

KANSAS POND SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

December 2016



President: Mike Kandt 838-6681, koikat@cox.net
Vice-President: Wanita Wright, 733-6626, wrightd9@aol.com
Treasurer: Larry Determann 945-0017, ksscouter@cox.net
Secretary: Susan Kandt, 838-6681, koikat@cox.net
Newsletter Editor: Mike Kandt 838-6681, koikat@cox.net
Webmaster: Wayne Determann, wdetermann@gmail.com
Website: www.kansaspondsociety.org

**Saturday,
December 3
6:00 PM - ?**

**at the
Kiwanis Park Building
5101 W. 2nd**

(From West Street, go west on
2nd Street 8 or 9 blocks.)

This will be our holiday party. We will have our Dirty Santa gift exchange. See my column to the right for details. Bring a dish or dessert. Turkey and ham will be provided as will drinks. Come join us for this festive event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Nov. 25 – Dec. 31 (Excluding
Dec 24 & 25): Illuminations at
Botanica*

Dec 3: KPS Holiday Party

Jan 7: KPS Meeting

Feb 4: KPS Meeting

Mar 4: KPS Meeting

*Apr 1: Divide Botanica's Water
Lilies*

*May 6: KPS Meeting - Plant
Swap*

Jun 3: KPS Meeting



FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mike Kandt

Our November auction was a success. I think we had more attendance and donations from other Garden clubs than ever before, thanks to the Garden Council. This year we collected \$1,090. The entire amount will be donated to Botanica. Thanks to Deborah Gafvert who, once again, organized this event and to the Cactus and Succulent Club, The Wichita Daylily Club, Wichita Rose Society, Iris Club, Wichita Bonsai Club, Daffodil Club, Wichita African Violet Society and the Wichita Area Garden Council for their donations and support to Botanica.

Prior to the auction, we held elections for Vice-President and Secretary. Wanita Wright and Susan Kandt will continue in those offices for the next two years.

Our Holiday Party will be Saturday, December 3, 2014, at 6 pm. We'll return to Kiwanis Park, located at 5101 W 2nd Street. You can take Kellogg to West Street and go north and take a left onto 2nd St. Or from I-235, get off at Central, go east, and turn right on Doris or Clara. Those streets stop right in front of the park. Meat is provided by the club. We will have turkey and ham, so bring side dishes and desserts. If you want to partake in the Dirty Santa gift exchange, bring a gift. As always, let's try to keep the gifts in the \$25.00 range. Rules are simple. If you bring a gift, you get to pick a gift or steal someone else's, but once a gift is stolen twice it can't be stolen anymore, and that person is the proud owner. Hope to see you there for the fun.

Our first meeting in January, we will start off the new year talking about what we will do in 2017 – bus trips, road trips, pond tour, programs, etc. Larry will have the yearly finance report and the preliminary budget we've worked out for 2017, so come with your ideas.

Also, be sure to come see Botanica in its Holiday glory. Illuminations is always changing with new displays, so bring the family or your special person and enjoy a wintertime treat. Many members have asked how they can volunteer at Botanica for this event. See the letter later in this newsletter for details. Due to logistics, Santa will be back in the old Santa cottage, not the Children's Garden. Come make sure you are on his "nice" list. Ho Ho Ho!!!

Mike

SWAP SHOP

If you have articles, plants or fish to sell or give away, let me know at 838-6681 or koikat@cox.net

WANTED - Used liner or liner remnants, any size, for dry creek bed. Please call Wanita Wright 733-6626

ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card Size Ad (about 2" x 3 ½"): \$15 per 3-month period; \$50 per year

Quarter-Page Ad (about 3 ½" x 4 ½"): \$30 per 3-month period; \$100 per year

Half-Page Ad (about 5" x 7 ½"): \$60 per 3-month period; \$200 per year

Full-Page Ad (8 ½" x 11"): \$400 per year

VOLUNTEERING AT BOTANICA

By Jodi McArthur

Hello Everyone,

We are just 11 days away from the start of our Illuminations Event and so excited to be able to offer this unique experience to the public. With such a responsibility, it is important that we are prepared and ready for the thousands of guests that will soon enter our gardens. Please consider the following as you think about how you can help.

