- 6" flowers are white. Grows 4' - 5' tall.

Aquatic Mint - Enjoy the fragrance of mint and lilac-pink flowers. This plant is a fast grower and gives good coverage in streambeds. Gets 12" to 18" high. Can be very aggressive.

Dwarf Clover - This miniature version of the four-leaf clover has leaves that are 1/2" across. Cuttings of this plant can be planted between rocks along the ponds edge as long as the roots receive moisture.

Four Leaf Water Clover - The 2" - 3" four leaf clover plants float on the water surface sending their roots into the soil where they can. A fast grower and a good plant to help cover the water surface.

Golden Creeping Jenny - Use Creeping Jenny in and around the rocks of your pond and waterfall. It fills the voids and gives your pond a more natural look. It does get small yellow flowers.

Pennywort - This plant is excellent for streambeds or planted as a marginal plant. The 1" to 2" leaves stand 6" to 12" out of the water. A very fast grower.

Variegated Water Celery - Foliage is pink, green and white. A quick grower. Gets about 1' high. It is very winter hardy and can be

planted in stream-beds or in between rocks around the pond.

Dwarf Bamboo - The slender stalks of this plant grow 18" to 24" high. It is not a true bamboo but is a hardy plant that can be used to accent the water garden. It is also very winter hardy.

Gold Variegated Reed - The green and cream leaves and its lush foliage will attract your attention. Grows to 4' high and spreads very quickly.

Graceful Cattail - Slender pale green foliage. Grows 4' high.

Sedge - The stems of this ornamental grass plant have 3 sides. This plant grows 2 to 4 feet tall. It is a fast grower and an excellent plant for filling in an area of the pond.

Strawberries and Cream Ribbon Grass - Attractive foliage with striking green and cream stripes. Good grower that gets 18" high. A good addition to the water garden.

Variegated Cattail - The creamy



variegation of this cattail is a welcome addition to the water garden. Grows 4-5 feet tall. It is very robust growers so give it plenty of room to spread.

Variegated Giant Reed - Grows to

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7' tall and has green and white striped leaves. Very attractive. Should be grown in a large container. A very strong grower.

Blue Rush - This is one of the bluest aquatic plants. It takes some shade and is semi-evergreen. It is an easy plant to grow and get about 2' tall.

Corkscrew Rush - The stems twist and "corkscrew". Grows to an average of 2'. Everyone really seems to enjoy this unique plant. It is also extremely winter hardy.

Goldstrike Rush - Striking dark green foliage with yellow-gold vertical striping. The plant maintains its variegation and is very hardy. It grows 2' to 3' tall.

Horsetail Rush - The dark green stalks of this plant are similar to bamboo. A popular choice. Gets 2' to 3' high. It prefers very shallow water to just moist soil. Evergreen in the winter.

Spike Rush - A charming plant that grows 12" tall. Hardy to zone 3. The grass-like leaves are tipped with small seed heads. Very easy to grow.

White Rush - Grows to 4 feet. Stalks are white with pale green stripes. It is a very attractive plant and nicely accents the water garden.

Zebra Rush - Adds a vertical accent to your water garden. The 2' - 5' spikes are green with white horizontal stripes. It is very easy to grow so give it plenty of room to spread.

Calla Lily *Zantedeschia aethiopica* -



The glossy leaves are arrowhead-shaped. Water Calla is an ideal background plant for a pond or tub garden. The large white blooms are truly magnificent. The plant grows about 2' tall and the blooms rise up near or above the top of the foliage. They need to be placed in the pond so that there is no more than an inch or so of water over the top of the pot. In lesser zones than 10 simply remove them from the pond and place them in a sunny window in a saucer kept filled with water. Given enough light and cooler home temperatures they will bloom most of the winter indoors too. Blooms in cooler water. Calla can be potted, or the rooted ends tucked into the rocks of a stream bed or water fall. Water Calla is hardy in zone 10 or higher.

Bog Lily *Crinum Americanum* - grows 2' tall and blooms on and off throughout the summer months. Large bulbs produce narrow leaves and thick flower stalks. Keep the top of the pot even with the top of the water or slightly higher. The flowers are a pure white color and very fragrant. Full sun to part shade. Hardy in zone 8 or higher. This plant can be potted, or the rooted ends tucked into the rocks of a

stream-bed or water fall.

Pitcher Plant - Can grow to height of 24 to 30". Pitcher hoods are uniquely angled keeping most water from entering. Veins are dark red filled in with a crisp white. Likes moist acidic soil and full to part sun. Hardy in zone 7 or higher.

Rain Lily *Zephyranthes Candida* also



known as; Rain Crocus, Bog Onion Grows only about 1' tall. It blooms in July, August and September. It is a small bulb that produces white blooms above the needle-like foliage that is dark green. It is semi-evergreen. Hardy to zone 7. Keep the pot even with the top of the water. This plant can be potted, or the rooted ends tucked into the rocks of a stream-bed or waterfall.

Society Garlic, Pink Agapanthus *Tulbaghia violacea* - Society Garlic grows 10 to 15 inches tall. Flowers May through September. Foliage is green edged white and flowers are lilac and rise above the foliage. Society garlic has just 4-9 grass-like leaves, each about a foot long and a half-inch wide. The leaves grow straight up out of a swollen underground rhizome that looks like a corm or bulb. A single 2 ft flowering stalk grows up from the center of the rosette of leaves. The leaves and flower

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140 Winslow Ave,
Rochester NY 14620

stems have a garlic odor when crushed. The leaves can be used in salads and in cooking. This plant can be potted, or the rooted ends tucked into the rocks of a stream-bed or water fall. Hardy zone 7 or higher. Winters nicely in the home in lesser zones.

