

*the  
nature  
of water*

# IMAGINE

GARDEN JOURNAL FOR SALSBUURY-SCHWEYER, INC  
A LANDSCAPE DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Summer slips into Autumn, and the changes of nature continue to delight and inspire. It has been a fine year. Some talk of too much rain or not enough heat, but I will voice no complaints!

Water – the topic of this newsletter – is the one element of nature that seems to most obviously impact our lives. We talk of rain, or the lack of rain, and how much snow has been predicted. We dream of vacationing at the seashore or alongside a mountain lake. Water is rejuvenating; it provides refreshment, health, and cleansing. Yet it can be one of the most powerful and destructive forces, wiping away anything in its path. And, as all gardeners well know, the absence of water can wreak devastation as well.

In the garden, water comes in many forms. My favorite is the pond: naturalistic and ecological, complete with rocky streams and cascades. It is no surprise that many of our clients agree, finding that a water garden provides a haven not only for birds, frogs, and dragonflies, but for humans too. And the sound of water – however slight – brings depth to any outdoor experience.

We all need an occasional retreat from our busy lives, even if only for a moment while looking out our window. Consider adding water to your garden. It is a change that is easy - and most rewarding!

- Sabrena Schweyer

P.S. We are always exploring new ways of using water in the garden. My latest venture is "container bog gardening". What is yours?



## Water Features Provide Retreat

The motion, sound, and sight of water can provide welcome relief from stress.

You may not realize that a pond can provide relief from yardwork as well!

Research by the National Gardening Association shows water gardens have become one of the fastest growing sectors in the lawn and garden industry in the past decade. Fifteen percent of American households have water gardens in their landscapes. It's easy to see why these versatile gardens continue to gain popularity.

Low maintenance is probably one of the biggest selling points. Many people think of a pond as a high maintenance item, but, when done right, water features can bring natural beauty to your backyard with a minimum of maintenance. Properly developed ponds incorporate rocks, fish, plants, and natural bacteria to create a self-contained mini ecosystem that cares for itself, requiring less maintenance than any other component of the garden.

Unlike a hot tub or swimming pool, there is no need to closely monitor pH levels or add a costly, never-ending stream of chemicals. The water clarity is maintained by several biological processes. Plants keep algae levels at bay by oxygenating the water and providing shade and competition for nutrients. Decaying plant material, fish waste, and debris settle on the gravel-covered pond bottom where bacteria and bottom-feeding fish dispose of it naturally. Running water and concealed filters provide additional help in keeping water fresh and clean.

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## GARDEN TIPS for AUTUMN

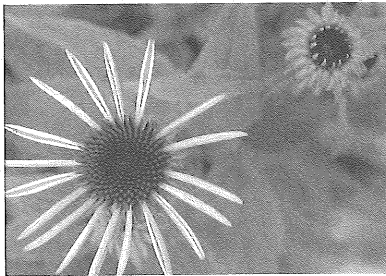
### How Late Can I Successfully Make New Plantings?

Fall is an excellent time to plant new lawns, spring bulbs, trees and shrubs. But how late is too late? Some plants need more time than others to establish their root systems before winter sets in.

Even September is late for many silver-leaved perennials, ornamental grasses, and fall bloomers. In general, most perennials should be planted by the end of October.

Needle evergreens may be planted through November; deciduous trees may be planted until the ground freezes.

Remember to water new trees and shrubs until the ground freezes. Call us if you would like spring bulbs or other new plantings added this fall.



### Fall Cleanup Checklist

- Trim or fasten any plants that may be damaged by blowing winds.
- Spray broadleaf evergreens and newly planted evergreens with antidesiccant while the temperature is above 40 degrees.
- Mark late-emerging perennials to avoid damage at spring cleanup.
- Mulch plants after the first freeze to protect them against winter heaving. Cover roses and colored hydrangeas with 1-2 feet of soil or mulch until spring.
- Remember to water evergreens for the winter around Thanksgiving.

Please keep in mind these tips are very general. We are happy to assist with your garden or answer specific questions by phone.

## Company News

### New Awards and Honors

Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc recently garnered another prestigious national design award, receiving a first place award from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). One of the company's designs placed first in the category for non-residential projects under \$40,000. To the right, APLD President Pat Ouderkirk (left) is pictured presenting the award to Samuel and Sabrena at The Royal Botanical Garden at Kew during the APLD annual conference in England this July.



Samuel served again this year as APLD National Program Chair. In cooperation with England's Society of Garden Designers, he planned the APLD annual conference in Richmond, England, as well as the post-conference tour in France. Speakers included world-renown landscape designers such as Gilles Clément, Anthony Paul, Julie Toll, and Dan Pearson. We look forward to sharing the ideas and inspirations gained from this conference.

Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc has been featured quite a bit in the media this season, including feature articles in The Cleveland Plain Dealer, The Akron Beacon Journal, "Welcome Home" magazine, and even a television interview. Reprints of these articles (and others) are available at our office.

Our new office manager, Cassandra Brown joined us in May, 2004. Her previous experience includes working with the OSU Nursery Short Course and co-authoring "The Native Plants of Ohio". Welcome, Cassy!

## We Recommend

This is a spot where we recommend books, websites, public gardens, new varieties, etc. If you have your own recommendations, we'd love to hear from you!

### "Gardening with Water" by James van Sweden

Draw inspiration from the variety of wonderful water garden projects presented in this 200-page book featuring the designs of Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden. The book also includes tips and ideas on design, building, and maintenance, as well as information on plant varieties suitable for water gardens. (Random House, 1995)

### "Designing Water Gardens: A Unique Approach" by Anthony Archer-Wills

If you are interested in any kind of water feature, this book has it! From springs to fountains, waterfalls to swimming pools, streams to ponds, this book features gorgeous photos, innovative designs, and actual blueprints of specific projects. Archer-Wills discusses styles, materials, and planning in the text, but the stunning photographs in this guidebook by themselves make it worthy of any gardener's bookshelf. (Conran Octopus, 1999)

### SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER

and receive more frequent garden tips, plus new information about upcoming classes, lectures, and events. If you are interested, please send your e-mail address to us ([info@salsbury-schweyer.com](mailto:info@salsbury-schweyer.com)) or sign up from our website.

# Questions and Answers about Ponds

**Q:** I have a flat, shady yard. Will a pond look natural and thrive in my yard?

**A:** With a little extra design consideration and a few tricks of the trade, a water feature will bring depth and beauty to any yard and look as if Nature planted it herself. Natural-looking contours can be created during the grading and excavation of the pond. Placing plants at a variety of depths and on natural "shelves" under the water further creates a layered look. Shade is mainly a problem for plant life, but wise choices in plant material can make up for less-than-perfect conditions. Shade-tolerant species and interesting foliage can be used to reduce the limitations a shaded area presents.

**Q:** Will a pond attract mosquitoes to my yard?

**A:** A properly designed pond will destroy far more mosquitoes than it fosters. The female mosquito will lay larvae on any water surface, but the larvae really flourish on stagnant water, not in the moving waters of a well designed pond. Ponds typically host creatures that find mosquito larvae quite tasty such as fish, frogs, and dragonflies. A pond skimmer filter will also eliminate mosquito larvae before they have a chance to be a nuisance to anyone.

**Q:** What must I do to prepare my pond for the winter months?

**A:** Not as much as you might think. Aside from cleaning debris such as leaves and branches from the pond, very little work is required. Fish, waterfalls, and most aquatic plants overwinter just fine. As the temperature cools, gradually decrease feeding your fish, stopping altogether when the water temperature dips below 50 degrees F. To ensure fish survival, you must prevent the pond from freezing completely, ensuring there is at least a hole in the ice for gas exchange at all times. Waterfalls, if left running through the winter, should be enough to

prevent the pond from freezing completely and will reward owners with natural ice formations, adding beauty to the winter landscape. Check the water level and the operation of the waterfall on extremely cold days to be sure there are no ice dams forming or other problems. If you opt to shut down the system for the winter, a small aerator must be run. Use a floating heater if necessary in very cold weather.



**Q:** Can I have too many plants in my pond?

**A:** Yes. To maintain your pond's natural balance, keep at least 1/3 to 2/3 of the water surface free of plants. Many plants suitable for ponds are vigorous and may take over your pond (or entire garden). Use caution with the following: yellow flag iris (left), cattails, phragmites, and chameleon plant.

## Water Features...continued from front page

The sound of running water adds to the relaxing effect of a water feature. It also attracts desirable wildlife and masks traffic or other unwanted noises. Waterfalls, fountains, streams, and fish add elements of motion to the landscape as well.

For plant lovers, water gardens can provide a new and exciting avenue of plant materials. (And they water themselves!) Even well known water lilies come in a huge variety. Plants used in natural water features include marginals for the pond border (iris, pickerel weed, rushes), blooming aquatic plants like water lilies or floating water hyacinths, and submerged aquatics such as anacharis.

Properly designed and located, a water feature will add a natural look to your yard. With a diversity of options to choose from, virtually every yard has a potential water feature waiting to be born. Call us if you're interested in adding the element of water to your garden.