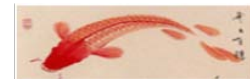
- **Cookie Donations** - In order to make the experience more affordable, we want to offer treats to our guests at reasonable prices. Your donations of cookies, brownies, "Chex mixes", etc make a big difference here. You can also earn 4 free passes for every 5 dozen packaged treats. Please contact Kelsey Webb for more information - kwebb@botanica.org.
- **Hot Drinks** - if you plan to help with the making/selling of hot drinks during this event, please come to a short training this Thursday, Nov 17 at 10:30 am to learn how to properly operate these machines. This is not mandatory, but you will find it very helpful in eliminating or solving any issues that may occur at these popular stations.
- **Light Set-up/Decorating** - Though we are almost there, we still have some lighting and decorating that is incomplete. Contact Kyle Christensen - kchristensen@botanica.org or Kathy Sweeney - ksweeney@botanica.org if you would like to help.
- **Evening Event Help** - There are still many holes to fill in our schedule, particularly for weekends and the days closest to Christmas. If you haven't already, please consider volunteering for one or more of these nights. You also earn a free pass for every night that you volunteer. New volunteers and groups are always welcome.

Thank you for your support. We know that with your help this will be another great season at Botanica.

Jodi McArthur
Asst. Interim, Volunteer Services
Botanica, Inc.



Did you know...



When a pond is at least 4 feet deep, koi are able to swim up and down as well as laterally, thus getting the exercise needed to grow stronger, healthier & larger... wcw

WATER PLANTS

By Duane Van Dolah

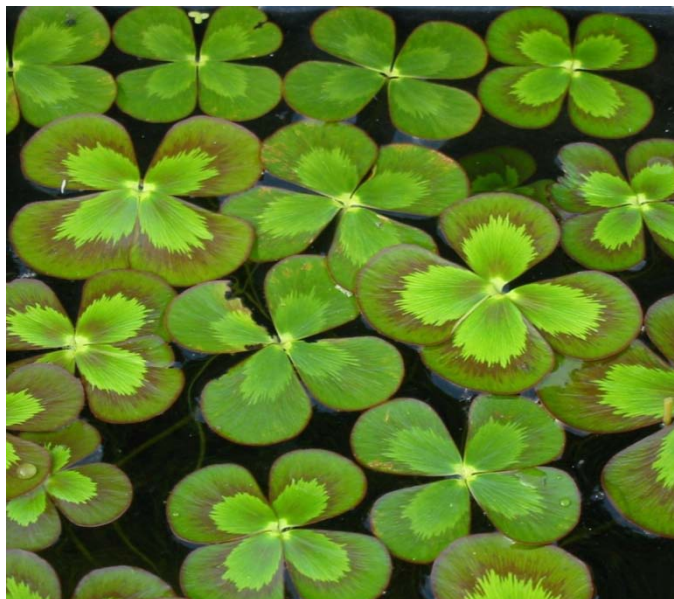
(Reprinted from our February 2002 Newsletter)

Variegated Water Clover

Marsilea mutica 'Variegata'

Water Clover grows in very shallow water. Its greenish yellow-to-brown patterned leaves usually float on the water's surface with a four-leaf clover effect. Planted in several inches of water, the stems may stand 3-4 inches above the water. A good transition plant, it will grow in moist soil or in shallow water. Highly invasive by vigorous rhizomes.

Plant in one-gallon containers in 1-12 inches of water in sun to part shade. Winter portions over indoors if necessary. Propagate by separating plantlets from the rhizome or by cuttings. Monitor this plant closely in container or tub garden to prevent it from choking out other plants. Thinning may be required weekly.



It is hardy in zones 6-11 and the varieties to look for are:

M. crenata, dwarf water clover (zones 6-10). Perfect for small container gardens.

M. drumondii (zones 6-10). Clover-like leaves covered with small white hairs, sun to part shade.

M. schelpiana, cut-leaf water clover (zones 6-10). Similar to *M. quadrifolia* form but with more deeply cut leaves and a finer habit.

