Our Society’s Annual Pond Tour & Picnic

Saturday, July 23
Southwest Aurora, Centennial, & Englewood

It’s that time of year again: Our Annual Pond Tour and Picnic will take place on Saturday, July 23rd. Can you think of a better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than touring beautiful, cool water gardens and attending a picnic afterwards?

This year’s tour covers the southeast part of the Metro area around southwest Aurora, Centennial, and Englewood. Ten ponds and water features of different types and sizes are featured. There will be pondless installations, large and small water gardens, as well as a varied assortment of water plants and fish.

Descriptions of the sites follow with a schematic “take along” proximity map and a suggested route tied to the directions and descriptions. Seven of the sites are in close proximity; three are in outlying locations so you may want to start with those. The suggested route starts with the most eastern sites and moves across the metro area to the site farthest north before turning south to the remaining seven. For those of you coming from central Denver and points north and west, you might reverse the first of the tour, hitting site three first before moving east to sites one and two and then back for the remaining seven. Any way you tackle the tour, it’s sure to be fun.

The tour will operate from 11:00 am through 4:00 pm and is self-guided. It’s free to all Members and their guests.

Along with the provided insert, you will probably need a good metro area map or GPS. The tour covers a lot of suburban areas where the

(continued on page 7)
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Need to join or renew?…
... The application is on page 9

Does CWGS have your current email address? If you’re not sure, contact us.
CWGS Plant Sale attracts crowds to a new location at DBG

By Bill Powell

Lovely weather and a comfortable venue made the June plant sale a great success. On the weekend of June 11/12 the Club operated our annual aquatics sale on the new “West Terrace” of the Denver Botanic Gardens greenhouse complex. The Gardens has recently purchased a large events tent to shade and protect the terrace, making it ideal for both setup and marketing.

Accounting has been completed for the sale. We did very well with total sales of just under $4,000. Expenses were under $1,800, resulting in a net profit of more than $2,100, of which Denver Botanic Gardens will receive 25%, leaving a profit of more than $1,600 for the club! More importantly, it was apparent by the good turnout and few remaining plants that the sale met the needs of our membership and the public.

The Plant Sale Committee would like to thank the many members who volunteered their time in planning, ordering, staging, and publicizing the sale as well as those who helped with the day-long setup on Saturday and the sale on Sunday. And thanks, too, to the staff of Denver Botanic Gardens who helped in selecting and making the Terrace venue available.

If you have any feedback about aspects you thought went well, or ideas for improvements to next year’s sale, contact Vicki Aber docvicki@msn.com  We thought this year went particularly smoothly, but there’s always room for improvement.

Farewell and Thanks:

Pond builder and water garden retail outlet “Falls by Fox” closes its doors with a donation to CWGS

Recently a long-time retail supporter of CWGS closed. Falls By Fox, which once operated two retail ponding stores in the Denver metro area as well as a design/build firm specializing in the construction of water features, closed the last of its stores in late May.

Following a liquidation sale, Toni Fox and her family and staff donated the remaining inventory to CWGS. The donation included both plants and hardgoods, some of which were marketed at the Club’s Annual June sale. Other items will be used as door prizes for upcoming events.

The Society appreciates these generous donations, and we wish Toni and her family the best in their new endeavors.
Joe Tomocik retires from Denver Botanic Gardens

Joe, who’s been responsible for the aquatic collections at DBG since 1972, photographed during a discussion at the CWGS March 2008 meeting.

By Bill Powell

Joe Tomocik, who has been with Denver Botanic Gardens for 39 years, has retired as Associate Director and Curator of the water gardens. Aside from his work with the Gardens’ annual aquatic displays, Joe’s tenure as Curator encouraged the birth and growth of CWGS. It was following a class on water gardening in 1983 that John and Mary Mirgon and other eventual club members founded the Society. The Society was the first aquatic-specific horticultural society to be established in the world.

Through the years Joe’s contributions to water gardening have been recognized both regionally and nationally in symposia and periodicals. And, more importantly to those who’ve benefited directly, Joe has had enormous influence on scores of fledgling front range water gardeners. Hundreds of gardeners have worked with him hands-on to learn techniques for the propagation of waterlilies, lotus, and marginal aquatic plants.

