

“Trick or Treaters” Herald the Holiday Season

GET READY WITH SOME WATER GARDENING GIFT IDEAS

by Paula Biles

Like most of the country, I now begin my Holiday Season at Halloween. Years of conditioning by the stores have finally worn me down. Now when I see candy corn, thoughts of Santa Claus and sugarplums dance in my head. Spider web decorations and costumes make me think of all the gifts I need to buy for friends and relatives. Which brings up my topic ... suggestions for the water gardeners on your holiday gift list.

Ten years ago there weren't many options for water garden (WG) presents and the best idea was a gift certificate at one of the few mail order companies selling aquatics. Now you have innumerable places to shop: in person, by mail, and on-line. Although a gift certificate for a plant or supplies is still a terrific gift, today there are many other choices. Some are listed below to get you in the gift-giving spirit. (For those of you who say “Bah humbug” and aren't into presents, consider the books and magazines as essential sources for your own WG library.)

If you're also shopping for koi keepers, many of these suggestions can be easily adapted. After a few substitutions here and there (i.e. “koi” for “water lily” or “koi food” for “fertilizer”) they will apply to your Koi Kichi list also.

So enjoy Halloween and remember how much fun trick or treating was when you were little. Start this Holiday Season with lots of joy,

and be sure to splurge when shopping for your water gardening friends.

*Aquatically Yours,
Santa Lily*

Reference Materials for Gifts or Your Own Library

Books

Adkins, Dorcas. *Simple Fountains for Indoors & Outdoors*. Storey Books, 1999, \$26.95

Allison, James. *Water in the Garden*. Tetra Press, 1991, \$32.50

Cusick, Dawn. *Tabletop Fountains*. Lark Books, 1999, \$17.95 pap.

Fisher, Kathleen. *Complete Guide to Water Gardens*. Creative Homeowner, 2000, \$19.95
Garden Pools & Fountains. Ortho Books, 1988, \$9.95 [at Home Depot, Target, Lowes, etc.]

Heriteau, Jacqueline & C Thomas. *Water Gardens*. Houghton Mifflin, 1996, \$22 pap.

Nash, Helen & M. Cook. *Water Gardening Basics*. Sterling Publishing, 1999, \$14.95 pap.

Nash, Helen & E. Hughes. *Waterfalls, Fountains, Pools & Streams*. Sterling Publishing, 1998, \$17.95 pap.

Nash, Helen & S. Stroupe. *Plants for Water Gardens*. Sterling Publishing, 1998, \$19.95 pap.

Quick Guide: Ponds & Fountains. Creative Homeowner, 1999, \$7.95

Robinson, Peter. *Amer. Hort. Soc. Complete Guide to Water Gardening*. Dorling-Kindersley,

1997, \$34.95

Slocum, Perry & P. Robinson. *Water Gardening: Water Lilies & Lotuses*. Timber Press, 1996, \$59.95

Swindells, Philip. *Quick and Easy Container Water Gardens*. Storey Books, 1998, \$22.95

Thomas, Charles. *Water Gardens: How to Plan & Plant a Backyard Pond*. Houghton Mifflin, 1997, \$12.95

Magazines

Koi USA. PO Box 469070, Escondido, CA 92046. 6 issues + buyers guide for \$24.95

Pond & Garden. 1670 S 900 E, Zionsville, IN 46077. 6 issues for \$20

PondKeeper. 1000 Whitetail Ct, Duncansville, PA 16635. 6 issues for \$22 [for retailers but still good]

Water Garden Journal. 1401

Johnson Ferry Rd, Marietta, GA

30062. International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society (IWGS), membership for \$30 includes 4 issues



Video

Royal Horticultural Society. *A Practical Guide to Water Gardening*. 60 min, 1996, \$23

Plant Sources: Walk-in & Mail Order

Some of the best presents come from a WG store, such as those listed below. Besides walk-in, most have mail order or on-line operations. This is just a sample of the better-known companies; there are many more. Remember that plants are usually shipped only during the growing season – late spring and summer. Catalogs



Signs of Halloween appear everywhere, signaling the start of the holiday gift giving season.

sometimes cost a small fee, but they're worth it since you get on the mailing list. If your order must be shipped, be sure to allow plenty of time.

Green & Hagstrom, PO Box 658, Fairview, TN 37062 (615) 799-0708

LilyBlooms, 932 S Main St, North Canton,



For a gift that keeps coming all year long, give a magazine subscription to *KOI USA* or *Pond & Garden*...or a free membership to your local Water Gardening Club."

