



# North American Water Garden Society South Central PA

An organization of pond lovers dedicated to the enjoyment, education, promotion, and protection of the water garden hobby

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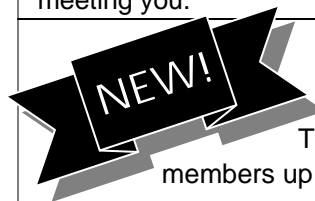
## Start the New Year with a NAWGS Membership

The pond craze is sweeping the nation. Everybody wants a pond (they just don't know it yet). As all of you fellow pond owners know, it's fun to get together and talk about our ponds. It doesn't matter what type of pond you have, we all have a common interest; WE LOVE OUR PONDS!

Why not start 2006 with a membership to the North American Water Garden Society. This year, NAWGS has introduced a trial family membership for \$35.00. The many benefits of joining this club are: A one year subscription to the *Aquascape Lifestyle Magazine*, free attendance at all NAWGS meetings, 5% discount off goods and services at *The Pond Shop* and with *The Garden's Edge*, opportunity to participate in the annual water garden tour, meet new people, special invitation to the NAWGS plant exchange, and connect with a network of passionate pond lovers.

If you are interested in becoming a member of NAWGS for 2006, please contact Becky at [Becky@NAWGSofPA.org](mailto:Becky@NAWGSofPA.org) or call (717) 246-4710. We look forward to meeting you.

Have You Checked Our Web Site? Filled with Valuable Information - How to Join, Membership Benefits, Current Happenings, and Past Newsletters! Log on Today!



## Member's Corner!

This new feature benefit of our newsletter is to help keep our members up to date with all the latest happenings at NAWGS of South Central PA.

This month we are gearing up for the new year at our next NAWGS

Meeting which will be held on Saturday, March 25th at 1:00 p.m. The topic for discussion will be everything you ever wanted to know about **Spring Start Up**. Since it will still be pretty chilly at *The Pond Shop*, Earl and Nancy Willoughby of 11 Greenbriar Drive, Jacobus, PA, have graciously opened their home for our meeting. Light refreshments will be served. As always, please feel free to invite anyone who has a love for ponds. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 22nd to (717) 246-4710.

## Announcing the NAWGS of South Central PA 2006 Parade of Ponds

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** The 2006 NAWGS Pond Tour is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in participating as a pond host, a sponsor, or a volunteer and this is your first year, please contact Becky at (717)246-4710 or [Becky@NAWGSofPA.org](mailto:Becky@NAWGSofPA.org) and an information pack will be sent to you. For more information check out [www.PARADEofPonds.INFO](http://www.PARADEofPonds.INFO). We hope to make the 2006 tour our best yet!

# Are You Ready to Build-A-Pond! Mark Your Calendar!

Have you ever paged through one of those 'home' magazines and envied the beautiful waterscapes that grace their pages, and thought, "I can do that"? Our **Pond Builder's School** is an exciting opportunity to learn from the experts while actually working on a pond. You'll build a complete pond in just one day! An affordable, comprehensive, training event designed to give you the first hand knowledge you need to get started. Perfect for the homeowner or contractor! Join our expert installers as they show you how to transform an ordinary lawn into an aquatic work of art! There's no better way to learn something than by doing it yourself, with your own two hands! You'll build a beautiful, natural, ecosystem pond in less than ONE day! Bring a shovel and your work gloves! Come prepared to get dirty! That means, you'll take a green grass lawn and excavate it, build berms, place skimmers and BIO-FALLS® filters, fill in with rocks & gravel, and install the pump. You'll witness the birth of a new waterfall, in just one day at Pond School!

As we prepare for Spring and our next **Pond Builder's School** - we need your help...

Currently we are accepting applications for host sites willing to sponsor a Pond at their location. Local businesses can have a wonderful, peaceful, waterscape for all to enjoy right outside their door. These ponds can also be featured on our Pond Tour in 2006! For more information about how you can sponsor a Pond Builder's School, contact us at 717-246-4710.

### Upcoming Build-A-Pond Class Dates - April 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>

Registration is required, class size is limited.

### Don't delay! Pond School fills up quickly!

Cost: \$34 per person or \$49 per family  
NAWGS Members Discount: \$29/\$39

For more information about how you can sign-up or how you can sponsor a Pond Builder's School, contact us at 717-246-4710 or log onto [www.NawgsofPa.org](http://www.NawgsofPa.org).

Thinking about a new pond? Sign up for our Pond Builder's School and you will see how easy it is to Do It Yourself!



### Pond Myth of the Month

I can wait until its warmer to clean out my pond...

Well, not exactly. Just like Mother Nature cleans out her ponds and lakes with Spring rains, so should you. While your pond may not need it every year, by replenishing the water in your pond and giving it a good cleaning at the beginning of the season, its off to a fresh start. Early Spring, before your pond awakens from its water dormancy, is the best time of year to perform your clean out. As long as your water temperature is cooler than 55°, the beneficial bacteria that grow in your filter and on your rocks will not be established. If a clean out is done after bacteria colonies form, your ecosystem may be thrown out of balance and your pond may go through a green phase before your bacteria colonies reestablish themselves again. And if you need a little help, call a professional **Certified Aquascape Contractor** like your friends at The Garden's Edge.



