

# Contents

Introduction . . . . .	xiii
<b>1. Understanding a Balanced Ecosystem . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
Oxygen Cycle . . . . .	2
Nutrients . . . . .	6
pH . . . . .	9
Algae . . . . .	9
Animals . . . . .	10
Trees and Shrubs . . . . .	12
Plants . . . . .	12
Microbes . . . . .	13
Maintaining Balance in the Ecosystem . . . . .	15
<b>2. Environmental Benefits . . . . .</b>	<b>17</b>
Pond Ecosystem . . . . .	17
Breeding Site for Amphibians . . . . .	18
Dragonflies and Mosquitoes . . . . .	19
Birds and Mammals . . . . .	19
Water Conservation . . . . .	20
Environmental Awareness . . . . .	21
Less Lawn . . . . .	21
Permaculture Food Sources . . . . .	21
<b>3. Natural Looking Designs . . . . .</b>	<b>23</b>
Native Ponds . . . . .	24
Man-made Ponds . . . . .	28
How Natural Can You Get? . . . . .	34
The Borrowed View . . . . .	35

Enjoy the Pond . . . . .	35
Stones, Stones, and More Stones . . . . .	36
Plants Are Key . . . . .	36
Your Final Design . . . . .	38
<b>4. Planning and Design . . . . .</b>	<b>39</b>
Location . . . . .	39
Legal Issues . . . . .	41
Access to Electrical Power . . . . .	41
Size . . . . .	42
Depth . . . . .	44
Water Source . . . . .	45
Bogs and Rain Gardens . . . . .	45
Trees . . . . .	46
Pond Liners . . . . .	46
Human Access . . . . .	47
Rocks . . . . .	50
Shape of the Pond and Planting Shelves . . . . .	50
Plants . . . . .	52
Excavated Soil . . . . .	52
<b>5. Building . . . . .</b>	<b>55</b>
Site Evaluation . . . . .	55
Soil Type . . . . .	58
Installing a Preformed Pond . . . . .	58
Flexible Pond Liners . . . . .	61
Digging the Hole for a Flexible Liner . . . . .	63
Preparing the Hole . . . . .	67
Installing the Pond Liner . . . . .	69
Footings for a Dock or Bridge . . . . .	70
Adding Water . . . . .	72
Protecting Planting Shelves . . . . .	73
Stones for the Planting Shelf . . . . .	74
Leveling the Pond Edge . . . . .	76

Adding the Spillway . . . . .	77
Allowing for Inflow . . . . .	78
Edging the Pond . . . . .	78
Adding the Finishing Touches . . . . .	80
<b>6. Fish . . . . .</b>	<b>83</b>
Fish Care . . . . .	83
Hobby Fish . . . . .	85
Game Fish . . . . .	87
<b>7. Plants . . . . .</b>	<b>91</b>
Planting . . . . .	92
Fertilizing . . . . .	93
Starting Small . . . . .	93
Too Many Plants . . . . .	94
Plant Pests and Diseases . . . . .	94
Undesirable Pond Plants . . . . .	94
Selection of Water Plants . . . . .	96
Workhorse Water Plants . . . . .	97
<b>8. Maintenance and Troubleshooting . . . . .</b>	<b>109</b>
Don't Do These Things . . . . .	109
Adding Water . . . . .	112
Removing Organics . . . . .	113
Winter Care . . . . .	114
Pond Leaks . . . . .	115
<b>9. Large-scale Ponds . . . . .</b>	<b>119</b>
Special Pond Types . . . . .	119
Regulations and Permits . . . . .	123
Water Sources . . . . .	125
Liner Options . . . . .	126
General Construction Considerations . . . . .	127
Aerators and Fountains . . . . .	128
Constructing Dams . . . . .	129

Designing the Inflow . . . . .	131
Designing the Outflow . . . . .	132
Plants . . . . .	134
Eutrophication. . . . .	135
<b>10. Pools, Bogs, and Rain Gardens . . . . .</b>	<b>137</b>
Natural Swimming Pools . . . . .	137
Bogs . . . . .	142
Rain Gardens . . . . .	146
<b>References. . . . .</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Index . . . . .</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>About the Author . . . . .</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>A Note About the Publisher . . . . .</b>	<b>160</b>