Catalogs & certificates – Give a stack of mail order catalogs to drool over all winter, in anticipation of redeeming your thoughtful gift when spring arrives.



Stocking stuffers come in all shapes, sizes, and prices.

Gardens Blvd, Winter Haven, FL
33884 (941) 293-7151

Waterford Gardens, 74 E
Allendale Rd, Saddle River, NJ
07458 (201) 327-0721

Ideas for Supplies & Accessories

Since most WGerS don't have heavy garden loam in their backyards, several bags of **aquatic planting soil or topsoil** are always welcome. Bags of **gravel and stones** to keep out those boisterous koi may be hard to

giftwrap but will be appreciated. **Pots** are popular, especially during plant repotting time. Some water gardeners prefer the mesh baskets while others like no-hole Lerio pots – black is always in style. WGerS never have enough fertilizer, so a bottle or two of **aquatic plant tablets** make an excellent gift. A more unusual present is the new wire **plant stand** made to securely hold pots at just the right height; they're much classier than black milk crates.

OH 44720 (800) 921-0005

Lilypons Water Gardens, PO Box 10,
Buckeystown, MD 21717 (800) 723-7667

Paradise Water Gardens, 14 May St,
Whitman, MA 02382 (800) 955-0161

Perry's Water Gardens, 136 Gibson Aquatic
Farm Rd, Franklin NC 28734 (828) 524-3264

Ponds2go.com, www.ponds2go.com, (877)
752-0889

Slocum's Water Gardens, 1101 Cypress

Suggestions for Last Minute Shoppers

Go to a bookstore or newsstand and buy a copy of *Pond & Garden* or *KOI USA* magazine. Send in the subscription card for recipient, then wrap up the issue with a card announcing delivery for the next year.

Log on to Amazon or Barnes&Noble and order some books. They are often shipped within 24 hours, although the holidays may slow things down. For an additional fee you can request extra speedy delivery.

Buy a pair of Fiskars scissors and decorate the handles with waterproof markers or paint. Draw a design, the recipient's name, or "WGO" (Water Gardening Only) ... you get the idea ... be creative.

Give a nice Gift Certificate redeemable for a massage after the spring repotting is finally completed, when the water gardener is hunched over with an aching back and sore muscles.

Splurge with a Gift Certificate redeemable for a manicure, to get those black fingernails looking elegant for a change.

Make up a fancy Certificate, by hand or computer, offering your services for an afternoon or a weekend. It could be reclaimed for fertilizing, trimming, dividing, repotting, etc. Often this kind of gift is the most treasured of all.

Accessories make a WG more attractive and easier to maintain. **Lights** show off the pond after dark, highlighting night blooming lilies. **Statues, sculptures, and stepping stones** help personalize the garden. High **rubber boots** or long **rubber gloves** are a godsend in the spring before the water has warmed up. Lily pad pruners and fertilizer feeders are two of the numerous **gadgets** available.

Stocking Stuffer Suggestions

Mail order catalogs

A year's membership to the IWGS or local water gardening or koi Club

Fake water lily blooms for off-season/shady/indoor ponds or as gift decorations

Monet prints, posters, stationary, postcards

Gift certificates

Anne Geddes' or other lily pond notecards

Fine grained film (ISO 100) for great photos. Fuji Velvia (slides) and Superia (prints) give excellent color rendition of the greens in WGs.

A polarizing camera filter, to eliminate glare and to get color-saturated photos

A photo of their water garden, lily, or lotus, made into a plaque, calendar, clock, mug, key-chain, photo-watch, T-shirt, mouse pad, or poster. Allow plenty of time.

Water lily rubber stamp

Dream Gift Ideas

For those with deep pockets, or truly in love, here are a few suggestions for the WG present of a lifetime.

Create a plant pond to complement your existing koi pond.

Buy that long coveted lily or lotus variety, plus champagne to celebrate its first bloom.

Bestow a *Victoria amazonica* along with a pond big enough to hold it.

Give a summer trip to Monet's gardens (in France!) or a botanical garden with water lilies.

Sources for Water Gardening Gifts

First check local nurseries or stores where aquatics are sold. They often carry supplies, accessories, or books year round. You'll be able to see the items and don't have to wait to get them.

Mail order water gardening businesses have sprung up everywhere. Their catalogs provide lots of gift ideas. Allow adequate time for shipping. And yes, Virginia, it's perfectly safe to order aquatic plants through the mail. Although most companies only ship during spring and summer, if you live in the South some honor requests for early shipment.

