



Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

Celebrating
Our
Tenth Year!

Volume 10 Issue 3

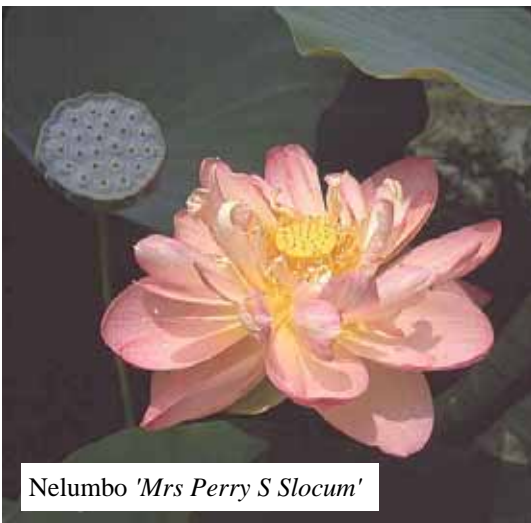
March, 2006

Perry D. Slocum (1913 – 2004) An American Legacy In Water Gardening



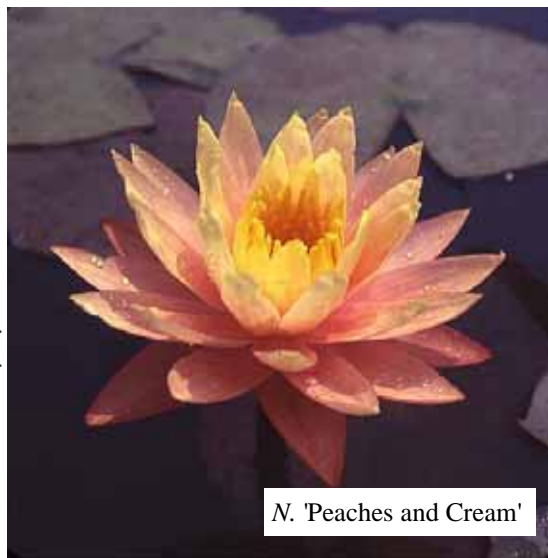
Perry Slocum, known throughout the world for hybridizing water lilies and lotuses, and also for his photography, was a New York native, born near Cortland, in 1913. He was raised on the family dairy farm, where he developed an interest in wildlife, and began photographing butterflies and wildflowers with a Brownie box camera. At 13, he and his younger brother ordered two hardy water lilies, 'Chromatella' and 'Conqueror,'

and one tropical, 'Blue Star.' The profuse blooms began a love that eventually became his life's work. At 15, with the help of his uncle, Perry built an 11-sided 10' concrete pond, and three years later, the crowded pond supplied the lilies for a second, earthen pond. Perry's love of lilies was interrupted while he studied at Cornell University and then went



Nelumbo 'Mrs Perry S Slocum'

on to Syracuse Medical School. But in 1938, his lifelong path was forged. A small display of water lilies at the Cortland County Fair, accompanied by Slocum Water Garden's first price list, drew hundreds of visitors. The brothers expanded their venture on 10 acres just north of Binghamton. After WWII, the family business was successful enough the family began vacationing every winter in Florida's warm sunshine. Slocum figured that Florida would be his dream place to operate an aquatic nursery. In 1963, when I-80 was routed through the Slocum home and nursery, Slocum Water Gardens moved Winter Haven, Florida.

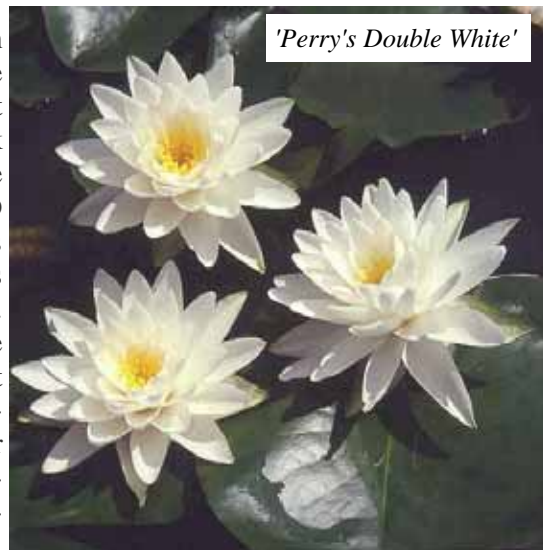


N. 'Peaches and Cream'



'Perry's Baby Red'