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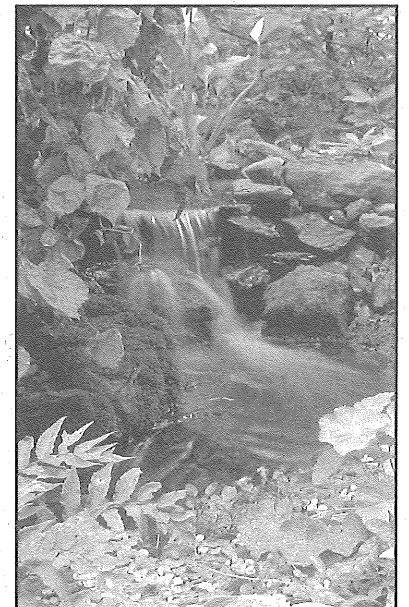
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### Professional Affiliations:

Perennial Plant Association (PPA)  
Association of Professional Landscape  
Designers (APLD)  
Ohio Nursery and Landscape  
Association (ONLA)  
Ohio Landscape Association (OLA)  
American Society of Landscape  
Architects (ASLA)  
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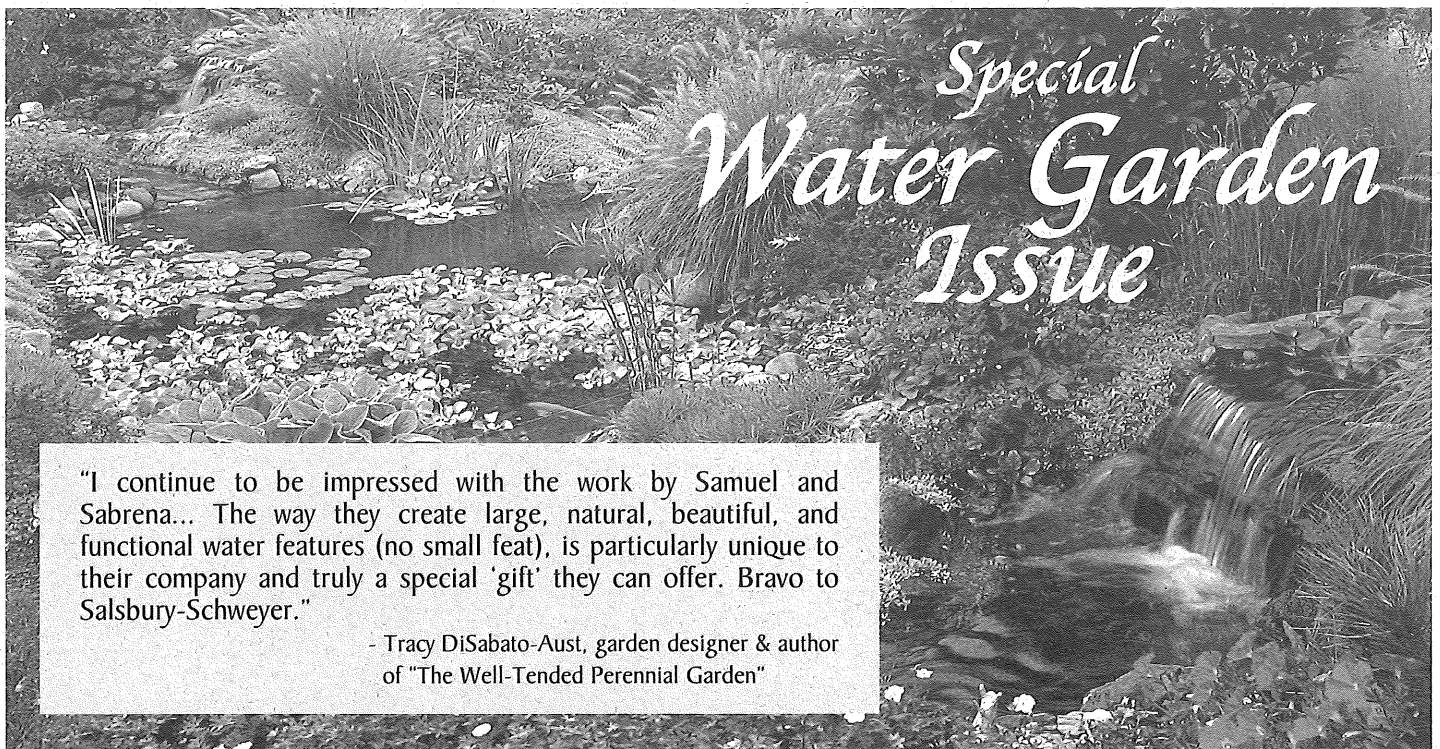
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[www.salsbury-schweyer.com](http://www.salsbury-schweyer.com)

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"I continue to be impressed with the work by Samuel and Sabrena... The way they create large, natural, beautiful, and functional water features (no small feat), is particularly unique to their company and truly a special 'gift' they can offer. Bravo to Salsbury-Schweyer."

- Tracy DiSabato-Aust, garden designer & author  
of "The Well-Tended Perennial Garden"

**Did you know ...** A well done theme garden such as a water feature can increase your home's value by 7-15 percent.\* Inside, find out how surprisingly low-maintenance a properly designed water feature can be!

\* based on research by The National Gardening Association