

Garden Notes

Northwest Horticultural Society

Summer 1994

Though blessed with abundant freshwater and saltwater scenery in the Northwest, many of us still desire an intimate water feature in our home landscapes. Whether a small pool formed in a ceramic bowl or an expansive pond created by a brook and refreshed by a waterfall, water in the garden has the power to charm, soothe, cool, add dimension, and create romance. The beauty and

tranquility of water settings are, for many, peerless. If you are contemplating the addition of a water element, the choices are varied. In this issue you will see a range of unique pools in Northwest gardens. You will also read about the ecological value of plants for ponds, imaginative water garden accessories, the fascination of koi, and how to develop a shoreline landscape.

The Allure of Water in the Garden



Redesign & photo by Lynn Sonnenman

Rhododendron Species Foundation Pond A naturalistic liner pond reflects native vegetation, rhododendrons, and other plants. It has strolling paths along its periphery and overhanging rocks so that visitors can reach the shore. This shallow pond did have fish, but they were all eaten by herons.

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Romanesque Water Feature

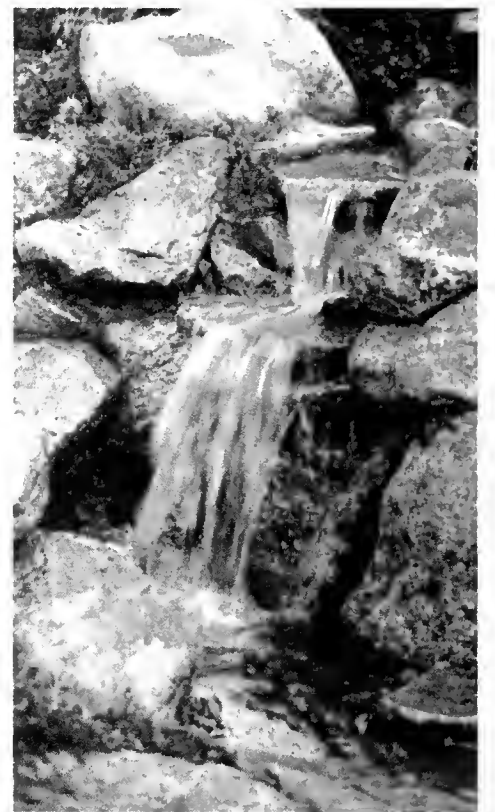
Photo by George Rudko

This architectural water feature is an integral part of a Romanesque terrace composed of six massive columns forming an outdoor pergola. By placing the water next to the living space, the naturalistic hillside and plantings are brought into sharper focus and become more visually accessible.

Garden Moat

Photo by David MacDonald

This unusual design feature, by the Olmsted Brothers, is a spring-fed moat. The water enters via a small waterfall midway, its sound creating a romantic mood and drawing one into the garden as you stroll along the parallel brick path. The brick wall to the left is backed with ferns, and in the summer perennials soften its lines.



Waterfall

Design & photo by Lynn Sonneman

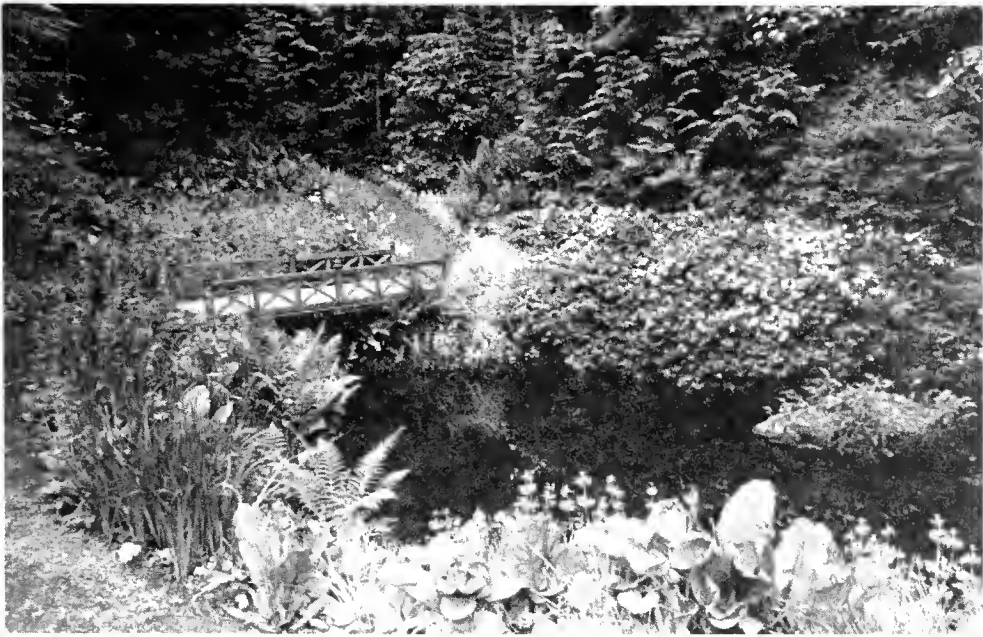
A lovely, naturalistic waterfall adds "splash" to the garden. Notice the use of flat rocks to spread the water.

Contemporary Pool

Design & photo by Lynn Sonneman

Simplicity is the key to this stunning contemporary pool. The liner is supported on the sides by concrete blocks. The overhanging patio stones are seated in mortar, while the rest of the patio stones rest on sand. The strategic arrangement of pavers creates a pleasing shape. Notice the overhang of the lips of the pavers.





Bloedel Reserve Christmas Pool

Photo by Mary Randlett

The Christmas Pool at the Bloedel Reserve, a gift to Mrs. Bloedel built in 1970, is located in a narrow ravine and intercepts and slows the water of a small stream. No liner was used, but rather hard-packed clay added slowly to the pond bottom and dam. The pond is planted with many spring-flowering perennials such as Candelabra primroses (*Primula pulverulenta*) and Trillium (*T. chloropetalum*, *T. ovatum*), and a variety of native ferns and shrubs. Turtle Rock in the center of the pond is covered with moss and licorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*).