On-line sources are becoming more popular. Many companies have detailed on-line catalogs. In fact, some sites are filled with information: photos, planting tips, pond-building ideas, etc. For those still hesitant to order on-line, remember that transmitting your credit card number over the Internet is safer than doing it via a cordless phone. View Chuck's links for a list of companies at <http://members.home.net/crush11>

Books and magazines can sometimes be hard to find. Bookstores with comprehensive gardening sections are obvious sources, although pet stores and WG retailers may also carry them. Internet bookstores like Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com are cheap and comprehensive for current books. For used and out-of-print titles check used bookstores or on-line: abebooks.com, bibliofind.com, and bookfinder.com.

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Ohio Pond Tour

Creative pond ideas abound in America's heartland! You can see these and more on the Miami Valley Water Garden Society's annual pond tour. Visit their website at <http://members.aol.com/MVWGS/index.html> for more information.

Scott & Joni Kendall, Dayton



To attain a level edge completely around the formal Koi pond, Scott had to build a retaining wall along one side. Stepping stones inside the mounding landscape plants allow access to the pond.



Near the back of the house and set into the sloped ground, perfectly sited for the sound of water, is a small pond with a recycling water ornament.



The Kendalls' back yard presented a sloped challenge. Scott took advantage of the slope to create activity levels – the stone entertainment deck, the Koi pond, and the new water garden under construction at the lowest and rear level of the yard.



To satisfy their love of aquatic plants, this past summer found the Kendalls building a lined water garden at the rear of their yard. Daylilies set along the fence frame the new pond.



As President of the new Greater Dayton Koi Club, Scott takes his Koi pond very seriously!



Scott created a stone patio, perfect for Koi-watching, the length of the Koi pond with a retaining wall of decorative paver blocks and inner flagstone stonework.



Scott feeds his Koi a special soft food that he keeps in his freezer and refrigerator.

**Alicia Caulfield,
Yellow Springs**

Hanging from a backyard tree is a cowboy boot birdhouse made by Cindy McDonald. Ironically, Sophie barks at all birds, leaving the birdhouse uninhabited!



Alicia, the wife of a veterinarian, says, "My pond isn't a show pond. It's made for dogs and kids!" Sophie agrees.



A small flower bed in the center of the Caulfields' back yard is highlighted by an antique gate with blooming clematis.

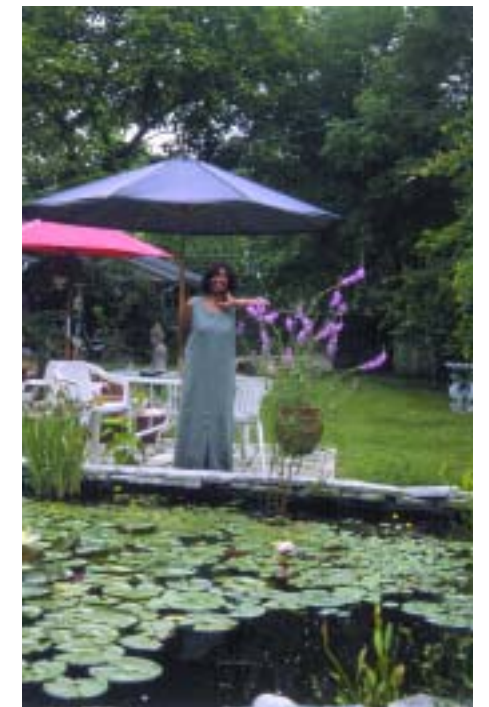


With the pond set just off the back patio, a small stream winds across the back of the pond to provide the sight and sound of moving water in the Caulfield pond.



The original form of the swimming pool was kept intact. Dirt and rocks filled the pond to leave a 3-4 foot depth for the lined pond. Kris had soil placed on top of the liner, too.

**Barbara (Kris) Orr,
Yellow Springs**



Kris's 'pond' was originally a swimming pool!



At the top of the waterfall, water celery provides extra filtration.

N. 'Texas Dawn' provides prolific, sunny blooms.

**Lori Beckman,
Yellow Springs**



Near the house, Laurie installed a perform pond that served as a turtle habitat. Unfortunately, as turtles are wont to do, he wandered off.



In the pond-edge landscaping, Laurie has included a unique red-leaved chrysanthemum along with *Lysimachia numularia* 'Aurea' groundcover.



Lori's pond nestles into her property's border flower bed. In spite of mid-day shade, she still has enough sunlight on the pond to produce blooms on her water lilies.



Lori has used the new *Zinnia* 'Profusion' series to create a lovely combination with pink Achillea.

