



# On Tricker's Pond™

## William Tricker, Inc.®

### America's Oldest Water Garden est 1892

Listed in the National Registry of Historic Places, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

www.Tricker.com

## \*Spring 2003 Water Garden Newsletter\*

Welcome to  
William Tricker, Inc.®  
"On Tricker's Pond Newsletter"



William Tricker  
Founder of William  
Tricker, Inc.®

Welcome to "On Tricker's Pond" Newsletter. The season is rapidly coming upon us and we look forward to serving you this year. We at Tricker's thank you for your orders and continued support in our products.

The William Tricker company has a proud history. In the early 1890s an individual by the name of William Tricker (1852-1916) began to hybridize water lilies in the United States. He is known as the originator of commercial water lily culture in the United States and founder of the current William Tricker, Inc.®. He tried to improve the shape, hardiness and colors of water lilies and succeeded in producing some of the finest in existence today. William Tricker established an aquatic company and continued to develop the finest of water lilies and aquatic plants today. In 1927 the company was formally incorporated in Ohio and proudly retained his historic name, William Tricker, Inc.®. We hope that you were able to grow some of the fine Tricker varieties last year, if not, another year is rapidly approaching and again you have the opportunity to witness the beauty in your own water garden pool.



William Tricker, Inc. is proudly listed in the National Register of Historic Places, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

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John T. Charleson  
1901-1975

During the later 1920s water gardening was beginning to develop into a special form of gardening with the influence of such experts as John Charleson. He wrote articles on water gardening, was a judge for fish at shows, developed chemical medications for sick fish (such as for *Ich*), developed chemical formulations of aquatic fertilizers (of which has led to our Tricker *Praefecta* aquatic fertilizer) and is also credited with introducing a beautiful blue hybrid tropical water lily named **Shirley-Ann** (named Shirley after his wife) which is still offered today in Tricker's catalog.

### "Doc" Charleston of Wm Tricker, Inc.® .....Thanks!

In the past issues in *On Tricker's Pond* we have introduced many important individuals from the long aquatic history of William Tricker, Inc.® and "Doc" Charleson is among these special individuals.

John T. Charleson, commonly called "Doc Charleson" was a chemical engineer and worked for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio before he came to work for Tricker's in 1927. He was a good friend of William G. O'Brien, former vice-president of William Tricker, Inc.® who also was a chemical engineer.



Photograph taken in 1939 in one of Tricker's Aquatic Greenhouses showing Doc Charleson holding a tropical water lily.

His chemical formula for aquatic fertilizer was widely accepted and reported that his experiments would make "water lilies and other plants bloom out of season, and has produced flowers on aquatic plants that bloom so infrequently as to make the occasion a noteworthy event. In addition, the individual flowers generally are larger than normal." He concluded by explaining that by controlling the chemical "food" (fertilizer) would, in turn, regulate the amount of foliage and blooming characteristics of the water lilies and other aquatic plants.

Because of his dedication, leadership, expertise, and contributions to water gardening, many gardeners have enjoyed and continue to enjoy the products of William Tricker, Inc.® for decades! Thanks to Doc Charleson!

### Nitrogen Phosphorous Potash

## Aquatic Fertilizers

Most gardeners are familiar with the commercial fertilizers for most land plants. Commercial fertilizer formulas are different for lawns, roses, etc. and the same is true for aquatic plants but appears to be extremely complex. There is a lot going on in the water ecosystem that can effect how the chemicals in the fertilizer are used in the water garden pool. Aquatic plants have many different ways to assimilate nutrients from fertilizers. Incorrect amounts can alter the growth pattern of the aquatic plants and potentially kill them, not to say the contamination of the water that can effect other organisms. It is important to use to a proven aquatic fertilizer. All aquatic commercial fertilizers (page 37 Tricker 2003 Catalog) sold by Tricker's have been used by our nurseries to produce thousands of healthy blooming plants for decades. Correct aquatic fertilizers do make a difference!

You're NEW 2003 Tricker Catalog is mailed the beginning of February.

