



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
Issue XI

Spring 2005 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. 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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Star of the Show: An Indian legend says that the water lily was once a star in the sky. It fell from the sky and, striking the water, it changed into a flower!

Tropical Water Lilies just Keep on Blooming!



In the photograph, the pond netting is in place in October to catch any falling leaves. The pond netting is camouflaged since it is black. Note: The tropical water lilies are still blooming! This is a Northern water garden pool that is enjoyed this late in the year!



When autumn approaches in October in our Northern states, the prevention of leaves from falling into the water garden pool is important. We are also reminded at this time that our short growing season is coming to an end. The catching of leaves is easily accomplished with a pond net placed over the pool in the autumn. The pond net covering is important to catch the leaves before they enter the pool. If the leaves enter the pool they will accumulate, decompose and produce noxious gases under the ice that can harm fish and effect the ecology of your pool.

When pond netting is being placed over water garden pools in autumn, most hardy water lilies in the Northern states have already gone dormant and stopped blooming. Characteristically, the hardy water lilies are preparing for the predicted harsh winter as indicated by Farmer's Almanac and have put their energy in the underground tuber. However, as W.B. of Mentor, OH (photo above) is placing his net on the water garden pool, one big observation is made: The tropical water lilies are still blooming! Yes, W.B. of Mentor, OH has observed what Tricker's has recommended for decades and Tricker customers have known for years: **Make sure to grow tropical water lilies in your water garden pool to extend your blooming season and enjoy your water garden longer!** Characteristically the tropical water lilies

do NOT care the winter is coming...they just keep on blooming and growing! It is as if the growing season has been extended! Unfortunately the tropical water lilies do not survive through the winter but will give a wonderful display of flowers throughout our short growing season in the Northern climates.

If one examines historic water gardening books and expert writings of the past: the principle that growing tropical water lilies to extend a growing season is a must in Northern climates and also stated are the claims that tropical water lilies are superior in many features not found in hardy varieties of water lilies. Not only do the tropical water lilies extend the growing season, but have other features that are superior to the hardy water lilies. The tropical water lilies have flowers that rise high above the water, are very aromatic, come in night blooming varieties, produce more flowers, have flowers of blue and purple shades, have varieties of strongly mottled pads and contain viviparous varieties!

But, do not forget the hardy water lilies. They are very beautiful and many varieties have proven to be excellent bloomers. Hardy water lilies have the benefit of being able to be planted earlier than the tropicals in the spring when it is cooler and thus begin to show the pond off earlier. This was recognized in the early 1920s by Tricker's when we stressed growing BOTH hardy and tropical water lilies to extend and enjoy the growing season.



Tub Gardens: Immediate Gratification!



Tub gardening is a form of water gardening that can be enjoyed in the confines of a simple tub filled with water. An entire ecosystem with aquatic plants can be crated and enjoyed in this tub.

The true benefit of a tub garden is the fact that this tub can be set up within minutes. All you have to do is add water and aquatic plants to the selected tub and "immediate gratification"! This tub can be placed on your patio, sunk into the ground, or placed in a unique place in your backyard.

Many different ideas have been used to make a tub garden, however the tub material must be safe for aquatic plants and aquatic life.



Note the shelves inside for the placement of bog plants!

Tricker's tubs for water gardening this year will all have shelves for the placement of bog plants and come in a variety of colors. The tubs are designed for water gardening.

Once filled with aquatic plants the tub is beautiful. Wild life such as birds are often attracted to such a display.

Do not forget to check out our Tricker tubs this year, they are excellent for your backyard, patio, or any unique place in your yard. These tubs will add a certain charm to your gardening endeavors and will beam with instant gratification!

1. What type of water lilies are recommended for the tub garden?

Answer: The "pygmy water lilies" are recommended for the tub garden. However, many of Tricker customers have grown the larger varieties and enjoy the lush growth of the pads.

2. Are there any other aquatic plants that resemble water lilies that can be used in the tub garden?

Answer: Yes, the "water snowflakes" have been used by many experienced tub gardeners for decades and are economical. They have delicate pads with wonderful flowers and are easy to grow!

Water Snowflakes in a tub garden circa 1900



3. Can a whiskey barrel be used to make a tub garden?

Answer: Whiskey barrels can be used however they do have several negative side effects. If the barrel is drained for the winter, the boards can shrink and fall apart. Also, there can be toxic substances left in the barrel that can harm aquatic life. This is why Tricker's offers our tub garden containers with excellent weathering properties such as the tongue and groove cedar with a special liner designed by Tricker's and ultraviolet resistant polyethylene tubs.



4. Can the tub garden be sunk into the ground?

Answer: Yes, and this method has been used for decades. The tub is sunk approximately 2/3 of the way with the lip above ground. This will also keep the water temperature constant.

