

# S O U T H S O U N D

HOME. GARDEN. LIFE.

## Summer Strawberries

*Doctors Making  
a Difference*

VIP Baby Shower

\$4.95

SUMMER 2008

42 >



SOUTHSOUNDHAG.COM

Olympia's  
Lemongrass

Custom  
Wine Bottles

Island  
Hopping

10 Local  
Golf Courses

Puyallup  
Water Garden



# CONTRIBUTORS



**CHRISTY PESSEMIER**

Christy is a freelance writer who enjoys meeting with and writing about the people and places that color the South Sound.

Drawing on her background in journalism and communications, Christy writes both magazine articles and business marketing copy. She specializes in feature articles, press releases, research and anything else that needs a writer's touch. She lives in Puyallup with her husband and two daughters.



**TOM OWEN**

Tom has been fascinated with photography since the first grade. His award-winning photography can be seen in publications across the country.

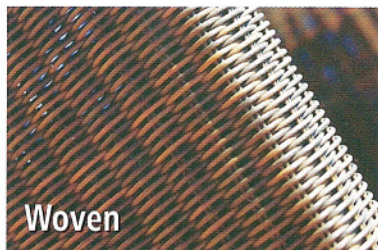
His specialties include editorial, product and food photography. His wife, Tasha, is a wedding photographer. Check them out on the Web at [owenphoto.com](http://owenphoto.com) and [tashaowen.com](http://tashaowen.com).



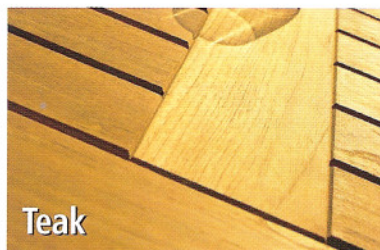
**KELSEY LIDDLE**

Kelsey is a sophomore at Pacific Lutheran University in Parkland and has a love for traveling. She is from Chugiak, Alaska and has ventured down to

Washington to study public relations and global studies. Immersing herself into South Sound magazine as a marketing intern and dabbling on the editorial side, she has been inspired by the magazine industry to be an international communicator. Writing for National Geographic is her highest aspiration. Her experience at South Sound magazine will stay with her on her journey.



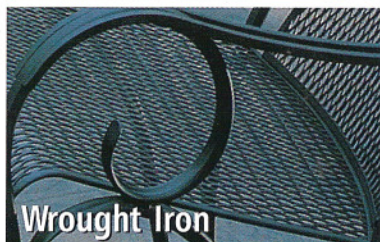
Woven



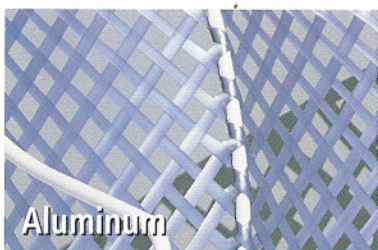
Teak



Cast Aluminum



Wrought Iron



Aluminum



Mixed Media

## The Finest Outdoor Furniture Collection



# SUMMER HOUSE

*Furniture for the Home & Patio*

**Bellevue**  
1024 116th Ave NE  
425/455.1500

**Southcenter**  
1191 Andover Park West  
206/575.2201

**Tacoma**  
6249 Tacoma Mall Blvd.  
253/475.4950

[SummerHousePatio.com](http://SummerHousePatio.com)



