

DIG THIS By Peg Tillery (for 8-03-05) Pond and Water Garden Tour

Jan and George Bahr of Roadhouse Nursery on Central Valley Road asked me to let my readers know about the Olympic Koi, Gold Fish and Water Garden Club's Sixth Annual Pond and Water Garden Tour. The tour is Saturday August 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and are available at Roadhouse Nursery, 12511 Central Valley Road NW. Children under the age of 18 are free when accompanied by an adult.

There are seven ponds on the tour so I'd recommend starting out as close to 10 a.m. as you can. The ticket you'll receive is a booklet describing the ponds, their locations and maps of pond locations. This year's tour features ponds ranging from only a few hundred gallons to 20,000 gallons. Visit the ponds in any order you choose, return to any of the locations more than once, and make sure you ask questions. Koi club members want to help you learn all you can about koi, ponds and water gardening.

Jerry Hames' pond holds 17,000 gallons, is 17 by 24 feet long and 6 feet deep, including a waterfall. This pond has two different and separate filters and Jerry can tell you all about the filtering system. Chuck and Jackie Lemon have an 8,000 gallon pond with a variety of koi. The pond is landscaped with a Japanese theme. Melinda Christopher and Dave Smieja have a three-year-old pond holding 8000 gallons. The pond was dug entirely by hand (using shovels). It is home to 60 plus Japanese and domestic koi ranging in size from six to twenty-three inches. This pond is surrounded by an assortment of grasses, lilies and irises. The plants are not only beautiful but they serve to remove unwanted nitrates.

Tim and Caroline Putaansuu (CORRECT SPELLING) have a garden featuring a boulder and rock laden creek meandering through a hillside moss and fern-themed Japanese garden into a 9,000 gallon gunite (CORRECT SPELLING) pond. Harold and April Herman have two 3000 gallon ponds. One pond is a semi-formal square design with a deck on one side and four waterfalls. The second pond is a formal design with a canal connecting a waterfall and fountain. Both ponds contain a variety of koi, sarasa comets, shubunkins, goldfish, rosy red minnows, frogs and water lilies. Both ponds were constructed of reinforced concrete filled blocks and lined with 20 mil LDPE liner. Arbors and trellises border the ponds with an array of climbing plants.

Bob and Kathy Roberson have two ponds to view. One is an 8-year old 2000 gallon pond with two waterfalls and a stream nestled in front of their house. The landscaping is mature and includes a small Japanese rock garden camouflaging the pre-ump and a 300 gallon fiber mat filter. The back yard pond is a 20,000 gallon pond with a waterfall flowing 10,000 gallons per hour over a four-foot drop.

Wow. If these short descriptions don't hook or intrigue you I don't know what will. (Excuse the "hook" pun.) Three of the ponds are in Port Orchard, two in Seabeck, one in Silverdale and one in Poulsbo. You may want to purchase your tickets now by calling Jan and George Bahr at 360-779-9589 or email roadhousenursery@earthlink.net. The nursery is open seven days a week so you could even stop by to pick up tickets ahead of time.

Olympic Koi, Gold Fish and Water Garden Club website <http://www.olympickoiclub.org> lists abundant information about activities in Kitsap County. You can take a virtual tour of members' water gardens and ponds. The site includes articles and tutorials on designing and building ponds and filtering systems. You'll also find information on raising koi and goldfish in water gardens or ponds.

Olympic Koi Club meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at club members' homes (except the months of January and February). Remaining 2005 meetings are on the following dates at these locations: September 6 (home of Harold Herman), October 4 (home of Charlie and Becky Frohman), November 1 and December 9 (Roadhouse Nursery). Yearly dues are \$20 per family. If you join during the pond tour, dues will only be \$10 for your first year. Pond viewing precedes the meetings. Each meeting includes an educational program following the business meeting. If you have any questions about the club or the tour contact Jan and George Bahr at 360-779-9589 roadhousenursery@earthlik.net or Dave Smieja at 360-830-4589 koiibo@aol.com.

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