



# The Water Spout

## Deep South Koi and Pond Society Newsletter October, 2005

**Deep South Koi and Pond Society, Founded June 1993**

Best website on the web... [www.capwgs.org](http://www.capwgs.org) ... go there!

### OCTOBER MEETING

You are cordially invited to the October meeting of the Deep South Koi and Pond Society.

**Who:** Deep South Koi and Pond Society Members

**Date:** October 23, 2005

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Place:** Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center

**Activity:** Make-It and Take-It Tabletop Fountain

Come make a tabletop fountain to cool your home!

**All materials provided by the society.**

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## Deep South Koi and Pond Society

**The September Meeting scheduled for September 25 was cancelled due to Hurricane Rita so there are no minutes this month.**

**Lotus** - by Bonnie Hale



Lotus (*Nelumbo*) is one of the most majestic plants to have in a water garden. It is by far the most exotic pond plant. Quite a few people tend to shy away from them, and are intimidated by them. NO NEED! They are very easy to grow once you understand the basic care of them.

The colors available are white, yellow, pink, and even BI-color. Blooming is usually in late summer because they love the heat. They are very fragrant and the perfume will permeate the evening air. The flowers, which last 3 to 5 days, close up at night. Most florists because of their uniqueness revere lotus pods in fresh and dried arrangements. The seeds that dry in the pods will rattle when shaken. It is reported that the seeds remain viable for centuries! [They were able to germinate lotus seeds left in the tombs of the pharaohs after 3,000 years.]

They are hardy from zones 5 to 10\*. There are some varieties that are hardy to zone 4 so be sure to check the zone hardiness of the variety that you purchase.

Sun requirements are at least 6 hours a day. The height will vary from 18 to 60" depending on the variety.

Ideally they like 4 to 10" of water over the pot. They can be gradually lowered to a deeper depth if need be.

Lotus is planted in pans (large and shallower than a pot). The pan should be at least 13" x 9", or larger. When the tuber arrives it is usually dormant. Handle the tuber carefully. The next part is very important so pay close attention. Locate the "eye" of the lotus tuber. The eye is described as the part of the tuber where the leaves will grow from. You should be able to detect a spot on the tuber where leaves, not roots, were once growing. This eye must not be covered with either soil or gravel. Lay the tuber horizontally on the soil with the eye sticking up so it will protrude from the soil and gravel. Place the tuber horizontally in the pan and cover lightly with ordinary garden soil or topsoil. Add a couple of inches of pea gravel on top of the soil. This will discourage your fish from rooting in your lotus. Carefully and slowly lower the pan into the pond so that it has at least 3 inches of water over the top of the pan. TIP: Upside down clay pots are very useful and can be stacked and unstacked until you get the depth you want. Lower the pan a couple of inches every few days.

NOTE: You do not need to purchase special prepared pond soil. Save your money for more plants! Wondering what I mean by ordinary garden soil? It is any soil that will grow plants. Go out and dig up some soil where you have a vegetable garden or flowerbed. If it is good enough to grow garden plants, it is good enough for pond plants!

BEHAVIOR:

The lotus will be slow growing at first. Then the leaves will start to come once the tuber has rooted. If you bought a premium size tuber, you will have flowers the same year. If the tuber was small, don't expect flowers until the following year. TIP: It is worth it to spend a little more and buy a larger tuber.

I have found I get better blooming results by fertilizing them every 2 weeks during the growing season. Simply take a stick and push a small hole into the soil near the outer rims of the lotus pan and push 2 or 3 pond plant fertilizer tablets down in the hole. Pat the soil down to cover the tablet and replace the pan back in the pond.

Nearly all parts of the lotus are edible and are used in Oriental cooking. The hefty price of a lotus will surely discourage you from sampling your lotus though. This makes it ideal (safety) for people who have small children and pets that may endeavor to taste your pond plant.

In the fall after the frost has nipped the leaves, carefully cut away all of the foliage and lower the pan to the very bottom of the pond for the winter.

The following spring when you see new leaves coming forth, move the lotus up in the water so that it is at the proper depth.

