



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

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New Watergarden Plants for 2004



Vanilla Sky is a medium to large tropical water lily. It has a creamy white flower set against lightly speckled olive green pads and is viviparous as well. This is a 2003 in-

roduction by Craig Presnell.



Cynthia Ann is a great peach hardy lily which is ideal for small ponds and tub gardens. It produces abundant peach blossoms four to five inches in diameter, that stand well above a

backdrop of lightly mottled foliage. This is a Kirk Strawn hybrid named by Joe Tomocik of the Denver Botanical Gardens.



Miami Rose is a red tropical water lily with flowers which have more than 50 petals! The striking and bold foliage make it a great choice for those who like lots of color! It is a great bloomer and this medium size lily will adapt well to any sized pond.



Islamorada is a breakthrough in water lily development. This tropical lily has unique purple flowers speckled with white, giving each petal a polka-dot appearance. It was developed and released by Florida Aquatic Nurseries in 2000. This is a medium grower and a good bloomer.

Fish of the Month The UTSURI MONO



This Utsuri Mono took Grand Champion at the 20th All-Japan show held in Tokyo in 1988.

The Utsuri is basically a black fish which carries a second color, either white, red or yellow. It is of the Showa type in the pattern of the Sumi and has the requirement for Motogura (black base) on the pectoral fins.

The scales of the Utsuri have a cone shape to them, these being more noticeable in the Ki (Yellow) Form.

- **Shiro Utsuri**—This is a Sumi background on which are placed white patches of color, Shiro meaning white.
- **Ki Utsuri**—Ki means yellow, so here the patches are yellow on black. An orange tint to the yellow is considered the finest.
- **Hi Utsuri**—This is obviously red on black and the standard is very high in this color.
- **Doitsu Utsuri**—This is an Utsuri with either mirror scales or no scales (leather).

This month has passed fairly successfully. I must apologize, however, for the last minute cancellation of the planned photography discussion and presentation. We will be attempting to reschedule it shortly, for sometime later in August, before the lilies and other plantings start to fade. Our meeting and participation at LilyFest were quite successful. We learned a great deal about water lilies from the presentation that Paula Biles did for our club. Her easy manner and helpful hints were appreciated by everyone. She continued to show her versatility and knowledge about additional water gardening topics and design ideas with the presentations that she offered at LilyFest. One of her suggestions was the use of a small container water garden as an opening or parting view of your garden or home entry. This helps to set or continue the mood of a relaxing garden or pond scene. As a thank you to the club for the support and kindness that we showed her on her visit, she personally donated a copy of Ortho's book *All About Water Gardening* for the club library. She also left us some of the colorful IWGS T-shirts, on consignment, that we can sell or raffle as a fund raiser. We sold half of them at the meeting and LilyFest. We have mostly large and x-large sizes remaining and (1) 2x. If anyone is interested, they are \$20 and will be available until July 20th. During one of our many conversations, Paula advised me that, as a club, we are eligible to participate in the IWGS water lily trial program. I submitted a new membership form with the request that our club be added to this trial list. If we are accepted, we can receive up to five water lilies. We can distribute them to members who would be willing

to grow them in their ponds, monitor some of the growing conditions and the plant and flower response and report this back to IWGS. If we should happen to have more members that are interested participating in this trial than we have lilies, we will distribute them by luck of the draw. Speaking of drawings, Larry Lammes was the lucky winner at the Friday meeting of the trip to the IWGS symposia in Toronto. The trip package was donated specifically to the club by the Naus/ Bergen Water Gardens and Nursery. I would like to thank them for this and all of their many donations and continued support of our club. Ray Lucas was also a big help again with his support of our hobby answering questions about ponds, water gardens and aquariums during all the days of LilyFest. Thanks to product donations from him, Bergen Water Gardens and plants from various members, Ray was able to raise over \$800 for the club through his auctioneering abilities. He also donated some items for our meeting raffles. He contributed information on aquarium fish in the form of magazines and *The Guppy 1859-1967* to our library. These events may also have been helpful to club growth since we had inquiries from two families regarding possible membership in the club. If any of our members know of others who would be interested in or might benefit from our programs, we would be willing to add their names to our mailing list for a trial period. Now is a good time to recruit new members because the rate is lower for new members and they would be eligible for the pond tour and picnic. Your support in this, as well as in all of our programs, is greatly appreciated.

