

## Creating a friendlier pond

BY CURT HARLER / CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Landscape architects and designers are trained to deal with hardscapes like bridges and decks; they're good with livescapes like trees and bedding plants. But few have extensive backgrounds in waterscapes, one of the hottest trends in today's landscape market.

Properly designed water features are living biosystems. Landscapers' goal should be to create a bio-friendly pond, and the latest products aim to make that easy.

Perhaps the biggest mistake designers make is not making a pond big enough. Gary Wittstock, president of Pond Supplies of America, Yorkville, IL, says a pond should be at least 8 ft. by 10 ft., and deep enough to support fish and plants.

"We tell people to design a big pond, to use a skimmer and to establish a natural ecosystem with plants and fish," he says. Koi, a Japanese carp, fits well in such designs.

Proper pumping is another key. "Give clients an efficient pump," Wittstock says. "It's vital that they run the pump both day and night, since nighttime is when the plants are growing." He advises putting the pump in a skimmer that will biologically filter and clean the water before it goes through the pump. "This protects the pump, too," he says.

One final tip is to avoid tinkering with the filter. "Taking the biological filter apart too often is like transplanting a tree every week. It destroys its efficiency," Wittstock says.



▲ Otterbine Barebo's Phoenix aerating fountain

### AEROMIX SYSTEMS

800/879-3677

[www.aeromix.com](http://www.aeromix.com)

Aeromix's AquaTornado II surface aspirating aerator features a larger-diameter stationary draft tube with unrestricted air intake and a propeller that's nearly four times larger than the competition. Units come in 2-hp single-phase as well as 2- and 3-hp 3-phase.

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### AQUAMASTER FOUNTAINS & AERATORS

800/693-3144

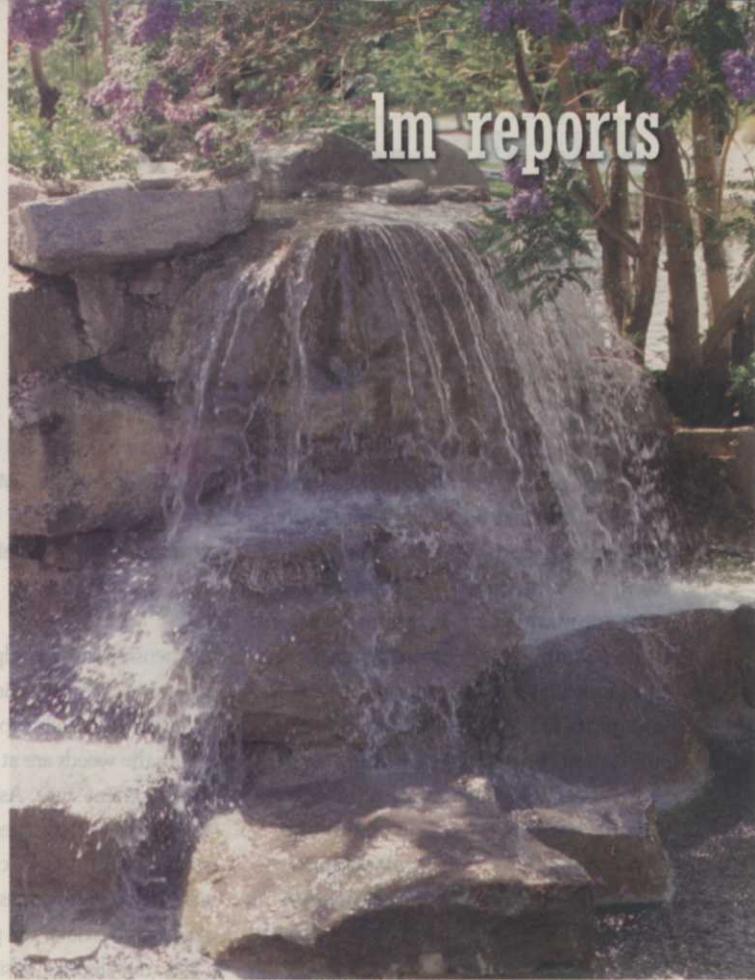
[www.aquamasterfountains.com](http://www.aquamasterfountains.com)

Floating surface aerators from Aquamaster Fountains, Kiel, WI, are capable of creating a random boil or bubble effect on the water's surface. This low profile aerator is easily installed and works efficiently with any depth. Units are available from 1 to 5 hp.

