



September 2008 Issue

## JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT 2 EVENTS

### CHANTICLEER GARDEN

**Join us for a visit to what has been noted as "the greatest of the great gardens of the Philadelphia Region"**

We will meet up with other participating members at the stone patio reception area at 1:30 for a self guided tour of the gardens.

Anyone who so desires, can meet at the picnic area at 12:30 pm and bring your lunch.

Parking is limited so anyone who can car-pool please do so.

Find out more about Chanticleer at [www.chanticleergarden.org](http://www.chanticleergarden.org)

Chanticleer Address: 786 Church Road, Wayne, PA 19087. 610-687-4163

admission to the garden is \$5.00 a person, or \$4.00 for those who have PHS memberships.

*See more on page 5 and directions on page 6.*

### AQUATIC GARDENS POND CLOSING SEMINAR

Aquatic Gardens and Koi Company supply a complete range of pond and water gardening equipment and materials to the public. They are located at 2531 Rt. 206, Eastampton, NJ. 08060

They will conduct a **"Winterizing your Pond" seminar on Saturday, October 18th at 10 am.** Members of our club are invited to come and join them for this seminar and important topic.

**Call Aquatic Gardens to RSVP for this event at 609-261-6325 or email them at [info@aquaticgardensandkoi.net](mailto:info@aquaticgardensandkoi.net) Ask for Dan or Brian.**

### 2008 Calendar

**Sept 14, 2008 12:30 pm**

*Wayne, Pa.*

Chanticleer Gardens visit and tour.

**Oct 18, 2008: 10 am**

*New Jersey*

Aquatic Gardens  
Pond closing meeting

**Jan 25, 2009: 12:30 pm**

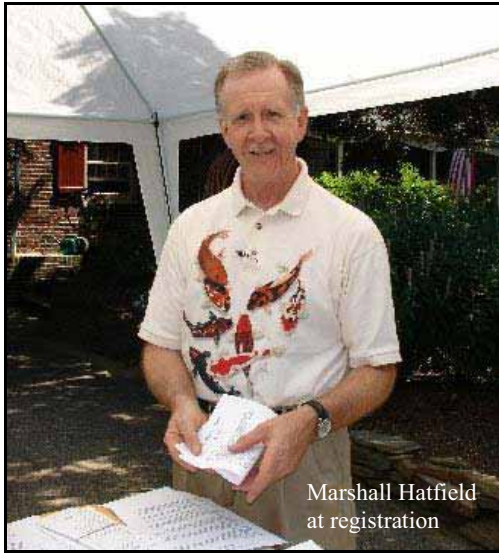
*Springfield, Pa.*

Springfield Country Club  
kick off luncheon and  
election of officers.

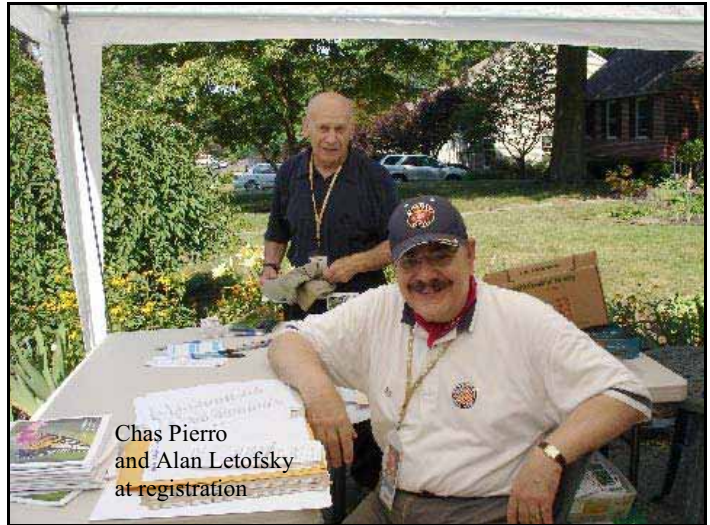
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# LOOKING BACK