Aquatic Plant Column

Water Sensitivity Plant



Water Sensitivity Plant

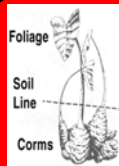
One of the most fascinating aquatic plants is the water sensitivity plant. The plant is placed on the surface of the water and it slowly grows across sending out leaves. The leaves of the plant will close to the touch of a hand similar to the mimosa plant. Most unusual are the bulbous stems (they feel and look like styrofoam) that foam to allow the plant to float across your water garden pool. This plant needs very little attention since it derives nourishment from the water through the dangling roots. It can also produce a bright yellow flower that is very striking with the coloration of the leaves and reddish stems. Try one this year and enjoy a most unusual plant.

Floating Leaf Flower: A beautiful aquatic plant!

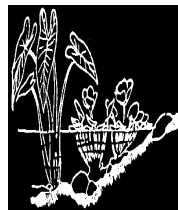


Floating Leaf Flower: Has very attractive reddish dangling roots with a small

The Floating Leaf Flower (name derived from the genus) has one of the most dainty and attractive flowers of the floating aquatic plants. The leaves overlap like roofing tiles and have a most unusual touch. The light green coloration of the leaves with the contrasting red roots and reddish leaf trim make this a very attractive plant. Like most floating aquatic plants it needs very little attention since it derives its nourishment from the water.



Green Taro: An easy to grow plant



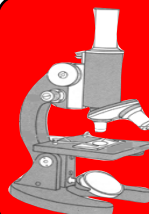
In our past articles we have discussed the taros. The taros seem to add that special growth at the edge of the pond, or as a pond center feature. The leaves blow gently in the breeze and give a wonderful attraction to the pond. Since they are tropical, they grow rapidly. When weather in the fall is becoming cold, they can be brought in doors and placed in a dish of water near a window to gather sunlight. In the spring, they can be returned to the pool!

Aquatic Snails: The best house keepers of your pond!



Aquatic snails are extremely important in your water garden pool.

They are nature's house cleaners. Each snail (trapdoor snails, melantho snails, ramshorn snails, etc.) that Tricker offers has a different appetite and function in the water garden pool. Thus, a variety of snails should be introduced into each water garden. For example, some work on the waste material of fish, others on decaying plant material, etc.

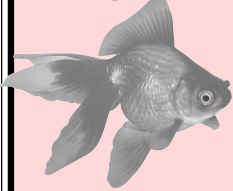


Reminder: Do not forget to use a bacterial additive, Ultraclear, in the spring to get your pond to a great start this year. Also, make sure to use the extra strength "Sludge Digester" to rid of the build up of sludge over the winter. Both of these additives are compatible when using together. They are necessary in starting your "Nitrogen Cycle" that is so important in keeping healthy water!

LIVE fish food: Do NOT forget to treat your fish to Daphnia/Duckweed!

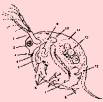
Fish love Daphnia and Duckweed!

When it comes to providing your fish with a source of natural live fish foods the selection is often limited. Some of the deepest colors of fish result from the constant use of natural live fish foods such as Daphnia and Duckweed!



Daphnia is the aquarist best known live fish food. These small creatures are approximately the size of a pin head. They are known by the biologist as crustaceans which belong to the large order or group known as Cladocera. They are commonly called "ditch fleas" or "water fleas".

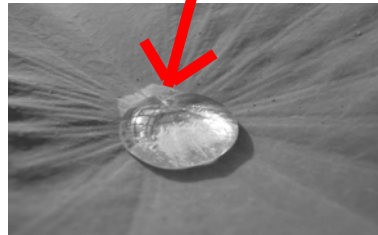
Daphnia



They do not bite but resemble a flea moving in the water with a jerky motion. The daphnia just hop and jump around in the water. This jerky or active motion attracts fish. If you also have salamanders, they also are very fond of eating the Daphnia. Daphnia not only are a great nutritional fish food but the daphnia love to eat algae!

Duckweed, a small floating plant, is a GREAT treat for your pond fish. The fish can consume a tremendous amount of duckweed in an afternoon! Duckweed is a powerhouse of nutrients for the fish! Feed both Daphnia and Duckweed for a real treat!

Did you ever see a drop of water flow across a Lotus leaf? Researchers noted this!



Drop of water on a lotus leaf

One of the most amazing observations is a drop of water going across a lotus leaf. On a raining day, a water gardener will notice the water drops "rolling" off the lotus leaf as if they were drops of mercury glistening as they fall over the edge of the leaf. It appears that not only the leaf is not getting wet, but the water droplet does not even touch the surface of the leaf and stays in a tight "ball-like" shape!