--Bonnie Hale

[www.bonniesplants.com](http://www.bonniesplants.com)

From koivet.com

## The Water Garden Tip of the Week

You should stop feeding your aquatic plants about a month before the first frost in your area. Even in areas that don't normally have frost, plant growth slows in the shorter, cooler days of the fall and winter months.

From WaterGarden.com

## Pond Liquidation Sale

Well fellow ponders I hope to make someone happy by offering these unbelievable deals. This is my own pond liquidation sale. Most of these items are new and some slightly used, but everything is in great shape. If you are considering updating a few things on your pond or building a pond from scratch, I have a deal for you. If you have any questions please call 769-0253 or 205-4904. As always, advice is free and prices are negotiable.

Thanks.  
Lance

<u>Item</u>	<u>Sale Price</u>
Back Pack Chemical Sprayer, Hand Pump (5 gallon capacity) (Used)	\$ 50.00
3 ft aluminum rake (Used)	\$ 20.00
50 ft 1-1/2 Flexible PVC Pipe (New)	\$ 65.00
Mag Drive (Inline or submersible) Water Pump (5000 GPH) (Used)	\$ 125.00
Small Skimmer Box (New)	\$ 100.00
Pond Fertilizer (1 acre Pond)	\$ 20.00
18 watt Emperor Aquatics UV Light (New)	\$ 100.00
10 watt Pond Master Submersible UV Light (New)	\$ 125.00
Pump Sock (Small) (New)	\$ 8.00
Pump Sock (Large) (New)	\$ 12.00
Pond Works Water Fall Pump-Submersible (4100 GPH) (New)	\$ 125.00
Egg Light Submersible Light Kit- 3 Pack (New)	\$ 100.00
Inline SuperFalls Water Pump (3600 GPH) (Used)	\$ 120.00
Automatic Water Refill (Large) (New)	\$ 12.00

### **Natural Stone:**

Flagstone 1 Pallet

River Rock 1 Pallet

Moss Rock (Flat Pieces 3" thick) 1 Pallet

Moss Rock (Large Boulders) 1 Pallet

All for \$ 1,200.00

Liner Material (At Least 20x20)      \$ 0.15 ft<sup>2</sup>

### **Pond Kit Special/Everything for a complete pond (11' x 16'):**

**All stone listed above, small skimmer box, inline or submersible pump, liner material, bead filter, Flex PVC pipe, and 3-pack egg light kit.**

**Special Price: \$ 1,800.00 Call me to talk about size specifics.**

## Internet Interests...

**Best Website on the web. GO THERE!**  
Capital Area Pond & Water Gardening Society  
<http://www.capwgs.org/>

Here are a few of our members favorites...

- Pond keeper Magazine <http://www.pondkeeper.com>
- Water Gardening Magazine Info on disease topics for aquatic animals <http://www.koivet.com>
- National Pond Society <http://www.bandd.net/nps/index.htm>
- Austin Pond Society <http://www.austinpondsociety.org/>
- Stokes Tropicals in New Iberia <http://www.stokestropicals.com/>
- Rare and Exotic Seeds <http://www.seedman.com>
- Big Cat Sanctuary <http://www.yogieandfriends.org>
- Miami Valley Water Garden Society Web Page <http://www.mvwgs.org>
- Pond Pals Tour <http://members.aol.com/marylady/pondpals/pindex.htm>
- Water Gardening Magazine <http://www.watergardening.com>
- Master Garden Products <http://www.mastergardenproducts.com/watergar.htm>
- <http://www.ponddoc.com/>
- [www.gardenlink.com](http://www.gardenlink.com)
- St. Joseph Water Garden Society: [www.sjwatergarden.com](http://www.sjwatergarden.com)

Go to the CAPWGS website for more favorites. If you have a favorite that will benefit other society members, please let us know. Thanks!

To purchase a business card ad space, contact Bridget Hayes 225-275-4698 or [lilypads@capwgs.org](mailto:lilypads@capwgs.org)

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**Note from the Editor:** I look forward to serving as your Newsletter editor for this year. Your ideas or any information you would like to add to the newsletter are always welcome. Please contact me at 225 755 2449 or