In recent months Joe has been hampered by persistent pain in his back – a condition all gardeners dread but have to accommodate eventually.

Announcing Joe’s departure, Sarada Krishnan, the Director of Horticulture at Denver Botanic Gardens wrote:

“It is with ‘fluctuating’ feelings that I announce the retirement of Joe Tomocik. On one hand I am sad to see Joe leave after many decades of dedicated service to the Gardens, but on the other hand I am happy that he will now have time to pursue his other interests such as fishing…

Joe started at DBG on Oct. 16, 1972 and has been responsible for our aquatic collections creating beautiful displays in our pools. He was instrumental in forming the Colorado Water Garden Society and has been engaged in organizing international conferences with the International Water Lily Society. He is well known and respected nationally and internationally for his work. It is going to be hard to replace Joe and whoever comes after him will have big shoes, rather waders, to fill…”

Joe asked that the following message be extended to the CWGS Board and membership:

“…Briefly, the help and cooperation of CWGS have been off the charts for so many years. The Gardens/CWGS partnership/marriage represents a wonderful model illustrating how a society and important cultural facility can work together with major benefits accruing to both.

The spring and fall volunteer help, two plant sales, Get Wet, The Water Blossom Festival, etc. - I know these efforts can continue and I expect even new avenues to arise. Wow!

I know this to be simple - a heartfelt thanks to the Society and to the many volunteers who have contributed so much to our program and have created so many rich memories for me.

Thank you so much,
Joe”

Note from the Editor:
I plan for a longer article in a later issue – coverage that does justice to Joe’s decades of accomplishments. And maybe we can wrangle some articles on issues of interest from Joe himself? Happily, Joe’s back is feeling somewhat better as long as he “keeps moving,” he says. So I’m sure he’ll remain involved in the water gardening world, but first he needs some time to catch his breath and heal his back completely. Joe, we wish you well … and good fishing! - Bill Powell
A peek at the “Majestic” turtles

By Bill Powell

For species so seldom observed in the wild, turtles are certainly popular. The classroom at Arvada’s Majestic View Nature Center was packed for Society member Lannie Hagan’s June 26 presentation on turtles and their place in Colorado and world ecology.

Lannie, a retired educator, began her program by challenging the CWGS audience with questions about turtles and their relationship to reptiles. The audience did rather well – kudos Brenda and Vicki! Lannie filled-in additional perspective on the classification and traits of turtles and tortoises.

Turtles and tortoises are reptiles. They constitute one of four different categories or orders belonging to the class Reptilia. The other three categories of reptiles are

- **Snakes and lizards**,
- **Crocodilia** (which includes crocodiles, caimans, gavials, and alligators) and …
- **Tuataras** – two rare lizard-looking species that are indigenous to New Zealand and rarely seen in collections.

Reptiles share certain traits. They are vertebrates. They have “cold blooded” (ectothermic) metabolisms that vary according to the ambient temperature of surroundings. Reptiles are generally egg-laying. They have scales or shells, and they breath oxygen through lungs.

The reptilian order that contains turtles and tortoises has approximately 300 species worldwide. Only five species of turtles are native to Colorado. A sixth, the red-eared slider, is not indigenous but is now considered effectively native. (The slider is thought to have been introduced and released inadvertently as a result of sale to school children in the 1950’s.)

The five indigenous Colorado turtles are all found only along the eastern slope. None exist west of the divide. The five eastern slope Colorado turtles are:

- **The ornate box turtle**
- **Western painted turtle**, very easily identified by their yellow stipes and bright orange plastron (lower shell).
- **Yellow musk turtle**, a native of southeast Colorado.
- **Spiney soft shell turtle**. They are unusual in that they are carnivorous throughout their life cycle unlike others.
- **Snapping turtle**. These can grow to 150 lbs. and are the only turtles that are legal game in Colorado. They are sometimes hunted for food.

