

# Water Garden Planning

by Michel d'Estimauville, BSc.

Winter is a quiet time for ponds. The fish are sleeping (hibernating) quietly at the bottom of the ponds, barely moving a fin. I check up on the air holes once in a while to make sure the air pumps are still running on all the ponds we have and this gives me a comforting feeling, knowing that all is well down there.



Ponds can be a source of wonder, enjoyment and provide hours of quiet time for contemplation. They can also infringe on your peace of mind when things are not quite right. The key to a pleasant experience is a little bit of knowledge. It begins with the location and design of the water garden. Proper construction methods which incorporate aquatic plantings, oxygenation, filtration and protection from predators and freezing temperatures are fundamental. This initial planning will pay off a thousand times in reduced maintenance, which in turn will allow you to fully enjoy your special water feature. Once you have the basics in place, you just need to learn a few concepts about the ecology of your pond, and then you will be able to support Mother Nature in taking care of everything.

So, it really pays off to get information before you begin your project. There are plenty of great ideas in books and on the internet, and it can become overwhelming trying to decipher which ones are right for you. I have found that there is truth in most resources, but often what is true for one geographic location and one climate may not necessarily apply to a different region. Also, everyone has different expectations for their water garden. For example, do you want a reflection pool, a pondless waterfall or a Koi pond? The answer to this question will determine how you build and maintain your feature.

Another way to obtain information for your project is to attend a seminar. Chances are that the presentation will be adapted specifically to your region and you will have plenty of opportunity to ask questions about your particular situation.

Late winter is a great time of the year to start planning how you are going to construct that waterfall you have been dreaming about, and get educated on how to improve and take better care of your water garden. When the sun begins to shine warm again, you will be ready and delighted to spend time in the yard making your dreams come alive.

Skaha Water Gardens will have an information booth at the Canadian Home Builder's Association Home Show, during February 5, 6 & 7. Make sure you drop by with any questions and sign up for our spring seminar series.

## 1/2 Day Pond Seminars Coming Soon!



Feb 27	Pond Design & Construction
Mar 6	Waterfall/Creek Design & Construction
Mar 27	Filtration and Water Quality
Apr 10	Build a Pond Today (hands on)
Apr 24	Pond Plants & Repotting

To register call 250-497-5658 or visit the CHBA Home Show.