

A tale of two ponds

Landscape ponds are the rage in my community. Most are of the design-and-build-yourself variety. Dig a hole, put down a liner, fill it with water, insert plants and fish — instant pond. I built one of these myself. It was 6 by 6 ft., and 3 ft. deep in the middle so that our fish, our frog and our water lilies would survive our northern Ohio winters.

My wife, Vicky, and I loved that pond. I say *loved* because this past winter it sprung a leak. Sunlight apparently caused the poly liner to weaken, and it cracked about a foot from the bottom. The carnage was awful — two koi, four goldfish and our frog.

It's all my fault, my wife Vicky tells me. I should have used a rubber liner. Or, I should have covered the poly liner with stones when I built the pond, like she said. Now, she's pressuring me to find a new home for our five surviving goldfish. They've been circling in a 25-gallon plastic pail located under a downspout on the north side of our house since early spring. Vicky says they're not happy there. How can she tell?

We considered repairing our pond — that is until I told her about a professionally installed pond in neighboring Catawba Island, OH. That was probably a mistake. When she sees that one, she's not going to want to repairs ours.

Casey Enders of Choice Lawn Care, Republic, OH, designed and installed the 11-17 ft. pond last season on the property of David and Marianne Glasser.

Homeowner David said that he'd originally talked to Enders about installing a smaller water feature just behind his home, but Enders persuaded him to go with the larger pond — waterfall, koi and aquatic plants — because of the lay of the property.



Dave Glasser says that his new landscape pond requires more maintenance than he anticipated, but it's worth it.

The evening that I visited the Glassers, they were sharing a bottle of wine with friends on the deck behind their home. They spend as many pleasant evenings there as the mosquitoes will allow, and greatly enjoy the beauty and quiet sounds of the moving water, which is their landscape's showcase feature.

Since I told Vicky about the Glasser's pond, she's been all over me to see it. How much longer can I hold out? Every time she sees the goldfish in the pail she asks me when I'm going to take her to see it.

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