Lannie’s interest in reptiles and turtles led to her involvement in turtle rescue. As a Reptile and Amphibian rehabilitator for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, she’s often called upon to care for injured and diseased turtles. Not all are native species, of course,

(continued on page 6)
Coming in August…

Reserve August 6 and August 28 for two CWGS events. On the 6th, we participate in the Water Blossom Festival at Denver Botanic Gardens. Tours, demonstrations, and free plants (while they last) accompany the day-long celebration of DBG’s famous water gardens at the height of bloom. In the afternoon Native Plants curator Dan Johnson will speak on the place of water in the dry landscape, drawing on his extensive travels in the southwest.

On August 28, the Club heads north to visit Club member Ben Coleman’s lakeside home in Longmont. Bring a picnic basket and join us for a fun afternoon exploring Ben’s ponds and his latest expansion of hardy lilies into the large lake that abuts his property.

More detail on both events in next month’s newsletter.

A peek at the “Majestic” turtles…

(continued from page 5)

but when she’s able to return a native turtle to the wild, Lannie often releases them into the ponds at the Nature Center. Even there, though, turtles aren’t entirely safe. Predators, including dogs, present a danger. Injuries can (and do) happen to soft appendages like the head and arms, but life-threatening damage can also happen to the shells, which are more easily damaged than people commonly think. Turtle shells bleed when cut and can become infected.

Lannie also keeps turtles at home as pets. Non-tropical turtle species that are adapted to Colorado conditions can even hibernate outside over winter in pond mud, but Lannie observed that like most Club members she has a lined pond, which means “no mud.” So Lannie brings her pets indoors for the winter.

Asked if turtles might harm fish, Lannie said that wild turtles that are accustomed to eating minnows might present a problem, but that her kept-turtles are so adapted to eating palletized food that they’ve never shown interest in fish. She recommends responsible turtle raising (of non-endangered and appropriate species) as an interesting adjunct to your pond. First, though, learn the basics of care and feeding.

New and Returning Members for June:

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<td>Jim &amp; Tudi Arneill</td>
<td>Centennial</td>
<td>Susan Haley</td>
<td>Longmont</td>
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<td>Gabriella Bertelmann</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>Tom Herbst &amp; Ann Habeger</td>
<td>Aurora</td>
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<td>Gary &amp; Joyce Blubaugh</td>
<td>Lakewood</td>
<td>Dennis Horgan</td>
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<td>Tom Chaney</td>
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<td>Craig &amp; Deb Dawson</td>
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Thank You!
2011 Annual Pond Tour and Picnic (continued from front page)

The metro grid is discontinuous or it relaxes into pleasant (but sometimes perplexing) meandering roads and cul-de-sacs. The tour insert should help you orient yourself, but because of its small scale it can’t show detail. To assist, we’ve provided some written directions for approaching each of the stops from major intersections. The last few ponds, being close-by each other, have directions given relative to the previous site in the suggested tour order. See the keyed directions associated with the insert map.

You’ll also want to bring along sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. Please remember only the gardens are open; the houses and facilities are not. If you need a bathroom break, take time to stop along the way.

The picnic, which begins at 5:00 pm, will be held at Pond #10, the home of Jim and Tudi Arneill. If you can, bring a chair or beach towel to help with seating. We will provide hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, bratwursts, side dishes, drinks, and dessert – all for only $3 a plate for adults. Children under 12 are free. Your plate charge also buys you a ticket for door prizes, which will include a range of plants and maybe a few other items.

Pond Tour Site Descriptions (Numbers refer to locations and directions on insert map)

1  **Rebecca Nash - 5284 S. Jericho St., Centennial**
   My garden is my retreat, my sanctuary, after a long workday. As it faces east, it is shady and relaxing in the late afternoon. Not a blade of grass to mow; it’s all trees, shrubs, perennials, and of course, the pond. My pond is a series of three pre-formed pools that flow together. When I installed it 14 summers ago, I had just moved in and was in a hurry to get the yard put together, so I opted for pre-formed instead of a liner. But it has held up well through raccoon visits, blue heron visits, a dog that liked to catch goldfish, and my neighbor’s invading maple tree roots. So pre-formed was the right choice after all. It is approximately 600 gallons, 2 feet deep, and has never frozen to the bottom. In winter I empty the smaller pool and run a pump in each of the other two pools, which is enough to keep openings in the ice. I grow water lilies and marginals, mostly hardy. I also have a container water garden in ceramic pots on the patio.

