



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

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GVPAKC 2005 Plant and Product Auction



A heartfelt thanks to Ray Lucas for helping with the GVPAKC 2005 Plant and Product Auction at Bergen Water Garden's Annual Lily-Fest. People from as far away as the Niagara Frontier Pond and Koi Club, as well as local people with an interest in ponds and members of the club joined in the bidding. Seated among the bidders, a pair of fuzzy ducklings who came as guests, eyed an assortment of tasty additions for their home pond.



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

The heat and sun came at a bad time for both LilyFest and our plant and product auction. Even though attendance was down slightly on both days, probably due to the hot weather and sudden sunshine, we were able to renew a previous membership and obtain another potential pond for the tour. Two other families expressed an interest in participating in the tour and possibly joining the club later. Ray Lucas did a great job of answering questions about fish and ponds and providing information on potential new products and changes in our hobby. He provided us with some materials for our meeting raffles as well as many items for the auction. There were some fantastic prices on the pumps, filters and foods that he and his sponsors donated. Bergen Water Gardens also donated some great waterlilies and plants to augment those donated by our members. The auction was successful in so far as we were able to meet our expenses and still show a profit of slightly over \$1000. Since we use this as the primary fund raiser to support our educational efforts, I would like to hear from you regarding potential speakers, topics, videos, books or other educational items that you would like to see as part of the club programs. It is especially important to respond soon, since additional lead times are necessary to schedule major speakers, if that is what you wish. We will also discuss this and your other suggestions at our meeting on July 8th.

There are a couple of items that will help to close out the month of June.

NFKPC will be holding their koi and pond show on June 25-26 at Masterson's Garden Center in East Aurora. They usually have some fine koi and you can compare your favorite picks with those of the judges. Ray Lucas will be there supporting them and providing many items for their auction on Sunday the 26th at 1:00 pm.

There will also be a regional NAWGS meeting in the Lodge at the Gander Mountain store in Henrietta on Monday the 27th at 7:00 pm. I haven't heard yet what the topic might be but it is another opportunity to meet additional ponders and obtain more information about the hobby.

I have also learned that a local group is going to start a regional chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). (Currently the closest chapter is in Ithaca.) Since some members have inquired about suitable plants for the rocky areas around their streams and water features, I requested that they send some preliminary information to the club. With a little luck, we should have additional information to share at our meeting. If there is sufficient interest, we could contact them for information regarding a possible guest speaker to do a presentation on those plants for our application.

It is hard to believe that we are almost ready to enter the start of the month of July. This is the start of National Pond And Water Garden Month and it appears that it will be a very active and full month of tours and activities. I hope that we

can do our part to make it a memorable one. We hope that you will have a pond party or picnic of your own to celebrate the 4th of July and perhaps take time to try something different to enjoy your pond in a new way.

July 8th will be our meeting to discuss some of the issues mentioned previously as well as the status of our ponds and tour.

The 9th-10th will be the NAWGS Parade Of Ponds. Your ticket for a \$10 donation to this year's charity is good for both days. The hours are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both days.

July 16th features the RCGC summer garden tour to special gardens along Lake Ontario from Hilton to some along Beach Avenue. Advance tickets are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members and the day of the tour.

The NFKPC pond tour will be on the 23rd. This year the tour will feature perhaps 8-10 ponds north of the city. Greg Young will try to have additional information to us by our meeting. The IWGS symposia in Bethlehem, PA. is also that same weekend.

We hope to end the month with our tour on the 30th. We are still confirming the status of a couple of ponds and have room to add 1 or 2 more. If possible offer your pond or a friends who may not be a member.

I have had several calls from other people regarding the proliferation of algae this year. Several members have confirmed that it has been a greater problem for them as well and there have also been some problems with a murky appearance of the water too. The algae bloom is most likely due to the unusually

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cool but somewhat sunny spring. The algae will grow in cooler water than the plants and beneficial bacteria. Since there is little competition for the nutrients, the algae take it all and grow vigorously.

