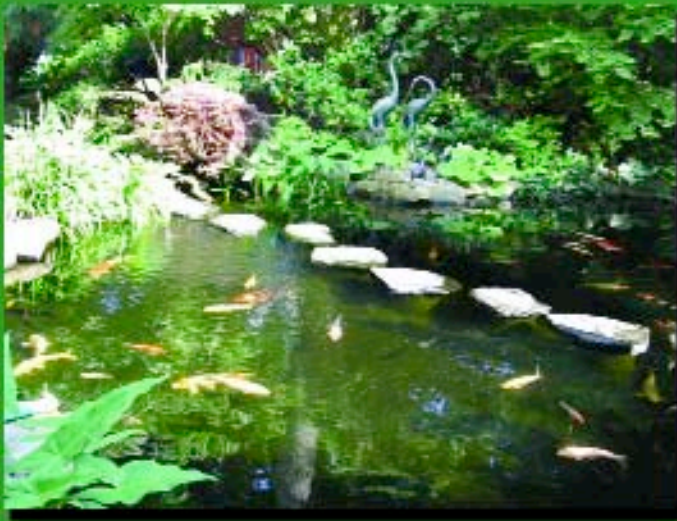
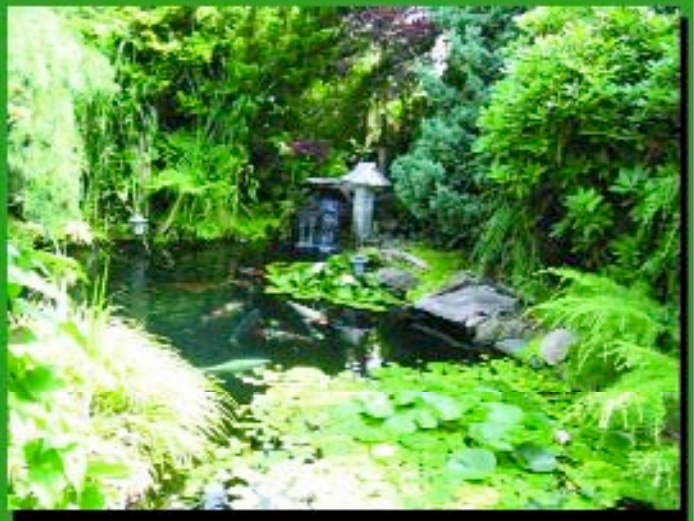
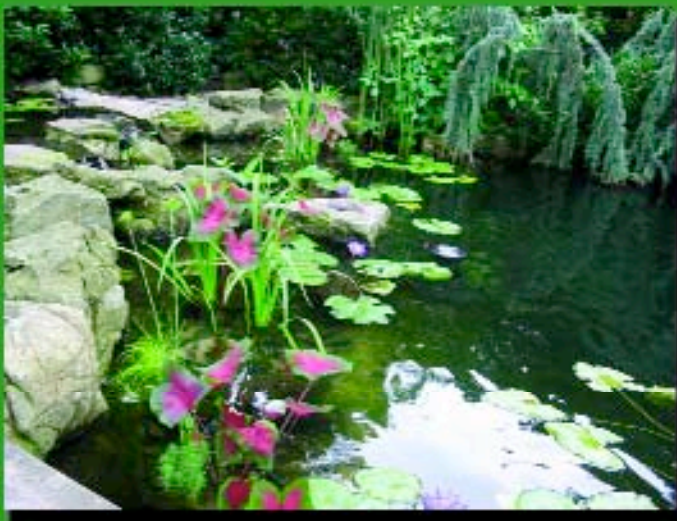


# *Mid-Atlantic Koi*

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**Long Island Chapter Pond Tour**

## Having a Pond Tour: Long Island Chapter

by Carolyn Weise, New York

Preparing for a pond tour can be a difficult and time consuming project, but there is hardly one more rewarding. Koi and Goldfish clubs have been arranging pond tours for years, as have garden clubs. The purpose of a pond tour is to organize a viewing of people's ponds in an orderly fashion so that others can see what they may wish to add to their own in the future without disrupting the lives of those we visit (too badly). We collect information in person rather than by reading in a book in a way that is easier to actually appreciate whether or not it would work for you. The real purpose is the advancement of the hobby.



**Mike and Joan Biancardi**



**Greg and Donna Phillips**

Recently I had the chore of planning a tour for Saturday, July 16, 2005, and learned a few great lessons. First, while I was focusing on the quality of the ponds, I lost focus of the distances we would be traveling. And in the time it took to actually come to fruition, the gas prices started to go through the roof. But although I heard a few grunts, nobody stayed home that I could see. I will make note for the next one. Another problem is that it is quite difficult to mark out a detailed schedule and map by oneself. One needs to drive and another needs to write the

route. So you will need at least two people to accomplish this safely. Luckily for me, Steve Borakowski retired recently, was available and volunteered! We even got commendations on our directions – that was a “first.” Sure there were a couple of typos and maybe a mistake or two, but nobody got lost as I heard. Aside from that, we had nine ponds volunteered for the tour and not enough time to see that many. Now we had to eliminate a couple (and maybe hurt someone’s feelings). That done, we now had seven lovely ponds and were ready for a full day. We just had to pray for good weather because we didn’t plan for a rain date. Oh, then we realized we were going to have to eat lunch along the way. We decided to hold lunch at pond #5, but we underestimated the amount of attendees. These are just a few of the challenges facing a pond tour.

The day did come and it was wonderful! There must have been at least 70 people for lunch, but we fed them. We figured in 45 minutes instead of the usual 20 for each pond, which allowed enough time for everybody to take pictures and talk to the home owner about his/her system. And we allowed 1-hour and 15 minutes for lunch. The weather was slightly overcast at times, but no rain. And the gardens were absolutely heaven! We saw ponds with combination koi and turtles, combination koi and water garden, Japanese gardens, koi pond and garden railroads, spacious woodland retreats, and everything in-between.

The Long Island Chapter would like to thank all who participated on the tour and made it such an overwhelming success. First, a big thank-you to the people who opened their homes to us: Bernie Szer, John and Ann Marie Defabio, Stu and Joyce Blumberg, Mike and Joan Biancardi, Greg and Donna Phillips, Steve and Nancy Borakowski, and Hermann and Erika Adam! These were wonderful ponds with a lot to offer to newcomers and old-timers alike. We want to thank especially Mike and Joan for the wonderful lunch. One lady came all the way from Manhattan and couldn’t go on the tour because she was having two hip replacements in a few days hence, but just HAD to see Mike and Joan’s pond with the turtles. (I had met her at the Hicks Flower Show in April and invited her. And she remembered!) A couple of newcomers signed up while on the tour. We were joined by members of the LI Aquarium Society who have ponds of their own, and took membership applications also. Then we want to thank all the members and friends of MAKC who showed up and trekked the entire day to see all there was to see. Another member came out from Manhattan for the tour, and others came from places in Suffolk County. Still others were there from Whitestone. And I would personally like to thank Herb Ehrich for carpooling, being the designated driver, and for putting up with a day of heckling from the rest of us for driving “too slow.”

Thank you all, wonderful people! ❖



**Steve and Nancy Borakowski**



**Ponds on the cover are from top left clock-wise: Stu and Joyce Blumberg; John and Annmarie Defabio; Erika and Hermann Adam; and Bernie Szer.**

# Long Island Chapter Members Enjoying the Tour

Photos by Carolyn Weise, New York