**Mary & Rick Donahoe,
Yellow Springs**



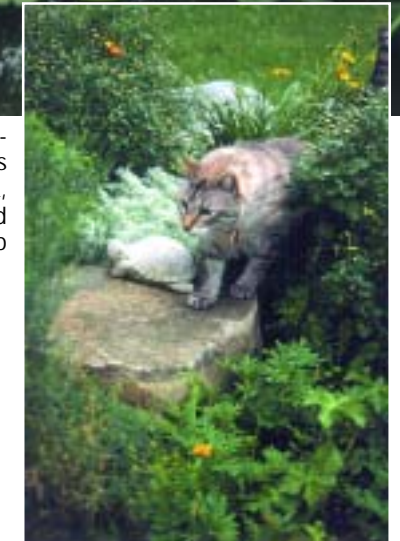
Rick built a waterfall for their pond that includes a winding stream.



A unique rock helps turn the water in the curving stream's channel.



Mary Donahoe, seated on the rock, chats with husband Rick, Judy Arnett, and Linda Kinney next to the pond.



In their front yard, Mary has created a Shakespeare Garden that features Shakespeare-related plants. Bad Boy enjoys stalking butterflies in the garden.

**Farzarah & Davis Mader,
Yellow Springs**



With their son, Hanson, presently serving an apprenticeship in pottery, the Maders enjoy his work adorning their water garden creation.



A close inspection of the rocks selected for use around the pond's edge reveals especially interesting stones.



The Maders built their pond just off the deck at the rear of their home. A small stream and waterfall recycles the water.

**Green Vista Water
Gardens, Enon**



Steve adds interest to a waterfall with classic wooden posts set among the rocks.



Since Koi ponds are best designed without rocks on the bottom, Steve confines their use here to a decorative shelf on which he features a Japanese stone lantern.

A good reason to visit the local water garden centers – discovering new ideas for our own gardens. In this display, Steve Blessing has set up two heron statues, one a plumbed fountain, in the center of the pond.



How's this for a creative waterfall? Bamboo pipes plumbed from a tee-connection to return aerated water to the pond!

Do-It-Yourself De-Icers

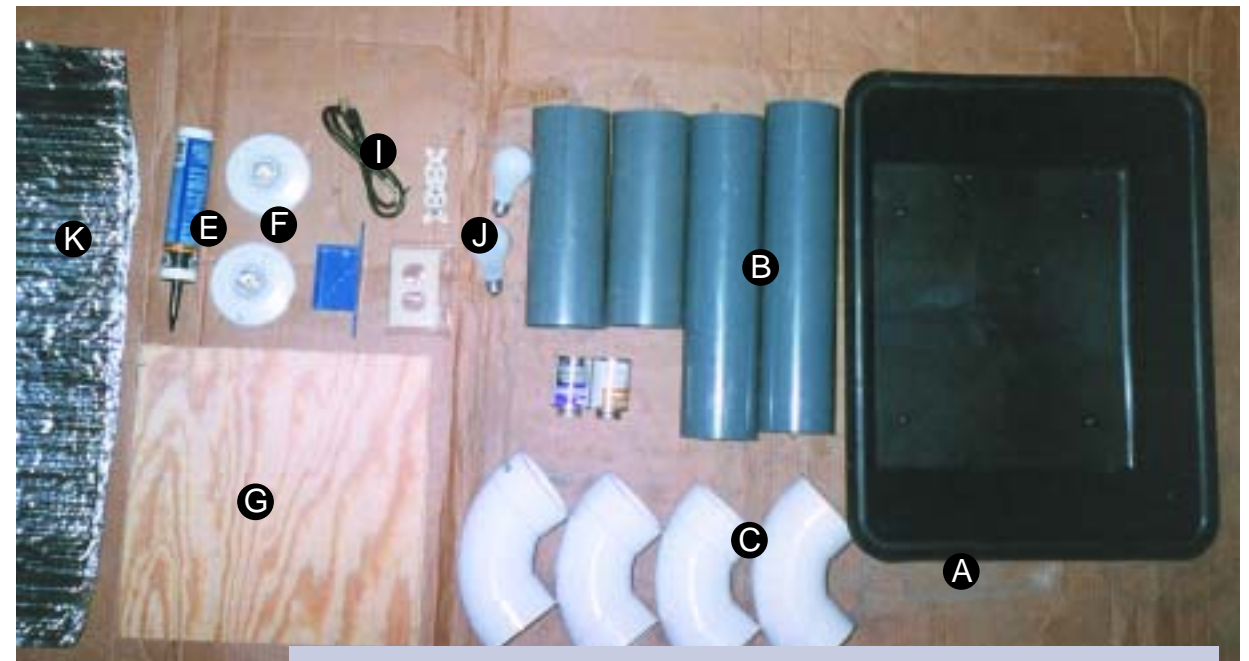
by Greg Bickal

How to save money while you keep a hole open in the ice!