## 17TH ANNUAL 2008 POND TOUR IN SOUTH JERSEY SUNDAY JULY 13TH 2008.



Marshall Hatfield  
at registration



Chas Pierro  
and Alan Letofsky  
at registration



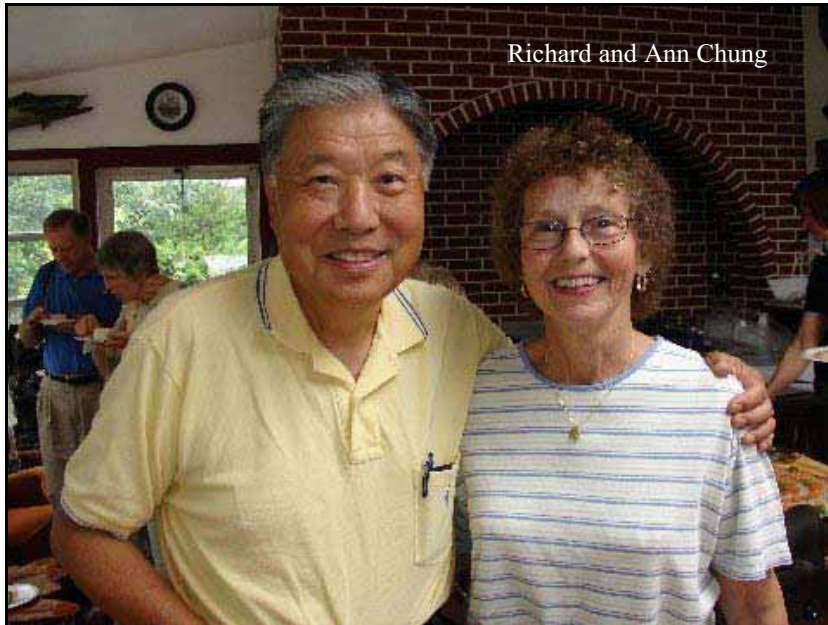
Organizing and running the pond tour is a momentous undertaking. We are fortunate to have volunteers that keep this club event going each summer! A Huge Thank You to Marshall Hatfield, Chas Pierro and Alan Letofsky for a stupendous job organizing our 17th annual pond tour this year in New Jersey!! Thank you to all the many other volunteers not listed here, whose time and effort helped to make this tour a great success. Kudos to all of you!!



A wonderful sunny day, good friends, gardens, water, fish and refreshments along the guided way. What a great event to look forward to each year! We appreciate all those who volunteered to be hosts at this tour and shared their time, ponds and gardens with us all. Without you there would be no pond tour.

Thanks for having us!

## LOOKING BACK



Another perfect afternoon for our club's visit to Richard and Ann Chung's pond and garden on Sunday, August 17, 2008. There was a great turnout as we were all anxious to see the end product of years of research, planning and hard work! Thank you for your hospitality Richard and Ann, and for sharing your lovely pond and garden with us all!



## MEMBERS BULLETIN BOARD PAGE

**This Article was printed in the Local New Jersey News Paper,  
and was sent in by Marshall Hatfield.**

Picture the perfect exotic getaway, filled with the beauty of nature and the feeling of escape, adventure and complete relaxation. Now picture it in your own backyard.

"I can sit outside and listen to the sound of the waterfall, see the fountain in my pond spurt up, and, at night, see the lights change from red to green to blue," says Rita Piatkowski of Marlton, describing her backyard pond. "We just enjoy it so much."

A backyard pond, also known as a water garden, can provide homeowners with a place to host company or even wildlife, not to mention find peace and quiet.

"It's relaxing," says Marshall Hatfield of Haddon Heights. "You can take the same amount of money for a vacation and the day you get back, you're so fried from everything you did that you can't enjoy it."

"You take that (vacation) money and put it into your yard and you can enjoy it for life. You can see it every day and have wildlife there all the time."

Piatkowski and Hatfield, both members of the Delaware Valley Water Garden Society (DVWGS), are pond enthusiasts who enjoy

"ponding" and learning about how others develop their own backyard refuges. The group also hosts pond tours.

"People in our society see a lot of ponds and that changes their perspective on what kind of pond and feature they may want," explains Hatfield. "People are opinionated about their ponds, just like they are with cars. And they have a strong loyalty to what they like."

Aspiring ponders have homework to do before choosing a water oasis for the yard. Ponds can be expensive and time-consuming, so it's important that along with the investment comes passion.

"If you're thinking about a water feature, you may want to get a fountain, or pond-less water feature to get acclimated to the industry," suggests Jon Schirmer, a supervisor at Laurel Oak Garden Center in Medford.

"Do as much research as you can. Look online. Talk to someone who has a pond. Because once you have it, that's it."

Schirmer recommends starting small to see if investing in a bigger water feature is the way to go. Fountains and urns, for instance, can start at \$3,000, much cheaper than a pond.

