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Turn Your Backyard  
into a Garden Oasis!  
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# Hemphills

NURSERY, GARDEN & AQUATIC CENTER





Want to turn your backyard into a garden oasis... complete with garden pond, waterfall and colorful fish? If you said yes, than you are bound to find your way to Hemphills in Fallston. As Harford County's only full service garden aquatic center since 1996, this family owned business has the supplies and expertise to get you started. Betty Hemphill and her dogs can easily be found greeting customers at the garden/aquatic center, while her husband Jim, and eldest son Matt run the landscaping and pond installations.

Backyard ponds are easy to create water features that add diversity to your yard and provide endless hours of entertainment and educational opportunities for you and your family. Ponds attract beneficial wildlife soon after they are created. A well-managed pond adds a spot of beauty and tranquility to your landscape and provides food, cover, and water for an amazing array of creatures. Rich communities of plants and animals can exist in and around the smallest garden pond.

If you are a hands-on gardener, you can find all types designs for backyard garden ponds and step by step instructions to install them online. Hemphill's stocks all the supplies you need, from complete pond kits to pumps, filters, lights, liners, fountains and fish food. If building your own backyard pond seems too daunting, Hemphills provides complete services from design to installation. Since they also offer landscaping services, their garden ponds fit seamlessly into your existing landscape design.

Hemphills offers a wide selection of aquatic plants for your pond. Choose water garden plants not only for the visual effects but for the benefits they have for your water and fish. You should look for plants that blend in with the design of your water feature and the rest of your yard. "There are a number of practical uses of plants that you should consider for around your water garden: for reducing wind, discouraging predators, framing view, and defining paths," said Betty. You will certainly want to take advantage of your ponds ability to reflect plants with colorful foliage and dramatic shapes, and to situate fragrant plants near benches or other stopping places.

To most people a water garden simply wouldn't be complete without fish swimming through the water. Whether you keep fish for their bright shimmering colors, the movement in the water, or for the more practical reasons such as mosquito control, fish are an important addition to a pond. Although it can be as simple as picking the fish that looks the prettiest, to the true enthusiast selecting a fish is much more involved. "Considerations should be made when planning the pond as to what type of fish are desired. This plays a big role in determining the size of the pond and especially the filtration needs," said Betty.

Incorporating the relaxing sounds of water into your backyard decor is as easy as saying "Hemphills!"



Betty Hemphill



## Make A Container Fountain for Your Patio

### Choose a Container

Pick something strong – a heavy ceramic planting pot is perfect. Waterproof the container if it is not already watertight. Use a heavy-gauge trash bag or any sealing agent to create a watertight surface.

### Choose a location

If you are incorporating plants into your garden, choose an area that receives around 4 to 5 hours of sunlight daily. If not, choose a shady spot to cut down on algae

### Installing Pump

Buy a simple pump kit, available at Hemphill's along with any other supplies you might need. Fill the pot with gravel to within 5 inches of the top. Add a layer of pebbles or glass gems at least 1 inch thick. Center the foam filter on top of the pebbles or glass in the clay pot. Anchor the base of the submersible pump inside the fountain's foam filter. The surface of the pump with the hole in it goes on top. Leave the power cord hanging free over the edge of the pot. Insert the base of the fountainhead in the pump's hole. Pour water into the clay pot to within 2 inches of the pot's top edge. Add a few plants and... viola!

For more information  
check out their website  
[www.hemphillsonline.com](http://www.hemphillsonline.com)