M. quadrifolia (zones 6-10). Smaller European species, less variation in leaves, sun to part shade.

FABELA TREE SERVICE



Low Cost Quality Work

Trim, Top, Remove
Dead Wood, Trees,
Stump Grinding
Insured

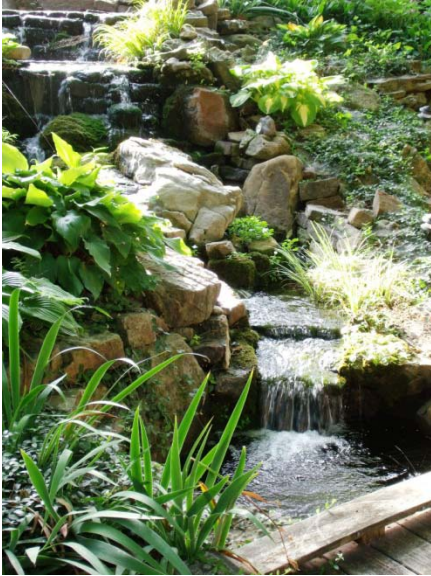
Jorge Fabela
945-3207
Cell# 619-4979

The KOI CHRONICLES

By Wanita Wright

DECIDING YOUR WATERFALL FLOW RATE

(formulas reprinted with permission from Pond Pro Shop)



Maybe you are like most of us and will just take your chances on how your waterfall turns out. I know that was my approach. I had no idea that you could actually come up with the waterfall sound you wanted to hear. There were so many other complications like filtration volume, pump size, head effect and friction loss on the pump volume, where to put the skimmer, aesthetics.... The list goes on. BUT the good news is you can come really close or possibly even get exactly the results that you are hoping for by taking each one of these aspects one by one and planning them out.

So let's define "waterfall flow rate". The waterfall flow rate is the amount of water that flows over a waterfall weir or stream to achieve the desired result. There are two key aspects – iem, results -- to waterfall flow rate. The first is the desired sound of the waterfall. Do you want something that drowns out all the street noise? Or are you after just a trickle that provides "white" noise in the background and blends in with the birds tweeting, the frogs calling and the crickets chirping. Or are you shooting for something in between? The second aspect that ponders sometimes consider is the volume of the turnover of the pond water. Turnover is how many times your pond

water, in its entirety, goes thru the pump(s). Some individuals shoot for 100% turnover every hour. Others find much less frequent turnover quite satisfactory.

Both sound and turnover are influenced by the flowrate of the water going thru the pump and then over the waterfall. The more flow, the greater the sound and the quicker the turnover rate. Math kicks in again!

Light Flow = 100 gallons per hour (GPH) per INCH of spillway (background noise)

Medium Flow = 150 GPH per INCH of spillway (noticeable sound)

High Flow = 200 GPH per INCH of spillway (will drown out some traffic)

The width of the spillway X the desired flow rate = total GPH (turnover).

A weir of 24"x 100 GPH = 2400 GPH turn; 24" x 150 GPH = 3600 GPH turn; 24" x 200 GPH=4800 GPH turn. So, the size of your pond, capability of your pump to move water and size of your weir are the determining factors to your waterfall sound and turnover rates.

Let's apply this to a 5,000-gallon pond. If I wished 100% turnover each hour and wanted high flow for the waterfall, I would need a weir with a width of 5,000 gallons divided by 200 GPH, or 25 inches, and a pump that would move 5,000 gallons PLUS handle all friction loss and head of your pond's particular design. With a turnover goal of every two hours, your weir would drop to 12-13 inches wide and your pump could drop to 2,500-3,000 GPH. OR you could leave your weir at 25 inches wide and get a light flow sound from the waterfall. You get the idea.

Say, based on the design of your pond, whatever the limiting factors, you are not able to get the sound from the waterfall you desired. There are some additional tricks to get that sound. The higher the weir from the body of water the waterfall is falling into, the louder the sound. The sound will also be enhanced when the water falls straight down rather than flowing diagonally over rocks, or when there are plants that muffle the sound. When the weir is set out further from the vertical wall of the pond it creates an echo chamber behind the falling water, which also enhances the sound. And you can always make the weir narrower by placing a rock protruding out of the water at the edge of the weir. That automatically increases the flow of water and thus the sound, because the weir has been shortened. Always remember that, at the weir edge, you need to plan for 4" HEIGHT of water minimum, though.

Turnover can also be increased with more pumps, spitters, separate filters, another stream, etc.

TIP OF THE MONTH
HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR THE POND PERSON

By Mike Kandt

I know, I know. This article looks just like the one I do every Christmas. But every year, a ponder's needs and understanding of the hobby change. So I have pulled out the old list in hopes that something will inspire you gifters this year. Good luck, Ponder Santas!!