"Pond-less water features are less maintenance, take up less space and can fit in a small area," says Schirmer.

Small molds -- pre-formed basins that can be purchased and installed manually -- are available for customers who would like to experiment with a pond. It takes a little work, but is a good trial run, he adds.

For those who are ready to have a medium-size pond installed at approximately 30 by 15 feet, it's realistic to anticipate spending between \$30,000 and \$50,000 for design, installation and to add features such as plants and pumps, Schirmer explains. Professional installation generally means the landscaper will dig; lay down a rubber liner to custom fit the pond size; put down rocks; and add pumps, plants, streams, waterfalls, fish and other amenities.

"Ponds are low-maintenance, not no-maintenance," Schirmer warns. "This is something a hobbyist should do."

Bill Rose of Moorestown, also a member of DVWGS, dug his own pond and performs routine maintenance work by cleaning the pond and arranging its features, such as rocks.

"Sometimes the problem with digging it yourself is that you hit roots, so it's good to have a hatchet on hand," says Rose. "I love to dig and move rocks around, so this was fun for me. If you want to build it, it's the joy of doing it yourself and accomplishing something that makes it worthwhile. But most people have it done (professionally)."

Ponds can be any size or depth, be accented with many features or focus solely on a few. Know what you want before you commit.

cont....

## MEMBERS BULLETIN BOARD PAGE

*Continued from previous page*

"You can't put a number on price or time," says Hatfield. "Water gardening (and ponding) is a hobby that you can put as little or as much into as you want. People should be specific with what they want, and tailor the experience to their own preferences."

"The people who have researched it the most and understand what's involved end up the happiest," adds Schirmer. "You need to understand plant life, fish and what it is you're investing in."

"It's 90 percent enjoyment and 10 percent work."

**Take some time to send in your pond stories, tips, jokes or photos for the member's bulletin board pages.**

**It is always nice to read stories written by other pond club members. Tell us about your past years ponding experience, or any tips you have learned along the way.**

If you want to submit an article or a story for the newsletter, please submit them to Connie Snyder 1255 Buck Lane, West Chester, PA 19382.

Or send them by email to [ccsnyder123@verizon.net](mailto:ccsnyder123@verizon.net). Any photographs will be returned.

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**Chanticleer was the estate of Christine and Adolph Rosengarten, Sr.** Mr. Rosengarten was head of the pharmaceutical company Rosengarten and Sons. Their son Adolph, Jr., left the property to be enjoyed as a public garden. The garden opened to visitors in 1993.

Originally, the estate was known for its majestic trees and verdant lawns. Today, the trees and lawns remain, but the focus is on plant combinations, containers, textures, and colors, often relying on foliage more than flowers.

Tens of thousands of bulbs clothe the ground in spring, followed by orchards of flowering trees with native wildflowers blooming in the woods. A vegetable garden complements a cut-flower garden. Courtyards are a framework for unusual combinations of hardy and tropical plants. Vines grow in nooks and crannies, trailing and twining. A serpentine of cedars, boulders, and agronomic crops undulates through a mown hillside. A woodland garden carpeted with Asian groundcovers and full of rarities leads to a water garden surrounded by exuberant perennials. A ruin plays with indoor/outdoor relationships and contrasts the light and dark sides of gardens. Sculptural, homemade seats, benches, wrought iron fences, and bridges highlight the uniqueness and personal nature of the garden.

Chanticleer is indeed a pleasure garden, offering an escape from the rush of every day life and a place where one can feel like a personal guest of the Rosengarten family.



## QUICK FALL TIPS FOR YOUR POND IN AUTUMN

Edited and condensed from Lilypons

### POND MANAGEMENT

Fertilize all Aquatic Plants while the water temperature is above 60 degrees F.

### WATER QUALITY

As the pond cools, the bacteria in biological filters become less active, so, when the temperature in the pond drops below 50 degrees F, shut the filter(s) off altogether. Use a Test Kit to check the ammonia and nitrite levels. These are two of the most toxic by-products of decomposition, which are harmful to the fish, particularly when the fish are

under stress as is often the case in autumn. If the nitrite level is high, conduct a partial (25%) water change and add Pond Salt (if necessary) to bring the pond's salt level up to .001% or up to .003% in ponds without plants. For high ammonia levels, conduct a partial (25%) water change, then add Ammo Lock to detoxify the ammonia until the bacteria in the pond can convert it to nitrite, and on to nitrate.

