

# **OUR POND**

And

# **GARDEN**

Our pond was professionally constructed and is in a naturally balanced state which requires little or no chemicals. Powered by the sun, a cycle is created where photosynthesis grows algae. The fish eat the algae and nibble on the plants, they poop, and beneficial bacteria, which we add, breaks the waste down to nitrates which in turn fertilize and feed the plants. We also add natural barley extract to clarify the water and inhibit excess algae.

The original upper part was installed in 2012, the extension leading to the gazebo added in 2017, and the bog bio-filter around the edge in 2019.

It requires minimal time and cost to maintain. About two hours in the spring, after we have it cleaned and started up by our pond service. 15 to 20 minutes a week to clean the filter screen and pad and police up. About two hours in late fall to shut down for winter.

The water level is maintained by an auto-feeder connected to our rainwater harvesting system.

Most of the pond plants are perennials. We add an elephant ear to the bog and a few floating water hyacinths, which rapidly multiply, in mid May.

The fish are common gold fish, which we DO NOT FEED, and they survive the winter.

Detailed instructions will be provided as well as a layout of all the bushes and shrubs and their care and pruning requirements. All pond equipment and supplies will be left.