Tickets to Botanica's Illuminations

Gift membership to Botanica or the Kansas Pond Society

An automatic heron deterrent sprayer or other deterrent device

A new fish net (I like the bottomless koi sock – at least 11" in size and the koi handling net – very shallow and 24" in diameter.)

New plastic pots especially designed for water lilies or lotus

New updated pond filter or skimmer

A new water gardening or fish-keeping book

A nice ceramic pot that they wouldn't buy for themselves

A promise for a new hardy/tropical water lily in the spring

A promise for a new koi in the spring

Water-proof gloves for dividing mucky water plants

One of those big pond aerators

A new pair of insulated waders

An algae twirler (to remove string algae)

A water quality test kit

Pond thermometer – maybe one of the wireless remote types

Pond and garden lighting

A floating planter for the pond

Bird bath heater (for birds that have been depending on the waterfall that is now netted or shut off)

A soil test kit or water test kit

Pond netting (for next year)

Pond Vacuum to suck up muck

A compost thermometer

Fragrant wood for the chiminea or a fire pit

His or her very own pruners with holster and belt

A greenhouse kit (if you really want to stimulate the economy)

A beautiful moss-covered boulder or maybe a gift certificate to a rock store

Gift certificate to a garden center (buy locally)

Garden ornaments, wind chimes, sculptures or a spitter

Backup or utility pump with a good, long discharge hose

Pumps for the spitter and bird bath

New shovel (for digging that new pond)

Lawn furniture (to sit and admire the pond after it's dug)

Wet/dry vacuum (no pond keeper should be without one)

Plant tags to keep track of your plant names

Fancy watering can that looks cool sitting on the porch or potting bench

Fancy fish food (okay, this is really for the fish)



Check out your local garden centers first and keep our cash in the community. But if you just can't find that special item, hit the internet and have a happy holiday. Ho Ho Ho!

Mike

FISH TALES

by Susan Kandt



CATS IN THE BARNYARD, TURKEYS ON THE ROOF...

...or in other words, business as usual here at the ol' Dagobah ranch.

Fall has fell (still falling, actually), and it's time to snug in our local creatures for the winter.

As reported here last month, the ponds have been netted, and the koi are sheltered in their leaf-proof cathedral for the fall. I switched from regular koi food when the water got to 60 and stayed there, and I've been feeding them their Cheerios ever since (actually, Always Save Toasted Oats is what they're getting). However, I'm checking the pond thermometer daily before I feed them to see if I...well, still need to be feeding them.

As of this morning, their water is hovering at 52 degrees. This is borderline. If they weren't still swimming actively at the top of the water and acting hungry, I'd probably suspend feeding. But they're sending me the message that they aren't quite ready to slow down yet, so the generic Cheerios keep coming. We're predicted to have above-70 days for most of this week, so I'll keep that up. But when those night-time temps start dipping into the 30's at the end of the week, the food will stop and the fish will slow down.

Next thing on the winter-prep laundry list: the cats of Dagobah. We're now up to nine – yeah, you heard me – nine cats total here at the ranch. All are welcome as long as they agree to be trapped and neutered. Only two, Spook and Junior, are domesticated and come inside. I washed their winter cat beds in preparation for winter napping. Spook's bed was...well, not up to her diva standards, apparently. Even though it hasn't been used all summer and was washed before it was put away in the spring, she claims it needs washing every fall before she'll deign to use it.

Junior's bed had a different issue. It's actually been sitting on the window seat in our family room all summer, because he tends to sleep in it when the air conditioner is running. But all it took was that first Okiequake that shook the room and rattled the plate glass window next to his head while he was sleeping to make him abandon the thing completely. He's refused to go near it and has been sleeping on the couch ever since.

I tried moving the bed over onto the couch last week, but he still wouldn't touch it. What it took was for me to wash it and assure him that it was now officially free of earthquake cooties. I returned it to the couch, and he's been snoozing in it ever since. Hey, cats have their own notions of survival. I get it.



Alpha & Beta

The other seven cats are all feral, live outside, and shy away when you try to touch them. Well, except for Beta. Beta has mysteriously decided he likes being petted. He looks longingly in the door every time we open it and I've invited him in repeatedly, but apparently it's just too scary to contemplate. I've even picked him up and carried him inside a couple of times, but both times he freaked out and decided indoors is a death trap masquerading as shelter.