In Northern climates, our ponds can be covered with as much as 8 inches of ice from December to mid-March. Because ice prevents toxic gases within the water from escaping, as well as oxygen from entering the pond, precarious conditions can threaten our fish. De-icers are a recommended way to maintain an open area in the frozen water. In considering the

cost of a de-icer, you need to consider both the initial outlay *plus* the cost of operation. I've developed an inexpensively made de-icer that you can build. Besides proven effectiveness down to 15 degrees below zero with a 45-below wind-chill, this unit pays for itself in its first month of operation!

The De-icer uses the heat from two standard 25-watt light bulbs to warm the air inside the unit. (If one bulb burns out, the other keeps the unit functional; think of the second bulb as 'back-up' insurance.) The warm air keeps a hole open in the ice. The black color of the unit also absorbs sun-



Supply List (not all items are pictured)

Item	Qty	Description	Size
A	1	Black Plastic Tub (rectangular)	18" x 24" and 6" deep
B	1	PVC Pipe	4" Sewer grade, Schedule 20
C	4	PVC Elbow, 90 degree	4" Sewer grade, Schedule 20
D	1	Styrofoam packing peanuts	Small Bag
E	1	PVC Glue & Primer	8oz Bottles
F	2	Light Fixtures	Plastic
G	1	Plywood	14" x 14" and 1/2" thick
H	1	Wood	1x4 stock, 12" long
I	1	Power Cord	3'
J	2	Light Bulb	25 Watt
K	1	Optional Aluminum Reflective/Insulation Fabric	

light during the day, adding further thermal gain. Because air takes less BTU to heat than water, the unit is significantly more efficient than a stock tank heater, which typically draws between 1000 and 1500 watts. If you figure the 50 watts of the two light bulbs x 24 hours-a-day x 30 days (1000 kwh) at .0962, the cost per kilo-watt-hour, the

de-icer averages a monthly cost of \$3.46. A 1000-watt stock tank heater, on the other hand, costs \$69.26 to run for the same time and rates.

Higher wattage bulbs may be used but are not recommended. The flotation ring is filled with Styrofoam to prevent sinking in case the base is ruptured. Warning: Heated bulbs will burst if they come into contact with cold water.

Always unplug it and allow it to fully cool before handling or moving. Plug the De-icer into a Ground Fault Protection Outlet (GFI), and avoid the use of extension cords lying about on the ground. Remove snow from the top of the de-icer to prevent its sinking; the unit is designed to support only its own weight!!!



Assembly of De-icer (around 2 hours)

1. Cut 2 pieces of sewer pipe (Item B) 6" shorter than the length of your tub.

2. Cut 2 pieces of sewer pipe (Item B) 6" shorter than the width of your tub.

3. Fill each one of the pieces of pipe with packing peanuts. Crumple up paper and jam in each end to keep the peanuts from falling out.

4. Clean the ends of all the pipes with the PVC Primer.

5. Glue the PVC elbows to the pipes to form the shape of a rectangular 'ring.'

6. Place the tub on top of the ring and mount them together with a screw at each corner. *(Note, if you will use reflective insulation of the inside of the tub, fit it into place and complete the rest of the assembly before screwing together the tub and the PVC frame.)*

7. Place the piece of plywood (Item G) on the inside center of the tub. Place the piece of wood (Item H) on the outside center of the tub. Use screws to go through both the plywood and the



tub and firmly into the wood, thus mounting the wood to the tub.

8. Drill a 1/2" hole, 2" from the edge of the Item H wood, completely through the wood, tub, and reflective/insulation layers.

9. Cut the female end off the power cord and run that cut end through the hole, then seal with silicone.

10. Wire the cord's wires to the two light fixtures.

11. Mount the two light fixtures to the wood, about 8" apart, using screws.

12. Screw in the light bulbs.

13. Float the de-icer on the pond when you see ice starting to form.

....and another technique to keep a hole open in the pond's ice – a floating greenhouse.

Greg Bikal is actually a computer programmer from Toddville, Iowa, where he also operates Greg's Goldfish & Koi Farm and his website of the same name at <http://www.geocities.com/bickal2000/>. You can reach Greg through his website or by phone at 319-378-8961. And, yes, he will make the de-icer for you. Cost is \$65.00 (money orders, only), that

includes UPS ground shipping. Send to Greg's Goldfish & Koi Farm, 3653 Toddville Rd, Toddville, IA 52341.