Most of what I know about ponding I learned from volunteering at DBG years ago, working with Joe Tomocik, getting hands-on practice plus the opportunity to discuss pond-related issues with the other volunteers and learn from their experience. I highly recommend it!

2  **Bob and Terry Curtis – 5741 S. Ouray Ct., Centennial**
   This pondless waterfall, about 1500 gallons, was built in August of 2008. From the top waterfall the stream splits around a small island and comes back together again to a small stream. There are a few small waterfalls along the way to increase the sounds. You’ll notice that on one side the water flows back on itself.

3  **Linda Kapler – 1431 E. Bates Ave., Englewood**
   In the evenings, we can imagine that we’re in the mountains, with coals in the fire pit and the sounds of falling water masking urban noise. It is amazing to watch all of the wildlife that the pond attracts. Our water feature wraps around a tall spruce in a corner of the back yard. The stream flows from a wetland, wanders through flowerbeds, and then falls into a small koi pond. A little pool in the stream allows our golden retrievers a place to “cool off”. The flagstone patio, a meandering path and more flowerbeds surround this water feature, creating an intimate retreat. On the 2010 Parade of Ponds, this 5-year-old feature was an awardee for “Best Overall Pond”.

4  **Joe and Gail Pizzi, - 1827 Geddes Circle North, Centennial**
   Joe and Gail Pizzi had their pond constructed in October, 2009. Because their yard slopes off sharply they asked their contractor to design an 8ft. X 11ft. pond, plus a waterfall, that would follow the contour of their patio. In the spring of 2010, they joined CWGS and began planting in and around the pond. Because they are new to perennial and aquatic landscaping, and the fact that the pond is in full shade in the winter and full sun in the summer, this has been a challenging and learning experience! They wish to thanks CWGS members for their help and generous gifts of plants.

(continued on page 8)
5 Chuck Laskey - 7751 S. Ash Court, Centennial
This pond is 31 years old, initially established as an attraction for the first model showhouse/office for the Heritage Greens Village development. It is constructed from concrete and consists of a large pond and two waterways with small water cascades stretching around from a massive natural red stone fountain situated adjacent to the garage, initially the office entry. The original pond depth was 12in. at its central point, easing to around 6in. The current owner raised it by 6in. to accommodate hardy water lilies.

There is no artificial filtering system but the waterways provide some natural filtration and good aeration. Algae buildup is mainly restricted to the rocks and occasional blanket weed on the plants. The difficulties inherent in maintaining an aging cement pond, including leakages, is a considerable challenge to the owner who does all the maintenance himself.

Various changes are made seasonally to the overall presentation. Many birds and small wildlife are attracted throughout the year. The pond has had no health problems, usually maintaining around 80 fish, periodically reduced in number by a very clever Blue Heron.

6 Highlands Garden Center – 8080 S. Holly St., Centennial
This pond-less feature at Highlands was built 3 years ago and has a 10,000 gal.-per-hour pump. The basin holds about 300 gal. The rock boulders are Colorado moss rock. The filter coble is 1-1/2in. mountain cobble. To access, walk through the store or around the side to the rear.

7 Elliot and Betty Sutta – 6242 E. Otero Drive, Centennial
My wife thought it would be fun to have a pond in the backyard, so I bought this $99.99 kit from Sam’s Club. Now 11 years old, it consists of 2 pre-formed, black plastic ponds -- the small upper pond (2ft. W x 2ft. L x 2ft. D) spills into the lower pond (3ft. W x 4ft. L x 3ft. D). It came with an underwater 12in. x 12in. filter and a small pump which operates both the lower pond fountain and a spitter for the upper pond. I have since added a submerged UV filter -- absolutely the greatest thing!

The 8 goldfish are now several years old. They over-winter in the pond during which I use an air stone and floating heater. There is also a “house” for them when all the plants are trimmed to ground level at the bottom of both ponds. Most of the plants are lilies, with a couple of others for variety (plantain, pickerel, papyrus).