## The Water Poppy: One of the most admired aquatic plants in any water garden pool!



The **Water Poppy** (*Hydrocleys nymphoides*) is one of the most admired plants in the water garden pool. The warmth and color of the summer sun has been captured in the yellow flowers of the water poppy. Although it has only three petals per flower it will brighten up the water garden as a patch of marigolds brighten up a hosta bed. Deep green leaves grow in abundance to frame the flowers to perfection. Numerous flowers will bloom from mid summer on till frost.

The water poppy likes full sun and will not bloom well if placed in the shade. Give her the prime spot in the water garden and you will surely be delighted.

**Planting:** Plant the water poppy using rich top soil and place in shallow water up to 6 to 8 inches. Do not submerge the shorter plants, but gradually lower them to the correct depth in the water as they rapidly grow. Remember to fertilize them during the growing season with the **Trico** fertilizer tablets and this will assure blooms throughout the growing season.

## Variegated Water Clover



The hardy variegated clover is very attractive in the water garden pool. It merely floats and grows across the water's surface. Since it is classified as an amphibious fern, it is most interesting to watch each new leaf unroll similar to

the land fern! Each stem has four triangular leaves, so the luck will just keep on coming! In crowded conditions the leaves will become aerial, again adding a very unusual appearance to the water garden pool.

The leaves are dark green and are symmetrically variegated. The four leaves will flatten out on the water's surface and give a most pleasing appearance.

**Planting:** Plant in a small crate of good topsoil with the fertilizer **Praefecta**. Allow to become pot bound, and the aerial leaves can be seen unrolling, similar to the land fern. Fertilize with **Trico** pellets to keep the plant growing robustly.

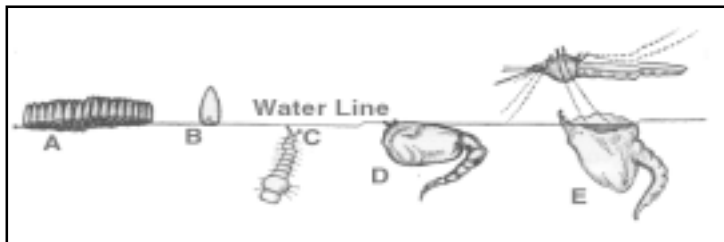
### Algae Questions:



If you have specific questions about algae in your pool, please call and we can help you identify and recommend a solution.

# Mosquitoes 101

Mosquitoes have been incriminated as the villains of many human diseases, specifically malaria and yellow fever. Now, with the West Nile Virus spreading they have returned to the spotlight. Since many water gardeners are suspect in harboring these villainous creatures, a background of their life cycle is important not only be able to identify them in the water but to make sure they are not in the water garden pool.



**Generalized Stages of the Mosquito:** A. "Raft" of eggs B. Single egg C. Larva D. Pupa E. Adult mosquito emerging from pupa. Depending upon temperature, the entire cycle from egg to adult can take place in a few days. Many children have sat and watched mosquito larva wiggle and squirm in the water and suddenly witness the adult winged mosquito emerge from a pupa. A spectacular sight to behold as the wings and body emerge and prepare for the first flight!

Mosquitoes typically breed in stagnant water, such as ditches, hollow pockets found in trees, gutters on houses where water can accumulate and does not drain, an open jar on the ground, abandoned tires or anywhere water can set for a period of time.

Mosquitoes in the water have no gills and "breathe" by coming to the surface of the water. The larva ("C" above) is shown at the water line or surface taking in oxygen. Thus, years ago, kerosine, which makes a slim film and floats on water, was used to cover the water surface to prevent the exchange of oxygen and thus the mosquito could not breathe and died.

Fish have always been a sure remedy of mosquito larva. If your pool has fish they will consume the mosquito larva rapidly. Not only do fish consume mosquitoes but other attracted animals to the water garden will feed on them: dragonflies, damselflies, frogs, aquatic insects and salamanders will eat them too. This is why the mosquito wants to breed in stagnant water.

### Have mosquitoes always been a concern in a water garden pool?

Absolutely! In 1925 William O'Brien, vice president of Wm. Tricker, Inc.® wrote an article for the Cleveland Flower Show about water gardening. In the article Mr. O'Brien stated to make sure your water garden has fish, for they will eat the mosquito larvae. **Fish LOVE** to eat mosquito larva. In fact, many avid fish enthusiasts raise mosquito larva in stagnant water and feed their fish. It is a real treat for them!