So he, Alpha, and Catsper (Junior's feral brother) divide their cold nights between the heated cat beds I've installed in one of the garages and our unfinished area under the house where we keep tropical plants in the winter. It's nice and warm down there from the furnace, and both areas have cat doors. Junior taught these three cats how to use the cat doors after I taught him. Gray tabbies, it seems, stick together. These four have been here the longest and have quite the little clique. The others in the pride are tolerated, but these four are bros and seriously joined at the hip.

Richard Parker (named after the tiger in "The Life of Pi") is a yellow tabby who wandered onto the ranch two or three years ago. He wants nothing to do with us, but he gets along with the other cats and never misses a meal. He's also taught himself to use the cat door under the house. When the weather gets cold, we hear him through the floor every evening tromping across the furnace ductwork, which is apparently where he sleeps despite the nice wool beds I've installed down there. Okay, whatever.



Richard Parker

Felix, our small black and white tuxedo with attitude and a cauliflower ear (there's obviously a story there but he's not sharing) showed up a year or two after Richard Parker's arrival. Felix wants nothing to do with anybody. He's quite the loner. His eyes get huge and he backs off all petrified when we try to touch him, yet we have to literally shove him out of the way when we come out the door with food in our hands. I've learned food is the great equalizer. Most lone wolf behavior, skittishness, and turf wars get suspended at supper time.



Felix

At any rate, Felix is quite the MacGyver cat and he's devised his own winter shelter that he shares with no one. He quickly learned that the leaves and grass clippings Mike puts in the compost bins give off a lot of heat once they start "cooking". His first winter here, I noticed he'd made himself a cozy little nest in the west bin. "Okay," I told him. "That'll work. But let me ramp up your digs a bit." So I lined his nest with some blankets and draped a plastic tarp over the top of the compost bin to keep him dry. He checked it out, gave me an approving stare, and has been curling up there every winter night since. The only two left to give me cause for concern are Jonesey and Thor.



Felix's Bed



Jonesey

Jonesey's been hanging around for several years now. He was a teenager when he first showed up. He's coal black, looks like a sleek panther, and lives totally off the grid. None of the other cats accept him for some mysterious feline reason, so just as soon as he's done eating, it's apparently Catsper's job to make sure he leaves promptly. I don't have a clue where he shelters. Obviously, he's not welcome in the tabby clique, so the garage and under the house are out. Felix guards the compost bins like Atilla the Hun, so forget that. I've watched as Catsper escorts Jonesey down the Ramp of Death and into the back yard after meals. I've noticed he always heads north up the river bank.

A few years ago, I fixed up the old canoe that leans against our wood fence next to the greenhouse by stuffing it with straw and covering the whole thing with a tarp. That should keep the wind, the rain, and the snow out, so I hoped Jonesey would find it and call it home, but who knows? Lately, I've noticed him hanging around the yard more. Mike even reported that one morning after he'd filled the Lord's Diner (our community dry cat food station) and Jonesey was chowing down, he actually hissed at Catsper when he tried to escort him to the back yard. And Mike says he sees him sometimes in the mornings on the kitchen porch. So maybe he's tired of being odd man out and is asserting himself enough to take shelter here. Atta boy, Jones!



Beta & Felix



Thor

Thor wandered in a little over a year ago. He's a huge gray tabby (he'd already been neutered, yea!), but the rest of the tabby boys haven't invited him into their inner circle, so he appears to be a loner. That may have something to do with the fact that he goes all Alpha on them and cuts in when everybody's lining up for their canned food supper at 4:30 every afternoon (well, 3:30 now that the time has changed). Everybody pretty much treats him like the neighborhood bully, so until he learns his place in the kingdom, he's likely to spend some cold winters here.

Oh, one last bizarre item to report. A week or so ago, I was in the living room of the old part of the house when I heard what sounded for all the world like a herd of elk tromping across the roof. Oh, no! I was convinced we had raccoons in the attic again and was already hunting for the phone numbers of our wildlife trapper and the roofer. But just when I was in a high state of panic, Mike, who had been upstairs working on his computer, came down and

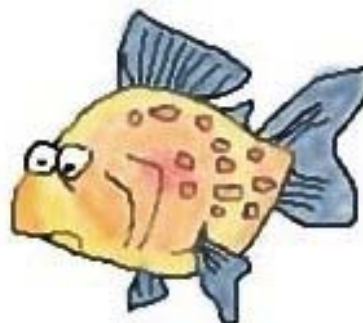
casually mentioned we had turkeys on the roof. Two were perched on the chimney, he said, and from the sound of things, the rest were hosting a roller derby from one end of the roof to the other.