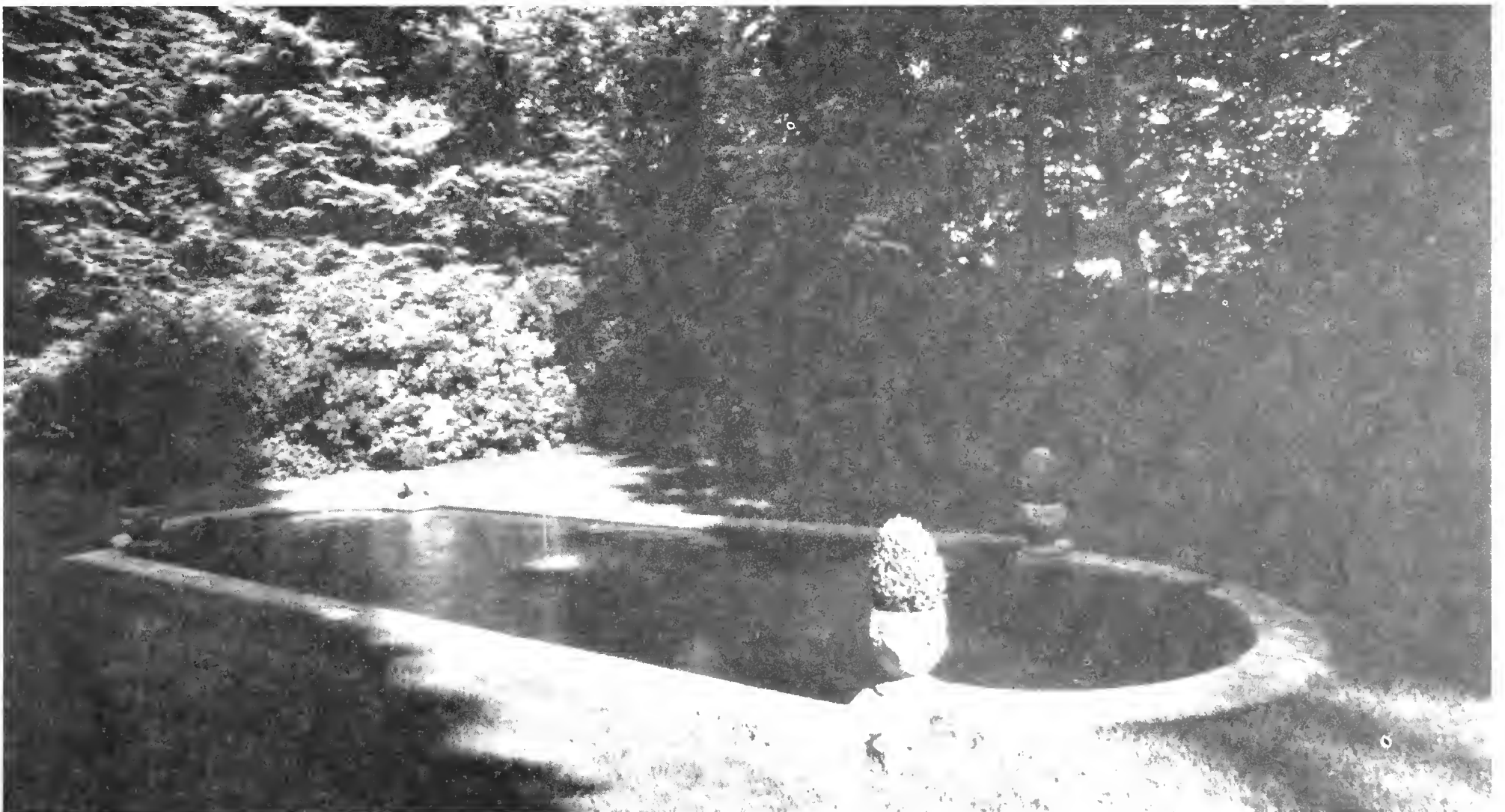


Basalt Cascade

Photo by Ted Marston

Design by Lankford Associates

Designed for both functional and aesthetic values, this modernistic reflection pool creates a dramatic statement at the entry of an urban townhouse. Water sheeting down the monolithic basalt column masks street noise and reflects the light of the sky as well as adjacent plantings, including dwarf variegated sweet flag and *Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum'. It also expands the sense of space within an extremely confined area.



Reflection Pool

Photo by David MacDonald

Built during the era of grand garden elegance, this reflection pool in its mature, natural setting provides a fine example of romantic, neoclassical style. Retained exactly as it was designed in 1927 by Edwin Evy, its owners are treated in the spring to a nightly chorus by hundreds of tiny green frogs.

Edging A Pond by Lynn Sonneman

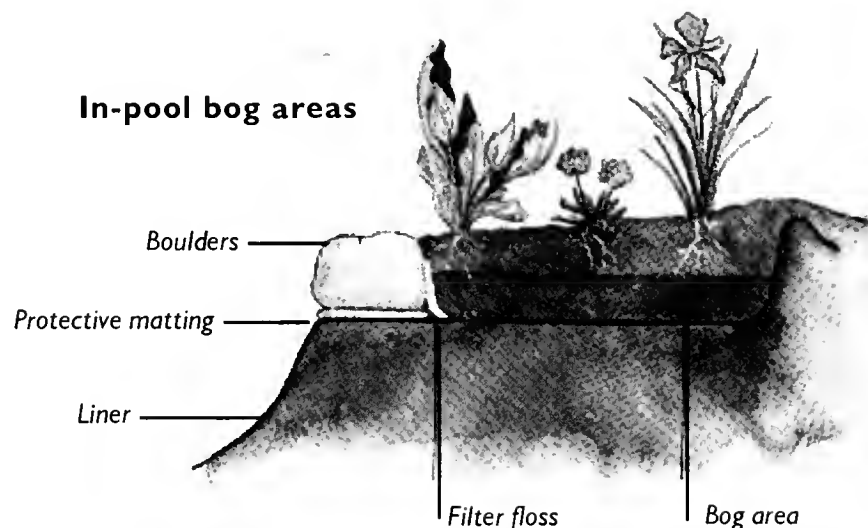
The careful planning of pond edges prior to the construction of your pond can have a lot to do with how well the pond integrates into the surrounding landscape. Particularly if a liner is used, it is important to be able to protect the vulnerable edges which, if left exposed, are susceptible to ultraviolet breakdown or puncture.

Aside from making sure that your levels are correct, the major consideration when planning your edging is how much wear and tear it will receive. Areas that are frequently walked upon or to which children have regular access should be reinforced with mortar for extra support.

For the "natural" pond, the main idea is to vary your shoreline treatment as much as possible. For example, a patio or deck overhanging a portion of the pond makes it easy to enjoy your pond at close range as well as provides access for maintenance and limits unwanted access to other areas. Blending a combination of some of the treatments shown below can result in a very naturalistic scheme, particularly if your in-pool bog areas are of sufficient size and the rockwork continues as out-cropping throughout the area. With the exception of a formal pond set with pavers, it is wise to avoid the "ring-o-rock" look common to most home-built features.

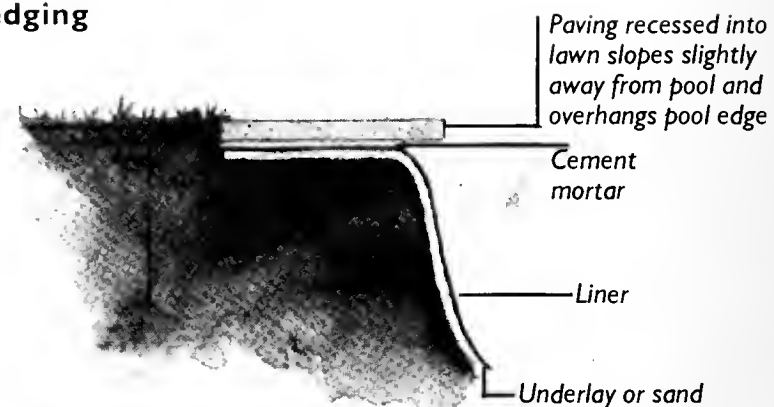
Setting the pond water level at least three to six inches below the surrounding grades insures that the pond looks properly embedded and not perched on top of the ground. This also makes it easier to hide and protect the liner with additional soil and create a natural grade.

Lynn Sonneman, of Sonneman Design, Inc. based in Duvall, Washington, specializes in the design and construction of garden water features.