A team of researchers noted that a beam of light could be used to move a drop of oil around a surface...however, they could not do the same thing with water drops. However, an Arizona team of researchers were inspired by observing the drop of water on a lotus leaf and concluded that the relationship of the water drop and the surface material was the answer to moving a droplet of water with a light beam. The super repelling nature of lotus leaves that was noted by water gardeners is now in the hands of researchers. By using light (ultraviolet) to move water droplets could be applied to medical uses in making miniature valves and pumps (SN:08/07/04 p.84-85). Thanks to our lotus leaves!

Now, if you have not noticed this most unusual display of water rolling off a water lotus leaf, take a close watch this year...as you witness the water droplet making its remarkable journey over the lotus, just think how Mother Nature works and comes up with some of the most spectacular displays on earth!

Aquatic Fertilizers:

SG, Fairhope, AL



Dear Tricker's: This spring I bought Tricker's "Praefecta" fertilizer and "Trico" pellets. The result using the Praefecta and Trico have been outstanding! I have never seen such growth and blooms! Enclosed are some pictures of my pond. Thanks,

SG, Fairhope, AL

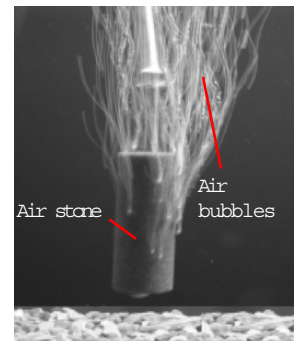
Using a proven aquatic fertilizer is very important! Tricker's chemist have developed an aquatic fertilizer (Praefecta: a granular fertilizer that is mixed into the soil when planting and Trico: a pellet form that is used throughout the growing season to produce an abundance of blooms) that has been used for decades growing aquatic plants. Many claims have been used to testify using different formulations for aquatic plants, however the use of Tricker's granular fertilizer (Praefecta) that is mixed into the soil when planting and using the pelleted fertilizer (Trico) during the growing season has proven to be most successful in producing the most rigorous and blooming plants! Thank you SG from Fairhope, AL for your comments

Backup to a pump failure...what are your plans? Fish hope you have one!

Many water gardeners have an increased fish population that has grown over the years through reproduction or the fish have just gotten larger. With this change is the increase demand for oxygen. Many water gardeners have a water feature that is circulating the

water with a pump. This will add new oxygen to the water and in turn supports any increased fish population or growth of fish. Dissolved oxygen is lower at higher temperatures, and on a hot summer day the worst that you can expect is a failed pump and your water feature stops. In addition, photosynthesis (plants producing oxygen) stops at night and the plants ALSO demand oxygen. This situation causes a stressful condition and demand for oxygen by all living things in your pond. Fish may begin to gasp or gulp air at the water surface. You need to do something quick!

Many water gardeners have a backup aeration system in place or ready for use. Aeration systems consist of an air pump attached to an air stone which produces many tiny bubbles filled with oxygen. The fish often will "play" or swim through these bubbles and adds a new feature to your water garden. During this backup, many water gardeners leave it in place and allow the fish to play in the water bubbles. See Tricker's catalog page 63 for an aeration kit which not only can be used as a backup to a failed pump, but can be used as a method to keep a hole in the ice during winter months while adding air bubbles.



An air stone produces an abundant amount of bubbles filled with oxygen!

On Tricker's Pond Mail Order Specials

The following specials are used in conjunction with the 2005 William Tricker Catalog which will be mailed the beginning of February. All coupon specials expire May 1, 2005, 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 Kit. You will be required to give the sale detail on each coupon and your customer number on the label. Shipping and Handling charges will be added to the invoice, unless stated on invoice.

Water Sensitivity Fern



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

\$1.00 OFF

Page 34: Tricker's Catalog
William Tricker, Inc. 1-800-524-3492
Coupon expires May 1, 2005

Floating Leaf Flower

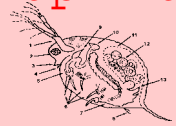


Add this easy to grow floating plant with delicate red dangling roots! Page 38 Tricker's Catalog

\$0.50 OFF

William Tricker, Inc. 1-800-524-3492
Coupon Expires May 1, 2005

Daphnia



An excellent treat for ANY fish! Begin this spring by giving your FISH a wonderful nutritious treat of LIVE Daphnia. Page 35 Tricker Catalog

\$0.75 OFF

Coupon expires May 1, 2005



Ultra Clear™



The "Good Bacteria", purifies the water, restores clarity, and removes organic matter. Add routinely to your water garden.

Sludge Digester

Put that special blend of professional strength of "good" bacteria to work on your sludge.

\$1.00 OFF
each

Ultra Clear and Sludge Digester are compatible.

William Tricker, Inc. 1-800-524-3492
Coupon Expires May 1, 2005
Page 60 in Tricker's Catalog

GreenTaro



An easy to grow variegated aquatic plant!

1.00 OFF

Page 36 Tricker's Catalog
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Welcome to
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Newsletter

Please Deliver to Current Resident