### FISH CARE

As the water temperature drops,

your fish will become less active and require less protein. When the water temperature is between 50 and 60 degrees F, start feeding them a lower protein food with higher carbohydrates. Below 50 degrees F, the fish should enter "dormancy" and not require any feeding. Be prepared to keep pond from freezing entirely with a heater or a bubbler. Clean out as many fallen leaves, dead and/or dying lily-pads, and blossoms as possible to prevent them from decomposing in the pond.

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### Directions to Chanticleer Gardens:

#### From points west via Route 30:

Take Route 30 east to the traffic light at Conestoga Road in Strafford. Turn right onto Conestoga Road and go approximately one and a half miles to the second traffic light. Turn right onto Church Road, go under the trolley bridge about half a mile to Chanticleer on your right.

#### From points east via Route 30:

Take Route 30 west to Radnor-Chester Road. Turn left at the traffic light. Turn right at the traffic light onto Conestoga Road. Turn left at the traffic light onto Church Road. Go under the trolley bridge about a half mile to Chanticleer on your right.

#### From the West, Pennsylvania Turnpike:

Exit at interchange 326 onto I-76 east to exit 331. Take exit 331 onto I-476 south toward Chester and follow **bulleted** instructions below.

#### From the East, Pennsylvania Turnpike:

Take exit 333 onto I-476 south, and then follow **bulleted** instructions below.

#### From Philadelphia and points east:

Take I-76 west to exit 331A and merge onto I-476 south toward Chester, and then follow **bulleted** instructions below.

- Take exit 13 (Villanova) and go west onto Route 30 (Lancaster Pike).
- Turn left at the traffic light onto Radnor-Chester Road.
- Turn right at the traffic light onto Conestoga Road.
- Turn left at the traffic light onto Church Road. Go under the trolley bridge about a half mile to Chanticleer on your right.

# Land & SeaScapes

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*Note: Discounted hourly rate is available to all DVWGS members.*

## DVWGS Officers and contacts:

### President

Victor Barsky 215-840-0811

### Vice Presidents

Stephanie McGrory 610-789-9921

### Secretary

Lamar Wagner 610-527-2277

### Treasurer

Gail Brewer 610-853-6361

### Newsletter Editor

Connie Snyder 610-399-1654

Alan Letofsky 610-353-4409

### Sunshine Committee

Sharon Deutsch 856-983-2729

### Membership

Connie Snyder 610-399-1654

### Other Members at Large

Rose Ball 610-642-3276

Bill Fogel 610-687-3105

Eric Goldenberg 610-449-5671

Chuck Miller 610-874-3863

Donna Miller 610-544-5625

Cindy Weiss 610-667-7545

Mitch Prince 215-939-3275

Joan Wielgoszinski 610-356-3083

## ADVERTISING AVAILABLE:

Place your ad in the newsletter to reach all of our pond members!

Rates per issue are as follows:

Full page.....\$100.00

Half page .....\$ 60.00

Quarter page.....\$35.00

Business card.....\$20.00

Members, Commercial or Non-Commercial businesses:  
Send your "copy ready" ad, along with a check made payable to DVWGS and mail to Connie Snyder, newsletter editor, 1255 Buck Lane, West Chester, Pa 19382

*Note: Members may still place a non-business notice (such as free plants, or fish) in the newsletter at no*

## Sunshine Committee

If you have any knowledge of club members in need of the services of the sunshine committee, please call Sharon Deutsch at 856-983-2729 or email her at [maggied989@yahoo.com](mailto:maggied989@yahoo.com)

**Don't forget to check out our web page at [www.dvwgs.org](http://www.dvwgs.org)**

Connie Snyder/editor  
1255 Buck Lane  
West Chester Pa. 19382  
  
Phone: 610-399-1654  
Email: ccsnyder123@verizon.net



**This will be the last mailing to all who do not have a current club membership.**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS IS CURRENT**

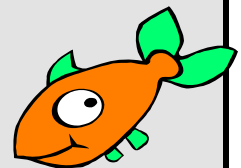
**DVWGS memberships are based on a calendar year beginning on January 1st.**

**Keep your membership current in order to prevent missing Newsletters, email information and important event information!**

**You can find a membership renewal form on the website at [www.dvwgs.org](http://www.dvwgs.org)**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

**If you have any questions regarding your membership status, contact Connie Snyder at 610-399-1654 or [ccsnyder123@verizon.net](mailto:ccsnyder123@verizon.net)**



**A Publication of the  
Delaware Valley Water Garden Society**