Issues: Great blue herons like this backyard buffet, so a decoy is used to ward them off. Very important, however, not to display it during March mating season! Aspen trees are beautiful and provide welcome shade to the fish in the summer, but their spring seedlings and fall leaves are a real pain. The splashing water is very relaxing, and complements the nearby bird feeders and bird bath. My wife only feeds the fish, but appreciates all my work it takes to keep it going!

8 Ano Diba – 6652 E. Long Ave. Centennial CO 80112
Three years ago when Ano thought of building a water feature in her back yard, she considered the yard’s slope and used it to her advantage, creating a waterfall as well. Once her contractor had it all in place, Ano realized a gazebo would provide a cool spot from which to view the water. Ano’s pond is a sunny oasis where her many water plants flourish. They’re “enjoying it very much.”

9 Mike and Kelly Booth – 7694 S. Olive Circle.
Enter the backyard from the left side of the house. This pond was remodeled in 1999. The 25 ft. stream flowing down into this 405-gallon pond catches the visitor’s attention and provides a relaxing retreat.

10 Jim and Tudi Arneill – 7689 S. Olive Circle, Centennial
Please use the open south gate. We constructed our main pond, approximately 2,700 gallons, shortly after moving into our home in 1992 using much of the dirt from the hole to construct the waterfall. The personality of the pond changes every year due to experimenting with various arrangements. Currently we have a few colorful goldfish. In addition to the main kidney-shaped pond in the back, there are 3 in-ground ponds as well as several container gardens.


ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE HERE

Annual advertising in the newsletter also includes a listing on the CWGS website with an active link direct to your commercial webpage.

We also run single-event ads.

For details regarding rates, sizes, and formats of ads, contact Bill Powell wbpow@comcast.net

Membership Application

Make checks payable to:
{Jo Water Garden Society

this form with your payment to:
Membership

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Denver, CO 80220

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State: __________________ ZIP ____________

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Membership Fees: $15.00 Individual; $20.00 Family

Check one:

___I would like my contact information included in a membership list that will be distributed only to the members.
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Contact me concerning volunteer opportunities I've checked below:

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Water Plants booth, DBG May Sale ___

Hudson Gardens ___

CWGS Plant Sale (June) ___

Pond Tour (July) ___

Water Blossom Festival (August) ___

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Membership List:

WGS does not share or sell email addresses

Required for electronic receipt of newsletter.
A calendar of CWGS Activities and Events:

**July 23:**  **CWGS Annual Pond Tour and Picnic**  
Self-guided tours begin at 10:00 AM  
Picnic begins at 5:00

**Aug. 6:**  **Water Blossom Festival** – Dan Johnson speaks on the place of water in the dry landscape, DBG

**Aug. 28:**  **Waterside meeting, Coleman home, Longmont**

**Sept. 15:**  **Potluck dinner and Annual Board Elections, DBG**

**Oct. 20:**  **Potluck dinner and meeting, DBG**

**Dec. 15:**  **Holiday Banquet, DBG**

From…

**TheWaterGarden**  
c/o Journal Editor  
1210 Clayton Street  
Denver, CO 80206-3214

The Colorado Water Garden Society (CWGS) is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 1983 to encourage appreciation and interest in the use of water in the landscape.

To learn more, visit us at  
[www.colowatergardensociety.org](http://www.colowatergardensociety.org)
## Pond Tour Directions

This graphic and directions show only the relative proximity of tour sites. You will also need a detailed city map or mapping program to determine your route because roads are discontinuous and there are multiple, alternate (and some direct) routes you can choose. Not all sites can be reached in a straight line and are keyed to the numbers on the map. If you visit the sites in the order given, your last stop will be at the picnic. Although seven of the ten stops are in close proximity just west of I-25 and north of E-470, two sites (numbers 1 & 2 on this itinerary) lie east of Parker Rd. One (number 3) is in Englewood north of Hampden and west of S. University Blvd.

### Site 1
5284 S. Jericho St.
Centennial

**Directions:** From the intersection of E. Smoky Hill Rd. and S. Himalaya St., drive north on Himalaya to E. Berry Dr. Turn east on E. Berry for one block to E. Crestline Pl. Turn northeast on Crestline for four blocks to S. Jericho St. Turn north onto S. Jericho St. 5284 is on the east side of Jericho.