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### Pond design tips

- ▶ **Make pond big enough**
- ▶ **Establish natural ecosystem with plants and fish**
- ▶ **Use an efficient pump**
- ▶ **Avoid tinkering with filter**



**AQUASCAPE DESIGNS**

**800/306-6227**

[www.aquascapedesigns.com](http://www.aquascapedesigns.com)

One item number gets you everything you need to build a pond — except for the rocks and water.

The 11x11 mini pond kit from Aquascape Designs, Batavia, IL, is a complete kit for building an 11x11-ft. pond two ft. deep. It includes the Aquascape pump and a 15x15-ft. liner. Kit sizes range from the 4x6-ft. package through the 11x16-ft. size with 15x20-ft. liner.

**Circle #260**

**HORIZON GOLF**

**800/545-9210**

[www.horizongolf.net](http://www.horizongolf.net)

Whether it's heavy duty pond liners or rock walls for water features, Horizon Golf, Evansville, IN, has many offerings. Company provides PVC liners that come in thicknesses ranging from 20 to 30 mils. Their rockwork is based on pumped concrete features which form outcroppings, shorelines or waterfalls.

**Circle #261**

**CLEAR WATER**

**800/756-7946**

[clrwater1@aol.com](mailto:clrwater1@aol.com)

New From ClearWater Enviro Technologies is the ScaleBlaster,



which eliminates formation of limescale deposits in sprinkler systems, irrigation lines and other pipes without need of water softening equipment, salts, chemicals or maintenance.

**Circle #262**

**LANDSCAPE DESIGNS, INC.**

**800/306-6227**

[www.aquascapedesigns.com](http://www.aquascapedesigns.com)

For the wholesale market only, the catalog from Aquascape Designs, Batavia, IL, features a complete line of kits designed for contractors who build larger ponds. Also available are several models of skimmers, which eliminate routine maintenance by removing debris before it fouls pumps or sinks to the pool's bottom.

**Circle #263**

**NDS PRO**

**800/726-1994**

[www.ndspro.net](http://www.ndspro.net)

A complete line of Catch Basins from NDS Pro, Lindsay, CA, is available through most major wholesale landscape, plumbing and building material outlets. They come in sizes from a six-in. round basin which fits three- and 4-in. corrugated and sewer and drain pipe. In addition, there are 9, 12, 18 and 24-in. versions.

**Circle #264**

**OASE**

**805/383-1888**

[www.oasepumps.com](http://www.oasepumps.com)

Strata-vator aerating pumps from OASE, Camarillo, CA, feature up to nine easily interchangeable display patterns. Motor sizes range from 0.5- to 2-hp models in the Midi line and 5- to 15-hp in the Maxi line.

**Circle #265**

**OTTERBINE BAREBO, INC.**

**800/237-8837**

[www.otterbine.com](http://www.otterbine.com)

A full line of aerating fountains from Otterbine Barebo, Emmaus, PA, includes the Sunburst, with spray heights from 4 to 11 ft. 1 to 5 hp. The Gemini provides 5- to 15-ft. sprays at the same horsepower, moving 555 to 1,125 gal. per minute. For geyser fountain effect, check out the Rocket, spraying 11 to 25 ft. powered by 1- to 5-hp motors. The Nova thrusts water 95 ft. into the air. Catalog available from vendor.

**Circle #266**

**POND SUPPLIES OF AMERICA**

**888/742-5772**

Complete catalog of liners, water, fish and plant care items is available from Pond Supplies of America, Yorkville, IL. Aimed at dealers and installers, it includes sales and building tips and most of the materials needed to build a waterscape.

**Circle #267**

**POND SWEEP MFG.**

**630/553-3088**

[www.pondsweep.com](http://www.pondsweep.com)

Three fiberglass skimmers and a Purifalls biofilter are the latest additions to the pond care line from PondSweep Manufacturing, Yorkville, IL. New skimmers are for ponds of 500 to 40,000 gal.

**Circle #268**

**TURF DRAINAGE OF AMERICA**

**800/999-2794**

The Turf Drain Siphon System from Turf Drainage of America, Marrero, LA, moves water a long distance with little elevation change. No special connectors are needed. PermaBasin collects seepage water as well as surface water.

**Circle #269**