Perry's first introduction was *Nymphaea* 'Pearl of the Pool' (1946 plant patent 666) followed by N. 'Pink Sensation' (1947) and the superb N. 'Mrs. Perry D Slocum' (1962). Perry's changeable lotus was named 'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum' and is now the most popular and largest selling lotus in North America. He has named over 1,700 *Nymphaea Waterlilies* and nearly 700 *Nelumbo Lotus*.



'Perry's Double White'

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

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

I want to thank our presenters, Mike Tanzini and Larry Nau for making our meeting so interesting and informative about the various events in which we hope to participate as part of our anniversary celebration.

Mike started us off with an intriguing description and concept drawings of the very large pond that is to be the central feature of this year's GardenScape presentation.

Some of the proposals statistics of interest include a length of 180 feet and a width that will vary from 12 to 40 feet at various locations around the pond. This will result in a surface area in excess of 4,500 square feet and at a depth of 14 inches will contain more than 42,000 gallons.

An arched bridge will span the narrow area and there will be an artificial rock grotto with a tall waterfall that visitors will be able to walk behind. If splashing can be controlled, there will be an opening behind the waterfall through which visitors will look out to see the pond.

The edges of the pond will be designed and planted by various landscape companies to simulate their interpretation of gardens for lake front or pond side properties.

All of these features sounded great, especially when all of the pond work must be accomplished between 8:00 pm Sunday and 5:30 Monday when the landscape companies will be allowed to start their work. The entire project is supposed to be completed and operational by noon on Wednesday.

We hope that this has piqued everyone's interest, and that you will visit the show to see the results for yourself. Mike also stated that due

to the intense work schedule necessary to create the pond in the limited time frame volunteer workers would be welcome.

Larry N's presentations followed the break and highlighted the many opportunities for us to participate in various aspects of our hobby, gain new insights and possibly bring attention to the club. Again, our first opportunity is at GardenScape. Since the large pond will not be practical for housing fish, Larry is planning on featuring Koi at his display. He will have various specimens to illustrate some of the wide range of types and color patterns available. Larry also requested assistance from the club members, to help back him up at his display to cover lunch and other breaks. If you can help, please call either Larry N. at 293-1639 or Larry H. at 473-6276 with the day and time that you could be available.

For those with an artistic bend, he described the "Aquatic Art Competition" being sponsored by IWGS. A flyer regarding this is included with this newsletter. As an affiliated club, we are able to submit up to three (3) entries without charge. The deadline for entries is March 31, 2006 so your timely response is most important. We are willing to submit your entries through the club as long as we have fewer than 3 otherwise it will have to be on a first come first served basis. If you are interested in submitting an entire in this event, please call Larry H.

Larry also shared some of the details regarding the IWGS Annual Symposium in Florida on July 19-25. We will share more on this in future newsletters as the timeline is more remote at this time.

We have promised to help our neighbors at NFKPC to prepare and share some responsibilities at the AKCA program from June 22-25. Larry N. is actively involved al-

ready and announced that we have an opportunity to help on an April or May date. The plan is to start putting together the information packets that will be presented to the more than 400 attendees that are expected. We can use several volunteers and if there is sufficient interest, we could rent a van to simplify transportation. This would be a great opportunity to meet and get to know some of their members before the big and busy show. If you are interested please call Larry H. at 473-6276.

We have also agreed to supply volunteers for the AKCA book sales area during that event. We need at least two (2) people for the 23rd from 8 am-8 pm and on the 24th from 8 am to 5 pm. Larry N. has agreed to cover six of the hours. We really need additional volunteers to cover the balance of the schedule. Please consider getting involved in this event. Call and sign up as soon as possible so that we can assure our friends at NFKPC that we have adequate support to meet our promises to help. This is also a possible financial benefit to the club since a portion of the sales proceeds will come back to the club. A flyer for registration showing the options for this AKCA event is included in this newsletter. There is also a change in LilyFest this year. The date is June 3-4. Instead of having speakers and various presentations, Bergen Water Gardens will be offering special sale items. We will have Ray "Kingfish" Lucas supporting our club with his product displays and information sharing personality and his many donations for the plant and product auction on Sunday at 1:30. This is our major fund raising event for the year and as always we do need and look forward to your support of this effort. We will also need plant materials to supply for

(Continued on page 3)

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

the auction. Please keep us in mind as you make your plant divisions in spring and donate some of the extras for the auction. Again, we will share more details as the time and details of the event are finalized.