Sensitive Plant (*Neptunia aquatica*) - The yellow sweet pea-like flowers on the Sensitive Plant appear in August and September on fern-like foliage that floats on the surface of the water. The plant itself is really cool because the leaves close when touched or disturbed by water movement. Place 2 to 6 inches deep. Hardy zone 8 or higher. □



If you would like to write an article for the newsletter or have an idea you would like to have researched, please send your article or your ideas to Norm James at gvpakc@rochester.rr.com

If your mailing address or email change or you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please send your change to: newsletter@gvpakc.org, or call Norm James at 334-3536.

Board Members 2009

President: Bob Wheeler
Vice President: Larry Hursh
Secretary: Jo Anne James
Treasurer: Denis Monefeldt
Pond Tour Chairperson: Norm James
Refreshments: Yvonne Wheeler
Newsletter Editors: N James, B Wheeler and L Hursh,
Webmaster: Norm James - gvpakc@rochester.rr.com

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 Bob Wheeler. (585) 461-5315 or e-mail BobWheeler58@gmail.com or visit the club website at <http://www.gvpakc.org>

Calendar of Events

May 7 2010, Meeting: Friday 7PM, GVPAKC meeting at Warner Castle. Bob Wheeler will talk about "White Lists and Black Lists. Invasive Plant and Animal Control Potential Impact"

June 5-6 2010, LilyFest 2010 at Bergen Water Gardens and Nursery, Churchville, NY.

June 6 2010, GVPAKC Plant Auction at 1:00PM at Bergen Water Gardens and Nursery, Churchville, NY.

July is National Water Garden Month

July 2 2010, No GVPAKC meeting. Meeting date change to July 9.

July 9 2010, Meeting: Friday 7PM, GVPAKC meeting at Warner Castle. Dennis Burns will speaker on "Oriental Garden Design"

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

Photo Suggestions

- Always use both hands to hold the camera.
- Take photos in a high-resolution setting.
- If your photos aren't sharp, the rest doesn't matter.
 - Use a tripod where possible.
 - Lean on something to help steady the camera.
- Composition
 - Rule of thirds - It Helps you organize an elements in a scene. The rule of thirds states that you divide your picture area into thirds like a tic-tac-toe diagram. The most important elements of your composition should be placed on the left or right vertical third and/or the top or bottom horizontal third.
 - Framing objects - A traditional way to direct attention to a subject is to frame it with something in the foreground.
 - Backgrounds - Backgrounds are as important as the subject in making the picture work. If they are messy or there is a lot going on, the distracting elements pull your eyes away from the subject.

Photographing Ponds

- Schedule your shoot wisely.
 - To help prevent over exposure, select an overcast day, an early morning, or a late evening to photograph the pond.
- When trying to photograph fish in the pond, a polarizing filter can help prevent reflection off the water surface.

Photographing Waterfalls with a Silky Effect

- You will need a tripod.
- Switch your camera to shutter priority mode (S or TV on mode dial).
- Set the shutter speed for 1 to 2 full seconds.
- You can also try to use a polarizing filter.
- Overcast or cloudy days are best for this.

Photographing Koi in Show Tanks

- Use a polarizing filter.
- Use a dark blanket or a sheet of cardboard to block the sun or overhead lights.
- Use the highest resolution setting on our camera.
- Use a flash.
- Get as close as possible or zoom in.

Photographing Fish in a Pond

- Turn off waterfalls and fountains that could cause ripples in the pond.
- Take photos on calm days that are overcast.
- Use a polarizing filter on your camera.
- Try shooting from different angles.
- Try baiting your fish to the surface.
- Practice is the best way to improve your fish photos.

Photographing Fish in Ponds

- Koi will not pose for you, so you need to be ready and keep shooting.
- When shooting on a sunny day, put the sun behind you.

- Walk around your pond to see different reflections and water clarity.

Norm's tips for taking photos of Koi underwater

- You need clear water in the pond.
- You will need a fish tank.
 - My tank is 18"x8"x12"
- A digital camera with a moveable LCD screen is helpful.
- Place your camera in the bottom of the fish tank with the lens near the side of the tank.
- Float the fish tank in the water with your hands inside the tank, holding the camera, so that you can press the shutter.
- Push the tank lower into the water until the camera is a little below the water level.
- Be careful NOT to lower tank so low, that the top of the tank is below the water.
- Wait patiently and hope the fish get curious and swim by.

Photographing Aquarium Fish

- Add light to the top or side of the tank, not to the front.
- Do not use a flash on camera, it will bounce off the glass and wash out the photo.
- Keep lights behind your camera turned off, they reflect on the tank glass.
- You may have to place your camera at different distances from the tank for correct focus.
- You may want to try macro-focus.

Photographing Pond Plants

- Get up close to the flowers, and use macro-focus.
- Take photos on cloudy, overcast days.
- If shooting on sunny days, try to shoot in the morning or late afternoon.
- Take photos after a rain. This is a magic time to shoot flowers.
- If no rain, try using a small spray bottle filled with water to spray flowers.
- You can try using a black or dark background behind the flowers.
- Insects on flowers can add interest to the photo.
- Try to wait for the wind to die down or you can use your body to block the wind.
- Don't just shoot down on flowers. Get down and shot from the side.
- Caution: when shooting waterlilies from the side, make sure that camera doesn't get in the water. I keep 1 or 2 fingers under the camera so I can feel the water.

Photo Editing

- Editing photos allows you to enhance and or fix photos. You can sometimes save a photo that you may have otherwise thrown out.
- Software
 - ACDSSee Photo Manager
 - Adobe Photoshop Elements
 - Adobe Photoshop CS
 - Microsoft PhotoDraw
 - Microsoft and Mac have photo-editing software with their newer operating systems.
- Try to limit the number of times you edit a .JPG file. Every time you edit a .JPG file it will lose image quality.