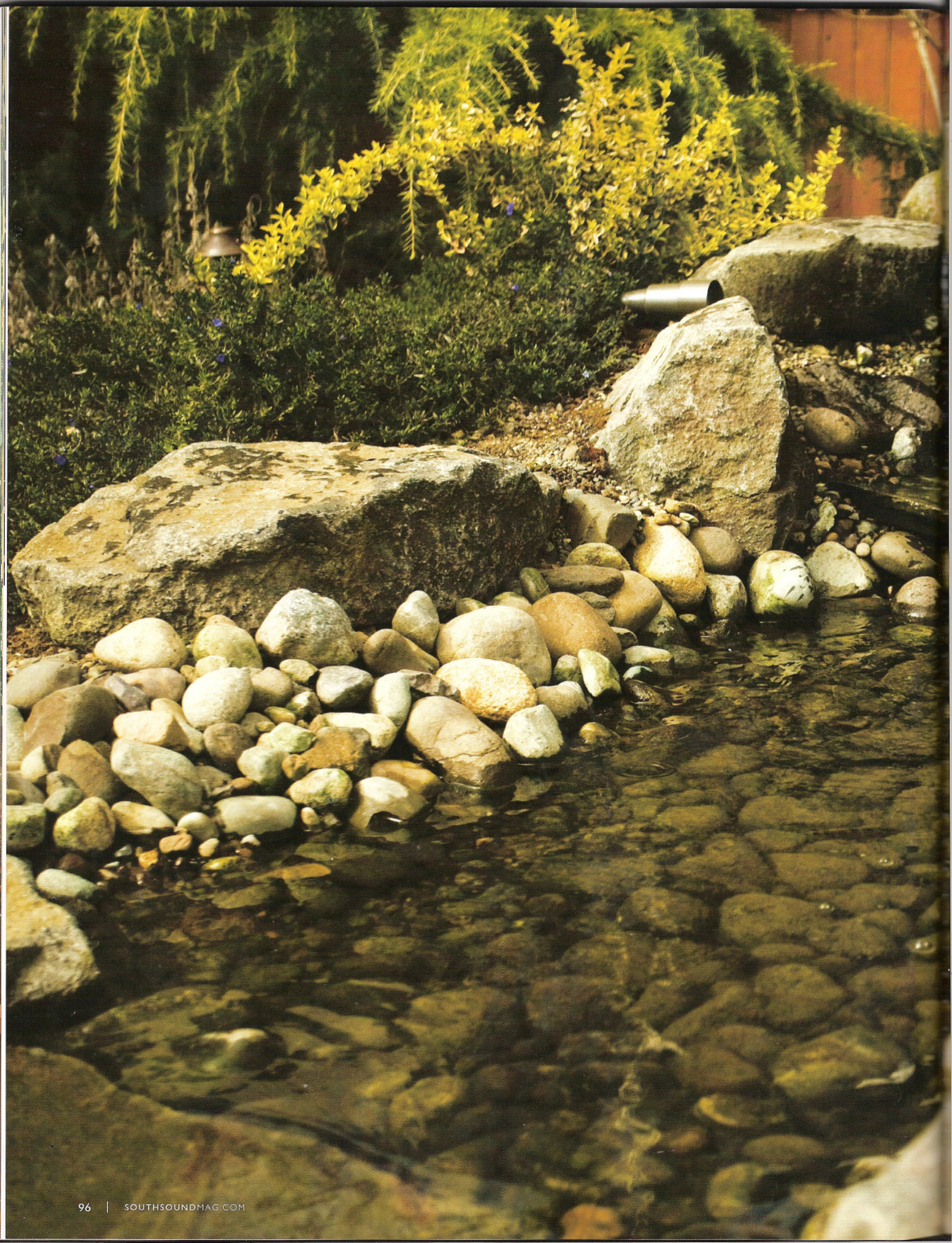
**j.robbins florist**

253.537.4337 [www.jrobbsflorist.com](http://www.jrobbsflorist.com)

