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Winners

2021 Water Artisans
of the Year p. 10



Jonathan Marston

Jonathan Marston built his first water feature at the age of 18 for his grandparents in Massachusetts. After high school, he moved to British Columbia, where he studied water features and interned with Streamworks Designs in Vancouver. He is a Master Certified Aquascape Contractor and currently owns and operates FallingWater Scapes in Dover, Massachusetts.



Feet away from a nature trail, this 10-foot pondless waterfall fits right in with the natural scenery. With more than 4 feet of elevation change, Jonathan Marston and his crew had the opportunity to use large machine-placed boulders to make this feature feel as though it had always existed here in this very spot.

Given the close proximity to the woods, they also took advantage of the surroundings, collecting moss, repurposing a stump and harvesting a few weathered boulders from the client's own yard to give the project a particularly home-cooked feel.

It's particularly shocking that this feature was originally installed for just \$14,660. Marston has since returned to fill in the space with additional landscaping and a custom tree package that features additional native plantings.

Today, all passers-by — including the homeowners, mountain hikers and the local wildlife — can reap the benefits of the beauty and sustenance provided by these incomparable cascades.





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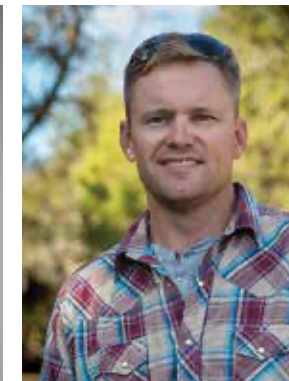
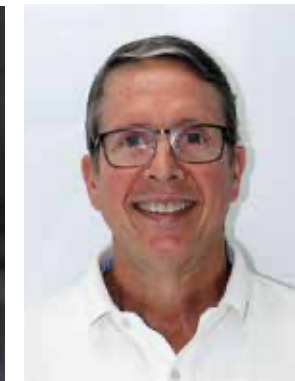
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| The **Judges** |



Top, left to right: Tim Dille, Paul Amos & Eric Arnston. Bottom, left to right: James Chubb, John Schwarzlose, Brian Helfrich & Russell Owen.

The Supreme Stream Court

Meet the contest's aquatic adjudicators

by **Jordan Morris**,
POND Trade magazine

As in previous years, the 2021 “Supreme Stream Court” blindly evaluated submissions in five distinct categories. In order to be considered eligible, projects must have been completed between Nov. 1, 2020 and Nov. 1, 2021. We were happy to accept multiple entries from the same contractor; however, each project could only be submitted in one category for consideration.

We were thrilled to welcome to the panel four out of the five winners from last year’s contest, who agreed to forgo participating as contestants and instead provide their expertise alongside three other well-known builders, designers and business

professionals from across the industry. The magazine’s editorial staff then collected rankings for each of the five categories and calculated the winners.

The judges who served on this year’s panel, in alphabetical order, were:

After 14 years as the managing member of his own sales company, **Paul Amos** accepted a position as a sales representative with Kasco Marine Inc. Since 1992, Paul has sold, assisted in design and installed liners and aeration for residential ponds, golf course lakes, parks and recreation features, and water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Eric Arnston won in the Best Under \$15,000 category in last year’s contest. He started his



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West Palm Beach, FL

design-build landscape business in Austin, Texas, in 2003 and eventually followed his intuition to focus solely on water features. Arnston is an artist at heart who enjoys using natural elements to their fullest potential while building water features for the whole family to enjoy.

James Chubb has focused on doing water features for the green industry for the past 22 years. Having worked at the distributor level in sales and education and at the manufacture level in sales and education, he is currently working for Atlantic-OASE as the director of product training and systems.

Tim Dille took home the 2020 award for Best Pondless feature. He is the lead designer and installation foreman at Garden State Koi, a full-service retail, maintenance, installation and wholesale pond store in Warwick, New York. Dille has been installing ponds, streams and waterfalls for more than 15 years, with more than 500 water features in the ground.

Brian Helfrich is the vice president of construction at Aquascape Inc. He has designed and installed thousands of water features around the world and has trained hundreds of contractors across the country on the technical and artistic aspects of pond building. Helfrich's portfolio includes projects at Orlando's EPCOT International Flower and Garden Show and Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo.

Russell Owen won in 2020 in the Fountains and Formal Features category. He started Anything Wet, a full-service pond company, in August 2004. As a member of Aquascape Australia's mentoring program, he assists new and beginning pond builders in creating natural, ecofriendly ponds and water features.

John Schwarzlose, the 2020 winner for Most Naturalistic, is the owner of Freshwater Ecosystems in Texas Hill Country. He has a passion for designing and building water features that are indistinguishable from mother nature. Schwarzlose's company provides unique, naturalistic designs for ponds, creeks and waterfalls.

Runners-Up



Runners-Up
Silver medalists
take the pond platform

by **Jordan Morris**,
POND Trade magazine

Second place is far from defeat — instead, it's tangible proof of greatness and a solid motivator for future success. Check out the runners-up in this year's contest on the following pages.

POND Trade magazine is proud to host the independent, unsponsored Water Artisans of the Year contest on an annual basis. The objective of the event is to level the playing field for all contractors, regardless of company size or affiliation, and provide recognition for projects that raise the bar in pond construction. We'd like to send a huge thanks to all our judges who presided over this year's contest. We couldn't do it without you! We were also proud to donate \$1,700 to St. Jude Children's Hospital on behalf of some of the most elite talent in the pond and water garden industry.

Now in its sixth year, the Water Artisans of the Year contest has become a staple in the pond and water-gardening industry. As you peer down your 2022 project pipeline, ask yourself — do you have what it takes? Be sure to document and photograph your work, because the eligibility period has already begun. We can't wait to see what you've got in store for us; we'll start accepting entries this fall. Next thing you know, you could see your own artistry gracing these pages next year!



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