We've seen flocks of turkeys in the yard for years, especially during this time of year (guys, what part of Thanksgiving don't you understand? Hide, for God's sake!). But on the ROOF? Okay, that's new. I guess they were attracted to the warm chimney from the fires I'd been burning on cool evenings. So now we have TURKEYS looking for warm digs? What next...muskrats in the basement?

Hmm. Wonder if Junior will teach the turkeys to use the cat doors. Stay tuned....

Susan



HOLIDAY PARTY

By Deborah Gafvert

Happy Holidays, all. Inviting you to "Bask in the Glow" at our holiday party, with our theme of "Interesting Lanterns". This is our 6th year (I think) of showcasing the private collections of our members at our holiday party. When you arrive, we invite you to mingle, mill around, observe and enjoy the collections of Interesting Lanterns provided by our Artsy Ladies team. Each table will have signage indicating who provided that table's decor. Be sure to thank the team members for creating this special ambience.

Our Artsy Ladies team will be hard at work setting up at 4:30 that evening. We sure could use a few big strong guys to help out with heavy stuff like tables and chairs :). Just come if you can help. A word about cleanup--when it's time to tear down, we really do appreciate all the help we can get, but if everyone would please permit the Artsy Ladies to remove their own decor items from each table before tearing down that particular table, that would be greatly appreciated and will help prevent loss or damage to private collections. (There is plenty of other work to do: chairs, especially). Thanks so much. See you there!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Wichita’s premier light display. With more than 1 million lights and new themed displays, we transform the gardens into a vast winter wonderland with themed light displays throughout. You’ve heard about it, now see it to believe it. Experience Kansas’ largest holiday display. Make Illuminations your holiday tradition. It has become one of the area’s premier holiday events.

Illuminations is held seven days a week, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. from Nov. 25 through Dec. 31 (excluding Dec. 24 and 25). This is a family-friendly event that showcases Botanica’s 17 acres of beautiful gardens in a completely different light.

This year the event is getting a festive facelift! More than 5,000 LED luminaries will line garden pathways, more than 150 trees will be expertly lit, and many structures will be lit with twinkling white lights. As visitors enjoy their walk through the Gardens, they will enjoy the warm filtered glow of luminaries, the sound of electric trains traveling around pine trees, the reflections of trees on the pond, the magic of the flocked forest at Candy Cane Lane, the fragrance of chimineas, the warmth of hot cocoa and cider and the joy of live musical groups. In total, more than 1 million lights combined with nature, it creates a stunning atmosphere and a “HO, HO, HO” lot of holiday fun!

Support from special events such as Illuminations help us showcase the Gardens, maintain Botanica as one of the Midwest’s leading botanical gardens and further our mission. Tickets are \$8 (\$7 members) for adults and \$6 for youth (3-12). Advance tickets can be purchased at all area QuikTrip locations or at botanica.org. Group rates are available in advance.

DUES ARE DUE

Dues for the Kansas Pond Society were due January 1. We do not send out invoices, so just send a check for \$20 to Larry Determann, 1508 N Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS, 67203 with the form below. Your dues are important to cover our costs for this newsletter and other club expenses. Many members find that this cost is more than redeemed through the year. If we don’t receive your renewal before the March meeting, we must take your name off our mailing list. So send in your dues as soon as you can.

KANSAS POND SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Renewal for one year (January thru December) \$20.00

Name or Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please indicate how you would like to receive the newsletter: Web-site? Mail?

Detach or print out and send with your renewal check to Larry Determann, 1508 N. Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS 67203



1550 S. Seville Wichita, KS
(316) 831-9507



Pond Society Members Enjoy a 10% Discount
Come Check Out Our New Arrivals



In Wichita for 15 Years
Always located Off WEST Kellogg,
But We're Now Behind Tractor Supply
Between Tyler and Maize Road
on the South Side of Kellogg



All Types of POND, WATERFALL,
PATIO & LANDSCAPING Stone

Kansas Pond Society
5615 N. Sullivan
Wichita, KS 67204