



City of St. Charles
I L L I N O I S

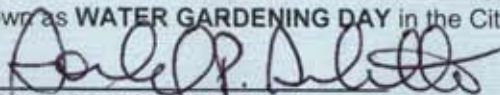
Proclamation

ST. CHARLES, IL – THE WATER GARDEN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

- WHEREAS** Aquascape, Inc., founded, owned, and operated since 1991 by local entrepreneur, Greg Wittstock, a.k.a. "The Pond Guy™," is North America's leading innovator in the water gardening industry, inventor of low-maintenance, naturally balanced ecosystem pond, and expert in all things water gardening, and;
- WHEREAS** its headquarters, a 200,000 plus square foot, state-of-the-art, office and warehouse, dubbed "Aqualand – A Workplace Utopia", received Silver Level certification in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System, and is host to the largest sloping green roof in North America with a complete irrigation system, and;
- WHEREAS** the signature pond at Aqualand, AquaGardens, and many public water features have been installed in St. Charles, with more to be built, for the benefit of public enjoyment, and;
- WHEREAS** the largest event in the water garden industry, Pondemonium®, is held yearly in St. Charles, bringing to the city for an entire week in July, over 1000 individuals as well as throughout the year, over 450 worldwide distributors for training events. The Annual Chicagoland Pond Tour specifically showcases private and public water features in St. Charles, which is the center for all activity, and;
- WHEREAS** the Epcot® International Flower and Garden Festival promotes Aquascape features and website and thus, St. Charles to millions of visitors worldwide, and;
- WHEREAS** a customer base of over 70,000 contractors and retailers, all of whom have hundreds and thousands of customers, rely on Aquascape as the number one source of information in the industry as well as for new product, and thereby expose virtually millions of people to St. Charles yearly, and;
- WHEREAS** the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Partnership, the Convention and Tourism Bureau, and the City of St. Charles are used as examples by Aquascape educators in educational seminars nationwide, and educational programs used as examples were begun in St. Charles to be used as prototypes for other communities nationwide, and;
- WHEREAS** in multi media venues about Aquascape, Inc., St. Charles has been featured, thereby bringing consistent international publicity and tourists to the city, and thus increasing awareness of the City itself, and revenue for its merchants, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Donald P. DeWitte, Mayor of the City of St. Charles, along with the St. Charles City Council, do hereby proclaim that St. Charles shall be known as the **WATER GARDEN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD**, and July 19, in perpetuity, shall hereby be known as **WATER GARDENING DAY** in the City of St. Charles.

SEAL:


Donald P. DeWitte, Mayor