

## 2021 Pond Tour Descriptions

### Stop #1

Chris & Shelley Leinster  
12484 Kalamath Court  
Westminster, CO 80234

I work in the landscape industry and I built this pond myself in 2013. I had a couple of weeks off over the Christmas break and my employer was generous enough to loan me his skid-steer. The weather was quite pleasant until the day before the semi-truck of stone arrived, when the temperature plunged to 4 degrees and we received over 6" of snow.

My yard turned into an ice-skating rink and I had to set every stone by hand as my tractor slipped and drifted on the ice! The ground froze as solid as granite and I had to rent a demo-hammer (an electric jackhammer), just to dig through the soil. I believe I invented some new curse words that day.

As a result, the product is a little different than what I had envisioned, but I am very pleased with the results. The pond has provided a wonderful atmosphere for entertaining as well as a nesting place for wild Mallard ducks who return each spring. We hope to retire on a lake someday but for now our pond-side home will do.

### Stop #2

Dennis & Sue Weatherman  
4175 E. 139<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Thornton, CO 80602

We have 2 ponds, one with waterfall, Koi, and some plants. It's about 800 gallons, professionally built with lots of boulders, rocks, and flagstone. This feature is right outside our bedroom windows for evening listening. There are 2 large Koi and a fantail goldfish we inherited from an older gent closing down his pond. One of those Koi has survived Dennis' mistakes, we lost the other Koi to something - no idea what, but unfortunately, he didn't survive. We have cattails, iris, water hyacinth, water lettuce, cannas, and some other plants we don't recall names for.

The second pond is smaller and was built with help from CWGS member Peter Heir several years ago. This was built to help the water lilies survive, as our koi tried to destroy them. Sue added goldfish to this pond last year and they are thriving! How they get fatter and bigger over winter is crazy. In this pond are iris, water lilies, water petunia, 2 floating planters, and again plants we have forgotten the names of. Our lilies are not doing so well this year as I write this. The flagstone patio around the ponds provides an area for seating and enjoyment.

Stop #3  
Larry Brown  
2123 Cherry Street  
Brighton, CO 80601

I started my outdoor ponds with a single pre-formed pond 25 years ago. Over the years I have added additional pre-formed ponds; some interconnected, others stand alone. I stock them with various fish. The usual suspects Koi and Goldfish, but also small fish like mollies, swordtails, and platys. I am an avid aquarist with a fish room with 1,200+ gallons of both fresh and salt water tanks. The ponds have a variety of plants from water hyacinths, water lilies, and lotus, and marginal plants. I use some of my ponds to grow live food via aquaponics for my fish, strawberries, and lettuce. See you in July!

Stop #4  
Sue Gasiorowski  
1109 Lantern Drive  
Fort Lupton, CO 80621

We decided in 2004 to build our first pond. My daughter-in-law (at the time) and I joined and took a class that CWGS offered that year. We managed to install one that was about 5,500 gals. My husband and I made a few mistakes along the way but enjoyed it for 7 years before we invested in a Fifth Wheel to travel, while it was still possible. I kept my pump, extra liner, and the Aquascape filter in storage along with my other prized possessions, hoping someday, I would be able to build another.

Fast forward to 2016. We gave up traveling due to my husband's declining health. We bought a small retirement home. Life changes and COVID restrictions forced us to spend almost every day staying at home. In April 2020, I mentioned to my former daughter-in-law that I still had pond makings in the shed and wished we were all several years younger so we could build another. She convinced me we could do this again along with my 13- & 15-year-old grandsons' help.

My small backyard was nothing but river rock on a slope. The prior owners used it as a rental. They took the easy way out and used the rock with no plants. My family now shudders if I mention rock duty. We all hated hand picking and sifting the rock from the future pond area and carrying the rocks in buckets to the other side of the yard. I'm hoping that part of the yard will be a dog run someday.

It's taken us a year to get where we are, but I can never thank her and my grandsons enough for all the help and encouragement they have given me this last year. I am still battling the green water by adding more plants and shade, but you all know it takes forever when you're not using chemicals. I now have a beautiful oasis to enjoy. Hope you all will come to Ft. Lupton to see first-hand what my former daughter-in-law and grandsons helped me accomplish.

#### Stop #5

Martha Miller & Joel Waszak  
943 W. Yale Court  
Lafayette, CO 80027

We currently have three aquatic ponds. Our largest pond was installed in 1993. The pond is approximately 8' by 12' and holds around 1,200 gallons of water. The pond was built with varying depths of shelves to accommodate the various types of pond plants. The pond also features a waterfall that we really enjoy. The waterfall provides a relaxing sound and plenty of activity with birds visiting the pond for drinking and bathing. The two smaller ponds have a small water lily and several water plants.

A second feature in our back yard is a G-scale garden railroad (Switzerland Trail). It features over 650 feet of track, over 100 spruce trees, and many perennials. The railroad garden also includes 80+ buildings with detailed scenery. This railroad also has two miniature ponds. The trains will be running for the Pond Tour.

#### Stop #6

Carolyn Blakley & Joel Hamm  
2877 Blue Jay Way  
Lafayette, CO 80026

We built our pond in 2016 and thanks to some great advice, built it three times bigger than originally planned. My intent was to build a lush tropical style pond with lavish perennials and tropical plants surrounding it. It is approximately 20" deep with a waterfall and has early (late April) blooms due to the shallow depth and wall. We have around 30 Koi and about 20 waterlilies, both tropical and hardy, we also have 3 lotus along with various other aquatic and bog plants.

#### Stop #7

Picnic  
Waneka Lake Park, East Picnic Shelter  
1600 Caria Drive  
Lafayette, CO 80026