Inverted plastic caps, sized to accept the PVC framing, are screwed into the wood frame that is, in turn, screwed onto the PVC pipe frame. Note, to the right of the cup, that there are two layers of wood. The bottom wood strip is screwed into the PVC pipe frame. The upper wood strip is screwed only into the wood strip below so that the plastic cover can be firmly held into place. Yes, because the plastic caps are spaced along the frame to support the plastic cover, you will have the upper wood strips cut into sections between each cap.



Simply build a floating frame out of PVC using elbow joints. Flexible PVC is used for the frame. Use a double coat of heavy-grade plastic so that an air layer can provide extra insulation. Tie an anchored rope to the greenhouse for easy retrieval.

(inset) Flexible PVC pipes are cut to the desired length to fit into the plastic caps and form the tent's arch. To assemble, simply push the flexible PVC into the caps. Drape the double layer of plastic over the frame and fasten down the upper wood strip holders. Note that you can combine this design with the floating de-icer by rigging a center board across the top of the arch, with light bulbs affixed to the board, and create a 'heated' floating greenhouse.

Artists and Their Gardens

KEITH KINNEY & LINDA GREENWAY KINNEY

by Helen Nash

Special creations from extraordinary people!

Yellow Springs, Ohio, claims a creative soul. Keith and Linda Kinney are two of the special artists who cherish that spirit. Working out of a restored and fully redesigned barn that came with their double-lot property, each pursues unique art forms.

Keith designs and builds rocking chairs, probably the most comfortable and aesthetically pleasing rocking chairs you'll find. A survivor of a devastating accident, it is truly a miracle that he lives and walks, let alone continues in his chosen craft. After sitting a spell in one of his chairs, I've ordered one for my daughter, just in case she and Brad decide to start a family. Maybe I should order two – Grandmas need rockers, too!

Linda Greenway Kinney is a most delightful lady. She is kind, warm, sensitive, beautiful, and incredibly talented. She works in copper relief with a special interest in creating designs reflective of the beauties of nature. Whether flowers, birds, pond scenes, or Koi, her creations are rich in texture and composition.



Keith Kinney makes his incredible rocking chairs in two styles – with the traditional bentwood curved arms, and also, with a flat arm-rest. The seat and the curve of the back make for a most comfortable experience – no cushions needed!

Linda Greenway Kinney's special gift lies in capturing the essence of natural beauty in the warmth and texture of copper.



Koi and their colorful patterns are known as 'jewels of the pool,' but their mere form bears an elegance worthy of artistic expression, too.



Hérons are magnificent birds, especially when 'somewhere else' or merely embossed in copper.



A touch of humor in this view of a pond – a cat enjoying the view.



Real-life hummingbirds migrate. What better way to enjoy their special presence year-round?



Irisés, always exquisite in form.

THE KINNEYS' GARDEN

Keith and Linda Kinney's garden is primarily behind their corner-lot, two-story home. However, they have a double-lot, their office space being housed in the renovated barn next door. Any visitor would quickly comment, "Lovely!" just for the shady walks, glorious flower beds, and striking plant combinations, but check out the ponds!



Keith and Linda have renovated the barn for their offices, but it is so beautifully wrought that it would be considered a gorgeous home to anyone.



Next to the barn and bordering the alley behind their property, Linda has created beds for fragrant herbs and perennials.



A hammock invites respite next to the Kinneys' garden tool shed. As artists are prone to do, Linda and Keith make use of the shed's walls to display art and to provide a backdrop for artistic displays.



Viewed from the deck and over the edge of the Koi pond, the lower pond with its concrete bench is framed by lush trees along the property line.



At the top of this photo, you can see the edge of the deck off the back of the Kinneys' home. The koi pond, sited off that deck, empties into a stream that winds through the yard to empty into another pond, home of water lilies and other aquatic plants.



The Kinneys have carried the stream's rock edging and bed into the lower pond and onto the shallow planting shelf. *Sedum* 'John Creech' blends the rocks into the surrounding landscape.



ART IN THE KINNEYS' GARDEN....

Linda and Keith spend time each year traveling to various arts and crafts shows in the Eastern half of the United States. While they are selling their own creations, they often bring home the work of others to adorn their home and garden.

Linda likes to create vignettes in her garden, and, sometimes, a touch of whimsy and humor graces those scenes. A large tree at the side of the house displays several creations brought home from craft shows.