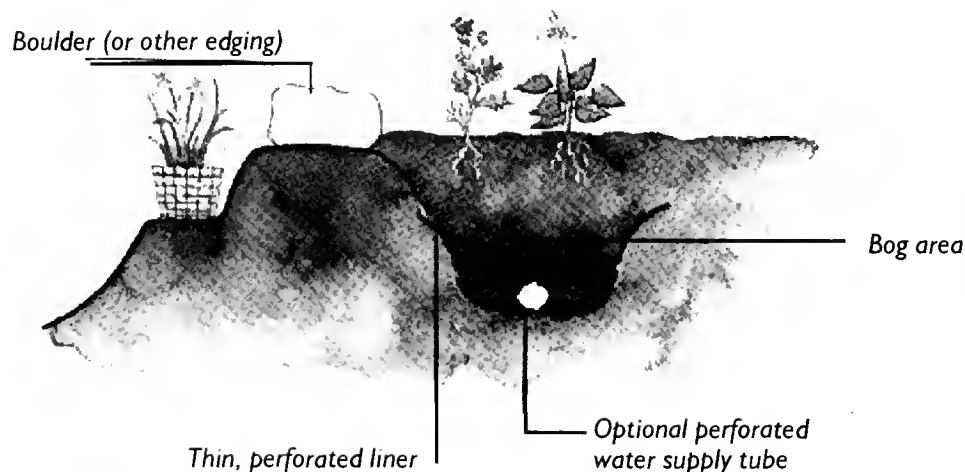
Bog areas can be built on boulder-edged wide shelves; a layer of filter floss will reduce soil seepage into the pond. Although they do provide constantly boggy conditions they have a number of drawbacks.

Paved edging



Recess paved edging into surrounding turf, bedding it on cement mortar. Remember to leave room for cables and hose.

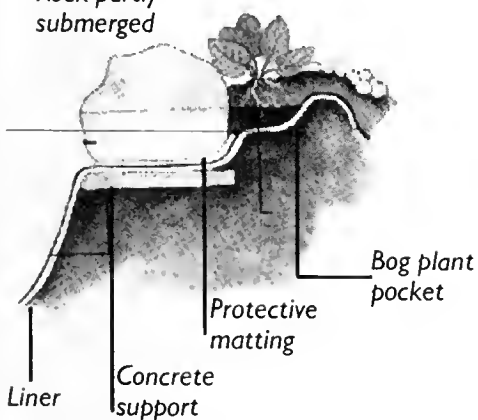
Bog areas beside the pool



Poolside bog areas are more easily maintained than in-pool ones and can also be added to existing pool or even built away from the pool. Ensure that the pond walls are not weakened by excavation.

Edging with boulders

Rock partly submerged



For the most natural effect, partly submerge boulders. Flap the liner up behind to form a pocket for bog plants.

Our Koi Pond

by Saskia Schott

Chris' grandfather is to blame. My husband Chris grew up in a small town in southwestern Ontario, called Stratford, where his grandfather had a small garden goldfish pond. Each winter grandpa took the fish inside, and Chris recalls as a child looking up at the lovely orange, red, and white shapes as they moved back and forth in the aquarium.

So, thirty-five years later, we had to have our own pond. I was quite interested because I had never tried water gardening and looked forward to water lilies and a variety of margin and bog plants. We found a place that sold plants and fish and proceeded to find out about building a pond.

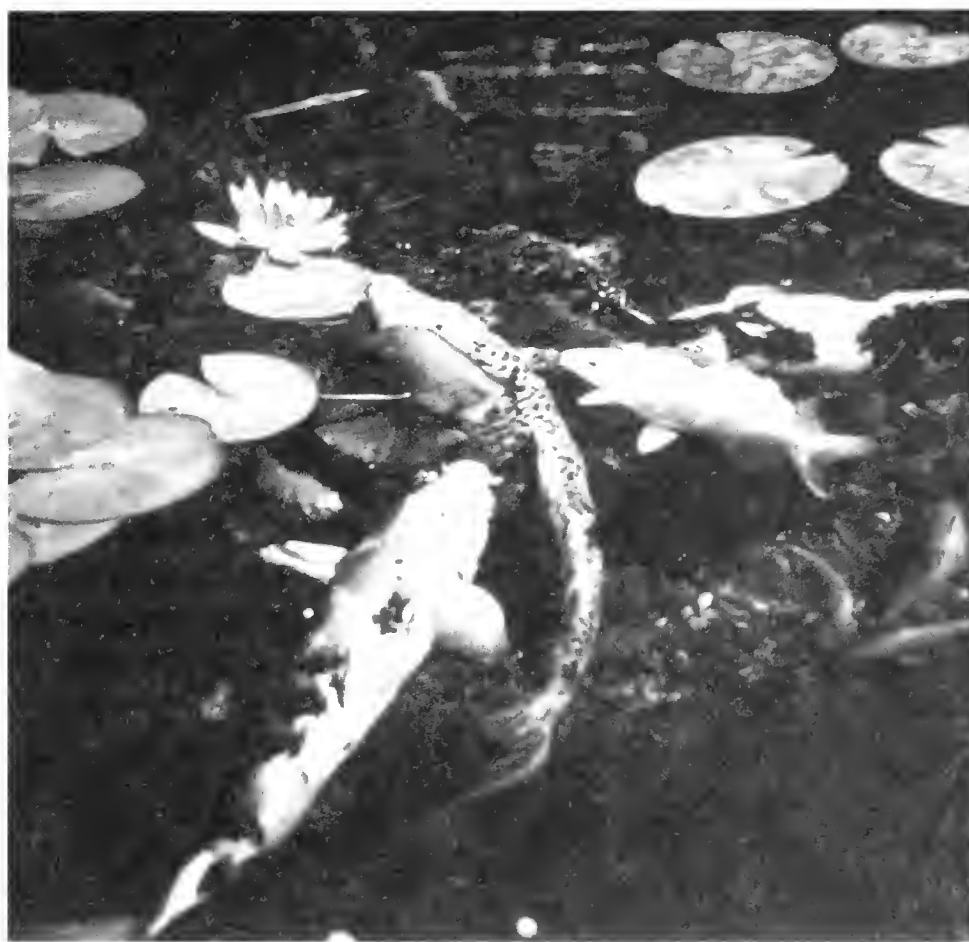
It took months of digging by Chris, in glacial till and hardpan, before we had our pond - twenty by eight feet in width and two to three feet deep. We decided to begin with just a few goldfish to test water quality. (Un)fortunately, in picking up our goldfish we were exposed to koi. Koi are ornamental carp, bred by the Japanese for a variety of colors and patterns.

We started with just a few fish, a small pump, and no filter. We now have two outdoor ponds (and one very large indoor tank), a waterfall, two outdoor pumps and a large outdoor filter, a pump and filter inside, six large goldfish that still act as test fish when needed, and fifty-one koi varying in size from three to twenty-five inches.

How we use our indoor tank may be of interest. Since koi hibernate during the winter, we selectively bring some of them indoors. Any that are sick are brought in for special treatment. If we feel a fish needs a little extra attention in order to grow, indoors it comes. And maybe we will bring in a particularly beautiful specimen to enjoy during the gray months.

We have been to two koi conventions sponsored by the National Association of Koi Clubs of America, three fish shows, won numerous prizes, met lots of wonderful people, and have experienced countless hours of dreams and enjoyment. And, of course, countless hours of hard work. And in the future...we talk and dream about tearing out the original liner pond, enlarging it, deepening it...well, I think you get the idea.