MAKC magazine had some interesting notes regarding UV clarifiers/sterilizers as a possible aid or in some cases a detriment to controlling this problem.

The UV light must be in the 250-280 nanometer wave-length range to be effective. UV-C light which is in this range has its peak germicidal efficiency at a wave length of 264 nanometers. At that range, it is most lethal to microorganisms and water borne algae. The organisms must be in direct contact with the UV-C light for a sufficient time for it to penetrate the cell wall/membrane. When done this way, they now believe that it allows the light to alter the organisms nuclear material (DNA) by either destroying it or rendering unable to reproduce. This is very beneficial in eliminating or minimizing the waterborne algae and harmful bacteria conditions and can provide a more healthy and clear water for the pond.

Unfortunately, they explain that it will have little effect on the string or filamentous algae that is already attached to the surfaces of the pond, pots, rocks or other materials. They further caution that, as a result of eliminating the nutrient consuming waterborne or free floating algae, the nutrient (nitrogen) levels in the pond may even increase. The result of this may then be a greater increase in the amount and growth rate of the filamentous algae.

The natural solution to this is to create a natural balance by using

aquatic plants to consume and control the nutrient levels. This may require more substantial plantings or hardier plant materials that will start their growth cycle at lower temperatures and earlier in spring. For those pond keepers who prefer to limit or have no plants in their ponds, establishing a bog filter can be a very productive alternative. (If time permits, I will also review some of the information on recent directions for preparing a bog filter at this month's meeting). Another alternative is to utilize the often discussed barley straw to work its break-down products (mainly hydrogen peroxide) to control the string algae. A final proposal is to provide routine water changes of up to 50% to dilute the high nutrient levels. This is a significant water change and would require great care to assure chlorine free and temperature adjusted make-up water.

On the positive side, a UV unit will have no effect on the beneficial bacteria, which are also attached to the sides of the pond and the associated equipment and filters and, therefore, will not be processed through the UV unit. It will have no residual effect on your fish or plants and other wildlife since they also do not come into direct contact with the light path.

From an operational point of view, the UV equipment must be properly designed, be in the proper wave length, have the correct exposure intensity, provide accurate flow rate recommendations and have good UV transmissibility. The condition of the water being treated has a profound effect on the UV transmittance. Therefore, positioning the UV equipment, after some type of mechanical filtration, will

allow greater light transmittance and will reduce the amount of cleaning necessary for maintaining the quartz sleeve as a clean/clear protector around the UV lamp. A UV sterilizer can find a place in your pond or water garden and will offer some unique benefits. Like all of your pond equipment, it has basic operating guidelines and maintenance requirements that must be followed to keep it operating properly and efficiently.

One of the more recent fads is the use of container water gardens not only as a specialty water garden for people with limited space, but as an accent or anticipation factor for the larger water feature or pond that you have at another yard location. I thought that some of this information in an article in *KoiUSA* might be of interest. The listing of plant materials and their usefulness as various design elements seemed especially helpful and could also carry over to our regular pond designs.

In a container water garden, you can place the plant materials directly into soil in the container or you can plant them in removable pots that can be positioned into the water just like in the pond.

(Planting in removable pots is the more common approach. It has the advantage of exchanging plants easily as they come in and out of peak visual interest. The container is easier to clean if/when a problem arises and the plants can readily be adjusted for their optimum depth in the water.) In either method, you want to use a heavier clay base soil not a standard potting soil or other soil type product that may contain peat, compost, vermiculite, bark or other materials that might float to

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the surface.

After planting, use only aquatic fertilizer to minimize the unwanted algae bloom that could be caused by regular plant fertilizers. You can then top off the soil layers with a decorative layer of gravel if you so desire. Finally, add additional water slowly to bring the volume to the appropriate level.