### If you have no Fish in your water garden pool...or there is standing water within your yard...what can you do to keep mosquitoes from breeding?



The use of a safe biological source known as "Mosquito Dunks" are available for any standing water to control mosquitoes without fish. These are small doughnut looking items that contain a bacteria known as *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* or **BTI** that float on the surface of the water. Floating them on the water surface of the water garden pool will stimulate the growth of the bacteria and kill the mosquito larva.

Note: If your pool has fish, and there are mosquitoes in the area, stagnant water should be looked for and, if found the use of the Mosquito Dunks can be used. They can also be used safely with fish.

The "Mosquito Dunks" (page 58 Tricker catalog) sold at Tricker's has been indicated not to harm other aquatic animals or plants in the water garden pool. Tricker's has also tested our brand of Mosquito Dunks and found them to be safe with *Daphnia*, a excellent live fish food we sell. *Daphnia* is not only important as fish food, but important in the complex food chain of a water garden pool.

# Cardinal Flower

Bog plants in the water garden pool serve many useful and decorative purposes. Some as a tall background to highlight the water lilies, some as subtle accents with small delicate flowers and others for their lush foliage. But one plant stands out among all the rest, *Lobelia cardinalis* or the commonly known **Cardinal Flower**.



**Brilliant Red Flowers!**

The word *cardinalis* is translated from botanical Latin to mean the color red, or more specifically Cardinal Red. To those of you familiar with the bird named Cardinal, this conjures up the most vivid color of brilliant red ever seen. *Lobelia cardinalis* has flowers of this magnificent red color.

This hardy perennial grows two to four feet tall with deep green leaves arranged to form a tidy almost shrub-like appearance. Although a member of the Lobelia family this plant should not be confused with the edging lobelias that range in colors from blue, red, and white.

These other members of Lobelias or Bellflower family prefer direct sun and well drained soil conditions. The *Lobelia cardinalis* must have consistently wet soil and prefer shady areas.

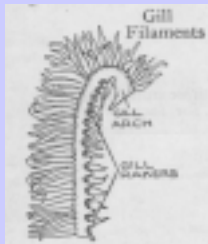
Although the name Cardinal Flower hints that this plant is attractive to the bird Cardinal, it really isn't. This is one of the favorite flowers of the Ruby-throated hummingbird, and is worth growing for that reason alone.

The Cardinal Flower can be cultivated either by division or seeds. The flowers bloom from July to August. Seeds should not be collected until the seed pods have swollen and turned brown. The seeds require cold to induce germination. This can be accomplished by placing the seeds in a sealed bag in the freezer for a few weeks.

Chosen for the foliage and shape of the plant or for its beautiful flowers and attractiveness to hummingbirds this is a perfect addition for every bog and water garden. It is also very easy to grow plant, that even the beginning water gardener will have success!

Note: Since the common name "Cardinal Flower" is also sold under other species names, the only one Tricker recommends and best suited for the water garden is the true *Lobelia cardinalis*.

## FISH say: "Watch that pH, water temperature and ammonia!"



One of the most important parameters to monitor in a water garden pool with fish is the **pH, water temperature and ammonia** levels. Ammonia, an excretion product of fish, in a certain form (unionized form) is a strong irritant to the gills of the fish. It is a well known fact that as the pH rises (becomes more alkaline) and the temperature rises the ammonia becomes more toxic (unionized) to fish. This condition not only can kill the fish, but subject them to many pathological diseases related with stress.

**How to identify:** Routine (minimum every week) testing the water can identify high pH and ammonia levels. If the levels get too high, the fish will come to the surface, often at the edges of the pool and gulp for air. Their motion is often slower than normal. The gills can appear redder than normal and swollen, and possibly patches of white will be seen that are from opportunistic fungi or bacteria from the stress on the gills.