Saskia Schott and her husband Chris, knowledgeable gardeners who reside in the Pacific Northwest, are self-described fish fanatics. Saskia is chair of the Northwest Perennial Alliance.



Jumbo koi at feeding time.

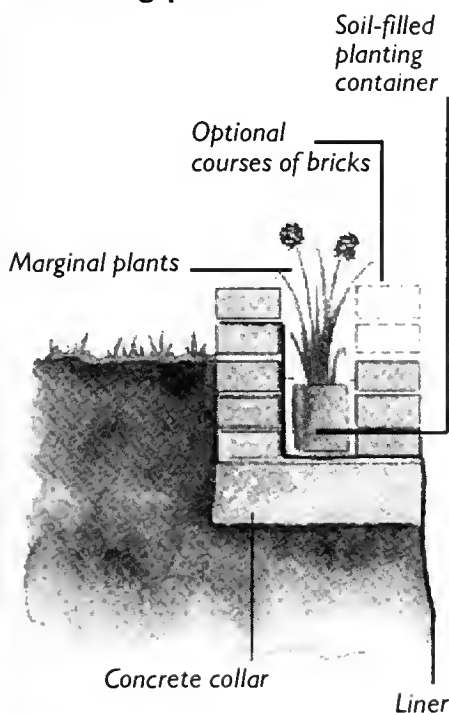
Photo by Lynn Sonneman

Planting pockets

Soil-filled planting container

Optional courses of bricks

Marginal plants



Koi can disrupt planting baskets so consider a planting pocket lined with matting to protect the liner and prevent soil erosion.

Illustrations and associated text from Water in the Garden by James Allison. Copyright © 1991 by Salamander Books Limited. By permission of Little, Brown and Company.

Don't Be Koi

What better time than now to learn more about koi, and clubs are a great way to start.

Dai-Ichi Koi and Japanese Garden Club of British Columbia. Kees Schaddelee, 3010 Spring Bay Road, Victoria, B.C. Canada V8N 1 Z3. (604) 477-5904.

Klahanie Koi Club. Philip Miesel, 133 Blue Mountain Road, Port Angeles, WA 98362. (206) 452-2266.

Northwest Koi & Goldfish Club, Zen Nippon Airinkai Chapter. Morris and Jeanie Bush, 5200 N.E. 109th Street, Vancouver, WA 98686. (206) 573-2320.

Olympic Koi Club. Lenee Karelsen, P.O. Box 1772, Poulsbo, WA 98370. (206) 779-9500.

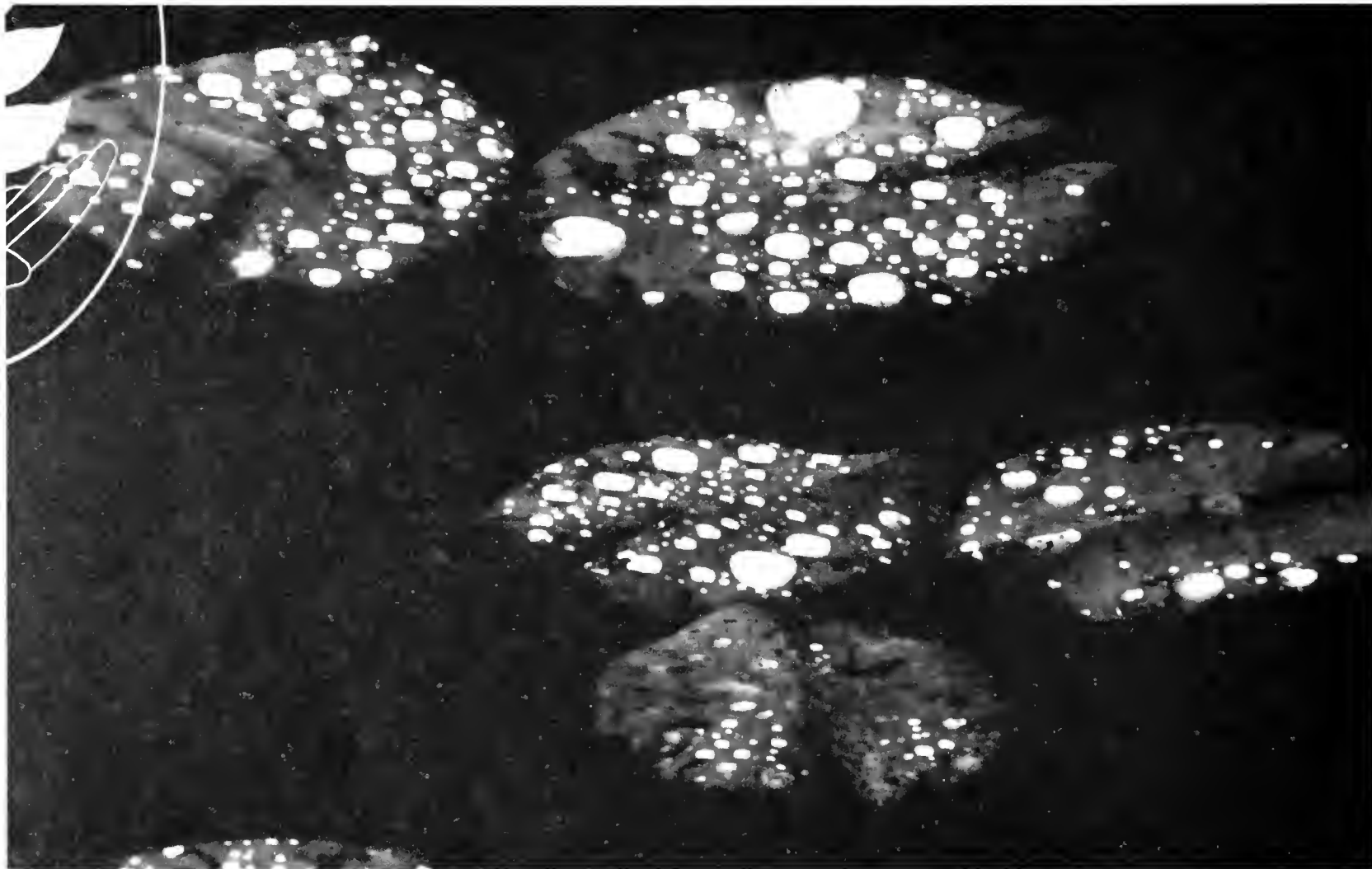
Puget Sound Koi Club. Ron Sorenson, 2247 S.W. 330th Street, Federal Way, WA 98203. (206) 952-3028.

Washington Koi and Water Garden Society (Seattle area). Ed Barnett, 10121 Evergreen Way, Suite 191, Everett, Washington 98204. (206) 668-6342.

Two regional koi shows are coming up: July 30-31, Northwest Koi & Goldfish Show, Portland, Oregon, contact Tony Prew (503) 591-7928. September 9-11, 3rd Annual Washington Koi & Water Garden Society Koi Show, 23714 Bothell Highway S.E., Bothell, Washington, contact Ed Barnett, (206) 668-6342.

Aquatic Plants -

In the foreground of this tiny courtyard pond is dwarf variegated sweet flag (*Acorus gramineus* 'Variegatus').



Raindrops resting on water lilies.

