



Doogie Digs Fountains

Neil Patrick Harris gets his hands on an autographed water feature. **Page 4**



Ablaze in 2007

ALSA survey reveals outdoor living trends for the year ahead. **Page 6**



Unwelcome Aliens

EPA reveals new rules for pesticides used above, on or near water. **Page 10**

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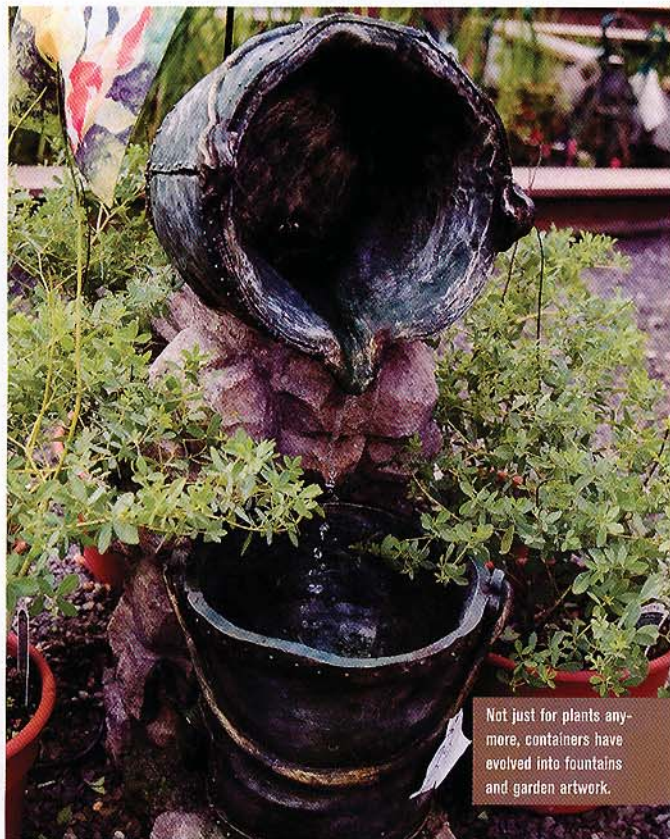
National and global factors affect the prices of seeds for backyard feeders.

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South Florida creates a unique niche for Dania Beach Water Gardens and Gifts.

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Retailers and consumers find retail-ready plants appealing and profitable.



By Sandy Robins

News flash! Pots no longer serve only as functional containers for plants. They have transitioned into decorative landscape art and are being turned into fountains.

"The latest tall square and cylindrical shapes are perfect to be made into 'disappearing fountains,'" says Tom Tilley of Tilley's Nurseries in Coopersburg, Pa. "They are definitely a must-have item for 2007."

Disappearing fountains is the generic name for pots of all shapes and sizes that are turned into water features. With this idea growing in popularity, Tilley predicts that retailers around the country will see this tranquil fountain form becoming a very trendy garden essential in the months ahead.

"They have huge appeal to people who don't want to be bothered with plants and fish but still want to enjoy the sight and sound of running water," he says. "They are very easy to install, easy to chlorinate and treat to take care of mosquitoes and algae problems.

"I have found the best way to sell them is to set them up in various parts of the nursery in a lush, leafy setting," Tilley says. "Customers always appreciate seeing how it can enhance an area.

"Any pot with a hole can be transformed into a water feature," he says. "We sell all the necessities like the pump and the disappearing basin that is installed below ground level."

Tilley points out that sales in the more traditional terra-cotta planters and containers are slowing down in favor of glazed and colored pots as the trend for tall pots in square and cylindrical shapes continues to grow. The latter have a strong decorative element and, even

Not just for plants anymore, containers have evolved into fountains and garden artwork.

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The Kids Think Ponds Are All Right

By Wendy Bedwell-Wilson

It doesn't take much to delight a kid. In an age of video games, electronic gizmos and concrete jungles, children still love to get their hands dirty. When they can do it at school, it's even better.

Kids are digging ponds on school campuses across the country, thanks to established programs like the National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitat program and the North

American Water Gardening Society's Ponds for Kids program, and grassroots efforts like the Schoolyard Habitat Foundation established by The Pond Gnome's Paul Holdeman in Phoenix.

These groups encourage schools, students and pond builders to work together to establish landscaping and pondscaping venues for educational purposes. The kids get out of the classroom and experience their lessons, hands-on.



In the Ponds for Kids program, schoolchildren help to build a 24-inch-deep pond on the school grounds.

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"People will spend a lot of money on groovy outdoor furniture to enjoy these spaces." —Jack Bass

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Built on sand dunes south of San Francisco, this garden borrows views of Lake Merced Golf Course and includes a water feature with lavish waterfalls that flow into a pond that houses the owner's prized koi. Kevin Burns, landscape designer and owner of Maximum Service Landscaping, tricks the eye with his use of exuberantly planted mounds and transformed a completely flat yard with spent turf into a gentle slope with a natural feel.

The water feature is prominently located in the garden yet is planted in a fashion that does not dominate the scene. A hidden flagstone pathway behind the water feature allows maintenance access and thoughtful space to hide the pond equipment from view while providing easy access for cleaning and repairs.

The pond measures approximately 12 feet long, 7 feet wide and 39 inches deep, and it holds approximately 1,425 gallons of water. With upper ponds that flow to the various waterfalls and a 25-foot stream, the total water feature capacity is about 1,800 gallons. The most difficult part of using fiberglass pond shells is carrying



Landscapers trick the eye with exuberantly planted mounds, transforming a completely flat yard into a gentle, natural-looking slope.



The pond measures approximately 12 feet long, 7 feet wide and 39 inches deep, and it holds approximately 1,425 gallons of water.

them on their sides through narrow side yards. They look absolutely huge, but we caution our clients that a water feature will shrink with every step of the construction process. What the client feared would be far too large for the available space turned out to be a perfect fit.

On Nov. 17, Maximum Service Landscaping received the 2006 Judges Award for this project at the California Landscape Contractors Association's 50th Annual Trophy Awards.



Specifications

Designer/Installer: Kevin Burns, Designer/Maximum Service Landscaping Inc.

Contact Information: 650-343-0011, www.maximumservicelandscaping.com

Location: Daly City, Calif.

Construction: 25 tons moss-covered fieldstone boulders, P14695 Newport Fiberglass Pond Shell (www.aquaart.com), 45-mil-EPDM Firestone Pondgard flexible liner; mechanical filtration with a combination Savio CS6000 Skimmer & TetraPond bottom drain; biological and particulate filtration with Little Sister filter using Matala mat media; Aqua Ultraviolet 57-watt ultraviolet sterilizer; Sequence 1,000 high-efficiency pump with P3571 leaf trap; 60 feet of 3-inch flexible PVC pipe used for plumbing with check valves and ball valves for by-pass system to control water fall flows.

Cost of pond: \$28,785

Cost of total project: \$79,510



Maximum Service Landscaping received the 2006 Judges Award for this Daly City project.