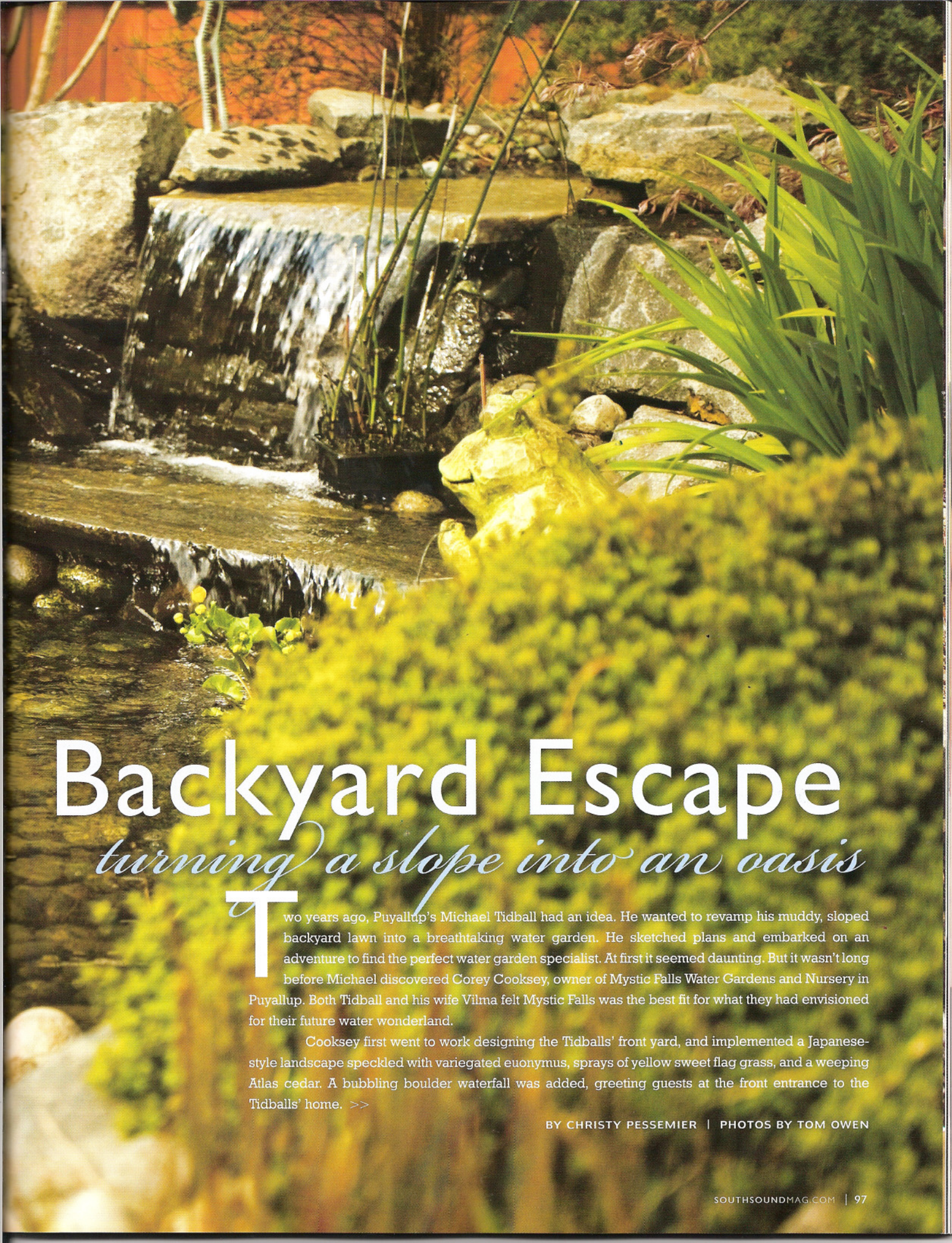
Downtown Tacoma @ 711 court A (just off 8th + Pacific)











# Backyard Escape


*turning a slope into an oasis*

**T**wo years ago, Puyallup's Michael Tidball had an idea. He wanted to revamp his muddy, sloped backyard lawn into a breathtaking water garden. He sketched plans and embarked on an adventure to find the perfect water garden specialist. At first it seemed daunting. But it wasn't long before Michael discovered Corey Cooksey, owner of Mystic Falls Water Gardens and Nursery in Puyallup. Both Tidball and his wife Vilma felt Mystic Falls was the best fit for what they had envisioned for their future water wonderland.