Our March meeting will feature the video "Conifers for the Rock Garden" from the Conifer Society. We hope that the information in this program will help our members to select appropriate samples to help lend scale to their streams and ponds and help to better integrate them into the surrounding landscape. Both Al Pfeiffer of *Oriental Garden Supply* and Larry Nau at *Bergen Water Gardens* have agreed to host a tour of their conifer selections at a later date in spring to help us find the materials we have seen or to select reasonable alternatives for our area.

Another off-site presentation that may be of interest is the RCGC "Spring Garden Symposium" on March 4th at the Eisenhart Auditorium.

The opening presentation by Noel Kingsbury "Wild about Perennials" will introduce us to naturalistic planting and design. It will help you to understand natural aesthetics and ecology necessary for proper plant selection.

Bruce Zaretsky will then develop the theme presentation

"Extraordinary Gardens for Ordinary People". He will show how, by using interesting and unique techniques and materials, you can create great gardens and features without investing a fortune.

Noel Kingsbury will offer the concluding presentation "Natural Planting for a Small Garden". In this program, he will discuss a looser almost wild style that can be an effective element in creating a smaller garden. You can contact RCGC for additional information and to make reservations.

Spring should be just around the corner when we have our April 7th meeting. To help us welcome this important season, we will have a program on preparing and using hypertufa to create planting troughs and boulders. This will also include a demonstration on how they can be shaped for use around our streams and water gardens. There will be a review of things that we can and should be doing to open the pond for the season. If time permits, I will offer some suggestions for creating fish caves to provide security and hiding places for our wet pets to protect them from some predators.

Speaking of predators, the Q & A e-mail that I receive from Mac Arthur Water Gardens featured the following information regarding heron raids in Florida. Basically, their contacts have reported good luck with using a pair of heron decoys to discourage real visits. Their theory is that, since the herons are territorial and usually alone except during mating, when they see a pairing already established, they avoid the area. This ties in well with the opposite reports that people who have used a solo decoy have actually attracted additional heron during mating season.

The more realistic the appearance of the decoys, both in size and color, the more effective they seemed to be. The metallic, artistic or stylized types may not be as good but that concept hasn't been tested that well. If you have had heron problems in the past, you may want to try this to discourage them before they return in spring. Most reports indicate that once they've found your pond (their buffet) they will be back. Good luck

I hope that everyone and their properties survived the high winds this

past week. There may, however, be some hidden concerns though for our ponds. The winds probably introduced some extra debris into the pond. It should be removed as soon as possible. This debris coupled with our warmer season could increase the potential for algae growth especially the string type which seems to continue to grow in the cold water. Since the majority of the plants are still dormant, we cannot rely on them to remove the nutrients from the decaying debris. If the water temperatures are in the mid forties, you could add some form of a barley straw product to get a jump start on controlling the nutrients and the string algae. You could also add some of the cold tolerant beneficial bacteria. These will start to break down the nutrients and fish wastes that may be generated by their eating some of the algae as they come out of their winter dormancy.

You should also check your water pH. In general, a higher pH level will facilitate and increase the growth of string algae. You could gradually lower the pH to the mid 7 range as a further preventative.

If you haven't added salt in a while, you could test to verify whether you can add a little more. This is necessary because the salt doesn't break down or evaporate and a concentration that is too high will stress the fish and may kill the plants. The salt treatment could be beneficial in two ways. It is a minor aid to controlling algae but it will also aid in minimizing some of the cold water parasites that tend to use the debris as a haven until they find a suitable host. Again, be careful to add the salt slowly over a period of several days. The salt should remain at the control level for a couple of weeks. After that, it can be diluted out through water changes.