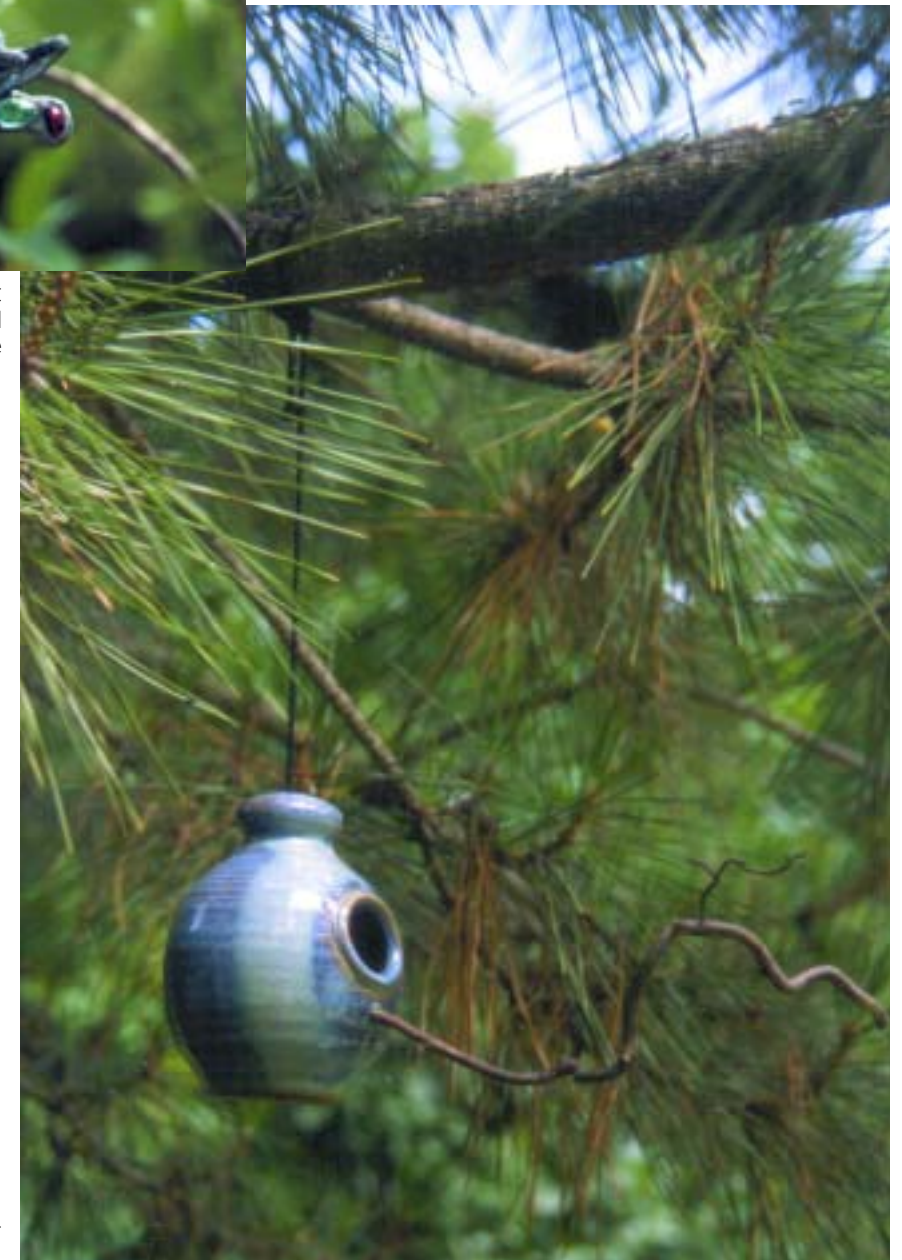


The wry humor? Linda noticed two shelf fungi growing on the side of the tree. She had to smile as she tucked an elf into the fungi. Years later, the elf appears almost scrunched in his hiding place.