Cooksey first went to work designing the Tidballs' front yard, and implemented a Japanese-style landscape speckled with variegated euonymus, sprays of yellow sweet flag grass, and a weeping Atlas cedar. A bubbling boulder waterfall was added, greeting guests at the front entrance to the Tidballs' home. >>

BY CHRISTY PESSEMIER | PHOTOS BY TOM OWEN





**WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

Visit Mystic Falls Water Gardens and Nursery on the Web at [mysticfalls.net](http://mysticfalls.net). They also offer classes including one about how to build a pond-less waterfall.

<< Following the successful completion of the front yard, work began on the Tidballs' backyard transformation. Cooksey and Michael combined efforts to create the exact feel of the type of garden the Tidballs were looking for.

"We worked well together," Cooksey said. "Michael had a lot of smart ideas for the design of the garden and I was happy to help him turn his dream into a reality." Today, it dazzles both neighbors and guests of the Tidball home.

"People walk up to the front of our house, and they love the look of the front yard," Vilma says. "But they have no idea what we have in the backyard." As they open their side yard gate and walk past the copper hued New Zealand flax and golden bamboo, the Tidballs can't help but beam with pride. Two waterfalls, a pond, and an eclectic blend of Japanese and native plants burst forth and invite endless relaxation and beauty.

"This is like giving birth for me," Michael explains. "It took a long time, but I'm happy with how it turned out." With Cooksey's help, the garden was designed to be both low maintenance and entertaining. Mystic Falls constructed a tumbled edge stone patio, complete with pillars on both sides. Now, after completion, themes of curves and swirls inject a feel of warmth onto the sun bleached terra cotta stone. Adjacent to the patio, a granite waterfall staggers sharp edges. On the opposite side of the yard, a rounded Northwest-style river rock waterfall scurries into a serene, glassy pond. The pond hosts five koi fish, complete with underwater hiding places, providing safety and warmth. Sitting mischievously atop a flat-topped rock jutting out of the pond sits a grinning frog. Cranes bow in graceful



obedience, while a lazy terra cotta cat garden ornament basks in the sun, supported by a stone wall. Coral bark maples greet weeping atlas cedars interspersed among the rushing water and stones.

"Even though the Tidballs' yard was not very big, we were able to use all the available space to fit in two waterfalls, a pond, and sitting areas," Cooksey says. "I enjoyed having the opportunity to take that raw background and give it depth."

Cooksey feels the advantages of the Tidballs' water garden extend beyond the aspect of beauty. "It brings peace to a family," he says. "It's very stress relieving."

Michael agrees, pointing to the outdoor fireplace in the middle of the patio.

"Our 11-year-old son loves to roast marshmallows out here with his friends," Michael said, glancing toward the cascading falls alongside him. "He also enjoys playing with boats in the water."


Vilma also has special treasures in the garden that she enjoys regularly. "These are for good luck," she says, patting one of two concrete Imperial guarding lions, "foodogs" thoughtfully placed atop two pillars. Past the pillars, a tiny bridge barely skirts the pond, leading to a cedar trellis that frames one of the Tidballs' favorite sitting areas. Grapevines hang atop the trellis, eager to grow and thrive.

Green and fragrant Corsican mint works its way through flagstone paths and aspires to meet up with Scotch moss groundcover, a few feet away. Pecking for seeds among the birdfeeders, finches and robins are regular visitors to the Tidballs' private retreat. Hummingbirds abound and frequent the Tidball haven. Vilma concocts homemade sweet syrup of