Photo by Phil Pearson

Many people believe that the water in a garden pool must be recirculated and filtered. When they dream of water gardening, they have nightmares about a green, scummy, mosquito-infested eyesore that requires expensive pumps and filters and lots of maintenance. But if you are sensitive to the cycle of a pool and have the patience to put up with a little cloudy water while nature takes its course, you can have a beautiful water garden with less maintenance than a lawn. Aquatic plants are the key.

There are four basic types of aquatic plants, and each plays its own role in a pool's ecology. In order to control free-floating algae in a garden pool, about two thirds of the surface area should be covered with some sort of foliage. This is most often accomplished by the use of surfacing plants. These plants are rooted in soil and their leaves float on the surface of the water.

The most widely-known surfacing plant is the water lily. The genus *Nymphaea* contains many beautiful species and cultivars. Hardy water lilies are available in a wide range of colors - white, pink, yellow, and wine reds. A few of them even change colors from cream to peach or even a coppery orange as they mature. Some hardy lilies, like the pygmy variety *Helvula*, have flowers the size of a half dollar and cover only about one or two square feet of surface area with their tiny leaves. Others, like the hardy pink *Hollandia*, have flowers eight inches across and can cover more than twelve square feet. Hardy water lilies will survive our North-

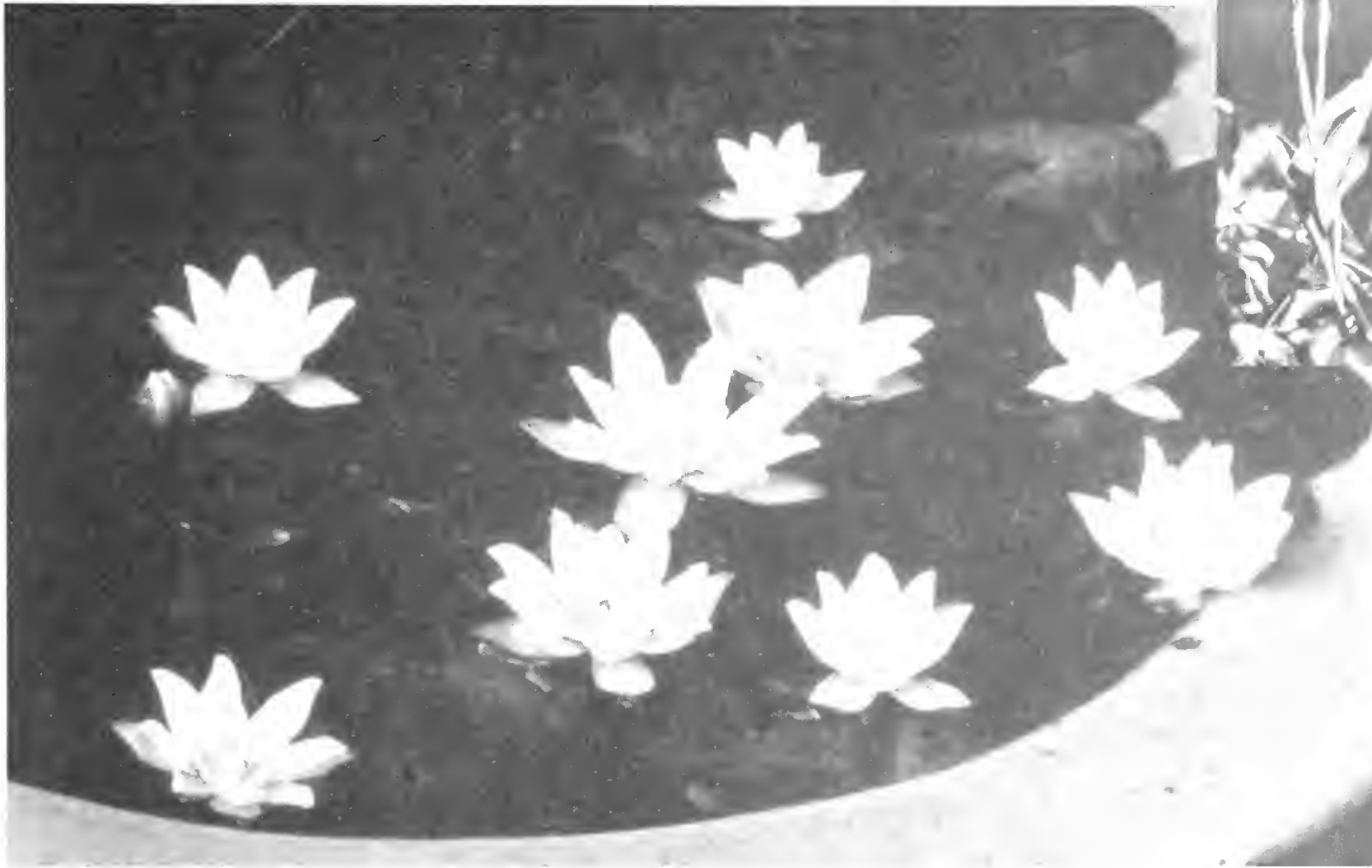
west winters as long as ice does not freeze the growing crown of the plant. In western Washington, six inches of water over the crown provides sufficient winter protection. Tropical water lilies are available in the same color range as hardies plus blue and purple. Tropical lilies will not survive our winters, but they are such spectacular plants that many gardeners treat them as annuals or store the tubers over the winter in damp sand.

Water lilies are not the only surfacing plants. The genus *Nymphoides* contains several interesting surfacing plants. *Nymphoides peltata*, floating heart, is a hardy plant which has small lily-like leaves and bright yellow flowers. The yellow snowflake and white snowflake are not as hardy as floating heart, but their richly variegated and delicate flowers make them a valuable addition to the pool. The patterned four-leaf water clover, *Marsilea mutica*, does not produce flowers, but the leaves have a beautiful pattern and texture. My favorite surfacing plant is the water hawthorn, *Aponogeton distachyos*. This plant likes cool water, so it grows best and blooms in the spring, when the water lilies are just waking up from their winter dormancy, and in the fall, as they are winding down after a long summer. The leaves are long and narrow (two by ten inches) and the white flowers are intensely fragrant. In a mild winter, water hawthorn will have leaves at the surface even when all other surfacing plants are dormant.

Submerged plants are rooted in soil and grow completely

The Natural Way to Clear Water

by Jan Barr



Miniature *Nymphaea tetragona* [Pagel's strain] grown by Steve Doonan of Grand Ridge Nursery.



Photo by Lynn Sonneman

Pickeral weed (*Pontederia cordata*) is an excellent plant for pond margins and best planted in pots of rich soil with three to six inches over the crown.

Photo by Phil Pearson

under water. They absorb the nutrients they need for growth from the water through their leaves, so they compete directly with the free-floating algae for available nutrients. In order to control algae, it should appear as though about one quarter of the pool is filled with submerged plants. Some common submerged plants are *Elodea canadensis*, *Vallisneria americana*, *Sagittaria subulata* and Cabomba.

Floating plants are not rooted in soil at all. They float freely upon the surface and gather nutrients directly from the water through sometimes spectacular root systems. These plants not only shade the surface of the water, they also remove nutrients from it, so they help combat algae in two ways. Some of the floating plants, like water hyacinth, *Eichornia crassipes*, have spectacular flowers, while others like the water lettuce, *Pistia stratiotes*, are grown mainly for their interesting foliage. Fish will often spawn in the root systems of these plants. Both water hyacinth and water lettuce are annuals in the Northwest. Other floaters like duckweed, azolla, and frog-bit are not as spectacular, but they are hardy and are good plants to use for algae control.