3000 Ironstone Hill Rd.  
York, PA 17403

Phone: 717-747-9266

E-mail: [pondpro@thegardensedge.com](mailto:pondpro@thegardensedge.com)

On the Web:

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

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## Cabin Fever

This is the time of year when we all start to exhibit symptoms of cabin fever. We, much like our fish have not had nearly enough movement and yearn for the days of the splashing sound of waterfalls and streams. I find myself staring out our window at the pond envisioning just that, even just pretending to see a dragon fly dance over the waters surface saves me from simply packing up and heading south. Don't get me wrong, I love four seasons. Fall is my favorite time of year. But late winter has no place for me. In my world, winter would end at the end of February and March first would be 65 degrees.

Since that just isn't the case we have to make do with what Mother Nature hands us. While we recommend completing spring clean outs prior to water temperatures reaching 55 degrees consistently, in our area that may not happen until April! So what do we do in the meantime? Spend sorrowing hours staring blankly out our windows? Well, we can start by making a list of things we can do when the weather starts to cooperate. Consider the overall health of your system. Are you overstocked? Is it time to start budgeting for a pond expansion or addition? How successful was your fall maintenance? Is the pond currently full of leaves? A healthy spring emergence is reliant on due diligence protecting the pond from leaves in fall. If it is full of leaves, then the first item on your list this spring is securing a net so it won't get skipped next year. Even though you will be completing a spring clean out, you may also want to purchase some EcoCarbon to absorb some of the tannins that may be left behind after your clean out. How successful was your pond maintenance schedule last season? Did you neglect adding SAB and Aquaclearer on a regular basis? Clients often spend extra money playing catch up with their water quality. Preventative maintenance is the key. You will be happy to know that Aquascape Designs is making that preventative maintenance even easier this year by reformulating many of the best products.

- AquaClearer is now AquaClearer Extreme!
- AquaClearer Extreme Dry now includes Activated Barley!
- AquaClearer Extreme Liquid is reformulated 3 times stronger!
- S.A.B. Extreme is now 3 products in one! S.A.B. now also contains Activated Barley and AquaClearer Extreme Dry Bacteria.

For those of you with wetland filters and large scale water features AquaClearer Wetland, Pond & Lake offers new formulation providing the most potent large-scale water treatment available.

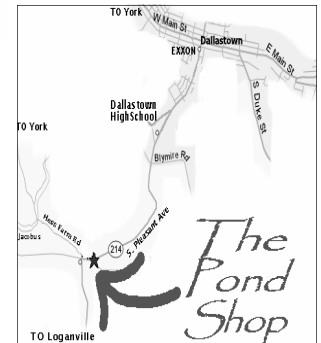
Now for the regimen that will save you time and money in the long run. After all, we want you busy napping on that hammock next to the pond this summer, not working on it all



Located at:  
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- ~ Skimmer Mesh Net
- ~ Skimmer Filter Mats
- ~ Premium Koi & Pond Fish Food



York County's #1 Stop for Aquascape Products!

summer! After this years spring clean out, get a jump on filamentous and suspended algae and get your biological filter seeded quickly! This will help you avoid that spring nutrient load and resulting green water. Start by adding your live-in pond clean-up crew AquaClearer Extreme Liquid. Follow up with S.A.B. Extreme and spot treat trouble areas with EcoBlast. These three products alone will save you countless hours of playing catch up with your water conditions. For these and countless other pond products stop by *The Pond Shop* @ 1100 S. Pleasant Ave in Dallastown!

Now if you will excuse me, I must get back to my window.

North American Water Garden Society  
South Central PA

1100 South Pleasant Avenue  
Dallastown, PA 17313  
Phone: 717-246-4710  
Website: [www.NawgsofPa.org](http://www.NawgsofPa.org)

**Our Mission...**

To be an organization that will unite clubs across the country in the common pursuit of the water gardening hobby.



Where Everyone is Welcome



## NAWGS Calendar of Events

### NAWGS Local Chapter Meeting

**March Meeting - Spring Start Up!** Saturday, March 25, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. See Page 1 for location and details.

**Members & Non Members Welcome**  
**R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, March 22nd at (717) 246-4710.**

### Watch Future Newsletters for More Information

#### About these Events -

- April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Build-A-Pond
- May 13<sup>th</sup> - Build-A-Pond
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - NAWGS Chapter Meeting - Lily Pad Hop
- NAWGS of South Central PA 2006 Parade of Ponds- June 24<sup>h</sup> and 25<sup>h</sup>
- July 22<sup>nd</sup> - NAWGS Chapter Meeting - Pond Fish 101
- September 16<sup>th</sup> - NAWGS Chapter Meeting - Pond Plants for Dummies
- November 18<sup>th</sup> - NAWGS Chapter Meeting - Fall Shut Down

All Chapter Meetings begin at 1:00 p.m. and are held at *The Pond Shop*, 1100 South Pleasant Avenue, Dallastown, unless stated otherwise. Please contact Rebecca Willoughby at 717-246-4710 for more information.



#### About our Newsletter:

This newsletter is published six times each year as part of the North American Water Garden Society, South Central PA Chapter.

#### Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors:

the garden's edge

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