Now, it is time to consider the design elements that you would like to incorporate into the site and plant material selection. It is important that the design aspect be fun and should reflect your personality. Some elements to consider are:

- Create a focal point with color or texture.
- Use various height plant materials with the tallest about 1 1/2 times taller than the container.
- Using an odd number of plants can yield a more pleasant design.
- Keep the design simple.
- Conceal portions of the container edge by using cascading plants which make it more pleasing to the eye.
- Add details or accessories to highlight the arrangement.

Here are some examples of what each component may bring to the design:

Tall plants add vertical lines.

Broad leaved plants add mass.

Low plants can add a cascade effect

Floating leaved plants add the horizontal line.

Small floaters become accents.

Color can create a mood whether from foliage or bloom.

Foliage and flower texture lend additional interest.

Texture can also alter the appear-

ance of colors. Fine textures appear softer in color and stronger textures appear clearer and more intense.

These are some of the plant suggestions.

Slender Foliage

Cattails - Typha Species

Rushes - Scripus sp. & Cyperus sp.

Reeds - Juncus sp.

Vertical Accents

3'-5' Taro - Colocasia sp.

Iris pseudacorus

4'-6' Umbrella Palm

Canna sp.

Thalia dealbata

Butterfly Ginger- Hedy-chium coronarium

6'-12' Egyptian -Cyperus papyrus

Mexican -Cyperus giganteus

Trailing Foliage

Parrots Feather - Myriophyllum aquaticum

Blue Moneywort - Lindernia grandiflora

Water Forget-Me-Nots - Myosotis scorpioides

Pink Sprite - Rotala indica

Water Zinnia - Wedelia trilobata

Bold Foliage

Canna sp.

Radican Sword - Echinodorus muricatus

Taro - Colocasia sp.

Colorful Foliage

Canna sp.

Crystal Confetti Pennywort

Variegated Sweet Flag

Ruby Red Creeper

Blue Medusa Corkscrew Rush

Black Flowering Sedge

Golden Creeping Jenny

Variegated Water Celery

Chameleon Plant

Colorful Blooms

Blue Moneywort

Calla sp.

Canna sp.

Cardinal Flower

Lobelia speciosa 'Compiment

Swamp Hibiscus

Marsh Marigold

Lotus

Water Iris

Fragrance

aromatic foliage

Aquatic Mint

Lemon Bacopa

Chameleon Plant

scented flowers

Butterfly Ginger

Pink Sprite

Water Hawthorne

certain species of waterlilies

Your container water garden could now change with the seasons as you mix and vary the plants according to what is coming into its peak cycle. Regular grooming and dead-heading will keep the garden looking its best and will prevent spent plant materials from decomposing in the water and fouling it. With luck and by using a few nearly hardy evergreen varieties, you should be able to keep it looking good throughout the fall. Of course in our area, the more delicate containers will have to be moved indoors or to protected areas so that they are not destroyed.



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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

- 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.

Purpose of the Club

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 or visit the club website at

www.ggw.org/gvpakc

Calendar of Events

- **June 23-26, 2005:** AKCA seminar in Tulsa, OK
 - **July 1, 2005:** No meeting due to holiday weekend.
 - **July 8, 2005:** Meeting Topic undetermined
 - **July 9-10, 2005:** NAWGS "Parade Of Ponds"
 - **July 16, 2005:** RCGC Garden Tour
 - **July 21-26, 2005:** IWGS Symposia in Bethlehem, Pa
 - **July 23, 2005:** NFKPC Pond Tour
 - **July 30, 2005:** Date for GVPAKC Pond Tour
 - **August 5, 2005: No GVPAKC meeting today.**
We are still trying to provide an off-site tour.
We will advise you of date and time as details are finalized.
 - **August 12, 2005:** NFKPC meeting
 - **August 12-14, 2005:** Koi America in Chantilly, VA
 - **September 2, 2005:** Holiday weekend no GVPAKC meeting.
 - **September 9, 2005:** GVPAKC meeting
- "Naturally Green" - A live gardening show every Saturday from **9-10 am** on **WYSL 1040 AM.**