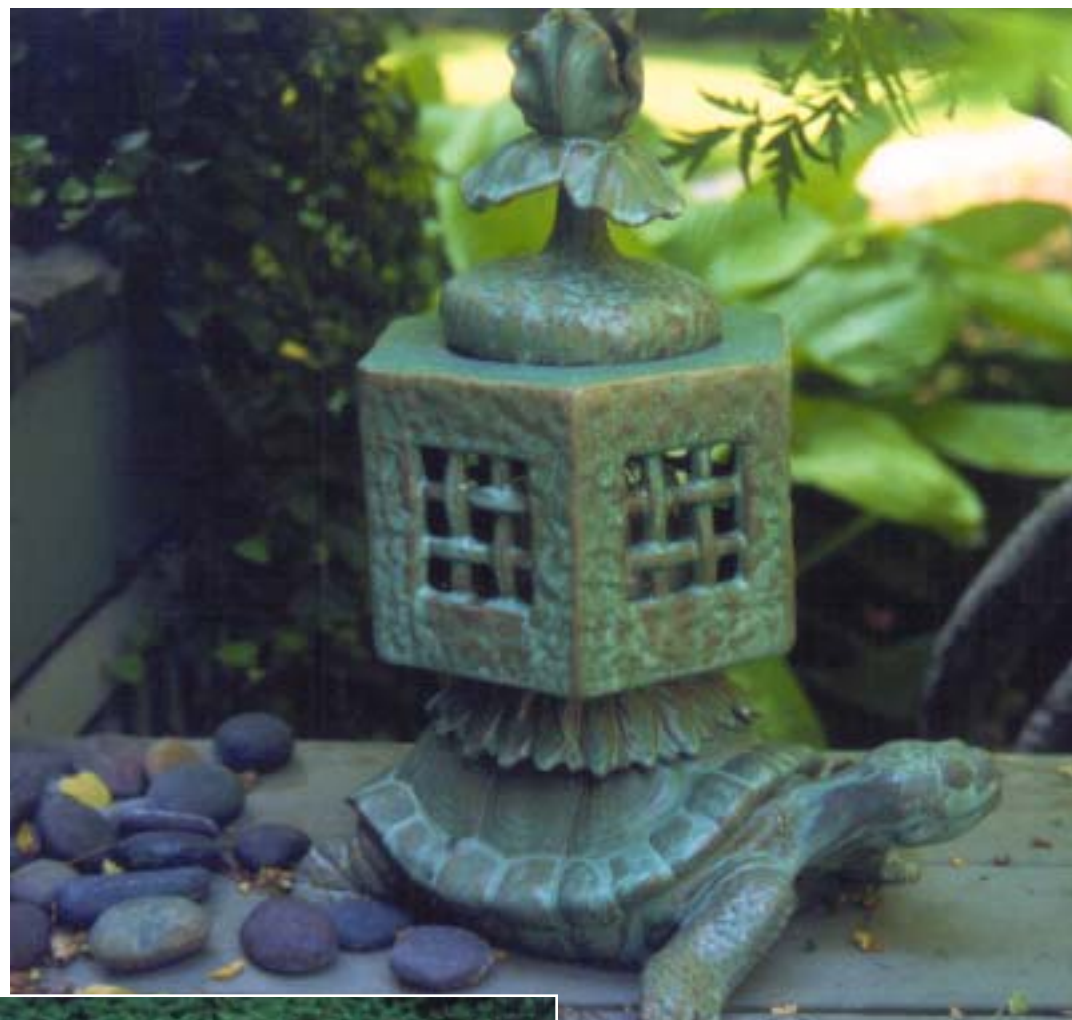


Over your shoulder, you might catch a glimpse of a pewter and glass dragonfly tucked among the branches of a small tree.

Walk slowly through the Kinneys' garden. Always stop and turn around slowly. Check all levels of view. Surprises await!



Perfect for a family of wrens, a pottery birdhouse might escape notice.



The touch of an artist here – the turtle and lotus garden candle-holder is beautiful of itself, but Linda adds the artistic touch of black Japanese pebbles. An exquisite scene on the edge of the deck, tucked among framing, shady shrubs.



Surprise! Fluttering above a groundcover bed is a nuts-and-bolts dragonfly. (opposite page) Blue-green hosta and lush Japanese painted ferns could stand on their own, but a simple decorative form makes for sheer elegance.





Another surprising touch of whimsy, this time within the pond shallows – a ceramic snail creation. He has to have a name!



In the pathway near the barn, framed by tiny-leaved groundcover, shines the fish-and-frog stained-glass stepping stone.

Wherever you look, wherever you wander in the Kinneys' garden, you find delight.

In case you haven't figured it out, Linda is a Master Gardener. Turn to page 86 for her piece on the groundcovers she's found for their incredible garden. Watch for Linda and Keith at arts and crafts shows Oak Heritage Copper Reflections You can reach them at 937-767-1660.



Before you ever enter the backyard garden, you come upon a stone dove, tucked among the ferns and hosta.



Far be it for a gardener to walk through a garden without plucking a weed or two. Linda answers the question of what to do with those stray weeds with rustic baskets tucked among the beds and trees.



Seated on the back deck, turn your head slowly to glimpse the copper dragonfly bell tucked among the climbing ivy on the side of the house.