>>

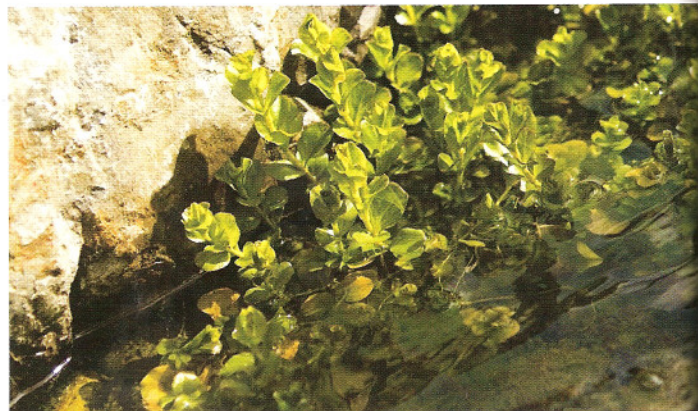
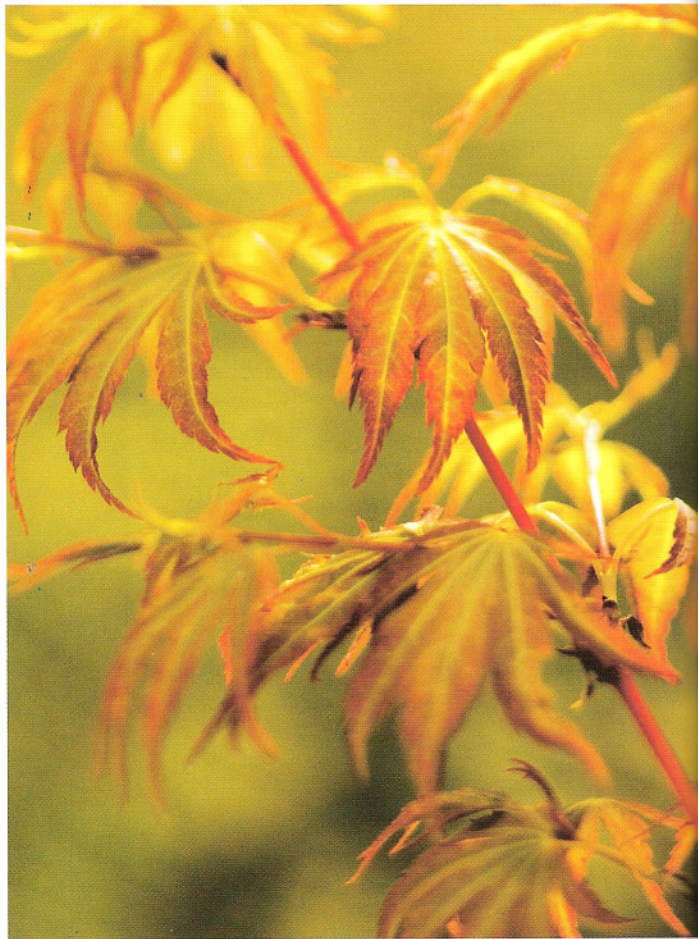







## TOP WATER GARDEN ACCENTS

- Japanese Maple
- Laceleaf Maple
- Bloodgood Maple
- Ornamental Weeping Lebanon Cedar
- Weeping Diadora Cedar
- Ornamental Grasses
- Scotch Pine
- Golden Bamboo



<<

boiled sugar and water, cooled and delivered daily. "I love it out here," Vilma says, gazing around, exhilarated. "It's just so peaceful!"

Michael agrees. Though he has plans for a phase three, which involves an additional trellis, Michael admits he's pretty satisfied. "A lot of times people say your first efforts and ideas are never big enough, or grand enough. I don't feel that way. It's great to come up with an integrated concept and do it right, and all at once." 

*Christy Pessemier is a freelance writer specializing in magazine articles and business marketing copy. She lives in Puyallup with her husband and two daughters.*

## TIPS TO START YOUR SPECIAL GARDEN

- Shop around at different nurseries to get ideas for the type of garden you want.
- Sketch out a plan and gather ideas to build your garden.
- Take it step by step. Remember, it took the Tidballs two years.
- Find a good water garden/landscape designer.
- Don't add any yard ornaments, or heavy garden items until the final phase. Tractors need room to move!