**What to do?** You can treat the increase of ammonia and pH with chemicals. Chemical additives can be used to lower the pH and a product that absorbs the ammonia out of the water, such as Tricker's "**Ammonia Ease**" (page 55 Tricker's catalog) can be used. But the cause of the problem must be identified (over crowding of fish, feeding too much food, etc.) and corrected to solve the problem completely so that it does not return. Biologically, the "good" bacteria (see Tricker's Catalog pg. 55) will break down the toxic ammonia in the water, so it is essential that this bacteria is present (i.e. **Ultra Clear**) with good filtration if the ammonia levels continue to rise in the pool. Other excellent additives are available in addition to Ultra Clear, ie. Sludge Digester, etc.



**Have you ever seen these dials?** If you recognize these dials then you must be concerned with energy and should be using Tricker's energy efficient pumps. For continuous pump operation they use much less energy than most other aquatic pumps.

# Glyceria



**Glyceria** (*Glyceria maxima* var *variegata*) one of the easiest of bog plants to grow, yet its aggressive display of foliage will impress any gardener. Its soft ribbon like leaf blades are striped emerald and white. The plant gently reaches a height of two feet tall and grows quickly. This plant works perfectly to hide the mechanics of pumps and filters, tubing and electrical cords because of its dense growth habit. Fertilize regularly and enjoy this easy to grow plant.

## Amazon Water Lily

Tricker Exclusive



When you receive your 2003 Tricker Catalog, look on page 15. You will find a rare and special Water Lily called **Amazonum**, from South America's Amazon River! They have a most unusual blooming pattern, order one this year and let us know your experience!

## Water Pennywort: The Great Impersonator



The **Water Pennywort** is a miniature lotus leaf impersonator! The leaves are dark green, round, and balanced perfectly atop the sturdy, light green stems which resemble a miniature lotus leaf. They grow to about 2 to 12 inches tall. This delightful bog plant adds the beauty and charm of the lotus leaf, but without demanding full sun and lots of room to grow. The flowers are curious, a round umbel of delicate florets that almost sparkle against the deep coloring of the round leaves. Because of this growth pattern, it can be used as a marginal or centerpiece plant. It can be grown in a small tub garden. This "lucky penny" of a plant will thrive year after year with minimal care. It is a fast growing species and will look well established within the first season.


# On Tricker's Pond Mail Order Specials

The following specials are used in conjunction with the 2003 William Tricker Catalog which will be mailed the beginning of February. All coupon specials expire May 1, 2003, unless stated otherwise. So **Order Early**. Attach the appropriate coupons to your Tricker order blank if ordering by mail. Internet customers mention this discount in the comments section. When placing your order by telephone state that you are ordering from the **On Tricker's Pond Specials** list. You will be required to give the sale detail on each coupon. Shipping and Handling charges will be added to the invoice, unless stated on invoice.



**Cardinal Flower**  
A wonderful plant that adds a special beauty to any water garden pool!

**\$1.00 OFF**  
Page 28: Tricker's Catalog  
William Tricker, Inc. 1-800-524-3492  
Coupon expires May 1, 2003




**Water Pennywort**  
Add these penny-like foliage to your water garden! Page 30 Tricker's Catalog

**\$1.00 OFF**  
William Tricker, Inc. 1-800-524-3492  
Coupon Expires May 1, 2003



**Water Poppy**  
A wonderful plant that adds a glow of sunshine to any water garden pool. Page 32 Tricker Catalog

**\$1.00 OFF**  
Coupon expires May 1, 2003



**Ultra Clear™**  
The "Good Bacteria", purifies the water, restores clarity, and removes organic matter. Add routinely to your water garden. (see page 2 of newsletter and page 54 of Tricker's catalog).

**\$1.00 OFF**  
each

**Sludge Digester**  
Put that special blend of professional strength of "good" bacteria to work on your sludge. Page 56 in Tricker's Catalog.

Ultra Clear and Sludge Digester are compatible!  
William Tricker, Inc. 1-800-524-3492  
Coupon Expires May 1, 2003



**Glyceria**  
An easy to grow variegated aquatic plant!

**50% OFF**  
Page 29 Tricker's Catalog  
William Tricker, Inc. 1-800-524-3492  
Coupon Expires May 1, 2003



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