Depart south via Himalaya St., which becomes E. Orchard Rd.

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### Site 2
5741 S. Ouray Ct.
Centennial

**Directions:** From the intersection of E. Orchard Rd. and S. Buckley Rd., drive north on Buckley one block to S. Olanthe Way. Turn west onto S. Olanthe Way for one block. Turn north onto S. Ouray Ct. 5741 is on the west side of Ouray. Depart to the northwest toward Englewood. Suggested route: Take Buckley north to E. Smokey Hill Rd., then skirt Cherry Creek SP on its north side.

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### Site 3
1431 E. Bates Ave.
Englewood

**Directions:** From the intersection of Hampden Ave. and S. Downing St., drive north on S. Downing to E. Bates Ave. (midway between cross streets of Dartmouth and Yale). Turn east onto Bates Ave. 1431 is on the north side of Bates just beyond E. Lafayette Ct. Depart to the southeast via S. Franklin St., Dartmouth St. and S. University Blvd.

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### Site 4
1827 E. Geddes Circle N.
Centennial

**Directions:** From the intersection of S. University Blvd. and E. Arapahoe Rd., drive west on E. Arapahoe to S. Franklin St. Turn south onto S. Franklin and drive to E. Geddes Ave. and drive west to E. Geddes Circle S. Turn north. E. Geddes Circle S becomes E. Geddes Circle N. 1827 is on the north side. Depart via Franklin to E. Dry Creek.

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### Site 5
7751 S. Ash Court
Centennial

**Directions:** From the intersection of E. Dry Creek Road and S. Colorado Blvd., drive south on S. Colorado to E. Links Parkway. Turn east on E. Links and stay in the left lane to remain on E. Links. Take an immediate left onto S. Ash Ct. 7751 is on the southwest side of S. Ash Ct. Depart east via E. Links Pkwy. Turn north onto E. Links Circle and follow to S. Holly St. Turn south on S. Holly St.

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### Site 6
8080 S. Holly St.
(Highlands Gdn. Ctr.)
Centennial

**Directions:** From the intersection of E. Links Circle and S. Holly, drive south a couple of blocks to the Big Tool Box / Highlands Garden Center. Park in their main parking lot and walk through the store or around to the back on the right to see the professionally installed water feature located near their display of aquatic plants.

Depart south on S. Holly St.

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### Site 7
6242 E. Otero Drive
Centennial

**Directions:** From site 6, drive east on E. Otero Drive, then north on S. Monaco St. At the intersection of S. Monaco and E. Mineral Ave., turn east on E. Mineral. Turn northwest onto S. Niagara Way and left again in one block onto E. Long Ave. 6242 is at the end of the cul-de-sac. Depart via South Niagara Way.

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### Site 8
6652 E. Long Ave.
Centennial

**Directions:** From the intersection of S. Holly St. and E. Long Ave., drive east on S. Niagara Way to E. Mineral Ave. Turn north on E. Mineral to the corner of E. Long Ave. and Mineral. Turn west onto E. Niagara Way. Turn west on E. Niagara Way to the first entrance to E. Long Ave. 6652 is on the northeast corner of S. Monroe and Long. A sign identifies this site as "site 8."

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### Site 9
7694 S. Olive Circle
Centennial

**Directions:** Drive east on E. Mineral from site 8. Turn north (left) onto S. Oneida Way. Turn east (right) at the first entrance to S. Olive Circle. 7694 is on the southeast side of the Circle – the second house on the right from the corner. Site 10 and the picnic are within walking distance. Site 10 is across the street from Site 9.

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### Site 10
7689 S. Olive Circle
Centennial

**Directions:** See location information for site 9, which is within walking distance. Both sites can be accessed as described for site 9. Site 10, 7689 S. Olive Circle, is on the north side of the Circle. The picnic will be held here (Jim and Tudi Arneill’s home.)

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Numbers shown in red on this map show relative locations of pond tour sites. For addresses and a suggested tour itinerary see the Pond Tour Site Location Directions included with this insert.