The last major category of aquatic plants is bog or marginal plants. These plants like to grow in shallow water or in constantly moist soil. They provide some shade and may remove some nutrients from the pool, especially if their roots escape their containers, but their main function in the pool is an aesthetic one. Marginal plants provide the essential visual transition between the flat surface of the

pool and the contours of the surrounding landscape. They provide a wealth of different flowering periods, forms and colors, and the diversity of their foliage adds still another dimension to the beauty of the pool.

Controlling the growth of free-floating algae in a pool using plants is not an overnight process. It takes time for the plants to become established in a pool, and for several weeks the water is likely to be quite green. But once the surfacing plants begin to intercept the available sunlight and the submerged plants absorb available nutrients, the algae die off. It is an amazing process to watch. One morning, as you stroll by with a cup of coffee, you will notice that the water seems a little clearer and in three or four days you will be able to see to the bottom of the pool! Add a few goldfish to the pool - they will grow fat on any mosquito larvae that hatch out - and your water garden will be the attractive, low maintenance focal point of your dreams, a special place that you will enjoy for years.

Jan Barr is the owner of the Roadhouse Nursery in Poulsbo, Washington and specializes in aquatic plants. She is current president of the Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association.

Adding Spirit to the Water Garden

by Prue Hammett

Limited only by imagination, water garden accessories can range from the sophisticated to the sublime, the artistic to the whimsical, the formal to the naturalistic.

Many Pacific Northwest gardens lend themselves to the "woody" natural pond environment and all the necessary accessories are right at hand. Seattle's Judith Jones, of Barford Ferns and Fancy Fronds fame and well-known for her natural-style pond building, assures us that the creation of a naturalistic water garden setting is easy. "Incorporating a unique cedar log, stump, or root with bracket fungi, ferns, native plants, and a few interesting river rocks, one can create a soothing water environment." Our mild climate allows for "dropping in" a tinted concrete or vinyl-lined pond and cantilevering the cedar or rocks for an instant waterfall. Submersible pumps include a hose which simply emerges from the wood or rock and can be camouflaged by moss.

A myriad of wonderful "dish rocks" are offered at Marenako's Rock Center (30250 S.E. High Point Way, Issaquah, WA). They come in different sizes and serve well as water containers. Other rocks can be added to the setting, forming dynamic sculptures surrounding the pond and creating a miniature, aquatic Stonehenge.

Architectural pieces - bits of old columns, doorway facades, balustrades, and wrought iron - create unusual statements. Seattle Building Salvage (202 Bell Street) is a great place to come across such finds. Clay or cement building materials such as chimney pots, brick pipes, and corner pieces can be used as focal points or as plant containers; Mutual Materials (605 119th N.E., Bellevue) offers such items.

Inexpensive waterproof urns, oversized vessels, and porcelain bowls can become instant pools and are found, along with curious wooden or metal ornamental pieces, at local import stores as is bamboo for the quick creation of a bamboo drip tube into a basin. Add a mushroom lantern and the scene is set. Votives can be floated on the water for nighttime drama.

Haunt junk shops and yard sales - personal creativity, broken pieces of china or pottery, pebbles and mortar are the ingredients for self-expressive mosaics. From import or craft stores or from an afternoon of beach combing, readily acquire driftwood, seashells, sea glass,

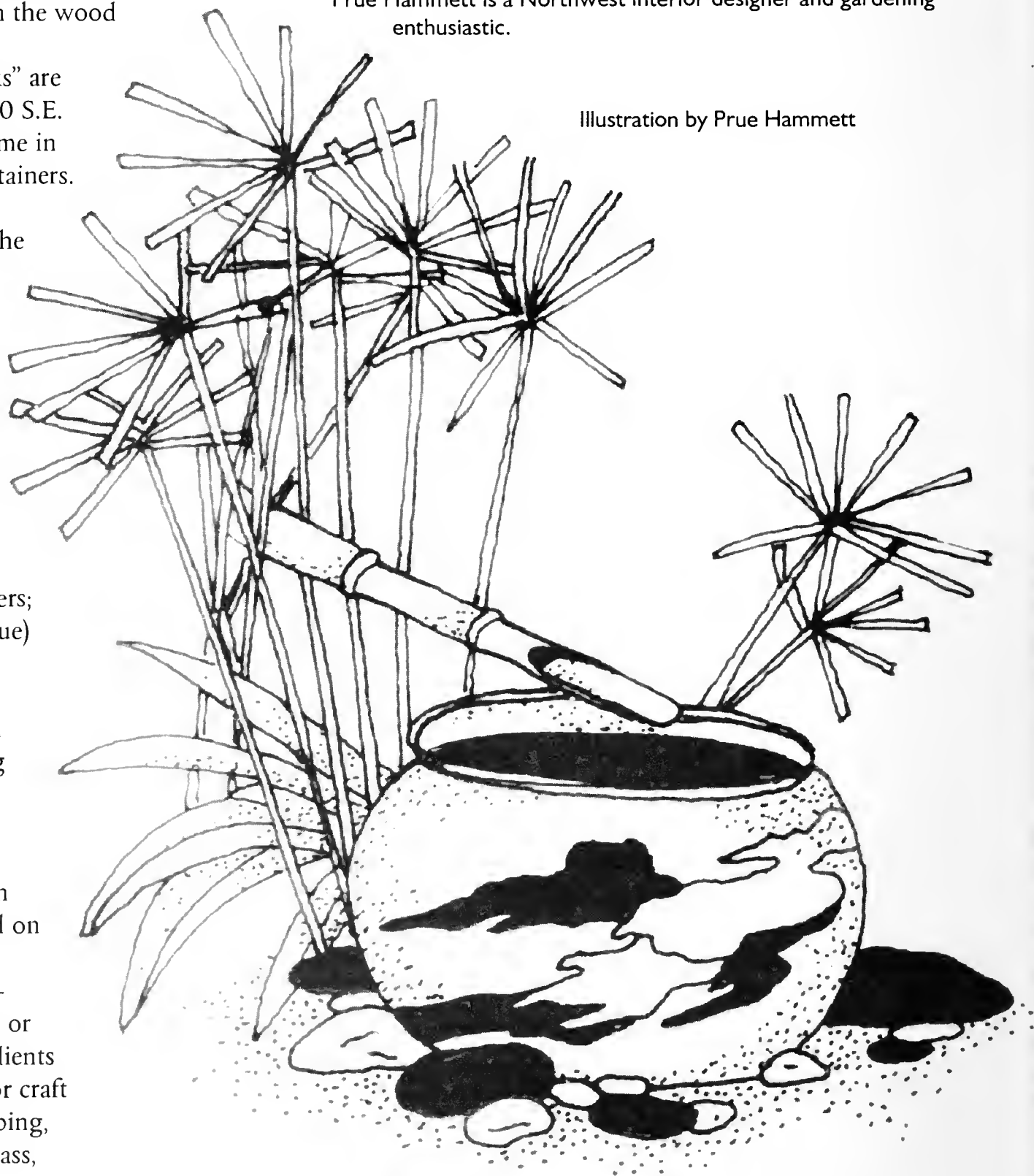
coral, and glass floats as accents.