I read another interesting note re-

Genesee Valley Pond & Koi Club Newsletter

cently on minimizing string algae. It may be a little premature for us to mention it now, but it should be helpful to remember it and try it during the summer months. You know how string algae usually becomes quite noticeable on streams, water falls and weeping walls as the summer progresses. Some pond enthusiasts have been experimenting with turning off the pumps that feed these feature for one day per week. This causes the string algae to die. It can be brushed off or hopefully will wash away when the water-flow is re-started.

We also have a few more things for you to think about during our down-time before the spring rush begins.

If you use a UV filter, now is the ideal time to perform the necessary routine maintenance. Since they are normally used for less than six months a year in our northern area, the UV lamp should be replaced every two years to keep it within the optimal emissions range. If you do run your UV all year or more than 7 months, it would be best to replace the bulb on a yearly basis. It is equally important to clean the protective sleeve that covers the bulb. This is necessary because if algae or other sediments have built up on the sleeve, the effectiveness of the unit is significantly reduced. Finally, before you re-assemble the unit, check the seals to make certain that they are not distorted or deteriorating. If there is any indication that there may be a problem, it is easier and safer to replace them now than to have them leak or possibly fail after you have re-installed the unit and started the filter system.

Here is a slightly different approach to estimating the fish load that may be appropriate for your pond versus

the old total inches of fish or pond surface area.

Ideally, you should provide about 50 gallons of water for each 8 inch Koi. However, each 16 inch Koi is estimated as equivalent to four 8 inch Koi and needs about 200 gallons of water. A 24 inch Koi is estimated to be equal to twelve 8 inch Koi and should have about 600 gallons of space.

These are idealized estimates and must be adjusted for the effectiveness of your filter and aeration systems. You must also remember, that within a good pond system, an 8 inch Koi can grow into a 12-16 inch fish within 1-2 years. The larger fish will also grow at a proportional rate up to about 30 inches. It is important to keep these changes in mind when you estimate your ultimate fish load or attempt to decide whether to build another pond, relocate, sell or share the extras with friends.

I think that we all like to experiment a little in an attempt to find new aquatic plants or garden plants that will adapt to water garden and bog conditions. In *Flowers and Fins*, the Springfield Water Garden Society Newsletter, they discuss some of the house plants that fall into this area.

The plants that they list as being worthy of the experiment are: Cast- Iron Plant (*Aspidistra*), Grape Ivy (*Cissus*), Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum*), Peperomia (sp), Philodendron (sp), Pothos (*Epipremnum*) and Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis* and *Zebra pendula*).

Their suggestions for getting started are:

Carefully un-pot the plant(s) of your choice. Wash the roots off well and remove any damaged roots and any leaves that may be under water. Place washed pea gravel or glass marbles on the bot-

tom of the rooting container. Place the plant in position and carefully spread out the roots and add enough pea gravel or marbles to secure the plant in place. The vining type plants may need a little extra material to hold them in place as they get larger. This will keep them from falling out of the container. Position the container in filtered light in a warm place and add or position the container in about 2-4 inches of water.

When you observe new growth or see new root growth, you can then add a weak solution of water soluble fertilizer to the water in which the plant is growing. Continue growing the plant in this manner until all danger of frost has passed. Take the plants outside and gradually harden them off. When they are ready, you can place them in your filter or in other shallow water areas. They will surprise you with how fast and how beautiful they will be especially if you have them in a bio- or bog filter. The plants will feed on the free nutrients in the water and will help to control potential algae problems.

Remember though that these are primarily house plants and they may not adjust well to full sun. If they are struggling, try moving them into an area shaded by taller plants.

I hope that you will experiment with these or other plants and cuttings that root in water.

Please tell us about your results.



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 or visit the club website at

www.ggw.org/gvpakc

Calendar of Events

March 3, 2006: There will be a video on "Conifers for the Rock Garden" that will be on loan from the Conifer Society.

March 4, 2006: RCGC Spring Symposium on "Extraordinary Gardens for Ordinary People" with Bruce Zaretsky and "Wild about Perennials" and "Natural Planting for Small Gardens" by Noel Kingsbury.

March 10, 2006: NFKPC meeting

March 16-19, 2006: GardenScape with the theme "Reflections"

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

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.