Hopefully, you did notice from the calendar that we will not be meeting on the first Friday of this month because of the holiday weekend. We will, however, have an offsite meeting on the following Friday, July 9th at 7:00 pm to tour the gardens of Jerry and Karen Kral. They are located at 900 Winton Road North and it is on the right side of the road about 1/4 mile north of the Merchants Road intersection. Currently, parking along Winton Road is not restricted and additional parking is available on the nearby side streets which do have alternate side parking regulations. The driveway is quite narrow and we would like to reserve that space for people that may have special parking needs. It is a special treat to visit this exceptional garden that has been featured on TV, in the newspaper and various garden tours. The garden area is larger than you might at first expect. It consists of approximately a quarter acre front garden and a backyard garden that is at least twice that size. The front yard features an unusual circular rose garden as well as a triple tiered raised bed terrace garden. This terrace garden displays 21 varieties of conifers as well as many other varieties of rare shrubs, perennials and grasses. The backyard gardens consist of many raised beds with stonework retaining walls and various "garden rooms". These are all woven together by various meandering bluestone walking paths. There are several interesting water features and a goldfish pond that is home to some special goldfish that Jerry has managed to maintain through many of our hard winters. The following day, Saturday, July 10th from 10:00 am - 4 pm

is the RCGC Garden Tour "Artful Gardens". The theme idea for this years tour is to experience the magic of art as a part of the garden and landscape. The stops will include the gardens of several Rochester artists. Tickets are \$15 in advance for members and \$20 for non-members as well as for all on the day of the tour. Call 473-5130 our visit the website at www.rcgc.org for additional information.

Niagara Frontier Koi and Pond Club had to reschedule their pond tour to July 17th. They start their tour at 9:00 am and distribute the maps and instructions at the first stop. If anyone is interested in participating in this tour, I can give you a few more of the preliminary details details. Please let us know by July 14th so that we can make arrangements with their club to have the necessary maps available.

The Bergen Water Gardens and Nursery/GVPAKC trip to Toronto is scheduled for July 23 and 24. This group of eleven should well represent the club and the Rochester area. I hope that from the various presentations, we will also gain new insights and learn of the latest developments and techniques in water gardening and water lily husbandry to form the basis for a presentation at the August meeting.

Our pond tour for July 31st is progressing quite well. Thanks to the efforts and contacts of Larry N., the afternoon session has been filled with new ponds for us to view. We could still use one or two more ponds for to fill out the morning session. Ponds on the east or south side of the city would work best. If you are

interested in having us visit your pond or need more information, please call: Brian Nagel at 385-0495 or Larry Hursh at 473-6276.

An interesting note from *Flowers and Fins*, the newsletter of the Springfield Watergardens Society.

Using a white fish as a water tester?

When a fish is stressed by rising ammonia levels that can quickly lead to a rising and deadly nitrite accumulation, the fish will display a blushing in the fins and tail. This blush is not noticeable in fish with colored fins. Furthermore, the blushing will spread as the stress increases. The final and most deadly stage of nitrite poisoning is when heavy red veining shows on the fish's body. So, if and when you see red fins and a rosy blush on the fish's body make certain that you check your ammonia and nitrite levels as soon as possible. The author goes on to suggest that it is not necessary to go right out to purchase a white koi or goldfish but if you have one already always check it first to monitor for and possibly minimize any problems. If you don't have either of these white colored fish, you may want to consider purchasing one as part of a future acquisition.

From the same newsletter is information on another aquatic pest--Sandwich men moth larvae. The larvae wrap themselves in floating plant debris and will eat the water lily pads. Scooping them from the water is the only safe remedy to save your water lilies, since they can eventually work their way into the stem and can then burrow down the stem and sometimes even get down into the rhizome to pupate.

Another timely topic from *KOI*

USA is a fish pond vacation planning guide. The author suggest that you document many of your routine pond maintenance procedures in writing so that you can pass them on to the person(s) that will be monitoring your pond while you are away. They will also be your guide for you to prepare to leave your friends in someone elses care. Some of Robert Streutker suggestions along with some from others are included to help you start your plan.

Pond Area:

- * Water level should be within a couple of inches of the high level mark
- * Fish should be swimming normally and not at the surface for air
- * Display the normal amount of food per feeding

Filter Area:

- * The pump should be cleaned and running well
- * Clean the filter and strainer and note their appropriate levels.
- * Check for leaks

General Operation:

- * Assure that you are at the proper aeration level
- * Feed regularly but do not overfeed.
- * Add beneficial bacteria to maintain filter efficiency.
- * Maintain water level with additions if necessary
- * Discuss method for aging or treating make up water

Additional Tips and Suggestions:

- * Take pictures or make sketches to highlight locations and functions of accessories and controls referred to in the instructions.
- * Leave phone numbers for where you can be contacted and others that may be helpful in any emergency situations.
- * Have treatment chemicals available in case you have to have them treat a problem
- * Bad things can happen so

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prepare them on how to dispose
of fish that may die

- * List some steps that they may
take in case your fish start to
disappear due to possible
wildlife visits

- * Finally prepare a trouble
shooting guide based on your
experience with the more
common problems of your
system

- * Relax and enjoy yourself.