Sources for traditional statuary and accessories abound throughout the region. Some pieces are imported and some manufactured locally. Check the yellow pages under "statuary" and "garden centers" to find everything from ducks to gargoyles.

Local colleges are a great source for hand-built ceramic or metal vessels or sculptures. Call the art department to learn about the next in-school art sale, support the students, and acquire a one-of-a-kind ornament.

Prue Hammett is a Northwest interior designer and gardening enthusiastic.

Illustration by Prue Hammett



New Leaves in the Miller Library

Library Resources

by Valerie Easton

Vegetables

Phillips, Roger and Rix Martyn
New York: Random House, 1993

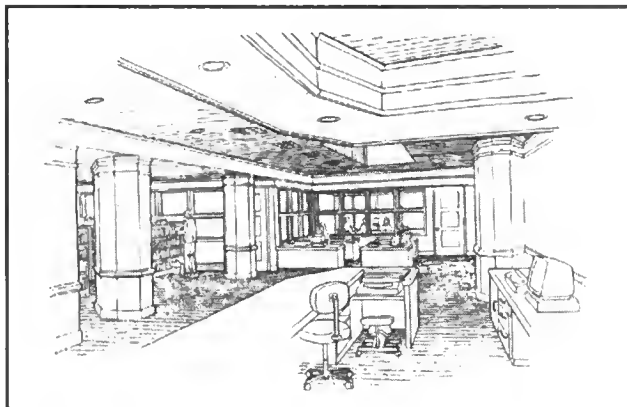
If you've ever doubted the beauty and diversity of vegetables, this new volume in the outstanding series (*Perennials, Shrubs, Herbs, etc.*) by Phillips and Rix will convince you. Take a look at the yellow and purple stripes of a 'Dragon Tongue' bush bean, the nodding purple blooms atop the towering silver foliage of the cardoon, or read about the uses for dozens of different peppers and you may be willing to give over garden room to growing food. History, culinary uses, and cultivation of over 650 different vegetables are covered in text and excellent, detailed color photographs.

The Royal Horticultural Society Collection: The Flower Garden

Dillon, Helen.
London: Conran Octopus Ltd., 1993

Gorgeous color photographs of Helen Dillon's Dublin garden are used to illustrate her practical advice on planning, planting, and caring for a garden full of flowers. Texture, color, balance, and seasonal considerations are discussed by a master - this is a gardener who loves plants and knows how to grow and combine them.

"Key plants", with information on cultural requirements, propagation, and planting partners, is the chapter most gardeners will no doubt turn to first, if only to see how many of Helen Dillon's favorite perennials are in their own gardens.



Elisabeth C. Miller Library, C.U.H.

Know Your Common Plant Names

Davis, Brian and Knapp, Brian
Newbury, England: MDA Publications, 1992

This may be one of the most useful reference books for gardeners to come out in a long time. You can look up thousands of plants by common name and find the botanical name and vice versa. Each list also gives the type of plant - tree, shrub, moss, annual, etc. A section on historical pseudonyms should be helpful in tracking name changes and verifying current plant names. A good book to have in hand when searching nurseries or trying to decipher plant labels.

Remember that over 600 books, journals, and videos are available in the Miller Library lending collection.

Thanks to a recent NHS grant, new books are being added, including:

The Exuberant Garden and the Controlling Hand
by William H. Frederick, Jr.

The Natural Habitat Garden
by Ken Druse

Ferns in Your Garden
by John Kelly

The Foliage Garden
by Angela Overy

*Also new:***The Garden Design Primer**

Ashmun, Barbara
New York: Lyons & Burford, 1993

Glossary of Vital Terms for the Home Gardener

Gough, Robert E
New York: The Haworth Press, 1993

A Garden of Conifers: Introduction and Selection Guide

Obrizok, Robert A
Deer Park, WI: Capability's Books, 1994

Creating a Garden for the Senses

Cox, Jeff
New York: Abbeville Press, 1993

Garden Graphics: How to Plan and Map Your Garden

Nesbitt, Gemma
Deer Park, WI: Capability's Books, 1993

David Austin's English Roses: Glorious New Roses for American Gardens

Austin, David
Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1993

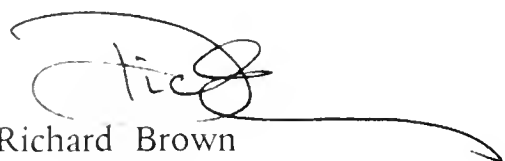
Valerie Easton is a librarian in the Elisabeth C. Miller Library at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

President's Message

Public horticulture in the Northwest suffered a great loss with the passing of Elisabeth Carey Miller on March 17, 1994. We have lost a good friend and a strong advocate for urban horticulture. NHS owes its existence to her prodigious efforts, which along with those of fifteen other dedicated founders, established our organization in early 1966. Progressive thinking and hard work by these founders defined ambitious goals for NHS. With Betty's leadership and the backing of the new organization, the Center for Urban Horticulture became a reality - the first facility of its kind in this country devoted to the subject of horticulture and the opportunity for post-graduate training in urban horticulture.

The library that bears her name at CUH is just one more example of her leadership, her recognition of a need and serious response to it. The best of its kind west of Chicago and north of San Francisco, the Elisabeth C. Miller Library is a remarkable resource for the citizens of the Northwest, and particularly those with an interest in gardening. If you've not visited the library yet, you owe yourself and your garden a trip.

I'm going to miss Betty a great deal. I first met her when I was just starting my college career and had dreams of owning a nursery. Through the years of our association, she taught me a lot, counseled me when I needed advice (even when I didn't know I needed it), and helped me to find my niche in public horticulture. By being a great friend, a great critic, a thinker and a doer, Betty helped us all. Enjoy her legacy - the library, the Center for Urban Horticulture, Freeway Park, the Washington Park Arboretum, and other gardens and special places that reflect her influence. She will be missed, but certainly not forgotten.



Richard Brown

NHS Executive Committee and New Board Members

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Barbara Lindberg, presented 1994-1995 officers and new board members at the Annual Meeting on May 31st. Members of the Executive Committee are: Richard Brown - President; Doug Bayley, Iris Wagner, Judy Williams - Vice Presidents; Dinny Polson - Recording Secretary; Vernetta Cunningham - Corresponding Secretary; Judy Williams - Treasurer Pro Tem; Michael Lynn - Past President.

Members newly welcomed to the thirty-five-member board of directors for the 1994-97 term are Susan Atkins, Nell Scott, Lynn Sonneman, and Joanne Titus. Steve Lorton and David Streatfield are newly appointed honorary/advisory board members.

Additional members with continuing terms are: R. David Adams (honorary/advisory), Mayde Anderson, Dan Borroff, Peggy Campbell, Sue Clark, Sylvia Duryee, Betsy Fitzgerald, Shirley Gorman, Prudence Hammett, Suzanne Hattery, Dan Hinkley (honorary/advisory), Karen Carlson Iffert, Joan Lankford, Barbara Lindberg, Ann Lovejoy (honorary/Advisory), Ted Marston, Eve Mauger, Emily Moore, Cathy Parker, Grace Smith, Buz Smith, Phil Wood.

Congratulations to 1994 Scholarship Recipient

Cynthia Gilbert was awarded the Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholarship, in the amount of \$2,500, by NHS at its annual meeting in May. Cynthia was highly recommended for this award, which will help support her academic progress over the next year as a Ph.D. student at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Her major is urban horticulture with conservation biology and ecology as minors. Native plant conservation is her special research interest. In addition to coursework and research, Cynthia participates in public outreach through CUH, running the lunch-time seminar program and helping manage the Hyde Horatorium.

Former NHS Scholars in Leadership Positions

Jenks Farmer, 1992 Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholar at CUH, was appointed upon graduation in June 1993 to the position of Curator of Botanical Gardens at River Banks Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Columbia, South Carolina. To open in May 1995, the seventy acres of botanical gardens are undergoing construction and planting and include an intensely planted walled garden as well as interpretive walks through woodlands and a pre-Civil War historical site.

Larry Vickerman, 1991 Elisabeth Carey Miller Scholar, earned his Master's Degree in public horticulture in 1993 from CUH and has recently been named Director of the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston, Kansas. The arboretum, owned by Hesston College, is developing a thirty-acre outdoor education facility featuring plants native to the Great Plains. As director, he is responsible for administration, development, and education programs for adults and children.

NHS Grants Wishes

The NHS Grants Committee presented awards to four deserving recipients at its recent annual meeting. These are the Elisabeth C. Miller Library at CUH (\$10,000) for its extended hours and public outreach programs; PlantAmnesty based in Seattle (\$2,000) to develop a brochure on trees vs. views; Whatcom in Bloom Garden Society and KCTS television station (\$2,500 each) for a joint venture resulting in production of an eight-part series on private gardens of the Northwest.

NHS receives grant applications two times a year - January 1 and July 1. For information about grants and application procedure, please call the office at (206) 527-1794.

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming
Events

JULY / AUGUST

July 7, 14, 21, 28

7 - 8:30 p.m.

The Plestcheeff Institute

**History of Garden Design
Lecture Series**

Covers Italian Renaissance
Garden, French Baroque Garden,
Evolution of English Garden,
Traditional Chinese Garden.
\$35 series, \$10 per lecture
Preregistration required
(206) 543-2977

July 9 & 10

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Bainbridge In Bloom Garden
Tour**

\$15 adults, \$5 children 6 - 12
(206) 842-9714 or 842-1560

July 18

7 - 8:30 p.m.

CUH

Gardens of California

Dave Stockdale, CUH Education
Director, highlights in this slide
lecture public and private gardens,
including Filoli, Strybing
Arboretum, and UC Berkeley
Botanical Garden.

\$3

Preregistration required

(206) 685-8033

July 21

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

Fuchsias and Begonias

Martin and Nola Emrick

Free

Preregistration required

(206) 462-2749

July 23

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CUH

Herbal Renaissance:**A Culinary Herb Symposium**

Features Alison Troutman, Patti
Chambers, Robert Nelson, and
Peter Kairis.

\$45

Preregistration required

(206) 685-8033

August 3

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

Concert in the Garden

Free

12001 Main Street, Bellevue

(206) 462-2749

August 4

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Garden

**Gardening with Trouble-
Free Plants**

Mary Robson

Free

Preregistration required

(206) 462-2749

August 9 & 11

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

CUH

**Broad-leaved Evergreens:
Identification, Selection, &
Management**

Scott Connor presents this course.

\$35

Preregistration required

(206) 685-8033

August 17

7 - 9 p.m.

CUH

**English Gardens and
Landscapes - The American
Influence**

David Stevens, Buckingham,
England, illustrates with slides
how American landscape design
philosophies have influenced
British gardens in recent decades.
\$10

Preregistration required

(206) 685-8033

August 29

5 - 7:30 p.m.

Rhododendron Species Botanical
Garden**Hypertufa Trough:****How to Build Your Own
Miniature Alpine Garden**Steve Hootman, RSF Curator, and
RSF Staff

\$5 members, \$8 non-members

Preregistration required

(206) 838-4646

New & Different Plant Sale

September 23rd and 24th are the days of the '94 NHS plant sale
"New Northwest Style Landscaping" with special emphasis on
the use of native and drought-tolerant plants. As always, this is the
place to find plants of the highest quality, and at the best time of year
for planting them. You will also see some exciting changes this year:
for one, three departments (perennials, ground covers, and
natives) will be enlarged and improved. In the September *Garden*

Notes we will announce a new lecture series by Northwest
experts during the sale.

For those who are twiddling their (green) thumbs a little
and casting about for something fun and interesting to do, give the
NHS office a call, at 527-1794, to sign up to be a plant sale
volunteer. Perks of volunteering include the opportunity to attend
a hot dog and soft drink/wine extravaganza the day before the
sale's opening, preview plants ahead of sale attendees, and of
course be involved with others who share the joy of gardening.

Seasonings

by Ted Marston

Summer in the garden - a time to contemplate the work you've done or hope to do in future seasons.

Now is the time to enjoy the season, curl up with a good book under the shade of a tree or bask in the sun.

Water adds a dimension to the garden which is all sensuous. If it's the trickle of a small brook or the drip of a Japanese bamboo water holder, it's mostly aural, the sound adding to any visual splendor associated with it. Gazing into the serenity of a pond or pool provides a background for introspection. The combination of sight, sound, smell (for can you not smell water or the fragrances associated with it?) and the elevated humidity is a cooling experience, which real though it is, seems even more potent in the imagination. Although we didn't first discover the pleasures of water in the garden (Egyptians were doing it by the Nile as early as 3000 B.C.), our normal, dry, rain-free summers make it just as welcome here as there and then.

Even a garden with no other water feature is immensely improved by something so simple as a birdbath where birds can frolic and drink their fill between their bouts of eating your insects. Not only will it help attract more birds to your garden, it will reduce the pest population dramatically. And when the birds are not present, the water itself is a considerable bonus. A small afterthought: place the birdbath where it is shaded during the afternoon so that the water doesn't get so hot that birds won't play there midday.

Another trick with water is to consider tucking a relatively small clay pot, just spacious enough to hold a miniature water lily, into a sunny corner of your deck. A container fifteen inches or more in diameter and a foot deep provides enough soil and water volume to support one of these miniature beauties for the summer.

For periods when the garden is short of flowers (you'll make a note to rectify that for next summer, won't you?), a hummingbird feeder will keep those fast-flying birds coopting around your garden.

Save It To Enjoy It

So that we may have enough water to go around, remember that very little rainfall normally occurs in the summer. Any supplemental water you apply must come from limited storage. Though not new, these ideas will help you have a great garden:

- Add more and more ornamental native species to your planting combinations...as well as plants native to other locations with winter rainfall and summer droughts. They'll survive beautifully where plants from areas with summer wet will languish without supplemental irrigation.
- Plant combinations of plants which shade the soil to reduce evaporation.
- Make abundant use of mulches to reduce water loss from the soil surface. In addition, the cooler root run is advantageous to the performance of many plants.
- Use low output irrigation when it is necessary and place the water where it is needed. Use soaker hoses or watering tubes to put the water at the root level, rather than using sprayers which lose a fairly high percentage in evaporation before the water hits the soil.
- If sprinklers are necessary to reach otherwise inaccessible areas, water only during periods of calm so the water isn't scattered by wind drift.

Now that you've curled up in your hammock, enjoying the water in your garden, feel totally free to take a nap. You've earned it.

Ted Marston is a Northwest horticultural writer and has contributed to *Sunset Magazine*, *American Horticulturist*, and *Family Circle*.

Northwest Horticultural Society

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